Program Priorities and Partnerships

Linda S. Heath
Director, Inventory Monitoring and Assessment Research

- FIA
- RPA
- Remote Sensing &
- Geospatial analysis
- Sustainability Assessment
WO R&D Staff Areas

Deputy Chief’s Office R&D

- Linda Heath
  - Inventory, Monitoring, & Assessment Research (FIA, RPA, Remote Sensing, Sustainability)
- Carl Lucero
  - Landscape Restoration & Ecosystems Services Research (inc. FPL)

Sustainable Forest Management Research
- Toral Patel-Weynand

Knowledge Management & Communications
- Tracy Hancock

National Agroforestry Center (RWU)
- Susan Stein

Alexander Friend, Deputy Chief
Forest Inventory & Analysis

FIA Surveys – Data collection

- National Forest Inventories
  - Ground plots & imagery for estimation
- National Woodland Owners Survey
- Timber Products Output

Analysis

Geospatial Products

Research

All lands

Reminder slide from last year
THANK YOU for being part of FIA

➢ Overarching priorities
➢ What’s new
➢ Looking forward and partnerships
Secretary of Agriculture priorities

Most Relevant USDA Priorities

➢ Ensure USDA programs are delivered efficiently, effectively and with integrity and a focus on customer service.

➢ “science-based, data-driven, customer-focused organization.”

➢ Facilitate rural prosperity and economic development.

➢ Strengthen the stewardship of private lands through technology and research.

➢ Foster productive and sustainable use of our National Forest System lands.
Chief’s Priorities

➢ Uplifting and empowering our employees through a respectful, safe working environment.
➢ Being good neighbors and providing excellent customer service.
➢ Promoting shared stewardship by increasing partnerships and volunteerism.
➢ Improving the condition of forests and grasslands.
➢ Enhancing recreation opportunities, improving access, and sustaining infrastructure.
“Creating a positive workplace environment must be priority #1 for the agency”

One example: FS code and commitments:

- Treating everyone with respect
- Investing in relationships
- Modeling integrity
- Protecting one another
- Learning from mistakes
- Empowering one another
What’s New

➢ New Forest Inventory Analytics Program Manager starts in June: Dr. Mila Alvarez
➢ New Deputy Chief of R&D: Dr. Alexander Friend
➢ New laws/ Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking (PL No: 115-435; OPEN data act)
➢ New changes being made to access FIA’s confidential data. This results from the increasing value for data (Data as an Asset).
➢ New source of information/National Academies of Sciences, Committee on National Statistics
Upcoming statistical workshops

National Academies of Science, Committee on National Statistics

➢ A Workshop on New Approaches for Protecting Privacy in Federal Statistical Programs, June 6-7 2019 (Washington DC or webcast)

➢ Seminar on National Statistics for public policy: linkages among Federal, State, and Local Data, May 10, 130-5pm (Washington DC or webcast)
Just to Say about Statistical Agencies

Secretary of Agriculture announcing new Census of Agriculture release, April 11, 2019
FIA national survey products?

Forest Resources Statistics of the US, 2017 (RPA product)

• National Woodland Owners Survey

?? – Do FIA national products meet our customer needs? Are they produced efficiently, effectively and are they credible?
➢ Fiscal Year 2020 President’s Budget and Forest Service Direction/proposal for new budget framework for agency. Proposed that R&D no longer have its own budget line item; FIA would continue to have its own budget line item.

➢ Implications

➢ 2018 Farm Bill: “finding efficiencies in the program operations through the use of remote sensing technologies, where appropriate”

➢ Even new email addresses: @usda.gov
Summary of goals

#1 – Welcoming, productive work environment
#2 – Priorities in strategic plan from 2014 Farm Bill
#3 – 2018 Farm Bill: “finding efficiencies in the program operations through the use of remote sensing technologies, where appropriate”
#4 – Be mindful of new items, national products?

In terms of partnerships, we are working on updating our “instruments” (agreements) on allow data sharing.
Questions?? /Discussion

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https://fia.fs.fed.us