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Subject:	Chttooga River Draft EA comment
Date:	08/06/2008 04:14 PM

Chattooga River Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) Comment:

Thank you for the planning process that allows public input. As a life-long trout fisherman, I appreciate the wisdom of **the current management scheme** as implemented in the 1970's under Chief Forester Donald Eng which **has been a fair and time-proven resolution** to a major multiple use issue on a national significant resource.

Alternative 3, prohibiting boating above the Highway 28 Bridge **is essential in preserving the** extremely successful delayed harvest trout fishery located just above Highway 28; and, especially the **wilderness experience** from foot traffic only along the upper river. Most importantly, it preserves the current zoning that has segregated competing uses with foot traffic only allowed above Highway 28, and floating allowed only in the over 30 miles of river below there.

As a member of the Chattooga River Chapter of Trout Unlimited, **Alternative 4,** which uses zoning as an appropriate tool for resource and recreation management in the long USFS tradition of multiple use management **is an acceptable compromise** with the boaters. While this alternative provides some limited boating, it would provide some separation of competing recreational uses as drafted. The use of zoning to do that is a valid tool to be protected, and that is a key issue along with protection of the resources and the outdoor experience of the public.

Regardless of which alternative is selected, **visitor use must be addressed** because of the degradation of the resource from overuse, especially at the Burrell's Ford Bridge.

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