From: Alan Beaven
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Chattooga Headwaters
Date: 08/18/2008 09:35 PM

U.S. Forest Service

Chattooga River Project

4931 Broad River Road

Columbia, SC 29212.

comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us

August 18, 2008

RE: Chattooga River Project Comments

Dear Sumter National Forest,

My name is Alan Beaven, and I'm a lifelong kayaker from Lexington, KY. I've been paddling sections 3 & 4 of the Chattooga for years, and it's a magical place. I haven't had the opportunity yet to paddle the Headwaters, but have looked forward to catching it running for years. I believe you'll find that the whitewater community is some of the best environmental stewards or any outdoor recreational group. I believe we have as much a right as anglers to spend time in the Chattooga headwaters, and I believe we could enjoy this area with no negative impact to anglers (or any other legal, low-impact group of users).

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment regarding the recreational management of the Chattooga River. I disagree with your analysis and your proposal. Both treat me and my community of river enthusiasts unfairly and your proposal would not meet my interests. Please consider the following concerns I have regarding this issue:

- The USFS has spent thirteen years searching for a reason to limit paddling on the Chattooga and has found *none* . It is time to open the river to boating.
- The EA is not a user capacity analysis and does not reference one. The AW appeal decision required a user capacity analysis. Where is it?
- No alternative is acceptable because they all include boating bans on the upper Chattooga Cliffs reach and on tributaries – without any justification.
- All aspects of the "Outstanding Remarkable Values" of Wild and Scenic Rivers should be protected on the entire river, not just in some areas.

Thank you for considering these comments. Please consider conducting a real user capacity analysis and immediately allowing boating in the same numbers, places, and seasons that you allow existing users. Paddling should be allowed in a similar manner to your alternative number 8, except on the *entire* Upper Chattooga River and its tributaries.

Thank you for considering these comments,

Sincerely

Alan Beaven
502 316-4750