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### New SRS FIA Program Manager: Welcome Burl Carraway!

Congratulations and welcome Burl Carraway as the new Southern Research Station FIA Program Manager!

Burl recently retired as Chief Operating Officer, Texas A&M Forest Service, after a 28-year career. He is a Certified Forester through the Society of American Foresters. He received the Texas A&M AgriLife Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Excellence for Public Service in Forestry Award in 2012, the D.A. “Andy” Anderson Award for Information & Education, Governor Bush’s Clean Texas 2000 Environmental Excellence Award, the SRS Director’s Award for FIA Excellence in 2004, and the Texas A&M Board of Regents Fellow Service award in 2021.

Burl successfully completed the Governor’s Executive Development Program at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at University of Texas in 2015, the Texas A&M University Mays Business School Center for Executive Development’s Management Skills Development Program in 2000, as well as the inaugural 18-month Texas A&M AgriLife Administrative Leadership Development Program in 2010.

Burl is past Chair of three Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF) Committees: Environmental Services, Utilization and Marketing; Forest Inventory & Analysis; and Water Resources. Burl has been a member of the Texas Forestry Association since 1993, served on the Board of Directors, and has received the President’s Citation Award for Outstanding Devotion. He has also been a member of the Society of American Foresters member since 1992, and is a past State Society Chair, Chapter Chair, as well as recipient of the Award for Outstanding Leadership in the Field of Forestry.
Burl graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from Furman University in Greenville, SC in 1991 and a Master of Forest Resources from Clemson University in 1993.

Burl reports to his new position with FIA on April 10th. Welcome Burl!

**TPO Update: by Glenn Christensen**

**The current direction of National Resource Use Monitoring: As we see it from the stump to the mills**

It has been another productive year for the National Resource Use Monitoring group, which includes Timber Products Output (TPO) and Harvest Utilization monitoring (a.k.a. Felled Tree studies). TPO and Harvest Utilization information complement Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) removals information, allowing for a refined understanding of current utilization of industrial roundwood that support wood products markets. FIA P2 sample plots show us a tree is removed from the forest. The Resource Use Monitoring group describes the use and movement of that tree’s volume. In other words, the group’s task is to answer these questions:

- How much of that removed tree volume was utilized for a roundwood product (saw log, veneer log, etc.) and how much was left in the forest as logging residue?
- Where was this utilized volume milled?
- Which counties was the volume coming from?
- What primary products were made (lumber, pallets, veneer sheets, pellets, etc.)?
- How much of that utilized tree volume (or timber volume) was used for a primary product?
- How much wood residue was generated at mills and how were those residues used?

Exciting things are happening as the implementation of the annual sample continues to expand throughout the regions and nationally consistent data become available.

In January 2022 data collection began for the 2021 TPO mill survey. In total, 2,888 surveys will be delivered across the U.S., aiming to reach at least 40% of known active mills at each participating state (Figure 1 shows our mill population for 2021). Various meetings, trainings and other interaction with our partners encompass our time as we prepare the forms, documents, and finalize the strategies for the current surveys. Our goal is to have the 2021 TPO data posted by end of this year, once data are collected, edited, and processed. At the same time, we continually visit active logging operations to gather Harvest Utilization data.

None of this work could be accomplished without the willingness of mill owners and managers to take the time to participate in our mill survey, or without the cooperation of loggers that allow our crews to visit their operations. Their support is essential to our success. We also owe a special thanks to our partners (state agencies, universities, etc.) for their continued support and assistance with data collection.
We encourage everyone to visit our webpage [https://www.fia.fs.fed.us/program-features/tpo/](https://www.fia.fs.fed.us/program-features/tpo/) and explore the tools available in our TPO Toolkit. Continue to check back from time to time as our webpage expands with new tools and products. We also welcome your input, so please reach out if you have questions, comments, and/or suggestions on how to improve these tools. Consuelo Brandeis is the national TPO lead. You may reach her at Consuelo.Brandeis@usda.gov.

### National Issues Update

Current national issues that require attention to resolve are moving through the program’s new change management process. There have been many questions concerning the new process, so a Standard Operating Procedure document was created. The SOP document can be accessed through the FIA Resource Center [here](https://www.fia.fs.fed.us/) and a video presentation on the process can be accessed [here](https://www.fia.fs.fed.us/). As the process continues to evolve, especially pertaining to feedback received during After Action Reviews, this newsletter will be used to convey changes to the process and/or add clarification and the SOP linked above will be updated.

A clarification for this month is the necessity to ensure any issue identified should be discussed at the regional level prior to moving to the national level. This ensures the region is aware the issue exists prior to it gaining national attention.

Additionally, some issues identified at the region or band-level, stay within the region or band. Below is an illustration that helps identify types of issues (e.g., regional only, band-level, national) and at what level they should be addressed.

![Diagram](image)

*Figure 2: Key to identifying at what level issues will be addressed*

### Updated Biomass Equations, Cull Volume

Updated biomass equations have been in the works for many years and are in the final stages of implementation. New equations will be updated in UNIMS in April of 2022. Communicating this change internally and to our clients will be part of the roll-out and a communication plan for sharing information about this change is currently underway.

### GRM Tree Status Codes

GRM Tree Status has entered Phase 2 of the change management process and a group of subject matter experts has been identified via Band Leader requests for interest. Biweekly meetings are occurring and the charter identifying roles and responsibilities has been completed. The team has thoroughly articulated the “Problem Statement” to promote shared understanding of issue and they have identified multiple courses-of-
action to address the problem. The next step is to develop screening criteria and compare the COA’s against the screening criteria where some COA’s may be removed from consideration based on the screening criteria.

**AAR: After Action Review**

Feedback on the new change management process has been gathered and reviewed pertaining to the national issues that recently went through the process (MSL v. 2.0 and Bug Fix 3 & 4). Feedback in the AAR was provided by those individuals that participated in resolving the issue using the new change management process. The feedback gathered through the AAR was reviewed by the National Operations Team and changes were subsequently made to the process based on that feedback. Some of the changes that will be, or have already been made, based on that AAR feedback include:

- More focus on articulating, understanding and agreement on actual problem (i.e., problem statement)
- Clearly defining courses-of-actions and impacts
- Major decisions will be given ample time for discussion and thought, including additional input from other subject matter experts if needed
- Further defining what constitutes a “bug” vs. an “issue”
- Bugs will be introduced (via Band Leaders then to Bands) throughout the year and not all at once during the review process

More information concerning the AAR and changes made to the process based on the AAR, will be distributed at a later date. A big thank you to those that participated in resolving these issues as well as taking the time to provide feedback through the AAR.

For questions on any of these issues or concerning the AAR, please contact Summer Dunn.

**Updating LincPass Credentials: !No Travel Required!**

It is now possible to update LincPass credentials without visiting a GSA USAccess facility. Follow the instructions linked through the FIA Resource Center found [here](#).

**EVALIDator Update & Upcoming SCIENCEEx Series**

**EVALIDator Update: by Donavon Nigg**

FIA is working on a replacement for the EVALIDator application which will be very similar to the current application. We are actively working with the CIO to get this application into the testing environment, so FIA analysts can test its functionality. Shortly after that, it will be released and placed into production on our FIA tools web page. The transition will be taking place over the next few months with a go live date no later than 6 months from now. We will provide updated information as available, the most recent information briefing can be accessed through the FIA Resource Center [here](#).

**SCIENCEEx Webinar Series: Water Week March 21-25, 2022**

**What is SCIENCEEx?** It’s a webinar series that brings together scientists and land management experts across the Forest Service research stations and beyond, to explore the latest science and best practices for addressing large natural resource challenges across the country. These webinars will be primarily management focused, but with applicability for participants from across sectors.
For more information visit:  https://www.fs.fed.us/research/sciencex-webinars/ or at the FIA Resource Center here

For more information on the FIA National Newsletter, please contact:

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