

# The Inventory

Issue 7,  
September 2007

Inside this issue:

Mississippi Inventory 95% Complete	2
Status of Current Field Inventories	2
Timber Product Output in the South in 2005	3
Identification of Land Use in West Texas	3
FY2007 Research Publications Published Since June 1, 2007	4
Current Status of FIA Data Posted to Mapmaker	5
Georgia/Florida Wildfire Impact Analysis (Rapid Assessment to Assist with Congressional and Media Reporting)	5
National and Southern FIA Websites of Interest	6

## An Update Concerning the SRS FIA Program

### *SRS FIA Informational Update (September 2007)*

This month I just have a few comments on various aspects of the Southern Research Station's Forest Inventory and Analysis (SRS FIA) Program. One good piece of news is that the Information Management Group will have posted 16 separate sets of data from the Southern U.S. This means that all of the SRS FIA data is at least measurement year 2005 except for Mississippi and Oklahoma which (for the moment) have periodic data posted. Four States have 2006 for their data year. We aren't at the six month window for posting data but we are getting closer!

As I mentioned in the June 2007 issue of *The Inventory*, the National FIA Program has been discussing and evaluating the Core National FIA Program. On September 12 and 13 in Baltimore, MD individuals representing various partners, users, and cooperators gathered to discuss this issue. The meeting was sponsored by the Society of American Foresters and involved approximately 25 individuals from across the U.S.

One encouraging news item is that in October, SRS FIA in cooperation with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, will initiate field work in Oklahoma. This is exciting for the SRS FIA program because all 13 Southern States, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands will be involved in annual inventory.

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

## Mississippi Inventory 95% Complete!

For more information contact  
Sonja Oswalt at [soswalt@fs.fed.us](mailto:soswalt@fs.fed.us)  
or 865-862-2058.

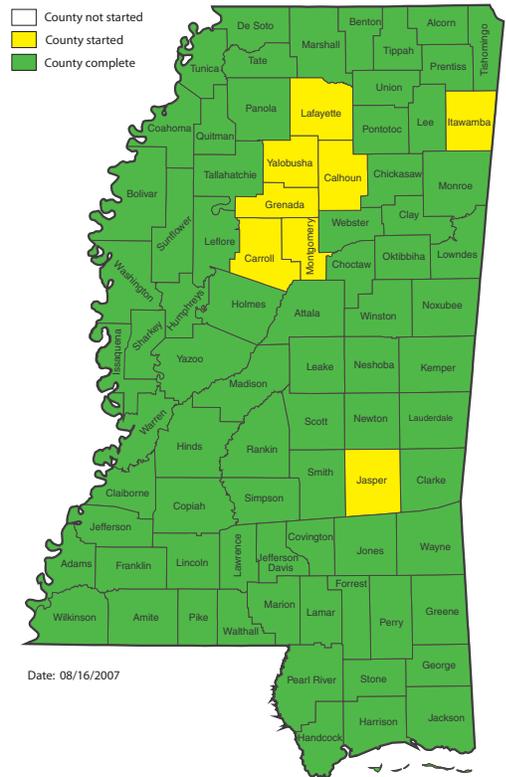


Mississippi Forestry Commission employee  
Mike Crabb battles the heat.

The heat in Mississippi is brutal, but still field crews are working hard to complete data collection. Currently, collection across the State is 95% complete, with a little < 200 plots left to collect. Following completion, data will enter the edit and processing systems at the FIA office in Knoxville, TN, where they will be thoroughly checked before becoming available to the general public.



Forest Service employee Andy Edwards working in  
Mississippi.



Current data collection progress for Mississippi.

## Status of Current Field Inventories

State	Cycle start date	Subcycle start date	Cycle and sub-cycle of current inventory	Percent of current subcycle collection completed
Alabama	2005	Nov-06	9-5	90
Arkansas	2005	Dec-06	9-4	81
Florida	2001	Mar-07	8-2	24
Georgia	2004	Aug-06	9-4	98
Kentucky	2005	Jun-07	6-4	13
Louisiana	2000	Nov-04	3-3	100
Mississippi	2005	Nov-05	8-6	96
North Carolina	2003	Mar-07	8-4	25
Oklahoma	NA	NA	NA	NA
Puerto Rico	2006	Apr-07	4-2	50
South Carolina	2006	Jan-07	10-4	65
Tennessee	2005	Apr-07	8-4	44
Texas (east)	2003	Jun-07	8-5	12
Texas (west)	2004	Mar-07	51-4	67
U.S. Virgin Islands	2004	Jul-04	1	100
Virginia	2002	Jun-06	8-3	100

NA = not applicable. Information compiled August 22, 2007.

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

## ***Timber Product Output in the South in 2005***

*For additional information contact Tony Johnson at [tjohnson09@fs.fed.us](mailto:tjohnson09@fs.fed.us) or 865-862-2042 or James Bentley at [jbentley@fs.fed.us](mailto:jbentley@fs.fed.us) or 865-862-2056.*

The South's forest industry is a multi-billion dollar industry that employs hundreds of thousands of employees across the region. In most Southern States, the forest industry ranks in the top three manufactures of industrial products. National statistics show that the South accounts for nearly 60 percent of the Nation's total timber product output (TPO). FIA along with the State forestry agencies across the South have completed the 2005 forest industry surveys for roundwood harvest and consumption in the South. The study revealed that industrial TPO in the South jumped from 8.2 to 8.7 billion cubic feet between 2003 and 2005. Softwood product output was up 6 percent to 6.4 billion cubic feet and accounted for nearly three-quarters of total product output. The 2005 TPO data was

added to the FIA website in early August 2007. The SRS TPO data website link is <http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/php/tpo2/tpo.php>. This information will be used not only by the State forestry organizations, but by forest industry analysts and economists, university personnel, and individuals interested in how the forest resource is being utilized.

Individual State level TPO assessments will be published for 2005 over the next fiscal year. In addition to updating the TPO database, the Resource Use Section has published the Southern TPO Assessment for 2003, the annual Southern Pulpwood report for 2005, and Harvest and Utilization reports for North Carolina and Georgia.

## ***Identification of Land Use in West Texas***

*For more information, contact Doug Shipley at [dshipley@fs.fed.us](mailto:dshipley@fs.fed.us) or 865-862-2049.*

A January 2007 review of land use in west Texas showed that about two-thirds of sampled plots in the past three subcycles were nonforest. Photointerpreters in the Data Acquisition section set out to identify land use for future Phase 2 plots in west Texas. Photointerpretation techniques were used to develop a list of nonforest plots that would not be visited by field crews. Examples of nonvisit plots are those that fall completely within an agricultural field or do not meet stocking requirements.

A comprehensive approach including quality control methods was developed to identify land use and plot-visit status. After nonvisit plots were determined for a given panel, a random subset of 5 percent of the nonforest plots were added back to the list to be field-visited. An evaluation of land use calls between office and field personnel will be conducted on the random subset of plots to assess photointerpretation accuracy. To further improve photointerpretation strategies, site visits

were conducted during the week of June 11, 2007. Photointerpreters from the Data Acquisition section and Texas Forest Service personnel investigated vegetation characteristics and land use for 35 plots in counties near San Angelo and Fort Stockton, TX. Sampling experience and plant identification techniques were shared between office and field crew participants throughout the week, improving photointerpretation decisions and adding to the base of information on vegetative characteristics in west Texas. In addition, for future subcycles, QA Foresters in west Texas will verify all nonvisit plots identified by office personnel to help ensure data quality.

The prefield protocols and identification of land use in west Texas have increased the efficiency of Phase 2 logistics. Preparation time for field materials has decreased, mailing costs have been reduced, and most importantly, the time and travel in the field has been significantly reduced.

***FY2007 Research  
Publications  
Published Since  
June 1, 2007***

- Bentley, James W.; Harper, Richard A.** 2007. Georgia harvest and utilization study, 2004. Resour. Bull. SRS-117. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 25 p.
- Brandeis, Thomas J.** 2006. Assessing tree species assemblages in highly disturbed Puerto Rican karst landscapes using forest inventory data. *Plant Ecology*. 186: 189-202.
- Brandeis, Thomas J.; Delaney, Matthew; Parresol, Bernard R.; Royer, Larry.** 2006. Development of equations for predicting Puerto Rican subtropical dry forest biomass and volume. *Forest Ecology and Management*. 233: 133-142.
- Johnson, Tony G.; Steppleton, Carolyn D.** 2007. Southern pulpwood production, 2005. Resour. Bull. SRS-116. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 42 p.
- Moser, W. Keith; Hansen, Mark; McWilliams, Will; Sheffield, Ray.** 2006. Oak composition and structure in the eastern United States. In: Dickinson, Matthew B., ed. 2006. Fire in eastern oak forests: delivering science to land managers, proceedings of a conference: Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-P-1. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Northern Research Station: 49-61.
- Oswalt, Christopher M.; Oswalt, Sonja N.; Clatterbuck, Wayne K.** 2007. Effects of *Microstegium vimineum* (Trin.) A. Camus on native woody species density and diversity in a productive mixed-hardwood forest in Tennessee. *Forest Ecology and Management*. 242: 727-732.
- Oswalt, Sonja N.; Johnson, Tony G.** 2007. The status of North Carolina's national forests, 2002. e-Resour. Bull. SRS-115. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 57 p.
- McWilliams, William H.; Lister, Tonya W.; LaPoint, Elizabeth B. [and others].** 2006. Current status of chestnut in eastern U.S. forests. Steiner, K.C.; Carlson, J.E., eds. In: Restoration of American Chestnut to forest lands: proceedings of a conference and workshop. Natural Resources Report NPS/NCR/CUE/NRR-2006/001. Washington, DC: U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service: 31-39.
- Roesch, Francis A.** 2007. The components of change for an annual forest inventory design. *Forest Science*. 53(3): 406-413.
- Salajanu, Dumitru; Jacobs, Dennis M.** 2006. The effect of using complete and partial forested FIA plot data on biomass and forested area classifications from MODIS satellite data [CD-ROM]. In: Proceedings: American society for photogrammetry and remote sensing. Additional information: [www.asprs.org/](http://www.asprs.org/).
- Schomaker, Michael E.; Zarnoch, Stanley J.; Bechtold, William A. [and others].** 2007. Crown-condition classification: a guide to data collection and analysis. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-102. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 78 p.
- Woodall, Christopher W.; Oswalt, Sonja N.; Morin, Randall S.** 2007. Attributes of down woody materials in hardwood forests of the Eastern United States. e-Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-101. U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station: 144-153 [CD-ROM].

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

State	Date year	Survey	Periodic/ annual	GRM	MA	Percent of current inventory in MA
Alabama	2006	9	A	Yes	Yes	20
Arkansas	2006	9	A	Yes	Yes	20
Florida	2005	8	A	Yes	No	NA
Georgia	2005	9	A	Yes	Yes	20
Kentucky	2005	6	A	Yes	Yes	20
Louisiana	2005	7	A	Yes	No	NA
Mississippi	1994	7	P	Yes	No	NA
North Carolina	2005	8	A	Yes	No	NA
Oklahoma (east)	1993	6	P	Yes	No	NA
South Carolina	2005	9	A	Yes	No	NA
Tennessee	2005	8	A	Yes	Yes	20
Texas (east)	2006	8	A	Yes	Yes	60
Virginia	2006	8	A	Yes	Yes	80

GRM = Growth, removals, and mortality.

MA = Moving average.

NA = Not applicable.

*For more information, contact  
Jason Meade at [jasonmeade@fs.fed.us](mailto:jasonmeade@fs.fed.us)  
or 865-862-2089.*

## ***Georgia/Florida Wildfire Impact Analysis (Rapid Assessment) to Assist with Congressional and Media Reporting***

During the spring of 2007, approximately 553,000 acres burned from south of Waycross, GA through the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and into Florida. Assessing the damage to the timber resource is a daunting task, but a systematic rapid assessment of damage is imperative to making effective decisions for an operational response. FIA plot data offered a tool to calculate timberland area and tree volume quickly. To analyze the impact of this fire, SRS FIA staff worked cooperatively with the Georgia Forestry Commission, the Florida Division of Forestry, and Southern Area Coordination Center.

A shape file of the wildfire perimeter was provided by the Southern Area Coordination Center and spatially integrated with the FIA database. National Land Cover Data was used to stratify the FIA plots. The data were compiled in the National Information Management System to calculate forest volume by ownership, forest products categories, and precommercial

forest area. With this breakdown of information, the fire assessment team could apply a mortality factor and calculate the commercial timber values by major forest product using Timber Mart-South stumpage and delivered prices. The FIA data provided a reliable assessment tool for communication with the Congressional delegates, State legislators, and the media during this catastrophic event.

Currently, Georgia Forestry Commission FIA foresters are revisiting and remeasuring the FIA plots within the burn areas that are located on private, State, and federal forest lands available for commercial forest products. These data will offer a more accurate assessment of the current conditions, mortality, and forest treatments resulting from the wildfire. The study will provide the final estimates for reporting and offers an opportunity to improve the accuracy of rapid assessment damage from large area fires.

*For more information, contact  
Richard Harper at [rharper@fs.fed.us](mailto:rharper@fs.fed.us)  
or 865-862-2059.*

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.

---

---

### *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/>