

For more information about who we are and what we do, visit [www.fs.fed.us/pnw/rma/index.php](http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/rma/index.php) or contact the U.S. Forest Service Anchorage Forestry Sciences Lab 161 East 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., Door #8, Anchorage Main Office Phone: 907-743-9400

This effort is a partnership among:

Local communities

Alaskan Native Corporations

NASA

State of Alaska Division of Forestry

University of Alaska - Anchorage

University of Alaska - Fairbanks (BECRU)

U.S. Forest Service

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Bureau of Land Management



## BIG CHANGES IN COLD PLACES. WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF ALASKA'S FORESTS?



Shifts in woody vegetation have major implications for people and wildlife living in the Arctic. Predicting the future of forest resources in Alaska requires a better understanding of current conditions.

- ◆ How are forests responding to development pressures?
- ◆ How many trees are available for bioenergy?
- ◆ How is fire changing wildlife habitat?

The State of Alaska is collaborating with local communities and partners, U.S. Forest Service and NASA to establish a monitoring program that will help answer these questions.

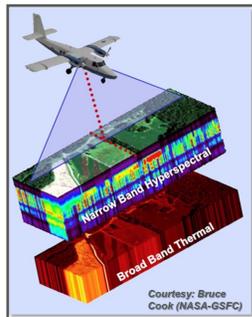
## Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA)

is a national program of the U.S. Forest Service that monitors forest resources on all lands – public, private, and tribal. FIA monitors forests in all 50 states, including south coastal Alaska, but only 16% percent (15 million acres) of Alaska’s forests statewide are included in this effort... *until now!*



*Things are different in Alaska.*

Lack of transportation infrastructure and funding prohibited our ability to monitor the critical forests of Interior Alaska. The U.S. Forest Service sought help from local communities and the State of Alaska, as well as hi-tech innovations developed by NASA to pilot a new way of monitoring forest resources in remote areas.



After a successful partnership on a pilot project in 2014 and inventory in 2016 in the Tanana Valley, we are now working together to collect data on up to 400 field plots per year in Interior Alaska.



In 2017 field crews will be completing inventory plots while working out of potential basecamps in Fairbanks, Chena Hot Springs, and Delta Junction.



Because of the vastness and inaccessibility of Alaska, cooperation among land owners and managers is essential. Together we are developing efficient measurement techniques and innovative logistical support. Understanding boreal forest dynamics will be advanced dramatically because of this work, and questions about Alaska’s forest resources will have some answers.