



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Francis Marion and
Sumter National Forests

4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
803-561-4000

File Code: 1570-1

Date: November 9, 2009

Friends of the Upper Chattooga
ATTN: Mr. W. C. Clay
10320 Highlands Highway
Mountain Rest, SC 29664

Dear Mr. Clay:

We are writing to follow up on your October 30, 2009 meeting with Paul Bradley, Forest Supervisor for the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests, regarding the Friends of the Upper Chattooga (FOTUC) appeal of the three National Forest plan amendment decisions on Managing Recreation Uses on the Upper Chattooga River. FOTUC's concerns primarily focus on the tributaries of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River above the Highway 28 Bridge. The group has raised questions about the wording of these decisions, and about our ability to implement and enforce the management of boating on the tributaries. The agency requested a meeting with FOTUC to determine if a clarification of that intention could resolve the group's appeal.

The regulations and Forest closure orders in place for the three National Forests are current and continue to control boating above the Highway 28 Bridge. They will remain in effect until we finalize the plan amendment decisions and issue new regulations and/or orders. To implement and enforce these decisions, we will use a forest closure order on the Nantahala National Forest and a regulation (Code of Federal Regulations or CFR) on the Chattahoochee National Forest and on the Sumter National Forest. The management requirements listed in the plan amendment decisions will become conditions of a permit for boating on the Upper Chattooga River. As revised closure orders/regulations are developed, we will conduct the required public notification to allow interested publics to comment prior to adopting final wording.

Also, we want to assure you that the intent of the plan amendment decisions is to continue the prohibition of boating on tributaries in the Wild and Scenic Chattooga River corridor above the Highway 28 Bridge and that boating on the main stem of the Chattooga is subject to the conditions outlined in the decisions. Part "G" of Standard a1. (Nantahala), 2.A.-1 (Sumter), and 2.A.001 (Chattahoochee) clearly states "No floating/boating in the tributaries."



We thank you and other FOTUC representatives for taking the time to meet with Paul and Tony White. If you have questions or need clarification, please don't hesitate to call them at (803) 561-4081.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Bradley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

PAUL L. BRADLEY
Forest Supervisor
Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests

/s/ Marisue Hilliard

MARISUE HILLIARD
Forest Supervisor
National Forests in North Carolina

/s/ George M. Bain

GEORGE M. BAIN
Forest Supervisor
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests

cc: Ken Arney, Reviewing Officer