

# The Inventory

Issue 30  
June 2013

**Inside this issue:**

<b>Vietnam Agency Officials Visit Forest Inventory and Analysis</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Tree Planting in the United States</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>FY2013 Research Publications Published Since March 2013</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Status of Current Field Inventories</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Current Status of FIA Data Posted</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>National and Southern FIA Web sites of Interest</b>	<b>6</b>

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

## An Update Concerning the SRS FIA Program

### *SRS FIA Information Update*

We are entering a period of extreme budget uncertainty and fluctuation. I am sure that you have heard the terms of sequester and furlough in the past few months. The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program is not immune to these effects of budget declines. As such, some tough decisions will need to be made in the next 6 months or so as we are required to balance our budget.

What will be done in the face of uncertain budget futures?

- Many (if not all) Southern Research Station (SRS) FIA hiring decisions will be delayed or postponed. In the last year and half, seven individuals have retired from SRS FIA and we have only added three individuals. With the three additions, the positions have remained vacant for several months before the new individual reported, increasing the cost savings
- SRS FIA has reduced our operating costs wherever possible. Since 2010, our travel budget has been reduced by 30 percent for a savings of about \$200,000. We will continue to look for other opportunities to reduce our operating costs although out of an approximate \$14 million annual budget the impact of these cost savings are minimal.
- In any year, approximately 50 percent of our total costs (both direct and indirect) are for field data collection. We have realized some savings in the past as we have moved to the remeasurement of fixed radius plots, which has increased plot production levels on a per-crew basis. There may not be any more cost savings in the data collection with a funded 7-year plot inventory cycle. In order to reduce plot costs further, we may have to move from a funded 7-year plot inventory cycle to a funded 10-year plot inventory cycle. We may also want to entertain more single person crews although the safety aspects of working alone need to be identified and resolved.

This last item is not an easy decision. SRS FIA and our State partners have worked hard to make sure our data collection, posting, and reporting is on or near schedule. It would be unfortunate if a funded 10-year inventory cycle had to be implemented as early as fiscal year 2014. I will try keep you posted on this situation.

As always, if you have any technical questions regarding FIA, please submit those questions to Charlene Walker ([cwalker@fs.fed.us](mailto: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*  
SRS FIA Program Manager  
[bburkman@fs.fed.us](mailto:bburkman@fs.fed.us)  
865-862-2073

## *Vietnam Agency Officials Visit Forest Inventory and Analysis*

Ten agency officials from the Vietnam Administration of Forests (VNFOREST), Forest Protection Department, and Forest Inventory and Planning Institute (FIPI) visited the Southern Research Station's Forest Inventory and Analysis (SRS FIA) unit in Knoxville, Tennessee and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) offices in Washington, D.C. during the week of April 29 to May 5. The group was on a Study Tour to Strengthen National Forest Inventory Management, sponsored by SilvaCarbon, a flagship program that supports the United States government's strategy for fast start financing for countries participating in reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and enhancing forest carbon stocks (REDD+) in developing countries.

The officials wanted to:

- Understand how United States national forest inventory objectives are based on resource management information needs, and how these information needs guide inventory design, data collection, information processing, and results dissemination.
- See how data flows through forest inventory systems and multiple feedback loops that provide data quality assurances and control.
- Learn about the legislative foundations, funding mechanisms and administrative organization of the United States national forest inventory.
- Discuss how the information gathered is disseminated to stakeholders and how value is added through those varied products and outlets.

The group met with FIA Program Manager Bill Burkman and his unit in Knoxville for an overview of the SRS FIA organization, and to learn

about the Timber Product Output program and timber utilization studies, public data access through online forest inventory reporting, partnerships, and how external stakeholders use FIA data. The trip also included a visit to the University of Tennessee Arboretum in Oak Ridge for a field plot demo to view plot designs and to learn about pre-field activities, plot considerations and ownership, how data is collected, and how field and quality control is handled.

The SilvaCarbon-Vietnam Study Tour continued in Washington, D.C. with meetings with the National Forest Inventory Washington Office staff. Participants met with Brad Smith in Research and Development to learn more about the national and international context of the USFS forest inventory system. FIPI Director General Mr. Nguyen Nghia Bien and his staff met with Dana Moore of the USFS International Programs to discuss next steps for SilvaCarbon activities in Vietnam. General Mr. Vo Dai Hai, VNFOREST Deputy Director; Dr. Pham Manh Cuong, Deputy Director for the Department of Science, Technology, and International Cooperation; and other VNFOREST staff met with Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) staff at the World Bank to discuss progress on Vietnam's REDD+ strategy. They also met the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Global Climate Change staff to discuss ongoing cooperation between USAID and Vietnam.



Dr. Pham Manh Cuong, Deputy Director for the Department of Science, Technology, and International Cooperation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Dr. Thomas Brandeis, Supervisory Research Forester with the U.S. Forest Service, Southern Research Station, Forest Inventory and Analysis.

The Study Tour concluded with the signing of a Letter of Intent between USFS and VNFOREST on cooperation of forestry issues. USFS Chief Thomas Tidwell signed the Letter of Intent with VNFOREST Deputy Director General Mr. Vo Dai Hai. Areas for cooperation include fire management, prevention, and control, REDD+, Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS), combating illegal timber logging, wildlife hunting, and associated trade, watershed and coastal protection for ecosystem services, and capacity building at all levels for improved field operations.

*For more information, contact Thomas Brandeis at 865-862-2030 or [tjbrandeis@fs.fed.us](mailto:tjbrandeis@fs.fed.us).*

**Tree Planting in the United States**

Since 1952, tree planting in the U.S. was reported annually by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, State and Private Forestry (S&PF) in the publication “*Tree Planters’ Notes*”. In 2000, this reporting was discontinued. Through popular demand, tree planting data is once again being collected.

Forest nursery production data was produced through Forest Inventory and Analysis and S&PF in collaboration with Auburn University, Purdue University, and University of Idaho. Each university solicited confidential surveys to forest and conservation nurseries to report shippable seedlings for their respective regions of the United States. A report will be published through the USDA “*Tree Planters’ Notes*” later this year.

Fortunately, historic data was available for the South and the gap has been populated from 2000 to 2012. Figure 1 shows the influence of tree planting incentives from the Farm Bill – Soil Bank Program (late 1950s to early 1960s) and the recent Conservation Reserve Program. While tree planting has declined over the last decade, the updated tree planting data indicate an upswing since the low in 2010.

Figure 2 compares tree planting in the four U.S. regions during the 2012 planting season. Of the total area planted in the U.S., 74 percent was in the South, 19 percent in the West, 5 percent in the North, and 1 percent in the Intermountain regions.

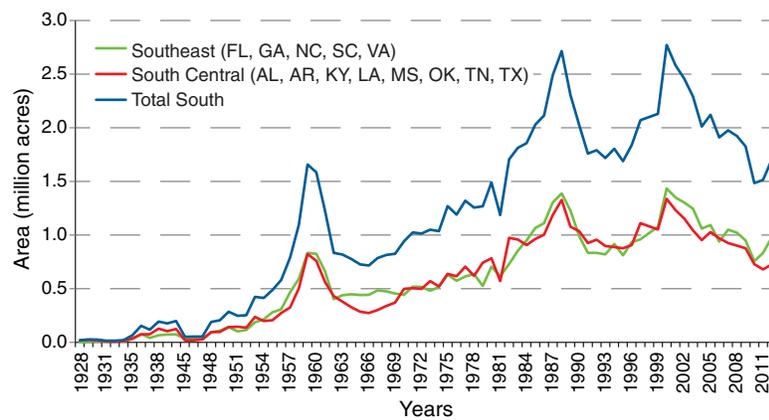


Figure 1—Acres planted in the South, 1928–2012.

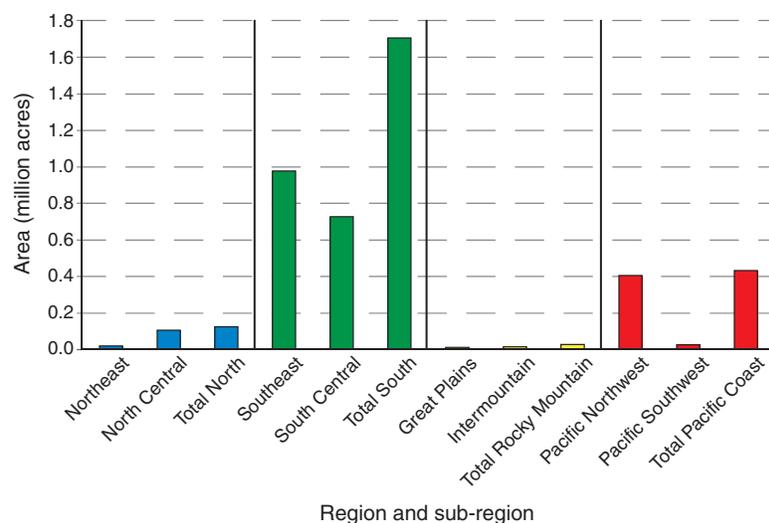


Figure 2—Acres planted by region and sub-region in the United States, 2012.

For more information, contact Richard Harper at 864-656-5153 or [raharper@fs.fed.us](mailto:raharper@fs.fed.us).

***FY2013 Research  
Publications Published  
Since March 2013***

- Brandeis, T.J.; Turner, J.A. 2013. Puerto Rico's forests, 2009. Resour. Bull. SRS-191. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 85 p.
- Bentley, J.W.; Steppleton, C.D. 2013. Southern pulpwood production, 2011. Resour. Bull. SRS-194. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 38 p.
- Connor, K.F.; Schaefer, G.M.; Donahoo, J.B. [and others]. 2013. *Lindera melissifolia* seed bank study in a lower Mississippi alluvial valley bottomland forest. *Seed Technology*. 34(2): 163-172.
- Cooper, J.A. 2013. Oklahoma, 2011—forest inventory and analysis factsheet. e-Science Update SRS-066. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 5 p.
- Cordell, H.K.; Betz, C.J.; Zarnoch, S.J. 2013. Recreation and protected land resources in the United States: a technical document supporting the Forest Service 2010 RPA Assessment. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-169. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 198 p.
- Hartsell, A.J. 2013. Alabama, 2012—forest inventory and analysis factsheet. e-Science Update SRS-067. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 5 p.
- Hartsell, A.J.; Cooper, J.A. 2013. Alabama's forests, 2010. Resour. Bull. SRS-193. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 87 p.
- Hatcher, J., Jr.; J; Straka, T.; Harper, R; Adams, T. 2012. Shifting private timberland ownerships in South Carolina: implications for management intensity. *Open Journal of Forestry*. 2: 279-285.
- Keyser, T.L.; Zarnoch, S.J. 2012. Thinning, age, and site quality influence live tree carbon stocks in upland hardwood forests of the southern Appalachians. *Forest Science*. 58(5): 407-418.
- Randolph, K.; Bechtold, W.A.; Morin, R.S.; Zarnoch, S.J. 2012. Chapter 16. Evaluating elevated levels of crown dieback among northern white-cedar (*Thuja occidentalis* L.) trees in Maine and Michigan: a summary of evaluation monitoring. In: Potter, K.M.; Conkling, B.L., eds. *Forest health monitoring: 2009 national technical report*. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-167. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 252 p.

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

### Status of Current Field Inventories

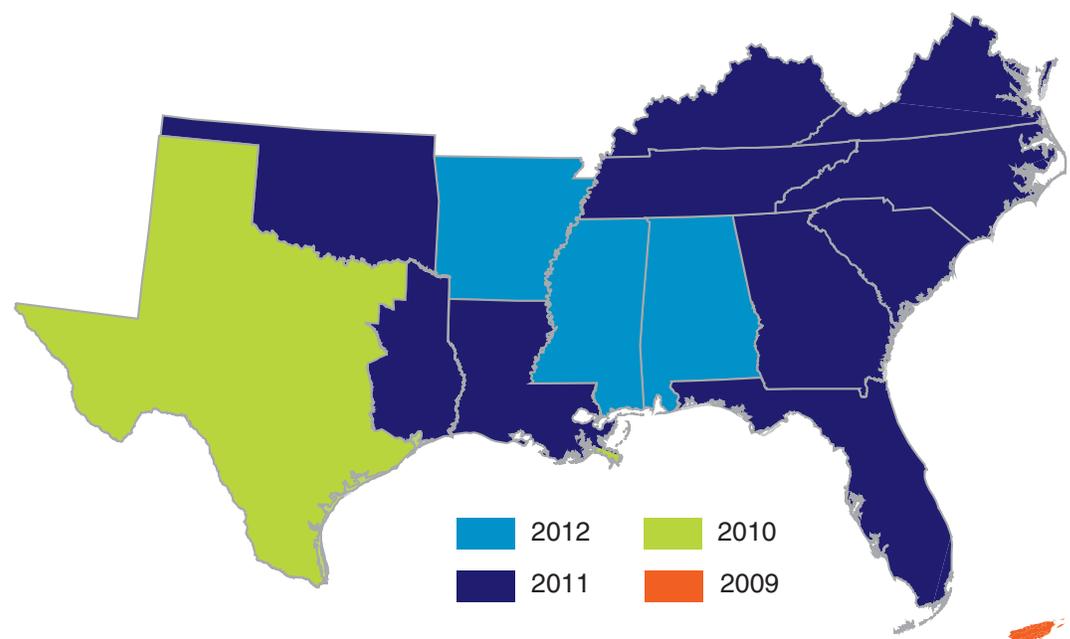
State	Cycle start date	Subcycle start date	Cycle and subcycle of current inventory	Percent of current subcycle collection completed
Alabama	2012	June-12	10-2013	81
Arkansas	2010	Dec-12	10-2013	36
Florida	2008	Jan-13	9-2012	23
Georgia	2009	Oct-12	10-2013	53
Kentucky	2010	Apr-12	7-2012	84
Louisiana	2009	Mar-13	8-2013	40
Mississippi	2009	May-12	9-2013	72
North Carolina	2008	Oct-12	9-2013	81
Oklahoma (east)	2010	Feb-13	8-2013	46
Oklahoma (west)	2009	June-12	2-2012	100
Puerto Rico	2011	Jan-11	5-2012	73
South Carolina	2012	Jan-13	11-2013	26
Tennessee	2009	Feb-12	9-2012	93
Texas (east)	2008	Oct-12	9-2013	49
Texas (west)	2004	July-11	1-2011	48
U.S. Virgin Islands	2009	Aug-09	2-2009	100
Virginia	2012	Nov-12	10-2013	18

Information compiled May 28, 2013.

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

### 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](mailto:aconner@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.

The USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

---

### *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/>