

The Inventory

An Update Concerning the SRS FIA Program

SRS FIA Information Update (January 2011)

It's that time again but I am not referring to the start of the new year. It is that time that the FIA Program develops the next National FIA Strategic Plan for the next 5 years. Every 5 years (or so), the FIA Program evaluates the direction for the FIA Program for the next 5 years.

In 1999, Congress directed the USDA Forest Service to reevaluate its statewide inventory mission and to make the transition from a periodic survey approach by State to one in which each State is inventoried annually. FIA moved forward, in concert with its partners, to develop a 5-year strategic plan to carry out the new congressional mandate. Congress approved the first strategic plan and provided funding to move FIA toward full implementation of annualized inventory throughout the country. Previous strategic plans are available at the following Web links: <http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/library/bus-org-documents/docs/strategic-plan-2008.pdf> and <http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/library/bus-org-documents/docs/strategic-plan-1998.pdf>.

Over the next 18 months, you may be asked to provide your input on the direction of the FIA Program for the next 5 years. We will be seeking your input in drafting the FIA 2013–17 Strategic Plan with particular emphasis on progress of FIA and future program enhancements. Possible future enhancements (in no particular order and not a complete list) could include:

- Remote sensing products/partnerships
- All vegetation data/rangeland
- Land cover and land use
- Urban opportunities
- Web products/development, data privacy
- Climate change including carbon and biomass
- Forest/woodland ownership
- Forest products including wood and nonwood
- Atlantic/Pacific Islands
- National/Regional/State Assessments and projections
- NFS issues
- Forest health and invasive organisms

continued

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SRS FIA Information Update (continued)

A series of meetings will be held across the United States to gather your input. The tentative schedule for this effort is as follows:

Define focus group leads and members	Dec. 2010
Complete meetings of focus topic groups	Jan. 2011 – Nov. 2011
Merge focus group ideas at the 2012 National FIA Users Group Meeting	Feb. 2012
Final Draft Plan	Jul. 2012
Review of final Draft Plan	Aug. 2012 – Dec. 2012
Congressional hearing and approval	May 2013

Details regarding the focus group meetings will be distributed by various methods. One method will be through this informational update. If you are interested in participating with us in this effort, please contact me.

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.

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New SRS FIA Deputy Program Manager is Named

The SRS FIA Program is pleased to announce that Dr. J.T. Vogt has accepted the SRS FIA Deputy Program Manager position. His reporting date in Knoxville, TN is January 31, 2011. J.T. (as he goes by) obtained his B.S. in Biology at Tusculum College in east Tennessee. He went on to earn an M.S. in Entomology at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He then received a Ph.D. in Entomology at Auburn University, investigating respiratory physiology and energetics in the red imported fire ant and completing his dissertation in 1999. During a 2-year postdoctoral assignment with Oklahoma State University, Dr. Vogt served as Research and Education Specialist in southern Oklahoma. He worked closely with Extension personnel in crafting educational meetings and pesticide recertification classes, as well as conducting original research on physiological ecology and control of fire ants.

He obtained a position as Research Entomologist with the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Biological Control and Mass Rearing Research Unit in Starkville, MS in 2001. One year later he moved to Stoneville, MS to serve as a Research Entomologist in the Biological Control of Pests Research Unit. He

led multi-State, multiagency efforts to establish biological control efforts against imported fire ants and was eventually named Lead Scientist for the imported fire ant group in Stoneville. In collaboration with an industry partner, Dr. Vogt developed automated detection techniques based on unique characteristics of fire ant mounds in remotely sensed data. Dr. Vogt left ARS in 2009 and worked in private industry as Technical Director for a pest management firm, where he led the successful effort for the company's certification as a National Pest Management Association "Quality Pro" Institution. He also wrote new Standard Operating Procedures for service personnel, and implemented new quality assurance and customer satisfaction measures.

Regarding his new position with the U.S. Forest Service, Dr. Vogt says "I am very much looking forward to serving as Deputy Program Manager for the SRS Forest Inventory and Analysis Unit, and helping to ensure that the important work of the Unit is completed in a manner that is timely and meets quality standards." In his spare time Dr. Vogt is a competitive traditional archer, an avid collector of antique fishing memorabilia, and enjoys spending time with his family in a variety of outdoor activities.

*For more information, contact
Bill Burkman at 865-862-2073
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Louisiana — Second Inventory Year of Cycle 8

The second subcycle of the Cycle 8 inventory started with P3 plots in June and P2 plots in July. Challenges continue throughout the State, but those plots that reside in the Atchafalaya Basin and those along the Mississippi River are the most difficult to access. The SRS FIA crews have been using boats and donning their

chest waders and hip boots to remeasure the plots along the rivers and in the basin since September to take advantage of the cooler water, better working weather, and more docile reptiles. These areas take a truly dedicated crew to get the best data and work safely in a dangerous and trying environment.



QA Forester Ryan David at the tiller returning from a plot in Iberia Parish, LA – October 2010. (Photo provided by Kirk Ramsey.)

The SRS FIA crews are encountering and cleaning up past data errors from Cycle 7. On some of the remeasured plots from Cycle 7, errors include incorrect plot/subplot placement and inaccurate data. For the duration of Cycle 8, the crews will continue to encounter these past data errors from the previous cycle.

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

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	2005	Aug-10	9-6	27
Arkansas	2010	Nov-10	10-1	1
Florida	2008	Sept-09	9-4	98
Georgia	2009	Sept-10	10-2	28
Kentucky	2010	July-10	7-1	51
Louisiana	2009	July-10	8-2	24
Mississippi	2009	Sept-10	9-3	22
North Carolina	2008	Aug-10	9-3	34
Oklahoma (east)	2010	Jan-10	8-1	73
Oklahoma (west)	2009	Jan-10	2-2	70
Puerto Rico	2006	Apr-09	4-4	100
South Carolina	2006	Jan-10	10-4	91
Tennessee	2009	Dec-09	9-1	91
Texas (east)	2008	July-10	9-3	36
Texas (west)	2004	Apr-10	1-7	34
U.S. Virgin Islands	2009	Aug-09	2-1	100
Virginia	2007	Apr-10	9-3	88

Information compiled November 23, 2010.

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

**FY2011 Research
Publications
Published Since
September 2010**

Bentley, James W.; Johnson, Tony G. 2010. North Carolina harvest and utilization study, 2007. Resour. Bull. SRS-167. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 27 p.

Oswalt, Christopher M.; King, Christopher R.; Johnson, Tony G. 2010. Kentucky, 2007 forest inventory and analysis factsheet. e-Science Update SRS-026. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 4 p.

**Estate Thomas
Experimental Forest
FIA Plots Successfully
Installed**

As mentioned in the last issue of The Inventory, special studies are being conducted by FIA on the USDA Forest Service's network of Experimental Forests and Ranges (EFRs). This includes the EFR sites in the Caribbean. Special study plots were successfully installed in Estate Thomas on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, September 13-23 by an SRS-FIA team led by Vince Few and consisting of Andy Edwards, Humfredo Marcano, Luis Ortiz, Greg Smith, and David Wall.

Forest Service research at Estate Thomas began in 1930 and its subtropical dry forest is predicted to be highly sensitive to climate change as drought is the driver of most forest processes in this life zone (e.g. growth, decomposition, reproduction, etc.). Tropical forests are of central importance in understanding the effects of climate change on atmosphere-biosphere coupling. At each EFR-FIA location in the Caribbean, these new plots will add valuable information to existing studies on hydrology, nutrient and carbon cycling, tree growth, shifting species ranges, and response to hurricane disturbance.

The other Caribbean EFR-FIA study sites are the Luquillo Experimental Forest and the San Juan Urban Long Term Research Area (ULTRA),

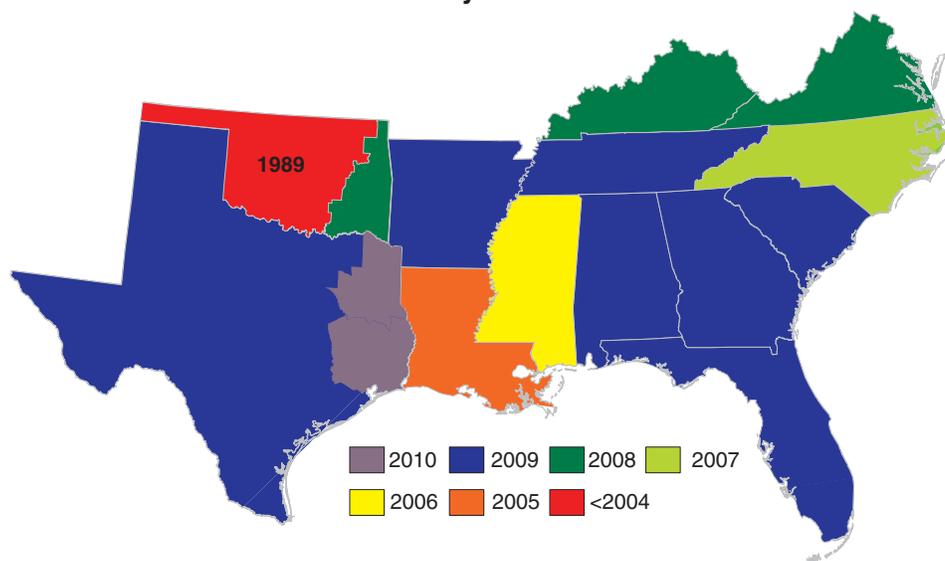
both in Puerto Rico. Luquillo is the largest Forest Service experimental forest and has been in the public domain since 1876. Research has been conducted there for more than 100 years. The forest is a long-term ecological research site and part of many other national and global cooperative studies on carbon dynamics, nutrient cycling, forest dynamics, hurricane response, and land use change. It anchors an urban-rural gradient that extends to the San Juan ULTRA. The San Juan ULTRA encompasses a densely populated urban area that also holds urban forests and botanical gardens. Urban forest inventory plots were first installed there in 2002 and are currently being remeasured.

The Caribbean EFR-FIA sites have a rich collection of long-term data, are predicted to be highly sensitive to climate change, and include urban forests that are poorly represented in the nationwide EFR-FIA network. Caribbean EFR-FIA sites link to gradient studies with other EFR-FIA sites by providing a neotropical analog to Hawaii, a tropical urban counterpart for Baltimore, a tropical endpoint for studies on atmospheric deposition, hydrology, and carbon dynamics, and a collection of storm-impacted experimental forests within both the southern and northern regions.

For more information, contact Thomas Brandeis at 865-862-2030 or tjbrandeis@fs.fed.us.

**Current Status of FIA
Data Posted
(as of 1/13/2011)**

Most Recent FIA Data by State and Collection Year



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

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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 Web sites of Interest

National FIA Web site: <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/>

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/>