Geohazard and Transportation Aspects of Sulfidic Rock (Acid Rock) in North Carolina

N.C.

Problem causing minerals:

pyrite - Fe²⁺S₂

pyrrhotite - Fe²⁺S

$2FeS_2(s) + 7O_2 + 2H_2O = 2Fe^{2+} + 4SO_4^{-2-} + 4H^+$

 $Fe^{2+} + \frac{1}{4}Q_{2} + H^{+} = Fe^{3+} + \frac{1}{2}H_{2}O$

 $Fe^{3+} + 3H_2O = Fe(OH)_3(s) + 3H^+$

 $FeS_2(s) + 14Fe^{3+} + 8H_2O = 15Fe^{2+} + 2SO_4^{-2-} + 16H^+$

(from Byerly, 1996)

Problem Rock Types in Western North Carolina: Ammons Formation – Horse Br Member Anakeesta Formation **Boyd Gap Formation Farner** Formation **Great Smoky Slate Mineral Bluff Formation – Moderate Slate of Copper Hill Formation Tusquitee** Quartzite **Wehutty Formation**

(from Sobek, 1978 and Byerly, 1996)

US 64 (Murphy, NC) Needmore Road (Almond, NC) US 19/74 (Almond, NC) North Shore Road Extension (Great Smoky Mountain National Park) US 441 (Great Smoky Mountain National Park) Cherohala Skyway, NC&TN Foothills Parkway, TN I-26 in NC&TN



- **Option 1:** For small volume, average NNP is ~ -10 or less, hot rock can be mixed in with larger volume of waste in typical embankment.
- **Option 2:** If a larger volume has an average NNP of –10 or slightly hotter (more negative), then it can still be put in embankments and layered with 90% CaCO₃ limestone equivalent.
- **Option 3:** If much hotter that NNP= -10, then special treatment including encapsulation with impermeable geomembrane and limestone lifts would be required.





US64 – Murphy, NC



Needmore Road along the Little Tennessee River



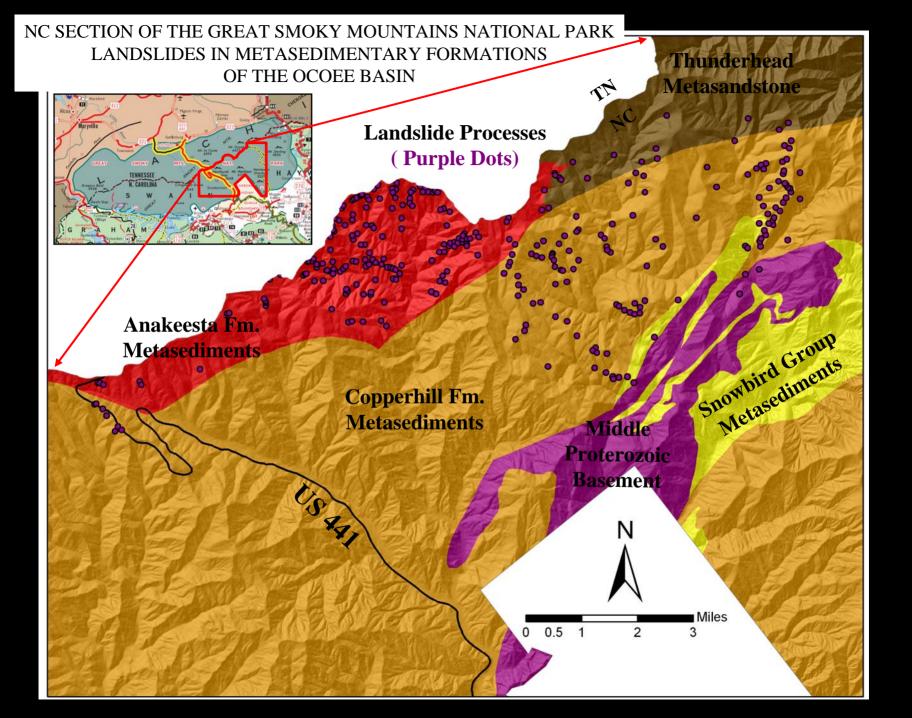


US19/US74/NC28



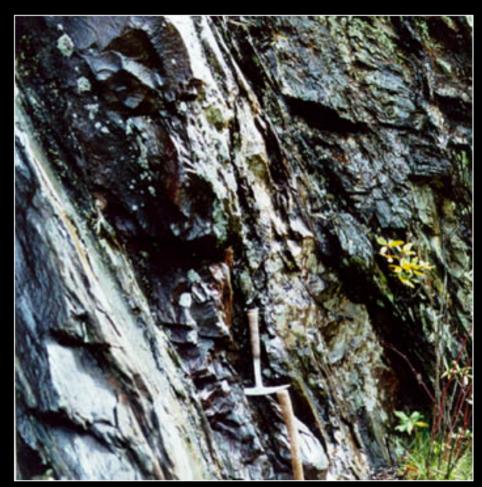


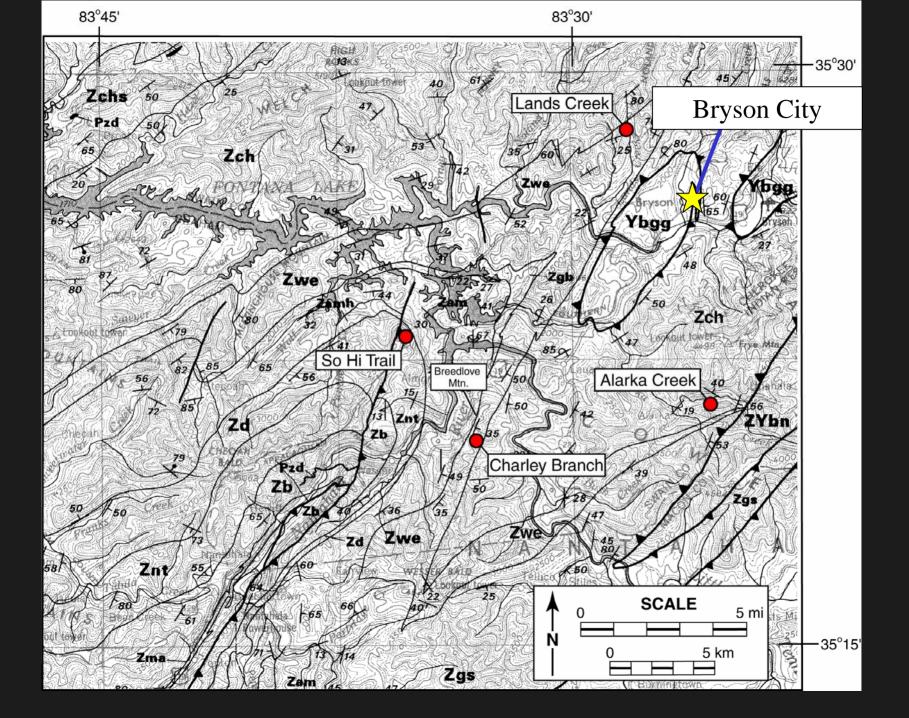


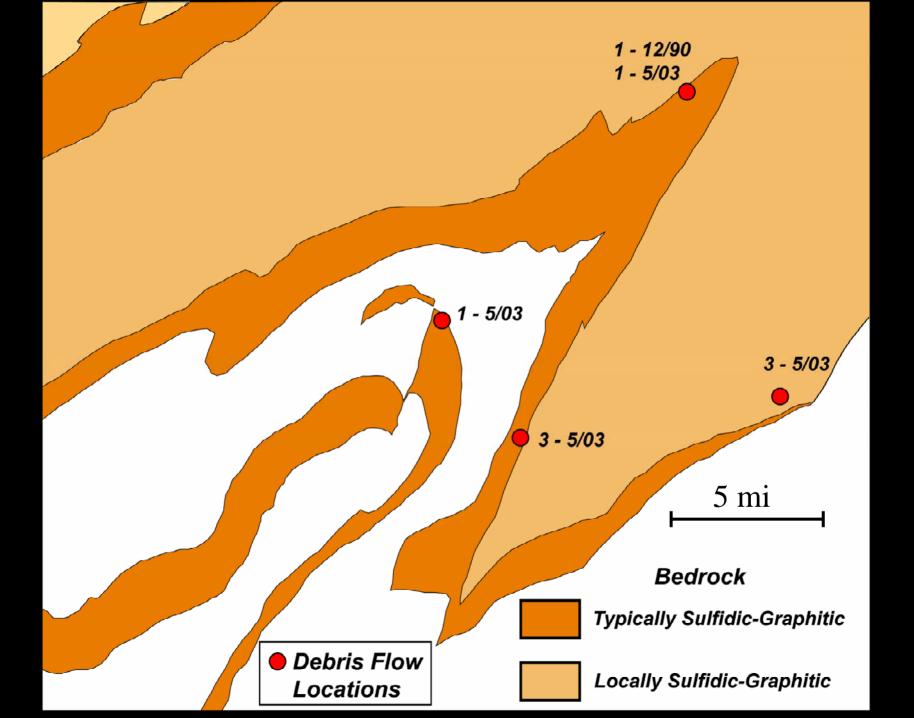




(From USGS, Southworth, 2005)



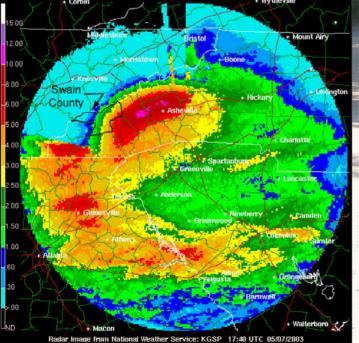




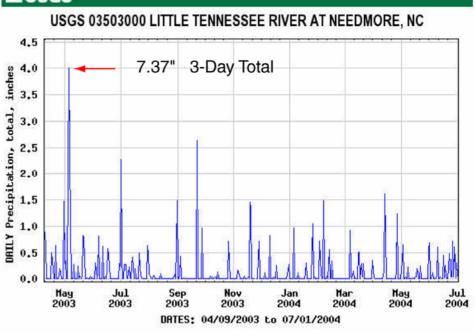
Date	Gage height, feet laximum	Gage height, feet Minimum	Stream- flow (ft ³ /s) n Mean	Precip- itation total, inches Sum
04/24/2003	3.26	2.99	1,200	.00
04/25/2003	3.20	3.12	1,170	.03
04/26/2003	3.31	3.18	1,250	.19
04/27/2003	3.23	3.10	1,150	.00
04/28/2003	3.18	3.02	1,080	.00
04/29/2003*	3.09	3.02	1,040	.00
04/30/2003	3.40	3.07	1,280	1.47
05/01/2003	3.45	3.22	1,350	.29
05/02/2003	3.27	3.18	1,210	.33
05/03/2003	3.31	3.15	1,230	.00
05/04/2003	3.18	3.07	1,140	.00
05/05/2003	5.14	3.07	1,790	4.01
05/06/2003	8.06	5.14	8,860	2.42
05/07/2003	7.89	7.01	9,070	.94
05/08/2003	7.40	5.33	6,240	.00

*Magnitude 4.6 earthquake in Fort Payne, AL felt locally with an intensity of III - IV.

INCHES Ratiar image from Hattorial Weather Service: KGSP 17:40 UTC 05/07/2003



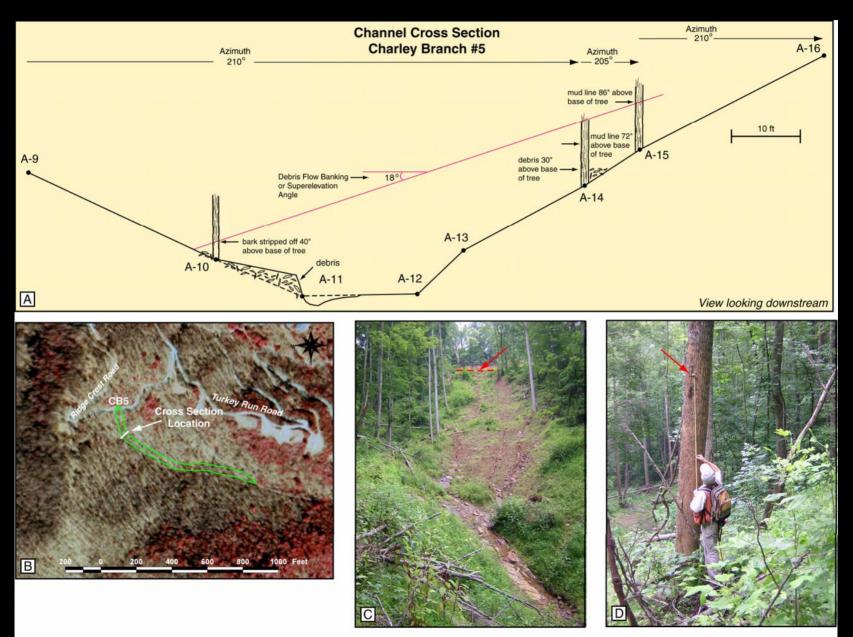
≊USGS



Provisional Data Subject to Revision



Velocity: 25 mph = 37 ft/sec Discharge: 30,000 ft³/sec





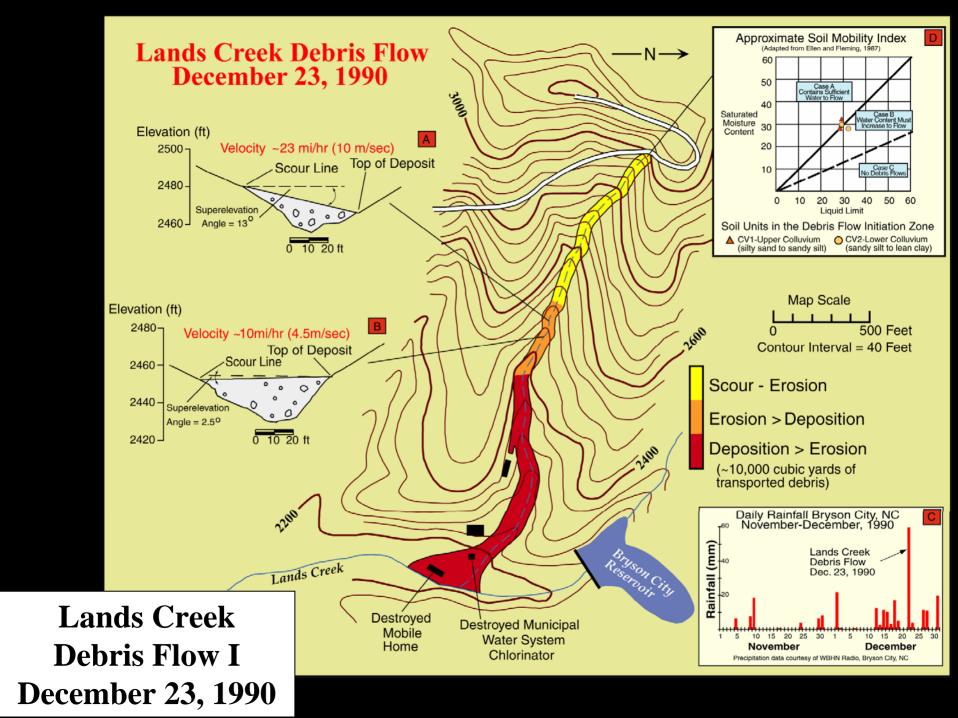


Charley Branch Debris Flows May 5-7, 2003 Swain County











Lands Creek Debris Flow I



Dec. 23, 1990 Swain County

Lands Creek Debris Flow I

Geologic Cross Section Through Debris Flow Initiation Zone

-2900

Road Fill

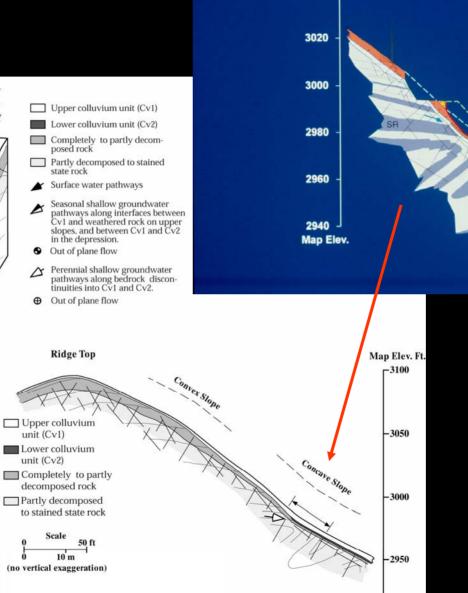
Colluvial

Soil Units

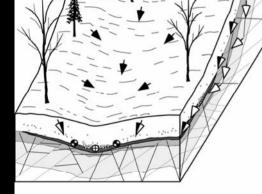
Rock (Zwe) RE

WR

SR.



3040



No Scale



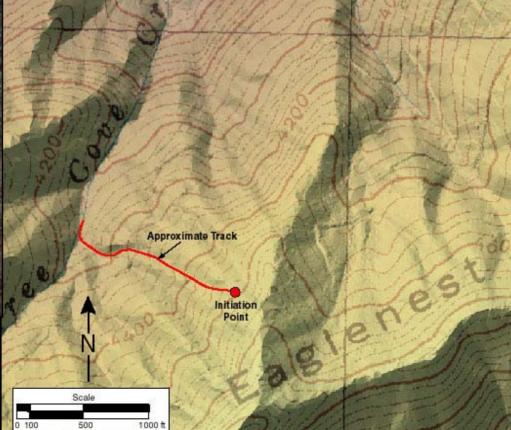
Lands Creek Debris Flow II – May 5-7, 2003 – Swain County



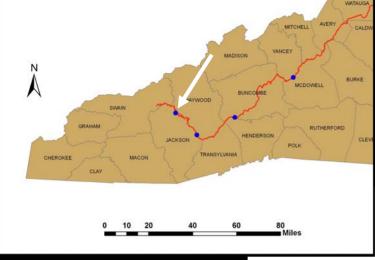


Eaglenest Ridge

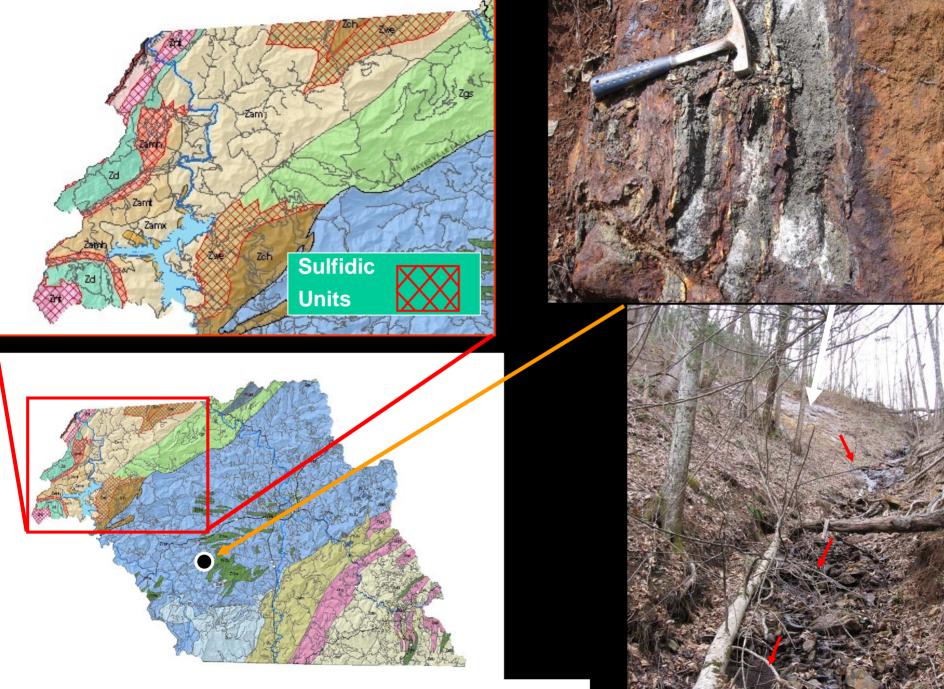
August 31, 2006



Rock Slide Blue Ridge Parkway Mile Marker 452 Cranberry Ridge Overlook August 18, 2006

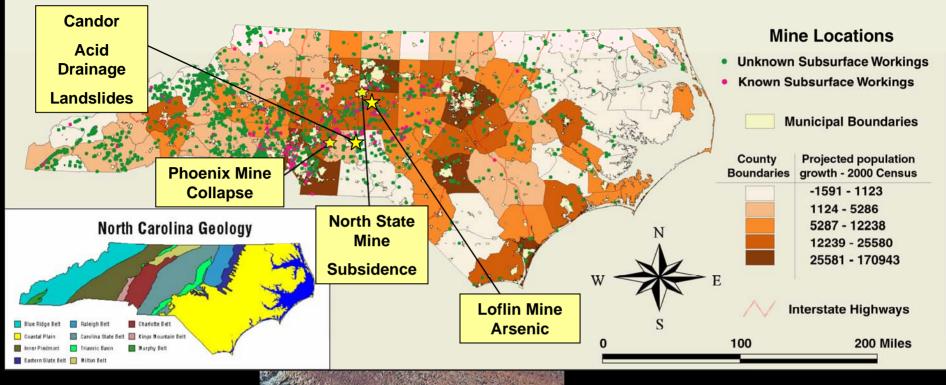






Macon County General Bedrock Geologic Units

Locations of Inactive and Abandoned Mines in North Carolina





Acidic Conditions Sulfide Oxidation

Engineering Problems
Geochemical Releases



2090

AA

NC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND

NATURAL RESOURCES

Questions?



Tommy Douglas North Carolina Geological Survey

http://www.geology.em.state.nc.us 828-296-4639

1

Tommy.Douglas@ncmail.net