

Forestry Preharvest Planning Tool (FPPT)

Step-by-Step Tutorial

Web Application User Guide

Prepared by the NC Forest Service 2022



[Table of Contents](#)

Forest Preharvest Planning Tool Disclaimer	3
Introduction	4
Step 1 – Login	4
Step 2 – Create a New Tract	5
Step 3 – Edit Map Options	6
Step 4- Select Your Tract	6
Step 5 – Edit Tract Boundary	9
Step 6 – Edit Features	11
Step 7 – Add Stands	13
Step 8 – Create PDF Map	17
Step 9 – Generate Reports	18

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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.

[Forestry Preharvest Planning Tool Step-by-Step Tutorial](#)

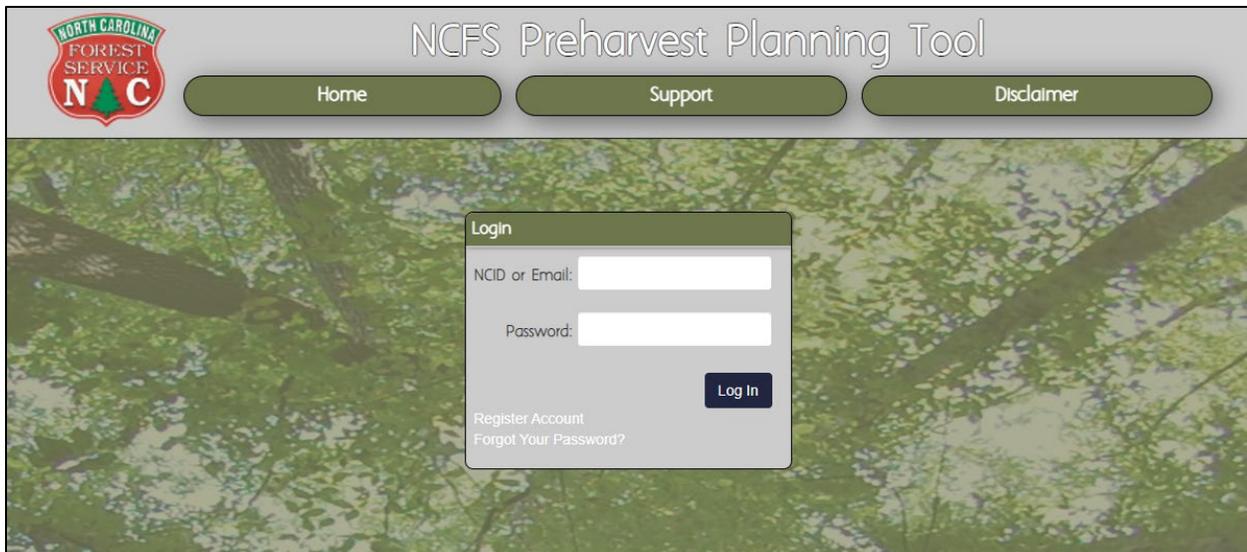
[Introduction](#)

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](#)

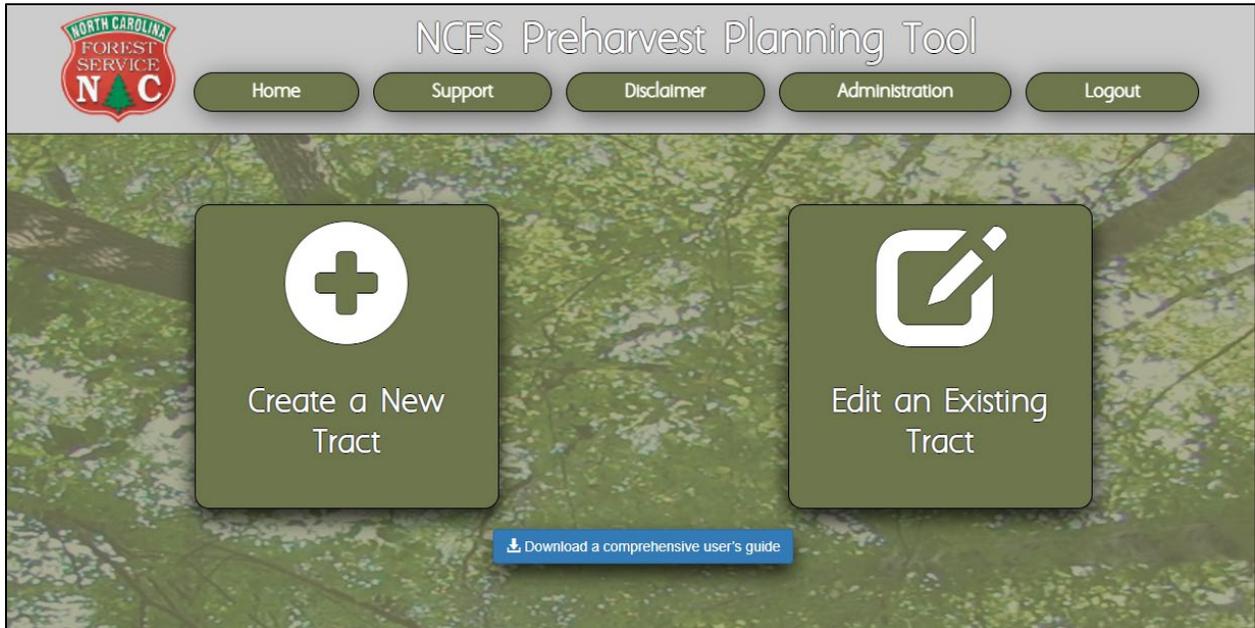
To login, use your registered email account, or a state issued NCID (NCFS employees only). If you do not already have an account, you can register [here](#). Users may encounter an administrative approval delay immediately following a newly registered account. If unable to locate the login page, it can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



The screenshot shows the web interface for the NCFS Preharvest Planning Tool. At the top left is the North Carolina Forest Service logo. The main title "NCFS Preharvest Planning Tool" is centered at the top. Below the title are three navigation buttons: "Home", "Support", and "Disclaimer". The background of the page is a photograph of a forest. In the center, there is a "Login" form with two input fields: "NCID or Email:" and "Password:". A "Log In" button is located below the password field. At the bottom of the form, there are links for "Register Account" and "Forgot Your Password?".

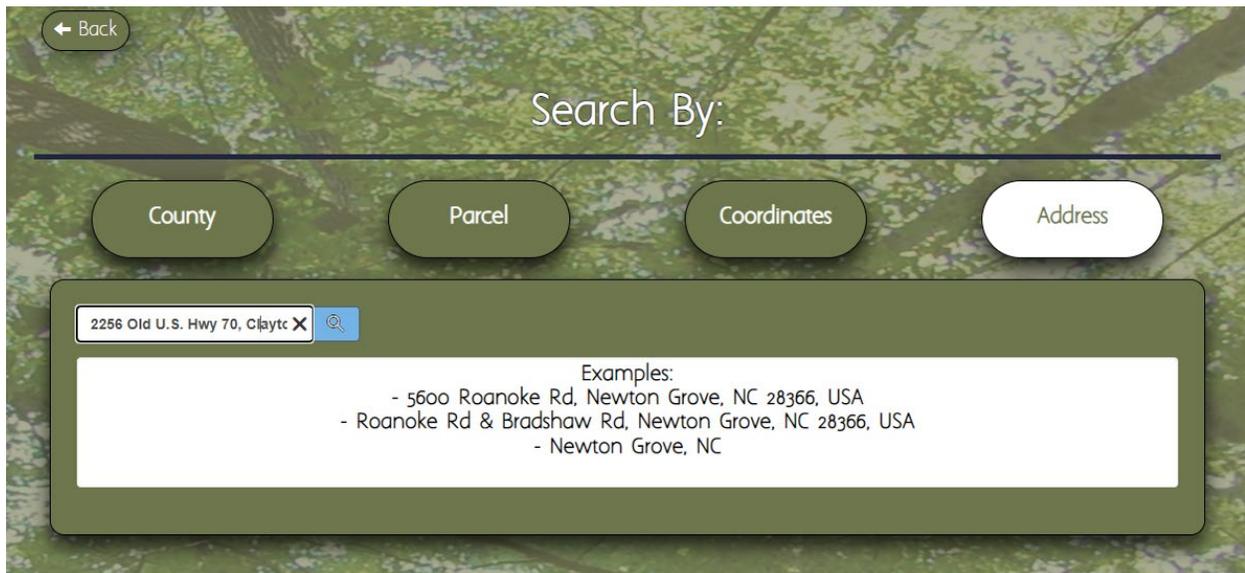
Step 2 – Create a New Tract

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.

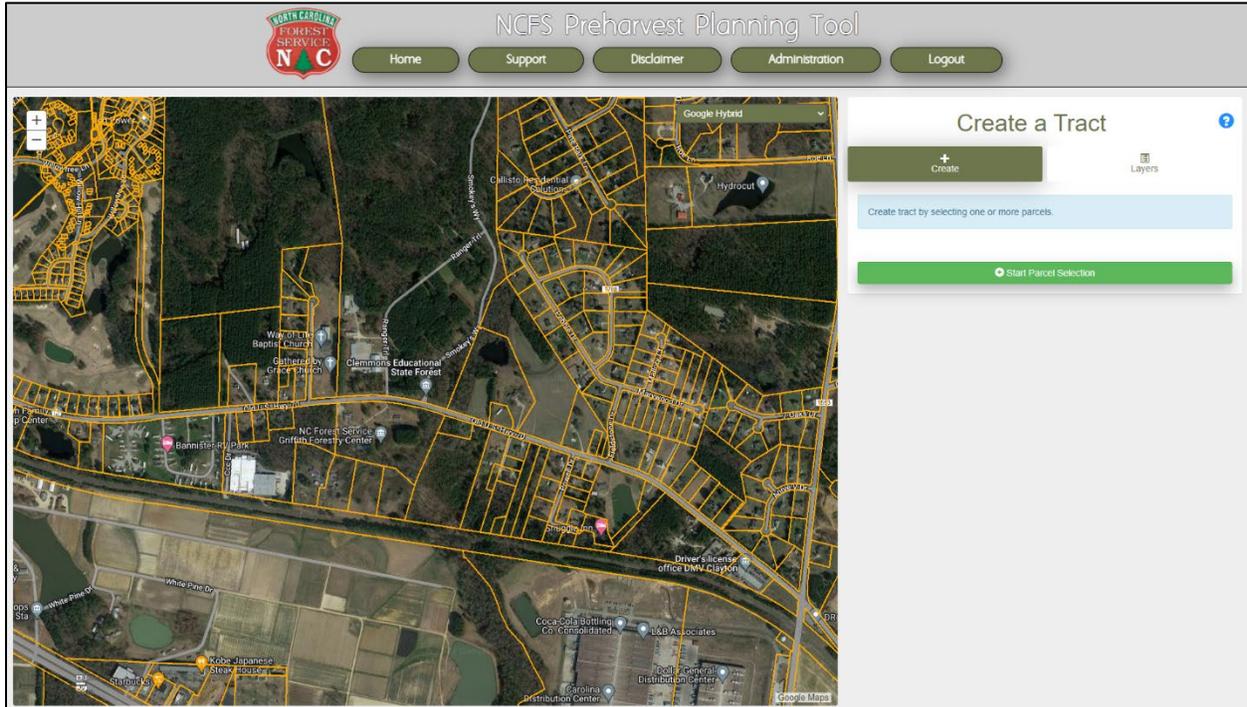
Select “create a tract”, then press “address”. In the search bar enter your address of interest and press the blue search icon.



Forestry Preharvest Planning Tool Step-by-Step Tutorial

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.

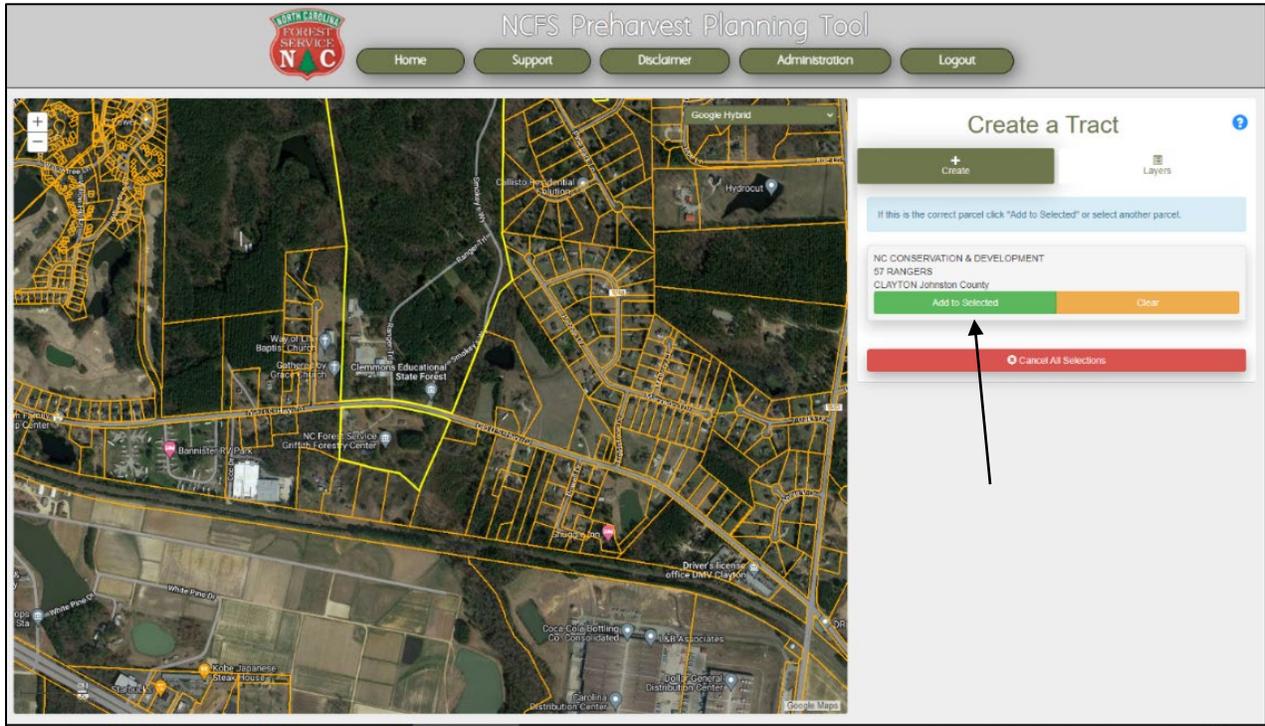
Explore the map by zooming in and out, as well as using your mouse to move to the surrounding areas of your area of interest.

Step 4- Select Your Tract

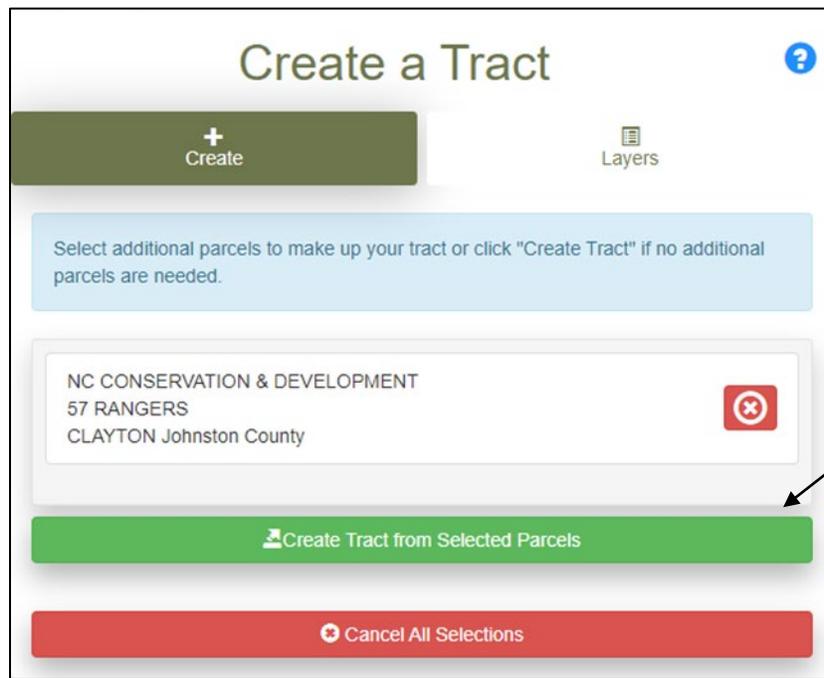
On the right side of your screen, under the “Create a Tract” menu, select “Start Parcel Selection” in green.

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.

Forestry Preharvest Planning Tool Step-by-Step Tutorial



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.

Create a Tract ?

Tract Attributes

Type inside each of the boxes to change that attribute. The total acreage and coordinates of the tract cannot be changed. Click the green “Save” button to save your changes, or click the red “Cancel” button to leave things the way they were.

Total Acreage:

Coordinates:

Tract Name:

Tract Label:

Last Name:

First:

Middle:

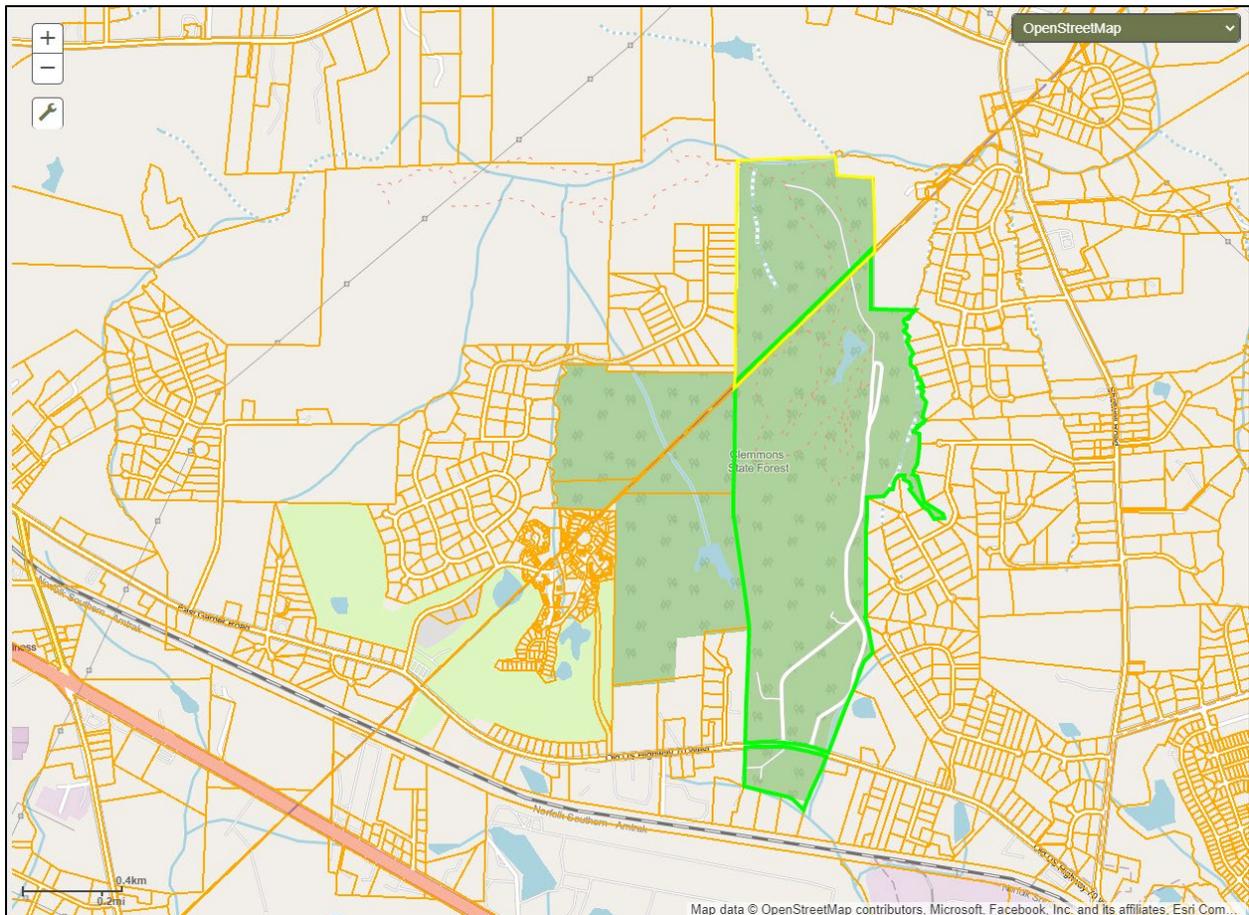
Comments and Remarks:

SaveCancel

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.

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CLAYTON Johnston County



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Wake County



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Wake County



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

Johnston County



THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

Johnston County



 Edit Tract with Selected Parcels

 Exit Edit Mode

Step 6 – Edit Features

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

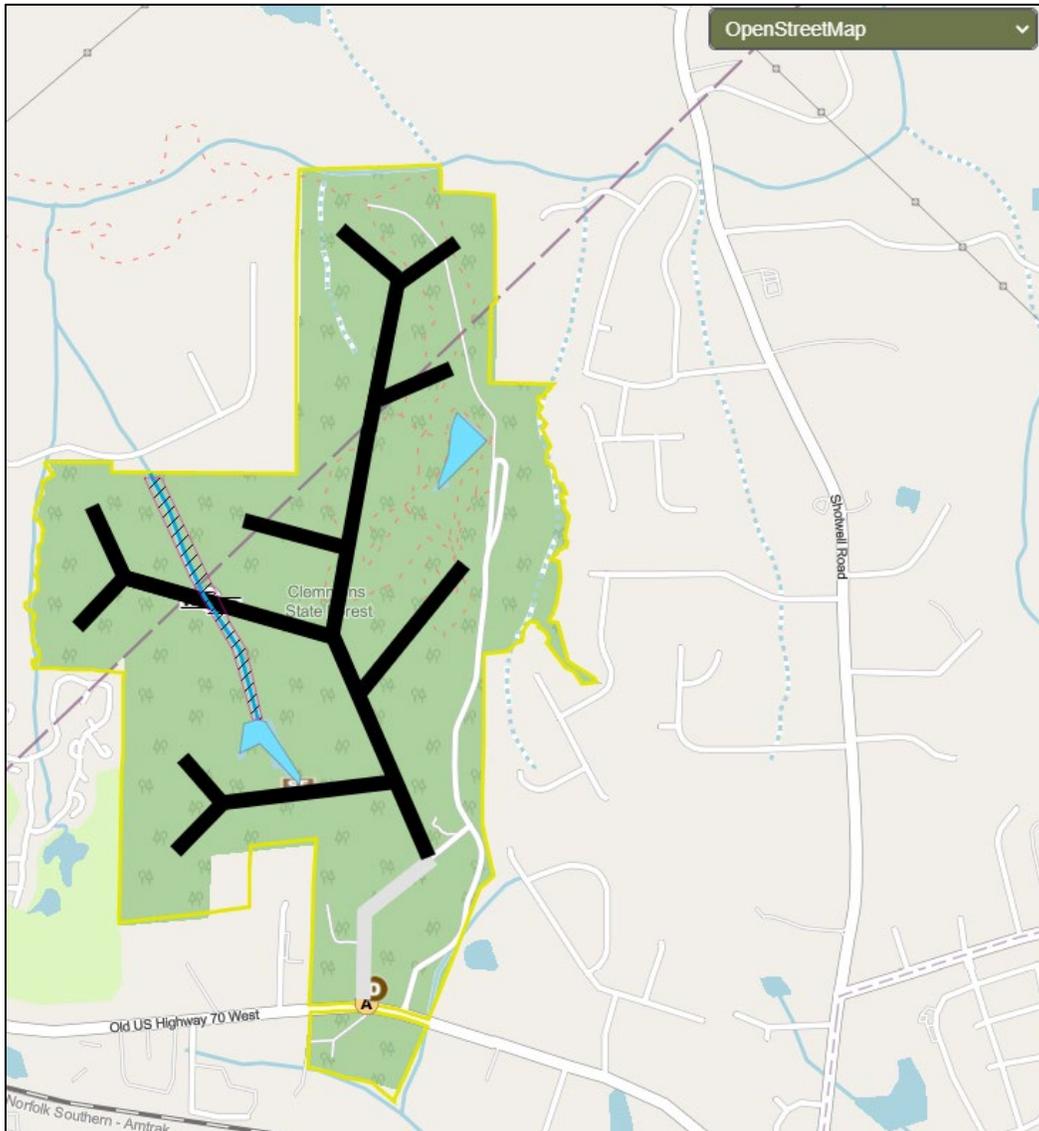
The screenshot shows a window titled "Tract Features" with a help icon in the top right. Below the title is a light blue instruction box: "Edit existing features or select a new feature to add to the map." Below this is a dark green header "Add Features" followed by a grid of feature options. Each option consists of a small icon (letter, symbol, or shape) and a text label.

Icon	Label
A	Access Point
XX	Slash / Laps
Bx	Bridgement Crossing
Cx	Culvert Crossing
X	Generic Crossing
D	Logging Deck / Landing
BB	Brush Barrier
SW	Straw Wattle / Coir Log
CD	Check Dam
FA	Filter Area
ST	Sediment Trap
SF	Silt Fence
SB	Straw Bale
CD	Cross-Drain
BBD	Broad-Based Dip
ECM	Erosion Control Mat
IND	Inside Ditchline
TO	Turnout
WB	Water Bar
Yellow rectangle	Add Access Road
Grey rectangle	Existing Access Road
Green line	Fence
Black line	Skid Trail
Yellow line	FPPT Utility Line
Blue line	Perennial
Blue dashed line	Intermittent
Blue dashed line	Ephemeral
Blue triangle	User Defined Waterbodies
Blue triangle	User Defined Wetlands
Red hatched triangle	FPPT SMZ
Grey triangle	FPPT Structures

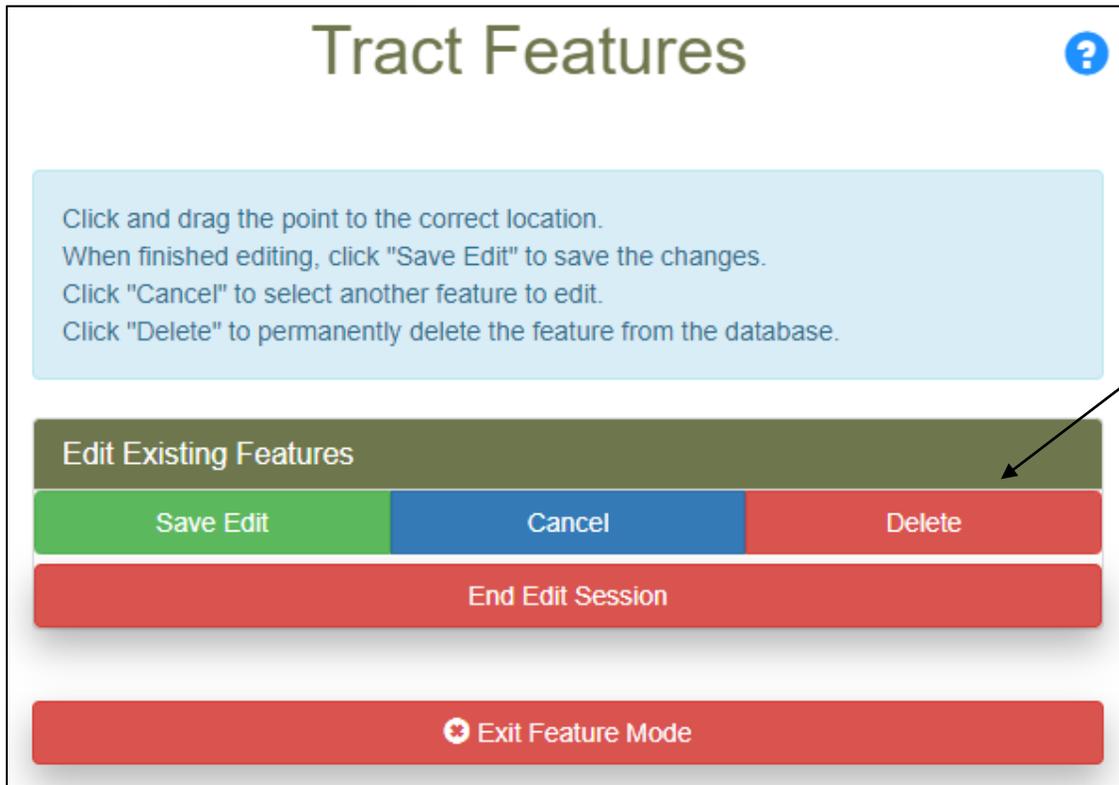
Forestry Preharvest Planning Tool Step-by-Step Tutorial

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.



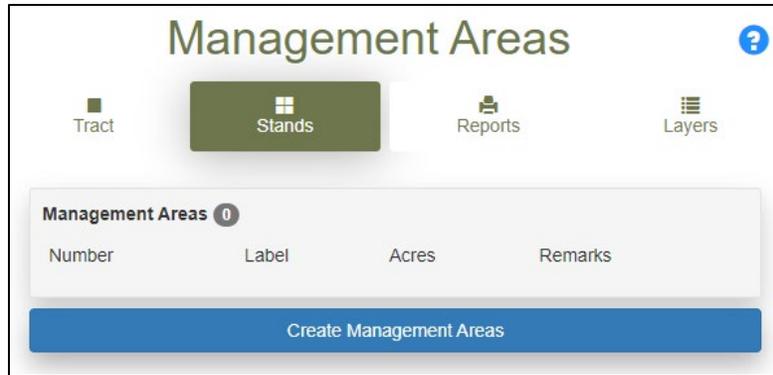
To delete features, click on “Start Edit Session” under the “Edit Existing Features” header. Next, click on the undesired feature, then press “delete”. Once you have deleted all the unwanted features, select “End Edit Session” followed by “Exit Feature Mode” at the bottom of the “Tract Features” menu.



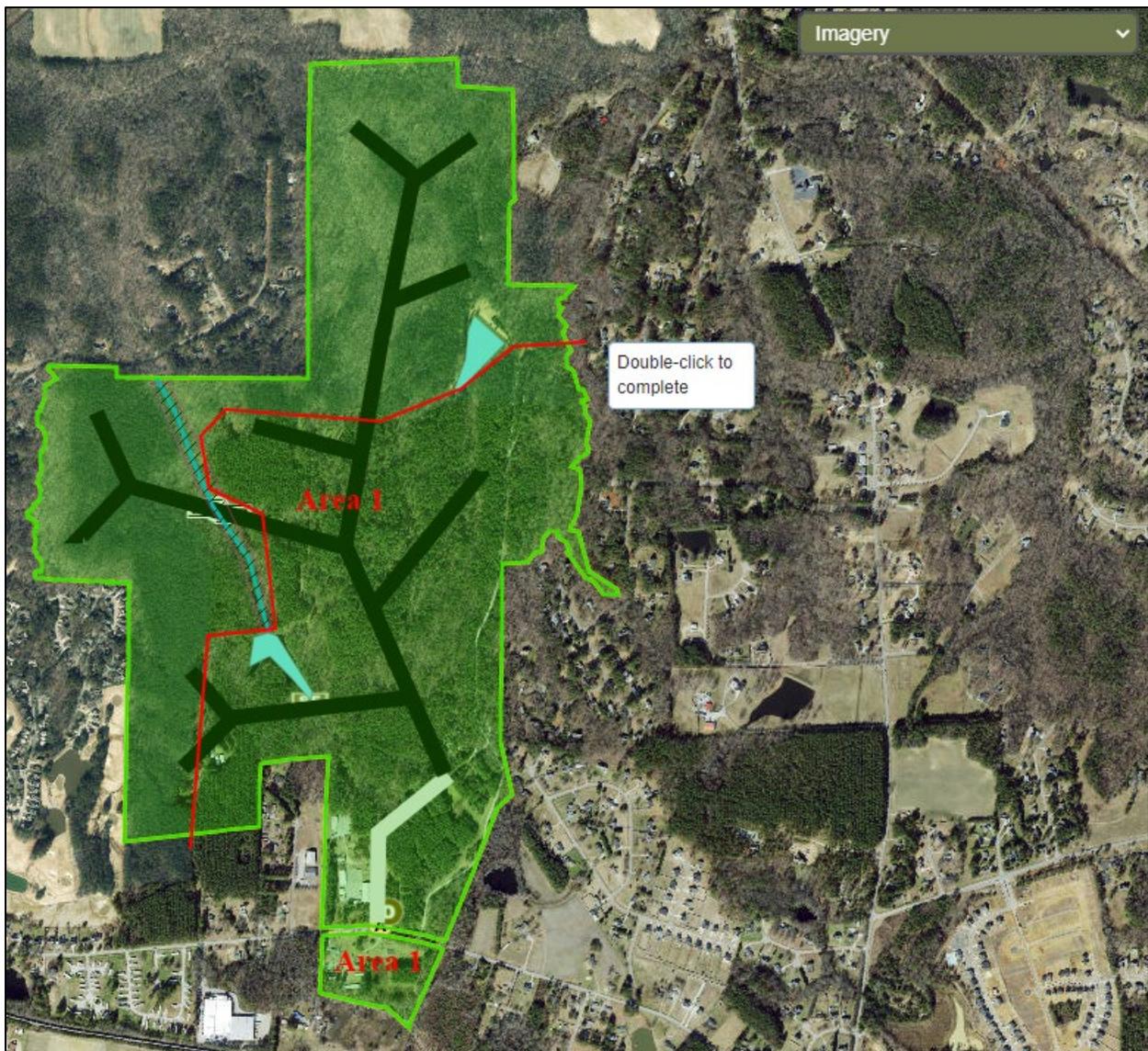
[Step 7 – Add Stands](#)

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”.



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”

Edit Management Areas ?

Define management areas within the tract boundary.

Modify Individual Management Area

Number: 3 - Label: Area 3

Split into Multiple Areas

Merge into Single Area

Separate Areas

Set Management Area Attributes

Number: 3

Label: Area 3

Remarks:

Save Cancel

Forestry Preharvest Planning Tool Step-by-Step Tutorial

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

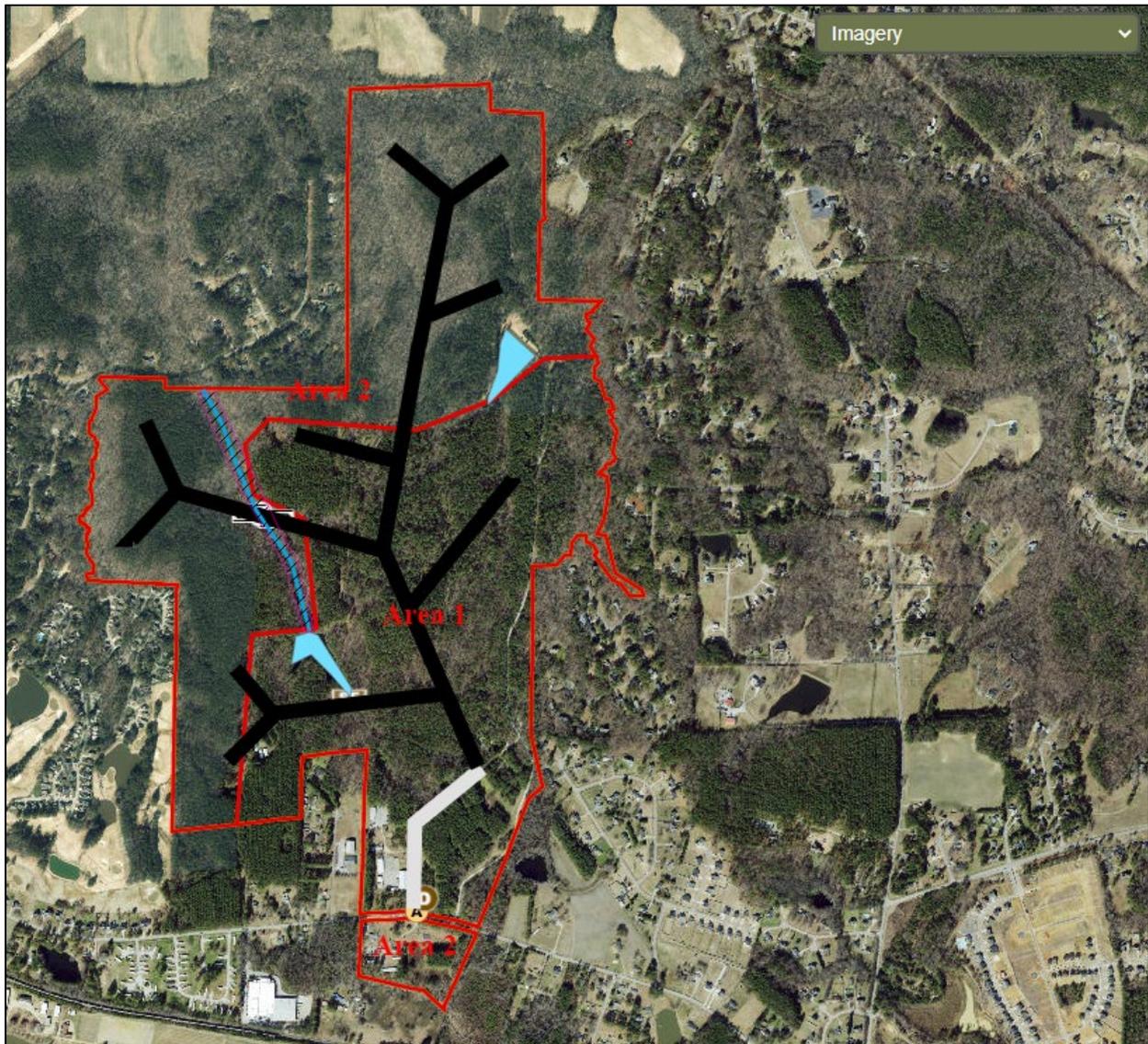
Number: Number of your choosing

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

Create PDF ?

Set Printing Parameters

ANSI A (8.5 x 11) ▼

Portrait Orientation

On Graticule

Set Map Scale

Map Name

Clemmons Educational State Forest Map

Tract Name

Clemmons Educational forest

Tract Label

Company Name

Author

Your Name

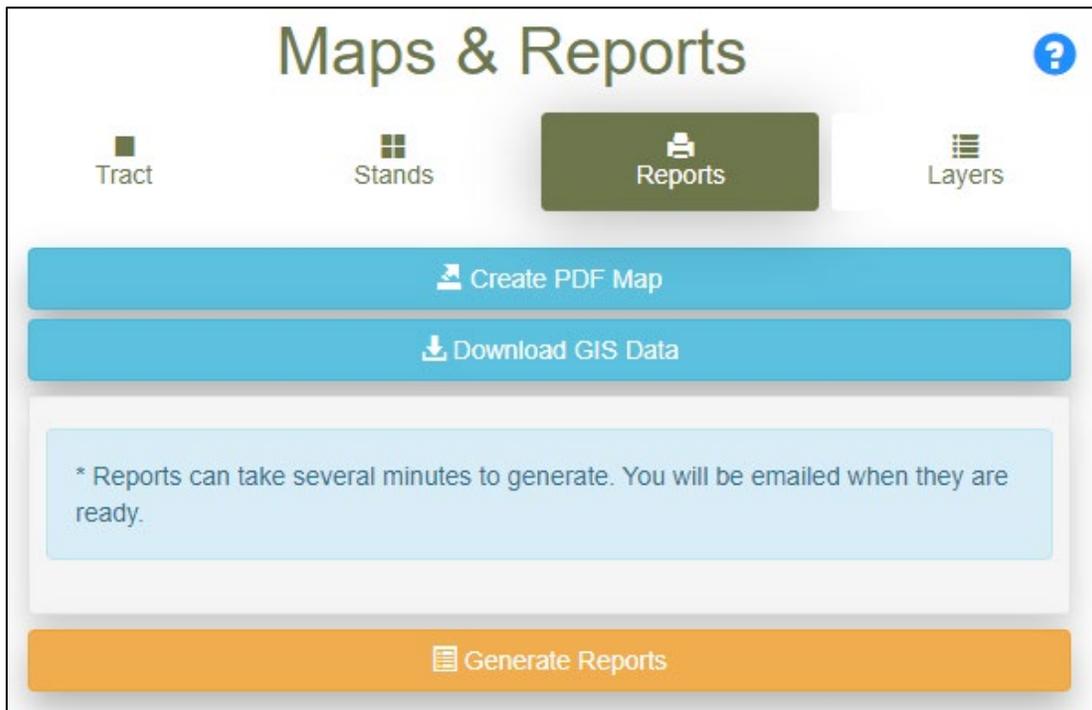
Close Generate PDF

[Forestry Preharvest Planning Tool Step-by-Step Tutorial](#)

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.