# TIGHT LINES

APRIL 1991

RABUN CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED NEWSLETTER

## RIDLEY BRANCH CAMPSITE LOCATION OF APRIL MEETING

The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited gets back to basics with our monthly meeting at Double Bit, aka Ridley Branch, on Friday and Saturday, April 26th & 27th. The meeting will be held around the campfire, where meetings should be held, on Friday night after the sun goes down and the Browns come out. On Saturday we'll do some major maintenance work on some of the structures and also scatter out for a little stream surveying work. Be sure and let Jim Nixon know if you are coming so he can prepare

enough 'possum stew, goat breads and the like. Otherwise, you'll end up eating RC's and Moon Pies.

#### MARCH MEETING SUMMARY

David Gomez, Rabun member and Superintendant of Moccasin Creek State Park gave us an overview of the State Park system with an excellent slide presentation. Dave also emphasized the importance of our contribution to Trout Day. When you see the mile wide on a small child's face or the enthusiasm of a fellow confined to a wheel chair as they hold up a freshly caught trout, you know that this is one of our more important activities. Thanks, Dave, we'll see you in June!

#### CLAYTON HOSTS CONSERVATION FAIR

Eleven Rabun members time and knowledge in the Rabun booth at the annual Conservation Fair. Quite a few conservation oriented groups had displays there and passed out literature and conversation on just what they did in the field. Our group did an outstanding Rabun Like job in selling TU. There weren't a great number of people in attendance but as usual, we enjoyed each other! Pat Hopton coordinated our part of the affair and did a great job!

THE NEW CREEL SURVEY CARDS are now in place in their boxes and ready for you to fill out whenever you're on the River. The data is helpful so take a minute to fill in the blank spots. The Chapter donated \$76.30 for printing.

<u>CLEM DEFINO, OUR RESIDENT CONSERVATIVE</u>, er Conservationist, reported on the recent bill passed in the Georgia legislature that made state agencies file impact statements on the enviornment before undertaking projects. Bill (Clem) had written a letter on behalf of the Chapter supporting the measure.

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THE GEORGIA COUNCIL OF TU has tabled any decision concerning the lease of the Montgomery property on Dicks Creek until the owners of adjacent property have been contacted as to their feelings regarding structure work and other TU activities. [I am to get these addresses and will shortly]

MCDONALDS IS NOW OFFERING BURGERS for 59¢ 69¢ and 79¢ and will be contacted with our proposal to turn the section of Stekoa Creek that flows in front of the place into a veritable trout paradise. Kidd and Durniak are to provide Adams with a plan, which he will present to Big Mac himself.

THE HELICOPTER WILL FLY AGAIN this fall with thousands of Rainbows bailing out over selected spots up and down the River between Burrell's Ford and Highway 28. Thanks to the Chattahoochee Chapter \$400 and the Savannah Chapter \$100 for financial help. Spring fishing has improved greatly!

ADAMS, DURNIAK & LANDRETH (sounds like a PR firm) will attend the "Blue Ridge Symposium" to be held in Rabun Gap. Doug will represent the Georgia Council and Jeff and Tom, the Chapter.

THE JENKINS WILDERNESS BILL has gotten a lot of press of late; but, in case you haven't kept up, enclosed are several articles that should fill you in on the blank spots. Regardless of how you feel individually, the question is: IS THIS AN ISSUE FOR RABUN TU TO ADDRESS? Think it over and we'll discuss it at our next meeting.

FUTURE STOCKERS GET TRIMMED AT BURTON Nine inch Brown Trout are no easiest critters to get a hold on and trim their fins! Thirteen Rabun members can attest to that fact after spending some time on April 1st at the Burton Hatchery. Jerry, Kelly, Mort, Kidd Adams, Pat, Glen, Nugget, Lil, Clem, Walt and Tom, under the direction of Jeff and other DNR folks prepared a bunch of very healthy Browns for stocking in the Tallulah on April 23rd. JEFF HAS ASKED THAT AS MANY OF US THAT CAN, MEET AT THE FIRST CAMPGROUND ON THE TALLULAH AT 1:00 PM, TUESDAY, APRIL 23RD FOR BUCKET STOCKING. Jeff also asks that if we wish to continue this type of stocking activity, that we do not fish immediately following the stocking.

FINANCIAL REPORT Mike reports that we have \$3554.50 in the bank. Nine Hundred of that is committed, however: \$600 to the USFS intern program; \$100 each to Frankie Green USFS and Jeff Durniak DNR for youth fishing programs; and \$100 for dozer work at Hicks Cemetary.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT Welcome to new Rabun members, Howard Thompson of Clayton, and Blane Tarnecki of Blairsville; and thanks to the following for renewing: Arthur Crowe, Jim & Greg Darnell, John Duncan, John Manten and Tomy Short. NEED TO RENEW: David Sherman, Gregg Singer, Teddy Bennett, and Jeff Durniak.

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

| April 23rd                          | Bucking Stocking-Tallulah River, 1:00PM,                          | 1st Campground               |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| April 23rd                          | Opening "The Tie That Binds" Exhibition                           | Carter Library               |
| April 26/27                         | Meeting/Campout/Work/Fish<br>[Call Nixon if you are going]        | Ridley Camp                  |
| May 3/4                             | Fishing Trip to Smokies<br>[Call Jim Kidd if you are going]       | Elkmont CG                   |
| June 8 as those<br>Lines that the s | Trout Day<br>[Call Kyle Burrell to help]                          | Moccasin Creek<br>State Park |
| June 9                              | Carter Library Demonstration<br>[Call Kyle Burrell to go & help]  | Atlanta                      |
| June 18                             | Regular Monthly meeting<br>Program - Durniak                      | Library                      |
| June 21-23                          | Backpack/Campout/Work/Fish<br>[Call Nixon if you are going]       | Lower Reed Creek             |
| July 13                             | Work Outing-Electro Fishing                                       | Tallulah River               |
| July 16                             | Monthly Meeting   | Library                      |
|                                     | Program: Chris Martin GaDNR, State<br>Aquatic Education Biologist |                              |
| Aug 20 <sup>°</sup> hat an          | Monthly Meeting<br>Program - Dave Jensen, USFS District Rang      | Library<br>ger               |

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Aug 20

Aquatic Education Biologist Monthly Meeting Program - Dave Jensen, USFS District Ranger



"Negative results on the fish...Let's try rubbing two *sticks* together." FORUM

## GLOSSARY

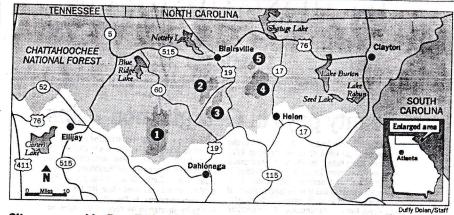
National Forest — Forest land managed by the Forest Service, U.S. partment of Agriculture. The two Georgia are the 742,000-acre Chattahoochee and the 105,000acre Oconee east of Atlanta. They are managed for multiple uses: watershed protection, wilderness, recreation, timber production, mining and livestock grazing. Hunting and fishing are permitted.

National Park — Parkland managed by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of Interior. They are managed for preservation and recreation, with no logging, mining or livestock grazing allowed. Fishing is permitted. Major parks in Georgia are Cumberland Island National Seashore and Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area near Atlanta.

Wildemess — Federally owned land designated by Congress to be kept in its natural state. Logging, mining, road-building and motor vehicles or motorized equipment are not allowed. Hiking, fishing, camping, canoeing, hunting and nature study are permitted. About 90,000 acres of the Chattahoochee are designated by Congress as wildemess area.

Scenic Area A national forest tract established to preserve scenic beauty. Commercial logging and development are prohibited. Either the Forest Service or Congress can designate scenic areas, such as Anna Ruby Falls near Helen.

1.



# Sites proposed by Rep. Ed Jenkins for federal protection

Here is Peter Kirby's description of the five areas:

▶ 1. Springer Mountain National Recreation Area (22,600 acres). Continued use of existing open roads and limited commercial logging and related road construction would be pernitted. Springer Mountain is the start of the renowned 2,200mile Appalachian Trail, as well as the more recently established Benton MacKaye Trail. It includes the highly scenic Three Forks area, primeval hemicok stands along Stover Creek and popular waterfails on Long Creek. Near Dahlonega, Amicalola Falls State Park forms the area's southern gateway. It is located in Fannin, Lumpkin and Dawson counties.

▶ 2. Coosa Bald Scenic Area (8,800 acres). Near Blairsville, this area centers on the 4,200-foot Coosa Bald. It contains Sosebee Cove, with its famous wildflower displays and large trees, headwaters of Cooper Creek, one of the top trout fisheries in the state, and miles of inviting trails from Vogel State Park. As with other "scenic areas" in the forest, existing roads would stay 0, en, but commercial logging would stop. It is in Union County, north of the proposed Blood Mountain Wildemess Area and adjacent to Vogel.

▶ 3. Blood Mountain Wilderness (8,700 acres). Featuring 4,460-foot Blood Mountain, the highest point on the Appalachian Trail in Georgia, this wilderness gem offers miles of trout streams, vistas from peaks, old growth timber, endangered plants, lacy waterfalls, and miles of popular hikes. It is south of Blairsville in Union and Lumpkin counties.

▶ 4. Mark Trail Wilderness (16,500 acres). Named after the comic-strip conservationist created by Ed Dodd of Gainesville, this area would protect the headwater streams of the Chattahoochee River, prime black bear habitat, panoramic views from the Richard Russell Scenic Highway, more than 14 miles of Appalachian Trail and the dramatic Horse Trough Falls. It's northwest of Helen in White, Union and Towns counties.

► 5. Brasstown Addition (1,300 acres). This extension of the existing wildemess contains pristine streams and slopes on Georgia's highest peak. It's southeast of Blairsville in Union County.



Waterfalls are popular spots on Long Creek in the proposed Springer Mountain National Recreation Area. Some commercial logging would still be allowed in the area.

# Ceorgia must save mountains' beauty

#### By Peter Kirby

As the state's economy grows and the 1996 Olympic Games approach, our political leadership — federal, state and local — needs to take action now to preserve the natural attractions that make Georgia beautiful and livable.

The Wilderness Society and many other groups applaud U.S. Rep. Ed Jenkins's proposal to provide special protection for five areas in the 742,000-acre Chattahoochee National Forest.

Unlike the national parks, our national forests are managed by the U.S. Forest Service under the principle of multiple use, which allows for logging along with environmental protection.

Under present direction, the Forest Service has opened up about 77 percent of the Chattahoochee National Forest to logging and aims at substantially increasing harvest levels over time.

While conservation groups can support some low-impact logging, we object to Forest Service clear-cutting on steep slopes at high elevations in remote areas because of damage to d beauty, water qualisouth wildlife habitat oped by the Forest Service and need the protection of special congressional desig-

nations. Even with enactment of/ this bill, more than 70 percent of the forest will continue to be open to logging, more than adequate to continue reasonable levels of timber production.

Hunting and fishing would continue in most of the targeted forestland. There would be little change in existing recreation access because roads will stay open to the public in the national recreation area and scenic area.

There also will be little cost to the taxpayer from this measure, because the lands are federally owned. Payments to local counties from the federal government "in lieu of taxes" will not be reduced, because payments are assured on a per-acre basis that will remain unchanged.

As The Atlanta Constitution pointed out in a recent editorial, "the economic future of the North Georgia mountains lies in preserving their natural beauty."

Mr. Jenkins's measure would nicely complement the recent state legislation on mountain protection and river dors that also aims at as-

## Do mountains need federal protection?

U.S. Rep. Ed Jenkins (D-Ga.), concerned about excessive logging, is proposing legislation to designate new wilderness, scenic and recreation areas in the Chattahoochee National Forest. In the coming weeks, his constituents will be asked to comment.



# Marlene Karas/Staff

to the ar-

# Forest 'protection' is pure doublespeak

### By Raymond L. Harbin

It's not readily apparent, but U.S. Rep. Ed Jenkins's Chattahoochee Forest proposal is quite controversial.

Most Georgia mountain residents, their locally elected officials, most hunters and fishermen, and all timber-dependent forest workers oppose this legislation. That group is joined by a large contingent of U.S. Forest Service personnel. They must remain silent, however, because Department of Agriculture rules forbid the *intrusion* of scientific input into what is, obviously, an unscientific arena: The politics of federal land use.

The term "protection" is simply Orwellian doublespeak when applied to federally designated wilderness, because:

Roads for fire prevention and suppression are forbidden.

Destructive insect plagues and infectious plant diseases are systematically ignored. Nature must take her course.

The 1988 vaporization of 1.4 million acres of forests and wildlife in Yellowstone National Park was an appalling example of "protection." wilderness style.

"protection," wilderness style. In 1989, University of Tennessee biologist Peter McClain released a study contrasting black bear populations in the

Raymond L. Harbin of Fairburn is vice president and general manager of Richmond Lumber Inc. and director of Dendroi Conservation Consulting. Great Smoky Mountain National Park — the largest wildernessmanaged forest system in the Eastern United States — with bear populations in *timber-man-faged* contiguous U.S. Forest Service areas. The results:

Park bears, young and old, male and female, are smaller and suffer malnutrition because of inadequate summer vitamin and protein sources, such as shade intolerant berries and the insects, and insect-predators they attract.

Forest Service bears produce. young at a much earlier age and a rarely miscarry, unlike adjacent Park Service bears. The Southern Appalachian

The Southern Appalachian Highlands are known worldwide. for the quality of their timber = products. The timber business in also:

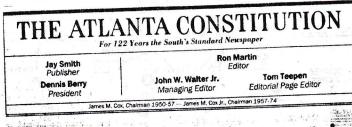
► Conserves 17 million galions of No. 2 fuel oil per year n through bark and sawdust sales us n

Maintains the economic vis to ability of the only paper recynic cling plant in the Southernaite Highlands.

▶ Provides the primary, year-round employment for hundreds of mountain residents and generates jobs for thousands of others.

The Wilderness Society and their allies would double the current 92 million acres of wilderness. This is the equivalent of three Englands, one Portugation and 91 percent of Italy.

It is the indispensable art of the effectual radical to be so, of without appearing so. I believe of these people lack this art.



# Beauty pays in Georgia mountains

The timber industry that gave birth to the North Georgia town of Helen back in 1912 has long since faded, but the town has found a new way to thrive. Its economic lifeblood is now tourism and outdoor recreation. That same economic transition is taking place, if on a less dramatic scale, throughout the scenic North Georgia mountains, where tourism and retirement living are reinvigorating fading communities once reliant on timber income.

Ed Jenk

est as wilderness, a designation that would

permanently prohibit development or log-

ging. Another 31,400 acres would be given less stringent protection as national scenic or

national recreation areas. Logging would still

be allowed in those areas, although on a re-

Each of the five areas identified for additional protection contributes something unique to North Georgia's recreational and

environmental treasury. Blood Mountain is

the highest peak on Georgia's segment of the Appalachian Trail. From Brasstown Bald, a

visitor can gaze off into four states. Coosa

whose 9th Congressional District includes most of the Georgia mountains, apparently recognizes the change taking place. Earlier this month, he revealed a proposal to protect an 26,500 additional acres of the Chattahoochee National For-

stricted basis

Bald offers a beautiful wildflower area. A fourth area will shelter the headwaters of the Chattahoochee River. And Springer Mountain is the southern end of the famed Appalachian Trail. (Sadly, Georgia has not always performed well as host state for the trail's southern terminus. In the late '50s, the trail had to be shortened by roughly 20 miles because of overdevelopment.)

Altogether, more than 58,000 acres in the 740,000-acre Chattahoochee National Forest would be given special protection under the Jenkins bill. More than 90,000 acres are already under wilderness protection, roughly half of it having come in under the 1986 Georgia Wilderness Act, also sponsored by Mr. Jenkins.

Much of the land proposed for protection under the new Jenkins bill is not suitable for timber production, so its inclusion is not controversial. But timber interests fear they will still feel an effect, and they may be right.

However, timber sales in the Chattahoochee National Forest lose money for the federal government. In effect, the public is paying to entice companies to come to the Chattahoochee and chop down trees. Given the budget crunch and the growing environmental movement, it's hard to see how that practice will be allowed to continue for much longer.

The economic future of the North Georgia mountains lies in preserving their natural beauty. Mr. Jenkins deserves credit for understanding that and acting on it."

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Jenkins's Chattahoochee Forest plan praiseworthy

As noted by The Atlanta Constitution, Rep. Ed Jenkins deserves credit for recognizing that the eco-nomic future of the North Georgia mountains lies in preserving their natural beauty and for taking action, to preserve them.

Like another North Georgia leader, Gov. Zeil Miller, Jenkins recognizes that economic growth in the mountains flows from tourism to much larger extent than from timber harvesting.

The Sierra Club has only one concern based on the press cover-age of Jenkins's proposal: is he pro-posing to allow logging in National Recreation and National Scenic areas? Clearly, clear-cutting should be prohibited, and the Sierra Club be lieves that selection logging should also be prohibited.

The Sierra Club has long urged

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the Forest Service to move away from its reliance on clear-cutting (even-aged timber management) and to that extent the club would prefer some use of group selection logging.

However, the area around Springer Mountain and Coosa Bald, for example, are not good sites for selection management. Selection logging would clearly result in the construction of new forest roads, and additional roads in the Chattahooches National Forest are not needed.

CHARLES W. MCGRADY Mr. McGrady is past chairman of the Georgia chapter of the Sierra Club, Tucker.

Congratulations to U.S. Rep. Ed Jenkins (D-Ga.) for his Chattahoo-chee National Forest proposal.

This would provide special protection for five ecosensitive areas and put limitations on destructive logging methods such as clear-cutting on slopes of mountains.

One of the proposed sites is the Mark Trail Wilderness area just north of Helen. This is one of the most beautiful scenic areas in the state, and it is also where the headwaters of the Chattahoochee River are located.

The black bear population in this area will benefit from this proposal because once enough of the bear's natural habitat is destroyed, then it is just a matter of time before the bear becomes extinct in that area.

I applaud U.S. Rep. Ed Jenkins for making a proposal that will help keep this part of the state pristing and beautiful for future generations BILL MOKE

## Fire regenerates foresta

I enjoyed Peter Kirby's pre and Raymond Harbin's con articles of March 31 dealing with wilderness protection of parts of the Chattahoo chee National Forest.

Mr. Harbin called wilderness otection "Orwellian double protection speak" because, for one thing, will derness designation does not allow roads for fire prevention. He says "The 1988 vaporization of ... forests and wildlife in Yellowstone" was "an appalling example" of wilderness protection.

Let me correct Mr. Harbin by pointing out the basic biological fact that fire is an important regeneral ing force, and many natural forest types would disappear without it.

The only thing "vaporized" by the Yellowstone fire was potentially marketable timber.

tection through wilderness des tion. He is the regional director for the Wilderness Society. Mr. Harbits argued that the best way to protect forests is to continue their current management. He is an executive in a lumber company. Now, who would the readers believe?

CARLOS CAM

Mr. Kirby argued for forest pro



Pat Hopton

U.S. Forest Service P.O. Box 438 Clayton, Ga. 30525

Proposed Project Compartment 71 - Falls Branch Subject:

Dear Pat:

The following is a confirmation of our discussion at the recent Rabun TU Chapter Meeting. Knowing that soil erosion and sedimentation are the major threat to our wild trout fisheries, on behalf of the membership I offer the following comments for your consideration:

. Falls Branch should be electro-fished both preactivity and postactivity, and prescribe habitat improvement as needed. (See Land & Resource Management Plan, Page 4-19,  $\underline{Fish}$ .)

- . Any soil disturbing activities should be preplanned & kept to a minimum.
- Any roads should:
  a) Utilize old existing roads where possible.
  b) Be for temporary access only.
  c) Laid out to maximize riparian area.
  (See Land & Resource Management Plan, Pages 4-34 through 4-35; Page 3-3, Soil & Water.)
- . Maintain shade protection on all streams. (See Land & Resource Management Plan, Page 4-36.)
- . If timber sales are planned, attempt to minimize erosion during the sale. (See Land & Resource Management Plan, Page 4-22, Items 6, 7, 8 & 9.)

Thank you for requesting our input.

Very truly yours.

and edien

Doug Adams President - Rabun Chapter

Rabun Chapter P.O. Box 65 Rabun Gap, Ga. 30568 22 March 1991

DA/vy

cc: David Jensen - USFS Bob Foster - GA TU Council

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America's Leading Coldwater Fisheries Conservation Organisation agton, D.C. Headquarters: 501 Church Street, Northeast • Vienna, Virginis 22180 • 703-281-1100



Rabun Chapter P.O. Box 65 Rabun Gap, Ga. 30568 22 March 1991

Tom Hawks, Distrist Ranger U.S. Forest Service Burton Road Clarkesville, Ga. 30523

Subject: Involvement Session for Headwaters of the Chattahoochee River

Dear Tom:

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the meeting on April 6th. Therefor on behalf of the 80 members of the Rabun Chapter, I offer the following written comments for your consideration: Therefore.

- Minimize soil disturbing activities, do not construct additional roads and maintain the existing roads in a manner to minimize erosion. Eros: and sedimentation are the major threat to our wild trout fisheries, "Most of the man-caused erosion is associated with the construction and use of roads." (Quotation from the Land & Resource Management Plan, Page 3-3, <u>Soil & Water</u>, Current Direction, 3rd Sentence.) Erosion
- Do NOT decrease the number of dispersed camping sites that are accessed from existing roads. Make every effort to "harden" or correct deficiencies in existing dispersed sites rather than closing the site. If an existing site must to be closed in order to protect a resource, do so only after one or two new dispersed camping sites have be opened nearby. (See Land & Resource Management Plan, Page 4-13, <u>Dispersed</u> <u>Recreation</u>, Item 1.)
- . If timber is to be harvested, plan and specify in order to minimize erosion during and after the sale, close all sale access roads during temporary closure of unit (such as through the winter), and properly seed the road and all disturbed areas on unit closure. Follow the Land & Resource Management Plan. (See Pages 4-22, items 6, 7, 8 & 9 & Pages 4-34, 4-33 & 4-36, <u>Mater.</u>)

Manage to evaluate, protect and enhance the existing wild trout fisheries. (See Land & Resource Management Plan, Page 4-19, <u>Fish</u>.)

Specific comments to questions in your letter dated 29 January 1990:

Do NOT restrict the number people. Enhance & increase dispersed camping. Do NOT build more roads. Do NOT close existing roads. Do NOT open existing closed roads. (Do improve road maintenance planning and specifications to reduce erosion.) Horse trails - No comment. Quantity of Timber Harvest - no comment.

THE DES

Rabun Chapter P.O. Box 65 Rabun Gap, Ga. 30568 22 March 1991

Ken Henderson - Supervisor U.S. Forest Service 508 Oak Street, N.W. Gainesville, Ga. 30501

Subject: Timber Sale Program Annual Report Chattahoochee - Oconee National Forests F/Y 90

Dear Ken:

On behalf of the members of the Rabun Chapter, I want to express our appreciation for including us on the distribution of the above subject report. At our last regular meeting, we discussed the report and generally concluded that if the presentation of data was enhanced slightly, it would be far more meaningful to a special interest group such as Trout Unlimited.

On Pages 1 and 2, the report describes the two separate National Forests and goes on to describe the 4 different physiographic provinces. In the Land and Resource Management Plan, on Page 1-3, a map of Seorgia shows which portions of each Forest lays within the 4 provinces.

We are aware that each province has differing forest types and differing timber sale effects, benefits and costs. Obviously, Trout Unlimited has a special interest in the Blue Ridge physiographic province. However, the format of the report does not facilitate our taking a closer look at the timber sale program results in the only province in which we have an interest.

Suggestion:

We suggest that future reports should have an appendix added that will break down the data by province (Statement of Revenues & Expenses; Employment, Income, and Program Level Account; The Economic Account; Employment. In Tables 1 & 2).

Ken, would it be possible to provide us with this breakdown for F/Y 90?

Other than this one point, we felt the report was well organized and presented with adequate explanation and analysis.

Vary truly yours, Doug Adams President - Rabun Chapter

DA/vy

cc: Bob Foster - Chairman Ga. TU Council

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America's Leading Coldwater Fisheries Conservation Organizati Washington, D.C. Headquarters: 501 Church Street, Northeast • Vienna, Virginia 22180 • 703-281-1100

Page 2 22 March 1991

Do allow camping next to streams where sites can be "hardened" and

Do allow camping next to streams where sites can be "nardened" and contained. Hunting - No comment. Fishing - The affects of our comments is acceptable. Method of timber cutting - Plan & specify the method for each unit that will minimize soil disturbance and erosion. More hiking trails are ok, but do NOT parallel the streams. Are things ok? We desire to see the area managed to preserve, protect and enhance the trout fisheries in headwaters of the Chattahoochee River without inconvenience to the Forest visitor.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity.

Very truly yours, Law; licha ... Doug Adams President - Rabun Chapter

DA/vy

cc: Ken Henderson - Forest Supervisor Bob Foster - Ga. TU Chairman Clem Defino - Rabun TU

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