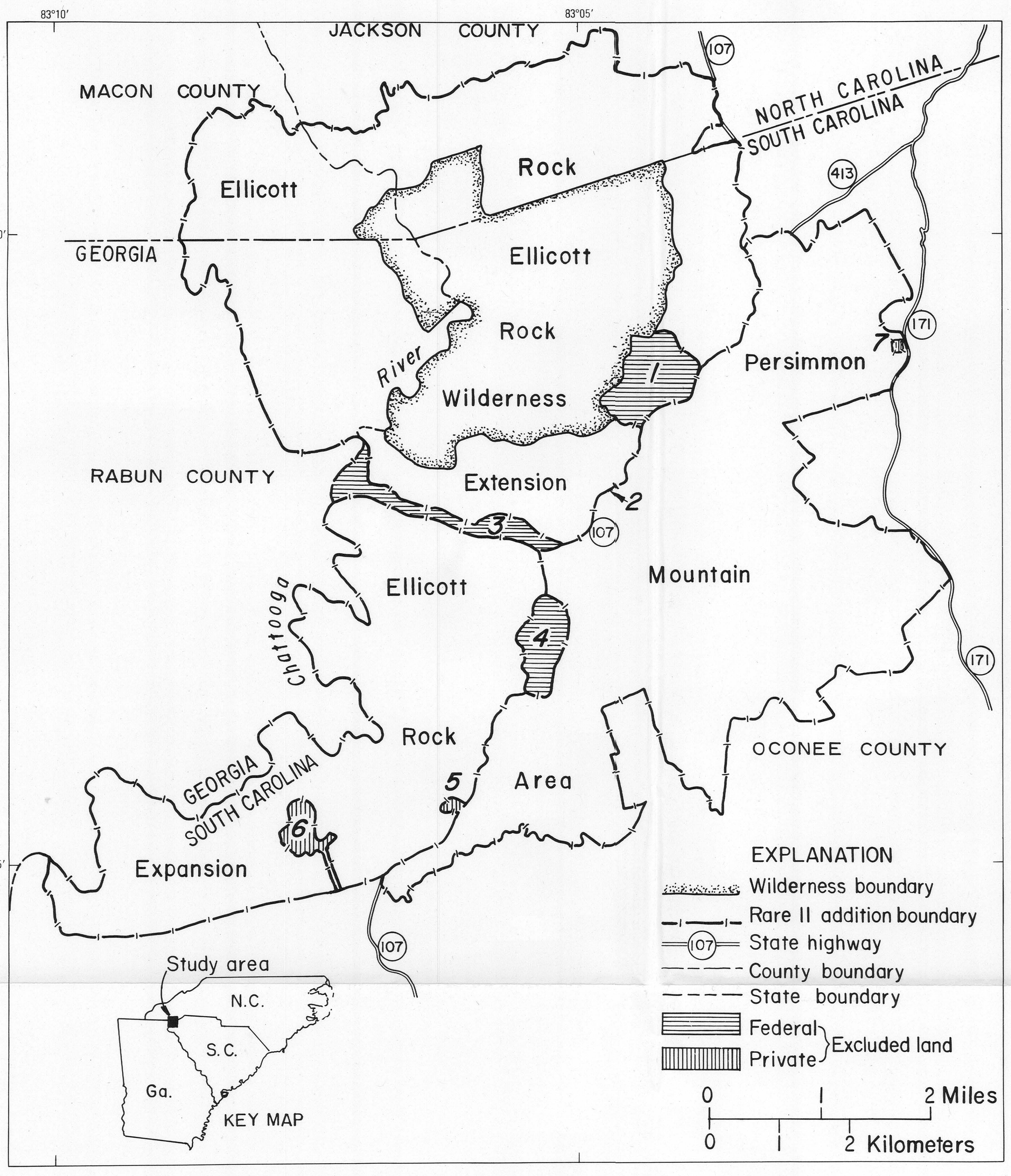


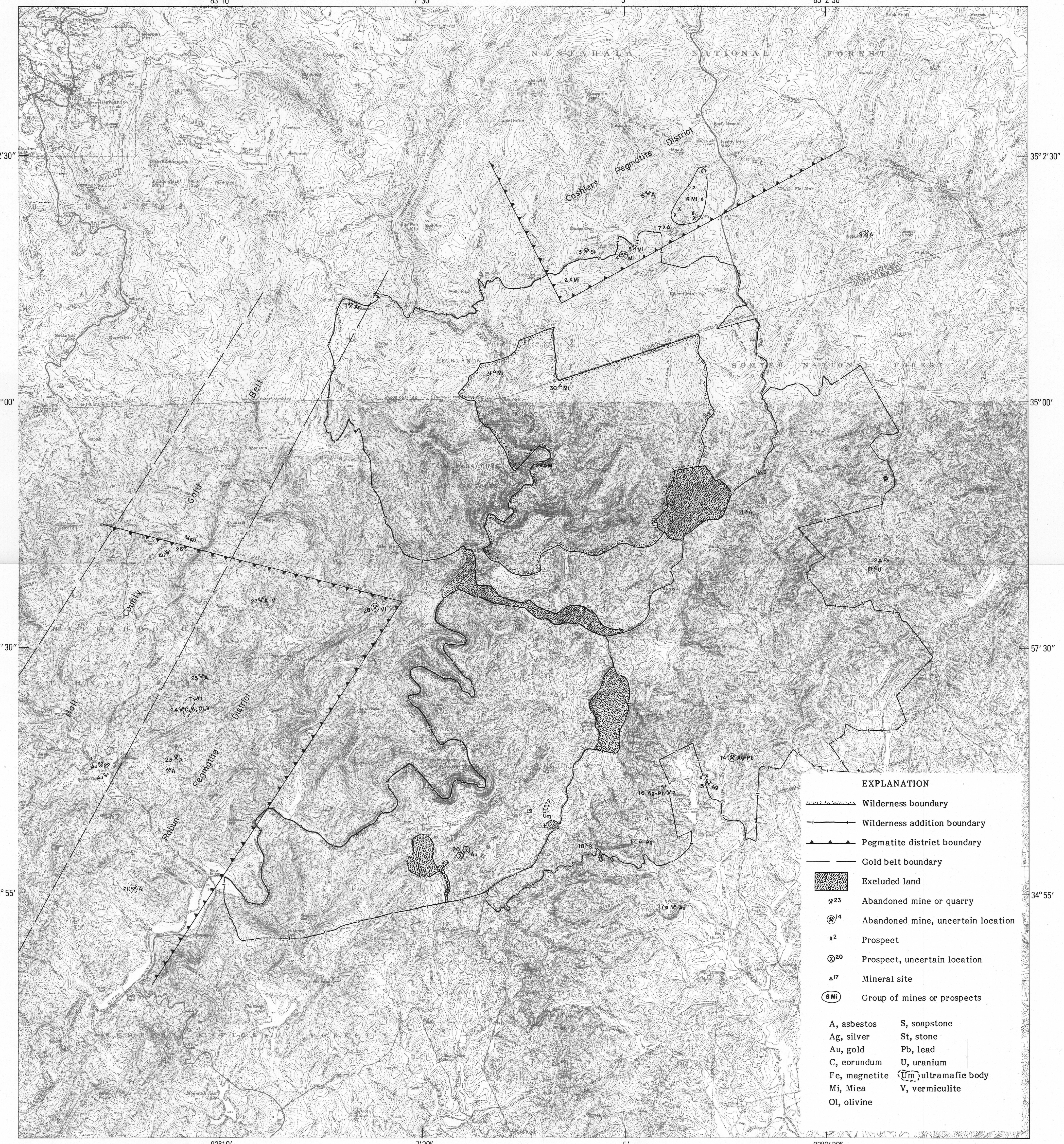
Figure 1.--Index map showing location of study area. Shaded areas are excluded land: (1) Walhalla National Fish Hatchery and adjacent land; (2) Right-of-way for South Carolina Route 107; (3) Right-of-way for Burrell's Ford Road (Forest Service road 708); (4) Cherry Hill Recreation Area; (5) Private homestead; (6) Thrift Lake cottage sites and access road; (7) Private land.

Table 1.--*Management classification; state, county, and national forest association; and acreage of Ellicott Rock Wilderness and additions*

Name of area	Management classification	County and State	National Forest	Total acreage
Ellicott Rock Wilderness	Wilderness	Oconee County, S.C.; Jackson County, N.C.; Macon County, N.C.; Rabun County, Ga.	Sumter Nantahala Nantahala Chattahoochee	3,332
Ellicott Rock Extension	Roadless Area (RARE II--wilderness recommendation)	Oconee County, S.C.; Jackson County, N.C.; Macon County, N.C.; Rabun County, Ga.	Sumter Nantahala Nantahala Chattahoochee	5,600
Ellicott Rock Expansion	Roadless Area (RARE II--further planning)	Oconee County, S.C.	Sumter	5,512
Persimmon Mountain	Roadless Area (RARE II--further planning)	Oconee County, S.C.	Sumter	6,678

Table 2.--*Mines, prospects, and mineral sites in the Ellicott Rock Wilderness and additions*

Site number	Name	Production and development	Remarks
1.	Ammons Branch mine (gold)	Produced 10 lb of free gold prior to 1896 (Yeates and others, 1896); 50-ft trench extends into a 60-ft adit; numerous small pits and trenches in vicinity. A nearby stream was placer mined prior to 1896 (Yeates and others, 1896).	Analyses of wall-rock and dump samples revealed trace amounts of gold and silver; the ore body, a gold-bearing quartz vein, has been entirely mined out; no vein quartz was observed in prospect pit dumps. Wall rock is coarse-grained garnet-biotite schist.
2.	Unnamed prospect (mica)	Production unknown; 25-ft-long and 6- to 10-ft-wide trench was developed.	Some muscovite in dump is clear and free of defects. Maximum size of sheets is 2.5 by 3 in.
3.	Unnamed quarry (road metal)	Production unknown.	Biotite gneiss, Tallulah Falls Formation.
4.	High Lonesome mine (mica)	Limited production probably before 1900; adit leads to caved underground workings.	Muscovite in dump is brownish-green and partly clear (Olson, 1952).
5.	Wilson mine (mica)	Production unknown; pit 20 by 80 ft and 15 ft deep leads to caved underground workings of unknown extent (Olson, 1952).	Muscovite in pegmatite exposed in pit is green, stained, and some has "A" structure (Olson, 1952). Sheets up to 1.25 in.^{2} have good electrical properties (Jahns and Lancaster, 1950).
6.	Coldsides Mountain mine (asbestos)	Production unknown; open cut having highwall of up to 35 ft, 100 ft wide at base, was mined by Powhatan Mining Co. in 1955 and 1956 (Conrad and others, 1963).	Anthophyllite asbestos occurs as thin cross-fiber veins that cut the peridotite body in numerous directions. Mass-fiber ore is found in the peripheral zone (Conrad and others, 1963). Vermiculite occurs in the 1- to 2-ft-wide contact zone.
7.	Unnamed prospect (asbestos)	No production; prospected by Powhatan Mining Co. (Conrad and others, 1963).	A small enstatite body.
8.	Group of mines and prospects (mica)	Production unknown; group of six small mines and five prospects (Olson, 1952).	Muscovite in these pegmatites is commonly brownish-green and clear; some is stained; "A" structure is rare.
9.	Round Mountain mine (asbestos)	A "large tonnage" of mass-fiber asbestos was produced by Powhatan Mining Co. during 1956 and 1957; entire ultramafic body was removed during mining (Conrad and others, 1963).	High-grade, mass-fiber anthophyllite asbestos (Conrad and others, 1963).
10.	Soapstone occurrence	Occasional production for local use; blocks of soapstone have been sawed from several outcrops on a steep hillside.	Massive, gray-mottled soapstone.
11.	Bee Cove Creek prospect (asbestos)	No production; limited trenching by Powhatan Mining Co. in 1971 at top of slope above ultramafic outcrop.	Outcrop (approximately 30 ft high by 20 ft wide) is altered ultramafic rock; some asbestos can be seen in hand specimen. Prospecting permit number ES-9884, issued by U.S. Bureau of Land Management in November 1971, is expired.
12.	Magnetite occurrence	No production; Roper and Dunn (1970) report prospect pits nearby with 200-lb magnetite boulders.	Magnetite-rich rock yields blocks up to 5 in.^{2} at this site. Unit has above-background radioactivity; USBM analyses indicate anomalous concentrations of gallium, 0.006 percent; niobium, 0.01 percent; vanadium, 0.06 percent; uranium, 5.9 percent. Additional analyses and information in Luce and others (1985), and Siems and others (1981).
13.	John O'Leary prospect (uranium, thorium)	No production; prospect consists of at least six prospect pits about 5 ft across and 8 ft deep and several shallow trenches up to 10 ft long and 3 ft deep.	Three saprolite samples contained the following concentrations: uranium (fluorometric), 60 ppm, 18 ppm, and 6 ppm; thorium (radiometric), 2160 ppm, 140 ppm, and 120 ppm. Highest spectrometer reading, 13 times background, was from a ditch beside a logging road at this site. Mineral determinations by scanning-electron microscope show thorite and allanite as primary radioactive minerals. Additional analyses are reported in Atomic Energy Commission (1968), Price (1976), Siems and others (1981) and Luce and others (1985).
14.	Moodie(?) property (silver, lead)	Production unknown; described by Sloan (1908) as shafts on the east side of the creek and a drift on the west side.	Argentiferous galena in a quartz vein, which was seen by Sloan (1908) in the creek bed, "afforded modest encouragement". Mine was not located during present field investigation.
15.	Unnamed mine (silver?)	Production unknown; 5-ft-high adit extends into hill for 150 ft; dumps at prospect pits north of the adit appear barren.	Quartz veins in adit wall-rock are 1 in. wide and stained black; analyses of a sample show 6.9 ppm (0.2 oz/ton) silver and no gold.
16.	Unnamed mine (silver, lead?)	Production unknown; 15-ft-diameter shaft (elev. 1400 ft) is filled with water to 40 ft below the surface; at elevation 1340 ft a 100-ft-long trench extends into a 40-ft-long and 5-ft-high adit; trenching on strike continues above the adit; small prospect pits are scattered throughout the area.	Remains of an ore furnace are near the mine shaft. Galena crystals are found in quartz on the mine dump (Alan-Jon Zupan, South Carolina Geological Survey, personal communication, 1983). Analyses of wall rock from the adit show no silver and only a trace of gold.
17.	Smelter site (silver)	Production unknown; section of smelter built into hillside is still visible.	Silver ore, usually as argentiferous galena in quartz veins, came from several local mines whose locations were not established. (D. W. Wilbanks, personal communication, 1979).
17a.	Unnamed mine (gold?)	Production unknown. Trench leading to a caved adit trends S 80° E (Alan-Jon Zupan, South Carolina Geological Survey, personal communication, 1983).	Rocks in the dump show hydrothermal stockwork. Pyrite lenses and pockets up to 6 in. in diameter are numerous (Alan-Jon Zupan, South Carolina Geological Survey, personal communication, 1983).
18.	Unnamed prospect (soapstone, silver?)	No soapstone production; 60-ft trench follows the contour; additional trenching extends up hillside. A slumped shaft, 8 ft by 8 ft and 18 ft deep, is located a few feet downslope from the trench.	Ultramafic body is poorly exposed, but soapstone and anthophyllite asbestos are found in dump material from trenches. Bull quartz and tourmaline are found in the dump at the shaft and it is possible that silver was prospected for at this site (Alan-Jon Zupan, South Carolina Geological Survey, personal communication, 1983).
19.	Ultramafic body	No production.	Local residents report early use by Cherokee Indians.
20.	Unnamed prospects (gold)	Production unknown; two adits reported (Jack Lombard, personal communication, 1979).	Adits were not located. Panned concentrates from the stream draining the area yielded 1.37 ppm gold and 10.3 ppm silver.
21.	Chattooga River prospect (asbestos)	About 20 tons of slip-fiber asbestos was extracted by Powhatan Mining Co. in 1955 (Teague, 1956).	Ultramafic body is 200 ft long by 40 to 60 ft thick. Veins of slip-fiber anthophyllite asbestos up to 7 in. thick are found near the hanging wall. Teague (1956) estimates that underground resources remain.
22.	Page property (gold)	Production unknown; considerable amount of placer mining done on Page Branch and Law Ground Creek (Jones, 1909).	Nuggets weighing up to 1 oz were reported from Law Ground Creek (Jones, 1909).
23.	Pig Pen Mountain locality or Nicholson mine (asbestos)	A small quantity of mass-fiber anthophyllite asbestos was produced in 1936; a few additional carloads were produced in 1946 (Teague, 1956).	Peridotite body is about 200 ft long and 50 ft wide (Hopkins, 1914) and is composed of iron-stained mass-fiber asbestos, chlorite, serpentine, and talc. Asbestos from this mine required washing to remove magnetite, manganese, and clay (Teague, 1956).
24.	Laurel Creek mine (corundum, asbestos, vermiculite, olivine)	About 300 tons of corundum per year was produced from the mid-1870s to 1883 (Lewis, 1896); mine development consisted of two open cuts, an inclined shaft, four vertical shafts, a tunnel, and numerous exploratory excavations. A considerable amount of byproduct vermiculite was mined (Hunter and Mattocks, 1936). Limited amounts of asbestos were produced before corundum was discovered (Hopkins, 1914).	Corundum was found in large noncrystalline masses sometimes exceeding a ton (King, 1894); mine was closed because of dewatering problems in main shaft; corundum resources remain. Prospecting in the early 1930s failed to reveal vermiculite near enough to the surface to work (Hunter and Mattocks, 1936). Asbestos is altered and has poor fiber development (Hopkins, 1914). The ultramafic body contains 1,440,000 tons of relatively unaltered forsterite olivine, but the olivine grains are uniformly intermixed with talc and asbestos (Hunter, 1941).
25.	Reid mine (asbestos)	Production unknown; development in 1941 consisted of an open cut 15 ft high, 30 ft long, and 12 ft deep. Asbestos was transported from the mine to a wagon road on Laurel Creek in an 8-in.^{2} flume (Teague, 1956).	First mined for asbestos in the 1890s, then again in 1941; ultramafic body is at least 150 ft long and 40 ft thick; composition is mass-fiber anthophyllite asbestos, vermiculite, and chlorite (Teague, 1956). Vermiculite occurs at the hanging-wall contact in a zone up to 2 ft thick. Teague (1956) states that considerable quantities of mass-fiber asbestos remain.
26.	Hedden placer mine (gold)	Production unknown; flood-plain gravels were worked for 1000 ft upstream from road for a width of up to 200 ft (Yeates and others, 1896).	Two 5-ft-deep prospect pits dug by Yeates and others (1896) into unworked gravels yielded "fair returns"; gold in these pits occurred as coarse particles in gravels, which underlay 3 to 4 ft of overburden. Placer mining occurred concurrently in next drainage south (Yeates and others, 1896).
27.	Hicks mine (asbestos, vermiculite)	More than 50 tons of cross- and slip-fiber asbestos and 10 tons of vermiculite were produced in 1946 by Powhatan Mining Co. from a drift entry (Teague, 1956). Earlier production, around 1885, was from an open cut and a 30-ft adit (Hopkins, 1914).	Ultramafic body is 300 ft long by 150 ft wide and contains reserves of mass-, cross-, and slip-fiber anthophyllite asbestos and vermiculite (Teague, 1956).
28.	Hicks mine (mica)	Production unknown. A caved, 60-ft-long drift follows a pegmatite (Galpin, 1915).	Pegmatite varies in width from 1 to 6 ft; mica is brownish and occurs in small, thick plates (Galpin, 1915).
29.	Pegmatite occurrence (mica)	No production; no evidence of prospecting.	Largest pegmatite seen in study area; exposure is 12 ft high, 10 ft deep, and 5 ft wide; mica, a major mineral, is in books up to 3 in.^{2} and 1 in. thick; it is greenish, commonly free of inclusions and structures; chemical analyses indicate an iron content of 1.9 percent.
30.	Pegmatite occurrence (mica)	No production; no evidence of prospecting.	A partial exposure in road cut is 2 ft high and 10 ft long; appears to be border and wall zones of the pegmatite; border zone is a medium-grained mixture of feldspar, quartz, and biotite; wall zone is composed of microcline perthite in 2-in.^{2} crystals and muscovite in 1-in.^{2} crystals.
31.	Pegmatite occurrence (mica)	No production; no evidence of prospecting.	A 2-ft-high, badly weathered pegmatite is exposed in a logging roadcut for 15 ft; muscovite, which composes about 5 percent of the pegmatite, is greenish, has numerous inclusions, and is in books 2 in.^{2} by 0.25 in. thick.



Base from U.S. Geological Survey, 1:24,000
Cashiers, 1946; Highlands, 1946 (photorevised 1967); Satolah, 1961; Tamassee, 1959

Figure 2.--Mines, prospects, and mineral sites.

STUDIES RELATED TO WILDERNESS

The Wilderness Act (Public Law 88-577, September 3, 1964) and related acts require the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Bureau of Mines to survey certain areas on Federal lands to determine the mineral values, if any, that may be present. Results must be made available to the public and be submitted to the President and the Congress. This report presents the results of a mines and prospects survey of the Ellicott Rock Wilderness and additions in the Sumter National Forest, Oconee County, South Carolina; the Nantahala National Forest, Macon and Jackson Counties, North Carolina; and the Chattahoochee National Forest, Rabun County, Georgia. The Ellicott Rock Wilderness was established by Public Law 93-622, January 3, 1975. The Ellicott Rock Extension Roadless Area (A8031), in Sumter, Nantahala, and Chattahoochee National Forests, was recommended for wilderness; and the Ellicott Rock Expansion (08112) and Persimmon Mountain (L8116) Roadless Areas, in Sumter National Forest, were classified as further planning areas during the Second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) by the U.S. Forest Service, January 1979 (table 1).

INTRODUCTION

The Ellicott Rock Wilderness and additions were investigated for mineral resources by the U.S. Bureau of Mines (USBM) in the fall of 1978 and the fall of 1979; the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) mapped the geology in 1978 and 1979 (Bell and Luce, 1983) and assessed the mineral resource potential of the study area (Luce and others, 1983).

During the USBM field reconnaissance, 63 rock and mineral samples and 10 panned-concentrate samples were collected and submitted to the Bureau's Reno Research Center, Reno, Nev., for analysis. Testing included spectrographic analyses for 40 elements, fire assays for gold and silver, fluorometric determinations for uranium, radiometric determinations for thorium, and atomic absorption tests for iron, copper, lead, and zinc. In addition, mineral identifications and petrographic descriptions were obtained for many of the samples.

Analyses for 103 stream-sediment samples, 76 panned concentrates, and 73 rock samples collected by the USGS are reported in Siems and others (1981). Geochemical anomalies for stream drainage basins and rock types were determined by Luce and others (1985) on the basis of these analyses. Aeromagnetic and aeroradiometric data for the region that includes the study area were interpreted by Luce and Daniels (1985).

SURFACE- AND MINERAL-RIGHTS OWNERSHIP

With three exceptions (numbers 5, 6, and 7, fig. 1) all land within individual area boundaries is owned by the U.S. Government and is administered by the U.S. Forest Service. There are no outstanding mineral rights on Federal land in the study area. One prospecting permit in the Persimmon Mountain area (U.S. Bureau of Land Management, number ES-9884) was issued in 1971 to Powhatan Mining Company to prospect for amphibole asbestos (site 11, fig. 2), but the prospect was not developed; the permit lapsed and was not renewed.

GEOLOGICAL SUMMARY

The following is summarized from Bell and Luce (1983). The study area is in the Blue Ridge physiographic province. Most of the rocks are of Precambrian age. The Toxaway Gneiss, a Middle Proterozoic granite to granodiorite, is overlain probably unconformably by the Tallulah Falls Formation of Late Proterozoic and (or) early Paleozoic age. Both units are probably metasedimentary rather than igneous; they have been complexly deformed by five and possibly six periods of folding (Hatcher, 1977). A major structural feature in the study area is a northeast-trending, northwest-verging anticlinorium which is a possible nappe or dome (Luce and Daniels, 1985; Hatcher, 1977). Foliation within the two rock units, lithologic contacts, and fold-axial surfaces generally have a northeastward strike and a moderate dip to the southeast. Rocks of the Brevard fault zone, of Middle Proterozoic to Early Cambrian age, crop out in the southeast corner of the study area. Small slices of ultramafic rock of Late Proterozoic or Early Paleozoic age crop out in a northeastward trend near the western contact of the Toxaway Gneiss and Tallulah Falls Formation, near the western boundary of the Persimmon Mountain area.

MINING AND PROSPECTING

Mining has occurred in the study area and surrounding region. Quartz veins and placer deposits have yielded small amounts of gold, silver, and lead; and pegmatites have been the source of minor amounts of mica, feldspar, and beryl. Ultramafic bodies have yielded asbestos, corundum, soapstone, and vermiculite, and are a potential source of olivine. Magnetite, uranium, and thorium have been prospected. The region also has been a source of construction stone and gemstones. Within the Ellicott Rock Wilderness and additions, past activity has included mining and prospecting for mica, gold, asbestos, soapstone, silver, and probably lead (table 2).

Gold, silver, and lead

Sulfide-enriched quartz veins are the chief source of the small amounts of gold, silver, and lead mined in the region. The ore minerals are native gold and silver and argentiferous galena. Gold, particularly in placer deposits, was mined in the Hall County belt (Yeates and others, 1896) of Georgia and in its northern extension into Macon County, N.C. An underground mine and a placer mine in this belt are within the boundary of Ellicott Rock Extension (site 1, fig. 2). In Oconee County, S.C., silver and lead as well as gold were mined from quartz veins. Placer mining of adjacent streams often preceded the development of the underground mines. Several underground silver mines are located in the Persimmon Mountain area (sites 14, 15, 16, fig. 2); lead was probably mined as a coproduct. This area also contained two silver smelters (sites 16 and 17, fig. 2). Sloan (1908) described gold mines that would be within the boundary of the Persimmon Mountain area, but they were not found. A probable gold mine about 0.5 mi south of the boundary was reported recently by Alan-Jon Zupan of the South Carolina Geological Survey and has been added to figure 2 as site 17a. A little gold prospecting occurred in the Ellicott Rock Expansion (site 20, fig. 2).

Analyses of vein quartz, mine wall-rock, and dump samples all show only minor concentrations of gold (0.2 parts per million (ppm)) and silver (6.9 ppm), and no detectable concentrations of lead. In panned-concentrate samples, gold constituted as much as 4 ppm, silver as much as 10 ppm, and lead as much as 100 ppm.

Pegmatites

Pegmatites have been the site of small-scale mining for mica, feldspar, and beryl in the region since about 1880. Two pegmatite districts are in the vicinity of the study area: the Cashiers district in North Carolina (Olson, 1952) and the Rabun district in Georgia (Lesure and Shirley, 1968). These districts are on strike with each other and are only 5 mi apart. The intervening area is national forest land and includes parts of Ellicott Rock Wilderness and Ellicott Rock Extension (fig. 2). Field evidence noted during the present investigation made it apparent that the zone of pegmatites is continuous and that the two districts are connected across the study area.

Pegmatite bodies in the region are usually small. Olson (1952) reported that 80 percent of those in the Cashiers district are less than 15 ft wide. Mica produced from these districts was usually green or brownish-green and generally was stained, bent, or ruled, although a clear, good-quality mica has been produced from a few Cashiers district mines (Olson, 1952).

Feldspar has also been mined locally, but the development by the USBM in 1946 of a method to concentrate it from feldspar-rich rocks has made production of this mineral from small pegmatites uneconomic.

The only recorded production of beryl from local mines was in the Cashiers district at the Sheep Cliff mine, approximately 9 mi northeast of the study area (Olson, 1952). Beryl was not observed in study area pegmatites during the present investigation.

Ultramafic bodies

Local ultramafic bodies have been mined or prospected for asbestos, corundum, soapstone, and vermiculite. They are a potential source of olivine, and may contain small amounts of chromium (Luce and others, 1985). Outcrops of four ultramafic bodies of undetermined size have been located in the study area. One of these is the site of asbestos prospecting (site 11, fig. 2). A soapstone deposit in the Persimmon Mountain area (site 10, fig. 2) has been a local source of dimension stone; several small outcrops from which stone has been sawed are found on the steep hillside about 50 ft below South Carolina Route 107. There is no evidence of commercial development. Site 18 (fig. 2) in the Persimmon Mountain area was also prospected for soapstone.

Uranium and thorium

Two areas displaying anomalous uranium or thorium concentrations have been recognized in the study area. One, in the Persimmon Mountain area, is the site of previous work in connection with the National Uranium Resource Evaluation program (NURE) (Price, 1976); the other, in Ellicott Rock Extension, was revealed by stream-sediment analyses (Siems and others, 1981).

Magnetite

A 1.5-ft-thick magnetite-rich layer in the Toxaway Gneiss is exposed east of the Persimmon Mountain area (in the vicinity of site 12, fig. 2). Nearby, some small prospect pits are located near magnetite boulders that weigh up to 200 lbs (Roper and Dunn, 1970). Semiquantitative spectrographic analyses indicate that several elements associated with the magnetite have anomalously high concentrations: uranium, 5.9 ppm; gallium, 0.006 percent; niobium, 0.01 percent; tin, 0.04 percent; and vanadium, 0.06 percent. USGS samples have anomalously high concentrations of lanthanum, 0.07 percent (Siems and others, 1981). The magnetite-rich layer has not yet been identified within the study area.

Gemstones

Amethyst is reported to have been found at the Ammons Branch mine (site 1, fig. 2). The region northeast of the study area has produced gem corundum--usually sapphire--from ultramafic bodies, and locally a small amount of gem beryl has been found in pegmatites.

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MAP SHOWING MINES, PROSPECTS, AND MINERAL SITES IN THE ELLICOTT ROCK WILDERNESS AND ADDITIONS, SOUTH CAROLINA, NORTH CAROLINA, AND GEORGIA

By
Gertrude C. Gazdik, U.S. Bureau of Mines
1985

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