From: Emilio LeDonne
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: I am in support of Alternative 8
Date: 08/15/2008 11:48 AM

I am witting you to express my opinion on the Upper Chattooga Environmental Assessment. The Upper Chattooga is a beautiful area that should be open to all. It is supported by tax dollars and is only fair to allow all who contribute to maintaining it with their tax money to enjoy it. As a kayaker it greatly disturbs me when I hear fishermen saying kayaking will destroy the place. Kayaks leave little or no imprint. We quietly float down stream rarely even setting foot on shore. There one minute gone the next.

Having kayaked on rivers all over the USA I have seen first hand the impact fishermen leave behind. Fishing line hanging from trees and discarded on the river banks, damaged trees from illegal fires and camping, cigarette butts,beer cans, pop cans left behind and soil erosion from worn out trails to the favorite fishing hole. On top of this the disease and predator fish being introduced to water sheds everywhere either from stocking programs or well intended fisherman that have in many cases nearly wiped out the entire native fish population.

So as far as impact and fairness goes the fisherman have no claim as to being the perfect steward to the wilderness. It is everyone's wilderness and everyone's right and responsibility to use it respectfully. Therefore I strongly support Alternitive 8

Thank you!

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