From: stoudemirej@bellsouth.net
To: <
Subject: Upper Chattooga Boating
Date: 07/03/2008 07:52 AM

I am a native of Oconee County. Educated in the school system and have enjoyed living here except for college, law school and military service. I began to fly fish about 25 years ago out west. The management in the West and in Canada is much more preferable to what we have. The native fish, the Brook Trout, has been destroyed essentially due to misinformation and mismanagement of the Chattooga fishery. We put rainbow trout in the river and in many places, particularly in the Salmon rivers of Canada, they do not want them. We are so stupid. Rainbow are predator fish. We need to fish them out, not put any more in the river, reintroduce Brook trout, cut out taking any fish but Rainbow and have a catch and release fishery and enforce it. The Republican administrations have done little to restore our river. To allow any more boating is wrong. It should be regulated and restricted as is the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho. I have traveled the West rafting and fishing. I have traveled the Gaspe peninsula in Canada. We need to learn from the mistakes of others and take the good. More stringent restrictions should be applied, not less. I want my elementary age grandchildren to have the opportunties I have had and more. Unless we conserve, we will have nothing.

Julian L. Stoudemire
401 North Church Street
Walhalla, South Carolina 29691