

I, Jim Barrett, being first duly sworn, depose and say:

1. I am a citizen and resident of Rockport, TX.
2. I am competent and have personal knowledge of the matters discussed herein.
3. I served as USDA Forest Service ("USFS") title District Ranger for the Andrews Pickens Ranger District of the Sumter National Forest in the Walhalla, South Carolina office beginning in 1972. As such, I was responsible for timber, recreation, wildlife and general forest management in the district, including management of the portion of the Chattooga River that flowed through the District.
4. I served with USFS for six years in the USFS regional office in Atlanta. I then transferred to Louisiana and retired in 1987. Although I lived in the Atlanta area during this period I had regular opportunity to observe the Chattooga River and its uses before and after its designation as a Wild and Scenic River and still visit the river. I also had the opportunity during my 23 years of work with the USFS to travel to and observe forests and rivers throughout the Southeast.
5. During the course of my employment with the Andrew Pickens Ranger District, the UFS was conducting its study of the portions of the Chattooga River that were being considered for designation as a Wild and Scenic River and I had responsibility to assist with that study.
6. As part of its study, the USFS held a number of public forums to receive input from the general public, and various user interests and groups participated. We also discussed at these public forums proposed changes to the historic practices the USFS had used to manage the area, including the proposed zoning of the river for boating below Highway 28.
7. After much study and consideration of the public comments, we recommended and the USFS approved the use zoning that is still in place, and that I understand is currently being challenged.
8. In my opinion, based on 30 years of professional forestry experience in the Southeast and years of personal experience enjoying the Chattooga river
 - a. The portion of the Chattoga River above Highway 28 is unique in the Southeast in terms of the quality of its wilderness solitude experience, and the quality of its wilderness hiking, nature watching, fly fishing and other outstanding recreational experience;
 - b. lifting the ban on boating above Highway 28 will damage the unique wilderness solitude experience and quality of wilderness Hiking, nature watching, fly fishing and other outstanding

recreational experience above Highway 28. Boaters already have access to the majority of the river and their usage of the river has impacted the quality of usage by non-boaters. Therefore it is fair to protect the interest in solitude and outstanding recreation experience of non-boaters in the remaining section. In short, there is no legitimate, valid reason to allow boating from Burrells Ford to Highway 28, or from even further upriver as some suggest; and

- c. given its limited budget, the USFS has done an excellent job of managing the Wild and Scenic Area of the Chattooga River, having a bright line demarcation between boating and non-boating areas has made that job easier, and maintaining the existing status quo would help the USFS continue to manage this unique resource for the benefit of all users.

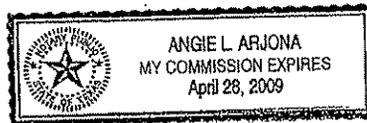
Further, Affiant sayeth not.


Jim Barrett

Sworn to and subscribed before me
This 30 day of

March, 2006


Notary Public



My Commission Expires

4-28-09