

Community Engagement Newsletter

February 2021

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FIA's Brett Butler & Recent Book Published: America's Family Forest Owners: Article by SAF

Breaking news: SAF's new book, *America's Family Forest Owners*, is coming hot off the press in a few weeks. The author, Brett J. Butler, PhD, is renowned for years of meticulous research cultivating a unique dataset on the largest forest-owning population in the country: family forest owners. Collectively, family forest owners maintain 272 million acres, 39% of the total forest land in the United States, more than any other ownership group. The fate of the nation's forests lies largely in the hands of this diverse group. This book is the first of its kind to speak to those 10 million family forest owners.

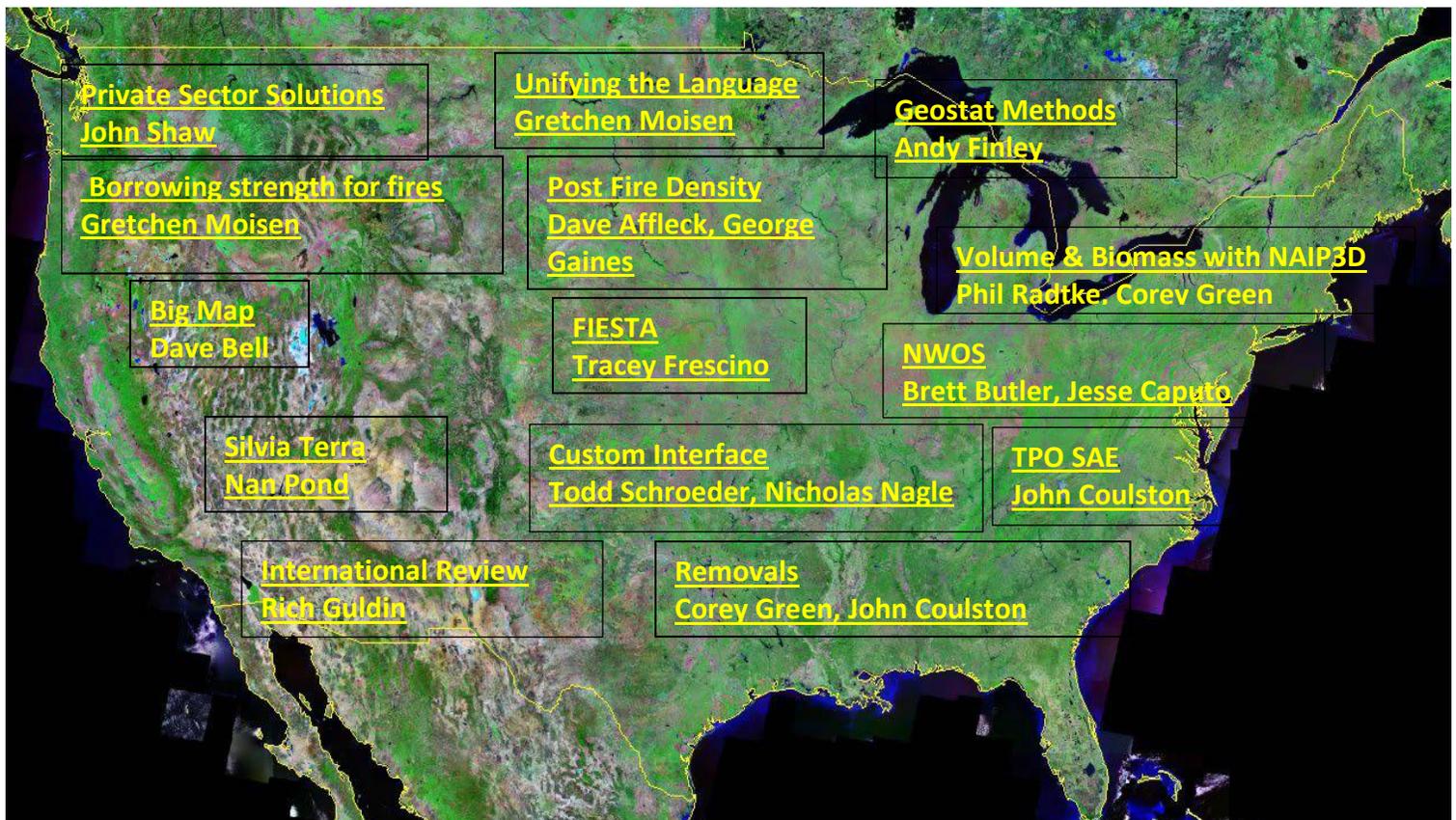


Kathryn Fernholz, CEO and President of Dovetail Partners and Chair of the American Forest Foundation's board of trustees says about the book, "America's Family Forest Owners is an essential read for forestry students and others who care about America's forests and the people that own them. This book is equally appropriate for seasoned professionals, college students, stakeholders, and general public fans of nonfiction!"

This exciting book fills a very needed gap. *America's Family Forest Owners* is available for purchase on our website now! Visit [our store](#) to order your copy today.

SAE: Small Area Estimation Workshop Recap by: Gretchen Moisen

The Workshop on Small Area Estimation in FIA was held this past fall on Sept. 30, Oct. 1 and 2 in conjunction with FIA's National User Group Meeting. Our objectives were to understand and articulate information needs of users, identify what tools need to do in order to be most useful, and outline our next steps to unify our efforts and identify applications that will move us ahead most quickly. There were 116 people registered for the event which included 14 pre-recorded science presentations from researchers across the country, 5 presentations from experts representing different facets of our user community, 4 live demonstrations of tools, and numerous discussions. All presentations and discussions, are available online at the following [Link](#). Additionally, direct links to each presentation are located in image below.



Southern Utah University Students Assist in Notetaking for FIA Meetings: by Jim Pollard

FIA Conference Call Notetaking and Educational Outreach at Southern Utah University

Southern Utah University (SUU) research assistants (RAs), working with the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, participate in educational outreach by teaching student workers professional notetaking skills for use during FIA conference calls. As part of this educational outreach program at SUU the student workers are taught how to effectively take notes on-the-fly during a call and then how to use a recording of the call to clean

up their notes and add any missing information. During their training student workers are taught about FIA programs including how to deal with an extensive use of acronyms and terminology that are specific to a certain call or FIA working group.

Teaching student workers how to take professional notes is beneficial for both the students and the call attendees. Participating in notetaking helps the student workers take more effective notes in their classes and other professional settings, as well as allowing them to become more familiar with FIA in order to better assist with SUU/FIA projects. Notetaking is useful for the FIA attendees on the call because it allows them to focus on participating in presentations and discussions rather than taking notes. Notetaking completed by the student workers is also helpful because it documents what was discussed on FIA calls so that call content can be referenced when needed. A few of the projects that SUU staff and students take professional notes on include the Design and Analysis Toolkit for Inventory and Monitoring (DATIM), UMAestro, the National Information Management System (NIMS) Maintenance Team, Universal NIMS (UNIMS), FIA Program Manager calls, and the National Operations team calls.

In addition to providing training in needed skills for SUU students, the RAs are occasionally asked to provide support for local high schools. For example, a presentation on professional notetaking was given to the Robotics club at the Launch High School in Cedar City, Utah. The presentation covered topics such as why notetaking is important, general tips on how to be a more effective notetaker, and several methods that can be used when notetaking. During the presentation, the FIA program and the DATIM application were discussed to highlight how notetaking is utilized in a professional environment. This presentation offered the high school students in attendance the opportunity to learn about professional notetaking and recognize how it is an essential skill to have in many work settings.



Figure 1. The SUU staff and students with their FIA and UNLV partners at the annual Summit in Cedar City.

Agency Conservation Education Survey by: Barbara McGuiness

US Forest Service Conservation Education (CE) is engaged in a two-year process to develop a new Conservation Education Strategy. This new strategy aims to unify how the Forest Service communicates the value and interdependence of our conservation education projects and programs across every staff area while providing agency-wide empowerment for the delivery of conservation education programs that meet CE outcomes while uplifting each other.

As part of the strategy development, the CE Strategy Development team is conducting a **workforce survey** to gain an accurate understanding of how the USFS workforce is engaged in conservation education as well as the workforce's insights regarding the future vision and role of Conservation Education at the USFS. This survey aims to gain a diversity of perspectives, ideas, and experiences from across the agency to include in the CES development process.

All staff engaged in **youth engagement, citizen science, teacher training, fire education, science delivery, or any other environmental/natural resource education-based programming** (including in collaboration with partners) take 15 to 20 minutes to complete this anonymous survey by **March 5**.

You can access the survey at:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=5zZb7e4BvE6GfuA8-g1GI3JONSZOWetEjsXR5GhTk3ZUNlcyUU5FU1QxNkRBUTdKWFJaSFZOMIQzUC4u>

Link to Portfolios, FIA-Related Social Media & FIA Treesearch

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 *Treesearch* 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/l23jxi29zlfx0656pc1865lq0qdfrg1p>

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/7iobdmd7vbkcl0frp3ukjui75rv97mu>

Community Engagement: <https://usfs.box.com/s/wk07xvr9fent3be610lsfpzer4iswz1y>

FIA in Social Media: 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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