From:	russ buskirk
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Chattooga boating ban
Date:	07/17/2008 01:01 PM

I have been a member of AW for more than 12 years and support their effort to open the Upper Chattooga to boaters, mainly kayaks.

I have followed your dismally slow and blatantly flawed process of the court ordered EA. The outcome is a good example of ineffective and misguided mismanagement of a public resource. As a taxpayer, I expect and demand better results from a government agency charged with managing public lands and resources.
The proposed "solution" is not much better than a total ban and will be unenforcible, leading to further conflicts and confusion.

Below is the alternative I think should be implemented.

Paddlers prefer an alternative similar to Alternative 8 that 1) fully allows boating on the entire Chattooga River below Grimshawes Bridge, 2) allows paddling on tributaries, 3) includes encounter standards based on a real user capacity analysis, 4) will *equitably* limit *total* use only when encounter standards are consistently exceeded, and 5) will do so using all available indirect measures first.

The public should have the right to float on public Wild and Scenic Rivers regardless of who owns the land along the river. Rivers belong to all of us, not just fishermen, campers, hikers and swimmers. Each of these activities impact the river and riparian areas more than boating.

PLEASE OPEN THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVER TO US BOATERS, AS MANDATED IN THE CLASSIFICATION REGULATIONS!

Russ Buskirk
Charleston, SC

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