



Nutrient Sensitive Waters

Agriculture Rule Implementation & Strategy Updates

Allie Dinwiddie

Nonpoint Source Planning Coordinator
NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation



Nutrient Sensitive Waters (NSW) Management Strategies

• **Stormwater Rule(s):**



- Require local municipalities and counties to establish stormwater programs (disturbance thresholds, onsite and offsite treatment requirements, etc.)
- May regulate existing development on locally-controlled public land and development under state & federal control (e.g. NC DOT).

• **Agriculture Rule:**



- Collective compliance approach of cropland & pastureland N loss accounting and assessing P loss risk

• **Buffer Rule:**



- 50 feet required for all land use changes
- Exempts footprint of existing and ongoing uses in the buffer

• **Wastewater Rule:**



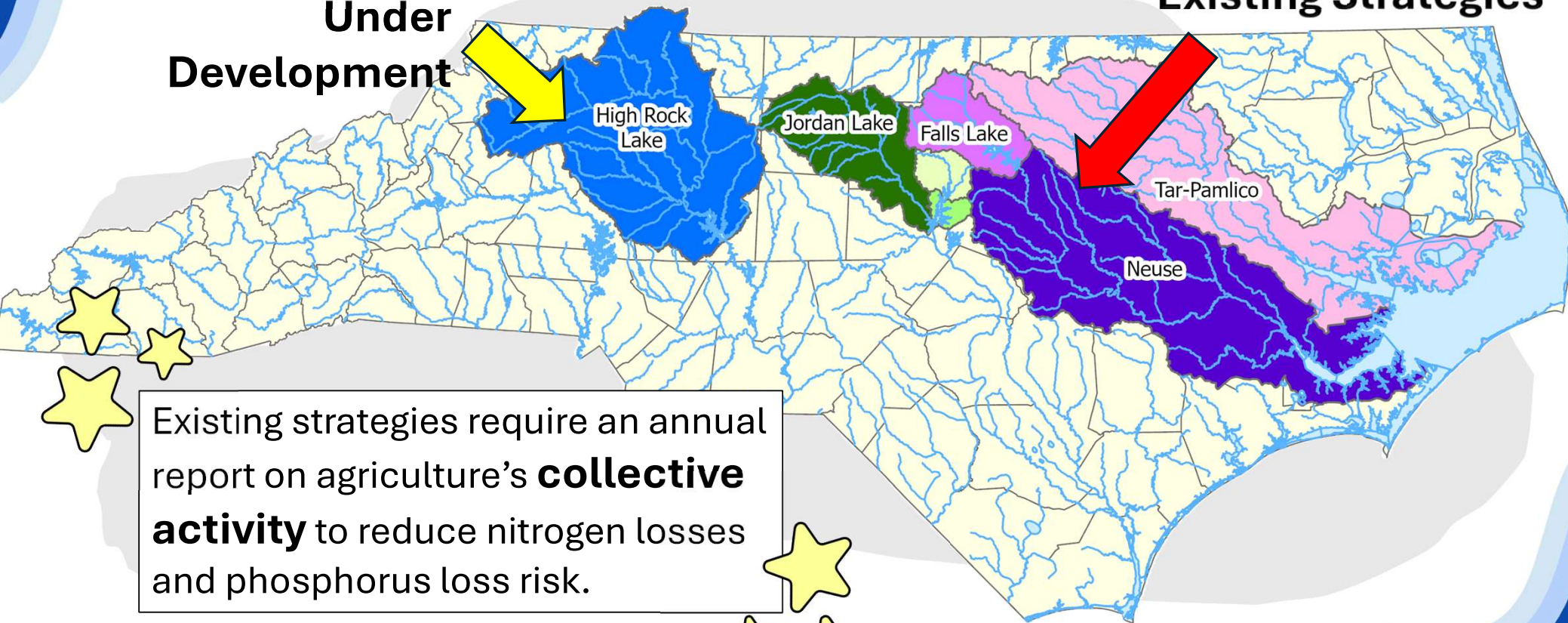
- Discharge limits for different sized facilities (group compliance options available)
- Nutrient credit/offset trading options (existing and new/expanding facilities)

Basis is chlorophyll a standard!

NSW Management Strategies

Under
Development

Existing Strategies



Existing Strategies Neuse River Basin



Rule effective 1997
Readopted April 2020

Baseline: 1991 – 1995
30% Nitrogen loss
reduction
(cropland only)



[CY2023 Annual Report Link](#)

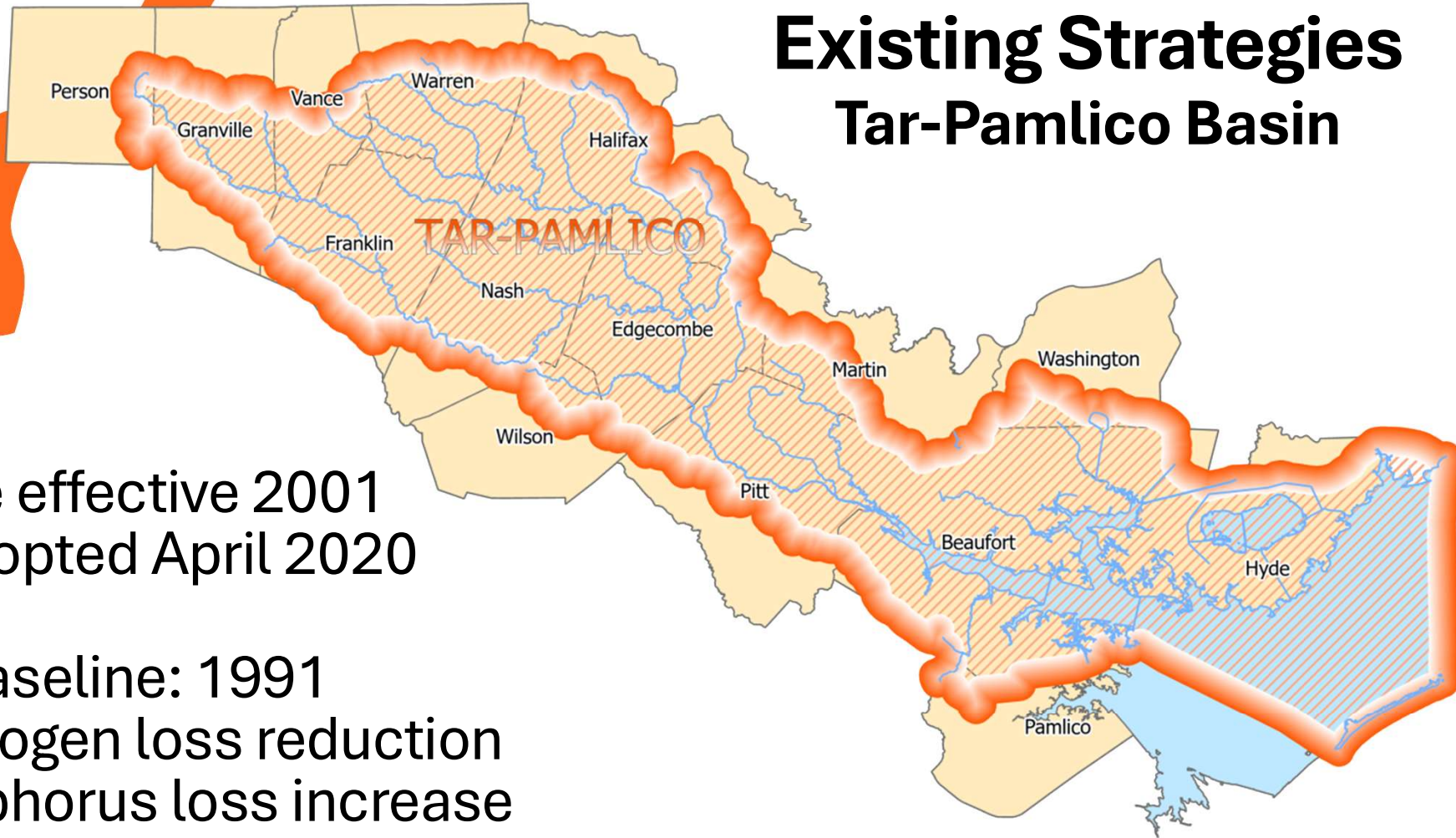
Existing Strategies Tar-Pamlico Basin

Rule effective 2001
Readopted April 2020

Baseline: 1991
30% Nitrogen loss reduction
No phosphorus loss increase
(cropland only)



[CY2023 Annual Report Link](#)

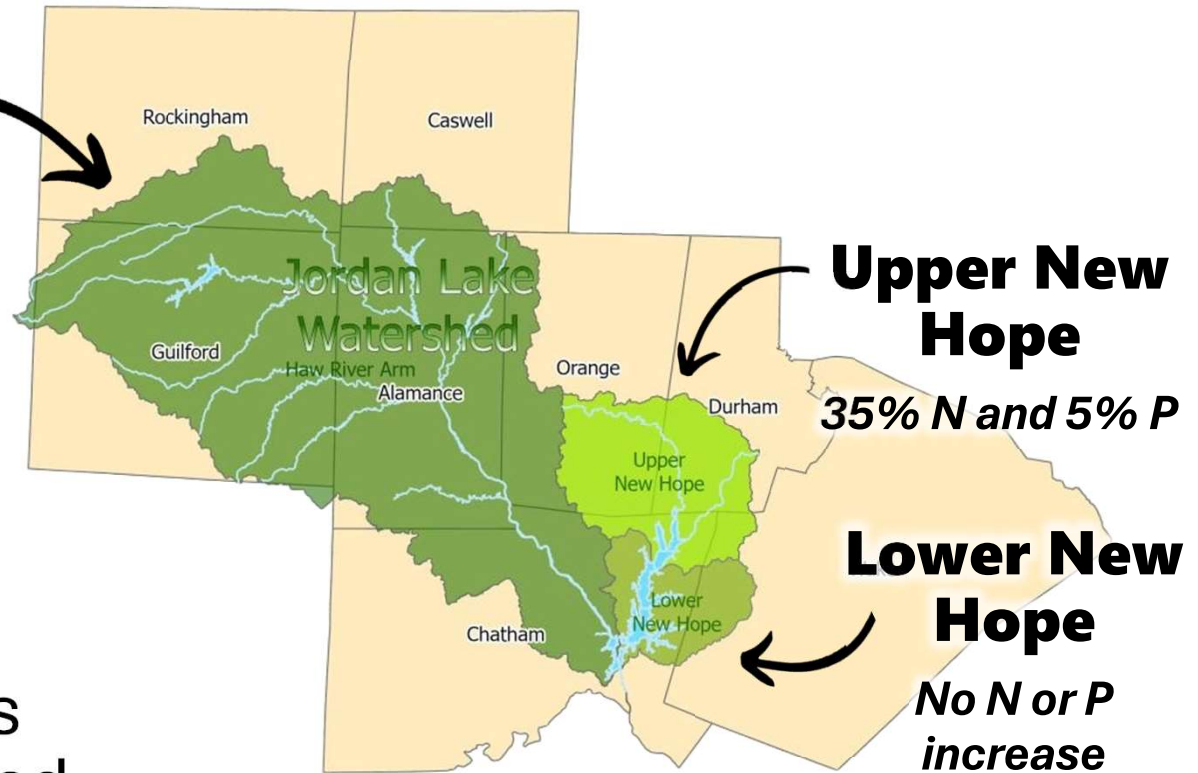


Existing Strategies Jordan Lake Watershed

Haw
8% N and 5% P

Rule effective 2009
Undergoing Readoption

Baseline: 1997 - 2001
Nitrogen and phosphorus
reductions by subwatershed
(cropland & pastureland)



! [CY2023 Annual Report Link](#)

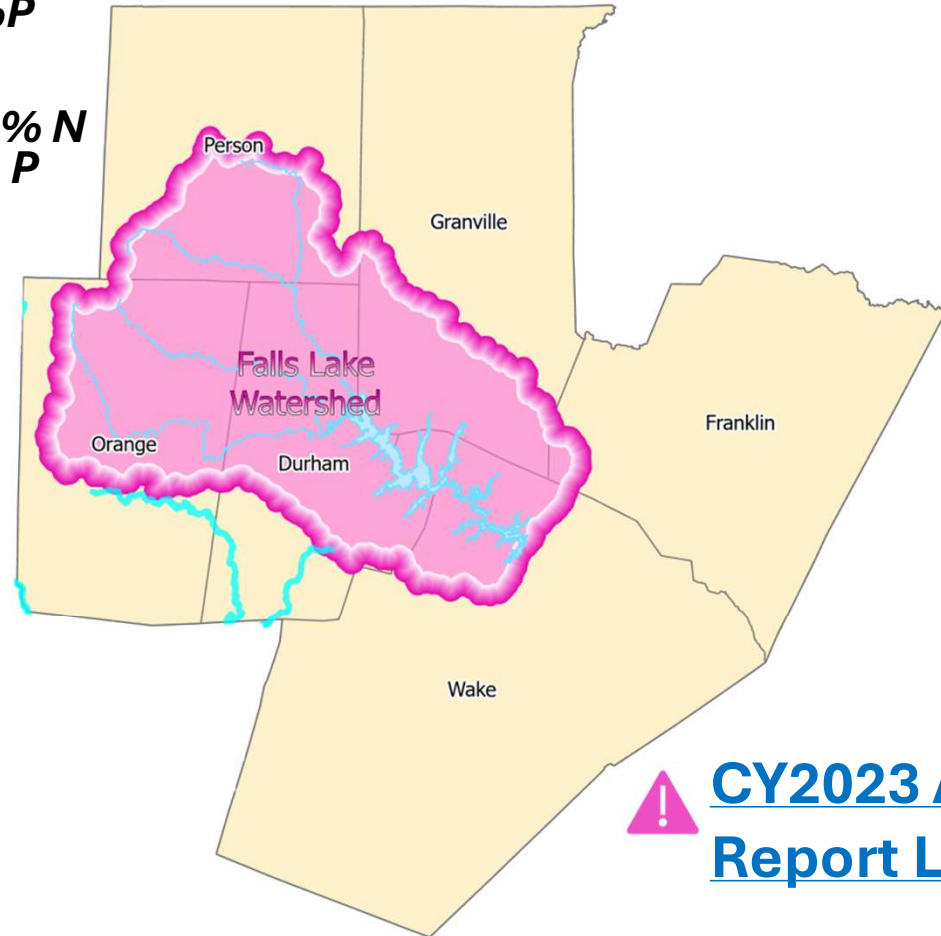
Existing Strategies Falls Lake Watershed

2020 Stage I: 20% N
and 40% P

2041 Stage II: 40% N
and 77% P

Rule effective 2011
Undergoing Readoption

Baseline: 2006
Nitrogen and phosphorus
reductions by time periods
(cropland & pastureland)



[CY2023 Annual
Report Link](#)

Agriculture Data Collected & Incorporated



Farm Service Agency Annual Crop Reports or USDA NASS Annual/Census Crop Data



Fertilization rate application data from LACs and regional agronomists



USDA NASS livestock data & Agriculture Census Data



Local knowledge and data on farmer-implemented nutrient-reducing BMPs not supported by cost-share funding



Select BMPs implemented using state and federal cost share funding



We rely on local knowledge and expertise to make sure collected data is correct.

Special thanks to all LAC members, including District Staff and Supervisors, who contribute to annual reporting efforts!



CY2023 Results Nitrogen Tracking

~\$1.4 million ACSP spent in total within NSW watersheds

~\$4.1 million EQIP spent in total within counties in NSW watersheds

Falls Lake Goal
20% N

68% N reduction (crop)
36% N reduction (pasture)

Tar-Pamlico Goal
30% N

49% N reduction

Jordan Lake Goals

Haw: **8% N**

UNH: **35% N**

LNH: **No increase N**

Crop:

- 45% N reduction (Haw)
- 59% N reduction (UNH)
- 58% N reduction (LNH)

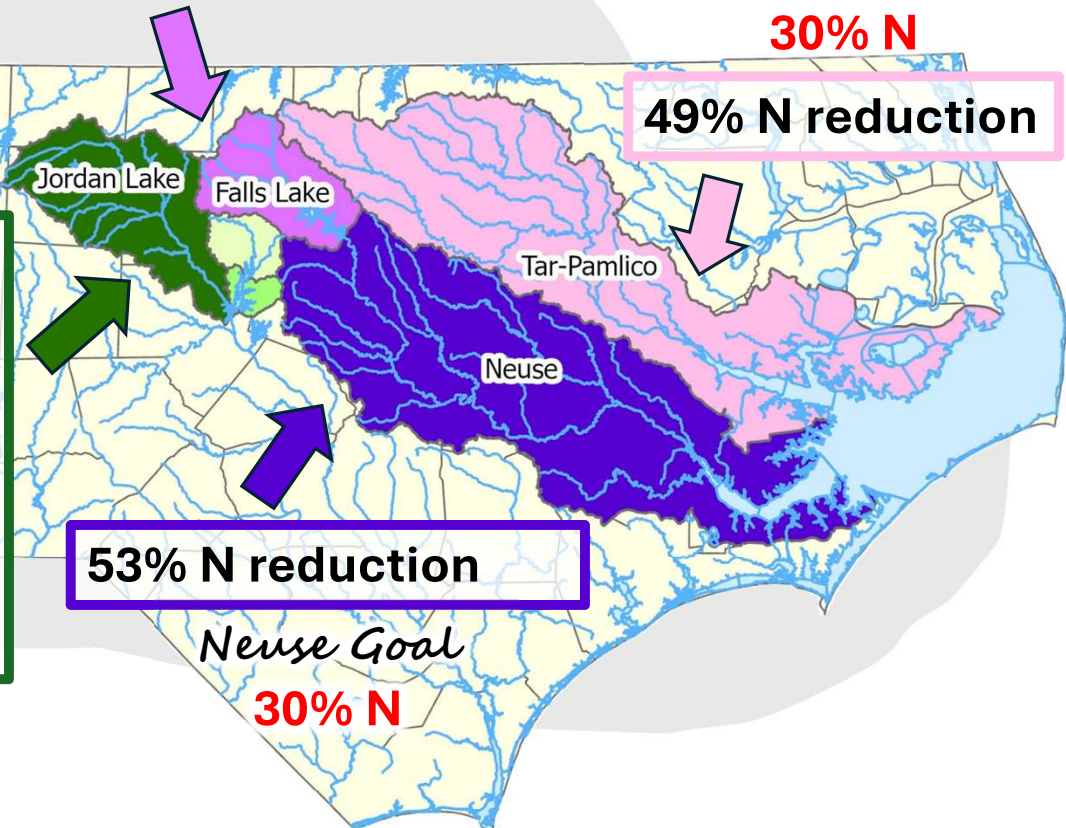
Pasture:

- 56% N reduction (Haw)
- 52% N reduction (UNH)
- 40% N reduction (LNH)

53% N reduction

Neuse Goal

30% N



CY2023 Results Phosphorus Tracking

~\$1.4 million ACSP spent in total within NSW watersheds



~\$4.1 million EQIP spent in total within counties in NSW watersheds

Less P loss risk for 7/8 parameters

Falls Lake Goal
40% P

Tar-Pamlico Goal
No increase P

Less P loss risk for 6/9 parameters

Jordan Lake Goals

Haw: 5% P

UNH: 5% P

LNH: No increase P

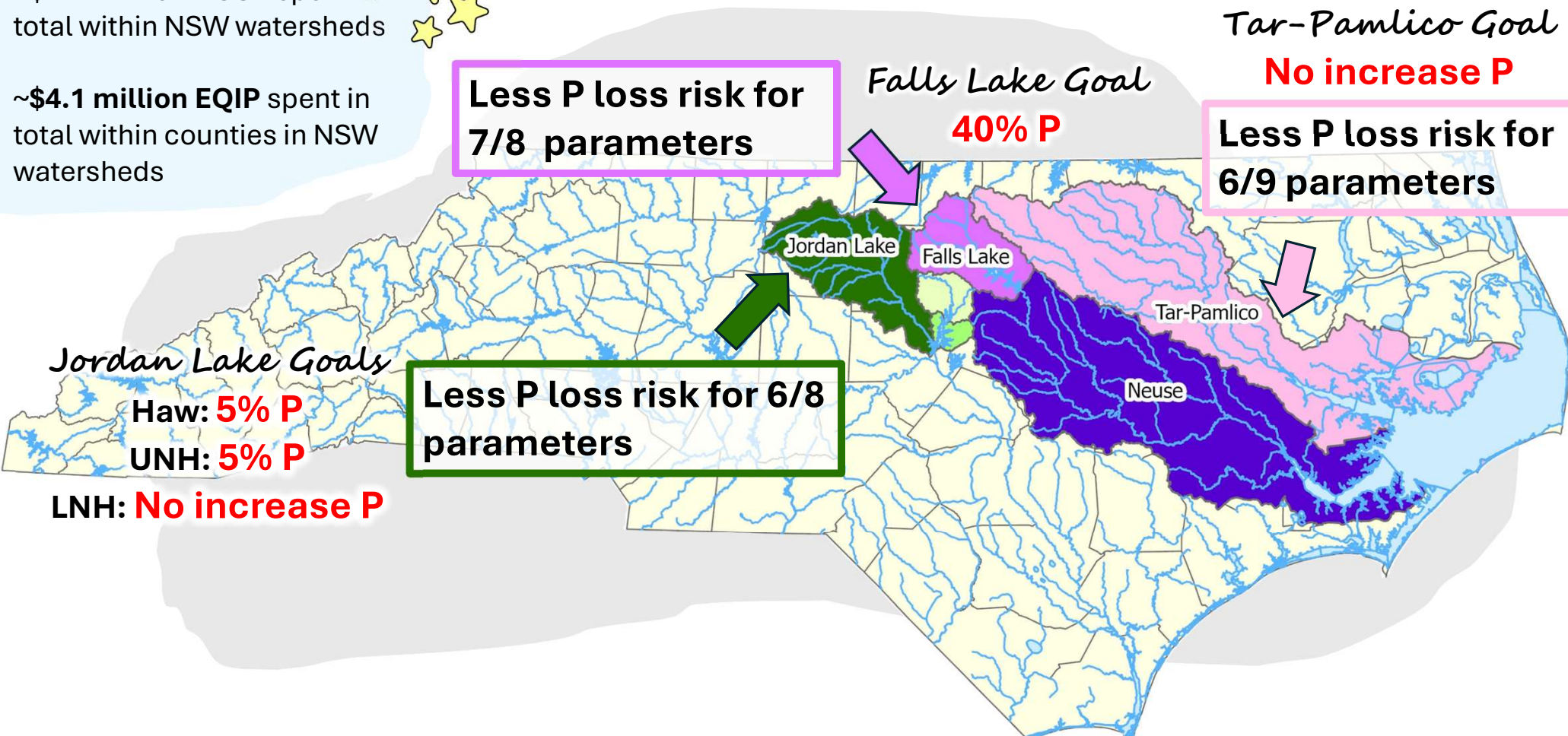
Less P loss risk for 6/8 parameters

Jordan Lake

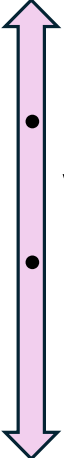
Falls Lake

Tar-Pamlico

Neuse



High Rock Lake Rulemaking Updates

- 
- **Nov. 2022 – Mar. 2024** : Stakeholder workgroups met & finalized reports
 - **Mar. – Dec. 2024** : Technical feedback provided on rule concepts

Ag Rule Concepts Expected:

- Existing dev. investment pool option
- Cattle exclusion collective target
- Poultry waste management requirements
- Reporting

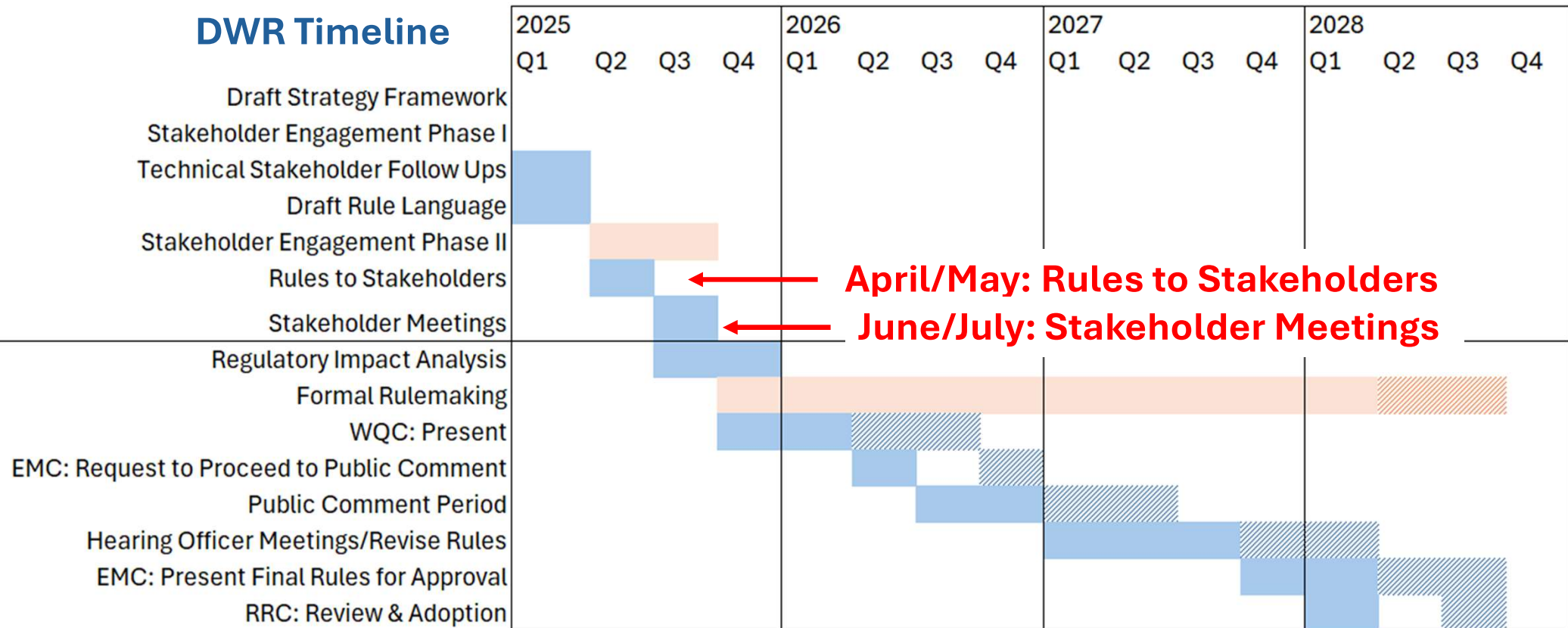


High Rock Lake established for 2004. To reduce compliance with Environmental Protection Agency called a nutrient drain to High Lake. A Steering Committee in 2022 and met seven times before formed to address


- Davie, Davidson, Yadkin, and Wilkes Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Alexander, Caldwell, Forsyth, Surry, and Yadkin County Cooperative Extension (CES)
- NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) Division of Services (AS)
- NCDA&CS Division of Soil and Water Conservation (DSWC)
- NC Farm Bureau (NCFB)
- Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC), and
- Yadkin Riverkeeper

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DWR Timeline

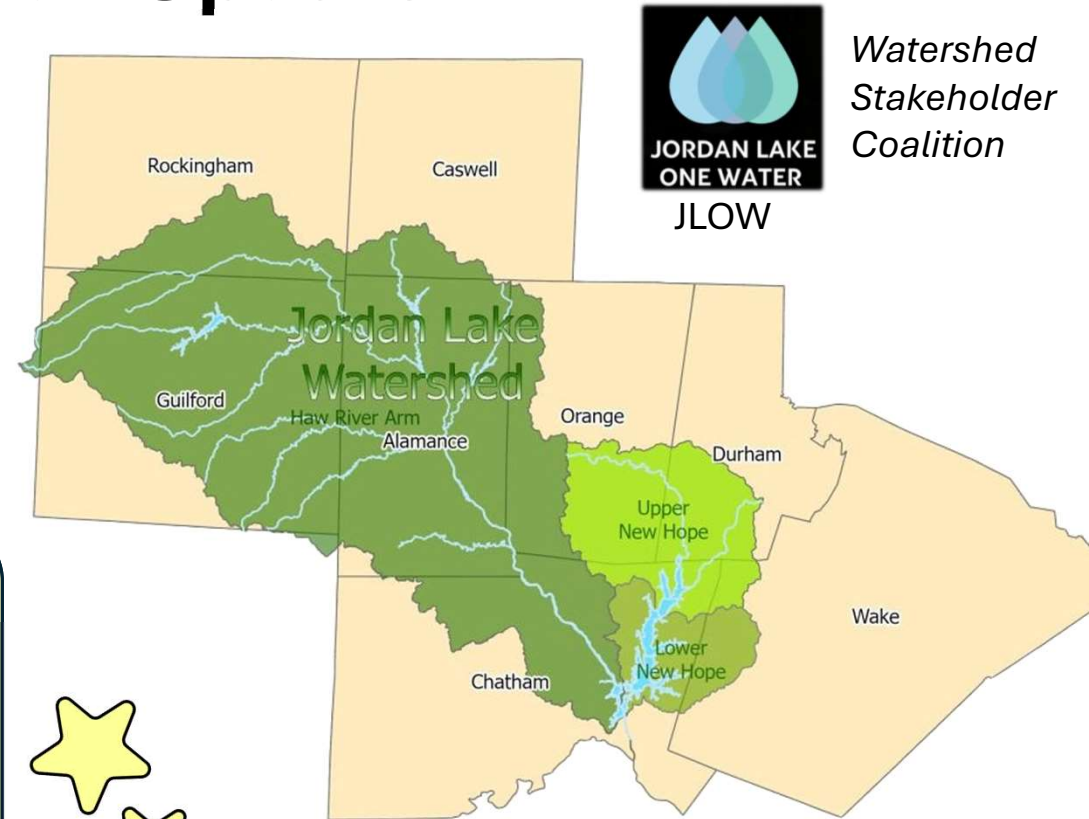


Jordan Lake Readoption Updates

- 
- **Nov. 2023 – Present:** Stakeholder workgroups meeting & rule language drafting
 - JLOW concurrent development of integrated framework

Ag Rule Concepts Expected:

- Existing dev. investment pool option
- Cattle exclusion collective target
- Revised reporting



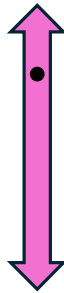
*Watershed
Stakeholder
Coalition*



DWR Timeline

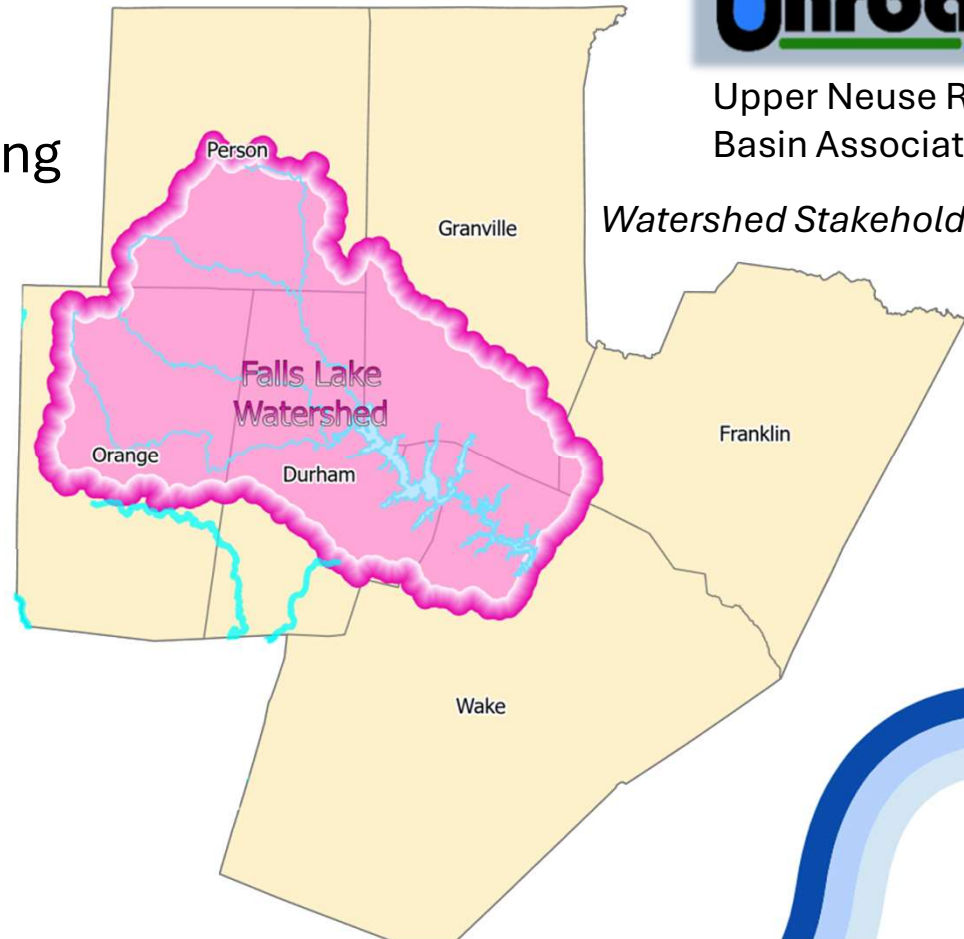
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Falls Lake Readoption Updates

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- **Nov. 2024 – Present:** Stakeholder workgroups (led by UNRBA) meeting & rule language drafting

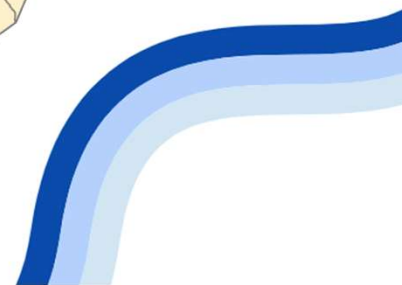
Ag Rule Concepts Expected:

- Existing dev. investment pool option
- Revised reporting



Upper Neuse River
Basin Association

Watershed Stakeholder Group



DWR Timeline

Falls Rules Readoption Tasks & Milestones	2024	2025					2026					2027	
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Q1	Q2
Informal Stakeholder Input Process													
Initial Workgroup Process	■	■	■	■									
Rule Drafting & Informal Stakeholder Review				■	■	■							
Finalize Draft Rule Revisions							■	■					
Develop Fiscal Analysis / OSBM Approval							■	■	■	■			
DWR Formal Rulemaking Process													
WQC: Present Draft Rules & Fiscal Analysis									★	■	■	■	
EMC: Request to Proceed to Public Comment												★	
Public Comment Period											■	■	
Hearing Officer Meetings / Revise Rules												■	■
EMC: Present Final Rules for Approval													★
RRC: Review & Adoption													■

Through August rule drafting & stakeholder review



Questions?

Allie Dinwiddie

Nonpoint Source Planning Coordinator

Office: 919-707-3795

Cell: 828-550-2104

Email: alexandra.dinwiddie@ncagr.gov

