From: Kent Vertrees
Reply To: kent@steamboatpowdercats.com
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Comments on Chattooga River Project
Date: 08/05/2008 12:55 PM

To Whom It May Concern, regarding the Chattooga River Project Comments:

As a manager of a recreation based outfitter in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, I have been witness to and participated in several local EA and focus groups dealing with specific issues in the Routt National Forest.

In learning about the Chattooga River Project and the EA that you are developing for your future management of the forest, its lands and rivers, I hope that you truly will do the right thing and make good decisions to allow for all users in all sections of your forest. Now of course, there are going to be some limitations here and there to minimize impacts, but specifically to your decisions regarding the use of kayaks and rafts in the Upper river section, you must provide access to this type of recreation.

I can understand limiting a private company from outfitting on the river, but limiting the public right to float on a Wild and Scenic River would be a shame.

Paddling, as in alternative 8, should be allowed on the ENTIRE river and it's tributaries, and you should be proud of this special, recreational attribute. River based activities are an integral part of the economic equation of our National Forests and where river's canyons are most special, such as the Chattooga in being a Wild and Scenic River, we (you) must provide access and enjoyment for all our generations to come. It would be a shame for you to do nothing less.

Please reply if needed, if not, do the right thing here, thanks.

Kent Vertrees
Master of Chaos
Steamboat Powdercats

970.879.5188 - 800.288.0543