From:	Charles Mobley
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:	edadams1@alltel.net
Subject:	My comments regarding the Chattooga River Project, Environmental Assessment/Alternative #4
Date:	08/11/2008 01:20 PM

To: The United States Forest Service
Chattooga River Project

At the request of Forest Supervisor, Jerome Thomas, it is my pleasure to provide comment regarding the above referenced matter. I sincerely appreciate this opportunity to send along to the US Forest Service my opinion. While I am a fisherman and like Alternative # 3, I believe that Alternative # 4 is both fair and workable.

I reside and practice law in Rabun County, Georgia. I am a member of the Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited and enjoy our Chattooga River on a regular basis.
I am keenly aware of the conflicts between anglers and boaters which have plagued the lower Chattooga River for as long as I can remember. I know that many hours have been spent in your analysis process through public meetings, hearing and workshops. It is my belief that preferred alternative number 4 (which is a compromise) with its zoning stipulations will minimize conflict and at the same time avoid overuse. After all, Zoning of conflicting activities is a time tested and legal land and water management practice which results in good stewardship .

Zoning by section of stream, time of year, water level and the number of boats per day will maintain a higher quality of experience for all visitors and at the same time protect riparian resources.

Alternative #4 will:

Allow boating from 12/01 to 03/01 from County Line Trail Road in NC to Burrell's Ford Bridge on days when the mean daily flow is 450 cfs or more as measured by the Burrell's Ford gauge.

Limit Camping and Parking which is desperately needed to protect and enhance our biophysical riparian resources in the future.

Prohibit the removal of large woody debris to accommodate boating. We all know that woody debris is important to the health of the river system.

Help prevent in-stream conflict and interference both in the Rock Gorge Segment and the popular Delayed Harvest Segment.

It is obvious that additional law enforcement and education of visitors are the keys to the successful implementation and administration of this plan. However adoption of # 4 is a positive step in the right direction toward enhancement of a quality experience for all, with proper regard for the rights of others to solitude.

Again thanks for the opportunity to voice my opinion on this important subject.

Please contact me if you need information or clarification.

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