



Forest Inventory and Analysis Northeastern 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.

Northeastern States. The northeastern FIA (NE-FIA) program includes the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, West Virginia, and Vermont. The northeastern region encompasses over 93 million acres of forestland in the most heavily forested and populated region of the country.

History. In the past, permanent plots were established in each state and then revisited on roughly a 12-year schedule so that each area could be assessed for current status as well as changes in forest area, growth, removals, and mortality.

State	Last Periodic Survey
Connecticut	1998
Delaware	1999
Massachusetts	1998
Maryland	1999
Maine	1995
New Hampshire	1997
New Jersey	1999
New York	1993
Ohio	1991
Pennsylvania	1989
Rhode Island	1998
Vermont	1997
West Virginia	2001

In 1990, the Forest Health Monitoring Program was implemented in New England 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 Fact Sheet). The Farm Bill mandated an 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, NE-FIA has been transitioning from periodic to annual inventories across all ownerships and has instituted national data standards.

As of 2002, NE-FIA is funded to conduct inventories annually in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Annual inventories will be conducted in the remaining states as funds become

available. The goal for annual inventories in the NE is to measure 20% of the plots each year in each state in order to have 100% measurement of each state's forests every 5 years

NE-FIA Organization. The Northeastern (NE) Research Station manages the NE-FIA Program at the Station headquarters in Newtown Square, PA (western suburb of Philadelphia). Staffing and activities are focused in the following areas: data collection, information management, resource analysis, and monitoring techniques research.

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, region-specific data is also collected on Phase 2 plots so that analyses can address specific regional and local issues.

Partners and Clients. NE-FIA partners and clients include other Forest Service research programs; state forestry agencies National Forest System and Forest Health Protection programs in the Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry; other federal agencies such as National Parks Service, and Natural Resources Conservation Service; universities; environmental organizations; forest industry companies; 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 are obtained in a variety of ways including annual client meetings, data requests, special working sessions, and cooperative agreements.

Fact Sheet Author: Chip Scott

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

- Visit our NE-FIA website:
<http://www.fs.fed.us/ne/fia/>
- Visit our National FIA
website:
<http://www.fia.fs.fed.us>
- See our “FIA Contacts”
Fact Sheet

