

# **Appendix I**

## **Population and Growth Trends in the Watauga River Basin**

## Population and Growth Trends

Below are three different ways of presenting population data for the Watauga River basin. The data for the entire river basin allow for the 2000 population data to be shown across subbasins. Population data presented by county allow for analysis of projected growth trends in the basin based on information from the Office of State Planning (May, 2006). 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 evaluating 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 activities. 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 23,675, with approximately 115 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 shows the projected population for 2020 and the change in growth between 1990 and 2000 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 Watauga River basin. This information is intended to present an estimate of expected population growth in counties that have some land area in the Watauga River basin. For more information on past, current and projected population estimates, contact the Office of State Planning (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
Avery	26	14,867	17,167	13.4	20,503	16.3
Watauga	45	36,952	42,693	13.4	46,060	7.3
Subtotals		51,819	59,860	13.4	66,563	10.1

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

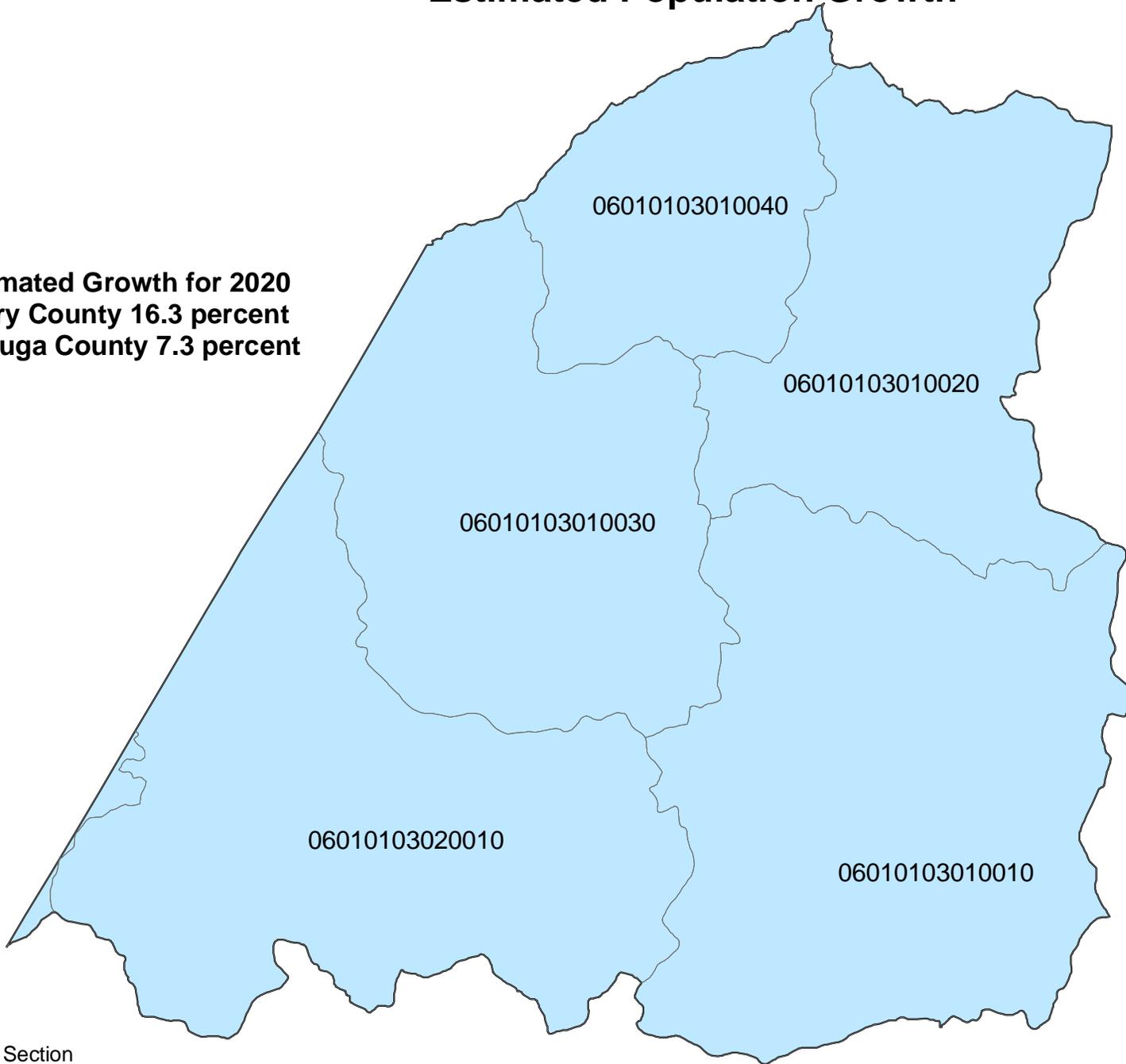
The table below presents population data from Office of State Planning for municipalities located partially or entirely in the basin. These data represent six municipalities in the basin.

Municipality	County	April 1980	April 1990	April 2000	Percent Change (1980-1990)	Percent Change (1990-2000)
Banner Elk	Avery	1,087	933	811	-14.2	-13.1
Beech Mountain	Avery, Watauga	190	239	310	25.8	29.7
Boone*	Watauga	10,191	12,949	13,472	27.1	4.0
Elk Park	Avery	535	486	459	-9.2	-5.6
Seven Devils	Avery, Watauga	54	117	129	116.7	10.3
Sugar Mountain	Avery	188	132	226	-29.8	71.2

- 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.

# 14-Digit Hydrologic Units in the Watauga River Basin and Estimated Population Growth

**Estimated Growth for 2020**  
Avery County 16.3 percent  
Watauga County 7.3 percent



Planning Section  
Basinwide Planning Unit  
September 28, 2006



**Legend**

- 14-Digit Hydrologic Unit
- Estimated Growth Area