

The Inventory

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An Update Concerning the SRS FIA Program

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SRS FIA Informational Update (December 2007)

One of the greatest strengths of the Southern Research Station's Forest Inventory and Analysis Unit (SRS FIA) is the staff involved in everything from data collection to reporting. With this in mind, it is with great sadness that I relate the passing of Victor A. Rudis on November 15, 2007. He had been battling cancer since this spring. Vic had been with FIA in the South since 1980 and was currently a Research Forester with primary responsibility for Texas and Oklahoma reporting. Vic's passing will leave a void with his colleagues, peers, and friends.

As I stated previously, it is the SRS FIA staff that makes this program a success. With this in mind, I also want to extend a thank you to all SRS FIA staff on the progress made in the delivery of the SRS FIA Program during the last three years. In those three years tremendous progress has been made in all aspects of SRS FIA, primarily due to the efforts of the staff. I continue to get positive comments from cooperators, partners, and external users of FIA data and information. Thanks to all of the SRS FIA staff. This success is due to your commitment to SRS FIA.

If you have any questions regarding FIA, please submit those questions to Charlene Walker (cwalker@fs.fed.us) and we will answer your questions in a future issue of *The Inventory*. Thank you for your interest in FIA and please let us know how we may serve you in the future.

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In Memoriam

On November 15, 2007, VICTOR AUGUSTINE RUDIS, age 57, a Research Forester with the U.S. Forest Service, SRS FIA Unit passed away. Victor received his B.S. in Biology from Boston College, a M.S. from Rutgers University in Ecology, and a M.S. from the University of Wisconsin in Forestry. He began his career in 1980 with the U.S. Forest Service in New Orleans, LA and for the past 27 years Victor worked as a Research Forester analyzing and interpreting FIA data. He was one of the pioneers in efforts to incorporate and study the nonforest issues in forest resource assessments across the Southern United States. His accomplishments were far-reaching and included substantial contributions in the areas of landscape ecology, fragmentation, invasive species, and human impacts on forest systems. Other interests included estimation of regional accessibility, aesthetics, forest community types, old growth, recreation opportunities, and wildlife habitats. His publications included contributions in more than 50 government reports, books, proceedings, and scientific journals. He demonstrated genuine curiosity for and love of forest resources in the Southern U.S., and sought to better the program for which he worked through a spirit of enthusiasm, cooperation, and collaboration that will be sorely missed. He was a member of the Society of American Foresters, the Ecological Society of America, The Nature Conservancy, the Sierra Club, and Sigma XI Scientific Research Society. He was a former member and President of the Mississippi Native Plant Society. He was a former member of the World Neighbor's Association at Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS, where he and his family served as a host family for numerous international students for a number of years. Victor leaves wife Mary, two sons, Jeffrey and Jonathan, and friends with FIA.

*Status of Current Field Inventories*

State	Cycle start date	Subcycle start date	Cycle and sub-cycle of current inventory	Percent of current subcycle collection completed
Alabama	2005	Sept-07	9-6	9
Arkansas	2005	Nov-07	9-5	1
Florida	2001	Mar-07	8-2	39
Georgia	2004	Aug-07	9-5	24
Kentucky	2005	Jun-07	6-4	31
Louisiana	2000	Nov-04	3-3	100
Mississippi	2005	Nov-05	8-6	100
North Carolina	2003	May-07	8-4	43
Oklahoma	2007	Oct-07	7-6	38
Puerto Rico	2006	Apr-07	4-2	50
South Carolina	2006	Jan-07	10-4	88
Tennessee	2005	Apr-07	8-4	73
Texas (east)	2003	Jun-07	8-5	38
Texas (west)	2004	Mar-07	51-4	71
U.S. Virgin Islands	2004	Jul-04	1	100
Virginia	2007	Aug-07	9-5	23

For more information, contact Dale Trenda at dtrenda@fs.fed.us or 865-862-2039.

Information compiled November 21, 2007.

Florida Interim Data Released

The first new inventory data for Florida's forests since 1995 was released in September. The *Florida's Forests—2005 Update* report was officially released with the Florida Division of Forestry at the annual meeting of the Florida Forestry Association in Ponte Vedra Beach. The report represents findings from three of five panels or 60 percent of the current inventory in progress. This nonstandard release was prompted by high demand for new data concerning the State's forest resources. Florida's rapid urban growth, significant changes in forest land ownership, and perceived trends in forest composition, all created requests for updated information. One specific

example involves the State's cypress resource. Southwide, demand for cypress mulch has increased, even to the extent to spawn concern over sustainability of the resource. Media attention has led to some retailers curbing cypress produced from other areas. Thus, results from all five panels of the soon to be completed current inventory in Florida are highly anticipated to most accurately describe the status of the State's cypress resource. The *Florida's Forests—2005 Update* report provides traditional inventory findings portrayed in 13 figures and 30 tables. The report, Resource Bulletin SRS-118 is available on the web at <http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/pubs/>.

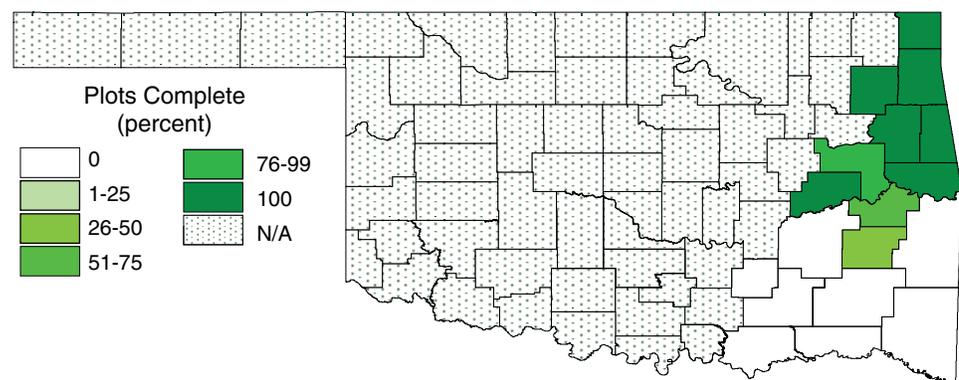
For more information, contact Mark Brown at mbrown03@fs.fed.us or 865-862-2033.

Oklahoma Inventory has Begun!

October 1 marked the beginning of the seventh inventory of eastern Oklahoma. It started with a plot rush by all the SRS FIA field crews from across the southern region. This initial startup during the month of October completed approximately 35 percent of the 1,782 plots with 98 percent of these plots located in the northern unit. Field work has slowed with the departure of many of the crews, but it continues with work primarily in the southern unit. Three to four field crews will continue to collect data through the winter and spring. A 2008 summer completion date is anticipated.



Forest Service employee Jason Hewitt working in Oklahoma.



Current data collection progress for Oklahoma.

For more information, please contact Kathy Tillman at kmtillman@fs.fed.us or 936-569-7981, ext. 4002.

**FY2008 Research
Publications
Published Since
September 2007**

- Brandeis, Thomas J.; Helmer, Eileen H.; Oswald, Sonja N.** 2007. The status of Puerto Rico's forests, 2003. Resour. Bull. SRS-119. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 72 p.
- Hartsell, Andrew J.** 2007. Financial rates of return on shortleaf pine stands in Arkansas between 1978 and 1995. In: Kabrick, John M.; Dey, Daniel C.; Gwaze, David, eds. Shortleaf pine restoration and ecology in the Ozarks: proceedings of a symposium; 2006 November 7-9; Springfield, MO. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-P-15. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Northern Research Station: 186-191.
- Hartsell, Andrew J.; Rosson, James F., Jr.** 2007. Changes in tree species importance following harvesting disturbance in north Mississippi between 1967 and 1994. In: Buckley, David S.; Clatterbuck, Wayne K., eds. Proceedings, 15th central hardwood forest conference. e-Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-101. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station: 658-667 [CD-ROM].
- Johnson, Tony G.; McClure, Nathan; Wells, John L.** 2007. Georgia's timber industry—an assessment of timber product output and use, 2005. Resour. Bull. SRS-123. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 36 p.
- Johnson, Tony G.; Smith, Nathan.** 2007. South Carolina's timber industry—an assessment of timber product output and use, 2005. Resour. Bull. SRS-121. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 28 p.
- Rose, Anita K.** 2006. Spatial trends in *Quercus* mortality across three physiographic provinces of Virginia [Abstract]. 91st annual meeting of the ecological society of America. Ecological Society of America. August, 2006, Memphis, TN.
- Rose, Anita K.** 2007. Current status and mortality rate of hemlock in the Southeastern United States [Abstract]. In: Rising to the challenges of a new century: 18th annual SAMAB conference. Knoxville, TN: Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere. 71 p.
- Rose, Anita K.** 2007. Properties of forest soils across the South, 2000-2004 [Abstract]. SRS All Scientists Meeting. January, 2007, Lake Lanier, GA.
- Rose, Anita K.** 2007. Virginia's forests, 2001. Resour. Bull. SRS-120. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 140 p.
- Rose, Anita K.; Rosson, James F., Jr.** 2007. The importance and distribution of hickory across Virginia. In: Buckley, David S.; Clatterbuck, Wayne K., eds. Proceedings, 15th central hardwood forest conference. e-Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-101. U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station: 286-294 [CD-ROM].
- Rosson, James F., Jr.** 2006. Characteristics of understory tree species richness on pine plantations in the Midsouth, USA [Abstract]. In: 91st annual meeting of the ecological society of America. Ecological Society of America. Memphis, TN; August 6-11, 2006.
- Rosson, James F., Jr.** 2006. Temporal changes in tree species evenness as an indicator of disturbance [Abstract]. 20th annual meeting of the society for conservation biology. San Jose, CA; June 24-28, 2006.
- Rosson, James F., Jr.** 2007. Temporal stand dynamics in forests over a large-scale sampling regime on the Interior Highlands of Arkansas [Abstract]. In: 49th annual conference of the international association for vegetation science. Palmerston North, New Zealand; February 12-16, 2007. 83 p.
- Rosson, James F., Jr.** 2007. Tree species associations of *Pinus echinata* mill. over a large-scale sampling regime on the interior highlands of Arkansas. In: Kabrick, John M.; Dey, Daniel C.; Gwaze, David, eds. Shortleaf pine restoration and ecology in the Ozarks: proceedings of a symposium; 2006 November 7-9; Springfield, MO. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-P-15. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Northern Research Station: 76-87.

Current Status of FIA Data Posted to Mapmaker

State	FIADB cycle	Survey	Periodic/ annual	Date year
Alabama	9	9	A	2006
Arkansas	9	9	A	2006
Florida	8	8	A	2005
Georgia	9	9	A	2005
Kentucky	6	6	A	2005
Louisiana	7	7	A	2005
Mississippi	1	1	P	1994
North Carolina	8	8	A	2005
Oklahoma (east)	1	6	P	1993
South Carolina	9	9	A	2006
Tennessee	8	8	A	2005
Texas (east)	8	8	A	2006
Virginia	8	8	A	2006

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Cumberland Forests Discussed at Recent Meeting

A recent conference hosted by The University of Tennessee and the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement (NCASI) brought scientists, land managers, and conservation professionals together to discuss the state of conservation science in the Cumberland Plateau and Mountains. Christopher M. Oswalt was invited to address the current status and historical trends of the forests resources in the Cumberlands. The discussion centered on a project initiated by Oswalt and Andrew J. Hartsell, both scientists with the SRS FIA unit in Knoxville, TN. The presentation was well received and gave the first comprehensive picture of the forest land resource in the biologically rich region of the Cumberland Plateau

and Mountains. The Cumberland Plateau and Mountains have recently been subject to national attention as USA Today described the area as one of the best places to retire. In addition, numerous universities, federal and State scientists, and national and regional conservation organizations have focused attention on monitoring changes in the regions' ecological communities. The recent conference was an important step in bringing interested parties together to discuss the future of this valuable resource that reaches into five southern States (Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia). The information from the FIA Cumberlands Project will soon be published through the Southern Research Station.

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FIA is a USDA Forest Service research work unit which collects, analyzes, and reports on data pertaining to our forest land in the Southern region. This region includes Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Virginia.

FIA conducts this program of research to improve the understanding of the Southern forest ecosystem.

Government and private agencies utilize this data to monitor forest resources, forest use, and forest health. The collection of data is done on private and public land.

Our system development success is a direct result of our partners, our talented scientists, analysts, computer specialists, and other staff members who have continually contributed to the mission of this complex project.

National and Southern FIA Websites of Interest

National FIA website: <http://www.fia.fs.fed.us>

National FIA database available at: <http://www.ncrs2.fs.fed.us/4801/fiadb>

National Timber Product Output (TPO) database available at: <http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/php/tpo2/tpo.php>

National Woodland Owner Survey website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/woodlandowners/>

Information specific to Southern States: <http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/>

Electronic copies of SRS FIA publications at: <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/>