From: Margaret Weise
Reply To: margweise@yahoo.com
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc: akimbell@fs.fed.us
Subject: Support of Alternative #8 - Stand by the Appeal Decision
Date: 08/18/2008 11:31 PM

Dear Sumter National Forest,

Reviewing the Evironmental Assessment for the recreational management of the Chattooga River, has not shown ANY reason for the boating ban. The Appeals decision requested the EA to be done and you have. The results have shown that the decison made years was made without reason. It is time now to allow boaters to have access to the river (legally).
The Appeal states:

"**No capacity analysis is provided to support restrictions or a ban on recreation use or any type of recreation user.** While there are multiple references in the record to resource impacts and decreasing solitude**, these concerns apply to all users and do not provide the basis for excluding boaters without any limits on the other users**". I strongly agree with this statement.

The boaters do not harm the environment any more than the fisherman or other recreational users. The fishermen can leave old bait containers, old bobbers and fishing line behind. Boaters DO NOT!

The appeal decision requested and required a user capacity analysis done. I do not see this documentation anywhere. It would show that boaters do not harm the environment any more than the other users - if anything less - because the boater are floating on the water and not trampling on the ground.

The limitation on the boating is not within reason. We can not control the dates when mother nature wants it to rain. Mother nature does not go by a calendar.

All of the river should be accessable to boating - not a certain section.

Open the boating and see how things are affected. Then you will have a

basis for another assessement.

In summary - make the decision immediately to allow boating which supports the Appeal Decision since there has not been any evidence brought forward.

Whitewater paddlers have as much right as fisherrman, hikers and wildlife watchers to enjoy the Upper Chattooga. Please rule in favor of Alternative #8.

The decision is already late with no reasons. DO NOT DELAY anymore.

End the segration/limitation of users.

Sincerely
Margaret Weise
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