From: Rosalind Andrews
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Please Leave Something for our Children
Date: 08/14/2008 12:12 PM

Sent on behalf of rozyandrewsms@bellsouth.net:

August 14, 2008
USDA Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212

Dear USDA Forest Service,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the USFS proposed action for the Upper Chattooga River Use Capacity Analysis. The Upper Chattooga River watershed contains the only river section in Georgia with a "Wild and Scenic" designation, possesses what has been described as "one of the unique, premier trout fisheries for backcountry anglers seeking remoteness and solitude in the southeast," and is of critical value to me and all members of Trout Unlimited in the southeast.

I recognize and appreciate the many hours of commitment the Forest Service has dedicated in developing a balanced outcome for the Upper Chattooga issue, and I accept the selection of Alternative 4, which would open the Upper Chattooga to limited boating, as the preferred alternative. I would more strongly support Alternative 3, but I can accept Alternative 4 with a few reservations.

I have reviewed the Forest Service position, as well as the "pre-decisional" Environmental Assessment, and find the Forest Service decision for protecting and managing the coldwater resources of the Upper Chattooga for today and future generations acceptable. That being said, I do have the following concerns:

• The proposal does not consistently and properly prevent the removal of large woody debris from the river. Woody debris is essential to the natural flow regime of the river and to the health of fish and other aquatic life. The proposal also fails to protect the various sensitive native plant species found in the corridor.

• The Forest Service proposal for boating does not clearly commit the law enforcement and resource protection personnel necessary to regulate a new, high-impact form of recreation and to educate the public about the new rules in this part of the river corridor.

I strongly urge the Forest Service to insure that these conditions are adequately addressed within the selected management alternative. If the conditions within Alternative 4 are properly defined and followed, they may appropriately protect the resources and the true recreational experience of the Upper Chattooga, in addition to preserving the upper river's boat-limited uniqueness compared to other rivers in the southeast.

I am opposed to any consideration of Alternative 8. It would be impossible to

preserve the Upper Chattooga with this type of management plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this important matter, and for providing an open forum to provide comments. I hope you will strengthen a couple of areas in your proposed action, Alternative 4, and protect one of the last remaining
wild rivers in the southeast.

Sincerely

Rosalind Andrews
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