From: E. Zembry
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Ellicott Rock Wilderness
Date: 08/12/2008 11:26 AM

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing today to show my concern and support for preserving the Ellicott Wilderness Area. I am an avid hiker and fisherman. I also love to canoe, kayak and whitewater raft. I have spent many trips hiking and camping the Ellicott Wilderness area in my life and have fond memories of this area. In my opinion, it would be a shame to allow rafts and various boats through the waters of this area. The native Brown trout would not survive the inevitable pollution! We have very little wilderness areas left in the areas of GA, SC, NC to be able to have the experience of fishing for wild brown trout and hiking a primitive trail. There are MANY areas that one can boat and whitewater raft other than the headwaters of the Chattooga. Safer areas also exist for boating...the headwaters of the Chattooga are more dangerous to raft than Bull's Sleuth itself.
I am all for maintaining "No Trace" camping and hiking. I even practice this in more populous areas I visit. The problem is that a good many hikers, campers, fisherman and boaters do not practice no trace rules. How can we open up such a beautiful and pristine area such as Ellicott Wilderness to people who are not focused on no trace rules? It's hard enough to enforce no trace on the trails. The river would be cleared more and changed to allow rafting through it. It will be changed by man and not be wild anymore!
As a native of South Carolina, I am urging all who read this letter to please re-think what would permanently change this beautiful wilderness area if we allow full time rafting through this land. I would like my decedents to be able to enjoy this pristine area one day too. We can whitewater raft many other places already! Please consider preserving and not violating the Ellicott Wilderness area to rafting!
Sincerely,

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