From: Kevin Miller
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: I support Alternative 8
Date: 08/14/2008 08:36 PM

I appreciate the opportunity to voice my opinion on the Upper Chattooga Environmental Assessment. The Upper Chattooga is a unique biological and cultural resource that will be changed forever by the human impacts associated with development. User groups other than paddlers have promised to protect this environment, but not enough action has occurred. In 2005, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control identified fecal coliform as a concern in the Chattooga Headwaters. It is clear that the paddling ban is causing more harm than good.

Evasive species are also a concern in this environment, including kudzu and privet. Also, stocking should be limited to the native brook trout. Many users pretend to be enviromentally concerned, but paddlers truly are. To quote a the paddler's no-trace maxim: "Take only pictures. No need to leave footprints."

Only paddlers can adequately monitor water quality in the Chattooga Headwaters. Please grant paddlers equal access to save this special resource, as the Forest Service promised in 1971.

Thank you!

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