

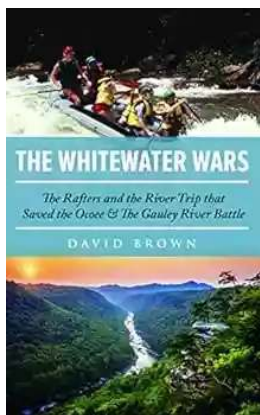
# The Rafters And The River Trip That Saved The Ocoee The Gauley River Battle

Deep in the heart of Tennessee lies a hidden gem – the Ocoee River. Renowned for its rapids and stunning natural beauty, the Ocoee is a popular destination for adventure seekers and nature lovers alike. But few know the incredible story behind the river's preservation and the brave souls who fought to save it.

## The Battle for the Ocoee River

It was the 1970s, a time of great change and development. The Ocoee River faced a grave threat – plans to dam and flood the river, forever altering its natural course. Local communities were torn apart, some supporting the development for economic growth, while others fought passionately to preserve the river's natural beauty.

Amidst this turmoil, a group of passionate rafters emerged as unexpected champions for the Ocoee. They recognized the river's untamed spirit and the unique adventure it offered. Unwilling to let the beauty of the Ocoee be lost to progress, they took matters into their own hands.



## The Whitewater Wars: The Rafters and the River Trip that Saved the Ocoee & The Gauley River

**Battle** by David Brown (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 8819 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 110 pages



## The Birth of the Rafting Industry

In a bold move, these rafters decided to organize guided trips down the Ocoee River, showcasing the unique thrill of whitewater rafting while simultaneously raising awareness about the river's imminent danger. They invited journalists, photographers, and local community leaders to experience the power and majesty of the Ocoee firsthand.

Their strategy worked, and soon, the roar of the rapids was echoed by the voices of support for the river's preservation. As word spread about the incredible river trips and the threat they faced, more and more people rallied to protect the Ocoee. The rafters inadvertently birthed the rafting industry, all the while fighting to save the very river that gave them purpose.

## River Trip Chronicles

In the midst of this battle, an unforgettable river trip happened on the Gauley River, located in West Virginia. This epic journey brought together a diverse group of individuals united by their love for the Ocoee and their desire to preserve it. Their adventure down the Gauley River would prove to be a turning point in the fight for the Ocoee's survival.

The river trip was a gauntlet of powerful rapids, challenging everyone's courage and skill. The group faced massive waves and treacherous obstacles, but their determination never wavered. They banded together, relying on each other's strength and support to conquer the Gauley's mighty waters.

Through their shared experience on the Gauley, these brave rafters formed an unbreakable bond. They became a formidable force, ready to face any obstacle and protect the Ocoee at all costs. The power of their unity would prove vital in the ongoing battle.

## **Rallying the Communities**

Armed with stories and breathtaking photographs of their river adventures, the rafters embarked on a campaign to awaken the communities along the Ocoee River. They hosted town hall meetings, presented evidence of the devastating consequences the damming would bring, and rallied support for their cause. The once-divided communities began to see the true value of the Ocoee and the importance of its preservation.

Public opinion shifted, and the movement gained momentum. It wasn't just about saving a river anymore; it became a fight for the soul of a community, for their identity and connection to nature. The Ocoee River had become a symbol of hope and resilience.

## **The Victory and Legacy**

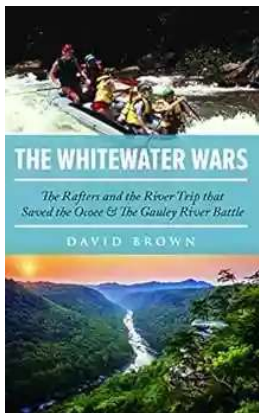
After years of relentless campaigning, the damming plans for the Ocoee River were finally abandoned. The victory was a testament to the unwavering determination of the rafters and the power of community activism. The Ocoee River remained untouched, its waters free-flowing, and its beauty preserved for future generations to enjoy.

The rafters' legacy lives on, not only in the preservation of the Ocoee but in the thriving rafting industry they inadvertently created. The river trips that started as a means to save the Ocoee have become a major attraction, drawing adventure

seekers from all around the world to experience the thrill and beauty of the Ocoee firsthand.

The story of the rafters and the river trip that saved the Ocoee is a testament to the power of passion and the ability of a few dedicated individuals to create lasting change. It reminds us of the importance of protecting our natural treasures and the role we can all play in preserving them.

The Ocoee River stands today as a testament to the bravery of those who fought for its preservation. Its rapids and scenic vistas serve as a reminder that sometimes, the most incredible adventures can be found in unexpected places, and that the greatest triumphs often arise from the most challenging battles.



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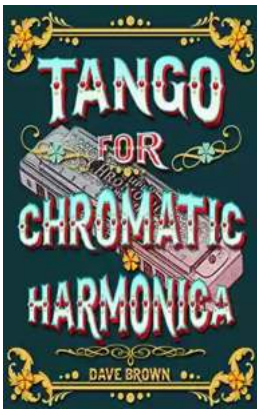
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The Whitewater Wars is an entertaining and at times funny story about the twists and turns in battles with two federal agencies to save two iconic whitewater rivers -- the Ocoee River in Tennessee and the Gauley River in West Virginia. These were not conventional environmental battles. Living close to the edge at times

with relatively little money, whitewater paddling pioneers in river shorts and sandals were seemingly no match against powerful federal agencies and their plans to install hydro projects on these two rivers. They were grossly underestimated.

Marc Hunt was one of the first Ocoee paddlers and outfitters. This is what he has to say about The Whitewater Wars. "Successful advocacy efforts for the environment are always uphill battles and winning them requires leaders with vision, grit, and integrity. David Brown brought those qualities in spades to the efforts to save the Ocoee and Gauley Rivers. Anyone with passion for protecting America's rivers, and for that matter anyone who just enjoys hearing about political brawls with powerful federal bureaucracies, will love the quick read that The Whitewater Wars delivers through David's gifted storytelling.



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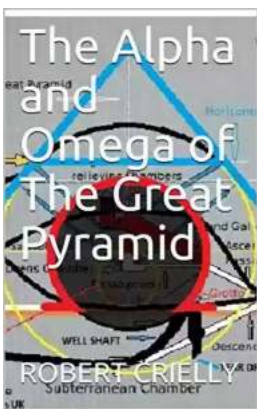
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