



# Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) North Carolina - The Update

## Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)

### Summary

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service administers the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program, which responds to emergencies created by natural disasters. It is not necessary for a national emergency to be declared for an area to be eligible for assistance. The program's objectives are to relieve imminent hazards to life and structures/infrastructure caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural occurrences.

Potential sponsors should reach out to their local NRCS office for additional program information including templates for preparing requests for assistance to NRCS. Currently, NC NRCS is accepting requests for assistance through **Jan. 31, 2025**.

### Sponsors Include:

A legal subdivision of the state, such as a state agency, county, city, town, soil and water conservation district, or an Indian Tribe or a Tribal organization.

For Tropical Storm Helene, NRCS received a financial assistance waiver of 100% of the construction costs for eligible emergency measures. Sponsors are prohibited from utilizing other federal funds for EWP projects. Funding is subject to Congressional approval.

### Projects

NRCS has received requests from a variety of sponsors regarding the recent storms. Each storm has its own unique designation assigned to the weather event. Below are the current sponsors who've requested assistance:

### Tropical Storm Helene (5044)

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Alleghany County | Macon County        |
| Avery County     | Madison County      |
| Buncombe County  | McDowell County     |
| Burke County     | Mitchell County     |
| Caldwell County  | Transylvania County |
| Haywood County   | Watauga County      |
| Henderson County | Yancey County       |

### Tropical Storm Debby/Tropical Cyclone 8 (5045)

- Brunswick County
- Columbus County
- Cumberland County
- City of Fayetteville
- Hoke County
- Robeson County
- Scotland County

### Training

Training for EWP remains a vital mission as we move forward and begin to rebuild our communities. Currently we're tracking personnel trained:

- Total District 104
- Total NRCS 67
- Total Division 23
- Total Other 2

Past training have included locations that have been affected by both weather events. On Dec. 9th, the Engineer section provided training in Western North Carolina as part of an EWP agreement with the division. This included Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania Counties. Other training locations included the City of Fayetteville and Caldwell County.

### Contacts:

State Conservationist—Timothy A. Beard  
(Tel) 919.873.2100

State Public Affairs—Joshua J. Hammond  
(Tel) 919.873.2103  
(Email) Joshua.Hammond@usda.gov