

Designated Areas on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

What does it mean to be a
designated area?



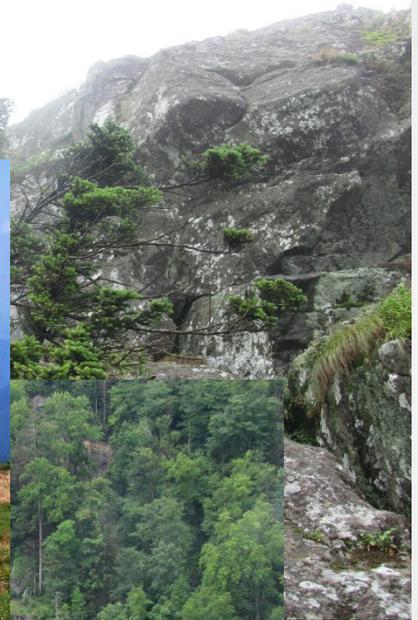
Designated Areas

An area or feature identified and managed to maintain its **unique special character or purpose**.

- Statutorily designated – wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, national recreation areas, national scenic trails, national historic places
- Administratively designated – experimental forests, scenic byways, special interest areas, inventoried roadless areas



Designated Areas





Note – These are not official designated zones



Management in designated areas

- Management differs among designated areas
- Many designated areas have their own management area designation in the Forest Plan with specific standards and guidelines – special interest areas, experimental forests, Roan Mountain
- Other areas are managed in accordance with specific national regulations – National Historic Trails, critical habitat for federally listed species, scenic byways



Wilderness areas

- Managed in accordance with the Wilderness Act
- 6 wilderness areas on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs
- Over 66,000 acres of NFS land in western NC
- Management area (MA) 7 in the current Forest Plan
- Wilderness study areas (6 areas) MA 6 – managed to protect wilderness attributes



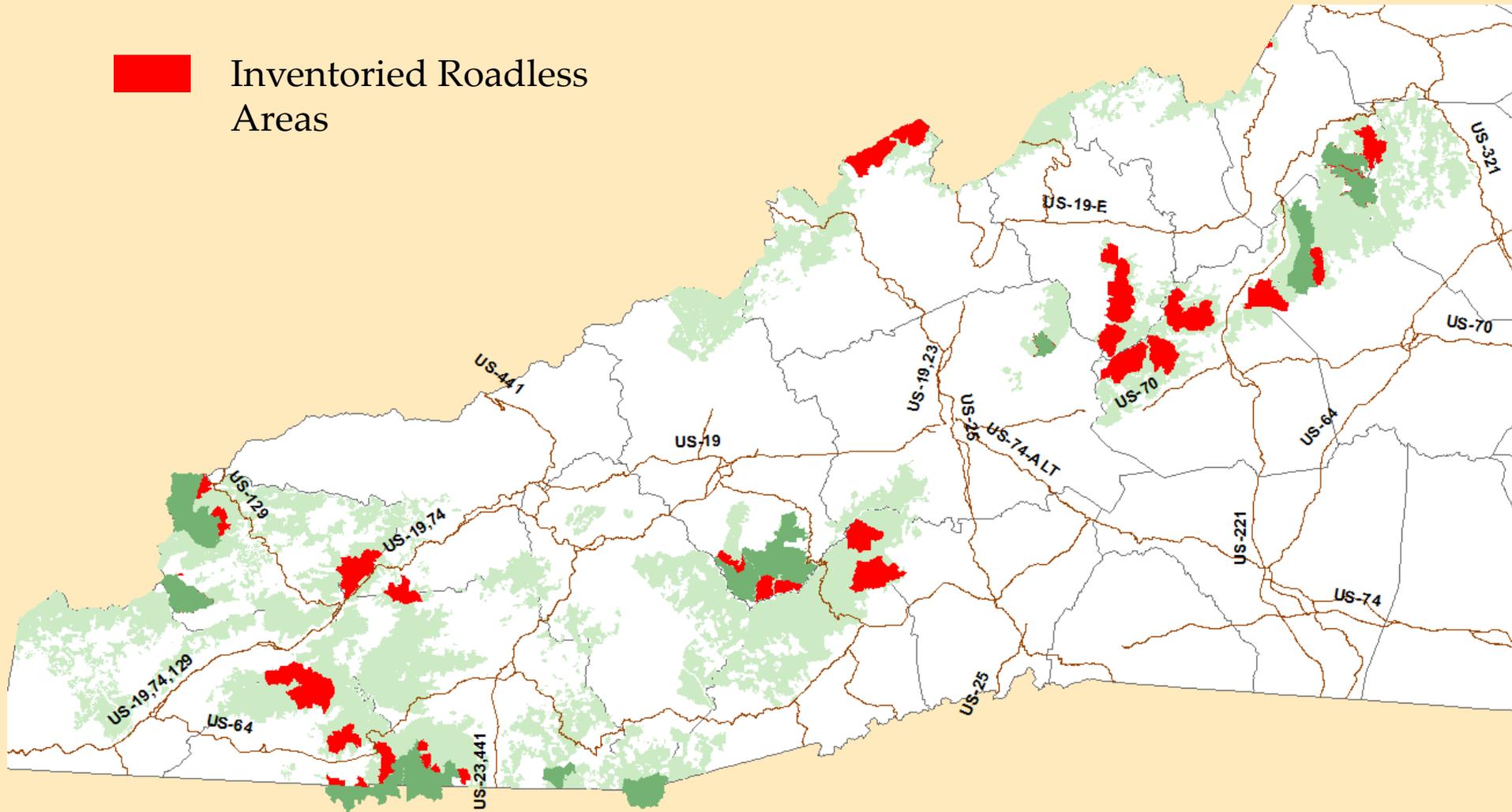
Inventoried Roadless Areas

- Managed in accordance with the 2001 Roadless Rule
- 33 areas, with over 150,000 acres
- Many of these areas overlap with or are adjacent to, existing wilderness areas or wilderness study areas



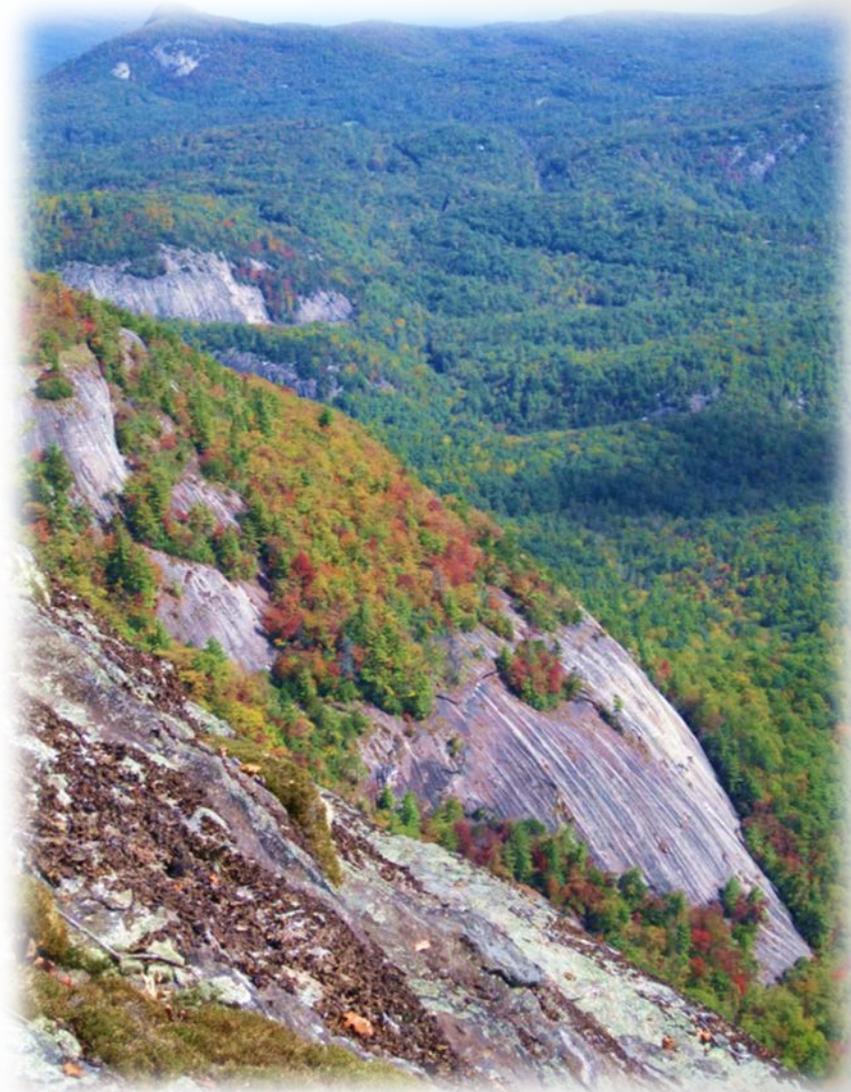
Inventoried Roadless Areas

 Inventoried Roadless Areas



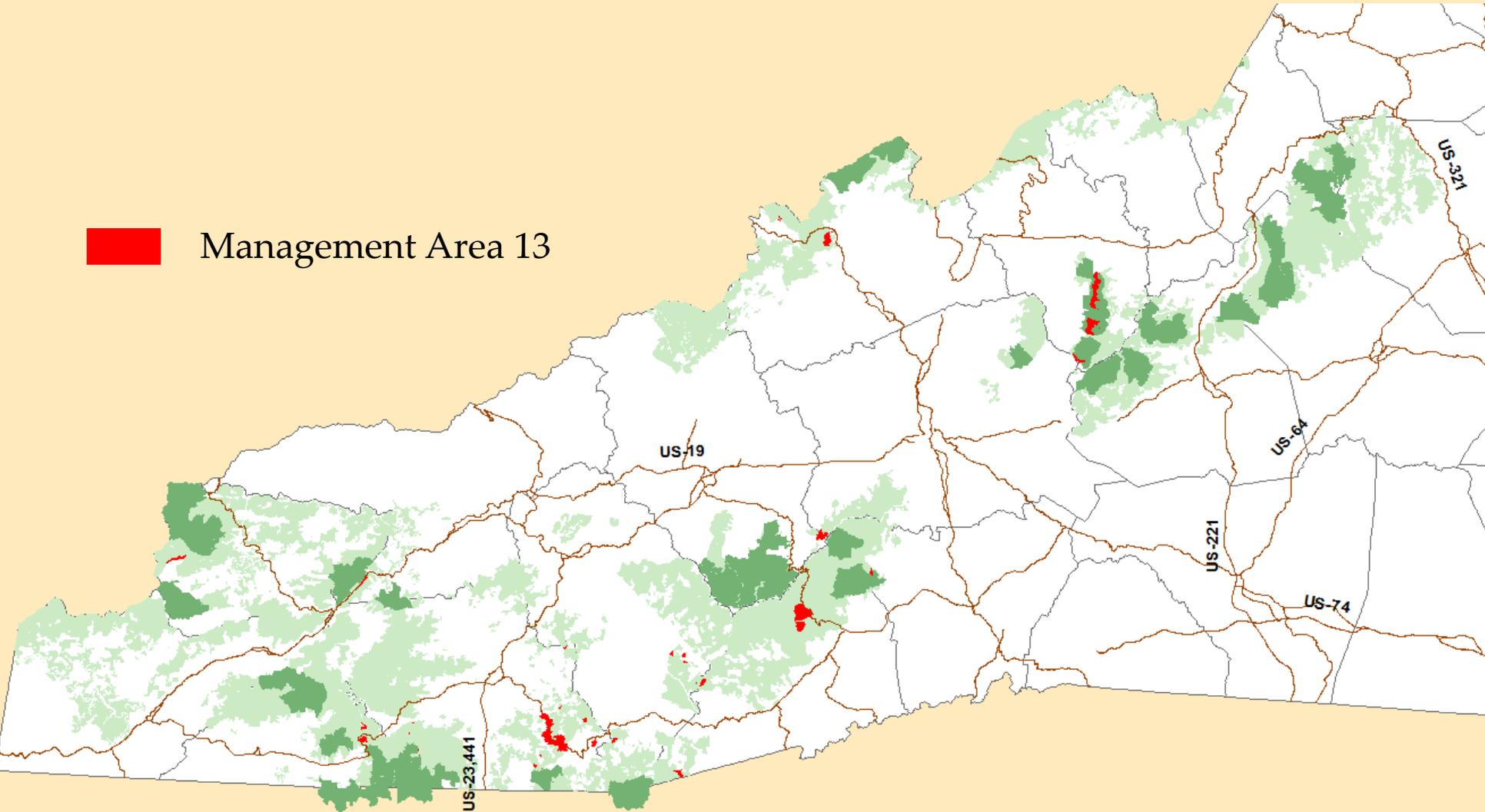
Special Interest Areas

- Areas managed for their unique scenic, botanical, zoological, or geological attributes
- Management area 13
- Approximately 7,852 acres
- Examples include Whiteside Mountain, Looking Glass Rock, Pink Bed bogs, Bonas Defeat Gorge



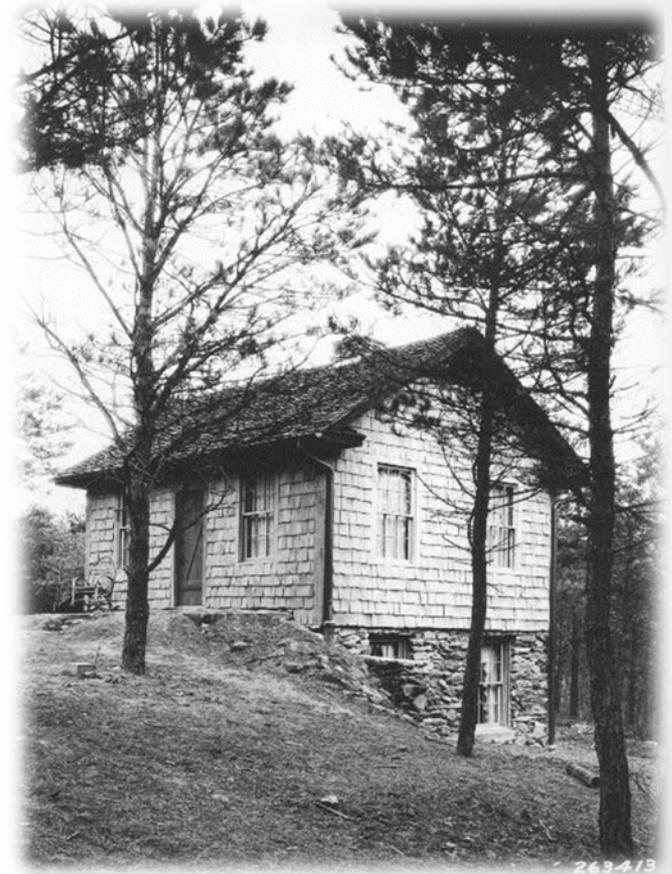
Special Interest Areas

 Management Area 13



Experimental Forests

- Managed for forest research and dedicated to experimentation and education (MA 8)
- **Bent Creek Experimental Forest** - the oldest federal experimental forest east of the Mississippi river. Long-term studies that were established over 80 years ago
- **Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory** - represents the longest continuous environmental study on any landscape in North America, as well as one of the oldest gauged watershed sites in the world.



Research Natural Areas

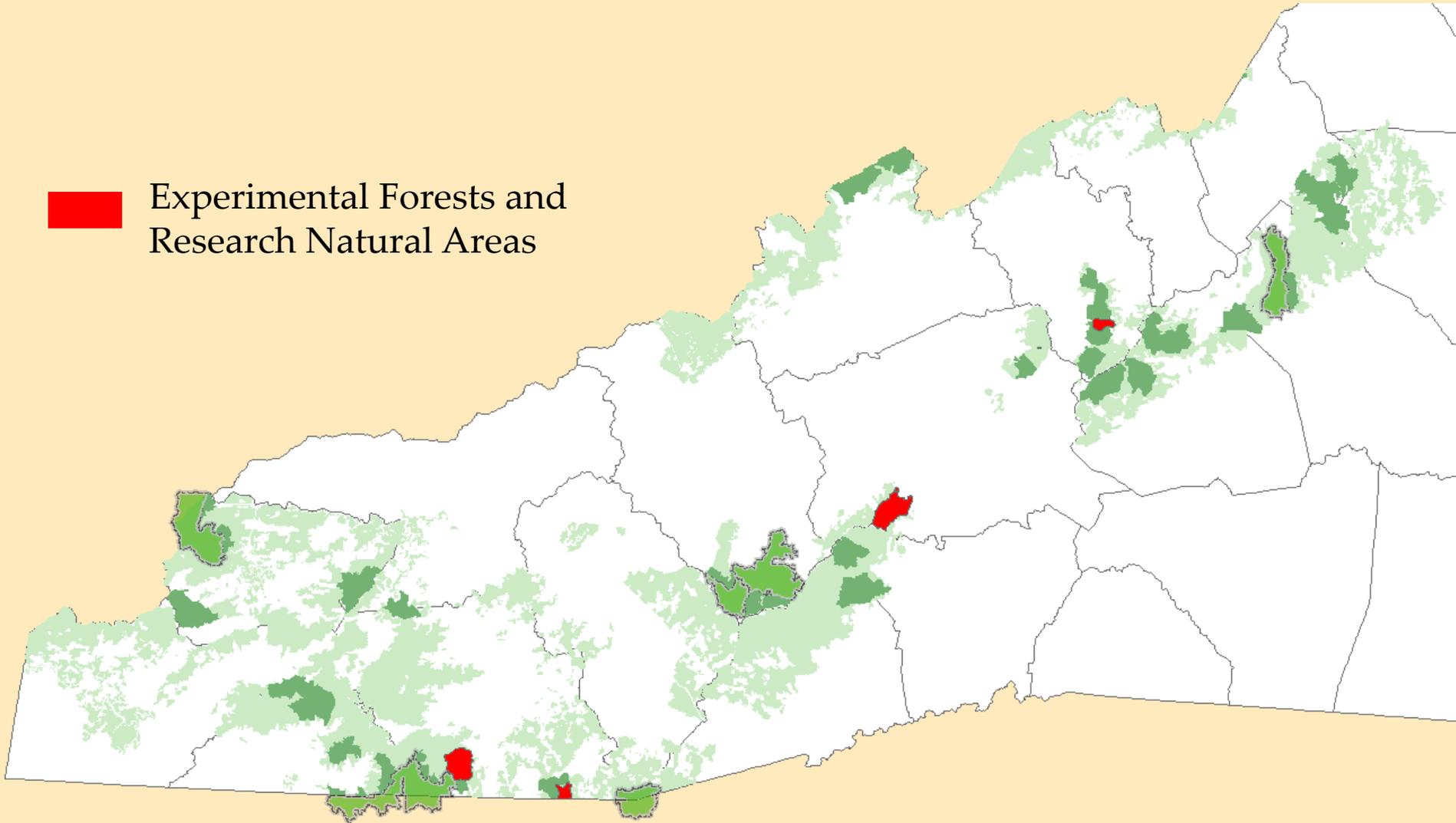
- Examples of natural ecosystems for the purposes of scientific study and education and for maintenance of biological diversity.
- Managed in an undisturbed state (MA 10)
- Walker Cove and Black Mountains (Middle Creek) (approx. 1,458 acres)



Experimental Forests and Research Natural Areas



Experimental Forests and
Research Natural Areas



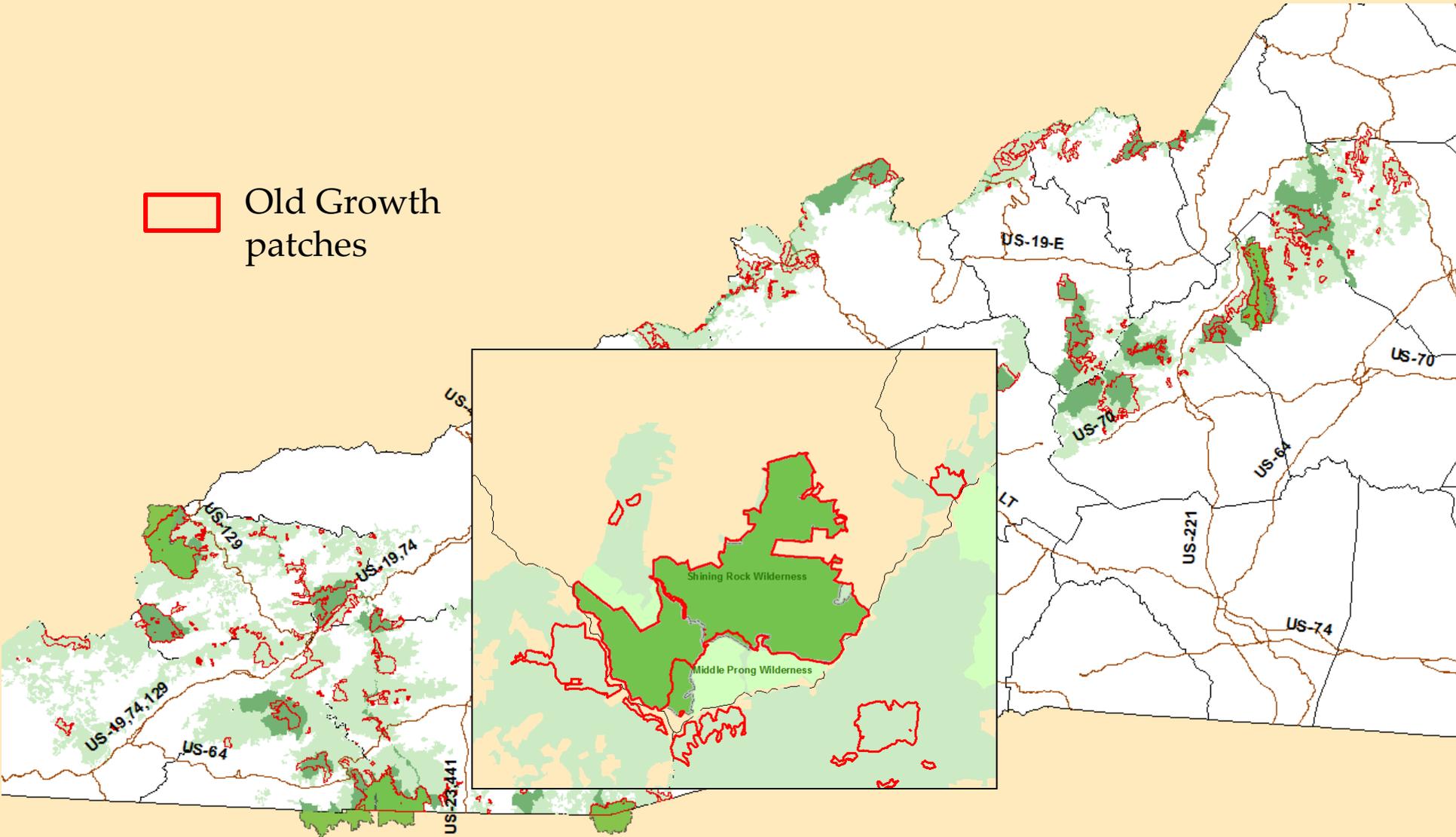
Old Growth Restoration Areas

- In Amendment 5 of the current Forest Plan, direction was established for delineating old growth patches
- Large and medium patches were identified to serve as permanent reservoirs of biological diversity, and allow for the restoration of functioning old growth ecosystems.



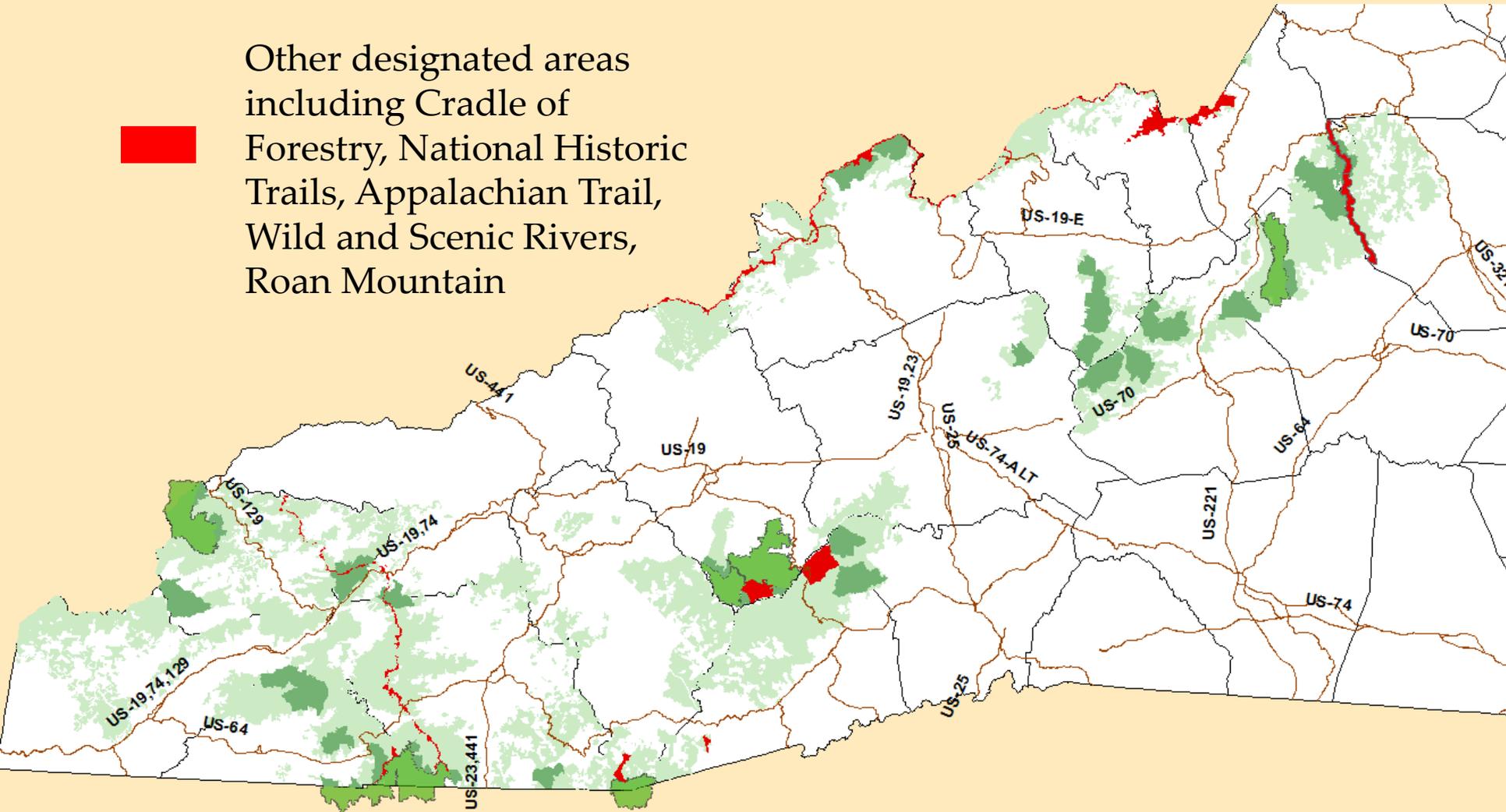
Old Growth Restoration Areas

 Old Growth patches



Additional Designated Areas

Other designated areas including Cradle of Forestry, National Historic Trails, Appalachian Trail, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Roan Mountain



Evaluating the potential need and opportunity for additional designated areas

- National criteria vs. Forest criteria
- Criteria for evaluating potential wilderness areas is laid out in the 2012 planning rule and uses evaluation criteria consistent with the Wilderness Act.
- As part of the plan revision process, we have the opportunity and flexibility to develop criteria for evaluating potential administratively designated areas.



Process Timeline

Assessment Report

Identify currently established designated areas and proposed areas

Fall 2013

Inventory and evaluation of individual land areas within the plan area for potential designation

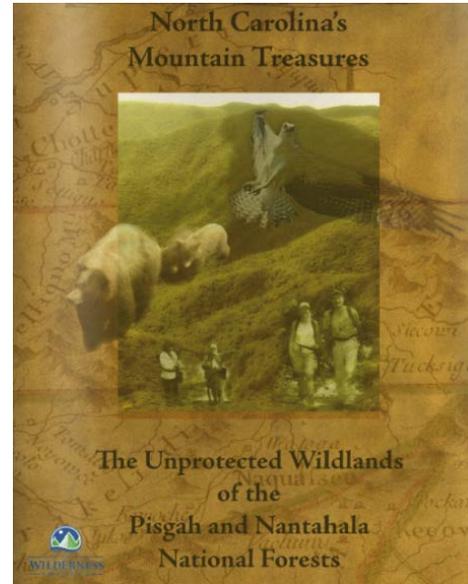
Winter-spring 2014

Proposed Revised Forest Plan

Include recommendations for additional designated areas (including alternatives)

Summer 2014

Proposals



- Looking for representatives from multiple perspectives and interests to work collaboratively to develop criteria for evaluating potential designated areas
- Goal is to develop evaluation criteria for potential designated areas (this fall- winter)

Discussion Questions

- What attributes would, in your opinion, make an area worthy of designation?
- What attributes would make an area not suitable for designation?