

## Dugger Mountain (Proposed Scenic Area)

These two areas include portions of the Dugger Mountain ridge that lie outside the Dugger Mountain Wilderness. Scenic upland oak-hickory forest occurs on the upper slopes and pine-hardwood forests occur along the lower slopes, with mesic hardwood forest in the hollows. The area contains a special abundance of woodland wildflowers.

The area contains scenic ridge lines and sensitive viewsheds adjacent to the Dugger Mountain Wilderness. A portion of the area, together with the Dugger Wilderness and the Oakey Mountain Roadless Area, form the watershed for the South Fork of Terrapin Creek, which has been recognized as a critical aquatic refugia.

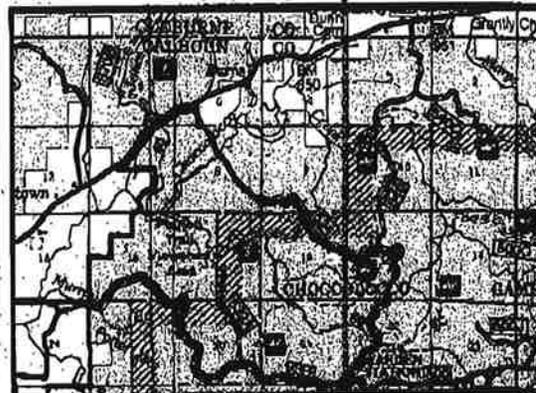
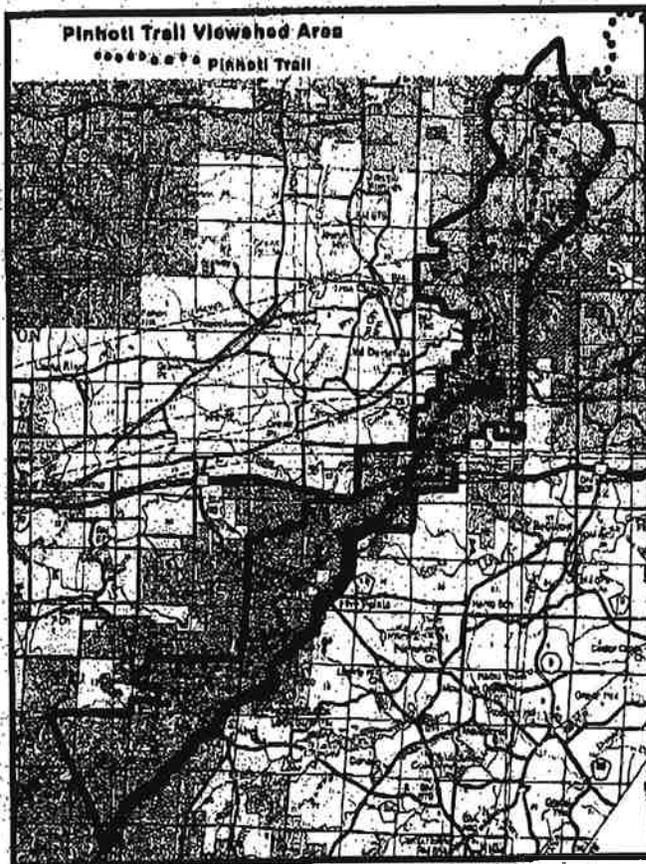
"The fire-dependent, montane longleaf pine ecosystems in the northeast part of the Talladega National Forest in Northeast Alabama, where the ridges steeply rise 700-800 feet above Terrapin Creek, are my temple. To me, this is the center of the world... When I was a boy, my passion was wading creeks and catching "spring lizards" (salamanders) and crawdads and snakes. I also loved to climb trees. I reckon that my main passion then, and now, was just wandering in wild areas... My love of wildlands is closely tied to my love of hunting. Hunting to me is a ritual. Through hunting, I obtain - in addition to what Leopold called my 'meat from God' - spiritual sustenance...this is especially true in wild areas relatively untouched by humans."

Johnny Stowe

**Approximate Size:** 4,000 acres

**Location:** Three miles south of Piedmont, Alabama

**Topos:** Jacksonville East, Piedmont, Piedmont SE



**Pinhoti Trail Viewshed Area - Section north of proposed Shoal Creek Scenic Area**

**Pinhoti Trail Viewshed Area - Section south of proposed Shoal Creek Scenic Area**

## Pinhoti Trail (Proposed Viewshed Area)

The streams that cut through this rugged terrain drop in a series of small waterfalls and shoals into the much lower Choccolocco Creek Valley. This creek system is considered one of the best remaining habitat areas for many endangered aquatic species. Also, rapid changes in elevation have created some fairly large and very scenic waterfalls in the area. Shoal Creek runs along a portion of the corridor, and this large pool and ripple stream contains rare and threatened aquatic species.

The area contains many forest types, including relatively lush white oak-beech forests, and patches of old growth can be found in the area. Superb views of the mixed land use in the Choccolocco Valley and Choccolocco Mountain beyond can be seen along the southwestern escarpment of the area. The corridor contains the Coleman Lake and Pine Glen Campgrounds, along

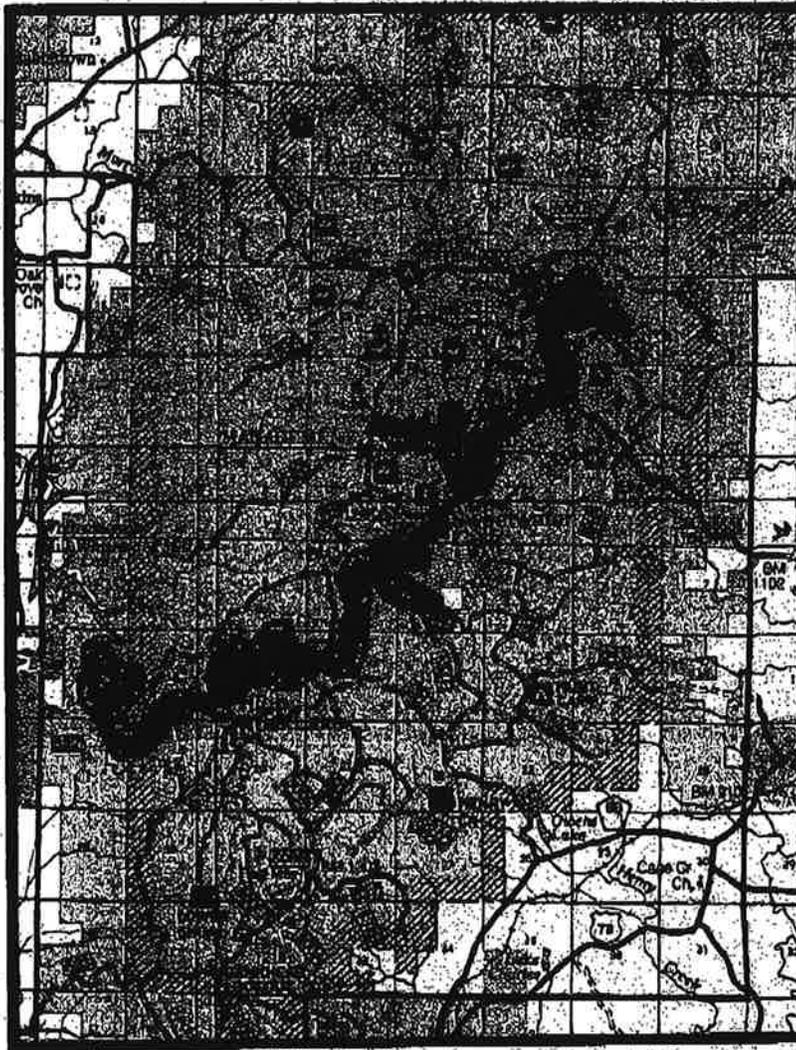
**Approximate Size: 14,000 acres**

**Location: Eight miles east of Jacksonville**

**Topos: Jacksonville, Piedmont SE**

with the Morgan, High Rock, Sweet Water, Coleman and Choccolocco Creek watershed lakes. The southern portion of the corridor borders the Talladega Scenic Drive.

The area contains waterfalls, scenic views and significant recreational opportunities and facilities adjacent to the Pinhoti Trail, including several developed recreation areas. The current natural quality of this corridor needs to be protected so that the overall corridor of the Pinhoti Trail between the Dugger Mountain Wilderness and the proposed Blue Mountain Wilderness can offer hikers a scenic experience. This will also help fulfill the greater vision of the Talladega National Forest portion of the Pinhoti Trail — a path that passes through a connected series of protected areas.



## Shoal Creek (Proposed Scenic River)

Shoal Creek is a long and largely free-flowing pool and ripple stream which contains rare and threatened aquatic species listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Included are several species of mussels and the blue shiner. The colorful holiday darter is also found in Shoal Creek. The stream is considered a critical aquatic refugia. It is also a favorite fishing stream where anglers stalk red-eye bass.

Shoal Creek is formed by numerous pristine springs that flow out of the Talladega ridges as headwaters of the Coosa Basin. This area is a

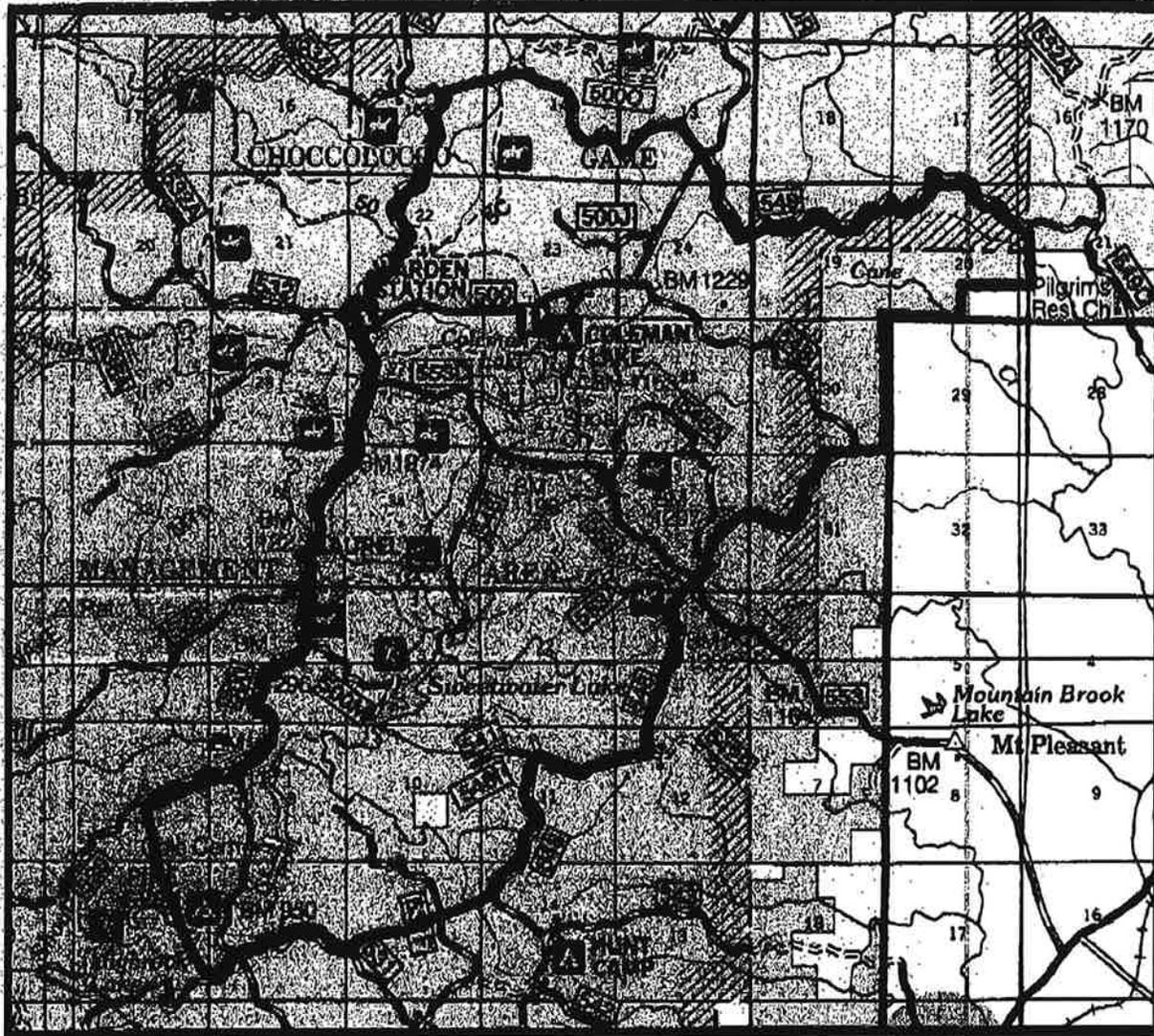
corridor of the Pinhoti and is enjoyed by hikers and backpackers. It is a favorite Alabama stream for swimming and seasonal canoeing. It ranks as one of Alabama's cleanest waters. This stream deserves the highest level of protection under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

As shown in the above map, there are three proposed sections of the proposed Scenic River. They are divided by High Rock Lake and Sweetwater Lake.

**Approximate Length:** 12 miles

**Location:** Between Jacksonville and Heflin, Alabama

**Topos:** Choctolocco, Heflin, Piedmont SE



## Shoal Valley (Proposed Scenic Area)

This proposed Scenic Area includes a large portion of the rugged valley formed by the upper portion of Shoal Creek. The area is heavily used for recreation. The area contains some horse trails, as well as the Pinhoti Trail and the Coleman Lake and Pine Glen Campgrounds, along with Sweet Water and Coleman Lakes, where wildlife including beaver, heron and osprey can be observed. Rare species of plants such as purple gentian and Grass of Parnassus are found here. The scenic value of this heavily used area should be better conserved. A higher level of protection

for this area would help to better preserve the water quality as well as the scenic values of Shoal Creek, which is both a critical refuge for threatened aquatic species and a proposed Wild, Scenic or Recreational River.

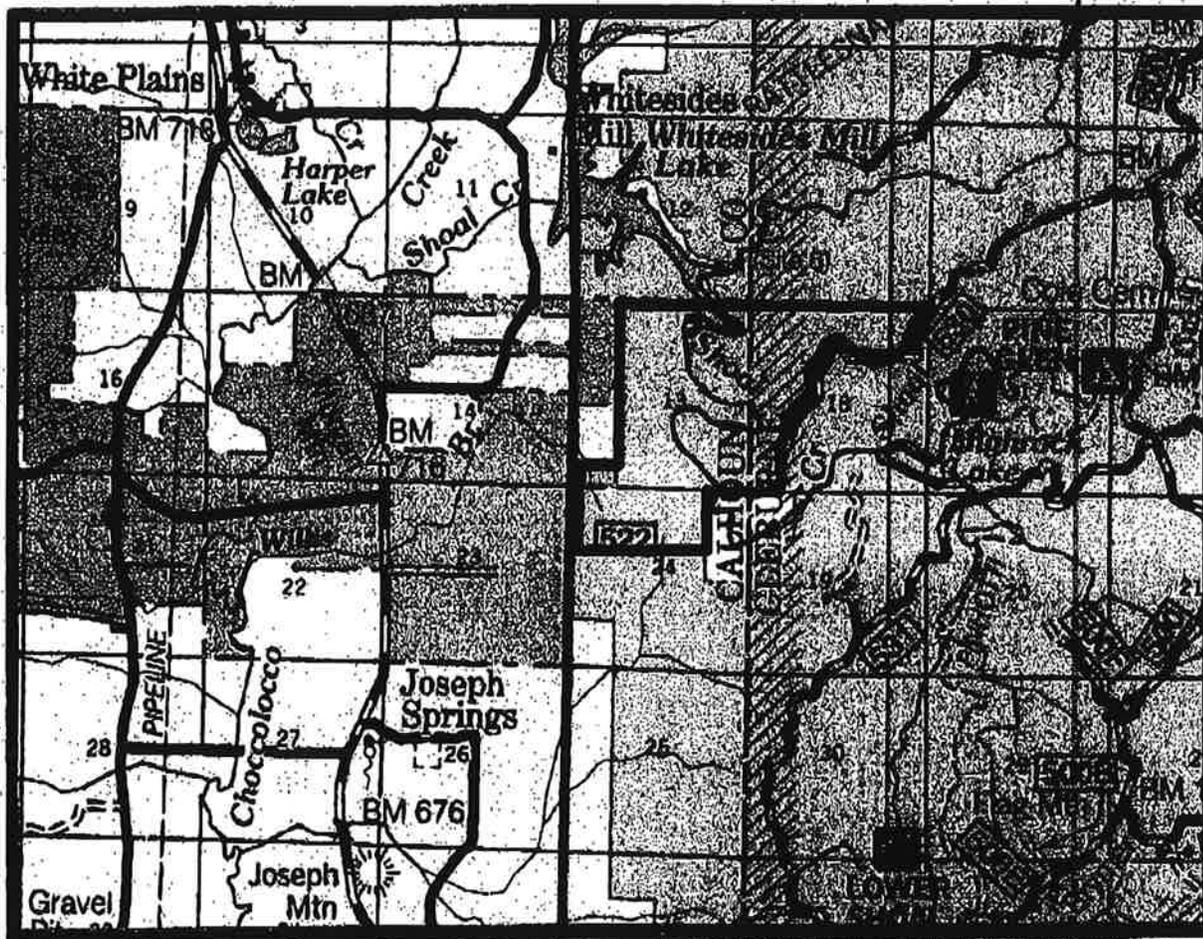


**Coleman Lake**

**Approximate Size:** 9,600 acres

**Location:** Seven miles north of Heflin, Alabama

**Topos:** Choccolocco, Heflin, Jacksonville East, Piedmont SE



## Horseshoe Bend (Proposed Scenic Area)

This area contains a closed road, which now serves as an unofficial hiking trail through several wild and scenic environments. The trail goes north from the Chosea Springs Road through pine and mixed forests. Surrounding ravines are blanketed with hardwood forest communities. There are spectacular views of Cheaha, Dugger, and Choccolocco Mountains and of the Choccolocco Valley. The trail leads to a hill within a horseshoe-like bend of Shoal Creek.

There is a series of scenic shoals in this deep valley that is surrounded by old growth hardwood slopes. The ridgetops contain old growth longleaf pine and a red-cockaded woodpecker colony. This is an example of a small area that is replete with

outstanding scenic and natural values. It is an Alabama treasure that deserves the highest level of protection.

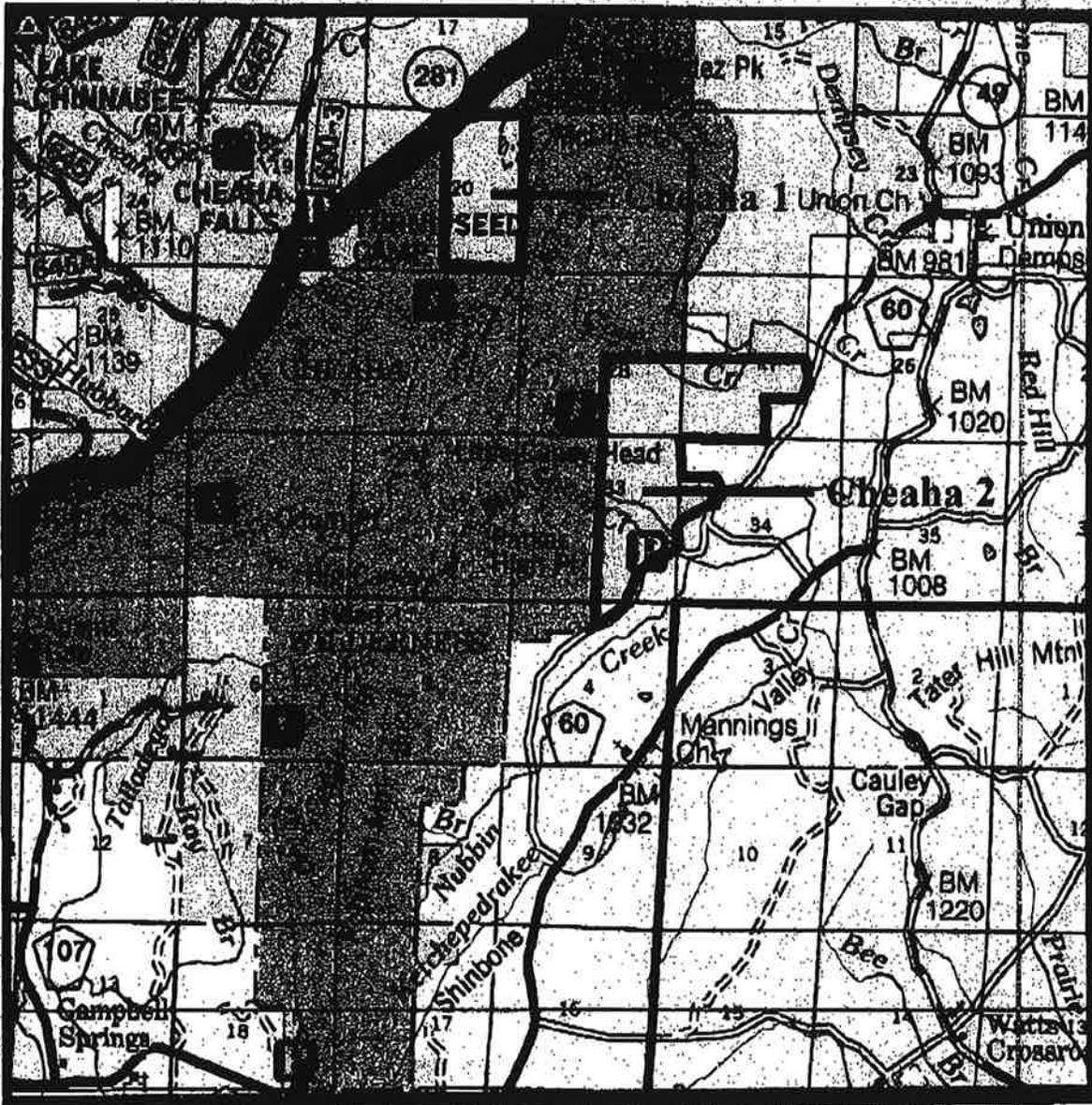


The Abika faction of Creeks lived nearby

**Approximate Size:** 1,000 acres

**Location:** Four miles NW of Heflin

**Topos:** Choccolocco, Heflin



## Cheaha Wilderness (Proposed Additions)

The eastern area contains low hill and stream valley forests such as the white oak-beech forest type, which is uncommon in the present Cheaha Wilderness. It provides spectacular wilderness views. The Pinhoti/Odum Trail system is nationally acclaimed and well-used by Boy and Girl Scouts from Alabama and the surrounding

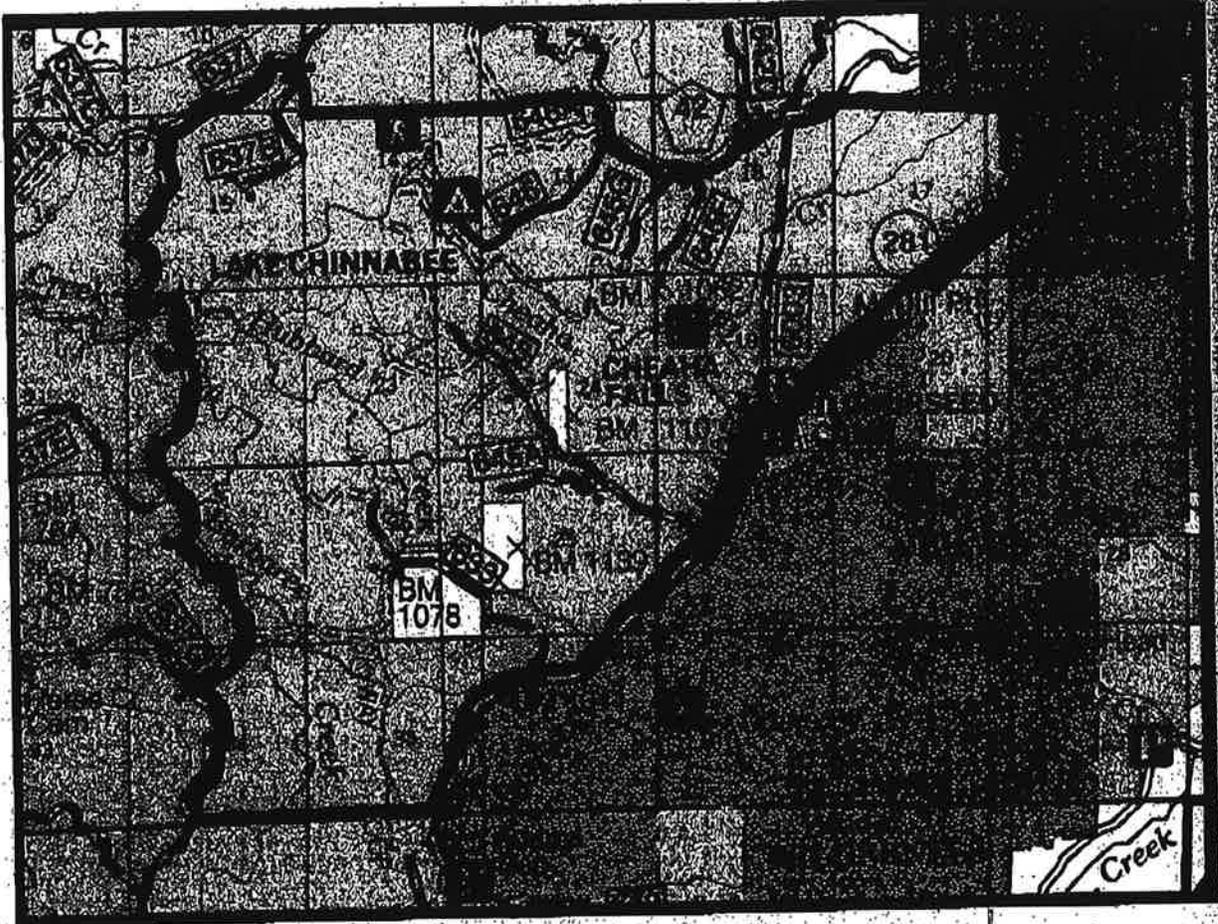
states. The areas are adjacent to the Wilderness, and the areas were recognized as roadless by the SAA. To the Creek Indians, *pinhoti* means "turkey's home."

Considering the small size (7,245 acres) of the existing Cheaha Wilderness, this area is vital to the integrity of the Wilderness.

**Approximate Size:** Area "1" - 230 acres, Area "2" - 715 acres, Total - 945 acres

**Location:** About eight miles SE of Oxford and adjoining Cheaha Wilderness on the east side

**Topos:** Cheaha Mountain



## Cheaha Creek (Proposed Scenic Area)

The area includes some of the best waterfalls in the Talladega mountain range. There are several branch trails of the Pinhoti system in the area, along with the Talladega Scenic Drive and the Chinnabee Lake developed camping area. The area contains fabulous scenic views and some of the best recreational opportunities within the national forest. Along with Cheaha State Park, the Cheaha Wilderness and nearby proposed Wilderness, this area forms a great concentration of wild and scenic recreational opportunities. The Cheaha Creek Area and the nearby proposed Wilderness Areas need to be protected in order to

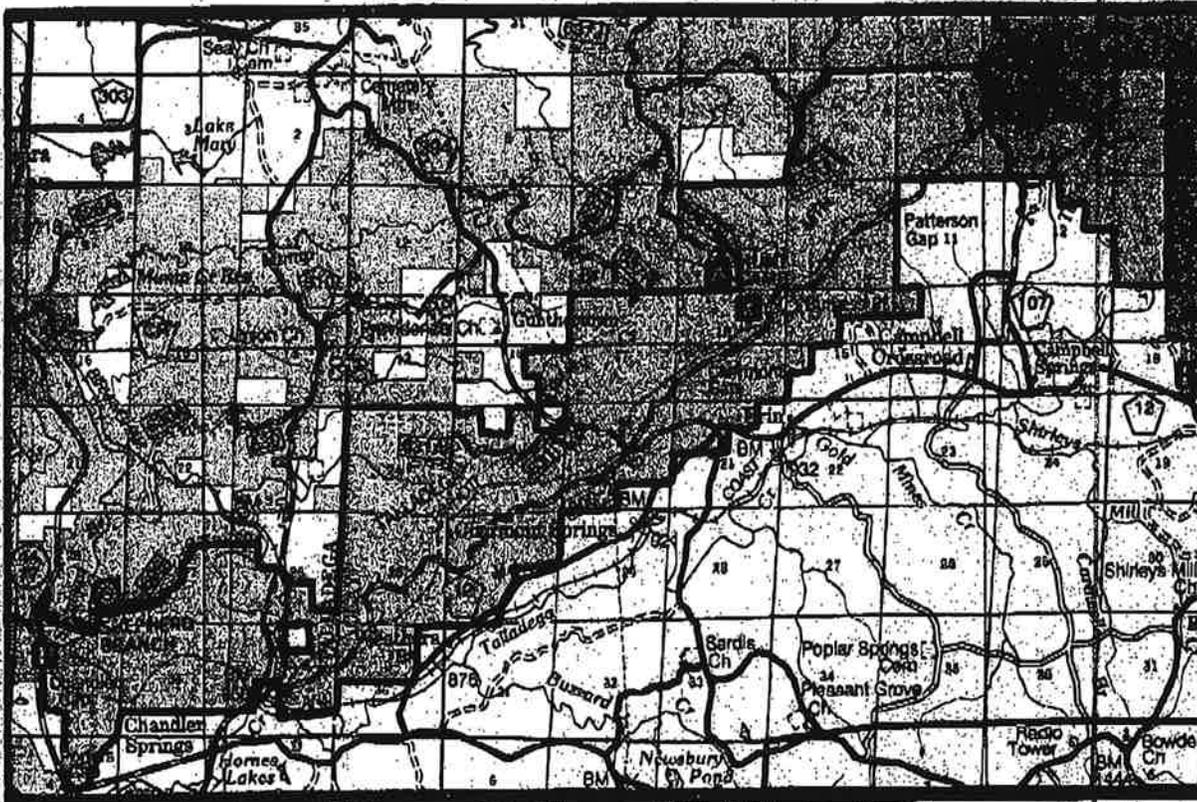


View of Mt. Cheaha from Cheaha Creek Scenic Area

ensure that this great recreational concentration remains intact.

Of note in this area is the beautiful Chinabee Silent Trail, built by hearing-impaired students from the Alabama School for the Deaf, under the leadership of Scoutmaster Moran Colburn.

Approximate Size: 10,300 acres  
 Location: Ten miles east of Talladega  
 Topos: Cheaha Mountain, Ironston



## Talladega Mountain (Proposed Scenic Area)

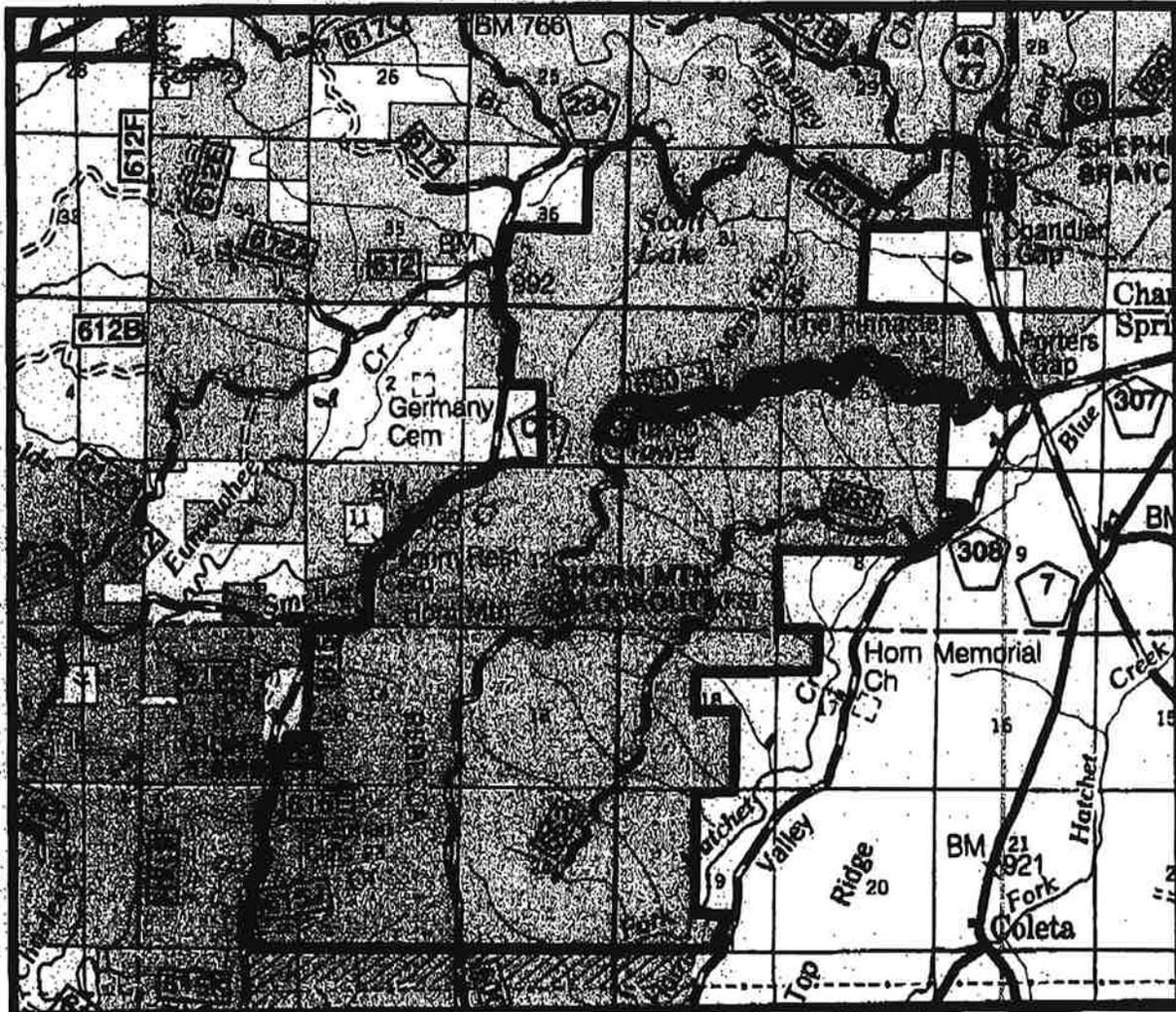
Located in the southernmost portion of the Talladega National Forest, Talladega Mountain is a long, high ridge with spectacular scenic views over a large lowland area of forests and streams. This area still harbors clean streams, lowland forests with large pine trees, and hardwood forests along the ridge. The great views of the farm valleys and forested hills of the Piedmont (east side), and Ridge and Valley Provinces (west side), combined with rock cliffs and outcrops in the proposed Wilderness nearby make this area very visually attractive.

The higher ridge tops are predominately xeric oak-hickory forests. Mixed mesic hardwood-pine forests occur on the middle and lower slopes. The area may contain the rare New England Cottontail Rabbit.

The lower portion of the Talladega Mountain range resembles the Cheaha Wilderness in both

topography and ecology. The Talladega Mountain area was considered wild enough to be officially evaluated for wilderness characteristics in a U.S. Forest Service 1979 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

**Approximate Size:** 5,400 acres  
**Location:** Six miles SE of Talladega  
**Topos:** Clairmont Springs, Porter Gap



## Rebecca Mountain (Proposed Wilderness)

Since its scenic views equal Cheaha's in every way, the protection of Rebecca Mountain could serve to mitigate the increasing demands and impacts on the small Cheaha Wilderness nearby. On busy weekends, literally hundreds of people hike and camp the Cheaha area and the solitude central to the wilderness experience can get lost in the crowd. An outstanding feature on the west rim of the mountain is Sherman's Cliffs.

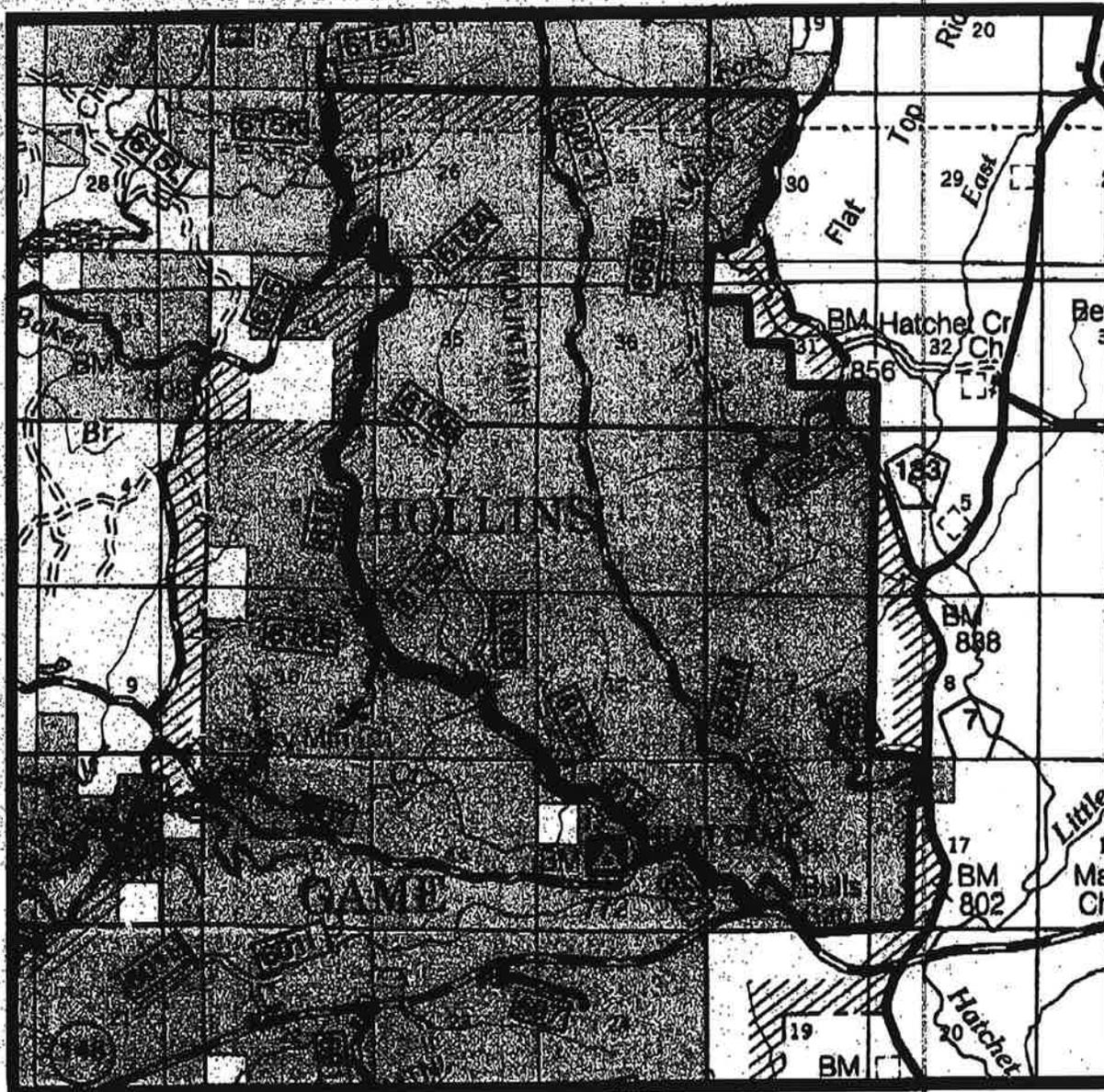
The extension of the Pinhoti Trail south along Rebecca Mountain would complete a section of the

Eastern Continental Trail. (See page 14.)

This trail will be 4,500 miles long from Cape Gasp, Quebec to the Florida Keys. The Eastern Continental Trail includes the International Appalachian Trail in Canada, the Appalachian Trail, the Benton MacKaye Trail, the Pinhoti Trail, and the Florida Trail. Currently, about 150 miles of trail remain to be built, from Porter's Gap at the southern end of the Pinhoti Trail to the Conecuh Forest south of Andalusia.

Rebecca Mountain is the last great mountain of the Talladega chain.

**Approximate Size:** 9,000 acres  
**Location:** Ten miles east of Sylacauga  
**Topos:** Bulls Gap, Porter Gap



## Rebecca Mountain (Proposed Scenic Area)

The proposed Rebecca Mountain Wilderness designation would provide the highest level of protection for the northern half of the ten mile long ridge that constitutes Rebecca Mountain. Unfortunately, a power line that crosses the mountain restricts the Wilderness proposal from protecting the southern region of the mountain. Hence, a Scenic Area designation is proposed.

The proposed Pinhoti Trail extension and the Eastern Continental Trail will cross the Rebecca Mountain Wilderness and the Rebecca Mountain Scenic Area. This rugged and narrow ridge has many rock outcrops and scrubby oaks. See previous description of the Rebecca Mountain Wilderness.

**Approximate Size:** 6,000 acres  
**Location:** Ten miles east of Sylacauga  
**Topos:** Bulls Gap, Porter Gap