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Subject:	Chattooga River Plan
Date:	08/14/2008 05:03 PM
Importance:	High

Good Afternoon:

I find the current proposal to implement Alternative 4 as acceptable, but Alternative 3 is my preferred choice, and, frankly ANY consideration of Alternative 8 is unacceptable. I have been an active member of Trout Unlimited for over 15 years holding chapter, state and regional offices. In that time I have worked on many streams and fished more. The Chattooga is a unique resource that is not duplicated elsewhere in the three state area. As a TU member, I support our chapters, TU state councils, and TU national in recommending that the Forest Service implement Alternatives 4 with all described enforcement, management and monitoring.

I can modestly say that I know the Chattooga Corridor better than most having spent a great deal of time hiking, backpacking and fishing over the last 25 years. And I was there for a time when boating was still allowed above the Highway 28 bridge and clearly recall the angler boater conflicts. I for one do not want to see those confrontations again. If the entire river were closed to boating, I could better understand the desires of the boating community, but with most of the river at their disposal, I fail to see their argument. Anglers live with multiple restrictions and rules including licenses, open and closed seasons, harvest limits, tackle restrictions and so on. We abide by these because we recognize this is for the common good and boaters should have a comparable respect. Boating on the Chattooga will greatly impair the angling and when that occurs, the angler populations will drop and along with that, our volunteer stewardship of the resource; it is bound to happen.

The boating community will quickly expand beyond a few kayaks at high water to a large influx of every conceivable floating device. Further, unless the Forest Service can significantly increase enforcement, the recommended high water / winter boating proposal will quickly turn into a far longer season. The kayakers may understand and be able to manage the falls and rapids downstream of Burrells Ford, but the occasional floater

in an inner tube will quickly get into serious trouble. Further, many will not be aware that once you commit to the runs below Burrells Ford, you have to reach Highway 28. If not, the walk out will be very difficult in shorts and tennis shoes. Again, without constant enforcement, these will become the circumstances.

Keep up the good work and we in the angling community deeply appreciate your management and protection of the resource.

--John Kies--

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"The bow too tensely strung is easily broken" Publlius Syrus