

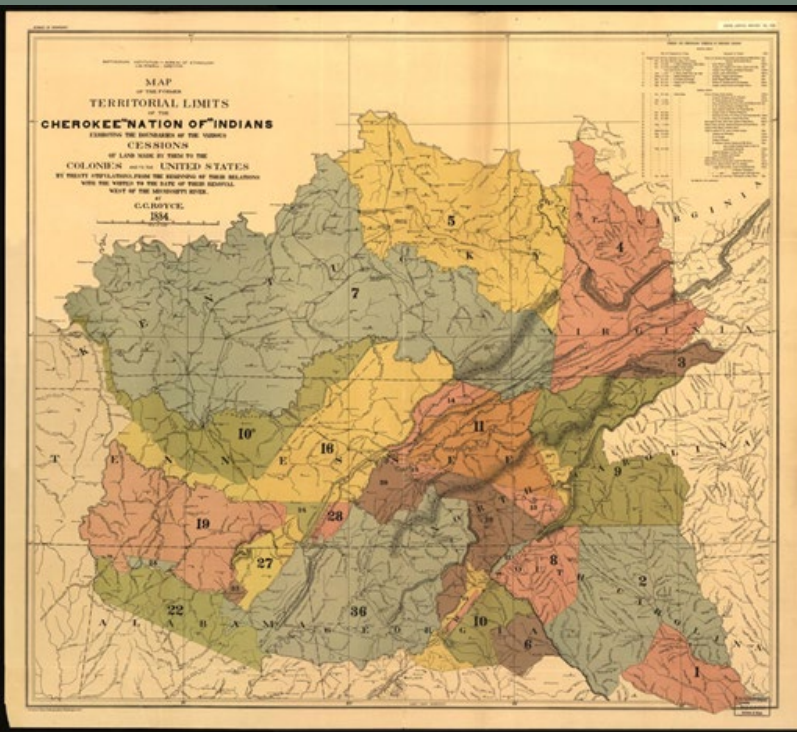


Managing Cherokee Homelands for Culturally Significant Plants

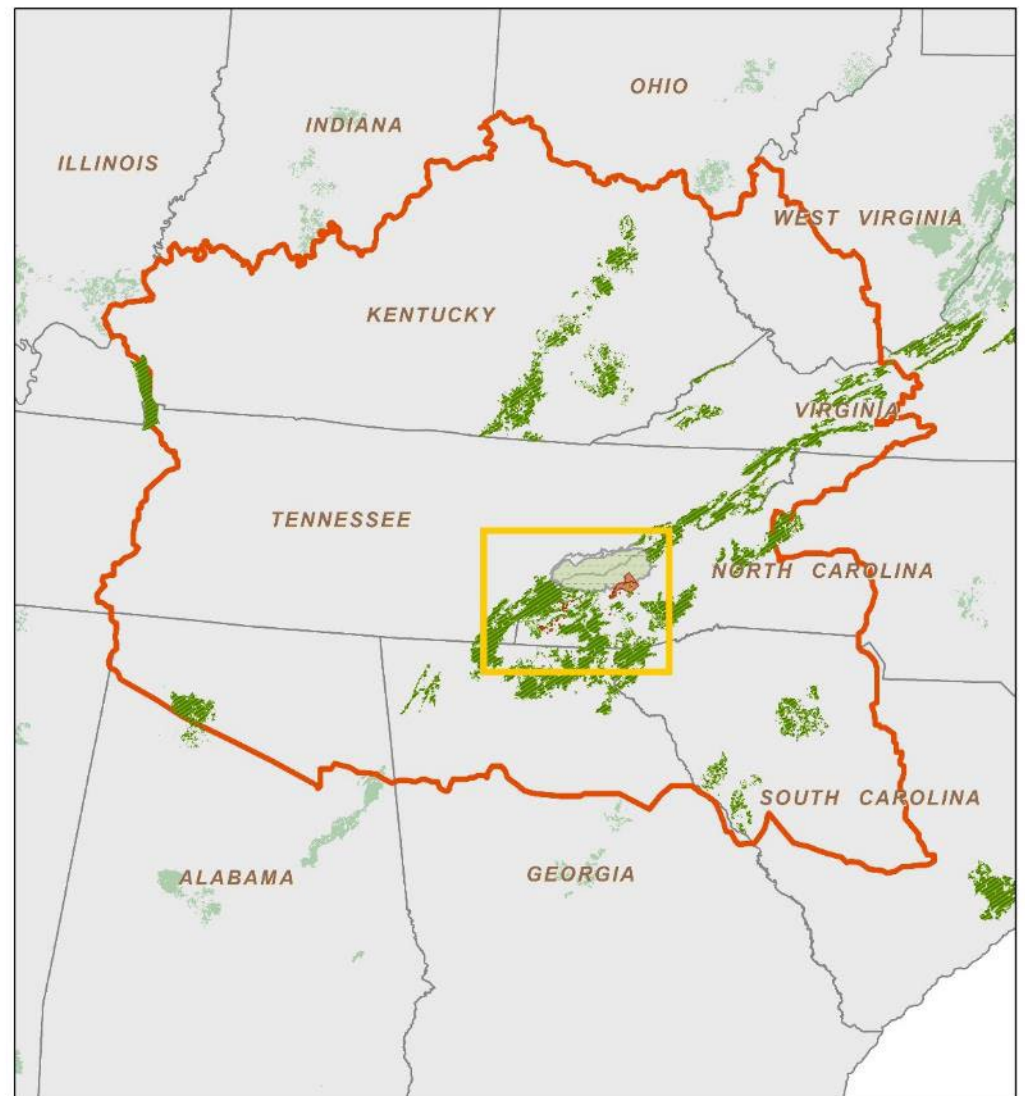
Tommy Cabe, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians



Cherokee Homelands: A Zone of Influence



Royce Map of 1884



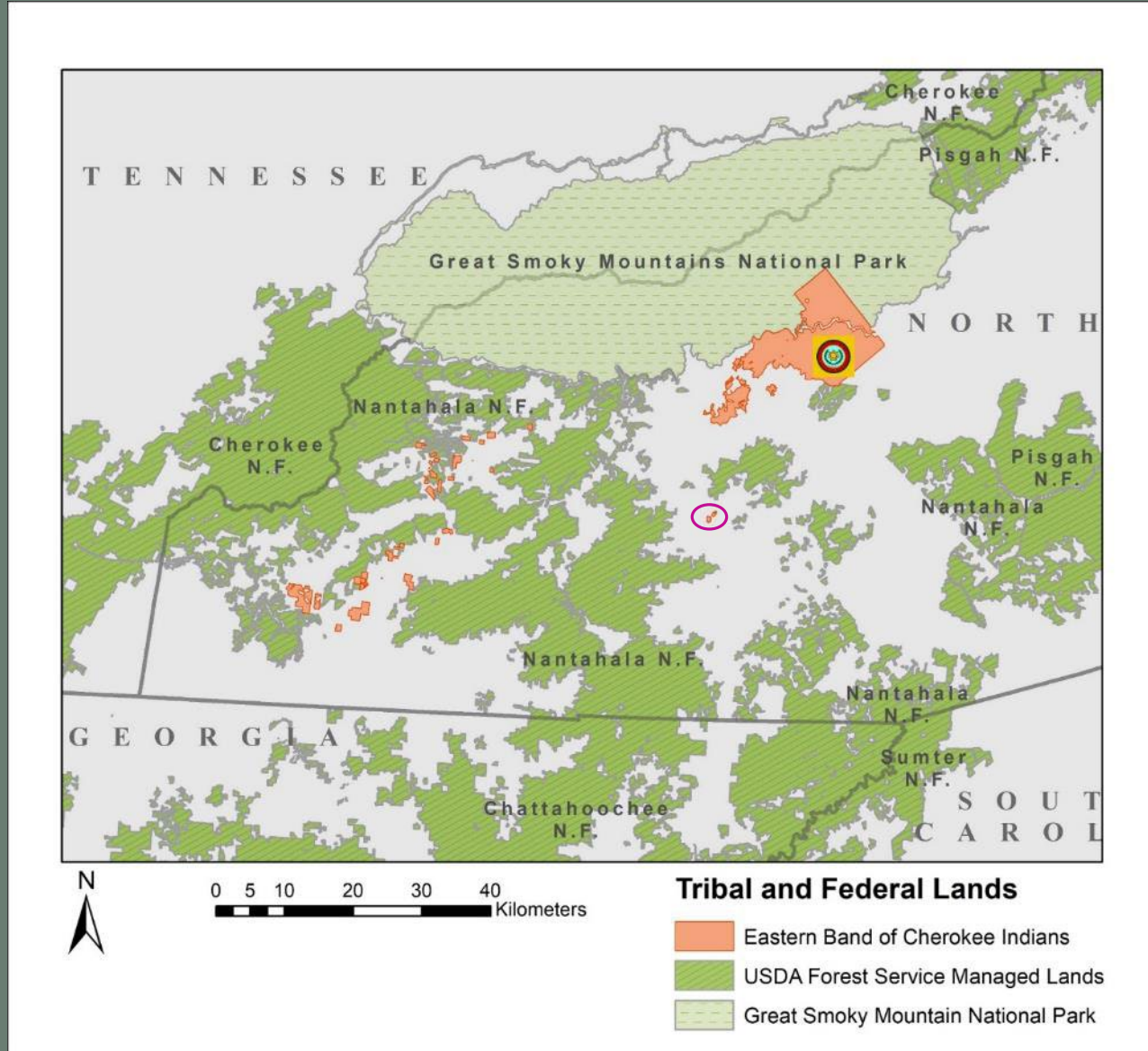
0 25 50 100 150 200
Kilometers

Tribal & Federal Lands

- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Lands
- National Forests Consulting with EBCI
- Great Smoky Mountain National Park
- Cherokee Homelands
- Other USDA Forest Service Managed Lands

Eastern Band of Cherokee Lands

- BIA Forest Jurisdiction
- Tribal Lands total Acres: 56,893
- Possessory Holding Acres: 43,889
- Total Forested Acres: 49,019
- Non-forested Acres: 7,874
- **Tribal Reserve: 5,500**
- Approximately 1200 acres owned in taxed based status.



Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

~16,000 members

Strong food & craft
traditions



nationalbasketry.org





Cherokee Relations with Plants

COMMUNAL,
GENERATIONAL &
SUBSISTENCE

Traditional Ecological Knowledge

The cumulative body of knowledge, practice, and belief concerning the relationship of living beings to one another and to the physical environment

TEK includes detailed local knowledge about local topography, climate and resources, biotic and abiotic characteristics, animal and plant life cycles and other environmental features. (Berkes, 2000)



Responding
to EBCI
Priorities:

Towards
Greater
Plant
Stewardship
and Access

- EBCI-USDA FS Collaborative Research
- EBCI-National Forest Engagement



- Plant Gathering Agreements with Great Smoky Mountains National Park

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Front Page / News | By Scott

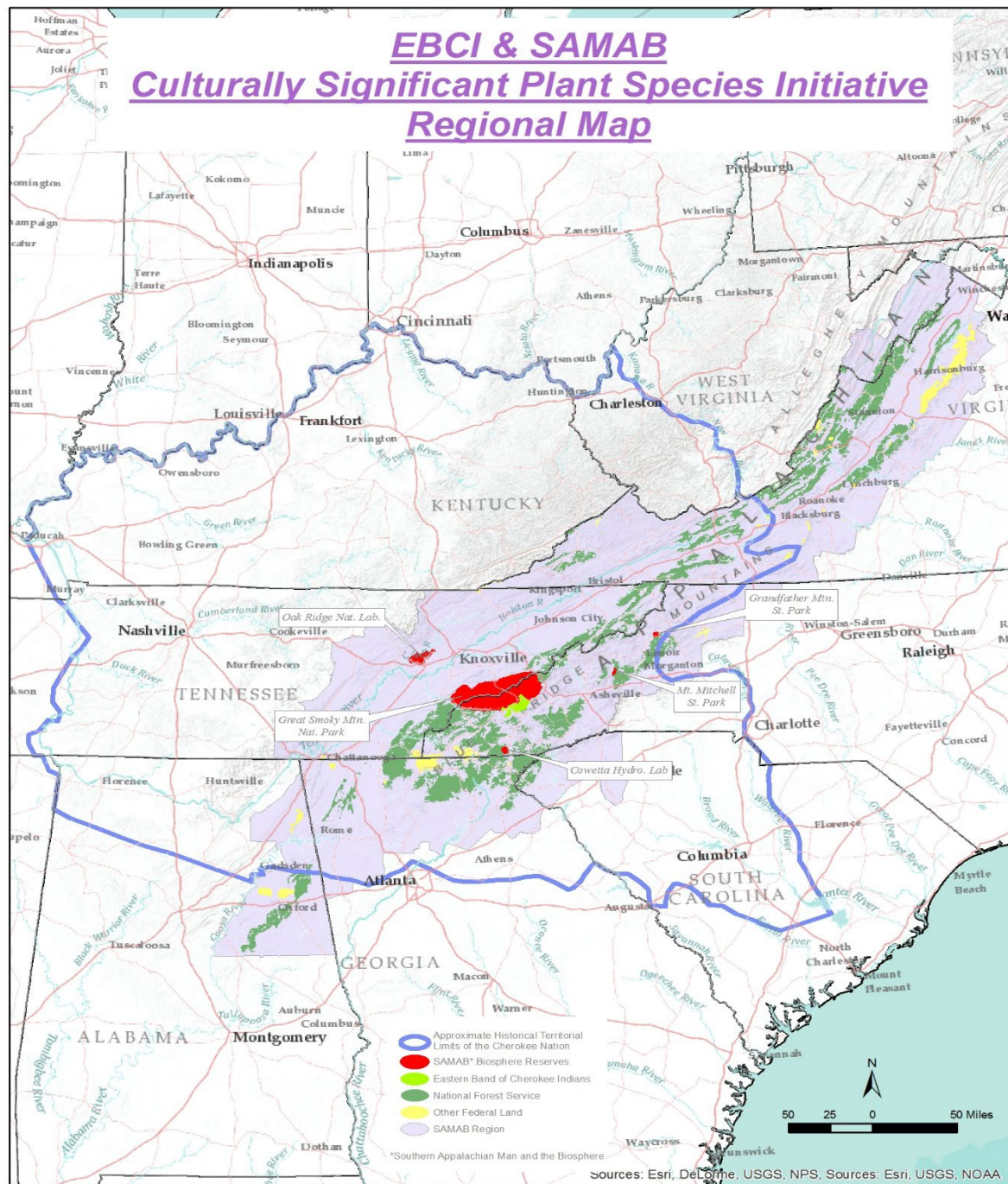
Park, Tribe sign sochan agreement



- Culturally Significant Plant Species Initiative (CSPSI)



OVERLAPPING LANDSCAPES & JURISDICTION

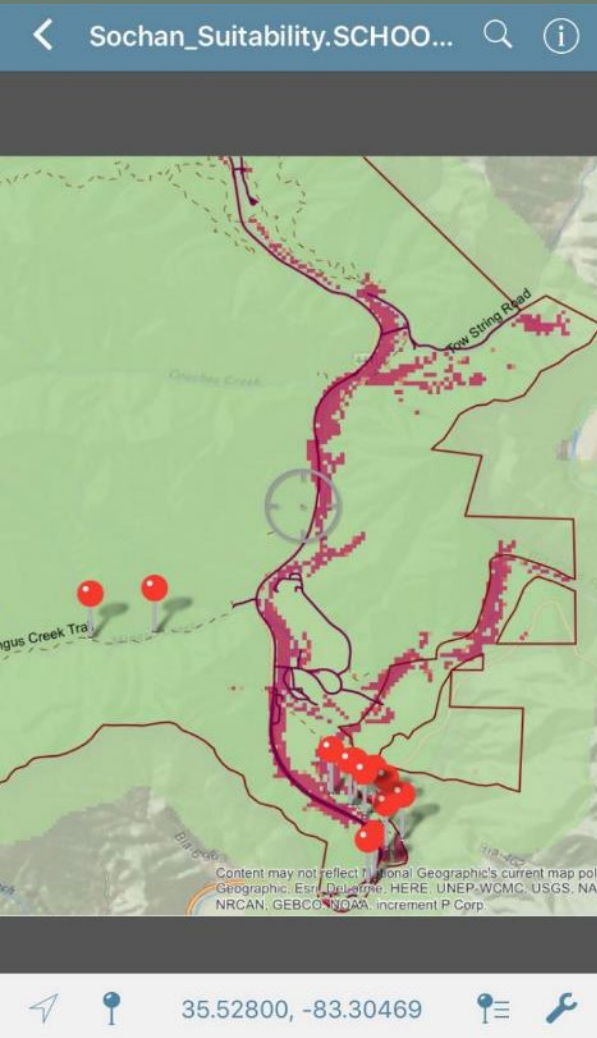


EBCI-USDA FS Research Initiatives

Sochan (*Rudbeckia laciniata*)



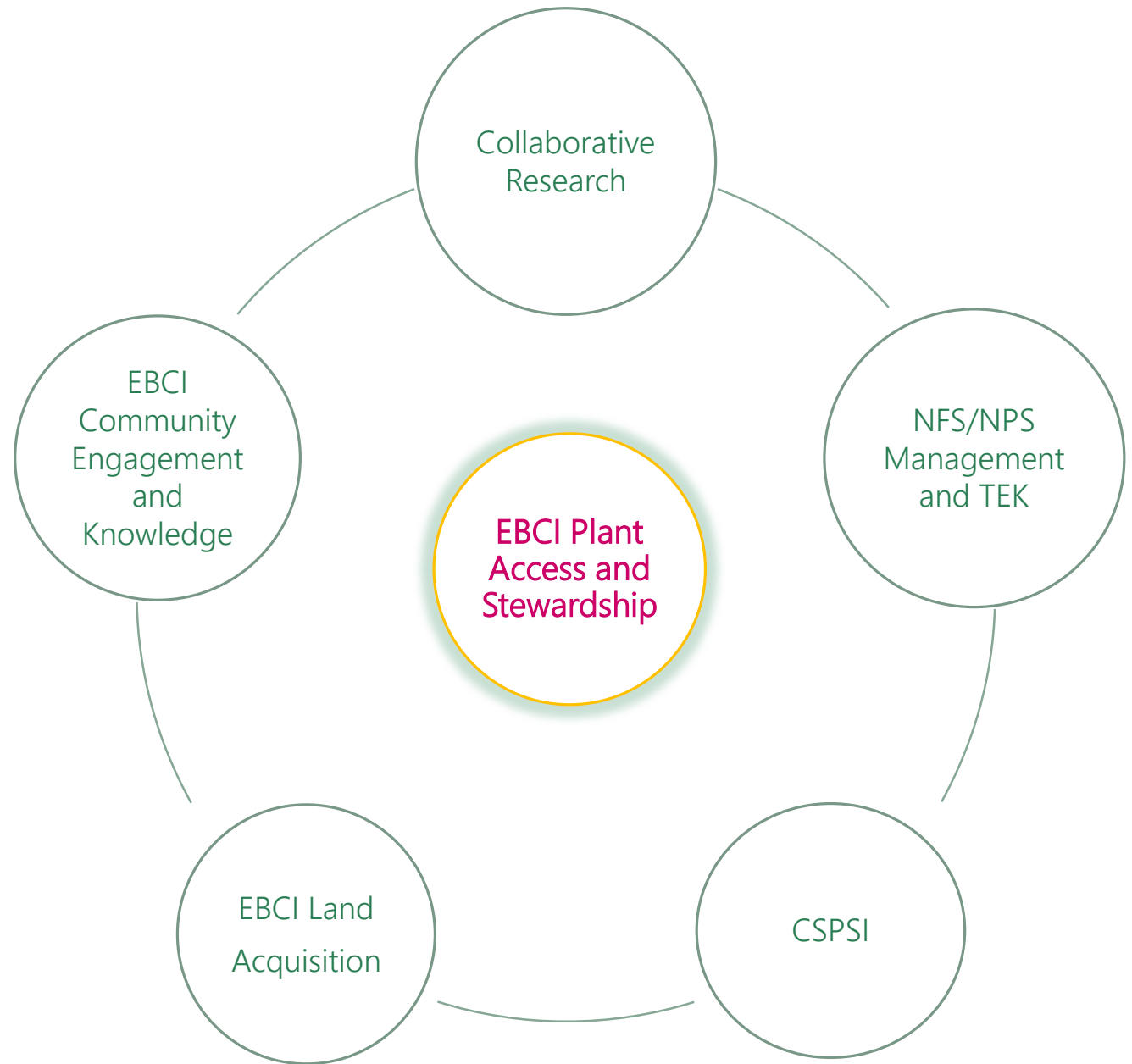
Collecting Sochan Seeds in the Smokies



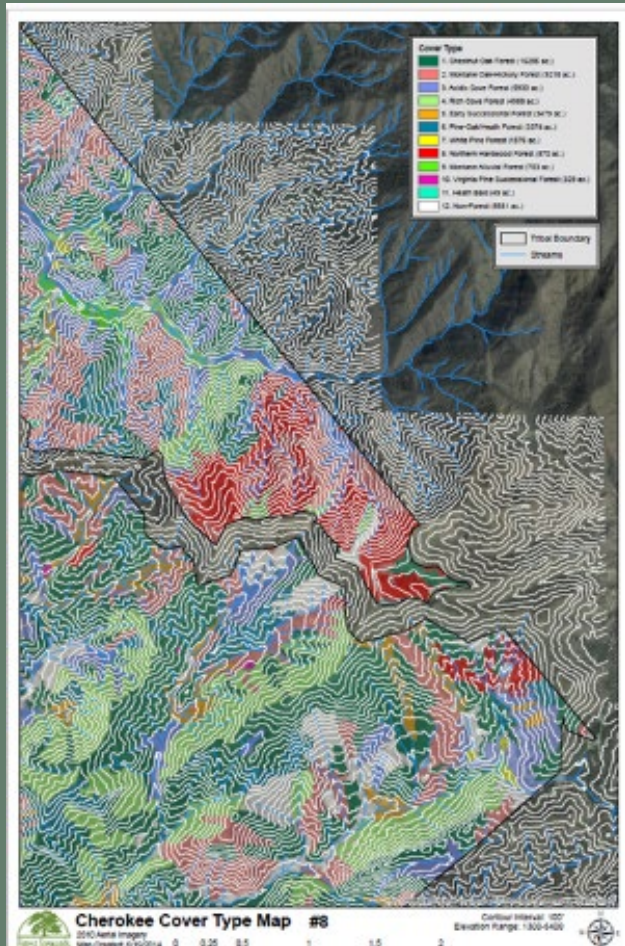


Understanding Cherokee TEK & Sustainability for Ramps

An Emerging Integrated Platform



Why it matters



Limited opportunities and habitats on Trust Lands

More opportunities to be stewards, Share TEK and harvest

Traditional Harvest Experiments

Harvest Treatments (3)

Harvest Intensities (3)

Plot Metrics:

- Plot Density
- Petiole Diameter
- Total Leaf Width
- Flower and Seed Production
- Juvenile Recruitment and Retention



Artisan interviews with community researcher

- Important trees and plants used
 - Gathering and harvesting practices
 - Forest conditions
-

White Oak workshop with National Forest botanists

Community Engagement with Qualla Arts and Crafts Cooperative

- Harvesting data
- Link to artisans





Why this Matters

Cultural continuance and preservation

Food Sovereignty= Healthy
Communities

Relations and understanding
homelands

Stronger Cherokee presence and
management on cultural landscapes

More inclusive and responsive
management through shared learning



Sgi! Thank you!

Tommy Cabe