Federal Advisory Committee on Landslides (ACL)
Agenda Packet, March 4–5, 2026
Asheville, North Carolina

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Federal Advisory Committee on Landslides (ACL), Day 1
Meeting Agenda, March 4th, 2026, 9 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
Flat Iron Hotel, Asheville, NC

Read-aheads and guiding documents:

- Draft ACL Recommendations Report (attached)
- Landslide Science and Technology Gaps Subcommittee Report (attached)
- Advancing Landslide Science Applications for Public Safety Subcommittee Report (attached)
- National Landslide Preparedness Act
- National Strategy for Landslide Loss Reduction

8:30—9:00 Arrival and logistics

The Flat Iron Hotel is located at 20 Battery Park Ave, Asheville, NC, 28801. USGS staff will be onsite in the morning to direct you to the meeting room. If you are delayed on the day and need help with entry, please contact Kelli Baxstrom (703 397–4711).

9:00—9:15 Welcome and introductions (Bill Haneberg and Nina Oakley)

9:15—10:00 USGS Landslides Hazards Program Updates (Jonathan Godt and Jenny Riker)

Jonathan Godt, Landslide Hazards Program Coordinator, and Jenny Riker, Associate Program Coordinator for Landslide Hazards, will update the ACL on USGS activities and accomplishments related to the National Landslide Hazard Reduction Program.

Desired outcome. The ACL is aware of recent Federal activities under the National Landslide Hazard Reduction Program and has an opportunity to ask questions and provide input.

10:00—10:15 BREAK

10:15—11:15 Landslide Science and Technology Gaps Subcommittee Report and Discussion (Joe Wartman, All)

Joe Wartman, Chair of the ACL Subcommittee on Landslide Science and Technology Gaps, will provide an overview of the subcommittee's report, findings, and suggested recommendations, followed by group discussion.

Preparation. ACL members should review the subcommittee report in advance of the meeting and come prepared to ask questions and discuss the report's findings.

Desired outcome. The ACL is familiar with the subcommittee's work and how and why it arrived at its suggested recommendations. The ACL is prepared to deliberate its final, consolidated recommendation report.

11:15—12:15 Advancing Landslide Science Applications for Public Safety Subcommittee Report and Discussion (Leslie Jones, All)

Leslie Jones, Chair of the ACL Subcommittee on Advancing Landslide Science Applications for Public Safety, will provide an overview of the subcommittee's report, findings, and suggested recommendations, followed by group discussion.

Preparation. ACL members should review the subcommittee report in advance of the meeting and come prepared to ask questions and discuss the report's findings.

Desired outcome. The ACL is familiar with the subcommittee's work and how and why it arrived at its suggested recommendations. The ACL is prepared to deliberate its final, consolidated recommendation report.

12:15—1:30 LUNCH on site

1:30—3:00 Draft Recommendations Report Overview and Discussion (Haneberg, Oakley, All)

ACL Chairs will provide an overview of the draft recommendation report, which integrates findings from the two subcommittees. ACL members will have a chance to ask questions, vote on priority recommendations, and work in small groups to consolidate recommendations under each of the four goals of the National Strategy for Landslide Loss Reduction (Assess, Coordinate, Plan, Respond)

- 40 min—Draft report overview and ACL questions on the merged report
- 15 min—Individual members vote on priority recommendations
- 35 min—Breakout groups work to consolidate 1–2 priorities under each National Strategy goal

Preparation. ACL members should review the draft consolidated report and two subcommittee reports in advance of the meeting. To prepare for voting and consensus activities, please identify your own priority recommendations and consider how subcommittee recommendations could be prioritized, combined, and aligned with the goals of the National Strategy for Landslide Loss Reduction.

Desired outcome. The ACL is familiar with the content of the draft report and how and why it was developed from subcommittee outputs. The ACL begins to consolidate priority recommendations in preparation for report finalization on Day 2.

3:00—3:15 BREAK

3:15—5:00 Panel Discussion: Landslide Risk Science and Applications (Riker, All)

The overarching objective of the National Landslide Hazard Reduction Program and National Strategy for Landslide Loss Reduction is risk reduction. Achieving this goal requires integration of physical and social science approaches. However, Program resources and authorities are targeted to Federal science and technical agencies. In this discussion, a panel of social scientists will share perspectives on how social science has been and could be applied to advance the National Landslide Hazard Reduction Program. The emphasis of this session will be on discussion.

Panelists

- Lori Peek, Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado Boulder
- Alice Pennaz, USGS Office of Risk and Resilience
- Paige Ambord, University of North Carolina at Asheville

Desired outcome. The ACL hears expert perspectives on social science applications for landslide hazard characterization, communication, and risk reduction and has an opportunity to ask questions. Panel discussion informs the ACL's recommendations for Program implementation.

Questions to consider

- When and where can social science research add the most value to physical science capability or product development?
- When providing information to decision makers, how can we strike a balance between technical fidelity and actionability/useability (i.e., "How do I use a hazard map where everything is red?")
- How can Federal science agencies best integrate social science research and practice into landslide hazard and risk programming? What applications are most useful at a national scale?

5:00—5:30 Public Comments and Day 1 wrap up (Riker, Haneberg, Godt, Oakley)

- Public comments (Riker to moderate)
- Closing remarks (Haneberg, Godt)

Federal Advisory Committee on Landslides (ACL), Day 2
Meeting Agenda, March 5th, 2026, 9 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Flat Iron Hotel, Asheville, NC

8:30—9:00 Arrival, security, and logistics

9:00—9:15 Welcome and reintroductions (Haneberg, Oakley)

9:15—10:45 Panel Discussion: Local Landslide Preparedness and Impacts (Riker, All)

Hurricane Helene caused widespread, damaging landslides throughout the Southern Appalachians, with severe impacts in Buncombe County and surrounding areas. In this discussion, a panel of local and Federal practitioners (geologists, emergency managers, weather forecasters, and planners) will share their experiences of that event and related perspectives on landslide preparedness, response and recovery efforts.

Panelists

- David Korte, Landslide Hazards Program Manager, North Carolina Geological Survey
- Kevin Madsen, Helene Recovery Officer, Buncombe County
- Katie Scheip, Planner and GIS Specialist, Henderson County Emergency Management
- Pat Moore, Lead Meteorologist, NWS Greenville–Spartanburg, SC, Weather Forecasting Office

Desired outcome. Local perspectives on landslide impacts, landslide risk reduction, and effective multi-level coordination inform ACL recommendations.

Questions to consider

- In view of Hurricane Helene and its impacts, what efforts would be most effective at reducing landslide losses in the Southern Appalachians?
- Of these, which are most urgent, which are most achievable, and where are Federal agencies best positioned to contribute?
- How and where can Federal support for landslide risk reduction efforts in the Southern Appalachians translate to other regions of the U.S.?

10:45—11:00 *BREAK*

11:00—12:30 Discussion: Recommendations Report Finalization (Haneberg, Oakley, All)

The ACL will refine consolidated recommendations identified on Day 1 of the meeting and provide input on the final content and format of the recommendations report.

- 20 min—Breakout groups report out on consolidated priorities (5 min each)
- 10 min—Members vote again on priority recommendations and comment on anything missing
- 40 min—Breakout groups revise their consolidated priorities and report out on revisions
- 20 min—Begin full committee discussion of report structure and section-by-section review

Desired outcome. The ACL agrees to a final set of recommendations and works towards consensus on final report content and format.

12:30—1:30 ***LUNCH***

1:30—3:00 ACL Dialogue with the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Landslide Hazards (Riker, All)

The Advisory Committee on Landslides provides recommendations to the USGS-led Interagency Coordinating Committee on Landslide Hazards (ICCLH). The ICCLH oversees coordination of National Landslide Hazard Reduction Program implementation across ten Federal agencies. This discussion will introduce the ACL to ICCLH representatives from agencies that support the advancement of operational and response capabilities related to landslide hazard and risk.

ICCLH Representatives[1]

- Mary Mullusky, National Weather Service
- Robert Emberson, National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- Jason Marineau, Department of Interior Office of Emergency Management
- April Fontaine and Vanessa Bateman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Desired outcome. The ACL is familiar with the missions and capabilities of the Federal agencies to whom they provide guidance and can use this information to appropriately target its recommendations.

Questions to consider

- Where are the missions and capabilities of these ICCLH agencies aligned with the ACL's draft recommendations?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of national operational capabilities for landslide risk reduction compared to locally led approaches, e.g., for landslide early warning, landslide forecasting, hazard and risk assessment, etc.?
- In the current Federal landscape, what ICCLH agency contributions to landslide loss reduction efforts are most likely to be tractable and effective with available resources?

3:00—3:15 ***BREAK***

3:15—4:15 Discussion: Recommendations Report Finalization (Haneberg, Oakley, All)

The ACL will continue section-by-section report review and work as a group to reach consensus on final report recommendations, content, and format.

Desired outcome. The ACL approves the recommendations report for transmittal to the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Landslide Hazards.

[1] Participation by ICCLH representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency is uncertain due to the lapse in Department of Homeland Security appropriations.

4:15—5:00 Open ACL Discussion (Godt, Riker, Haneberg, Oakley, All)

The meeting will close with time for open discussion of:

- Next steps for the recommendations report
- The 2026 ACL meeting schedule
- Priority topics and speakers for future meetings
- Current and future subcommittees
- Process matters (e.g., identifying recommendations, building consensus, prioritization, etc.)

Preparation. ACL members should consider what information, perspectives, and subcommittee work will enable it to execute its charge over the next 1–2 years. Please have your calendars available for consultation on meeting dates.

Desired outcome. The ACL has time to reflect on its work over the past year and gives input into its next steps. Dates for 2026 ACL meetings are confirmed.

5:00 Day 2 Adjournment (Haneberg, Oakley, Godt, Riker)

Participants

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