From: Gail Smith
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: US Forest Service request for comments re Pre-Decisional EA for the Chattooga River Project, Support for Alternative 4
Date: 08/18/2008 07:11 PM

Thank you for providing this opportunity to respond to the USFS request. As a seasoned fly fisherman who caught his first trout on a fly deep in the wilderness of the North Maine Woods in 1947, I am happy to respond. Having witnessed what has evolved in the Allagash Scenic River Waterway over the last 50 years, I feel qualified to comment.

The wilderness to which I was introduced is forever gone, but controlled use of that magnificent area has provided access to millions, while at the same time minimizing negative environmental impact and adverse user conflict.

I commend the USFS for methodically seeking input from varying points of view on how to insure multiple access while minimizing negative impact on one of the few remaining wilderness treasures in the Eastern US. Based on my reading of the Draft EA I concur with the recommendation of Alternative 4. It is a compromise that is fair to all interested users while at the same time protecting against unduly favoring a single interest group.

Thank you again for this opportunity to comment.
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