

by Pam Snyder

The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program has been around for more than 100 years. FIA is mandated by Congress and collects inventory data relating to forest resources, forest health, and ownership. There are four main types of forest inventories collected: Natural Resource Inventory, Natural Resource Use Monitoring, National Woodland Owner Survey, and Urban Inventory. The forest data centers on specific sets of procedures, rules, and conditions for all forest types to analyze trends through time. Most people do not fully understand the importance and complexities of FIA data or how it is underutilized by the public. It is important to realize this data is available online. The public sector can utilize multiple online FIA data tools available through (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/programs/nfi#data-and-tools>). Here are three examples of FIA tools available online:

The **VALIDator** tool allows users to produce a variety of population estimates and their sampling errors based on the FIA database. Estimates can be produced as totals (e.g., number of trees) or as ratios (e.g., number of trees per acre of forest land).

The **timber products output interactive**

tool includes estimates of timber products, logging residue, mill residue, residential fuelwood, and other removals based on the selected area.

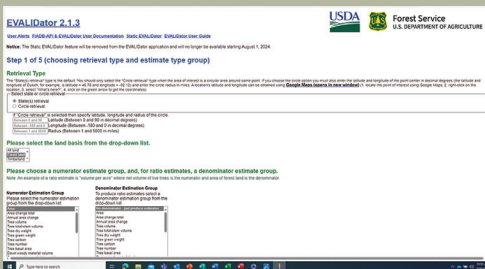
The **national woodland owner survey dashboard tool** generates plots and tables for user-selected survey ques-

tion, cycle (i.e., period), and geography (e.g., national-, regional-, or state-level summaries).



Hardwood Tree Grade Training conducted by Dr. Jeff Stringer from the University of Kentucky Department of Forestry and Natural Resources.

The general public can request a FIA data consultation through the USDA-US Forest Service-Southern Research Station at M.FS.SRSFIA_Help@usda.gov. FIA data can assist with wood and fiber sourcing for primary and secondary wood industries, biomass, carbon sequestration, forest health, hardwood timber grading, log grading, urban, timber volumes, biological diversities, spatial data, landscape scale ecological restoration initiatives, woodland ownership patterns and so much more. If you are looking for forestry data and trends, please reach out to the USDA-U.S. Forest Service -Southern Research Station; they will be able to assist you.



About the author: **Pam Snyder**, is the Forest Management Chief with the Kentucky Division of Forestry and works on a variety of forest management needs for private landowners, farmers, and governmental agencies. She is one of the editors of the Kentucky Woodlands Magazine.

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