From: Michelle Burnett
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@FSNOTES
Subject: Fw: The Chattooga has enough boating
Date: 07/31/2008 09:28 AM

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----- Forwarded by Michelle Burnett/R8/USDAFS on 07/31/2008 09:28 AM -----

Jeanne LeBoeuf/R8/USDAFS

07/28/2008 09:10 AM

To Michelle Burnett/R8/USDAFS@FSNOTES
cc
Subject Fw: The Chattooga has enough boating

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----- Forwarded by Jeanne LeBoeuf/R8/USDAFS on 07/28/2008 09:10 AM -----

Rosanne Rowe/WO/USDAFS

07/25/2008 09:24 AM

To Jerome Thomas/R8/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Jeanne LeBoeuf/R8/USDAFS@FSNOTES

cc Chris N Brown/WO/USDAFS@FSNOTES

Subject Fw: The Chattooga has enough boating

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----- Forwarded by Rosanne Rowe/WO/USDAFS on 07/25/2008 09:23 AM -----

"Michael Bamford" <mbamford123@comcast.net>

07/22/2008 04:58 PM

To <akimbell@fs.fed.us>

cc

Subject The Chattooga has enough boating

Dear Gail Kimbell,

Management of the Chattooga river offers a diversity of resource settings for a broad range of visitors. The recent draft EA published by the Sumter Forest Service proposes to continue to offer a variety of recreational setting while accommodating kayakers during higher flows which are most common in the winter.

American Whitewater (AW) has argued that boaters would only be able to boat during cold weather after large events, therefore conflict with other users would be moot. This rhetoric can be found within their 2004 appeal and in numerous Western North Carolina newspaper articles printed over the past few years. Seasonal and flow-level restrictions was initial proposed by AW to the USFS back in the fall of 1997, as a compromise for access. The USFS has simply selected a preferred alternative that matches what AW "said" they wanted and preserves most O.R.Value concerns. Brilliant!

Over the past four years I have watched the USFS conduct the LAC study (as recommended by AW in 2002) conduct a recreational flow study (as recommended by AW in the appeal) using a consultant, recommended by AW. Now AW is screaming that the assessment is unfair, because the outcome does not give them everything they now demand.

Like a spoiled child AW remains fixated on what they do not have and continues to demand it.

For thirty years kayakers have enjoyed over 60% of the designated Chattooga WSR and 75% of the Chattooga Watershed without boater limitations. Now the USFS proposes an additional seven miles of river could be open with restrictions and American Whitewater remains fixated on the limitations, not on the proposed compromise that protects other visitor experiences and offers more boating.

AW's egocentric arguments request that the USFS ignore all other visitors, the wildlife and the fact that they already enjoy the majority of the watershed for whitewater. AW demands a complete focus on kayaker needs and has refused to even consider the desires of any other user-group that also uses the Chattooga River. In fact AW argues that the USFS should reduce fishing, horseback riding and hiking to accommodate more boating. What might be next?; possibly a request to remove the "pesky" wildlife found along the Chattooga.

AW has stirred up a frenzy within the boating community in order to continue fighting until they get what they now demand (and it also makes for good fundraising). The USFS now needs to consider how to deal with the spoiled child. Instead of turning to the conflict resolution manual , I suggest Dr. Spock or another Child psychologist like T Berry Brazelton could

offer more helpful advice on dealing with AW.

Good luck and thank you for your time.

Michael Bamford
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Member Friends Of The Upper Chattooga; Advocates For Wilderness