From:	Joe Pilkington
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	pre decisional environmental assessment, upper Chattoga River
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One day last month I and a few hundred other people floated a section of the Nantahala River. It was exciting but my full attention was focused on the water level and rapids, not on the diversity and beauty of Nature experienced everyday hiking the upper Chattooga River.

Recent newspaper quotes of paddler's comments regarding the Forest Service's preliminary choice of Preferred Alternative Four confirm my suspicion that American Whitewater will continue their legal battle to completely undo the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

One of the roles of government is to protect what is left of the wilderness from the destructive effects of human activity. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, however imperfect, is an important part of that function.

Therefore I oppose any changes to the Wild and Scenic River Act that would open any of the upper Chattooga River to paddlers.

Sincerely,

Joseph Pilkington

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