From: Rob Holbrook
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Chattooga River Project Comments
Date: 08/18/2008 03:49 PM

Dear Sumter National Forest,

I disagree with the conclusions of the Environmental Assessment regarding the recreational management of the Chattooga River. I believe that the recommendation to adopt alternative 4 is arbitrary and capricious. This recommendation is not based on an analysis of the environmental impacts of recreational fishing in the headwaters of the Chattooga Rivers.

I believe that any successful management plan should consider the impact of all users. If any access is to be restricted to preserve recreational opportunities, all users should be restricted in kind.

Further, due to the limited probability that high quality boating recreational conditions will occur on predicted boatable days alternative 4 is an effective continuation of the boating ban and is in violation of federal law.

Further, I do not believe that zoning should be used to continue to ban recreational boating opportunities on any section of the Chattooga River. If a management plan must be put in place that equitably restricts users in order to preserve this natural resource, then restrictions should be based on a reasonable temporal structure that allows all form of recreations on all portions of the Chattooga and its tributaries, but restricts all users at times when most appropriate to reduce conflicts.

I support a regulation plan similar to your alternative 8 that allows recreational boating on all sections of the Chattooga and its tributaries for some reasonable amount of time.

Thank you,
Robert Holbrook Jr
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