From: steven_larson@hotmail.com
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc: burch@gon.com
Subject: Save the Upper Chattooga River Comments
Date: 08/16/2008 08:06 AM

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

Name: Steve Larson
E-Mail Address: steven_larson@hotmail.com
Address: 1679 Holly Lake Cove,
City: Snellville
State: Georgia
Postal Code: 30078

Comments:
Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Draft EA and preferred alternative. I'm glad you are involving all affected and interested parties.

I support alternative (#4) with zoning stipulations to minimize conflict between anglers and boaters, avoiding the overuse and user conflicts that have plagued the lower Chattooga for decades.

I support increased fines for violations and repeat offenders. Stiff fines are needed as deterrents.

For those times when boating would be allowed, I support boater self-registration. An Internet based boating permit system that is activated when adequate flow is predicted could provide a suitable permit without a large ongoing administrative cost. The Forrest Service or a contract concessionary should pre-authorize "boatable" days and post this information publicly.

This corridor of the Chattooga deserves an on-site, fulltime river manager to protect and preserve this national treasure for future generations.
If option #4 is unable to be adopted, then Alternative #3 should be the preferred alternative (no boating) and use the freed up funds to restore the upper Chattooga biophysical resources. Many other recreational alternatives are close and available year-round.

For anglers, the upper Chattooga offers a unique fishing experience with the solitude and scenery, as well as the quality of the trout fishery, which is not found on other trout rivers in this region. Please do not allow this area of nature to be spoiled with management that favors boating or business interests, rather than natures.