From:	Art Barket
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	RE: Chattooga River Project Comments
Date:	07/10/2008 09:33 PM

Dear Sumter National Forest,
My name is Art Barket, and I live in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. I am a seventh grade Technology Education as well as a whitewater kayaker. Although the Upper Chattooga is hundreds of miles away from my local streams, I am deeply troubled that paddlers are not given the same recreational opportunities as other users.
I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment regarding the recreational management of the Chattooga River. The only acceptable agreement is Article #8 which allows paddler's access to the Upper Chattooga. I don't believe the possibility of a few grumpy fishermen warrants a ban or partial ban on an entire group of recreation enthusiasts. Imagine how the fishermen would feel if they were excluded from fishing on all but a few days, to be determined by adequate stream flow deemed to be insufficient for paddlers.

- 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 amount of erosions caused by fisherman trails greatly out ways any impacts that boaters would have on portaging.
- In Pennsylvania, once a section of river is determined navigable the entire stream is navigable and open to both boating and fishing. How can the forest service break up a stream on a piecemeal basis.
- The plan is not equitable for all river users.
- Even with maximum access for paddlers the river is only navigable a maximum of 125 days a year on average. This leaves 240 days a year for fisherman to use the river uninterrupted.
- 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 existing uses in unlimited numbers.. This is not equitable and not acceptable!
- The EA offers no basis for the boating bans and limits
- 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. I routinely paddle the Upper Youghiogheny, a Wild and Scenic River in Western, Maryland. This

river runs through private land and for years there have been no problems between boaters, fisherman, or land owners.
- I trust that the Forest Service will do the right thing and allow all users equal access to the Upper Chattooga and all other Wild and Scenic Rivers.

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
Art Barket

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