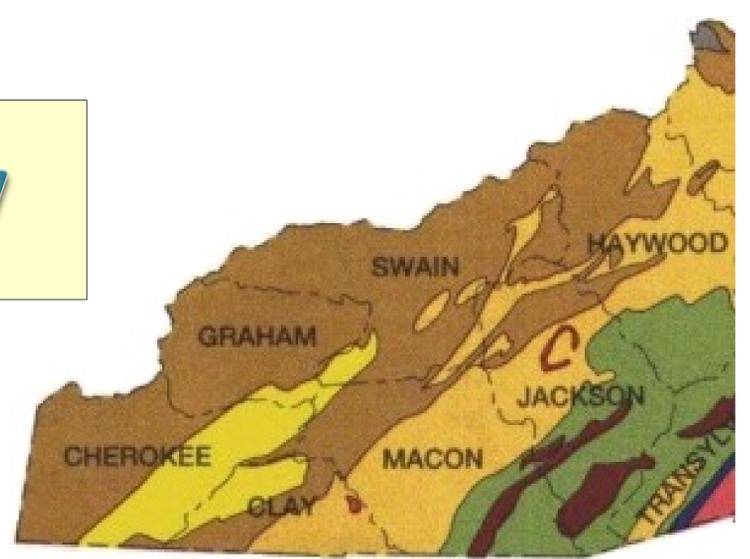


Minerals and Geology

Desired Conditions



- Mineral and mining activities meet the legal mandates to facilitate the development of mineral and energy resources in a manner that minimizes adverse impacts to surface and groundwater resources, and that do not detract from meeting other desired conditions applicable to the area.
- Past and present mineral developments are sufficiently reclaimed to provide for public safety and minimize impacts to culture and natural resources.
- Opportunities for recreational mineralogy or “rock hounding” are available and managed to ensure protection of natural resource values and the promotion of public health and safety.
- Mineral materials (e.g., gravel, aggregate) are available for road maintenance activities that support the Forest Service transportation system.
- Mineral materials (e.g., aggregate, building stone, landscaping rock) are available to support resource management needs, personal use, and commercial pursuits.
- Geologic hazards that pose a risk to public health and safety or facilities and infrastructure are identified and mitigated.

The Forest Service will not be making any decisions regarding oil and gas leasing availability or any subsequent activities like hydraulic fracturing in the revised Forest Plan.

Most of the minerals underlying the federal lands that make up the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs are federally owned and are managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Forest Service participates as a cooperating agency providing information on use and protection of surface resources.

Common variety mineral materials, such as low-value deposits of sand, clay, and stone used for building materials and road surfacing, can be extracted from NFS lands at Forest Service discretion.