

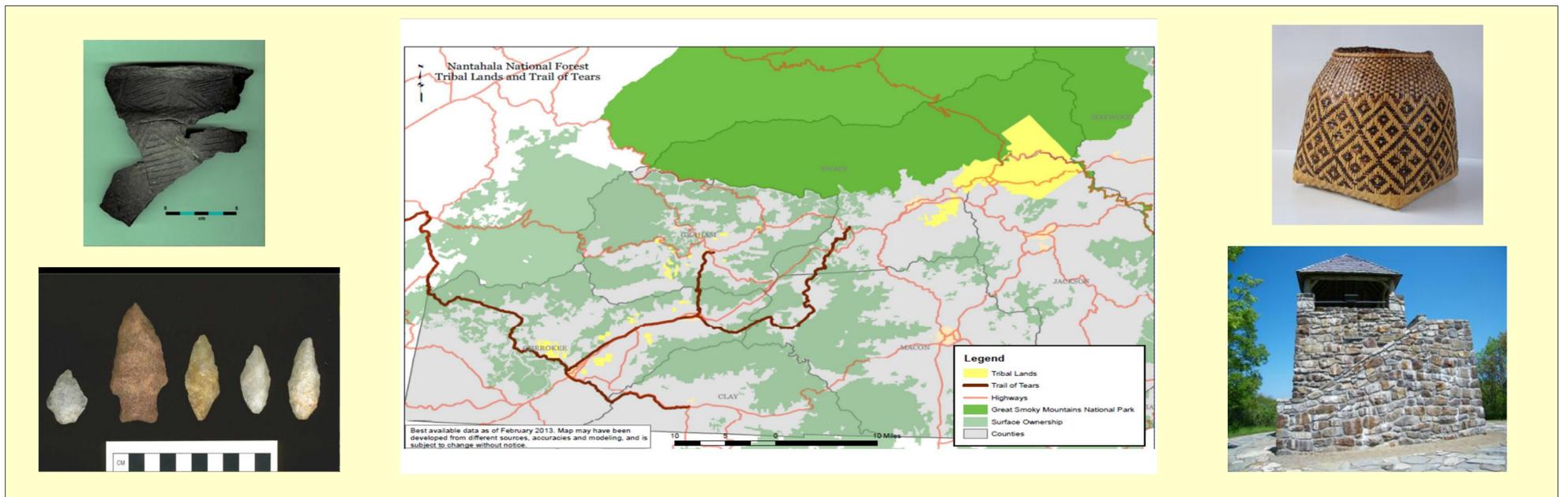
# Tribal Resources

## Tribal Resources Findings

1. Collecting edible, medicinal, traditional and craft plant species is very important to Tribes. Authorization for these activities is unclear.
2. Many Traditional Cultural Properties and other culturally sensitive areas important to American Indians are found on the Forests.
3. Traditional Ecological Knowledge regarding plant species and historic land use such as prescribed fire is an important source of information for consideration in resource management.

## Cultural Resources Findings

1. Archeological sites are not always evaluated for significance when identified and this results in proposed projects and activities needing to be re-designed, put on hold indefinitely or eliminated.
2. Designated National Historic Trails, including the Trail of Tears and Overmountain Victory Trail, do not have completed inventories, management plans or site specific direction for protection and preservation.



## What does the 1987 Plan say?

### Tribal Resources

1. The 1987 Plan allows collecting by “permit” is authorized but does not specifically address traditional gathering as a free use. It does not reference all regulations applicable to Tribal use of Forest products or those promulgated after the Plan went into effect.
2. The 1987 Plan directs consultation with American Indian tribes to protect and eliminate traditional area conflicts during project implementation but does not direct or schedule pro-active identification and development of specific guidelines for management of these resources.
3. Consultation is recommended but no direction is included for incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge in Forest management.

### Cultural Resources

1. The 1987 Plan directs completion of Section 106 inventories prior to ground disturbance but does not specifically address the legal requirement to evaluate sites, rather than to avoid them. The 2009 Section 106 Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement addresses site evaluations.
2. The 1987 Plan does not consider the Trail of Tears. The NC section of the Trail of Tears was not completely identified or Congressionally designated until 2008. The Overmountain Victory Trail management plan was completed in 1984 by the NPS but actual locations on the forests were yet to be identified, and continues at present.