

# The Inventory

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## An Update Concerning the SRS FIA Program

Back in the September 2011 issue of *The Inventory* an article titled Issues with Analyzing Net Growth by Diameter Class ([http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/program\\_information/September%202011.pdf](http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/program_information/September%202011.pdf)) identified an issue with analysis of growth and removals by diameter class. The issue simply stated is that there is a potential for misinterpretation when using Forest Inventory and Analysis Database (FIADB) online tools to report the distribution of growth across classed variables that are dynamic over the remeasurement period, like diameter class, tree class, log grade, etc. Because the class of the tree where growth is being observed can change over time, the choice currently made in the online tools is to distribute growth by the initial or final class. This choice will distribute growth differently depending on the classification point selected (i.e. +initial vs. final), which can lead to misinterpretation of the results by those unaware of the subtleties. Users should note that the current procedures in the FIADB online tools always yielded accurate results for attributes such as total growth, mortality, and removals.

The FIA Program has acknowledged the concern regarding how the current online tools distributed attributes across classes (i.e., growth by d.b.h. class) and while not incorrect, could be refined to improve both general and advanced analysis needs. To this need, the FIA Program is developing and implementing an improved algorithm that reconciles growth across changing class boundaries and incorporate the new algorithm into FIA's online tools. This approach will continue to allow advanced users needed flexibility in selecting boundary criteria for specialized analysis. In addition, it will clearly define the default settings.

Although still in development, it is hoped that the new system will be deployed by the end of August 2012. An alert (<http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/tools-data/default.asp>) has been placed on the FIA Data Tools Web site for online tool users and if analyses of this type are required who to contact for assistance in these data queries. Please contact me if you need any assistance.

As always, if you have any technical questions regarding FIA, please submit those questions to Charlene Walker ([cwalker@fs.fed.us](mailto:cwalker@fs.fed.us)) and we will address 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.

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*New Employees on Board*

Dr. Jim Chamberlain, formerly with the SRS National Agroforestry Center, has joined the Forest Inventory and Analysis team. Jim has focused his professional attention for the last 30+

years on forestry, forest management, forest products and natural resource issues. He holds an Associate degree in forest management from Paul Smith's College (1976), a Bachelor of Science in Wood Products Engineering from SUNY, College of Environmental Science and Forestry (1979), a Master of Forest Science from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies (1986), and a Master of Economics from Virginia Tech (1996).

He received his Ph.D. from the College of Natural Resources at Virginia Tech in 2000, with a focus on managing forests for nontimber forest products. Jim leads research to quantify and articulate the ecological and economic impacts of harvesting understory herbaceous plants, particularly edible and medicinal forest plants. He has long-term research harvest impact studies on black cohosh and ramps.

He is building a dynamic forest farming research and development network on sustainable production of native medicinal plants for the economic benefit of private forest landowners. Jim also is leading a national effort to describe the nontimber forest products industry, and to quantify the value of the medicinal herb segment that will ensure the sustainability of this valuable portion of the economy. Jim has contributed to many of the FIA State reports.

We welcome Jim and believe that his expertise will add a very useful dimension to FIA, ultimately benefiting our many stakeholders and greatly improving sustainability of our forest resources.



Forest Inventory and Analysis is pleased to announce the selection of Mr. Douglas C. Haskell as the unit's new Safety and Occupational Health Specialist. Doug was born on June 29, 1967 in

Lafayette, Indiana. He graduated from Lenoir City High School in Lenoir City, TN in May 1985 and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in May

1988. He earned an Associate's degree in Electrical and Mechanical Technology from the Community College of the Air Force. He served over 23 years as an Electrical Power Production Craftsman with assignments in the United Kingdom, Texas, South Korea, South Carolina, Germany, California, and Kansas. He held various positions with the Air Force including Non-Commissioned Officer in charge of Quality Assurance, Superintendent of Maintenance Operations, and Superintendent of Wing Inspections. Doug was deployed in support of Operations NORTHERN WATCH, IRAQI FREEDOM, and ENDURING FREEDOM. He retired from the Air Force on April 1, 2012, and started his new position with FIA in early May. Doug's office is located at SRS FIA headquarters in Knoxville, TN.

### ***Peruvian and Colombia Stakeholder Study Tour to Strengthen Forest Inventory Information Management***

A group of nine forest inventory stakeholders from Peru and Colombia visited the Southern Research Station's Forest Inventory and Analysis (SRS FIA) research unit in Knoxville, Tennessee, on May 14-17, 2012. Accompanying them were personnel from the USDA Forest Service International Program's (IP) Peru Forest Sector Initiative (PFSI), SilvaCarbon, and the Northern Research Station FIA (NRS FIA). PFSI is a USDA Forest Service program in Peru that aims to provide technical support and implementation of best practices to help the Peruvian Government in improving management of natural resources, with emphasis in the forestry sector. SilvaCarbon, a multiagency U.S. Government program that supports countries participating in reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and enhancing forest carbon stocks (REDD+) in developing countries, sponsored the visitors from Colombia. The goal of this visit was to help the visitors better understand forest inventory objectives, data flow, processing and quality control, and how to disseminate the information once it is gathered.

*For more information, contact Thomas Brandeis at 865-862-2030 or [tjbrandeis@fs.fed.us](mailto:tjbrandeis@fs.fed.us).*



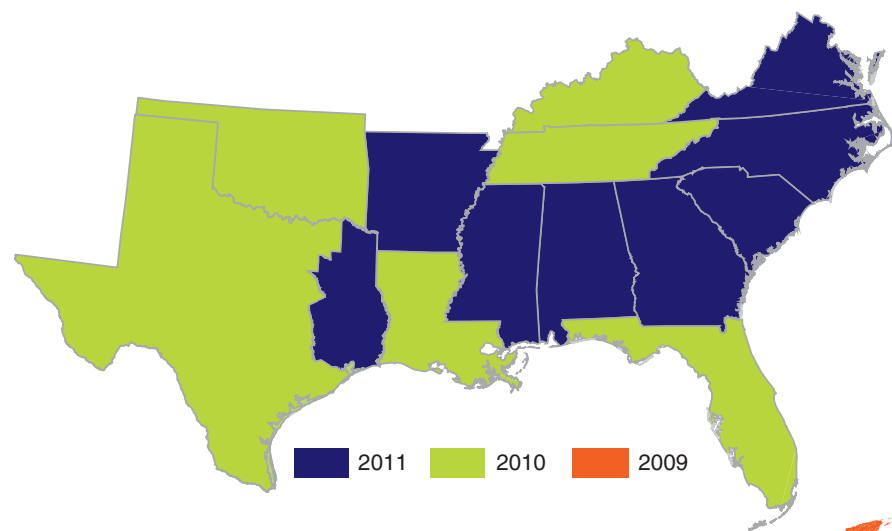
The visitors came from a variety of governmental agencies and universities that included the Peruvian Wildlife and Forestry Service (DGFFS), Environmental Ministry (MINAM), National Agrarian University of La Molina (UNALM), National University of the Peruvian Amazon (UNAP), regional governments with emphasis in the Amazonian region, and the Colombian Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology, and Environmental Studies (IDEAM). Both countries have implemented pilot forest inventory projects in preparation for expanding these efforts nationwide. Their representatives presented their accomplishments, objectives and challenges of forest inventory and information management in their countries to the group.

The SRS FIA unit presented how the FIA program inventories forests in the United States. After a greeting from the SRS Director Rob Doudrick and the SRS Executive Team via video teleconference, presenters showed the group how the FIA sampling was designed, then followed the course of data from the office to the field and back again, ending with the results that are disseminated to interested stakeholders.

Field data collection was demonstrated on the newly installed demonstration plots in the University of Tennessee's Oak Ridge Forest and Arboretum. While there, the group was given a tour of the grounds and research projects led by the current Director Kevin Hoyt and former Director Richard Evans. Continuous translation between Spanish and English was provided by professional translators using a system of wireless earpieces that made communication between the groups nearly seamless. Both visitors and hosts agreed that the week was a success. Each presentation generated active exchanges of information and ideas about forest inventories. Everyone involved truly enjoyed sharing their cultures both in and outside the Knoxville office.

### ***Current Status of FIA Data Posted***

### **Most Recent FIA Data by State and Collection Year**



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***FY2012 Research  
Publications  
Published Since  
March 2012***

- Cooper, J.A.; Bentley, J.W.** 2012. East Texas, 2011 forest inventory and analysis factsheet. e-Science Update SRS-052. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 5 p.
- Harper, R.; Johnson, T.** 2012. Forest resources for east Oklahoma, 2008. Resour. Bull. SRS-187. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 112 p.
- Oswalt, C.M.** 2012. Tennessee, 2010 forest inventory and analysis factsheet. e-Science Update SRS-051. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 5 p.
- Oswalt, C.M.; Hartsell, A.J.** 2012. Long and short term changes in the forests of the Cumberland plateau and mountains using large scale forest inventory data. In: Butnor, J.R. ed. Proceedings of the 16th biennial southern silvicultural research conference. e-Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-156. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station: 237-246.
- Oswalt, C.M.; Oswalt, S.N.; Woodall, C.W.** 2012. An assessment of flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida* L.) decline in the Eastern United States. Open Journal of Forestry. 2(2): 41-53.
- Oswalt, S.N.; Johnson, T.G.** 2012. Louisiana, 2010 forest inventory and analysis factsheet. e-Science Update SRS-050. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 5 p.
- Roesch F.A.; Coulston, J.W.; Hill, A.D.** 2012. Statistical properties of alternative national forest inventory area estimators. Forest Science. <http://masetto.ingentaselect.co.uk/fstemp/b12e14167fb0e933f0f6fefca6a3f3c1.pdf>. 8 p.
- Roesch, F.A.; Van Deusen, P.C.** 2012. Monitoring forest/nonforest land use conversion rates with annual inventory data. Forestry: An International Journal of Forest Research. 85(3): 391-398.
- Rose, A.K.; Greenberg, C.H.; Fearer, T.M.** 2012. Habitat relations: Acorn production prediction models for five common oak species of the Eastern United States. The Journal of Wildlife Management. 76(4): 750-758.
- Woodall, C.W.; Domke, G.M.; MacFarlane, D.W.; Oswalt, C.M.** 2012. Comparing field- and model-based standing dead tree carbon stock estimates across forests of the US. Forestry. 85(1): 125-133.

*To access an electronic copy of each research publication, click on the publication number.*

***Status of Current Field Inventories***

State	Cycle start date	Subcycle start date	Cycle and subcycle of current inventory	Percent of current subcycle collection completed
Alabama	2005	Aug-11	9-7	99
Arkansas	2010	Dec-11	10-2	42
Florida	2008	Oct-11	9-4	57
Georgia	2009	Sept-11	10-3	76
Kentucky	2010	Apr-11	7-3	8
Louisiana	2009	Oct-11	8-3	71
Mississippi	2009	Sept-11	9-4	96
North Carolina	2008	Sept-11	9-4	87
Oklahoma (east)	2010	Mar-12	8-3	44
Oklahoma (west)	2009	June-11	2-3	100
Puerto Rico	2011	Jan-11	5-1	100
South Carolina	2012	Jan-12	11-1	43
Tennessee	2009	Feb-12	9-3	20
Texas (east)	2008	July-11	9-4	74
Texas (west)	2004	July-11	1-8	60
U.S. Virgin Islands	2009	Aug-09	2-1	100
Virginia	2012	Nov-11	10-1	42

Information compiled May 29, 2012.

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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.

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The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), is dedicated to the principle of multiple use management of the Nation's forest resources for sustained yields of wood, water, forage, wildlife, and recreation. Through forestry research, cooperation with the States and private forest owners, and management of the National Forests and National Grasslands, it strives—as directed by Congress—to provide increasingly greater service to a growing Nation.

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### *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/other/default.asp>

National Timber Product Output (TPO) database available at: <http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/>

National Woodland Owner Survey Web site: <http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/nwos/>

Information specific to Southern States: <http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/>

Electronic copies of SRS FIA publications at: <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/>