From: shorner@pcc.edu
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Chatooga River Project Comments
Date: 08/08/2008 09:39 PM

U.S. Forest Service
Chattooga River Project
4931 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212.

8-08-2008

RE: Chattooga River Project Comments

Dear Sumter National Forest,

I am a whitewater enthusiast and active boater from Portland Oregon. I often travel to many neighboring states and countries to pursue rivers. I have also witnessed a growing number of the western rivers go through the process of overcrowding and management. One of my backyard rivers, the Deschutes recently had similar conflicts between boaters and fishers. After a detailed study and permit system the river has once again grown to be a local favorite.

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 not a user capacity analysis and does not reference one. The AW appeal decision required a user capacity analysis. Where is it?
* No alternative is acceptable because they all include boating bans on the upper Chattooga Cliffs reach and on tributaries – without any justification.
* The EA and preferred alternative are not equitable or protective of the river because they considers boating to be the only management variable, while other larger more impactful uses are not seriously considered for limits.
* The USFS hired qualified consultants and then ignored their input

Again please look at what other river management agencies have done to

create equitable river use and follow suit.

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.

Thank you for considering these comments,

Sincerely,
Shane Horner