From:	Ray Gentry
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Comments Alternate #4
Date:	08/06/2008 09:16 AM
Attachments:	Ray Gantry- Alltel.vcf

USFS:

8/6/08

First, I thank you for the orderly professional methods employed by the USFS in this study. You are being more than fair to extend the comment period to boaters as they try to overwhelm the fairness in your system in their favor. Alternate #4 is the acceptable way to manage the river no mater how many additional uninformed people object.

Second, I would like to comment on the boater's insistence on unlimited restrictions. I was on the Chattooga when unrestricted boating was allowed. I sat on the bank one Saturday and watched flotilla after flotilla of tubes, boats and rafts push me out of my favorite river forcing me to become an unwilling white water spectator. I had hiked in over two miles seeking my tiny spot of heaven to escape the hubbub and be alone. That day I wish I had never gone. The occasional hiker, birder and fisherman come and go quietly leaving serenity in their wake. The boaters, floaters and tubers however are all alike. They bring flotilla after flotilla screaming and disrupting the natural order and taking pleasure in that tragedy forcing me to move aside. Alternate #4 does not force me to move aside.

There will be no stopping the volume of floaters if restrictions are eliminated. The boaters will say ... "No, we just want boating allowed but not rafts, tubers" etc .... That view is not Zoning by use but it is gold plated preferential treatment for one selfish segment of a user group. After all, the Boaters, floaters and tubers now have 99% of the rivers in Georgia and what is wrong with the rest of the world having a small spot to seek refuge from their chaos.

My comment is hikers, fishers, birders and naturalist object to selfish preferential treatment for Boaters and Alternate 4 is a reasonable solution for all users.

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