

NCDA&CS

Division of Soil and Water Conservation

David Williams, Director



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Remembering Cayle Aldridge

1978-2025

- Passed away April 26
- Western Regional Coordinator 2019-25
- NRCS Soil Conservationist
- Swain SWCD Director
- Certified Conserv. Planner
- Friend and mentor to many
- Announcing mentoring award in Cayle's honor



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Personnel

- **New Hires:**

- Administrative Secretary (Casey Turlington-King) – **Casey Turlington-King**
- CREP Env. Specialist II (newly established) - **Jonathan Murray**

- **Vacancies (4):**

- Eastern Regional Coordinator (Eric Pare) – Recommendation submitted
- CREP Specialist (Seth Bauguess) – Posting closed 5/16
- CCAP Program Manager (Tom Hill) – Submitted for posting
- Western Regional Coordinator (Cayle Aldridge) – Submitted for posting
- Engineer II (Vivien Zhong) – Considering options for position due to funding uncertainty
- Engineering Tech II (Demico Guy) – Considering options for position due to funding uncertainty



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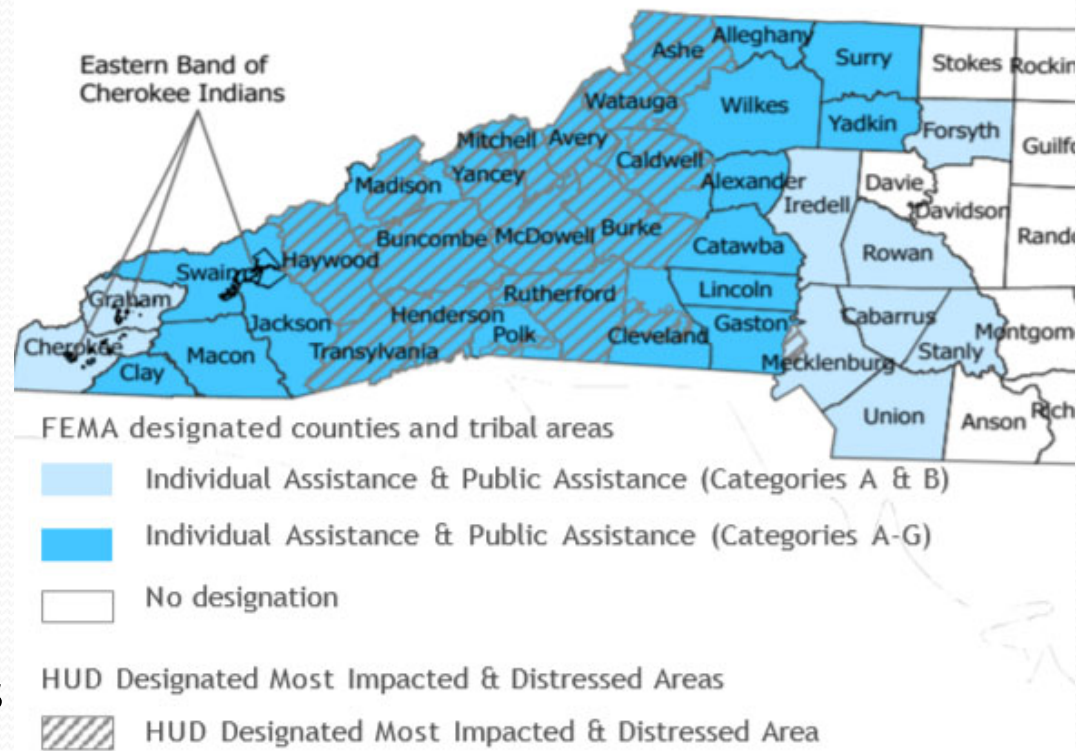


Disaster Funding

- SL 2024-57
 - \$2M non-recurring appropriation for technical assistance to SWCDs
 - \$25M for StRAP
 - Cannot spend for items that likely will be covered by federal funds
- Divert \$4.14M from Matthew Disaster to provide:
 - Disaster BMP funds for Helene (\$2,149,370)
 - Farm road repairs
 - Farm pond repairs
 - Stream debris removal
 - Potential pasture renovation (decision pending)
 - Non-federal supplement for ECP funds (\$1,988,585)

Technical Assistance Funding Proposed

- \$2M appropriated (SL 2024-57)
 - Funding for Time-Limited positions (up to 3 yrs)
 - 1 Engineer II (DSWC)
 - 8 TA positions in Districts
 - Avery
 - Buncombe/McDowell
 - Mitchell
 - Watauga
 - Yancey
 - Haywood/Madison
 - Henderson/Rutherford
 - New River/Alleghany/Wilkes



USDA Block Grant (pending)

- NCDA&CS is negotiating for a USDA block grant
- \$560M + requested
- \$352M initial discussion
- Can possibly be used to cover losses/repairs not covered under other USDA programs
 - Timber losses
 - Farm Roads/Ponds
 - Specialty crops
 - Agri-tourism impacts
- Negotiations/Discussions underway

Training

- Fundamentals of Conservation Planning – May 12-16
 - 22 attendees and 18 DSWC/SWCD staff contributing
- EWP Training – Smithfield- May 29
- Conservation Employees Training – Cherokee
 - August 11-14

Upcoming Commission meetings

- July 23, Raleigh
- September 17, TBD
- November 19, TBD
- January 4, Cherokee



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