



"russ buskirk"
<follykayakman@hotmail.com>

08/14/2007 05:57 PM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga River access to kayaking

Comments about opening the Upper Sections of the Chattooga to kayaking.
Please open it to kayaks!

#1 allows dispersed camping- good for campers- no boating

#6 allows kayaking but limits campsites to designated areas- bad for campers.

This whole thing seems to be a mess from any aspect.

I have done Section IV many times and have seen people fishing. Kayaking and fishing are NOT incompatible. Both take place on many rivers at the same time. People walking along and fishing on the bank as well as walking on the on the trails have more impact than running the river in a kayak.

The Talullah River access has shown kayakers have not degraded the environment. This should be the model for the Upper C. Allowing only 24 kayaks on the river per day would seem to be very limiting. How will this be enforced and how will boaters know how many other boaters are on the river. Are you going to only allow 24 people to fish, swim or walk the trails?

I don't know whether I will run the Upper C. but I don't want to be excluded from doing so if my skill level increases.

To borrow an overworked phrase "Can't we all jusy get along."

Russell Buskirk

Charleston, SC



ejuday@juno.com
08/14/2007 07:01 PM

To: Comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chatooga

John,

I'm in favor of alternative #6.

I don't see any problem with fishing and boating on the river at the same time. I have fished and boated all my life. There aren't problems on other rivers between the two groups and i can't imagine that there could be one on this river.

If anything fishing is more damaging to the environment than boating. For example, I live on a lake that doesn't allow fishing from the banks just for that reason. They do allow boating and fishing from boats. There are many other reasons I am sure you are aware of that fishing is more damaging than boating. If you would like more information I would be happy to reply.

I do see a contradiction of group size in Alt #6. I can't tell if it's a "Maximum of 6" or "Limited to 12". I don't think boating group size should be any different than any other user group size.

Best Regards,

Eric Juday
Leave No Trace Master Educator
4112 Jeffrey Lane Point
High Point, NC 2726



"Newton Tilson"
<ugadelta98@hotmail.com>

08/14/2007 08:39 PM

To: <Comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Chattooga Comments

I support option #6 in the current proposal; it is the only option that affords equal rights to all users.

Newton Tilson
52 Jackson St.
Watkinsville, GA



William Jones
<willdabeast26@yahoo.
com>

08/14/2007 10:28 PM

To: Comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga comments

I support Alternative #6.

Sincerely,

William T. Jones
Avid Chattooga Lover

Park yourself in front of a world of choices in alternative vehicles.
[Visit the Yahoo! Auto Green Center.](#)



"Lawton Salley"
<lawtonsalley@medicus
1.com>

08/15/2007 08:37 AM

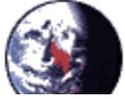
To: <Comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: chattooga headwaters

Dear sirs,

I am an avid kayaker, hiker, fisherman. I would like to be allowed to do all three activities in the entire river corridor. I vote for #6 on the proposals.

Thank you sincerely,

Lawton Salley, Jr.
Anderson, SC



"Gardner, Elizabeth"
<Egardner@wral.com>

08/15/2007 09:21 AM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Upper Chattooga Management

To whom it may concern,

I'd like to express my support for Alternative #6. I am happy to hear the the Forest Service is considering lifting the boating ban above Hwy 28.

This section of the river will only appeal to advanced/expert boaters and in my opinion will not create user conflict. Boating will only happen when the water is too high for fishing and there are limited numbers of boaters who will have the skills to paddle this section. I'm happy to see more regulations concerning trails, camping and parking as well. I want to see this area protected from over use. However, it is unfair to ban one user group. I think if the boating ban is lifted that folks will see that boating will not have a negative impact on the beautiful wild and scenic Chattooga.

Thank you again for strongly considering Alterative #6.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Gardner



BryceYr@aol.com
08/15/2007 11:02 AM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: (no subject)

My vote would be for option number 6 regarding the headwaters of the chattooga issue. Thanks,
Bryce Yarbrog

Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL at <http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour>



"Mark Buckley"
<mbuckley@enviroincentives.com>

08/15/2007 11:58 AM

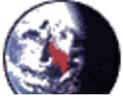
To: <Comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Chattooga Headwater Alternatives

I would like to vote for alternative #6

I have spent much time in the Chattooga Headwaters area and I fully believe that kayakers will not cause noticeable damage. Conversely, I frequently see garbage and numerous small trails to the waters edge broken by fishermen.

Mark Buckley
949 Modesto Ave. Unit A
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

[Mark Buckley, Ph.D](#)
[Environmental Economist](#)
[Environmental Incentives](#)
[831.239.4060](tel:831.239.4060)
mbuckley@enviroincentives.com



"David C. Garrity"
<dcgarrity@gmail.com>

08/15/2007 04:26 PM

To: Comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Upper Chattooga uses

To whom it may concern:

I support **option 6** of the proposed alternatives for use of the Chattooga River upstream of highway 28. I do not think that this option will greatly impact fishing as boating and fishing are generally optimal at very entirely different streamflow rates. It also does not single out boaters as being different from other river users. These sections of the river are advanced in difficulty and would not attract the crowds that many streams of intermediate difficulty do. In addition, these sections are only boatable at high water. Most of the optimal boating would be in the winter months when fewer other uses are out. In the summer, there would seldom be sufficient water to float a canoe or kayak unless a tropical storm moves inland.

Thank you for your time.

David C. Garrity
9656 Timberhawk Circle #22
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126



"Fletcher Williams"
<jfletcherwilliams@gmail.com>

08/15/2007 06:40 PM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc: jfletcherwilliams@gmail.com
Subject: Comment on Upper Chatooga

Dear Madames and Sirs of the US Forest Service,

It is my opinion that usage of this area should be further restricted, not opened up. It's not about kayakers vs fishermen, it's about how much pressure a resource like this can take and remain a healthy river. Fishermen, without a doubt, have an impact on the river. Likewise, kayakers would too, if allowed to boat in the upper Chatooga. There is no sense in increasing the amount of human activity here. I would like to see more restrictions on fishing, but I'm not sure exactly where your jurisdiction meets the jurisdictions of SC and GA DNR on that issue.

The fact that boaters float over the streambed and fisherman stomp on it is a moot point. Boaters will argue they'd only be on that section of the river when the stream gauge is high enough for some good whitewater action, which is poor fishing conditions. This is simply not true. Take a look at the Broad River near Athens, people don't care what the river level is, they'll drag their boats for a half a mile. They don't care. They don't cancel the trip because the river is a little low. Boaters aren't all thrill seekers, there'd be more than enough folks looking for a lazy stroll down the river with a few dragging points when the river is low.

When the boaters claim that they wouldn't want to boat the river when it isn't at a high flow because it wouldn't be any fun, it stands in stark contrast to the fact that even at high flow, there are relatively few good "drops" or "holes", and very little whitewater on this section, yet they are fighting tooth and nail for a "right" to do something they claim they wouldn't want to do. You can see how this is getting a little ridiculous.

I have as many kayaking friends as fishing buddies. I have nothing against kayakers. Some of my friends do it professionally as guides and instructors, both fishing and boating. My thoughts are not prejudiced one way or the other. We all get along.

In summation, more restrictions, not less, would be best for this river, regardless of the user group. Thank you for the opportunity for comments on this issue.

Fletcher Williams
Athens GA



"Clark Rodgers"
<CRodgers@northhigh
and.com>

08/16/2007 08:25 AM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Input on Future of Chatooga River Upstream of Hwy 28

Hello,

I am contacting you to voice my opposition to any changes in the boating ban on the Chatooga River upstream of Highway 28. The Chatooga River is an absolute jewel, but is under increasing use by all forms of recreation seekers. I am a boater myself, but feel that the stretch above Highway 28 should remain off limits to recreational boating so as to maintain at least one section of this beautiful river restricted to foot travel only. I feel that with the remainder of the river downstream of Hwy 28 being open to recreational boating, it would be the best decision to keep the boating restrictions in place for Section 1 of the Chatooga.

I appreciate all that your organization does to maintain our national forests and trust that you will make the best decision possible concerning the future use of the Chatooga Wild and Scenic River.

Clark B. Rodgers
3526 Memorial Parkway
Kennesaw, GA 30152



"Davis, Don"
<Don.Davis@gta.ga.gov
>

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc: "Davis, Don" <Don.Davis@gta.ga.gov>
Subject: Upper Chattooga River Management Alternatives - Comments

08/16/2007 01:34 PM

Dear Sir or Madam,

I examined the six alternative plans presented on your website, and I approve and can support **Alternative #1**.

I had to ponder Alternative # 3's limitations on Campsites, but I have never noticed the number of campers to be a problem, nor have I heard complaints from my friends.

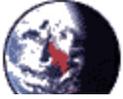
One of the strongest categories in your plans deals with **woody debris**, since it is the primary source of food for fish in this freestone river. I could not support any plan that failed to enhance woody debris **and** limit its removal. That was the clincher for me.

Thank you for the opportunity to register my comments.

Very truly yours,

Donald E. Davis
301 Church St.
Dacula, GA 30019

678.640.8134



<wbdenton@bellsouth.net>

08/16/2007 02:32 PM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Public Input on Managing Uses on the Chattooga River

William B Denton
119 River Oaks Road
Greer, South Carolina 29650

August 16, 2007

Mr. John Cleeves
U. S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29212

Dear Mr. Cleeves:

In response to your request for comments regarding managing recreation uses on the Chattooga River, the following is submitted for your review.

I would support any one of the first three alternatives with, perhaps, a preference of number 3; therefore, I respectfully request that the U. S. Forest Service choose one of the first three alternatives to implement and enforce above the Hwy 28 Bridge on the Chattooga River. I base my preference on the following review of the boater vs. the upper Chattooga River issue which should not be considered a boater vs. angler matter.

In reviewing the six preliminary alternatives, we should use the understanding that has been gained during the Forest Service's public process - "the public has expressed agreement on their desire to protect and enhance the outstanding remarkable values of the Chattooga River (geology, biology, scenery, recreation, and history); maintain a sense of solitude away from modern life; offer a remote wilderness experience; preserve the spectacular scenery and setting; and protect the natural resources of the upper section of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River that make this area a special and unique place. In the NEPA process, these goals collectively are called a "desired condition."

To answer the four basic questions, the above public desire should be used to achieve this "desired condition."

1. Should there be new standards limiting trailheads, trails and/or campsites? Yes.
2. Should there be new standards limiting group sizes, encounters between user groups and/or access? Yes.
3. Should there be new boating opportunities on the Chattooga River? No.
4. No. (There is not a question to answer since question number 3 was No.)

I have not heard one reasonable argument nor can I understand how lifting the ban on boating north of the 28 Bridge would enhance or support the "desired condition" as detailed above. The question to answer is how would limited boating, if that is possible, "preserve the spectacular scenery and setting;

and protect the natural resources of the upper section." The real answer is that boating or floating will never work under a self-regulation system and will unfortunately bring a new part of modern life to the wilderness and diminish the sense of solitude. On the other hand, limiting trailheads, trails, and improving campsites could make a grand improvement to the scenery, setting, and wilderness experience.

The limited resources of the Forest Service certainly could have been better used controlling and enforcing the Current Management Plan or the alternatives two and three; however, the Forest Service has been forced to spend a vast amount of their funds (taxpayer's money) to fight the Whitewater Association. If the Whitewater group is successful in forcing a legal change to the policy that has been in place for 30 years, what group will be next, to demand their legal right to destroy the solitude of the Wild and Scenic River, the four wheelers, horseback riders, dirt bikes riders, or whatever. Not exactly the "desired condition."

Right now, everyone can walk in and enjoy all of the "outstanding remarkable valves of the Chattooga River" above the 28 Bridge. Contrast the current situation with the self serving position of the Whitewater group in that they demand more rights than the anglers, hikers, bird watchers, campers, swimmers, photographers, and all others who come to take pleasure in the remote wilderness experience. At the last public meeting, it was said only a very small number of paddlers and floaters want to do "Their Thing" but where is the fairness in that demand if it is at the expense of all other users? Especially when you consider that the boaters currently have over two thirds, some 36 miles, of the river for their own use now.

I request you consider that a very limited number of people, with the backing of a large national organization with deep pockets, are trying to force their will on the majority of current and future users of the "upper section of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River a special and unique place." The boaters want to make it specially and uniquely theirs; again, I ask where is the fairness and how will the "desired condition" be maintained?

I know the Forest Service leaders are under a great deal of pressure and they have tough decisions to make, but they should remember that the status quo has worked for over 30 years. Sure the "Current Management Standards/Actions" could be improved with some new rules to limit trailheads, trails and campsites as well as limiting group sizes and encounters between user groups. Either alternatives # 2 or 3 could be used to enhance the "desired condition" although alternative # 3 may be more effective when the valves of the Chattooga River such as geology, biology, scenery, recreation, and history are considered.

Thank you for considering my letters and for all of the time and hard work that the Service has put forth on this issue.

Best regards,

William B. Denton



"Huff, Roger S"
<roger.s.huff@lmco.com
>

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga Headwaters -

08/16/2007 03:21 PM

Option six is the closest how I would like to see the Chattooga Headwaters managed.

Sincerely,

Roger Huff



"Bush, Dorothy"
<Dorothy.Bush@STJUD
E.ORG>

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Chattooga River Access

08/17/2007 09:31 AM

Dear Sir,

I wish to add my voice to those requesting access to the upper reaches of the Chattooga River. Preserving sections of any river solely for the use of one segment of the population of our country smacks of elitism, not democracy. Fishermen have no more intrinsic right of access to pristine areas than any other group of people. Wilderness areas should be open to all who wish to visit.

If impact on the environment is to be the major factor in the decision process, then fisherman do not rank particularly high on the list of low impact groups. Styrofoam pieces from bait containers and coffee cups, hooks and lines caught in shrubbery, and lunch leftovers are often found after them. People who paddle kayaks and canoes are not perfect either, but tend to leave less mess than fisherman, nor do they do injury to the wildlife that inhabits the rivers. Hikers who stay on trails also leave little behind them. What does affect the environment, regardless of one's choice of sport, is the sheer number of people who visit. Too many fishermen will deplete the fish stocks, too many hikers will cause a trail to become worn and thereby a source of erosion, too many paddlers will result in colorful bits of boat plastic adorning some river rocks. If necessary, the number of visitors may need to be restricted, but it should be done without arbitrarily favoring or excluding any one kind of visitor.

Dorothy A. Bush
dorothy.bush@stjude.org



"Curtis Walk"
<curtis@samselarchitect
s.com>

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Chatooga headwaters

08/17/2007 10:17 AM

I support option #6 of the proposed alternatives. I believe that preserving this stretch of river is of utmost importance and the current usage agreement resulted from a compromise that was made many years ago which is no longer reflective of a fair and equitable user management policy.

The environmental assessment found no valid reason to exclude boaters (kayaks and canoes) from this stretch of the river. Boaters are at least equally responsible stewards of the environment when compared to the fisherman and hikers that currently have access to this area. The intensity of usage from boaters will be minimal given the flow requirements that are necessary to navigate the river. The potential for conflict between boaters and fisherman is also minimal because the optimum flow levels for fishing and boating are mutually exclusive. Boaters, hikers and fisherman coexist on and around many other rivers with no problems. Mutual respect and courtesy are all that is required, not a heavy-handed bureaucratic ban on one group.

In the end, this comes down to an issue of fairness and banning a user group for which no reasonable justification has been found. Please reconsider this policy and implement option #6 so as to provide fair access to the headwaters for all taxpayers.

Also, please note that option #6 currently is written to allow only solo, hard-boaters. This would exclude tandem canoes or kayaks and does not seem justified.

Curtis Walk, AIA

Samsel Architects
60 Biltmore Avenue
Asheville, NC 28801
828 253-1124
828 254-7316 (fax)

curtis@samselarchitects.com



"Joe Berry"
<jmbbmj@bellsouth.net
>

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Chattooga River Alternatives

08/17/2007 10:52 AM
Please respond to "Joe
Berry"

Gentlemen,
Thank you for all your time and efforts on the this study and for these proposals.

I am in favor of alternative #6. Boaters will respect this river and cause no harm. We love this river just as you folks do.

Thanks for your time and care of this precious piece of Gods' green earth.

Sincerely,
Joseph M. Berry



"Sherman, Jordan"
<sherm001@aalan.ua.edu>

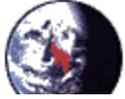
08/17/2007 12:19 PM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Chattooga Headwater Comment

Dear US Forest Service,

I am writing on behalf of the Chattooga Headwater boating ban that has been in place for the past 30+ years. I think it's absurd. As a whitewater kayaker, I know that boaters are the finest stewards of the river. We respect the natural environment as well as others using the river for various recreational activities such as fishing. I am a firm believer that all waterways are free in the United States and should be open to anyone...especially those who respect the natural river environment. After reading the 2007 Chattooga Scoping Document, I am even more displeased with your efforts. I urge you to rethink better alternatives for boating access on the entire Chattooga watershed. This is one of the most beautiful areas in the Southeast United States, and it should be open for everyone to enjoy. I know I speak for all boaters across the U.S. when I say please work alongside the American Whitewater Organization on working out better access rights and alternatives for boaters on this beautiful wild and scenic river.

Thank you for acknowledging this request!
-Jordan Sherman



"Cline Paul A"
<cline.pa@mellon.com>
08/17/2007 01:41 PM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: recreation uses on the upper Chattooga River

Thank you for your time.... As a hiker, fly fisherman and whitewater boater I see no reason all can not co-exist on the upper Chattooga River.

I often boat to get to locations to fish and currently I'm teaching my son the same. I look forward to the day I can do that on the UCR.

Each of the groups are naturalist, all are protective of the environment, and the lack of recreational access for any one of these groups smacks as elitism and discrimination.

Recreational use in a natural setting is just that... use for recreation. If you are going to limit access to one group of low impact users (paddlers) then all (fisherpersons, hikers and the like) should also be blocked from use.

Thank you. Paul C.

** Data Classification: external **

Paul Cline

Bank of New York Mellon

IT -Asset Servicing Technology

Room 151-0805

500 Grant St.

Pittsburgh, PA 15258-0001

cline.pa@mellon.com

412-234-4326

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"Hens"
<pandkhens@earthlink.net>

08/17/2007 03:28 PM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Chattooga River

Mr. Thomas,

My compliments with the thoroughness of your published support data, without it it would have been difficult at best to arrive at a reasoned approach.

At the beginning and for the next thirty odd years, the arrangement of no boating above Highway 28 has worked for all parties involved, the hikers, nature lovers, fishermen and American Whitewater. The Chattooga National Wild and Scenic River is a limited resource. There is no more of it, we cannot grow the land or expand its reaches. This fact is an inherent conflict with commercial enterprises such as represented by American Whitewater; they must grow to survive. But there is no room to grow. Not unless we expand the geography and sacrifice the unique nature, established use and solitude of the Chattooga above Highway 28.

Since the resource is limited and the impact of hard shelled or inflatable watercraft interferes with other users and disturbs the peace and solitude of the Chattooga above Highway 28, leave it alone. It has worked for thirty years, let it work for another thirty.

If this is a poll, I vote any alternative #1 - #3, as offered in the documentation provided.

Peter Hens



"doughinkle"
<doughinkle@bellsouth.net>

08/17/2007 05:53 PM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Use of the Chattooga

Option # 1 is is only logical solution to the problem. Chattooga is a pirstine area and only one of it's kind.

Thanks for your consideration



"Julie Stalnaker"
<juliestalnaker@bellsouth.net>

08/17/2007 08:39 PM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Comment on Chattooga

To Whom It May Concern:

I just wanted to send a quick comment on managing uses on the Chattooga North Fork River. Although I believe that our rivers and streams should be made available, when appropriate, for recreational use, I believe that we should not allow boating on the Chattooga North Fork. As a previous white water kayaker, I feel that there are plenty of places for kayakers and boaters. That section of the Chattooga river is not such a place. I have heard that there is a dangerous waterfall below the section of the river being proposed. Any unaware boaters who end up continuing past the proposed takeout point would find themselves going over a large waterfall (60 feet?). It could be a risky situation and a potential for lawsuits – not to mention drowning and possible deaths. My other concern is that the Whitewater Boating Association is using this case as a “ case precedent” because their real intention is to open up boating in Yellowstone Park. If the whitewater association wins this case, they will start going after Yellowstone to allow them to boat in restricted areas. As a frequent visitor to Yellowstone, I feel that this could turn a pristine area into a potentially unenjoyable scenario. Let’s leave some places pristine. The Chattooga North Fork is accessible by foot so if one wanted to enjoy the river, then they could walk there. Even the prospect of limiting boating use will turn into boaters using it during times they are not allowed. This will be only another burden on our park rangers to keep up with.

I vote to please leave the river “as is”. No boating.

Thank you for your time,

Julie Stalnaker
Loganville, Georgia



russell cooper
<coop_tamu_04@yahoo
.com>

08/17/2007 10:17 PM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: capacity analysis comments

To Whom it May Concern;

I am writing a response in regard to the capacity analysis being conducted for the headwaters of the Chattooga River.

After reviewing the options being considered for new implementation of user guidelines, option 6 seems to be the best option for the chattooga river. I would also like to add that perhaps a boating restriction on the time of year the headwaters may be floated. Perhaps this will help alleviate any differences between boaters and fishermen. The best time of year for boating the headwaters is during the winter months when fishermen and other users are less likely to be present. I am, however highly opposed to large number of restrictions placed on where boaters are allowed to float.

Sincerely,

Rusty Cooper

Rusty Cooper

Sick sense of humor? Visit Yahoo! TV's [Comedy with an Edge](#) to see what's on, when.



"Sean Kennedy"
<secreekin@comcast.net>

08/19/2007 08:35 PM

To: <Comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: The Chatooga management plan

To whom it may concern:

I have read over the proposed six alternatives for managing the Chatooga river.

I would not support a continuation of the current management, as from the studies I have read, there seems to be no scientific or legal basis for continuing to ban whitewater kayakers from paddling in the headwaters of the river above the hwy 28 bridge.

After reviewing the plans, alternative no. 6 seems to be the only acceptable plan in my opinion.

Thank you for taking the time to study the alternative use proposals and for listening to public comments on this important issue.

Sean Kennedy
504 Stone Rd
Knoxville, TN



Chad Long
<betsy_long@truvista.net>

08/20/2007 05:24 AM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga River Visitor Use Capacity Analysis

Dear USFS Representative,

I support the...The 1st, 2nd and 3rd alternatives maintain the North Fork for foot travel only. If boating is ever allowed it should be restricted.

Chad Long



"Jones, Ann"
<Ann.Jones@alston.co
m>

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc: "Jones, Bob" <BJones@arbys.com>
Subject: Response to:

08/20/2007 09:47 AM

I am asking for your comments on alternatives for managing recreation uses on the upper Chattooga River, including the alternative of maintaining the current management direction. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we will prepare an Environmental Assessment to determine whether or not there are significant environmental effects that would require an Environmental Impact Statement. I would appreciate your comments on potential environmental effects of the alternatives and on the range of alternatives.

Response:
I want you to implement Action #1: Maintain Current Management

*Ann Jones, Paralegal
Alston & Bird LLP
1201 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, GA 30309-3424
404-881-7563 (phone)
404-881-4777 (fax)*

IRS Circular 230 disclosure: To ensure compliance with requirements imposed by the IRS and other taxing authorities, we inform you that any tax advice contained in this communication (including any attachments) is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of (i) avoiding penalties that may be imposed on any taxpayer or (ii) promoting, marketing or recommending to another party any transaction or matter addressed herein.

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error, please notify the sender immediately by telephone (404-881-7000) or by electronic mail (postmaster@alston.com), and delete this message and all copies and backups thereof. Thank you.



"Bob Slayden"
<bslayden@wmsengine
ers.com>

08/20/2007 10:52 AM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: alternatives for uses in Chattooga Upper sections

Gentlemen:

These streams are no different than any other streams in this country and I hope that the Government will begin to understand that and lift the ban on boating in these beautiful upper reaches. As a boater of almost 40 years experience, I strongly support Alternative 6. I have paddled many difficult sections of river, and found that paddlers have the ability to mount safe "mini-expeditions" into these remote and steep rivers. Although Alternative 6 has the least controls on water level, or numbers of groups, this is the best alternative. the water levels necessary to make these runs will limit the number of days that the sections can be run anyway. I and most boaters I have known have always tried to respect the space of fishermen, and where possible, avoid their fishing space. We only see each other for a brief minute, and then continue to have our separate experiences for the rest of the day. As for the alternatives that allow only 4 groups per day, in my opinion, this is too low of number. Regulations can always be added if excessive use becomes an issue. Thank you for your consideration.

Bob Slayden
Water Management Services, LLC.
P.O. Box 17650
Nashville, TN 37217
(615) 366-6088, fax (615) 366-6203



"Don Kinser"
<Dkinser@ediltd.com>

08/20/2007 10:52 AM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>, <jcleaves@fs.fed.us>
cc: "Kevin Colburn" <kcolburn@amwhitewater.org>, "Mark Singleton" <mark@amwhitewater.org>, "C Coleman" <cheetahrk@yahoo.com>, "Galbreath, Nathan" <NGalbreath@pattonboggs.com>, <bdjacobson@comcast.net>, <clmyers@fs.fed.us>
Subject: Formal protest of Sept 29 meeting date and location



Please see attached comments. Protest to meeting time and location.pdf



Donald E. Kinser
Vice President
American Whitewater
1263 Colony Drive
Marietta, GA 30068

Phone 678.213.3546
Email dkinser@ediltd.com

August 20, 2007

VIA EMAIL and US MAIL

Mr. John Cleeves
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212-3530

Re: Formal Protest of September 29, 2007 Workshop Scheduling
Official Comments on August 24, 2007 "NEPA Scoping Package"
Upper Chattooga River Management

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

American Whitewater (AW) submits this public comment in response to the August 14, 2007 Scoping Package of Alternatives for management of the Upper Chattooga River above Highway 28. AW has been one of the most active stakeholders in the management of the upper Chattooga River for more than a decade. This comment, along with all of American Whitewater's other timely comments are to be included as part of the official NEPA record in this matter.

We protest the scheduling of the September 29 public meeting because it coincides with our organization's fall board meeting. We contacted you weeks before you published the meeting date and asked that you please avoid scheduling any public meetings on two important weekends in September. These were September 22-23 for Gauley Festival (a significant gathering of the regional and national paddling community) and September 29 (American Whitewater's fall board meeting). We requested that you avoid conflict with these dates because of the hardship it would place on the paddling community and our organization. Despite our timely requests and our status as a significant stakeholder, you chose a date that creates great hardship on our organization's ability to participate in this public process.

Furthermore, we want to formally protest the location for this meeting. Because the Chattooga River is a National Wild and Scenic River, management of the upper Chattooga is an issue of national importance. Members of American Whitewater from around the country (and even around the world) have been active in this issue. Yet all the meeting locations to date have been in rural locations like Clayton, Georgia, Walhalla,

Formal Protest of September 29, 2007 Workshop Scheduling
Official Comments on August 24, 2007 "NEPA Scoping Package"
Upper Chattooga River Management
August 20, 2007
Page 2 of 2

South Carolina or Highlands, North Carolina. These remote locations are hard for the public to get to, especially at the times you have scheduled the meetings.

We respectfully request that you reschedule the September 29 meeting, and hold it in Atlanta. This would not only greatly facilitate American Whitewater's attendance it would also allow much broader citizen participation from all user groups. This is appropriate given such a significant national resource management issue.

Sincerely,



Donald E. Kinser, PE
Vice President
American Whitewater

CC: Mark Singleton, AW
Sutton Bacon, AW
Kevin Colburn, AW
Brian Jacobson, AW Chattooga Volunteer
Charlene Coleman, AW Chattooga Volunteer
Nathan Galbreath, AW Chattooga Volunteer



"Steve Geny"
<paradiseboater@gmail.
com>

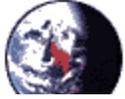
08/20/2007 10:57 AM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: access to Chattooga above Hwy 28

Dear Sirs:

As a conservationist and avid paddler, I want to mention that I'm in favor of paddling and hiking above Hwy 28 bridge on the Chattooga. Please allow us taxpayers access.

Thanks,
Steve Geny
2424 Jack Teasley Rd
Pleasant View, TN 37146



"Broemel, W. Davidson"
<dbroemel@burr.com>

08/20/2007 05:41 PM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: upper chatooga comments

i have been kayaking on whitewater for over 30 years, and done it in environmentally sensitive areas such as the grand canyon and middle fork of the salmon, but have always found that all user groups could be accommodated. i favor alternative number 6, creating new boating opportunities. boaters do not remove, catch or release fish, create trails except to put in or take out, or even use the streams unless there is sufficient water flow unlike other groups. very little impact can be ascribed to boaters, and the opportunity should be there for them if any user group is allowed access at all. no one group should be allowed to monopolize public waterways at the expense of another user group. dave broemel, 5804 fredericksburg dr, nashville tn 37215.



"jondurham"
<jondurham@bellsouth.net>

08/21/2007 12:03 AM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Chattooga River plan

To whom it may concern,

I was asked to write and further explain my concerns for the Chattooga river use plan. I am a user of the upper Chattooga and consider it one of the most beautiful and solitary recreation areas that I visit.

I have before noted that I also have frequented the Linville Gorge Wilderness area. Just this past week end I was talking with a new friend that also has been frequenting that area since childhood. His observation was the same as mine: Too many people, too much traffic and too many camp sites. It's hard to imagine someplace called a "wilderness area" where you have to struggle to get out of earshot of other people. The groups are too large, camping and vehicles are not restricted in a manner conducive to preserving a wilderness experience.

In the Nantahala and French Broad, tubes and plastic boats are frequent with a great impact on the experience of fishing, camping and hiking. While I enjoy these activities, I know where to go to find them. If the Chattooga is to go this way, once again, I and others will be left searching for a place to experience peace and solitude.

On my last trip to the Chattooga, I couldn't help but notice that an interior section of Bull Pen road has been paved, as if to signal the inevitable. If there is a way to preserve the upper Chattooga, please do so. I don't know what else to say except, please.

The limitation of parking, camp areas, boating, traffic and human impact are vital to preserving a true wilderness experience.

Jon Durham
2 B Gary Street
Whitmire, SC



"Keithye"
<keithye@bellsouth.net
>

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Chattooga

08/21/2007 09:58 AM

Short and simple KEEP THE UPPER CHATTOOGA WILD AND SENIC!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

NO BOATING ABOVE HWY 28!!!!!!

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



"KELLY MCGINNIS"
<kmcginnis6@msn.com
>

08/21/2007 04:08 PM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga Scoping Document

Mr. John Cleeves

U.S. Forest Service

4931 Broad River Road

Columbia, SC 29212

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

I am an avid whitewater kayaker and feel I have a vested interest in the proposed changes to the Chattooga management plan. The alternatives currently proposed by the USFS require substantial amendment because they are not supported by or tied to actual capacity data, are not consistent with the USFS's appeal decision governing this process, are not consistent with applicable law, and will not protect the Chattooga River. The USFS's own capacity study demonstrated that boating is an appropriate use of the Upper Chattooga River, yet 5 of your 6 proposed alternatives ban boating on some or all of the upper river. The Upper Chattooga's capacity to support whitewater boating is not zero, and all action alternatives must allow at least some boating on the entire river. Any alternatives that limit recreation must do so based on the capacity of the river corridor as determined by real data - and must do so equitably.

In addition, the proposed alternatives should be amended as follows:

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- Limits should only be imposed when standards are met or exceeded - and not before. Five of the six USFS alternatives limit and/or ban boating immediately without basis.
- Alternatives must include a range of standards for *all users*. USFS alternatives address a range of arbitrary limits on boaters - but only one alternative would limit other users. For example, a standard of 10, 6, and 2 group encounters per day should be analyzed, as well as provisions that exclude the outlier days when high use can be expected or occurs randomly.
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- Alternatives, including any capacity triggers, should distinguish between high use frontcountry areas and low use backcountry areas. USFS alternatives make no distinction between how many encounters with other users are acceptable in a campground or at a trailhead as opposed to on a trail or river deep in the woods.

- Alternatives should look at varying levels of user created trail closures, user created trail hardening, creation of new trails, campsite closures or relocations, fish stocking, parking, total recreational use, angling use, hiking use, camping use, boating use, and swimming use.

Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,

Kelly McGinnis

204 Boxwood Cir

Brandon, MS 39047

601-992-1019



"John Garrison"
<jgarrison@binghamton
wireless.com>

08/21/2007 05:21 PM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Upper Chatooga Comments

Greetings!

Attached is a letter of comment on the forthcoming DOI/USFS decision to allow whitewater paddling of the Upper Chatooga River. As a former employee of USGS, I can speak to the appreciation that I have for all wild and scenic rivers...thanks for your consideration of this comment.

Cheers,

John A Garrison, Jr

107 1/2 South Liberty Avenue

Endicott, NY 13760

tekno@binghamtonwireless.com



Upper Chatooga Letter.doc

- Alternatives should look at varying levels of user created trail closures, user created trail hardening, creation of new trails, campsite closures or relocations, fish stocking, parking, total recreational use, angling use, hiking use, camping use, boating use, and swimming use.

Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,

John A Garrison, Jr

107 1/2 South Liberty Avenue

Endicott, NY 13760

tekno@binghamtonwireless.com

Mr. John Cleeves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
comments-southern-francismarionsumter@fs.fed.us

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

The alternatives currently proposed by the USFS require substantial amendment because they are not supported by or tied to actual capacity data, are not consistent with the USFS's appeal decision governing this process, are not consistent with applicable law, and will not protect the Chattooga River. The USFS's own capacity study demonstrated that boating is an appropriate use of the Upper Chattooga River, yet 5 of your 6 proposed alternatives ban boating on some or all of the upper river. The Upper Chattooga's capacity to support whitewater boating is not zero, and all action alternatives must allow at least some boating on the entire river. Any alternatives that limit recreation must do so based on the capacity of the river corridor as determined by real data – and must do so equitably.

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- Alternatives, including any capacity triggers, should distinguish between high use frontcountry areas and low use backcountry areas. USFS alternatives make no distinction between how many encounters with other users are acceptable in a campground or at a trailhead as opposed to on a trail or river deep in the woods.



"Jade Mayer"
<Jade@brooksresource
s.com>

08/21/2007 05:45 PM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

Attached are my thoughts and comments on the proposed scoping document related to the Chattooga River. Please submit them as part of the public comment process.

Thank you for your help.

Regards,

Jade

Jade Mayer
Chief Financial Officer
Brooks Resources Corporation
541-382-1662
541-385-3285 fax



20070821140722.pdf

Mr. John Cleeves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
comments-southern-francismarionsumter@fs.fed.us

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

The alternatives currently proposed by the USFS require substantial amendment because they are not supported by or tied to actual capacity data, are not consistent with the USFS's appeal decision governing this process, are not consistent with applicable law, and will not protect the Chattooga River. The USFS's own capacity study demonstrated that boating is an appropriate use of the Upper Chattooga River, yet 5 of your 6 proposed alternatives ban boating on some or all of the upper river. The Upper Chattooga's capacity to support whitewater boating is not zero, and all action alternatives must allow at least some boating on the entire river. Any alternatives that limit recreation must do so based on the capacity of the river corridor as determined by real data – and must do so equitably.

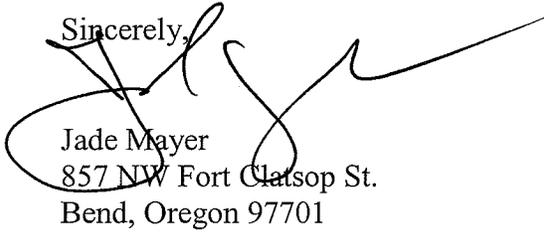
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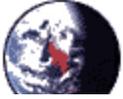
- Alternatives should look at varying levels of user created trail closures, user created trail hardening, creation of new trails, campsite closures or relocations, fish stocking, parking, total recreational use, angling use, hiking use, camping use, boating use, and swimming use.

Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jade Mayer', written over the printed name and address.

Jade Mayer
857 NW Fort Clatsop St.
Bend, Oregon 97701



"E. Jackson Amburn"
<amburnj@gmail.com>

08/21/2007 05:46 PM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga Headwaters Access

Mr. John Cleeves

U.S. Forest Service

4931 Broad River Road

Columbia, SC 29212

comments-southern-francismarionsumter@fs.fed.us
<mailto:comments-southern-francismarionsumter@fs.fed.us>

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document **

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

The alternatives currently proposed by the USFS require substantial amendment because they are not supported by or tied to actual capacity data, are not consistent with the USFS's appeal decision governing this process, are not consistent with applicable law, and will not protect the Chattooga River. The USFS's own capacity study demonstrated that boating is an appropriate use of the Upper Chattooga River, yet 5 of your 6 proposed alternatives ban boating on some or all of the upper river. The Upper Chattooga's capacity to support whitewater boating is not zero, and all action alternatives must allow at least some boating on the entire river. Any alternatives that limit recreation must do so based on the capacity of the river corridor as determined by real data - and must do so equitably.

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Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely, Everett Jackson Amburn
245 Memorial Drive Suite 7720
Cullowhee, NC 28723



amburnj.vcf



"Adam Cramer"
<cramerica@gmail.com
>

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Fwd: Chattooga

08/21/2007 05:56 PM

Mr. John Cleeves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

One of the wonderful things about kayaking is traveling to different parts of the country to see new landscapes and ecosystems from the bow of your boat. Though most of my kayaking takes place on the Potomac and in West Virginia, I have also made trips to the fantastic rivers of the Southeast -- from the Green Narrows and the Cheoah to the Tallulah Gorge of Georgia. I write this letter because someday I would like to kayak the headwaters of the Chattooga. However, the present Forest Service scoping document for the Chattooga instills little confidence that I will ever be able to do so.

The alternatives currently proposed by the USFS require substantial amendment because they are not supported by or tied to actual capacity data, are not consistent with the USFS's appeal decision governing this process, are not consistent with applicable law, and will not protect the Chattooga River. The USFS's own capacity study demonstrated that boating is an appropriate use of the Upper Chattooga River, yet 5 of your 6 proposed alternatives ban boating on some or all of the upper river. The Upper Chattooga's capacity to support whitewater boating is not zero, and all action alternatives must allow at least some boating on the entire river. Any alternatives that limit recreation must do so based on the capacity of the river corridor as determined by real data -- and must do so equitably.

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Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,

Adam Cramer
1852 Irving Street, NW
Washington, DC 20010



"Hamilton Barnes"
<pcpaddler@gmail.com
>

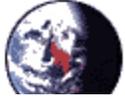
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: boating on the upper Chattooga

08/21/2007 05:58 PM

Dear US Forest Service,

Kayakers are not bad people, infact I would say we are pretty good stuards of God's creation. There is no reason for a boating ban and it should be lifted as soon as possible.

Please listen to and respond to all the voices in this issue,
Hamilton Barnes
216 Timbrookeway
Easley SC 29642
864-295-1284



"chuckneese@netzero.com" <chuckneese

08/21/2007 05:59 PM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga

Mr. John Cleeves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
comments-southern-francismarionsumter@fs.fed.us

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

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Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,

Chuck Neese
482 Peachtree Ridge Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30043



"Paraic Sweeney"
<paraicsweeney@gmail.com>

08/21/2007 06:05 PM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga Scoping Document

Mr. John Cleeves

U.S. Forest Service

4931 Broad River Road

Columbia, SC 29212

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

I am an regular whitewater boater residing in New York state and have traveled extensively in the United States, Canada and parts or Europe boating. As an affiliate of American Whitewater I would like to express support for the position they have taken regarding the proposed changes to the use of this important river for whitewater boating.

The alternatives currently proposed by the USFS require substantial amendment because they are not supported by or tied to actual capacity data, are not consistent with the USFS's appeal decision governing this process, are not consistent with applicable law, and will not protect the Chattooga River. The USFS's own capacity study demonstrated that boating is an appropriate use of the Upper Chattooga River, yet 5 of your 6 proposed alternatives ban boating on some or all of the upper river. The Upper Chattooga's capacity to support whitewater boating is not zero, and all action alternatives must allow at least some boating on the entire river. Any alternatives that limit recreation must do so based on the capacity of the river corridor as determined by real data – and must do so equitably.

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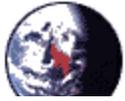
Thank you for considering these ideas.

--

Paraic

Phone (914)671-9491

1 Wheeler road, NY 10560



"Paul Raffaeli"
<PaulRa@synnex.com>

08/21/2007 06:12 PM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Chattooga River Plans

Mr. John Cleeves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
comments-southern-francismarionsumter@fs.fed.us

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

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Thank you for considering these ideas and I look forward to boating this section of river in the near future.

I believe you will find that Whitewater Boaters are good stewards of the rivers and their surrounding habitat.

Sincerely,

Paul Raffaeli
3937 Braeburn Ct.
San Jose, CA 95130



Bfo72@aol.com

08/21/2007 06:31 PM

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

cc:

Subject: RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Mr. John Cleeves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

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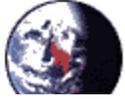
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Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely, Brian & Jane O'Meara, 1173 Wild Cherry Ln., Wellington, FL 33414

Get a sneak peek of the all-new [AOL.com](https://www.aol.com).



Ken Green
<kgkayak@yahoo.com>
08/21/2007 06:38 PM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Mr. John Cleeves

U.S. Forest Service

4931 Broad River Road

Columbia, SC 29212

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

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Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,

Ken Green

27 Moore Street

Waltham, MA 02453

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Frank Lorch
<franklorch@yahoo.com>

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Proposed alternatives for Chattooga River

08/21/2007 06:42 PM

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

The alternatives currently proposed for use of the Upper Chattooga by the USFS require substantial amendment. They are not supported by, or tied to, actual capacity data, are not consistent with the USFS's appeal decision governing this process, are not consistent with applicable law, and will not protect the Chattooga River. The USFS's own capacity study demonstrated that boating is an appropriate use of the Upper Chattooga River, yet 5 of your 6 proposed alternatives ban boating on some or all of the upper river. The Upper Chattooga's capacity to support whitewater boating is not zero, and all action alternatives must allow at least some boating on the entire river. Any alternatives that limit recreation must do so based on the capacity of the river corridor as determined by real data . and must do so equitably.

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Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,

Frank E. Lorch

Be a better Globetrotter. [Get better travel answers](#) from someone who knows.
Yahoo! Answers - Check it out.



"Moser, Mike"
<Mike.Moser@RoswellP
ark.org>

08/21/2007 06:51 PM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Chattooga Scoping Document

Mr. John Cleaves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
comments-southern-francismarionsumter@fs.fed.us

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleaves,

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Thank you for considering these ideas and should you want any further input feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Michael T. Moser, Ph.D.
47 Tennyson Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14216

This email message may contain legally privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient(s), or the employee or agent responsible for the delivery of this message to the intended recipient(s), you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or use of this email message is prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by e-mail and delete this email message from your computer. Thank you.



"Lee Kaufman"
<lee@mkbrody.com>
08/21/2007 07:06 PM
Please respond to lee

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Allow people to use the rivers

Dear Mr. Cleaves,

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Lee Kaufman is lee@mkbrody.com



1101 West Randolph Street • Chicago, IL 60607

Phone: 312-666-9522 • Fax: 312-666-8696

Our 2007 EVERYDAY CATALOG is here, be sure to get yours!!!



"Scott"
<scottnalia@starband.net>

08/21/2007 07:50 PM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Chattooga River

Mr. John Cleeves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
comments-southern-francismarionsumter@fs.fed.us

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

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Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,

Michael Shuttleworth

13620 Lincoln Way, Suite 240
Auburn, CA 95603



mark beerse
<lmxcrunner@yahoo.co
m>

08/21/2007 07:50 PM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga River

Mr. John Cleeves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212

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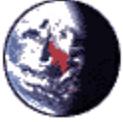
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Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,
Mark Beerse

Building a website is a piece of cake.
Yahoo! Small Business gives you [all the tools to get online.](#)



"Luke Bartlett"
<luke.bartlett@wku.edu
>

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga Plans

08/21/2007 06:52 PM

Mr. John Cleeves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
comments-southern-francismarionsumter@fs.fed.us

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

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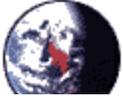
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Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,
Luke Bartlett
1657 Elrod Rd
Bowling Green, KY
42101



"hnhaynie@juno.com"
<hnhaynie
08/21/2007 07:55 PM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga River

Mr. John Cleeves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

One of the wonderful things about kayaking is traveling to different parts of the country to see new landscapes and ecosystems from the bow of your boat. Though most of my kayaking takes place on the Potomac and in West Virginia, I have also made trips to the fantastic rivers of the Southeast -- from the Green Narrows and the Cheoah to the Tallulah Gorge of Georgia. I write this letter because someday I would like to kayak the headwaters of the Chattooga. However, the present Forest Service scoping document for the Chattooga instills little confidence that I will ever be able to do so.

The alternatives currently proposed by the USFS require substantial amendment because they are not supported by or tied to actual capacity data, are not consistent with the USFS's appeal decision governing this process, are not consistent with applicable law, and will not protect the Chattooga River. The USFS's own capacity study demonstrated that boating is an appropriate use of the Upper Chattooga River, yet 5 of your 6 proposed alternatives ban boating on some or all of the upper river. The Upper Chattooga's capacity to support whitewater boating is not zero, and all action alternatives must allow at least some boating on the entire river. Any alternatives that limit recreation must do so based on the capacity of the river corridor as determined by real data - and must do so equitably.

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* Alternatives must be based on a capacity for all users and/or individual uses. The proposed USFS alternatives are not based on the social or physical capacity of the river corridor.

* Alternatives must prescribe indirect limits prior to direct limits as is required by USFS policy. Five of the six alternatives implement direct limits (i.e., bans) prior to trying indirect limits first in direct violation of USFS policy.

* Alternatives, including any capacity triggers, should distinguish between high use frontcountry areas and low use backcountry areas. USFS alternatives make no distinction between how many encounters with other users are acceptable in a campground or at a trailhead as opposed to on a trail or river deep in the woods.

* Alternatives should look at varying levels of user created trail closures, user created trail hardening, creation of new trails, campsite closures or relocations, fish stocking, parking, total recreational use, angling use, hiking use, camping use, boating use, and swimming use.

Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,

Harris Haynie



"Craik Davis"
<craiknelizabeth@gmail.
com>

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Upper Chatooga

08/21/2007 08:27 PM

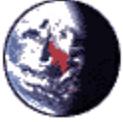
Gentlemen,

My name is Craik Davis. I am a 55 year old banker with Wachovia and I live in Asheville, N.C. I have paddled the lower sections of the Chatooga for a number of years and hope that you will allow access for paddlers to the Upper Sections. The upper sections look beautiful from the reports that I have read and the pictures that I have seen.

My personal experience is that paddlers have less impact on the rivers than other users as we are generally passing through, carried along by the water. Please consider opening the upper sections of the Chatooga to recreational paddling.

Thank you,

Craik Davis
828/225-1888



jeffrey hatcher
<jhatcher_md@yahoo.com>

08/21/2007 08:39 PM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: chattooga

Mr. John Cleeves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
comments-southern-francismarionsumter@fs.fed.us

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

The alternatives currently proposed by the USFS require substantial amendment because they are not supported by or tied to actual capacity data, are not consistent with the USFS's appeal decision governing this process, are not consistent with applicable law, and will not protect the Chattooga River. The USFS's own capacity study demonstrated that boating is an appropriate use of the Upper Chattooga River, yet 5 of your 6 proposed alternatives ban boating on some or all of the upper river. The Upper Chattooga's capacity to support whitewater boating is not zero, and all action alternatives must allow at least some boating on the entire river. Any alternatives that limit recreation must do so based on the capacity of the river corridor as determined by real data - and must do so equitably.

In addition, the proposed alternatives should be amended as follows:

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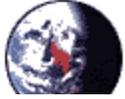
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Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey C. Hatcher, MD
5200 Northland Ct
McLeansville, NC 27301

Need a vacation? Get great deals
to amazing places on Yahoo! Travel.
<http://travel.yahoo.com/>



"kparish"
<kparish@fuse.net>

08/21/2007 08:40 PM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Chattooga Headwaters

The boating ban on the Chattooga Headwaters must be lifted, simply because it is the right thing to do. There is no compelling reason for the ban to remain in effect. There is no evidence that human powered boating would have an adverse effect of the river and the surrounding eco-system. The ban is grossly unfair, and the time has come for it to be lifted in the sense of all things just and fair.

Regards,

Ken Parish



dkdube@mac.com
08/21/2007 08:47 PM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga

Mr. John Cleeves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
comments-southern-francismarionsumter@fs.fed.us

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

The alternatives currently proposed by the USFS require substantial amendment because they are not supported by or tied to actual capacity data, are not consistent with the USFS's appeal decision governing this process, are not consistent with applicable law, and will not protect the Chattooga River. The USFS's own capacity study demonstrated that boating is an appropriate use of the Upper Chattooga River, yet 5 of your 6 proposed alternatives ban boating on some or all of the upper river. The Upper Chattooga's capacity to support whitewater boating is not zero, and all action alternatives must allow at least some boating on the entire river. Any alternatives that limit recreation must do so based on the capacity of the river corridor as determined by real data – and must do so equitably.

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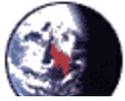
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Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,

David Dube'



"Justin Allen"
<jta.justin@gmail.com>
08/21/2007 08:52 PM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: ATTN: Mr. John Cleeves - Chattooga Scoping Document

Mr. John Cleeves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
comments-southern-francismarionsumter@fs.fed.us

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

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Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,

Justin T. Allen
271 w.90th street 12b
NY, NY 10024



<jrrarah@bellsouth.net>

08/21/2007 09:10 PM

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

cc:

Subject: Boating above Hwy. 28 on the Chattooga River

Dear FS,

I hike and camp along the Chattooga River from Bull Pen Rd. to Hwy. 76. I strongly oppose letting boaters use the part of the River north of Hwy. 28. Some of my reasons are as follows.

1. Let hikers and fishermen have this one part of the River where they don't have to have boaters yelling as they go by their campsites. The boaters have all of the River below Hwy. 28. Let hikers/fishermen and seclusion seekers have the portion above Hwy. 28.

2. The area above Hwy. 28 is already crowded on weekends by campers at Burrells Ford and campers coming in from Big Bend Rd. Don't put more people into the area when it is already crowded.

3. The extra impact of boaters concentrated at entry and exit locations will lead to more erosion along the banks at those locations. Look at the area along the West Fork where they get out after boating on Overflow Creek (which by the way should never have been allowed....how did it happen??)

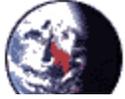
4. Don't let American Whitewater interfere with a 30 year management plan for the River that has worked quite well just because they want more boats and do the same thing all over the country.

5. I hike and work on trails along the River in GA and it is nice to go up above Hwy. 28 and not have to have boaters going by yelling and screaming as you try to enjoy the great Rivers beauty.

6. If you let boaters on the River above Hwy. 28 then the next step will be the ATV companies will sue to get ATV's on hiking trails. All the same arguments that American Whitewater is using could be made for the ATV's too. You could even have a staged ride to see if it is feasible just like the boaters had.

Please keep the rules the way they are about no floatation above the Hwy. 28 bridge.

John Ray



Jim Leutenegger
<jleute@hotmail.com>

08/21/2007 09:20 PM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Flawed alternatives

I am very upset that my tax dollars were wasted on this process to come up with this same old crap. I believe the language in the rejection of your original flawed use plan specifically addressed not placing one user groups interests before another's. Three of your alternatives prohibit boating, which is why your original plan was rejected. None of your alternatives prohibit fishing. Some of the alternatives that allow boating limit the number of groups to 4. There are no such restrictions on hikers or fisherman. You essentially wasted a ton of taxpayer money to come back with several alternatives with no better legal standing than the first, flawed, waste of tax dollar, plan. In addition there will be a long legal battle if the selected alternative discriminates against one specific group, so there's still the potential to waste more of my hard earned money. Great job of wasting time & money. My congressman is going to be getting an earfull of this.

Jim Leutenegger

See what you're getting into...before you go there [See it!](#)



allen gaither
<kayaddle@yahoo.com
>

08/21/2007 09:48 PM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Upper Chattooga River Use

Mr. John Cleeves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
comments-southern-francismarionsumter@fs.fed.us

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

The alternatives currently proposed by the USFS require substantial amendment because they are not supported by or tied to actual capacity data, are not consistent with the USFS's appeal decision governing this process, are not consistent with applicable law, and will not protect the Chattooga River. The USFS's own capacity study demonstrated that boating is an appropriate use of the Upper Chattooga River, yet 5 of your 6 proposed alternatives ban boating on some or all of the upper river. Quite frankly, your inflexible attitude towards whitewater recreation is outright discriminatory. The Upper Chattooga's capacity to support whitewater boating is not zero, and all action alternatives must allow at least some boating on the entire river. Any alternatives that limit recreation must do so based on the capacity of the river corridor as determined by real data – and must do so equitably.

In addition, the proposed alternatives should be amended as follows:

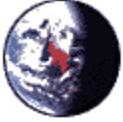
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- Alternatives, including any capacity triggers, should distinguish between high use front-country areas and low use back-country areas. USFS alternatives make no distinction between how many encounters with other users are acceptable in a campground or at a trailhead as opposed to on a trail or river deep in the woods.
- Alternatives should look at varying levels of user created trail closures, user created trail hardening, creation of new trails, campsite closures or relocations, fish stocking, parking, total recreational use, angling use, hiking use, camping use, boating use, and swimming use.

Please consider managing this natural resource to the benefit of all recreational users. No governmental agency should develop policy that restricts the use of a resource owned by all US citizens from being enjoyed by all US citizens.

Sincerely,
Allen W. Gaither
1070-1 Tunnel Road
Suite 10, PMB 328
Asheville, NC 28805

[Pinpoint customers](#) who are looking for what you sell.



Stewart Caldwell
<realwvmann@yahoo.com>

08/21/2007 09:48 PM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga Scoping Document

Mr. John Cleeves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

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Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,
Stewart Caldwell
13449 NW 82nd Street Road
Ocala, FL 34482
realwvmann@yahoo.com

Need a vacation? Get great deals
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<http://travel.yahoo.com/>



"Ron Mastalski"
<riverdebris@gmail.com
>

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Comments on the Chattooga Scoping Document

08/21/2007 10:05 PM

Mr. John Cleeves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
comments-southern-francismarionsumter@fs.fed.us

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

As an avid kayaker, someone who has enjoyed the Chattooga River area and regular user of US Forest service lands I am very concerned about the alternatives currently proposed by the USFS because they require substantial amendment and they are not supported by or tied to actual capacity data, are not consistent with the USFS's appeal decision governing this process, are not consistent with applicable law, and will not protect the Chattooga River. The USFS's own capacity study demonstrated that boating is an appropriate use of the Upper Chattooga River, yet 5 of your 6 proposed alternatives ban boating on some or all of the upper river. The Upper Chattooga's capacity to support whitewater boating is not zero, and all action alternatives must allow at least some boating on the entire river. Any alternatives that limit recreation must do so based on the capacity of the river corridor as determined by real data – and must do so equitably.

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Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Mastalski
W12000 Gruchow Lane
Waterloo, WI 53594
920-478-2919



"Michael Crane"
<michael@craneassocia
tes.us>

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Public Comment on Chatooga

08/21/2007 06:18 PM

Please accept the attached letter as public comments on your Chatooga Scoping Document
Thank you
Michael Crane
Burlington Vermont



ChattoogScopingLetter.doc

Mr. John Cleeves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleeves:

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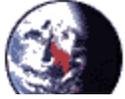
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Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,

Michael Crane
21 Ivy Lane
Burlington Vermont 05401



"Adam Johnson"
<riotaj@gmail.com>

08/21/2007 10:10 PM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga...

Mr. John Cleeves

U.S. Forest Service

4931 Broad River Road

Columbia, SC 29212

comments-southern-francismarionsumter@fs.fed.us

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

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 - Alternatives should look at varying levels of user created trail closures, user created trail hardening, creation of new trails, campsite closures or relocations, fish stocking, parking, total recreational use, angling use, hiking use, camping use, boating use, and swimming use.

Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,

Adam Johnson

9060 Harts Mill RD

Warrenton VA 20186



Kayakmind@aol.com

08/21/2007 10:10 PM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga River

Hello, I am a regular guy. I love to kayak and enjoy the river just like anyone else. The fact that some of the best kayaking and river access is not permitted on what is one of the south's most historic and incredible recreation potential rivers is beyond me. I won't tell you why you should legally allow me to use this source but I will ask you to allow me to enjoy what God gave to me as an American citizen. These are all our waters to enjoy and should not be sectioned off. I am sure the Forestry Division can come up with a way for people to enjoy this part of the river with minimal impact to the environment around the access points. Shouldn't this at least be considered? Thank you for reading this.

Adam Wood

Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL.com.



"Charlotte Hand"
<charlottehand@gmail.com>
Sent by:
outdoorslady1@gmail.com

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga river plan

08/21/2007 10:53 PM

Why is canoeing and kayaking being discouraged in the upper part of the Chattooga? It is a low impact sport and does far less harm than many other hobbies.

--

Charlotte Hand
CharlotteHand@gmail.com



"Gregory Tosi"
<gregorytosi@gmail.com>

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga River

08/21/2007 11:24 PM
Please respond to
gregorytosi

Attached please find my support of opening the Chattooga again.

Sincerely,



Gregory Tosi Chattooga+Sample+Scoping+Letter164.doc

- Alternatives should look at varying levels of user created trail closures, user created trail hardening, creation of new trails, campsite closures or relocations, fish stocking, parking, total recreational use, angling use, hiking use, camping use, boating use, and swimming use.

Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,

Gregory Tosi
2002 Pleasant Dale Dr
Charlotte, NC 28214

PS: though this is a form letter, please know that the feelings expressed in the document are what I believe. Thank you for your time.

Mr. John Cleeves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
comments-southern-francismarionsumter@fs.fed.us

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

The alternatives currently proposed by the USFS require substantial amendment because they are not supported by or tied to actual capacity data, are not consistent with the USFS's appeal decision governing this process, are not consistent with applicable law, and will not protect the Chattooga River. The USFS's own capacity study demonstrated that boating is an appropriate use of the Upper Chattooga River, yet 5 of your 6 proposed alternatives ban boating on some or all of the upper river. The Upper Chattooga's capacity to support whitewater boating is not zero, and all action alternatives must allow at least some boating on the entire river. Any alternatives that limit recreation must do so based on the capacity of the river corridor as determined by real data – and must do so equitably.

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"James Wood"
<aquaticmind@gmail.com>
>

08/22/2007 01:07 AM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga River Comments, Please revise your policy

Dear Mr. Cleaves,

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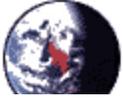
total recreational use, angling use, hiking use, camping use, boating use, and swimming use.

Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely

James Wood

Asheville, North Carolina



Edward Lilly
<eglilly@yahoo.com>

08/22/2007 04:51 AM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga Whitewater boating

Mr. John Cleeves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
comments-southern-francismarionsumter@fs.fed.us

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

The alternatives currently proposed by the USFS require substantial amendment because they are not supported by or tied to actual capacity data, are not consistent with the USFS's appeal decision governing this process, are not consistent with applicable law, and will not protect the Chattooga River. The USFS's own capacity study demonstrated that boating is an appropriate use of the Upper Chattooga River, yet 5 of your 6 proposed alternatives ban boating on some or all of the upper river. The Upper Chattooga's capacity to support whitewater boating is not zero, and all action alternatives must allow at least some boating on the entire river. Any alternatives that limit recreation must do so based on the capacity of the river corridor as determined by real data - and must do so equitably.

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Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,

Edward G. Lilly III, MD
1867 Hebron Road
Hendersonville, NC 28730

Be a better Heartthrob. Get better relationship answers from someone who knows. Yahoo! Answers - Check it out.
<http://answers.yahoo.com/dir/?link=list&sid=396545433>



Fredcanoos@aol.com

08/22/2007 05:50 AM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: (no subject)

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen

For 36 of my 66 years I have been a whitewater paddler, and volunteer canoe instructor, and paddled the Chatooga numerous times. As a retailer, I have seen the tremendous economic positive impact river boaters have brought to the Chatooga basin area, even funding directly and indirectly a monumental portion of USFS income. For the rangers in your employ who have also paddled that river, or administered assistance thereof, they know that the USFS analysis continues to unfairly exclude boating.

The Forest Plan should be to allow year-round access for self-guided groups of non-commercial, non-motorized canoeists and kayakers to float the river. It is unseemly morally and economically to provide few options for river paddlers while providing numerous options for other groups that are high maintenance, require significant operating costs, have considerable negative environment and economic impacts.

These other groups include horseback riders, mountain bikers, and off-highway vehicle riders. These high impact groups destroy the trails and the environment in general, destroy critical native wildlife habitat, and frighten the wildlife. I am also (1) a horse owner - have 9 - and know full well the impact that a 1,100 to 1,800 horse has upon the environment; (2) an avid archer/hunter and know what physical and noise impact my 4 - wheeler riding - and the oil and gas dribbles in can do - does to the wilderness.

Paddling should be encouraged, not discouraged. Paddling provides a low impact on the environment and leaves no trace - As soon as a paddler slips around the next bend in the river, no one knows that one or many people just passed through.

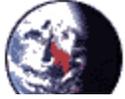
Currently I am developing the Alabama Scenic River Trail - at 631 miles the longest-in-one-state river trail in the nation. We often refer to the 2002 study on the National Park Service website "Economic Impact of Water Trails on Rural Economies" which shows that such trails, and so the Chatooga as well, produce millions annually in direct and indirect spending. In fact, using 2002 dollars, if our trail is half as successful as the 35 mile trail in North Carolina near the coast that produces \$103.9 million a year, we will produce 939 million dollars - mind boggling? Yes!! And, that too, is what the Chatooga represents. I vote for choice #6 in your analysis.

Have a wonderful day, Fred Couch

Cordially, Fred Couch

***Chairman, CEO of the
Alabama Scenic River Trail, 631 Miles
Longest One State Water Trail In USA***

Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL.com.



"Swain, Ben"
<BENS@ucea.com>

08/22/2007 07:40 AM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

After reviewing the Chattooga Scoping Document I wanted to offer my comments on the alternatives for the management of the upper Chattooga River. I was disappointed to see that the document contained no supporting data for any of the alternatives and showed an apparent discrimination towards certain user groups. I am particularly concerned about the bias against boating on the upper Chattooga River. As a design professional, part of my work involves the evaluation of several alternatives to select the "best" solution to a complicated decision. It is important that these decisions are supported by hard data and are applied equally to all factors involved in the decision. I believe for the Forest Service, and for the public providing input, that it is important for the Scoping Document to be revised to include relevant supporting data for decisions being made and a balanced set of alternatives, possibly separating alternatives into subsets for separate user groups, for a fair and complete assessment to be made.

I fully support and believe in the preservation and protection of the treasures of natural places like the upper Chattooga River. I also believe that people should be able to enjoy these treasures in the way that they enjoy the most. Both of these goals can be achieved through a fair and balanced management plan that treats all users equally. I ask that those who enjoy these treasures be given an opportunity to partner with you in this process so that we can all benefit from beauty of the upper Chattooga River.

Ben S. Swain, P.E.
Transportation Engineer
United Consulting Engineers and Architects
1625 North Post Road
Indianapolis, IN 46219
(317) 895-2585
bens@ucea.com



Jim Poulin
<jimpoulin1958@yahoo.
com>

08/22/2007 08:04 AM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga Scoping Document

Mr. John Cleeves
U.S. Forest Service

4931 Broad River Road

Columbia , SC 29212

comments-southern-francismarionsumter@fs.fed.us

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

The alternatives currently proposed by the USFS require substantial amendment because they are not supported by or tied to actual capacity data, are not consistent with the USFS's appeal decision governing this process, are not consistent with applicable law, and will not protect the Chattooga River . The USFS's own capacity study demonstrated that boating is an appropriate use of the Upper Chattooga River , yet 5 of your 6 proposed alternatives ban boating on some or all of the upper river. The Upper Chattooga 's capacity to support whitewater boating is not zero, and all action alternatives must allow at least some boating on the entire river. Any alternatives that limit recreation must do so based on the capacity of the river corridor as determined by real data . and must do so equitably.

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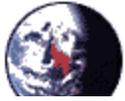
Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,

Jim Poulin

16 Orchard Lane

Richmond, VT 05477



"Mitch Moore"
<MMoore@aflac.com>
08/22/2007 08:28 AM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Chattooga Public Comments

Please be advised that I agree with the position outlined below in regards to the Upper Chattooga access issues.

The alternatives currently proposed by the USFS require substantial amendment because they are not supported by or tied to actual capacity data, are not consistent with the USFS's appeal decision governing this process, are not consistent with applicable law, and will not protect the Chattooga River. The USFS's own capacity study demonstrated that boating is an appropriate use of the Upper Chattooga River, yet 5 of your 6 proposed alternatives ban boating on some or all of the upper river. The Upper Chattooga's capacity to support whitewater boating is not zero, and all action alternatives must allow at least some boating on the entire river. Any alternatives that limit recreation must do so based on the capacity of the river corridor as determined by real data – and must do so equitably.

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Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,

Mitch Moore
2525 Norris Rd #53
Columbus, GA 31907

Mitch Moore | Business Process Analyst II
Business Innovation and Solutions
Administrative Technology Support
Aflac Incorporated, Worldwide Headquarters

Tel: 706.596.3655 | Fax: 706.660.7539
1932 Wynnton Road, Columbus, GA 31999
mmoore@aflac.com | aflac.com

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Joel Atyas
<jatyas@vextec.com>
Sent by: Joel Atyas
<jatyasvextec@gmail.com>
m>

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga Scoping Document

08/22/2007 08:48 AM

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

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Sincerely,

Joel Atyas

67 White Fawn Drive

Asheville, NC 28801

Joel Atyas
VEXTEC Corporation
750 Old Hickory Blvd.
Bldg 2, Suite 270
Brentwood, TN 37027

Phone: 615-372-0299

Fax: 615-370-1097



"Adam M. Eckhardt"
<spasticplastic@gmail.com>

08/22/2007 08:53 AM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Mr. John Cleaves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
comments-southern-francismarionsumter@fs.fed.us

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleaves,

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Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,

Adam M. Eckhardt



"Phillip Foti"
<philcanoe@hotmail.com>

08/22/2007 08:56 AM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Mr. John Cleeves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
comments-southern-francismarionsumter@fs.fed.us

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

A ban on boating above Highway 28 has been in place since 1974, when the Chattooga River was added as a National Wild and Scenic River.

It has been Forest Service reasoning that the upper reaches of the Chattooga River should be reserved for those recreational uses most compatible with the specific "outstandingly remarkable values" (ORV) of those sections. The "outstandingly remarkable values" defined in the "Final Environmental Impact Statement for the revised Land and Resource Plan for the Sumter National Forest (2005) are water quality, biological/wildlife, ecological, botanical, fisheries, scenery and recreational. Those ORVs involving reaches above Highway 28 are spectacular scenery, extremely rare plants, unique fisheries and recreational opportunities for a "wilderness experience."

If the above information sounds or looks familiar it should, as it was based on and regurgitated from the "Chattooga Quarterly" of March 2006. This is the newsletter of the Chattooga Conservancy. You may ask why, but the reason is simple, our goals are the same. This is protection of a natural resource, one of incalculable value. We both desire the continued protection of a place considered an 'Outstandingly Remarkable Value', one that is capable of sustaining a true wilderness experience.

There is fear here, an irrational fearing that the floodgates would open to great hordes, and degenerate whitewater boaters would trash this resource. Such action would be far from the truth, as long as commercial access is prohibited. There should not be commercial rafting. I do not believe this was ever considered or asked. As for the great masses of boaters, that will truly be a short-lived response. The only reason such a condition would ever present itself, would be the ban preventing 'generations' from access. Once the "I've got to do it" mentality has been filled, the peak will be over. Due in large part to the levels required, most long-range planned trips will be limited to the rainy (winter/early spring) season. I imagine this is not the peak period for fishing, but this would only be a guess. If all of the above is not so, if crowds of boaters continued to pop up everywhere, if the 'Outstandingly Remarkable Value' was beginning to be diminished, then it would be easy to limit the number of participants. It will be obvious if there's too great a strain, as it will be studied and looked at. The destruction of natural resources should not and will not be allowed to continue as a slow and insidious cancer.

The rafter completely removed from his world, the vegetation stomping fisherman with a can of corn, and the drunk oblivious to all but himself; these are what we should fear. There is a great deal of difference in the demographic profile, of a rafter and that of a kayaker. The profile of a

kayaker is almost identical to that of a mountain biker and a climber. They tend to participate in multiple sports and have disposable incomes. This sounds a lot like a Trout Fisherman. The major difference being age, not any lack of respect for the natural world. Many boaters are staunch environmentalists, I wonder if there are as many respecters of the environment among 'Fishermen'. It is what we do as a group; we try to protect watersheds. We have a vested interest in the protection of all rivers, why would we have less for an official 'Wild and Scenic River'?

The Upper Chattooga's capacity to support whitewater boating is far from zero. For the last 30 years whitewater paddlers have been conscientious, we have followed all rules and regulations. Have other users been as compliant? As users of the Chattooga, paddlers have been limited to the less desirable sections of the river. At one time I routinely visited this river, it was one of my favorites, I was a beginner, and then an intermediate. But my abilities have increased, the sport has changed, and as it's grown the standards of whitewater runs have changed. However management practices have not changed. My interest is no longer with the Sections III and IV. I have been totally shut out of the experiences that the Chattooga could be. Not simply limited to a particular area I have been told, "No, you cannot use it". For I could care less about boating with the crowds of summer vacationers. I no longer make the drive, it's not the trill is gone. The commercialization from rafting companies, the powerboats on Lake Tagaloo, and the crowds of gawkers at Bull Sluice, Woodall Shoals and even the Five Falls are not what I relish. That is not what whitewater paddling is about, where is the nature in that. I paddle natural flowing whitewater, and rarely visit those dam controlled nightmares of summer. Summer is my off season, still paddling but considerably less. I boat in areas where you see little to no one else, and if present they've earned that right through time and sweat equity. Seeking places where there are no rafts to diminish and destroy the experience. I have always respected, and gotten along with the fishermen that were obviously seeking the same. Always feeling there was a kindred spirit present, a certain bond with someone enjoying the 'Real World'.

I only ask that the rights written in the original legislation be honored. I ask for the right to be treated equitably, to curtail disallowment from this resource. The standard should be set the same for all users, whether they hike, fish, swim, birdwatch, or boat. I care about protection of the Chattooga as a whole. But I only care about using the section above Highway 28, not the other parts. It would be incredible to link "ALL" sections together for permitted multi-day trips, but that's a separate idea or issue. I could envision western style self supported trips of 3-4-5 or even 6 days, now that would be a "outstandingly remarkable value".

Thank you for listening to and considering these ideas.

Sincerely,

Phillip C Foti

Booking a flight? Know when to buy with airfare predictions on MSN Travel.
<http://travel.msn.com/Articles/aboutfarecast.aspx&ocid=T001MSN25A07001>



Chattoog_Scoping_Letter.doc

494 Poplar Lane
Warrior Al, 35180

philcanoe (at) hotmail (dot) com

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Thank you for listening to and considering these ideas.

Sincerely,

Phillip C Foti

Mr. John Cleeves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
comments-southern-francismarionsumter@fs.fed.us

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

A ban on boating above Highway 28 has been in place since 1974, when the Chattooga River was added as a National Wild and Scenic River.

It has been Forest Service reasoning that the upper reaches of the Chattooga River should be reserved for those recreational uses most compatible with the specific “outstandingly remarkable values” (ORV) of those sections. The “outstandingly remarkable values” defined in the “Final Environmental Impact Statement for the revised Land and Resource Plan for the Sumter National Forest (2005) are water quality, biological/wildlife, ecological, botanical, fisheries, scenery and recreational. Those ORVs involving reaches above Highway 28 are spectacular scenery, extremely rare plants, unique fisheries and recreational opportunities for a “wilderness experience.”

If the above information sounds or looks familiar it should, as it was based on and regurgitated from the “Chattooga Quarterly” of March 2006. This is the newsletter of the Chattooga Conservancy. You may ask why, but the reason is simple, our goals are the same. This is protection of a natural resource, one of incalculable value. We both desire the continued protection of a place considered an ‘Outstandingly Remarkable Value’, one that is capable of sustaining a true wilderness experience.

There is fear here, an irrational fearing that the floodgates would open to great hordes, and degenerate whitewater boaters would trash this resource. Such action would be far from the truth, as long as commercial access is prohibited. There should not be commercial rafting. I do not believe this was ever considered or asked. As for the great masses of boaters, that will truly be a short-lived response. The only reason such a condition would ever present itself, would be the ban preventing ‘generations’ from access. Once the “I’ve got to do it” mentality has been filled, the peak will be over. Due in large part to the levels required, most long-range planned trips will be limited to the rainy (winter/early spring) season. I imagine this is not the peak period for fishing, but this would only be a guess. If all of the above is not so, if crowds of boaters continued to pop up everywhere, if the ‘Outstandingly Remarkable Value’ was beginning to be diminished, then it would be easy to limit the number of participants. It will be obvious if there’s too great a strain, as it will be studied and looked at. The destruction of natural resources should not and will not be allowed to continue as a slow and insidious cancer.

The rafter completely removed from his world, the vegetation stomping fisherman with a can of corn, and the drunk oblivious to all but himself; these are what we should fear.



"Case Taintor"
<casetaintor@gmail.com>
m>

08/22/2007 09:08 AM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga Scoping Document

Mr. John Cleaves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
comments-southern-francismarionsumter@fs.fed.us

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleaves,

The alternatives currently proposed by the USFS require substantial amendment because they are not supported by or tied to actual capacity data, are not consistent with the USFS's appeal decision governing this process, are not consistent with applicable law, and will not protect the Chattooga River. The USFS's own capacity study demonstrated that boating is an appropriate use of the Upper Chattooga River, yet 5 of your 6 proposed alternatives ban boating on some or all of the upper river. The Upper Chattooga's capacity to support whitewater boating is not zero, and all action alternatives must allow at least some boating on the entire river. Any alternatives that limit recreation must do so based on the capacity of the river corridor as determined by real data – and must do so equitably.

In addition, the proposed alternatives should be amended as follows:

- Proposed use limits must be tied to a specific standard regarding user capacity. Only one USFS alternative even mentions a standard (Alternative #2).
- Limits must be applied equitably and fairly – not targeted to *any* specific user groups without significant evidence. All USFS alternatives single out boating for harsh limits and bans – for which there is no evidence.
- Limits should only be imposed when standards are met or exceeded – and not before. Five of the six USFS alternatives limit and/or ban boating immediately without basis.
- Alternatives must include a range of standards for *all users*. USFS alternatives address a range of arbitrary limits on boaters – but only one alternative would limit other users. For example, a standard of 10, 6, and 2 group encounters per day should be analyzed, as well as provisions that exclude the outlier days when high use can be expected or occurs randomly.
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- Alternatives must prescribe indirect limits prior to direct limits as is required by USFS policy. Five of the six alternatives implement direct limits (i.e., bans) prior to trying indirect limits first in direct violation of USFS policy.
- Alternatives, including any capacity triggers, should distinguish between high use frontcountry areas and low use backcountry areas. USFS alternatives make no

distinction between how many encounters with other users are acceptable in a campground or at a trailhead as opposed to on a trail or river deep in the woods.

- Alternatives should look at varying levels of user created trail closures, user created trail hardening, creation of new trails, campsite closures or relocations, fish stocking, parking, total recreational use, angling use, hiking use, camping use, boating use, and swimming use.

Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,

Case Taintor
6720 31st St. N
Arlington, VA 22213



"Dave Liebenberg"
<dave@pyranhaus.com
>

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Chattooga River

08/22/2007 09:12 AM

Mr. John Cleaves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
comments-southern-francismarionsumter@fs.fed.us

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleaves,

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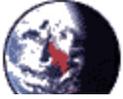
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Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,
Dave Liebenberg
Concerned Citizen



"Eric Brooks"
<ewbrooks@gmail.com>

08/22/2007 09:15 AM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Fwd: Chattooga Scoping Document

Mr. John Cleeves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

One of the wonderful things about kayaking is traveling to different parts of the country to see new landscapes and ecosystems from the bow of your boat. Though most of my kayaking takes place on the Potomac and in West Virginia, I have also made trips to the fantastic rivers of the Southeast -- from the Green Narrows and the Cheoah to the Tallulah Gorge of Georgia. I write this letter because someday I would like to kayak the headwaters of the Chattooga. However, the present Forest Service scoping document for the Chattooga instills little confidence that I will ever be able to do so.

The alternatives currently proposed by the USFS require substantial amendment because they are not supported by or tied to actual capacity data, are not consistent with the USFS's appeal decision governing this process, are not consistent with applicable law, and will not protect the Chattooga River. The USFS's own capacity study demonstrated that boating is an appropriate use of the Upper Chattooga River, yet 5 of your 6 proposed alternatives ban boating on some or all of the upper river. The Upper Chattooga's capacity to support whitewater boating is not zero, and all action alternatives must allow at least some boating on the entire river. Any alternatives that limit recreation must do so based on the capacity of the river corridor as determined by real data - and must do so equitably.

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Thank you for considering these ideas.

Eric Brooks
Account Executive
Institutional Shareholder Services, Inc.
2099 Gaither Road · Rockville, MD 20850-4045
301-556-0621 (direct)
208-474-1231 (fax)
eric.brooks@issproxy.com
ewbrooks@gmail.com



"Zach Coffey"
<zcoffey@peekdesign.com>

08/22/2007 09:25 AM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Chattooga action alert

Dear Mr. Cleaves,

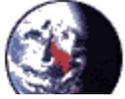
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Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely, Zachary Coffey
3398 Falling Brook Dr
Marietta, Ga, 30062



<anthony.hipps@syngenta.com>

08/22/2007 09:33 AM

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

cc:

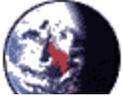
Subject: Comments on Chattooga NFS Proposals

Dear American Whitewater

I am an avid canoer and white water rafter, but I am also an avid wade fly fisherman. I believe opportunities should be made for both groups to enjoy the upper Chattooga. Because of the competing nature of the two sports, and for safety reasons, they should be done at different times. On the Nantahala River and the New River in North Carolina I have personally been almost run over by kayakers, canoers and tubers while I was wade fishing. On the Little River near Townsend Tennessee one can not fish at all on a summer Saturday due to the large number of kayakers and tubers in the river making noise and filling up the river. Fellow wade fishing friends of mine have been hit, insulted, cursed, threatened and had their fishing day ruined by rude or inexperienced kayakers and tubers. The two sports just do not fit together in small water (meaning narrow rivers) systems and both groups should have access. So if the NFS intent in closing the upper area to floaters is to reserve some portion of the Chattooga for fishermen I have to support that initiative. If the initiative is just to limit negative environmental impact due to large number of people using the system, I know forrest service people and we can work with them to reach a compromise amenable to most if not all user groups. Just something to think about.

God Bless you. I love your web site.

Anthony Hipps, Federation of Fly Fishers-Southeastern Council Board of Directors



<charlesparrish@alltel.net>

08/22/2007 09:34 AM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Chattooga River Access

It's time for the exclusivity to end. The current restrictions on paddling the upper reaches of the Chattooga are simply unfair and unfounded. As a dedicated environmentalist and avid whitewater paddler, I have the same right to enjoy this river as the hikers, campers and fishermen who until now have benefited from the highly questionable ban on boating these waters.

Let's cut the crap. This isn't about protecting the river. It's about reserving river access to fishermen who simply don't want anyone else around to spoil their private domain. You want to protect the river? Let the paddlers in. We are the ones who organize the clean ups, remove hazards, fight development on scenic rivers and truly work in the best interests of protecting our river assets. I've yet to see a paddler leave fishing line and hooks in the water, drop empty bait containers and food wrappers on the ground, throw beer cans and cigarettes in the river. Yet I encounter these very things anytime I hike through areas frequented by fishermen. Because of the nature of our sport, we have to bath in aftermath of pollution and disregard for the environment - believe me, we care about the river. The other parties care about themselves.

It's time to be fair and face the truth.

Charles Parrish
Columbus, NC
charlesparrish@alltel.net



VA1CANOE@aol.com

08/22/2007 09:41 AM

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

cc:

Subject: Chattooga Scoping Document

Mr. John Cleeves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

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Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,

A. Howard Kirkland
499 Suburban Road
Lynchburg, Virginia 24501
Valcanoe@aol.com

Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL.com.



"Church &
Jarzembowski"
<dna@highlands.com>
08/22/2007 09:44 AM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

The alternatives currently proposed by the USFS require substantial amendment because they are not supported by or tied to actual capacity data, are not consistent with the USFS's appeal decision governing this process, are not consistent with applicable law, and will not protect the PlaceNameplaceChattooga PlaceTypeRiver. The USFS's own capacity study demonstrated that boating is an appropriate use of the PlaceNameplaceUpper PlaceNameChattooga PlaceTypeRiver, yet 5 of your 6 proposed alternatives ban boating on some or all of the upper river. The placeUpper Chattooga's capacity to support whitewater boating is not zero, and all action alternatives must allow at least some boating on the entire river. Any alternatives that limit recreation must do so based on the capacity of the river corridor as determined by real data – and must do so equitably.

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Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely, David Church



"Pevahouse, Kenny
(EXT)"
<kenny.pevahouse.ext
@siemens.com>

08/22/2007 09:44 AM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Chattooga River Management / consideration for boaters

Mr. John Cleeves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

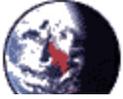
I want to protect the Chattooga River balanced with public enjoyment. I feel however, that **boaters are being singled out for excessive restrictions**. I suggest the alternatives currently proposed by the USFS require substantial amendment. These amendments are not supported by or tied to actual capacity data, are not consistent with the USFS's appeal decision governing this process, are not consistent with applicable law. The USFS's own capacity study demonstrated that boating is an appropriate use of the Upper Chattooga River, yet 5 of your 6 proposed alternatives ban boating on some or all of the upper river. The Upper Chattooga's capacity to support whitewater boating is not zero, and all action alternatives must allow at least some boating on the entire river. Any alternatives that limit recreation must do so based on the capacity of the river corridor as determined by real data – and must do so equitably.

- All USFS alternatives single out boating for harsh limits and bans – **these limits are unwarranted based upon evidence and are not equitable or fair.**
- Five of the six USFS alternatives limit and/or ban boating immediately without basis.
- USFS alternatives suggest a range of arbitrary limits on boaters – but only one alternative would limit other users.
- The proposed USFS alternatives are not based on the social or physical capacity of the river corridor.
- Alternatives must prescribe indirect limits prior to direct limits as is required by USFS policy. Five of the six alternatives implement direct limits (i.e., bans) prior to trying indirect limits first in direct violation of USFS policy.
- Alternatives, including any capacity triggers, should distinguish between high use frontcountry areas and low use backcountry areas. USFS alternatives make no distinction between how many encounters with other users are acceptable in a campground or at a trailhead as opposed to on a trail or river deep in the woods.
- Alternatives should look at varying levels of user created trail closures, user created trail hardening, creation of new trails, campsite closures or relocations, fish stocking, parking, total recreational use, angling use, hiking use, camping use, boating use, and swimming use.

Thank you for considering my input on these matters. Please improve the accessibility to the Chattooga for boaters.

Sincerely,

Ken Pevahouse
176 Colony Lane
Hartselle, AL 35640



TJohnson@invacare.co
m

08/22/2007 09:28 AM

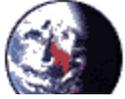
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga

My 17 year old daughter and I would like to lend our support to opening the Chattooga for boating. Based on what I've read the closing of this river has been unlawful and corrective action needs to be taken. The river is navigable.

Tim Johnson, Territory Sales Manager
Invacare
253 Hillandale Ave
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
540.908.0249 (mobile)
540.433.3249 (fax)
800.347.5440 1 wait for voice 6015 (v/m)

tjohnson@invacare.com

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KurtJWilliams3@comcast.net (Kurt Williams)

08/22/2007 09:55 AM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: FW: My Input on the Chattooga Scoping Document

Mr. John Cleeves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

Eco Systems Management poses a challenge in striking a fine balance between people and nature. It addresses the dilemma of how to support both without the exclusion of the other. As a naturalist, a whitewater rafter (along with a number of other outdoor recreational activities) and lifetime member of American Whitewaters, I understand and support the need to look at various alternatives regarding Chattooga River usage.

However, the alternatives currently proposed by the USFS require substantial amendment because they are not supported by or tied to actual capacity data, are not consistent with the USFS's appeal decision governing this process, are not consistent with applicable law, and will not protect the Chattooga River. The USFS's own capacity study demonstrated that boating is an appropriate use of the Upper Chattooga River, yet 5 of your 6 proposed alternatives ban boating on some or all of the upper river. The Upper Chattooga's capacity to support whitewater boating is not zero, and all action alternatives must allow at least some boating on the entire river. Any alternatives that limit recreation must do so based on the capacity of the river corridor as determined by real data – and must do so equitably.

In addition, the proposed alternatives should be amended as follows:

- Proposed use limits must be tied to a specific standard regarding user capacity. Only one USFS alternative even mentions a standard (Alternative #2).
- Limits must be applied equitably and fairly – not targeted to *any* specific user groups without significant evidence. All USFS alternatives single out boating for harsh limits and bans – for which there is no evidence.
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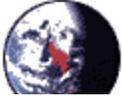
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- Alternatives should look at varying levels of user created trail closures, user created trail hardening, creation of new trails, campsite closures or relocations, fish stocking, parking, total recreational use, angling use, hiking use, camping use, boating use, and swimming use.

Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,

Kurt J Williams
8 Sherring Way
Tabernacle, New Jersey 08088-9792



Charles R Albright
<cralbright@juno.com>

08/22/2007 10:04 AM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Upper Chattooga River

I feel compelled to write you regarding the opportunity to open up the Upper Chattooga for paddling. I strongly urge you to support this plan. I am from California and Nevada where we have liberal laws that say that if you can paddle it it is legally a navigable waterway. This should be the case for the entire Chatttooga as well. I hope that you might see that this is the United States and that one of our basic rights is that we should be able to navigate our rivers, lakes and streams as well as tidal and esturaries and shorelines freely without control.

I was able to enjoy the Bull Run section and the Lower Chattooga as well as the reservoir in 1989 and would feel compelled to return for the "Triple Crown" if it was to become open to the public. Did you see that last word? Public means usable by the PUBLIC.

Sincerely yours,

Charles Albright
1408 Washington St
Reno, Nevada 89503
775-324-5102



<ian.foley@shell.com>

08/22/2007 10:53 AM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: chattooga response

<<chattooga.ZIP>>

Ian Foley

Development Engineer

Shell Exploration & Production Company

4582 South Ulster Street, 14th Floor, Suite 1400, Denver, Colorado 80237, USA

Tel: + 1-303-305-7814 7814

Email: ian.foley@shell.com



Internet: <http://www.shell.com> chattooga.ZIP

- Alternatives should look at varying levels of user created trail closures, user created trail hardening, creation of new trails, campsite closures or relocations, fish stocking, parking, total recreational use, angling use, hiking use, camping use, boating use, and swimming use.

Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,
Ian Foley
419 South Vine Street
Denver, CO 80209

Mr. John Cleeves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
comments-southern-francismarionsumter@fs.fed.us

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

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In addition, the proposed alternatives should be amended as follows:

- Proposed use limits must be tied to a specific standard regarding user capacity. Only one USFS alternative even mentions a standard (Alternative #2).
- Limits must be applied equitably and fairly– not targeted to *any* specific user groups without significant evidence. All USFS alternatives single out boating for harsh limits and bans – for which there is no evidence.
- Limits should only be imposed when standards are met or exceeded – and not before. Five of the six USFS alternatives limit and/or ban boating immediately without basis.
- Alternatives must include a range of standards for *all users*. USFS alternatives address a range of arbitrary limits on boaters – but only one alternative would limit other users. For example, a standard of 10, 6, and 2 group encounters per day should be analyzed, as well as provisions that exclude the outlier days when high use can be expected or occurs randomly.
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"Kevin Smith"
<sixsevenkevin@gmail.com>

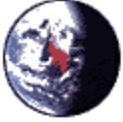
08/22/2007 11:11 AM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc: dave@amwhitewater.org
Subject: Chattooga River Management

Dear to Whom it May Concern,

I am writing regarding the upcoming management decisions for the Chattooga River. I encourage you to please allow right of passage to all non-motorized watercraft on the river. As an active whitewater enthusiast, I can say that whitewater boating is low, provides environmentally friendly mode of outdoor recreation, and promotes public awareness of our national resources. Whitewater boaters tend to be a conscious user group and highly respect access issues. Please considers these reasons as well as others presented by the whitewater community and American Whitewater.

Sincerely,
Kevin Smith
Mammoth Lakes, CA



McClanahan David M
TSG 189AW/MXMVC
<David.McClanahan@ar
litt.ang.af.mil>

To: "comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us"
<comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: FW: Chattooga Wild and Scenic River usage.

08/22/2007 11:18 AM

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

The currently proposed management plans for the Chattooga wild and scenic river area are substantially flawed and are not supported by, or tied to actual capacity data. None of the proposed plans are consistent with applicable law, and none will help protect the Chattooga River. The USFS's own capacity study showed that paddling is an appropriate use of the Upper Chattooga, yet only one of the six proposed plans allows for any paddling, and that only on one small portion of the upper river. The upper section of the Chattooga's capacity to support whitewater boating is not zero, and all action alternatives must allow at least some boating on the entire river. Any alternatives that limit recreation must do so based on the capacity of the river corridor as determined by real data - and must do so equitably for all users. Paddle sports have no more impact than many of the uses allowed under the current proposals and less than many of them.

* Limits should be tied to a specific standard related to user capacity. Only one of the currently proposed plans even mentions a standard.

* Limits must be applied equally to all users based on factual impact data, not targeted unduly against one group without cause. All of the proposed plans single out paddling for harsh limits and bans without cause or justification.

* Limits should only be imposed when adverse impact begins to occur, five of the six plans limit or ban paddling outright, without basis.

* Plans must include a range of standards for all users, not just singling out one group. The currently proposed plans set a range of arbitrary limits on boaters - but only one alternative would limit other users.

* In direct violation of USFS policy, five of the six currently proposed plans implement outright bans without attempting indirect limits first.

* Plans that include capacity triggers, should distinguish between high use front-country areas and low use backcountry areas. An encounter in a trailhead parking lot is hardly the same as an encounter on a mountain trail or deep in the woods.

Thank you for considering these ideas.

David McClanahan



Phil Austin
<paustin@pegasustech.
com>

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Please help

08/22/2007 11:46 AM

Please consider my letter which is attached.

Thanks,
Phil Austin



Chattooga.doc



"Eric Tomchin"
<Eric.Tomchin@gmlaw.
com>

08/22/2007 12:02 PM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Comments to Upper Chattooga River Alternatives

To Whom It May Concern:

I currently have a home in Sapphire, North Carolina and have flyfished the upper Chattooga on many occasions. I strongly support keeping the current boating ban in effect on the upper portion of the river. The majority of the river is open to boating with only the upper stretches being closed, and this, in and of itself, seems to provide a fair balance of interests with respect to viewing the uses of the river in its entirety.

By way of example, I would note that Deep Creek (near Bryson City) allows tubing in its lower stretches but designates a point further upstream that prohibits tubing. The method they have employed at Deep Creek allows the tubers to enjoy a large stretch of the river, while, at the same time, allowing anglers to hike further upstream to fish without interference from tubers. The lower section is more suited to tubing and thus this scenario makes sense. This rationale would also seem to apply to the Chattooga since the wider and deeper lower sections of the river would be better suited for boat traffic.

Aside from fishing, many people (including their children) go to the Upper Chattooga to swim and hike. If boating is permitted I could certainly envision many of the swimmers being involved in accidents where the kayakers drop into a pool full of children with inner-tubes. When I was at the Upper Chattooga this summer, the river was full of families and their children swimming in the many pools along the rivers upper course. As a result, allowing boating on this stretch of river would not only affect the interests of fisherman but would also imperil the safety of swimmers who make use of the river in the summer months.

In addition to the foregoing, the current trail system along the Upper Chattooga is not equipped to handle the increased foot traffic of people and their boats. Boats will be dragged along portions of the trail and will be dragged from the trail down to the river at different points thereby depleting the trailside and riverbank vegetation. In addition, the trails, will, over time, be widened as foot traffic congestion increases and forces people to deviate off the main trail to permit simultaneous passage. The increase in sedimentation resulting from the ensuing erosion would certainly be harmful to the river which is already facing sedimentation issues.

Finally, I would note that the increased traffic on the roads leading to the Upper Chattooga would increase the need for maintenance and re-graveling of many of the roads which provide vehicular access. Given the current budget issues facing many federal agencies and departments this could also lead to drawing budgetary resources away from where they may be most needed.

In conclusion, I would strongly support maintaining the status quo with respect to the current use designation of the Upper Chattooga River and would strongly urge the continuation of the boating ban on this section of the river.

Eric Tomchin, Esq.
Greenspoon Marder, P.A.
100 West Cypress Creek Road, Suite 700
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
954-491-1120 (Office)
954-771-9264 (Fax)
888-491-1120 (Watts)

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<nfunk@bellsouth.net>

08/22/2007 12:46 PM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Chattooga River



Chattooga+Sample+Scoping+Letter164.doc



"Matt DeVoe"
<MDeVoe@smeinc.com
>

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Chattooga River

08/22/2007 12:51 PM

Mr. John Cleeves

U.S. Forest Service

4931 Broad River Road

Columbia, SC 29212

comments-southern-francismarionsumter@fs.fed.us

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

The alternatives currently proposed by the USFS require substantial amendment because they are not supported by or tied to actual capacity data, are not consistent with the USFS's appeal decision governing this process, are not consistent with applicable law, and will not protect the Chattooga River. The USFS's own capacity study demonstrated that boating is an appropriate use of the Upper Chattooga River, yet 5 of your 6 proposed alternatives ban boating on some or all of the upper river. The Upper Chattooga's capacity to support whitewater boating is not zero, and all action alternatives must allow at least some boating on the entire river. Any alternatives that limit recreation must do so based on the capacity of the river corridor as determined by real data – and must do so equitably.

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Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,

Thomas DeVoe

3917 Island Home Pike

Knoxville, TN 37920



donojive@aol.com

08/22/2007 01:48 PM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chatooga

Please consider opening up the upper Chatooga to paddling. The paddling group as a whole is extremely low impact and will not degrade this watershed. In addition, this upper part of the river is so small that it will only be paddled after heavy rains when the fishing will not be good. I do not foresee many conflicts or even encounters of boaters and fisherman. This river deserves the same access of every other river in the national forest.

Sincerely,

Chris Donochod
9 Normandy Road
Asheville, NC 28803
(828)253-1240

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SG4413@aol.com

08/22/2007 02:03 PM

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

cc:

Subject: Free the upper

I am a kayaker and love to kayak new rivers. I ran the Chatooga years ago and wanted to do the upper and couldn't understand why it was not available. This portion of the river should be open to the public. I am from Montana and would travel back just to do that run.

Scott Gratton

Brown Law Firm, P.C.

315 North 24th Street

P.O. Drawer 849

Billings, MT 59103-0849

Phone: (406) 248-2611

Fax: (406) 248-3128

Email: sgratton@brownfirm.com

sg4413@aol.com

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Ray Bauss
<raybauss@yahoo.com
>

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga River

08/22/2007 02:04 PM

Mr. John Cleeves
U.S. Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212

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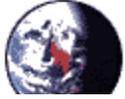
Sincerely,

J Raymond Bauss

PO Box 442 Gassville AR. 72635

Luggage? GPS? Comic books?

Check out fitting [gifts for grads](#) at Yahoo! Search.



"Patrick"
<oilguru@hotmail.com>
08/22/2007 02:50 PM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Chattooga Scoping Document

Mr. John Cleeves

U.S. Forest Service

4931 Broad River Road

Columbia, SC 29212

comments-southern-francismarionsumter@fs.fed.us

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

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Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,

Patrick Parson

4245 Matlock Rd

Bowling Green, KY 42104

Internal Virus Database is out-of-date.

Checked by AVG Free Edition.

Version: 7.5.476 / Virus Database: 269.11.17/951 - Release Date: 8/13/2007 10:15 AM



Mike Smith
<dagger332006@yahoo.com>

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Fwd: Chattooga Scoping Document

08/22/2007 03:10 PM

--- Mike Smith <dagger332006@yahoo.com> wrote:

> Date: Wed, 22 Aug 2007 12:05:21 -0700 (PDT)
> From: Mike Smith <dagger332006@yahoo.com>
> Subject: Chattooga Scoping Document
> To: comments-southern-francismarionsumter@fs.fed.us.

>
> Mike Smith
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>
>
> Mr. John Cleeves
> U.S. Forest Service
> 4931 Broad River Road
> Columbia, SC 29212
> comments-southern-francismarionsumter@fs.fed.us

> RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

> Dear Mr. Cleeves,

>
> The alternatives currently proposed by the USFS
> require substantial amendment because they are not
> supported by or tied to actual capacity data, are
> not
> consistent with the USFS's appeal decision governing
> this process, are not consistent with applicable
> law,
> and will not protect the Chattooga River. The
> USFS's
> own capacity study demonstrated that boating is an
> appropriate use of the Upper Chattooga River, yet 5
> of
> your 6 proposed alternatives ban boating on some or
> all of the upper river. The Upper Chattooga's
> capacity to support whitewater boating is not zero,
> and all action alternatives must allow at least some
> boating on the entire river. Any alternatives that
> limit recreation must do so based on the capacity of
> the river corridor as determined by real data - and
> must do so equitably.

>
> In addition, the proposed alternatives should be
> amended as follows:

>
> . Proposed use limits must be tied to a specific
> standard regarding user capacity. Only one USFS
> alternative even mentions a standard (Alternative
> #2).

>

> . Limits must be applied equitably and fairly- not
> targeted to any specific user groups without
> significant evidence. All USFS alternatives single
> out boating for harsh limits and bans - for which
> there is no evidence.

> . Limits should only be imposed when standards are
> met
> or exceeded - and not before. Five of the six USFS
> alternatives limit and/or ban boating immediately
> without basis.

> . Alternatives must include a range of standards for
> all users. USFS alternatives address a range of
> arbitrary limits on boaters - but only one
> alternative
> would limit other users. For example, a standard
> of
> 10, 6, and 2 group encounters per day should be
> analyzed, as well as provisions that exclude the
> outlier days when high use can be expected or occurs
> randomly.

> . Alternatives must be based on a capacity for all
> users and/or individual uses. The proposed USFS
> alternatives are not based on the social or physical
> capacity of the river corridor.

> . Alternatives must prescribe indirect limits prior
> to
> direct limits as is required by USFS policy. Five
> of
> the six alternatives implement direct limits (i.e.,
> bans) prior to trying indirect limits first in
> direct
> violation of USFS policy.

> . Alternatives, including any capacity triggers,
> should distinguish between high use frontcountry
> areas
> and low use backcountry areas. USFS alternatives
> make
> no distinction between how many encounters with
> other
> users are acceptable in a campground or at a
> trailhead
> as opposed to on a trail or river deep in the woods.

> . Alternatives should look at varying levels of user
> created trail closures, user created trail
> hardening,
> creation of new trails, campsite closures or
> relocations, fish stocking, parking, total
> recreational use, angling use, hiking use, camping
> use, boating use, and swimming use.

>
> Thank you for considering these ideas.

>
> Sincerely,
> Mike Smith
>
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>
>
>

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john schroader
<johnrschroader@yahoo
.com>

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga headwaters

08/22/2007 03:15 PM

I would like to take a few moments to express my feelings about the ban on boating on the Chattooga headwaters. Like many of us, I love streams of the southern Appalachians. Hiking, wading, fishing, sitting beside them, and of course, kayaking these streams. Probably the least damaging to the environment and my favorite of all is kayaking. No tramping down vegetation; no making paths through the underbrush; just gliding over the waters – leaving no trace. I contend that floating down a mountain stream is a pleasure that should be not be denied anyone. I do not want to see hikers or anglers denied access to the headwaters of the Chattooga, but I certainly cannot see the logic of restricting boaters from this beautiful stream. Again, if you calculated the damage to the environment, boaters would certainly rank among the least intrusive. I have kayaked for 16 years and firmly believe that, in general, whitewater boaters are among the most environmentally conscientious of all wilderness users. Please do not uphold an archaic and ridiculous ruling that bans our use of this national treasure.

John Schroader

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