

Welcome!

# Shenandoah National Park Fee Change Proposal

Please Standby





Test and screen cap

Roy Wood

Cohost, me

claire

Allysah Fox

Viewing Claire's screen

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Shenandoah National Park



# WebEx Orientation

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

## Chat

from Roy Wood to Everyone:

Type your questions here.

11:22

When we reach the question and answer section, we will answer them

11:23

When we reach the question and answer section, we will answer them

11:23

When we reach the question and answer section, we will answer them

11:23

from Allysah Fox to Everyone:

When we reach the question and answer section, we will answer them

11:24

from Roy Wood to Everyone:

Hello. Welcome to the chat

11:24

from Allysah Fox to Everyone:

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them

11:24

Send to: Everyone

Type your message here



Mute

Start video

Share



Participants

Chat









11:29



Webex



 Roy Wood (cohost)	 claire (me) 
 Claire (cohost) 	 Allysah Fox



# Purpose of Meeting

- Provide an overview of the proposal
- Answer your questions

## Agenda

## How to Comment





# Shenandoah National Park Fee Increase Proposal

August 2021

Patrick Kenney  
Superintendent





# Mission of the National Park Service

*“...conserve the scenery and natural  
and historic objects and wild life  
therein and to provide for the  
enjoyment of the same in such a  
manner and by such means as will  
leave them unimpaired for  
enjoyment of future generations.”*





# The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act

(16 U.S.C. §§6801-6814)

- Authorizes NPS to charge fees
- Fee revenue retained by NPS for visitor services & improvements
- 80% revenue stays in park



# Shenandoah National Park is Fee Area

- All visitors entering the park should pay an entrance fee or have a pass





What has  
Shenandoah  
done with Fees  
Collected?





# Campground & Picnic Areas

- Campground Staff
- Operations of Campgrounds
- Improvements
  - Picnic Tables
  - Food Storage Boxes
  - Fire Rings





# Interpretation & Education

- Seasonal Rangers
- Junior Ranger program
- Trailhead signs
- Amphitheater Upgrades
- Publications for visitors
  - Park map
  - Trail guides
  - Newspaper
  - Social media





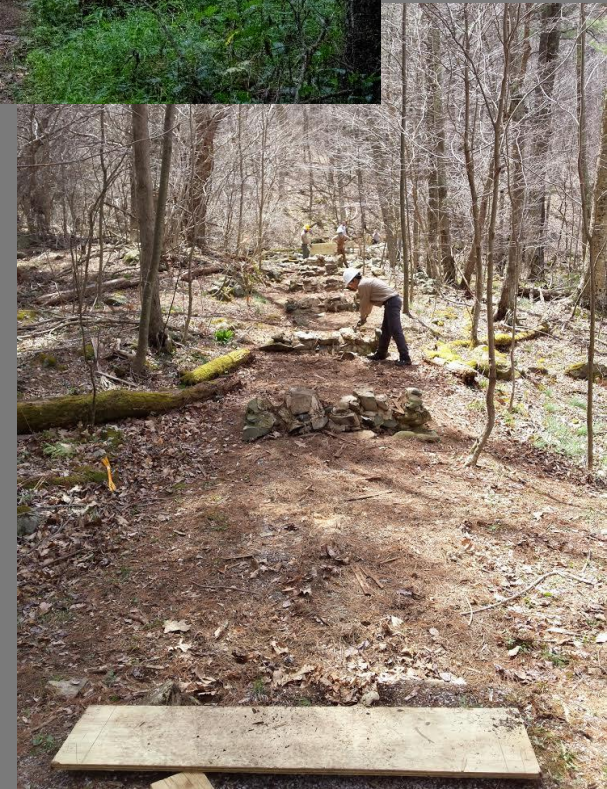
# Old Rag Parking Lot





# Backcountry & Trails

- Seasonal BC Rangers
- Maintenance of trails
- Campsite rehabilitation
- Clean up trash
- Signs / markers





# Emergency Service & Search and Rescue

- Preventative Search and Rescue (PSAR) Seasonal Staff
- SAR Equipment & Training
- Ambulance Lease





# Park's Proposed Fee Changes

1. Increase park's campground fees
2. Establish a backcountry camping permit fee
3. **Pilot** project requiring a ticket for hiking Old Rag





# Increase Campground Fees

- Four Campgrounds
- Fees have been at \$15 & \$20 - 2006/7
- Operational costs continue to increase
- Comparable sites
  - NPS in VA – \$14 - \$30
  - VA State Parks - \$25 - \$45
  - Private- \$25 - \$59
- Proposal - 2022
  - \$30 for individual site
  - \$75 for group site





# Campground Fees

## What do they do?

- Pay for operational cost, such as
  - Campground staff
  - Cleaning Comfort Stations
  - Treat of Water & Wastewater
  - Managing Trash / Recycling
- Improvements
  - New Picnic Tables
  - Replace Fire Rings
  - Add Food Storage boxes
  - Rehab Camp sites





# Backcountry Camping Fee





# Backcountry Camping Current

- 60,000 BC nights annually
  - top 10 for NPS
- Backcountry Plan allows dispersed camping
  - ~500 visitor chosen active sites
  - 49 constructed campsites along AT
- Current permits are antiquated
  - Costly to process
  - Not real time
- 65% of permits use AT corridor
  - Benefit from infrastructure on AT





# Comparable Backcountry Camping Fees

- Grand Canyon
  - \$10/permit + \$8/person/night
- Great Smokies
  - \$4/person/night, max of \$20
- Olympic
  - \$6/permit reservation  
+\$8/person
- Canyonlands
  - \$36/permit
- Grand Teton
  - \$45/Advance permit  
\$35/Walk-up permit
- Yellowstone
  - \$3/person/night  
\$25 reservation fee





# Backcountry Camping Fee Proposal

- Require a permit with a fee
- Use recreation.gov to obtain
  - Collect same information
- Emphasis on park rules and Leave No Trace principles
- Trip planning info on-line
- Implement in 2023
- Fee \$20-\$30 per trip





# Backcountry Camping

## How will the Fees be used?

- Conduct field patrols and education
- Protect park resources –
  - Leave No Trace focus
  - Common issues:
    - fires, garbage & human waste
  - Rehabilitate areas
- Provide trip planning information
  - many inexperienced campers
- Address illegal sites - 60% of visitor created camp sites have issues
- Maintain sites & facilities in BC





# Old Rag PILOT Project





# Old Rag PILOT Project

## Current Status

- 80,000 people annually
  - Continues to increase
- Social science in 2019
  - congestion
  - poor visitor experience
  - safety issues
- BUSY= 700-1200+ people/day

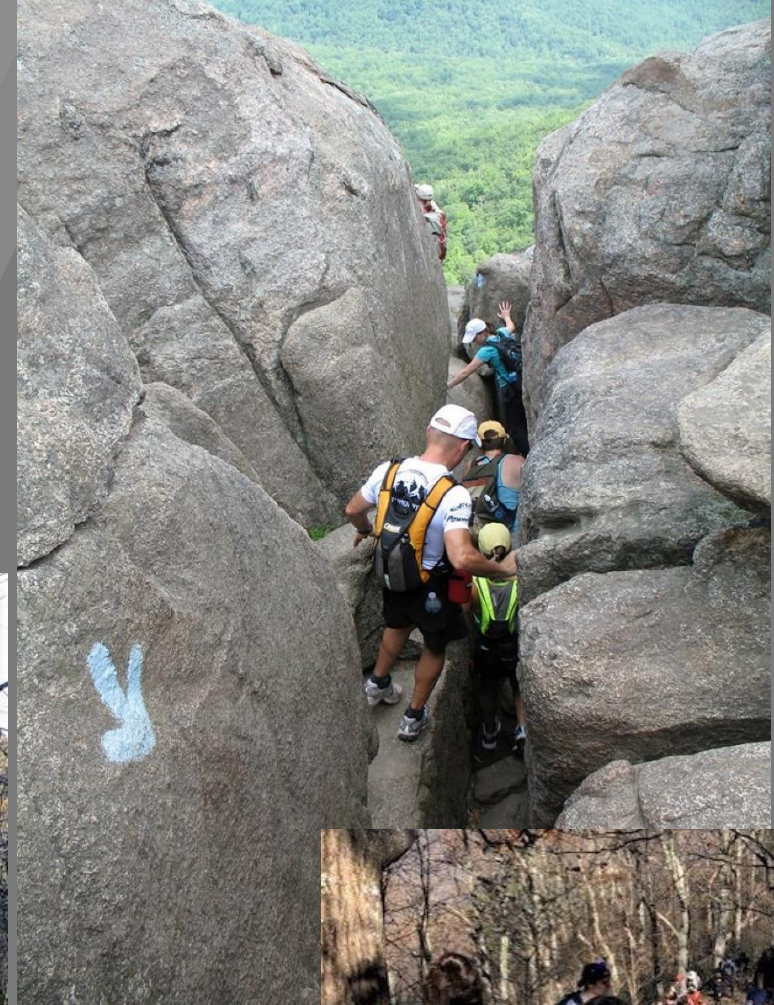




# Old Rag PILOT Project

## Why this project?

- Pilot phase will collect information to guide management of this area
- Visitors indicated support for daily limits
  - ensure safety and protect resources
- 75% of users felt crowded
  - waited 5-10 or >10 min at Chute
- 12% of people turned around
- Social trails
- Trampling of rare plants
- Safety / High number of incidents
- Education opportunity





# Old Rag PILOT Project Proposal

- Pilot Period
  - March – November 2022
- Start at 800 Tickets/Day, 1 per hiker.
- Reserve on recreation.gov
  - 50% - 30 days prior
  - 50% - 5 days prior
- Max 4 tickets per transaction
  - >80% of groups are 4 or less people.
- Visitors require ticket to enter the trail
- Small initial fee (\$1-2) only pays for online system
  - Future fees to support operation if deemed successful





# Next Steps

- Comment period closes September 16
- Review all Comments
- Decision point for park
  - Refine proposal
- Submit for Agency Approval
- Implementation
  - 2022
    - Campgrounds
    - Old Rag Pilot
  - 2023
    - Backcountry Camping fee





How to Comment:

Online:

[https://parkplanning.  
nps.gov/FeeUpdate](https://parkplanning.nps.gov/FeeUpdate)

Mail:

3655 US Hwy 211 East  
Luray, VA 22835





Questions?





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