From: Kevin Ratliff
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: I support Alternative 8
Date: 08/14/2008 07:31 PM

I appreciate the opportunity to voice my opinion on the Upper Chattooga Environmental Assessment. The Upper Chattooga is a unique geological and cultural resource that I believe should be open for all to enjoy, including boaters, fisherman, hikers, etc. I myself am an avid nature lover. I grew up enjoying trout fishing with my dad and still appreciate the sport today. I've also become enthused in the sport of kayaking in recent years and enjoy the opportunity it affords to retreat to the beautiful rivers and mountains of the southeast.

Having been a part of the paddling community for the last two years, I have gotten to see how many, like myself, make an effort to protect and clean up the rivers we are privilaged to use. Furthermore, paddling does not have any more of an imprint on these resources than other activities already allowed on the Upper Chattooga. As stewards of the United States' natural resources, I believe it is your responsibility to open these public rivers and lands to any group who would wish to use them, so long as they care for the resources they use and leave as little imprint as possible.

Thank you!

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