

9/1/94

JOHN SINGLETON MOSBY HERITAGE AREA

PURPOSE

The purpose of the John Singleton Mosby Heritage Area is to recognize, promote, and foster the many historic, cultural, and natural qualities of a unique region that was once the stage for Civil War activity in Northern Virginia and that today continues to be a rich resource of rural and traditional town cultures and recreational pursuits. The landscape of the area is defined now, as it has always been, by the Blue Ridge, Bull Run, and Catoclin mountain ridges, Goose Creek, Little River, and the Shenandoah River. These natural features remain as a source of passive and active leisure activity.

GOAL

To promote the education of and public awareness and appreciation for the historic, cultural, and natural resources of the John Singleton Mosby Heritage Area through public-private partnerships that facilitate education, visitation, and recreation on regional and local levels.

OBJECTIVES

*Broaden local and state government knowledge of the historic, cultural and recreational assets in the John S. Mosby Heritage Area. Although there is general recognition of the qualities of the heritage area, the synergy created by the integration of history, culture, and natural features is an untapped regional resource.

*Facilitate public-private partnerships to promote historic and cultural education, tourism, and recreation in the heritage area. The continued research and integration of the heritage area assets will produce new material that can be imparted through formal and informal education channels. The partnerships can also be used to seek federal ISTEA (Inter-modal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act) funding through the enhancement program for, among other projects, renovation of historic sites such as the Mt. Zion Church on the Old Carolina Road and bike lanes along roadways.

*Coordinate promotions with business owners and public area managers in the heritage area to enhance revenue and use potential. Formation of the heritage area creates regional business and recreation promotional opportunities in four counties on the rural edge of Metropolitan Washington (Loudoun, Clarke, Fauquier, Prince William). Numerous small towns, villages, and crossroad country stores indicate past and present private commercial enterprise, along with countryside antique shops, bed and breakfast inns, restaurants, and farmers' markets.

Three public facilities in the heritage area operated through the state are Sky Meadows State Park, with access to the Appalachian

Trail, the Richard Thompson Wildlife Area, and the Aldie Mill; the State Arboretum of Virginia at Blandy Farm is just over the western border of the heritage area. The Northern Virginia Park Authority's Washington and Old Dominion Trail runs through Leesburg to Purcellville, with long range plans for it to extend to Bluemont. The Friends of Bull Run Mountain are working to designate a public access area for hiking.

*Encourage residents of the heritage area to continue to research and enjoy the natural and manmade history of the area and to become advocates and stewards of its historic, cultural, educational, and natural assets. Each of the four county jurisdictions may take a different approach to the heritage area, ranging from public and business acknowledgement of the area as promoted by its citizens, to official recognition by the local government. Individuals can enhance their own knowledge of the area, place historic or conservation easements on their property, and play an active role in giving the John S. Mosby Heritage Area life.

AREA

North: Leesburg west through Snicker's Gap to the Shenandoah River.
West: Shenandoah River south to just west of Manassas Gap.
South: Manassas Gap Railroad junction (still there?) with the Shenandoah River east through Thoroughfare Gap for __ miles.
East: North through Lenah, then northwest to The Old Carolina Road, to junction of Goose Creek, north along Goose Creek to Leesburg corporate limit.