



The Inventory

An Update Concerning the SRS FIA Program



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SRS FIA Informational Update (June 2006)

One of the challenges with our current annual inventory structure is providing updated information on the status of the Southern Research Station Forest Inventory and Analysis (SRS FIA) Program while working in multiple States. *The Inventory* is one method to accomplish this objective. Another method used by the SRS FIA Program is conducting User Group Meetings at locations throughout the South. Previously, these sessions included an update on the status of data collection, reporting, staffing, data availability, etc. in addition to responding to participants questions. Information from the User Group Meetings for the past two years is available on the SRS FIA website (http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/program_information/index.shtml). These sessions are usually held during the summer months. We are beginning to plan and organize these sessions for 2006 and we would like your input on topics and issues that you would like to be discussed. Please send an email or call me (phone number and email listed below) with your ideas by June 30, 2006.

As always, if you have any other 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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FIA Surveys, Cycles, and Years...Confused Yet?

Did you ever wonder why the cycle number posted at FIA Database (FIADB) is different than the cycle number collect by the field crews? Maybe you noticed that sometimes the cycle number and/or the year in an FIA publication does not match the cycle number and/or year at FIADB? It can be downright frustrating. Well, we are the government and we are here to help! The Information Management Section will be methodically updating the cycle numbers at FIADB to match the corresponding survey numbers for each State in the South.

In the meantime, we have created a spreadsheet that provides the crosswalk between the actual survey number and year to the cycle number in the field collected data and to the cycle number and year of the data at FIADB. You can view and download the spreadsheet at http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/data_center/index.shtml. Look for the heading "SRS Survey History" at the middle of the page.

For more information, contact Jeff Turner at 865-862-2053 or jturner02@fs.fed.us.

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Bridging the Gap...Mississippi Inventory Underway

After much planning, coordinating, and collaboration among field crews, the 2006 inventory in Mississippi is well underway. This inventory is a blend of prism-plot remeasurement, fixed-plot establishment, and damage assessment intended to allow for the continuation of trend assessment from previous inventories, while ushering the State into the new annualized inventory schedule. Field crews descended on the State in January 2006 and have done a phenomenal job incorporating willing volunteers from the office who ventured into the woods for 2 weeks at a time as well as working with crews from across State and station boundaries. Currently, SRS FIA has collected all plots in 23 counties and some plots in 26 additional counties, or 40 percent of the entire State.

Perhaps one of the most interesting aspects of the 2006 Mississippi inventory is the addition of hurricane damage assessment protocols to quantify the impacts of Hurricane Katrina on the resource. Data collected using this protocol will be combined with data collected by the Mississippi Institute of Forest Inventory to produce estimates of timber resource damage and potential impacts to forest health and wildlife. Data entry and edit is in progress, and preliminary results are expected by mid to late summer.

For more information, contact Sonja N. Oswalt, soswalt@fs.fed.us or 865-862-2058.



Photo by Lyndell Davidson of Greg Smith while navigating through hurricane damaged trees in southern Mississippi

Current Data Posted at Mapmaker (FIADB)

State	% posted	GRM	Periodic/ annual	Data year
Alabama	80	No	A	2004
Arkansas	80	Yes	A	2004
Florida	100	Yes	P	1995
Georgia	100	No	A	2004
Kentucky	100	Yes*	A	2004
Louisiana	60	Yes	A	2003
Mississippi	100	Yes	P	1994

State	% posted	GRM	Periodic/ annual	Data year
North Carolina	100	Yes	P	2002
Oklahoma (east)	100	Yes	P	1993
South Carolina	100	Yes	A	2001
Tennessee	80	No	A	2003
Texas (east)	100	Yes	A	2003
Virginia	100	Yes	A	2001

GRM = Growth, Removals, and Mortality

* Panel 6 is the remeasure of the 1988 inventory.

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

New Analyst Reports to SRS FIA

Christopher M. Oswalt reported May 1, 2006 to the Knoxville, TN SRS FIA office. Chris will fill the Forester position that was vacated by Jeffery Turner and will be responsible for Kentucky and Tennessee reporting. Chris is currently finishing up a doctoral degree at The University of Tennessee in the Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries. The focus of Chris's research program is quantitative silviculture and forest stand dynamics. Specific interests include hardwood silviculture, hardwood growth simulation modeling and mixed species hardwood plantations. Chris has worked on numerous topics such as high-quality oak seedlings for afforestation and enrichment plantings, the impact of nonnative species on the structure and diversity of native woody regeneration following anthropogenic disturbance, developing silvicultural alternatives for the conservation of table mountain pine in the Southern Appalachians, constructing increment-taper models for hardwood species and developing multispecies hardwood admixtures for afforestation efforts that mimic natural patterns of stand dynamics.

Chris can be reached at coswalt@fs.fed.us or 865-862-2068.

New Tool to Allow Users to Query Exotic Plant Data on the Web

Our customers, internal and external, have expressed an interest in accessing exotic plant data. We have developed a new tool that will allow users to download exotic plant data and the corresponding inventory data currently posted on the Mapmaker website.

On the opening page users see a series of 4 tables labeled, "Trees", "Shrubs", "Vines", "Grasses", and "Ferns, Forbs/Herbs/Other Herbaceous." The far left column lists the State name and cycle. The top rows lists the exotic plant species collected in the South. The numbers in the table body are the number of subplots with a particular exotic species occurrence. The bottom row has an 'All States' link that allows users to create a downloadable plot list (see explanation below), regardless of State and county for that species.

Hyperlinks direct users to summary data. Clicking on a State directs users to a county (parish) listing with the page body containing the subplot count for a particular species occurrence. At this point, a user has two options: 1) Click the subplot count for a county to generate a downloadable HTML table; or 2) Click the total at the bottom for a downloadable HTML table of all counties with a particular species occurrence.

About the "Downloadable Subplot List Table."

The HTML tables contain the public plot ID or PID (a concatenation of State and county codes), State code, county code, plot number, cycle, subcycle, subplot, species, percent coverage code, and percent coverage (literal translation). Users of Internet Explorer can right click the table and export the data directly to Microsoft Excel®.

To try this tool, please visit <http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/exotics>.

This tool is still in the development phase so we welcome feedback and suggestions. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us: tridley@fs.fed.us (865-862-2083), cperry@fs.fed.us (865-862-2087), or slambert@fs.fed.us (862-862-2097).

Forest Inventory and Analysis Data Workshops

The Information Management Section is planning FIA data workshops across the region. The goal is to facilitate access to FIA data on the Web and to inform users of current FIA data request guidelines and privacy laws. Session topics will include:

Data Request Procedure

- Spatial Data Services
- Privacy Laws
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

FIA Data Mart: Download Files

- Snapshot_FIADB
- NIMS_FIADB
- RPA Summary DB (shapefiles)

Forest Inventory Mapmaker 2.1

- Standard Tables
- Custom Tables
- Create Maps

Timber Product Output (TPO)

- SRS TPO Reports
- National TPO Reports
- RPA TPO Tablemaker

SOLE: Southern Online Estimator

FIA Publications

- Hardcopy availability
- Electronic publications available on SRS Web site

Locations and Dates:

Knoxville, TN	July 19, 2006
Hot Springs, AR	August 1, 2006 (prior to SREF conference)
Auburn, AL	September 26 and/or 27, 2006 (after SE-SAF meeting)
Pinehurst, NC	January 2007 (Tentative, prior to AP-SAF meeting)

Registration and Instructions:

Each session will last about 6 hours and will be limited to 30 participants. A limited number of laptops will be provided and will be shared between 2-3 people depending on attendance. All meeting rooms will have wireless Internet access. Participants who have laptops are encouraged to bring them, but due to technical constraints only 10-12 laptops may run certain Web applications concurrently.

To register or to obtain information, please call Jeff Turner at 865-862-2053 or send an email with your name and phone number to jturner02@fs.fed.us.

Presentations

Rudis, Victor A. 2005. Characterizing forest edge-interior fragmentation using 0.6-ha ground-based samples with applications to forest resource assessments. The 7th FIA Annual Symposium: 2005 October 3-6, Portland, ME. Program and abstracts: 78. [<http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/symposium/current/pro/ProgramBooklet.pdf>]

Rudis, Victor A. 2006. Strategic monitoring of nonnative plant invasions with the Forest Inventory and Analysis program: East Texas and the South. In: Texas Invasive Plants Conference: program and abstracts; 2005 November 17-18; Austin, TX. Austin, TX: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center: 18. [http://www.texasinvasives.org/conference/conference_assets/TIPC_Program_05.pdf]

Rudis, Victor A. Nonnative plant invasions with the Southern Forest Inventory and Analysis Program. In: Ecology in the Era of Globalization, January 8-12, 2006; Merida, Mexico. Workshop 5: Monitoring exotic invasive plants in the forests of North America: towards a global framework.

FY2006 Research Publications (since March 1, 2006)

Bentley, J.W.; Lowe, L. 2006. Kentucky's timber industry—an assessment of timber product output and use, 2003. Resour. Bull. SRS-105. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 50 p.

Clatterbuck, W.K.; Smalley, G.W.; Turner, J.T. [and others]. 2006. Natural history and land use history of Cumberland plateau forests in Tennessee. Special Report No. 06-01. National Council for Air and Stream Improvement. Research Triangle Park, NC. 51 p.

Johnson, T.G.; Knight, M. 2006. South Carolina's timber industry—an assessment of timber product output and use, 2003. Resour. Bull. SRS-106. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 39 p.

Rudis, V.A. 2005. A knowledge base for FIA data uses. In: McRoberts, R. [and others]. Proceedings of the 5th annual Forest Inventory and Analysis symposium; 2003 November 18-20; New Orleans, LA. Gen. Tech. Rep. WO-69. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service: 209-214. [http://ncrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/gtr/gtr_wo069.pdf]

Rudis, V.A.; Gray, A.; McWilliams, W. [and others]. 2006. Regional monitoring of nonnative plant invasions with the Forest Inventory and Analysis program. In: McRoberts, R.E., and others, eds. Proceedings of the sixth annual FIA Symposium; 2004 September 21-24; Denver, CO. Gen. Tech. Rep. WO-70. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service: 49-64. [<http://ncrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/4244>]

SRS publications available online at: <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/>

Resource Bulletin Publications Online

All FIA resource bulletin publications published for the Southern United States from the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station (1963 to 1995), Southern Forest Experiment Station (1963 to 1997), and the Southern Research Station (1996 to present) have been posted online at the Southern Research Station Website. We are currently working on posting all FIA publications online for the entire Southern United States since FIA began collecting and reporting on forest inventories in the 1930s. We are planning to complete this project by Fall 2006.

To access these and other SRS publications, visit: <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/>

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FIA is a USDA Forest Service research work unit which collects, analyzes, and reports on data pertaining to our forestland 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://ncrs2.fs.fed.us/4801/fiadb/rpa_tpo/wc_rpa_tpo.ASP

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/>

The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 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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