From: gendler801@aol.com
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Chattooga River Project Comments
Date: 07/17/2008 05:43 PM

July 17, 2008

U.S. Forest Service
Chattooga River Project
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212.
comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
RE: Chattooga River Project Comments
Dear Sumter National Forest:
I am a 66-year old whitewater kayaker living in Salt Lake City, UT. Many years ago I made a trip to paddle the Chattooga River. I am also a member of American Whitewater, and American Canoe Association and a board member of the Utah Rivers Council.
I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment regarding the recreational management of the Chattooga River and am puzzled by your analysis and your proposal. I cannot comprehend how you came to the conclusion that paddlers should not be allowed on the Chattooga. I have the following concerns regarding this issue:

- No alternative is acceptable to me because they all include banning boating on the upper Chattooga Cliffs reach and on tributaries.
- I don't see a justification for such a ban. Boaters are less intrusive on the land that fishermen and other allowed uses.
- The proposed alternative will negatively impact protections granted under the Wilderness Act and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act on the Chattooga and other rivers nationwide. All aspects of the "Outstanding Remarkable Values" of Wild and Scenic Rivers should be protected on the entire river, not just in some areas.
- We paddlers would prefer an alternative similar to Alternative 8 but that fully allows boating on the entire Chattooga River below Grimshawes Bridge and on the tributaries. Encounter standards should be based on a real user capacity analysis that equitably limit total use only when encounter standards are consistently exceeded, after first using all available indirect measures first.

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.
Sincerely

Marjorie Gendler
4658 Brookwillow Cove #F
Salt Lake City UT 84117

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