From: Cara Wrenn
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Chattooga River Project
Date: 08/18/2008 11:41 AM

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

Dear Mr. Cleeves:

I have been following the proposed changes to the Upper Chattooga River management plan for the past two years. I appreciate the opportunity you have given all concerned parties to review and comment on the analysis and assessments conducted by the Forest Service. However, I strongly disagree with the current management plan and the changes that the Forest Service is proposing.

As a boater and hiker, I have spent a large part of my life in the Chattooga River corridor. It is truly a special place that deserves to be protected. However, this protection must be fair and equitable to all affected user groups. The current plan and the proposed change to adopt alternative four are neither fair nor equitable. The Environmental Assessment that the Forest Service has released does not offer a full range of alternatives, and it is essentially just a continuance of the thirty year ban. Boating is not the only management variable that exists on the Upper Chattooga, and it has an equal or lesser impact than fishing or hiking, yet it is the only activity of those three that is severely limited.

I would like to see an alternative that allows boating on all stretches of the Upper Chattooga and its tributaries and that includes encounter standards based on real user capacity analysis. This alternative should also equitably limit total use **only** when encounter standards are consistently exceeded.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to comment on these proposed changes, and I hope to see a management plan that is equitable and acceptable to all user groups.

Sincerely,

Cara Jill Wrenn

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