
Back Country Horsemen Of NC

State Report for 2023- 2024

2023-2024 Volunteer Stats

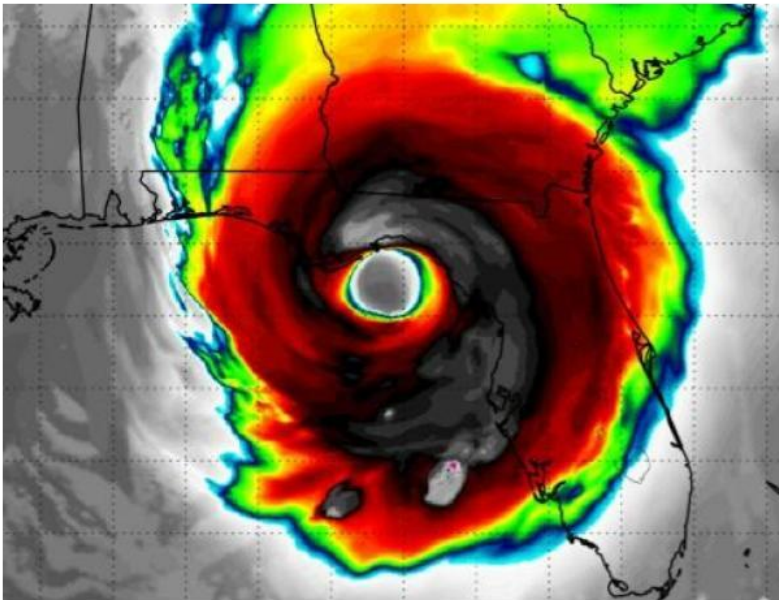
- 365 members
- 5,888 volunteer hours
- \$834,094 volunteerism value

Hurricane Video Clips

https://youtu.be/hye8Pzy5qEY?si=IW1zHDkeimoTDz_U

<https://youtu.be/Lne-PO8s9io?si=dpxw68jh6edz0j-N>

<https://youtu.be/0mzD5nq-870?si=ssuW-xHdumkv6x7i>



Helene

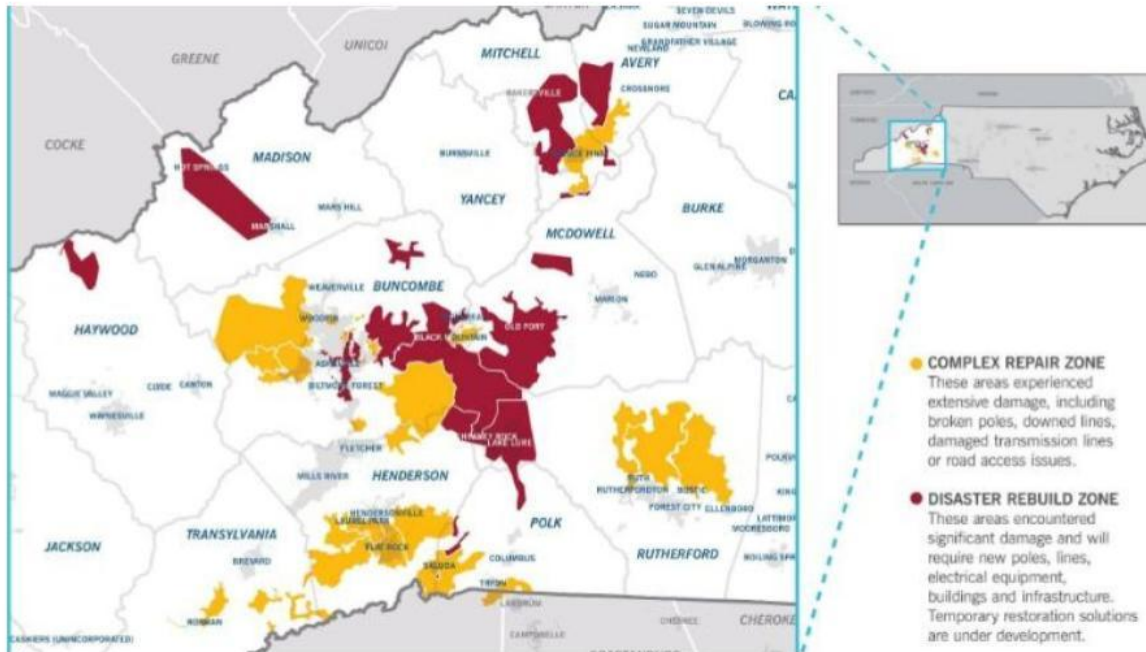
On Sept 24-26,
Western NC
experienced
widespread heavy
rain, up to 31" over
the three days in
many places. What
happened next was
the unthinkable...

**The Town of Chimney Rock, North Carolina
Before and After Hurricane Helene**



In the days and weeks after the storm, the majority of relief was supplied by private individuals and organizations.

Pictured, Mike Toberer of Mountain Mule Packers carrying supplies to stranded communities



Damage to Public Lands

USFS

- 187,000 acres @ 20% of the total Nantahala & Pisgah Forest experienced catastrophic damage.
- Avery, Buncombe, McDowell, Mitchell, Henderson and Yancey counties experienced the majority of the damage, these counties are within the Pisgah National Forest.
- 900 miles of USFS roads and 800 miles of trail were damaged or destroyed.
- Appalachian and Grandfather Districts were closed to the public for six weeks while assessments were conducted.
- As of March 1, 2025, 58% of Appalachian District and 25% of Grandfather District trails remain closed.
- It is estimated that @ 50 miles of trail across the two districts are unrecoverable.
- Dry conditions and fire load density are creating a perfect storm for devastating wildfires

Back Country Horsemen of North Carolina helps with recovery

- 419 hours of trail assessment, most on foot
- 3293 miles driven to trail heads
- 92 hours of equipment used to clear trail
- 3 work days in SC before the NC trails were open for work

Post Hurricane Trail Clearing Efforts





While our western chapters were busy with post hurricane efforts, our remaining chapters were up to good things as well

Uwharrie Chapter:

The Uwharrie chapter held a successful membership meet and greet bonfire weekend for members. Their poker run fundraiser was a success in gaining members and funds. While all major projects are on hold until a recreation director is hired for the district, the chapter worked to keep the trails cleared of trees and briars for trail users. They also held a chainsaw certification class



Croatan Chapter:

Croatan was finally able to get permission to do their parking area improvements after a long wait. They also held a member meet and greet with a good rainy day turnout. Croatan hosted a forage management seminar and they had a poker run fundraiser in the fall.

