From:	Ed McDowell
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Chattooga River
Date:	07/15/2008 03:23 PM

Gentlemen:

I reject the Forest Service proposal to implement Alternative 4 and open 7 miles of the river to limited boating. Instead, I recommend that the Forest Service should implement "Alternatives 2 or 3." Both Alternatives 2 and 3 focus Forest Service resources on protecting the forest's health instead of on ensuring recreation access for a small number of elite boaters. These no-boating alternatives would better protect and preserve the wild and scenic nature of the Upper Chattooga and its rare and unique wilderness values.
This headwater portion of the river is very fragile and runs through the Ellicott Rock Wilderness. Boaters currently have access to over half of the Chattooga River. Forest Watch feels the upper pristine stretch of this river should be preserved for wildlife and for people seeking quiet and solitude for hiking, camping, hunting, and for world-class trout fishing.

Ed McDowell

Ed McDowell
209 Cartwright Drive
Bonaire, Ga 31005-3903
478.929.1267
478.396.8901 (cell)
ed.mcdowell@cox.net