From:	Jack Gould
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	UPPER CHATTOOGA DRAFT-EA
Date:	08/07/2008 04:11 PM

GENTLEMEN:

First of all, my thanks to the US Forest service for providing the opportunity to comment on this extremely important subject. You should be commended for the effort put forth in completing such a comprehensive study, and for involving all parties an opportunity to present their viewpoints.

I have commented earlier as the discussions about allowing boating on the Upper Chattooga were beginning. In my earlier comments, I expressed an opinion that strongly recommended keeping boating out of this now pristine area of the upper reaches of the Chattooga.

I was introduced to a fly-rod and trout fishing on the Chattooga in 1963 when roads were less "spiffy", and there was no bridge at Burrell's Ford. Burrell's Ford was reached via a sometimes hazardous ride in a Jeep or Volkswagon...but it was well worth it. The river was beautiful, isolated, and an outstanding point of scenic beauty in SC/GA. In 45 years, it has , of course, changed. The roads are better; the bridge to GA is in place; and many more folks can enjoy the river. There were no boats present, in 1963, or now, and that is good. You can walk to Ellicott's Rock and might not see a single person...and that is good!

Now we find ourselves in a situation where boaters, kayakers and canoers, wish to utilize this area. I'm not sure exactly why, unless it's the challenge of shooting rapids and dangerous narrows in these upper reaches, when the water is high. Frankly, I'm against it, but then again we must be realistic, and consider the requests of others, no matter how foreign they seem.

For that reason, **I reluctantly will support the #4 Alternative** rather than a preferred #3 Alternative. I also encourage you to consider amending any alternative with the following recommendations:

1) Reserve the right to re-assess the final decision if boating violations above acceptable limits occur. This would include establishing some form of River Management to closely monitor the boating activity.

2) Any type of commercial activity (boat rental, shuttle service, guide services, etc.) **must be absolutely prohibited**. Penalties for violators should be clearly stated, and enforced without exception.

3) Restrict the parking of boat trailers and obviously boat hauling vehicles, to no closer than 200ft. from the Burrell's Ford bridge.

4) Closely coordinate the up-stream parking of boaters vehicles, so as to not be detrimental to the esthetics of the area.

As a long-time user of this valuable resource, I again commend the US Forest Service for its excellent record of stewardship in dealing with the management of the Chattooga River. Please do your very best to maintain this excellent record.

Very truly yours,

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