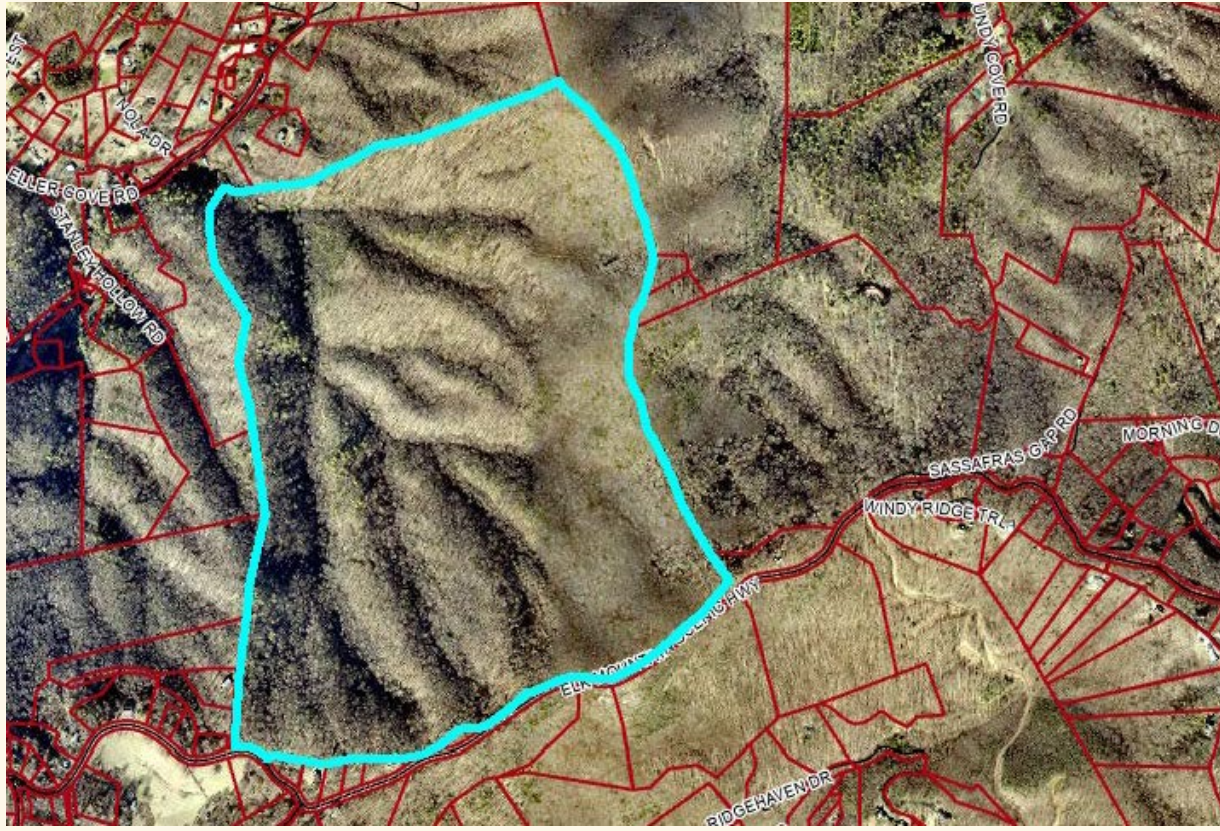


PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

*Weaverville Watershed Property
Hurricane Helene Cleanup Project*
September 10, 2026

Overview of Property

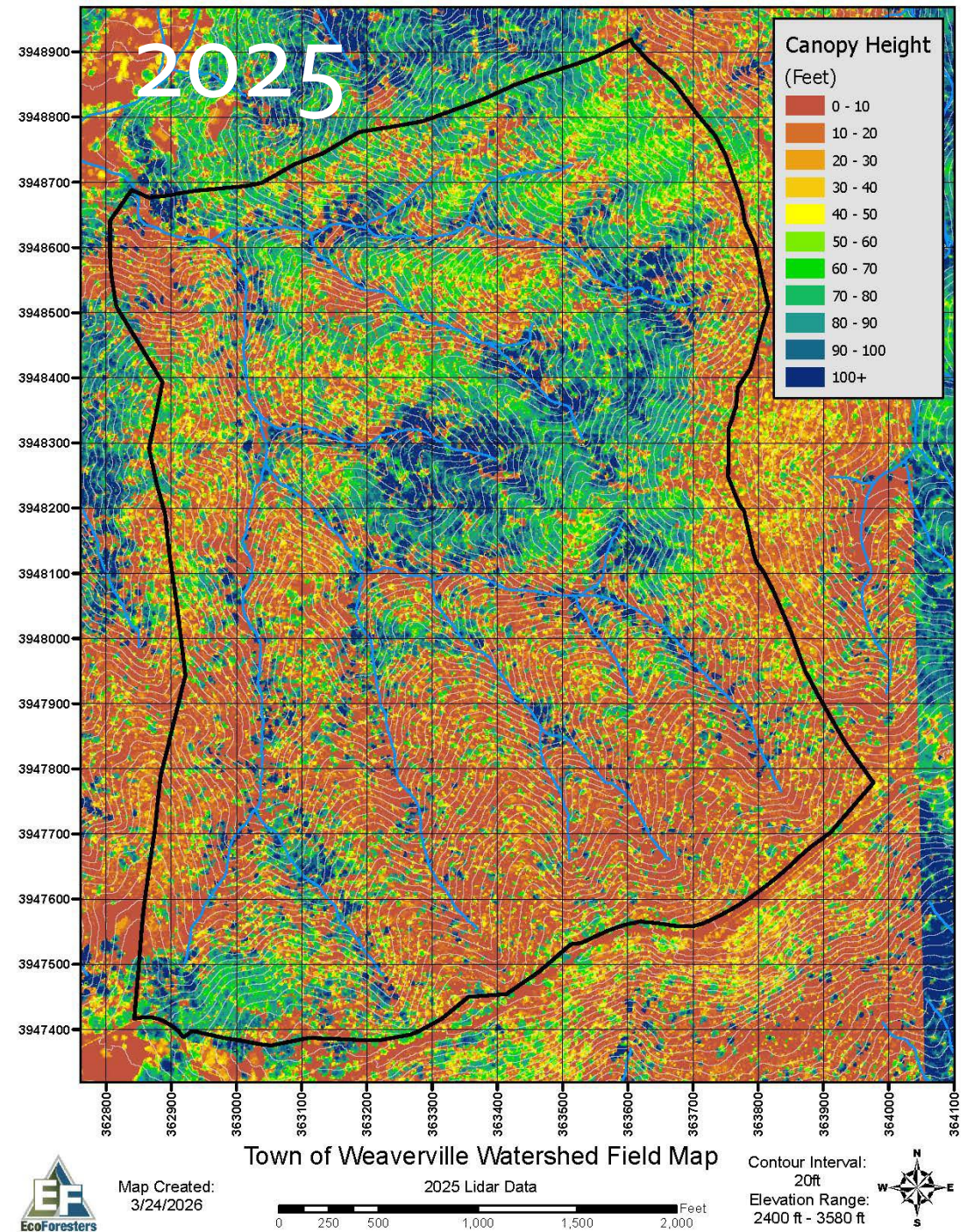
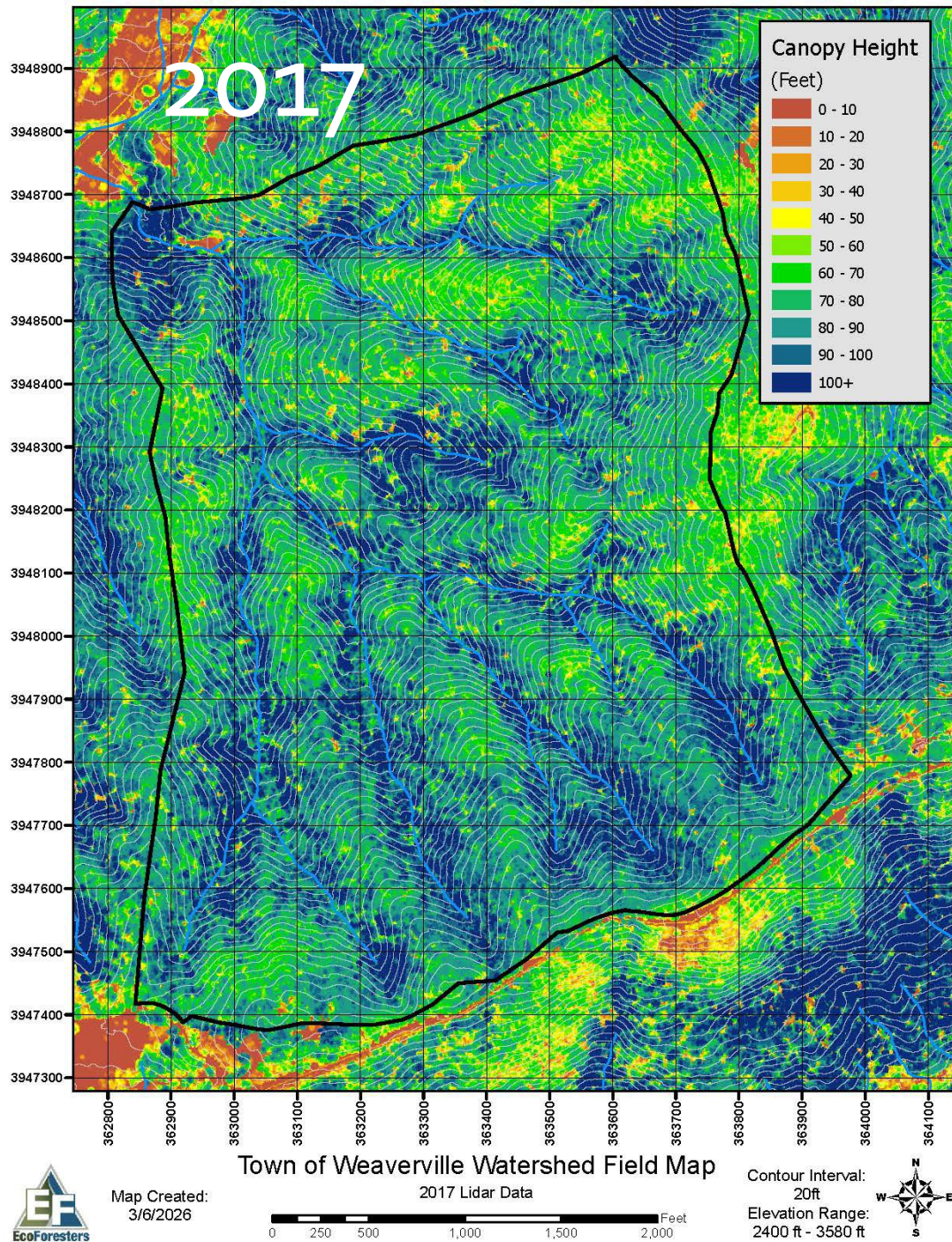


- 300+ acres of forest land between EMSH and Eller Cove Road owned by Town of Weaverville
- Protected by a Conservation Easement granted in 2017 and held by NCLWF
- Monitored by SAHC

Impact of Hurricane Helene

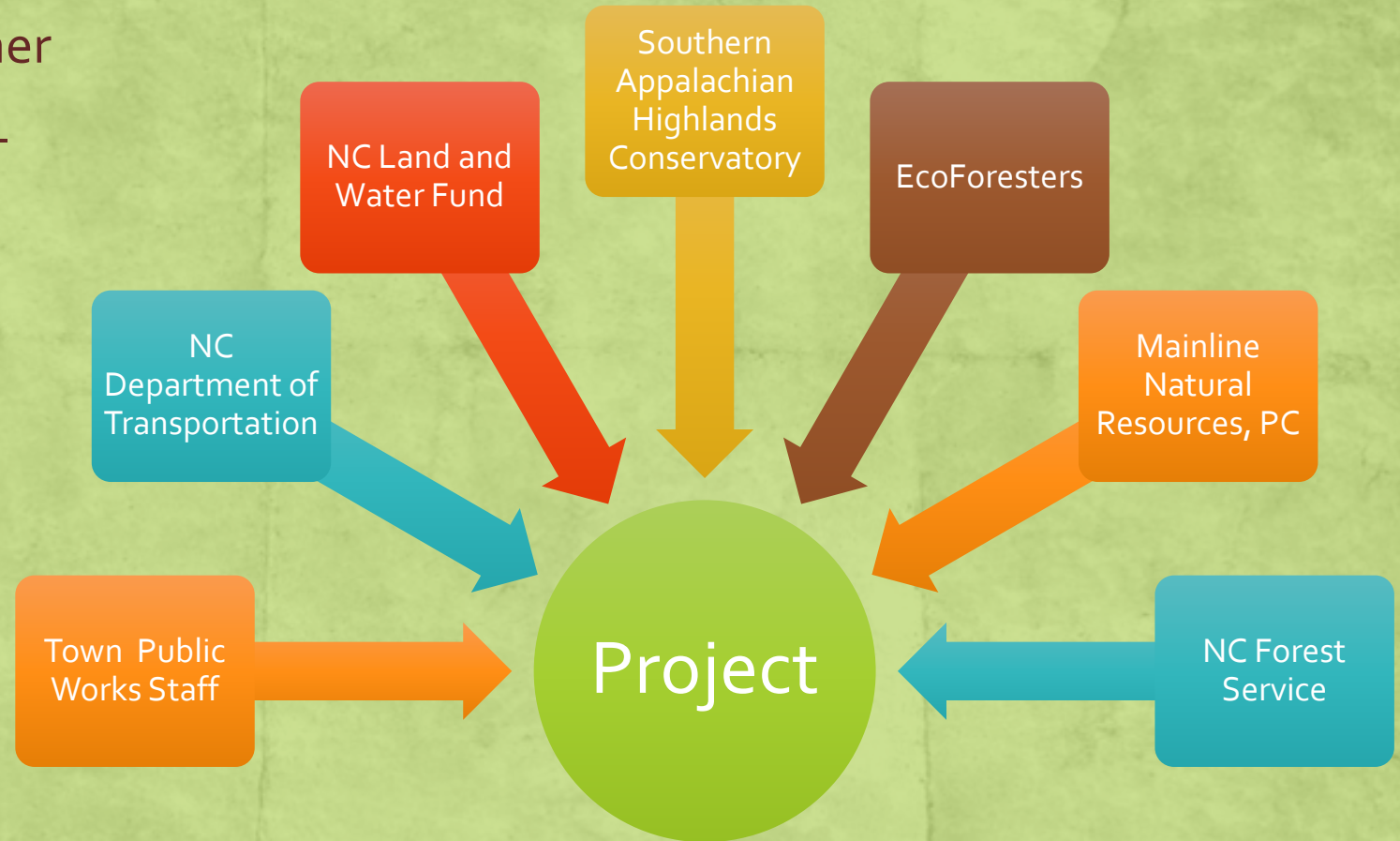


- +/-175 acres significantly affected by Hurricane Helene
- Catastrophic tree fall
- Existing roads impassable
- High fuel load is increasing wildfire risk
- 6 homes and EMSH at risk



Key Players

- Town of Weaverville – Property Owner
- NC Land and Water Fund (NCLWF) – Conservation Easement Owner
- State Agencies
 - NC Department of Transportation – Driveway Permit off EMSH
 - NC Land and Water Fund (NCLWF) – Conservation Easement
 - NC Forest Service (NCFS) – Helene Recovery Work
- Non-Profit Monitors
 - EcoForesters
 - Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservatory (SAHC)
- Mainline Natural Resources, PC – Private Contractor



EcoForesters

Andy Tait

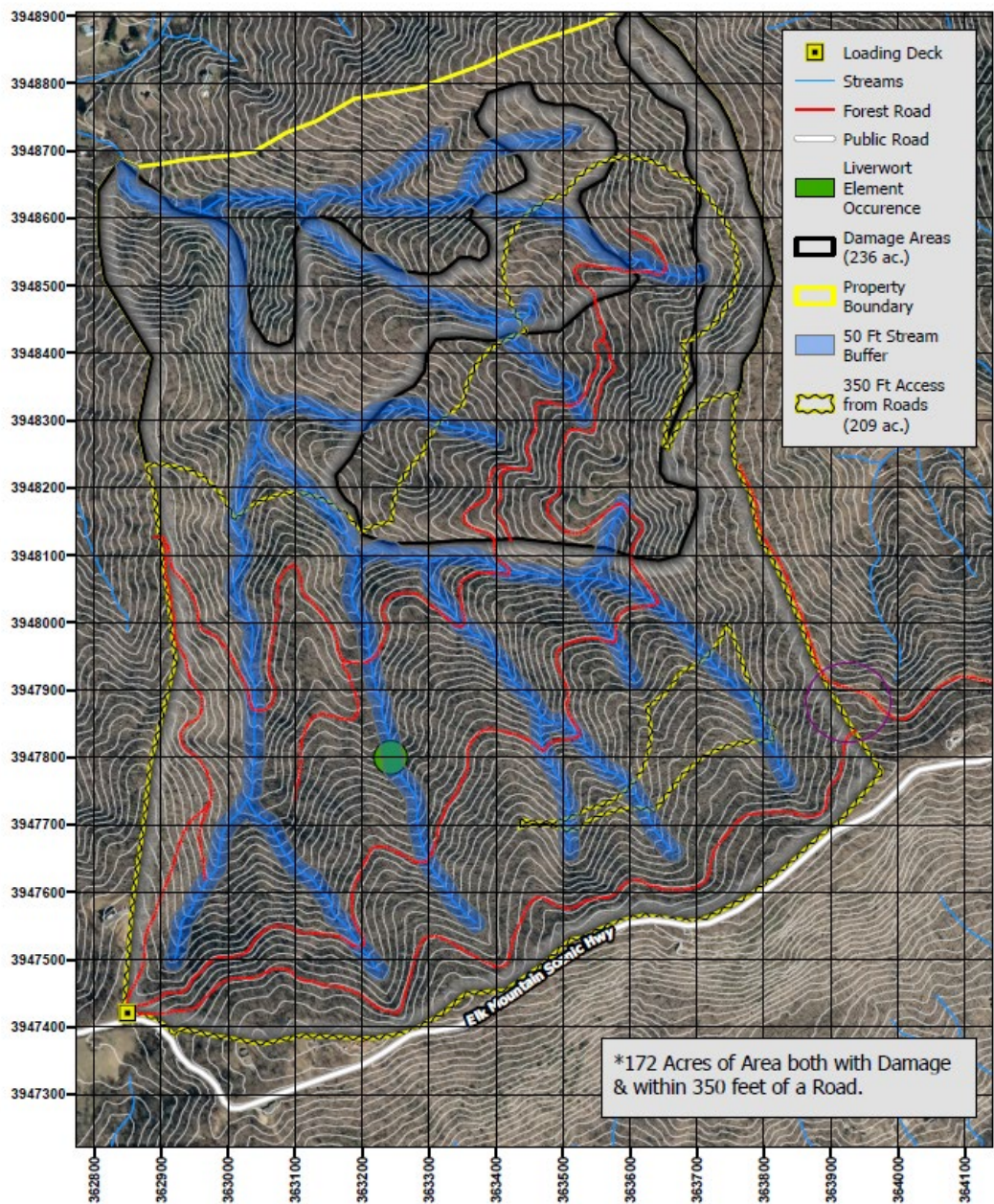
Senior Forestry Director

NCRF #1791

20-years of forestry experience all in western NC

EcoForesters is a 501c3 nonprofit professional forestry organization dedicated to conserving and restoring our Appalachian forests through education and stewardship.

- We are serving as the Town's agent in managing this wildfire risk reduction and salvage harvest to ensure that it is done with minimal environmental impact and maximum community benefit.

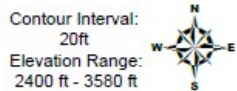


Weaverville Watershed Salvage Harvest Map



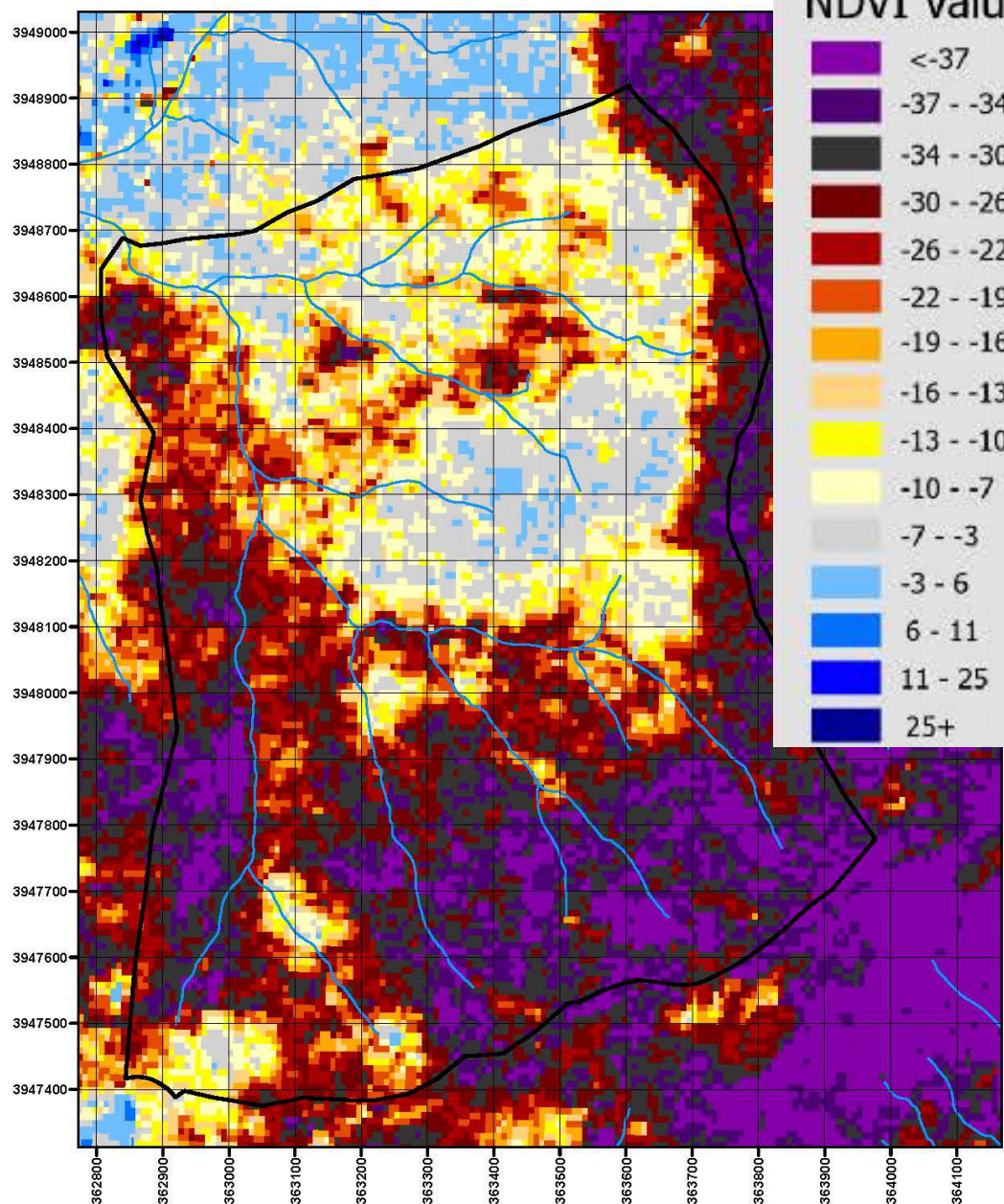
Map Created:
5/1/2026

0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet



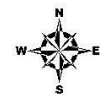
Map Created:
3/6/2026

Town of Weaverville Watershed Field Map



NDVI Values

0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet



Goals of the Project

- Reopen Existing Roads for Improved Emergency Access, and for use as Fire Lines/Fuel Breaks
- Reduce Severe Fuel Load for Wildfire Risk Mitigation
- Protect Environmentally Sensitive Property
- Perform All Work within Safety and Environmental Guidelines
- Minimize Cost to Taxpayers



Solution

- Representatives from the Town, EcoForesters, Mainline Natural Resources, NC Forest Service, NC Land and Water Fund, and Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy met on site on 21 April 2026 and discussed goals of the project and possible solutions.
- **A cost-neutral cable-logging salvage harvest solution was identified.**
- This will allow the removal of downed trees on the property utilizing cable logging that has a lighter footprint than standard logging operations.
- This solution pays for itself, reduces current fuel loads on the property, opens all existing roads, and is a critical first step towards forest restoration on the property.

Site Preparation

▪ Mainline Natural Resources

- Locating driveway off EMSH as deemed appropriate by NCDOT
- Performing site work for logging deck and truck turnaround
- Only needed cutting of standing trees for logging deck and truck turnaround
- Installing lockable gate
- Installing culvert (if necessary)

▪ Town Staff

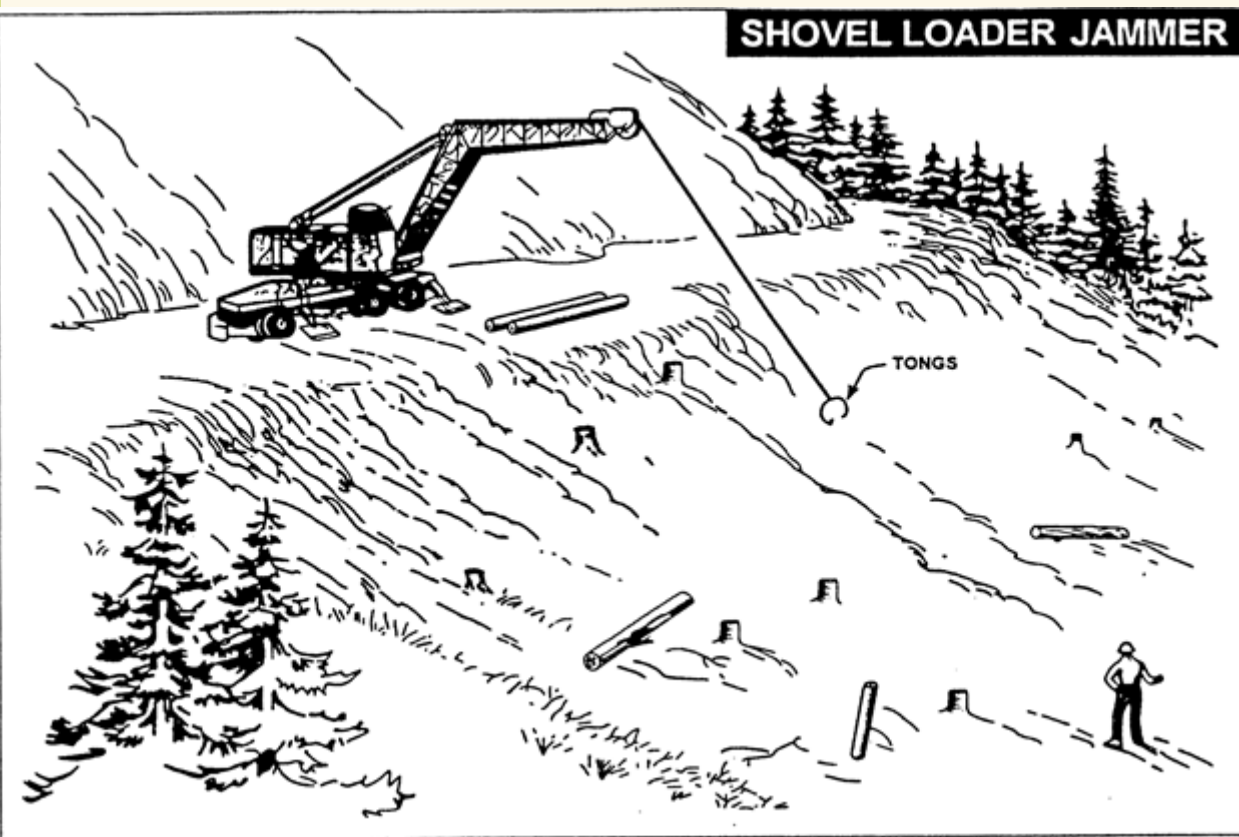
- Securing NCDOT Driveway Permit
- Supplying rock for logging deck and truck turnaround area
- Supplying lockable gate at driveway
- Supplying culvert (if necessary)
- Providing temporary traffic signaling devices for EMSH (both directions)
- Providing invasive species removal around landing pad and truck turnaround area. Would not have been possible before clearing access.

Logging Operations and Fuel Load Reduction

- Mainline Natural Resources

- Re-opening pre-existing roadbeds only
- No new roads
- Ground disturbance limited to roadbeds, logging deck, and truck turnaround
- Only downed trees to be removed
- All logging done by minimally impactful tower cable logging to roadside
- Logs moved off ground on forest roads by a forwarder (not skidded)
- 50-foot buffer with no ground disturbance from all streams and near locations of rare liverwort plant
- Temporary traffic signaling devices will be operated in both directions on EMSH when trucks exiting the property
- NO Public Access during logging

Cable Tower "Jammer" and Forwarder Minimal Impact Logging



No Machinery operates off of forest roads

On roads, logs transported off of the ground



■ NCFS

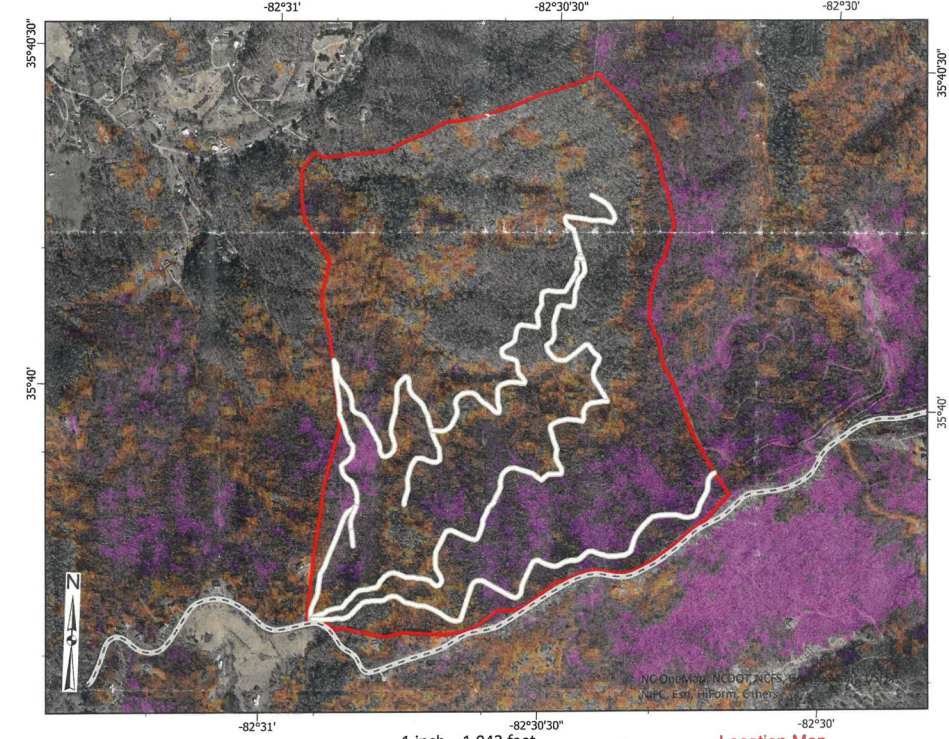
- Serious wildfire response concern with catastrophic damage leading to severe fuel loading with no access, and below homes and a major road.
- Town is on NCFS's Disaster Mitigation Program list
- Additional fuel reduction work will be done by NCFS once roads are re-opened
- Focus will be removal of smaller fuels within ~15 feet on either side of existing upper re-opened road



North Carolina Forest Service Helene Mitigation Map



This measurement is not a survey.
All boundaries and acres are approximate.

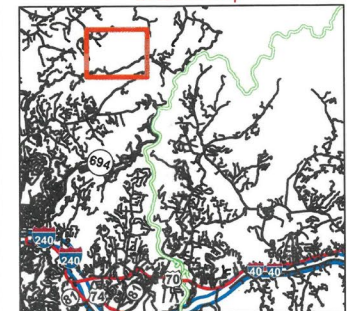


Legend

- Elk_Mtn_Scn_Hwy
- PotentialRoad
- Weaverville_Watershed

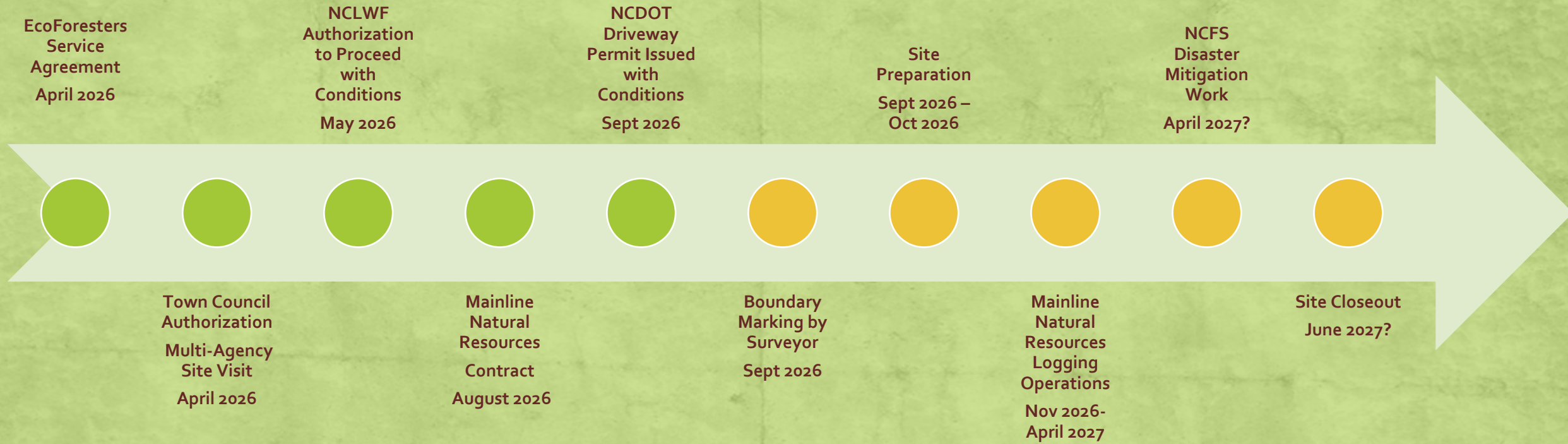
Owner: Weaverville Watershed
Lat: 35° 39.6676'
Long: -82° 30.9034'
County: Buncombe
Total Acres: 309.82
Drawn By: Coleman Enloe
Date: 4/17/2026

Location Map



Site Closeout

- Mainline Natural Resources
 - Regrade roads and install proper water control structures to reduce erosion
 - Reseed any disturbed areas of bare soil that could erode
- Town Staff
 - Removal of driveway
 - Removal of rock logging deck and truck turnaround area
 - Removal of temporary traffic signaling devices for EMSH (both directions)
 - Property returns to normal conditions of conservation easement
 - No public access on property
 - Reforestation and other forest improvement work (like more invasive control) can then be considered



Tentative Project Timeline