

George Washington National Forest Plan Revision Meetings

Miscellaneous extra / Background info

The Friends of Shenandoah Mountain agreement

- Provides permanent protection for five inventoried roadless areas with a mix of National Scenic Areas and Wilderness Areas.
- Protects the scenic nature and primitive backcountry experience of this area for hikers, hunters, mountain bikers, runners, equestrians and fisherman for this and future generations.
- The recreation in this area is important for the local economy, both in terms of tourism and making the Valley more attractive for business relocation.
- The population of the Valley is growing rapidly and we need to be proactive to preserve the current backcountry experience.
- This area is one of the top three mountain bike destinations east of the Mississippi.

The Great Eastern Trail corridor

- is a shared use trunk (connector) trail.
- proposes using the Shenandoah Mountain Trail and other trails to create a continuous corridor that connects all the western districts of the GWNF.
- A shared used project of this type will foster coordination between hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians.
- Will result in new shared use trail development to complete the corridor.

Shared use trail opportunities such as stacked loops near the forest edge at lower elevations have many advantages

- They disperse use over more loops.
- They reduce reliance on paved roads to create loop rides.
- They encourage the use of forests by kids and less fit hikers and bikers by offering less challenging opportunities that require less climbing.
- They increase recreation tourism through improved trails.
- Dispersing use ensures that in 10 years, there is still a backcountry experience that offers solitude.