

N.C. to lose 2 million acres of open land by 2027

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A report suggests North Carolina may lose two million acres of open land by 2027.

Developed land in the mountains alone is projected to increase by 22 percent. According to a report based on federal data by Environment North Carolina and Land for Tomorrow, North Carolina has already lost 2.4 million acres of open land. That's 325 lost acres a day. Developed land in the mountains has increased 44 percent in the past two decades, while forest land acreage has seen a 6 percent decrease. Environmental groups are urging state leaders to support legislation sponsored by Franklin County Representative Lucy Allen that would use a one billion dollar bond to finance conservation projects. Similar legislation failed last year, but Allen is optimistic about the bill's chances.