

2021 SCAC Awards Program

This application is for:

J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award

Project Title

Soil Class Application For Greenwood County Assessor's Office

County/Counties

Greenwood

Staff Contact

Keith Banks

Job Title

Deputy Assessor

E-mail Address

kbanks@greenwoodsc.gov

Phone Number

864-942-8656

Mailing Address

528 Monument Street, Room 109
Greenwood, SC, 29646


Please provide a summary of your entry (no more than 100 words) to be used in a handout for the awards competition and included in press releases/publications. You may either type the summary in the text box or upload it as an attachment below.


The Soils Class Application was developed as a method for the Assessor's Office of Greenwood County to combine with current technology in order to create a simple and quick way to determine accurate soil classifications of agricultural properties in Greenwood County.


Presentations may include more than one speaker; however, each speaker should be aware that the 10-minute time limit is strictly enforced. Please list the name, title, and e-mail address of each speaker:

Name	Title	Email
Keith Banks	Deputy Assessor	kbanks@greenwoodsc.gov

To submit these attachments online, please upload Microsoft Word or PDF documents below.

 GWDCountySoilsProject.JMG2021.docx

 Soils Program.pdf

 Support Letter for SCAC J. Mitchel Graham A...

Please check boxes for attachments you will submit as part of your application

A concise Project Description to explain the purpose and significance of the entry (up to eight pages). Please follow the prescribed naming convention for your Project Description file.

Any additional materials needed to support your application (up to five pages).

Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award applications must include letters of support from the chief administrative officers for each participating political subdivision.

2021 Awards Competition

Soil Class Application
For Greenwood County Assessor's Office

A collaboration with
Greenwood County GIS & Assessor's Office

Brad Barnwell & Keith Banks

Benefit/Importance of Project

Why was this project undertaken?

- Greenwood County Assessor's office has historically calculated soil classes using a manual process that involved multiple steps from Appraisers and Administrative Assistants as follows:
 - Using measuring tools on GIS to calculate acreage within each soil class.
 - Transferring soil class data to a paper form.
 - Master records are modified by hand and placed in the file.
 - File is given to Administrative Assistant to key data into the Soil class file.
 - File is complete and put away.
- The goal of this project is to quickly and accurately compute soil classification data of agricultural properties using GIS layers.

What is the significance of this project to your community as a whole? How does it relate in importance to the other problems in your community?

- This project improves staff efficiency and accuracy concerning valuation and taxation of agricultural properties.
- This is a component of an in-house Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal Software application in collaboration between GIS and the Assessor's department.
- The total CAMA project benefit taxpayers, employees and county due to the exponential reduced time to complete the process (24 hrs to minutes).
- Taxpayers are concerned with accuracy and fairness when it comes to property values and exemptions.

How much of the county's population is benefited by the project? In what specific ways are different groups of citizens within the county better off than before?

- Greenwood County encompasses an area of about 292,000 acres.
- The universe of agricultural acreage in the county is 220,500 acres.
- 20% of parcels are owned by corporate/business entities.
- 80% parcels are owned by individuals and families.
- 4800 parcels receive Ag Use value in Greenwood County.
- Citizens and entities owning agricultural properties in the county will benefit from a more expedient streamlined process that will be subject to reduced errors.

- All citizens of the county benefit because this automated process insures that Agricultural properties are not being taxed disproportionately as compared to Residential and Other classifications of Real Property.

What degree of success did the project attain? What major objectives were achieved? Provide data where possible.

- The project has been implemented successfully and is currently being used for agricultural calculations in Greenwood County.
- The process is now completed entirely by the appraiser in less time.
- In the past, agricultural calculations could take an hour before handed to Administrative staff to process. This could take a day or two.
- This new system allows for agricultural calculations to be process within half an hour from beginning to end by one person, reducing errors and time for completion.

Project Effort/Difficulty

What did your county have to do to accomplish its objectives?

- The project was an interdepartmental collaboration that took place over a period of 10 months over 2019/2020.
- Representatives from GIS and the Assessor's office met on multiple occasions to gain and share knowledge about how ag use was calculated based on soil class and value.
- A period of trial and error exposed "bugs" and discrepancies that were adjusted in the application prior to implementation.
- The application was brought online Spring 2020 and is now used for all Agricultural Exemptions requests.

What challenges occurred during the project? Were there any community concerns?

- The greatest challenge for this project were related to understanding and programming the soil classes and math associated with agricultural valuation.
 - Multiple soil classes are typical on large tracts.
 - Each soil class has an acreage amount that must be identified.
 - Each acre or portion of an acre in a soil class will be further classified as Crop or Timber.
 - Each acre or portion of an acre will have a value per acre that must be calculated based on values established by the State Legislature.
 - The values change depending on soil class and type (Crop or Timber).

What were the nature and extent of the county government's efforts to alleviate the problem(s)? How difficult was it to accomplish the project's goals and/or objectives?

- The greatest challenge for the Assessor's office was in helping the programmer understand the process and calculations needed to correctly complete an Agricultural exemption application.
- Both the programmer and appraiser participated in multiple meetings and trial runs to perfect the application.

Was financing an obstacle? Were there any unusual factors inherent in financing the project?

- This project was completed in-house and required no financing.

Did any agencies, citizen groups, or other organizations assist your county with this project? Did their participation pose any particular challenges or offer any unique contributions or benefits?

- This project was completed in-house. No assistance was provided by any agencies, citizen groups, or other organizations.

Are there any unresolved problems or goals left to tackle?

- The Soils Application is a standalone project. It has been beta-tested and has replaced the prior manual process use for Agricultural Exemptions.

Project Originality/Innovation

Justify the uniqueness of this project. What makes it different from other projects designed to achieve the same objective?

- Many counties contract applications of this nature from software vendors.
- This project was completed in-house and is proprietary to Greenwood County.
- This project provides complete acreage determination and value calculations of Timber and Crop acres.

Do you know of any other similar programs in South Carolina? If so, how is your program different?

- Similar programs may be included as a component in third-party CAMA software systems.
- To our knowledge there is no similar standalone application in South Carolina that can be accessed outside a CAMA system.

What innovations were required in accomplishing your objectives?

- This projection combined expertise of two departments and required in-depth collaboration and understanding in order to merge GIS functions with soil classes, soil groups, and values in accordance with United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) soil maps.

Who provided the creativity and imagination in your project?

- Brad Barnell incorporated soil classifications and computations
- Keith Banks provided data and examples of how calculations are achieved for agricultural exemptions
- Project was undertaken by management to assist the Assessor's office in streamlining processes, saving time, and reducing errors.

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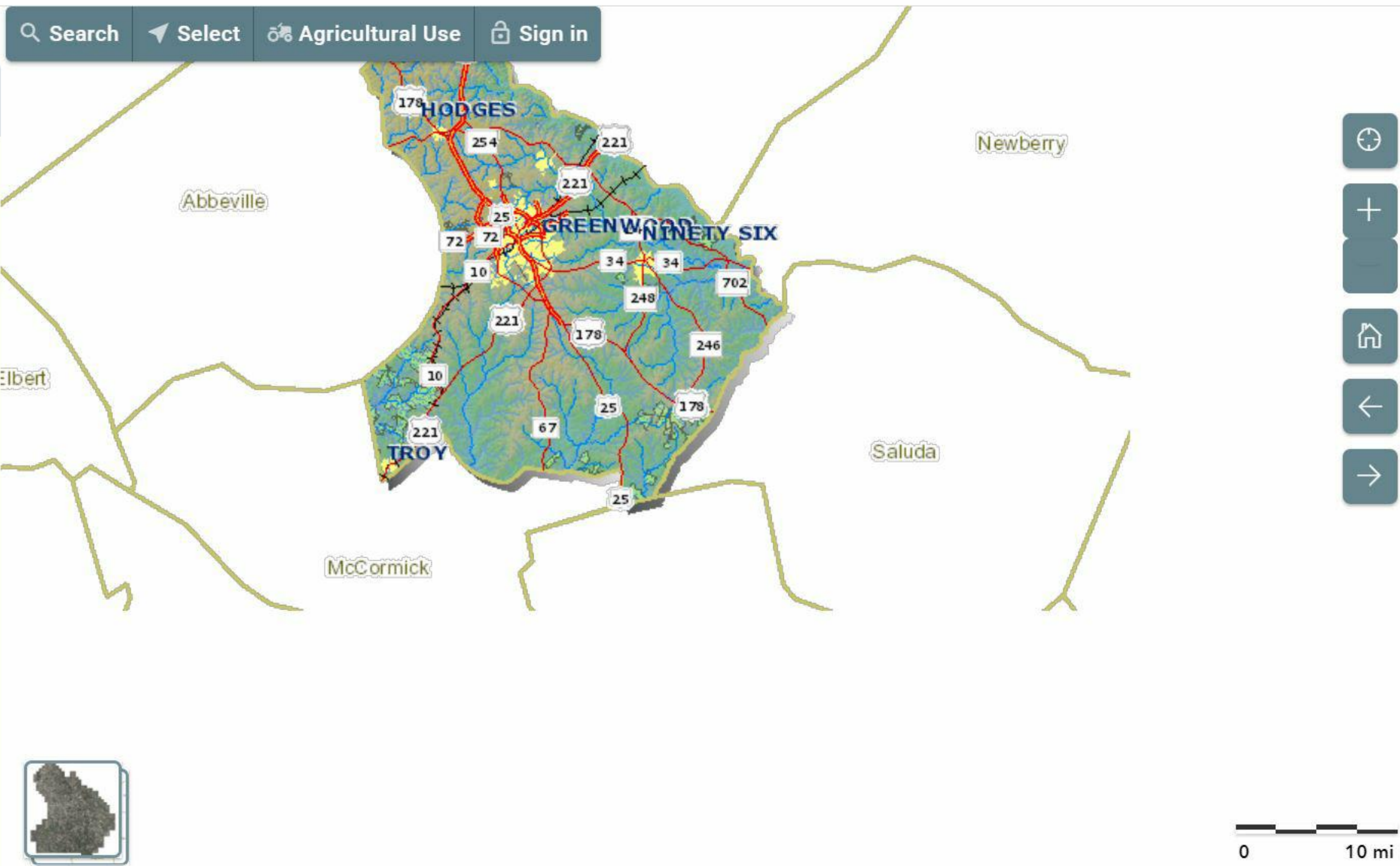
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6810-539-451 [X] 🔍

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Gray Kelly M/Derick(ros)
3913 Cedar Springs Rd

- [Property Report](#)
- [Sales History](#)
- [Tax History](#)
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Parcel ID	6810-539-451
Property Address	3913 Cedar Springs Rd
Owner Name	Gray Kelly M/Derick(ros)
Mail Address	3913 CEDAR SPRINGS RD
City State Zip	BRADLEY, SC 29819-0000
Purchase Date	7/29/2019
Deed	1612-998
Plat	127-25
FFEMA / OMA	No



Map navigation controls including zoom in (+), zoom out (-), home, and directional arrows.



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Measure on map
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| Acres

Measurement Result

1.34 Acres

Label all measurements

Double-click to finish a measurement.

Segment: 327.4 Feet

Bearing: S51° 04' 21"W

Zoom to Coordinate

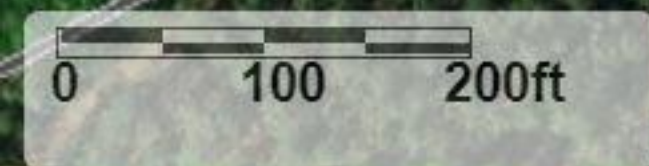
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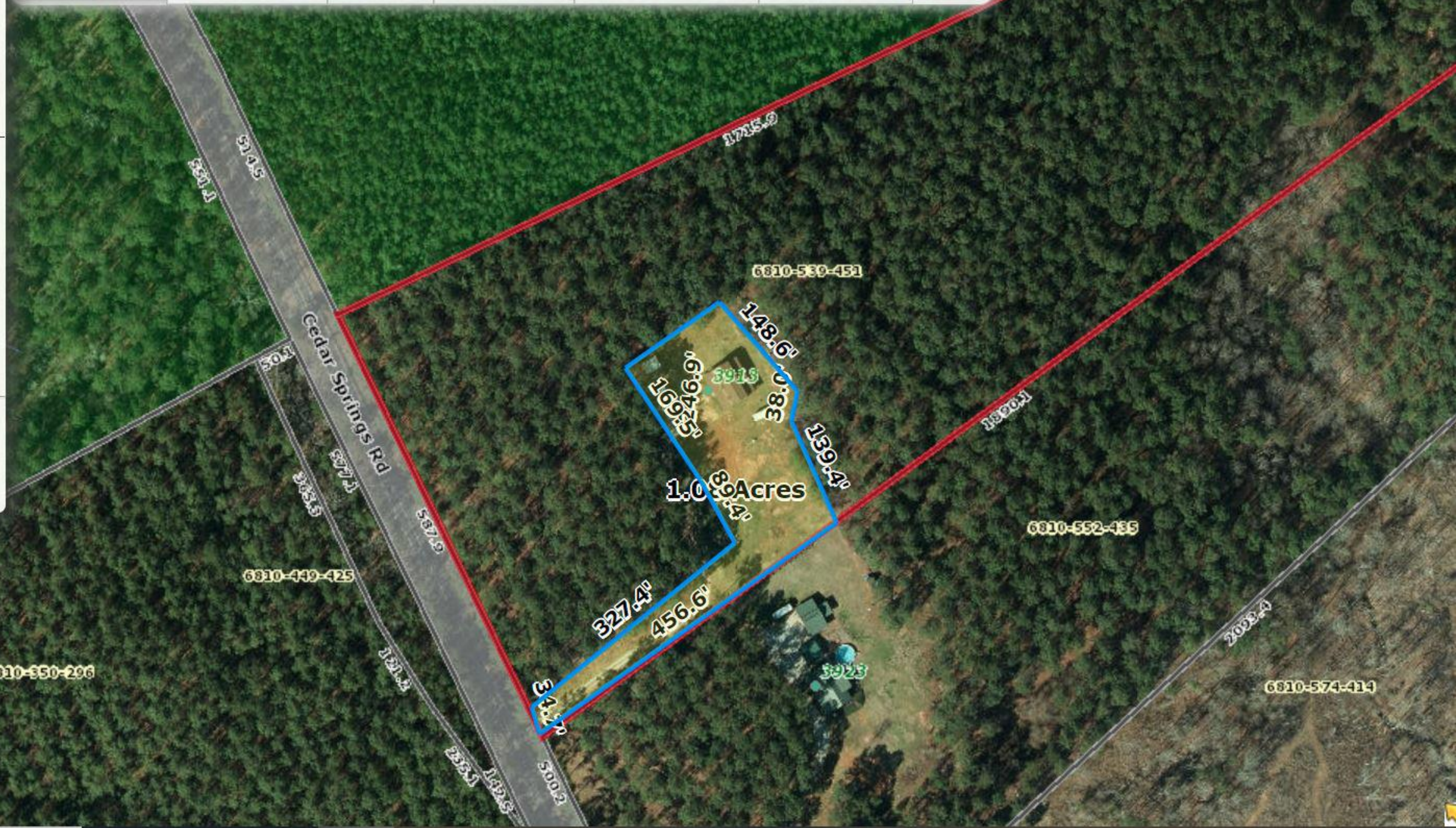
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Extent



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🔍 Quick Search
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★ Community Info
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Agricultural Use

Timber Crop Clear

Choose a tool or select a polygon to edit

- Select entire parcel
6% tax (10 or more owners)
Clear All

6.4 acres of PaF
4.81 acres of CdB
4.45 acres of CdD

15.66 acres of 3 Timber at \$141

15.66 Acres Ag Use: 2,208

PIN: 6810-539-451 Price/acre: \$2,395

Save



County of Greenwood



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Website: <http://www.greenwoodsc.gov>

April 29, 2021

SCAC
PO Box 8207
Columbia, SC 29202

RE: 2021 J. Mitchel Graham Award, Greenwood County Soil Class Project

To Whom It May Concern:

I have reviewed the Greenwood County's GIS/Assessor Soil Class Project and fully support the submission of this project for the J. Mitchel Graham Award of the South Carolina Association of Counties.

Thank you for the opportunity to showcase some of the hard work all South Carolina counties undertake for the benefit of our state and our communities.

Sincerely,

Toby Chappell
County Manager
Greenwood County