



Forest Inventory and Analysis Pacific Northwest 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.

Pacific Northwest (PNW) States. The PNW-FIA program includes the states of Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington and the Pacific Islands of American Samoa, Guam, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, Confederated States of Micronesia, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas. The PNW-FIA region encompasses over 219 million acres of forestland.

History. In the past, permanent plots were established in each state and then revisited on roughly a 12-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
Alaska	1997-2003
California	1994
Hawaii	1985
Oregon	1999
Washington	2001
American Samoa	2001
Federated States of Micronesia	1985
Guam	2002
Marshall Islands	N/A
Palau	2003
Northern Marianas	N/A

In 1992, the Forest Health Monitoring Program was implemented in California to monitor annual and long-term changes in forest health. In 1997 FHM was added to Oregon and Washington. 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 in every state every year and nationally consistent data collection and summarization across all land ownerships including National Forest System lands. In the years since the passage of the 1998 Farm Bill, the PNW-FIA program has been transitioning from periodic to annual inventories across all ownerships and has instituted national data standards.

As of 2003, PNW-FIA is funded to conduct inventories annually in California, Oregon, and Washington; and is partially funded for annual inventory in coastal Alaska (with full funding expected in 2004). It is also

funded to carry out periodic inventories in the Pacific Islands where their small size and remoteness makes annual inventories impractical. One periodic inventory for one island or island group per year is planned. Annual inventory will be conducted in interior Alaska as funds become available. The goal for annual inventories in the PNW states is to measure 10% of the plots each year in each state in order to have 100% measurement of each state's forests every 10 years.

PNW-FIA Organization. The Pacific Northwest (PNW) Research Station manages the PNW-FIA Program at the Portland Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Portland OR and at the Anchorage Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Anchorage, Alaska. Staffing and activities are focused in the following areas: data collection, information management, environmental analysis and research, and inventory reporting and mapping.

Core and Regional Measurements. National core measurements (see Phase 2 and Phase 3: Ground Measurements Fact Sheet) are collected on all ground plots. In each state, region-specific data is also collected on Phase 2 plots so that analyses can address specific regional and local issues. PNW-FIA regional non-core measurements include: insects and diseases, down woody debris, understory vegetation, and a larger plot (annular ring) for large trees.

Partners and Clients. PNW-FIA partners and clients include other Forest Service research programs; state forestry agencies; National Forest System; Forest Health Protection programs in 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.

Fact Sheet Author: Sally Campbell

For more information about the FIA Program:

- Visit our PNW FIA website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/fia>
- Visit our National FIA website: <http://www.fia.fs.fed.us>
- See our “FIA Contacts” Fact Sheet

PNW Annual Inventory Starting Year

