



"Jarred Jackman"
<jarredjackman@gmail.
com>

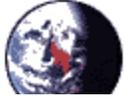
09/07/2007 12:38 PM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Regarding kayaking and wilderness areas in the United States.

Hello, I am an avid kayaker and live in the Pacific Northwest. I think it is absolutely insane that kayaking would be considered invasive in any form. I am much more offended by the swarms of people that I see on trails these days than the few intrepid kayakers that take the time to haul their boats up trails, around logjams, and paddle down rapids in order to enjoy some of our nation's finest treasures. Kayaking is no more intrusive than trail hiking or walking. Kayaking is far less of an impact on our natural environment in that most kayakers spend over 90% of their time in any given river environment, in the water, floating downstream, leaving not a single trace for future users to notice or be offended by. I cannot count the amount of fishing lures, beer cans, toilet paper, cigarette butts, water bottles, food wrappers, etc, that I have picked up on trails in the past 5 years alone. I am also an avid hiker, backpacker, climber, and mountaineer, and most of those pursuits are much more invasive on the land than kayaking. When I paddle I truly feel that I am leaving the land the way I found it, untouched by my presence, to be enjoyed by the next person. I also am less of a threat or disturbance to wildlife. I have seen more wildlife while boating than I even have doing any other outdoor activity. I make nearly zero noise and find that wildlife accept my presence far more easily than they do when I'm walking or running.

It is my hope that you will not limit kayak access to wild and scenic areas, wilderness areas, or any other regulated areas. Kayaks are not invasive, rather, they are the most natural and noninvasive way in which to view any river or watered canyon. Please truly think about the effects of other users before you admonish kayaking and kayakers.

Thank you for your time and take care,
Jarred Jackman
North Bonneville, WA 98639



"Nature's Classroom"
<natures@hiwaay.net>

09/07/2007 01:00 PM

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

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

Dear Francis Marion and Sumter National Forest,

I am writing on to support restoration of legal paddling to the upper stretches of the Chattooga river. This ban has infringed on my (and all paddlers) right to paddle through Wilderness Areas and on Wild and Scenic Rivers for too long. Below are responses to your issued questions.

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

A: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.

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

A: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.

Q:Should there be new boating opportunities on the Chattooga River?

A: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.

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

A: 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.

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

A: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.

As an outdoor education professional I feel the need to bring to your attention that floating and paddling on rivers is the single most low impact way to travel through the backcountry. It should be allowed everywhere (especially within public lands) and encouraged above all other forms of backcountry travel.

Outside of this issue I thank you for your efforts in conservation and preservation of public lands, however this ban on boating in the upper sections of the Chattooga is baseless and has infringed upon our rights for

too long. End this ban and restore integrity to your land management practices.

Sincerely,

Adam Goshorn

Adam Goshorn, Program Director
Nature's Classroom Atop Lookout Mountain
PO BOX 400
Mentone AL 35984

Phone: 800.995.4769
Fax: 256.634.3601
E-mail: natures@hiwaay.net
Web: www.naturesclassroom.com



Scott Henry
<henrysm@u.washingto
n.edu>

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

09/07/2007 12:58 PM

Subject: Chattooga Headwaters Management Plan Comment

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. My overall impression of these plans is that they are based primarily on feedback from the July 14th workshop in Walhalla SC, and strongly favor certain user groups at the expense of others' access. These decisions are made not based on scientific study or actual, quantifiable impacts, but hearsay and complaints—it seems that those groups which were most vocal at the July 14th workshop have dictated the management plan options, ignoring other public feedback and advisory studies. That said, I am reluctantly in favor of option 6, as it provides boaters with some access to the headwaters of the Chattooga.

In general, I do not believe that boating is a user activity that this incompatible with other activities, such as fishing. I do not believe that boating has greater environmental impacts than other user activities, which are certainly more damaging to the fragile riparian lands surrounding the river. Finally, I do not believe that access of any user group should be favored over any other, assuming similar environmental impacts between the groups. The proposed plans all favor the interests of various user groups at the expense of boaters, with no legitimate justification. The river should be accessible and managed so that all wilderness compliant activities can be enjoyed.

There are several specific flaws with the proposed management plans. In options 4-6, boating is restricted based on purely arbitrary reasons, not based on the science from the boating study above highway 28. If management plans exist to restrict and zone boaters, why aren't other users groups similarly zoned and restricted in other areas of the river corridor? This is not only unfair, but illegal. Boating the headwaters would have less environmental impact than the current user groups allowed in the area, and boating is not incompatible with other uses of the river corridor. Additionally, none of the plans seem to address concerns about restricting overall access with limited parking, closing roads, and the stocking of non-native aquatic species in the river; these concerns were very clearly expressed during public input periods.

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 groups. Unofficial trails and campgrounds would be closed, and all user groups would be reasonably limited to protect the environment of the river corridor.

In response to other specific concerns addressed in the management plans:

1. There should be new standards to limit trailheads, trails, and

campsites. Current management has led to unacceptable impacts in these regards, and I believe that the USFS should monitor use of the area by ALL users through self-registration permits to better understand and address future impacts.

2. Regarding limits on group sizes and encounters between user groups, every river corridor has a limited capacity. If/when the USFS can demonstrate that the upper Chattooga's capacity is met, the access of all users (not just boaters) should be limited according to the sustainability of the river corridor. Boating is an activity that is compatible with hiking, swimming, and fishing as any of those activities are compatible with each other, and there is no need to segregate or isolate user groups. On the vast majority of rivers throughout the country, these user groups peacefully and successfully coexist, and there is no reason to suspect that this is not possible on the Chattooga.

3. Allowing boating on the upper Chattooga should not be thought of as a "new" opportunity. Boating on that stretch of river was historically done long before the USFS banned it—a capricious ban with no reasonable justification. Boating should be allowed on the upper Chattooga to the same extent that hiking, angling, swimming, and any other wilderness compliant activity is allowed.

The management plan that is adopted for the Chattooga river could have an important role in setting a precedent for management plans on wilderness rivers across the country, and I urge you to carefully draft and adopt a plan that: 1) is fair to all user groups, 2) based on sound science and management policy, 3) equitably protects the access of all environmentally friendly user groups, 4) protects the river corridor and native species from environmental degradation and 5) can serve as a model for future management plans in other river corridors.

Sincerely,

Scott Henry



Sean Davis
<sdavis@opublishing.com>
09/07/2007 01:03 PM

To: "comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us"
<comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Restore Boater access on the Chattooga River

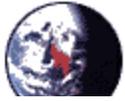
John Cleeves
USFS Project Manager

Dear Sir,

I strongly urge you to restore boating access to the entire Chattooga river. The discrimination that has been shown by the US Forest Service to a single user group is totally without merit or justification. The simple fact that 5 out of 6 options laid out in the scoping document don't allow for boating is greatly troubling. This failure to include boating is completely inconsistent with both the Wild and Scenic Rivers act and the Wilderness act. If boating access is not granted it will be illegal and met with appropriate legal action.

Boaters should be granted the same access to the Upper Chattooga as all other Wilderness permitted user groups - hiker, fishers, swimmers, etc. This is the policy nationwide, and it is time for the Upper Chattooga to remove the illegal restrictions that it has placed on boaters.

Sincerely,
Sean Davis



"Fraser, Noah"
<NFraser@jig.com>

09/07/2007 01:03 PM

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

Subject: Chattooga Headwaters Management Plan Comment

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

Gentlemen,

I am a Hydrologist by trade, a kayaker for 18 years, and a fisherman for 20+ years. Fair, equitable use of wilderness areas and their protection for future generations is not just the responsibility of the US Forest Service, but all the users of the areas as well. As a professional who specializes in river and stream related issues I understand the study conducted by Tetra-Tech and the inherent, near impossibility of what was requested of them. That said, I believe that they have done a fine job in evaluating the situation in a manner that my colleagues and I approve of as sufficient development of background information and test studies. I am somewhat disappointed with the alternatives the USFS has published in the latest document dated August 14th, 2007. There are limits suggested that have no apparent basis given the Tetra-Tech report and reflect (in my humble opinion) the previous ban and its ideals not the facts gained by the million dollar study.

If our main objective is to protect the wilderness area, then, per the Tetra-Tech, report there should be a limit on all user groups; especially overnight visitors that represent the greatest impact to the wilderness itself and the "wilderness experience." There is nothing worse than coming across a cleared area with a campfire ring especially along a stream. That said, in my extensive experience while kayaking and fishing in wilderness areas, there is little interaction between the two groups, with leave-no-trace being practiced by both groups.

I have never met a serious Trout fisherman or Expert kayaker (Class V skills) who did not do everything in their power to protect their natural resources and leave-no-trace. Issues such as LWD are completely irrelevant to this boating ban on the Upper Chattooga as a free flowing river has been proven to be such a dynamic entity that it will take care of itself as long as its watershed is protected.

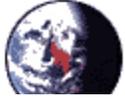
In my professional work and studies it has been my experience that we focus on what is going on in the stream channel itself, but it is constantly changing in response to the changes in the watershed around it. That is why these wilderness areas are so important; they protect the water quality by maintaining the quality of the watershed. Thus our primary goal shouldn't be what is happening in the streams themselves (within reason) but what is going on in the watershed.

By limiting all user groups, maintaining foot-trails, and decreasing overnight impacts we can protect this wonderful natural resource for future generations. As for your 6 options, I suggest the last but encourage stricter limits for all groups. If the rules are fair for everyone and clearly posted then I am sure that the wilderness will be protected and both fishermen and boaters can enjoy this beautiful resource.

I can only hope that you will look at the facts, not public opinion, and what other wilderness area managers across the country are doing in their respective areas. Thank you for your time and immense amount of work you have put into this process. Regardless of the decision I will be spending time on the Upper Chattooga either fishing or boating but, with all sincerity, hopefully both.

Thank You

Noah Fraser
Athens, GA



"Mercer & Sharon"
<moast@triad.rr.com>
09/07/2007 01:10 PM

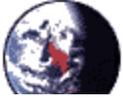
To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: kayaking/boating the Chattooga

I just wan to say that I enjoy the outdoors and nature. At 50 years old my wife and I love to back pack, fly fish mountain streams and I also love to kayak natural rivers. I am a member of both Trout Unlimited and American Whitewater. I believe the use of the outdoors should be for all who take care of nature and help preserve it. I do not see one group having rights over others. Boaters, fisherman and hikers for the most part are nature lovers and try to protect the environment. How anyone can make comparison's to ATV's and boaters is not in touch with reality.

I believe boaters leave less impact on natural areas because of fewer footprints the erode the land. Boaters glide down the river with the natural current . They should beallowed in rivers such as the Chattooga.

Nature should be available for people if it requires user fee to maintain the environment then so be it. I am not apposed to that.

Mercer Oast
22 Winterberry Ct
Greensboro, NC 27455



"tipdover@netzero.net"
<tipdover

09/07/2007 01:12 PM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc: tipdover@netzero.com
Subject: Paddling through Wildness Areas and on Wild and Scenic Rivers

Dear Mr. Cleeves:

I have been a whitewater boater for 30 years. For the last 20 years I have participated in river cleanups. In the rivers I have collected supermarket shopping carts, strollers, shoes, a dead dog in a mail carrier's bag, tires, multiple Styrofoam coolers, picnic trash, ropes, a two-way radio, clothing, rebar, tangled fishing lines with hooks and lures, bridge-building trash, beer bottles, cans, and children's toys. All this and more have been collected all through the use of a boat on the rivers. Without the use of a boat none of it would have been collected.

I am currently a member of four (4) boating clubs that all are devoted to keeping the rivers safe and pristine. We all demonstrate that "Leave No Trace" works for everyone.

We also believe that all river corridors have a certain capacity. If and when the USFS demonstrates that a river's capacity is met, ALL users' access (including boaters) should be limited consistent with sustainability of the resource.

Boating is not a new opportunity. It has been around since native Americans used these rivers. Boating alleviates physical wear on existing trails and environments, as well as allows a larger group of individuals to view and appreciate nature's splendor.

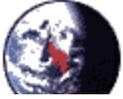
Boating has never been more safe than it is now through the advancement of modern technology. When stopping for lunch, it is now recommended to lay a fire cloth on the ground to keep crumbs from sandwiches off the ground to discourage ants from forming large, un-natural colonies. Fire pans (and ashes) and removable human waste containers also assure that the environment is left untouched. And yes, that means that boaters have larger loads than the hiker, camper, or fishermen.

Inner-tubes have been on the rivers in the West in increasing numbers. I have yet to see a "tuber" wearing a PFD. It appears that perhaps new regulations regarding life jackets be introduced. Boaters give tubers a wide berth because of their inability to control their craft. Children simply do not belong in inner-tubes because they are small enough to slip through the center of the tube in turbulent waters.

I respect my right (and obligation to others who use the rivers and trails) to paddle the Nation's Wilderness Areas and on Wild and Scenic Rivers.

I have put much thought into this issue and I hope that you will as well.

Sincerely,
Diana Preusser
Lakewood, CO



"Matthew Crawford"
<mrcraw@hotmail.com>

09/07/2007 01:19 PM

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

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

When considering restoration of whitewater boating on the upper Chattooga, the USFS must recognize that whitewater boating is a lower impact activity than even hiking and fishing. Once boaters have accessed the river they truly leave no trace. As a group, whitewater boaters are conservationists. While it's true that whitewater is an adventurous sport, boaters are drawn to the upper Chattooga to intimately experience it's natural beauty. To portray boating as higher impact than hiking or fishing is inaccurate. To compare the impact of boating to ATV riding is ludicrous. Whitewater boaters are part of the outdoor community that appreciate and enjoy the Chattooga River. As such:

1. New standards limiting trailheads, trails and campsites should include, but not single out, whitewater boaters.

2. New standards limiting group sizes, encounters between user groups and/or access should not single out whitewater boaters. All users must be accounted for to maintain sustainability of the resource.

3. Whitewater boating opportunities should be restored on the upper Chattooga River. Boating is as low impact as other wilderness compliant activities. Boaters are as consciencious as the other wilderness resource users.

4. New standards limiting group sizes, encounters and access for restored boating opportunities should be consistent with those set for all users. Boaters should not be singled out for restrictions.

Whitewater paddlers deserve the opportunity to enjoy and protect the amazing Chattooga River watershed along with the rest of the wilderness user community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Matthew Crawford, PA-C

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"Kessmann, Dave
\\(FGWA-VAI)"
<Dave.Kessmann@FG
WA.com>

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

09/07/2007 01:27 PM

The USFS has asked the following questions and below are my responses:

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.

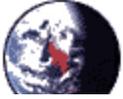
Should there be new standards limiting group sizes, encounters between user groups and/or access? Every river corridor has a certain capacity. If/when the USFS can demonstrate that the upper Chattooga's capacity is met, all users' access (not just boaters) should be limited consistent with sustainability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

Dave Kessmann
Mechanical Engineer
Fleetwood Goldco Wyard Ambec
Office: 434/582-1200 x 380
Fax: 434/582-1284
E-mail: dave.kessmann@fgwa.com



"Njord R."
<njordic@hotmail.com>
09/07/2007 01:48 PM

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

Dear Sir,

I'm writing in regards to kayaking in Wilderness and Wild and Scenic rivers and the Trout Unlimited folks allegations of kayaking being at odds with the FS management policies.

Whitewater kayaking (creeking) is a non-motorized sport that does not produce noise, pollution, or impact the soil in any fashion. To claim kayaking is at odds with the Wilderness and Wild and Scenic rivers is rubbish. Some of the lies that the Trout Unlimited folks are spreading in regards to the dangers posed by kayaking and just that... filthy lies spread by folks who do not have the capacity to share our natural resources with the entire outdoor communities. Anyone that is a serious whitewater kayaker understands the need for stewardship, Leave-no-trace, and low-impact actions. We love our rivers and tend to be environmentalists by nature. Although kayakers do momentarily interrupt the fishing experience, we tend to quickly pass through the fishing areas... which causes some fishermen (and women) to blame their poor fishing skills on kayakers.

Please disregard the Trout Unlimited folk's lies about kayaking. They are simply like little children that have not learned to share... kayaking is an activity that is highly compatible with the Wilderness experience and fits into the ROS quite nicely.

Best regards,
Njord Rota
296 South 3rs St
Carbondale, CO 81623

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<http://clk.atdmt.com/MRT/go/aub0930003811mrt/direct/01/>



Sven Lovegren
<solovegren@yahoo.com>

09/07/2007 01:56 PM

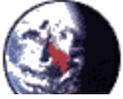
To: Comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Upper Chattooga River Proposals

Dear Sirs,

I urge you to keep to the current policy of NO BOATS on the Upper Chatooga River. This is a wild and scenic area and boating can be done in many other places.

Sven Lovegren
2331 Annapolis Court
Atlanta, GA 30345

Luggage? GPS? Comic books?
Check out fitting [gifts for grads](#) at Yahoo! Search.



Bob Ostermann
<bob@redinews.com>
09/07/2007 02:30 PM

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

I feel that canoes and kayaks represent the least intrusive and least harmful way of utilizing our waterways and parklands. Due to the fluid nature of water, not even footprints remain after a canoeist has passed through an area. They do not require that streams be stocked with fish, nor trails maintained, nor lean-tos built in order to make full use of a waterway.

Canoeing and kayaking on the Upper Chattooga should be allowed to the same extent that other wilderness compliant activities (hiking, angling, swimming, etc.) are allowed.

Better than an outright ban, perhaps the USFS could determine when the Upper Chattooga's corridor capacity has been met, and all usage of this corridor (including hiking, swimming, angling, etc) could be limited consistent with the sustainability of the area.

thank you,

bob ostermann

--

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Version: 7.5.485 / Virus Database: 269.13.8/993 - Release Date: 9/6/2007 3:18 PM



<acook@bluefrog.com>

09/07/2007 03:07 PM

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

cc:

Subject: Chattooga River Access

Dear John Cleaves,

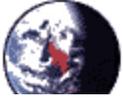
I would like to express my concern over the USFS's continued prohibition on boating on the Chattooga River. As a whitewater kayaker, hiker, climber and Wilderness First Responder, I value our nation's wild and scenic resources. Of all the groups of outdoor enthusiasts that I've come into contact with, kayakers are by far the best stewards of the environment. We value the rivers that we paddle on, and the places they take us. We would never deface these treasures.

This is why I am astounded by the policy of singling boating out as the one human powered activity to disallow. Boating has a long history in the U.S. and the Chattooga River was renowned among kayakers and canoeists before the ban. However, I realize that each river corridor has a certain capacity and that the USFS has an interest in preventing overuse. This is why I would encourage the USFS to limit the use of all user groups if that is necessary to sustaining the resource.

Whitewater boating has a long and storied history in our country and the Chattooga River has a long history as a treasure whitewater destination. It is not known why boating was disallowed on this River. And there are no reasonable reasons that boating should continue to be prohibited. Please protect our right to kayak or canoe the Chattooga River just as you protect other activities that are consistent with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Thank you,

Andrew M. Cook



David.Bradford@dom.com

09/07/2007 03:12 PM

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

The USFS has asked the following questions about access to the upper Chattooga River and this is my response:

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 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.

David Bradford
Board Member of Coastal Canoeists of Virginia
104 Zachary Place
Yorktown, VA 23693

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Curtis Carson
<curtis.carson@yahoo.com>

09/07/2007 03:19 PM

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

Mr. Thomas,

I am writing about the request for comment on recreational uses on the upper Chattooga River. To be short and concise I am opposed to all six options. They are all weak. The best provided option is option six which is still a poor option. The Chattooga is a public, natural resource and should not be restricted.

Curtis Carson

Boardwalk for \$500? In 2007? Ha! Play Monopoly Here and Now (it's updated for today's economy) at Yahoo! Games.
<http://get.games.yahoo.com/proddesc?gamekey=monopolyherenow>



DRSONNY1@aol.com

09/07/2007 03:46 PM

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

USFS project manager, John Cleeves
Re: Upper Chattooga

Dear Mr. Cleeves:

I would just like to add my comments. I live in Memphis, Tennessee, and don't get to the Chattooga as much as I once did. I began kayaking the Chattooga R. in 1975 and have managed to kayak there at least once a year for the following 30 years.

I have never left anything at the Chattooga but footprints...and few of those. Kayakers are probably the least invasive of all visitors to the wilderness areas. I was surprised at the claims that kayakers will have the same affect on the wilderness areas as ATV's. Kayakers actually impact the environment less than fishermen or backpackers. I have never left anything at or near a river. I have never hit a swimmer. I have always tried to be considerate of fishermen. I think I represent the majority of kayakers who would be interested in boating on the upper Chattooga.

As one who has traveled thousands of miles to enjoy the Chattooga as a kayaker for many years, and as one who has spent thousands of dollars in the local economy, I encourage you to open the upper Chattooga to kayaking.

Dr. Alan Salomon
8511 Mysen Cove
Memphis, TN 38018

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"Jason Jarvis"
<jasonqjarvis@charter.net>

09/07/2007 04:06 PM

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

25 years flyfishing and 18years kayaking. Two low impact sports.
The comments I just read are ridiculous.
I intend on responding further when time permits.

Jason Q Jarvis M.Ed
Special Education Teacher
Summer Program Coordinator
SWCEC
wk. 508-764-8500 ext 116
hm. 508-765-6813



"Pam French"
<frenchyfri@triad.rr.com
>

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

09/07/2007 04:48 PM

I have been following with interest the comments in the various "outdoor" communities about the right to access the Upper Chattooga reaches above the Rt 28 bridge.

It concerns me that the "status quo" is considered to have rights to a river that others must work to earn. Rivers are not the possessions of local fishermen, any more than surf fishermen have rights to our oceans.

Please add my voice to those that ask for equal access to the Upper Chattooga. Kayakers and other boaters are not banned from other rivers. Those wilderness areas that have not illegally shut down access to boaters have not shown degradation of the area due to their use. In fact, kayakers have shown, through river cleanup efforts around the Southeast, that we leave the rivers in better shape because we are there.

I know this letter does not address the specific measures of the river alternatives. We have had the workshops, but the final alternatives put forward do not agree with the consensus that the workshops achieved.

Give us back our rightful access, and watch as we coexist with other outdoor/wilderness groups. We all love our rivers...please let us use them.

Kent French
4818 Hickory Woods Drive
Greensboro, NC 27410



Mark Boyden
<mark.boyden@noise.org>

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

09/07/2007 05:00 PM
Please respond to
mark.boyden

What Linda said below is an excellent overview on my general feelings about this issue. However, I will say that I do regularly carry a beer or two down the river (in cans of course, and with plenty of water as well) when I go boating, but like most paddlers, I always pack out all my own trash and usually a bit more that others have left behind. Further, we paddlers are usually the ones organizing river clean-ups and picking up the trash left behind by the irresponsible wilderness users. We already have laws against littering and such. We just need to find a way to enforce that better.

I don't believe that wilderness access by human powered devices (whether that is shoes, bicycles, or boats) is a good argument for necessarily allowing non-human powered devices (motorcycles, ATVs, etc.). Walkers and Bicyclist are destructive users. Paddlers are probably the least destructive of all.

Please keep rivers across the US open for all to enjoy responsibly, including the Chatooga. That "open for all" includes access for paddlers. Paddlers should be allowed access, especially if fishermen, hikers, and/or other low-impact uses are similarly allowed.

FWIW, I'm a member of:

- Austin Paddling Club (Austin, TX)
- Houston Canoeing Club (Houston, TX)
- Texas River Protections Association
- American Canoe Association
- Clean Water Action
- Eagle Scout / Scoutmaster - Boy Scouts of America
- Texas Horny Toad License Plates (Benefits Big Bend National Park)

Best regards,

Mark Boyden
5900 Thames Dr
Austin, TX 78723-3233
(512) 926.8876
mark.boyden@noise.org

Linda Day, on or near 9/7/2007 11:29 AM, wrote:

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, ATVers 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 Creative, Inc.
4224 Lehigh Ave.
Houston, TX 77005
T: 713-664-1908
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C: 832-264-4224
www.daycreative.com



"Elijah Smith"
< durableinnovations@g
mail.com >

09/07/2007 05:03 PM

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

Subject: Comments on the Chattooga Headwaters Management Plan

Mr. John Cleeves

Francis Marion & Sumter National Forest

4931 Broad River Road

Columbia, SC 29212-3530

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

I am disappointed with the management options you proposed. Plan number six (6) is by far the best option you proposed (and the only one I support), but stops short of protecting the river corridor from other, much more serious threats. There should be limits on new user-created trails, trail heads, and campsites. The current plan does not provide adequate protection and such restrictions are needed. You should monitor all users of the Wild and Scenic River corridor through a self-registration permit system. Paddling should be allowed on ALL stretches of the Chattooga River, just like hiking, fishing, swimming, or any other activity consistent a Wild and Scenic area. If, and only if a study establishes maximum user capacity limits, those limits should be consistent for all users along the river corridor including hiking and fishing.

Hiking, Fishing, Hunting, and any other activities involving movement across land, have far more environmental impact than floating down the river. Boaters tend to be the most environmentally friendly users, picking up trash when we see it, and generally having a positive impact on the environment around us. As kayakers, we support the protection of our wild and scenic lands. We are not at odds with the scenery or with other users. Water levels that are sufficient for boating, are generally too high for fishing. Likewise, good levels for fishing are typically too low for boating, so the two types of users rarely cross paths. When they do encounter each other, it is typically in a calm part of the stream, and boaters are able to move away from the anglers so as not to disturb the fish. Boaters and fishermen have coexisted peacefully on every other river for decades. It seems odd to me that there would be restrictions on one type of user and not the other.

I do believe that the value of the wild and scenic rivers should be protected, but it should be based on scientific user impact studies, and not on arbitrary idea of what one group thinks. I believe that there should be designated campsites and limited trails. It seems that the hiking, and

fishing communities have had a significant impact on the state of the Wild and Scenic River corridor, yet the Forest Service has been negligent in their protection of the area from such threats. A ban on the most environmentally friendly users (boaters) seems arbitrary and stupid. The job of the forest service is to manage the lands fairly, according to scientific principals. It seems more like the fate of the river is being left up to the will of certain interest groups rather than scientific evidence. It's strange to me that your management proposals would not take into account the findings of your own million dollar study. If there is to be any restriction of use, it should be consistent for every type of user, not just boaters. If a study can show a negative environmental impact by a user group, it is your responsibility to mitigate that impact. The actions by the forest service limiting paddling on the upper Chattooga River have not been based on any scientific evidence, and in fact have flown in the face of all available evidence.

I hope you will use good judgment in making a decision concerning the management of the upper Chattooga River. If you look at your own tax payer funded study, you will see that boating is consistent with good management of the Wild and Scenic River corridor. Your policies should monitor use by all types of visitors, not just boaters, and your policies need to be fair to all users. Again, I urge you to allow boating on all stretches of the Chattooga River.

Sincerely, Elijah L. Smith

--

Elijah Smith
540-808-8268



durableinnovations@gmail.com Chattooga Comments.doc



Michael Gilchrist
<mikemtnbikes@yahoo.
com>

09/07/2007 05:14 PM

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

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

I wanted to share my thoughts on the changes being considered regarding the use of the Upper Chattanooga River.

I would like to first note that I am a resident of Knoxville and so I have a keen interest in this Wilderness area. Further, I have visited many wilderness areas in the past (Pecos, Gilia, John Muir, Boundary Waters, Joshua Tree, Shining Rock, Linville Gorge). are the first to come to mind) and plan to continue to do so in the future.

First, I think that standards limiting trailhead, trail, and campsite usage with the goal of preserving the quality of the habitat in the area and the wilderness experience of the users should be implemented.

Second I think that new standards limiting group sizes should be considered, again with the goal of preserving the wilderness habitat and experience of its users.

Third, I believe that the group of wilderness users should be expanded to include non-motorized boats such as rafts and kayaks. I have only recently begun kayaking, but find it an incredibly rewarding outdoor experience. It provides me with the unique perspective of both a river (being on it as opposed to hiking along it) and great personal insight and growth. Two things that I get from my other types of wilderness experience.

I find the exclusion of responsible, sustainable river use by non-motorized boaters in the Upper Chattanooga to be an unacceptable and unnecessary restriction on my rights as a wilderness user. I strongly advocate that boating access to these rivers be restored.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Gilchrist, Ph.D.

2324 Jefferson Ave
Knoxville, TN 37917

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austin@dv-s.com
09/07/2007 05:31 PM

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

To whom it may concern:

My name is Austin Rathmann. I am 22 years old and a former resident of Western North Carolina. I am a professional kayaker and outdoor enthusiast. I at all times practice wilderness "Leave No Trace" principles and believe in leaving a place better than I found it. I am writing you today to express my concerns with what is happening at the Chattooga Headwaters. It seems that an unlawful ban on kayaking has taken place here and from what I have heard noone knows why it originally occurred. However, the decision is up for review and many are up in arms to prevent kayakers from gaining access to the Chattooga Headwaters. This is absurd. The fishermen and hunters who don't want us there don't seem to realize we don't affect them. When we want to go kayaking on the Chattooga Headwaters the water would be high and silty creating poor fishing conditions. The weather would be rainy and often cold as this occurs frequently in winter and rarely in hunting season. As for the comments of kayakers being a danger to swimmers this is TRULY ABUSRD. Kayakers are a very responsible group of individuals who generally are well trained in river safety, river rescue, cpr and wilderness first aid. How could this be bad for swimmers, who typically are not trained in river safety, rescue, or cpr. On top of the safety precautions we take, once again we would not be there at the same water levels as swimmers and inner tubers. As for inner tubers being allowed and kayakers not. How are they different. Both objects are a form of travel down a river, one is rubber one is plastic. That is there only difference. As for recent comments made that kayaks are not legally allowed in Wilderness areas, this is false. The wilderness act prohibits MECHANIZED travel in the backcountry. A kayak is not mechanized travel. It is a self powered craft that uses no motor. Please look at the facts while making the decision, as it is important to protect all parties involved. There is absolutely no reason kayakers should not be able to use the Chatooga Headwaters in conjunction with the other enthusiasts in the area. All over the Rocky Mountains, and Sierra Nevada in California kayakers are allowed in Wilderness areas and enjoy these areas side by side with fishermen and hunters. We are not trying to be Greedy and keep this area to ourselves, we simply want to share its treasures like everyone else. With everyone else.

Thank you
Austin Rathmann



"Dane Stevens"
<dane.stevens@gmail.com>
om>

09/07/2007 05:35 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

I would like to comment on the recently released management plans for the headwaters of the Chattooga River.

What I don't understand about the management of the Upper Chattooga is why boaters are being singled out as the most environmentally harmful and invasive group of users. I feel that other users impart as much impact on the rivers as the boaters do. As a paddler, I find myself continuously picking up monofilament fishing line, worm cans and hooks on the rivers that I paddle. Now my goal here is not to badmouth fisherman, I mention the example above because I want to highlight the fact that there are going to be responsible and irresponsible users of the river no matter what sport they prescribe to.

The mandate of the USFS says the Forest Service needs to manage for the multiple uses of the forest . The science says that boating on the Upper Chattooga would have no greater impact on the river than other current uses. Therefore boating on the Chattooga should not be banned. Instead it is the obligation of the USFS to restore boating and manage the river corridor for all groups. If this means limiting the use of the river that is fine, but it should be a limit to all user groups and not just paddlers.

It is time for the USFS to restore boating to the Upper Chattooga. Thank you for your time.

Dane Stevens



jon fiser
<kayakist1955@yahoo.com>
om>

09/07/2007 05:51 PM

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

Note: forwarded message attached.

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----- Message from jon fiser <kayakist1955@yahoo.com> on Fri, 7 Sep 2007 14:31:24 -0700 (PDT) -----

To: francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us

Subject: Upper Chattooga

As far as comments from fishing organizations regarding the Upper Chattooga and whitewater boating, I would challenge this from an outside organization to to monitor user groups and see who is actually causing the most impact, whether it is on trails, roads, or walking on rock surfaces damaging local plants, or trash.

It is well documented that fishing areas typically suffer from lots of trash.

On The Nantahala River, Surfers Rapid, primarily used by paddlers is always very clean, and trash free.

As on The Ocoee, sensitive areas such as The Double Suck Rapid may require regulation, but paddlers will adhere and even remind others of the regulations.

I don't know why the fishermen groups feel as if paddlers are such a threat, but it is a ridiculous argument, as I said, let an independent organization monitor the use, you will see who is truly abusing the privilege of using the resource.

John Fisher

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Drake Waterfowl
<mwomack@drakewaterfowl.com>

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

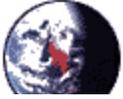
09/07/2007 05:54 PM

Dear Sirs,

It is my understanding that access by kayakers to the Upper Chattooga is under hot and heavy scrutiny with organizations throwing up red flags that boaters will destroy the fragile ecosystem found along this beautiful and pristine river. With over 10 years of boating, I can assure you, nothing can be further from the truth. I have yet to meet a more caring and eco-friendly group than kayakers. The beauty of paddling is, we leave no tracks. With the exception of putting on and taking off, we have very little contact with terra firma, making paddle sports the most low-impact outdoor activity I can think of next to skydiving.

Thank you for your time,

Mike Womack



Chris Arthur Spelius
<chris@exchile.com>

09/07/2007 05:55 PM

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

Hello,

I have been a river guide east, west, north and south. I worked on the Colorado river, Green river and Salmon river. I guided and enjoyed the Chatooga for 8 some years while I lived in North Carolina during the 80s. I am a kayaker, backpacker and river lover. I have always thought the Chatooga was the best managed river in the world. It kept the outfitters in check. Please show caution when opening more sections of the Chatooga for kayakers. It should be permitted so it does not become a zoo, but not closed. Keep the private boaters in check, like you did with the Outfitters.

Chris Spelius

--

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11 am/11 pm
7 am/1 pm
2 pm/12 midnight



"Jimmy Blakeney"
<whitewaterhelix@hotmail.com>

09/07/2007 06:22 PM

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

Please see attached document for comments on Chattooga River boating access.

I have also copied and pasted the letter in this email in case you are unable to open the Word document.

Thank You,

Jimmy Blakeney

Subject: Chattooga Headwaters Management Plan Comment

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

Gentlemen,

I understand that the decision regarding legal access to boating on the upper Chattooga river is at hand. I am writing to voice my strong support for fair, sustainable, legal access to the boater user group for this Wild and Scenic stretch of river.

Paddlers of all kinds are an integral part of the human powered, low-impact, non-motorized recreation community. Paddlers on the whole are good stewards of the land and waterways. A good way to view the recreational paddler is as a hiker who happens to use creeks and rivers as their "trails". While encounters with other recreational users is inevitable, the idea that paddlers do not fit in with other human powered, low-impact, non-motorized users is an artificial distinction being used to support a narrow agenda.

It is my hope that the USFS would wish to open this incredible Wild and Scenic area to all users who engage in human powered, low-impact, non-motorized recreation. Again I use the analogy of hikers to paddlers to help you think of how unfair it is to ban an entire legitimate user group from enjoying this resource. If you must regulate use of this Wild and Scenic area, then it should be regulation of ALL legitimate users. A self-registration permitting system seems to make a lot of sense. If there are concerns for capacity, the USFS should use sound methods to determine when capacity is met, and then limit ALL users access in order to maintain sustainability of this incredible resource.

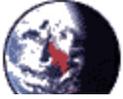
Sincerely,

Jimmy Blakeney
52 Lawrence Drive #614
Lowell, MA 01854
336.314.3600
whitewaterhelix@hotmail.com

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JimmyB_Chattooga_comments.doc



Kenny VanStone
<kennyvs@yahoo.com>

09/07/2007 06:56 PM

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,

I am not a resident of South Carolina, North Carolina, or even Georgia. However, I am a concerned citizen and taxpayer of the United States who has repeatedly visited and enjoyed both Sumter and Chattahoochee National Forests. I love those forests as well as the Chattooga River and in this correspondence I would like to express some of my concerns.

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,
Kenneth VanStone
P.O. Box 1002
Moab, Utah 84532

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<http://mobile.yahoo.com/go?refer=1GNXIC>



Gatorbaby@aol.com
09/07/2007 07:13 PM

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

Dear Mr. Cleeves and the General Public,

I am writing to comment on the proposed changes to the Upper Chattooga River to allow boating, kayaking etc. Please let me go on record in opposition. My family has owned a vacation home in the Highlands, NC area since 1970 and we have enjoyed most parts of this beautiful river on every trip. I remember 1973 (I was 10 years old) when my parents celebrated the designation of the Chattooga as a Wild and Scenic River. I believe that there are adequate places on the river below the Hwy. 28 bridge for canoeing, kayaking, etc. I am also writing to the elected officials about my concerns for making changes to the Upper Chattooga. Please leave this area as is for day hikes, picnics, fishing, etc.

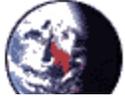
Regards,

Victoria R. Parker
96 Fred Rankin Rd
Highlands, NC

and

48 Ridgcroft Ln
Safety Harbor, Fl. 34695

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hunterpost@comcast.net

09/07/2007 08:41 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

Dear Sir,

I would like to provide input on the headwaters of the Chattooga River issue. Below are my responses to questions that the USFS has recently asked:

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

Yes, the current management has lead to unacceptable impacts and 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?

Yes -- 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?

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?

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.

Furthermore, I have found the vast majority of kayakers, especially those which could be considered wilderness kayakers or creekboaters, to be exceedingly mindful of the environment.

Sincerely,

Hunter Post

2158 Golf Course Drive

Reston, VA 20191

703-476-0081



"James Wood"
<aquaticmind@gmail.com>

09/07/2007 08:42 PM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Please Allow Boating on the UPPER Chattooga

To Whom it may concern,

My name is James Wood, and I am a graduate for the University of NC at Asheville, with majors in Environmental Science and Biology. I encourage you to change you mind about boating on the Chattooga, mile for mile traveled it seems that boating has much less impact than other uses in wilderness areas. Where as angling and hiking require miles of trails that are prone to erosion boating is predominately an erosion free activity with most of the distance traveled having no more impact on the native ecosystem than the river itself. Most kayakers just as anglers understand the importance of clean water, do not litter and try hard to leave the area cleaner and better than they found it.

I encourage you to maintain a ban on ATV's,obviously kayaking and canoeing are not ATV due to their very limited usefulness on dry land. Also kayaking is no more motorized than hiking, there are no gears, chains, motors or other mechanised devices.

Develop alternatives that allow for angling, hiking and kayaking/canoeing

Provide information on minimizing the impacts of hiking, kayaking and angling on the native ecosystem.

Please consider these ideas, and please respond,

Sincerely

James Wood

Kayaker, Environmentalist, Hiker and supporter of wildnerness areas and clean water



Ricky McDaniel
<r.d.mcdaniel@sbcglob
al.net>

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

09/07/2007 09:06 PM

Why would a river management plan allow fishermen to use the river and not boaters? I have nothing against fishermen, in fact I like to fish myself but to say that fishermen have less impact on the river is just wrong. Fishermen trample the bank, make trails in the wilderness and leave far more litter than whitewater kayakers. I have been reading about this for a while and I have looked at fishing forums on the Internet regarding this situation and I am amazed that whitewater boaters are not allowed on the Headwaters of the Chatooga and I'm equally amazed by the attitudes of the fishing community to keep boaters off of the river.

I have been a whitewater kayaker for 7 years and I have never seen a fellow boater leave litter in or around the river or purposely be in any way rude or disrespectful to anyone on the river.

Whitewater kayaking is likely has the lowest impact of any human activities on or around a river.

Sincerely,
Ricky D. McDaniel



jason jackson
<jejjackson@yahoo.com
>

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

09/07/2007 10:06 PM

First of all I must tell you that I am a teacher of forestry, natural resources, environmental science, and wildlife conservation. I am also an avid paddler, fisherman, hunter, and outdoor enthusiast. The thought that use of the river is restricted to only certain users is not the issue here, but the fact that the users that are being excluded have one of the least impacts on the environment of any outdoor user groups is the problem. All I have to contribute to solving the problem are the experiences that I have had in the outdoors. I have spent many years as an outdoorsman partaking in most all of the activities (from photography to kayaking) that are available in the headwaters area. I feel that I have an unbiased opinion on this matter because of my past history. I am not going to get into all the arguments of boater or fishermen; "Who causes the most damage". Many people see kayakers as adrenaline junkies in bright colored plastic boats out acting like kids. Who cares? The fact that certain people do not understand the sport of whitewater boating should not influence the decision. The USFS should be first concerned with protection of the natural resource, then serving the people that wish to use the land. My minority opinion is that the past 100 years of the USFS have truly been spent "caring for the land and serving people", but in this case the headwaters have been serving only certain people and not allowing all the users to enjoy the area that could effectively do so without undue impact. I believe even Pinchot and Muir (who's viewpoints on conservation were drastically different) would both agree that boating has very little impact on the natural resource. I am very displeased with the fact that the USFS does not see this as a cut and dry case. Very simply put no one group should be excluded just because another group does not like the way they look. "My wilderness experience would be ruined to have a group of bright colored boats come splashing down the river". This statement was made in a discussion about boating the headwaters. My reply was that should my right to enjoy the resource and experience the wilderness (which includes the whitewater) be taken away because someone else does not like the way I choose to experience it. Remember the first priority is to care for the land. No doubt boaters have less impact. The second priority is to serve the people: all the people should be served while still protecting the land. These two users can coexist. The only limits placed on any user group should be based on impact to the land not impact to one user groups idea of a wilderness experience.

- 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.

Jason Eric Jackson



"Alex"
<a.harvey1@mindspring.com>

09/07/2007 10:20 PM
Please respond to
harvey

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

September 07, 2007

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

Dear Mr. John Cleeves:

I would encourage the USFS to include provisions in the Chattooga Headwaters Management Plan to allow legal boating on the waters above Highway 28. I would request that there would be no restrictions placed on what section, time of year or water levels for boating. I believe Alternative 6 in the scoping document is the most amenable to boating though the limitations on boating should be left out until actual usage can be tabulated and analyzed.

I strongly believe that lifting the ban will have no adverse affects on the wilderness state of the Chattooga and will possibly have positive effects. I have not yet paddled the upper sections but have been patiently waiting for 20+ years! I have talked to others who have paddled above highway 28 and I have hiked and fished the upper sections of the river. I have also spent time reading the concerns of those opposed to lifting the boating ban. This is what I have concluded based on these experiences:

- The main draw of the upper sections of the Chattooga is to experience the beauty of the river and wilderness, something that can be uniquely experienced by boat. From what I have learned, the whitewater is difficult and exhilarating and thus is a strong draw for boaters with extensive experience and well-developed skills. It is very likely though that these sections will be rarely paddled because access is limited by water levels, the difficulty of the rapids and the remoteness of the run.
- I assert that allowing boating on the upper sections will have a positive impact for the wilderness because most boaters consider themselves as stewards of the river, at least the boaters who would consider the upper stretches of the Chattooga. On several hiking trips, I have removed various amounts of trash, including monofilament line and plastic bottles. I do this because it makes me feel better about my experience there; I feel it helps to offset my impact on the river and returns the wilderness to a more natural state. I would do the same when boating down the river and would encourage others to follow suit.
- I appreciate the concern that boaters may negatively impact the solitude of others in the wilderness, in particular fisherman. From reading the online forums for Trout Unlimited, I am glad to see that many fisherman feel that these concerns are overblown and are tempest in a teapot. I have boated on rivers that are being fished and have fished on rivers populated by boaters: in both instances I have witnessed trout caught and have caught trout myself. I and my fellow paddlers are very aware of the need to respect the fisherman's space and take great care to avoid disturbing their fishing experience. Another important point is that, for creeks and rivers in

the Southeast mountains, when the water is high, the fishing is poor and the paddling is good and vice versa. I would not consider fishing the Chattooga at levels suitable for paddling the upper sections and I would not consider paddling the upper sections at water levels that are good for fishing.

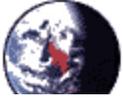
In addition to allowing boating without restrictions, I encourage the following management practices:

- I would encourage self-registration so that the USFS can assess over time the actual impact of whitewater paddling on the upper sections. If after one or two years (and if it ever rains again) the impact seems to be larger than expected, limitations on group size and/or numbers of groups per day should be considered. Currently any such limitations should not be considered as there is insufficient data to support any limitations.
- I believe that non-motorized modes of travel have minimal impact on the environment and also that fishing, when done responsibly, also has minimal impact. Motorized modes of travel have a strong negative impact. Thus I would discourage the development of new roads (for any purpose) or access points (including those for whitewater) and the use of off-road motorized vehicles in the Chattooga wilderness.

I want to thank you for the time you have put into the development of a new management plan for the Chattooga. I understand it is a difficult process as you have to make decisions that balance the protection of the wilderness and access to various user groups. Regardless of the outcome of these proceedings I appreciate your efforts to care for the Chattooga wilderness.

Sincerely,

Alex J. Harvey
160 Fox Trace / Athens, GA / 30606
706-372-4261 / ajharvey@charter.net



DPScruz
<dpscruz@gmail.com>
09/07/2007 10:58 PM

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

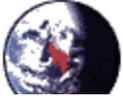
Hello,

I am writing in reference to the proposed changes to river management in the Chattooga headwaters. As a wilderness user, I strongly support restoring kayaker access to the upper headwaters. This activity is entirely consistent with wilderness ethics, and complementary to other user activities. Whitewater kayaking occurs at time and river flows when other users are not present, and is unobtrusive even when encounters with other users occurs. Kayaks leave not trail or footprints in the wilderness.

The Chattooga watershed is a fantastic wilderness resource for many user groups. All sections, from the upper headwaters down to Lake Tugaloo, provide unique river experiences and river users should not be arbitrarily restricted to certain sections. If concerns over number of users are an issue, self-registration permit systems should be applicable to all users, and not single out certain user groups for restriction. Again, the complementary nature of the various user groups should enable all groups to enjoy this spectacular natural area.

Sincerely,

Devon Pearse
Santa Cruz, CA



"alakayaker@netzero.net" <alakayaker@netzero.net>

09/07/2007 11:06 PM

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

DEAR MR. CLEEVES,

AS A KAYAKER I FEEL THE USFS SHOULD LIFT THE ILLEGAL BAN ON THE UPPER CHATOOGA RIVER. ONE GROUP OF PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST TO NOT BE ABLE TO ENJOY WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY THEIRS TO ENJOY AS UNITED STATES TAXPAYERS. NO USFS PROPERTY SHOULD BAN OR RESTRICT ANY ONE GROUP OF PEOPLE TO HAVE ACCESS TO IT FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF WHATEVER THEIR SPORT OR RECREATION MAYBE. THE US HAS LAWS THAT GRANT EVERYONE EQUAL RIGHTS AND ACCESS UNDER THE LAW AND THE USFS SHOULD NOT BE ANY DIFFERENT. WHAT SHOULD BE DONE IS LIMIT THE ACCESS TO WHAT IS PROVED ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY TO PROTECT THE WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE BUT AGAIN SHOULD BE FAIR TO ALL USERS. THE BOATING BAN SHOULD BE LIFTED. I WILL TELL YOU AS A KAYAKER THAT HAS BEEN ALL OVER THE US BOATING THAT PADDLERS ARE SOME OF THE MOST ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PEOPLE AROUND AND WE CARE FOR THE RIVERS THAT WE PADDLE BECAUSE IT HAS A DIRECT IMPACT ON US AND OUR HEALTH SO IF ANY PARTY SAYS OTHERWISE IT IS UNTRUE. HERE ARE SOME ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS THAT USFS HAS ASKED.

The USFS has asked the following 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.*

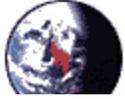
4. Should there be new standards limiting group sizes, encounters between user groups and/or access if new boating opportunities are allowed? *Restoration of boating access has nothing to do with this underlying question. This question is no different than #2 , and the answer is no*

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

CHRIS VOEGELE 370 LITTLE OAK LOOP FAYETTE,AL 35555

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"Tom Kaylor"
<rolyak@comcast.net>

09/07/2007 11:12 PM

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

Dear Sir,

While it is not likely that I will ever paddle this section it seems paddlers are being cast as irresponsible hooligans! I have kayaked for almost 21 years and while I have seen a few irresponsible thrill seekers the majority are courteous and respect the rights of fishermen. I also have observed fishermen who were not so courteous to kayakers.

Kayakers enjoy the wilderness experience just as much as any other group of outdoor enthusiasts. I have been fortunate enough to paddle a few wilderness creeks where no evidence of civilization existed. That is a wonderful experience to see this great land much the same as the Indians saw it.

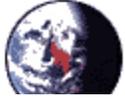
There is something inexplicable about coexisting with the powerful natural forces generated by water, rocks and gravity. While I enjoy hiking and observing powerful whitewater I want to feel and be a part of that power. So hard to explain but really it's about being truly alive!

I'm sure you know its not about "shooting the rapids" but paddling safely, working the river and it's features. Some folks love to fish, hunt, hike, play golf, you name it. We just love to paddle!

I hope that some of those comments about kayakers will be disregarded and that the USFS will come to a decision that works for everyone.

Sincerely
Tom Kaylor

New Email address: rolyak@comcast.net



KAYAKASPEN@aol.com

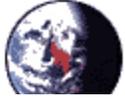
09/07/2007 11:36 PM

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

There is nothing less intrusive than paddling . Studies show that paddlers have less impact on wildlife than a person on foot. there is no better leave no trace, it is quiet. and the people who do it have the best respect for the wilderness. It also allows handicapped people access. There is no reason not to allow Kayaks access to the wildernes.

Kirk Baker
Aspen Colorado

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KAYAKASPEN@aol.com
m
09/07/2007 11:36 PM

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

There is nothing less intrusive than paddling . Studies show that paddlers have less impact on wildlife than a person on foot. there is no better leave no trace, it is quiet. and the people who do it have the best respect for the wilderness. It also allows handicapped people access. There is no reason not to allow Kayaks access to the wildernes.

Kirk Baker
Aspen Colorado

See what's new at AOL.com and [Make AOL Your Homepage](#).



LJ
<kisstrees@yahoo.com
>
09/08/2007 12:12 AM

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

To the United States Forest Service;

As an avid whitewater paddler and wildlife ecologist who has travelled extensively in the United States federal lands system, I would like to put forth my opinions regarding the management decisions soon to be made on the Chattooga River.

To the questions you have put forth, I answer:

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

Absolutely yes. The forest service should study user group impact on the land and establish standards by which it will regulate group size not to exceed what are defined as acceptable levels of human impact. Enforced self-registration to use USFS Wild and Scenic lands would help provide group-size data useful in regulation.

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

Access should be regulated based on adverse impacts caused by user groups. Kayakers should be given careful consideration. As a kayaker of about five years, I have observed the kayaking community to be conscientious land users. Higher impacts come from vehicular access and the fishing community than kayakers.

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

Absolutely. And these opportunities should be offered along the whole of the river. Kayaking is compatible with the Wild and Scenic designation of the river and is a sport with low impact on its surroundings. Allowing angling and swimming on rivers without allowing kayaking is a decision based on strange bias indeed. To restrict kayakers from this land, USFS must provide compelling evidence as to negative impacts this restriction is based on!

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

Access limitations should be considered separately from the kayaking issue. The limitation of group size for user groups should depend on set standards revolving around the impact they have on wilderness. Kayakers on the river rarely have altercation or incident with other users, and their presence on the landscape is fleeting, as well as congruent with allowable use of Wild and Scenic areas. Limits of four groups and six users per group should only occur if USFS determines that the impacts of affording access equal to that of other user groups exceeds predetermined standards.

Also, the introduction and removal of woody debris should not take place; it is a waste of valuable funds. Allow the natural flooding and decay of the forest to regulate woody debris in the river.

I support your review and adoption of the alternatives put forth by American Whitewater.

Signed,
Lisa Jeidy

8322 SE Cornwell St
Portland, OR 97086
kisstrees@yahoo.com
608-332-6071

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Cherry Susan
<su_cherry@yahoo.com
>

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Allow NON-motorized travel in Wilderness

09/08/2007 12:22 AM

US Forest Service,

Kayaking is a nonmechanized form of travel and should be allowed in wilderness. Being in the wilderness is why I kayak. I am an avid enthusiast of wilderness. I am a hiker, cross-country skier, a bird watcher, and a kayaker. I support these responses:

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.*

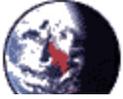
2. Should there be new standards limiting group sizes, encounters between user groups and/or access? *Every river corridor has a certain capacity. If/when the USFS can demonstrate that the upper Chattooga's capacity is met, all users' access (not just boaters) should be limited consistent with sustainability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

Susan Cherry
210 31st St
Boulder, CO 80305

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Yahoo! Answers - Check it out.



Dave Stanton
<stantone@mac.com>
09/08/2007 12:35 AM

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

Gentlemen,

I have been enjoying the wild and scenic opportunities in the North Georgia mountains for 20 years, and want to say that i think the latest documents published from the USFS on August 14th, 2007 are unbalanced and disappointing. I was not able to attend the workshop on July 14th, 2007 in Walhalla, S.C., but have kept up with the proceedings. The limits set forth have no apparent basis, and seem to pitch angler vs boater rather than bring them together. I like to kayak, and I also love to fish. I pack out what I bring in whether I fish or kayak. There is common ground here. Respect for and the ability to appreciate this God given place.

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.

Sincerely,

Dave Stanton



"Doug"
<rothenbud001@hawaii.
rr.com>

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

09/08/2007 01:08 AM

To whom it may concern;

What if these restriction were in place for Lewis and Clark in the west? Kayaking does not leave any visible damage on the environment, unlike building trails to access the river, but allows peple to experience it. This is a ban with a commercial purpose. You can charge people to have a guided fishing experience (or kayaking) in a wilderness environment, but this is an exclusivity that should not be allowed. It is my understanding that any activity that is human powered in a wilderness environment is perfectly acceptable, and this was the basis of legislation, so how can the intrusion of fisherpersons be any different than with with kayakers?

Doug Rothenburger
421 Lewers St
Honolulu Hi, 96815



Brenden Petersen
<bp@bwiredinc.com>

09/08/2007 01:21 AM
Please respond to
bpetersen

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

“Small boat kayaking is an adventure sport, and by its very nature is at odds with the outstanding and remarkable values currently protected in the upper Chattooga.”

Why is boating at odds? It is in line with current wilderness policy

“[Allowing paddling on the Ellicott Rock section of the Chattooga] may in fact violate the principles of the Wilderness Act.”

HOW... It is a non motorized use

The “Friends of the Upper Chattooga” which includes the Chattooga Conservancy, private landowners, and several chapters of Trout Unlimited went even further: *“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.”*

It is very different from motorized use

Several recent comments claimed that allowing boating will lead to allowing All Terrain Vehicles, like the person who wrote this: *“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.”*

Boating into children is not cool. Atv's and snowmo9biles in the wilderness is not cool. How did we link boating to motorized access????

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

Boating is not a new opportunity. 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?

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. 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.

There was some cut and paste, but you get my comment. Boating in the wilderness should be a protected right. Motorized use should be banned. There must be some areas left for motorized access ie: snowmobiles and ATV's. I am a snowmobiler, raft guide and hiker. Areas are depended on for multiple access.

*The national forest: a land of many uses
Wilderness: a piece of land set aside to grow
wild*

Brenden Petersen

B Wired inc

970.379.7951

bpetersen@bwiredinc.com



Karen Van Dusen
<karen@cloudpeak.com
>

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

09/08/2007 03:07 AM

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

1. Should there be new standards limiting trailheads, trails and/or campsites? *Yes, to mitigate impact, 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 kayakers) should be limited in a manner that's fair and consistent with sustainability of the resource.*

3. Should there be new boating opportunities on the Chattooga River? *Kayaking is not a new opportunity – it is an old one with a rich history that predates the USFS ban. Kayaking 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? *Again, kayaking is not a new opportunity. Kayaking has a long history on the river. 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 kayakers) should be limited consistent with sustainability of the resource.*

Just like hikers and other legitimate users of wilderness, kayakers cherish and respect the right to use Wilderness Areas and Wild and Scenic Rivers in a way that leaves no footprints. As you reconsider these regulations, please make room for kayakers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Karen Van Dusen
14026 227th Ave NE
Woodinville, WA 98077



"Brent Steadman"
<brent.steadman@gmail
.com>

09/08/2007 09:53 AM

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

I have read your (you refers to the USFS service as a whole throughout this email) recently published Scoping Document. Here are my comments. First, the alternatives you provided do not have any basis in fact or data acquired over the last 2 years. I request you make public the actual data acquired by our tax payer dollars in the user capacity study. Second, the alternatives do not address all users equally. Third, how are you going to include subjective public comments in your final decision. Are you going to add up the how many comments are for each alternative and rank them? There is no way to objectively include public comments into your final decision because to include them requires a subjective opinion by you. By basing you final decision on your subjective opinion of subjective public opinions, you are performing a disservice to this nation and the taxpayers you serve. If you were my employees, I would terminate you.

As you demonstrated time and time again, you are singling out paddlers for exclusion of use of the upper Chattooga. I reiterate that paddling is supported within the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. I reiterate that nature driven water levels will promote paddling during times not conducive to fishing and fishing in times not conducive to paddling. I reiterate that paddlers cause much less environmental impact on the river and river corridor than other users. I reiterate that you have not shown data indicating a need for user capacity limits. I reiterate that you should treat all users equally if the need for user capacity limits is needed in the future.

I support alternative 6 as the only reasonable choice in your Scoping Document.

Brent Steadman, MD, PhD
Winston Salem, NC



James Frid
<jefrid@comcast.net>

09/08/2007 10:11 AM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Right to paddle through Wilderness Areas and on Wild and Scenic Rivers

Greetings Park Service,

Thank you for your concern in protecting our parklands especially our waterways. Please, reconsider your plan to restrict paddling the Chatooga above route 28 bridge. I am, in general, in favor of controlling use of wilderness areas based on actual potential damage that could realistically be done to the environment. Paddling may be the least intrusive use of any wilderness area. All users should be restricted equally based on their potential harm to the area. Boats with no motors are not in the same class with ATV's or even bikes. Both do a great deal more harm than paddling in every way.

Also, there is a long history of our ancestors paddling all the waterways of our great country. Let us honor the tradition and educate all users to the responsibilities of wilderness life.

Thank you.

James E. Frid
President
Alpha & Omega Service, Inc.



VANJ7@aol.com

09/08/2007 10:49 AM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us,
ben@amwhitewater.org

cc:

Subject: Please be responsible

The thought that a US Government Sponsored Organization is considering banning the use of the most eco-friendly way to experience nature is atrocious! Perhaps you don't realize that walking through brush and disturbing nature is of much greater consequence to the natural environment then paddling down a waterway which nature has established as her own right-of- way. Kayakers do not break branches, do not disturb animals and as a practice do not leave behind any trace.

If there is a need to consider preservation, then kayaking should be at the top of the list of any method to experience nature without a single damaging effect.

If it is proof you need then go to your nearest reservoir. Kayaks are permitted as they do not litter the landscape or the quality of the drinking water. But please walk the shoreline. You will find litter and garbage left behind by the hikers and fishermen. You will find unnatural paths to gain access to grassy coves. Whoever is considering banning Kayak paddling has obviously never experienced it.

My wife and five children take part in many other outdoor activities, hiking, biking, camping...

Without exception kayaking is the activity which least effects the natural environment you experience.

Please do some research and I am confident you will come to the same conclusion.

Sincerely,

Danny Ansell

outdoor enthusiast

See what's new at AOL.com and [Make AOL Your Homepage.](#)



VANJ7@aol.com

09/08/2007 10:49 AM

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

outdoor enthusiast

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bcw0@optonline.net

09/08/2007 11:49 AM

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

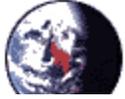
cc:

Subject: Chattooga Headwaters Management Plan Comment

As a long rime kayaker, I am writing to protest any plan targeted at limiting boaters on the Chattooga rather than balancing the total number of users against the area capacity. Fishermen and other stationary users are much more likely to impact the local environment as they spend longer times in specific spot. Creating a path to the river to fish leaves a trail while a kayaker's track vanishes. Who leaves beer cans and wrappers in the wilderness? A boater, not carrying much to begin with, puts his trash back in the boat where it came from; a foot user has the temptation to lighten his pack. One can look at the heavily used boating rivers such the Yough, the Gauley and the Deerfield and find clean banks with no trash, but go to the quiet fishing spots on the Housatonic and count the beer cans. Moving the parking areas further away from the bridge makes sense, so often you find trash extends for the first hundred yards of a trail and then the slob loose interest.

Boating is one of the specified uses of wilderness areas, it is wrong to exclude us. Fishing, hiking and boating groups have traditionally been able to work together to conserve rivers. Recently there seems to be a new possessiveness amongst fishermen, who want to change water flows and modify rivers to enable better access to stocked fish. Why should there be any river modification? This seems directly contrary to wilderness conservation. The idea that fishermen can claim "their spots" lies behind this hostility to boaters, not real wilderness conservation.

Bucknell Webb
Ossining, NY



<derek@fritzrips.com>

09/08/2007 10:57 AM
Please respond to derek

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

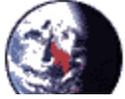
Dear John,

Kayaking is a non-motorized activity with no more impact on wilderness than a hiker or worse yet, a horse. Kayaking should be allowed to continue in wilderness without question, as it is clearly an activity that is congruent with current wilderness ethics and practice.

One only needs to look at M 44 Cyanide Predator control 'bombs' currently being used in Western states, and helicopter predator control in wilderness to realize that the forest management as of late has clearly gone awry and has become entirely hypocritical in it's management.

Thank you,

Derek Weiss



<derek@fritzrips.com>

09/08/2007 10:57 AM
Please respond to derek

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

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Thank you,

Derek Weiss



michael smith
<littlejimmyreed@yahoo
.com>

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

09/08/2007 12:12 PM

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

I am writing you to exclaim that I am very much disturbed at the current controversy over river/wilderness usage in the Chattooga headwaters. As an angler and a boater I believe that access should not be denied to either group and that the present ban is unconstitutional (my rights as an American taxpayer). It seems that many of the angling associations are doing a good job at misinforming the public and the U.S.F.S. over what allowing boating on the headwaters would mean to the wilderness and its users. First of all, I believe there would be very little conflict between the user groups because of the river levels that are ideal for each group. Let's face it, when the headwaters have an ideal amount of water for boating, fishing is not at its best. Fishing, swimming, wading, or fording the river at this time would be very dangerous. And on the other hand, when the river is at an ideal level for fishing and other uses, boating would not be possible. Opening the river to boating would not create a free-for-all like many fear. I believe that today's boaters have enough sense to know if they should be there or not. For example, there are many whitewater runs in NATIONAL PARKS that are legal for boating. But in fact these runs rarely get boated because of the difficulty of the runs versus having the ideal flow. There also exist many whitewater runs on Wild and Scenic Rivers across the country and there does not seem to be much conflict between the user groups. No additional infrastructure would be required for boaters. We are in fact used to shouldering boats and carrying them long distances through rough terrain. So existing trails would be more than enough.

If you really looked into the boating community, you would see that we impact rivers and wilderness areas in minute ways if any. For many of our favorite creek runs, days are organized to go and clean out the trash left throughout the year by kids and locals. Since I have walked through some of the areas in question, I believe we could do a great service cleaning up trash left by anglers. So why is the ban in place????? I feel that the river and river corridor should be protected as much as possible but denying access to a wilderness user group is unfair and brings up many questions of "crookedness." If one group is denied access, then we should deny everyone access. I would rather see the area completely untouched by anyone for 100 years than to unfairly deny one particular user group access for another year. I hope my wishes and comments do not fall on deaf ears because the matter at hand is a resource of every

american and to deny boaters(wilderness stewards)
access to our rights is very unAmerican.

Sincerely,

Mike Smith

Building a website is a piece of cake. Yahoo! Small Business gives you all the
tools to get online.
<http://smallbusiness.yahoo.com/webhosting>



april lewandowski
<aprilboater@hotmail.com>
m>

09/08/2007 12:24 PM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>, april lewandowski <aprilboater@hotmail.com>, American Whitewater <editor@amwhitewater.org>

cc:
Subject: Comments on Chattooga River

Dear Sir,

I am writing to ask permission to use the comments by the South Carolina Council of Trout Unlimited and Friends of the Upper Chattooga for my college composition class this fall. You see, I teach Intro to Composition to college freshman, and every semester we cover rhetorical forms of argument. In this section, we cover how everything from advertisements to politicians use appeals to our logic, our emotion, and our character to persuade us to do something different or to consider new ideas. While we're covering classical and contemporary arguments, we inevitably cover the section on "Logical Fallacies." This is usually a fun time as we look at films, such as Michael Moore's *Bowling for Columbine*, to see how he commits acts of fallacy by using hasty generalizations, faulty causations, *ad hominem* attacks.

After reading the comments by these groups, I can imagine myself switching curriculum materials. Instead of using Michael Moore to show how it's easy to construct faulty logic in a well-intentioned argument, I might just show how even established, well-meaning organizations, like the USFS, have been swayed by appeals made with ill-formed logic.

A **hasty generalization** is "committed when a person draws a conclusion about a population based on a sample that is not large enough."

For instance, take the claim that kayakers should not be allowed on the Chattooga River because they *could* carry trash in their boats dump litter in the river and around the river corridor. Such a claim is a fallacy because it suggests that ALL kayakers litter. Unless, such a claim can be backed by well-researched evidence, the claim makes a hasty generalization and is therefore an unsubstantiated reason to make a decision about boaters not being allowed to have access to the river.

Faulty Causation or *Post Hoc Ergo Propter Hoc*. "The *Post Hoc* fallacy derives its name from the Latin phrase *Post hoc, ergo propter hoc*. This has been traditionally interpreted as 'After this, therefore because of this.' This fallacy is committed when it is concluded that one event causes another simply because the proposed cause occurred before the proposed effect."

I see this fallacy most readily with the claim that because kayakers are on the river they will then drop into pools of swimmers or tubers and readily injure someone. The action of paddling downstream does not automatically lead to injurious encounters with swimmers and tubers. Such erroneous logic can be seen in superstitions. The black cat crossed my path, something bad happened: anytime a black cat crosses my path bad things will happen. Again, such a claim that states that a kayaker's action of paddling will automatically lead to an inevitable injury with a swimmer. This is as logical as a superstition. While such a claim is *theoretically* possible, the inference that one event always follows the other is not practical or rational, researched nor substantiated.

The comments I've viewed in opposition to allowing kayakers access to the upper section of the Chattooga could supplant my current curriculum with ease. However, the real goal of this letter has nothing to do with asking your permission to use such comments as a learning tool for my students.

Instead, I urge you, as you act on behalf of all wilderness users, look at all comments from all sides with a discerning eye. Recognize faulty logic and choose to see through its unwieldy claims. Make a decision based on facts and evidence and well-formed arguments. Such a decision will be fair and uphold the intentions of the Wild and Scenic River act.

To see more explanations of logical fallacies, see <http://www.nizkor.org/features/fallacies/>.

Sincerely,

April Lewandowski
996 Rudi Lane
Golden, CO 80403

Make your little one a shining star! [Shine on!](#)



"James T. Mill"
<jamestmill@gmail.com
>

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

09/08/2007 01:06 PM

Hello Francis,

I am writing you from Vail, CO in response to an article I read about limiting the use of public land and water by kayakers. I understand the goal of keeping the wilderness wild, however I am uncertain whether kayakers actually diminish the wild experience or have a greater impact than other users. I think you will find that most kayakers are passionate about maintaining the wild and are good stewards of the land. They also have less impact on the river environment than anglers or hikers. Anglers leave lost line, lures/flies and tread directly on the river bottom disrupting delicate moss and algae. Hikers tread heavily in both directions, kayakers generally only walk in then boat out. These are some things to keep in mind when setting a potentially dangerous precedent.

Thanks for your time.

James T. Mill
Vail, CO



Kik31@aol.com

09/08/2007 01:27 PM

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

cc:

Subject: Upper Chattooga paddler access

Dear Sirs:

The smell of crisp fresh air, the sparkle of the sun bouncing off the dew coated grass, the hum of forest creatures whispering to you, and the sound of the river. Can you picture a more perfect morning? I encourage you to share this morning with paddlers by opening the access to the Upper Chattooga River.

I am new to kayaking and hiking. I must admit that I do not understand the need for exclusivity of access. The huge gap that I see in the consideration is the character of the people who wish to experience the river. The type of people who seek wilderness activities such as kayaking, fishing, and hiking are very conscientious of the impact they have on the environment. These people want to preserve the resource. These people consciously leave life's conveniences, as well as the hustle and bustle that accompanies modern life, to seek out the serenity and isolation of the wilderness. They consciously leave nothing behind and in most cases take pride in the ability to leave no trace that they were there.

Taking into account the personality traits of the outdoor enthusiast, knowing that regardless of activity pursued they have the same goal, I do not understand the apparent exclusivity that seems to be involved in the debate. It appears that some enthusiasts want the Upper Chattooga all to themselves. Of course, I understand the sentiment. Who doesn't want a little slice of nature all to themselves? However, we all must "learn to play well with others". If all of us focus on what brings us together instead of what separates us and we decide on mutual respect and courtesy over elitism then the resource will continue to be a joy for all. If we focus on our differences and claim "my sport is better than yours" we end up not only sounding childish, but breed resentments that are counterproductive to the reason we seek nature in the first place.

Inherent in the nature of kayaking, fishing, and hiking is the minimum impact philosophy. ATV activities are 180 degrees from this position. It is not a case of ATV riders wanting to impact the environment. It is just the nature of the mechanism. Motorized vehicles tear up the ground. It is fundamentally wrong to compare the environmental effects of kayaking, fishing, and hiking to the ATV effects. Where one group prides a "leave no trace" disposition the other can do nothing but leave a trace. Again this is not the attitude or desire of the rider, but the physics of the All Terrain Vehicle.

The capacity of the river is an issue that has been raised. Monitor the use of the river via self-registration permitting. That data will give you the true usage of the resource; i.e. how many paddlers, fishermen, and hikers actually are using the resources. Based on the data, make a decision to limit all users consistent with the sustainability of the resource.

A word on paddling, paddling is entrenched deeply into American History. Indians, Lewis and Clark, and even literary figures like Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn paddled American rivers. What kid hasn't pretended to be an Indian, an explorer, or a "rebel" as

they experienced nature? For that matter what adult hasn't pretended; don't we all have that kid inside of us? How do you say... "Yes, experience the serenity, peacefulness, and beauty of nature; Yes, be environmentally conscientious; Yes, live out your childhood fantasy of exploring; But No, you can't do it here; we don't trust you or the kind of people who do your sport, your sport isn't good enough here; This area is reserved for other people not you."

I urge you to expand the Upper Chattooga to all users; Encourage the desire to slow down and experience life; Ensure the resource for generations to come as the love of nature and the conscientious experience of it is passed down from father to son, mother to daughter. It is easy to be ambivalent about what you have not experienced. Allowing paddlers to access the Upper Chattooga will lead to more experiences, more shared morning scenes, and the continued life of a treasured resource.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely,
Jacqueline Lobb

See what's new at AOL.com and [Make AOL Your Homepage](#).



Kik31@aol.com

09/08/2007 01:27 PM

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

cc:

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Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely,
Jacqueline Lobb

See what's new at AOL.com and [Make AOL Your Homepage](#).



Colleen O'Donnell
<kayak_ski_hard@hotmail.com>

09/08/2007 02:24 PM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Comments on USFS management of Upper Chattooga River

At this time I would like to comment that the previously proposed alternatives are prejudicial to kayakers and I would like to present the enclosed document as an alternative which would be more in line with all outdoor wilderness use of the area. Thank you for your consideration.

Colleen O'Donnell Thomas

Aaron Thomas

AWA members

An AW Draft Proposed Alternative

--NOTE THAT AMERICAN WHITEWATER'S PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE RESOURCE AND ITS RECREATION BY LIMITING USE BASED UPON CAPACITY (I.E., THE AMOUNT OF IMPACT ALLOWABLE BEFORE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE RESOURCE OR THE QUALITY OF RECREATION SUFFERS). All six of the current USFS alternatives fail to do this.

Elements common to all variations:

Immediately implement standard resource protection and restoration initiatives like fixing erosion problems and bringing campsites and trails up to standards. Require registration of all corridor visitors. Educate users on "Leave No Trace" (LNT), Low Impact Encounter Protocols, and water level preferences. Implement standard boating safety regulations (life jackets, helmets, appropriate craft). Prohibit commercial floating use. Construct up to 500 feet of portage trails as needed for resource protection. Implement same group size for all users. Designate higher use areas at Grimshaws Bridge, within 600 feet of the river for a distance of a 1/4 mile upstream and downstream of Bullpen Bridge and Burrell's Ford Bridge, and within 600 feet of the river in the Delayed Harvest Reach ending at Highway 28. Designate the remaining areas as backcountry areas.

Variation 1 (high encounter standard):

Allow capacities of High Use Areas to be defined passively by parking and camping availability. If or when **backcountry areas** exceed **10 group encounters on more than 5% of days** per year, for 3 consecutive years, initiate *Use Reduction Management* as defined below.

Variation 2: (moderate encounter standard)

If or when individual **high use** areas meet or exceed **parking and/or camping capacity on more than 10% of days** per year, for 3 consecutive years, limit use by indirect measures in those specific areas. If or when **backcountry areas** exceed **6 group encounters on more than 5% of days** per year, for 3 consecutive years, initiate *Use Reduction Management* as defined below.

Variation 3: (low encounter standard)

If or when individual **high use** areas meet or exceed **parking and/or camping capacity on more than 5% of days** per year, limit use by indirect measures in those specific areas. If or when **backcountry areas** exceed **2 group encounters on more than 5% of days** per year, for 3 consecutive years, initiate *Use Reduction Management* as defined below.

Use Reduction Management – All Variations

When backcountry encounters trigger use reduction, survey visitors to ensure encounter standards represent actual encounter tolerances. If this is the case, then limit use by indirect measures in those specific areas. If not, adjust standards to reflect user tolerances. If total use or encounter standard

violations are primarily attributable to one or more groups, target indirect efforts at those groups first. Indirect measures may include reducing group sizes, altering stocking or fisheries management, education on alternative recreational opportunities, instituting voluntary temporal or spatial or water level based avoidance periods (ie voluntary closures), changing access areas, and/or changing camping opportunities.

If after 2 full years of implementing aggressive indirect measures, standards are still exceeded in specific high use or backcountry areas, limit use by direct measures in those specific areas. If total use or encounter standard violations are primarily attributable to one or more groups, target efforts at those groups first. The most appropriate direct means of limiting use is the requirement of limited permits for entry by all users or for participation in specific activities in specific areas as justified, to allow use to occur at capacity without exceeding standards.

Kick back and relax with hot games and cool activities at the Messenger Café. [Play now!](#)



"m b"
<capone234@hotmail.com>

09/08/2007 03:25 PM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: No boats in the wilderness?

Are you nuts?

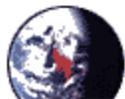
eventually it will be no BC skiers or XC skiers... then no snowshoers... then no horses... then no hikers... the wilderness will be truly wild... and nobody will be there to appreciate it... and we'll cut it all down and build more condos.

kayaks have less moving parts than fishing poles.

Get a clue..

Respectfully,
c a p o n e 2 3 4 @ h o t m a i l . c o m

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



"Terry Rivers"
<tir1121@alltel.net>

09/08/2007 03:54 PM

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

Comments on the alternatives for the Chattooga River



Terry Rivers UpperChattoogaRiverComments.doc



"Shawn"
<riversurfer@verizon.net
>

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: A simple response to AW Action Alert

09/08/2007 04:24 PM

Look at it this way. Paddling has been apart of this great country when the American Natives did it to travel, fish, and preserve their way of life. It didn't degrade, pollute, or harm the environment in any way.

Today, you are comparing kayaking with ATV and other polluting (noise, gas, emissions, etc) with a pure sport that requires nothing more than becoming one with the water and environment.

There is no comparison in my book which is the healthier way to go. If the fisherman hate that we are paddling by, ask them would they rather see a motorboat, jet ski, ATV, RV unit and their dumping sites.

Many fishermen use those things to get to the river!!! Ask a kayaker how they get to the rivers?? Most will tell you they walk from the parking lot. Most run rivers in a day (without the need for camping).

Which sounds better for the environment?

Kayakers require very little from the river - a place to put in and a place to take out. I was shocked to hear about the comparison of kayaking to any gas using recreation. It's appalling.

To answer 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.

No. In fact, trailheads and trails provide an opportunity for multiple people to enjoy the same area over and over without damaging the rest of the location. If changing the standards means improving upon paths, then yes. If changing them for the sake of preventing new ones, I say no.

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.

You can try to enforce this, yes. Just don't expect to do so because one group (e.g., fisherman) want sole access over other groups. That is ethically wrong. I am not sure there should be a law that requires a costly enforcement.

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.

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.

I hope you consider these in your decisions.

--

Shawn Duffy

7 years kayaking



Mark Singleton
<marksingleton@verizon.net>

09/08/2007 04:39 PM

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

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

I write to you today deeply concerned with the future of the Upper Chattooga. As a whitewater boater and father of two children, I want to see the Chattooga managed for its outstanding remarkable values including recreation and whitewater paddling on the headwaters. I would like my children to have the ability to explore the Chattooga's wonders by kayak if they so chose. In your scoping packet I would support alternative #6 with modifications. I find your scoping packet deficient on a number of fronts: (1) It does not adequately tie back to the information gathered in the user capacity analysis; (2) Alternatives read like the flawed appendix H in the forest management plan; (3) Alternatives are targeted at user groups without ongoing monitoring and adaptive management based on biophysical impacts.

The Chattooga boating ban has a 30-year history of status quo river management directed at limiting access for whitewater users. Ironically the Chattooga is a federally designated Wild and Scenic River that was selected largely for its value to the American public as a whitewater boating destination. Clearly Congress intended on March 22, 1974 was to allow boating when the Chattooga was entered into the Wild and Scenic River system. Senate Report # 93 - 738 from the enabling legislation states:

4.3 miles of which is in North Carolina of the river, which is crossed by only two narrow bridges, has been virtually unchanged by man. It includes some beautiful, but hazardous, whitewater. Since the average drop of the river is 84 feet per mile in this segment it should only be negotiated in rafts with experienced guides and boatmen.... While rafting this segment is difficult, it is about the only way to see this portion of the river since rugged terrain makes access for hikers almost impossible.

Fast forward thirty years and what the recently completed capacity analysis documents are extensive impacts from existing users including trash, user created trails and large footprint campsites at the waters edge. These impacts did not come from boaters, we were not there. This degradation of the resource comes from current users of the Upper Chattooga, users that claim to have a senior right to solitude at the expense of other wilderness compliant users and the river its self. See photos below:





A generation of whitewater paddlers has been excluded from this spectacular river. More importantly the FS analysis shows that the upper Chattooga is NOT the pristine wilderness everyone claims it to be. In fact the FS analysis shows the lower river, where boating is allowed, to be less impacted than the upper river: fewer illegal campsites, less user created trails, less trash. In fact the only management action the FS has taken on the upper river over the last 30 plus years is to ban boating. This is hardly an appropriate, or effective, management plan and the study documents the results of this poor management.

All the data and science shows boaters to have the lowest impact footprint of all user groups, yet whitewater boaters are the only ones limited in any way, let alone banned entirely. Banning boaters is NOT "protecting" and "preserving" the resource. A great example of this is fish stocking. TU doesn't seem to have a problem with stocking non-native exotic fish (rainbow and brown trout) into the upper Chattooga ecosystem. Such stocking destroys native bio-diversity of the area and more importantly draws thousands of users to the area simply because of the stocking activity.

I advocate that the USFS: (1) Assess impacts associated with all types of recreational uses to ensure fairness and future river management that protects, restores, and enhances the river corridor; (2) Address every user groups solitude in a non-biased manner to comply with the order of the USFS Chief, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the Wilderness Act; (3) Study the NC section immediately below Grimshaws Bridge in the same manner as SC & GA sections in order to ensure an adequate record is developed for a full range of management alternatives.

Only through complying with these recommendations can the USFS prevent future legal and regulatory challenges and manage the river in a manner that protects its rich ecological and recreational values. Gaining boating access and nationally consistent river management practices on the river that Deliverance made famous 30 years ago is the first step. Along with a lifting of the boating ban, I would like to see management of the Headwaters that cuts across all user groups and provides for sound stewardship of the river corridor for future generations.

marksingleton@verizon.net

PS - I am appalled that over a million dollars of public money has been spent on the capacity analysis and so little of that science made it's way into the alternatives presented by the USFS.



Liz Fox
<lizfox1003@yahoo.com
>

To: Comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Boating on the headwaters of the Chattooga River

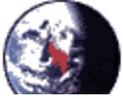
09/08/2007 05:36 PM

I would like to express my opinion that I am opposed to the opening of a 21 mile stretch near the headwaters of the Chattooga River to boating. I believe that such a move would tend to cause bank erosion and the accumulation of additional trash and pollution along this sensitive corridor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Elizabeth Fox
2938 Briarglen Drive
Atlanta, GA 30340
770-939-8603

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Ray Imel
<imel@gci.net>

09/08/2007 05:58 PM

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Restore Boating Access, End Boating Ban.

I'm still shocked and surprised that boating is banned on the upper Chatooga. Advocates of the ban, like The South Carolina Council of Trout Unlimited can't decide if boating is "an adventure sport" implying an elite group of Red Bull crazed ultra-athletes. Or, in the case of "Friends of the Upper Chatooga" a sport that "provides easier access and threatens the experience of hikers, wildlife viewers and anglers", because everyone and his cousin will soon be paddling down the river.

Well, which is it? A tiny group of yahoos or the barbarian hordes?

Friends further state:

"The pervasive mono-culture of kayaking that has been methodically seizing control of every creek."

There exists a culture of kayaking but to call it pervasive or monolithic and seizing control seems self-serving and to strain credulity.

Comments that claim allowing boating will lead to All Terrain Vehicles seem equally far-fetched. Is there a single case, never mind documented, even to the degree of urban legend status, of kayaking paving the way for ATV use? Somebody has been misusing their medication.

Unlike ATVs and snow machines, as well as hobby placer mining, boating is a non-consumptive use of the riparian resource. Angling of course, is a consumptive use.

Terminal falls, grizzly bears and impenetrable scrub repel most of the anglers, casual hikers, and certainly the children with inner-tubes, on many of the creeks that me and my group of ultra elite athletes have "seized" control of here in Southeast Alaska. The ATV riders, for better or worse, have no legal place to ride in the largest National Forest in the U.S.

Beyond the clear need for management of national treasures like the upper Chatooga and Creeks of Southeast Alaska, USFS must determine the capacity for use and manage that use to sustain the resource. Management implies a transparent process based on data, even if at times that data is "traditional use".

We can generate and do have hard data which indicates the mortality of fish in catch and release streams, We can limit access on a seasonal or calendar basis if user groups are in conflict and the resource is not degraded. If there is a basis for the closure of boating other than kayakers "Have tattoos and piercings and scare children and sometimes change out of wet clothes near their vehicles." Please make the basis for this closure explicit, otherwise it appears to be a bureaucratic error compounded by stubborn refusal to change practices when the basis for those practices are without merit.



"Aaron"
<aaron@jacksonholekay
ak.com>

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

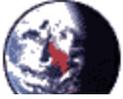
09/08/2007 05:53 PM

Francis Marion &
Sumter National Forests
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212-3530
Dear Francis,

I am writing concerning boating on the Upper Chattooga River. There is no question that paddling is a use that is consistent with a wilderness area. How did many of the native peoples and early explorers traverse the wilderness of our continent? By paddling. Furthermore the Wild & Scenic Act is not meant to restrict access, it is meant to preserve the outstanding values of the river corridor. Will paddle sports enthusiasts harm these values? Certainly not. Kayakers and canoeists spend far less time out of the water and potentially disturbing streamside habitat than bank fisherman or hikers do. The boating ban on the Upper Chattooga was misdirected to begin with. It is time the Forest Service corrects this error and continues the rich history of river running on the entire Chattooga River. Please choose a direction that allows paddlers to enjoy this resource.

Thank You,

Aaron Pruzan
Rendezvous River Sports
Jackson Hole Kayak School
945 W. Broadway Box 9201
Jackson, WY 83002
307-733-2471
www.jacksonholekayak.com



<bigbranch@charter.net
>

09/08/2007 05:54 PM

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

Boating is low impact like hiking and should be allowed in all wilderness.
ATVs bring noise and scar the land. Please just do what is right. Best Allen
Bealle age 60 an eagle scout.



James Wilkes
<jameswilkes2001@yah
oo.com>

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

09/08/2007 07:08 PM

I am a whitewater guide, 4x4 jeep tour guide, snowmobile guide, and back country snow cat skiing guide. I love the outdoors and make a living from it. I think it is wrong to ban boating on any section of any river in this country. Most of the reasons I have read regarding the Chattooga, which I have paddled, are erroneous, mythical, made up, and a bunch of bullshit. Do not let this happen, Thank you very much and sorry for saying bullshit but I feel strongly about this.
James Wilkes

Sincerely,
James Wilkes
Salt River Rafting LLC
www.raftthesalt.com
800 425 5253

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"carey weaver"
<careyweaver@alltel.net
>

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

09/08/2007 07:34 PM

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

Lets cut right to the chase; shall we?

Please restore private boating to the Headwaters. I have been following this issue for sevrreral years and have posted on the website, (by the way, why did that go away?).

How can a single boater study produced over two days of trials be statistically significant?

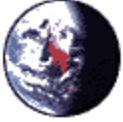
Your study is logically and scientifically invalid, and borders on the rediculous!

Lets let go of the good-ole-boy mentality, which seems to be the basis of all things involving this issue.

Also, while were're at it; maybe it is time to carve out a right-of-way on the "private property" on the upper river. Am pretty sure that it is your responsibility to do so.

Looking forward to watching my children boat down the river,

Carey Weaver



"Paul Meisburger"
<pmeisburger@gmail.com>
m>

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

09/08/2007 07:58 PM

To whom it may concern:

In response to the questions raised recently:

1) Should there be new standards limiting trailheads, trails and/or campsites? New standards should only be adopted if they are to be applied fairly and uniformly across all users of the forest. Keeping better track of users and user category by use of a universal permitting system should be encouraged to limit impacts by all user groups.

2) 2. Should there be new standards limiting group sizes, encounters between user groups and/or access? There are a few areas in Colorado where this very issue has become a problem. In cases where the capacity of a forest area has been reached, then some type of permit system should be universally applied to limit over-use of the areas in question. This has worked well to minimize conflict between different user types on several river areas in Colorado.

3) Should there be new boating opportunities on the Chattooga River? Boating has occurred on the Chattooga for decades. The USFS was not even been able to explain how or why boating was prohibited in the first place on the upper Chattooga. If anything, 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) Question four is basically identical to question two. Again, when the capacity is reached, the resource should be managed fairly with respect to all user groups.

E. Paul Meisburger IV
Kayaker
PO BOX 3462
Dillon, CO 80435
970-485-5447



"gary edington"
<gjedington@gmail.com
>

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

09/08/2007 08:51 PM

Howdy,

I have for 23 years rafted the Snake River Canyon and have shared that experience with hundreds of family and friends. Recently I floated for the first time the Middle Fork of the Salmon with my wife and friends and created memories for a lifetime.

While my grand children have floated the Snake River with me since they were three years old it is now my fervent wish to float them down the middle fork to share with them how special the wilderness can be.

please keep these memories available to all adventuresome enough to go out and collect them.

Sincerely,

Gary J. Edington



"Eric Freeburg"
<efreeburg@gmail.com
>

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

09/08/2007 09:35 PM

Hello Mr. Cleeves,

Thank you for help. I used to raft guide on the Chattooga and I look forward to coming back to kayak the upper section in the future. What a great river! Thanks for help making my dream possible!

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,

Eric Freeburg
1435 Riparian Drive
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
efreeburg@gmail.com



"david crow"
<david.l.crow@comcast.net>

09/08/2007 09:39 PM

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

September 8, 2007

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

Dear Sir,

I am writing to comment on the proposed management plans for the Upper Chattooga River.

Several concerns have been voiced by groups opposed to boating on the Chattooga headwaters. Many of the groups fear that the legalization of boating in the headwaters will reduce or destroy the primary reason to visit a Wild & Scenic corridor: a wilderness experience. This is an unsubstantiated fear. Several comments have labeled kayaking as intrusive and a danger to other users. Kayakers are by nature safety conscious individuals who seek the same wilderness experience as anglers, hikers, and other enthusiasts do. Kayakers wish to enjoy the beauty that nature has to offer and leave it unharmed for next person.

It appears that this issue has turned into a decision to allow anglers or kayakers, but not both, to have access to this area. It is my belief that a management plan can be created to allow both groups, along with hikers and other users, to enjoy and experience the upper sections of the river together.

Several questions have been posed as to the necessity to limit access through regulating group sizes, reduced number of trails and/or campsites, etc. The answer to these questions is "Yes". But before these restrictions can be implemented, a complete and thorough study must be conducted to determine the maximum effective capacity of the area. Once the river corridor's capacity has been determined, a self-registration permitting system should be implemented to help monitor users access. Once the capacity has been met then all user access, not just boaters, should be limited.

A boating ban has been in place for 31 years on the Upper sections of the Chattooga River, for no apparent or obvious reasons. Anglers, hikers, and swimmers have all been allowed to legally use the resources of the Wild & Scenic corridor for their enjoyment. It's time to develop a management plan that will allow boating enthusiasts to equally use these resources alongside the other groups. We should all work together

to reach this goal, and the USFS should allow all of our voices to be heard.

Lift the boating ban on the Chattooga Headwaters.

Sincerely,

David Crow
Pueblo, CO



EttingerSJ@aol.com
09/08/2007 11:11 PM

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

Dear Sirs,

As a paddler (open canoe) and hiker who enjoys wilderness trips, I strongly hope that you do not unduly restrict access by kayaks and canoes to the upper Chatooga, above Highway 28. My experience has been that paddlers are excellent stewards of the wilderness, picking up rather than contributing to trash, taking great pains not to interfere with trout fishing, and, in general, leaving very few marks on the environment. I am supportive of plans to control the total number of people entering wilderness areas, but these should be applied fairly to all groups, rather than singling out boaters.

Thank you for your consideration,

Steve Ettinger

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<rmartz@bellsouth.net>

09/09/2007 01:25 AM

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

cc:

Subject: Chattooga Comments

Dear Mr. John Cleeves,

I have attached my comments in the word document attached. Please open the Chattooga headwaters to all users.

I am working in China and spend my holidays on the Chattooga. I see first hand how restrictive government works. I am a citizen of a free country and proud to defend it. Please follow the laws of our land and treat all forest users fairly.

Mountain bikers and kayakers are very low impact users in my experience. Our nation is becoming a sedentary lot, and few people will use the outdoor resources as it is. We must encourage others to see the beauty of our land. I support hiking in to see it and to boat the river. I do not support making roads, parking lots or additional trails.

I have hiked the Chattooga headwaters and consider it worth every bit of my effort.

Regards,

Robert Martz



Chattooga+Sample+Scoping+Letter164.doc



barnettw3@aol.com
09/09/2007 02:41 AM

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

To Mr John Cleeves

There are groups that wish to promote their personal and selfish agendas by again targeting the boating community for biased and unfair treatment by the regulatory agencies of the Chattooga. The USFS should see through these actions as what they are and not become part of this effort at unreasonable exclusion. The boating community is a well established and demonstrated good steward of these National assets. Our impacts are, in many ways, less intrusive than those of swimmers, hikers and anglers. We need to be there as part of the human mosaic of legitimate users of this wilderness. We must not be excluded from enjoying and protecting these resources. I pray for the good judgement of this agency.

Regards,

Barnett Williams
5304 Camelot Ct.
Brentwood, Tennessee 37027
barnettw3@aol.com
615-371-0131
615-516-0346

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"Ronald Robeson"
<duckart_01@hotmail.com>

09/09/2007 09:26 AM

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

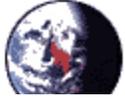
We DO NOT want any kind of "boat" on Upper Chattooga. It was meant to be wild and and a bunch of greedy, yahoo rafters,boaters do not help maintain its it "wild" atmosphere !!!!!!!!!!

Ron Robeson

266 Evergreen # 247

Sky Valley, Ga 30537

[Kick back and relax with hot games and cool activities at the Messenger Café.](#)



Tom Stribling
<strib111@yahoo.com>

09/09/2007 10:28 AM

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

This email is to add my comments to those already received that oppose opening further boating on the headwaters of the Chattooga. I own a summer home in Highlands, NC and often hike, fish and picnic in the headwaters. It's beautiful there and a special scenic and quiet place for anyone who visits.

I support any of the three proposals that would continue to limit boating on the headwaters and think it is sad that a well financed lobby is pushing so hard for approval.

It would be a shame to open the entire river to boating, especially since there is already a significant portion already available. The addition of boats in the headwaters would bring disruption to the ecology, noise, traffic, trash and it would be sad to have that area become like the lower area, or the Ocoee.

Tom Stribling
1675 Flat Mountain Road
Highlands, NC 28741



"Timothy Niederkorn"
<timothy_niederkorn@h
otmail.com>

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

09/09/2007 01:01 PM

Hello: The Chatooga River should be opened for kayaking and other non-motorized forms of travel along the river cooridor. Boating is a minimally intrusive (to wildlife) activity. One minimially invasive activity (fishing) should not preclude another.

Thanks,
Tim Niederkorn

Discover sweet stuff waiting for you at the Messenger Cafe. Claim your treat today!
http://www.cafemessenger.com/info/info_sweetstuff.html?ocid=TXT_TAGHM_SeptHMtagline2



christopher koerner
<csjzkoer@sbcglobal.net>

09/09/2007 01:10 PM

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

I am writing to speak out for boater access to the Upper Chattooga. While I may never be at a point of personally wishing to access this section of river I believe that boating is as noninvasive an activity as fishing or hiking. Comments that boater encounters will ruin other user groups wilderness experiences is as invalid as stating the same thing about other members of their own user groups. Boaters are as valid a user group as hikers and anglers and generally use rivers at levels that are not conducive to other user groups.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards
Chris Koerner



Shelley Poli
<shelleypoli@verizon.net>

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

09/09/2007 01:26 PM

Hi,

I would like to register my vote against the ban on boating. No single group should have access and use of our public lands and waters while some other group does not. Kayaking is an extremely low impact use of our waterways and I can not see any reason to limit access. Everyone should respect the right of anyone who wants to enjoy our resources, not attempt to control them for their own selfish use. Please lift this ban and let all enjoy this river.

Thank You,
Dave and Shelley Poli



"Laura Wojohn"
<laura.c.wojohn@gmail.
com>

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

09/09/2007 02:28 PM

As an outdoor sports advocate and a person who loves access to exploring the outdoors sin motors and pollution, I am strongly opposed to banning boating in the Chattooga River. It is one of the most beautiful places in this area and it would be an absolute shame to ban boating on the river. Boaters may be adventurous but are hardly the cause of the pollution. Tour groups are much more likely to be to blame as people on tours come once for the experience and never return, so have no incentive not to pollute the river. Boaters, however, come back time and time again for the whitewater, serenity, and pristine quality of the water. We want to keep the river clean. As a group, we stronly strongly oppose banning boating on the river, and doing so will create a large outcry from our group. Please do not ban boating on the Chattooga.

Sincerely,

Laura Wojohn



"jeannecharlie"
<jeannecharlie@bellsouth.net>

09/09/2007 03:19 PM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: No Boats on Chatooga North Fork

Dear Sir/Madam,

We feel that it would be a terrible mistake to open the Chatooga River above Hwy. 28 to boats of any sort. It would definitely have a negative impact on the wilderness experience, on flyfishermen and on private property owners near the river. There is already plenty of river access for rafts and kayaks downstream.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jeanne & Charlie Cummings
340 Vanderbilt Road
Asheville, N C 28803
jeannecharlie@bellsouth.net



Mattdjh@aol.com

09/09/2007 04:09 PM

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

cc:

Subject: Upper Chattooga

Dear John Cleeves,

I am writing again in response to your proposal for the Upper Chattooga River. I have been hearing that some user groups have been writing you with preposterous claims about kayakers. It seems to me that the trout fisherman have the greatest misconception of the sport. I myself am a very avid and accomplished fly fisherman, as well as whitewater kayaker. I use rivers all over the country for both sports. I have never had a conflict or issue with a kayaker when I was fishing. I don't understand the issue of kayaker vs fisherman. There is no reason for this presumed conflict. I personally think it is fabricated so the special interest fishing groups can claim rivers of the world all to themselves...or maybe its some misunderstanding the USFS or certain fisherman groups have about kayaking. They are everyone's rivers to enjoy, including the Chattooga.

I believe there should be a registration for all users of the area. I do believe that **boating should be allowed** on the Chattooga. River corridors have a certain use-carrying capacity. If the USFS can demonstrate that the upper Chattooga's capacity is met, **all** users' access should be limited so they are consistent with sustainability of the area.

Kayakers are not ATV riders. They pack in what they pack out and move through the water disturbing very little if anything....Unlike some fisherman who walk up and down the banks, as well as the middle of the river, trampling on and destroying plant life in the process and stressing an already fragile habitat. **Boating should be allowed** on the Upper Chattooga River to the same extent that hiking, angling, swimming, bird watching, and other wilderness compliant activities are is allowed. #6 seems like the best compromise in this regard, but should be modified to have group numbers and size limits that are relevant to all users.

Thank you for your time,

Matt Davanzo

See what's new at AOL.com and [Make AOL Your Homepage](#).



Jmwhitehurst@aol.com

09/09/2007 04:18 PM

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

cc:

Subject: Upper Chattooga River Management Plan

Dear Mr. Cleeves and others,

I want to express my very strong opinion regarding the management needed for the Upper Chattooga River. The USFS used considerable wisdom in 1976 when it determined that the Upper Chattooga should be restricted from use by watercraft but should be reserved for those who were not likely to damage the fragile environment there.

PLEASE CONTINUE THE SAME MANAGEMENT POLICY FOR THE FUTURE !!!!!
(Preliminary alternative #1)

The USFS has gone through considerable effort to appease American Whitewater (a lobbying organization for commercial interests) by hiring an expensive consultant who did a fair job of designing an analysis to get input from interested, organized users. However, this analysis did NOT include a majority of the users of the Upper Chattooga.

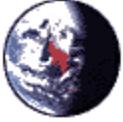
Most Upper Chattooga users are totally unorganized and it was almost impossible to get input from them. Such users include the majority of anglers, hikers, campers, picnickers, nature study people, photographers, students and researchers from the Highlands Biological Station, grandparents with kids, weekend escapees from stressful jobs, and bird-watchers. The overwhelming majority of such users would want the Upper Chattooga to remain as it has been managed since 1976. Most of these people are still unaware that any change in management is being considered. I know this because I discuss this subject during every encounter with such users along this wonderful river. As a volunteer, I lead hikes for five hiking organizations and am often hike along the Upper Chattooga.

As a former canoeist and kayaker for thirty years, I am appalled that their lobbying organization is so greedy that they want access to every single foot of water in this great country.

James M. Whitehurst
2507 Falcon Ridge
Highlands, NC 28741

828 526 8134

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"don@smallworldadvent
ures.com" <don
Sent by:
don@smallworldadventu
res.com

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

09/09/2007 04:36 PM
Please respond to don

Please do not further restrict boating access on the
Chattooga (or any other!) river.

In fact, please allow boating on the upper reaches of the
Chattooga.

Rivers have been used for paddling since before the US was a
country. Please respect this history and keep rivers open
for paddling.

Thank you,

PS. I first paddled section 3 and 4 of the Chattooga in
1987. I am now visiting the east coast for a month
expressly to paddle, and hope to get on the Chattooga again.
And again.

Don Beveridge
Salida, Colorado.



"ann pinner"
<annpin@tampabay.rr.com>

09/09/2007 04:40 PM

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

Paddling SHOULD be allowed, it is not noisy, does not harm the water, disturb the wildlife and for the most part leaves no litter!!

Canoes and Kayaks have no motors. ATV's are completely different vehicles and should not be compared to a canoe or kayak.

Thank you

Ann pinner
p.o. Box 987
Lake Alfred, FL
33850



"Kevin F. McGrath"
<kevinmcgrath@mindsp
ring.com>

09/09/2007 04:47 PM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Upper Chattooga - Comments on the Six Preliminary Management
Alternatives

Gentlemen:

In response to the FS request for public comment on the six preliminary alternatives for managing recreation on the Upper Chattooga River dated August 14, 2007, I offer the following comments.

Alternative #1 most fully represents my desire for the area. Some elements of Alternative #2 and #3 are acceptable. I am completely opposed to Alternatives #4, #5 and #6. Please see the points raised below in support of my position.

- **Boating.** I oppose any boating on the Upper Chattooga.
 - Boating interferes with angling and presents a safety hazard in limited sight areas. While this is a problem on larger streams, it is particularly acute in headwater streams where the risk of a boater-angler collision rises dramatically. My experience with boaters on other streams is that they frequently paddle through the area that I am fishing and disturb fish in the immediate area. Boaters traversing the run or pool that I am fishing have been inconsiderate and degraded my experience. I have not had wading anglers on the Chattooga intrude in to the area that I am enjoying.
 - The cleanliness of the Upper Chattooga corridor stands in stark contrast to amount of trash the area immediately below the Highway 28 Bridge and other streams in the watershed. While many factors may contribute to this, the largest difference between the two areas is foot travel only and no boating above the Highway 28 Bridge.

- **Group Size.** I do not object to a standard limit but larger groups should be able to petition for an exception. Exceptions could be granted based on activity and impact.

- **Trails.** Creation and maintenance of trails should be managed by the FS. The number of trails should be limited but adequate to provide user groups with foot access to the areas they seek. New or improved trails, to manage and lessen the impact of users should be considered by the FS.

- **Woody Debris.** Woody debris is the foundation of the ecosystem. It provides nutrients to the watershed, food for insects and cover for fish. Removal of woody debris upstream in a watershed can result in a less healthy environment downstream as well. Woody debris recruitment should be enhanced and not removed for boats to traverse to river.

- **Campsites.** Campsites should be available to users and located in aesthetically pleasing areas for small groups. They should be managed by the FS to minimize their impact on the corridor. Campsites for larger groups should be supported outside of but adjacent to the corridor.
- **Parking.** Parking is an important and necessary factor. Dispersed, plentiful parking areas all along the corridor would help spread users throughout the area instead of concentrating their presence in limited areas around a few parking lots. The location of parking areas should be carefully considered but not necessarily excluded from the corridor. They should be constructed of porous materials. Parking lots should be large enough to accommodate peak activity levels. Inadequate parking can cause users to park in areas that damage the corridor.
- **User Registration.** Self-registration and reports of visitor experience would be helpful in maintaining the area and managing potential problems.

I have a concern for security in the corridor particularly in the parking areas near the Highway 28 Bridge. In recent years vandalism and theft have increased in those parking areas. Physical security should be increased and remote security (cameras) should be installed.

Solitude in a remote wilderness is important to me. The current combination of user groups enjoying the Upper Chattooga does not conflict with that goal. Introduction of boating to the Upper Chattooga would significantly degrade my experience in the corridor.

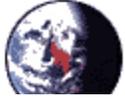
Zoning the activities allowed in an area and restricting those actions is an appropriate and effective way of managing and protecting a resource. There are locales in our communities where businesses can and can not be located. There are varying speed limits influenced by the activities occurring in an area. Places where we can hunt and can not hunt. Streams where they type of fishing permitted is regulated. While our right to free speech and protest can not be taken away, it can be limited to occurring in a defined area. Restricting access on the Upper Chattooga to foot travel is consistent with limits and restrictions that we experience on a daily basis. Boaters have access to many streams in the tri-state area including some in the Chattooga watershed. Consequently, maintaining the existing requirement on the Upper Chattooga to foot travel only does not deny boaters access to streams. However, opening the Upper Chattooga to boating would deny to many user groups the solitude in a back country area that is unique to the Upper Chattooga corridor.

Regards,

Kevin F. McGrath
3391 Windsong Court

Roswell GA 30075
(H) 770-587-1621
(M) 404-668-5835
kevinmcgrat@mindspring.com

No virus found in this outgoing message.
Checked by AVG Free Edition.
Version: 7.5.485 / Virus Database: 269.13.10/995 - Release Date: 9/8/2007 1:24 PM



"Glenn Murer"
<GlennM@atlantel.net>
09/09/2007 06:06 PM

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

Hi,

I believe the best options for the upper Chattooga River are those that ban boating. The boaters already have use of a large part of the river. I have rafted the Chattooga twice and found this to be a great experience. I do not see the need to extend boating beyond the areas now designated.

Please leave something for hikers, fishermen and nature lovers.

Regards,

Glenn E. Murer
Atlantel, Inc.
201 Armour Drive NE
Atlanta, GA 30324
404/892-5000
404/969-5000 direct
404/969-5010 facsimile
glenn@atlantel.net



"Andrea"
<andrea@clearcreekwaterworks.com>

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Comments to USFS on Upper Chattanooga Boating Ban

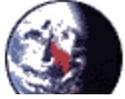
09/09/2007 08:07 PM
Please respond to
andrea

Comments on the Boating Ban on the Upper Chattanooga.

1. Should there be new standards limiting trailheads, trails and/or campsites? Having new standards is not the problem, **when those new standards are applied equally across the board to ALL users (and potential users) of a particular area.** Limiting usage to a select group of users without extending those guidelines across all potential users is simply discriminating against everyone who is NOT in that select group of users. And, last I heard, that type of discrimination, without sufficient justification, is potentially against the law – both Federal and State.
2. Should there be new standards limiting group sizes, encounters between user groups and/or access? Every wilderness area has a certain capacity. If and when the USFS can demonstrate that any particular area's capacity is met, ALL users' access should be limited consistent with the sustainability of the resource.
3. Should there be new boating opportunities on the Chattanooga River? The question should be "Should the Forest Service RESTORE boating access on the upper Chattanooga?" In fact, the USFS has not even been able to determine why boating was prohibited initially, much less presented any reasonable justification for continuing to do so. Boating should be allowed on the Upper Chattanooga 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? This question is no different than #2 above, and the answer is no different either. Every wilderness area has a certain capacity. If and when the USFS can demonstrate that the upper Chattanooga's capacity is met, **all users' access** (not just boaters) **should be limited consistent with sustainability of the resource.**

Proposing regulations that are not equally applied across ALL user groups is not just wrong – it's the USFS asking to be stupid and I have never thought that they were. However, this issue could change my mind on that.

Andrea D. Jones
P.O. Box 6122
Christiansburg, VA 24073
(540) 320-6595



"JT Fields"
<fieldsjt@gmail.com>

09/09/2007 08:18 PM

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

Please don't let the lobby group, American Whitewater dictate the degradation of one of our last peaceful headwaters in Western North Carolina. The boaters and commercial rafting companies have access and most of the control of the lower 36 miles of the river already.

Please follow your conscience and common sense and keep the remaining 21 miles of pristine watershed free of kayaks, canoes, tubes and rafts. Generations have enjoyed the family - friendly swimming holes, picnic areas, and places of natural solitude. Let's keep the special place special.

Thanks,
JT Fields
Highlands, NC



"Dave Miramant"
<dave.miramant@verizon.net>

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

09/09/2007 08:24 PM

Dear Mr Cleaves:

As a State Representative for a state that has numerous waterways, and a very active group of wilderness paddlers, I want to encourage the opening of the Chatooga to non-motorized boating. Allowing boaters of all types on our wilderness waterways in Maine has served to allow many people to enjoy these rivers in a non-destructive and caretaking role. The groups and individuals using the rivers are very sensitive to the fragile nature of the river environment. I often see their stewardship rival that of the hikers and day trippers who tend to be careless with litter and generally less conscious of the impact they have. The boaters often keep areas clean that are otherwise inconvenient to police or maintain.

The amount of boaters that a river can handle without changing the character is something that must be worked out, and something that the boaters seem to understand. They also understand, as I do, that the number is never zero. The Wild and Scenic designation includes boating as a permitted use. Those who would say that there is no place for this activity would also find themselves on someone else's list for disrupting the peaceful nature of a Wild and Scenic area, but that would not stand under the law. Neither should this ban stand.

I encourage you to find the appropriate balance for the Chatooga and allow the resource of the people to be used by all who show the respect that these areas deserve.

Thank you.

Best wishes,
Dave

Representative Dave Miramant
Maine House District 46
174 Mountain St.
Carnegie, Maine 04843
207-236-4845



"Carney, William J"
<LAWWJC@emory.edu
>

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: File Code: 1920-2

09/09/2007 08:59 PM

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I write to urge that you either adopt one of alternatives 1, 2 or 3 or engage in further environmental impact studies of the impact of boating on incompatible activities in the area covered by the proposal.

My wife and I own a cabin on Bull Pen Road, about three miles from the Iron Bridge over the Chattooga River. We urge you to preserve the wild nature of the upper Chattooga River, which is a rare jewel in the Southeastern United States. We understand that a lobbying group has suggested changes in the permitted uses on the upper Chattooga, namely to permit boating from Grimshawes (Sliding Rock) downstream past the Iron Bridge and Burrell's Ford to Route 28 in Georgia. This is a thoroughly bad idea.

We have often taken our grandchildren to Sliding Rock, where they have enjoyed a beautiful setting and the experience of a natural stream. We have enjoyed sharing that experience with other families in a peaceful setting. We have also hiked the area around the Iron Bridge, which is a wonderful and natural experience, which we hope we can enjoy for many years to come.

I am a trout fisherman, and I have enjoyed fishing the upper Chattooga. I have fished it both below and above Burrell's Ford, above and below the mouth of the East Branch of the Chattooga, and above and below the Iron Bridge. In all cases I have enjoyed the natural setting and the peacefulness of a beautiful river.

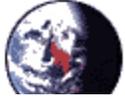
I have fished streams where boating is permitted, and the experience is seriously diminished by the boaters. Boats put trout down, so they are unlikely to rise to take flies, and require the fisherman to get his line out of the way of the boats, and sometimes to get himself out of the way of inexperienced boaters. These two activities are simply incompatible.

Boaters have ample access to other areas for their activities, where they have already driven fishermen off the stream to a certain extent. These include the lower 36 miles of the Chattooga as well as long stretches of the Nantahala.

Please protect us from the incursion of boats on this peaceful and natural stretch of river. Leave part of it for the swimmers and waders: the boaters already have the rest.

Sincerely,

William J. Carney



"Carr, Mikel"
<MCarr2@trane.com>
09/09/2007 09:16 PM

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

Mr. John Cleeves,

I am corresponding to you in regard to an article I recently read in which it has been proposed to limit the usage or part or all of the Chattooga River. I am a lover of the outdoors in all capacities including Kayaking. I personally believe it would be a disservice to the public to eliminate access to this beautiful river and the opportunities it provides to enjoy the outdoors. I've read some of the comments posted by those advocating the boating ban and to be frank they are ludicrous. Not that I am suggesting that you would ban fishing, but I will say as you travel our nations waterways you will find far more trash and debris left behind by anglers than you'll ever see left by kayakers and canoers. As far as risking children swimming in holes, I think there is probably a better chance of them getting struck by lightning while swimming on the Chattooga, or any other river for that matter. I do agree that when and if the River becomes over used / accessed that restrictions of some sort may have to be levied, but this should apply to all aspects of its usage not just boating.

Thank you for your time and please consider this when making your decisions about to what degree small boaters should be allowed to access this and other beautiful natural resources.

Sincerely,

Mikel Carr
5762 Alum Spring Rd.
Pulaski, VA 24301



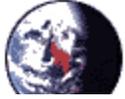
"Sabina&Doug Atkinson"
<sanddatkinson@hotmail.com>

09/09/2007 10:36 PM

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

Doug Atkinson
717 Elm Road
Bradfordwoods, PA 15015
sanddatkinson@hotmail.com
412 - 848-7492 (cell)
724 - 934-5483 (home)

[A place for moms to take a break!](#)



TOMMY STEARNS
<nxtter@verizon.net>
09/09/2007 11:03 PM

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

To whom it may concern;

I would like the current management plan (#1) to remain in effect for the Chattooga river.

Thank you,

Thomas W. Stearns
32 Central Street
Sylva , NC 28779
828 226 7605



Ryan Stephens
<wwzealot@yahoo.com
>

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: the six proposed alternatives

09/10/2007 12:02 AM

Dear USFS,

I am writing in regards to the six proposed alternatives for managing recreation uses on the Upper Chattooga. Honestly, the first three proposals seem to me totally ridiculous. The thought of total exclusion of one group (of the three groups that have vested interest hikers, fishermen/fisherwomen, and the boaters) just seems absurd. I will try and explain my point of view and hope sincerely in the interest of fairness great consideration is given.

If hikers aren't managed properly there are problems...trail erosion, forest fires, litter, vandalism, people getting lost, (insert problem here), etc. etc. I am a sometimes hiker so I have seen what happens when proper management does not take place, a local historic area on the edge of the protected wilderness area in Bankhead has a few petroglyphs at Kinlock Shelter that were placed by early settlers and the Indians, and now they are obscured by thousands of initials and names of vandals who were quick to notice how easy it is to carve into the sandstone.

If those who fish are not managed well then you see all kinds of stuff going on also. Maybe its an empty bait container or erosion on the bank. I live on a local river that is not managed and people dump stuff into the river from its steep embankments and off of bridges. And at public access points cars are broken into, tires are burned, and condoms are left hanging from shrubs. I'm not saying this is all done by those who fish, maybe I associate this with fishing because this is what I see when I go to these places to fish. Still there is a point in there somewhere.

Now there are the boaters, in which there are those who are good stewards and there are those that are riff raff just like all the examples from the previous two groups. The question should not be whether or not they can boat! If managed correctly there would be very little impact. I dare say there could be less impact than the first two groups of users (if managed properly). Obviously commercial boating is out the door, nobody wants to see that kind of impact. This will cut down on 99% of the riff raff just because most of the people that are into boating enough to go to really remote areas are going to be familiar with the idea of leaving very small footprint (or nothing at all in the case of boaters who use good judgement and are educated in how to prevent erosion at the put in and take out).

So now we have looked at all the groups and it is clear that within each group there are those that will show respect and others who out of improper management or lack of knowledge will not show the respect that is due. But this isnt the local park, a fishing pier, or the Ocoee it is a very remote area that very few could stumble onto unless they

were of the group that can and will show respect. And therefore it is not about whether or not boating should be allowed...of course it should! It should be allowed to the same extent that other low impact groups are allowed.

Therefore it must be about how should the Upper Chattooga be managed to include low impact boating. And the alternatives presented that have this option are all flawed in one way or another. Two alternatives are very restrictive or are set to impose heavy restrictions even if a statistical anomaly occurs. And the last alternative seems to open the floodgates. I belong to the boating group as well as the other two groups and the 6th proposal comes off as being really weak on management! This is all I wanted to say, I hope someone out there actually reads these things and takes time to consider everything. I really liked what Kevin Colburn from American Whitewater has outlined here: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Document_view_documentid_165_

Thanks for all you guys do at the USFS

Ryan Stephens

Got a little couch potato?

Check out fun [summer activities for kids.](#)



The League of NW
Whitewater Racers
<theleague@nwwhitewa
ter.org>

09/10/2007 12:21 AM
Please respond to
theleague

To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us, jennie Goldberg
<Jennie.Goldberg@seattle.gov>
cc:
Subject: (no subject)

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

RE: Chattooga Scoping Document

Dear Mr. Cleeves,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely, [YOUR NAME and ADDRESS]

--

Jennie Goldberg, Director
League of Northwest Whitewater Racers
3048 62nd Avenue SW
Seattle, WA 98116
206-933-1178
www.nwwhitewater.org



steven vaniman
<sloucha@hotmail.com>
>

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

09/10/2007 01:40 AM

Dear Sir.

This e-mail is to show my support of legalized boating above highway 28 with the same access as is allowed to other groups using the area. Kayaking is a low impact sport practiced predominantly by groups fully aware of the leave no trace ethics. I am sure you will receive many long e-mails in support of increased access to the Chattooga river so I have kept this short and sweet. Just don't forget to count me in support of kayaking access.

Steven Vaniman

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mike.harvell@fluor.com

09/10/2007 03:13 AM

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

cc:

Subject: Support for Alternative #1

Dear Sir:

I have been involved with boating and fishing the Chattooga North Fork since 1974. I served as a expert panel member on the boating / angular trials in January of this year. If boating access is allowed then it is very apparent to me that the North Fork of the Chattooga will be overrun with floaters as is the sections below Highway 28 Bridge.

Zoning ensures that different types of users are physically separated. Zoning of conflicting activities is good stewardship. Stewardship encompasses far more than picking up litter, trail maintenance, access procedure development and forest management; it includes the protection of the aesthetic values of natural and irreplaceable resources such as, high quality, remoteness and wildness, the proper regard for the rights of others to solitude, and the responsibility of preserving these values intact for future generations.

Today, 63% of the Chattooga has lost these aesthetic values important to none boaters and concern boaters. Let us do what is right for the resource and keep the North Fork floater and boater free. Even the boaters are using zoning in their position of only allowing certain type craft. What about the tubers; does zoning work only for a few or should zoning continue to be used for good stewardship and resource protection?

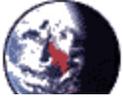
Alternative #1 or a blended strategy incorporating portions of Alternatives 1, 2 and 3 appears to provide the best long term protection for the North Fork.

Good Stewardship Zoning has worked over the past 30 years and will continue to work if allowed to go forward.

Thank you for protecting the resource and for your efforts to do what is right. Best regards, Mike Harvell - tax payer since 1961.

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<wallds@windstream.net>

09/10/2007 05:31 AM

To: <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: HIGHWAY 28 BRIDGE

I vote for the alternative #1 to maintain current management as it is.

In the next 20 yrs. the population of people will double.

As the people try to get away from the cities;

the use of the rivers will tripplle.

That's inpacked enough!

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