

Lake Keowee residents turned out in force last week to hear about Upstate growth trend projections at the lecture hall in Duke's World of Energy facility.

Brad Wyche, executive director of the conservation group Upstate Forever, and Jeff Allen of Clemson University's Strom Thurmond Center, painted a grim picture of urban sprawl across the Upstate based on a study by Allen and others at the institute.

Allen said the area has a 5-1 ratio of sprawl to population. That is, for every one person in population growth there are five acres paved over for attendant development. At the current pave-over rate, about one Haywood >

> **Mall's worth of forest and farmland is lost** every day.

Wyche and Allen told the group that ratio is not written in stone and there are things that can be done to alleviate sprawl, such as passing zoning regulations that would promote growth in more urbanized areas.

Ben Turetzky, with the Friends of Lake Keowee group, said Oconee County is on the verge of passing a Zoning Enabling Ordinance that would permit zoning rules to be established based on fire districts across the county.

A second reading of the ordinance is set for April 15 in Walhalla.
