From: Michelle Burnett
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@FSNOTES
Subject: Fw: Chattooga River Project Comments
Date: 08/11/2008 04:33 PM

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----- Forwarded by Michelle Burnett/R8/USDAFS on 08/11/2008 04:33 PM -----

Jeanne LeBoeuf/R8/USDAFS

08/11/2008 02:51 PM

To Michelle Burnett/R8/USDAFS@FSNOTES
cc
Subject Fw: Chattooga River Project Comments

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Jeanne S. LeBoeuf
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----- Forwarded by Jeanne LeBoeuf/R8/USDAFS on 08/11/2008 02:51 PM -----

Rosanne Rowe/WO/USDAFS

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

08/11/2008 02:46 PM

cc Chris N Brown/WO/USDAFS@FSNOTES
Subject Fw: Chattooga River Project Comments

Rosanne Rowe
Executive Assistant to the Chief
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----- Forwarded by Rosanne Rowe/WO/USDAFS on 08/11/2008 02:45 PM -----

Justin Emmert
<justin.emmert@yahoo.com>

08/11/2008 02:08 PM

To akimbell@fs.fed.us
cc
Subject RE: Chattooga River Project Comments

8-11-08

RE: Chattooga River Project Comments

Chief of USFS,

My name is Justin Emmert. I live in Martinsville, VA and I am an avid kayaker and fisherman. I live in a community in VA that boasts one of the best stocked trout streams in the state, the Smith River. The Smith has high fecal coliform and low macroinverterbrate counts, which indicate poor water quality. The local community, paddling club, fishing club, and other groups such as the Boy Scouts have teamed up time and time again to clean up our river. There is no debate about who the river belongs to. It belongs to us all.

Your environmental assessment is a sham. I always try to remember the environmental mantra, "take nothing, leave only footprints". By this saying, a paddler would "take nothing, and leave only 1/2 the footprints a fisherman would", because a paddle would walk in and paddle out. Unless he's Jesus, he won't leave any footprints on the water. Instead (and as a fisherman, I will attest to this), a fisherman will scramble down embankments disrupting foilage which helps control erosion. And let's not forget, those fisherman who break limbs for more casting room.

I fully support an agenda that will allow both fishermen and paddlers to be allowed to use the Upper Chattooga headwaters, and forces both to work together to achieve the most sustainable rules allowable by law.

Furthermore, 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:

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.

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,

Justin D. Emmert