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01/23/2011 08:53 PM

To comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us

cc

bcc

Subject Chattooga Boating

To Whom It May Concern

It has been brought to my attention that Boaters are fighting for access to the most upper stretch of the Chattooga River. Now as they already have access to majority of the river, and to prevent conflict between fisherman and boaters, I believe that it is not appropriate to allow boaters above the Highway 28 bridge. I do majority of my fishing split between the Enoree and the Chattooga river, and have experienced many instances of kayakers and people on tubes having total disregard for my fishing situation. They paddle right over your spot, spooking fish and oftentimes making you move else where, even though you were there first. By leaving the two activities separate, it allows many would be conflicts not to happen. This I believe is better for both of the parties involved.

Thanks for your time and concern  
Taylor LeBlanc



Laurence Holden  
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01/24/2011 11:00 AM

To comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us

cc

bcc

Subject Comment on the management of the Chattooga Wild & Scenic River allowing for boating

For 40 years I have had a personal familiarity with the Chattooga River from US 76 up to Ellicott's Rock, first as a fly fisherman and canoeing enthusiast, then as a public school teacher in the 1970's leading disadvantaged inner city youth on hiking and camping trips along the river trail, and now as a nearby resident.

By the mid 1980's I began to spend little time below the Highway 28 bridge because the crowds floating the river really did tarnish the experience of the wonderful solace and the primal character of the river. Since then I have only fished and camped and wandered above the Highway 28 bridge. It was a great personal loss of the natural grandeur of unique places like Woodall Shoals and The Narrows, but then again I felt like the boaters might gain an appreciation for how important such places are for our inner health. So I felt it was a good compromise, and after all I still had unfettered access to the upper stretch to renew my soul and reknit the pieces of my busy life in the untrammelled wisdom that such a special place offers.

Having been troubled by the recent proposals to open boating to the upper stretches, this summer I made a point to return to that lower section and reacquaint myself. I spent numerous days walking sections of river trail between Hwy 28 and US 76. On some days walking the trail beside the river, canoe after canoe, kayak after kayak, raft after raft, inner tube after inner tube floated by. Sitting an hour next to the river on a Saturday I could count a hundred people float by. It reminded me most clearly of the Chattahoochee River in Atlanta on almost any Saturday in the summer. It still was not the river I remembered in the 1970's. It was like sitting beside a highway. Only where the trail climbed away and slipped over the lip of a hill out of sight of the river did the natural rhythms slowly and gently return.

I can't be the only one who truly needs the pristine, untrammelled beauty of this upper section - this is what truly belongs to all of us. I know - I can go to other places, and do. I do make the 2 hour drive up into the Great Smokies Park and a good part of a days hike up Deep Creek, or Noland. But I live along Warwoman Creek, and this is my home. I am very glad to share it with every one, but gradually there has been less and less of its real quality to share. This is what truly belongs to all of us. This is not the resource for the Forest Service to manage our use of like it was merely an entertainment park or a recreational highway. Your lawful duty here goes far beyond issues of economics or public access, beyond preferring scenery over wildness.

Do not do this. Do not leave me with no choice but to leave this whole river forever.

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Laurence Holden,  
Warwoman Creek,  
Katauh Province, Turtle Island  
[laurenceholdenart@gmail.com](mailto:laurenceholdenart@gmail.com)

[The Artist's Path: On The Trail Between Art & Nature](#)

[Laurence Holden: Portfolio](#)

[TAKE ME TO THE RIVER: A BOOK OF POEMS & PAINTINGS FOR COMING HOME](#)

Erik Reece:

"There is a certain insanity (I choose the word carefully) about perpetuating a global economy based on limitless growth when that growth is powered by finite resources..." -Lost Mountain: A Year in the Vanishing Wilderness' (2006), p. 216



**Chad Plumly**  
**<Chad.Plumly@capadvisors.com>**

01/24/2011 03:41 PM

To "comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us"  
<comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>

cc

bcc

Subject Chattooga River

Please keep this river off limits to boating.

Thanks.

**Chad Plumly | Vice President | Capital Advisors**  
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**Lee Hodges**  
<eejah@hodes.net>  
01/24/2011 06:28 PM

To comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Upper Chattooga public comment



J-MCA\_comments\_1-24-11.pdf

Chattooga Planning Team  
US Forest Service  
Sumter National Forest  
4931 Broad River Road  
Columbia, SC 29212-3530

#### Recreational Use of the Upper Chattooga

The Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance, a North Carolina based environmental organization addressing issues in southern Jackson and Macon Counties, was uniquely placed to comment on the six alternatives for uses of the Upper Chattooga offered by USFS in 2009. Since the rescinding of the chosen Alternative #4, upon further contemplation and review, we retract our former position and now support Alternative #1, to maintain current management of the area, i.e. that NO boating activity be allowed in this section in order to maintain the "truth" of the term wilderness and wild river."

During the presentation of the Integrated Report, we asked the consultant if the report addressed the additional impacts of boating. The consultant said that the study found there would be additional camping and generally hanging out in the area. Boating could be a spectator sport, too. If so, then adding boating would attract an undetermined populous into an already heavily used area. We do not feel that the Report correctly assessed the visitor use at the "Sliding Rock" area on Whiteside Cove Road.

In fact, there are numerous unintended consequences to opening the Upper Chattooga that have not been explored. The Integrated Report contains numerous facts, opinions and assumptions, but there are issues that demand more study. For example, there are conclusions about access conflicts between anglers and boaters which to us justifies not expanding current uses. What is omitted is research on how boating will impact bottom habitat. Over the last several years, extreme weather patterns have created water fluctuations that are yet to be properly analyzed and documented.

In our opinion, there are areas of wilderness that should be regarded as important. The Upper Chattooga is one of those areas; the headwaters for major watersheds and its protection is crucial. We support the Current management decision that prioritized protection of headwaters over recreational use.

We would like to see a plan as to how the USFS could possibly manage restricted boating in this area attached to any pro-boating decision.

Sincerely,

Lee Hodges, Board Secretary  
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