



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Shenandoah National Park
3655 US Hwy. 211 East
Luray, Virginia 22835-9036

IN REPLY REFER TO:

PARK DIRECTIVE NO. NCR - 402

SUBJECT: Research and Collecting in Shenandoah

GENERAL STATEMENT

Shenandoah National Park will follow the national NPS regulations and procedures regarding the administration of all research and collecting in the Park. For the purpose of this directive, specimen collecting shall be considered a subset of research. For the purpose of this directive, archival investigations or Freedom of Information Act inquiries shall not be considered research.

All unsolicited research proposals will be sent to the Chief, Division of Natural and Cultural Resources, for appropriate response.

The Chief, Division of Natural and Cultural Resources, is delegated authority to evaluate all research proposals, determine whether additional reviews are needed (e.g. by the Regional Office, by the State Historic Preservation Office, or by peer reviewers), determine their need for compliance, and to issue or deny, as appropriate, Park research permits.

All research projects with the potential for disturbing any natural or cultural resources will be subject to review for environmental and cultural compliance (in addition to the normal technical review) prior to being approved or any permits being issued. Renewal of existing permits that have previously successfully gone through the compliance review will not need additional compliance review if they do not have any substantial changes.

A list of active research permits will be distributed at least annually to the Park management team and made available to Park Staff. When feasible, this information will be made available to the public on the Park's World Wide Web site. Sensitive information exempt from the Freedom of Information Act will not be made public.

Park Entrance fees will normally be waived for research teams entering the Park in accordance with their approved research permits or authorizations.

Natural Resources and Social Science Research

The Division of Natural and Cultural Resources shall establish and maintain a research permit system in accordance with national guidelines.

Research permits will normally be issued so they expire (or can be renewed) after a single field season. Permits will not be renewed unless the research is in compliance with all reporting requirements established by the National Park Service and the Chief, Division of Natural and Cultural Resources for any local requirements).

Shenandoah National Park staff will not normally be required to obtain permits to conduct natural resources inventory, monitoring, or research activities in the Park, including the collection of a reasonable number of specimens, provided that their projects are otherwise permitted by law, regulation, and policy, and are documented in the Park's Resource Management Plan. The determination will be made by the Chief, Division of Natural and Cultural Resources.

All social science projects will be in compliance with Office of Management and Budget rules regarding public surveys.

Cultural Resources Research

Archeological research requiring Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) permits can only be issued at the regional level.

Authorization for other cultural research is delegated to the Chief, Division of Natural and Cultural Resources.

Approved:

Douglas K. Morris /s/

2/11/00

Douglas K. Morris
Superintendent

Date