From:	Ben Waller
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Upper Chattooga River management plan, July 2, 2008 version
Date:	07/04/2008 09:57 AM

The latest proposal based on biased restrictions against a single user group on the Upper Chattooga is once again, entirely unacceptable. The proposed restrictions have no basis in law or in fact, or in common sense. Restricting boaters to a very few boaters in a minimal number of trips per year while allowing unfettered access to other user groups who have demonstrated history of negative impacts on the Upper Chattooga and its riparian environment is outrageous.
The proposed plan is not based on anything remotely scientific, nor is it in compliance with the Forest Service Supervisor's direction for revising the arbitrary and capricious boating ban that has been continued for more than three decades.

The existing trash, erosion, and other negative environmental impacts on the Upper Chattooga are caused exclusively by the non-boating user groups that the newest proposal favors. This plan is as deeply and fatally flawed as is the original ban or any of the other equally ridiculous proposals that have been put forward by the Forest Service managers in charge of the Upper Chattooga.

This issue has dragged on for far too long. The confused, biased, and non-scientific results have once again showed that the Forest Service is seemingly incapable of doing what is fair for non-motorized user groups and choosing an option that is based on science.

If your intent is to create a boating plan that guarantees additional legal action by the user group that will be harmed by this decision, then you have likely achieved your goal. It is time to stop wasting taxpayer dollars on plans that illegally discriminate against a single user group whose use is one of the desirable uses of any Wild and Scenic River. This is especially true for the Upper Chattooga, where the boating ban and proposed severe boating limitations are not congruent with the management plan for ANY other Wild and Scenic

River in the entire United States.

It is time for the bureaucratic obstructionism to stop. Open the Upper Chattooga to human-powered boating, and do it NOW. If something that simple can't be done by the current Forest Service Managers, maybe it's time to replace the current managers with managers who can propose a management plan that is fair to ALL human-powered user groups, that is based on scientific methods, and that is not arbitrary and capricious. Stop wasting my tax dollars on an unfair plan that funds other user groups' desired access methods while restricting my preferred method, and ONLY my preferred method.

Sincerely,
Ben Waller
Bluffton, SC

cc:
U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham, South Carolina
U.S. Senator Jim DeMint, South Carolina
U.S Representative Joe Wilson, South Carolina 2nd Congressional District