From: Tom Blue
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Public Comment on Chattooga River Project
Date: 08/18/2008 10:49 AM

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 a long time whitewater boater who enjoys the legal sections of the Chattooga River. I live in eastern North Carolina but make a point of visiting the Chattooga at least once every year.

None of the alternatives in the Environmental Assessment regarding the recreational management of the Chattooga River is acceptable. All of them limit boating on the upper Chattooga in some fashion, a limitation that can only be characterized as discrimination against a particular user group.

This is not a complicated matter. The National Forest is public land. Accessing that land by boat does less damage to that land than accessing it by any other method (foot, horse, bike, or motorized vehicle) because it requires no trails. The upper Chattooga should be open to boaters.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Tom Blue
400 Tinkerbell Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27517