From:	Samuel Esswein
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us; akimbell@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Upper Chattooga Management Decision (Support Alternative 8)
Date:	08/18/2008 09:03 PM

U.S. Forest Service
Chattooga River Project
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us

July 30, 2008

RE: Chattooga River Project Comments

Dear Sumter National Forest,

I am writing this letter to convey my dissatisfaction with the agency's decision to move forward with Alternative 4. As an avid kayaker and hiker in the Sumter Forest, I value your ongoing efforts to protect this resource and appreciate concerns related to equitably managing recreation opportunities. However, I strongly feel that this alternative unfairly targets and excludes the whitewater boating user group. I found no environmental basis for this decision in the provided Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA does not include a user capacity analysis, relying instead on anecdotal evidence for concerns about user conflict between anglers and boaters. I hope that the Forest Service will reconsider this decision and a) allow access to the upper Chattooga Cliff's reach and tributaries, b) remove restrictions based on boating days and flow levels.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Sam Esswein
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