



Why FIA is Important to Native American Tribes (continued)

Western and Navajo BIA Regions - Estimates of woodland volume and basal area were generated across the Western and Navajo tribal lands. The work served as Phase 1 in a series of information gathering for the region, in support of forest management planning across the region.

Historical Conditions Analysis - Two early FIA-related datasets; the Oregon and Washington Forest Survey from 1934, and the 1950s Oregon county survey of the Warm Springs Reservation and the eastside Cascades, were used to analyze historic conditions for the Warm Springs Reservation. Warm Springs forest managers valued the availability of historic, long-term inventory data to guide current management.

Assessing Resource Availability Across Broad Landscapes - Many Alaskan Natives in Interior Alaska communities rely heavily on State forests for poles and fuel wood. FIA is currently sampling Alaska state-owned lands in the Tanana Valley, which will help the state assess the sustainable flow of wood from their lands and environmental impacts of harvest. Future expansion of the FIA program in Alaska will sample all ownerships.

Setting Regional Context for Tribal Management - The Tapash Sustainable Forest Collaborative in Eastern Washington is working to enhance the resiliency, diversity, and productivity of native forest ecosystems in eastern Central Washington. The foundation for one of the primary information sources, the Central Washington Landscape Analysis, is produced using FIA plot data.



For more information on FIA

Visit the FIA national web site at <http://www.fia.fs.fed.us> or contact one of the offices below:



National Office
Arlington, VA
703-605-4177

North
St. Paul, MN
651-649-5139

South
Knoxville, TN
865-862-2000

Interior West
Ogden, UT
801-625-5407

Pacific West
Portland, OR
503-808-2034

The United States Forest Service Caring for the Land and Serving the People



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Benefits of Native American Partnerships

working with Forest Inventory and Analysis



Percent of forest land in Native American ownership

FIA Mission: *Improve the understanding and management of the nation's forests by maintaining a comprehensive inventory of the status and trends of our diverse forest ecosystems, their use and health.*

Science Serving Society



Forest Service—Research and Development



What is the FIA Program?

- FIA, authorized by the Forestry Research Act of 1928 (*replaced by the Forest and Range-land Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978*), is an 80+ years strong forest inventory partnership with the nation's state forestry agencies, universities, NGOs and others.
- FIA is the only comprehensive field-based inventory of all forest ownerships for each of the 50 states, affiliated Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands (*since 1928*).
- FIA conducts wood flow surveys of all primary wood-using facilities in the U.S. (*since 1947*).
- FIA conducts surveys of the management objectives and value of forests of over 10 million private forest landowners in the U.S. (*since 1953*).
- FIA provides public access to current and historic resource data through user-friendly online tools with over 100,000 data accesses in 2013.
- FIA conducts extensive collaborative research to develop and use the latest technology in remote sensing, field measurement and information management.
- FIA provides foundation forest inventory data to all 50 states, affiliated islands and the District of Columbia for Forest Assessments required by the 2008 Farm Bill.
- FIA relies on 550 federal, state, university and other professional staff to efficiently deliver the program.



Why FIA is Important to Native American Tribes

FIA's partners and customers need a broad spectrum of information, from timber to fuel loading to wildlife habitat to surveys of forest stewardship objectives. All of these needs have environmental, social and economic consequences related to the sustainability of America's forests. Native American nations share many of these stewardship objectives, as well as others that are unique to their land. FIA works in partnership with Tribes to satisfy Native American data and analysis needs.

Assessing Resource Status for All Tribal Lands

There are 18 million acres of forest lands located on 305 reservations across 24 states, based on FIA plots on Tribal lands across the country, and reported in the 2013 report "Assessment of Indian Forests and Forest Management in the United States."

New Mexico State Report - FIA analysts met with representatives of different land stewardship groups to develop the outline for the report "Forest Resources of New Mexico, 2008-2012" (currently in press). As a result, the report includes sections of special interest to Tribal forest stewards, such as the potential effects of drought-related mortality on piñon nut crops.

FIA in the Pacific Islands - FIA conducts forest inventory and monitoring work in the tropical Pacific Islands. In cooperation with native Pacific Islanders, the FIA Program samples 4.8 million acres of land across seven island groups including American Samoa, Guam, Palau, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Hawaii.



Great Lakes Paper Birch - Paper birch is an extremely important species to the Ojibwa Tribes of the Great Lakes. In response to a decline in paper birch, the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) member Tribes and the Forest Service recognized Tribal reserved harvesting rights. GLIFWC worked closely with Tribal gatherers and Forest Service staff to combine Tribal Traditional Ecological Knowledge with modern scientific inventory techniques, resulting in a field inventory guide that is used by FIA to assess the supply and quality of paper birch within the Ceded Territories.

Custom FIA Database for Sealaska - FIA created a custom database for the Quinault Indian Nation and Sealaska Corporation, which is made up of Tribal members that collectively manage more than 300,000 acres in Alaska. These groups were interested in using FIA data on their land to create a baseline for calculating carbon credits and biomass.

Custom FIA Database for Nevada Tribal Lands - FIA provided the Bureau of Indian Affairs with an MS Access database containing Nevada FIA data. The database includes the same queries and tools as others on the FIA DataMart, but includes identifiers for Tribal ownership that are not available to the general public. As a result, forests on Tribal lands can be analyzed in a regional context while maintaining data privacy.

San Carlos Apache Inventory - Estimates of woodland forest types and tree species were constructed from existing FIA data using maps of biotic communities within the San Carlos Apache reservation. The intent was to quantify the woodland resources so that managers can make informed decisions about tree-cutting regulations.

