

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians First Steps Project



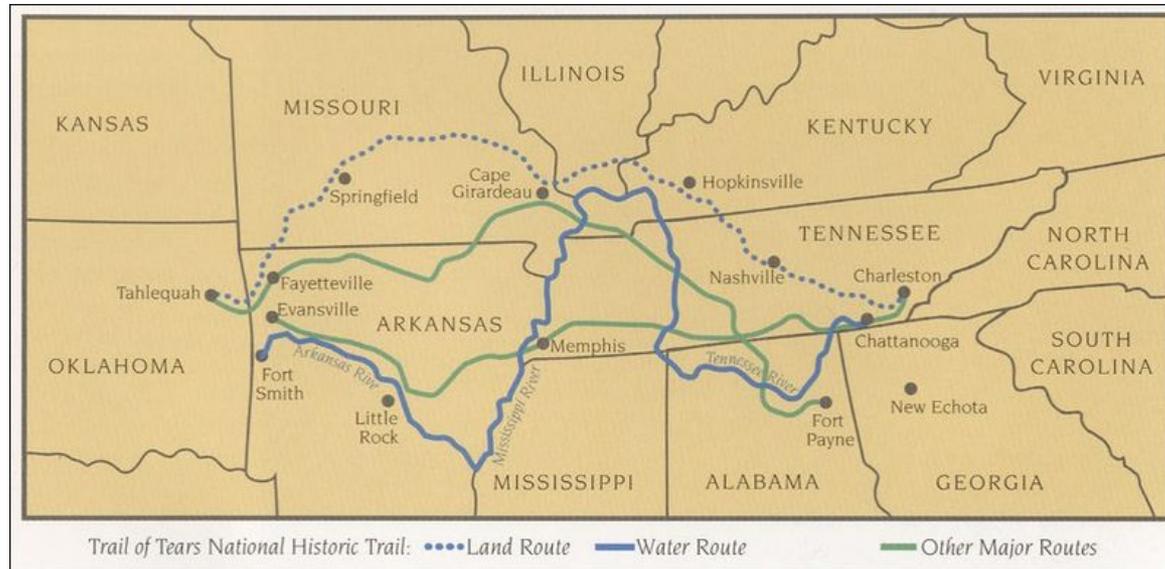
Project Manager – Damon Lambert
Tribal Planner/Grant Writer
Planning & Development Department

Technical Support – Robert Leitner
Associate Director
South Carolina Institute for Energy Studies – Clemson University

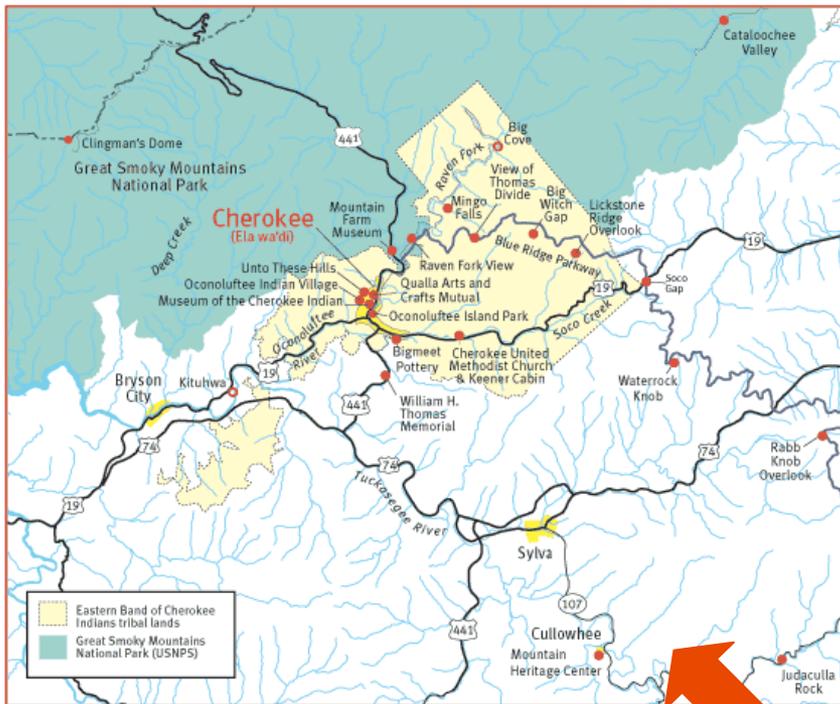
Demographics



- The modern EBCI are descendents of those Cherokee who avoided the forced removal to Oklahoma in the 1838 “Trail of Tears”



Demographics



- 13,000+ enrolled members
- 8,200+ members live on the land held in trust for the ECBI by the US government called the “Qualla Boundary”
- 52 tracts totaling 56,688 acres in 5 NC counties
- Bordered by the Great Smoky Mountains National Park



Demographics

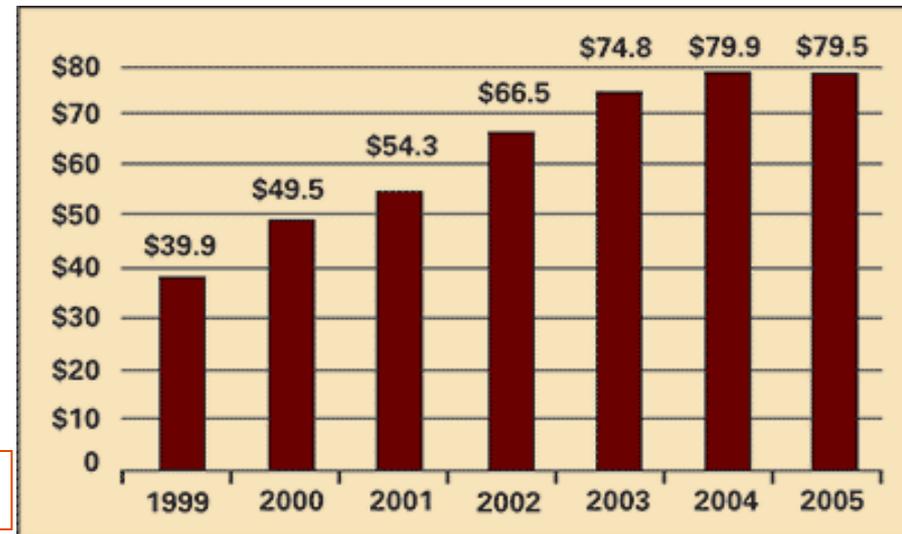


- Land is primarily forest
- Numerous streams
- Mountainous with valley areas
 - 1800 – 5000+ ft elevation

Tribal Government & Major Employers



- Tribal Government
 - Tribal government is 3 branch system
 - Tribe is partitioned into 6 communities
 - Each community has 2 representatives on tribal council
 - Government provides all public services
 - Approximately 1000 employees
- Casino
 - Gaming plus 600 room hotel
 - 1700 employees



Casino & Tribal Govt Combined Payroll

Demographics



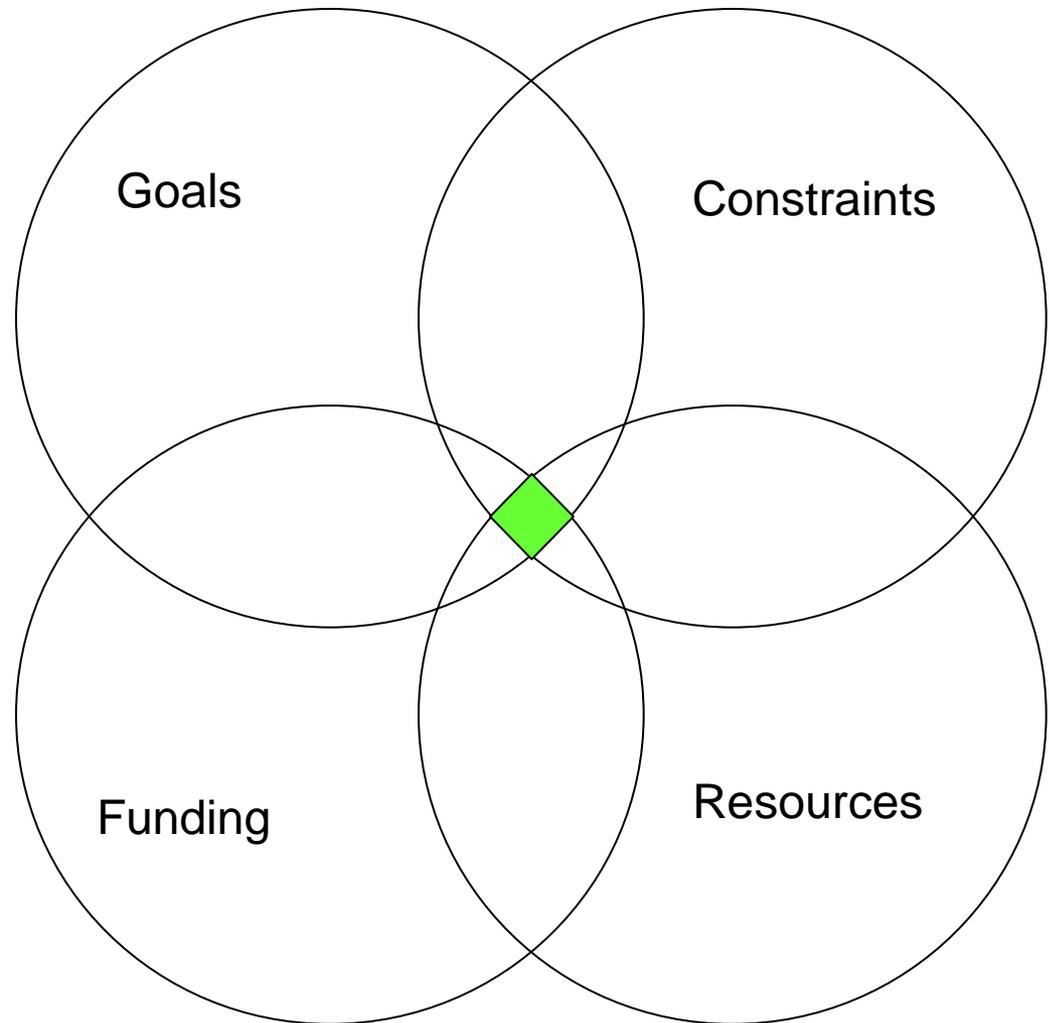
- Gaming & tourism are key sources of revenue
- Lack of high skill jobs and overabundance of seasonal employment
- Need for diversification
- Lack of adequate housing

- Seeking to develop a strategic energy plan that supports the tribe's goals and economic development objectives

Project Objective/Approach



- To develop a comprehensive strategic energy plan that
 - Supports tribal goals
 - Fits tribal constraints
 - Utilizes available renewable resources
 - Has source of funds



Tribal Goals



- Improving or developing competitive advantage in:
 - Cherokee values and culture
 - Tourism
 - Downtown Cherokee
 - Knowledge Industries
 - Small Business Development
 - Educational Attainment
 - Affordable Housing
- Mitigating the following threats
 - Overdependence on gaming and tourism
 - Competition from new casinos and tourist destinations
 - Increased travel costs
 - Environmental degradation
 - Inappropriate development
 - Shortage of housing
 - Increased use of drugs



Constraints

- Must be consistent with tribal values and culture
- Can't adversely impact tourism or gaming
- No significant adverse impact on the environment
- Must be affordable

Resources



- Wind
- Water
- Forestry
- “Tourists”
- Energy Efficiency

- Solar
- Agriculture

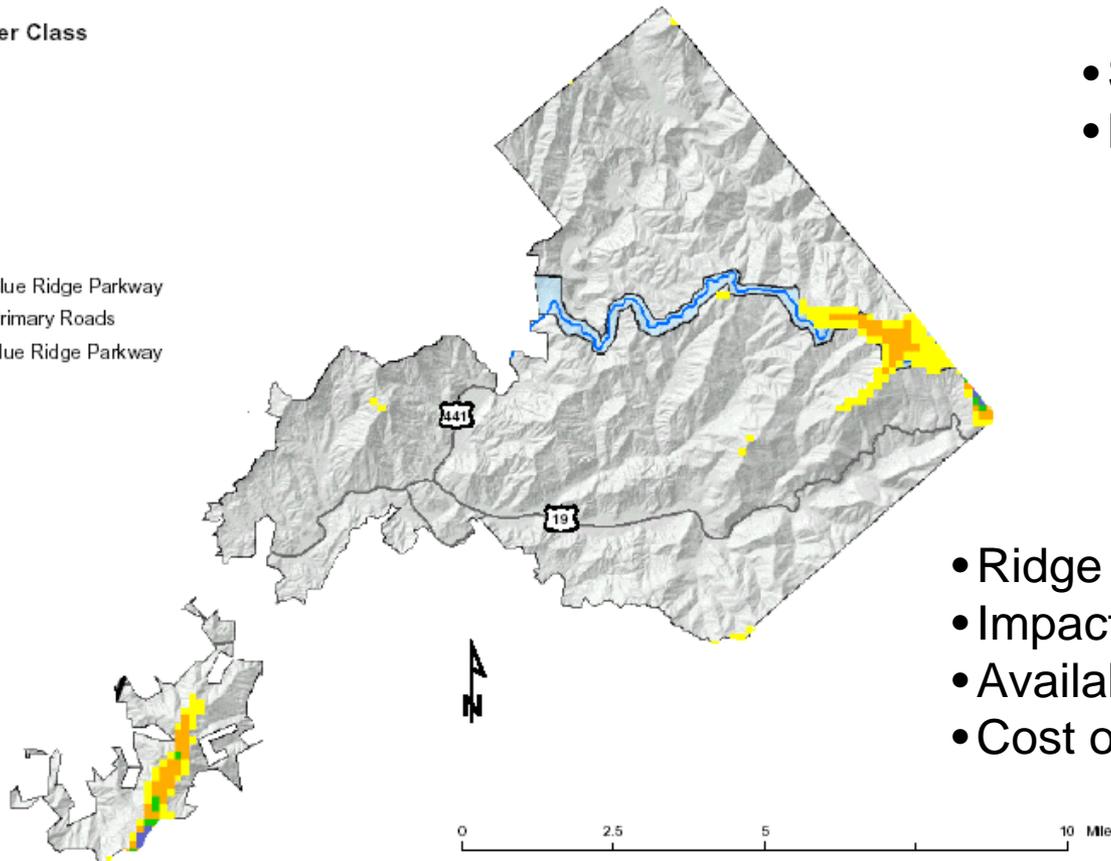




Wind

Wind Power Classes: Cherokee Indian Reservation, North Carolina

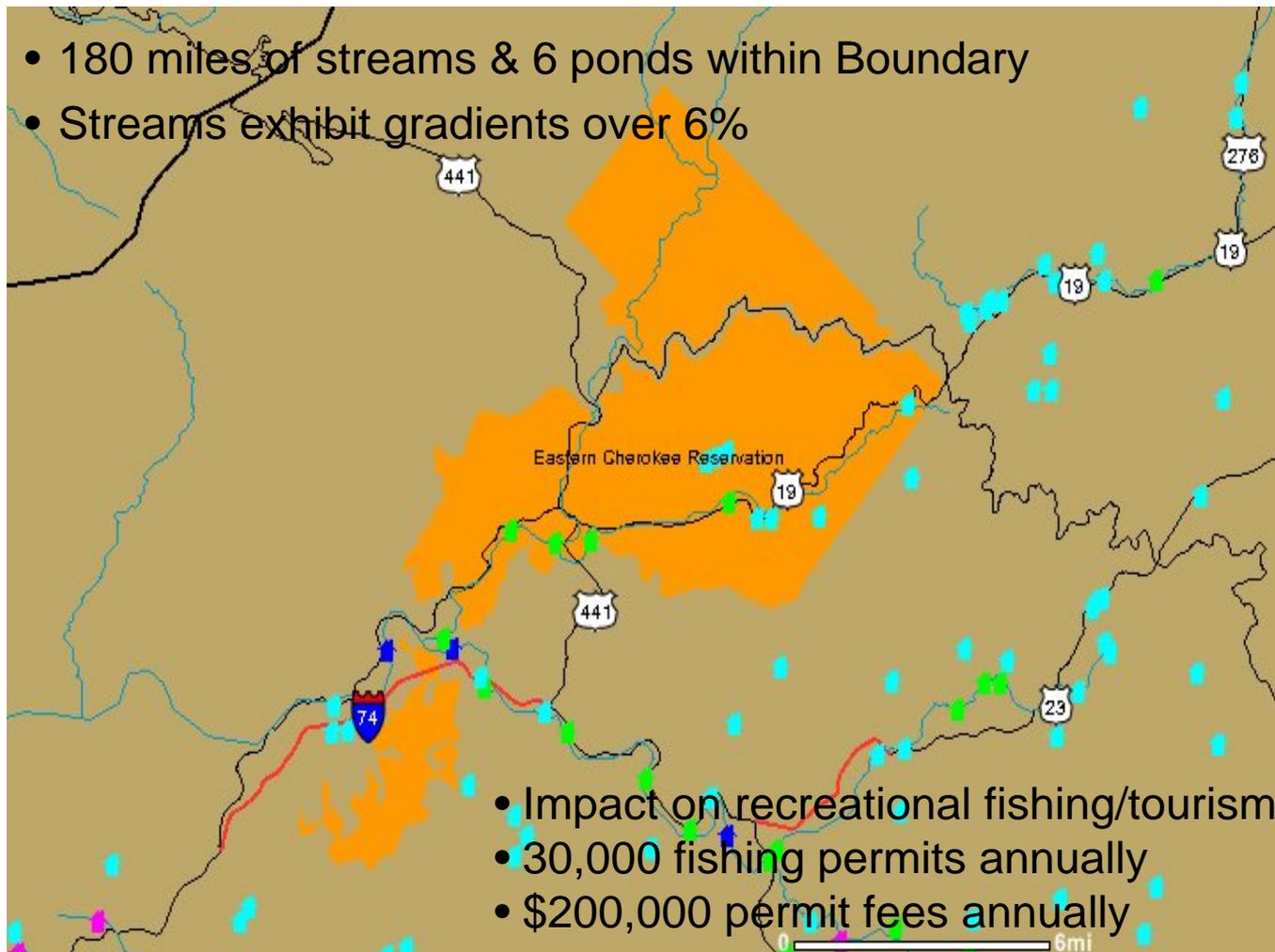
Wind Power Class



- Some potential on ridges
- NC RPS

- Ridge laws and viewshed
- Impact on tourism
- Availability of roads/interconnect
- Cost of small scale development

Water



Forestry



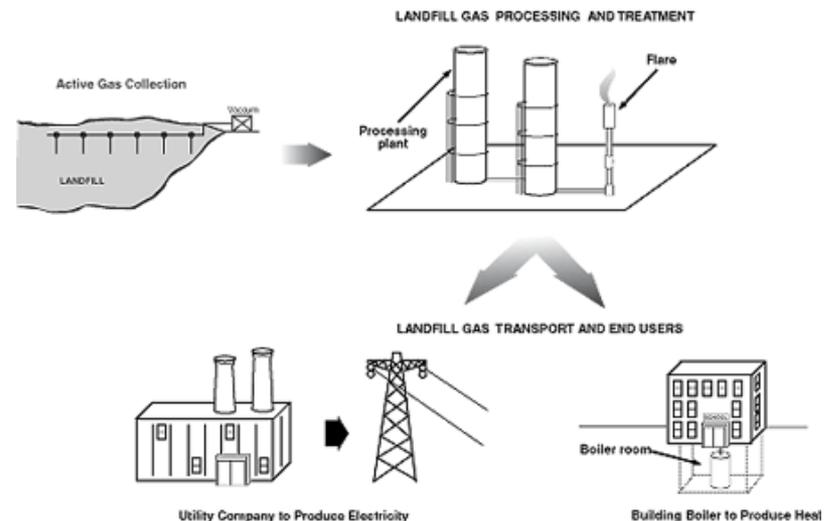
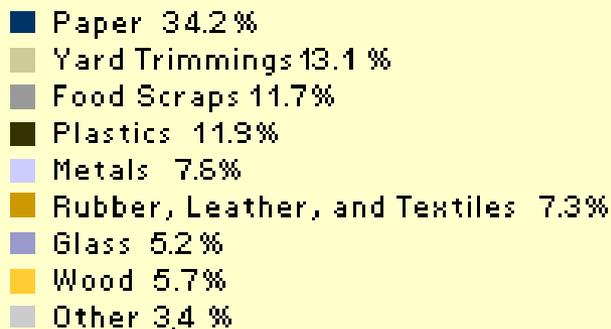
- **85% of Boundary (49,000 acres) is timber land**
 - 5,100 acres are tribal reserve
 - 43,900 acres are possessory holdings
- **No harvesting on tribal reserve**
- **Potential impact on tourism and environment**



“Tourists”

- Adjacent to #1 and #3 most visited attractions in US
- Casino is #1 travel destination in NC
- Tourists generate substantial useable waste stream
 - Municipal solid waste
 - Waste water
 - Restaurant fats, greases, oils
- Other locations are successfully capitalizing on these waste streams

**2005 Total Waste Generation—
245 Million Tons
(before recycling)**



Energy Efficiency



- Numerous opportunities
 - Homes
 - Upgrade of substandard housing and improved standards for new housing
 - High consumption municipal buildings
 - Casino
 - Administrative buildings
 - Hospital

Plans



- Renewable energy and energy efficiency options will be developed and rated against goals, constraints, and funding availability
- Tribal Energy Committee will serve as tribe's focal point for study
 - Damon Lambert – Tribal Planner/Grant Writer (chair)
 - Joella Jackson – Environmental Specialist
 - Forest Parker – Manager Office of Environment & Natural Resources
 - David Wyatt – GIS Administration Manager
 - Paxton Myers – Executive Assistant to Tribal Chief
 - Doug Cole – Strategic Planner

Questions

