From:	Woody Austin
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Chattooga Headwaters
Date:	07/10/2008 01:42 PM

To whom it may concern,

I would like to voice my disappointment in regards to the recent environmental assessment of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River. There is absolutely no basis to ban paddlers who wish to float the river. In fact, paddlers are less likely to create a harmful environmental impact than anglers, hikers, or campers. There is very little risk of litter involved with paddling. We are not disturbing the wildlife, (and at least not catching it and then eating it like anglers) we are not harming anyone else, and we are only enjoying a hobby that is fun, much like anglers, hikers, and campers. It is hardly equitable that one group of people should be excluded on no factual basis while others who are more detrimental to the environment are allowed to continue their activities.

I find it blatantly ignorant and selfish that such a ban should be imposed, especially after supposedly considering a claim against the ban. I deplore you to actually take a look at the situation and realize that paddlers are no more detrimental to the ecosystem than any other group. I would also encourage research into the mindset of most paddlers. We wish to encourage environmental protection, moreso than most of the general population. Please, be intelligent about this decision and take a look at what is really going on.

Sincerely,
Woody Austin