From:	Robin Dake
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
cc:	dianeminick@msn.com; Kshaw01@mindspring.com; medworld@bellsouth.com
Subject:	Upper Chattooga River Project
Date:	08/06/2008 05:20 PM

Dear Mr. Marion,
I am a flyfisher who, as a member of the Georgia Women Flyfishers and Cohutta Trout Unlimited have a vested interest in the outcome of your decision. I think it is unfair for boaters to want year-round access to waters that have been reserved for fishing. It is a small section when compared to the significantly larger areas where boaters are free to frolic and ply their skills throughout the State. It boils down to simple greed on their part. If they see something that they can't have, they simply mount a nation-wide campaign to get it, behaving like a child who has been denied something. The fishermen and women are willing to compromise and allow some boating with restrictions. Compromise is a reasonable way for all parties to get some of what they want. It is a sign of respect to the other types of recreation out there. The area is also a more sensitive area for reproduction, especially around the cobble and rocks that are in higher concentrations in the upper elevations. Having boaters clanging and crashing around those areas will prevent the fish from achieving their spawning activities during the day time. As far as we know, fish don't spawn at night and fishing is not disruptive to their spawning action. Another thing to consider is the degradation of the shoreline structure, and streambed structure that will occur as those boat clang and bang about. This will ad considerable more risk to the fishermen moving about the stream. One more thing to consider is the cost to you to rescue those boaters who are injured or killed in the more remote areas. I would expect that the number of rescues that you already have to perform will go up considerably if they are given access to the more remote parts of the stream.
I am calling for a total ban of the boaters. I am asking that you choose Option 4.
Kind regards,
Diane Minick
VP of Georgia Women Flyfishers
Conservation Chair of Cohutta Trout Unlimited Chapter