From: Charlie & Kathy Breithaupt
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Chattooga River comments from GA Trout Unlimited
Date: 07/31/2008 10:16 AM

Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited

Charlie Breithaupt, Chairman 194 Kitchins Lane Clayton, GA 30525

www.georgiatu.org knc615@windstream.net

July 28, 2008

Via E-Mail
USDA Forest Service
Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests
ATTN: Chattooga Planning Team
4391 Broad River Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29212

Dear Sir or Madam:

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited, representing over 3400 members of Trout Unlimited in Georgia, I am writing to comment on Preferred Alternative #4 for management of the upper Chattooga River. The work done by the Forest Service in this study is greatly appreciated and we thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

We think that Alternative #3 is a better choice to protect the resource and provide backcountry solitude but we can and will support the preferred Alternative #4. However, in order that Alternative #4 is effective in its design, the following elements must be emphasized:

- Enforcement of all regulations, along with stiffer fines, must occur. In addition we encourage the creation of a "river ranger" to enforce these regulations and protect the resource.

- A comprehensive plan for dealing with Large Woody Debris (LWD) in all three forests must be prepared.

This has been a long and complicated study and the Forest Service should be proud of what has been done. The choice to zone the resource to avoid user conflict and protect the Outstandingly Remarkable Values is sound management and good stewardship of our forests.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Charles C. Breithaupt Jr.