

# The Inventory

Issue 16,  
December 2009

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Forest Inventory and Analysis

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## An Update Concerning the SRS FIA Program

### *SRS FIA Information Update (December 2009)*

I attended the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) annual meeting in Albuquerque, NM during late September. During the meeting (both in the formal sessions and informally during breaks), the issue of the FIA program came up in presentations, questions and answers sessions, and in general conversation. All of this talk was very encouraging and generally supportive of the FIA program.

The most exciting aspect of the meeting was a resolution regarding the FIA Program. I have excerpted portions of the resolution below. The full resolution is available at the NASF Web site: <http://www.stateforesters.org/node/1467>.

*ISSUE OF CONCERN: Maintain maximum relevance and utility of the FIA program*

*BACKGROUND: A current and accurate forest inventory is a threshold requirement if we are to conserve and restore all of America's forests. The inventory must address the rapidly emerging issues of climate change, carbon, biomass, and land-use change. But portions of the Nation's forests are not being inventoried, funding is inadequate to implement FIA as currently designed, and FIA needs to be enhanced to provide data relevant to current and emerging issues.*

*RESOLUTION:*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association of State Foresters:*

*A. encourages the U.S. Forest Service to support and vigorously seek funding for fully implementing the base FIA program nationwide;*

*B. encourages the U.S. Forest Service to support and vigorously seek funding to enhance FIA to address the rapidly emerging issues of climate change, carbon, land-use changes, water resources, biomass, and bioenergy;*

*C. suggests that the enhanced FIA include the following priorities:*

- 1. Use of remote imagery to track harvest intensity, land-use change, and land-cover change. This could be done in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service Remote Sensing Application Center and aligned State and federal institutions;*
- 2. Increase the analytical ability within FIA and within cooperating State Forestry Agencies;*
- 3. Increased measurement of forest floor woody and nonwoody forest components, including soils;*
- 4. Expand the capacity of timely forecasts for forest products markets, land-use change, and future forest conditions;*
- 5. Intensify plot distribution on experimental forests as a set of baseline plots for climate change monitoring and modeling to address forest management and adaptation needs; and*
- 6. Evaluate the impact of timely forest resource information and communication.*

*continued*

**SRS FIA**  
**Information Update**  
**(December 2009)**  
**(continued)**

What will be the outcome of this NASF resolution remains to be seen but the continued recognition of a strong, comprehensive inventory and monitoring program should position FIA for continued relevance in current and future forestry and natural resource issues.

As always, if you have any technical 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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**Play Taps for**  
**Mapmaker!**

For more information on these tools, contact the following individuals:

FIDO and EVALIDator,  
 contact Carol Perry at 865-  
 862-2087 or cperry@fs.fed.us.

TPO Reporting Tool, contact  
 Tony Johnson at 865-862-  
 2042 or tjohnson09@fs.fed.us.

As of November 17, 2009, Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Mapmaker and Resource Planning Act (RPA) Timber Product Output (TPO) Tablemaker data query programs are no longer available. The new Forest Service computer system architecture cannot support these older FIA data query products. The server hardware that housed both of these programs failed and could not be repaired.

There are newer data query Web applications available now to deliver most of the same functionality of Mapmaker – Forest Inventory Data Online (FIDO) and EVALIDator. Users of the RPA TPO Tablemaker are encouraged to use the TPO Reporting Tool.

To access these tools go to the following links:

FIDO: <http://fiatools.fs.fed.us/fido/index.html>.  
 EVALIDator: <http://fiatools.fs.fed.us/Evalidator401/tmattribute.jsp>.  
 TPO Reporting Tool: [http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/php/tpo\\_2009/tpo\\_rpa\\_int1.php](http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/php/tpo_2009/tpo_rpa_int1.php).

FIDO gives you access to the National FIA databases. Users now have the ability to generate tables and maps of forest statistics through a Web browser without having to understand the underlying data structures. With FIDO, users will be able to run any of the standard reports for a specific area of interest and survey year or, for advanced users, create completely customized reports based on whatever criteria chosen. As an advanced user, you can also save your work to your hard drive to load/rerun your custom FIDO II retrievals at a later time.

The EVALIDator program runs off of FIADB version 4.0 to produce population estimates and their sampling errors. EVALIDator functions in a comparable manner as Mapmaker and allows you to choose the way in which the FIA Retrieval System selects data from the database.

The TPO Reporting Tool functions in a similar manner as the RPA TPO Tablemaker. There are additional options for Southern Research Station FIA TPO data.

**Current Status of**  
**FIA Data Posted**  
**to Mapmaker**

State	Cycle	Periodic/ annual	Data year
Alabama	9	A	2008
Arkansas	9	A	2007
Florida	8	A	2007
Georgia	9	A	2008
Kentucky	6	A	2006
Louisiana	7	A	2005
Mississippi	8	A/P	2006
North Carolina	8	A	2006
Oklahoma (east)	1	P	1993
South Carolina	10	A	2007
Tennessee	8	A	2007
Texas (east)	8	A	2008
Texas (west)	51	A	2007
Virginia	8	A	2008

NOTE: The following States are currently being processed in the FIA National Information Management System: North Carolina - 2007; Kentucky - 2007; and, East Oklahoma - 2007. They will be available in the first quarter of 2010.

For more information,  
 contact Ali Conner  
 at 865-862-2228 or  
 aconner@fs.fed.us.

***FY2010 Research  
Publications  
Published Since  
September 2009***

**Bentley, James W.; Johnson, Tony G.** 2009. Florida harvest and utilization study, 2008. Resour. Bull. SRS-162. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 27 p.

**Bentley, James W.; Johnson, Tony G.** 2009. Virginia harvest and utilization study, 2007. Resour. Bull. SRS-163. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 27 p.

**Harper, R.A.** 2009. The Forest Inventory and Analysis program: what's in it for landowners? *Forest Landowner Magazine* 68(4):5-8.

**Johnson, Tony G.; Bentley, James W.; Howell, Mike.** 2009. The South's timber industry—an assessment of timber product output and use, 2007. Resour. Bull. SRS-164. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 52 p.

***SRS FIA Publications  
from the Eighth  
Annual Forest  
Inventory and  
Analysis Symposium***

**Coulston, John W.; Koch, Frank H.; Smith, William D.; Sapio, Frank J.** 2009. Developing survey grids to substantiate freedom from exotic pests. In: McRoberts, Ronald E.; Reams, Gregory A.; Van Deusen, Paul C.; McWilliams, William H., eds. 2009. Proceedings of the eighth annual forest inventory and analysis symposium. 2006 October 16-19; Monterey, CA. Gen. Tech. Report WO-79. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, 91-97.

**Brandeis, Thomas; Delaney, Matthew; Royer, Larry; Parresol, Bernard.** 2009. Allometric equations for predicting Puerto Rican dry forest biomass and volume. In: McRoberts, Ronald E.; Reams, Gregory A.; Van Deusen, Paul C.; McWilliams, William H., eds. 2009. Proceedings of the eighth annual forest inventory and analysis symposium. 2006 October 16-19; Monterey, CA. Gen. Tech. Report WO-79. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, 197-202.

**McCollum, Joseph; Cochran, Jamie K.** 2009. Phase 2 and phase 3 presentation grids. In: McRoberts, Ronald E.; Reams, Gregory A.; Van Deusen, Paul C.; McWilliams, William H., eds. 2009. Proceedings of the eighth annual forest inventory and analysis symposium. 2006 October 16-19; Monterey, CA. Gen. Tech. Report WO-79. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, 367-373.

**Oswalt, Christopher M.; Saunders, Adam M.** 2009. External validation of a forest inventory and analysis volume equation and

comparisons with estimates from multiple stem-profile models. In: McRoberts, Ronald E.; Reams, Gregory A.; Van Deusen, Paul C.; McWilliams, William H., eds. 2009. Proceedings of the eighth annual forest inventory and analysis symposium. 2006 October 16-19; Monterey, CA. Gen. Tech. Report WO-79. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, 211-220.

**Oswalt, Sonja N.; Brandeis, Thomas J.; Steadman, David W.; Robinson, Scott K.** 2009. Using Forest Service multiple species inventory and monitoring protocols to count birds at forest inventory and analysis plots on the Caribbean landscape: results, observations, and challenges from year 1 of a 2-year study. In: McRoberts, Ronald E.; Reams, Gregory A.; Van Deusen, Paul C.; McWilliams, William H., eds. 2009. Proceedings of the eighth annual forest inventory and analysis symposium. 2006 October 16-19; Monterey, CA. Gen. Tech. Report WO-79. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, 165-170.

**Roesch, Francis A.** 2009. Dimensionality and the sample unit. In: McRoberts, Ronald E.; Reams, Gregory A.; Van Deusen, Paul C.; McWilliams, William H., eds. 2009. Proceedings of the eighth annual forest inventory and analysis symposium. 2006 October 16-19; Monterey, CA. Gen. Tech. Report WO-79. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, 109-113.

***SRS FIA Publications  
from the Ninth  
Annual Forest  
Inventory and  
Analysis Symposium***

- Brown, Mark J.** 2009. Evaluating cypress sustainability - "FIA in the hot seat". In: McWilliams, Will; Moisen, Gretchen; Czaplewski, Ray, comps. Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Symposium 2008; October 21-23, 2008; Park City, UT. Proc. RMRS-P-56CD. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 9 p.
- Bechtold, William; Randolph, KaDonna; Zarnoch, Stanley.** 2009. The power of FIA Phase 3 Crown-Indicator variables to detect change. In: McWilliams, Will; Moisen, Gretchen; Czaplewski, Ray, comps. Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Symposium 2008; October 21-23, 2008; Park City, UT. Proc. RMRS-P-56CD. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 21 p.
- Harper, Richard A.; Coulston, John W.; Turner, Jeffery A.** 2009. Rapid assessment of wildfire damage using Forest Inventory data: A case in Georgia. In: McWilliams, Will; Moisen, Gretchen; Czaplewski, Ray, comps. Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Symposium 2008; October 21-23, 2008; Park City, UT. Proc. RMRS-P-56CD. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 7 p.
- McCullum, Joseph M.; Gormanson, Dale; Coulston, John.** 2009. Correct county areas with sidebars for Virginia. In: McWilliams, Will; Moisen, Gretchen; Czaplewski, Ray, comps. Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Symposium 2008; October 21-23, 2008; Park City, UT. Proc. RMRS-P-56CD. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 9 p.
- Oswalt, Sonja; Huang, Chengquan; Shi, Hua; Vogelmann, James; Zhu, Zhiliang; Goward, Samuel N.; Coulston, John.** 2009. Integrating landsat-derived disturbance maps with FIA inventory data: Applications for state-level forest resource assessments. In: McWilliams, Will; Moisen, Gretchen; Czaplewski, Ray, comps. Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Symposium 2008; October 21-23, 2008; Park City, UT. Proc. RMRS-P-56CD. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 9 p.
- Prisley, Stephen P.; Wang, Huei-Jin; Radtke, Philip J.; Coulston, John.** 2009. Combining FIA plot data with topographic variables: are precise locations needed? In: McWilliams, Will; Moisen, Gretchen; Czaplewski, Ray, comps. Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Symposium 2008; October 21-23, 2008; Park City, UT. Proc. RMRS-P-56CD. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 10 p.
- Randolph, KaDonna; Bechtold, William; Morin, Randall; Zarnoch, Stanley.** 2009. From detection monitoring to evaluation monitoring - a case study involving crown dieback in northern white-cedar. In: McWilliams, Will; Moisen, Gretchen; Czaplewski, Ray, comps. Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Symposium 2008; October 21-23, 2008; Park City, UT. Proc. RMRS-P-56CD. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 13 p.
- Randolph, KaDonna; Rose, Anita.** 2009. Tree crown condition in Virginia before and after Hurricane Isabel (September 2003). In: McWilliams, Will; Moisen, Gretchen; Czaplewski, Ray, comps. Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Symposium 2008; October 21-23, 2008; Park City, UT. Proc. RMRS-P-56CD. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 11 p.
- Roesch, Francis.** 2009. Spatial-temporal models for improved county-level annual estimates. In: McWilliams, Will; Moisen, Gretchen; Czaplewski, Ray, comps. Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Symposium 2008; October 21-23, 2008; Park City, UT. Proc. RMRS-P-56CD. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 20 p.

***SRS FIA Publications  
from the Ninth  
Annual Forest  
Inventory and  
Analysis Symposium  
(continued)***

- Schulz, Bethany; Oswalt, Sonja; Moser, W. Keith.** 2009. Vegetation inventory data: how much is enough? In: McWilliams, Will; Moisen, Gretchen; Czaplewski, Ray, comps. Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Symposium 2008; October 21-23, 2008; Park City, UT. Proc. RMRS-P-56CD. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 1 CD.
- Woodall, Christopher W.; Oswalt, Christopher M.; Westfall, James A.; Perry, Charles H.; Nelson, Mark N.** 2009. Tree migration detection through comparisons of historic and current forest inventories. In: McWilliams, Will; Moisen, Gretchen; Czaplewski, Ray, comps. Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Symposium 2008; October 21-23, 2008; Park City, UT. Proc. RMRS-P-56CD. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 9 p.
- Young, Timothy M.; Perdue, James H.; Hartsell, Andy; Abt, Robert C.; Hodges, Donald; Rials, Timothy G.** 2009. A real-time web-based optimal Biomass Site Assessment Tool (BioSAT): Module 1. An economic assessment of mill residues for the southern U.S. In: McWilliams, Will; Moisen, Gretchen; Czaplewski, Ray, comps. Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Symposium 2008; October 21-23, 2008; Park City, UT. Proc. RMRS-P-56CD. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 22 p.

***Status of Current  
Field Inventories***

State	Cycle start date	Subcycle start date	Cycle and subcycle of current inventory	Percent of current subcycle collection completed
Alabama	2005	Sept-09	9-1	20
Arkansas	2005	Oct-08	9-1	97
Florida	2008	Sept-09	9-4	20
Georgia	2004	Sept-09	10-2	15
Kentucky	2005	Oct-09	6-1	16
Louisiana	2009	Feb-09	8-1	69
Mississippi	2008	Oct-09	9-2	7
North Carolina	2008	Oct-09	9-2	10
Oklahoma (west)	2009	Jan-09	2-1	96
Puerto Rico	2006	Apr-09	4-4	66
South Carolina	2006	Jan-09	10-1	94
Tennessee	2005	Jan-09	8-1	98
Texas (east)	2008	Aug-09	9-2	24
Texas (west)	2004	May-09	51-6	52
U.S. Virgin Islands	2004	Aug-09	2-1	9
Virginia	2007	Apr-09	9-4	64

Information compiled December 1, 2009.

For more information, contact Dale Trenda at 865-862-2039 or [dtrenda@fs.fed.us](mailto:dtrenda@fs.fed.us).

## Landowner Confidentiality of Plot Locations

Field crews occasionally get questions such as: “Are you looking for endangered (or threatened) species?” or “Who will have access to this information?” The simple answer to the first question is “No.” The nature of the FIA sampling grid is one plot for every 6,000 acres and each plot nominally samples one acre. Usually (but not exclusively) endangered or threatened species have narrowly defined our somewhat unique habitat requirements. Factoring in these two concepts implies that FIA sampling structure is not well-suited to sample endangered or threatened species. It can happen but is usually a rare occurrence.

The answer to the second question gets to the nature of the FIA Program. Data collected from an individual plot will be merged with thousands of other sites to produce State and regional reports. Although we collect information on the location of this plot, we do not share this information with any individual or organization that is not a partner with us. Also, these partners are required to sign a non-disclosure document that guarantees that they will not release any plot location information.

One specific point, due to the laws mandated by Congress (FY2000 Consolidated Appropriations Bill (PL 106-113)) language was included

that modified the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 2276(d)) to add FIA data collection of plot locations and ownership information, to a list of items requiring confidential treatment. Note: the implication of this statement is that this subset of FIA data is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Among other things, the law prevents FIA from disclosing plot locations and ownership information, and it provides for criminal penalties for violations.

The publically available FIA data does include coordinates of the plot location and ownership information but the plot coordinates are “fuzzed” so the actual plot is generally within one square mile and up to 20% plots have their data “swapped” with a plot of similar data. Ownership information is generally collapsed to less-detailed groups and the detailed land owner information is not made available.

We believe that FIA data is a valuable resource that should remain accessible within the law. In addition, we embrace the concept of private landowner rights and the protection of their privacy. We believe that our current system is the best solution to protect landowner privacy but allow us to put FIA data in the hands of users.



Swamps and mesic forests in Florida provide an ideal micro-climate for over 100 species of native orchids such as this Tampa butterfly orchid (*Encyclia tampensis*), which survives in areas that regularly get freezing temperatures. Photo by Jay Frost, SRS FIA.



The gopher tortoise makes large burrows in dry, sandy habitats and feeds mostly on low-growing vegetation. Photo by Jay Frost, SRS FIA.

For more information on the availability of FIA data contact, Carol Perry at 865-862-2087 or [cperry@fs.fed.us](mailto:cperry@fs.fed.us), or Sam Lambert at 865-862-2097 or [slambert@fs.fed.us](mailto:slambert@fs.fed.us).

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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 Web sites of Interest*

- National FIA Web site: <http://www.fia.fs.fed.us>
- National FIA database available at: <http://fia.fs.fed.us/tools-data/other/default.asp>
- National Timber Product Output (TPO) database available at: <http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/>
- National Woodland Owner Survey Web site: <http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/nwos/>
- Information specific to Southern States: <http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/>
- Electronic copies of SRS FIA publications at: <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/>