

The Inventory

An Update Concerning the SRS FIA Program

Issue 11,
September 2008

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SRS FIA Informational Update (September 2008)

It is that time of year within the Forest Service when each entity needs to report on its accomplishments for the preceding fiscal year (FY). Some of this reporting on accomplishments is just that—accomplishment reporting on the number of publications produced. Some of it relates to Government Performance Reporting Act (GPRA); i.e. required by law. And of course the 1998 Farm Bill also had some standards for the annualized inventory such as 5-year State reports and posting FIA data for public use.

In terms of the number of publications produced by Southern Research Station (SRS) FIA for FY08, SRS FIA produced 61 refereed and nonrefereed publications, an increase of 9 over FY07 and 23 more than in FY06. This increase in publications from our analysts and researchers is great news as it places more SRS FIA information in the hands of researchers, users, and the general public.

From the 1998 Farm Bill perspective, the emphasis is on 5-year reports. In FY08, four (maybe five) 5-year reports were published; U.S. Virgin Islands (published in October 2007), Virginia (October 2007), Kentucky (January 2008), and Puerto Rico (Spanish translation in April 2008). The next reports in line are east Texas (possibly in September 2008), Alabama (fall 2008), Tennessee (winter 2008), with Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Virginia hopefully available some time later FY09. Improvements on the delivery of 5-year reports have been made but there is still plenty of room for improvement.

The performance metric for FIA within GPRA is *Number of States of the U.S. for which FIA data is less than 2 years old and accessible to external customers*. As of August 2008, 11 SRS States have publicly available data that is less than 2 years old. The only two States in the South not meeting this metric are Louisiana (2005) and eastern Oklahoma (1993). Eastern Oklahoma is currently being remeasured and field work should be completed late 2008 and Louisiana will start reinventory after the beginning of FY09. In addition, FIA data for west and central Texas should be publicly available in September 2008 for the first time ever.

This improvement in data posting and reporting is due to the hard work, dedication, and commitment of SRS FIA personnel. I want to thank each and every one of the individuals for their efforts. It is greatly appreciated.

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
SRS FIA Program Manager
bburkman@fs.fed.us
865-862-2073

Forest Inventory and Analysis

4700 Old Kingston Pike

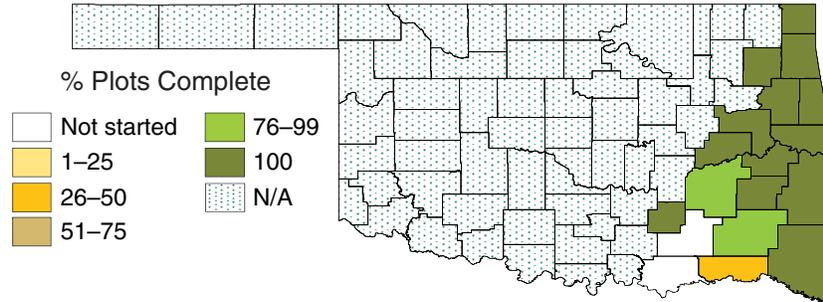
Knoxville, TN 37919

865-862-2000

**Oklahoma Inventory
Over 80% Complete!**

As the end of August nears, the seventh inventory of eastern Oklahoma is 84% complete. McCurtain County and almost all of Pushmataha County (just two plots remain) were finally conquered by the crews after many months of accessibility issues due to weather. Pittsburg and Choctaw Counties

are now being worked with Bryan County and Atoka County still remaining. The 2008 summer completion date that was much anticipated is no longer feasible due to end of year budget restraints that has restricted travel. A 2008 fall completion date is now anticipated.



Kerry Dooley (Oklahoma Forestry Services FIA Coordinator) is shown entering data into the field data recorder while working in Pushmataha County this past July.

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

Current Status of FIA Data Posted to Mapmaker

State ^a	FIADB cycle	Survey	Periodic/ annual	Date year
Alabama	9	9	A	2007
Arkansas	9	9	A	2007
Florida	8	8	A	2006
Georgia	9	9	A	2007
Kentucky	6	6	A	2006
Louisiana	7	7	A	2005
Mississippi	8	8	A/P	2006
North Carolina	8	8	A	2006
Oklahoma (east)	1	6	P	1993
South Carolina	9	9	A	2006
Tennessee	8	8	A	2006
Texas (east)	8	8	A	2007
Virginia	8	8	A	2007

^a West Texas data was removed from FIADB on 7/18/2008. It is currently being reprocessed using a 10% forest land definition. The data will be available fall 2008.

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

National Woodland Owner Survey Results Published

For more information, contact
Mark Brown at mbrown03@fs.fed.us
or 865-862-2033.

Ownership survey findings for the southern States are included in a newly released publication by Brett Butler titled “Family Forest Owners of the United States, 2006.” The report summarizes results of information collected between 2002 and 2006 from the National Woodland Owner Survey conducted by the U.S. Forest Service. The information stems from mailed questionnaires and telephone interviews of confirmed forest landowners identified through the FIA sample base. The survey statistically sampled the estimated 10

million family forest owners who own 264 million acres (35%) of forest land in the United States. Survey results describe and rank family forest owners’ holding characteristics, ownership histories, ownership objectives, forest uses, forest management practices, preferred sources of advice, concerns, future intentions, and demographics. The report includes national and regional summary tables in addition to those for the States. The report GTR–NRS–27 is available on the web through <http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/>.

FY2008 Research Publications Published Since June 2008

Coulston, J.W.; Koch, F.H.; Smith, W.D.; Sapio, F.J. 2008. Exotic pest surveillance: survey development and reliability. Canadian Journal of Forest Research. 38(9): 2422– 2433.

Johnson, Tony G.; Bentley, James W.; Howell, Michael. 2008. The south’s timber industry—an assessment of timber product output and use, 2005. Resour. Bull. SRS–135. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 52 p.

Johnson, Tony G.; Howell, Michael; Bentley, James W. 2008. Oklahoma’s timber industry—an assessment of timber product output and use, 2005. Resour. Bull.

SRS–136. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 28 p.

Johnson, Tony G.; Steppleton, Carolyn D. 2008. Southern pulpwood production, 2006. Resour. Bull. SRS–134. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 42 p.

McCollum, Joseph M.; Cochran, Jamie K.; Rose, Anita K. 2008. Photointerpretation on a discrete global grid. Res. Pap. SRS– 44. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 7 p.

continued

***FY2008 Research
Publications
Published Since
June 2008 (continued)***

- Moser, W. Keith; Hansen, Mark; McWilliams, William H.; Sheffield, Raymond M.** 2008. Shortleaf pine composition and structure in the United States. In: Kabrick, John M.; Dey, Daniel C.; Gwaze, David, eds. Shortleaf pine restoration and ecology in the Ozarks: Proceedings of a symposium. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-P-15. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Northern Research Station: 19–27.
- Oswalt, Christopher M.; Stringer, Jeffrey A.; Turner, Jeffery A.** 2008. Shifts in relative stocking of common tree species in Kentucky from 1975 to 2004. In: Jacobs, Douglass F.; Michler, Charles H., eds. Proceedings, 16th central hardwood forest conference. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-P-24. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Northern Research Station: 194–203.
- Oswalt, Christopher M.** 2008. Tennessee's forest land area was stable 1999 to 2005 but early successional forest area declined. Res. Note SRS-15. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 4 p.
- Oswalt, Sonja N.; Oswald, Christopher M.** 2008. Relationships between common forest metrics and realized impacts of Hurricane Katrina on forest resources in Mississippi. *Forest Ecology and Management*. 255: 1692–1700.
- Roesch, F.A.** 2008. An alternative view of continuous forest inventories. *Forest Science*. 54(4): 455–464.

***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	Sept-07	9-6	83
Arkansas	2005	Oct-07	9-5	83
Florida	2001	Mar-07	8-2	100
Georgia	2004	Aug-07	9-5	99
Kentucky	2005	Jun-07	6-4	84
Louisiana	2000	Nov-04	3-3	100
Mississippi	2005	Nov-05	8-6	100
North Carolina	2003	May-07	8-4	87
Oklahoma	2007	Oct-07	7-6	80
Puerto Rico	2006	Apr-07	4-3	100
South Carolina	2006	Jan-08	10-5	64
Tennessee	2005	Feb-08	8-5	51
Texas (east)	2003	Jun-07	8-5	100
Texas (west)	2004	Feb-08	51-5	23
U.S. Virgin Islands	2004	Jul-04	1	100
Virginia	2007	Jul-08	9-1	13

Information compiled August 14, 2008.

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

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://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/>