From: Timskrbelieve@aol.com
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Chattooga River Project Comments
Date: 07/17/2008 09:20 AM

Dear Sumter National Forest,

My name is Tim Ray, I am a 51 year old canoeist, kayaker, and day hiker from Montevallo, Alabama. I am a public school teacher, and father. I have been enjoying the Chattooga river area for 26 years.

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment regarding the recreational management of the Chattooga River. I disagree with your analysis and your proposal. Both treat me and my community of river enthusiasts unfairly and your proposal would not meet my interests. Please consider the following concerns I have regarding this issue:

No alternative is acceptable because they all include boating bans on the upper Chattooga Cliffs reach and on tributaries – without any justification

The USFS preferred alternative includes a total ban on 2/3 of the upper river, a ban on tributary boating, and allows only 0-6 days of limited boating on the remaining reach – while allowing all other wilderness conforming existing uses in unlimited numbers.. This is not equitable and not acceptable!

Thank you for considering these comments. Please consider conducting a real user capacity analysis and immediately allowing boating in the same numbers, places, and seasons that you allow existing users. Paddling should be allowed in a similar manner to your alternative number 8, except on the *entire* Upper Chattooga River and its tributaries.

Boaters leave very little impact, I am certain it is less then hikers, fisherman, etc. We are being singled out and excluded from the use of a public area.

Overflow Creek in the same area has been boated for over 25 years and shows less impact then just the fisherman and hikers have to the Chattooga headwaters.

Thank you for reading these comments.

I look forward to see what actions you will take.

Thank you.

Tim Ray

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