

Appendix I

Population and Growth Trends in the Hiwassee River Basin

Population and Growth Trends

Below are three different ways of presenting population data for the Hiwassee River basin. The data presented by basin allow for 2000 population data to be presented by subbasin. Population data presented by county allow for analysis of projected growth trends in the basin based on information from the Office of State Planning (April-May, 2001). Data presented by municipality summarizes information on past growth of large urban areas in the basin. While the three different sets of information cannot be directly compared, general conclusions are apparent by looking at the information. Counties with the highest expected growth are associated with the largest municipal areas and the most densely populated subbasins in the basin.

Basin Population and Population Density

Information on population density at a watershed scale is useful in determining what streams are likely to have the most impacts as a result of population growth. This information is also useful in identifying stream segments that have good opportunities for preservation or restoration. This information is presented to estimate population and population density by each subbasin and for the entire basin. It is assumed that county populations are distributed evenly throughout each county; therefore, subbasins that are within counties with large urban areas may overestimate the actual population in that portion of the basin. The overall population of the basin based on 2000 Census data is 31,271, with approximately 49 persons/square mile. (See the map of hydrologic units and population density.) The overall population and persons/square mile is estimated based on the percent of the county land area that is partially or entirely within the basin.

County Population and Growth Trends

The following table and map show the projected population for 2020 and the change in growth between 1990 and 2020 for counties that are partially or entirely contained within the basin. Since river basin boundaries do not coincide with county boundaries, these numbers are not directly applicable to the Hiwassee River basin. This information is intended to present an estimate of expected population growth in counties that have some land area in the Hiwassee River basin. For more information on past, current and projected population estimates, contact the Office of State Planning at (919) 733-4131 or visit their website at <http://demog.state.nc.us>.

| County | Percent of County in Basin ♦ | County Population 1990 | County Population 2000 | Estimated % Growth 1990-2000 | Estimated Population 2020 | Estimated % Growth 2000-2020 |
|------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Cherokee | 98% | 20,170 | 24,298 | 17% | 30,660 | 20.8% |
| Clay | 85% | 7,155 | 8,775 | 18.5% | 11,916 | 26.4% |
| Subtotals | | 27,325 | 33,073 | 17.4% | 42,576 | 22.3% |

♦ Source: North Carolina Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (CGIA), 1997.

Note: The numbers reported reflect county population; however, these counties are not entirely within the basin. The intent is to demonstrate growth for counties located wholly or partially within the basin.

Municipal Population and Growth Trends

The table below presents population data from Office of State Planning for municipalities located partially or entirely in the basin. These data represent three municipalities in the basin.

| Municipality | County | April 1980 | April 1990 | April 2000 | Percent Change (1980-1990) | Percent Change (1990-2000) |
|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Andrews | Cherokee | 1,621 | 2,551 | 1,602 | 57.4% | -37.2% |
| Hayesville | Clay | 376 | 279 | 297 | -25.8% | 6.5% |
| Murphy | Cherokee | 2,070 | 1,575 | 1,568 | -23.9% | -0.4% |

- - The numbers reported reflect municipality population; however, these municipalities are not entirely within the basin. The intent is to demonstrate growth for municipalities located wholly or partially within the basin.

Projected Population Growth (2000-2020) by County and Population Density by Subbasin for the Hiwassee River Basin



