From: jeffrey swett
Reply To: raddog1b@yahoo.com
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: chattooga comments
Date: 07/10/2008 12:22 PM

Although it has been years since I had the pleasure of paddling section 3, I've always looked forward to eventually returning to the Chattooga river and had hoped to be able to enjoy the whole thing. After reviewing the alternatives, all except # 10 clearly written to minimize boating as much as possible, I have to state that is the only one remotely acceptable. In reality there is no reason to prohibit kayaking on this river. I acknowledge that there can be conflicts with fishermen, and that kayakers are to blame in many cases, although the fishermen are just as often responsible. As far as trash and litter, hands down it is not the kayakers leaving a mess behind. Too bad the fishermen can not honestly state the same.

This forest is public land, and restricting non-motorized use to a point where it essentially prohibits use (IE: Alt 1 - 9) goes completely against the original intent. The forest service would be better served not wasting more time trying to restrict lawful access by those in compliance with the ethos of wild and scenic, and spend those resources enforcing the existing restrictions against litter, ATVs and game/ fish poaching. I'd suggest that the forest service try adding a new alternative that complies with the direction they had been given regarding this issue. None of the 10 alternatives do.

Jeff Swett

"Wrinkles only go where the smiles have been" Jimmy Buffet