From:	Doug and Eedee Adams
To:	DRAFT_EA Comments
Subject:	Fw: Upper Chattooga Comments - New AW posting on their website
Date:	08/13/2008 01:43 PM

----- Original Message -----
From: Doug and Eedee Adams
To: **Friends of the Upper Chattooga**
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2008 1:16 PM
Subject: Upper Chattooga Comments - New AW posting on their website

Friends,

This is an excerpt from a notice AW just posted on their website:
"Recognizing this, the Conservancy has tried to bring the local TU chapters and Georgia Forest Watch to the table over the last two weeks with no success. TU and Georgia Forest Watch have steadfastly refused to talk just as they have for the last 13 plus years."

The Chattooga Conservative Executive Director (Buzz Williams) did contact me. I told him if he wanted to communicate with TU leadership he also needed to talk with the TU Council Chairmen in GA and SC. I told him I'm a TU member and the Rabun TU Chapter newsletter editor and I could only speak for myself.

What I have refused to do is to hammer out a private deal with AW on behalf of all anglers.

I told AW President Don Kinser over a year ago (on 6/26/2007) in an E-mail exchange, and I have consistently said all along:
"My first priority is to get a good set of Limits of Acceptable Change in place. This is something I urged the Forest Service to do in a letter and in person long before AW filed their appeal. I have enjoyed 52 wonderful years of making memories on the North Fork and I will continue to work to protect the backcountry ORVs for future generations.
I believe the time to collaborate will be:
1) After the LAC have been established
2) After AW withdraws their demand for "unrestricted access"
3) And with all stakeholders represented (including the Forest Service)." It is called a public meeting.

In other words - **No back room deals.**

I simply want to do what is best for the Chattooga, now and for future generations.

Happy Trails, Doug

Below is the AW posting that went up today:

AW seeks Agreement with other Stakeholders on Upper Chattooga

posted August 13, 2008
by Mark Singleton

Since first raising the issue of boating on the Upper Chattooga with the Forest Service in 1995 AW has reached out to local and National Trout Unlimited (TU) leaders, the Chattooga Conservancy and Georgia Forest Watch on numerous occasions with no success.

In 1995 our requests for a meeting was refused by all involved. Finally in May of 2001 two local TU representatives did agree to meet with us. It was a pleasant meeting but it was clear that they were never going to engage in a meaningful conversation about boating on the upper river. The angler's refusal to engage in a reasoned dialogue with AW continues today despite our repeated efforts to engage them.

Forest Service officals have repeatedly stated that they would like nothing more than for the stakeholders in this contentious issue to come together and reach an agreement. Recently the Chattooga Conservancy reached out to AW in an effort to reach an agreement with AW that could be presented to the Forest Service. AW has engaged in a good faith dialogue with the Conservancy over the last two weeks and we applaud their efforts. We also recognize that while their recent proposal for the headwaters is not an acceptable solution it is certainly a huge step in the right direction. However unless the other stakeholders are willing to engage in the process such negotiations have no chance of succeeding. Recognizing this, the Conservancy has tried to bring the local TU chapters and Georgia Forest Watch to the table over the last two weeks with no success. TU and Georgia Forest Watch have steadfastly refused to talk just as they have for the last 13 plus years.

This is most unfortunate and an opportunity lost. AW will continue to stay involved in the administrative process and seek to reach an acceptable resolution that will allow boating on the entire length of the upper Chattooga River. We also remain ready, willing and able to engage in a dialogue with the key stakeholder groups should they decide to participate.

Please send your comments to the Forest Service, public comments on the Chattooga Headwaters are due August 18th. A sample letter and background information is posted here.