

Sumter National Forest

South Carolina



Chattooga Wild and Scenic River

Southern Region, USDA Forest Service

Date: 11/26/2002

Highlights

The Chattooga was designated a wild and scenic river in 1974. It is one of the longest and most spectacular free-flowing mountain rivers in the Southeast. Over a distance of 50 miles, the river descends an average of 49 feet per mile from its headwaters in North Carolina to the state line between South Carolina and Georgia. The Chattooga offers some of the best whitewater boating around.

Many people lack the equipment or skill needed to run the Chattooga River safely. Three companies are commercially licensed to operate on Sections III and IV of the Chattooga by the Forest Service. These companies also provide instructional clinics in whitewater canoeing and kayaking.

If you are a spectator, the parking area off Highway 76 at the Georgia/SC state line offers a short trail to Bull Sluice, one of the most famous rapids.

Surrounding Areas

The river is also known for its excellent trout fishing opportunities. One can also hike along the river on the Chattooga Trail. Horseback riding is allowed on the nearby Rocky Gap/Willis Knob Horse Trail.

Because of the vast area covered by the Chattooga River, a number of different attractions are easily accessible. In South Carolina, the small apple orchard communities of Long Creek and Mountain Rest, with its Hillbilly Day festival, are nearby. In Georgia, Clayton is only 15 minutes away, while a little farther away are beautiful attractions on the Chattahoochee National Forest in Georgia and the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests in North Carolina.

Directions: Many put-ins exist, some of which are accessible by automobile. However, due to the Wild and Scenic corridor, most of the river is accessible by a 1/4 mile or more hike. Water-proof maps are sold at the Ranger Station.

Requirements: All boaters must self-register at put-in information boards. Special-use permits are required for commercial uses. Detailed rules and regulations are posted on information boards.

Difficulty level: Varies according to water level, activity, and location on the river. Whitewater conditions require moderate to expert experience.

Safety: Whitewater is extremely hazardous. Always practice water safety. Leave your itinerary with someone you know.

Recommended season: Year-round. Most active from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

For More Information

Andrew Pickens Ranger District

112 Andrew Pickens Circle

Mountain Rest, SC 29664

Phone: (864) 638-9568

Fax: (864) 638-2659

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

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Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests

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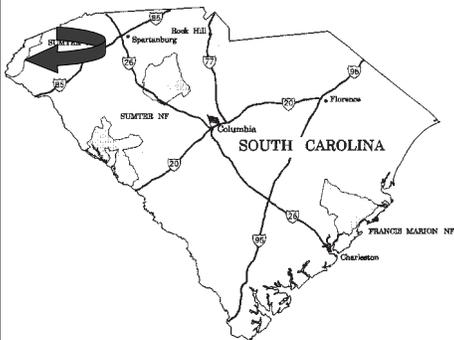
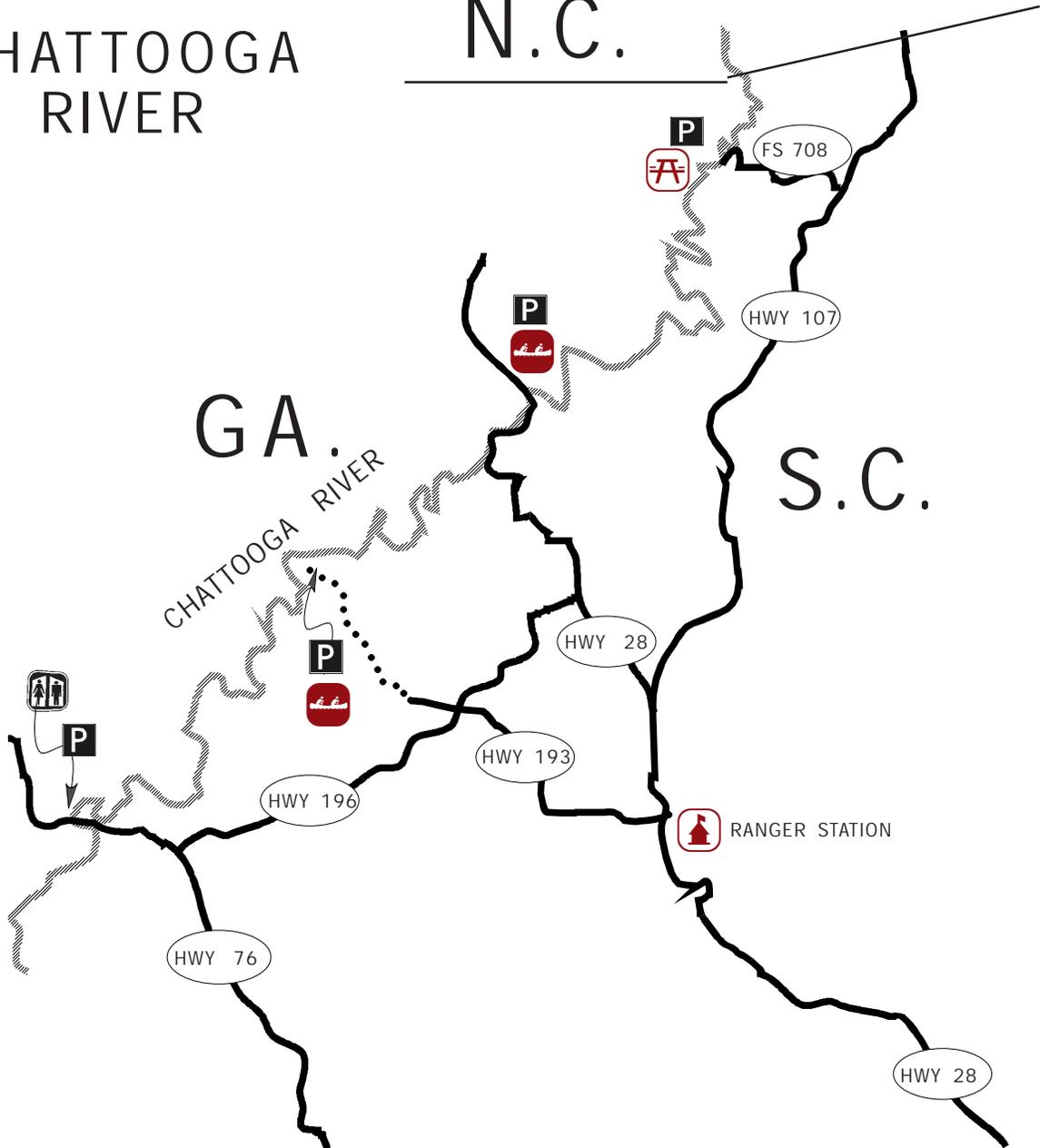


CHATTOOGA RIVER

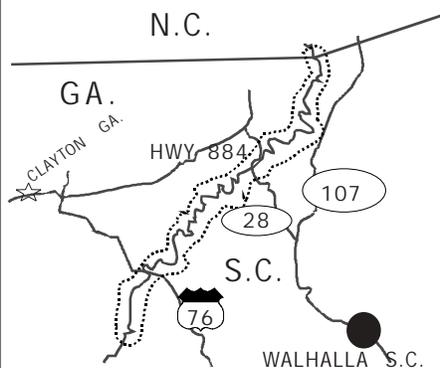
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LOCATION MAP



VICINITY MAP

-  PAVED ROAD
-  GRAVEL ROAD
-  PARKING
-  CANOEING
-  PICNICKING
-  RESTROOM

LEGEND