From:	Carlton, Timothy (GE Infra, Aviation, US)
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Upper Chattooga Management Plan and EA
Date:	08/18/2008 10:30 PM

Dear Sir or Madam;
I would like to take the time to make a brief but very important comment on the decision that the Forest Service has to make regarding the 30 year ban on private boaters floating the Upper reaches of the Chattooga river. While I am sure that you are being bombarded with comments from both sides arguing for their side, remember that this is not a popularity contest or a democratic vote. It does not matter how many fishermen wish to have the Upper Chattooga river all to themselves, the continued ban on floating has no basis in any facts whatsoever. Boating will not cause any additional impact to the environment. The current ban and management of this National Wild and Scenic River is against the very principles of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Forest Service does not have the right to unilaterally ban any group from public land without proper reason. The EA that was used to try and uphold the boating ban was flawed and glaringly biased. All impacts of boating were painted in a VERY negative light, whereas the continued impact of all fishing related activities were glossed over.

Remember, that to travel the upper river, boaters may not touch the river bank or river bed for miles at a time. A fisherman touches the riverbed every foot or two...

I support Alternative 8 and the lifting of the boating ban on the Upper Chattooga river.

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