

# In Existing Sumter Plan

## I. INTRODUCTION

Congress designated 57 miles of the Chattooga River as a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System on May 10, 1974. This river corridor has the potential to become one of the most significant areas in the east providing a wide range of challenging outdoor recreational pursuits in a primitive setting. Managers will have to evaluate carefully all actions to ensure that decisions are based on a national perspective rather than on a more limited scope. This Plan provides detailed management direction for resources and people using the river under the guidance of the Forest Land Management Plan. The Plan will be reviewed annually and revised as needed.

The Chattooga River forms south of Highlands, North Carolina, and flows south for about 10 miles before leaving the state and forming the boundary between Georgia and South Carolina for 40 miles. The river ends at Lake Tugaloo, where a series of hydroelectric dams have flooded the river.

The terrain is very rugged, as the river drops almost 1/2 mile over numerous rapids and waterfalls. The Chattooga offers some of the most challenging white water in the southeast, and floating use by both commercial and private individuals has increased dramatically in the last 15 years.

The Chattooga is also a major recreation attraction for numerous fishermen who consider it to be the premier trout fishing stream in South Carolina and one of the best in Georgia. Fishermen tend to congregate at the major stocking points of Long Bottom Ford, Highway 28 Bridge, Burrell's Ford, and Bull Pen. However, many seek the recreational value of a hike into the more remote reaches between Burrell's Ford and the Highway 28 Bridge.

Only 4 bridges span the more than 45 miles of nearly solid National Forest ownership along the main river, and roads are limited. The 60 miles of foot trails permit hikers, hunters, and fishermen to leave behind civilization and motor vehicles and experience challenge and solitude only a few hours from major population centers such as Atlanta and Columbia.

Congress established a corridor averaging 1/4 mile wide on either side of the river to protect the river environment. Public use of motorized vehicles within this corridor is generally prohibited except on the few miles of existing roads that remain open. Off-road vehicle use is prohibited.

In 1975 Congress designated the Ellicott Rock Wilderness on the upper headwaters. They enlarged the Wilderness in 1984, and the Chattooga flows through the area for more than 5 miles.

Facilities within the corridor are generally primitive, and designed to protect the environment by controlling human use rather than by providing extensive facilities such as major campgrounds. Facilities for using the river are essentially adequate for most use. Fourteen parking lots with trails to the river exist. Hiking trails traverse much of the corridor above Highway 76 providing access.

Completion of the Chattooga Hiking Trail from Bull Pen Bridge to Highway 76 Bridge along the river resulted in increased hiking and dispersed camping within the corridor boundary, shifting use away from the heavily used Ellicott Rock Wilderness.

Use patterns have stabilized on the river, although use continues to rise. Floating is limited to the 26 mile portion below Highway 28 Bridge and the West Fork's lower 4 miles in Georgia. Sections of the river designated I-IV are open to boating with each section providing progressively more difficult white water than the preceding one.

## II. ADMINISTRATION

### A. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

#### Description

Sixty-eight percent of the river is classified WILD, where travel will be by foot or boat only. (See map in Appendix C.) Motor vehicle use will be for emergencies only—fire or search and rescue. Five percent of the river is classified SCENIC, composed of portions where bridges cross the river. About 27% of the river is classified as RECREATION. These are areas that were under cultivation or contained roads and houses at the time of classification. They may be managed to accommodate visitors using motor vehicle access to the river, or to provide wildlife habitat. Since road closures five to ten years ago, parts of these areas are reverting, through natural regeneration, to a pristine appearance once again.

The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is a land classification system which categorizes National Forest land into six classes, each class being defined by its setting and by the probable recreational experiences and activities it affords. ROS does not attempt to delineate the best experience but determines what recreation the resource is presently providing and what potential for change from present exists, if any.

Land Management Plans for the three Forests list three ROS classes for land within the Chattooga River Corridor: Semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM), Semi-primitive motorized (SPM) and Roaded natural (RN). (See the LMP and ROS users' guides for more detailed explanation.) Experience levels can be described by several factors.

EXPERIENCE LEVEL	PEOPLE CONTACT	CONTROLS EVIDENT	ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION
SPNM	Low	Not evident	Not generally evident
SPM	Low	Not evident	Not generally evident
RN	Medium	Evident/but subdued	Modification can be discerned but natural environment dominates.

Most land within the Chattooga River Corridor falls within the semi-primitive experience. Numerous people may use the river at the same time, but bends and rapids prevent long sight distances, and falling water mutes sounds. Numerous other rivers, i.e., Ocoee, Chattahoochee, Nantahala, and French Broad, provide white water floating experiences but are unable to provide a semi-primitive experience due to developments including highways and railroads paralleling the river. Management will be geared to feature challenging, semi-primitive experiences in the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River Corridor.

### Objectives

The Act establishing the Wild and Scenic River program 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."

Only 3 other rivers were found in an analysis of 48 rivers within a 250 mile radius of the Chattooga that provide quality white water rafting in a natural setting where a governmental agency could protect the scenic and isolation qualities. Since 99% of shoreline for the Chattooga's main stream in Georgia and South Carolina is federally owned, this may be the only stream in the south where these experiences may be retained, as developments change other rivers.

Management will provide a range of recreational opportunities characteristic of, and in harmony with, the nature of the individual river segments. This can be related to Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC), or the amount of human-caused change to biophysical or social components tolerable without the loss of river environment character. This is measured by indicators--various selected items serving as a sign or symptom signifying any characteristic change in the river's environment. For the Chattooga managers will seek to:

Manage WILD sections to (1) preserve the river and its immediate environment in a natural, wild, and primitive condition essentially unaltered by man's effects, and (2) provide water-oriented recreational opportunities in a primitive setting.

Manage SCENIC sections to (1) maintain and enhance the high-quality scenery, (2) provide river-oriented recreation, and (3) minimize impacts from existing roads and bridges that carry traffic across the corridor.

Manage RECREATION sections to provide (1) compatible outdoor recreational opportunities and water-oriented recreational facilities, and (2) utilize other resources and permit other activities which maintain or enhance the quality of the wildlife habitat, fisheries, scenic attraction, or recreational values.

## B. ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY

### Forest Supervisors

The Forest Supervisor, Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests, is responsible for administering public use and special use permits involving use of the main river or banks between Georgia and South Carolina. The Forest Supervisor, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests, is responsible for West Fork administration. The Forest Supervisor, National Forests in North Carolina, is responsible for the river in North Carolina. Forests will meet annually to evaluate progress and discuss needs.

### District Rangers

The Andrew Pickens District Ranger is responsible for:

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

Earl's Ford (S.C.)	Fall Creek
Thrift's Ferry	Sandy Ford (S.C.)
Burrell's Ford	Highway 76
Highway 28	Woodall Shoals

2. Providing cleanup and maintenance at developed and undeveloped sites in South Carolina and at major access points and areas adjacent to the Chattooga River in Georgia where primary access is by boat.
3. Developing use figures and administering river registration system.

4. Administering "River Ranger" program.
5. Administering floating use.
6. Administering motion picture special use permits on main river and West Fork when in conjunction with filming on main river.
7. Monitoring bacterial water quality in the main river between Georgia and South Carolina.

The Tallulah District Ranger is responsible for:

1. Enforcing the Code of Federal Regulations, Regional Forester's and Forest Supervisor's Prohibitions and Orders along the West Fork, and assisting on the main river.
2. Providing cleanup and maintenance along the West Fork.
3. Administering motion picture permits on West Fork not in conjunction with filming on the main river.
4. Providing regulation enforcement, cleanup, and maintenance on National Forest lands within Georgia that are not major floating access points or where principal access is by land.

The Highlands District Ranger is responsible for:

1. Enforcing the Code of Federal Regulations, Regional Forester's and Forest Supervisor's Prohibitions and Orders within the Nantahala National Forest.
2. Providing all administration including special use permits, cleanup and maintenance of developed and undeveloped sites 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. For more details concerning search and rescue, see Section F.

C. PERSONNEL

Efficient administration of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River requires employees knowledgeable in (1) the river's characteristics; (2) regulations and policy; (3) floater and other user group use patterns, capabilities and desires; (4) special use permit administration; and (5) ability to administer a program designed to balance public needs for a limited river resource in the spirit of the Congressional legislation. Because of the need to schedule use administer complex special use permits on the Andrew Pickens District, the Ranger should be assisted by a qualified technician who can be expected to remain in place for a number of years.

Administration in North Carolina and Georgia will not require special personnel or scheduled manning other than law enforcement. District personnel will do needed administration in conjunction with other duties.

Chattooga River administration requires special personnel known as "River Rangers" working under the direction of the District Ranger.

#### Duties

River Rangers will provide information on river and hazard conditions, existing prohibitions and orders, and safety recommendations. They should be qualified to enforce regulations. They will float parts of the river for inspections and cleanup and will be trained to render first aid. River Rangers will be briefed on rescue procedures but will not be expected to be equipped or proficient.

They will collect data, maintain registration boxes, and code and submit forms for entry into the computer. River Rangers will lead search and rescue efforts until relieved by Rescue Squads or Forest Service personnel.

#### Qualifications and Training

River Rangers must be in good physical condition, be good swimmers, and have standard Red Cross First-aid cards. Ability to float Class III rapids is desirable, but skilled candidates may be difficult to find and may require training. Selection should favor personable applicants who can skillfully meet and talk with people and portray the "Good Host" image. A minimum of 16 hours of Forest Service law enforcement training will be required for employees with citation writing authority each year, even though they may be repeat employees. They will need to receive general information about the Chattahoochee, Nantahala, and Sumter National Forests through the District orientation period.

#### Manning

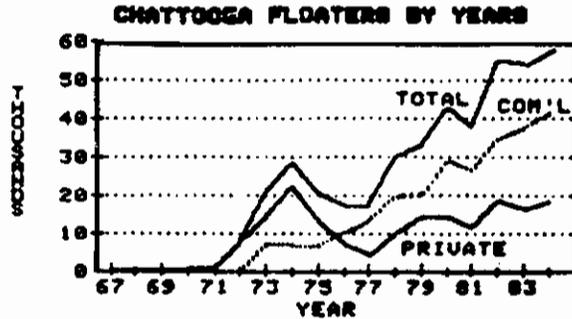
During the main use season (about May 15--September 10), River Rangers will use roving patrols on the river and visitation during peak launching times at Earl's Ford and Highway 76 Bridge to inform floaters of the regulations. Patrols will collect information on commercial trips under special use permit and information to prevent rogue outfitters.

### III. POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

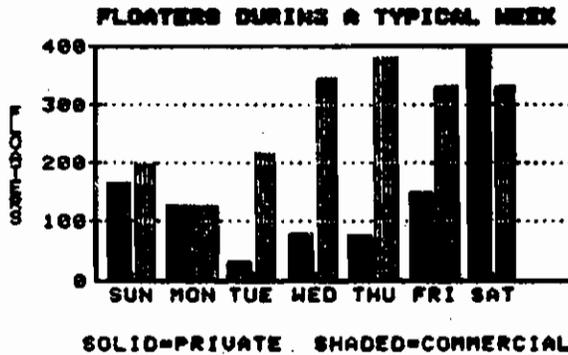
#### A. FLOATING USE

##### 1. Patterns

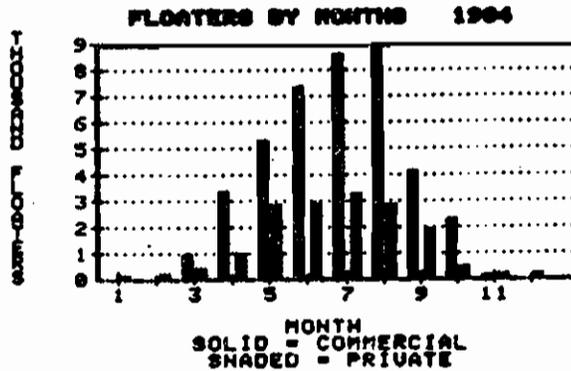
Private floating began slowly in the early 1960s. Commercial rafting began in the early 1970s, following production of a major boating movie on the river. Floating popularity grew very rapidly and is expected to increase 5-10% per year, primarily during the week rather than on weekends. As inexperienced and poorly-equipped individuals encountered very difficult white water, numerous deaths occurred during the early 1970s.



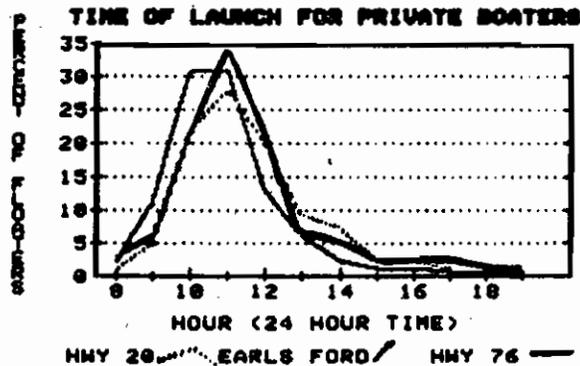
Most private floaters come on weekends or holidays. Commercial rafting and instructional clinics are permitted to carry more clients during the week than on weekends.



More out-of-season use (October to April) is developing as private and commercial floaters acquire suitable equipment which enables them to better withstand cold water and air temperatures.



Private launch times are poorly distributed, with over 2/3s of the launches occurring within a three hour period. Floaters launching in this group on heavy use weekends can expect to have numerous encounters with other floaters as trips do not move at constant speed. Some groups, especially experienced kayakers, travel rapidly, while inexperienced canoeists may spend considerable time scouting rapids. Also people stop for breaks or to empty the water from boats. Commercial launches are well distributed at present to enhance solitude. Better distribution of private launch times, either through information or regulation will be necessary to maintain a quality experience.



## 2. CARRYING CAPACITY

Carrying capacity is the ability of a resource to absorb use and can be expressed in several ways:

- a. Environmental carrying capacity is the amount and type of use permitted before unacceptable resource damage occurs, i.e., soil compaction, water pollution.
- b. Physical carrying capacity is the ability or limitation of the resource to physically meet the demand, i.e., a 90 car parking lot can hold only that many cars.
- c. Social carrying capacity is the amount of use leading to the point where a certain percentage of visitors feel the quality recreation experience declines. When overcrowding is perceived, a visitor may feel less satisfied with the experience but continue, or may stop or move to some less crowded time or location.

Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) offers one method to determine and measure if these carrying capacities are being exceeded. Measurable objectives can be established and monitoring methods defined to determine the amount of change permitted before limits must be imposed on use or management actions, like hardening the site or reducing use, are undertaken.

### Environmental Carrying Capacity

The Chattooga's visual environment has not been affected by increased floating use. Vegetation, soil, rock, gravel, and sand constituting the shoreline reflect no significant damage from floating use. Water-quality monitoring shows continued improvement. Coliform bacterial counts have declined to levels found in most mountain streams with the exception of water entering via Stekoa Creek or following storms.

Water quality monitoring will continue at intervals frequent enough to detect pollution sources to assure water meets appropriate state and federal environmental standards.

It is possible that human waste deposits at heavily-used camping or lunch stops may create a problem. LAC will be established in 1985, and visual checks will monitor the situation. Should limits be exceeded, commercial users (67% of river use) will be required to provide approved portable depositories at problem sites and remove waste from the river corridor.

### Physical Carrying Capacity

Physical carrying capacity can be measured by the number of boats capable of floating down the river in a given time frame (bumper to bumper). This capacity measurement is inappropriate in order to meet the management objectives for the Wild Section. The physical capacity of support facilities (parking lots) is considered appropriate to the number of visitors to the river and maintains a semblance of seclusion in WILD sections. No expansion of support facilities is planned along the river to increase physical carrying capacity. Use will be discouraged when facilities are full.

Parking capacity is exceeded at the Highway 76 Parking Lot on major holidays when the large 90 car lot and the small Georgia lot are full, and numerous cars are parked along the highway. This creates a major safety hazard for pedestrians. Part of this congestion is caused by non-boaters who congregate at Bull Sluice, often spending two to four hours.

To keep LAC within the established capacity, permits for private groups such as paddling clubs, institutions and youth camps, as well as regular commercial permittees and instructional clinics, will be limited on holidays and some weekends.

### Social Carrying Capacity

This is the most difficult and nebulous capacity to set since recreationists have widely divergent perceptions of crowding. This plan will only address experience levels for floaters since fishing, hunting, swimming, horseback riding, and hiking are not concentrated in a manner similar to floating and do not appear to be high enough to be considered.

LAC limits will utilize data derived from previous studies to determine perceptions of visitors toward crowding, problems, reasons for using the Chattooga and attitudes about management options.

Studies reveal floaters are affected by the number of groups, people and boats encountered during a float trip. Analysis of a number of studies indicated a preference for not passing or being passed by more than 40 people in more than 3 groups occupying no more than 15 crafts. However these limits would be very difficult to obtain due to the irregular private floating patterns. Floating is greatest on weekends, with peaks at Fourth of July, Memorial Day, and Labor Day. Typical private weekday floating is only 1/6 to 1/3 of Saturday's use. Commercially guided float trip outfitters may conduct more trips during weekdays than weekends to take advantage of the unused capacity. Thus Management Direction encourages commercial use on weekdays and restricts weekend use.

#### Use/Limits

Field observations and use records indicate that river use is nearing the maximum during peak times on weekends that should be permitted under Wild and Scenic River objectives to provide challenging experiences in a natural-appearing environment where people are not the dominating factor. The following policies will be continued or implemented to ensure these objectives are met. Group size is important to solitude and congestion as large groups can take a long time clearing difficult rapids. All float trips (commercial, organized groups and private parties) will be limited to no more than 12 crafts or 40 people.

The following chart shows the daily capacity permitted on the river for various seasons and types of users. Organized groups like clubs are included in the private allocation. The limited amount of clinic use on Section III will be in addition to figures shown below and will be regulated by operating plans.

SEASON		SECTION III			SECTION IV		
May 1-Sep 30 HIGH	PRIVATE	Total	People/	Groups/	Total	People/	Groups/
		People	Hour	Hour	People	Hour	Hour
	Weekend	175	50	6	80	30	4
	Weekday	125	40	4	50	20	3
	COMMERCIAL	Weekday	Weekend	Weekday	Weekend		
		6	4	6	3		
Mar 20-Apr 30 MEDIUM	PRIVATE	Total	People/	Groups/	Total	People/	Groups/
		People	Hour	Hour	People	Hour	Hour
	Weekend	135	40	4	60	20	3
	Weekday	100	30	3	50	20	3
	COMMERCIAL	Weekday	Weekend	Weekday	Weekend		
		6	4	3	3		
Nov 1-Mar 19 LOW	PRIVATE	Total	People/	Groups/	Total	People/	Groups/
		People	Hour	Hour	People	Hour	Hour
	Weekday	60	30	3	40	20	2
	Weekend	60	30	3	40	20	2
	COMMERCIAL	Weekday	Weekend	Weekday	Weekend		
		3	3	3	3		

Current use exceeds these limits on peak weekends associated with Memorial Day, July Fourth and Labor Day. However most people coming on these holiday weekends do not expect to find solitude. No limits on private, non-organized individuals on these three weekends will be placed during this planning cycle. Should use rise above the chart's limits, steps to curtail use will be undertaken. Use on Sections I and II is not high enough to anticipate needing restrictions during the next five years.

Operating plans for commercial clinics and raft trips minimize encounters on Section III by scheduling most commercial use ahead of private launches at Earl's and Sandy Fords and after private launches at Highway 76. The same situation occurs on Section IV. Present actual commercial use is similar to the allocation shown in the chart. However the special use permits authorize additional trips that have not been utilized on weekends. Should additional Section III weekend trips be initiated, they would encounter numerous private users. New special use permits, issued when the present permits expire December 31, 1988, will permit use the lesser amount shown in the chart.

Spacing requirements between commercial raft trips, in use for the past several years (generally 45 minutes for Section III trips and 60 minutes for Section IV), will be continued and more frequent trips not permitted. Private floaters will be given information on to aid in selecting little used times and locations in order to reduce crowding voluntarily. Steps will be taken to develop good control over organized groups and limit size, number and timing of trips to reduce congestion. Permits for organized groups during peak times will be limited to encourage use on lesser used times or sections.

To stay current with user preference, the Forest Service or a cooperating institution of higher learning should use a National River Research Questionnaire about every five years to detect changes in user preferences.

### 3 PERMITS

Special use permits provide a means for offering recreational opportunities that many private individuals could not otherwise enjoy. The difficulty of safely running white water, expensive equipment needed, and high skill level needed required indicate that highly competent rafting and instructional clinics and guides are needed to accommodate a portion of the Chattooga's floaters. However, commercial trips must not be allowed to eliminate all private floating opportunities.

#### Commercial

Commercial use on the Chattooga is regulated through special use permits authorizing scheduled raft trips, canoe/kayak training clinics, shuttle service for boats and people, and incidental canoe and kayak instructional trips on an infrequent basis. All commercial uses require a special use permit. Commercial uses include activities where the permittee or any of his employees make a profit; receive a reimbursement of salary; receive rental for equipment; increase the value of his facilities, equipment, etc.; or support in any part, other programs or activities from amounts received from customers. This includes guiding or

transporting persons and providing equipment, supplies, or materials. Special use permits may be issued when the use does not conflict with Forest Service policy on outfitter and guides, 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 if there is a bona fide sharing of expenses and no fee, charge, or other compensation is collected from individual participants in excess of expenses incurred. Nonprofit status under Internal Revenue Service or Postal regulations does not determine whether a trip arranged by an organization is non-commercial. The Forest Service is not obligated to issue a permit or accommodate a desire of an individual applicant. Both temporary or transient land occupancy and annual renewable special use permits may be granted. Special use permit issuance will not establish nor set up a system of area allocation or permanence of operation which might deny use by others. The following items apply to special use permits:

- a. The Andrew Pickens District has authority to issue temporary or transient land occupancy special use permits with standard clauses specifying the limited areas and time periods.
- b. Permittees must complete and submit the Chattooga River registration forms.
- c. Permittees will provide an annual operating plan which shows their operational details.
- d. 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 and vehicles in a safe and reasonable manner." Failure to comply with permit requirements may be grounds for revoking the permit.
- e. The permittee must comply with State and Federal laws and regulations relating to use of the National Forest lands and waters and assumes full responsibility for employees' conduct and client's actions.
- f. All permittees will be required to carry liability insurance "where public liability might exist."
- g. Permittees shall carry out all of their litter and garbage.
- h. No organized races will be allowed on the river.
- i. Special use permits for commercial operations will require approval of operating plans limiting launch times and locations, lunch times and locations, and timing between trips at various water levels to minimize encounters.

- j. No more than three commercially guided float (raft) trip operations will be permitted. The following conditions apply to these raft permits:
  1. Rafts refer to the generally accepted craft in use for the last decade, holding four to six people, that are over four feet wide and not to the newly-developed inflatable kayaks.
  2. Raft trips will follow an operating plan designed to reduce encounters between trips and private floaters.
- k. No more than five regular commercial training clinics (canoe and kayak) will be permitted. These are for the training of individuals in specific white water skills, primarily on short river segments and are not intended as guided float trips employing rafts.
  1. Clinics will be restricted to the portion of river above the Highway 76 Bridge.
  2. A limited number of clinics may be authorized by the operating plan to use the newly designed one or two person inflatable crafts (inflatable canoe/kayak). These will only be permitted on weekdays and above Sandy Ford. Their use will only be a percentage of the entire trip, as they are intended to provide a training opportunity for some members of the clinic who lack the skill to safely handle a hard shell canoe or kayak. However these are not to become float trips dominated by inflatables.
  3. Priority and temporary use will be assigned for each company annually and is subject to change.
  4. Total number of clinics by all companies combined will not exceed two clinics per section/day on weekend days.
1. A single commercial shuttle service can adequately handle the limited number of private floaters requiring shuttle service that can be permitted to use the river.

#### Non-commercial

Special use permits may with the fee waived be issued to organized groups when they are not expected to conflict with other users. Groups may be considered organized which generally include all or part of, but not limited to, the following:

- Have a charter or is a branch of a chartered organization.
- Have written by-laws/guidelines, etc.
- Have established membership lists.
- Have elected officers.
- Are not necessarily limited by numbers of people.
- Are bonded together by common interest.

Forest Service policy requires organized groups on the river to secure permits in order to avoid crowding. Organized groups must notify the Ranger's Office in advance of their trip by submitting a brief operating plan showing date, time of arrival and departure, section, number, and type craft expected. The Ranger District will evaluate the river's ability to carry the trip without adversely impacting other users. The trip may be approved or denied, or approved with modification (time or location) to reduce conflicts. Organized group use without an approved permit is in violation. Each organized group must also complete and submit a Chattooga River registration form at the time of launch.

#### Individual Permits

Self registration stations at West Fork, Highway 28, Earl's Ford, Highway 76, and Woodall Shoals provide forms needed before parties can legally run the Chattooga. Floaters beginning trips at locations without registration stations must deposit a registration slip at one of these stations. Signing this form commits the group to follow Forest Service regulations, and the form serves as the input document for computer analysis of floating trends. (See Appendix.)

#### 4. MONITORING

Administrators will be alert to use patterns to see how actual floating use compares with planned use and to minimize conflicts and congestion. This will also evaluate new trends in equipment that could change longstanding practices.

A computer simulation model is being refined with capacity to predict contacts (passing or being passed by) between groups based on information from the daily user permit form. The model format will be evaluated for compatibility with the Forest Service Data General System. If compatible, this would allow updating printouts and evaluation with visual observations derived while floating the river.

Monitoring every other year will evaluate use. Should contacts exceed management objectives, use limitations may be imposed to protect the experience and provide the desired isolation-seclusion type experience.

#### 5. REGULATIONS

A number of regulations are in effect on the river. Some are shown in Appendix E. Floating north of Highway 28 Bridge is prohibited through a condition of the floater permit under 36 CFR 261.77 (c).

Safety requirements were instituted in 1975 following several years with numerous fatalities and accidents to floaters requiring frequent search and rescue efforts. Accidents are now infrequent, averaging one fatality every other year.

## B. CAMPING AND PICNICKING

Recreational developments within the Chattooga Corridor are limited. Most overnight camping occurs at Federal, State, and County campgrounds from 5 to 20 miles from the river, and the visitors drive to the river for the day. No developed picnic areas exist in the corridor though visitors are welcome to sit on a rock or the grass and enjoy the scenery while eating.

Very few boaters carry camping gear on the river due to the difficulty of the rapids and amount of water entering boats. However, the rafting companies are developing a limited number of overnight trips. Usually the camping gear is carried by others over land to the camping site rather than down river.

Considerable backpack camping takes place, primarily in the area north of Highway 28 where floating is prohibited. At one time resource damage in the Ellicott Rock Wilderness along the Chattooga River was very evident. This consisted of mutilated trees, large bare spots, and large fire rings. However, better administration by Wilderness Rangers and shifts in use have greatly improved this situation.

The Burrell's Ford camping area provides tables, water, campsites, and toilets. This area is closed to vehicular access and is reached by a 350 yard foot trail.

The only "primitive" camping areas open to vehicular access are Long Bottom Ford on the main river and West Fork in Georgia on the West Fork. Facilities provided include vehicle control barriers, bulletin boards, trash containers, and toilets.

Numerous designated camping areas along the river are marked with small signs. Visitors traveling by foot or boat may elect to camp in a designated site or may select an undesignated site located more than one-fourth mile from a road, 50 feet from the river or a tributary stream, or 50 feet from a hiking or horse trail. Individuals desiring to camp at sites not designated or meeting these criteria must apply for a free permit from the Ranger's Office. This will be granted unless problems are foreseen.

Permanent toilets will not be constructed within WILD sections of the river corridor. If monitoring determines significant health or visual problems develop at outfitter and clinic overnight campsites, outfitters will be required to provide containers and remove their waste to an approved disposal.

Personnel will continue to monitor remote campsites. Should resource damage be unacceptable, closure will be employed.

### C. FISHING

The Chattooga is considered to be the best trout stream in South Carolina and one of the best in Georgia. It has the size and volume to permit quality fly fishing in a very attractive setting. This is especially true on the undeveloped section north of the Highway 28 Bridge where floating use is not permitted to provide quality trout fishing. The upper portion has colder water that is more conducive to natural regeneration. Fishing pressure, especially near the bridges where access is good, is heavier than natural reproduction can replace. These areas are stocked by the states using hatchery grown trout.

Fish stocking from wheeled vehicles will be permitted at Burrell's Ford Bridge and Campground, Nicholson Field Road in Georgia, Ridley Field, Highway 28 Bridge, Long Bottom Ford, and Bull Pen Bridge on the main river and at locations along the West Fork. Helicopter stocking will be permitted in inaccessible areas in an effort to distribute fish. However, helicopter stocking in the Ellicott Rock Wilderness (between Bull Pen and Burrell's Ford Bridges) is prohibited.

A joint Forest Service/ State Wildlife department study is needed to see if measures to enhance fisheries are needed following direction provided by the Wild and River Act.

### D. WILDLIFE

Numerous species of wildlife make their homes in the Chattooga River Corridor. Hunting pressure is not heavy, primarily due to the rugged terrain and lack of timber harvesting needed to increase browse. Little conflict exists between hunting and other recreational uses since hunting occurs at times of the year when fewer floaters are present. The only direct wildlife habitat management takes place in the recreational section near Highway 28 which contains several large fields that were cultivated when in private ownership.

Mechanized cultivation of these old fields may be done to maintain landscape variety, provide openings and trees and shrubs beneficial to wildlife habitat, and provide a seed source for wildlife habitat work.

### E. TRAILS

Hiking trails along and near the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River and the Ellicott Rock Wilderness provide a very popular system for fishermen, backpackers, and day users. This inventory lists trails beginning at the headwaters and progressing downstream. Guidelines for trail management and maintenance are found in the "Trails South" booklet.

Trails are located away from the river along much of the distance to reduce encounters with floaters, hikers, and fishermen in an effort to provide more solitude.

Parallel trails on both sides of the river will not be developed along any portion of the river to minimize the impact of hikers on the river.

Existing

Chattooga River Loop Trail (NC)--A .5 mile loop beginning at the Chattooga Parking Lot and ending at the Bull Pen Bridge.

Chattooga River Trail (NC)--Beginning at Bull Pen Bridge, extends 1.0 mile northward along the river's west bank. An additional 2 miles remain to be built.

Ellicott Rock Trail (NC)--Begins at Bull Pen Road and runs 3.5 miles southwest to a ford 50 yards above Ellicott Rock and extends 3.5 miles west to Road 441 near Scotsman's Creek.

Chattooga River Trail (SC, GA)--Begins at North Carolina/South Carolina line and runs 17.3 miles downstream to the Highway 28 Bridge, crosses the Chattooga and runs another 20.0 miles to the Highway 76 Bridge. Portions of the Bartram and Foothills Trails also follow the Chattooga Trail. The trail is complete except for a footbridge across the West Fork in Georgia.

The East Fork Trail (SC)--Begins at the Chattooga Picnic Area and descends 2.5 miles to the river. This trail receives very heavy use, especially the first .25 mile. A loop in the trail crossing a bridge carries part of the traffic back to the picnic area.

The Burrell's Ford Fisherman Trail (SC)--The 1.5 miles portion of the Foothills Trail lying along the river in use before the campground was constructed. This trail is not shown on maps or signed on the ground in an effort to route hikers on the Chattooga Trail away from the river at this point to reduce congestion.

Spoonauger Trail (SC)--Beginning at Chattooga River Trail and extending .25 mile to Spoonauger Falls.

King Creek Trail (SC)--Beginning at Burrell's Ford Campground and extending .5 mile to King Creek Falls.

Foothills National Recreation Trail (SC)--Enters river corridor at Licklog Creek and extends 8.7 miles to Medlin Ridge where it leaves the corridor and heads to Highway 107. Much of this trail follows the Chattooga Trail.

Bartram National Recreation Trail (GA)--Enters river corridor at Dick's Creek and extends 10 mile to Highway 28 following the same right-of-way as the Chattooga River Trail.

Earl's Ford (SC) - Portage (SC)--A major portage trail beginning at the parking lot and extending 450 yards to river.

The Sandy Ford Portage Trail (SC)--A minor portage trail extends from the Sandy Ford Road 500 yards to the river.

The Fall Creek Portage Trail (SC)--A newly-completed major portage trail extending from Road 769 about 0.5 mile to the river.

Dick's Creek Trail (GA)--Extends from Road 9 about 0.5 mile to the river.

Licklog Trail (GA)--Extends from the Bartram Trail 0.1 mile to Dick's Creek Falls.

The Tilly Branch or Thrift Ferry Trail (SC)--A major portage trail extending from the end of Road 795 about 500 yards to the river.

The Highway 76 Portage Trail (SC)--A major portage trail surfaced with asphalt beginning at the Highway 76 Parking Lot and Information Station and extending 200 yards to the river for boater access. An unpaved spur leads to Bull Sluice rapid.

Sutton Hole Trail (GA)--Extends from Road 290-A about 0.3 mile to the river.

Woodall Shoals Portage (SC)--A major portage trail beginning at Woodall Shoals Parking Lot and extending 330 yards to the river.

Camp Creek Trail (GA)--Extends from Road 511 about 0.4 mile to the river.

Raven Rock Trail (GA)--Extends from Road 511B about 0.8 mile to the river.

Opossum Creek Trail (SC)--Begins at Road 755 and descends for 1.5 miles to the river. This is a non-standard trail, the result of early logging skid trails and roads. Portions are eroding heavily. Erosion control is needed, but measures to increase use such as signing or including on maps should be avoided to prevent enticing spectators into the Five Falls area.

Three Forks Trail (GA)--Begins at Teague Gap on the Overflow Road and runs 2 miles to the Three Forks Area of the West Fork.

#### FUTURE

Horse Trail (SC and GA)--Over the last 10-15 years, horse owners have developed an unofficial network of trails as they sought a location to ride. Much of the use originates at the undeveloped Sandy Ford Campsite along Whetstone Road in South Carolina. Riders cross the Chattooga at Earl's Ford and Sandy Ford. Approximately 7 miles exist in Georgia and about 14 miles exist in South Carolina. Approximately 1/4 of this network is within the Chattooga River Corridor.

The primary areas of conflict are at Earl's Ford where horses must cross among numerous swimmers and boaters and in Georgia where horses are sometimes ridden along the Bartram and Chattooga hiking Trails.

A study will be made to determine compatibility of horse trails with existing Wild and Scenic River uses within the River Corridor during FY 86. Closure regulations, signing, barriers, and discussions with riding groups will be used to reduce conflicts. No facilities for horse users (stalls, corrals, unloading ramps, or water systems) will be permitted within the corridor. Animals must be tethered away from trees to avoid compaction of soil around trees and debarking of trees.

These horse trails will be analyzed for possible placement on the trail system. Trail planning to determine optimum location and maintenance needs will be undertaken.

#### F. SEARCH AND RESCUE

Local sheriff departments and rescue squads have basic responsibility for search and rescue. District personnel will maintain close contact with these organizations and cooperate in search and rescue efforts.

Employees, upon being notified of lost or injured persons or accidents, will contact the appropriate sheriff's department, rescue squad, and District Ranger's Office. A River Ranger will lead search and rescue efforts until the sheriff's department or rescue squad arrives, or until relieved by other Forest Service personnel. Outfitters and experienced private boaters provide valuable assistance in rescue operations. This quick assistance prevents numerous tragedies as several hours are usually needed to get word to a rescue squad and for them to reach the remote location.

A Forest representative will accompany search and rescue parties when directed by District Ranger. Over the years, rescue squads have developed a policy to search only during daylight hours unless there is a known injury, or the missing individual(s) is under 16 years of age or elderly or severe weather is anticipated. Normally, the full scale search will start the following day, as most lost persons manage to find the way out by this time. For other emergency operations, see FSM 1590.

#### G. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND VISITOR PROTECTION

Numerous private vehicles have been broken into or vandalized while parked at access areas. Enforcing laws to protect visitors on National Forest land is the sheriff department's responsibility.

Forest Service personnel will encourage sheriffs to take an active role in visitor protection. Additional or expanded Co-op Law Enforcement Programs will be investigated. Forest Service patrols will check for illegal activities and provide information to sheriffs and assistance to people who are victimized. Messages to alert visitors to safeguard their possessions will be included on bulletin boards and in publications.

Commercial river trips operating illegally without necessary special use permits are known as "Rogue" outfitters. These frequently run substandard trips and interfere with scheduled trips by other commercial special use permittees and organized groups as well as private floaters.

The Forest Service will continue to investigate reports of rogue outfitters and prosecute when sufficient evidence is obtained.

#### H. SAFETY

The Chattooga has very dangerous white water for inexperienced or poorly-equipped floaters. Numerous fatalities occurred during the early 1970s before safety programs were implemented. The Regional Forester prescribed equipment needed to float certain sections, and this is made a condition of floating when trip leaders complete a self-registration slip before starting their trip. (See Appendix.)

Self-registration facilities are on the West Fork, S.C. Highway 28, Earl's Ford, Highway 76, and Woodall Shoals. Persons launching at other locations must use one of these registration facilities.

Some people launch or retrieve boats at the Highway 76 Bridge site in Georgia. They take up parking space needed by hikers at this important trailhead and miss the Forest Service information displays and Forest Service personnel at the main parking and launch area across the river. After the abandoned steel truss bridge is gone, a regulation should be prepared to require all floaters to use the South Carolina side of the river. This will expose them to floater information, regulations, River Rangers, and make adequate parking available for hikers at the Chattooga trailhead.

Forest Service employees and volunteers will observe all required safety conditions of use in their day-to-day administration of the river.

The Andrew Pickens District will complete a form for all serious injuries reported on the main river in Georgia and South Carolina. The Highlands Ranger and the Tallulah Ranger will be responsible for 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; when killed, injured, or lost; witnesses (if any); type of equipment (if applicable); time and date of incident; violation of regulations (if any); and a short narrative of incident.

#### I. INFORMATION AND INTERPRETATION

The Chattooga River Information Service program will give the public:

- A general idea of the Wild and Scenic River System's purpose, management, and protection.
- Recreational information on and near the river.
- An understanding for personal safety, equipment needs, regulations and availability of commercial services, proper care of the river's unique environment, and the "No Trace Ethic."
- Information on scenic, geologic, and historical features of the area.

Many of these messages are contained on a map showing river floating, trail system, access points, and primitive campsites.

Bulletin boards provide information at the following major access points: Bull Pen, Burrell's Ford, S.C. Highway 28 lot in Georgia, Highway 28 access area in S.C., Earl's Ford, U.S. Highway 76, and Woodall Shoals. Bulletin boards at boating access points will provide as a minimum, the regulations, emergency phone numbers, and recommended safety precautions.

An information site at the Highway 76 parking area provides exhibits and toilets. Information panels cover: Wild and Scenic River rules and regulations; safety recommendations; locations of other recreational opportunities in the surrounding area; and general information about the National Forests in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. A large scale four color map printed on waterproof plastic covers most of the visitors' questions. A River Ranger is on duty at Highway 76 during high use periods providing an opportunity for the public to obtain additional information. Guides on commercial trips provide information and interpretation of river features to clients on trips.

#### J. VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers offer opportunities to extend services to the public that would be unavailable due to shortage of funds. Efforts will continue to involve individuals, organizations, and outfitters in activities such as trail maintenance, cleanup, and information dissemination. Volunteers can assist in disseminating and encouraging low impact use practices and provide a "Good Host" image.

#### K. INTERPRETATIVE ASSOCIATIONS

Forest Service policy permits non-profit associations to develop a partnership relationship between Forest Service and interested citizens. An association operates under direction of a Board of Directors that makes proposals to the Forest Service for approval. Profits from sale of approved items (publications, craft items, patches, etc.) are used to fund National Forest activities. Forest Service buildings and employees may be used to make sales.

The Andrew Pickens Ranger District will investigate feasibility of an association to further river and District programs and submit a report to the Forest Supervisors.

#### L. COOPERATION

Numerous organizations and agencies cooperate with the Forest Service concerning the river and adjacent lands. The situation is running smoothly and problems are not foreseen.

These include:

- County Councils in S.C., Ga., and N.C.
- Game and Fish Commissions in S.C., Ga., and N.C.
- Sheriffs Departments in S.C., Ga., and N.C.
- State Highway Departments in S.C. and Ga.
- Office of Emergency Preparedness (Rescue Squad) in S.C., Ga. and N.C.
- Departments of Health and Environmental Control in S.C., Ga., and N.C.
- Georgia Power Company with Lake Tugaloo.

#### M. ACQUISITION

Acquiring fee simple title to all lands within the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River boundary is in the public interest. Condemnation of land is prohibited by the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act.

Land acquisition programs have been very successful in obtaining river frontage from willing sellers or through exchange. Acquisition of frontage on the main river in Georgia is complete, and only a few hundred feet remain in South Carolina. Several miles of private frontage remain in both North Carolina and on the West Fork in Georgia. Structures on acquired lands will continue to be removed and natural conditions restored. The Forest Service should continue to acquire in fee, lands identified in the Acquisition Plan on a willing seller basis. Acquire rights or ownership to a takeout point on Lake Tugaloo to permit upgrading road and parking facilities to provide greater safety while maintaining traditional uses. Scenic easements will be considered only when extensive negotiations indicate that acquisition to prevent impairment of the scenic quality or basic resource by fee simple title is impossible.

#### N. MAINTENANCE AND CLEANUP

Mechanized equipment will be permitted for Forest Service programs such as trail maintenance, wildlife habitat improvement, fire management, and recreation administration, where equipment use will not seriously interfere with recreational experiences and significant savings in time or funds are expected or equipment is the only way feasible to accomplish the task. Use will be scheduled to minimize conflicts by selecting low-use dates or time of day.

Vehicular access points have solid-waste disposal containers and regularly scheduled pick ups. Access points are cleaned as listed on the following chart. Cleanup during off-season will be as needed.

A "pack it in--pack it out" policy will be encouraged for all use inside the corridor. Outfitters assist in keeping the river clean, and Forest Service crews check areas accessible by foot and float inaccessible areas along the river to keep them clean.

CLEANUP SCHEDULE  
SEASON  
May 15 - September 15

Area	Responsibility			Once Per Week	Twice Per Use Season
	GA	SC	NC		
Bull Pen			X	X	
Ellicott Rock		X			X
Burrell's 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	
Ridley Field Parking Lot		X		X	
Hwy. 28 Parking Lot		X		X	
Long Bottom Ford		X		X	
Earl's Ford (SC side)		X		X	
Earl's Ford (GA side)	X				X
Dick's Creek Falls		X			X
Sandy Ford (GA)	X				X
Sandy Ford (SC)		X			X
Lick Fork		X			X
Fall Creek		X			X
Thrift's Ferry		X			X
Hwy. 76, Bull Sluice and Bridge		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

0. ACCESS

Wild and Scenic River legislation seeks primarily to provide challenging experiences where visitors rely on their own strength and skill to visit the river on its own terms rather than through man's modifications. The management plans considered by Congress called for closing most roads at the corridor boundary to provide an experience different from most National Forest Lands. Exceptions included major roads such as Highway 76 and Bull Pen along with roads in the recreation section near Highway 28.

To date most roads have been closed at the corridor boundary. Prescriptive rights have blocked closure at Earl's and Sandy Fords in Georgia. However, efforts should continue to reduce access at these points. Gates will be maintained at a limited number of areas where access is needed for emergency programs, wildlife habitat management, fish stocking, and cleanup maintained.

**P. BOUNDARY**

The corridor is marked with intervisible four inch paint bands 1/2 way around trees facing away from the river corridor. Paint color will be No. 15102 or 25102 Blue in GSA Catalog Item 8010-00-680-0144 for Federal Standard No. 595a.

A boundary modification is needed in the vicinity of Warwoman Creek/Earl's Ford in Georgia to bring the corridor to approximately 1/4 mile from the river. Parking facilities are needed outside the corridor.

**Q. SIGNS**

Chattooga portal signs have been repeated targets of vandalism and will not be reinstalled unless local acceptance is anticipated. Words cut into large rocks with a sandblaster will continue to be used for trail signs at high vandalism areas.

Boaters sometimes have difficulty recognizing takeout points. Rustic locust posts (10-12 inches in diameter) with the location's name routed into a flattened side with unpainted letters should be maintained at Earl's Ford, Sandy Ford, Fall Creek, and Thrift Ferry.

**R. ABANDONED HIGHWAY 76 STEEL BRIDGE**

This bridge carried traffic from the early 1900s until replaced by a concrete bridge 50 yards downstream in 1949 when use and maintenance stopped. The wood decking rotted away, and the bridge is now a negative visual impact to all users in the area.

The bridge is also a potential safety hazard, as young people climb on the truss work 40 or more feet above the water. The Development Plan published in the Federal Register called for its removal. This should be carried out as soon as possible using Forest Service funding or a volunteer military unit following the bridge removal plan.

**S. 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.

Insects - Disease--Proposals to control insect outbreaks 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, bulldozers (except within the Ellicott Rock Wilderness that requires Regional approval), 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.

Incendiary activity is high along Highway 28. Prescribed burning has been used since the late 1970s to reduce fuel loads to make fire control more practical and reduce the chances of hot fires that kill the overstory. These prescribed fires have been confined to the side of Russell Mountain away from the Chattooga River. This practice should be continued until managers feel that it is no longer needed.

Special Uses--Permits for new powerlines and roads will be restricted to recreation sections of the river. No occupancy permits will be issued within the river corridor.

Applications for filming permits will be evaluated against their impacts to visitors and the river environments. The Andrew Pickens District will be responsible for filming permits on the main river between Georgia and South Carolina. Should the filming also include scenes on the West Fork, South Carolina will also administer them. Permits involving only West Fork locations will be handled by the Tallulah. Filming in North Carolina will be handled by the Highlands District. Film companies will not use motorized equipment including vehicles, generators, or helicopters in WILD sections. They may only use this equipment in SCENIC sections where the public may use motorized equipment such as parking lots and roads. Electrical cables from generators may be laid to filming sites inside the river corridor.

Minerals--Mineral and energy leasing will require special stipulations which may preclude surface occupancy. Removal of sand or gravel is not permitted on National Forest lands within the river boundary. There are no outstanding mineral rights.

Water Quality--An approved water quality monitoring plan has been prepared. The river has generally moderate to high water quality. Occasional past water pollution is indicated by high coliform counts entering via Stekoa Creek from Georgia.

Coliform levels in Stekoa Creek have greatly declined since the waste water treatment plant in Clayton, Georgia, was improved. Diverse pollution sources including livestock, septic tanks, wildlife, recreation, and community waste disposal systems may continue to infrequently cause coliform levels to exceed water contact standards. Water monitoring will continue since there are potential sources of pollution within the Chattooga watershed which could influence human health.

Russell House--This large, frame farm house replaced an earlier house burned by the Union Army. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. During the early 1970s the house and ten outbuildings served as a visitor center. However, its poor location on Highway 28 (away from the large volume of visitors on Highway 76) resulted in very low visitation, and the project was abandoned.

The Forest Service will continue to seek a third party willing to expend the considerable funds needed to restore and maintain the facility, in return for use of the property under special use permit in a way compatible with the overall good for the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River.

#### T. RESEARCH

Studies to evaluate user perceptions and desires should be encouraged when they can be conducted without detracting from the recreation experience. The Forest Service will cooperate with a university where potential exists to obtain information needed for river management. Research needs include:

1. Software programs to enable running the computer simulation model on Forest Service computers.
2. An economic analysis study to determine the Chattooga's contribution to the local economy.

APPENDIX A. DEVELOPMENT PLAN - SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>DEVELOPED</u> <u>SITE</u>	<u>PARKING</u> <u>LOT</u>	<u>LAUNCH</u> <u>SITE</u>	<u>TRAIL</u>	<u>ACCESS</u> <u>ROAD</u>
Bull Pen	NC	-	I	-	I	-
Burrell's Ford	SC	C	C	-	C	C
Burrell's Ford	GA	-	C	-	-	-
Ridley Field (1)	SC	-	C	-	C	-
Russell Fields	SC	D	C	C	-	-
Earl's Ford	SC	D	C	C	C	C
Earl's Ford	GA	-	I	-	I	I
Dick's Creek	GA	-	D	-	C	-
Sandy Ford (2)	SC	-	C	C	C	C
Sandy Ford	GA	-	I	-	I	I
Buckeye Branch	GA	-	-	-	D	-
Licklog	GA	-	C	D	C	C
Highway 76	SC	D	C	C	C	-
Highway 76	GA	-	I	D	-	-
Sutton Hole	GA	-	I	-	C	P
Woodall Shoals	SC	-	C	C	C	C
Cliff Creek	GA	-	D	-	D	-
Daniel's Creek	GA	-	-	-	C	P
Camp Creek	GA	-	C	C	C	C
Overflow Bridge	GA	-	D	D	-	C
West Fork (3)	GA	C	C	C	-	C
Tugaloo Lake (3)	SC	I	P	P	-	P

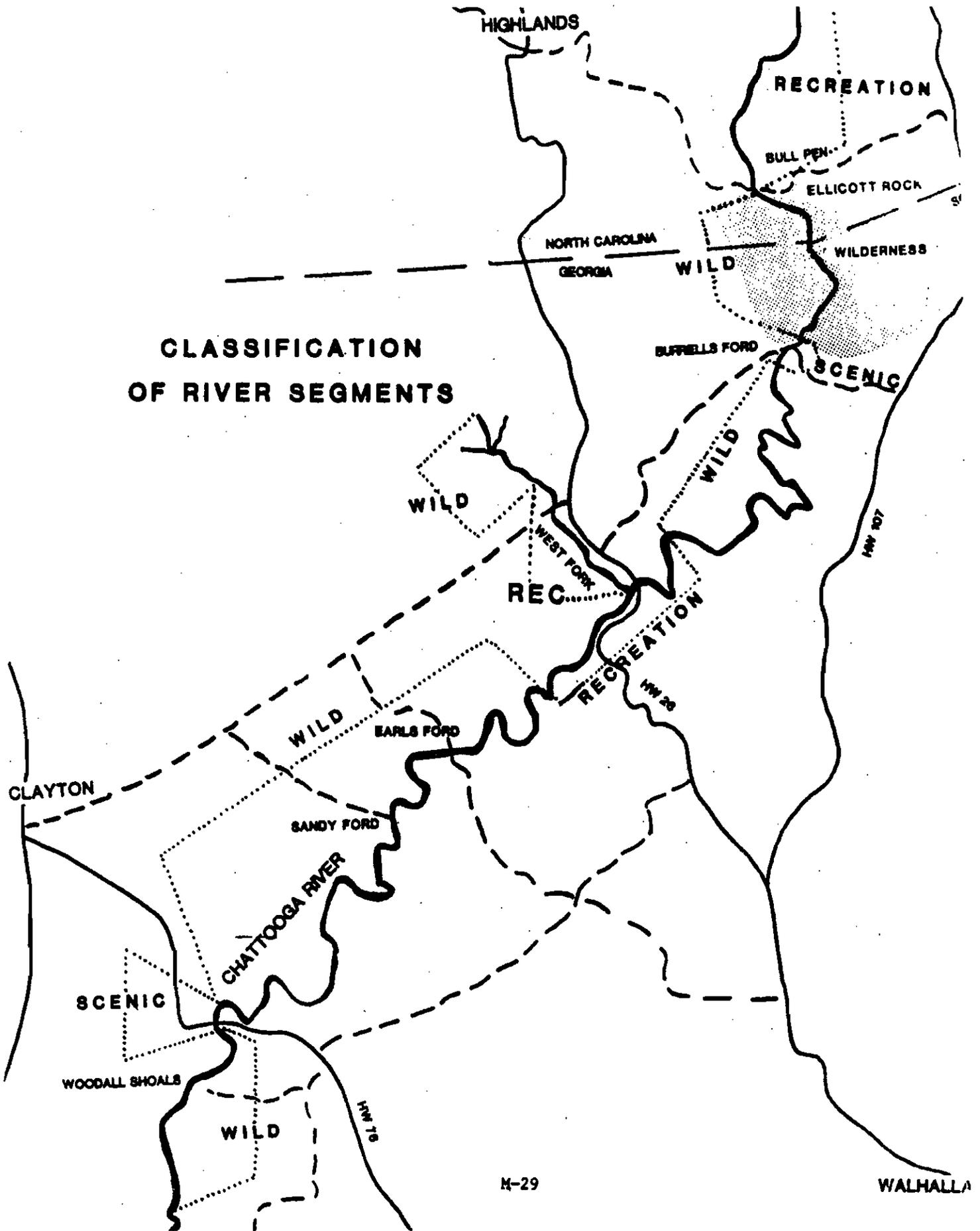
KEY TO SYMBOLS

- Not planned
- C Complete (1 added 1976)
- I Incomplete (2 added 1976)
- D Dropped (3 added 1984)
- P Primitive

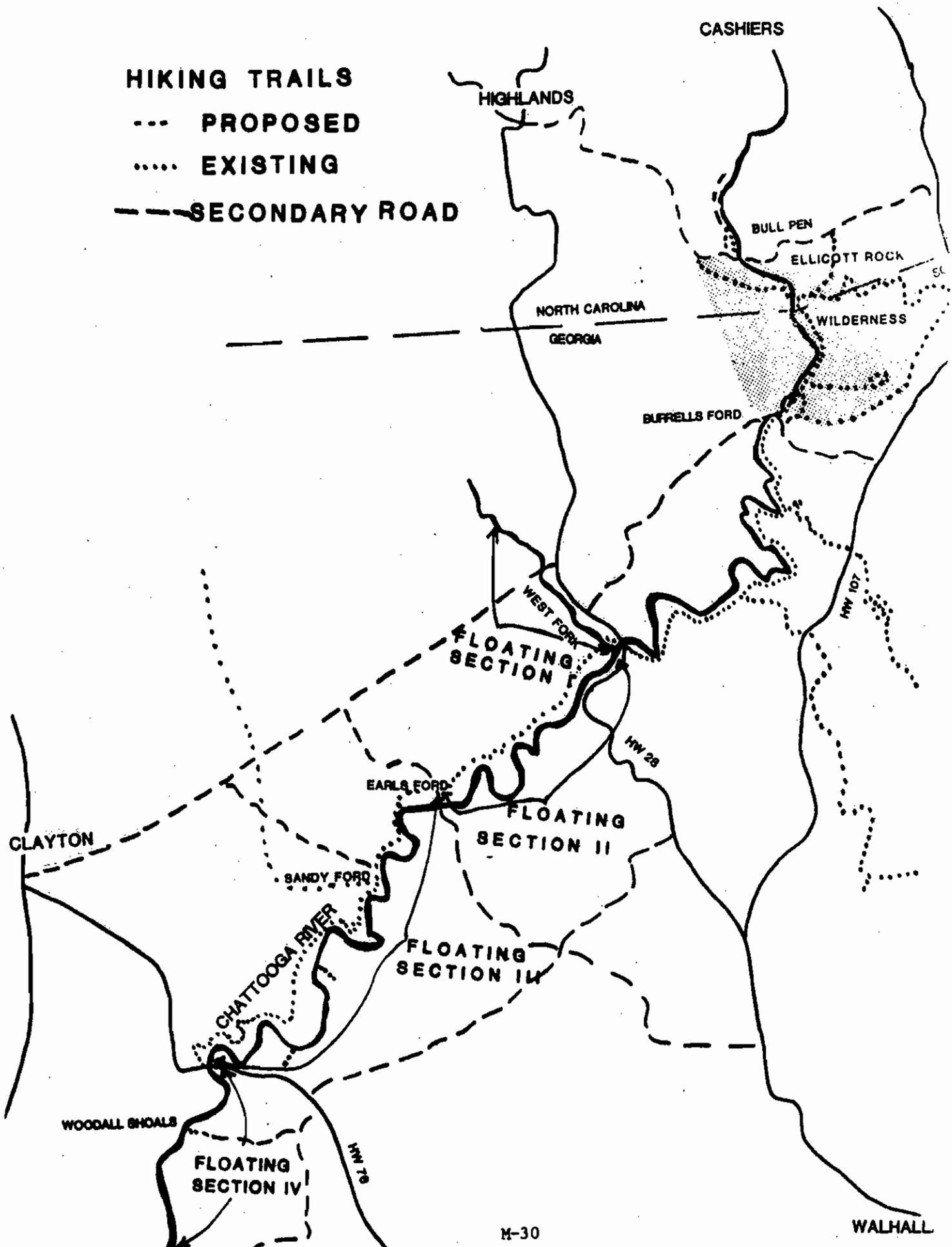
APPENDIX B. JOB LIST

PROJECT	Responsibility	Cost	Priority
<b>Non-recurrent Projects</b>			
Prepare Highway 76 Bridge Removal Plan	SC	-	1
Remove Highway 76 Bridge	SC	\$13,000	3
Remove block building on West Fork	GA	1,000	3
Treat Kudzu at Highway 76 Parking Lot	SC	500	2
Update simulation model	SC	1,000	2
Test simulation model	SC	500	2
Analyze horse trail network	SC & GA	2,000	1
Relocate horse trail from Earl's Ford	SC & GA	5,000	1
Finalize carrying capacity study	SC	3,000	2
Investigate Interpretative Association	SC	-	2
Complete Chattooga Trail north of Bull Pen	NC	10,000	4
Complete Chattooga Trail south of Bull Pen	NC	8,000	3
Complete boundary posting HW 28--Burrel's Ford	SC	2,000	4
Plan Tugaloo Lake Access	SC	8,000	1
Complete Tugaloo Lake Access	SC	125,000	3
Coordinate Tugaloo Road with County	SC	-	2
Plan & install barriers at Long Bottom Ford	SC	2,000	3
Construct parking lots at Sandy & Earl's Forde	GA	22,000	2
Cooperative FS/States fisheries study	SC & GA	3,000	2
<b>Recurrent Projects</b>			
Monitor impact of camping by floaters	SC	1,000	2
Administer private floating	SC	10,000	1
Administer commercial floating	SC	6,000	1
Administer registration system	SC	5,000	1
Cleanup, maintenance, main river, facilities	SC	23,000	1
Cleanup, maintenance, West Fork	GA	2,000	2
Cleanup, maintenance, river in NC.	NC	1,500	2
Administer filming permits	SC (GA)	1,000	2
Assist in search and rescue	SC	500	1
Maintain 33 miles of foot trails	SC	14,000	2
Maintain 23 miles of foot trails	GA	6,000	2
Maintain 5 miles of foot trails	NC	1,000	2
Recruit & supervise volunteers	SC	1,000	2
Acquire land when available	All	-	1
Work to close Earl's and Sandy Ford Roads	GA	2,000	1
Monitor water Quality	SC	4,000	2
Maintain Wildlife habitat projects	SC	4,000	2
Maintain wildlife habitat projects	GA	600	2
Coordinate helicopter-fish stocking	SC	800	2
Annual FS meeting to evaluate management needs	All	800	1

# CLASSIFICATION OF RIVER SEGMENTS



**HIKING TRAILS**  
 - - - PROPOSED  
 ..... EXISTING  
 - - - - SECONDARY ROAD



APPENDIX E

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE

Revised Order No. 33

Date: May 10, 1980

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50 (a) and (b), it is hereby ordered that the prohibitions hereinafter set forth apply to the area known as the CHATTOOGA WILD AND SCENIC RIVER CORRIDOR on the Sumter and Chattahoochee National Forests, which area is depicted on the map below.

The following prohibited acts as set forth in 36 CFR 261.52 are hereby applied to the above described area:

Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire or stove fire within 50 feet of the Chattooga River or any of its tributaries or within one quarter mile of any roadway (36 CFR 261.52(a)).

Exception: Persons occupying areas designated for camping and posted with an official sign. (36 CFR 261.50(e)(1))

The following prohibited acts as set forth in 36 CFR 261.58 are hereby applied to the above described area:

Camping within 50 feet of the Chattooga River or any of its tributaries or within 50 feet of a maintained trail or within one quarter mile of any roadway. (36 CFR 261.58(e))

Exception: Persons occupying areas designated for camping and posted with an official sign, (36 CFR 261.50(e)(1))

Being publicly nude. (36 CFR 261.58(j))

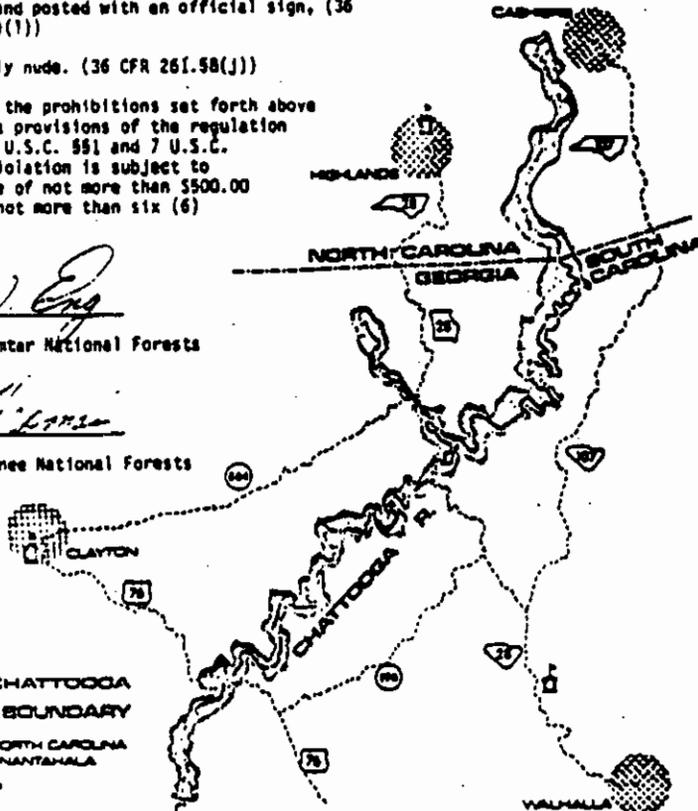
Violation of any of the prohibitions set forth above is prohibited by the provisions of the regulation cited, and under 16 U.S.C. 551 and 7 U.S.C. 1101(f), any such violation is subject to punishment by a fine of not more than \$500.00 or imprisonment of not more than six (6) months, or both.

*Lionel W. Eng*  
Forest Supervisor  
Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests

*W. H. ...*  
Forest Supervisor  
Chattahoochee - Oconee National Forests

WILD AND SCENIC CHATTOOGA RIVER & CORRIDOR BOUNDARY

SOUTH CAROLINA-GEORGIA-NORTH CAROLINA  
SUMTER-CHATTAHOOCHEE-NANTAHALA  
National Forest



§ 261.77

Title 36—Parks, Forests, and Public Property

(are of its users. Violation of any term or condition of such a permit is prohibited.

(42 FR 31789, June 23, 1977)

§ 261.76 Regulations applicable to Region 8, Pacific Northwest Region, as defined in § 200.2. (Reserved)

§ 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 paragraphs (a) or (b) of this section 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 commer-

cial 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 paragraph (d) or (e) of this section is prohibited.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
FRANCIS MARION AND SUMTER NATIONAL FORESTS

In order to implement the regulations issued under authority of 36 CFR 261.70 (a) (7), the following terms and conditions of permit for use of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River was hereby established.

1. Each float party must register.
2. All floating is prohibited north of SC/GA Hwy. 28.
3. Air mattresses, motorized craft or other craft deemed unsuitable by the Forest Service are prohibited.
4. Rafts must have a minimum of two air chambers.
5. Each rafter, canoeist and kayaker above Earle Ford must have a life saving device available.
6. All persons using watercraft below Earle Ford must wear a life jacket rated "Coast Guard Approved."
7. Innertubes are prohibited below Earle Ford.
8. A minimum party size of two persons and two craft is required below Earle Ford.
9. All persons using decked craft and all floaters below Woodall Shoals must wear a helmet.

  
DONALD W. ENG  
Forest Supervisor

 January 8, 1981  
Date