

# The Inventory

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## An Update Concerning the SRS FIA Program

### *SRS FIA Information Update*

The use of FIA data through online tools and applications is tremendous. From 2014 through 2016 (latest year data is available), annual online database retrievals have averaged over 175,000 (Source: Forest Inventory and Analysis Fiscal Year 2016 Business Report. [https://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/fs\\_media/fs\\_document/publication-15817-usda-forest-service-fia-annual-report-508.pdf](https://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/fs_media/fs_document/publication-15817-usda-forest-service-fia-annual-report-508.pdf)). Why? Because the need for information regarding the forests of the U.S. is necessary to make policy decisions, manage forests, determine sustainability of ecological and timber resources, etc.

This use of FIA data has initiated some thinking of what could be done in the future to assist users of FIA data? Some questions that could assist FIA in developing the next steps and moving forward are:

- How do we increase the use of FIA data to non-traditional FIA data users?
- Does the training being provided need to be altered depending on the FIA data user?
- How to improve training on the use of FIA data through online database applications?
- Are there additional tools/guides that would improve the understanding and use of FIA data?
- What training activities should FIA do more of? Less of?
- Are there different delivery mechanisms for FIA data that should/could be implemented?

Your input on this topic would be greatly appreciated by the FIA Program! Please contact me via phone and/or email (contact information is below), if you have answers to these questions and suggestions to offer. Thanks!!

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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### ***SRS Mangrove Project***

The “Evaluating Alternative Methods for Mangrove Ecosystem Inventory and Monitoring” project has officially begun data collection. This cooperative effort between the Florida Forest Service, the The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the Southern Research Station is designed to test modified diameter measurement, modified sample plot footprint, and airborne imagery at the same locations. Diameter at 30 cm above highest grounded prop root will be compared with the traditional 4.5 feet above highest grounded prop root. A single point plot footprint

with a 48-foot radius will be compared with the traditional four 24-foot radius subplots. All data will be compared with NASA airborne G-LiHT data collected at identical GPS plot coordinates for all sample plots. To date NASA has collected data at 56 of 78 potential ground truthed plots. To date, field work has collected 4 of the double sampled ground truthed plots despite the onset of summer temperatures/humidity in this subtropical region. It is anticipated that the goal of 30 or more samples will be attained by the arrival of the preferred fall climate conditions.



Florida Forest Service crew leader Chris McGarvey enroute to one of the mangrove project sample plots. (photo submitted by Jarek Nowak, Florida Forest Service)

For more information, contact Mark Brown at 865-862-2033 or [mbrown@fs.fed.us](mailto:mbrown@fs.fed.us).

### ***FIA's Participation in the Global Expert Consultation on the UN FAO 2020 Global Forest Resources Assessment***

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) participates in the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) coordinated by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO). This massive undertaking brings together countries across the globe every 5 years to compile and report on the status and trends of forests at a global and biome scale. The report serves as a reference for forestry statistics worldwide. Sonja Oswalt with SRS-FIA is the new National Correspondent for the FRA, having served as the Alternate Correspondent since 2005. Brad Smith, retired FIA Associate National Program

Manager (Washington Office), served as the previous National Correspondent. This year, to kick off FRA 2020, a meeting of national correspondents and other global forest experts was convened in Joensuu, Finland to discuss definitions, reporting processes, and integration of remote sensing into the next round of FRA reporting. Also present from the U.S. Forest Service was Greg Reams (FIA National Program Manager, WO) who serves on the Advisory Group to the FRA, as well as serving as the elected chair of the meeting in Joensuu. Brad Smith attended as a consultant to the process, supported by USFS International Programs.

*continued*



***FIA's Participation  
in the Global Expert  
Consultation on the UN  
FAO 2020 Global Forest  
Resources Assessment  
(continued)***

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Attendees to the Expert Consultation on Global Forest Resources Assessment towards FRA 2020 stand behind the meeting banner at the Joensuu Science Park, Finland. (photo submitted by Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)/Erkki Oksanen)

***FY 2017 Publications  
Published since June 2017***

**Askew, A.E.; Bowker, J.M.; English, D.B.K. [and others].** 2017. A temporal importance-performance analysis of recreation attributes on national forests: a technical document supporting the Forest Service update of the 2010 RPA Assessment. 34 p. <https://srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/54614>

**Brandeis, T.J.; Hartsell, A.; Brandeis, C.** 2017. Forests of South Carolina, 2016. Resource Update FS-134. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 4 p. <https://srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/54741>

**Brandeis, T.J.; Hartsell, A.J.; Brandeis, C.** 2017. Forests of Virginia, 2015. Resource Update FS-129. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 4 p. <https://srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/54555>

**Brown, M.J.; Nowak, J.** 2017. Forests of Florida, 2015. Resource Update FS-137. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 4 p. <https://srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/54745>

**Dooley, K.; Randolph, K.** 2017. Oklahoma's forests, 2014. Resource Bulletin SRS-212. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 114 p. <https://srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/54557>

**Hartsell, A.** 2017. Forests of Alabama, 2016. Resource Update FS-122. 4 p. <https://srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/54274>

**Martin, K.L.; Hwang, T.; Vose, J.M. [and others].** 2017. Watershed impacts of climate and land use changes depend on magnitude and land use context. *Ecohydrology*. doi: 10.1002/eco.1870. <https://srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/54729>

**Roesch, F.** 2017. Dual-filter estimation for rotating-panel sample designs. *Forests*. doi: 10.3390/f8060192. <https://srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/54687>

**Schroeder, T.A.; Schleeweis, K.G.; Moisen, G.G. [and others].** 2017. Testing a landsat-based approach for mapping disturbance causality in U.S. forests. *Remote Sensing of Environment*. doi: 10.1016/j.rse.2017.03.033. <https://srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/54667>



***Southern Research Station  
FIA Works with Alabama  
A&M University to  
Install P2 and Urban FIA  
Demonstration Plots***

On July 11, personnel from the Southern Research Station Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program, working in coordination with professors Troy Bowman and Kozma Naka of Alabama A&M University, explained FIA and urban FIA data collection and installed a P2 and urban FIA demonstration plots on that university's campus. Participating in this activity were approximately 28 students and faculty from Alabama A&M, as well as forestry and urban forestry scientists from the University of Alabama and U.S. Forest Service's Region 8.

The day began with Tom Brandeis giving an overview of the FIA Program that included its mission to monitor the status of the U.S. forest resources, the overall forest inventory sampling design, and the nature of the data made available to the public. Following this orientation, Angie Rowe, John Simpson, and Ben Bingham led the installation

of urban forest inventory demonstration plot in an area of campus that closely emulated a residential setting with yard trees. Throughout the installation they explained the urban environment-specific data collection and how they are used to estimate valuable urban tree ecosystem services. Additional explanation of urban FIA was conducted at a nearby site that was more typical of a commercial or institutional setting. Later in the day a P2 forest inventory plot was installed in a mixed hardwood and pine stand on university property with Alabama A&M students helping with the installation and data collection. These demonstration plots were monumented and so they can be remeasured again and the data used in mensuration and forestry courses.

Additional information on this event can be found on the Alabama A&M University Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/aamuedu/posts/10154522610802046>.



John Simpson, SRS FIA, leads Alabama A&M University students in tree measurement on a demonstration plot. (Photo by Troy Bowman, Alabama A&M University)



Ben Bingham, SRS FIA, leads a group of Alabama A&M University students through FIA field plot data collection on a demonstration plot. (Photo by Tom Brandeis, U.S. Forest Service)

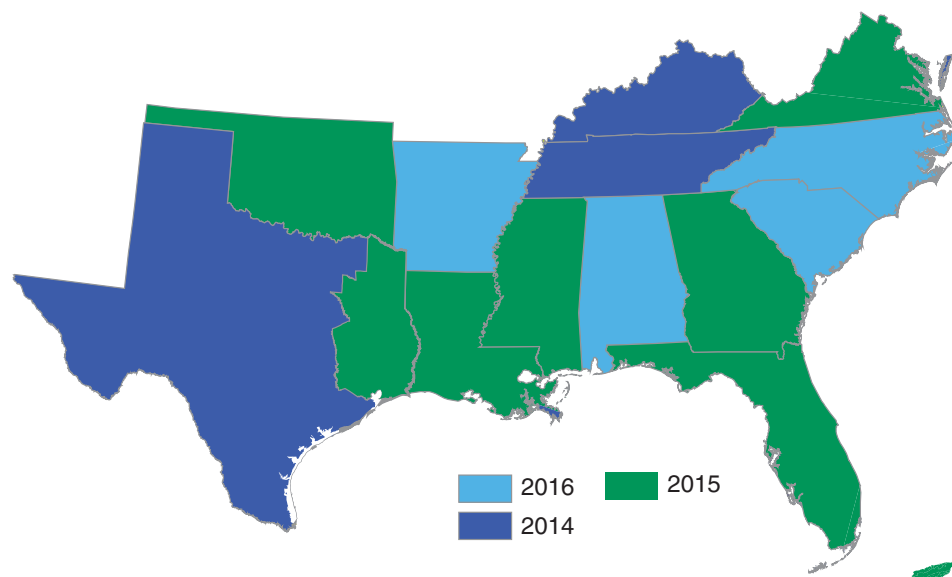


Urban forest inventory data collection is explained by Angie Rowe, SRS FIA, to a group of faculty, students and scientists on the campus of Alabama A&M University. (Photo by Tom Brandeis, U.S. Forest Service)

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## Current Status of FIA Data Posted

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## 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	June-17	10-2018	52
Arkansas	2016	May-17	11-2017	60
Florida	2014	June-16	10-2016	79
Georgia	2015	June-17	11-2017	7
Kentucky	2016	May-17	8-2016	40
Louisiana	2016	May-16	9-2016	92
Mississippi	2016	May-17	10-2017	60
North Carolina	2016	Oct-16	10-2018	3
Oklahoma (east)	2015	Aug-16	19-2016	99
Oklahoma (west)	2009	Nov-16	2-2016	46
Puerto Rico	2016	Feb-17	6-2017	76
South Carolina	2017	Feb-17	12-2017	62
Tennessee	2016	Aug-17	10-2016	23
Texas (east)	2013	Mar-17	10-2017	73
Texas (west)	2015	Oct-16	2-2015	89
U.S. Virgin Islands	2014	Sept-14	3-2014	100
Virginia	2017	Sept-17	11-2017	3

Information compiled October 23, 2017.

For more information, contact  
Angie Rowe at 865-862-2052 or  
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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/>