

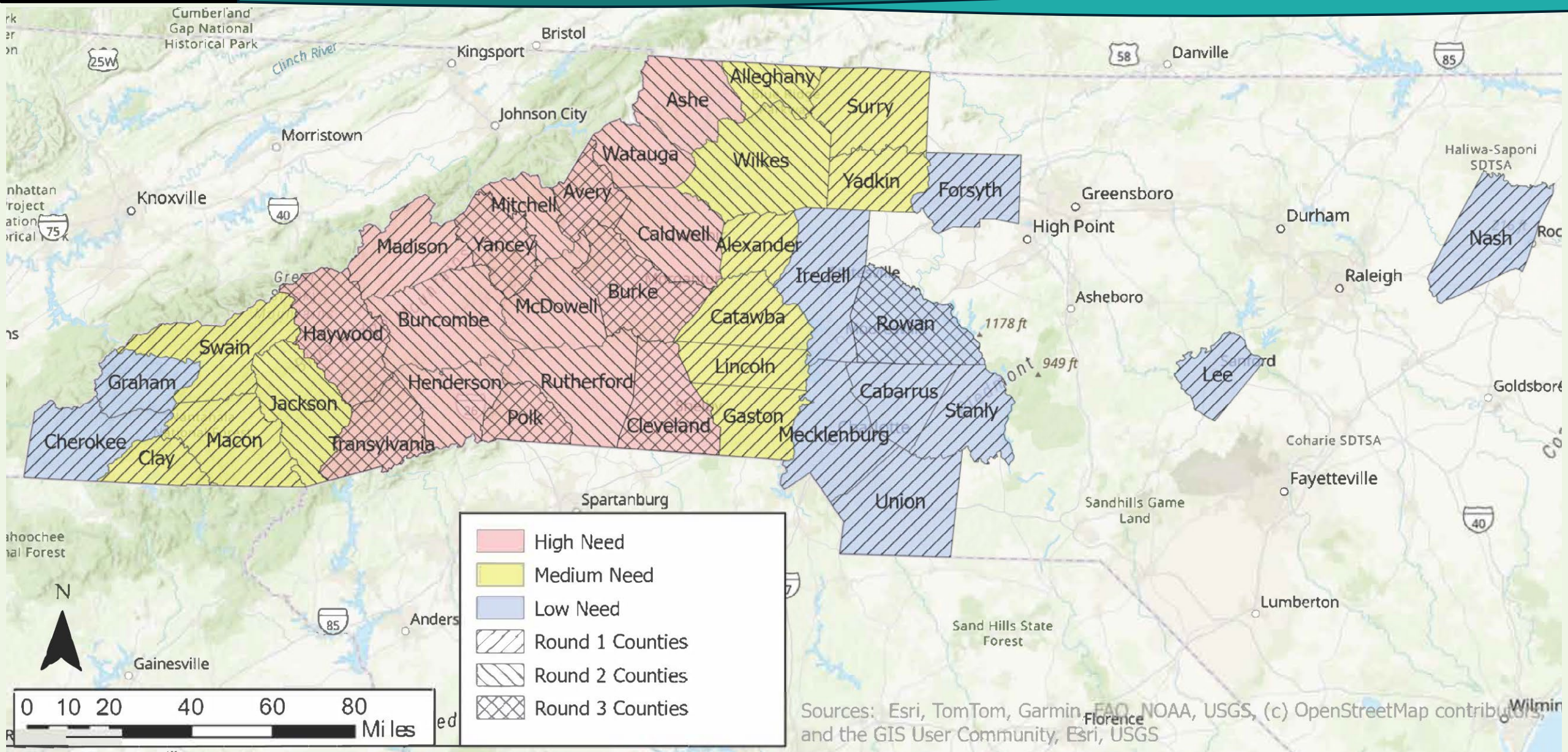


Hurricane Helene Application Updates

Matt Safford, StRAP Manager

- **\$40 million** total funding for Helene-Related Projects
- DSWC can retain 5% of funds for admin costs
 - Staffing costs (including new hires), inspectors, software, vehicles for site visits, equipment, etc.
 - Leaves **\$38 million** available for awards.
 - Grantees can use up to 15% of awarded funds for administrative expenses (same as previous rounds of StRAP).
- Limitation on Helene-funding: “Shall not expend funds ... On any activities that will be, or likely will be, covered by federal funds.” Waiting for site approval by:
 - FEMA/Army Corps of Engineers
 - Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) through NRCS

Need Categories



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, USGS

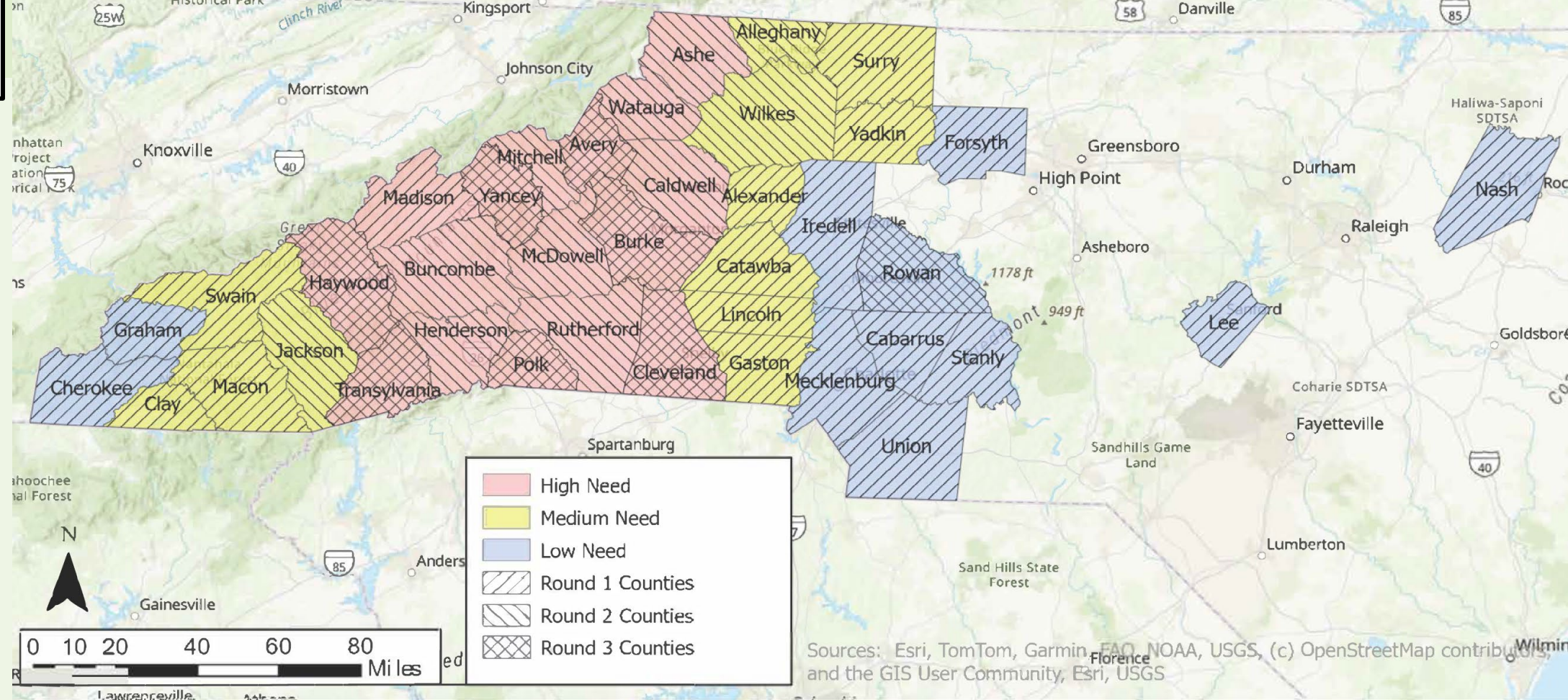
Map created using data from *State of North Carolina Action Plan*, March 26 2025 (NC Dept. of Commerce, US Dept. of Housing & Urban development, , FEMA disaster declaration map.



Application Rounds

- Applications split into 3 rounds
 - Allow time for applicants to first identify sites for EWP/FEMA funding.
- Round 1 has closed and is under review.

| Application Window | Dates Applications Accepted | Organizations in the following counties are eligible to apply: |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| Application Window 1 | December 8, 2025- February 20, 2026 Note: Deadline was been extended by 2 weeks due to ongoing FEMA site assessments | Alexander, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Forsyth, Gaston, Graham, Iredell, Lee, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, Mecklenburg, Nash, Stanly, Surry, Swain, Union, Yadkin |
| Application Window 2 | January 15, 2026 - March 13, 2026 | Alleghany, Ashe, Buncombe, Caldwell, Jackson, McDowell, Mitchell, Rutherford, Watauga, Wilkes |
| Application Window 3 | February 20, 2026 - April 17, 2026 | Avery, Burke, Cleveland, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Haywood, Henderson , Polk, Rowan, Transylvania, Yancey |



StRAP Round 3 Application Window:
February 20 - April 17, 2026

StRAP Round 3 Eligible Counties

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Avery | Haywood |
| Burke | Polk |
| Cleveland | Rowan |
| Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians | Transylvania |
| | Yancey |

Allocation Amounts
(% of funds going to High/Medium/Low Need Counties)

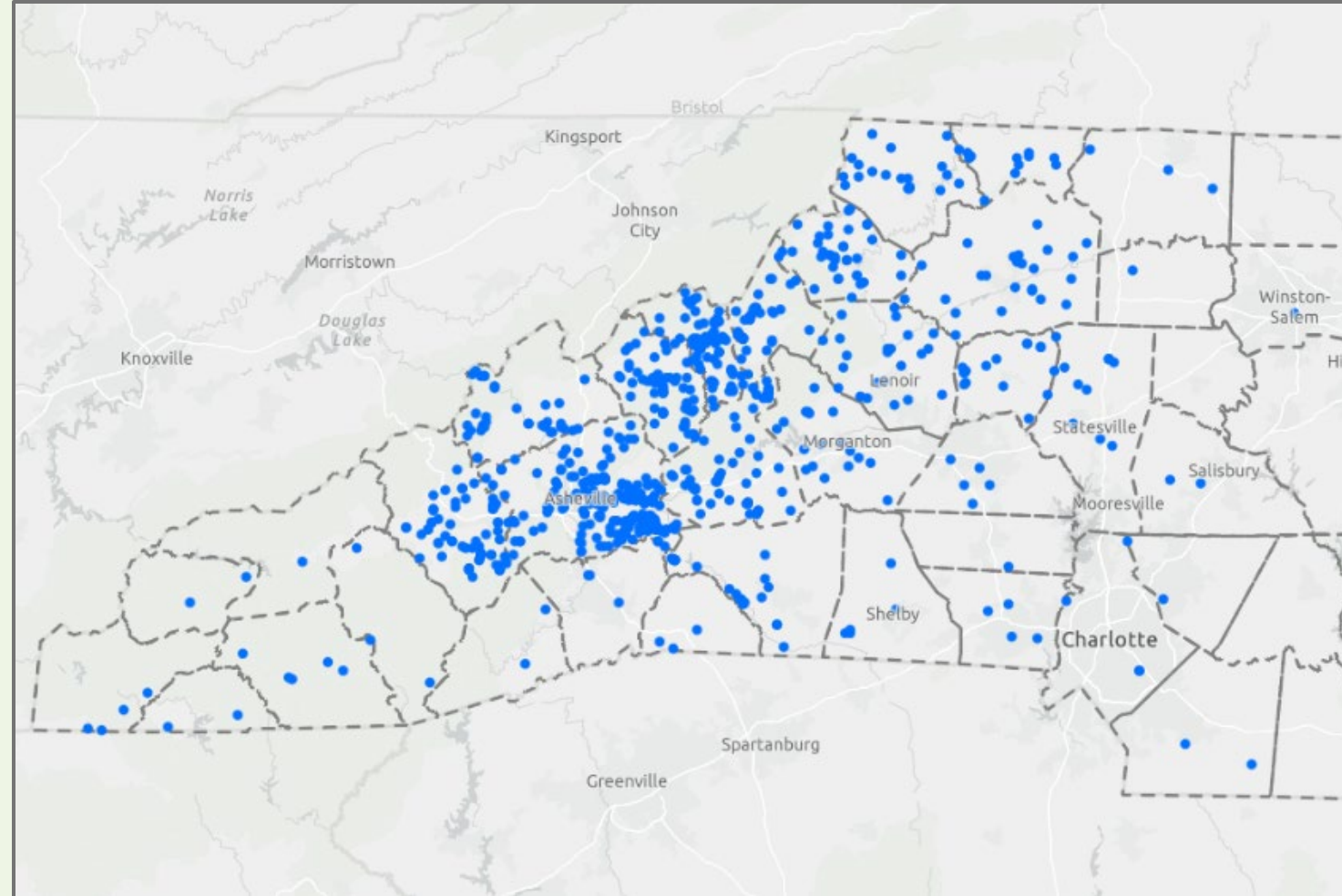
70/20/10

10% withheld for supplemental allocation

\$23,940,000 across all high-need counties, \$1,496,250 each
 \$6,840,000 across all medium-need counties, \$526,154 each
 \$3,420,000 across all low-need counties, \$310,909 each

Summary of All Applications to date

- Applications submitted or underway in 39 counties.
- 33 organizations have submitted applications
 - 24 SWCDs
 - 2 County Governments
 - 2 Towns
 - 5 Nonprofit Organizations
- \$65,809,578 requested in funding
- 319 Stream Segments
- Planned work would benefit 64 miles of stream.

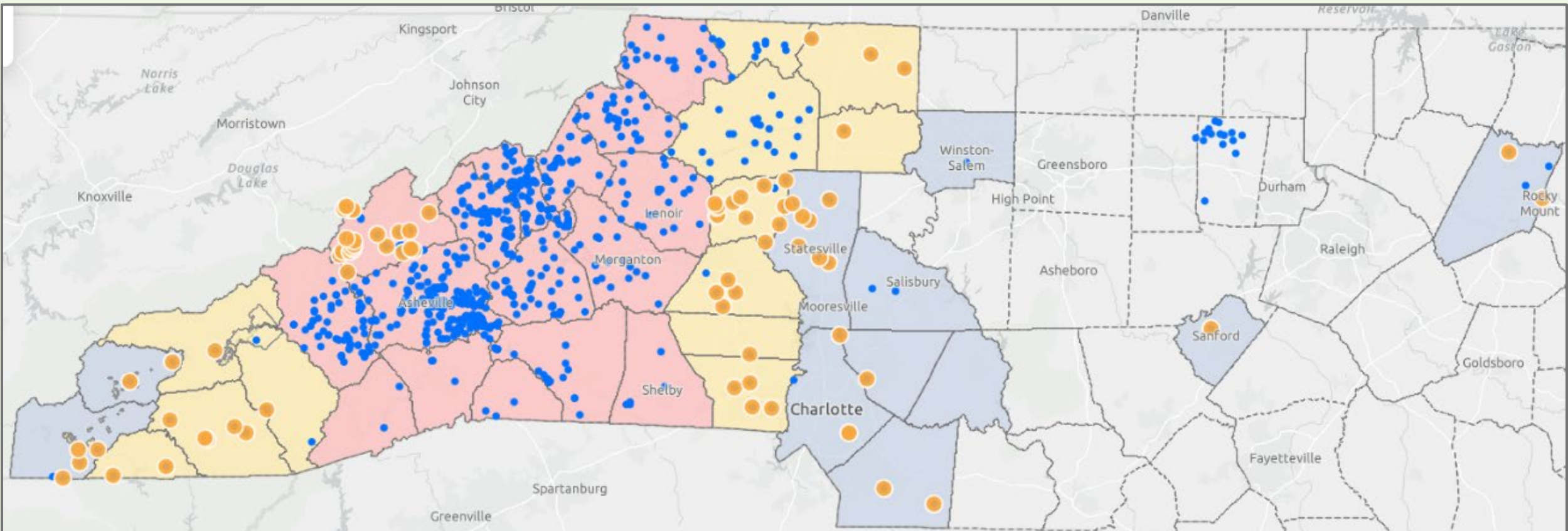


Applications Submitted in Round 1

- Applications in 21 counties.
- \$21,855,621 requested in funding
- Planned work would cover 64 miles of stream.

- 15 organizations have submitted applications
 - 10 SWCDs
 - 1 County Government
 - 1 Town
 - 3 Nonprofit Organizations

- Benefits of Planned Work (adjusted):
 - 723 Structures
 - 67 Utilities
 - 5.6 miles of Roadway/Bridge
 - 3,179 acres of ag land.



- Application Closed 3/13
- Preliminary review underway.
- Summary:
 - 17 organizations applied in all 10 counties in Round 2 (1 county moved to round 3).
 - 10 SWCDs
 - 7 Nonprofits
 - \$31.5 million requested
 - 2.6x the amount available to award in these counties under current county caps.
 - Amount requested in each county ranged from \$546,000 - \$5.2m
 - 180 individual stream segments

Round 1: Application Review

- Round 1 Applications closed February 20th.
- Division Staff currently reviewing applications
 - StRAP Team- review of application for completeness, assessing potential benefits, ranking applications.
 - DSWC Engineering Team- provided input on cost estimates and projects involved engineering designs.
- Factors considered during application review & ranking:
 - **General Criteria**- type of work, damages caused by Helene, application complete
 - **Cost Estimates**- cost & viability
 - DSWC following up with applicants as needed.
 - **Estimated Benefits**- Structures/Utilities/Roads/Ag land benefitting, site descriptions, other benefits.
 - DSWC verifying data using photos, GIS, & Aerial Imagery
 - **Site Description & Photos**- assessing if work is justified.

| Applicant Organization | | | |
|---|---|------|----|
| County | | | |
| Individual Reviewing Application | | Date | |
| Ensure these steps have been completed before Reviewing Application: | | | |
| 1. Create spreadsheet of sites applied for by 1) this applicant and 2) in this county (any sites submitted by this applicant in other counties will be ranked separately) | | | |
| 2. Remove any sites NOT included in Grantee's Formsite Submission | | | |
| 3. Total the values for all of the following columns: # of Structures, # of Utilities, Linear Feet of Road, Acres of Farmland, Cost, and Stream Length. | | | |
| 4. Ensure "Site Description" and "Other Benefits" Categories are visible for each Project/Stream Segment. | | | |
| Application Review | | | |
| 1. Should Application be Accepted. Answer each question below for application and provide notes. If Yes for every question, then Proceed to Question 2. If No for any question, discuss with StRAP team. Once issues have been addressed, re-review application. | | | |
| | | Yes | No |
| A | Was Damaged Caused/Exacerbated by Helene? Any sites not associated with Helene should be removed from application. If uncertain, may need to contact grantee for followup. | | |
| B | STRAP? Stream debris removal, streambank stabilization, sediment/cobble removal, stream restoration, PL-566, other (culvert replacement, non-PL-566 dam/pond repair, etc). Ineligible work includes: work in floodplain, work outside of stream bank, STRAP funds going to repairs of any infrastructure (bridges, roads, homes, etc) except culverts. Any sites where repairs would not be eligible through STRAP should be removed from application (list ineligible sites in Question H). | | |
| C | Does estimated cost seem appropriate for type/amount of work needed? General cost estimates before engineering/admin costs added in: stream debris removal \$5-50/LF, streambank stabilization \$150-300/LF, stream restoration \$1000+LF. | | |
| D | segments from application where the project 1) has no listed benefits (either in the 4 categories or "Other Benefits" section), 2) is not an eligible project type, or 3) otherwise should not be considered for funding. List Site Name & explanation below. | | |
| E | Does listed number of benefits seem realistic? Sites should be flagged if potential benefits seen unrealistically high. If entire application has no listed benefits, it should be denied funding. | | |

- Application Review Ongoing
 - Initial plan was to complete all site reviews prior to March SWCC Meeting
 - Have determined additional in-person site reviews needed
- Concerns with some applications:
 - Unrealistic estimated benefits
 - *May shown lack of proper site assessment or misunderstanding of project purpose/nature/benefits*
 - Higher-than-typical cost estimates
 - Questions about site access, lack of landowner engagement
 - Photos unclear if work is justified
- In Person Site-Assessments needed for some Sites
 - Sites with ongoing questions following review of application

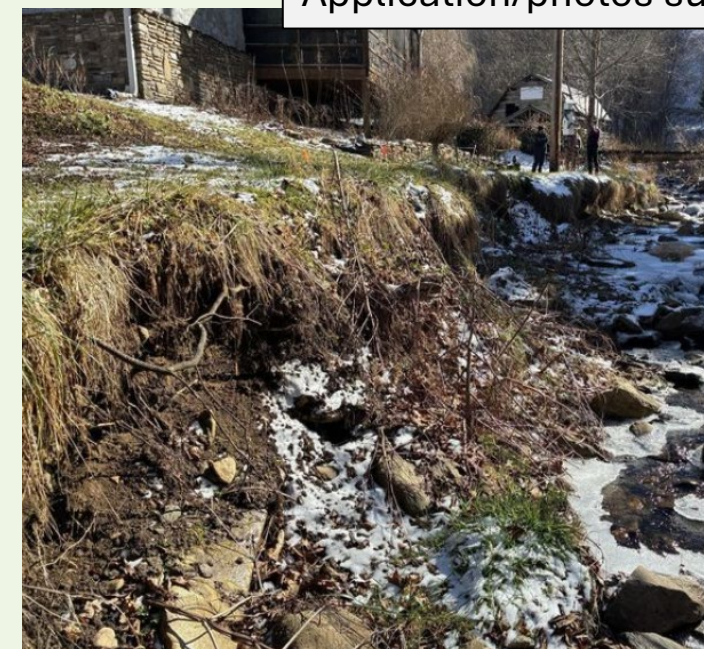
Round 1: Need for In-person Site Visits



Application/photos support need for funding



Additional documentation needed prior to approving funding



- Meeting held on March 17 to coordinate site-assessments where needed
 - StRAP team
 - CREP team
 - StRAP Inspectors
- Where needed, drones will be used to view sites with limited access or long reaches.
- Goal: Complete site visits on Round 1 Sites by end of March
- Site assessments for Round 2 & Round 3 sites will be scheduled as needed.

- **Request for called meeting in April to award funds to Round 1 Applicants**
 - Potential dates:
 - Tuesday, April 14th (am)
 - Wednesday, April 15th
 - Friday, April 17th
- Round 1 Site Assessments (for specific sites identified)- Ongoing
 - Finish Site visits by end of March
 - Complete site reviews/ranking in 1st week of April.
- Round 2 Closes- March 13
 - Site review/ranking ongoing.
 - Site Assessments will be conducted for specific sites identified
- Round 3 Closes- April 17
 - Site Assessments will be conducted as necessary
 - Request Approval of Rounds 2 & 3 funding- at May SWCC Meeting