

THE CONSERVATION FUND

America's Partner in Conservation



David A. Ramsey 2008

View of Rocky Fork, TN

December 15, 2008 Rocky Fork was acquired by The Conservation Fund (TCF) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) from New Forestry, LLC.

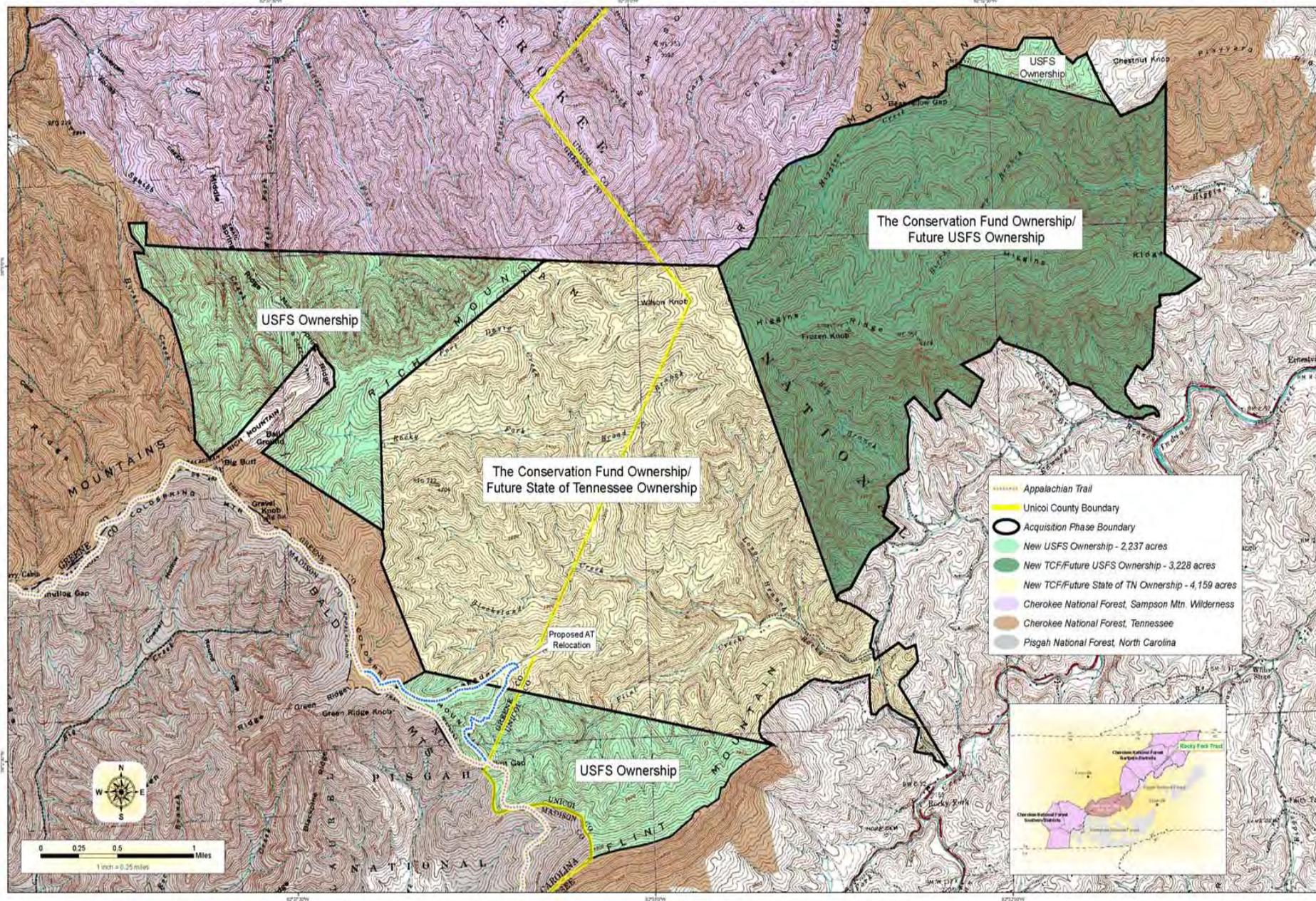
As part of the overall acquisition, The Conservation Fund acquired **7,387** acres, which we will temporarily hold as we raise money to transfer this portion of the property to the state of Tennessee and the U.S. Forest Service for permanent ownership and management.

The U.S. Forest Service acquired an additional **2,237** acres of the Rocky Fork tract, which is now part of the **Cherokee National Forest**.



Photo by Greg Hutson

Rocky Fork Acquisition



Why a Land Exchange?

- Critical to protect entire Rocky Fork tract due to significant natural resource values
- Acquisition of Rocky Fork created an increase of public ownership in Unicoi County from under 50% to over 50%
- Concern arose about impact on local tax base, and long term ability to fund education
- Community leaders, congressional delegation and others suggested that a land exchange focused on protecting Rocky Fork, and the conversion of existing federal ownership to private ownership could provide economic benefits to Unicoi County

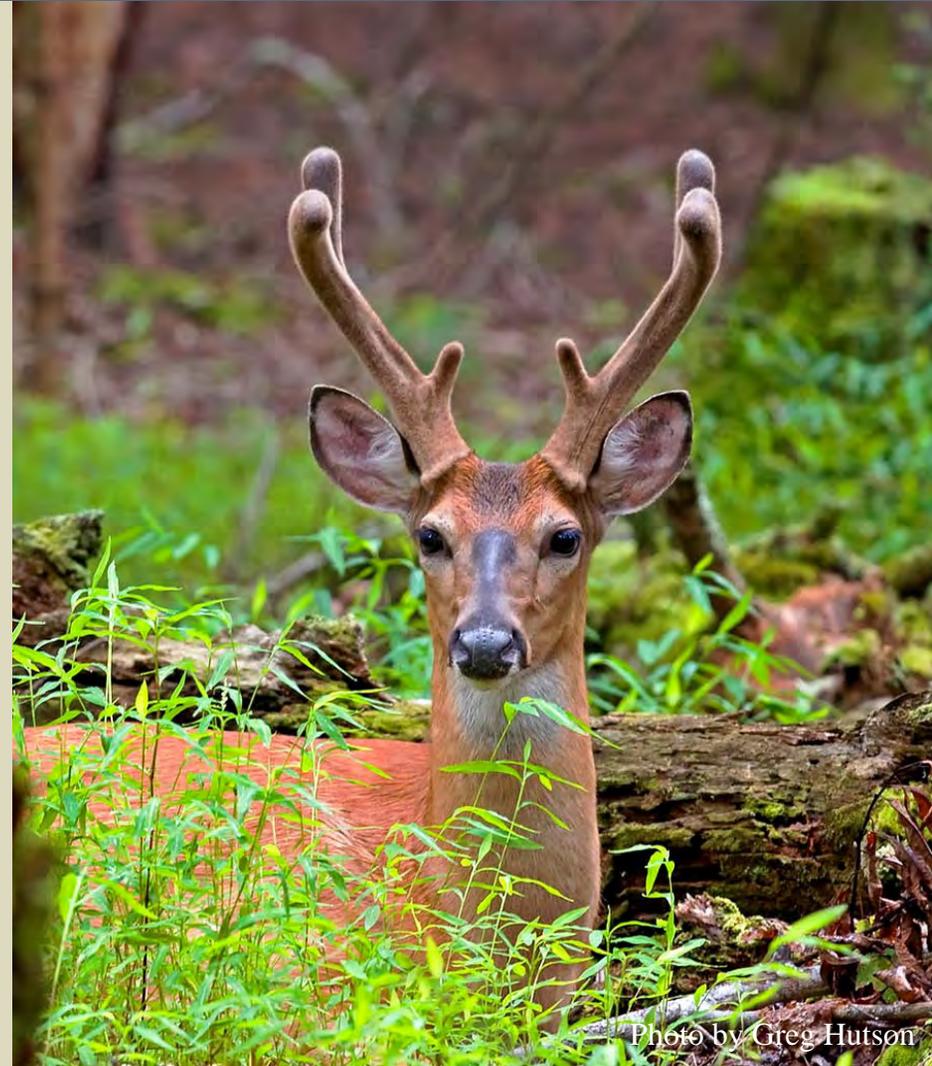
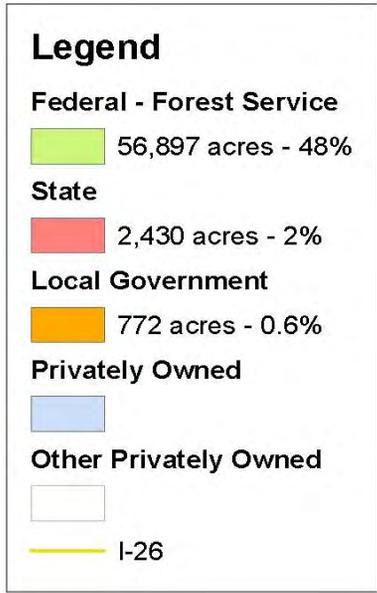
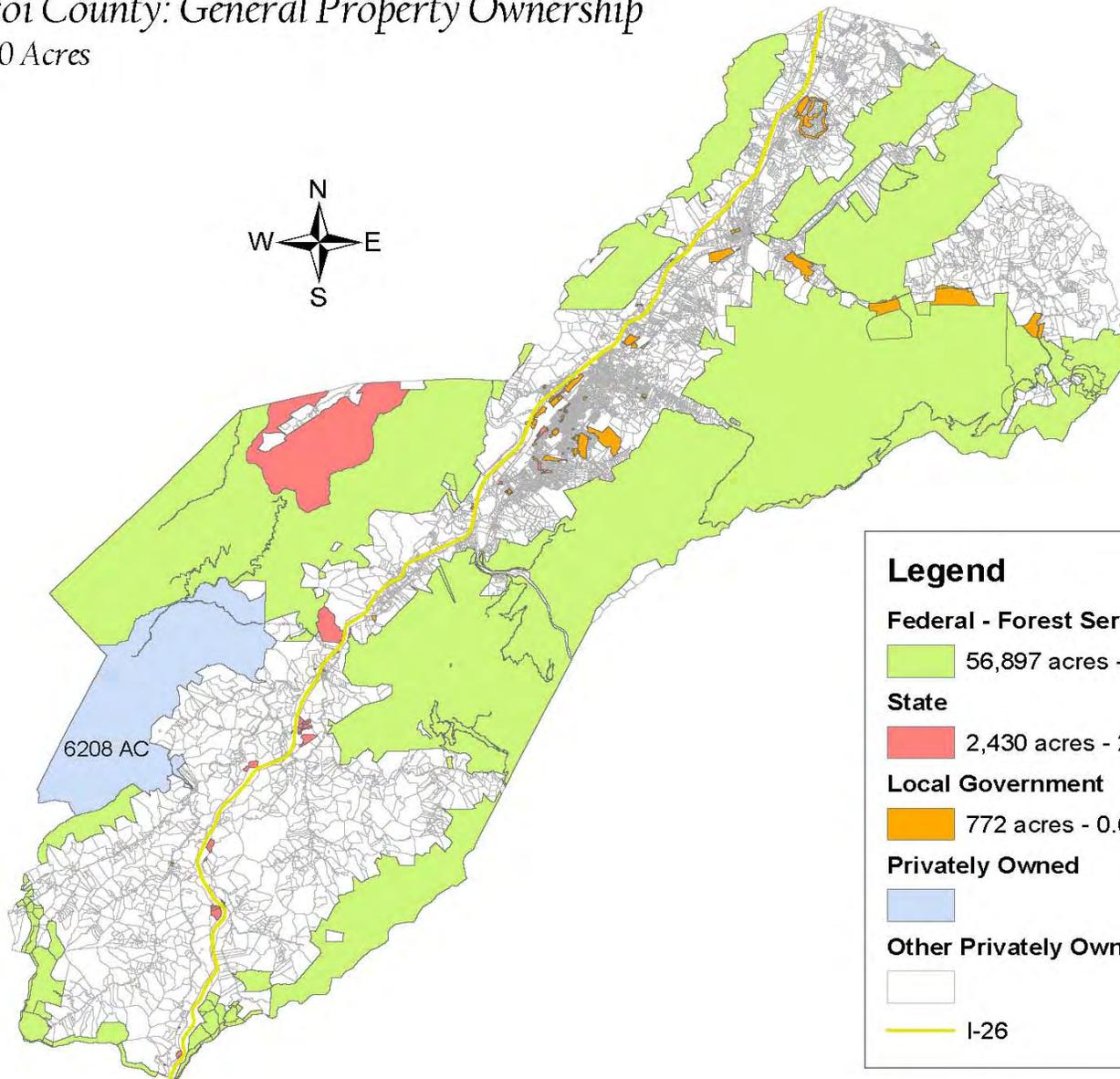


Photo by Greg Hutson



Unicoi County: General Property Ownership

118,400 Acres



Selection of Land Exchange Parcels



Photo by Greg Hutson

- Initial discussions occurred between TCF, USFS and community leaders
- Tried to identify land that met the following objectives:
 - Close to community centers, populated areas and infrastructure
 - Didn't contain significant natural, historic or cultural resources already identified by the USFS
 - Didn't contain existing recreational amenities such as hiking trails, day-use areas or campgrounds
 - Less strategic to the long term management objectives of the USFS
 - Development potential

Land Exchange Parcels

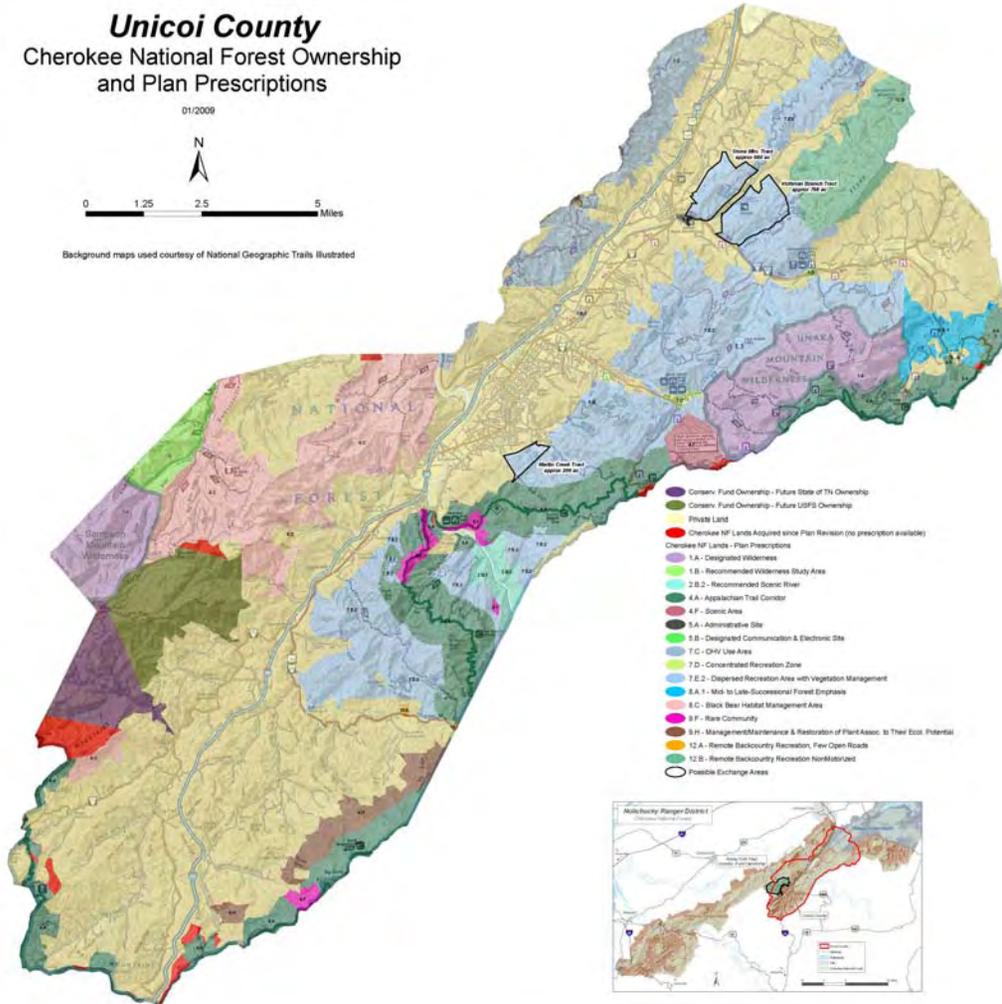
Unicoi County Cherokee National Forest Ownership and Plan Prescriptions

01/2009



0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles

Background maps used courtesy of National Geographic Trails Illustrated



Upon applying these objectives and after further consultation with the USFS and community input, 3 tracts have been identified for consideration in a land exchange between TCF and the USFS:

- Martin Creek Tract - approximately **209 acres**
- Stone Mountain Tract - approximately **660 acres**
- Irishman Branch Tract - approximately **798 acres**

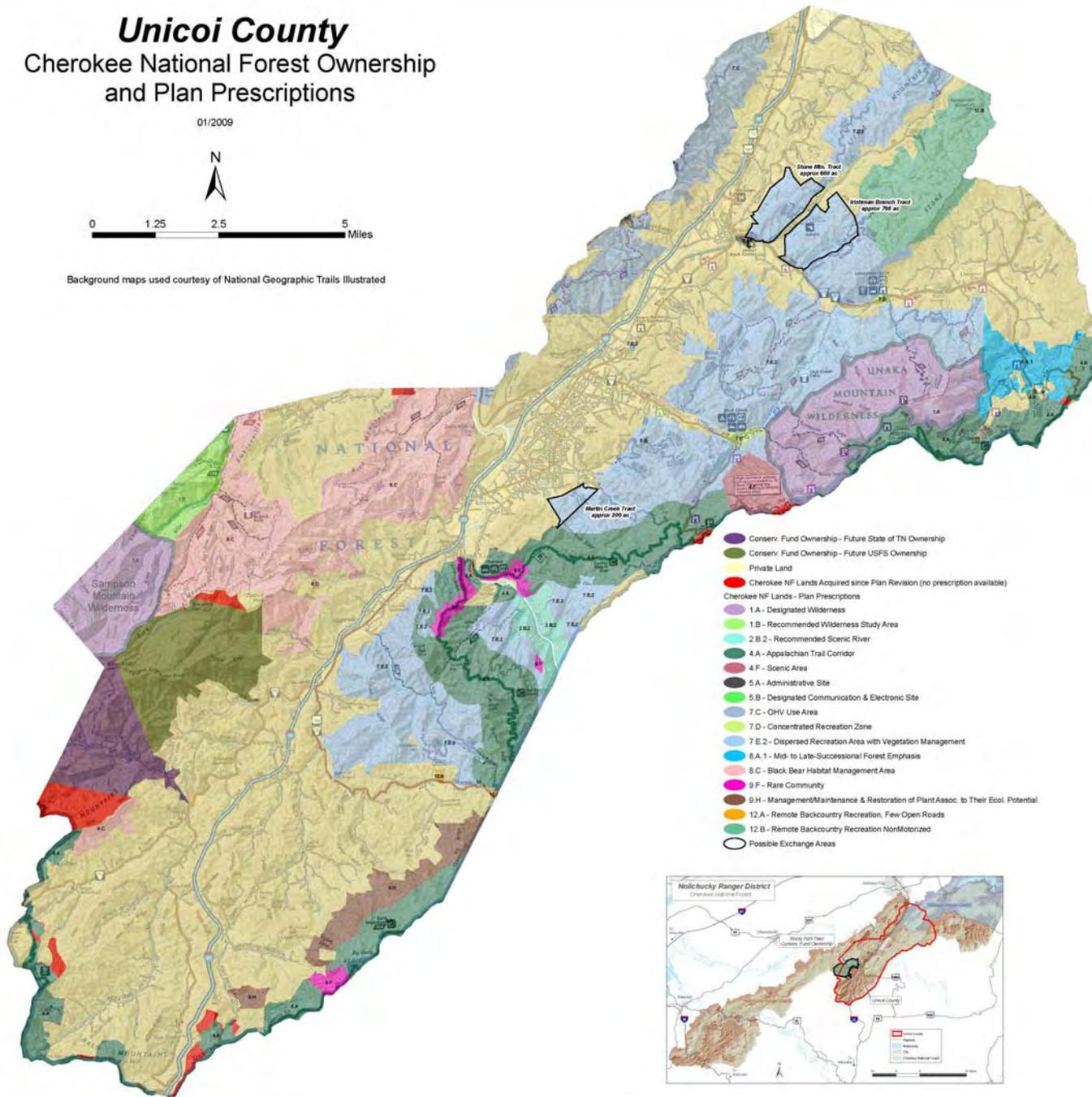
Unicoi County

Cherokee National Forest Ownership and Plan Prescriptions

01/2009



Background maps used courtesy of National Geographic Trails Illustrated



- Conserv. Fund Ownership - Future State of TN Ownership
- Conserv. Fund Ownership - Future USFS Ownership
- Private Land
- Cherokee NF Lands Acquired since Plan Revision (no prescription available)
- Cherokee NF Lands - Plan Prescriptions
 - 1.A - Designated Wilderness
 - 1.B - Recommended Wilderness Study Area
 - 2.B.2 - Recommended Scenic River
 - 4.A - Appalachian Trail Corridor
 - 4.F - Scenic Area
 - 5.A - Administrative Site
 - 5.B - Designated Communication & Electronic Site
 - 7.C - CHV Use Area
 - 7.D - Concentrated Recreation Zone
 - 7.E.2 - Dispersed Recreation Area with Vegetation Management
 - 8.A.1 - Mid- to Late-Successional Forest Emphasis
 - 8.C - Black Bear Habitat Management Area
 - 9.F - Rare Community
 - 9.H - Management/Maintenance & Restoration of Plant Assoc. to Their Ecol. Potential
 - 12.A - Remote Backcountry Recreation, Few Open Roads
 - 12.B - Remote Backcountry Recreation NonMotorized
- Possible Exchange Areas

