



# **Governor's Advisory Committee on Western North Carolina Recovery**

April 14, 2025 | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

# Today's Agenda

Call to Order | *Sen. Corbin, Co-Chair*

Remarks | *Governor Josh Stein*

WNC Recovery Updates | *Matt Calabria, GROW NC*

Blue Ridge Pkwy Restoration | *Tracy Swartout, National Park Service*

Small Business Recovery | *Colin Kiser, EDPNC & Dan Gerlach*

Wildfire Mitigation | *Greg Hicks, NC Forest Service*

**Additional Opportunities for Input & Guidance**

*State legislative requests and actions*

*Federal requests*

Next Steps | *Matt Calabria, GROW NC*

Adjourn



# Governor Josh Stein

# **Updates from the Governor's Recovery Office for Western North Carolina**

**Director Matt Calabria**

# State leaders passed a \$524 million state funding package for Hurricane Helene relief on March 19, 2025



## Selected highlights:

- Small Business Infrastructure Revitalization Grants - \$55M
- Helene Home Reconstruction and Repair Program - \$120M
- Private Road and Bridge Repairs and Replacement - \$100M
- Helene Agriculture Disaster Farmer Recovery Grants - \$200M
- K-12 Summer Learning Programs - 30 days of summer instruction - \$9M

# Progress has been made, but there is more to do



## Rebuilding Safe Housing

### 6,000+ households

Currently receiving housing assistance (Includes FEMA temporary housing, rental assistance, & direct housing; state temporary housing & rental assistance)

### \$422M+ FEMA Individual Assistance

For home repairs and personal property repairs / replacements

### HUD action plan submitted

Fastest submission from North Carolina in at least two decades

\$120M in state funding is expected to speed up timeline by ~2.5 months

Key housing RFP posted for single-family housing program

# Progress has been made, but there is more to do



## Restoring our Infrastructure

### Right-of-way debris removal nearly complete

Nearly 6.5 million cubic yards of right-of-way debris picked up

Nearly 2.3 million cubic yards of waterway debris picked up

### >90% of WNC public roads with access restored

As of 4/13/25, 89% (1,380) fully reopened and 4% (64) partially reopened by NC DOT

### \$20.5M FEMA Individual Assistance already disbursed to support repairs to private roads and bridges

11,500+ reports of damage to private roads or bridges

Used to help pay for private roads and bridges for 7,000+ registrations

### State Private Roads & Bridges Application Program Now Open

Thousands of registrations received

# Progress has been made, but there is more to do



## Revitalizing our Economy and Communities

### \$55M small business grants program

Program operated through public-private partnership with Dogwood Health Trust

**1,800+**

Grants Awarded

**\$47M+**

Funding Disbursed

### \$336M Small Business Administration loans offered

**3,800+**

Small Business  
Administration Loans Approved

**700**

State loans through  
Golden LEAF approved

**\$135M+**

Funding  
Disbursed

### \$35.7M+ disaster unemployment assistance

Distributed to WNC workers

### \$18.5M+ loans to local governments

From the state through the Office of the Treasurer

# North Carolina Emergency Management is now accepting applications for assistance with private roads and bridges

## *State source of funding:*

- NCGA Appropriations: \$100m with requirement that NCEM seek federal reimbursement when possible

## *Program details:*

- Works to make robust use of federal dollars
- Prioritizes repairs to private roads / bridges that are the **sole access for emergency services to residential properties** occupied by the property owner for over six months of the calendar year
- Prioritizes repairs to private roads / bridges providing access to multiple residential homes, recreation or commercial facilities



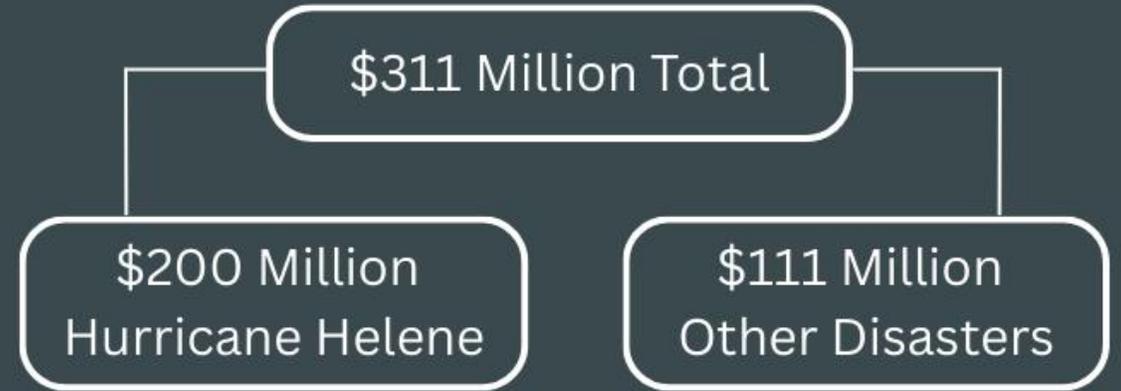
Residents can apply for NCEM's program at:  
<https://www.ncdps.gov/Helene/PRB>

# North Carolina launched its Ag Disaster Crop Loss Program

[www.ncagr.gov/agdisaster](http://www.ncagr.gov/agdisaster)

**Deadline: May 4, 2025**

NCDA&CS Disaster Relief Program  
for farmers affected by Hurricane  
Helene & other natural disasters.



# AG DISASTER CROP LOSS PROGRAM

# North Carolina launched its Ag Disaster Crop Loss Program

On March 19 2025, through The Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 – Part I (S.L. 2025-2), the North Carolina General Assembly established the Agricultural Disaster Crop Loss Program, a one-time assistance program for agricultural producers who suffered verifiable losses from any declared agricultural disaster in 2024. This includes Hurricane Helene, drought, Tropical Storm Debby, and Potential Cyclone 8. The General Assembly appropriated nearly \$311 million for the program that will be administered by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. \$200 million will be for verifiable losses from Hurricane Helene in the affected area and about \$111 million will be for verifiable losses from all other agricultural disasters in 2024.

## How to Apply:

- Complete an electronic application at [www.ncagr.gov/AgDisaster](http://www.ncagr.gov/AgDisaster) from **April 1 through May 4**.
- During the application period, nursery crops, fruit-bearing trees and bushes, and specialty crops where the survival level is not immediately known, may extend their deadline another 45 days to June 18, 2025

From: <https://www.ncagr.gov/agdisaster>

# Small Business Infrastructure Grant Program

## \$55M allocated in SL2025-2

"to assist small businesses by providing grants to local governments to expedite infrastructure repairs impacting the operation and patronage of small businesses in the affected area"

**Agency Responsible:** Commerce

**Status:** The Rural Economic Development Division (REDD) is finalizing the guidelines for the Small Business Infrastructure Grant program (SmBIZ)

**Next Step:** May 1st is the expected open cycle date for applications to SmBIZ

**Timeline for Awards:** There will be a continuously open grant window; awards will be announced on or before the following dates:

- June 30, 2025
- October 31, 2025
- February 28, 2026
- June 30, 2026

**Eligibility:** Local governments impacted by Hurricane Helene and designated under a major disaster declaration as a result of Hurricane Helene. Special consideration will be given to local governments in Tier 1 and Tier 2 Counties.

**Max Grant Award:** \$1M

# Our CDBG-DR Action Plan is submitted and awaiting HUD approval

[www.commerce.nc.gov/disaster](http://www.commerce.nc.gov/disaster)

- ✓ An Action Plan outlines the proposed use of Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds
- ✓ HUD must approve the Action Plan before the grantee can draw down federal funds
- ✓ HUD identifies Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) areas for the grantees & requires that at least 80% of the CDBG-DR funds are spent in these areas



The submission of the Helene HUD Action Plan is the fastest our state has seen in more than two decades.

Of the more than 40 recoveries funded this year by Congress, we were the first to publish our Action Plan for public comment and first to submit it to HUD.

Our targeted progress to stand up CDBG-DR funded housing recovery outpaces the average of comparable major (>\$1B CDBG-DR) state-run recoveries.

With current targets, our progress in setting up our housing recovery program could make us the fastest of any major state-led Hurricane recovery (>\$1B in CDBG-DR) since Hurricane Sandy.

## **FEMA ends Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program**

- BRIC is intended to help communities prepare for future natural disasters such as hurricanes, fires, and floods.
- FEMA cancelled all BRIC applications from 2020-2023. Funds not yet distributed were returned to the US Disaster Relief Fund or US Treasury.
- Over the last 20 years, North Carolina was 8th among states in the amount of BRIC funds utilized.
- NC Emergency Management is in the process of compiling a list of impacted projects, but estimates losses to NC could be as high as \$184 million.

# **Blue Ridge Parkway Restoration**

**Superintendent Tracy Swartout**

# Blue Ridge Parkway

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



**Hurricane Helene:  
Road to Recovery Briefing**

# Agenda

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Blue Ridge Parkway

## Briefing Agenda:

- Overview of Damage
- Funding
- Recovery and Repairs Underway
- The Road Ahead
- Safety and Closures
- Outlook for 2025 Season – Closures and Openings
- Where to Find Recovery Updates
- Q & A



**Tracy Swartout**  
**Superintendent**  
**Blue Ridge Parkway**  
**National Park Service**

# Overview of the Blue Ridge Parkway

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Blue Ridge Parkway



- 469-mile historic designed landscape
- Two states, 29 counties
- National Historic Landmark status
- Major tourism destination 16.7M 2023 & 2024
- >\$1.4B economic impact on communities
- Among largest NPS infrastructure parks
- 8 Campgrounds, 14 Picnic Areas, 2 Lodges
- 350+ miles of trails, 500 structures, 90+ historic
- 200 archaeology sites, 20 cultural landscapes
- 2,000+ original vistas, 900 managed today
- 180+ bridges, >200 overlooks (141 in NC)
- 4,000+ neighbors, >400 ag permits

## National Park Service Mission

To “preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values” of the national parks and to provide “for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.”

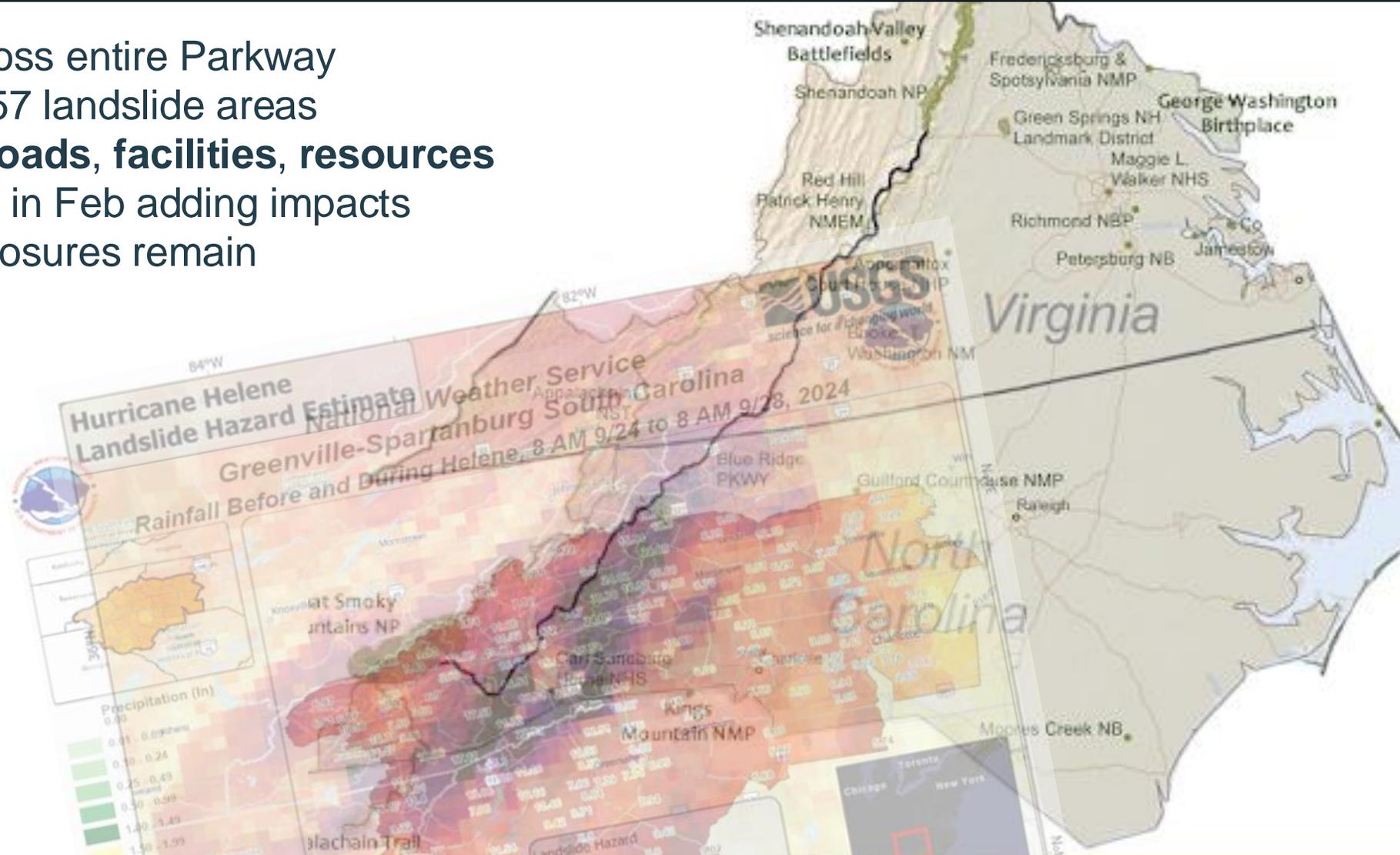




# Impact on the Parkway



- Damage across entire Parkway
- In NC, over 57 landslide areas
- Damage to **roads, facilities, resources**
- Winter storm in Feb adding impacts
- Significant closures remain

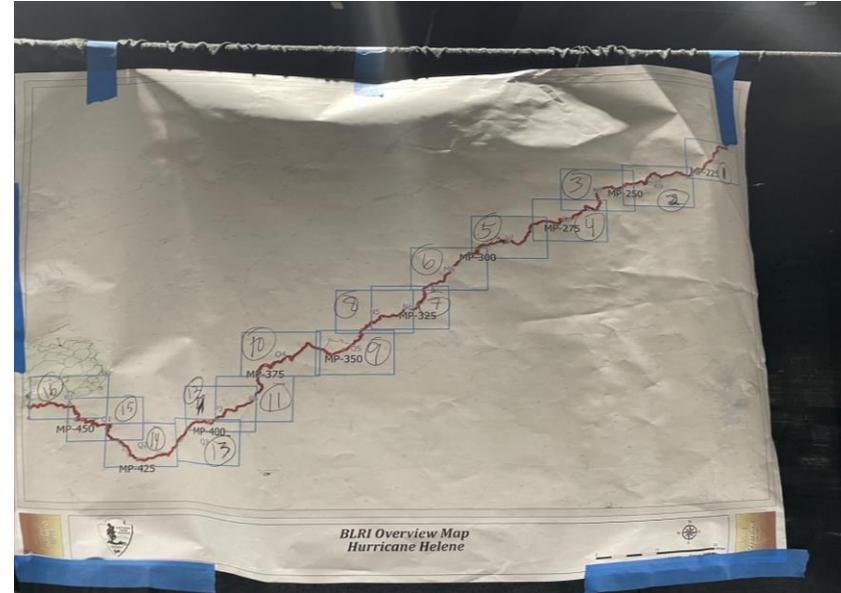


# NPS IMT Response- 6 weeks, 300+ people

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Blue Ridge Parkway



# Road Damage

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Blue Ridge Parkway



# Facility Damage

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U.S. Department of the Interior

Blue Ridge Parkway



# Resource Damage

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Blue Ridge Parkway



# Recovery Funding

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Blue Ridge Parkway



A portion of the \$2 billion in supplemental disaster funding allocated by Congress to NPS will be used to pay for repairs.

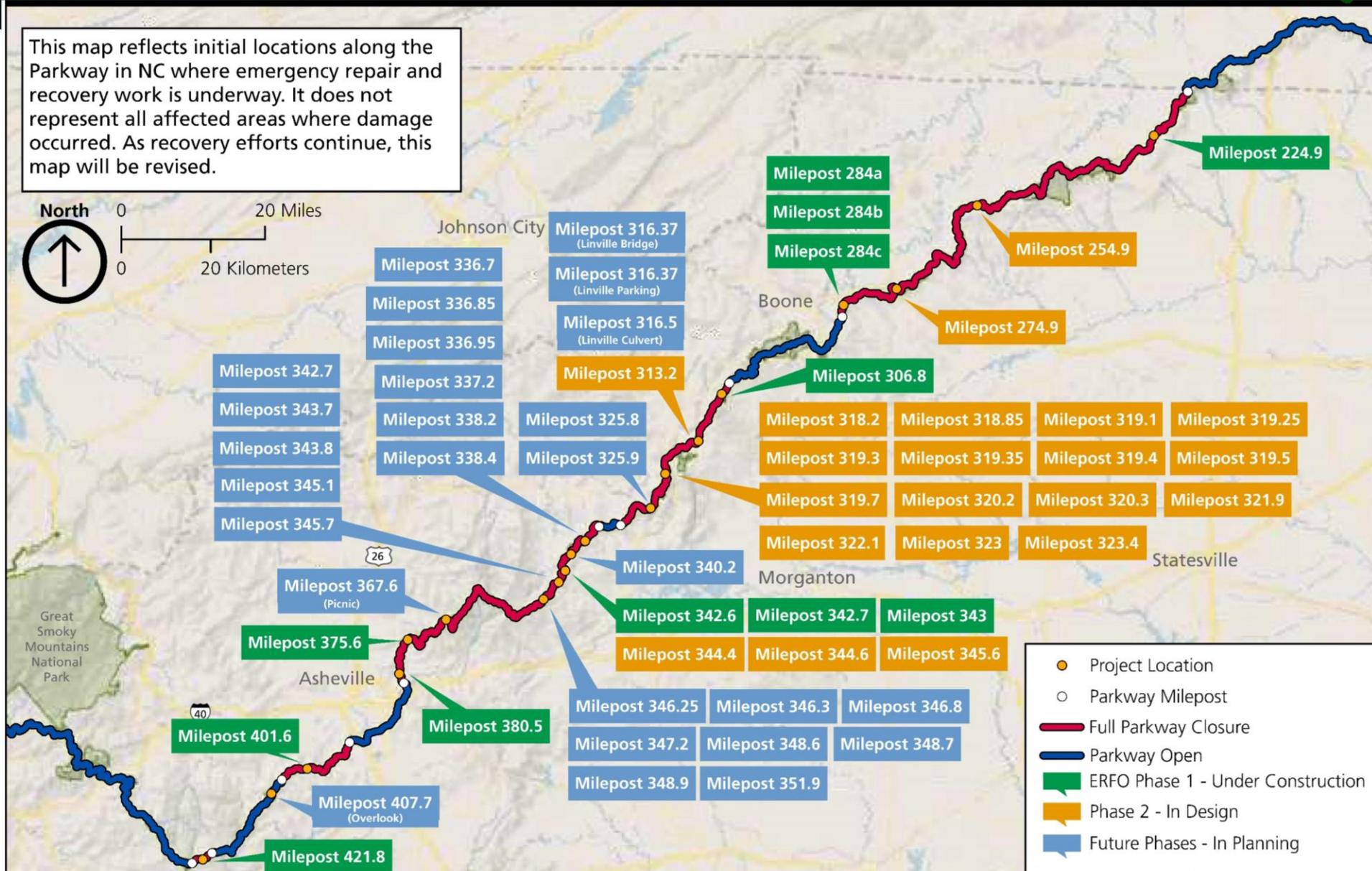
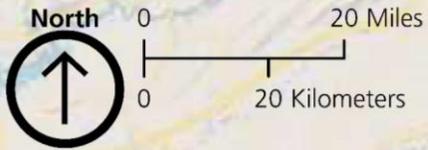


To date, the Parkway has received \$25 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) emergency relief funds.

# Roadway Repair Locations- a phased approach



This map reflects initial locations along the Parkway in NC where emergency repair and recovery work is underway. It does not represent all affected areas where damage occurred. As recovery efforts continue, this map will be revised.



**Phase 1- ERFO**  
In construction

**Phase 2**  
In Design

**Future Phases**  
In Planning

# ERFO Work in Progress

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Blue Ridge Parkway



# Reinforced Soil Slope (RSS) Process

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Blue Ridge Parkway



1



Soil Excavation

2



Reinforcement & Stabilization

3



Completed Reinforced Slope

# Closures and Safety

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Blue Ridge Parkway

Closures along the parkway and park trails apply to all vehicles and uses – **motor vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians/hikers.**

Unstable terrain, hidden hazards, and compromised landscapes may not be immediately visible and may change with weather conditions.

The parkway is an active work area, unauthorized use is not only unsafe but also hinders recovery operations.



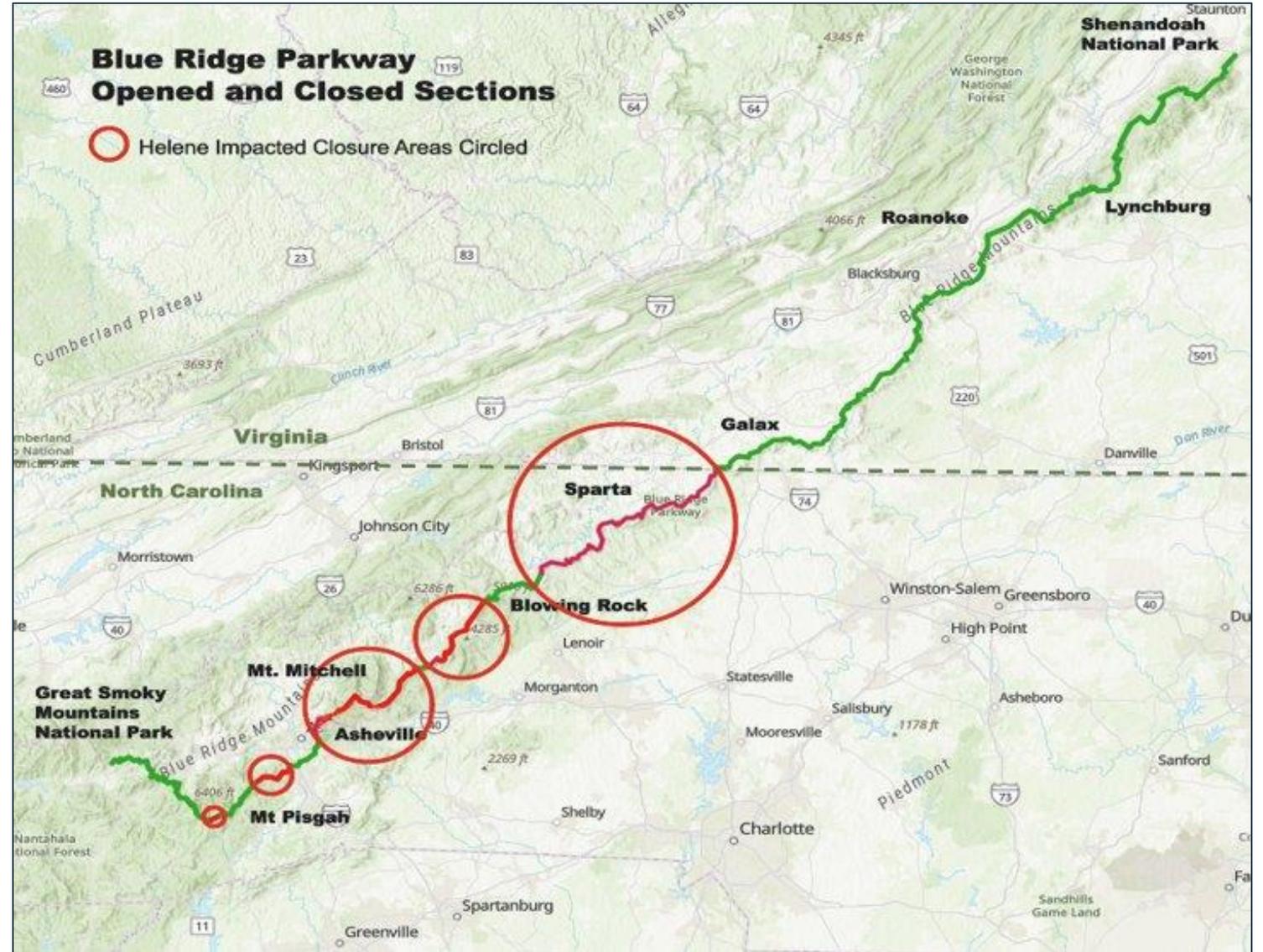
# Road to Recovery

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Blue Ridge Parkway

- Recovery will take time
- Most of the Parkway is open now
- All roadway that remains closed is due to damage
- Roadway projects will continue, and some will take years to complete
- Non-roadway projects will also be ongoing, in VA and NC



# Long Road to Recovery

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Blue Ridge Parkway

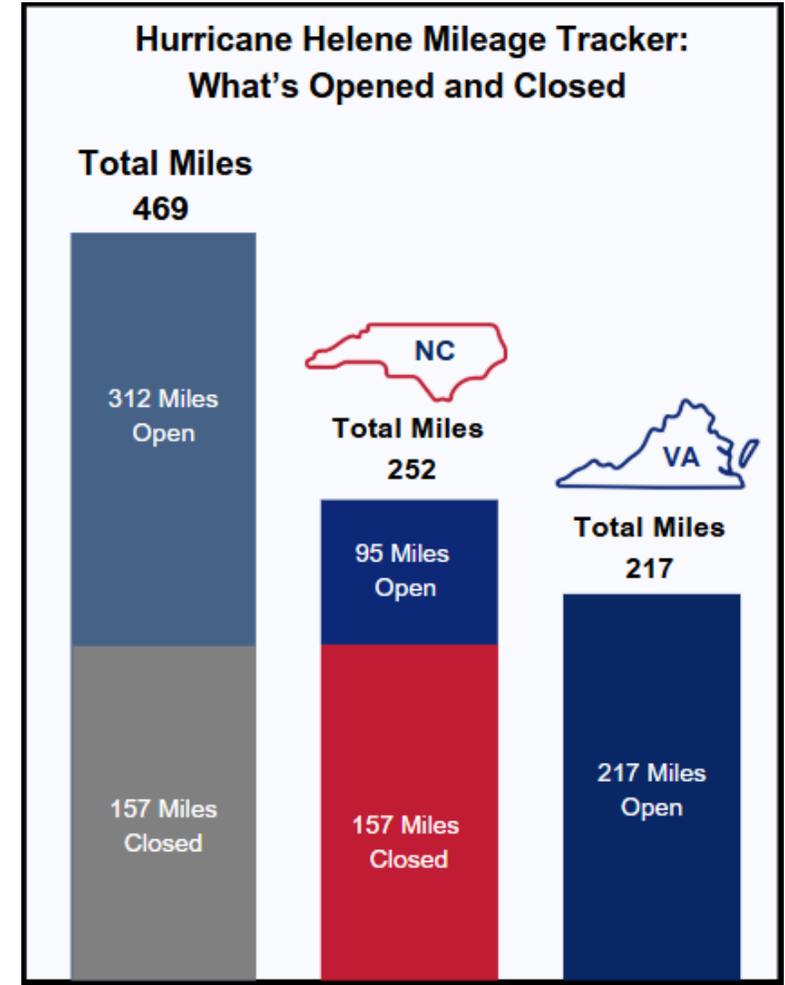


# What's Opened and Closed

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Blue Ridge Parkway



Note: This graph reflects miles opened and closed due to Hurricane Helene recovery and GAOA construction. It does not include temporary closures due to weather.

# Information Resources

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Blue Ridge Parkway

## Helene Recovery Website Page

**Helene Impacts and Recovery**

In September 2024, Hurricane Helene made landfall as a Category 4 hurricane in Florida and then stormed across multiple states in the Southeast. Along the Blue Ridge Parkway, the storm devastated the park and local areas with up to 30 inches of rain in localized areas and peak sustained winds of up to 60 miles per hour. The heavy rain and wind resulted in significant damage along the Parkway, including thousands of downed trees and debris covering the motor road, damage to facilities and multiple landslides that resulted in weakened structural integrity and loss of road segments.

Find up-to-date information on the impact Hurricane Helene had on the Parkway, including storm damage, recovery progress, and up-to-date status on road and facility closures and reopening information here.

**Helene: Road to Recovery** ›  
Scope of damage, funding, and recreation.

**Recovery Projects - At a Glance** ›  
Recovery construction projects by milepost and status.

**Current Road Status and Closures** ›  
Updated daily. View open and closed Parkway sections.



## Flyer, and Rack Card

**Blue Ridge Parkway**

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
North Carolina  
Virginia

### Helene Recovery

Hurricane Helene struck the Blue Ridge Parkway on September 27, 2024, heavily damaging the Parkway motor road, facilities, and trails. Helene brought up to 30 inches of rain coupled with wind gusts up to 100 mph to some areas resulting in catastrophic flooding, landslides, washed out roads, and countless downed trees. Recovery work to clear debris and repair damage will be measured in months, and in some cases years, due to the extent of the impacts.

**Road Impacts**  
The road experienced damage across various points, some of which was catastrophic, causing large portions to collapse, while other areas had less visible damage but still weakened the overall integrity of the road.

**Landslides**  
At least 57 landslides have been identified across approximately 200 miles of Parkway in North Carolina ranging in scale and scope.

**Tens of Thousands of Trees**  
Thousands of trees and large amounts of debris have been removed from hundreds of miles of Parkway. While much progress has been made, there are still sections where tree and debris clearing is required.

**RECOVERY UPDATES**

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

**Blue Ridge Parkway**

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Blue Ridge Parkway

### Helene Recovery

Remnants of Hurricane Helene struck the Blue Ridge Parkway on September 27, 2024, heavily damaging the Parkway motor road, facilities, and trails. Storms of this scale might strike once every thousand years on average. Helene brought up to 30 inches of rain coupled with wind gusts up to 100 miles per hour to some areas resulting in catastrophic flooding, landslides, washed out roads, and countless downed trees. During your visit, you may experience the ongoing effects from this storm for many months, and even years, as we continue our recovery efforts.

Find out more information about Parkway closures and recovery efforts using the links below:

**Parkway Road Closures & Status Information:**  
[www.nps.gov/blr/planyourvisit/road/closures.htm](http://www.nps.gov/blr/planyourvisit/road/closures.htm)

**Learn more about the impacts from Hurricane Helene on the Blue Ridge Parkway at:**  
<https://www.nps.gov/blr/planyourvisit/helene-impacts-and-recovery.htm>

**Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Information:**  
Call: 828-348-3550  
Email: [BLRI\\_info@nps.gov](mailto:BLRI_info@nps.gov)





# Questions



# **Small Business Recovery**

**Colin Kiser, EDPNC**

**Dan Gerlach, consultant**



# Western North Carolina Business Loss Assessment

Colin Kiser, Special Projects – EDPNC  
Dan Gerlach, Owner – Dan Gerlach LLC

## Our Charge

Passed on October 25, 2024, Disaster Bill #2 commissioned the EDPNC to conduct a business loss assessment in the counties receiving a federal disaster declaration due to Hurricane Helene\*

## Our Scope

To capture the breadth of business impact, the following three areas of focus were determined:

### Physical Capital

land, building structures,  
equipment, inventory

### Financial Capital

lost revenue, acute  
disaster-related  
operational costs

### Human Capital

impacts on regional  
workforce access and  
reliability

# Methodology

**Data Collection** – Rather than generating new and unverified data, we have worked in concert with the various state, county, city, and private entities in Western North Carolina to support and expand on their work. We have also used publicly-available data sources.

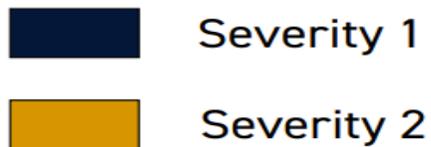
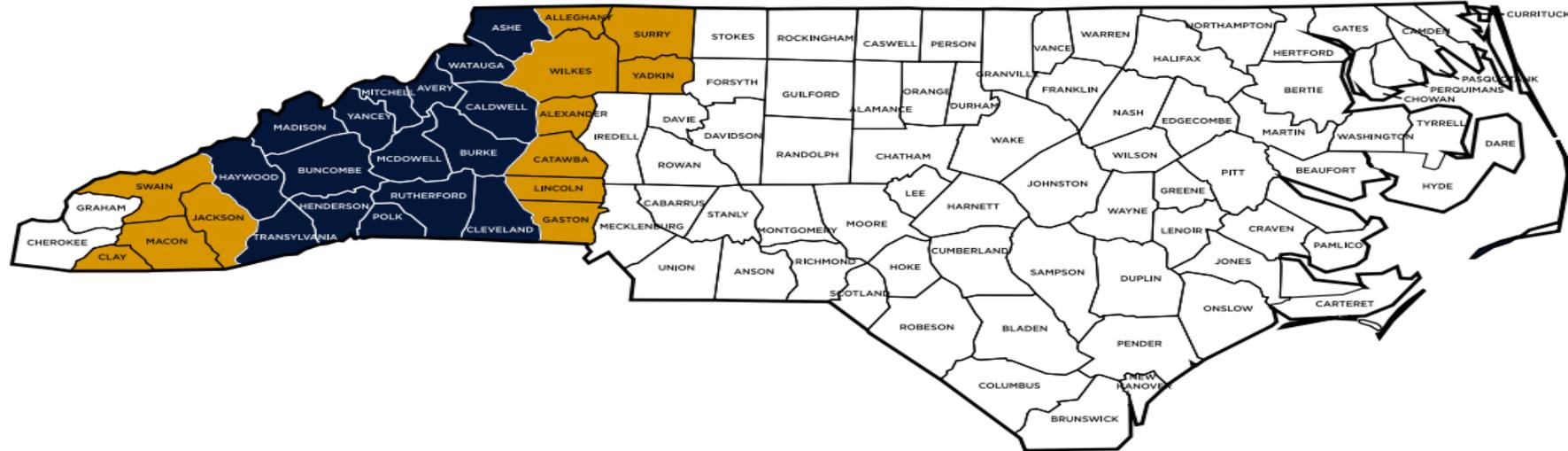
**Geographic Scope** – The study’s main focus was on the 16 counties\* receiving the Federal HUD disaster designation of “most impacted.” In addition, we have included in scope the 12 counties designated by North Carolina officials to have moderate and secondary effects (map on following slide)

\*For brevity and consistency, the 16 counties identified by HUD as most impacted will be referred to as “S1” for “Severity 1.” The next 12 counties included by State officials will be referenced as “S2” S1 does NOT include

\*\*Mecklenburg, although a portion of the county was included by HUD as most impacted and distressed.



# North Carolina: Impact Severity by County



## Business Survey - Overview

- ~50% of respondents were in *retail, leisure & hospitality*
- 94% of respondents indicated that Helene had at least a *moderate effect* on their business, with 27% reporting declines of over 50% in revenue
- 54% are *fully operational*, with 33% report that they are partially operational
- 21% had more than *\$75,000 in physical damage* to their business
- “*Decreased customer demand*” was named the primary issue across respondents, followed by ongoing financial challenges
- 84% of respondents have *less than 25 employees*

# Findings

## Physical Capital - \$2.5 to \$3.0 billion

- Counties estimate a loss of at least **\$1.42 Billion in business property**
  - Does not include some losses such as inventory
- Self-reported data from the WNC Small Business Initiative (WNC SBI) grant program indicated **\$2.1 billion** in property losses from over 6500 eligible applicants
- North Carolina's Office of State Budget Management (OSBM) has estimated the total "business" physical capital loss at **\$3 Billion**. It should be noted this includes government & non-profit entities, which is outside of our study's scope

# Findings

## Financial Capital

- Across the 28 County region, **from October-December** there was an estimated **\$1.757 Billion economic loss** from lost revenue & acute operational costs
  - Of this \$1.757 Billion, **\$1.615 Billion** occurred in the Top 16 counties
  - Data sourced from DOR sales tax extrapolation
  - With **decreased consumer demand** cited as a primary challenge for business recovery, this number is likely to grow through lost revenue
- North Carolina's Office of State Budget Management (OSBM) has estimated the total direct financial business impact is \$3.6 billion in the most affected counties

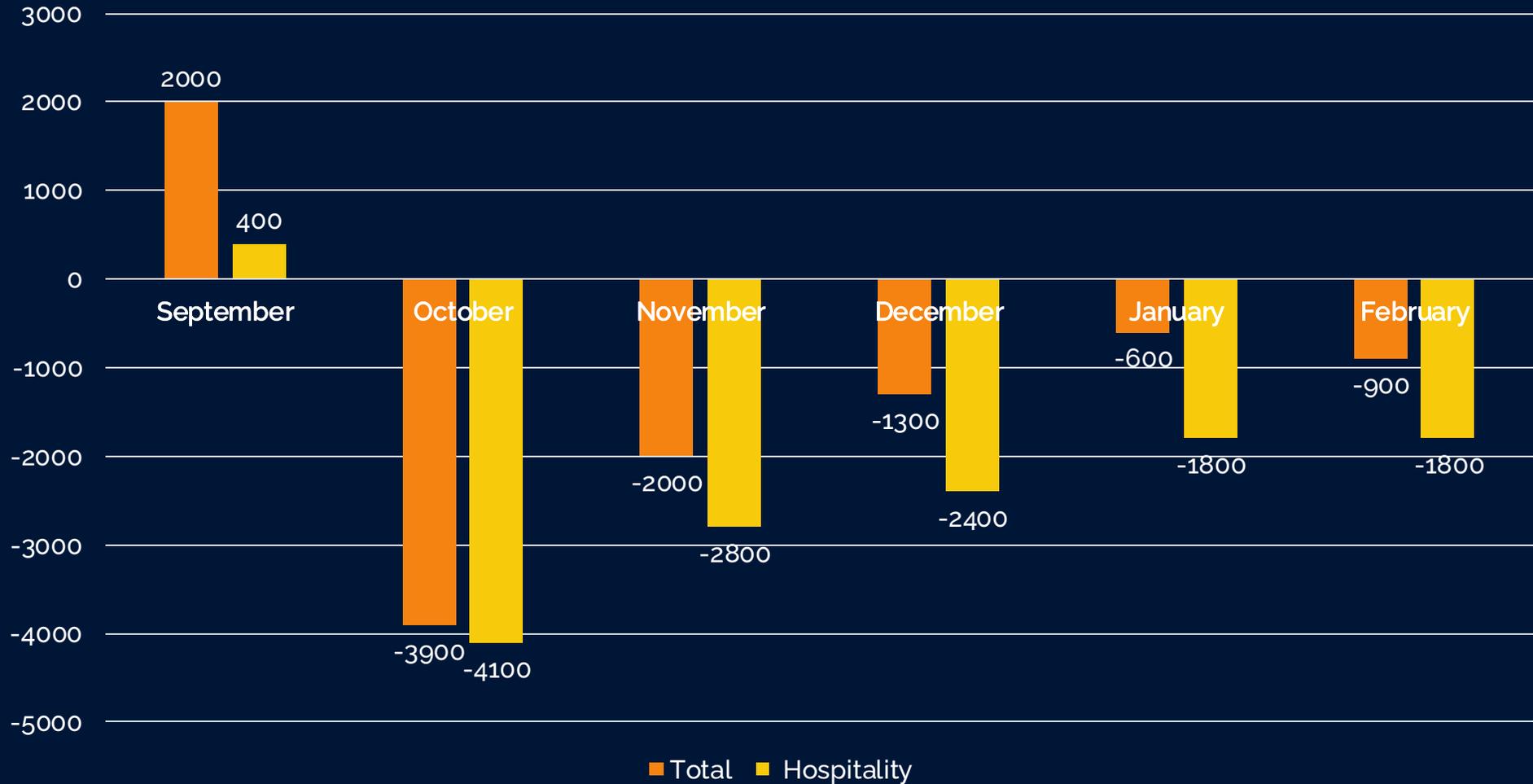
# Findings

## Human Capital

- In Top 16 Counties, total labor force change from YoY data has surprisingly *increased*, indicating a strong labor recovery
  - During the October to February period, these counties *outperformed the state average*
  - This is *positive*, indicating not only workforce “stickiness,” but even attractiveness of the region’s ability to add workforce quickly
  - However, data also shows there are increased job openings, hinting at labor supply or mismatch issues
  - The *Leisure & Hospitality* sector was affected the most.



## Year to Year Change in Industry Employment, Asheville MSA

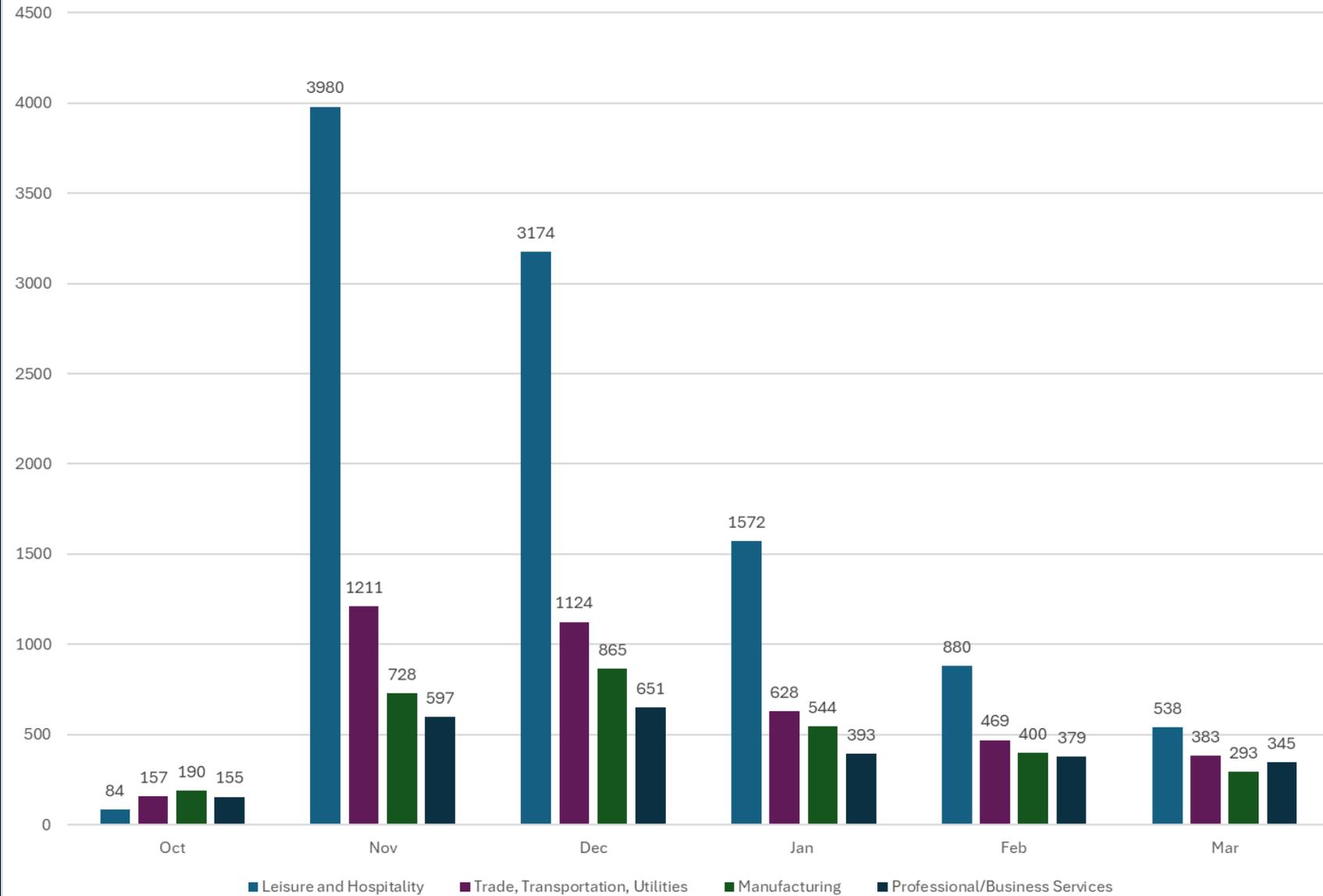




	<b>Unemployed in Same Month, Year Before Helene</b>	<b>Unemployed in 16 counties (BLS) after Helene</b>	<b>Loss in Wages Above Baseline</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>15,116</b>	<b>14,129</b>	
<b>October</b>	<b>15,815</b>	<b>33,165</b>	<b>\$79.8 mm</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>15,398</b>	<b>26,555</b>	<b>\$52.8 mm</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>14,281</b>	<b>22,505</b>	<b>\$39.7 mm</b>
<b>January</b>	<b>16,227</b>	<b>25,731</b>	<b>\$45.8 mm</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>16,898</b>	<b>23,384</b>	<b>\$32.9 mm</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$251 mm</b>



Unemployment Insurance Continuing Claims, By Industry, 1st week of Oct 2024-Mar 2025





THANK YOU



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP of NORTH CAROLINA

ALL IN NORTH CAROLINA

# **Wildfire Mitigation**

**Greg Hicks, NC Forest Service**



# *Helene Recovery and Wildfire*

Greg Hicks, Assistant Commissioner/State Forester, North Carolina Forest Service, NCDA&CS

The N.C. Forest Service is a division of the N.C. Depart. of Agriculture & Consumer Services *Steve Troxler, Commissioner*



# NCFS Helene Recovery and Wildfire



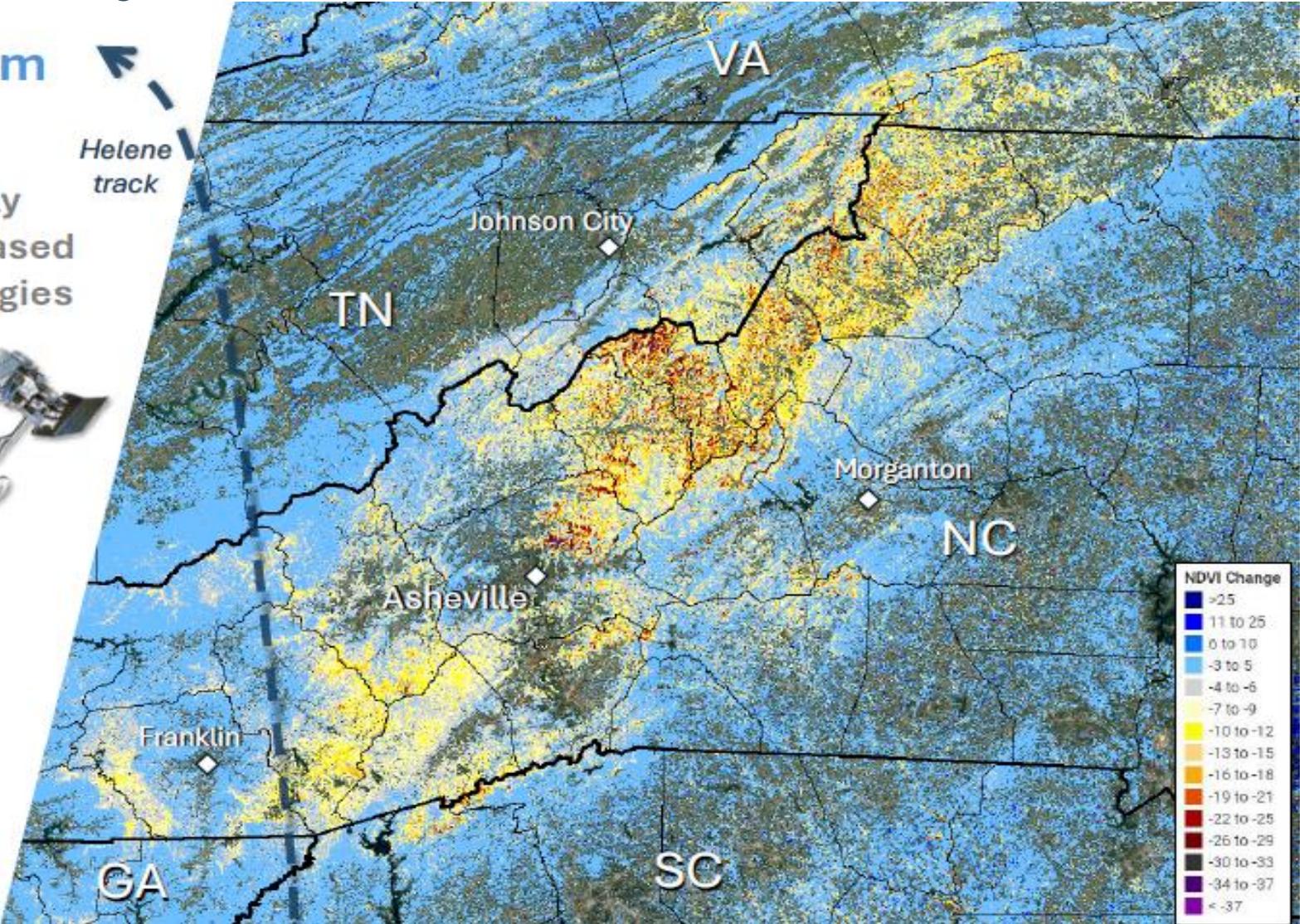
## Forest impacts from Hurricane Helene

were rapidly and precisely mapped from satellite-based remote sensing technologies

ESA's Sentinel-2 (5-day; 10-m)



Helene track



At right:  
1-year change in early October  
Normalized Difference  
Vegetation Index (NDVI)



# NCFS Helene Recovery and Wildfire



Acres of major non-urban forest damage from Helene in western NC

County	Major severe conifer damage	Major severe deciduous damage	Likely major forest damage	Possible major forest damage	Overall acres with severe/major damage
Ashe	1,140	519	17,333	38,205	57,196 (29.9%)
Mitchell	3,029	4,517	22,457	26,386	56,390 (48.2%)
Watauga	1,004	663	13,806	30,809	46,282 (31.6%)
<b>Buncombe</b>	<b>1,830</b>	<b>2,502</b>	<b>14,015</b>	<b>26,817</b>	<b>45,163 (16.9%)</b>
Yancey	1,348	1,450	12,402	29,234	44,433 (26.5%)
Avery	1,175	933	14,341	27,900	44,348 (35.3%)
Jackson	360	49	2,730	22,892	26,031 (10.0%)
Haywood	501	163	3,160	22,037	23,862 (8.7%)
McDowell	1,205	1,100	6,552	14,954	23,810 (10.5%)
Transylvania	410	75	2,084	17,133	19,703 (9.8%)
Henderson	1,225	395	3,723	13,874	19,218 (13.3%)
Burke	1,316	238	2,068	8,793	12,414 (5.4%)
Madison	156	165	1,581	8,823	10,725 (4.6%)
Alleghany	272	58	1,756	8,424	10,509 (12.5%)
Caldwell	490	137	1,022	6,519	8,168 (3.7%)



# NCFS Helene Recovery and Wildfire



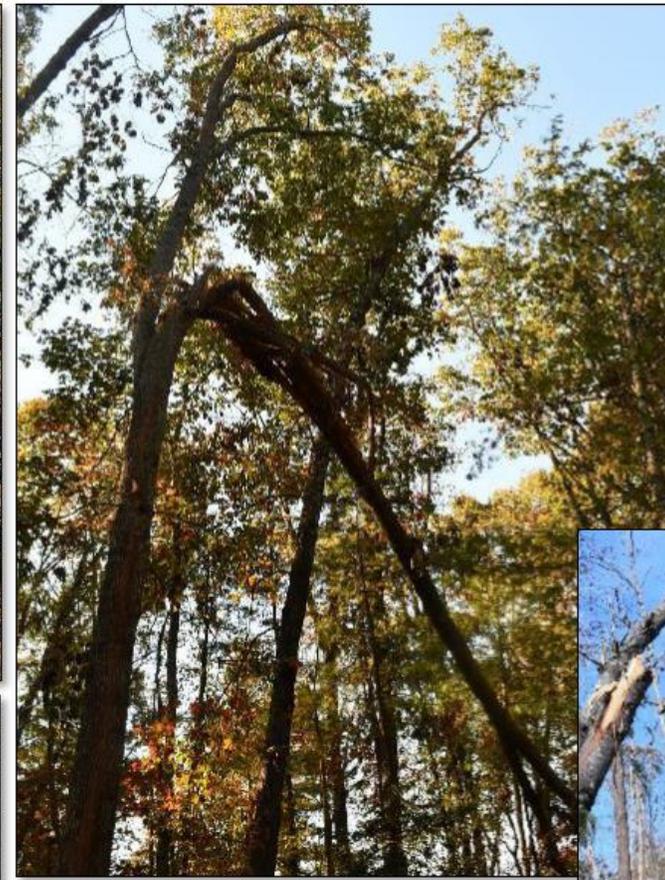
Blowdown was common on upper exposed slopes



A small  
blowdown gap  
on the UNC  
Asheville  
campus from a  
single fallen  
white oak



Tree crown damage  
on the UNC Asheville  
campus



Very large  
blowdown  
patch along  
the Blue Ridge  
Parkway



A moderate gap on  
the UNC Asheville  
campus from  
multiple fallen  
white pines



# NCFS Helene Recovery and Wildfire

## Direct Attack vs Indirect Attack in Wildland Fire

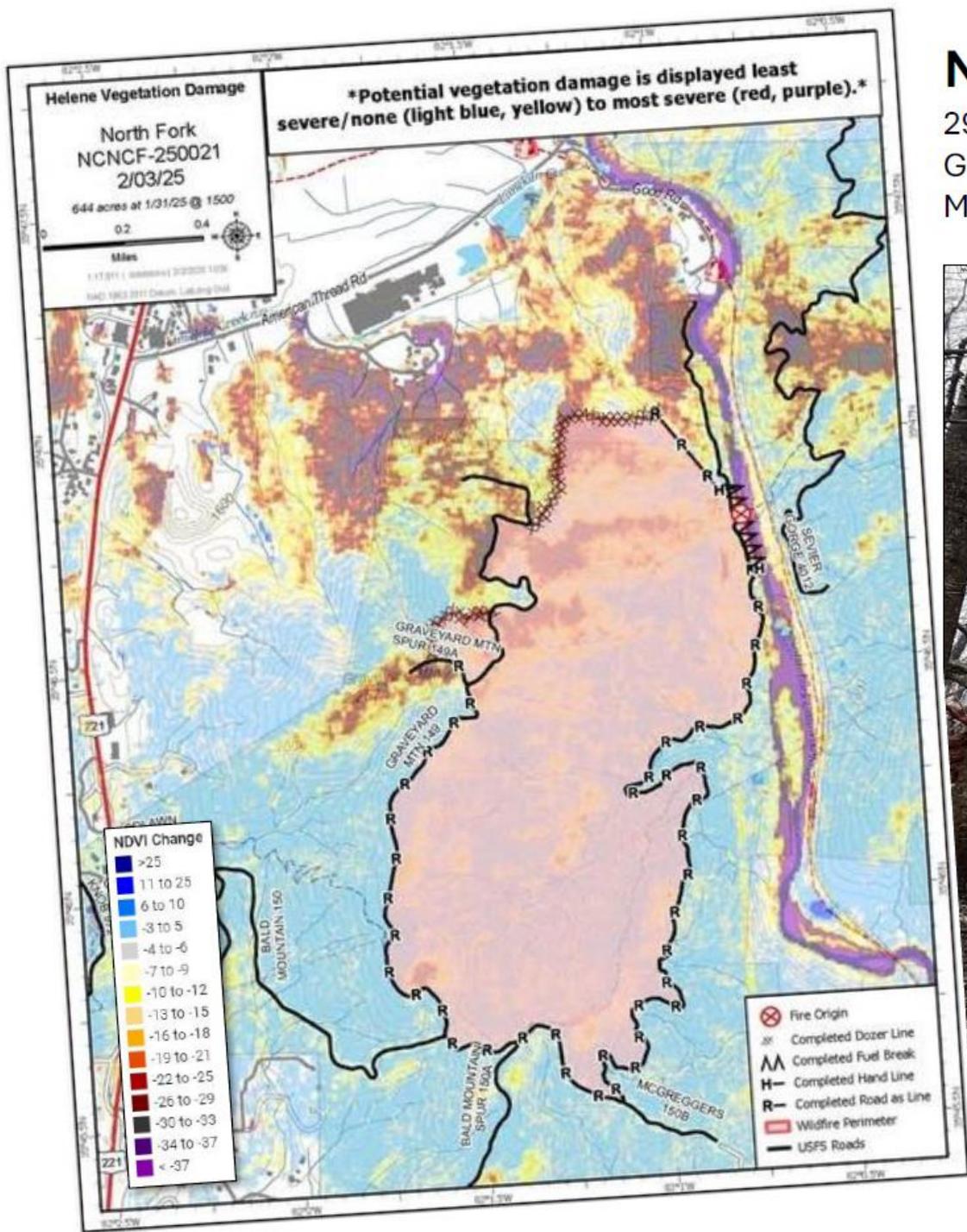
In wildland firefighting, a direct attack involves firefighters directly confronting the fire's edge, while an indirect attack uses natural or constructed barriers to control the fire's spread, often used when direct attack is too dangerous.

In much of western NC Helene damage has taken away the option for direct attack.

The result is larger wildfires that are taking more time and resources to control.

Currently the biggest challenge we face is access. As we move through time access will continue to be an issue but as debris dries it will start contributing to fire activity.



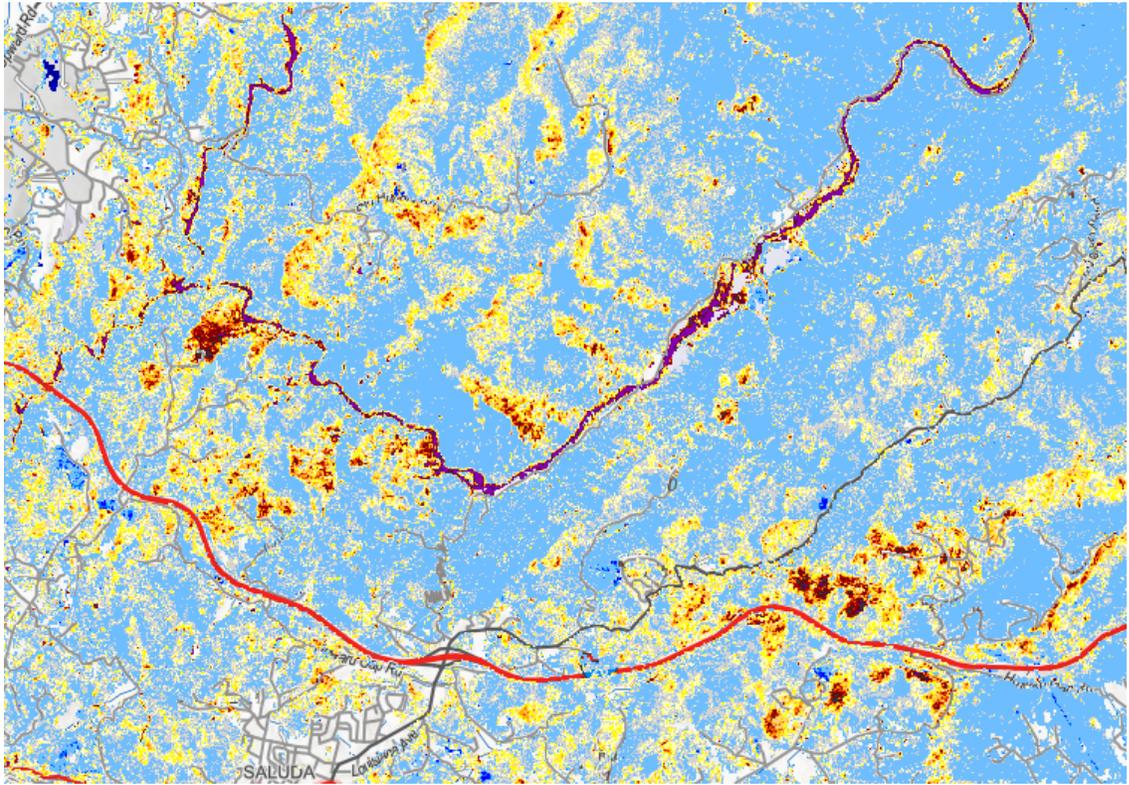
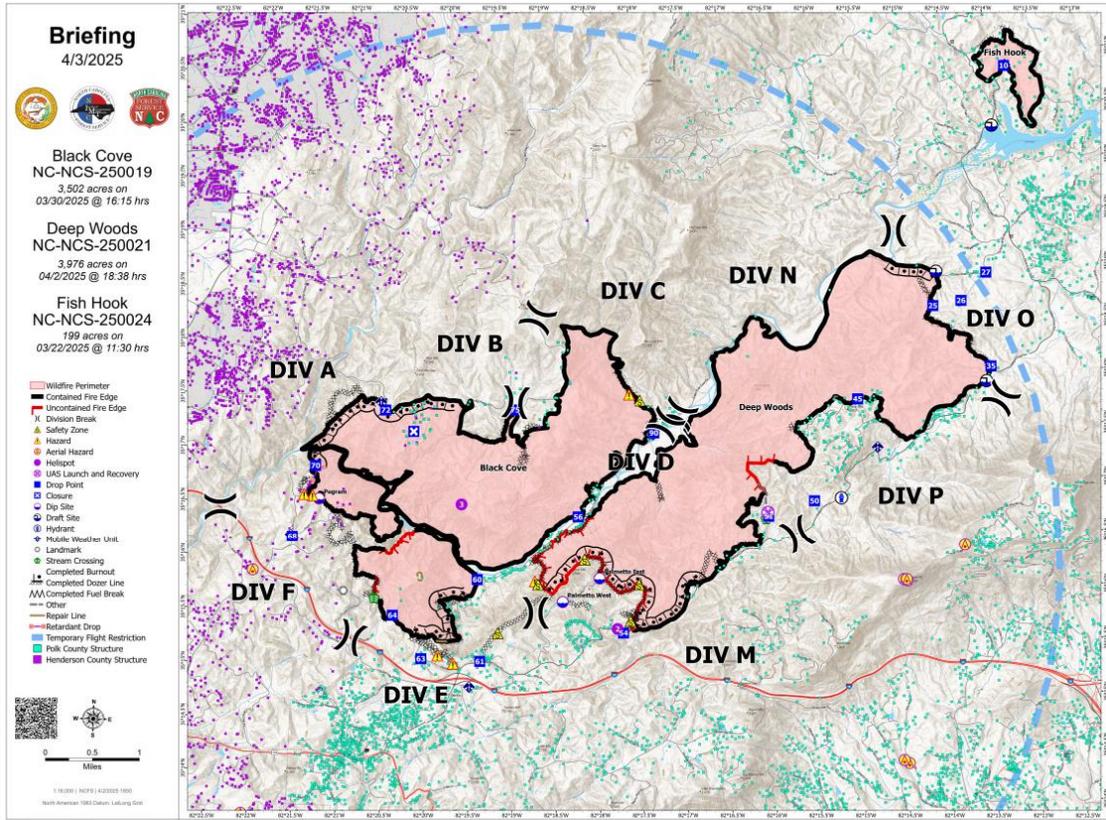


# North Fork Fire

29 Jan. 2025; 644 acres  
Grandfather Ranger District, Pisgah NF.  
McDowell Co., NC



Photo credit: USFS





## NCFS Helene Recovery and Wildfire

March 2025 wildfire activity was significantly above average resulting in multiple large fires on the landscape (1,853 wildfires which is a 108% increase over the 10-year average). Fire danger was very high to extreme during portions of this period which necessitated the need for a statewide burn ban from March 21<sup>st</sup> to April 2<sup>nd</sup>. With multiple fires the need for resources quickly outpaced the supply. As a result, firefighters from 21 states responded to the wildfires in North Carolina. Below are several of those large fires that occurred.

1. Black Cove Fire, Polk County: 3,502 acres, 7 homes destroyed, 7 structures destroyed
2. Deep Woods Fire, Polk County: 3,971 acres, 1 home destroyed, 3 structures destroyed
3. Fish Hook Fire, Polk County: 199 acres, 3 homes destroyed, 1 structure destroyed
4. Alarka #5 Fire, Swain County: 1,575 acres, 1 home destroyed
5. Rattlesnake Branch Fire, Haywood County: 1,843 acres
6. Crusoe Island Rd Fire, Columbus County: 557 acres
7. Table Rock Complex, SC & Transylvania County NC, 15,973 acres (635 acres burned in NC)





# NCFS Helene Recovery and Wildfire

## Wildfire Mitigation Solutions

### Salvage of damaged timber

- Limitations: markets, timing and shear volume

### Prescribed Burning

- Challenges: limited burning windows, limited personnel and resources, increased complexity of burns due to Helene fuel loading, shear volume

### Mechanical Fuel Reduction

- Currently mitigation equipment is a limiting factor. Funding streams are coming available, but it will take time to procure needed equipment
- Must be focused work. The Wildland Urban Interface is the most pressing need followed by opening of woodland roads and fire breaks.
- Labor intensive
- Most fuel will not be removed from the site.

### Time



# **Additional Opportunities for input and guidance**

# State Legislative Requests

### Comparison of Gov. Stein Helene Immediate Needs Recommendation and H47

Row Labels	Gov Recommended	House Version	Senate Version	Conference
<b>1 Funding Sources: Helene</b>				
2 Stabilization and Inflation Reserve	\$ 846,729,750			
3 Helene Fund Balance	\$ 225,000,000	\$ 225,000,000	\$ 225,000,000	\$ 225,000,000
4 State Emergency Response and Disaster Relief Fund		\$ 275,000,000	\$ 307,991,704	\$ 299,000,000
5 Reallocations Back to Helene Fund of Previous Appropriation (Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)			\$ 2,000,000	\$ 4,000,000
6	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 1,071,729,750</b>	<b>\$ 500,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 534,991,704</b>
<b>7 Strengthening the Economy</b>				
8 Expanded Dogwood Health Trust Partnership Grants - businesses w/out taxable sales, up to \$75K	\$ 50,000,000			
9 Helene Business Recovery Grants - based on verified sales tax losses, up to \$75K//NCGA: Golden Leaf	\$ 100,000,000	\$ 15,000,000		
10 Local Government Revenue Replacement Grants	\$ 100,000,000			
11 Small Town Business Infrastructure Revitalization Grants	\$ 30,000,000	\$ 55,000,000	\$ 55,000,000	\$ 55,000,000
12 VisitNC Tourism Promotion	\$ 15,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 4,000,000
13	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 295,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 75,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 58,000,000</b>
<b>14 Safe and Warm Places to Live</b>				
15 Affordable Housing - incentivize high-quality, resilient, affordable housing; repair rentals & shelters	\$ 50,000,000			
16 Back @ Home for Helene - housing stabilization services and financial assistance for homeless	\$ 10,000,000			
17 Disaster Legal Services - \$1.5M in grants each to NC Legal Aid and Pisgah Legal Services	\$ 3,000,000			
18 Helene Home Reconstruction and Repair Program - startup funds for CDBG-DR compliant program	\$ 150,000,000	\$ 125,000,000	\$ 140,000,000	\$ 120,000,000
19 Homeowner and Renter Unmet Needs - immediate minor repairs+ non-FEMA eligible needs// NCGA: VOADs	\$ 25,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000
20 Rental, Mortgage, and Utility Assistance	\$ 25,000,000	\$ 10,000,000		
21	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 263,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 145,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 150,000,000</b>

Comparison of Gov. Stein Helene Immediate Needs Recommendation and H47

Row Labels	Gov Recommended	House Version	Senate Version	Conference
<b>22 Repairing Infrastructure</b>				
23 Continuing Operations and Staffing for State Agencies and UNC	\$ 20,000,000			
24 Debris Removal Unmet Needs - address needs while maximizing state and federal programs	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 20,000,000	\$ 20,000,000	\$ 20,000,000
25 Emergency Management Core Capacity - strengthen disaster financial & communications teams	\$ 1,606,250			
26 Flood Abatement and Water Quality Protection Grants - via NC Land & Water Fund	\$ 25,000,000			
27 Local Parks Restoration and Rebuilding Grants - via Parks & Recreations Trust Fund	\$ 25,000,000			
28 Private Road and Bridge Repairs and Replacement	\$ 75,000,000	\$ 100,000,000	\$ 100,000,000	\$ 100,000,000
29 Recycling Infrastructure and Recycling Business Grants - to assist with post-disaster clean-up	\$ 2,000,000			
30 Repair and Renovations of Affected State Facilities - incl. state parks, correctional facilities	\$ 135,000,000			
31 Resilience and Backup Power Measures - mobile solar and battery arrays	\$ 10,000,000			
32 Septic Repair and Replacement Grants	\$ 4,000,000			
33 Small and Volunteer Fire Department Grants	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000
34	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 310,606,250</b>	<b>\$ 130,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 130,000,000</b>
<b>35 Supporting Farmers</b>				
36 Fire Season Preparation for NC Forest Service - equipment; on-call and overtime pay	\$ 16,073,500			
37 Helene Agriculture Disaster Farmer Recovery Grants - scaled based on funding and verified losses	\$ 15,000,000	\$ 75,000,000	\$ 192,491,704	\$ 200,000,000
38 Waterway and Land Rehabilitation - steam debris removal, stabilization, and farm infrastructure repair	\$ 100,000,000	\$ 75,000,000		
39 Wildfire Risk Reduction - new hand crew units for NC Forest Service	\$ 3,350,000			
40 Working Farms and Forests Preservation - via Ag. Development & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund	\$ 12,500,000			
41	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 146,923,500</b>	<b>\$ 150,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 192,491,704</b>
<b>42 Families and Children</b>				
43 Food Bank Grants	\$ 20,000,000			
44 K-12 Summer Learning Programs - 30 days of summer instruction	\$ 34,200,000		\$ 4,500,000	\$ 9,000,000
45 Emergency Student Aid Grants - covering tuition, fees, emergency expenses; UNC-A, App State, WCU	\$ 2,000,000			
46	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 56,200,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 4,500,000</b>
<b>47 Grand Total - Helene</b>	<b>\$ 1,071,729,750</b>	<b>\$ 500,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 534,991,704</b>	<b>\$ 528,000,000</b>

# Federal Requests

# Requests to federal government partners to support a rapid and effective recovery

- 1.** Extend the 100% federal cost-share period for the applicable streams of FEMA funding for another 6 months; the President can do this unilaterally

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- 2.** Request that HUD approve North Carolina's Action Plan for accessing CDBG-DR dollars as quickly as possible so that we using these funds to help North Carolinians recover

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- 3.** Ensure that a robust additional funding package for western North Carolina is included in any funding bill related to the California wildfires

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- 4.** Encourage FEMA to provide the \$150M in reimbursement owed for 100% match PA work (e.g., debris removal) since mid-February

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- 5.** Encourage USDA to provide the \$1B in funding that was originally planned for allocation on March 21<sup>st</sup>

# **Next Steps and Wrap Up**

**Next meeting: May 12 10 am to 12 pm**  
**In-person location to be determined**



# WNC Recovery

POWERED BY GROWNC