

The SRS-FIA SDS is located at 4700 Old Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN, and is staffed by experienced geographic information system (GIS) analysts who are familiar with FIA data. Software access includes Microsoft Windows 2000™ workstations equipped with GIS and various spatial analytical software packages. Additional software, supplied by the visitor, may be loaded as needed if the visitor has obtained an appropriate software license.



Forest cover of North Carolina (USDA Forest Service, SRS-FIA)

How Do I Request Data?

Before requesting data, we ask that interested parties visit the FIA MapMaker utility to determine if it will meet your needs. If you require additional data or are working on projects that require specific plot locations and/or specific ownership information, you must initiate a written data request.

Instructions for submitting data requests may be found at: http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/sds/how_to.shtml

For more information:

Southern Research Station FIA USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station FIA 4700 Old Kingston Pike Knoxville, TN 37919 865-862-2000 http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/	National FIA Washington Office USDA Forest Service 1601 North Kent Street, Suite 400 Arlington, VA 22209 703-605-4177 http://www.fia.fs.fed.us
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Cover panel photo: Pine forest in North Carolina. (Bill Lea, USDA Forest Service, retired)



USDA Forest Service
Southern Research Station,
in cooperation with
Southern Group of State
Foresters

Tracking Our Nation's Vital Forest Resources

Forest Inventory and Analysis

U.S. Forest Service
Southern Research Station
Science Update SRS-011

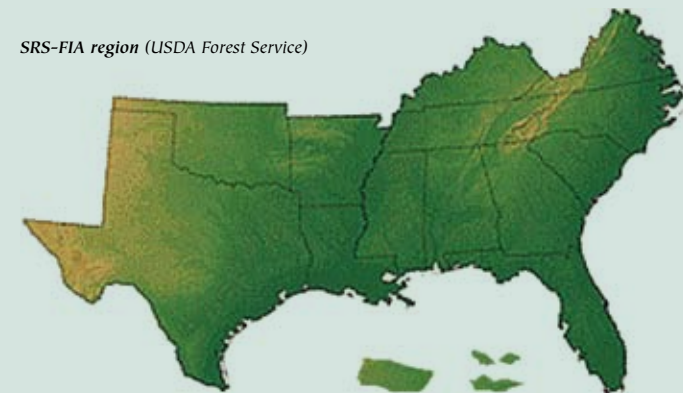
Since the 1930s, the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program of the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service has been tracking forest extent, health, vitality, and contributions to the national and global timber supply. Our field, office, and administrative staff are dedicated to helping foresters, wildlife biologists, universities, non-governmental organizations, Federal and State agencies, forest industry, and private landowners locate, analyze, and understand data related to our Nation's forest resources.

Southern Research Station FIA

Who We Are

The Southern FIA program, which is headquartered in Knoxville, TN with satellite offices in Asheville, NC and Starkville, MS, is part of the Southern Research Station (SRS). FIA collects data on over 215 million acres of public and private forest land in 13 Southern States and the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Through partnerships with State and private forestry agencies, we are able to collect data on millions of acres annually. The data are used by a variety of professionals on a daily basis to assess wildlife habitat, forest health, plant diversity, insect outbreaks, wood supply, timber resources, and other forest characteristics.

SRS-FIA region (USDA Forest Service)



Our Mission Statement

To conduct a program of research to improve the understanding of Southern forest ecosystems through inventories and analyses of the status and trends in resource conditions, use, productivity, and sustainability; and to conduct research to provide improved technology for timely and accurate resource inventories.

Mixed pine hardwood forest, ACE Basin, SC. (Bill Lea, USDA Forest Service, retired)

Collaborative Relationships

Provision of timely inventory information for land managers about Southern forest ecosystems is a high priority. Because wood-using industries play an important role in shaping the economic future of the Southern States, it is imperative that the status of and trends in forest resources be assessed in a timely manner so that forest sustainability and biological diversity can be assured.

This need has led to the development of major collaborative relationships with partners that include:

- Southern State foresters and their agency staffs
- USDA Forest Service (the Southern Research Station and Region 8)
- Forest industry and consultants
- Universities and others

State foresters have contributed human and financial resources to developing and implementing annual inventories. The SRS-FIA program is the only comprehensive forest resource inventory program in the Southern United States.

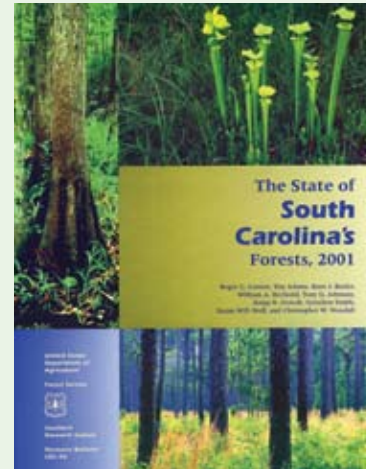
What Information Does FIA Collect?

Data collected on all FIA plots:

- Tree diameter, height, damage, and quality
- Regeneration
- Primary land use
- General stand characteristics (e.g. forest type, stand age, disturbance)
- Land use changes
- Trends in growth, removals, and mortality

Data collected on a subset of FIA plots:

- Tree crown vigor and health
- Soil characteristics
- Lichen diversity as a measure of climate change and air quality
- Down woody material as habitat and fuel
- Vegetation structure and diversity of all vascular plant species



South Carolina analytical report (USDA Forest Service)

National Woodland Owner Survey (NWOS)

Almost 60 percent of the forestland in the South is owned by nonindustrial private individuals, families, or groups. The NWOS is implemented as a component of the FIA program to determine:

- Who owns forest land;
- Why individuals and groups own forest land; and
- What is the future of private ownership of forest land.

More information about the NWOS is available at:

<http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/program-features/nwos/>

Timber Product Output (TPO)

Timber products are essential components of the Southern economy. TPO studies conducted by FIA track the movement of logs from the forest to over 2,000 primary mills. Phone and mail surveys of mills throughout the South are used to monitor the location, size, and type of mills in all of the Southern States. Additionally, biomass and utilization studies provide critical information pertinent to current issues like alternative energy sources and carbon sequestration.

More information on the TPO program is available at:<http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/program-features/tpo/>



Cuts in a mill yard. (L. David Dwinell, USDA Forest Service)

How Are FIA Data Used?

FIA provides objective, quality controlled data that are useful to policymakers, researchers, land managers, private citizens, forest industry, nongovernmental organizations, and other organizations. FIA data are used for a wide variety of purposes, including but not limited to:

- Evaluations of land use change on forest area, health, and productivity
- Assessments of structure and composition of forests for wildlife habitat

- Understanding private landowner needs and objectives
- Monitoring fuel loads and forest fire risk on public and private land
- Developing wood supply strategies for mill operations and locations
- Sparking interest in new research priorities and needs
- National and international analysis and assessment of forest resources

Get Data Now!

Self-Service Options

Data collected by the Southern FIA program are available to the public through the FIA Database (FIADB). The data may be accessed by downloading delimited files and importing those files to your PC using proprietary desktop database software, or by accessing the FIA MapMaker Utility Tool. The MapMaker Utility Tool allows users to access tabular data for a State or search radius, and to map the data at the county scale.

Delimited file downloads, the MapMaker Utility Tool, documentation, and tutorials are available at:
<http://www.ncrs2.fs.fed.us/4801/FIADB/>

Spatial Data Services (SDS)

Providing data in a timely manner is a key goal of the Southern FIA program. The SRS-FIA SDS helps bridge the gap between interested users and the FIA database regarding complex data retrieval. SDS connects geospatial data submitted by interested parties to the geospatial information collected by FIA.

The FIA SDS also provides an onsite station for visitors to access FIA plot data (plot locations and ownership information) under the guidance of SRS personnel. Although visitors will not be able to leave with plot locations or ownership information, they will be able to leave with a product that won't violate confidentiality laws (Food Security Act of 1985 as amended FY 2000).



Fall foliage in Tennessee.
(Christopher M. Oswalt,
USDA Forest Service)