From: Jeanne Dulaney
Reply To: ckayker@yahoo.com
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Chattooga River Project Commens
Date: 08/07/2008 12:23 PM

U.S. Forest Service

Chattooga River Project

4931 Broad River Road

Columbia, SC 29212.

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

August 7, 2008

RE: Chattooga River Project Comments

Dear Sumter National Forest,

As a outdoorswoman and small business owner, I have a vested interest in seeing that Federal land management policies do not favor one group over another. I am a kayaker and whitewater enthusiast, but I am well aware of the needs of other groups, and practice my own sports in ways that seek to promote harmony with other users of the same limited resources. From my observations, most boaters, and indeed, most other users of these resources feel the same.

It is important to me as a boater and as one who seeks to teach others how to use our wilderness resources that our government also treat all groups fairly. The recent proposals seek to enforce discrimination against one group of users without any justification, while allowing unlimited access to other groups, again without justification. There is simply no evidence that the environmental impacts of one group are different from

or more detrimental than those of other groups.

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 EA is no better or different than the last one, is at least a year late and has wasted millions in tax payer money
- The USFS hired qualified consultants and then ignored their input
- The 450 CFS average daily flow trigger in the preferred alternative is a flawed measure that should be eliminated from any considerations. There is no way a paddler can know this number and will be an administrative burden for the agency.
- Paddlers prefer 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.
- 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.

Thank you for considering these comments,

Sincerely

Jeanne Dulaney
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