From:	Sarah Zell
To:	Jerome Thomas
Subject:	Angling for Environmental Sustainability - Support Alternative 8
Date:	08/15/2008 12:14 PM

Sarah Zell
4633 Santeetlah Road
Robbinsville, NC 28771-7824

August 15, 2008

Jerome Thomas
Forest Supervisor

Dear Jerome Thomas:

US Forest Service,

I am submitting my strong position in favor of protecting the Upper Chattooga River from overuse by anglers. While the Chattooga River has designated use areas that allow both anglers and boaters to access various sections of the river, it is naive to assume that boating poses a greater threat to the peacefulness of this habitat simply by virtue of the fact that boaters are in the water. What does pose a threat to the sustainability of this region is the continued practice of stocking non-native aquatic species in the Upper Chattooga for the purpose of recreational angling.

As an individual with a background in ecosystems management and exotic invasive species (I worked in the Florida State Park System and conducted research on biological control), I am particularly aware of the destructive impact that even controlled use of non-native species can have on a habitat.

Boaters by their very nature depend on the sustainability and continued viability of the river to enjoy recreation on the Chattooga and therefore work diligently as stewards of the environment. Angling poses a significant threat to this viability by disrupting the ecological balance through non-native species releases.

I urge the Forest Service to support and promote low impact users in the Upper Chattooga by implementing Alternative 8. This alternative fairly balances recreational uses on the entire river and protects the sensitive upper stretch from disturbance by so called passive recreation conducted by anglers. Thank you for consideration of my position.

Sincerely,

Sarah Zell

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