From: Skip Brown
To: Comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Chattooga River Alt #4
Date: 07/16/2008 04:31 PM

To The U.S. Forest Service:

I am an outdoorsman. I have hunted, fished, hiked and camped for most of my 58 years. I was raised in Northeast Georgia and have lived in Cornelia, Georgia for the past 31 years. I enjoy fly fishing for trout and just walking in the woods and enjoying the natural world. I have long believed that solitude itself is a natural resource. For these reasons, I have a vested interest in the allowed uses of the Chattooga River.

I am aware that you have been studying ways to resolve conflicts between fishermen (and other users) and boaters. I have reviewed the various alternatives that you have considered. I believe that you have done a good job studying this issue. I also believe that Alternative #4 is the best compromise.

I would like to make the following suggestions for your consideration:

1. Consider allowing boaters to register via the internet and to print out their permit. The program could be designed to stop issuing permits once the maximum number have been issued. Boaters would then know (before leaving home) whether or not they will be allowed on the river for that day. Saves time, gas and frustration.
2. Hire a full time dedicated Ranger for the Scenic Chattooga River to see that everyone obeys the rules.
3. Set fines for violation of any rules at levels that will be an effective deterrent. A $50 fine is probably just an “admission fee” for a boater.

I appreciate the work that you do, and I am confident that you will resolve these conflicts in a way that will preserve the right to enjoy solitude as one of our last great natural resources.

Thanks,

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