From:	jkriener@triad.rr.com
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:	burch@gon.com
Subject:	Save the Upper Chattooga River Comments
Date:	08/18/2008 09:21 PM

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

Name: John Kriener
E-Mail Address: jkriener@triad.rr.com
Address: 112 Oakview Drive,
City: Elon
State: North Carolina
Postal Code: 27244

Comments:
Dear Sir,

I would like to comment on the recently released Upper Chattooga Environmental Assessment and proposed management plan, alternative #4. Rather than Alternative #4, I support alternative #8

The Forest Service has not gone far enough to protect the Upper Chattooga with alternative #4, and has unjustly restricted boating without justification.. The Upper Chattooga is under increasing pressure from visitors, and concessions must be made to protect all of its "outstanding and remarkable" qualities.

In addition to conducting a proper impact study of boating in the Upper Chattooga, the Forest Service must also conduct similar studies on all other user groups. While boating is viewed as the only variable in all management plan alternatives, there are larger, more impactful user groups that are not considered for limits and/or restrictions. The Forest Service may, by utilizing quality impact studies protect and restore the Upper Chattooga by equitably reducing the impact of all user groups.

Steps should include::

1) Eliminate all road side parking within 1/4 mile of all bridges.
2) Permanently close user created trails
3) Establish a fair and equitable permitting system for all Upper Chattooga users.
4) Close the fish hatchery that is responsible for polluting the East Fork of the Chattooga River.
5) Stock only native fish in the river.
6) Restrict or rotate river access to anglers, allowing the stream beds and banks to recuperate from trampling.
7) Restrict or rotate campsite use, allowing areas to recuperate from over use.
8) Ban camping within 1/2 mile of all bridges or roads.
9) Close some bridges and/or roads to create a more remote wilderness corridor.
10) Complete a true user capacity analysis and impact study for all user groups.
11) Allow equitable access to all environmentally friendly user groups based on impact studies.
12) Put the protection and restoration of the environment 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.

I support implementation of Alternative 8. It fairly and equitably places all environmentally friendly user groups on the same footing, while establishing a few extra protections to the environment. The Forest Service should make use of the "adaptive management" approach in Alternative 8, to further protect the environment in the ways outlined above.

Thank You

John Kriener