

Forest Inventory and Analysis in Indiana

Using New Approaches and New Products to Present Forest Resource Data

The Challenge

The Forest Service's Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program represents the Nation's only comprehensive forest resources database. FIA data is invaluable to State Foresters, forest planners, forest management policy makers, and to citizens concerned about the condition of their forestlands. The challenge is presenting the data in user-friendly formats.

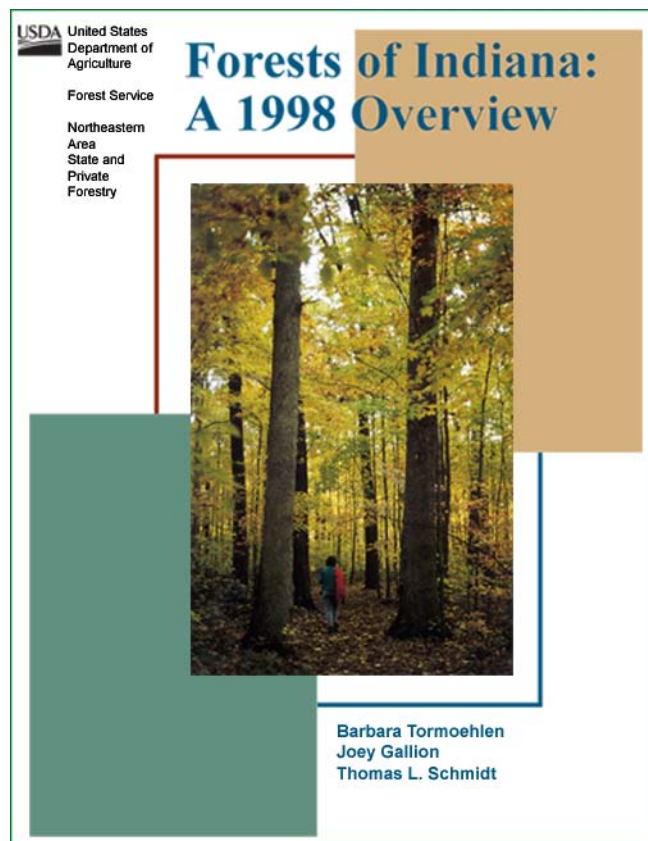
The Solution

The Forest Service's Northeastern Area and North Central Research Station, and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources created a partnership to take on this challenge. An interorganizational analysis team developed a colorful, easy-to-read, overview publication of Indiana's forest resources based on the recent FIA survey data. This booklet is in high demand within Indiana and beyond.

Three issue teams, composed of specialists from the partner organizations, are assessing what FIA data reveals about key forest management issues including the health of Indiana's forests, Indiana's land-use patterns, and the relationship of forest resources to local and State economies. The resulting publications will be relevant, and will contribute to more informed discussion, understanding, and decisions regarding Indiana's forests. The same partnership is using FIA data to inventory Indiana's urban forest resource, which until recently was something that FIA crews recorded as "nonforested."

The Indiana model demonstrates that organizations do work across administrative boundaries to serve the American public. In the process, a new format for presenting FIA information has been established. The Indiana approach taps the creativity and expertise of multiple partners to produce more relevant products.

The challenge: how to convert the large natural resource database into relevant information products that are easily understood by the public.



This colorful publication delivers Forest Inventory and Analysis data from Indiana to a wide audience.

Sharing Success

As the Forest Inventory and Analysis procedures change to accommodate an annual inventory, there is a need to package and deliver this information in timely and accessible formats. The Northeastern Area is collaborating with the Northeastern and North Central Research Stations and selected states to develop other new FIA information products that will focus on updated annual inventory data.



USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
 State and Private Forestry

For more information, contact:

Kathryn P. Maloney, Area Director
 11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
 Newtown Square, PA 19073
 Phone: 610-557-4103
 Email: kmaloney@fs.fed.us

Barb Tormoehlen
 USDA Forest Service
 811 Constitution Avenue
 Bedford, IN 47421
 Phone: 812-277-3567
 Email: btormoehlen@fs.fed.us