From:	Lauren Goulding
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Comments on Chattooga EA
Date:	07/12/2008 10:51 PM

To whom it may concern:

I am deeply concerned over the draft Environmental Assessment for the Upper Chattooga river. I have had the opportunity to kayak lower sections of the Chattooga twice over the past several years, and have come to appreciate the special qualities of this wild and scenic river.

The draft EA essentially continues the paddling ban of the Upper Chattooga that has been in effect for the past 30 years. Opening 1/3 of the river up for an average of 6 days a year in the middle of winter is simply not a substantive change of current conditions.

To suggest that the upper Chattooga river cannot support recreational boating is simply ludicrous. It privileges anglers over kayakers without basis in logic or fact; kayaking and angling are not mutually exclusive activities, and recreational boating would in no way detract from the excellent trout-fishing that exists in these waters.

Recreational boating, like hiking, backpacking, and angling, is a low-impact wilderness activity, and the waters of the Chattooga should be open to kayakers, rafters, etc.

The draft EA is an inequitable document. It's recommendations on recreational boating are political rather than scientific, and they set a dangerous precedent for all those who love wild and scenic rivers.

Sincerely,
Lauren Goulding

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