From: Sean Kennedy
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Chatooga Headwaters
Date: 07/30/2008 02:43 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I just want to say that I am appalled at the way in which the Forest Service has handled the access issue concerning the Chattooga Headwaters. You have failed miserably in the task you were given. NOT because paddlers didn't get full unrestricted access, BUT because you can't seem to meet any decision making timetable you set, when you do finally come up with a meeting or something of the sort, like the comment meeting held in Clayton, it is carried out in an unprofessional manner and with ridiculous methods that you don't even clearly understand and obviously don't implement once you make your decisions. I am embarrassed that as a Federal Organization that this is how you represent yourselves and our federal government.

The selected alternative #4 is nothing but a slap in the face to whitewater enthusiasts and others who simply want to float down and enjoy a nationally designated wild and scenic river and should be considered insulting to anyone paying attention to this ongoing struggle to let the American public use a public resource, which has a history of such use, and in a manner that is neither harmful or destructive. The suggested alternative #4 is not a fair and balanced compromise. It is nothing but a discriminatory complete ban on floating the headwaters as the restrictions and requirements outlined, and the lack of dependable information concerning flows provided by the Forest service, and the way in which the forest service itself can't seem to get its head out of its _ss, makes me feel that this is but another foolish attempt by the powers at be to do something that equals nothing.

Limit everyone do to impact concerns, or give access to everyone if the area can handle it, but severely restricting one user group (and the group with the least impact) while no limits have been set otherwise for other user groups who obviously do cause for impact is neither legal, positive for the relationships in the separate user group communities, or what a federal agency should be required to uphold, and that is equality and justice for all (and legal access to float a public river in a public national forest).

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