From: Patton Dycus
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Chattooga compromise
Date: 07/24/2008 02:07 PM

I have fly fished the Chattooga several times and have also been on a commercial rafting trip on a portion of the Chattooga currently open to boating. As an avid fly fisherman, I enjoy the tranquility that the current ban on boating offers on some portions of the river. I applaud the Forest Service's efforts, through the proposed compromise, to strike a balance between the sometimes competing interests of boaters, fisherman and hikers and campers. However, I would like to speak out in favor of a continuation of a complete ban on boating on those portions of the Chattooga that currently have a ban in place. As someone who enjoys rafting and kayaking, I believe that the interests of boaters should be respected -- but I feel that the options for boating on the Chattooga currently available do that. If boating is allowed on the sections of the river where it currently is not, I am afraid that this will create a "slippery slope" -- which will eventually lead in a few years to opening the entire river to boating.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

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