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Subject:	Upper Chattooga River Use
Date:	08/14/2008 02:34 PM

To all concerned:

First, let me thank the Forest Service for their efforts regarding the Upper Chattooga. It is so unfortunate that such analysis has to take place, but the manner in which the Service has handled the issue has earned the respect of reasonable folks on both sides. The fact that this area has remained in its existing state for so many years is due to the far-sighted thinking of the Service and I have enjoyed the resources of the Chattooga for many years. I was fortunate enough to be raised in the North Georgia Mountains (Ellijay) and have visited most of the pristine, wilderness areas that are available in this region. In detail. Of those, the Chattooga and Cohutta wilderness areas are the most fascinating. We now have the opportunity before us to let that remain or to change it forever. This is not for us. This is for our children and grandchildren.

I understand Alternative 4 has been proposed for implementation. I feel Alternative 4 could be a potential solution but this is with concerns. It just seems very difficult to enforce the boating restrictions and I fear potential user confrontation problems are inevitable. It just does not seem like the Service has adequate resources to absorb an increased workload such as this. In this current economy and with all state depts being asked for budget reductions, it appears to be too much of a task.

I have to make the motion to allow this area to remain. I strongly support Alternative 3. This option allows for adequate safekeeping of the wilderness experience for future generations. I can only hope it is that simple.

Thanks for the chance to be heard. My best wishes for a successful implementation.

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