Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP-ALE)

North Carolina Ranking Guidance

The following information will assist you in completing the ranking worksheet. It is recommended that you put together a ranking guide for reviewers in this order. Label appropriately

- All points awarded must be supported by documentation provided in the application material.
- The official ranking score will be determined by NRCS based on the materials provided with the application.

If there are any questions please contact Brian Loadholt, NC NRCS Easement Coordinator: brian.loadholt@usda.gov

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NATIONAL RANKING FACTORS

1. **Percent of prime, unique, and important soils in the parcel to be protected.**
   - Web Soil Survey (WSS) can provide a soils map and list of prime, unique and important soils. Appendix A is a set of instructions on using WSS. The output can be used to calculate the proportion (%) of prime, unique and important soils on the parcel:

$$\textit{Prime, Unique, Important Soils (\%)} = \frac{\textit{Sum of the acres of the soils type that are prime, unique, important}}{\textit{Sum of the acres of all soil types}}$$

   - An alternative to WSS is to consult with your local agricultural office for guidance.

2. **Percent of cropland, pastureland, grassland, and rangeland in the proposed easement area to be protected?**
   - GIS software can assist with this. Google Earth also has a feature that will allow you to delineate parcels that will help calculate percentages. If your entity does not have GIS software, or you need assistance, please contact your local NRCS office and request an appointment. Reference map number in your ranking guide.

Questions 3 through 4 are based on the 2024 USDA-NASS Censuses of Agriculture, USDA - National Agricultural Statistics Service - Census of Agriculture; https://www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus/)

Questions 5 and 6 are based the 2010 and 2020 censuses Census.gov; https://www.census.gov/)

3. **Ratio of the total acres of land in the proposed easement area to be protected compared to average farm size in the county according to the most recent USDA Census of Agriculture (USDA – NASS – Census of Agriculture).**

USE TABLE 1

$$\textit{Ratio} = \frac{\textit{Easement Parcel (Acres)}}{\textit{Average Farm Size (Acres)}}$$

4. Decrease in the percentage of acreage of farm and ranch land in the county in which the parcel is located between the last two (USDA Censuses of Agriculture).

    - USE TABLE 2

5. Decrease in the percentage of acreage of permanent grassland, pasture and rangeland, other than cropland and woodland pasture in the county in which the proposed easement area located between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture (USDA NASS – CENSUS).

    - Use Table 3

6. Percent of population growth in the county as documented by the most recent United States Census. (Census Bureau Home Page).

    - USE TABLE 4

7. Population density (population per square mile) as documents by the most recent United States Census. (Census Bureau Home Page).

    - USE TABLE 5

8. Existence of a farm or ranch succession plan or similar plan established to address farm viability for future generations.

    - Submit copy of plan and reference it in ranking guide.

9. Proximity of the proposed easement area to other protected land. Lands such as compatible military installations; land owned in fee title by the United States or an Indian Tribe, State or local government, or by a nongovernmental organization whose purpose is to protect agricultural use and related conservation values; or land that is already subject to an easement or deed restriction that limits the conversion of the land to nonagricultural use or protects grazing uses and related conservation values; or lands adjacent to easements held by United States.

    - Submit a copy of a map that demonstrates proximity of the easement parcel to other agriculture operations and infrastructure. Reference map number or title in the ranking guide.

10. Proximity of the proposed easement area to other agricultural operations and agricultural infrastructure.

    - Submit a copy of a map that demonstrates proximity of the easement parcel to other agriculture operations and infrastructure. Reference map number or title in the ranking guide.

11. Proposed easement area ability to maximize the protection of contiguous or proximal acres devoted to agricultural use.

    - Submit a copy of a map that demonstrates contiguous acres. When demonstrating proximal acres, show distance. Reference map number or title in the ranking guide

12. Is the proposed easement area currently enrolled in CRP contract that is set to expire within a year?

    - Check with local FSA office and submit CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) paperwork associated with easement parcel and reference in ranking guide.

13. The proposed easement area is a grassland of special environmental significance that will benefit from the protection under the long-term easement?

    - Contact Brian Loadholt (Brian.loadholt@usda.gov) to arrange a grasslands specialist to visit the site prior to awarding points. If there isn't sufficient time for a site visit, submit a copy of the email requesting a site visit. The email must be dated by application reception deadline

14. Eligible entity contributes at least 25% of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement from its own cash resources for payment of easement compensation to the landowner and comes from sources other than the landowner.

    - This should be secured match of funds from sources other than landowner donations (contract with ADFP for funding, County funds, Land and Water funding, etc.). Expected funding (non-secured) would not earn points for this question.

STATE RANKING FACTORS

15. Does the county have a Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) or Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District (EVAD) Program. Documentation must be provided.

16. Lead Eligible Entity has demonstrated performance in managing and enforcing easements by monitoring 100% of its NRCS easements each year and entity has provided information on any change in ownership to NRCS over the last (5) fiscal years. Documentation must be provided.

17. Proposed easement area contains habitat for at-risk species that the landowner is currently managing or protecting. Documentation must be provided to prove presence of an at-risk species and management plan should be provided.

18. Proposed easement area acres contain a site of cultural or historical significance that is currently listed or was formally determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. (Documentation must be provided.)

19. Proposed easement area is located within a county with Total Cash Receipts (according to the 2022 Ag Census) that falls within the following range (values listed are in thousands of dollars):

    - Use Table 6

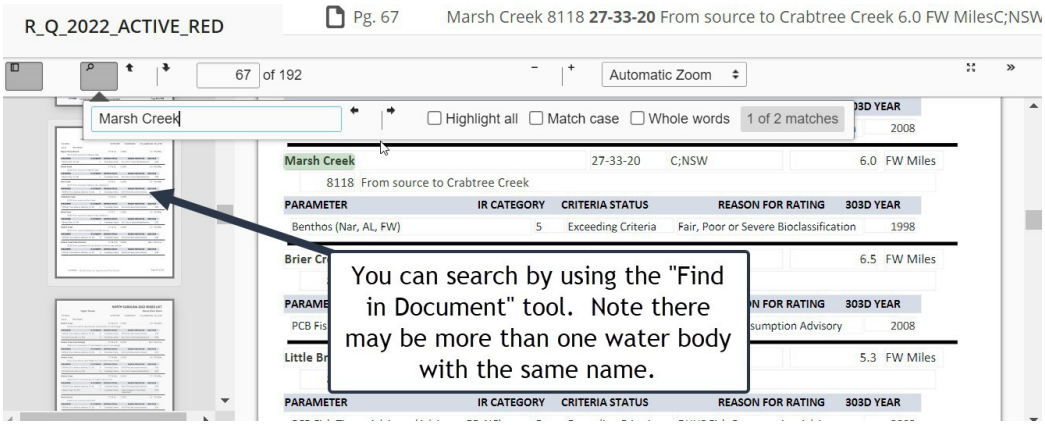
20. The proposed easement is in an area with a threat of conversion

    - (DETERMINATION MADE BY NRCS)

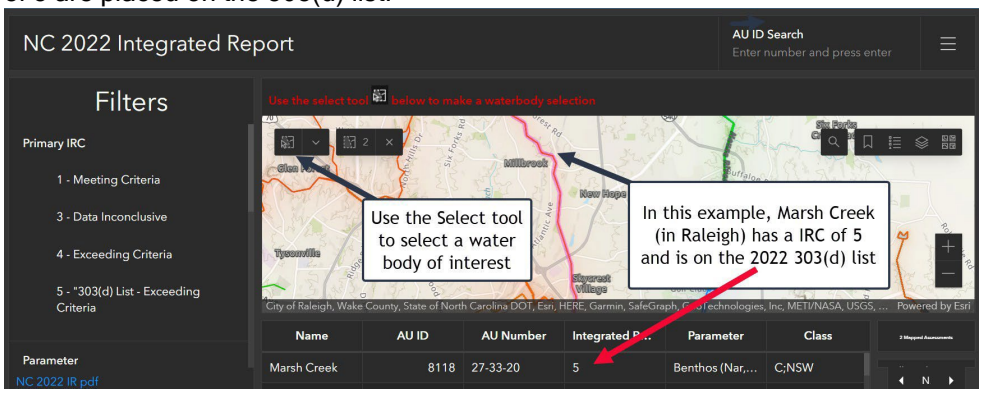
21. Is the parcel either in whole or in part within a source water assessment area as defined by the NC Public Water Supply Section?

a. Current source water assessment areas can be viewed using the Public Water Supply Section "Source Water Assessment Mapping Tool" available at the following web link:

https://ncdenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=26f4e2b3140f4e58825_e48781ccebf5e



b. A map that portrays water body segments with an Integrated Reporting Categories (IRC)is available here: North Carolina 2022 Integrated Report Dashboard (arcgis.com) (Note that segments with an IRC of 5 are placed on the 303(d) list.



Both the list and maps can be accessed through the links provided above or through the NC Division of Water Resources Integrated Report page: https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water- resources/water-planning/modeling-assessment/water-quality-data-assessment/integrated- report-files (Integrated Report Files | NC DEQ

22. NRCS LAND EVALUATION and SITE ASSESSMENT (LESA) (DETERMINATION MADE BY NRCS)

Table 1
Average size farm (acres) 2022 Census of Agriculture (Use to answer Question 3).

County	Average Size (acres)
Alamance	111
Alexander	100
Alleghany	158
Anson	207
Ashe	127
Avery	82
Beaufort	450
Bertie	459
Bladen	352
Brunswick	193
Buncombe	67
Burke	76
Cabarrus	101
Caldwell	92
Camden	731
Carteret	397
Caswell	213
Catawba	100
Chatham	95
Cherokee	95
Chowan	552
Clay	76
Cleveland	113
Columbus	274
Craven	332
Cumberland	196
Currituck	504
Dare	167
Davidson	92
Davie	130
Duplin	296
Durham	77
Edgecombe	598

County	Average Size (acres)
Forsyth	62
Franklin	201
Gaston	72
Gates	411
Graham	89
Granville	224
Greene	403
Guilford	89
Halifax	622
Harnett	165
Haywood	97
Henderson	90
Hertford	642
Hoke	284
Hyde	905
Iredell	126
Jackson	73
Johnston	172
Jones	371
Lee	141
Lenoir	295
Lincoln	88
Macon	58
Madison	89
Martin	425
McDowell	69
Mecklenburg	54
Mitchell	59
Montgomery	140
Moore	122
Nash	305
New Hanover	15
Northampton	626
Onslow	154
Orange	102

County	Average Size (acres)
Pamlico	433
Pasquotank	573
Pender	192
Perquimans	539
Person	209
Pitt	390
Polk	104
Randolph	108
Richmond	250
Robeson	365
Rockingham	148
Rowan	129
Rutherford	97
Sampson	314
Scotland	508
Stanly	143
Stokes	109
Surry	143
Swain	102
Transylvania	68
Tyrrell	779
Union	195
Vance	278
Wake	111
Warren	228
Washington	565
Watauga	95
Wayne	300
Wilkes	114
Wilson	445
Yadkin	107
Yancey	84

Table 2

Table 2. Decrease in the percentage of acreage of farm and ranch land in the county in which the parcel is located between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture. (Use to answer Question 4).

County	Farm Operations 2017	Farm Operations 2022	Change (%)	County	Farm Operations 2017	Farm Operations 2022	Change (%)
Alamance	80,042	68,769	-14.08%	Forsyth	34,801	32,956	-5.30%
Alexander	54,146	50,799	-6.18%	Franklin	107,967	107,923	-0.04%
Alleghany	70,593	63,298	-10.33%	Gaston	37,695	36,859	-2.22%
Anson	85,330	84,695	-0.74%	Gates	57,985	71,866	23.94%
Ashe	109,790	84,897	-22.67%	Graham	10,998	2,256	-79.49%
Avery	28,679	22,598	-21.20%	Granville	124,813	102,115	-18.19%
Beaufort	139,475	139,853	0.27%	Greene	83,322	97,668	17.22%
Bertie	148,113	161,862	9.28%	Guilford	76,352	94,798	24.16%
Bladen	180,340	146,195	-18.93%	Halifax	209,073	183,565	-12.20%
Brunswick	44,693	45,150	1.02%	Harnett	106,262	109,179	2.75%
Buncombe	72,284	78,245	8.25%	Haywood	52,244	49,288	-5.66%
Burke	38,641	44,077	14.07%	Henderson	41,099	32,743	-20.33%
Cabarrus	63,667	64,227	0.88%	Hertford	80,902	67,209	-16.93%
Caldwell	37,991	35,964	-5.34%	Hoke	53,647	36,788	-31.43%
Camden	59,239	54,621	-7.80%	Hyde	124,874	112,445	-9.95%
Carteret	62,764	60,950	-2.89%	Iredell	133,346	119,481	-10.40%
Caswell	104,882	84,373	-19.55%	Jackson	15,729	22,208	41.19%
Catawba	63,530	61,631	-2.99%	Johnston	183,281	174,111	-5.00%
Chatham	105,995	114,051	7.60%	Jones	65,649	66,287	0.97%
Cherokee	26,236	25,410	-3.15%	Lee	35,170	31,204	-11.28%
Chowan	53,528	73,439	37.20%	Lenoir	113,708	136,277	19.85%
Clay	12,525	14,515	15.89%	Lincoln	54,080	49,038	-9.32%
Cleveland	113,341	104,633	-7.68%	Macon	19,775	21,973	11.12%
Columbus	141,080	125,177	-11.27%	Madison	56,761	42,763	-24.66%
Craven	81,360	11,825	-85.47%	Martin	140,980	143,806	2.00%
Cumberland	65,995	65,919	-0.12%	McDowell	22,997	17,041	-25.90%
Currituck	44,834	37,917	-15.43%	Mecklenburg	11,674	7,704	-34.01%
Dare	5,342	115	-97.85%	Mitchell	14,802	13,860	-6.36%
Davidson	92,359	73,655	-20.25%	Montgomery	33,521	34,560	3.10%
Davie	76,933	74,899	-2.64%	Moore	89,375	106,258	18.89%
Duplin	243,098	254,164	4.55%	Nash	129,478	133,252	2.91%
Durham	18,603	16,166	-13.10%	New Hanover	879	1898	115.93%
Edgecombe	148,917	145,050	-2.60%	Northampton	170,170	171,478	0.77%

Table 2 Continued. (Use to answer Question 4).

County	Farm Operations 2017	Farm Operations 2022	Change (%)
Onslow	52,473	53,032	1.07%
Orange	69,908	53,068	-24.09%
Pamlico	43,262	54,675	26.38%
Pasquotank	72,174	95,870	32.83%
Pender	64,484	78,903	22.36%
Perquimans	80,322	78,264	-2.56%
Person	82,194	88,571	7.76%
Pitt	186,412	151,433	-18.76%
Polk	29,102	24,076	-17.27%
Randolph	147,781	131,301	-11.15%
Richmond	59,173	57,946	-2.07%
Robeson	263,740	263,080	-0.25%
Rockingham	124,613	109,295	-12.29%
Rowan	118,914	104,888	-11.80%
Rutherford	59,921	63,632	6.19%
Sampson	301,248	292,205	-3.00%
Scotland	54,853	51,025	-6.98%
Stanly	95,867	109,164	13.87%
Stokes	92,904	81,361	-12.42%
Surry	152,452	105,791	-30.61%
Swain	10,131	3,930	-61.21%
Transylvania	14,684	11,537	-21.43%
Tyrrell	52,946	63,761	20.43%
Union	186,626	212,066	13.63%
Vance	66,157	38,231	-42.21%
Wake	77,008	62,323	-19.07%
Warren	60,778	63,669	4.76%
Washington	79,680	76,554	-3.92%
Watauga	49,614	29,402	-40.74%
Wayne	165,345	149,752	-9.43%
Wilkes	106,710	114,778	7.56%
Wilson	122,946	126,286	2.72%
Yadkin	87,522	98,329	12.35%
Yancey	30,824	21,341	-30.76%

Table 3.

Decrease in the percent of acreage of permanent pastureland, other than cropland and woodland pasture for each county between the last two USDA Censuses of Agriculture. (Use to answer Question 5).

County	Pastureland 2017 acres)	Pastureland 2022 (acres)	Change (%)		County	Pastureland 2017 (acres)	Pastureland 2022 (acres)	Change (%)
Alamance	20,617	17,958	-12.90%		Forsyth	5,456	3,898	-28.56%
Alexander	16,441	16,902	2.80%		Franklin	15,458	11,806	-23.63%
Alleghany	17,956	21,126	17.65%		Gaston	9,263	7,348	-20.67%
Anson	10,247	8,838	-13.75%		Gates	618	1,315	112.78%
Ashe	31,872	19,376	-39.21%		Graham	4,719	265	-94.38%
Avery	2,703	1,767	-34.63%		Granville	11,264	10,846	-3.71%
Beaufort	1,058	1,267	19.75%		Greene	1,338	1,503	12.33%
Bertie	1,108	548	-50.54%		Guilford	13,600	17,165	26.21%
Bladen	3,288	4,033	22.66%		Halifax	4,886	5,992	22.64%
Brunswick	2,233	4,272	91.31%		Harnett	7,730	7,099	-8.16%
Buncombe	20,060	16,316	-18.66%		Haywood	19,123	15,860	-17.06%
Burke	7,820	9,314	19.10%		Henderson	3,425	4,515	31.82%
Cabarrus	15,266	11,182	-26.75%		Hertford	(D)	(D)	NA
Caldwell	7,057	8,056	14.16%		Hoke	2,177	2,140	-1.70%
Camden	403	(D)	NA		Hyde	317	515	62.46%
Carteret	1,566	969	-38.12%		Iredell	29,472	25,664	-12.92%
Caswell	14,626	14,567	-0.40%		Jackson	2,524	2,345	-7.09%
Catawba	16,591	14,546	-12.33%		Johnston	12,510	10,776	-13.86%
Chatham	37,952	42,505	12.00%		Jones	4,885	4,202	-13.98%
Cherokee	8,184	6,062	-25.93%		Lee	4,700	3,780	-19.57%
Chowan	530	398	-24.91%		Lenoir	3,653	3,784	3.59%
Clay	2,924	2,994	2.39%		Lincoln	11,539	13,499	16.99%
Cleveland	37,451	33,513	-10.52%		Macon	5,520	4,916	-10.94%
Columbus	6,108	6,724	10.09%		Madison	17,076	10,322	-39.55%
Craven	1,431	19,252	1245.35%		Martin	1,570	1,237	-21.21%
Cumberland	3,625	2,573	-29.02%		McDowell	5,768	3,449	-40.20%
Currituck	327	249	-23.85%		Mecklenburg	2,424	1,574	-35.07%
Dare	(D)	16	NA		Mitchell	3,866	3,683	-4.73%
Davidson	12,685	10,394	-18.06%		Montgomery	7,927	5,908	-25.47%
Davie	20,578	12,318	-40.14%		Moore	15,377	16,986	10.46%
Duplin	15,822	13,173	-16.74%		Nash	7,698	7,628	-0.91%
Durham	3,206	2,098	-34.56%		New Hanover	(D)	(D)	NA
Edgecombe	3,450	(D)	NA		Northampton	2,725	2,209	-18.94%

Table 3 Continued. (Use to answer Question 5).

County	Farm Operations 2017 (acres)	Farm Operations 2022 (acres)	Change (%)
Onslow	2,110	2,141	1.47%
Orange	14,325	10,337	-27.84%
Pamlico	804	493	-38.68%
Pasquotank	533	718	34.71%
Pender	4,250	4,580	7.76%
Perquimans	622	232	-62.70%
Person	12,266	14,410	17.48%
Pitt	3,668	2,940	-19.85%
Polk	5,660	5,717	1.01%
Randolph	37,958	30,259	-20.28%
Richmond	4,699	4,096	-12.83%
Robeson	5,829	6,238	7.02%
Rockingham	20,924	13,283	-36.52%
Rowan	23,604	18,336	-22.32%
Rutherford	19,237	18,628	-3.17%
Sampson	13,238	9,665	-26.99%
Scotland	1,342	680	-49.33%
Stanly	16,345	13,322	-18.49%
Stokes	14,063	14,462	2.84%
Surry	26,877	20,181	-24.91%
Swain	937	779	-16.86%
Transylvania	2,917	2,913	-0.14%
Tyrrell	253	(D)	NA
Union	22,165	20,600	-7.06%
Vance	3,797	3,334	-12.19%
Wake	8,170	5,428	-33.56%
Warren	9,696	9,480	-2.23%
Washington	855	412	-51.81%
Watauga	18,350	8,639	-52.92%
Wayne	6,760	4,315	-36.17%
Wilkes	30,636	33,150	8.21%
Wilson	3,674	2,146	-41.59%
Yadkin	17,931	18,865	5.21%
Yancey	8,003	6,064	-24.23%

Table 4. County population growth between the 2010 and 2020 censuses. (Use to answer question 6).

County	2010 Census	2020 Census	% County Population Growth	% State Population Growth	Score		County	2010 Census	2020 Census	% County Population Growth	% State Population Growth	Score
Alamance	151,131	171,415	13.42%	1.27%	4		Forsyth	350,670	382,590	9.10%	0.87%	0
Alexander	37,198	36,444	-2.03%	-0.20%	0		Franklin	60,619	68,573	13.12%	1.24%	4
Alleghany	11,155	10,888	-2.39%	-0.24%	0		Gaston	206,086	227,943	10.61%	1.01%	4
Anson	26,948	22,055	-18.16%	-1.98%	0		Gates	12,197	10,478	-14.09%	-1.51%	0
Ashe	27,281	26,577	-2.58%	-0.26%	0		Graham	8,861	8,030	-9.38%	-0.98%	0
Avery	17,797	17,806	0.05%	0.01%	0		Granville	57529	60,992	6.02%	0.59%	0
Beaufort	47,759	44,652	-6.51%	-0.67%	0		Greene	21,362	20,451	-4.26%	-0.43%	0
Bertie	21,282	17,934	-15.73%	-1.70%	0		Guilford	488,406	541,299	10.83%	1.03%	4
Bladen	35,190	29,606	-15.87%	-1.71%	0		Halifax	54,691	48,622	-11.10%	-1.17%	0
Brunswick	107,431	136,693	27.24%	2.44%	7		Harnett	114,678	133,568	16.47%	1.54%	4
Buncombe	238,318	269,452	13.06%	1.24%	4		Haywood	59,036	62,089	5.17%	0.51%	0
Burke	90,912	87,570	-3.68%	-0.37%	0		Henderson	106,740	116,281	8.94%	0.86%	0
Cabarrus	178,011	225,804	26.85%	2.41%	7		Hertford	24,669	21,552	-12.64%	-1.34%	0
Caldwell	83,029	80,652	-2.86%	-0.29%	0		Hoke	46,952	52,082	10.93%	1.04%	4
Camden	9,980	10,355	3.76%	0.37%	0		Hyde	5,810	4,589	-21.02%	-2.33%	0
Carteret	66,469	67,686	1.83%	0.18%	0		Iredell	159,437	186,693	17.10%	1.59%	4
Caswell	23,719	22,736	-4.14%	-0.42%	0		Jackson	40,271	43,109	7.05%	0.68%	0
Catawba	154,358	160,610	4.05%	0.40%	0		Johnston	168,878	215,999	27.90%	2.49%	7
Chatham	63,505	76,285	20.12%	1.85%	4		Jones	10,153	9,172	-9.66%	-1.01%	0
Cherokee	27,444	28,774	4.85%	0.47%	0		Lee	57,866	63,285	9.36%	0.90%	0
Chowan	14,793	13,708	-7.33%	-0.76%	0		Lenoir	59,495	55,122	-7.35%	-0.76%	0
Clay	10,587	11,089	4.74%	0.46%	0		Lincoln	78,265	86,810	10.92%	1.04%	4
Cleveland	98,078	99,519	1.47%	0.15%	0		Macon	33,922	37,014	9.12%	0.88%	0
Columbus	58,098	50,623	-12.87%	-1.37%	0		Madison	20,764	21,193	2.07%	0.20%	0
Craven	103,505	100,720	-2.69%	-0.27%	0		Martin	24,505	22,031	-10.10%	-1.06%	0
Cumberland	319,431	334,728	4.79%	0.47%	0		McDowell	44,996	44,578	-0.93%	-0.09%	0
Currituck	23,547	28,100	19.34%	1.78%	4		Mecklenburg	919,628	1,115,482	21.30%	1.95%	4
Dare	33,920	36,915	8.83%	0.85%	0		Mitchell	15,579	14,903	-4.34%	-0.44%	0
Davidson	162,878	168,930	3.72%	0.37%	0		Montgomery	27,798	25,751	-7.36%	-0.76%	0
Duplin	58,505	48,715	-16.73%	-1.81%	0		Nash	95,840	94,970	-0.91%	-0.09%	0
Durham	269974	324,833	20.32%	1.87%	4		New Hanover	202,667	225,702	11.37%	1.08%	4
Edgecombe	56,552	48,900	-13.53%	-1.44%	0		Northampton	22,099	17,471	-20.94%	-2.32%	0

Table 4 Continued. (Use to answer Question 6).

County	2010 Census	2020 Census	% County Population Growth	% State Population Growth	Score
Onslow	177,772	204,576	15.08%	1.41%	4
Orange	133,801	148,696	11.13%	1.06%	4
Pamlico	13,144	12,276	-6.60%	-0.68%	0
Pasquotank	40,661	40,568	-0.23%	-0.02%	0
Pender	52,217	60,203	15.29%	1.43%	4
Perquimans	13,453	13,005	-3.33%	-0.34%	0
Person	39,464	39,097	-0.93%	-0.09%	0
Pitt	168,148	170,243	1.25%	0.12%	0
Polk	20,510	19,328	-5.76%	-0.59%	0
Randolph	141,752	144,171	1.71%	0.17%	0
Richmond	46,639	42,946	-7.92%	-0.82%	0
Robeson	134,168	116,530	-13.15%	-1.40%	0
Rockingham	93,643	91,096	-2.72%	-0.28%	0
Rowan	138,428	146,875	6.10%	0.59%	0
Rutherford	67,810	64,444	-4.96%	-0.51%	0
Sampson	63,431	59,036	-6.93%	-0.72%	0
Scotland	36,157	34,174	-5.48%	-0.56%	0
Stanly	60,585	62,504	3.17%	0.31%	0
Stokes	47,401	44,520	-6.08%	-0.63%	0
Surry	73,673	71,359	-3.14%	-0.32%	0
Swain	13,981	14,117	0.97%	0.10%	0
Transylvania	33,090	32,986	-0.31%	-0.03%	0
Tyrrell	4,407	3,245	-26.37%	-3.01%	0
Union	201,292	238,267	18.37%	1.70%	4
Vance	45,422	42,578	-6.26%	-0.64%	0
Wake	900,993	1,129,410	25.35%	2.29%	7
Warren	20,972	18,642	-11.11%	-1.17%	0
Washington	13,228	11,003	-16.82%	-1.82%	0
Watauga	51,079	54,086	5.89%	0.57%	0
Wayne	122,623	117,333	-4.31%	-0.44%	0
Wilkes	69,340	65,969	-4.86%	-0.50%	0
Wilson	81,234	78,784	-3.02%	-0.31%	0
Yadkin	38,406	37,214	-3.10%	-0.31%	0
Yancey	17,818	18,470	3.66%	0.36%	0

Table 5. Population density based on the 2020 census. (Use to answer question 7).

County	County Population Density	County/State Density	Score
Alamance	394.1	2.03	10
Alexander	138.6	0.71	0
Alleghany	46.1	0.24	0
Anson	41.1	0.21	0
Ashe	62.2	0.32	0
Avery	72.1	0.37	0
Beaufort	46.6	0.24	0
Bertie	24.2	0.12	0
Bladen	33.4	0.17	0
Brunswick	158.9	0.82	0
Buncombe	408.3	2.10	10
Burke	170.0	0.87	0
Cabarrus	618.6	3.18	15
Caldwell	170.2	0.87	0
Camden	33.8	0.17	0
Carteret	50.5	0.26	0
Caswell	53.1	0.27	0
Catawba	387.9	1.99	5
Chatham	107.6	0.55	0
Cherokee	57.9	0.30	0
Chowan	58.8	0.30	0
Clay	50.2	0.26	0
Cleveland	212.2	1.09	5
Columbus	53.1	0.27	0
Craven	130.1	0.67	0
Cumberland	508.7	2.62	10
Currituck	53.4	0.27	0
Dare	23.6	0.12	0
Davidson	297.9	1.53	5
Davie	160.0	0.82	0
Duplin	59.5	0.31	0
Durham	1090.0	5.60	15
Edgecombe	96.4	0.50	0

County	County Population Density	County/State Density	Score
Forsyth	926.4	4.76	15
Franklin	138.5	0.71	0
Gaston	626.2	3.22	15
Gates	30.3	0.16	0
Graham	26.6	0.14	0
Granville	113.6	0.58	0
Greene	76.9	0.40	0
Guilford	822.6	4.23	15
Halifax	66.5	0.34	0
Harnett	222.2	1.14	5
Haywood	111.9	0.58	0
Henderson	310.1	1.59	5
Hertford	59.9	0.31	0
Hoke	132.9	0.68	0
Hyde	3.2	0.02	0
Iredell	321.7	1.61	5
Jackson	87.3	0.45	0
Johnston	271.4	1.39	5
Jones	19.4	0.10	0
Lee	244.3	1.26	5
Lenoir	137.1	0.70	0
Lincoln	282.8	1.45	5
Macon	71.3	0.37	0
Madison	46.9	0.24	0
Martin	47.8	0.25	0
McDowell	100.0	0.51	0
Mecklenburg	2043.0	10.50	15
Mitchell	67.1	0.35	0
Montgomery	51.3	0.26	0
Moore	141.3	0.73	0
Nash	174.9	0.90	0
New Hanover	688.1	3.54	15
Northampton	31.7	0.16	0

Table 5 Continued (Use to answer Question 7).

County	County Population Density	County/State Density	Score
Onslow	225.1	1.16	5
Orange	370.8	1.91	5
Pamlico	21.7	0.11	0
Pasquotank	140.4	0.72	0
Pender	64.5	0.33	0
Perquimans	39.5	0.20	0
Person	96.8	0.50	0
Pitt	259.9	1.34	5
Polk	80.9	0.42	0
Randolph	182.5	0.94	0
Richmond	89.5	0.46	0
Robeson	122.5	0.63	0
Rockingham	159.3	0.82	0
Rowan	280.3	1.44	5
Rutherford	113.9	0.59	0
Sampson	62.3	0.32	0
Scotland	106.5	0.55	0
Stanly	154.7	0.80	0
Stokes	97.6	0.50	0
Surry	132.6	0.68	0
Swain	26.1	0.13	0
Transylvania	86.6	0.45	0
Tyrrell	5.4	0.03	0
Union	372.3	1.91	5
Vance	157.7	0.81	0
Wake	1317.9	6.77	15
Warren	42.0	0.22	0
Washington	26.0	0.13	0
Watauga	172.8	0.89	0
Wayne	210.7	1.08	5
Wilkes	86.8	0.45	0
Wilson	210.7	1.08	5
Yadkin	110.4	0.57	0
Yancey	59.0	0.30	0

Table 6 Total Cash Receipts (2022 Ag Census)
(Used to answer question 21)

County	Total Cash Receipts Census 2022 (Thousand Dollars)	Ranking Score
Alamance	46,038	10
Alexander	307,484	40
Alleghany	50,141	20
Anson	487,898	40
Ashe	73,902	20
Avery	25,799	10
Beaufort	143,118	30
Bertie	116,232	30
Bladen	619,759	40
Brunswick	52,547	20
Buncombe	35,557	10
Burke	101,746	30
Cabarrus	63,075	20
Caldwell	56,376	20
Camden	41,697	10
Carteret	9,998	0
Caswell	36,017	10
Catawba	93,128	20
Chatham	338,970	40
Cherokee	3,618	0
Chowan	65,573	20
Clay	2,531	0
Cleveland	214,786	30
Columbus	224,853	30
Craven	95,070	20
Cumberland	146,099	30
Currituck	28,860	10
Dare	1,236	0
Davidson	62,109	20
Davie	27,787	10
Duplin	2,007,537	40
Durham	10,335	10
Edgecombe	308,662	40
Forsyth	14,420	10
Franklin	67,631	20
Gaston	20,577	10
Gates	135,823	30
Graham	980	0
Granville	28,359	10
Greene	377,696	40
Guilford	66,873	20

County	Total Cash Receipts Census 2022 (Thousand Dollars)	Ranking Score
Halifax	188,302	30
Harnett	254,105	40
Haywood	15,290	10
Henderson	110,287	30
Hertford	103,372	30
Hoke	145,231	30
Hyde	89,526	20
Iredell	168,356	30
Jackson	7,535	0
Johnston	303,444	40
Jones	288,009	40
Lee	58,795	20
Lenoir	391,420	40
Lincoln	101,898	30
Macon	17,522	10
Madison	5,321	0
Martin	2,352	0
McDowell	94,072	20
Mecklenburg	862	0
Mitchell	3,697	0
Montgomery	229,999	30
Moore	213,727	30
Nash	180,822	30
New Hanover	3,464	0
Northampton	174,675	30
Onslow	250,408	40
Orange	32,294	10
Pamlico	27,388	10
Pasquotank	73,438	20
Pender	246,610	30
Perquimans	60,059	20
Person	45,487	10
Pitt	348,583	40
Polk	3,713	0
Randolph	451,760	40
Richmond	353,371	40
Robeson	640,402	40
Rockingham	23,190	10
Rowan	92,511	20
Rutherford	95,874	20
Sampson	2,191,678	40

Table 6 Continued Total Cash Receipts (2022 Ag Census)
(Used to answer question 21)

County	Total Cash Receipts Census 2022 (Thousand Dollars)	Ranking Score
Scotland	18,912	10
Stanly	90,987	20
Stokes	53,385	20
Surry	330,704	40
Swain	210	0
Transylvania	9,446	0
Tyrrell	50,314	20
Union	586,858	40
Vance	11,786	10
Wake	63,013	20
Warren	16,030	10
Washington	73,307	20
Watauga	13,847	10
Wayne	801,461	40
Wilkes	454,208	40
Wilson	232,518	30
Yadkin	193,299	30
Yancey	5,488	0

Appendix A-Using Web Soil Survey

Web Soil Survey - Home (usda.gov)
(https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm)

Web Soil Survey (WSS) is a tool that can be used to:

1. determine the proportion of prime and unique soils within an easement. This information will answer:
    a. Question 1 on the ALE ranking form asking for the percent of prime, unique, and important soils in the easement parcel.
    b. Section C-5 on the NRCS CA-41A "Parcel Sheet for Entity Application for an Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) Agreement" as one of the Land Eligibility Categories for the easement parcel.
2. Provide a soils map (Farmland Classification) that is required as part of the ALE easement application package.

5. Land Eligibility Category for Parcel: ***(Select only one)***

- ○ Has prime, unique, or other productive soil *(as identified in Web Soil Survey)*
  Percent of parcel that is prime, unique, or other productive soil: 0%
- ○ Contains historical or archaeological resources
- ○ Protects grazing uses and related conservation values
- ○ Furthers a State or local government policy consistent with the purposes of the ACEP.
  Cite the State or local government policy consistent with the ACEP: _____

Below is a set of instructions on how to use Web Soil Survey.

1. Start Web Soil Survey by clicking on "Start WSS"

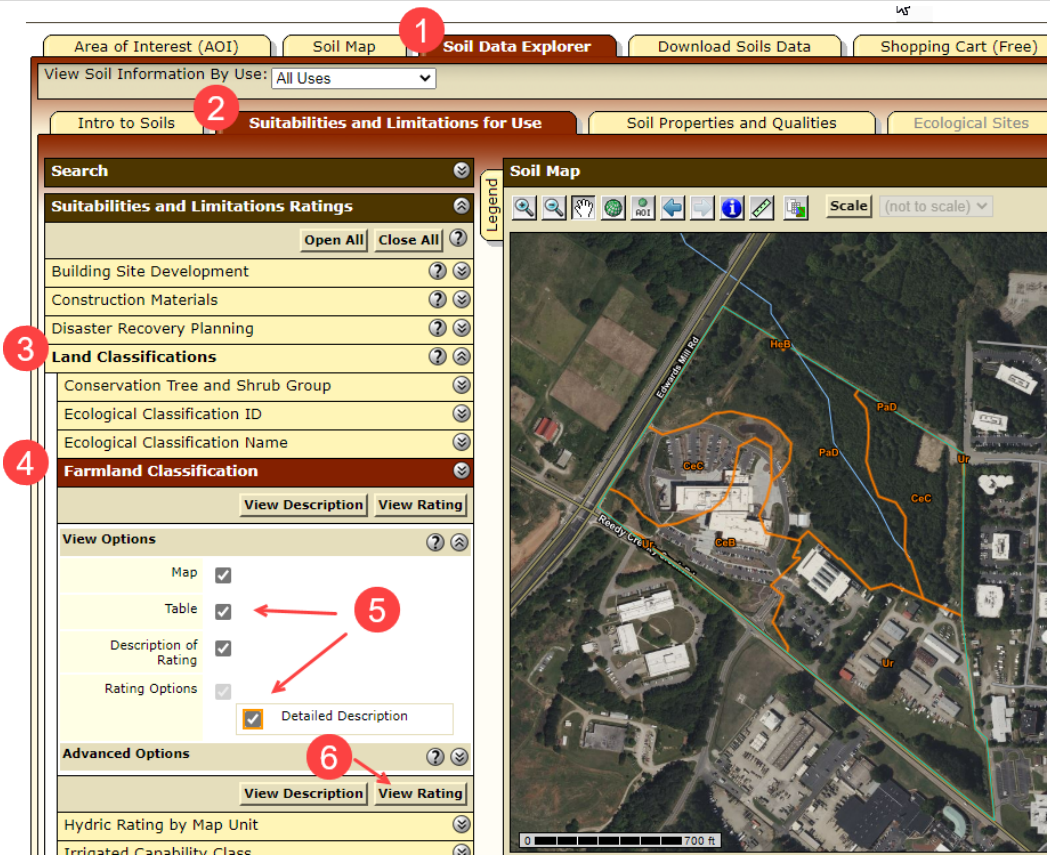
2. Select Area of Interest (AOI)

The Area of Interest must be the offered easement parcels

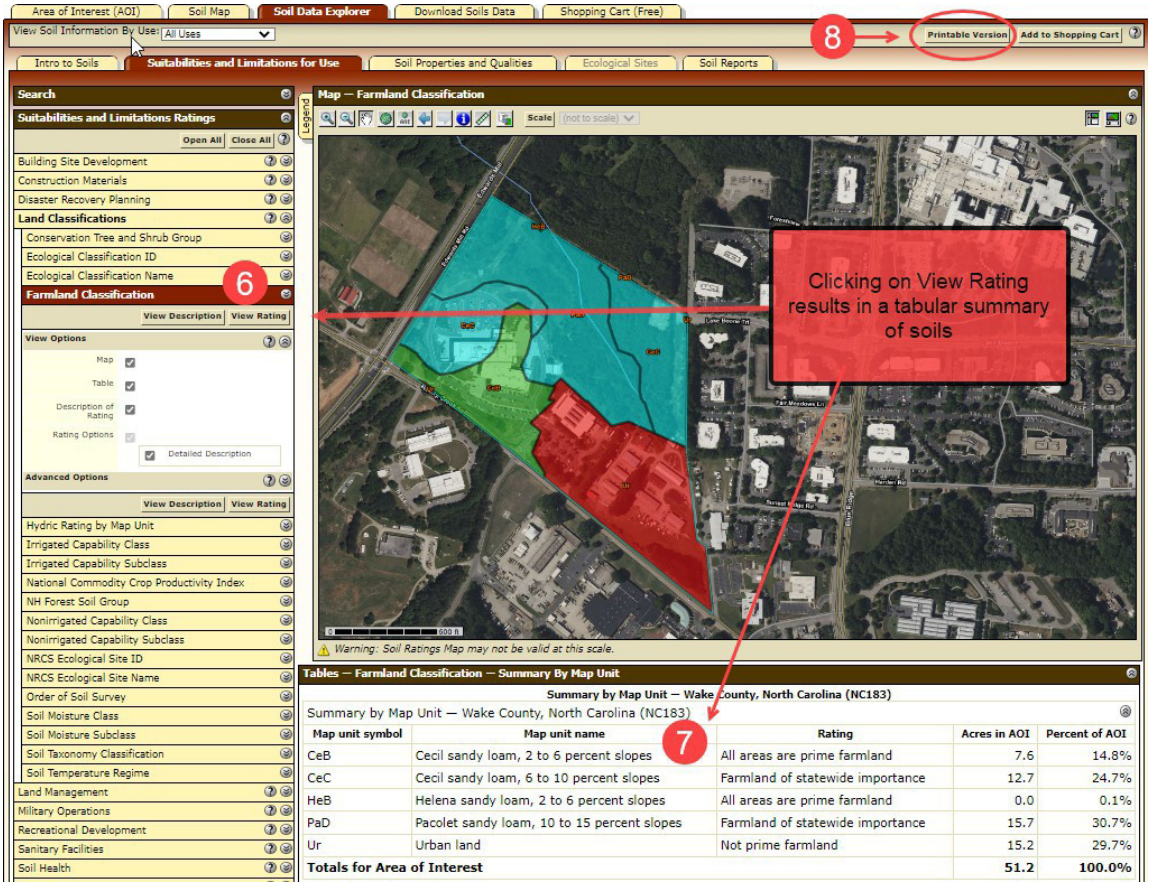
1. ort AOI from shape file (or zipped shapefile)
2. e the rectangle drawing tool, or
3. the polygon drawing tool.

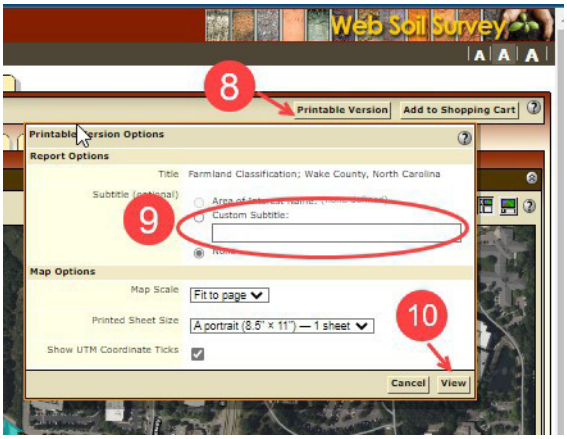
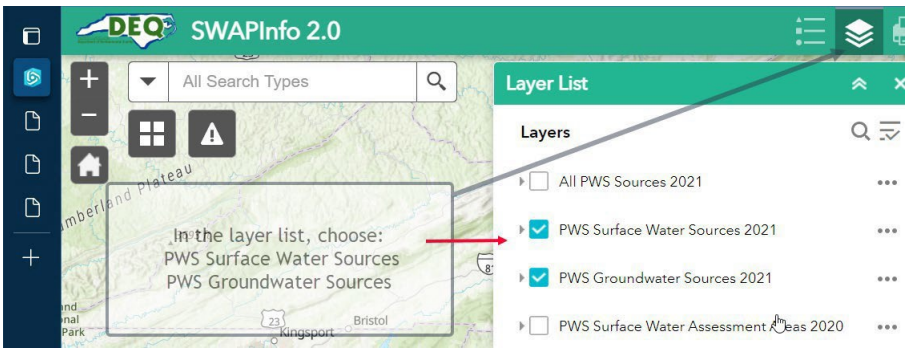
Using a shape file is preferred. The summary table from WSS will provide the area (acres) of the area of interest, and this value should match <u>as close as possible</u> the value (acres) on the Parcel Application Form (CPA-41A). Hand drawing using the polygon drawing tool may result in the resulting area (acres) not matching the acres entered on the CPA-41A form. However, practice using the polygon drawing tool if it is the only method of delineating an area of interest.

3. Determine “Farmland Classification”



Click on items 1 through 4, assure all check boxes are checked for item 5, and finally click on 6 “View Rating”. Once item 6 is clicked, the soils map is updated, and a tabular summary of the rating is produced.





Click on item 8 (top right) to obtain a Printable Version of the Farmland Classification. Add a custom subtitle (item 9) if desired. Click on “View” (Item 10) to produce a report in pdf produced.