From:	Dan Evans
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	
Date:	07/16/2008 05:48 PM

U.S. Forest Service
Chattooga River 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,

My name is Daniel Evans. I currently reside in central Colorado and actively participate in whitewater recreation specifically as a whitewater kayaker. In the future I anticipate traveling to the southeast to kayak and would enjoy unrestricted access to my rivers that are managed by you, the USFS. I understand that you are proposing a continuation of the kayaking restriction to the headwaters of the Chattooga River. This policy is unacceptable and will set a bed precedent across the country. Please stop excluding a single form of recreation from my river.

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 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.

No alternative is acceptable because they all include boating bans on the upper Chattooga Cliffs reach and on tributaries – without any justification.
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!

The EA is no better or different than the last one, is at least a year late and has wasted millions in tax payer money

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.

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

Daniel Evans
1540 H Street
Salida, CO 81201