

## AW AT WORK IN THE SOUTH EAST

American Whitewater is hard at work in the South East area, here are just a few updates of our progress:

**CHEOAH RIVER (NC):** The first full year of releases on the Cheoah was a complete success in 2006. AW set up a river management stakeholder meeting, carried out a management and flow preference study which was shared with stakeholders, and helped bring media attention to this river restoration success story. 2007 will provide new challenges as vegetation removal, access area construction, and trail building commence.

**CHATTOOGA RIVER (NC/SC/GA):** AW filed suit in federal court over the Chattooga issue in 2006. Our case was dismissed, but we have the option to sue again if the revised management plan does not represent nationally consistent – and fair – river management. The User Capacity Analysis is ongoing and yielding data in support of paddling use, including data from an on-water user trial. A decision is expected in the fall of 2007. We'll be fully participating in the public review and study processes this spring, summer and fall. 2007 will likely define the future of paddling on the Chattooga for the next 10-15 years.



After over 10 years of efforts on the Upper Chattooga River, boaters finally returned for one weekend in January.

Photo by: Brian Jacobson

**NANTAHALA AND TUCKASEGEE (NC):** AW maintained pressure on federal regulators to issue a new license that fully supports the Settlement Agreement we signed in 2003. A decision is expected any day and we are ready to get started on breaking trail and planning for releases. Releases may begin in 2007, but 2008 is a more likely outcome.

**UPPER YOUGH (MD):** Paddlers have joined forces and negotiated a new schedule of releases on the Upper that will hopefully add ten new summer Saturday releases in 2007. The new permit requested by the power company, which includes the releases, has broad support based on careful negotiations.

Your support has provided AW with the means to continue our river stewardship and meet the goals of our mission, "To conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely." If you haven't been a member of American Whitewater or you let your membership lapse we could still use your support as the spring paddling season approaches and we put the finishing touches on our 2007 work plan.

# Join us today!



Catawba River (SC): AW was a lead voice for restoration of the Great Falls of the Catawba. Environmental and recreational enhancements will begin in 2008!



Gauley River (WV): AW continues to seek a long term solution to Gauley River Access.



Ohiopyle Falls (PA): Paddlers added several days of legal boating over the fall in '06 and the future looks bright for few restrictions.