From:	troutdvm@aol.com
To:	Comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	
Date:	08/18/2008 08:23 AM

Dear US Forest Service,

My simple comment on opening the Chatooga River to recreational water craft use is PLEASE DON'T. I am not a local resident, I am from Michigan,but I have been fortunate to have fished the Chatooga River several times. I really enjoy the wilderness like fishing experience on the Chatooga. Whenever I fish the Chatooga, I compare those experiences with the experiences I have at home being a land owner on the Pere Marquette River. The Pere Marquette is designated as a "Wild and Scenic" river. The river is currently over exploited by commercial water craft usage - canoes, kayaks and inner tubes. These vessels are limited to water use between 9 am and 6 pm. Needless to say, this dose not make for much of a quality fishing experience. The only time the river is not impacted is during the winter months. What is "Wild and Scenic" about the Pere Marquette River is the behavior of a number of the water cruisers.

I am also concerned that the opening of the Chatooga River to recreational watercraft may set a dangerous precedent for watercraft use in our National Parks. I could not imagine going to Yellowstone or any other National Park and seeing the rivers full of kayakers, canoers or tubers. Please protect the quality of the wilderness experience on the Chatooga River.

Sincerely Concerned,

Michael R. Sobaski, DVM

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