From:	Carl Peterson
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Subject:	Chattooga River
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As a backpacker and fisherman that has hiked in the area. I prefer less use of that area.
I cannot see where the section in question above Burrell's Ford can support float trips. Most of the time the water level is too low.
As this water is pristine enough to support a wild Brook trout population I would not disturb it further.
In the last 5 years I have seen a large increase of wear along the river bank, mostly from fishing pressure. This would be from Ellicott's Rock downstream to Nicholson's Ford.
Where as most fisherman are conservation minded they still are not really interested in a leave no trace ethic.
A very good example of this is at the Beauty spot just upstream from Big Bend Falls. 5 years ago it was barely visited and a difficult bushwhack from the Foothills Trail to bankside. These days it is no trouble at all.
The trail itself has mostly remained unchanged but the search for better fishing spots has taken a toll.
Also the rules for camping along this section are not being enforced. The 50 ft rule may as well not be in effect. Too many live trees are cut for firewood.
Perhaps scheduled trips by permit are needed.
I tend to think float trips will only increase the ever building pressure on this wild and scenic river gorge.

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