

The Inventory

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An Update Concerning the SRS FIA Program

SRS FIA Information Update

By the time you read this we will have made it through one of the most chaotic (and stressful) fiscal years (FY) that I can remember. Looking back we have had sequestration, “final” FY13 budgets about 9 months (late May 2013) into the FY, and finally, fire transfer. This is all on top of a new financial management system within the Forest Service that had numerous implementation problems and at times may have provided erroneous amounts of funding spent. In order to keep the Southern Research Station Forest Inventory and Analysis (SRS FIA) Program relatively consistent, we supplemented our appropriated funds with funding from carryover and deobligated agreements. We deferred/reduced expenditures, postponed/delayed hiring, and examined all of our operations for efficiencies and savings. The SRS FIA Program has generally survived intact with minimal impacts on the consistency in the program. But it wasn't easy!

So how does FY14 look? Right now, there is a slight to a major increase, depending on the budget that you examine – the President's, the House, or the Senate – compared to FY13. I am somewhat optimistic that the SRS FIA Program will be able to generally maintain the SRS FIA Program at FY13 levels – status quo. In addition, many of our partners, cooperators, and users of FIA data are openly expressing support for the program. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

At any of these funding levels, the ability to deliver a complete FIA Program – base grid forest inventory information funded at a 7-year cycle in the Eastern United States and a 10-year cycle in the Western United States, total carbon/biomass amounts, National Woodland Owner survey, National Timber Products Output assessments, and selected ecosystem indicator measurements – is not possible. Recognize that the situation is extremely fluid, so it could change with limited notice. My goal for the SRS FIA Program is, at a minimum, keep the status quo and continue to strive to deliver a complete FIA program, when budgets are more favorable.

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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Looking for Input on Expanding the National Woodland Owner Survey to Industrial, Corporate, and Large Forest Landowners

The Southern Research Station Forest Inventory and Analysis (SRS FIA) unit in cooperation with the National FIA Program is in the process of developing an extension of the National Woodland Owner Survey (NWOS) that will focus on forest landowners that have not been surveyed by the NWOS in the past – the industrial, corporate, and large forest landowners. The traditional NWOS centered on nonindustrial forests or the “family forest landowner” whose ownership is driven by multiple factors and which financial and economic considerations may be secondary. The current NWOS contacts forest land owners from across the county to ask them questions about the forests they own, the reasons for owning it, how they use their lands, and basic information regarding the management of their forests.

The new supplemental survey is being designed to address landowners who view their holdings primarily as investments or profit making enterprises. This category of landowners includes timberland investment organizations, real estate investment trusts, large corporate or, industry forest lands, and large private landowners who actively manage their timber for forest products.

Many issues need to be addressed before this study is initiated. Of primary concern is how to identify and contact these landowners. Of equal importance is ascertaining what these landowners are willing and capable of responding to. Defining potential users of this information and their needs is also a prerequisite. Regardless of what questions are asked of these forest landowners, the FIA program will need to identify the “sensitive”

and “confidential” that may be provided. The FIA program will also need to develop a security plan to ensure the confidentiality of the “confidential” information.

Questions currently under consideration include:

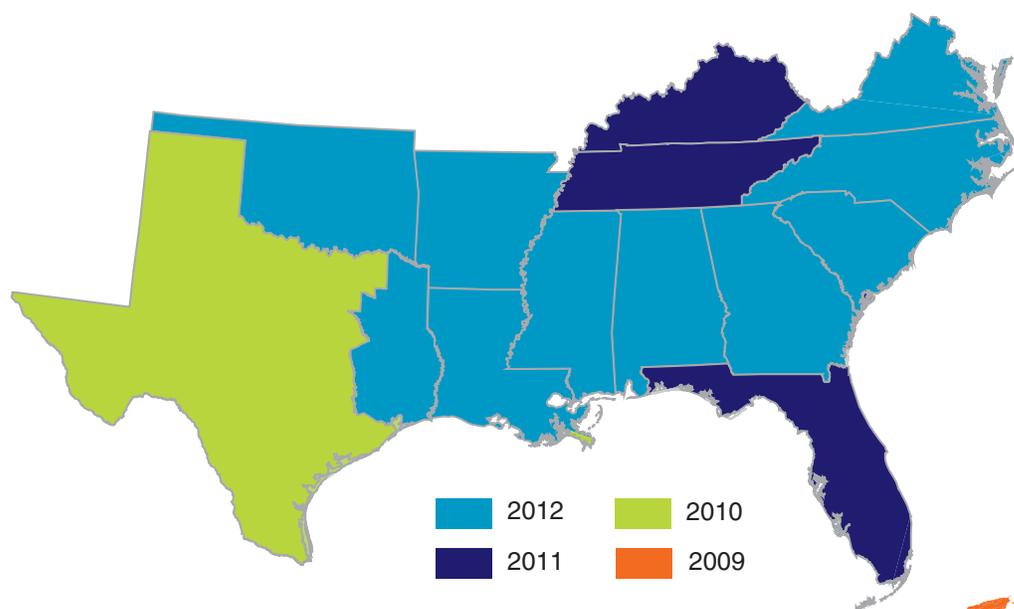
- Economic factors:
 - What comprises their income stream? Timber and land sales, hunting leases, pine straw, higher and better use, etc.?
 - Do they have fiber supply agreements?
 - Do they manage their own land or contract out to a third party?
- Silvicultural practices – Including rotation lengths, frequency of thinnings, amount of planting, use of genetically modified organisms, and application of chemicals
- Logging contracts/equipment – How these are obtained and length of contracts?
- Fire suppression – Do these landowners suppress fires or do they rely on State and local entities?

Andrew J. Hartsell, Research Scientist with SRS FIA Program, is being tasked with leading this effort. At this time Mr. Hartsell is seeking input from potential stakeholders. This includes those who are interested in the results, as well as landowners and organizations who own these forests.

To provide feedback regarding this effort, please contact Andy Hartsell at 865-862-2032 or ahartsell@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 Resource Assessment of Non-wood Forest Products

The International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) promotes global cooperation in forest-related research and enhances the understanding of the ecological, economic, and social aspects of forests and trees. In 2014, IUFRO will hold the XXIV World Congress, themed: “Sustaining Forests, Sustaining People: The Role of Science.” The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service is hosting the XXIV IUFRO World Congress in Salt Lake City, Utah (October 5–11, 2014). IUFRO research groups (RG) 4.02 (Multipurpose Inventories) and RG 5.11 (Non-wood Forest Products) are co-hosting a technical session “Forest Resources Assessment of Non-wood Forest Products (197).”

The IUFRO RG 4.02 and 5.11 are offering a joint technical session to examine challenges and opportunities to improve the assessment of forest resources for non-wood forest products. Forests around the world have been assessed every 5 to 10 years since the 1940s. The Global Forest Resource Assessment organized by the United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization attempts to provide consistent descriptions of the world’s forests

and how they are changing. Non-wood forest products (NWFP) are critical to the food security and health of people around the world. Over the last 2 decades there have been tremendous changes in the world and these products are now being considered in forest resource assessments. The uses of NWFPs support the livelihood of people and communities as well as the economies that affect them. Non-wood forest products are critical elements in the Congress’s primary theme of forest products for a greener world. This session, though offered to the primary theme of forests and forest products for a greener world, is apropos in all themes.

The technical session will provide a forum for colleagues from around the world to assess the challenges of reporting on non-wood forest products. Posters and oral presentations will provide the means to share experiences in reporting on non-wood forest products. The call for abstracts opens on August 5, 2013, with online abstract submission until October 15, 2013. For more information go to the official Congress web site: <http://iufro2014.com>

We look forward to seeing you in Salt Lake City in October 2014 at this session.

*For more information,
contact Jim Chamberlain
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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	98
Arkansas	2010	Dec-12	10-2013	61
Florida	2008	Jan-13	9-2012	48
Georgia	2009	Oct-12	10-2013	78
Kentucky	2010	Apr-12	7-2012	90
Louisiana	2009	Mar-13	8-2013	70
Mississippi	2009	May-12	9-2013	96
North Carolina	2008	Oct-12	9-2013	92
Oklahoma (east)	2010	Feb-13	8-2013	88
Oklahoma (west)	2009	June-13	2-2013	34
Puerto Rico	2011	Jan-13	5-2013	21
South Carolina	2012	Jan-13	11-2013	60
Tennessee	2009	Feb-12	9-2012	100
Texas (east)	2008	Oct-12	9-2013	68
Texas (west)	2004	July-11	1-2011	64
U.S. Virgin Islands	2009	Aug-09	2-2009	100
Virginia	2012	Nov-12	10-2013	35

Information compiled July 21, 2013.

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***FY2013 Research
Publications Published
Since June 2013***

- Brandeis, T. J.; Meléndez-Ackerman, E.; Helmer, E. H. 2012. Forest vegetation cover assessment on Mona Island, Puerto Rico. e-Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-165. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 24 p.
- Brown, M.J.; Nowak, J. 2013. Florida, 2011—forest inventory and analysis factsheet. e-Science Update SRS-071. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 5 p.
- Chamberlain, J.L.; Ness, G.; Small, C.J. [and others]. 2013. Modeling belowground biomass to improve sustainable management of *Actaea racemosa*, a globally important medicinal forest product. *Forest Ecology and Management*. 293:1–8.
- Chamberlain, J.L.; Prisley, S.; McGuffin, M. 2013. Understanding the relationships between American ginseng harvest and hardwood forests inventory and timber harvest to improve co-management of the forests of eastern United States. *Journal of Sustainable Forestry*. DOI:10.1080/10549811.2013.798828.
- Clark, S., McNab, H.; Loftis, D.; Zarnoch, S. 2012. American chestnut growth and survival five years after planting in two silvicultural treatments in the southern Appalachians, USA. *Forests*. 3(4): 1017–1033.
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- Cooper, J.A.; Bentley, J.W. 2013. Kentucky harvest and utilization study, 2007. e-Resour. Bull. SRS-195. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 25 p.
- Coulston, J.W.; Jacobs, D.M.; King, C.; Elmore, I. 2013. The influence of multiseason imagery on empirical models of canopy cover: a case study. *Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing*. 79(5): 469–477.
- Coulston, J.W.; Nelson, K.; Woodall, C.W. [and others]. 2012. The climate change performance scorecard and carbon estimates for national forests. 2012 Forest Inventory and Analysis Symposium. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-P-105. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Northern Research Station. [CD-ROM]: 170–176.
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- Gartner, D. 2013. Data exploration. In: Gartner, D., ed. Use of ancillary data to improve the analysis of forest health indicators. e-Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-179. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 11–15.
- Gartner, D. 2013. Overview of data mining approaches. In: Gartner, D., ed. Use of ancillary data to improve the analysis of forest health indicators. e-Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-179. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 42–52.
- Gartner, D., ed. 2013. Use of ancillary data to improve the analysis of forest health indicators. e-Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-179. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 52 p.
- Gartner, D.; Westfall, J.; Woodall, C. 2013. Data screening. In: Gartner, D., ed. Use of ancillary data to improve the analysis of forest health indicators. e-Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-179. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 7–10.
- Gartner, D.; Woodall, C.; Westfall, J. 2013. Reviewing knowledge of the biology. In: Gartner, D., ed. 2013. Use of ancillary data to improve the analysis of forest health indicators. e-Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-179. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 5–6.
- Grace, J.M.; Zarnoch, S.J. 2013. Influence of forest road buffer zones on sediment transport in the Southern Appalachian Region. In: Guldin, J.M., ed. 2013. Proceedings of the 15th biennial southern silvicultural research conference. e-Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-175. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station: 487–493.
- Gray, A.N.; Brandeis, T.J.; Shaw, J.D. [and others]. 2012. Forest inventory and analysis database of the United States of America (FIA). In: Dengler, J.; Oldeland, J.; Jansen, F.; Chytrý, M. [and others] eds. *Vegetation databases for the 21st century*. *Biodiversity and Ecology*: 4: 225–231.
- Koch, F.H., Coulston, J.W., Smith, W.D. 2012. Mapping drought conditions using multi-year windows. In: Potter, K.M.; Conkling, B.L., eds. *Forest Health Monitoring 2009 National Technical Report*. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-167. Asheville, North Carolina: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 163–179. Chapter 10.
- Lemke, D.; Coulston, J.W.; Hulme, P. [and others]. 2012. Invasive potential of invasive plants in the forest of the southern region, United States. Forest inventory and analysis symposium. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-P-105, Newtown Square, PA. U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Northern Research Station. [CD-ROM]: 278–282.
- Martinuzzi, S.; Lugo, A.E.; Brandeis, T.J.; Helmer, E.H. 2013. Case study: geographic distribution and level of novelty of Puerto Rican forests. In: Hobbs, R.J.; Higgs, E.S.; Hall, C.M., eds. *The Novel Ecosystems: Intervening in the New Ecological World Order*. Wiley-Blackwell: 81–87.
- Mo, J.; Straka, T.J.; Harper, R.A. 2013. Impacts of South Carolina timber production over the last five decades. *South Carolina Forestry Journal*. Jan/Feb. 2013. Vol. MMXIII, No. 1. 2 p.

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

continued

**FY2013 Research
Publications Published
Since June 2013
(continued)**

- Morin, R.S.; Steinman, J.; Randolph, K.C. 2012. Utility of tree crown condition indicators to predict tree survival using remeasured Forest Inventory and Analysis data. In Morin, R.S.; Liknes, G.C., comps. Moving from status to trends: forest inventory and analysis (FIA) symposium 2012. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-P-105. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Northern Research Station. [CD-ROM]: 210–215.
- Oswalt, C.M.; Oswalt, S.N.; Zimmerman, L. 2012. Updating the southern nonnative plant watch list: the future of NNIP monitoring in the south. In: Morin, R.S.; Liknes, G.C., comps. Moving from status to trends: forest inventory and analysis (FIA) symposium 2012. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-P-105. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Northern Research Station. [CD-ROM]: 274–277.
- Oswalt, S.N. 2013. Forest Resources of the lower Mississippi alluvial valley. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-177. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 29 p.
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- Oswalt, S.N.; Oswalt, C.M. 2012. The national picture of nonnative plants in the United States according to FIA data. In: Morin, R.S.; Liknes, G.C., comps. Moving from status to trends: forest inventory and analysis (FIA) symposium 2012. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-P-105. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Northern Research Station. [CD-ROM]: 262–267.
- Prisley, S.P.; Chamberlain, J.; McGuffin, M. 2012. Relationships between harvest of American ginseng and hardwood timber production. In: McWilliams, W.; Roesch, F.A., eds. Monitoring across borders: 2010 joint meeting of the forest inventory and analysis (FIA) symposium and the southern mensurationists. e-Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-157. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station: 95–102.
- Randolph, K.C. 2013. Development history and bibliography of the U.S. Forest Service crown-condition indicator for forest health monitoring. Environmental Monitoring and Assessment. 185(6): 4977–4993. DOI 10.1007/s10661-012-2919-z.
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- Roesch, F.A. 2012. The fourth dimension in FIA. 2012. Forest inventory and analysis symposium. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-P-105. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Northern Research Station. [CD-ROM]: 421–426.
- Roesch, F.A.; Coulston, J.W.; Hill, A.D. 2012. Statistical properties of alternative national forest inventory area estimators. *Forest Science*. 58(6): 559–566.
- Roesch, F.A.; Van Deusen, P.C. 2013. Time as a dimension of the sample design in national scale forest inventories. *Forest Science* (fast track). <http://dx.doi.org/10.5849/forsci.12-075>.
- Stolte, K.W., Coulston, J.W. 2012. Air pollution. In: Stolte, K.W., Conkling, B.L., Fulton S., Bradley M.P., eds. State of mid-Atlantic region forests in 2000. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-162. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 29–34. Chapter 6.
- Stolte, K.W., Coulston, J.W. 2012. Exotic invasive plant species. In: Stolte, K.W.; Conkling, B.L.; Fulton, S., Bradley, M.P., eds. State of mid-Atlantic region forests in 2000. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-162. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 47–48. Chapter 10.
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- Sung, Shi-Jean S.; Zarnoch, S.J.; Haywood, J. [and others]. 2013. Developmental dynamics of longleaf pine seedling flushes and needles. In: Guldin, J.M., ed. Proceedings of the 15th biennial southern silvicultural research conference. e-Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-175. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station: 149–155.
- Trotter, R.T., III; Morin, R.S.; Oswalt, S.N.; Liebhold, A. 2013. Changes in the regional abundance of hemlock associated with the invasion of hemlock woolly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae* Annand). *Biological Invasions*. Online at: <http://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2Fs10530-013-0482-3.pdf>.
- Van Deusen, P.C.; Roesch, F.A.; Wigley, T.B. 2013. Estimating forest land area change from inventory data. *Journal of Forestry*. 111(2): 126–131. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5849/jof.12-102>.
- Westfall, J.A., Pugh, S.A., Coulston, J.W. 2013. Conducting tests for statistically significant differences using forest inventory data. Res. Pap. NRS-22. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Northern Research Station. 10 p.
- Woodall, C.W.; Smith, J.A.; Domke, G.M. [and others]. 2012. The technical specifications of the U.S. forest carbon inventory: recent past and near future. 2012 forest inventory and analysis symposium. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-P-105, Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Northern Research Station. [CD-ROM]: 161–163.
- Woodall, C.W.; Walters, B.F.; Oswalt, S.N. [and others]. 2013. Biomass and carbon attributes of downed woody materials in forests of the United States. *Forest Ecology and Management*. 305: 48–59.
- Woodall, C.W.; Zhu, K.; Westfall, J.A. [and others]. 2013. Assessing the stability of tree ranges and influence of disturbance in eastern U.S. forests. *Forest Ecology and Management*. 291: 172–180.

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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/>