



# Community Engagement Newsletter

December 2020 (last month of 2020, high-five!)

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### **Tennessee State Forester: FIA Partnership Video**

Dave Arnold, State Forester for Tennessee, shared ANOTHER FIA-related video that exemplifies the partnership between FIA and the state. Follow the link below to view the video.

[Link here](#)

### **FIA and UNLV Website: by Gretchen Andrew**

FIA has worked in partnership with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) for over two decades on its Information Management (IM) program component. The combined experience of UNLV's employees on FIA projects represents 110 years. Adding in the prior experience of retired FIA staff now employed part-time at UNLV, the combined FIA-related experience of these partners approaches 200 years! In an effort to keep its FIA cooperators informed and up to date on its staff and assignments, UNLV released a new website this month. You can visit the [UNLV-FIA Group](#) on the web to learn more about each staff member and the FIA co-projects the group contributes to.

### **Sci-Ops Meeting presented by the Techniques Research Band: January 11-12**

FIA's Techniques & Research Band is hosting a multi-session, multi-day meeting about stratification in FIA. January 11 & 12 with sessions going from 12-2pm and 3-5 pm eastern.

Topics will range from how each unit does stratification – including tools and processes. Where FIA regions are alike and where FIA regions are different and what that means.

The meeting invites, as well as more information on the meeting, can be accessed on Pinyon [here](#). If you questions related to this meeting, please contact Karen Schleeweis at [karen.schleeweis@usda.gov](mailto:karen.schleeweis@usda.gov)

### **Congratulations Sean Cahoon: Deputy Chief's Award for R&D**

Congratulations to Dr. Sean Cahoon of PNW-FIA as a recipient of the Deputy Chief's Award. Alex Friend, Deputy Chief of the Research and Development Deputy Area, named Sean as a recipient on December 14. Below is an excerpt from Paul Anderson, Station Director for PNW, congratulating Sean on this accomplishment.

"I am very pleased to announce this morning that Sean Cahoon, a scientist in the Resource Monitoring and Assessment Program is this year's recipient of the Deputy Chief's Early Career Scientist Award.

Dr. Sean Cahoon's unbridled curiosity and research productivity has already led to significant, ground-breaking studies early in his career. As a research ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Pacific Northwest (PNW) Research Station, Dr. Cahoon's study of plant physiological responses in rapidly-warming tundra and boreal ecosystems is critically important to understanding global carbon budgets and supporting future management of these ecosystems. Boreal forests are estimated to contain approximately 30-40% of all land-based carbon in the world, so any changes to the carbon budget in this biome would have significant implications for the global carbon cycle. Dr. Cahoon's research and collaborative efforts make him a leader in this field, improving our understanding of how these important ecosystems are responding to climate change and supporting managers and decisionmakers with much-needed information.

As part of the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program, Dr. Cahoon is the lead scientist for the Alaska inventories and plays a crucial role in the success of the novel, high-risk endeavor to inventory interior Alaska. First as a postdoc, and more recently as a permanent scientist with the PNW Research Station, he supports inventory design, training, compilation, and quality assurance. He coordinates meetings with the FIA data collection, information management, remote sensing, and reporting teams to address implementation issues, and takes the lead on synthesizing and writing inventory reports. Dr. Cahoon is a critical part of ensuring that the ground-breaking efforts to inventory interior Alaska forests are a success.

In addition to leading the FIA in Alaska, Dr. Cahoon is a recognized expert in the field of dendrochronology. He designed a rigorous yet efficient dendrochronology protocol as part of the effort to inventory the forests of interior Alaska. Dendrochronology, which uses tree rings to study past tree growth and the associated atmospheric conditions, is particularly valuable for understanding the response of remote, little-studied forest regions to climatic variations. Dr. Cahoon also helped establish a network of researchers focused on dendrochronology methods and applications to inventory forest plots across the western U.S. with the goal of creating a coherent dendrochronology network and database.

Dr. Cahoon has demonstrated sustained research productivity, with over 11 publications in high-impact journals so far in his career. He has proven to be exceptionally resourceful in successfully conducting observational and experimental studies in remote settings in Greenland and interior Alaska, including regions that have never before been directly surveyed. Much of his work has been collaborative, exploring key mechanisms in larger research projects and building valuable partnerships with other agencies and stakeholders. Dr. Cahoon's focus on high-quality research, exploration of new ideas in collaboration with interdisciplinary scientists, and engagement with students and communities to share his enthusiasm for science and the importance of results, will undoubtedly continue to advance the mission of USFS Research and Development and the USDA.

Dr. Cahoon holds a Ph.D. in Ecology from Pennsylvania State University (2015), an MS in Biology from University of Alaska Anchorage (2011), and a BS in Natural Sciences with a minor in Geology from

University of Alaska Anchorage (2006). He was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Alaska Anchorage (2016-17) and later with the FIA program out of the USFS PNW Research Station (2017-18). Dr. Cahoon is now a research ecologist with the USFS PNW Research Station conducting research on vegetative responses to climate change in tundra and boreal forest ecosystems and leads the FIA Alaska forest inventories.”

Recipients include:

**Distinguished Science** – Dr. Christopher Fettig is a Research Entomologist with the Pacific Southwest Research Station, Ecosystem Function and Health Program in Albany, California. Dr. Fettig is being recognized for his sustained research productivity, scientific leadership, and numerous notable scientific contributions toward addressing some of the most challenging environmental issues of our time.

**Science Delivery** – Dr. Christopher O’Connor is a Research Ecologist with the Rocky Mountain Research Station, Human Dimensions Program at Missoula, Montana. Dr. O’Connor is being recognized for his outstanding work in the development and application of models and processes that greatly inform suppression response in both the planning and incident response environments.

**Early Career Scientist** – Dr. Sean Cahoon is a Research Ecologist with the Pacific Northwest Research Station, Forest Inventory and Analysis Program in Anchorage, Alaska. Dr. Cahoon is being recognized for his significant scientific accomplishments, outstanding leadership, and exceptional promise as an early career scientist.

**Robert F. Lewis Pioneer in Science** – Dr. Constance Millar is a Research Ecologist and Program Manager with the Pacific Southwest Research Station, Ecosystem Function and Health Program in Albany, California. Dr. Millar is the first recipient of this award and is being recognized for her exemplary leadership in science and her commitment to the Forest Service community.

#### **Link to Portfolios, FIA-Related Social Media & FIA Treearch**

To keep a consistent location where portfolios can be accessed as well as the latest FIA related social media activity, portfolio links and links to social media are included in the newsletter. Additionally, all FIA-related publications can be located at the link below using a tool that searches R&D’s *Treearch* database. Follow the links below for the latest information on portfolios and social media activity. And a reminder, any social media post related to FIA, please ensure to use the following handle: #USDA\_FIA

**Carbon:** <https://usfs.box.com/s/l23jxi29zlfx0656pc18651q0qdfrg1p>

**Biomass:** <https://usfs.box.com/s/jhet52fknd2adzd7xvg2hxsjarxxuww>

**Digital Engagement:** <https://usfs.box.com/s/dglnpdxpp3naskfuzr6ao6v7as4gzzph>

**Land Use/Land Cover:** <https://usfs.box.com/s/avnvyr0b7j4jkph7qbtppxxt5vppipqy>

**National Landowner Survey:** <https://usfs.box.com/s/ffj9s2bwyzh0rvo2esl964d514j3jvlj>

**Small Area Estimation:** <https://usfs.box.com/s/iavhy0afitsibyswx2cpm75mukhoxk7s>

**Timber Products Output:** <https://usfs.box.com/s/4mmb318nxjz9j0w98ggykdo1ica99j8z>

**Urban FIA:** <https://usfs.box.com/s/7iobdmd7vbkel0frp3ukjui75rv97mu>

**Community Engagement:** <https://usfs.box.com/s/wk07xvr9fcnt3be610lsfpzer4iswz1y>

**FIA in Social Media:** [https://twitter.com/search?q=USDA\\_FIA&src=typd](https://twitter.com/search?q=USDA_FIA&src=typd)

**FIA Publications in Treearch:**

The tool to search FIA-specific publications within *Treearch* can be accessed at the following link:

<https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/internal/treearch/>

To search FIA-specific publications using this tool:

- 1) Click on drop-down and choose “All Forest Inventory & Analysis Units”
- 2) Choose date range
- 3) Click Submit

For more information on the Community Engagement Newsletter, please contact:



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