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Address at the Dedication of Shenandoah National Park, July 3, 1936
The creation of this Park is one part of our great program of husbandry — the joint husbandry of our human resources and our natural resources. In every part of the country, local and state and federal authorities are engaged in preserving and developing our heritage of natural resources; and in this work they are equally conserving our priceless heritage of human values by giving to hundreds of thousands of men the opportunity of making an honest living.

The product of the labor of the men of the Civilian Conservation Corps, who have opened the Shenandoah National Park to the use and enjoyment of our citizens, is as significant as though instead of working for the Government they had worked in a mill or a factory. They have a right to be as proud of their labor here as if they had been engaged in private employment.
In by-gone years we have seen the terrible tragedy of our age -- the tragedy of waste. Waste of our people, waste of our land. It was neither the will nor the destiny of our Nation that this waste of human and material resources should continue. That was the compelling reason that led us to put our idle people to the task of ending the waste of our land.

The involuntary idleness of thousands of young men ended three years ago when they came here to the camps on the Blue Ridge. Since then they have not been idle; and today they have ended the idleness of the Shenandoah National Park.

It will be a busy and useful place in the years to come, just as the work of these young men will, I am confident, lead them to busy and useful lives in the years to come.

Our country will need many other young men as they come to manhood for work like this -- for other Shenandoahs.

Is it a dream -- will I perhaps be accused of an exaggerated passion for planning if I paint for you a picture? You who are here know of the great usefulness to humanity which
this Skyline Drive achieves from now on, of the greater usefulness
which its extension, south from Virginia and North Carolina to
the Big Smoky National Park will achieve.

In almost every other part of the country there is
a similar need for recreational areas for Parkways which will
give to men and women of moderate means the opportunity, the
invigoration and the luxury of touring and camping amid scenes
of great natural beauty. Once more they will lay hold of
the perspective that comes to men and women who every morning
and every night can lift up their eyes to Mother Nature.

There is merit for all of us in the ancient tale of the
Giant Antaeus, who every time he touched his Mother Earth,
areas with strength renewed a hundred fold.

This Park, therefore, together with its many stations
now, its meeting in completion in every part of our land, is in
the largest sense a sort of conservation. Through all of
them we are preserving the beauty and the wealth of the hills,
and the mountains and the plains and the trees and the
streams. Through all of them we are maintaining useful work
All across the nation at this time of year people are starting out for their vacations in National and State Parks. They will put up at roadside camps or pitch their tents under the stars, with an open fire to cook by, with the smell of the woods, and the wind in the trees. They will forget the rush and the strain of all the other long weeks of the year, and for a short time at least, the days will be good for their bodies and good for their souls. Once more they will lay hold of the perspective that comes to men and women who every morning and every night can lift up their eyes to Mother Nature.

There is merit for all of us in the ancient tale of the Giant Antaeus, who every time he touched his Mother Earth, arose with strength renewed a hundred fold.

This Park, therefore, together with its many sisters which are coming to completion in every part of our land, is in the largest sense a work of conservation. Through all of them we are preserving the beauty and the wealth of the hills, and the mountains and the plains and the trees and the streams. Through all of them we are maintaining useful work
for our young men. Through all of them we are enriching the
colorina and the happiness of our people.

and our Nation.

Therefore, dedicate Shenandoah National Park to

this and succeeding generations of Americans for the

concession and for the re-creation which we shall find here.
We seek to pass on to our children a richer land —
a stronger Nation.

I, therefore, dedicate Shenandoah National Park to
this and succeeding generations of Americans for the
recreation and for the re-creation which we shall find here.