From:	Unicoi Outfitters
Sent By:	lee.hiers@gmail.com
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Chattooga River Boating Decision
Date:	07/25/2008 12:15 PM

I have been somewhat active in this process since the beginning, having attended several meetings and adding my comments to the record. From the beginning, when I was seated across from the supporters of changing the boating regulations on this stream, I have advocated compromise. However, these supporters of opening the river up for boating continually refused to compromise. They would say that there would be no interference between boaters and fishermen due to the water level precluding one activity or the other. However, when attempts were made to reach a concrete compromise, they refused to do so.

I believe the Alternative 4 is such a reasonable compromise. It allows for boating only when boating should be undertaken and fishing conditions are undersirable, and at lower water levels (those preferred by the fishermen), prohibits boating, thereby avoiding conflicts between the two groups.

And these boater-angler conflicts are exactly the cause for the original boat ban...and it has worked well all these years. Fishing is virtually non-existent on the lower sections of the river, primarily due to the presence of the boaters. To unconditionally open the upper river to boating would result in an effective ban on fishing that section.

I urge the USFS to maintain the current total ban; in lieu of that, Alternative 4 is a reasonable compromise that I could fully support.

Thank your for your efforts in this process.

Respectfully,

Lee Hiers
Cornelia, GA