## CORRIDOR STUDY

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE AND ALBEMARLE COUNTY

# TERRESTRIAL ECOLOGY 

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U.S. Department of Transportation<br>Federal Highway Administration and<br>Virginia Department of Transportation

April 1990

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Route 29 Corridor Study
Terrestrial Ecology - Technical Memorandum dated April, 1990

All references to alignment 8 or Alternative 8 on tables and figures and in the text should be deleted. Alternative 8 was an earlier expressway alternative that was discarded.

Similarly, references to alignments $11 \mathrm{~N}-12 \mathrm{~S}$ and $12 \mathrm{~N}-11 \mathrm{~S}$ should also be deleted as these alternatives were also discarded.

# NATURAL ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS TECHNICAL REPORT 

Part 2 of 3

## Terrestrial Ecolngy

> U. S. Route 29 Corridor Study City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County, Virginia

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This report has been prepared for the Virginia Department of Transportation as supporting information for the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements (D.E.I.S. and F.E.I.S.) for the U.S. Route 29 Corridor Study project in the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County, Virginia.

The study consists of an examination of nine (9) alternatives for a corridor selection within which to construct a limited access highway facility to provide sufficient traffic capacity to address problems now existing in the area and traffic volumes anticipated to the year 2010. The study area encompasses approximately 63 square miles of Albemarle County, and extends from a point 0.25 miles south of the junction of U.S. Route 29 and the South Fork of the Rivanna River in the north, to U.S. Interstate Route 64 in the south.

This report is one of a series of technical reports which provides detailed supporting documentation for the summary discussions presented in the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements. Technical report sections for the project's Natural Environmental Analysis have been prepared for each of the following areas:

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- Aquatic Resources and Water Quality
- Aquatic Ecology
- Wetlands
- Groundwater and Surface Hydrology
- Floodplains
- Terrestrial Fcology
-Geology and Soils
- Agricultural Resources
- Forest Resources
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Copies of this report and associated project plans and information are available for the public's review during office hours at the virginia Department of Transportation Offices at 1401 East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia.

## TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Route 29 Corridor Study was designed to identify and evaluate transportation alternatives for the improvement of traffic conditions within the existing Route 29 transportation corridor. This aspect of the study was undertaken to define environmental consequences of road construction along selected alternates as this construction would impact on the terrestrial ecology. Terrestrial ecology included: land cover, topography and soils, geologic formations, wildlife resources, endangered species of plants and animals, Wild and Scenic River and natural areas.

This analysis meets the information and analysis requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

### 2.0 STUDY AREAS AND METHODS

To assess impacts on existing conditions in the study area, an extensive survey was carried out along each study alternate. This survey lasted over 1.5 years and included an evaluation of all the acreages of the seven (7) alignments. Acreages of wildlife habitat and wildlife related resources were compared by alignments. Resources were assessed according to the availability of alternate resources, the uniqueness of any resource, and the relative degree of alteration or degradation.

The impact on any Wild and Scenic rivers in the area was established by the presence or absence of such a stream, the length of stream in the alternative corridor, and the length of stream segment remaining, as those less than four miles long may be excluded from wild and Scenic status.

A variety of federal, state, and private agencies, organizations, and individuals were contacted. Information was gathered on: 1. Federal and state lands important to wildlife, 2. other wildlife lands, 3. game species, 4. Endangered, Threatened or Special concern (ETS) species, 5. soils, 6. geologic formations, 7. minerals, 8. natural areas, 9. potential wild and scenic rivers, and 10 . rare and endangered plants. Rare plants considered were those: 1. with Federal status or under Federal review, and 2. on Virginia's list of 15 endangered plants.

### 3.1 REGIONAL DESCRIPTION

Albemarle County lies in north central Virginia and is situated within two physiographic provinces: the Blue Ridge Physiographic Province and the Piedmont Physiographic Province. Elevallo: vanges from 235 feet ( 72 m ) where the Rivanna River crosses into Fluvanna County just south of Boyd Tavern, to 3,317 feet ( $1,011 \mathrm{~m}$ ) at the summit of Loft Mountain in the extreme northwestern corner of the county.

The Piedmont province makes up about 82 percent of the total 739 square mile area of the county. This province is characterized by gently sloping to moderately steep landscape which in places becomes steep. It is well dissected by many small streams and rivers that flow in narrow, meandering valleys. Along the lower tributaries of the major streams, entrenchment has been rapid and bluffs and V-shaped valleys are common. The walls of the valleys are steep, and they rise abruptly from the floodplains.

This province is broken in places by long, low hills and mountains. These include Ragged Mountain, Dudley Mountain, Fan Mountain, Bucks Mountain, Piney Mountain, and Southwest Mountain. Elevation ranges from 1,200 feet to 2,400 feet in these mountains. The low hills range from 600 to 1,200 feet in elevation. The smoothest relief in the Piedmont province is east of Southwest Mountain. The elevation ranges from 250 to 600 feet. Most of the soils are well drained throughout the Piedmont, but a few poorly drained soils are along streams, on toe slopes, and in a few saddles.

The Blue Ridge province makes up most of the western part of the county and is only 18 percent of the total land area. It is steep and rugged. It has been strongly dissected by many intermittent and permanent streams that have cut deep, narrow valleys bordered by steep rocky slopes and narrow ridges. Slopes are moderately steep to very steep. Elevation ranges from about 1,200 feet to 3,250 feet. The soils are stony, shallow to deep, and well drained to excessively drained.

The rocks of Albemarle County are igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic. Geological formations located in the vicinity of the preliminary alignments of the Route 29 Corridor Study include three major fault lines and some slopes greater than 15\%. Mineral production in Albemarle County is limited to crushed stone and sand. Past mining activities have involved production of iron ore, slate, clay, sandstone, and limestone. Limited production of amethysts, asbestos, barite, copper, felsite, garnets, gold, limonite, hematite, and pyrite has also occurred historically.

The general soil descriptions of Albemarle County are categorized into eight broad areas that have a distinctive pattern of soils, relief, and drainage. Each of these eight areas consists of one or more major soils and some minor soils. The areas are named for the major soils located within
their borders. The general soil areas can be used to compare the suitability of large areas for general land use. The eight general soil area designations, however, are not suitable for planning the management of a farm nor for selecting a site for a road. The soils in any one area differ from place to place in drainage, depth, slope, and other characteristics that affect management.

The three general areas through which the preliminary alignments pass are the Braddock-Thurmont-Unison soils, the Hayesville-Ashe-Chester soils, and the Elioak-Hazel-Glenelg soils.

The Braddock-Thurmont-Unison soils are deep, well drained soils that have a clayey or loamy subsoil and are formed in colluvium material derived mainly from granite and greenstone that has washed out of the Blue Ridge. Some of the soils have rock fragments on the surface. Most of the soils are on gently sloping broad ridgetops and strongly sloping to moderately steep slopes. This area contains approximately 32 percent Braddock soils, 18 percent Thurmont soils, and 8 percent Unison soils. Soils of minor extent make up about 42 percent. The Braddock soils have a brown loam surface layer and a red clay subsoil. The surface layer is very stony in areas. The Thurmont soils have a brown loam surface layer and a yellow red clay loam subsoil. The surface layer is very stony in some areas. The Unison soils have a dark brown silt loam surface layer and a reddish brown clay with silty clay loam subsoil. The surface layer is very stony in places. About three-fourths of the Braddock-Thurmont-Unison acreage is used for cultivated crops, hay, and pasture, while the remainder is wood land and urban land.

The Hayesville-Ashe-Chester soils are well drained, deep and moderately deep soils that have a clayey or loamy subsoil. The area is formed in material weathered from granite and gneiss. It consists of deeply dissected, broad ridgetops and side slopes on uplands. The ridgetops are gently sloping and strongly sloping with the side slopes being moderately steep to steep. This area contains approximately 52 percent Hayesville soils, 23 percent Ashe soils and 14 percent Chester soils. Soils of minor extent make up about 11 percent. The Hayesville soils are mainly on broad ridgetops and side slopes and are deep and well drained. These have a strong brown loam surface layer and a red clay subsoil. The Ashe soils are mostly on side slopes and narrow ridgetops and are moderately deep and somewhat excessively drained. They have a dark brown loam surface layer and a strong brown loam subsoil. The Chester soils are on broad to narrow ridgetops and side slopes and are deep and well drained. They have a dark brown loam surface layer and a yellowish red clay loam subsoil.

About half of the Hayesville-Ashe-Chester soils area has been cleared, and is used for cropland and pasture. The remainder of the area is woodland and urban land. The hazard of erosion in this area is the major concern for the Route 29 Corridor Study.

The Elioak-Hazel-Glenelg soils are deep to moderately deep with well drained and excessively drained soils that have a clayey or loamy subsoil. This area is formed in material weathered from quartz mica schist, and has gently sloping and strongly sloping, narrow ridgetops and side slopes. Areas adjacent to streams are moderately steep and steep. This area contains about 22 percent Elioak soils, 18 percent Hazel soils, and 15 percent Glenelg soils. Soils of minor extent make up about 45 percent. The Elioak soils are deep, well drained, and gently sloping to moderately steep. They are on the highest positions on narrow ridgetops, and have a dark brown loam surface layer and a red silty clay subsoil. The Hazel soils are moderately deep, excessively drained, and strongly sloping to steep, and located on slopes leading down to drainage ways. They have a brown loam surface layer and a brown loam subsoil. The Glenelg soils are deep, well drained, and gently sloping to steep, and are located on narrow ridgetops and side slopes. They have a dark yellowish brown loam surface layer and yellowish red silty clay loam subsoil.

About one-fourth of the Elioak-Hazel-Glenelg soils area has been cleared, and is used for cropland and pasture. Most of the remaining area is woodland and a small portion is urban land.

Historically most of the county was once covered with central hardwood forests, and this is still true today although a goodly portion of the Piedmont province has now been converted to agriculture lands. In 1986, the USDA Forestry Service classified 275,629 acres or 58 percent of the total county acreage as timberland (capable of producing 20 cubic feet of industrial wood per acre per year). Most of the timberland is of the oak-hickory group (66\%), Loblolly-shortleaf pine (20\%), and oak-pine (12\%).

The forests and farmlands of the county contain a typical complement of game and non-game summer, winter, migratory and permanent resident fauna. Deer, bear, turkey, squirrel, rabbits, quail, grouse, and dove are commonly hunted species. Wood ducks, mallards and Canada geese are found along the major streams and on the South Fork Rivanna River Reservoir.

Albemarle County also lies in the heart of Virginia's hunt country where horsemen still hunt foxes, both red and gray from horseback. On any weekend in late fall or winter during the season, one can see large groups of hunt club members riding to the hounds.

Other wildife species that are known to inhabit the county include: beaver, bobcat, mink, Virginia opossum, muskrat, raccoon, river otter, striped skunk, woodchuck, various species of voles and mice, numerous species of snakes and amphibians, and over 175 species of avifauna.

### 3.2 GENERAL RESOURCES

The terrestrial resources in the study area include: wildlife lands (i.e. areas that are important for wildlife, either publicly or privately owned); natural areas that have locally designated purpose and values (i.e. lands obtained by or in conjunction with the National Park Service, the Virginia

Natural Heritage Program, or some private agency for public use in perpetuity as an unspoiled natural area); any rare and endangered plants that enjoy Federal status or are on the Virginia Natural Heritage Program's list of endangered plants; and outstanding trees as identified by the Virginia Native Plant Society or the Virginia Natural Heritage Program of the Department of Conservation and Historic Resources. Important wildlife fauna include game, non-game, and Federal endangered and threatened species.

A major component of terrestrial resources is the type of available habitat and the associated wildlife. Habitat includes factors such as food, cover, water, and the space required for an animal to survive and reproduce. Therefore, a change in habitat will affect wildlife populations. There are several general categories of habitat in the study area, each of which has a relative value. Areas that are primarily urban/suburban in character (including roadways), or composed of harren land and/or open water are generally poor wildlife habitat. Agricultural lands generally have a moderate habitat value. In some cases, small patches of agricultural land interspersed with escape and shelter habitats can be of exceptional value to wildife. The highest quality wildlife habitat in the study area include forested areas, old fields, and the few existing wetlands.

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries data base lists six wildlife species that may be found in Albemarle County which are endangered, threatened, or candidate species. These are the Loggerhead Shrike (State endangered), Indiana bat (State and Federal endangered), the eastern woodrat (Federal candidate), the eastern cougar (State and Federal endangered), and the James River Spiny Mussel (State endangered). The Bewicks Wren (State endangered) has also been known to nest in Albemarle county.

There are two known loggerhead shrike nests in Albemarle County, both of which are near the western border. The only known Indiana bat cave hibernacula are in the Southwest corner of the State and this species is not known from Virginia during the Spring and Summer months. The eastern woodrat is likely to occur in areas of rocky terrain within forested areas within the Blue Ridge Province, although no specific locational data exists at the present time. Locational information for the eastern cougar lists two unverified sightings of the animal in Albemarle County since 1970. Populations of the James River Spiny Mussel have been located in Mechum's River and Rocky Run in Albemarle County. Since both locations lie upstream of the proposed alignments, the mussel is not adversely affected unless this known range is extended downstrean of the proposed alignments.

There are no habitats within the study area considered critical to threatened or endangered species of wildlife within Albemarle County. The Virginia Natural Heritage Program reviewed its files for any rare; threatened, or endangered species within the proposed alternates. This database revealed no populations of rare, threatened or endangered plants, animals or natural communities in the project area.

The study area also contains a number of rivers and streams that potentially qualify as National Wild and Scemic Rivers. These streams are a part of the Middle James River Basin and the York River Basin systems. The entire area of Albemarle County is part of the Chesapeake Bay Basin. To obtain this status each river must meet certain requirements. These criteria include characteristics of outstanding geologic, ecological, cultural, historic,
scenic, botanical, recreation or other similar value(s) that are of multi-state or national significance. A river also must be generally undeveloped. If a river's characteristics should be altered, then it's eligibility could change.

Evaluation of streams in the project area according to National Park Service criteria for inclusion of a river in the National Wild and Scenic River System, as well as aspects of Virginia's Scenic Rivers Act, revealed that the following rivers meet both criteria: The North Fork of the Rivanna River east of U.S. Route 29; the South Fork of the Rivanna River west of the reservoir; Moormans River; Mechums River; Doyles River above its juncture with the Moormans River; and the Rivanna River southeast of the city of Charlottesville. Although these streams meet the criteria no action has been taken to include them in the Federal system. Segments of Moormans River and the Rivanna River have however, been included in Virginia's Scenic River System.

There are no wildlife management areas within Albemarle County. Three Natural Areas are in the county, Ivy Creek by the South Fork Rivanna River Reservoir, and Fernbrook Preserve along the North Fork Rivanna River east of Route 20 at Proffit. Fernbrook is $11 / 3$ miles east of Alignment $6 B$ and would not be impacted at all. Ivy Creek Natural Area is in the vicinity of Alignment 10, though not directly impacted by this alignment. McIntire Municipal Park, located along Shenks Brook north of the Route 250 bypass, is also classified as a natural area, though the primary use of this area is recreational, Alignment 7 may impact on this site at the south junction with Route 250 .

### 3.3 TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES ALONG EACH ALIGNMENT

The study area provides a variety of habitats for many species. Vertebrate species are well represented within Albemarle County as a result of a mosalc of pastured farms and forested lands. $\because \quad$ firm ponds as well as a myriad of streams and rivers in the county provide aquatic habitat for many species, though the topography yields few wetlands for wetland-dependent species. Potential impacts to wildlife were addressed based on habitat impacts along each alignment. This assessment classifies barren, urban and suburban lands, roadways and open water as low in value for wildife, agricultural lands as moderate, and forest, old fields, and wetlands as high in value for wildlife use.

Table 3.1 lists existing habitats along each study alignment in terms of total acreage along the 300 -foot wide corridors. This table shows a pattern of greater percentages of forests and old fields on the east side of the study area, with more land devoted to agricultural uses on the west side. Wetlands consist of a very small percentage of lands on the alignments with a small amount of these areas in the form of open water. The greater percentage of open water along the western alignments represent the long crossings of the South Fork Rivanna River Reservoir.

TABLE 3.1
LAND COVER ACREAGES ALONG EACH STUDY ALIGNMENT

| LAND COVER | ALIGNMENT |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| CLASSIFICATION | 6 | 6B | 7 | 8,9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | $11 \mathrm{~N} / 12$ | $12 \mathrm{~N} / 11 \mathrm{~S}$ |
| Barren and | 71.4 | 30.6 | 47.7 | 116.0 | 45.2 | 33.8 | 44.6 | 33.5 | 44.8 |
| Urban/Suburban/ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Roadway |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Agricultural | 14.4 | 46.9 | 21.8 | 0.0 | 50.3 | 136.3 | 226.3 | 177.8 | 186.5 |
| Forested | 179.6 | 198.2 | 153.3 | 0.0 | 90.7 | 125.7 | 148.8 | 135.6 | 169.2 |
| Old Field/Shrub | 31.6 | 18.1 | 40.4 | 0.0 | 0.8 | 24.7 | 12.4 | 7.5 | 14.5 |
| Wetland | 1.5 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.3 |
| Water | 3.1 | 1.1 | 1.8 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 5.7 | 4.4 | 4.9 | 4.7 |
| TOTAL | 301.6 | 295.1 | 265.2 | 116.3 | 187.5 | 326.5 | 437.1 | 359.8 | 420.0 |

### 4.0 IMPACTS

### 4.1 GENERAL IMPACTS

The only potential geologic impact of the proposed alignments would be the loss of potential mineral resources. The resources would be in the form of economically valuable pockets of sand and gravel. However, because the locations of sand and gravel pockets are unpredictable, it is not possible to pinpoint their occurrence along the proposed alignments. All other mining of valuable minerals occurs outside the boundaries of the proposed roadways.

During the construction of a roadway, compaction of soils and denudation of vegetation can result in increased erosion and sedimentation. slope, soil texture, the amount of precipitation, and the degree of compliance with the erosion control ordinance will affect the soil loss potential. Increased erosion results in increased sedimentation, as evidenced in several of the feeder streams to the South Fork Rivanna River Reservoir. The improper use of soils may also result in ground or surface water pollution, landslides, flooding, drainage problems, failed septic systems, construction problems, and unproductive agricultural and forestal lands.

Urban/Suburban/Roadway cover is considered poor wildlife habitat. Therefore, a corridor will experience habitat degradation in proportion to the quality and acreages of habitats converted to this type acreage. Barren land and open water, though not of exceptional habitat value, are scarce in all corridors. Small patches of agricultural land interspersed with escape and shelter habitats can be of exceptional value to wildlife; however, large uninterrupted tracts are of limited value. Forests, oldfields, and wetlands provide quality wildlife habitat. Therefore, conversion of these acreages to roadway would provide the greatest potential impact to habitat loss.

Construction of a new road will displace animals dependant upon the type and quality of habitat lost. Displacement results in an increase of nearby populations, and as a result of overcrowding and a limited carrying capacity, an ultimate population reduction. A new roadway can fragment habitats, frequently resulting in a decrease in species or a disproportionate decrease in numbers. It may result in near isolation of populations of some species or increased road kills. A variety of factors, noise, air and other pollutants may cause stress in wildlife. In general, a new road will have greater detrimental impacts than an upgrade. No action alternative will generally have the least impacts of all alternatives.

### 4.2 SPECIFIC IMPACTS

Discussion of impacts along each alignment centers largely on habitat impacts as they relate to wildife resources. Lands that are barren, urban, suburban, or consist of roadways and open water are considered of low value for wildlife. Agricultural fields are of moderate wildlife value, ranging from small fields with adjacent forests and hedge rows that provide better wildlife habitat, to large, unbroken fields that are of poorer value. Lands that are of highest value to wildlife are forested, old field/shrub areas and wetlands. A summary of geologic, soils and terrestrial impacts by alignment is shown in Tables 4.1 and 4.2.

TABLE 4.1
SUMMARY OF SOIL AND GEOLOGIC IMPACTS ALONG PROPOSED ALIGNMENTS

| ALI GNMENT | $\begin{gathered} \text { FLOODPLAINS } \\ \text { CROSSED } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | MAJOR FAULTS CROSSED | ACRES <br> OF SEVERELY ERODIBLE SOILS | ACRES OF PRIME FARMLAND SOILS |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 6 | 7 | 0 | 3.95 | 89.5 |
| 6B | 5 | 0 | 8.32 | 78.1 |
| 7 | 9 | 0 | 3.43 | 78.2 |
| 8,9 | 0 | 0 | 1.04 | 0.0 |
| 10 | 0 | 0 | 2.70 | 48.7 |
| 11 | 4 | 2 | 0.0 | 101.7 |
| 12 | 8 | 1 | 5.86 | 157.6 |
| 11N/12S | 5 | 2 | 1.27 | 110.7 |
| 12N/11S | 7 | 1 | 4.50 | 147.1 |

TABLE 4.2
ACRES OF HIGH, MODERATE, AND LOW VALUE WILDLIFE HABITAT FOR EACH ALIGNMENT

HABITAT ACRES

| ALIGNMENT | HIGH <br> VALUE |  | MODERATE VALUE |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { LOW } \\ \text { VALUE } \end{gathered}$ |  | TOTAL ACRES |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | ACRES | \% | ACRES | \% | ACRES | \% |  |
| 6 | 212.7 | 70.5 | 14.4 | 4.8 | 74.5 | 24.7 | 301.6 |
| 6 B | 216.5 | 73.4 | 46.9 | 15.9 | 31.7 | 10.7 | 295.1 |
| 7 | 193.9 | 73.1 | 21.8 | 8.2 | 49.5 | 18.7 | 265.2 |
| 8,9 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 116.1 | 99.8 | 116.3 |
| 10 | 91.7 | 48.9 | 50.3 | 26.8 | 45.5 | 24.3 | 187.5 |
| 11 | 150.7 | 46.2 | 136.3 | 41.7 | 39.5 | 12.1 | 326.5 |
| 12 | 161.8 | 37.0 | 226.3 | 51.8 | 49.0 | 11.2 | 437.1 |
| 11N/12S | 143.6 | 39.9 | 177.8 | 49.4 | 38.4 | 10.7 | 359.8 |
| $12 \mathrm{~N} / 11 \mathrm{~S}$ | 184.0 | 43.8 | 186.5 | 44.4 | 49.5 | 11.8 | 420.0 |

No lands considered vital to rare, threatened or endangered species are impacted by any study alternative. There are no lands designated as wildlife areas that would be impacted as a result of this project. No state or county designated scenic rivers are crossed by the alignments, and no state and county scenic highways are impacted. No impacts on vital mineral resources were identified during this study.

### 4.1.2.1 Alignment 6

Alignment 6 impacts on a total of 301.6 acres of lands east of existing Route 29. No geologic hazards occur along this route, though seven floodplains are crossed. Soils considered a severe erosion hazard comprise a total of 3.95 acres along this alignment, and 89.5 acres of soils designated as prime farmland soils would be impacted. Land cover along Alignment 6 is mostly forested (59.5\%) and urban (23.7\%), with only $4.8 \%$ of lands consisting of agricultural fields. Over two-thirds of the land along Alignment 6 are of high wildife value, while one quarter of the alignment crosses low-value urban and open water areas.

### 4.1.2.2 Alignment 6B

Alignment 6B, the far eastern alignment impacts a total of 295.1 acres of land. There are no geologic hazards along this alignment, though 5 floodplains are crossed. Impacts on severely erodible soils are greatest of all alternatives along Alignment $6 B$, yet still only comprise 8.32 acres of the total. There are 78.1 acres of prime farmland soils along this alignment. Alignment 6 B crosses the North Fork Rivanna River east of Route 29. Though this river is not currently designated as a Wild and Scenic River, and is not under study as a candidate for this designation, it does meet the criteria for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

As with all eastern alignments, land cover along this alignment is predominately forested (67.2\%), with more land used for agricultural purposes (15.9\%) and subsequently less urban lands (10.4\%). Overall, wildlife habitat along this alignment would be rated as good, with $73 \%$ considered of high value, $16 \%$ of moderate value, and $11 \%$ low in value. This is slightly better than habitat values along Alignment 6 , resulting from the more rural nature of this far eastern route.

### 4.1.2.3 Alignment 7

This alignment impacts on a total of 265.2 acres. Only 3.43 acres of severely erodible soils are impacted, and 78.2 acres are considered prime farmland soils. Nine floodplains are crossed by this alignment, more than any other of the study options. Also, a portion of McIntire Park north of the Route 250 bypass along Shenks Brook would be impacted on the southern end of the alignment. This impact would involve approximately 11 acres. Though classified as a natural area, this park is predominately open field that is of low to moderate value to wildife. Land cover along Alignment 7 is similar to Alignment 6 , as expected since most of the areas are common to both. Over half of the alignment is forested (57.8\%), and little is agricultural (8.2\%), with more land classified as old field, high in wildlife value. Overall, $73 \%$ of lands along this alignment were determined to be of high value, $8 \%$ of moderate value, and $19 \%$ of low value.

### 4.1.2.4 Alignments 8 and 9

The expressway options have the fewest impacts on terrestrial resources. total of 116.3 acres of land would be impacted, one acre of which crosses severely erodible soils. No prime farmland soils or floodplains would be impacted by this option. This area along Route 29 is already highly developed, and wildlife value of the land is low along the majority of these options.

### 4.1.2.5 Alignment 10

Alignment 10, the near western option is the shortest of the alternatives (other than the expressway options), and impacts on only 187.5 acres. of this total, 2.7 acres of soils that are a severe erosion hazard would be impacted along with 48.7 acres of prime farmland soils. No floodplains are crossed by this alignment. As the near western route with respect to the city of Charlottesville, nearly on quarter of the land along Alignment 10 would be considered urban or suburban habitat, low in terms of wildlife value. About one quarter of the land cover is agricultural (moderate value) and the remaining half forested (high wildlife value).

### 4.1.2.6 Alignment 11

Alignment 11 impacts on 326.5 acres, and contains no soils considered a severe erosion hazard. Prime farmland soils cover 101.7 acres of the total along this option, and four floodplains are crossed. In addition, this alignment crosses two fault lines along the northern segments. Land cover along Alignment 11 reflects the more agricultural nature of the lands west of existing Route 29 , with $42 \%$ of the total as cultivated or pastoral fields. There is less forested land along this alignment (38\%), as well as less urban and suburban lands ( $10 \%$ ). Overall, land cover along Alignment 11 is split between high quality wildlife habitat (46\%) and moderate habitat (42\%), with the remaining areas low in wildlife value.

### 4.1.2.7 Alignment 12

This alignment is the longest of all study options and subsequently impacts on the greatest amount of terrestrial resources (437.1 acres). A total of 5.86 acres involve severely erodible soils, and 157.6 acres cross prime farmland soils. The northern portion of Alignment 12 crosses a fault line just west of Route 606, and a total of 8 floodplains are crossed. Over half ( $51.8 \%$ ) of this alignment is over agricultural fields, and only $34.0 \%$ is forested. Overall, alignment 12 is similar to Alignment 11 in terms of habitat value, with slightly less of high wildlife value ( $37 \%$ ), and more of moderate value ( $52 \%$ ).

### 4.1.2.8 Alignment $11 \mathrm{~N} / 12 \mathrm{~S}$

This crossover option impacts on 359.8 acres of land, and crosses only 1.27 acres of severely erodible soils and 110.7 acres of prime farmland soils. Five floodplains are crossed, along with the two fault lines crossed by Alignment 11. Agricultural land predominates along this alignment (49\%), followed by forested lands (38\%). A total of $40 \%$ of lands are rated high in wildife value, $49 \%$ of moderate value, and the remaining $11 \%$ as low in value.

This northern crossover option impacts on 420.0 acres of land, including 4.50 acres of severely erodible soils, 147.1 acres of prime farmland soils, seven floodplains, and the one fault line described under Alignment 12. As with the other western alignments, land cover is predominately agricultural ( $44 \%$ ) and forested ( $40 \%$ ). Wildlife habitat values for this option are equal if:ween lands of high and moderate value ( $44 \%$ each) with the remaining $12 \%$ of land impacted low in value.

### 5.0 MITIGATION

### 5.1 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Where soils subject to severe erosion will be impacted, measures for reducing on-site erosion will be utilized. These measures will include the use of diversion ditches, dikes, sediment dams, minimizing the removal of vegetation, scheduling earthwork during dry periods of the year, and replanting vegetation as soon as possible after disturbance.

To prevent adverse situations, development should be avojded on soils with severe limitations. Existing regulations which address the proper use of soils includes the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Ordinance, and Critical Slopes and Site Plan regulations in the Zoning Ordinance which requires that the soils he reviewed as to suitability for the intended development.

### 5.2 TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES

Highway construction and maintenance will utilize habitat management techniques. Replanting of rights-of-way with native plant species will commence promptly after construction to provide new habitat and reduce erosion. Long term impacts from highway operation and maintenance will be minimized through selection of pesticides and herbicides which have the least effect upon terrestrial organisms.
Page
PREFACE ..... i
SUMMARY ..... ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS ..... xV
LIST OF TABLES ..... xvii
LIST OF FIGURES ..... xviii
1.0 INTRODUCTION ..... 1-1
2.0 STUDY AREAS AND METHODS ..... 2-1
2.1 TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES ..... 2-1
2.1 .1 Existing Conditions ..... 2-1
2.1.1.1 Geology ..... 2-1
2.1.1.2 Soils ..... 2-1
2.1.1.3 Land Cover ..... 2-2
2.1.1.4 Wildlife ..... 2-3
2.1.1.5 Endangered, Threatened and Special ..... 2-3
Concern (ETS) Species
2.1.1.6 Wild and Scenic Rivers and Natural ..... $2-4$Areas
2.1.2 Impact Prediction ..... $2-5$
3.0 EXISTING CONDITIONS ..... 3-1
3.1 TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES ..... 3-1
3.1.1 Regional Study Area ..... 3-1
3.1.1.1 Geology ..... 3-1
3.1.1.2 Soils ..... 3-10
3.1.1.3 Wildlife ..... 3-58
3.1.1.4 ETS Species ..... 3-74
3.1.1.5 Wild and Scenic Rivers and ..... 3-74Natural Areas
3.1.1.6 Terrestrial Resources by Alignment ..... 3-75

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

(continued)

## Page

### 4.0 IMPACTS

4.1 TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES ..... 4-1
4.1.1 General Impacts ..... 4-1
4.1.1.1 Geology ..... 4-1
4.1.1.2 Soils ..... 4-1
4.1.1.3 Land Use Patterns and Wildlife ..... 4-1
4.1.2 Specific Impacts ..... 4-3
4.1.2.1 Alignment 6 ..... 4-6
4.1.2.2 Alignment 6B ..... 4-6
4.1.2.3 Alignment 7 ..... 4-6
4.1.2.4 Alignment(s) 8,9 ..... 4-7
4.1.2.5 Alignment 10 ..... 4-7
4.1.2.6 Alignment 11 ..... 4-7
4.1.2.7 Alignment 12 ..... 4-7
4.1.2.8 Alignment $11 \mathrm{~N} / 12 \mathrm{~S}$ ..... 4-8
4.1.2.9 Alignment $12 \mathrm{~N} / 11 \mathrm{~S}$ ..... 4-8
5.0 MITIGATION ..... 5-1
5.1 GEOLOGY AND SOILS ..... 5-1
5.2 TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES ..... 5-1
6.0 COORDINATION ..... 6-1
6.1 AGENCY SCOPING ..... 6-1
6.2 PUBLIC COORDINATION ..... 6-3
7.0 LIST OF PREPARERS ..... 7-1
REFERENCES ..... R-1
APPENDICES
A. Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species: ..... A-1
Virginia Natural Heritage Program Letter

## PAGE

TABLE 3.1 Geologic Formations of Albemarle County ..... 3-5
TABLE 3.2 Mineral Resources in Albemarle County ..... 3-9
TABLE 3.3 Mining Activities in Albemarle County ..... 3-9
TABLE 3.4 Severe Erosion hazard Acreage Along Proposed ..... 3-21Alignments
TABLE 3.5 Erosion Factor $K$ ..... 3-22
TABLE 3.6 Composite List of Soils Along Project Alternatives ..... 3-26
TABLE 3.7 Prime Farmland Soils ..... 3-34
TABLE 3.8 Physical and Chemical Properties of the Soils ..... 3-35
TABLE 3.9 Engineering Index Properties of the Soils ..... 3-46
TABLE 3.10 Big Game Harvest Summaries for Albemarle County, ..... 3-59Virginia. 1978 through 1988
TABLE 3.11 Recent Wildlife Harvest Trapping Data in the ..... 3-62North Piedmont
TABLE 3.12 Birds of the Study Area ..... 3-63
TABLE 3.13 Mammals of the Study Area ..... 3-70
TABLE 3.14 Reptiles of the Study Area ..... 3-72
TABLE 3.15 Amphibians of the Study Area ..... 3-73
TABLE 3.16 Land Cover Acreages Along Each Study Alignment ..... 3-76
TABLE 3.17 Percentage of Land Cover Types Along Each Study ..... 3-77Alignment
TABLE 4.1 Summary of Soil and Geologic Impacts Along ..... 4-4 Proposed AlignmentsTABLE 4.2 Acres of High, Moderate, and Low Value Wildlife4-5

## PAGE

FIGURE 1.1 Proposed Alignments of the Route 29 Corridor Study ..... 1-2
FIGURE 2.1 Scenic Resources - Roads and Streams ..... 2-6
FIGURE 3.1 Fault Lines in Albemarle County ..... 3-2
FIGURE 3.2 Major Slopes in Albemarle County ..... 3-3
FIGURE 3.3 General Soil Map, Albemarle County, Virginia ..... 3-11
FIGURE 3.4 General Soil Map of the Corridor Study Area ..... 3-12
FIGURE 3.5 Soil Survey Map \#1 of the Corridor Study Area ..... 3-14
FIGURE 3.6 Soil Survey Map \#2 of the Corridor Study Area ..... 3-15
FIGURE 3.7 Soil Survey Map \#3 of the Corridor Study Area ..... 3-16
FIGURE 3.8 Soil Survey Map \#4 of the Corridor Study Area ..... 3-17
FIGURE 3.9 Soil Survey Map $\# 5$ of the Corridor Study Area ..... 3-18
FIGURE 3.10 Soil Survey Map \#6 of the Corridor Study Area ..... 3-19
FIGURE 3.11 Soil Survey Map \#7 of the Corridor Study Area ..... $3-20$
FIGURE 3.121982 Deer Population ..... 3-60
FIGURE 3.131982 Turkey Population ..... 3-61

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Route 29 Corridor Study was designed to identify and evaluate transportation alternatives for the improvement of traffic conditions within the existing Route 29 transportation corridor. The range of alternatives studied include upgrades to the existing roadway, and six bypass options with two crossover variations. The study area and proposed alignments are shown in Figure 1.1.

The project study area covers 63 square miles of Albemarle County, Virginia along Route 29 north of the City of Charlottesville. The area is characterized by upland deciduous forests and farmland crossed by numerous streams. Charlottesville is the largest urban area within the county, with several areas of growth extending north along Route 29. The population in Albemarle County in 1990 is projected to number 69,000 , with 42,000 (61\%) residing in the City of Charlottesville. This figure does not include the transient student population of the University of Virginia. Continued growth is expected in Albemarle county with current predictions projecting an average annual rate of 1.7\%, the eighth highest growth rate for counties in the state. Areas west of Route 29 within the study area tend to be devoted to farming activities with some forestry lands to the northwest of charlottesville. The farms in this section of the county are generally of greater acreage than the average and multi-faceted. Areas on the eastern side of the study area are generally devoted to farming although the average farm size is smaller.

## ROUTE 29

Corridor Studly


### 2.1 TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES

### 2.1.1 Existing Conditions

Existing conditions were established by employing a land cover classification system which used a combination of aerial photography and ground truthing for the mapping of habitat types. Habitat was used, generally, as an indicator of the wildlife present. A variety of governmental and private agency contacts were made to assure that specific potentially important species and habitats were considered.

Geological characteristics and soils are described for both regional and alternate-wide scales.

Wildlife presence or absence was established not only by ground-truthing along each alternate but by an evaluation of habitat types based on acreage along alternates. This procedure provided information as to the type of species and possible population densities that might exist in a specific location.

Special concerns such as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern (ETS) species, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Natural Areas were also investigated.
2.1.1.1 Geology

Geological characteristics are described for both regional and corridor wide scales. Evaluation of possible impacts was confined to the area within the alternate corridor as possible impacts to geologic formations will occur only where such features would be in contact with the highway.

Characteristics and occurrences of geologic formations were obtained from various publications and maps of the United States Geological Survey, the Virginia Department of Conservation, Division of Mineral Resources, and the Albemarle County Planning Commission.

### 2.1.1.2 Soils

Information regarding the textures, slopes, stabilities and drainage of the soils found in the study area was obtained from the 1985 Soil Survey of Albemarle County, Virginia published by the Soil Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Soil types which were determined to exhibit severe erodibility were mapped and the area underlain by severely erodible soils was calculated by alternate.

The land cover classification used in habitat analysis was described by Anderson et al. (1976). Designated cover types were as follows:

- Urban/Suburban/Roadway. These were areas of intensive human use with much of the land covered by structures. Included were: cities, towns, villages, strip developments along highways and roadways, and areas occupied by shopping centers, industrial and commercial complexes, and institutions. Small parcels of other types of land, such as agricultural land, surrounded and dominated by urban development were included in this classification. In other words, the urban category took precedence over others when criteria for more than one category were met. A heavily wooded residential area still fell within this category and not within forests.
- Barren Land. This was land of limited ability to support life, with less than one-third of the area having a vegetative cover. In general, these were areas of thin soil, sand, or rocks. Thus, such areas as sandy streambanks, bare exposed rock, and surface mines were included in this category. Also included were areas in transition from one land cover type to another, such as a forest bulldozed but upon which no construction had yet occurred. However, lands barren due to normal and regular activities of another category, such as a recently plowed field or a small clearcut within a larger forest segment, were still classified within their respective categories.
- Agricultural Land. This was land used primarily for production of food and fiber. This included croplands, pastures, orchards, vineyards, nurseries, confined feedlot operations, and the farmstead itself.
- Forest. Lands considered forested had a crown closure of at least $10 \%$, and were stocked with trees capable of producing wood products. Land from which trees had been removed to less than $10 \%$ crown closure, but which were expected to return to forest lands, as in a clear cut, were retained as forest. The forest category included deciduous, evergreen, and mixed forest types.
- Oldfield/Shrub. These were previously cultivated or cleared areas in a natural transition (succession) to forest. Earlier stages are dominated by grasses, weeds, annual and perennial herbaceous plants, and small shrubs or woody species. Later stages are dominated by shrubs, various other woody species, and small trees.
- Wetland. Wetlands were those areas that were inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of rioptation typical adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. For the sake of land cover classification purposes, there was no further breakdown of wetlands. However the wetland investigation included a precise designation of each wetland type, and quantitative and qualitative determinations were made.
- Water. These were areas of open water such as found in rivers, creeks, lakes, ponds, and reservoirs.

Land cover types were identified, delineated, quantified, and tabulated for each alternate corridor and crossover alternative. on $1^{\prime \prime}=200^{\prime}$ aerial photos blocks of habitat in the alternates' corridors were traced and labeled. These tracings were then measured and acreages for each habitat type were totaled for each alternate. These were then used in a comparison of alternates.

Land cover maps were ground-truthed by frequent visits to the study area. As additional checks on habitat mapping, 1985 USDA Soil Conservation Service maps of the Soil Survey of Albemarle County, Virginia, and USDA Forest Service maps were reviewed. Although the categories of habitat potentials depicted by both map series were not directly compatible to the study method, they provided a system for checking calculations of habitat types.

For simplicity, the forest, oldfield/shrub, and wetlands categories were combined when applied to wildlife since they constituted the major types of wildlife habitats. Thus, the occurrence of major wildlife habitat within an alternate corridor could be compared to habitat of less importance for wildlife (i.e. agricultural lands versus urban/suburban/roadway habitats) and acreages of prime habitats could then be compared between alternates.

### 2.1.1.4 Wildlife

Wildlife was considered generally as a function of habitat. However a variety of other factors were evaluated. of specific importance was the proximity to the study area of Federal and state lands that served, or could serve as wildife management areas; the established population densities of wildlife in Albemarle County based on information from the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries; the presence of natural areas with established wildlife values; and the existence of wildlife habitat on privately owned lands within the alternates' corridors. Factors specifically examined were: 1.) lands of known importance to wildlife, 2.) game species locations, habitats, and census and harvest figures including white-tailed deer, black bear, wild turkey, raccoon, opossum, gray (and red) fox, bobcat, muskrat, beaver, mink, and skunk, and 3.) possible secondary impacts on wildlife such as increased mortality due to road kills and secondary habitat manipulations along the alternates.
2.1.1.5 Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern (ETS) Species

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Biota of Virginia data base was also consulted to obtain information on fauna species with a federal or state status that inhabit or might frequent Albemarle County. The Virginia Natural Heritage Program of the Department of Conservation was consulted to identify any exemplary, unique, rare, or endangered resources, especially flora, that exist or might exist in the study area.

Information on the rare avifauna of Albemarle County was obtained from the Virginia Society of Ornithology. The Virginia Native Plant Society provided general information on ETS fauna of the Commonwealth and Albemarle County. The possibility of any of these species being along any of the alternates, or the presence of suitable habitat for these in their corridors is indicated on each of the lists.

### 2.1.1.6 Wild and Scenic Rivers and Natural Areas

The National Park Service's minimum criteria for inclusion, or potential inclusion of a river in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System was evaluated for streams in Albemarle County. The following were evaluation considerations: 1.) that portion of a river crossed by any of the alternates and therefore directly eliminated from the system, and 2.) the lengths of any designated stream (should any exist), upstream and downstream from an alternate's crossing.

Virginia also has a scenic rivers program administered by the Department of Conservation, Division of Parks and Recreation. This program was established in 1970 by the passage of the Virginia Scenjc Rivers Act, (Title 10, Chapter 15, section 10-167 through 10-175 of the Code of virginia). All of the rivers in the study area were evaluated according to the criteria of this Act.

The Scenic River Act was not designated to create an "instant" system but rather to provide a framework whereby individual rivers or river segments of high quality could be legislatively designated, as local interest and commitment to protection developed. Five sections of the Act combine to provide the basic protection afforded components to the Scenic Rivers System. These sections state:

1. it shall be the policy of the Commonwealth to protect and conserve certain rivers and their immediate environs which possess great natural and pastoral beauty. It further declares such preservation to be a beneficial purpose of state water resource policy.
2. it is a requirement that in all planning for the use and development of water and related land resources on a Scenic River, full consideration and evaluation of the river as a scenic resource shall be given before plans which would alter or destroy its scenic character are approved.
3. an Advisory Committee of local residents shall be appointed to review and comment on plans affecting the river and to assist and advise the Director of the Department of Conservation on matters relating to the protection and management of the river.
4. a legislative appointment shall be made of an agency to administer each component of the System in order to achieve the purposes of the Act.
5. once a river or stream segment is brought into the System, no dam or other impediment to the natural flow shall be constructed, operated or maintained unless specifically authorized by an act of the General Assembly.

Currently only two rivers in Albemarle County are designated as state scenic rivers (Figure 2.1).

- Moorman's River from the Charlottesville Reservoir to its junction with the Mechums River
- Rivanna River from the Woolen Mills Dam to the Fluvanna County line

The Scenic Overlay District of the Albemarle County Zoning Ordinance may also be applied to scenic waterways. A scenic stream designation restricts construction, grading and cutting of trees within 15 feet of the stream, and restricts construction and excessive cutting within 65 feet of the stream. The following stream is currently designated as a scenic stream (see Figure 2.1):

- Moorman's River from the bottom of the Charlottesville Water Sunply Dam at Sugar Hollow to its confluence with the Mechums River.

The Natural Areas considered during the study were the Ivy Creek Natural Area, Fernbrook Preserve, and McIntire Park. These were the only areas meeting the definition of a natural area within the project area.

### 2.2 Impact Prediction

Land cover impact predictions were based primarily on the amount of acreage directly impacted by roadway construction along each alternate corridor. Consideration was not given to post construction revegetation activities because of lack of detailed project design information. It is generally recognized that these would be part of best management practices (BMP) during, and after construction and therefore could account for the return to certain unknown land cover types when followed. These activities were considered an integral part of mitigation planning for the project.

Assessment of possible impacts to geological features and to soils was confined to the area adjacent to and underlain by the proposed alternates as these would originate only where pertinent features are in contact with the highway.

Predictions of impacts to wildife were based primarily on the acres of each habitat type within the corridors of the alternates. Loss or alteration of a habitat was considered to result in concomitant changes in wildife species and abundance. A comparison of alternate corridors and their impacts therefore necessarily considered the number of acres of the seven habitat types and the importance of each habitat to wildlife. Special note was made of economically important species when they were of specific importance.

## SCENIC RESOURCES - ROADS AND STREAMS



A listing was made of all publicly recognized significant natural resources, whether ownershin was private. State, or Federal. In general, impacts were considered for these resources as either direct, i.e. within the corridor and that portion totally eliminated, or indirect. Indirect impacts consisted of the close association of a natural resource located near a corridor. Without detailed project design information, only general types of potential indirect impacts can be identified. For areas directly eliminated by the alternate corridor, totally or in part, acreages or other obvious impacts were noted. Impacts considered were wildlife lands (areas important to wildife), those areas used by some species of non-game and transient endangered species, areas with a possible concentration of game species, natural areas, and the possible presence of rare and endangered flora.

Impacts on rare plants were considered only from a general sense. For some populations the location is only vaguely known, providing only an indication of their true locale.

For potentially Wild and Scenic Rivers the impacts considered were dependent upon: 1.) the width of the corridor, and therefore the length of stream directly removed from designation, 2.) whether the road w an ungade or a new crossing, 3.) the area bounded by the stream corridor ( 0.25 miles on either side of the stream) and within 0.25 miles stream distance to the center line of the corridor (assumed to be the distance to which impacts like noise and scenery degradation were likely to occur), and 4.) the lengths of stream remaining up and down stream of the crossing (normally an unbroken segment must be a minimum of five miles to be considered for Wild and Scenic status; USDOI 1981).

Impacts to Natural Areas were considered only in a direct sense. If an alternate corridor was planned through any such area the acreage lost was calculated, irregardless of the legal feasibility of such action.

### 3.1 TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES

### 3.1.1 Regional Study Area

Albemarle County lies in north central Virginia. It is bounded on the north by Greene and Orange counties, on the east by Louisa and Fluvanna counties, on the south by Buckingham County and on the west by Nelson and Augusta counties. The county is about 39 miles north and south and about 21 miles east and west. The total area of the county is about 741 square miles or 474,000 acres.

Albemarle County is within both the Piedmont and Blue Ridge physiographic provinces. Elevation ranges from 250 feet above sea level where the Rivanna River and James River leave the county to 3,317 feet at the summit of Loft Mountain in the extreme northwestern corner of the county. The Piedmont province makes up about 82 percent of the county. It is well dissected by many small streams and rivers that flow in narrow, meandering valleys. The landscape of this province is mostly gently sloping to moderately steep, but in places it is steep. Along the lower tributaries of the major streams, entrenchment has been rapid and bluffs and $V$-shaped valleys are common. The walls of the valleys are steep, and rise abruptly from the floodplains. Most of the soils are well drained throughout the Piedmont, with only a few poorly drained soils along streams, on toe slopes, and in a few saddles.

The Blue Ridge province makes up most of the western part of the county and is only 18 percent of the total land area. It is steep and rugged. It has been strongly dissected by many intermittent and permanent streams that have cut deep, narrow valleys bordered by steep rocky slopes and narrow ridges. Slopes are moderately steep to very steep. The soils are stony, shallow to deep, and well drained to excessively drained.

### 3.1.1.1 Geology

Topographic map sheets of Albemarle County are available from the U.S. Geological Survey. The $71 / 2$ minute Series, $1: 2400$ scale, utilizes 22 map sheets to illustrate the county. The topographic maps used during this study included the Charlottesville West, Charlottesville East, and the Earlysville, Virginia quadrangles. These three maps covered the area of all study alignments. Geological formations located in the vicinity of the preliminary alignments of the Route 29 Corridor Study are shown in figures 3.1 and 3.2, illustrating major fault lines and major slopes.

The northwest edge of the county is the location of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Pasture Fence Mountain and Bucks Elbow Mountain are part of this chain. Topography occurring from the foot of the Blue Ridge eastward to Southwest Mountain is typical of the Piedmont area which is dotted with mountains. One such group is the Ragged Mountains, south of Charlottesville, which have elevations ranging from 1200 feet to over 2400 feet and are separated by valleys having elevations from 800 feet to 500 feet. Another group is the fox Mountains, in the northwest part of the county, with a maximum elevation of 2400 feet.


Figure No.

FIGURE 3.2 MAJOR SLOPES


Southwestern Mountain extends in a northeast - southwest direction, with Charlottesville located on its western edge. The highest peaks on this mountain vary in elevation from over 1300 feet to 1300 feet above sea level. As the mountain extends southwestward it is locally known as Carter Mountain and Green Mountain, and has a gradual decrease in elevation.

The portion of the Piedmont plateau which lies east of Southwest Mountain has an elevation between 500 and 600 feet above sea level. The plane varies between 400 and 500 feet in elevation in the vicinity of James and Rivanna Rivers.

Albemarle County is drained by the James River and three of its major tributaries - the Rivanna River, the Rockfish River, the Hardware River and their tributaries. The headwaters of the North Anna River and the South Anna River extend into the county near Barhoursville and Gordonsville, respectively. The tributaries of the James River flow in meandering, entrenched channels and have drainage patterns that are, in places, a well defined trellis pattern, and in other places a poorly defined pattern.

Historically, Albemarle County has been predominantly forested. In 1986, the USDA Forest Service still classified 58 percent or 275,629 acres of the total county acreage as timberland (capable of producing 20 cubic feet of industrial wood per acre per year). Most of the timberland is of the oakhickory group ( $66 \%$ ), while loblolly-shortleaf pine (20\%) and oak-pine ( $12 \%$ ) make up the major remaining groups.

The 1982 U.S. Census of Agriculture classified 201,409 acres or 43 percent of the total county acreage as "land in farms". This means that approximately 41 percent or 197,381 acres of land is cleared or relatively open. The major farming activities of Albemarle County include beef cattle production, the horse industry, hay farming and vineyards and orchards. Because the county's agricultural lands are interspersed with more natural habitats, forming a mosaic of land covers, its farms also support a variety of wildife.

Thirteen geologic formations exist in Albemarle County. These are listed within the Precambrian, Cambrian or Precambrian, Cambrian, Ordovician, and Triassic Ages on Table 3.1. The three formations over which the preliminary alignments lay, include the Lovingston, Lynchburg and Catoctin formations. East of the Fox Mountain Dome occurs the Lovingston gneiss, known as the basement complex, overlain by the Rockfish conglomerate, the Lynchburg gneiss (restricted), the Johnson Mill graphite slate, the Charlottesville formation and the Swift Run formation which is at the base of the Catoctin greenstone. The Swift Run formation and the Catoctin greenstone are considered to be younger in age than Precambrian.

At the upper level of the Precambrian series of rocks are the Charlottesville formation, in the eastern part of the county, and the virginia Blue Ridge formation, in the western part of the county. The rocks deposited on the Lovingston basement complex are known to be over 60,000 feet in thickness and were deposited in a Precambrian geosyncline which extended upward into Cambrian Age.

TABLE 3.1
GEOLOGIC FORMATIONS OF ALBEMARLE COUNTY


TABLE 3.1
GEOLOGIC FORMATIONS OF ALBEMARLE COUNTY (continued)

## AGE FORMATION NAME CHARACTER

Cambrian or Precambrian

Loudoun formation
(Unicoi-Weverton)

Upper part sandstones, shaly sandstones and pink paper bedded shales, then micaceous sandstone and glassy ferruginous sandstone then, at base, three greenstone lava flows separated by coarse arkosic quartzitic sandstone with a 10 foot conglomerate at base and a 175 foot acid lava flow at top.

Originally a series of basaltic lava flows separated by layers of sediments, now a greenstone with patches of
Catoctin formation with alaskite dikes epidote.

Greenstone feeder dike
Sandstone lens

| Swift Run formation | A series of detrital quartzite and tuf- |
| :--- | :--- |
| with amphibolite and | faceous slates and greenstone flows at |
| metapyroxenite dikes | its type location. |

Composed of Swift Run formation and thinned down western edge of Charlottes-
Mechum River formation ville, Lynchburg and Rockfish formations mapped as a unit.

Virginia Blue Ridge complex

Includes granodiorite, hypersthene granodiorite and the Marshall and Crozet granites.

Charlottesville formation with 6 or more metapyroxenite dikes

Primarily massive layers of quartz biotite gneiss, calcareous in places; also a few beds of sericitic and graphitic schist.

Johnson Mill formation
Massive graphite slate containing pyrite
Precambrian stringers and blobs.

Fine grained silty sediments, metamorphosed in part, varved-like layers of

## Lynchburg formation

 (Restricted)graphitic and sericitic schist and thick beds of quartz biotite gneiss.

TABLE 3.1
GEOLOGIC FORMATIONS OF ALBEMARLE COUNTY (continued)

| AGE | FORMATION NAME | CHARACTER |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Precambrian | Rockfish conglomerate | Basal 100 foot boulder conglomerate followed by coarse metamorphosed sandstone. |
|  | Lovingston formation with injections of igneous rock | Coarse grained quartz monzonite, variable in composition. |

Source: Virginia Division of Mineral Resources, Rulletin \#77, Geology and Mineral Resources of Albemarle County, Virginia

A belt of sedimentary rocks composed of the Loudoun formation and the Everona limestone, both of Cambrian age, occurs east of Southwest Mountain in a synclinal fold slightly paralle] to the axis of the Southwest Mountain. The Everona limestone occupies the center of this fold.

Two Triassic basins are located in Albemarle County. The Scottsuille Triassic basin, east of Green Mountain in the southern part of the county, covers much of the area between Green Mountain and Howardsville. Extending into the county's northern edge is the culpepper Triassic basin. This basin extends less than a mile into the county.

Throughout the county are many diabase dikes of Triassic age. The general direction of these dikes is north-south. Amphibolite dikes occur near Mays Chapel, south of Charlottesville. Alaskite dikes are found near Monticello, and on Highway 20 one-half mile south of Carter Bridge. Felsite dikes occur around Charlottesville and north into Green County. Metapyroxenite dikes altered, in some locations, to serpentine and soapstone form the county's south border to the north border between Southwest Mountain and the Mechum River fault-bounded trough.

Mineral production in Albemarle County is limited to crushed stone and sand. Crushed stone of ereenstone is produced near shadwell, and crushed stone of granite gneiss is produced at Red Hill. Sand is produced by two companies at four locations on the Rivanna River. The Shadwell, Red Hill and Rivanna River locations are not impacted by the proposed alignments.

Other minerals and rocks found within Albemarle County which have been produced in the past include iron ore, slate, clay, sandstone, and limestone. other minerals known to exist in the county, but relatively unimportant, are amethysts, asbestos, barite, copper, felsite, garnets, gold, limonite, hematite, and pyrite.

The most prominent minerals found in Albemarle County are not located within the Route 29 study area, however, data regarding these mineral resources are presented in Table 3.2. The localities are listed, followed by a listing of the minerals. For convenience, the name of the nearest town or prominent geographic feature is given in Table 3.2

Though no impact on the Route 29 study area exists, mining records were reviewed to obtain a generalized location for early mining activities in the county. Some of the recorded mining was found to have occurred as early as 1878. Table 3.3 lists the Jocation of mining activities and the mining product.

There are relatively few geologic hazards in the project area. As shown in Figure 3.1 the proposed alignments cross three major fault lines. The major zones of faulting are traversed by the proposed alignments 11 and 12 . Several existing secondary highways such as $743,606,676,805$, as well as Route 29 also traverse one or more of the three major fault lines.

Locality
Alberene soapstone quarry - Alberene

Brian Fork - near Schuyler (excavation on Route 6)

Esmont slate quarry - Esmont

Faber lead mine - near Faber

Martin Marietta quarry - near Charlottesville

Old Dominion soapstone quarry near old Dominion

Stony Point Mine - near Charlottesville

## Minerals

Actinolite-tremolite, apatite, ferroan dolomite, erythrite, galena, ilmenite, magnetite, talc

Geothite pseudomorphs after pyrite

Dolomite, linonite pseudomorphs after pyrite, siderite

Cerussite, chalcopyrite, fluorite, argentiferous galena, sphalerite, pyromorphite

Epidote, muscovite crystals, pyrite, quartz

Actinolite-tremolite, apatite, chal copyrite, chlorite, cobaltite, dolomite, erythrite, galena, ilmenite, magnesite, magnetite, pyrite, talc

Chal copyrite, cuprite, geothite, malachite, siderite

TABLE 3.3 MINING ACTIVITES IN ALBEMARLE COUNTY

## Mineral

## Soapstone

Pyrite

Copper
Lead \& Zinc
Slate

## Location

West of Green Mountain to Nelson County; and North Gardens area

Stony Point, 6 miles NE of Charlottesville at the NW base of Southwest Mountain

West foot slopes of Southwest Mountain
2 miles NE of Faber
Esmont, Keswick, and Buck Island Creek areas

The general soil descriptions of Albemarle County are categorized into eight broad areas that have a distinctive pattern of soils, relief, and drainage (Figure 3.3). Each of these eight areas consists of one or more major soils and some minor soils. The areas are named for the major soils located within their borders. The general soil areas can be used to compare the suitability of large areas for general land use. The eight general soil area designations, however, are not suitable for planning the management of a farm nor for selecting a site for a road. The soils in any one area differ from place to place in drainage, depth, slope, and other characteristics that affect management. A detailed description of soils is provided in later text listing general facts, principle hazards and limitations.

The three general areas through which the preliminary alignments pass are the Braddock-Thurmont-Unison soils, the Hayesville-Ashe-Chester soils, and the Elioak-Hazel-Glenelg soils (Figure 3.4).

The Braddock-Thurmont-Unison soils are deep, well drained soils that have a clayey or loamy subsoil and are formed in colluvium material derived mainly from granite and greenstone that has washed out of the Blue Ridge. Some of the soils have rock fragments on the surface. Most of the soils are on gently sloping broad ridgetops and strongly sloping to moderately steep slopes. This area contains approximately 32 percent Braddock snils, 18 percent Thurmont soils, and 8 percent Unison soils. Soils of minor extent make up about 42 percent. The Braddock soils have a hrown loam surface layer and a red clay subsoil. The surface layer is very stony in areas. The Thurmont soils have a brown loam surface layer and a yellow red clay loam subsoil. The surface layer is very stony in some areas. The Unison soils have a dark brown silt loam surface layer and a reddish brown clay with silty clay loam subsoil. The surface layer is very stony in places. About three-fourths of the Braddock-Thurmont-Unison acreage is used for cultivated crops, hay, and pasture, while the remainder is wood land and urban land.

The Hayesville-Ashe-Chester soils are well drained, deep and moderately deep soils that have a clayey or loamy subsojl. The area is formed in material weathered from granite and gneiss. It consists of deeply dissected, hroad ridgetops and side slopes on uplands. The ridgetops are gently sloping and strongly sloping with the side slopes being moderately steep to steep. This area contains approximately 52 percent Hayesville soils, 23 percent Ashe soils and 14 percent Chester soils. Soils of minor extent make up about 11 percent. The Hayesville soils are mainly on broad ridgetops and side slopes and are deep and well drained. These have a strong brown loam surface layer and a red clay subsoil. The Ashe soils are mostly on side slopes and narrow ridgetops and are moderately deep and somewhat excessively drained. They have a dark brown loam surface layer and a strong brown loam subsoil. The chester soils are on broad to narrow ridgetops and side slopes and are deep and well drained. They have a dark brown loam surface layer and a yellowish red clay loam subsoil.


GENERAL SOIL MAP albemarle county, virginia

Figure 3.3 1 MrwailisCotocth-Low: Oopp ind moderetely depp, well.
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## ROUTE 29

Corsiodor Simoly


About half of the Hayesville-Ashe-Chester soils area has been cleared, and is used for cropland and pasture. The remaimler of the area is woodland and urban land. The hazard of erosion in this area is the major concern of the Route 29 Corridor Study.

The Elioak-Hazel-Glenelg sojls are deep to moderately deep with well drained and excessively drained soils that have a clayey or loamy subsoil. This area is formed in material weathered from quartz mica schist, and has gently sloping and strongly sloping, narrow ridgetops and side slopes. Areas adjacent to streams are moderately steep to steep. This area contains about 22 percent Elioak soils, 18 percent Hazel soils, and 15 percent Glenelg soils. Soils of minor extent make up ahout 45 percent. The Elioak soils are deep, well drained, and gently sloping to moderately steep. They are on the highest positions on narrow ridgetops, and have a dark hrown loam surface layer and a red silty clay subsoil. The Hazel soils are moderately deep, excessively drained, and strongly sloping to steep, and located on slopes leading down to drainage ways. They have a brown loam surface layer and a brown loam subsoil. The Glenelg soils are deep, well drained, and gently sloping to steep, and are located on narrow ridgetops and side slopes. They have a dark yellowish brown loam surface layer and yellowish red silty clay loam subsoil.

About one-fourth of the Elioak-Hazel-Glenelg soils area has been cleared, and is used for cropland and pasture. Most of the remaining area is woodland and a small portion is urban land. Soils along the proposed alignments are shown in the soil survey maps provided by the Soil Conservation Service in Figures 3.5 through 3.11. Soils considered to be a severe erosion hazard are highlighted on these figures, and the acreage impacted along each study alignment listed in Table 3.4 . These areas would require special equipment and methods to prevent excessive loss of soil during construction activities. Table 3.5, Erosion Factor K, addressed the susceptibility of a sojl to sheet and rill erosion by water. Factor $K$ is one of the six factors used in the Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE) to predict the average annual rate of soil loss by sheet and rill erosion in tons per acre per year. The estimates are based primarily on percentage of silt, sand and organic matter (up to 4 percent) and on soil structure and permeability. Vales of $K$ range from 0.05 to 0.69 . The higher the value, the more susceptible the soil is to sheet and rill erosion. The highest $k$-factor values found within the proposed alignments were 0.49 and 0.43.

A list of soils found along the study alignments is shown in Table 3.6 . Prime farmland soils are listed in Table 3.7 , while Tables 3.8 and 3.9 list physical, chemical, and engineering index properties of the soils found on the soil survey maps. The data relating soil properties were collected during the course of the soil survey, and are provided in the soil survey of Albemarle County (U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1985). This data may be needed to determine suitability of materials and the methods required for road construction.



(20)



TABLE 3.4
SEVERE EROSION HAZARD ACREAGE ALONG PROPOSED ALIGNMENTS

ALIGNMENT
SEVERE EROSION HAZ.ARD ACREAGE

| ALIGNMENT | SEVERE EROSION HAZ |
| :---: | :---: |
| 6 | 3.95 |
| $6 B$ | 8.32 |
| 7 | 3.43 |
| 8,9 | 1.04 |
| 10 | 2.70 |
| 11 | 0.0 |
| 12 | 5.86 |
| $11 \mathrm{~N}-12 \mathrm{~S}$ | 1.27 |
| $12 \mathrm{~N}-11 \mathrm{~S}$ | 4.50 |

TABLE 3.5
EROSION FACTOR K

Map Symbol/Soil Name
Depth (in.)
Erosion Factor K

| 2B, 2C, 2D Albemarle | 0-5 | 0.37 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 5-30 | 0.37 |
|  | 30-38 | 0.28 |
| 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E | 0-10 | 0.24 |
| Ashe | 10-19 | 0.17 |
|  | 19-24 | 0.17 |
| 5B | 0-12 | 0.37 |
| Belvoir | 12-19 | 0.37 |
|  | 19-28 | 0.28 |
| 10 | 0-10 | 0.10 |
| Buncombe | 10-60 | 0.10 |
| 12D, 12E, 13C | 0-5 | 0.32 |
| Catoctin | 5-18 | 0.24 |
|  | 18-28 | 0.24 |
| 14B, 14C, 14D, 14E | 0-7 | 0.32 |
| Chester | 7-41 | 0.43 |
|  | 41-60 | 0.49 |
| 15D | 0-7 | 0.32 |
| Chester | 7-41 | 0.43 |
|  | 41-60 | 0.49 |
| 16 | 0-8 | 0.28 |
| Chewacla | 8-60 | 0.32 |
| 19B, 19C | 0-8 | 0.37 |
| Cullen | 8-60 | 0.24 |
|  | 60-67 | 0.24 |
| 20C3 | 0-8 | 0.37 |
| Cullen | 8-60 | 0.24 |
|  | 60-67 | 0.24 |
| 21B, 21C | 0-8 | 0.37 |
| Culpeper | 8-30 | 0.28 |
|  | 30-37 | 0.17 |

TABLE 3.5
EROSION FACTOR K (continued)

| 23B | 0-4 | 0.28 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Davidson | 4-10 | 0.32 |
|  | 10-63 | 0.24 |
| 24B | 0-10 | 0.37 |
| Dogue | 10-70 | 0.28 |
| 27B, 27C, 27D | 0-8 | 0.32 |
| 28C3 | 8-39 | 0.28 |
| Elioak | 39-72 | 0.49 |
| 29D, 30C3 | 0-6 | 0.32 |
| Fauguier | 6-34 | 0.28 |
| 32C | 0-8 | 0.37 |
| Fluvanna | 8-48 | 0.28 |
|  | 48-60 | 0.28 |
| 34B, 34C, 34D | 0-8 | 0.37 |
| Glenelg | 8-28 | 0.43 |
|  | 28-80 | 0.49 |
| 36B, 36C, 36D, | 0-7 | 0.20 |
| 37B3, 37C3, | 7-58 | 0.24 |
| 37D3, 37E3 | 58-83 | 0.20 |
| Hayesville 0.20 |  |  |
| 39C, 39D, 39E | 0-10 | 0.32 |
| Hazel | 10-20 | 0.24 |
|  | 20-30 | 0.24 |
| 40D, 40E | 0-10 | 0.24 |
| Hazel | 10-20 | 0.24 |
|  | 20-30 | 0.24 |
| 41B, 41C, 42B3 | 0-8 | 0.28 |
| $42 \mathrm{C3}$ | 8-64 | 0.28 |
| Hiwassee |  |  |
| 47D | 0-5 | 0.24 |
| Louisburg | 5-60 | 0.24 |

TABLE 3.5 EROSION FACTOR K (continued)

| 48D, 48E | 0-5 | 0.10 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Louisburg | 5-60 | 0.24 |
| 55B | 0-7 | 0.37 |
| McQueen | 7-42 | 0.37 |
|  | 42-52 | 0.37 |
|  | 52-64 | 0.32 |
| 56 B | 0-14 | 0.37 |
| Meadowville | 14-46 | 0.28 |
|  | 46-73 | 0.28 |
| 58C, 58D | 0-7 | 0.37 |
| Myersville | 7-28 | 0.32 |
|  | 28-44 | 0.32 |
| 63B | 0-9 | 0.49 |
| Orange | 9-33 | 0.28 |
|  | 33-60 | 0.28 |
| 65B, 65C | 0-6 | 0.20 |
| Pacolet | 6-32 | 0.28 |
|  | 32-60 | 0.28 |
| 66E | 0-14 | 0.17 |
| Parker | 14-38 | 0.20 |
|  | 38-67 | 0.20 |
| 71B, 71C, 71D | 0-6 | 0.32 |
| 71 F | 6-48 | 0.28 |
| Rabun | 48-63 | 0.28 |
| 72B3, 72C3, 72D3 | 0-4 | 0.32 |
| Rabun | 4-48 | 0.28 |
|  | 48-63 | 0.28 |
| 73D, 73E | 0-6 | 0.20 |
| Rabun | 6-48 | 0.28 |
|  | 48-63 | 0.28 |
| 76 | 0-12 | 0.32 |
| Riverview | 12-35 | 0.24 |
|  | 35-60 | 0.17 |

TABLE 3.5
EROSION FACTOR K (continued)

| Map Symbol/Soil Name | Depth (in.) | Erosion Factor K |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 77 | 0-12 | 0.32 |
| Riverview | 12-35 | 0.24 |
|  | 35-60 | 0.17 |
| 79B | 0-18 | 0.28 |
| Starr | 18-68 | 0.28 |
| 83 | 0-9 | 0.24 |
| Toccoa | 9-66 | 0.10 |
| 86B | 0-12 | 0.32 |
| Turbeville | 12-75 | 0.24 |
| 88 | --- | --- |
| Udorthents |  |  |
| 91 | --- | --- |
| Urban land |  |  |
| 93C, 93E | 0-10 | 0.32 |
| Watt | 10-18 | 0.24 |
|  | 18-28 | 0.20 |
| 94B, 94C | 0-7 | 0.24 |
| Wedowee | 7-11 | 0.28 |
|  | 11-30 | 0.28 |
| 95 | 0-10 | 0.32 |
| Wehadkee | 10-52 | 0.32 |
| 96 B | 0-9 | 0.37 |
| Worsham | 9-54 | 0.28 |
|  | 54-60 | 0.28 |

TABLE 3.6
COMPOSITE LIST OF SOILS ALONG PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

| NAME | MAP <br> SYMBOL | SLOPE <br> (\%) | $\begin{gathered} \text { SURFACE } \\ \text { SOIL } \end{gathered}$ | SUBSOIL | DRAINAGE | *FACTORS AFFECTING HIGHWAY LOCATION |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Albemarle <br> Fine Sandy <br> Loam | 2B | 2-7 | Fine Sand Loam | Clay Loam | Well <br> Drained | Moderate: low strength, frost action |
| Albemarle Fine Sandy Loam | 2 C | 7-15 | Fine Sandy Loam | Clay Loam | Well <br> Drained | Moderate: low strength, slope, frost action |
| Albemarle <br> Fine Sandy L.oam | 2D | 15-25 | Fine Sandy Loam | Clay Loam | Well <br> Drained | Severe: slope |
| Ashe Loam | 4B | 2-7 | Loan | Loam | Somewhat <br> Excessively <br> Drained | Moderate: depth to rock, slope |
| Ashe Loam | 4C | 7-15 | I, oam | Loam | Somewhat <br> Exces- <br> sively <br> Drained | Moderate: depth to rock, slope |
| Ashe Loam | 4D | 15-25 | Loam | Loam | Somewhat <br> Exces- <br> sively <br> Drained | Severe: slope |
| Ashe Loam | 4 E | 25-45 | Loam | Loam | Somewhat <br> Exces- <br> sively <br> Drained | Severe: slope |
| Belvoir Loam | 5B | 2-7 | Loam | Loam-Clay Loam | Somewhat Poorly Drained | Severe: wetness |
| Buncombe <br> Loamy <br> Sand | 10 | 0-2 | Loamy Sand | Not Classified | Excessively Drained | Severe: flooding |

TABLE 3.6
COMPOSITE LIST OF SOILS ALONG PROJECT ALTERNATIVES ( continued)

| NAME | MAP SYMBOL | SLOPE <br> (\%) | $\begin{gathered} \text { SURFACE } \\ \text { SOIL } \end{gathered}$ | SUBSOIL | DRAINAGE | *FACTORS AFFECTING highway location |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Catoctin Silt Loam | 12D | 15-25 | Silt Loam | Silt LoamSilty Clay Loam | Well <br> Drained | Severe: slope |
| Catoctin Silt Loam | 12E | 25-45 | Silt Loam | Silt LoamSilty Clay Loam | Well <br> Drained | Severe: slope |
| Catoctin <br> Very Stony <br> Silt Loam | 13C | 7-15 | Silt Loam | Silt LoamSilty Clay Loam | Well <br> Drained | Moderate: depth to rock, slope, large stones |
| Chester <br> Loam | 14B | 2-7 | Loam | Clay Loam | Well <br> Drained | Moderate: frost action |
| Chester <br> Loam | 14 C | 7-15 | Loam | Joam-Clay Loam | Well <br> Drained | Moderate: slope, frost action |
| Chester <br> Loam | 14D | 15-25 | L.oam | Loam-Clay Loam | Well <br> Drained | Severe: slope |
| Chester <br> Loam | 14E | 25-45 | Loam | Loam-Clay <br> L.oam | Well <br> Drained | Severe: slope |
| Chester <br> Very Stony <br> Loam | 150 | 7-15 | Loam | Loam-Clay <br> Loam | Well <br> Drained | Severe: low strength, slope |
| Chewacla <br> Silt Loam | 16 | 0-2 | Loam | Silt LoamSilty Clay Loam | Somewhat <br> Poorly <br> Drained | Severe: low strength, wetness, flooding |
| Cullen <br> Loam | 19B | 2-7 | Loam | Clay-Clay <br> Loam | Well <br> Drained | Severe: low strength |
| Cullen <br> Loam | 19C | 7-15 | Loam | Clay-Clay <br> Loam | Well <br> Drained | Severe: low strength |

TABLE 3.6
COMPOSITE LIST OF SOILS ALONG PROJECT ALTERNATIVES (continued)

| NAME | MAP <br> SYMBOL | SLOPE <br> (\%) | SURFACE SOII | SUBSOIL | DRAINAGE | *FACTORS AFFECTING <br> HIGHWAY LOCATION |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cullen <br> Clay <br> Loam | 20 C 3 | 7-15 | Clay Loam | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Clay Loam- } \\ & \text { Clay } \end{aligned}$ | Well <br> Drained | Severe: low strength |
| Culpeper <br> Fine Sandy <br> Loam | 21B | 2-7 | Fine Sandy Loam | Clay Loam-Clay-Sandy Clay Loam | Well <br> Drained | Severe: low strength |
| Culpeper <br> Fine Sandy <br> Loam | 21C | 7-15 | Fine Sandy Loam | Clay Loam-Clay-Sandy Clay Loam | Well <br> Drained | Severe: low strength |
| Davidson Clay Loam | 23B | 2-7 | Clay Loam | Clay | Well <br> Drained | Severe: low strength |
| Dogue Silt Loam | 24B | 2-7 | Silt Loam | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Clay-Clay } \\ & \text { Loam } \end{aligned}$ | Moderately Well <br> Drained | Severe: low strength |
| Elioak Loam | 27B | 2-7 | Loam | Silty Clay <br> Loam-Silty <br> Clay | Well <br> Drained | Severe: low strength |
| Elioak <br> I.oam | 27C | 7-15 | Loam | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Silty Clay } \\ & \text { Loam-Silty } \\ & \text { Clay } \end{aligned}$ | Well <br> Drained | Severe: low strength |
| Elioak <br> Loam | 27D | 15-25 | Loant | Silty Clay <br> Loam-Silty Clay | Well <br> Drained | Severe: low strength, slope |
| Elioak Clay Loam | 28C3 | 7-15 | Loam | Silty ClaySilty Clay Loam | Well <br> Drained | Severe: low strength |
| Faqquier <br> Silt Loam | 29D | 15-25 | Silt Loam | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Clay-Silty } \\ & \text { Clay } \end{aligned}$ | Well <br> Drained | Severe: slope, low strength |
| Fauquier Silty Clay Loam | 30 C 3 | 7-15 | Silty Clay Loam | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Clay-Silty } \\ & \text { Clay } \end{aligned}$ | Well <br> Drained | Severe: low strength |

TABLE 3.6
COMPOSITE LIST OF SOILS ALONG PROJECT ALTERNATIVES (continued)

| NAME | MAP SYMBOL | SLOPE <br> (\%) | SURFACE SOIL | SUBSOIL | DRAINAGE | *FACTORS AFFECTING <br> HIGHWAY LOCATION |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Fluvanna Silt Loam | 32C | 7-15 | Silt Loam | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Clay-Silty } \\ & \text { Clay } \end{aligned}$ | Well <br> Drained | Severe: low strength |
| Glenelg <br> Loam | 34B | 2-7 | Loam | Silty Clay Loam | Well <br> Drained | Moderate: frost action |
| Glenelg <br> Loam | 34 C | 7-15 | Loam | Silty Clay Loam | Well <br> Drained | Severe: low strength |
| Glenelg <br> Loam | 34D | 15-25 | Loam | Silty Clay Loam | Well <br> Drained | Severe: slope |
| Hayesville Loam | $36 B$ | 2-7 | Loam | Clay-Clay <br> Loam | Well <br> Drained | Slight |
| Hayesville Loam | 36C | 7-15 | Loam | Clay-Clay <br> Loam | Well <br> Drained | Moderate: slope |
| Hayesville <br> Loam | 36D | 15-25 | Loam | Clay-Clay <br> Loam | We 11 <br> Drained | Severe: slope |
| Hayesville Clay Loam | 37B3 | 2-7 | Clay Loam | Clay-Clay <br> Loam | Well <br> Drained | Slight |
| Hayesville Clay Loam | 37 C 3 | 7-15 | Clay Loam | Clay-Clay <br> Loam | Well <br> Drained | Moderate: slope |
| Hayesville Clay Loam | 37D3 | 15-25 | Clay Loam | Clay-Clay <br> Loam | Well <br> Drained | Severe: slope |
| Hayesville Clay Loam | 37E3 | 25-45 | Clay Loam | Clay-Clay <br> Loam | Well <br> Drained | Severe: slope |
| Hazel Loam | 39C | 7-15 | Loam | Loam | Exces- <br> sively <br> Drained | Moderate: depth to rock, slope, frost action |
| Hazel Loam | 39D | 15-25 | Loam | Loam | Exces- <br> sively <br> Drained | Severe: slope |

TABLE 3.6
COMPOSITE LIST OF SOILS ALONG PROJECT ALTERNATIVES (continued)

| NAME | MAP SYMBOL | SLOPE <br> (\%) | $\begin{gathered} \text { SURFACE } \\ \text { SOIL } \end{gathered}$ | SUBSOIL | DRAINAGE | *FACTORS AFFECTING <br> HIGHWAY LOCATION |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| McQueen Loam | 55B | 2-7 | Loam | Clay-Clay <br> Loam | Well <br> Drained | Severe: low strength |
| Meadowville Loam | 56C | 7-15 | Loam | Loam-Clay <br> Loam | Well to Moderately Well Drained | Severe: low strength |
| Myersville <br> Silt Loam | 58C | 7-15 | Si]t Loam | Silty Clay <br> Loam-Silt <br> Loam | Well <br> Drained | Severe: low strength |
| Myersville Sjlt Loam | 58D | 15-25 | Silt Loam | Silty Clay <br> Loam-Silt <br> Loam | Well <br> Drained | Severe: low strength, slope |
| Orange Silt Loam | 63 B | 2-7 | Silt Loam | Silty ClayClay | Somewhat <br> Poorly to <br> Mod. Well <br> Drained | Severe: low strength, shrink-swell |
| Pacolet Sandy Loam | 65B | 2-7 | Sandy Loam | Clay LoamClay | Well <br> Drained | Severe: low strength |
| Pacolet <br> Sandy Loam | 65 C | 7-15 | Sandy Loam | Clay LoamClay | Well <br> Drained | Severe: low strength |
| Parker Very Stony L.oam | 66E | 25-45 | Stony Loam | Cobbly Loam | Excessively Drained | Severe: slope |
| Rabun Clay Loam | 71B | 2-7 | Clay Loam | Clay | Well <br> Drained | Moderate: low strength |
| Rabun Clay Loam | 71C | 7-15 | Clay Loam | Clay | Well <br> Drained | Moderate: low strength, slope |
| Rabun Clay Loam | 71D | 15-25 | Clay roam | Clay | Well <br> Drained | Severe: slope |
| Rabun Clay Loam | 71E | 25-45 | Clay Loam | Clay | Well <br> Drained | Severe: slope |

TABLE 3.6
COMPOSITE LIST OF SOILS ALONG PROJECT ALTERNATIVES (continued)

| NAME | MAP SYMBOL | SLOPE <br> (\%) | $\begin{gathered} \text { SURFACE } \\ \text { SOIL } \end{gathered}$ | SUBSOIL | DRAINAGE | *FACTORS AFFECTING highway location |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Rabun Clay | 72 B 3 | 2-7 | Clay | Clay | Well <br> Drained | Moderate low strength |
| Rabun Clay | 72 C 3 | 7-15 | Clay | Clay | Well <br> Drained | Moderate: low strength, slope |
| Rabun Clay | 7203 | 15-25 | Clay | Clay | Well <br> Drained | Severe: slope |
| Rabun Very Stony Clay L،oam | 730 | 15-25 | Clay Loam | Clay | Well <br> Drained | Severe: slope |
| Rabun Very Stony Clay Loam | 73 E | 15-45 | Clay Loam | Clay | Well <br> Drained | Severe: slope |
| Riverview Loam | 76 | nearly <br> level | Loam | Silt Loam- <br> Loam | Well <br> Drained | Severe: flooding |
| Riverview- <br> Chewacla <br> Complex | 77 | nearly <br> level | Loam | silt LoamLoam | Well <br> Drained \& Somewhat Poorly Drained | Severe: flooding, <br> low strength, wetness |
| Starr Silt <br> Loam | 79B | 2-7 | Silt Loam | Silty Clay Loam | We] 1 <br> Drained | Severe: flooding |
| Toccoa Fine Sandy Loam | 83 | nearly <br> level | Fine Sandy Loam | Not Classified | Well <br> Drained | Severe: flooding |
| Turbeville L.oam | 86B | 2-7 | Loam | C] ay-Clay <br> Loam | Well <br> Drained | Severe: low strength |
| Udor thents <br> Loamy | 88 | 2-25 | Loamy <br> Where <br> Exposed | Not Classified | Not Classified | Not <br> Classified <br> (fill material) |
| Urban Land | 91 | 0-10 | ** | ** | ** | ** |

TABLE 3.6
COMPOSITE LIST OF SOILS ALONG PROJECT ALTERNATIVES
( continued)

| NAME | MAP <br> SYMBOL | SLOPE <br> (\%) | $\begin{gathered} \text { SURFACE } \\ \text { SOIL } \end{gathered}$ | SUBSOIL | DRAINAGE | *FACTORS AFFECTING HIGHWAY LOCATION |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Watt | 93C | 7-15 | Silt Loam | Silt Loam | Somewhat | Moderate: low |
| Channery |  |  |  |  | Exces- | strength, large |
| Silt Loam |  |  |  |  | sively | stones |
|  |  |  |  |  | Drained |  |
| Watt | 93E | 25-45 | Silt Loam | Silt Loam | Somewhat | Severe: slope |
| Channery |  |  |  |  | Exces- |  |
| Silt Loam |  |  |  |  | sively |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | Drained |  |
| Wedowee | 94B | 2-7 | Sandy Loam | Clay-Sandy | Well | Severe: low strength |
| Sandy Loam |  |  |  | Clay Loam- | Drained |  |
|  |  |  |  | Clay Loam |  |  |
| Wedowee | 94 C | 7-15 | Sandy Loam | Clay-Sandy | Well | Severe: low strength |
| Sandy Loam |  |  |  | Clay Loam- | Drained |  |
|  |  |  |  | Clay Loam |  |  |
| Wehadkee | 95 | 0-2 | Silt Loam | Silty Clay | Poorly | Severe: flooding, |
| Silt looam |  |  |  | Loam-Si]ty | Drained | wetness |
|  |  |  |  | Loam |  |  |
| Worsham | 96B | 2-7 | Loam | Clay | Poorly | Severe: wetness, |
| I,oam |  |  |  |  | Drained | low strength |

* Definition of limitations:

Slight - Soil properties and site features are generally favorable for the indicated use and limitations are minor and easily overcome.

Moderate - Soil properties or site features are not favorable for the indicated use. Special planning, design or maintenance is needed to overcome or minimize the limitations.

Severe - Soil properties or site features are so unfavorable or so difficult to overcome that special design, significant increases in construction costs, and possibly increased maintenance are required.

[^0]TABLE 3.7
PRIME FARMLAND SOILS
[Oniy the solls considered prime farmiand are 11sted. Urban or built-up areas or the soils listed are not considered prime farmiand. If a soil is prime rarmiand only under certain conditions, the conditions are speciried in parentheses arter the soil name]

| Map symbol | Soil name |
| :---: | :---: |
|  |  |
| 1 B | \|Abell silt losms 2 to 7 percent slopes |
| 2B | \|Albemarle fine sandy $10 a m, 2$ to 7 percent slopes |
| 6 | \|Bermudian silt loam |
| 7 B | IBraddock loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes |
| 14 B | 1 Chester loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes. |
| 16 | (Chewacla silt loam (where drained and protected from flooding) |
| 198 | \|Cullen loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes |
| 218 | lCulpeper fine sandy loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes |
| 238 248 | Davidson clay loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes (Dogue silt loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes |
| $25 B$ | \|Dyke silt loam, 2 to. 7 percent slopes |
| 27 B | \|Elioak loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes |
| 29 B | $\mid$ Fauquier silt loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes |
| 32B | \|Pluvanna silt loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes |
| 348 | \|Glenels loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes |
| 36 B | \|Hayesville loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes |
| 418 | \|Hiwassee loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes |
| $49 B$ | [Manassas silt loam, 2 to $T$ percent slopes |
| 53 B | \|Masada loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes |
| 548 | Mayodan $108 m, 2$ to 7 percent slopes |
| 55 B | 1 McQueen loam, 2 to 7 percent siopes |
| 568 | IMeadowville loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes |
| 57 B | Mount lucas silt loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes (rhere drained) |
| 58 B | \|Myersville silt loan, 2 to 7 percent slopes |
| $62 B$ $65 B$ | INason silt loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes |
| 68 B | \|Penn silt loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes |
| 71 B | \|Rabun clay loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes |
| 74 B | \|Rapidan 8ilt loam, 2 to 7 percent siopes |
| 76 | Iniverview loam (where protected rrom rlooding): |
| 77 | IRiverviek-Chewacla complex (where drained and protected from flooding) |
| 78 | (Rowland silt loam (where drained and protected from Ilooding) |
| 798 808 | Starr silt loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes |
| 81 B | IThurmont loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes |
| 83 | IToccoa fine sandy loam (where protected from Ilooding) |
| $84 B$ 868 | Totier silt loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes |
| 868 898 | lurbeville loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes |
| 94 B | Wedowee sandy $10 a m, 2$ to 7 percent slopes |

TABLE 3.8
PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES OF THE SOILS
[The symbol < means less than; > means more than. Entries under "Erosion factors--T" apply to the entire prorile. Entries under "Wind erodibility group" and "Organic matter" apply only to the surface layer. Absence of an entry indicates that data were not available or were not estimated]

| So11 name and map symbol | \|Depth| | 1 Clay | Mo1st bulk density | Permeability | $\begin{gathered} \text { y iva1lable } \\ \text { water } \\ \text { capac1ty } \end{gathered}$ | So11 reaction | \|Shrink-swell |  | cion | Wind erodigroup group | Organic matter |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 B <br> Abell <br> $2 \mathrm{~B}, 2 \mathrm{C}, 2 \mathrm{D}$ <br> Aibemarle | In | PCt | G/cm ${ }^{3}$ | In/hr | In/1n | [H |  |  |  |  | PCL |
|  | \| 0-121 | 10-27 | 11.25-1.551 | 0.6-6.0 | 10.12-0.20 | 14.5-5.5 |  | 10.281 | 4 |  | .5-2 |
|  | 112-361 | 130-451 | 11.35-1.651 | 0.6-2.0 | 0.11-0.17 | $14.5-5.5$ | \| Moderate---- | 10.28 |  |  | .5-2 |
|  | 136-60\| | 10-271 | \|1.45-1.65| | 0.6-6.0 | 0.08-0.18 | 4.5-5.5 | \| Low--- | 0.281 |  |  |  |
|  | 0-5 | 10-271 | 11.35-1.551 | 2.0-6.0 | 0.15-0.20 | 14.5-5.5 |  | 10.371 | 3 |  |  |
|  | 1 5-301 | 120-35 | 11.30-1.501 | 0.6-2.0 | 0.13-0.18 | $14.5-5.5$ | ILow | 10.371 | 3 |  | 1-2 |
|  | $130-381$ | 5-25 | 1.20-1.40\| | 2.0-6.0 | 0.10-0.15 | 4.5-5.5 | \|LOW | 0.281 |  |  |  |
|  | - 38 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { 3C, } \underset{\text { Aibemarie }}{3 D,} 3 E-2 \end{gathered}$ | - 0-5 | 10-251 | 1.35-1.551 | 2.0-6.0 | 0.12-0.171 | 4.5-5.5 |  |  |  |  | 1-2 |
|  | \| 5-301 | 20-351 | $1.30-1.501$ | 0.6-2.0 | 0.13-0.18 | $4.5-5.5$ | ILOW | 0.371 |  |  | 1-2 |
|  | $\|30-38\|$ | 5-25\| | 1.20-1.401 | 2.0-6.0 | 0.10-0.15 | 1.5-5.5 | ILow | 0.28 |  |  |  |
|  | 38 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $4 B, 4 C, 4 D, 4 E-$ Ashe | 0-101 | 10-25 | 1.35-1.601 | 2.0-6.0 | 10.13-0.18 | 4.5-6.0 |  | 24 | 2 |  | 1 |
|  | 10-191 | $10-25 \mid$ | 1.35-1.601 | 2.0-6.0 | $0.10-0.141$ | 4.5-6.0 | \|LOW-----------10 | 0.17 |  |  |  |
|  | $\left\lvert\, \begin{gathered}19-24 \mid \\ 24\end{gathered}\right.$ | 5-151 | 1.45-1.65 | 2.0-6.0 | 0.08-0.12\| | 4.5-6.0 |  | 0.17 |  |  |  |
| EB---- | 0-12 |  | 1.30-1.601 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | \|12-19| | 7-25 | 1. | 0.6-6.0 | 0.10-0.18 | 4.5-5.5 | LOW---------- | 0.371 | 4 |  | .5-2 |
|  | \|19-28| | $15-30$ | 1.70-1.901 | 0.06-0.2 | 0.13-0.181 | $4.5-5.5$ |  | 0.371 |  |  |  |
|  | 128-451 | 10-301 | $1.35-1.65$ | 0.06-0.2 | 10.100 .11 | $4.5-5.5$ $4.5-5.5$ | Lo | 8 |  |  |  |
|  | \|45-72| | $10-451$ | 1.25-1.55 | 0.06-2.0 | \|0.10-0.15| | 4.5-5.5 | \|Mode | 0.28 |  |  |  |
| Bermudian |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 0-4 | 10-25 | 1.25-1.40 | 0.6-6.0 | 0.12-0.161 | 4.5-6.0 | ILow | 0.371 | 4 | -- | 2-3 |
|  | \| $45-451$ | $\left\lvert\, \begin{array}{r} 17-35 \\ \|-20\| \end{array}\right.$ | $\left\lvert\, \begin{array}{l\|} 1.30-1.50 \mid \\ 1.35-1.55 \mid \end{array}\right.$ | 0.6-6.0 | 10.12-0.161 | 4.5-6.0 |  | 0.281 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 0.04-0.08 | 4.5-6.0 |  | 0.171 |  |  |  |
| 7B, 7C, 7D | 0-8 | 10-25 | 1.20-1.501 | 0.6-6.0 | 10.14-0.19 | 3.6-5.5 |  | 0.321 | 4 |  | 1-2 |
| Braddock | 8-60 | 35-551 | 1.20-1.501 | 0.6-2.0 | 0.12-0.17\| | 4.5-5.5 | Mode | 10.241 |  |  |  |
| 8 C 3 $\qquad$ Braddock | 0-4 | 27-401 | 1.20-1.501 | 0.6-2.0 | 0.14-0.191 | 4.5-5.5 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 4-6013 | 35-551 | 1.20-1.501 | 0.6-2.0 | 0.12-0.171 | 4.5-5.5 | Mode | 0.24 | 3 |  | 5 |
| 9B, 9C, 9D-m..... Braddock |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 8-6013 |  | $1.00-1.201$ | 0.6-6.0 | 0.14-0.191 | 3.6-5.5 | Low- | 10.201 | 4 |  | 1-2 |
|  |  | 35-55 | 1.20-1.501 | 0.6-2.0 | 0.14-0.19 | 3.6-5.5 | Mode | 0.241 |  |  |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Buncombe } \\ & \text { 110", 11E": } \\ & \text { Cataska- } \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  |  |  | 6.1-6.5 | Lo | 0.101 |  |  |  |
|  | 10-60\| | 3-12 | 1.60-1.751 | 76.0 | 0.03-0.071 | 4.5-6.0 | Low | 0.101 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 0-5 | 12-22 | 1.30-1.401 | 2.0-20 | 0.10-0.1414 | 4.5-5.5 |  | 0.151 | 1 |  | .5-2 |
|  | 5-2011 | 12-22! | 1.30-1.451 | 2.0-20 | 0.04-0.09 | $4.5-5.5$ | Low- | 0.151 |  |  |  |
|  | $\left\|\begin{array}{c}20-38 \\ 38\end{array}\right\|$ |  |  | - |  | - | Low |  |  |  |  |
| Hartleton-mmem |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 10-25 | 1.20-1.401 | 0.6-6.0 | 0.10-0.1414 | 4.5-5.5 |  | 0.151 | 3 |  | .5-2 |
|  | 17-32\|1 | 15-271 | 1.40-1.601 | $0.6-6.0$ | 0.06-0.1014 | 4.5-5.5 | Lo | 0.201 |  |  |  |
|  | $\|32-44\| 1$ | 15-2711 | $1.40-1.601$ | 0.6-6.0 | 0.04-0.081 | 4.5-5.5 | Low | 0.201 |  |  |  |
| 12C, 12D, 12E, |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Catoctin ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | 0-5 | 5-20 | 1.20-1.501 | 2.0-6.0 | .14-0.20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 5-1811 | 10-3511 | 1.20-1.501 | 2.0-6.0 | 0.08-0.161 | 5.1-6.5 |  | 0.321 | 2 |  | 1-3 |
|  | $18-2811$ | 10-2511 | 1.20-1.501 | 2.0-6.0 | 0.04-0.1515 | 5.1-6.5.3 | Low- | 0.24 |  |  |  |
|  | 28 | --- 1 | - |  |  |  |  | --24 |  |  |  |
|  |  | - 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

TABLE 3.8
PHYSICAL AND CHEMIGAL PROPERTIES OF THE SOILS--Continued


TABLE 3.8

PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES OP THE SOILS--Continued


PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES OP THE SOILS--ContInued


TABLE 3.8

PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES OP THE SOILS--COntinued


TABLE 3.8

PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES OP THE SOILS-COntinued


Source: Soil Survey of Albemarle County, Virginia, 1985.

TABLE 3.9
ENGINEERINO INDEX PROPERTIES
[The symbol < means less than; > means more than. Absence of an entry indicates that data were not estimated]


TABLE 3.9
ENGINEERINO INDEX PROPERTIES--Continued


ENGINEERING INDEX PROPERTIES--Continued


ENGINEERING INDEX PROPERTIES-Continued


TABLE 3.9

ENGINEERING INDEX PROPERTIES--Continued


ENGINEERINO INDEX PROPERTIES-Continued


TABLE 3.9

ENGINEERINO INDEX PROPERTIES--Continued


TABLE 3.9

ENGINEERING INDEX PROPERTIES--Continued


TABLE 3.9

ENGINEERING INDEX PROPERTIES--ContInued


TABLE 3.9

ENGINEERING INDEX PROPERTIES--Continued


ENGINEERING INDEX PROPERTIES--Continued


ENGINEERING INDEX PROPERTIES--Cont1nued


ENGINEERING INDEX PROPERTIES--Continued


Source: Soil Survey of Albemarle County, Virginia,1985.

Table 3.6 sumarizes some characteristics and features that affect soil behavior. These estimates are given for the major layers of each soil in the survey area. The estimates are based on field observations and on test data for these and similar soils. More specific data on physical and chemical properties of soils is provided in Table 3.8 .

Clay as a soil separate consists of mineral soil particles that are less than 0.002 millimeter in diameter. In Table 3.8 , the estimated clay content of each major soil layer is given as a percentage, by weight, of the soil material that is less than 2 millimeters in diameter.

The amount and kind of clay greatly affect the fertility and physical condition of the soil. They determine the ability of the soil to adsorb cations and to retain moisture. They influence shrink-swell potential, permeability, and plasticity, the ease of soil dispersion, and other soil properties. The amount and kind of clay in a soil also affect tillage and earth-moving operations.

Moist bulk density is the weight of soil (ovendry) per unit volume. Volume is measured when the soil is at field bar moisture tension. Weight is determined after drying the soil at 105 degrees $C$. The estimated moist bulk density of each major soil horizon is expressed in grams per cubic centimeter of soil material that is less than 2 mjllimeters in diameter. Bulk density data are used to compute shrink-swell potentia], available water capacity, total pore space, and other soil properties. The moist bulk density of a soil indicates the pore space available for water and roots. A bulk density of more than 1.6 can restrict water storage and root kind penetration. Moist bulk density is influenced by texture, kind of clay, content of organic matter, and soil structure.

Permeability refers to the ability of a soil to transmit water or air. The estimates indicate the rate of downward movement of water when the soil is saturated. They are based on soil characteristics observed in the field, particularly structure, porosity, and texture. Permeability is considered in the design of soil drainage systems, septic tank absorption fields, and construction where the rate of water movement under saturated conditions affects behavior.

Available water capacity refers to the quantity of water that the soil is capable of storing for use by plants. The capacity for water storage is given in inches of water per inch of soil for each major soil layer. The capacity varies, depending on soil properties that affect the retention of water and the depth of the root zone. The most important properties are the content of organic matter, soil texture, bulk density, and soil structure. Available water capacity is an important factor in the choice of plants or crops to be grown and in the design and management of irrigation systems. Available water capacity is not an estimate of the quantity of water actually available to plants at any given time.

Soil reaction is a measure of acidity or alkalinity and is expressed as a range in pH values. The range in pH of each najor horizon is based on many field tests. For many soils, values have been verified by laboratory analyses. Soil reaction is important in selecting crops and other plants, in evaluating soil amendments for fertility and stabilization, and in determining the risk of corrosion.

Shrink-swell potential is the potential for volume change in a soil with a loss or gain in moisture. Volume change occurs mainly because of the interaction of clay minerals with water and varies with the amount and type of clay minerals in the soil. The size of the load on the soil and the magnitude of the change in soil moisture content influence the amount of swelling of soils in place. Laboratory measurements of swelling of undisturbed clods were made for many soils. For others, swelling was estimated on the basis of the kind and amount of clay minerals in the soil and on measurements of similar soils.

If the shrink-swell potential is rated moderate to very high, shrinking and swelling can cause damage to buildings, roads, and other structures. Special design is often needed.

Shrink-swell potential classes are based on the change in length of an unconfined clod as moisture content is increased from air-dry to field capacity. The change is based on the soil fraction less than 2 millimeters in diameter. The classes are low, a change of less than 3 percent; moderate, 3 to 6 percent; and high, more than 6 percent. Very high, greater than 9 percent, is sometimes used.

Erosion factor $K$ indicates the susceptibility of a soil to sheet and rill erosion by water. Factor $K$ is one of six factors used in the Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE) to predict the average annual rate of soil loss by sheet and rill erosion in tons per acre per year. The estimates are based primarily on percentage of silt, sand, and organic matter (up to 4 percent) and soil structure and permeability. Values of $k$ range from 0.05 to 0.69 . The higher the value the more susceptible the soil is to sheet and rill erosion by water.

Frosion factor $T$ is an estinate of the maximum average annual rate of soil erosion by wind or water than can occur without affecting crop productivity over a sustained period. The rate is in tons per acre per year.

Wind erodibility groups are made up of soils that have similar properties affecting their resistance to wind erosion in cultivated areas. The groups indicate the susceptibility of soil to wind erosion and the amount of soil lost. Soils in Albemarle County have not been assigned to these groups.

Organic matter is the plant and animal residue in the soil at various stages of decomposition.

In Table 3.8, the estimated content of organic matter is expressed as a percentage, by weight, of the soil material that is less than 2 millimeters in diameter.

The content of organic matter of a soil can be maintained or increased by returning crop residue to the soil. Organic matter affects the available water capacity, infiltration rate, and tilth. It is a source of nitrogen and other nutrients for crops.

Table 3.9 gives estimates of the engineering classification and of the range of index properties for the major layers of each soil in the survey area. Most soils have layers of contrasting properties within the upper 5 or 6 feet. The depth to the upper and lower boundaries of each layer are indicated for each soil type.

Texture is given in the standard terms used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. These terms are defined according to percentages of sand, silt, and clay in the fraction of the soil that is less than 2 millimeters in diameter. "Loam," for example, is soil that is 7 to 27 percent clay, 20 to 50 percent silt, and less than 52 percent sand. If the content of particles coarser than sand is as much as 15 percent, an appropriate modifier is added, for example, "channery."

Classification of the soils is determined according to the Unified soil classification system and the system adopted by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

The Unified system classifies soils according to properties that affect their use as construction material. Soils are classified according to grain-size distribution of the fraction less than 3 inches in diameter and according to plasticity index, liquid limit, and organic matter content. Sandy and gravelly soils are identifjed as GW, GP, GM, GC, SW, SP, SM, and SC; silty and clayey soils as $\mathrm{ML}, \mathrm{CL}, \mathrm{OL}, \mathrm{MH}, \mathrm{CH}$, and OH ; and highly organic sojls as Pt. Soils exhibiting engineering properties of two groups can have a dual classification, for example, $S P-S M$.

The AASHTO system classifies soils according to those properties that affect roadway construction and maintenance. In this system, the fraction of a mineral soil that is less than 3 inches in diameter is classified in one of seven groups from A-1 through A-7 on the basis of grain-size distribution, liquid limit, and plasticity index. Soils in group A-1 are coarse grained and low in content of fines (silt and clay). At the other extreme, soils in group A-7 are fine grained. Highly organic soils are classified in group A-8 on the basis of visual inspection.

If laboratory data are available, the $A-1, A-2$, and $A-7$ groups are further classified as $A-1-a, A-1-b, A-2-4, A-2-5, A-2-6, A-2-7, A-7-5$, or $A-7-6$. As an additional refinement, the suitability of a soil as subgrade material can be indicated by a group index number. Group index numbers range from 0 for the best subgrade material to 20 or higher for the poorest.

Rock fragments larger than 3 inches in diameter are indicated as a percentage of the total soil on a dry-weight basis. The percentages are estimates determined mainly by converting volume percentage in the field to weight percentage.

Percentage (of soil particles) passing designated sieves is the percentage of the soil fraction less than 3 inches in diameter based on an ovendry weight. The sieves, numbers $4,10,40$, and 200 (USA Standard Series), have openings of $4.76,2.00,0.420$, and 0.074 millimeters, respectively. Estimates are based on laboratory tests of soils sampled in the survey are and in nearby areas and on estimates made in the field.

Liquid limit and plasticity index (Atterberg limits) indicate the plasticity characteristics of a soil. The estimates are based on test data from the survey area or from nearby areas and on field examination.

The estimates of grain-size distribution, liquid jimit, and plasticity index are rounded to the nearest 5 percent. Thus, if the ranges of gradation and Atterberg limits extend a marginal amount ( 1 or 2 percentage points) across classification boundaries, the classification in the marginal zone is omitted in the table.

### 3.1.1.3 Wildlife

There is a great variety of wildlife species within the project study area. The mountainous areas of the county contain the most dense populations of wildlife, but habitat is provided in most wooded and open areas. Edge areas provide good habitat where woodlands and fields meet. Species hunted or trapped include: 14 mammals, 5 upland birds, a variety of ducks and geese, and 1 reptile. Recause of Virginia's location within the Atlantic flyway and the number of lakes, ponds and streams in the area waterfow? hunting is on the rise in Alhemarle County. The three most heavily hunted game species within the study area are white-tailed deer, wild turkey and hlack bear (Table 3.10). Deer and wild turkey are considered indicator species by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and populations are mapped in Figures 3.12 and 3.13 . The eastern cottontail rabbit and gray squirrel are also widely hunted. Both the red and gray fox are hunted for the chase. Important furbearers which are trapped for their pelts include beaver, muskrat and racconn (Table 3.11).

The project area also is host to a multitude of non-game species. A variety of birds nest or migrate throughout the area, 32 species of non-game mamals live in the available habitats, and the herpta fauna of the county is extensive. Tables 3.12 through 3.15 list all birds, mamals, reptiles, and amphibjous that may occur within Albemarle County. The bird list (Table 3.12) includes current records of breeding status based on information provided from the Virginia Atlas Project. Other species on this list are migrants within the county, compiled from a number of sources. This list does not include all species that may be found at one time or another, as an effort was made not to include species that would be considered extreme vagrants, occurring only very rarely in the county.

TABLE 3.10
BIG GAME HARVEST SUMMARIES FOR ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA. 1978 THROUGH 1988

## SPECIES

| TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1978 | 1979 | 1980 | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 |


| White-tailed Deer (Total) | 1384 | 1178 | 1298 | 1453 | 1523 | 1458 | 1212 | 1703 | 1808 | 2059 | 1598 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Antlered Bucks | 969 | 853 | 896 | 1016 | 999 | 876 | 809 | 1052 | 1109 | 1249 | 1027 |
| Black Bear | 18 | 12 | 22 | 46 | 37 | 36 | 32 | 15 | 61 | 39 | 47 |

Wild Turkey

| Fall Harvest | 72 | 214 | 286 | 182 | 282 | 252 | 171 | 214 | 261 | 359 | 172 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Spring Harvest | 49 | 99 | 85 | 115 | 105 | 100 | 90 | 102 | 103 | 92 | 110 |

Source: Commonwealth of Vircinia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries "Preliminary" Harvest Comparison data.

FIGURE 3.121982 DEER POPULATION


## 1982 TUFKEY PUPULATION

TOTAL COUNTY POPUIATION - 3344


TABLE 3.11
RECENT WILDLIFE HARVEST TRAPPING DATA IN THE NORTH PIEDMONT

| SPECIES | YEAR | DISTRTCT ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | harvest |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Beaver | 1985-1986 | 10 | $257 \pm 146$ |
|  |  | State | $6305 \pm 630$ |
| Bobcat | 1985-1986 | 10 | $14 \pm 12$ |
|  |  | state | $223 \pm 40$ |
| Gray Fox | 1985-1986 | 10 | $284 \pm 202$ |
|  |  | State | $8133 \pm 407$ |
| Red Fox | 1935-1986 | 10 | $338 \pm 179$ |
|  |  | State | $7105 \pm 639$ |
| Mink | 1985-1986 | $10$ | $94 \pm 69$ |
|  |  | State | $2289 \pm 320$ |
| Muskrat | 1985-1986 | 10 | $679 \pm 278$ |
|  |  | State | $50304 \pm 4527$ |
| Opossum | 1985-1986 | 10 | $4 \pm 3$ |
|  |  | State | $8877 \pm 799$ |
| otter | 1985-1986 | 10 | $34 \pm 15$ |
|  |  | State | $641 \pm 51$ |
| Racoon | 1985-1986 | 10 | $1291 \pm 710$ |
|  |  | State | $16445 \pm 658$ |
| Skunk | 1985-1986 | 10 | $14 \pm 10$ |
|  |  | State | $2370 \pm 379$ |

[^1]Source: Virginia Game Survey (Project W-74-R-5)

TABLE 3.12
BIRDS OF THE STUDY AREA - ALBEMARLE COUNTY

ORDER PODICIPITIFORMES
BREEDING STATUS ${ }^{1}$
Family Podicipedidae Podilymbus podiceps

Fied-billed Grebe
Possible

ORDER CICONI IFORMES
Family Ardeidae
Ardea herodias
Bubulcus ibis
Butorides striatus
Casmerodius albus
Egretta caerulea
Nycticorax nyticorax
Nycticorax violaceus

| Great Blue Heron | Observed |
| :--- | :--- |
| Cattle Egret | Confirmed |
| Green-backed Heron |  |
| Great Egret |  |
| Little Blue Heron |  |
| Black-crowned Night Heron |  |
| Yellow-crowned Night Heron |  |

ORDER ANSERIFORMES
Family Anatidae
Aix sponsa
Anas crecea
Anas discors
Anas platyrhynchos
Anas rubripes
Aythya affinis
Aythya americana
Aythya collaris
Aythya valisineria
Branta canadensis
Bucephala albeola
Lophodytes cucullatus
Mergus merganser
Wood Duck
Confirmed
Green-winged Teal
Blue-winged Teal
Mallard
American Black Duck
Lesser Scaup
Redhead
Ring-necked Duck
Canvasback
Canada Goose Confirmed
Bufflehead
Hooded Merganser
Common Merganser

ORDER FALCONIFORMES
Family Cathartidae
Cathartes aura
Coragyns atratus
Turkey Vulture
Confirmed
Black Vulture Confirmed

Family Accpitridae Subfamily Pandioninae

Pandion haliaetus Osprey Observed

TABLE 3.12
BIRDS OF THE STUDY AREA - ALBEMARLE COUNTY ( continued)

| ORDER FALCONIFORMES (continued) Subfamily Accipitrinae Accipiter cooperii Accipiter striatus Buteo jamaicensis Buteo lineatus Buteo platynterous | Cooper's Hawk <br> Sharp-shinned Hawk <br> Red-tailed Hawk <br> Red-shouldered Hawk <br> Broad-winged Hawk | BREEDING STATUS ${ }^{1}$ <br> Observed <br> Observed <br> Confirmed <br> Confirmed <br> Confirmed |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Family Falconidae Falco sparverius | American Kestrel | Observed |
| ORDER GALLIFORMES |  |  |
| Family Phasianidae |  |  |
| Bonasa umbellus <br> Colinus virginianus <br> Meleagris gallopavo <br> Phasianus calchicus | Ruffed Grouse <br> Northern Bobwhite <br> Wild Turkey <br> Ring-necked Pheasant | Possible Confirmed Confirmed Probable |
| ORDER GRUIFORMES |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Family Rallidae |  |  |
| Fulica americana | American Coot |  |
| ORDER CHARADRI IFORMES |  |  |
| Family Charadrijdae |  |  |
| Charadrius vociferus | Killdeer | Confirmed |
| Family Scolopacidae |  |  |
| Actitis macularia | Spotted Sandpiper | Possible |
| Bartramia longicauda | Upland Sandpiper |  |
| Calidris fuscicollis | White-rumped Sandpiper |  |
| Calidris melanntos | Pectoral Sandpiper |  |
| Calidris pusilla | Semipalmated Sandpiper |  |
| Gallinago gallinago | Common Snipe |  |
| Scolopax minor | American Woodcock | Probable |
| Tringa flavines | Lesser Yellowlegs |  |
| Tringa solitaria | Solitary Sandpiper |  |
| Family Laridae |  |  |
| Chlidonias niger | Black Tern |  |
| Larus argentatus | Herring Gull |  |
| Larus delawarensis | Ring-billed Gull |  |

TABLE 3.12
BIRDS OF THE STUDY AREA - ALBEMARLE COUNTY
(continued)

| ORDER COLUMBIFORMES |  | IING STATU |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Family Columbidae |  |  |
| Columba livia | Rock Dove | Confirmed |
| Zenaida macroura | Mourning Dove | Confirmed |
| ORDER CUCULIFORMES |  |  |
| Family Cuculidae |  |  |
| Coccyzus americanus | Yellow-billed Cuckoo | Confirmed |
| Coccyzus erythropthalmus | Black-hillut ranno | Confirmed |
| ORDER STRIGIFORMES |  |  |
| Family Tytonidae |  |  |
| Tyto alba | Common Barn-owl | Possible |
| Family Strigidae |  |  |
| Aegolius acadicus | Northern Saw-Whet Owl | Observed |
| Asio falmmeus | Short-eared Owl |  |
| Asio otus | Long-eared Owl |  |
| Bubo virginianus | Great Ilorned OwI | Probable |
| Otus asio | Eastern Screech-owl | Probable |
| Strix varia | Barred Owl | Probable |
| ORDER CAPRIMULGIFORMES |  |  |
| Family Caprimuligidae |  |  |
| Caprimulgus carolinensis | Chuck-will's-widow | Possible |
| Caprimulgus vociferus | Whip-poor-will | Confirmed |
| Chordeiles minor | Common Nighthawk | Possible |
| ORDER APODIDIFORMES |  |  |
| Family Apodidae |  |  |
| Chaetura pelagica | Chimney Swift | Confirmed |
| Family Trochilidae |  |  |
| Archilochus colubris | Ruby-throated Hummingbird | Probable |
| ORDER CORACIIFORMES |  |  |
| Family Alcedinidae |  |  |
| Ceryle alcyon | Belted Kingfisher | Probable |

TABLE 3.12
BIRDS OF THE STUDY AREA - ALBEMARLE COUNTY ( continued)

| ORDER PICIFORMES | BREEDING STATUS ${ }^{1}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Family Picidae |  |  |
| Colaptes auratus | Northern Flicker | Confirmed |
| Dryoconus pileatus | Pileated Woodpecker | Confirmed |
| Melanerpes carolinus | Red-bellied Woodpecker | Confirmed |
| Melanerpes erythrocephalus | Red-headed Woodpecker | Possible |
| Picoides pubescens | Downy Woodpecker | Confirmed |
| Picoides villosus | Hairy Woodpecker | Confirmed |
| Sphyrapicas varius | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker |  |
| ORDER PASSERIFORMES Family Tyrannidae |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Contopus virens | Eastern Wood Peewee | Confirmed |
| Empidonax trajllii | Willow Flycatoher | Possible |
| Empidonax virescens | Acadian Flycatcher | Probable |
| Myiarchus crinitus | Great Crested Flycatcher | Confirmed |
| Sayornis phoebe | Eastern Phoebe | Confirmed |
| Tyrannus tyrannus | Eastern Kingbird | Confirmed |
| Family Alaudidae |  |  |
| Eremophila alpestris | Horned Lark |  |
| Family Hirundinidae |  |  |
| Hirundo rustica | Barn Swallow | Confirmed |
| Hirundo pyrrhonota | Cliff Swallow | Confirmed |
| Progne subis | Purple Martin | Confirmed |
| Riparia riparia | Bank Swallow | Possible |
| Stelgidopteryx serripennis | Northern Rough-winged Swallow | Confirmed |
| Tachycineta bicolor | Tree Swallow | Confirmed |
| Family Corvidae |  |  |
| Corvus brachyrhynchos | American Crow | Confirmed |
| Corvus corax | Common Raven | Confirmed |
| Corvus ossifragus | Fish Crow | Confirmed |
| Cyanocitta cristata | Blue Jay | Confirmed |
| Family Paridae |  |  |
| Parus bicolor | Tufted Titmouse | Confirmed |
| Parus carolinensis | Carolina Chickadee | Confirmed |
| Family Sittidae |  |  |
| Sitta canadensis | Red-breasted Nuthatch |  |
| Sitta carolinensis | White-breasted Nuthatch | Confirmed |
| Family Certhiidae |  |  |
| Certhia americana | Brown Creeper |  |

TABLE 3.12
BIRDS OF THE STUDY AREA - ALBEMARLE COUNTY ( continued)

| ORDER PASSERIFORMES (continued) |  | BREEDING STATUS ${ }^{1}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Family Troglodytidae |  |  |
| Thryomanes bewickij | Bewick's Wren |  |
| Thryothorus ludovicianus | Carolina Wren | Confirmed |
| Troglodytes aedon | House Wren | Confirmed |
| Troglodytes troglodytes | Winter Wren |  |
| Family Muscicapidae |  |  |
| Subfamily Sylviinae |  |  |
| Polioptila caerulea | Rlue-gray Gnatcatcher | Confirmed |
| Regulus calendula | Ruby-crowned Kinglet |  |
| Regulus satrapa | Golden-crowned Kinglet | Observed |
| Subfamily Turdinae |  |  |
| Catharus fuscescens | Veery | Observed |
| Catharus guttatus | Hermit Thrush |  |
| Catharus minimus | Gray-cheeked Thrush |  |
| Catharus ustulatus | Swanson's Thrush |  |
| Hylocichla mustelina | Wood Thrush | Confirmed |
| Sialia sialis | Eastern Bluebird | Confirmed |
| Turdus migratorius | American Robin | Confirmed |
| Family Mimidae |  |  |
| Dumetella carolinensis | Gray Catbird | Confirmed |
| Mimus polyglottos | Northern Mockingbird | Confirmed |
| Toxostoma rufum | Brown Thrasher | Confirmed |
| Family Motacillidae |  |  |
| Anthus spinoletta | Water Pipit |  |
| Family Bombycillidae |  |  |
| Bombycilla cedrorum | Cedar Waxwing | Confirmed |
| Family Laniidae |  |  |
| Lanius ludovicianus | Loggerhead Shrike | Confirmed |
| Family Sturnidae |  |  |
| Sturnus vulgaris | European Starling | Confirmed |
| Family Vireonidae |  |  |
| Vireo flavifrons | Yellow-throated Vireo | Probable |
| Vireo gilvus | Warbling Vireo | Possible |
| Vireo griseus | White-eyed Vireo | Probable |
| Vireo olivaceous | Red-eyed Vireo | Confirmed |
| Vireo solitarius | Solitary Vireo | Possible |

TABLE 3.12
BIRDS OF THE STUDY AREA - ALBEMARLE COUNTY ( continued)

| ORDER PASSERIFORMES (continued) | BREEDING STATUS ${ }^{1}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Family Emberizidae |  |  |
| Subfamily Parulinae |  |  |
| Dendroica caerulescens | Black-throated Blue Warbler | Probable |
| Dendroica castanea | Bay-breasted Warbler |  |
| Dendroica cerulea | Cerulean Warbler | Probable |
| Dendroica coronata | Yellow-rumped Warbler |  |
| Dendroica discolor | Prairie Warbler | Confirmed |
| Dendroica dominica | Yellow-throated Warbler | Probable |
| Dendroica fusca | Blackburnian Warbler |  |
| Dendroica magnolia | Magnolia Warbler |  |
| Dendroica palmarum | Palm Warbler |  |
| Dendroica pensylvanica | Chestnut-sided Warbler | Confirmed |
| Dendroica petechia | Yellow Warbler | Probable |
| Dendroica pinus | Pine Warbler | Probable |
| Dendroica striata | Rlackpoll Warbler |  |
| Dendroica tigrina | Cape May Warbler |  |
| Dendroica virens | Black-throated Green Warbler | Possible |
| Geothlypis trichas | Common Yellowthroat | Confirmed |
| Helmitheros vermivorus | Worm-eating Warbler | Confirmed |
| Icteria virens | Yellow-breasted Chat | Confirmed |
| Limnothlypis swainsonii | Swainson's Warbler |  |
| Mniotilta varia | Black-and-white Warbler | Probable |
| Oporornis formosus | Kentucky Warbler | Confirmed |
| Parula americana | Northern Parula | Probable |
| Protonotaria citrea | Prothonotary Warbler |  |
| Seiurus aurocapillus | Ovenbird | Confirmed |
| Seiurus motacilla | Louisiana Waterthrush | Probable |
| Setophaga ruticilla | American Redstart | Confirmed |
| Vermivora chrysoptera | Golden-winged Warbler | Probable |
| Vermivora peregrina | Tennessee Warbler |  |
| Vermivora pinus | Blue-winged Warbler | Possible |
| Vermivora ruficapilla | Nashville Warbler |  |
| Wilsonia canadensis | Canada Warbler |  |
| Wilsonia citrina | Hooded Warbler | Probable |
| Wilsonia pusilla | Wilson's Warbler |  |
| Subfamily Thraupinae |  |  |
| Piranga olivacea | Scarlet Tanager | Confirmed |
| Piranga rubra | Summer Tanager | Confirmed |
| Subfamily Cardinalinae |  |  |
| Cardinalis cardinalis | Northern Cardinal | Confirmed |
| Guiraca caerula | Blue Grosbeak | Confirmed |
| Passerina cyanea | Indigo Bunting | Confirmed |
| Pheucticus ludovicianus | Rose-breasted Grosbeak | Probable |
| Spiza americana | Dickcissel |  |

TABLE 3.12
BIRDS OF THE STUDY AREA - ALBEMARLE COUNTY ( continued)

| ORDER PASSERIFORMES (continued) |  | BREEDING STATUS ${ }^{1}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Subfamily Emberizinae |  |  |
| Ammodramus savannarum | Grasshopper Sparrow | Probable |
| Junco hyemalis | Dark-eyed Junco | Confirmed |
| Melospiza melodia | Song Sparrow | Confirmed |
| Passerculus sandwichensis | Savannah Sparrow |  |
| Passerella iliaca | Fox Sparrow |  |
| Pipilo erythropthalmus | Rufous-sided Towhee | Confirmed |
| Pooecetes gramineus | Vesper Sparrow | Possible |
| Spizella arborea | American Tree Sparrow |  |
| Spizella passerina | Chipping Sparrow | Confirmed |
| Spizella pusilla | Field Sparrow | Confirmed |
| Zonotrichia albicollis | White-throated Sparrow |  |
| Zonotrichia leucophyrs | White-crowned Sparrow |  |
| Subfamily Icterinae |  |  |
| Agelajus phoeniceus | Red-winged Rlackbird | Confirmed |
| Dolichonyx oryzivorus | Bobolink |  |
| Icterus galbula | Northern Oriole | Confirmed |
| Icterus spurius | Orchard Oriole | Confirmed |
| Molothrus ater | Brown-headed Cowbird | Confirmed |
| Quiscalas guiscula | Common Grackle | Confirmed |
| Sturnella magna | Eastern Meadowlark | Confirmed |
| Family Fringillidae |  |  |
| Carduelis flammea | Common Redpoll |  |
| Carduelis pinus | Pine Siskin |  |
| Carduelis tristis | American Goldfinch | Confirmed |
| Carpodacus mexicanus | House Finch | Confirmed |
| Carpodacus purpureus | Purple Finch |  |
| Coccothraustes vespertinus | Evening Grosbeack |  |
| Family Passeridae |  |  |
| Passer domesticus | House Sparrow | Confirmed |

1. Virginia Society of Ornithology. 1989. Virginia's Breeding Birds: An Atlas Workbook William Byrd Press, Richmond, VA.

Observed $=$ Species observed during the breeding season
Possible $=$ Species observed or a singing male observed in suitable nesting habitat during the breeding season
Probable $=$ Evidence of breeding observed without confirmation
Confirmed $=$ Evidence of breeding confirmed

TABLE 3.13
MAMMALS OF THE STUDY AREA - ALBEMARLE COUNTY
ORDER MARSUPIALIA
Family Didelphidae
Didelphis virginiana Virginia Opossum
ORDER INSECTIVORA
Family SoricidaeBlarina brevicauda
Cryptotis parvaSorex hoyiSorex longirostris
Family TalpidaeScalopus aquaticus
ORDER CHIROPTERA
Family VespertilionidaeEptesicus fuscusLasiurus borealisLasjurus cinereusLasionycteris noctivagansMyotis keeniiMyotis lucifugusNycticeius humeralisPipistrellus subflavus
Big Brown Bat
Red Bat.
Hoary Bat
Silver-haired Bat
Keen's Myotis
Little Brown Myotis
Evening Bat
Eastern Pipistrel
ORDER LAGOMORPHA
Family Leporidae
Sylvilagus floridanus Eastern Cottontail Rabbit

Eastern Cottontail Rabbit
ORDFR RODENTIA
Family Sciuridae
Glaucomys volans
Marmota monax
Sciurus carolinensis
Sciurus niger
Tamias striatus
Tamiasciurus hudsonicus
Family CastoridaeCastor canadensis
Eastern Mole

Eastern Mole

Northern Short-tailed Shrew Least Shrew
Pygmy Shrew
Southeastern Shrew

Southern Flying Squirrel Woodchuck Eastern Gray Squirrel
Fox Squirrel
Eastern Chipmunk
Red Squirrel

Beaver

TABLE 3.13
MAMMALS OF THE STUDY AREA - ALBEMARLE COUNTY ( continued)

```
ORDER RODENTIA
    Family Cricetidae
        Microtus pennsylvanicus Meadow Vole
        Microtus pinetorum
        Ochrotomys nuttalli
        Ondatra zibethicus
        Peromyscus leucopus
        Reithrodontomys humulis
        Synaptomys cooperi
    Family Muridae
        Mus musculus
        Rattus norvegicus
    Family Zapodidae
        Zapus hudsonius
ORDER CARNIVORA
    Family Canidae
        Urocyon cinereoargenteus Gray Fox
        Vulpes vulpes
    Family Ursidae
        Ursus americanus Black Bear
    Family Procyonidae
    Procyon lotor Raccoon
    Family Mustelidae
        Lutra canadensis
        Mephitis mephitis
        Mustela frenata
        Mustela vison
    Family Felidae
        Felis rufus
ORDER ARTIODACTYLA
    Family Cervidae
        Odocoileus virginianus White-tailed Deer
```

TARLE 3.14
REPTILES OF THE STUDY AREA - ALBEMARLE COUNTY


ORDER CHELONIA
Family Chelydridae Chelydra serpentina

Kinosternidae hrysemys picta
Terrapene carolina

SQUAMATA
y Scincidae
Eumeces anthracinus
Eumeces fasciatus
Eumeces inexpectatus
Eumeces laticeps

Cnemidophorus sexlineatus

Carphophis amoenus
Coluber constrictor
Diadophis punctatus
Elaphe guttata
Elaphe obsoleta
Heterodon platyrhinos
Lampropeltis calligaster
Lampropeltis getulus
Lampropeltis triangulum
Nerodia sipedon
Opheodrys aestivus
Opheodrys vernalis
Reqina septemvita
Storeria occipitomaculata
Thamnophis sauritus
Thamnophis sirtalis
Virginia valeriae
ORDER SQUAMATA
Family Crotalidae
Agkistrodon contortrix
Crotalus horridus

Copperhead
Timber Rattlesnake

TARLE 3.15
AMPHIBIANS OF THE STUDY AREA - ALBEMARLE COUNTY

| ORDER URODELA <br> Family Salamandridae |  |
| :---: | :---: |
|  |  |
| Notophthalmus viridescens | Common Newt |
| Family Ambystomidae |  |
| Ambystoma jeffersonianum | Jefferson Salamander |
| Ambystoma maculatum | Spotted Salamander |
| Ambystoma opacum | Marbled Salamander |
| Family Plethodontidae |  |
| Desmognathus fuscus | Northern Dusky Salamander |
| Desmognathus monticola | Seal Salamander |
| Eurycea bislineata | Two-l ined Salamander |
| Eurycea guttolineatta | Three-lined Salamander |
| Gyrinophilus porphyriticus | Spring Salamander |
| Hemidactylium scutatum | Four-toed Salamander |
| Plethodon cinereus | Red-backed Salamander |
| Plethodon glutinosus | Slimy Salamander |
| Pseudotriton ruber | Red Salamander |
| ORDER ANURA |  |
| Family Bufonidae |  |
| Bufo amerjcanus | American Toad |
| Bufo woodhousei | Fowler's Toad |
| Scaphiopus holbrooki | Eastern Spadefoot Toad |
| Family Hylidae |  |
| Acris crepitans | Northern Cricket Frog |
| Hyla chrysocelis | Gray Treefrog |
| Hyla crucifer | Spring Peeper |
| Pseudacris triseriata | Upland Chorus Frog |
| Family Ranidae |  |
| Rana catesbeiana | Bullfrog |
| Rana clamitans | Green Frog |
| Rana palustris | Pickerel Frog |
| Rana sylvatica | Wood Frog |

### 3.1.1.4 Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern (ETS) Species

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisherjes data base lists six wildife species that may be found in Albemarle County which are endangered. threatened, or candidate species. These are the Loggerhead Shrike (State endangered), Indiana bat (State and Federal endangered), the eastern woodrat. (Federal candidate), the eastern cougar (State and Federal endangered), and the James River Spiny Mussel (State endangered). The Bewicks Wren (State endangered) has also been known to nest in Albemarle County.

There are two known loggerhead shrike nests in Albemarle County, both of which are near the western border. The only known Indiana bat cave hibernacula are in the Southwest corner of the State and this species is not known from Virginia during the Spring and Summer months. The eastern woodrat is likely to occur in areas of rocky terrain within forested areas within the Blue Ridge Province in western Albemarle County, although no specific locational data exists at the present time. Locational information for the eastern cougar lists two unverjfied sightings of the animal in Albemarle County since 1970. Populations of the James River Spiny Mussel have been located in Mechum's River and Rocky Run in Albemarle County. Since both locations lie upstream of all of the proposed alignments, the mussel is not adversely affected by the project unless its known ranges are extended downstream.

There are no habitats within the study area considered critical to threatened or endangered species of wildlife within Alhemarle County. The Virginia Natural Heritage Program reviewed its files for any rare, threatened, or endangered species within the proposed alternates. This database revealed no populations of rare, threatened or endangered plants, auimals or natural communities in the project area (Appendix A).

### 3.1.1.5. Wild and Scenie Rivers and Natural Areas

Evaluation of streams in the project area according to National Park Service criteria for inclusion of a river in the National Wild and Scenic River System, as well as aspects of Virginia's Scenic Rivers Act, revealed that the following rivers meet both criteria: The North Fork of the Rivanna River east of U.S. Route 29; the South Fork of the Rivanna River west of the reservoir; Moormans River; Mechums River; Doyles River above its juncture with the Moormans River; and the Rivanna River southeast of the city of Charlottesville. Although these streams meet the criteria no action has been taken to include them in the Federal system. Segments of Moormans River and the Rivanna River have however, been included in Virginia's Scenic River System.

There are no wildife management areas within Albemarle County. Three Natural Areas are in the county, Ivy Creek by the South Fork Rivanna River Reservoir, Fernbrook Preserve along the North Fork Rivanna River east of Route 20 at Proffit, and McIntire Park north of Route 250 . Fernbrook is $11 / 3$ miles east of Alignment $6 B$ and would not be impacted at all. Ivy Creek Natural Area is in the vicinity of Alignment 10 , though not directly impacted by this alignment. McIntire Municipal Park, located along Shenks Brook north of the Route 250 bypass, is also classified as a natural area, though the primary use of this area is recreational, Alignment 7 may impact on this site at the south junction with Route 250.

### 3.1.1.6 Terrestrial Resources by Aljgnment

The study area provides a variety of habitats for many species. Vertebrate species are well represented within Albemarle County as a result of a mosaic of pastured farms and forested lands. Many farm ponds as well as a myriad of streams and rivers in the county provide aquatic habjtat for many species, though the topography yields few wetlands for wetland-dependent species. Potential impacts to wildlife were addressed based on habitat impacts along each ajignment. This assessment classifies barren, urban and suburban lands, roadways and open water as low in value for wildlife, agricultural lands as moderate, and forest, old fields, and wetlands as high in value for wildlife use.

Table 3.16 lists existing habitats along each study alignment in terms of total acreage along the 300 -foot wide corridors. Table 3.17 shows percentages of each land use type along each alignment. These tables show a pattern of greater percentages of forests and old fields on the east side of the study area, with more land with agricultural uses on the west side. Wetlands consist of a small percentage of the alignment with a small amount of the area in the form of open water. The greater percentage of open water along the western alignments represent the long crossings of the South Fork Rivanna River Reservoir.

TABLE 3.16

## land cover acreages along each study alignment

| LAND COVER | ALJ GNMENT |  |  |  |  |  |  | 11N/12S | 12N/11S |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| CLASSIFICATION | 6 | 6 B | 7 | 8,9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |  |  |
| Barren and | 71.4 | 30.6 | 47.7 | 116.0 | 45.2 | 33.8 | 44.6 | 33.5 | 44.8 |
| Urban/Suburban/ Roadway |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Agricultural | 14.4 | 46.9 | 21.8 | 0.0 | 50.3 | 136.3 | 226.3 | 177.8 | 186.5 |
| Forested | 179.6 | 198.2 | 153.3 | 0.0 | 90.7 | 125.7 | 148.8 | 135.6 | 169.2 |
| 01d Field/Shrub | 31.6 | 18.1 | 40.4 | 0.0 | 0.8 | 24.7 | 12.4 | 7.5 | 14.5 |
| Wetland | 1.5 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.3 |
| Water | 3.1 | $\underline{1.1}$ | 1.8 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 5.7 | 4.4 | 4.9 | 4.7 |
| TOTAL | 301.6 | 295.1 | 265.2 | 116.3 | 187.5 | 326.5 | 437.1 | 359.8 | 420.0 |

TABLE 3.17
PERCENTAGE OF LAND COVER TYPES ALONG EACH STUDY ALIGNMENT


### 4.1 TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES

### 4.1.1 General Impacts

### 4.1.1.1 Geology

The only potential geologic impact of the proposed alignments would be the loss of potential mineral resources. The resources would be in the form of economically valuable pockets of sand and gravel. However, because the locations of sand and gravel pockets are unpredictable, it is not possible to pinpoint their occurrence along the proposed alignments. All other mining of valuable minerals occurs outside the boundaries of the proposed roadways (see section 3.1.1.1).

### 4.1.1.2 Soils

During the construction of a roadway, compaction of soils and denudation of vegetation can result in increased erosion and sedimentation. slope, soil texture, the amount of precipitation, and the degree of compliance with the erosion control ordinance will affect the soil loss potential. Increased erosion results in increased sedimentation, as evidenced in several of the feeder streams to the South Fork Rivanna River Reservoir. One of the more obvious potential erosion problems exists one tributary 4.4 miles (river miles) upstream from the South Fork Rivanna River water treatment plant. The bulldozing and tree cutting activities occurring on the tributary's north slope could create increased siltation of the reservoir. The improper use of soils may also result in ground or surface water pollution, landslides, flooding, drainage problems, failed septic systems, construction problems, and unproductive agricultural and forestal lands.

To prevent these adverse situations, development should be avoided on soils with severe limitations. Table 3.6, Composite List of Soils Along Project Alternatives, provides several limiting factors that affect highway location. Existing regulations which address the proper use of soils includes the Soi] Erosion and Sedimentation Ordinance, and Critical Slopes and Site Plan regulations in the 7 oning Ordinance which requires that the soils be reviewer as to suitability for the intended development.

### 4.1.1.3 Land Use Patterns and Wildlife

The relative significance of new roadway habitat is proportional to the quality and quantity of other habitats converted to this type. Barren land and open water are not exceptional wildlife habitat but their conversion would likely change the areas species composition. These two types of habitat are scarce in the project's corridors.

Small patches of agricultural land interspersed with escape and shelter habitats can be of exceptional value for wildlife. The agricultural land provides food while other nearby habitats provide protection. Deer and turkey
are two species for which this arrangement is ideal. However, large uninterrupted tracts of agricultural land are of limited value except to a select few species. Even then, the large tracts frequently are only of seasonal importance. For example, large open cornfields are desirable winter feeding habitat for Canada geese.

Forests, old fields/shrub lands, and wetlands provide quality wildlife habitat. Woodlands, both riparian and upland, provide nesting, escape, and feeding habitat for a large variety of animals. Single-age or monotypic woodlands provide poorer quality habitat, as do grazed woodlots. Because most of Albemarle County was historically woodland, large tracts of woodlands were the norm for the County. A variety of studies (Janzen 1983. Diamond and May 1976, Robbins 1979) show that large tracts of woodlands are superior to small ones for maintenance of species diversity. Some alternatives may eliminate or fragment the remaining sizable woodlands in this part of the state. Therefore, the placement of a roadway through these habitats could replace high quality habitat with poor.

A new road built where none existed previously may eliminate or displace some animals. The magnitude of this impact is dependent upon the type and quality of habitat lost. Loss of a special or rare habitat type or the distance to appropriate habitat may result directly in the elimination of a few individuals. Some species are not capable of emigration at a speed commensurate with the elimination of habitat during construction. For those species of individuals who can emigrate, the result is an increase in the population in the area to which they moved. Frequently, as a result of overcrowding in an area with a limited carrying capacity, a population reduction may occur. Therefore, in the long run, a new road may result in the reduction of some types of animals. This is generally a temporary decline in numbers as species will always regenerate themselves.

A new roadway can fragment habitats. It may result in a disproportionate decrease in numbers of individuals or numbers of species in the remaining fragments. For some species, a new road may result in near isolation of the fragmented populations (Swihart and Slade 1984, Wilkins 1982). For others it will undoubted result in increased road kills as individuals try to move between two pieces of habitat. For deer, accidents are most common in the rutting season and tend to vary proportionally with deer numbers but increase geometrically with traffic volume; it also appears that higher speeds kill more deer (Arnold 1978). For many mamals mortality is greatest when the traffic volume is intermediate, but for other taxa, mortality varies little with traffic volume and does not appear correlated to mating seasons (Wilkins and Schmidly 1980). Removal of riparian corridors may be destructive since they serve as dispersal and dispersion routes for many species, including turkeys (Miller 1983).

A variety of road related factors may cause stress in individual animals or to whole populations. Increased noise levels can cause loss of hearing in animals just as it does for humans, and it may interfere with auditory signals used by animals for conspecific communication. Physiological stress can result
in some species (USEPA 1971). Air pollution in general (Catcott 1961), and auto exhausts in specific (Murphy et al. 1963) have detrimental effects on wildife, specially the pulmonary system, just as they do in humans. Both shrews and bats are insectivorous and as such are very susceptible to biological concentration of pollutants. In animals collected near the Baltimore-Washington parkway, both shrews and bats contained lead contaminants of a level sufficient to cause reproductive impairment, and if comparable to other species, even death (Clark 1979). Pollutants can cause death of young through concentration in the female's milk fat and subsequent ingestion by offspring (Clark et al. 1978).

The impact on game species will be mediated via the same mechanism as impacts on wildlife in general, predominantly through habitat destruction. Deer in Albemarle County are wide-spread and can be found in all appropriate habitat. It is not possible to use past deer harvest as an indicator of the preferability of the various alternatives. Harvest data on other game species is insufficient for any analysis of the alternatives. Even if data were available, the harvest of many species frequently reflects hunting effort rather than game abundance.

With few exceptions, a new road will have greater detrimental impacts on wildlife than the upgrading of an existing route. The "No-Action" alternative, as a rule, will have the least impacts of all alternatives. The No Action alternative may concentrate roadway pollutants and contaminants, such as lead, as a result of increased use of the existing route. A new route would more widely disperse the pollutants, but not reduce the total quantity released into the environment.

There are no animals considered endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildife Service found within the project corridors, nor is there critical habitat provided for any endangered species. Similarly, no rare, threatened, or endangered plant communities lie within the project study area, and no wildlife management areas or natural areas will be impacted by any alignment. Also, no existing or potential scenic streams or rivers will be directly impacted by any project alignment.

### 4.1.2 Specific Impacts

Discussion of impacts along each alignment centers largely on habitat impacts as they relate to wildlife resources. Lands that are barren, urban, suburban, or consist of roadways and open water are considered of low value for wildlife. Agricultural fields are of moderate wildlife value, ranging from small fields with adjacent forests and hedge rows that provide better wildlife habitat, to large, unbroken fields that are of poorer value. Lands that are of highest value to wildlife are forested, old field/shrub areas and wetlands. A summary of geologic, soils and terrestrial impacts by alignment is shown in Tables 4.1 and 4.2.

TABLE 4.1
SUMMARY OF SOIL AND GEOLOGIC IMPACTS ALONG PROPOSED ALIGNMENTS

|  |  |  | ACRES | ACRES OF |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | FLOODPLAINS | MAJOR FAULTS | OF SEVERELY | PRIME FARM- |
| ALIGNMENT | CROSSED | CROSSED | ERODIBLE SOILS | LAND SOILS |


| 6 | 7 | 0 | 3.95 | 89.5 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | ---: |
| $6 B$ | 5 | 0 | 8.32 | 78.1 |
| 7 | 9 | 0 | 3.43 | 78.2 |
| 8,9 | 0 | 0 | 1.04 | 0.0 |
| 10 | 0 | 0 | 2.70 | 48.7 |
| 11 | 4 | 2 | 0.0 | 101.7 |
| 12 | 5 | 1 | 1.27 | 110.7 |
| $11 \mathrm{~N} / 12 S$ | 7 | 1 | 4.50 | 147.1 |

TABLE 4.2
ACRES OF HIGH, MODERATE, AND LOW VALUE WILDLIFE HABITAT FOR EACH ALIGNMENT

HABITAT ACRES

ALIGNMENT
6
6

6
$6 B$

7

8,9

10

11

12

11N/12S
$12 \mathrm{~N} / 11 \mathrm{~S}$

| 212.7 | 70.5 | 14.4 | 4.8 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 216.5 | 73.4 | 46.9 | 15.9 |
| 193.9 | 73.1 | 21.8 | 8.2 |
| 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 91.7 | 48.9 | 50.3 | 26.8 |
| 150.7 | 46.2 | 136.3 | 41.7 |
| 161.8 | 37.0 | 226.3 | 51.8 |
| 143.6 | 39.9 | 177.8 | 19.4 |
| 184.0 | 43.8 | 186.5 | 44.4 |

$74.5 \quad 24.7$
301.6
295.1
265.2
116.3
187.5
326.5
437.1
359.8
420.0

No lands considered vital to rare, threatened or endangered species are impacted by any study alternative. There are no lands designated as wildife areas that would be impacted as a result of this project. No state or county designated scenic rivers are crossed by the aljgnments, and no state and county scenic highways are impacted. No impacts on vital mineral resources were identified during this study.

### 4.1.2.1 Alignment 6

Alignment 6 impacts on a total of 301.6 acres of lands east of existing Route 29. No geologic hazards occur along this route, though seven floodplains are crossed. Soils considered a severe erosion hazard comprise a total of 3.95 acres along this alignment, and 89.5 acres of soils designated as prime farmland soils would be impacted. Land cover along Alignment 6 is mostly forested (59.5\%) and urban (23.7\%), with only $4.8 \%$ of lands consisting of agricultural fields. Over two-thirds of the land along Alignment 6 are of high wildlife value, while one quarter of the alignment crosses low-value urban and open water areas.

### 4.1.2.2 Alignment 6B

Alignment $6 B$, the far eastern alignment impacts on a total of 295.1 acres of land. There are no geologic hazards along this alignment, though 5 floodplains are crossed. Impacts on severely erodible soils are greatest of all alternatives along Alignment 68 , yet still only comprise 8.32 acres of the total. There are 78.1 acres of prime farmland soils along this alignment. Alignment $6 B$ crosses the North Fork Rivanna River east of Route 29. Though this river is not currently designated as a wild and Scenic River, and is not under study as a candidate for this designation, it does meet the criteria for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System.

As with all eastern alignments, land cover along this alignment is predominately forested ( $67.2 \%$ ), with more land used for agricultural purposes ( $15.9 \%$ ) and subsequently less urban lands (10.4\%). overall, wildlife habitat along this alignment would be rated as good, with $73 \%$ considered of high value, $16 \%$ of moderate value, and $11 \%$ low in value. This is slightly better than habitat values along Alignment 6 , resulting from the more rural nature of this far eastern route.

### 4.1.2.3 Aligrment 7

This alignment impacts on a total of 265.2 acres. Only 3.43 acres of severely erodible soils are impacted, and 78.2 acres are considered prime farmland soils. Nine floodplains are crossed by this alignment, more than any other of the study options. Also, a portion of McJntire Park north of the Route 250 bypass along Shenks Brook would be impacted on the southern end of the alignment. This impact would involve approximately 11 acres. Though classified as a natural area, this park is predominately open field that is of low to moderate value to wildlife. Land cover along Alignment 7 is similar to Alignment 6 , as expected since most of the areas are common to both. Over half of the alignment is forested (57.8\%), and little is agricultural (8.2\%), with more land classified as old field, high in wildiffe value. Overall, $73 \%$ of lands along this alignment were determined to be of high value, $8 \%$ of moderate value, and $19 \%$ of low value.

### 4.1.2.4 Alignments 8 and 9

The expressway options have the fewest impacts on terrestrial resources. A total of 116.3 acres of land would be impacted, one acre of which crosses severely erodible soils. No prime farmland soils or floodplains would be impacted by this option. This area along Route 29 is already highly developed, and wildlife value of the land is low along the majority of these options.

### 4.1.2.5 Alignment 10

Alignment 10 , the near western option is the shortest of the alternatives (other than the expressway options), and impacts on only 187.5 acres. of this total, 2.7 acres of soils that are a severe erosion hazard would be impacted along with 48.7 acres of prime farmland soils. No floodplains are crossed by this alignment. As the near western route with respect to the city of Charlottesville, nearly on quarter of the land along Alignment 10 would be considered urban or suburban habitat, low in terms of wildlife value. About one quarter of the land cover is agricultural (moderate value) and the remaining half forested (high wildlife value).

### 4.1.2.6 Alignment 11

Alignment 11 impacts on 326.5 acres, and contains no sojls considered a severe erosion hazard. Prime farmland soils cover 101.7 acres of the total along this option, and four floodplajns are crossed. In addition, this alignment crosses two fault lines along the northern segments. Land cover along Alignment 11 reflects the more agricultural nature of the lands west of existing Route 29 , with $42 \%$ of the total as cultivated or pastoral fields. There is less forested land along this alignment (38\%), as well as less urban and suburban lands (10\%). Overall, land cover along Alignment 11 is split between high quality wildlife habitat $(46 \%)$ and moderate habitat ( $42 \%$ ), with the remaining areas low in wild]ife value.

### 4.1.2.7 Alignment 12

This alignment is the longest of all study options and subsequently impacts on the greatest amount of terrestrial resources (437.1 acres). A total of 5.86 acres involve severely erodible soils, and 157.6 acres cross prime farmland soils. The northern portion of Alignment 12 crosses a fault line just west of Route 606, and a total of 8 floodplains are crossed. Over half ( $51.8 \%$ ) of this alignment is over agricultural fields, and only $34.0 \%$ is forested. overall, alignment 12 is similar to Alignment 11 in terms of habitat value, with slightly less of high wildife value ( $37 \%$ ), and more of moderate value ( $52 \%$ ).

### 4.1.2.8 Alignment $11 \mathrm{~N} / 12 \mathrm{~S}$

This crossover option impacts on 359.8 acres of land, and crosses only 1.27 acres of severely erodible soils and 110.7 acres of prime farmland soils. Five floodplains are crossed, along with the two fault lines crossed by Alignment 11. Agricultural land predominates along this alignment (49\%), followed by forested lands (38\%). A total of $40 \%$ of lands are rated high in wildlife value, $49 \%$ of moderate value, and the remaining $11 \%$ as low in value.

This northern crossover option impacts on 420.0 acres of land, including 4.50 acres of severely erodible soils, 147.1 acres of prime farmland soils, seven floodplains, and the one fault line described under Alignment 12. As with the other western alignments, land cover is predominately agricultural ( $44 \%$ ) and forested ( $40 \%$ ). Wildlife habitat values for this option are equal between lands of high and moderate value ( $44 \%$ each) with the remaining $12 \%$ of land impacted low in value.

### 5.0 MITIGATION

5.1 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Where soils subject to severe erosion will be impacted, measures for reducing on-site erosion will be utilized. These measures will include the use of diversion ditches, dikes, sediment dams, minimizing the removal of vegetation, scheduling earthwork during dry periods of the year, and replanting vegetation as soon as possible after disturbance.

To prevent adverse situations, development should be avoided on soils with severe limitations. Existing regulations which address the proper use of soils includes the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Ordinance, and Critical Slopes and Site Plan regulations in the Zoning Ordinance which requires that the soils be reviewed as to suitability for an intended development.

### 5.2 TERRESTRIAI, RESOURCES

Highway construction and maintenance will utilize habjtat management techniques. Replanting of rights-of-way with native plant species will commence promptly after construction to provide new habitat and reduce erosion. Long term impacts from highway operation and maintenance will be minimized through selection of pesticides and herbicides which will have the least effect upon terrestrial organisms.

### 6.0 COORDINATION

Methods to gather comments in the preparation of this report included publication of a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement in the Federal Register; preparation of an early coordination letter and Plan of Study; development and distribution of study newsletters; establishment of mail and telephone communications between the Study Team and interested agencies, public officials and individuals; verbal and written communication with various agencies, groups and individuals; and a series of meetings and exhibits with key agencies, local officials and the general public.

These coordination and comments gathering efforts have been an integral part of the planning and environmental studies prepared for the U.S. Route 29 Corridor Study. As a result, the alternatives under consideration reflect numerous changes, major and minor, which were made in response to ideas and concerns raised by people outside of the Study Team. This process has led to the development of alternatives which sensitively reflect these ideas and concerns while achieving the desired transportation objectives.

### 6.1 Agency Scoping

An Interagency Coordination Meeting for the U.S. Route 29 Corridor Study was held by the Virginia Department of Transportation on September $22,1988$. The purpose of this meeting was to solicit comments regarding the selection of the Candidate Build Alternatives, and to allow concerned agencies the opportunity to make recommendations for inclusion in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). An information packet was provided to all agencies outlining the study methodologies and references for the Natural Environmental Analysis task, and the considerations that were being given to the environment during the selection process for the build alternatives. The following agencies and or organizations were coordinated with, or provided information on the U.S. Route 29 Corridor study during its conduct (partial list):

* U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Soil Conservation Service
* U.S. Department of the Army
- Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch
* U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Regjon ITI)
* U.S. Geological Service
* U.S. Department of Interior
- National Park Service, Mid-Atlantic Region
- Fish and Wildlife Service
* Virginia Council on the Environment
* Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
* Virginia Department of Conservation and Historic Resources
* Virginia Department of Forestry
* Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
* Virginia Department of Transportation
* Virginia Natural Heritage Program
* Virginia Water Control Board
* The Nature Conservancy
* Piedmont Environmental Council
* Virginia Native Plant Society
* Virginia Society of Ornithology
* Virginia Wildlife Federation
* County of Albemarle, Department of Engineering
* County of Albemarle, Department of Planning and Community Development
* County of Albemarle, office of Watershed Management
* Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority

The following agencies/organizations were represented at the Interagency Coordination Meeting (partial list):

* U.S. Department of the Army
- Army Corps of Engineers
* U.S. Department of the Interior
- Fish and Wildlife Service
* U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Region III)
* U.S. Federal Highway Administration
* Virginia Council on the Environment
* Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fish
* Virginia Department of Transportation
* Virginia Marine Resources Commission


### 6.2 Public Coordination

An exceedingly large number of community meetings have been held during the course of this study. These meetings include one on one sessions between study team members and public officials as well as private citizens, talks to residents associations and civic groups, monthly meetings of the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County Route 29 Joint Task Force, a series of Public Information Meetings, and a Route 29 Project Open House. Attendance at the public meetings have varied from several hundred to in excess of 1,500 persons with varying degrees of interests in the project.

Ideas and comments received at these meetings and exhibit sessions were instrumental in the location and detalls of preliminary alternates selection, and in refining the process of selecting the study alternates evaluated in this report. These meetings were often general in nature but by and large they usually dealt with specific issues of importance to a particular individual or group.

Robert A. Neely; B.S.; M.S.; Ph.D. (In Progress)
James R. Reed and Associates, Inc. Environmental Division Manager/Project Manager

Daniel Gonzales; B.S.; M.S. (In Progress) James R. Reed and Associates, Inc. Environmental Scientist

Thomas A. Stierhoff; B.S.; M.S. (In Progress)
James R. Reed and Associates, Inc. Environmental Scientist

Gregory Ğ. Wilda; B.S.
James R. Reed and Associates, Inc. Environnmental Scientist

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## APPENDIX A

RARE, THREATENED, AND ENDANGERED SPECTES:

VIRGINIA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM IETTER

DIVISIONS

# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA 

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREAİÓON VIrginia natural heritage program 203 GOVERNOR STREET, SUITE 402

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219
(804) 786.7951 (V/TDD)


August 1, 1989
Bob A. Neely, Environmental Division Manager
James R. Reed \& Associates, Inc.
813 Forrest Drive
Newport News, Virginia 23606
Dear Bob:
In response to your recent request for information, the Virginia Natural Heritage Program has reviewed the alignments indicated on the map we recently received. We submit the following comment:

According to the information presently in our files, there are no populations of rare, threatened or endangered plants, animals or natural communities in the project area. The absence of data does not necessarily mean that rare, threatened or endangered species or other significant habitats do not exist on or adjacent to the proposed project site, but rather that our files currently do not contain information documenting the presence of them.

I have enclosed a listing of rarities with their respective state and global Heritage ranks and state and federal legal status reported from Albemarle county, as you requested.

Bob, I noticed that the easternmost June 1988 alternate alignment runs directly adjacent to, and according to te map, partially through, Fernbrook Natural Area. The Natural Area contains a fine example of mature southern Piedmont forestland bordering the North Fork of the Rivanna River. It is owned by the Virginia Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. George Fenwick should be contacted if this alternative is still being considered. His address is listed below.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. Please contact us if we can be of further assistance.

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Definition of Abbreviations used on element lists
                                    of the
                                    Virginia Natural Heritage Program
Department of Conservation and Historic Resources
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The following ranks are used by the Virginia Natural Heritage Program to set protection priorities. The primary eriterion for ranking species is the number of occurrences, i.e. the number of known distinct localities. Also of great importance is the number of individuals in existence at each locality or, if a highly mobile organism (e.g., sea turtles, many birds, and butterflies), the total number of individuals. Other considerations may include the condition of the occurrences, the number of protected occurrences, and threats. However, the emphasis remains on the number of occurrences such that ranks will be an index of known biological rarity.

S1. Extremely rare; usually 5 or fewer occurrences in the state; or may be a few remaining individuals; often especially vulnerable to extirpation.

S2 Very rare; usually between 5 and 20 occurrences; or with many individuals in fewer occurrences; often susceptible to becoming endangered.

S3 Rare to uncommon; usually between 20 and 100 occurrences; may have fewer occurrences, but with a large number of individuals in some populations; may be susceptible to large- scale disturbances.
S4. Common; usually $>100$ occurrences, but may be fewer with many large populations; may be restricted to only a portion of the state; usually not susceptible to immediare threats.

S5 Very common; demonstrably secure under present conditions.
SA Accidental in the state.
SH Historically known from the state, but not verified for an extended period, usually $>15$ years; this rank is used primarily when inventory has been attempted recently.

SN Regularly occurring migrants; transients; seasonal, nonbreeding residents. Usually no specific site can be identified with its range in the state. (Note that congregation and staging areas are monitored separate(y).

SU Status uncertain, often because of low search effort or cryptic nature of the element.

Apparently extirpated from the state.
Global ranks are similar, but refer to a species' rarity throughout its total range. Global ranks are denoted with a "G" followed by character. Hote that GA and GN are not used and GX means apparently extinct. A "Q" in a rank indicates that a taxonomic question concerning that species exists. Ranks for subspecies are denoted with a "TH. The global and state ranks combined (e.g. G2/S1) give an instant grasp of a species'known rarity.

These ranks should not be interpreted as legal designations.
federal Status
The Virginia Natural Heritage Program uses the standard abbreviations for federal endangerment developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Endangered Species and Habitat Conservation.
LE - Listed Endangered 3A - Former candidate - presumed extinct
LT - Listed Threatened
PE - Proposed Endangered
38 - former candidate - not a valid species under
PT - Proposed Threatened
current taxonomic understanding
C1 - Candidate, category 1
C2 - Candidate, category 2

## State status

The Virginia Natural Heritage Program uses similar abbreviations for State endangerment.
LE - Listed Endangered
PE - Proposed Endangered
LT - Listed Threatened
PT - Proposed Threatened
C Candidate

For information on the laws pertaining to threatened or endangered species, contact:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for all federally listed species

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Plant Protection Bureau for STATE listed plants and insects Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for all other STATE listed animals

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08/02/89
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virginia natural heritage program departhent of conservation \& recreation rare, threatened, endangered plants known froh albeharle county

## scientific mame

UOPHIS MELANOLEUCUS PYRGUS GYANDOT STYGOBROHUS SPINOSUS Champion tree betula papyrifera CORALLORHIZA TRIFIDA CORNUS CANADENSIS SIDA HERMAPHRCOITA solidago randil

## COMMON NAME

| Pine smake | 65 | su |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - SOUTHERN GRIZZLED SKIPPER | 63 | S3 |
| blue ridie mountain amphipoo | 6263 | S1 |
| HILD CRabapple |  |  |
| PAPER BIRCH | 65 | S2s3 |
| EARLY CORALROOT | 65 | S1 |
| BUNCHBERRY | 65 | S1 |
| virginia mallow | 63 | S1 |
| RAND'S COLDENRCO | 6? | S? |


[^0]:    * Consists of areas where more than 80 percent of the surface is covered by asphalt, concrete, buildings, or other impervious surfaces.

[^1]:    ${ }^{1}$ District 10 includes the North Piedmont Counties of Albemarle, Louisa, Greene, Fluvanna and Nelson.

