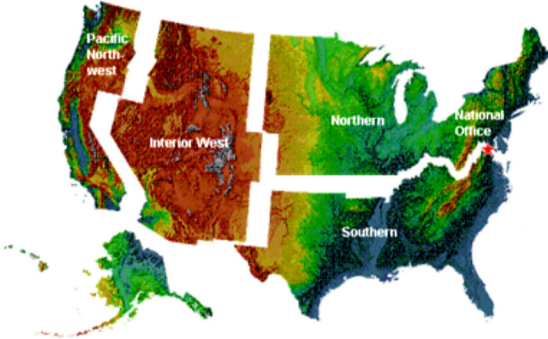


What is FIA?

The national Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program of the USDA Forest Service (USFS) has been in continuous operation since 1930. In Colorado and Wyoming, the USFS collaborates with the Colorado State Forest Service to conduct and continuously update a comprehensive inventory and analysis of the forest and rangeland conditions in the two states.

The national program consists of five regional FIA units. The Interior West FIA (IW-FIA) unit, part of the Rocky Mountain Research Station, conducts inventories in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Wyoming and Utah.



The FIA Program is an annual survey, with 10 percent of thousands of permanent plots in each state inventoried each year to detect change and provide updated data. In addition to the volume and condition of live trees, foresters also assess plant diversity; fuels and potential fire hazard; condition of wildlife habitat; tree mortality and risk associated with wildfire, insects or diseases; biomass; carbon storage; forest health; and other general characteristics of forest ecosystems.

FIA National Website:
www.fia.fs.fed.us



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Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA):

Colorado and Wyoming



Why is FIA Important?

The FIA program provides objective and scientifically credible information on forest cover and health; tree diversity; how quickly trees are growing, dying and being harvested; and how forest ecosystems change over time with respect to soil and other vegetative community attributes. Such information has many important uses, including:

- Helping state and federal policymakers formulate forest policy and assess sustainability
- Enabling land managers to devise better management plans
- Providing a baseline for scientifically investigating changes in forest ecosystems
- Keeping the public informed about the health and sustainability of the states and nations forests



Data Analysis and Research

Forest resource reports are available for individual states and National Forests. Data and tables also are available on the web or by special request, and the inventory data are updated and made available annually. Visit the following sites for more FIA information about Colorado and Wyoming:

- http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/ogden/oerviews/Colorado/OV_Colorado.htm
- http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/ogden/overviews/Wyoming/OV_Wyoming.htm

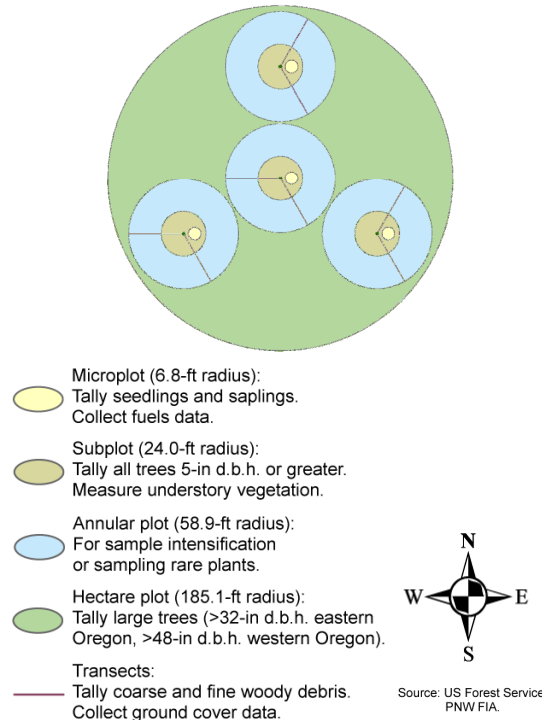
Who Uses FIA Information?

- State Foresters
- Land managers
- Industry and consultants
- Native American Tribes
- Environmental organizations
- Researchers
- US Forest Service officials
- Journalists
- Private citizens

How the Inventory is Conducted

FIA foresters collect a common set of data by using techniques and methods that are consistent across the country. This core data set is enhanced in the Interior West to address special needs and interests. There are three phases to data collection:

- **Phase 1** uses remote sensing imagery to classify land as forest or non-forest and to create broad-scale maps
- **Phase 2** consists of sampling one plot per 6,000 acres. Plots are permanently established field plots distributed across each state. Each plot consists of a cluster of four subplots spread out over about 2.5 acres.
- **Phase 2+ Soils** requires sampling a subset of phase 2 plots for additional health indicator measures. Data collected include soil attributes, forest floor litter, crown condition, and vegetation diversity and structure.



Privacy Policy

In the FY2000 Consolidated Appropriations Bill (PL 106-113), Congress included language that modifies the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 2276(d)) to add FIA data collection to a list of items requiring confidential treatments. Among other things, the law prevents FIA from disclosing sample locations in such a way that individual ownership can be determined, and specifies criminal penalties for violations.

Current FIA policy permits public release of FIA sample data coordinates rounded to the nearest 1/2 to 1 mile with a random set of locations swapped within a state. Such inexact coordinates prevent association of individual sample locations with individual owners, but will still meet the needs of users looking for approximate geographical location of the data.



Privacy Principles

FIA foresters:

- obtain landowner permission prior to collecting data
- never release the name or address of private landowners to the general public
- require any person or organization providing products or services to the FIA program to protect the confidentiality of FIA information through a data security certification process
- allow reporting of data only in such a manner that individual landowners cannot be identified