

# Community Engagement Newsletter

September 2020

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## Virtual Sessions: Small Area Estimation in FIA September 30<sup>th</sup> - October 2<sup>nd</sup> (by Gretchen Moisen)

FIA has a growing tradition of holding a “Focus Day” in conjunction with FIA’s National User Group Meeting. And this year, in our new virtual world, we will continue this “focus” tradition by convening a series of sessions on Small Area Estimation for FIA. This begins Sept 23 with pre-recorded sessions being posted, then live sessions being held Sept 30, Oct 1 and 2. Our objectives for this meeting include:

1. Understand and articulate information needs of users
2. Identify what tools need to do in order to be most useful
3. Outline our next steps to unify our efforts and identify applications that will move us ahead most quickly

Register to participate, or view recorded material at:

[https://whova.com/web/fiafo\\_202009](https://whova.com/web/fiafo_202009).

Our pre-session material includes a rich collection of short presentations from scientists and statisticians across the country giving examples of small area applications with FIA and auxiliary data through a wide variety of methods and platforms- -- working with a wide variety of partners. Then our live sessions begin on Sept 30 with a summary of small area estimation needs from 6 panelists representing different facets of our user community, followed by facilitated discussion time where we’ll ask you to help us bring more of the needs to the collection. On Thurs of that week we’ve asked a growing list of scientists and developers to share tools that are already available to users, or



Photo by Scott Dickson - IWFIA

quickly approaching operational capacity. They will demonstrate what the tools can do through live demonstrations, again with ample time for questions and discussion. We hope these live demonstrations will help us brainstorm what will work to meet different needs. Finally on Friday of that week, we all roll up our sleeves to talk through what we saw in the science applications and in the demonstrations and how to move it forward.

### National Collective Recruitment & Hiring: Upcoming Hiring Events

The agency utilizes collective hiring events to simplify and add efficiencies to the hiring process. Collective hiring events also aim to recruit quality applicants with critical skills that are in underrepresented groups in the agency.

There are there upcoming collective hiring events that FIA managers may choose to utilize to fill critical vacancies within their team or program:

*The Wildlife Society Annual Convention September 28-October 2*

*Engineering & STEM Hiring Event October 8-October 10*

*Society of American Foresters Convention October 29-October 31*

For more information concerning these hiring events as well as other hiring authorities, follow the following link to the agencies HRM site:

<http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/hrm/hiring-employment/ncrh.php>

### Undergraduate Students & FIA Projects: FIA Dashboards

Five undergraduate students developed a collection of FIA-related dashboards as part of their summer work experience in forestry data sciences. Students worked under the direction of Kelly McConville at Reed College in Portland OR, with Gretchen Moisen and Tracey Frescino at RMRS-FIA. Dashboards were developed to explore alternative ways to deliver FIA small area and model assisted estimates to different audiences (like students, users, scientists and statisticians) in applications related to fires, ecological units, and counties. The students presented their tools to a small FIA audience in August, and some of them will participate in FIA's upcoming Small Area Estimation Workshop demonstrations. The students bring talent from diverse academic backgrounds, including:

- Maddie Basil (Swarthmore College, English '22),
- Isabelle Caldwell (Reed College, Mathematics-Economics '22)
- Alex Flowers (Swarthmore College, Mathematics-Statistics '21)
- Sam Olson (Reed College, Mathematics-Economics '17)
- Olek Wojcik (Reed College, Mathematics-Economics '21)



## National Operations Update (Web Modernization)

### FIA Web Modernization

As you may know, the FIA National Operations Team is currently running an FIA Web Modernization project to update the National FIA Web Site in order to present FIA's mission, science, and products in a modern and more easily searchable and accessible format. The project is being conducted in cooperation with the modernization of the larger FS R&D National and Station pages, and is being executed in five phases, with the final product being a fully redesigned site based on Drupal technology. Phase 1, which is now complete, was focused on content review to identify content that is outdated, irrelevant, or missing. A number of recommended improvements have been implemented in the past month:

- Posted full content update of Library - Database Documentation page on Natl FIA site. Includes reorganization of content, update of page verbiage, updated Google Analytics code, and addition of new Urban FIADB User Guide.
- Worked NRS FIA staff on a full overhaul/update of the FIA Science Stakeholder Meeting page to remove content/info from previous (2019) meeting and add new content/info for next (2021) meeting, which will be hosted by NRS. Google Analytics were also updated for the page.

The updated website can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.fia.fs.fed.us/>

## FS and FIA Photo Site Links

The CE team has compiled a list of website links to access Forest Service and FIA-related pictures. Feel free to visit these sites when an FS or FIA photo is needed:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/multimedia-gallery>  
<https://nfsi.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/>  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/fsnorthernregion/>  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/forestservice/w/>  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/142650051@N06/>  
[https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfs\\_eastern\\_region/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfs_eastern_region/)  
[https://www.flickr.com/search/?user\\_id=41284017%40N08&text=forest%20service](https://www.flickr.com/search/?user_id=41284017%40N08&text=forest%20service)  
<https://usfs.app.box.com/s/9qykirb3v4pc0a364qdf5smewfvddh2t>  
<https://www.instagram.com/u.s.forestservice/>  
[https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfs\\_nrs\\_fia/albums/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfs_nrs_fia/albums/)

## Link to Portfolios & Social Media

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/123jxi29zlfx0656pc1865lq0qdfrg1p>

**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/7iobdmd7vbkcl0frp3ukjui75rvg97mu>

**Community Engagement:** <https://usfs.box.com/s/wk07xvr9fent3be610lsfzper4iswz1y>

**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 Treesearch:**

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

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

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

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