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## **Statement on the Decision of the U.S. Forest Service to Issue a Special Use Permit for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline**

Today, the U.S. Forest Service issued a final [Record of Decision](#) to amend the Forest Plans of the George Washington National Forest and the Monongahela National Forest to issue a Special Use Permit for the proposed interstate Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

The following is a statement from Lew Freeman, Chair and Executive Director of the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance, a coalition of 52 conservation and environmental organizations in Virginia and West Virginia.

“We firmly disagree with the decision announced today by the U.S. Forest Service to allow construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline through publicly owned forest lands – valued by millions of visitors and the source of drinking water for thousands of people. We believe this decision is based on seriously deficient and incorrect information. The action imperils some of the nation’s most treasured natural resources and reflects a rush to judgment that is contrary to the standards of deliberation that we have a right to expect from the Forest Service. The decision should be strongly challenged.”