Forest Inventory and Analysis:
A Special Issue of the Journal of Forestry

Forest Inventory and Analysis: Moving to an Annual National System Accurate and timely assessments of forest ecosystems are critical needs of modern forestry. The US forest inventory system, which provides the information for these tasks, is moving from a periodic to an annual basis, as mandated by the Farm Bill of 1998 and advocated by much of the forestry profession. The challenges of this mandate are considerable. The Forest Service's Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program is the primary focus of these changes.

In December 1999, the Journal of Forestry published a special issue on the FIA program and the move to an annual inventory approach. The issue covers the history of forest survey sampling, current work taking place in specific regions, and user perspectives on the adoption of an annual inventory system. Articles discuss the need for reevaluation of analytical approaches; techniques for integrating auxiliary information into forest inventory; combining current with archival data; and the role of remote sensing technologies.

Link to the complete special issue of the Journal of Forestry (vol. 97, no. 12).