FIA Program Coordination and Credibility

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Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program

Monitoring U.S. forests since 1928
“make and keep current a comprehensive inventory and analysis of the present and prospective conditions and requirements of the renewable resources of the forest and rangelands of the United States”

- 1928 McSweeney/McNary Act
- 1978 Research Act
Sec3 (e) Forest Inventory and Analysis shall

(1) Establish a program to inventory all U.S. forest land
(2) Conduct annual inventory in each State
(3) Prepare 5-year reports for each State
(4) National standards and definitions
(5) Protect private property rights
(6) Prepare a strategic plan to implement the inventory
Farm Bill 1998

- Added annual inventories
- Emphasized annual data available to public within 6 months
- 2014 Farm emphasized completing the 98FB and added some specific language
- TPO, NWOS, LULC, Biomass/Carbon, Urban
FIA monitors over 766 million acres of forest in 12 time zones

The Nation’s Forest Census

From the Artic Circle to the Tropic of Capricorn.

From the Virgin Islands to Palau, west of Sidney

Forest Inventory and Analysis Program
Value of User Groups, Partners and Contractors

- User groups promote program ownership
  - Users and partners know what they need
- Partners improve program delivery
  - and create useful value-added products
- Contractors can reduce program cost
  - and improve program delivery
Strategic features

- A standard set of variables with consistent meanings and measurements
- Inventory of all forested lands
- A national sampling design and plot configuration
- A systematic, annual sample of each state
- A national database with user friendly access
The basics of the FIA sample design

Sample P3 hexagon divided into P2 hexagons, panels (years) assigned to P2 hexagons. Increased intensity plots shown.

Base hexagon divided into P3 hexagon grid for north central United States

Base hexagon positioned over the conterminous United States
Overall progress

- FIA is in the 20th year of annualized inventory
- Steady funding progress with some “dipsy do” at times- currently at $77 million
- 50 States including interior Alaska [+7 island groups]
- Accountability has been institutionalized
- Information systems continue to be a challenge
- Have implemented needs from the 2014 Farm Bill
- Congress and partners continue to be engaged
Element 1A: Restore Base

- FY 14 funding was $66.8M resulting in panel creep
  - FY 15 $70M Creep continued
  - FY 16 $75M Creep continued
  - FY 17 $77M 7/10 with buy down
  - FY 18 $77M 7/10 with buy down
- 100% of target
Element 1B: Add Interior Alaska

- Added in FY 16
- Tanana in FY16 and FY17
- FY18 complete Tanana
- FY19 start Copper Unit
- 70% of target
Element 1B: Full Implementation of Previous Plan

• Improve analytic base

• FIA built out the field to cover all 50 states and territories. We’ve been consistently short of IM/IT and analysts.

• 50% of target
Option C: TPO

- Annualized TPO sample design
- National TPO database
- Work with industry directly where possible
- As with FIADB produce data and estimates within 6 months
- Currently $1M of the $1.5M needed
- 67% of target
Option C: Carbon/Biomass

- FIA has been working on new individual tree volume/biomass/carbon data collection and modeling efforts since 2013.
- Sequestration slowed us and return to fuller funding has greatly aided the effort.
- $450k per year over last 4 years
- Due to be completed in 2020 and hand off to the IM coding team.
- 80% of target
Option C: NWOS

- NWOS on time with traditional survey
- Additions include large corporate survey, urban survey
- Funding since 2014 consistent
- $140k for FS personnel, $200k for database work including the ownership/parcel map
- Short one analyst
- 50% of target
Option C: Land Cover/Land Use

• ICE, LCMS, NLCD Tree Cover
• NAIP interpretation in 28 states in support of all products (CA, CO, CT, GA, HI, IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MO, MA, MD, MN, NJ, NY, NV, NC, NE, NH, OH, RI, TX, UT, VT, WA, WV, WI)
• 50% of target
• LCMS model-based disturbances of cover
• NAIP based measurement of LU and cover.
Option C: Urban FIA

- $1 million of the $3.4 million.
- Full funding ($3.4 of $83 million)
- 786 Plots  $650,600 Estimated Cooperator Contribution
- 35 out of 100 cities
- 30% of target
Element 7: Engage in non-Federal IT

- Working with ESRI on the Digital Engagement/Atlas/Forest in Focus
  - 2014-16 $0
  - 2017 $400k
  - 2018 $280K
  - 2019 projected at FY18 level
  - 30% of target
Quality Assurance
OVERALL FORECAST

Partly Sunny!

Thanks to dedicated staff and continued partner support!

WARNING

Slow hiring authority endangers overall program delivery.