

## **Right-of-Way Siting Criteria Definitions:**

### **A. Siting Criteria Related Definitions:**

**Undesirable Zones** – Areas which the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) considers undesirable for pipeline development (either new or expanded) except in very limited circumstances include:

- All PA State Parks
- PA Bureau of Forestry designated Natural Areas
- PA Bureau of Forestry designated Wild Areas
- PA Bureau of Forestry designated ROS (Recreational Opportunity Spectrum) zones that are classified as “primitive”.
- The viewshed of Pine Creek Gorge located in Lycoming and Tioga Counties
- Environmental review buffers which includes habitat for species of special concern, exemplary natural communities, unique geologic features and wild plant sanctuaries. The level of incompatibility is dependent upon the species in conflict.

More information pertaining to each type of exclusionary component is described below.

**PA State Parks** – Current legislation does not allow for right-of-way development on Pennsylvania State Parks. The website showing the location of all PA State Parks can be viewed at:

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/index.aspx>

**State Forest Natural Areas** – A Natural Area is an area within a State Forest exhibiting unique scenic, historical, geological, or ecological value that will be maintained in a natural condition by allowing physical and biological processes to operate, usually without direct human intervention. These areas are set aside to provide locations for scientific observations of natural systems, to protect examples of typical and unique plant and animal communities, and to protect outstanding examples of natural interest and beauty. Certain restrictions apply related to surface uses, including a prohibition on the establishment of new rights-of-way *except for* designated utility corridors in the Bucktail Natural Area.

A map of Natural Areas within PA State Forests can be viewed at the following website:

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/sfrmp/docs/PA%20BoF%20Natural%20Areas%20Map.pdf>

**State Forest Wild Areas** – A Wild Area within a State Forest is a geographically extensive area which the general public will be permitted to see, use and enjoy for activities such as hiking,

hunting, and fishing. No development of a permanent nature will be allowed in order to retain the undeveloped character of the area. Certain restrictions apply related to surface uses, including a prohibition on the establishment of new rights-of-way.

A map of Wild Areas on State Forest Lands can be viewed at the following website:

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/sfrmp/docs/PA%20BoF%20Wild%20Areas%20Map.pdf>

**Primitive ROS (Recreational Opportunity Spectrum) Areas** – There are 5 classes of experiences available to recreational users of PA’s state forest system, including one designated as “primitive”. Characteristics of Primitive ROS zones include:

- Greater than 1000 acres in size.
- Located at least 1 mile from nearest roads, railroads, or trails with motorized use.
- Basic recreational experience is isolation from other humans, independence, closeness to nature, and self-reliance with a high degree of challenge and risk.
- Interaction between visitors is very low, although there is occasional evidence of other visitors.
- No motorized use is permitted.
- Little or no evidence of controls.
- Goals for management include conserving natural ecosystems and providing recreational experiences compatible with a primitive environment.

**Pine Creek Gorge Viewshed** - The Pine Creek Gorge is a State Forest Natural Area with extensive recreation and aesthetic values including the Pine Creek Rail Trail. It’s located within an area referred to as the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon, which extends approximately 60 miles from the town of Ansonia at PA Route 6 southward to the town of Jersey Shore. The viewshed depicts the area a visitor would see from Pine Creek, the state highway and the Pine Creek Rail Trail.

Two websites with additional information about the gorge and rail trail include the following:

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/oldgrowth/pinecreek.aspx>

<http://www.visittiogapa.com/railtrailmap.pdf>

## **B. Other Definitions Related to DCNR Right-of-Ways:**

**FERC**-Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
**PUC** – Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission