From:	Clark, Erik P [FIN]
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	RE: Chattooga River Project Comments
Date:	07/16/2008 04:19 PM

U.S. Forest Service
Chattooga River Project
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212.
comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us

7/16/2008

RE: Chattooga River Project Comments

Dear Sumter National Forest,

My name is Erik Clark. I am an avid outdoor recreationalist. I enjoy mountain biking, fishing, kayaking, camping, and many other outdoor activities.
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.
- The USFS has spent thirteen years searching for a reason to limit paddling on the Chattooga and has found *none*. It is time to open the river to boating.
- 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?
- No alternative is acceptable because they all include boating bans on the upper Chattooga Cliffs reach and on tributaries – without any justification.
- 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 EA offers no basis for the boating bans and limits
- The public should have the right to float on public Wild and Scenic Rivers regardless of who owns the land along the river.

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.

Thank you for considering these comments,

Sincerely
Erik Clark
12557 E. Villanova Dr
Aurora CO 80014