



## What are the Options?

### OPTION A-B Status quo Option

This Option maintains the 7-year East (15%), 10-year West (10%) paradigm for measurement and these combined options place the program at the previous Strategic Plan target funding level.

### OPTION C National Core Option

This Option maintains the 7-year East (15%), 10-year West (10%) paradigm for measurement of base plots with improved remote sensing support plus continuing the Timber Products Output and Ownership studies with enhancements and urban forest survey. The total cost of this option is \$86.2 million annually or \$19.4 million above the FY 2014 appropriation.

### OPTION D-E Full Farm Bill Option

This Option implements the full 5-year (20%) measurement paradigm nationally for base plots with improved remote sensing, continued Timber Products Output and Ownership studies with enhancements and all of the other items except small area estimation based on sample intensification. The annual cost for these combined Options is \$103 million or \$16.8 million above Option C. While clients support this option, they strongly suggest making sure Option C items are firmly in place first.

### OPTION F Leveraged Partner Option

This Option is a partner opportunity. Several States and National Forests currently contribute \$4 million annually intensify research and the number of annual sample plots to improve estimates for smaller planning areas. FIA processes, maintains and distributes data.

## Prioritized 2014 Farm Bill -

Option	FB ref.	Category	Annual	Cumulative
<i>Million \$</i>				
A	1	FY 2014 funding providing 10% reduced field level for 49 states and coastal Alaska plus basic products, ownership and remote sensing work.	66.8	66.8
B	1	Funding to bring program back to full operations excluding interior Alaska. <i>(Return to FY 2011 funding)</i>	5.5	72.3
B	1	Implement pre-Farm Bill full base target of 15% of plots East and 10% West annually, interior Alaska and improve base analytical and research capacity to support this cycle. <i>(previous plan target)</i>	5.5	77.8
C	5	Enhanced timber products monitoring	1.0	78.8
C	3	Improved Carbon/biomass estimates	2.5	81.3
C	10	Enhanced owner study	0.5	81.8
C	9	Land cover/land use change research	1.0	82.8
C	2	Urban inventory	3.4	86.2
D	1	Increment to implement 20% of all plots in each state annually	13.0	99.2
E	8	Promote other agency collaboration	1.0	100.2
E	7	Engage non-federal IT resources	1.0	101.2
E	6	Analysis and cooperation	1.7	102.9
E	4	Core data evaluation	0.1	103.0
F	11	Partners can leverage the FIA program to increase sample size to improve small area estimation for local planning. The Lake States and several National Forests leverage FIA in this manner (currently over \$2 million annually). This is only 4-5 cents per forest acre to double the sample. The base program and infrastructure averages 13 cents per forest acre, thus a leverage factor of more than 2 to 1 for intensification. <b>This option is at 90+% partner expense.</b>	27.0	130.0

## For more information on FIA

Visit the FIA national web site at <http://www.fia.fs.fed.us> or contact one of the offices below:

**Washington, DC**  
703-605-4177



**North**  
St. Paul, MN  
651-649-5139

**Interior West**  
Ogden, UT  
801-625-5407

**South**  
Knoxville, TN  
865-862-2000

**Pacific West**  
Portland, OR  
503-808-2034

## The United States Forest Service Caring for the Land and Serving the People



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# FIA Strategic Plan

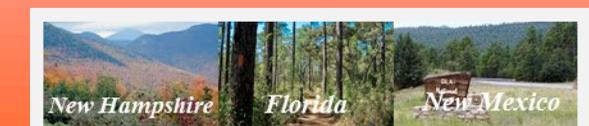
*fulfilling requirements of  
Section 8301 of the  
2014 FARM BILL*

## Forest Inventory and Analysis



**FIA Mission:** *Improving the understanding and management of the nation's natural resources by maintaining a comprehensive inventory of the status and trends of our diverse forest ecosystems, their use and health for over 80 years.*

## Science Serving Society





Kentucky

Colorado

Wisconsin

## What is the FIA Program

- FIA is an 80+ years strong forest inventory working in partnership with the nation's state forestry agencies, universities, and NGOs.
- FIA is the only comprehensive field-based inventory of all forest ownerships for each of the 50 states, affiliated Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands (*since 1928*).
- FIA conducts wood flow surveys of all primary wood-using facilities in the U.S. (*since 1947*). Farm Bill implementation will greatly improve monitoring and reporting.
- FIA conducts surveys of the management objectives and value of forests of over 10 million private forest landowners in the U.S. (*since 1953*). Farm Bill will enhance studies.
- FIA provides public access to current and historic resource data through user-friendly online tools with over 100,000 data accesses annually.
- FIA conducts extensive collaborative research to develop and use the latest technology in remote sensing, field measurement and information management. The Farm Bill will expand this research area significantly.
- FIA provides foundation forest inventory data to all 50 states, affiliated islands and the District of Columbia for Forest Assessments required by the Farm Bill.
- FIA currently relies on 550 federal, state, university and other professional staff to efficiently deliver the program. Farm Bill implementation will require a combined 250 additional cooperators and federal personnel.



North Carolina

Arizona

Oregon



Alaska

South Carolina

Ohio

## FIA history and the 2014 Farm Bill

The FIA program was initially conceived in the McSweeney/McNary Forestry Research Act of 1928 which directed the Secretary of Agriculture to make and keep current a comprehensive inventory and analysis of the Nation's forest resources. The Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (*P.L. 95-307*), replaced this earlier legislation, maintaining the mandate to keep a current inventory of the nation's forests. In 1998, the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act (*P.L. 105-185*) amended the 1978 legislation and instructed the FIA program to establish an enhanced program to inventory the forests resources of the United States on an annual basis in every State. On February 7, 2014, Congress passed the Agricultural Act of 2014 (*Public Law 113-79*), also referred to as the 2014 Farm Bill. Section 8301 of this legislation requires the Forest Inventory and Analysis Program to revise its previous Strategic Plan and submit the new plan to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate within 180 days of the passage of the law or before August 7, 2014.

## 2014 Farm Bill provisions for FIA

- (1) Complete the transition to a fully annualized forest inventory program and include inventory and analysis of interior Alaska.
- (2) Implement an annualized inventory of trees in urban settings, including the status and trends of trees and forests, and assessments of their ecosystem services, values, health, and risk to pests and diseases.



Virginia

Montana

South Dakota



Vermont

Wyoming

Louisiana

## 2014 Farm Bill provisions (continued)

- (3) Report information on renewable biomass supplies and carbon stocks at the local, State, regional, and national level, including by ownership type.
- (4) Engage State foresters and other users of information from the forest inventory and analysis in reevaluating the list of core data variables collected on forest inventory and analysis plots with an emphasis on demonstrated need.
- (5) Improve the timeliness of the timber product output program and accessibility of the annualized information on that database.
- (6) Foster greater cooperation among the forest inventory and analysis program, research station leaders, and State foresters and other users of information from the forest inventory and analysis.
- (7) Promote availability of and access to non-Federal resources to improve information analysis and information management.
- (8) Collaborate with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and United States Geological Survey to integrate remote sensing, spatial analysis techniques, and other new technologies in the forest inventory and analysis program.
- (9) Understand and report on changes in land cover and use.
- (10) Expand existing programs to promote sustainable forest stewardship through increased understanding, in partnership with other Federal agencies, of the over 10,000,000 family forest owners, their demographics, and the barriers to forest stewardship.
- (11) Implement procedures to improve the statistical precision of estimates at the sub-State level.



Nevada

West Virginia

Minnesota



Missouri

New Jersey

Mississippi

## Implementation Personnel Needs

Full implementation of Option 2 is expected to require an additional 250 personnel above current levels. Two-thirds of this staffing would be partners contracted to meet rigorous FIA quality standards and one-third would be FIA personnel. Currently 34% of FIA work is done through partner contracting.

## Implementation Strategy

As budgets increase, FIA would incrementally implement all aspects of the selected Option based on appropriated funds. See the full Strategic Plan for details.

## BOTTOM LINE:

**The question:** Is FIA worth an investment of \$78—\$103 million per year? What is knowing the sustainability of our natural resources and the 2.4-million jobs dependent on them worth?

**Some insights:** Over its entire 80+ year lifetime, FIA has cost the U.S. taxpayers a grand total of about \$1 billion. During that time multi-billions of dollars have been invested by forest industries and tens of thousands of jobs created from logging, primary wood processing, manufacturing, construction and retail sales of wood based products. In addition, FIA has provided tens of millions of dollars to dozens universities, NGOs and other partners to conduct research and analysis to improve program efficiency and support client information needs. And, over the past 20 years, partners have contributed over \$100 million to FIA to leverage the program to collect and process more data and information to meet local needs. FIA is a proven, cost efficient partnership program that has consistently delivered significant value added to the taxpayers for over eight decades.



Indiana

Oklahoma

New York