From: trent thibodeaux
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us; akimbell@fs.fed.us
Subject: Chattooga opinion (I Support Alternative 8)
Date: 08/18/2008 10:27 AM

Dear Sir,

In my own opinion, I believe this is a travesty. To close access to a river based on unequal rights is unfair. Imagine if the roles were reversed. Would it be this hard to open the river to fisherman, and find a happy middle ground were both parties agree. Especially when we all know that in order for the river to be boatable, the quality of fishing decreases immensely. As far as the notion that boaters are not eco-friendly, well, that is just plain ignorance. The majority of boaters are very respectable to the environment and follow the "leave no trace" idea with strong convictions. Sure, there are some that might not respect the land as much as others, but the same can be said about hunters, fisherman, and just about any outdoor person. With this said:

I strongly support Alternative 8 in regards to Chattooga access. I am a member of a community that wholeheartedly understands and respects the places that we explore. You will not find a more respectable and eco friendly group of outdoorsmen that regard opportunities like the boating community does. We are privileged and honored that our skills have allowed us to reach places not many have. I believe a common misconception is that boaters will overrun any river that we paddle. In reality, only a handful of boaters have the skills to paddle the upper reaches of the Chattooga, therefore limiting the population.

This unnecessary arguing over access has brought nothing more than negative attention to the forest services actions, and will continue to do so until the natural right of every person is honored fairly.

With all egos' aside I ask that you do the right thing. A smart man has the ability to see the big picture and can manage relationships effectively. Step up and make an honorable decision in regards to Chattooga access. Anything less that Alternative 8 would be a travesty to human policy and another scar on the already disgraced forest service. Support alternative 8!

Regards,