From:	David Faulkner
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Paddling the Chattooga
Date:	07/17/2008 12:15 AM

My name is David Faulkner and I reside in Columbus Ohio. I am involved in hiking and paddling and greatly enjoy trips to Tennessee to hike the mountains and paddle the streams and rivers**.**
I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment regarding the recreational management of the Chattooga River. I disagree with the proposals sanctioning use of the river for recreational paddling. There are a variety of reasons I disagree but below are some of the key points; 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. When you limit boating on the Chattooga
- The public should have the right to float on public Wild and Scenic Rivers regardless of who owns the land along the river, regulating camping and things done on the land is what needs to be prohibited. This has worked on other rivers such as the Clarion in Pennsylvania and can work for the Chattooga.
- All aspects of the "Outstanding Remarkable Values" of Wild and Scenic Rivers should be protected on the entire river, not just in some areas.
- 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.
- The USFS preferred alternative includes a total ban on 2/3 of the upper river, a ban on tributary boating, and allows only 0-6 days of limited boating on the remaining reach – while allowing all other wilderness conforming existing uses in unlimited numbers.. This is not equitable and not acceptable! Additionally, when the number of boaters is limited so severely it has the potential not give the local economies a chance to thrive like they very could if boating was opened to a vastly higher number. More people on the river mean

more money entering the economic systems around the Chattooga.

- 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.

Thank you for considering these comments,

Sincerely,

David Faulkner
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