From:	fitness001@gmail.com
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cc:	burch@gon.com
Subject:	Save the Upper Chattooga River Comments
Date:	08/18/2008 03:41 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 support Alternative #8. It is clear that the Upper Chattooga is under increasing pressure from visitors, and concessions must be made to protect all of iits "outstanding and remarkable" qualities. I feel, with alternative #4, the Forest Service has not gone far enough to protect the Upper Chattooga and has restricted boating without justification.The Forest Service not only needs to conduct a proper impact study of boating in the Upper Chattooga, it must also conduct similar studies on all other user groups. Boating is viewed as the only variable in all management plan alternatives. When in fact, there are larger, more impactful user groups that are not considered for limits and/or restrictions. It's only with quality impact studies that the Forest Service may equitably reduce the impact of all user groups and therefore, protect and restore its natural wonders.

At the very least, I would like to see the Forest Service permanently close user created trails, stock only native fish in the river, restrict or rotate river access to anglers to allow the stream beds and banks to recuperate, and restrict or rotate campsite use, allowing these areas to recuperate from overuse as well. The protection and restoration of the environment should be put above all uses and user groups. The "Outstanding and Remarkable" quality of the Upper Chattooga is not artificially created fishing, it is the breathtaking wilderness.

Thank you!