

Appendix I

Population and Growth Trends in the Little Tennessee River Basin

Population and Growth Trends

Below are three different ways of presenting population data for the Little Tennessee 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 49,653, with approximately 66 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 Little Tennessee River basin. This information is intended to present an estimate of expected population growth in counties that have some land area in the Little Tennessee 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	2	20,170	24,298	20.5%	30,660	26.2%
Clay	10	7,155	8,775	22.6%	11,916	35.8%
Graham	100	7,196	7,993	11.1%	8,723	9.1%
Jackson	88	26,835	33,121	23.4%	43,630	31.7%
Macon	94	23,504	29,811	26.8%	40,288	35.1%
Swain	100	11,268	12,968	15.1%	15,728	21.3%
Subtotals		96,128	116,966	119.5%	150,945	159.2%

♦ 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 six municipalities in the basin.

Municipality	County	Apr-80	Apr-90	Apr-2000	% Change (1980-1990)	% Change (1990-2000)
Bryson City	Swain	1,556	1,145	1,411	-26.4	23.2
Dillsboro	Jackson	179	121	205	-32.4	69.4
Forest Hills	Jackson	...	...	330	...	...
Franklin	Macon	2,640	2,873	3,490	8.8	21.5
Highlands *	Jackson, Macon	653	948	909	45.2	-4.1
Robbinsville	Graham	814	709	747	-12.9	5.4
Santeetlah	Graham	80	47	67	-41.3	42.6
Sylva	Jackson	1,699	1,809	2,435	6.5	34.6
Webster	Jackson	200	410	486	105.0	18.5

- - 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.

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Percent Projected County Population Growth (2000-2020) for Counties of the Little Tennessee
River Basin

