

## NCDOT MINIMUM CRITERIA DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

The following questions provide direction in determining when the Department is required to prepare [SEPA](#) environmental documents for state-funded construction and maintenance activities. Answer questions for Parts A through C by checking either “Yes” or “No”. Complete Part D of the checklist when NCDOT’s [Minimum Criteria Rule](#) categories #8, 12(i) or #15 are used.

**TIP Project No.:** N/A

**State Project No.:** BR-0250, BR-0251, BR-0252

**Project Location:**

Bridge No.	Latitude, Longitude	Location
<b>BR-0250</b>		
050149	36.1043, -81.9931	Replace Bridge No. 050149 over Horse Creek on SR 1186 (Herman Buchanan Road), Avery County.
130252	35.9475, -81.4862	Replace Bridge No. 130252 over UT to Zacks Fork Creek on SR 1549 (Spring Meadow Road), Caldwell County.
940231	36.2790, -81.6755	Replace Bridge No. 940231 over Norris Fork Creek on SR 1337 (Ball Branch Road), Watauga Co.
<b>BR-0251</b>		
560072	35.9243, -82.6103	Replace Bridge No. 560072 over Little Foster Creek on SR 1341 (Foster Creek Road), Madison County.
560074	35.9381, -82.5999	Replace Bridge No. 560074 over Foster Creek on SR 1341 (Foster Creek Road), Madison County.
560381	35.9080, -82.6408	Replace Bridge No. 560381 over Big Laurel Creek on SR 1339 (Jarrett Cove Road), Madison County.
560500	35.9117, -82.6573	Replace Bridge No. 560500 over Big Laurel Creek on SR 1336 (Buckner Branch Road), Madison County.
560515	35.9111, -82.6573	Replace Bridge No. 560515 over Buckner Branch on SR 1336 (Buckner Branch Road), Madison County.
<b>BR-0252</b>		
870133	35.1432, -82.6404	Replace Bridge No. 870133 over Walker Creek on SR 1557 (Haskell Jones Road), Transylvania County.
870160	35.1698, -82.8934	Replace Bridge No. 870160 over Richland Creek on SR 1312 (Richland Creek Road), Transylvania County.
870161	35.1412, -82.8820	Replace Bridge No. 870161 over North Fork Flat Creek on SR 1319 (Homer McCall Road), Transylvania County.
870189	35.1035, -82.8212	Replace Bridge No. 870189 over Shoal Creek on SR 1141 (Babb Road), Transylvania County.

**Project Description:** NCDOT will replace twelve small timber bridges on existing alignment. Project BR-0250 includes three small timber bridges in Division 11, BR-0251 includes five small timber bridges in Division 13, and BR-0252 includes four small timber bridge replacements in 14.

The existing bridge abutments will be replaced with concrete end bents, except Madison Bridge 560500 (BR-0251) where existing concrete abutments currently exist. A new timber deck will be placed on new rolled beams for each bridge. An asphalt overlay will finish the driving surface. The bridge deck rails will be replaced in-kind with timber bridge deck rails. Minimal roadway approach work/improvements are anticipated though some temporary roadway improvements may be required to maintain traffic during construction of the bridges. Minimal right-of-way and/or easements may be required. Each bridge replacement is detailed below:

<b>Bridge No.</b>	<b>Existing Structure Description</b>	<b>Proposed Structure Description</b>
<b>BR-0250</b>		
050149	Constructed 1968; 26.0'x20.3' single span timber deck bridge; AADT (2016) 310 vpd	Single span timber deck bridge 31.75'x26.0' with concrete cap micro-piles end bents, steel beam stringers, and timber deck rails within the existing alignment.
130252	Constructed 1956; 19.0'x18.3' single span timber deck bridge; AADT (2016) 380 vpd	Single span timber deck bridge 25.00'x20.0' with concrete abutment on spread footing for one end bent, concrete cap micro-piles on other end bent, steel beam stringers, and timber deck rails within the existing alignment.
940231	Constructed 1966; 41.0'x20.0' single span timber deck bridge; AADT (2016) 290 vpd	Single span timber deck bridge 47.33'x25.0' with concrete cap steel H-piles end bents, steel beam stringers, and timber deck rails within the existing alignment.
<b>BR-0251</b>		
560072	Constructed 1971; 19.0'x25.3' single span timber deck bridge; AADT (2019) 200 vpd	Single span timber deck bridge 32.17'x26.0' with concrete cap steel H-piles end bents, steel beam stringers, and timber deck rails within the existing alignment.
560074	Constructed 1971; 27.0'x25.4' single span timber deck bridge; AADT (2019) 200 vpd	Single span timber deck bridge 34.83'x26.0' with concrete abutment on spread footing end bents, steel beam stringers, and timber deck rails within the existing alignment.
560381	Constructed 1956; 41.0'x19.0' single span timber deck bridge; AADT (2000) 40 vpd	Single span timber deck bridge 46.67'x19.0' with concrete abutment on spread footing end bents, steel beam stringers, and timber deck rails within the existing alignment.

Bridge No.	Existing Structure Description	Proposed Structure Description
560500	Constructed 1957; 46.0'x12.1' single span timber deck bridge; AADT (1995) 20 vpd	Single span timber deck bridge 56.5'x12.25' with concrete cap micro-piles end bents, steel beam stringers, and timber deck rails within the existing alignment.
560515	Constructed 1970; 17'x12.1' single span timber deck bridge; AADT (1995) 20 vpd	Single span timber deck bridge 23.0'x12.5' with concrete abutment on spread footing end bents, steel beam stringers, and timber deck rails within the existing alignment.
<b>BR-0252</b>		
870133	Constructed 1973; 19.0'x20.1' single span timber deck bridge; AADT (1996) 100 vpd	Single span timber deck bridge 25.25'x20.00' with concrete cap micro-piles end bents, steel beam stringers, and timber deck rails within the existing alignment.
870160	Constructed 1962; 21.0'x17.8' single span timber deck bridge; AADT (2000) 40 vpd	Single span timber deck bridge 26.17'x18.00' with concrete cap micro-piles end bents, steel beam stringers, and timber deck rails within the existing alignment.
870161	Constructed 1962; 26.0'x18.2' single span timber deck bridge; AADT (1995) 30 vpd	Single span timber deck bridge 31.25'x18.00' with concrete cap steel H-piles end bents, steel beam stringers, and timber deck rails within the existing alignment.
870189	Constructed 1963; 23.0'x18.1' single span timber deck bridge; AADT (1995) 250 vpd	Single span timber deck bridge 29.41'x18.00' with concrete cap steel H-piles end bents, steel beam stringers, and timber deck rails within the existing alignment.
Notes: AADT (annual average daily traffic) values were sourced from the most recent reoccurring 24-month Routine Structure Safety Reports for each bridge; vpd=vehicles per day.		

**Anticipated Permit or Consultation Requirements:** As parts of these projects may impact jurisdictional resources, a US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Nationwide Permit will likely be required. The USACE holds the final discretion as to what permit will be required to authorize these project constructions. A Water Quality Certification from the NC Division of Water Resources (DWR) will also be required for each of these bridge replacement projects.

The following table identifies the applicability of the USACE Trout Watershed Map and Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW) classification for each bridge replacement site:

Bridge No.	Creek Name	USACE's Trout Watershed Map	Outstanding Resource Waters
<b>BR-0250</b>			
050149	Horse Creek	Yes	No

130252	UT Zack's Fork Creek	No	No
940231	Norris Branch	Yes	Yes
<b>BR-0251</b>			
560072	Little Foster Creek	Yes	Yes
560074	Foster Creek	Yes	Yes
560381	Big Laurel Creek	Yes*	Yes
560500	Big Laurel Creek	Yes*	Yes
560515	Buckner Branch	Yes*	Yes
<b>BR-0252</b>			
870133	Walker Creek	Yes	No
870160	Richland Creek	Yes	No
870161	North Fork Flat Creek	Yes	No
870189	Shoal Creek	Yes	No
<i>*Trout moratorium waived per NCWRC letter dated October 6, 2023.</i>			

ORW classifications are subject to a special management strategy specified in 15A NCAC 2B .0225, i.e., Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW) rule.

### **Special Project Information:**

**Purpose and Need:** The purpose and need of the projects are to maintain public road transportation and EMS access to private properties currently being serviced by the existing timber bridges.

**Threatened and Endangered Species:** The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) lists the following federally protected species within the project study areas under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). For each species, a discussion of the presence or absence of habitat is included in the projects Natural Resources Technical Report (NRTR)<sup>1</sup>. Since the NRTR's were completed, aquatic surveys for the protected mussel species and bat surveys for the protected bat species have been completed. The table below reflects the updated Biological Conclusions:

<b>Bridge No.</b>	<b>Protected Species</b>	<b>Biological Conclusion</b>
<b>BR-0250</b>		
050149	Gray bat	MANLAA
	Northern long-eared bat	
	Tricolored bat	
	Virginia Big-eared bat	
	Bog turtle	No effect
Appalachian Elktoe		

<sup>1</sup> BR-0250 NRTRs: [https://connect.ncdot.gov/site/Preconstruction/division/div11/BR-0250/ATLAS%20Deliverables/BR-0250\\_NRTRAddendum.pdf](https://connect.ncdot.gov/site/Preconstruction/division/div11/BR-0250/ATLAS%20Deliverables/BR-0250_NRTRAddendum.pdf) (note that Wilkes County Bridge 960423 was surveyed for this project but is not being advanced and is, therefore, not included in this MCDC.); BR-0251 NRTRs: [https://connect.ncdot.gov/site/preconstruction/division/div13/BR-0251/ATLAS%20Deliverables/BR-0251\\_NRTR.pdf](https://connect.ncdot.gov/site/preconstruction/division/div13/BR-0251/ATLAS%20Deliverables/BR-0251_NRTR.pdf); BR-0252 NRTRs: [https://connect.ncdot.gov/site/Preconstruction/division/div14/BR-0252/ATLAS%20Deliverables/BR-0252\\_NRTR.pdf](https://connect.ncdot.gov/site/Preconstruction/division/div14/BR-0252/ATLAS%20Deliverables/BR-0252_NRTR.pdf)

<b>Bridge No.</b>	<b>Protected Species</b>	<b>Biological Conclusion</b>
	Virginia Spiraea	
	Rock Gnome Lichen	
130252	Gray bat	MANLAA
	Northern long-eared bat	
	Tricolored bat	
	Virginia Big-eared bat	
	Bog turtle	No effect
	Dwarf-flowered Heartleaf	
940231	Gray bat	MANLAA
	Northern long-eared bat	
	Tricolored bat	
	Virginia Big-eared bat	
	Bog turtle	No effect
	Green Floater	
	Virginia Spiraea	
<b>BR-0251</b>		
560072	Gray bat	MANLAA
	Northern long-eared bat	
	Tricolored bat	
560074	Gray bat	MANLAA
	Northern long-eared bat	
	Tricolored bat	
560381	Gray bat	MANLAA
	Northern long-eared bat	
	Tricolored bat	
560500	Gray bat	MANLAA
	Northern long-eared bat	
	Tricolored bat	
560515	Gray bat	MANLAA
	Northern long-eared bat	
	Tricolored bat	
<b>BR-0252</b>		
870133	Gray bat	MANLAA
	Northern long-eared bat	
	Tricolored bat	
	Bog turtle	No effect
	Appalachian Elktoe	MANLAA
	Longsolid	
	Tennessee Clubshell	
	Mountain Sweet Pitcher plant	No effect
	Small Whorled Pogonia	
	Swamp Pink	
	Virginia Spiraea	

<b>Bridge No.</b>	<b>Protected Species</b>	<b>Biological Conclusion</b>
	Rock Gnome Lichen	
870160	Gray bat	MANLAA
	Northern long-eared bat	
	Tricolored bat	
	Bog turtle	No effect
	Appalachian Elktoe	MANLAA
	Mountain Sweet Pitcher plant	No effect
	Small Whorled Pogonia	
	Swamp Pink	
	Virginia Spiraea	
	Rock Gnome Lichen	
870161	Gray bat	MANLAA
	Northern long-eared bat	
	Tricolored bat	
	Bog turtle	No effect
	Appalachian Elktoe	MANLAA
	Mountain Sweet Pitcher plant	No effect
	Small Whorled Pogonia	
	Swamp Pink	
	Virginia Spiraea	
	Rock Gnome Lichen	
870189	Gray bat	MANLAA
	Northern long-eared bat	
	Tricolored bat	
	Bog turtle	No effect
	Appalachian Elktoe	MANLAA
	Mountain Sweet Pitcher plant	No effect
	Small Whorled Pogonia	
	Swamp Pink	
	Virginia Spiraea	
	Rock Gnome Lichen	

The NCDOT Biological Surveys Group (BSG) surveyed the sites for bats during the summer of 2023 and prepared Bat Memos with survey results. The BSG followed up the Bat Memos with a Biological Conclusion of May Affect Not Likely to Adversely Affect (MANLAA) for each of the above endangered bat species based on the presence of suitable foraging and commuting habitat. No evidence of federally listed bats was found on any of the structures; no caves or mines are in the vicinity of the bridge replacements; and a large area of alternative available suitable habitat exists in the vicinities of all eleven bridge replacements. Tree clearing in the project footprint will be conducted during the winter months (i.e., October 15 to April 1) for all bridges. Nightwork is not anticipated for any of the bridges. No blasting is needed for any of these bridge projects. Permanent lighting does not exist at any of the bridges and no new lighting is planned to be included with the bridge replacements. Since the above avoidance and minimization measures, such as prohibiting tree

clearing during the active season can be implemented, the Biological Conclusion for federally listed bats are MANLAA. Copies of the referenced Biological Conclusions memo are available on the Connect NCDOT website.<sup>2</sup>

Aquatic surveys (i.e., mussels surveys) were conducted in the summer of 2023 for each bridge replacement with federally protected mussel species within their identified project study areas.

Based on the lack bivalve mollusk evidence and stream characteristics observed at the time of the assessment, including small waterway size, high gradient, and substrate composed primarily larger substrate sizes (i.e., highly limited interstitial space), Horse Creek (Avery County Bridge 050149 [BR-0250]) does not provide suitable habitat for Appalachian Elktoe.<sup>3</sup>

Similarly, the lack bivalve mollusk evidence and stream characteristics observed at the time of the assessment, including small waterway size, high gradient, and substrate composed primarily larger substrate sizes (i.e., highly limited interstitial space), Norris Fork (Watauga County Bridge 940231 [BR-0250]) does not provide suitable habitat for Green Floater.<sup>4</sup>

All BR-0252 bridge replacements have federally protected mussel species associated with the project study areas. The BSG provided a Biological Conclusion of “May Affect Not Likely to Adversely Affect” for the Appalachian elktoe, Longsolid, and Tennessee clubshell. These survey reports will be available on the project Connect once complete.

Cultural Resources: NCDOT architectural historians and archaeologists reviewed each bridge replacement. The following table summarizes the cultural resources reviews:

Bridge No.	Historic Architecture Conclusion	Archaeology Conclusion
<b>BR-0250</b>		
050149	No historic properties affected	No archaeological survey required
130252	No survey required	No archaeological survey required

<sup>2</sup> BR-0250 BC Memo: <https://connect.ncdot.gov/site/Preconstruction/division/div11/BR-0250/Natural%20Environment/BR-0250%20Updated%20bat%20memo.pdf>; BR-0251 BC Memo: <https://connect.ncdot.gov/site/preconstruction/division/div13/BR-0251/Natural%20Environment/BR-0251%20Updated%20Bat%20memo.pdf>; BR-0252 BC Memo: <https://connect.ncdot.gov/site/Preconstruction/division/div14/BR-0252/Natural%20Environment/BR-0252%20Updated%20bat%20memo%20Transylvania.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Avery County Bridge 050149 (BR-0250) Aquatic Species Memo: <https://connect.ncdot.gov/site/Preconstruction/division/div11/BR-0250/Project%20Development%20Collaboration/BR-0250%20Aquatic%20Species%20Survey%20Report.pdf#search=docid%3APZWRFRFC26R2C%2D1927581161%2D19%20OR%20dlcdocid%3APZWRFRFC26R2C%2D1927581161%2D19>

<sup>4</sup> Watauga County Bridge 940231 (BR-0250) Aquatic Species Memo: <https://connect.ncdot.gov/site/Preconstruction/division/div11/BR-0250/Natural%20Environment/BR-0250%20Aquatic%20Species%20Survey%20Report%20Bridge%20231.pdf#search=docid%3APZWRFRFC26R2C%2D1927581161%2D20%20OR%20dlcdocid%3APZWRFRFC26R2C%2D1927581161%2D20>

Bridge No.	Historic Architecture Conclusion	Archaeology Conclusion
940231	No survey required	No eligible or listed archaeological sites present
<b>BR-0251</b>		
560072	No survey required	No eligible or listed archaeological sites present
560074	No survey required	No eligible or listed archaeological sites present
560381	No historic properties affected	No eligible or listed archaeological sites present
560500	No historic properties affected	No archaeological survey required
560515	No survey required	No archaeological survey required
<b>BR-0252</b>		
870133	No historic properties affected	No eligible or listed archaeological sites present
870160	No survey required	No eligible or listed archaeological sites present
870161	No survey required	No eligible or listed archaeological sites present
870189	No survey required	No eligible or listed archaeological sites present

NCDOT sent coordination letters to the following Native Tribes on December 13, 2023:

- Catawba Indian Nation\*
- Cherokee Nation
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation\*
- Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians

\*A response was received from these Native Tribes.

“No Eligible or Listed Archaeological Sites Present Forms” will be forwarded to the Native Tribes with an interest in the areas.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations: These bridge replacements were coordinated with NCDOT-IMD. Because the NCDOT-IMD Estimation Map indicates that the project study areas fall within low demand areas; because they fall outside municipal boundaries; and because the scope of the projects are limited to structure replacement (does not include roadway improvements), no bicycle or pedestrian accommodations are included in this project. NCDOT-IMD’s Complete Streets Review Assessment<sup>5</sup> (CSRA) concurs with the approach to replace these bridges in kind, without multimodal facilities.

<sup>5</sup> BR-0250, BR-0251, BR-0252 CSRA: <https://connect.ncdot.gov/site/Preconstruction/division/div11/BR-0250/layouts/15/DocIdRedir.aspx?ID=PZWRFC26R2C-1236050455-3>

Construction Techniques: Bridge replacements will be stage constructed or provide a temporary on-site detour because these structures provide the only access route to residents and local EMS operations. In general, few residents will be inconvenienced by each bridge replacement. NCDOT will coordinate with local EMS prior to construction. Bridge replacement construction operations are expected to last approximately 120 days.

NCDOT will construct a temporary detour structure upstream of the existing structure with temporary pavement for all bridges except Bridge No. 0500149 which will be stage constructed. Temporary structures will be constructed with a load rating equal to the current posting. The existing structures will be removed and reconstructed. Traffic will be shifted to the new structure and the temporary detour structure and temporary pavement removed, regraded, and planted.

The following table summarizes the current posting and clear roadway width available for each on-site detour:

State Project No.	Bridge		Current Posting		On-site Detour Clear Roadway Width
	County	Bridge No.	SV (ton)	TTST (ton)	
BR-0250	Avery	050149	11	15	10'-0"
	Caldwell	130252	10	17	12'-0"
	Watauga	940231	13	17	12'-0"
BR-0251	Madison	560072	15	22	12'-0"
		560074	12	18	12'-0"
		560381	24	30	10'-0"
		560500	15	20	10'-0"
		560515	19	28	10'-0"
BR-0252	Transylvania	870133	19	27	10'-0"
		870160	Not Posted		10'-0"
		870161	19	27	10'-0"
		870189	15	21	10'-0"

*Notes: SV=Single Vehicle (dump truck, school bus, etc.); TTST=Truck Tractor, Semi-Trailer (logging truck, 18-wheelers, etc.)*

Public Involvement: NCDOT mailed postcard notifications to property owners that would be impacted by construction of the bridge replacements on December 6, 2023. The postcards included information about the proposed replacement bridge as well as anticipated right of way and construction schedules.

Two telephone voicemail comments were received in response to the postcards. The project team returned these calls December 12, 2023, and left voicemails with commenters that further explained the project. No return calls have been received and it is assumed property owner concerns were addressed.

**PART A: MINIMUM CRITERIA*****Item 1 to be completed by the Project Manager.***

1. Is the proposed project listed as a type and class of activity allowed under the Minimum Criteria Rule in which environmental documentation is not required?

YES

NO

If the answer to number 1 is “no”, then the project does not qualify as a minimum criteria project. A state Environmental Assessment is required.

If yes, under which category?

9. Reconstruction of existing crossroad or railroad separations and existing stream crossings, including, but not limited to, pipes, culverts, and bridges.

*If either category #8, #12(i) or #15 is used complete Part D of this checklist.*

**PART B: MINIMUM CRITERIA EXCEPTIONS*****Items 2 – 4 to be completed by the Project Manager.***

2. Could the proposed activity cause significant changes in land use concentrations that would be expected to create adverse air quality impacts?
3. Will the proposed activity have secondary impacts or cumulative impacts that may result in a significant adverse impact to human health or the environment?
4. Is the proposed activity of such an unusual nature or does the proposed activity have such widespread implications, that an uncommon concern for its environmental effects has been expressed to the Department?

YES

NO

***Item 5-8 to be completed by Division Environmental Officer.***

5. Does the proposed activity have a significant adverse effect on wetlands; surface waters such as rivers, streams, and estuaries; parklands; prime or unique agricultural lands; or areas of recognized scenic, recreational, archaeological, or historical value?
6. Will the proposed activity endanger the existence of a species on the Department of Interior's threatened and endangered species list?
7. Could the proposed activity cause significant changes in land use concentrations that would be expected to create adverse water quality or ground water impacts?
8. Is the proposed activity expected to have a significant adverse effect on long-term recreational benefits or shellfish, finfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats?

*If any questions 2 through 8 are answered “yes”, the proposed project may not qualify as a Minimum Criteria project. A state Environmental Assessment (EA) may be required. For assistance, contact the Environmental Policy Unit at (919) 707-6253 or [EPU@ncdot.gov](mailto:EPU@ncdot.gov).*

**PART C: COMPLIANCE WITH STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS*****Items 9- 12 to be completed by Division Environmental Officer.***

- |                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>YES</b>                          | <b>NO</b>                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 9. Is a federally protected threatened or endangered species, or its habitat, likely to be impacted by the proposed action?                                                | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Does the action require the placement of temporary or permanent fill in waters of the United States?                                                                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 11. Does the project require the placement of a significant amount of fill in high quality or relatively rare wetland ecosystems, such as mountain bogs or pine savannahs? | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. Is the proposed action located in an Area of Environmental Concern, as defined in the coastal Area Management Act?                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

***Items 13 – 15 to be completed by the Project Manager.***

- |                                                                    |                          |                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 13. Does the project require stream relocation or channel changes? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Cultural Resources**

- |                                                                                                                                 |                          |                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 14. Will the project have an “effect” on a property or site listed on the National Register of Historic Places?                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 15. Will the proposed action require acquisition of additional right of way from publicly owned parkland or recreational areas? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

*Questions in Part “C” are designed to assist the Project Manager and the Division Environmental Officer in determining whether a permit or consultation with a state or federal resource agency may be required. If any questions in Part “C” are answered “yes”, follow the appropriate permitting procedures prior to beginning project construction.*

**PART D:( To be completed when either category #8, 12(i) or #15 of the rules are used.)**

***Items 16- 22 to be completed by Division Environmental Officer.***

- 16. Project length: \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. Right of Way width: \_\_\_\_\_
- 18. Project completion date: \_\_\_\_\_
- 19. Total acres of newly disturbed ground surface: \_\_\_\_\_
- 20. Total acres of wetland impacts: \_\_\_\_\_
- 21. Total linear feet of stream impacts: \_\_\_\_\_
- 22. Project purpose: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed by: DocuSigned by:  
*Nicholas Pierce* \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 3/13/2024  
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Nick Pierce, PE  
Structures Management Unit, Project Manager

DocuSigned by:  
*John Jamison* \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 3/13/2024  
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John Jamison  
Environmental Policy Unit

# PROJECT COMMITMENTS

Bridge Program No. BR-0250  
Replace three Timber Bridges (050149, 130252, 940231) on  
Existing Alignment  
Avery, Caldwell, and Watauga Counties  
WBS Element: 50843.1.1

## COMMITMENTS FROM PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN

### **Division Environmental Staff - Section 7 Endangered Species Act (ESA) Commitments**

With reference to the Section 7 determinations associated with endangered bat species the NCDOT-Division 11 Bridge Program Manager will implement a tree clearing moratorium between April 1 and October 15.

### **Division Office - NCWRC Trout and High Quality Waters**

Horse Creek (Bridge 050149) and Norris Fork (Bridge 940231) are designated by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission as Trout Waters. As a result, in-water work and land disturbance within the 25-foot trout buffer is prohibited from October 15 to April 15 to avoid impacts to trout reproduction. In addition, Norris Fork is designated as Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW). NCDOT will implement Design Standards in Sensitive Waters for these bridges.

### **Division Office - Construction in FEMA Floodplain**

This project involves construction activities on or adjacent to FEMA-regulated stream(s). Therefore, the Division shall: (1) construct all vertical and horizontal elements within the floodplain as designed; and (2) consult with the Hydraulics Unit of any planned deviation of these elements within the floodplain prior to commencing any such changes; and (3) submit sealed as-built construction plans to the Hydraulics Unit upon completion of project construction. The Hydraulics Unit will then verify either: (1) the drainage structure(s) and roadway embankment located within the 100-year floodplain were built as shown in the construction plans, both horizontally and vertically; or (2) any changes made to the plans were reviewed and approved to meet FEMA SFHA compliance; or (3) appropriate mitigation measures will be achieved prior to project close-out.

## COMMITMENTS FROM PERMITTING

No commitments developed during project permitting.

**\*\*\*\*\*END OF PROJECT COMMITMENTS\*\*\*\*\***

# PROJECT COMMITMENTS

Bridge Program No. BR-0251  
Replace five Timber Bridges (560072, 560074, 560381, 560500, 560515) on  
Existing Alignment  
Madison County  
WBS Element: 50844.1.1

## COMMITMENTS FROM PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN

### Division Environmental Staff - Section 7 Endangered Species Act (ESA)

With reference to the Section 7 determinations associated with endangered bat species identified in the November 17, 2023, NCDOT Biological Surveys Group, NCDOT-Division 13 will commit to implement a tree clearing moratorium between April 1 and October 15.

### Division Environmental Staff - NCWRC Trout and High Quality Waters

Foster Creek (Bridges 560072 and 560074) and Big Laurel Creek (Bridges 560381, 560500, and 560515) are designated by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission as Trout Waters. As a result, in-water work and land disturbance within the 25-foot trout buffer is prohibited from October 15 to April 15 to avoid impacts to trout reproduction for Foster Creek. The moratorium is waived for Big Laurel Creek. However, Foster Creek, Little Foster Creek, and Big Laurel Creek are designated as Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW). NCDOT will implement Design Standards in Sensitive Watershed for Madison County Bridges 560072, 560074, 560381, 560500, and 560515.

### Division Office - Construction in FEMA Floodplain

This project involves construction activities on or adjacent to FEMA-regulated stream(s). Therefore, the Division shall: (1) construct all vertical and horizontal elements within the floodplain as designed; and (2) consult with the Hydraulics Unit of any planned deviation of these elements within the floodplain prior to commencing any such changes; and (3) submit sealed as-built construction plans to the Hydraulics Unit upon completion of project construction. The Hydraulics Unit will then verify either: (1) the drainage structure(s) and roadway embankment located within the 100-year floodplain were built as shown in the construction plans, both horizontally and vertically; or (2) any changes made to the plans were reviewed and approved to meet FEMA SFHA compliance; or (3) appropriate mitigation measures will be achieved prior to project close-out.

## COMMITMENTS FROM PERMITTING

No commitments developed during project permitting.

**\*\*\*\*\*END OF PROJECT COMMITMENTS\*\*\*\*\***

# PROJECT COMMITMENTS

Bridge Program No. BR-0252  
Replace four Timber Bridges (870133, 870160, 870161, 870189) on  
Existing Alignment  
Transylvania County  
WBS Element: 50845.1.1

## COMMITMENTS FROM PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN

### Division Office - Section 7 Endangered Species Act (ESA)

With reference to the Section 7 determinations associated with endangered bat species, NCDOT-Division 14 will commit to implement a tree clearing moratorium between April 1 and October 15.

### Division Environmental Staff - NCWRC Trout and High Quality Waters

Walker Creek (Bridge 870133), Richland Creek (Bridge 870160), Flat Creek (Bridge 870161), and Shoal Creek (Bridge 870189) are designated by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission as Trout Waters. As a result, in-water work and land disturbance within the 25-foot trout buffer is prohibited for Bridges 870133 and 870160 from October 15 to April 15 and for Bridges 870161 and 870189 from January 1 to April 15 to avoid impacts to trout reproduction. In addition, NCDOT will implement Design Standards in Sensitive Watershed for these bridges.

### Division Office - Construction in FEMA Floodplain

This project involves construction activities on or adjacent to FEMA-regulated stream(s). Therefore, the Division shall: (1) construct all vertical and horizontal elements within the floodplain as designed; and (2) consult with the Hydraulics Unit of any planned deviation of these elements within the floodplain prior to commencing any such changes; and (3) submit sealed as-built construction plans to the Hydraulics Unit upon completion of project construction. The Hydraulics Unit will then verify either: (1) the drainage structure(s) and roadway embankment located within the 100-year floodplain were built as shown in the construction plans, both horizontally and vertically; or (2) any changes made to the plans were reviewed and approved to meet FEMA SFHA compliance; or (3) appropriate mitigation measures will be achieved prior to project close-out.

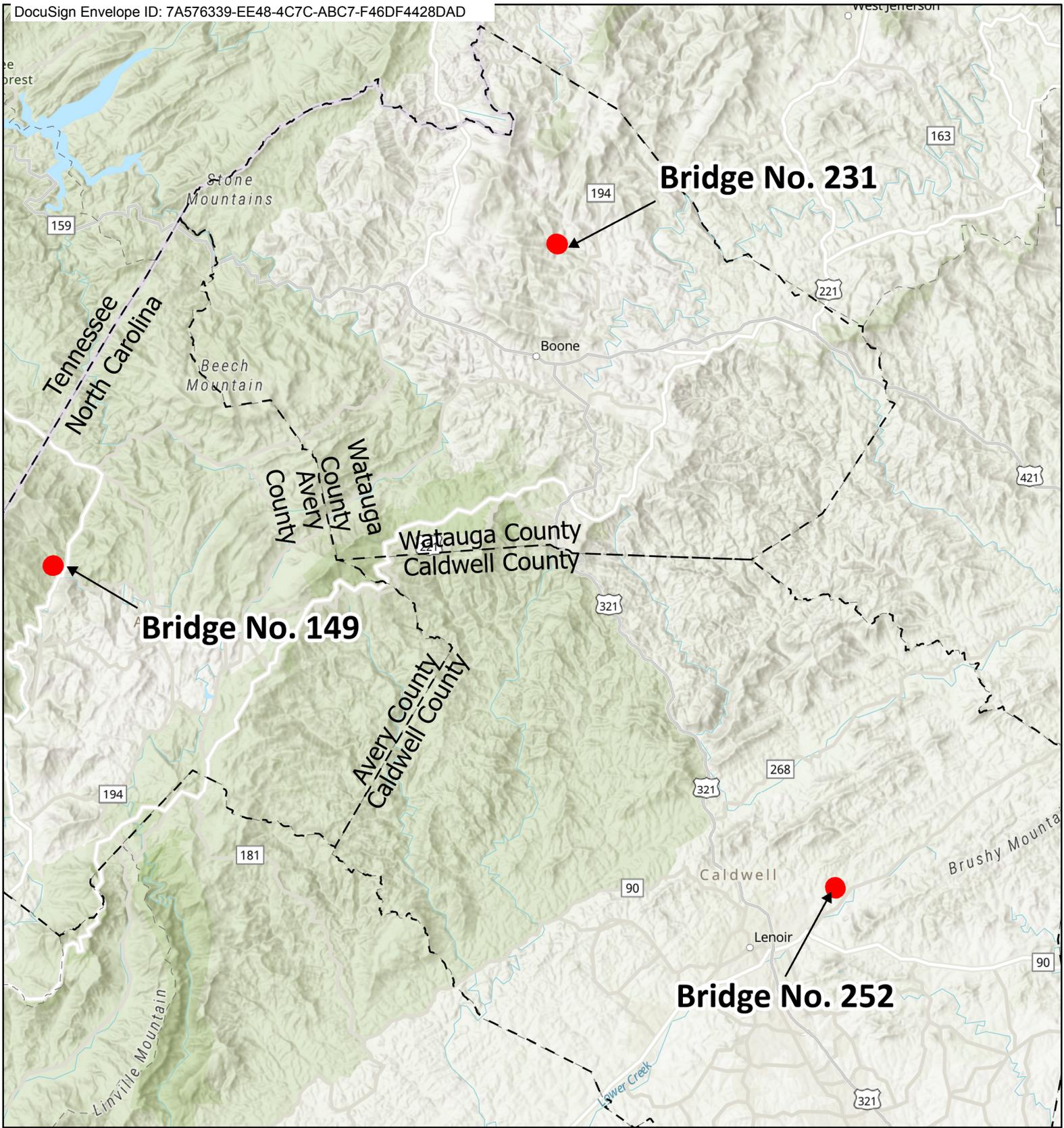
## COMMITMENTS FROM PERMITTING

No commitments developed during project permitting.

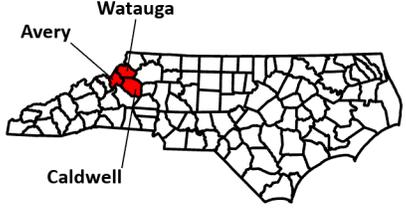
**\*\*\*\*\*END OF PROJECT COMMITMENTS\*\*\*\*\***

## **BR-0250 - Timber Bridge Replacements Mapping**

Bridge 149, Avery Co.  
Bridge 252, Caldwell Co.  
Bridge 231, Watauga Co.



-  Project Location
-  County Boundary



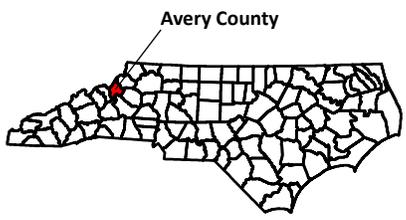
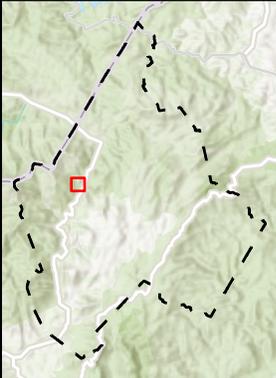
Vicinity Map  
 BR-0250  
 Bridge Replacement  
 NCDOT Division 11  
 Avery, Caldwell, &  
 Watauga Counties



August 2023



-  Project Study Area
-  Streams
-  Parcels



Project Study Area Map  
 BR-0250  
 Bridge No. 149 Replacement  
 NCDOT Division 11  
 Avery County

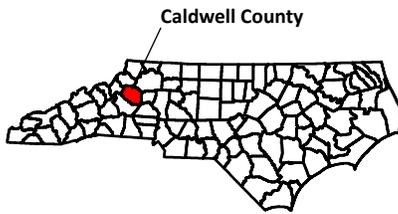
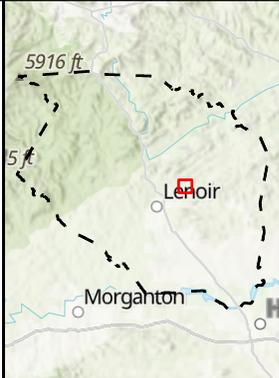


July 2023



- Project Study Area
- Streams
- Parcels

0 100 200  
Feet



Project Study Area Map  
BR-0250  
Bridge No. 252 Replacement  
NCDOT Division 11  
Caldwell County



July 2023



**Bridge No. 231**

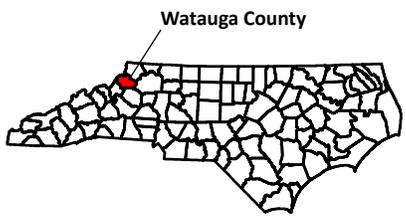
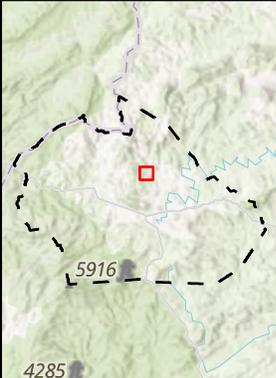
SR-1337

Norris Fork

Ball Branch Road

Lee South Road

-  Project Study Area
-  Streams
-  Parcels



Project Study Area Map  
 BR-0250  
 Bridge No. 231 Replacement  
 NCDOT Division 11  
 Watauga County



July 2023

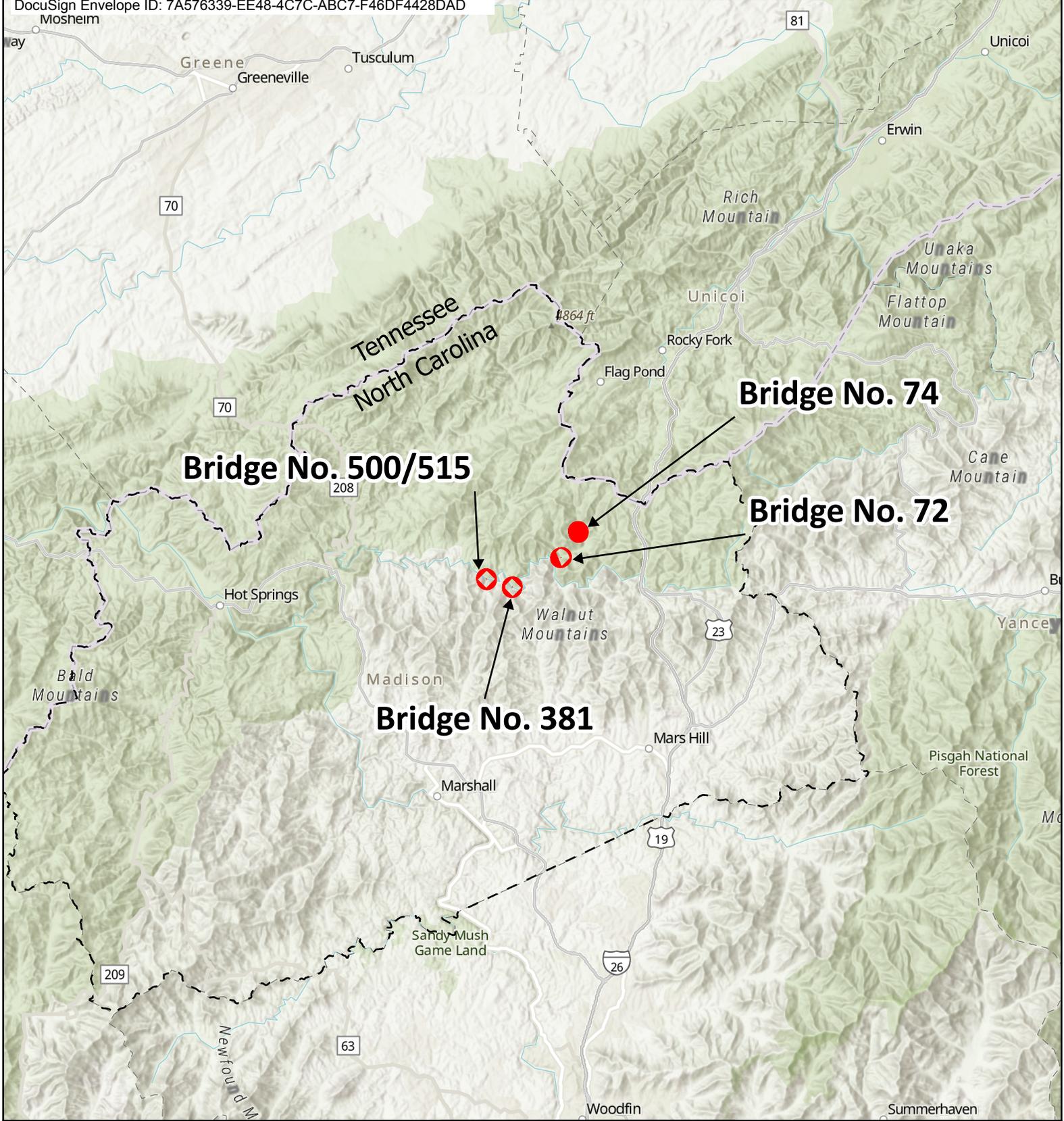
## **BR-0251 - Timber Bridge Replacements Mapping**

Bridge 72, Madison Co.

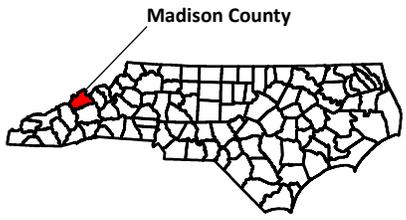
Bridge 74, Madison Co.

Bridge 381, Madison Co.

Bridge 500 & 515, Madison Co.



- Project Location
- County Boundary



Vicinity Map  
 BR-0251  
 Bridge Replacement  
 NCDOT Division 13  
 Madison County



**GANNETT  
 FLEMING**

December 2023



**Bridge No. 72**

**SR-1341**

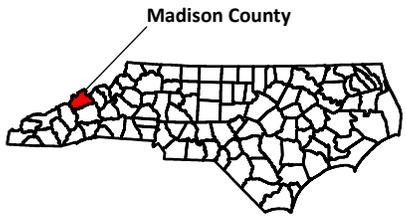
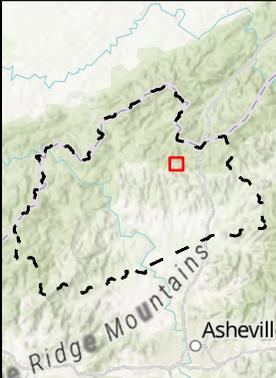
Little Foster Creek Road

Foster Creek

Foster Creek Road

-  Project Study Area
-  Streams
-  Parcels

0 100 200 Feet



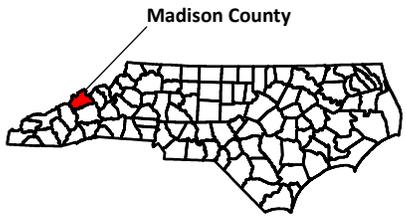
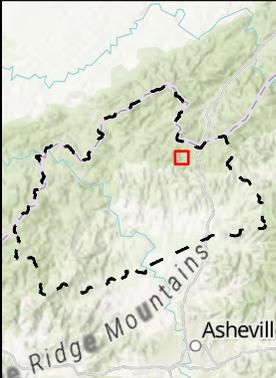
Project Study Area Map  
 BR-0251  
 Bridge No. 72 Replacement  
 NCDOT Division 13  
 Madison County



July 2023



-  Project Study Area
-  Streams
-  Parcels



Project Study Area Map  
 BR-0251  
 Bridge No. 74 Replacement  
 NCDOT Division 13  
 Madison County



July 2023



**Bridge No. 381**

Big Laurel Road

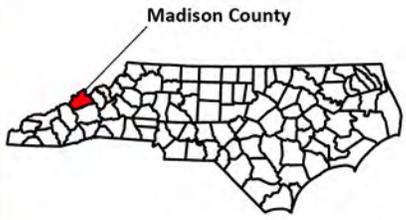
Big Laurel Creek

SR-1318

Jarrett Cove Road

SR-1339

-  Project Study Area
-  Streams
-  Parcels



Project Study Area Map  
 BR-0251  
 Bridge No. 381 Replacement  
 NCDOT Division 13  
 Madison County

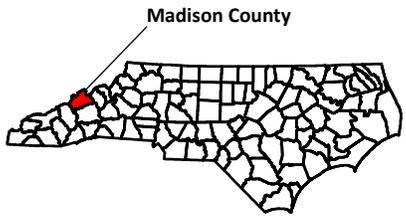


July 2023



-  Project Study Area
-  Streams
-  Parcels

0 100 200 Feet



Project Study Area Map  
 BR-0251  
 Bridge Nos. 500/515 Replacement  
 NCDOT Division 13  
 Madison County



December 2023

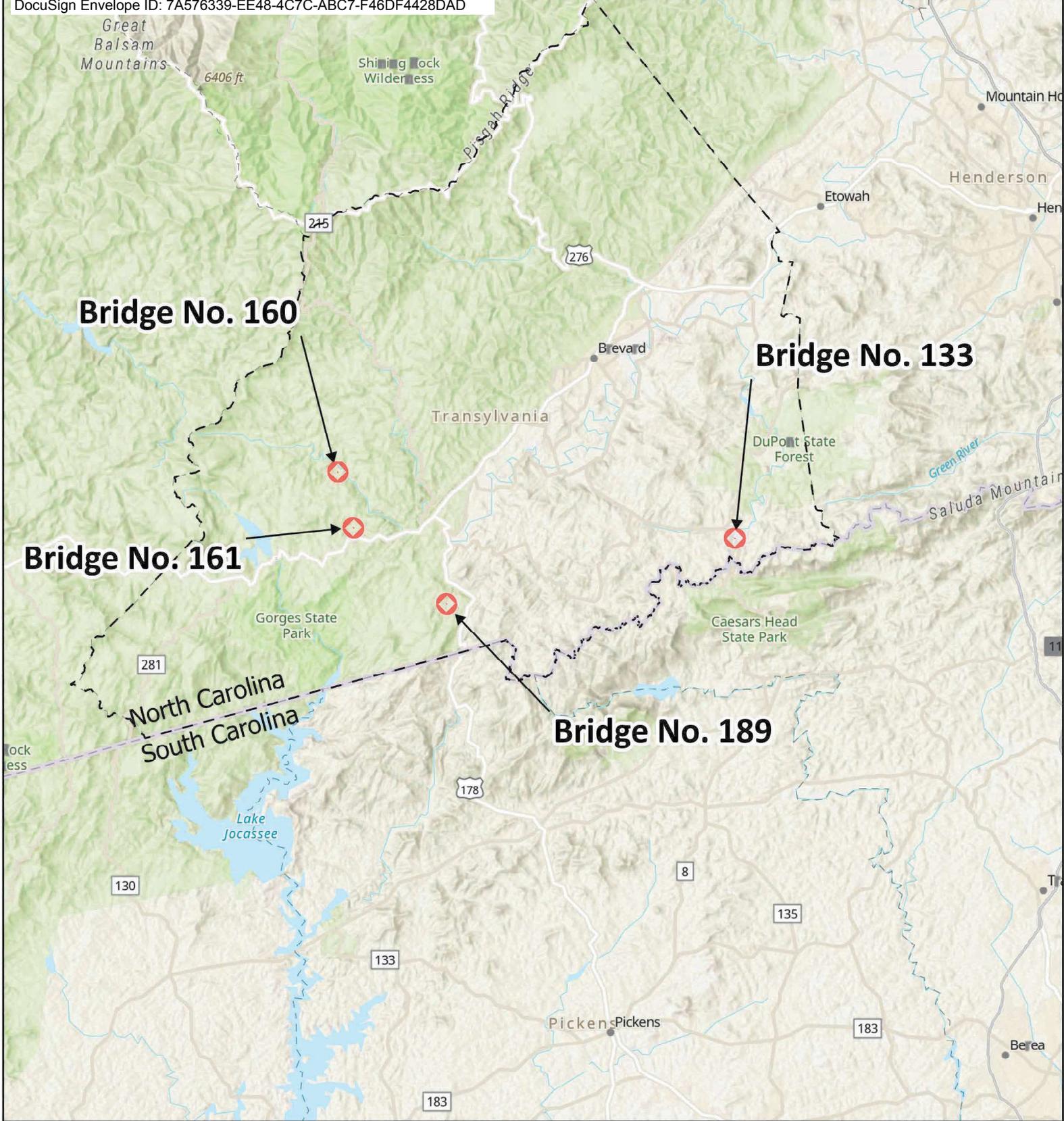
## **BR-0252 - Timber Bridge Replacements Mapping**

Bridge 133, Transylvania Co.

Bridge 160, Transylvania Co.

Bridge 161, Transylvania Co.

Bridge 189, Transylvania Co.



**Bridge No. 160**

**Bridge No. 133**

**Bridge No. 161**

**Bridge No. 189**

-  Project Location
-  County Boundary

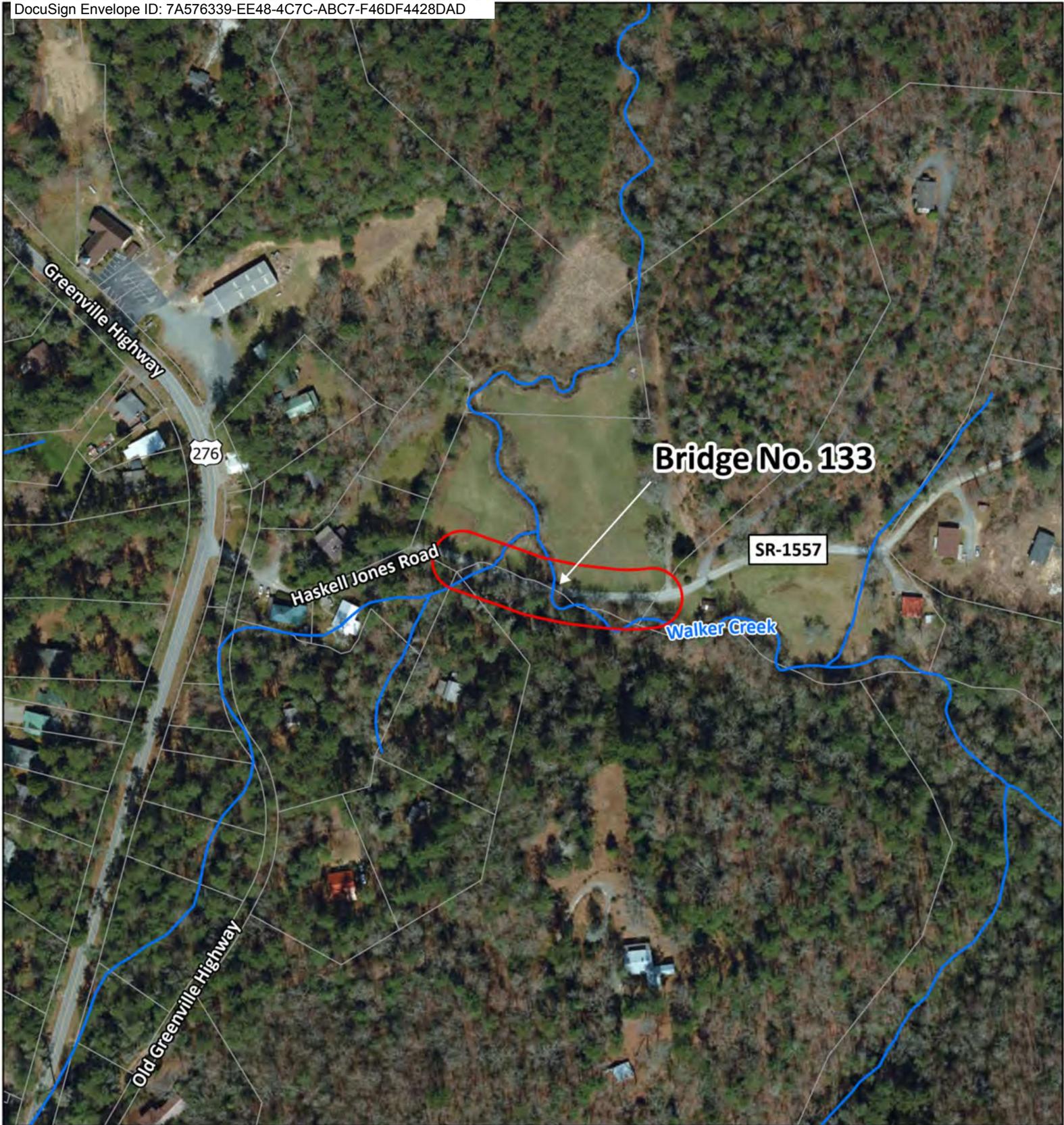


Vicinity Map  
 BR-0252  
 Bridge Replacement  
 NCDOT Division 14  
 Transylvania County

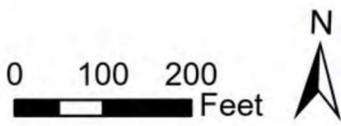
**Figure 1**



August 2023



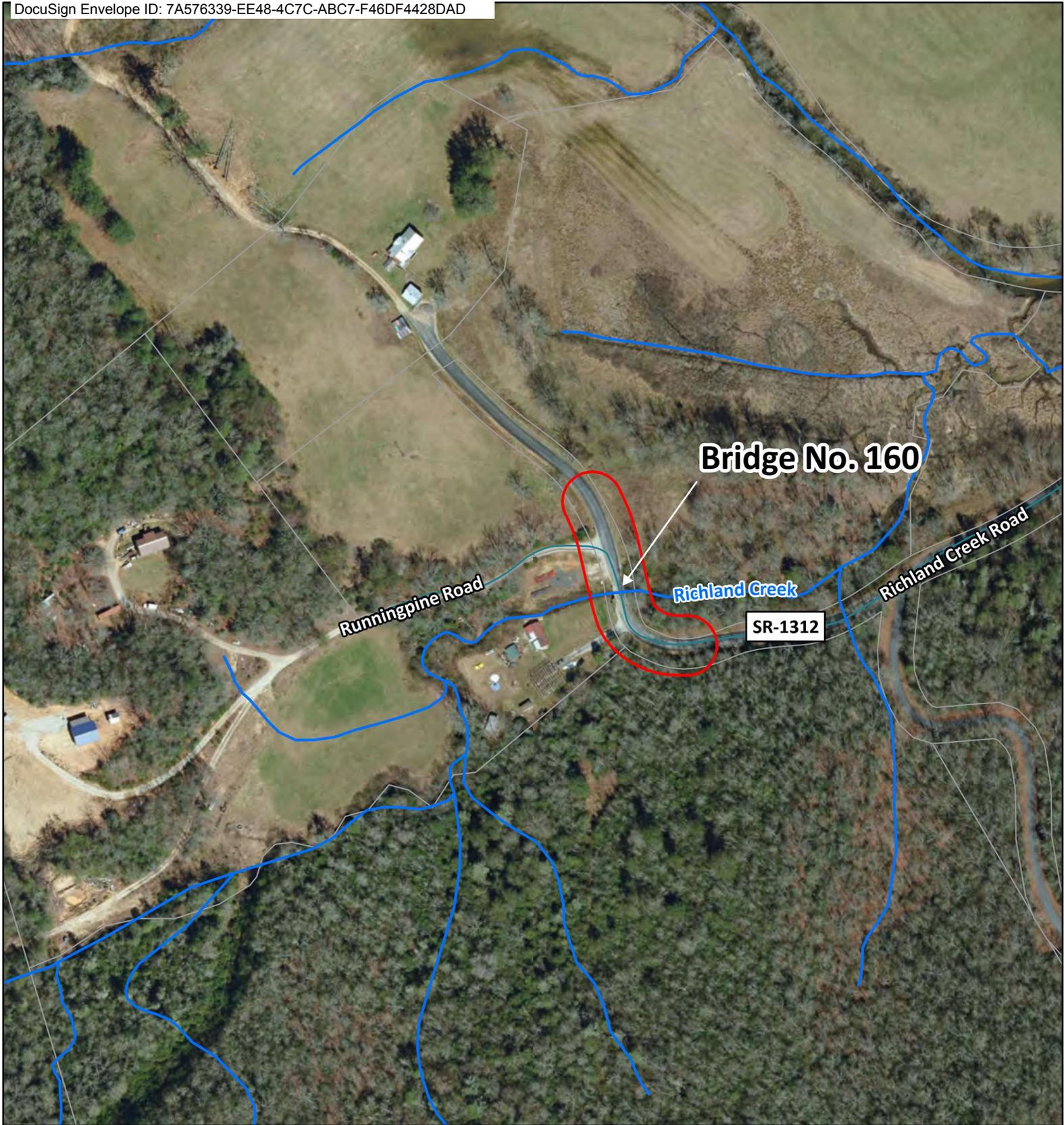
-  Project Study Area
-  Streams
-  Parcels



Project Study Area Map  
BR-0252  
Bridge No. 133 Replacement  
NCDOT Division 14  
Transylvania County

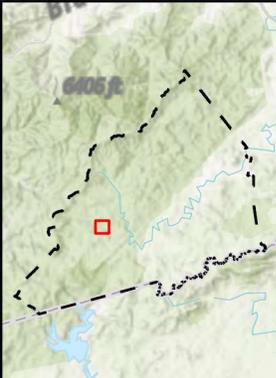


July 2023



-  Project Study Area
-  Streams
-  Parcels

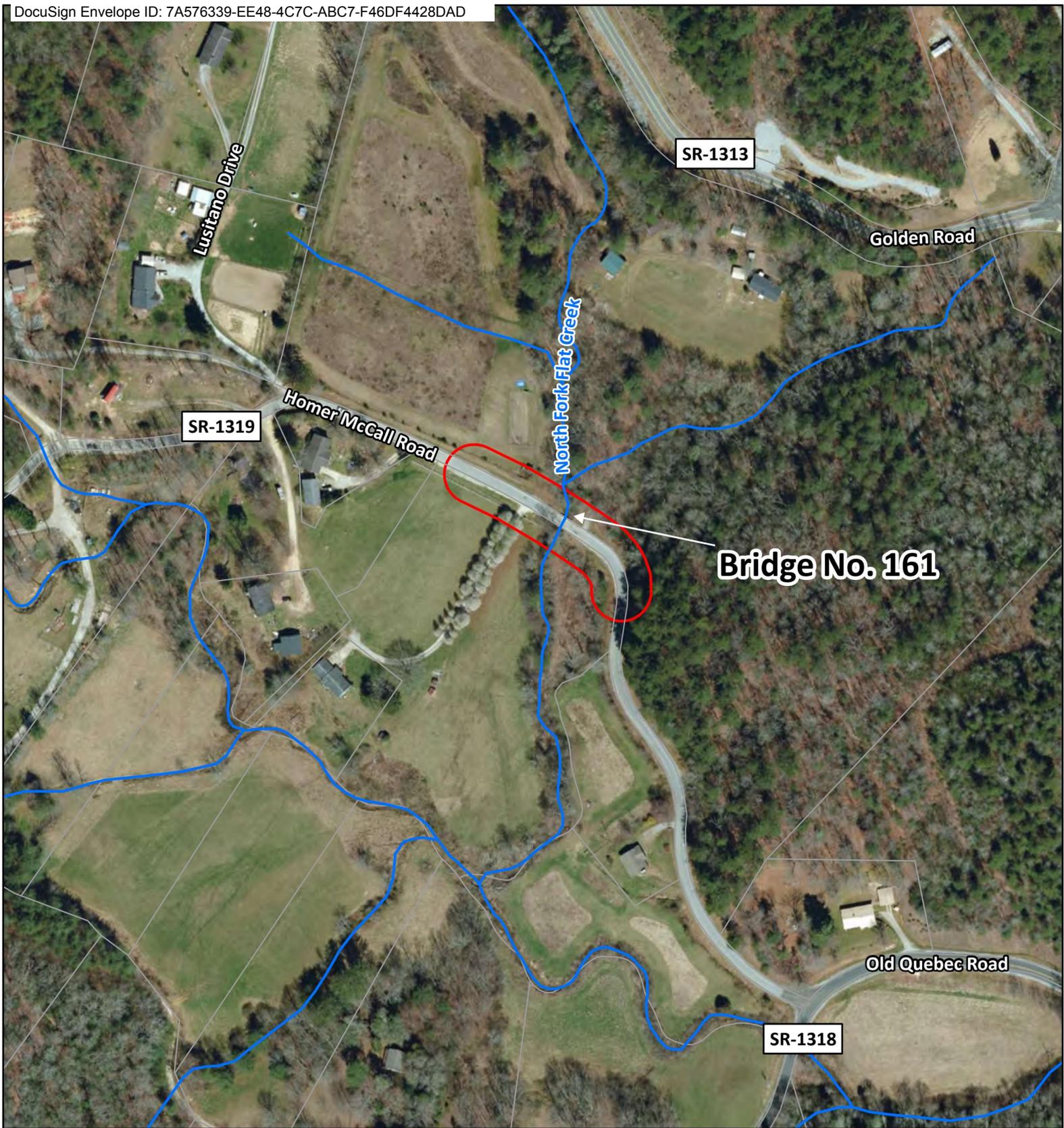
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Feet



Project Study Area Map  
BR-0252  
Bridge No. 160 Replacement  
NCDOT Division 14  
Transylvania County

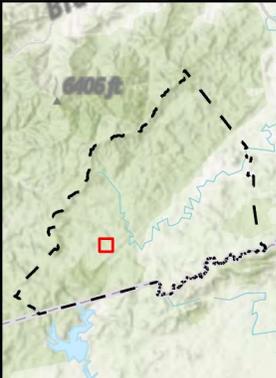
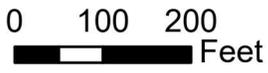


July 2023



**Bridge No. 161**

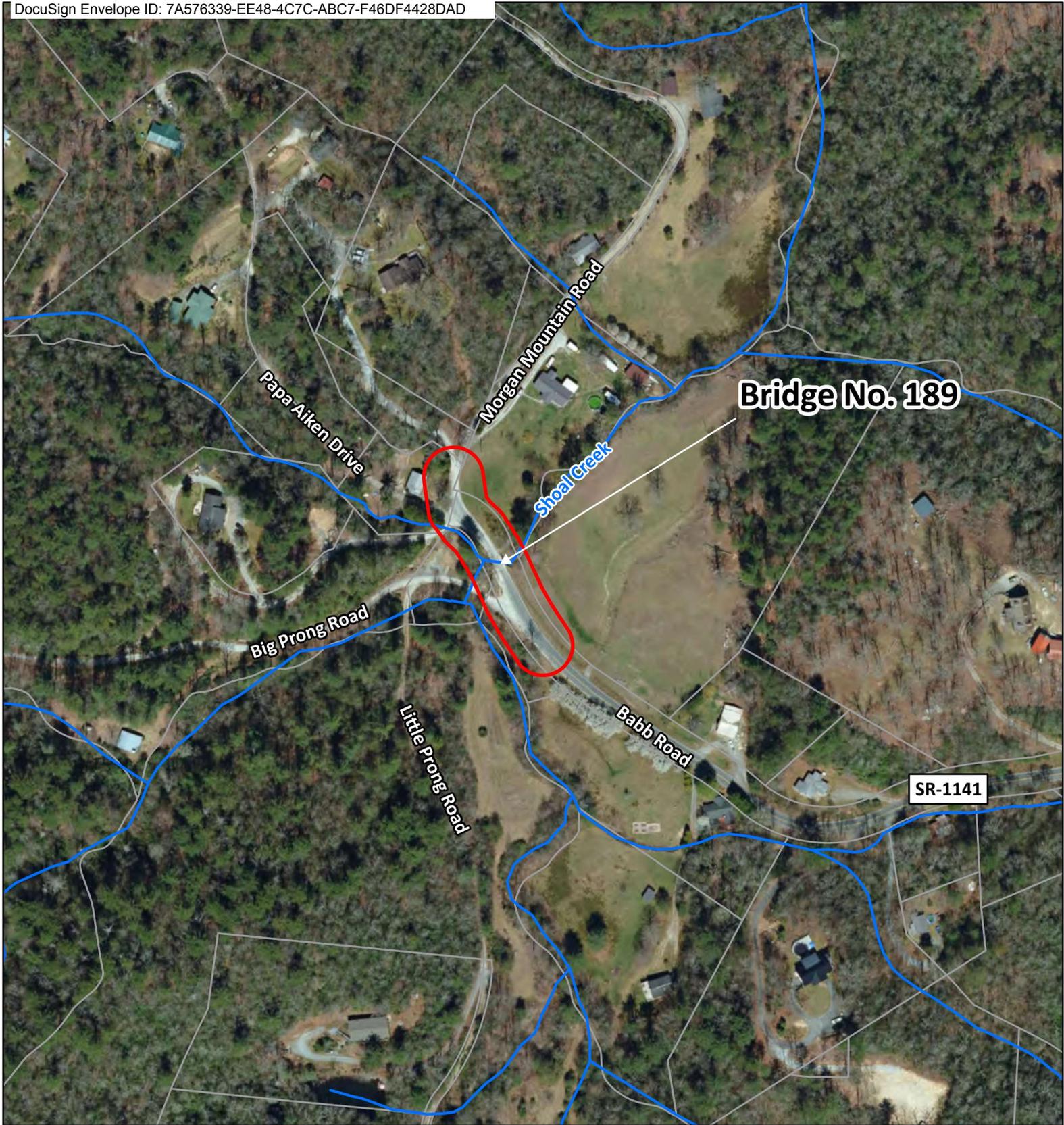
- Project Study Area
- Streams
- Parcels



Project Study Area Map  
 BR-0252  
 Bridge No. 161 Replacement  
 NCDOT Division 14  
 Transylvania County



July 2023



**Bridge No. 189**

**SR-1141**

-  Project Study Area
-  Streams
-  Parcels

0 100 200 Feet



Project Study Area Map  
 BR-0252  
 Bridge No. 189 Replacement  
 NCDOT Division 14  
 Transylvania County



July 2023