

# The Inventory

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## An Update Concerning the SRS FIA Program

### *SRS FIA Information Update*

I am not sure who said it—if there is one constant, it is change—and it applies to Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA). Change is coming at the FIA Program from multiple fronts. Elections are over and it's anybody's guess what the future will hold. We will need to take a wait and see attitude. The National FIA program is continuing to expand to address areas of growth to meet current and future users' needs for inventory and monitoring data and information. These "growth areas" are discussed in The Forest Inventory and Analysis Strategic Plan, a document fulfilling requirements of Section 8301 of the Agriculture Act of 2014 which has been finalized and released as of November 21, 2016. I am not going to go into details from this Strategic Plan, as these have been discussed in previous issues of The Inventory. You can download a copy at: <http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/library/bus-org-documents/strategic-plans/docs/FIA%20Strategic%20Plan%20FS-1079.pdf>.

As a point of reference, one of the primary individuals ensuring that this document was developed, written, published, and posted is Brad Smith.

The reason I mention this is one change that may be easy to understand but difficult to deal with is the upcoming retirement of Brad Smith, Washington Office FIA Program. Brad has been a fixture with the FIA Program for greater than my 25+ years with the USDA Forest Service. There is no one that knows more about the FIA Program than Brad! When I have a question; he is who I go to especially when it comes to historical directions of the FIA Program. Brad is the penultimate WO staff member and I mean that as a compliment of the greatest magnitude. He is always responsive to whoever has a question regarding FIA; whether internal or external to the Program. Brad your wisdom, counsel, and responsiveness will be missed! Thanks for everything! Good luck on your retirement!

As always, if you have any technical questions regarding FIA, please submit those questions to Charlene Walker ([cwalker@fs.fed.us](mailto: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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## ***Nontimber Forest Products Output Tracking***

FIA has been undertaking Timber Product Output Assessments to track primary wood products for over 70 years. The harvest volumes and the economic impacts of nontimber forest products (NTFPs) are challenging to measure as the mechanisms to track volumes and values have not been developed. In 2011, Jim Chamberlain, based in Blacksburg, VA, initiated an effort to develop an approach to track nontimber forest product harvest volumes. Working with Dr. John Munsell and Ph.D. candidate Steve Kruger, in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation (FREC), College of Natural Resources and Environment at Virginia Tech, FIA is developing a confidential, voluntary method to systematically measure the volumes

of medicinal forest products harvested from eastern deciduous forests. This is the first multiyear, multi-State tool to collect data for harvest volumes and distributions, and product prices. In the spring of 2016, FREC launched the RootReport (<http://www.rootreport.frec.vt.edu/>), an online platform designed to collect data, and to make the results available and useful for participants and other interested people. The site summarizes results from previous years, provides market assessment fact sheets for products, and other resources for forest farming and stewarding NTFPs species. A goal of this effort is to expand coverage of medicinal forest products across the Nation, and to include other market segments.



*For more information contact Jim Chamberlain at 540-231-3611 or [jchamberlain@fs.fed.us](mailto:jchamberlain@fs.fed.us).*

## ***Use of FIA Data to Track Hemlock Woolly Adelgid***

A recent article in *Southeastern Naturalist* demonstrates the utility of FIA data for examining the detrimental effects of an important pest insect, the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), at an intermediate (multicounty, FIA unit) scale. In western North Carolina, hemlock trees have an approximate 50 percent chance of survival, and survivor trees' annual radial diameter growth is reduced by about

50 percent, twelve years after detection of HWA in a county. The full paper is available to subscribers at: <https://www.eaglehill.us/SENAonline/articles/SENA-15-4/14-Vogt.shtml>.

For an emailed pdf, contact J.T. Vogt at [jtvoigt@fs.fed.us](mailto:jtvoigt@fs.fed.us). For additional information, he may also be contacted at 865-862-2035.

***FIA's Newest Employee***

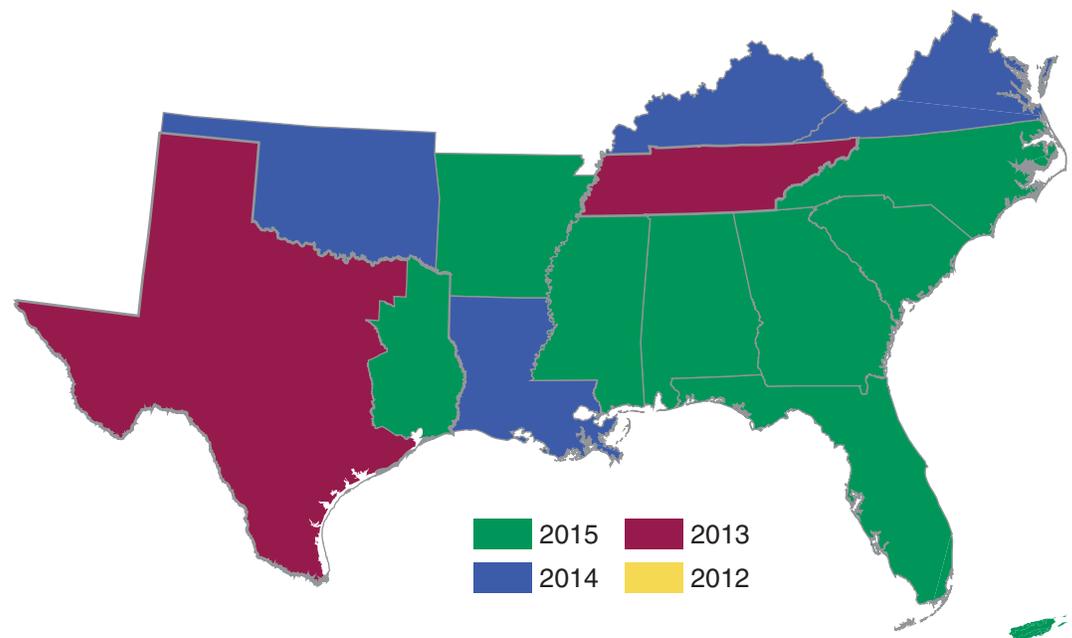
Philip Malone is our new Pathways student with the Methods and Techniques section. He is originally from Sallis, MS, but currently resides in Starkville, MS while attending Mississippi State University. He is passionate about the outdoors, teaching, and technology and is pursuing a path where he can combine all three. Currently, he is continuing his education as an Information Technology Services major.

However, he has already received a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries from Mississippi State University and is also preparing to receive a Master of Science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries from Arkansas Tech University. He aims to use the knowledge and experience gained from his studies and work experience to create his own unique niche in either distance education or as a fisheries biologist. Philip, welcome to FIA.

***FY 2017 Publications  
Published since September  
2016***

**Roesch, F.A.** 2016. A simulation of image-assisted forest monitoring for national inventories. *Forests*, Vol. 7(9): 204-226. 23 p. 10.3390/f7090204.

**Rose, A.K.; Meadows, J.S.** 2016. Status and trends of bottomland hardwood forests in the mid-Atlantic Region. e-Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-217. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 10 p.

***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  
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### *The Caribbean and Latin America's Dry Tropical Forests*

Numerous conservation areas across Latin America and the Caribbean are required to protect the full plant species diversity of threatened tropical dry forests.

Dry tropical forests are scattered across Latin America and the Caribbean and are highly threatened, with less than 10 percent of their original extent remaining in many countries. Collaborative work of the FIA Program in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (PRVI) with The Latin American Seasonally Dry Tropical Forest Floristic Network (DRYFLOR) has provided new insights about plant diversity among tropical dry forests and their conservation implications. Using data from 835 forest inventories (including FIA in PRVI) covering 4660 species of woody plants, we evaluated the sharing of woody plant species across areas of tropical dry forest and highlight those containing the highest variety of unique tree species living only in a particular location (endemism), along with those with the highest tree species diversity. We also explore how tree species are replaced by new ones across areas of dry forests at a continental scale. Our results show that few species are widespread and shared

across many areas of neotropical dry forest, providing a framework within which national decision makers can have a perspective of the significance of their dry forests at a regional and continental scale.

Results from the study have been published in *Science* magazine: Plant diversity patterns in neotropical dry forests and their conservation implications. *Science* 353 (6306): 1383-1387. [doi: 10.1126/science.aaf5080]; discussing how the rate at which tree species are replaced by new ones across geographic regions is noticeably high. Such high manifestation of diversity between areas implies that numerous conservation areas across many countries will be needed to protect the full variety of tree species in tropical dry forests. All analyses in the study are based upon an unprecedented new dataset made in dry forests from Latin America and the Caribbean, which has been compiled by DRYFLOR (<http://www.dryflor.info>). Only 14 percent of sites in the DRYFLOR database fall within protected areas, indicating the need to improve current levels of protection for neotropical dry forest.

*For more information, contact Tom Brandeis at 865-862-2030 or [tbrandeis@fs.fed.us](mailto:tbrandeis@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	2016	Aug-16	10-2017	21
Arkansas	2016	Jan-16	11-2016	58
Florida	2014	June-16	10-2016	34
Georgia	2015	May-16	11-2016	32
Kentucky	2016	May-16	8-2015	35
Louisiana	2016	May-16	9-2016	9
Mississippi	2016	Feb-16	10-2016	71
North Carolina	2016	Oct-16	10-2017	10
Oklahoma (east)	2015	Aug-16	9-2016	26
Oklahoma (west)	2009	May-16	2-2016	1
Puerto Rico	2016	May-16	6-2016	80
South Carolina	2012	Jan-16	11-2016	85
Tennessee	2009	Nov-14	9-2014	100
Texas (east)	2013	Feb-16	10-2016	67
Texas (west)	2016	Sept-16	2-2015	4
U.S. Virgin Islands	2014	Sept-14	3-2014	100
Virginia	2012	Sept-15	10-2015	88

Information compiled September 2016.

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