From:	ryan chapman
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Upper Chattooga-Alternative 8
Date:	08/18/2008 09:01 PM

To whom it may concern,

I would first like to say thank you for allowing me to comment on the current boating ban on the Upper Chattooga. I'm sure that you have received numerous emails with concerns both for the ban and against the ban. I will make this very short as to not take up more of your or my time.

I have only two concerns that I would like to be heard. One, this is obvious. The current boating ban goes against the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as well as, the Wilderness Act. Both of these should allow the entire public to enjoy this river. The Chattooga River is a National Wild and Scenic River that does not allow people to kayak or canoe on it. This is UN-American. It is that simple. The Wilderness Act does not allow for motorized boats. Kayaking and canoeing are self powered boats that have minimal impacts on the environment. There should be no ban.

Two, there was to be a user capacity study done on the Upper section of the Chattooga. Where is this? And if it has been done, may the public access this?

I am aware of the many concerns with having kayaking and canoeing on the Upper section of the Chattooga. I have read many of the comments made thus far. Most have been ignorant to what kayaking and canoeing are. Please keep in mind that I have no problem with trout fishermen. This is a National Wild and Scenic River, they are allowed to be there. Personally, over the years I have cleaned up more trash along the sides of a river that was left from fishermen than I have ever had to clean up from boaters. Who is having an environmental impact here? Stocking the Upper Chattooga with non-native species will have a huge impact on the area. How is this going to happen?

Alternative 4 is an insult to the intelligent person. How will the boating days be regulated? And who will be in charge of doing this. You know it as well as every boater out there knows it. There is really no way to regulate this in time to allow boaters access. Alternative 4 is still a boating ban. I would

like to have a chance to kayak or canoe on the Upper Chattooga because I should be able to. I am in favor of Alternative 8.

Please keep in mind that there is tension between those who fish and those who kayak/canoe. It is my belief that Upper Chattooga boating ban is the cause. Many whitewater clubs hold river clean up events to clean trash and debris from rivers to allow EVERYONE a wonderful experience on a river. I'm sure those that fish with clubs and/organizations do as well. Imagine what it would be like to have a clean river for all to enjoy. Also, please note that this is America and the words "Life, Liberty, and The Pursuit of Happiness" mean something and should. Boaters bring money to areas where there are rivers. This would help the local economy. Alternative 8 is a "win-win" situation. Again, thank you for allowing me to comment on this issue.

Sincerely,

Ryan Chapman (Athens, GA)
ACA member
AW member
AWC member