From:	Farrell, John
To:	akimbell@fs.fed.us
cc:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Chattooga Headwaters Access should be prohibited to kayakers-(I am a whitewater kayaker)
Date:	07/15/2008 09:06 AM

Take this input for what it's worth. I've been a whitewater kayaker for the last five years and I have indeed seen many fabulous places made less fabulous by kayakers. One of the most beautiful places on earth is the Tallulah Gorge. I've had to stop going just because of the loud music in the parking lot. The illicit material smoked on both the stairs on the way down and on the river. The yelling and the swearing and the rock concert type attitude that comes from it. I've boated most of the sections of Chattooga and it's a magnificent place. The upper stretch that is the area of concern in my opinion isn't worth the amount of energy that some folks (AW) and some other people are putting into it. I think it's a place that if you want to go there you should hike it the access points aren't very good for kayaks anyways. Again in my opinion it's an entitlement attitude that certain parties in the boating community have. They think that they have the "right" when in actuality it's a privilege to paddle any "navigable" waterway. If I was on the committee I would stand on the boating ban for this section of the Chattooga that said I would also make sure that the fisherman are clearing away their monofilament line since that is a personal pet peeve of mine. I've seen too many birds wrapped up in a snarl of fishing line.

Regardless I know you've been getting a ton of heat from a ton of kayakers etc. But in reality there's maybe 20 people in the country that would even put the effort into kayaking that section anyways. The rest of them are just yelling to be yelling.

Just my take. Thanks,

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