From: Campbell James
Reply To: jrc_campbell@yahoo.com
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc: jrc_campbell@yahoo.com
Subject: Feedback on boating for upper Chatooga River
Date: 07/16/2008 06:45 PM

Dear Forest Service:

I am writing to express my opinion as a Georgia resident and US citizen on the currently proposed boating alternatives that are under consideration for the Upper Chattooga river. I am very much against your Alternative 4, that opens us this pristine part of the river for new boating activities.

I currently hike in that area, and feel that this will be a huge problem, and ruin many beautiful trails and streams, and even be a threat to the river itself. This Alternative 4, is as bad as President Bush's idea of a few years ago of selling the US forest land to private citizens. Once we lose this part of the river, I feel it will be spoiled forever.

In addition, whitewater enthusiasts and "creek boaters" who are pushing hard for the new access already have miles and miles of challenging white water nearby on the 36 miles of the lower Chattooga, on Overflow and Holcomb Creeks, and on the West Fork, where boating is already legal and permitted. Why do they need to be allowed into the areas that have been maintained and pristine for decades? In addition, I am told parking lots would be built for the boaters, which would also add eyesore, litter, mud runoff, and other negative factors to this beautiful area.

Your Alternative 4 ignores hikers like myself, campers, nature lovers and other outdoor enthusiasts. I feel this is a horrible option, so let me be clear in my feedback to the forest service.

I want to make sure the Forest Service registers that I strongly oppose Alternative 4, which would open the Upper Chattooga to boating. I am told there many other reasons others than the ones listed above, that also indicate this is a bad idea, and a bad proposal.

I strongly support the no-boating Alternatives 2 or 3. In addition, the Forest Service has to take a stance, to protect our wonderful Natural resources for generations to come. Please pick up your efforts to preserve the US natural forests. It seems in the last 5 years or so, the US Forest service has gotten off its original mission statement, which is to protect and preserve our natural resources.

Rest assured I will also let our GA Senators and GA congressman know my opinion and strong stance on this issue. Please register my strong stance against your current Alternative 4 proposal for the Upper Chattooga.

Respectfully, James R. Campbell, 4 Dove Wing Lane, Clayton, GA 30525