

Greetings,

Shenandoah National Park (SNP) continues to forge ahead with the Rock Outcrop Management Project and this message is to provide you with a brief update on our progress.

If you wish to be removed from this email distribution list or have other changes for the list, please advise Steve Bair.

The Park has received all but one of the final research reports resulting from the past two years of inventory and monitoring work at rock outcrop areas within the park. We expect the last report to be completed by the end of March, providing us with the information needed to develop the draft Rock Outcrop Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (EA). Public scoping meetings will be scheduled for early summer, and we hope to complete the EA for public review by late summer.

Meanwhile, Steve Bair has developed an outline and partial draft SNP Rock Climbing Plan. The draft outline/Plan is attached for your review. No decisions have been made about specific management actions for the Rock Climbing Plan, but your review comments about content and initial direction of the Plan are encouraged. We will soon be developing a draft Rock Climbing brochure including a description of climbing-related recreational activities in the Park and focused on Leave No Trace ethics and techniques.

(See file: SHEN Rock Climbing Management Plan\_DRAFT07.doc)

A group of local rock climbers are forming a new grassroots climbers group, the Shenandoah National Park Climbers Alliance (SNPCA), to interact with the Park. For information on how to get involved, or if you have questions, contact the SNPCA at [snpclimbersalliance@gmail.com](mailto:snpclimbersalliance@gmail.com) or visit [www.snpclimbersalliance.blogspot.com](http://www.snpclimbersalliance.blogspot.com). The Park is in no way affiliated with the new group, but we do support its objectives to provide the climbing community with coordinated and unified communications with the Park.

Technical writer Christi Gabbard, of Virginia Tech, has been hired to assist the Park staff in writing the Rock Outcrop Management Plan. The effort is presently underway, and the plan is in the very early stages of development.

Thank you for your attention and involvement in the ROMP,

Steve and Wendy

Steve Bair  
Backcountry, Wilderness and Trails Manager  
(540)999-3140  
[steve\\_bair@nps.gov](mailto:steve_bair@nps.gov)

Wendy Cass  
Botanist  
(540)999-3432  
[wendy\\_cass@nps.gov](mailto:wendy_cass@nps.gov)

Shenandoah National Park  
3655 US Hwy 211 E.  
Luray, VA 22835