



Governor's Advisory Committee on Western North Carolina Recovery

January 9, 2026
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Today's Agenda

Call to Order, Remarks, and Introduction of New Members |

Mayor Esther Manheimer, Co-Chair

WNC Recovery Updates / *Matt Calabria and Emily Gangi,*

GROW NC

Regional Recovery Coordination: Engagement Team Based in

Western North Carolina / *Scott Elliott, GROW NC*

Progress on Landslide Mapping and Early Warning System

Development | *David Korte, NC Department of Environmental Quality*

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program: Process for Homeowner Acquisitions, Elevations, and Infrastructure Project

Applications / *Will Ray, Division of Emergency Management, NC Department of Public Safety*

Remarks | *Governor Josh Stein*

Next Steps / *Matt Calabria, GROW NC*

Adjourn





Introduction of New Members

Mayor Esther Manheimer, Co-chair





WNC Recovery Updates

Matt Calabria, Director, GROW NC

Emily Gangi, Chief Deputy Director, GROW NC



Major recovery efforts underway

Rebuilding Safe Housing

- Residents received \$542M+ in FEMA Individual Assistance
- 6,900 households received temporary housing
- 7,300+ applications received for HUD single-family housing program
- 550+ homes repaired by volunteer organizations such as Baptists on Mission and Habitat for Humanity with state funds

Restoring our Infrastructure

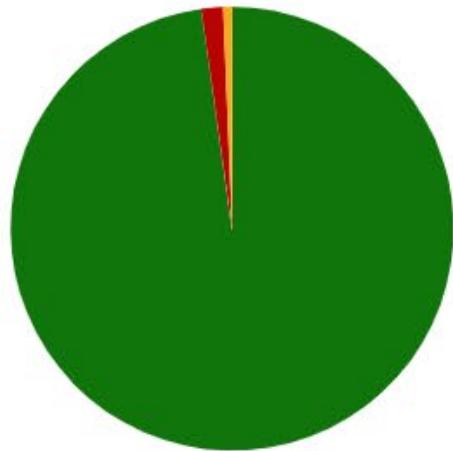
- 7.1m+ cubic yards of right-of-way debris removed
- 8.4m+ cubic yards of waterway debris removed
- All site assessments (more than 6,500 in total) completed in State's Private Roads & Bridges Program
- \$33.7M in FEMA funds authorized to repair private roads and bridges

Revitalizing our Economy and Communities

- \$55M in state and philanthropically funded small business grants disbursed, with more than 2,100 recipients
- \$423M+ in SBA loans offered
- \$39M+ in disaster unemployment assistance distributed
- \$148M+ in loans offered to 90 local governments

NC Department of Transportation reopened more than 98% of state roads (97.8% fully reopened, 1% partially reopened)

Total Incidents
1,527
since beginning of Storm



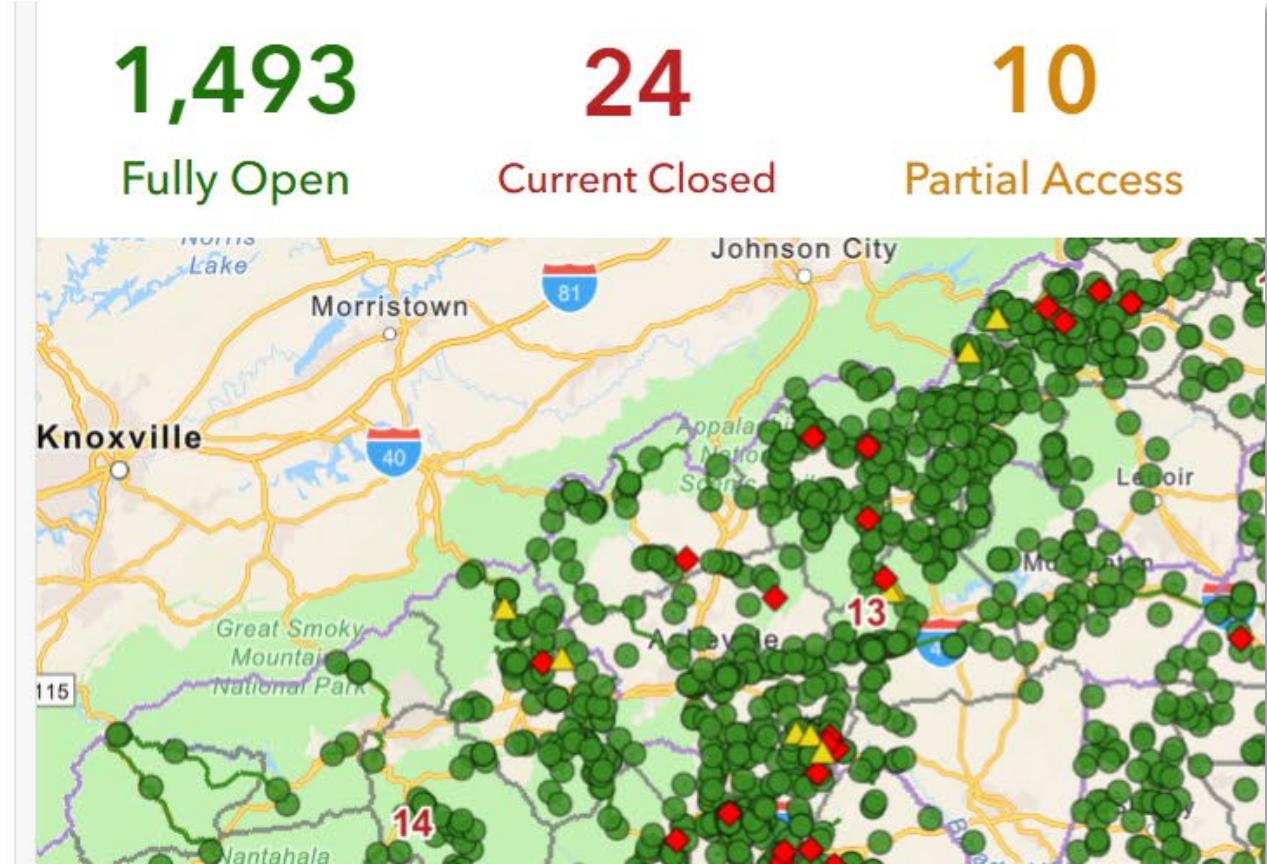
Total Closures
1,517
since beginning of Storm

- Fully Open 1,493
- Current Closed 24
- Partial Access 10

1,493
Fully Open

24
Current Closed

10
Partial Access





Select State Program Updates

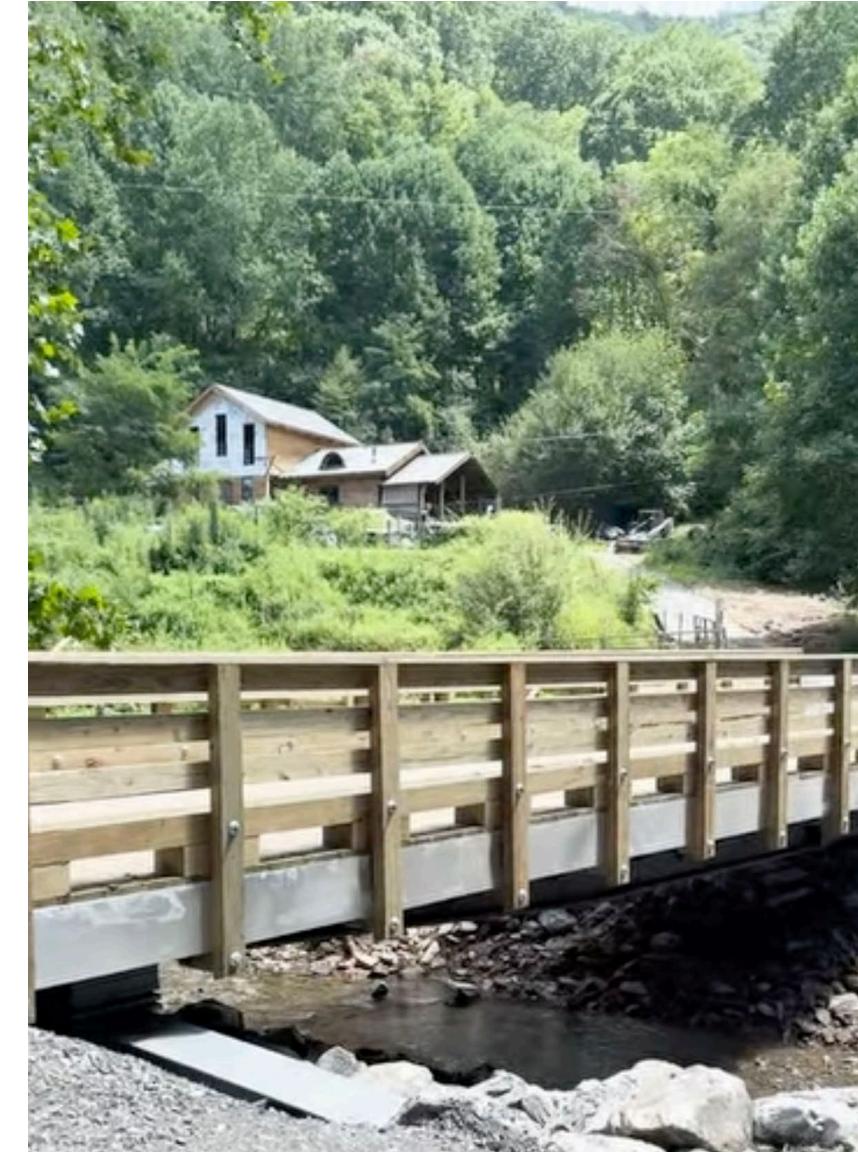


Applications Remain Open – Private Roads and Bridges Reimbursement Deadline Feb. 28

The application window is open for reimbursements through the NC-PRB program for private road and bridge repairs that are already completed.

Part of \$25M appropriation from the NC General Assembly. Reimbursements are permitted to cover up to 50 percent of a project's total cost.

(Pictured: A completed private bridge in Buncombe County)



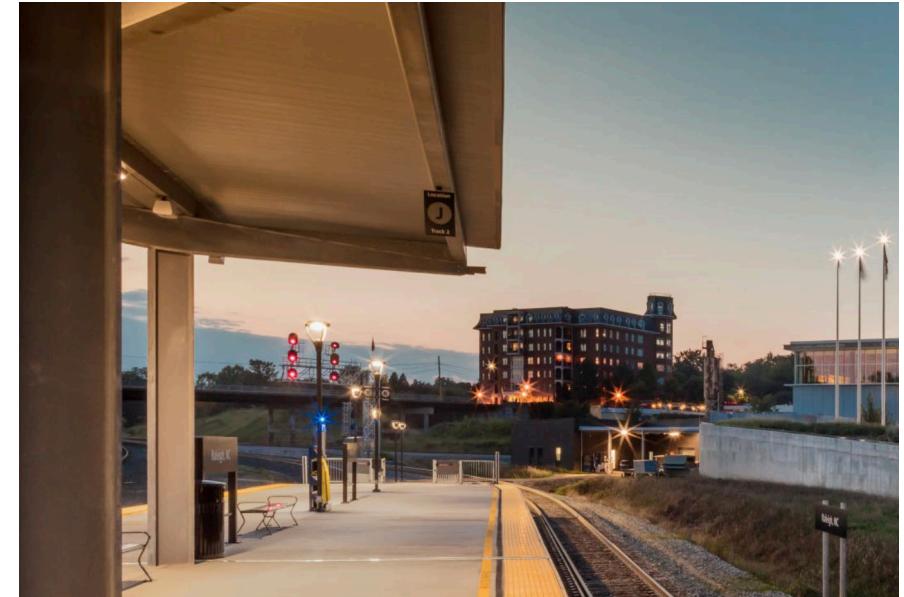
wncrecovery.nc.gov/recovery-resources/nc-private-road-and-bridge-reimbursement-program

State Rail Plan: Public Comment Period Ends January 20

The Comprehensive State Rail Plan proposed by the saturnalian N.C. Department of Transportation establishes the vision for rail transportation across the state for the next 30 years.

This plan identifies a program of strategic freight, passenger, and rail safety investments that support safe and reliable rail transportation and spur economic development statewide.

The Comprehensive State Rail Plan was last approved and adopted in 2015. Share what you think about the proposed new Comprehensive State Rail Plan and the projects listed in the plan.



The deadline for sharing public comment is January 20, 2026.

For more information: publicinput.com/nc-staterailplan

Parks and Recreation Grants Available Helene Recovery Fund

- The Helene Recovery Fund provided through the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) offers dollar-for-dollar matching grants to local governments for the acquisition and/or development of park and recreational projects to serve the general public.
- Projects must be on a single site.
- No maximum award amount is specified.
- **Submit applications by 5 PM on January 30, 2026.**



For more information: ncparks.gov/about-us/grants/partf-helene-recovery-fund

Grant Funding to Support Recycling and Waste Reduction in WNC

Supports WNC communities in rebuilding and strengthening waste reduction and recycling systems following Hurricane Helene. The program provides up to \$25M in grants over multiple phases.

Eligibility: Local governments may apply for up to \$5M per project, with no local match. Eligible projects may include but aren't limited to:

- Construction or improvement of recycling or composting facilities;
- Development of regional collection (hub-and-spoke) systems;
- Upgrades to convenience centers or household hazardous waste programs;
- Purchase of recycling trucks, containers, or carts;
- Related feasibility studies or education and outreach

Deadline: January 30, 2026

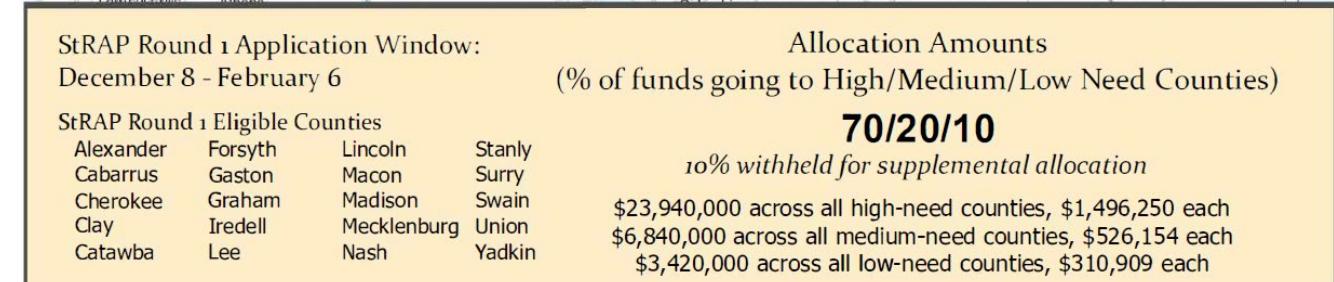
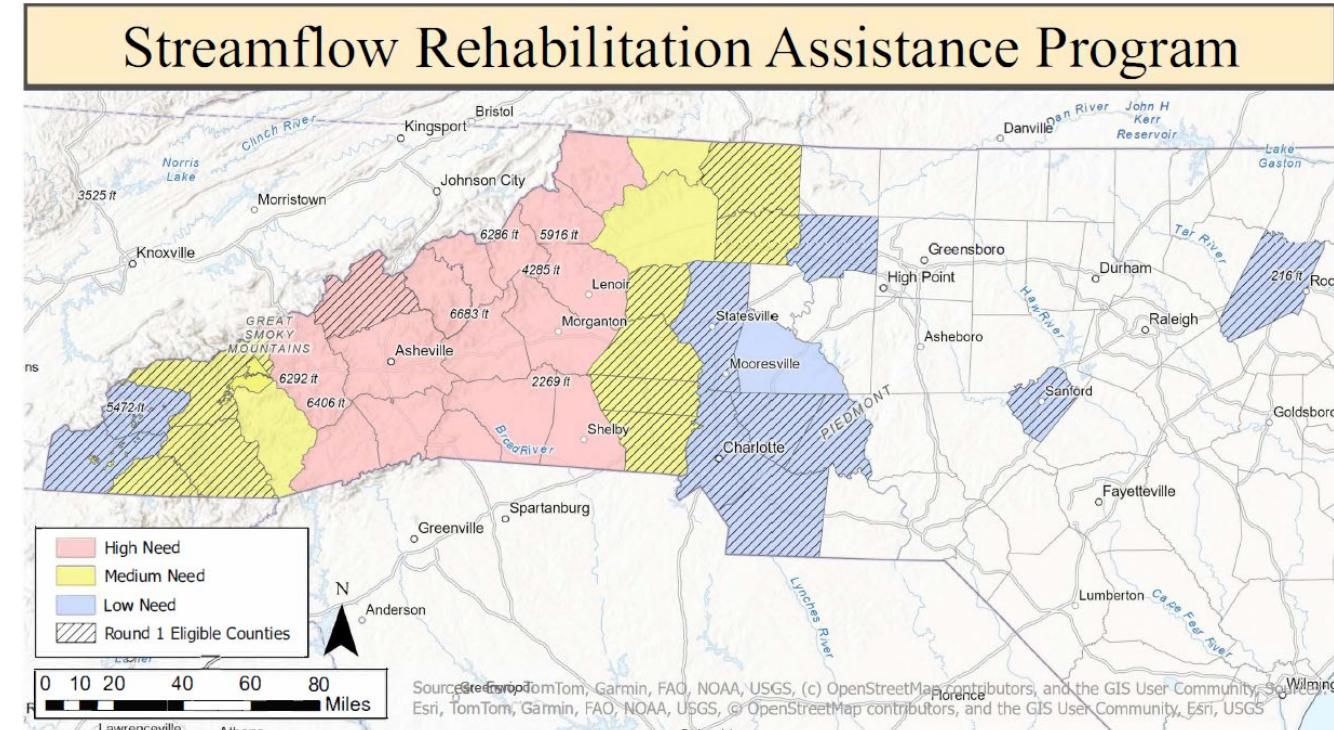


For more information: [Helene Recovery Recycling Infrastructure Grant Program](#)

Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP) Applications Open for Round 1 Eligible Counties

Funding to repair stream damage caused by Hurricane Helene. StRAP has \$38M available for grants over multiple rounds (by eligible county groupings). Soil & Water Conservation Districts, political subdivisions (city/county govt., water/sewer district, sanitary district, etc.), and nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply.

Deadline for Round 1 counties: 5pm, February 6, 2026 (additional application windows will be announced)



For more information: [Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program](#)

Applications Open for NC Small Business Infrastructure Grants

Part of \$55M appropriation from the NC General Assembly to assist small businesses by expediting infrastructure repairs impacting the operation and patronage of small businesses in the affected area.

Nearly \$32 million remaining; max award per project: \$1 million

Eligibility: Local governments impacted by Hurricane Helene and designated under a major disaster declaration from Helene. Special consideration given to local governments in Tier 1 and Tier 2 Counties.

Timeline: Applications accepted on a rolling basis; awards announced:

- June 30, 2025 – \$7.3m announced
- November 12, 2025 – \$13.8m announced

- February 28, 2026 (anticipated)
- June 30, 2026 (anticipated)

For more information: commerce.nc.gov/SmBIZ



InSPIRe—the Insurance Supplement Program for Inclusive Recovery

A pilot grant initiative supporting small businesses in Western NC impacted by Hurricane Helene.

Offers grants up to \$5,000 for businesses that filed Helene-related insurance claims that were denied or partially denied.

Expert assistance and connection to additional resources for small business recovery are also offered.

Beyond immediate relief and recovery support, this program is designed to gather data on insurance gaps and recovery needs, with the goal of building better solutions for the future of the small business community.

To ask questions about this grant program, send an email to inspire@ccifund.org.

Deadline for businesses and nonprofits to apply: January 15, 2026



For more information: ccifund.org/inspire

NC Department of Insurance Consumer Complaints

The North Carolina Department of Insurance aims to respond to consumers' insurance-related questions and complaints, assist consumers in resolving those complaints whenever possible, and help consumers understand their options for dealing with insurance-related matters.

If you have questions, the Consumer Services Division of the Department of Insurance may be able to help.

Toll-free: [855-408-1212](tel:855-408-1212)

[Online Request Assistance/ File A Complaint](#)



Assistance or File a Complaint

For more information: [Assistance or File a Complaint | NC DOI](#)



Select Federal Program Updates

RENEW NC SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSING PROGRAM

Deadline extended - Apply by January 31, 2026



In-Person

Visit any **Renew NC Program Intake Center** open **Monday** through **Saturday** from **8 AM** to **6 PM**



Online Portal

Complete an application online at www.RenewNC.org



Mobile App

Download the **“Renew NC Housing Program”** mobile app from the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store



Phone Call

Call **888-791-0207** to be connected to a Case Manager



Asheville
128 Bingham Rd.
Suite 875
Asheville, NC 28806

Boone
379 New Market Blvd.
Suite 1
Boone, NC 28607

Marion
364 US Highway 70
Suite 3
Marion, NC 28752

Additional pop-up center locations and hours can be found at renewnc.org/contact.

**Applications in Progress
But Not Submitted**

2,031

**Total Applications
Submitted**

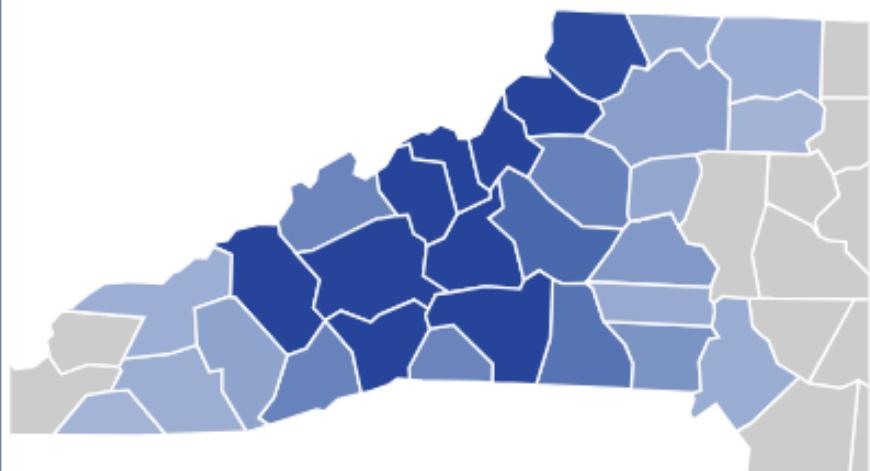
7,334

**Total Active
Applications**

5,113

**Inactive or Ineligible
Applications**

2,221

Applicants by County

Application Submission Deadline

January 31, 2026

Verified Eligible Phase and Priority

Phase	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4	Total
Phase 1	960	181	68	8	1,217
Phase 2	150	50	10	6	216
Phase 3	29	6	N/A	N/A	35
Phase 4	291	10	N/A	N/A	301

Hover over the information bubble for Phase and Priority definitions.

Applications will be processed beginning with Phase 1, followed by Phase 2, etc.

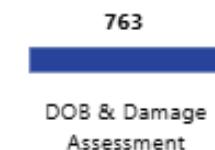
Active Cases by Workflow Status

2,816



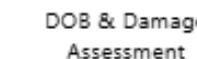
Intake Review

121



Eligibility

763


 DOB & Damage
Assessment

608



Environmental Review

206



QC Review

87



Award Determination

75



Pre-Construction

11



Construction

11



Closeout

Excludes applications pending ineligibility or other review that are included in Total Active Applications count.

Phase	Eligibility	Processing Priority
Phase 1	Income below 60% AMI, Repairs not completed	1. HUD MID with needs 2. HUD MID without needs 3. State MID with needs 4. State MID without needs
Phase 2	Income between 60–80% AMI, Repairs not completed	1. HUD MID with needs 2. HUD MID without needs 3. State MID with needs 4. State MID without needs
Phase 3	Income below 80% AMI, Repairs completed (reimbursement only)	1. HUD MID 2. State MID
Phase 4	Income between 81–120% AMI, Repairs not completed	1. HUD MID 2. State MID

RENEW NC SMALL RENTAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM **PROGRAM DETAILS**

Eligible Properties

- 1-4 units
- Landlord-owned properties in HUD and State MID areas
- Damaged or destroyed by Helene

Requirements

Landlords must agree to provide affordable rent rates for a 10-year period for 80% or less AMI.

Award Range

\$250K - \$1.5M

Apply

- Online at www.renewnc.org
- By phone at 1-888-791-0207
- Through the app

Renew NC Small Rental Rehabilitation Program

Qualifications

Do You Qualify?

- Your property has 1-4 rental units and sustained unrepairs damage from Hurricane Helene (Sept. 27, 2024).
- The property is located in a HUD- or State-designated Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) county.
- Units are VACANT at the time of application (no evictions to qualify).
- You owned the property at the time of the storm and still own it (priority).
- You are current on property taxes or on an approved payment plan, and loan obligations, including mortgages, are current.
- You agree to lease assisted units to income-eligible households at restricted rents for 10 years.

For more information: commercerecovery.nc.gov/smallrentalrehabilitationprogram

Renew NC Small Rental Rehabilitation Program Information Sessions

- This month, DCR is hosting two virtual information sessions to provide an overview of the program and answer questions from potential applicants.
- Wednesday, January 14 at 1:00 p.m. ET
- Wednesday, January 21 at 1:00 p.m. ET



For more information: commercerecovery.nc.gov/smallrentalrehabilitationprogram

EDA Disaster Supplemental Grant Program - \$1.45B in Economic Recovery Funds

Funds open to all 2023 & 2024 federally-declared disaster zones

First come, first served – EDA encourages applicants to work with their local Economic Development representatives to submit competitive projects ASAP

80% EDA funded / 20% cost share from applicant

Eligible Entities include units of government, economic development districts, institutions of higher education, and nonprofits working with local government

GROW NC seeking to increase the # of proposals from NC

- Working directly with communities to develop projects and encourage timely applications
- Additional \$6M in State Helene aid for local government capacity to assist with EDA and other applications

Questions can be directed to: Hillary Sherman
EDA NC Economic Development Representative
828-707-2748 | hsherman@eda.gov

Three Funding Pathways

- READINESS PATH – Capacity building and strategic planning projects that set the stage for future investment
 - Max award: \$500,000
 - No application deadline
- IMPLEMENTATION PATH – Standalone construction and non-construction projects that help communities recover from natural disasters and advance recovery and growth
 - Max award: \$20m
 - No application deadline
- INDUSTRY TRANSFORMATION PATH – Coalition-led, multi-project portfolios that transform regional economies through targeted industry development
 - Max award: \$50m
 - Application deadline: March 3, 2026

GROW NC & State Resources to Support EDA Applicants

Technical Assistance

- In partnership with the regional Councils of Governments, NC Association of County Commissioners, and NC League of Municipalities

Return on Investment (ROI) & Impact Analyses

- Partnership with NCGrowth to provide ROI and Impact Analyses for eligible applicants
- Interested applicants can submit requests through an online form
- Jan 31: next and final deadline to request help with these analyses

Additional EDA Information

We continue to encourage applicants to get applications in as soon as possible.

- No deadline for Pathways 1 & 2 but funds are first come, first served
- An EDA representative is meeting with local communities to offer assistance
- GROW NC is ready to help where we can – please let us know where we can be helpful

EDA Point of Contact:

Hillary Sherman, EDA NC Economic Development Representative
828-707-2748 | hsherman@eda.gov

GROW NC Point of Contact:

Desiree Kennedy, Program Officer
919-819-7523 | desiree.kennedy@nc.gov



Regional Recovery Coordination: Engagement Team Based in Western North Carolina

Scott Elliott, Deputy Director for Engagement, GROW NC

GROW NC Engagement Team

Introductions and overview

Our mission is to accelerate the recovery and improve the lives of all western North Carolinians as we:

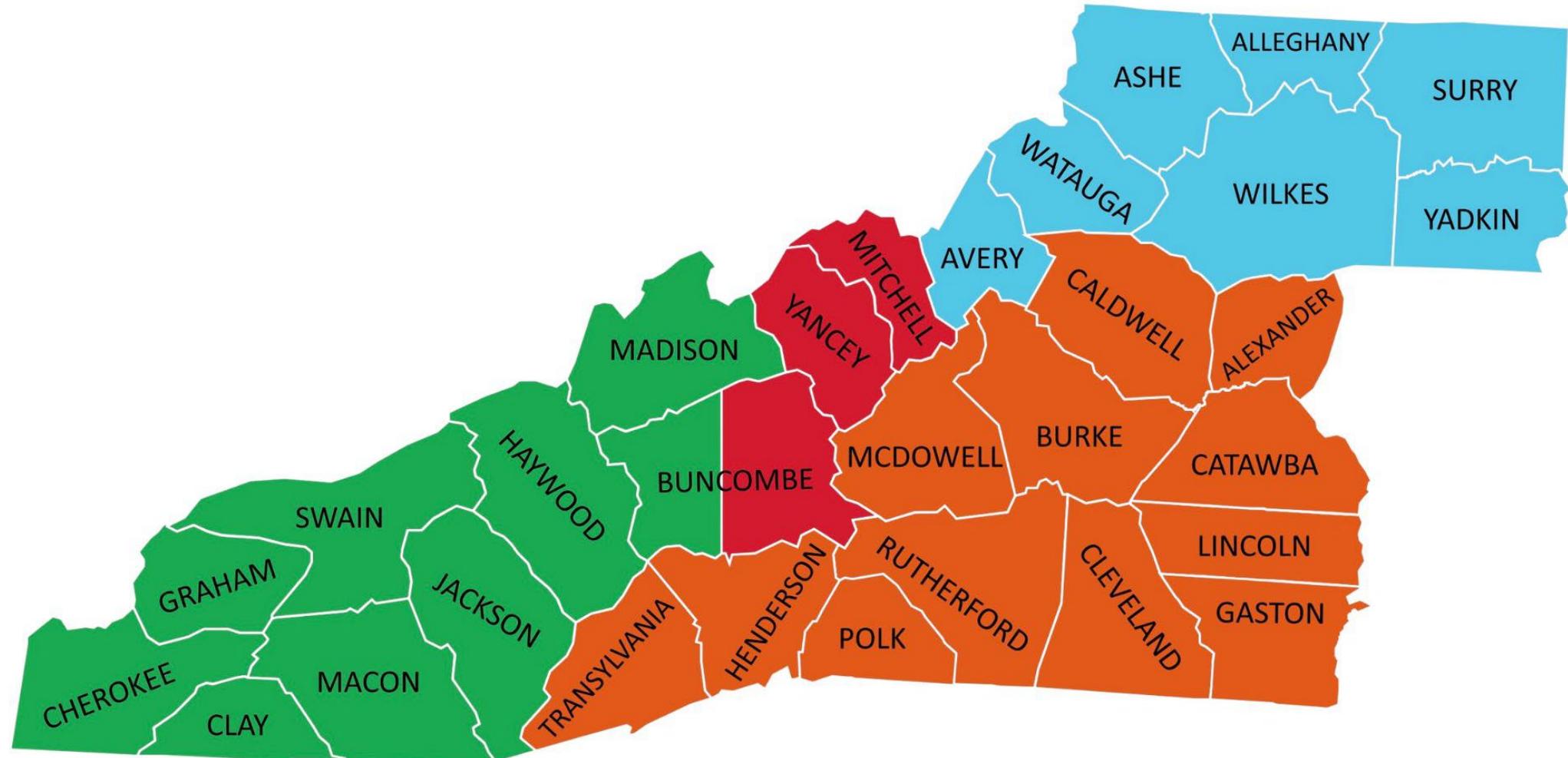
Communicate

Advocate

Solve problems

New Regional Recovery Coordinators

Strengthening Recovery Resources Across WNC



Regional Recovery Coordinators

Strengthening Recovery Resources Across WNC

BRITTANY DUNCAN

High Country COG (except Yancey and Mitchell) **

MILLIE SMITH **

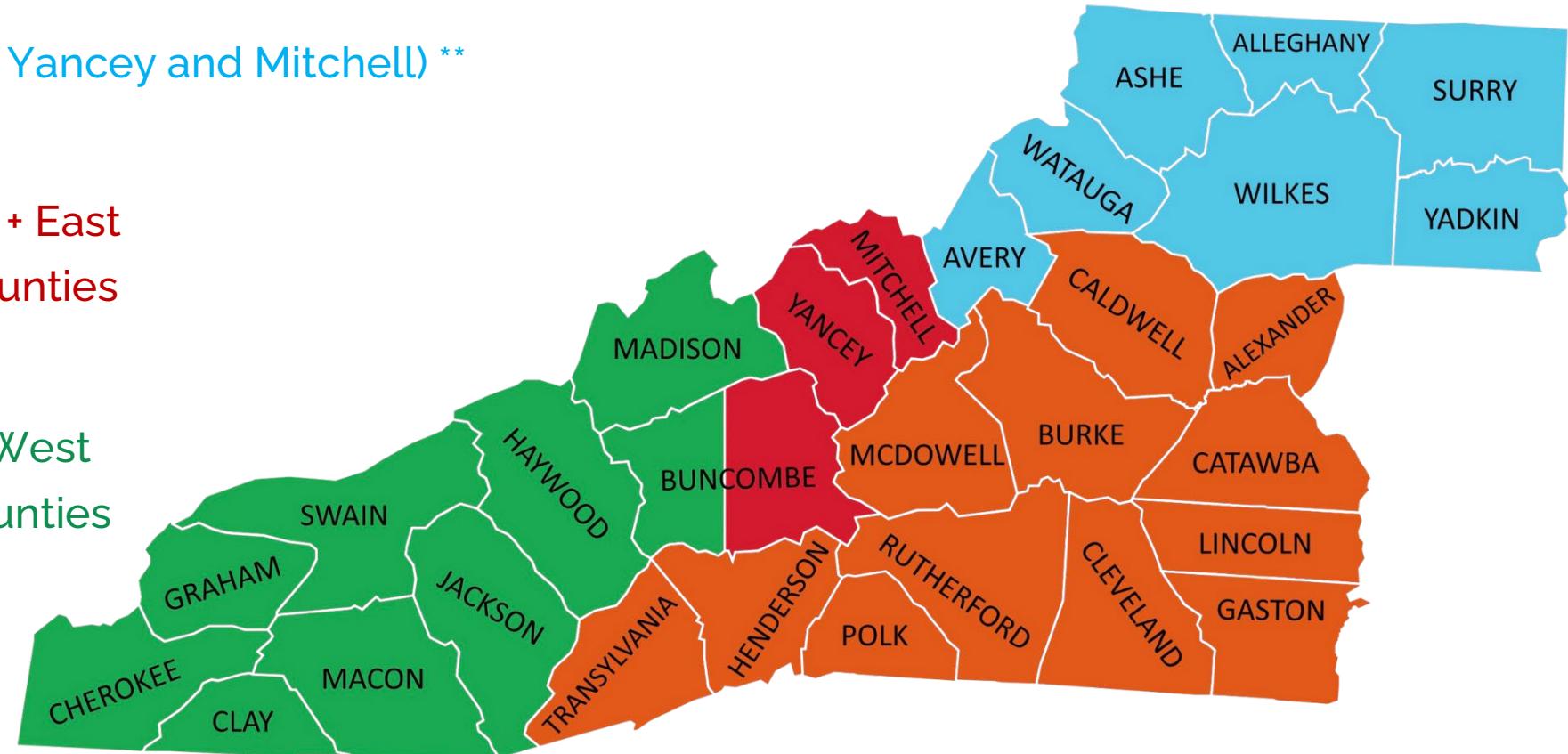
- Buncombe: Swannanoa + East
- Yancey and Mitchell Counties

DREW CHRISTY

- Buncombe: Asheville + West
- Haywood + Madison Counties
- Southwest Commission

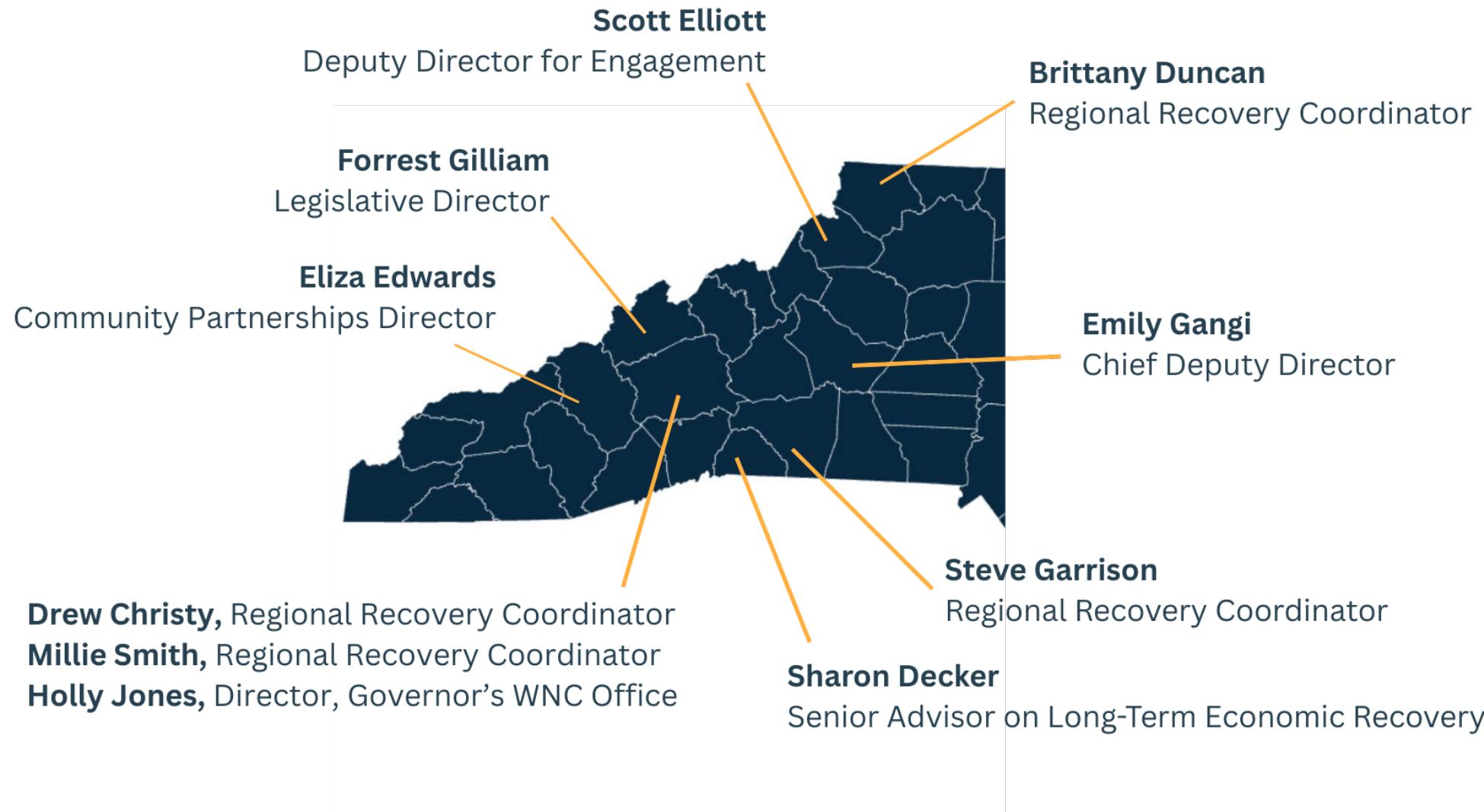
STEVE GARRISON

- Foothills COG
- Western Piedmont COG
- Henderson + Transylvania Counties



** With additional coordination responsibilities

GROW NC Engagement Team



Regional Recovery Coordinators: Essential Duties and Responsibilities



Recovery services and advocacy:

- First point of contact for all recovery-related inquiries from residents in the assigned region, including individuals, businesses, non-profits, and local governments
- Proactively discover and resolve resident needs related to the recovery



Resource navigation:

Guide residents and stakeholders through the process of accessing available recovery resources and assistance programs from federal, state, and local sources



Interagency coordination:

Work collaboratively with non-governmental agencies and governmental partners to ensure a cohesive, robust, and comprehensive recovery effort throughout the region



Public engagement and outreach:

Attend and participate in public meetings and community events to inform residents about recovery updates and available resources



WNC Recovery
POWERED BY GROWNC

**Please let us know how we can collaborate
with you and assist our neighbors.**

Website: WNCrecovery.nc.gov

Email: wncrecovery@nc.gov



Progress on Landslide Mapping and Early Warning System Development

David Korte, Landslide Hazards Program Manager, NC
Department of Environmental Quality



Landslide Hazards Program

Primary Tasks:

- Landslide Inventory
- Landslide Susceptibility
- Landslide Resiliency

Established SL 2005-1 – Terminated 2011:

- Macon, Buncombe , Henderson, Watauga

Reestablished SL 2018-5 \$3.6M allocated, \$440K remaining

- Pre-Helene: Polk, Rutherford, Cleveland, Transylvania, McDowell

2024 USGS LHRR Grant \$122,500

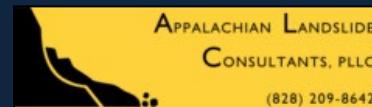
- Haywood County – Inventory, Susceptibility, EM and Public Relations Ends 9/2026

6/2025 HB1012 \$3M Appropriation

- \$840,000 Obligated
- \$1.75M Budgeted for Soil Moisture Network

The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'Landslides in Western North Carolina' website. At the top is the North Carolina Geological Survey logo. Below it is a main navigation bar with links for Home, Data Tour Guide, Learn More, Downloads, and About. The 'Home' link is underlined. The main content area includes a section titled 'Reducing Landslide Risk' with a sub-section 'What can you do to reduce landslide risk?'. Below this is a large map of Western North Carolina showing landslide data. To the right of the map are two small diagrams illustrating risk reduction. Further down are sections for 'Explore Data in a Map Viewer' (with a sub-section 'Interact with landslide data in an online map viewer'), 'Data Tour Guide' (with a sub-section 'Learn about the data'), and 'Learn More' (with a sub-section 'Learn about landslide hazards, historical events, and more'). At the bottom of the page is a footer with the text 'North Carolina Geological Survey' and 'Asheville Regional Office' along with the phone number '828-296-4500'.

<https://landslidesncts.org>



Landslide Hazards Program Update

➤ Goals

- Accelerate landslide inventory mapping, susceptibility mapping, and landslide risk assessment
- Establish community awareness and build resiliency through public outreach
- Improve coordination between agencies in preparing for landslide events
- Position NC at forefront of hazard and resiliency mapping through innovative techniques development

➤ Impacts

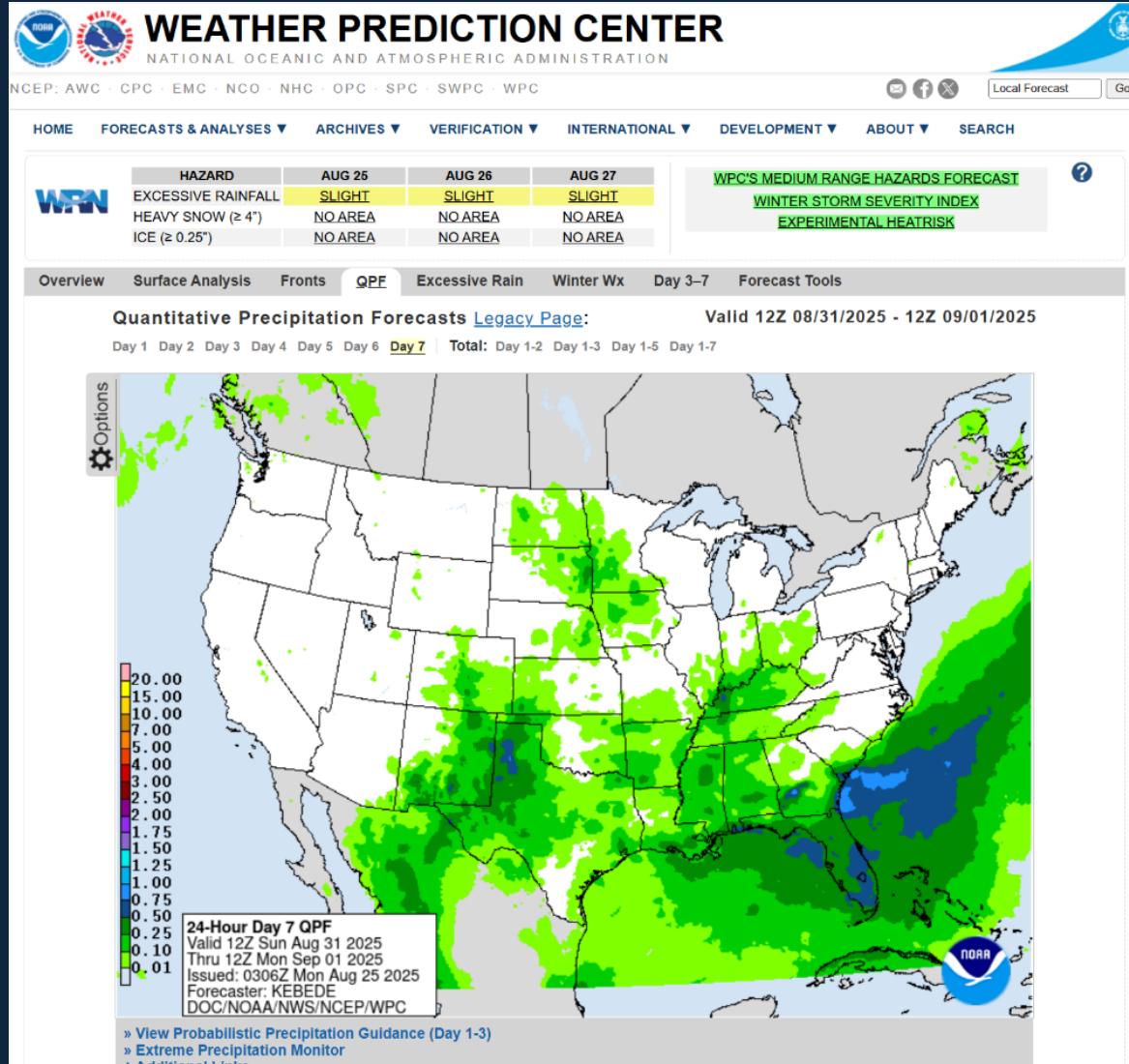
- State/local emergency managers – prevent loss of life
- Local planning departments – community safety, smart growth management, resilient development
- Public awareness, resilience, health, and safety in the mountain region

Helene Landslides - Preliminary Statistics

Type	Responses	Damage	Fatalities
Debris Slide/Debris Flow	2,062	No Impact	1,049
Slide	404	Road	918
Coalescing Flow	258	River/Stream	516
Flow Slide	103	Structures	174
Other	8	Road & Structure	161
		Utilities	16

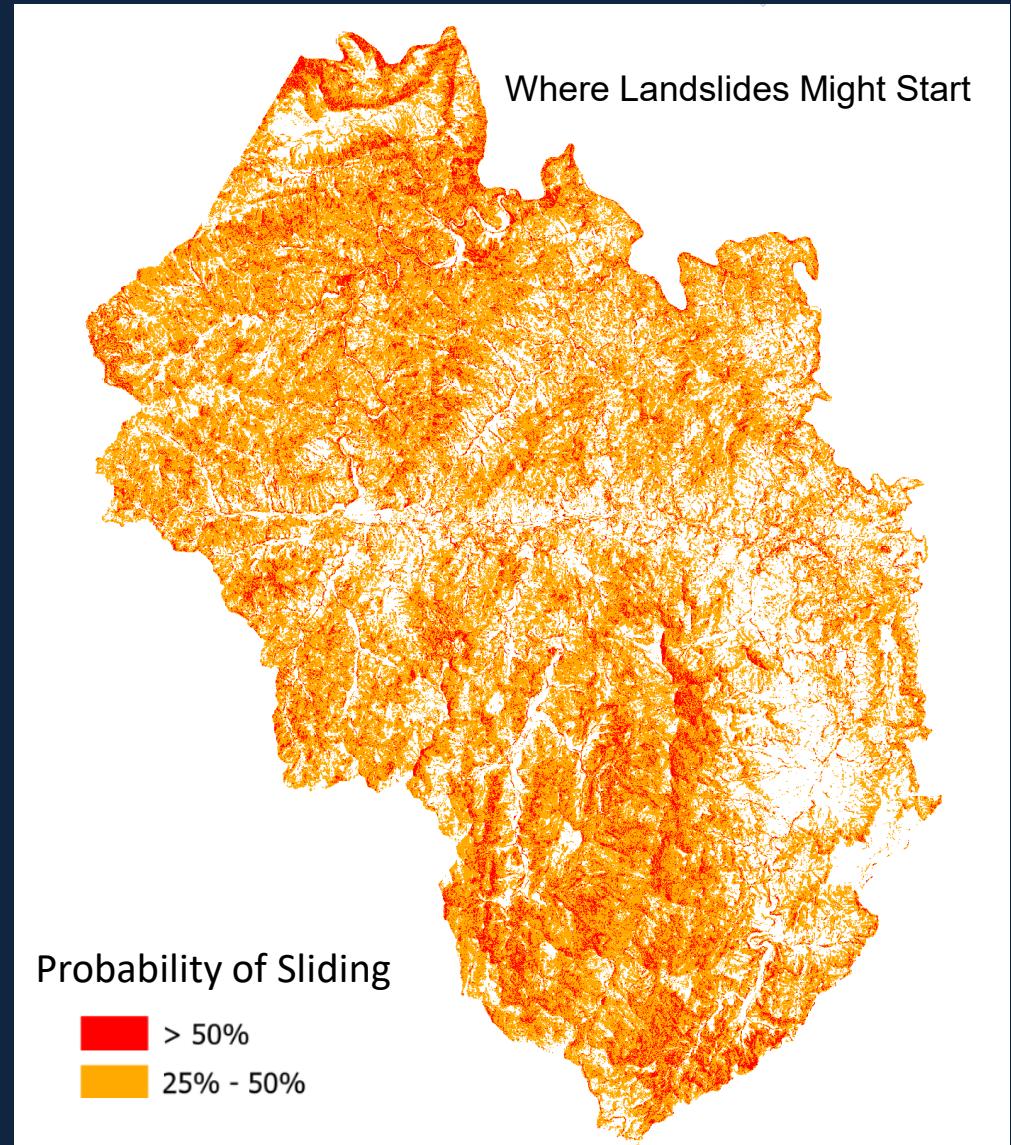
Responses 469 Fatalities 31

Rainfall Thresholds for Landslide Activity in WNC

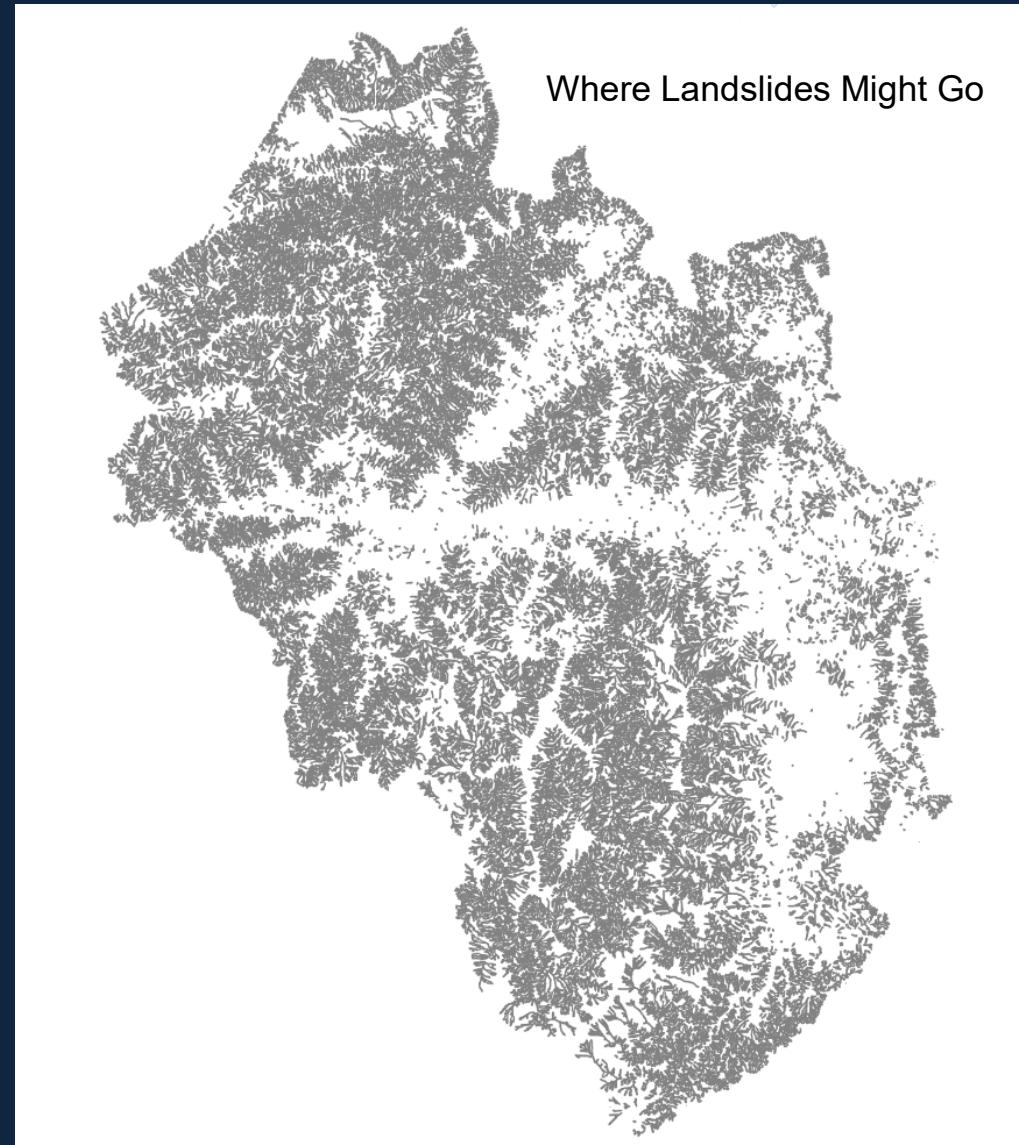


- **>3 inches / 24 hours:**
Landslides on some constructed slopes with high antecedent moisture
- **>5 inches / 24 hours:**
Scattered landslides on constructed and non-constructed slopes
- **>10 inches / 24 hours:**
Widespread landslides on constructed and non-constructed slopes

Shallow Debris Slide & Debris Flow Probability of Sliding

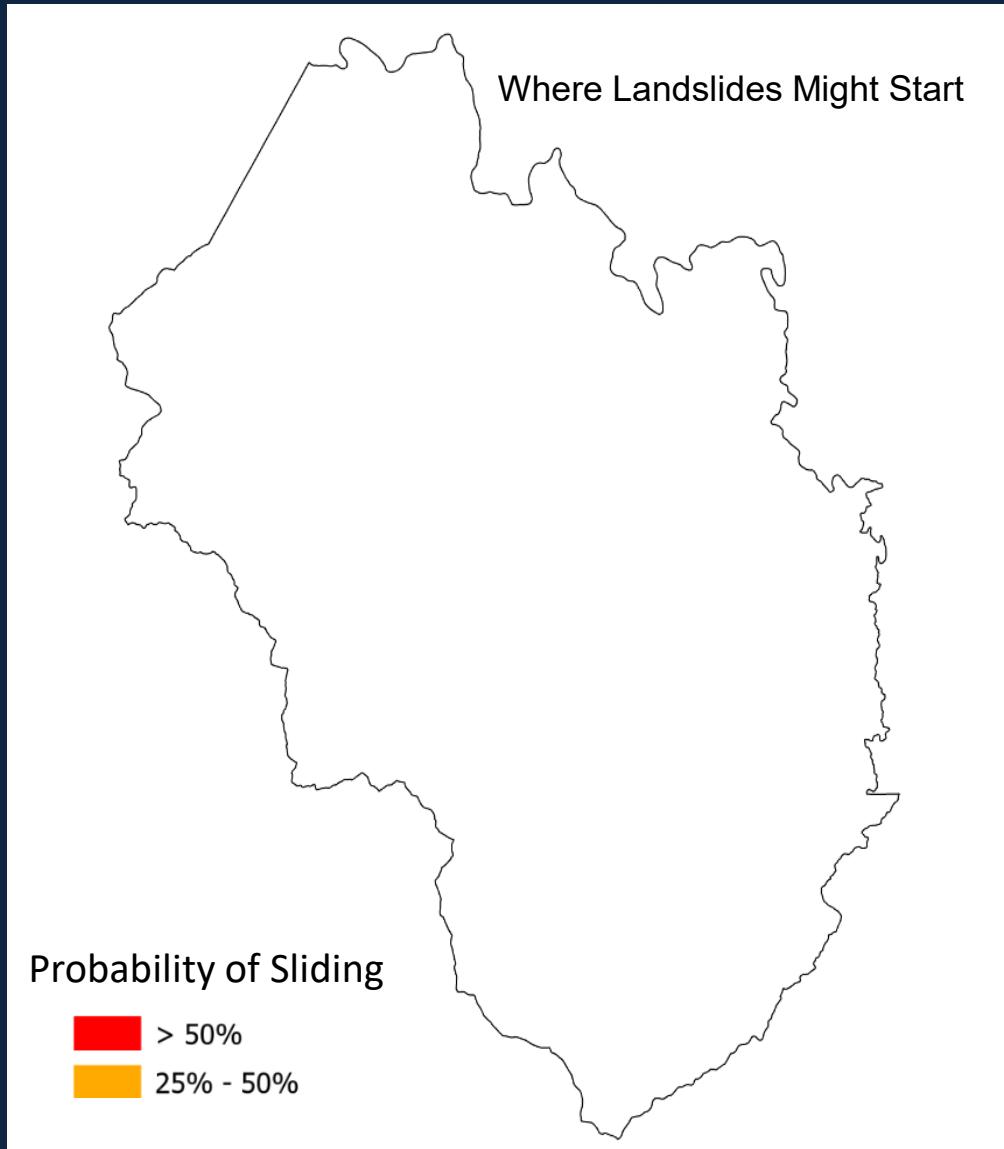


Potential Channelized Debris Flow Pathways



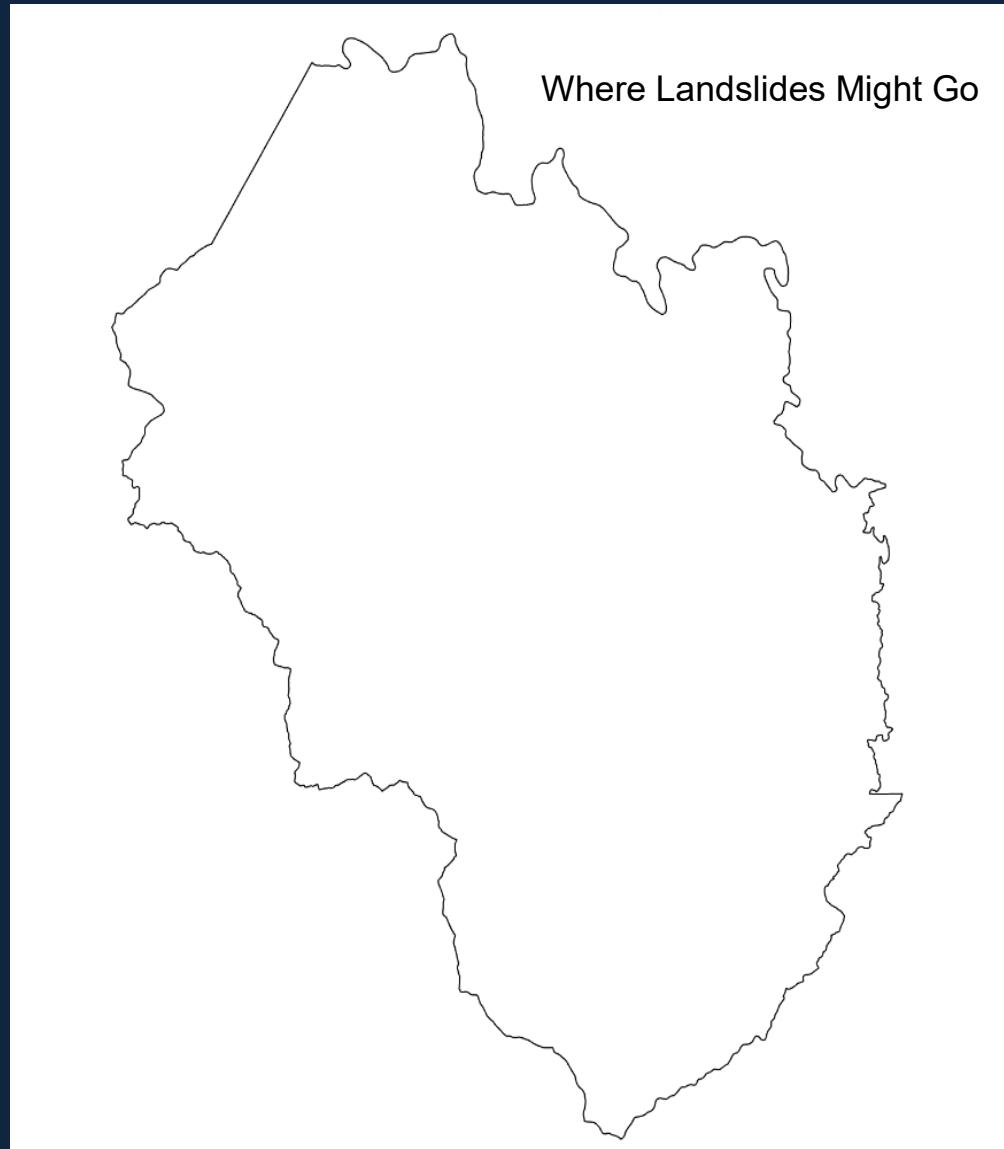
≥ 5 inches / 24 hours

Shallow Debris Slide & Debris Flow Probability of Sliding



Now

Potential Channelized Debris Flow Pathways



WNC Landslide Early Warning System

- Add landslide initiation rainfall threshold to susceptibility maps
 - Dynamic and time relative susceptibility maps with precipitation forecast and antecedent soil moisture

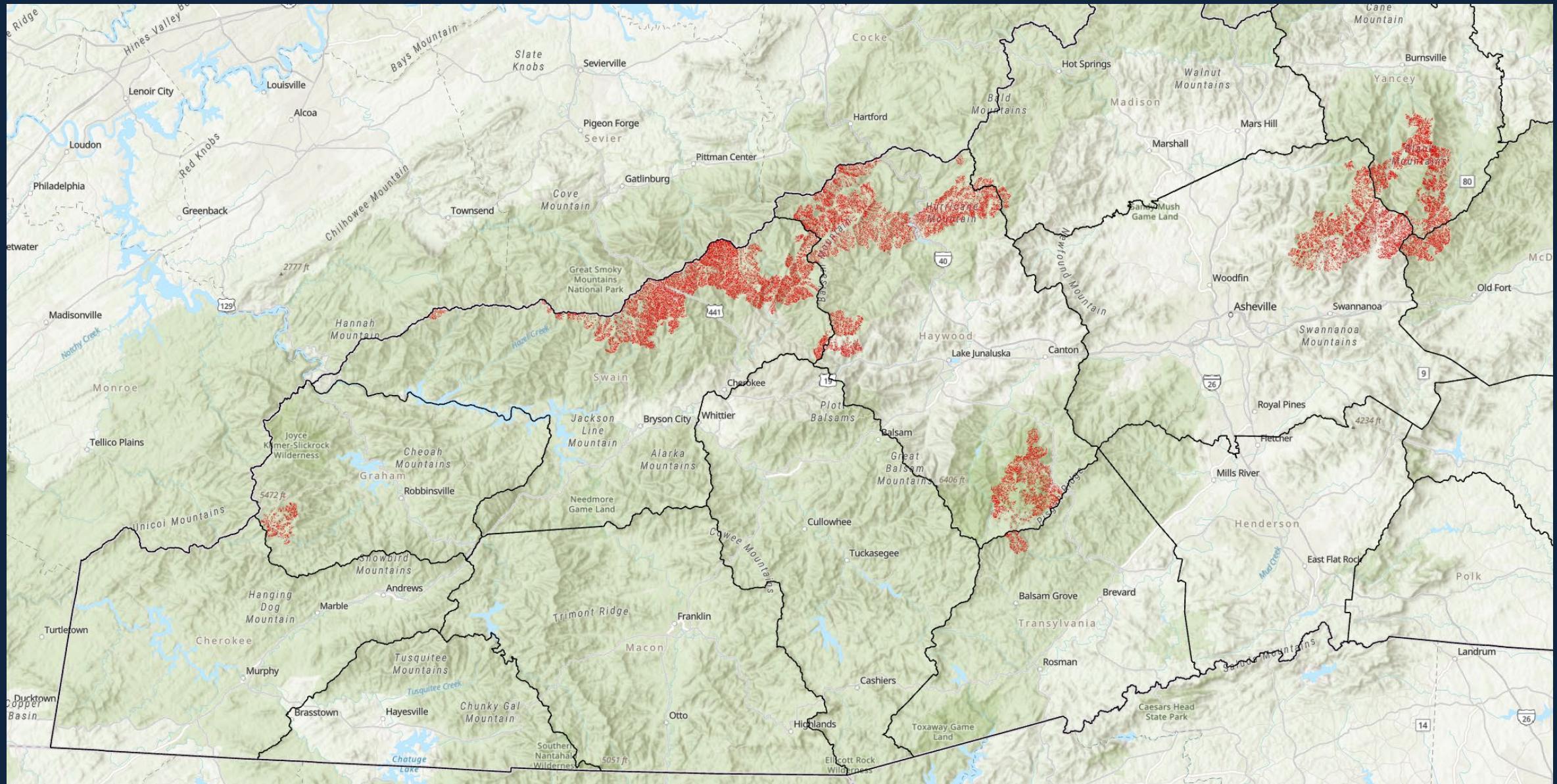
Timeline

- Version 1 with dynamic susceptibility maps completed in 1 year
 - Automated alerts in year 2 or sooner
- Version 2 Antecedent soil moisture network in years 1 – 3 if personnel funding approved

➤ Incorporate the best science and technology into the system through partnering with USGS, NWS, NSF, higher education, etc.

✓ Increased public trust in threat communication by reducing false positives

Landslide Susceptibility with Rainfall Thresholds – Concept Map



Landslide Hazards Program Update

➤ Actions

1. WNC susceptibility models completed within 2 years, landslide inventory mapping continues as long as we have slopes, storms and gravity
2. Annual recurring training on how to use landslide inventory and susceptibility maps for WNC County Planning, Development, Public Relations, and Safety departments
 - During Helene: Some entities did not know how to use existing landslide hazard maps
 - Hazards to critical infrastructure: schools, hospitals, power, water ...
 - Placement of new critical infrastructure
3. WNC Structural (buildings) landslide vulnerability and risk assessment completed within 2 years - Additional personnel funding included in request
 - Dynamically determine landslide risk to critical infrastructure during storm events

Landslide Hazards Program Update

- Current Staff
 - 3 Landslide Mappers
 - 1 Geospatial and Digital Data Specialist
- Personnel Needs
 - 3 Permanent Monitoring Station Installers and Maintainers
 - 1 Researcher focused on landslide risk and resiliency in western North Carolina
 - 1 Modeler/Cartographer to create susceptibility models and portray them to the public
 - 1 Supervisor for Researcher and Landslide Mappers
- Financial Needs
 - \$1,335,000 Recurring for personnel and overhead
 - \$494,000 Non-recurring for vehicles, computing resources, personnel equipment (boots, gloves, safety vests, coats, raingear, first aid kits, etc.)

Total needed: \$1,830,000

Landslide Hazards Program Update

➤ Resiliency

- ❖ Emergency Management/Services focuses resources and notices to high susceptibility areas that include required precipitation.
 - Increase map comprehension
 - Reduce response time
 - ✓ Increased public trust in advisories by reducing false positives
- ❖ Counties/Municipalities can, as the weather situation changes, dynamically:
 - Safeguard critical infrastructure
 - Issue evacuation/recall notices
 - Establish escape/recall routes

North Carolina Geological Survey - Landslide Hazards Program



<https://landslidesncgs.org>

<https://resilienceexchange.nc.gov>



Hazard Mitigation Grant Program: Process for Homeowner Acquisitions, Elevations, and Infrastructure Project Applications

Will Ray, Director, Division of Emergency Management, NC
Department of Public Safety



Helene HMGP Timeline

- 11 December 2024: Notice of Funding Availability Published
 - Application teams began accepting homeowner applications in Disaster Recovery Centers and online
- 30 May 2025: Infrastructure Construction Letters of Interest (LOI) due
- 6 October 2025: Infrastructure Request for Information (RFI) due
- 31 October 2025:
 - Homeowner LOI due
 - Advanced Assistance application deadline
- 27 December 2025: Initial FEMA HMGP Applications due
 - Deadline extended for State Applications until 27 April 2026

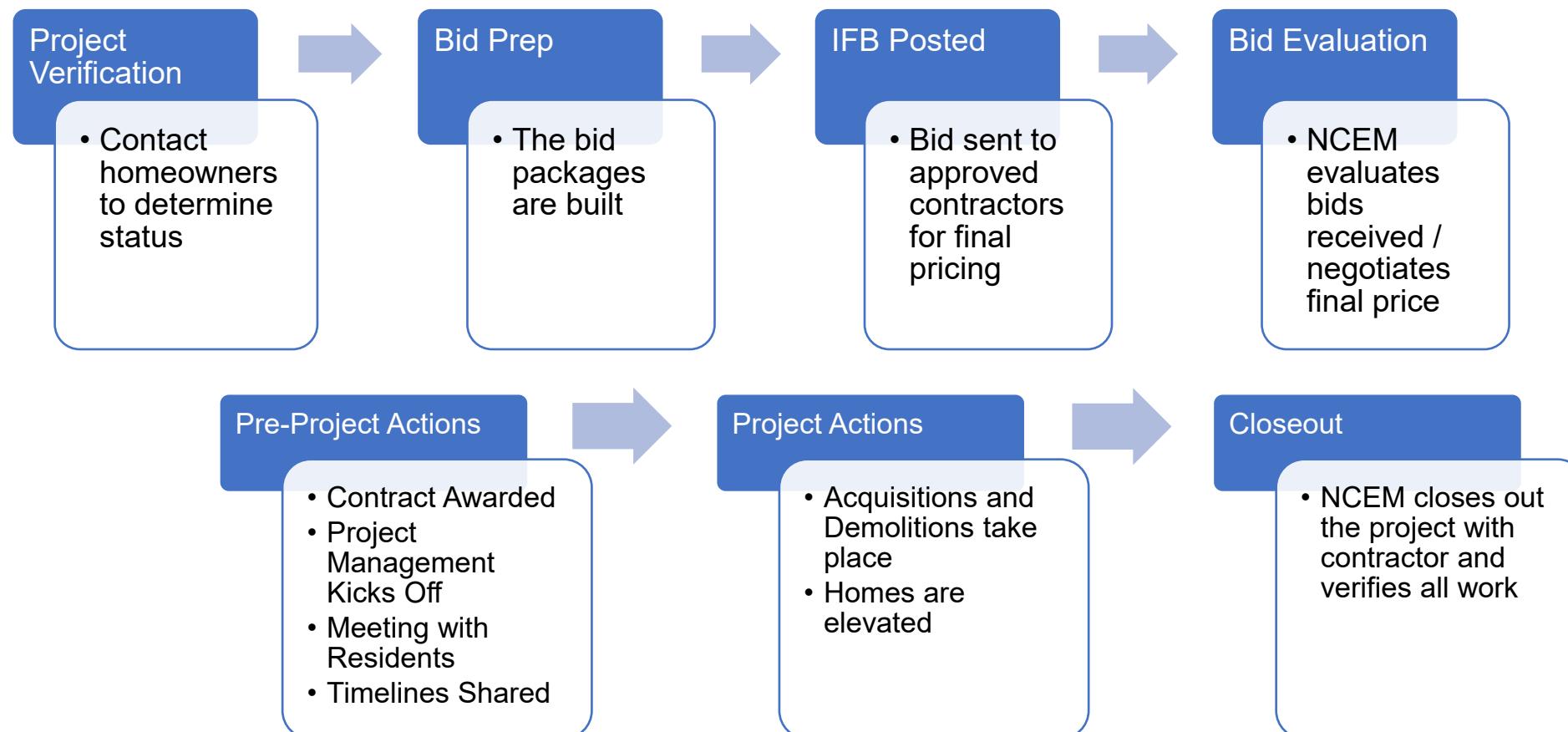




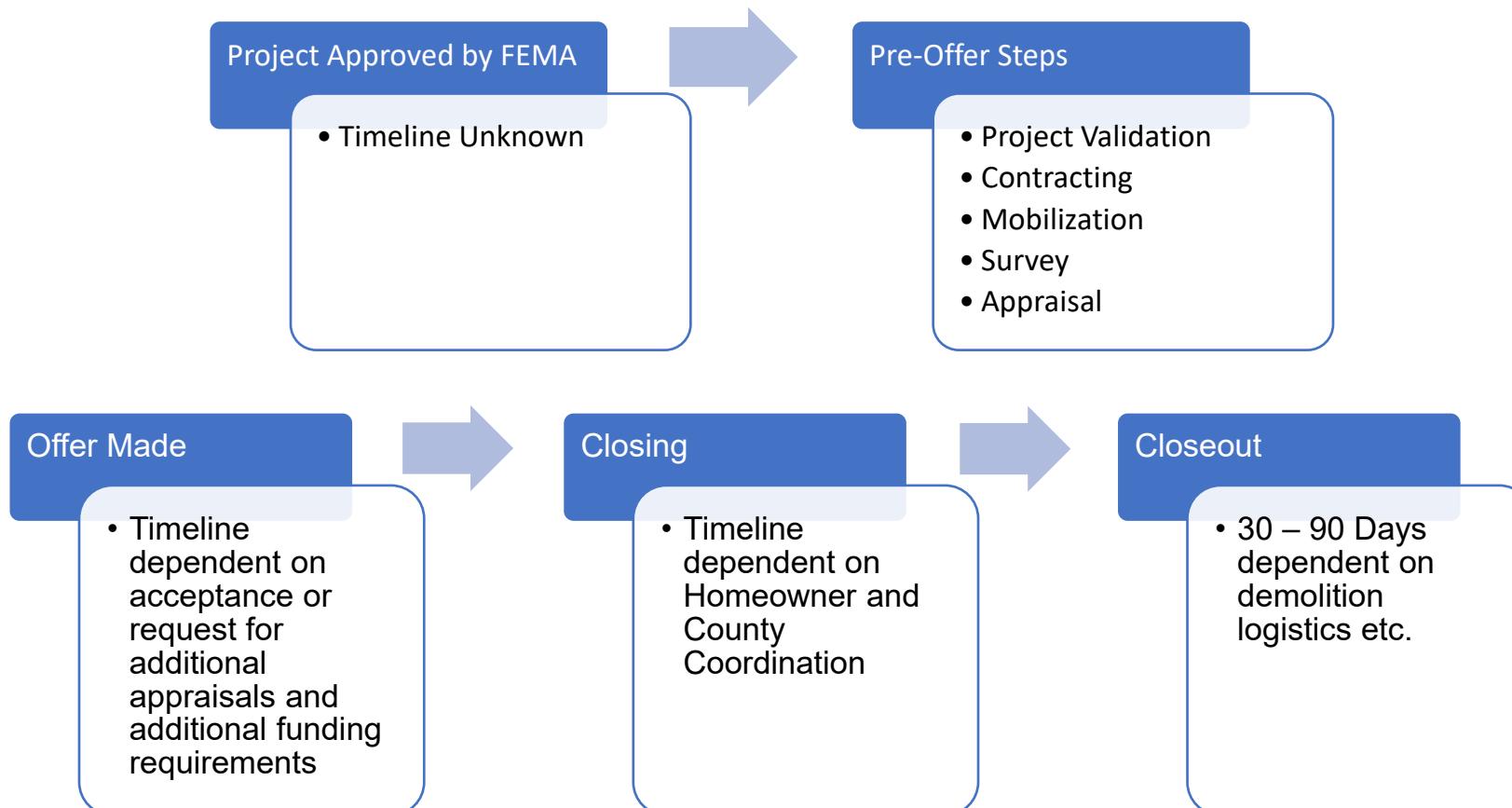
Current Residential Application Status

- **Home Acquisitions: Total submitted to State 806**
 - In Development - 7 Projects for 245 Homes
 - Submitted to FEMA - 19 Projects for 561 Homes
 - Approved by FEMA – 0 Projects
- **Home Elevations: Total submitted to State 666**
 - Projects In Engineering - 572 Homes in Engineer evaluation and 35% design
 - Projects in Development – 2 Projects for 94 Homes
 - Projects Submitted to FEMA – 0 Projects for 0 Homes
 - Projects Approved - 0 Projects
- Application Status Website
 - <https://www.ncdps.gov/helene-hazard-mitigation-application-submissions>

Project Implementation Process (After Award)



Acquisition Timeline Expectations





HMGP Next Steps

- Continue to work with FEMA to approve pending applications
- Continue engineering evaluation of elevations for application compilation
- Continue working with communities to build infrastructure project applications
- Notify homeowners as soon as their project is either added to a submitted application or their application is approved by FEMA



Remarks

Governor Josh Stein





Wrap Up and Next Steps

Matt Calabria, GROW NC

Next meeting: Monday, February 9, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Virtual



Stay Connected

GROW NC is sharing recovery news, resources, progress metrics, and more.

