From: Bill Beckwith
Reply To: billbeckwith@yahoo.com
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Upper Chatooga River Pre-decisional EA
Date: 08/14/2008 04:26 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I live in Fayette County, Georgia, and often drive more than 100 miles one way to experience the Chatooga River. I am a trout fisherman as well as a canoeist and I enjoy both activities on the river.

The Forest Service's preferred Alternative #4 is a compromise that is fair to all stakeholders and is designed to minimize conflict between visitors to the Upper Chattooga. The zoning stipulations in Alternative #4 will provide good protection for the upper Chattooga backcountry characteristics of solitude and remoteness for present and future generations. This is what should be the focus of all stakeholders. I understand both sides of this issue and I am satisfied that the preferred alternative will adequately serve all interested parties.

I thank and commend the Forest Service for its efforts. The inappropriate and unfair condemnation of the Environmental Assessment and of the Forest Service by certain stakeholders should not affect the fair and balanced decision that will be made in December 2008.

Sincerely,

Bill Beckwith
Fayetteville, Georgia