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**Bureau of Land Management**  
**Eastern States Office**  
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**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF**  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**Tawes State Office Building**  
**580 Taylor Avenue**  
**Annapolis, Maryland 21401**

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Dear Reader:

In the spirit of a groundbreaking partnership, we are pleased to present you the Scoping Report for *The Lower Potomac River Coordinated Management Plan (CMP)*. The enclosed report summarizes all of the issues and opportunities that we have heard from the public since we began the planning process last spring.

One of the most challenging steps in the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) planning process is to define the issues and opportunities to be addressed in a land use plan. This step, called *scoping*, is not only required by Federal law, it makes good sense. It helps the planning team focus its analysis on relevant issues, develop workable alternatives and collect germane data. The issues have been presented in the form of questions that the plan will address. The report also identifies the opportunities that have been raised by the public and other agencies during the scoping phase, and they have been classified into categories, which will help us develop a reasonable range of alternatives for analysis. More importantly, scoping allows everyone to see where the plan is going early in the process in case we have overlooked an important issue or reasonable opportunity.

Finally, the report contains a list of laws, regulations and policies, known as *planning criteria*, that the planning team will follow in the plan development. The criteria include suggestions from the public as well, again to underscore the collaborative nature of the plan.

We would like to thank you for helping us up to this point in the planning process and we look forward to working with you in the future to develop a plan that meets all of our needs. If you have any questions about the scoping report or the planning process, feel free to call Mr. Mark R. Spencer, Maryland DNR at (410) 260-8417, or Mr. Howard Levine, BLM at (414) 297-4463.

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 Mike Nedd  
 Acting State Director, BLM-Eastern States

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 J. Charles Fox  
 Secretary, Maryland DNR

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_