



## United States Department of the Interior



### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

176 Croghan Spur Road, Suite 200  
Charleston, South Carolina 29407

January 9, 2012

Mr. Paul L. Bradley  
Forest Supervisor  
USDA- Forest Service  
Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests  
4931 Broad River Road  
Columbia, SC 29212

Re: Biological Assessment- Managing Recreational Uses on the Upper Segment of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River Corridor  
Sumter National Forest, Chattahoochee National Forest, Nantahala National Forest  
FWS Log No. 2012-I-0096

Dear Mr. Bradley:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the biological assessment for the proposed project. The preferred alternative would allow non-commercial boating on approximately 17 miles of the 21-mile main stem of the upper segment of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River Corridor December 1 to April 30 from the Green Creek confluence downstream to a designated take out within one-quarter mile downstream of the Lick Log Creek confluence. Boating would be allowed from the time that flows reach 350 cfs or greater at the USGS Burrells Ford gauge during daylight hours (30 minutes before official sunrise to 30 minutes after official sunset).

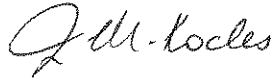
According to the biological assessment, the federally endangered rock gnome lichen (*Gymnoderma lineare*), was located within the main stem of the Chattooga River north of the confluence with Fowler Creek in an inaccessible area with minimal existing recreational use. Onsite informal consultation with the Service was completed in early October 2007. The population occurs in a protected shelf of the river. It is anticipated that the introduction of boating along with other recreational activities within this area of the river is unlikely to result in trampling impacts.

Based on our review and the information received, the Service concurs with the determination that the proposed project will have no effect on *Gymnoderma lineare* in South Carolina. Please note that obligations under the Endangered Species Act must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action may affect any listed species or critical habitat in a manner not previously considered; (2) this action is subsequently modified in a

manner, which was not considered in this assessment; or (3) a new species is listed or critical habitat is designated that may be affected by the identified action.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Morgan Wolf at (843) 727-4707, ext. 219 and reference FWS Log No. 2012-I-0096.

Sincerely,



*for*

Jay B. Herrington  
Field Supervisor

JBH/MKW



From: (843) 727-4707  
 Sharon Denton  
 DEPT OF INT'L US FISH & WILDLIFE  
 176 Crogan Spur Rd, Ste 200  
 Charleston, SC 29407



Origin ID: CHSA

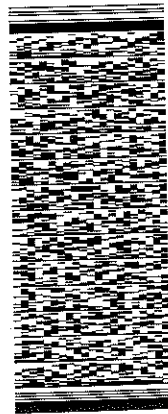


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