



## Summary of Recording Forms

### Yellow Group 1

#### I. Record Key data by individual

**Name Lea Richmond MD**

**Name Tag# 1**

Primary activity is hiking. Fishing and photography other activities. Boating not allowed above hwy 28. Area above HWY 28 bridge, at big bend area and burrels ford. Would use the area year round. Dragging boats through area is disruptive. Year-round user, most often in winter. Ideal experience to be alone and catch fish. Solitude very important—no other users. Most of the time 2 in group. Trip would be a day trip 6 to 8 hours. Beauty and solitude most important attributes of the trip. Lived on Chattahoochee River where fish and wildlife were abundant. When boating started trash and noise became abundant.

Great section ideal for boating, lower sections.  
One use may lead to other uses.

**Name Dave Perrin**

**Name Tag# 71**

Kayaking in a wilderness setting on challenging, technical rapids. Other activities include picnicking and possibly camping out. Preferred Grimeshawes to bullpen, bullpen to burrels ford and burrels ford to hwy 28. The season would be anytime the water levels are above 2.0 feet at the HWY 76 gauge. Best time to take this trip spring, summer and fall, or anytime the water levels permit. Make the trip 6 times per year with a group of 6. Have boated that section illegally, wants children to boat legally. Number of days to boat will be small. Tubing is not an issue. Access remote wild sections of the river (extreme experience) FS can come up with a boat to allow boaters to use with minimal impact. Limit number of days etc. to allow all users. Very narrow amount of time this section is floatable. 6 person group. Twice a year. Spring summer fall. Solitude not an issue. Technical ability will limit number of boaters seems to think FS can handle resp. people need to understand scope of the analyses. FS needs to inform people that tubing will not be allowed. All information needs to come out. All 3 sections accessible via bridge. Trip would be 4 to 5 hours. Specific concerns all uses should be non-motorized.

**Name Graydon Kingsland**

**Name Tag# 81**

Hiking primary. Especially in remote areas above the HWY 28 bridge. Other activities are ecology, botany, and camping in his younger days. All 50 miles of the corridor. Prefer wild sections. Goes all year especially in the spring, summer and fall. Fall is my preferred season. Most of the time I go alone but can go with friend 4 to 6 hours. Wild



river doesn't want to compromise wild river status. Status of the environment major concern. Amount of use impacts. Fs is managing people not resources. Specific concerns any sort of river craft effects the wilderness experience. Especially hate the noisy, intrusive recreational floaters below the HWY 28 bridge.

**Jim Whitehurst**

**Tag 41**

Hiking, nature study and photography. Hikes Ellicott Rock to Big Bend Falls. Hikes all year. Not many rapids, not many thrills, doesn't compare to sections below 76. few days a years to boat. Usually hikes on trail, leads hikes for hiking organizations. Wildflower hikes, leads hikes every day of the week in spring. Fisherman do some damage. Nature photography, (Leads hikes for groups of 15 average). Average trip is 8 hours. Most important attributes are unspoiled river, unencumbered trail, peaceful and undisturbed nature experience, lack of trash. Park at parking areas, fishermen and campers usually encountered. Concerns about boaters/watercraft using put-ins and take-outs and trashing the river.

**Lance Haynie**

**Tag 11**

Hiker who also camps and backpacks. Grad student. 3 times. Primary use is hiking, beauty natural surrounding. Ellicott rock prime season late fall through early spring (Oct through April). Likes colder seasons fall through spring. Group size 4 or 5. Attributes natural conditions, seeing very few groups, but not necessary complete solitude. Litter and trash make me mad. Trips from single nights to multiple days or weeks. Specific concerns fisherman leaving cut lines, used flies, trash and uneaten food. Boaters not respecting others with loud shouting, camp out in play spots. Other hikers and backpackers leaving remains, trash behind. Not practicing leaving no trace.

**Tag 51**

Being on the Chattooga most important thing. Activities would include camping, boating, fishing hiking and motorcycle riding. Uses all segments, all year. The Chattooga is so important to me it knows no season. Group size depends on the activity ranges from 1 to 6. Trip can be from 1 to 6 days. No longer a total extreme boater any more. Boating, camping, hiking. Year-round user. My soul has a special connection with river. Remoteness, access, feeling that the chatt is a special place. Concern - TU gives money so they get to keep that section of the river as a private fishing hole, concern about perception of favoritism (TU). Specific concerns lack of education of other users, resource protection practices, lack proper enforcement to protect the Outstandingly Remarkable Values.



## **II. Group**

Hiking ranges from remote to trail, fly fishing, boating, nature photography motorcycle, dispersed camping, wildflower walks.

Common, concern about user ethic, spiritual, religious, healing, sense of place.  
Aesthetics,

Differences, level of solitude preferred. Interpretations of what other uses would bring (i.e. trash and etc.)

Surprises, few days are floatable – 2 foot level. People would even consider boating over big bend falls.



## White Group 2

### **I. Record Key data by individual**

**Name (optional)** Bill Rethorst **Name Tag #** 52

Solitude experience, no boaters. Experience hike into the area. Pristine area, wildflowers. One or two boaters no problem. Boaters are like a herd. Should not boat by themselves. Some fishing OK. Desirable trip 6 – 8 hours with grand kids. Spring summer fall and winter are all desirable. Likes to go to the mountains in the winter. No litter. Other activities photography, wildlife sightings, wildflowers, teaching and showing my grand children the wonders of creation. Starts at Bull Pen Iron Bridge and walks up and down the stream. Four people in group. Wants to be alone in this section.

**Name (optional)** Ken Strickland **Name Tag #** 2

Mountain person is a boater, steep creek kayaking. Creeking and river running with a small group friends (1 or 2 friends with a max of 3 friends). Take a break at one or more of the spectacular spots. Boated in 1975 - 13 foot boats. beautiful section of the river. Burrells Ford to HWY 28. Bull pen to Burrells Ford. Iron bridge called supper corkscrew. Hole in the wall. Big bend falls, rock gorge, upper big hairy bastard. Scenic area, .Respect the fisherman. Time of year depend on water level. Winter rains Dec. – April and May. Trees not leafed out. Need a guage at the HWY 28 bridge. Trip length is 4 hours. The rapids and falls of the upper Chattooga are spectacular in addition to being challenging although well within the ability of an experience boater, as in this day and age technique and gear are far advanced when compared with the 1970's. No specific concerns as long as they are nonmotorized and noncommercial and have respect for our forest and streams. Users who meet this criteria should be allies and not adversaries as there are major threads to this pristine area. (upstream development- water quality degradation to siltation for example).

**Name (optional)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Name Tag #** 72

Hiking is the most important. Fishing, hiker, nature study and over night camper. Ellicott wilderness along the river, camping overnight. Wildlife sightings are important. No encounters with boats. Wants the solitude. Time of year about 70 degrees. Prefers summer months. Stays for two days. Encounters few people. Hungry fish would make it high quality. Large groups would be annoying. Fish without boats, tubes, canoes or other floatation devices on the river. No ORV's. Don't want to see trash out areas.



Name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Name Tag # 12

Wants solitude – enjoys being by himself. Enjoys the view. Fisherman. Up to burrells ford through rock gorge. Primarily delayed harvest. Above HWY 28 bridge. Up to burrells ford through Fall and Spring 2 or 3 times a week. Will not go up during high water. Trash is a concern. Not the level of use in sections III and IV. 4 to 6 hours. Does not the same level of use in sections III and IV below highway 28 bridge. Nov. 1 to May 15. After May 15 rock gorge.

## II. Group

### Recreational activities

1. creeking
2. hiking
3. fishing
4. photography
5. overnight camping
6. backpacking

### Similar

1. solitude
2. untouched, natural setting, pristine
3. no trash keep area clean
4. respect of the river
5. loves the wilderness and outdoors

### Differences

1. boaters feel unfairly excluded from the river
2. boaters have very little impact.
3. chance of uncontrolled boat use – large numbers?
4. how much impact boaters might have on fishing and solitude.

### Surprise

1. understand why boaters feel excluded.
2. did not hear how we can work this out.
3. common desire for solitude.

### Didn't hear tonight that you thought you might hear

1. boaters need to prove why they are excluded.
2. will come down to water level.
3. overflow creek and west fork for data.
4. commonality desire for solitude
5. we didn't hear how we can work this out.



### Red Group 3

#### **I. Record Key data by individual**

##### **Lee Hiers**

**# 83**

Primary activity is Trout fishing – fly fishing, with dry flies.  
Wildlife photography secondary.

Likes to go to Highway 28 upstream a few miles, and Burrells Ford up and down stream a few miles. Physically limited to 2-3 miles. Likes the delayed harvest section because there are a lot of fish.

Time of year: ALL YEAR, but primarily November through May because fishing is better. Has 2 – 4 people in his group.

Goes weekly, sometimes multiple times a week, but depends on a lot of things. If you get over 2 feet at the Hwy 76 gauge he cannot wade fish and will therefore not go fishing. He always wades when he fishes.

Generally 8 hour day trips. Likes pristine setting, no litter, and solitude is always good. However, likes remoteness and interference from others that is accessible.

##### Concerns:

Anything that will conflict with his activity – for e.g. boating noise. Same issue with noisy anglers. Trout are easily spooked by careless wading and boat traffic.

##### **Larry Walker**

**# 43**

Trout fishing is most important.  
Secondly, likes to observe wildlife in serene setting, plants and trees, hike, and bird watching (not a birding expert, but likes to do it as a complimentary activity). Likes to see deer and fawns wading the river.

Nicholson Ford to Burrells Ford section is his preferred section. It is wadeable, accessible, good fishing. Does not like the delayed harvest too much as it draws crowds. But would go there mid-week.

All year is great for fishing. Likes to backpack in and camp out. Ideal time is late Spring to early summer (because he is an avid Turkey hunter, not out there earlier).  
Additionally, this particular corridor is not his favorite for his hunting pursuits.



Likes to travel with no more than 2-3 people. Also brings his dog with him. Would expect to see some other folks in that stretch (some hikers, fishermen, etc.) Would not like to see a huge number of people though. Also expects to see people behaving correctly in the out of doors would – user ethics.

Likes the 1 week trip - backpacking in and setting up a base camp.

Most important attributes:

Water quality – managed watershed in line with BMP's. Minimal noise pollution and excellent solitude. Also perturbed by human litter – evidence of humans. OK with fire rings if they are clean. Not concerned with designated campsites if in the right area. Does not like to see trash.

Does not like to see unhealthy forests. For e.g.: Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. Has concern that FS budgets are limited and that the more time is diverted to addressing boaters, the less time is left to address the adelgid effort, for e.g. The adelgid will impact future generations and aesthetics tremendously.

Concerns:

Noise from boaters. Those attracted by commercial outfitters do not have an environmental ethic. Noisy, obnoxious and trashy. All you have to do is see what is happening on the lower river. He would not fish the lower river when boaters are around. Not opposed to boating, but believes there is a place for them, and it's not everywhere. Additionally, does not want to have his tax money going to pay for search and rescue. A single kayaker would not disturb fishing experience too much, but if he experiences a string of rafts in short order, his fishing is shot. Worst thing he could visualize is pink inner tubes.

**Carla Hedden**

**# 73**

Bird watcher.

Likes to find/spot a rare bird like a Swainson's warbler. Finds them mostly by sound. Wildlife watching, quiet time, Walks the trails. If you don't hear any, she will not go very far/turn around. Once a bird is heard, you go off trail to find the bird. She is a visual birder. Needs to look at it to confirm.

Stays on established trails unless she hears the animal. It depends where she would go. Probably Burrells Ford. Does the birding activity only in the early morning. Number of birds she finds is also important.

Time of year – during the Spring migration you will see the most variety (when in the Spring depends on the weather), then Fall migration you would see somewhat less (early morning also).

Number of people:



Doesn't want a large group : 2-3 people

If a large number of cars parked at BF it would not be an ideal trip. But if you hear bird sounds, you would probably go anyway. Trip would last a couple hours in the early morning (2-3 hours from dawn or just before).

Doesn't go during the rain because birds don't call much during that time.

If the place is attractive and there are no birds calling, she might stay anyway.

Most important attribute:

To find a bunch of rare birds – wants to reach 200 on her list, she's at 190 now. Also wants to see undisturbed conditions where there would be good birding habitat. The habitat does depend on the type of birds you are looking for. Concerned that if the use of this area goes up that the quality of the bird population will go down. Doesn't matter what type of user, just that more users are in the area. Wants quiet undisturbed activities.

**Wade**

**# 79**

Finding solitude in the wilderness (Ellicott Rock) and escaping the crowds (not more than 2-3 parties per day). 4- 5 per group is too large.

Activities include hike, explore, pack fly rod, swim, boating.  
Preferred activity is backpacking.

Where? Ellicott Rock, and sections 0 and 00.

Might start at Burrells Ford since he is at student at Clemson.

Likes Ellicott Rock because there's some unroaded areas, no logging or cutovers, pristine. Looking at river and woods.

From April to November. If water is low and clear, packing fly rod. If higher would be boating.

May on the front side and October on the back side is the best time to be in the woods.  
Has his own fly rods and boats.

Would take the trip twice per year for overnight backpacking. Kayaking about half a dozen times per year since the water is not the best in this section. If river is not above 2 feet you cannot float. Doesn't like to drag boat on the rocks.

2 is his minimum number of partners and up to 4. Doesn't like to travel alone.

Trip 2-5 days, 1-4 nights.

High quality attributes of his trip:



Solitude. Would rather go during the week (Tuesday to Thursday).  
Minimal amounts of litter and trash. 1 – 2 pieces of trash is acceptable. Fire rings is a problem, particularly with aluminum cans in them, etc. Would like to see impacts concentrated at campsites.  
Would like to see the number of people in the group (max of 8 people). Would like to see designated campsites.

Specific concerns about other recreation users:

Overcrowding is #1. Physical impacts on the land is #2, and litter is #3. Trail degradation and trails washed out.

### **Kay Corriel**

**# 69**

Enjoys a hike with friends along a stream. Generally go with a hiking club from Franklin/Highlands. Likes to stop along the creek for lunch.  
Likes to observe wildflowers, ferns, trees, wildlife, and wildlife tracks. May take a few pictures.

Where to go?

Doesn't do a lot of hiking in this area because she lives in Franklin. But around here she hikes down river from Burrells Ford. Hiked with someone who knew the area and really liked it. It's pretty with nice waterfalls and scenery. Likes to see the stream.

Time of year: Spring, summer or Fall. Spring is best time for wildflowers. Fall colors in the fall. Looking for trees that are going to seed. Best time for her is Spring or early summer. Would take 2-3 trips per year.

4-8 people in her group. Doesn't like bigger groups. Doesn't have a problem meeting other groups as long as they are not too big. Kids can be noisy.

Attributes:

Likes decent access to the trail with designated parking (no drop offs on road, narrow and muddy roads). Not too crowded. Likes to see interesting sites like waterfalls and rock formations. Reasonable parking and driving access. Decent access to hiking trails.

Concerns about other recreation users:

Concerned that everyone is starting their trip at Burrells Ford. Would mean a lot more activity at the few parking areas.

Doesn't like to walk on trails that are worn down. Does not like bank degradation from boats, plus portaging impacts from boats. "Streams are prettier when they are not decorated with boaters and floaters." If she wants to see more boaters, she would go to the Ocoee River. Does not have a problem seeing fishermen in the water.



**Buzz Williams**

**#13**

Enjoys the interaction with the natural environment. Likes to do hunting where appropriate and legal. Fishing, hiking, photography, nature study. Number one activity is to go out for reflection and solitude.

Would travel on existing trails, off trails - his business takes him outside for land use histories. Prefers to be off-trail.

Goes anytime of the year. Best is spring and fall, but likes winter when he knows there is no one else. Likes to go just by himself, or his wife or family member. Groups are 1 or 2 maybe 3. Some day trips up to 3 days.

Likes day trips, but does multiple days also.

Likes the challenge, the primitive setting and the solitude. Challenge for him involves no modern facilities, being in a wild area.

Concerns:

Other recreation users would detract from solitude.  
Never seen a boater go through a rapid without hollering.  
Too much human impact.

**II. Group**

Didn't get a chance to do this part – ran out of time.... However, here are some of the comments summarized by our presenter (Wade):

Users included fishermen, hikers, boaters, hunters.  
No surprises – big commonality was to see the resource and solitude protected.

Area gets used all year long.

No one wants to see the pink inner tubes or the rafts.



### Blue Group 4

#### **I. Record key data by individual**

Name Doug Adams\_\_\_\_\_

Name Tag # 4

Backcountry fly fishing experience, hiking in and out, nature study, wildlife observations, photography, watching night insects. All areas from a mile above the iron bridge down to the 28 Bridge. No section is more than 90 minute walk-in. All year, all months – least in late July and August. Sunday afternoon through Friday, seldom on Saturday. 40 to 60 times a year. Best March, April, May Oct. and Nov. because fish are most active. Alone about 60% of the time. One other person the other balance. Solitude, observe wildlife, alone mostly or 1 companion, beautiful setting, photography, 30-90 minute hike, 28 – mile above iron bridge; 40-60 times/year, more in march april may, october/november. Renew memories, go back to familiar places; 6-8 hours/trip, camp offside and take day trips; osprey, mink, wild hogs, primary looking for solitude one on one experience with a wild brown trout on delayed harvest section. Seeing wildlife such as osprey, bob cats, deer, wild hogs, mink. Go after that one fish half a dozen times. Revisiting areas and recalling memories of previous trips. Loss of solitude major concern. People that spook a wild trout.

Name Jimmy Harris\_\_\_\_\_

Name Tag # 14

Love area for remoteness, backcountry fishing experience, angling exp that's not available elsewhere in the east; a dozen anglers would have the same negative impacts and a dozen boaters would have; takes a large investment/commitment to enjoy this section of the river, not everyone will do it and that's good. Fishes between Ellicott Rock and HWY 28. Travel via US 441, HWY 28 and US Forest Service road 646. All year, best time fall, winter and spring. Little opportunity for conflict with other users. Mostly fishing, sometimes hiking. Ellicott rock and hw 28 depending on water level. Year round but more heavily at certain times. 12-15 times/year. Usually 2 - 4 people in group. Day trips 5-10 hours in length per trip. Likes to spend the day. Uniqueness of the resource and experience. Inherent conflict between boaters and anglers. Experiences it on other rivers and on the Chattooga. Not many have easy access. Boating would add easy access to the river. Angling experience that isn't available anywhere else in the eastern US. Impact increased use will have on the resource.



Name Steve Burch\_\_\_\_\_

Name Tag # 64

Wilderness and/or backcountry trout fishing for stream trout acclimated and conditioned by a natural environment. Challenge that can be met only in this undisturbed setting/environment. Three access points Burrells Ford, Bull Pen, and the trail on the Georgia side downstream from Burrells Ford. Holy site. 5 star restaurant in a place devoid of this kind of opportunity shrine. fishing/boating would start (combination); cant pay enough money to get this experience anywhere else. Rather miss a 9" on chattooga than catch 20 large contrived existence. Personal visit. Unique experience. Large backcountry water, adds to the solitude. Undisturbed setting to test himself. Quietude. Like looking into a fire at nite. Aesthetic, emotional. Once disturbed it's ruined. Like being in church, mardis gras parade comes thru, they're gone but you're still in church. Seeing a mink that didn't see him. Best times are April -may, oct-nov. spends night on river for 3 days. Best in early Feb while breeding. Fishes about 24 days. Group 3 - 7, 4 on most trips. Tangled with some nice fish. Solitude, isolation, pristine nature, undisturbed wildlife rather than acclimated to humans. Boating increases fishing pressure. Specific concern is intrusion. Mardi Gras is great. But a mardi gras parade routed through a church service harms the church-goers (who are generally stationary) much greater than the moving unit of the passing parade.

Name Heather Stockton\_\_\_\_\_

Name Tag # 74

Able to boat for the first time. Occasional camping, sightseeing, enjoying nature, picnicking. Don't know where she would go, husband would guide her. Park and hike in wherever she went. Boating year round if the water is running, even year round. Wouldn't want to be limited to months if water wasn't running. Times of the day (limits) might work. Usually just 2 on the trip, possibly 10 for camping. 2-3 times a year might be overnight, otherwise just a few hours. In a good season I will boat 20 times. Most important attributes are beauty and nature, some solitude, view nature, doesn't mind sharing with other users. Doesn't require entire solitude. Doesn't want to be limited to when she can boat, doesn't want to run into others who don't want her to be there and communicate that. Courteous and ethical users. Don't mind sharing.



## **II. Group**

Users, boating, backcountry, fishing, picnicking, wildlife viewing, backcountry large water, hike-in, camping, photography, nature observation.

Commonality solitude, wildlife viewing, water level.

Differences in water levels. Fishing is at 1 foot and Boating level equal 2 feet or more. Fishing in and out same way. Boating in one way and out another. Fishing use small sections. Boating use long stretches.



## Orange Group 5

### **I. Record Key data by individual**

Tag #75

Most important activity is having a safe and enjoyable wilderness experience. Other activities include paddling, hiking and fishing. Would like to be able to use any section of the river I choose. Time of year if I was paddling would depend on flows. If I was fishing, it would be where I could float. I hike all over the river (12 months a year). People on the trip would vary from 1 – 10. Trip would be 1 – 3 days. Most important attributes include safety, solitude, quality of whitewater, and quality of fishing. Specific concern on overuse.

Tag #45

Most important activity is quiet floating down the river enjoying the scenery. Other activities include canoeing and picnicking. I would go to the calmest and easiest sections. Would go all year. Best time is summer and fall. Would go once per year. Would include two people. The trip would last several hours. Most important attributes are quiet, nature and wildlife. Specific concerns include noise from motorized vehicles.

George Hedrick

Tag #49

Most important activity is boating. Other activities include hiking, fishing, camping and sitting. Cann't paddle above HWY 28. Below HWY 28 Earlsford to Lake River Camping. Above HWY 28 would hike and camp for Grimshaws to Tugaloo. I would like to paddle/camp from Bullpen to Burrell's Ford if allowed. Time of year would be all year. Camping – fall, spring and summer, Hiking – all year, Fishing – spring and summer, Paddling – all year. Groups of 1 – 10. Trip would be 6 hours, multi day. Most important attributes are water quality and levels determine activity; solitude and interaction with people seeking same, wilderness nature of the area, low use on campsite. Specific concerns that users are aware and practice ethical use, no littering. No further development (paved or graveled parking) to accommodate any user activity.

David Cannon

Tag #65

Most important activity is fishing. Other activities are hiking, catching fish, photography and relaxing. I would go north of HWY 28. Time of year would be all year unless water temperatures are in excess of 68 degrees. Best time of year is winter, spring, fall, cooler summer days. Group size of 1 – 4 people. Length of trip would be 6 hours or more. Most important attributes are solitude – absence of others, litter, power lines, road noises and etc. Specific concerns are don't want it to become overcrowded or over used by any user



group. My main concern is losing the solitude of the only river of its size with its limitations in place.

Tag #55

Primary activity is a kayaking and safety. Also hikes, fishes and camps. I would go where the water or flow is. Always using trail and designated pathways. If there is rain or water, sections 0 and 00 of the headwaters. Time of year is any time, 12 months of year. However only during the rainy season. Recently could be any time of year. Best time is spring and fall. Not too hot and not too cold. Group size ranges from 2 to 4. Large numbers takes away from the scenic isolation. Length of trip 3 – 6 hours. Important attributes are enough water and no litter. Specific concerns are there is room for everyone. However, no ATV use, noise pollution and hard on terrain are other concerns.

Bill Kelly

Tag #5

Most important activity is camping and fishing. Other activities include listening to the quiet water and fish jumping the falls. I would go around the Bend – use old salt through trail in – sawmill road out. Time of year Jan, Feb, March, May, June, Sept., Oct, Nov, December. Take 5 – 6 trips per year with each trip averaging 1 week. Group size 2 – 9 people. Most important attributes are fishing buddies are spread out and have no one to disturb tranquility. Specific concerns are have to see what bubba boaters do, throw trash, threaten fisherman, break beer bottles in stream and etc.

## **II. Group**

Activities include hiking, fishing, boating, camping and day use.

Surprises are that all care, similar views and values, few differences.

Differences not much. Fishing vs Boating primary passion.

Issues that stand out include bubba mentality, river ownership (packing out others trash)

Learn what other user groups feel. Early process created conflict between groups. Today's process allowed communication and respect between them.



**Brown Group 6**

**I. Record Key data by individual**

**Name (optional)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name Tag #** 6 \_\_\_\_\_

Memory of when was a kid in Florida and the pristine places that he saw, what's the breaking point when does more become less?? LAC, environmental impacts, wants grandkids to see the same things he has seen.

**#1 activity:** Slow pace, solitude, wildlife, fishing

**other activity:** sit, watch and listen, wildlife viewing.

**where go:** walk the trails, up and down stream wading

**when:** April - November

**how many people:** one maybe two at the most

**how long:** daylight to dark

**attributes:** solitude, setting my own pace

**concerns:** wants others to be able to experience what he has seen, wildlife, views, etc. To many cooks spoil the soup.

**Name (optional)** George Custer

**Name Tag #** 16

Rafter, and fly fish guide, hiker, Chattooga favorite river – magical!!!! Rafters and fisherman have opportunity to experience river now, if allowed above 28 it would ruin the magical experience that the fishermen have now, believes that boating above 28 would increase rescues – he works for rescue crew

**#1 activity:** solitude and pristine environment -

**other activity:** photography, fish, camp, explore



**where go:** depends

**when:** all year long – no prime season, like the change of season – winter less people so often goes then

**how many people:** 1 or 2

**how long:** 3hours – 7 days

**attributes:** solitude and pristine environment

**concerns:** white water boaters not pristine and wilderness like – colors, # of people, material, brings groups and technology to pristine environment - all types of experiences are built in to current system pristine to developed. For example I can come upon a fisherman and not effect my solitude.

**Name (optional)** Jenny Sanders

**Name Tag #** 46

User since she was 10, husband since 6-7, both raft guides, shred, hike, climb, doesn't want to boat above 28,

**#1 activity:** Solitude, hike, picnicking, observe plants, animals,

**other activity:** like to hike, photography on section above 28, view wildlife, seeking solitude, prefers winter hiking.

**where go:** all over

**when:** usually winter, enjoys quite even though its cold - all year, when it rains

**how many people:** 2-5 sometime by herself. Generally 2

**how long:** hours to several days

**attributes:** solitude and pristine environment, vegetation quality on this section. Go there to be alone.

**concerns:** disturbing activity, litter, search and rescue, doesn't want to put others in danger to save others. Don't want to see the trails run down. Increased uses increased hassles.

**Name (optional)**

**Name Tag #** 56



Visitor Use Capacity Analysis, Upper Chattooga River  
Second Public Meeting, November 17, 2005

We all want to maintain pristine environment – increase pop- how to provide taste of wilderness- likes to see wilderness from boat veg, snakes, fish, ect., doesn't like to see lots of people – luckily no big road along river. LAC can't stop some change – wants to see upper section from a boat

**#1 activity:** canoeing

**other activity:** video, view rocks, photograph, play on river bank

**where go:** from NC107 to hwy 28 using Iron bridge or Burrells Ford.

**when:** winter and spring (when the water is high enough) 2 or 3 times a year

**how many people:** 3-4 people

**how long:** long - grimshaw to 28 in one day would be ideal, 3 to 8 hours maybe 2 to 3 days.

**attributes:** pristine setting, few people, lots of animals,

**concerns:** how do you codify LAC, gage needed up stream, type of craft????

Trash, motorized access would be a negative. Hikers and anglers not a problem unless they leave trash.

**Name (optional)** \_\_\_

**Name Tag #** 66

Fisherman, quality experience and room to fish because there is no road by it,

**#1 activity:** fly fishing, back country experience

**other activity:** hiking, back pack, camping

**where go:** Burrell's upstream to ERWA (Ellicott Rock Wilderness Area) or downstream 1-2 miles, 28 up through DH (Delayed Harvest) section

**when:** all year, july and august less desirable, best oct. and nov. late march mid may great, at least 30 times a year.

**how many people:** 1-3

**how long:** 8hours, occasional overnight , up to 2 days

**attributes:** solitude – beauty and quality of fishing



**concerns:** impacts at Burrell's ford, HWY 28 and the Irons bridge. Would be huge if boating allowed, local people are not as involved as hoped, people love things to death, other gauge would be needed. Inexperienced boaters all over the river.

## **II. Group**

1. Desire solitude and pristine environment for self and the next generation.
2. The level of experience of the members of the group with primitive Rivers
3. Those that want or don't want boating above 28.
4. How reasonable people can be.
5. Still hope for rational discussion - duckies could be a gray area if trying to zone/limit etc. type of craft etc.



**Black Group 7**

**I. Record Data by Individual**

Don Kinser

Tag #7

Most important activity to legally float above HWY 28. Chiefs decision quite clear to allow boating. Nature observation, possibly fishing, picnicking, enjoying the wilderness. Float all three sections, Bull Pen to Burrells Ford primarily. Float all year round water levels permitting. Summer months after the heavy rains. Group would range from 1 to 4 people. Trip would be 4 to 5 hours. Most important attributes wildernessriver, no development, clean water, beautiful forest, awesome geology, great rapids. Concerns about other uses anglers have closed the river to boating for 30 years.

Mike B.

Tag 47

Most important activity is picnicking, swimming and playing in the river. Other activities are splash, wade, talk, relax, possibly fish. Would start at the Iron Bridge and head up water to Norton Mill Creek. I would and have made this trip in every season. However have not swam in the winter. Plays in the water 5 times per year between May and September. 50% of the time alone, 10% of time 5 people, 40% time 2 people. Trip would be from 1 – 8 hours. Important attributes, solitude, pristine environment, herons, otters and water temperature and water quality. Biggest concern is the through boaters, would be detrimental to the solitude. Other users would have only a minimal effect because they don't force themselves into the same space.

Evelyn Hopkins

Tag 57

Most important activity is white water boating. Enjoy the company of good friends and the beauty of the river. Favorite section IV. Enjoy all sections depending on water level. Higher water generally moves to sections upstream. Best time of year would be the summer months but not enough water. Trip size 4 -5 ideal, ½ day trip. Most important attribute is clear water. Specific concerns commercial uses can effect the experience. No problem with fisherman.

Terry Rivers

Tag 67

Most important activity is fly fishing. Other activities are hiking and camping. Hwy 28 to grimshawes or the rock slide. Goes all year. The best time is March through October.



2 – 3 in group. Trips are two to four days. Two to five times per week all year. Back packs HWY 28 to North Carolina. Most important attributes are great fishing, scenery, and solitude. OK to ban boats. Specific concerns environmental impact of users and search and rescue concerns.

Henry Rust

Tag 77

Primary activity is a Hiker also fishes and swims. Goes from Ribbon Fall to Corkscrew – Green Creek. Goes all year. Lives on the River. Early Spring is the best time. Typically goes with 4 people the group. Trips are 8 hours. Most important attribute is serenity. Biggest specific concern about other users is scaring off wildlife.

## **II. Group**

Common we all value the same characteristics wilderness, water quality, beauty

We all agreed no tubing

Some concern about “inexperienced” user from many in group.

Surprised that swimmer went swimming today.

If river is above 2 feet there will be very few anglers on upper river.

Concern over parking

Lack of enforcement, never check licences.

Angler/other users would be willing to complete use permit.



## Purple Group 8

### **I. Record Data by Individual**

John

Tag #8

Most important activity is canoeing on the river corridor from Burrells Ford to HWY 28. Other activities on the trip are lunch and companionship. Time of year would be spring, summer, and fall but only with water levels high enough to successfully canoe this section. Best time of year is Spring about once a year. Group size would be 2 to 8 people. Trip would be about 8 hours. Most important attributes are this is a beautiful remote section of the river that is narrow, usually has low water flow and would only be canoeable a few days of the year. Large crowds and groups of rafters would be detrimental to the river experience. Small groups of boaters would not be objectionable. Water quality is important. Specific concerns are I don't believe that there are enough potential users of this area that a significant problem would exist. I see a few other users but not enough to impact my experience.

Gatins

Tag #38

Most important activity is hiking and solitude. Other activities by order of priority include, spiritual renewal, wild nature of this special river, being "on the water", photography, historical/archeological sites, Adelgid monitoring on hemlocks, wildlife signs and trail maintaining. There are multiple access points to various zones of the Upper Chattooga. I've hiked almost all of them, but not all. Usually stay on designated system trails. Time of year is all year – usually going once per season during the weekdays and weekends. Best time of year is fall. Size of group 1 to 20 but smaller is better. I do day hiking only. Most important attributes include solitude and wilderness, cascades and waterfalls. Specific concerns include user conflicts at the water and on the water, loss of solitude, loss of wilderness values and wild and scenic values, resource damage from camping, putting in, putting out locations (too much campsite damage already at confluence of east and north forks below hatchery (in the Ellicot Rock Wilderness Area), dirty water, latrine smells; vectors from new trails or access/egress points for illegal ATV use (too much already); more trash and more noise.

Ben VanCamp

Tag #78

Most important activity is kayaking the unique quality whitewater rapids with potential for overnight. Other activities include camping, swimming, and nature watching. I



would go to sections 00 and 0 depending on day. Time of year depends on river levels and weather. Spring and summer prefer. During the summer would go once a month if water levels are high enough. Group size would be 3 – 5 people. Trips last from ½ day to 2 days. Most important attributes of the trip include wilderness setting, adequate water, water quality and access fee and permits. Specific concerns are none. Paddlers coexist with other user groups on most other rivers. Plus high water generally make poor paddling so we would most likely not be on the river at the same time.

Bill

Tag #68

Most important activity is hiking/backpacking. Other activities include wildflowers, waterfalls, and sightseeing. Go to Ellicott Rock, 3 miles upstream from Burrell's Ford. Time of year is in the spring and fall. Best time of year is in the spring (March, April, and May). Group size is 2 to 3 people. Trip would be 2 nights and 3 days. Important attributes are solitude – not see or hear over 4 parties per trip, natural conditions, good wildflower habitats and little to no noise. Specific concerns are noise in the river corridor, trail erosion and heavy impacts/litter, heavy horse use in the corridor, large parties of users (i.e. wild water parties and etc.), concentrations of users within the corridor.

Tag #9

Primary activity is paddle the river. Other activities include looking at plants, birds, animals that we might encounter. I would go from Bull Pen Gap to HWY 28. I would go when there is adequate water spring or fall. Best time of year to take the trip is when there is water. Group size 6 – 10 people. Trip would be 4 – 5 hours. Most important attributes include scenery, river features and water quality. Specific concerns include seeing hikers, fishermen(women), campers leaving trash at campsites on riverbanks and in the water is very disturbing. However, all sections of the Chattooga have this problem but both private boaters and commercial rafters tend to pick up the trash.

## **II. Group**

Activities include boating, hiking, backpacking, nature and wilderness appreciation.

Similar include no overuse, resource respect, season of use (spring), no one wants to be banned from use, small group solitude.

Differences include method to travel (boat/hike), day vs overnight use with some overlap, different portions of area are used (hiking vs overnight paddling).

Surprises – a lot of commonality.

Did not hear from fisher-persons, no one said boating should be banned.



## Pink Group 0

### **I. Record Key data by individual**

Lauren Ledford

Tag #70

Most important activity is kayaking and canoeing. Other activities include backpacking and hiking. Not familiar with upper Chattooga river but have used the lower frequently. Would do a trip all year. Best time is all year. Group size up to 10. Trip would be hours if paddling, multiple days for camping or paddling/camping. Important attributes are the River is one of the only National Wild and Scenic Rivers I have ever paddled. The natural beauty, solitude, and cleanliness made the experience memorable and educational to younger generations who need to see wilderness and proper preservation. To see a river properly managed to allow user access, yet prevent pollution and overload of carrying capacity is amazing. More rivers need this management and protection. Specific concerns are regulation to keep commercial users spread out . Pollution from campers, hikers, or boaters.

Tag #10

Most important activity is being alive on the river. If the river was high enough to paddle, the water would be too muddy for worthwhile fishing. Other activities include canoeing, trout fishing, camping. Would probably paddle Bullpen Bridge to HWY 28 as I am least familiar with this section. Time of year would be anytime. I would paddle 2 – 5 times per year. Fish 2 – 5 times and camp 4 – 10 times per year. Group size would be 2 – 4 people. Trip would be 1 – 2 days. Most important attributes are no garbage and clean water.

Tag #40

Most important activity experiencing the river in its aspects that reflect the pre-human or non-human impact. Other activities include hiking, fishing, swimming, and wading. My interest increases with decrease in flow volume of the river. Enjoy and still enjoy all year the headwaters above Grimshawes. Time of year in all year. Group size 1 – 4 people. Length of average trip is 2 to 6 hours. Important attributes are solitude, quiet (reference is to noise of jubilant boaters), passive enjoyment of unusually pristine area. Specific concerns are respect and concern for each other and their interest.



## II. Group

Activities include paddlers, wading, hiking, swimming, camping, fishing, photography, viewing, praying, picnics.

Similar - wants river to give solitude from outside world, but not against seeing others on the river. Variety of uses. Everyone at the table got along.

Differences include some uses in the water and some out.

Surprises – the passive enjoyment is not in conflict with others using the river.