From: Holly Krake
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Chattooga River Proposals 7.15.08
Date: 07/16/2008 05:40 PM

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing you today regarding the recent proposals to eliminate paddling on many sections of the Chattooga River. As the Advisor for the Southern Illinois University Canoe & Kayak Club (http://www.siuc.edu/~teamsick/), I am very concerned with any restrictions regarding the open and equitable use of land and protected waterways. Although we are a group of Illinois paddlers, we often take trips to the southeastern rivers including the Chattooga as an unmatched experience in wilderness runs and great paddling. Any restrictions on the Chattooga are not just local in scope. Like our club, groups from all over the US come to enjoy the Chattooga and enjoy the same equitable access given other groups for other uses such as fishing. From a purely economic standpoint, limiting the use of the river for both the local and national paddling audience could have significant impact in terms of lodging, meals, fuel, etc purchased in the local area.

But on a larger scale, the river itself and the USFS land surrounding it are a feature unique to our particular brand of democracy and equity. We are for the people. We are by the people. We are fishers. We are boaters. We are loggers. And we are weekend tourists. But no matter who we are, the Forest Service land of this nation is, as the Nantahala Nation Forest says "a land of many uses". Is not the love of whitewater one of those uses?

In a positive liberty sense, allowing equitable access to the Chattooga is simply allowing this incredible natural resource to fulfill its full potential. It is, more simply put, *freedom to* not *freedom from*. Moreover, such a proposal on the inequitable division of access seems in clear opposition to the spirit and intent of Wilderness standards and the Wilderness Act that is so clearly engineered as a

positive liberty in keeping with the true intent of our national lands. Please do not descend into the easy escape of arbitrary decisions and special interests. And although such a route might appear to be a path of least resistance, is does not in the words of "Gifford Pinchot, the first Chief of the Forest Service, summed up the mission of the Forest Service— 'to provide the greatest amount of good for the greatest amount of people in the long run.'" (http://www.fs.fed.us/aboutus/)... even from those people in Illinois.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Holly Krake