

"Bill Kirby"
<ckirby05@verizon.net>

07/17/2011 06:21 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject USDA FOREST SERVICE ASKS PUBLIC TO REVIEW
ASSESSMENT ON RECREATION

Dear sir or madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the assessment of recreation uses on the upper segment of the Chattooga wild and scenic river. Alternate 12 is unacceptable as are any of the alternatives that include a goal of preserving boater-free visitor opportunities for non-boating users. Such a goal is blatantly discriminatory and contrary to the letter and spirit of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Alternate 8 is the only acceptable Alternate in the study.

Charles. W. Kirby, PhD

Pat Stone
<pat@greenprints.com>

07/17/2011 09:04 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Upper Chattooga and Boating

I am a whitewater paddler, an older one. I was canoeing the Chattooga the first year it was "opened up." To the best of my knowledge, my brother and I are the first people to ever run Bull Sluice. I still do sections III and IV when I get the chance. I love the Chattooga! It is very special to me. I think I could recognize it just by its distinctive smell. And I thank you for all you've done to protect it!

I also enjoying hiking the upper reaches. And I appreciate the fishermen's desire for solitude.

Your 500-page assessment is most impressive and thorough. You have tried very hard to study the situation in detail and be fair to all groups. I commend you.

As a boater, I know I'm supposed to urge you to allow unlimited boating on the upper reaches. But I do appreciate fishermen's desire for boat-free days. If it were up to me, I'd probably say when the flow's over xxx you can boat but not fish and when it's under xxx you can fish but not boat. But your alternative 8 is simpler and a way to give boaters good access to the river.

So (I know I'll be called a turncoat by my peers) I say, "Go for it. Alternative 8."

Again, my compliments on all the hard, sensitive, and honest work you've put into this.

All best wishes,

Pat "Cap'n Canoe" Stone

Pat Stone, Editor
GreenPrints
P.O. Box 1355
Fairview, NC 28730
828 628 1902
www.greenprints.com

Mitchell Betty
<mitchellbetty@gmail.com
>

07/18/2011 07:20 AM

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

Subject July 15th Environmental Assessment for the Chattooga

The Forest Service Assessment published on July 15th 2011 is a disappointment and as currently authored misleading. Many previous public comments highlighting flaws and missing data within previous assessments have been remedied in the 2011 Assessment by misrepresenting collected facts, making erroneous claims and ignoring previous information PUBLISHED by the US Forest Service. I plan to offer my assistance and resources to those parties planning to appeal any Forest Service decision because this revised assessment purposely misleads decision makers by contradicting previous findings and statements published by the USFS within the course of the Upper Chattooga review. With this letter please incorporate all previous comments made by the Whiteside Cove Association, and our members, for reconsideration and in order to correct the assessment errors previously highlighted by our associations very detailed responses.

Mitchell BettyPresident
Whiteside Cove Association

Brad Bardin
<bhbardin@gmail.com>

07/18/2011 02:27 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Boating on Upper Chattooga

Why not allow non commercial use of area by human powered boats. If you want to limit size of boats or number of occupants in a boat you could do that. Permitting could also be an option to limit numbers of people and give revenue to the Forest Service

Jared Raffini
<jared.raffini@newspring.c
c>

07/18/2011 03:07 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject chattooga usage

Hello. I would like to comment on land/river usage on the upper Chattooga. I love that area. The camping and trails are amazing. I feel that the upper section is the best for fishing. Having been there, I can't imagine that the river is large enough in that section to accommodate boaters paddling the river while having fishermen fish the river. I feel that we have a real gem of a fly fishing habitat in that section, and that it would be tough to balance the two activities. The rest of the river is so great for boating, I don't think it's necessary to open the upper section to it as well. If there are going to be limits placed on people using the area at one time, then it definitely needs to be limited usage since that area is the best for fishing/camping. It would be a shame to see that area be taken over by boating and thus limiting the ability for fishermen to take advantage. I don't feel that the entire river has to be accessible. At the very least, if the boating could only be allowed during non-peak trout fishing times, that would be the best compromise. Thanks for trying to make the river the best it can be!

--

Jared Raffini
Audio Department Head
Newspring Church
jared.raffini@newspring.cc
www.NewSpring.cc
Office: 864-226-6585

Jesse Durham
<nolespjad@comcast.net>

07/19/2011 07:10 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Chatooga #12

Would prefer #3, but in the interest of compromise would accept #12.
thank you for the extra effort to find something that works for all.
Jesse Durham

Sent from my iPad

davidmathieson01@comcast.net

07/19/2011 11:50 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject chatooga river alt.#12

While understanding that some compromise must be accommodated, I am still confused as to the access to the river. If the boaters can use the river from NC to Burrells ford during the **designated** times does this preclude the anglers from the river during those periods/times? For instance I prefer to fish(wade) the river during the week as I am retired and I do not have to put up with as much of the people as are there on the weekends. I also like to fish in the winter, will I have to give up my right to the river during the boating times ? or can I take my chances and fish whenever I want , weather permitting etc.? Just asking.

ATB= I guess the Alt # 12 is ok, but prefer the solitude of the river above Burrells ford without boaters(especially commercial boaters /tubers).

Dave Mathieson

Alex Edl
<al_edl@yahoo.com>

07/20/2011 04:12 PM

Please respond to
Alex Edl <al_edl@yahoo.com>

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

cc

bcc

Subject a kayakers perspective on alt 12

I would like to see a longer boating season preferably Dec through June. The best time to kayak is in March. The flows are still high and the air temp is warm at that time. June is when the Chatooga seems to get low (@ the 76 bridge, not sure about the upper reaches). I also don't like the proposed split allowing boating on only part of the area Dec-Jan15 etc... I think this would restrict some of us to a month in a half of prime boating compared to 7 months of prime boating if you expand the season and allow boating all sections down to lick log creek. I have no problem with taking out at lick log creek. I would like to say again that March is the best time for boating on the Chatooga and should be included.

Thank You,
Alex Edl

**"LEDBETTER, LINNY
(ATTBST)"**
<ll4610@att.com>

07/21/2011 08:47 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject upper Chattooga EA

I often hike on the CRT and Foothills – in SC . I LOVE the peaceful feeling --- walking in the woods and hearing the river. It is healing to my soul.

Please leave the restrictions on the upper river as far as boating is concerned. There is plenty of boating and excitement for boaters along the lower part of the river, without taking adding more river miles and in the process taking away certain privileges for hikers and anglers in the upper section.

Linny Ledbetter

AT&T

Mgr OPS Plng & Engrg Design

1003 Whitehall Rd

Anderson, SC 29625

864-231-2371

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"John Stephens"
<jdt4f@mindspring.com>

07/22/2011 09:31 PM

Please respond to
jdt4f@mindspring.com

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

cc

bcc

Subject Chatooga River Trout

Allowing boats until March 1 on the section below Burrels ford will ruin a great deal of good trout fishing in this section.

A number of good hatches begin in February of most years and earlier if it is a mild winter which is very likely on this water.

A better solution would be to keep all boating in the December thru January timeframe.

This is all mid day fishing this time of the year when the temperatures get comfortable for insect hatches and trout fisherman. There would be serious conflict if boaters were rolling thru at the same time, this is a narrow river thru these sections.

Burrells Ford is the starting point for a great many trouting day trips both up and downstream in February and of course the Delayed Harvest water is fished hard even in January/February (this is a year around trout fishery).

I am sure if you inquire to other serious and knowledgeable trout fishers they will agree with this.

John Stephens

John Stephens

jdt4f@mindspring.com

EarthLink Revolves Around You.

"Ed McDowell"
<ed.mcdowell@cox.net>

07/23/2011 02:25 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Comments on the Upper Chattooga EA

Please consider the following in your Environmental Assessment on additional opening of the wild and scenic Chattooga River and its tributaries to the whitewater group:

* Reject the boating lobby's insistence on unrestricted access (Alternative 8 of the EA)

* Reject the Forest Service partial opening (Alternative 12 of the EA)

* Support the Agency's new efforts to rehabilitate the Upper Chattooga corridor and establish appropriate limits on visitor group sizes and encounters in efforts to maintain a sense of solitude

* Support a continued balance of uses, which offers boating on the lower 36 miles of this river, while leaving the Upper Chattooga as is, protected for the benefit of future generations

o The boaters already have a wealth of nearby challenging whitewater to paddle, including Overflow and Holcomb creeks and on the West Fork of the Chattooga, where boating is already legal and permitted.

* I am concerned about the Forest Service commitment and abilities to properly monitor and enforce any new boating areas.
Thanks for your consideration.

Ed McDowell

Ed McDowell
206 Cartwright Drive
Bonaire, Ga 31005-3902
478.929.1267
478.396.8901 (cell)
ed.mcdowell@cox.net



winmail.dat

Dennis Stansell
<dennisstansell@windstre
am.net>

07/23/2011 03:06 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject boating on upper Chatooga River and tributaries

I am a hiker who has hiked in the Ellicot Rock Wilderness and I oppose any boating above the highway 28 bridge. I also am a whitewater kayaker but I believe this area is as inappropriate for this type of recreation as would mountain biking on the Appalachian Trail.

Dennis Stansell
404 Happy Hollow Circle
Suches, GA 30572
Phone 706-747-5892

RSMcDonald
<rsmcdonald2@gmail.com
>

07/23/2011 05:51 PM

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

Subject Upper Chattooga

This letter is to register opposition to opening the Upper Chattooga River to boating--thus, diminishing its wild and scenic status. Boaters already have ample whitewater access nearby.

Given budget uncertainties, it is unwise for the Forest Service to undertake the additional monitoring responsibilities boating on the Upper Chattooga would impose.

Rick McDonald
1105 Allenbrook Lane
Roswell, GA 30075

cc: Senators Chambliss and Isakson

Richard Brown
<rcb19@charter.net>

07/23/2011 11:09 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Comments

Dear Sirs,

It is amazing that despite the fact that recreational boating is one of the requirements for your management of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River, that you still are trying to enforce the discrimination against private boating to the maximum extent you are able and have continued to do so since 1976.

I am glad to American Whitewater has been successful in at least getting you to hear from affected people other than the trout fishing lobby. I cannot understand why you continue to elevate the privileges of the trout fisherman above that of other groups. Year round fishing is not necessary to preserve some idea of solitude. It is obvious to me that a better compromise than what you have proposed would be easy to implement and more objectively fair. Are there really that many trout fishermen on the river in January, February, and March?. That could form the basis of an open season for private boaters however I seriously doubt you have taken the time to find out what alternatives would be acceptable to private boaters if you change your present one-sided preference for trout fishing.

As evidence of why your stance is just plain wrong, I submit that Tim's Ford Lake in Tennessee has an active trout release/stocking program on the river that issues from Tim's Ford and that there are no regulations restricting canoes or boaters of any type from paddling the river - even while trout fishermen are fishing the same river.

It certainly appears to me that you have allowed an influential, small, privileged sub-group to dominate the use of this natural resource that should be reasonably open to all citizens. I urge you to reconsider your latest proposal and recognize that private boating is a recreational need that you should make further efforts to support. Your efforts to date are patently discriminatory, unfair, obviously biased and need to be changed.

Yours sincerely,
Richard Brown
18501 Mooresville Rd.
Athens, AL 35613
256-655-7192

<stacyemorgan@windstre
am.net>

07/24/2011 09:10 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Upper Chatooga

Please help us preserve the Upper Chatooga River at South Carolina and Georgia. We all enjoy this river and want to keep it as wild as possible to help protect wildlife and the environment. I hear that another 8+ miles of river may be opened up to public/commercial use. Please do not allow this.

We appreciate all of your efforts to help keep this river as natural as possible.

--

Stacye

: -)

Priscilla Padron
<priscatran@gmail.com>

08/13/2011 01:02 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Chattooga River

I urge you to refuse opening the Chattooga River to further whitewater boating and confining these activities to the area below Route 28 bridge, or the lower third of the beautiful Chattooga River. Whitewater boating is a lot of fun, but there is plenty of room for **both** low-impact hiking and camping and more intrusive activities like boating if we use this priceless resource wisely. I've canoed and rafted the river several times, but I wouldn't trade these fun experiences for the quiet, soul-healing activity of walking in the Ellicott Rock Wilderness.

The Chattooga is designated as a Wild and Scenic River. It has worked wonderfully until now offering recreation and solitude as well as biology, scenery, geology and history.

Let's keep it that way!

Thank you.

Priscilla H. Padrón, Atlanta, Georgia
+1404.373.7325 (cell)
priscatran@gmail.com

"Jean Rose"
<jeanrose@etcmail.com>

07/24/2011 03:47 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Upper Chattooga EA

Please do right by our river. It is SO important to so many of us.

Thank you.

Jean Rose,

Cherry log, GA

"Phyllis "
<phylmil14@bellsouth.net
>

07/24/2011 05:47 PM

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

Subject Keep the Upper Chattooga River Wild and Scenic

Forest planners led by the Sumter National Forest propose to open 16.5 miles of the narrow, twisting headwaters reaches of the Chattooga River from Green Creek to Lick Log Creek between Dec. 1 and March 1, at all flow levels rather than 7 miles of Upper Chattooga previously contemplated for boating by the Agency.

I believe that opening these parts of the river is unwise. The extended stretch includes the sensitive Chattooga Cliffs, the entire Ellicott Rock Wilderness and the equally wild Rock Gorge section of the river. These parts of the river include a variety of sensitive and endangered plant and lichen species. Currently a wild, spiritual haven, the Upper Chattooga is Georgia's only stretch of river designated as wild and scenic and closed to boating. Keep one piece of river natural!

The Forest Service should draw a line at the Route 28 bridge (the lower-most boundary of the Upper Chattooga area) to safeguard it for continued use by hunters, hikers, anglers, campers, picnickers, nature lovers, birders, botanists, and those who prefer solitude in one of the last remaining wild places in the entire Southern Appalachians and Southeast.

Please reject the boating lobby's insistence on unrestricted access and the Forest Service's partial opening of the river.

I support the agency's new efforts to rehabilitate the Upper Chattooga corridor and to establish appropriate limits on visitor group sizes and encounters in efforts to maintain a sense of solitude in one of the last remaining wild places in the entire Southern Appalachians and Southeast.

Phyllis Miller
2394 Leafgate Rd
Decatur, GA 30033
Tel: 404-636-1412
E-mail: phylmil14@bellsouth.net

"I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day."

~ E.B.White

Charles Haynes
<chaynes@eyeforthewild.com>

07/25/2011 10:28 AM

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

Subject Comments on Upper Chattooga River Development

Thank you for reading this email.

Greetings,

I am a kayaker, canoer, white water enthusiast...

However, in an area as special as the upper Chattooga River I think there are other places to put in where I won't constantly be thinking of the intrusion I am to what's left of a natural wonder. I study spiders and birds, among other small creatures and I'm constantly aware of the lives that go on, necessary to the planet or they wouldn't be here, all around, that folks never see or comprehend. Yet, cycle after cycle, they do go on contributing, subtly perhaps, but consistent.

I must oppose any expansion of kayaking/canoeing in the upper Chattooga, even though I'd love to be running the rapids myself.

The accumulative effect of many boaters in this area is more disruptive than that amazing stretch of river should have to bear. And there are just, frankly, other places that can stand it... fun enough, even nearby. I never ceased to be amazed at the debris from one weekend of the passage of people who love the wilderness or love the thrill. Over time the destruction is stunning.

I absolutely support your new efforts to establish limits on visitor group size and the general rehabilitation of the Upper Chattooga corridor.

Knowing the Agency's support of the 36 miles of the Lower Chattooga already offers premium boating I feel there are sufficient areas established for this activity.

I'm totally against unrestricted access to the area.

I have the utmost faith in our established institutions, like yours, to protect that which needs protecting in our wild areas. However, in hard economic times staffs shrink while responsibilities do not. I don't think there are hordes of malicious people who want, deliberately, to ruin the Upper Chattooga, but I think they will. And I think it will be difficult to prevent. It is directly analogous to breaking off a stalactite and expecting it to "grow back" in a month. Won't happen... it's gone for our "forever." May be less obvious, same effect, to lichens, ferns, salamander, birds...

Thanks for your consideration. We have to hold the line against us. Charlie

"Bryce Yarbrough"
<bryce.yarbrough@napmi
nc.com>

07/25/2011 11:43 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Chattooga decision

Dear whom it may concern,

I am upset at the continued discrimination of whitewater boaters on the upper Chattogga. At least some boating is being allowed during the 6 week period, but no other user groups are discriminated against. Are the fisherman, hikers or other user groups limited to when the area can be used (no). I think the forest service has wasted a great deal of money on this unfair decision.

Upset taxpayer!
Bryce Yarbrough
Permit Coordinator
Certified Arborist ISO - 6042A

North American Pipeline Management, Inc.
4779 South Atlanta Road, Suite 350
Smyrna, Ga. 30080
P: 678.820.3991 x 110
F: 678.820.3993
e: bryce.yarbrough@napminc.com

<http://www.napminc.com/>

21 July 2011

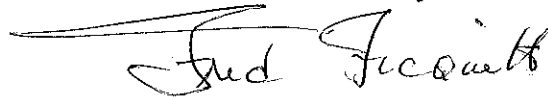
Comment on the Upper Chattooga

To Whom it may concern:

I vote to leave the river as it is. Increased recreation means damage to the ecosystem.

Lets leave something for future generations

Fred Ficquett

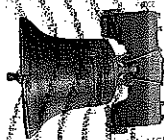


Fred Ficquett
2624 Anderson Hwy.
Elberton, GA 30635-3726

Fred Ficquett
2624 Anderson Hwy.
Elberton, GA 30635-8726

NORTH METRO-GA 300

22 JUL 2011 PM 3 T

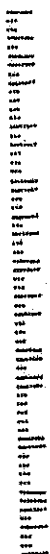


604 PM 71.52 T60

Upper Chattooga E 14
c/o USDA Forest Supervisors Office
4931 Broad River Rd.
Columbia
SC

29212-3530

29212+3530



Mark Mershon
<mershon.mr@gmail.com>

08/14/2011 01:05 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Recreation Uses on the Upper Chattooga River

I am writing in regard to the proposed plan for managing recreational use of the Upper Chattooga. I believe that alternative 12 unfairly and illegally discriminates against canoeists and kayakers in favor of other groups. Non-motorized boating has always been a permitted use on Wild and Scenic Rivers and within Wilderness Areas. I'm baffled as to why it should be so severely limited on the Upper Chattooga. This alternative blatantly favors the fishermen over boaters with little valid support. The report explicitly states that it provides the most extensive boat-free opportunities, as if this is, in and of itself, a desirable outcome. Boating should be permitted on all Wild and Scenic Rivers. It is the ideal way to experience these wonderful places. I don't understand why a fisherman's desire for solitude is more important than a boater's. Were fishing-free days considered along with boat-free days?

I urge you to adopt alternative 8 with some modifications. This alternative would permit boaters to experience the river on a more equitable basis than the small handful of days allowed under alternative 12. Ideally boating should be permitted on all reaches of the Upper Chattooga and its tributaries. Boating usage will still be relatively low given the flows and skill needed to run this river. Few people are likely to be fishing on days when the river is flowing at boatable levels. If commercial rafting operators are not permitted on the Upper Chattooga, there is likely to be minimal impact on the experience of solitude. Also, if restrictions on access are required, indirect limits should be favored rather than direct.

I am disappointed that the Forest Service continues to spend taxpayer money to discriminate against boaters. This stance has no rational justification other than a desire to maintain the status quo, which favors other groups with entrenched interests.

Yours truly,

Mark R. Mershon
135 Windflower Dr.
Blairsville, GA 30512

**James H
Knibbs/R8/USDAFS**

08/15/2011 08:57 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: WWW Mail: rafting on the upper chattooga

----- Forwarded by James H Knibbs/R8/USDAFS on 08/15/2011 10:57 AM -----

Carol L Forney/R8/USDAFS

08/15/2011 09:32 AM

To James H Knibbs/R8/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Mary W Morrison/R8/USDAFS@FSNOTES

cc

Subject Fw: WWW Mail: rafting on the upper chattooga

Sent via web.

Thanks

~~~~~

Caroline Forney  
Information Assistant  
GIS/Planning/Public Affairs (GISPPA)  
Francis Marion & Sumter  
National Forests (South Carolina)  
4931 Broad River Road  
Columbia, SC 29212-3530

Phone: (803) 561-4002  
Fax: (803) 561-4004  
E-mail: cforney@fs.fed.us

----- Forwarded by Carol L Forney/R8/USDAFS on 08/15/2011 09:31 AM -----

**kamarshall@bellsouth.net**

08/14/2011 02:06 PM

To cforney@fs.fed.us

cc

Subject WWW Mail: rafting on the upper chattooga

I would strongly urge that rafting NOT be permitted above the rt 28 bridge, and that additional access trails to facilitate rafting north of the rt 28 bridge NOT be developed. Thank you for your attention to this comment.

Kenneth Marshall



**"Don Davis"**  
**<Don.Davis@ers.ga.gov>**

07/27/2011 06:50 AM

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

cc "Don Davis" <Don.Davis@ers.ga.gov>

bcc

Subject Comments on the Upper Chattooga EA

I approve of Alternative #1, which maintains the zones established many years ago.

I tried to sell myself on the "preferred" Alternative #12, and just can't do it. The upper section of river is too narrow to support two conflicting hobbies, as are many other areas within the Delayed Harvest Section down to Hwy 28. I also have deep concerns about improving or expanding parking in the upper reaches – I see this as leading to dreadful unintended consequences.

If I wish to share a quiet day of fishing with a friend, my one and only destination in Georgia is the Chattooga River above Hwy 28. Some of my favorite and most easily accessible brook trout streams are within earshot of truck traffic and motorcycles, and I'm getting a little too old to climb over ridges.

Donald E. Davis  
557 Cotton Creek Lane  
Winder, GA 30680

678.640.8134 (C)  
[Don.Davis@ers.ga.gov](mailto:Don.Davis@ers.ga.gov)

**Comments on the Upper Chattooga EA**

c/o USDA Forest Supervisor's Office  
Sumter National Forest  
4931 Broad River Road  
Columbia, South Carolina 29212-3530

July 24, 2011

I appreciate the opportunity to express comments related to the Upper Chattooga EA.

The upper reaches of the Chattooga River are the only designated wild and scenic river places in my state of Georgia. If boating of any kind, at any time, under any conditions is allowed above the Route 28 bridge, this special place will be forever changed. There are plenty of rivers that allow plenty of boats to raft the white water in Georgia. Is it too much to ask that this last vestige of wild river be spared?

A balanced approach seems best. With boaters already allowed on the lower 36 miles of the Chattooga, it seems only reasonable to protect the upper reaches for all the many non-boating user groups: hunters, hikers, fisherman, naturalists, picnickers, campers, etc., as well as for future generations of them!

I appreciate the proposed plan of the Forest Service to rehabilitate the Upper Chattooga corridor by establishing limits on visitor group sizes and hope that enough resources are available to do that job.

I am concerned that boat traffic on the upper reaches would require monitoring and supervision for which the Forest Service will not have adequate resources to provide.

I urge the Forest Service to save this wild and scenic river, at least the last little bit of it and choose an Alternative that does not allow boating above the Route 28 bridge.

Thank you for hearing my concerns,



Sue Harmon  
3705 Hilldale Rd  
Oakwood, GA 30566  
[suepharmon@gmail.com](mailto:suepharmon@gmail.com)  
770-450-3672

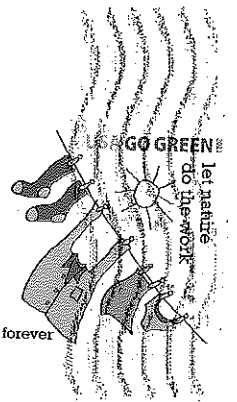
cc:  
Senator Chambliss  
Senator Isakson  
~~Congressman Brown~~  
Congressman Graves

Ms. Sue P. Hamon  
3705 Hilldale Rd  
Oakwood, GA 30566

05/01/11 11:12 AM

RECEIVED MAY 01 2011

25 JUL 2011 PM 8 T



Comments on the Upper Chattahoochee EA  
c/o USDA Forest Supervisor's Office  
Sumter National Forest  
4931 Broad River Road  
Columbia, South Carolina 29212-3530

**Mary W  
Morrison/R8/USDAFS**

07/27/2011 09:28 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: Green Creek access question

**Joseph Gatins <jgatins@gmail.com>**

07/17/2011 07:09 AM

To Mary W Morrison <mwmorrison@fs.fed.us>, Tony L White  
<tlwhite01@fs.fed.us>

cc Paul Bradley <pbradley@fs.fed.us>

Subject Green Creek access question

Dear Mary Morrison and/or Tony White: Could one of you inform as to how the public would access the Green Creek put-in spot proposed in the latest EA for the Upper Chattooga boating issue? Is there a public road all the way to the river in that location, or would the boats have to be portaged in? Many thanks for your cooperation. Regards,

Joseph Gatins

District Leader

Georgia ForestWatch

706-782-9944

CC: Supervisor Bradley

Beverly Miller <userml1969@aol.com>

07/28/2011 02:32 PM To  
comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us  
cc

bcc

Subject  
upper chattooga

MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS HAVE RAFTED THE CHATTOOGA SEVERAL TIMES. IT IS OUR FAVORITE RIVER, FOR THE SMPLE REASON THAT THERE ARE NO HIGHWAYS RUNNING ALONG SIDE AND IT IS STILL WILD. ITS A SHAME GREEDY PEOPLE THINK IT SHOULDN'T BE SHARED . THE COMPANIES I HAVE RAFTED WITH ARE VERY CONSCIENTIOUS OF KEEPING THE RIVER CLEAN AND UNBLEMISHED.CREATING NEW JOBS

IS NOT A BAD THING IN THIS ECONOMY. KAYAKING, CONOEING,AND RAFTING DON'T HURT THE ENVIROMENT, IRRSPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS DO. I'VE WITTNESSED THIS AMONG SO CALLED HIKERS,CAMPERS, FISHERMAN AND OTHERS,WHEN I'VE COME ACROSS

THIER GARBAGE IN THE WOODS AND ALONG TRAILS SO DON'T BLAME THE RAFTERS. THESE TYPE OF WATER SPORTS PROMOTE FITNESS, FAMILY AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES, WILDLIFE PRESERVATION, AND AN OVERALL LOVE OF NATURES BEAUTY. OPENING UP THIS WATER WAY IS A GREAT WAY TO EXPOSE MORE PEOPLE TO NATURES BEAUTY. MORE AND MORE WE ARE LOSING LAND FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION, AND THAT IS A REAL SHAME. THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO GIVE MY OPINION.

B.MILLER, COLUMBUS, GA.- HIKER, CAMPER,  
RAFTER, OFFROADER, AND HUNTER.

**"Barry Tuscano"**  
**<barrytuscano@verizon.net>**

07/29/2011 04:02 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject upper chatooga access

To whom it may concern: I have been kayaking wild rivers for 35 years and in that period have learned a few things about rivers and their users. As a group, whitewater boaters are the most respectful of the wild and scenic values that a river offers and can be counted on to be responsible stewards of the river. I have often encountered fishermen on streams and have never witnessed a conflict. We normally make the effort to avoid the areas of the stream that have fishing line with sharp hooks attached. Whenever I encounter beer cans or bait containers left in the river by a fisherman I always remove it and dispose of it appropriately. There is no lower impact recreation than floating on the water under muscle power. I urge you to allow equal access to the upper Chatooga for those of us who will fight long and hard to protect the wild nature of this and all rivers. Alternative 8 should be adopted for the entire upper Chatooga.

Sincerely,  
Barry Tuscano  
354 Graveyard Hill Rd  
Bolivar, Pa. 15923

**John Carothers**  
<jocaroth@mac.com>

07/29/2011 08:55 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject I reject Alternative 12

Dear People:

I testified at your public hearing on this issue several years ago as to how a moving disturbance such as kayakers has a much greater impact on lentic and lotic habitats than does a point source disturbance such as swimmers or fishermen. I felt (and still feel) that the existing kayak usage is ALREADY a compromise from the perspective of wildlife, and I was disappointed when in your original decision you allowed kayaking to start at the iron bridge on Bull Pen Road. I did not complain then, but I must say that this newest alternative demands my condemnation. It is nebulous in its definition of where boating can start, and greatly expands the impact of a very select group of constituents (kayakers) at the detriment of the natural environment.

Revisit and reselect your earlier compromise.

Sincerely,

John Carothers  
Dept. Biology  
Cabrillo College  
Aptos, CA 95003

**Jenny Carothers**  
**<superdoodle@me.com>**

07/29/2011 09:50 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject No on option 12 for Chatooga

Dear People:

Your previous compromise was to allow boating to start at Bull Pen Bridge. I STRONGLY urge you to stand by that earlier decision. It was a compromise between kayakers and everyone else. But your new proposal is not even-handed. You are letting very vocal, well-financed and well-lawyered organization impose their will upon the planning process.

Thanks,  
Jennifer Carothers



**donbettina@aol.com**

08/11/2011 10:12 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Upper Chattooga Watershed

I have lived, hiked and boated in this area since 1986 and first boated and hiked in the area in the mid-70s. I believe that there should be no boating above the Bull Pen Bridge and that another trail above the bridge should not be built.

I believe that the amount of boating proposed on the stretches below Bull Pen is too minimal. The water flows are a limiting enough factor and to limit the time to only three months is too little. Boaters are a very low impact use since most of their travel is on the water.

The entire area from Bull Pen road down to Hwy 28 should be open for boating with Long Bottom being the exit for the Rock Gorge due to the concrete ramp and good parking.

I had thought that all of the river should be open until I river hiked the stretch above Bull Pen Bridge a few weeks back and now I think not. I certainly don't think another trail should be added.

Sincerely,  
Bettina George  
PO Box 70  
Mtn Rest, SC 29664  
[donbettina@aol.com](mailto:donbettina@aol.com)

**Brad Woodford**  
<pbwoodford@gmail.com>

07/29/2011 05:18 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Upper Chattooga

I believe kayaking and canoeing should be allowed on the Upper Chattooga river. It was designated a wild and scenic river to be enjoyed by recreational users. You are unfairly and arbitrarily eliminating a user group who does not impact the resource in any significant way. Please use a fair approach for all users of this resource.

**Michael Moody**  
<[bro@athens.net](mailto:bro@athens.net)>

07/30/2011 09:04 AM

To [comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us)

cc

bcc

Subject: chattooga

Hiking and all other trails could all be designated "one way traffic only" to reduce the amount of visual contact while hiking. Hikers cause erosion and oft times litter.

Horse back riders create similar problems but far worse erosion and are totally abhorrent destroyers of the wilderness when seen by hikers.

Canoers and Kayakers cause no erosion [except at access points which can be mitigated], always go one way and typically spend less time in a given area [faster speeds] than hikers and horse back riders.

To say that no hiker or horse back rider wants to see a kayak is similar to you or I not wanting to share their wilderness experience with ANYONE let alone someone that's not committed to the same method of transportation through these protected areas.

HOWever, if protecting the wilderness area is the prime concern of the USDA Forest Service, then paddlers create less problems to the environment than any other type of personal access. Of course you could just say NO ONE can use the wilderness areas.

STupid decisions have been made before...

Michael

Michael & Christie Moody  
112 Witcher Rd.,  
Carlton, GA 30627  
[bro@athens.net](mailto:bro@athens.net)

**Matt Jordan**  
<matthewgjordan@hotmail.com>

07/30/2011 12:08 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Chattooga Boating ban

What a waste of time and money! Drop the boating ban and move on already. The entire Chattooga should be open to paddling with no restrictions. Use is naturally limited by water levels.

Matt Jordan  
Portland, OR

Harrison  
<jahmetz1@bellsouth.net>

07/30/2011 09:18 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Chattooga River boating ban

Hi,

As the USFS continues to waste millions of dollars on bogus studies of this issue, I have one quick question that you should no doubt be able to answer since you have created mountains of paperwork on this issue. Here it is:

**Why do fishermen and other users deserve a "paddler-free" experience on the Upper Chattooga.**

Here's another: **By whatever logic you answered the previous questions, why cannot paddlers have a "fisherman-free" experience on the Upper Chattooga?**

**In other words, what scientific justification do you offer for giving one user group rights to exclude another?**

It is apparent that you are never going to willingly lift this ban and that legal action is the only recourse paddlers have to be treated fairly and equitably. The unbelievable and unscientific bias exhibited by the USFS in this issue is outrageous, egregious and preposterous!

I know you will disregard my comments as you continue to try to find more justification for your bloated, overburdening bureaucracy. But just for the record, one more time, I agree with all these points made by American Whitewater:

- Paddling should be allowed on all Wilderness and Wild and Scenic rivers, including the upper Chattooga.
- Their preferred alternative (12) is not fair, legal, or justified.
- Alternative 8 is the best and alternative but needs to allow paddling on the entire upper Chattooga and its tributaries, should require indirect limits on all visitors before direct limits are applied, and should not include "scenic boating" or "boat-based angling" in the analysis.
- Paddlers should be able to paddle the entire river as a multi-day trip if desired.
- Your analysis is not reasonable because you treat paddlers inequitably and irrationally.

I'm copying my representatives in Congress.

See you in court,

Harrison Metzger  
Chattooga paddler since 1975

kanagye  
<kanagye@nctv.com>

07/31/2011 07:37 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Chattooga

- Paddling should be allowed on all Wilderness and Wild and Scenic rivers, including the upper Chattooga.
- Their preferred alternative (12) is not fair, legal, or justified.
- Alternative 8 is the best and alternative but needs to allow paddling on the *entire* upper Chattooga and its tributaries, should require indirect limits on all visitors before direct limits are applied, and should not include "scenic boating" or "boat-based angling" in the analysis.
- Paddlers should be able to paddle the entire river as a multi-day trip if desired.
- Their analysis is not reasonable because they treat paddlers inequitably and irrationally.

Mary W  
Morrison/R8/USDAFS

08/01/2011 07:21 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: Wild and Scenic River boundary etc.

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Chattooga Conservancy](#)

**To:** [mshilliard@fs.fed.us](mailto:mshilliard@fs.fed.us)

**Sent:** Thursday, July 28, 2011 10:26 AM

**Subject:** Wild and Scenic River boundary etc.

Mary Sue,

A Mr. R. Wendell Spragins has constructed an impoundment across the headwaters of the Chattooga River in violation of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. District Ranger Wilkins does not agree with this position. His story is that he had a conversation with Mr. Spragins who claimed that he has prescriptive rights because he had constructed the dam prior to Forest Service acquisition of the property. Yet, he did not require proof that this is the truth. Even so, it should be argued that the impoundment is still in violation of federal statutes. I requested that Mike send to me certain documents in the files regarding this matter but he has not fulfilled that request. To the point. Mike does not even know where the Wild and Scenic River Corridor begins and ends. Even the USGS maps are incorrect. The latest EA for the Upper Chattooga User Analysis indicates that the Forest Service considers the Corridor to begin just above Grimshawes Bridge, when in fact, it extends to the top of Silver Slip Falls. I need an official acknowledgment from you stating that this indeed the case.

Concerning the proposal to construct a new access into the Chattooga River at Green Creek, we firmly believe that this proposal without full, specific analysis is in direct and blatant violation of the National Environmental Policy Act. The Chattooga Cliffs reach is the last place left on the whole Chattooga River where there exist the opportunity for solitude. It is also the richest biological area in the river corridor. The inevitable damage to the wildness of this area and to the rich biological habitat from constructing a new access trail, and from braided portage trails and alternate "put ins" created by allowing boating in this area will surely cause irreparable damage to the Chattooga River. I know your response will be to make these comment and I will. However, this is also related to the above request and which makes your response critical.

Buzz Williams, executive director

Chattooga Conservancy  
[info@chattoogariver.org](mailto:info@chattoogariver.org)  
706-782-6097

8 Sequoia Hills Lane  
Clayton, GA 30525



**"mjstapleton"**  
**<mjstapleton@bellsouth.net>**

08/01/2011 06:42 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Keep boaters off Upper Chattooga

As I walked the Bull Pen Road/Horse Cove Road bridge over the Upper Chattooga in the Ellicott Rock Wilderness area, I saw, with a smile of satisfaction on my face, a man and his dog sitting in peace, undisturbed, upstream on rocks at the river's edge. This idyllic scene, forever etched in my memory, will cease to be a possibility if you allow kayaking lobbyists to ruin these last remnants of wilderness. For all of us, just knowing there is a sanctum untouched like this, gives us spiritual sustenance. Please, please preserve it. Where does it stop? Is the next request going to be glass bottom boat tours on the Conasauga?

Marilyn Stapleton, Ph. D.  
Woodstock, GA 30189

**"Carolyn Kidd"**  
**<jikidd@windstream.net>**

08/01/2011 08:00 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Chattooga River Comments

My main comment is that it is a good middle ground compromise, but has a serious Flaw. I spent 30 years with the agency and know what I am talking about. You cannot, let me repeat, cannot enforce the selected alternative. A \$50 dollar fine is absurd. It cost more than that for most boaters to drive to the river. You are fooling yourselves and wasting time and tax dollars to even propose such a foolish alt with a \$50 fine. Get Serious with violations and punishment and it might work.

The camping along the river must be reduced due to intense impacts to the resource. It is worn out and has happened since I started visiting the area 25 years ago. Most of this is from college kids camping in the spring on the weekends. I suggest eliminating camping within 500 feet of the river.

I still strongly support a no boater above Hwy 28, but will accept the preferred alt if it is enforced.

Also, there is no mention of where boats can be put in or taken out. Be specific. Thank You – Jim Kidd – Clayton, Georgia

**CCWALBRIDGE@cs.com**

08/02/2011 05:15 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Upper Chatooga Management Plan Comments

I'm a whitewater paddler who ran the Upper Chatooga in 1974, before the paddling ban was put in place. It has always frustrated me that now, decades later, I'm still unable to return to this beautiful place in my boat. I'm strongly opposed to the recent U.S. Forest Service assessment that continues to bar paddlers from all sections of the Wild and Scenic Chatooga River upstream of the Highway 28 bridge except in unusual circumstances.

The sole reason for this exclusion is the rather bizarre claim that the mere sight or thought of boaters ruins the outdoor experience for other river users. Now I admit that I'm sometimes annoyed or frustrated by people I encounter while on public land. But the land IS public, and my preferences don't give me the right to exclude others. It seems that the U.S. Forest Service is using its vast resources to invent a new management classification that excludes paddlers from areas protected as a Wild and Scenic Rivers or as Wilderness. They should be managing the river for all wilderness-compliant users rather than banning one activity for the exclusive benefit of another.

The current U.S. Forest Service analysis is not reasonable because it treats paddlers inequitably and irrationally. Paddling should be allowed on all Wilderness and Wild and Scenic rivers, including the Upper Chatooga. The preferred alternative (12) is not fair, legal, or justified. Alternative 8 is the best and alternative but needs to be expanded to allow paddling on the entire upper Chatooga and its tributaries. It should require indirect limits on all visitors before direct limits are applied.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlie Walbridge  
1886 Little Sandy Road; Bruceton Mills, WV 26525  
304-379-9002; ccwalbridge@cs.com

**Mary W  
Morrison/R8/USDAFS**

08/02/2011 05:26 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: Public Comment Period on Chattooga EA extended

**Harrison <jahmetz1@bellsouth.net>**

08/01/2011 04:26 PM

To Mary W Morrison <mwmorrison@fs.fed.us>

cc

Subject Re: Public Comment Period on Chattooga EA extended

Yeah, if you keep dragging things out the way you have for the past decade, many of us will be too old and die before we ever get a chance to paddle the Upper Chattooga. Not you personally, but the USFS.

Harrison metzger

On Aug 1, 2011, at 3:38 PM, Mary W Morrison wrote:

The US Forest Service will extend the comment period on the environmental assessment (EA) on *Managing Recreation Uses in the Upper Segment of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River Corridor* by 15 days. Comments are due by Aug. 30, 2011. Comments on the EA and the preferred alternative, Alternative 12, may be e-mailed to [comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us) or surface mailed to:

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

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

<maninfull@sc.rr.com>

08/02/2011 08:17 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Chattooga

Sir or Madam, I oppose opening more of this remote and untouched river to predation by rafters, fishermen, and litter-generators. Leave it like it is and restrict public access to these remaining areas. Rafters have enough now. Or did I read the whole thing wrong and rafters have access to the whole river?

Sincerely,

John A. Huffman

2564 Rainbow Drive

W. Columbia, SC 29170

**virginia carter**  
**<gladersva@yahoo.com>**

08/15/2011 03:07 PM

Please respond to  
virginia carter <gladersva@yahoo.com>

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

cc

bcc

Subject Keep upper segment of Chattahoochee wild and free of  
boaters and kayakers

8-15-2011

Dear Forest Supervisors:

Please cancel and reconsider Alternative 12 of the forest plan for the upper segment of the Chattahoochee Wild and Scenic River. Whitewater boaters of all kinds degrade fish habitat as well as banks of rivers, and do not maintain existing opportunities for solitude.

Thank you for your consideration

Virginia Carter  
475 Glade Rock Springs Rd.  
Clarksville GA 30523

gladersva@yahoo.com

**Douglas Benton**  
**<dbenton98@yahoo.com>**

08/02/2011 08:59 AM

Please respond to  
Douglas Benton <dbenton98@yahoo.com>

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

cc

bcc

Subject Upper Chattooga River Boating Band

To whom it may concern:

My name is Doug Benton. I Live in Franklin, NC. I have been using the Chattooga River for over 18 yrs of my life. I'm 35 yrs old, I love to kayak, and I'm now introducing my 9 yr old son into kayaking. I have have hiked the upper Chattooga area for many yrs and would love to boat the upper section of river. I believe the forest service is wasting american resources on an illegal act. In my opinion if you brake the law, you should have to deal with the punishment. Someone in the Forest Service is using tax payers money to break federal law, preventing the public from using federal land (which is paid for and owned by the United States Citizens). If and when this goes to the highest court. When they rule on this case, whoever is making the calls and causing the laws to be broken should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Whoever these individuals are, are no different than Sen. John Edwards of NC. He miss used funds and is under investigation for doing so. There doesn't even have to be an investigation in the Upper Chattooga Case. The law has already been broken and its time to face judgement.

My family and I plan on using the Chattooga River for the rest of our lives. It would be nice for local communities to use the river for all interest, not just hiking and fishing. It seems to many individuals in the boating community that the forest service is choosing whatever the leaders of it prefer or what the people who are paying them under the table prefer. The shenanigans need to stop. The people want to use their rivers for all recreation, not just what the leaders prefer.

Thank you for taking the time to read my opinion.  
Sincerely,

Doug Benton

**shawn Lancaster**  
<[shawnmmlancaster@yahoo.com](mailto:shawnmmlancaster@yahoo.com)>

08/02/2011 09:58 AM

Please respond to  
shawn Lancaster  
<[shawnmmlancaster@yahoo.com](mailto:shawnmmlancaster@yahoo.com)>

To "comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us"  
<[comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us)>  
cc

bcc

Subject Chattooga River Access

I have been following this case for the past several years and this is the first time I have commented. I am a paddler and a trout fisherman who lives in southeast Tennessee. I think it is ridiculous to ban one party from using the upper and lower sections of the river. Since the Chattooga is designated as a wild and scenic river, everyone should have access including paddlers. During the times when the upper section water level is high enough to allow paddling, chances are fisherman would not even be fishing. I know I don't trout fish when the water levels are high. Please do not allow this to pass, it would be a detriment to all sporting activities. Alternative 8 is the best solution but should include paddling on the entire upper Chattooga section and its tributaries. Paddlers should not be singled out and discriminated against when it comes to access to the Upper Chattooga river.

Thanks,

Dr. Shawn Lancaster



**Steve Daniel**  
<sdaniel@philosophy.tam  
u.edu>

08/02/2011 10:30 AM

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

Subject Upper Chattooga Environmental Assessment

I am a whitewater kayaker who lives in Texas and has paddled the Chattooga River on numerous occasions. For years I have hoped that the Forest Service would allow boaters like me to paddle the upper section of this Wild and Scenic River and its tributaries. I see, however, that the latest UFS Draft Environmental Assessment proposes the adoption of Alternative 12, which unjustifiably excludes paddlers from being able to access this national, public resource. I urge you, instead, to **adopt Alternative 8**, with these changes:

- allow paddling on the entire upper Chattooga and its tributaries
- indirect limits ought to be applied on all visitors before direct limits are applied
- the analysis should not include "scenic boating" or "boat-based angling"
- multi-day trips on the entire river should be allowed

Please do not spend any more money on this ill-conceived effort to ban boaters simply from floating down a river. All Wild and Scenic rivers should be administered consistently--which is exactly what the above modifications of Alternative 8 would provide.

Steve Daniel  
College Station, Texas

**Bill Eley**  
<jeley77@gmail.com>  
08/02/2011 02:58 PM

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

Subject Chattooga comments

To whom it may concern:

I write to comment about your in depth study of the Chattooga River watershed and proposed usage plan. Thank you in advance for your report, which indicates an exceptional effort to protect a remarkable wilderness. I write as a hiker, backpacker and whitewater canoeist, who also respects the rights of all to share in the beauty of the Chattooga River, while maintaining the river and its environs as a "wild and scenic" place. I feel it is your obligation to determine usage that will maintain the integrity of the Chattooga ecology. In fact, if you banned all humans from the river for the foreseeable future, I would understand. I would also ask you to consider all of the users (canoeists, kayakers, anglers, hikers) equally as you determine a use plan. I don't understand a clear rationale for holding part of the river for one group and not another. I would understand keeping the river closed on some days for only one group or another, but keeping one or another of the groups out of an individual section does not seem to be supportable by any of the data provided in the report.

Thanks again for all of your hard work and dedication to the Chatooga. It is a special place on our earth and I greatly appreciate your efforts at preserving it for this and future generations.

With sincere gratitude,

Bill Eley  
647 W Ponce De Leon Ave  
Decatur, GA 30030

**James Hopkins**  
<jimhopone@att.net>

08/02/2011 03:51 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Chattooga River Project

U.S. Forrest Service  
Chattooga River Project

Gentlemen / Ladies:

Speaking for the Mountain Bridge Chapter of Trout Unlimited composed of 470 members, we are opposed to all alternatives being considered presently or in the future that would allow boating of any kind in the main stem or the tributaries of the Chattooga River above the Highway 28 bridge within the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River Corridor.

Sincerely,

James A. Hopkins  
President  
Mountain Bridge Chapter  
Trout Unlimited  
Greenville, SC

**John Ray**  
<johnrraya@gmail.com>

08/02/2011 06:39 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Chattooga River boating

Dear Forest Service:

I oppose boating on any part of the Chattooga River above the Russell Bridge in SC. There are only 16 miles of the River above the Russell Bridge in SC. This is the only area in SC to enjoy a near wilderness experience. You will put boats through the Ellicott Wilderness area and the rest of the area to the south. The experience hikers and backpackers have will thereby be degraded. The boaters have the River below the Russell Bridge and they boat on the West Fork Chattooga and its tributaries. If you give into them this time they will eventually get access to the entire area anytime they want.

Boaters should not be allowed along the 16 mile section from the Russell Bridge to Ellicott Rock. That part of the River should be for foot traffic only, hikers and fishermen.

John Ray  
1190 Old Seneca Rd  
Central, SC 29630

**joedrexler**  
**<joedrexler@bellsouth.net**  
**>**

08/02/2011 07:41 PM

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

cc Renee Drexler <rdrexler2003@comcast.net>, David  
Drexler <daviddrexler@bellsouth.net>, Josh Drexler  
<joshdrexler@hotmail.com>

bcc

Subject Upper Chattooga River Usage

Dear Sirs,

Please do not allow additional boat usage of the upper Chattooga River. Having hiked and fished this area for more than fifty years with my family, it remains as one of the few wild and pristine areas left in the Southeast for everyone to enjoy. Everyone knows what boating would do to the quiet solitude of the area, as well as the fishing quality. I believe that the boaters already have enough water to use. Please stop any change from coming to this area.

Sincerely,

C.J. Drexler, Jr.

155 Underwood Dr.

Sandy Springs, Ga. 30328

**"Doug and Eedee Adams"**  
**<edadams1@windstream.net**

**>**

08/15/2011 01:22 PM

To "Comments 8/15/2011 USFS" <comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>

cc

bcc

Subject Comments on the Environmental Assessment dated July 15, 2011

Attached are my comments.

Doug Adams

PO Box 65



Rabun Gap, GA 30568 Boating Zoning - Letter from Adams 110815.doc

**Doug Adams**  
**PO Box 65**  
**Rabun Gap, GA 30568**  
August 15, 2011

Comments on the Upper Chattooga EA  
C/o USDA Forest Service Supervisor's Office  
4931 Broad River Road  
Columbia, SC 29212

E-mailed to: [comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us).

Attn: Paul Bradley - Forest Supervisor

Subject: Comments on the Environmental Assessment dated July 15, 2011

Dear Paul,

In my opinion, the Forest Service (FS) designed and conducted a professional, comprehensive, and fair User Capacity Analysis. I am hopeful that future management will bring to an end the further deterioration of the biophysical resources in the riparian areas and, when the new management plan is implemented, will restore the areas that have been abused and overused.

Thank you for the EA's Chapter 2 discussion of monitoring and adaptive management, with clarification and examples. I am especially pleased that the process will establish limits of acceptable change that will protect and enhance the backcountry solitude and wildness experience for future generations.

Also I wish to express my appreciation to the FS for attempting to involve all affected and interested parties in the analysis process through outreach using the media, the FS website and public meetings. I believe it was very important for all the stakeholders, not just the organized boaters and the anglers, to have opportunities to express their opinions, desired condition needs, and vision for the future of the Chattooga North Fork.

The FS planners considered what the various stakeholders contributed, the data collected, the appeal decision, recent litigation, and the overarching legal requirements of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the Wilderness Act when they were designing the preferred alternative (#12) with zoning stipulations to minimize conflicts between existing visitors and boaters, avoiding the overuse and user conflicts that have plagued the lower Chattooga for decades. It was those conflicts that displaced me from the lower Chattooga. I was seeking solitude and undisturbed waters but instead I experienced interference and conflict. Zoning ensures that different and conflicting types of users are physically separated. Zoning is a time tested, fair, and legal land and water management practice. Zoning of conflicting activities is good stewardship.

I would rather the preferred alternative had been Alternative #3 (*continue current zoning of the river to provide high-quality whitewater opportunities on the lower segment and the West Fork/Overflow Creek of the Chattooga WSR and to provide cold water angling and other recreational opportunities on the North Fork without the impacts of boating use*), but I can accept Alternative #12.

More importantly, Alternative #12 upholds and preserves the ability to zone public recreational water corridors for all federal agencies (USFS, NPS, BLM and USF&WS) by section of stream, by time of year, by type of craft, and by maximum group sizes (for hiking, camping, angling & boating). To maintain the quality of experience for all visitors and/or protect riparian resources, zoning of public recreational water corridors is absolutely necessary now and in the future.

The preferred alternative, as I understand it, will establish backcountry capacities that do not cause encounters to exceed levels that currently occur during the high-use season. It will reduce campsite density to increase opportunities for solitude and limit camping to designated sites. All trails will be designated and designed to mitigate resource impacts first, as well as enhancing opportunities for solitude. It recognizes the value of in-stream large woody debris and prohibits its removal, particularly in the North Fork tributaries. The preferred alternative also provides boaters with an expanded opportunity for challenging Chattooga headwaters boating in a solitude setting and with flexibility for boaters to float the river at flow levels most appropriate for their skill level and experience.

I agree and support the FS position that boating through the private land upstream of the Green Creek confluence would be trespassing. I also believe wade-fishing a stream through private property, without express permission of the landowner, is trespassing and subject to legal prosecution.

In the EA cover letter dated July 15, 2011 you asked for feedback on the EA and preferred alternative. Following you will find my two suggestions:

1. **I believe the 2 boating sessions in the preferred alternative should be reversed.** I suggest you make the boating from Burrell's Ford to Lick Log Creek (SC – not to be confused with the Lick Log Creek below Highway 28 on the GA side) available from Dec.1 to Jan.15 and the boating from Green Creek to Burrell's Ford available from Jan.16 to Mar.1.
  - I believe there would be fewer in-stream angler-boater encounters if the sessions are flipped because backcountry angling activity below Burrell's Ford begins to increase in February.  
Citation: EA Page 79 - "These same Use Estimation Workshop estimates show that anglers spend the least amount of time in the **Chattooga Cliffs Reach from November through April**; in the **Ellicott Rock Reach from September through February**; in the **Rock Gorge from December through January** and from June through September; and in the **Delayed Harvest from June through September and January through February**." (emphasis added)
  - I believe the average river water flow would be more favorable for boating if the sessions are flipped. The river reach below Burrell's Ford is boatable in lower flows and has a wider range

of boatable flows. The river reach above Burrell's Ford needs more flow for boating and has a narrower flow range. On average, flow is lowest during the first session.

Citation: EA Page 50 - Figure 3.1-1 Mean Monthly Flow (cfs) for the Chattooga River at Highway 76 (period of record from 1939-2010) Dec – 650 cfs; Jan – 770 cfs; Feb - 840 cfs

Citation: EA Page 75 - Figure 3.2.1-1 Flow Range Bars for Fishing and Whitewater Boating Opportunities on the Upper Segment of the Chattooga WSR (Whittaker and Shelby 2007).

“While more technical, low-flow boating is available as low as 200 to 250 cfs (depending on the river reach), whitewater boaters would rather paddle flows that have fewer boatability problems and more challenging whitewater.”

- I believe that there could be a parking problem at the Thrift Lake Trailhead on weekends because boaters coming from Burrell's Ford plus anglers, hikers and campers will be using the same small parking area. Flipping the sections/sessions will provide some relief (I believe fewer people will boat, camp, hike and fish the Dec - Jan 15 session).

Citation: EA Page 76 – Lick Log confluence: “It is accessible by trail from the Thrift Lake trailhead (about 0.75 miles, all downhill) - - ”

- As a long time Chattooga backcountry angler, I know that the wild brown trout are above Burrell's Ford and there are rainbow trout and brown trout below Burrell's Ford. I also know that rainbow trout are more likely to feed in the middle of the day.

Citation: EA Page 79 - Angling “- - - in winter, the best times are the middle of the day when the sun has raised temperatures slightly.”

Therefore, when we get those warm sunny days in February, I (and other anglers seeking solitude) like to go to the backcountry below Burrell's Ford, maybe down to the Island/Nugget area or The Steps or Big Bend if the water level is not too high. I believe there would be fewer in-stream encounters if the sessions are reversed. Reducing encounters from the outset by reversing the sessions would also be better for future generations.

**2. I believe the penalty for boaters poaching-a-run should be increased and posted at put-ins.** The fines should be high enough to be a deterrent. This deterrent is especially needed if boaters are expected to takeout and uphill portage at Lick Log Creek (SC side). The boaters are well aware that when they self-register and then poach-a-run above Highway 28, the fine is only \$50 (the same as the fine for a dog off a leash) - - - **IF** they get caught. This is less than the cost of a tank of gas for their car. A weekday raft trip on Section III is \$85. The lowest cost ticket to this year's Clemson-Auburn football game is \$160. In comparison, the USFS - SC fine for fishing without a license is \$150.

In Rabun County, some of the State fines for trout fishing violations are posted at Moccasin Creek State Park. For a GA resident trout fishing without a license and trout stamp, the fine is \$155. For a non-resident, the fine is \$290. For continuing to fish after keeping the limit of 8 trout, the fine is \$226. Fines of those amounts and posted in this manner are deterrents (see below).



| <b>Current Fines</b>                                          |                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <u>Fishing Without License (O.C.G.A. 27-2-1)</u>              |                 |
| Georgia Resident                                              | <b>\$ 77.50</b> |
| Non-Resident                                                  | <b>\$145.00</b> |
| <u>Fishing Without a Trout Stamp (O.C.G.A. 27-2-6)</u>        |                 |
| Georgia Resident                                              | <b>\$ 77.50</b> |
| Non-Resident                                                  | <b>\$145.00</b> |
| <u>Possession Trout Without Stamp (O.C.G.A. 27-2-6)</u>       |                 |
|                                                               | <b>\$113.75</b> |
| <u>Continuing to Fish After Limit (O.C.G.A. 27-1-3-e)</u>     |                 |
|                                                               | <b>\$226.00</b> |
| <u>Age Violation on Moccasin Creek (O.C.G.A. 29-2-4-3-07)</u> |                 |
|                                                               | <b>\$367.50</b> |



Obviously, a \$50 fine for illegal boating above Highway 28 is too small to be a deterrent to poaching-a-run and interfering with the activities and/or spoiling the backcountry experiences of all other in-stream visitors between the bridges. It appears the Forest Supervisors could issue specific orders that could raise the fine to \$250 or more for illegal boating above Highway 28. The penalty for the 2<sup>nd</sup> offense should include confiscation of equipment. I believe penalties of this magnitude and posted at the river put-ins would be a deterrent.

I believe that the FS's preferred alternative is a compromise that is fair to all stakeholders. It is obvious that not all recreation activities are compatible. Stewardship encompasses far more than picking up litter; it includes the protection of the aesthetic values of natural resources such as remoteness and wildness, the proper regard for the rights of others to solitude, and the responsibility of preserving these values intact for future generations. I believe the zoning stipulations in Alternative #12, if properly enforced, will provide good protection for the Chattooga North Fork backcountry's Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV) of solitude and remoteness for present and future generations.

Thank you for giving consideration to my comments. Very simply, my vision for the Chattooga North Fork river corridor is for a place where present and future generations can experience solitude, remoteness and wildness that is free of user conflicts.

Sincerely, Doug Adams - A visitor to the Chattooga North Fork since 1955

**Anne or Dave Perrin**  
**<adperrin@yahoo.com>**

08/03/2011 12:52 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject upper Chattooga

Comments:

Allowing boating is desired outcome.

The season for boating should be extended by 2 months.

All sections should be open for floating at the same time.

Dave Perrin  
192 Windy Hill rd.  
Mountain Rest, SC 29664

**Gary Grossman**  
<gdgrossman@gmail.com>

08/03/2011 02:35 PM

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

Subject Chatooga plan

I support Option 12 put forward by the USDA Forest Service for the Chatooga River. This is the fairest option for all concerned and has both fishers and boaters making sacrifices. I am greatly concerned about how enforcement will occur, especially with respect to boaters running the river outside of the allocated times and flows. All one has to do is look at the online web site Boater Talk to know that boaters already are illegally running the river and indeed view this as a trophy. There must be additional personnel if this option is put into place to ensure the safety of the public. cheers,

--

Gary D. Grossman, PhD

Professor of Animal Ecology  
Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources  
University of Georgia  
Athens, GA, USA 30602

Research & teaching web site - <http://grossman.myweb.uga.edu/>

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Sculpture by Gary D. Grossman  
[www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/album.php?aid=2002317&id=1348406658](http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/album.php?aid=2002317&id=1348406658)

Hutson Gallery Provincetown, MA - [www.hutsongallery.net/artists.html](http://www.hutsongallery.net/artists.html)

**Erick Singh**  
<ericksingh79@yahoo.com>  
m>

08/03/2011 03:11 PM

Please respond to  
Erick Singh <ericksingh79@yahoo.com>

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

cc

bcc

Subject leave the Chattooga untouched

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to voice my opinion that the stretch of the Chattooga River from Green Creek in North Carolina to Burrells Ford on the South Carolina-Georgia border should remain unused by boaters. There are already ample river areas which allow boating while not needing to use this portion. Its not that I'm against boating per say. Where I see the danger is along with this plan there, there will be creation of more in roads and established camp grounds which will allow even more of the "tourist" types that could care less about the ecosystem that is established there. I don't want to see the Chattooga end up like what I saw in the Congaree. Everywhere I looked in that river, I saw massive amounts of trash such as beer cans, Styrofoam coolers and such along the banks and sunk in the river. It would break my heart to see one of the last great truly wild areas in SC go down like that. I go there quite a bit and on a personal level to get away from the day to day grind of everyday life and to enjoy nature and solitude. It would be heartbreaking if future generations lost the opportunity to enjoy this great area.

Sincerely,

Erick Singh, MD

**jmcwatty@gogenesis.com**

08/03/2011 04:39 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Please leave the Chattooga as is

To whom it May concern,

First of all let me say that I do not have a problem nor am I against the idea of boating in the Chattooga. However, I feel that opening up the Last truly wild and scenic area of the river will cause the loss of such a natural treasure. I usually take five to six backpacking/camping trips there each year in Either NC, GA, and SC. My biggest fear to opening more sections is the ecological impacts that will surely come with this. The way I see this plan, it will have to include more in roads and campgrounds, which will give greater access to these areas to the "tourist" crowd. These people have no clue what leave no trace means. I already pack out more than I take in when visiting the sections which have easier access. I really feel that if it becomes even more accessible I will begin to see things similar to what I see when I hike in Congaree National Park. This would include but is not limited to trash along the banks of the river and old beer cans submerged in the river itself. It would truly break my heart to see the Chattooga River end up this way. I feel as this place is my home away from home and I treat it as such. Furthermore, the addition of in roads and campsites would completely disrupt the ecosystem which has developed there since May 10, 1974. This would in turn force the migration of the animals in the area and or cause a rise in human and animals crossing paths, which could end tragically for both. Lastly, I feel that the best parts of the river for boating are already open. Opening the other sections even on a limited basis is unnecessary. Please leave the Chattooga as is and let those of us who seek solitude and nature continue to enjoy it and pass it down to the next generations.

Sincerely,

Jeremy McWatty

**TJS**  
**<utwspfan@yahoo.com>**

08/03/2011 09:42 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject

Hello,

I am writing to express my concern over the USFS plans to continue the ban on whitewater paddling on the Upper Chattooga River. Although I currently live in Eastern Washington State, the Upper Chattooga River remains an important river for me to one day share with my son. I firmly believe that ALL Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers should remain open to whitewater paddling as the sport has NO negative impacts on the waterways. In fact, avid outdoorsmen and whitewater boaters like myself play an important role in cleaning up trash from our waterways. I believe this river should be open to non-motorized use from its headwaters down to its lower reaches. Multiday trips should be allowed, even if only by permit. Further, I believe that USFS Preferred Alternative 12 is unfair, illegal, unjustified, and against the USFS mantra of open access for recreational activities. In times like these everyday people like myself are allowed few places of respite, and the Upper Chattooga is one of those places. It is completely unreasonable and unpatriotic to discriminate against non-motorized boaters (whitewater kayakers) on the Upper Chattooga.

Thank you,

Timothy Smith  
803 E Sierra Ave  
Spokane, WA 99208

**Jerome Walker**  
<jeromewalker@mac.com>

08/11/2011 07:25 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject boating on upper Chattooga River

I'm writing to strongly urge you not to allow boating upstream of the Rte. 28 bridge on the Chattooga River. The headwaters of the Chattooga are surrounded by the Ellicott Rock Wilderness, an area I've hiked in on more than one occasion. Although I enjoy whitewater canoeing myself, I believe that allowing boating in this sensitive area would be a clear violation of the 1964 Wilderness Act and would result in harmful and excessive human impacts in a place that deserves to be protected in its' current wild state. Sincerely, Jerome Walker, MD

Jason Terry  
<terryjason@me.com>

08/10/2011 08:13 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Upper Chattooga Paddling Ban

Dear Forest Service,

The revised paddling ban on the Upper Chattooga is a very prejudice and somewhat insulting to everybody in the Southeastern kayak community. Boaters are singled out as the only people who cause some disturbance to other enjoyers of the outdoors, when in reality, boaters stay in the same place for the shortest amount of time. Fishermen stay in one spot for a long time and hikers not only are slower than boaters but they also disrupt the flora and fauna more than boaters. How is it logical that the only people who have basically no impact on the natural surroundings and simply float by them instead of breaking or stepping on plants or actually removing and potentially eating animals from their natural habitat are the only people who are not allowed to be in this place? Also, very few boaters are capable of boating this section of river and with the current flows, it is only boatable a handful of days of the year when the flows are higher than most other people will be out and enjoying the river, so the chances of boaters actually seeing others is very low. I am a sixteen year old kayaker who would like nothing more to be able to paddle this world class river that is very close to my house. While other teenagers my age are turning to drugs or alcohol or just sitting in front of a TV getting fat, I would like nothing more to be out with my dad in the outdoors enjoying nature and the high-adrenaline fun of the Upper Chattooga. Your paddling ban is simply a completely unjustified and irrational decision that hurts more people than it could ever help. The only Alternative that is even close to fair is Alternative 8 and even that should be revised to include being able to float the entire river and tributaries, even overnight if desired. Please consider our standpoint and how targeted the paddling community feels, and then reconsider the Alternative you have chosen.

Sincerely,  
Jason Terry



Marshall.Spencer@jci.com

08/04/2011 09:26 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Draft Environmental Assessment for Upper Chattooga River - public comment

August 4, 2011

In response to the invitation for public comment by the U.S. Forest Service, Francis-Marion- and Sumter National Forests, I submit the following comment IN FAVOR of allowing boating above the highway 28 bridge on the Upper Chattooga River:

The U.S. Forest Service recently released a Draft Environmental Assessment aimed at continuing the 35 year-old ban on paddling (canoeing, kayaking, and rafting) on the Upper Chattooga River in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. The agency is essentially trying to invent a new management practice that excludes paddlers. The area is already protected as a Wild and Scenic River and as a Wilderness Area. These designations protect my right to legally float our nation's wildest rivers. The U.S. Forest Service must not be allowed to redefine and weaken the Wilderness Act and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to exclude paddlers.

Here are some facts pertaining to this issue. Please bear with me here, as all of these facts are pertinent:

- I am an avid whitewater canoeist ( paddler) living within a 5-hour drive of the Upper Chattooga River
- The Upper Chattooga River offers a high-quality recreational-paddling experience and would be a popular destination, but the best whitewater sections are off-limits to paddlers. This is a highly-unusual management policy for a National Wild and Scenic River
- All recreational paddlers are excluded by the Forest Service from paddling the Upper Chattooga.
- Paddling, as a recreational activity, is allowed implicitly on National Wild and Scenic Rivers (ref. National Wild and Scenic Rivers website home page: <http://www.rivers.gov>)
- The management of the Upper Chattooga upstream of highway 28 should not be an exception to the intent of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Recreational use of these rivers is specifically mentioned in the following description of the act which created the System: ***"The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System was created by Congress in 1968 (Public Law 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.) to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations."*** - <http://www.rivers.gov>
- The US Forest Service analysis is not reasonable because it singles out paddlers for inequitable treatment.
- The combined recreational use of the Upper Chattooga as a trout fishery and as a paddling venue is feasible, and there are many benchmarks available for comparison. As one example of established compatibility, I offer the Hiwassee River in the Cherokee National Forest in East Tennessee. It is a state scenic river which allows highly-rated trout fishing (wading and boat) and whitewater paddling.
- The US Forest Service preferred alternative (12) is not fair, legal, or justified. It is in direct opposition to the intent of the act which created the System.
- Alternative (8) is the best alternative but it needs to allow paddling on the entire upper Chattooga and its tributaries. Further, it should require indirect limits on all visitors before direct limits are

- applied and should not include "scenic boating" or "boat-based angling" in the analysis
- Paddlers should be able to paddle the entire river as a multi-day trip if desired

The U.S. Forest Service is spending millions of dollars trying to ban the simple act of floating down a river. I oppose Alternative (12) and support of Alternative (8) as described above, which will allow paddling on the Upper Chattooga River upstream of highway 28.

Respectfully submitted by

Marshall Spencer

178 Totty Hollow Lane

Duck River, TN 38454

marshall.spencer@jci.com

Direct phone: 931.424.7875

**Nathan Zumwalt**  
<nathanzumwalt@yahoo.com>

08/04/2011 09:52 AM

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

Subject Re: Chattooga River Boating Access

Dear Sir or Madam:

I recently arranged a boating trip down the Chattooga with my friends. It had been a dream of mine for some time to enjoy a canoe-camping trip down this beautiful, historic river. I was shocked when I arrived to discover how limited the boating access was. We were only "allowed" to navigate a short section of river. I have never experienced this before on a public waterway. (especially a protected Wild and Scenic River!!) I am a twenty-year veteran canoeist, and a leave-no-trace instructor. I couldn't think of a reason in the world why I shouldn't have the right to complete my dream of floating down this river in its entirety. As my whitewater skills have increased, I hope one day to continue even through section IV and complete the naive, bucolic dream Burt Reynolds once attempted. :)

As I understand it, the US Forest Service preferred alternative (12) is not fair, legal, or justified. Alternative 8 seems to be the best alternative but paddling should be allowed on all Wilderness and Wild and Scenic rivers, including the upper Chattooga and its tributaries. Paddlers should be able to paddle the entire river as a multi-day trip if desired and *if necessary*, the forest service should require indirect limits on all visitors before direct limits are applied, and should not single-out "scenic boating" or "boat-based angling" in their analysis.

From Rock climbing to picnicking to birdwatching, our publicly owned natural areas have a long history of supporting multiple user groups and almost always equitably and harmoniously. Please do not allow the Forest Service to waste taxpayer dollars to exclude a historically significant user group. This sets a horrible precedent which could affect and exclude users of all stripes nationwide.

The Chattooga is a historic and beautiful publicly protected land. Let the people care for and enjoy it.

--Nathan Zumwalt  
43 Fifth Avenue  
Asheville, NC 28806

**John Sherman**  
<jstrailrunner@gmail.com>

08/04/2011 10:59 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Access to the Chattooga

August 3, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Please excuse my frankness but we are at the eleventh hour and rational minds have not prevailed. It's inconceivable this debate, this request for access to the Chattooga, is still taking place. The arguments against access are weak, at best. And why those individuals with the opportunity to allow minimally impacting boaters on the beautiful river, deny them their God given right, boggles the mind.

The decision to limit access was done in a time of limited understanding, with disregard to other nature loving Americans. Many years ago a mistake was made, it is now time to rectify, to set right an error made with poor judgment. Now certain individuals, fearful of change are fighting out of obstinacy, without a sincere effort to understand or make the changes that are long overdue.

Fishermen, and some of these points apply to hikers:

- Walk all over the land, making spur trails where they see fit.
- Fishermen have their lines and hooks hung up on trees, and leave them there.
- As evidenced by the broken/cut branches and limbs, they have the right to cut and blaze trails.
- As evidenced by their trash, worms come in foam containers.
- As evidenced by their trash, many smoke.
- As evidenced by their trash, many like to drink beer.
- As evidenced by their trash, their main diet comes in paper bags.
- As evidenced by their trash, they are not allowed to return home with trash in their cars.

Kayakers:

- Get in their boats and don't like to get out.
- Do not need to walk on trails, cut branches or limbs.
- Do not tend to eat while on the river.
- Their personal water bottle is their main source of hydration.
- Do not smoke while paddling.
- Do not leave lines or for that matter any gear behind.
- Have been paddling many rivers, with significantly less evidence of an impact than fishermen or hikers.

But, you all already know this.

This section of the Chattooga, due to its distance and type of rapids will not receive a significant impact due to the numbers of paddlers.

This is not an issue of coexistence. Except for sharing the parking lots, paddlers and fishermen would not be hindrance either party while enjoying their respective sport.

The ironic thing is, there is a stronger argument for prohibiting fisherman and hikers than for denying access to paddlers.

The time is now to right a wrong. Too much time, too much money has been spent on an issue which should have resolved years ago, without acrimony, for the best of all nature loving persons.

Respectfully,

John Sherman  
828-299-8095  
335 Ridge View Dr.  
Asheville, NC 28803

**Geoff Page**  
<geoffingeorgia@hotmail.com>

08/04/2011 11:14 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Chattooga River Ban and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to support the equal access of boaters to the upper Chattooga.

Having grown up in the area of the Chattooga River and being a frequent visitor to this day, I can assure you that MUCH more damage is done by fishermen and foot campers attempting river access than any spot highly used by boaters. The sections in question are already capable of self-regulating, as well, in that the low water levels appropriate for fishing are incompatible for boating, and the high level needed for boating results in water undesirable for (and even dangerous for) anglers.

Moreover the amount of garbage (lost hooks, discarded fishing-line and broken glass), foliage impact and deforestation are clearly the refuse of locals and fishermen, much more sedentary in their activities than boaters. As well, anglers have access to dozens of smaller, more remote waterways that boaters will never have access to or want of.

The Upper section is a highly technical river, usable by only a very small portion of boaters, and the boating ban stands in stark contrast to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act stated purpose of maintaining the quality and character of the natural river, while preserving the river for recreation.

In dozens of trips on foot and by boat along all sections of this gorgeous river I have never seen one instance where boaters impeded the pursuits of anglers, yet have seen almost every time where anglers, locals and campers have abandoned sharp hooks, broken bottles, trash, plastic, ruptured inner tubes, ruptured angling floats, rods, clothing, toilet paper, improperly snuffed fires, ugly (and illegally) harvested wood and countless other embarrassing evidence. Likewise I have never seen, nor hear tell of USFS policing or cleaning these areas or issuing fines to the abusers. Yet, for unexplained, unjustifiable reasons boaters are chosen for exclusion to this area.

Contrary to the incomprehensible ideas of some, there is no "Big Money" force behind this. No commercial boating is encouraged by anyone and no one stands to make a profit from allowing boaters their legal equality on this river.

I have contacted my Senator and Representative to help encourage you to make the right decision, by returning access to all users, and encourage others to do so as well, and additionally encourage ALL users to be better stewards of the land and waters they frequent.

Yours,  
Robert Geoffrey Page

**Mark Zakutansky**  
<mzakutan@gmail.com>

08/04/2011 12:36 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Upper Chattooga Recreation Management Comments

To Whom it May Concern:

I am avid hiker, fisherman, boater, hiker and camper that lives in Pennsylvania and travels around the country to enjoy my recreational pursuits.

I am submitting the following comments in support of an equitable use of the Upper Chattooga River that includes whitewater boating.

I believe that paddling should be allowed on all Wilderness and Wild and Scenic rivers, including the upper Chattooga. Furthermore, the preferred alternative (12) is not fair, legal, or justified in my opinion. Alternative 8 is the best alternative but needs to allow paddling on the *entire* upper Chattooga and its tributaries, should require indirect limits on all visitors before direct limits are applied, and should not include "scenic boating" or "boat-based angling" in the analysis. Paddlers should be able to paddle the entire river as a multi-day trip if desired. The analysis conducted appears to treat paddlers inequitably and irrationally, compared to other recreational users.

Thank you very much for the inclusion of these comments in the public record. I would like to be included in future updates on this effort by the USFS.

Sincerely,

Mark Zakutansky  
871 Stony Mountain Rd.  
Albrightsville, PA 18210  
[mzakutan@gmail.com](mailto:mzakutan@gmail.com)

**Jeni Williams**  
<jeniwilliams36@yahoo.com>  
m>

08/04/2011 12:42 PM

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| Please respond to<br>Jeni Williams <jeniwilliams36@yahoo.com> |
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To "comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us"  
<comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us>  
cc

bcc

Subject Ban on paddling upper Chattooga River

I am writing in regards to the recently published 500-page manifesto aimed at continuing the 35 year old ban on paddling the upper Chattooga and other Wilderness and Wild Scenic Rivers. Personally, I am disappointed at the waste of Federal funding and the prejudice against paddlers.

I was practically raised on the upper Chattooga River. My family followed the Pack It In/ Pack It Out mantra fully. I never imagined there was a set of people that were bent out of shape for our being out there on the water. To me this is a basic right that anyone should be allowed to paddle the ENTIRE Chattooga and it's tributaries, and be able to make it a multi-day trip, as I did many times.

Please do not prohibit my children and my grandchildren from their heritage.

Regards,  
Jennifer Ferguson  
706-566-7152