



# Forest Inventory and Analysis Interior West FIA Program



## FIA Fact Sheet Series

**FIA Mission.** The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program of the USDA Forest Service has been in continuous operation since 1930 with a mission to:

*"make and keep current a comprehensive inventory and analysis of the present and prospective conditions of and requirements for the renewable resources of the forest and rangelands of the US."*

The FIA Program collects, analyzes, and reports information on the status and trends of America's forests: how much forest exists, where it exists, who owns it, and how it is changing, as well as how the trees and other forest vegetation are growing and how much has died or has been removed in recent years. This information can be used in many ways, such as in evaluating wildlife habitat conditions, assessing the sustainability of ecosystem management practices, and supporting planning and decision-making activities undertaken by public and private enterprises.

The FIA Program combines this information with related data on insects, diseases, and other types of forest damages and stressors to assess the health condition and potential future risks to forests. The program also projects what the forests are likely to be in 10 to 50 years under various scenarios. This information is essential for evaluating whether current forest management practices are sustainable in the long run and whether current policies will allow future generations to enjoy America's forests.

**Interior West States.** The Interior West FIA program includes the states of Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. Data are collected across all ownerships – federal, state, and private – and across both reserved and nonreserved lands. The Interior West region encompasses over 140 million acres of forestland, including some of the most rugged and remote land in the lower 48 states.

**History.** In the past, permanent plots were established in each state or portion of a state and then revisited on roughly a 10-year schedule so that each area could be assessed for current status as well as changes in forested area, growth, removals, and mortality.

State	Last Periodic Survey
Arizona	1999
Colorado	1983
Idaho	1991
Montana	1989
Nevada	1989
New Mexico	2000
Utah	1994
Wyoming	1983

In 1992, the Forest Health Monitoring Program was begun in the Interior West (in Colorado) to monitor annual and long-term changes in forest health. In 1998, the Farm Bill required FIA to institute dramatic changes to the inventory program (see FIA Program History Factsheet): annual inventory in every state every year and nationally consistent data collection and summarization across all land ownerships including National Forest System lands. In the years since the passage of the 1998 Farm Bill, the Interior West FIA Program has been

transitioning from periodic to annual inventories across all ownerships and has instituted national data standards. The goal for annual inventories in the Interior West is to measure 10% of the plots each year in each state in order to have 100% measurement of each state's forests every 10 years.

**Interior West Organization.** The Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS), headquartered in Ft. Collins, CO, manages the Interior West FIA Program, located in Ogden, UT. Program staffing and activities are focused in the following areas: data collection, information management, analysis and reporting, and inventory techniques research and mapping.

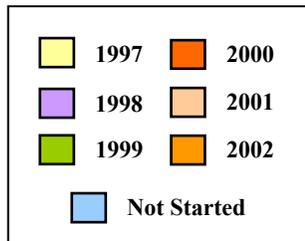
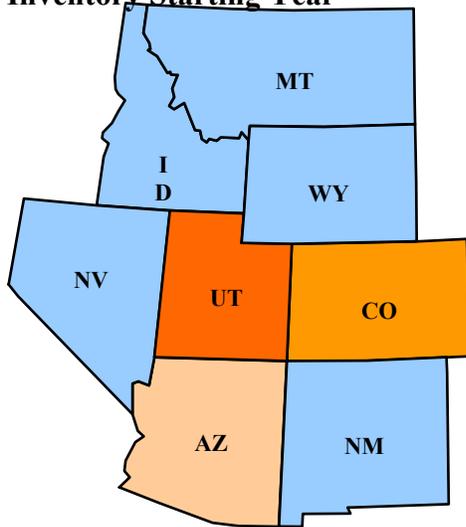
**Core and Regional Measurements.** National core measurements (see Phase 2 and Phase 3: Ground Measurements Fact sheet) are collected on all ground plots. In each State, Interior West region-specific data are also collected on Phase 2 plots so that analyses can address specific regional and local issues. Regional measurements include down woody debris, understory vegetation, insects and disease, tree cover, and soils.

**Partners and Clients.** Interior West FIA partners and clients include other Forest Service research programs; National Forest System and Forest Health Protection programs in Forest Service Regions 1, 2, 3, and 4; State forestry departments; other federal agencies such as National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and NRCS; universities; environmental organizations; forest industries; and private landowners. The needs of these groups help determine the additional data collected, the research and analyses performed, and the kind of report or output produced. Input and collaboration from partners and clients

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are obtained in a variety of ways including annual user group meetings, data requests, special working sessions, and cooperative agreements.

### Interior West Annual Inventory Starting Year



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#### For more information about the FIA Program:

- Visit our Interior West FIA website:  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/ogden/index.html>
- Visit our National FIA website:  
<http://www.fia.fs.fed.us>
- See our "FIA Contacts" Fact Sheet