From:	Suzanne Burgess
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Chattooga River Project Comments
Date:	08/06/2008 02:24 PM

Hello - please consider the following comments --

I am a new kayaker, but I immediately fell in love with the Chatooga my first trip there. I wasn't aware of the boating ban in the headwaters until recently, but as I learned of how and why the headwater ban was implement - I was disappointed and dismayed.

I implore you to reconsider the recommended alternative 4 -- which is flawed for many reasons outlined by American Whitewater and other more eloquent folks, and to truly consider other alternatives that allow boating on the Chattoga headwaters.

For example:

- 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.

The alternative 4 is nothing more than an extension of the boating ban, period.

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

--

--Suzanne Burgess
Columbia SC