

Mud Slide Closes 'Three Lane,' NC 194 in Avery

Written by Steve Frank
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Several people took a wild slide late last night after weeks of soaking rain finally led to a major mud slide as a section of a state highway 194 in Avery County has collapsed—a slide that will take months to rebuild and stabilize. NC 194—the 'Three Lane'—disappeared after the hillside released late last night, taking an occupied doublewide and a singlewide mobile home with it. Several people were said to be in the homes at the time, but all managed to get out without any injuries being reported. All three lanes fell at a section near Bailey Hollow, the closing running from Blevins Creek to US 19E, and a detour has been set up with heavier vehicles taking Three Mile and Highway 19E, with local traffic in personal vehicles able to take Blevins Creek Road, itself badly damaged in the recent rains. The slide happened between 11:30 and midnight last night, and there are some reports of evacuations in the Bailey Hollow area along with the loss of the two residences there. DOT officials are at the scene to make a determination of what actions to take to restore the road.