

Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief - Volunteer Work Continues

Orange County Soil and Water Conservation District employee, Caleb Lippard, recently volunteered to spend a week with the Buncombe County Soil and Water Conservation District to provide Hurricane Helene disaster relief assistance. The NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation reached out to the Districts across the state for volunteers. His volunteer work encompassed traveling throughout the southwestern and southeastern parts of the county, including Candler and Fairview, to assess disaster sites.

Caleb is certified to conduct United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) [Emergency Watershed Protection](#) (EWP) program evaluations. EWP allows sponsors to apply for federal funding for eligible disaster projects and the evaluations are a necessary part of the process. There is an agreement between the NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation and USDA NRCS to allow for this collaboration.

When asked why he chose to volunteer, Caleb responded: “I chose to volunteer because of there is a limited amount of people in the state that are certified to help. Also, I know that the Buncombe District could use all the help they can get with the recovery efforts.”

Orange Soil and Water Conservation District, and Orange County’s Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks, and Recreation, would like to thank Caleb for his commitment to service. Western North Carolina is still in the process of rebuilding and there continue to be opportunities to contribute to those efforts.

If you would like further information about this volunteer work, please feel free to contact Caleb Lippard, Soil and Water Conservation Coordinator at 919-245-2752, or email at clippard@orangecountync.gov.



Caleb Lippard conducting Emergency Watershed Protection program evaluation.