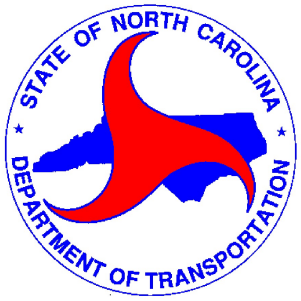
AQUATIC RESOURCE DELINEATION REPORT

Replacement of Bridge No. 800358 over Grays Creek
on SR 1144 (Jim Dobbins Road)
Rutherford County, North Carolina

WBS Element No. 82000.17



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Environmental Coordination and Permitting

November 2026

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace Bridge No. 800358 over Grays Creek on SR 1144 (Jim Dobbins Road) (WBS Element No. 82000.17) in Rutherford County. The following Aquatic Resource Delineation Report has been prepared to document the presence of water resources and identify their extents within the project study area. Field investigations were performed on October 7, 2026 to evaluate the presence of potentially jurisdictional wetlands and other Waters of the United States (WOTUS) within the project area.

The delineation data and mapping presented in this report are intended to support coordination with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and other relevant regulatory agencies under Sections 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act, and to assist in determining the potential need for federal and/or state authorizations prior to project implementation.

2.0 METHODOLOGIES

2.1 Aquatic Resource Delineations

Wetland delineations were conducted in accordance with the USACE *Wetlands Delineation Manual* and the appropriate *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual*.

Stream determinations were conducted in accordance with the *North Carolina Division of Water Resources (NCDWR) Stream Identification Method* and the *USACE Final National Ordinary High Water Mark Field Delineation Manual for Rivers and Streams*.

2.2 Quality Assessments

Wetlands within the project area were evaluated using the North Carolina Wetland Assessment Method (NCWAM) to document functional condition and overall wetland quality. The NCWAM provides a standardized framework to assess wetland hydrology, vegetation, and habitat functions, supporting consistent documentation and regulatory review.

Select stream segments within the study area have been evaluated using the North Carolina Stream Assessment Method (NCSAM) to assess functional condition and overall stream quality, as applicable. Reaches that were selected for assessment exhibited observable signs of degradation during field investigations, such as bank instability, incision, or altered hydrology.

3.0 AQUATIC RESOURCE DELINEATION RESULTS

Table 1. Stream Delineation Data

Stream Name or Label	Bankfull Width (ft.)	NCSAM Rating	Cowardin Class	Length (ft.)	Latitude	Longitude
Grays Creek	16	^	R3	180	35.280512	-81.970209
SA	4	^	R3	106	35.280596	-81.970320

^NCSAM not performed. Stream is perennial and not sufficiently degraded to require a rating assessment.

Table 2. Wetland Delineation Data

Wetland Label	NCWAM		Cowardin Class	Area (ac.)	Latitude	Longitude
	Category	Rating				
WA	Riparian	High	PFO	0.01	35.280602	-81.970482

No other surface waters (ponds/lakes) were identified in the study area.

4.0 REFERENCES

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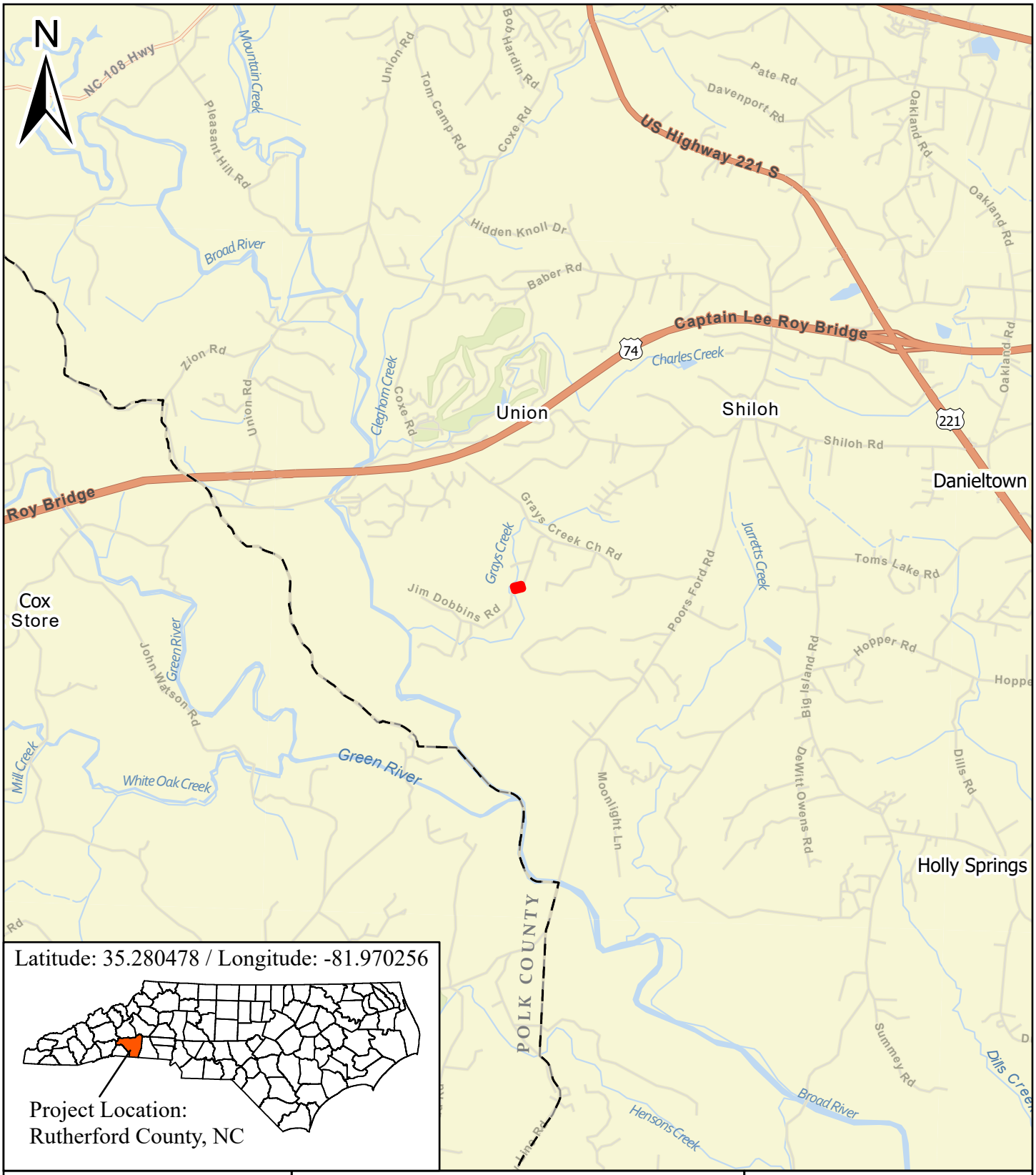
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNCCH), North Carolina Collaboratory. 2025. Post-Helene Aerial Imagery.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CONTRIBUTORS

Contributor		Stream Determinations	Wetland Delineations	Document Preparation	GIS / Figure Creation	QA/QC Review
Name	**Role**					
Preston Butler, PWS	Senior Environmental Scientist	✓	✓			✓
Brittnie Fleming	Environmental Scientist			✓	✓	
Tina Sekula, AICP, CEP, PWS	Section Head					✓

Appendices

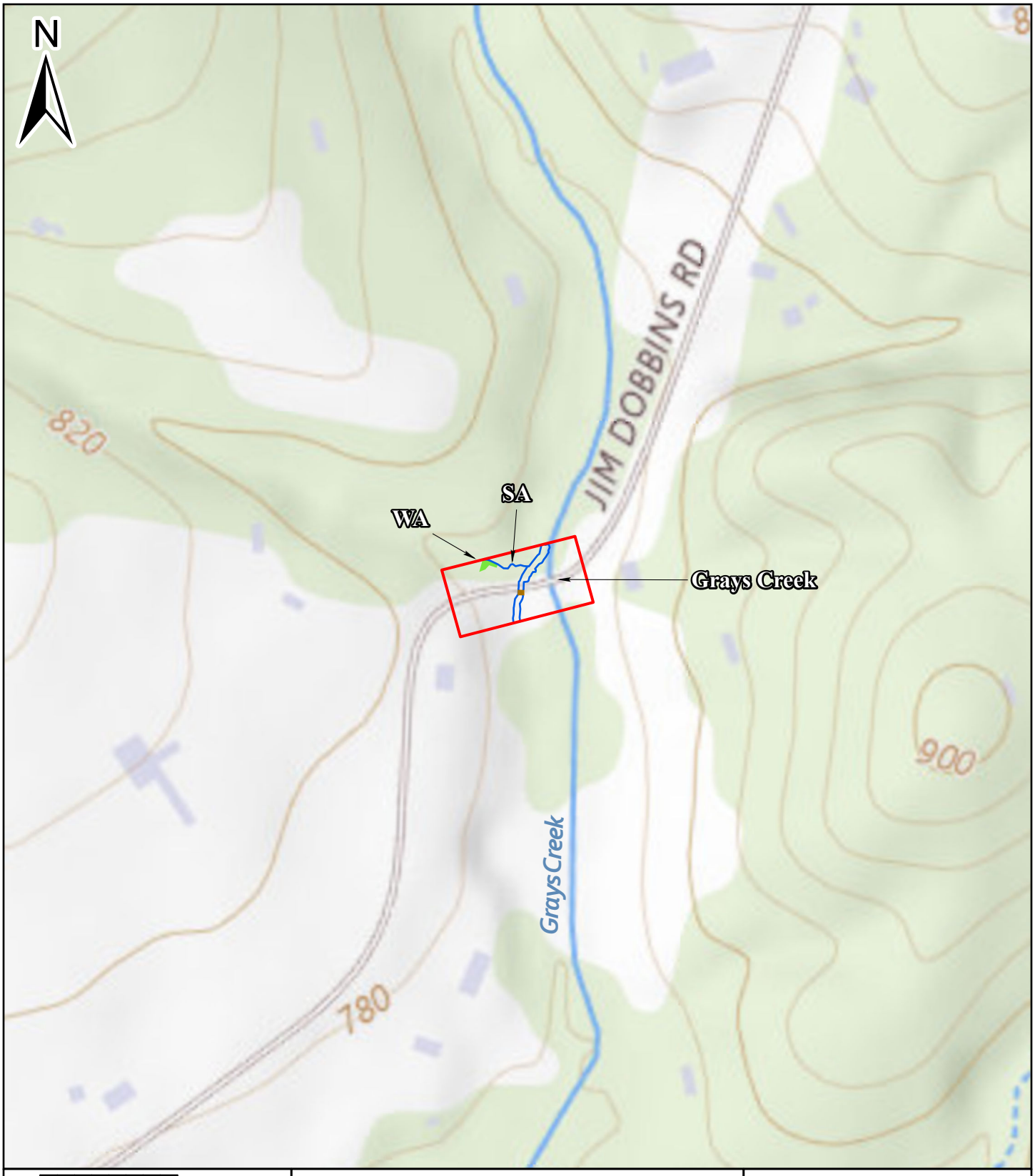
- Figures
  - Project Vicinity Map
  - USGS Topographical Map
  - Aquatic Resources Map
  - NRCS Soil Survey Map
- USACE Antecedent Precipitation Tool (APT) Report
- Delineation Data Forms
- Site Photos



WBS 82000.17
Bridge No. 800358
Rutherford County, NC

Figure 1:
Vicinity Map

Date Produced: 9/30/2026



0 150 300 US Feet

Coordinate System:
NAD 1983 2011 StatePlane North Carolina FIPS 3200 Ft US

jmt.com

Study Area
Culvert (Temporary Repair)
Wetland
Perennial Stream

USGS The National Map

WBS 82000.17
Bridge No. 800358
Rutherford County, NC

Figure 2:
Topographical Map

Date Produced: 10/16/2026



0 25 50 US Feet

Coordinate System:
NAD 1983 2011 StatePlane North Carolina FIPS 3200 Ft US

Study Area

Culvert (Temporary Repair)

Wetland

Perennial Stream

Data Form Location

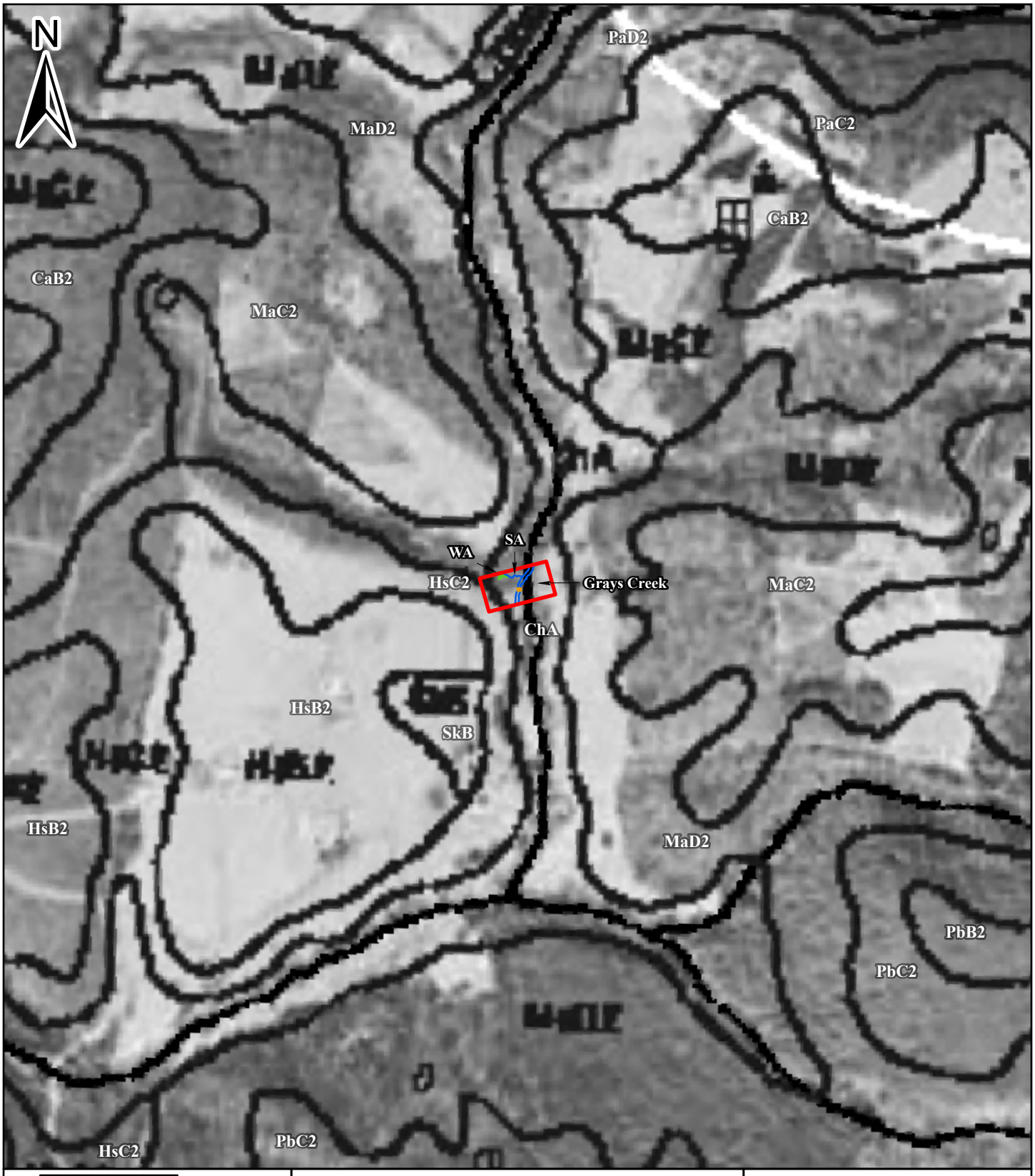
Aerial Imagery Post-Helene February 2025 - NC Collaboratory at UNCCH

jmt.com

WBS 82000.17
Bridge No. 800358
Rutherford County, NC

Figure 3: Aquatic Resources Map

Date Produced: 10/16/2026



0 300 600 US Feet

Coordinate System:
NAD 1983 2011 StatePlane North Carolina FIPS 3200 Ft US

jmt.com

Study Area

Wetland

Culvert (Temporary Repair)

Perennial Stream

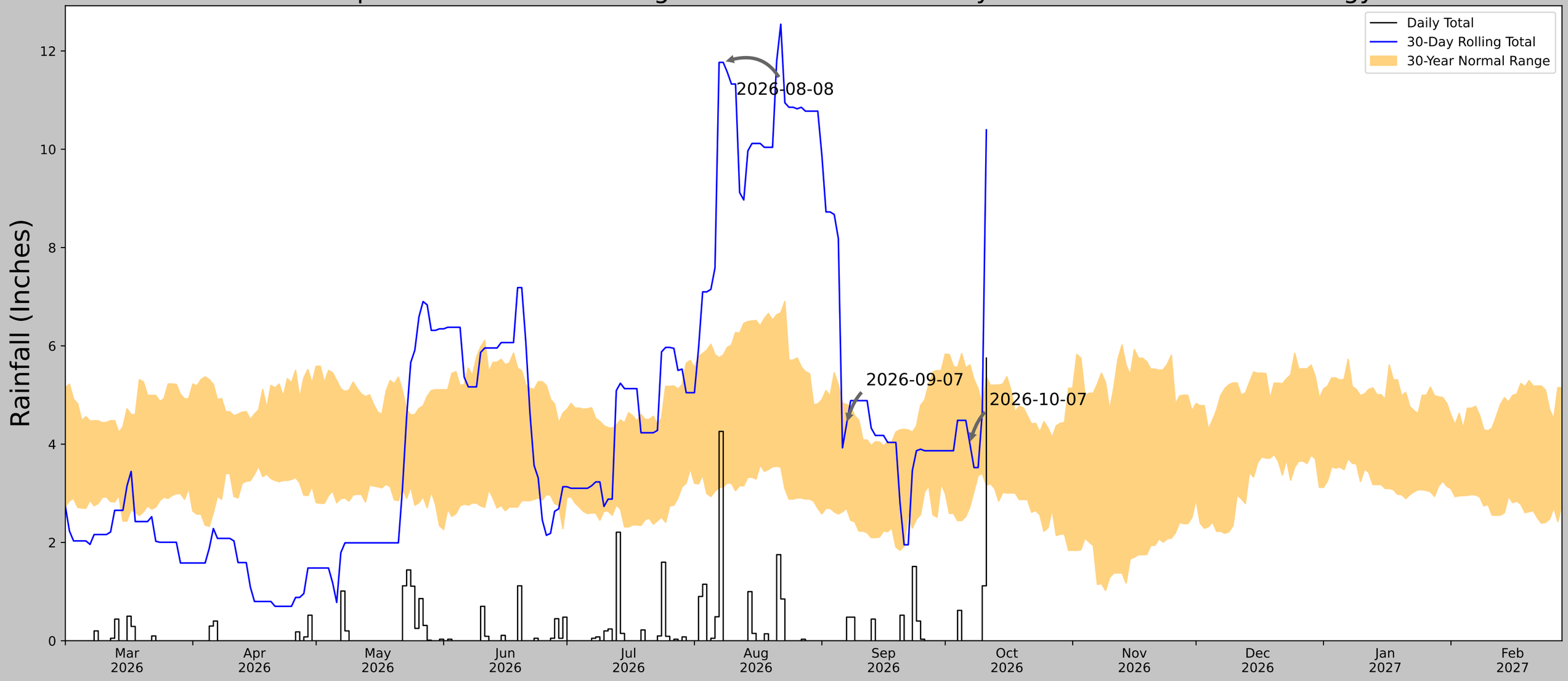
USDA NRCS Soil Survey (2005) Rutherford County, NC
Sheet No. 13 of 17

WBS 82000.17
Bridge No. 800358
Rutherford County, NC

Figure 4: NRCS
Soil Survey Map

Date Produced: 10/16/2026

Antecedent Precipitation vs Normal Range based on NOAA's Daily Global Historical Climatology Network



Coordinates	35.28049, -81.97021
Observation Date	2026-10-07
Elevation (ft)	764.864
Drought Index (PDSI)	Moderate drought (2026-09)
WebWIMP H_2O Balance	Wet Season

30 Days Ending	30^{th} %ile (in)	70^{th} %ile (in)	Observed (in)	Wetness Condition	Condition Value	Month Weight	Product
2026-10-07	2.72441	5.614173	4.003937	Normal	2	3	6
2026-09-07	2.695276	4.805118	4.405512	Normal	2	2	4
2026-08-08	3.130709	5.811811	11.767717	Wet	3	1	3
Result							Normal Conditions - 13

Figures and tables made by the Antecedent Precipitation Tool Version 3.0

US Army Corps of Engineers.

ERDC

Developed by:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and
U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center

Weather Station Name	Coordinates	Elevation (ft)	Distance (mi)	Elevation Δ	Weighted Δ	Days Normal	Days Antecedent
FOREST CITY 8 W	35.3125, -81.9894	845.144	2.462	80.28	1.306	7867	84
RUTHERFORDTON 2.6 WSW	35.3528, -82.0052	1019.029	2.923	173.885	1.824	10	5
HARRIS 2.7 NW	35.2713, -81.9091	900.919	5.349	55.775	2.705	3	1
FOREST CITY 6 SW	35.2653, -81.9311	990.158	4.631	145.014	2.756	3408	0
RUTHERFORDTON 9.5 S	35.2276, -81.9767	937.008	5.91	91.864	3.202	4	0
CHESNEE 7 WSW	35.1108, -81.9675	748.032	13.991	97.112	7.655	60	0
SHELBY 2 NW	35.3111, -81.5708	819.882	23.601	25.262	11.217	1	0

NC DWQ Stream Identification Form Version 4.11

Date: 10/07/2026	**Project/Site**: Bridge No. 800358	**Latitude:** 35.280596
Evaluator: Preston Butler, PWS / JMT	**County:** Rutherford	**Longitude:** -81.97032
Total Points: *Stream is at least intermittent if ≥ 19 or perennial if ≥ 30**	**Stream Determination: Ephemeral Intermittent Perennial**	**Other** **Stream Name:** SA
32.5	Perennial	

	Absent	Weak	Moderate	Strong
1. Continuity of channel bed and bank*	0	1	2	3
2. Sinuosity of channel along thalweg	0	1	2	3
3. In-channel structure: ex. riffle-pool, step-pool, ripple-pool sequence	0	1	2	3
4. Particle size of stream substrate	0	1	2	3
5. Active/relict floodplain	0	1	2	3
6. Depositional bars or benches	0	1	2	3
7. Recent alluvial deposits	0	1	2	3
8. Headcuts	0	1	2	3
9. Grade control	0	0.5	1	1.5
10. Natural valley	0	0.5	1	1.5
11. Second or greater order channel	No = 0		Yes = 3	
*artificial ditches are not rated; see discussions in manual				

A. Geomorphology Subtotal 14

12. Presence of Baseflow	0	1	2	3
13. Iron oxidizing bacteria	0	1	2	3
14. Leaf litter	1.5	1	0.5	0
15. Sediment on plants or debris	0	0.5	1	1.5
16. Organic debris lines or piles	0	0.5	1	1.5
17. Soil-based evidence of high water table?	No = 0		Yes = 3	

B. Hydrology Subtotal 11.5

18. Fibrous roots in streambed	3	2	1	0
19. Rooted upland plants in streambed	3	2	1	0
20. Macrobenthos (note diversity and abundance)	0	1	2	3
21. Aquatic Mollusks	0	1	2	3
22. Fish	0	0.5	1	1.5
23. Crayfish	0	0.5	1	1.5
24. Amphibians	0	0.5	1	1.5
25. Algae	0	0.5	1	1.5
26. Wetland plants in streambed	FACW = 0.75; OBL = 1.5 Other = 0			0
*perennial streams may also be identified using other methods.				

C. Biology Subtotal 7

Notes: sediment burying features; 1 aquatic worm

Sketch:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA SHEET – Eastern Mountains and Piedmont Region
See ERDC/EL TR-12-9; the proponent agency is CECW-COR

OMB Control #: 0710-0024, Exp: 09/30/2027
Requirement Control Symbol EXEMPT:
(Authority: AR 335-15, paragraph 5-2a)

Project/Site: Rutherford Bridge No. 800358 City/County: Rutherford County Sampling Date: 2026-10-07
Applicant/Owner: NCDOT State: North Carolina Sampling Point: DPW-01 / WA
Investigator(s): Preston Butler, PWS / JMT Section, Township, Range:
Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): Depression Local relief (concave, convex, none): Concave Slope (%): 1
Subregion (LRR or MLRA): P 136 Lat: 35.280608 Long: -81.97049 Datum: NAD83_2011
Soil Map Unit Name: ChA - Chewacla loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded NWI classification: PFO
Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes ✔ No ____ (If no, explain in Remarks.)
Are Vegetation ____, Soil ____, or Hydrology ____ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes ✔ No ____
Are Vegetation ____, Soil ____, or Hydrology ____ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	Yes ✔	No ____	**Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?** Yes ✔ No ____
Hydric Soil Present?	Yes ✔	No ____	
Wetland Hydrology Present?	Yes ✔	No ____	

Remarks:

This form represents wetland WA.

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)

- ____ Surface Water (A1)
- ✔ High Water Table (A2)
- ✔ Saturation (A3)
- ____ Water Marks (B1)
- ____ Sediment Deposits (B2)
- ____ Drift Deposits (B3)
- ____ Algal Mat or Crust (B4)
- ____ Iron Deposits (B5)
- ____ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- ✔ Water-Stained Leaves (B9)
- ____ Aquatic Fauna (B13)
- ____ True Aquatic Plants (B14)
- ____ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- ____ Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3)
- ____ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- ____ Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
- ____ Thin Muck Surface (C7)
- ____ Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (minimum of two required)

- ____ Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- ____ Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)
- ____ Drainage Patterns (B10)
- ____ Moss Trim Lines (B16)
- ____ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- ____ Crayfish Burrows (C8)
- ____ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- ____ Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1)
- ✔ Geomorphic Position (D2)
- ____ Shallow Aquitard (D3)
- ____ Microtopographic Relief (D4)
- ✔ FAC-Neutral Test (D5)

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present?	Yes ____	No ✔	Depth (inches): ____
Water Table Present?	Yes ✔	No ____	Depth (inches): 6
Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe)	Yes ✔	No ____	Depth (inches): 0

Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes ✔ No ____

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

VEGETATION (Four Strata) – Use scientific names of plants.

Sampling Point: DPW-01 / WA

Tree Stratum (Plot size: 30 ft r)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
	=Total Cover		
50% of total cover:	20% of total cover:		
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 15 ft r)			
1. Carpinus caroliniana	10	✔	FAC
2. Ligustrum sinense	5	✔	FACU
3. Vaccinium corymbosum	5	✔	FACW
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
	20 =Total Cover		
50% of total cover: 10.00	20% of total cover: 4.00		
Herb Stratum (Plot size: 5 ft r)			
1. Lycopus rubellus	30	✔	OBL
2. Microstegium vimineum	15	✔	FAC
3. Carex lurida	10		OBL
4. Arundinaria gigantea	10		FACW
5. Ligustrum sinense	10		FACU
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
	75 =Total Cover		
50% of total cover: 37.50	20% of total cover: 15.00		
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: 30 ft r)			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
	=Total Cover		
50% of total cover:	20% of total cover:		

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 4 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 5 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 80.00 (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:		Multiply by:	
OBL species	40	x 1 =	40
FACW species	15	x 2 =	30
FAC species	25	x 3 =	75
FACU species	15	x 4 =	60
UPL species	0	x 5 =	0
Column Totals:	95 (A)		205 (B)

Prevalence Index = B/A = 2.15

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

___ 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation

✔ 2 - Dominance Test is >50%

___ 3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0[1]

___ 4 - Morphological Adaptations[1] (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)

___ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation[1] (Explain)

[1]Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Definitions of Four Vegetation Strata:

Tree – Woody plants, excluding vines, 3 in. (7.6 cm) or more in diameter at breast height (DBH), regardless of height.

Sapling/Shrub – Woody plants, excluding vines, less than 3 in. DBH and greater than or equal to 3.28 ft (1 m) tall.

Herb – All herbaceous (non-woody) plants, regardless of size, and woody plants less than 3.28 ft tall.

Woody Vine – All woody vines greater than 3.28 ft in height.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? **Yes** ✔ **No** ___

Remarks: (Include photo numbers here or on a separate sheet.)

SOIL

Sampling Point: DPW-01 / WA

Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

Depth (inches)	Matrix Color (moist)	Matrix %	Redox Features Color (moist)	Redox Features %	Type[1]	Loc[2]	Texture	Remarks
0 - 12	10YR 4/2	95	10YR 5/8	5	C	M	Sandy Loam	
-								
-								
-								
-								
-								

[1]Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, MS=Masked Sand Grains. [2]Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators:

- ___ Histosol (A1)
- ___ Histic Epipedon (A2)
- ___ Black Histic (A3)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- ___ Stratified Layers (A5)
- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) **(LRR N)**
- ___ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- ___ Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- ___ Iron Monosulfide (A18)
- ___ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- ___ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- ___ Sandy Redox (S5)
- ___ Stripped Matrix (S6)
- ___ Dark Surface (S7)
- ___ Polyvalue Below Surface (S8) **(MLRA 147, 148)**
- ___ Thin Dark Surface (S9) **(MLRA 147, 148)**
- ___ Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1) **(MLRA 136)**
- ___ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- ✔ Depleted Matrix (F3)
- ___ Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- ___ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- ___ Redox Depressions (F8)
- ___ Iron-Manganese Masses (F12) **(LRR N, MLRA 136)**
- ___ Umbric Surface (F13) **(MLRA 122, 136)**
- ___ Piedmont Floodplain Soils (F19) **(MLRA 148)**
- ___ Red Parent Material (F21) **(MLRA 127, 147, 148)**

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils[3]:

- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) **(MLRA 147)**
- ___ Coast Prairie Redox (A16) **(MLRA 147, 148)**
- ___ Piedmont Floodplain Soils (F19) **(MLRA 136, 147)**
- ___ Red Parent Material (F21) **(outside MLRA 127, 147, 148)**
- ___ Very Shallow Dark Surface (F22)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

[3]Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Restrictive Layer (if observed):

Type: _____

Depth (inches): _____

Hydric Soil Present? **Yes** ✔ **No** ___

Remarks:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA SHEET – Eastern Mountains and Piedmont Region
See ERDC/EL TR-12-9; the proponent agency is CECW-COR

OMB Control #: 0710-0024, Exp: 09/30/2027
Requirement Control Symbol EXEMPT:
(Authority: AR 335-15, paragraph 5-2a)

Project/Site: Rutherford Bridge No. 800358 City/County: Rutherford County Sampling Date: 2026-10-07

Applicant/Owner: NCDOT State: North Carolina Sampling Point: DPU-01 / WA

Investigator(s): Preston Butler, PWS / JMT Section, Township, Range:

Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): Upland, Hillslope Local relief (concave, convex, none): None Slope (%): 15

Subregion (LRR or MLRA): P 136 Lat: 35.280563 Long: -81.970439 Datum: NAD83_2011

Soil Map Unit Name: ChA - Chewacla loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded NWI classification: N/A

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes ✔ No ____ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation ____, Soil ____, or Hydrology ____ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes ✔ No ____

Are Vegetation ____, Soil ____, or Hydrology ____ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	Yes ____	No ✔	**Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?** Yes ____ No ✔
Hydric Soil Present?	Yes ____	No ✔	
Wetland Hydrology Present?	Yes ____	No ✔	

Remarks:

This form represents upland adjacent to wetland WA.

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)

- ___ Surface Water (A1)
- ___ High Water Table (A2)
- ___ Saturation (A3)
- ___ Water Marks (B1)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3)
- ___ Algal Mat or Crust (B4)
- ___ Iron Deposits (B5)
- ___ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- ___ Water-Stained Leaves (B9)
- ___ Aquatic Fauna (B13)
- ___ True Aquatic Plants (B14)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- ___ Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3)
- ___ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- ___ Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
- ___ Thin Muck Surface (C7)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (minimum of two required)

- ___ Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- ___ Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)
- ___ Drainage Patterns (B10)
- ___ Moss Trim Lines (B16)
- ___ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- ___ Crayfish Burrows (C8)
- ___ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- ___ Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1)
- ___ Geomorphic Position (D2)
- ___ Shallow Aquitard (D3)
- ___ Microtopographic Relief (D4)
- ___ FAC-Neutral Test (D5)

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present?	Yes ____	No ✔	Depth (inches): ____
Water Table Present?	Yes ____	No ✔	Depth (inches): ____
Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe)	Yes ____	No ✔	Depth (inches): ____

Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes ____ No ✔

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

VEGETATION (Four Strata) – Use scientific names of plants.

Sampling Point: DPU-01 / WA

Tree Stratum (Plot size: 30 ft r)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status
1. Prunus serotina	20	✔	FACU
2. Quercus alba	15	✔	FACU
3. Oxydendrum arboreum	10	✔	UPL
4. Liriodendron tulipifera	10	✔	FACU
5. Nyssa sylvatica	10	✔	FAC
6. Ilex opaca	5		FACU
7.			
	70	=Total Cover	
50% of total cover: 35.00		20% of total cover: 14.00	
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 15 ft r)			
1. Carpinus caroliniana	15	✔	FAC
2. Fagus grandifolia	5	✔	FACU
3. Prunus serotina	5	✔	FACU
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
	25	=Total Cover	
50% of total cover: 12.50		20% of total cover: 5.00	
Herb Stratum (Plot size: 5 ft r)			
1. Polystichum acrostichoides	5	✔	FACU
2. Ilex opaca	2	✔	FACU
3. Quercus alba	2	✔	FACU
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
	9	=Total Cover	
50% of total cover: 4.50		20% of total cover: 1.80	
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: 30 ft r)			
1. Smilax rotundifolia	5	✔	FAC
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
	5	=Total Cover	
50% of total cover: 2.50		20% of total cover: 1.00	

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 3 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 12 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 25.00 (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:		Multiply by:	
OBL species	0	x 1 =	0
FACW species	0	x 2 =	0
FAC species	30	x 3 =	90
FACU species	69	x 4 =	276
UPL species	10	x 5 =	50
Column Totals:	109 (A)		416 (B)

Prevalence Index = B/A = 3.81

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

___ 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation

___ 2 - Dominance Test is >50%

___ 3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0[1]

___ 4 - Morphological Adaptations[1] (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)

___ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation[1] (Explain)

[1]Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Definitions of Four Vegetation Strata:

Tree – Woody plants, excluding vines, 3 in. (7.6 cm) or more in diameter at breast height (DBH), regardless of height.

Sapling/Shrub – Woody plants, excluding vines, less than 3 in. DBH and greater than or equal to 3.28 ft (1 m) tall.

Herb – All herbaceous (non-woody) plants, regardless of size, and woody plants less than 3.28 ft tall.

Woody Vine – All woody vines greater than 3.28 ft in height.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? **Yes** ___ **No** ✔

Remarks: (Include photo numbers here or on a separate sheet.)

SOIL

Sampling Point: DPU-01 / WA

Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

Depth (inches)	Matrix Color (moist)	Matrix %	Redox Features Color (moist)	Redox Features %	Redox Features Type[1]	Redox Features Loc[2]	Texture	Remarks
0 - 12	5YR 4/6	100					Silt Loam	
-								
-								
-								
-								
-								

[1]Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, MS=Masked Sand Grains. [2]Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators:

- ___ Histosol (A1)
- ___ Histic Epipedon (A2)
- ___ Black Histic (A3)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- ___ Stratified Layers (A5)
- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) **(LRR N)**
- ___ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- ___ Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- ___ Iron Monosulfide (A18)
- ___ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- ___ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- ___ Sandy Redox (S5)
- ___ Stripped Matrix (S6)
- ___ Dark Surface (S7)
- ___ Polyvalue Below Surface (S8) **(MLRA 147, 148)**
- ___ Thin Dark Surface (S9) **(MLRA 147, 148)**
- ___ Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1) **(MLRA 136)**
- ___ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- ___ Depleted Matrix (F3)
- ___ Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- ___ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- ___ Redox Depressions (F8)
- ___ Iron-Manganese Masses (F12) **(LRR N, MLRA 136)**
- ___ Umbric Surface (F13) **(MLRA 122, 136)**
- ___ Piedmont Floodplain Soils (F19) **(MLRA 148)**
- ___ Red Parent Material (F21) **(MLRA 127, 147, 148)**

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils[3]:

- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) **(MLRA 147)**
- ___ Coast Prairie Redox (A16) **(MLRA 147, 148)**
- ___ Piedmont Floodplain Soils (F19) **(MLRA 136, 147)**
- ___ Red Parent Material (F21) **(outside MLRA 127, 147, 148)**
- ___ Very Shallow Dark Surface (F22)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

[3]Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Restrictive Layer (if observed):

Type: _____

Depth (inches): _____

Hydric Soil Present? **Yes** ___ **No** ✔

Remarks:

NC WAM FIELD ASSESSMENT FORM
Accompanies User Manual Version 5.0

USACE AID #		NCDWR#	
Project Name	Bridge No. 800358	Date of Evaluation	10/07/2026
Applicant/Owner Name	NCDOT	Wetland Site Name	WA
Wetland Type	Headwater Forest	Assessor Name/Organization	Preston Butler, PWS / JMT
Level III Ecoregion	Piedmont	Nearest Named Water Body	Grays Creek
River Basin	Broad	USGS 8-Digit Catalogue Unit	03050105
County	Rutherford	NCDWR Region	Asheville
☐ Yes ☒ No	Precipitation within 48 hrs?	Latitude/Longitude (deci-degrees)	35.280602, -81.970402

Evidence of stressors affecting the assessment area (may not be within the assessment area)
Please circle and/or make note on the last page if evidence of stressors is apparent. Consider departure from reference, if appropriate, in recent past (for instance, within 10 years). Noteworthy stressors include, but are not limited to the following.

- Hydrological modifications (examples: ditches, dams, beaver dams, dikes, berms, ponds, etc.)
- Surface and sub-surface discharges into the wetland (examples: discharges containing obvious pollutants, presence of nearby septic tanks, underground storage tanks (USTs), hog lagoons, etc.)
- Signs of vegetation stress (examples: vegetation mortality, insect damage, disease, storm damage, salt intrusion, etc.)
- Habitat/plant community alteration (examples: mowing, clear-cutting, exotics, etc.)

Is the assessment area intensively managed? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Regulatory Considerations - Were regulatory considerations evaluated? ☒Yes ☐No If Yes, check all that apply to the assessment area.

☐ Anadromous fish
☐ Federally protected species or State endangered or threatened species
☐ NCDWR riparian buffer rule in effect
☐ Abuts a Primary Nursery Area (PNA)
☐ Publicly owned property
☐ N.C. Division of Coastal Management Area of Environmental Concern (AEC) (including buffer)
☐ Abuts a stream with a NCDWQ classification of SA or supplemental classifications of HQW, ORW, or Trout
☐ Designated NCNHP reference community
☐ Abuts a 303(d)-listed stream or a tributary to a 303(d)-listed stream

What type of natural stream is associated with the wetland, if any? (check all that apply)

☐ Blackwater
☒ Brownwater
☐ Tidal (if tidal, check one of the following boxes) ☐ Lunar ☐ Wind ☐ Both

Is the assessment area on a coastal island? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Is the assessment area's surface water storage capacity or duration substantially altered by beaver? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Does the assessment area experience overbank flooding during normal rainfall conditions? ☐ Yes ☒ No

1. Ground Surface Condition/Vegetation Condition – assessment area condition metric

Check a box in each column. Consider alteration to the ground surface (GS) in the assessment area and vegetation structure (VS) in the assessment area. Compare to reference wetland if applicable (see User Manual). If a reference is not applicable, then rate the assessment area based on evidence an effect.

GS	VS	
☐A	☐A	Not severely altered
☒B	☒B	Severely altered over a majority of the assessment area (ground surface alteration examples: vehicle tracks, excessive sedimentation, fire-plow lanes, skidder tracks, bedding, fill, soil compaction, obvious pollutants) (vegetation structure alteration examples: mechanical disturbance, herbicides, salt intrusion [where appropriate], exotic species, grazing, less diversity [if appropriate], hydrologic alteration)

2. Surface and Sub-Surface Storage Capacity and Duration – assessment area condition metric

Check a box in each column. Consider surface storage capacity and duration (Surf) and sub-surface storage capacity and duration (Sub). Consider both increase and decrease in hydrology. A ditch ≤ 1 foot deep is considered to affect surface water only, while a ditch > 1 foot deep is expected to affect both surface and sub-surface water. Consider tidal flooding regime, if applicable.

Surf	Sub	
☒A	☒A	Water storage capacity and duration are not altered.
☐B	☐B	Water storage capacity or duration are altered, but not substantially (typically, not sufficient to change vegetation).
☐C	☐C	Water storage capacity or duration are substantially altered (typically, alteration sufficient to result in vegetation change) (examples: draining, flooding, soil compaction, filling, excessive sedimentation, underground utility lines).

3. Water Storage/Surface Relief – assessment area/wetland type condition metric (skip for all marshes)

Check a box in each column. Select the appropriate storage for the assessment area (AA) and the wetland type (WT).

	AA	WT	
3a.	☐A	☐A	Majority of wetland with depressions able to pond water > 1 deep
	☐B	☐B	Majority of wetland with depressions able to pond water 6 inches to 1 foot deep
	☒C	☒C	Majority of wetland with depressions able to pond water 3 to 6 inches deep
	☐D	☐D	Depressions able to pond water < 3 inches deep

3b. ☐A Evidence that maximum depth of inundation is greater than 2 feet
☐B Evidence that maximum depth of inundation is between 1 and 2 feet
☒C Evidence that maximum depth of inundation is less than 1 foot

4. Soil Texture/Structure – assessment area condition metric (skip for all marshes)

Check a box from each of the three soil property groups below. Dig soil profile in the dominant assessment area landscape feature. Make soil observations within the top 12 inches. Use most recent National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils guidance for regional indicators.

4a.
- ☐A Sandy soil
- ☒B Loamy or clayey soils exhibiting redoximorphic features (concentrations, depletions, or rhizospheres)
- ☐C Loamy or clayey soils not exhibiting redoximorphic features
- ☐D Loamy or clayey gleyed soil
- ☐E Histosol or histic epipedon

4b.
- ☒A Soil ribbon < 1 inch
- ☐B Soil ribbon ≥ 1 inch

4c.
- ☒A No peat or muck presence
- ☐B A peat or muck presence

5. Discharge into Wetland – opportunity metric

Check a box in each column. Consider surface pollutants or discharges (Surf) and sub-surface pollutants or discharges (Sub). Examples of sub-surface discharges include presence of nearby septic tank, underground storage tank (UST), etc.

Surf	Sub	
☒A	☒A	Little or no evidence of pollutants or discharges entering the assessment area
☐B	☐B	Noticeable evidence of pollutants or discharges entering the wetland and stressing, but not overwhelming the treatment capacity of the assessment area
☐C	☐C	Noticeable evidence of pollutants or discharges (pathogen, particulate, or soluble) entering the assessment area and potentially overwhelming the treatment capacity of the wetland (water discoloration, dead vegetation, excessive sedimentation, odor)

6. Land Use – opportunity metric (skip for non-riparian wetlands)

Check all that apply (at least one box in each column). Evaluation involves a GIS effort with field adjustment. Consider sources draining to assessment area within entire upstream watershed (WS), within 5 miles and within the watershed draining to the assessment area (5M), and within 2 miles and within the watershed draining to the assessment area (2M).

WS	5M	2M	
☐A	☐A	☐A	≥ 10% impervious surfaces
☐B	☐B	☐B	Confined animal operations (or other local, concentrated source of pollutants
☐C	☐C	☐C	≥ 20% coverage of pasture
☒D	☒D	☒D	≥ 20% coverage of agricultural land (regularly plowed land)
☐E	☐E	☐E	≥ 20% coverage of maintained grass/herb
☐F	☐F	☐F	≥ 20% coverage of clear-cut land
☐G	☐G	☐G	Little or no opportunity to improve water quality. Lack of opportunity may result from little or no disturbance in the watershed or hydrologic alterations that prevent drainage and/or overbank flow from affecting the assessment area.

7. Wetland Acting as Vegetated Buffer – assessment area/wetland complex condition metric (skip for non-riparian wetlands)

7a. Is assessment area within 50 feet of a tributary or other open water?
☒Yes ☐No If Yes, continue to 7b. If No, skip to Metric 8.
Wetland buffer need only be present on one side of the water body. Make buffer judgment based on the average width of wetland. Record a note if a portion of the buffer has been removed or disturbed.

7b. How much of the first 50 feet from the bank is wetland? (Wetland buffer need only be present on one side of the .water body. Make buffer judgment based on the average width of wetland. Record a note if a portion of the buffer has been removed or disturbed.)
- ☐A ≥ 50 feet
- ☒B From 30 to < 50 feet
- ☐C From 15 to < 30 feet
- ☐D From 5 to < 15 feet
- ☐E < 5 feet or buffer bypassed by ditches

7c. Tributary width. If the tributary is anastomosed, combine widths of channels/braids for a total width.
☒≤ 15-feet wide ☐> 15-feet wide ☐ Other open water (no tributary present)

7d. Do roots of assessment area vegetation extend into the bank of the tributary/open water?
☒Yes ☐No

7e. Is stream or other open water sheltered or exposed?
☒Sheltered – adjacent open water with width < 2500 feet and no regular boat traffic.
☐Exposed – adjacent open water with width ≥ 2500 feet or regular boat traffic.

8. Wetland Width at the Assessment Area – wetland type/wetland complex condition metric (evaluate WT for all marshes and Estuarine Woody Wetland only; evaluate WC for Bottomland Hardwood Forest, Headwater Forest, and Riverine Swamp Forest only)

Check a box in each column for riverine wetlands only. Select the average width for the wetland type at the assessment area (WT) and the wetland complex at the assessment area (WC). See User Manual for WT and WC boundaries.

WT	WC	
☐A	☐A	≥ 100 feet
☐B	☐B	From 80 to < 100 feet
☐C	☐C	From 50 to < 80 feet
☐D	☐D	From 40 to < 50 feet
☐E	☐E	From 30 to < 40 feet
☒F	☒F	From 15 to < 30 feet
☐G	☐G	From 5 to < 15 feet
☐H	☐H	< 5 feet

9. Inundation Duration – assessment area condition metric (skip for non-riparian wetlands)

Answer for assessment area dominant landform.

- ☒A Evidence of short-duration inundation (< 7 consecutive days)
- ☐B Evidence of saturation, without evidence of inundation
- ☐C Evidence of long-duration inundation or very long-duration inundation (7 to 30 consecutive days or more)

10. Indicators of Deposition – assessment area condition metric (skip for non-riparian wetlands and all marshes)

Consider recent deposition only (no plant growth since deposition).

- ☐A Sediment deposition is not excessive, but at approximately natural levels.
- ☒B Sediment deposition is excessive, but not overwhelming the wetland.
- ☐C Sediment deposition is excessive and is overwhelming the wetland.

11. Wetland Size – wetland type/wetland complex condition metric

Check a box in each column. Involves a GIS effort with field adjustment. This metric evaluates three aspects of the wetland area: the size of the wetland type (WT), the size of the wetland complex (WC), and the size of the forested wetland (FW) (if applicable, see User Manual). See the User Manual for boundaries of these evaluation areas. If assessment area is clear-cut, select "K" for the FW column.

WT	WC	FW (if applicable)	
☐A	☐A	☐A	≥ 500 acres
☐B	☐B	☐B	From 100 to < 500 acres
☐C	☐C	☐C	From 50 to < 100 acres
☐D	☐D	☐D	From 25 to < 50 acres
☐E	☐E	☐E	From 10 to < 25 acres
☐F	☐F	☐F	From 5 to < 10 acres
☐G	☐G	☐G	From 1 to < 5 acres
☐H	☐H	☐H	From 0.5 to < 1 acre
☐I	☐I	☐I	From 0.1 to < 0.5 acre
☒J	☒J	☒J	From 0.01 to < 0.1 acre
☐K	☐K	☐K	< 0.01 acre or assessment area is clear-cut

12. Wetland Intactness – wetland type condition metric (evaluate for Pocosins only)

- ☐A Pocosin is the full extent (≥ 90%) of its natural landscape size.
- ☐B Pocosin type is < 90% of the full extent of its natural landscape size.

13. Connectivity to Other Natural Areas – landscape condition metric

13a. **Check appropriate box(es) (a box may be checked in each column).** Involves a GIS effort with field adjustment. This metric evaluates whether the wetland is well connected (Well) and/or loosely connected (Loosely) to the landscape patch, the contiguous naturally vegetated area and open water (if appropriate). Boundaries are formed by four-lane roads, regularly maintained utility line corridors the width of a four-lane road or wider, urban landscapes, maintained fields (pasture and agriculture), or open water > 300 feet wide.

Well	Loosely	
☐A	☐A	≥ 500 acres
☐B	☒B	From 100 to < 500 acres
☐C	☐C	From 50 to < 100 acres
☐D	☐D	From 10 to < 50 acres
☒E	☐E	< 10 acres
☐F	☐F	Wetland type has a poor or no connection to other natural habitats

13b. **Evaluate for marshes only**.

☐Yes ☐No Wetland type has a surface hydrology connection to open waters/stream or tidal wetlands.

14. Edge Effect – wetland type condition metric (skip for all marshes and Estuarine Woody Wetland)

May involve a GIS effort with field adjustment. Estimate distance from wetland type boundary to artificial edges. Artificial edges include non-forested areas ≥ 40 feet wide such as fields, development, roads, regularly maintained utility line corridors, and clear-cuts. Consider the eight main points of the compass. Artificial edge occurs within 150 feet in how many directions? If the assessment area is clear cut, select option "C."

- ☐A 0
- ☐B 1 to 4
- ☒C 5 to 8

15. Vegetative Composition – assessment area condition metric (skip for all marshes and Pine Flat)

- ☐A Vegetation is close to reference condition in species present and their proportions. Lower strata composed of appropriate species, with exotic plants absent or sparse within the assessment area.
- ☒B Vegetation is different from reference condition in species diversity or proportions, but still largely composed of native species characteristic of the wetland type. This may include communities of weedy native species that develop after clearcutting or clearing. It also includes communities with exotics present, but not dominant, over a large portion of the expected strata.
- ☐C Vegetation severely altered from reference in composition, or expected species are unnaturally absent (planted stands of non-characteristic species or at least one stratum inappropriately composed of a single species), or exotic species are dominant in at least one stratum.

16. Vegetative Diversity – assessment area condition metric (evaluate for Non-tidal Freshwater Marsh only)

- ☐A Vegetation diversity is high and is composed primarily of native species (< 10% cover of exotics).
- ☐B Vegetation diversity is low or has > 10% to 50% cover of exotics.
- ☐C Vegetation is dominated by exotic species (> 50 % cover of exotics).

17. Vegetative Structure – assessment area/wetland type condition metric

17a. Is vegetation present?
☒Yes ☐No If Yes, continue to 17b. If No, skip to Metric 18.

17b. Evaluate percent coverage of assessment area vegetation **for all marshes only**. Skip to 17c for non-marsh wetlands.
☐A ≥ 25% coverage of vegetation
☐B < 25% coverage of vegetation

17c. **Check a box in each column for each stratum**. Evaluate this portion of the metric **for non-marsh wetlands**. Consider structure in airspace above the assessment area (AA) and the wetland type (WT) separately.

	AA	WT	
Canopy	☒A	☒A	Canopy closed, or nearly closed, with natural gaps associated with natural processes
	☐B	☐B	Canopy present, but opened more than natural gaps
	☐C	☐C	Canopy sparse or absent
Mid-Story	☐A	☐A	Dense mid-story/sapling layer
	☒B	☒B	Moderate density mid-story/sapling layer
	☐C	☐C	Mid-story/sapling layer sparse or absent
Shrub	☐A	☐A	Dense shrub layer
	☐B	☐B	Moderate density shrub layer
	☒C	☒C	Shrub layer sparse or absent
Herb	☐A	☐A	Dense herb layer
	☒B	☒B	Moderate density herb layer
	☐C	☐C	Herb layer sparse or absent

18. Snags – wetland type condition metric (skip for all marshes)

☐A Large snags (more than one) are visible (> 12 inches DBH, or large relative to species present and landscape stability).
☒B Not A

19. Diameter Class Distribution – wetland type condition metric (skip for all marshes)

☐A Majority of canopy trees have stems > 6 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH); many large trees (> 12 inches DBH) are present.
☐B Majority of canopy trees have stems between 6 and 12 inches DBH, few are > 12 inch DBH.
☒C Majority of canopy trees are < 6 inches DBH or no trees.

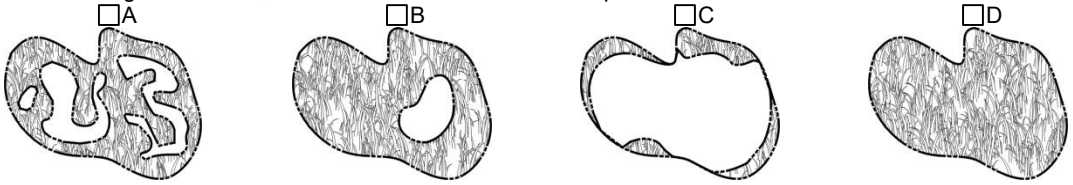
20. Large Woody Debris – wetland type condition metric (skip for all marshes)

Include both natural debris and man-placed natural debris.
☐A Large logs (more than one) are visible (> 12 inches in diameter, or large relative to species present and landscape stability).
☒B Not A

21. Vegetation/Open Water Dispersion – wetland type/open water condition metric (evaluate for Non-Tidal Freshwater Marsh only)

Select the figure that best describes the amount of interspersion between vegetation and open water in the growing season. Patterned areas indicate vegetated areas, while solid white areas indicate open water.

☐A ☐B ☐C ☐D



22. Hydrologic Connectivity – assessment area condition metric (evaluate for riparian wetlands and Salt/Brackish Marsh only)

Examples of activities that may severely alter hydrologic connectivity include intensive ditching, fill, sedimentation, channelization, diversion, man-made berms, beaver dams, and stream incision. Documentation required if evaluated as B, C, or D.
☒A Overbank and overland flow are not severely altered in the assessment area.
☐B Overbank flow is severely altered in the assessment area.
☐C Overland flow is severely altered in the assessment area.
☐D Both overbank and overland flow are severely altered in the assessment area.

Notes

NC WAM Wetland Rating Sheet
Accompanies User Manual Version 5.0

Wetland Site Name	WA	Date of Assessment	10/07/2026
Wetland Type	Headwater Forest	Assessor Name/Organization	Preston Butler, PWS / JMT

Notes on Field Assessment Form (Y/N)	NO
Presence of regulatory considerations (Y/N)	NO
Wetland is intensively managed (Y/N)	NO
Assessment area is located within 50 feet of a natural tributary or other open water (Y/N)	YES
Assessment area is substantially altered by beaver (Y/N)	NO
Assessment area experiences overbank flooding during normal rainfall conditions (Y/N)	NO
Assessment area is on a coastal island (Y/N)	NO

Sub-function Rating Summary

Function	Sub-function	Metrics	Rating
Hydrology	Surface Storage and Retention	Condition	**HIGH**
	Sub-surface Storage and Retention	Condition	**HIGH**
Water Quality	Pathogen Change	Condition	**HIGH**
		Condition/Opportunity	**HIGH**
		Opportunity Presence (Y/N)	**NO**
	Particulate Change	Condition	**MEDIUM**
		Condition/Opportunity	NA
		Opportunity Presence (Y/N)	NA
	Soluble Change	Condition	**MEDIUM**
		Condition/Opportunity	**HIGH**
		Opportunity Presence (Y/N)	**YES**
	Physical Change	Condition	**HIGH**
		Condition/Opportunity	**HIGH**
		Opportunity Presence (Y/N)	**YES**
	Pollution Change	Condition	NA
		Condition/Opportunity	NA
		Opportunity Presence (Y/N)	NA
Habitat	Physical Structure	Condition	**LOW**
	Landscape Patch Structure	Condition	**LOW**
	Vegetation Composition	Condition	**MEDIUM**

Function Rating Summary

Function	Metrics	Rating
Hydrology	Condition	**HIGH**
Water Quality	Condition	**HIGH**
	Condition/Opportunity	**HIGH**
	Opportunity Presence (Y/N)	**YES**
Habitat	Condition	**LOW**

Overall Wetland Rating **HIGH**



Photo 1: Bridge No. 800358, facing southwest, downstream Grays Creek



Photo 2: Bridge No. 800358, facing northeast, upstream Grays Creek



Photo 3: Culvert pipe (84” CMP) temporary repair for Bridge No. 800358



Photo 4: Grays Creek facing downstream, downstream of Bridge No. 800358



Photo 5: Culvert (Temporary Repair): West pipe, facing upstream



Photo 6: Culvert (Temporary Repair): East pipe, facing upstream



Photo 7: Stream SA facing upstream



Photo 8: Stream SA facing downstream towards confluence with Grays Creek



Photo 9: Wetland WA



Photo 10: Upland adjacent to Wetland WA (DPU-01)