

## Central Piedmont Region



**Regions G & I:** Alamance, Caswell, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Guilford, Montgomery, Randolph, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry, Yadkin

- Total land area: 5,901 square miles
- Agriculture: 9,728 farms, \$738 million receipts
- Eight rural and four urban counties
- Agriculture-based economy

### Projected Population Growth in Central Piedmont Counties

2000	2010	2020	2030
1,529,507	1,692,205	1,926,941	2,166,307

**Natural Resources:** This landscape ranges from moderately rolling in the east to very hilly in the western boundary at the Blue Ridge escarpment. The major rivers here have been altered heavily by dams and reservoirs, leaving few significant aquatic habitats. Major natural communities are upland forests of oak and hickory, moist hardwood forests and floodplain forests. Pine forests have developed in areas once occupied by farmland, and many fields and pastures remain. Outstanding ecological features include the Uwharrie Mountains, which has a number of rare community types, and the Dan River, which contains several aquatic species that occur nowhere else in the world.

**Specific Growth and Conservation Concerns:** As the region becomes increasingly urbanized with a greater proportion of impervious surface and fewer working farms, water quality is becoming a major concern. As result, several communities encourage or require the preservation of open space as part of any new residential development.

### Regional Conservation Planning

**The Piedmont Triad Council of Governments** created an open space plan for the 12-County Piedmont-Triad Region (all counties in Regions G and I). This plan identified future focus areas within each county, while a gap analysis revealed opportunities to connect conserved areas across county boundaries. Many communities within this region have incorporated this initial study into their own comprehensive open space master plans, centered on preserving natural heritage areas or river buffers and greenways. The final report is available at <http://www.ptcog.org/files/openspace.pdf>