

Central and West Texas

An inventory was begun in the 211 counties not included in the East Texas inventory in January 2004. There are 25,000 plot locations spread across Central and West Texas with 10% being measured annually since 2004. To date approximately 20,000 plots have been measured and analyzed. Data collected on these plots is identical to the data from East Texas plots, with additional measurements taken to account for wildfire fuel and wildlife habitat. This expanded survey will increase knowledge of statewide issues, such as fire fuel loading, tree regeneration rates, invasive species encroachment, and overall forest health. The findings will enable Texas ranchers and landowners to measure the spread of unwanted mesquite and juniper that occupies grazing pastures and consumes scarce water. With more information about the spread of these encroaching species, local organizations can develop plans that will remove invasive species and maximize land efficiency.

Based on the data collected to date, there are 49.7 million acres of land in Central and West Texas that meet the national definition of forestland (10% crown cover or 200 seedlings/acre). Mesquite woodlands make up the largest percentage of forestland (43%), followed by oak/hickory forests (21%) and juniper woodlands (20%). Over four fifths of the trees are less than 60 years old and 95% of the forestland is privately owned, with most of the remainder being owned by state and local government.

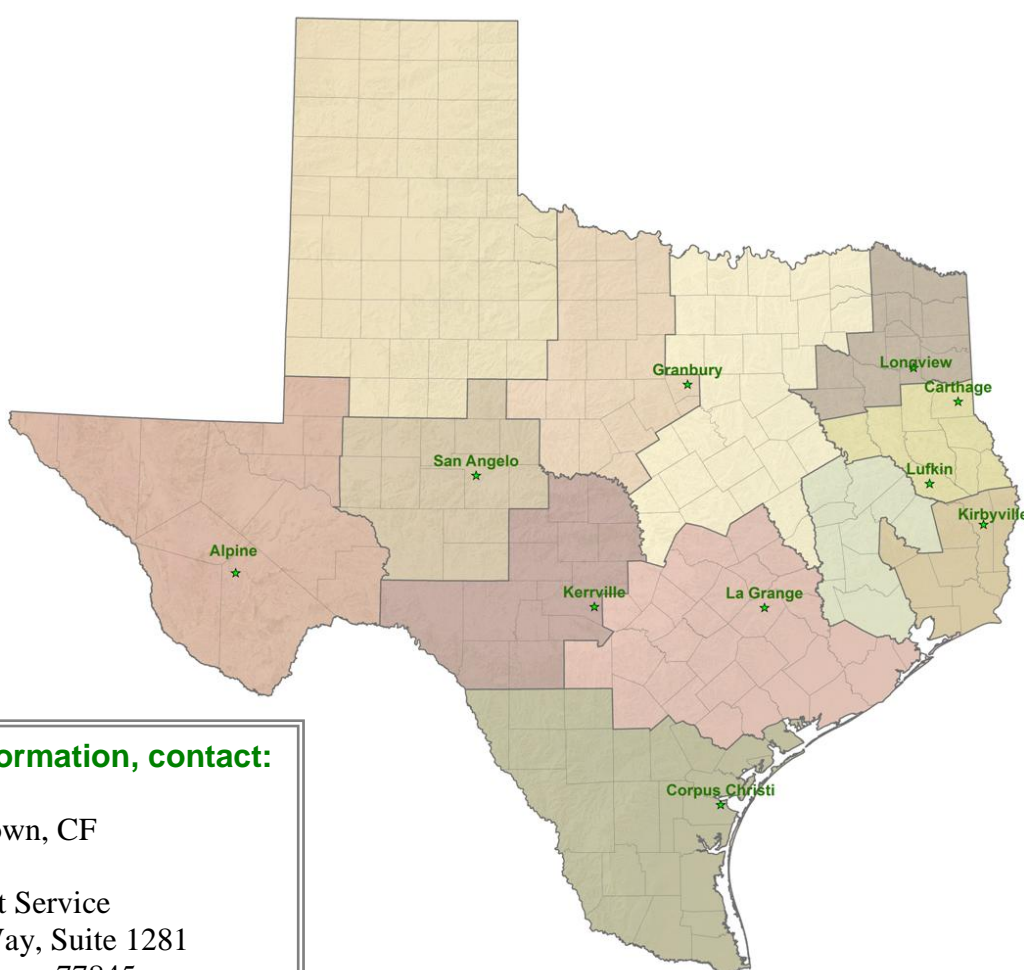
Preliminary Results Central and West Texas Inventory (2011)

Total Acres			Forestland Area			
	Acres		Ownership	Acres	Percent	
Forestland	49,705,300		Private	47,159,000	94.9	
Timberland	2,362,200		Federal	620,700	1.3	
			Other Public	1,925,600	3.8	
Forestland Cover Type						
	Acres (1,000)	Percent				
Mesquite	21,519	43.3				
Upland Hardwood	10,340	20.8				
Juniper	9,770	19.6				
Bottomland Hardwood	3,550	7.1				
Western Hardwood	1,270	2.6				
Pine	61	0.1				
Non-Stocked	3,195	6.4				
Tree Count by Stand Age (millions)			Acres by Stand Age (1,000,s)			
Forest Type	Age			Age		
	0-20	21-60	61+	0-20	21-60	61+
Mesquite	589	2,679	360	4,663	14,979	1,862
Juniper	118	2,130	852	1,142	6,738	1,974
Upland Hardwood	199	2,326	1,116	999	6,623	2,702
Bottomland Hardwood	128	664	237	486	1,734	724
Other	120	402	132	2,564	915	1,588
Total	1,154	8,201	2,697	9,854	30,989	8,850

For more detailed data go to: <http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/tools-data/default.asp>

As more data is collected and analyzed over the next 2 years, the analysis will yield more accurate and precise details concerning the forests and woodlands of Central and West Texas. This, combined with data from East Texas, provides a never-before held understanding of the vast forest resources of the state.

Texas FIA Regions and Offices



For additional information, contact:

Christopher C. Brown, CF
 FIA Coordinator
 Texas A&M Forest Service
 200 Technology Way, Suite 1281
 College Station, Texas 77845
 979.458.6630
cbrown@tfs.tamu.edu