

Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) National Quarterly E-Newsletter



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Happy Holidays!

A message to our clients...

The major action item that emerged from the December 2006 National FIA Users meeting was to convene a small working group of FIA partners and users to define the core variables that will enable the FIA program to produce the core information users need. Users felt that sets of core variables should be consistent over several cycles so that trends can be developed. Definitions that change frequently—panel-to-panel or cycle-to-cycle—complicate trend analyses. An additional concern was that all 50 States were not yet included in the annualized FIA program, and that the future funding increases needed to add the remaining 4 States plus interior Alaska, may become increasingly difficult in the current budget climate. So the real issue was how to get the remaining States into the annualized program using cost savings wrung from increases in efficiency and reductions in data collection—focusing only on core variables, thinning out sampling intensities, or extending cycle lengths—all without doing serious harm to the ability to detect and report on important changes and trends. As the convener and facilitator of the National FIA Users group, the Society of American Foresters agreed to help organize and host a special workshop devoted to this issue. To help frame workshop discussions, a sub-committee led by state forestry agency personnel surveyed the user community to find out what variables were core to answering their most relevant and continuing core information needs.

The workshop on “Core Variables for the FIA Program” was held on September 12 and 13, 2007, in Baltimore, Maryland, and came up with a set of comments and recommendations. The attendees recognized that FIA leaders have used sound logic in selecting the goals of “No State Left Behind” and “Lose No Ground.” The former means that our goal is for all 50 States plus Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the western Pacific islands to be included in the annualized forest inventory program. The latter means that once FIA begins field work in a state, the field work should continue in subsequent years uninterrupted and starting new states should be delayed if funding gets tight. Through FY 2007, those two objectives peacefully co-existed because of the annual funding increases appropriated for FIA. With future prospects for funding increases flattening, and uncertainty increasing, the “No State Left Behind” goal is now more important to users than the “Lose No Ground” goal, especially for states not yet in the annualized FIA program. FIA users also recognize that the Forest Service’s State and Private

What's going on in the world of research?

Interior West Research Station

Bottomley, Tim; Menlove, James. 2006. BLM Forest Lands Report – 2006: Status and Condition. Bureau of Land Management, Denver, Colorado. BLM/ST/ST-07/001+5000. 111 p.

Frescino, T.S.; Moisen, G.G.; DeBlander, L.D. and Guerin, M. 2007. The investigation of classification methods of high-resolution imagery. In McRoberts, R.E., Reams, G.A., Van Deusen, P.C., and McWilliams, W.H. (Eds.). Proceedings of the seventh Forest Inventory and Analysis Symposium; 2005-October 3-6; Portland, ME. Gen. Tech. Report WO-77. Washington, D.C. U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. pp. 161-170.

Healey, S.; Moisen, G.G.; Masek, J.; Cohen, W.; Goward, S.; Powell, S.; Nelson, M.; Jacobs, D.; Liser, A.; Kennedy, R.; Shaw, J. 2007. Measurement of forest disturbance and regrowth with LANDSAT and Forest Inventory and Analysis data: anticipated benefits from Forest Inventory and Analysis' collaboration with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and university partners. In McRoberts, R.E., Reams, G.A., Van Deusen, P.C., and McWilliams, W.H. (Eds.). Proceedings of the seventh Forest Inventory and Analysis Symposium; 2005-October 3-6; Portland, ME. Gen. Tech. Report WO-77. Washington, D.C. U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. pp. 171-178.

Moisen, G.G. and Reynolds, J. 2007. Coffee, anyone? American Statistical Association, Section on Statistics and the Environment, Newsletter, Spring, 2007.

Forestry Redesign calls for state-level forest assessments of current forest conditions and recent trends as the foundation for competitive grant applications to solve specific on-the-ground problems. States not part of the annualized FIA program may be at a disadvantage in documenting the current conditions of their forests.

Attendees reached a consensus on several preferred ways for reducing field costs by measuring fewer plots per year (thinning the grid or lengthening the cycle) or by dropping variables. The user consensus on which P3 variables could be dropped was ozone damage, lichens, soils, and crown transparency. Interestingly the User Group continues to strongly support continued sampling of down woody material and understory vegetation—even at a spatial intensity greater than the P3 grid. These variables are clearly of value in evaluating fire risk, wildlife habitat conditions, and invasives. It was gratifying for the Forest Service attendees to hear such strong support expressed for down woody material and understory vegetation as core variables.

The FIA Program Managers and headquarter staff were invited to the workshop to listen in on the users' discussions about these issues and answer questions. They also developed budget impact statements for the various options being discussed by the users.

As the meeting drew to a close, consensus among the users began to emerge around three possible ways to focus more closely on core information, save money, and gain efficiency:

(1) Phase 3 reductions:

- Alternative 1 Drop Ozone, Soils, Lichens & Crowns
- Alternative 2 Reduce P3 plots (thin the P3 grid) by 80%

(2) Reduce Wilderness sampling intensity.

- Alternative 1 Reduce plot intensity by 50%
- Alternative 2 Cluster plots in Wilderness to reduce access cost

(3) Reduce Phase 2 Annual Costs

- Alternative 1 Reduce plot intensity by 10%
- Alternative 2 Extend cycle length by one year

In each of these three categories, the User Group preferred Alternative 1. By implementing the combined cost savings of Alternative 1 for all three categories, \$3 to \$3.5 million become available for implementing the remaining states.

Following the meeting and some additional discussions with Forest Service leaders for R&D and FHP, the FIA Program Managers developed an option for responding to a potential FY 2008 flat budget. If the final FY 2008 appropriation contains \$0 funding increase for FIA, the FS proposes to take the following steps:

- 1) Immediately drop the Ozone, Lichens, Soils, and Crowns variables for Phase 3 and use the estimated \$900,000 cost savings to enter Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Nevada late in the FY 2008 field season.

Peterson, B.; Dubayah, R.; Hyde, P.; Hofton, M.; Blair, J.B.; Fites-Kaufman, J. 2007. Use of LIDAR for forest inventory and forest management application. In McRoberts, R.E., Reams, G.A., Van Deusen, P.C., and McWilliams, W.H. (Eds.). Proceedings of the seventh Forest Inventory and Analysis Symposium; 2005-October 3-6; Portland, ME. Gen. Tech. Report WO-77. Washington, D.C. U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. pp. 193-200.

Nelson, M.D., Moisen, G.G.; Finco, M.; Brewer, K. 2007. Forest Inventory and Analysis in the United States: Remote sensing and geospatial activities. Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing 73(7):729-732.

Shaw, J.D.; Long, J.N. 2007. A density management diagram for even-aged longleaf pine stands with application to red-cockaded woodpecker habitat. Southern Journal of Applied Forestry 31(1):28-38.

Shaw, J.D. 2007. Rapid forest change in the Interior West presents analysis opportunities and challenges. In McRoberts, R.E., Reams, G.A., Van Deusen, P.C., and McWilliams, W.H. (Eds.). Proceedings of the seventh Forest Inventory and Analysis Symposium; 2005-October 3-6; Portland, ME. Gen. Tech. Report WO-77. Washington, D.C. U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. pp. 127-134.

Toney, C.; Rollins, M.; Short, K.; Frescino, T.; Tymcio, R.; Peterson, B. 2007. Use of FIA plot data in the LANDFIRE project. In McRoberts, R.E., Reams, G.A., Van Deusen, P.C., and McWilliams, W.H. (Eds.). Proceedings of the seventh Forest Inventory and Analysis Symposium; 2005-October 3-6; Portland, ME. Gen. Tech. Report WO-77. Washington, D.C. U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. pp. 309-318.

- 2) Finalize plans to reduce the plot intensity beginning in FY 2009, so that we can continue the inventories in Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Nevada and wring further cost savings out of the program to enter Wyoming and/or Hawaii late in FY 2009.
- 3) Communicate these proposed changes clearly and consistently to users and Congress as part of the FY 2009 President's Budget proposal.

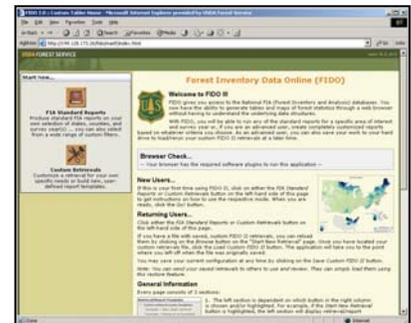


Because the final FY 2008 appropriation is still undecided, these steps have not yet been implemented. You are welcome to comment on these proposed actions to complete implementation of FIA in all 50 states by FY 2009. Send your feedback to your regional FIA Program Manager and the National Office (greams@fs.fed.us).
- Greg Reams, National Program Leader

FIDO, Forest Inventory Data Online

About three years ago, FIA began the process of creating the next generation of Web-based applications for analyzing plot data. But rather than simply build a better mousetrap, FIA set about building a better system for building better mousetraps. This entailed designing a more modular architecture, with loosely coupled components that could be swapped out as better components were created, and adhering to common standards in order to make the application as flexible as possible. This allows applications to adapt more quickly to changes in technological trends, organizational infrastructure, or customers' needs. It also means fostering a team-oriented development environment, with standard tools, languages, code repository, and deployment procedures.

The end result of all of these changes is Forest Inventory Data Online (FIDO), which allows the user to report on the status of the nation's forest resource. For the casual user, there is a wizard interface which walks the user through the steps required to produce several reports simultaneously for a given area of interest and survey year. For the power user, another interface enables users to slice and dice the FIADB however they see fit, giving them the ability to analyze their specific resource question. Users have the ability to save their custom reports and add them to their custom FIDO interface. What's more, users can save their custom FIDO interface to a file that they can then e-mail to others, empowering users to think up and share new analyses.



FIDO incorporates the new Estimation Engine module, which implements the estimation procedures outlined in GTR SRS-80. What this means for the user is that each report in FIDO includes not only an estimate for every cell in the table, but also some

Zarnetske, P.L.; Edwards Jr., T.C.; and Moisen, G.G. 2007. Habitat classification modeling with incomplete data: Pushing the habitat envelope. *Ecological Applications*, 17(6): 1714-1726.

Zarnetske, P.L.; Edwards Jr., T.C.; and Moisen, G.G. 2007. Modeling forest bird species' likelihood of occurrence in Utah with Forest Inventory and Analysis and Landfire map products and ecologically based pseudo-absence points. In McRoberts, R.E., Reams, G.A., Van Deusen, P.C., and McWilliams, W.H. (Eds.). *Proceedings of the seventh Forest Inventory and Analysis Symposium; 2005-October 3-6; Portland, ME. Gen. Tech. Report WO-77. Washington, D.C. U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. pp. 291-306.*

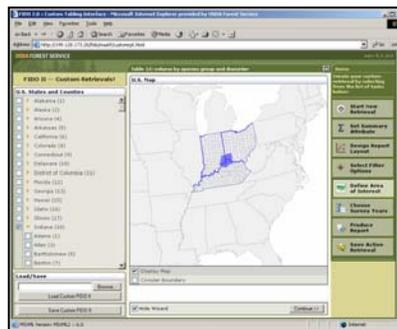
Zimmermann, N.E.; Edwards Jr., T.C.; Moisen, G.G.; Frescino, T.S.; and Blackard, J.A. 2007. Remote sensing-based predictors improve distribution models of rare, early successional and broadleaf tree species in Utah. *Journal of Applied Ecology*, OnlineEarly Articles doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2664.2007.01348.x

Southern Research Station

Brandeis, Thomas J.; Helmer, Eileen H.; Oswald, Sonja N. 2007. The status of Puerto Rico's forests, 2003. *Resour. Bull. SRS-119. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 72 p.*

Hartsell, Andrew J. 2007. Financial rates of return on shortleaf pine stands in Arkansas between 1978 and 1995. In: Kabrick, John M.; Dey, Daniel C.; Gwaze, David, eds. *Shortleaf pine restoration and ecology in the Ozarks: proceedings of a symposium; 2006 November 7-9; Springfield, MO. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-P-15. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Northern Research Station: 186-191.*

Hartsell, Andrew J.; Rosson,



thereafter, the mapping module will be swapped out in favor of the more mainstream and popular Google Maps interface, allowing users to create mash-ups of FIA data summarized by polygon with satellite imagery, roads, and cities.

FIA intends to build on this new foundation with similar interfaces planned for exploring the Timber Products Output, National Woodland Owners Survey, and Forest Health Indicators databases.

Please check out the latest developments at <http://fiatools.fs.fed.us> or feel free to contact Ty Wilson, FIDO Team Lead. Training is available as part of the Eastern and Southern Region's University course "Introduction to Monitoring Vegetation Using FIA Data."

Contact: Ty Wilson, barrywilson@fs.fed.us, (651) 649-5189.

A screenshot of the FIDO software interface showing a data table. The table has multiple columns with headers like 'STATE', 'COUNTY', 'FIA_CODE', 'AREA', 'PERCENT', 'TOTAL', 'AVG', 'MIN', 'MAX', 'STDEV', 'CV', 'CORR', 'SKEW', 'KURT', 'INFO'. The rows contain numerical data for various forest metrics across different states and counties.

Rejoice, Microsoft Access Database Users!

Microsoft Access is a widely available database that can be read by a variety of software packages. Forest Inventory and Analysis data can be used to describe the forest environment. Putting the two together is the culinary equivalent of the peanut butter and jelly sandwich – not very elegant but satisfying none the less.

Real connoisseurs would probably choose to have their FIA data loaded into a more powerful database such as Microsoft SQL Server, Oracle, or MySQL. They would turn up their noses at the Microsoft Access 2 gigabyte size limit that prevents the loading of more than a few states into a single database. Fortunately most FIA users tend more to the beer nuts and pretzels crowd and a Microsoft Access database will be more than sufficient. Those few connoisseurs out there will still find it easier to import data into a more powerful database from a Microsoft Access database than from comma-delimited files, so everybody wins.

To download a Microsoft Access database containing FIA data, go to <http://199.128.173.26/fiadb-downloads/fiadb3.html> and find the map of the United States with links to Microsoft Access databases. Click on the state of interest and a zip file containing a Microsoft

James F., Jr. 2007. Changes in tree species importance following harvesting disturbance in north Mississippi between 1967 and 1994. In: Buckley, David S.; Clatterbuck, Wayne K., eds. Proceedings, 15th central hardwood forest conference. e-Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-101. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station: 658-667 [CD-ROM].

Johnson, Tony G.; McClure, Nathan; Wells, John L. 2007. Georgia's timber industry—an assessment of timber product output and use, 2005. Resour. Bull. SRS-123. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 36 p.

Johnson, Tony G.; Smith, Nathan. 2007. South Carolina's timber industry—an assessment of timber product output and use, 2005. Resour. Bull. SRS-121. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 28 p.

Rose, Anita K. 2006. Spatial trends in *Quercus* mortality across three physiographic provinces of Virginia [Abstract]. 91st annual meeting of the ecological society of America. Ecological Society of America. August, 2006, Memphis, TN.

Rose, Anita K. 2007. Current status and mortality rate of hemlock in the Southeastern United States [Abstract]. In: Rising to the challenges of a new century: 18th annual SAMAB conference. Knoxville, TN: Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere. 71 p.

Rose, Anita K. 2007. Properties of forest soils across the South, 2000-2004 [Abstract]. SRS All Scientists Meeting. January, 2007, Lake Lanier, GA.

Rose, Anita K. 2007. Virginia's forests, 2001. Resour. Bull. SRS-120. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 140 p.

Access database can be downloaded. You may also want to download a copy of the FIADB-Lite Users Guide. In addition to the data, the database contains some simple queries to help you on your way, including an example useful to GIS users who want per acre estimates by plot.

Contact: Patrick Miles, pmiles@fs.fed.us, (651) 649-5146.

NIMAC, National Inventory and Monitoring Applications Center

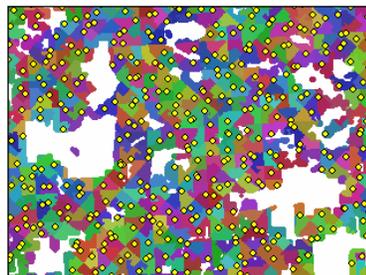
In the April 2007 issue, we reported on the Northern Monitoring Program (NMP). FIA has decided that the need for the technical support and research on monitoring methods is a national need. Hence, the title has been expanded to the National Inventory and Monitoring Applications Center (NIMAC).

The NIMAC team is working on a variety of projects at widely varying scales and locations. The Wisconsin DNR State Forest inventory is near completion of the first year's worth of plots – on schedule. Indiana DNR is starting the intensification on their lands in November. In both cases, they have funded NIMAC to provide planning, field manual, data collection software, data processing, and data analysis software technical support. The enhancements to the software have made them more flexible, which helps other NIMAC customers and FIA itself.

Work with the National Forest System is expanding from Region 9 to the entire East. In a joint effort with Region 8 and Region 9, NIMAC will assist development and implementation of monitoring plans on Forests in each Region. Work has also started on the Planning Tool for Monitoring which was funded by the Inventory and Monitoring Technical Development Committee of the Forest Service.

Contact: Chip Scott, ctscott@fs.fed.us, (610) 557-4020 or visit www.nrs.fs.fed.us/monitoring.

Fractal-based Sample Selection Methodology



To help Wisconsin Division of Forestry and Indiana Department of Natural Resources set up a monitoring network on their state-owned forest lands, FIA's National Inventory and Monitoring Applications Center (NIMAC) developed a fractal-based technique to create spatially balanced networks of sample plots. The technique assures an even distribution of plots across the forest and over time, and will allow the states' forest land to be analyzed using standard FIA methods. The technique can also be used for any intensification of FIA-like plots. A paper documenting the technique and a case study has been accepted for publication in the journal Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, and the tool has been programmed into a GIS.

Rose, Anita K.; Rosson, James F., Jr. 2007. The importance and distribution of hickory across Virginia. In: Buckley, David S.; Clatterbuck, Wayne K., eds. Proceedings, 15th central hardwood forest conference. e-Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-101. U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station: 286-294 [CD-ROM].

Rosson, James F., Jr. 2006. Characteristics of understory tree species richness on pine plantations in the Midsouth, USA [Abstract]. In: 91st annual meeting of the ecological society of America. Ecological Society of America. Memphis, TN; August 6-11, 2006.

Rosson, James F., Jr. 2006. Temporal changes in tree species evenness as an indicator of disturbance [Abstract]. 20th annual meeting of the society for conservation biology. San Jose, CA; June 24-28, 2006.

Rosson, James F., Jr. 2007. Temporal stand dynamics in forests over a large-scale sampling regime on the Interior Highlands of Arkansas [Abstract]. In: 49th annual conference of the international association for vegetation science. Palmerston North, New Zealand; February 12-16, 2007. 83 p.

Rosson, James F., Jr. 2007. Tree species associations of *Pinus echinata* mill over a large-scale sampling regime on the interior highlands of Arkansas. In: Kabrick, John M.; Dey, Daniel C.; Gwaze, David, eds. Shortleaf pine restoration and ecology in the Ozarks: proceedings of a symposium; 2006 November 7-9; Springfield, MO. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-P-15. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Northern Research Station: 76-87.

Both Wisconsin and Indiana have begun using the plots chosen with this technique: Wisconsin is currently collecting data, and Indiana is planning their field work. Results of the inventory will help Wisconsin maintain their Forest Certification on over 500,000 acres, and will help Indiana better manage their state forest land.

Contact: Andrew Lister, alister@fs.fed.us, (610) 557-4038.

FIA is for the birds, and mammals, and reptiles, and amphibians!

Historical perspective

FIA data and information have long been used for supporting wildlife habitat assessments. Much of this historical work was compiled and summarized by Victor Rudis (SRS-FIA) into a thorough bibliography, entitled "Comprehensive Regional Resource Assessments and Multipurpose Uses of Forest Inventory and Analysis Data, 1976 to 2001: A Review" (<http://treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/6446>).

(We are saddened to report that Vic passed away late in 2007 after a valiant fight with cancer.) Examples of past assessments include deer browse inventories in Georgia beginning in the 1960s (Ripley and McClure 1963), area estimates of suitable bird habitat in South Carolina during the 1970s (Sheffield 1981), comparison of snag density with cavity nesting bird abundance in Florida during the 1980s (McComb et al. 1986), a region-wide assessments of early successional forest habitat trends through the 1990s (Trani et al. 2001), and a recent assessment of habitat availability for eastern forest bats (Thompson 2006).

Current events

Current and ongoing studies are promoting new approaches to using FIA data for conducting habitat assessments. Two recent symposia highlighted these activities. The 2006 FIA symposium in Monterey, CA featured several presentations on this topic, with papers now in press as a proceedings publication. Presenters included representatives from the Forest Service - William Zelinski (PSW), Jeffrey Dunk (PSW), Patricia Manley (PSW), Sonja Oswalt (SRS-FIA), and Kevin McKelvey (RMRS); other agencies - John Tirpak (USGS); and universities - Todd Fearer (formerly with Virginia Tech, now with University of Arkansas at Monticello), and Phoebe Zarnetske (Utah State University). Strong interest and enthusiasm following the 2006 FIA Symposium led to a subsequent event. Lacking a 2007 FIA Symposium, Mark Nelson (NRS-FIA) organized and hosted a half-day FIA symposium at The Wildlife Society annual conference in Tucson, AZ, September 2007, entitled "Contributions of FIA to Wildlife Habitat Assessments." Presenters included Mark Nelson (for Vic Rudis), Todd Fearer, Ty Wilson (NRS-FIA), Wayne Thogmartin (USGS), John Tirpak, Kevin McKelvey, William Zielinski.

Looking ahead

The FIA collaborators named above, along with several others, are involved in ongoing wildlife habitat assessments using FIA data. Some of these more recent studies have been accomplished by accessing data from FIA's Spatial Data Service centers (<http://fia.fs.fed.us/tools-data/spatial/default.asp>). FIA-based

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Category of Links

National Program

<http://fia.fs.fed.us>

Pacific Northwest

<http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/fia/>

Interior West

<http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/ogden/>

Northern

<http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/fia/>

Southern

<http://srsfia1.fia.srs.fs.fed.us/>

wildlife habitat assessments will be presented at additional events in the near future, including the biennial meeting of "Partners in Flight" in February 2008 and the Ecological Society of America conference in August 2008. Also some FIA state reports are beginning to include wildlife habitat assessments. A long-term vision is to build a system for producing estimates of habitat area for a large number of wildlife species. These estimates will be derived either directly from FIA plot data or indirectly through FIA-informed geospatial datasets. In addition, wildlife inventory specialists are being encouraged to implement FIA sample and plot designs into their field protocols, enabling standard estimates of vegetation habitat and integration with existing and future FIA estimates.

Contact: Mark Nelson, mdnelson@fs.fed.us, (651) 649-5104.

Employee Profile



Hans Andersen, Pacific Northwest Research Station

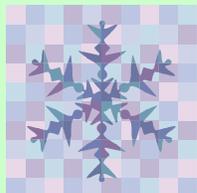
Hans is a research forester in the PNW-FIA analysis team in Anchorage. He has an undergraduate degree from Williams College, an M.S. in Forestry from the University of Washington, a masters degree in Forest Survey from ITC in the Netherlands, and a Ph.D. in Quantitative Resource Management from the University of Washington. Before joining the PNW in 2006, he worked as a research scientist in the Precision Forestry Cooperative at the University of Washington. Hans' research interests include developing new applications of advanced geospatial technologies, including LIDAR, IFSAR, imagery, and GPS, to improve the efficiency of forest inventory and monitoring. Hans also has an appointment as an affiliate assistant professor at the University of Washington. He is an avowed "winterphile," and especially enjoys cross-country and backcountry skiing.

Demetrio Gatzolis, Pacific Northwest Research Station

Demetrios is a research forester in the PNW-FIA analysis team in Portland since 2004. He holds an undergraduate degree from Aristotle University, Macedonia, Greece, a masters degree in Forestry and a Ph.D. in Forestry from Michigan State University. Demetrios' research interests include LiDAR and high-resolution, multispectral remote sensing technologies, spatial statistics and GIS, with emphasis on technique development, modeling, and error propagation. He is an advocate of and contributor to efforts promoting forest inventory compilation automation and efficiency. Demetrios is also a chess Master and computer graphics specialist. He spends his free time in digital photography, flying model aircrafts, playing soccer, and in ballroom dancing with wife Evagelia.



**Have a Safe and Happy
Holiday Season!**



Forest Service Safety Website

Please click on the following link for the Forest Service safety website. It contains lots of safety information, as well as the links to other good safety websites.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/safety/>

Winter Safety Info

Some excellent information on winter safety can be found at:
<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/emergencypreparedness/guides/winterstorms.html>

Holidays the Healthy Way

The tips at this website are gifts you can give yourself and your family to maintain a healthy lifestyle:
http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/spotlights/holiday_tips.htm

Upcoming events...

Event	Location	Date
IW-FIA Regional Management Team and Partner/User Group Meeting	Albuquerque, NM (more info to follow in the near future)	February 26-27, 2008
PNW-FIA Regional Strategy Committee Meeting	Portland, OR (more info to follow in the future)	September 11, 2008, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Safety at work...

PNW-IW

In keeping with their focus on up-stream leading indicators, the IW-FIA Program Safety Committee recently completed the development of a safety awards program that gives all employees the ability to recognize fellow employees. The new program includes two levels of awards for recognition and exceptional contributions to safety. They have also added a monthly all-employee newsletter to examine recent incidents, highlight seasonal safety topics, and includes a trivia section designed to encourage reading and feedback. Their big projects for the new fiscal year include the development of their Continuation of Operations Plan and 100% completion of all relevant JHAs, both of these in collaboration with the National Forest System Region 4 Safety staff.

PNW-FIA

It's sometimes difficult for crew leaders and crews to come up with weekly tailgate session topics. Here are just a few to help you get started:

- Aircraft Go-No-Go Checklist Procedures
- Check-In Policies
- Firearm Safety
- Sleep Deprivation & Work Performance
- Weather Considerations
- Eye Protection
- Building Emergency Evacuation
- Changing Vehicle Tires Safety
- Ergonomics
- Vehicle Rollover

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