

# The Inventory

## An Update Concerning the SRS FIA Program

Issue 13,

March 2009

### Inside this issue:

Current Status of FIA Data Posted to Mapmaker	2
Oklahoma Inventory is 100% Complete	2
FY2009 Research Publications Published Since December 2008	3
Status of Current Field Inventories	3
Southern Region FIA Summary	4
Welcome to Tom Brandeis, New Resource Analysis Section Head	4
National and Southern FIA Websites of Interest	5

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

I just returned from the National Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Users Group Meeting and Biometrics Working Group Meeting and the discussions from both sessions were very interesting. Representatives from forest industry, universities, State forestry organizations, and some nongovernmental organizations were present in addition to various FIA staff from across the country. The sessions were held consecutively so most participants attended both meetings.

The major topics of discussion centered around two broad topics—biomass/bioenergy and carbon accounting/climate change. In most discussions, the thought involved the following question, *How can FIA contribute information and data to inventory and monitor these prominent issues?* Although not directly stated, there was never the comment on whether FIA should be involved with these issues. It was assumed that FIA would have some role in this effort. Of course some of the data needs will have to be derived from phase 3 data in addition to phase 2 data. The SRS FIA Program needs to ensure that our phase 3 data are at the same quality level as our phase 2 data.

The other aspect of the discussions at these meetings not directly related to these two issues dealt with consistency and comparability of FIA data through time and across the United States and the transparency of our processes. Although FIA has made great strides in the consistency arena, there is still a lot of room for improvement. I believe that the transparency of our processes is the area for greatest improvement. This idea of transparency relates not only to our field data collection procedures, but to documentation of our data processing and compilation procedures to the various algorithms used to summarize and present output. One major topic related to the latter is the use of standard, consistent volume equations throughout FIA that are based on citable publications and documents. (Interpretation—*No black box systems: data in and information out with no idea of what went on in the black box.*) As I stated earlier, FIA has a long way to go with transparency of our system; this is where we will be placing our efforts in the near future.

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

State	Cycle	Periodic/ annual	Date year
Alabama	9	A	2007
Arkansas	9	A	2007
Florida	8	A	2006
Georgia	9	A	2007
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	2007

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

### ***Oklahoma Inventory is 100% Complete!***

*For more information, please  
contact Kathy Tillman at  
kmtillman@fs.fed.us or  
936-569-7981, ext. 4002.*

At the end of January, the seventh inventory of eastern Oklahoma is 100% complete. The inventory that began October 1, 2007 was completed on January 21, 2009. This inventory effort was completed by 37 federal and State foresters from the southern region. These

individuals had to endure many hardships from extreme weather events to extended periods of travel away from their home. These federal and State foresters performed the inventory safely and professionally. Thanks to all for your contribution to this inventory.

***FY2009 Research  
Publications  
Published Since  
December 2008***

**Bentley, James W.; Johnson, Tony G.** 2008. Alabama harvest and utilization study, 2008. Resour. Bull. SRS-141. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 24 p.

**Bentley, James W.; Johnson, Tony G.** 2008. South Carolina harvest and utilization study, 2006. Resour. Bull. SRS-140. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 24 p.

**Coulston, John.** 2008. Forest inventory and stratified estimation: a cautionary note. Res. Note SRS-16. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 6 p.

**Oswalt, Christopher M.; Turner, Jeffery A.** 2009. Status of hardwood forest resources in the Appalachian Region including estimates of growth and removals. Resour. Bull. SRS-142. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 16 p.

**Randolph, KaDonna C.; Moser, W. Keith.** 2009. Tree crown condition in Missouri, 2000-2003. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-113. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 11 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	Oct-08	9-7	34
Arkansas	2005	Oct-08	9-1	29
Florida	2008	Oct-08	9-3	34
Georgia	2004	Jul-08	9-1	49
Kentucky	2005	Oct-08	6-5	20
Louisiana	2000	Nov-04	3-3	100
Mississippi	2008	Oct-08	9-1	42
North Carolina	2008	Dec-08	9-1	12
Oklahoma	2007	Oct-07	7-6	100
Puerto Rico	2006	Apr-07	4-3	74
South Carolina	2006	Jan-09	10-1	10
Tennessee	2005	Jan-09	8-1	16
Texas (east)	2008	Aug-08	9-1	46
Texas (west)	2004	Feb-08	51-5	70
U.S. Virgin Islands	2004	Jul-04	1	100
Virginia	2007	Jul-08	9-1	83

Information compiled February 23, 2009.

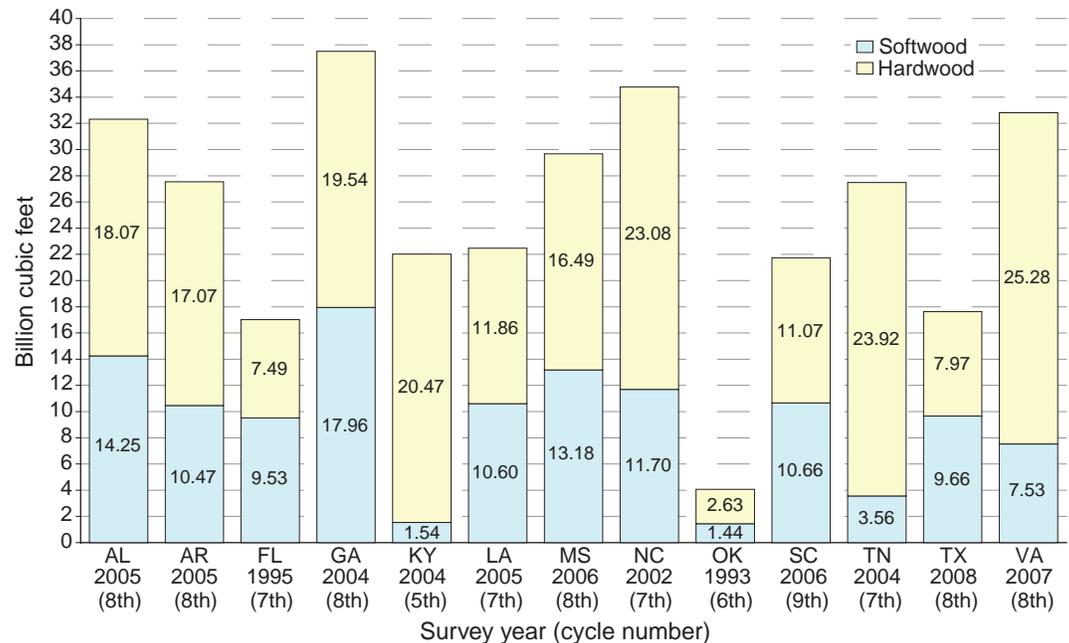
For more information, please contact Dale Trenda at [dtrenda@fs.fed.us](mailto:dtrenda@fs.fed.us) or 865-862-2039.

## Southern Region FIA Summary

The Inventory brings specific highlights of projects and accomplishments to the readers, but rarely shows the combined results for all 13 States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This is the first in a series of SRS FIA data summaries highlighting some aspect or comparison for the entire Southern United States.

This issue features the chart below that summarizes the standing inventory volume on forest land, by softwood and hardwood, for each State by the latest full cycle of data.

SRS FIA Volume of All Live Trees on Forest Land for the Latest Complete Surveys (13 States)<sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup> SRS FIA data includes inventories in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands as follows:  
 Puerto Rico 2003 (3rd) = 1.35 billion cubic feet (hardwood only)  
 U.S. Virgin Islands 2004 (1st) = 0.005 billion cubic feet (hardwood only).

For more information please contact Richard Harper at 865-862-2059 or [raharper@fs.fed.us](mailto:raharper@fs.fed.us) or Helen Beresford at [hberesford@fs.fed.us](mailto:hberesford@fs.fed.us), or 865-862-2091.

## Welcome to Tom Brandeis, New Resource Analysis Section Head

As of Monday March, 16, 2009, Tom Brandeis is the new lead for the Resource Analysis Section, formerly held by the recently retired Ray Sheffield. Tom started with SRS FIA in 2003 as a Research Forester within the Resource Analysis Section here in Knoxville. He was and will continue as the lead analyst for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands in his new position. Tom

has a Ph.D. from Oregon State University in Silviculture. He has published numerous articles on Tropical Forestry and Ecology using FIA data. His experience in Caribbean forests and forest inventory has led to numerous details with the Food and Agricultural Organization in Rome, Italy.

You can contact Tom at: 865-862-2030 or [tjbrandeis@fs.fed.us](mailto:tjbrandeis@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.

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### *National and Southern FIA Websites of Interest*

National FIA website: <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/php/tpo2/tpo.php>

National Woodland Owner Survey website: <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/>