



The Inventory

An Update Concerning the SRS FIA Program



Forest Inventory and Analysis
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SRS FIA Informational Update (March 2006)

Welcome to the initial Southern Research Station (SRS) Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) informational update. This SRS FIA informational update will be distributed quarterly to individuals involved with and interested in the SRS FIA program. Our target dates are March, June, September, and December of each year. We hope to provide updated information regarding data collection progress in the field, data processing, data posting on the National FIA website, new publications from our unit, and other information on our progress. We are also hoping to provide any news regarding the national FIA program. If you have any questions regarding FIA, please submit those questions to Charlene Walker (cwalker@fs.fed.us) 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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News from Resource Use

The Resource Use Section has completed forest industry surveys for 12 of the 13 Southern States for 2002 and 2003. Timber product output assessments for 2002 have been published for AR, LA, MS, and OK. Georgia's timber product assessment for 2003 is back from the publisher, as well. Assessments for 2003 in the publication process include: AL, FL, KY, NC, SC, and VA. Texas does an annual Harvest Trends report and publishes their own data. In addition, the timber product output database which includes estimates of logging residues and other removals for every State has been updated for all 13 Southern States. This data is available at: <http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/php/tpo2/tpo.php>. Sonja Oswalt, in the Resource Analysis Section, was able to build a comprehensive primary wood producing mill map with the newly updated mill information and mill locations. This map was incorporated into a poster titled "Harvesting, Timber Product Output, and Mill Distribution: A Southern Perspective" presented at the FIA Symposium held in October 2005 in Portland, ME. The map can also be viewed on our website at: http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/data_center/data_mapping.shtml.

For more information, contact Tony Johnson, 865-862-2042, or tjohnson09@fs.fed.us.

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The Mississippi survey has begun....

The field and QA/QC crews met in Starkville, MS the week of January 16th to begin the MS Inventory. We discussed the new MS damage and down woody material variables, timing issues, logistics on how the inventory would work, QA/QC expectations and checkplot rates for MS, created MS inventory sheets for the vehicles, information sheets for local papers and publications, and laid out the state schedule for assistance with the MS inventory. Assistance from trained crews from Arkansas Forestry Commission, Georgia Forestry Commission, South Carolina Forestry Commission, Texas Forest Service, and the Northeastern FIA unit has been provided.

FIA conducted CPR and First Aid training, annual vehicle inspections, downloaded MS 3.0 programs on Hammerheads, and we cruised plots in Oktibbeha, Clay, Webster, and Choctaw Counties. The weather was wet and cool but we got a lot of work done in spite of the weather conditions. As of February 23, 2006, more than 20% of the plots have been completed.

For more information, contact Vince Few at 662-338-3126, or vfew@fs.fed.us.

Puerto Rico....

Puerto Rico has gone well. Jamie Cochran and Doug Shipley came down to spot check Phase 1 plots and see how well the Garmin GPS units would perform. Sarah Combs came down to see the techniques and variables used for the 3.0 SRS field guide implemented for this remeasure. Angie Rowe and Kelly Peterson have trained Fito Marcano and Luis Ortiz on the 3.0 SRS field manual and Hammerhead personal data recorder usage. Tom Brandeis came and met with the State Forester, head of the International Institute of Tropical Forestry (IITF), State and Private, and some of the local scientists to see about support of and extensions of the current Puerto Rico inventory. Bill Burkman came and met the field crew, State forester, head of the IITF, and other local officials.

We have the use of Ivan Vizens for the year. He is a forestry technician who will be a tremendous help to our crew in the location and completion of plots in Puerto Rico. Ivan has worked with us in the past and Fito and Luis are very glad to be working with Ivan again.

Kelly Peterson and Haimes Critz were invaluable in getting a lot of the issues taken care of for us and accomplishing the mission.

For more information, contact Tom Brandeis at 865-826-2030, or tbrandeis@fs.fed.us.



Current Data Posted at Mapmaker (FIADB)

State	% posted	GRM	Periodic annual	Data year
Alabama	80	No	A	2004
Arkansas	80	Yes	A	2004
Florida	100	Yes	P	1995
Georgia	100	No	A	2004
Kentucky	100	Yes*	A	2004
Louisiana	60	Yes	A	2003
Mississippi	100	Yes	P	1994

State	% posted	GRM	Periodic annual	Data year
North Carolina	100	Yes	P	2002
Oklahoma (east)	100	Yes	P	1993
South Carolina	100	Yes	A	2001
Tennessee	80	No	A	2003
Texas (east)	100	Yes	A	2003
Virginia	100	Yes	A	2001

GRM = Growth, Removals, and Mortality

* Panel 6 is the remeasure of the 1988 inventory.

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

Status of Current Field Inventories

State	Cycle start date	Cycle and subcycle of current inventory	Percent of collection completed	Projected web posting date
Alabama	2001	4-1	99.9	Apr-06
Arkansas	1999	3-1	100	Apr-06
Florida	2001	3-1	54	Sep-06
Georgia	1998	4-6	100	Feb-06
Kentucky	2005	6-2	74	Jul-06
Louisiana	2000	3-3	97	Jul-06
Mississippi	2005	8-6	17	Jul-06
North Carolina	2003	4-2	88	Sep-06
Oklahoma	NA	NA	NA	NA
Puerto Rico	2002	3-2	97	**
South Carolina	2002	4-3	8	Mar-07
Tennessee	1999	4-1	100	Apr-06
East Texas	2003	4-2	100	Apr-06
West Texas	2004	1-2	77	**
Virginia	2002	4-2	36	Aug-06

** Data not posted due to only two panels of data completed.
Information compiled February 6, 2006.

Resource Analysis

The Resource Analysis Section is responsible for the interpretation and publication of the resource data for one or more States in the South as shown below:

Analyst	State Assigned	Phone Number	Email
Tom Brandeis	Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands	865-862-2030	tbrandeis@fs.fed.us
Mark Brown	Florida, North Carolina, NWOS*	865-862-2033	mbrown03@fs.fed.us
Roger Conner	South Carolina	865-862-2031	rconner01@fs.fed.us
Richard Harper	Georgia	865-862-2059	raharter@fs.fed.us
Andy Hartsell	Alabama, Louisiana	865-862-2032	ahartsell@fs.fed.us
Sonja Oswalt	National Forest Reports	865-862-2058	soswalt@fs.fed.us
Anita Rose	Virginia	865-862-2029	arose@fs.fed.us
Jim Rosson	Arkansas, Mississippi	865-862-2067	jrosson@fs.fed.us
Vic Rudis	Oklahoma, Texas	865-862-2009	vrudis@fs.fed.us

* NWOS = National Woodland Owner Survey.

PowerPoint Presentation: “Softwood Timber Supply Outlook and Influences”

The timber resource constitutes 75% of the cost in softwood lumber production. Sawmill owners and managers have a vested interest in wood supply and how it may influence future stumpage prices and competitive mill production. FIA data and other information are presented that:

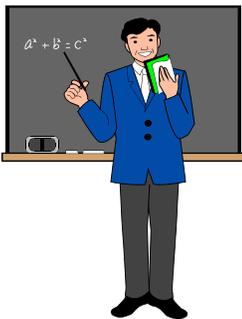
- looks at the influences, shifts, and trends of the softwood forest products industry during the 20th century in the United States, with a focus on the South (13 States),
- compares and contrasts softwood timber (sawtimber) supply and removal in the United States and the South,
- addresses the influence of plantation forestry, forestland ownerships, national forest harvest policy, and industry consolidation and capacity, and
- projects future wood supply in relation to national policy, population density, and landowner incentives to practice sustainable conservation forestry.

Download for review at: http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/presentations/fia_presentations.shtml.

The information presented further demonstrates that the Southern United States (13 States – AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA):

1. is the single largest producer of industrial roundwood,
2. produces approximately 25% of the world’s pulp, and 18% of solid wood products,
3. produces 58% of the total U.S harvest,
4. dedicates approximately 60% of total U.S. forest industry capital spending, and
5. is projected to continue to maintain a reliable wood supply from family, corporate, and industry timberlands, which constitutes almost 90% of the available timberland base in the South.

For more information, contact Richard Harper at 865-862-2059, or raharper@fs.fed.us.



FIA 101 Summary (through February 22, 2006)

FIA 101 is a 7-week series of presentations designed to demonstrate the working relationships within the unit that deliver the data from the field to the final report. Bill Burkman commenced the series on January 18 by outlining the rich history of FIA from its beginnings as Forest Survey in the early 1900s to its present structure in the 21st century. Highlights included the McSweeney-McNary Act of 1928 which assigned responsibility for forest surveys to the Department of Agriculture; the introduction of aerial photography for forest inventory use in 1946; the implementation of the 10-point prism sampling scheme in the 1960s; and the convening of the FIA Blue Ribbon Panels in the 1990s.

Looking ahead, Burkman underscored that while change is inevitable, Southern FIA will always seek to provide the best and most comprehensive information about the extent and condition of Southern U.S. forests.

Following Burkman’s overview of the entire unit, individual sections have described their specific roles and responsibilities. Presenting to date have been Business Operations and Publication Management, Data Acquisition, and Information Management. The Business Operations and Publications Management section discussed topics related to written and oral correspondence, time and attendance, travel, purchasing, and the publication process. In addition, Vickie Brooks outlined the unit’s funding history from 1997 to present. During the Data Acquisition presentation Dale Trenda acknowledged our partnership with State cooperators and identified the diverse organizations that use FIA data. He also summarized the interrelationships among the different phases of FIA data collection (remote sensing, field sampling, quality assurance, etc.). The Information Management section presented the timeline for data delivery and outlined the process of posting data to FIADB. The procedural changes necessitated by the various plot designs throughout the unit’s history were cited and the upcoming implementation of the NIMS processing system was discussed.

FIA 101 will continue through March with presentations from the Resource Use, Resource Analysis, and Methods and Techniques sections.

FY2006 Research Publications (since October 1, 2005)

Georgia’s timber industry—an assessment of timber product output and use, 2003, RB-SRS-104, by Tony G. Johnson and John Wells

Publications available online at: <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/>

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FIA is a USDA Forest Service research work unit which collects, analyzes, and reports on data pertaining to our forestland 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://www.ncrs2.fs.fed.us/4801/fiadb>

National Timber Product Output (TPO) database available at:

http://ncrs2.fs.fed.us/4801/fiadb/rpa_tpo/wc_rpa_tpo.ASP

National Woodland Owner Survey web site: <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/>

The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 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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