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Ladies and Gentlemen:

Readers of these simple changes could reasonably conclude that not much has happened since 1978 on this subject (i.e., Prohibitions in Region 8, Southern Region). But that would be a mistake - quite a lot has happened. There are relatively complex prohibitions now in effect for the upper Chattooga, which have resulted from years of bitter litigation and the expenditure of millions of dollars in legal fees and costs.

Because the proposed changes give no indication of these current complexities, they are at best misleading, and may even create an inference that actions taken by the Forest Service early in 2012 as a result of such litigation have been superseded. To remedy this, please consider adding language substantially to the following effect as a new paragraph "(g)" in revised 36 C.F.R. 261.77:

"(g) Nothing in the foregoing paragraphs (a)-(f) shall be deemed to constitute any change in the restrictions that became effective as of January 31, 2012 pursuant to Decision Notices implementing Alternative 13A under the U.S. Forest Service's January 2012 Environmental Assessment entitled Managing Recreation Uses in the Upper Segment of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River Corridor, or to authorize any such change in those restrictions, or otherwise to alter the scope of those Decision Notices."

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bob Jones

Atlanta, GA