Introduction

This science update summarizes the findings of the first statewide annual inventory conducted by the Southern Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program in cooperation with the Texas Forest Service of the forest resource attributes in Texas. The 254 counties of Texas are consolidated into seven FIA survey units—southeast (unit 1), the northeast (unit 2), the north central (unit 3), the south (unit 4), the west central (unit 5), the northwest (unit 6), and the west (unit 7). East Texas is made-up of units 1 and 2, while the central and west Texas consists of units 3 through 7 (fig. 1). This overview represents the period from 2004 to 2008 covering the eighth forest survey of east Texas and 50 percent of the first forest survey for central and west Texas. The 2008 survey provides a complete remeasurement of annual inventory plots for east Texas and the initial establishment of plots in central and west Texas.

Forested Area

Total forest area amounted to nearly 62.5 million acres and covers 37 percent of the surveyed land area (table 1). Twenty-three percent, or 14.5 million acres, of the forest area was considered available for timber production and known as timberland. The remaining forest area is reserved forest land where timber removals are prohibited by law or unproductive forest land (produces <20 cubic feet per acre per year).

Inventory Volume

Results from the 2008 inventory show all-live volume on forest land at 32.6 billion cubic feet (table 2). Sixty percent of this volume is on timberland, which is concentrated mainly in east Texas. The remaining 40 percent, or 13 billion cubic feet, is from reserved or unproductive forest land.
**East Texas**

**Forested Area**

Total forest area amounted to 12.1 million acres in 2008 and occupied 56 percent of the land area in east Texas (table 3). Nearly 12.0 million acres, or 99 percent, of the forest land is considered timberland. The area of forest land in east Texas has remained relatively stable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land class</th>
<th>1992</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forest land</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timberland</td>
<td>11.77</td>
<td>11.66</td>
<td>11.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other/reserved</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total forest land</td>
<td>11.94</td>
<td>11.96</td>
<td>12.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonforest land</td>
<td>9.65</td>
<td>9.59</td>
<td>9.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total land area</td>
<td>21.59</td>
<td>21.46</td>
<td>21.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent forested</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Forest Ownership**

Nonindustrial private landowners control the majority (52 percent) of east Texas’ 12.0 million acres of timberland, and another 21 percent is controlled by private corporations (a more than two-fold increase since the 2003 survey) (fig. 2). Forest industry continues to decline as this group owns 19 percent of the timberland. Only 8 percent of east Texas’ timberland is publicly owned and includes national forest lands, other Federal land, State, and local lands.

**Forest-type Composition**

Hardwood timber types comprise the majority of timberland area in east Texas, accounting for 6.7 million acres (fig. 3). Softwood forest types occupy 5.2 million acres of east Texas’ timberland area. Loblolly-shortleaf pine is the most abundant forest-type group with 4.9 million acres and comprises the majority (95 percent) of all softwood forest types. East Texas’ softwood timberland area is split nearly equally between natural pine stands (2.6 million acres) and planted pine stands (2.5 million acres). Oak-hickory is the predominant hardwood forest-type group with 3.0 million acres, followed by oak-pine (1.5 million acres) and oak-gum-cypress (1.4 million acres).

**Inventory Volume**

Total all-live volume on timberland was 17.3 billion cubic feet, exceeding all previously recorded levels (fig. 4). All-live volume in softwood species amounted to 9.5 billion cubic feet, while hardwood species total 7.8 billion cubic feet. Loblolly-shortleaf pine group accounted for 8.8 billion cubic feet (93 percent) of the all-live softwood volume.
All-live volume of softwoods has increased in nearly all diameter classes since 2003 (fig. 5). Volume by 2-inch diameter class shows the majority (59 percent) is centered within the 7.0- to 16.9-inch diameter classes.

All-live volume of hardwoods showed increases in nearly all diameter classes since 2003 (fig. 6). The 19.0- to 20.9-inch diameter class was the only class to show a slight (5 percent) decline.

**Growth, Removals, and Mortality**

Total net annual growth for all-live trees on timberland was 967.9 million cubic feet per year between 2004 and 2008 (fig. 7). Total annual removals for all-live trees on timberland were 732.8 million cubic feet per year for the same time period, while mortality averaged 147.2 million cubic feet per year. Since 2003, net growth for all-live softwood species on timberland averaged 649.9 million cubic feet per year, and annual softwood removals averaged 547.1 million cubic feet per year. Softwood annual removals increased 6 percent since 2003. Net annual growth for hardwood species averaged 318.0 million cubic feet per year since 2003. Average annual removals of hardwood species decreased 16 percent since 2003, to 185.8 million cubic feet per year.
Central and West Texas

Forested Area

Total forest area amounted to 50.4 million acres in 2008 and occupied 34 percent of the land area in central and west Texas (table 1). Less than 5 percent, or 2.5 million acres, of the forest area was considered available for timber production and known as timberland. The remaining 47.9 million acres is either reserved forest land where timber removals are prohibited by law or unproductive forest land (produces < 20 cubic feet per acre per year).

Forest Ownership

Nonindustrial private landowners control the majority (77 percent) of central and west Texas’ 50.4 million acres of forest land, and another 18 percent is controlled by private corporations (fig. 8). Only 5 percent of central and west Texas’ forest land is publicly owned and includes national forest lands, other Federal land, State, and local lands. Forest industry controls < 1 percent of the forest land.
Forest-type Group

Hardwood timber types comprise the majority of forest land area in central and west Texas, accounting for 37.7 million acres (fig. 9). Softwood forest types occupy 9.8 million acres of central and west Texas’ forest land area. Woodland hardwoods are the most abundant forest-type group with 23.4 million acres. Oak-hickory forest type accounts for another 21 percent or 10.6 million acres. Pinyon-juniper is the predominant softwood forest-type group with 9.5 million acres, accounting for 97 percent of the softwood forest-type group.

Volume

The 2008 inventory shows all-live volume on forest land at nearly 15.0 billion cubic feet for central and west Texas. All-live volume of hardwood amounted to nearly 14.0 billion cubic feet, while softwood total just over 1.0 billion cubic feet. Volume by 2-inch diameter class shows the majority of the total volume (67 percent) is within the 5.0- to 14.9-inch diameter classes (fig. 10). Within this range of diameter classes, there is 67 percent of the hardwood volume and 78 percent of the softwood volume.

How to Cite This Publication