Forest Inventory & Analysis

FIA National Newsletter

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FIA Change Management: Chain of Communication

Hopefully most FIA staff and stakeholders are aware FIA has implemented a new change management process and it is underway. As the process evolves, communicating changes to the process, as well as the status of current issues, is necessary.

There are multiple mediums for which updates to the process, national issues and general programmatic information are communicated. The information within this and previous newsletters, discussions and presentations during Band meetings, emails from Band Leaders and the Band Coordinator/Conductor, and updates via the FIA Resource Center are all mediums in which this information is communicated. Please ensure to engage in these communication efforts to stay abreast on status of issues, the change management process and programmatic information.

One major method of communicating information nationally, however, is through FIA's line of communication that is established using a "chain." See figure below illustrating FIA's Chain of Communication.

An example of how this chain is used is an issue at the PM level will be communicated down through the Band Leader Group as well as through the Band System via the sponsoring PM. The Band Representatives will then communicate the information back to their respective units and team. And vice versa, any issues/information at the individual level that is deemed national will be elevated through the respective Band, on to the Band Leader Group and up to the FIA Leadership level via the Band Leader Group and Band PM Sponsor.

Bands are congruent with regional team structure so individuals belong to the Band represented by their regional team (e.g., PNW Data Collection staff member would belong to Data Acquisition Band). If an individual would like to raise an issue or has questions related to national issues or process, please contact your regional Band Representative indicated in illustration below.
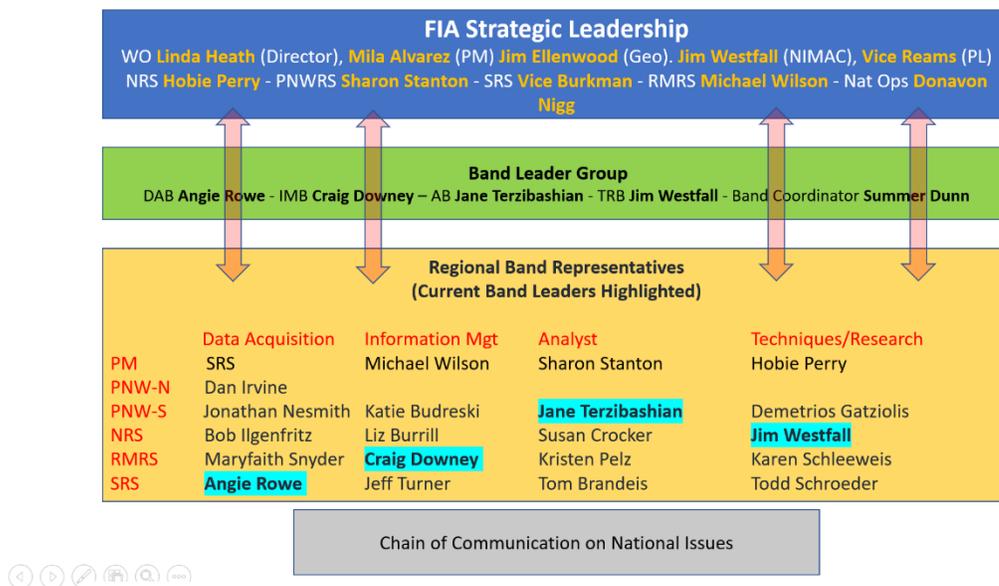

Figure 1 FIA's National Chain of Communication

National Ops Team Updates (by Mary Miller)

UNIMS

Work continues to progress on UNIMS, with lots of smaller releases *FALL*ing into the completion column with the changing of the leaves! The release of 1.5.0 in late September saw support for FIA program enhancements, including One Species List support, Urban compilation upgrades, 9.0 Field Guide updates, and the implementation of Publication Data Standard (PDS). Several releases in late October are bringing the addition of a centralized schema in response to CIO STIG requirements and implementation of a sample selection algorithm before we move on to the next two releasees, which will be large in content and complexity.

Version 1.6.0 will be focused on two major requirements for UNIMS: *(1)* Provide capability for Urban GRM compilations. This includes both business logic (PL/SQL package), as well as supporting data structures to store output and publication format for these data. The work for this release will also lay the groundwork for future P2 and P3/Indicator GRM compilations. (2) The (Aug 2020) FIA need to expand historically city-level data coming out of iTree to state-level requires a format change to iTree data and so must be accommodated within UNIMS.

Version 1.7.0 will center on implementation of a preliminary external compilation library system (FICS). This system will be a combination of PL/SQL and Java libraries and will incorporate the new National models (Vol/Biomass/Carbon).

Web Modernization

Mary Miller and Sonja Oswalt have been working with staff in the SRS Communication shop to develop a 508 compliant template for the outdated FIA FactSheets that has a more modernized structure/appearance and meets the USDA requirements. Mary will be working with content area staff to convert all of the FactSheets to the new template as soon as possible. In the meantime, the new template has already been applied to the FIA Bands and Quality Assurance FactSheets (*pictured right*), so be sure to check them out!!

Change Management & 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.
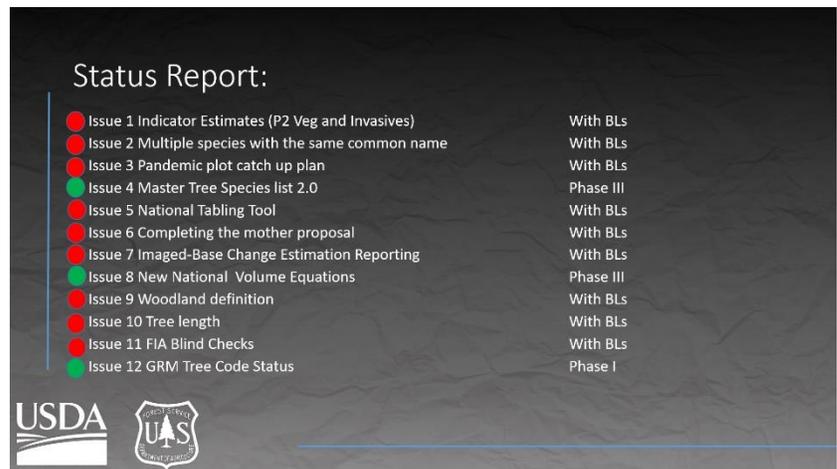

Status Report:

Issue		Status
🔴 Issue 1 Indicator Estimates (P2 Veg and Invasives)		With BLs
🔴 Issue 2 Multiple species with the same common name		With BLs
🔴 Issue 3 Pandemic plot catch up plan		With BLs
🟢 Issue 4 Master Tree Species list 2.0		Phase III
🔴 Issue 5 National Tabling Tool		With BLs
🔴 Issue 6 Completing the mother proposal		With BLs
🔴 Issue 7 Imaged-Base Change Estimation Reporting		With BLs
🟢 Issue 8 New National Volume Equations		Phase III
🔴 Issue 9 Woodland definition		With BLs
🔴 Issue 10 Tree length		With BLs
🔴 Issue 11 FIA Blind Checks		With BLs
🟢 Issue 12 GRM Tree Code Status		Phase I

Figure 2 Summary Status Update of Current National Issues

National Issues Update

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. Also, more information on field guide timelines can be found here. 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.

Bug Fixes for Field Guide 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 *do not* change intent associated with the collection of data item. At this time, Bug Fixes for field guide v. 9.2 have been approved and changes will be incorporated according to field guide timelines (see link above).

Meetings, Presentations, StoryMaps, etc.

FIA Annual Planning Meeting

The FIA Annual Planning Meeting was held virtually starting on Monday October 25th and concluded on Thursday October 28th. The meeting was attended by Band Leaders, Core Band Members, Portfolio Leads, Program Managers and other FIA leadership. Notes and the meeting summary will be shared once compiled. More details on the meeting below.

The main theme of the meeting was *Strategic Planning for Future Successes*

The vision of the meeting*:*
> *"...to engage in strategic organizational planning that facilitates success across the program. The agenda focuses on topics relevant to all bands to make the best use of the skills and experience of invited attendees. Other topics relevant to strategic planning but with a greater focus (e.g., national science strategy) will be addressed in additional, subsequent meetings with appropriate audiences."*

And Objectives:
> *As a leadership team, we will:*
> *1. Share successes from FY21;*
> *2. Prepare for future success by embracing national consistency; and*
> *3. Re-visit, review, revise, and reinvigorate the **planning culture of FIA** to make progress toward one National FIA program implemented in four unique regions.*

StoryMaps

Check out FIA's latest StoryMaps:

- The Forest Inventory & Analysis Geospatial Data Showcase (please scroll down to the "Stories" section to see the LANDFIRE StoryMap) https://fia-usfs.hub.arcgis.com/pages/fiastories

- The FIA Digital Engagement Portfolio (published StoryMaps are listed alphabetically) https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/PublicGallery/index.html?appid=e67afb7be2c8443ca64a2e8a8e473532

- The StoryMap was also added to the RMRS Interactive Maps page (https://www.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/interactive-maps). (https://www.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/science-spotlights)

Direct link is https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/ce0c8da1d94a4bdcbd35f4cdf29f2a28

New Team Leader for PNW Information Management Team: Welcome Katie Budreski!

Katie Budreski recently joined the Resource Monitoring & Assessment Program at PNWRS as the Forest Inventory & Analysis Information Management Team Leader. Please welcome Katie to the program!

A little bit about Katie:

I am coming to the Resource Monitoring & Assessment Program from the Pacific Southwest Regional Office, where I've supported the Fire GIS program within Information Management, focusing on data stewardship, geospatial analysis, and web/mobile applications development.

Prior to joining the Forest Service in January 2019, I spent over a decade working at Stone Environmental in Vermont, eventually leading the Geospatial and Data Solutions Team, which conducts spatial analysis, environmental modeling, application development, and database management across a variety of disciplines including public service, health, environmental remediation, agriculture, and watershed management.

Growing up on Maryland's Eastern Shore, I spent time crabbing, fishing, and boating and soon after grew a love for the mountains and hiking at Virginia Tech where I earned a B.S. and M.S. in Forestry. I'm looking forward to this new adventure and being a part of the team!

Links and Updates to Portfolios, Social Media Posts, Treesearch & FYI

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/g5awv86ym9c1lf1ijipx049xk4ou4ejo

Biomass: https://usfs.box.com/s/ggrbtgjkg8nkbmic79miochn9xpvlnum

Digital Engagement: https://usfs.box.com/s/7n54qiqpbn5fqimfuuuqvyysvcx1n86z

Land Use/Land Cover: https://usfs.box.com/s/avnvyr0b7j4jkph7qbtpxxbt5vppipqy

National Landowner Survey: https://usfs.box.com/s/qlblr2ocia7x9ny35mmwdkeq0blk37v6

Small Area Estimation: https://usfs.box.com/s/icm1mt8qhbxrnp2vb75m9chzixp1mwxs

Timber Products Output: https://usfs.box.com/s/zx00b08gv0te6u1gxz3pgys8y6tq206p

Urban FIA: https://usfs.box.com/s/oq4ye6udgc94iq25iob4zvu56c4724n0

FIA in Social Media: 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

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

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