From: William W. Foster
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Comments on the Chattooga Boating Decision
Date: 07/28/2008 06:29 PM

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the proposed boating on the Chattooga decision. I appreciate the USFS involving all interested groups in working through this issue. It has been difficult and I imagine it is not over yet.

While Alternative 4 was not my first choice (I would have preferred no boating above Hwy 29) it is one that I can live with. It provides some boating under specific conditions that are reasonable and meet the desires of both those who want to boat and those who would prefer to fish or other wise enjoy the environment that the Chattooga provides. With Alternative 4 the water levels that were specified are higher than desired for fishing which helps with the boater/fisherman negative interface.

I believe that zoning is an option that is important to preserve in all of our outdoor areas and is a fair way to address the desires of all. Without a zoning option, wild and scenic areas, national parks, national forest, and other open public lands managed for the public can not provide for good stewardship and the various interest of many varied and reasonable groups.

I have boated and fished on the Chattooga River for over 30 years and clearly recognize the need to not open up the river to boating every where. There are many miles of very good boating water available without impacting on the other quiet areas for hiking, fishing, camping, etc.

I have one suggestion for Alternative 4. Over the 30+ years that I have been using the Chattooga River I have become handicapped and I am sure that many others who desire to use the river are also. It would seem reasonable to me that come limited handicapped parking could be made available nearer than ¼ mile of the river so that handicapped persons have a true opportunity to access this pretty area of the river also. I believe this small change to Alternative 4 would not alter the desired results in any way.

As with any restrictive regulations, I hope that the USFS will have a means of enforcing the desired and regulated requirements.

Thank you for your hard work in this area.

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