From:	Robert Thompson
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Upper Chattooga River Boating Ban
Date:	08/18/2008 09:42 AM

August 18, 2008

RE: Chattooga River Project Comments

Dear Sumter National Forest,

I am writing this letter in response to the boating ban on the Upper Chattooga River. As a kayaker, fly fisherman, and hiker I have different perspectives on the uses of our National Forests. In addition to these views I have another perspective on managing our resources, as I am a fourth year student at the University of Georgia in Warnell's school of Forestry and Natural Resources. I am knowledgeable on the impacts that humans have on the land. I understand that kayaking is a sport that leaves the smallest of footprints on the land. There is absolutely no scientific justification that would describe why boating should not be allowed on this stretch of river. The river most certainly needs to be managed with consideration to the human dimension; however manage in a fair and equal way. None of the alternative management plans address the problems facing the river and public user groups. Do not discriminate towards one user group. Manage by "Caring for the Land and Serving People". Serve the public by allowing fair and equal use of our last pristine areas in the Southeast.

Thank you for considering these comments,

Sincerely
Robert Thompson