Southern Research Station, Forest Inventory & Analysis

The Inventory

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Forest Inventory and Analysis
4700 Old Kingston Pike
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An Update Concerning the SRS FIA Program

SRS FIA Information Update

It is that time again to develop the next National Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Strategic Plan. In fact it is a little overdue. The National FIA Strategic Plan was required by the 1998 Farm Bill that authorized the annual inventory within FIA. Every 5 years (or so), the FIA Program is required to complete a new 5-year strategic plan.

The FIA Program has been working over the past 5 months to develop the framework for the next National FIA Strategic Plan. Unlike previous plans which identified a multitude of avenues for the FIA Program to pursue, this draft strategic plan focuses on the existing FIA Program and identifies opportunities for improvements. This draft of the next National FIA Strategic Plan focuses on four basic areas:

- **Solidify the base FIA Program**—this aspect includes completion of the inventory in interior Alaska and nationalize/annualize the nonplot components of FIA: timber product output, National Woodland Owner Survey, and carbon/biomass accounting.
- **Enhancements to base program**—examine new technology, improve partnerships, increase analytical capabilities, improved techniques research, and increased training for online FIA data tools.
- **Add flexibility to the baseline FIA Program**—provide for opportunities to modify the baseline FIA Program for regional information needs without impacting the national core FIA Program.
- **Additions to the base FIA Program**—add an urban inventory component to FIA. This is the only addition planned for the next 5 years.

Your input on this draft National Strategic Plan is important. For more details on these items please visit the following Web site http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/draft_fifth_strategic_plan/index.shtml. To provide comments on this draft approach, please complete the questionnaire at the same Web site and return your comments to me. You can also call and we can discuss your thoughts over the phone.

As always, if you have any technical questions regarding FIA, please submit those questions to Charlene Walker (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.

Bill Burkman

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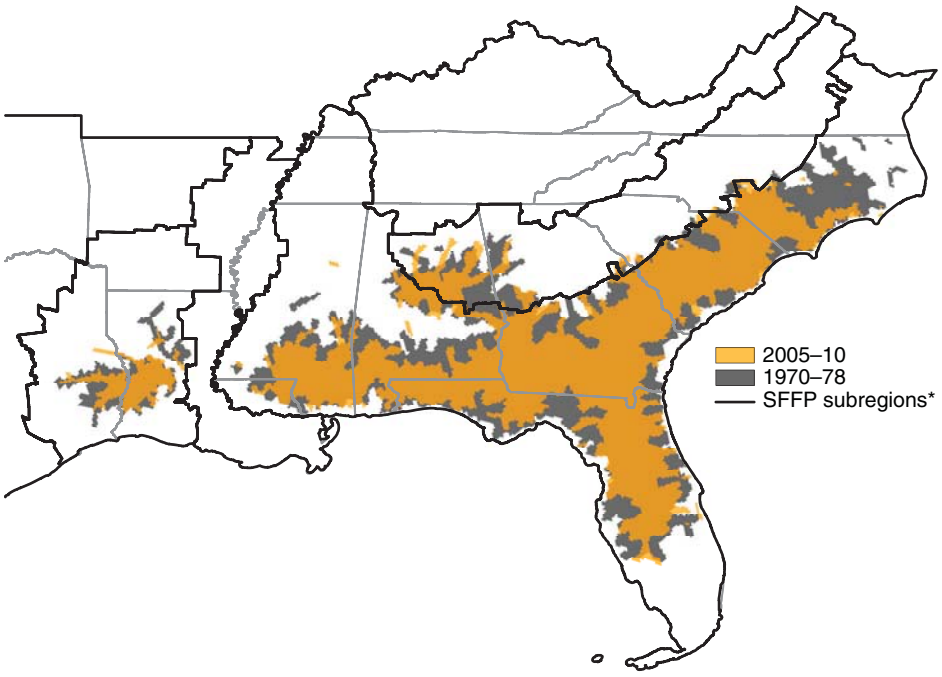
An Assessment of Longleaf Pine in the South Completed by the Southern Research Station

Longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris* Mill.) was once one of the most ecologically important tree species in the Southern United States. Longleaf pine and its accompanying forest ecosystems covered vast swaths of the Southern United States, spanning an estimated 92 million acres. Although once one of the most extensive forest ecosystems in North America, only a fraction of these longleaf pine forests remain today. While longleaf pine dominated forests have received considerable attention and land managers and conservation professionals are working to maintain and improve these important systems, longleaf pine forests currently only occupy a minor portion of the southern landscape. Contraction of the "footprint" the longleaf pine resource maintained in 1970 can be seen when compared to that of the 2010 footprint (fig. 1). There are positive signs, however, that point toward potential improvements. For example, the number of longleaf pine saplings has been increasing, the longleaf pine/oak acreage represents a considerable opportunity for restoration to longleaf pine forests, and in some areas of the longleaf pine range young stands are developing to aid replacement of those lost. Significant challenges to expanding the coverage of longleaf pine dominated forests do exist. However, with targeted research and conservation efforts, longleaf pine forests can thrive once again across the South.

The Southern FIA Program has also partnered with The Longleaf Partnership Council to evaluate the progress of restoration activities across the South. The partnership's survey was developed by State coordination teams under the leadership of the Forest Service, State Foresters, and National Resources Conservation Service State conservationists. It is hoped that the momentum of America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative and the synergies being achieved through the partnership's cooperative efforts along with the present and future rangewide assessments will further accelerate progress toward ambitious restoration goals in the years to come.

For an electronic copy of the publication, go to the following Web site http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/42259 or contact the SRS FIA Program at 865-862-2073 for a hardcopy.



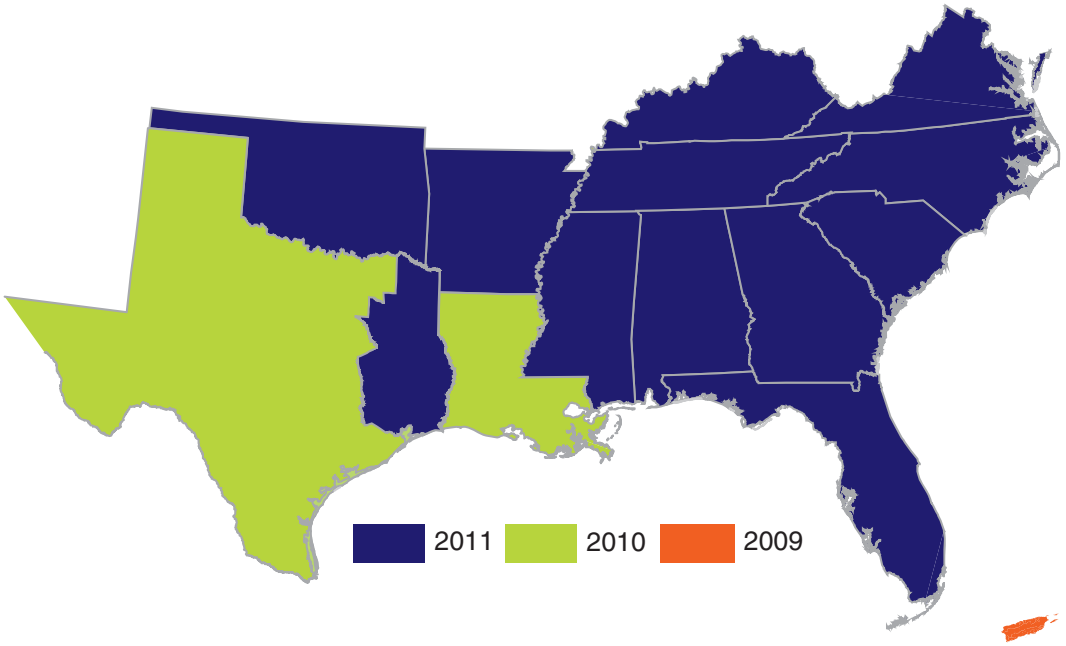
* Southern Forests Futures Project delineations.

Figure 1—Geographic extent of longleaf pine sampled by the Forest Inventory and Analysis program 2005–10 as compared to 1970–78.

For more information about the content contained in this report, contact Christopher M. Oswalt at coswalt@fs.fed.us or call 865-862-2068.

Current Status of FIA Data Posted

Most Recent FIA Data by State and Collection Year



For more information, contact Ali Conner at 865-862-2228 or aconner@fs.fed.us.

FY2013 Research Publications Published Since September 2012

Brandeis, T.J.; Randolph, K.C. 2010. Modeling Caribbean tree heights and crown widths. Caribbean Journal of Science. 46: 176–185.

Brooks, E.B.; Thomas, V.A.; Wynne, R.H.; Coulston, J.W. 2012. Fitting the multitemporal curve: a fourier series approach to the missing data problem in remote sensing analysis. Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing. PP(99): 1–14.

Coulston, J.W.; Moisen, G.G.; Wilson, B.T. [and others]. 2012. Modeling percent tree canopy cover: a pilot study. Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing. 78(7): 715–727.

Hodges, D.G.; Hartsell, A.; Brandeis, C. [and others]. 2012. Recession effects on the forests and forest products industries of the South. Forest Products Journal. 61(8): 614–624.

Oswalt, C.M.; Cooper, J.A.; Brockway, D.G. [and others]. 2012. History and current condition of longleaf pine in the Southern United States. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS–166. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 51 p.

Oswalt, C.M.; Oswalt, S.N.; Johnson, T.G. [and others]. 2012. Tennessee forests, 2009. Resour. Bull. SRS–189. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 136 p.

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.

Riitters, K.H.; Coulston, J.W.; Wickham, J.D. 2012. Integrating forest inventory and land cover data to assess forest fragmentation in the Eastern United States. Forest Ecology and Management. 263: 85–93.

Wang, H.; Prisley, S.P.; Radtke, P.J.; Coulston, J.W. 2011. Effect of perturbing plot locations on a terrain-based forest productivity model in the southern Appalachian Mountains, U.S.A. Mathematical and Computational Forestry & Natural Resource Sciences. 3(2): 114–123

Williams, B.L.; Straka, T.J.; Harper, R.A. 2012. Size of forest holding and family forests: implications for forest management in South Carolina. South Carolina Forestry. (3): 4–5.

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	2012	June-12	10-2013	38
Arkansas	2010	Dec-11	10-2012	99
Florida	2008	Oct-11	9-2012	89
Georgia	2009	Sept-11	10-2012	99
Kentucky	2010	Apr-12	7-2012	59
Louisiana	2009	May-12	8-2012	58
Mississippi	2009	May-12	9-2013	33
North Carolina	2008	Oct-12	9-2013	26
Oklahoma (east)	2010	Mar-12	8-2012	96
Oklahoma (west)	2009	June-12	2-2012	65
Puerto Rico	2011	Jan-11	5-2012	48
South Carolina	2012	Jan-12	11-2012	94
Tennessee	2009	Feb-12	9-2012	65
Texas (east)	2008	July-11	9-2012	99
Texas (west)	2004	July-11	1-2011	90
U.S. Virgin Islands	2009	Aug-09	2-2009	100
Virginia	2012	Nov-11	10-2012	90

Information compiled November 28, 2012.

For more information, contact Dale Trenda at 865-862-2039 or dtrenda@fs.fed.us.

Symposium is a Success!

Entomologists from across the United States came together in Knoxville in November 2012 for the annual Entomological Society of America (ESA) national meeting. J.T. Vogt (Southern Research Station-FIA) and Therese Poland (Northern Research Station-Forest Insects) co-organized a member symposium at the meeting entitled "Bugs, Bytes, and Basal Area – How Forest Inventory and Analysis Programs Support Forest Entomology Research." Fourteen papers were given, covering topics ranging from broadscale risk maps for invasive pests to the impacts of specific insects on their tree hosts. The highly collaborative nature of entomological research using FIA data was evident in the author affiliations, which included several U.S. Forest Service units, several universities, and the Canadian Forest Service. To our knowledge, this was the first formal symposium at an ESA meeting to highlight the value of FIA data to the entomological research community. The symposium was well-attended and several papers generated good questions and lively discussion. There was consensus among participants and audience members at the end to pursue similar symposia at upcoming meetings of various scientific organizations. It is our hope that these activities will generate interest in the demonstrated value of FIA data for answering entomological questions, and ultimately encourage more researchers to utilize FIA data.

For more information on Entomological Society of America, go to www.entsoc.org.

For more information about the specific session at the annual Entomological Society of America meeting, contact J.T. Vogt at jtvogt@fs.fed.us or 865-862-2035.

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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/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/