



Forest Inventory and Analysis North Central FIA Program



FIA Fact Sheet Series

FIA Mission. The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program of the USDA Forest Service has been in continuous operation since 1930 with a mission to:

"make and keep current a comprehensive inventory and analysis of the present and prospective conditions of and requirements for the renewable resources of the forest and rangelands of the US."

The FIA Program collects, analyzes, and reports information on the status and trends of America's forests: how much forest exists, where it exists, who owns it, and how it is changing, as well as how the trees and other forest vegetation are growing and how much has died or has been removed in recent years. This information can be used in many ways, such as in evaluating wildlife habitat conditions, assessing the sustainability of ecosystem management practices, and supporting planning and decision-making activities undertaken by public and private enterprises.

The FIA Program combines this information with related data on insects, diseases, and other types of forest damages and stressors to assess the health, condition, and potential future risks to forests.

North Central States. The North Central FIA (NC-FIA) program includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The north central region encompasses about 82 million acres of forestland.

History. In the past, permanent plots were established in each state and then revisited on roughly a 13-

year schedule so that each area could be assessed for current status as well as changes in forest area, growth, removals, and mortality.

State	Last Periodic Survey
Illinois	1998
Indiana	1998
Iowa	1990
Kansas	1994
Michigan	1993
Minnesota	1990
Missouri	1989
Nebraska	1994
North Dakota	1994
South Dakota	1996
Wisconsin	1996

In 1994, the Forest Health Monitoring Program was implemented in the north central region to monitor annual and long-term changes in forest health. In 1998, the Farm Bill required FIA to institute dramatic changes to the inventory program (see FIA Program History Fact Sheet). The Farm Bill mandated an annual inventory across all land ownerships including National Forest System lands in every state every year, nationally consistent data collection, and 5-year reports that included assessments of forest health. In collaboration with its state partners, NC-FIA completed the transition from periodic to annual inventories in 2001, only 3 years after the passage of the Farm Bill and 2 years ahead of schedule. Our goal is to meet all of the mandates of the Farm Bill including the measurement of 20% of the plots in each state each year and the delivery of comprehensive and consistent assessments of each state's forests every 5 years.

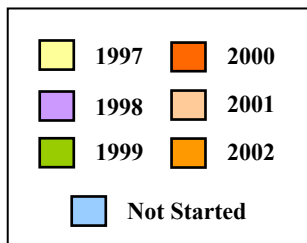
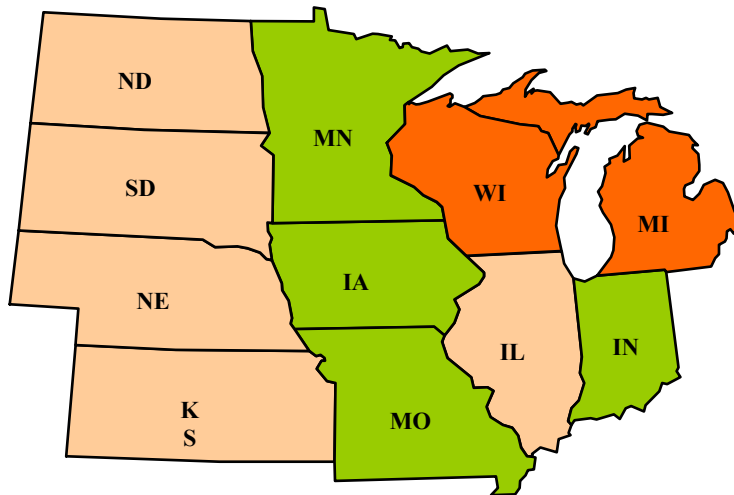
NC-FIA Organization. The North Central Research Station (NCRS) manages the NC-FIA Program at the Station headquarters in St. Paul, MN.

Staffing and activities are focused in the following areas: data collection, information management, resource analysis, and monitoring techniques research.

Core and Regional Measurements. National core measurements must be collected on all ground plots following standard data collection protocols (see Phase 2 and Phase 3: Ground Measurements Fact Sheet). These core measurements have been the focus of NC-FIA data collections since the passage of the Farm Bill. The national core can be augmented with regionally-specific measurements on Phase 2 plots to address specific regional and local issues. Currently regional non-core measurements are limited to those used for plot monumentation, reconciliation with past inventories, and tree quality (tree grade, tree class, damage, etc).

Partners and Clients. NC-FIA partners and clients include other Forest Service research programs; state forestry agencies National Forest System and Forest Health Protection programs in the Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry; other federal agencies such as National Parks Service, and Natural Resources Conservation Service; universities; environmental organizations; forest industry companies; and private landowners. The needs of these groups help determine the additional data collected, the research and analyses performed, and the kind of report or output produced. Input and collaboration from partners and clients are obtained in a variety of ways including annual client meetings, data requests, special working sessions, and cooperative agreements.

**North Central Annual Inventory
Starting Year**



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**For more information about the
FIA Program:**

- Visit our NC-FIA website:
<http://www.ncrs.fs.fed.us/4801/>
- Visit our National FIA website:
<http://www.fia.fs.fed.us>
- See our "FIA Contacts" Fact Sheet