From:	The McConkey's
Reply To:	The McConkey's
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Save the upper Chattooga
Date:	08/11/2008 02:33 PM

To Whom it may concern:
I am appalled that this beautiful river is only open to fishermen, who have a more of a significant impact than whitewater kayakers. I am a fisherman and a kayaker and think that this river should be open to all. Allowing access a couple days a year to kayakers is not the answer. Kayakers are not trampling the vegetation on the banks or harvesting the fish but rather floating down the water with virtually no impact upon the environment. If you don't believe me then go to Wilson Creek where you will see the trash left behind by fishermen such as food wrappers, tangled fishing line discarded, packaging from fishing products left on the banks and used toilet paper, endless amount of trails to access the creek which promotes erosion. I am not trying to bash fishing because I like to do it responsibly as well but I have witnessed a greater respect for the environment from kayakers than the fishermen that I have encountered over the years. The amount of kayakers that would paddle it would be small due to the remoteness and difficulty. I would suggest that kayakers be given unlimited access to this wild and scenic river! We can all coexist.

Thanks for your time.

Joe and Kristen McConkey