From: Linda Chafin
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: In support of NO BOATING Alternatives 2 or 3 for Chattooga River
Date: 08/12/2008 05:54 PM

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15 August 2008

Sumter National Forest, USDA Forest Service
Chattooga River Project
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212

RE: Support for Alternatives 2 and 3, Upper Chattooga River

I am very distressed to hear that the U.S. Forest Service is considering the opening of the upper part of the Chattooga River to boating and am deeply opposed to this idea. The Chattooga River is a special place ecologically, for wildlife and rare species, and for recreation – offering those of us who enjoy peace and quiet and low-key forms of recreation a much needed haven from the crowds found on other rivers.

As you know, the Chattooga is an integral part of the Ellicott Rock Wilderness. To preserve the wilderness character of this wilderness, the Upper Chattooga must also be protected.

I gather that this change is promoted by the boating industry. But boaters already have access to more than half of the Chattooga River! Why let their greed take away the pristine part of the river that is now enjoyed by hikers and campers as well as hunters and fishermen who don't want to be surrounded by noisy crowds? I thought the national forests were for everyone, not just those that scream the loudest and make the most money.

I beg you to reject Alternative 4 and preserve the Upper Chattooga by implementing Alternatives 2 or 3. There is no place else on earth quite like this remote corner of Georgia and South Carolina. Please don't give it away to those who scream the loudest.

Thank you very much,
Linda Chafin
103 Wildwood Court
Athens, Georgia 30606