

## **Special alert - On-line tool issue**

Users are advised that all FIA on-line tools (FIDO, EVALIDator, etc.) currently assign accrued volume growth to a single diameter class (current or previous diameter) in a way that results in a distorted and inaccurate distribution. Smaller tree diameter classes receive a disproportionately high percentage of the growth and the larger classes a lower percentage than should be assigned. When compared with removal volumes arrayed by the same diameter classes, unrealistic estimates of inventory change by tree size are obtained. Procedures that correctly distribute tree growth to both the previous and current diameter classes are being developed. We advise our clients not to use net growth by diameter class estimates produced by these on-line tools, but rather to contact their regional offices for corrected estimates. All other estimates by diameter class are calculated correctly. For further details, please review the September 2011 SRS FIA Inventory Update available on the [SRS-FIA program information web page](#).

## **General Notices**

SRS FIA revised the original Southern Annual Forest Inventory System (SAFIS) estimates in NIMS 4.0. For further information, go to the [SRS-FIA program information web page](#).

Users are cautioned that the FIA program publishes forest inventory estimates that are calculated from less than 100% of the total plot sample under some circumstances. We strongly urge caution and ask that you be aware of increased sampling errors when drawing inferences from estimates made from small numbers of FIA plots.

Additionally, FIA program publishes estimates based on plot remeasurement periods that are shorter than normal during the transition from periodic to annualized inventories and longer than normal remeasurement periods when field data collection is interrupted. Irregular remeasurement periods can also affect forest inventory estimates and trend analysis.

## **State specific data issues**

### **Florida**

- Net growth, removals and mortality estimates for 2010 are based on two panels of remeasured plots, which is 40% of the total plot sample (5-year cycle).

### **Louisiana**

- Data abnormalities were detected by quality assurance crews on some Louisiana plots collected in 2001-2005. Crews revisited suspect plots in 2009. In cases where abnormalities were confirmed, the original plot was replaced with a new plot. The replacement plots are assigned to INVYR 2008 so they can be distinguished from the original plots collected in 2001-2005 as well as from the first panel of remeasurement at the start of the next cycle (INVYR 2009). The new post of Louisiana 2005 reflects the incorporation of the replacement plot data as well as reprocessing of all plots in NIMS 4.0.
- Louisiana 2009 estimates are based on 85% of the plots from INVYR 2001-2005 & 2008 and 15% remeasured plots collected in 2009 (7-year cycle).
- Net growth, removals, and mortality estimates are based entirely on data collected in INVYR 2009 -- one panel of a 7-year cycle, or 15% of the total sample.
-

## **Mississippi**

- After the close-out remeasurement of the periodic inventory plots in 2006, there was a data collection hiatus until 2009 and the start of the next cycle (7-year cycle).
- Forest area and volume estimates for MS 2010 were made with plot data collected in 2006 (70%), 2009 (15%) and 2010 (15%).
- Net growth, removals and mortality estimates for MS 2010 are based on two panels of remeasured plots, or 30% of the sample. The average plot remeasurement period is 3.1 years.

## **Oklahoma**

- For units 1 and 2 (east Oklahoma), 100% of the plots were used to make forest area, volume, and number of trees estimates in 2010, but only 20% of the plots were used for net growth, removals and mortality estimates, and the plot remeasurement period averages 2.3 years.
- For units 3, 4,5,6,7 (west Oklahoma), 20% of the plots were used to make forest area, volume, and number of trees estimates in 2010, and there are no estimates for net growth, removals and mortality.
- For more Information <http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/states/oklahoma.shtml>