

# JOYCE KILMER SLICKROCK WILDERNESS



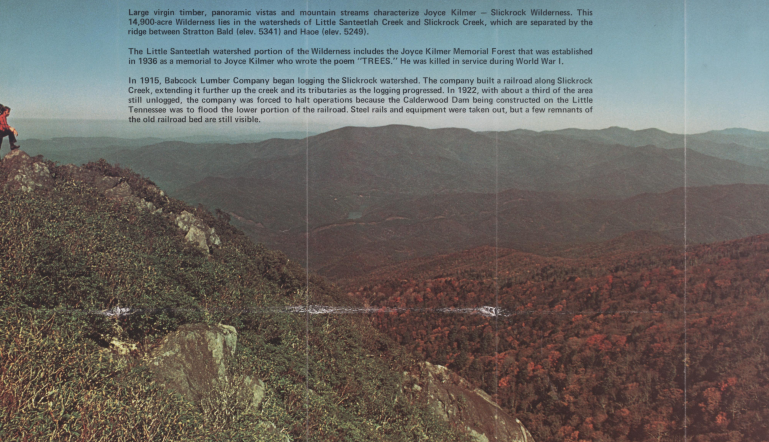
Rhododendron, mountain laurel, and azaleas bloom in the late spring and early summer.

On the forest floor you will see remnants of massive American chestnut trees that, prior to 1925, made up a large part of the timber stand. The chestnut blight, accidentally introduced from Asia, killed all of the mature trees; occasional sprouts may still be found.



The vegetation of this Wilderness now represents both virgin forest and second growth. In the Little Santeehah watershed (Joyce Kilmer Forest), some of the huge trees are hundreds of years old; some are twenty feet around the base and more than a hundred feet high. Tree species include yellow poplar, hemlock, sycamore, basswood, dogwood, beech, several species of oak, and many others.

An outstanding variety of shrubs, vines, ferns, mosses, lichens, liverworts, and herbaceous plants thrive in the understorey. In the spring, wild flowers take advantage of sunlight that filters to the forest floor before the hardwood trees leaf out.



Large virgin timber, panoramic vistas and mountain streams characterize Joyce Kilmer - Slickrock Wilderness. This 14,900-acre Wilderness lies in the watersheds of Little Santeehah Creek and Slickrock Creek, which are separated by the ridge between Stratton Bald (elev. 5341) and Hise (elev. 5249).

The Little Santeehah watershed portion of the Wilderness includes the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest that was established in 1938 as a memorial to Joyce Kilmer who wrote the poem "Trees." He was killed in service during World War I.

In 1915, Babcock Lumber Company began logging the Slickrock watershed. The company built a railroad along Slickrock Creek, extending it further up the creek and its tributaries as the logging progressed. In 1922, with about a third of the area still unlogged, the company was forced to halt operations because the Calderwood Dam being constructed on the Little Tennessee was to flood the lower portion of the railroad. Steel rails and equipment were taken out, but a few remnants of the old railroad bed are still visible.

Animal life includes deer, bear, boar, fox, bobcat, raccoon, skunk, squirrel, mink, weasel, and mice. Several species of harmless snakes are present along with the poisonous copperhead and timber rattler. Many species of songbirds share the area with ruffed grouse, wild turkey, owls, hawks, and raven.

There are more than 60 miles of trail in the Wilderness, following ridge tops or cool mountain streams, or perhaps meandering among the "big trees."

Hunting and fishing are permitted in accordance with State laws.



GIVE A HOOT. DON'T POLLUTE.

MAP DEPT.  
AUG. 1 1979



All programs of the Department of Agriculture are available to anyone without regard to race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.

**Please DO**

- ... pack out all unburnable trash.
- ... extinguish campfires with water.
- ... keep hiking parties small.
- ... burn all trash that your campfire will consume completely.
- ... carry a survival kit.
- ... use only wood that is "dead and down" for fires.
- ... sterilize all drinking water.
- ... bury human waste.
- ... "take only pictures, leave only footprints."
- ... use a backpacker stove to eliminate the need for firewood.

**Please DON'T**

- ... litter.
- ... kill or injure vegetation.
- ... use motorized vehicles in Wilderness areas.
- ... wash you, your clothes, or utensils in streams.
- ... leave fires unattended.
- ... deface rocks or trees.
- ... smoke while hiking.
- ... bury garbage.
- ... fail to leave word with friends or family as to where you plan to hike, and when you will return.

Southern Region 2 1979

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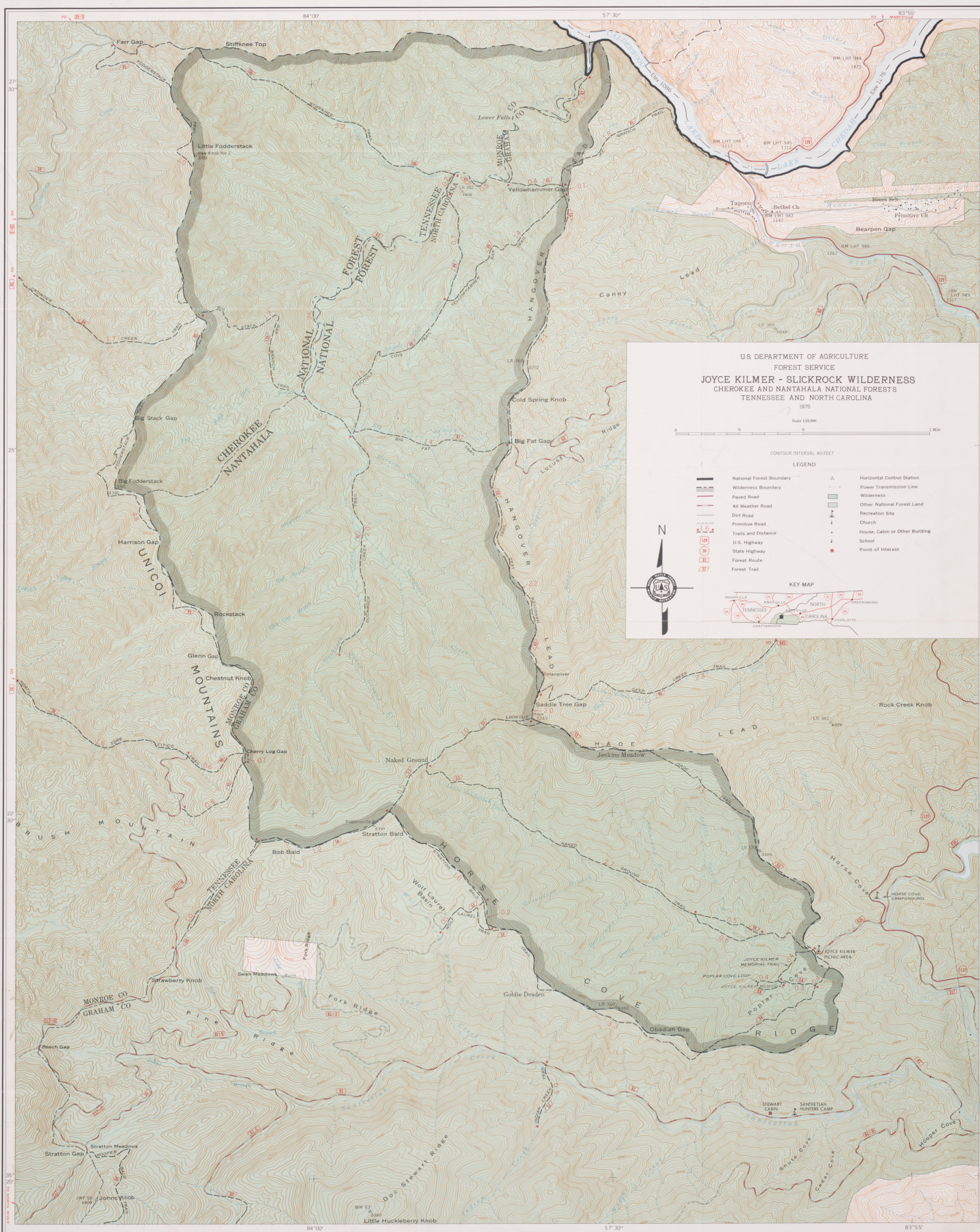
nantahala and Cherokee national forests north carolina and tennessee



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE • SOUTHERN REGION

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FOREST SERVICE  
**JOYCE KILMER - SLICKROCK WILDERNESS**  
CHEROKEE AND NANTAHALA NATIONAL FORESTS  
TENNESSEE AND NORTH CAROLINA  
1976

Scale 1:25,000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET

LEGEND			
	National Forest Boundary		Horizontal Control Station
	Wilderness Boundary		Power Transmission Line
	Paved Road		Wilderness
	All Weather Road		Other National Forest Land
	Dirt Road		Recreation Site
	Primitive Road		Church
	Trails and Distances		House, Cabin or Other Building
	U.S. Highway		School
	State Highway		Point of Interest
	Forest Route		
	Forest Trail		

KEY MAP