From: Jill Dahlman
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Chattooga River comments
Date: 07/16/2008 04:10 PM

U.S.Forest Service

ChattoogaRiver Project

4931 Broad River Road

Columbia, SC 29212.

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

July 16, 2008

RE: Chattooga River Project Comments

Dear Sumter National Forest,

Aloha. My name is Jill Dahlman, a resident of Honolulu, Hawaii, and a professor with the University of Hawaii system. I am writing you to express my displeasure with your singling out of boaters in denying them the privilege of boating the Chattooga River. As a river rafter who spends summers on the mainland (i.e., continental US) for the specific purpose of boating and an avid environmentalist, I am quite dismayed that you are choosing to single out the one group of people who cause the least amount of damage to the environment and who are perhaps the best stewards of the environment that I have ever known.

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 my community of river enthusiasts unfairly and your proposal would not meet my interests. 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.
- All of the alternatives include boating bans on the upper Chattooga Cliffs reach and on tributaries – without any justification. This is patently unfair to boaters.
- 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. For example, where is the noise consideration on powered motor vehicles? Has anyone ever ridden along with a boating group to even see how minimally any boating group impacts the environment? Without actually witnessing any transgressions, how can you assume (please remember how to spell this word from grade school...) that such violations exist
- The EA offers no basis for the boating bans and limit
- The USFS hired qualified consultants and then ignored their input
- The 450 CFS average daily flow trigger in the preferred alternative is a flawed measure that should be eliminated from any considerations. There is no way a paddler can know this number and will be an administrative burden for the agency.
- 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.
- All aspects of the "Outstanding Remarkable Values" of Wild and Scenic Rivers should be protected on the entire river, not just in some areas.
- What you propose will set a horrifying precedent nationwide. This cannot be allowed simply to pacify the interests of a minute few.

- You have not taken into consideration the potential damage to the tourism industry not only of this river, but of many communities across the nation who depend on river rafters to help support their economy
- In Hawaii, no single private owner may ban access to the beach. Nature is considered owned by every single person (who shares responsibility for caring for this resource)--not one special owner who has opted to pay a premium for a piece of land. This attitude should be applied nationwide. No one person should be allowed to own Mother Nature, i. e., the river or access to it.

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.

Sincerely,

Jill Dahlman
ABD/Ph.D. Candidate-University of Hawaii at Manoa
Professor-UH-system (WCC, HCC, UH-M) and Chaminade University
1652 Pa'ula Drive
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Mother Nature bats last...
--anon.

Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is to tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same in any country. -- Herman Goering