



Helene-StRAP Allocation Discussion

- Goal: Discuss options for Helene Allocation for approval
- Held meetings to gather feedback from SWCC members and District staff.
 - October 6
 - 60 attendees
 - November 5
 - 54 attendees
 - X Surveys Completed

- **\$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

- 27 organizations applying for EWP
 - 11 organizations have submitted FDRs
 - 225 DSRs submitted to date
 - 47 sites denied for funding by NRCS
 - Total requested funds to date: \$71.4M
 - 16 counties have no organizations requesting EWP
 - 1 high need
 - 7 medium need
 - 8 low need

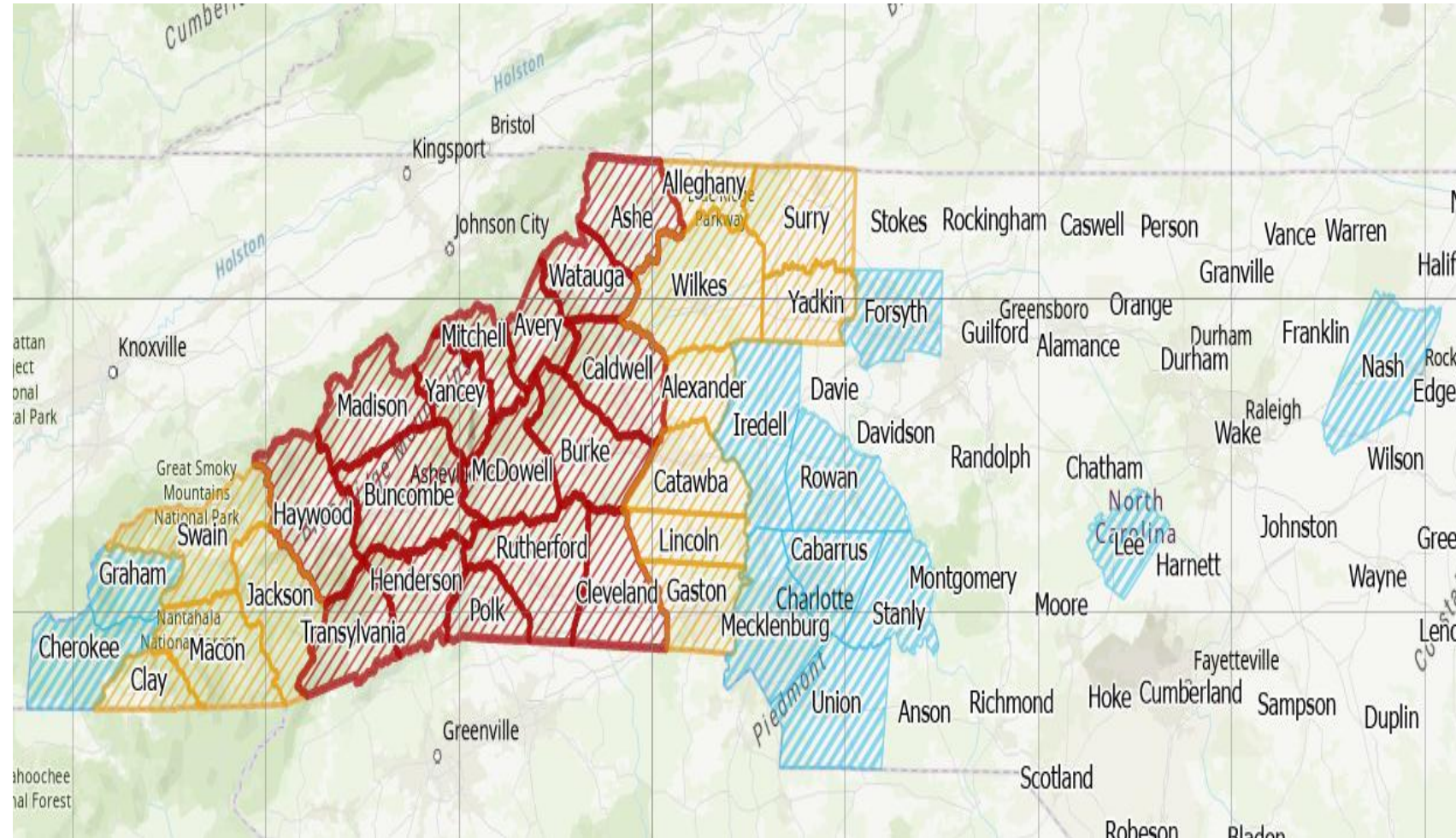
Alleghany County
County of Ashe
County of Avery
Buncombe County
Burke County
Caldwell County
City of Hickory
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Haywood County
Henderson County
Jackson County
Macon County
County of Madison
McDowell County
Mitchell County
Rowan County
Town of Landis
Town of Waxhaw
Transylvania County
Watauga County
Wilkes County
Yancey County
City of Mount Holly
Village of Chimney Rock
Polk County
Rutherford County
City of Asheville

- Attendees identified need for all project types except PL-566 structure repair
- Percent of grantees anticipating needing StRAP funds for each project type:

What project types do you anticipate using StRAP funds for?	Stream debris removal	100%
	Streambank stabilization	54%
	Stream Restoration	15%
	Sediment Removal	31%
	PL-566 Structure Repair	0%

- Division Recommendation:** Accept applications for all project types and allow grantees to choose locally which projects to prioritize.

- Need Category:
 - % of Counties Self identified:
 - High Need: 41%
 - Medium Need: 32%
 - Low Need: 27%
- Potential allocation (based on HUD & State resources):
 - High Need: 42%
 - Medium Need: 32%
 - Low Need: 26% %



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.

- **Division Recommendation:** Divide counties into categories as shown above.

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High Need

Ashe
Avery
Buncombe
Burke
Caldwell
Haywood
Henderson
Madison
McDowell
Mitchell
Polk
Rutherford
Transylvania
Watauga
Yancey

Medium Need

Alexander
Alleghany
Catawba
Clay
Cleveland
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Gaston
Jackson
Lincoln
Macon
Surry
Swain
Wilkes
Yadkin

Low Need

Cabarrus
Cherokee
Forsyth
Graham
Iredell
Lee
Nash
Rowan
Stanly
Union
Mecklenberg

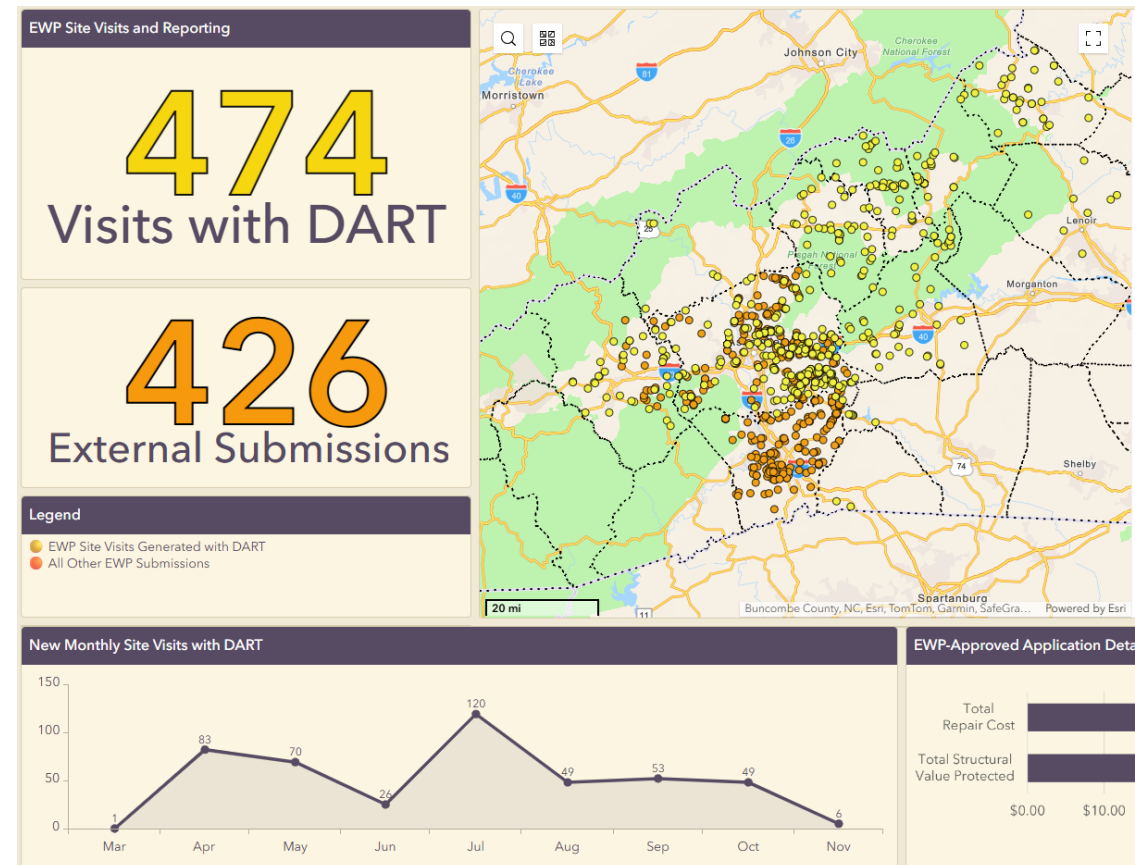
- *Example options assume all \$38M awarded and assume the need categories listed in previous slide:*

County Category	Number of Counties in Category	Option 1	Option 2
Percent of funds allocated to each category		75% for high need 18% for medium need 5% for low need	58% for high need 30% for medium need 12% for low need
High Need	15	\$1,900,000	\$1,310,345
Medium Need	14	\$500,000	\$873,563 cap
Low Need	11	\$180,000	\$436,782 cap

- Guidance Needed:** What caps should we consider for each need category? What is the maximum that each county could receive?

1. DSWC opens application window
2. Applicant fills out application (2 parts to application)
 1. DART- majority of application- used to submit information for each site/project.
 2. Formsite- brief form to identify total funding request and which sites should be considered part of application
3. DSWC reviews applications and determines awards.
4. Once DSWC determine funding awards:
 1. Applicant notified of award amount
 2. Once awarded funds, grantees will identify which projects from application they will use awarded funds on (if insufficient to cover all awarded funds) DSWC sends Contract to Applicant.
 3. Applicant signs and returns Contract.
 4. Work begins
5. Next application window opens once county(s) have completed EWP enrollment (does not have to wait for previous application windows to close first).

- Rolling Applications
 - Initial application window will include all counties that have either 1) completed EWP applications, or 2) are not applying for EWP.
 - Subsequent application windows will open as other counties complete EWP enrollment.
- 2-part Application:
 - **Disaster Assessment Recovery Tool (DART)**- will be used to record site information
 - Formerly know as EWP/StRAP site assessment tool (in Survey123)
 - Information available on StRAP website:
<https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/soil-water-conservation/programs-initiatives/strap/disasterrecovery>
 - **Formsite**- applicants will fill out a brief form to identify total funding request and which sites should be considered part of application



- Through application process, DSWC will host ongoing trainings on using DART

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EWP Combined Survey

Form and Location Details

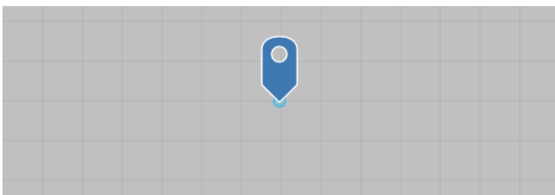
This survey captures detailed damage information for the DSWC Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program.

Site ID - *Required*
Unique, district-defined site identifier.

Site Location

📍 35.783°N 78.643°W ± 30.4 m

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Additional Comment Space
For District Internal Use Only.

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EWP Combined Survey

Investigators

Damage Description

Detailed description of current conditions, damage, and repair needs. Include a brief description of any property, infrastructure, or natural resources threatened.

Repair Needs

☐ Streambank Stabilization

☐ Stream Debris Removal

☐ Sediment Removal

☐ Stream Repair

☐ PL-566 Structure Repair

▼ On-Site Disaster Photos

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▼ Maps and Aerial Imagery

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EWP Combined Survey

StRAP Form

Stream Length
Needing Repair
Estimated length in feet.

Total Cost Estimate
Total estimated cost including engineering, permitting and administrative costs.

▼ StRAP Points

+

Number of Habitable
Structures Benefitted

Number of Utility
Structures Benefitted

Linear Feet of Roadway
Benefitted

Acreage of Farmland
Benefitted

Other Estimated Benefits

Describe all flood risk and erosion reduction, or other benefits to all structures, utilities, roadways, farmland and other properties.

Has Work Been Started, Completed or Planned to be Completed on this Site Through Other Programs?

Including FEMA, USACE, EWP, private measures, or other methods.

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- Length of Application Window(s)
 - Planning workgroup feedback:

How long would you like the StRAP application window to be open?	5-7 weeks	50%
	8-10 weeks	38%
	11+ weeks	13%

- **Division Recommendation: 8-week application window**
 - Grantees can begin submitting sites to DART immediately (but will not be reviewed until application window closes)
 - EWP sites may need additional information added before consideration for StRAP.

- Organizations Eligible to apply for StRAP:
 - Soil & Water Conservation Districts
 - Political subdivisions (city/county government, water/sewer district, municipal service District, sanitary district, drainage district)
 - Nonprofit Organization

- Workgroup feedback:

Do you want your District to be involved in coordinating with other organizations in your county that are applying for funding?	No	8%
	No- but be informed of other applicants in my county	15%
	Yes	69%
	Yes- currently working with other applicants	8%

- **Division recommendation:** After applications submitted, DSWC notifies all applicants in a county so applicants can coordinate among themselves as needed.

- Once each round of applications closes, DSWC will review applications
- Award will be determined based on total Application
 - DSWC will not select individual sites for funding.
- Ranking factors to consider during application review:
 - Total request for funds
 - Infrastructure benefitting:
 - Structures
 - Utilities
 - Roads/Bridges
 - Acres of Farmland
 - Other potential benefits
- If multiple applicants within a county, ranking will be used to divide funding between applicants, up to county cap.

- Scope of Work Revision
 - Grantees will be able to change SOW in future as needed.
 - If future federal funds can cover any sites on StRAP SOW, grantees should prioritize use of Federal funds and re-allocate StRAP award to be used on sites that don't qualify for federal funding.

- All unused/returned funding will be re-allocated. An additional amount of supplemental funds may also be held for allocation until all rounds of applications are completed.
- If used, supplemental awards would be determined after all counties have received initial award.

Preference of potential options for awarding funds:	Award all funds in Round 1	25%
	Award portion of funds in round 1 and use balance of remaining funds for supplemental awards to grantees with high priority/unfunded need.	75%

- Potential withholdings for supplemental awards:

	Example Option 1- 0% Held	Example Option 2- 20% Held
Total Available to Award	\$38,000,000	\$38,000,000
Initial Award	\$38,000,000	\$30,400,000
Supplemental Award	\$0 (unless counties request less than cap)	\$7,600,000 (20% of funds)
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All funds could be implemented more quickly. • Less ability to reallocate based on need. • Only supplemental funding would come from counties that did not request more than the cap. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smaller initial awards. • 20% of total funds could be supplemental allocations to highest need (regardless of county caps) • Criteria for re-allocation would have to be developed.