From:	andynwtf@bellsouth.net
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:	burch@gon.com
Subject:	Save the Upper Chattooga River Comments
Date:	08/18/2008 05:30 PM

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

Name: Andy Ivey
E-Mail Address: andynwtf@bellsouth.net
Address: 176 Providence Rd.,
City: Fayetteville
State: Georgia
Postal Code: 30215

Comments:
As a frequent visitor to the Rabun County area and the Chattooga River, I am completely opposed to opening the upper stretch of the river to boating. I have experienced the frustration of fishing other waterways that allow rafts and kayaks, whose operators seem to view it as their duty to litter the stream with their trash, apparently unneeded clothing, and and discarded flotsam. I have experienced their complete disrespect for the other users of the waterway, and would like to avoid this rude and unpleasant behavior at all costs. This is one of the last good wild places in north Georgia, and the effort it requires to walk in is what keeps it special and mostly unspoiled. Not all whitewater enthusiasts match the above description, and I have been known to ride the Ocoee myself on occasion, but a healthy percentage of boaters I have seen exhibit tremendous disregard for the environment they float by, and will make it untenable for those of us willing to take the time to enjo!
 y the gifts this mostly undisturbed area provides.

Please keep this area just as it is, a little oasis of nature that takes a little effort to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Andy Ivey