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Subject: Comments regarding the draft Enviormental Assessment for the Upper Chatooga River
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At the request of Forest Supervisor, Jerome Thomas on behalf of the Forest Service, I make the following comments regarding the pre-decisional Environmental Assessment recently published by the Service.

I am Charles A. Mobley. I live and practice law in Clayton, Rabun County, Georgia. I am a fisherman and a member of the Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Having lived on this earth for 65 years I realize that it is impossible to fully satisfy everyone when their interests are so diverse and in competition. I am grateful for the opportunity to make comments and I hope that they will be of some benefit to the Service.

I believe your User Capacity Analysis is complete, fair, comprehensive and professional. You left no stone unturned.

While selfishly I would prefer your Alternative No. 3 because it is boating-free and would preserve aesthetic back-country values such as solitude and wilderness in the upper Chattooga River for future generations, I know that compromise is best. **Therefore I would urge the adoption of Alternative No. 4**
because:

It allows boating from 12/01 to 03/01 from County Line Trail Road in NC to Burrell's Ford Bridge on days when the mean daily flow is 450 cfs or more as measured by the Burrell's Ford gauge. This seems to be fair and objective.

It will limit camping and parking, which is needed.

It will enhance water quality by reducing erosion and sedimentation from visitor overuse and abuse.

It prohibits removal of large woody debris to accommodate boating. This debris has great ecological significance.

It prevents in steam conflict.

I would **suggest**, as I am sure others have, **that additional law enforcement be engaged and that visitor education be expanded.**

That the Forrest Service or a contract concessionaire pre-authorize boatable days and post the information at public locations.

That stakeholders be involved in the implementation and monitoring of the new management plan.

That an on site and full-time river manager be engaged to protect and preserve this national treasure for future generations.

It is my belief that the preferred alternative No. 4 is a compromise that is fair because it utilizes zoning which is a time tested, fair and legal land and water use practice. It ensures that the different and conflicting types of users are physically separated.

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