From:	Ronnie Dilbeck
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Chattooga River Comment
Date:	08/18/2008 10:22 PM
Attachments:	Marshwater.doc

Marshwater Company

Dear Sumter National Forest,

My name is Ronnie Dilbeck. I am a geologist and wetland scientist out of Franklin, NC. I have worked for seven years to restore and preserve as many hydrologic features as possible throughout North Georgia and Western North Carolina. It is a passion I have cherished since a small child. I understand that watershed preservation is of the utmost reverence to the human race. The diversity within a river corridor remains unmatched compared to any other geographical setting. Most importantly, a healthy watershed along with its abutting wetlands, ensure clean water for the future. Wild and Scenic Chattooga River and the Sumter National Forest have taken steps the right direction in the preservation of these vital systems.

I feel that the entire Chattooga Watershed should be open to all non-motor powered watercraft. I support alternate eight (8). As an avid fisherman and kayaker I feel there is no ecological harm from whitewater kayaks and canoes within the river corridor. The flows needed for the passage of a whitewater craft would most defiantly not be ideal for trout fishing. Besides, on days when the Chattooga River is at high flows that leaves fisherman the benefit of fishing in the tributaries for native fish which otherwise would be much to low. I appreciate your time and please feel free to contact me if I could be of further service.

Sincerely,

Ronnie Dilbeck
Marshwater Company
P.O. Box 284
Franklin, NC 28744

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