From:	Glenn Murer
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Chattooga River
Date:	08/17/2008 01:13 PM

Dear USFS:

Should the use of the upper Chattooga River be changed based on the will of an organization with the sole purpose of promoting whitewater boating? I, for one, don't think so. Even though I include myself among the many good people who enjoy rafting and kayaking, it doesn't make sense to open up a remote and pristine wilderness area just to appease the membership of American Whitewater. Boaters have been accommodated by the Forest Service with many beautiful miles of river throughout the region. There is no shortage of boating opportunities. However, there are not many areas remaining with the qualities of the upper Chattooga. Why not leave it the way it's been for decades so those seeking a more remote experience will have a place to go? Will the needs of those currently enjoying the upper Chattooga be overlooked because they're not organized and can't send email blasts to members, thereby generating hundreds of letters from all over the US? It seems to me that American Whitewater wants access to this part of the river for one reason, because it's something they don't already have. I suppose this is their purpose. Like a greedy and spoiled child who keeps sticking their hand in the cookie jar, they need to be told enough is enough.

You (The Forest Service) have been put in the position of trying to please all parties. It's your mandate to see that everyone has fair and equitable access to our public lands. Seemingly, you are doing your best to find a compromise. I submit to you that compromise has already taken place and that your work was done correctly some 30-years ago when you initiated the current boating ban. Please don't let AW's membership, many of whom have never set foot in the area, unduly influence your decision. They should not be able to dictate the future that we must live with.

Glenn Murer

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