

The Inventory

An Update Concerning the SRS FIA Program

Issue 6,
June 2007

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SRS FIA Informational Update (June 2007)

During the 1990s, various groups and individuals interested in the success and advancement of the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program met to discuss solutions on keeping FIA viable. The result of their deliberations was the development of the First and Second Blue Ribbon Panel Reports (Note: To access these reports visit: <http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/library/bus-org-documents/>). As a result of this effort and other activities within the U.S. Forest Service the *Strategic Plan for Forest Inventory and Monitoring* was developed in 1998 (<http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/library/bus-org-documents/docs/strategy.pdf>). This document outlined the structure and processes to implement the annual inventory system within the U.S.

It is now nine years later and the National FIA Program has not realized the goals of this strategic plan—the program still is not annualized in all 50 States (Oklahoma, Wyoming, Hawaii, New Mexico, Mississippi, and interior Alaska) and not fully funded to implement annual FIA in these States. Ideally, FIA would like to have the National FIA Program fully funded. But what happens if it is not fully funded? This question was addressed by the National FIA User Group when they met in December 2006; what would happen if FIA did not receive funding to be in all 50 States? This group began tackling the issue of the Core National FIA Program. In addition, the National FIA Program Managers began working on an implementation plan to determine what data we could collect at a minimum level in order to perform the Core National FIA Program work with a funding shortfall. The hope is that this will allow FIA to make informed decisions on the FIA Program.

Another alternative being considered is to conduct a variable-by-variable analysis and the cost involved with each variable. Due to the interconnectivity of FIA variables, this situation makes this alternative nearly impossible to implement. A third alternative is to identify the recipient of indicators and/or variables and request funding to support these activities. This solution generally relates to Phase 3 indicators but not exclusively.

The final solution will/may be a combination of all three and potentially other aspects. One implication of this solution is that regionally we would make decisions on what level implementation would occur in the South to meet the minimum requirements of the national program. Then regionally, we would adjust what variables will be collected at the regional level over and above the minimum national requirements.

Regardless of the approach taken, FIA needs to involve all of the users, partners, and stakeholders in the structuring of this approach. Stay tuned as this effort progresses and be prepared to provide comments and feedback on the implementation plan.

As always, 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

Bill Burkman
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Mississippi Inventory 85% Complete!

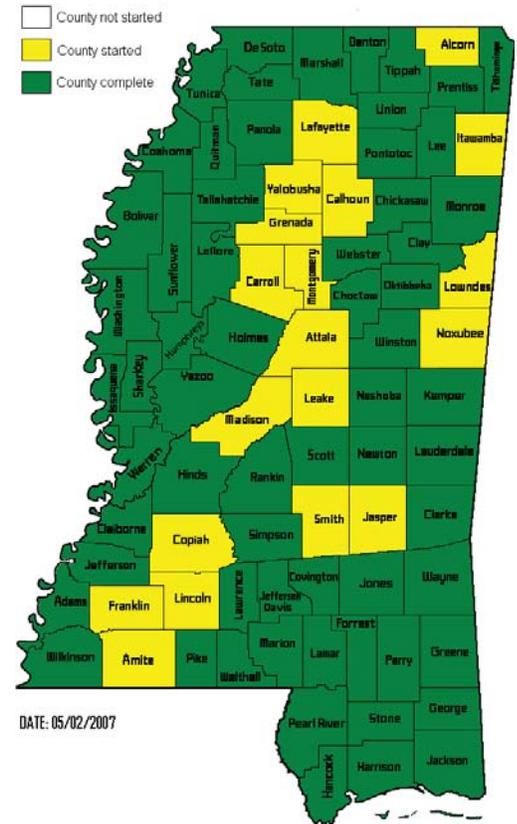
Data collection in Mississippi enters its second summer season, and the State is 85% complete. So far, crews have collected over 6,600 plots since November 2005. Preliminary glances at the data from the Delta and South FIA units in Mississippi suggest an overall increase in forested acreage in those units, particularly in the loblolly pine and bottomland hardwood forest-type groups.

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



Baldcypress in Mississippi. (Photo by John Simpson, USDA Forest Service)

In addition to progress in data collection, SRS FIA teamed up with the Mississippi Institute for Forest Inventory (Mississippi Forestry Commission) to create a bulletin describing Hurricane Katrina damage to the southern tier counties using data from both organizations. The bulletin is currently available online at: http://www.mfc.state.ms.us/pdf/mgt/katrin_impacts_gulf_Coast.pdf.



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	Nov-06	9-5	62
Arkansas	2005	Dec-06	9-4	47
Florida	2001	Mar-07	8-2	12
Georgia	2004	Aug-06	9-4	71
Kentucky	2005	Jun-06	6-3	89
Louisiana	2000	Nov-04	3-3	100
Mississippi	2005	Nov-05	8-6	85
North Carolina	2003	Mar-06	8-3	100
Oklahoma	NA	NA	NA	NA
Puerto Rico	2002	Jan-06	4-1	100
South Carolina	2006	Jan-07	10-4	33
Tennessee	2005	Apr-06	8-3	99
Texas (east)	2003	Aug-06	8-4	92
Texas (west)	2004	Apr-06	51-3	88
U.S. Virgin Islands	2004	Jul-04	1	100
Virginia	2002	Jun-06	8-3	72

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

NA = not applicable. Information compiled May 10, 2007.

Update on FIA's National Woodland Owner Survey

NATIONAL WOODLAND OWNER SURVEY (NWOS), 2002–2006

Data collection for the first five years of the NWOS has been completed! The data is currently being processed preliminary results will be distributed soon for review. Following finalization of the results, a 5-year comprehensive report will be published that will include State-level results. In addition, the NWOS is working on a revised Web site that will include a web-based tool for customized data retrievals.

THE NEXT NWOS

The NWOS is implemented on an annual basis, but periodically the NWOS pauses to assess progress and plot a path forward. This process enables the NWOS to comply with Office of Management and Budget requirements and to ensure on delivering the best products to meet the needs of the users of these data. Since the first five years of the NWOS is wrapping up, 2007 is an appropriate time to pause. The next iteration of the NWOS is planned for 2008, but it will be a double-intensification survey to ensure that the NWOS sampling intensity stays on target.

During the review process, information collected by the NWOS and determinations

on what questions should be kept, dropped, modified, or added will occur. One goal of the next iteration will be to open up a significant percentage of the survey for State-level questions. Later this year, you may be contacted to help assess and improve the NWOS.

THE FAMILY FOREST RESEARCH CENTER (FFRC)

In an effort to increase the utility of the NWOS and to further research related to family forest owners, the Northern Research Station FIA Program has initiated the FFRC. It is collocated with the University of Massachusetts at Amherst to allow for greater synergies between federal and nonfederal agencies and organizations. Although the FFRC is collocated with the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, the FFRC and NWOS are still federal projects serving national audiences.

The major projects with which the FFRC has been involved with to date are the Sustaining Family Forests Initiative (<http://sustainingfamilyforests.org/>) and the next generation of private forest landowners (www.pinchot.org/?module=uploads&func=download&fileId=42).

Questions or Comments

If you have any questions about the NWOS or the FFRC, please contact Brett Butler at bbutler01@fs.fed.us or 413-545-1387.

New Phase 1 Stratification Procedure

As part of the successful migration to the NIMS Compilation System, stratified estimation is now the standard for estimating forest attributes and significant cost savings can be realized by using automated methods for Phase 1 stratification. SRS FIA adopted a four-class model (forest, forest-edge, nonforest, and nonforest edge), based on the National Land Cover Database (NLCD), for the stratification process. Through collaboration of the Methods and Techniques section, the Information Management section, and the Resource Analysis section, automated techniques for Phase 1 stratification were developed and implemented. The automation is expected to save over 1,000 person hours per year and improve SRS FIA's ability to provide accurate and timely estimates of forest attributes.

For additional information on Stratified Estimation and NLCD, see the following:

Avery, T.E.; Burkhart, H.E. 1994. Forest measurements. 4th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill. 408 p.

Bechtold, William A.; Patterson, Paul L. Editors. 2005. The enhanced forest inventory and analysis program – national sampling design and estimation procedures. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS–80. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 85 p.

U.S. Geological Survey. 2007. National Land Cover Database 2001. <http://www.mrlc.gov/>. [Date accessed: May 4].

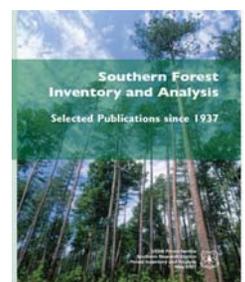
For more information contact John Coulston at 865-862-2008 or jcoulston@fs.fed.us.

SRS FIA Publications Available on a CD Set

If you would like a copy please send your mailing address to Carol Perry at cperry@fs.fed.us.

From the 1930s until the 1980s, the primary means to access SRS FIA data was through various publications. Many of these early publications are now only available from university libraries or photocopies of the original documents. Over the last 2 years SRS FIA has scanned in most SRS FIA publications into a .pdf format. SRS FIA has organized these publications by State on a 4 CD set and can distribute

the CD set to interested individuals. The set is approximately 90% complete and SRS FIA is currently scanning the remaining publications. The updated set should be available fall 2007.



FY2007 Research Publications Published Since March 1, 2007

Jacobs, Dennis M. 2007. Forest inventory, catastrophic events and historic geospatial assessments in the South. In: Proceedings of the ASPRS 2007 annual conference—identifying geospatial solutions. [CD-ROM]. pdf 28. Bethesda, MD: American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing.

Roesch, F.A. 2007. Compatible estimators of the components of change for a rotating panel forest inventory design. *Forest Science*. 53(1): 50–61.

Salajanu, Dumitru; Jacobs, Dennis M. 2007. Accuracy assessment of biomass and forested area classifications from MODIS, Landsat TM satellite imagery and forest inventory plot data. In: Proceedings of the ASPRS 2007 annual conference—identifying geospatial solutions. [CD-ROM]. pdf 64. Bethesda, MD: American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing.

Current Data Posted to Mapmaker (FIADB)

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

State	FIADB cycle	Survey	Subcycle	% posted	GRM	Periodic annual	Data year
AL	8	8	(1-5)	100	Yes	A	2005
AR	8	8	(1-5)	100	Yes	A	2005
FL	8	8	3,4,5	60	Yes	A	2005
GA	8	8	(1-7)	100	Yes	A	2004
KY	5	5	(1-6)	100	Yes ^a	A	2004
LA	7	7	(1-5)	100	Yes	A	2005
MS	1	7	NA	100	Yes	P	1994
NC	8	8	1,2,5	60	Yes	A	2005
OK (east)	1	6	NA	100	Yes	P	1993
SC	9	9	1,2,4,5	80	Yes	A	2005
TN	7	7	(1-5)	100	Yes	A	2004
TX (east)	8	8	(1-5) ^b	60	Yes	A	2006
VA	8	8	(1-5) ^b	60	Yes	A	2005

GRM = growth, removals, and mortality.

NA = not applicable.

^a Subcycle 6 is the remeasure of the 1988 inventory.

^b Annual moving average, three subcycles from cycle 8 combined with cycle 7.

National PDR Effort

The FIA Mobile Integrated Data Acquisition System (MIDAS) task team was formed in February 2007 to develop a data entry program that will be used by all regions to collect both national and regional data. The team is comprised of the primary data entry developers from the four regions, along with additional support provided by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Team members are: Harvey Berenberg (UNLV), Ervin Czimskey (UNLV), Kelly Peterson (SRS FIA), Angie Rowe (SRS FIA), Mark Rubey (RMRS FIA), Jay Solomakos (NRS FIA), and Chuck Veneklase (PNW FIA). Each regional programmer has developed and maintains their current regional data entry system, while other members bring software development and project management expertise. This diverse set of skills and experiences will be leveraged to produce a robust national system. The team has already held three face-to-face meetings in separate regions to foster open communications and a shared national vision. The MIDAS system will

be integrated into the overall FIA information management structure.



Front row (left to right): Jay Solomakos (NRS), Ervin Czimskey (UNLV) and Chuck Veneklase (PNW). Back row (left to right): Kelly Peterson (SRS), Mark Rubey (RMRS), Harvey Berenberg (UNLV) and Angie Rowe (SRS).

For more information, contact Angie Rowe at 865-862-2052 or krowe@fs.fed.us

Southern Research Station
Forest Inventory and Analysis
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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/>