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Subject:	Comments on Chattooga
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Sir- There are few places in the south where fly fishing is available. One of the reasons that I moved from New England (Boston) in 1978 to Georgia was the available fishing here. I looked for a state where there was still a chance for a fishing experience of solitude and personal skill. The pressure on the Chattooga from the increased use by kyackers and boaters has made it nearly impossible to still do this there. I am now 61 years old and have been fishing since I was 8. Both of my sons and my grandson all fly fish. Fly fishing is a sport for all ages. Kyackers are usually 20 to 30 yr olds, who want to attack the fast waters and rivers with several runs each day. The two sports are not mutually exclusive but the fly fishers are obstructions to the boaters and the boater-kyackers disturb and stirr-up the waters for the fisherman. If I have to choose, I favor the stream being reserved fro fly fishing because of the multiple ages that can use it. Perhaps there is a North Ga. stream or stream in central Georgia that could be developed just for Kyack use. Alternatively, the Chatooga might be divided by season- one for trout fly fishing and another for the Kyack and boater use. We have to protect the streams that still can support the fish and wildlife our state. It is impossible to move the trout but easy to move the boaters and kyackers. Once the trout are gone and the streams destroyed, will the kyackers use be enough to sustain and support the outdoors like the fishermen, who pay for their use by license and fees. At the very least it will require money to manage the Kyackers and boaters, who use the stream. At the very least, I feel that a license or fee system should be instituted on kyackers and boaters for the use of these waters, regardless of the out come and decisions. Why should a day on the water cost for one type of recreation but for not the other. Its not fair now with the fishermen supporting the resource financially but loosing access to it from a group who has a free ride to destroy and abuse what the fisherman have paid for and supported through their many volunteer groups. How much stream reclamation and work have the Kyackers done? Is there a Kyack unlimited? Are they really working to help the environment in any large way? The decision should be clear to you. Ask the DNR, who shows up to help with their their environmental projects and who volunteers to provide instruction to children and adults across our state.

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