

December 7, 2015

2015 Chattooga River Boating Access EA

Nantahala National Forest Service

Objection Resolution Agreement

On July 13, 2015, you filed an objection on behalf of Chattooga Conservancy, to the Chattooga River Boating Access Project located on the Nantahala Ranger District of the Nantahala National Forest.

On September 15, 2015, District Ranger Mike Wilkins, Administrative Review Coordinator James Knibbs, and I met with you at the Nantahala Ranger District in Franklin, NC to explore opportunities to resolve the objection. As a result of this discussion, we were able to resolve the objection issues by agreeing to make the following modification in the final Decision Notice.

The Nantahala National Forest will modify the decision on the lower Bull Pen Access Trail to construct a set of steps that will begin on Bull Pen Road and go downhill to an access point on the river. The location will be as close as possible to the current user-created trail and will provide safe access for all river users (see attached map). Design and construction will be consistent with wilderness standards. While the new trail has not been designed yet, the trail's surface is expected to be a combination of existing rock and dirt tread that includes wooden steps to insure the trail's location does not become a sediment source. The length of the trail will be approximately 65-75 feet long with approximately 5-10 feet in the Ellicott Rock Wilderness.

As part of this resolution, the Chattooga Conservancy agrees withdraw their objection in whole.

Nicole Hayler January 4, 2016
Nicole Hayler Date

James Melonas Jan 4, 2016
James Melonas Date