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# wilderness study

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# SHENANDOAH



NATIONAL PARK / VIRGINIA



**SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK, VIRGINIA**

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**COMMUNICATION**

**FROM**

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES**

**TRANSMITTING**

**FOURTEEN PROPOSALS TO ADD TO THE NATIONAL  
WILDERNESS SYSTEM**



**PART 5**

**APRIL 29, 1971.—Referred to the Committee on Interior and  
Insular Affairs and ordered to be printed with illustrations**

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**U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON : 1971**

# LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 28; 1971

Dear Mr. Speaker:

The Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964, declared it to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness, and for that purpose the act established a National Wilderness Preservation System.

In my special message on the environment of February 8, 1971, I stressed the importance of wilderness areas as part of a comprehensive open space system. In these unspoiled lands, contemporary man can encounter the character and beauty of primitive America -- and learn, through the encounter, the vital lesson of human interdependence with the natural environment.

Today, I am pleased to transmit fourteen proposals which would add to the National Wilderness System vast areas where nature still predominates. These areas are briefly described below.

(1) Simeonof National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska -- 25,140 acres of a unique wildlife environment: the biologically productive lands and waters of Simeonof Island off the coast of Alaska.

(2) North Cascades National Park, Washington -- 515,880 acres in two areas in North Cascades Park and Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas. This nearly impenetrable wilderness includes rugged alpine mountains whose glaciers feed lakes and streams in the virgin forests below.

(3) Isle Royale National Park, Michigan -- 120,588 acres of island wilderness in Lake Superior. Isle Royale is one of the few remaining areas where the North American timberwolf can be found along with other relatively rare species including the moose, beaver, mink and lynx.

(4) Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, California -- 721,970 acres. With its abundant wildlife and groves of giant sequoia trees this area of the Sierra Nevada Mountains is an important site for scientific research concerning natural areas.

(5) Shenandoah National Park, Virginia -- 73,280 acres. The scenic grandeur of the Shenandoah's Blue Ridge is well known. This area is one of the few remaining examples of the vast mountain wildernesses that long ago stood as an obstacle before pioneers pushing westward.

(6) Breton National Wildlife Refuge, Louisiana -- 4,420 acres. The Chandeleur and Breton Islands of the northern Gulf of Mexico, which comprise this wilderness, are an important habitat for nesting shore birds, sea turtles and wintering waterfowl.

(7) Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuge -- 4,740 acres. Tropical vegetation, rare bird species, and Key deer native to this area are unique within the United States.

(8) West Sister National Wildlife Refuge, Ohio -- 85 acres. Located just nine miles east of Toledo, this island refuge serves as an important nesting area for egrets, herons, swallows, warblers and a host of other birds. The refuge is an exceptionally primitive landscape compared to the intensive land uses found along most of the Lake Erie shore.

(9) Chamisso National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska -- 455 acres. Located in Kotzebue Sound, this island group contains the largest marine bird nesting colony in northwestern Alaska. During annual migrations, the birds raised in this refuge contribute significantly to the abundance and variety of bird life along the coasts of Alaska, Washington, Oregon and California.

(10) Farallon National Wildlife Refuge, California -- 141 acres. These islands comprise an important sea bird rookery, hosting some 150,000 to 200,000 birds each summer -- including the largest colony complex of cormorants in California. Sea lions also inhabit the area.

(11) Izembek National Wildlife Range and Aleutian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska -- 301,451 acres. The tremendous natural biological productivity of this area supports a diverse array of wildlife; it is best known for its use by millions of waterbirds, its unique mammalian fauna and its outstanding salmon spawning waters.

(12) Cedar Breaks National Monument, Utah -- 4,370 acres. Situated on the high Markagunt Plateau of southern Utah, this monument includes a gigantic eroded natural amphitheater whose steep walls time has carved into fantastic shapes of many colors. Subalpine meadows and forests also add to the beauty of the area.

(13) Capitol Reef National Monument, Utah -- 23,054 acres. This monument provides a striking example of the Wasserspocket Fold, a great doubling up of the earth's crust. Its spectacular features include a great cliff of brilliantly colored rock layers and dome-like peaks of gray and white sandstone.

(14) Arches National Monument, Utah -- 15,703 acres. Carved from the Jurassic sandstones of the Colorado Plateau, the monument exhibits many notable examples of towers, fins, and deep canyons, and 89 natural rock arches.

In addition to these new proposals, I will also recommend an expansion of the still unenacted Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge wilderness proposal from 319,000 acres to approximately 347,000 acres. This vast swampland, located in Georgia, was originally proposed to the 90th Congress. Its designation as a wilderness area would augur well for the continued existence of the nearly 400 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and fish that frequent this valuable ecosystem.

In reviewing roadless areas of 5,000 acres or more, the Secretary of the Interior has concluded that two areas which he reviewed are not suitable for preservation as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. These are Chaco Canyon National Monument, New Mexico and Laguna Atascosa, Texas.

Enclosed are a letter and a report from the Secretary in support of these two negative recommendations as well as of the fourteen new wilderness proposals. I concur with the recommendation of the Secretary of the Interior on these sixteen areas.

I urge the Congress to give early and favorable consideration to this package of significant conservation proposals.

Honorable Carl Albert  
Speaker of the  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Sincerely,



Enclosures



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. President:

It is with pleasure that I recommend the establishment of areas totaling approximately 73,280 acres in Shenandoah National Park, Virginia, as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Section 3(c) of the Wilderness Act (approved September 3, 1964; 78 Stat. 890, 892; 16 U.S.C. 1132(c)), directs the Secretary of the Interior to review roadless areas of 5,000 acres or more in the national parks, monuments, and other units of the National Park System and report to the President his recommendation as to the suitability of each such area for preservation as wilderness. The Act further directs the President to advise the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of his recommendation with respect to the designation of each such area as wilderness. A recommendation of the President for designation as wilderness shall become effective only if so provided by an Act of Congress.

This Department has recently completed its review of roadless areas in Shenandoah National Park. Based on this review wilderness designation of certain lands totaling approximately 73,280 acres in the national park is recommended.

In accordance with the requirements of the Wilderness Act, public hearings have been held on the recommendations. Analyses of the hearing records and written expressions received, together with the letters received from other Federal agencies, are contained in the enclosed reports of the National Park Service. Complete records have been compiled and are available for inspection by the public.

On the basis of our review, I believe the portions of the roadless areas identified herein in Shenandoah National Park are suitable for designation as wilderness. Enclosed is a draft bill which,

if enacted, would incorporate the areas suitable for designation as wilderness into the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Respectfully yours,

*Rogus CB Minton*  
Secretary of the Interior

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Enclosures

A B I L L

To designate certain lands in the Shenandoah National Park, Virginia, as wilderness.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in accordance with section 3(c) of the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1132(c)), certain lands in the Shenandoah National Park, Virginia, which comprise about seventy three thousand two hundred and eighty acres, and which are depicted on the map entitled "Wilderness Plan, Shenandoah National Park, Virginia," numbered NP-SHE/MP-8D and dated October 1970, are hereby designated as wilderness, and shall be known as the "Shenandoah Wilderness."

Sec. 2. As soon as practicable after this Act takes effect, a map of the wilderness area and a definition of its boundaries shall be filed with the Interior and Insular Affairs Committees of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives, and such map and definition shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act: Provided, however, That correction of clerical and typographical errors in such map and definition may be made.

Sec. 3. Wilderness areas designated by or pursuant to this Act shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act governing areas designated by that Act as wilderness

areas, except that any reference in such provisions to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the effective date of this Act, and any reference to the Secretary of Agriculture shall be deemed to be a reference to the Secretary who has administrative jurisdiction over the area.

A-

WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

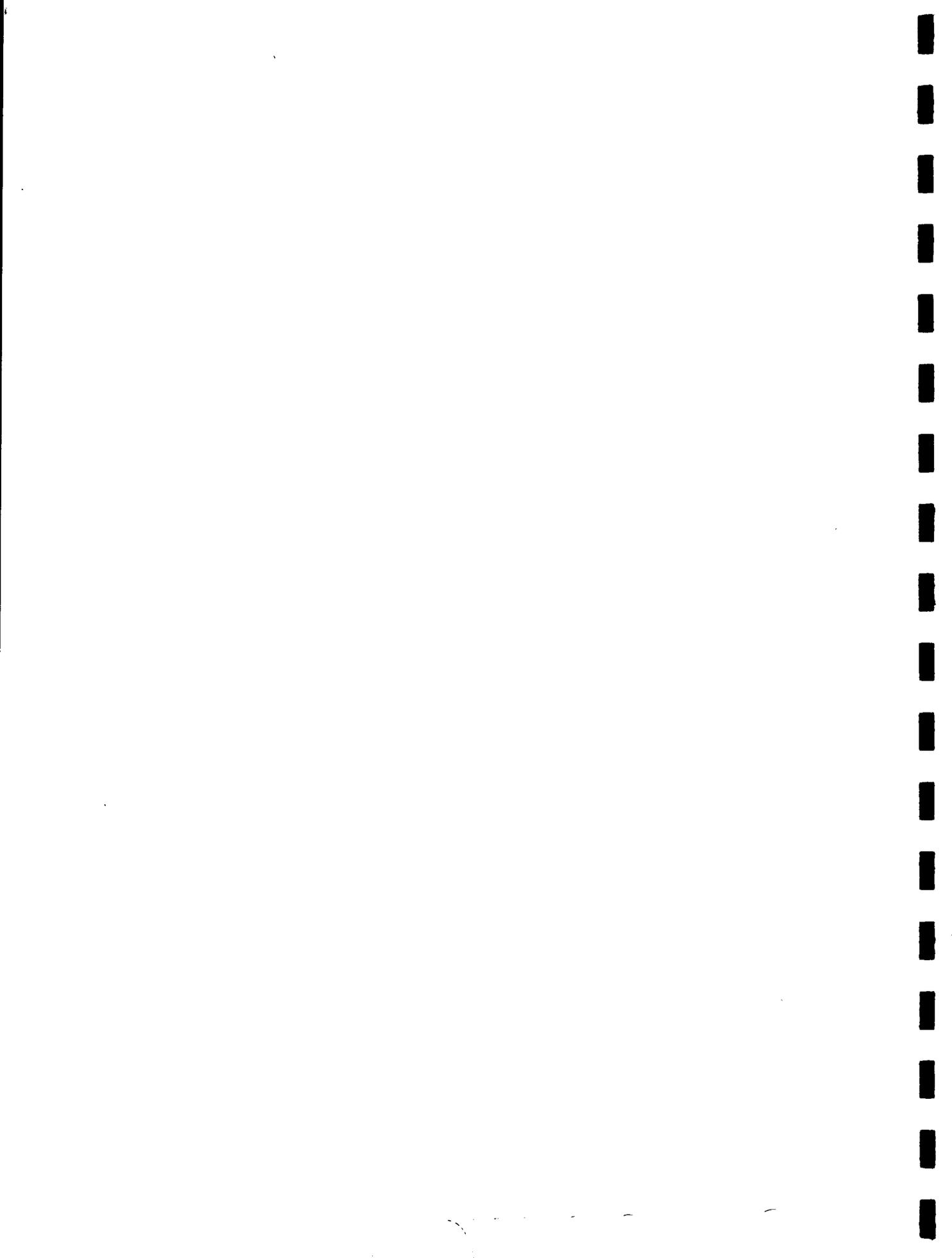
VIRGINIA

October 1970

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON, D.C.

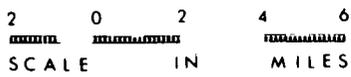


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WILDERNESS PLAN

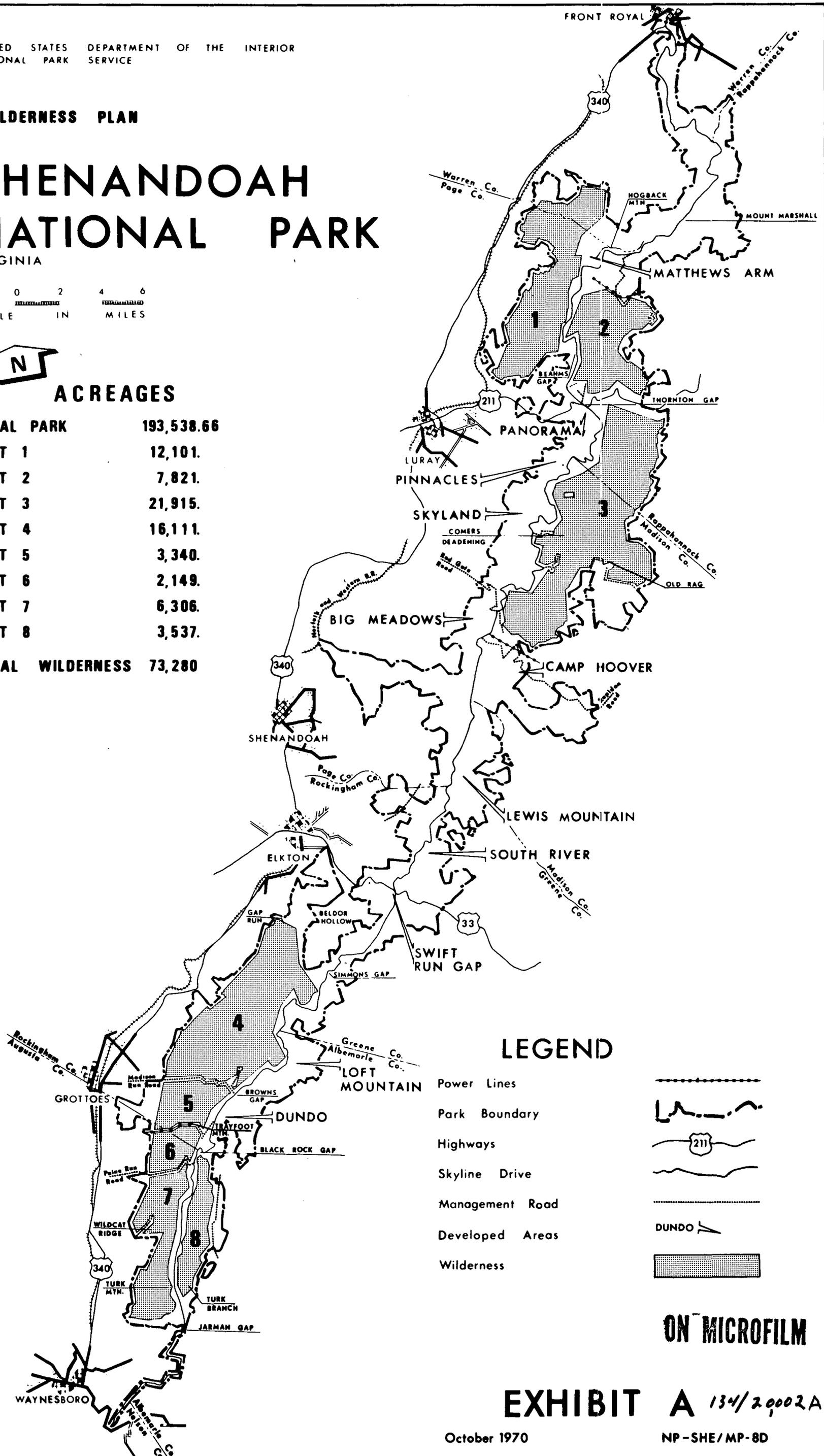
# SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

VIRGINIA



## ACREAGES

TOTAL PARK	193,538.66
UNIT 1	12,101.
UNIT 2	7,821.
UNIT 3	21,915.
UNIT 4	16,111.
UNIT 5	3,340.
UNIT 6	2,149.
UNIT 7	6,306.
UNIT 8	3,537.
<b>TOTAL WILDERNESS</b>	<b>73,280</b>



## LEGEND

- Power Lines
- Park Boundary
- Highways
- Skyline Drive
- Management Road
- Developed Areas
- Wilderness

ON MICROFILM

EXHIBIT A 134/2002A

October 1970

NP-SHE/MP-8D



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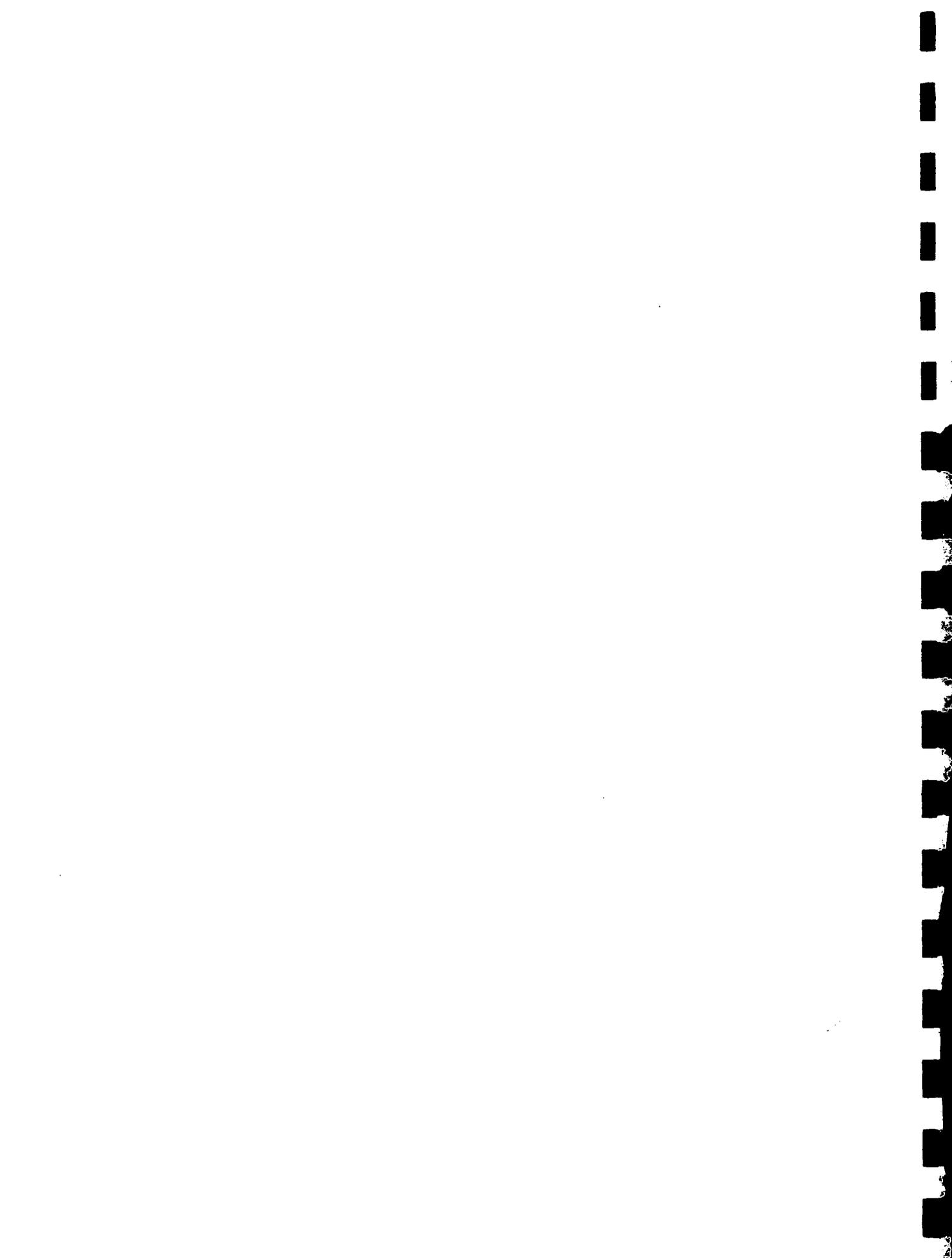
Introduction

The Preliminary Wilderness Proposal

Analysis of the Record of Public Hearing and  
Written Responses

Disposition of the Hearing Record and  
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Views of Other Governmental Agencies on  
Preliminary Wilderness Proposal



RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that a total of 73,280 acres within Shenandoah National Park, Virginia, as defined in Exhibit A, be designated as wilderness by an Act of Congress.

This recommendation is based upon careful study of the park, the views presented at the public hearing and the written responses concerning the preliminary wilderness proposal described in the appended Hearing Officer's Report.



## A NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM

Public Law 88-577, of September 3, 1964, establishing a National Wilderness Preservation System, provides, in part, as follows:

1. Policy "It is...the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness."
2. Areas for Study "Within ten years after the effective date of this Act the Secretary of the Interior shall review every roadless area of five thousand contiguous acres or more in the national parks, monuments and other units of the national park system..., under his jurisdiction on the effective date of this Act and shall report to the President his recommendation as to the suitability or unsuitability of each such area...for preservation as wilderness."
3. System "...there is hereby established a National Wilderness Preservation System to be composed of federally owned areas designated by Congress as 'wilderness areas', ..."
4. Definition "A wilderness,...is...an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean...an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which
  - (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable;
  - (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation;
  - (3) has at least 5,000 acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and
  - (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value."

5. Management "The inclusion of an area in the National Wilderness Preservation System notwithstanding, the area shall continue to be managed by the Department and agency having jurisdiction thereover immediately before its inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System unless otherwise provided by Act of Congress."

6. Use "Nothing in this Act shall modify the statutory authority under which units of the national park system are created. Further, the designation of any area of any park, monument, or other unit of the national park system as a wilderness area pursuant to this Act shall in no manner lower the standards evolved for the use and preservation of such park, monument, or other unit of the national park system in accordance with the Act of August 25, 1916, the statutory authority under which the area was created, or any other Act of Congress which might pertain to or affect such area, including but not limited to, the Act of June 8, 1906, (34 Stat. 255; 16 U.S.C. 432 et seq.); section 3(2) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796 (2)); and the Act of August 21, 1935, (49 Stat. 666; 16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.)."

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MASTER PLAN POLICY

### Discussion:

It has long been the practice of the National Park Service to prepare and maintain a Master Plan to guide the use, development, interpretation, and preservation of each particular park. Graphics and narrative specify the objectives of management. In a sense, these Master Plans are zoning plans. They not only define the areas for developments, they also define the areas in which no developments are to be permitted.

Parks do not exist in a vacuum. It is important in planning for a park that the teams take into account the total environment in which the park exists. Of particular significance are the plans for and the availability of other park and recreation facilities within the region at the Federal, State, and local levels, as well as those of the private sector for the accommodation of visitors, access to the national parks, the roads within them, wildlife habitat, etc. Accordingly, the Master Plan Team first analyzes the entire region in which the park is located and the many factors that influence its management.

Moreover, where national parks and national forests adjoin, such as Mount Rainier, Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, the National Park Service and the U. S. Forest Service formalized, in 1963, a joint effort to analyze the resources and visitor needs and develop cooperative plans for the accommodation of these requirements which will best insure the achievement of both of our missions. This program formalizes and broadens the informal efforts made for many years by many park superintendents and forest supervisors to coordinate management programs, including visitor facilities and services. Such cooperative programs are authorized by Section 2 of the Act of August 25, 1916, establishing the National Park Service.

### Administrative Policies:

#### Master Plan

A Master Plan will be prepared for each area to cover specifically all Resource Management, Resource Use, and Physical Development programs. An approved Master Plan is required before any development program may be executed in an area.

## Master Plan Teams

All Master Plan Teams should be composed of members having different professional backgrounds, such as ecology, landscape architecture, architecture, natural history, park planning, resource management, engineering, archeology, and history. Where available funds and program needs permit, the study teams for the national parks should include outstanding conservationists, scientists, and others who possess special knowledge of individual parks. Also, the teams should consult with authorized concessioners and where practicable, consult with persons outside the Service during the Master Plan study.

## Architectural Theme

Only those physical facilities needed for management and appropriate public use and enjoyment shall be provided in a natural area and then only at sites designated on the approved Master Plan for the area. An architectural theme (statement of design philosophy) shall be prepared for each park or monument or, where desirable, for each major development site within each park or monument. Particular attention shall be devoted to the harmonizing of such developments with their natural environment, consistent with utility and economical construction and maintenance costs. In all cases, maximum creativity in design and materials--preferably those native to the region or locality--shall be used to insure that the manmade facility is subservient to and not competitive with or dominant of the natural features of the area.

## Land Classification

A sound system of evaluation and classification for lands and waters in a park or monument is a prerequisite for Master Planning. This is necessary to provide proper recognition and protection of park resources and to plan for visitor enjoyment of the values of the area. The system serves, also, as a basis for recommending lands for "wilderness" classification in accordance with the Wilderness Act and provides a basis for making many other Master Plan judgments.

The land classification system to be used is similar to that proposed by the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission and prescribed for application to Federal lands by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. Under this system, lands may be segregated into any one of six classes:

Class I--high density recreation areas; Class II--general outdoor recreation areas; Class III--natural environment areas; Class IV--outstanding natural areas; Class V--primitive areas, including, but not limited to, those recommended for designation under the Wilderness Act; and Class VI--historic and cultural areas. Consistent with the Congressionally stated purpose of national parks, a park contains lands falling into three or more of these classes.

Classes I and II identify the lands reserved for visitor accommodations (both existing and proposed), for administrative facilities, formal campgrounds, two-way roads, etc., of varying intensities. Class I and Class II lands occupy relatively little space in any of the national parks.

Class III identifies the "natural environment areas." As the name of the category implies, these are "natural environment" lands. These lands are important to the proper preservation, interpretation, and management of the irreplaceable resources of the National Park System. These irreplaceable resources are identified in the Class IV, V, and VI categories of lands. It is the existence of unique features (Class IV), or primitive lands, including wilderness (Class V), or historical or cultural lands (Class VI) in combination with a suitable environment (Class III) and with sufficient lands "for the accommodation of visitors" (Class I and II) that distinguish natural and historical areas of the National Park System from other public lands providing outdoor recreation.

In the natural areas (national parks and national monument of scientific significance), Class III lands often provide the "transition" or "setting" or "environment" or "buffer" between intensively developed areas (Classes I and II) AND (a) the primitive or wilderness (Class V) areas; and (b) the unique natural features (Class IV) or areas of historic or cultural significance (Class VI) when these two categories exist outside of the Class V lands.

In the historical areas (the administrative policies for which are included in a separate brochure), the "environmental" lands (Class III) serve a similar role in providing the "setting" or "atmosphere" essential to preserving and presenting the national significance of historic properties included in the National Park System.

Often, Classes III and V lands both represent significant natural values. Generally, these values are different in type, quality, or degree. Accordingly, lands having natural values that do not meet Service criteria for primitive or wilderness designation may be classified as Class III even when they do not involve the environment of either Class IV, Class V, or Class VI lands. In natural areas, "natural environment" lands are sometimes referred to additionally as "wilderness threshold" when they abut or surround wilderness.

The "wilderness threshold" lands afford the newcomer an opportunity to explore the mood and the temper of the wild country before venturing into the wilderness beyond. Here, in the wilderness threshold, is an unequalled opportunity for interpretation of the meaning of wilderness.

Class III lands also serve important research needs of the Service, as well as for many independent researchers and institutions of higher learning.

The only facilities planned in these "natural environment" lands are the minimum required for public enjoyment, health, safety, preservation, and protection of the features, such as one-way motor trails, small visitor overlooks, informal picnic sites, short nature walks, and wilderness-type uses. Such limited facilities must be in complete harmony with the natural environment.

Class IV lands are those which contain unique natural features. These lands usually represent the most fragile and the most precious vales of a natural area. Class IV identifies the terrain and objects of scenic splendor, natural wonder or scientific importance that are the heart of the park. These are the lands which must have the highest order of protection so that they will remain "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." Nothing in the way of use should be

permitted on Class IV lands that intrude upon or may in any way damage or alter the scene. The sites and features are irreplaceable. They may range in size from large areas within the Grand Canyon to small sites as Old Faithful Geyser or a sequoia grove.

Class V are the primitive lands that have remained pristine and undisturbed as a part of our natural inheritance. They include in some instances, moreover, lands which, through National Park Service management, have been restored by the healing processes of nature to a primeval state. There are no mining, domestic stock grazing, water impoundments, or other intrusions of man to mar their character and detract from the solitude and quiet of the natural scene. The protection and maintenance of natural conditions and a wilderness atmosphere are paramount management objectives. The only facilities allowed in these lands are of the type mentioned in the Wilderness Use and Management Policy Section.

Class VI are the lands, including historic structures, etc., of historical or cultural significance, such as the agricultural community of Cades Cove in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

#### Public Hearings

One of the finest new public land planning procedures introduced by the Wilderness Act is the opportunity for the public to express its views on the preliminary wilderness proposals prior to these proposals being firmly established for recommendations to the Congress. These hearings are held in the State in which the wilderness is proposed.

Notice of such public hearings is published in the "Federal Register" and newspaper having general circulation in the area of the park at least 60 days prior to the hearings. During this 60-day period, the Master Plan documents are available for public review at the park, in the appropriate Regional Office, and in the Washington Office. Moreover, public information packets explaining national park wilderness proposals are available at the same time for distribution to all those requesting them.

The Wilderness Act requires that the public hearing be held on the wilderness proposals only. However, it is the practice of the National Park Service to make available the general development plan for the park or monument at the time the preliminary wilderness proposal is released. The Service welcomes public comments and views on these plans. Moreover, once the Congress has defined the wilderness areas within the national parks and monuments, it shall be the practice of the National Park Service to give public notice of 60 days on any proposal to change the classification of any Class I, Class II, or Class III lands within the park or monument. In this way, the Service shall afford the public a continuing opportunity to participate in the planning and management of their national parks and monuments.

## SUMMARY OF THE PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

### A. The National Park

1. Location: Shenandoah National Park is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. The park lands are within parts of eight counties: Warren, Page, Rappahannock, Madison, Greene, Albemarle, Rockingham, and Augusta. Interstate Highways 66, 81, and 64 are nearby. State Highway accesses to Skyline Drive include U.S. 340 at Front Royal, U.S. Highway 211 at Thornton Gap, U.S. Highway 33 at Swift Run Gap, and U.S. Highway 250 at Rockfish Gap.

2. Surroundings: The Blue Ridge, upon which the park is situated, rises above and separates the populated Piedmont uplands and the Shenandoah Valley. Unlike the heavily forested, steep sloped Blue Ridge, these two areas are largely agricultural, with numerous small cities, towns and villages.

Three National Forests to the south and west include large areas of the valley and ridge country of Virginia and West Virginia. A portion of the George Washington National Forest on Massanutten Mountain is situated but a few miles west of the park across Shenandoah Valley.

The northern end of the park is about 90 miles from Washington, D.C., and within easy reach of the heavily populated areas of the northeastern and middle Atlantic States.

With few exceptions, all of the land adjoining the park is privately owned and is primarily devoted to agriculture, forestry, residences and recreation. The number of vacation homes is increasing in the area around the park.

3. Resources: The principal resource of Shenandoah National Park is the scenic grandeur of the Blue Ridge with its steep slopes, its rocky crests, its rich forests, its wildlife and its numerous streams and waterfalls. Most visitors are sightseers travelling by automobile over Skyline Drive or hiking the many miles of trails. The spring flower display and the autumn colors of the foliage are enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of people annually. For a more detailed account of the park and its features see "The Preliminary Wilderness Proposal" of the Hearing Officer's Report in the Appendix.

4. Visitor Use Facilities: During 1969 there were over two million visitors to the park. Of greatest attraction is Skyline Drive, 105 miles long. Visitor-use facilities along this road include 75 scenic overlooks, numerous trailhead parking areas, visitor centers at Big Meadows and Dickey Ridge, eight picnic areas, four campgrounds, automobile service at several locations and overnight accommodations at Skyland, Big Meadows, and Lewis Mountain. The Appalachian Trail also runs the length of the park and numerous side trails serve outlying ridges and hollows. Plans for future developments include a number of campgrounds and 11 trailhead parking areas at locations along the exterior boundary of the park.

5. Geography: The park is essentially an elongated mountain strip. On the west side, the Blue Ridge drops off steeply to the lowlands, but the east side is less precipitous. Skyline Drive was built near the crestline and divides the park throughout its entire length. In the wider portions of the park are lateral or parallel outlying ridges enclosing numerous "hollows" which possess a real sense of remoteness, isolation and wilderness character.

B. The Proposed Wilderness Units

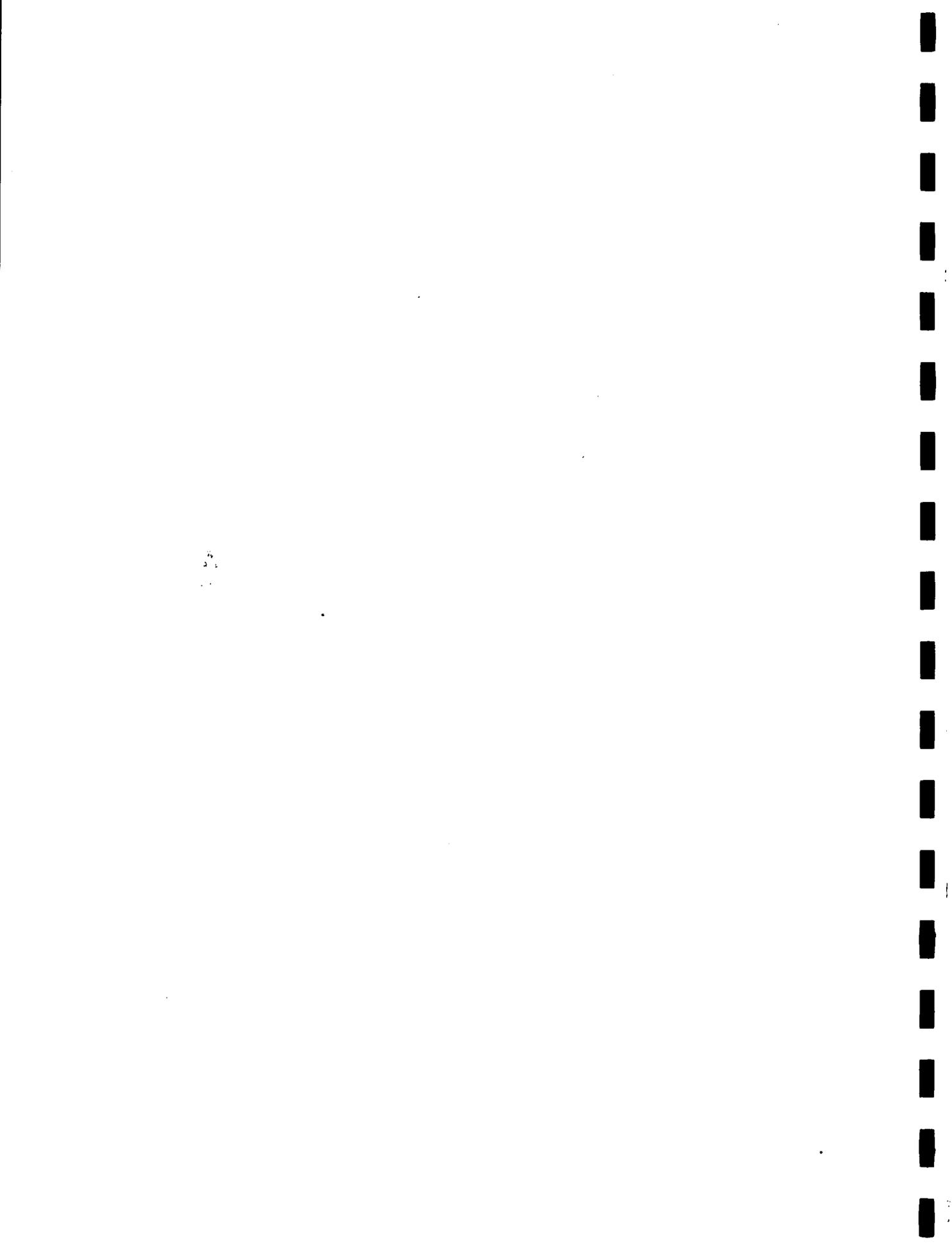
1. Description: Included within the preliminary wilderness proposal were about 61,940 acres in six units comprising approximately 32 percent of the area of the park. It was in the wider portions of the park that the six units were located. The complete description of the preliminary wilderness proposal is included in the appendix and the proposed wilderness units are shown on Exhibit C.

2. Boundary Criteria: In drawing the boundaries for the six units a peripheral zone was excluded along park boundaries for management purposes, to avoid irregular projections, to honor existing rights-of-way, such as roads and power lines, to avoid influences from the activities and uses on lands adjacent to the park, and to reserve specific areas planned for visitor-use development near the park boundary. Along U.S. Highway 211 and Skyline Drive, the wilderness boundaries were drawn back sufficiently far to avoid the immediate influence of the roadway and associated developments and to allow for vista clearing.

3. Approximate Acreages: The approximate acreage of the six units of the preliminary wilderness proposal for Shenandoah National Park, shown on Exhibit C, were as follows:

Preliminary Wilderness Proposal

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Unit 1 The Jeremys Run Area	6,270
Unit 2 The Thornton River Area	8,210
Unit 3 The Byrd Area	20,670
Unit 4 The Big Run Area	15,510
Unit 5 The Paine Run Area	8,160
Unit 6 The Moormans River Area	<u>3,120</u>
TOTAL	61,940



## CONCLUSIONS

As required by the Wilderness Act, a public hearing was held on the preliminary wilderness proposal at Luray, Virginia on June 14, 1967. Notice of the public hearing appeared in the Federal Register on April 14, 1967, and in six local newspapers. Approximately 135 people attended the hearing and 46 persons presented oral statements. A total of 270 letters containing 317 separate responses was received.

Of the agencies, private organizations, and individuals testifying or submitting written views, one of the 29 private organizations and 28 of the 324 individuals supported the preliminary wilderness proposal. Five public agencies and two individuals simply acknowledged receipt of copies of the wilderness proposal. Twenty-four of the 29 private organizations and 209 of the 324 individuals commenting favored a larger wilderness. One private organization and 35 individuals opposed the establishment of a wilderness. Five public agencies, two organizations, and two individuals favored a reduction in the proposed wilderness area.

The alternative proposals presented are described in the "Hearing Officer's Report" (see Appendix) and are indicated on Exhibit D. Careful study of the suggestions received and further consideration of management requirements have resulted in the following recommended revisions of the preliminary wilderness proposal:

a. Recommended Additions: About 14,062 acres are recommended for addition to the preliminary wilderness proposal. This is shown in black on Exhibit B.

As a result of restudy the wilderness boundaries have been extended to include more of the lower slopes of the Blue Ridge and, as redefined, provide a one-eighth mile management zone within the exterior park boundary. Slight variances in this relationship occur because it was desirable to establish points of intersection on prominent geographic features, and to avoid minor irregularities in the park boundary. As redefined, the wilderness boundaries can be more easily located on the ground by park visitors and park management personnel.

In addition to the enlargements resulting from the boundary redefinition described above, Wilderness 1 has been extended

northward to include an additional 5,785 acres. This addition includes the East Fork Run and Overall Run drainages which lie generally west of the Matthews Arm Campground. This area was not included originally because of the relatively rapid development of the private lands which nearly surround this portion of the park. However, reexamination indicates that this area does have sufficient size and separation from external influences to retain its present wild character despite the growing urbanization of nearby lands. The total additions to Wilderness 1 consist of about 5,831 acres.

Additions of about 183 acres to Wilderness 2 have resulted from redefinition of the preliminary boundary as previously discussed.

Approximately 1,900 acres have been added to Wilderness 3 as a result of redefinition of the preliminary boundary as described above. An area of about 768 acres southeast of Skyland, known as Comers Deadening has also been added. This area was not included in the preliminary wilderness proposal because of a proposed campground development. Restudy, however, resulted in a decision not to provide a campground at this location. The total additions to Wilderness 3 consist of about 2,668 acres.

Additions of about 770 acres to Wilderness 4 have resulted from the redefinition of the preliminary wilderness boundaries as previously described.

Restudy of proposed Wilderness 5 has resulted in dividing it into three units: Wilderness 5, 6 and 7. Previously Unit 5 alone contained 8,160 acres. The three units combined, as now delineated, total about 11,795 acres. This has resulted from a redefinition of the preliminary boundaries which added about 704 acres and the addition of a parcel containing about 3,489 acres. This area was not included in the preliminary proposal because of the proximity of the abandoned Crimora Strip Mine and adjacent areas of soil erosion. However, after restudy it is believed that this area has sufficient separation from the influences of adjacent lands to maintain its present wild character.

Additions of about 417 acres to Wilderness 8 (formerly Unit 6) have resulted from the redefinition of preliminary boundaries and the addition of the Turk Branch drainage since this area has a character and resources similar to the parklands originally proposed.

b. Recommended Deletions: The following 11 areas, identified on Exhibit B as parcels A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, and K, are recommended for deletion, totalling about 2,722 acres.

Parcel A contains a powerline which serves the developments at Piney River, Matthews Arm and Elkwallow, and an active cemetery immediately adjacent to the powerline. The powerline was not accurately shown on the official maps available at the time the preliminary wilderness proposal was drafted. This deletion totals about 360 acres.

In parcel B is a developed ground water supply serving an overlook on the adjacent Skyline Drive, the Pass Mountain Shelter, a pit toilet, and a water tank. Management roads extend to these facilities. The shelter serves primarily as an overnight accommodation for hikers on the Appalachian Trail. This and similar shelter facilities will probably require improvements in the future to meet the needs of increasing numbers of visitors. Parcel B comprises about 212 acres.

Parcel C contains a cabin constructed by settlers before establishment of the park. Known as Corbin Cabin, it is maintained by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club under a concession permit. The club, a cooperating citizen group, uses the cabin in its performance of trail maintenance work and also rents the cabin to hikers as an overnight accommodation. The cabin is furnished with bunks, tables, chairs, and simple cooking and lighting equipment. Parcel C consists of about 39 acres.

Parcels D, E, F, H, and K are corridors containing management roads or segments of roads serving trailside shelters, and scenic areas receiving concentrated visitor use. These management roads are used on a continuing basis for clean-up of trash, hauling of wood supplies, and access for search and rescue. The parcels and their approximate acreages are as follows: D, 143; E, 1,212; F, 29; H, 154; and K, 55.

Parcel G is deleted to provide for facilities related to the Loft Mountain developed area, including an existing sewage disposal field. Parcel G consists of 15 acres.

Within Parcel I are management roads which serve a trailside shelter and the radio repeater station on Trayfoot Mountain. This station is a key link in the radio communication system for the entire park. The road is required for servicing the equipment since heavy testing devices must be transported to the site. The powerline corridor west of Trayfoot Mountain was excluded in the preliminary wilderness proposal. Parcel I contains 268 acres.

The old Paine Run Road is in the corridor of 235 acres labelled Parcel J. Cattlemen use this road twice a year to transport their livestock in trucks to and from pasture lands east of the park.

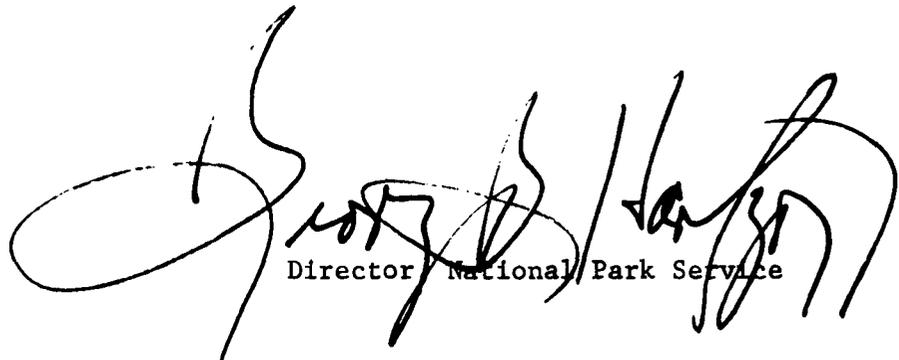
c. Special Considerations: Rappahannock and Madison Counties have suggested construction of seven water impoundments, for water supply and flood-control purposes, which would be either entirely or partially within the park, and the deletion of affected lands from recommended Wilderness Units 2 and 3. An additional reason cited by Madison County for its proposal to delete some of these lands from Unit 3 is to provide an access road from Madison County to the Skyline Drive.

The establishing Act of March 22, 1926 (44 Stat. 616), specifically provided that the provisions of the Federal Power Act of June 10, 1920, would not apply to this park. While the presently proposed dams would be for flood control and water supply rather than power, the intent to prohibit such structures is clear. Moreover, such construction would be contrary to purposes as given in the Act of August 19, 1937 (500 Stat. 700), relating to Shenandoah National Park and preservation principles in the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 525), relating to units of the National Park System.

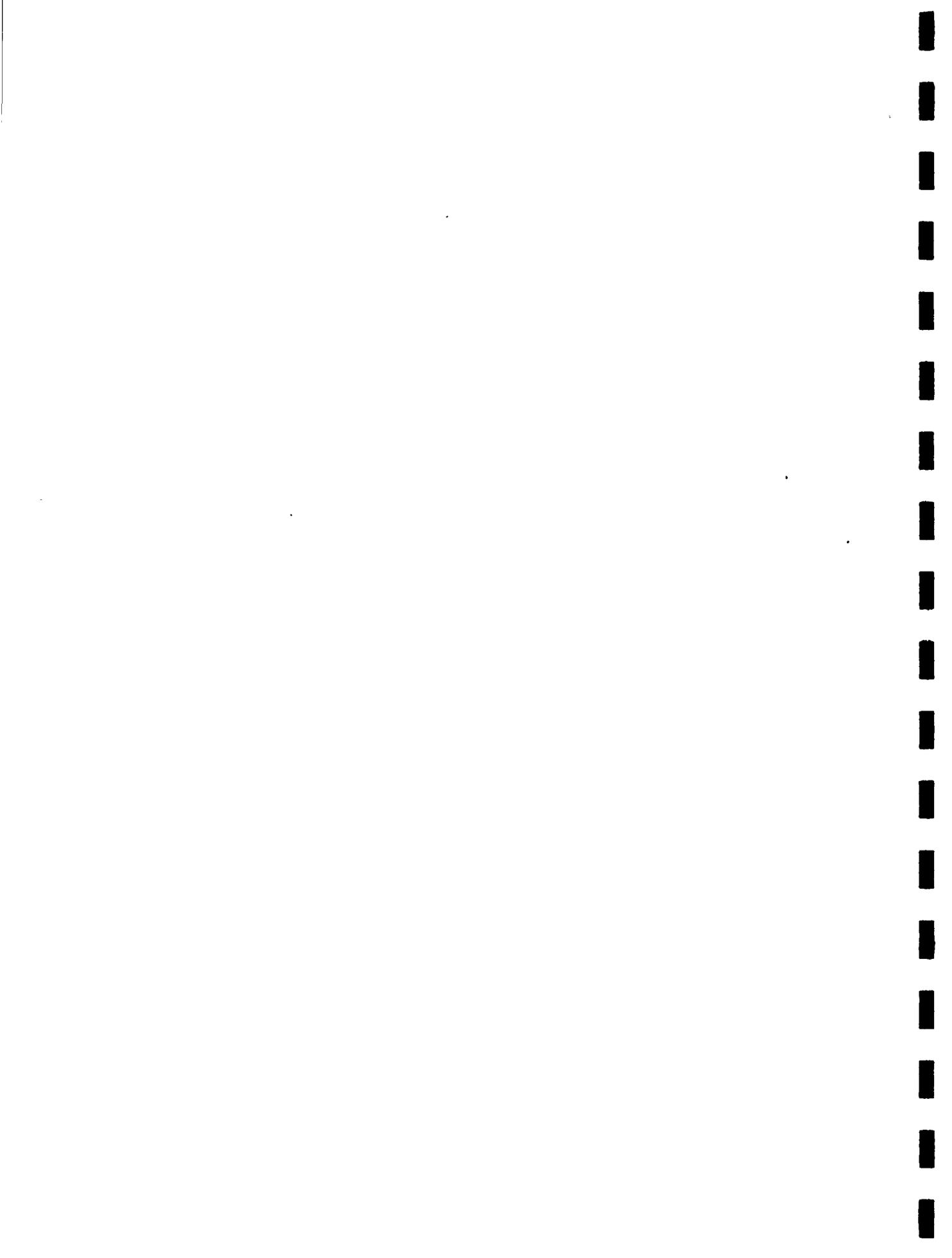
Concerning the suggested road access from Madison County, at the time the park was established it was determined by the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia that only Lee Highway (U.S. 211) and Spotswood Trail (U.S. 33) would be retained as public access roads along with access at either end of the park. The access road requested by Madison County has been considered in the past and rejected on the basis that it is not desirable from the standpoint of achieving the purpose of this National Park. Careful reconsideration of this suggestion reaffirms this determination.

d. Summation: With the additions totalling 14,062 acres and deletions totalling 2,722 acres, the recommended wilderness consists of approximately 73,280 acres as shown below:

Unit 1	12,101	acres
Unit 2	7,821	acres
Unit 3	21,915	acres
Unit 4	16,111	acres
Unit 5	3,340	acres
Unit 6	2,149	acres
Unit 7	6,306	acres
Unit 8	<u>3,537</u>	acres
Total	73,280	acres



George B. Hampton  
Director, National Park Service



APPENDIX:

HEARING OFFICER'S REPORT

Introduction

The Preliminary Wilderness Proposal

Analysis of the Record of Public Hearing  
and Written Responses

Disposition of the Hearing Record and  
Written Responses

Views of Other Governmental Agencies on  
Preliminary Wilderness Proposal

## HEARING OFFICER'S REPORT

### INTRODUCTION

A public hearing on the proposal to establish wilderness areas within Shenandoah National Park was held at the Luray High School auditorium, 14 Luray Avenue, Luray, Virginia, on June 14, 1967.

The hearing was opened at 9:10 A.M. by the Hearing Officer, Mr. John C. Preston, 6961 Oakmont Drive, Santa Rosa, California.

Approximately 135 people were present and oral statements were presented by 46 persons. The proceedings of the hearing were reported by Mrs. Marjorie T. Brown, Box 524, New Market, Virginia.

After everyone wishing to make a statement was heard, the hearing was closed at 4:00 P.M. of the same day.

# THE PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

## INTRODUCTION

Shenandoah National Park is located in the famed Blue Ridge Mountains of northwestern Virginia within Albermarle, Augusta, Greene, Madison, Page, Rappahannock, Rockingham, and Warren Counties. The park was established in 1935 and contains 193,532.91 acres (corrected) of federal land.

The primary resources of the park are its outstanding scenery, its forests and animal life, and its human history involving generations of mountain people, westward growth and the War Between the States. Winding near the crest of the mountain range are the Skyline Drive and the Appalachian Trail. During 1966 there were nearly 2-1/2 million visitors to Shenandoah National Park.

The greater region, consisting of the western portion of Virginia and Maryland and the eastern portion of West Virginia is a well established mountain recreation area. The chief influence upon the region stems from its proximity to the rapidly expanding populations of Maryland, Washington, D. C., and Virginia urban areas as well as being within a day's drive of about one-third of the Nation's population. Within this region of mountains, valleys, streams, forests, and open lands there is a diverse recreational complex representing both public and private endeavor. Large public preserves include the George Washington National Forest of about 903,748 acres, the 543,501 acre Jefferson National Forest, and the Monongahela National Forest of 805,721 acres. At the State and local level there are some 25 existing preserves and more than 30 areas are proposed. Major proposals significant to the region include the proposed Allegheny Parkway, the proposed George Washington Country Parkway and the proposed Potomac Valley Park.

Shenandoah National Park is typical of the Southern Appalachians, but contains some of the more spectacular views in the region as well as the highest peaks. While it is true that generations of mountain people lived off the land in the area now embraced by the park, the evidences of their occupation are rapidly being erased by natural processes and the portions recommended for wilderness designation have sufficiently

recovered so that natural conditions predominate.

#### WILDERNESS ACREAGE SUMMARY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Approximate Acreage</u>
Jeremys Run Wilderness	6,270
Thornton River Wilderness	8,210
Byrd Wilderness	20,670
Big Run Wilderness	15,510
Paine Run Wilderness	8,160
Moormans River Wilderness	<u>3,120</u>
TOTAL	61,940

#### REPORT ON ROADLESS AREAS AND WILDERNESS PROPOSALS

As shown on Exhibit C, the nine roadless areas studied total 150,100 acres. These areas of the park include ridges, peaks, hollows, streams, waterfalls, forests, meadows, a large variety of shrubs and wildflowers, over 40 species of animals, 200 kinds of birds, and native trout. Differences between the hardwood forest which grows on the west side of the Blue Ridge Mountains and that on the east side are fairly noticeable. Growing conditions produce a more open stand on the west slopes which also harbor large patches of huckleberries, once an important part of the economy of the mountain people. The forest cover on the east slopes is denser and more luxuriant in appearance with several extensive stands of young white pine. Virginia ironwood grows only at lower elevations on the east side of the ridge. Red oak is the most common tree followed by chestnut oak, white oak, and the five species of hickory taken as a group.

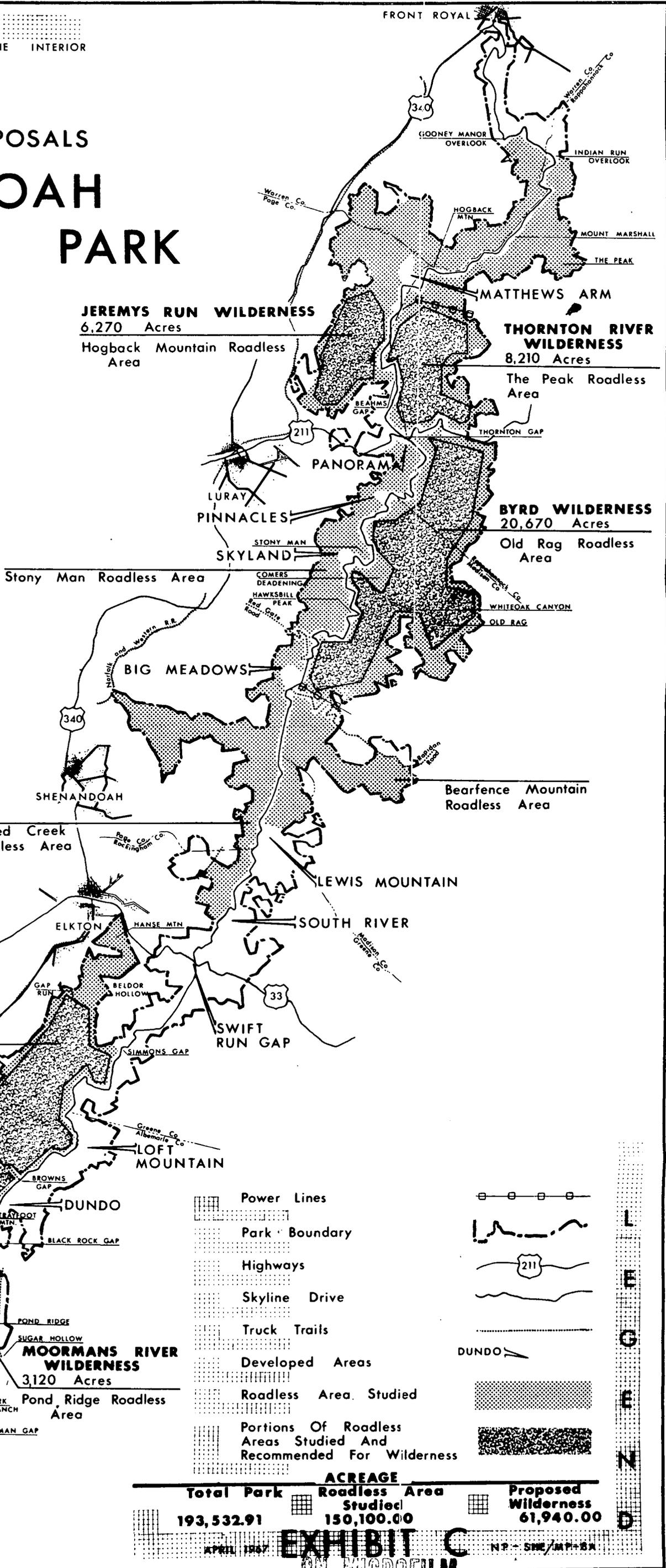
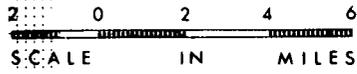
Several plants grow no farther south in the Blue Ridge, including bunchberry, northern bedstraw, three-leaved cinquefoil, grey and canoe birch, speckled alder, meadow sweet, and balsam fir. Likewise, the following grow no farther north in the Blue Ridge Mountains: shortleaf pine, purple rhododendron, and southern saxifrage. Similarly, the woodland jumping mouse and masked shrew, both northern types, are close to the southernmost extent of their range; the spotted skunk and harvest mouse reach nearly their northernmost limits.

Geologically, the Blue Ridge is one of the oldest mountain

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PRELIMINARY - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

WILDERNESS PROPOSALS  
**SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK**  
VIRGINIA



**JEREMYS RUN WILDERNESS**  
6,270 Acres  
Hogback Mountain Roadless Area

**THORNTON RIVER WILDERNESS**  
8,210 Acres  
The Peak Roadless Area

**BYRD WILDERNESS**  
20,670 Acres  
Old Rag Roadless Area

**BIG RUN WILDERNESS**  
15,510 Acres  
Rocky Mountain Roadless Area

**PAINE RUN WILDERNESS**  
8,160 Acres  
Trayfoot Mountain Roadless Area

**MOORMANS RIVER WILDERNESS**  
3,120 Acres  
Pond Ridge Roadless Area

- Power Lines
- Park Boundary
- Highways
- Skyline Drive
- Truck Trails
- Developed Areas
- Roadless Area, Studied
- Portions Of Roadless Areas Studied And Recommended For Wilderness

ACREAGE	
Total Park	193,532.91
Roadless Area Studied	150,100.00
Proposed Wilderness	61,940.00

APRIL 1967 **EXHIBIT C** NP-582/MP-58

ON MICROFILM 134/20,004



These features provide insulation from the Shenandoah Valley and Skyline Drive, as well as from the developed areas at Elkwallow Gap and on Matthews Arm. Thus the area has isolation and visitors experience a feeling of solitude.

A deciduous hardwood forest covers most of the area and there are scattered pines and huckleberry patches. On Knob Mountain, northern bedstraw, a herbaceous plant, reaches the southernmost point of its range in the Blue Ridge.

Jeremys Run is a beautiful stream with cascades and pools and is a favorite with trout fishermen. Beaver have been observed but there are no permanent colonies at present.

A foot trail follows the main stream from the park boundary to Elkwallow Gap. The Appalachian Trail is on the Blue Ridge crest. Another foot trail traverses the ridge out to Neighbor Mountain and crosses over to Knob Mountain. This trail system serves the visitor adequately. Just outside the wilderness near Elkwallow and Beahms Gaps are two shelters for overnight use by hikers.

Only one home site is known to have existed in the proposed Jeremys Run Wilderness. The family moved out prior to 1936 and hardly any traces of their occupancy remain today.

The proposed south and west wilderness boundaries have been established approximately 1/8 to 1/4 mile within the park boundary to provide an area which has primeval character and influence. The north boundary lies just south of the Elkwallow Gap Picnic Area and Matthews Arm Campground. The east boundary is about 1/8 mile west of Skyline Drive.

## 2. THE PEAK ROADLESS AREA

Description: This roadless area includes all parkland from the vicinity of Indian Run Overlook on the north to the vicinity of U.S. 211 at the south and from Skyline Drive eastward to the park boundary, except for the developed areas at Piney River and Panorama. The highest elevation is at the summit of Mount Marshall, 3,368 feet, and the lowest is 973 feet along the park boundary at Beech Spring Church. This area varies in width from about 1/2 mile to 4-3/4 miles, averaging about 2 miles, is about 14 miles long, and contains

approximately 21,190 acres.

Mixed uses occur along this side of the park, -- woodlands, orchards and grazing lands, very few cultivated fields, hunt clubs, year-round homes, subdivisions, and summer weekend houses.

A subdivision borders the park at Waterfall Branch. South of it is a large logging operation and there is another logging operation south of The Peak. Approximately two miles east of each of these logging operations there is a small housing development. Hunting clubs have been established at Indian Run, Waterfall Branch, Keyser Mountain, and west of Pickerel Ridge. A commercial ski area is located on the north slope of Jenkins Mountain.

The most extensive use within the adjoining area of the park is the Skyline Drive which runs at or near the crest of the Blue Ridge and includes eight parking overlooks on the east side of the Drive. Approximately 11 miles of the Appalachian Trail, which winds back and forth across the Drive, are contained in this area with two shelters and one cabin on or near the Trail. Other hiking routes are Big and Little Devils Stairs Trails, Bluff Trail, Piney Branch, and Piney Ridge Trails.

The Keyser Run - Thornton River portion of this area was at one time fairly heavily settled, and there are perhaps a dozen cemeteries. Most are nearly indiscernible.

The north portion forms a rough triangle, from Compton Mountain to an apex near the east park boundary where the ground rises abruptly to form The Peak, then cuts back sharply to a narrow neck north of Little Devils Stairs. Two other significant land forms are Hogwallow Flat near Skyline Drive and Mount Marshall immediately south, second highest peak in the North District. Just below are the Big Devils Stairs.

The south and larger portion of the area is noteworthy for four mountains along the east boundary which form a shallow arc. The most important streams are the North Fork of Thornton River, Piney Branch and Keyser Run. There are some fine stands of young white pine. Most notable wildlife are the beaver colonies on the North Fork of Thornton River

near Frazier Hollow and on Piney Branch. Deer are plentiful and bear are common. Fishing is good in Thornton River.

The northern portion of this area, including the east slopes of Mount Marshall, is almost completely exposed to and influenced by developments outside the park. The Thornton River, or southern portion of this roadless area, on the other hand, is fairly well protected by a cluster of mountain peaks from intrusive non-park uses to the east. The area in general has recovered sufficiently from the effects of human habitation and cultivation.

Recommendation: It is proposed that the Thornton River area of about 8,210 acres within The Peak Roadless Area be designated as the Thornton River Wilderness.

Thornton River Wilderness (8,210 acres approximate)

Although much of the original forest cover had been removed and land devoted to grazing and orchards prior to its inclusion in the park, during the past 30 years remarkable recovery has occurred. The land has become overgrown with trees and now only a trained eye can read the evidences of past uses. Much of the forest is young and dense and there are some beautiful pure stands of white pine. The largest flocks of wild turkeys in the park range in the Thornton River and adjoining Jeremys Run watersheds. Deer abound; bears and bobcats are common and here are the only beaver colonies in the park.

The Piney River valley is a favorite with hikers because of its scenery, particularly the waterfalls and pools. These also appeal to fishermen as does the North Fork of Thornton River. Pignut, Fork, and Oventop Mountains form a shallow arc, north to south, along the east boundary of the proposed wilderness, and isolate it from the private lands eastward beyond the park boundary. There are about a dozen family cemeteries in the area, all are overgrown and barely discernible.

Pass Mountain shelter along the Appalachian Trail just north of Thornton Gap is the only facility for overnight use by hikers within the area but there are shelters at Beahms and Elkwallow Gaps and Range View Cabin just outside the boundaries to the west, and the Matthews Arm Campground will

provide another base for hikers who want to explore the Thornton River area.

The proposed south wilderness boundary is located about 1/4 to 1/2 mile north of U.S. Route 211 to avoid the influences from this highway and adjacent developments, and to permit future widening and realignment. The west boundary lies 1/8 to 1/2 mile east of Skyline Drive to exclude roadside developed areas and permit vista clearing. The north boundary is immediately south of the power line which extends from the vicinity of Keyser Run east of the park to the Elkwallow Gap and Matthews Arm developments. The east boundary is located from about 1/8 to 1/2 mile within the park boundary to provide an area having primeval character and influence.

### 3. STONY MAN ROADLESS AREA

Description: This roadless area includes all park land to the west of Skyline Drive between U.S. 211 on the north and the Red Gate Road (old Gordonsville Turnpike) on the south, except for the developed areas at Panorama, The Pinnacle and at Skyland. Elevations vary from about 1,200 feet on Pass Run to 4,049 feet at the summit of Hawksbill Peak. The tract varies from 5/8 mile to 2-5/8 miles wide and it is about 9 miles long. It includes about 9,040 acres.

The land to the west bordering the park is all privately owned. Most of it is wooded but there is also considerable open land under cultivation or being grazed. A hunting club has been established adjacent to the park in Buracker Hollow. In Jewell Hollow, just south of U.S. 211, 9 summer homes have been built recently. The town of Luray is about 5 miles from the park boundary. The adjacent highways, roads, the Norfolk and Western Railroad and urban and suburban developments greatly influence and affect his portion of the park.

Bordering the roadless area on the east, within the park, is a 17 mile section of Skyline Drive and associated with it are a number of parking overlooks. Panorama has a service station and restaurant, at Skyland there is a lodge and cabins, and a picnic area at The Pinnacle. A section of the Appalachian Trail, about 15 miles in length, also follows the Ridge and along it are 3 shelters and one cabin for

overnight use by hikers. There are also a number of side trails.

Hikers predominate but some trails are used by horseback parties from the stable at Skyland. Power lines enter the park from the west to serve Pinnacles Ranger Station and Skyland, respectively, and another crosses the park through Thornton to provide service for Panorama.

In the Stony Man Roadless Area are some of the steepest escarpments in the northern Blue Ridge Mountains thus providing the visitor with spectacular views of the Shenandoah Valley to the west with its farms, woodlots and towns. There is a 3,000 foot drop from the ridge to the valley floor below. This area also has the highest elevations in the park - Hawksbill, 4,049 feet and Stony Man, 4,010 feet. Thus a few birds and plants, more typical of northern latitudes, may be observed; spring arrives late, winter comes early. Such plants as Canada yew, red spruce, balsam fir, mountain and striped maples are noteworthy and ruffed grouse are often seen. The Ridge is covered with a deciduous hardwood forest varying somewhat in composition depending upon whether the side has a north or south exposure, is a ridge crest or a cove. There are some Table Mountain pine near The Pinnacle Pinnic Area. The finest stand of balsam fir is on the northern slope of Hawksbill Peak; it also grows naturally on Stony Man and at Crescent Rock. Red spruce may be found on Hawksbill and Stony Man. Quaking aspen and largetooth aspen both grow on Franklin Cliffs and the latter may also be found on Stony Man.

Recommendation: Because this area is extremely narrow, being only 5/8 mile to 2-5/8 miles wide, because it is crossed by two power lines, and due to the effect of external influences, no part of the Stony Man Roadless Area is proposed as wilderness.

#### 4. NAKED CREEK ROADLESS AREA

Description: This roadless area extends from the vicinity of Red Gate Road (old Gordonsville Turnpike) on the north to a point about 2 miles north of U.S. 33 on the south and from Skyline Drive on the east to the park boundary on the west, except for the Big Meadows developed area. It varies

in width from 1/4 mile to about 2 miles. The length is about 13 miles. The area contains about 14,670 acres.

Outside of the park, for the most part, local people own and reside on the adjacent property which is forested along the park boundary. At lower elevations, however, there is only a narrow wooded fringe because the flatter land is cultivated or grazed. The privately owned Hawksbill Recreation Area near Marksville offers swimming, picnicking, and playground activity. The towns of Shenandoah and Stanley are each about 3 miles from the park boundary. All of these developments, as well as the highways, roads and railroad, have a major effect upon this portion of the park.

A 14 mile section of Skyline Drive forms the east boundary of the roadless area and there are several parking areas along it. Only a short section of the Appalachian Trail, from Fishers Gap to Bootans Gap, is west of the Drive and there is one shelter for hikers. The Big Meadows development contains facilities and accommodations for visitors. There is a lodge and cabins, store, service station, and stable all operated by the concessioner. There is also a visitor center, amphitheater, self-guiding trail, hiking and riding trails, ranger station, and a maintenance yard. A power line enters the area from the west to serve the Lewis Mountain Area. At Big Meadows a power line comes in from the east.

For the most part, the land is forested but substantial acreages at the higher elevations were cleared, probably a century ago, for cattle grazing. The name "Big Meadows" has been applied to this open land.

Recommendation: The configuration of the park boundary in its relation to Skyline Drive and the former pasture lands both within and out of the park, leaves only a relatively small and extremely narrow band of roadless area. This area is also very much affected by external developments and influences. Therefore, no portion of the Naked Creek Roadless Area is proposed as wilderness.

##### 5. OLD RAG ROADLESS AREA

Description: This roadless area includes that portion of the park lying east of Skyline Drive, south of U.S. 211 and

north of the Rapidan Road. The area varies in width from 1-3/4 to 6 miles and is about 13 miles long. It contains about 30,980 acres.

A portion of the Ward Rue Wildlife Management Area lies east of the park on the south slope of Doubletop Mountain north of the Rapidan Fire Road. This area is managed by the State of Virginia. Much of the rest of the land outside the park boundary is bordered by forest but in some places there are orchards and elsewhere the land is cultivated or grazed. On the northeast flank of Old Rag there is a subdivision of 6 homes and a mixture of summer homes and farms is adjacent to the boundary from the vicinity of Sperryville southward to the Rose River. A dude ranch type of accommodation and activity has been established near Syria; a youth hostel, a fishing camp and a small private campground are in operation at Nethers, and motels are available near Sperryville - all within 2 miles of the park boundary.

Several overlooks on the adjacent 19 mile section of Skyline Drive allow motorists some fine scenic views of the roadless area, ridges and hollows. The Appalachian Trail does not enter the area at all, but there are several primary foot trails including those in Whiteoak Canyon, along Cedar Run and in Dark Hollow, and there are several secondary trail routes. Three shelters and one cabin are available to hikers for overnight use. A ranger station for seasonal use is located at Comers Deadening. A horseback trail extends between Big Meadows and Skyland roughly parallel to Skyline Drive but at varying distances from it.

Some of the most outstanding views of typical Blue Ridge Mountain scenery may be enjoyed by visitors to this section of the park. Corbin, Nicholson and Weakley Hollows were inhabited by a group of people whose ancestors settled these mountains soon after the first colonists established themselves along the east coast. A very few evidences remain of their habitation and way of life such as foundations of homes, a cemetery, spring houses, traces of roads, rock walls and stone piles where land had been cleared for cultivation, or an exotic plant here and there such as a fruit tree or rose bush. These are of cultural and historic interest. Whiteoak Canyon with its six waterfalls and cascades, one below the other, is probably the most famous water feature in the park. Another popular waterfall is in Dark Hollow

near Big Meadows. At the head of Whiteoak Canyon is the Limberlost, a swampy area of about 100 acres containing a fine virgin stand of Canada hemlocks up to 500 years old, and scattered red spruce. Also in this area and at Big Meadows Swamp grows the speckled adler, the southernmost station for this plant in the Blue Ridge. Lower Weakley Hollow and vicinity has some fine stands of young white pine, Canada hemlock, umbrella magnolia, and mountain laurel. There is quaking aspen along the summit trail on Old Rag. Virginia ironwood grows at the lower elevations. In the spring, this area is well known for its fine wildflower displays. The entire area is frequented by deer and bear and Hughes River is a fine trout stream. Parallel to the Blue Ridge is Old Rag, a relict mountain, and at its summit are huge boulders formed by weathering of the granite.

Recommendation: The major portion of the Old Rag Roadless Area is sufficiently isolated from man's current activities, there are ample opportunities for solitude, it has sufficiently reverted from past human use, and it is large enough so that natural conditions are dominant. Therefore, this area comprising 20,670 acres is proposed as the Byrd Wilderness since the late Senator Harry Flood Byrd frequently hiked in this area of the park and had a deep and strong interest in the entire park.

Byrd Wilderness (20,670 acres approximate)

The forest cover is now generally luxuriant. There are thrifty young stands of white pine and Canada hemlock. Beneath the hardwoods are thickets of mountain laurel and the spring wildflower display is one of the finest in the park. Yellow-poplar and American sycamore grow to substantial size in the lower reaches of the hollows. In Weakley Hollow are some fine umbrella magnolias. Quaking aspen grows on the summit of Old Rag. There is a profusion of ferns where conditions are suitable.

Ravens nest on Old Rag Mountain and hawks are common during migration. Many birds, more frequently observed farther north, nest on the higher elevations. Deer and bear, foxes, bobcats, opossums, raccoons, skunks, ground hogs, rabbits, squirrels, and white footed mice are common.

There is an extensive trail system through much of the area.

The Cedar Run, Whiteoak and Nicholson Hollow trails are well known and Old Rag is a popular climb in spite of its ruggedness and the exertion required to attain its summit. Yet the greater part of the area cannot be reached by marked trails.

Two trailside shelters on Old Rag are available to hikers for overnight use and Corbin Cabin in Nicholson Hollow is rented at a nominal fee per person. Vegetation and natural forces have subdued the evidences of three centuries of human habitation. Among many other attributes, the proposed wilderness area has outstanding scenic qualities and visitors experience a strong sense of isolation and remoteness from civilization.

The western boundary of the proposed wilderness is generally located from 1/8 to 1/2 mile east of Skyline Drive to avoid influence from its use and to allow for vista clearing. In the vicinity of upper Whiteoak Canyon the boundary excludes the intensively used area at the head of the Canyon and the area known as Comers Deadening where there is a ranger station and where a campground is planned. The northern boundary is located about 1/2 mile south of U.S. 211 to avoid the influences of this highway. The eastern boundary lies generally from 1/8 to 1/2 mile within the eastern park boundary to provide an area having primeval character and influence. The southern boundary lies north of the power line serving Big Meadows.

#### 6. BEARFENCE MOUNTAIN ROADLESS AREA

Description: This roadless area includes the parkland on the east side of Skyline Drive from the Rapidan Fire Road on the northern boundary, south to the vicinity of the Lewis Mountain developed area. The width of the tract varies from 1/2 to about 2 miles and the length is about 6 miles. It includes about 8,560 acres.

Some of the cabins built by the late President Herbert Hoover at his fishing camp on the Rapidan are being preserved as a historic site. Several miles of the Appalachian Trail follows the ridge crest from Bootens Gap to Lewis Mountain. There are many miles of side trails and one shelter for the use of hikers. A power line serves Hoover Camp and Big Meadows.

Except for the Big Meadows portion of the area, which is grassland slowly being replaced by shrubs and trees, the remainder supports a deciduous hardwood forest. Topographically, the roadless area consists primarily of eastward facing slopes and ridge tops which have little isolation from adjacent lands.

Next to the park, along the Conway River, logging is taking place at the present time. The Ward Rue Wildlife Management Area, operated by the State of Virginia, adjoins park land in two sizeable tracts. One is along the Rapidan between Doubletop and Fork Mountains and the other is on Bluff Mountain in the Conway River drainage. The State encourages fishing-for-fun, hunting, camping (tent and trailer), and nature study. The Ward Rue Lumber Company has reserved the right to harvest mature trees. In most cases, the land immediately adjoining the park is wooded. The flatter land in the hollows is inhabited and cleared for cultivation, and grazing. A few summer homes and hunting camps have been built along the Conway River and Garth Run.

Recommendation: Because of its extremely narrow and irregular shape, the land within this roadless area is very much subject to influences from adjacent lands and uses. Therefore, because of its poor configuration and lack of isolating factors, no portion of the Bearfence Mountain Roadless Area is recommended as wilderness.

#### 7. ROCKY MOUNTAIN ROADLESS AREA

Description: This roadless area of about 22,020 acres includes the parkland west of Skyline Drive from Hanse Mountain and Simmons Gap on the north to the Madison Run Road and Browns Gap on the south, a distance of about 12 miles. It varies in width from 3/4 to 5-1/2 miles averaging about 3-1/2 miles. Elevations vary from 2,900 feet, near Skyline Drive overlooking Big Run, to 1,200 feet along the park boundary at Hanse Mountain.

Adjacent to the park boundary, the land is privately owned and is generally forested. An area along Gap Run is being logged at the present time. U.S. Route 340, a primary highway in Shenandoah Valley connects Elkton and Grottoes

to the west of the park. A rather narrow strip of land, from a few feet to 2-1/2 miles wide, between the park and U.S. 340, is interlaced with secondary roads serving farms and residences. Some of the land is grazed and some is cultivated. A line of the Norfolk and Western Railroad closely parallels the west side of U.S. 340.

Skyline Drive is along the east side of the roadless area from Simmons Gap to Browns Gap, a distance of 10 miles, and includes four parking overlooks. Only two short stretches of the Appalachian Trail enter the area, but there are many trails following ridges and hollows. One shelter is available to hikers for overnight use. A power line serves the Simmons Gap Ranger Station.

Heavy logging occurred before the park was created, but since there was little land suitable for farming or grazing, few people lived in the area. Westward from Skyline Drive, the Shenandoah Valley seems remote because of the deep hollows immediately below and a series of peaks and ridges "fencing off" the valley at elevations nearly equal to the Drive.

Recommendation: North of Gap Run the roadless area follows a narrow ridge at a low elevation. The influences and uses outside the park, including a chemical plant, are such that this portion is not recommended as wilderness. South of Gap Run to the vicinity of the Madison Run Road about 15,510 acres are proposed as the Big Run Wilderness.

Big Run Wilderness (15,510 acres approximate)

The name "Big Run" was selected because this stream drains an area of 11 square miles, the largest watershed in the park. Visitors to this deep valley experience solitude because they are isolated from man's daily activities by the surrounding ridges. The stream has many cascades and rock-rimmed pools and it is noted for its Eastern brook trout. Wild turkey are often seen. There are scenic quartzite cliffs and an interesting rock formation called the Devils Fireplace.

Big Run Wilderness is a jumble of rocky and precipitous mountains, ridges, a hollows. Few people ever lived in this area, but the timber was harvested. The forest today is predominantly deciduous hardwood growing in a relatively open stand of medium height. Growth is slow on some sites,

particularly the dry southwest facing slopes.

In the vicinity of Rocky Mount there is an assemblage of plants more typical of the Coastal Plain and the New Jersey pine barrens. All of the five kinds of pine native to the park grow within the wilderness area. Along Deep Run is a colony of purple rhododendron which grows no farther north in the Blue Ridge. Wild turkey, bear, deer, raccoons, foxes, and bobcats have been observed.

The proposed north boundary of the wilderness excludes the narrow strip of parkland west of Beldor Hollow and lies from 1/8 to 1/4 mile south of the park boundary adjacent to Beldor Hollow.

The boundary is located from 1/8 to one mile inside the exterior park boundary and within 1/8 to 1/2 mile of Skyline Drive so as to provide an area having ~~primary~~ character and influence. The southern boundary is 1/8 mile north of the Madison Run Road. This road, gated and locked at the park boundary and at Browns Gap, is not open to the public, but it is used periodically as a truck haul road to construction sites along Skyline Drive and cattle are driven over it twice a year to and from their pastures on private lands outside the park.

#### 8. TRAYFOOT MOUNTAIN ROADLESS AREA

Description: The roadless area consists of virtually all parkland west of Skyline Drive from Madison Run Road south to the Jarman Gap Road except for some minor exclusions along the park boundary which do not have "wilderness character." The area is about 11 miles long and varies in width from 1 to 3-1/4 miles, averaging about 2 miles. Trayfoot Mountain is the highest peak at 3,300 feet and the lowest point is about 1,400 feet along the park boundary. The area comprises about 15,910 acres.

The area outside the park is similar to that adjacent to the Rocky Mountain Roadless Area described above. There is a buffer of private forest land and U.S. Route 340 is 1-1/2 to 2-1/4 miles to the west. In the vicinity of Crimora Lake, an abandoned manganese mine, parkland is badly eroded. This area outside the park is considered to have potential for

private resort development.

Along Skyline Drive are nine parking overlooks in a distance of 14 miles. Segments of the Appalachian Trail enter the area and many miles of side trails follow ridges and hollows. Three shelters are available for the use of hikers. A power-line serves the park's radio relay station on Trayfoot Mountain and a natural gas line crosses the park about a mile north of Jarman Gap.

Physical features are similar to those of the Rocky Mountain Roadless Area. Of notable significance is the feature known as Black Rock. Here and elsewhere the rocks are so densely covered with rock tripe, a foliaceous lichen, that they appear to be black. Rock tripe is a "resurrection" plant; during wet weather its brittle thallus absorbs water and its color changes to a dull green. This plant is common in the park but it covers huge areas of the exposed rock cliffs and scree in the vicinity of Black Rock and Trayfoot Mountain. Purple rhododendron also grows along Rip Rap Run, on Wildcat Ridge and at the base of Turk Mountain.

Recommendation: The south portion of the roadless area from Wildcat Ridge to Jarman Gap is somewhat different in character from the balance of the area and is not recommended as wilderness because of its narrow configuration, lower elevation and the resulting influence of outside activity. The major portion of the roadless area, about 8,160 acres, is proposed as the Paine Run Wilderness.

Paine Run Wilderness (8,160 acres approximate)

Like Big Run, Paine Run is a deep hollow surrounded by steep-walled ridges. Rock tripe is prevalent on the cliffs and scree and purple rhododendron grows in Rip Rap Hollow and on Wildcat Ridge. The wildlife population and the forest cover is similar to that of the Big Run Wilderness.

The south boundary of the proposed wilderness lies just to the north of the narrow neck of parkland north of the Turk Mountain area. The western boundary lies from 1/8 to 1/2 mile within the park boundary to provide an area having primeval character and influence. The west boundary also excludes a corridor for the power line to the top of Trayfoot Mountain. The north boundary lies immediately south of the Madison Run Road. The east boundary is located about 1/8 to 1/2 mile

west of Skyline Drive to avoid influences from the Drive and its wayside areas.

#### 9. POND RIDGE ROADLESS AREA

Description: This roadless area includes the parklands east of Skyline Drive from the narrow parkland neck about 1/2 mile north of Black Rock Gap, south to a narrow neck about 3/4 mile north of Jarman Gap. The roadless area extends east to the park boundary in the north and south, and in the central portion to the vicinity of the road along the forks of Moormans River.

This is a narrow stretch of mountain top plateaus and steep, east-facing slopes which vary from 1/2 mile to about 1-1/2 miles in width and extending for about 7 miles along the crest of the Blue Ridge. The highest point is Pond Ridge at 2,994 feet and the lowest point is 992 feet along Moormans River at the park boundary. The area includes approximately 5,380 acres.

Private forest and grazing land adjoins the park to the east. The City of Charlottesville owns a reservoir in Sugar Hollow, adjacent to the park, which is supplied by Moormans River and its tributaries. At the head of the North Fork of Moormans River, a hunting club has been established and other private land there may be subdivided for summer homes in the future. Some logging is taking place just outside the park north of Jarman Gap. There is a natural gas line across the park about 1/2 mile north of Jarman Gap.

Along the west side of the roadless area is Skyline Drive and one parking area which overlooks the roadless area. To the north is the picnic area at Dundo Hollow and the Loft Mountain developed area. Short sections of the Appalachian Trail follow the Blue Ridge Crest on the west side of the roadless area.

A deciduous forest is the predominant land cover within the roadless area. A typical and especially attractive forest extends from Black Rock Gap south to Turk Branch in the headwaters of Moormans River. This area has not been disturbed much by man's activities for many years because it forms the

watershed of the Charlottesville Reservoir. In a portion of this area is a patch of canoe or white birch and associated with it is bunchberry and purple rhododendron. Purple rhododendron here approaches its most northerly station. Here also is the only bladdernut known to grow in the park. Because the land to the east of the roadless area is generally at about the same elevation, there are few distant views of the Piedmont, thus shielding much of the area from external influences and uses and providing an area having a primeval character.

Recommendation: An area of about 3,120 acres within the Pond Ridge Roadless Area is proposed as the Moormans River Wilderness.

Moormans River Wilderness (3,120 acres approximate)

Even though this is the smallest of the five areas in Shenandoah National Park proposed as wilderness, it is believed to have all the qualities and attributes. The configuration of the land permits its management and assists in its preservation. Vegetatively it resembles natural conditions more closely than most other areas of the park, because it has been little disturbed by man. There were no habitations, roads, clearings for cultivation or grazing, and there are no established trails at the present time.

While the forest was cut over many years ago, there are probably more large trees in the stand than in comparable areas of the park. This may be attributed to the fact that this is a major part of the watershed for the Charlottesville reservoir in Sugar Hollow just outside the park. Huckleberries, maple-leaved viburnum and hackberry are among the species comprising the understory vegetation. The upper end of Pond Ridge is similar in configuration to the "plateau" areas on Pasture Fence, Big Flat, Flat Top and other mountains nearby. Thus the botanist studying Pond Ridge can determine the natural vegetation and original appearance of the other "plateaus" which were cleared of forest years ago to provide grasslands for grazing cattle in the summer. Deer and wild turkey are common.

The proposed Moormans River Wilderness has outstanding scenic qualities, a feeling of isolation is achieved by the depth of the North and South Fork valleys of Moormans River which form the east boundary, and the buffer of parkland on the

east slope of the valleys.

The south boundary of the proposed wilderness is along Turk Branch north of the very narrow neck of parkland in the vicinity of Turk Gap. The west boundary lies about 1/8 to 1/2 mile east of Skyline Drive to avoid influences from the Drive and related areas. The north boundary follows the stream east of Blackrock Gap. The east boundary is located from about 1/8 to 1/4 mile west of Moormans River and the road along it which is used by neighboring landowners for access to their property. In the extreme northeast and southeast portions, the wilderness boundary is about 1/8 to 1/4 mile within the park boundary to avoid influences from the adjacent lands and uses described above.

ANALYSIS OF THE RECORD OF PUBLIC HEARING AND WRITTEN RESPONSES

JOINT CONSERVATION GROUP PROPOSAL

A total of 206 respondents favored, with some slight modifications, the proposal put forth by nine conservation organizations in a paper entitled, "A Joint Wilderness Hearing Announcement" distributed by them prior to the wilderness hearing.

The sponsoring groups of the joint proposal were: Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, The Wilderness Society, the Virginia Wildlife Federation, the Canoe Cruisers Association of Greater Washington, D. C., the National Capital Wilderness Study Committee, the Virginia Division of the Izaak Walton League of America, the Northern Virginia Conservation Council, and the Virginia Society of Ornithology. In addition, this announcement was approved in principle by the Potomac Area Council of American Youth Hostels, Inc., and the VPI Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

This proposal would place about 91,000 acres in wilderness as contrasted to the 61,940 acres advanced by the National Park Service preliminary proposal. The areas suggested for addition to the preliminary wilderness proposal are indicated on Exhibit D by the letter Y, and would enlarge all of the proposed units as tabulated below.

<u>Unit (See Exhibit D)</u>	<u>Acreage of Suggested Addition</u>	<u>Total Acreage of Joint Conservation Group Proposal</u>
Jeremys Run	7,730	14,000
Thornton River	3,790	12,000
Byrd	10,330	31,000
Big Run-Paine Run	5,330	29,000
Moormans River	<u>1,880</u>	<u>5,000</u>
	29,060	91,000

The proposal suggests that the additions be made by two general changes which would apply to virtually all of the proposed wilderness units and by specific changes to each of the units. One general change would be to extend all wilderness unit boundaries lying adjacent to Skyline Drive or to a U. S. highway closer to these roads (to within 200 to 100 yards or less). The other general change would be to extend the exterior wilderness boundaries to coincide with the park boundary. The only exceptions to this would be in the Big Run Unit and the Paine Run Unit where five small protrusions would not be included as wilderness, and in the Moormans River Unit where the east boundary would coincide with the west side of Moormans River. The specific changes suggested are as follows:

Jeremys Run Wilderness Proposal: Extend the unit boundary northward to include the watersheds of East Fork Run and Overall Run.

Thornton Run Wilderness Proposal: Extend the unit boundary northward to include Little Devils Stairs. Proponents suggested that the powerline through this area be relocated, put underground, or removed.

Byrd Wilderness Proposal: Extend northern boundary to a point south of the powerline parallel to U. S. 211, and extend the southern boundary to a point just north of the powerline serving Big Meadows.

Big Run-Paine Run Wilderness Proposals: It is suggested that these two units be made one unit by including the Madison Run Road in wilderness, that the powerline corridor to the Trayfoot Mountain radio repeater station also be included, and that the southern boundary of the combined unit be extended to the north edge of a gasline right-of-way a mile north of Jarman Gap.

Moormans River Wilderness Proposal: Extend the south boundary to the north edge of the gasline right-of-way a mile north of Jarman Gap.

The map submitted to show the joint conservation group proposal is included in the official record.

In addition to specific proposals for inclusion of areas in wilderness, the Joint Conservation Group proposal stressed two related points. They favored a program of regional recreation planning whereby future public use facilities (lodges, campground, picnic areas, roads, etc.) would be provided for within the outer periphery of the park (at the base of Blue Ridge) or, preferably, on other public or private lands closely adjacent to the park or dispersed throughout the general region. They also recommended that if at any time in the future, the small roadless areas not proposed for wilderness by either the National Park Service or the Joint Proposal appear to be threatened by any future road, powerline, recreation or concessioner development proposal, they should then also be given statutory wilderness protection.

#### NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION PROPOSAL

This proposal would place nearly all of the park in wilderness except for public roads, visitor use developments and a small amount of peripheral land. Areas indicated by the letters X and Y on Exhibit D generally illustrate the suggested additions to the preliminary wilderness proposal. The map submitted is included in the official record.

#### MADISON COUNTY PROPOSAL

This proposal would reserve from wilderness status portions of the National Park Service preliminary wilderness proposal to provide for four water supply and flood control impoundments as well as an access road from Madison County to the Skyline Drive.

The Madison County Planning Commission suggested that the boundary of the proposed Byrd Wilderness be moved back to contour line 3000 north of the Rose River, to contour line 1500 in the Whiteoak Canyon and Cedar Run area, to contour line 1500 in Weakley Hollow, and to contour line 1750 in Nicholson Hollow so that dams could be constructed in these areas. A further purpose, stated by Mr. James C. Graves, Chairman, Madison County Planning Commission is to keep the former Gordonsville-New Market Turnpike open for historic purposes and for development. The former turnpike, now a park foot and horse trail, is within the area suggested to be reserved in the vicinity of the Rose River at the south end of the proposed Byrd Wilderness.

Mr. David F. Berry, speaking for the Board of Supervisors of Madison County, pointed out that Madison County gave up some 30,000 acres in the establishment of the park, but is the only contributor without an access road to the park. He stated that establishment of the proposed wilderness would forever defeat the hope of Madison County for an access road.

Honorable D. French Slaughter, Culpeper, Virginia, a member of the House of Delegates from the 44th District (Madison, Culpeper and Orange Counties) stated that water was a growing critical need in his district and that they could not have dams downstream without storage upstream. He stressed flood control and said that development of the Rapidan River is tied into their water coordination plan. He also stated that the Federal Government should not forever bar citizens of Madison County from having a direct access road to the park.

A map of this proposal was not presented but the areas suggested for deletion from the preliminary wilderness proposal are indicated on Exhibit D by the letter Z.

#### RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY PROPOSAL

A resolution adopted by the Rappahannock County Board proposes the reservation of a number of dam sites from wilderness consideration in the proposed Thornton River wilderness and the proposed Byrd Wilderness. The general areas which would be deleted from the preliminary wilderness proposal are indicated on Exhibit D by the letter W. A map submitted showing the possible dam sites is included in the official record.

#### OPPOSITION TO WILDERNESS

The Forestry Association of Virginia opposed the six wilderness area proposals because, according to Mr. William E. Cooper, Executive Director, the areas do not meet the requirements for wilderness, too large an area is reserved for too few people, and wilderness designation ties the hands of the National Park Service regarding future development. Further, the Association would like to see the six proposals reduced to two or perhaps three.

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES RECEIVED

<u>Recommendations</u>	<u>Public Agencies</u>	<u>Private Organi- zations</u>	<u>Indi- viduals</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. NPS Proposal		1	28	29
2. Conservation Group Proposal		21	185	206
3. Most of the Park Not Presently Developed		3	24	27
4. Madison County Proposal	4	2	2	8
5. Rappahannock County Proposal	1			1
6. No Wilderness		1	35	36
7. Wilderness, No Specific Recommendations		1	48	49
8. Acknowledgement Received with No Specific Comments	<u>5</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>
TOTALS	10	29	324	363

DISPOSITION OF HEARING RECORD AND WRITTEN RESPONSES

The official record, including letters received by the Hearing Officer, the park, the Southeast Regional Office, and the Washington Office of the National Park Service, has been assembled and is available for review in the Washington Office.

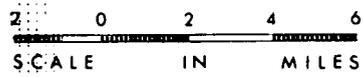
  
Hearing Officer

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ALTERNATE WILDERNESS  
PROPOSALS

SHENANDOAH  
NATIONAL PARK

VIRGINIA



**JEREMYS RUN WILDERNESS**  
6,270 Acres  
Hogback Mountain Roadless Area

**THORNTON RIVER WILDERNESS**  
8,210 Acres  
The Peak Roadless Area

**BYRD WILDERNESS**  
20,670 Acres  
Old Rag Roadless Area

Stony Man Roadless Area

Bearfence Mountain Roadless Area

Naked Creek Roadless Area

**BIG RUN WILDERNESS**  
15,510 Acres  
Rocky Mountain Roadless Area

**PAINÉ RUN WILDERNESS**  
8,160 Acres  
Trayfoot Mountain Roadless Area

**MOORMANS RIVER WILDERNESS**  
3,120 Acres  
Pond Ridge Roadless Area

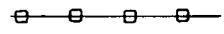
Additions Proposed By Others

X, Y

Deletions Proposed By Others

W, Z

Power Lines



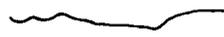
Park Boundary



Highways



Skyline Drive



Truck Trails



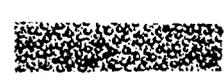
Developed Areas



Roadless Area Studied



Portions Of Roadless Areas Studied And Recommended For Wilderness



ACREAGE		
Total Park	Roadless Area Studied	Proposed Wilderness
193,532.91	150,100.00	61,940.00

SEPTEMBER, 1968

EXHIBIT D

NP - SME/MP-88

134/20005



VIEWS OF OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ON THE PRELIMINARY  
WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

The following letters, statements, and resolutions are  
from the agencies listed below:

Alan S. Boyd, Secretary of Transportation

Murray Comarow, Executive Director, Federal  
Power Commission

Dwight F. Rettie, Director, Division of Land  
Development, Land and Facilities Development  
Administration, Department of Housing and  
Urban Development

C. J. Robin, Chief, Engineering Division,  
Norfolk District Corps of Engineers,  
Department of the Army

Elbert Cox, Director, Commission of Outdoor  
Recreation, Commonwealth of Virginia

Joseph P. McMurrin, Chairman, Culpeper Soil  
Conservation District, Commonwealth of Virginia

Francis S. Kenny, Secretary, Rappahannock  
River Basin Advisory Committee

Thomas J. Weaver, Chairman, Madison County  
Board of Supervisors

James C. Graves, Chairman, Madison County  
Planning Commission

Floyd E. Johnson, Chairman, Albermarle County  
Planning Commission

E. M. Jones, Clerk, Rappahannock County  
Board of Supervisors

THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

Mr. C. P. Montgomery, Acting Director  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

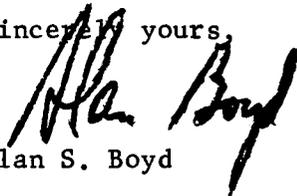
Dear Mr. Montgomery:

Thank you for your letters of April 14 to me and to Mr. F. C. Turner, Director of Public Roads, and enclosed material outlining the Wilderness proposal for Shenandoah National Park in Virginia.

We have examined this proposal and do not find any conflict with existing Forest highway or Federal-aid routes in the area.

Copies of your letters and the Wilderness proposal are being forwarded to the Regional Federal Highway Administrator in Hagerstown, Maryland, for his information should he wish to attend or have a representative attend the public hearing on June 14, 1967.

Sincerely yours,

  
Alan S. Boyd

FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

IN REPLY REFER TO:

April 25, 1967

Mr. C. P. Montgomery  
Assistant Director  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Reference:

Dear Mr. Montgomery:

This is in reply to your letter of April 14, 1967, with which you furnished information regarding the wilderness proposal for the Shenandoah National Park, Virginia.

Since the proposed wilderness areas would be in a National Park, their establishment would not affect any responsibilities of the Federal Power Commission. Therefore, the Commission will not be represented at the public hearing covering this proposal.

Sincerely yours,

  
Murray Comarow  
Executive Director

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

LAND AND FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20410

April 26, 1967

Mr. C. P. Montgomery  
Acting Director  
Shenandoah National Park  
Luray, Virginia 22835

Dear ~~Mr. Montgomery~~ *Monty*

Secretary Robert C. Weaver has asked me to thank you for your recent letter informing him of the June 14, 1967 hearing concerning wilderness studies proposed for the Shenandoah National Park.

While we appreciate having been advised of the hearing, the Secretary has asked me to inform you that the Department will not have a formal statement to make at this time.

Sincerely yours,



Dwight F. Rettie  
Director  
Division of Land Development



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
NORFOLK DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
FORT NORFOLK, 803 FRONT STREET  
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23610

IN REPLY REFER TO NAOEN-R

2 June 1967

Hearing Officer  
Park Wilderness Hearings  
c/o Superintendent  
Shenandoah National Park  
Luray, Virginia 22835

Dear Sir:

The Regional Director, Southeast Region, National Park Service, furnished this office by letter dated 14 April 1967, File No. L48 SER (PA), with material outlining the park wilderness proposals for Shenandoah National Park, and asked for comments.

The area in question lies along the westerly boundary of the Norfolk District. Although we do not have any specific comments, undoubtedly these wilderness areas will satisfy an important public need in the overall recreational program for Virginia.

The opportunity to review these proposals is appreciated.

Very sincerely yours,

  
C. J. ROBIN  
Chief, Engineering Division

# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



ELBERT COX  
Director

Telephone—644-4111  
Ext. 3247

## COMMISSION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

NINTH STREET OFFICE BUILDING  
NINTH AND GRACE STREETS  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219

### MEMBERS

FITZGERALD BEMISS  
Chairman  
IRA N. GABRIELSON  
Vice Chairman  
DOUGLAS B. FUGATE  
T. ROY JARRETT, JR.  
CHESTER F. PHELPS  
MARVIN M. SUTHERLAND  
T. EDWARD TEMPLE  
DANIEL G. VAN CLIEF  
HOLMAN WILLIS, JR.

June 5, 1967

Mr. John C. Preston  
Hearing Officer  
c/o Superintendent  
Shenandoah National Park  
Luray, Virginia 22835

Dear Mr. Preston:

Acting Director Montgomery's letter of April 14, forwarding wilderness proposal packet for Shenandoah National Park, Virginia, addressed to Governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr., has been referred to me for acknowledgement.

The Commonwealth of Virginia takes reasonable pride in its partnership with the National Park Service to create the Shenandoah National Park. Although active participation by the State ceased after acquisition of the lands, the development and management of the fine resources included in the National Park continue to be of great interest to all citizens of the Commonwealth, large numbers of whom join the visitors from outside the State to enjoy its fine recreational opportunities.

The matter of the wilderness proposal for Shenandoah National Park was brought to the attention of the Commission of Outdoor Recreation at its meeting on May 22. The proposal was reviewed without objection. In view of the fact that this hearing will be open to receive comments and suggestions from all interested persons, the Commission believes that no formal statement by it is necessary. If I can arrange to do so, I hope to be present for the hearing to observe the proceedings.

With very best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Director

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
Culpeper Soil Conservation District  
Barboursville, Virginia

Barboursville, Virginia  
June 12, 1967

Honorable Stewart L. Udall  
Secretary of Interior  
U. S. Department of Interior  
Washington, D. C.

My Dear Mr. Secretary:

It has come to the attention of the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District supervisors that approximately 20,000 acres of the Shenandoah National Park is to be incorporated into a wilderness area. It is also the understanding of the District supervisors that no works of improvement may be made in such areas. For your information, portions of the proposed wilderness area fall within valuable watershed areas in Madison, Greene, and Rappahannock counties.

The Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District has sponsored several preliminary studies for flood - sediment prevention in the above counties. Soil Conservation Service engineers have reported many potential dam sites on the Rose, Robinson and Hughes Rivers in Madison County. They have also designated several potential sites in Rappahannock County. County officials in Madison have expressed an interest in co-sponsoring watershed development on the rivers in question. The watersheds are capable of delivering sufficient water in quantity and quality necessary for domestic and commercial usage.

Therefore, the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District supervisors would appreciate it if you would take into consideration a change in the proposed wilderness area boundaries to exclude these potential sites.

Yours truly,

Joseph P. McMurrin  
Chairman

# RAPPAHANNOCK AREA DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

## *Area Development*

REGIONAL COMMISSION  
FOR COUNTIES OF

FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA

CAROLINE, KING GEORGE,  
SPOTSYLVANIA AND STAFFORD.  
CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG

July 11, 1967

2800 PRINCESS ANNE STREET  
POST OFFICE BOX 863  
AREA CODE 703/373-2890

Hearing Officer  
Proposed Wilderness Establishment  
Shenandoah National Park  
Virginia  
c/o Superintendent Shenandoah National Park  
Luray, Virginia

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to public hearing held by the National Park Service, United States Department of Interior, June 14, 1967 at Luray, Virginia

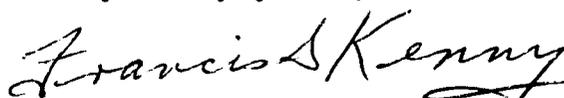
The Rappahannock River Basin Advisory Committee did not receive notice, but considered the matter of the "wilderness area" as it affects the upper reaches of the Rappahannock River Basin at its meeting June 21, 1967 in Culpeper, Virginia.

The Advisory Committee, is of the opinion, that the areas, listed in the resolution, either be excluded from designation as a "wilderness area" or in the alternative, provisions be made in the designation of the "wilderness area" so that water control, soil conservation and impoundment measures may be reserved to the Soil Conservation District, State of Virginia

Future treatment of watershed problems would require inclusion of the areas mentioned for the benefit of all citizens.

It is requested that the resolution of the Rappahannock River Basin Advisory Committee be made a part of the record of the above public hearing.

Very truly yours,



Francis S. Kenny, Secretary  
Rappahannock River Basin  
Advisory Committee

Rappahannock River Basin Advisory Committee,

P. O. Box 863

Fredericksburg, Virginia

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Rappahannock River Basin Advisory Committee was established by appointment of members by the governing bodies of the counties and cities comprising the drainage basin of the Rappahannock River, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Conservation and Economic Development designated the Rappahannock River Basin Advisory Committee as the official committee for the Rappahannock Basin under Section 10-17.3, Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee at its regular meeting, June 21, 1967, at Culpeper, Virginia, was advised of the proposal by the Department of Interior, United States Government, to create a "wilderness area" within the Shenandoah National Park, and

WHEREAS, the establishment of such "wilderness area" could hamper the watershed development within the Rappahannock River Basin area,

NOW, THEREFORE, the Rappahannock River Basin Advisory Committee requests the Board of Conservation and Economic Development to take cognizance of the effects which restrictions upon watershed control by the declaration of a "wilderness area" would have, particularly with respect to the upper reaches of the Rose River, the White Oak Canyon and Cedar Run area, the Weakley Hollow and Brokenback Run area, the Nicholson Hollow, Hannah Run and Hughes River area. The Committee requests that these areas, if included in the "wilderness area" be subject to a reservation to the Soil Conservation District of the right to exercise soil conservation and impoundment measures. The Board of Conservation and Economic Development, State of Virginia, and the Department of Interior, United States Government, are to be furnished with copies of this resolution.

Certified a true copy:

  
Secretary

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the proposed Wilderness Area within the Shenandoah National Park includes certain potential dam sites for water storage and flood control which are important to the future planning and development of certain counties and metropolitan areas affected by the rivers and streams which have their source of supply within said Wilderness Area; and,

WHEREAS, preliminary investigations and studies have already been made on behalf of the Tri-County Planning Commission of the Counties of Madison, Orange and Greene, and also by the Rappahannock River Association, such studies having been made in part with the cooperation of the United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, designating certain potential dam sites; and,

WHEREAS, the undersigned Boards of Supervisors, Planning Commissions and other Planning Agencies of the Counties interested in and affected by the aforesaid water storage and flood control projects desire to present to the National Park Service, the Department of Interior, and the Congress of the United States their request that certain areas be excluded from the proposed Wilderness Area to allow for the aforesaid works of improvement to be planned and constructed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the undersigned Boards of Supervisors, Planning Commissions, and other Planning Agencies do hereby request that certain designated areas within the proposed Shenandoah National Park Wilderness Area, as shown on attached maps, be excluded for the future planning and construction of water storage and flood control dams which are and will be of vital importance to the future planning and development of the areas represented by the undersigned Agencies; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the representatives of the undersigned counties and municipalities in the Congress of the United States and to the National Park Service and the Department of Interior with the request that the proposed boundaries of the proposed Shenandoah National Park Wilderness Area be changed so as to exclude the areas designated as potential water storage and flood control dam sites.

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission and other Agencies designated hereinbelow on the date specified in the certification.

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Madison County Board of Supervisors at its regular meeting on the 30th day of June, 1967.

  
Thomas J. Weaver, Chairman

MADISON PLANNING COMMISSION  
MADISON, VIRGINIA

June 9, 1967

Dear Sir:

The Madison County Planning Commission met and approved on June 7, 1967, that a request be submitted to the National Park Service regarding the Proposed Wilderness Area. Whereas, the request is to effect the proposed boundary of the Byrd Wilderness Area, and that four areas are to be effected; the largest being the Rose River Area.

For the Rose River Area a request is to move the southern boundary of the Proposed Wilderness Area back to contour line 3000, which is north of the Rose River near the crest of the mountain on the north. See outline of red-pencil area on map enclosed. Area #2 falls on line of point 9 and point 10 as designated on map in the White Oak Canyon and Cedar Run Area, with the dam site reserved between contour line 1100 and 1500. Area #3, Weakley Hollow at a site near the Fire Road extending to contour line 1500 on the north and south. The dam site to be on contour line 1200 on Brokenback Run. Area #4, Nicholson Hollow on contour line 1250 with dam site on contour line 1250 and to reserve contour line 1750. This involves Hannah Run and Hughes River. A map is herewith enclosed pointing out the areas we are requesting to be excluded from the Proposed Wilderness Area.

The Rose River area will involve between 550 and 600 acres of land. The other areas will involve between 100 and 200 acres-- a total of 600 to 800 acres. It is believed that this part of the acreage can be picked up at other points along the boundary.

The reason for a request to keep these areas out of the Wilderness boundary is that in these areas there are excellent water storage and flood control sites that are needed to store water for present needs and future growth; also for the temporary detention of floodwaters to prevent down stream flooding of valuable agricultural land, roads and bridges and other property. Our study shows that in 1942 and in 1954 homes and land were destroyed by heavy flooding of these upper streams. From 1963 through 1966 this area was affected by a drought in that there was not sufficient

water for agricultural and industrial use, as well as creating a health problem. The Federal grant for the Comprehensive Study of the Tri-County Planning Commission (consisting of Orange, Madison, and Greene Counties) shows that there is a definite need for dam sites for preserving water in these particular areas.

The Madison County Board of Supervisors requested the Soil Conservation Service to make a study in the areas in question. This study shows that there are excellent sites to store water in the above named areas. A copy of the findings from the Area Conservationist is herewith enclosed.

We trust that this request will be granted so that the citizens of the counties east of the Blue Ridge can be assured in the future of water storage from this area.

Respectfully yours,

James C. Graves, Chairman  
Madison County Planning Commission

jcg/is

Enclosures

STATEMENT BY FLOYD E. JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN, ABEMARLE COUNTY  
PLANNING COMMISSION, PRESENTED AT PUBLIC HEARING ON  
PROPOSED WILDERNESS ESTABLISHMENT IN SHENANDOAH NATIONAL  
PARK, VIRGINIA, HELD ON JUNE 14, 1967, IN LURAY, VIRGINIA

I am chairman of the Albemarle County Planning Commission  
and have been authorized to represent them here today.

I have no desire to prolong this so my statements will  
be brief.

I am authorized by my Board to unequivocally endorse the  
Madison County stand as presented in their statements  
this morning. We are well aware that the matter of land  
acquisition is certainly not a question as far as  
wilderness is concerned. However, we are aware of the  
progress being made in that area and it has been in  
progress for some time.

Mr. Marsh is well aware of our concern and I would hope  
that Mr. Marsh's representative attending this meeting  
today will convey to him our continued concern in this  
matter.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Shenandoah National Park proposes to establish a "Wilderness Area" in certain sections of the Shenandoah National Park within the bounds of Rappahannock County, and

WHEREAS, the Rappahannock County Board of Supervisors has requested the Soil Conservation Service to select certain suitable sites for dams to store water for flood control and for human and animal consumption, and

WHEREAS, certain of these dam sites would be within the proposed boundaries of the Park and the proposed "Wilderness Area", and

WHEREAS, it is our understanding that no fire trails would be permitted in the "Wilderness Area", and

WHEREAS, an extension of the proposed "Wilderness Area" has been suggested,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we the Board of Supervisors of Rappahannock County, Virginia, in session at a regular meeting, do request our representatives in the Congress of the United States to assist us in preserving certain dam sites (exact location on map to follow) on Broad Hollow Run, the Hazel River and tributaries of the Thornton River that will be in the Shenandoah National Park and in the proposed "Wilderness Area". We believe the reservation of these dam sites will be necessary for the projected development of this County,

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that fire trails be allowed in the "Wilderness Area" for the protection of the Shenandoah National Park, our water shed and the forest, orchards, homes and other properities adjacent to the park and proposed "Wilderness Areas",

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no extension or enlargement of the proposed "Wilderness Area" be allowed;

A COPY TESTE:

E. M. Jones Clerk

○



ranges in the world. Scenically, the roadless areas contain some of the more spectacular views in the region as well as the highest peaks. In many places, views westward are dominated by the culture of the Shenandoah Valley with towns, farmlands, and a few major industries. These appear relatively close, where there is a steep escarpment along the west side of the ridge. Views to the east, however, overlook heavily forested mountains, ridges, and hollows with cultivated land evident in the distance. Nonetheless, fine wilderness experiences may be enjoyed at Shenandoah within the deep hollows and on intermediate ridges. Here one is insulated from man's everyday activities by the surrounding and generally higher land forms.

Decades ago, wagon roads penetrated many of the hollows and followed some of the ridges connecting homes and apple orchards in the mountains with schools, stores, and packing sheds in the lower hollows. The roads served also for hauling tanbark to the tannery and the logs to the sawmills. Some of these have been retained as fire trails and for emergencies such as search and rescue. Most of those in use now tie into Skyline Drive. Each management and fire trail is gated at both ends. The most remarkable and most obvious change in the landscape over the past 30 years is the growth of vegetation. Before long much of this area will be nearly identical in appearance to that observed by the first explorers except for the loss, by disease, of the American chestnut. Some associated animal life has also returned including bear, deer, beaver, and wild turkey.

#### 1. HOGBACK MOUNTAIN ROADLESS AREA

Description: This roadless area extends from the vicinity of Gooney Manor Overlook on the north to Beahms Gap on the south, and from the vicinity of Skyline Drive on the east to the park boundary on the west exclusive of the developed areas at Matthews Arm and Elkwallow. Elevations range from 700 feet near Compton to 3,474 feet on Hogback Mountain. The area varies in width from about 1/2 mile to 4 miles, averaging about 2 miles, and contains approximately 22,350 acres.

The land bordering this portion of the park is privately owned, and generally consists of a thin band of forest succeeded by orchards or open land, usually pasture and residential subdivisions. In recent years many tracts have been bought for

non-agricultural purposes -- summer or weekend residences, year-round residences, hunting clubs and subdivisions. Deer hunting is especially heavy in the area east of Browntown. There is an inactive manganese plant near Heiskell Hollow and small sawmills are in operation on Flint Run, at Kimball and on Rocky Branch in Kemp Hollow.

On the adjoining portions of the park, the chief development feature is the Skyline Drive forming the eastern limit of the area for about 21 miles and containing seven parking overlooks. The Appalachian Trail enters the area at Compton Gap and runs alternately west and east of the Drive and roughly parallel to it. At Matthews Arm there is a large campground. A power line extends to a cluster of radio antennae at the top of Hogback Mountain.

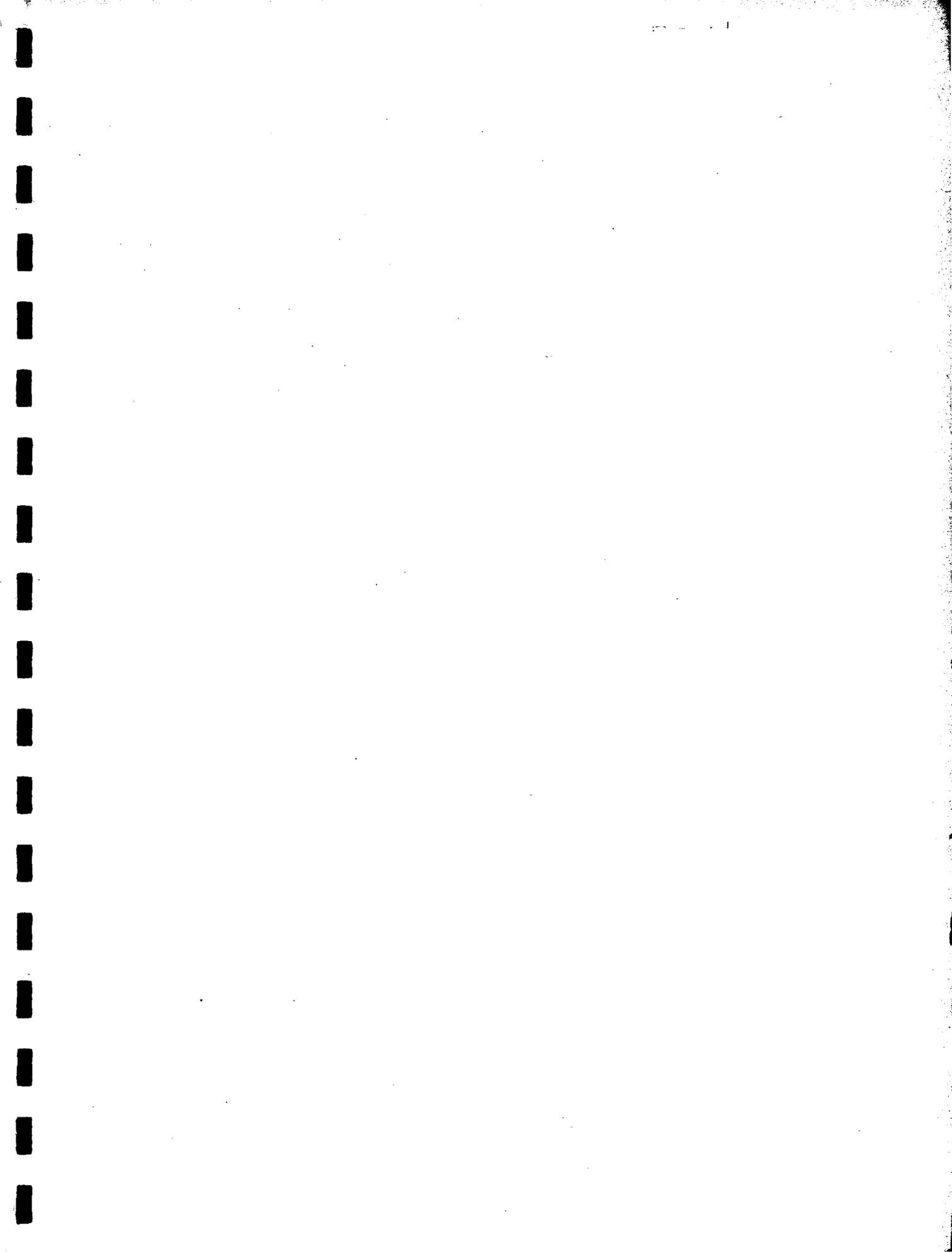
The central portion of the roadless area is influenced by the activity of the new Matthews Arm Campground, the Elkwallow Gap Picnic Area development, and by the expanding settlements and influences outside the park to the west. The portion of the roadless area north of Matthews Arm Campground is narrow and consequently very close to expanding settlement on the west and to traffic on Skyline Drive to the east.

The watershed of Jeremys Run, on the other hand, forms a long, deep, strongly defined, and rather secluded valley. The watershed is entirely contained within the park. The area saw very little human occupation, practically no evidence remains and this, coupled with the surrounding mountains, creates a sense of remoteness and solitude. The forest cover is a mixture of deciduous hardwoods common to most of the park. Jeremys Run is one of the most important fish habitats in the park, chiefly for brook trout. Beaver have been observed along Jeremys Run, deer are seen frequently between Elkwallow and Thornton Gaps, and wild turkey flock around Lands Run Gap.

Recommendation: Within the Hogback Mountain Roadless Area it is proposed that approximately 6,270 acres be designated as the Jeremys Run Wilderness.

Jeremys Run Wilderness (6,270 acres approximate)

Jeremys Run Wilderness forms a compact unit of land consisting primarily of the deep hollow formed by Jeremys Run. There are steep ridges on three sides and there is a definite change in the slope of the valley as it approaches Elkwallow Gap.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE