



Helene-StRAP Allocation

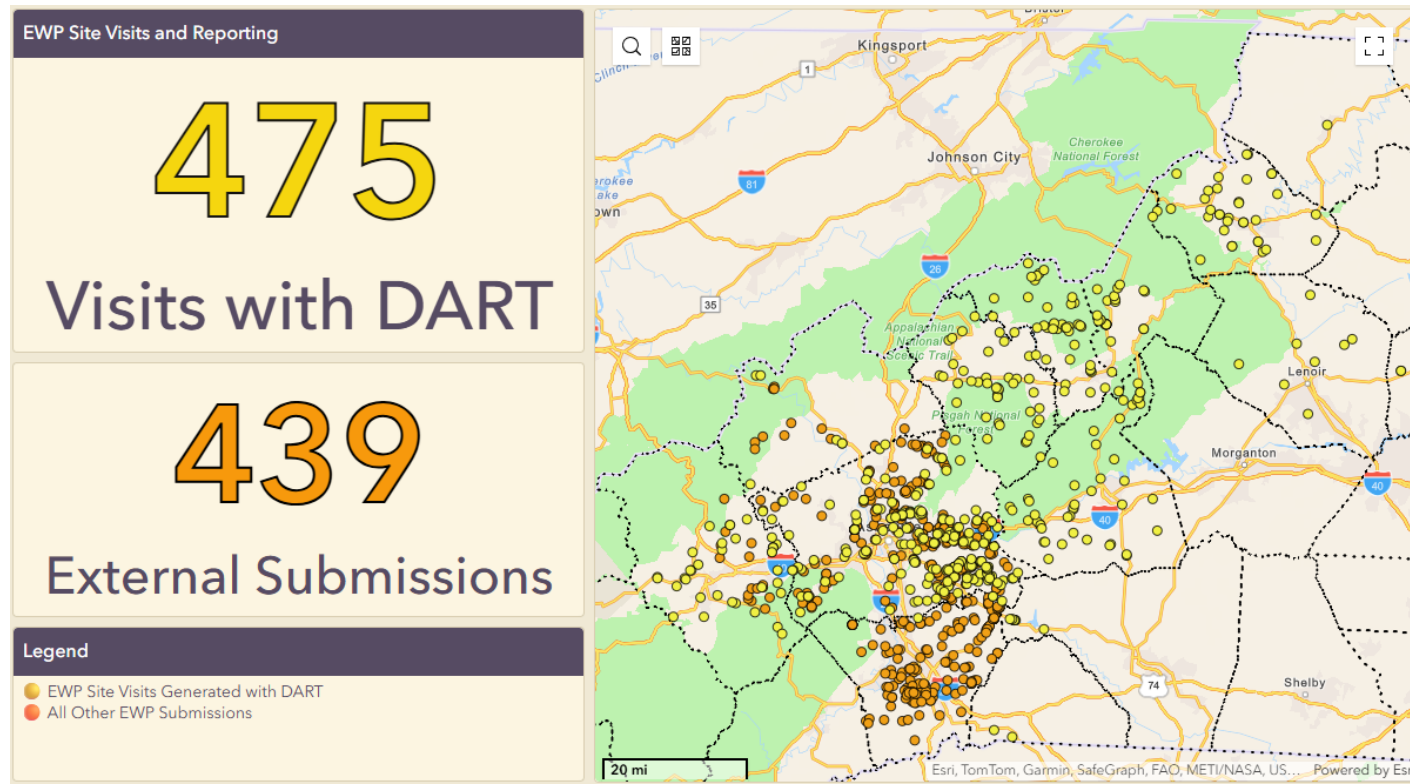
- **Items to be discussed and approved by Commission** (will be presented and voted on individually):
 - Project types to accept applications for.
 - Organizing counties into need categories.
 - County award cap amounts.
 - Amount to be withheld for supplemental awards.
 - Length of application window.
 - Degree Districts should be involved in applications from non-District organizations.



Helene-StRAP Allocation

- **\$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

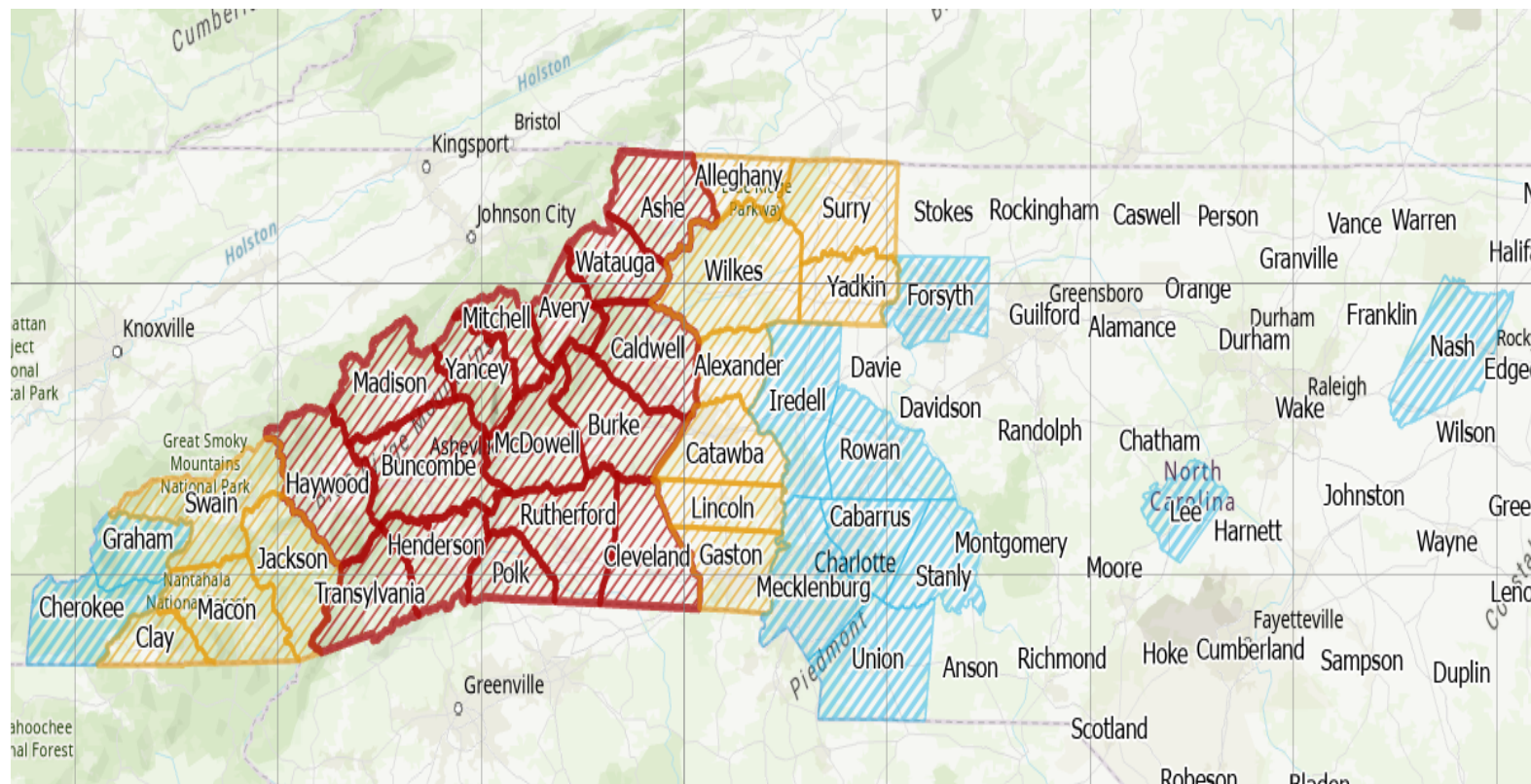
- Planning workgroup attendees identified need for all project types except PL-566 structure repair
 - Percent of attendees anticipating needing StRAP funds for each project type:

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.

Action Item: Vote on which project types to accept in application.

- **High Need**- identified as Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) Areas by Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, NC Dept. of Commerce, NC State Action Plan
- **Medium Need**- identified as next highest impact by NC Dept. of Commerce, NC State Action Plan
- **Low Need**- all other affected counties in FEMA disaster declaration
- Percent of affected counties in each proposed category (and self-identified need):
 - High Need: 40% (41%)
 - Medium Need: 32% (32%)
 - Low Need: 28% (27%)
- Cleveland county update- plans to move
 - All high-need counties will have at



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 below.

High Need (16)

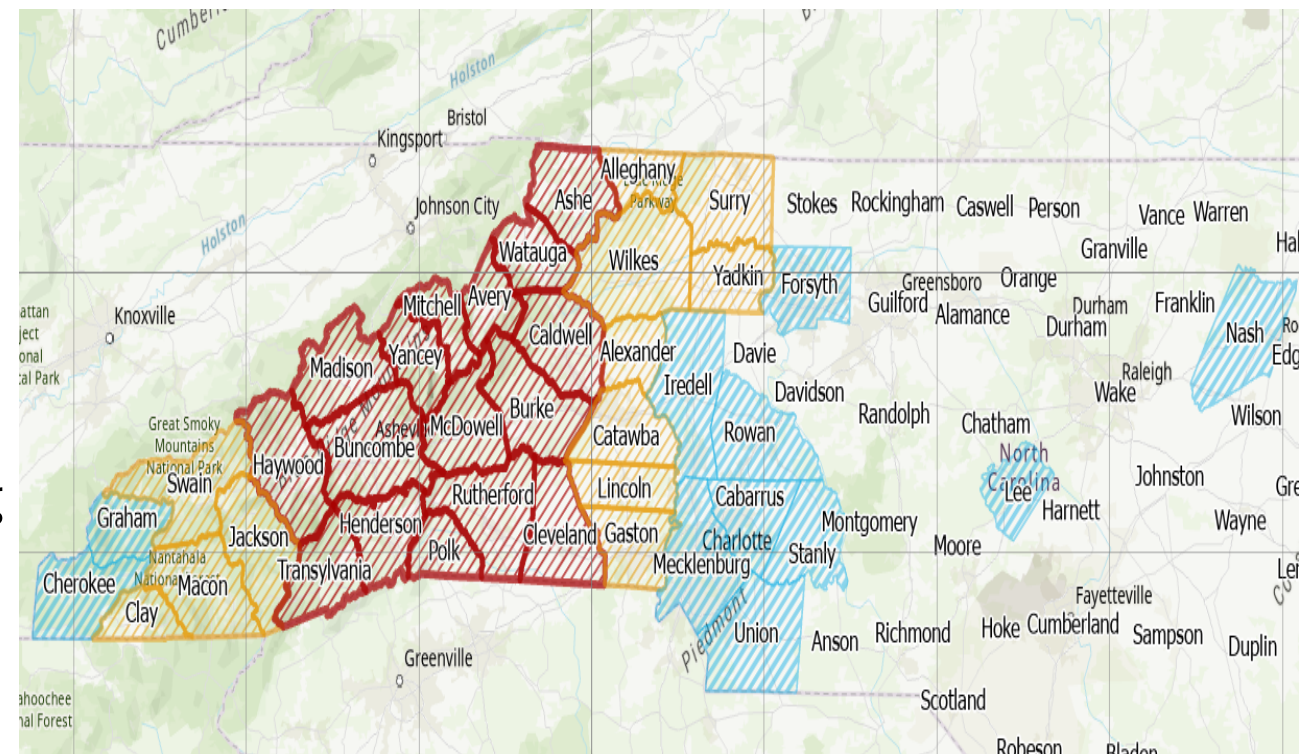
- Ashe
- Avery
- Buncombe
- Burke
- Caldwell
- Cleveland
- Haywood
- Henderson
- Madison
- McDowell
- Mitchell
- Polk
- Rutherford
- Transylvania
- Watauga
- Yancey

Medium Need (13)

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

Low Need (11)

- Cabarrus
- Cherokee
- Forsyth
- Graham
- Iredell
- Lee
- Mecklenburg
- Nash
- Rowan
- Stanly
- Union



Action Item: Vote on how to divide counties into need categories.

- Allocation amount options proposed at SWCC Work Session:

	Allocation Options (% of funds going to High/Medium/Low Need Counties)					
	Option 1: 70/25/5			Option 2: 60/25/15		
Amount withheld for Supplemental Awards	0% Withheld	10% Withheld	20% Withheld	0% Withheld	10% Withheld	20% Withheld
High-Need Total	\$26,600,000	\$23,940,000	\$21,280,000	\$22,800,000	\$20,520,000	\$18,240,000
Medium-Need Total	\$9,500,000	\$8,550,000	\$7,600,000	\$9,500,000	\$8,550,000	\$7,600,000
Low-Need Total	\$1,900,000	\$1,710,000	\$1,520,000	\$5,700,000	\$5,130,000	\$4,560,000
	Cap Per County in each Category					
High Need County Cap	\$1,662,500	\$1,496,250	\$1,330,000	\$1,425,000	\$1,282,500	\$1,140,000
Medium Need County Cap	\$730,769	\$657,692	\$584,615	\$730,769	\$657,692	\$584,615
Low Need County Cap	\$172,727	\$155,455	\$138,182	\$518,182	\$466,364	\$414,545

Action Item: Vote on county award caps.

- Supplemental Award Options:
 1. Any unused/returned/declined funding will be re-allocated to ensure all available funding is used.
 2. A portion of total funds may be withheld for a supplemental allocation after all rounds of applications are completed.
- If used, supplemental awards would be determined after all counties have received an award.
 - Would limit initial county awards.
 - Grantee’s project selection/implementation may be on hold until all funding is issued.
 - DSWC/SWCC would have to identify which factors should be considered in determining recipients.
- Feedback from Planning Workgroup on option of supplemental awards:

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%

	Allocation Options (% of funds going to High/Medium/Low Need Counties)					
	Option 1: 70/25/5			Option 2: 60/25/15		
Amount withheld for Supplemental Awards	0% Withheld	10% Withheld	20% Withheld	0% Withheld	10% Withheld	20% Withheld
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Action Item: Vote on amount to be withheld for supplemental awards.

- Rolling Applications
 - 1st Application Window: will include any counties that have completed EWP enrollment or are not applying for EWP.
 - Counties to be included in 1st application window will be finalized following update meeting with NRCS on 11/20
 - 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**- once an applicant has entered all sites in DART, they 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

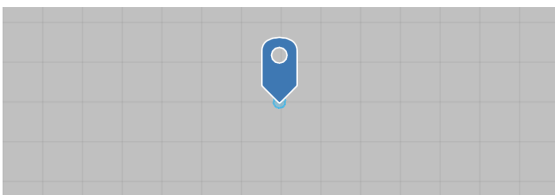
This survey captures detailed damage information for the DSWC Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program.

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.

1 of 3

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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

+

▼ Maps and Aerial Imagery

+

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2 of 3

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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.

- Once each round of applications closes, DSWC will review applications
- Award will be determined based on total need/request shown in Application
 - DSWC will not select individual sites for funding.
- Factors considered during ranking will be similar to 2024 round of StRAP:
 - 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.

1. DSWC begins 1st application window (early December)
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 draft Scope-of-Work (SOW) to identify which projects from application they will use awarded funds on (if award is insufficient to cover all applied sites).
 3. DSWC sends Contract to Applicant.
 4. Applicant signs and returns Contract.
 5. 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).
6. Scope of Work Revisions (ongoing)
 - 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.

- 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.

Action Item: Degree Districts should be involved in applications from non-District orgs.

- **Action Item:** Commission votes to approve application plan and begin Helene-round of StRAP funding.
- Items to be voted on by Commission:
 - **Project types to accept applications for.**
 - Division Recommendation: include all project types eligible under StRAP
 - **How to divide counties into need categories.**
 - Division Recommendation: divide into High-, Medium-, and Low-need as show on map.
 - **County award cap amounts.**
 - **Amount to be withheld for supplemental awards.**
 - **Length of application window.**
 - Division Recommendation: 8-week application window.
 - **Degree Districts should be involved in applications from non-District organizations.**

- Trainings:
 - Will cover details of funding round and training on using DART
 - December 2 at 10am
 - December 4 at 2pm
 - Additional trainings will be scheduled
- Additional outreach will be scheduled before each subsequent round of applications begins.