From: David Maxwell
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Chattooga River/Ellicott Rock Wilderness Area
Date: 08/18/2008 12:31 PM

Gentlemen, this is to express my concern about the possible opening of the Chattooga wilderness area. There are far too few wild and pristine areas left in this country, especially the southeast, and the pressure to open more for general use (and abuse) will only grow greater. This particular waterway is a jewel in the northwest South Carolina and western North Carolina mountains. It deserves restrictions which will protect it for generations to come.

While kayaking and rafting are becoming increasingly popular these sports can be incompatible with other uses which are more in context with this pristine stretch of water. I am familiar with other stretches of water which have become popular kayaking and rafting locations. In many instances the kayakers are respectful of the water, but they tend to bring in rafters with their less respectful use--- i.e., alcoholic beverage consumption, loud shouting and behavior not in harmony with the use of a wild and pristine area.

So, I strongly recommend that this stretch of river be restricted only to uses which are in harmony with the intent of the designation of " wild and scenic." These might include hiking, wilderness camping, fishing (particularly fly fishing), and hunting.

Thank you in advance for consideration of my concern and recommendation.

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