

The Inventory

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An Update Concerning the SRS FIA Program

SRS FIA Information Update

The fiscal year (FY) 2016 President's budget has been released. The news for Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) is very good—an increase of \$13 million over the FY15 FIA budget (\$70 million)! Just a couple of points regarding this increase. First, the entire FIA budget is funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USDA FS) Research and Development budget line-item unlike in previous years (most recently FY13) when some USDA FS State and Private Forestry funding was directed towards FIA. Second, the total USDA FS Research and Development funding is down \$4 million in FY16 as compared to FY15. The net effect of the FIA increase and the USDA Research and Development decrease is a total decrease \$17 million in USDA Research and Development budget.

So if this increase occurs, what is the plan? First, ensure that the base FIA program is funded on a 7-year cycle in the eastern U.S. and a 10-year cycle in the western U.S. Second, implement a FIA inventory in interior Alaska. The inventory for interior Alaska will be on a longer cycle and have a lower plot density than in the lower 48 States. Also, the interior Alaska inventory will function on “periodic” structure with sampling by major watershed and utilize remote sensing tools to add value to the forest information and “bridge the gap” with the lower plot density. Third, expand and enhance both the resource use timber products output and the National Woodland Owners Survey. Fourth, improve forest carbon inventory estimates. This will include implementing down-woody materials and understory vegetation estimates procedures to a subset of Phase 2 plots—most likely 1/8 to 1/4 of the Phase 2 plots. And finally, begin urban FIA inventories in some cities. Is this possible with a \$13 million increase? I believe so and if not we can make a tremendous amount of progress towards these objectives.

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.

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The Forest Inventory and Analysis Database User Guide is Updated

The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) research program has been in existence since mandated by Congress in 1928. FIA's primary objective is to determine the extent, condition, volume, growth, and use of trees on the nation's forest land. Before 1999, all inventories were conducted on a periodic basis. The passage of the 1998 Farm Bill requires FIA to collect data annually on plots within each State. Annual inventories use a common plot design and common data collection procedures nationwide, resulting in greater consistency among FIA work units than earlier inventories.

The Forest Inventory and Analysis Database (FIADB) describe a standard format in which data can be obtained. The following link http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/library/database-documentation/current/ver6.0/FIADB%20User%20Guide%20P2_6-0-1_final.pdf provides the database description and users guide of the FIADB. This particular document,

version 6.0.1, has undergone some updates and reorganization since the last version. The addition of hypertext links will allow users to quickly access particular chapters/sections/attributes. Further updates, such as the reorganization of chapters by topics, will allow users to easily print only the sections that are of interest. For each chapter and appendix, the header information details when the chapter or appendix was last modified. In addition, the page numbering for each chapter and appendix is independent from other chapters and appendices. Therefore, for future versions, if a particular chapter or appendix has not been modified, it will not need to be printed¹.

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

¹ O'Connell, B.M.; LaPoint, E.B.; Turner, J.A. [and others]. The forest inventory and analysis database: database description and user guide version 6.0.1 for Phase 2. U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. 748 p. Available online: <http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/library/database-documentation/>.

A New National Center

The Southern Research Station Forest Inventory and Analysis Program has established a national center for forest products survey and analytics in Blacksburg, VA. John Coulston reports to Blacksburg on April 5th to lead this effort. This center will focus on the survey design and analysis of both traditional timber products and

nontimber forest products. Per the 2014 Farm Bill, the first order of business is to develop approaches to implement an annual timber products output survey design. This work will be accomplished by partnering with regional timber products output groups, clients, and stakeholders.

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

The Future of State Reports

The Southern Research Station Forest Inventory and Inventory (SRS FIA) Analysis group has assigned a team to develop a streamlined approach for 5-year State analytical reports. The team's goal is to shorten the time from data posting to publication by standardizing much of the content and redistributing material from 5-year reports to other outlets, producing reports more tightly focused on the information needed by our audience. This will also help us address the constraints of a shrinking editorial staff.

is part of a larger move towards product line development that would include interactive online reports (business intelligence software) and issue-driven factsheets, journal publications, resource bulletins, and general technical reports.

The broader impetus is to encourage timely reporting while opening up time for analysts to produce additional material of interest and use to partners, academia, research, managers, and laypeople. The reengineering of State reports

SRS FIA foresees the State reports becoming more relevant and useful as production time decreases. Additionally, analysts will now be able to more completely address specific issues of interest to our partners through other avenues in a more timely fashion rather than trying to "fit it all in" in one 5-year report. Standard content like area, volume, growth, removals, mortality, and basic forest health will continue to appear in the reports.

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

Status of Current Field Inventories

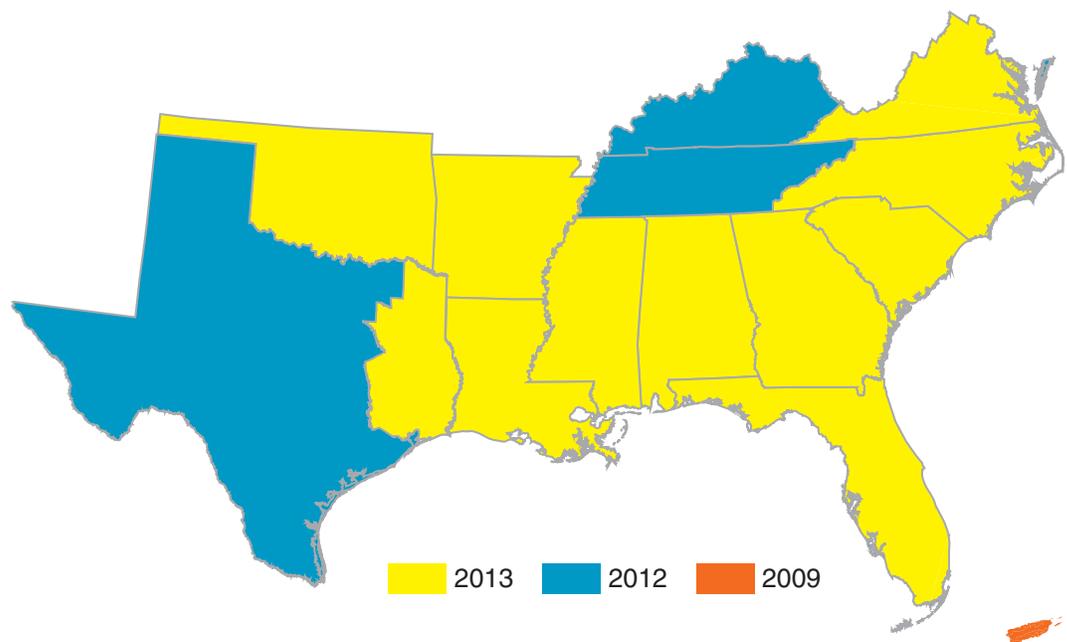
State	Cycle start date	Subcycle start date	Cycle and inventory year of current inventory	Percent of current subcycle collection completed
Alabama	2012	Sept-14	10-2015	40
Arkansas	2010	Jan-15	10-2014	18
Florida	2014	Feb-14	10-2014	89
Georgia	2015	Jan-15	11-2015	3
Kentucky	2010	June-13	7-2013	97
Louisiana	2009	Feb-14	8-2014	77
Mississippi	2009	Aug-14	9-2015	41
North Carolina	2008	Oct-14	9-2015	38
Oklahoma (east)	2015	Jan-15	9-2015	12
Oklahoma (west)	2009	Jan-15	2-2015	0
Puerto Rico	2014	Apr-14	5-2014	94
South Carolina	2012	Jan-15	11-2015	11
Tennessee	2009	Nov-14	9-2014	12
Texas (east)	2013	Dec-14	10-2015	17
Texas (west)	2015	Jan-15	2-2014	4
U.S. Virgin Islands	2014	Aug-14	3-2014	100
Virginia	2012	June-14	10-2014	53

Information compiled March 9, 2015.

For more information, contact Dale Trenda at 865-862-2039 or 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.

Forest Inventory and Analysis National Core Field Guide Volume I: Field Data Collection Procedures for Phase 2 Plots, SRS Version 6.11

Version 6.1 of the FIA field methods guide was released October 2014. It describes the current set of nationally consistent core field procedures used by all FIA units for projects which begin after the date of release. This version of the field guide covers all core and core optional measurements collected on Phase 2 plots (the standard base FIA sample grid, each sample location represents approximately 6,000 acres). Please see the change information in the front of the document for a summary of the changes from version 6.0 to version 6.1.

SRS Version 6.11 is a December 2014 revision to the national Version 6.1 guide. The December 9, 2014 update to SRS Version 6.11 added species specific to west Texas. Also, SRS Regional Supplement A. Cull and Tree

Grading Procedures and Tables, and Supplement B. Miscellaneous Tables were added to the appendices.

This document also describes additional regional standards, methods and definitions for the southern FIA unit. This serves to enhance the National CORE, not change it. All regional items and clarifying text are shaded in the same manner as this paragraph. Variables or codes not collected in the field by the Southern Research Station will appear as light gray text when printed (example text).

The following link will access Version 6.11 of the FIA field methods guide on the Forest Inventory and Analysis Southern Research Station Data Acquisition Section website: http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/data_acquisition/index.shtml.

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

FY2015 Research Publications Published since December 2014

- Brandeis, T.J.** 2015. Forests of Georgia, 2013. Resource Update FS-38. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 4 p.
- Desprez, J.; Iannone III, B.V.; Yang, P. [and others].** 2014. Northward migration under a changing climate: a case study of blackgum (*Nyssa sylvatica*). Climatic Change. 126(1-2): 151-162.
- Hart, J.L.; Oswalt, C.M.; Turberville, C.M.** 2014. Population dynamics of sugar maple through the southern portion of its range: implications for range migration. Botany. 92: 563-569.
- Oswalt, C.M.; Brandeis, C.; Cooper, J.A. [and others].** 2014. Kentucky's forests, 2009. Resour. Bull. SRS-201. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 92 p.
- Oswalt, C.M.; Woodall, C.W.; Brooks, H.W.** 2015. Is the footprint of longleaf pine in the southeastern United States still shrinking? In: Proceedings of the 17th biennial southern silvicultural research conference. e-Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-203. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 503-504.
- Oswalt, C.M.; Fei, S.; Qinfeng, G. [and others].** 2015. A subcontinental view of forest plant invasions. NeoBiota. 24: 49-54.
- Reichert, B.L.; Jean-Philippe, S.R.; Oswalt, C.M. [and others].** 2015. Woody vegetation and soil characteristics of residential forest patches and open spaces along an urban-to-rural gradient. Open Journal of Forestry. 5: 90-104.
- Rose, A.K.** 2015. Forests of South Carolina, 2013. Resource Update FS-36. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 4 p.
- Rose, A.K.** 2015. Forests of Virginia, 2013. Resource Update FS-37. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 4 p.

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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.

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/>