From:	Margaret Richardson
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Against opening the Chattooga
Date:	07/11/2008 01:18 PM

Hello,

I do not believe that boaters should be allowed on Section 1, no matter the time of year. I know change happens, but there are so few places protected. When a person swims out of his or her kayak, water bottles, Styrofoam, caribeaners, etc. all fall into the river and get caught in the river. People will take advantage of this new freedom and before you know it there will be a slew of kayakers floating down the river after a big April rain. Who is going to stop these people? Again, I strongly disagree with any alternative that allows boaters in places where they have been previously banned.

I have been a kayaker since I was 13 years old, and feel blessed to be able to raise my daughter on a river that is so well protected. There are plenty of places within an hours drive for a kayaker looking for something bigger. When there is high water, the Five Falls and Overflow creek are what the Chattooga offers the people that want a challenge. The Green River is an hour and a half away.

Is there not enough headwater damage from development? The beautiful moss covered rocks, will not be moss covered after kayakers “boof” off of them for fun and don’t look back. Instead of moss you will see paint.

Once more, I strongly disagree with any alternative that opens more of the Chattooga to kayakers.

Margaret Richardson

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