Timber Products Monitoring

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USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station
2018 National FIA User Group meeting
April 24, 2018
Background

• What is timber products monitoring?
  • Survey of primary wood using facilities to estimate roundwood volume received by:
    • County of origin (where wood came from)
    • Species/ species group (what type of wood)
    • Primary roundwood product (what it was used for)
  • In cooperation with State partners, the USDA Forest Service FIA program has been collecting these data since 1948.
  • Historically implemented in a periodic fashion (e.g. NRS 3-5 year frequency implemented on a state basis)
Why it timber products monitoring important?

• Wood products markets:
  • drivers of forest investment and jobs
  • shape the composition and structure of future forests of the US

• Monitoring timber products output is key to understanding current demand for raw material to support markets

• TPO provides estimates of forest removals for timber products.
  • account for a majority of all forest removal volumes
  • more current than traditional FIA removal estimates

• Can’t we get this from FIA or remote sensing?
  • FIA and remote sensing can track harvest by forest type but not products
  • Remote sensing can provide location and time, but not volume by product
  • FIA can provide annual average removal volumes and forest structure but not by year
Why it timber products monitoring important continued?

• Your neighbors activities matter
• There is significant cross-State and cross-region movement of timber
• This suggests that the periodic way of doing things is problematic.

Imports and Exports
Forest Atlas of the United States
A National Annual Approach

Rationale

• Rapid technological change in forest products, dynamic housing cycles, and increasing demand for mill residues increases the need for timely, spatially-explicit mill consumption and production data.

• Emerging and hidden demands as well as market shifts cause spatial and temporal changes in timber product mixes.
Enhanced Timber Products Monitoring

• The 2014 Farm bill contained eleven provisions to enhance the FIA program. Provision 5 calls for the FIA program to “Improve the timeliness of the timber product output program and accessibility of the annualized information on that database”.

• FIA program hosted a TPO stakeholders meeting in FY2016 to
  • to identify current and potential future information needs,
  • to understand the knowledge gaps between current TPO information provided and the needs identified,
  • discuss sample-based approaches and estimation for annual TPO information,
  • identify analytical options (spatial and tabular) to meet information needs, and
  • to discuss data collection issues and ways to promote high response rates.

• Follow-up TPO stakeholders meeting in FY2017 on action items from 2016 and next steps
Rethinking TPO and Maintaining FIA Core Competencies

• Shift to a sample-based approach
• Base federal-sample 40%
• States have option to intensify in whole or in part (specific mill types/products)
• Stratified design that approximates PPS design
• Design captures ~90% of the volume at a 40% sample

Primary Mills in the Coterminous United States
Implementation – January 2019

• Southern Region
  • Base 40% Federal sample
  • Most states have intensified

• Northern Region
  • Base 40% sample
  • 4 states intensified to 100%

• California
  • Discussions and planning underway.

• 95% of total US mill consumption in these areas*

*Texas not included
Timing of annual design

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Timing
Another Key Element of Annual Design

• Automated data transfer
  • Many companies maintain electronic databases of the information needed to estimate key TPO parameters
  • Over the years there has been increased difficulty navigating corporate structures to gain responses during data collection
  • Many companies already roll-up their data and send to Forests 2 Markets
    • Are we working with the same people that already aggregate data and send to Forests 2 Markets?
  • Currently working with NCASI to facilitate data transfer from member companies in support of Timber Products Monitoring
Some Closing Remarks

• Timber products monitoring can provide annual removals information, by product
  • Provides more timely information on the majority of removals than the annual inventory
  • Implementation of the annual design facilitates consistent product removals information across the country

• Timber products monitoring is a partnership
  • Feds
  • States
  • Companies
Acknowledgements
Thanks for listening

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