From:	Elijah Smith
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Chatooga management plan comments
Date:	07/05/2008 02:42 PM

As a boater, a citizen, and someone who values the natural beauty of our public lands, I am outraged at the forest service's decision to select the Alternative #4 management plan. I find Alternative #4 to be an utter disregard for the rights of boaters to enjoy the natural beauty of a wild and scenic river in a way that affects the surrounding environment far less than other means of use. Anglers are shown clear preferential treatment in this decision. It is obvious, not only by the specifics of the plan, but also by your statement: "Alternative 4 is designed specifically to protect and enhance outstanding trout fishing." This plan essentially treats boaters as 2nd class citizens. By its very nature, boating poses far less environmental impact than any activity involving travel across land, and any limitations to boaters beyond those posed on other users shows a distinct prejudice against boaters. Furthermore, the fact that the plan dismisses any permitting or regulation of other users (which would allow for clear scientific study and management of the area), clearly shows that this plan is merely aimed at preventing boating, and not at preserving the aesthetic or environmental qualities of the river corridor.

This decision shows a clear prejudice on the part of those people managing the river corridor, and I find it probable that there is a conflict of interest in light of such an outrageous decision. I am outraged by this decision, but I would be even more outraged if this decision were allowed to stand without a thorough audit of those involved in crafting such a biased and unjust decision.

Sincerely, Elijah L. Smith

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