

Please read the information below before accessing Alaska FIA data:

FIA's Alaska inventory is ongoing and many survey units have yet to be sampled. The FIA inventory Alaska survey unit boundaries do not follow Alaska's borough and census area boundaries or ecoregions. The survey units were outlined broadly encompassing major watershed boundaries. Because much of Alaska is not organized into a recognized borough (county equivalent), the FIA program utilizes the Census Bureau Census Area boundaries as the county equivalents in those areas. However, Alaskan borough and municipality boundaries have changed multiple times since the inception of the FIA annualized inventory (~2004). The Census Bureau has also frequently changed Alaskan Census Area boundaries over that same timeframe. Therefore, any FIA reported estimates reflect only the Alaska survey units involved. Any estimates and summary statistics calculated based on borough or Census Area spatial extents may be misleading due to the variability of these features.

1) Differences between Coastal and Interior AK inventories:

- a) The Coastal Alaska survey unit follows the standard FIA plot grid of a single plot every 6,000 acres. To implement that intensity throughout the enormous area of interior Alaska with limited road access would have incurred substantial financial investment and required excessively complicated logistics to complete 10 percent of all plots annually in a timely manner. Therefore, the Interior AK plot network and inventory schedule were modified from national FIA protocols and differ from other states (including Coastal Alaska).
- b) The interior region was subdivided into six smaller units, broadly encompassing major watershed boundaries. Each inventory unit would be completed before moving to the next, resulting in a periodic rather than an annualized sample of Interior Alaska. The full inventory of Interior Alaska is estimated to require roughly 15-20 years to complete.
- c) The plot resolution in interior AK was reduced to one plot every 30,000 acres. FIA partnered with scientists from NASA to supplement the coarser plot grid with cutting-edge airborne-based estimates of forest resources. Using this high-resolution imagery in the estimation phase improves the precision of estimates (i.e., lower standard errors) than would be possible with satellite imagery alone.

2) Interior Alaska boroughs and ecoregions:

- a) Not all inventory plots are finished being installed, see table 1 showing plots by county equivalent. Meaning forested areas within an area of interest may not be represented.
- b) Some county equivalents overlap FIA inventory units, see map in Fig.1. Meaning estimates for these county equivalents may need to include plots from both inventories,

depending on the estimate.

- c) FIA county equivalent boundaries do not reflect recent boundary adjustments, in many cases they have changed from what is found in COUNTYCD. Meaning ATIM (other any other) estimates from these adjusted county equivalents do not account for these changes and could be misleading.

3) Glacier Bay National Park and USFS wilderness areas:

- a) FIA has never inventoried plots within Glacier Bay National Park.
- b) With the exception of 2005, FIA has not sampled land within designated wilderness and wilderness study areas in the Tongass and Chugach National Forests to preserve the wild nature of these areas. In 2005 permission was granted for FIA to access plots in designated wilderness/wilderness study areas in the Alaska Region National Forests. FIA has been unable to measure these areas since then – and did not remeasure the 2005 panel. Since FIA could not measure these areas for more than 10 years, the wilderness areas are excluded from this current estimate (approx. 3.4 million acres of forest land).

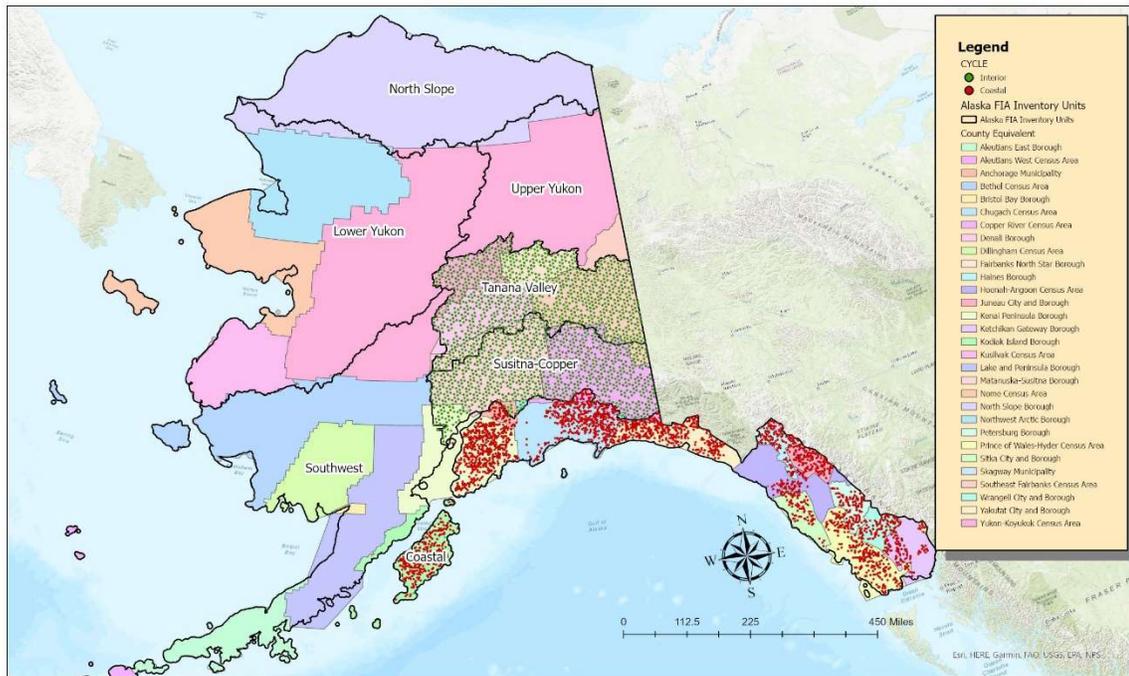


Figure 1. Some counties overlap FIA inventory units (bold black lines), meaning estimates for these counties need to include plots from both inventories, depending on the estimate, Alaska, 2019.