



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Office of the Superintendent  
3655 U.S. Highway 211E.  
Luray, VA 22835  
540-999-3500 phone  
540-999-3601 fax

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## Shenandoah National Park News Release

For Immediate Release – June 19, 2007

Contact Karen Beck-Herzog, 540-999-3300

### **National Park Service Announces Availability of Environmental Assessment for the Rehabilitation of Skyline Drive Overlooks**

Superintendent Chas Cartwright has announced the availability of the recently prepared Environmental Assessment *Rehabilitation of Skyline Drive Overlooks*. The document, which describes and examines the impacts of the proposed project, will be on public review from June 25, 2007 through July 25, 2007.

Currently, many of the historic overlooks located along Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park are in poor condition. Stone masonry retaining walls, guardwalls and parking areas are deteriorating, which has created public safety concerns and diminished overall visitor enjoyment. In addition, the overall historic characteristics of the overlooks have been diminished by some inappropriate later additions to the overlooks (e.g., rolled asphalt curbs and paved sidewalks).

The preferred alternative would rehabilitate 49 of the 69 overlooks while preserving and rehabilitating the historic features of the overlooks. An important aspect of the rehabilitation project is the preservation of the historic character of the overlooks by retaining and, where necessary, repairing or replacing significant character-defining features such as stone curbing, walkways, and stone retaining walls. The level of stabilization, rehabilitation, and/or construction necessary at each of the 49 overlooks varies depending upon current conditions.

Copies of the document can be obtained from the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/shen/>, or by calling Karen Beck-Herzog at 540-999-3300 to request a copy. Comments can be submitted on the website listed above or mailed to: Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park, 3655 US Highway 211 East, Luray, VA 22835. Reviewers are asked to please note that their entire comment - including any personal identifying information, such as addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses – may be made publicly available at any time. While reviewers can ask the NPS in their comment to withhold personal identifying information from public review, the NPS cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so.

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