From:	Margot Wallston
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	upper Chattooga access
Date:	07/31/2008 05:56 PM

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing to express my disappointment with the continuation of a ban prohibiting access for non-motorized boaters on the upper Chattooga. As a long time environmentalist, I strongly believe that one of the best ways to protect and preserve unique resources and ecosystems is to responsibly share them with others. The more people who are exposed to the outstanding and distinctive beauty of the Chattooga and who are allowed to enjoy it, the more people will actively advocate for the river's continued protection into the future. Minimizing access and use of the upper Chattooga to private landowners leaves the river's future in a much less secure position. Furthermore, the whitewater boater community has a strong reputation for being good environmental stewards--much more so than the range of individuals who might be hiking, camping or fishing along the river. A trashed or overused campsite can be far more destructive to an environment than traveling downstream via canoe or kayak.

Please reconsider your position on the appropriateness of the ban of boaters on the upper Chattooga (including such extreme limits on public access days in a calendar year). The river should be enjoyed by and taken care of by as many people as possible.

Sincerely,
Margot Wallston
Asheville, NC