



"Lee Edwards"
<leebee957@hotmail.com>
m>

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

09/05/2007 03:34 PM

Dear Mr. Cleeves

Please open up the Upper Chattooga for whitewater boating.

More photos; more messages; more whatever. Windows Live Hotmail - NOW with
5GB storage.
http://imagine-windowslive.com/hotmail/?locale=en-us&ocid=TXT_TAGHM_migration_HM_mini_5G_0907



doedward@vt.edu
09/05/2007 03:36 PM

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

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

Please open up the Upper Chattooga for whitewater boating.

A concerned boater



Raymond Occhipinti
<bleep2112@yahoo.com>

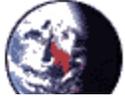
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: upper chattooga

09/05/2007 03:42 PM

I am writing you to let you know that I think it is not fair to keep only boaters from using the upper chattooga. I believe that all people can and should be able to use the area while still keeping it in a state of "wilderness". At the very least the areas could be opened to boaters every other weekend or so.

Raymond Occhipinti

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



"Ed McDowell"
<ed.mcdowell@cox.net>
09/05/2007 03:52 PM

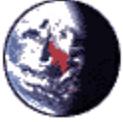
To: <Comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Opening the upper Chattooga River to Boaters

This is a poor decision because:

1. The Upper Chattooga, bisecting the Ellicott Rock Wilderness, remains one of the premier wild areas of the eastern United States, a refuge for wildlife, people and one of the best backcountry trout streams in the country.
2. Opening the area to boaters (and their vehicles) would overwhelm a fragile resource and create open conflict with current visitors (hunters, hikers, anglers, photographers, birders, picnickers, naturalists, botanists, campers, swimmers, etc.)
3. Whitewater boaters already have ample and the majority of swift rapids nearby (Overflow and Holcomb creeks, the West Fork of the Chattooga, and the entire 36 miles of the Lower Chattooga.)
4. A thorough Environmental Impact Statement is required to adequately study the issue and the impact of boating on flora and fauna in the corridor.
5. New access (put in and take out points) offered to boaters would cause greater erosion into the river.
6. The Forest Service must protect the Upper Chattooga's existing Outstandingly Remarkable Values of biology, geology, history, and, especially, solitude.
7. All alternatives must serve to protect Large Woody Debris (i.e. dead trees falling to the water) in the river and its tributaries - a key ingredient in the aquatic food chain. (Boaters like to cut these down trees out of the way.)
8. The agency must spell out how it will monitor and enforce any new rules and regulations and how much these will cost.

Thanks for the time.

Ed McDowell
209 Cartwright Drive
Bonaire, Ga 31005-3903
478.929.1267
478.396.8901 (cell)
ed.mcdowell@cox.net



"City Kayak- Ted Choi"
<tc@citykayak.com>
09/05/2007 04:13 PM
Please respond to tc

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

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,

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,

Leah Rybolt
1840 10th Ave
San Francisco, CA 94122



David Dusenbery
<ddusenbery@yahoo.com>

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

09/05/2007 04:14 PM
Please respond to David
Dusenbery

Although I am an enthusiastic canoeist, I believe that the upper Chatooga River should retain it's present protection from boating. This pristine stream would certainly be damaged by boaters disturbing the bottom, depositing their waste on the banks, and causing erosion of the banks as they transport their boats to and from the river. The lower sections provide abundant opportunities for boating at all levels of skill.

Sincerely,
David Dusenbery



Pamela Pettigrew
<pmpinega@yahoo.com
>

To: Comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: NO BOATERS!!!!

09/05/2007 04:49 PM

Subject says it all! If it's already been 30 plus years with no boats up there leave it alone. Also there are some dangerous waterfalls up there, do you want more boating fatalities on your conscious? Pam Pettigrew

Take the Internet to Go: Yahoo!Go puts the [Internet in your pocket](#): mail, news, photos & more.



Paul Sanger
<paulsanger@earthlink.net>

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

09/05/2007 04:39 PM

I have thought that the policy regarding the use of the Chattoga made sense. There was a stretch of the river for boaters and then a stretch for anglers and hikers. Fifty years ago the river could have been thought of as in the wilderness. No longer. It is a river flowing through what is almost a suburban community. Therefore, in my opinion, it is of the utmost importance to try to preserve a sense of wilderness, a sense of what the country used to be like, to preserve a magnificent stream that serves the desires and wants of a diverse community. Yours, Paul Sanger. P.O. Box 123, Cashiers, N.C, 28717. My street address is 700 Rhody Ln. (My property is on one of the three streams that on joining marks the beginning of the Chattooga.)

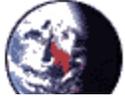


"Ed Gates"
<edgates04@bellsouth.net>

09/05/2007 05:06 PM

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

I am a 63 year old taxpayer and I would enjoy paddling my kayak down the entire length of the Chattooga River. And I would enjoy doing that real soon. Thanks for doing your job. ed



"Ray Gentry"
<regentry@alltel.net>
09/05/2007 05:09 PM

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

Please see attached supporting Alt # 1 and my other comments.

Ray E. Gentry



404-680-6736 Ray Gantry- Alltel.vcf Ray Gentry's responce 9-5-07.doc



"Ken Bradshaw"
<kshaw01@mindspring.com>

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

09/05/2007 05:13 PM
Please respond to "Ken Bradshaw"

Project Coordinator John Cleeves
USDA Forest Service
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212.

As a long standing member of Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited, hunter and avid sportsman I believe that the *North Fork Chattooga's recreational Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV), including aesthetic and social values in a foot travel only backcountry setting* should be preserved and river usage limitations should be maintained in their current state.

Limited woody debris removal, potentially allowed in Alternatives 4, 5 & 6 should be carefully analyzed in order to prevent any compromise to ecological importance of LWD in river systems.

Whitewater boating opportunities exist on 63% of the length of the Chattooga and all other streams on all surrounding National Forests. However, the North Fork is the only segment of a backcountry Forest Service stream in the southeast zoned for foot travel only, a unique resource deserving of protection for present and future generations. There is absolutely nothing in the Wilderness Act and/or the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act that says all activities must be permitted in all segments of the river. It is of utmost importance to preserve at least a few small segments of NF wilderness areas in as near pristine condition as possible .

Adding boating recreation to the North Fork will not protect and enhance its solitude and remoteness for present and future generations , as required by both the Wilderness Act or the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Natural resource stewardship should be a common thread among all outdoor enthusiasts. Birders, hikers, anglers, campers, and also boaters. Merriam Websters definition of stewardship is: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care . I do not believe adding more people, more noise or more potentially destructive activities in any way indicates responsible management.

Sincerely,

Ken Bradshaw
65 Cumberland Way
Dallas GA 30132
BOD / Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited
BOD / Cohutta Chapter of Trout Unlimited



"Robbie Gilson"
<robbisonomatic@gmail
.com>

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Please open the Chattooga Headwaters to boaters

09/05/2007 06:39 PM

First off, I would like to point out that no natural waterway can be owned or controlled by anybody, although it can be maintained. Boaters CAN and WILL share the river with other people if given the opportunity. By permitting paddling on the Chattooga headwaters boaters in the area will be able to paddle rapids of equivalent difficulty to rapids on another river maybe 100 miles away. This will lower fuel emissions from the paddler's vehicles and will provide cleaner air quality. Also, paddlers traveling to the area will increase the profits of hotels and restaurants when they eat or spend the night there. This is just one of the many benefits for the community in permitting boating on the Headwaters. Thank you and I hope you make the correct decision by allowing everyone to share the river.

Robbie Gilson



"Notarian, Roger
[ALZUS Non J&J]"
<RNotaria@ALZUS.JNJ
.COM>

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

09/05/2007 06:42 PM



Chattooga+Sample+Scoping+Letter164 rjn 090507.doc



dena maguire
<dmaguire5@yahoo.co
m>

09/05/2007 08:07 PM

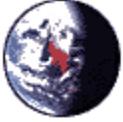
To: Comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Save the elicott intersection of the Upper Chattahooche River

As an avid kayaker and nature lover, I feel there are enough places for us to kayak. Please preserve this untouched area from commercialization as that is what ultimately happens when boaters are allowed on sections of a river.

Thank you,

Dena Maguire
Dahlonge GA

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>



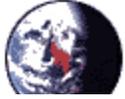
"Phillip Sisk"
<phillipsisk3@mchsi.com>

09/05/2007 08:38 PM

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



[http__www.americanwhitewater.txt](http://www.americanwhitewater.txt)



"P. Jackson"
<echo21@earthlink.net>
09/05/2007 09:03 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,

My family lives in Seneca and Walhalla, South Carolina. I, myself, own property just off Highway 28 – a few miles from the Chattooga River. During holidays, my dad and I fish on the Chattooga River (USFS maintained), the Chauga River (locally maintained), and Cedar Creek (apparently unmanaged, but probably USFS property). Comparatively, the upper Chattooga River areas are filthy. There is trash and debris along the road, the river banks, and the paths to the river. I am referring to the sections where currently, only fishing and camping are allowed – not boating. The areas are poorly maintained by a severely under funded Forest Service and National Forest system. I fail to see how the currently proposed alternatives protect natural and public resources or assist with funding proper use and maintenance of this area. Additionally, these alternatives seem to ban most boating use but continue to allow the current and obviously detrimental uses currently in place.

The current proposed alternatives are not consistent with the USFS's appeal decision governing this process and they will clearly 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 should allow some boating on the entire river. Any alternatives that limit recreation must do so based on the capacity of the river and should do so equitably.

I recommend the following amendments to each of the proposed alternatives:

- Proposed use limits should be tied to a specific standard regarding user capacity.
- Limits must be applied equitably and fairly – not targeted to a specific user group.
- Alternatives should 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 prescribe indirect limits prior to direct limits as is required by USFS policy. Five of the six alternatives implement bans prior to trying indirect limits first in direct violation of USFS policy.
- Alternatives, including any capacity triggers, should distinguish between high use front country 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.

Finally, if USFS is so poorly funded that they cannot properly maintain these areas, enact or increase users fees to support proper maintenance and care of our natural and publicly owned resources.

Sincerely,

Pamela Jackson, PG
3164 Whirlaway Trail
Tallahassee, Florida 32309



<jtoral@bellsouth.net>

09/05/2007 09:11 PM

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

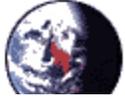
cc:

Subject: PLease do not open up the Chatooga to boating

Dear Sir,

I implore that you look ahead and understand the great importance of maintaining quiet places on our earth. Must we put our loud footprint on all places?

Jessica Toral



Pack489
<pack489@yahoo.com>

09/05/2007 09:44 PM

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

One way I "unwind" from my urban job is to seek out rivers in the southeast for kayaking. Our Cincinnati group has already paddled a number of SE rivers as overnight expeditions enjoying the great outdoors and the wildlife. We are not loud young people but rather middle aged good citizens. Opening up the upper reaches of the Chattooga River could result in another venue for our group.

We treat the environment with great respect, as do you. Won't you consider removing the restriction?

Fred Haaser
Cincinnati, OH

Yahoo! oneSearch: Finally, [mobile search that gives answers](#), not web links.



Steve Moore
<steve_moore23@yahoo.com>

09/05/2007 10:14 PM

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

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

September 5, 2007

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

After spending a day working with the Forest Service and all interested parties at the workshop in Walhalla, I was very disappointed to see the alternatives presented in the Scoping Document. This is for two specific reasons. The first is that the Scoping Document does not make mention of the legality of the "boating ban." The second is that I believe that the alternatives presented don't accurately capture the needs of the Upper Chattooga Corridor.

I do not find that any alternative that upholds the violation of current law acceptable. In fact, 5 of the 6 alternatives uphold part or all of the ban. The restriction of one user group, in this case, boaters, has been determined to be illegal per the Wilderness Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. To continue with this management action is unacceptable to me and is mutually exclusive from the need to protect the Upper Chattooga Corridor. I believe that those who wish to experience this area should have the ability to do so, without prejudice to what user group(s) they may belong to.

To my second point, I would like to make some comments on the management actions mentioned as a part of the Scoping Package. I agree with a self-registration system, with the data available to the Forest Service to improve management in the future. It should be based on actual usage and resource usage. I do not support a fee system. I would only support a permitting system in areas where user-caused damage to the environment requires immediate and swift mitigation. Again, this would be based on actual use and applied equally across user groups. Parking: Only one alternative mentions the removal of parking lots within the river corridor. I believe that all alternatives should include this management action. Finally, I want to make sure that the Forest Service takes action to prevent any new - and to remove - most current user-created trails, fire rings, and campsites. Those trails, camps, and fire rings that are going to be kept should be maintained and improved to prevent erosion and to minimize the impact on the area. These areas should be spaced appropriately and should be kept out of the river corridor.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this process.

Respectfully,

Steve Moore



"Brantley Smith"
<brantleys78@hotmail.com>

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

09/05/2007 11:15 PM

To whom it may concern,

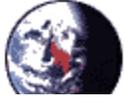
First allow me to thank Mr. Thomas' office and the U.S. D.A. for calling upon the input of those who have an interest in the care of the Chattooga and its watershed. The Chattooga's value as a recreational area is the reason the watershed was named under Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This Recreational value is the lifeblood of the Chattooga. When we increase access to the Chattooga we increase its recreational value to the public by allowing a greater portion of the populous to benefit from its beauty, seclusion, delivered excitement. When we increase usage by increasing access we also run the risk of destroying that which we aim to protect. The plans you have presented are smartly constructed and seem to offer the balance that I think we all looking for.

I am primarily a paddler and learned to paddle on the Chattooga. I have worked professionally as a kayaking and whitewater rafting guide. I have a variety of outdoor interests but I speak primarily from a paddler's perspective.

The plan to allow no more than four groups at twelve people per group would work brilliantly for raft trips. If we are to allow only kayaks on the upper then I suggest we distribute our 48 head total in twelve groups of four people. I know a ton of kayakers and I would have trouble finding 12 people to paddle with on any given day. I don't see how the specific division of 48 people will have a great affect either way. Also the limits on encounters seem hard to manage. I assume we are talking about paddling groups encountering one another on the river. Paddling is something that can only be done at one's own pace. Putting time constraints or proximity limits on paddling groups not only detracts from the paddler's experience, but also can prove very dangerous. You never rush anyone down a whitewater river. As far as woody debris is concerned, I don't think paddlers remove wood from the water unless they deem it unsafe. Again, this is something that is dangerous to over-regulate. I have paddled every currently open section of the Chattooga, and I feel that the parking situation is perfect. We have enough to encourage tourism, but not enough to encourage destruction. I have never paddled the upper section which are in question of being opened to paddlers. There may be need for parking there. If some of the current parking lots could be prudently relocated to an area healthier for the watershed, then I am and I believe most paddlers are all for it.

Thanks for the opportunity to be heard. I trust that you guys will make the best possible compromise, whatever that may be. Take care and enjoy reading all the angry email that I'm sure you are receiving on this issue.

Brantley smith



"Carl or Kathie Blozan"
<ckblozan@nctv.com>

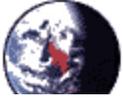
09/06/2007 05:46 AM

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

From Carl and Kathie Blozan of Cashiers, NC:

It looks like there are plenty of nearby places for the boaters to go. Were that not the case, there would be an argument in favor of opening up another.

Thank you for your careful consideration of the proposal.



Mike McDonnell
<mcdies2@yahoo.com>

09/06/2007 05:52 AM

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

As a paddler i have enjoyed the lower sections of the Chattooga as well as scores of other rivers across the country that flow through both private and public lands. Care and stewardship of rivers by their users is both traditional and well-evidenced. Please do not apply arbitrary limitations or bans on the Upper Chattooga that would prevent citizens from constructively and conservatively enjoying our resources.

Regards,
Mike McDonnell
Tunbridge, VT

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



"Mark Nemeroff"
<nemeroff@bellsouth.net>

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

09/06/2007 06:58 AM

Please amend current policy to allow boating on the upper stretches of the Chattooga river. I believe that the river should be available to all citizens. With growing populations the need for wild and scenic recreation will only increase and this jewel should not be withheld.

I promise that I would be respectful of the rights of fisherman, hikers, campers, etc and expect the same in return.

Sincerely,

Mark Nemeroff, MD
Atlanta, Ga
404-256-1272



"luke holcomb"
<lukeholcomb@hotmail.
com>

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

09/06/2007 08:34 AM

To whom it may concern,

My name is Luke Holcomb. I have been an avid kayak enthusiast for about four years now. It is truly my passion. I enjoy the ability to travel and see the beautiful places I can go in my kayak. I have not been able to find another activity that provides such a full experience.

For these reasons it concerns me greatly that there has been and continues to be a policy that promotes banning this amazing way to experience our natural and scenic landscapes on the upper Chattooga Watershed. I believe and fear that this policy has arisen as a standard due to false logic. Boaters are normally responsible, some of the best stewards, and generally self regulating. I have seen numerous times where the lack of concern of some is picked up by others. Whether it is picking up trash, telling someone that they need to hike off of a river due to skill level, or just making sure the younger guys aren't having too much fun where it is inappropriate.

I hope that you take these considerations in a new light, and strive to find out for yourself the type of people that you are penalizing due to an older law based on misinformation. Please look at other watersheds that have had beneficial impacts on the local culture, ecosystem, and regional economic development due to recreational access.

Thank you for your concerns and time,
Luke Holcomb

More photos; more messages; more whatever. Windows Live Hotmail - NOW with 5GB storage.
http://imagine-windowslive.com/hotmail/?locale=en-us&ocid=TXT_TAGHM_migration_HM_mini_5G_0907



Tomktracy@aol.com
09/06/2007 08:50 AM

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

Dear MR. Cleever, My 1st e-mail was returned as spam, so I'll try again. Please leave the upper Chattooga as a Wild and Scenic River for the use of hikers, birders, anglers, and picnickers. The boaters have 31 miles of the lower Chattooga. Keep the peace and quiet on the upper Chattooga. Boats putting in and out of the river will cause erosion on the banks. The environment should come first, not the lobbing of the boaters who certainly have other places to go. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.
Jane and Tom Tracy (Highlands,NC and Atlanta, GA)

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



"Ken Kinard"
<ken@tompkinskinard.com>

09/06/2007 09:11 AM

To: <Comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc: "Malcolm Leaphart" <malcolml@mailbox.sc.edu>
Subject: upper chattooga

i am writing again to urge you not to allow boating on the upper chattooga, this is one of the few places that an angler or hiker can go an expect to find a quiet an peaceful experience. It only takes one group or individual to float through a fishing area on a river the size of the Chattooga to put the fish down. There are many places available to canoe or raft that do not have such an impact on the current accivities in this area. thank you for your consideration in this matter. ken kinard



Nate Warren
<bostonwwnate@yahoo.com>

09/06/2007 10:38 AM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us,
comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Opening the Chatooga Headwaters

To Whom It May Concern-

I am an avid whitewater kayaker who has had the wonderful opportunity to travel down to the Chatooga from New England, and I was thoroughly impressed by the beauty of the river (sections 3 and 4) and the well managed system that allows users to access the river, yet keeps the river wild and scenic. As a graduate student, I am looking for somewhere to move once completing my degree, and river access is one of my top priorities. I would greatly urge you to open the headwaters of the Chatooga to kayakers, not only to increase the availability of this wonderful natural resource to more users (eco-friendly ones at that), but to increase the desirability of the area as a destination for whitewater enthusiasts who are already drawn to the South East. Thank you very much for your time and consideration,
Nathan B. Warren

Fussy? Opinionated? Impossible to please? Perfect. [Join Yahoo!'s user panel](#) and lay it on us.



Nate Warren
<bostonwwnate@yahoo.com>

09/06/2007 10:38 AM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us,
comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Opening the Chatooga Headwaters

To Whom It May Concern-

I am an avid whitewater kayaker who has had the wonderful opportunity to travel down to the Chatooga from New England, and I was thoroughly impressed by the beauty of the river (sections 3 and 4) and the well managed system that allows users to access the river, yet keeps the river wild and scenic. As a graduate student, I am looking for somewhere to move once completing my degree, and river access is one of my top priorities. I would greatly urge you to open the headwaters of the Chatooga to kayakers, not only to increase the availability of this wonderful natural resource to more users (eco-friendly ones at that), but to increase the desirability of the area as a destination for whitewater enthusiasts who are already drawn to the South East. Thank you very much for your time and consideration,
Nathan B. Warren

Fussy? Opinionated? Impossible to please? Perfect. [Join Yahoo!'s user panel](#) and lay it on us.



"canelynn"
<canelynn@verizon.net
>

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

09/06/2007 11:57 AM

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Chattooga alternatives. I am a resident of Cashiers, NC and have fished the Chattooga cliffs reach for the last 45 years.

The USFS Alternatives one and three that continue boat restrictions of the NC Chattooga are the most appropriate and would ensure the preservation of this delicate mountain stream. These proposals would also preserve a true wilderness experience for anglers and outdoor enthusiasts.

I am opposed to alternatives four and six that would permit boating on sections of the river. Boating and wilderness angling are not compatible. Boaters already enjoy the use of most of the river. How in good conscience can the US Forest Service give them the entire river? You have asked the various groups to compromise. Giving boaters the entire river is not a compromise, it is capitulation.

I am also concerned that the USFS has not been forthcoming to the public about private property rights. If private rights are not to be violated this information should be included in the appropriate alternatives.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to express my concerns.

Canie B. Smith



"Dave Kaplan"
<dekaplan@bellsouth.net>

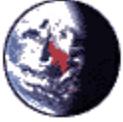
To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Upper Chattooga River

09/06/2007 12:09 PM

I urge the U.S. Forest Service to maintain the current management regulation which bans boating on the upper Chattooga River. While my primary residence is in Georgia, we have a home in the Cashiers, NC area and I fly fish this section of the Chattooga. Alternatives 1, 2 or 3 are my choices for the management of this area.

Dave Kaplan
AT&T Classic
6400 Powers Ferry Road
Suite 105
Atlanta, GA 30339
770 951-8777
770 951-8838 (FAX)

***AT&T Classic's 40th Anniversary
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don harwood
<blubird@sbcglobal.net
>

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

09/06/2007 12:08 PM

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

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.

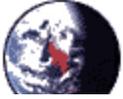
- Alternatives, including any capacity triggers, should distinguish between high use front country areas and low use backcountry areas. USFS alternatives make no distinction between how many encounters with other users are acceptable in a campground or at a trailhead as opposed to on a trail or river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

Don Harwood
1408 North 25th St.
Van Buren, Arkansas 72956



"brad-n-lori@juno.com"
<brad-n-lori

09/06/2007 12:33 PM

To: Comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga River issue on boating ban & alternatives

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

Please do not overturn the ban on boating the Chattooga River headwaters. I am a boater - I kayak and canoe. I've been on rafting trips. I love to enjoy the river, but people need to balance their impact on the river and make room for the wildlife, like trout, that depend on undisturbed parts of the river for their home.

I've seen the impact boating has on a river. The main point with the Chattooga issue is that we're talking about the headwaters - an inherently fragile ecosystem.

I made my personal decision on this issue when I stopped by a visitor display next to the Chattooga that had a large map. As I realized how little of the river is protected and how much of it is already open to boating, I got very angry at the movement to open more of it. It seemed greedy to me. What about clean water free of sediment? What about a quiet stream to fish for trout? What about protecting natural systems that we haven't even begun to understand? What about acknowledging all the other creatures whose home would be invaded and changed?

The habitat needed by trout food sources depends on leaves, branches, trees, and other vegetable matter that falls both near stream banks and into the water. Branches and trees need to be left alone in the upper Chattooga. If it's opened to boating, people will do their own tree removal and cutting of overhanging vegetation to "protect" boaters.

Leaving downed trees isn't always practicable in boated stretch of river due to the risk of injuries to boaters. So it seems fair to have BOTH stretches of river open to boating, and stretches of river protected from the dramatic impact that boating requires.

I'm also a hiker. I hike for peace and quiet. When I kayak with friends, I tend to "hoop and holler" especially in whitewater. I think I'm not alone in this. I don't trout fish, but I've heard that they don't take kindly to people being loud. I fear there will be more negative interactions between people doing conflicting activities if the upper Chattooga is opened to boating. It's up to the agency to maintain a recreation plan that takes into account potential user conflicts. The hikers, backpackers, trout fishers, and naturalists deserve to have a quiet area where solitude can be found. We boaters already have plenty of Chattooga to boat, we don't need any more!

It is just common sense to protect the most fragile parts of a river. It's essential to protect the Wild & Scenic qualities of the Chattooga headwaters, for the sake of the wildlife and all the complex interactions of this natural area that is their home, for the sake of people that want solitude and quiet, for the sake of protecting clean water.

Thanks for your time and for working to wade through this issue with all involved.

Sincerely,

Lori Martell

a Gilmer County resident

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"Bill Calton"
<Bill.Calton@plumcreek
.com>

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

09/06/2007 12:47 PM

I do **not** support the idea of opening up boating to the Upper parts of the Chattooga. I am an avid fisherman, hiker, and camper, and I believe that this part of the river should be kept the way it is currently.

Sincerely,

Bill Calton
One Concourse Pkwy NE
Suite 755
Atlanta, GA 30328
770-829-6311
bill.calton@plumcreek.com



"Gary Moore"
<gmoore@gadsdenwater.org>

09/06/2007 12:58 PM

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

KEEP ALTERNATIVE 1

John C Cleeves
09/06/2007 01:13 PM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@FSNOTES
cc:
Subject: Fw: Chatooga River

See comment below.

John Cleeves
Forest Planner
Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests
Email:jccleeves@fs.fed.us
Phone: (803) 561-4058
Fax:(803) 561-4004

----- Forwarded by John C Cleeves/R8/USDAFS on 09/06/2007 01:12 PM -----



DONALD J WILLIAMSON
<donjw1@verizon.net>
09/06/2007 11:01 AM

To jccleeves@fs.fed.us
cc
Subject Chatooga River

John Reeves, Project Coordinator:

We are writing in regard to the opening of the wild and scenic headwaters of the Chatooga River from Grimshaw's to the old Iron Bridge to boaters and rafters.

It is of great importance to those of us who live in western North Carolina to protect this pristine watershed and the upper Chatooga. We must consider that, as more and more people move to this area, the wonderful environment that attracted us must be saved for others in the future.

Boaters and rafters have available to them unlimited access to many other whitewater rivers and streams in the area, and certainly enough for their boating pleasure.

Please ask Dr. Jerome Thomas of the Sumter National Forest to consider alternatives 1, 2, and 3 which continue to ban boating on the upper Chatooga.

Sincerely,
Don and Caroline Williamson
PO Box 1970
Sapphire, N.C. 28774

John C Cleeves
09/06/2007 01:14 PM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@FSNOTES
cc:
Subject: Fw: Upper Chattooga River - Boating Ban

See below.

John Cleeves
Forest Planner
Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests
Email:jcleeves@fs.fed.us
Phone: (803) 561-4058
Fax:(803) 561-4004

----- Forwarded by John C Cleeves/R8/USDAFS on 09/06/2007 01:14 PM -----



SANDRA12170@aol.com

09/06/2007 10:43 AM

To jcleeves@fs.fed.us

cc

Subject Upper Chattooga River - Boating Ban

September 6, 2007

Dr. Jerome Thomas, Supervisor
Sumter National Forest
ATTN: John Cleeves, Project Coordinator
4391 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212-3530

Dear Mr. Cleeves:

I am writing you with a request that you support all efforts to continue the boating ban on the upper Chattooga River. For over 40 years my family and I, as well as our many relatives, have enjoyed the natural beauty of the upper Chattooga River at both "Sliding Rock" and the "Iron Bridge". Outings to these areas have been very peaceful and they have enriched our lives. To allow additional uses at these locations will spoil the entire experience. There are very few places that offer such rewarding memories. Boaters and rafters have access to the lower 36 miles of the Chattooga and that should be sufficient for their purposes. Please do not allow any further uses of these very special places - there are very few left.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Richard J. McCrory

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

John C Cleeves
09/06/2007 01:15 PM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@FSNOTES
cc:
Subject: Fw: Question of expanding boating on the upper Chatooga River

See below.

John Cleeves
Forest Planner
Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests
Email:jcleeves@fs.fed.us
Phone: (803) 561-4058
Fax:(803) 561-4004

----- Forwarded by John C Cleeves/R8/USDAFS on 09/06/2007 01:15 PM -----



"lucy christopher"
<lucy23822@earthlink.net>
09/05/2007 10:52 PM

To <jcleeves@fs.fed.us>
cc

Subject Question of expanding boating on the upper Chatooga River

MR. CLEVES

Below is a copy of the email/fax I just sent to our federal representatives.

Dear Representative Shuler, etc .

As you may have heard, there is a move afoot to allow boating on the area currently banning kayaking, etc. in Western NC on the Upper Chattooga. I happen to live on the very road where the proposed changes would take place. Many of the homes in this residential area are not for full time residents like me and I think I have an clear view of the situation year round. For instance the road is a curvy one with many deep drops and inclines. Just below my home is a favorite tourist attraction which lures people from all over the world from mid-May to late September (and in recent years much later). I know because I go there with my dog and my grandchildren and ask them where they are from.

Many days in the summer there are as many as 30 - 45 cars parked along this extremely narrow road. I cannot imagine what the impact of boaters putting into the water will create. It seems obvious that the Forest Service will have to clear trees and disturb the centuries old pristine area nearby. The literally thousands of families who visit this site annually will be competing with the boaters in the water as well as for parking.

Boaters and commercial rafting companies have access already and most of the control of the lower 36 miles of the lower Chattooga. They also have unlimited access to other whitewater creeks and streams in the area.

I am writing to ask you to become involved in this issue which is vital to maintaining the wild nature of the Upper Chattooga.

The forest service has proposed six Alternative Solutions. Only the first three would protect our

pristine section of the Chattooga. Please use your influence to see that the Forest Service BAN On BOATING REMAINS in EFFECT. I have copied and pasted the following three solutions for your information. from the Forest Service Report.

1. Maintain existing management: This is the current course of management and it allows boating below the Highway 28 bridge and places some limits on group sizes, trails and campsites;

2. This alternative's primary objective is to manage encounters. It introduces more stringent campsite restrictions, eliminates parking within the upper corridor and requires a permitting system if encounters reach three or more per day;

3. This alternative's primary objective is to manage biophysical impacts on natural resources by limiting trails, camp size, group size, parking and types of use (prohibition on boating would continue).

**Yours ,
Lucy Christopher**



"Peggy McBride"
<globegallery@windstre
am.net>

09/06/2007 01:19 PM

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

Dear John Cleeves:

I would like to express my concern on the issue of opening up the upper Chattooga River to boaters. This region and miles along this Wild and Scenic Rivers is a rare resource for our mountain region. Both fragile and sensitive biologically, it is also a refuge for many animals who lose habitat daily from our continuing development along other waterways and mountains.

Please help save this for future generations and keep these headwaters sacred as a natural boundary to our current habits of growth in untouched territory. Think of the pride we can share with generations to come who will enjoy this wild area.

I ask that you do not allow the ban to be lifted.

Thank you for your consideration,

Peggy McBride

Gallery owner (Clayton) and resident of Lakemont, GA in Rabun County since 1996. I have been living in the mountains of north Georgia since 1983.



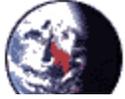
"Phyllis Edwards"
<ptedwards2@earthlink.net>

09/06/2007 01:21 PM
Please respond to
ptedwards2

To: Comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Opening the upper Chattooga for boating

Phyllis Edwards
ptedwards2@earthlink.net
Why Wait? Move to EarthLink.

THERE IS A DEVELOPMENT, HERE IN CASHIERS, THAT TAKES PRIDE IN THEIR ADVERTISEMENT THAT THEY ARE "A CIVILIZED WILDERNESS". THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE AND HOPEFULLY, THE FINAL DECISION TO OPEN THE CHATTOOGA FOR BOATING WILL NOT BE ALLOWED. SOME OF THE LAST WILDERNESS AREA IN THE CASHIERS NEEDS TO BE PRESERVED IT IS HOPED, BY MANY IN THIS AREA , THAT THE CHATTOOGA CONTINUES TO BE A "WILD AND WONDERFUL RIVER FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS....JOHN EDWARDS, CONTINENTAL CLIFFS DEVELOPMENT, CASHIERS, NC



george.w.shope@verizon.com

09/06/2007 02:13 PM

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

Pete Shope George.W.Shope@verizon.com, 8285865600 I was born and raised in Macon County NC----I have always enjoyed the peace and contentment of being able to enjoy nature----it is fastly escaping us!!!! Take a look at the Nantahala River in WNC to see what happens when you open up to special interest groups. I urge you keep the upper Chatooga as it is----for the sake of all us and generations to follow. Think what a treasure it is!!!!!!!!!!



"Martin Peterson"
<mpeterson@national
electricgate.com>

09/06/2007 03:12 PM

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

LET US PADDLE. BOTTOM LINE! KTHX.



"George Ragsdale"
<gagsdale@rl-law.com>
>

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

09/06/2007 03:23 PM

Ladies and Gentlemen:

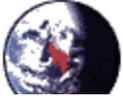
This water is too narrow and shallow for boating. If such is permitted, I foresee real potential for conflict between fishers and boaters. There are plenty of places for boaters to go where fishers cannot. This should be one small place where the opposite is the case, as well. Let the boaters go where the water is suitable for them. This water is not.

Thank you for your consideration.

George R. Ragsdale

GEORGE R. RAGSDALE
RAGSDALE LIGGETT PLLC
gagsdale@rl-law.com
DD: (919) 881-2211
CELL: (919) 614-6105
MAIN: (919) 787-5200
FAX: (919) 783-8991
P.O. Box 31507
raleigh, n.c. 27622
www.rl-law.com

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"Steven Powers"
<SLP@reinhardt.edu>
09/06/2007 03:24 PM

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

6 September 2007

John Cleeves
USDA Forest Service
4931 Broad River Rd.
Columbia, SC 29212-3520

Steven L. Powers, Ph.D.
221 Westwind Dr.
Ball Ground, GA 30107

Mr. Cleeves:

As a lifelong fisherman, whitewater boater for over 10 years, and aquatic biologist with 11 articles in peer-reviewed journals and 10 presentations at professional conferences, I believe that I am uniquely qualified to comment on the proposed changes to recreational opportunities in the upper Chattooga River. Some of my earliest and most abundant childhood memories were of wading streams fishing for smallmouth and rock bass. My first encounter with a whitewater boater as a fisherman was in Elkhorn Creek near Lexington, KY. The Elkhorn is a creek that usually has boatable water levels from November through May in most years, has a difficulty level within the range of nearly all whitewater boaters, is heavily fished due to large fish populations, and is located within a 30 minute drive from the largest city in Kentucky. During this one and only encounter with a whitewater boater while fishing, the paddler and I exchanged greetings and he moved on immediately. The encounter lasted only a few seconds and in no way impacted my fishing success or overall experience for the day. While I have never paddled the upper Chattooga, I understand that it is a small stream that is only likely to have boatable water levels following heavy rainfall. This would make for very few days each year that whitewater boaters would be interested in paddling the upper Chattooga. Although it is possible to fish following heavy rainfall, conditions certainly are not optimal due to increased turbidity, fish dilution, and increased drift in streams. High water conditions also make wading rocky, high-gradient streams more dangerous than normal water levels. This would make encounters between fishermen and whitewater boaters even less likely. Similar situations exist in the Conasauga River in northwest Georgia and Overflow Creek also in the Chattooga Drainage. I am unaware of any regular conflict occurring in either of these streams. In my nine boating trips on the Conasauga River, I have only seen two fishermen. Both of these encounters occurred during the lowest water level I have ever paddled the Conasauga, were brief, were friendly and created no problems for me or the fishermen. The only stream I have ever paddled where regular encounters between boaters and fishermen occur is the Tellico River in Tennessee. The Tellico is a very popular put-and-take trout fishery, a popular tourist destination, has boatable water levels throughout winter and spring, has a difficulty level well within the skills of most whitewater boaters, and is very accessible due to the road immediately paralleling the river. Few of these qualities are found in the upper Chattooga River.

As an aquatic biologist, I see little potential for whitewater boating in the upper Chattooga to have substantial biological impacts. Paddlers generally

access streams at bridges or established trails. Floating downstream in high water conditions means occasional encounters with a large rocks in the streambed are the greatest impact whitewater boaters are likely to have on the upper Chattooga River. This compares very favorably to nearly any other recreational activity. While fishing, birdwatching or swimming are activities also unlikely to have negative biological impacts, walking for long distances along streams does have potential to erode streambanks. One situation cited as potentially problematic is the occasional removal of woody debris considered dangerous to whitewater boaters. Course woody debris is often cited as an important component of aquatic ecosystems (Allan 1995). While the role of course woody debris in lowland streams is well documented and due primarily to course woody debris providing the only stable physical habitat in rivers with shifting sand and silt substrates (Benke et al., 1985, Smock et al., 1989), course woody debris appears to play much less of role in high gradient medium to large stream ecosystems (Powers et al. 2003). In upland streams, boulders are much more prevalent than in lowland streams and provide physical structure allowing for accumulation of leaf litter in the crevices and pools between boulders (Gregory et al. 1991). In lowland streams, course woody debris provides the only mechanism for capturing these vital organic components of aquatic food webs. Much of the evidence linking the importance of course woody debris to high gradient streams is derived largely from the streams of Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest. The largest stream in the forest, Hubbard Brook, is only six linear miles when it leaves the experimental area as fourth order stream. Most of the well studied sub-basins are much smaller first or second order streams less than a mile in length (Fisher and Likens, 1973). For comparison, most whitewater streams are much larger with the Chattooga near Highway 28 being a fifth order stream with multiple forks and tributaries greater than 10 miles in length. As streams get larger, the importance of wood in stream ecosystems decreases (Gregory et al. 1991). Small woody debris (eg. twigs, branches, etc.) is also more important in streams than large woody debris (eg. logs, tree trunks) due to the formation of small sieves which capture leaf litter (Speaker et al. 1988). Small woody debris is unlikely to provide a threat to whitewater boaters and therefore isn't likely to be removed for safety reasons. Wood is also one of the slowest degrading organic materials in streams and appears to be a poor food source within streams due to the high levels of lignin (Allan 1995). Furthermore, any wood important to stream ecosystems would be submerged during normal flows and therefore far below the stream surface during high flow condition. Course woody debris far below the surface of the water poses no to whitewater paddlers and is unlikely to be removed. Any woody debris that may pose a danger to whitewater paddlers would be far above normal water levels and be even less important to steam ecosystems. Based on my experience as a fisherman, whitewater boater, and aquatic biologist, option number 6 appears to provide the greatest recreational opportunities for visitors to the upper Chattooga River without substantial negative impacts on the experience of other visitors to this area or the biological integrity of the upper Chattooga River and surrounding forest. If you have any questions regarding this comment or would like to discuss this matter further, please contact me at my office by phone (770) 720- 9220 or by email at SLP@reinhardt.edu.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Powers, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biology
Reinhardt College
Waleska, GA 30183

Citations

Allan, J.D. 1995. Stream Ecology. Chapman & Hall. London.

Benke, A.C., R.L. Henry III, D.M. Gillespie, and R.J. Hunter. 1985. Importance of snag habitat for animal production in southeastern streams. Fisheries. 10:8-13.

Fisher, S.G. and G.E. Likens. 1973. Energy flow in Bear Brook, New Hampshire: an integrative approach to stream ecosystem metabolism. Ecological Monographs. 43(4):421-439.

Gregory, S.V., F.J. Swanson, W.A. McKee, and K.W. Cummins. 1991. An ecosystem perspective of riparian zones. BioScience. 41(8):540-551.

Powers, S.L., G.L. Jones, P. Redinger, and R.L. Mayden. 2003. Habitat associations with upland stream fish assemblages in Bankhead National Forest, Alabama. Southeastern Naturalist. 2(1):85-92.

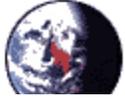
Smock, L.A., G.M Metzler, J.E. Gladden. 1989. Role of debris dams in the structure and functioning of low-gradient headwater streams. Ecology. 70:764-775.

Speaker, R.W., K.J. Luchessa, J.F. Franklin, and S.V. Gregory. 1988. The use of plastic strips to measure leaf retention by riparian vegetation in a coastal Oregon stream. American Midland Naturalist. 120:22-31

Dr. Steven L. Powers
Assistant Professor of Biology
Reinhardt College
Waleska, GA 30183-2981
(770) 720-9220 office
(770) 720-5602 fax
(678) 313-3940 cell



chattooga comment.doc



Patrick Patin
<p_patin@yahoo.com>
09/06/2007 03:54 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

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

The 6 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. It simply does not make sense that the user group with the least environmental impact on the WSR (based on your own studies) is the only user-group being excluded and/or restricted in the proposed alternatives.

The 6 proposed alternatives contain decreasing amounts of conservation of the WSR as

boating access is increased. Your 6 alternatives appear to be making the statement that either the USFS can protect the WSR resource or allow boating, but not both. Clearly the 6 alternatives you have proposed are not based on the data collected. Boating does not require the USFS to maintain lengthy trails or to build pricey hatcheries to restock fish in the river. In fact, boating has the smallest user group, the least number of potential use days of the year and the smallest impact on the resource itself.

What I'm saying is that there are no legal or data-based reasons for denying or restricting boating on the entire Chattooga River. However, there seems to be sufficient evidence to question how the USFS has been handling the land-based user groups since it appears that they are the groups destroying this beautiful resource, not the boaters.

So, 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 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.

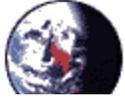
Thank you for considering these ideas. As an avid user of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River (backpacking, camping, fishing and boating) I appreciate the opportunity to express my opinion and concern about how this beautiful resource will be restored and maintained.

Sincerely,

Patrick H. Patin

3452 Autumn Drive

Doraville, GA 30340-1908



"Terri Edgar"
<tedgar@snca.org>

09/06/2007 04:15 PM

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

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

Please leave the Upper Chatooga a wild and scenic place!

Boaters have lots of other places to play.

The impact of boating would be detrimental to the ecology of the river...that's why it has been protected for the past 30 years!

Before making any decisions on this matter--a thorough Environmental Impact Statement is needed, is it not?

If the Forest Service does not do it's part in protecting our wild places--who will?

Thank you,
Terri Edgar
341 Hwy. 255
Sautee GA 30571



Janice Berglund
<janiceberglund@yahoo
.com>

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

09/06/2007 04:58 PM

This letter is written to express my family's vote **against** opening the headwaters of the wild and scenic Chattooga River to boating from Slide Rock to the route 28 in Georgia. We are not against boaters in general, but we feel strongly that the boaters have ample access to the river below that point. Those of us in the Highlands Cashiers area who have an enjoyment of the river feel that this area should be protected. We agree that it should be available for hikers, fishermen swimmers, nature lovers and others, but boating creates an entirely different impact on the river.

Thank you for listening to ordinary citizens that live in the area and not just come to the area to use it and leave. National Lobby Groups do not make a community. These two communities have extraordinary commitments to the preservation of this area and should be allowed to help make decisions that impact the environment that is so loved and protected.

Please be very careful with changing the way in which this river is used.

Thank you.

Janice S. Berglund
P. O. Box 447
Cashiers, NC 28717
828-743-6946

cc via fax: Honorable Elizabeth Dole, Honorable Richard Burr, Honorable Heath Shuler



"Kevin Colburn"
<kcolburn@amwhitewater.org>

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

09/06/2007 05:22 PM

I have heard that some people are not able to use this email address so I am testing it.



Mattdjh@aol.com

09/06/2007 05:30 PM

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

Dear USFS,

I am writing to comment on your proposals for the management of the Upper Chattooga River. I think the options #1 thru #5 are flawed, especially numbers #1- #3 in which boating is banned altogether. I do not agree with banning boating on this stretch of river, or limiting it with regards to flow or CFS. The #6 option is the best of the ones you have put forward. I am a boater and those who I boat with are conservationists and learned the sport out of a love respect for the wilderness.

I believe that the upcoming comments that American Whitewater is working on will be the true path for resource conservation and use of the area. American Whitewater has done some amazing work and is a great steward of our country's wild lands. Please allow for boating on the Upper Chattooga River, as I know boaters will respect and protect the wild nature of that special place.

Thank you,

Matt Davanzo

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



"Leake, Nolan"
<NLeake@KSLAW.com
>

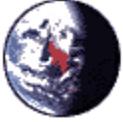
To: Comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Please Leave the Upper Chattooga Boat-Free

09/06/2007 05:39 PM

I am both a hiker and a whitewater canoeist. I frequently hike and occasionally fish the Upper Chattooga. I strongly feel that this part of the Chattooga needs to continue to be protected so that the experience of beholding its waters in their pristine state will remain. Having kayaks on that part of the river will immediately ruin that experience. There are many miles of challenging whitewater on the other parts of the Chattooga and on nearby rivers, so there is certainly no need to change a river environment which is unique in the Southeast. The original restrictions on this part of the river were wise and farsighted in the 1970's and are even more important now when all rivers are under pressure from over use. Please continue to preserve in everyway the great asset we have in the Upper Chattooga. Thank you for your consideration. Nolan Leake

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

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

09/06/2007 05:51 PM

Mr. John Cleeves
Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212-3530

Dear Sir,

I would like to comment on the recently released management plans for the headwaters of the Chattooga River. I, with little other option, am in favor of plan #6.

Why do I say "with little other option"? The plans you have laid out seem to completely rely on feedback from the "Chattooga, July 14th Workshop" in Walhalla SC, and little else. It seems that whichever group packed the meeting with the most supporters dictated the content of your "management plan options." There doesn't seem to be any option based on previous public comments or the boating study.

Options 4-6, where boating is allowed but restricted, seem purely arbitrary. Not based on the science from the boating study above highway 28. If there is an option to restrict and "zone" the boaters, why isn't there an option to restrict and "zone" the other users? Boating the headwaters would have significantly less environmental impact than the current groups allowed in the wilderness area. Yet boating is heavily restricted or denied in all but one option. This isn't only unfair, it's illegal.

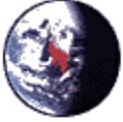
Nothing was included from previous meetings or public input periods. There have been plenty of concerns about restricting overall access with limited parking, closing roads and bridges, stopping the stocking of non-native aquatic species in the river etc... yet, these issues have not been addressed. No option combines both fishing interests AND boating interests. As if they can't coexist. They are not mutually exclusive. An option that would unite both groups would obviously benefit the future protection of the upper Chattooga. Why have you divided the two groups in different management options instead of uniting them??

I would like to see a management plan for the Chattooga headwaters that legalizes boating above highway 28 with no more restrictions than are imposed on other user groups. Permit and reasonably limit all user groups, to limit encounters and collect hard data for tweaking the management plan in the future. Only allow woody debris removal in rapids where it might endanger the life of a boater. Stop the stocking of non-native aquatic species. Close all but Forest Service sanctioned trails. Restrict camping areas. Rehabilitate trampled areas. Move the Burrels Ford parking area at least ½ mile away from the bridge. In short, let the Upper Chattooga become a more remote wilderness experience without denying any environmentally friendly user group the opportunity to enjoy the area.

The final management plan decision should not be left up to whichever user group can stuff the ballot box. Without a reasonable management option that addresses all user groups fairly instead of dividing them between management options I feel the Forest Service has failed in its task. You need to reconsider the final management plan for the headwaters of the Chattooga, set your bias against boating aside and come up with a plan that is fair and equitable for ALL user groups AND protects the Chattooga for the future.

Sincerely,

Roger S. Huff
2070 Cherokee Ridge Trail
Kennesaw, GA 30144
678/581-1700



"Payne 1st Lt William H
(Watch Officer)"
<william.payne@mnf-wir
aq.usmc.mil>

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: [U] Boating Access to the Upper Chattooga River

09/06/2007 06:47 PM

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Mr. Cleeves:

I have watched the developments and decisions regarding the recreational use of the upper Chattooga River with much anticipation. I am writing to refute a number of comments made by the non-boating public with regard to my fellow kayakers.

I am disappointed to see these narrow and uninformed views are even under consideration. As a member of the boating public, I personally donate both time and money to a number of conservancy organizations aimed at preserving the scarce resources that should be open for all to enjoy in a responsible manner. Rather than dwell on their short sighted comments however, I choose instead to explain the reasons I believe that the upper Chattooga be made available for recreational boating.

In recent decades, and due in great part to overwhelming budget cuts to fund more popular legislation, the Department of the Interior has been forced to close or require prohibitive fees for a number of natural attractions under various Federal Government programs. While I think it is shame that a greater number of people in politics don't see what they're doing to our beautiful country and its future inhabitants, a local opportunity to overturn a prohibitive policy is upon you! By allowing greater access to the Upper Chattooga, the USFS has the chance to give future generations access to one of the most magnificent drainage features in the Southeast.

I further assure you that magnitude of the responsibility to legally paddle this section of river is not lost on the boating public. I think you would find that those of us interested in paddle sports feel a deep connection and responsibility to our local waters. Through American Whitewater and local paddle sport clubs, we probably organize and carry out more conservancy, restoration, and education campaigns than any other similar sporting organization. Indeed, even the ad hoc group of paddlers can be seen picking up other users garbage, helping swimmers in need, and in all cases treading lightly on an ecosystem we care so dearly about. I urge you to read some of the 'blog' entries on websites such as americanwhitewater.org or boatertalk.com regarding river rescues and cleanups. I believe it will properly demonstrate the dedication we share with the USFS for responsible use of our limited resources.

I appreciate the opportunity you have provided the public to comment on such a crucial issue. I urge you to consider conclusive research and overturn the current usage plan for one that provides equal opportunity to every responsible user regardless of how they enjoy the Chattooga River.

Respectfully,

-William Payne

300 Preserve Avenue East
Apartment 3203
Port Royal, SC 29935

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

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"Eric Bessette"
<ebessette@gmail.com
>

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

09/06/2007 08:49 PM

I am very distressed by some of the comments that have been submitted to the USFS regarding the Upper Chattooga scoping document. Kayaking, including creeking, is NOT illegal, is NOT detrimental to the environment, and does NOT conflict with other wilderness uses. Often it is the ONLY way to see the beauty and grandeur of a wilderness area. Kayaking is a human powered sport and anyone who compares it to a motorized vehicle sport has NEVER seen a kayaker, has NEVER been in the wilderness, or has below average intelligence.

You've asked people to answer the following questions, and I've done so to the best of my ability.

1. Should there be new standards limiting trailheads, trails and/or campsites?

Absolutely. The current management of this area has lead to bad impacts on the wilderness and needs to be addressed. However, all the new rules HAVE to apply to EVERYONE equally (by everyone, I mean any human being who goes to the area regardless of activity).

2. Should there be new standards limiting group sizes, encounters between user groups and/or access?

Yes, assuming "limit" mean have a quota larger than zero (0), to group sizes and access. Every wilderness area in the world has limits on what kind of human visitation it can harmonious maintain. Again, you have to apply the rules equally to all groups. For example, if you limit the area to 25 hikers a day, then you HAVE to at least have a limit of 25 kayakers a day.

3. Should there be new boating opportunities on the Chattooga River?

This question doesn't make any sense, since human powered boating has always been an opportunity on the Chattooga River. In fact, it's even been a federally legal activity on the Chattooga River. If your question instead asked, "Should the illegal USFS ban of boating on the Chattooga River be removed?", then I would answer with an emphatic **YES**.

4. Should there be new standards limiting group sizes, encounters between user groups and/or access if new boating opportunities are allowed?

Why even ask this question, it offers no added value? As I stated in my answer to question 2, whatever standards you put in place, they have to equally apply to ALL user groups.

Thanks,
Eric



"Kevin T Miller"
<kevintmiller@hotmail.com>

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

09/06/2007 09:57 PM

I am strongly in favor of alternative 6 of the alternatives presented as:

- (1) It is the most consistent proposal with investigation findings of how to manage the Chattooga as a Wild and Scenic River during its prior to 1971.
- (2) It is the most consistent proposal with the method the Forest Service promised the American public and its Congressional representatives with respect to how it would manage the river corridor when it was designated Wild and Scenic.
- (3) The recent social study conducted by the Forest Service provides no evidence that the changes against paddling made in the mid-70s were justified then or today.

Kevin Miller



oweji@bellsouth.net

09/06/2007 10:09 PM

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

Please consider my attached letter, which defines my feelings that the Forest Service has been very unfair in allowing all US Citizens appropriate access to public lands, in particular in not



allowing private boaters on the upper Chattooga. Thanks, Joe Owensby Upper chattooga.doc



"tom rogers"
<tommycolby@hotmail.
com>

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

09/06/2007 11:35 PM

Hello,

I am writing to express my concern over the ban of boating on the upper Chattooga River. The river's Wild and Scenic Designation does not call for a ban on boating. Boating a river is of minimal impact to the river, and exposes people to its beauty, thus gaining support for its protection. Please see that the ban on boating on the upper Chattooga is lifted.

Thank you,
Tom Rogers

Test your celebrity IQ. Play Red Carpet Reveal and earn great prizes!
http://club.live.com/red_carpet_reveal.aspx?icid=redcarpet_hotmailtextlink2



"Bobbie Reed and Don
Schwarz"
<berdks@mindspring.co
m>

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

09/06/2007 11:58 PM
Please respond to
"Bobbie Reed and Don
Schwarz"

I am writing to you about the Upper Chattooga boating issue. I have several concerns.

First the Upper Chattooga remains one of the premier wild areas of the eastern United States. It is a refuge for wildlife, people and one of the best backcountry trout streams in the country.

Second, opening the area to boaters (and their vehicles) would overwhelm a fragile resource and create open conflict with current visitors (hunters, hikers, anglers, photographers, birders, picnickers, naturalists, botanists, campers, swimmers, and so forth).

Third, whitewater boaters already have ample and the majority of swift rapids nearby (Overflow and Holcomb creeks, the West Fork of the Chattooga, and the entire 36 miles of the Lower Chattooga.)

Fourth, a thorough Environmental Impact Statement is required to adequately study the issue and the impact of boating on flora and fauna in the corridor.

Fifth, new access (put in and take out points) offered to boaters would cause greater erosion into the river.

Sixth, the Forest Service must protect the Upper Chattooga's existing Outstandingly Remarkable Values of biology, geology, history, and, especially, solitude.

Seventh, all alternatives must serve to protect Large Woody Debris (i.e. dead trees falling to the water) in the river and its tributaries - a key ingredient in the aquatic food chain. (Boaters like to cut these down trees out of the way.)

Eighth, the agency must spell out how it will monitor and enforce any new rules and regulations and how much these will cost.

Please, take no action that would open the Upper Chattooga to boating.
Thank you.

Don Schwarz
3388 Lennox Court
Lawrenceville, Georgia 30044-5616
berdks@mindspring.com



"Simon "
<nomice@bellsouth.net
>

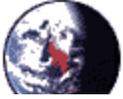
To: <Comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Chatooga River Boating

09/07/2007 07:30 AM

Dear Sir,

I ask that you consider this carefully and after having done so, I believe you will conclude that allowing boating in this area is simply wrong. Please do not support it.

Simon Reynolds
404-580-6730.



Dave Swingley
<das@vigoco.k12.in.us>

09/07/2007 09:13 AM

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

Dear Sir,

As the period for public input is coming to the close for management of the Chattooga Headwaters, I would like you to consider and support American Whiterwater's position to allow river access to paddlers. As a life long paddler, I have seen more rivers closed to my access then opened. Why should the Forest Service favor one group over another?

Thank you for Your Consideration,
David Swingley
Carbon, Indiana



"Paul Butler"
<Paul.Butler@ingramentertainment.com>

09/07/2007 09:25 AM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Chattooga non motorized boating ban Comments

Should there be new standards limiting trailheads, trails and/or campsites?

Yes, the current management has lead to unacceptable impacts. In addition, the USFS should monitor use by all users through a self-registration permitting system.

Should there be new standards limiting group sizes, encounters between user groups and/or access? Every river corridor has a certain capacity.

If/when the USFS can demonstrate that the upper Chattooga's capacity is met, all users' access (not just boaters) should be limited consistent with sustainability of the resource.

Should there be new boating opportunities on the Chattooga River?

This question is erroneous in and of itself: First, boating is not a new opportunity – it is an old one with a rich history prior to the USFS ban. In fact, the USFS was not even able to determine why boating was prohibited in the first place, much less any reasonable justification for doing so.

Should the Forest Service RESTORE boating access on the upper Chattooga?

Absolutely! Boating should be allowed on the Upper Chattooga River to the same extent that hiking, angling, swimming and other wilderness compliant activities are allowed.

Should there be new standards limiting group sizes, encounters between user groups and/or access if new boating opportunities are allowed?

Restoration of boating access has nothing to do with this underlying question. This question is no different than #2 above, and the answer is no different either. Every river corridor has a certain capacity. If/when the USFS can demonstrate that the upper Chattooga's capacity is met, all users' access (not just boaters) should be limited consistent with sustainability of the resource.

Paul Butler
Director, Credit
Ingram Entertainment Inc.
(615) 287-4384
paul.butler@ingramentertainment.com



"Anthony Skrivanek"
<tonebizone@gmail.com>
m>

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

09/07/2007 09:38 AM

Hi John,

I want to drop you a line to give my opinion on some of the comments people have been giving to prevent boating on the Chattooga.

"Like the pervasive motorized vehicles, the easier access resulting from kayaking again threatens the pursuits of backcountry enthusiast and the wilderness itself. Creek boating is considered an intrusive activity for the backcountry angler, wildlife viewer or hiker; Encounters would result in a diminished wilderness experience for these other visitors. Like mountain biking on land trails, it is time the USFS acknowledges and correctly classifies the differences between creekers and other river users."

I would argue that most wildlife viewers and hikers would not consider kayakers floating down the river ruining their wildlife experience. They would be a lot more curious than annoyed, especially since floating down the river is quiet and very inobtrusive.

"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." Other people have stressed the risks to children that boating poses. Check this one out: "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." Still others claim we trash rivers: "Boaters...could take large loads on their boats to potentially spread trash and human impact to areas far removed from the current public access points."

ATV riding is destructive whereas kayaking is not, I sure don't see this as a slippery slope.

The chances of a boater landing on a kid are virtually nonexistent.

Most boaters are fairly environmentally friendly, and those boaters who aren't certainly won't be loading their boats with garbage to spread around the river. Boaters don't want to boat down a trash filled river! Not to mention it would take a lot more work to load a boat with trash than to pull up in a truck and just dump it.

At any rate, there have not been any arguments that hold any weight for completely preventing boaters from accessing this stretch. Does the carrying capacity of the river need to be considered? Yes. Can boaters and anglers come to an agreement to share this resource? I believe we can, and I look forward to paddlers being allowed on this wrongly forbidden section of river. This is truly a gem of the southeast and should be available for all outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy!

Thanks for your careful consideration of the arguments for opening this section to boaters,

Anthony Skrivanek



BRSKIS@aol.com
09/07/2007 09:40 AM

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

John,

I write you today with comments on the proposed Chattooga River Scoping Document regarding access to the Upper Chattooga River. First, let me start by saying I am mystified by the Forest Service's ban on whitewater boating on the Upper Chattooga River. I have had the pleasure and experience to paddle on many of the country's wild and scenic rivers and within federally protected wilderness areas and find that whitewater boating has little or no impact on the ecosystem in these areas. In many areas the Forest Service and the paddling community have some unique partnerships to not only minimize the impact of whitewater boating, but to organize river cleanups that in many case result from the large amounts of trash local community members and fisherman leave along the banks of rivers. To comment specifically on the issues your asking for in the scoping document, allow me to answer the questions addressed:

(1) Should there be new standards limiting trailheads, trails and/or campsites? Yes, the current management has lead to unacceptable impacts. In addition, the USFS should monitor use by all users through a self-registration permitting system similar to those found at many Forest Service trailheads entering federally protected wilderness areas.

(2) Should there be new standards limiting group sizes, encounters between user groups and/or access? Every river corridor has a certain capacity. If/when the USFS can demonstrate that the upper Chattooga's capacity is met, all users' access (not just boaters) should be limited consistent with sustainability of the resource. The Forest Service has demonstrated this can be done on other protected rivers such as the Middle Fork of the Salmon River and the Main Salmon River in Idaho.

(3) Should there be new boating opportunities on the Chattooga River? This question is erroneous in and of itself: First, boating is not a new opportunity – it is an old one with a rich history prior to the USFS ban. In fact, the USFS was not even able to determine why boating was prohibited in the first place, much less any reasonable justification for doing so. Should the Forest Service RESTORE boating access on the upper Chattooga? Absolutely! Boating should be allowed on the Upper Chattooga River to the same extent that hiking, angling, swimming, and other wilderness compliant activities are allowed. Not allowing boating is discriminatory against the paddling community and not consistent with the proper management of public lands.

(4) Should there be new standards limiting group sizes, encounters between user groups and/or access if new boating opportunities are allowed? Restoration of boating access has nothing to do with this underlying question. This question is no different than #2 above, and the answer is no different either. Every river corridor has a certain capacity. If/when the USFS can demonstrate that the upper Chattooga's capacity is met, all users' access (not just boaters) should be limited consistent with sustainability of the resource.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to the Forest Service's decision on this issue.

Sincerely,
Brandon J. Clifford
Cell Phone 607-481-1351



Evan Stafford
<evanjoseph27@hotmail.com>

09/07/2007 09:49 AM

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

Mr. John Cleaves
Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212-3530

Dear Sir,

I would like to comment on the recently released management plans for the headwaters of the Chattooga River. I, begrudgingly, am in favor of plan #6.

Why do I say "begrudgingly"? The plans you have laid out seem to completely rely on feedback from the "Chattooga, July 14th Workshop" in Walhalla SC, and little else. It seems that whichever group packed the meeting with the most supporters dictated the content of your "management plan options."

There doesn't seem to be any option based on previous public comments or the boating study.

Options 4-6, where boating is allowed but restricted, seem purely arbitrary.

Not based on the science from the boating study above highway 28. If there is an option to restrict and "zone" the boaters, why isn't there an option to restrict and "zone" the other users? Boating the headwaters would have significantly less environmental impact than the current groups allowed in the wilderness area. Yet boating is heavily restricted or denied in all but one option. This isn't only unfair, it's illegal.

Nothing seems to be included from previous meetings or public input periods.

There have been plenty of concerns about restricting overall access with limited parking, closing roads and bridges, stopping the stocking of non-native aquatic species in the river etc.... yet, these issues have not been addressed.

There is absolutely no option that combines both fishing interests AND boating interests. As if they can't coexist. They are not mutually exclusive. An option that would unite both groups would obviously benefit the future protection of the upper Chattooga. Why have you divided the two groups in different management options instead of uniting them??

The management plan I would like to see for the Chattooga headwaters would legalize boating above highway 28 with no more restrictions than are imposed on other user groups. Permit and reasonably limit all user groups, to limit encounters and collect hard data for tweaking the management plan in the future. Only allow woody debris removal in rapids where it might endanger the life of a boater. Stop the stocking of non-native aquatic species. Close all but Forest Service sanctioned trails. Restrict camping areas.

Rehabilitate trampled areas. Move the Burrels Ford parking area at least ½ mile away from the

bridge. In short, let the Upper Chattooga become a more remote wilderness experience without denying any environmentally friendly user group the opportunity to enjoy the area.

The final management plan decision should not be left up to whichever user group can stuff the ballot box. Without a reasonable management option that addresses all user groups fairly instead of dividing them between management options I feel the Forest Service has failed in its task. You need to reconsider the final management plan for the headwaters of the Chattooga, set your bias against boating aside and come up with a plan that is fair and equitable for ALL user groups AND protects the Chattooga for the future.

I would rather see all roads, trails, and bridges closed, and ban all human activity in the Upper Chattooga than see one environmentally friendly user group denied access.

Sincerely,

Evan Stafford



<jp248@bellsouth.net>

09/07/2007 09:57 AM

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

As a flyfisherman (and member of Trout Unlimited), hiker and rafting enthusiast, I am completely baffled at the time and money wasted on the issue of allowing boating access to the upper Chattooga.

I have hiked and fished the upper Chattooga. I have rafted the lower sections. I do not see these uses in conflict with each other. Is the wilderness experience better with fewer people? of course. Is that a reason to exclude reasonable uses consistent with wild and scenic legislation? of course not.

As a group, boaters are not any more perfect than any other diverse group. But I have found they care more about the quality of the streams they paddle than many hikers and fishermen do. When I find an empty bait cup on the banks of a river, it was not left there by a boater (or a flyfisherman). When I find beer bottles and potato chip bags cast into the brush along a trail, it was not left there by a boater (and I suspect not by a flyfisherman either).

Manage the resource, appropriately limit access equally, but do not discriminate against a group that, as a group, has a stronger environmental "record" than some of the others to whom you already permit access.

Jim Privette
Fairview, North Carolina



Luke Bartlett
<luke.bartlett@wku.edu
>

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

09/07/2007 10:00 AM

Mr. Cleeves

I would like to express my dissatisfaction for the current regulations concerning private boaters and the (upper) Chattooga River. The policy is not fair for all wilderness users. It's dumbfounding that the US Forest Service to allow usage for fisherman but not for boaters. This policy is segregation and has no grounds to continue guiding the regional agency. Please do the right thing and allow access to the river for all users or none.

Luke Bartlett
Outdoor Recreation Coordinator
Western Kentucky University
1906 College Heights Blvd
Bowling Green, KY
42101
270.745.6542



David Frank
<davidhfrank@mac.com
>

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: kayaking is NOT a crime!

09/07/2007 10:15 AM

I've recently become aware of pressures from anglers to ban kayaking from certain wilderness stretches on the Chatooga river.

I understand that they want the river to themselves and are willing to make absurd statements to attain this goal.

Comparisons of creek boating to ATV use are absurd. If you start to see jet skis launching off of waterfalls, then we can start to compare.

A comparison to mountain bikers vs. hikers is closer, but still off base, as kayaks rarely pose threats of collision like a bike might, nor do they erode the trails, with minor exception.

Kayakers leaving trash behind is a relative non-issue. While there are sloppy folks in any demographic, kayakers, as a group, are more likely to pack it out than in.

Another scare tactic was the idea that kayakers might land on kids in inner-tubes swimming in pools below waterfalls. While it is possible for that to occur, it is very unlikely. Most places with enough water to kayak are not safe swimming holes in the first place. Kayakers are also a relatively safe bunch and will check any blind landings for obstructions such as logs and are likely to notice swimmers at the same time. Is there even a single documented case of this?

In short the anglers seem to be saying "That's mine" and have come up with some bogus safety concerns to justify the claim. Maybe they should just say honestly "I prefer to have the creek to myself". To which I respond: "sorry it is not yours, exclusively".

Please don't be swayed by efforts to ban kayaking on the creeks that you manage.

Thanks for listening, Dave Frank



Shane Benedict
<shane@liquidlogickaya
ks.com>

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

09/07/2007 10:10 AM

To whom it may concern,

My name is Shane Benedict. I have been a user of the Chattooga watershed for over 25 years. I have hiked, camped, been rock sliding, and fished all the way from Blue Valley, and Grimshaws Bridge down through Section 4 of the Chattooga, on my own, with camp groups, and with friends. I have also done many rafting trips , and paddled many sections of this river as a kayaker. I know these areas better than most and have grown up around this beautiful part of the world.

I have seen first hand the impact that both paddlers, hikers, and fisherman have on this area. In all my times as a paddler on sections of river like the upper Chattooga I have never seen a kayaker drop a can, or single piece of trash. However I have seen kayakers paddle out of remote areas with trash left by other users in their boats. Kayakers regularly lead river clean ups, regularly stop to pick up the bait cup left along the side of the river, and do their best to leave a river cleaner than they found it.

Kayaking is a fantastic way to visit remote areas. It allows you to quietly move through an enviornment, with very low impact, compared to hiking or wading for fishing. I think it is only adding to the success of the upper Chattooga if you allow people to experience it in more nonintrusive, low impact ways. Paddling into the upper Chattooga is a natural mode of travel for such a pristine enviornment.

I think the only option that is listed that is even remotely fair or thoughtful is option #6 of the Chattooga Scoping Process.

Thank you
Shane Benedict



jefeholic@comcast.net

09/07/2007 10:16 AM

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

To whom it may concern,

In response to the USFS proposals involving the Chattooga river I submit the following comments and views.

1. The current network of trailheads, trails, and campsites has led to unacceptable impact on the resource. Closure of certain trailheads and limiting the number of all user groups would not only allow the area to recover from user damage but enhance the experience for all involved. I support the implementation of a registration system in order to sustain the resource.
2. The USFS should restore boating to the Upper Chattooga River. There is a history of boating activity prior to the ban.
3. I oppose the stocking of non native species. In other areas of the country there have been extensive efforts made to remove exotic species as it has been determined to be threatening to the ecosystem.

Thank you for your time,
Michael Lackman



shane williams
<williams_shane@earthl
ink.net>

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

09/07/2007 10:21 AM

Subject: Chattooga Headwaters Management Plan Comment

Mr. John Cleeves
Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212-3530

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the issue of boating on the upper Chattooga River. I do believe scoping meetings and comments are an important part of the process to full fill the needs of the wide spectrum of wilderness and recreational needs for the community.

I do believe that boating on the Upper Chattooga will cause no harm to environmental or other recreational needs. Please allow boating and fulfill your mandate by provide recreation for wider spectrum of the public and not a narrow agenda of one group.

I support alternative number 6.

Thank you,

Shane Williams
828-506-3610



<robbmcon@charter.net>

09/07/2007 10:27 AM

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

Mr. John Cleeves: I am writing the USFS to support the restoration of boating access to the Upper Chattooga. Any new standards for limiting group size and encounters between different groups should include all user groups and not just boaters. As more people want access to limited areas, the burden must be equitably distributed. There are many examples up and down the East Coast where these different groups can/do co-exist. Boating is not an incompatible activity on the Chattooga anymore than swimming, fishing or hiking is.

Thanks,
Rob McConaghy
3 Taber Rd.
Sherman, CT 06784



"Karrie Thomas"
<karriekhola@gmail.com>
m>

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

09/07/2007 10:34 AM

Dear Mr. Cleaves,

The important issue of restoring boater access to the Upper Chattooga has implications for all Wild and Scenic waterways in the U.S. No wilderness area should be used beyond capacity, but capacity must be determined by scientific means and have relevant data to back it up.

Kayakers, like all wilderness users, have a deep appreciation of the rivers and riparian ecosystems they float down. Most of us paddle for the sheer joy of being in these beautiful places. A creeker's impact is a brief visual passing. A creeker is focused on the river in its entirety, and his or her main goal is to move down the river. Because of the small size of the boat and the role balance plays in navigating a kayak, unlike other river users paddlers are not likely to have any sort of excess equipment or garbage that would be left behind. As a kayaker touches ground infrequently, especially compared to other users, his or her impact is potentially the lowest of all types of recreation that may take place in a wilderness area.

Concerning the Chattooga specifically, I encourage you to consider the following perspectives regarding the questions posed to determine appropriate use of this section of river.

Should there be new standards limiting trailheads, trails and/or campsites? Yes, the current management has lead to unacceptable impacts. In addition, the USFS should monitor use by all users through a self-registration permitting system.

Should there be new standards limiting group sizes, encounters between user groups and/or access? Every river corridor has a certain capacity. If/when the USFS can demonstrate that the upper Chattooga's capacity is met, all users' access (not just boaters) should be limited consistent with sustainability of the resource.

Should there be new boating opportunities on the Chattooga River? Absolutely! The Forest Service should restore boating access on the upper Chattooga. Boating should be allowed on the Upper Chattooga River to the same extent that hiking, angling, swimming and other wilderness compliant activities are is allowed.

Should there be new standards limiting group sizes, encounters between user groups and/or access if new boating opportunities are allowed? Restoration of boating access has nothing to do with this underlying question. This question is no different than #2 above, and the answer is no different either. Every river corridor has a certain capacity. If/when the USFS can demonstrate that the upper Chattooga's capacity is met, all users' access (not just boaters) should be limited consistent with sustainability of the resource.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope your review results in a new policy that will be fair and inclusive of all wilderness users, set an example for the rest of the nation and improve the stewardship of the Upper Chattooga Wild and Scenic Area.

Karrie Thomas
307 Bridge St.
Folsom, CA 95630



"Karwacki, Peter"
<Peter.Karwacki@cognos.com>

09/07/2007 10:36 AM

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

From Canada, as a river runner of long experience, in Canada, in the United States, Asia and Central America, please consider my view that whitewater enthusiasts are some of the world's most active and vociferous environmentalists, and river keepers whose environmental footprint will diminish as low carbon vehicles become available and affordable.

Please ensure that access to rivers and their navigation by whitewater recreational enthusiasts continues to be a high priority.

Pete

Peter Karwacki
Application Developer III, Engineering Support
COGNOS INCORPORATED
Office: (613) 738-1338, ext. 3229
Peter.Karwacki@cognos.com
www.cognos.com

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"r fernald"
<ferald45@bendcable.
com>

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

09/07/2007 10:42 AM

Mr. Cleeves,

I would just like to state my support to allow kayaking on the upper Chattooga River. Having kayaked for many years and through many wilderness sections I view the two as entirely compatible.

Thank you for your time,

Rick Fernald



Liz Mc
<eamcnamara01@yaho
o.com>

09/07/2007 10:42 AM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Attn John Cleeves RE Upper Chattooga Boating

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

I am writing to request that paddle boats (kayaks, canoes & rafts) be allowed on the upper Chattooga River. I have learned that the current ban is under review and hope that you will consider the following points in the decision-making process of your organization:

1. There is no basis for banning boats on Wild and Scenic Rivers. Wilderness Area and Wild and Scenic River designations were specifically legislated to allow paddle boats in these areas.
2. If there are capacity issues with river use, then new standards which limit trailheads, trails & campsites could be implemented - simply banning one user group may be an easy solution, but it is not the right one. Activity by ALL users must be monitored and if necessary, permitted. Unilaterally deciding that one group of users is creating a capacity issue without monitoring all users does not fairly address this issue.
3. Once capacity and user activity is monitored and IF an issue is discovered, then capacity should be limited consistent with sustainability of the resource. ALL users' access, not just that of paddlers, should be subject to fair and equitable limits.

In short, I am asking that you please respect citizens' rights to paddle through Wilderness Areas and on Wild and Scenic Rivers. Throughout my childhood, I fished, hiked, camped and paddled portions of the Chattooga and its various feeder streams and river forks with my family - from well above Elicott's Rock, through to Lake Tugaloo. My father, a longtime Scout Master in upstate SC, and three Eagle Scout brothers kept our family very active in the outdoors.

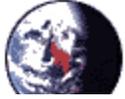
This is a tradition I try to pass on to my own children. Being a single mom in today's society, I struggle to find ways to relate to my two teenagers. Kayaking is something I do well. Impressing my 14 year old son with my skills on the river gives me a very needed form of authority. Paddling, camping and mountain biking with both my children has taught them to value the outdoors and gives them a personal drive to protect, maintain and grow Wilderness Areas. For their own use, as well as future use by others.

Please don't limit their interest in the activities that we enjoy together without a proper evaluation of the impact and fair limits for sustainability. The current ban effectively teaches them that there is something "wrong" with boating on rivers. I have tried to raise these kids with a respect for our fragile Earth, with a sense of responsibility for the impact of their actions. I feel that I have succeed in that effort. Please give them the chance to prove it.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Addington McNamara
710 Bennett Street
Greenville SC 29609

Fussy? Opinionated? Impossible to please? Perfect. Join Yahoo!'s user panel and lay it on us. http://surveylink.yahoo.com/gmrs/yahoo_panel_invite.asp?a=7



"Jeff Christensen"
<jchristensen@rtcc.net>

09/07/2007 10:50 AM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Boating Ban on the Upper Chattooga

Dear Mr. Cleeves-

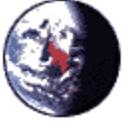
Although I am not in the large majority of American Whitewater hard chargers and may never have the opportunity to paddle down the Upper Chattooga, the email I received today regarding the boating ban on the Upper Chattooga and its basis seems, from initial inspection, somewhat unnerving.

I do not want to waste your time or mine writing a long response, but would like to ask the question- why is kayaking down a river any different than kids tubing down a river? Being a fisherman myself, I understand the frustrations associated with fishing and boating, but there must be some middle ground between Trout Unlimited and American Whitewater.

Please consider AW when a decision is made. Every story as two sides, but some of the comments about creek boating being an "intrusive" activity are just not true and have no basis. The wilderness should be shared by all activities, including hiking, fishing, and paddling.

Good luck in working through this issue. I know there are no easy decisions in matters such as these.

Regards,
Jeff C.



"Tom Halladay"
<thalladay@accessgrou
p.org>

09/07/2007 10:53 AM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Please do NOT ban kayakers on the Chattooga

1. Should there be new standards limiting trailheads, trails and/or campsites? Yes, the current management has lead to unacceptable impacts. In addition, the USFS should monitor use by all users through a self-registration permitting system.

2. Should there be new standards limiting group sizes, encounters between user groups and/or access? Every river corridor has a certain capacity. If/when the USFS can demonstrate that the upper Chattooga's capacity is met, all users' access (not just boaters) should be limited consistent with sustainability of the resource.

3. Should there be new boating opportunities on the Chattooga River? This question is erroneous in and of itself: First, boating is not a new opportunity – it is an old one with a rich history prior to the USFS ban. In fact, the USFS was not even able to determine why boating was prohibited in the first place, much less any reasonable justification for doing so. Should the Forest Service RESTORE boating access on the upper Chattooga? Absolutely! Boating should be allowed on the Upper Chattooga River to the same extent that hiking, angling, swimming_ and other wilderness compliant activities are_ is allowed.

4. Should there be new standards limiting group sizes, encounters between user groups and/or access if new boating opportunities are allowed? Restoration of boating access has nothing to do with this underlying question. This question is no different than #2 above, and the answer is no different either. Every river corridor has a certain capacity. If/when the USFS can demonstrate that the upper Chattooga's capacity is met, all users' access (not just boaters) should be limited consistent with sustainability of the resource.

Thanks,

Tom Halladay



"Steve Zerefos"
<sgz@bshm-architects.com>

09/07/2007 11:03 AM

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

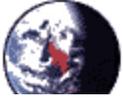
Open the upper Chattooga River to kayakers . Not allowing access to a low impact activity like kayaking while allowing the litter and destruction accompanying walk-in fishermen is ludicrous. Anyone who has actually witnessed the difference in impacts by these two groups would quickly realize that the kayakers would not significantly to the impact on the area . This is especially true when one compares the number of days per year that kayakers would be on the river to the number of days that people are fishing there .

I urge you to eliminate this baseless discrimination against boaters and not to cave in to the relentless lobbying by the fishing groups – open the upper Chattooga River to kayakers .

Thank you.

Stephen Zerefos

balog steines hendricks & manchester architects, inc.
sgz@bshm-architects.com



Tom Bishop
<tpb_mail@yahoo.com>

09/07/2007 11:16 AM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Eliminate bans on river paddling

As an American citizen who believes that our natural resources should never be walled off from any group, I oppose all usage bans on rivers, lakes and trails. This concerns the Upper Chattooga River in South Carolina, which is currently unavailable for paddling, while being available to other types of users.

I paddle a whitewater kayak, enjoy hiking, and also fish with flies. It never concerns me to see other people using the same resources, when they are responsible. This is a free country after all, and it is sad to see groups fight against each other in a battle over the enjoyment of resources.

All responsible paddlers, fishermen, and hikers believe in limiting their impact and leaving no trace in the wilderness. I believe the Forest Service needs access to greater resources in order to enforce limits on usage, but not bans. Wilderness sports enthusiasts of all kinds are allies of the Forest Service in this regard.

The freedom to enjoy our natural resources must be extended to every American, not just some of them.

Sincerely,

Tom Bishop
58 Emerson Street
Wakefield, MA 01880
781-587-1271



ryakbrn@aol.com

09/07/2007 11:21 AM

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

cc:

Subject: chatooga river exclusion of kayak and others

Hello from Alaska,

I am Rick Brown a resident of Seward, Alaska and I would consider myself a avid hiker, kayaker, and fisherman.

I find some times my fellow fisherman and others take themselves to seriously, and try to impose their views on the outdoors and their selfish ill conceived notions of what it takes to maintain their wilderness to what it is that they decide it should be. I have long watched folks and agencies make these changes and worse, try to change the wilderness by getting rid of wolves, etc....It always it seems go wrong, although, it was tried with great intentions.

I truly believe that there should be access to all not just the few that think that their interests supercede all others. It seems that we are about to make another one of those decisions and we are at the threshold of entering the world of selfish use of a resource by a few probably well meaning folks, and denying the access to others that have just as much love of the same area. Does this make sense!

By the way, I myself have enjoyed the Chatooga River and some others in the South...I would like to visit them again, if these folks don't get their way.

Rick Brown

PO Box 844
Seward, Alaska
99664

Email and AIM finally together. You've gotta check out free [AOL Mail!](#)

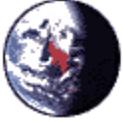


"Sichi, David R"
<David.Sichi@fac.unc.edu>

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

09/07/2007 11:22 AM

I am a kayaker and river user and am quite appalled at the Idea that we bring trash and junk in, has anyone noticed how many river clean up's we participate in or the fact that when a accident



Richard Mauser
<rmauser@frontiernet.net>

09/07/2007 11:30 AM

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

Mr. Marion,

I am writing to you out of concern about access to the Chatooga River. It appears that specific groups would like to exclude access to everyone but themselves. This seems patently unfair, and absurd. In my mind, access rights should relate to preservation of the wilderness characteristics of the river.

In my opinion, sports that damage the watershed should be banned. Specifically, I am thinking about mechanized vehicles, wheeled vehicles and mountain bikes that tear up the ground, destroy root systems and promote erosion.

However, there are other uses that have low or no impact on the ecology. Fishing, hiking, swimming and kayaking come to mind. (Note that these are "non-motorized" activities.) Granted, there is the possibility of users leaving garbage and litter behind, but that is a potential problem no matter where humans intrude. As a kayaker, I know firsthand that boaters are very respectful of the environment and carry out what they bring in, because litter tarnishes the wilderness experience. Paddlers police their peers. However, I have seen empty soda cans and bait containers on those very same rivers. Some people don't carry out their trash.

Safety is a concern, especially in remote locations. Kayakers know this - they come prepared wearing PFDs and helmets. Many also carry first aid and rescue gear. Not every type of user recognizes the potential dangers of wild stretches of wilderness. I myself have rescued hapless recreational swimmers who have been washed downstream in a current. I was glad I was there to help. So were they.

Hiking and kayaking are compatible sports, by their very separateness. Swimming and kayaking are compatible sports, as swimmers tend to stay in calmer waters and kayakers keep to the current. Fishing and kayaking can have some conflicts. It is not unusual to encounter tangles of fishing line hanging low on branches. We train to look out for that. We also give wide berth to fishermen, so as not to become entangled in their cast lines.

The amount of use of a river can be a concern. Overuse can have a negative impact. If that becomes a concern, then, in the spirit of democracy, all users' access should be limited.

Kayaking and canoeing are uses that are compatible with river and habitat preservation. You need look no further than the Grand Canyon to see my point. Banning or restricting human propelled boats from rivers is senseless, and unless every use is banned, it is unfair. I hope you will take this into consideration when reviewing access rights to the Chattooga River.

Richard Mauser
91 Pinnacle Road
Rochester NY 14620



rmauser.vcf



"Wesley Spooner"
<wesley.spooner@xfone.usa.com>

09/07/2007 11:37 AM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc: "BEN BRUMMETT" <bbrummett@jam.rr.com>
Subject: Upper Chattooga Paddling

Mr. Cleeves,

I would have to do everything but agree with the comments that were made by the some of the other outdoor groups in regards to restoring paddling on the upper Chattooga. As an avid kayaker we are always in search of areas to paddle that are true wild and scenic area's such as the Chattooga. I know first hand that kayakers one of the best stewards of the river and that there is no way that we would ruin that, by littering or not responsibly paddling the rivers, or whatever other negative and popularly untrue comments were made about kayakers. I have noted the questions posed by the USFS below with my answers. If I can be of any help please let me know.

1. Should there be new standards limiting trailheads, trails and/or campsites? Yes, the current management has lead to unacceptable impacts. In addition, the USFS should monitor use by all users through a self-registration permitting system.

2. Should there be new standards limiting group sizes, encounters between user groups and/or access?

Every river corridor has a certain capacity. If/when the USFS can demonstrate that the upper Chattooga's capacity is met, all users' access (not just boaters) should be limited consistent with sustainability of the resource.

3. Should there be new boating opportunities on the Chattooga River? This question is erroneous in

and of itself: First, boating is not a new opportunity – it is an old one with a rich history prior to the USFS ban. In fact, the USFS was not even able to determine why boating was prohibited in the first place, much

less any reasonable justification for doing so. Should the Forest Service RESTORE boating access on the upper Chattooga? Absolutely! Boating should be allowed on the Upper Chattooga River to the same extent

that hiking, angling, swimming and other wilderness compliant activities are is allowed.

4. Should there be new standards limiting group sizes, encounters between user groups and/or access

if new boating opportunities are allowed? Every river corridor has a certain capacity. If/when the USFS can demonstrate that the upper Chattooga's capacity is met, all users' access (not just boaters) should be limited consistent with sustainability of the resource.

Thanks,
Wesley Spooner
Network Administrator
Xfone USA, Inc.
Office: (601) 420-6491
Fax: (601) 664-1190
email: wesley.spooner@xfoneusa.com

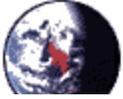


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"Rick Stock"
<rstock@frc.edu>

09/07/2007 11:44 AM

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

Should kayaking be allowed on the Chattooga?

Yes, consistent with the principles of Wilderness management, kayaks are not mechanized. To limit kayaks in Wilderness would set a precedent of enormous proportions. Should we be allowed to ski in Wilderness? Hike? Is a fishing reel mechanized? I propose that the trout organizations representing their interests on the Chattooga are acting in a selfish and uninformed manner. Please treat their comments accordingly.

I teach outdoor recreation at a small CC in northern CA. I will be using this as a case study in my discussion of Wilderness Management and conflict resolution in recreation resource management. I assure you that the first year students will be able to see right through the interests of the

Furthermore...

1. Should there be new standards limiting trailheads, trails and/or campsites? Yes, the current management has lead to unacceptable impacts. In addition, the USFS should monitor use by all users through a self-registration permitting system.

2. Should there be new standards limiting group sizes, encounters between user groups and/or access?

Every river corridor has a certain capacity. If/when the USFS can demonstrate that Limits of Acceptable Change have been exceeded, , all users' access (not just boaters) should be limited consistent with sustainability of the resource.

3. Should there be new boating opportunities on the Chattooga River? This question is erroneous in and of itself: First, boating is not a new opportunity – it is an old one with a rich history prior to the USFS ban. In fact, the USFS was not even able to determine why boating was prohibited in the first place, much less any reasonable justification for doing so. Should the Forest Service RESTORE boating access on the upper Chattooga? Absolutely! Boating should be allowed on the Upper Chattooga River to the same extent that hiking, angling, swimming_ and other wilderness compliant activities are_ is allowed.

4. Should there be new standards limiting group sizes, encounters between user groups and/or access if new boating opportunities are allowed? This should be determined through a management plan which is based on Limits of Acceptable Change.

Rick Stock

Instructor / Program Coordinator

Outdoor Recreation Leadership

Feather River College

571 Golden Eagle Ave.

Quincy, CA 95971

Phone: 530-283-0202 x 275

Fax:530-283-3757

email: rstock@frc.edu



"James Trunzler"
<trunzlerj@bellsouth.net
>

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

09/07/2007 11:44 AM

Sirs,

I have enjoyed the Chattooga River since 1980. I travel from central Mississippi to canoe or kayak the Chattooga, it is my favorite river. Please allow boaters to use the upper section. If the USFS is going to be fair, access or restrictions should apply equally to all groups - hikers, fishermen, horse riders, bikers, and boaters. I would enjoy kayaking the upper before I reach an age where I can no longer paddle.

Yours sincerely,
James Trunzler
Crystal Springs, MS



"Robin Pope"
<robinpope3@hotmail.com>
09/07/2007 11:45 AM

To: ben@amwhitewater.org,
comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga Management Plan comment

Dear Mr. Cleeves;

Attached, please find a letter describing my comments to the Chattooga River Headwaters Management Plan.

Please feel free to contact me by email if you have any questions or concerns regarding my comments.

Very Truly Yours;

Robin Pope

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Chattooga management plan letter.doc



"Nathan Blatchley"
<westernmddem@gmail
.com>

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

09/07/2007 11:47 AM

After carefully reading months of comments both official and on both boating and fishing newsgroup/message boards, I have come to the conclusion that option 6 is the only equitable solution to managing the watershed. As a person involved in whitewater paddling and also someone who has spent many an hour with fisherman/women in my region (mid-Atlantic) there is no evidence to support maintaining the restrictions that currently ban boating from the Upper Chattooga. I will offer one suggestion- regardless of which option ultimately chosen, please add 2 person hard boats (OC-2, C-2, and K-2) to the list of allowed boats. These are legitimate whitewater craft that are regularly used on similar whitewater both in the US and around the world and should not be excluded from the list of allowable craft.

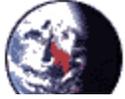
While i am not from the area , I do travel to that region to vacation with family, and paddle, and view the outcome of this drawn-out process as being part of any decision that I and my family will make regarding where we will spend out limited funds for vacationing. Again to be clear, there is no scientific rationale that I can find that would support limiting boater usage beyond that which is described in option 6. SO I am in support of Option 6 as it is the most equitable option proposed.

Nathan Blatchley

--

"There is nothing I like better than messing about in Boats."

- Wind in the Willows



Steve Saylor
<allsky7@yahoo.com>
09/07/2007 11:49 AM

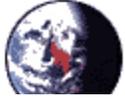
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Chattooga Comments

To Whom It May Concern:

I am in complete agreement with American Whitewater and their stance on the management of the Upper Chattooga River. Do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions or need additional comment. I thank you for your consideration.

Steve Saylor
Monroe, VA

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



"trent thibodeaux"
<trentthib@gmail.com>

09/07/2007 11:56 AM

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

Hi

My name is Trent Thibodeaux and I am a kayaker in the SouthEast. After reading the remarks made by people who are concerned with opening up the Upper Chattooga to paddlers, I am completely taken back. The majority of paddlers, whether kayak, canoe or raft, are very environmentally conscious ie. leaving no trace at campsites, not littering (really, is this an issue with any paddler) and protected the wildlife and environment that we all love and is the reason why we paddle these places to begin with. It is not just the thrill of big water, and steep creeks. It is being part of nature and this wonderful gift of the outdoors. The ATV comment is absurd. Paddlers don't use ATV's to get to put-ins or campsites. If ATV's are not allowed then they are not allowed and should stay on their own trails. Opening this upper section, which is closed for no apparent reason would only allow more people to share in the beauty of this land truly appreciate what the Chattooga has to offer.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely

Trent Thibodeaux



"Perrin, Patrick K."
<PKPerrin@HHLAW.com>

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

09/07/2007 12:02 PM

Kayaking is a low to no impact use of our public lands and should be allowed and supported by Federal, state and local governmental agencies. Organizations that support sport fishing have historically taken unreasonable and monopolistic positions regarding shared use of public waterways. Permit systems and limitations on our right to use public waterways for boating are an unreasonable intrusion on our rights to use public lands that were acquired and are maintained with our tax dollars. Patrick Perrin

Patrick
Perrin,
Partner
HOGAN &
HARTSON
LLP
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Suite
200,
Boulder,
CO
80302
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"Josh Tetreault"
<joshtetreault@hotmail.com>

09/07/2007 12:02 PM

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

Mr. John Cleeves
Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests
4931 Broad River Road

Columbia, SC 29212-3530

Mr. Cleeves:

I am writing to voice my concern about the current ban on boating in the upper stretches of the Chattooga River. Of the available options for the revised management plan for the Chattooga headwaters area, I support option 6.

I strongly feel that blanket bans of boaters on any river without bans of all users is unsound. Boaters have a negligible impact on an ecosystem, and I would argue that a boaters' impact is less than any other user. Boats float on water without disturbing the surrounding environment, while fishermen and hikers must hike the banks and surrounding valleys to reach a certain part of river. In addition, boaters are at least as environmentally conscious as other users, and in my observations, much more so.

In regards to the issue of user conflicts, boaters and other users can and routinely do coexist peacefully. Although most users are aware of their responsibilities to other users, signage at trailheads and access points goes a long way. We would all like to have the whole river and indeed the whole forest to ourselves, but the reality is the forests are lands of many uses and we have to share.

Please do the right thing by listening to reason. Allow boaters a right they have been denied for far too long. Allow them to float the entire stretch of the Chattooga River.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Josh Tetreault
P.O. Box 776337
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

joshtetreault@hotmail.com

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"Mallory, Gregory"
<GMallory@SCHWABE.
com>

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

09/07/2007 12:09 PM

Hello:

I am a member of American Whitewater and an avid whitewater kayaker. I live in Portland, Oregon but the issues affecting the Chattooga are important to all rivers in the US. I understand that the USFS has asked for comment on three questions, which I have set out below with my responses.

- 1) Should there be new standards limiting trailheads, trails and/or campsites? Yes - you can't overrun a wilderness and expect it to keep its wilderness character. These limits should apply to all users.
- 2) Should there be new boating opportunities on the Chattooga River? The ban on boating on the Chattooga should be lifted. It is really hard for me to understand why boating was banned in the first place and even harder to think of a reason it should be continued. Of the comments I've seen so far opposing boating on the Chattooga, I think its clear there are no compelling arguments against boating. In my experience, boaters are some of the most respectful and conscientious users of wilderness and non-wilderness areas. There are numerous examples here in the West showing that boaters respect rivers - the Illinois, Selway, and Middle Fork Salmon are just a few examples of successful river use.
- 3) Should there be new standards limiting group sizes, encounters between user groups and/or access if new boating opportunities are allowed? See answer to #1 above. Restoring boating to the Chattooga should not require any limits specific to boaters - limits will be needed but they should apply to all users.

I urge you to restore boating to the Chattooga.

Thank you.

Greg Mallory
1211 SW 5th Ave., Suite 1800
Portland, Oregon 97204

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"Phil Wilson"
<phil@greensboroland.com>

09/07/2007 12:10 PM

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

Subject: Chattooga Headwaters Management Plan Comment

Mr. John Cleeves
Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests
4931 Broad River Road

Columbia, SC 29212-3530

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

It is difficult for me to understand how single-capacity boating on the Upper Chatooga can be considered to be any more of an impact than any of the other uses being considered under the USFS management plan alternatives. In fact, paddlers are arguably much less likely to litter and otherwise impact wilderness areas than are campers and certain groups of anglers. It is the right of responsible paddlers and anglers to utilize National Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Please select an alternative that is fair to all environmentally-friendly user groups and consider placing reasonable capacity limitations on each of these groups.

Phil Wilson



"Greg Moore"
<wgregmoore@hotmail.
com>

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

09/07/2007 12:14 PM

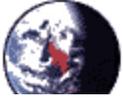
Dear Mr. Cleeves:

I am writing in support of allowing kayaking on the upper Chatooga River. I understand that representatives from Trout Unlimited have claimed that the presence of boaters on the river would result in a "diminished wilderness experience for other users." Well, of course it would--the presence of anyone else in a pristine area diminishes the experience for a user of any type. Trout Unlimited appears to want to have the river to themselves. But they don't own it--the public does, and none of us gets to have the wilderness to ourselves. There's no reason to elevate the right of access for fishermen over that of kayakers. Both activities are consistent with wilderness values. Human-powered boating has virtually no impact on wilderness--it doesn't even leave footprints!

Sincerely,

Greg Moore
Box 6359
Ketchum, ID 83340

Can you find the hidden words? Take a break and play Seekadoo!
http://club.live.com/seekadoo.aspx?icid=seek_hotmailtextlink1



"VanCola"
<vancola@verizon.net>

09/07/2007 12:17 PM

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

IN response to the questions:

1. *Should there be new standards limiting trailheads, trails and/or campsites?* Yes, the current management has lead to unacceptable impacts. In addition, the USFS should monitor use by **all users** through a self-registration permitting system.
2. *Should there be new standards limiting group sizes, encounters between user groups and/or access?* Every river corridor has a certain capacity. If/when the USFS can demonstrate that the upper Chattooga's capacity is met, **all users' access** (not just boaters) should be limited consistent with sustainability of the resource.
3. *Should there be new boating opportunities on the Chattooga River?* This question is erroneous in and of itself: First, boating is not a new opportunity – it is an old one with a rich history prior to the USFS ban. In fact, the USFS was not even able to determine why boating was prohibited in the first place, much less any reasonable justification for doing so. *Should the Forest Service RESTORE boating access on the upper Chattooga?* Absolutely! Boating should be allowed on the Upper Chattooga River to the same extent that hiking, angling, swimming and other wilderness compliant activities are is allowed.
4. *Should there be new standards limiting group sizes, encounters between user groups and/or access if new boating opportunities are allowed?* Restoration of boating access has nothing to do with this underlying question. This question is no different than #2 above, and the answer is no different either. Every river corridor has a certain capacity. **If/when the USFS can demonstrate that the upper Chattooga's capacity is met, all users' access (not just boaters) should be limited consistent with sustainability of the resource.**

Further, I feel compelled to comment on a few statements that I read - bear in mind that all of the paddlers I know are very conscientious and concerned about litter ("leave no trace"). I belong to several clubs, so that's hundreds of paddlers of all types.

"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."

This is ridiculous - ATVs are like jet skis: both are motorized, noisy, and frequently operated by untrained and irresponsible operators who enjoy buzzing around. They share nothing in common with paddlers; most of us dread seeing either. Paddlers are more akin to backcountry hikers. Although they often travel in groups for safety (only prudent in any water activity), they are highly trained in outdoor safety, skilled, and pick up after themselves (and often others - we have many river clean-up days organized by paddlers).

"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."

I regularly paddle on rivers where there are inner tubes and have never had any issue, nor have I seen any problems -- other than a few rescues performed by the kayakers where the inner-tubers got into dangerous places they should not have been because they lack control over their inner-tubes and/or didn't recognize the danger.

"Boaters...could take large loads on their boats to potentially spread trash and human impact to areas far removed from the current public access points."

Ridiculous - why would anyone want to carry a bunch of trash in their kayak? There are surely better places to dispose of trash and better things to do with one's time. Again, the paddlers I know are concerned about environmental impact and "leave no trace" that they have been somewhere. They live by the credo "pack it in, pack it out." They frequently bring trash left behind by others to their homes,

as well as bring their own refuse home. Also, a number of "river clean-up" volunteer days are held by various paddling clubs.

We frequently have to clean up after anglers, who leave hooks and lines lying about -- often posing a hazard -- as well as packaging from hooks, bait and lures and other trash. Lines left behind or tangled in trees can be very dangerous to all users. I have on occasion seen commercial RAFTERS leave things behind -- but the rafting companies must be responsible for their patrons and teach them to clean up after themselves. These people tend to be infrequent users of the wilderness and need to be educated. Occasionally, those who enjoyed their rafting experience take up paddlesports and become frequent and responsible users of the wilderness.

"Like the pervasive motorized vehicles, the easier access resulting from kayaking again threatens the pursuits of backcountry enthusiast and the wilderness itself. Creek boating is considered an intrusive activity for the backcountry angler, wildlife viewer or hiker; Encounters would result in a diminished wilderness experience for these other visitors. Like mountain biking on land trails, it is time the USFS acknowledges and correctly classifies the differences between creekers and other river users."

This statement contains a number of inconsistencies as well as erroneous statements:

*Kayaks are simply not motorized vehicles and have nothing in common with them! Speed boats, jet skis and the like are motorized.

*Kayakers ARE backcountry enthusiasts!

*Wildlife viewers would prefer to see no one -- especially anglers! They believe in taking pictures, not harming the wildlife.

*Creek boats do not leave any trail behind, nor do they damage the wilderness, unlike mountain bikes, which do impact the terrain.

*A lot of kayakers are also hikers, as am I. The interests of hikers and kayakers are more closely aligned than probably any other users. I've never seen any kind of conflict between the two groups; we usually have rather pleasant conversations. They are two different ways of going through the wilderness and enjoying the serenity. Today I can take my kayak, tomorrow my hiking shoes. On neither day do I litter.

I cherish and respect my right to paddle through Wilderness Areas and on Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Susan D. VanCola, CPA, ESQ



"Hartley Horwitz"
<hhorwitz@potentiasemi
.com>

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

09/07/2007 12:19 PM

I'm writing to support American WhiteWater's position that single-person hard boats and single person inflatables can gain access to the upper Chattooga. I must point out that white water enthusiasts have shown minimal environmental impact to rivers -- yes, there are signs of human activity near major rapids. Typically this is limited to portage trails, but you will not find deposits of styrofoam containers from bait, or beer cans, or other garbage that is prevalent amongst the fishing/angling community. I say this with sadness, because I am both a paddler and an angler, and I find that the angling community is still in need of education regarding the "pack it in, pack it out" mentality.

I am not suggesting allowing boating at the exclusion of angling/fishing. I am simply pointing out that paddling is (and was, historically) an activity that is well suited to the Chattooga and boating rights should be reinstated. I see no valid reason not to.

I am fully supportive of limiting the total number of visitors to Chattooga -- a limit that should be applied to ALL activities. I'm sure the USFS is aware that all human activities have an impact on the region, and thus overuse by any stakeholder is an issue.

I trust you will reinstate white water access to the upper Chattooga, and look forward to the day I can paddle on this section of river, as well as hiking and fishing.

....Hartley Horwitz
97 Ross Ave, Ottawa, ON
K1Y 0N6



"Claude Frank"
<claude.frank@gmail.com>
m>

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Limit kayaking on the Chattooga??

09/07/2007 12:20 PM

Dear Sir,

I have heard that your branch of the US Forest Service is considering dramatically restricting the access to the Chattooga river by kayakers. I just want to let you know that in my 6 years of kayaking out of around 30 years of accessing our forests, I have never met a more environmentally conscious and responsible group of people than those that sit in whitewater kayaks. Kayakers are fully capable of sharing waterways with other forest "customers" in a responsible fashion. I have never witnessed a boater littering, boaters are always respectful of other forest users and kayaking is in no way harmful to the environment, physically or aesthetically.

In fact, I am amazed that the forest service could even have authority or interest in limiting this activity any more than the authority to limit or ban hiking. Kayaking is one of the most benevolent activities imaginable in our forests and enhances one's appreciation of the natural world.

Regards,
Claude Frank



"Bill Schooley"
<BSchooley@RFCorp.com>

09/07/2007 12:24 PM

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

Dear Mr. Cleeves:

I fully support the position of American Whitewater on the use of the Upper Chattooga.

Please give boating a chance on this section of stream.

We will take good care of it.

William Schooley

134 Old Stateline Rd
Elizabethton, TN 37643



"Curtis Stabler"
<curtis.stabler@gmail.com>

09/07/2007 12:29 PM

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

John,

I wanted to write you to comment on the issue of boating the headwaters of the Chattooga. I was lucky enough to spend my summers growing up off of Highway 76 above Stekoa Creek. I have been trout fishing with a fly rod since I was about 11. I love that wilderness with a passion and have spent a large portion of my life exploring it. The fishing and the kayaking are both great. So is the hiking. I miss my summers there. I really don't understand the conflict here. Kayaking creeks doesn't happen when people are swimming, or fishing. It happens when the creeks are swollen from rain. I also don't understand the concerns of damage to the environment or littering. I participate in several river cleanups every year, where kayakers take their own time to clean up what others dump at the river. Kayakers do tend to have an impact at the point they launch their boats, usually a parking area, but so do fishermen, hikers, and anyone else using a spot for a starting point. Walking stream banks and game trails to fish isn't without impact either. Both kayakers and game fishermen tend to be deeply concerned about the environment and keeping it clean. There shouldn't be any conflict between these groups. In so many other areas both Trout Unlimited and AW are working together to benefit the environment. Are there personality issue involved in the Chattooga area that aren't an issue elsewhere. I hope everyone can learn to share and preserve our natural resources.

Thanks for listening to everyone's concerns,

Curtis Stabler
Network Engineer
CCNP, CCVP, IPCC Express
VIPGift
Office: (423) 785-2233
Cell: (423) 208-0953
cstabler@gmail.com



"Linda Day"
<lday@daycreative.com
>

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc: bcwc-l@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Chatooga River boating

09/07/2007 12:29 PM
Please respond to lday

Dear Forest Service:

I am alarmed that of five plans for the Chatooga River, only one allows boating. I've read some of the negative comments about kayakers, and I am astonished that anyone would believe them. I've been whitewater kayaking for about 20 years, and in my experience, kayakers are the ones who truly appreciate wilderness and pass through it leaving it pristine. Rivers where the wilderness is buried under trash and debris are those rivers frequented by fishermen, families, kids in inner tubes, and other beer-consuming segments of the population. In all my years of kayaking, I've never been with kayakers who drank on the river or were disrespectful to anyone they met -- and I've paddled with lots of different kayakers on the Chatooga as well as other eastern rivers (Nantahala, Ocoee, Tuckasegee, Pigeon, etc.)

Contrary to the idea that kayakers would open the wilderness to ATVs is that fact that kayakers adamantly oppose ATVs in wilderness areas, precisely because they leave permanent scars on the land. Here in Texas where I live, ATVs were driving down riverbeds, utterly destroying the riverine environment -- until canoers and kayakers banded together to get a law passed that prohibited this insane form of amusement. Boaters -- mostly kayakers -- play major roles in river preservation nationally. There's the Texas Rivers Protection Association here (which, for example, has been instrumental in upgrading sewage standards for release in Texas rivers) and the activities of American Whitewater, American Rivers, and the American Canoe Association nationally.

My hunch is that the trout people just don't want anyone else interrupting their fishing solitude -- as if the wilderness can only be enjoyed by standing in the water and killing fish. Boaters understand that dancing with the water -- without killing anything, without leaving beer cans behind -- is an equally valid way to interact with nature.

I hope you will allow kayaking along the length of the Chatooga. It is an amazing river, and paddling it is a spiritual experience. Surely it should not be the job of the Forest Service to prohibit this wilderness-preserving form of being in nature.

Respectfully,
Linda Day

Day
Creativ
e, Inc.
4224
Lehigh
Ave.
Housto
n, TX
77005
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713-66
4-1908

F:

713-43
2-9864

C:
832-26
4-4224

[www.d
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ive.co
m](http://www.d
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ive.co
m)



"Wilson, Julie R."
<Julianna.Wilson@vsp.virginia.gov>

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

09/07/2007 12:30 PM

Hello,

Please see my answers to your questions below.

1. *Should there be new standards limiting trailheads, trails and/or campsites?*

Yes, the current management has led to unacceptable impacts. In addition, the USFS should monitor use by all users through a self-registration permitting system.

2. *Should there be new standards limiting group sizes, encounters between user groups and/or access?*

Every river corridor has a certain capacity. If/when the USFS can demonstrate that the upper Chattooga's capacity is met, all users' access (not just boaters) should be limited consistent with sustainability of the resource.

3. *Should there be new boating opportunities on the Chattooga River?*

This question is erroneous in and of itself: First, boating is not a new opportunity – it is an old one with a rich history prior to the USFS ban. In fact, the USFS was not even able to determine why boating was prohibited in the first place, much less any reasonable justification for doing so. Should the Forest Service RESTORE boating access on the upper Chattooga? Absolutely! Boating should be allowed on the Upper Chattooga River to the same extent that hiking, angling, swimming and other wilderness compliant activities are allowed.

4. *Should there be new standards limiting group sizes, encounters between user groups and/or access if new boating opportunities are allowed?*

Restoration of boating access has nothing to do with this underlying question. This question is no different than #2 above, and the answer is no different either. Every river corridor has a certain capacity. If/when the USFS can demonstrate that the upper Chattooga's capacity is met, all users' access (not just boaters) should be limited consistent with sustainability of the resource.

The comment: *"Boaters...could take large loads on their boats to potentially spread trash and human impact to areas far removed from the current public access points."* is ridiculous. Those who participate in human-powered paddlesports - kayaking and canoeing in particular - are concerned about human impact on wild areas. I am not the only boater that not only doesn't litter but picks up trash left by others when I see it - wherever I am. There are many of us that do.

Sincerely,

Julianna Wilson

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"Paul Southwold"
<paul@southwold.com
>

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

09/09/2007 03:46 PM
Please respond to paul

Subject: Chattooga Headwaters Management Plan Comment

Dear Mr. John Cleeves

I am 39 originally born in England and now living in Alaska. I have been a professional guide all over the world. I feel compelled to write and say how sad it is to prevent, healthy fit people from exploring America. Many of these people fly to other countries with stories of restrictions and bans on local rivers (Luckily we have none in Alaska.) Many foreigners shake their heads in disbelief. Where or what is compromise?

Paul

SRTI, WRTI, ACA WW Raft/Kayak Inst, TRR, EMT.

Please protect this sacred place.....

(Quoted by a nine year old boy on hearing of the impending war between India and Pakistan)