

The need for fine spatial scale information: a user perspective





- **Depending on mill size and type a radius around a location may not provide statistical confidence required**
 - Large mills might operate in a 100 mile radius
 - Other mills might want to operate in a 40-50 mile radius
- **Sawmills need only a portion of the resource**
 - There may be adequate confidence in the total volume estimate
 - However, for the portion of the inventory the facility is interested in the statistical confidence may not be adequate



- **Some discussion in the bioenergy sectors using FIA to monitor sustainability within the wood basket**
 - Again, depending on the size of the wood basket the confidence in the estimate might be inadequate



– TIMO/REITS

- What are will future markets look like?
- Where do they own and where do they divest?
- What management regimes should be applied?
- Given current available resources and age class structure around current ownership is there market niche to fill?

– Wood Products

- What will future markets look like?
- Where and how to invest new capital?
- What are the transportation strategies wood yards, sort yards, satellite chip facilities?
- What is the availability of volume?
 - How much is on small tracts?
 - How much is restricted?



- **Several consultants use Landsat data to provide insight into the resource**
 - Use annual change detection over time to estimate current age class structure
 - FIA data is used to attribute this age class structure with species, volume and other attributes of interest.
- **The big unknown is error structure around these estimates**
 - How much change constitutes a clearcut?
 - What is the error associated with assigning an age to an area of change?



- **Other possibilities**
 - Seasonal change analysis of Landsat images to assign broad cover type
 - Use of NAIP imagery to develop a height canopy
 - Use of NAIP imagery to provide some density estimates using automated crown cover classification
 - Combining all the data to map representative FIA plots to the resulting polygons.
- **Use of small area estimation techniques to provide estimates with confidence interval.**