

There is a map of Shimmer National Park, established 20 years after the events of the movie, *Annihilation* (Based on the Southern Reach trilogy of books). In this hypothetical, the US Government reorganizes the Southern Reach organization, into the Southern Reach Disaster Response and Containment Agency (usually shortened to just the Southern Reach), working under the Department of the Interior. After the Shimmer itself was destroyed, the mutations in Area X did not fade away, and continued to grow and mutate but it didn't seem to be able to affect natural plant life and has generally been keeping in its area, almost like its own environmental island. At first the government attempted to keep the area a secret, but it was becoming harder and harder to contain as it began to attract, first press, then foolhardy adventurers. Under international pressure, the government officially stated that the area was the result of an experimental medical test gone wrong. After much deliberation, the Southern Reach deemed most of the former Area X as "generally safe for human life." Soon after the Southern Reach partnered with the National Park Service and created Shimmer National Park. The park was established to designate safe trails, provide effective maintenance, and ensure the safety of visitors. The National Park Service even partnered with AT&T to create an emergency telephone system within the park, so that visitors could call for help in more dangerous areas of the park, but this more security theater than anything.

There is a part of the park known as The Greater Shimmer. This area of the park was affected more by the shimmer than other parts of the park, and still has some properties of the Shimmer, even though it was destroyed. The area is known to distort one's sense of time and direction as well as disrupting wireless communications. Wired communications are slightly more reliable but are still prone to failure. It is recommended that the area only be explored when accompanied by an experienced Park Ranger, and one should be equipped with a firearm or weapon of some sort.

Within the Greater Shimmer there is an area officially known as the Human Exclusion Zone, abbreviated as the HEZ. The Greater Shimmer and the HEZ are commonly compared to a black hole, with the greater shimmer being the event horizon and the HEZ being the singularity. There is very little public knowledge about the HEZ, and what is known is extremely vague hearsay from park employees. It's said that the area is still affected by the "experiment" and has strange properties. Things that go into the HEZ, never come out, being trapped in there forever. Because of this hearsay, many hypothesize that the "experiment" was a time travel experiment, and that the center of the HEZ is the location of a time machine.

This map is based off the movie *Annihilation*, I haven't read the books yet although I have recently purchased the entire trilogy. This map, as well as maps from the book and movie borrow their topography from an actual place called St. Marks Wildlife Refuge located in Florida. This place heavily influenced the setting of the book and is a fairly great place to visit.

The idea of the HEZ comes from the way that the shimmer is referred to in the movie. It's commonly referred to as a tumor or a cancer on the earth, and from I interpreted from the movie, I think it also says the cancer never goes away and is always there. I wanted to echo this theme in the map, with the Shimmer still being there, just dormant and malignant.

This map was also inspired by *Mystery Flesh Pit National Park*, which is also another excellent piece of cosmic horror that I highly recommend checking out. Feel free to point out any spelling mistakes because I'm sure there are some.