Forestry Preharvest Planning Tool (FPPT)

Step-by-Step Tutorial

Web Application User Guide

Prepared by the NC Forest Service 2022

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North Carolina Forest Service staff members are able to view created tracts, parcels included in tracts, and the time that reports are requested for any tract. Administrators of the tool are able to view basic account information entered by the user at the time of account creation, but only the user is able to view or edit their own password. When a tract is deleted by the user, it is removed from the database, meaning that it is no longer visible to Forest Service staff or to any public user. As this tool is a free product made available by the state of North Carolina, the products created within it are public record and may be subject to request by any person under North Carolina General Statute 132-1.

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Introduction

This step-by-step tutorial of the NC Forestry Preharvest Planning Tool (FPPT) was designed to aid North Carolina's forestry professionals, landowners, and the general public in accessing the capabilities of Geographic Information Systems when planning forest management activities with the goal of protecting water quality. The tutorial is not an all-encompassing user guide, but designed to walk users through the process of locating their desired tract and generating the final reports.

Development of the FPPT by the NC Forest Service was made possible by a grant from the US Forest Service's State & Private Forestry (Southern Region) Competitive Resource Allocation program.

Step 1 – Login

To login, use your registered email account, or a state issued NCID (NCFS employees only). If you do not already have an account, you can register here. Users may encounter an administrative approval delay immediately following a newly registered account. If unable to locate the login page, it can be found here.

Step 2 – Create a New Tract

Upon logging in, select either "Create a New Tract" or "Edit an Existing Tract".
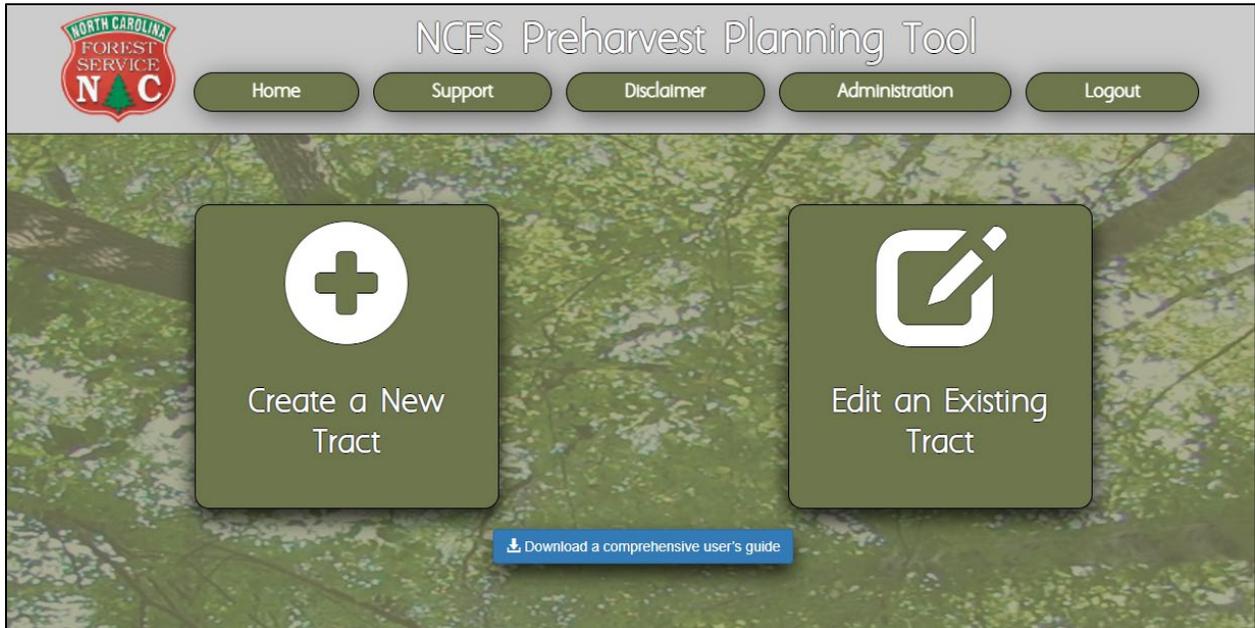
Under "Create a New Tract", you have the options to search through county, parcel, coordinates, or address. All four options can be used to locate your desired tract of land.

Select "create a tract", then press "address". In the search bar enter your address of interest and press the blue search icon.
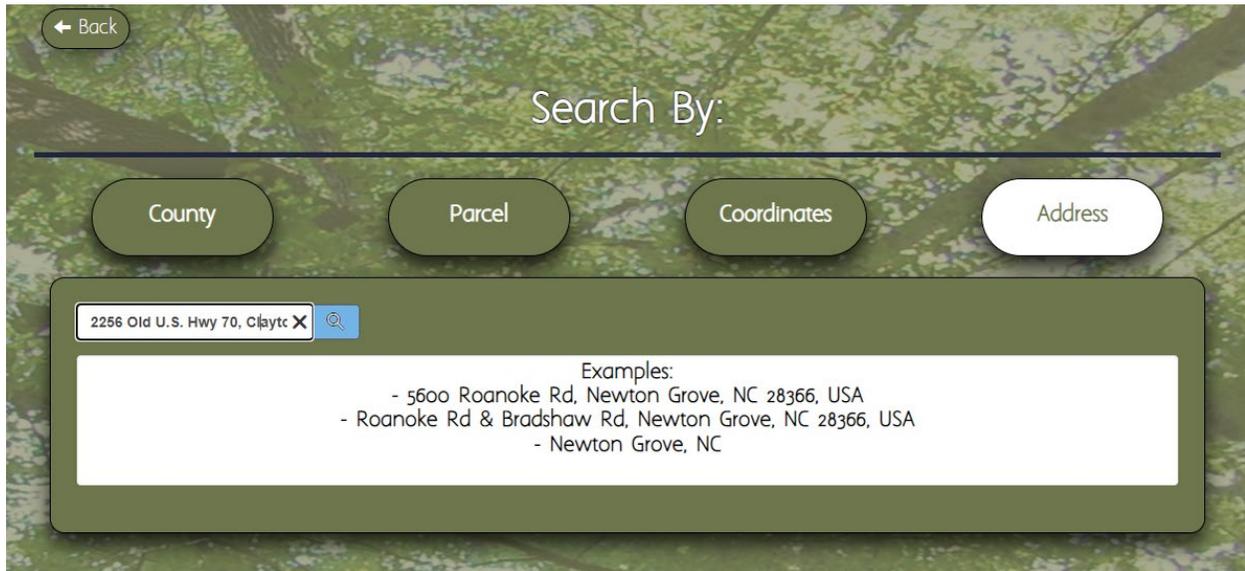
Step 3 – Edit Map Options

If you have done so correctly, an aerial image panned to your selected area should appear.
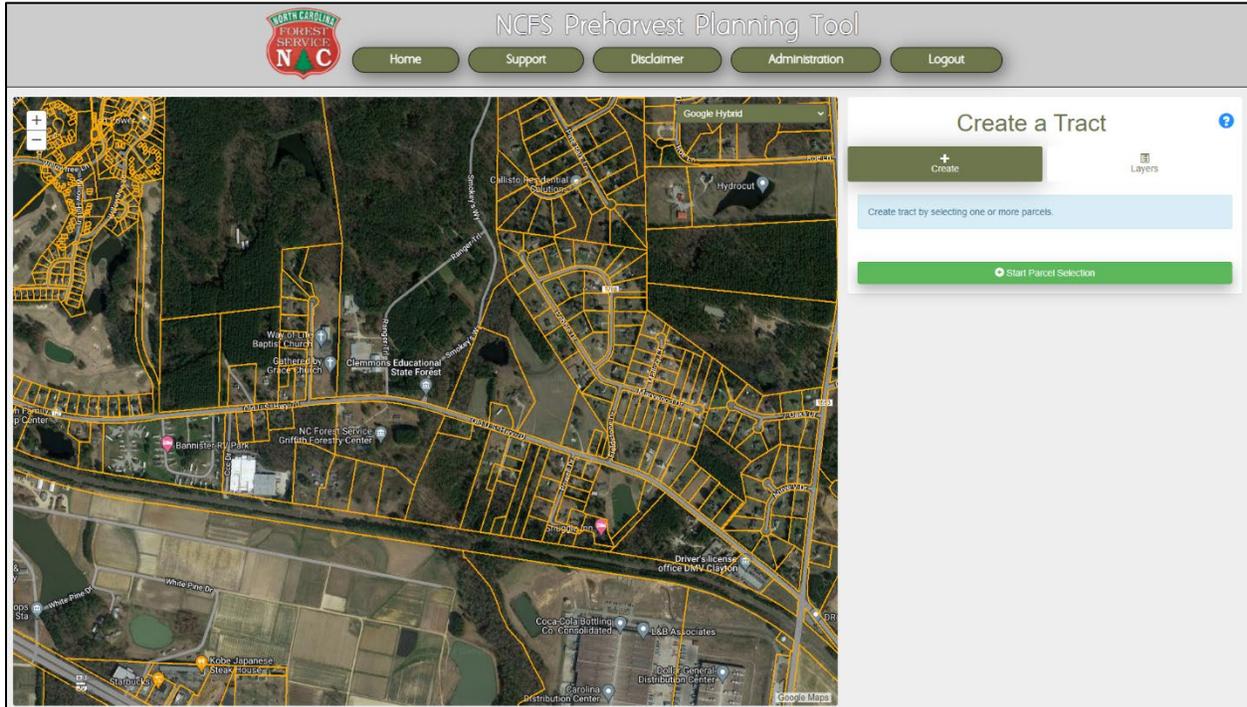
In the top right corner of the map, there is a scroll down bar that says, "Google Hybrid".

Click on the scroll down bar, and 32 different map styles appear under the scroll down bar. If you wish, click on several of the different map styles. The maps highlight different features and can better fit your needs.

Explore the map by zooming in and out, as well as using your mouse to move to the surrounding areas of your area of interest.

Step 4- Select Your Tract

On the right side of your screen, under the "Create a Tract" menu, select "Start Parcel Selection" in green.

Once selected, click your primary parcel of interest. When done properly, the lines around the tract of land will highlight yellow. Note that if the yellow parcel boundaries do not appear, you may need to zoom in. When completed, click "Add to Selected" on the right side of your screen.
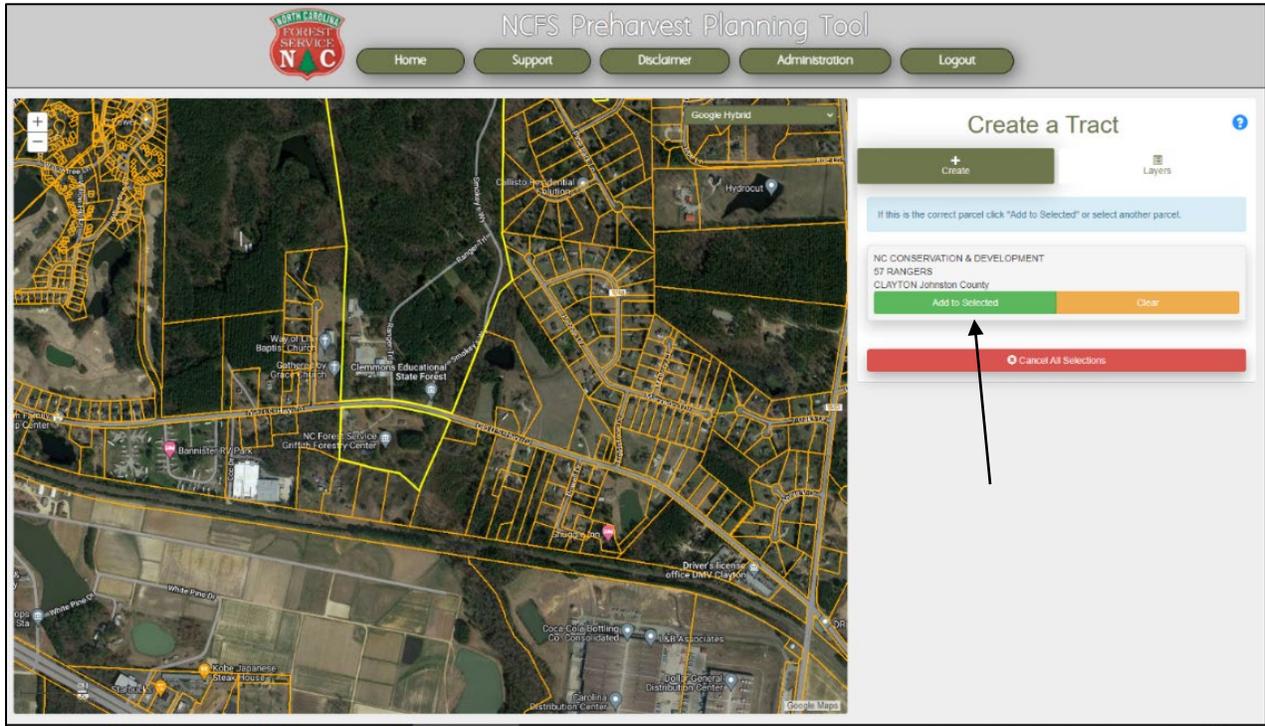
Continue by pressing the green button "Create a Tract from Selected Parcels".
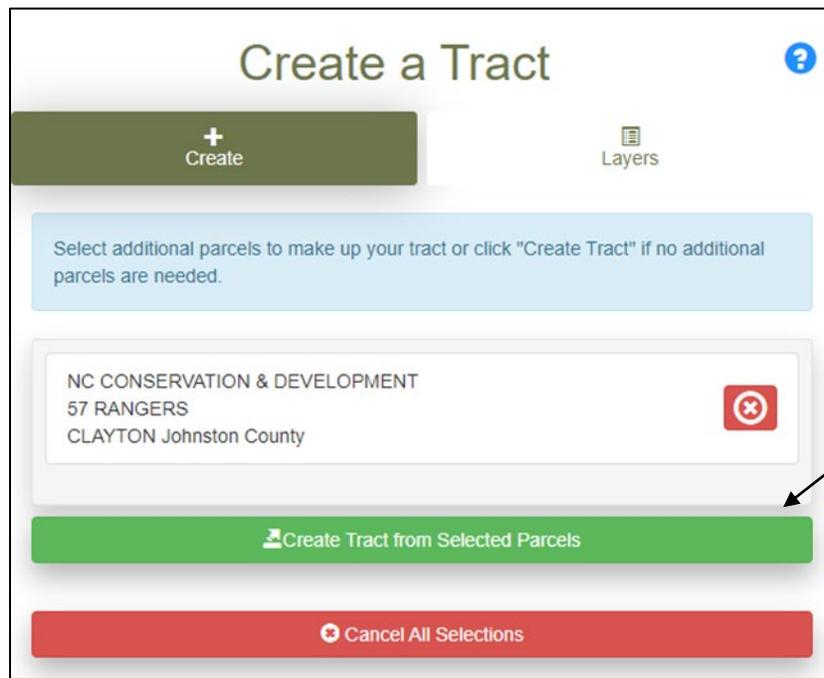
Once selected, the "Tract Attributes" box is generated which includes the tract's acreage and GPS coordinates. Next add a project name under "Tract Name" and optionally include your name and any remarks. Press "Save" to continue.

Step 5 – Edit Tract Boundary

Once you pressed "Save", you will notice the map recenters on your selected tract, and the "Tract Home" box appears on the right side of your screen.

Select "Edit Tract Boundaries" under the "Tract Home" menu. Once selected, you will notice the parcel boundaries become highlighted in a golden color. If necessary, select additional parcels to match your desired tract boundaries.
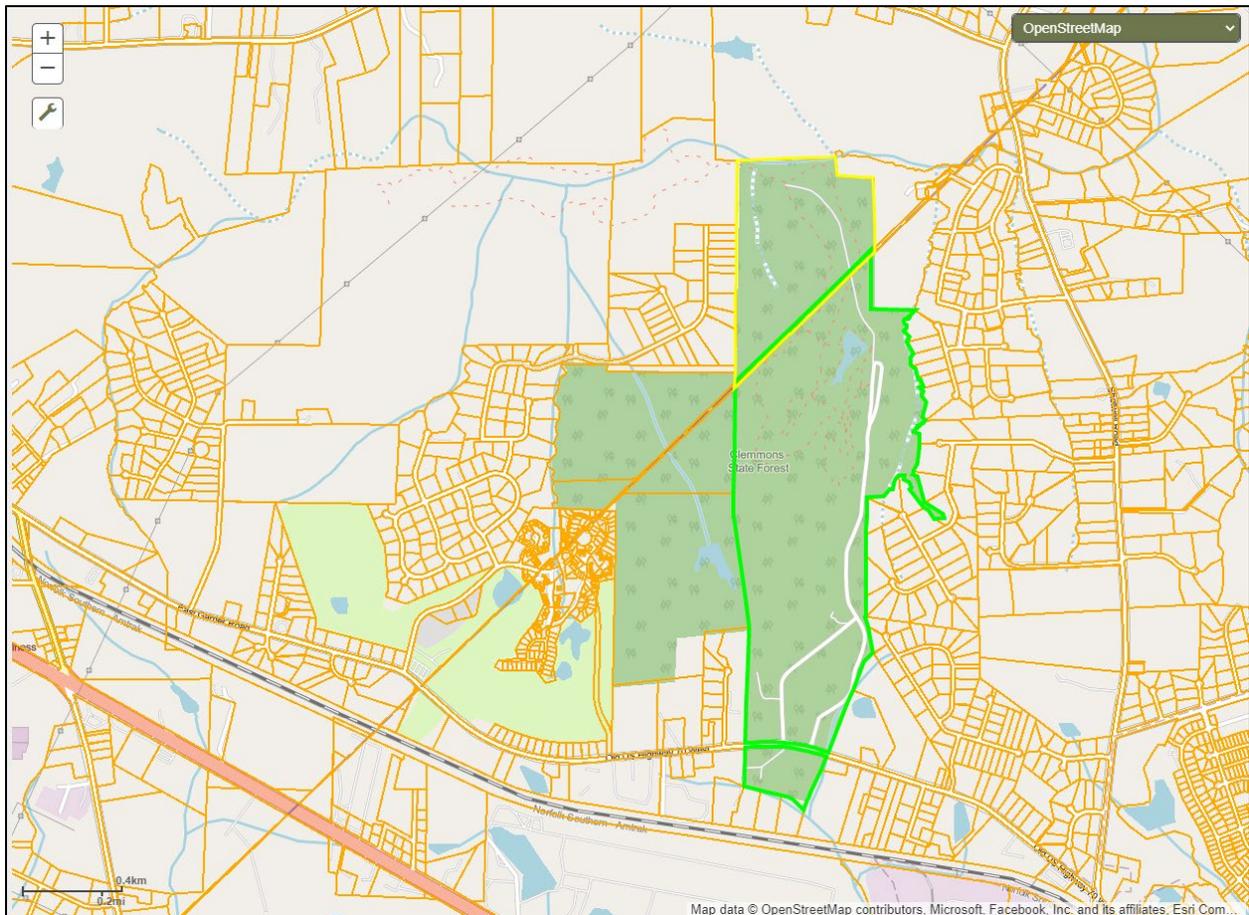
Once you have selected a tract you wish to add, press "Add to Selected". Follow this same process for any remaining parcels you wish to add. When finished, select "Edit Tract with Selected Parcels" to create the new tract.

If you need to decrease your tract size, click on the red X icon under the "Edit Tract Boundary" menu.

Edit Tract Boundary

Select additional parcels to add to the tract by clicking on them in the map, or remove existing parcels from the tract by clicking the ⊗ next to the parcel. Click the green button that says "Edit Tract with Selected Parcels" to finalize your changes, or click the red button that says "Exit Edit Mode" to go back without making any changes. If you have already created management areas, new parcels will appear as new management areas. Use the Stands tab to edit them if needed.

NC CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT
57 RANGERS
CLAYTON Johnston County   ⊗

NORTH CAROLINA STATE OF
0 OLD BAUCOM RD
Wake County   ⊗

NORTH CAROLINA STATE OF
0 PINE TRL
Wake County   ⊗

NORTH CAROLINA STATE OF
0 US 70 HWY E
Wake County   ⊗

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
Johnston County   ⊗

THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
Johnston County   ⊗

⬓Edit Tract with Selected Parcels

✪ Exit Edit Mode

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Step 6 – Edit Features

Under the "Tract Home" menu click "Add / Edit Tract Features" box under Tract home. The box below should appear:

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To denote ponds or lakes onsite, select the "User Defined Waterbodies" and trace the outline of the features. Similarly, you might add known utility lines, streams, wetlands, man-made structures, etc. Feel free to zoom in if necessary. Certain maps such as "OpenStreetMap" highlights waterbodies on the property making them easier to locate. Note that the previously drawn features may take a second to reload while changing the zoom.

Many of the feature options are for planning a timber harvest and preparing to protect water quality during operations. This feature may not be significant if you are not trying to visualize operations on a tract.
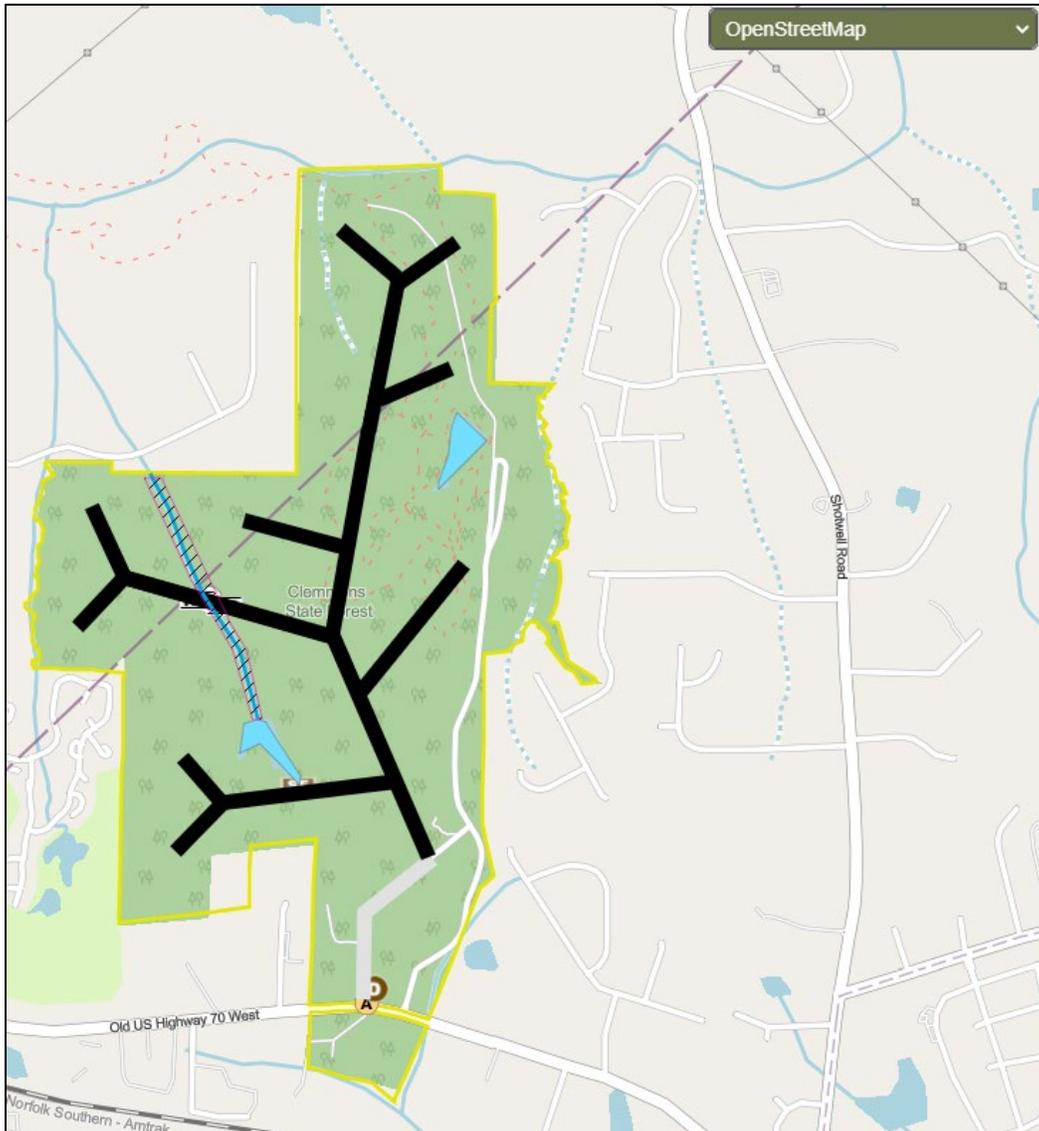
To delete features, click on "Start Edit Session" under the "Edit Existing Features" header. Next, click on the undesired feature, then press "delete". Once you have deleted all the unwanted features, select "End Edit Session" followed by "Exit Feature Mode" at the bottom of the "Tract Features" menu.
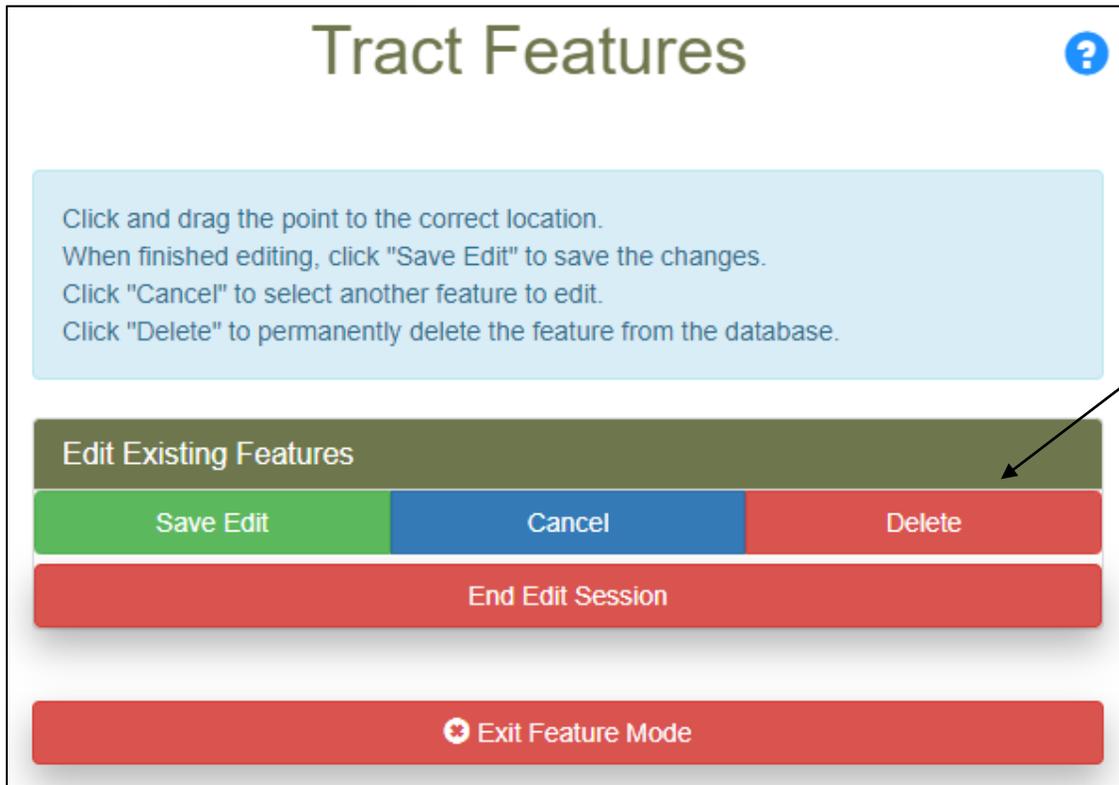
Step 7 – Add Stands

If you have multiple management areas within one tract you may want to add stands to generate data separately and define map boundaries. Like "Step 3", click the drop-down box on the right-hand corner of your screen and select the "Imagery" map. This map style should make it easier to identify tract features to delineate different stands. Notice that your edited features remained when you changed the map style.

At the top of the menu on the right side of your screen, select "stands".

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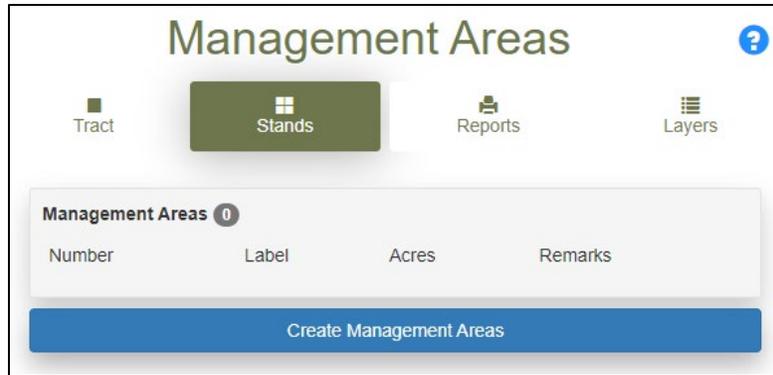
Next, click "Create Management Areas". On the menu that appears, select "Spilt into Multiple Areas".
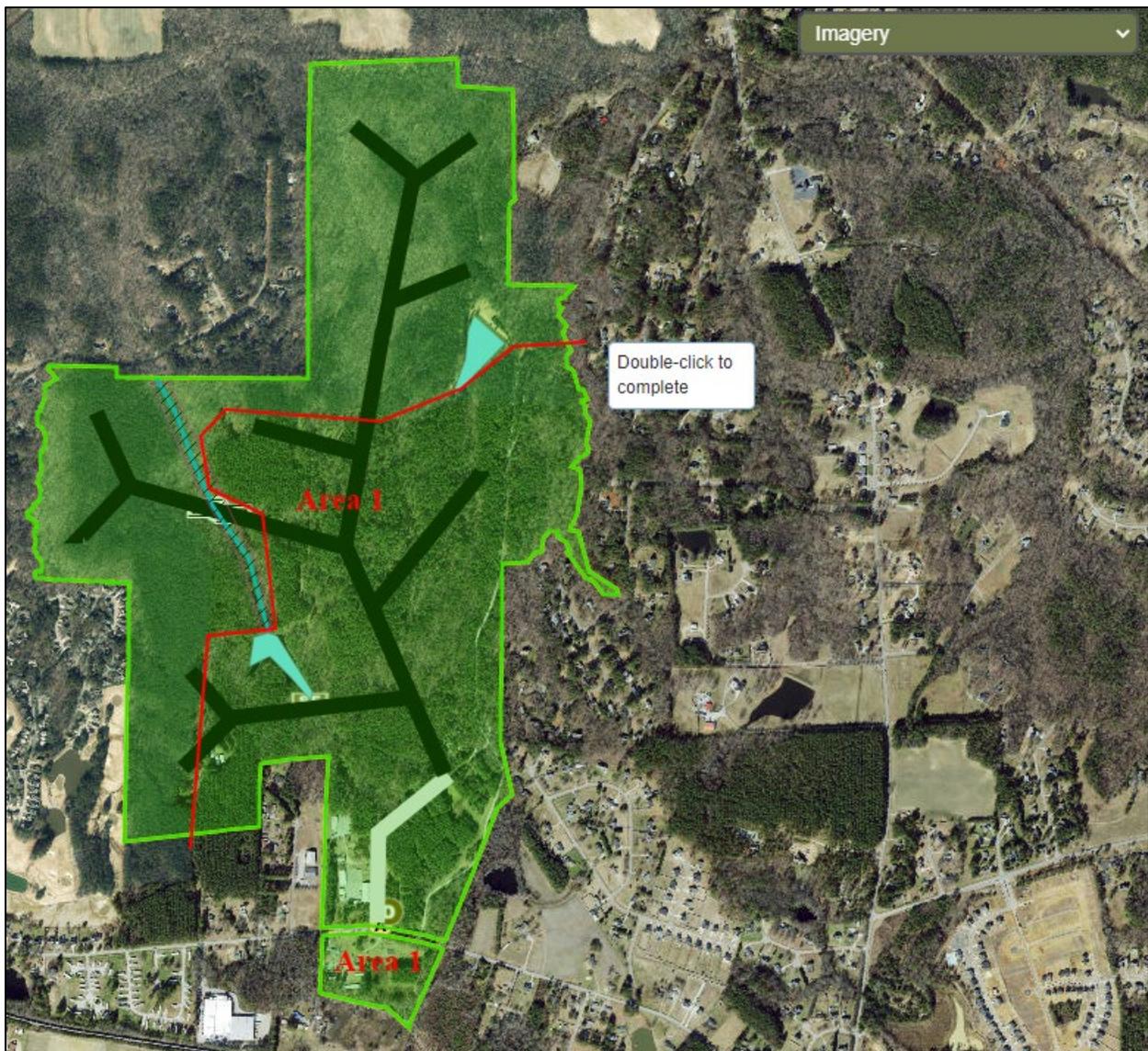
Similarly, to the image above, start on the outside of the tract and draw a line tracing an outline of your stand boundary. Once you reach outside of your tract with the traced boundary, double-click to complete.

If you did so correctly, your tract has now been split into two areas. Under "Set Management Area Attributes", change to the following:

Number: Number of your choosing

Label: Label of your choosing

On the right side of your screen, under "Modify Individual Management Area", click the drop-down box that says "Number: 2 - Label: Area 2" and select "Number: 3 - Label: Area 3"

After selecting "Number: 3 - Label: Area 3", change to the following

Number: Number of your choosing

Label: Label of your choosing

Repeat the same process for any other undefined management zones.

Then press "Save".

The following is the final product of each of the steps above:
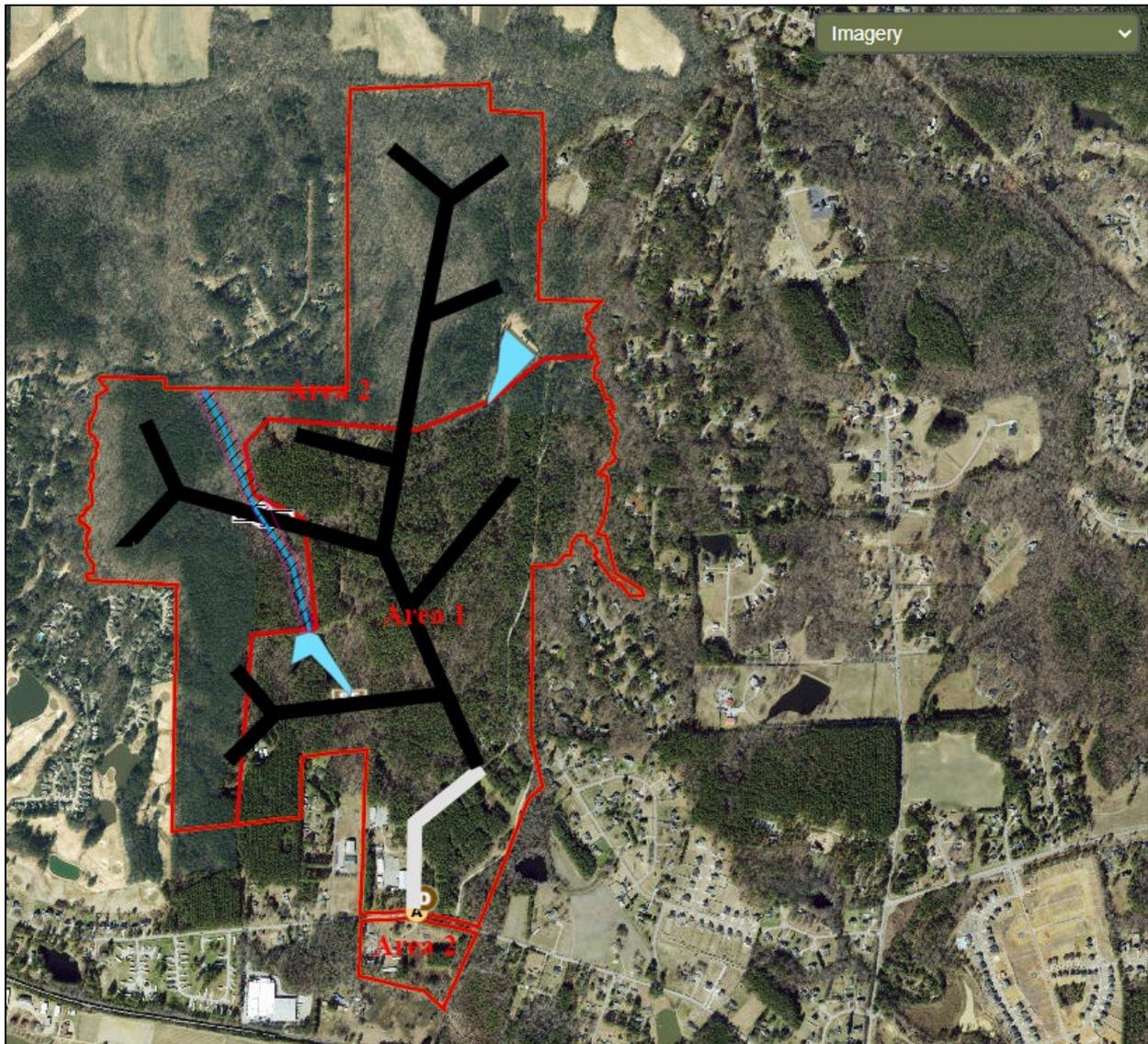
Step 8 – Create PDF Map

At the top of the menu on the right side of your screen, please select "reports" and then press "Create PDF Map" then change the following details:

Map Name: name of your choice

Author: Your Name

After adding any additional information, select "Generate PDF". The map will take a few moments to process, then press "Download Map". The PDF map should appear in another tab but try refreshing the browser if you run into issues.

Step 9 – Generate Reports

Please click "Return to Print Menu". Next, select "Close" under the "Create PDF" menu. After you have completed this, select "Generate Reports"
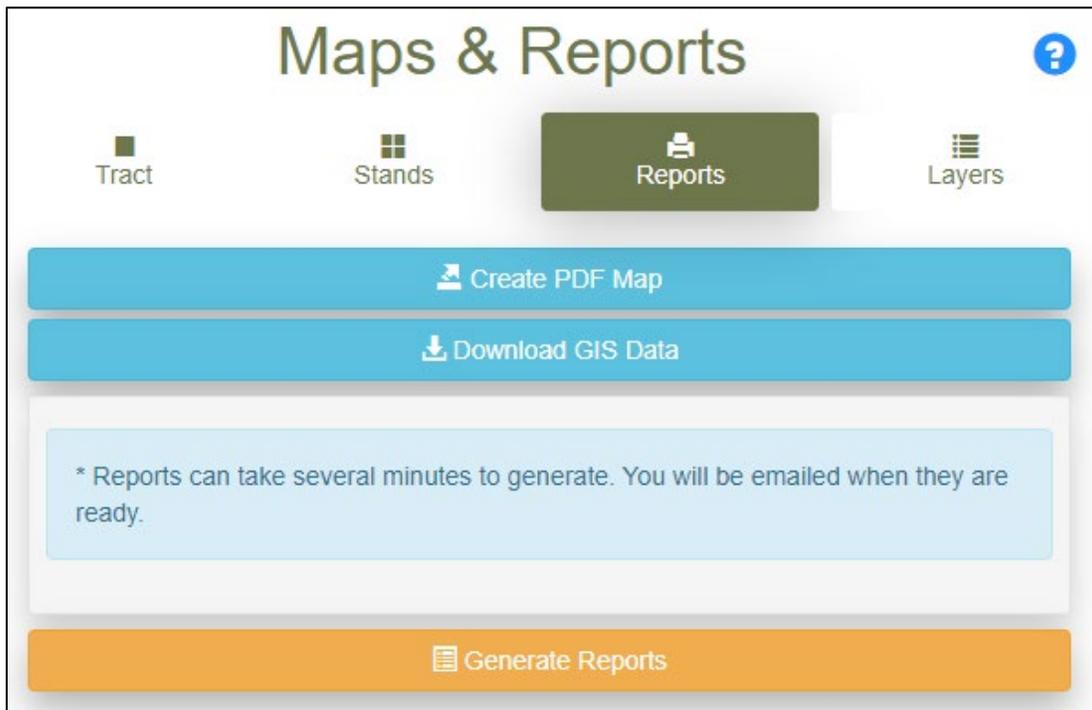
After a few minutes, the site summary report, detailed soil report, and summary soil report will be sent to your email, as well as available on the "Maps and Reports" menu. It is recommended to explore these generated reports and see the plethora of information available. They are also available to download and save. For more in-depth details on the information available in the reports, explore the Forestry Preharvest Planning Tool Web Mapping Application User Guide, pages 30-38.

Congratulations on completing your introduction to the Forestry preharvest planning tool. You are now capable of generating maps and harvest reports across North Carolina. If you have any additional questions, please contact Maria A. Polizzi by phone at 919-857-4855 or email at maria.polizzi@ncagr.gov.