From:	Gordon Fowler
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Comments on Chattooga River Project
Date:	07/16/2008 12:37 AM

Dear Sirs:
The rhetoric surrounding this issue continues to dismay me. The bottom line is that boating and fishing on this section of this river are not compatible uses due to the small size of the river and the fact that boaters will need to float where the trout hold. Boating activity will interfere with fishing activity.

The boating community continues to argue - incorrectly - that "boaters" are being discriminated against. They are not. Boaters - the people who boat - may come and do anything allowed - as may the people who ride horses, bicycles, motorcycles, ATV's, and do all manner of other things.

However, they may not come here and do those activities.

The choice is which activities to allow and the Forest Service has full authority to determine that based on sound principles - one of which is compatibility. I do not have any right to interfere with another person's use and enjoyment of the resource. You have the responsibility to manage the resource so that I don't. You do this in part by regulating the permitted activities.

If boating is permitted based on the arguments presented, then there are at least another half-dozen activities that must also be permitted or the people who do such activities will have a claim of discrimination.

If boating, why not horseback riding, why not mountain biking - or, why not limit the activities to things done by foot travel only - activities that are genuinely compatible with one another?

Hopefully your decision will be based on common sense instead of misstated arguments that claim discrimination where none exists.

Regards -
Gordon

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