From:	Eileen S.
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Subject:	"Alternative 4" - Upper Chattooga River
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The U.S. Forest Service has proposed to open part of the Wild and Scenic Upper Chattooga River to boating for the first time in more than 30 years ("Alternative 4" in the agency's pre-decisional Environmental Assessment.)
This headwater portion of the river is very fragile and runs through the Ellicott Rock Wilderness. Boaters currently have legal access to over half of the Chattooga River, plus many tributaries. The upper pristine stretch of this river should be preserved for wildlife and for people seeking quiet and solitude for hiking, camping, hunting, and for world-class trout fishing.
I vote NO to boating in the Upper Chattooga and reject the Forest Service proposal to implement Alternative 4, as well as the boater lobby's insistence on Alternative 8 for unrestricted access.
As a Georgia resident and voter, I support balanced use of the river and recommend that the Forest Service should implement "Alternatives 2 or 3." Both Alternatives 2 and 3 focus Forest Service resources on protecting the forest's health instead of ensuring recreation access for a small number of elite boaters. These no-boating alternatives would better protect and preserve the wild and scenic nature of the Upper Chattooga for today and for future generations.

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