From: Killman, Jack I Jr
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Chattooga river
Date: 07/30/2008 08:42 AM

U.S. Forest Service
Chattooga River Project
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212.
comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
[07-30-2008]
RE: Chattooga River Project Comments
Dear Sumter National Forest
My name is Jack Killman and I live in Johnson City, Tn. I work at Eastman Chemical. I moved here from Mississippi because I wanted to learn how to whitewater kayak and you can't do that where I come from. I would like to see this part of the river opened up so I can kayak there. It should be my right as an American citizen. If people can fish there then I should be able to kayak as well.
I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment regarding the recreational management of the Chattooga River. I disagree with your analysis and your proposal. Both treat me and my community of river enthusiasts unfairly and your proposal would not meet my interests. Please consider the following concerns I have regarding this issue:
* The proposed alternative will negatively impact protections granted under the Wilderness Act and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act on the Chattooga and other rivers nationwide.
* The USFS has spent thirteen years searching for a reason to limit paddling on the Chattooga and has found none. It is time to open the river to boating.
* The EA is not a user capacity analysis and does not reference one. The AW appeal decision required a user capacity analysis. Where is it?
* No alternative is acceptable because they all include boating bans on the upper Chattooga Cliffs reach and on tributaries - without any justification.
* The USFS preferred alternative includes a total ban on 2/3 of the upper river, a ban on tributary boating, and allows only 0-6 days of limited boating on the remaining reach - while allowing all other wilderness conforming existing uses in unlimited numbers.. This is not equitable and not acceptable!
* Paddlers prefer an alternative similar to Alternative 8 that 1) fully allows boating on the entire Chattooga River below Grimshawes Bridge, 2) allows paddling on tributaries, 3) includes encounter standards based on a real user capacity analysis, 4) will equitably limit total use only when encounter standards are consistently exceeded, and 5) will do so using all available indirect measures first.
* The public should have the right to float on public Wild and Scenic Rivers regardless of who owns the land along the river.
* All aspects of the "Outstanding Remarkable Values" of Wild and Scenic Rivers should be protected on the entire river, not just in some areas.
Thank you for considering these comments. Please consider conducting a real user capacity analysis and immediately allowing boating in the same numbers, places, and seasons that you allow existing users. Paddling should be allowed in a similar manner to your alternative number 8, except on the entire Upper Chattooga River and its tributaries.
Thank you for considering these comments,
Sincerely
Jack Killman
2325 Cretsinger Dr.
Johnson City, TN 37601