

Chattooga boating on hold

THE JOURNAL STAFF

WALHALLA — What the U.S. Forest Service giveth, it can also taketh away.

The Forest Service has granted a request from Greenfire Law to stay a decision by the national forests in Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina to allow boating on the upper segment of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River.

The stay means boating that had been approved to begin in just

two weeks on the upper reaches of the Wild and Scenic Chattooga will remain on hold.

"The six appeals we received on this decision have raised a number of complex issues," said Ken Arney, deputy regional forester for the Southern Region and the appeal reviewing officer for this decision.

"Granting Greenfire Law's stay request will allow a meaningful administrative appeal process to continue based on the merits of each appellant's issues."

Greenfire sought the stay on behalf of Georgia Forest Watch, the Sierra Club and Wilderness Watch, all of whom has opposed boating on the upper Chattooga.

Two weeks ago the Forest Service said it planned to end a two-year controversy about boating on the upper reaches of the river. Now boaters will have to wait until the agency makes the final administrative decision for each of the six appeals.

No timetable for that action has been offered.