

Study: Developed areas could double by 2030

The Associated Press

SPARTANBURG — Developed land in South Carolina's Upstate could more than double by 2030, according to a Clemson University study.

The executive director of the group that released the study said the eight counties it reviewed in northwest South Carolina need to get policies in place to handle that growth.

"Nobody's looking at the big picture," Upstate Forever Executive Director Brad Wyche said. "But if this study isn't a wake-up call, I don't know what is. And it's on all the issues: economic development, roads, water, education. Every-

thing."

Members of Upstate Forever plan a two day tour of newspapers and television stations, pushing policies like countywide zoning, an emphasis on redevelopment and allowing land owners to negotiate with builders for denser development in cities.

If Upstate growth continues at the same pace it did from 1990 to 2000, the area's population would grow by 15 percent, while the amount of land developed would increase by 80 percent. That means urban areas would grow from 720,000 acres in 2005 to 1.5 million acres in 2030, according to the study.