From:	Mark and Becky Mershon
To:	comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject:	Chattooga River Project Comments
Date:	08/18/2008 09:12 PM

I am writing to express my concern about the Environmental Assessment on the recreational management of the Chattooga River. The assessment is unfair to whitewater boaters. Most of the alternatives proposed limit or ban boating on the upper Chattooga Cliffs reach and its tributaries. The assessment does not provide solid reasons for this restriction. In my experience, fishing causes more environmental degradation than boating does.

An alternative similar to Alternative 8 would be acceptable. Boating should be allowed on the entire Chattooga River below Grimshawes Bridge, as well as on tributaries. Encounter standards should be based on a real user capacity analysis and equitably limit total use only when the standards are consistently exceeded.

Thanks you for your consideration.

Mark R. Mershon
4696 Windflower Dr.
Blairsville, GA 30512