From:	Todd Zielinski
Sent By:	Todd Zielinski
Reply To:	toddz@ieee.org
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Opposition to Chattooga Paddling Ban
Date:	07/30/2008 05:32 PM

To whom it may concern at Sumpter National Forest:

The Philadelphia Canoe Club regularly comes to paddle the Chattooga. Each year, several groups make the trip to come to enjoy one of the best white water runs in the United States. We stay for several weeks, enjoying the surrounding areas and other local rivers. Recently we have heard of the intention to ban paddling on this river and its tributaries. From reading the available documentation, and recent 'Environmental Assessment', we can say that we are wholly in disagreement with the method of research, the conclusions of the assessment, and proposed bans.

There has been no real usage analysis, the proposal is unfairly biased against paddlers, and the proposed ban has the potential to disallow access to public resources and wilderness for specific groups throughout the US without research or justification for such an action. This country was founded on principles of equality, and equal rights for all. The National Park, and Wild and Scenic rivers should be open to use by all. We, as paddlers are concerned for the environment, for equitable use of resources, and do our best to economically support and maintain those areas which are important to our sport.

We support, and ask that you support the fair and free use of the Chattooga - all sections - for paddlers everywhere. We do not oppose limits on use, within reason, given that a suitable, unbiased, analysis can be made that can be supported and backed with real research.
If there is anything the Philadelphia Canoe Club, can do to further clarify our position, or make our opinions heard, we would be most willing to take the time to lend support to the opposition of this ban. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter, and we look forward to continuing to paddle the Chattooga.

Todd Zielinski,
Commodore,

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