From:	Kroser, Steve
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Chattooga River Project Comments
Date:	07/17/2008 05:43 PM

Dear Sumter National Forest,
Although I don't live near the Chattooga River, I am an avid whitewater paddler who travels often to explore the wonderful waterways of this country. The Chattooga is definitely on my "Must Paddle" list.
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 Wilderness Act and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act provide protections on many rivers nationwide, including the Chattooga, which will be negatively impacted by your proposal.
- 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 AW appeal decision required a user capacity analysis but none has been conducted. The EA is not a user capacity analysis and does not reference one!
- The EA and preferred alternative are not equitable or protective of the river because they consider 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 EA lacks a full range of alternatives
- 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