From: jmca
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Chattooga river comment
Date: 08/13/2008 02:18 PM

Dear US Forest Service,

I have lived on Whiteside Cove Road for the last 19 years. My children have grown up swimming at Sliding Rock and hiking along the upper Chattooga shores. **I strongly feel that the upper reaches (above the iron bridge) should be off limits to boating**. This section of the river does not lend itself to boating without portaging, or tree removal and the accessability for rescue is extremely difficult. My family also feels that some places need to be preserved. What happened to the Wild and Scenic distinction?

We are sad to see that AW has come into our area with their high paid lawyers and pushed to get what they want. It is a pretty known fact that they are using us as an example that they can then apply to other rivers in the United States. We know that they want unlimited access to all rivers in the country.

We hope the USFS doesn't cave into their pressure and that you hear us; those that live everyday along this beautiful river that is the headwaters to so many downstream. Everyone doesn't have to have access to everywhere. What's next? The horse riders and ATV riders claim they are being excluded too? There is nothing wrong with leaving your restrictions in place. Those of us that clean up the shorelines after visitors have left will be the ones who suffer from a change. The boaters have many miles of the Chattooga to ride. Please leave our section to those of us who would like to see some wild place remain just that.

Sincerely,

Deborah Lassiter
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