

Swain County, NC

Risk-assessment baseline packet

Unit **County area 37173** Release **2026-10** As of **2026-09-28** Storm Events data through **2026-06-30**

Hazard Plain is an independent product built from public federal data. It is not a FEMA document and is not reviewed or endorsed by FEMA or any state agency.

A starting point for the plan's risk assessment (FEMA Local Mitigation Plan Review Tool, Element B). It does not replace local data or FEMA review. Section headings say which FEMA review item each table supports; whether an item is satisfied is decided by the plan and its reviewers.

OPENFEMA DISCLAIMER

This product uses the Federal Emergency Management Agency's OpenFEMA API, but is not endorsed by FEMA. The Federal Government or FEMA cannot vouch for the data or analyses derived from these data after the data have been retrieved from the Agency's website(s).

Plan clock

Status	Approved, expires 2027-09-12	Plan	Smoky Mountain Regional (FEMA plan 108483)
Approved	2022-09-13	Expires	2027-09-12
As of	2026-09-28	Days	349 days to expiry
Update underway	none in FEMA's plan tracker		

What changed since your last plan (approved 2022-09-13)

New federal declarations	EM-3586-NC, EM-3617-NC, DR-4827-NC, FM-5577-NC, FM-5580-NC, EM-3637-NC (6 declaration rows; 5 counted incidents)	Storm Events records since approval	35 (data through 2026-06-30)
Repetitive loss now	FMA RL 2, SRL 1 (44 CFR 77.2); any definition: 4	Repeat-flood change	First release: no prior release to compare.

SOURCES: FEMA, OpenFEMA HazardMitigationPlanStatuses v1, version 2026-09-26T121003Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/HazardMitigationPlanStatuses> (API); FEMA, OpenFEMA DisasterDeclarationsSummaries v2, version 2026-09-27T010817Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v2/DisasterDeclarationsSummaries> (API); NOAA NCEI, NOAA NCEI Storm Events Database, details files (csvfiles v1.0), version c20260918, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/pub/data/swdi/stormevents/csvfiles/>; FEMA, OpenFEMA NfipMultipleLossProperties v1, version 2026-08-04T164045Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/NfipMultipleLossProperties> (API)

Plan status for every jurisdiction listed in this county

Jurisdiction	Type	Status	Plan	Approved	Expires	Days to expiry <i>negative = days since expiry</i>	Update underway	Notes
Swain County (unincorporated area)	Unincorporated	Approved, expires 2027-09-12	Smoky Mountain Regional (FEMA plan 108483)	2022-09-13	2027-09-12	349		member approved 2022-11-08
Bryson City town	Town	Approved, expires 2027-09-12	Smoky Mountain Regional (FEMA plan 108483)	2022-09-13	2027-09-12	349		

Plan 108483 also covers 18 other participants not listed on this page (named in the XLSX file).

SOURCE: FEMA, OpenFEMA HazardMitigationPlanStatuses v1, version 2026-09-26T121003Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/HazardMitigationPlanStatuses> (API)

State plan status and tribal plans in this state: see the state page.

CONTENTS

1. Plan clock, page 1
2. What changed since your last plan (approved 2022-09-13), page 1
3. Supports B1-a: hazards, page 2
4. Supports B1-b: location, page 3
5. Supports B1-c: extent, page 4
6. Supports B1-d: previous occurrences, page 8
7. Supports B1-e: probability, page 12
8. Supports B1-f: variation across the planning area, page 15
9. Supports B2-a and B2-b: assets and impacts, page 16
10. Supports B2-a: context, page 18
11. Supports B2-c: repetitive loss, page 19
12. Sources and OpenFEMA disclaimer, page 20

Supports B1-a: hazards

Hazards NRI does not cover: check locally

- dam failure (incl. upstream dams)
- levee failure
- flash flood as its own subtype
- ice jams
- debris flows
- erosion (riverine and coastal)
- land subsidence and sinkholes
- expansive soils

The 18 National Risk Index hazards, ranked by expected annual loss (EAL)

Rank by EAL	Hazard	NRI risk rating	EAL rating	EAL buildings <i>modeled dollars per year</i>	EAL agriculture <i>modeled dollars per year</i>	EAL population equivalence <i>statistical value of life and injury; \$13.7M per life, not property damage</i>	EAL total (see note) <i>modeled dollars per year</i>	Storm Events records since 1996 <i>count</i>	Evidence for an omission <i>NRI Not Applicable, no declaration and no Storm Events record since 1996</i>	Storm Events coverage note
1	Inland Flooding	Relatively Low	Relatively Low	\$6,029,432	\$13,569	\$31,482	\$6,074,483	31		
2	Cold Wave	Relatively Moderate	Relatively Moderate	\$10,126	\$56,082	\$1,724,465	\$1,790,673	22		Includes 1 Frost/Freeze record, event types the NRI definition of this hazard leaves out.
3	Tornado	Relatively Low	Relatively Low	\$243,114	\$58	\$182,875	\$426,046	2		
4	Earthquake	Relatively Low	Relatively Low	\$291,438		\$49,667	\$341,104			Not in Storm Events. Storm Events coverage of this hazard is limited; absence is not evidence of low risk.
5	Strong Wind	Relatively Low	Relatively Low	\$56,042	\$2,532	\$281,690	\$340,264	100		Includes 23 High Wind records and 4 Strong Wind records, event types the NRI definition of this hazard leaves out.
6	Landslide	Relatively Moderate	Relatively Moderate	\$244,742		\$60,036	\$304,778	1		
7	Ice Storm	Relatively Moderate	Relatively Moderate	\$147,002		\$2,898	\$149,900	4		
8	Lightning	Relatively Low	Relatively Low	\$17,916		\$97,857	\$115,773	2		
9	Hurricane	Very Low	Very Low	\$67,605	\$943	\$1,512	\$70,060	2		
10	Hail	Very Low	Very Low	\$38,202	\$2,767	\$17,294	\$58,263	20		
11	Wildfire	Very Low	Very Low	\$45,037	\$27	\$8,006	\$53,070	2		

Rank by EAL	Hazard	NRI risk rating	EAL rating	EAL buildings <i>modeled dollars per year</i>	EAL agriculture <i>modeled dollars per year</i>	EAL population equivalence <i>statistical value of life and injury, \$13.7M per life, not property damage</i>	EAL total (see note) <i>modeled dollars per year</i>	Storm Events records since 1996 <i>count</i>	Evidence for an omission <i>NRI Not Applicable, no declaration and no Storm Events record since 1996</i>	Storm Events coverage note
12	Winter Weather	Relatively Low	Relatively Low	\$2,126	\$33	\$22,408	\$24,567	252		Includes 3 Sleet records, event types the NRI definition of this hazard leaves out.
13	Drought	Very Low	Very Low		\$15,080		\$15,080	37		
14	Heat Wave	No Rating	No Expected Annual Losses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0		No recorded events in Storm Events since 1996 (data through 2026-06-30).
	Avalanche	Not Applicable	Not Applicable					0	NRI rates avalanche Not Applicable for this county, and no federal declaration for this county names it.	No recorded events in Storm Events since 1996 (data through 2026-06-30).
	Coastal Flooding	Not Applicable	Not Applicable					0	NRI rates coastal flooding Not Applicable for this county, and no federal declaration for this county names it.	No recorded events in Storm Events since 1996 (data through 2026-06-30).
	Tsunami	Not Applicable	Not Applicable					0	NRI rates tsunami Not Applicable for this county, and no federal declaration for this county names it.	No recorded events in Storm Events since 1996 (data through 2026-06-30). Storm Events coverage of this hazard is limited; absence is not evidence of low risk.
	Volcanic Activity	Not Applicable	Not Applicable					0	NRI rates volcanic activity Not Applicable for this county, and no federal declaration for this county names it.	No recorded events in Storm Events since 1996 (data through 2026-06-30). Storm Events coverage of this hazard is limited; absence is not evidence of low risk.

Total = buildings + agriculture + population equivalence; FEMA values each expected death (or 10 injuries) at \$13.7 million (2024 dollars).

SOURCES
FEMA, FEMA National Risk Index 1.20.0 (December 2025), county and census tract tables, version 1.20.0, pulled 2026-09-28, https://www.fema.gov/about/reports-and-data/openfema/nri/v120/NRI_Table_Counties.zip (download, 25 MB), https://www.fema.gov/about/reports-and-data/openfema/nri/v120/NRI_Table_CensusTracts.zip (download, 635 MB)
NOAA NCEI, NOAA NCEI Storm Events Database, details files (csvfiles v1.0), version c20260918, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/pub/data/swdi/stormevents/csvfiles/>

Check your state hazard mitigation plan's hazard list for this county; explain any hazard you drop.

Supports B1-b: location

Where each hazard occurs

Hazard	Location	Census tracts rated <i>rated of all tracts</i>
Avalanche	Census tract rating counts from the National Risk Index tract table (see B1-f). Tract maps and place names are not in this packet.	0 of 5
Coastal Flooding	Census tract rating counts from the National Risk Index tract table (see B1-f). Tract maps and place names are not in this packet.	0 of 5
Cold Wave	Affects the whole planning area; national data do not distinguish locations within the county. Confirm locally.	5 of 5
Drought	Affects the whole planning area; national data do not distinguish locations within the county. Confirm locally.	1 of 5
Earthquake	Census tract rating counts from the National Risk Index tract table (see B1-f). Tract maps and place names are not in this packet.	5 of 5

Hazard	Location	Census tracts rated <i>rated of all tracts</i>
Hail	Affects the whole planning area; national data do not distinguish locations within the county. Confirm locally.	5 of 5
Heat Wave	Affects the whole planning area; national data do not distinguish locations within the county. Confirm locally.	0 of 5
Hurricane	Census tract rating counts from the National Risk Index tract table (see B1-f). Tract maps and place names are not in this packet.	5 of 5
Ice Storm	Affects the whole planning area; national data do not distinguish locations within the county. Confirm locally.	5 of 5
Inland Flooding	The FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) is the required location source for flooding. See the FEMA Flood Map Service Center (https://msc.fema.gov) for this county.	5 of 5
Landslide	Census tract rating counts from the National Risk Index tract table (see B1-f). Tract maps and place names are not in this packet.	5 of 5
Lightning	Affects the whole planning area; national data do not distinguish locations within the county. Confirm locally.	5 of 5
Strong Wind	Affects the whole planning area; national data do not distinguish locations within the county. Confirm locally.	5 of 5
Tornado	Census tract rating counts from the National Risk Index tract table (see B1-f). Tract maps and place names are not in this packet.	5 of 5
Tsunami	Census tract rating counts from the National Risk Index tract table (see B1-f). Tract maps and place names are not in this packet.	0 of 5
Volcanic Activity	Census tract rating counts from the National Risk Index tract table (see B1-f). Tract maps and place names are not in this packet.	0 of 5
Wildfire	Census tract rating counts from the National Risk Index tract table (see B1-f). Tract maps and place names are not in this packet.	5 of 5
Winter Weather	Affects the whole planning area; national data do not distinguish locations within the county. Confirm locally.	5 of 5

SOURCE
FEMA, FEMA National Risk Index 1.20.0 (December 2025), county and census tract tables, version 1.20.0, pulled 2026-09-28, https://www.fema.gov/about/reports-and-data/openfema/nri/v120/NRI_Table_Counties.zip (download, 25 MB), https://www.fema.gov/about/reports-and-data/openfema/nri/v120/NRI_Table_CensusTracts.zip (download, 635 MB)

Supports B1-c: extent

Extent: scale, observed range and worst recorded event per hazard

Hazard	Scale	Records <i>count, years</i>	Observed range	Worst recorded event	Most damaging (when different)	How it applies to members	Note
Avalanche	none (count and damage)	0					Physical measure: in event narratives only; local data required.
Coastal Flood, Storm Surge/ Tide	none in data (FIRM for depth)	0					Flood depth: see the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map.
Cold/Wind Chill, Extreme Cold/Wind Chill	wind chill	21, 1997 to 2026 (21 zone-level)	1 day to 31 days (median 2 days); 21 with a recorded value	31 days, 2000-12-01 to 2000-12-31, from 1 monthly summary record (a monthly summary record covers most or all of a month; it does not count days at wave conditions), zone-level		Zone-level records: applies countywide; national data do not locate these events within the county.	Wind chill: in event narratives only; local data required.

Hazard	Scale	Records <i>count, years</i>	Observed range	Worst recorded event	Most damaging (when different)	How it applies to members	Note
Frost/Freeze (outside NRI Cold Wave definition)	crop damage	1, 2007 to 2007 (1 zone- level)		Frost/Freeze, 2007-04-08, \$1,000,000 crop damage, reported for the zone (2007 dollars); NWS zone NCZ051 (SWAIN), zone- level: may include parts of neighboring counties		Zone-level records: applies countywide; national data do not locate these events within the county.	Temperature: in event narratives only; local data required.
Drought	US Drought Monitor D- scale	37, 1998 to 2026 (37 zone- level)	31 days to 276 days (median 61 days); 12 with a recorded value	276 days (9 months), 2007-05-01 to 2008-01-31, a run of 9 consecutive Storm Events drought records, zone- level		Zone-level records: applies countywide; national data do not locate these events within the county.	Storm Events enters a drought at D2 or worse east of the Rockies and D3 or worse from the Rockies west (NWS Instruction 10-1605); NRI drought counts D3 and D4 only.
Earthquake	Modified Mercalli (local data)	0					No Storm Events record; local data required (e.g., USGS).
Hail	hail size (inches)	20, 1998 to 2020	0.75 in to 1.25 in (median 0.81 in); 20 with a recorded value	1.25 in hail, 2012-04-26		Event records naming member places: Bryson City town (11 records).	
Excessive Heat, Heat	heat index (narratives)	0					Heat index: in event narratives only; local data required.
Hurricane, Tropical Storm, Tropical Depression	Saffir-Simpson	2, 2020 to 2024 (2 zone- level)		Strongest recorded (records with damage, a wind speed or direct casualties first, then storm type, category and wind): Tropical Storm record, 2024-09-27, \$500,000 property; \$0 crops, reported for the zone (2024 dollars); NWS zone NCZ051 (SWAIN), zone-level: may include parts of neighboring counties		Zone-level records: applies countywide; national data do not locate these events within the county.	Storm Events files every zone of a storm's episode under the storm's event type and category, so a Hurricane (Typhoon) record, especially an inland or remnant one, does not by itself mean hurricane-force winds here; read the damage and wind columns.
Ice Storm	Sperry-Piltz (local data)	4, 1996 to 2000 (4 zone- level)		No damage reported in 4 records.		Zone-level records: applies countywide; national data do not locate these events within the county.	Ice thickness: in event narratives only; local data required.

Hazard	Scale	Records <i>count, years</i>	Observed range	Worst recorded event	Most damaging (when different)	How it applies to members	Note
Flash Flood, Flood, Lakeshore Flood	damage and flood days (FIRM for depth)	31, 1996 to 2024 (6 zone-level)		Flood, 2013-01-15, \$3,500,000 property; \$0 crops (2013 dollars)		Event records naming member places: Bryson City town (12 records). Zone-level records (6) apply countywide.	Flood depth: see the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map. Storm Events damage can be \$0 or blank even for a major flood, so the worst record here may not be the worst flood; compare FEMA Public Assistance by declaration in B1-d.
Debris Flow	none (count and damage)	1, 2013 to 2013		Debris Flow, 2013-01-16, \$5,000,000 property; \$0 crops (2013 dollars)		No event record names a member place.	Physical measure: in event narratives only; local data required.
Lightning	annualized frequency (the measure FEMA's Local Mitigation Planning Handbook names)	2, 2012 to 2019		Lightning, 2012-05-29, \$100,000 property; crops not reported (2012 dollars)		No event record names a member place.	Storm Events lists lightning with damage or casualties; physical measure in event narratives only; local data required.
High Wind and Strong Wind (outside NRI Strong Wind definition)	wind speed (kt and mph)	27, 1996 to 2016 (27 zone-level)	50 kt (58 mph) to 60 kt (69 mph) (median 50 kt (58 mph)); 22 with a recorded value	60 kt (69 mph) estimated gust, High Wind, 2007-04-16; same speed and measurement basis also recorded on 2003-02-04; NWS zone NCZ051 (SWAIN), zone-level: may include parts of neighboring counties		Zone-level records: applies countywide; national data do not locate these events within the county.	
Thunderstorm Wind	wind speed (kt and mph)	78, 1986 to 2025	40 kt (46 mph) to 60 kt (69 mph) (median 50 kt (58 mph)); 73 with a recorded value	60 kt (69 mph) estimated gust, Thunderstorm Wind, 2012-07-05; same speed and measurement basis also recorded on 2002-05-02, 2002-07-02, 2011-06-15	Thunderstorm Wind, 2002-05-02, \$25,000 property; crops not reported (2002 dollars)	Event records naming member places: Bryson City town (31 records).	

Hazard	Scale	Records <i>count, years</i>	Observed range	Worst recorded event	Most damaging (when different)	How it applies to members	Note
Tornado	Enhanced Fujita (F before Feb 2007)	4, 1974 to 2022	F/EF0 to F/EF2 (median F/EF1); 4 with a recorded value	F2 tornado, 1974-04-03, 13.6 mi path length (records before 1996 may include the whole path; rating and listing come from the county where the tornado began), 33 yd wide, \$2,500 property; crops not recorded (1974 dollars)	Tornado, 1976-02-18, \$250,000 property; crops not recorded (1976 dollars)	Event records naming member places: Bryson City town (1 record).	From 1996 on, tornado records are per-county segments and length is the path length within this county (NWS Instruction 10-1605); records before 1996 may give the whole path length, including the path outside this county, and before 1996 a tornado is listed once, under the county where it began, with the whole path's rating; counties farther along the path may not list it. Length is not used to rank tornadoes.
Tsunami	none (count and damage)	0					Physical measure: in event narratives only; local data required.
Volcanic Ash, Volcanic Ashfall	Volcanic Explosivity Index (local data)	0					Physical measure: in event narratives only; local data required.
Wildfire	acres burned (local data)	2, 2007 to 2016 (2 zone-level)		Wildfire, 2007-03-11, \$1,000,000 property; \$0 crops, reported for the zone (2007 dollars); NWS zone NCZ051 (SWAIN), zone-level: may include parts of neighboring counties		Zone-level records: applies countywide; national data do not locate these events within the county.	Acres burned: in event narratives only; local data required.
Winter Storm, Heavy Snow, Blizzard, Lake-Effect Snow, Winter Weather, Sleet	none in data (snowfall local)	252, 1996 to 2026 (252 zone-level)		No damage reported in 252 records.		Zone-level records: applies countywide; national data do not locate these events within the county.	Snow depth: in event narratives only; local data required.

Storm Events records are more complete after 1996; before 1996 only Tornado (from 1950), Hail and Thunderstorm Wind (from 1955) exist. Zone-level records are placed with NWS zone-county files, which exist from 2020 on; an earlier record is placed by its zone number in the nearest later file only when its zone name matches that file, records from zones NWS renumbered are placed by name or left out, and a record whose zone is in no known file is left out of every count, so counts before 2020 can be low. Some current zones are also missing from the NWS files, so recent counts can be low too.

Dollars are nominal (as reported), labeled with the year; not adjusted for inflation.

SOURCES

NOAA NCEI, NOAA NCEI Storm Events Database, details files (csvfiles v1.0), version c20260918, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/pub/data/swdi/stormevents/csvfiles/>

NOAA National Weather Service, NWS county-public forecast zones correlation file, version bp03mr20 to bp16ap26 (11 files; newest bp16ap26), pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.weather.gov/gis/ZoneCounty>

Supports B1-d: previous occurrences

Declaration rows

17

Counted incidents

13

Federal disaster declarations for this county

Declared	Incident began	FEMA number	Type	Title	Mapped hazard	County Public Assistance <i>federal share obligated, nominal dollars</i>	Flags	Notes
2026-01-24	2026-01-21	EM-3637-NC	Emergency	SEVERE WINTER STORM	Winter Weather	none found	new since last plan; within last 5 years	
2025-04-20	2025-04-18	FM-5580-NC	Fire management	SAM DAVIS ROAD FIRE	Wildfire	none found	new since last plan; within last 5 years	
2025-03-26	2025-03-25	FM-5577-NC	Fire management	ALARKA FIRE	Wildfire	none found	new since last plan; within last 5 years	
2024-09-28	2024-09-25	DR-4827-NC	Major disaster	TROPICAL STORM HELENE	Hurricane	\$197,244.42	new since last plan; within last 5 years	
2024-09-26	2024-09-25	EM-3617-NC	Emergency	HURRICANE HELENE	Hurricane (primary); also designated: Inland Flooding, Landslide	none found	new since last plan; within last 5 years	same incident as DR-4827
2022-10-01	2022-09-28	EM-3586-NC	Emergency	HURRICANE IAN	Hurricane	none found	new since last plan; within last 5 years	
2020-08-02	2020-07-31	EM-3534-NC	Emergency	HURRICANE ISAIAS	Hurricane	none found		
2020-05-08	2020-02-06	DR-4543-NC	Major disaster	SEVERE STORMS, TORNADOES, AND FLOODING	Inland Flooding; Tornado	\$88,388.52		
2020-03-25	2020-01-20	DR-4487-NC	Major disaster	COVID-19 PANDEMIC	Non-natural, not counted	\$7,146.87		
2020-03-13	2020-01-20	EM-3471-NC	Emergency	COVID-19	Non-natural, not counted	none found		same incident as DR-4487
2019-09-03	2019-09-01	EM-3423-NC	Emergency	HURRICANE DORIAN	Hurricane	none found		
2018-09-10	2018-09-07	EM-3401-NC	Emergency	HURRICANE FLORENCE	Hurricane	none found		
2005-09-05	2005-08-29	EM-3222-NC	Emergency	HURRICANE KATRINA EVACUATION	Hurricane: evacuation support, not a local hazard event; not counted	none found		
2004-09-18	2004-09-16	DR-1553-NC	Major disaster	HURRICANE IVAN	Hurricane	\$29,481.77		
1996-01-13	1996-01-06	DR-1087-NC	Major disaster	BLIZZARD OF 96	Winter Weather	none found		
1995-10-23	1995-10-04	DR-1073-NC	Major disaster	SEVERE STORMS, FLOODING, HIGH WINDS	Inland Flooding (primary); also designated: Strong Wind	none found		
1993-03-17	1993-03-13	EM-3110-NC	Emergency	SEVERE SNOWFALL & WINTER STORM	Winter Weather	none found		

County Public Assistance: applicants the FEMA record places in this county, including any state agencies FEMA files there; statewide rows are listed on the state page; federal share obligated, nominal dollars.

Dollars are nominal (as reported), labeled with the year; not adjusted for inflation.

SOURCES

FEMA, OpenFEMA DisasterDeclarationsSummaries v2, version 2026-09-27T010817Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v2/DisasterDeclarationsSummaries> (API)

FEMA, OpenFEMA PublicAssistanceFundedProjectsSummaries v1, version 2026-09-26T151157Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/PublicAssistanceFundedProjectsSummaries> (API)

Statewide declarations

Declared	Incident began	FEMA number	Type	Title	Mapped hazard	Flags	Notes
1964-10-13	1964-10-13	DR-179-NC	Major disaster	SEVERE STORMS & FLOODING	Inland Flooding		
1962-03-16	1962-03-16	DR-130-NC	Major disaster	SEVERE STORM, HIGH TIDES & FLOODING	Inland Flooding (primary); also designated: Coastal Flooding		
1960-09-16	1960-09-16	DR-107-NC	Major disaster	HURRICANE DONNA	Hurricane (primary); also designated: Inland Flooding		
1958-10-01	1958-10-01	DR-87-NC	Major disaster	HURRICANE & SEVERE STORM	Hurricane		
1956-04-24	1956-04-24	DR-56-NC	Major disaster	SEVERE STORM	Hazard not mapped (severe storm title names no single hazard); not counted		
1955-08-13	1955-08-13	DR-37-NC	Major disaster	HURRICANES	Hurricane (primary); also designated: Inland Flooding		
1954-10-17	1954-10-17	DR-28-NC	Major disaster	HURRICANE	Hurricane (primary); also designated: Inland Flooding		

FEMA recorded these with designated area Statewide and no county. Listed on every county page in the state; not counted with county rows.

1 Fire Management declaration (1986-05-10 to 1986-05-10) FEMA filed as Statewide with no county; each names one local fire. Listed on the state page.

SOURCE

FEMA, OpenFEMA DisasterDeclarationsSummaries v2, version 2026-09-27T010817Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v2/DisasterDeclarationsSummaries> (API)

Public Assistance filed under this county for declarations that do not list it: 1 row, \$1,284,224.42

FEMA number	Declared	Title	Applicant	PA obligated
				<i>federal share obligated, nominal dollars</i>
DR-4146-NC	2013-09-25	SEVERE STORMS, FLOODING, LANDSLIDES, AND MUDSLIDES	EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS(1)	\$1,284,224.42

FEMA's Public Assistance summaries file these applicants under this county, but FEMA's declaration rows for these disasters do not designate it (an electric cooperative or district serving several counties, for example). Not in any declaration row above and not counted.

SOURCES

FEMA, OpenFEMA PublicAssistanceFundedProjectsSummaries v1, version 2026-09-26T151157Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/PublicAssistanceFundedProjectsSummaries> (API)

FEMA, OpenFEMA DisasterDeclarationsSummaries v2, version 2026-09-27T010817Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v2/DisasterDeclarationsSummaries> (API)

Previous occurrences by hazard, with explicit no-event rows

Hazard	Storm Events records <i>full period</i>	Since plan approval records	During plan review records	Last 5 years records	Declared incidents <i>distinct incidents</i>	Declared since approval <i>distinct incidents</i>	Period	Statement
Avalanche	0	0	0	0	0	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	No recorded events, 1996 to 2026-06-30, NOAA NCEI Storm Events
Coastal Flooding	0	0	0	0	0	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	No recorded events, 1996 to 2026-06-30, NOAA NCEI Storm Events
Cold Wave	22	9	0	9	0	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	Includes 1 Frost/Freeze record, event types the NRI definition of this hazard leaves out.
Drought	37	2	0	2	0	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	
Earthquake	0	0	0	0	0	0		No Storm Events record; local data required (e.g., USGS).
Hail	20	0	0	0	0	0	1955 to 2026-06-30	

Hazard	Storm Events records <i>full period</i>	Since plan approval records	During plan review records	Last 5 years records	Declared incidents <i>distinct incidents</i>	Declared since approval <i>distinct incidents</i>	Period	Statement
Heat Wave	0	0	0	0	0	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	No recorded events, 1996 to 2026-06-30, NOAA NCEI Storm Events
Hurricane	2	1	0	1	6	2	1996 to 2026-06-30	
Ice Storm	4	0	0	0	0	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	
Inland Flooding	31	2	0	2	3	1	1996 to 2026-06-30	
Landslide	1	0	0	0	1	1	1996 to 2026-06-30	
Lightning	2	0	0	0	0	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	
Strong Wind	105	8	2	10	1	0	1955 to 2026-06-30	Includes 23 High Wind records and 4 Strong Wind records, event types the NRI definition of this hazard leaves out.
Tornado	4	0	1	1	1	0	1950 to 2026-06-30	
Tsunami	0	0	0	0	0	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	No recorded events, 1996 to 2026-06-30, NOAA NCEI Storm Events
Volcanic Activity	0	0	0	0	0	0	1996 to 2026-06-30	No recorded events, 1996 to 2026-06-30, NOAA NCEI Storm Events
Wildfire	2	0	0	0	2	2	1996 to 2026-06-30	
Winter Weather	252	13	5	18	3	1	1996 to 2026-06-30	Includes 3 Sleet records, event types the NRI definition of this hazard leaves out.

SOURCES

NOAA NCEI, NOAA NCEI Storm Events Database, details files (csvfiles v1.0), version c20260918, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/pub/data/swdi/stormevents/csvfiles/>
FEMA, OpenFEMA DisasterDeclarationsSummaries v2, version 2026-09-27T010817Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v2/DisasterDeclarationsSummaries> (API)
NOAA National Weather Service, NWS county-public forecast zones correlation file, version bp03mr20 to bp16ap26 (11 files; newest bp16ap26), pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.weather.gov/gis/ZoneCounty>

Notable Storm Events records

Date	Event type	Magnitude or extent	Damage <i>nominal dollars</i>	Direct deaths, injuries <i>indirect not counted</i>	Location	Flags	Why listed
2024-09-27	Tropical Storm		\$500,000 property; \$0 crops, reported for the zone (2024 dollars)	0, 0	NWS zone NCZ051 (SWAIN), zone-level: may include parts of neighboring counties	new since last plan; within last 5 years	B1-c worst recorded: Hurricane, Tropical Storm, Tropical Depression
2019-06-22	Lightning		\$0 property; \$0 crops (2019 dollars)	0, 2	BIG COVE		deaths or injuries recorded
2014-07-27	Thunderstorm Wind	50 kt (58 mph) estimated gust	\$5,000 property; \$0 crops (2014 dollars)	1, 0	BIRDTOWN		deaths or injuries recorded

Date	Event type	Magnitude or extent	Damage <i>nominal dollars</i>	Direct deaths, injuries <i>indirect not counted</i>	Location	Flags	Why listed
2013-01-16	Debris Flow		\$5,000,000 property; \$0 crops (2013 dollars)	0, 0	SMOKEMONT		B1-c worst recorded: Debris Flow
2013-01-15	Flood		\$3,500,000 property; \$0 crops (2013 dollars)	0, 0	BIG COVE to CHEROKEE		B1-c worst recorded: Flash Flood, Flood, Lakeshore Flood
2012-07-05	Thunderstorm Wind	60 kt (69 mph) estimated gust	damage not reported	0, 0	SOLOLA VLY to PROCTOR		B1-c worst recorded: Thunderstorm Wind
2012-05-29	Lightning		\$100,000 property; crops not reported (2012 dollars)	0, 0	WHITTIER		B1-c worst recorded: Lightning
2007-04-16	High Wind	60 kt (69 mph) estimated gust	\$500,000 property; \$0 crops, reported for the zone (2007 dollars)	0, 0	NWS zone NCZ051 (SWAIN), zone-level: may include parts of neighboring counties		B1-c worst recorded: High Wind and Strong Wind (outside NRI Strong Wind definition)
2007-04-08	Frost/Freeze		\$0 property; \$1,000,000 crops, reported for the zone (2007 dollars)	0, 0	NWS zone NCZ051 (SWAIN), zone-level: may include parts of neighboring counties		B1-c worst recorded: Frost/Freeze (outside NRI Cold Wave definition)
2000-12-01	Extreme Cold/ Wind Chill		damage not reported	0, 0	NWS zone NCZ051 (SWAIN), zone-level: may include parts of neighboring counties		B1-c worst recorded: Cold/Wind Chill, Extreme Cold/Wind Chill
1997-07-04	Thunderstorm Wind	50 kt (58 mph), measurement type not recorded	damage not reported	0, 1	BRYSON CITY		deaths or injuries recorded
1974-04-03	Tornado	F2, 13.6 mi path length (records before 1996 may include the whole path; rating and listing come from the county where the tornado began), 33 yd wide	\$2,500 property; crops not recorded (1974 dollars)	0, 0	location not recorded		B1-c worst recorded: Tornado

The full list is in the **XLSX** file, sheet "**B1-d Storm Events history**" (482 rows).

Storm Events records are more complete after 1996; before 1996 only Tornado (from 1950), Hail and Thunderstorm Wind (from 1955) exist. Zone-level records are placed with NWS zone-county files, which exist from 2020 on; an earlier record is placed by its zone number in the nearest later file only when its zone name matches that file, records from zones NWS renumbered are placed by name or left out, and a record whose zone is in no known file is left out of every count, so counts before 2020 can be low. Some current zones are also missing from the NWS files, so recent counts can be low too.

SOURCES

NOAA NCEI, NOAA NCEI Storm Events Database, details files (csvfiles v1.0), version c20260918, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/pub/data/swdi/stormevents/csvfiles/>
 NOAA National Weather Service, NWS county-public forecast zones correlation file, version bp03mr20 to bp16ap26 (11 files; newest bp16ap26), pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.weather.gov/gis/ZoneCounty>
 FEMA, OpenFEMA HazardMitigationPlanStatuses v1, version 2026-09-26T121003Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/HazardMitigationPlanStatuses> (API)

State-declared emergencies are not in federal data. Add them from your state emergency management agency.

Tribal and special-area declarations in this state are listed on the state page.

Supports B1-e: probability

Probability: FEMA annualized frequency and descriptor per hazard

Hazard	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled) <i>unit per row</i>	Unit	In plain terms	Descriptor	Descriptor basis	NRI events or days in its record period (hail, wind and tornado are area-weighted, so can be fractional)	NRI period	Location	Note
Avalanche		events per year					1994 to 2023 (30 years)	see B1-f	Not Applicable in NRI for this county; no descriptor.
Coastal Flooding		events per year at a location (modeled)				not shown	modeled	see B1-f	Not Applicable in NRI for this county; no descriptor.
Cold Wave	3.8	event-days per year	about 3.8 days per year	Likely	event-days in 11 of 30 years, 1996 to 2025 (36.7%)	72.1	2005-11-12 to 2024-11-12 (19 years)	countywide	NRI gives about 3.8 cold wave event-days a year here (its annualized frequency over 19 years; not its event count divided by the years), but Storm Events has a record in only 11 of 30 years. NRI counts from a different source that records far more events than Storm Events, so this descriptor reads much lower than NRI's frequency; read the two together. Frost/Freeze records are not counted in this descriptor: they record crop freezes, not cold waves.
Drought	33.3	event-days per year	about 33.3 days per year	Likely	event-days in 8 of 30 years, 1996 to 2025 (26.7%)	903	2000 to 2025 (25.25 years; D3 and D4 only)	countywide	NRI gives about 33.3 drought event-days a year here (its annualized frequency over 25.25 years; not its event count divided by the years), but Storm Events has a record in only 8 of 30 years. NRI counts from a different source that records far more events than Storm Events, so this descriptor reads much lower than NRI's frequency; read the two together.
Earthquake	0.00359	annual probability at a location	chance a given location in the county has at least minor- damage shaking in a year: 0.359%			not shown	modeled	see B1-f	Descriptor not assigned: the NRI value is the chance at a location in the county, not how often the hazard affects the county, and Storm Events does not record earthquakes.
Hail	3.63	events per year	about 3.63 per year	Highly likely	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled)	137.7 (modeled)	1986 to 2023 (38 years)	countywide	
Heat Wave	0	event-days per year	none modeled		event-days in 0 of 30 years, 1996 to 2025 (0%)	0	2005-11-12 to 2024-11-12 (19 years)	countywide	No recorded event-days, 1996 to 2025; descriptor not assigned
Hurricane	0.0229	events per year	about 1 in 44 years	Possible	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled)	5	1851 to 2024 (Atlantic)	see B1-f	NRI counts hurricane and tropical storm tracks passing within storm-force wind range; federal declarations are counted separately in B1-d and need not match.

Hazard	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled) <i>unit per row</i>	Unit	In plain terms	Descriptor	Descriptor basis	NRI events or days in its record period (hail, wind and tornado are area-weighted, so can be fractional)	NRI period	Location	Note
Ice Storm	0.32	event-days per year	about 0.32 days per year	Likely	event-days in 3 of 30 years, 1996 to 2025 (10%)	22	1946-12-31 to 2014-02-12 (67 years)	countywide	
Inland Flooding	0.893	event-days per year	about 0.893 days per year	Likely	event-days in 19 of 30 years, 1996 to 2025 (63.3%)	25	1996 to 2023 (28 years)	see B1-f	
Landslide	2.26	events per year (modeled)	about 2.26 per year	Highly likely	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled)	not shown	modeled	see B1-f	
Lightning	56.3	days per year with a strike	about 56.3 days per year	Highly likely	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled)	not shown	1995 to 2023 (29 years; CONUS)	countywide	
Strong Wind	3.7	events per year	about 3.7 per year	Highly likely	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled)	141	1986 to 2023 (38 years)	countywide	
Tornado	0.185	events per year	about 1 in 5 years	Likely	FEMA annualized frequency (modeled)	not shown	1950 to 2023 (EF2+); 1986 to 2023 (EF0-1)	see B1-f	
Tsunami		annual probability at the most exposed location (used in place of a county value)				not shown	modeled	see B1-f	Not Applicable in NRI for this county; no descriptor.
Volcanic Activity		annual probability				not shown	modeled	see B1-f	Not Applicable in NRI for this county; no descriptor.
Wildfire	0.00236	annual probability at a location	chance a given location in the county burns in a year: 0.236%	Possible	Storm Events records in 2 of 30 years, 1996 to 2025 (6.67%)	not shown	modeled	see B1-f	Descriptor from Storm Events, not NRI: the NRI value is the chance at a location in the county, not how often the hazard affects the county.
Winter Weather	22.3	event-days per year	about 22.3 days per year	Highly likely	event-days in 30 of 30 years, 1996 to 2025 (100%)	425	2005-11-12 to 2024-11-12 (19 years)	countywide	

FEMA annualized frequency (modeled) comes from the National Risk Index v1.20 (December 2025). It is not recorded events divided by years, and what it measures depends on the hazard. For most hazards it estimates how often the hazard affects this county each year: it counts events or event-days (drought, heat wave, cold wave, winter weather, ice storm and inland flooding are in days per year; lightning is the number of days per year with a recorded cloud-to-ground strike, from the NOAA Storm Prediction Center daily lightning climatology); it may count events in the surrounding area (hail, strong wind, tornado, hurricane and ice storm use a 49 km grid and buffers) and is averaged over the county's area; and some hazards use a minimum value for places with no recorded event. Earthquake, wildfire and coastal flooding are different: FEMA computes them for each census block and averages them over the county, so the value is the chance (for coastal flooding, the modeled number of floods per year) at a location in the county,

which is lower than the chance that the hazard strikes somewhere in the county. Earthquake is the chance of at least minor-damage shaking (U.S. Geological Survey model); wildfire is the chance that a location burns in a large fire (U.S. Forest Service burn probability); coastal flooding comes from FEMA flood zones and NOAA high-tide flooding, so it can be above 1 where high-tide flooding is frequent. Tsunami is the value at the county's most exposed location, from recorded events and modeled return periods. For these four hazards the packet gives no "1 in N years" and takes the descriptor from Storm Events (none for earthquake) unless the value is 1 or more a year. Landslide is a U.S. Geological Survey modeled county rate spread by slope susceptibility. Volcanic activity is the chance that a volcano affecting the county erupts in a year. Drought counts only extreme and exceptional drought (D3 and D4). Source: FEMA, National Risk Index Technical Documentation v1.20, sections 5.2.2 (Table 5), 5.2.3, 7.4, 10.4, 16.5, 17.1, 17.3.1, 17.5, 20.3.1, 21.4, 22.4 and 6 to 23.

SOURCES
FEMA, FEMA National Risk Index 1.20.0 (December 2025), county and census tract tables, version 1.20.0, pulled 2026-09-28, https://www.fema.gov/about/reports-and-data/openfema/nri/v120/NRI_Table_Counties.zip (download, 25 MB), https://www.fema.gov/about/reports-and-data/openfema/nri/v120/NRI_Table_CensusTracts.zip (download, 635 MB)
NOAA NCEI, NOAA NCEI Storm Events Database, details files (csvfiles v1.0), version c20260918, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/pub/data/swdi/stormevents/csvfiles/>

Descriptor scale used in this packet (defined per unit)

Unit	Descriptor	Definition
events per year	Highly likely	1 or more per year
events per year	Likely	about once in 1 to 10 years
events per year	Possible	about once in 10 to 100 years
events per year	Unlikely	less than once in 100 years
annual probability	Likely	10% to under 100% chance in a given year
annual probability	Possible	1% to under 10% chance in a given year
annual probability	Unlikely	under 1% chance in a given year
event-days (share of years)	Highly likely	event-days recorded in 90% or more of years
event-days (share of years)	Likely	event-days recorded in 10% to under 90% of years
event-days (share of years)	Possible	event-days recorded in some years but under 10% of years
lightning strike-days	Highly likely	cloud-to-ground strikes on 1 or more days per year

SOURCES
FEMA, FEMA National Risk Index 1.20.0 (December 2025), county and census tract tables, version 1.20.0, pulled 2026-09-28, https://www.fema.gov/about/reports-and-data/openfema/nri/v120/NRI_Table_Counties.zip (download, 25 MB), https://www.fema.gov/about/reports-and-data/openfema/nri/v120/NRI_Table_CensusTracts.zip (download, 635 MB)
NOAA NCEI, NOAA NCEI Storm Events Database, details files (csvfiles v1.0), version c20260918, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/pub/data/swdi/stormevents/csvfiles/>

Intensity bands: historical frequency (Storm Events)

Hazard	Band	Years	Events <i>county-coded records</i>	Years in period	Events per year <i>events / years</i>
Hail	1.00-1.99 in	1996 to 2025	6	30	0.2
Hail	2.00 in+	1996 to 2025	0	30	0
Strong Wind (Thunderstorm Wind records)	50-64 kt	1996 to 2025	72	30	2.4
Strong Wind (Thunderstorm Wind records)	65 kt+	1996 to 2025	0	30	0
Strong Wind (Thunderstorm Wind records)	unmeasured or below 50 kt	1996 to 2025	1	30	0.0333
Tornado	EF0-1	1996 to 2025	2	30	0.0667
Tornado	EF2-3	1996 to 2025	0	30	0
Tornado	EF4-5	1996 to 2025	0	30	0
Tornado	unrated (EFU)	1996 to 2025	0	30	0

Hail smaller than 1 inch is not counted: on 2010-01-05 the National Weather Service raised its severe-hail threshold from 3/4 inch to 1 inch, so smaller reports became less common after 2009 (NWS Service Change Notice 09-52). NRI hail frequency uses a 0.75 inch threshold.

SOURCE
NOAA NCEI, NOAA NCEI Storm Events Database, details files (csvfiles v1.0), version c20260918, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/pub/data/swdi/stormevents/csvfiles/>

Optional: future conditions. Not a required item in the 2025 FEMA Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide; some states ask for it. The federal Climate Mapping for Resilience and Adaptation (CMRA) site gives county exposure to future climate conditions.

Supports B1-f: variation across the planning area

Range of census tract risk within the county

Hazard	Tracts <i>rated of all</i>	Risk score min <i>NRI score, 0 to 100</i>	Median	Max	Tracts by rating	Note
Avalanche	0 of 5				Not Applicable 5	
Coastal Flooding	0 of 5				Not Applicable 5	
Cold Wave	5 of 5	16.6	96.1	98.8	Very High 3, Relatively High 1, Very Low 1	National data give a county-wide or coarse (49 km grid or NWS zone) frequency for this hazard, so they cannot show members' hazard differing. The tract range above mostly reflects where buildings and people are. Confirm locally.
Drought	1 of 5	90.6	90.6	90.6	Relatively Low 1, No Rating 4	National data give a county-wide or coarse (49 km grid or NWS zone) frequency for this hazard, so they cannot show members' hazard differing. Agriculture is all of NRI's expected annual loss for this hazard in the county, so the tract range above mostly reflects where crop and livestock value is, not where buildings and people are. Confirm locally.
Earthquake	5 of 5	7.0	73.1	79.2	Relatively Moderate 2, Relatively Low 2, Very Low 1	
Hail	5 of 5	2.8	66.5	76.0	Relatively Moderate 2, Relatively Low 2, Very Low 1	National data give a county-wide or coarse (49 km grid or NWS zone) frequency for this hazard, so they cannot show members' hazard differing. The tract range above mostly reflects where buildings and people are. Confirm locally.
Heat Wave	0 of 5				No Rating 5	National data give a county-wide or coarse (49 km grid or NWS zone) frequency for this hazard, so they cannot show members' hazard differing. The tract range above mostly reflects where buildings and people are. Confirm locally.
Hurricane	5 of 5	23.7	56.5	64.4	Relatively Low 4, Very Low 1	
Ice Storm	5 of 5	3.8	91.1	96.7	Relatively High 4, Very Low 1	National data give a county-wide or coarse (49 km grid or NWS zone) frequency for this hazard, so they cannot show members' hazard differing. The tract range above mostly reflects where buildings and people are. Confirm locally.
Inland Flooding	5 of 5	0.5	94.0	98.8	Very High 1, Relatively High 3, Very Low 1	
Landslide	5 of 5	97.4	99.5	99.8	Relatively High 3, Relatively Moderate 2	
Lightning	5 of 5	0.5	82.7	94.8	Relatively High 4, Very Low 1	National data give a county-wide or coarse (49 km grid or NWS zone) frequency for this hazard, so they cannot show members' hazard differing. The tract range above mostly reflects where buildings and people are. Confirm locally.
Strong Wind	5 of 5	4.5	91.2	96.1	Relatively High 4, Very Low 1	National data give a county-wide or coarse (49 km grid or NWS zone) frequency for this hazard, so they cannot show members' hazard differing. The tract range above mostly reflects where buildings and people are. Confirm locally.

Hazard	Tracts <i>rated of all</i>	Risk score min <i>NRI score, 0 to 100</i>	Median	Max	Tracts by rating	Note
Tornado	5 of 5	2.9	63.1	74.1	Relatively Moderate 4, Very Low 1	
Tsunami	0 of 5				Not Applicable 5	
Volcanic Activity	0 of 5				Not Applicable 5	
Wildfire	5 of 5	69.5	85.3	90.3	Relatively Moderate 1, Relatively Low 4	
Winter Weather	5 of 5	12.4	74.0	87.2	Relatively High 1, Relatively Moderate 3, Very Low 1	National data give a county-wide or coarse (49 km grid or NWS zone) frequency for this hazard, so they cannot show members' hazard differing. The tract range above mostly reflects where buildings and people are. Confirm locally.

Rated tracts only: No Rating (score 0.0), Not Applicable and Insufficient Data tracts are counted but not used for the minimum, median and maximum.

SOURCE
FEMA, FEMA National Risk Index 1.20.0 (December 2025), county and census tract tables, version 1.20.0, pulled 2026-09-28, https://www.fema.gov/about/reports-and-data/openfema/nri/v120/NRI_Table_Counties.zip (download, 25 MB), https://www.fema.gov/about/reports-and-data/openfema/nri/v120/NRI_Table_CensusTracts.zip (download, 635 MB)

Per-member block (Starter, confirm locally)

Member	Type	Plan status	Repetitive loss <i>FMA RL and SRL (44 CFR 77.2); repeat- flood, any definition</i>	Public Assistance matched <i>federal share obligated, nominal dollars</i>	Event records naming this place <i>all years; since the member's plan</i>	Notes
Swain County (unincorporated area)	Unincorporated	Approved, expires 2027-09-12	FMA RL 0, SRL 0; any 0	\$31,205.58	0; 0	Includes \$7,146.87 for declarations not counted as hazard incidents (DR-4487-NC).
Bryson City town	Town	Approved, expires 2027-09-12	FMA RL 2, SRL 1; any 3	\$234,689.50	55; 3	

Member rows are whole NFIP communities and need not add up to the county total: a community that extends into another county is counted in full on each member row, while the county table counts only its part in this county.

School districts and special districts get a plan clock row only.

SOURCES
FEMA, OpenFEMA HazardMitigationPlanStatuses v1, version 2026-09-26T121003Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/HazardMitigationPlanStatuses> (API)
FEMA, OpenFEMA NfipMultipleLossProperties v1, version 2026-08-04T164045Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/NfipMultipleLossProperties> (API)
FEMA, OpenFEMA PublicAssistanceFundedProjectsSummaries v1, version 2026-09-26T151157Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/PublicAssistanceFundedProjectsSummaries> (API)
NOAA NCEI, NOAA NCEI Storm Events Database, details files (csvfiles v1.0), version c20260918, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/pub/data/swdi/stormevents/csvfiles/>

Supports B2-a and B2-b: assets and impacts

Local data required

County-level starter. The plan must describe impacts for each participant and its own assets.

- Critical facilities and lifelines per hazard
- A problem statement per participant per hazard
- Changes in development in hazard-prone areas since the last approval, or a statement of none (E1-a)
- Future assets

County-level starter: exposure, expected annual loss and damage since the plan

Hazard	Building exposure <i>modeled dollars</i>	Agriculture exposure <i>modeled dollars</i>	Population exposed <i>people</i>	EAL buildings <i>modeled dollars per year</i>	EAL agriculture <i>modeled dollars per year</i>	EAL population equivalence <i>statistical value of life and injury, \$13.7M per life, not property damage</i>	EAL as % of exposure <i>buildings; agriculture where noted</i>	Storm Events damage since 2022-09-13 <i>county-coded records, property plus crops, nominal dollars</i>	Zone-level damage since plan <i>property plus crops, reported for the zone</i>	Public Assistance since plan <i>nominal dollars; see note</i>	Note
Avalanche											Not Applicable in NRI for this county
Coastal Flooding											Not Applicable in NRI for this county
Cold Wave	\$3,806,991,169	\$2,768,723	14,108	\$10,126	\$56,082	\$1,724,465	0.000266%		\$0		
Drought		\$1,387,180			\$15,080		1.09% (agriculture)		\$0		NRI has no building exposure for this hazard; agriculture shown
Earthquake	\$6,458,061,756		14,117	\$291,438		\$49,667	0.00451%				
Hail	\$3,806,991,169	\$2,768,723	14,108	\$38,202	\$2,767	\$17,294	0.001%				
Heat Wave	\$0	\$0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0					building exposure is 0 in NRI
Hurricane	\$3,806,991,169	\$2,768,723	14,108	\$67,605	\$943	\$1,512	0.00178%		\$500,000	\$197,244.42	
Ice Storm	\$3,806,991,169		14,108	\$147,002		\$2,898	0.00386%				
Inland Flooding	\$3,780,582,572	\$1,416,813	1,008	\$6,029,432	\$13,569	\$31,482	n/a (see note)	\$410,000		none found (1 declaration)	NRI counts the full building value of any census block with some flood loss; this is not the value of buildings in the floodplain. Use local FIRM overlays for B2-a/ B2-b. EAL as % of exposure: n/a.
Landslide	\$1,664,917,069		6,568	\$244,742		\$60,036	0.0147%			none found (1 declaration)	
Lightning	\$3,806,991,169		14,108	\$17,916		\$97,857	0.000471%				
Strong Wind	\$3,806,991,169	\$2,768,723	14,108	\$56,042	\$2,532	\$281,690	0.00147%	\$0			
Tornado	\$3,806,991,169	\$2,768,723	14,108	\$243,114	\$58	\$182,875	0.00639%				
Tsunami											Not Applicable in NRI for this county
Volcanic Activity											Not Applicable in NRI for this county

Hazard	Building exposure <i>modeled dollars</i>	Agriculture exposure <i>modeled dollars</i>	Population exposed <i>people</i>	EAL buildings <i>modeled dollars per year</i>	EAL agriculture <i>modeled dollars per year</i>	EAL population equivalence <i>statistical value of life and injury, \$13.7M per life, not property damage</i>	EAL as % of exposure <i>buildings; agriculture where noted</i>	Storm Events damage since 2022-09-13 <i>county-coded records, property plus crops, nominal dollars</i>	Zone-level damage since plan <i>property plus crops, reported for the zone</i>	Public Assistance since plan <i>nominal dollars; see note</i>	Note
Wildfire	\$216,617,215	\$1,258,490	2,482	\$45,037	\$27	\$8,006	0.0208%			none found (2 declarations)	
Winter Weather	\$3,806,991,169	\$2,768,723	14,108	\$2,126	\$33	\$22,408	under 0.0001%		\$0	none found (1 declaration)	

Totals since 2022-09-13 (Storm Events through 2026-06-30): 10 county-coded records, 10 with a damage value recorded (including \$0), \$410,000; 25 zone-level records, 24 with a damage value recorded (including \$0), \$500,000 reported for the zone; Public Assistance on counted declarations \$197,244.42 (6 declarations, 1 with PA).

Total = buildings + agriculture + population equivalence; FEMA values each expected death (or 10 injuries) at \$13.7 million (2024 dollars).

FEMA does not split Public Assistance by hazard. A declaration mapped to several hazards is listed under each of them with its full amount, so the per-hazard column must not be added up; the unit total counts each declaration once.

Dollars are nominal (as reported), labeled with the year; not adjusted for inflation.

SOURCES
FEMA, FEMA National Risk Index 1.20.0 (December 2025), county and census tract tables, version 1.20.0, pulled 2026-09-28, https://www.fema.gov/about/reports-and-data/openfema/nri/v120/NRI_Table_Counties.zip (download, 25 MB), https://www.fema.gov/about/reports-and-data/openfema/nri/v120/NRI_Table_CensusTracts.zip (download, 635 MB)
NOAA NCEI, NOAA NCEI Storm Events Database, details files (csvfiles v1.0), version c20260918, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/pub/data/swdi/stormevents/csvfiles/>
NOAA National Weather Service, NWS county-public forecast zones correlation file, version bp03mr20 to bp16ap26 (11 files; newest bp16ap26), pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.weather.gov/gis/ZoneCounty>
FEMA, OpenFEMA DisasterDeclarationsSummaries v2, version 2026-09-27T010817Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v2/DisasterDeclarationsSummaries> (API)
FEMA, OpenFEMA PublicAssistanceFundedProjectsSummaries v1, version 2026-09-26T151157Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/PublicAssistanceFundedProjectsSummaries> (API)
FEMA, OpenFEMA HazardMitigationPlanStatuses v1, version 2026-09-26T121003Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/HazardMitigationPlanStatuses> (API)

Supports B2-a: context

County context

Measure	Value
Population	14,108
Building value (total, not at risk)	\$3,806,991,169
Agriculture value (total, not at risk)	\$2,768,723
NRI risk rating (all hazards)	Relatively Low
Expected annual loss, buildings and agriculture, all hazards	\$7,283,873
Expected annual loss, population equivalence, all hazards (NRI values each statistical life at \$13.7M; a modeled value of expected deaths and injuries, not property damage)	\$2,480,189
Social vulnerability rating	Very High
Community resilience rating	Relatively Low
NRI version	December 2025

FEMA's all-hazard expected annual loss total adds buildings, agriculture and population equivalence; the two parts are shown separately so the property figure is not read as including the statistical value of life.

SOURCE
FEMA, FEMA National Risk Index 1.20.0 (December 2025), county and census tract tables, version 1.20.0, pulled 2026-09-28, https://www.fema.gov/about/reports-and-data/openfema/nri/v120/NRI_Table_Counties.zip (download, 25 MB), https://www.fema.gov/about/reports-and-data/openfema/nri/v120/NRI_Table_CensusTracts.zip (download, 635 MB)

Supports B2-c: repetitive loss

Repetitive loss in this county, both definitions

Definition	Properties	Severe repetitive loss	Properties
Repetitive loss, FMA definition (44 CFR 77.2)	2	Severe repetitive loss, FMA definition (44 CFR 77.2)	1
Repetitive loss, NFIP insurance definition	4	Severe repetitive loss, NFIP insurance definition	1

Your state NFIP coordinator's list may use the NFIP insurance definition, so its counts can be higher.

SOURCES

FEMA, OpenFEMA NfipMultipleLossProperties v1, version 2026-08-04T164045Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/NfipMultipleLossProperties> (API)

FEMA, OpenFEMA HazardMitigationPlanStatuses v1, version 2026-09-26T121003Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/HazardMitigationPlanStatuses> (API)

Repeat-flood properties: county and state-level rows

Scope	RL, FMA <i>properties</i>	SRL, FMA <i>properties</i>	RL, NFIP <i>properties</i>	SRL, NFIP <i>properties</i>	Any category <i>properties</i>	Mitigated <i>properties</i>	Currently insured <i>properties</i>
County total	2	1	4	1	4	0	3
BRYSON CITY, TOWN OF	2	1	3	1	3	0	3
EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS (community ID not in plan data)	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
State level, not in this county: county not reported	0	0	2	0	2	0	0

SOURCES

FEMA, OpenFEMA NfipMultipleLossProperties v1, version 2026-08-04T164045Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/NfipMultipleLossProperties> (API)

FEMA, OpenFEMA HazardMitigationPlanStatuses v1, version 2026-09-26T121003Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/HazardMitigationPlanStatuses> (API)

Repeat-flood properties by plan member (NFIP community)

Member	NFIP community ID	RL, FMA <i>properties</i>	SRL, FMA <i>properties</i>	RL, NFIP <i>properties</i>	SRL, NFIP <i>properties</i>	Any category <i>properties</i>	Mitigated <i>properties</i>	Currently insured <i>properties</i>	Note
Swain County (unincorporated area)	370227	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Bryson City town	370228	2	1	3	1	3	0	3	

Per-member types: XLSX sheet 'B2-c Members'.

Member rows are whole NFIP communities and need not add up to the county total: a community that extends into another county is counted in full on each member row, while the county table counts only its part in this county.

SOURCES

FEMA, OpenFEMA NfipMultipleLossProperties v1, version 2026-08-04T164045Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/NfipMultipleLossProperties> (API)

FEMA, OpenFEMA HazardMitigationPlanStatuses v1, version 2026-09-26T121003Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/HazardMitigationPlanStatuses> (API)

County repeat-flood properties by occupancy group

Occupancy group	RL, FMA <i>properties</i>	SRL, FMA <i>properties</i>	RL, NFIP <i>properties</i>	SRL, NFIP <i>properties</i>	Any category <i>properties</i>	Mitigated <i>properties</i>	Currently insured <i>properties</i>
single-family residential	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 to 4 unit residential	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Occupancy group	RL, FMA <i>properties</i>	SRL, FMA <i>properties</i>	RL, NFIP <i>properties</i>	SRL, NFIP <i>properties</i>	Any category <i>properties</i>	Mitigated <i>properties</i>	Currently insured <i>properties</i>
other residential	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
non-residential	2	1	4	1	4	0	3
not reported	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Institutional properties cannot be separated in this data: FEMA's occupancy groups have no institutional class, so they fall in non-residential or other residential in the table by occupancy group.

SOURCES

FEMA, OpenFEMA NfipMultipleLossProperties v1, version 2026-08-04T164045Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/NfipMultipleLossProperties> (API)
FEMA, OpenFEMA HazardMitigationPlanStatuses v1, version 2026-09-26T121003Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/HazardMitigationPlanStatuses> (API)

FMA RL and FMA SRL are the Flood Mitigation Assistance definitions (44 CFR 77.2), the ones the FEMA Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide cites; OpenFEMA's fmaRI field description omits the Increased Cost of Compliance clause of 44 CFR 77.2(i). NFIP repetitive loss (FEMA insurance definition, nfipRI) is 2 or more claims over \$1,000 in 10 years and can drop to false when a property is mitigated. Also shown: NFIP severe repetitive loss, any category, mitigated and currently insured.

Your state NFIP coordinator's list may use the NFIP insurance definition, so its counts can be higher.

Counts are aggregates of FEMA's public NFIP Multiple Loss Properties file (as of 2026-08-02). No property is identified. County assignment is FEMA's geocode.

Counts may differ from your state NFIP coordinator's list, which is the source the Handbook names.

In this county 0 properties are FMA repetitive loss but not NFIP repetitive loss, and 2 properties are NFIP repetitive loss but not FMA repetitive loss.

Exact counts; no count suppression.

Sources

Every table above lists its own sources. The full list, for the plan's bibliography (FEMA review item A4-a):

1. FEMA, OpenFEMA HazardMitigationPlanStatuses v1, version 2026-09-26T121003Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/HazardMitigationPlanStatuses> (API)
2. FEMA, OpenFEMA DisasterDeclarationsSummaries v2, version 2026-09-27T010817Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v2/DisasterDeclarationsSummaries> (API)
3. FEMA, OpenFEMA PublicAssistanceFundedProjectsSummaries v1, version 2026-09-26T151157Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/PublicAssistanceFundedProjectsSummaries> (API)
4. FEMA, OpenFEMA NfipMultipleLossProperties v1, version 2026-08-04T164045Z, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/NfipMultipleLossProperties> (API)
5. FEMA, FEMA National Risk Index 1.20.0 (December 2025), county and census tract tables, version 1.20.0, pulled 2026-09-28, https://www.fema.gov/about/reports-and-data/openfema/nri/v120/NRI_Table_Counties.zip (download, 25 MB), https://www.fema.gov/about/reports-and-data/openfema/nri/v120/NRI_Table_CensusTracts.zip (download, 635 MB)
6. NOAA NCEI, NOAA NCEI Storm Events Database, details files (csvfiles v1.0), version c20260918, pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/pub/data/swdi/stormevents/csvfiles/>
7. NOAA National Weather Service, NWS county-public forecast zones correlation file, version bp03mr20 to bp16ap26 (11 files; newest bp16ap26), pulled 2026-09-28, <https://www.weather.gov/gis/ZoneCounty>
8. U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2024 Gazetteer, 2020 place by county, CT county-to-cousub crosswalk, version 2024-gazetteer, pulled 2026-09-28, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/maps-data/data/gazetteer/2024_Gazetteer/2024_Gaz_counties_national.zip, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/maps-data/data/gazetteer/2024_Gaz_place_national.zip, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/maps-data/data/gazetteer/2024_Gaz_unsd_national.zip, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/maps-data/data/gazetteer/2024_Gaz_elsd_national.zip, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/maps-data/data/gazetteer/2024_Gaz_scsd_national.zip, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/reference/codes2020/national_place_by_county2020.txt, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/reference/ct_change/ct_cou_to_cousub_crosswalk.xlsx

OpenFEMA disclaimer

This product uses the Federal Emergency Management Agency's OpenFEMA API, but is not endorsed by FEMA. The Federal Government or FEMA cannot vouch for the data or analyses derived from these data after the data have been retrieved from the Agency's website(s).

Hazard Plain is an independent product built from public federal data. It is not a FEMA document and is not reviewed or endorsed by FEMA or any state agency.

Reuse, citation and corrections

Reuse and citation: Hazard Plain text and tables are licensed under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>); credit Hazard Plain and the release. The underlying federal data are public domain; OpenFEMA data are also subject to the OpenFEMA terms and conditions.

Cite this: Hazard Plain (2026). Swain County, NC: risk-assessment baseline packet, release 2026-10 (data as of 2026-09-28; County area 37173). Preview: automated baseline. Built from FEMA OpenFEMA, the FEMA National Risk Index and NOAA NCEI Storm Events; source versions in the packet's Sources list.

Corrections: to report an error, name the packet, the table and what your records show. Contact: to be added

Hazard Plain release 2026-10. As of 2026-09-28; Storm Events data through 2026-06-30. File hazard-plain_2026-10_NC_37173. Preview: automated baseline.