From: Sidener, Scott E.
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Chattooga River Project Comments
Date: 07/28/2008 03:57 PM

Dear Sumter National Forest,

I would like to just comment a few lines on your proposed solution to the Chattooga headwaters boating ban.

I really think the preferred alternative is completely not acceptable, and if it were put in place, basically illegal. This alternative severely discriminates against boaters for no valid reason. It should not ban boaters from any part of the river, and there should not be restrictions on the number of days or level of the river. Fishermen and Hikers are allowed in 365 days a year, and they produce equal-to or more harmful effects on the environment than do boaters. If boaters are to be restricted to just a few days a year, so should the fishermen and hikers.

There are no issues with respect to boaters coming in contact with fishermen, and these encounters should not be regulated.

It makes no sense at all to prescribe a required flow level for boating. The flow level will naturally encourage or discourage both boaters and fishermen at various levels, and therefore does not need to be regulated.

I don't understand why it is so complicated, the simple fact is that boaters are entitled to equal access to the entire river as hikers or fishermen, that would be the only legal solution. Everything else is just wasted time, money, and regulation.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to voice my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Scott Sidener
P.O. Box 871
Lexington, SC 29071