

**State of South Carolina****Office of the Governor**MARK SANFORD  
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COLUMBIA 29211

August 6, 2007

Jerome Thomas  
Forest Supervisor  
Francis Marion and Sumter National Forest  
4931 Broad River Road  
Columbia, SC 29212Cc: Senator James DeMint,  
Energy and Natural Resources Committee

The issue elaborated on below came up during one of my office hour visits, and I would appreciate your consideration and help on it as the Chattooga River is an important resource for the State of South Carolina. It provides recreational opportunities including whitewater boating, the state's best trout fishing, hunting and backpacking. Nature viewers can experience the backcountry solitude while Day hikers, campers and picnickers can select from a variety experiences currently available along the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River and the Ellicott Rock Wilderness Area.

The Sumter National Forest has provided exemplary stewardship by insuring the Chattooga provides a complete range of recreational experiences for South Carolinians. We support your efforts to continue a policy that supplies diversity and balances the state's overall recreational needs.

We understand that the current Forest Service policy is being challenged by the private boating interests, and that the USFS is reviewing its successful thirty year policy of zoning the river for different user groups. We ask the USFS to please

Rec'd FD 8-7-07

consider the following South Carolina concerns regarding allowing boating in the upper Chattooga.

- Opening the upper Chattooga River, which is currently managed for trout fishing and is considered the premier trout fishery in South Carolina, to private boaters will likely displace some South Carolina fisherman, and deter out of state fishermen from visiting. The options for displaced resident anglers will be smaller, less desirable streams in South Carolina, or streams in neighboring states which will require expensive non-resident licenses. Non-resident anglers will take their fishing and dollars to neighboring states.
- The projected growth in all activities on the South Carolina side of the river corridor over the next thirty years requires careful study to insure the Chattooga remains a viable recreational resource for current users and future generations.
- Private property interests of the Whiteside Cove Association members that live in South Carolina are threatened by potential boater trespass.
- The safety of search-and-rescue personnel and associated costs for the surrounding counties will be a concern because of the remoteness and ruggedness of the upper Chattooga.
- The desires of all user groups, especially those not represented by any organization, need to be given equal consideration.
- Any changes in current policy need to ensure that the largest designated wilderness in South Carolina retains its primitive character.

We appreciate your efforts in managing many of South Carolina's most valuable natural resources. We realize the importance of reviewing management policy for such a diverse array of interests. We hope future policy continues to provide something for everyone and that opportunities along the entire Wild and Scenic corridor are reviewed in totality for the benefit of South Carolina's residents and visitors.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let our office know if South Carolina can help with any additional reports on SC recreational demographics we may have already collected including DNR angling surveys.

Sincerely,



Mark Sanford



I appreciate your ongoing efforts in the difficult task of managing this irreplaceable Wild and Scenic River resource, one of our nation's great natural treasures, just as I understand the importance of reviewing management policy for such a diverse array of interests. I do hope that future policy continues to provide something for everyone and that the full range of opportunities along the entire Wild and Scenic Chattooga corridor are rigorously and carefully reviewed in totality, as a whole but finite river resource, for the benefit of South Carolina's residents and visitors.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these matters I know to be highly important to my constituency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Gresham Barrett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

J. Gresham Barrett  
Member of Congress

Cc: Mr. Charles Myers, Regional Forester  
Senator Lindsey Graham  
Senator Jim DeMint  
Representative Paul Broun (GA)  
Representative Robin Hayes (NC)

PAUL C. BROUN, M.D.  
10TH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
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WEB: BROUN.HOUSE.GOV

December 6, 2007

original CCU  
CC LA  
CC NFS  
CC CO

Honorable Gail Kimbell  
Chief, USDA Forest Service  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-0003

Dear Ms. Kimbell:

As you may know, the Chattooga River, designated a Wild and Scenic River and thus under USFS oversight, flows through our respective states of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. Like many of our constituents, we have become deeply troubled over the recent proposal to open the Upper Chattooga to paddle sports. The current Sumter National Forest management plan allocates different zones of the river to various user groups – anglers, hikers, birdwatchers, as well as canoeists and kayakers -- while protecting the Upper Chattooga's rare natural habitat and pristine wilderness area. For thirty years this policy has been a model of success in meeting a diverse range of interests, and thus in our opinion ought not to be changed without a compelling reason.

A comprehensive analysis of the entire resource, all visitor needs, and sustainability is required in an assessment of such a vital resource for our states. The delay in the EA process suggests the Forest Service has paid due attention to the environmental, recreational and property concerns raised by the public and is not seeking to promulgate an EA without consideration of all the biophysical and social issues involved.

However, the basic issues that established the need for access limitations thirty years ago remain unchanged. As Representatives of the three states most potentially affected by the proposed change, we want to reiterate our belief that the Upper Chattooga must remain an inviolate natural resource and wilderness treasure for generations to come, while kayakers should continue to enjoy the renowned whitewater experience available on the lower two-thirds of the river.

We appreciate the difficulties your agency must confront in meeting the appeals and pressures of the diverse groups each seeking to maximize their own use of a limited resource. We fully support your efforts to maintain a successful, far-sighted, and decades-long management policy that has made the Chattooga a leading recreational attraction as well as an irreplaceable natural resource.

We're grateful for your giving full consideration to these matters that are of great importance to the citizens of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. Please let us know how we may be of service as you and your staff seek to conclude this matter with the pending Environmental Assessment in December.

Sincerely,

*Paul C. Broun* *Robin Hayes*

Paul Broun  
Member of Congress

Robin Hayes  
Member of Congress

*J. Gresham Barrett*

J. Gresham Barrett  
Member of Congress

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12/11/07  
Will*

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