An Update Concerning the SRS FIA Program

SRS FIA Information Update

I usually try to focus on one topic for this section but for this issue I will be addressing multiple items although the depth of the coverage will be minimal.

• On November 19–21, 2019, The 2019 Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Stakeholders Science Meeting titled “Celebrating Progress, Possibilities, and Partnerships” will be held in Knoxville, TN. At the close of the deadline for submission of the papers, there were over 200 presentations submitted from more than 60 different organizations representing 40+ states and at least 20 countries. Some high-profile keynote speakers have been invited. The highlight will be the electronic poster session on evening of Tuesday November 19. For more information https://www.fia.fs.fed.us/sciencestakeholder/.

• I attended a meeting regarding the National Woodland Owner Survey (NWOS) in Washington, DC. Results for the 2018 survey will be forthcoming in the next couple of months. Some preliminary results were presented. There were exciting analyses linking NWOS results with FIA plot data. Some of the discussion centered on increasing both the participation rate and increasing the sample size. Possibly ways to “incentivize” participation. A summary from the meeting will be prepared and made available at a future date. I will try to include a more detailed summary in a future edition of The Inventory.

• The Southern Group of State Foresters has organized a committee to improve coordination and damage assessment between State forestry organizations and the U.S. Forest Service in relation to weather and climatic extremes damages to forests in the southern U.S., especially (but not exclusively) hurricanes. Of course, FIA data is critical to these damage assessments, but newer technology has a role in these efforts. The planned completion of this effort is Spring of 2020.

• FIA data is very useful for quantifying what happened on a plot or in the forest. But unless some modelling has been developed, predicting what will happen in the future isn’t possible. These projection efforts have been done using FIA data (see the Southern Forests Futures Project) which used FIA data to project future forest conditions. At one time there were plans to build some of these models into online tools for FIA data users. It may be time to resurrect and revisit these efforts.

I hope that these topics piqued your interest. If you have any thoughts and/or questions, please feel free to contact me.

As always, if you have any technical questions regarding FIA, please submit them to Janet Griffin (janet.griffin@usda.gov) and we’ll answer 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.

Bill

Bill Burkman
SRS FIA Program Manager
bill.burkman@usda.gov
865-862-2073
Dr. Dumitru Salajanu, FIA Remote Sensing Forester, has Retired

Dr. Dumitru Salajanu entered retirement on August 30, 2019 after working as a Remote Sensing Forester with the Forest Inventory and Analysis unit since 2003.

Dumitru earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Forestry and Forest Engineering at Transilvania University of Brasov, Romania, and surreptitiously continued his education while living and working behind The Iron Curtain as a Forest Engineer (Engineer silvic). Traveling by train at night and on weekends, he eventually earned a master’s degree in Economics at The Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Two years later, after getting his affairs in order and saying goodbye to his mother, Dumitru fled his homeland and traveled to the United States of America to meet his brother who had escaped the country earlier.

After settling in Detroit, Dumitru decided that the best way to become proficient in English was to attend college. He enrolled in graduate course work at Michigan State University in 1987 and eventually earned a Master of Science degree in Natural Resources/Remote sensing at the University of Michigan in 1993 and a Ph.D. in Natural Resources and Remote Sensing at the University of Michigan in 1998. He worked during those school years, and afterwards, at the following locations: Siskiyou National Forest Gold Beach Ranger District and Illinois Valley Ranger District, Cave Junction, Oregon 1990–1991; The University of Michigan, National Forest Health Monitoring Project, 1995–1996 (Research Assistant); Southern Research Station—Savannah River Site, New Ellenton, South Carolina, 1999–2002 (Forester).

Dumitru plans to visit his sister in Romania and pick free apples, plums and berries at the old house and farmstead, which was partially returned to his family after The Iron Curtain fell in 1989. His FIA friends and coworkers wish him all the best!

For more information, contact Dennis M. Jacobs, at 865-862-2060 or dennis.jacobs@usda.gov.

FY 2019 Publications Published since June, 2019


Current Status of FIA Data Posted

For more information, contact Jeff Turner at 865-862-2053 or jeffery.turner@usda.gov.

Status of Current Field Inventories

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<th>State</th>
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<th>Subcycle start date</th>
<th>Cycle and inventory year of current inventory</th>
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Information compiled September 25, 2019.

a Closing out prior panel—beginning new panel.


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 Timber Product Output (TPO) database available at: http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/
Information specific to Southern States: http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/
Electronic copies of SRS FIA publications at: http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/