From: Larry Stewart
Sent By: love2kayak@gmail.com
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Chattooga River Project Comments
Date: 07/10/2008 04:07 PM

U.S. Forest Service

Chattooga River Project

4931 Broad River Road

Columbia, SC 29212.

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

July 10, 2008

Dear Sumter National Forest,

My name is LARRY STEWART. I live in Knoxville, TN where I work as an industrial maintenance technician. I am 41 years old and have been a fisherman all of my life and a whitewater paddler for 20 years. Some of my most fond memories are fishing with my dad and paddling with my wife and friends. I do not feel that either activity should discriminate against the other and BOTH should equally be available on ALL of the Chattooga River and it's tributaries.

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment regarding the recreational management of the Chattooga River. I disagree with the analysis and the proposal. Both items treat me and my community of river enthusiasts unfairly and the proposal would not meet my interests.

In their boating prohibition, The Forest Service; without explanation, without fact, without logic, without reason, without science, and without

legal merit, has chosen to:

1. disregard Supreme Court rulings

2. ignore the Public Trust Doctrine

3. circumvent federal law

4. fail to recognize state statutes

5. overlook their own federal-issued USFS Manual & USFS Handbook, these being the policies and procedures for all Forest Service activities

6. failed to heed a directive from a superior compliance officer of the DC Office of The Forest Service that the Chattooga boating ban has "always been unjustified"

I will only support an immediate and total lifting of all bans and restrictions on paddling on the upper reaches of the Chattooga. That is the only civil, legal, and sensible outcome to resolve this untenable situation.

I am OPPOSED to the illegal boating ban on the Chattooga Headwaters! There is NO justification for discriminating against boaters. NONE! Boating is the least impact of all activities included in the Wild and Scenic designation. Hiking leaves long trails, Fishing takes fish from the rivers ... and leaves trails, tackle, and injured fish. GIVE UP THIS FIGHT NOW! You know it's neither morally nor legally justified. We just want equal rights to enjoy the river and will not stop until we get it.
Your very own 1971 report puts boating at the FRONT of the list for compatible uses:
http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/documents/1971WSSRChapter10part1.pdf page 85

"Compatible uses on the Chattooga River are **FLOATING**, ... hiking, ... hunting, fishing, and primitive camping"

Sincerely,

Larry Stewart
6816 Strawberry Farms Way
Knoxville, TN 37914