

SECTION 3 – REGIONAL PROFILE

This section of the updated Plan provides a general overview of Planning District 14, to provide the reader with a better understanding of the people, assets and makeup of the region. It consists of the following eight (8) subsections:

- Area at a Glance
- Geography
- Land Use
- Transportation
- Population
- Housing
- Employment and Income
- Declared Disasters

This section was updated with new information, including more up-to-date Census data and new maps. Members of the Project Management Team and participating localities reviewed the data presented in the Plan update for accuracy.

Area at a Glance

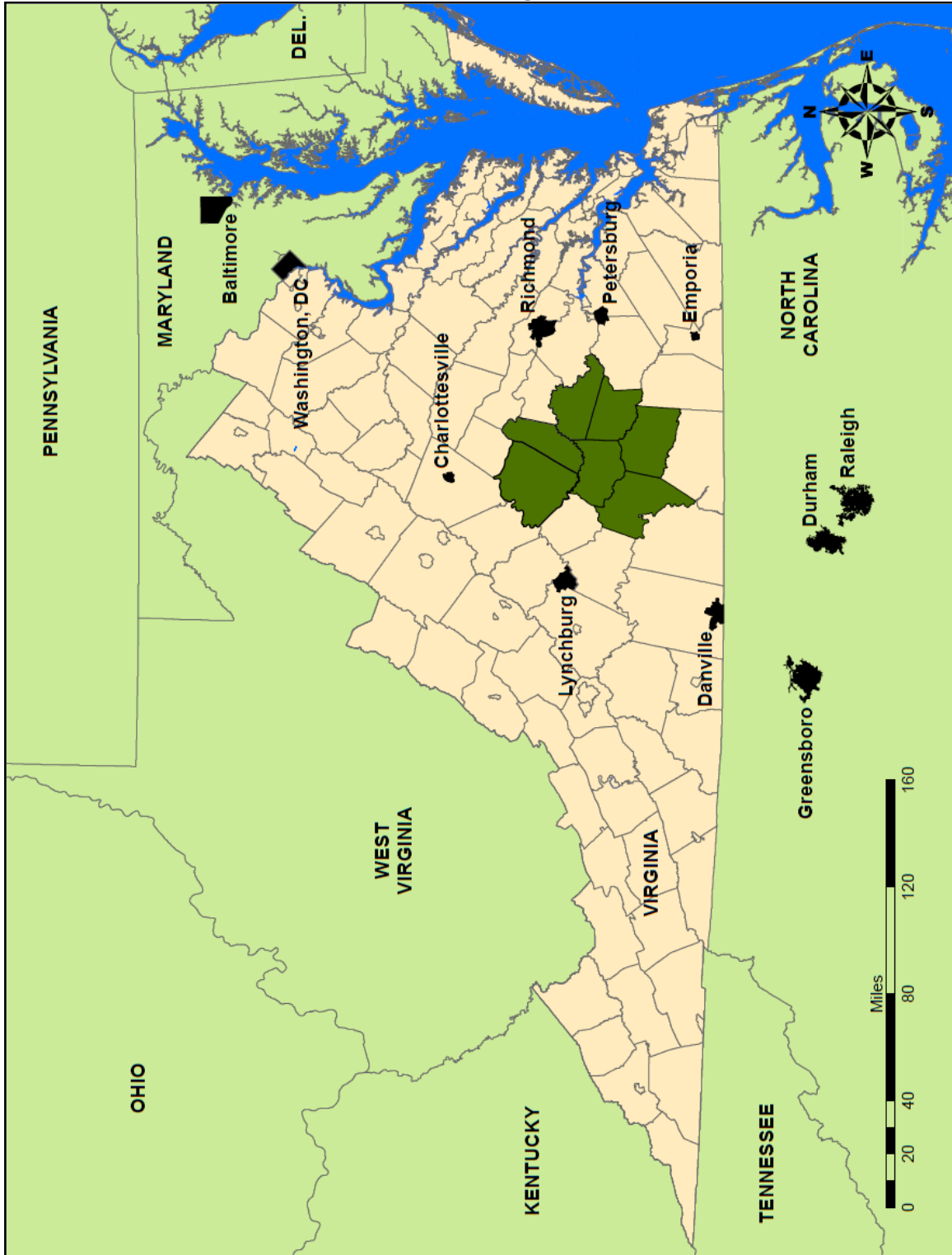
The Piedmont Region of Virginia (referred to in this Plan as Planning District 14), named for the rolling foothills that comprise the picturesque landscape of the region, is also referred to as “Virginia’s Heartland.” The region is located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in south-central Virginia. It is comprised of the counties of Amelia, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Lunenburg, Nottoway and Prince Edward, and the incorporated towns of Blackstone, Burkeville, Charlotte Court House, Crewe, Dillwyn, Drakes Branch, Farmville, Kenbridge, Keysville, Phenix and Victoria. The name of the Piedmont Planning District Commission was changed on July 1, 2005 to the Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC). The CRC works with these jurisdictions to encourage and facilitate local government cooperation and state-local cooperation in addressing, on a regional basis, problems of greater than local significance. **Map 3.1** provides a general overview of the region.

This region, known as “Virginia’s Heartland” because of its geographically centralized location, is characterized by rolling pastures, charming towns, scenic rivers and attractive byways. Residents can boast a high quality of life due to small-town conveniences and comforts, ample outdoor recreation, and abundant natural resources while having appealing urbanizing centers nearby without experiencing many of the headaches that can be found in larger cities. Using the Town of Farmville as roughly the geographic center of the region, Richmond, Virginia, is located approximately 60 miles to the east; Lynchburg, Virginia, is 47 miles to the west, Washington, D.C. is 180 miles to the north; and Norfolk, Virginia, is 150 miles to the southeast.

The maps on the following pages denote the counties within this region, and show their proximity to major localities outside of Virginia.

REGIONAL PROFILE

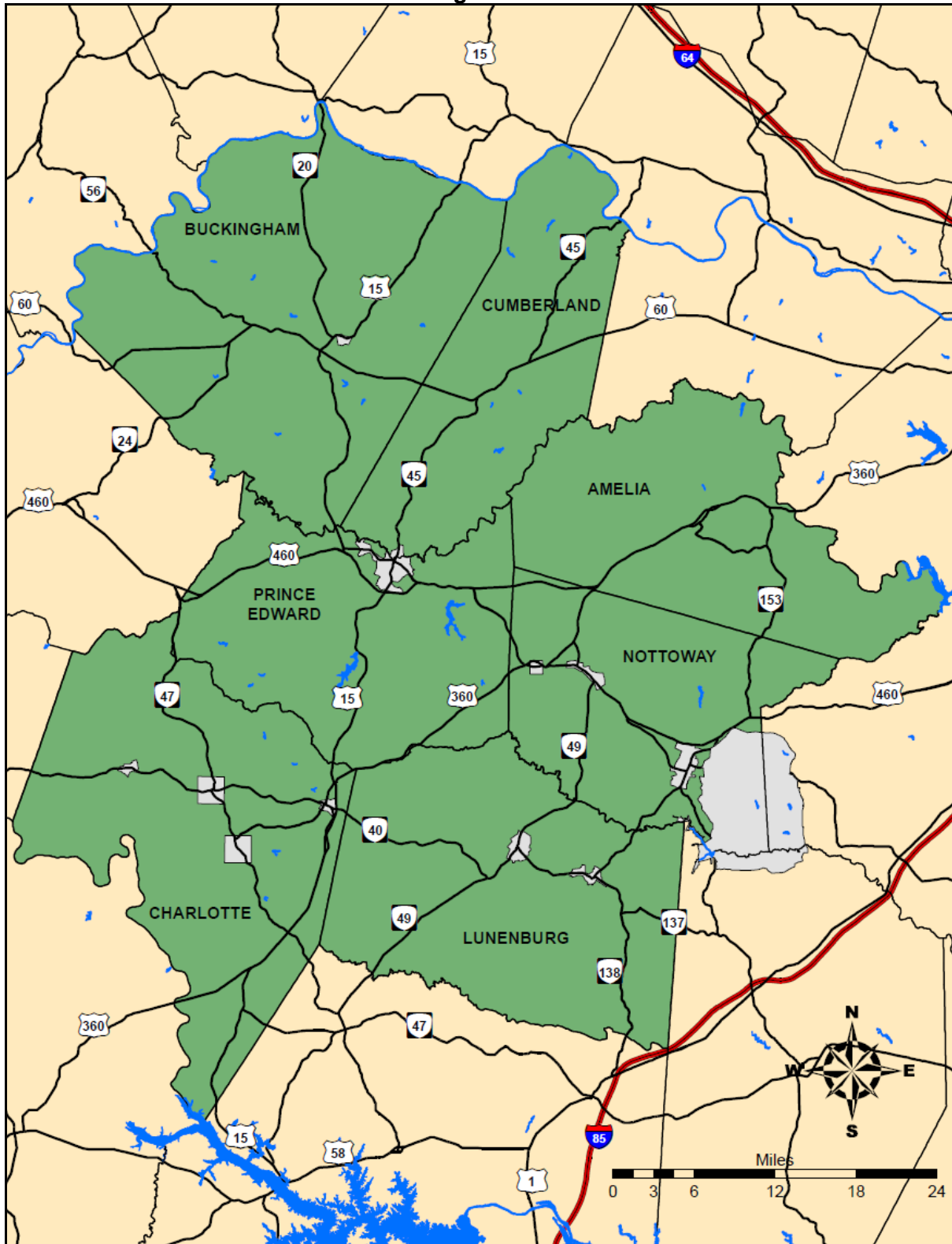
Map 3.1
Location of Planning District 14



Map created by CRC – May 2010

REGIONAL PROFILE

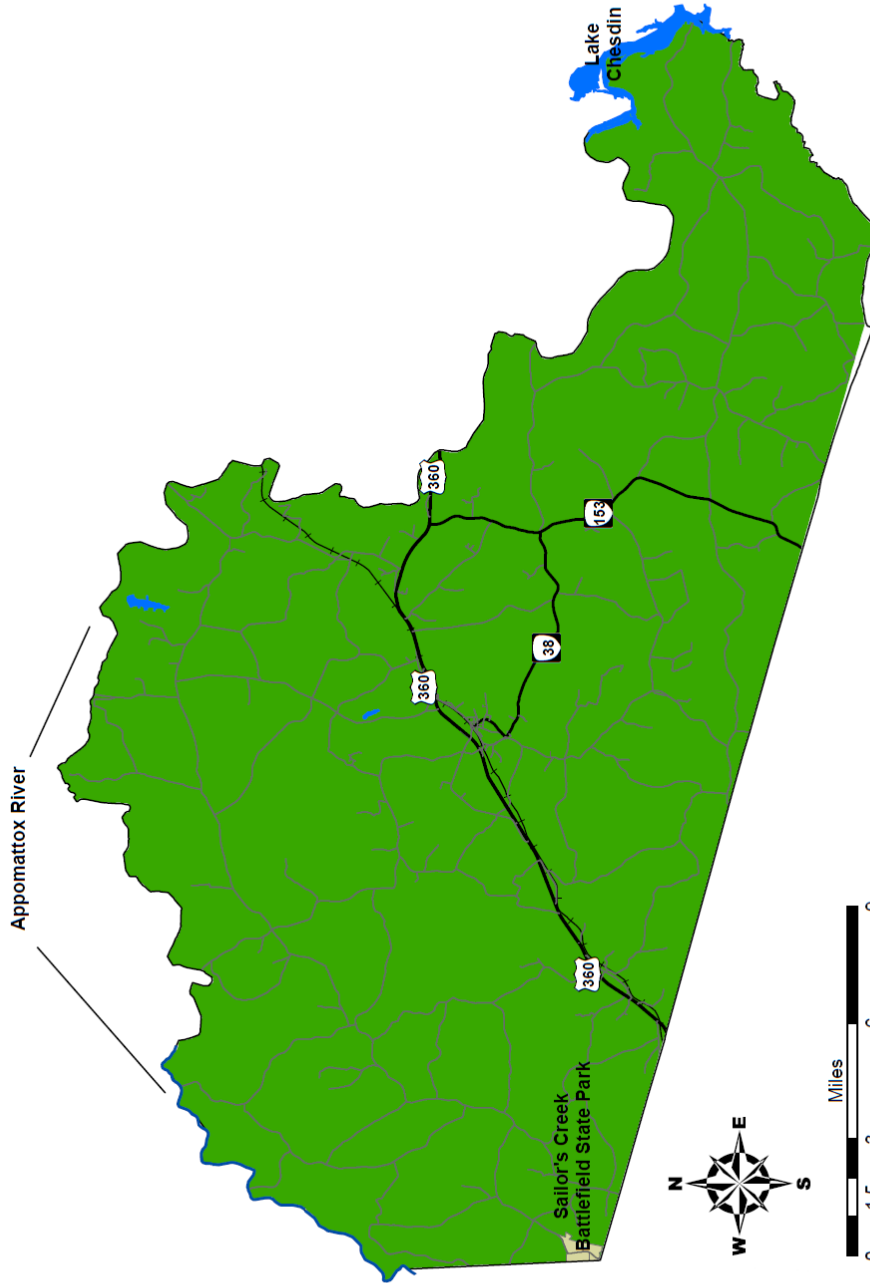
Map 3.2
Planning District 14



Map created by CRC – June 2010

REGIONAL PROFILE

Map 3.2a
Amelia County

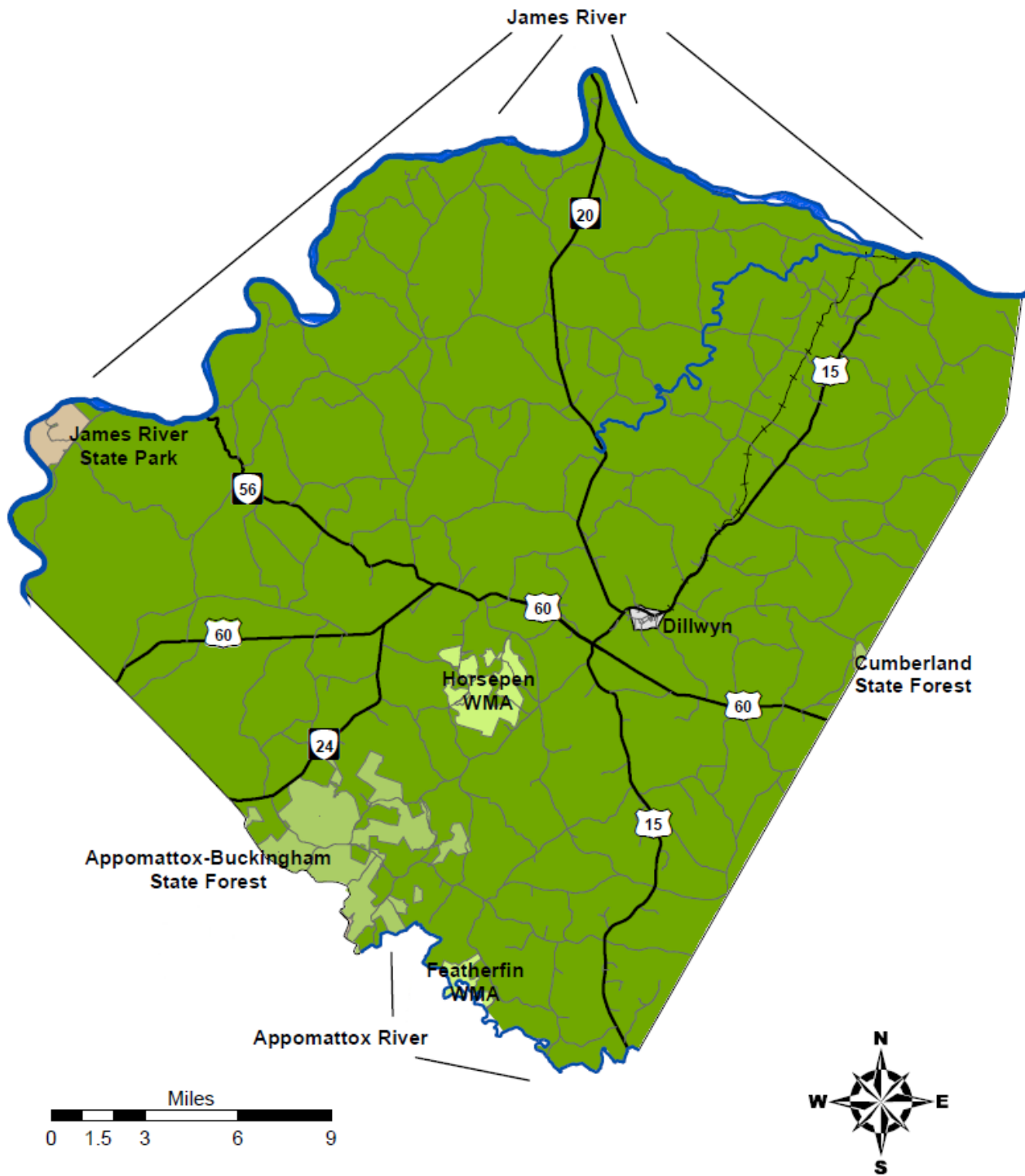


Map created by CRC - May 2010

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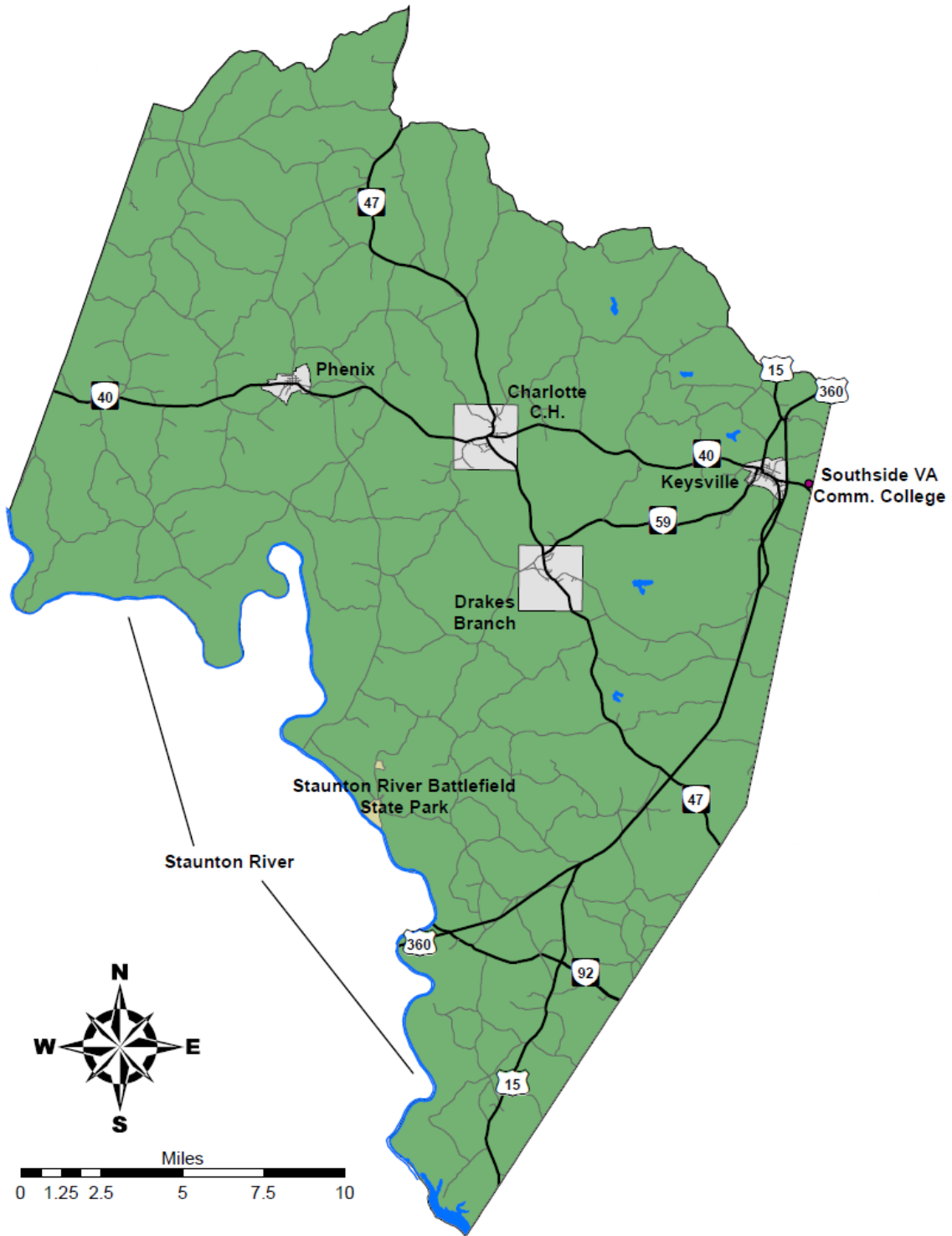
Map 3.2b
Buckingham County



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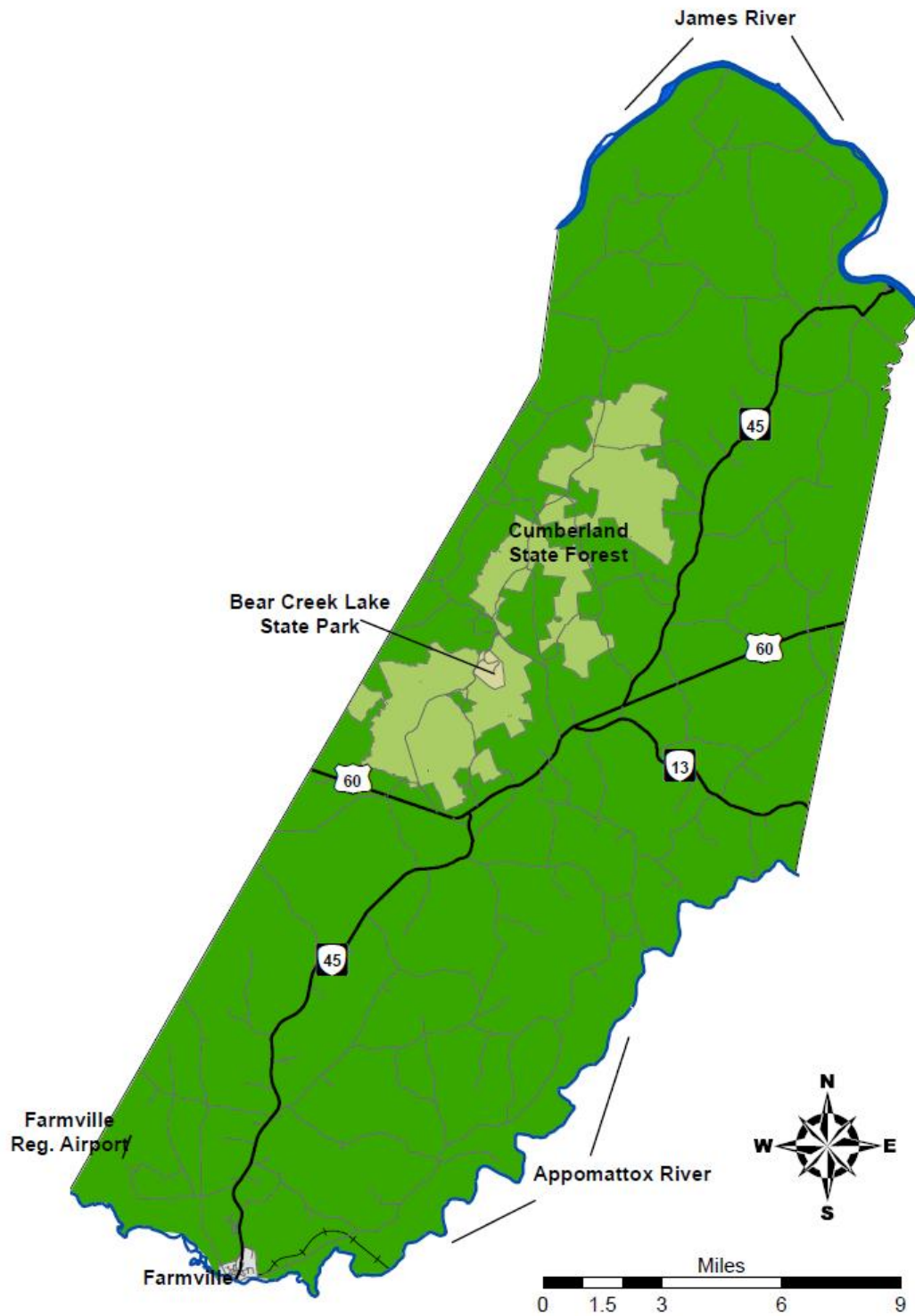
Map 3.2c
Charlotte County



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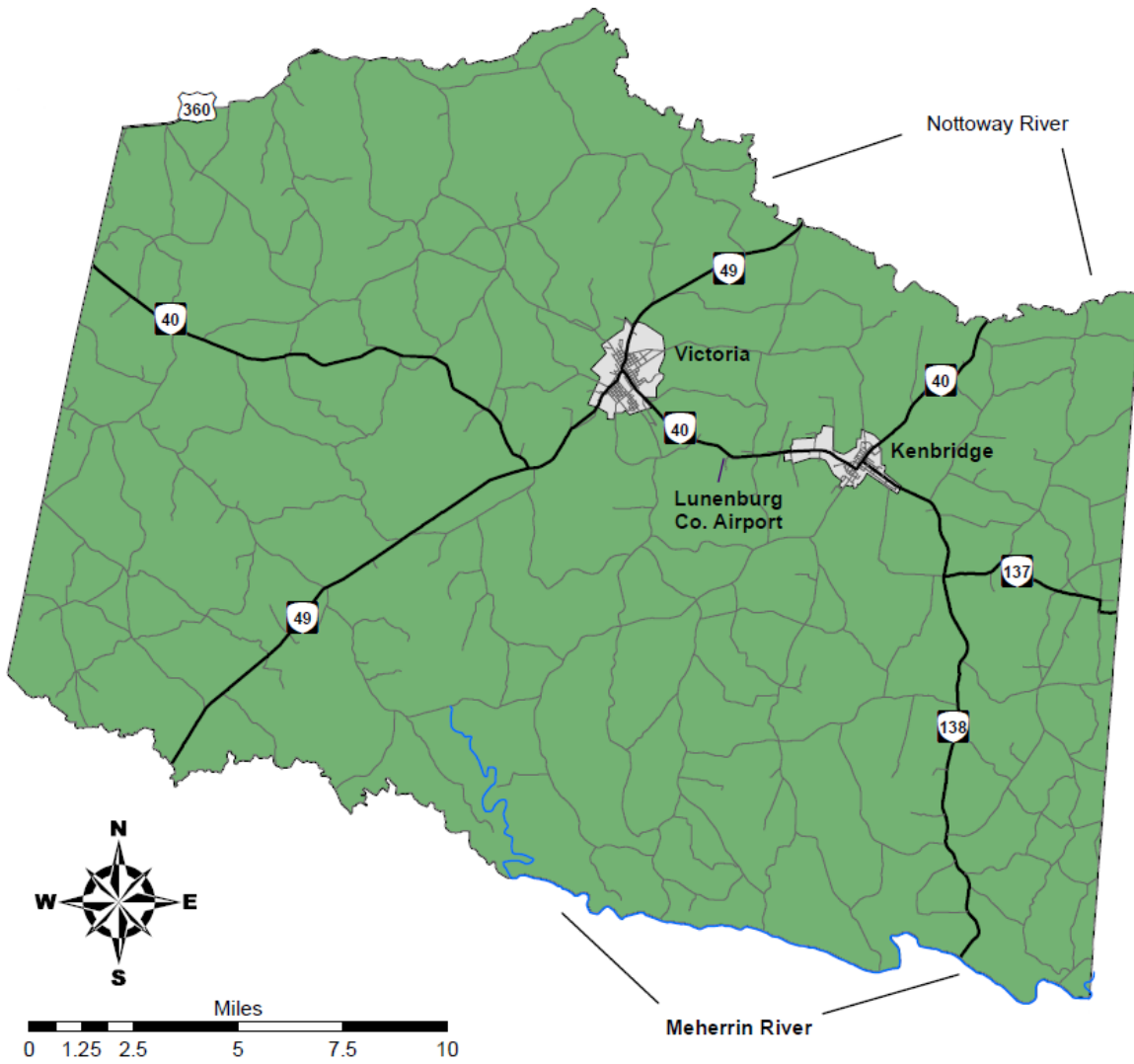
Map 3.2d
Cumberland County



Map created by CRC – May 2010

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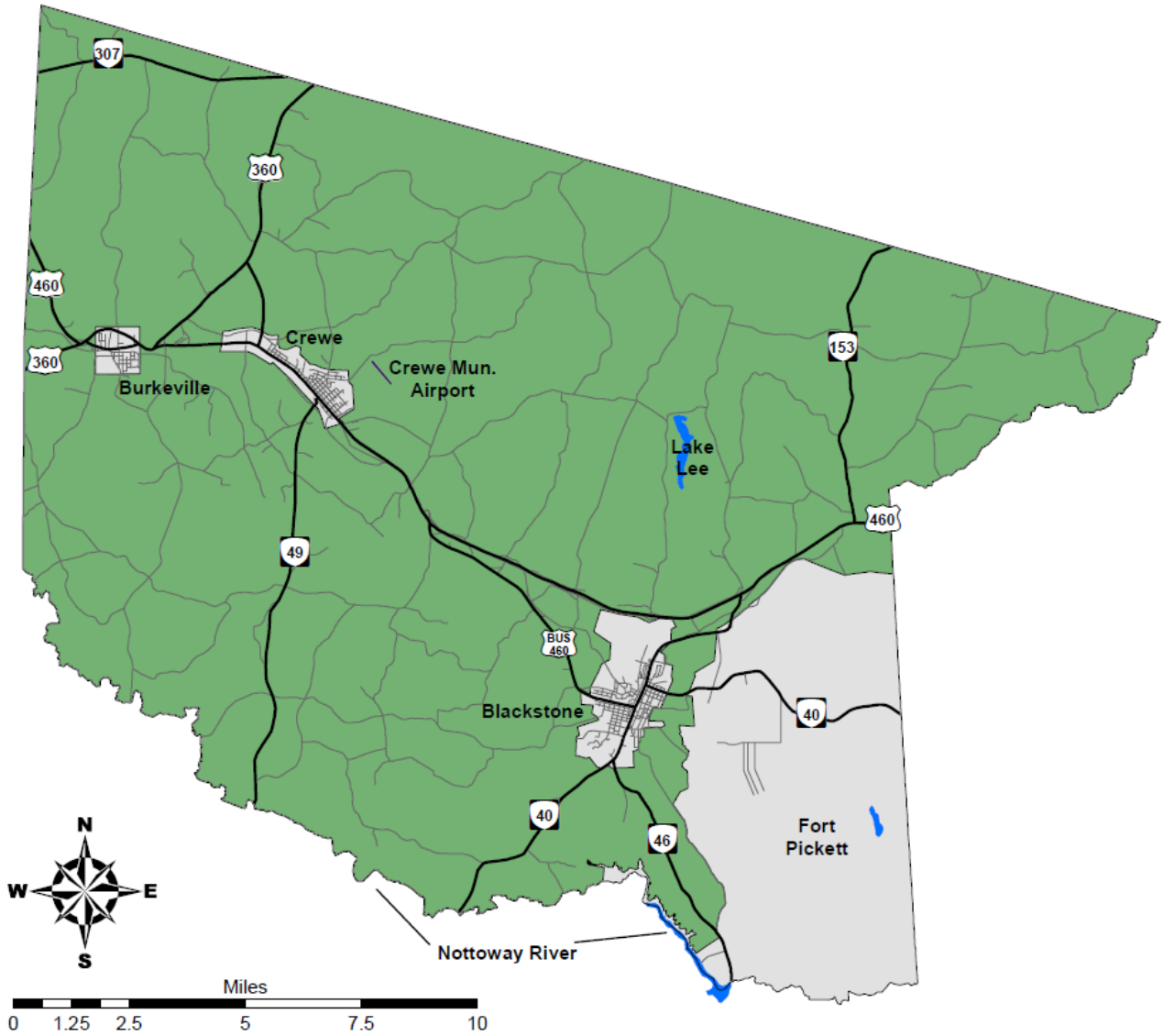
**Map 3.2e
Lunenburg County**



Map created by CRC – May 2010

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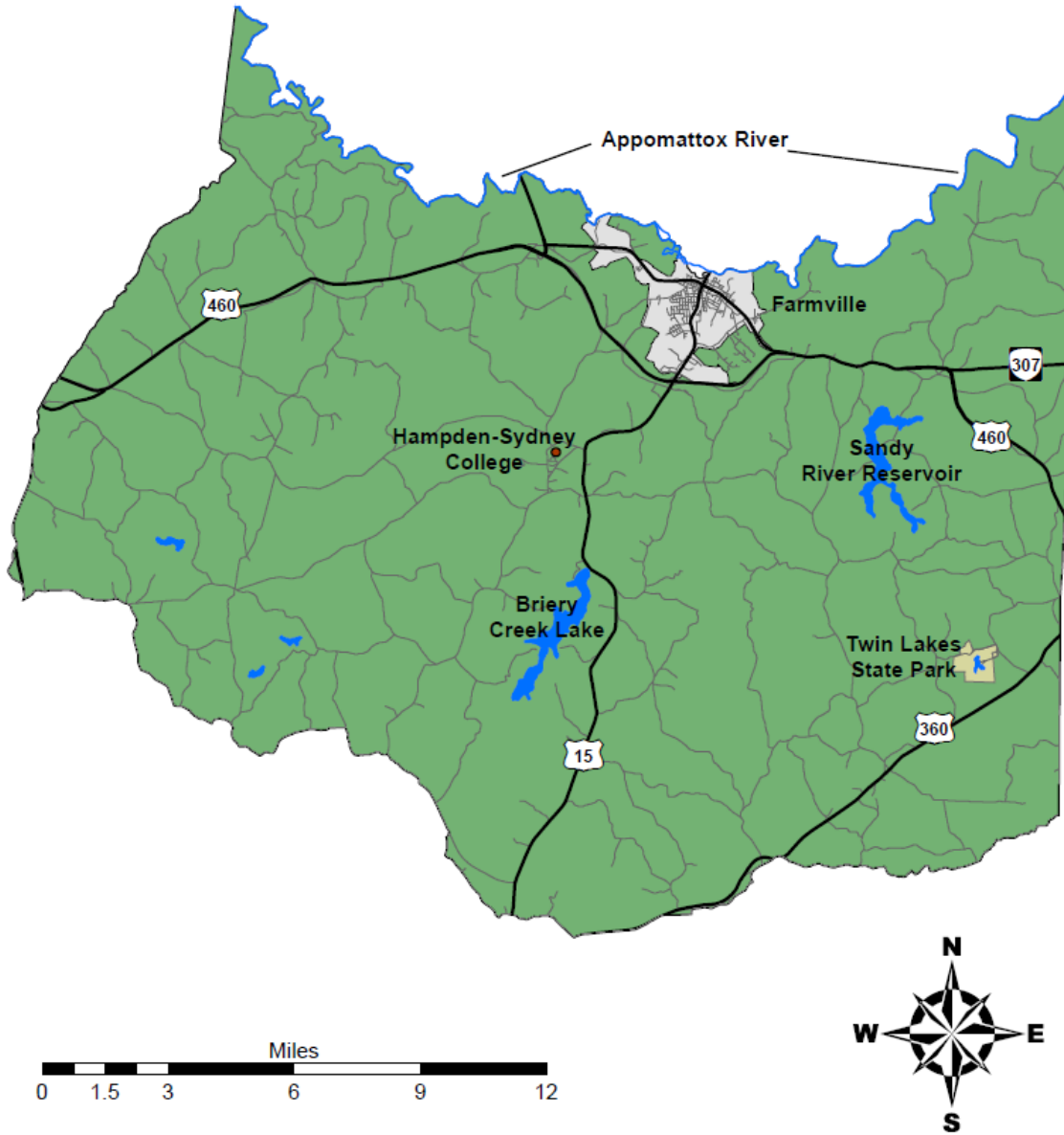
Map 3.2f
Nottoway County



Map created by CRC – May 2010

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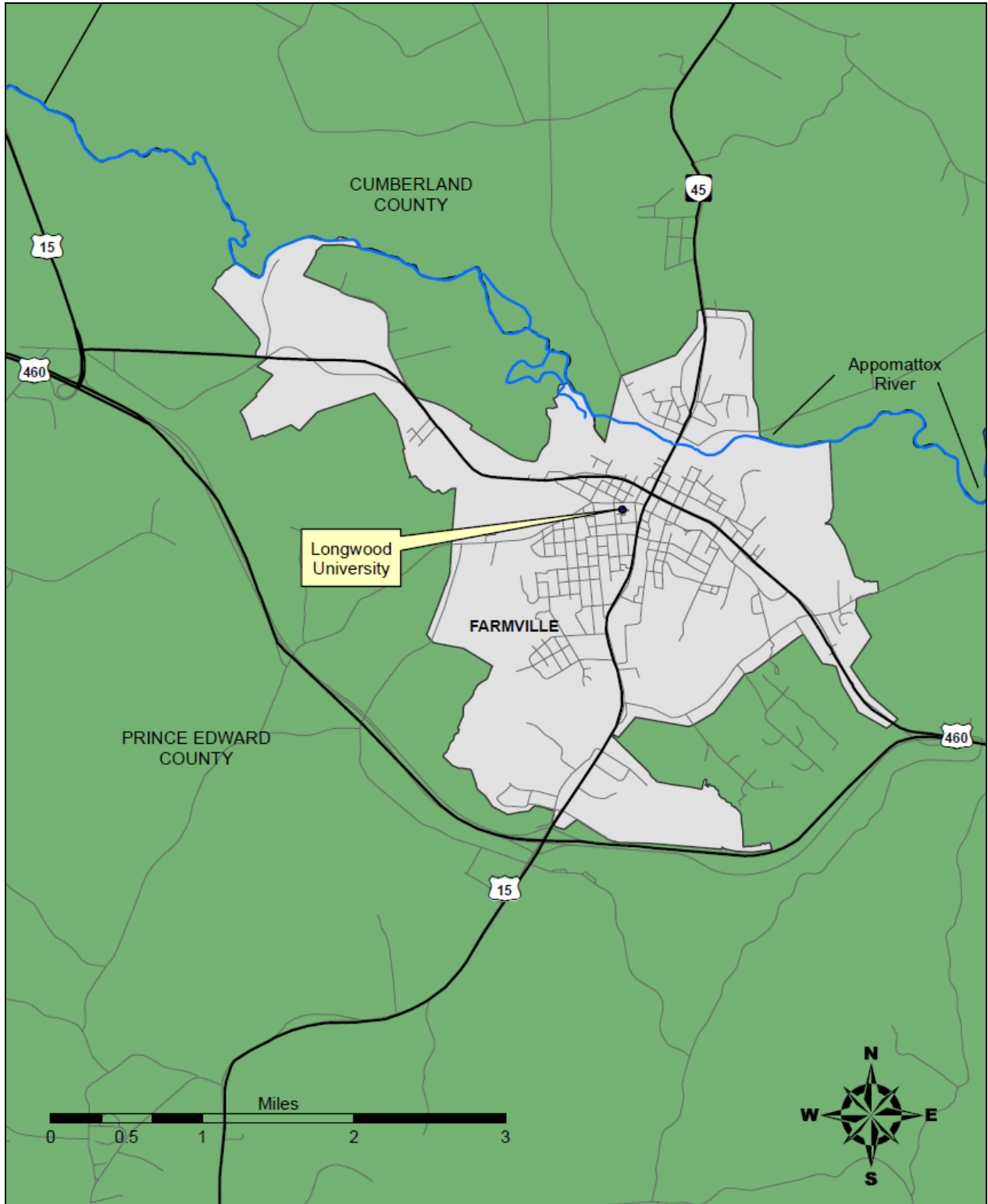
Map 3.2g
Prince Edward County



Map created by CRC – May 2010

REGIONAL PROFILE

Map 3.2h
Town of Farmville



Map created by CRC – May 2010

REGIONAL PROFILE

Geography

The counties of Planning District 14 total approximately 2,823 square miles in area. **Table 3.1** shows a breakdown of this land area by jurisdiction.

**Table 3.1
Town and County Population Numbers**

Locality	Area (in square miles)	2010 Population (U.S. Census)	Persons per square mile
Amelia County	366.0	12,690	34.67
Buckingham County	580.9	17,146	29.52
Dillwyn	0.7	447	638.57*
Charlotte County	475.0	12,586	26.50
Charlotte Court House	4	543	135.75
Drakes Branch	4.1	530	129.27
Keysville	1.2	832	693.33
Phenix	1.1	226	205.45
Cumberland County	298.5	10,052	33.68
Lunenburg County	431.8	12,914	29.91
Kenbridge	2.0	1,257	628.50
Victoria	2.9	1,725	594.83
Nottoway County	314.7	15,853	50.37
Blackstone	4.6	3,621	787.17
Burkeville	1.0	432	432
Crewe	2.0	2,326	1,163.00
Prince Edward County	352.8	23,368	66.24
Farmville	7.0	8,216	1,173.71

Source: Virginia Assoc. of Counties, U.S. Census Bureau

*Population density for the Town of Dillwyn is based on a land area of less than one square mile, which is why the persons per square mile is showing higher than the total population.

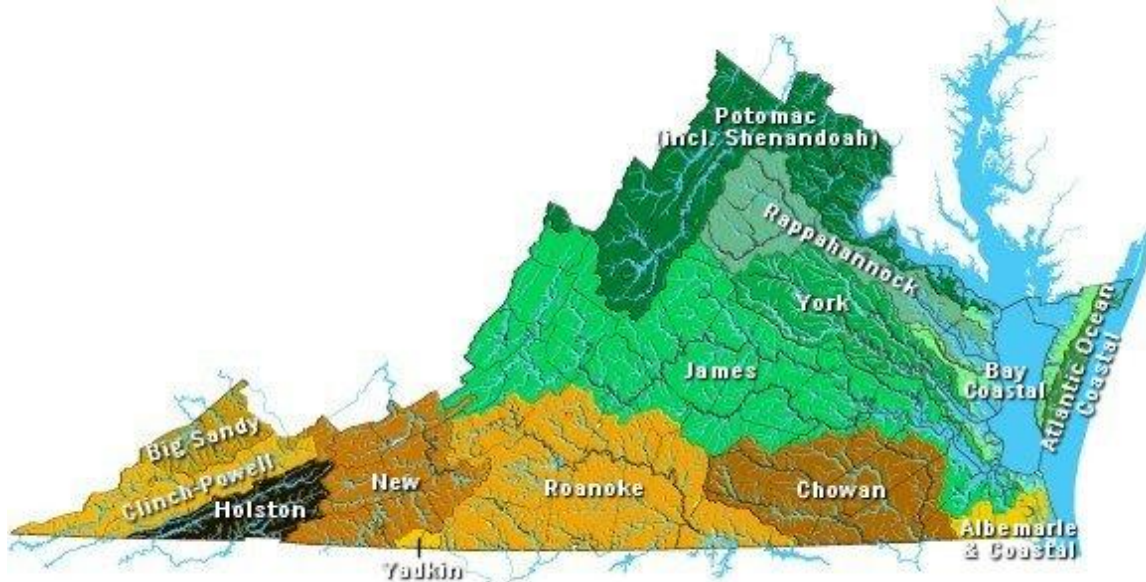
The dominating geographic characteristic for the region can be found in the rolling hills that give the Piedmont Region its name. These rolling hills are only occasionally interrupted by creeks, branches and rivers and even less common are small towns that dot the landscape. **Map 3.3** shows the major river basins in the region. Major rivers in the Piedmont Region include:

- Appomattox River
- Roanoke/Staunton River
- Nottoway River
- Meherrin River (North, Middle, and South)
- James River
- Bush River
- Little Nottoway River
- Little Willis River
- Willis River
- North River
- Sandy River

REGIONAL PROFILE

- Slate River

Map 3.3
Virginia's Major Watershed's



Source: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Website, 2007
[http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil & water/wsheds.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil_water/wsheds.shtml)

Land Use

Despite some suburban development occurring in the region, much of the land cover remains forested or agricultural. **Table 3.2** shows land cover percentages for each county using the most recent satellite imagery available. A land use/land cover map can be found in *Section 6, Vulnerability Assessment*.

Table 3.2
Planning District 14 Land Use Land Cover Data
(As a percentage of total land cover)

Land Cover Type	Amelia	Buckingham	Charlotte	Cumberland	Lunenburg	Nottoway	Prince Edward
Pasture/Hay	20.0	11.8	19.7	17.1	18.9	19.6	18.5
Row Crops	2.8	0.8	2.6	1.3	2.2	2.4	1.1
Woody Wetlands	2.4	1.4	5.0	4.3	3.0	2.5	4.3
Open Water	0.5	1.0	0.8	0.9	Less than 0.5	0.6	0.9
Transitional	3.2	3.4	2.2	2.1	3.0	2.6	1.0
Deciduous Forest	37.2	51.9	38.1	41.0	40.2	37.4	42.5
Evergreen Forest	12.3	12.8	12.8	12.4	14.3	12.2	10.9
Mixed Forest	20.8	16.2	17.8	19.8	17.3	19.3	19.1
Emergency Herbaceous Wetlands	0.6	Less than 0.5	0.5	0.6	Less than 0.5	0.5	Less than 0.5
Low Intensity Residential	Less than 0.5	Less than 0.5	Less than 0.5	Less than 0.5	Less than 0.5	1.9	1.0
Commercial Industrial Transportation	Less than 0.5	Less than 0.5	Less than 0.5	Less than 0.5	Less than 0.5	1.0	Less than 0.5

Source: National Land Cover Dataset, UVA Geostat Center, <http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/gis/nlcd/>

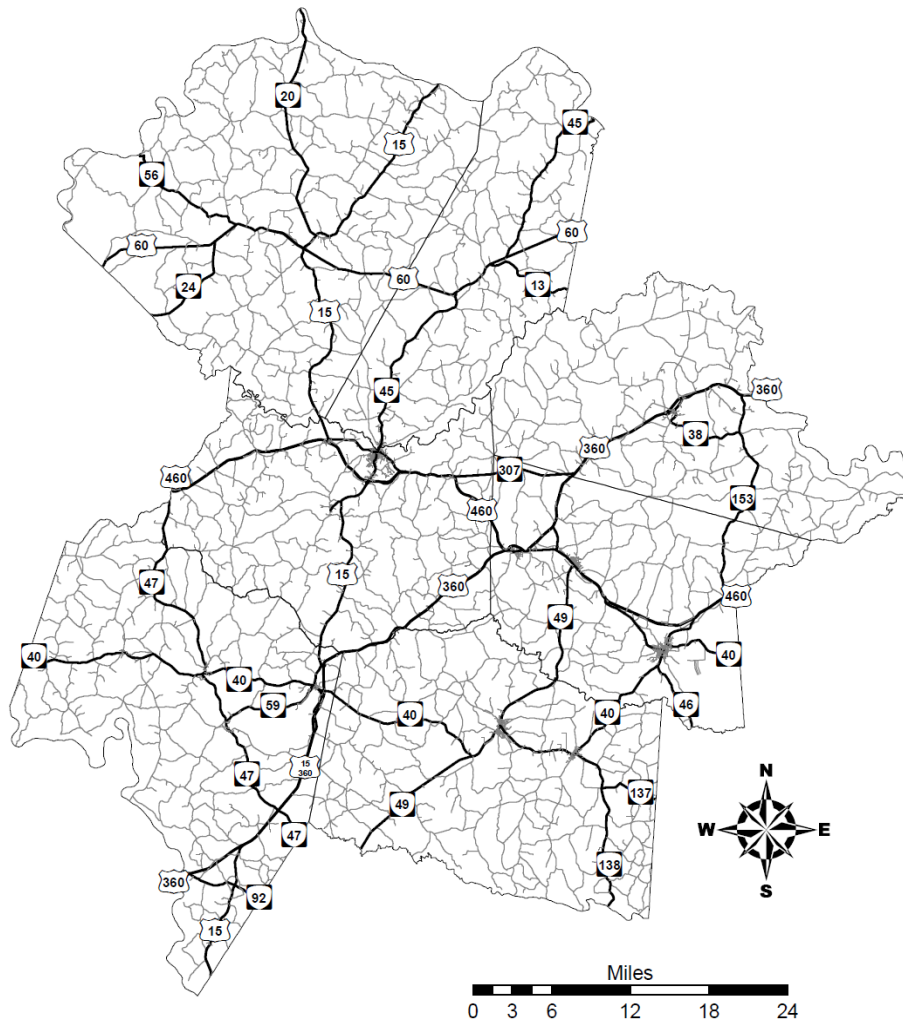
REGIONAL PROFILE

Transportation

The region is connected by a loose network of primary and secondary roads. While there is no Interstate access into the region, several important U.S. highway routes traverse the region to make roadway travel easy. Highway 15 bisects the region on a north/south axis. Highway 360 merges with Highway 15 for a short distance and it crisscrosses the region from the southwest to the northeast. Other U.S. highways in the region include U.S. 60 and U.S. 460. There are also many important local Virginia routes in the region. Important state routes of note are SR 40, SR 47, SR 45, SR 13 and SR 49. **Map 3.4** shows the major transportation routes in the region.

Other transportation modes in the region include regional airports and a series of rail lines. The closest international airports are located in Richmond, Virginia, and Raleigh, North Carolina. The Farmville Regional Airport is the largest airport in the region and serves as an important hub for commuter flight activity. Allen Perkinson Field is a U.S. Army airfield located just outside of Blackstone at Fort Pickett.

Map 3.4
Major Transportation Routes in Planning District 14



Map created by CRC – May 2010

REGIONAL PROFILE

Population

The population of the region in 2010 was 104,609. This was more than a 7.7 percent increase from its 2000 population of 97,103. By contrast, the growth rate for the entire State of Virginia during this period was 13.0 percent. Despite the population increase, the region retains a low-density population of 37.06 people per square mile (in 2010). That is much lower than the average population density for the State of Virginia which is 202.08 people per square mile.

Prince Edward County experienced the greatest growth with a 20 percent growth rate while adding 3,648 people to its population in this time period. The Town of Victoria experienced a decrease in population of 96, which equates to a growth rate of -5.3 percent. **Table 3.3** shows growth rates for all counties and localities in the region.

Table 3.3
Population Growth in Planning District 14

Locality	2000 Population	2010 Population	Percent Change	Persons Added/Lost
Amelia County	11,400	12,690	+11.3%	+1,290
Buckingham County	15,623	17,146	+9.7%	+1,523
Dillwyn	447	447	0	0
Charlotte County	12,471	12,586	+0.9%	+115
Charlotte Court House	463	543	+17.3%	+80
Drakes Branch	504	530	+5.2%	+26
Keysville	817	832	+1.8%	+15
Phenix	200	226	+13.0%	+26
Cumberland County	9,017	10,052	+11.5%	+1,035
Lunenburg County	13,146	12,914	-1.8%	-232
Kenbridge	1,253	1,257	+0.3	+4
Victoria	1,821	1,725	-5.3	-96
Nottoway County	15,725	15,853	+0.8%	+128
Blackstone	3,675	3,621	-1.5%	-54
Burkeville	489	432	-11.7%	-57
Crewe	2,378	2,326	-2.2%	-52
Prince Edward County	19,720	23,368	+18.5%	+3,648
Farmville	6,845	8,216	+20.0%	+1,371
Virginia	7,079,030	8,001,024	+13.0%	+921,994
NATION	281,421,906	308,745,538	+9.7%	+27,323,632

Source: U.S. Census/Weldon Cooper Center

Population projections from the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) web site are based on 2000 Census figures. Therefore, they might not be relevant. For example, projections for 2020 show Prince Edward County – based on its 2010 Census population – losing residents (Prince Edward showed the highest percentage of population growth in the region between 2000 and 2010). As a result, **Table 3.4** shows projections only for 2030.

REGIONAL PROFILE

Table 3.4
County Population Projections

County	2010 (Census Population)	2030 Population Projection
Amelia	12,690	17,104
Buckingham	17,146	18,395
Charlotte	12,586	12,170
Cumberland	10,052	11,793
Lunenburg	12,914	13,478
Nottoway	15,853	15,032
Prince Edward	23,368	24,285

Source: Virginia Employment Commission

Housing

Since 2000, FEMA has spent more than \$200,000 in this region for temporary housing, home repairs and other disaster-related needs for individuals and families (source: FEMA). With increasing housing values and an increasing number of housing units in the region, damage estimates from storm events can be expected to rise to higher levels.

The number of housing units has risen gradually in each county since 2000. Prince Edward County has the most housing units with 8,435. This can be attributed to having the largest town in the region (Farmville) and two higher education institutions (Longwood University and Hampden Sydney College) located in the County.

Table 3.5
Number of Housing Units

County	2000	2005-2009*
Amelia	4,609	5,336
Buckingham	6,290	6,422
Charlotte	5,734	6,265
Cumberland	4,085	4,486
Lunenburg	5,736	5,956
Nottoway	6,373	6,805
Prince Edward	7,527	8,435
TOTAL	40,354	43,705

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (* denotes estimate)

The median house value in the region from 2005 through 2009 was \$124,871.42 (based on estimates provided by the U.S. Census Bureau), which is lower than both median values for houses across the State of Virginia (\$247,100.00) and across the Nation (\$185,400.00).

REGIONAL PROFILE

Table 3.6
Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing Units

County	2000	2005-2009*	Change
Amelia	\$92,400	\$170,000	+84.0%
Buckingham	\$74,900	\$109,500	+46.2%
Charlotte	\$72,700	\$94,300	+29.7%
Cumberland	\$79,300	\$141,600	+78.6%
Lunenburg	\$60,200	\$98,700	+64.0%
Nottoway	\$73,200	\$120,700	+64.9%
Prince Edward	\$93,000	\$139,300	+49.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (* denotes estimate)

Employment and Income

The business climate in this region is unique. Historically, manufacturing was the top source of employment for the region. However, due to a variety of factors (technology, outsourcing, the economy, etc.), manufacturing has been on the decline in recent years. As evidenced in Table 3.7, manufacturing is still a major source of employment in the region but government (local, state and federal) and health are also employing significant numbers of people. There is a large base of experienced and skilled employees that serve as an asset for existing manufacturers and for new manufacturers considering locating in the region. The three institutions of higher learning (Longwood University, Hampden-Sydney College, and Southside Virginia Community College) provide job opportunities for those employees skilled in education and research. There is also a healthy retail environment, and service industry jobs are available throughout the region. CENTRA Southside Community Hospital provides professional medical services for the region.

Table 3.7
Major Employers in the Planning District 14 (as of April 2011)

County	Top 5 Employers
Amelia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amelia County School Board • Amelia Life Care, LLC • Star Children's Dress Company • Old River Cabinets, Inc. • County of Amelia
Buckingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonwealth of Virginia, Buckingham Correctional Center • Dillwyn Correctional Center • Buckingham County School Board • Central Virginia Health Service • Kyanite Mining Corp
Charlotte	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charlotte County School Board • Commonwealth of Virginia, Southside Virginia Community College • County of Charlotte • Britthaven of Keysville • Appomattox River Manufacturing

REGIONAL PROFILE

County	Top 5 Employers
Cumberland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumberland County School Board • County of Cumberland • Gemini of Minnesota, Inc. • Johnny R. Asal Lumber Company • Covance Research Products
Lunenburg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunenburg County Public Schools • Commonwealth of Virginia, Lunenburg Correctional Center • Virginia Marble Manufacturing • S&M Brands • STEPS
Nottoway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nottoway County Public Schools • Commonwealth of Virginia, Piedmont Geriatric Hospital • Commonwealth of Virginia, Nottoway Correctional Center • U.S. Department of Defense • Virginia Department of Military Affairs
Prince Edward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonwealth of Virginia, Longwood University • Prince Edward County Public Schools • CENTRA Southside Community Hospital • Wal-Mart Associates, Inc. • Hampden-Sydney College

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, April 2011

However, the region also displays some unhealthy economic characteristics. **Table 3.8** shows the poverty level of each county in the region as of 2009. As the numbers show, the region compares unfavorably with the State as a whole (and, to a large degree, the nation).

Table 3.8
Poverty Levels, 2009

County	Percent of Individuals in Poverty	Percent of Families in Poverty
Amelia	13.9	9.1
Buckingham	17.7	13.0
Charlotte	16.0	11.5
Cumberland	14.7	10.6
Lunenburg	20.8	14.5
Nottoway	17.6	12.1
Prince Edward	16.3	9.4
Virginia	10.1	7.2
United States	13.5	9.9

Source US Census Bureau

Another economic indicator for the region is the unemployment rate. **Table 3.9** provides a summary of each county's unemployment rate from 2006-2010 in comparison with the average rates in Virginia and nationwide.

REGIONAL PROFILE

Table 3.9
Unemployment Rate (2006—2010)

Area	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
United States	4.6	4.6	5.8	9.3	9.6
Virginia	3.0	3.0	4.0	6.8	6.9
Amelia County	3.0	2.7	4.5	7.9	7.7
Buckingham County	3.6	3.4	4.9	8.2	9.4
Charlotte County	6.6	5.3	6.0	9.4	9.2
Cumberland County	3.4	3.2	4.8	7.4	7.8
Lunenburg County	4.4	4.5	6.0	9.4	10.0
Nottoway County	4.1	3.9	5.5	8.1	8.3
Prince Edward County	4.8	4.6	5.5	9.0	9.8

Sources: United States, Virginia Employment Commission, Economic Services Division

In all the counties in the region, median income increased between the years 1999 and 2009. The highest median household incomes can be found in Amelia County (\$48,897).

Table 3.10
Median Household Income (2009 estimates)

Locality	1999	2009	Change
Amelia County	\$40,252	\$48,897	+21.5%
Buckingham County	\$29,882	\$38,128	+27.6%
Charlotte County	\$28,929	\$37,591	+29.9%
Cumberland County	\$31,816	\$38,430	+20.8%
Lunenburg County	\$27,899	\$35,963	+28.9%
Nottoway County	\$30,866	\$40,776	+32.1%
Prince Edward County	\$31,301	\$36,242	+15.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2009 numbers are estimates)

REGIONAL PROFILE

Declared Disasters

Table 3.11 contains a list of federally declared disasters in Planning District 14 since 1969.

**Table 3.11
Declared Disasters Since 1969**

Locality Affected	Date of Disaster Declaration	Description
Buckingham County	08/23/1969	Severe Storms and Flooding
Cumberland County	08/23/1969	Severe Storms and Flooding
Entire Region	09/08/1972	Tropical Storm Agnes
Buckingham County	10/10/1972	Severe Storms and Flooding
Cumberland County	10/10/1972	Severe Storms and Flooding
Lunenburg County	10/10/1972	Severe Storms and Flooding
Nottoway County	10/10/1972	Severe Storms and Flooding
Entire Region	03/10/1994	Severe Ice Storms and Flooding
Charlotte County	04/11/1994	Severe Winter Ice Storm
Buckingham County	04/11/1994	Severe Winter Ice Storm
Prince Edward County	04/11/1994	Severe Winter Ice Storm
Entire Region	02/02/1996	Blizzard of '96 (Severe Snow Storm)
Entire Region	09/16/1996	Hurricane Fran and Associated Severe Weather
Lunenburg County	09/28/1999	Hurricane Floyd
Entire Region	02/28/2000	Severe Winter Storms
Cumberland County	05/15/2002	Severe Storms, Tornadoes, and Flooding
Prince Edward County	05/15/2002	Severe Storms, Tornadoes, and Flooding
Entire Region	09/18/2003	Hurricane Isabel
Entire Region	09/12/2005	Public Assistance from Hurricane Katrina Evacuation
Lunenburg County	09/22/2006	Tropical Storm Ernesto
Buckingham County	04/27/2010	Severe Winter Storms

Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency