From:	Dave Howard
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Allowi equal access or no access at all-Chattooga
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Access to the Chattooga Headwaters should be open to all non-motorized users who don't leave a long-term or permanent effect on the Wilderness. The Act leaves no doubt, nor does the legislative history of it, that its intent was to allow use in any manner by any user that was consistent with the preservation of the area as a wilderness. And consistent with historical usage of Wilderness.

I have backpacked into the headwaters in years past, and I've scared more fish away swimming (a non-prohibited activity with) than any boaters would. And for the hours that I spent splashing around in the water, not the seconds that it takes boaters to pass.

But the boater vs. fisherman Issue is a red herring. The issue is equal access to all that use the wilderness in a manner that is non-destructive, regardless of the way they choose to pursue the enjoyment of a beautiful place. Every citizen is an owner of the property and should have the right to enjoy it the way that best speaks to them, if it does no harm to the wilderness.

If you don't allow equal access, ban all groups and let the land truly revert to a wild state. Then all the user groups get what they say they want - equal treatment and a beautiful place. They can take satisfaction in that, even if they can't enjoy it.

Dave Howard
24 West 31st Street
Covington, KY 41015