

**FIA 2014 National User Group Meeting Notes**  
Salt Lake City, UT  
March 19-20, 2014

**Purpose:** To learn about recent progress in the FIA program and to provide an opportunity for FIA staff to hear from users.

**Agenda, Presentations and Attendees:** Archived at <http://www.ncasi2.org/downloads/BWG/>

**Follow-up items and strong endorsements/concerns from the user group:**

**1) Put a firewall around the core FIA program:** This is repeated from previous years, because users think the base field plot system must be completed and maintained as the program's top priority. The field plot data are the foundation for most products derived from the FIA program. Generally, users are happy with the annual inventory, and they consider field plots to be the core FIA program. They don't object to FIA working in other areas, but they don't want funding for the core program to be used to support other activities. The core program should be clearly defined in the Strategic Plan.

**2) Other user endorsed FIA activities:**

**a) Use remote sensing to improve efficiency and enhance the core program** – Geo-Spatial data and tools should be developed to facilitate this objective.

**b) Continue to annualize and nationalize the Timber Product Output program** – The TPO program should use sampling techniques to ensure that all types of wood using facilities are represented and sampled. For example, sampling from a list of wood using facilities with probability proportional to fiber use should be considered.

**c) Conduct research on tradeoffs between increased plot intensity and longer survey cycles** – Consider using disturbance detection to make disturbance information available to users. Maintain the current sample design and use disturbance detection for enhanced attribution of change agents. Protecting the current sample design, and avoiding variable probability sample selection, is a prime directive for maintaining the core program.

**d) Foster collaboration between FIA and partners** – Partners and users of FIA data and products should be encouraged to participate in user group meetings and provide assistance to the FIA program when all parties benefit.

**e) Continue the Biennial FIA Symposium** – The next symposium should be held not later than 2016. The purpose is to provide an opportunity for inventory specialists from around the world to present research that is relevant to national forest inventories, with an emphasis on FIA focused research.