Southern Research Station, Forest Inventory & Analysis

The Inventory

An Update Concerning the SRS FIA Program

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Inside this issue:

Forest Inventory and Analysis
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SRS FIA Information Update

There are many activities relating to FIA that have happened and, in some cases, are still occurring. Number 1—field work is still occurring albeit at a reduced pace. The good news is that plot production is higher than anticipated when the pandemic started, but is still lower than it would have been without the pandemic. Data users should note that there may be delays in completing annual plot panels and as a result data availability will lag. I will keep you posted on the status.

Secondly, the 2020 National FIA Virtual User Group Meeting was recently held on August 17–21. As I understand it, there were over 150 individuals registered for the meeting although the highest attendance for any individual session was just short of 100. The organizers and conveners are currently summarizing the meeting and gathering the presentations and recordings from the session. Yes, the sessions were recorded and much of the information will be available sometime in the future.

I participated in/attended all the sessions which started at 1:00 PM (eastern) daily and went to at least 3:30 PM and sometimes as late as 5:00 PM. The first half of the meeting was updates on items from the FIA Program—Carbon Accounting, National Woodland Owner Survey, Timber Products Output, Urban FIA, Image-Change Estimation, Land Use/Land Change, and Digital Engagement—including and covering many of the projects supporting these aspects of FIA. These sessions were generally well-received although one comment did come out (and I paraphrase) – many of these activities are good but FIA needs to move some of them from research to production.

The latter half of the virtual meeting focused on what users need from FIA. These comments were presented during a flash session which prompted newer users of FIA data and information to identify their needs and wishes. And finally, by a series of presentations from users grouped together—States, NGOs, industry, and NFS which replied to the questions—"What would users like to see more of from FIA?", and "What would users like to see less of from FIA?". Other than the comment above, much of the comments related to training users and delivering better tools on how to use FIA data to answer the users questions, incorporating "story telling" into sharing FIA information and knowledge, and clearly defining and communicating the limitations of FIA data use.

Finally, there were two retirements from the FIA Program at the end of July – one from SRS and one Washington Office. Kathy Tillman, SRS FIA Field Supervisor, located in Nacogdoches, TX retired. Kathy started her FIA career in the field with what eventually became the Northern Research Station FIA unit. She finished her career with SRS FIA and had been with us since the mid-2000s. Best wishes on your retirement!

The Washington Office retiree is Greg Reams, National FIA Program Manager, a position Greg has held from late 2004. Greg held various positions within the FS and one of his early positions was with SRS FIA coming from the quantitative research work unit with the previously named Southern Forest Experiment Station based in New Orleans, LA. Greg was instrumental in communicating FIA issues and garnering support for the FIA program. Greg's skills and support of the FIA Program will be missed. Enjoy your retirement Greg and best wishes!

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

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Compilation of Conversion Factors Used in TPO Data Processing

The FIA Timber Product Output (TPO) program canvasses primary roundwood receiving facilities annually to determine industrial uses of roundwood. The questionnaires provide general mill information such as location, type, and size, as well as procurement information such as the volume of roundwood received by product type, species, and geographic origin. The questionnaires are also used to estimate the volume, type, and use of mill residues. All reported roundwood and residue volume amounts include a corresponding unit of measurement as there is no national standard for wood measurement and few restrictions are placed on the roundwood and residue measurement units reported by a mill. This means that volume data obtained from mill questionnaires can be in a variety of measurement units. For consistent reporting it is necessary to convert the raw volume data to FIA regional and national standard units of measurement using conversion factors. These conversion factors can vary by region, State, product type, species, survey year, and/or other variables.

A report was recently published by the Southern Research Station that provides a comprehensive compilation of all roundwood and residue conversion factors used by each regional TPO program. Accompanying the list of conversion factors are specific examples illustrating how conversion factors

for each product type and region are applied. A discussion of factor variability between and within regions is also presented, as well as recommendations for improving factor consistency and accuracy.

Citation: Winn, M.F.; Royer, L.A.; Bentley, J.W.; Piva, R.J.; Morgan, T.A.; Berg, E.C.; Coulston, J.W. 2020. Timber products monitoring: unit of measure conversion factors for roundwood receiving facilities. e-Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS–251. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 148 p. https://www.fs.usda.gov/treesearch/pubs/60116.

For more information, contact Matt Winn at 540-231-8815 or matthew.winn@usda.gov.

FIA Academy

The Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS) FIA Academy team has just updated their self-guided training modules, *FIA 101* and *Estimation Tools 101.*

Highlights include:

- *FIA 101* now includes more info about other FIA units and updated FIADB jargon.
- The new *Estimation Tools 101* contains easy-to-follow instructions for using DATIM, EVALIDator online, and the Excel-based EVALIDator batch reports, as well as an overview of how to interpret estimates and standard errors.

You can download the modules here. These modules were developed by RMRS FIA but have recently incorporated information from all FIA units. The training modules apply to all FIA data users across the U.S.

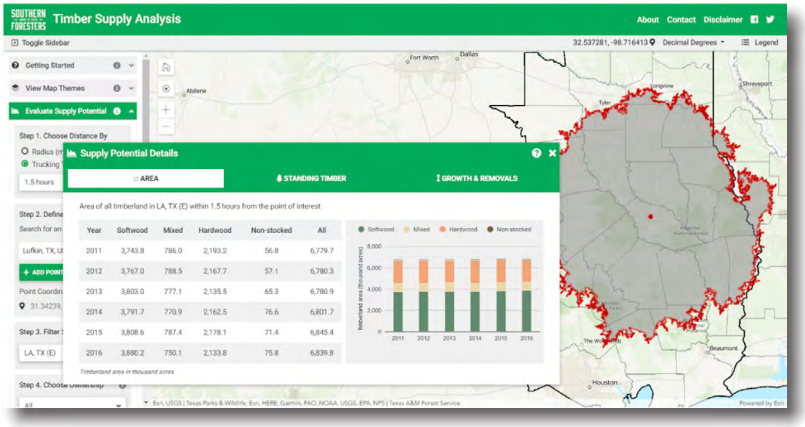
This link should be accessible to anyone with a Box account of any kind, including non-FS individuals, so feel free to share. Note that the *FIA Estimations Tools 101* zip file also includes *FIA 101*, because *Estimation Tools 101* contains hyperlinks to some of the introductory concepts in *FIA 101.*

Please share any feedback with Sara Goeking, RMRS FIA at *sara.goeking@usda.gov.*

For more information, contact Sara Goeking at 801-625-5193 or sara.goeking@usda.gov.

Southern Timber Supply Analysis: Forest Inventory Data for All

Texas A&M Forest Service, the Southern Group of State Foresters, National Association of State Foresters, and USDA FS developed the Southern Timber Supply Analysis application, accessible at http://www.southerntimbersupply.com/. By utilizing the Web application's maps, users can estimate the amount of timberland, standing timber, and growth and removals within a specified supply area in the southern U.S. Data is updated regularly and readily shows areas that have an abundant and sustainable supply of forest resources.



Exemplifying the power of this Web tool is the recent decision by Angelina Forest Products to locate a $100 million sawmill in Lufkin, TX. Using Texas A&M Forest Service timber analysis information, they determined that the area offers an abundance of sustainable forest resources as well as a talented workforce familiar with the industry. Now such information is accessible across the South. Based on the Texas program, the Southern Timber Supply Analysis Web application is the first of its kind in the nation, granting public access to timber supply data to anyone with access to the internet in a user-friendly format.

The digital tools are free to use, readily accessible and can generate reports and insights that can easily be shared. The tools can be used to proactively recruit wood-based businesses to the South, identify areas on which to focus restoration efforts, and make stronger, more informed decisions on behalf of the southern economy.

The Southern Timber Supply Analysis Web application summarizes USDA FS FIA data for a user-defined supply area, producing estimates of the amount of timberland and standing timber, growth, and removals within a user-specified distance (50, 75, or 100 miles) or trucking time (1, 1.5, or 2 hours) of the user's site of interest in the U.S. South. The analysis can be filtered by State and ownership, and timber quantities can be displayed by volume or by green weight. The results can be downloaded in a PDF report. The application also contains pre-made statewide reports available for download.

Designed specifically for ease of use, Southern Timber Supply Analysis simplifies the process of examining forest inventory levels and sustainability within a custom area. It presents the results—equivalent to running numerous EVALIDator queries—in a matter of seconds, with very little effort required by the user. The information available through Southern Timber Supply Analysis supports economic development, conservation and sustainability efforts, and State forestry agencies and associations.

The application is a project of the Southern Group of State Foresters. It was funded in part by the USDA FS and developed by Texas A&M Forest Service for the 13 southern States.

For more information, contact Rebekah Zehnder at 979-458-6630 or rzehnder@tfs.tamu.edu.

FY 2020 Publications Published since June, 2020

Brandeis, T., comp. 2020. Celebrating progress, possibilities, and partnerships: proceedings of the 2019 Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Science Stakeholder Meeting; November 19–21, 2019; Knoxville, TN. e-Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS–256. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 267 p. https://www.fs.usda.gov/treesearch/pubs/60966. https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/60966.

Caputo, J.; Butler, B.; Brandeis, T.; Riitters, K. 2020. Changes in land use, forest ownership, parcel size, and fragmentation in forests of the U.S. South. e-Res. Pap. SRS–63. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 16 p. https://srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/60404/.

Frey, G.E.; Chamberlain, J.L.; Schmidt, J.P. 2020. Estimating the value of forests for provisioning non-timber forest products to market: concepts, approaches, and case studies. Agricultural and Resource Economics Review. 49(1): 91–116. https://doi.org/10.1017/age.2019.17. https://srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/60103.

Greenberg, C.H.; Zarnoch, S.J.; Austin, J.D. 2019. Short-term response to season of burn by amphibians and reptiles in a Florida longleaf pine – wiregrass sandhill. Canadian Journal of Forest Research. 49(12): 1580–1589. https://doi.org/10.1139/cjfr-2019-0219. https://srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/59808.

Kilgo, J.C.; Blake, J.I.; Grazia, T.E.; Horcher, A.; Larsen, M.; Mims, T.; Zarnoch, S.J. 2020. Use of roadside deer removal to reduce deer-vehicle collisions. Human-Wildlife Interactions. 14(1). 9 p. https://srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/60152.

Koch, F.H.; Coulston, J.W. 2020. Chapter 4 - Drought and moisture surplus patterns in the conterminous United States: 2018, 2016–2018, and 2014–2018. In: Potter, K.M.; Conkling, B.L., eds. Forest health monitoring: national status, trends, and analysis 2019. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS–250. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Southern Research Station: 83–102. https://srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/60384.

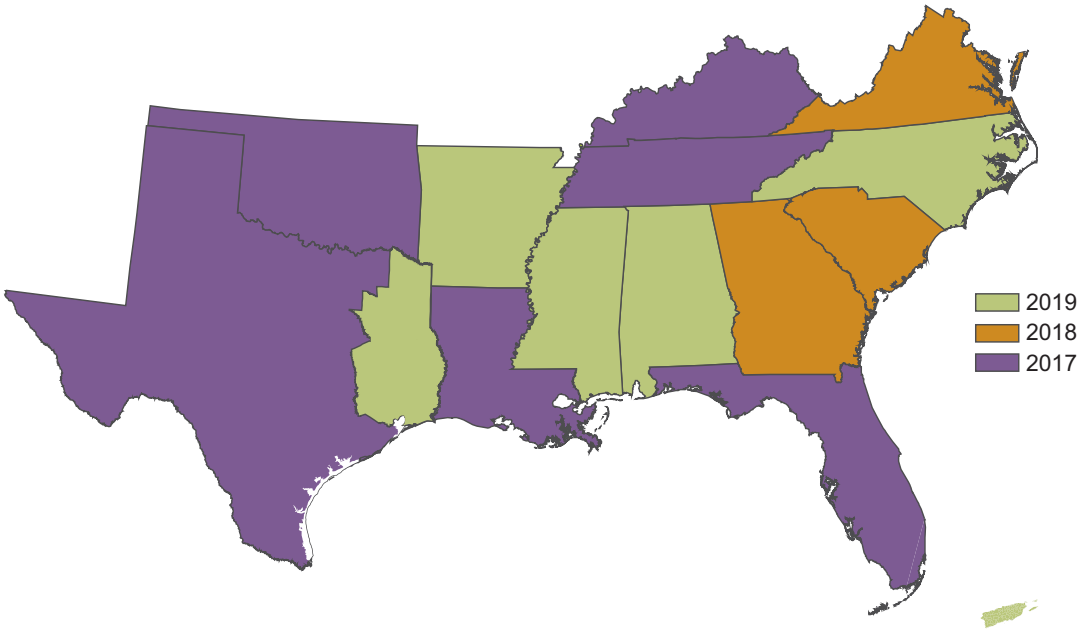
Lambert, S. 2020. Georgia's forests, 2017: Annual update. Resource Update FS–226. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 4 p. https://doi.org/10.2737/FS-RU-226. https://srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/59324.

Loeb, S.C.; Hines, B.A.; Armstrong, M.P.; Zarnoch, S.J. 2019. Effects of omnidirectional microphone placement and survey period on bat echolocation call quality and detection probabilities. Acta Chiropterologica. 21(2): 453–464. https://doi.org/10.3161/15081109ACC2019.21.2.019. https://srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/59966.

Schleeweis, K.G.; Moisen, G.G.; Schroeder, T.A.; Toney, C.; Freeman, E.A.; Goward, S.N.; Huang, C.; Dungan, J.L. 2020. US National Maps Attributing Forest Change: 1986-2010. Forests. 11: 653. https://srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/60327.

Winn, M.F.; Royer, L.A.; Bentley, J.W.; Piva, R.J.; Morgan, T.A.; Berg, E.C.; Coulston, J.W. 2020. Timber products monitoring: unit of measure conversion factors for roundwood receiving facilities. e-Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS–251. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 148 p. https://srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/60116.

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

State	Subcycle start date	Cycle and inventory year of current inventory	Percent of current subcycle collection completed
Alabama	April 2019	10:2020	100
Alabama[a]	May 2020	11:2021	35
Arkansas	Feb., 2020	11:2020	68
Florida	June 2018	10:2018	85
Florida[a]	June 2020	11:2019	21
Georgia	June 2019	11:2019	97
Georgia[a]	June 2020	12:2019	19
Kentucky	Sep., 2019	08:2018	62
Louisiana	Oct., 2019	09:2018	79
Mississippi	Feb., 2020	10:2020	72
North Carolina	Oct., 2020	10:2020	100
North Carolina[a]	Sep., 2020	10:2021	4
Oklahoma (east)	Nov., 2019	09:2018	100
Oklahoma (east)[a]	June 2020	09:2019	25
Oklahoma (west)	Mar., 2018	02:2018	100
Oklahoma (west)[a]	June 2020	03:2019	14
Puerto Rico	Nov., 2017	06:2018	100
Puerto Rico[a]	April 2019	06:2019	100
South Carolina	May 2019	12:2019	100
South Carolina[a]	Aug., 2020	12:2020	24
Tennessee	Oct., 2019	10:2018	78
Texas (east)	Jan., 2020	11:2020	70
Texas (west)	Nov., 2018	02:2017	100
Texas (west)[a]	Aug., 2019	02:2018	77
U.S. Virgin Islands	Dec., 2019	04:2019	8
Virginia	June 2019	11:2019	94
Virginia[a]	Sep., 2020	11:2020	1

Information compiled September 21, 2020.
[a] Closing out prior panel—beginning new panel.

For more information, contact Angie Rowe at 865-862-2052 or kimberly.rowe@usda.gov.

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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.

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: https://www.fs.usda.gov/srsfia/php/tpo_2009/tpo_rpa_int1.php
National Woodland Owner Survey Web site: http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/nwos/
Information specific to Southern States: https://www.fs.usda.gov/srsfia/
Electronic copies of SRS FIA publications at: https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/