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Subject:	Chattooga River alternatives
Date:	08/14/2008 12:44 PM
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I strongly support Alternative 3 as the means of regulating use of the upper Chattooga River. As the proposal itself states, the Chattooga provides "exceptional, year-round, high-quality trout fishing," an exceedingly rare and vanishing resource, indeed. Alternative 4 states the water levels from December to March are higher than those that 'provide optimal trout fishing opportunities,' a statement that conflicts with the above quote taken from Alternative 3. Exceptional trout waters are extremely rare gems of nature that must be protected and nourished. Allowing boaters and the inevitable noise and trash is neither protection nor nourishment. If boaters took better care of the resources they use, I would not object. However, canoeists and especially kayakers, in my experience, make tremendous amounts of noise and leave behind trash including the inevitable sunken beer cans. I have collected beer cans from the middle of trout streams for over forty years and in all that time have never seen fisherman drinking a beer: the cans are simply too heavy to carry when full. Such weight is not an impediment to boaters and full coolers in tow of boats and inner tubes is a common sight. In warmwater rivers and streams I have become accustomed to such behavior. Such rudeness and disregard of the resource is intolerable in a trout stream, let alone one of such rare qualities as the Chattooga. I strongly support Alternative 3. Let the resource continue to flourish as it is presently.

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