

The Inventory

Issue 9,
March 2008

An Update Concerning the SRS FIA Program

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SRS FIA Informational Update (March 2008)

The FY08 budget has been passed and the amounts of funding appropriated to are now making it out to the field units. Congress appropriated \$60.372 million within the Forest Service (FS) Research and Development budget and \$4.269 million in the FS State and Private Forestry budget for the FIA program. This is a total increase of \$0.992 million over FY07 funding levels. We are currently reviewing the amount available for Southern Research Station Forest Inventory and Analysis (SRS FIA) and finalizing our plan-of-work for FY08. Although the budget appropriated to FIA is up, this is another year that the amount of funding available to FIA at the unit level is essentially unchanged due to increased costs at the National and Station level. SRS FIA will be evaluating our options to ensure a balanced budget.

The FY09 President's budget has been released. The budget increases the FS Research and Development budget by \$1.928 million and decreases the FS State and Private Forestry budget available to FIA by \$4.561 million. The net impact is that for FY09, FIA is essentially down \$2.6 million. The budget will also make for some tough decisions regarding balancing the available budget and the desire to implement annual inventory in all States. We will have to watch this in the upcoming months and respond accordingly.

FIA leaders have continued to state continuing support for two objectives: *No State Left Behind* and *Lose No Ground*. The former means that our goal is to have all 50 States plus Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the western Pacific islands all included in the program. The latter means that once we begin work in a State, we want to continue field work in that State, and delay starting additional States if funding gets tight. Through FY07, those two objectives could co-exist because of the annual funding increases received. However, two things have recently raised concerns and suggest that one or the other objective needs to take precedence over the other. First, the pending State and Private Forestry Program Redesign has raised anxiety among State Foresters whose States are not yet in the program that they will be at a competitive disadvantage for State and Private Forestry competitive funding if the FIA program has not been implemented in their State. Secondly, the decreased funding proposed for FY09 means that no additional funding will exist to initiate the FIA program in the remaining States. To complete implementation of the full FIA program as recommended in 1998 Strategic Plan, the FIA program needs \$7.5 million to implement field data collection in the remaining States, plus \$1.5 million for additional analytical capacity to process, analyze, and report on the additional information.

If you will remember, the Society of American Foresters, in partnership with FS Research and Development, convened a workshop with many FIA partners defining *Core Variables for the FIA Program*. This meeting was held September 12 and 13, 2007 in Baltimore, MD.

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SRS FIA Informational Update (continued)

The recommendations that came forward from the meeting focused on either reducing field costs by measuring fewer Phase 2 plots per year (thinning the grid or lengthening the cycle) or by dropping variables. The recommendations to drop variables focused on dropping Phase 3 variables that have limited support among our partners and users. Accepting one or both of these recommendations will eliminate some of the successes that FIA has achieved over the past 10 plus years. Although these decisions may have to be made, I view this as unfortunate but this is the reality of our current situation.

As always, if you have any questions regarding FIA, please submit those questions to Charlene Walker (cwalker@fs.fed.us) and we will answer your questions 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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Status of Current Field Inventories

State	Cycle start date	Subcycle start date	Cycle and sub-cycle of current inventory	Percent of current subcycle collection completed
Alabama	2005	Sept-07	9-6	30
Arkansas	2005	Oct-07	9-5	31
Florida	2001	Mar-07	8-2	58
Georgia	2004	Aug-07	9-5	53
Kentucky	2005	Jun-07	6-4	45
Louisiana	2000	Nov-04	3-3	100
Mississippi	2005	Nov-05	8-6	100
North Carolina	2003	May-07	8-4	57
Oklahoma	2007	Oct-07	7-6	55
Puerto Rico	2006	Apr-07	4-2	93
South Carolina	2006	Jan-08	10-5	14
Tennessee	2005	Apr-07	8-4	98
Texas (east)	2003	Jun-07	8-5	66
Texas (west)	2004	Mar-07	51-4	95
U.S. Virgin Islands	2004	Jul-04	1	100
Virginia	2007	Aug-07	9-5	55

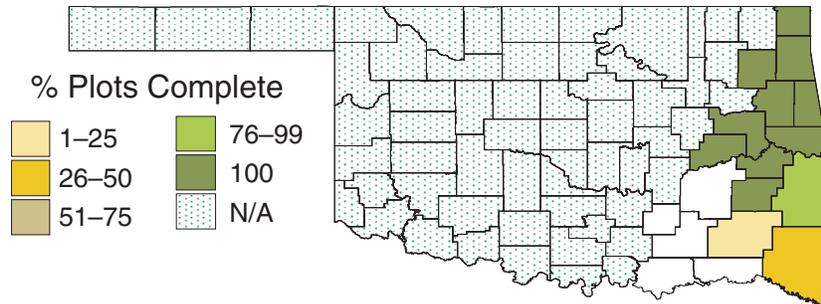
NA = not applicable. Information compiled February 15, 2008.

For more information, contact
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Oklahoma Inventory Over 50 Percent Complete

At the end of January the seventh inventory of eastern Oklahoma was over 50% complete. The northern unit was completed prior to the Christmas holiday and field work continues in the southern unit. Field personnel from across the southern region persevere in south-east Oklahoma in battling the brier and bramble. Additional assistance during

January and February has been provided by six employees from the Rocky Mountain Research Station's FIA unit. Personnel from the Mississippi Institute for Forest Inventory are also being trained by federal personnel in Oklahoma. A 2008 summer completion date is still anticipated.



Three Sticks Monument" overlooking the Kiamichi Mountains in Le Flore County. The three "sticks" symbolize LAND, WOOD and WATER.

For more information, please contact Kathy Tillman at kmtillman@fs.fed.us or 936-569-7981, ext. 4002.

***FY2008 Research
Publications Published
Since December 2007***

- Bentley, James W.; Lowe, Larry.** 2007. Kentucky's timber industry—an assessment of timber product output and use, 2005. Resour. Bull. SRS-124. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 32 p.
- Bentley, James W.; Schnabel, Doug.** 2007. Tennessee's timber industry—an assessment of timber product output and use, 2005. Resour. Bull. SRS-126. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 31 p.
- Bentley, James W.; Cartwright, Walter E.; Hendricks, Brian.** 2008. Alabama's timber industry—an assessment of timber product output and use, 2005. Resour. Bull. SRS-128. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 32 p.
- Brandeis, Thomas J.; Oswald, Sonja N.** 2007. The status of U.S. Virgin Islands' forests, 2004. Resour. Bull. SRS-122. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 61 p.
- Johnson, Tony G.; Becker, Charles W.** 2007. Virginia's timber industry—an assessment of timber product output and use, 2005. Resour. Bull. SRS-125. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 34 p.
- Johnson, Tony G.; Mann, Michael C.** 2007. North Carolina's timber industry—an assessment of timber product output and use, 2005. Resour. Bull. SRS-127. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 33 p.
- Oswald, Sonja N.; Oswald, Christopher M.** 2007. Relationships between common forest metrics and realized impacts of Hurricane Katrina on forest resources in Mississippi. Forest Ecology and Management. 9 p.

***Current Status of FIA
Data Posted to Mapmaker***

State	FIADB cycle	Survey	Periodic/ annual	Date year
Alabama	9	9	A	2006
Arkansas	9	9	A	2006
Florida	8	8	A	2005
Georgia	9	9	A	2005
Kentucky	6	6	A	2005
Louisiana	7	7	A	2005
Mississippi	8	8	A/P	2006
North Carolina	8	8	A	2005
Oklahoma (east)	1	6	P	1993
South Carolina	9	9	A	2006
Tennessee	8	8	A	2005
Texas (east)	8	8	A	2006
Virginia	8	8	A	2006

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

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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 Websites of Interest

National FIA website: <http://www.fia.fs.fed.us>

National FIA database available at: <http://www.ncrs2.fs.fed.us/4801/fiadb>

National Timber Product Output (TPO) database available at: <http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/php/tpo2/tpo.php>

National Woodland Owner Survey website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/woodlandowners/>

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

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