From: Eric B
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Comments on the Environmental Assessment
Date: 07/25/2008 10:53 PM

Dear US Forest Service,

I have been following the news regarding the Chattooga River and its unusual, and frankly illegal, management practices. I am a whitewater kayaker and general outdoors enthusiast, and I urge you to reconsider staying with the status quo with regards to the management of this watershed. Please understand that your decisions here are further reaching than just this area. You are sending the wrong message to other regional Forest Service offices and to other public lands managers.

None of the "alternatives" you specify in your environmental assessment have any merit. First off, how come kayaking is the only activity that is restricted? It seems to me that your monitoring resources should go to the activities that are done the most. I know for a fact that whitewater kayaking has the lowest impact of all possible activities, so why do you allow an unlimited of people for every other type of activity? Secondly, the USFS has admitted that a kayaking ban in a Wild and Scenic (W&S) river is illegal, so is all the assessment's alternatives, and that you don't have to manage the entire river in your jurisdiction. I don't think that the USFS employees are unintelligent, but there is clearly a disconnect between the goal of protecting that area, and the ability to meet that goal.

The entire country is watching you right now. I beg you to come to the table and make some logical decisions that are best for the environment and the people trying to enjoy it. I pains me that things have gotten this bad. Honestly, you should really be ashamed at the horrible job you are doing in this area.

Sincerely,
Eric Bessette

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