From: MEDBOW@alltel.NET
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Keep the Upper Chattooga Wild & Scenic
Date: 08/16/2008 02:52 PM

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

Dear Sir or Ms.:

I am a long time paddler in the Southeast. One of the originals, I suppose. The Chattooga is as dear to me as any slice of earth that I have encountered. The headwaters area contains the kind of mystique that is fast becoming rare, even extinct to our wild places. If we lose it by inundating it with the mindless traffic that has become standard in whitewater sport, we sacrifice a certain part of the soul of America whose definition dates back to Theodore Roosevelt, Muir and Burroughs and so we lose a part of the definition of who we are as Americans. We blindly invite the circus to move in to supplant the indigenous purity of the land.. There is land that deserves to retain its original integrity without the heavy hand of re-catigorization. There need to be stunning sections of river where people can walk without the clamor of boat traffic. The Chattooga offers plenty of excitement in its other stretches. Let's not monopolize natural beauty with our domination over it.

I am writing because I want to keep seven miles of the Upper Chattooga River Wild & Scenic.

I urge the Forest Service to adopt Alternatives 2 or 3 to continue to allow foot traffic only on this part of the river - just as the Forest Service has for the last 30 years.

I oppose Alternatives 4 and 8, which would open the Upper Chattooga to various levels of boating.

Sincerely,
Mark Warren
1998 U.S. National Champion canoeist

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