



Forest Inventory & Analysis Strategic Vision

ABOUT NASF

The National Association of State Foresters is comprised of the directors of state and territorial forestry agencies and the District of Columbia.

NASF represents state and territorial forester interests by influencing forest policy and leading efforts to optimize social, economic and environmental benefits of trees and forests.

Learn more:

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The USDA Forest Service's Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program is the nation's forest census.

The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) strategic vision for FIA communicates funding priorities and other recommendations within the program, all of which represent a beneficial investment of appropriated dollars.

NASF members are the primary partners in FIA program delivery, contributing more than \$4 million annually in state resources to shorten measurement cycles, increase the number of research plots and measure additional forest attributes, all adding to a better understanding of our forest resources.

Through a national network of on-the-ground plot measurements and rigorous data analysis, FIA is able to answer important questions about our nation's forests. The FIA program provides value to all forest stakeholders by supporting:

- National, regional and state-level analysis of forest trends;
- Economic development through forest products industry planning and investment;
- Forest health and land-use change monitoring;
- Wildfire protection and risk analysis, and
- Wildlife habitat assessments.

NASF Recommendations for the Nation's Forest Census

Priority 1: Federally fund the FIA program at a level that ensures inclusion of all states and a return to historical cycles of plot measurement—every seven years in the East and every 10 years in the West. A shorter, five-year measurement cycle can then be delivered through efficiencies or partnerships with states in the East and South.

Priority 2: Implement a baseline nationwide urban FIA program; enhance the Timber Products Output (forest products) survey; and sustain the forest health plot structure.

Priority 3: Enhance the National Woodland Owner Survey; make FIA statistically reliable at smaller (county-level) scales; and expand work on carbon/biomass, land use/land cover, agroforestry resources and non-timber forest products.

- The President and Congress should supplement the FIA program with funding from other agencies that benefit from program data and analysis, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Improve program efficiencies by developing partnerships with more states that are willing to conduct plot measurements or other FIA related activities with state employees or state-contracted crews. FIA data are currently collected by state agencies in 15 states and by state-contracted crews in six states.

