

Southern Research Station

Forest Inventory and Analysis

We count trees because trees count...

The Forest Inventory and Analysis program is the only program delivering a continuous and comprehensive assessment of our forest resources in a nationally consistent manner across all land ownerships. FIA data and analyses support economic development and forest planning decisions, as well as forecasts of timber supply.

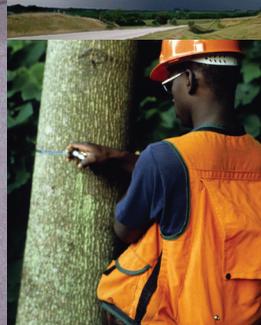
United States
Department of
Agriculture
Forest Service



Southern
Research
Station



<http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/science/fia.html>
FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS
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For the Wildlife Manager

fws.gov/ivorybill/pdf/IBWRRecoveryPlan2010.pdf



Identifying suitable habitat is a key factor in creating effective management plans for threatened or endangered wildlife. Using FIA data (such as forest type, stand age, stand-size class, tree density, and other tree attributes), researchers can identify potential habitat for a variety of plants and animals found in the forest. In 2004, FIA data was used to help in the search of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker—a bird that was thought to be extinct.

For the Timber Industry

srs.fs.usda.gov/compasslive/compass17/showing_potential.html



FIA compiles and maintains timber product output and harvest utilization data for southern forests. This type of data helps natural resource and industry professionals estimate timber supply and predict future biomass supplies given various land uses and forest conditions. These data also play a key role in generating opportunities to spur economic development. For example, these data, combined with estimates of carbon wood waste, helped FIA researchers determine that 8.8 million tons of unutilized material produced annually could be used to sustain new wood-based bioenergy facilities.

For the County and State Planner and Policymaker

http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/states/ms/ja_oswalt009.pdf



Natural disasters such as tornadoes and hurricanes are common in the South and greatly impact the southern landscape. When Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf States in 2005, policymakers depended on FIA data to provide rapid storm damage assessments and analyses of the effects on forest resources. FIA researchers combined current data with remote-sensing data to create real-time maps of the landscape as the storm moved inland so Federal and State policymakers could target disaster relief, as well as funding for firefighting, insect/disease monitoring, and forest restoration efforts.

For the Forest Manager

fia.fs.fed.us/



In 2001, FIA started systematically surveying plots for the presence and relative abundance of more than 25 nonnative invasive plants. An online data query tool now enables managers to access FIA data on nonnative invasive plant occurrence on forest land by county. Other details also are provided to enable individuals to map, model, and analyze these regional observations in combination with tree, forest condition, and plot attributes from the national FIA Web site. The ability to analyze forests in this way helps forest managers to develop sustainable forest management plans.

For the Wildland Fire Manager

wildfireprograms.usda.gov/



The health and sustainability of the South's forests are dependent on fire management. The South has the highest number of wildfires per year of any region in the United States. The FIA program has strategically moved into the wildfire arena by helping to quantify fire risk and potential losses, as well as develop forest treatment options to reduce catastrophic wildfires. To address this problem, Federal, State, and private land managers use FIA data to assess fuel loads and potential fire hazards. FIA inventories provide baseline data to assess current fuel conditions, and analysts work with partner agencies to derive improved estimates of daily wildland fire potential.