From: Edward Lilly
Reply To: eglilly@yahoo.com
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:
Date: 07/30/2008 10:38 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to encourage the federal government to allow boating on the National Wild and Scenic Chatooga river. I am a hunter, fisherman, backpacker, and kayaker. And by the way, I pay a lot of taxes too. It makes no sense that some uses are allowed in unlimited amounts and zero boating is allowed on this National resource.

The current environmental assessment is a joke. The current proposal allows only a few people to paddle roughly a third of the upper river somewhere between zero and six days a year in the middle of winter at high water based on an impossible set of logistical hurdles. This miniscule paddling allowance is so small and bizarre it is realistically a total ban. The rest of the upper river and its tributaries remain totally off limits to paddlers.

Although I am very much a law abiding person, the idea that this river is essentially totally off limits to me as a kayaker, but open for virtually unlimited other uses drives me insane. The idea that millions of my tax dollars are being used to "study" (perpetuate?) the boating ban just infuriates me more.

This ban, and proposals that continue to severely limit kayaking, are blatant user discrimination. They must end.

Please keep me informed about the progress of this issue.

Edward Lilly