From:	Charlie P
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	No boating on the Upper Chattooga River
Date:	08/13/2008 09:35 AM
Importance:	High

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Charlie from Meriwether Co., GA and I would like to thank the US Forest Service for allowing the people to express concern for the Chattooga River Project.

Being from west central Georgia, I don't have easy access to trout rivers for fishing and general enjoyment. My family has been blessed to acquire a house in South Carolina on the Chattooga River and we visit there as regularly as possible. My father, uncle, grandfather and I deeply enjoy trout fishing on this part of the river. One of the most enjoyable things about it, besides the great fishing, is the fact that there are no rafts or canoes flying by with half a dozen screaming people on them. The solitude and true wilderness of this part of the river is what makes it so unique. I have been lucky enough to go to Wyoming trout fishing and that trip started my love for trout fishing. Out there, there are plenty of 'no boating' rivers and streams to fish, but here in the Southeast, the Upper Chattooga is the only wild and scenic no boating river left. There are plenty of other rivers in the Southeast to raft and canoe on. Why is there a need to open this part of the river to boating? I don't see a need at all. It will a sad day when there are no places to take our kids that are still as nature and God created them.

I am an Eagle Scout and an Asst. Scoutmaster in a brand new troop and I would love to take our boys to this part of the river for a camping/hiking trip one day. This part of the river and forest around it would such an excellent place to teach our boys many of the skills required to make Eagle and to succeed in life. This stretch of the river would also be an excellent place for what the Boy Scouts call a "primitive campout". It could also serve as a great camping/hiking spot for standard, modern camping. Being that there is limited human traffic and disturbance in this area, is what makes it such a great area to just enjoy God's country.

I hope this letter falls on concerned ears and I once again would like to thank the US Forest Service for allowing public comment on this issue. Please consider my vote for **"NO BOATING; WITH ENHANCEMENT TO THE NATURAL SURROUNDINGS".**

Thank You,

Charlie Perdue