



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Shenandoah National Park News Release

For Immediate Release – July 2, 2008

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National Park Service Seeks Comments Regarding Rehabilitation of Six Historic Overlooks

The National Park Service is seeking comments on the modification of six historic overlooks to make them compliant with the accessible Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In 2007, the National Park Service completed National Environmental Policy (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA 106) compliance requirements for the rehabilitation of 49 historic overlooks throughout the park, including these six. However, at that time compliance with the ABA and the ADA was not addressed.

In order to fully address this issue, park management surveyed a larger subset of overlooks, 67 in all, to assess the accessibility needs and the potential impacts to the historic overlooks. Thirty-nine overlooks can not be made accessible without significantly changing their overall character. Of the remaining 28 overlooks, 22 can be made accessible with no impact to the historic fabric or by removing the non-historic rolled asphalt curb and walkway. The remaining six, including Jewell Hollow, Stonyman/ Hughes River Gap, Timber Hollow, Crescent Rock, Franklin Cliffs, and Hazeltop Ridge Overlooks, require some modification of the historic fabric to make them accessible.

The six overlooks have distinct attributes: rock/stone curbing with either a two foot gravel or asphalt walkway between the curbing and the guard wall or a rock stone curbing with no guard wall. To make the overlooks compliant with ABA/ADA the park is proposing to lower curbstone in the area for no less than five feet and no more than 13 feet. The rocks from the curb, in the area where the change occurs, will be replaced flush with the overlook pavement, allowing access to the guard wall. The stone curbing would taper at each end to meet the actual curb height allowing a smooth transition between the accessible area and the curb.

Comments can be submitted at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/shen/> or mailed to: Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park, 3655 US Highway 211 East, Luray, VA 22835. Comments must be received no later than August 1, 2008.

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