

# NC Stream Assessment Method (NC SAM) Zones, March 2025 - NC Department of Transportation

File Geodatabase Feature Class



## Tags

NCSAM, Transportation, North Carolina Stream Assessment Method, Zones, Streams, Mountain, Piedmont, Inner Coastal Plain, Outer Coastal Plain, EPA, NCDOT, Environment, Location, ATLAS, North Carolina

## Summary

The North Carolina Stream Assessment Method (NC SAM) is the culmination of a process begun in 2003 by an interagency team of federal and state agency staff – the N.C. Stream Functional Assessment Team (SFAT). The goal of the SFAT was to develop an accurate, reproducible, rapid, observational, and science-based field method to determine the level of stream function relative to reference condition for each of 29 general categories of North Carolina streams. The SFAT defined “rapid” as taking no more than 15 minutes for a trained observer to evaluate subsequent to a jurisdictional determination/delineation.

The purpose of NC SAM is to provide the public and private sectors with an accurate, consistent, rapid, observational, and science-based field method to determine the level of function of streams within North Carolina. NC SAM was created to be used for project planning, alternatives analysis, compliance and enforcement, watershed planning, stream monitoring, mitigation planning, and tracking functional replacement.

## Description

The NC Stream Assessment Method Zones dataset is a statewide polygon layer created from the EPA Level IV Ecoregion Polygons layer, by dividing the ecoregions into the SAM Zones as described by the USACE in the NC Stream Assessment Method (SAM) User Manual. There are four zones, Mountain, Piedmont, Inner Coastal Plain, and Outer Coastal Plain.

The Stream & Wetland Assessment Team (SWAT) divided North Carolina into four zones (NC SAM Zones) in consideration of stream function based upon level III and IV ecoregions. The four NC SAM Zones are Mountain, Piedmont, Inner Coastal Plain, and Outer Coastal Plain.

-Mountain NC SAM Zone – occurs within the same footprint as the Blue Ridge level III ecoregion and varies in character from narrow ridges to hilly plateaus to more massive mountainous areas with high peaks.

-Piedmont NC SAM Zone – occurs within the same footprint as the Piedmont level III ecoregion and is a transition between the Mountains and the Coastal Plain, and is a complex of irregularly dissected plains and some hills.

-Inner Coastal Plain NC SAM Zone – comprised of the Southeastern Plains level III ecoregion and the Mid-Atlantic Flatwoods, Carolina Flatwoods, and the Mid-Atlantic Floodplains and Low Terraces level IV ecoregions. The Inner Coastal Plain varies from rolling to hilly terrain with sandy soils to lower, flatter terrain with broad, slow-draining flats of finer-textured soils and large, sluggish river systems.

-Outer Coastal Plain NC SAM Zone – comprised of the Chesapeake-Pamlico Lowlands and Tidal Marshes and Nonriverine Swamps and Peatlands level IV ecoregions. The Outer Coastal Plain occurs on the lowest marine terrace east of the Suffolk Scarp in northeastern North Carolina and on flat, poorly drained areas containing organic soils along the full extent of the North Carolina coast

Datasets developed under Project ATLAS may not be used as a replacement for site visits / field surveys by licensed professionals and hence should be used only as a supporting platform for decision making. Use of this dataset for project scoping or screening is merely pre-decisional.

Credits

The Environmental Analysis Unit (EAU) Mitigation and Modeling Unit within NCDOT was tasked to create this dataset. This dataset supports the production of the Natural Resources Technical Report (NRTR). Quarterly maintenance of this dataset is handled by the EAU.

Support and maintenance of the enterprise spatial database where this data resides is handled by NCDIT's Transportation GIS Unit.

Use limitations

The North Carolina Department of Transportation shall not be held liable for any errors in this data. This includes errors of omission, commission, errors concerning the content of the data, and relative and positional accuracy of the data. This data cannot be construed to be a legal document. Primary sources from which this data was compiled must be consulted for verification of information contained in this data.

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Extent

West -84.422108 East -75.416548  
North 36.617254 South 33.730172

Scale Range

Maximum (zoomed in) 1:5,000  
Minimum (zoomed out) 1:150,000,000

ArcGIS Metadata ►

Topics and Keywords ►

THEMES OR CATEGORIES OF THE RESOURCE

farming, boundaries, inlandWaters, location, planningCadastre, transportation, environment

\* CONTENT TYPE

Downloadable Data

PLACE KEYWORDS

North Carolina

THESAURUS ►

TITLE

User

CREATION DATE

2025-02-06 00:00:00

PUBLICATION DATE

2025-03-31 00:00:00

Hide Thesaurus ▲

THEME KEYWORDS

NCSAM, Transportation, North Carolina Stream Assessment Method , Zones, Streams, Mountain, Piedmont, Inner Coastal Plain, Outer Coastal Plain, EPA, NCDOT, Environment, Location, ATLAS, North Carolina

THESAURUS ►

TITLE

User

CREATION DATE

2025-02-06 00:00:00

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[Hide Thesaurus ▲](#)

[Hide Topics and Keywords ▲](#)

## Citation ►

TITLE NC Stream Assessment Method (NC SAM) Zones, March 2025 - NC Department of Transportation  
CREATION DATE 2025-02-06 00:00:00  
PUBLICATION DATE 2025-03-31 00:00:00

PRESENTATION FORMATS digital map

[Hide Citation ▲](#)

## Citation Contacts ►

### RESPONSIBLE PARTY

ORGANIZATION'S NAME North Carolina Department of Transportation - EAU Mitigation and Modeling Unit  
CONTACT'S POSITION Environmental Program Consultant  
CONTACT'S ROLE originator

### CONTACT INFORMATION ►

#### PHONE

VOICE 919-707-6136

#### ADDRESS

DELIVERY POINT 1020 Birch Ridge Drive  
CITY Raleigh  
ADMINISTRATIVE AREA NC  
POSTAL CODE 27610  
COUNTRY US  
E-MAIL ADDRESS [ATLAS@ncdot.gov](mailto:ATLAS@ncdot.gov)

#### HOURS OF SERVICE

9:00am – 5:00pm Monday - Friday

#### CONTACT INSTRUCTIONS

Please send an email with any issues, questions or comments regarding the ATLAS Data Search Tool, ATLAS Screening Tool or ATLAS Workbench. If it is an immediate need, please call the contact number or indicate as such in the subject line in an email.

[Hide Contact information ▲](#)

### RESPONSIBLE PARTY

ORGANIZATION'S NAME North Carolina Department of Transportation - EAU Mitigation and Modeling Unit  
CONTACT'S POSITION Environmental Program Consultant  
CONTACT'S ROLE point of contact

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RESPONSIBLE PARTY

ORGANIZATION'S NAME North Carolina Department of Transportation - EAU Mitigation and Modeling Unit

CONTACT'S POSITION Environmental Program Consultant

CONTACT'S ROLE resource provider

CONTACT INFORMATION ►

PHONE

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[Hide Contact information ▲](#)

[Hide Citation Contacts ▲](#)

## Resource Details ►

DATASET LANGUAGES English (UNITED STATES)

DATASET CHARACTER SET utf8 - 8 bit UCS Transfer Format

STATUS completed

SPATIAL REPRESENTATION TYPE vector

\* PROCESSING ENVIRONMENT Version 6.2 (Build 9200) ; Esri ArcGIS 10.8.1.14362

CREDITS

The Environmental Analysis Unit (EAU) Mitigation and Modeling Unit within NCDOT was tasked to create this dataset. This dataset supports the production of the Natural Resources Technical Report (NRTR). Quarterly maintenance of this dataset is handled by the EAU.

Support and maintenance of the enterprise spatial database where this data resides is handled by NCDIT's Transportation GIS Unit.

[Hide Resource Details ▲](#)

## Extents ►

### EXTENT

#### DESCRIPTION

Data collection is complete.

#### GEOGRAPHIC EXTENT

##### BOUNDING RECTANGLE

WEST LONGITUDE -84.125201

EAST LONGITUDE -75.426058

SOUTH LATITUDE 33.829738

NORTH LATITUDE 36.556356

EXTENT CONTAINS THE RESOURCE Yes

#### TEMPORAL EXTENT

BEGINNING DATE 2025-02-06 00:00:00

ENDING DATE 2025-02-06 00:00:00

### EXTENT

#### GEOGRAPHIC EXTENT

##### BOUNDING RECTANGLE

EXTENT TYPE Extent used for searching

\* WEST LONGITUDE -84.422108

\* EAST LONGITUDE -75.416548

\* NORTH LATITUDE 36.617254

\* SOUTH LATITUDE 33.730172

\* EXTENT CONTAINS THE RESOURCE Yes

#### EXTENT IN THE ITEM'S COORDINATE SYSTEM

\* WEST LONGITUDE 406832.842268

\* EAST LONGITUDE 3052328.390177

\* SOUTH LATITUDE 34848.726429

\* NORTH LATITUDE 1043624.479871

\* EXTENT CONTAINS THE RESOURCE Yes

[Hide Extents ▲](#)

## Resource Points of Contact ►

### POINT OF CONTACT

ORGANIZATION'S NAME North Carolina Department of Transportation - EAU Mitigation and Modeling Unit

CONTACT'S POSITION Environmental Program Consultant

CONTACT'S ROLE point of contact

### CONTACT INFORMATION ►

#### PHONE

VOICE 919-707-6136

#### ADDRESS

##### TYPE

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[Hide Contact information ▲](#)

[Hide Resource Points of Contact ▲](#)

## Resource Maintenance ►

#### RESOURCE MAINTENANCE

UPDATE FREQUENCY as needed

SCOPE OF THE UPDATES dataset

#### OTHER MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

Support and maintenance of the enterprise spatial database where this data resides is handled by NCDIT's Transportation GIS Unit.

[Hide Resource Maintenance ▲](#)

## Resource Constraints ►

#### LEGAL CONSTRAINTS

##### LIMITATIONS OF USE

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#### SECURITY CONSTRAINTS

CLASSIFICATION unclassified

##### LIMITATIONS OF USE

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[Hide Resource Constraints](#) ▲

## Spatial Reference ►

### ARCGIS COORDINATE SYSTEM

- \* TYPE Projected
- \* GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATE REFERENCE GCS\_North\_American\_1983
- \* PROJECTION NAD\_1983\_StatePlane\_North\_Carolina\_FIPS\_3200\_Feet
- \* COORDINATE REFERENCE DETAILS

#### PROJECTED COORDINATE SYSTEM

WELL-KNOWN IDENTIFIER 102719

X ORIGIN -121841900

Y ORIGIN -93659000

XY SCALE 3048.0060960121928

Z ORIGIN -100000

Z SCALE 10000

M ORIGIN -100000

M SCALE 10000

XY TOLERANCE 0.0032808333333333331

Z TOLERANCE 0.001

M TOLERANCE 0.001

HIGH PRECISION true

LATEST WELL-KNOWN IDENTIFIER 2264

#### WELL-KNOWN TEXT

PROJCS["NAD\_1983\_StatePlane\_North\_Carolina\_FIPS\_3200\_Feet",GEOGCS["GCS\_North\_American\_1983",DATUM["D\_North\_American\_1983",SPHEROID["GRS\_1980",6378137.0,298.257222101]],PRIMEM["Greenwich",0.0],UNIT["Degree",0.0174532925199433]],PROJECTION["Lambert\_Conformal\_Conic"],PARAMETER["False\_Easting",2000000.002616666],PARAMETER["False\_Northing",0.0],PARAMETER["Central\_Meridian",-79.0],PARAMETER["Standard\_Parallel\_1",34.33333333333334],PARAMETER["Standard\_Parallel\_2",36.16666666666666],PARAMETER["Latitude\_Of\_Origin",33.75],UNIT["Foot\_US",0.3048006096012192],AUTHORITY["EPSG",2264]]

### REFERENCE SYSTEM IDENTIFIER

VALUE 2264

\* CODESPACE EPSG

\* VERSION 6.12(9.0.0)

[Hide Spatial Reference](#) ▲

## Spatial Data Properties ►

### VECTOR ►

- \* LEVEL OF TOPOLOGY FOR THIS DATASET geometry only

#### GEOMETRIC OBJECTS

FEATURE CLASS NAME NCSAMZones

\* OBJECT TYPE composite

\* OBJECT COUNT 31

[Hide Vector](#) ▲

### ARCGIS FEATURE CLASS PROPERTIES ►

FEATURE CLASS NAME NCSAMZones

\* FEATURE TYPE Simple

\* GEOMETRY TYPE Polygon

\* HAS TOPOLOGY FALSE

\* FEATURE COUNT 31

- \* SPATIAL INDEX TRUE
- \* LINEAR REFERENCING FALSE

Hide ArcGIS Feature Class Properties ▲

Hide Spatial Data Properties ▲

Data Quality ►

SCOPE OF QUALITY INFORMATION ►  
RESOURCE LEVEL dataset

Hide Scope of quality information ▲

DATA QUALITY REPORT - COMPLETENESS OMISSION ►  
MEASURE DESCRIPTION

After processing, the dataset is checked for drawing display and number of records and file sizes compared with source materials.

CONFORMANCE TEST RESULTS  
TEST PASSED Yes  
RESULT EXPLANATION  
Pass

PRODUCT SPECIFICATION ►  
TITLE NCDOT Geospatial Data Specifications  
CREATION DATE 2025-02-06 00:00:00  
PUBLICATION DATE 2025-03-31 00:00:00

Hide Product specification ▲

Hide Data quality report - Completeness omission ▲

DATA QUALITY REPORT - CONCEPTUAL CONSISTENCY ►  
MEASURE DESCRIPTION

The dataset is converted to file geodatabase (FGDB) format using tools in ArcGIS. The geometry is checked, and if needed repaired.

CONFORMANCE TEST RESULTS  
TEST PASSED Yes  
RESULT EXPLANATION  
Pass

PRODUCT SPECIFICATION ►  
TITLE NCDOT Geospatial Data Specifications



CREATION DATE 2025-02-06 00:00:00  
PUBLICATION DATE 2025-03-31 00:00:00

*Hide Product specification ▲*

*Hide Data quality report - Conceptual consistency ▲*

DATA QUALITY REPORT - QUANTITATIVE ATTRIBUTE ACCURACY ►  
MEASURE DESCRIPTION

SMA is topologically aligned with PLSS CAD NSDI which has been through a series of quality checks to catch as many potential coding errors as possible.

CONFORMANCE TEST RESULTS

TEST PASSED Yes  
RESULT EXPLANATION  
Pass

PRODUCT SPECIFICATION ►

TITLE NCDOT Geospatial Data Specifications  
CREATION DATE 2025-02-06 00:00:00  
PUBLICATION DATE 2025-03-31 00:00:00

*Hide Product specification ▲*

*Hide Data quality report - Quantitative attribute accuracy ▲*

*Hide Data Quality ▲*

**Lineage ►**

LINEAGE STATEMENT

This layer was created from the EPA Level IV Ecoregion Polygons layer, by dividing the ecoregions into the SAM Zones as described by the USACE in the NC Stream Assessment Method (SAM) User Manual.

PROCESS STEP ►

DESCRIPTION

Geodatabase was forwarded on to the GIS Unit for publishing as part of data for project ATLAS.

PROCESS CONTACT

ORGANIZATION'S NAME North Carolina Department of Transportation - EAU Mitigation and Modeling Unit  
CONTACT'S POSITION Environmental Program Consultant  
CONTACT'S ROLE point of contact

CONTACT INFORMATION ►

PHONE  
VOICE 919-707-6136

ADDRESS

TYPE  
DELIVERY POINT 1020 Birch Ridge Drive  
CITY Raleigh  
ADMINISTRATIVE AREA NC  
POSTAL CODE 27610  
COUNTRY US  
E-MAIL ADDRESS [ATLAS@ncdot.gov](mailto:ATLAS@ncdot.gov)

HOURS OF SERVICE  
9:00am – 5:00pm Monday - Friday

CONTACT INSTRUCTIONS  
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[Hide Contact information ▲](#)

[Hide Process step ▲](#)

PROCESS STEP ►  
DESCRIPTION

Data was reviewed in ESRI's Data Reviewer tool to verify geometry. No legitimate errors were found.

PROCESS CONTACT

ORGANIZATION'S NAME North Carolina Department of Transportation - EAU Mitigation and Modeling Unit  
CONTACT'S POSITION Environmental Program Consultant  
CONTACT'S ROLE point of contact

CONTACT INFORMATION ►

PHONE  
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[Hide Contact information ▲](#)

[Hide Process step ▲](#)

[Hide Lineage ▲](#)

## Distribution ►

### DISTRIBUTOR ►

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

ORGANIZATION'S NAME North Carolina Department of Transportation - EAU Mitigation and Modeling Unit  
CONTACT'S POSITION Environmental Program Consultant  
CONTACT'S ROLE distributor

#### CONTACT INFORMATION ►

##### PHONE

VOICE 919-707-6136

##### ADDRESS

DELIVERY POINT 1020 Birch Ridge Drive  
CITY Raleigh  
ADMINISTRATIVE AREA NC  
POSTAL CODE 27610  
COUNTRY US  
E-MAIL ADDRESS ATLAS@ncdot.gov

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[Hide Contact information ▲](#)

[Hide Distributor ▲](#)

### DISTRIBUTION FORMAT

\* NAME File Geodatabase Feature Class  
VERSION 10.5

[Hide Distribution ▲](#)

## Fields ►

### DETAILS FOR OBJECT NCSAMZones ►

\* TYPE Feature Class  
\* ROW COUNT 31

#### DEFINITION

Method to rapidly assess the level of stream condition across the state

#### DEFINITION SOURCE

NCDOT

### FIELD OBJECTID ►

\* ALIAS OBJECTID  
\* DATA TYPE OID  
\* WIDTH 4  
\* PRECISION 0

- \* **SCALE** 0
- \* **FIELD DESCRIPTION**  
Internal feature number.
- \* **DESCRIPTION SOURCE**  
Esri
- \* **DESCRIPTION OF VALUES**  
Sequential unique whole numbers that are automatically generated.

*Hide Field OBJECTID ▲*

**FIELD Shape ►**

- \* **ALIAS** Shape
- \* **DATA TYPE** Geometry
- \* **WIDTH** 0
- \* **PRECISION** 0
- \* **SCALE** 0
- \* **FIELD DESCRIPTION**  
Feature geometry.
- \* **DESCRIPTION SOURCE**  
Esri
- \* **DESCRIPTION OF VALUES**  
Coordinates defining the features.

*Hide Field Shape ▲*

**FIELD NCSAMZone ►**

- \* **ALIAS** NCSAMZone
- \* **DATA TYPE** String
- \* **WIDTH** 255
- \* **PRECISION** 0
- \* **SCALE** 0
- FIELD DESCRIPTION**  
Zone based on a combination of Ecoregion III and IV
- DESCRIPTION SOURCE**  
NCDOT

*Hide Field NCSAMZone ▲*

**FIELD L4KEY ►**

- \* **ALIAS** Ecoregion IV
- \* **DATA TYPE** String
- \* **WIDTH** 125
- \* **PRECISION** 0
- \* **SCALE** 0
- FIELD DESCRIPTION**  
Level IV ecoregion type

DESCRIPTION SOURCE  
NCDOT

[Hide Field L4KEY ▲](#)

FIELD [L3KEY ▶](#)

- \* [ALIAS](#) Ecoregion III
- \* [DATA TYPE](#) String
- \* [WIDTH](#) 125
- \* [PRECISION](#) 0
- \* [SCALE](#) 0

[FIELD DESCRIPTION](#)

Level III ecoregion type

DESCRIPTION SOURCE  
NCDOT

[Hide Field L3KEY ▲](#)

FIELD [Shape\\_Length ▶](#)

- \* [ALIAS](#) Shape\_Length
- \* [DATA TYPE](#) Double
- \* [WIDTH](#) 8
- \* [PRECISION](#) 0
- \* [SCALE](#) 0
- \* [FIELD DESCRIPTION](#)  
Length of feature in internal units.

- \* [DESCRIPTION SOURCE](#)  
Esri

- \* [DESCRIPTION OF VALUES](#)  
Positive real numbers that are automatically generated.

[Hide Field Shape\\_Length ▲](#)

FIELD [Shape\\_Area ▶](#)

- \* [ALIAS](#) Shape\_Area
- \* [DATA TYPE](#) Double
- \* [WIDTH](#) 8
- \* [PRECISION](#) 0
- \* [SCALE](#) 0
- \* [FIELD DESCRIPTION](#)  
Area of feature in internal units squared.

- \* [DESCRIPTION SOURCE](#)  
Esri

- \* [DESCRIPTION OF VALUES](#)  
Positive real numbers that are automatically generated.

[Hide Field Shape\\_Area ▲](#)

[Hide Details for object NCSAMZones ▲](#)

[Hide Fields ▲](#)

## Metadata Details ►

METADATA LANGUAGE English (UNITED STATES)  
METADATA CHARACTER SET utf8 - 8 bit UCS Transfer Format

SCOPE OF THE DATA DESCRIBED BY THE METADATA dataset  
SCOPE NAME \*dataset

\* LAST UPDATE 2025-05-16

### ARCGIS METADATA PROPERTIES

METADATA FORMAT ArcGIS 1.0  
METADATA STYLE ISO 19139 Metadata Implementation Specification  
STANDARD OR PROFILE USED TO EDIT METADATA ISO19139

CREATED IN ARCGIS FOR THE ITEM 2025-05-16 08:32:25  
LAST MODIFIED IN ARCGIS FOR THE ITEM 2025-05-16 08:34:18

### AUTOMATIC UPDATES

HAVE BEEN PERFORMED Yes  
LAST UPDATE 2025-05-16 08:34:18

[Hide Metadata Details ▲](#)

## Metadata Contacts ►

### METADATA CONTACT

ORGANIZATION'S NAME North Carolina Department of Transportation - EAU Mitigation and Modeling Unit  
CONTACT'S POSITION Environmental Program Consultant  
CONTACT'S ROLE point of contact

### CONTACT INFORMATION ►

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[Hide Metadata Contacts ▲](#)

## Metadata Maintenance ►

### MAINTENANCE

UPDATE FREQUENCY as needed

### OTHER MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

Maintenance of the metadata is handled by the EAU. Support and maintenance of the enterprise spatial database where this data resides is handled by NCDIT's Transportation GIS Unit.

### MAINTENANCE CONTACT

ORGANIZATION'S NAME North Carolina Department of Transportation - EAU Mitigation and Modeling Unit  
CONTACT'S POSITION Environmental Program Consultant  
CONTACT'S ROLE point of contact

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[Hide Contact information ▲](#)

[Hide Metadata Maintenance ▲](#)

## Metadata Constraints ►

### SECURITY CONSTRAINTS

CLASSIFICATION unclassified

CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM None

### LIMITATIONS OF USE

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