Overview of National Woodland Owner Survey & FIA Strategic Plan

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Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program

Monitoring U.S. forests since 1928
FIA legislative mandate

“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
Farm Bills 1998 & 2014

• 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. These are Option C of FIA Strategic Plan
The basics of the FIA sample design

Base hexagon positioned over the conterminous United States

Sample P3 hexagon divided into P2 hexagons, panels (years) assigned to P2 hexagons. Increased intensity plots shown.
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]
- Information systems continue to be a challenge
- Implementing the FIA Strategic Plan in response to the 2014 Farm Bill. Option C from Plan.
- Congress and partners continue to be engaged
FIA Strategic Plan-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
NWOS Objectives

- Understanding the attitudes and behaviors is critical to current and future state of the nation’s forests.
  - Who owns and manages forestland
  - Why they own/manage it
  - How they have used it
  - How they intend to use it
Information Collected Relate To

- The characteristics of the land holdings
- Attitudes and perceptions of the owners and managers
- Resource uses and management activities
- Landowner demographics
Uses of NWOS Information

- Benchmarks for number, extent and characteristics of forestland owners
- Used to assess the sustainability of forest resources at multiple scales
- Implement and assess forest-land owner assistance programs
- Future issues with forest resources availability
Use of NWOS Data, Analysis and Results

• Policy analysts, Foresters, Educators and Researchers use the information to implement forest policies and programs.

• WHY WE ARE HERE TODAY. TO LEARN ABOUT NEW USES AND NEEDS.
NWOS Online Delivery

- fia.fs.fed.us/nwos
- Base/rural (/nwos/rural)
- Large corporate (/nwos/corporate)
- Urban (/nwos/urban)

- Each module is most often used by a different set of clients and partners and stakeholders
Maps Telling Stories/ Forest Atlas

The Nation’s Forest Census

- The forest landscape
- Where tree grow
- Species distributions
- Dynamics at work in forests
- Ownership patterns, behaviors and management

- Disturbance effects
- Types of benefits & services from forests
- How forests are used
- Forest futures
- Reference maps
In addition to field sampling, we survey private landowners, and...
planted forests,

Planted forests are increasingly being integrated as important components of forested landscapes in many regions of the world including the United States. Planted forests are becoming critical to future wood supplies, maintenance of forest cover, providing important habitat, and countering the impacts of global climate change. Planted forests, much like natural forests, provide wood, forage, wildlife habitat, soil and water resource protection, recreation, and aesthetic vistas as functional ecosystems.

Where Planted Forests are Found

Concentrations of planted forests in the United States are highest in the South and the Pacific Coast. Planted stands account for approximately 45 million acres in the South, a fact that has garnered the moniker of the “wood basket” of the United States.
The Nation’s Forest Census

Forest Inventory and Analysis Program
Mostly Sunny!

Thanks to dedicated staff and continued partner participation and support!