From:	dangerjudy@gmail.com
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	RE: Chattooga River Project Comments
Date:	08/18/2008 10:09 AM

U.S. Forest Service Chattooga River Project 4931 Broad River Road Columbia, SC 29212. August 18, 2008 RE: Chattooga River Project Comments Dear Sumter National Forest, I am a whitewater kayaker, hiker, caver, and wilderness lover who visits the Chattooga watershed often. I have looked over the Environmental Assessment regarding recreational management of the Chattooga River. I believe the EA is unfair to me and to other boaters. Please consider the following concerns I have: * The USFS preferred alternative includes a total ban on 2/3 of the upper river, a ban on tributary boating, and allows only 0-6 days of limited boating on the remaining reach – while allowing all other wilderness conforming existing uses in unlimited numbers.. This is not equitable and not acceptable! * The EA is no better or different than the last one, is at least a year late and has wasted millions in tax payer money * The USFS hired qualified consultants and then ignored their input * Paddlers prefer an alternative similar to Alternative 8 that 1) fully allows boating on the entire Chattooga River below Grimshawes Bridge, 2) allows paddling on tributaries, 3) includes encounter standards based on a real user capacity analysis, 4) will equitably limit total use only when encounter standards are consistently exceeded, and 5) will do so using all available indirect measures first. * The public should have the right to float on public Wild and Scenic Rivers regardless of who owns the land along the river. * 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. Thanks, Sincerely Judith Ranelli 2305 Arlington Cres. B3 Birmingham, Al 35205