From: Jackson Howell Bates
Reply To: jhbates@ix.netcom.com
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Chattooga
Date: 08/15/2008 05:41 PM

Dear friends: I am a fly fishing and physician living in Marietta. If I had my way I would quit and move to Clayton, which I consider as close to heaven as I will ever get. I belong to the Rabun county trout unlimited but have never attended a meeting. I love to get their publications. They have told me about the situation on the Chattooga river. I have only fished the North Fork 3 or 4 times. I drove up to the end of nowhere on those county roads and hiked into 3 forks and got lost trying to get back to the truck. I hiked a lot of that area and even though I was in low grade panic I loved the area and would love to do it again. I love the serenity and beauty of the woods and river. I love the solitude and oneness with the river and occasional fish I see and sometimes catch. I have fished the Nantahala main river and hate it when the boaters and rafters come by. I'm sure not all kayakers are noisy or nosy but they do disturb me and the fish around me even at best. The ones on the Nantahala would splash at me and beat the water. I would not favor inviting them to participate in boating on this river.
Thank you for your time and consideration of this problem. Jack