From:	Kelly McCauley
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	RE: Chattooga River Project Comments
Date:	07/16/2008 02:40 PM

Dear Sumter National Forest,

I am a outdoor enthusiast who likes to hike and paddle kayaks. I visit several Wild and Scenic Rivers in several different states on a regular basis and I am concerned that if the USFS adopts "Alternative 4" for the Chattooga river that it will weaken the protections for all Wild and Scenic Rivers and will encourage arbitrary banning of wilderness-compliant groups with out due cause or reason.

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment regarding the recreational management of the Chattooga River. I disagree with your analysis and your proposal. Both treat me and other river enthusiasts unfairly. Your proposal violates Wilderness standards and the Wilderness Act as well.

Please consider the following concerns I have regarding this issue:

- The proposed alternative will negatively impact protections granted under the Wilderness Act and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act on the Chattooga and other rivers nationwide.

- The EA is not a user capacity analysis and does not reference one. The AW appeal decision required a user capacity analysis. Where is it?

- The EA and preferred alternative are not equitable or protective of the river because they considers boating to be the only management variable, while other larger more impactful uses are not seriously considered for limits.

- 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.

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,

Kelly McCauley

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