From: milt@net2atlanta.com
To: comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us
Subject: Keep the Upper Chattooga Wild & Scenic by Allowing Boating - Relax Alternative 4
Date: 08/18/2008 08:22 AM

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

At its core, this is conflict between recreational users of this part fo the river.

Kayakers and canoeists seek legal access to this wilderness area, while anglers seek to keep exclusive use of it.

The USFS has determined that kayaking and canoeing has no measureable impact upon the environment. Paddlers seek to enjoy the wild & scenic river as it is with no modifications. Floating down the river, they leave no footprints and no damage to the land.

Anglers, however, have a contrived playground which is damaged by their use. European and California fish are stocked by the thousands by truck and helicopter to facilitate a sport and attract more visitors to the area... all to enjoy something that isn't natural. As the anglers move in and out of the river, they create new trails eroding the banks into the water.

Please ease the restrictions in Alternative 4 to allow paddling on the Rock Gorge section at lower water levels. And stop allowing the stocking of non-native trout in the river!

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