From: Ryan McLain
Reply To: mclainryan@yahoo.com
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: RE: Chattooga River Project Comments
Date: 08/18/2008 07:21 PM

Dear Sumter National Forest,

My name is Ryan Mclain I live in Columbia SC where I am an outside Sales Representative for Tradesmen International. I have been kayaking for 13 years I have paddled all over this country as well as several others and I have never **DISCRIMINATED AGAINST** like I have been on the head waters of the Chattooga. This is national forest and there for one user group can denied access or use of a natural resource in the park. The park can close to all users but not just one.

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.**
- **The EA is not a user capacity analysis and does not reference one. The AW appeal decision required a user capacity analysis. Where is it?**
- **The USFS preferred alternative includes a total ban on 2/3 of the upper river, a ban on tributary boating, and allows only 0-6 days of limited boating on the remaining reach – while allowing all other wilderness conforming existing uses in unlimited numbers.. This is not equitable and not acceptable!**
- **The EA offers no basis for the boating bans and limits**
- **The 450 CFS average daily flow trigger in the preferred alternative is a flawed measure that should be eliminated from any considerations. There is no way a paddler can know this number and will be an administrative burden for the agency.**
- **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.**
- **The public should have the right to float on public Wild and Scenic Rivers regardless of who owns the land along the river.**

Thank you for considering these comments.

Please 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 your time

Sincerely

Ryan Mclain
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