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Subject:	Upper Chattooga River EA - Comments from a concerned constituent
Date:	07/12/2008 05:56 PM

I oppose the recently released Environmental Assessment of the upper Chattooga that recommends limiting boating access on some of the upper sections to a very narrow, window of opportunity and totally banning boating on other sections of the Upper Chattooga.

I grew up in the area and have frequently kayaked, hiked and camped within the Wild and Scenic River Corridor. Every user contributes to the ecological impact to the area whether they be fishing, kayaking, rafting, hiking, camping, or simply strolling on a paved pathway. Yet, I have never experienced or seen any enforcement of existing regulations toward any group other than boaters. Once again, boaters are being singled out with this EA.

It's okay to not like kayakers, canoers, and/or rafters on a river. But, it's not okay to ban them from a river without merit. I'm not aware of a recent a user capacity analysis justifying the ban; but if there is one, I'll reconsider my position.

As of today, I consider this most recent management plan of the Upper Chattooga to be discriminatory and I strongly oppose it.

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