From:	Ron Leslie
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:	rleslie@piedmont.edu
Subject:	Chatooga policy
Date:	08/14/2008 08:58 AM

Thank you for this opportunity.
As a kayak owner and enthusiast, I am very much opposed to extending the use of this section of the river to these commercial interests. I also hike and fish in this area and have many times been fishing and observed the use of this area as a wilderness camping area. While the kayakers would have a lesser effect on fishing, they would totally destroy this area as a wilderness campground. There should be areas of our watershed which are limited to those willing to walk to them. Kayakers tend to be verbal and celebratory after completion of challenging sections. This is readily apparent to anyone who fishes the lower section of the river.
This section of the river is a treasure, and it should be off-limits to anyone who seeks to use it for financial gain. Additionally, private kayakers already have adequate access to other areas of the river. This is not about the effect on fishing, but rather about the obliteration of the wilderness experience. Please do not frame your comments on kayaking vs. fishing as this does not begin to describe the impact of granting boaters unfettered access.
I expressed my opinion in the public hearings and my dissatisfaction with the "fishing vs. kayaking" nature of how your contracted researchers posed their questions.
I congratulate you on recognizing the commercially organized responses of their interest groups.
Sincerely,
Ron Leslie
600 Three Forks Trail
Clayton, Ga. 30525