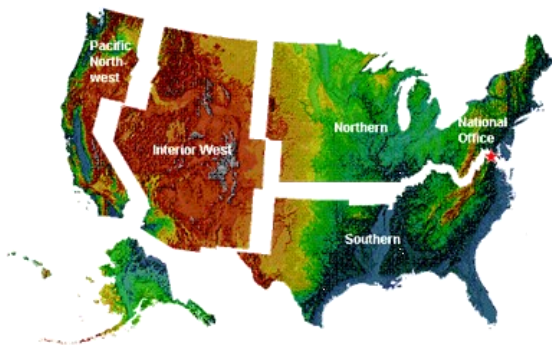


What is FIA?

The National Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program of the USDA Forest Service 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 present and prospective conditions of the renewable resources of the forest and rangelands of the US. 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 the States indicated below:



The FIA Program is an annual survey, with 10% of each State inventoried each year to detect change and provide updated data. In addition to the volume and condition of live trees, we also assess plant diversity, fuels and potential fire hazard; condition of wildlife habitats; mortality and risk associated with fire, insects, or disease; biomass, carbon storage, forest health, and other general characteristic of forest ecosystems.

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FIA National Website
<http://fia.fs.fed.us>

Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA): Colorado and Wyoming



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Why is FIA Important?

FIA provides objective and scientifically credible information on how much forest there is, what it looks like, whether forest area is increasing or decreasing, where we are gaining or losing species, 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 good forest policy and assess sustainability
- Enable land managers devise better management plans
- Provide a baseline for scientific investigating changes in forest ecosystems
- Keeping the public informed about the health and sustainability of the State's and Nation's Forests



Data Analysis and Research

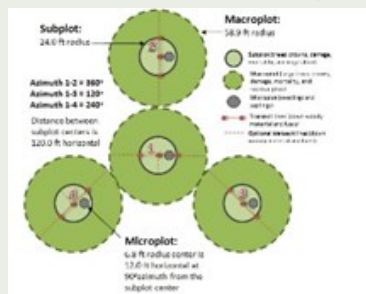
Forest resource reports are available for individual states and National Forests; data and tables are available on the web or by special request; and updated annual inventory data are available each June. Visit these online sites for more info about Colorado and Wyoming:

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

How the Inventory is Conducted

Nationally, FIA collects 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:

- **Phase 1** uses remote sensing imagery to classify land as forest or non-forest and to create broad scale maps
- **Phase 2** consists of permanently established field plots distributed across each State at a sample intensity of about one plot per 6,000 acres. Each plot consists of a cluster of four subplots spread out over about 2.5 acres.
- **Phase 3** samples a subset of phase 2 plots for additional health indicator measures. Data collected includes soil attributes, down woody material, plant species occurrences, lichen diversity and the extent of ozone injury.



Who Uses FIA Information?

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

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 violations for violations.

Current FIA policy (USFS Handbook Interim Directive number 4809.11-2003-1) 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 coordinate 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:

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