

Shenandoah Mountain Proposal

The Shenandoah Mountain Proposal includes a 90,000-acre Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area with four embedded Wilderness areas. The following table illustrates how the two designations differ.

Activity	National Scenic Area	Wilderness
Designation requires an act of Congress	Yes	Yes
Designation is permanent	Yes	Yes
If designated, would continue to be managed by National Forest	Yes	Yes
Hunting and fishing	Yes	Yes
camping	yes	yes
Horseback riding	Yes	Yes
Trail maintenance	Yes (can use chainsaws or trail dozers)	Yes (using traditional tools, such as crosscut saws)
Blaze trails	Yes	Yes, but for some reason the GWNF has elected not to.
Mountain biking	Yes	No. Mechanized transport is not allowed
Do scientific study.	Yes	Yes
Drive cars, motorcycles, trucks	Yes, on existing roads	No. There are no roads.
Ride ATVs	No	No
Timbering	No	No
Maintain game clearings	Yes, if it is written into the NSA legislation	No

Reintroduce species	Yes, if once indigenous	Yes, if once indigenous
Prescribed burning	Yes	Yes, but only to reduce fuel load
Fight fire	Yes, by any means necessary	Yes, by any means necessary, including dozers, after a call to the regional forester
Liming	Yes, using existing roads	Yes, using helicopter, pack animals, or bucket brigade
Stocking fish	Yes, if the legislation allows.	Yes for natives only
Gather firewood with a permit	Yes	No, except for campfires
Build new roads	No	No
Lease for gas	No	No
Rescue people	Yes, using any means necessary	Yes, using any means necessary
Fight invasives	Yes	Yes, using herbicides and pesticides, if deemed necessary.
Install wind turbines	No	No
Close roads	No	No, there are no roads.
Use electronic devices, such as GPS, cameras, etc	Yes	Yes
Based on an organic act	No. Each piece of NSA legislation is written to fit the area; however, legislation for Mt. Pleasant and the Ridge and Valley bills can be used as models.	Yes, the Wilderness Act of 1964 which established the National Wilderness Preservation System. New areas comply with the original Act.
On George Washington National Forest Land	Yes	Yes
Includes private land	No Private landowners who own adjacent land retain all their rights.	No Private landowners who own adjacent land retain all their rights.