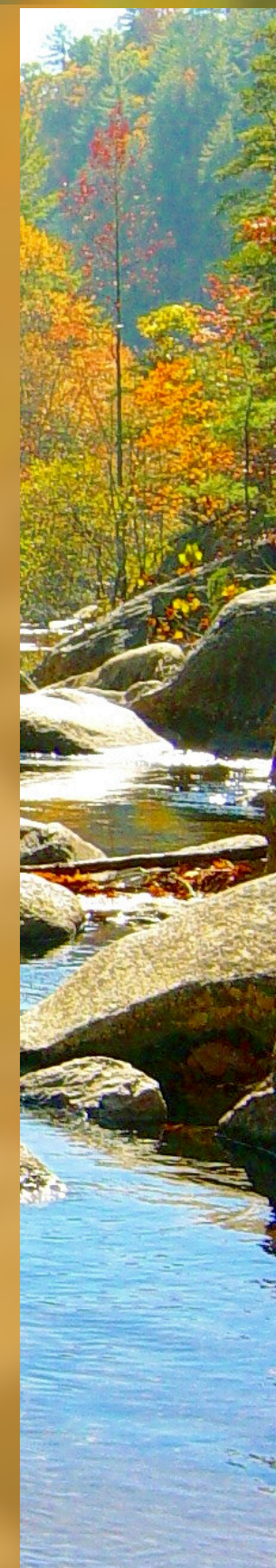




CATAWBA
RIVERKEEPER®

PRESERVE. PROTECT. RESTORE.



PRESENTATION CONTENTS



- 01** WHAT WE DO
- 02** WATER QUANTITY
- 03** WATER QUALITY
- 04** ADVOCACY

An aerial photograph of a river. Two people are in kayaks, one green and one white, on the water. A large, brown, sediment-filled plume is visible in the center of the river, extending from the top right towards the center. The water on the left is clearer and darker green, while the water on the right is a muddy brown. The background shows some trees on the right bank.

OUR PRIORITIES

The single biggest threat to the quality and quantity of water in the Catawba River Basin is outdated development practices amidst a rapidly-growing population.

AREAS OF FOCUS:

- Stormwater
- Permitted Pollution
- Monitoring & Restoration
- Policy & Advocacy
- Citizen Engagement

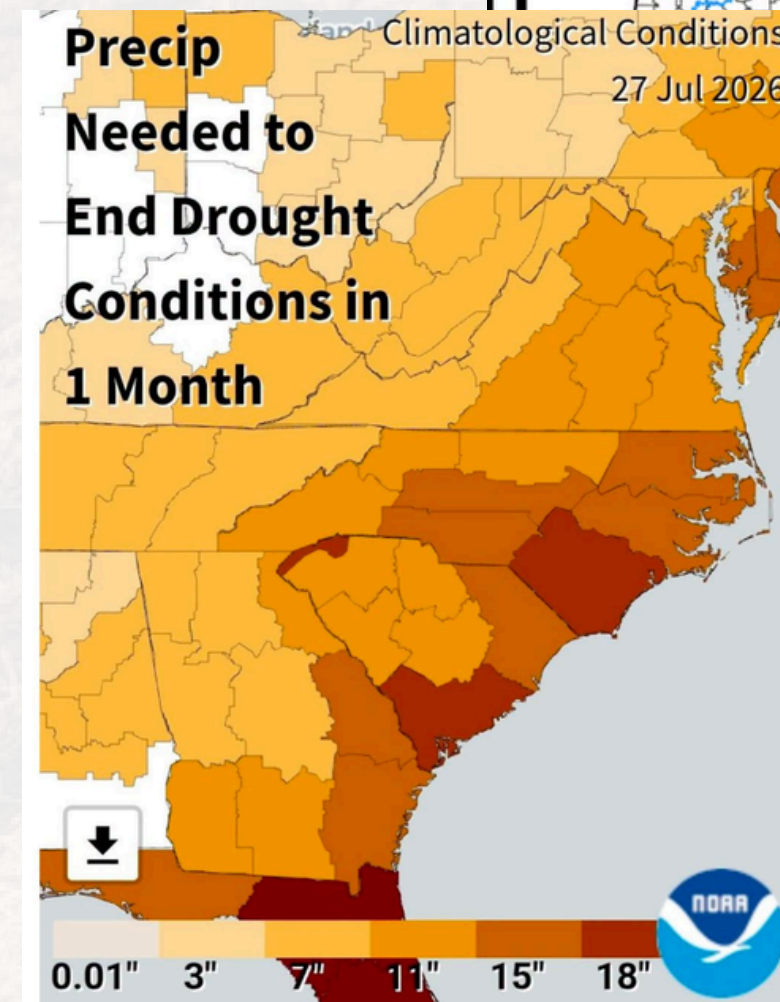
WATER QUANTITY

Examples of recreation flow impacts include:

- Reduced opportunities for fishermen and paddlers
- Tubers stranded or significant delays
- Concerns about on-the-water economies

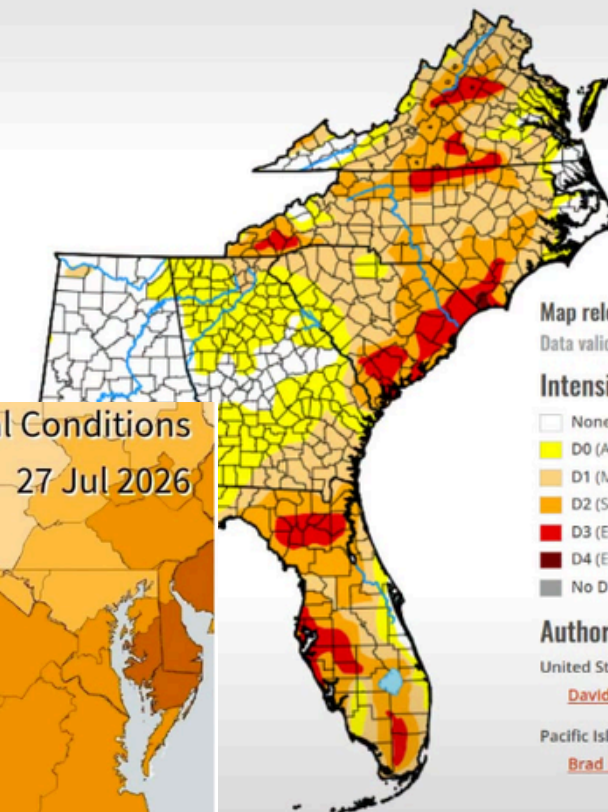
Other concerns include:

- Some ecological impacts are avoided by minimum flow standards
- Lyngbya and Harmful Algal Blooms outcompete beneficial organisms
- Low lake levels create more obstacles



Drought Update

Low Inflow Protocol Stage 2 Still in Effect
for the Catawba-Wataree River Basin



Map released: Thurs. July 30, 2026
Data valid: July 28, 2026 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

[David Simera](#), WRCC/DRI

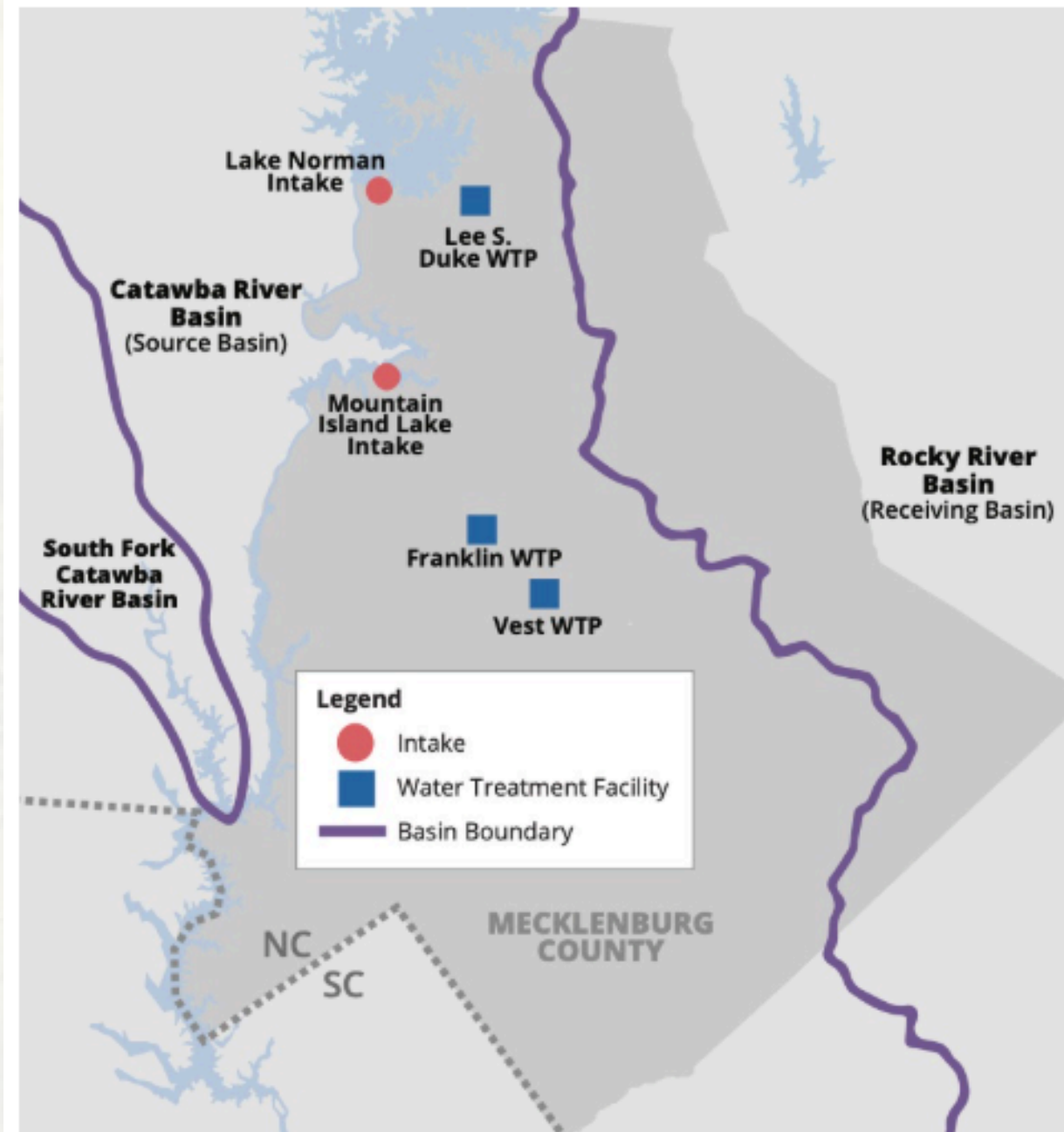
Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

[Brad Rippey](#), U.S. Department of Agriculture



Charlotte Water IBT

Charlotte Water is the largest public water and wastewater utility in North Carolina, serving more than a million customers across Mecklenburg County. The greater Charlotte region has seen high growth over the past decade that is expected to continue at a significant rate. Charlotte Water is committed to ensuring the community it serves has a reliable water supply that maintains pace with this development and meets future water demands.



EMERGING WATER QUANTITY ISSUES

Interbasin Transfers

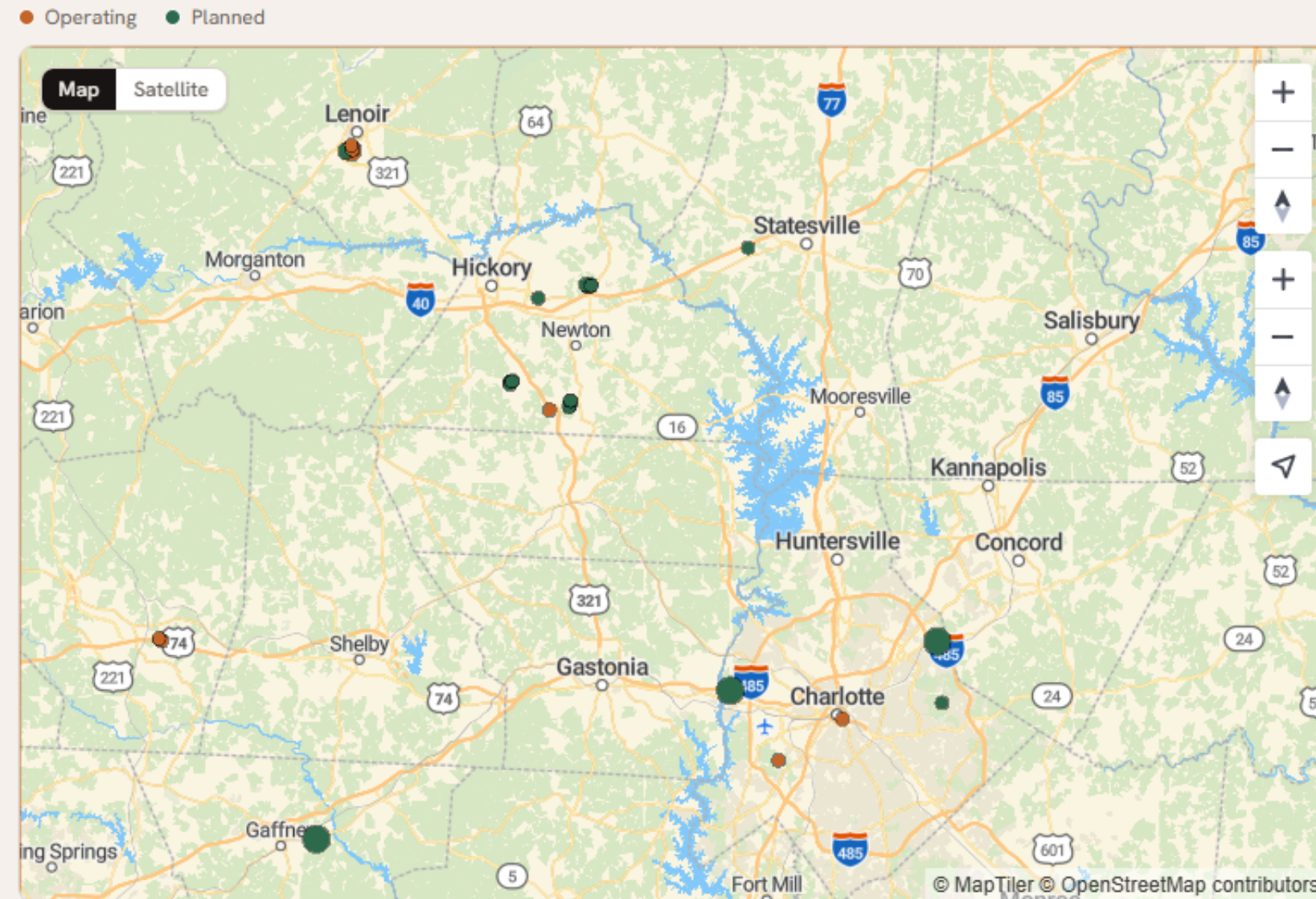
- Charlotte - Moratorium until 2028
 - 33Mgpd to 63Mgpd
- Mooresville - Pending Environmental Impact Assessment
 - CWWMG = adequate quantity

Ecological Approach

- Minimize consumptive use
- Require/incentivize conservation
- Require mitigation of impact to fund source water protection, groundwater recharge, loss prevention, restoration, etc.

US Data Center Map

Map of data centers across the United States. Blue markers indicate operating facilities and orange markers show planned projects. Marker size reflects capacity — only facilities with reported capacity data are shown.



<https://cleanview.co/data-centers/us>

EMERGING WATER QUANTITY ISSUES

Data Center Expansion

- Many impactful facilities in progress or planning in our region
- One of many sectors of growth
 - Advanced manufacturing
 - Energy production
 - Agriculture

Ecological Approach

- Require impact assessments to support responsible decision making
- Require funding of model updates with significant impacts (consumption/degradation)

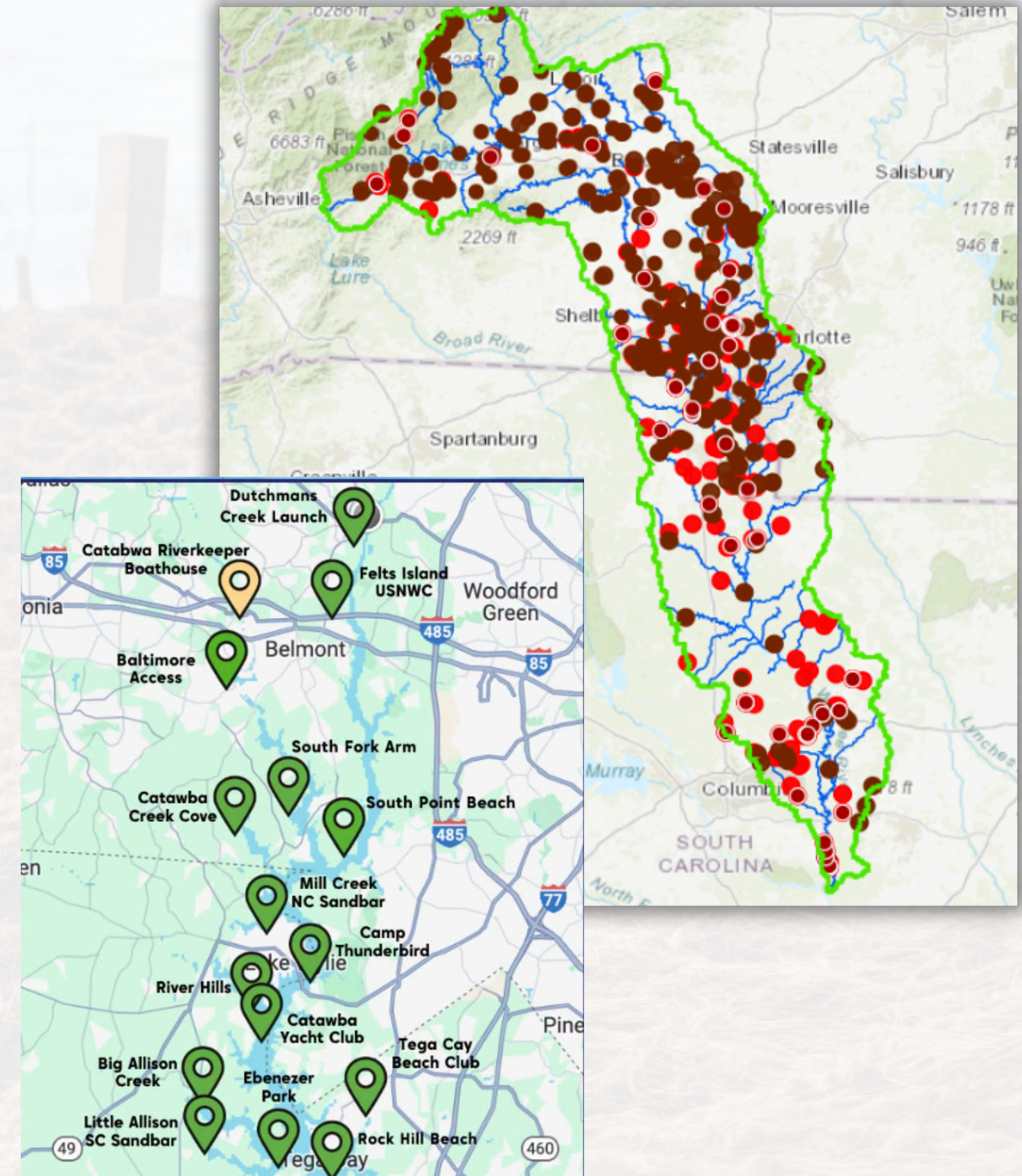
WATER QUALITY

Stormwater runoff = biggest challenge

- Swim Guide - Monitor water safety
- NC updated metric to more economical and more accurate standards

Monitoring NPDES Permit

- >350 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits
 - Wastewater Treatment Plants
 - Industrial Discharges
- Review these permits and advocate for changes and enforcement



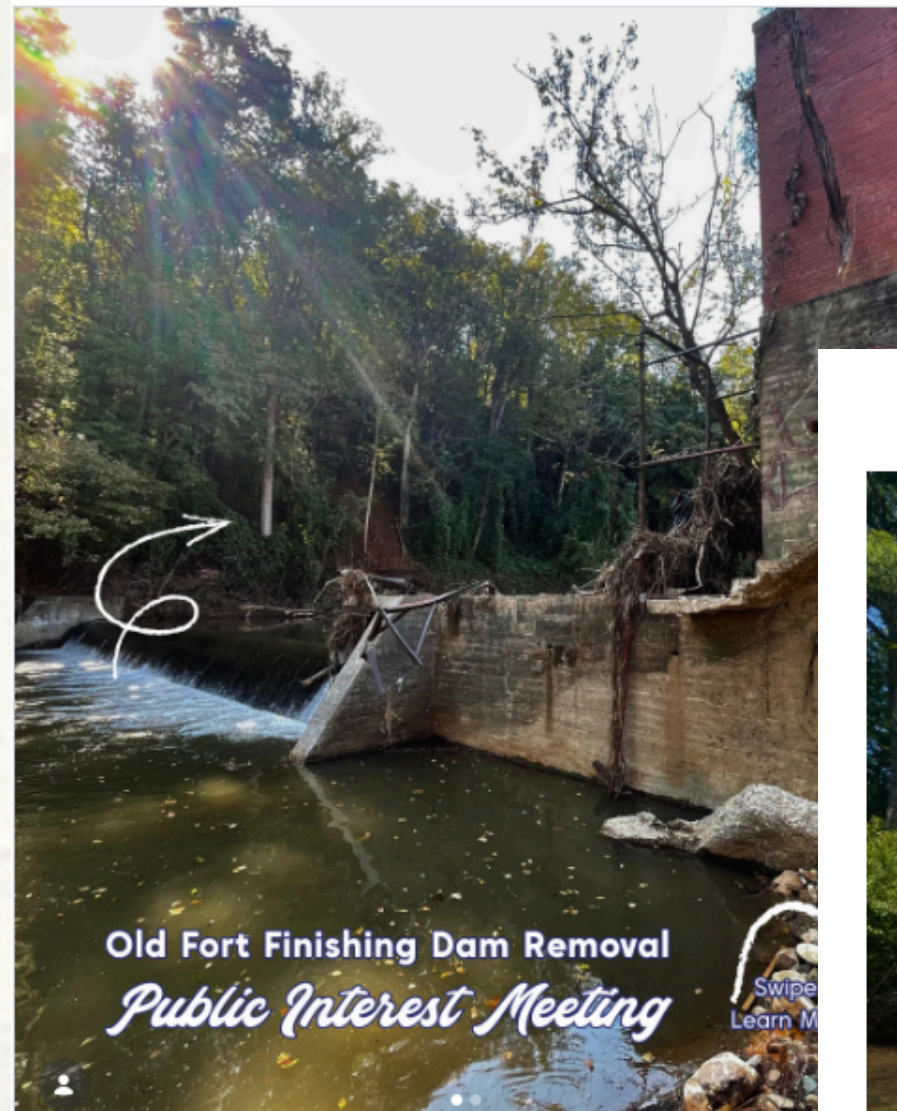
WATER QUALITY

Dam Removal

- Henry Fork Dam Complete
- Old Fort Finishing Dam In progress
- Dams impact fish passage, flood resilience, and recreation

Other Restoration

- Land conservation in partnership
- Spider Lily restoration
- Alligatorweed management



Henry Fork River Dam Removal



FCHC Reviewing the site of the dam in the Henry Fork River

Foothills Conservancy of NC and Catawba Riverkeeper Announce Conservation Win on Henry Fork River

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Passed #162 Parking Lot Reform

- Removes Parking Lot Minimums
- Decreases impervious surfaces
 - Less runoff, less pollution
 - Lowers building costs
 - Frees land for housing

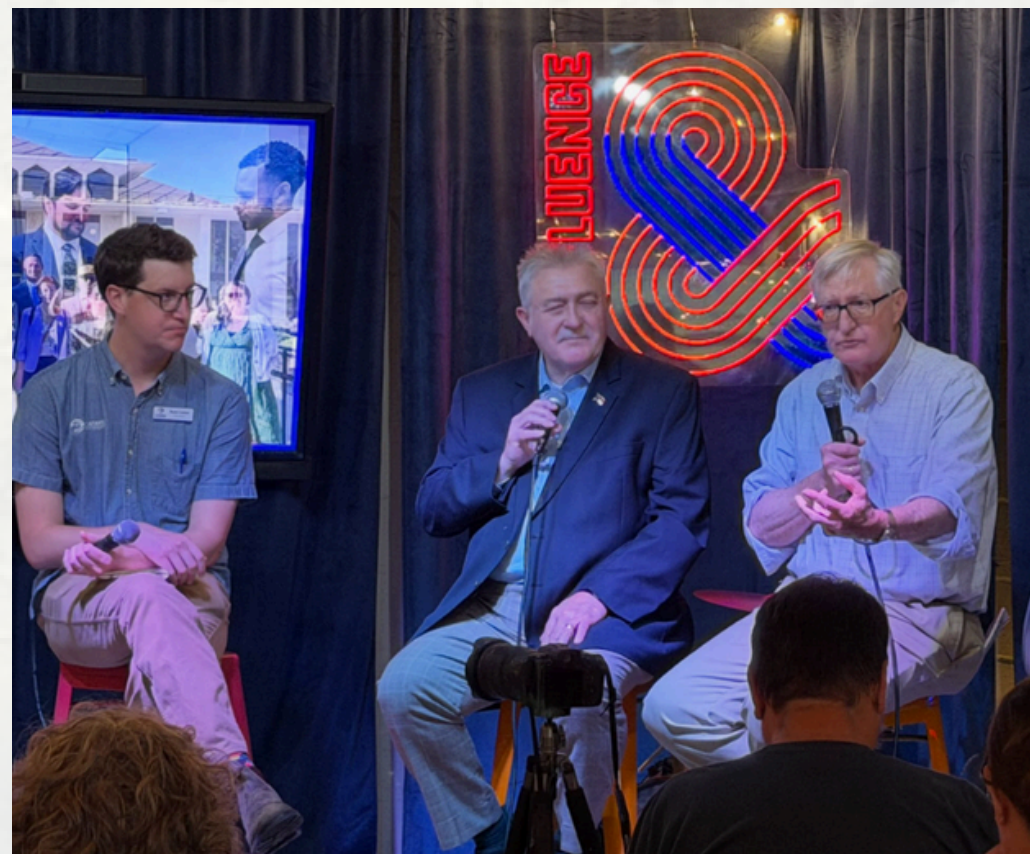
Other initiatives

- Passed - South Fork State Trail
- Working on
 - Sustainable agricultural
 - Dam removals
 - Guiding ecological approach to consumptive demands



Catawba Riverkeeper's Policy Director, Ryan Carter, looks on as Governor Josh Stein signs Bill 162 into NC Law. (Right - Rep Donnie Loftis).

Policy Director, Ryan Carter, Representative Donnie Loftis, and Senator Ted Alexander discuss Parking Lot reform strategy at Confluence!



GET INVOLVED!

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.CATAWBARIVERKEEPER.ORG



01

**CARE ABOUT YOUR
WATER**

02

BECOME A MEMBER

03

VOLUNTEER

04

**VISIT CONFLUENCE &
FLOATING CLASSROOM**

05

**FOLLOW US ON
SOCIALS**

06

**SIGN UP FOR
OUR E-NEWS**