From:	Wesley Spooner
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Chattooga River Project Comments
Date:	07/10/2008 12:18 PM

Dear Sumter National Forest,

I've reviewed the comments from the environmental assessment study on the Upper Chattooga. I am confused to why the existing recreationalists that are already allowed access to this part of the river are, and boaters are still virtually banned. My whole life I've always seen paddlers as one of the best stewards of the river. For you to ban that, and to ban the experience some of our youth could experience by being able to venture to this part of the river and paddle is what is extremely irresponsible to me. There is no basis for this discrimination. The EA study that cost the tax payers millions of dollars, shows no evidence that boaters would cause any abstract enviromental problems. With that said this seems to be nothing but a discriminatory act to prohibit boating by some private land owners and the politicians in their pocket. The money wasted on this EA study could have been used to better protect the forest instead of trying to ban some people from floating down the river.

However, I do have confidence that you will reassess your project and release a more reasonable plan that accompanies all recreationists(fishers, boaters, etc…_) alike. This is not only important for us, but for our youth as well. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thanks for you time,
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