From:	Anthony Edwards
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Chattooga River Project Comments
Date:	07/22/2008 08:04 PM

Public Comments on the proposed Sumter National Forest Management Plan:

I am Anthony Edwards. I live in Austin, Texas, most of the year and work as an actuary. I spend much of each summer traveling to places cooler, wetter and more mountainous specifically for outdoor recreation. I love the southeast for its whitewater paddling, hiking and climbing. It angers me that my taxpayer money is wasted by managers refusing to follow the science or follow their own process just to continue to ban river boating.

I have been all over this country and Canada where there are excellent rivers being shared by all sorts of recreational users in harmony without degrading the resource. The number of examples of this is too high to count and makes the ban on the Chattooga arbitrary and unprofessional by comparison.

The southeast is the center of river boating for the entire country. It is an embarrassment to have a ban on boating the Chattooga. The USFS has spent thirteen years searching for a reason to limit paddling on the Chattooga and has found none. It is time to open the river to boating. Any Management Plan that does not allow equal access and use to river boaters is a sham. The public should have the right to float on public Wild and Scenic Rivers regardless of who owns the land along the river.

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.

Sincerely,

Anthony Edwards
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