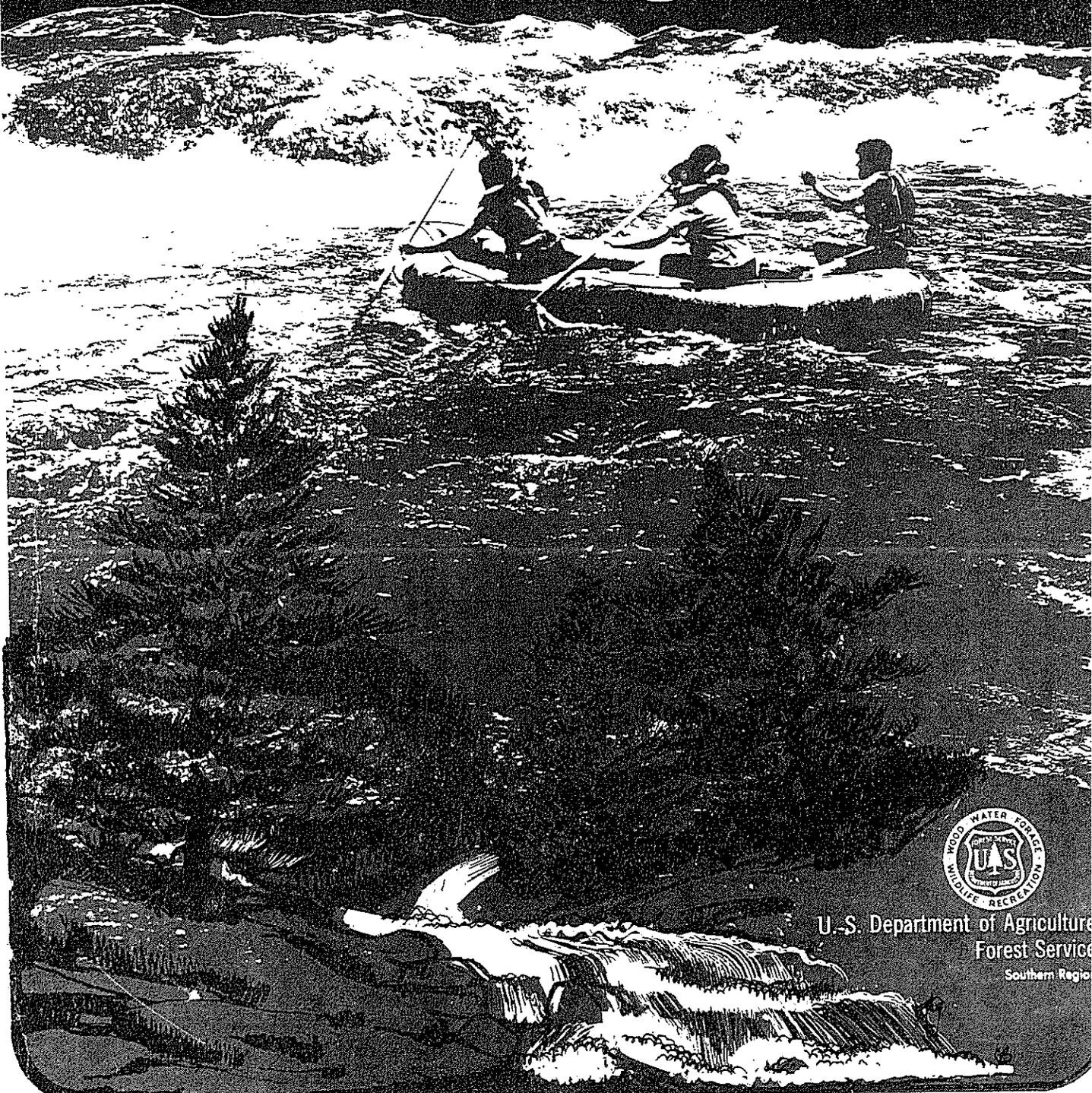


Robbin Cooper

# Chattooga

## WILD and SCENIC RIVER management plan



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service  
Southern Region

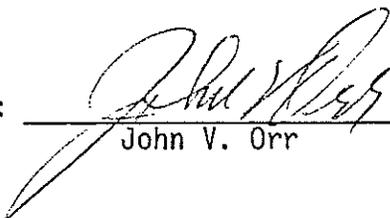


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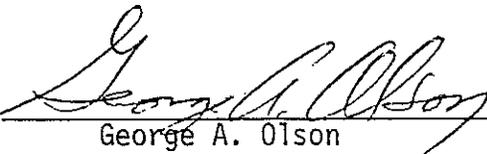
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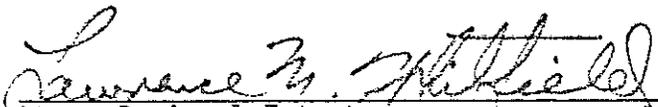
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CHATTOOGA WILD AND SCENIC RIVER  
MANAGEMENT PLAN

Recommended by:   
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Recommended by:   
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Recommended by:   
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Approved by:   
Regional Forester

August 26, 1977  
Date



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## INTRODUCTION

The Chattooga River was designated a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System on May 10, 1974. This plan will provide direction in the day to day management of resources and people using the river. The plan will be revised annually or more often as needed.

## MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Sixty-eight percent of the river is classified as Wild. Travel within these sections will be by foot or boat only. Motor vehicle access closures are nearly complete. Future motor vehicle access will be for emergencies only - fire or search and rescue.

Five percent of the river is classified as SCENIC, and is the area of the river near the major access points. These areas and the 27% of the river classified as RECREATION may be managed to accommodate visitors using motor vehicle access to the river.

Patterns of use are being established on the river. Almost all floating occurs below Highway 28 Bridge. Fishermen tend to congregate at Highway 28 Bridge, Burrells Ford and Bull Pen, the major stocking points. Fishing is done at traditional "holes" all along the river.

### Objectives

#### Entire River

The Act states that "Each Component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System shall be administered in such a manner as to protect and enhance the values which caused it to be included in said System without, insofar as is consistent therewith, limiting other uses that do not substantially interfere with public use and enjoyment of these values. In such administration, primary emphasis shall be given to protecting its aesthetic,

scenic, historic, archaeological, and scientific features. Management plans for any such component may establish varying degrees of intensity for its protection and development based on the special attributes of the area."

An objective will be to provide a range of recreation opportunities characteristic of, and in harmony with, the nature of the individual river segments.

#### Wild Area

The wild area will be managed to (1) preserve the river and its immediate environment in a natural, wild, and primitive condition essentially unaltered by the effects of man, and (2) provide water-oriented recreation opportunities in a primitive setting.

#### Scenic Area

The scenic river area will be managed to (1) maintain and enhance the condition of the high-quality scenery, (2) provide opportunities for river-oriented recreation, and (3) utilize other resources and permit other activities which maintain or enhance the quality of the wildlife habitat, river fishery, scenic attraction, or recreational values.

#### Recreational Area

The recreational river area will be managed to provide compatible outdoor recreation opportunities and water-oriented recreational facilities.

## ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY

### Forest Supervisors

The Forest Supervisor, Francis Marion - Sumter National Forests, is responsible for administering the public use of the main river between Georgia and South Carolina. He is also charged with the administration of special use permits involving recreation use of the river or banks.

The Forest Supervisor, Chatthoochee - Oconee National Forests, is responsible for the administration of the West Fork.

The Forest Supervisor, National Forests in North Carolina, is responsible for the administration of that portion of the river that is in North Carolina.

### District Rangers

The District Ranger, Andrew Pickens Ranger District, is responsible for:

1. Enforcement of the Code of Federal Regulations and Regional Forester's and Forest Supervisor's Prohibitions and Orders at all the major access points and on National Forest land immediately adjacent to the main Chattooga River in both Georgia and South Carolina, where the primary access is from the river. Major access points are:

Burrell's Ford

Highway 76

Highway 28 (Russell Fields)

Woodall Shoals

Earl's Ford

2. Providing cleanup and maintenance of developed and undeveloped

sites at the major access points and on all National Forest lands immediately adjacent to the Chattooga River in both Georgia and South Carolina where the primary access is from the river.

3. Providing the above items (1 & 2) on all other National Forest lands within or adjacent to the corridor boundary within the Sumter National Forest.
4. Developing use figures and administering the registration system for the main river.
5. Administering the "River Rangers" program.

The District Ranger, Tallulah Ranger District, is responsible for:

1. Enforcement of the Code of Federal Regulations and Regional Forester's and Forest Supervisor's Prohibitions and Orders within the corridor boundary along the West Fork.
2. Providing all cleanup and maintenance within the corridor boundary along the West Fork.
3. Providing the above items (1 & 2) on all other National Forest lands within or adjacent to the corridor boundary within the Chattahoochee National Forest that are not at major access points or where principle access is by land.

The District Ranger, Highlands Ranger District, is responsible for:

1. Enforcement of the Code of Federal Regulations and Regional Forester's and Forest Supervisor's Prohibitions and Orders within the corridor boundary within the Nantahala National Forest.

2. Providing cleanup and maintenance of developed and undeveloped sites within or adjacent to the corridor boundary in the Nantahala National Forest.

Other

County Sheriffs have responsibility for search and rescue. Initial Forest Service coordination will be by the respective District Ranger.

## PERSONNEL

Administration on the Chattooga River requires special personnel. This section describes the duties, minimum qualifications, desirable qualifications, and necessary training of the individual involved. The official title of "River Rangers" will be used for these personnel.

### Duties

River Rangers will serve as an information source for the general public, primarily on conditions of the River and hazards. They will, however, remind the public of existing prohibitions and orders and recommendations in terms of safety. Incumbents of this position will be required to enforce the Code of Federal Regulations and Regional Forester's and Forest Supervisor's Prohibitions and Orders. A part of the duties will include actually floating parts of the River periodically to report on conditions between access points and participate in cleanup. At times, incumbents in these positions will be the Forest Service representative in the case of an accident or a disaster, and will take charge of the situation unless relieved by the District Ranger or a representative of the Sheriff's Office. They will be prepared to render first aid and begin rescue operations. They will participate in the collection of data in the form of keeping registration boxes adequately stocked with registration forms, removing these forms, coding, and sending to R/O for summarization.

Other personnel - Forest workers and other labor may be used as needed. Supervision of the entire operation will be the responsibility of the District Ranger.

### Qualifications

River Rangers must be in good physical condition, be good swimmers, and have Red Cross standard first aid cards.

Skill in the use of the river floating equipment is a necessity. This ability may be difficult to find and may require training of the employee. Interviews should favor personable applicants who can meet and talk with people well. A minimum of two years floating experience on the Chattooga River would be desirable but not necessarily a requirement.

### Training

If employees do not have the above qualifications, certain of these may be met through training before the employee is placed actively on the River. This includes Red Cross first aid card and competency with floating equipment. Forest Service first aid instructors will handle the first aid training. A minimum of 16 hours Forest Service law enforcement training will be conducted for these employees each year, even though they may be repeat employees. Since these employees will be Forest Service representatives on the River, they will need to know the general information about the Chattahoochee, Nantahala, and Sumter National Forests. This information can be given in the orientation period with the Ranger or recreation staff on the District.

### Manning

During the use season (about May 15 - September 15) River Rangers, when needed, will be stationed at Russell Fields, Earl's Ford, and Highway 76 according to the following schedule:

	HOL.	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Russell Fields	X	X					X	X
Earl's Ford	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Highway 76	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Note: Administration in North Carolina will not require special personnel or scheduled manning. District Personnel will do needed administration in connection with other duties.

## Interim Regulations

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. 261.70, the Regional Forester, Region 8, Southern Region, has determined that advanced notice of proposed rulemaking and public participation thereon relative to the interim regulations hereinafter set forth is impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest. Accordingly, the following interim regulations, prohibiting acts or omissions within the areas of the Sumter National Forest and the Chattahoochee National Forest described below for the purposes of public safety and establishing reasonable rules of public conduct, are hereby issued with the concurrence of the Chief of the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture. The prohibitions set forth below become effective on the date of publication in the Federal Register and shall remain effective for not more than 90 days unless readopted as permanent regulations as hereinafter proposed.

### Notice of Proposed Rule Making

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Agriculture, by and through the Regional Forester, Region 8, Southern Region, Forest Service, is considering readopting the interim regulations set forth below, 36 C.F.R. 261.77, as permanent regulations pursuant to 36 C.F.R. 261.70 for the purposes of public safety

and establishing reasonable rules of public conduct on the areas mentioned in the interim regulations.

It is proposed that the said interim regulations being published concurrently herein become permanent regulations and that §261.77, as set forth in the interim regulations, become permanent regulations.

All persons wishing to submit written data, views, or objections pertaining to the proposed new permanent section §261.77, may do so by submitting them to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Fiscal and Accounting Management Staff, Washington, D.C. 20250 on or before August 25, 1977.

All written submissions made pursuant to this notice will be available for public inspection in Room 4007 - South Building, U. S. Department of Agriculture, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., during regular business hours (7 C.F.R. 1.27(b)).

Subpart C is amended by adding a new interim regulation section, §261.77, as follows:

§261.77 Prohibitions in Region 8, Southern Region.

(a) Using or occupying any area of the Sumter National Forest or the Chattahoochee National Forest abutting the Chattooga River for the purpose of entering or going upon the River in, on, or upon any floatable object or craft of every kind or description, unless authorized by permit obtained through registration at Forest Service Registration Stations abutting the Chattooga River located at Highway 28, Low-Water Bridge, Earl's Ford, Sandy Ford,

Highway 76, Woodall Shoals, or Overflow Bridge or unless authorized under special use permit.

(b) Using or occupying within the scope of any commercial operation or business any area of the Sumter National Forest or the Chattahoochee National Forest abutting the Chattooga River for the purpose of entering or going upon the River in, on, or upon any floatable object or craft of every kind or description, unless authorized by special use permit.

(c) Violating or failing to comply with any of the terms or conditions of any permit authorizing the occupancy and use specified in Subsections (a) or (b) above is prohibited.

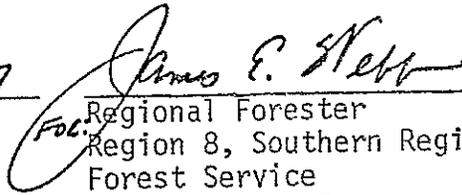
(d) Entering, going, riding, or floating upon any portion or segment of the Chattooga River within the boundaries of the Chattahoochee National Forest in, on, or upon any floatable object or craft of every kind or description, unless authorized by a permit obtained through registration at Forest Service Registration Stations abutting the Chattooga River located at Highway 28, Low-Water Bridge, Earl's Ford, Sandy Ford, Highway 76, Woodall Shoals, or Overflow Bridge or unless authorized under special use permit.

(e) Entering, going, riding, or floating within the scope of any commercial operation or business upon any portion or segment of the Chattooga River within the boundaries of the Chattahoochee National Forest in, on, or upon any floatable

object or craft of every kind or description, unless authorized by special use permit.

(f) Violating or failing to comply with any of the terms or conditions of any permit authorizing the occupancy and use specified in Subsections (d) or (e) above is prohibited.

Date: May 19, 1977

  
FOC

Regional Forester  
Region 8, Southern Region  
Forest Service  
United States Department of Agriculture

## PERMITS

A special use permit is required for all commercial use of the National Forests. Commercial outfitting and guiding includes all such activities where the permittee or any of his employees makes a profit, receives a reimbursement of salary, receives rental for use of animals or equipment, increases the value of his facilities, equipment animals, etc., or support in any part, other programs or activities from amounts received from customers of the permitted activities. Such use would include services for guiding or transporting persons and providing equipment, supplies, or materials. Special use permits for such operations may be issued when the use does not conflict with wild & scenic river management objectives, is in accord with approved resource plans, provides a needed public service, and assists in the management and utilization of National Forest resources.

An operation is not commercial where there is a bona fide sharing of expenses and where no fee, charge, or other compensation is collected from individual participants in excess of actual costs or expenses incurred. Nonprofit status of any group or organization under the internal revenue or postal laws or regulations does not in itself determine whether a trip or trips arranged by such a group or organization is noncommercial. Any person, group or organization seeking to qualify as an organized, non-commercial, or private operation shall have the burden of establishing, to the reasonable satisfaction of the Forest Service, that no profit will be derived from the planned trip.

A permit shall not be granted simply to provide a commercial, profit-making opportunity. The Forest Service is not obligated to issue a permit to accommodate a desire of an individual applicant.

Two categories of special use permits may be granted: more than one year and/or temporary or transient land occupancy. The issuance of special use permits will not establish nor set up a system of area allocation or permanence of operation which might deny use by others. The following information applies to Special Use permits.

1. Permittees will provide an annual operating plan which shows their operational details.
2. Public safety is a major concern of the Forest Service. The permit places a responsibility on the permittee to see that "his employees and patrons operate boats in a safe and reasonable manner." Failure to comply with permit requirements may be grounds for revocation.
3. Permittees will insure that one medium-sized, waterproof, first aid kit will be carried by each party of 10 persons or less. Groups larger than 10 persons must have two kits.
4. All equipment to be used must be approved by the Forest Service Officer in charge.
5. The permittee must comply with all State and Federal laws and regulations relating to use of the National Forest lands and waters thereon. He will also assume full responsibility for the conduct of his employees and clients.

6. All permittees will be required to carry liability insurance. This is required in all special use permits, "where public liability might exist". No one can question that liability does exist in float boating operations. This permit clause will read: "The permittee shall have in force at all times during the period of this permit, public liability insurance covering: (1) property damage in the minimum amount of Ten Thousand dollars (\$10,000), and (2) personal injury or death in the minimum amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars (\$250,000). The coverage shall extend to property damage, bodily injury, or death arising out of the permittee's activities under the permit including, but not limited to, the occupancy or use of the land and the construction, maintenance, and operation of the structures, facilities, or equipment authorized by this permit. Such insurance shall also name the United States as a co-insured and provide for specific coverage of the permittee's contractually assumed obligation to indemnify the United States. The permittee shall require the insurance company to send an authenticated copy of its insurance policy to the Forest Service immediately upon issuance of the policy. The policy shall also contain specific provisions or a rider to the effect that: (1) the inclusion of the United States as an additional insured shall in no manner preclude recovery from the insurance company of any amounts which the permittee becomes legally obligated to pay to the United States as a result of permittee's activities under the permit, and (2) the policy will not be cancelled or its provisions changed or deleted before 30 days written notice to the Forest Supervisor by the insurance company.

7. The District Ranger will maintain a continuing inspection to determine whether the permittee is complying with all provisions of the special use permit. This inspection will include, but not be limited to, the quality of the service rendered, safety of operation, and nondiscrimination policies of the permittee.
8. On each craft, a sufficient number of containers shall be carried to stow trash, garbage, and litter. Permittees shall carry out all of their litter and garbage. Alternate stopping points will be selected by the District Ranger for use by commercial floaters. Use of these areas will be alternated weekly for sanitation purposes.
9. No organized races will be allowed on any section of the river.

The following items apply to the more than one year permits:

1. The nature of the river dictates that no more than three commercial operations be permitted to operate on a daily basis. At the present, three float outfitters have been granted special use permits. These permits expire on December 31, 1977, unless sooner terminated or revoked by the Regional Forester. Efforts were made in the special uses granted to keep the total number of clients within the carrying capacity. However, reliable carrying capacity figures are not available at this time. With the present registration system plus the figures gained from the commercial outfitters, we will have reliable useage figures in the near future.

2. Each special use permittee will furnish the District Ranger, by the 5th of each month, completed standard registration forms from the previous month. These forms will list each trip, dates, and the total number of passengers carried, including guides. Forms will be supplied with the issuance of the permit.
3. All boats and rafts operated by the permittees must bear the permittee's business name or number in three-inch (or larger) block letters or numerals. (Numbers, if used, will be coded to the permittee for Forest Service identification).

These items pertain to the temporary or transient land occupancy permit.

1. Each commercial permittee will also complete and submit the standard registration forms.
2. The District has authority to issue temporary or transient land occupancy special use permits with standard clauses specifying the limited use.

## MAINTENANCE AND CLEANUP

Vehicular access points will be provided with solid waste disposal containers and regularly scheduled pickups. Areas around these access points will be cleaned up on a regularly scheduled basis (May 15 through September 15) as listed on the following page.

During off-season, the areas listed on the following page will be cleaned as needed. Responsibility will be the same as during use season.

The cleanup standards will be as suggested in "Clean Recreation Sites" Brochure of January, 1974.

In addition to the scheduled cleanup, the following will be done to aid in keeping the river corridor clean --

--A "pack it in - pack it out" policy will be initiated and enforced for all use inside the corridor except where receptacles are furnished on Scenic and Recreation sections.

--The outfitter permittees have agreed orally to help keep the River clean. However, Forest Service crews will check and float the River as necessary to keep accessible areas clean.

--Georgia Power Company is responsible for cleanup at the Lake Tugaloo exit.

CLEANUP SCHEDULE

SEASON  
May 15 - Sept. 15

Area	Responsibility			Once Per Week	Twice Per Use Season
	GA.	SC	NC		
Bull Pen			X	X	
Ellicotts Rock		X			X
Burrells Ford Area		X		X	
Nicholson Fields		X			X
Hwy. 28 Bridge & Vicinity		X		X	
West Fork					
Three Forks	X				X
Overflow Bridge	X			X	
Warwoman Bridge	X			X	
Remainder of W. Fork	X			X	
Russell Fields		X		X	
Long Bottom Ford		X		X	
Earl's Ford (S.C. side)		X		X	
Dick's Creek Falls		X			X
Sandy Ford (Ga.)	X			X	
Sandy Ford (S.C.)		X			X
Lick Log		X			X
Fall Creek		X			X
Thrift's Ferry		X			X
Hwy. 76		X		X	
Sutton Hole		X			X
Woodall Shoals		X		X	
Raven Rock & Mouth of Long Creek		X			X
Camp Creek		X			X
All other primitive camp sites accessible by boat		X			X

## TRAILS

### Existing.

#### The Bartram Trail (Ga.)

Enters the River Corridor at Dick's Creek and extends to Warwoman Ford (Georgia).

#### The Foothills Trail (S.C.)

Enters Corridor at Big Bend and extends 4.5 miles to East Fork where it joins the Ellicott Rock Trail and then up East Fork (S.C.).

#### The Ellicott Rock Trail (S.C.)

Enters at East Fork and extends 1.7 miles to Ellicott Rock on N. C., S. C. state line and then to Bad Creek Road.

#### The King Creek Trail (S.C.)

Beginning at Burrells Ford campground and extending 1/2 mile to King Creek Falls.

#### The Spoonauger Trail (S.C.)

Beginning at Chattooga River on Foothills Trail and extending 1/4 mile to Spoonauger Falls.

### Future.

A trail system will be developed from U. S. 76 to the Macon - Jackson County line in North Carolina. The trail will be located away from the river for the most part so as not to detract from the floating or hiking experience. The trail will be located to afford the best views of the river without detracting from the solitude of the floater, fisherman, or hiker. Spurs to the river may be located where practical for access to

the river by fishermen and others.

In order to minimize the impact of hikers on the river, the trail will not be developed on both sides of the river along any portion of the river.

The trail will be located as follows - North to South.

West side - From Northern terminus at Macon - Jackson County line on Norton Mill Road about 1 mile northeast of Bull Pen Road to Bull Pen Bridge.

East side - From Bull Pen Bridge to S. C. Highway 28 Bridge.

West side - From Ga. Highway 28 to U.S. 76 Bridge.

That part of the trail known as the Foothills trail will leave the area at Medlin Mountain. From that point North, the trail will serve as the trail through Ellicott Rock Wilderness.

## MINOR IMPROVEMENTS

### 1. Bulletin Boards

Bulletin boards will be installed to major access points: Highway 28 vicinity, Burrell's Ford, Russell Fields, Earl's Ford, Woodall Shoals, U. S. Highway 76, Bull Pen.

As a minimum, the regulations and recommended safety precautions will be posted on the bulletin boards.

### 2. Registration Facilities

Self-registration facilities will be installed at Russell Fields, Earl's Ford, Sandy Ford, U. S. Highway 76, Woodall Shoals, and Overflow Bridge.

### 3. Stream Gauges

Color coded stream gauges will be installed at Russell Fields, Earl's Ford, Highway 76, and Woodall Shoals and will be used as a warning system for the dangers of high water. The gauges will have water level numbers and will have portions of the gauge painted green, yellow, and red to correspond with relatively safe, hazardous, and extremely dangerous water levels.

### 4. Shelters

There will be no trail shelters built within the river corridor.

### 5. Corridor Boundary Signs

Portal signs, or similar identification, will be installed to identify the corridor boundary on Highway 76, Highway 28, Burrells Ford Road, and Bull Pen Road.

## SEARCH AND RESCUE

Search and rescue will be the basic responsibility of the local sheriff's departments and the local rescue squads. The District Rangers will maintain close contact with the organizations in their districts and will cooperate in their search and rescue efforts.

River Guards, upon being notified of lost or injured persons or accidents, will contact the appropriate Sheriff's Department, rescue squad and District Ranger's office. He will take leadership in search and rescue efforts until the arrival of sheriff's department or rescue squad or until relieved by other Forest Service personnel.

The District Rangers will execute an action plan with rescue squads. Action Plans will spell out uses of equipment and techniques and responsibilities.

## I&E and VIS

The basic purpose of the Visitor Information Service program for the Chattooga River will be --

-- to give the public a general idea of the purpose of the Wild and Scenic River System and how it is managed and protected.

-- to inform the public of the recreational opportunities available on the river and within the areas adjacent to the river.

-- to stress to all visitors the need for personal safety and proper care of the river's unique environment.

-- to tell the scenic, geologic, and historical stories of the area.

-- to further these purposes:

1. A single map brochure showing river floating, trail system, access points, primitive campsites, etc.
2. A minor information site will be established at Highway 76 vicinity. This site should be an interpretive shelter with information and some interpretation devices. Information to be dispensed will be:
  - a. Current river water levels relative to floatability.
  - b. Rules and regulations concerning the Wild and Scenic River and its corridor.
  - c. Safety recommendations of users of the land and water of the Wild & Scenic River.
  - d. Location of other recreation opportunities in the surrounding area.
  - e. General information about the National Forests in N.C., S.C., and Georgia.

## OTHER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Timber - Timber will be administered for recreation, watershed protection, aesthetic and wildlife values. Some cutting of timber may occur in the construction of trails, for safety of users, or for scenic improvement. No permits will be issued for firewood or other forest products within the river corridor.

Insects - Disease - Proposals to control must be developed through an Environmental Analysis approved by the Forest Supervisor.

Fire and Other Emergencies - Fires will be controlled under regular suppression policy. Within the river corridor, the District Rangers may approve use of power saw, truck-mounted and portable pumps, helicopters, aerial tankers, Tractor-plows, smoke jumpers, and vehicles used by search and rescue organizations. The Rangers will use the method of fire control which results in the least amount of environmental damage while adequate to control the fire.

Special Uses - Permits for new power lines and roads will be restricted to Scenic and Recreation sections of the river. No occupancy permits will be issued within the river corridor.

Minerals - No mineral leasing or removal of sand or gravel is permitted on National Forest lands within the boundaries. There are no outstanding mineral rights.

Fisheries - Fish stocking from vehicles will be permitted at Burrells Ford, Highway 28 Bridge, Long Bottom Ford, and Bull Pen Bridge only on the main river and at Overflow and Warwoman Bridges on the West Fork. Floating above Highway 28 Bridge will be prohibited and fishing encouraged in this section.

Wildlife Habitat - Cultivation of old fields in the Recreation section of the river near Highway 28 and on the West Fork may be done to maintain landscape variety, provide openings beneficial to wildlife habitat, and provide a seed source for wildlife habitat work.

Water Quality - Past water quality studies show that the Chattooga for the most part is well within the limits for primary contact waters. The only exception is that some pollution exceeding these standards was found on intermittent basis below Highway 76.

A monitoring system will be carried out at the following points:

1. Grimshawes Bridge
2. Burrells Ford
3. Highway 28 Bridge
4. West Fork - on the West Fork just prior to junction with main river
5. Earl's Ford - above Warwoman Creek
6. Highway 76 Bridge
7. Stekoa Creek - on Stekoa Creek just prior to junction with main river
8. Main River above Camp Creek

The purpose of the monitoring will be to locate sources of pollution that exceed standards set for primary contact, and to identify sources of turbidity.

Sampling will be done on a monthly basis during April, May, June, July August, and September.

Federal/State water quality standards have been established on all interstate portions of the river. These standards are adequate to protect the aesthetics of the area and the health of the users. These standards are as follows:

- Fecal coliform (MPN/100 ml.) Log mean of 200 and shall not exceed 1100 in over 10% of sample in any 30 day period.

## ACQUISITION

It is in the public interest to acquire by fee simple title all privately owned lands within the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River boundary and any privately owned lands immediately adjacent that may present right of way or access problems in the management of the river.

Scenic easements will be considered only when extensive negotiations indicate that acquisition by fee simple title is impossible. These easements may have to be acquired through condemnation proceedings. The terms of scenic easements will vary from case to case depending upon what measures are necessary to prevent impairment of the scenic quality or basic resource. Condemnation of land is prohibited by the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act.

## RIVER ENVIRONMENT

To protect and perpetuate the unique qualities of the Chattooga River, a benchmark system may be established to inventory the river's resources.

The objectives of the benchmark system should be as follows:

1. Determine which, if any, species or ecosystems are in danger and what must be done to protect them.
2. Evaluate the condition and trend of all the resources.
3. Determine the optimum use of each resource without destroying its values.
4. Provide adequate program to carry out the protection of these environmental systems.

Research will be utilized to plan and possibly implement the Benchmark System.

## SAFETY

River Guards in their day to day administration of the river and all other Forest Service personnel entering or using the river in an official capacity will observe all conditions of use as required for the public.

The Andrew Pickens Ranger will make a written report of all serious injuries reported on the main river in Georgia and South Carolina. The Highlands Ranger and the Tallulah Ranger will be responsible for such reports in North Carolina and on the West Fork, respectively. The report will include name of person killed, injured, or lost (if possible); residence; age; where killed, injured, or lost; witnesses (if any), type of equipment (if applicable); time and date of incident; violation of regulations (if any); short narrative of incident. A definite attempt will be made by the River Guard to ascertain and report all injury causing accidents and bona fide lost persons.

Safety regulations have been formulated and are listed under "regulation of use."

### Recommendations

There are many things, primarily safety items, that we do not feel at this time we are in a position to cover by issuing Conditions of Use under Secretary's Regulations. These items will be transmitted to the public in the form of recommendations rather than Conditions of Use. These will be posted on bulletin boards, signs, used in publications, and in discussions with the users.

- a. All rigid craft should have ten cubic feet of additional flotation for operation below Earl's Ford.

- b. Maximum loading on rubber rafts should be two persons less than rated capacity.
- c. Every float party should have at least one throw line, one extra paddle, and one first aid kit.
- d. All floaters below Earl's Ford should wear white-water helmets.
- e. Average floating time between access points for various types of craft will be posted at each of the major access points, with the latest recommended departure time from there to the next regular access point.
- f. Use of alcoholic beverages will be discouraged.
- g. Warning of dangers at the Narrows, Bulls Sluice, and Woodall Shoals will be posted at entry points.

