From: Michelle Burnett
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@FSNOTES
Subject: Fw: Chattooga boating ban
Date: 08/18/2008 03:42 PM

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----- Forwarded by Michelle Burnett/R8/USDAFS on 08/18/2008 03:42 PM -----

Jeanne LeBoeuf/R8/USDAFS

08/18/2008 11:06 AM

To Michelle Burnett/R8/USDAFS@FSNOTES
cc
Subject Fw: Chattooga boating ban

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----- Forwarded by Jeanne LeBoeuf/R8/USDAFS on 08/18/2008 11:06 AM -----

Rosanne Rowe/WO/USDAFS

To Jerome Thomas/R8/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Jeanne LeBoeuf/R8/USDAFS@FSNOTES

08/18/2008 11:02 AM

cc Chris N Brown/WO/USDAFS@FSNOTES
Subject Fw: Chattooga boating ban

Rosanne Rowe
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----- Forwarded by Rosanne Rowe/WO/USDAFS on 08/18/2008 11:02 AM -----

pwsisk0@engr.uky.edu

08/18/2008 10:59 AM

To akimbell@fs.fed.us
cc
Subject Chattooga boating ban

Dear Mr. Kimbell,

Thank you for receiving my comments. I am an avid outdoorsmen and have been for all of my life. I have been fortunate to enjoy many of the US's national forests whether it hiking, camping or kayaking. I live in Lexington, KY, but hope you realize that the decisions going on with respect to the Chattooga headwaters affect us all. 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. Why does the public have no right to float on public Wild and Scenic Rivers.

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment regarding the recreational management of the Chattooga River. I disagree with the analysis and proposal and ask for your help to step in and assist the local mis-management. The EA offers no basis for the boating bans and limits, it lacks a full range of alternatives, and sadly is no better or different than the last one. To make matters even worse, the EA is at least a year late and has wasted millions in tax payer money. Why is it the USFS hired qualified consultants and then ignored their input?

No alternative is acceptable because they all include boating bans on the upper Chattooga Cliffs reach and on tributaries ? without any justification. Paddlers prefer an alternative similar to Alternative 8 that 1) fully allows boating on the entire Chattooga River below Grimshawes Bridge, 2) allows paddling on tributaries, 3) includes encounter standards based on a real user capacity analysis, 4) will equitably limit total use only when encounter standards are consistently exceeded, and 5) will do so using all available indirect measures first.

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,

Phillip Sisk

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