

PRISTINE NATURE?

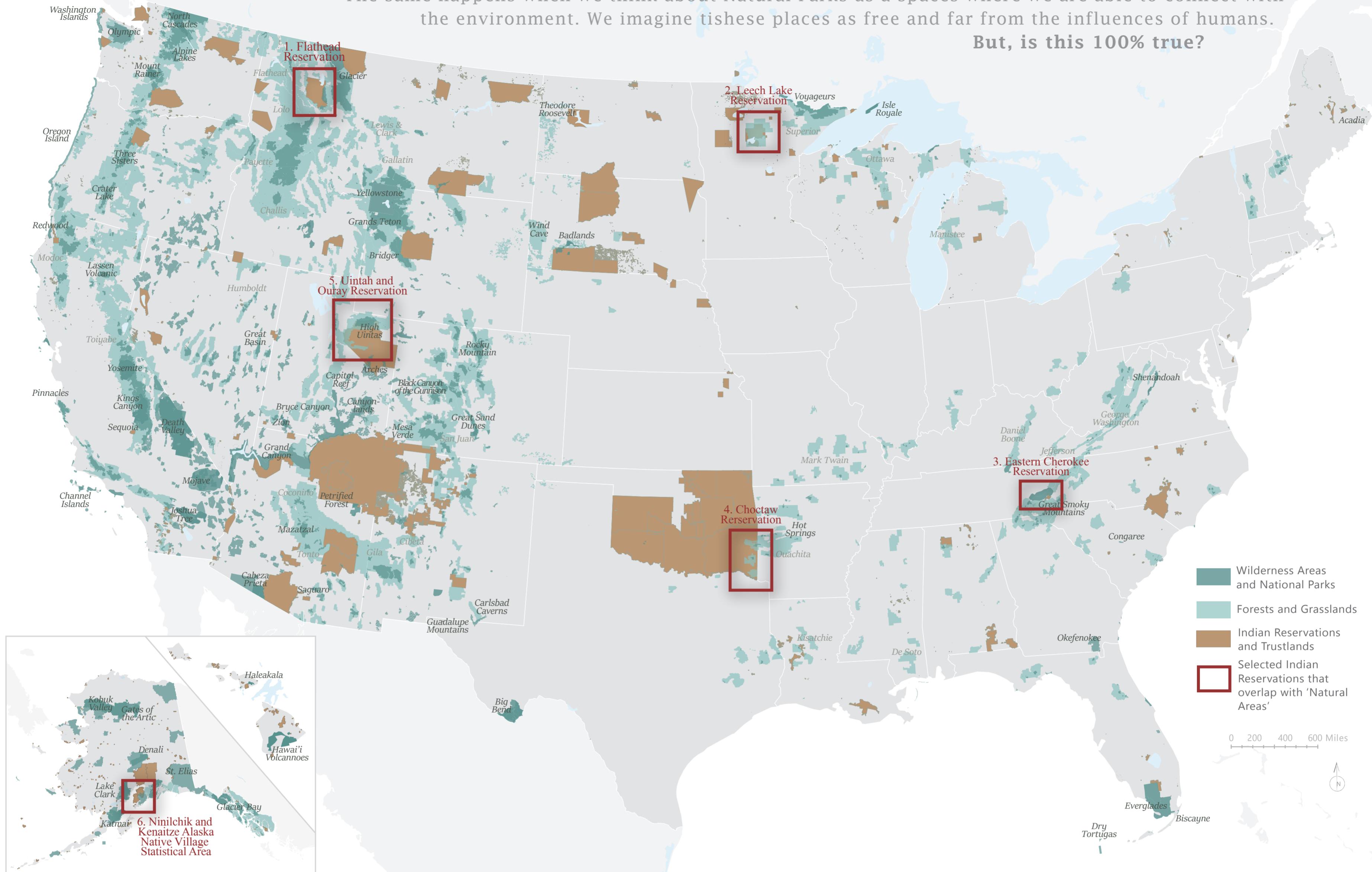
"The clearest way to the Universe is through a forest wilderness" - John Muir

According to the Wilderness Act of 1964, "wilderness is an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man". It is "undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation".

For many people this means that the wilderness areas are 'the last places' that have a pristine nature.

The same happens when we think about Natural Parks as a spaces where we are able to connect with the environment. We imagine these places as free and far from the influences of humans.

But, is this 100% true?

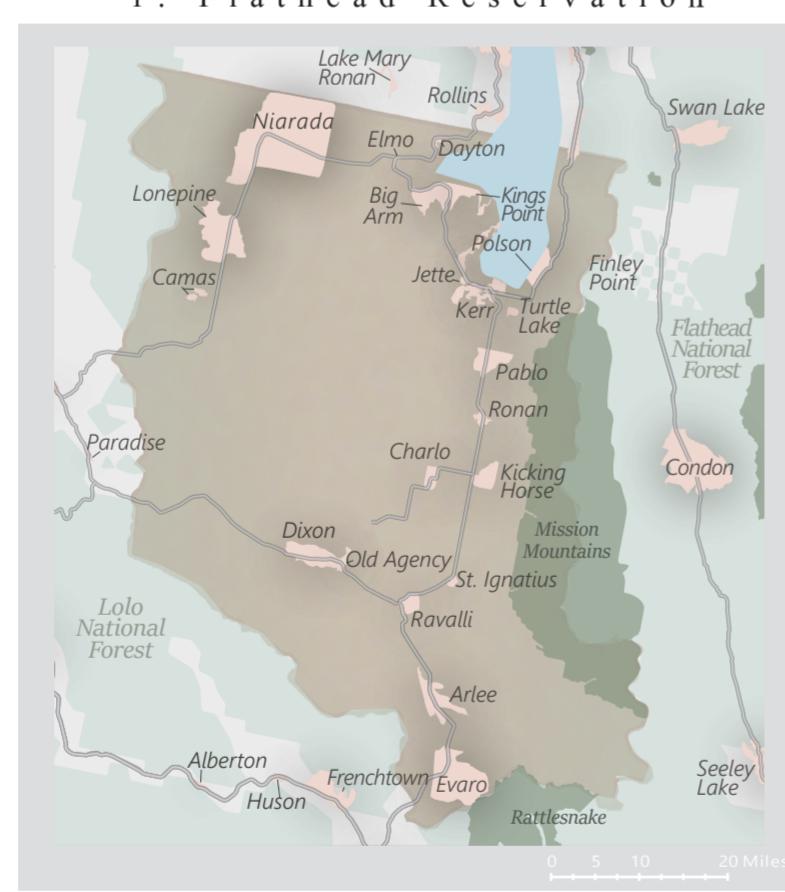


Z o o m e d - i n r e a l i t y a n d i t s c o m p l e x i t y :

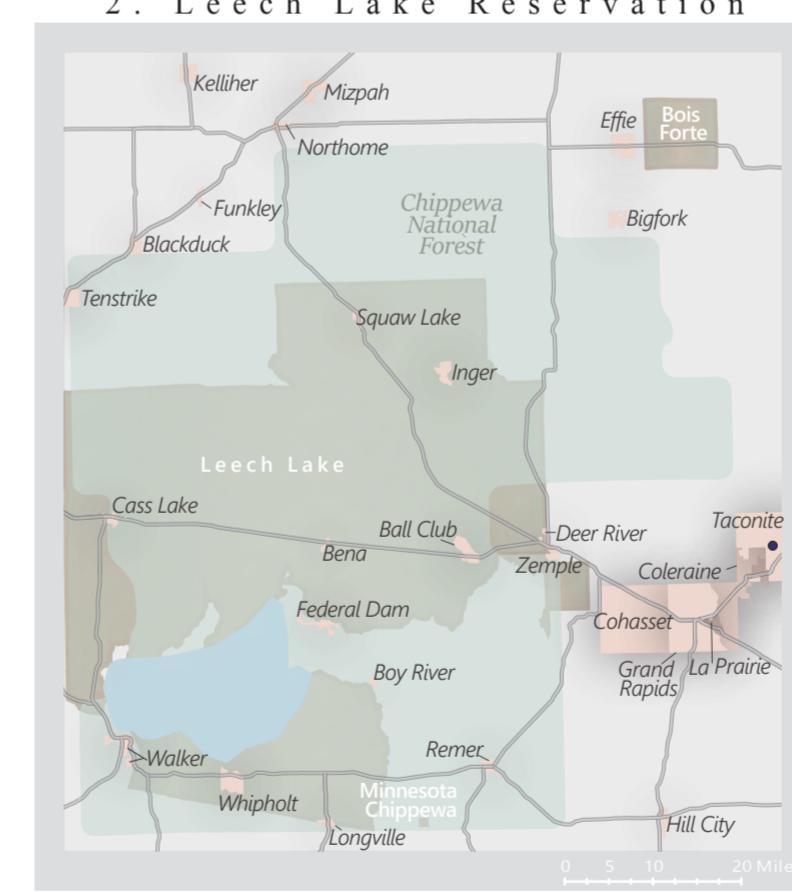
The frontiers between Indigenous lands, Wilderness areas, National Parks and Forests are diffuse. This means that not only do we have 'natural areas' within Indian Reservations and Trustlands, but we also have people living in extreme proximity to 'untouched nature'.



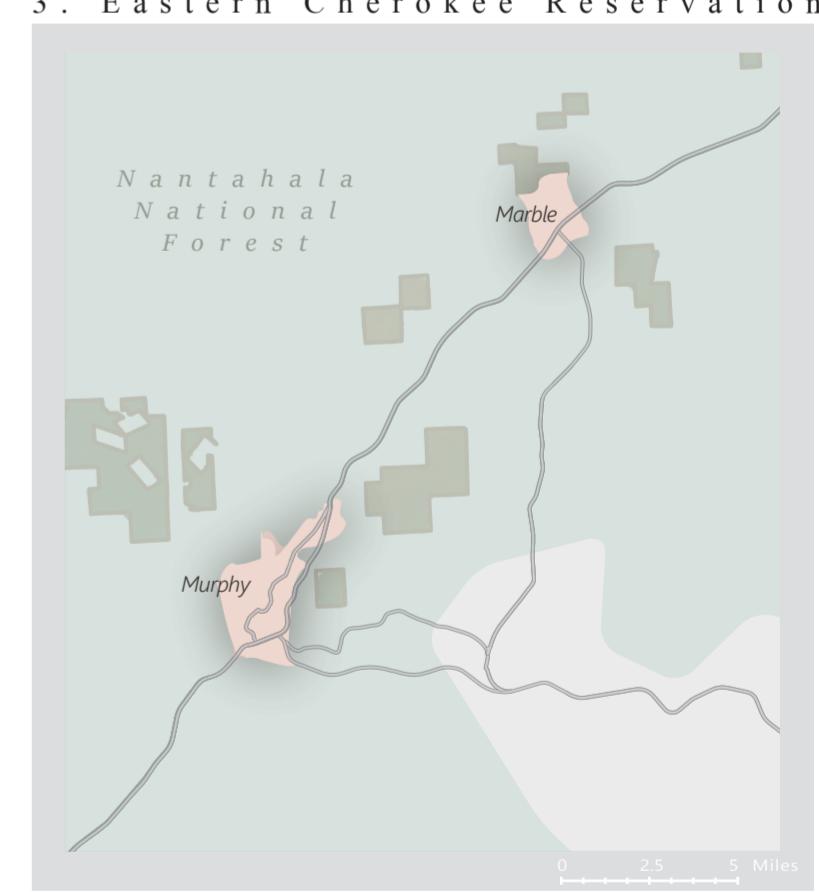
1. Flathead Reservation



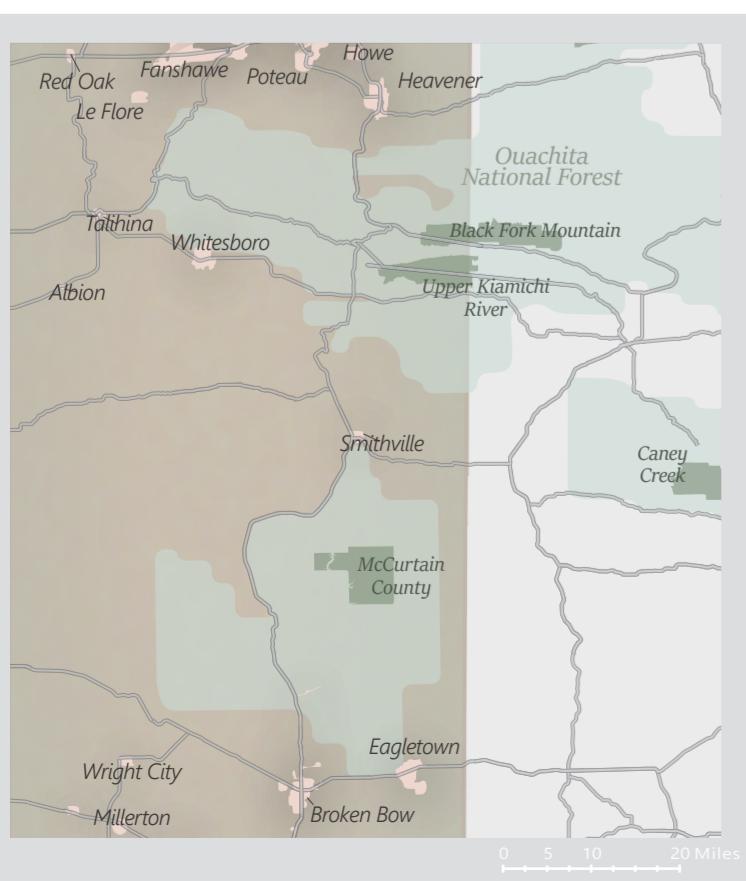
2. Leech Lake Reservation



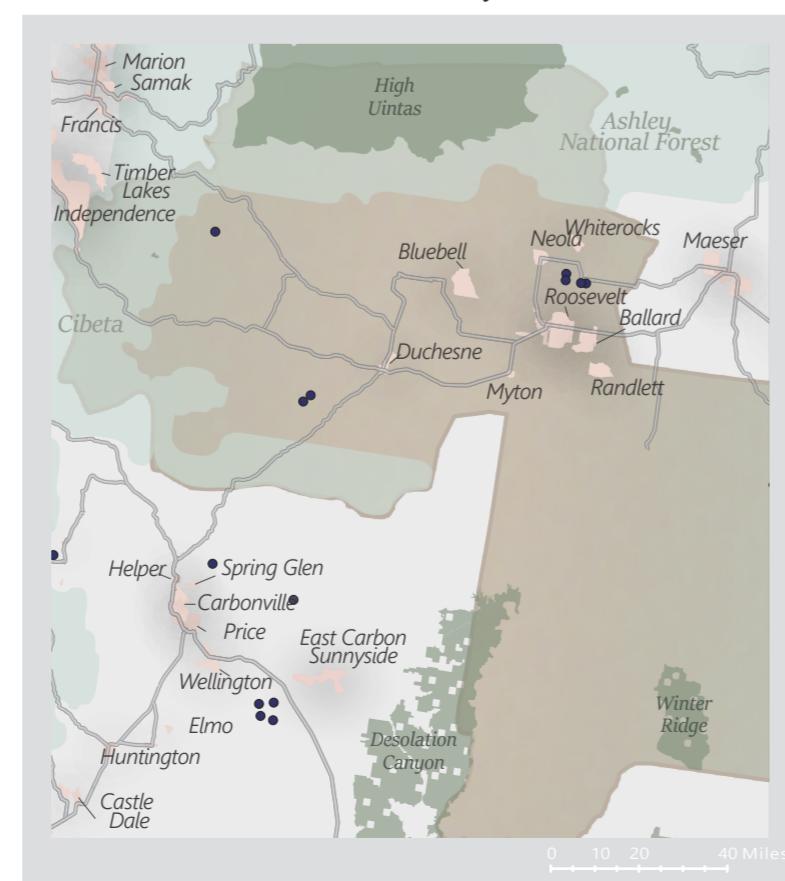
3. Eastern Cherokee Reservation



4. Choctaw Reservation



5. Uintah and Ouray Reservation



6. Ninilchik and Kenaitze Alaska Native Village Statistical Area



In this context, considering that the activities carried out by indigenous communities such as fishing and hunting alter the ecosystem, and considering that before 100 years ago the regulations on 'natural areas' did not exist, we can see that

labeling an area as 'free from human influence' or as 'pristine nature' is not possible.