

The Inventory

Issue 24
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An Update Concerning the SRS FIA Program

SRS FIA Information Update

Over the last 2 years or so, FIA has been in the process of *migrating* our databases, tools, and applications from regional FIA servers located at each of our FIA unit headquarters to a national database center. Activities accelerated over the last year with the months of July, August, and September really impacting information management resources and personnel. This process was part of a larger effort for the entire USDA Forest Service. This centralization of this information was essentially completed on September 30, 2011 with the *shutdown* of regional servers. [Some final activities were completed during October and part of November.]

Providing data access to the users of our data, tools, and applications is paramount to the service aspect of FIA. We want to meet your needs in a timely and effective manner. After this migration, we want to still meet your needs. As such, please keep us informed on any issues relating to the retrieval of FIA data and use of online FIA tools and applications. We want to solve your problems and provide the same access as we had done in the past. It is through your feedback that we can improve our service to you. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

As always, if you have any technical questions regarding FIA, please submit those questions to Charlene Walker (cwalker@fs.fed.us) and we will address them 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.

Bill Burkman

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New Version of Invasive Plant Guide

The SRS FIA will be publishing an electronic General Technical Report, *A Guidebook to Invasive Plants in Southern Forests*. The guidebook was adapted from the *Field Guide for the Identification of Invasive Plants in Southern Forests* by James H. Miller, Erwin B. Chambliss, and Nancy J. Lowenstein. The book provides information on accurate identification of 33 nonnative plants and groups that are currently invading the forests of the 13 Southern States.

The new guidebook was redesigned in order to improve functionality, specifically for use by the FIA field survey crews in the Southern United States. The page sizes were reduced to 4.25 x 5.5 inches to accommodate our data collection field guide manual and because our field crews are dispersed across several ecological regions the pages have been designed to allow the user to reorganize and/or remove pages accordingly. Several photos of look-a-like species were added. The new design also makes it easy for us to make updates once additional invasive species are found to be in need of monitoring.

For more information, please contact Lewis Zimmerman at 865-862-2092 or lzimmerman@fs.fed.us.

Retirees in the News!

FIA is losing some 135 years of combined experience with four upcoming retirements at the end of December 2011.

Vickie Brooks is currently Management and Program Analyst for SRS FIA. She began her Federal career in 1977. Vickie has been an invaluable resource for FIA for budgeting, planning, agreements, and reporting.

Roger Conner is currently an Analyst with SRS FIA. He began his career with what was then the Intermountain Research Station in Ogden, Utah in 1980, fresh out of Virginia Tech with a B.S. in Forestry and Wildlife Management. Roger spent some 7 years in the field, and in 1989 received an M.F. in Forest Management from Oregon State. Since 1989 Roger has served as a Research Forester, with most of that time devoted to Southern Research Station as Analyst for South Carolina.

Joe Johnson is retiring after 36 years of Federal service. Joe is an Army veteran, having served our country from 1974 to 1978. During that time Joe received several medals, and was awarded the Army Commendation for Achievement from then Colonel Norman Schwarzkopf. Shortly after his discharge Joe went to work with the Department of Commerce, National

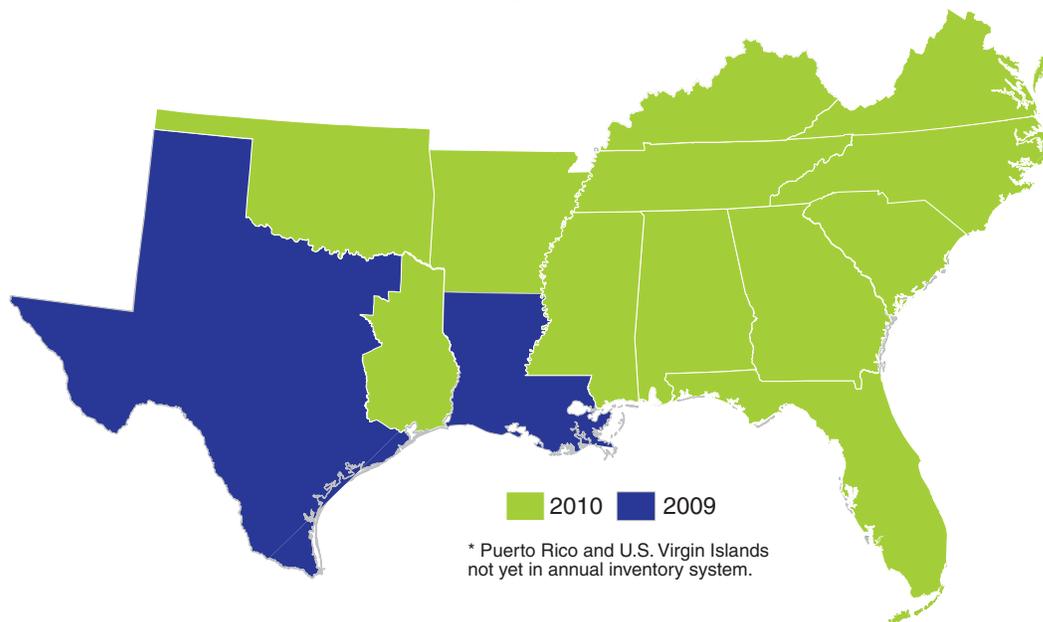
Climatic Data Center in Asheville, NC, as a mailroom clerk. Joe followed his soon-to-be better half Sharon to FIA in early 1984. In 2001, Joe worked closely with various contractors to prepare the Knoxville facility for the arrival of FIA. He has had a wide variety of duties in his FIA career, and has served on several fire details, including the fire that took the lives of 14 fellow firefighters on Storm King Mountain in 1994.

Tony Johnson, currently Section Head for Resource Use, got his start with the USDA Forest Service in 1978 as a Range Tech out west in Grand Mesa National Forest. Shortly thereafter he was offered a position in Florida doing Forest Survey (as FIA was known in those days). After more than 8 years in the field working in several southeastern states, Tony began work in the office as an Analyst under Ray Sheffield. Four years later he was promoted to Section Head for Resource Use following the untimely death of John Tansey. He spent the next 19 years building up the Resource Use section, working with, as he puts it - *...the best group of people you could ask to work with.*

All of our retirees have contributed greatly to the success of the FIA program, and we thank them for their service and wish them luck in all their future endeavors!

Current Status of FIA Data Posted

Most Recent FIA Data by State and Collection Year



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

FIA Employees Take Advantage of Extra-Curricular Opportunities

As you may know, the State of Texas has been in a severe drought situation since the beginning of 2011, and this summer had extreme wildfire activity due to this situation. It didn't help that the relative humidity percentages were coming in at record lows and the occasional thunderstorms were sweeping through the State causing lightning-strike fires. Texas declared that its fire season started on November 15, 2010, and since then nearly 4 million acres have burned.

Texas has been utilizing other State and Federal crews for assisting them in wildfire suppression. Several employees from the FIA unit have spent a great portion of the late summer in different locations in Texas assisting in this effort. Each fire detail was a minimum of 2 weeks with the option of extending an additional 7 to 14 days, which many of us took advantage. The details have provided these employees with experience in wildland fire suppression

We all held different responsibilities while on the detail, including: engine crews, bulldozer swampers, and support. The engine crews' mission was mostly mop-up oriented. This typically involves 3-person crews on type-6 engines (minimum tank capacity of 150 gallons of water), or crews of 4 to 5 people for the larger engines. Primarily, the engines were used for extinguishing debris piles and stump holes near the firelines after the fire had been contained; however, the engine crews were used in other capacities as well. Engines were used for protecting structures from approaching fires. Engines were also used in initial attack operations by extinguishing spots along the flanks as they popped up.

Another responsibility was to be placed on a bulldozer crew where we were classified as swampers for dozer operators. A swamper is really nothing more than another set of eyes for a dozer operator. Many times the operator has enough to deal with while running the equipment, and he might have missed something that needed attention, such as burning snags, spots, etc. The swamper paired with that operator would be able to make these observations while following behind him at a safe distance.

Lastly, we had others that served in the fire operations support department. People serving in these positions were responsible for shuttling incoming/outgoing crews to and from the airport, assigning new crews to duty locations, issuing equipment to new crews such as radios, cell phones, and vehicles, and shuttling supplies (water, equipment parts, etc.) to the different staging areas across the State.

There have been other details across the southeast that FIA employees have taken advantage of this year. Some of these details have been wildfire oriented, but others have been for other missions such as tornado damage assessments. These details have provided valuable experience that would not have been gained through our normal work routine, and they have given us a chance to experience a different aspect of forestry than what we are used to. Also, the details have enabled us to form relationships with other people from other State and Federal agencies across the country, which has proven to be invaluable.

*For more information,
please contact Ben Bingham
at 828-772-5878 or
jbbingham@fs.fed.us.*

FY2011 Research Publications Published Since September 2011

*To access an electronic copy of each
research publication, click on the
publication number.*

Conner, Roger C. 2011. South Carolina, 2010 forest inventory and analysis factsheet. e-Science Update SRS-041. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 4 p.

Hartsell, Andrew J. 2011. Alabama, 2010 forest inventory and analysis factsheet. e-Science Update SRS-042. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 4 p.

Oswalt, Sonja N.; Oswalt, Christopher M. 2011. Invasive plants found in Mississippi forests, 2009 forest inventory and analysis factsheet. e-Science Update SRS-040. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 5 p.

The Urban Forest Inventory in Tennessee

Trees in cities can contribute significantly to human health and environmental quality. Unfortunately, little is known about the urban forest resource in the State of Tennessee and what it contributes locally and regionally in terms of ecology, economy, and social well-being. In an effort to better understand the urban forest resource in the State of Tennessee and its value, the USDA Forest Service FIA and Community Forestry Programs, in partnership with USDA Forest Service research and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry, initiated a pilot study to sample trees within all urban areas across the State. Urban forest structure, functions, health, and values in Tennessee were analyzed using the i-Tree Eco (formerly known as Urban Forest Effects (UFORE)) model.

For more information, contact Chris Oswalt at 865-862-2068 or coswalt@fs.fed.us.

Results reveal urban areas in Tennessee have an estimated 284 million trees in urban areas

with canopies that cover 33.7 percent of the area. Most trees are found in forested areas (56 percent) with the most dominant species being yellow-poplar, chestnut oak, and white oak (ratings based on basal area). Hackberry, yellow-poplar, and flowering dogwood were the top three in terms of leaf area. Tennessee's urban forests currently store about 16.9 million tons of carbon valued at about \$350 million. In addition, these trees remove about 890,000 tons of carbon per year (\$18.4 million per year) and about 27,100 tons of pollution per year (\$203.9 million per year). Trees in urban Tennessee are estimated to reduce annual residential energy costs by \$66 million per year. The structural, or compensatory, value is estimated at \$79 billion. Information in this report can be used to advance the understanding and management of urban forests to improve human health and environmental quality in Tennessee. The report, being published by the Southern Research Station will be available in early 2012.

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	Aug-11	9-7	32
Arkansas	2010	Nov-10	10-1	87
Florida	2008	Oct-11	9-4	8
Georgia	2009	Sept-11	10-3	20
Kentucky	2010	Apr-11	7-2	66
Louisiana	2009	Oct-11	8-3	8
Mississippi	2009	Sept-11	9-4	34
North Carolina	2008	Sept-11	9-4	34
Oklahoma (east)	2010	Apr-11	8-2	88
Oklahoma (west)	2009	June-11	2-3	60
Puerto Rico	2011	Jan-11	5-1	75
South Carolina	2006	Nov-10	10-5	100
Tennessee	2009	Feb-11	9-2	84
Texas (east)	2008	July-11	9-4	33
Texas (west)	2004	July-11	1-8	22
U.S. Virgin Islands	2009	Aug-09	2-1	100
Virginia	2007	Dec-10	9-4	93

Information compiled August 31, 2011.

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

**Southern Research Station
Forest Inventory and Analysis
4700 Old Kingston Pike
Knoxville, TN 37919
865-862-2000**



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.

The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), is dedicated to the principle of multiple use management of the Nation's forest resources for sustained yields of wood, water, forage, wildlife, and recreation. Through forestry research, cooperation with the States and private forest owners, and management of the National Forests and National Grasslands, it strives—as directed by Congress—to provide increasingly greater service to a growing Nation.

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National and Southern FIA Web sites of Interest

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

National FIA database available at: <http://www.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/>