From:	Dave Lew
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Subject:	Chattooga boating
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This is unreasonable to me. I'm sad my tax dollars have come to this conclusion, and hope that the Chattooga is opened to boaters, as legally it should have been allowed for the last 30 years.

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The EA follows the same format as the Forest Service's past assessment of the issue: they list a string of ecological effects common to all recreation, then discuss abstract user conflicts that have never occurred and will never occur, and then make a recommendation that essentially renews the ban on boating the Upper Chattooga River, while allowing all existing recreational users unlimited access without providing any rational basis for the discrimination. There are a few differences though. They propose to allow a few people to paddle roughly a third of the upper river somewhere between zero and six days a year in the middle of winter at high water based on an impossible set of logistical hurdles. This miniscule paddling allowance is so small and bizarre it is realistically a total ban. The rest of the upper river and its tributaries remain totally off limits to paddlers. A second major difference is the exclusion of the uppermost section of the Chattooga and its tributaries from even a cursory discussion.
In addition, this EA cost taxpayers several million dollars.

The new EA essentially claims that the river has a capacity of zero boating and a capacity of infinite hiking, angling, and camping. That is hardly equitable.