From:	greg@gregmalone.org
Reply To:	greg@gregmalone.org
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:	akimbell@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Chattooga River Project Comments
Date:	08/07/2008 02:03 PM

U.S. Forest Service

Chattooga River Project

4931 Broad River Road

Columbia, SC 29212.

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

7 August 2008

RE: Chattooga River Project Comments

Dear Sumter National Forest,

I am writing to give a citizen's comment of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and recreational management of the Chattooga River. As a former whitewater tour outfitter in California for 15 years, and a continuing river enthusiast sincerely involved with access issues, I have **serious objections** to the Chatooga River Project proposal.

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) and disagree with your analysis and your proposal. Both analysis and proposal treat the river enthusiasts unfairly. Please consider the following concerns I have regarding this issue:

- The EA offers no basis for the boating bans and limits

- The EA lacks a full range of alternatives
- The EA is no better or different than the last one
- The public has the right to float on public Wild and Scenic Rivers regardless of who owns the land along the river
- The EA is not a user capacity analysis and does not reference one. The appeal decision required a user capacity analysis. That analysis has not been provided.
- The EA and preferred alternative are not equitable or protective of the river because they consider boating to be the only variable, while other larger more impactful uses are not seriously considered for limits
- The USFS has spent thirteen years searching for a reason to limit paddling on the Chattooga and has found *none*. It is time to open the river to boating.

Thank you for reading and recognizing these comments.

There are specific actions that you need to take immediately:

- conduct a genuine user capacity analysis
- allow boating in the same numbers, places, and seasons as existing use
- allow paddling on the *entire* Upper Chattooga River and its tributaries
- recognize the public right to float on Wild and Scenic Rivers

Thank you for considering these comments,

Sincerely,

Dr. Gregory A. Malone