From:	Dan Centofanti
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Chattooga River Project Comments
Date:	08/18/2008 03:40 PM

Dear USFS,

I am strongly opposed to limit or ban boating on Upper Chattooga while still allowing other users unlimited access. There is no justification for this exclusionary plan. Boating is not more harmful or intrusive than these other activities. And any sort of user conflict between these groups is also very rare.

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment regarding the recreational management of the Chattooga River. I disagree with your analysis and your proposal. It does not adequately represent all user groups. Please consider the following concerns I have regarding this issue:
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!

I 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.

Furthermore, I believe a decision here could have implications for river management across the country. Please do not unfairly single out a dedicated and responsible user group from this resource that should be open to all users.

Please consider conducting a real user capacity analysis and immediately allowing boating in the same numbers, places, and seasons that you allow existing users.

Thank you for considering these comments,

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