

2017 FIA Users' Group Meeting

Summary / Action Items

- Users expressed appreciation for significant progress and accomplishments in:
 - Annualizing a sampling-based TPO program,
 - Developing approaches to use remote sensing to improve spatial precision of inventory estimates,
 - Annualizing NWOS and incorporation of surveys of large landowners such as corporate ownerships,
 - Developing ability to generate reports in variety of units (e.g., GRM in tons).
- Budget: Users expressed concern over impacts of budget restrictions. We encourage FIA to be strategic in budget allocation to preserve core operations of the program: collection and analysis of plot and remote sensing data for inventory estimation, TPO, and NWOS. Users will work together to communicate strong support for full FIA funding.
- TPO: While substantial progress has been made in designing a flexible sampling approach, there is a need for a thorough implementation plan, and available data are obsolete for many states. Progress on posting recent data has not reflected the urgency of this need.
- Remote sensing: Users strongly encourage FIA to develop a plan to deliver annual nationwide remote sensing-based maps of forest disturbance by cause and integrate information from these maps in the inventory estimation process.
- Ownership reporting: Users requested that FIA enable reporting by corporate versus non-corporate private ownership by state where possible to do so within privacy constraints.
- Transparency in financial reports: Users appreciate the transparency of the FIA program communications, and encourage further transparency by tracking and communicating program expenditures and state contributions for TPO in financial reports.
- Planting: We encourage ongoing efforts to engage nurseries, universities, and states to provide annual estimates of planted forest area by state; this requires more than simply seedling production.
- Collaboration: FIA is encouraged to continue to pursue opportunities for leveraging scarce resources by collaboration with states, universities, and the private sector on publications, data analysis tools, applications, and special projects.