

# **COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

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**ALABAMA TOMBIGBEE REGIONAL COMMISSION**

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**SERVING CHOCTAW, CLARKE, CONECUH,  
DALLAS, MARENGO, MONROE, PERRY,  
SUMTER, WASHINGTON, & WILCOX  
COUNTIES**

**SEPTEMBER 2007**

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## I. ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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### A. ALABAMA TOMBIGBEE REGIONAL COMMISSION

The Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission was founded on August 28, 1970 and certified by Governor Albert P. Brewer. The Commission is a multi-funded regional (sub-state) planning and development commission. The Commission was named an Economic Development District by the Economic Development Administration in 1974. The Commission consists of Community and Economic Development, Aging, and Rural Transportation programs. Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Dallas, Marengo, Monroe, Perry, Sumter, Washington, and Wilcox counties are included in the ATRC region (Appendix 1). There are also forty-eight local government members.

#### MISSION STATEMENT:

*The Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission will strive to promote economic expansion and enhance the quality of life in the Alabama Tombigbee service area by providing efficient and effective services, strong regional leadership and effective utilization of available resources.*

*-ATRRC Board of Directors, January 2001*

### B. WORKING PARTNERSHIPS

With continuing emphasis on regionalization, the Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission has implemented a series of innovative strategies to further enhance the strengths of its ten member counties:

- **Leadership Development:** Through a partnership with the University of Alabama Center for Economic Development this project includes leadership development in economic development, community development, workforce development, and tourism development.
- **Blackbelt Treasures:** Formation of the innovative non-profit Blackbelt Treasures with a display, gallery, and distribution center in Camden. This initiative promotes and markets products produced exclusively in seventeen Blackbelt and area counties. It enables many home-based industries to better market their wares, not only through the Camden center, but also via the Blackbelt Treasures website. This once again is a partnership with the University of Alabama supported by the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel. Funding from a number of state and federal agencies has made Blackbelt Treasures possible. The project is being managed by ATRC in concert with the Blackbelt Treasures Board.

The Blackbelt Treasures project stimulates economic development in several ways. Increased sales of items and goods directly impact the residents who produce them. Increased demand for products will allow some producers to hire additional staff in order to increase production. Business opportunities will emerge as craftsmen train apprentices in their arts and crafts.

- **Regional Chamber Network:** An out-growth of the Leadership Development Partnership, this network will include Chambers of Commerce and like-minded organizations in the ten-county area. It will seek to better coordinate plans and activities in the region. The idea for this network came from the leadership network and included the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama as a partner. ATRC hopes this will serve as a pilot project for other planning regions in the state.
- **Tourism Network Development:** Since all ten counties in the ATRC region are rich in history and heritage, as well as endowed with bountiful forests, rivers, and streams, it makes tourism development a key to a quick “cash fix” for the entire area. Creation of new heritage centers, the Black Belt Treasures Trail, and scenic byways will attract thousands of visitors into the region. This in turn will fuel the economic engine with additional lodging, restaurants, service stations, etc. ATRC already has a three year track record in supporting this project, which builds income and image as well.
- **Black Belt Mayors Conference:** In an attempt to better organize, inform, and develop strategies and priorities, mayors from the entire Black Belt Region are meeting on a quarterly basis. This organization has the full support of the University of West Alabama with participation from ATRC.
- **Governor’s Commission on the Black Belt:** Appointed in 2004 to address long standing issues in Alabama’s Black Belt counties (including 6 of ATRC’s 10 counties), this commission and its sub-committees have met monthly in target counties. Citizens from both within and outside the region are involved. ATRC and citizens of ATRC counties have been active members and participants in these sessions.
- **The West Alabama Regional Alliance** is a multi-county, multi-regional organization based at the University of West Alabama to address economic development, community development, and tourism.
- **Commission on East Mississippi-West Alabama:** Established jointly by the governors of Alabama and Mississippi, this commission was designed to address economic issues in border counties, including at least three ATRC counties. ATRC representatives participate in this effort. Plans include development of a multi-state industrial park. The University of West Alabama also participates in this commission.

These and other strategies are being implemented to meet many of the community needs spelled out in this CEDS and improve the economic and physical health and welfare of the region’s people.

### **C. CEDS STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

A requirement of each designated Economic Development District (EDD) is to produce a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). A CEDS defines the vision and goals of the EDD. In addition, the CEDS also outlines the strategies proposed to pursue those goals. An integral part of this analysis is the identification of the areas strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. This traditional SWOT analysis allows the area to take an inventory of assets and needs in order to better develop its goals. Once the area has identified its goals, it can then use its strengths to formulate the strategies to help them realize them.

The basis of the strategies contained in this document is recommendations from the Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission's CEDS Strategy Committee, local government officials, and the public. A complete listing of the CEDS committee is provided on the following page. The Commission strived to include a diverse group of individuals from politics, businesses, community organizations, and underrepresented groups.

The CEDS process began with an analysis of the region compiled by the Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission staff. By bringing together information from various sources, the Commission was able to present the state of the region. This information not only includes statistics, but also information provided by elected officials, businesses, and citizens. This analysis answers the all important question of, "Where are we now?" By examining the current conditions that exist in the region, committee members answered the question, "Where do we want to be?" Next, a vision statement, goals, and objectives were compiled. The next step is, "How do we get there?" The Committee composed an action plan to achieve the long term goals they identified. This step entailed prioritizing activities and programs and proposing an implementation timeline for each. Finally performance measures were developed to evaluate strategies and their implementation.

The CEDS should be viewed as a working document; one that adjusts to accommodate the needs of changing communities. It is to be viewed as a starting point, as guidance for continued development and growth. It is pivotal that the plan be visited often to ensure progress.

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THE ALABAMA TOMBIGBEE REGIONAL COMMISSION

CEDS COMMITTEE

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Billy Atchison	Alabama Power Company
Butch Owen	Regions Bank
Charles Holmes	Farmer
Cheryl Lassiter	South Alabama Timber Company
Corky Fountain	Vanity Fair Intimates
David Dexter	New Era Cap Company
Fran Pearce	Pearce Catfish Farms
Gary Busby	Blackbelt Land & Realty
Glen Davis	First Community Bank
Gus Agee	Cemex, Inc.
Jeane Godwin	Paint and Color II
Kathy Perryman	Camden National Bank
Kim Edwards	Sanderson Plumbing
Knud Nielson III	Knud Nielson Company
Lacornia Harris	Kora's
Larry Key	West Alabama Bank and Trust
Marc McIntyre	Edwin McIntyre and Company, Inc
Michael Toomey	South Alabama Gas
Mike Marshall	Bryan Whitfield Memorial Hospital
Rachel Ratcliff	West Central Alabama Rehab Center
Randy McKee	Milry Communications
Roberta Jordan	Triple A Wood Products
Sharon Jones	Larry Jones Logging
Sheliah Jones	Jones Real Estate
Stacey Wilson	Clarke-Washington EMC
William Malone	Holman Insurance Agency
Zanetta Lowe	Vaughn Regional Medical Center
Bertha Rodgers	
Cheryl Horton	Grove Hill Chamber of Commerce
Claire Twardy	Selma-Dallas Chamber of Commerce
Jay Shows	Demopolis Chamber of Commerce
John Martin	Perry County Chamber of Commerce
John Mathews	Wilcox County Chamber of Commerce
Lashunda Holley	Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce
Nancy Gibson	Choctaw County Chamber of Commerce
Sandy Smith	Monroe County Chamber of Commerce
Charles Autrey	Christian Way Baptist
Dr. Royce DuBose	Evergreen Baptist Church
Gary Crum	Ellwood Community Church
Joe Knight	St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Larry Teasley	Marion United Methodist Church

Robert Smith	Retired Minister
Alice Carlisle	Town of Gilberttown
Carlyn Mitchell-Gosa	City of York
Charlotte Griffeth	City of Selma
Cindy Neilson	Probate Judge, Marengo County
David Manzie	Wilcox County Commission
Eddie Everette	City of Monroeville
Eddie Huggins	City of Jackson
Harry Mason	Town of Pine Hill
Henrietta Blackmon	City of Camden
Jack Day	Clarke County Sheriff
Jack Fendley	Town of Pennington
Jenny Countryman	Town of Excel
John H. Armstrong	Probate Judge, Washington County
Kevin McKinney	Town of Myrtlewood
Lamr Hudson	Town of Grove Hill
Mark Curl	Wilcox County Commission
Ralph Ervin	Circuit Clerk, Wilcox County
Rhondel Rhone	Clarke County Commission
Roy Waite	Clarke County EMA
Sharon Ross-Akridge	Town of McIntosh
Terry Conselman	Town of Thomaston
Tim Sanderson	Perry County Commission
Tom Lee	Town of Valley Grande
Toni McKelvey	City of Monroeville
Tony Long	City of Marion
Arthur Ogden	Alabama Southern Community College
David Potts	Judson College
John Gibler	Marion Military Institute
Johnny Moss III	Wallace Community College
David Sheffield	Washington County IDB
Debra Bolen	Clarke County Development Foundation
Eddie Hardaway	Sumter County ID Board
Jim Emerson	Wilcox Industrial Development Authority
Kathryn Friday	ACES
Lydia Randall	Demopolis City Board of Education
Malcolm Cain	Superintendent, Wilcox County Schools
Ron Russell	Washington County ED
Wayne Vardaman	Selma- Dallas County Centre for Commerce

## **D. COMMUNITY & PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN THE CEDS PROCESS**

The Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission encouraged public and private sector participation in the CEDS planning process. The new CEDS was created thorough a two year effort of the Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission. The CEDS strategy committee is composed of 62% private sector. Community and private sector support was sought through a series of public hearing ads and press releases in each County's paper of record. In 2006, ATRC held ten initial meetings to gather support from each county. The commission then held two regionwide meetings to culminate the 2006 planning process. Meeting times, dates, and locations are listed below:

- July 11, 2006 – Dallas County (Selma-Dallas County Public Library @ 1:00 P.M.)
- July 11, 2006- Perry County (Perry Chamber of Commerce@ 3:30 P.M.)
- July 12, 2006- Choctaw County (Choctaw EMS Classroom @ 1:30 P.M.)
- July 13, 2006- Sumter County (UWA @ 1:00 P.M.)
- July 13, 2006- Marengo County (Commissioners' Meeting Room @ 3:30 P.M.)
- July 17, 2006- Conecuh County (Evergreen Area Chamber of Commerce @ 1:00 P.M.)
- July 17, 2006- Monroe County (Monroeville City Council Chambers @ 3:30 P.M.)
- July 19, 2006- Wilcox County (ATRC Board Room @ 10:30 A.M.)
- July 20, 2006- Washington County (Chatom Community Center @ 1:00 P.M.)
- July 20, 2006- Clarke County (Grove Hill Town Hall @ 4:00 P.M.)
- August 4, 2006- Regionwide (Library Museum Building at Alabama Southern @ 10:00 A.M.)
- September 13, 2006- Regionwide (ATRC Offices @ 3:00 P.M.)

The CEDS was also available for review during a thirty-day comment period. Once this period expired, the CEDS was adopted by the Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission's Board.

For 2007, the Commission used countywide citizens' group meetings to review the CEDS and ask for suggestions and concerns. Meeting dates and locations are listed below:

- June 5, 2007 – Sumter County (Livingston Police Department)
- June 11, 2007 – Washington County (Washington County Public Library)
- June 11, 2007 – Choctaw County (Gilbertown Town Hall)
- June 12, 2007 – Perry County (Perry County Chamber of Commerce)
- June 14, 2007 – Clarke County (Coffeeville Town Hall)
- June 19, 2007 – Dallas County (Centre for Commerce- Selma)
- June 20, 2007 – Wilcox County (Blackbelt Treasures Conference Room)
- June 21, 2007 – Conecuh County (Evergreen Chamber of Commerce)
- June 21, 2007 – Monroe County (Monroeville Chamber of Commerce)
- June 26, 2007 – Marengo County (Linden Senior Nutrition Site)

The CEDS was once again available for review during a thirty-day comment period. The Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission's Executive Board approved the CEDS with any changes on August 8, 2007.

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## II. PROFILE OF THE ALABAMA TOMBIGBEE REGION

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The Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission serves ten counties in Southwest Alabama (Figure 1). This area covers 9,559 square miles and has a population of 209,045. The region is predominately rural and is experiencing many of the same problems rural areas across the nation are experiencing. High unemployment rates, high poverty rates, and low educational attainment figures are just a few of the issues being dealt with in this region. The following pages provide a profile intended to give the reader an overview of ATRC's region.

### A. GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, AND NATURAL RESOURCE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ATRC REGION

#### *PHYSIOGRAPHY*

The Alabama Tombigbee Region is located entirely in the East Gulf Coastal Plain. This section is underlain by Mesozoic and Cenozoic sedimentary rocks, which gently dip southward at 20 to 40 feet per mile. The resistant beds form cuestas that slope gently southward and more steeply northward as a series of southeasterly to easterly trending hills. There are six physiographic areas in the region; these are the East Fall Line Hills, Black Prairie Belt, Chunnennuggee Hills, Southern Red Hills, Lime Hills, and Southern Pine Hills (Figure 2).

The Fall Line Hills is dissected upland with a few broad, flat ridges separated by valleys ranging from 100 to 200 feet deep. The Fall Line Hills occupy a zone where streams descend from resistant Paleozoic sedimentary and Piedmont crystalline rocks to the less resistant sand and clay of pre-Selma age in the Coastal Plain.

The Black Prairie Belt lies to the south of the Fall Line Hills and occupies a narrow crescent-shaped area characterized by an undulating deeply weathered plain of low relief. This area developed mainly on chalk and marl of the Selma Group. Because of the impurity of the chalk and marl along with other factors, typical karst features generally formed in carbonate rock terrains are missing. The Arcola Cuesta occurs near the middle of the belt and trends southeastward and eastward, characterized by a line of hills rising 50 to 75 feet above the surrounding prairie floor.

The Chunnennuggee Hills is a pine forested series of sand hills and cuestas developed on the Ripley Formation and Prairie Bluff Chalk. In Western Alabama the more hardened beds of the Ripley Formation support the prominent northward-facing cuesta, generally known as the Ripley Cuesta. This cuesta rises 100 to 200 feet above the prairie floor to the north.

The Southern Red Hills includes the Flatwoods, a lowland generally about 5 to 8 miles wide that extends from Sumter County to just east of the Alabama River along the north edge of the area. The flat-lying, relatively smooth surface of the Flatwoods is at an altitude of about 200 feet and is developed on the dark clay of the Porters Creek Formation. The Flatwoods are bordered to the south by a range of hills that rises 200 to 400 feet. In this area, the hills are underlain by formation of the Wilcox Group; but, farther east, the Clayton Formation forms the boundary ridge south of the Chunnennuggee Hills. The northern edge of the Southern Red Hills lies at an altitude of 600 feet and local relief of several hundred feet is common. Considerably large areas of "red levels" or

undissected uplands remain, especially at the outer edge of the belt. Along the southern edge of the Southern Red Hills, a cuesta, known as the Buhrstone Hills, rises 300 to 400 feet above the nearby streams. The Buhrstone Hills is considered to be the most rugged topographic region in the Alabama Coastal Plain. This belt is 10 or more miles wide, extending from the Pearl River in Mississippi across Alabama to about the middle of the state. It is developed on the resistant siliceous claystone and sandstone of the Tallahatta Formation.

The Lime Hills from near the Alabama-Mississippi boundary extend eastward in a belt 5 to 8 miles wide across southwestern Choctaw County into Conecuh County. The rugged topography approaches that of the Buhrstone Hills in places. This topography is caused partly by the Hatchetigbee anticline and partly by changes from soft clay, sand, and marl to resistant limestone in the upper Eocene and Oligocene deposits.

The Hatchetigbee anticline affects an area at least 50 miles long and 20 miles wide. Stratigraphic displacement at the surface is at least 600 to 700 feet. The southern flank of the anticline lies in the Lime Hills and the northern flank in the Southern Red Hills. The topography in the western part of the Lime Hills is attributed to the resistant beds in the Tallahatta Formation and the resistant limestone of the upper Eocene and Oligocene deposits. Relief of 200 to 250 feet from valley floors to ridge crests is common.

The eastern part of the Lime Hills in Monroe and Conecuh Counties is less rugged and the hills are approximately 100 to 150 feet above the valley floors. The sand, clay, and marl of the upper Eocene and Oligocene deposits have been almost entirely replaced by more resistant limestone.

The Southern Pine Hills, a cuesta-like elevated southward sloping dissected plain, is developed on Miocene estuarine deposits to the north and on sand and gravel of the Pliocene Citronelle Formation to the south. The plain ranges in altitude from 400 feet in the north to about 100 feet a few miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico. Relief is greatest in the northern part where streams draining eastward to the Tombigbee River and westward to the Alabama River drop to base level in relatively short distances. The relief is as much as 250 feet in this area. To the south the topography is more subdued, being characterized by low rounded hills.

### *SOILS*

There are three main soil types in the Alabama Tombigbee region: Coastal Plain, Prairie, and Major Flood Plains and Terraces (Figure 3). Coastal Plain soils consist of marine and fluvial sediment eroded from the Appalachian and Piedmont areas. The southern part of ATRC's region consists mainly of these soils. Prairie soils exist in an east-west band across the northern part of the region. These soils are derived from alkaline, Selma chalk, or acid marine clays. Major flood plain soils occur along the region's riverbanks. These soils are formed from the alluvium deposits.

### *WATER RESOURCES*

There are two large rivers, the Alabama and the Tombigbee, within the region (Figure 4). Both of these rivers have direct access to the Gulf of Mexico. The major flood plain areas of the region exist along these rivers.

Coastal Plain aquifers supply ground water to the region. Major aquifers in the region are the Lisbon Aquifer, Miocene Aquifer, Midway-Lower Wilcox Aquifer, Upper Wilcox Aquifer, Tuscaloosa Group Aquifer, Eutaw Aquifer, and Ripley Aquifer. These aquifers can provide drinking water generally from less than 300 feet.

## A. DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

### POPULATION

According to U.S. Census Bureau estimates, the population of the Alabama Tombigbee Region in 2006 was 199,796. This figure is almost a four percent decrease from the year 2000. Table 1 shows the population change for each county in the region and the region as a whole between 1990 and 2006. Table 2 shows a racial breakdown of the region. It is interesting to note that the region's population is 52% black, while the entire state of Alabama's population is only 26% black. This difference is due largely to the fact that larger numbers of blacks traditionally live in agricultural areas.

TABLE 1: ATRC POPULATION CHANGE 1990-2006					
	POPULATION			PERCENT CHANGE	
	1990	2000	2006	1990-2000	2000-2006
<b>CHOCTAW</b>	16,018	15,922	14,656	-1%	-8%
<b>CLARKE</b>	27,240	27,867	27,248	2.3%	-2%
<b>CONECUH</b>	14,054	14,089	13,403	0.25%	-5%
<b>DALLAS</b>	48,130	46,365	43,945	-4%	-5%
<b>MARENGO</b>	23,084	22,539	21,848	-2.4%	-3%
<b>MONROE</b>	23,968	24,324	23,342	1.5%	-4%
<b>PERRY</b>	12,759	11,861	11,186	-7%	-6%
<b>SUMTER</b>	16,174	14,798	13,606	-8.5%	-8%
<b>WASHINGTON</b>	16,694	18,097	17,651	8.4%	-2%
<b>WILCOX</b>	13,568	13,183	12,911	-1%	-2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>213,679</b>	<b>211,045</b>	<b>199,796</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>-5%</b>

Source: Census 2000 and Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Alabama

<b>Table 2: ATRC POPULATION BREAKDOWN BY SEX AND RACE 2000</b>	
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>209,045</b>
Males	97,789
Females	111,256
White	96,255
Black	109,170
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1,751
Asian	385
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	30
Other	290
Multiple Races	1,164
Hispanic	1,612

Source: Census 2000

Table 3 illustrates the numbers of households in the region. Between 1990 and 2000, there were increases in the number of households in every county. Household estimates from 2005 show a net decrease for the region. The region's average household size is 2.576 persons per household.

<b>TABLE 3: HOUSEHOLDS IN THE ATRC REGION</b>					
	<b>HOUSEHOLDS</b>			<b>PERCENT CHANGE</b>	
	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>1990-2000</b>	<b>2000-2005</b>
<b>CHOCTAW</b>	5,747	6,363	6,340	10.7%	-0.4%
<b>CLARKE</b>	9,506	10,578	10,684	11.3%	1%
<b>CONECUH</b>	5,259	5,792	5,795	10.1%	0.05%
<b>DALLAS</b>	17,033	17,841	17,545	4.7%	1.7%
<b>MARENGO</b>	8,156	8,767	8,615	7.5%	-1.7%
<b>MONROE</b>	8,412	9,383	9,399	11.5%	0.17%
<b>PERRY</b>	4,201	4,333	4,201	3.1%	-3%
<b>SUMTER</b>	5,545	5,708	5,492	2.9%	-3.8%
<b>WASHINGTON</b>	5,709	6,705	6,913	17.4%	3.1%
<b>WILCOX</b>	4,415	4,776	4,717	8.2%	-1.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>73,983</b>	<b>80,246</b>	<b>79,701</b>	<b>8.5%</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>

Source: Census 2000 & Center for Business and Economic Research-The University of Alabama

An interesting trend in the region’s population is the breakdown by age group. The region has large numbers of young children and older citizens. Table 4 is the region’s population by age group. Out-migration of youth is a trend throughout the region. The number of young working families continues to decline. The median age in the region is 35.26, meaning half the region’s population is older than 35.26 and half is younger than this figure.

<b>TABLE 4: POPULATION BY AGE GROUP, ATRC REGION</b>		
<b>Population Age Group</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Total</b>
Under age 18	28%	59,237
Age 18-29	15%	31,489
Age 30-49	27%	56,382
Age 50-64	16%	32,666
Age 65 and Up	14%	29,271

Source: Census 2000

*INCOME- PER CAPITA AND MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD*

Per Capita Income offers a clear picture as to the economic blight being suffered by the people of this region. Table 5 provides per capita income numbers for ATRC counties from 2000-2005. Per capita income is the sum of the personal income of an area's residents divided by the number of residents. One will notice that the state average in 2005 was \$29,623 compared to the region per capita income of approximately \$22,859. This is a staggering difference and the disparity between the state per capita income and the region's per capita income seems to be expanding even though there have been tremendous increases at the regional level.

<b>TABLE 5: PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME (DOLLARS)</b>							
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Percent of State Average
<b>Alabama</b>	23,764	24,717	25,409	26,326	27,695	29,623	100%
<b>Counties</b>							
Choctaw	19,522	19,601	20,660	21,399	22,389	24,388	82%
Clarke	20,208	20,446	20,623	21,398	22,256	24,006	81%
Conecuh	19,086	19,565	19,550	20,059	21,066	23,481	79%
Dallas	19,247	19,977	20,515	21,293	22,302	24,085	81%
Marengo	21,304	22,634	23,004	23,598	25,034	27,140	91%
Monroe	19,457	20,381	20,231	21,373	22,542	24,319	82%
Perry	16,894	17,120	17,347	18,435	19,405	20,352	69%
Sumter	16,508	16,682	17,670	18,257	19,093	20,509	69%
Washington	18,196	18,451	18,474	18,790	19,789	21,494	73%
Wilcox	15,835	16,413	16,570	17,218	17,995	18,820	64%
Source: <a href="http://cber.cba.ua.edu/edata/emp_inc/pci%202005-counties.xls">http://cber.cba.ua.edu/edata/emp_inc/pci%202005-counties.xls</a>							

The average median income for the ATRC region is \$35,670 (Table 6). This amount is relatively low compared to the United States non-metro average of \$47,300 and the Alabama non-metro average of \$42,800.

		Median 1999	Median 2007
<b>U.S. Non-Metro Estimate</b>		\$40,111	\$47,300
<b>Alabama Non-Metro Estimate</b>		\$36,633	\$42,800
	Choctaw County	\$31,870	\$37,000
	Clarke County	\$34,548	\$40,200
	Conecuh County	\$31,424	\$36,400
	Dallas County	\$29,906	\$35,200
	Marengo County	\$35,477	\$41,300
	Monroe County	\$34,569	\$40,100
	Perry County	\$26,141	\$30,400
	Sumter County	\$23,164	\$27,100
	Washington County	\$37,867	\$43,800
	Wilcox County	\$22,200	\$25,200
<b>ATRC Regional Average</b>		<b>\$30,717</b>	<b>\$35,670</b>

Source: U.S. Department of HUD, Internet release, March, 2007.

*POVERTY LEVEL*

The ATRC region ranks high in percent of the population living below the poverty level (Table 7). These statistics show that poverty rates in the region are significantly higher than the statewide averages.

Source: Census 2000	Number	Percent	Rank in state by Percent (of 67)
<b>Alabama</b>	<b>676,417</b>	<b>15.2</b>	
Choctaw County	2,826	18.7	17
Clarke County	5,205	19.2	16
Conecuh County	2,952	22.0	10
Dallas County	11,162	25.0	6
Marengo County	4,418	20.1	13
Monroe County	4,177	17.7	22
Perry County	3,134	28.6	1
Sumter County	3,684	26.4	3
Washington County	3,017	16.9	27
Wilcox County	3,589	27.9	2

## EDUCATION

Education, essential to any area's development, must be improved in all areas. From grade school to post high school, education must be available to teach basic education or vocational education.

There continues to be a need for improvements in educational facilities, whether it is consolidation of school systems, new buildings or additional teaching aide equipment. There must be proper facilities to ensure proper education. There is also a great desire to link industry and education to ensure that our students are prepared for job opportunities in the region. Adult education and continuing education centers must be assisted and utilized to prepare the people of this region so they will be a competitive work force.

Overall, the ATRC region has a lower average percentage of high school graduates and persons with bachelor's degrees than both the state and nation (Table 9). In all ten counties, there is at least one quarter of the population 25 years and older without a high a school diploma.

<b>TABLE 9: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT 2000</b>			
	<b>Population 25 and over</b>	<b>Percent with: HS Diploma or More</b>	<b>Percent with: Bachelors Degree or More</b>
<b>United States</b>	<b>182,211,639</b>	<b>80.4</b>	<b>24.4</b>
<b>Alabama</b>	<b>2,887,400</b>	<b>75.3</b>	<b>19.0</b>
Choctaw	10,569	65.0	9.6
Clarke	17,702	70.8	12.1
Conecuh	9,230	67.7	9.2
Dallas	28,742	70.3	13.9
Marengo	14,326	71.9	12.1
Monroe	15,378	67.9	11.8
Perry	6,978	62.4	10.0
Sumter	8,731	64.8	12.4
Washington	11,240	72.3	8.6
Wilcox	7,979	59.5	10.1

Source: Census 2000

## WATER AND SEWER

Access to potable water and a good sewer system is imperative to community, economic, and industrial development. Maps of water systems within the ATRC Region are provided in Appendix 2. In the ATRC region, there are still many residences without access to any public water or sewer system. These residents rely heavily on well water. Residents without access to a public sewer system have to rely on on-site disposal methods, such as septic tanks.

## HOUSING

Although housing conditions have shown a slight improvement in the region with the availability of low income and elderly housing projects, there is still an evident need for more housing for the disadvantaged. Local governments should concentrate on dilapidated housing rehabilitation and encourage projects that will house low income and elderly persons in adequate housing.

There are an estimated 96,320 housing units in the ATRC region. The median value of these units is \$ 60,070. The majority of the units are at least 50 years old (Table 10). Approximately 4% of all housing units lack complete plumbing or kitchen facilities.

Total:	96,320
Built 1999 to March 2000	2,632
Built 1995 to 1998	9,942
Built 1990 to 1994	8,328
Built 1980 to 1989	17,030
Built 1970 to 1979	20,910
Built 1960 to 1969	14,256
Built 1950 to 1959	9,818
Built 1940 to 1949	5,609
Built 1939 or earlier	7,795

Source: Census 2000

## PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Public health and supportive facilities are important to any region's economic development. There are ten hospitals in the region. Currently, Choctaw and Perry Counties do not have hospitals. There are regional connections to hospital facilities and specialists in Tuscaloosa, Meridian, Montgomery, and Mobile. There are twenty-six long term care facilities in the Alabama Tombigbee Region. There is at least one nursing home in each county.

Pressing health related problems in the ATRC region are the overall lack of rural health facilities and the need for additional physicians, dentists and medical specialists. A chief concern regarding doctors already practicing in the region is that these doctors are getting older and nearing retirement. The region must attract medical doctors to replace these doctors as they age and retire. With a need for more health facilities and professional health personnel comes the need for an expanded home health care program. The Alabama Tombigbee Area Agency on Aging continues to expand their programs addressing this serious need.

## C. INFRASTRUCTURE

### *INDUSTRIAL SITES*

A complete listing of industrial parks in the ATRC region is provided in Appendix 3.

### *TRANSPORTATION*

#### *Highways*

The ATRC region has an extensive system of county, state, and federal roads. There are 45 miles of Interstate in the region. Interstate 20/59 bisects Sumter County and I-65 runs through Conecuh County. There are six United States Highways in the region (11, 31, 43, 45, 80, and 84). These roads connect the region to larger cities such as Mobile, Birmingham, and Montgomery.

Throughout a vast majority of the region, lack of a major four-lane highway prohibits development.

The region's highway network also has many county roads. These roads are well traveled arteries that connect small outlying communities. Many of these roads are in need of repair. Heavy use by logging trucks and other large vehicles damage these roads. Numerous counties in the region are cash strapped leaving them unable to perform necessary maintenance on their roads and bridges.

#### *Airports*

Within the ATRC region, there are no commercial air flights. There are larger airports in the following cities in proximity to the region: Tuscaloosa, Birmingham, Mobile, and Meridian. Leisure activities, corporate use, and agricultural use comprise the majority of air activity in the region.

There are fourteen airports in the region; of these eleven are in use.

#### *Navigable Rivers*

There are two navigable rivers in the region: the Alabama and the Tombigbee (Figure 4).

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### III. THE REGIONAL ECONOMY

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#### A. EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Table 11 shows employment numbers broken down by industry for the ATRC region. By far manufacturing is the largest industry in the region followed by government positions and retail.

<b>Table 11: EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY</b>	
<b>2004 ATRC REGION</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
Total employment	88,381
Wage and salary employment	71,725
Proprietors employment	16,656
Farm proprietors employment	3,806
Nonfarm proprietors employment	12,850
Farm employment	4,554
Nonfarm employment	83,827
Private employment	68,828
Forestry, fishing, related activities, and other	1,189
Mining	82
Utilities	367
Construction	3,995
Manufacturing	18,396
Wholesale trade	1,298
Retail trade	9,751
Transportation and warehousing	3,803
Information	665
Finance and insurance	2,004
Real estate and rental and leasing	1,292
Professional and technical services	884
Management of companies and enterprises	154
Administrative and waste services	2,161
Educational services	794
Health care and social assistance	3,362
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	302
Accommodation and food services	2,750
Other services, except public administration	5,576
Government and government enterprises	14,999
Federal, civilian	626
Military	1,306
State and local	13,067

State government	2,680
Local government	10,387

Source: Census 2000

### FOREST RESOURCES

The timber/ forest products industry is the largest industry in the region. Table 12 shows the cash receipts from timber for the years 2003 and 2004. In nine of the regions ten counties, a forest related industry is among the largest employers. Weyerhaeuser, Boise Cascade, Georgia Pacific, Rock Tenn, and International Paper employ the largest percentage of the region's workers in this industry. This industry continues to expand also; Louisiana Pacific is constructing an OSB mill in Thomasville expected to employ around 130 people.

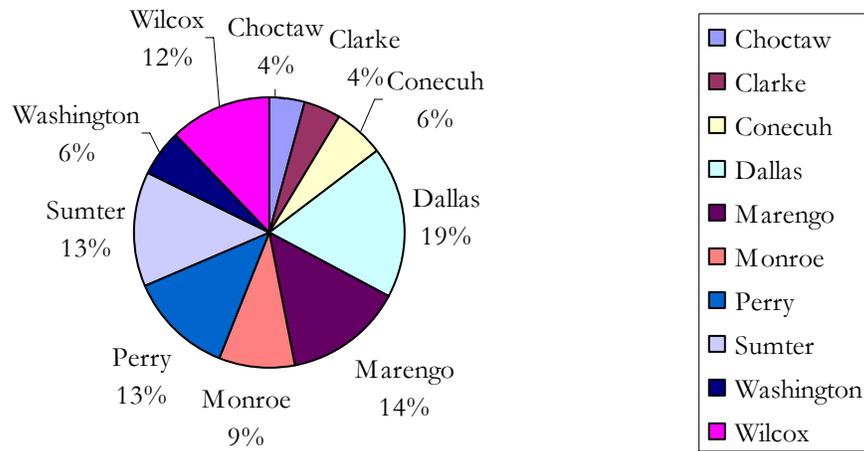
<b>TABLE 12 :CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MARKETINGS 2003-2004 (THOUSANDS OF \$)</b>								
<b>County</b>	<b>Private Non-Farm Timber</b>		<b>Forest Industry Timber</b>		<b>Government Timber</b>		<b>Total Farm and Forestry</b>	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
Choctaw	13,458	27,231	3,148	6,369	143	289	24,815	45,158
Clarke	42,941	56,057	6,305	8,233	802	1,047	56,470	72,580
Conecuh	10,247	17,724	7,203	12,458	*	*	31,175	42,749
Dallas	4,692	12,324	1,345	3,533	39	102	56,036	71,847
Marengo	12,053	29,481	2,584	6,323	*	*	38,226	64,892
Monroe	19,056	29,291	9,840	15,133	589	905	66,303	77,726
Perry	3,758	7,018	1,087	2,030	582	1,087	26,396	30,466
Sumter	4,330	12,540	481	1,392	169	490	22,450	34,848
Washington	14,065	28,311	455	916	8	16	30,945	51,035
Wilcox	10,610	27,420	2,233	5,772	355	917	25,435	51,333
<b>ATRC Region</b>	<b>135,210</b>	<b>247,397</b>	<b>34,681</b>	<b>62,159</b>	<b>2,687</b>	<b>4,853</b>	<b>378,251</b>	<b>542,634</b>

Source: Alabama Agriculture Statistics Service

AGRICULTURE

Although declining in past years, agriculture continues to be a very important economic force in the Alabama Tombigbee region. Many factors have brought on the decline in agriculture, but perhaps none as evident as the decline in the price farmers receive for their products and the increase in cost of production. Farming today has become big business and the small family farm is fast becoming a thing of the past. Table 13 and Figure 5 provide statistics on the number of farms, acres of land in farming, and average farm size in the ATRC region.

**Figure 5**  
**Total Farm Acreage in the ATRC Region**  
**Percentage by County**  
**Total Acreage = 1,314,668**



Source: Alabama Agriculture Statistics Service

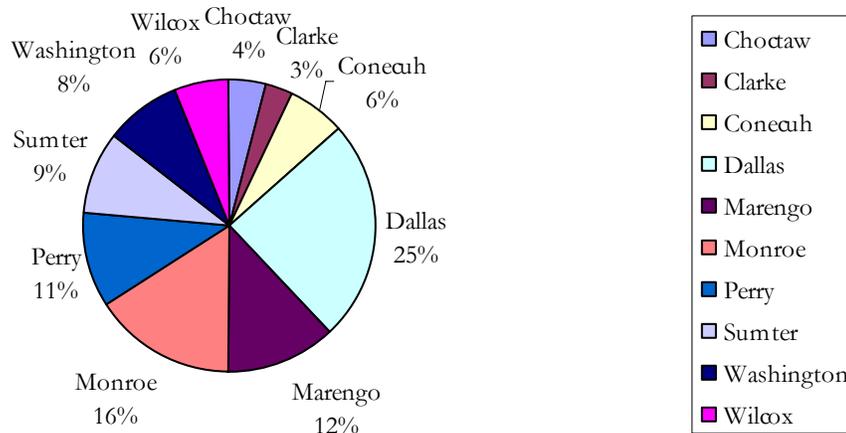
TABLE 13: FARM STATISTICS FOR THE ATRC REGION			
County	Number of Farms	Land in Farms	Average Farm Size
		Acres	
Choctaw	244	55,224	226
Clarke	284	56,962	201
Conecuh	369	81,825	222
Dallas	490	235,894	481
Marengo	508	188,892	372
Monroe	443	119,992	271
Perry	376	165,018	439
Sumter	443	176,878	399
Washington	396	73,942	187
Wilcox	306	160,041	523
Total	3,859	1,314,668	332

Table 14 gives a breakdown of cash receipts in the ATRC region. The table provides the total for all commodities, government payments, farm forest products, and total farm receipts. Figure # illustrates the breakdown of total cash receipts from farming in the region. The figure shows that Dallas County accounts for 25% of the region's farm receipts.

<b>TABLE 14: CASH RECEIPTS FOR THE ATRC REGION 2004</b>				
<b>County</b>	<b>2004 Cash Receipts (thousands of dollars)</b>			
	<b>Total All Commodities</b>	<b>Government Payments</b>	<b>Farm Forest Products</b>	<b>Total Farm Receipts*</b>
Choctaw	7,860	135	2,713	8,076
Clarke	3,198	158	3,658	6,233
Conecuh	7,572	1,078	3,375	12,544
Dallas	44,240	3,958	4,529	47,549
Marengo	18,559	1,862	7,342	23,183
Monroe	21,813	2,994	6,032	31,411
Perry	16,031	1,311	1,844	20,725
Sumter	15,340	1,376	2,614	17,816
Washington	17,769	423	2,331	16,415
Wilcox	8,064	962	7,621	11,710
Total	160,446	14,257	42,059	195,662
*Includes other farm income (machine hire and custom work, custom feeding fees, and other business related income.				

Source: Alabama Agriculture Statistics Service

## Percentage of Total Farm Receipts in ATRC Region



**Figure 6: Total Farm Receipts**

Source: Alabama Agriculture Statistics Service

### *LARGE EMPLOYERS*

In addition to the forest product industry, there are numerous other manufacturing operations within the region and surrounding areas that employ large numbers. There are many sewing operations dispersed throughout the region. New Era Cap Company, which makes professional baseball caps, has two factories in the region employing over 500 persons. Other sewing concerns include AC Fabricators, Vanity Fair, American Apparel, and Meadowcraft. Auto manufacturing has also provided many job opportunities to parts of the region. Hyundai Motors and its spin-off producers provide over 400 jobs to Dallas County residents. Guyoung, an automotive stamping operation, employs over one-hundred workers in Conecuh County.

Other categories providing large numbers of jobs are healthcare, local government, and public school systems. Local hospitals are included in the list of top employers in three of the region's ten counties. In Perry County, both of the nursing homes are considered large employers. County and local governments also provide employment to a large number of people in the ATRC region. Public school systems and public post secondary systems rank high in every county in the region with regards to number employed.

## B. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Alabama's number one ranked Workforce Development Program has extended its reach in to every county in the ATRC region. The program provides One-Stop Career Centers and career opportunities on post-secondary campuses serving all ten counties. The region is divided in to two workforce development regions (Regions 6 and 9), each having specific goals to best meet local needs. These regions have boards that work in coordination with the Office of State Workforce Development. For specific industrial projects, the Alabama Industrial Development Training Program (AIDT) is available on an "as needed" basis. This program provides training for both new and existing industries labor pools.

In addition, a recently announced U.S. Department of Labor Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) grant in the amount of \$25 million will enhance workforce development in some of ATRC's counties.

## C. UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment rates in the ATRC region have decreased over the past five years (Table 15). From the period between 2001 and 2005 unemployment rates in all ten counties have decreased, except in Marengo where 2001 and 2005's rates are the same. Although the rates are declining, the region continues to have higher numbers when compared Alabama and US averages.

<b>TABLE 15: UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR ATRC COUNTIES</b>						
<b>2001-2005</b>						
	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>United States</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>4.6</b>
<b>Alabama</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3.6</b>
Choctaw	8.9	11.3	12.7	8.5	6.1	<b>5.1</b>
Clarke	11.5	9.2	8	8.8	5.9	<b>5.6</b>
Conecuh	7.9	8.3	8.4	8.6	5.7	<b>5</b>
Dallas	11.5	13.8	12.9	10.2	7.9	<b>7.4</b>
Marengo	5.3	5.3	4.9	6.2	5.3	<b>4.1</b>
Monroe	9.6	10.8	10.1	7.4	5.6	<b>5.5</b>
Perry	13.9	13.6	11	10.1	8.2	<b>7.6</b>
Sumter	10.4	10.5	11.7	9.5	6.7	<b>6.1</b>
Washington	15.6	17.2	16.5	9.6	5.7	<b>5.2</b>
Wilcox	13	14	15.1	11.9	8.5	<b>7.7</b>
Source: Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, Spring, 2007.						

## D. UNDEREMPLOYMENT

The Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Alabama released a study of underemployment by Workforce Investment Area. ATRC's region has counties in two Workforce Investment Advisory Areas. These regions are 6 and 9. Sumter, Choctaw, Marengo, Perry, Dallas, and Wilcox make up Region 6. Washington, Clarke, Monroe, and Conecuh are included in Region 9 along with non-ATRC counties Escambia and Baldwin.

The study found that a large percentage of workers in the ATRC region are underemployed. Underemployment is defined as persons who believe that their education and training, skills, or experience are not fully utilized in their current job and that they qualify for higher paying or more satisfying jobs. Region 6, which was composed of six ATRC counties, had an underemployment rate of 28.5%. This figure was higher than the state average of 24%. Region 9, which includes Clarke, Monroe, Washington, and Conecuh counties, had an underemployment rate of 22.8%. Table 16 is a summary of the reports findings for ATRC counties.

<b>County</b>	<b>Underemployment Rate</b>	<b>Available Labor Pool</b>
Choctaw	25%	1,468
Clarke	22.20%	3,457
Conecuh	31.70%	1,998
Dallas	30.80%	6,783
Marengo	22.60%	3,017
Monroe	20%	2,338
Perry	26.40%	1,323
Sumter	30.90%	1,816
Washington	30.50%	1,918
Wilcox	34.50%	1,582

Source: Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

## E. ECONOMIC CLUSTERS IN THE ATRC REGION

### ***GROWING ECONOMIC CLUSTERS***

#### *NORTH CLARKE COUNTY*

Development of the North Clarke Industrial Park, anchored by the \$200 million Louisiana Pacific Plant construction, has spurred economic development. This project is partially funded by a tax increase enacted by the Clarke County Commission to fund infrastructure in industrial parks throughout the county. The project also includes infrastructure grants from federal agencies, including the EDA. Tied to this project is a new Thomasville water treatment plant along with storage facilities. Significant business, institutional and professional expansion is also fueling Thomasville's economic expansion.

### *DALLAS-MONTGOMERY-AUTAUGA COUNTIES*

Construction of Hyundai Motor Company's first U.S. plant in Montgomery is currently driving development in this cluster. Spin-offs from Hyundai Motor have provided increased development and accompanying employment in all these counties. Dallas County, one of ATRC's ten counties, has three suppliers: Renosol Seating, Hanil E-HWA Interior Systems Alabama, and Lear/Kyungshin-Sales Marketing. These three have provided hundreds of new jobs for the area.

### *CONECUH COUNTY (I-65 CORRIDOR)*

Infrastructure improvements and the emergence of the Coastal-Gateway Economic Development Authority (consisting of Conecuh, Escambia, and Monroe Counties) has provided additional coordination and marketing for this corridor.

### *WEST ALABAMA – EAST MISSISSIPPI*

Development of a multi-state economic development effort, including an area industrial site, has enhanced interest in this economically deprived corridor. Not only is this effort ongoing, but it has encouraged similar efforts in other counties and municipalities. A recently approved U.S. Department of Labor WIRED Grant of \$25 million will be used for workforce development in this area.

### *DEMOPOLIS AREA*

Continuing improvements to U.S. Highway 80, along with the presence of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway position Demopolis to be a gateway city for West Central Alabama. Currently, business development along U.S. Highway 80 is fueling the economic expansion of the area.

### *SOUTH CLARKE AND WASHINGTON COUNTY*

“ThyssenKrupp announced that it will build a \$3.7 billion state-of-the-art steel and stainless steel processing facility in north Mobile County close to the Washington County line. The plant is expected to begin operation in 2010, and when fully operational, create 2,700 jobs. The facility will manufacture and process carbon steel and stainless steel for high-value applications by manufacturers in the United States and throughout North America. The plant will serve industries including automotive, packaging, construction, electrical and utility, in addition to serving manufacturers of appliances, precision machinery and engineered products (<http://www.thyssenkruppnewsplant.com/>).”

The ThyssenKrupp project is expected to have a strong positive impact on Washington and Clarke Counties.

### *DECLINING ECONOMIC CLUSTERS*

#### *WILCOX –PERRY COUNTY*

Continued out migration and high unemployment rates signify that the Wilcox-Perry County area is a declining economic cluster.

## F. PAST AND CURRENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENTS

Listed below are economic development projects that have been funded through various sources (CDBG, DRA, and EDA) over the past five years.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Total Project Cost</b>
Clarke County ID Park	Water, Sewer, rail line extension	\$2,000,000
Frisco City	Water Storage Tank	\$1,200,000
Craig Field	Rail Spur Rehabilitation	\$1,400,000
Craig Field	Water Storage Tank	\$1,000,000
Dallas County	Water Storage Tank	\$400,000
Evergreen	Drainage	\$492,000
York	Sewer	\$400,000
Marion	Water	\$500,000
South Conecuh ID Park	Water Tank Construction	\$900,000
Epes	Sewer Rehabilitation	\$300,000
Pennington	Sewer	\$350,000
Selma	Water	\$163,000
Dallas County	Sewer	\$500,000
Marengo County	Water	\$350,000
Marion	Water	\$500,000
York	Sewer	\$400,000
Monroeville	Water	\$400,000
Washington County	Water and Roads	\$1,200,000
Perry County	Water	\$400,000

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## IV. REGIONAL EXPECTATIONS

### DEFINING GOALS AND STRATEGIES

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#### A. INTRODUCTION

The Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission strives to promote economic expansion and enhance the quality of life in the Alabama Tombigbee service area by providing efficient and effective services, strong regional leadership and effective utilization of available resources. The Commission feels the strategies proposed in this CEDS are a step towards the following long term vision for the region:

- Vibrant, sustainable communities
- Increased capital investment
- Creation of new jobs through company expansions and new investments
  - A strong tourism industry
  - Quality public education systems
  - Increased entrepreneurship
  - Adequate water and sewer systems
- Significant decrease in the region's poverty and unemployment rates
  - Strong adult and youth leadership in all ten counties
  - Adequate healthcare facilities regionwide.

## **B. SWOT ANALYSIS/ COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**

The first step towards identifying goals and objectives is analyzing the current state of the region as a whole. The CEDS Committee, stakeholders, and public who attended the first regionwide meeting were asked to discuss the region without bias. Discussion of the region's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats were all undertaken. The results of this discussion are the following lists.

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### **STRENGTHS**

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- People: The Alabama Tombigbee region has very hospitable people.
- Natural Resources: The region has abundant natural resources, especially timber.
- Climate: The region has a nice climate.
- Historical Sites: The region has many documented historic sites.
- Available Industrial Sites: The region has many available industrial sites, many with all utilities available (Appendix 3).
- Low Tax Rates: Comparatively speaking, the region has low tax rates.
- Cost of Living: The region offers a low cost of living in comparison to the rest of the state.
- River System: There are two navigable rivers. These rivers are also used for recreational purposes.
- Forest Products Industry: The region has a strong, expanding forest products industry.
- Existing Industry: Existing industry in the region is strong.
- Community Colleges/Higher Education: The region has the University of West Alabama, Marion Military Institute, Judson College, Alabama Southern Community College, Reid State, and Wallace State.
- Race Relations: Race relations are good within the region.
- Strategic Location: The region is situated on two rivers, is near the Gulf of Mexico, and is close to larger cities such as Birmingham.
- Congressional Delegation: The region currently has strong representation in Washington.

- Low Crime Rate: Comparatively speaking the region's crime rate is low.

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## WEAKNESSES

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- Litter: There is a significant problem with litter throughout the region.
- Four Lane Access: Many parts of the region are without access to a four-lane highway.
- Communications Technology: Many areas in the region are unserved/underserved by technological infrastructure. Having the latest technology (i.e. DSL) available is important to economic development and education.
- Negative Perception of the Area: Many people outside of the region think of this area negatively.
- Specialized Healthcare: You must travel to one of the surrounding larger cities to see a specialist because few are available in the region.
- Out Migration of Youth: In the ATRC region, a significant percentage of persons aged 18-40 migrate to other areas in the state. The region loses many potential strong leaders and workers due to out-migration.
- High School Drop Out Rate: The region's high school drop out rate needs to be addressed.
- Lack of Local Community Development and Economic Development Funds: In a number of counties there are no economic development funds available from local governments.
- Lack of Zoning: The majority of the ATRC region is not covered by a zoning ordinance. The need for zoning has become a popular topic in many municipalities and counties in the region.
- Lack of "skilled labor": Many people in the region are not trained in a specialized trade.
- Sewer Systems: A large part of the region is without sewer systems.
- Mapping Technology: Many of the counties in the region do not have GIS systems to aid in economic development ad planning.

- Lack of Apprentice/ Trade Programs: There is a shortage of training programs in the ATRC region.
- Outflow of Retail Dollars: A large portion of the population travels outside the region to major retail centers to shop, taking their tax dollars with them.
- Lack of Diversity in Retail/Industry: Many areas have no or very limited retail and industrial diversity.
- Aging Population: As the median age in the ATRC region increases greater demands will be put on healthcare facilities. Also demand for programs such as Medicare and Social Security will increase. The need for additional recreational opportunities tailored for seniors will continue to grow.
- Lack of Capital: Lack of investment capital is a widespread problem throughout the region. In order to create more business opportunities, capital is needed.
- Lack of Marketing Dollars: The region needs to better market itself, touting its successes.
- Political Influence at State Level: The region has little influence in state level politics.
- Public Transportation: As in most areas, there is a definite need for additional rural transportation.
- Drugs: Drug use has increased in the region; this issue needs to be addressed.

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## **OPPORTUNITIES**

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- Vacant Buildings: The many vacant buildings in the region present opportunities for business/industry location.
- Regional Efforts: The region has begun working together more effectively to the benefit of the whole.
- Four Lane Highways: The four laning of Highways 80 and 84 has the potential to benefit the region enormously.
- Adequate Affordable Housing: Being able to offer adequate, affordable housing presents a n opportunity to prospective businesses.

- Tourism: The region's rich history and abundant recreational opportunities have tremendous potential in attracting tourism dollars.
- Riverfront Development: Cities such as Demopolis and Selma have potential for developing their riverfront.
- Recreation Potential: The entire region has potential to market hunting and fishing opportunities.
- Adult Education Programs: Better advertised adult education programs have the potential to improve the quality of life for many of the regions residents.
- Leadership Development: Adult and youth leadership programs in each county will provide the strong leadership needed for economic growth.
- Renewed Entrepreneurial Energy: A growing entrepreneurial base gives the region great potential in economic development.
- Renewed Regional Identity: A positive regional identity accepted by all will help in many aspects of community and economic development.
- Agriculture: There is potential for profit in vegetable farming throughout the region.
- Industrial Sites: Continued use of the region's industrial sites and new location of industry will benefit the region.
- Medical Resources: There is a great opportunity for doctors, dentists, specialists, and updates facilities throughout the region.
- Retail Establishments: New, more diverse retail establishments are in demand in the region.
- Marketing the Region: Along with a regional identity, the region needs to better market itself to prospective residents and employers.
- Zoning: Municipal and county zoning ordinances have the potential to improve the quality of life and economic development potential of the region.
- Speculative Buildings: Speculative buildings throughout the region have the potential for attracting new business.
- Youth Mentoring: Shadowing programs along with other mentoring programs allow youth to see first hand what certain jobs entail.

- Development of Historic Sites: The historic sites throughout the region have the potential to attract tourist dollars.
- GIS: A comprehensive GIS system in each county will provide economic development potential.
- Public/Private Partnerships: Public/private partnerships present opportunities for community and economic development opportunities.
- WIRED Initiative: The WIRED Initiative grants present opportunities for workforce development through part of ATRC's region.
- Communications Technology: Once updated communications technology is installed, the region will be able to better market itself.
- Attracting Retirees: The overall character of the region is suitable for attracting retirees.

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## THREATS

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- Out-migration of Youth: The region loses many potential strong leaders and workers due to out-migration.
- Lack of Medical Facilities: There are two counties in the region without a hospital. The region is also underserved by doctors, dentists, and specialists.
- Poor Public Perception of Education: The public has a negative perception of education, although many improvements have been made.
- Poor Outside Perception of Race Relations: The outside world sees the region as being unstable racially, but the region actually has good race relations.
- Aging Population: The increasingly older population will put more strain on medical services that are already overloaded.
- Lack of Leadership: Many young leaders out migrate, leaving a lack of future leadership in the region.
- Internal Competition: If municipalities or counties within the region compete with each other instead of working together, less will be accomplished.
- Natural Disasters: The region has experienced three hurricanes in the past two years, in addition to numerous other severe weather occurrences.

- Attitude of Helplessness: As in any poor rural area, there is a pervading attitude in some of the population that there is no way out of their situation.
- Drugs: The increased use of drugs is a threat to everyone, regardless of social class.
- Lack of New Industry Development: There is a need for more diversified industry in the region.
- Too Great a Dependence on Forest Products Industry: This threat goes along with the need for more diversity in the region's industry.
- Lack of Communications Upgrades: Without necessary upgrades allowing the area to offer services similar area have, economic development will be affected.
- Absentee Landlords: There are a large percentage of absentee landlords in the region. Many properties are not kept up and often the owner refuses to sell.
- Low Tax Base: The low tax base that exists in the region is a threat because it is a direct reflection of economic activity.
- Rising Fuel Prices: The rising cost of fuel is a direct threat to any form of transportation in the country.
- Loss of Industry/Industry Downsizing: Industry downsizing and closures have the potential to leave large numbers unemployed.
- Funding Cuts: Funding cuts to programs that provide community and economic services to small town and counties will have a significant affect on these areas.
- Foreign Competition: Outsourcing and transferring jobs overseas has affected and continues to affect the region's economy.
- Condition of Existing Infrastructure: This particular situation has the potential to become a significant problem in the region. Many of the regions water and sewer systems were built in the late 1960s and 1970s. These systems were built with a useable life of 30-40 years, which is fast approaching.
- Lack of youth Leadership: Out migration and lack of youth leadership programs may leave the region without strong leaders to replace those who retire.

After analyzing the above lists, the CEDS Strategy Committee identified these issues that affect community and economic development. The CEDS Committee examined the SWOT and important issues information and developed goals and objectives in each of the following categories: economic development, education, infrastructure, leadership, and quality of life. The following pages detail their work.

## C. GOALS & STRATEGIES

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### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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#### GOAL

Create an environment that encourages economic growth of the region, while utilizing available resources.

#### STRATEGIES:

- Develop Regional clusters (retail, recruitment, industrial, business)
- Develop multi-county efforts
- ACE program expansion ( program for counties)
- Regional industrial parks
- Countywide and regional marketing plans
- Regional efforts for tourism including tourism infrastructure (hotels, restaurants, etc.)
- Regional lodging tax to provide money to market area
- Promote agriculture (vegetable farming)
- Develop website for regional tourism with links to additional information
- Develop comprehensive GIS system for economic development
- Entrepreneurial/ small business development
- Support WIRED grant initiatives in eligible counties

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## EDUCATION

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### GOAL

To support a system that meets the needs of the region through a comprehensive plan of educational opportunities.

### STRATEGIES:

- Promote education as a priority
- Develop more pre school opportunities
- Better market workforce development efforts
- Vocational and trade schools
- Improve infrastructure for education
- Address drop out rates
- Promote distance learning through technological advances
- Identify and focus on industry's needs
- Expand and improve library services including access to technology
- Educate populous on citizenship/ electoral process
- Hold education and business leader roundtables
- Encourage and/or expand school foundations
- Promote/develop adult learning programs

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## INFRASTRUCTURE

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### GOAL

To work with public and private entities to improve, expand and maintain an infrastructure system capable of meeting and enhancing the present and future needs of the region.

- Highway development including 80,84,43, 17, 10, and 5
- Support I-85 extension through region
- Continued reinvestment in existing infrastructure (i.e. water, sewer)
- Investment in new infrastructure (i.e. water, sewer, industrial parks)
- Develop both local and regional industrial parks
- Improve roads and bridges
- Support funding for navigable waterways
- Port and riverfront development
- Support the enhancement of airports and airstrips
- Support technology infrastructure for small business
- Technological advances making services available region wide

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## LEADERSHIP

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### GOAL

To attract and develop quality leadership that enhances the image and integrity of the region.

- Encourage and support adult and youth leadership programs in all ten counties
- Maintain effective communication with legislative delegation and develop a regional legislative caucus
- Support regional leadership efforts
- Encourage community leadership
- Utilize mentoring programs in school to develop leadership
- Develop non-traditional leaders
- Support adequately funded and staffed Chambers of Commerce/Economic Development Organizations

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## QUALITY OF LIFE

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### GOAL

To provide an atmosphere that fosters civic pride and responds to the needs and desires of the region.

- Development and expansion of recreation opportunities
- Develop special programs for youths and seniors
- Support and encourage beautification/ litter control efforts and recycling
- Expansion and retention of healthcare services
- Promote historic preservation
- Enhance training and equipment for law enforcement
- Enhance rural transportation program
- Enhance and support arts and culture
- Provide adequate, affordable housing

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## **V. PROJECTS, PROGRAMS, AND ACTIVITIES**

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### **A. SUGGESTED PROJECTS**

Projects are broken down into the following categories: Business & Industry, Housing, Government Facilities & Services, Transportation, Recreation, Healthcare, and Education & Manpower.

**BUSINESS & INDUSTRY**

Expand Water and Sewer in Industrial Parks	ATRC Region	Unknown
Develop Port at Naheola	Choctaw County	\$2,000,000
Construct Docking Facilities	Clarke County	Undetermined
North Industrial Park	Clarke County	Unknown
Murder Creek Development Project	Conecuh County	\$10,000,000
Improve Countywide Industrial Parks	Dallas County	\$1,000,000
Restoration of Historic Properties	Dallas County	Unknown
Expand Sewer for Industrial Park	Jackson	\$350,000
Water and Sewer Improvements to Industrial Park	Linden	\$300,000
Develop County Industrial Park	Marengo County	Unknown
Develop ID Park in Beatrice Area	Monroe County	\$750,000
Industrial Park Improvements	Perry County	\$1,000,000
Riverfront Development	Selma	\$750,000
Develop ID Park in Cuba	Sumter County	\$2,000,000
Develop Dock Facility	Washington County	Undetermined
Improve Countywide Industrial Parks	Washington County	\$2,000,000
Comprehensive Industrial Park	Washington County	\$1,000,000
Conserve and Enhance Historic Properties	Washington County (Old St. Stephens)	\$300,000
Infrastructure for I.D. Park on Highway 28	Wilcox County	\$1,000,000
Coastal Gateway ID Park - Infrastructure	Conecuh County	\$2,000,000
Infrastructure for Demopolis ID Park	Marengo County	\$1,500,000
Infrastructure for North Industrial Park	Clarke County	\$3,000,000
Expand Evergreen ID Park on I-65	Conecuh County	\$1,000,000
Construct Docking Facility	Dallas County	\$1,500,000
Water/Sewer Expansion at Evergreen ID Park (Castleberry)	Conecuh County	\$1,000,000
Basic Infrastructure at Vaiden Field	Perry County	\$1,500,000
Gas Line Construction	McIntosh	\$4,000,000
Water Tank Construction	McIntosh	\$750,000

## HOUSING

Housing Rehabilitation	Camden	\$400,000
Housing Rehabilitation	Chatom	\$300,000
Public Housing	Choctaw	Unknown
Housing Rehabilitation	Grove Hill	\$1,000,000
Community Housing Renewal	Jackson	\$500,000
Elderly and Low Income Housing	Lisman	Unknown
Housing Rehabilitation	Livingston	\$300,000
Public Housing	Millry	\$1,000,000
Public Housing	Perry County	\$1,500,000
Public Housing	Repton	\$2,000,000
Low Income Housing	Thomaston	\$1,000,000
Housing Rehabilitation	Vredenburgh	Unknown
Improve Drainage in Housing Projects	Washington County	Unknown
Public Housing	Wilcox County	\$1,500,000
Develop Regionwide Housing Plan	ATRC Region	\$1,000,000
Neighborhood Renewal	Thomasville	\$1,500,000
Housing Rehab	Selma/Dallas County	\$2,000,000

## GOVERNMENT FACILITIES & SERVICES

Expand Sewer System	Beatrice	Unknown
Expand and Improve Water System	Chatom	Unknown
Natural Gas Lines	Chatom	Unknown
Sewage System Upgrade	Chatom	\$550,000
Complete Countywide Water System	Choctaw County	Unknown
Countywide Water System	Clarke County	Unknown
Upgrade Sewage Systems Countywide	Clarke County	Unknown
Sewage System	Coffeeville	\$750,000
Countywide Water System	Conecuh County	\$2,750,000
Water System Extension	Coy	Unknown
Expand Water System	Cuba	Unknown
Expand Countywide Water System	Dallas County	Unknown
Sewage System	Epes	\$750,000
Expand Sewage System	Evergreen	\$750,000
Sewage System	Excel	\$750,000
Sewage System	Fulton	\$750,000
Sewage System	Gainesville, Geiger, Emelle	\$3,100,000
Sewage System	Gilbertown	\$750,000
Construct Water Treatment Facility	Grove Hill	\$2,250,000
Increase Size of Water Mains	Grove Hill	\$500,000
Correct Storm Drainage Problems	Grove Hill	\$625,000
Water System Extension	Jackson	\$650,000
Upgrade Water Distribution System	Jackson	\$750,000
Sewage System	McIntosh	\$1,250,000
Water & Sewage	Mexia	Unknown
Sewage System	Millry	\$600,000
Sewage System	Needham	\$750,000
Sewage System	Oak Hill	\$550,000
Sewage System	Orrville	\$750,000
Upgrade Water Distribution System	Orrville	\$750,000
Expand Sewage Facility	Pennington	Unknown
County Water System	Perry County	\$1,750,000
Sewage System	Pine Apple	\$625,000
Sewage System	Repton	\$550,000
Sewage System	Silas	\$750,000
Upgrade Sewer Systems	Sumter County	Unknown
Sewage System	Sweet Water	\$750,000

Water System Extension	Sweet Water	Unknown
Sewage System	Thomaston	Unknown
Sewage System	Toxey	\$750,000
Sewage System	Vredenburgh	\$550,000
Drainage Project	Vredenburgh	Unknown
	Washington	
Countywide Water System	County	Unknown
	Washington	
Sewage at County Schools	County	Unknown
	Washington	
Improve Solid Waste Program	County	Unknown
Countywide Water System Improvements	Wilcox County	Unknown
Expand County Water System	Wilcox County	\$1,750,000
Solid Waste Transfer Station	Wilcox County	\$550,000
Rehab Water System - Thomaston	Thomaston	\$1,000,000
Rehab Water System - Coffeerville	Coffeerville	\$1,000,000
Rehab Sewer & Drainage	Selma	\$1,750,000
Water Treatment Plant & Service Lines	Thomasville	\$20,000,000
Surface Water Drainage	Orrville	\$750,000
Rehab Water & Sewer Systems	Regionwide	Unknown

## TRANSPORTATION

Airport Improvements	Chatom	\$550,000
County Roadbank Stabilization	Choctaw County	\$450,000
Highway and Bridge Improvements/ Highway 84 Four Lane	Choctaw County	Unknown
Highway Improvements on 156	Choctaw County	Unknown
Four Lane Highway 84	Clarke County	Unknown
Expand Rural Transportation System	Dallas County	Unknown
I-85 Extension (Montgomery to I-20/59) Bypass Construction	Dallas, Perry, Marengo, and Sumter Counties	Unknown
Airport Improvements	Demopolis	Unknown
Airport Improvements and Extension	Demopolis	Unknown
Rural Transportation System	Jackson	\$625,000
Airport Renovations	Lisman	\$450,000
Expansion of Rural Transportation System	Linden	Unknown
Four lane Highway 43	ATRC Region	Unknown
Four Lane Highway 80	Marengo, Clarke, Counties	Unknown
Extend Four Lane from Highway 84 to Frisco City	Marengo, Perry, Sumter Counties	Unknown
Widen Highway 21	Monroe County	Unknown
Four Lane Highway 84	Monroe County	Unknown
Airport Improvements	Monroe County	Unknown
Interstate Exchange Off Ramp	Perry County	\$1,250,000
Airport Improvements	Sumter County	Unknown
Rural Transportation System	York	Unknown
Bridges on Highway 17	Vredenburgh	\$450,000
Passing Lanes on Highway 17	Washington County	\$15,000,000
Airport Extension	Washington County	\$1,500,000
Develop Multi County Airport	Grove Hill	\$1,500,000
Turn lanes to major industries	Choctaw, Clarke, Marengo, Wilcox	\$20,000,000
Widen shoulders on state highways	Region wide	Unknown
	Region wide	Unknown

## RECREATION

Community Center	Camden	\$350,000
Recreational Park	Castleberry	\$250,000
Tennis Courts	Chatom	\$200,000
Countywide Recreational Improvements	Choctaw County	Unknown
Recreational Lake	Choctaw County	\$1,500,000
Water Based Recreation Park	Clarke County	\$750,000
Develop Campsites	Clarke County	\$500,000
Construct Boat Ramps	Clarke County	\$500,000
Murder Creek Development	Conecuh County	\$10,000,000
Golf Course Expansion	Craig Field	\$1,500,000
Public Park	Deer Park, Fruitdale	\$300,000
Improve Boat Ramps	Jackson	\$200,000
Softball Fields	Jackson	\$300,000
Improve Boat Ramps	Marengo County	\$150,000
Develop Jogging Trail	Marengo County	\$150,000
Softball Fields	Marion	\$750,000
Public Boat Lunch	McIntosh	\$300,000
Recreation Hall	Monroeville	\$500,000
Expand Park	Pennington	Unknown
Public Park	Perry County	\$300,000
Expand Recreational Facilities	Selma	\$750,000
Recreational Park	Silas	\$500,000
Overnight Campsite	Sumter County	\$1,500,000
Equipment for Park Facilities	Thomaston	\$200,000
Ball Field And Park	Vredenburgh	\$275,000
Softball Fields	Vredenburgh	Unknown
Tennis Courts	Vredenburgh	Unknown
Update Recreation Plan	Washington County	\$20,000
Agriculture Center with Covered Arena	Washington County	\$750,000
Recreation Park	Wilcox County	\$500,000
Nature Trail	York	\$150,000
Softball Complex	York	\$250,000
Expand Rogers Park	Butler	\$350,000
Linden Recreation Complex	Linden	\$1,500,000
Community Center	Silas	\$600,000

Recreation Park	Valley Grande	\$250,000
Recreation Park	Coffeeville	\$250,000

## HEALTHCARE

Public Health Clinic	Chatom	Unknown
Mobile Health Clinic	ATRC Region	Unknown
Expansion of Home Health Program	ATRC Region	Unknown
Health Clinic	Lisman	\$750,000
Rural Health Program	Marengo County	\$750,000
Expansion of Home Health Program	Monroe County	Unknown
Expand Rural Health Services	ATRC Region	Unknown
Health Clinic	Thomaston	\$750,000
Health Clinic	Uniontown	\$750,000
Health Clinic	Beatrice	\$500,000
Region wide Health Care	Region wide	Unknown

## **EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Expand Secondary Education Outreach Programs	ATRC Region	Unknown
Continuing Education Programs	ATRC Region	Unknown
Manpower Training Program	ATRC Region	Unknown
Expand Elderly Employment Slots	ATRC Region	Unknown
County School Buildings	ATRC Region	Unknown
Adult Education Program	ATRC Region	Unknown
Workforce Development Programs	ATRC Region	Unknown
Improve School Facilities	Washington County	Unknown
Continuing Vocation Programs	Wilcox County	Unknown

## **B. VITAL PROJECTS/ PRIORITIES**

### **Regional Priorities Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission**

1. Infrastructure improvements: Including promotion and enhancement of multi- county parks (i.e. water and sewer, telecommunications, etc)
2. Transportation:
  - A) Complete four-laning of United States Highway 80
  - B) Four lane United States Highway 43 in Clarke and Marengo Counties
  - C) Four lane United States Highway 84 in Monroe, Clarke, and Choctaw Counties
  - D) Support proposed I-85 extension through region (Montgomery to Meridian)
3. Develop targeted workforce development efforts to provide a trained, quality workforce in the region, thus strengthening economic development efforts.
4. Provide better housing, through private and public sources, to the region.
5. Provide better healthcare in rural areas.

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## VI. CEDS PLAN OF ACTION

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The Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission will continue to support and promote economic expansion within the ten county region. The following statements outline the Commission's plan of action.

- Alabama Tombigbee will continue to provide economic and industrial planning with the Economic Development Administration giving guidance, direction, and funding for these plans.
- Alabama Tombigbee will continue to provide technical assistance to local governments in the form of grant writing, information, guidance, etc.. in both community and economic development.
- Alabama Tombigbee will take steps towards helping the State of Alabama address problems in rural transportation by developing a Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan and by housing a Rural Planning Organization (RPO).
- Alabama Tombigbee will continue to support and participate in leadership development programs throughout the region.
- Alabama Tombigbee will continue to support tourism efforts in an effort to spur economic development through tourism.
- Alabama Tombigbee will continue to support and participate in organizations such as the Black Belt Mayors Conference, Governor's Commission on the Black Belt, West Alabama Regional Alliance, and Commission on East Mississippi-West Alabama. These organizations address both community and economic development issues.
- Alabama Tombigbee will continue to support and participate in workforce development initiatives throughout the region.
- Alabama Tombigbee will continue to house the Alabama Entrepreneurial Research Network (AERN), which provides resources for small business development.
- Alabama Tombigbee will promote the use of technology in economic and community development.
- Alabama Tombigbee will promote balancing resources through the sound management of physical development.

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## VII. PERFORMANCE MEASURES

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ATRC's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is an evolving document. Each year ATRC and the CEDS Strategy Committee will come together to evaluate its effectiveness and appropriateness. Information used to judge effectiveness is as follows:

- number of jobs created as a result of projects/ strategies in the CEDS,
- number and types of investments undertaken in the region since CEDS implementation,
- number of jobs retained in the region since implementation of the CEDS,
- amount of private sector investment in the region since implementation of the CEDS,
- and changes in the economic environment in the region since implementation of the CEDS.

The ATRC staff and the CEDS Strategy Committee will examine this information and determine the suitability of the current CEDS. The following questions will be discussed:

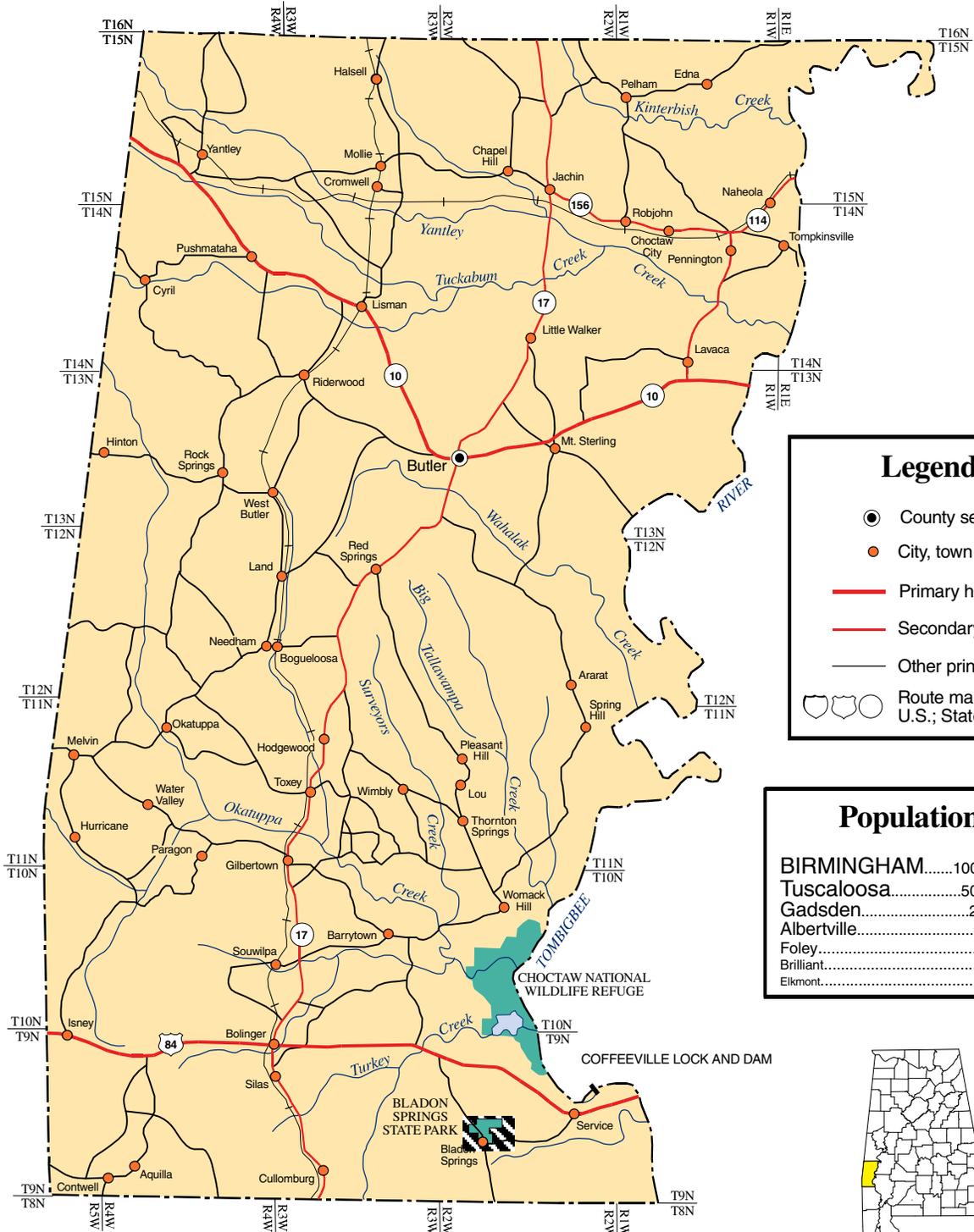
- Is the current CEDS addressing the region's current economic state?
- Is the current CEDS implementation meeting expectations?
- What changes/modifications could be made to the CEDS to make it more effective for the region?

Individual projects will be examined and current circumstances taken into account during evaluation.

During yearly updates changes will be made with regards to projects and addressing progress; these are not considered major changes. If the Committee determines that the CEDS is not serving its purpose or that the economic environment has changed, modifications will be made. In certain cases, these modifications may be significant leading to compilation of a new more suitable CEDS.

# Appendix 1

# CHOCTAW COUNTY



### Legend

- County seat
- City, town or village
- Primary highway
- Secondary highway
- Other principal roads
- Route marker: Interstate; U.S.; State

### Population Key

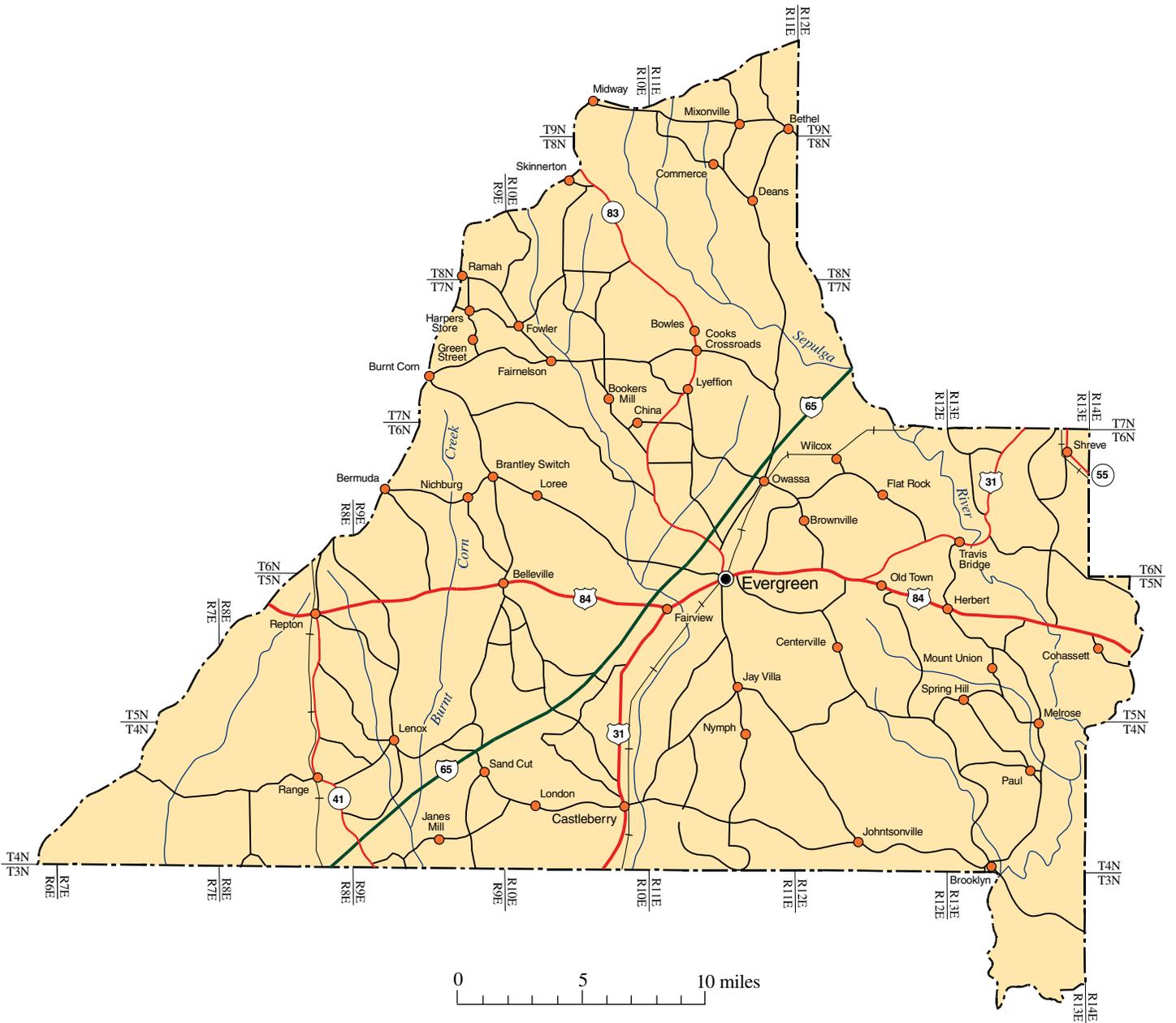
BIRMINGHAM.....	100,000 to 500,000
Tuscaloosa.....	50,000 to 100,000
Gadsden.....	25,000 to 50,000
Albertville.....	5,000 to 25,000
Foley.....	1,000 to 5,000
Brilliant.....	500 to 1,000
Elkmont.....	up to 500



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The University of Alabama



# CONECUH COUNTY



### Legend

- County seat
- City, town or village
- Primary highway
- Secondary highway
- Other principal roads
- Route marker: Interstate; U.S.; State



### Population Key

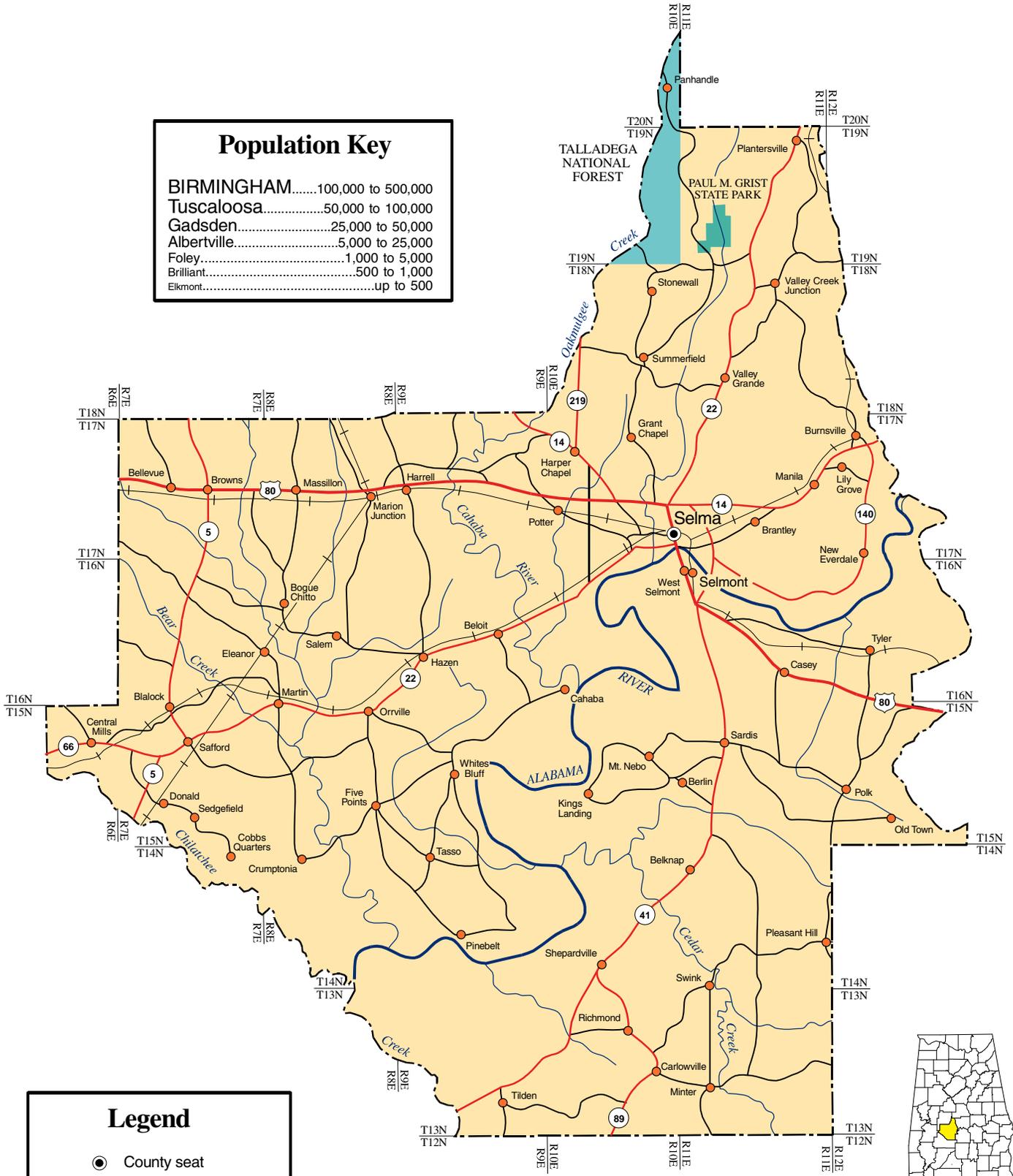
BIRMINGHAM.....	100,000 to 500,000
Tuscaloosa.....	50,000 to 100,000
Gadsden.....	25,000 to 50,000
Albertville.....	5,000 to 25,000
Foley.....	1,000 to 5,000
Brilliant.....	500 to 1,000
Elkmont.....	up to 500

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# DALLAS COUNTY

## Population Key

BIRMINGHAM.....	100,000 to 500,000
Tuscaloosa.....	50,000 to 100,000
Gadsden.....	25,000 to 50,000
Albertville.....	5,000 to 25,000
Foley.....	1,000 to 5,000
Brilliant.....	500 to 1,000
Elkmont.....	up to 500



## Legend

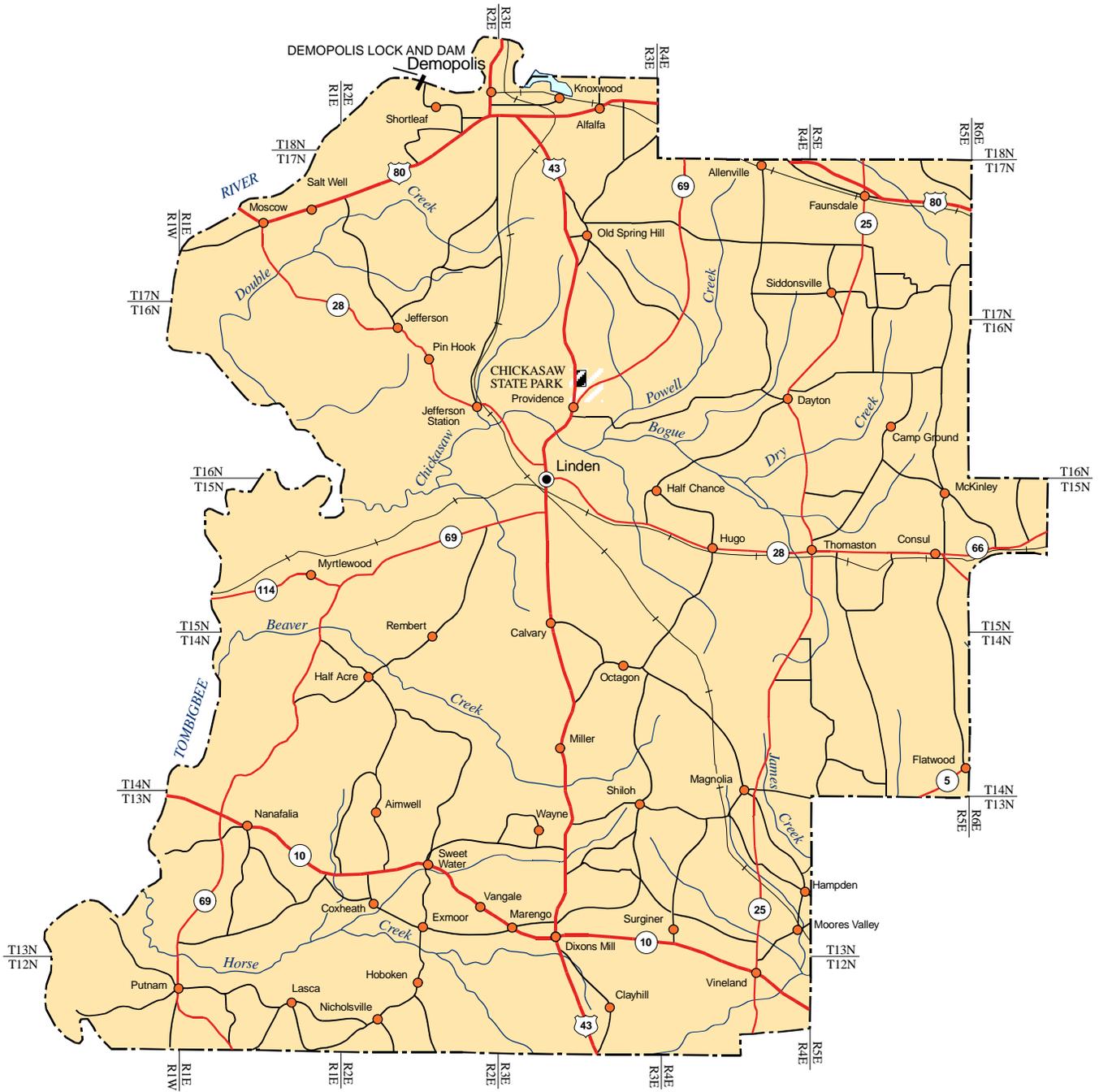
- County seat
- City, town or village
- Primary highway
- Secondary highway
- Other principal roads

Route marker: Interstate; U.S.; State

0 5 10 miles



# MARENGO COUNTY



**Legend**

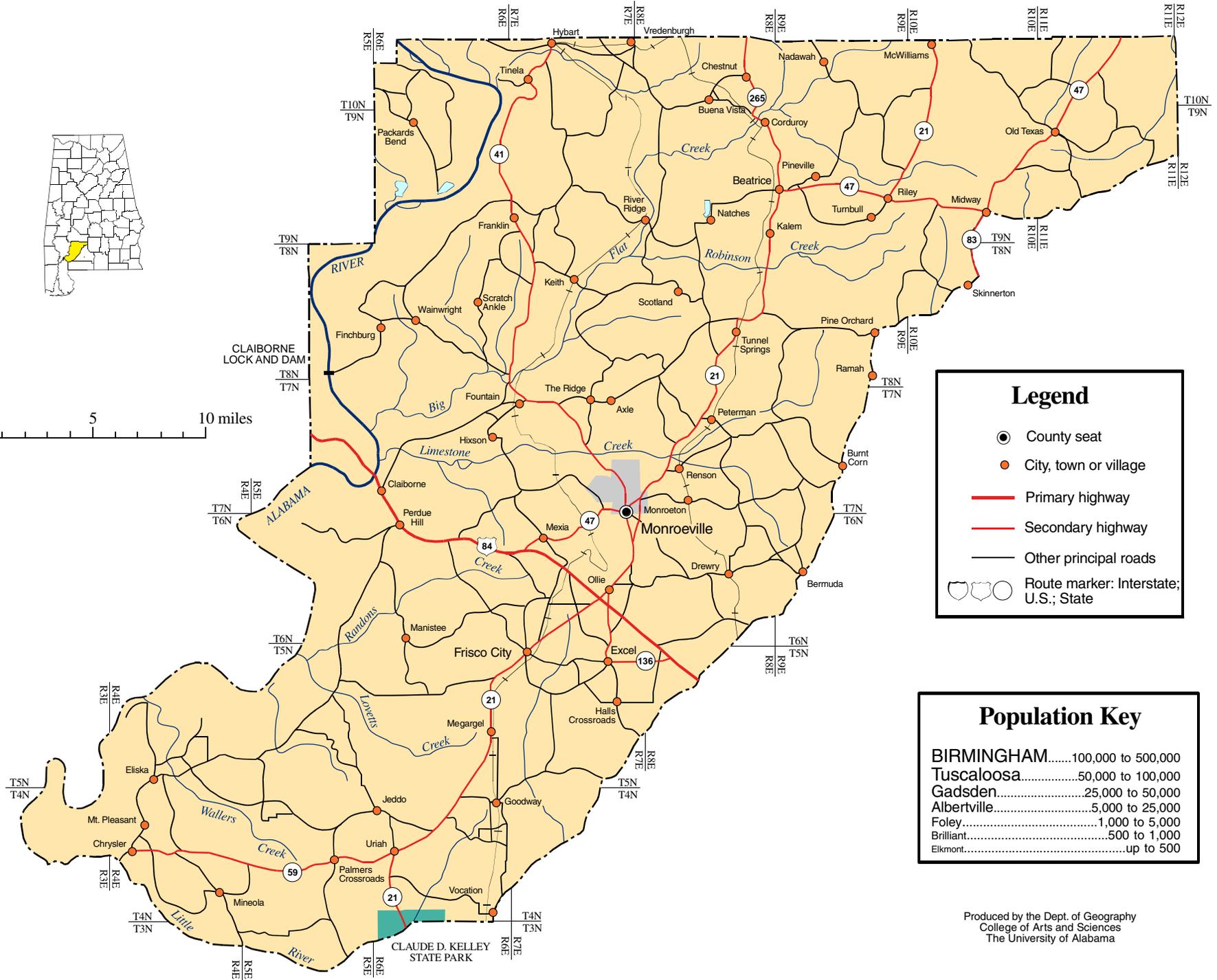
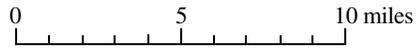
- County seat
- City, town or village
- Primary highway
- Secondary highway
- Other principal roads
- ⬇ Route marker: Interstate; U.S.; State



**Population Key**

BIRMINGHAM.....	100,000 to 500,000
Tuscaloosa.....	50,000 to 100,000
Gadsden.....	25,000 to 50,000
Albertville.....	5,000 to 25,000
Foley.....	1,000 to 5,000
Brilliant.....	500 to 1,000
Elkmont.....	up to 500

# MONROE COUNTY



### Legend

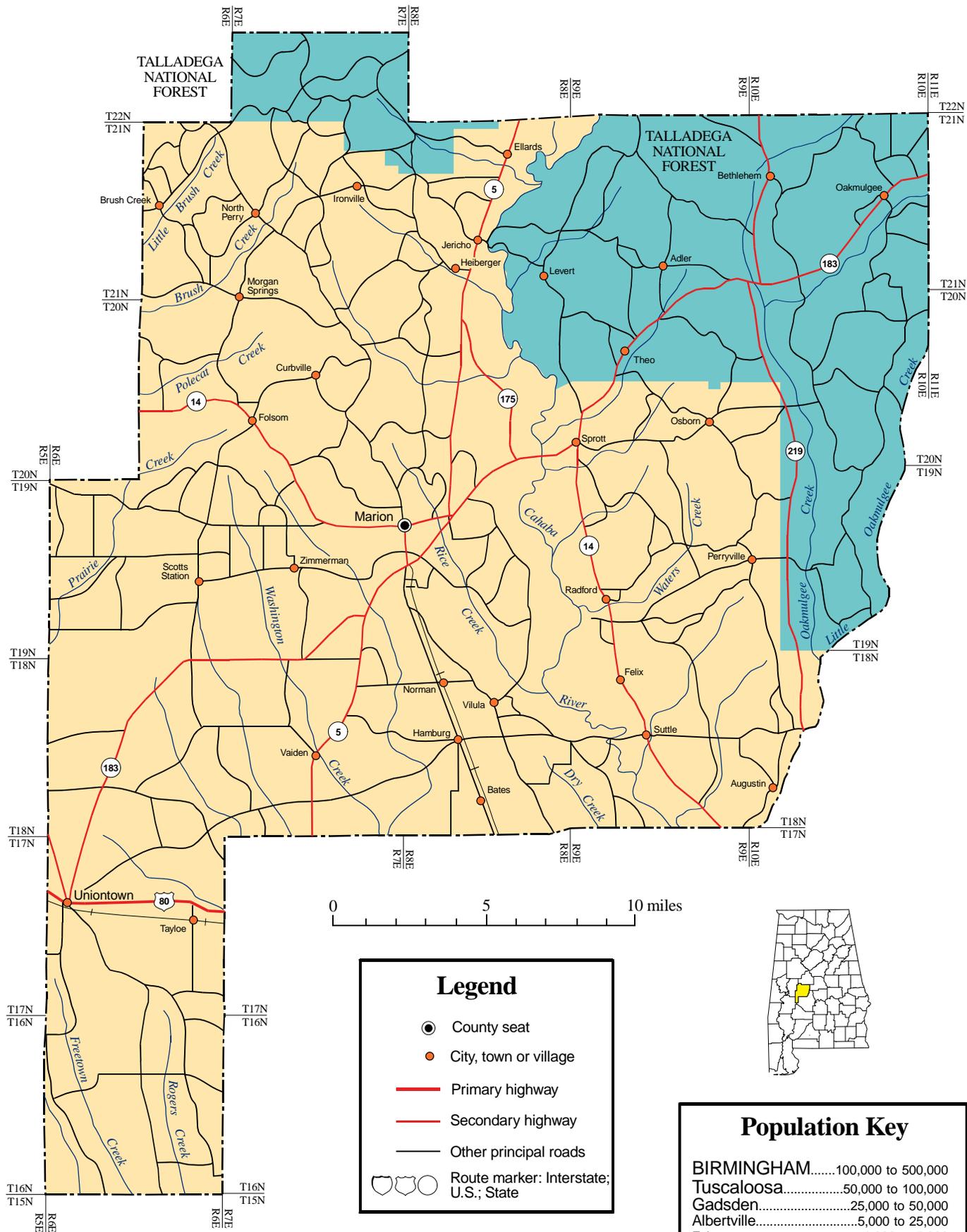
- County seat
- City, town or village
- Primary highway
- Secondary highway
- Other principal roads
- Route marker: Interstate; U.S.; State

### Population Key

BIRMINGHAM.....	100,000 to 500,000
Tuscaloosa.....	50,000 to 100,000
Gadsden.....	25,000 to 50,000
Albertville.....	5,000 to 25,000
Foley.....	1,000 to 5,000
Brilliant.....	500 to 1,000
Elkmont.....	up to 500

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# PERRY COUNTY



### Legend

- County seat
- City, town or village
- Primary highway
- Secondary highway
- Other principal roads
- Route marker: Interstate;
- U.S.; State



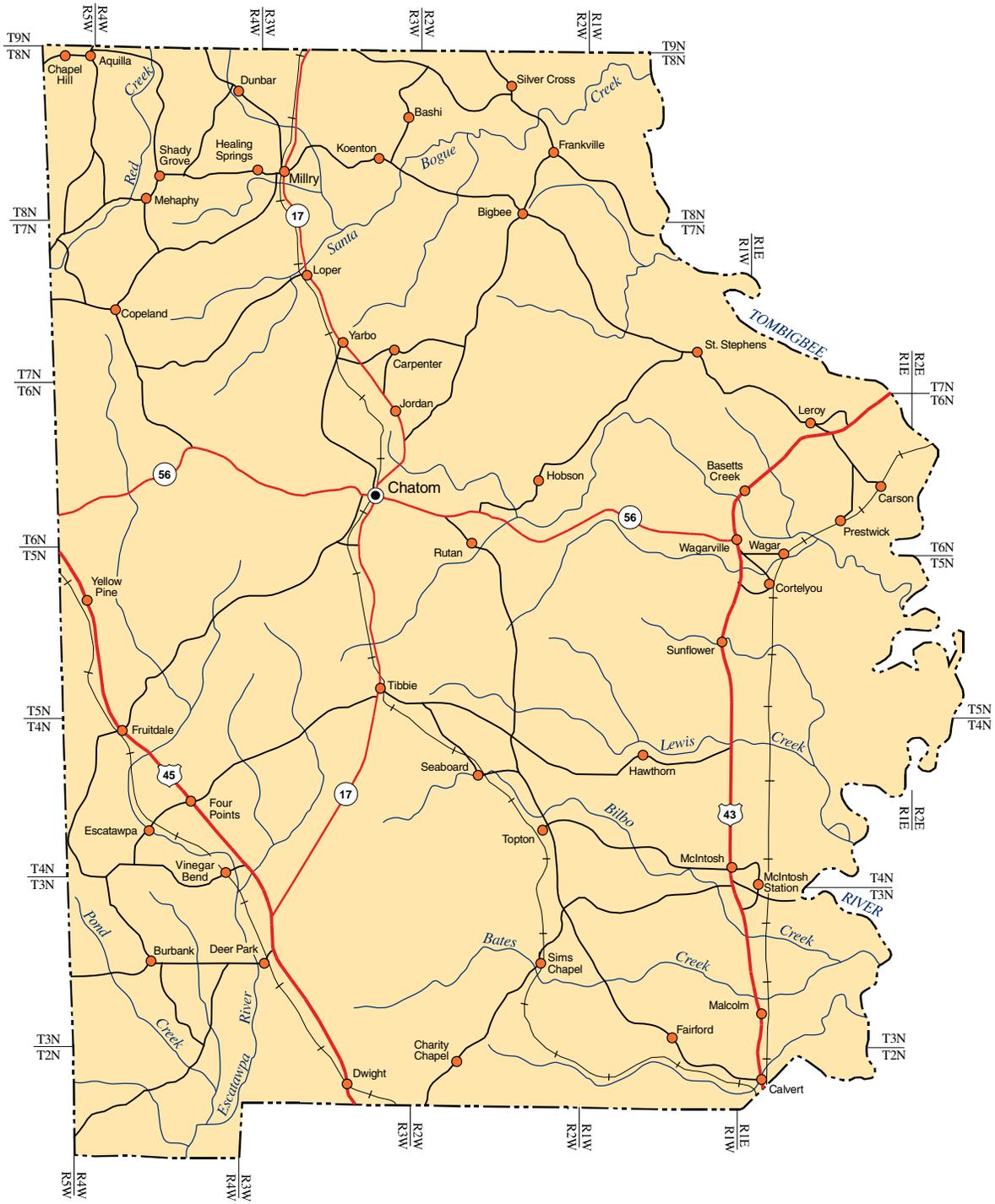
### Population Key

BIRMINGHAM.....	100,000 to 500,000
Tuscaloosa.....	50,000 to 100,000
Gadsden.....	25,000 to 50,000
Albertville.....	5,000 to 25,000
Foley.....	1,000 to 5,000
Brilliant.....	500 to 1,000
Elkmont.....	up to 500

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# WASHINGTON COUNTY



### Legend

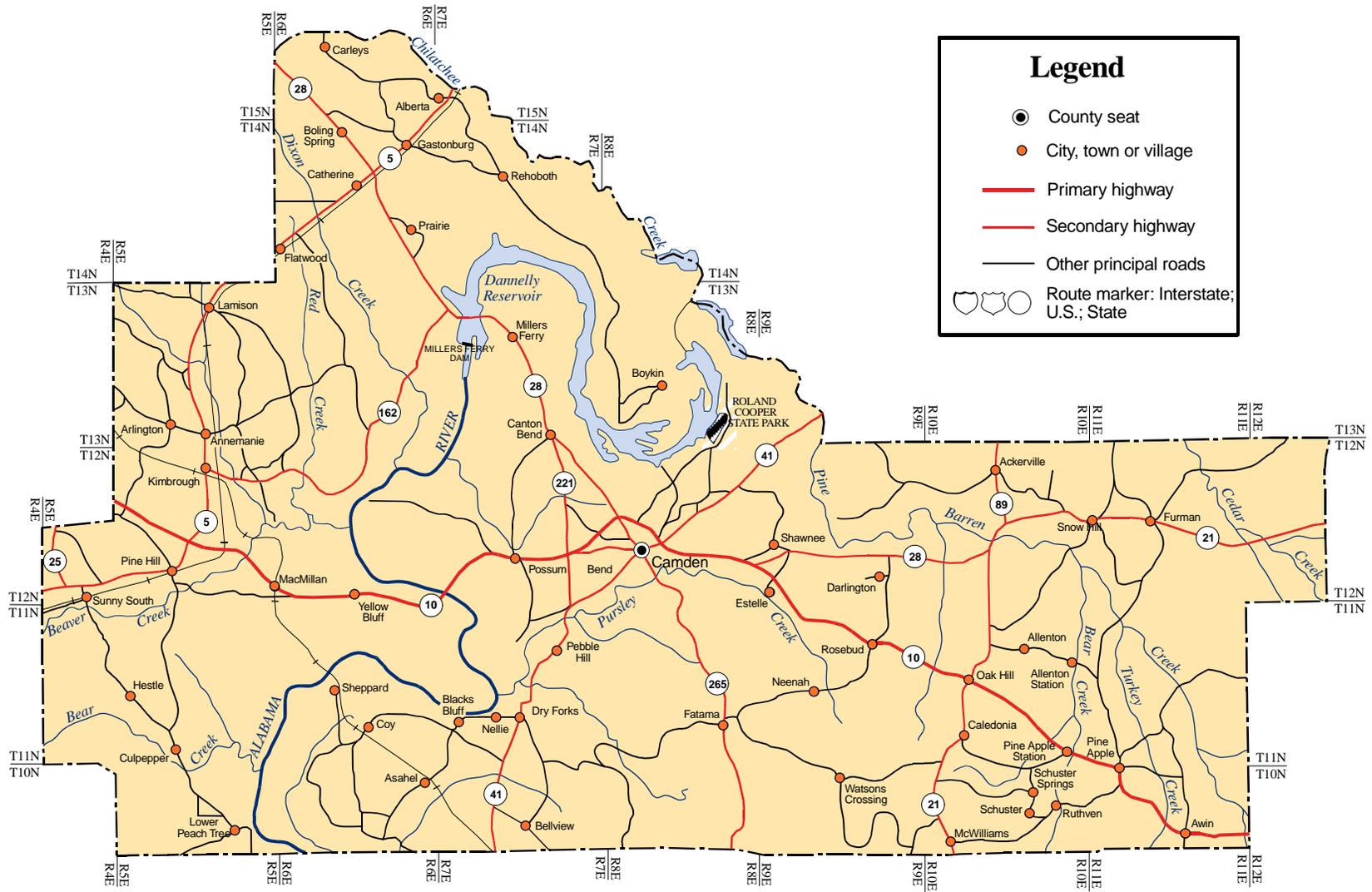
- County seat
- City, town or village
- Primary highway
- Secondary highway
- Other principal roads
- Route marker: Interstate; U.S.; State



### Population Key

BIRMINGHAM.....	100,000 to 500,000
Tuscaloosa.....	50,000 to 100,000
Gadsden.....	25,000 to 50,000
Albertville.....	5,000 to 25,000
Foley.....	1,000 to 5,000
Brilliant.....	500 to 1,000
Elkmt.....	up to 500

# WILCOX COUNTY



### Legend

- County seat
- City, town or village
- Primary highway
- Secondary highway
- Other principal roads
- Route marker: Interstate; U.S.; State



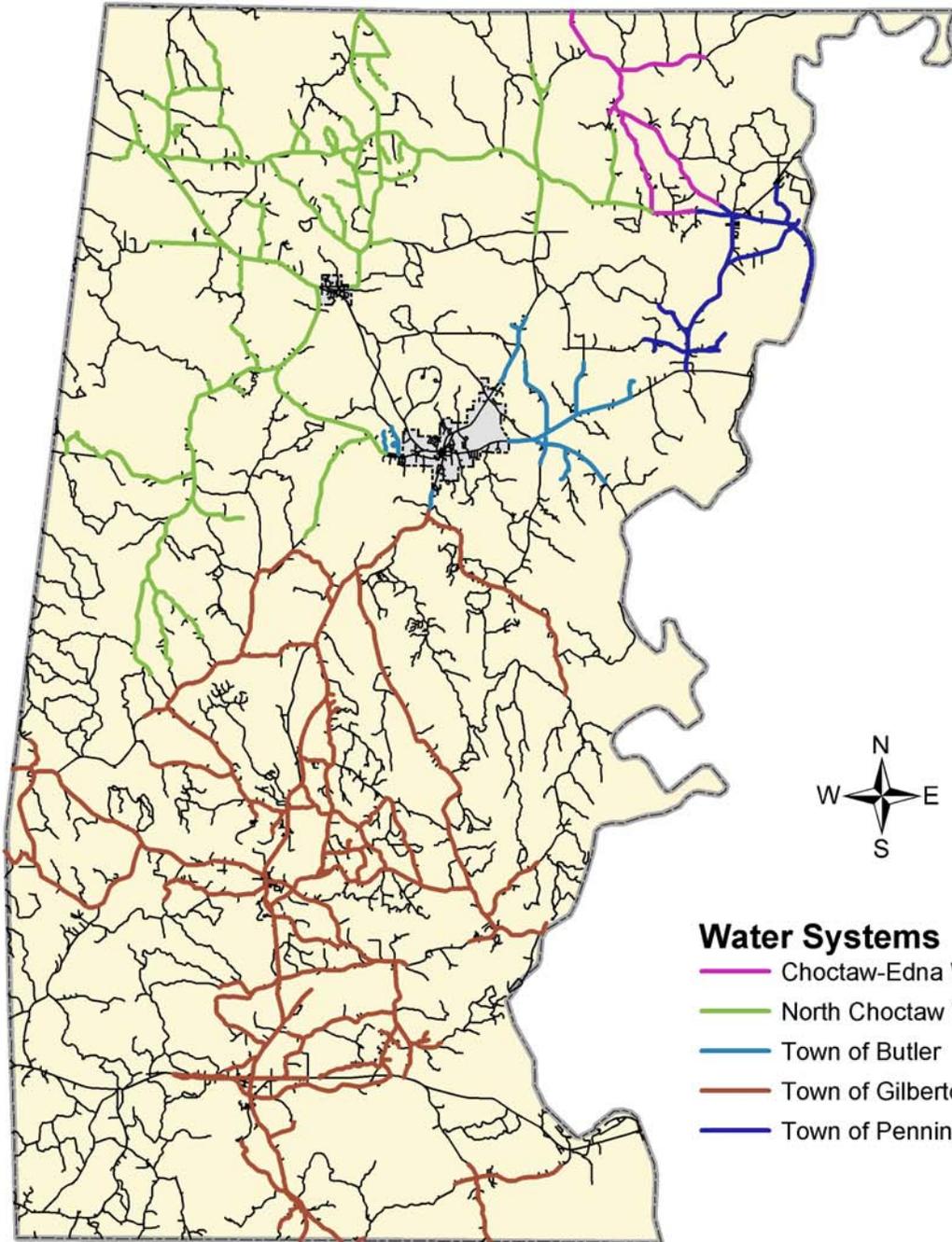
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### Population Key

BIRMINGHAM.....	100,000 to 500,000
Tuscaloosa.....	50,000 to 100,000
Gadsden.....	25,000 to 50,000
Albertville.....	5,000 to 25,000
Foley.....	1,000 to 5,000
Brilliant.....	500 to 1,000
Elkmont.....	up to 500

## **Appendix 2**

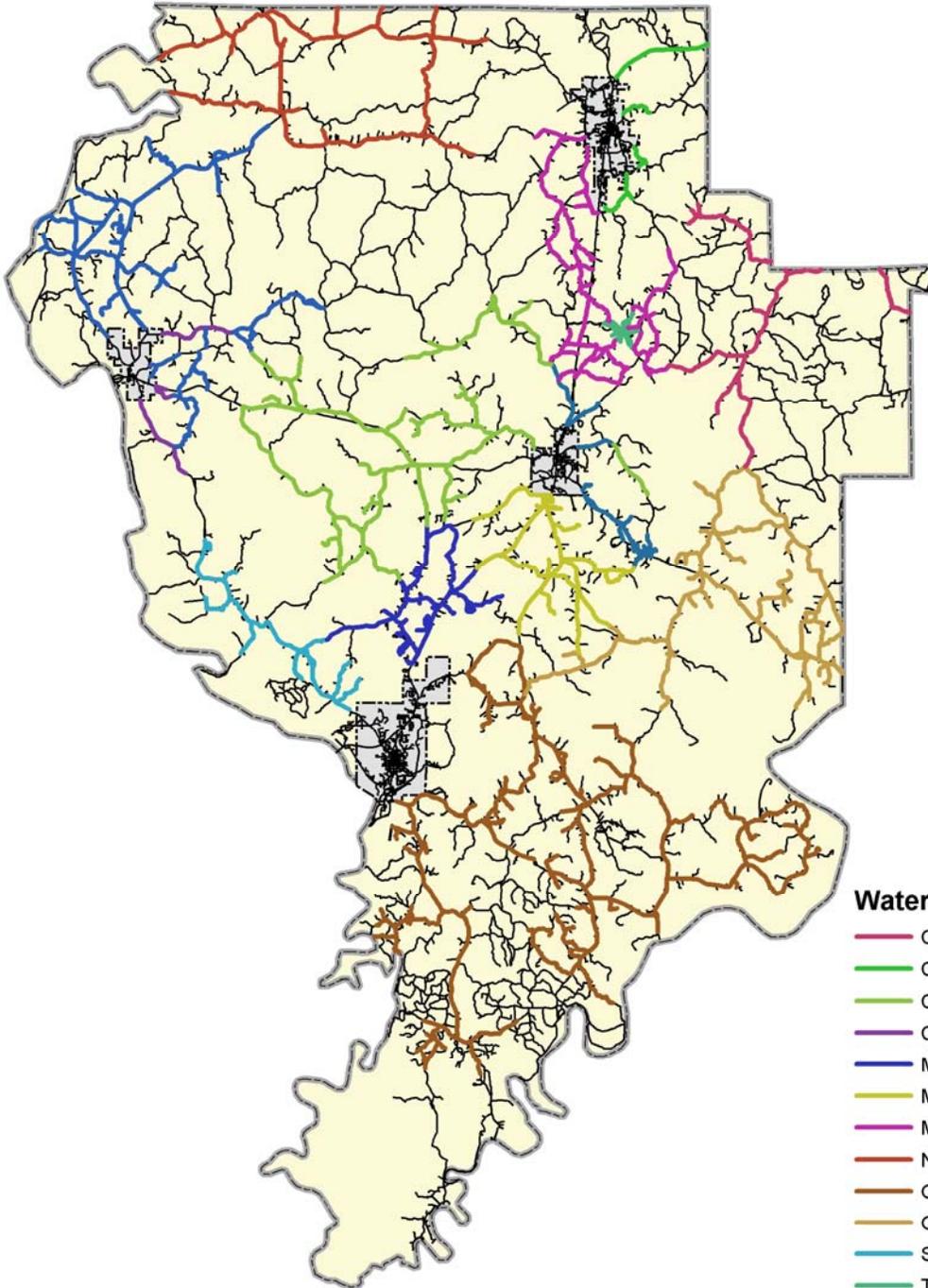
# Choctaw County Water Systems



## Water Systems

- Choctaw-Edna Water & FPA
- North Choctaw Water Authority
- Town of Butler
- Town of Gilberttown
- Town of Pennington

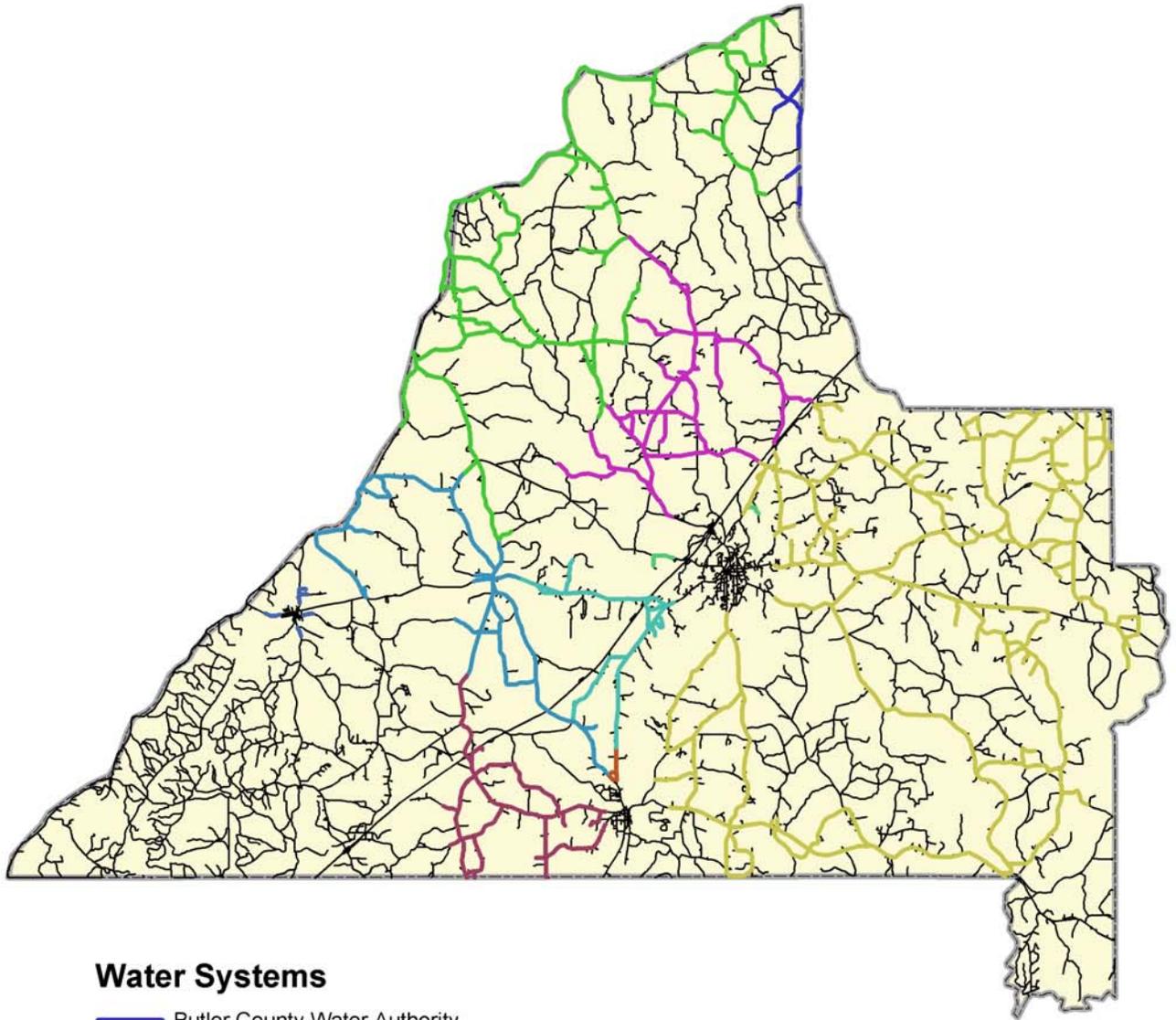
# Clarke County Water Systems



## Water Systems

- CWM Water Authority
- City of Thomasville
- Clarke County Water System
- Coffeeville Water Works Board
- McVay Water System
- Mid-Clarke Water System
- Mid-Central Water & FPA
- North Clarke Water Authority
- Old Line Water Authority
- Old Suggsville Water System
- Salitpa Water System
- Town of Fulton
- Town of Grove Hill Water Works
- West Clarke Co. Water System

# Conecuh County Water Systems



## Water Systems

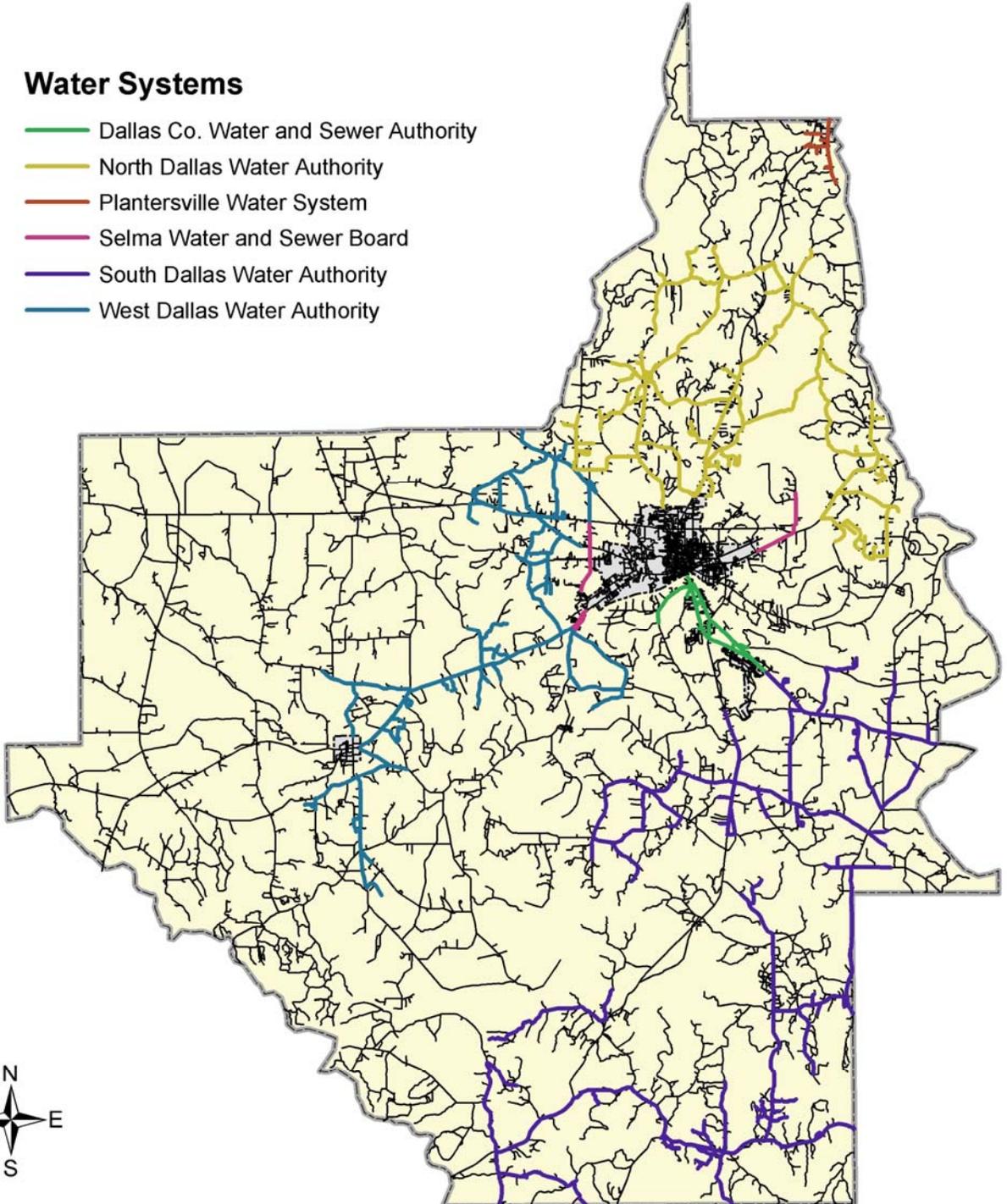
- Butler County Water Authority
- Castleberry Water Works
- City of Evergreen
- Fairview Water System
- Hamden Ridge Water & FPA
- Lyeffion Water & FPA
- McCall Water System
- Owassa-Brownville Water Authority
- Repton Water Works
- Southwest Alabama Water Authority



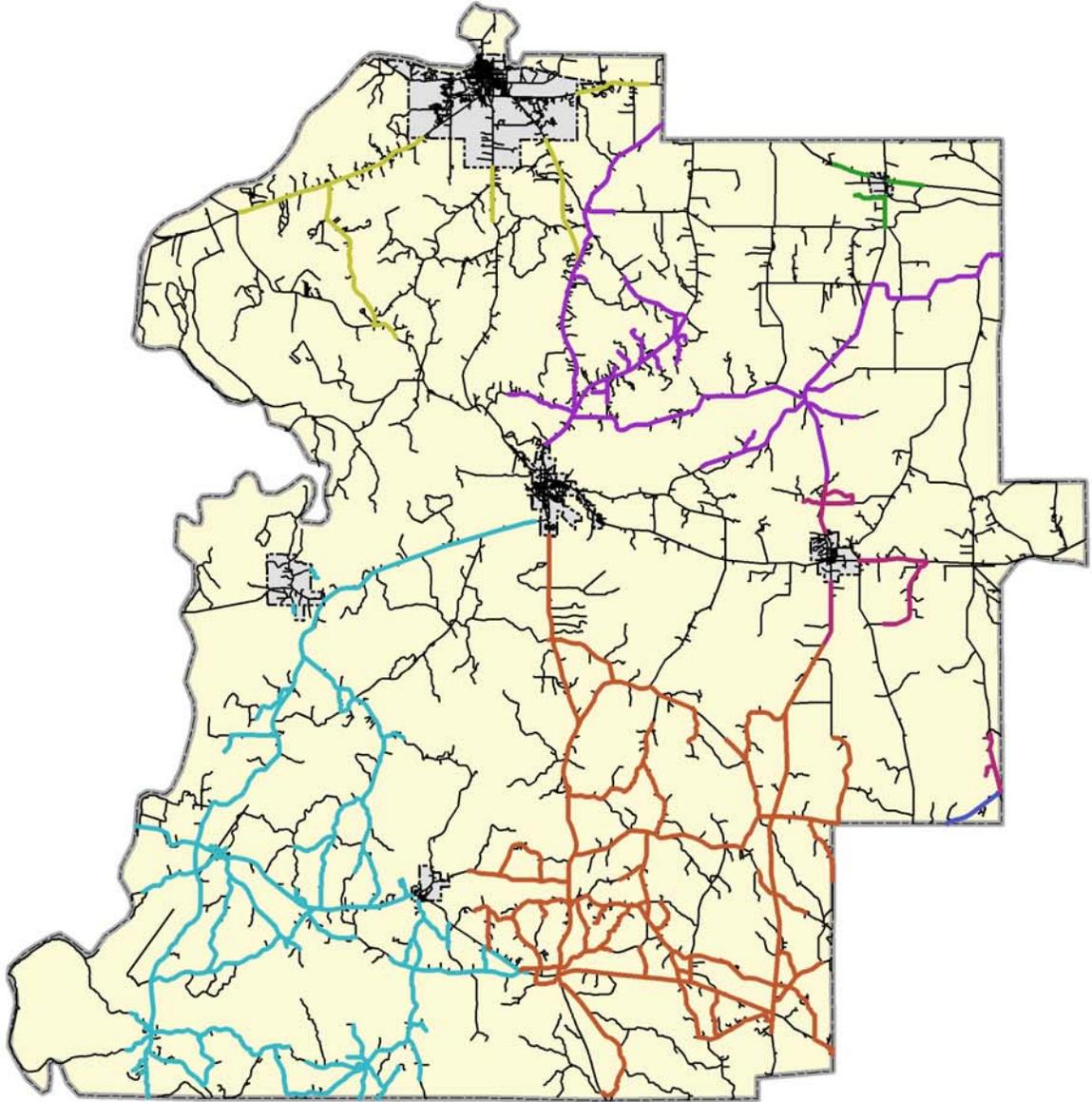
# Dallas County Water Systems

## Water Systems

-  Dallas Co. Water and Sewer Authority
-  North Dallas Water Authority
-  Plantersville Water System
-  Selma Water and Sewer Board
-  South Dallas Water Authority
-  West Dallas Water Authority



# Marengo County Water Systems

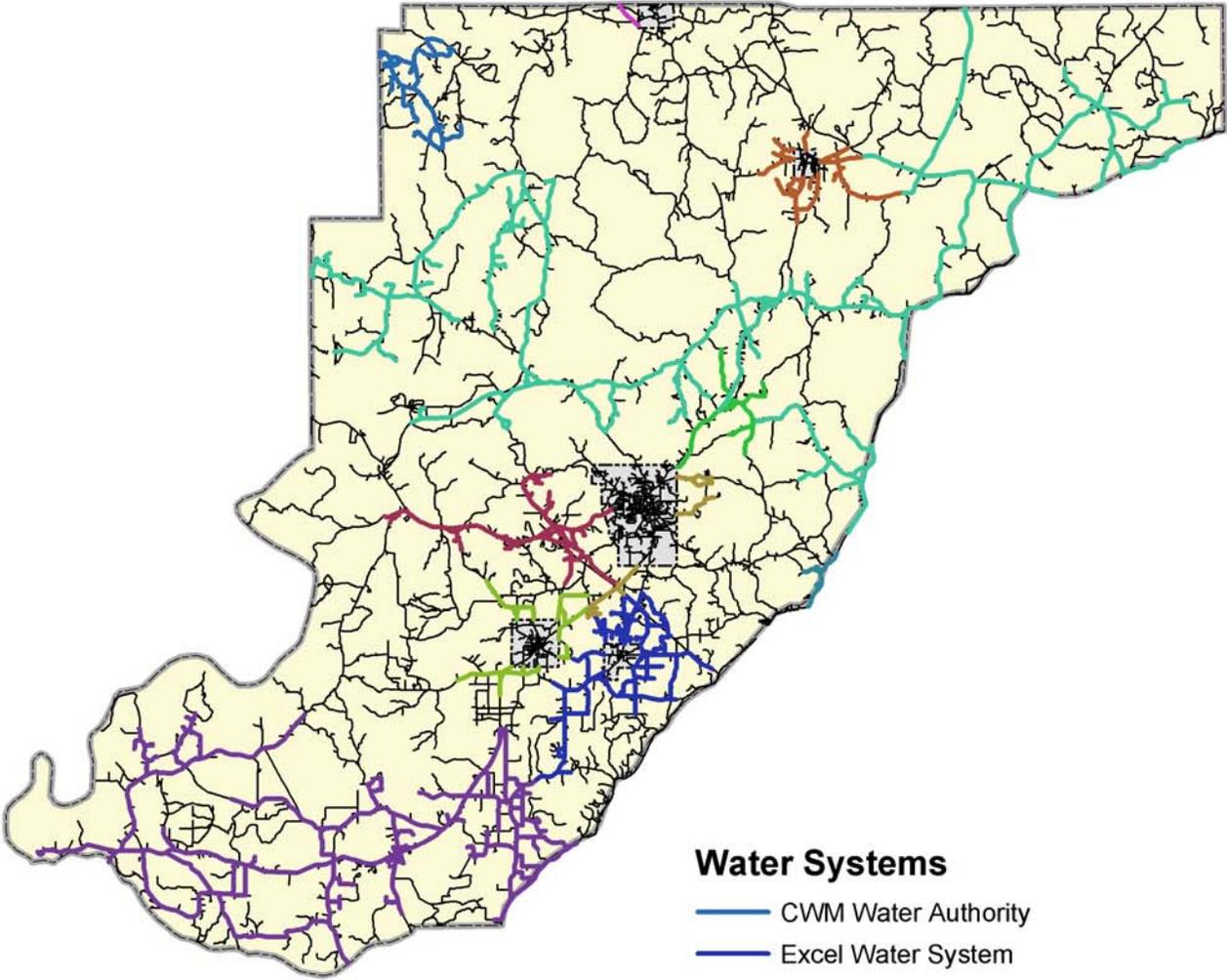


## Water Systems

- City of Linden
- Demopolis Water and Sewer Board
- South Marengo Co. Water & FPA
- Town of Faunsdale
- Town of Myrtlewood
- Town of Thomaston Water Works
- Wilcox County Water System



# Monroe County Water Systems

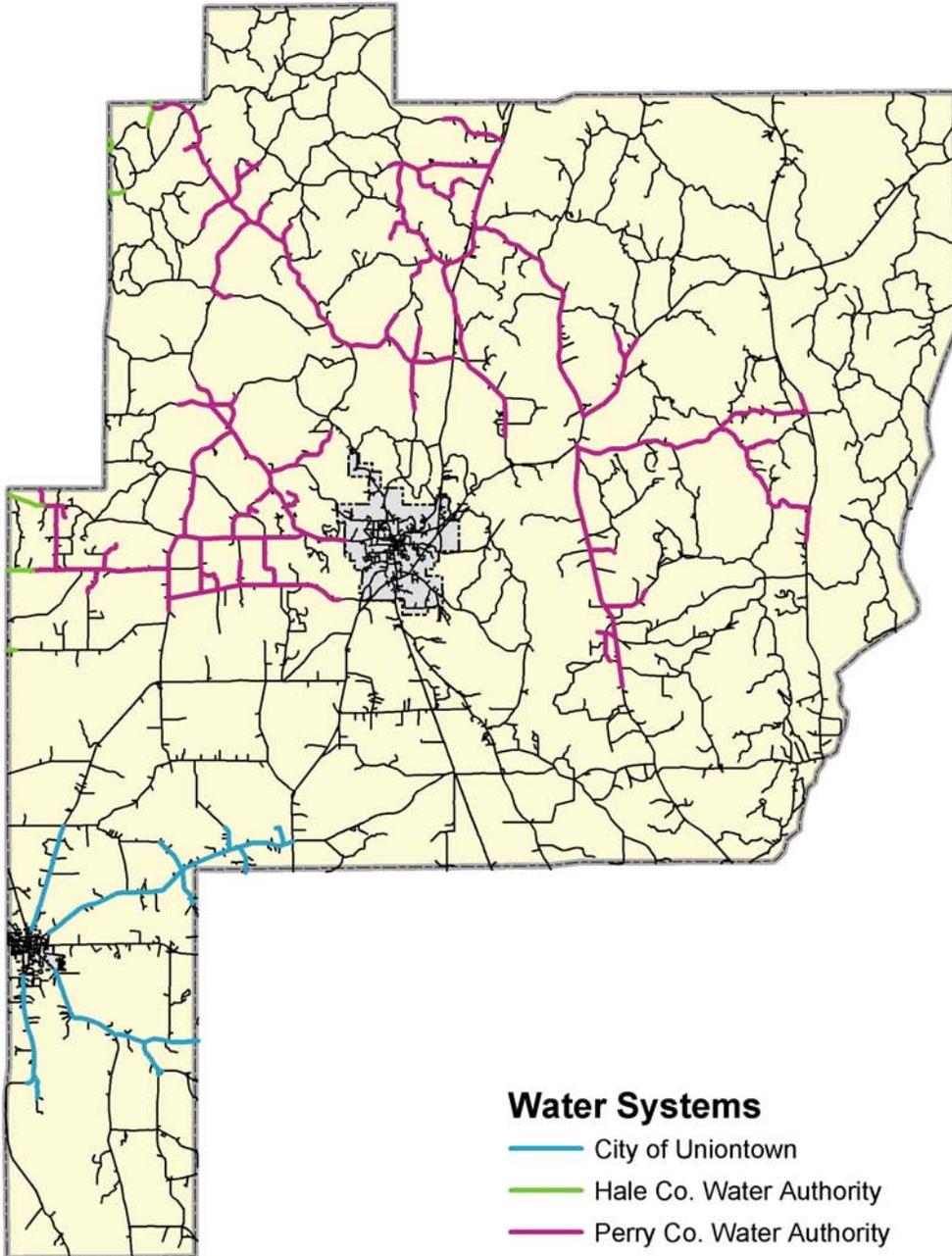


## Water Systems

- CWM Water Authority
- Excel Water System
- Hamden Ridge Water & FPA
- Mexia Water System
- Monroeville Water Works
- Multi-Community Water System
- Peterman Water & FPA
- Southwest Alabama Water Authority
- Uriah Water System
- Water Works of Frisco City
- Wilcox County Water System



# Perry County Water Systems

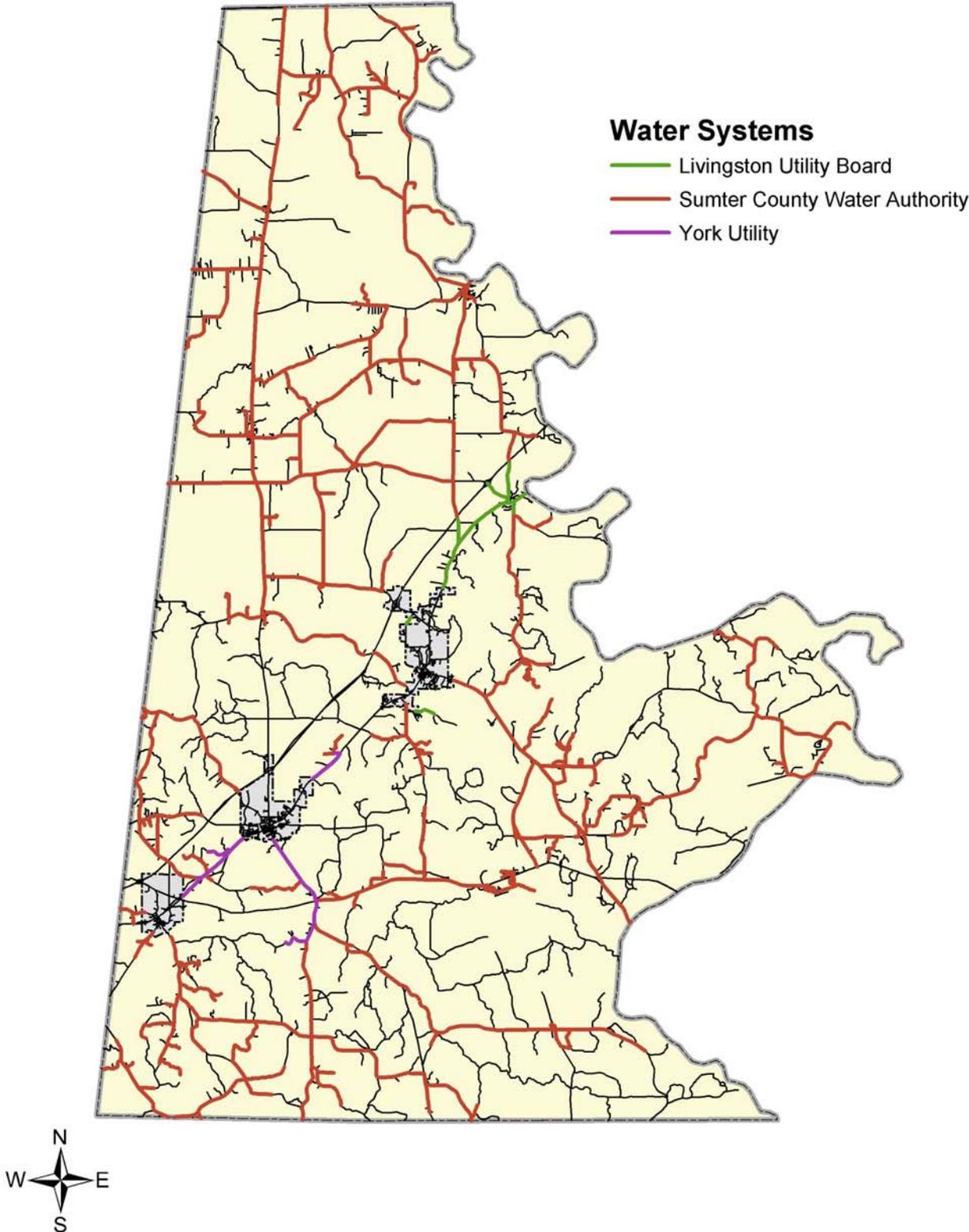


## Water Systems

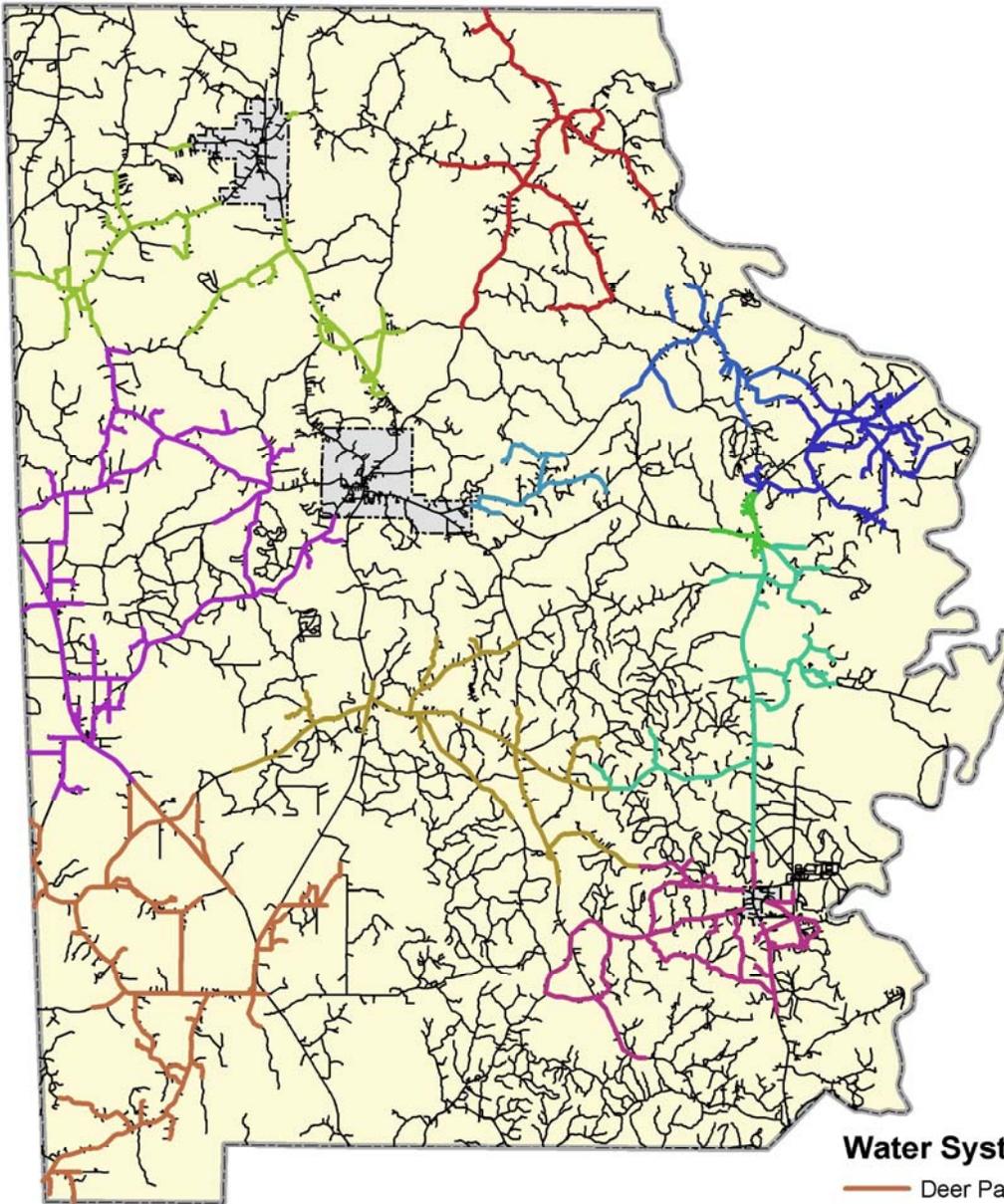
- City of Uniontown
- Hale Co. Water Authority
- Perry Co. Water Authority



# Sumter County Water Systems



# Washington County Water Systems

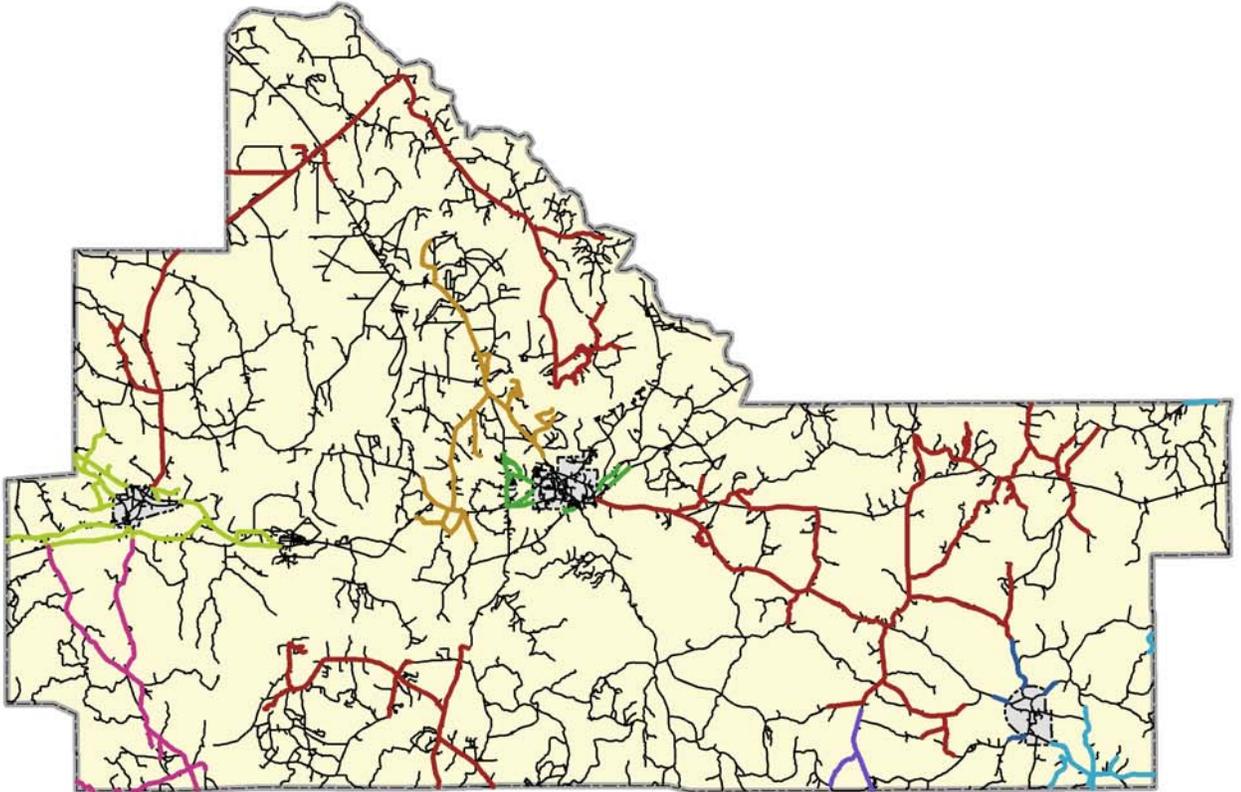


## Water Systems

- Deer Park-Vinegar Bend Water
- Frankville Water & FPA
- Fruitdale Water System
- Hobson Water System
- Leroy Water & FPA
- McIntosh Water & FPA
- Millry Water Works
- St. Stephens Water System
- Tibbie Water & FPA
- Wagarville Water System
- Washington County Water & FPA



# Wilcox County Water Systems



## Water Systems

- Butler County Water Authority
- CWM Water Authority
- City of Camden
- Millers Ferry Water Authority
- Southwest Alabama Water Authority
- Town of Pine Apple
- Town of Pine Hill
- Wilcox County Water System

## **Appendix 3**

Site Name	City	County	Avail. Acreage	Total Acreage	Natural Gas	Water	Sewer	Rail	Zone
Butler Industrial Park	Butler	Choctaw	65	80	Y	Y	Y	Not Specified	Light Industrial
Fulton Industrial Site	Fulton	Clarke	409.5	409.5	<500ft	<1 mile	<1 mile	Not Available	None
Grove Hill Industrial Site	Grove Hill	Clarke	120	120	Y	Y	Y	Not Available	None
Jackson Industrial Park	Jackson	Clarke	25	150	Y	Y	Y	Adjacent Track	Light Industrial
Jackson River Park	Jackson	Clarke	52	505	Y	Y	Y	< 1 mile	Heavy Industrial
Parham Property - Jackson	Jackson	Clarke	328	328	<500 ft	<500 ft	<1 mile	Not Available	None
North Jackson Industrial Property	Jackson	Clarke	25.4	53.1	Y	Y	Y	Not Available	None
Joe Davis Industrial Park	Thomasville	Clarke	25	188	Y	Y	Y	Onto Site	Light Industrial
North Clarke I.D. Park	Thomasville	Clarke	311	1,100	Y	Y	Y	Spur Available	Heavy Industrial
Pope Property	Thomasville	Clarke	59	59	<1500 ft	<1500 ft	<1500 ft	< 500ft	None
Rush Property	Thomasville	Clarke	80	80	<1 mile	<1 mile	N	Adjacent Track	None
Thomasville South Ind. Park	Thomasville	Clarke	145	145	Y	Y	Y	Adjacent Track	Heavy Industrial
Evergreen I.P. at Castleberry	Castleberry	Conecuh	67.5	138	Y	Y	Y	Spur Available	Heavy Industrial
Evergreen/I-65 Industrial Park	Evergreen	Conecuh	44	120	Y	Y	Y	Not Specified	Light Industrial
Tri-County Industrial Park	SE Conecuh	Conecuh	90	90				Not Available	None
Whitfield Site	Evergreen	Conecuh	71		Y	Y	<1500 ft	Not Available	Agricultural
Evergreen Airport/Middleton Field Industrial Property	Evergreen	Conecuh	400	700	N	Y	N	<1 mile	Heavy Industrial

Site Name	City	County	Avail. Acreage	Total Acreage	Natural Gas	Water	Sewer	Rail	Zone
Wild Property	Evergreen	Conecuh	60	60	<1500 ft	<500 ft	<3000ft	Not Available	Agricultural
Craig Industrial Complex	Selma	Dallas	400	700	Y	Y	Y	Spur Available	Heavy Industrial
Bell Road Industrial Park	Selma	Dallas	198	198	Y	Y	Y	Adjacent Track	Light Industrial
Selfield Industrial Park	Selma	Dallas	234	434	Y	Y	Y	Adjacent Track	None
South Dallas Build-to-Suit	Selma	Dallas	20	20	<500 ft	<500 ft	<500 ft	Spur Available	None
South Dallas Industrial Park	Selma	Dallas	300	400	Y	Y	Y	Spur Available	None
South Dallas Godwin Site	Selma	Dallas	305	305	<500 ft	<500ft	<500ft	Spur Available	Heavy Industrial
Speir Site	Selma	Dallas	600	600				Adjacent Track	None
Airport Industrial Park	Demopolis	Marengo	100	100	<500 ft	<500 ft	N	Spur Available	Agricultural
Curtis Site	Demopolis	Marengo	47	47	<500 ft	Y	N	Spur Available	Heavy Industrial
Industrial Park South	Demopolis	Marengo	78	135	Y	Y	Y	< 1/4 mile	Heavy Industrial
Jane's Site	Demopolis	Marengo	12	12	<500 ft	<500ft	<500ft	Spur Available	Heavy Industrial
Miller Site 1	Demopolis	Marengo	22	22	<500 ft	<500ft	<500ft	Spur Available	Heavy Industrial
Miller Site 2	Demopolis	Marengo	17	17	<1500 ft	N	N	Spur Available	Heavy Industrial
Linden Industrial Park	Linden	Marengo	250	250	Y	Y	Y	Adjacent Track	Heavy Industrial
Monroe Co Airport I P	Monroeville	Monroe	32	32	Y	Y	Y	Not Specified	Heavy Industrial
Monroeville Industrial Park	Monroeville	Monroe	70	90	Y	Y	Y	< 1 mile	Light Industrial

Site Name	City	County	Avail. Acreage	Total Acreage	Natural Gas	Water	Sewer	Rail	Zone
City of Marion Property	Marion	Perry	45	45	<1500 ft	Y	Y	Not Available	Heavy Industrial
Marion Industrial Park	Marion	Perry	40	72	Y	Y	Y	< 1 mile	Heavy Industrial
Perry County Enterprise Zone	Marion	Perry	105	274	Y	Y	Y	< 1 mile	Heavy Industrial
Vaiden Industrial Complex	Marion	Perry	385	385	Y	Y	N	Not Specified	Heavy Industrial
Eagle Shop	Uniontown	Perry	10	10	<1 mile	<1 mile	N	Adjacent Track	Light Industrial
King Pharr	Uniontown	Perry	9	9	<1 mile	<1 mile	<1 mile	Not Specified	
Uniontown Industrial Park	Uniontown	Perry	3	40	<1 mile	<1 mile	N	Not Specified	Light Industrial
Port of Epes Site	Epes	Sumter	500	580	Y	Y	Y	Spur Available	Heavy Industrial
Highway 28 East Site	Livingston	Sumter	26	26	Y	Y	Y	Not Specified	None
Interstate Park	Livingston	Sumter	100	100	Y	Y	Y	< 1 mile	Heavy Industrial
Chatom Industrial Park	Chatom	Washington	23	23	NS	N	N	Not Specified	Light Industrial
Ciba Site	McIntosh	Washington	309	309	Y	Y	Y	Adjacent Track	Heavy Industrial
Cricket Hill Industrial Site	McIntosh	Washington	23.5	23.5	<500 ft	Y	Y	Adjacent Track	None
Chapman Site	Camden	Wilcox	139	141	Y	Y	Y	Not Available	None
Wilcox County Industrial Park	Camden	Wilcox	79	79				Not Available	None
Whiskey Run Road Ind. Park	Camden	Wilcox	12	32	Y	Y	Y	Not Specified	Heavy Industrial
Agee Tract	Pine Hill	Wilcox	72	72	Y	Y	Y	Adjacent Track	Heavy Industrial

Site Name	City	County	Avail. Acreage	Total Acreage	Natural Gas	Water	Sewer	Rail	Zone
Bonner Tract	Pine Hill	Wilcox	18	18	Y	Y	Y	< 1 mile	Business & Commercial
Pine Hill Industrial Park	Pine Hill	Wilcox	25	80	Y	Y	>1 mile	< 1 mile	None
Cook Site	Camden	Wilcox	643	643	Y	N	N	NS	None
Russell Woodlands Heavy Equipment	Camden	Wilcox	100	100	Y	Y	N	NS	NS