From: John Monroe
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Cc: 'Wyatt Stevens'
Subject:
Date: 08/18/2008 04:03 PM

Dear US Forest Service,

Long before flow levels are available for any given weekend, I book our shared cottage for my fishing trip to the Chattooga. Water-levels, Season, Weather do not factor into when I visit because at any water, in any season, and under any conditions, a remote spot for fishing along the North Carolina Chattooga remains available.

The lack of conflict with kayakers and rafts have made the Chattooga a desirable destination for me and my family. The ability to enjoy any stream without constant interruptions from boaters passing-through has become very rare as kayakers fill all nearby streams. Please do not spoil this unique place by adding the Chattooga to the long list of streams now overrun by boat.

One note of consideration.: I have been a fly fishing guide in the region for over 15 years. the upper Chattooga offers some of Western North Carolinas finest wild trout fishing. One concern of mine is that wild trout are very spooky and the passing of a boat over their lies will scare wild fish under rocks where they will hide and fail to feed the entire day. One boat on a small trout stream equals no fish caught .

I am willing to leave the Nantahala open for the boaters. The last thing they (Whitewater paddlers) would like to see is me anchored in my drift boat below a run on the Nantahala. It is legal for me to do but I don't out of respect for the recreational boater. Why cant they respect my right to fish a small unnavigable steam in peace.

Sincerely,

John S Monroe

Asheville, NC