

# Upper Chattooga opens Friday to boaters

Water levels must be sufficient

FOR THE JOURNAL

## MOUNTAIN REST —

Boaters with permits may float the upper segment of the Chattooga River when flows are high enough beginning Friday, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

"As soon as the weather cooperates and provides suitable flows, we anticipate that boaters will be floating the upper Chattooga," said Paul Bradley, forest supervisor for the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests.

"I want to emphasize, though, that this section of the river is not a place for most boaters — floating in this area at high, fast flows will be dangerous for people who don't have specialized skills and experience."

Boating is allowed:

- On the main stem of the upper segment of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River between the confluence of Green Creek in North Carolina and one-quarter mile downstream of the Lick Log Creek confluence in South Carolina;

- From Dec. 1 to April 30;

- From the time that flows reach 360 cubic feet per second or greater at the USGS Burrells Ford gauge from 30 minutes before official sunrise to 30 minutes after official sunset. Once boating is allowed, it may continue until 30 minutes after official sunset that

same day;

- With a self-registration boating permit;

- Using tandem/single capacity hard boats or tandem/single capacity inflatable boats;

- Starting or ending only at specific put-ins and takeouts as outlined on the self-registration permit:

Put-ins: downstream of the Green Creek confluence in North Carolina; Norton Mill Creek confluence in North Carolina; Bullpen Bridge in North Carolina; and Burrells Ford Bridge in Georgia; takeouts: Norton Mill Creek confluence in North Carolina; Bullpen Bridge in North Carolina; Burrells Ford Bridge in Georgia; and Lick Log Creek confluence in South Carolina; and

- With a minimum of two craft and a maximum of six people per floating group. Boaters and other users can confirm water flows on the upper segment of the Chattooga River at the USGS gauge at Burrells Ford at <http://water-data.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/uv?02176930>.

Before visiting, boaters should check <http://fs.usda.gov/goto/scnfs/upperchattooga> for the most current information on where to pick up boater registration permits, parking, access and the decisions related to recreation uses on the upper segment of the Chattooga River.