2018 FIA Users’ Group Meeting
Summary / Action Items

• Users expressed appreciation for:
  o Implementation of the core program in all 50 states,
  o Growing relevance and importance of FIA for assessment of forest carbon,
  o Improving the currency of FIA data available online,
  o Updating volume/biomass equations with national effort collecting new data,
  o Ongoing improvements in TPO data delivery and plans for implementation of annual TPO in the East.

• The critical importance of the FIA program was reinforced by users and by the Carbon Day speakers. Now, more than ever, it is crucial that FIA protect the core program amid expanding demands on the program and budget uncertainties and fluctuations.

• Users recognize the great value in further integration of remote sensing and plot data. The land-use change estimates for California (from the ICE program) were of high interest; users would like to see this capability in operation in all states as soon as possible. FIA would greatly enhance the value of their data by delivering raster datasets with imputed or interpolated inventory estimates. Users would like to see a sense of urgency within FIA to move such projects from research to operational implementation.

• Users were encouraged that progress is being made dealing with hiring restrictions. We anticipate improvements in speed and efficiency of processing and reporting data as positions are filled internally or externally.

• Users encourage further financial transparency by tracking and communicating program expenditures including station and Albuquerque overhead and state/NFS contributions for FIA (plots, TPO, and NWOS) in financial reports. Greater transparency is needed to show FIA dollars doing FIA work.

• Users would like to see ways in which integration of TPO data and FIA plot data could provide additional information about timber production by species, ownership class, etc. FIA could create value by developing automated means of integrating these data sources.

• As mentioned in prior user group meetings, users requested that FIA enable reporting by differentiated private ownership categories where possible to do so within privacy constraints.

• Users are eager for analysis and reports such as:
  o an update of documentation of estimation methods (“Green Book”),
  o updating TPO online query/reporting capabilities,
  o ability to get growth/removals/mortality and other change estimates in different units (e.g., green weight, number of trees, basal area, etc.) and across multiple time intervals,
  o additional regional analysis products such as Forest Futures reports.