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cc:	burch@gon.com
Subject:	Save the Upper Chattooga River Comments
Date:	08/18/2008 02:46 PM

The following comments about saving the Upper Chattooga River were submitted via the Georgia Outdoor Network website at www.georgiaoutdoornetwork.org

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Comments:
I wish to thank the Forest Service for this opportunity to comment on the Draft EA and preferred alternative. I strongly prefer Alternative 8, and would further support the ban of fishing above the 28 bridge. My reasons for the latter proposal are listed below:

- Will limit camping and parking, which are needed to protect and enhance the biophysical riparian resources for future generations.
- Will enhance water quality by reducing erosion and sedimentation from visitor overuse and abuse – especially wading in the riverbed.
- Prohibits the removal of large woody debris to accommodate wading. Large woody debris (LWD) has incredible ecological importance in river systems.
- Provides protection and enhancement of the aesthetic values of the upper Chattooga such as remoteness and wildness.
- Prevents the need for stocking with invasive non-native species.
- Prevents in-stream conflict and interference in the Rock Gorge segment, which will protect and actually enhance its backcountry values of solitude and remoteness for present and future generations as required by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act:
- Prevents in-stream conflict and interference in the popular Delayed Harvest segment, which will preserve economic value. Trout anglers will no longer be coming from hundreds of miles away. The savings in gasoline alone is worth strong consideration of this proposal.
- Will enhance the quality of experience for all visitors and protects riparian resources.
- Has the proper regard for the rights of others to solitude.
- Preserves backcountry values intact for future generations.
- Is a compromise that is as fair to all stakeholders as any others proposed.

Thank you,
W.T. Pennington