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Subject: Chatooga River wilderness area
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Imagine you have trecked a mile or more in waders and have just started to fish a promising looking run on the Chatooga. You begin to enjoy the solitude and the soul refreshing experience of fishing, then here comes canoes right through "your fishing hole". I believe it takes 20 to 30 minutes for the trout to get over "being spooked" and be receptive to a gently floated fly again. When this happens continually and troughout the length of the wilderness area you can sense how often and to how many fishermen that agravation occurs. There are many areas where canoe paddlers can enjoy their pass time, even on the Chatooga, but in Georgia and especially South Carolina the "big water" trout fishing opportunity is very limited. It appears that canoe paddlers firmly believe that no water should be "off limits" . Anglers pay millions of dollars for licenses and keep families employed who sell fishing supplies. We appeal to our government to help us get some enjoyment from tax dollars paid and especially those allocated for outdoor relaxation which is a necessity of life. Thanks for your consideration. David S Burton