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Forestry • Conservation • Education

Post-Helene
Forest Restoration & Planning in Burke County

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The Big Picture



Over **$10 million dollars** in value lost in Burke (NCFS Forest Damage Appraisal, 2024)

Loss of future timber revenue will make owning land **even more difficult**

45,755 total acres damaged (45,000 acres of new growing space)

- What comes back is important

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EcoForesters' Observations

- Downed trees continue to be an issue, particularly in steeper and roadless areas
  - Landowners are burdened with other costs, and most cannot afford to pay for removal
  - Window for viable salvage harvests is closing
- Many oaks were lost, and they will need help to compete against NNIS and faster-growing trees
- The loss of timber will further harm landowners' ability to pay for forest management



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EcoForesters' Observations

- Landslides and streams are in need of revegetation and planning
- Non-native invasive species will be a MAJOR problem
  - Access impacts our ability to plan and control NNIS
  - Education and training are needed to help focus on the most disruptive species



Oriental Bittersweet ◦ Tree of Heaven
Kudzu ◦ Japanese Stiltgrass
Chinese Wisteria ◦ Multiflora Rose

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The Need for Planning

Planning for fire is happening through Community Wildfire Protection Planning by Carolina Land & Lakes RC&D. This district-by-district planning provides an excellent resource for identifying where the risk is located & what is needed to mitigate it.

CAROLINA LAND & LAKES

Planning needs to continue around what will grow back where disturbance has occurred.

EcoForesters offers no-cost NNIS control planning, training, and regeneration plans that account for what is likely to return (or what is desired).

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The Need for Planning



Prepare for Fire Season year-round

Spring fire season showed us how downed timber stands impacts fighting wildfires, particularly the access. EcoForesters has staff available to help cut in access and wildfire breaks where needed at no charge.

Continue to support VFDs

Support the creation of Firewise communities in the most fire-prone communities and utilize the program's communication to help inform citizens of Burke County.

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What we can do for landowners

- Grant-funded wildfire mitigation
- Grant-funded NNIS control plans
- Grant-funded regeneration plans



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Please lean on EcoForesters as an additional resource that adds capacity to state and county agencies.

For more information, contact lang@ecoforesters.org.

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