From: robbyh777@juno.com
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Chattooga River Access
Date: 08/18/2008 05:13 PM

U.S. Forest Service
Chattooga River Project
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212.

August 18, 2008

RE: Chattooga River Project Comments

Dear Sumter National Forest,
I am Dr. Robby Hansen, I live]in Tallahassee, Florida and travel to North Carolina and South Carolina frequently to boat.
I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment regarding the recreational management of the Chattooga River. I disagree with your analysis and your proposal. Both treat me and my community of river enthusiasts unfairly and your proposal would not meet my interests. Please consider the following concerns I have regarding this issue:

[SELECT a subset of these bullet points or write your own – please personalize]

· The USFS has spent thirteen years searching for a reason to limit paddling on the Chattooga and has found none. It is time to open the river to boating.
· The USFS preferred alternative includes a total ban on 2/3 of the upper river, a ban on tributary boating, and allows only 0-6 days of limited boating on the remaining reach – while allowing all other wilderness conforming existing uses in unlimited numbers.. This is not equitable and not acceptable!
· The EA offers no basis for the boating bans and limits
· The EA lacks a full range of alternatives
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· The USFS hired qualified consultants and then ignored their input
· The 450 CFS average daily flow trigger in the preferred alternative is a flawed measure that should be eliminated from any considerations. There is no way a paddler can know this number and will be an administrative burden for the agency.

The public should have the right to float on public Wild and Scenic Rivers regardless of who owns the land along the river.
· All aspects of the “Outstanding Remarkable Values” of Wild and Scenic Rivers should be protected on the entire river, not just in some areas.

Thank you for considering these comments. Please consider conducting a real user capacity analysis and immediately allowing boating in the same numbers, places, and seasons that you allow existing users. Paddling should be allowed in a similar manner to your alternative number 8, except on the entire Upper Chattooga River and its tributaries.

Thank you for considering these comments,

Sincerely
Dr. Robby Hansen
3850 Imaginary Rd
Tallahassee, Florida 32309
850-877-6625

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