From: David Govus
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: re: boating on the upper chattoga
Date: 07/29/2008 11:06 AM

Forest Managers

As a long time user of the wilderness section of the Chattoga River I feel that boating on this section of the stream above Burrell's Ford should continue to be prohibited as it has been for the last 30 years. The Forest Service's preferred alternative for future management of this section of the river would allow some boating under some cicumstances. I do not believe the Forest Service has the resources to enforce these restrictions and that ultimately some boating will lead to a lot of boating whenever conditions make it possible. The section of the stream envisioned is small and flows through the Ellicot Rock Wilderness Area and the presence of boats on such a small stream will detract from the feeling of isolation and solitude that one hopes to find in a wilderness area. The Forset Service analysis predicts injuries and fatalities once this section is opened to boating and if these were to occur there would inevitably be motorized intrusion into the wild and scenic and or wilderness sections of the river. The death of Hemlocks on the banks of the Chattoga will put huge numbers of these trees into the stream and inevitably the boaters will cut them out despite the Forest Service's plan to prohibit cutting. If this woody debris that is crucial to stream health is not removed how can boating occur. The other actions proposed under alternatives 2 and 3 are welcome and mecessary. Parking should be restricted at Burrell's Ford and worn out campsites closed . Group size should be limited and visitrs educated as to their impacts on the area.

Regards

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