Albemarle-Pamlico
National Estuary Partnership

July 12, 2024

COMMUNICATING APNEP'S IMPACT

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Communication and Outreach Intern

Roadmap

1. Introduction
2. Engagement & Stewardship Grant
3. Shad in the Classroom
4. Growing Wild Celery to SAVe Our Wetlands
5. Experiencing the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuary
6. Down East Resilience Network
7. Scuppernong Water Management Study
8. Tribal Coastal Resilience Connections
9. Communications Content

WHO AM I?

My name is Katie Whittington!
I am APNEP's Communication and Outreach Intern for the summer.

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

- Rising senior at UNC Chapel Hill studying Public Policy and Sustainability
- Minor in Musical Theatre (one of my hobbies!)
    - Other hobbies of mine are hiking, traveling, and writing
- Originally from Greensboro, NC
- Fun fact: I'm a barista at a 100% student-run nonprofit coffee shop, The Meantime Coffee Co.!

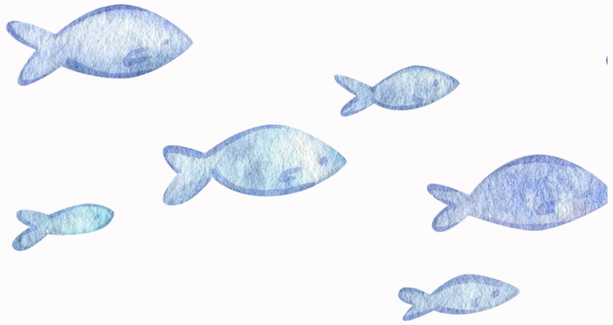
WHAT IS APNEP'S ENGAGEMENT AND STEWARDSHIP GRANT?

Awarded to projects conducted in the Albemarle-Pamlico river basins that encourage public engagement and stewardship of the water and land.

THIS YEAR: $94,250

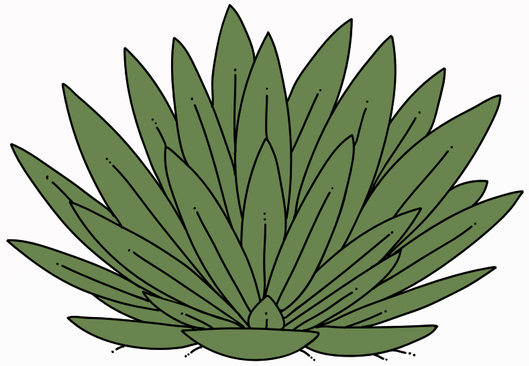
awarded to four projects across the APNEP region

E&S GRANT RECIPIENTS



Shad in the Classroom

$20,000



Growing Wild Celery to SAVe Our Wetlands: A Grassroot Colaborative

$30,000

Experiencing the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuary: Fostering Watershed Stewardship

$14,250

Down East Resilience Network

$30,000

Shad in the Classroom

A hands-on learning experience for children to raise and release American Shad into the Neuse River.

1

TEACHER TRAININGS

Teachers are trained to educate students about the biological, historical, and cultural importance of the American Shad.

2

CURRICULUM

Students participate in activity like “Migration Madness” and gyotaku fish painting to learn more about the importance of the American Shad.

3

FISH DISSECTIONS

Student volunteers from NCSU and ECU along with NC Wildlife Resources Commission biologists will direct in-class fish dissections with students.

4

FIELD TRIP RELEASE

Students care for American Shad embryos in the classroom before embarking on a field trip to release the fry into the Neuse River.

What makes Shad in the Classroom special?

Low barrier to entry.

In 2025, **2500 students** will participate across **31 classrooms.**

300+

of these students come from Title I schools

The program provides **ALL equipment** to schools. They can also assist with **field trip expenses**, as requested.

JULY 1, 2024

APNEP Funded Engagement & Stewardship Projects: Shad in the Classroom

Environmental Education Program Supplements American Shad in the Neuse River, Giving Students a Hands-On Learning Experience

In 2024-2025, Shad in the Classroom will involve 2,500 students from 31 classes, with over 300 students coming from Title I schools. Around 1,000 of these students will release the fry into the Neuse River and all will learn directly from experts about the immense value of the American Shad.

Long-form blog article highlighting Shad in the Classroom's mission, impact, and what they hope to accomplish during the upcoming school year.

Quotes from **Danielle Pende**r, the primary program coordinator, and **participating teachers** underscored the program's importance to the community.

With guidance from expert fishery biologists, like **Dr. Wilson Laney**, the blog illustrates the

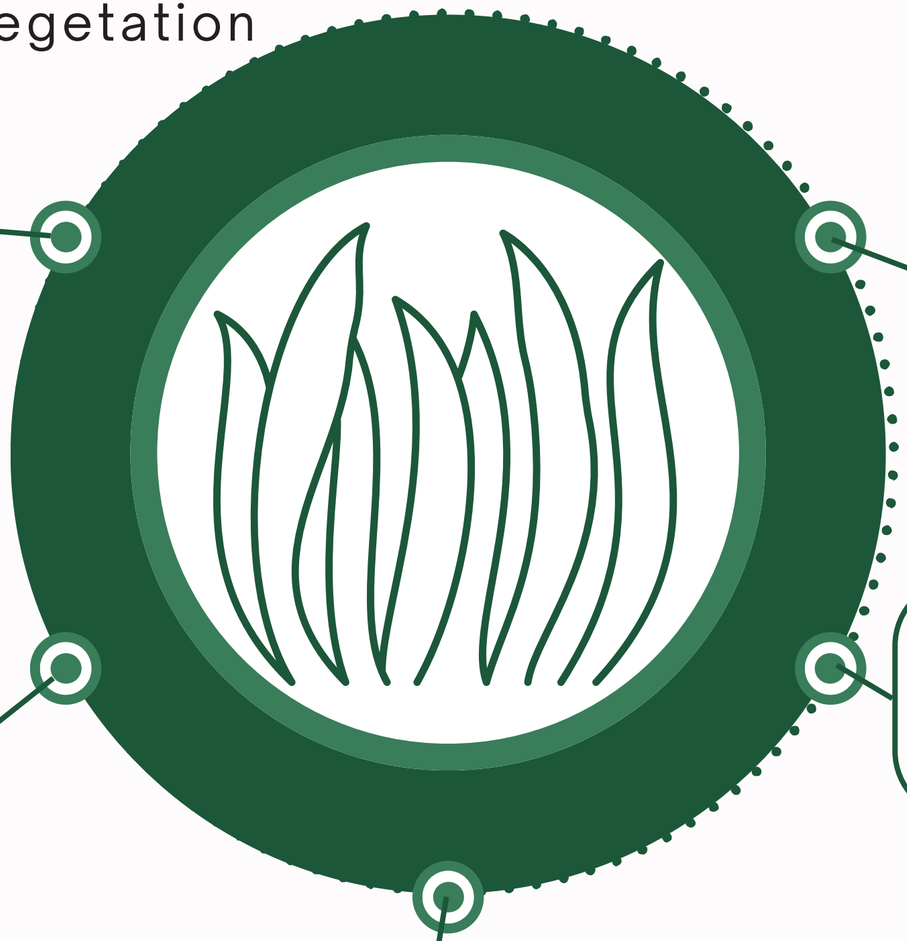
historical, economic, cultural, and ecological importance

of American Shad, tying this closely with the program's positive impact on supplementing shad populations in the Neuse River.

Growing Wild Celery to SAVe Our Wetlands: A Grassroot Collaborative

A project focusing on environmental education and stewardship in the Back Bay area.

SAV = **S**ubmerged **A**quatic **V**egetation



Teacher Training

Teachers are invited to Back Bay and Falls Cape to learn about the history of the area. the importance of SAV, and gain hands-on experience with wild celery habitats.

Monitoring

Students and projects leaders will continue to monitor wild celery growth and take measures to protect it from predation in the months immediately following the planting.

Virtual and In-Person Lessons

Project leaders will visit classrooms virtually or in-person for lessons about the project and its importance, focusing on the history of Back Bay, the wildfowl in the area, and the significance of SAV.

Wild Celery Planting at Back Bay

25-30 students will go on a field trip to Back Bay to plant the wild celery their classrooms have grown.

Students Grow Wild Celery in Classroom

Wild celery plants will be delivered to classrooms for students to grow over the course of ~4 months.

Stay tuned for a blog post about this project!

Experiencing the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuary: Fostering Watershed Stewardship

Across four sites, this project will engage in planting three pollinator gardens and restoring one wetland.

Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

Millennium Forest

Native Pollinator Garden

Center for the Sounds Visitor Center

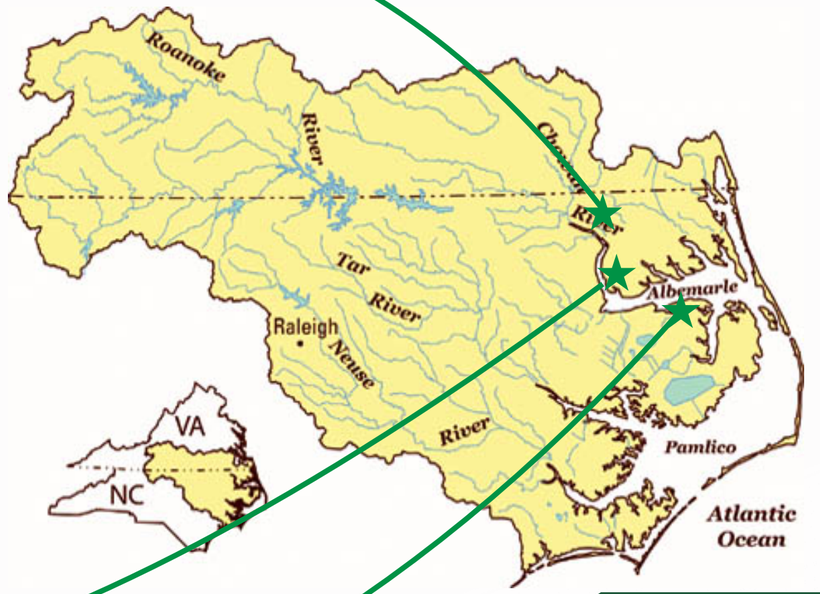
Native Pollinator Garden

Merchants Millpond State Park

Native Pollinator Garden

Pembroke Creek Park

Wetland Restoration



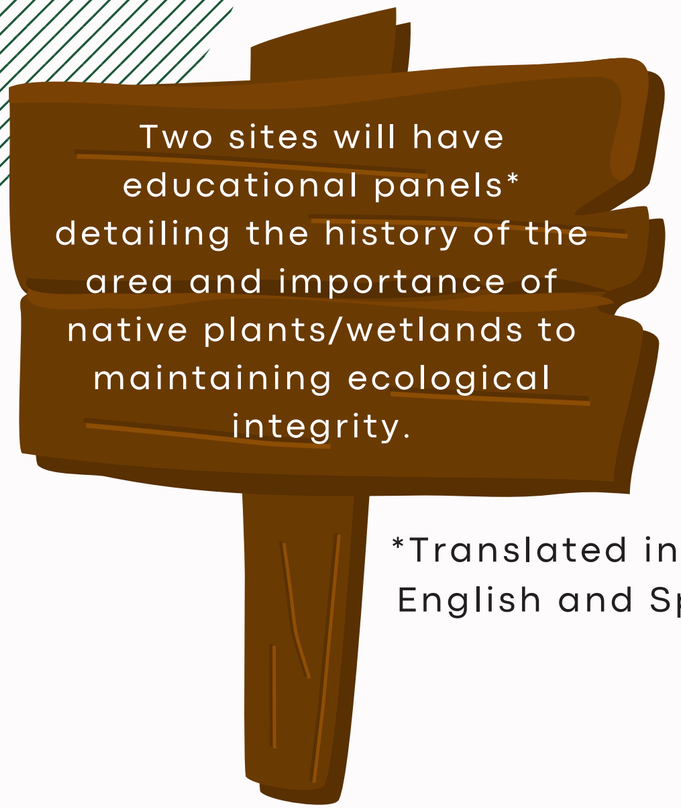
Stay tuned for a blog post about this project!

Youth and Community Engagement

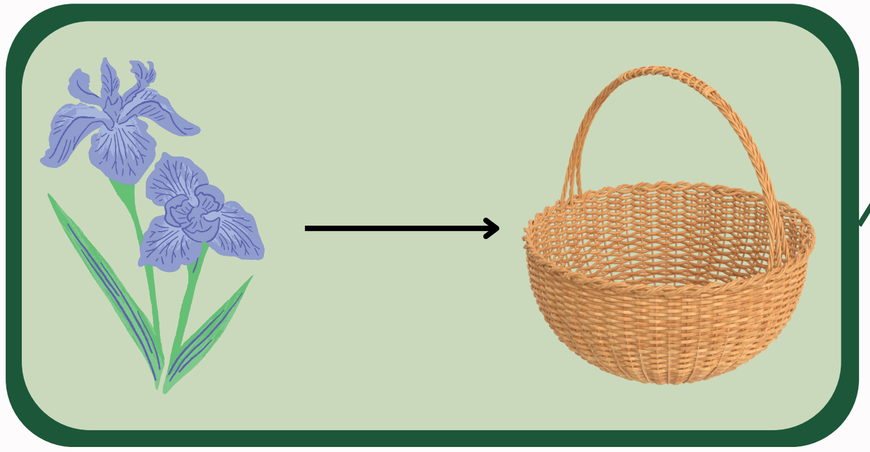
In collaboration with many local partners, this project will combine ecosystem restoration with community engagement and environmental education.

Community members will be invited to participate in nature walks and immersive educational programs at each site.

Pocosin Arts School of Fine Craft will colllaborate with project partners to create programming for children that marries art with nature. Participants will be able to explore the Refuge while making art from discarded invasive species, like irises.



*Translated into both English and Spanish!



Down East Resilience Network

The Down East Resilience Network (DERN) aims to **promote resiliency** in the Down East Carteret County area of NC. This area faces unique circumstances as **severe weather events** become more frequent and severe, **sunny day and traditional flooding** worsens, and **saltwater intrusion** continues to invade the community.

Residential Flooding

Many residents Down East are forced to contend with flooding on their property after intense storms and as a result of rising sea levels. The latter is often referred to as sunny-day flooding.

Ghost Forests

As saltwater intrudes into many forest ecosystems, entire swaths of trees are killed, leaving behind remnants like these, known as ghost forests.

Hurricane Damage

After Hurricane Florance nearly wiped out the Down East community completely, an emphasis was placed on resilience by DERN leaders and founders.

Stay tuned for a blog post about this project!

Communications Strategy

- External and internal communications
- Foster a sense of support in a community that has faced many hardships over the decades
- Put Down East on track toward planning for a more resilient future

Share practical solutions

Cultivate community trust

Tailor communication to meet people where they're at

Increase accessibility of learning opportunities

Emphasize benefits of investing in resilience sooner rather than later

Articulate community needs with local, state, and federal governments

Scuppernong Water Management Study

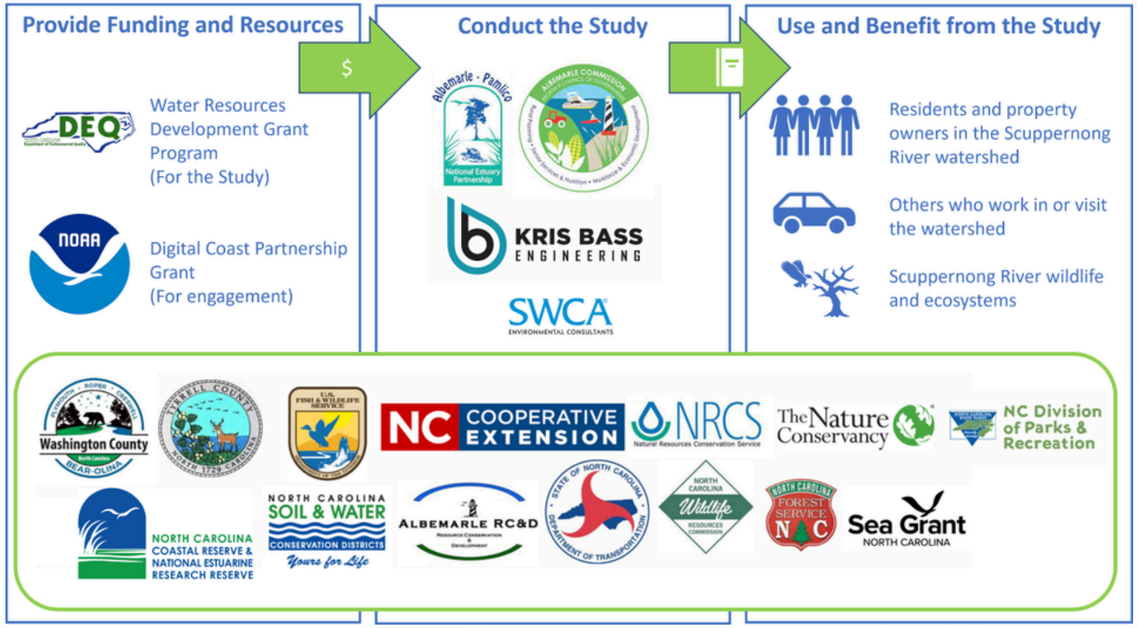
Community water study aimed at resolving local flooding concerns and promoting resilience.

Create a water budget to show how water moves through the watershed

Identify flood prone areas and development models that can simulate conditions during different storm events

Use models to test possible water management actions to determine effective solutions

Recommend short and long-term actions to reduce flood risk and water management issues



Stay tuned for a blog post about this project!

Phase 1: Community Engagement and Research

- Community events engaged hundreds of locals across the study area
- Key takeaways
  - Community values (word cloud)
  - Map of areas of concern
  - Building trust and rapport within the community

Phase 1: Community Engagement

OCTOBER

Water Study Booth
Scuppernong River Festival

Community Meeting
Eastern 4-H Center

DECEMBER

Parade Booth
Creswell Christmas Parade

JANUARY

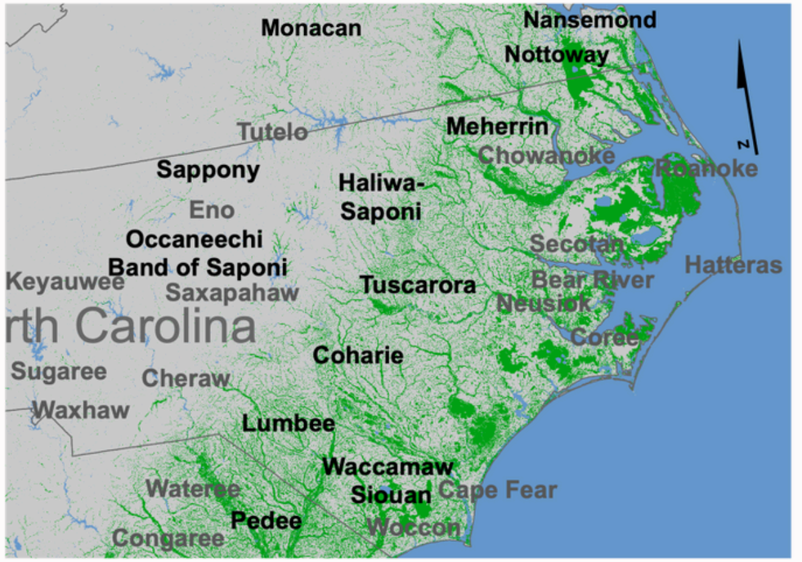
Washington County Drainage Board Meeting

Blackland Farm Manager Association Annual Business Meeting

Tribal Coastal Resilience Connections

The Tribal Coastal Resilience Team formed in 2020 to "examine ways in which agencies involved in coastal climate resilience planning might better engage and coordinate with Tribal nations in the region"

1. Increase awareness among Tribal communities around the risks and threats of climate change
2. Foster discussions about adapting to these changes
3. Educate resilience practitioners on best practices for engaging with Tribes and Indigenous peoples



Map of Tribal communities throughout the APNEP region.

Stay tuned for a blog post about this project!

THE TEAM

Beth Roach Stacey Feken Dr. Ryan Emanuel Jocelyn Painter Chandler Allred Giancarlo Richardson

Phase 1: Community Outreach and Research

Two-pronged approach

1. Community outreach and engagement
2. Review of Tribal-led climate resilience/adaptation plans

#WaterStories

- Launched on Indigenous Peoples Day (Oct. 12, 2020)
- Call for people to share what they love about their water, what threats concern them, and what they hope for their water through songs, poetry, quilt/regalia art, and pictures

"Our Minds are One . Our Rivers connects our Nations. Our waters connect us to our Ancestors. Water is life. WE ARE thankful for clean water."

"The river is embedded not only in my own identity but that of my family. My grandpa told me stories about swimming and fishing there. I know his grandpa did the same when he got here from Oklahoma."

Tribal Climate Adaptation Plans

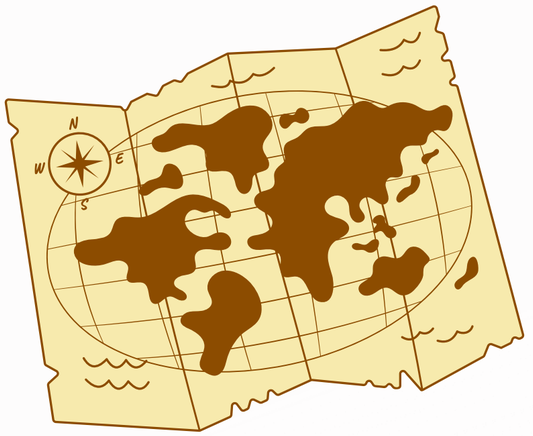
- Literature review of climate adaptation plans created by Tribal communities throughout the US by Jocelyn Painter
- Goal: Conduct a systematic study to identify key themes that emerge from the plans and compare these to climate adaptation or resilience plans prepared by non-Indigenous entities (e.g., municipalities, regional government councils, etc.)

45 plans were identified and mapped

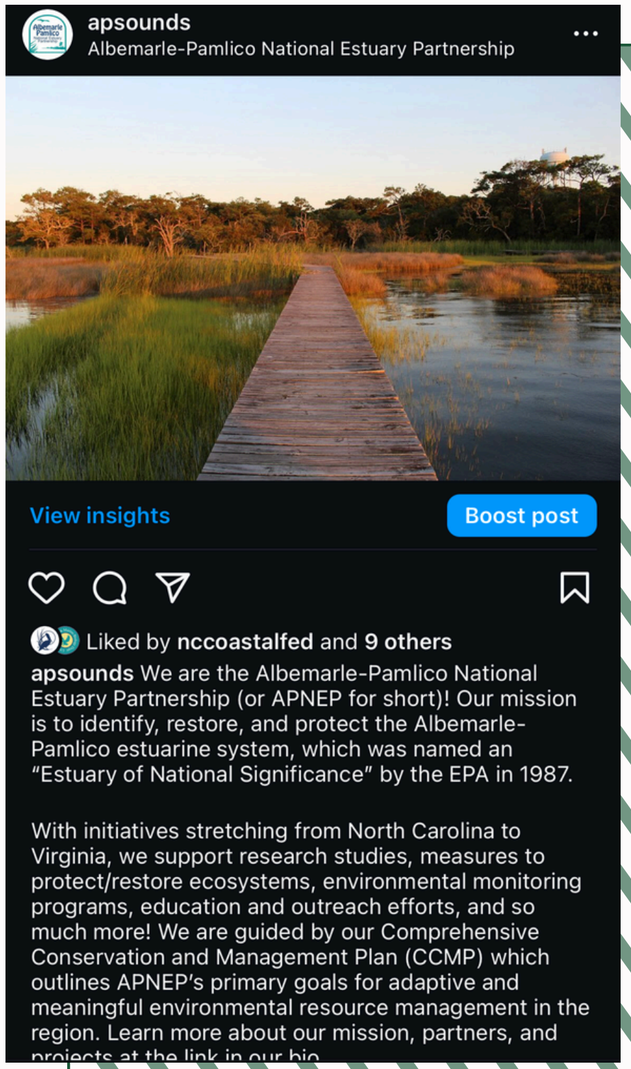
Phase 2: Promoting Inclusivity and Taking a Step Back

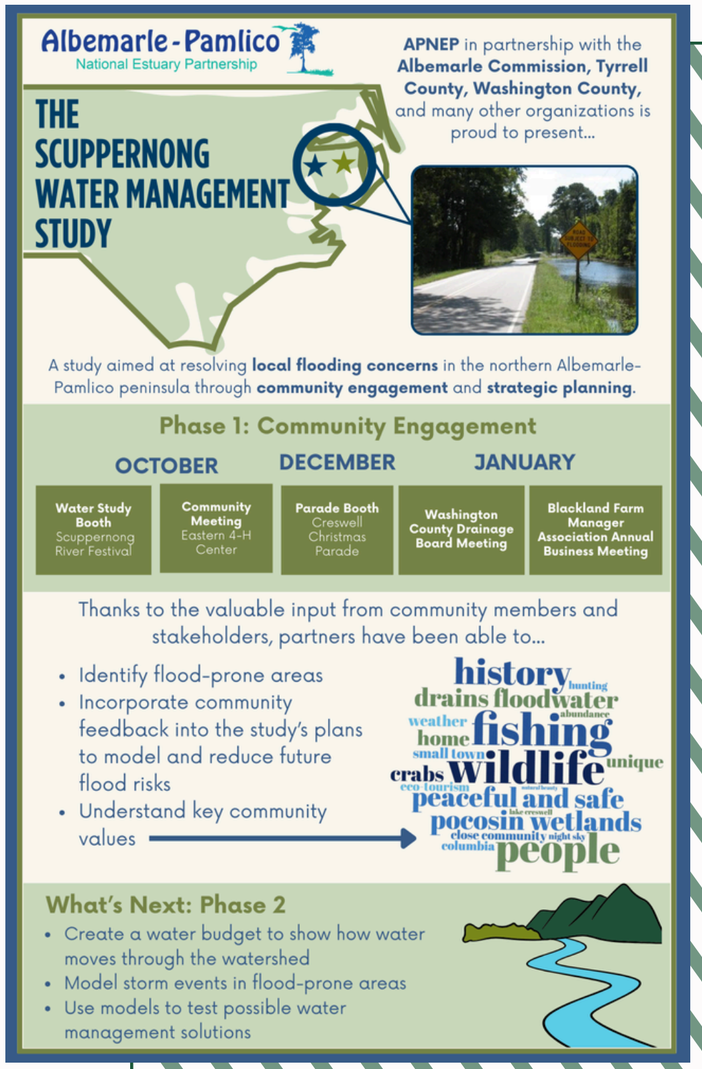
With new team members Chandler Allred and Giancarlo Richardson, the team plans to

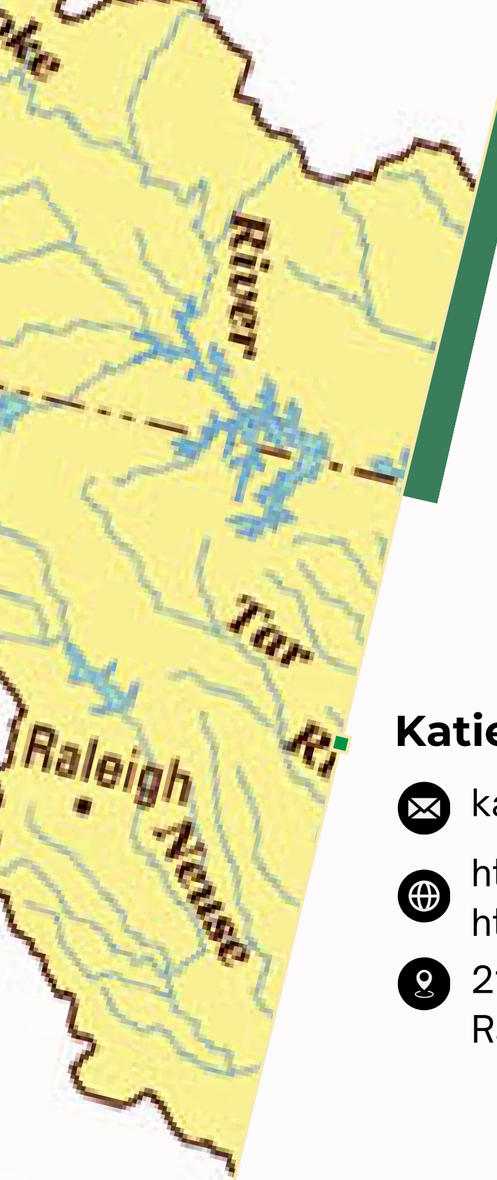
- Create new, inclusive, and accurate maps
- "Take a step back" to focus on outreach to Tribal communities and building trust
- Research history and document Tribal involvement in the APNEP region
- Lay groundwork for the project to be Tribal led in the future
- Strategize partnerships with other Tribal and climate organizations throughout the area
- Build capacity



Communications and Social Media Content







THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?

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