



Thinking Like a Landscape

Providing for a shared vision to address complex conservation challenges on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests



Thinking like a landscape.



The right work
in the right places
for the right reasons



Thinking like a landscape

Conservation challenges are complex

- Not isolated, not just local
- Impact multiple resources
- Reduced funding



Why Landscape Scale?

Landscape-scale conservation encourages a more holistic approach that is:

- Strategic
- Science-driven
- Collaborative
- Adaptive
- Understandable

Why Landscape Scale?

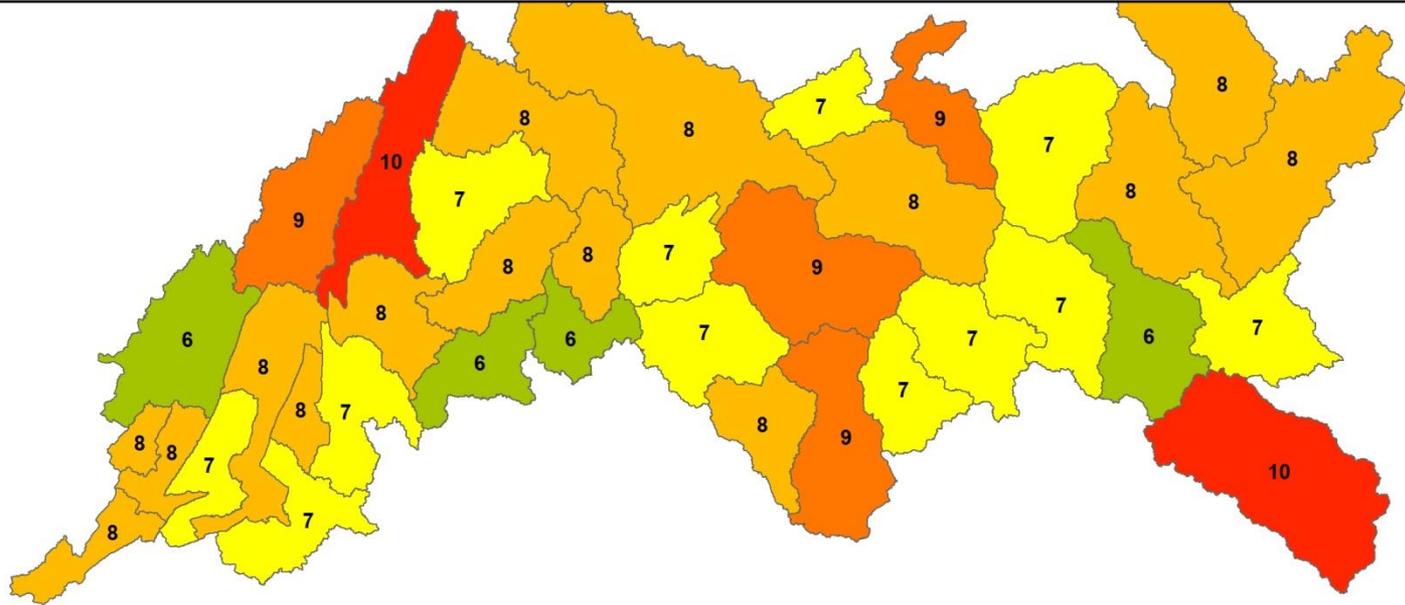
This approach accentuates:

- Community health and wellness
- Sustainable clean and abundant water
- Restored and resilient forests that can adapt and thrive in changing climates
- Fire adapted landscapes while working with communities to plan and protect themselves from catastrophic wildfire
- Awakened and strengthened connection to the land

Why landscape scale?

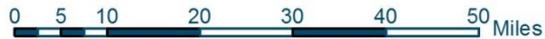
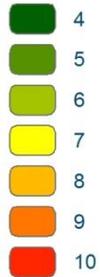
Key Considerations:

- Communities w/ Limited Distribution
- Ecological Restoration
- Soil and Water
- Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants
- Fire Suppression
- Access Needs & Resource Pressures



Watershed Scores -

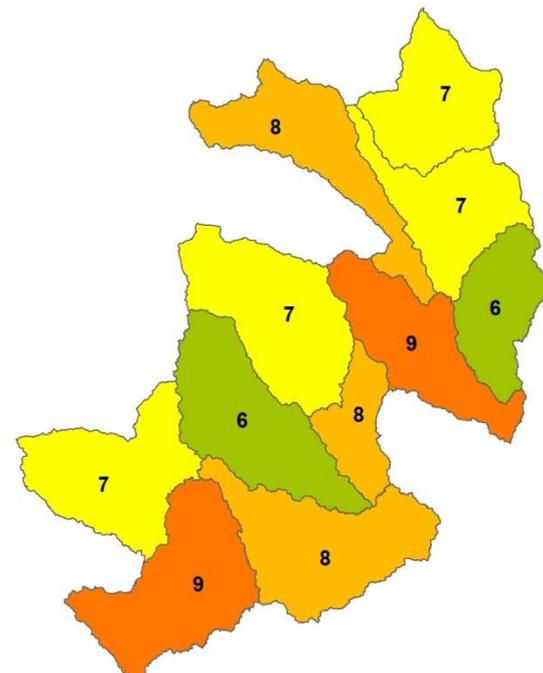
$(\text{Restoration} * 0.2) + (\text{Fire} * 0.1) + (\text{Access} * 0.3) + (\text{CLD} * 0.1) + (\text{SW} * 0.3) + (\text{TES} * 0.2)$



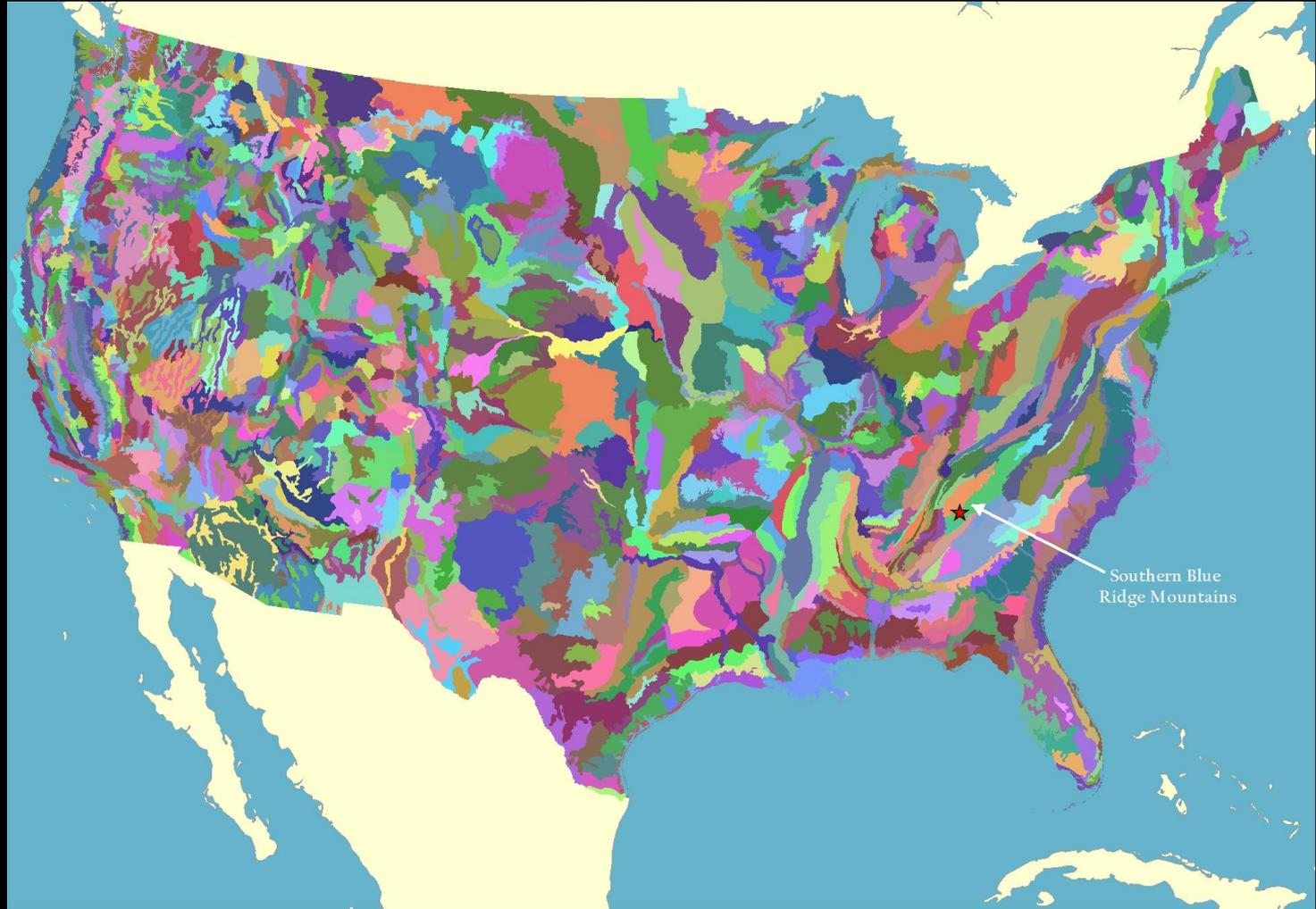
Chattahoochee-Oconee
National Forests

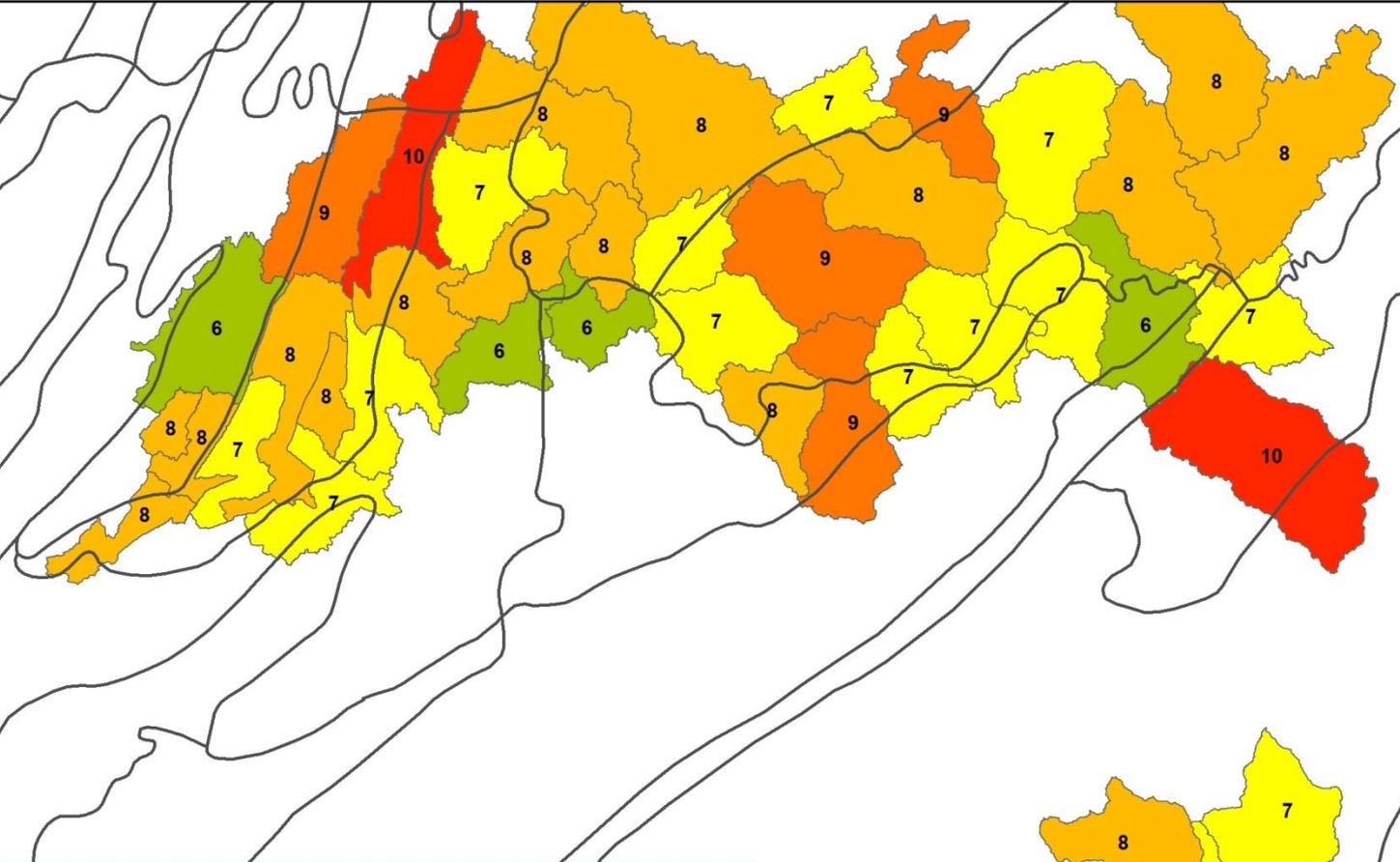


United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service



The Landscapes





Watershed Scores -

$(\text{Restoration} * 0.2) + (\text{Fire} * 0.1) + (\text{Access} * 0.3) + (\text{CLD} * 0.1) + (\text{SW} * 0.3) + (\text{TES} * 0.2)$

- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10

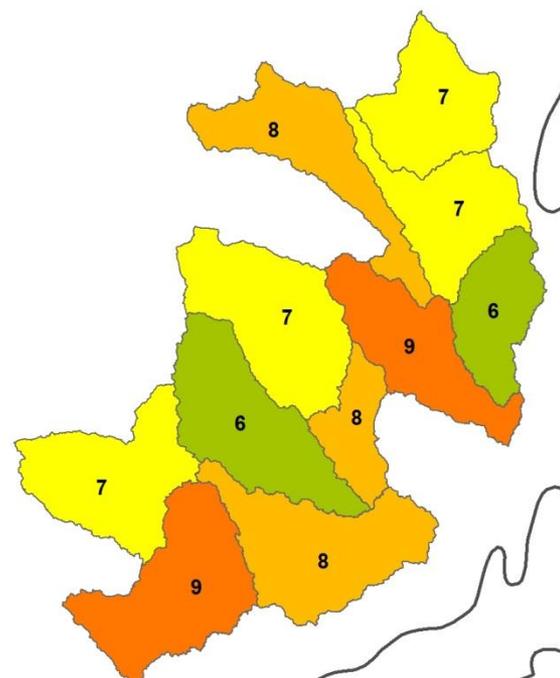
Subsection

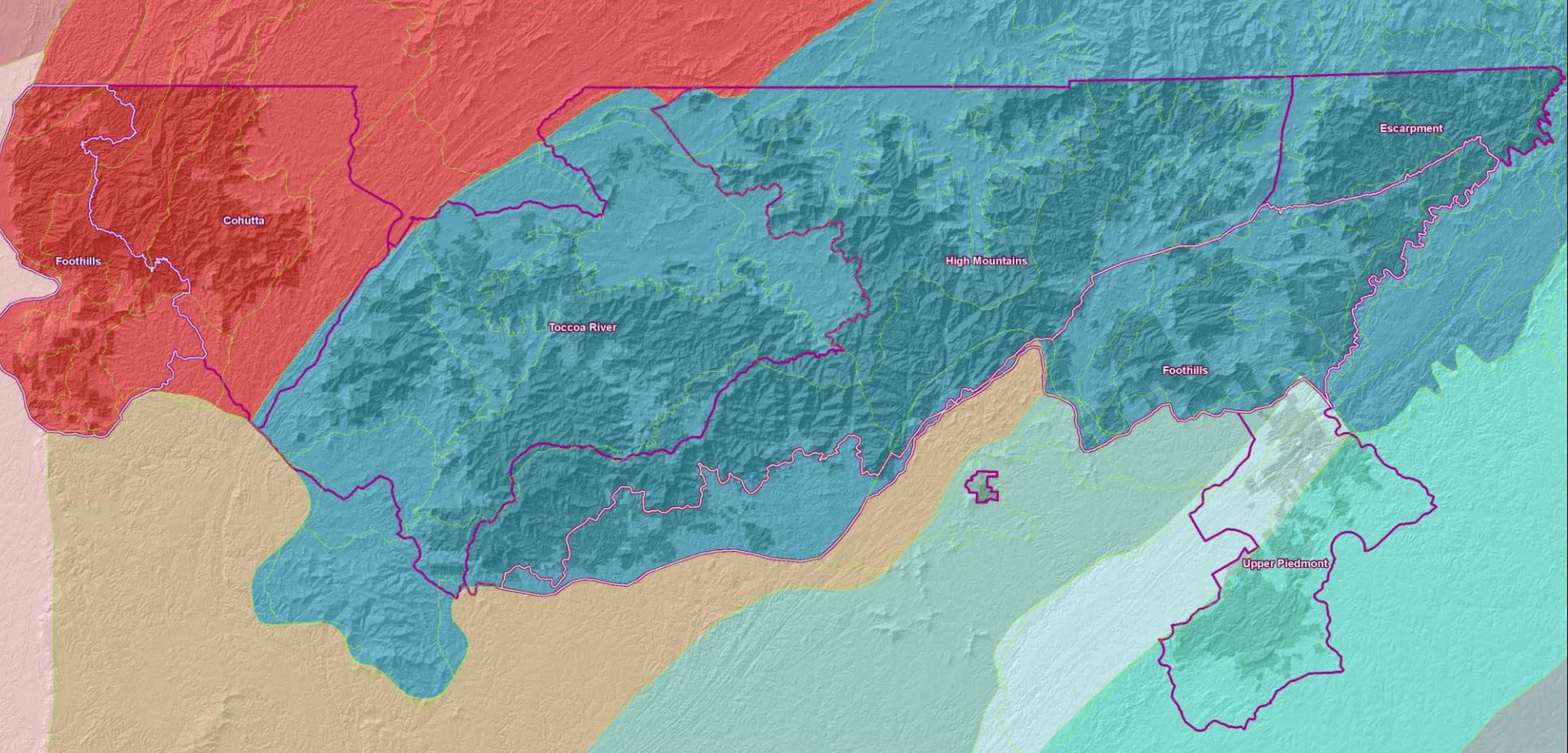


Chattahoochee-Oconee
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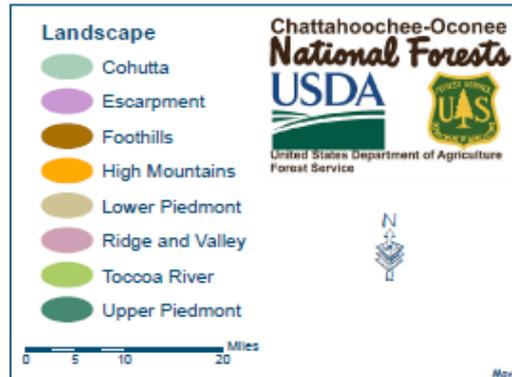
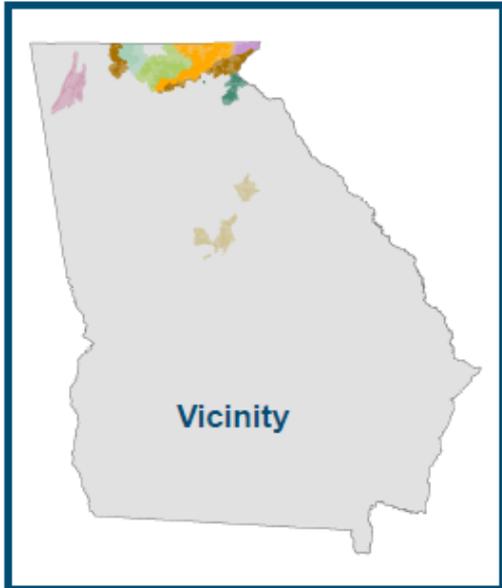
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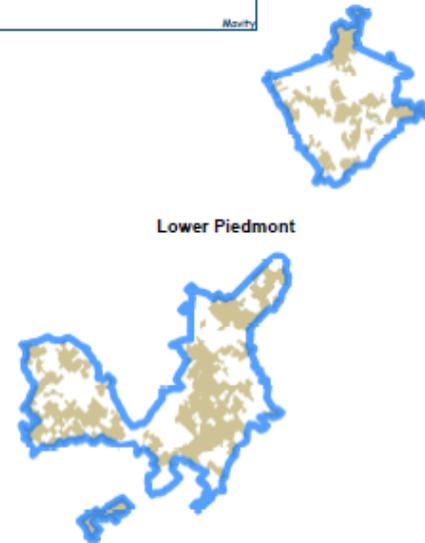
- Foothills Landscape
- Landscapes
- LTA Boundary
- Forest Service Land

Blue Ridge Mountains		Metasedimentary Mountains
Central Ridge and Valley		Southern Blue Ridge Mountains
Southern Ridge and Valley		Sandstone Hills
Southern Appalachian Piedmont		Shaley Limestone Valley
		Schist Hills
		Schist Plains
		Midland Plateau Central Uplands
		Piedmont Ridge
		Lower Foot Hills





Landscape	Total FS Acres
Cohutta	69,886
Escarpment	48,243
Foothills	143,419
High Mountains	244,320
Lower Piedmont	116,328
Ridge and Valley	64,702
Toccoa River	136,932
Upper Piedmont	43,836
Total	867,666



The Foothills Landscape



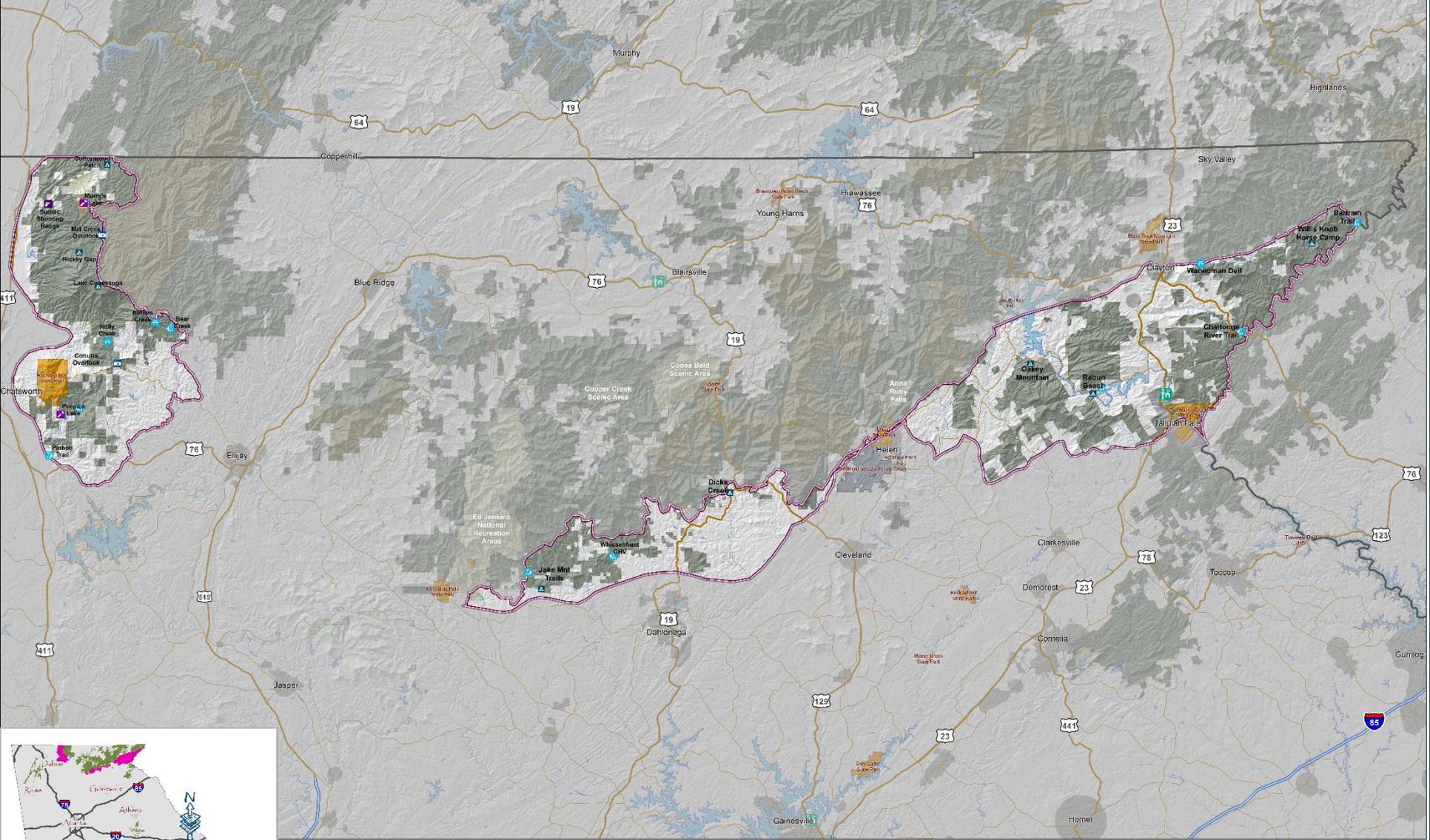
- 143,419 acres
- stretches across the Chattahoochee National Forest
- marks the area where the mountains are visibly reduced to foothills
- Shortleaf pine and Pitch pine forests and woodlands are the dominant forest types
- hardwoods account for about a quarter of the landscape
- nearly 200 miles of hiking, biking, horse and OHV trails
- dozens of recreation sites
- includes a portion of the Cohutta WMA



Why Foothills Landscape?

- Characteristics
- Sharing
- Capacity
- Efficiency
- People
- Potential

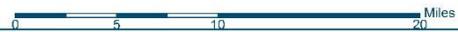


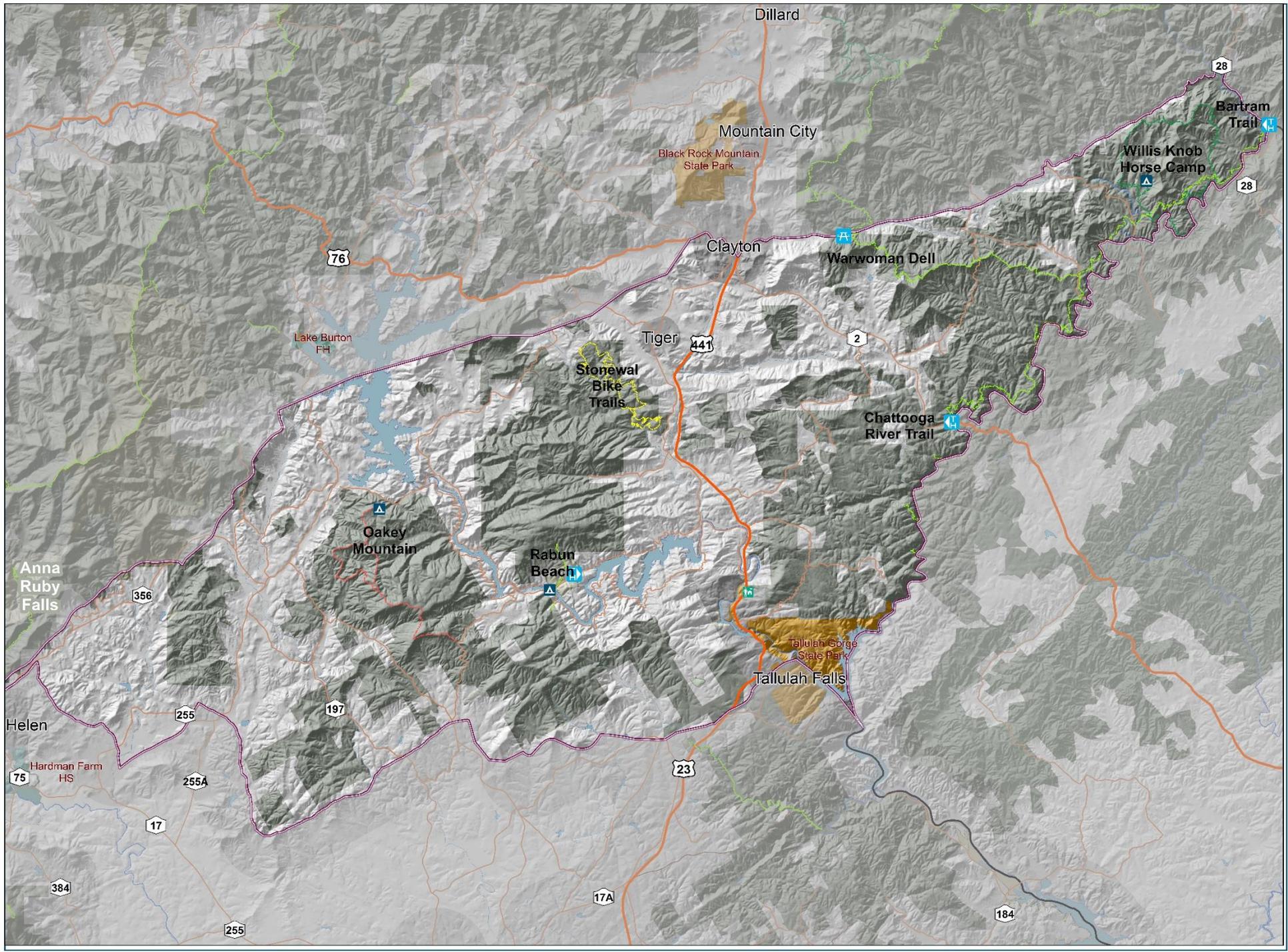


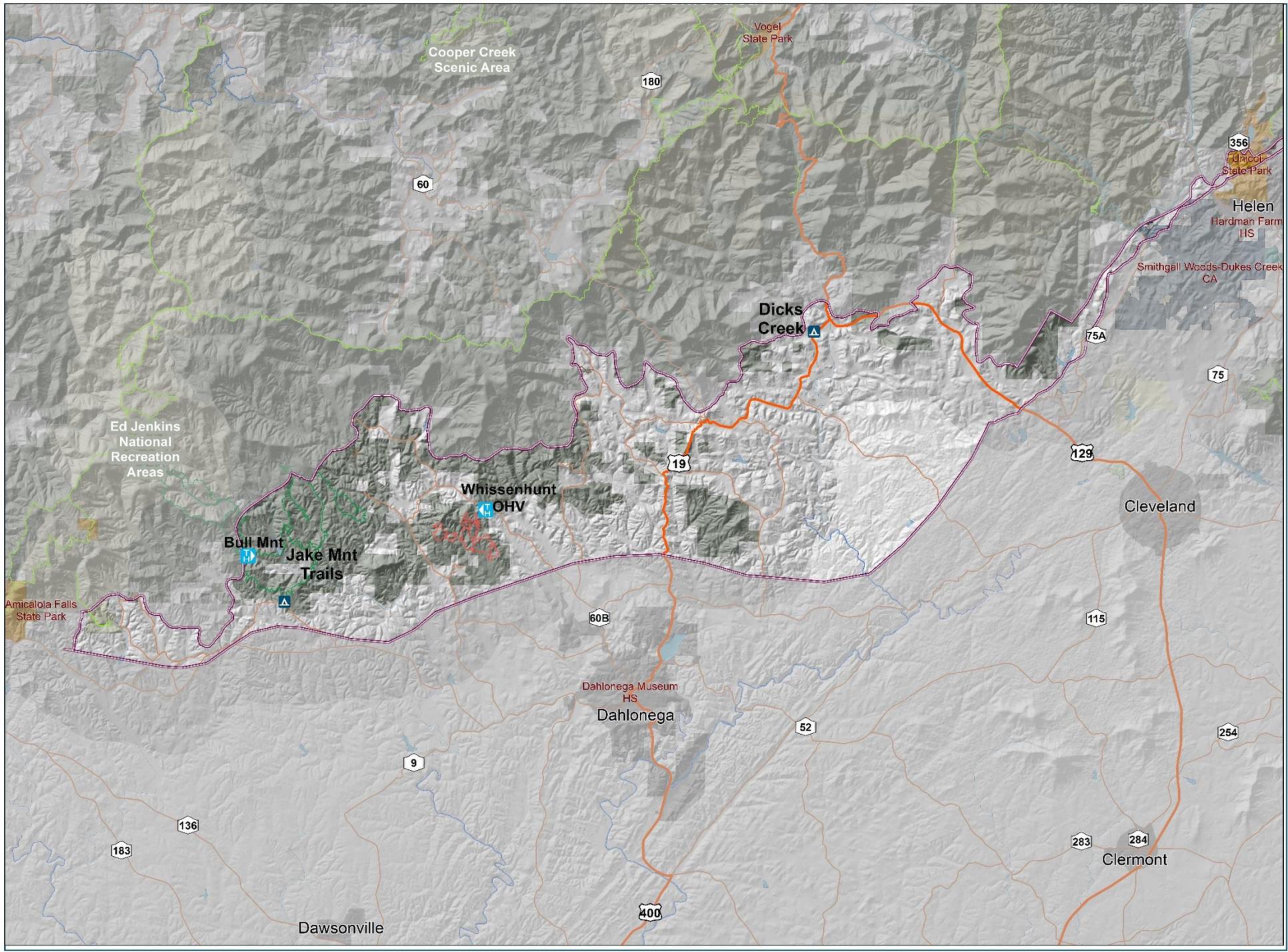
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests Foothills Landscape

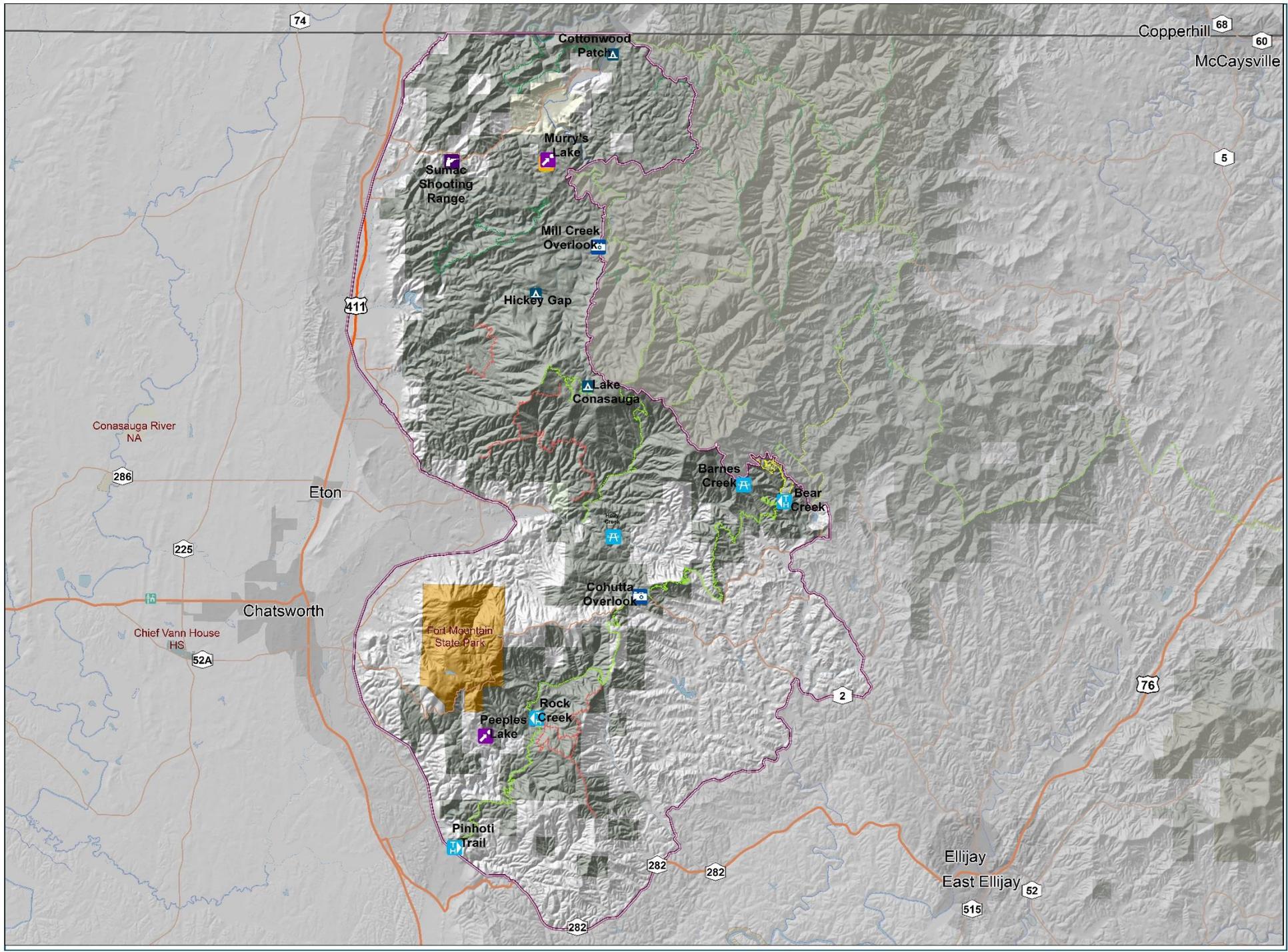
- Foothills Landscape
- Limited Access
- Wilderness
- State Park
- City
- US or State Highway
- FS Special Areas
- Fish Hatchery
- Stream
- County Road
- Forest Service Land
- Conservation Area
- Waterbody

Acres of Forest Service Land within the Foothills Landscape	
District	Acres
Blue Ridge	17,296
Chattooga River	72,511
Conasauga	53,407
Foothills Total	143,214









74

68

60

McCaysville

5

Cottonwood Patch

Murry's Lake

Sumac Shooting Range

Mill Creek Overlook

Hickey Gap

Lake Conasauga

Conasauga River NA

Eton

Barnes Creek

Bear Creek

Chatsworth

Fort Mountain State Park

Cohutta Overlook

Chief Vann House HS

Rock Creek

Peeples Lake

Pinhoti Trail

Ellijay

East Ellijay

286

225

52A

411

2

76

282

282

515

52

282

How is this different?

- Scale
- Collaboration
- Time



Where do we start?

- Spread the Word
- Prepare with Knowledge
- Increase Understanding
- Design Community Conversations
- Use your Voice

Where do we start?



Join us on
the journey

