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Subject:	Chattooga River Comments
Date:	07/18/2008 09:53 AM

My comments for the preferred alterntive are as follows:

The USFS did a good job in the analysis and considered all points of view

The agency must and I repeat must be able to use their authority to set management guidelines for National Forest properties.

Zoning is tried and true and it works

Their are conflicts on the river with users and some areas of the river are terribly over used. I have seen tremendous deterioration of portions of the river zone in the past 20 years. It is real and will get worse.

Keeping boating out of the rock gorge and the delayed harvest is excellent zoning and will provide for good solitude and a good backcountry experience.

The boaters have available to their use 99 % of all other streams.

There is major conflict between boaters and fishermen on the Chattooga. It is impossible to have solitude on the areas that are now open to boating.

My preferred alternative would be alternative 3, but I can tolerate the preferred alternative. It is fair and reasonable to all parties. It is very obvious that all recreational activities are not compatible. The zoning of the river ensures that all parties have use of the river, but can be seperated. It is reasonable and works. I believe that alaternative 4 will provide good protection for the upper chattooga values of solitude and remoteness for all parties and future generations.

One suggestion is this - the fines for boating in the areas closed are ridiculous. Anybody who wants to boat the upper secion will pay a $50.00 fine. It costs more than that to go to a whitewater park. The fines must be increased to a rising scale. I suggest $300 first offense, $700 second offense, and for the third offense $1500 and the confication of the boat. This will stop it. You cannot and will not be able to enforce this regulation. It is impossible with the manpower you have and the scale of the resource. You dont even have a full time enforcement person on site and never will.. You need to get real with this issue.

Thanks for allowing me to comment. I am a boater and a fisherman and have managed and used the Chattooga River corridor for over 20 years. I have extensive experience in dealing with the public use of this area and extensive knowledge of the resource.

Jim Kidd - USFS Retired