From:	Everett, C. Stuart
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us; akimbell@fs.fed.us
Subject:	FW: [I] [APE_Trips] Upper Chattooga Comments Due Friday - Form Letter For You To Send
Date:	07/30/2008 08:55 AM

U.S. Forest Service
Chattooga River Project
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212.

comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us

July 30, 2008

RE: Chattooga River Project Comments

Dear Sumter National Forest,

My name is Stuart Everett. I am a whitewater and outdoor enthusiast from Kingsport, TN. As a taxpayer and a regular visitor of our national parks, national recreation areas, and national forests, I am sending this letter to express my concerns over the recent announcement regarding the environmental assessment for recreational management of the Chattooga 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 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 EA is not a user capacity analysis and does not reference one. The AW appeal decision required a user capacity analysis. Where is it?
• None of the current alternatives are 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 nor are they protecting the river because they consider boating to be the only management variable, while other larger more impactful uses are not seriously considered for limits.
• 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 would be a preferable solution.
• The public should have the right to float on public Wild and Scenic Rivers regardless of who owns the land along the river.
• All aspects of the "Outstanding Remarkable Values" of Wild and Scenic Rivers should be protected on the entire river, not just in some areas.

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.

Again, Thank you for considering these comments,

Sincerely

Stuart Everett
Kingsport, TN