From:	Charles LeGrand
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Allow boating on the Upper Chattooga
Date:	08/18/2008 11:48 AM

Dear Sir or Madam,
I disagree with the proposal to limit or ban boating on Upper Chattooga while still allowing other users unlimited access. There is no sensible justification for this exclusionary plan. I am a kayaker. I also hunt and fly-fish. You could never convince me that kayaking is more harmful or intrusive than these other activities. And any sort of user conflict between these groups is very rare in my experience. We are generally on the water at different times, as our pursuits are more amenable to different water flows.

I am from North Carolina, but now live in Portland, OR. I guided rafts on the Chattooga for the Nantahala Outdoor Center during the summer of 1996. I love this river and always yearn to return. It would be a joy to finally be able to paddle the upper sections. Furthermore, I believe a decision here could have implications for river management across the country. So, for all these reasons, I am concerned about what rules will be enforced. Please do not unfairly single out a dedicated and responsible user group for no good reason. Do not ban boaters!

Specifically, regarding the Chattooga River Project, paddlers prefer an alternative similar to Alternative 8. And lastly, something I feel very strongly about, **the public should have the right to float on public Wild and Scenic Rivers regardless of who owns the land along the river**.

Thank you for your consideration,
Charles LeGrand
5825 NE 24th Ave
Portland, OR 97211

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Charles LeGrand