

Lynn Cameron

A native of West Virginia, Lynn Cameron has lived in the Shenandoah Valley for over 33 years. In 2010, Lynn retired from a career as a professional librarian at James Madison University. She is a past president and current board member of the Virginia Wilderness Committee and former Forest Issues Chair and Wilderness Chair of the Sierra Club – Virginia Chapter. Lynn is a past President of the Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter of PATC and continues to serve as a hike leader. She currently serves as Co-Chair of Friends of Shenandoah Mountain. Lynn spends a great deal of time building support for the Shenandoah Mountain Proposal. During her time “off”, she and her husband Malcolm like to hike and do trail maintenance on Shenandoah Mountain.

The Shenandoah Mountain Proposal:

Friends of Shenandoah Mountain is a working coalition of local citizens, businesses, faith groups, wilderness advocates, mountain bikers, hikers, hunters, and other forest users who are working to protect the wild heritage of Shenandoah Mountain for future generations.

Located west of the Shenandoah Valley in the George Washington National Forest, the 72-mile long Shenandoah Mountain has one of the largest tracts of wild land in the Eastern United States. Shenandoah Mountain provides diverse wildlife habitat, outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities, and clean water for drinking and aquatic life. It has headwaters of both the Potomac and James Rivers. It also helps support the Shenandoah Valley's tourism-based economy. The Shenandoah Mountain area is underlain by Marcellus Shale and is at risk for gas development by hydrofracking.

The goal of Friends of Shenandoah Mountain is to permanently protect a 90,000-acre tract of this special area through Congressional designation as a National Scenic Area with four embedded Wilderness areas. The Shenandoah Mountain Proposal was developed by wilderness advocates in collaboration with mountain bikers in 2004. In 2011, diverse George Washington National Forest stakeholders, including game managers, timber interests, recreation groups, and preservationists agreed to support the Shenandoah Mountain Proposal as a part of a stakeholder agreement that also calls for increased management for early successional habitat through timber harvest and burning. The stakeholder agreement is unusual in that groups that ordinarily do not work together are engaged in an ongoing collaboration and are working toward outcomes that are a win-win for both management and preservation goals.

The Shenandoah Mountain Proposal has been endorsed by over 200 organizations and businesses and continues to gain support.