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I am a local Chattooga kayaker, work for a rafting company, and grew up paddling on this river. Local boaters of the Chattooga know that all of this uproar about the upper Chattooga is hardly warranted because these stretches of river are not even close to the quality runs of the Overflow, Big Creek, etc. However, it seems as though some boating should be allowed on the upper Chattooga if fishermen and hikers are given unlimited access. However, if kayaking is allowed on the upper Chattooga, it would be a travesty for the FS to cut in any additional roads, parking areas, restrooms, etc and destroy yet more wilderness area. If kayakers want to boat on the upper Chattooga, they should be able to utilize the areas already designated as public (roads, trails, parking areas, etc) and no more impact should be made to the Chattooga. The wilderness areas of the Chattooga must be preserved at all costs. Maybe that means fishing should be regulated and permits granted for that as well to make it fair. My concern is some fat kayaker coming up from Atlanta (i.e. AW bigshot Don Kinser who participated in the user capacity study last year) and wanting a road cut closer to the river so he doesn't have to walk so far. I am very disappointed with AW and the people who represent them. A large group of people who provide AW with large donations went rafting at the company I work at. These are rich people from Atlanta who only care about their access to the river and not the conservation and preservation thereof. The Chattooga is not about commodity, it is about remoteness, beauty, and isolation. If this new age group of kayakers goal is to use and abuse the natural resource they should want to protect the most, then something is amiss.

April McEwen