



**Francis Marion and Sumter National
Forests
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service, Southern Region
4931 Broad River Road Columbia,
SC 29212
(FMS 1113)**

Contact: Tony White (803) 561-4072

August 1, 2011 (FMS 1113)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

US Forest Service Gives Public 15 More Days to Comment on Environmental Assessment on Managing Recreation Uses on the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River

Columbia, S.C. (Aug. 1, 2011) The US Forest Service announced today it will extend the comment period on the environmental assessment (EA) on *Managing Recreation Uses in the Upper Segment of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River Corridor* by 15 days. Comments are due by Aug. 30, 2011.

“Since we started this process, our priorities have been transparency and public input,” said Paul Bradley, forest supervisor for the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests. “Although we were not required to provide a comment period, we wanted to give people an opportunity to review the document. Now people have told us they need more time to look at our analysis and our preferred alternative, and we’re responding by giving the public 15 more days.”

Extending the comment period will not impact the agency’s ability to issue a final decision by the end of the year.

Comments on the EA and the preferred alternative, Alternative 12, may be e-mailed to comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us or surface mailed to:

U.S. Forest Service
Chattooga River Project
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, S.C. 29212

A copy of the EA is available on the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests’ Web site at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/scnfs> where additional background information can be found.

####

The mission of the US Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.