



FIA National Newsletter

November 2021

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Pre-Field & Field Guide Timeline

As we enter the last month of the calendar year, and as changes are moving through FIA's new Change Management Process (CMP), it's a good time to review deadlines associated with FIA's pre-field and field guide. Most important to reiterate is that pre-field and field guide deadlines are separate from the CMP. It is intentional that pre-field and field guide deadlines are separate and should not be considered during the CMP to prevent rushing solutions to meet pre-field and field guide deadlines.

These deadlines are crucial to ensure ample time for engagement and review. Please keep these deadlines in mind when requested to provide feedback.

Follow this [link](#) for an illustration of the Pre-Field and Field Guide Timelines. An overview of deadlines provided below:

Year 1

- **September 1st:** Changes to Pre-field & Field Guide are submitted to Bands for review. During the month of September, Bands are expected to communicate within Band and across Bands to understand changes and impacts.
- **October 1st:** Feedback from Bands due (this is risk analysis related to implementation only). Feedback to changes are reviewed, discussed & accepted/rejected by Bands based on feedback and communication between Bands. Consensus sometimes not possible during this step so compromise is necessary.
- **November 1st:** Final changes to Pre-Field & Field Guide provided to Program Managers
- **December 1st:** Approved final changes to Pre-Field/Field guide are incorporated (e.g., language)

Year 2

- **January 1st:** New Pre-Field Guide version used for units with year-round field season (NRS & SRS)
- **September 1st:** New Field Guide version used for units with year-round field season (NRS & SRS)

Year 3

- **January 1st:** New Pre-Field Guide version used for units with seasonal field seasons (RMRS & PNWRS)

- **March/April:** New Field Guide version used for units with seasonal field seasons (RMRS & PNWRS)

Also, maybe the deadline information above created some questions about the field guide in general. For example, what field guide version are we currently using or what version is RMRS using or NRS? Follow the link below to FIA's national website where you can find this information.

[Forest Inventory and Analysis National Program - FIA Library \(fs.fed.us\)](https://fs.fed.us)

National Ops Team Updates (by Mary Miller)

Web Modernization

Recent updates to the National FIA website have brought improvements to two existing features:

- Posted the new FIA Geospatial Showcase to the *Data & Tools* page, replacing the Engagement Portfolio. For users who still wish to access any content from the older Engagement Portfolio, it is available within the new FIA Geospatial Showcase.
- In response to feedback from FIA User Groups, a new page was added for an easier and more direct way of searching FIA publications. The new page provides the link to Treesearch, as well as to a new tool that allows for a more FIA-specific search of publications within Treesearch. The new FIA publication search page can be quickly accessed via a banner link on the National FIA homepage, as well as through the link in the Library section sub-menu that previously went directly to Treesearch.

UNIMS

The UNIMS Team continues to push forward and make progress on UNIMS despite numerous external obstacles.

Version 1.5.1 of UNIMS was completed quickly. 1.5.1 made improvements to file structure and naming conventions within GitHub and was an internal release only, with the team using their time to make future development more efficient while regular development on hold during Oracle update.

Version 1.5.2 will be released to the CIO for posting to PROD by the end of November. This version is focused on the creation of a new centralized schema for storage of all object references and their privileges in response to/solution for STIG security issues. Work on 1.5.2 was complete in October, but integration and build testing were on hold due to delays in the 1.5.0 clone-down (finally received in mid-November) as a result of CIO staffing shortages.

The team is already working on UNIMS Version 1.5.3, which will implement a robust sample selection algorithm to allow UNIMS to harness tabular and spatial properties of the database. We are hopeful that work on 1.5.3 will be wrapping up in January/February 2022, depending on team holiday leave schedules. Unfortunately, an Oracle 19C spatial issue was recent identified that may impact 1.5.3, but the impact of this is not yet known.

The next two planned releases of UNIMS will be large in content and complexity. While the UNIMS Team works hard to maintain the established schedule, please note that situations do arise that may impact the availability of the Team or required CIO staff tasking, and thus our schedule.

- Version 1.6, which is anticipated for release in early summer 2022, will be focused entirely on the new requirement to provide more immediate capability for Urban GRM compilations. This release will include both business logic (PL/SQL package) as well as supporting data structures to store output, as well as publication format for these data. The work for this release will be approached in such a way that it will also

lay the groundwork for the future P2 and P3/Indicator GRM compilations. Additionally, this release will accommodate the new iTree input format change.

- Version 1.7, which is anticipated for release in late summer 2022 is a newly added release to support/incorporate the new National models for Volume and BioMass. This release will utilize the external compilation library system (FICS), which is currently a pilot effort, that will be a combination of PL/SQL and Java libraries. This release is really a prototype to deploy our first attempt at a modernized compilation system.

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](#) and a video presentation on the process can be accessed [here](#). Please follow the link [here](#) if you'd like to reference Q&A's on the new change management process addressed in the August newsletter.

A complete list of national issues as well as supporting documentation (including timelines and deadlines) can be accessed through the FIA Resource Center under the *Bands and National Consistency* channel. However, a summary update is provided in illustration to the right

For further information or questions concerning change management or the FIA Resource Center, contact Summer Dunn.

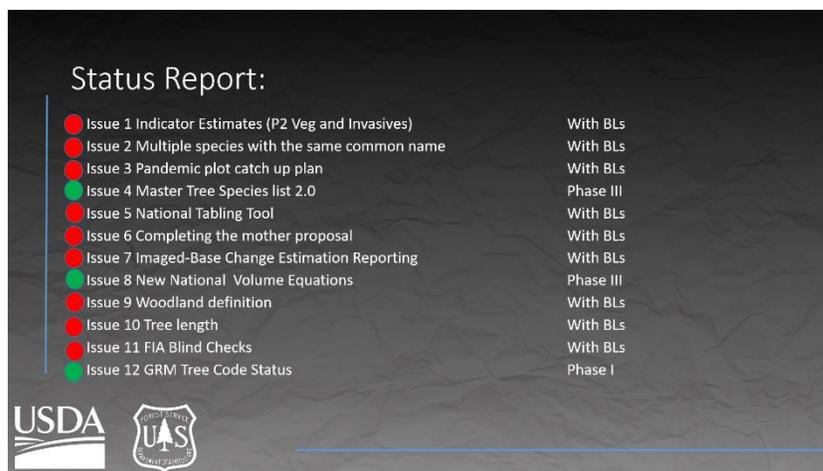


Figure 1 Summary Status Update of Current National Issues

Master Species List (MSL) v. 2.0

Most should be aware that there is an effort to update the Master Tree Species List from the way it was originally implemented in field guide version 9.0. The issue is national in scope thus has moved through the new change management process. Currently, the issue is in Phase 3 of the change management process, table [here](#) illustrates the phases and steps of the process.

Band responses on the *Risk Analysis* document ([here](#)) were received and reviewed by the team of SME's. No critical issues were identified so MSL v. 2.0 is moving towards implementation in field guide version 9.2. However, there were some concerns raised and these concerns will be addressed during the After-Action Review (AAR) for the MSL 2.0 issue. Information and outcomes of the AAR will be communicated once complete. For those that would like to access all of the documentation concerning the process, decisions, phases, and steps completed thus far for MSL v. 2.0, please follow this [link](#). This will be the last update for MSL 2.0 unless there are issues with implementation.

Thank you to everyone that was involved in this effort, especially the team of subject matter experts (Tom Brandeis-SRS, Andy Gray-PNW, Sara Goeking-RMRS, Tonya Lister-NRS & Mark Majewsky-NRS) that were dedicated to collaborating and pushing the issue across the finish!

Bug Fixes 3 & 4 for Field Guide v. 9.2

There are a number of Bug Fixes for field manual version 9.2 that have been distributed for Band review. A reminder that a Bug Fix is changing field manual verbiage, illustrations, etc. to ensure consistent national interpretation for implementation. Bug Fixes include understanding and agreement on *intent* of data item and thus Bug Fixes *should not* change intent associated with the collection of data item.

At this time, Bug Fix 4 (linked [here](#) and please do not edit) has Band approval for incorporating into field guide v. 9.2. Bug Fix 3 however requires further discussion. After further review, there are parts of Bug Fix 3 that will be removed and not incorporated into field guide v. 9.2. Some of those items being removed include those related to reconciling condition classes as well as definitions. We will have more information in the next addition of the newsletter.

Updated Biomass Equations, Cull Volume & GRM Tree Status Codes

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.

Cull volume inconsistencies across units have been identified and discussed. Updates to these inconsistencies will be included as part of the volume equation roll-out in April. Stay tuned for more information.

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. Efforts to start moving through the change management process will likely start at the beginning of the new year.

A big thank you to everyone that has engaged in the new process to help address and resolve these issues! Your work is greatly appreciated!!!

For questions on any of these issues, please contact Summer Dunn.

FIA Treesearch Tool

As mentioned in the section above, over the years there have been a number of requests to provide FIA-specific publication lists. Though the Treesearch tool is available and is the main receptacle for all Forest Service science publications, it's not possible to easily search FIA-only publications within Treesearch. So, two years ago, the Community Engagement team worked with Jim Lootens-White (WO Communications) to create a way to search and display FIA publications. The tool queries Treesearch but returns only those publications related to FIA.

The tool is now linked on the National Website [here](#). Follow the steps below to try the tool.

Search for FIA-specific Publications:

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

Search all Forest Service Research Publications:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/treesearch/>

Holiday Greeting from NatOps PM Donavon Nigg

“The holidays are once again upon us, wow where did this year go, but we say that every year. Yes, the year has gone by fast and there has been a lot of change in national consistency and national processes, but the collaboration has been enormous and very exciting.

This is the time most of us burn our annual leave, but our projects still move forward. Please take some time to rest and relax and enjoy time with your family and friends during the holiday season. This is the time of year for giving, please give thanks, praise, understanding and compassion to all those in your inner circle as well as extended circle. This is also a time of year where many people feel isolated or alone even amongst their family. Please be safe this holiday season, we need every member of our FIA family back after the holidays. Happy Holidays”



Oldy but a Goody: Donavon Nigg, Gretchen Nicholas and Doug Jacobs at PNW Christmas Part pre-Covid circa 2018'ish

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



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