From:	M. A. \(Mack\) Martin Jr.
To:	US Forest Service
Subject:	Chattooga North Fork Wild and Scenic River
Date:	08/14/2008 03:48 PM

Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Atlanta Fly Fishing School and the hundreds of students that we have taught over the years, let me thank you for soliciting comments regarding the Upper Chattooga draft for the environmental assessment regarding boating on this section of the river.

Cold water fisheries are important and fragile waterways, particularly in the south. As time passes we typically see more and more pressure to change or destroy these fisheries due to population growth, water contamination, development for industry and other projects. In the past the upper Chattooga has been set aside for the many fisherman that utilize and enjoy this fishery and with hopes that it will always remain the pristine and beautiful river that it is. When fishermen think of the upper Chattooga in that fashion they want the excellent fishing and solitude to remain the same.

Now we come to a point that boaters, who use the majority of the river already, want to have all the river and they want to use the upper Chattooga for their boating at the expense of the fisherman. It is my opinion that you cannot provide boating along with the unspoiled fishing in this pristine section of the river while boaters are present. My primary reason for this is my experience with the boaters on the west fork of the Chattooga, where they have little regard for fishermen and always disturb the fishing when they often recklessly float through he fishing lanes. Based on that experience and my appreciation for cold water fisheries, I would like to see the upper Chattooga remain unchanged with the adoption of Alternative #1. I can reluctantly accept Alternate #4 as suggested by the Forest Service and others, but only in the spirit of some compromise as I remain very concerned about the future of this river if #4 is adopted.

I hope that my opinions are helpful as I have spent a lifetime in

this sport and I have always tried to respect the rights of others with hopes that they respect mine. Thank you again for the opportunity to express my opinions and concerns.

Sincerely,

M. A. (Mack) Martin Jr.
Manager - FFF Certified Master
Fly Casting Instructor
Atlanta Fly Fishing School
http://www.atlantaflyfishingschool.com/

Home Office phone (770) 889-5638
Cell & voice mail (404) 683-0070
http://www.mackmartin.com
Mailing address: **6105 Paddock Lane**
Cumming, GA 30040