From: Joe Pulliam
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Chattooga River
Date: 07/30/2008 02:17 PM

Dear U.S. Forest Service:

I have reviewed your Environmental Assessment regarding management of the upper stretches of the Chattooga River. I agree that limits on recreational use of the upper Chattooga are needed to protect the integrity of this valuable resource.

Recreational uses that are non-compatible with wilderness as well as all commercial use should remain banned from all USFS lands in this area. Those recreational activities that are compatible, including hiking, fishing, camping and kayaking/canoeing should be treated equally, and access to the river for all of these uses should remain limited. Parking should be removed from immediate riverside where possible, including at Burrell's Ford. Reasonable limitations on any of these uses (creel limits, paddler group sizes, camping restrictions) should be in place and should be based on sound research and management practices, not political pressures.

I see little relationship between the management alternative you've selected and the findings of the extensive studies that you commissioned. I see your proposed plan as discriminatory and not in the spirit of the Wilderness Act.

I have used the Chattooga River for the past 35 years for hiking, kayaking, canoeing, camping, and at times fishing. I appreciate the diligent efforts of the United States Forest Service to protect this resource, but I do hope you will reconsider your proposed actions relative to the management of the upper stretches of the river.

Sincerely,

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