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**File Code:** 6270  
**Date:** March 4, 2016

Bill Floyd  
4110 Quail View Road  
Charlotte, NC 28226-7956

Dear Mr. Floyd:

This is our response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated February 4, 2016 and received in this office on February 4, 2016. Specific to the North Carolina part of the Chattooga River, you have requested the following documents:

1. Any emails or memorandum that pertain, relate, reference, or discuss any aspect of trout habitat, trout populations, trout monitoring, pertaining to the North Carolina part of the Chattooga, for the period of time between January 1, 2012 and September 24, 2015, and authored by any one of the individuals involved in the preparation of the Environmental Assessment, Chattooga River Boating Access, published on May 15, 2015, as listed on pages 110-111 of that Environmental Assessment.
2. Please provide all emails pertaining to, relating to, referencing or discussing electrofishing for trout on the North Carolina part of the Chattooga, in any way, for the period of time between November 1, 2014 and February 4, 2016, authored by any one of the following: Jason Farmer, Mike Wilkins, James Melonas, and Kristin Bail.
3. For the period of time December 21, 2015 to February 4, 2016, please provide all emails sent to the United States Forest Service from Doug Besler, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Powell Wheeler, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, and Andrea Leslie, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

We conducted a search in every place a person would reasonably expect to find records responsive to your request. Specifically, we searched the electronic and hard copy files of the Forest Supervisor's Office of the National Forests in North Carolina, the Forest Supervisor's Office of the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests and the Nantahala and Cheoah Ranger District offices.

Enclosed in entirety are approximately 3 pages of records responsive to your request for the records listed above.

### **Fees**

Pursuant to Title 7 code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subtitle A, Part 1, Subpart A, Appendix A, there is not a charge for these records because they cost of the search falls below the minimum amount required for the Forest Service to collect fees.

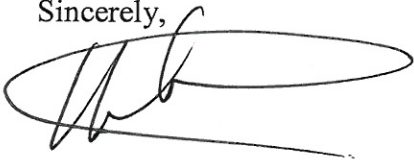


### Appeal Rights

I believe this fully satisfies your request. However, the FOIA provides you the right to appeal this response. Any appeal must be made in writing, within 45 days from the date of this letter to the Chief, USDA Forest Service: 1) by email to [wo\\_foia@fs.fed.us](mailto:wo_foia@fs.fed.us); 2) by regular mail to Mail Stop 1143, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1143; 3) by Federal Express or United Parcel Service to 201 14<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Mailstop 1143, Washington, DC 20250-1143 and telephone (202) 205-1542; 4) by fax at (202) 260-3245.

The term "FOIA APPEAL" should be placed in capital letters on the subject line of the email or the front of the envelope. To facilitate the processing of your appeal, please include a copy of this letter and reference appeal number 2016-FS-R8-02191F.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Nicholas', enclosed within a large, horizontal oval scribble.

HURSTON A. NICHOLAS  
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure(s)

## Milholen, Carol -FS

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**From:** doug.besler@ncwildlife.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 22, 2015 9:38 AM  
**To:** Wheeler, A. Powell; Leslie, Andrea J  
**Cc:** Bryan, Sheryl -FS; Farmer, Jason -FS  
**Subject:** FW: Chattooga River  
**Attachments:** FLOYD PICTURES EXHIBIT A SEDIMENT v12142015.pdf

**Importance:** High

Powell and Andrea,  
FYI. This relates to my 2+ hour phone conversation yesterday with Mr. Floyd. No need to act on this or respond to Mr. Floyd aside from the note request I had yesterday. I made it very clear to Mr. Floyd that we have no plans to initiate any trout studies in this section of the Chattooga. I reiterated to Mr. Floyd that any specific water quality concerns need to be directly relayed, by him, to NCDEQ and that any specific issues with sediment inputs from USFS trails need to be directly relayed, by him, to USFS. He is currently engaged in some level of discussions, or interventions, with both agencies. He is obviously “fishing” to have anyone within our agency intervene into the processes of both the USFS and NCDEQ to derail the lifting of the boating ban by showing that there has been both impacts to the trout community and to water quality since boaters have had access to the resource. I am not biting. To save you both long phone calls, feel free to decline conversation and direct Mr. Floyd to me.

Jason and Sheryl, FYI.

Thanks,

Doug

Doug Besler // Regional Fishery Supervisor  
Inland Fisheries Division

NC Wildlife Resources Commission  
645 Fish Hatchery Rd.  
Marion, NC 28752  
office: 828-659-8684 // mobile: 919-818-7886  
fax: 828-652-3279  
[doug.besler@ncwildlife.org](mailto:doug.besler@ncwildlife.org)

[ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org)



**From:** Bill Floyd [mailto:wcbfloyd@ix.netcom.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 21, 2015 2:04 PM  
**To:** Besler, Doug A. <doug.besler@ncwildlife.org>  
**Cc:** wcbfloyd@ix.netcom.com

**Subject:** Chattooga River

**Importance:** High

Doug,

I look forward to hearing more of the specifics about why your team opines that they see no reason to be concerned about the health of the trout population in this sediment laden segment of the Chattooga. Thanks.

The attached pictures are representative of how this embedded sediment has filled in much of the interstitial spaces and pools on a long segment of this plunge pool river habitat....the last picture is the upstream side of log jam that is keeping this sediment from further fouling the river downstream.

I have hundreds, perhaps thousands of additional pictures, taken at different points in time, which catalog conditions of the riverbed on each individual date, as found from wading up or down the creek between Cane Creek and Green Creek.

The Forest Service was formally made aware of this concern about water quality and degradation of trout habitat/trout populations in October 2014.

I remain concerned about the huge logjam and hope that proactive consideration of future options might be considered by all parties. I believe that the fishery above the logjam has been degraded and I am opposed to allowing the problem to simply resolve itself--to the detriment of the fishery downstream---at the same time that responsible agencies are encouraging additional sediment flows owing to bank erosion caused by boaters seal launching off the top of the river banks.

Bill Floyd

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Email correspondence to and from this sender is subject to the N.C. Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties.

## Milholen, Carol -FS

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**From:** Wheeler, A. Powell <powell.wheeler@ncwildlife.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 02, 2016 3:03 PM  
**To:** Monte  
**Cc:** Farmer, Jason -FS  
**Subject:** RE: Chattooga 2007 Biophysical Inventory Summary

Hey Monte,

Thanks for forwarding the Bill Floyd info to me.

The NCWRC doesn't have any concerns with the USFS's boating proposal. In addition, I don't have any desire to devote any more of my career to dealing with Mr. Floyd. So, I'm not going to attend the meeting.

Thanks,  
Powell

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**From:** Monte [mailto:mseehorn@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 8:10 PM  
**To:** Jason Farmer <jfarmer@fs.fed.us>; Wheeler, A. Powell <powell.wheeler@ncwildlife.org>  
**Subject:** Fw: Chattooga 2007 Biophysical Inventory Summary  
**Importance:** High

I need you guys to attend the Coalition meeting if possible. Another e-mail from Floyd coming. I have the two e-mails on a flash drive if we need them at the meeting.

Monte

**From:** [Bill Floyd](#)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 26, 2016 4:23 AM  
**To:** [Monte](#)  
**Cc:** [wcbfloyd@ix.netcom.com](mailto:wcbfloyd@ix.netcom.com)  
**Subject:** Chattooga 2007 Biophysical Inventory Summary

PMonte, please let me know if this file comes through. Its only 14 pages but they are topo maps overlaid with erosion sites, user created trails, etc.

Bill