

# Data Privacy and the USDA Forest Service's Forest Inventory and Analysis Program Surveys



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*The Nation's Forest Census*

# USDA Forest Service, Forest Inventory & Analysis

## Forest Land Area and Attribute Sample

- Over 300,000 permanent inventory plots across the U.S.
  - Randomly located
  - Remeasured every 5-10 years
  - On public and private land
- Collect information on:
  - Land use
  - Tree species and other biophysical characteristics
  - All carbon pools
- Sensitive information:
  - Personally Identifiable Information
    - Owner name and address
  - Geo-referenced plot location
- Data is to be held confidential based upon assurances given to respondents (as approved by OMB) and Food Security Act
  - Publically available data exclude PII and coordinates are fuzzed and swapped
  - Results available via aggregate summaries and summary apps

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## National Woodland Owner Survey

- Contact approximately 5,000 randomly selected private landowners across the U.S. every year
- Collect information on:
  - Attitudes (e.g., reasons for owning)
  - Behaviors (e.g., forest management plans)
  - Demographics (e.g., age)
- Sensitive information:
  - Personally Identifiable Information
    - Name and address
  - Responses
    - Attitudes, behaviors, demographics
- Data is to be held confidential based upon assurances given to respondents (as approved by OMB) and Food Security Act
  - Results available via aggregate summaries and summary app
  - Plan to release synthetic datasets

# USDA Forest Service, Forest Inventory & Analysis

## Timber Products Output Survey

- Survey of primary industrial roundwood receiving facilities
- Collect information on:
  - Consumption of roundwood
  - Product mix
  - Species mix
  - Use of mill residues
  - Source location of feedstock
- Sensitive information:
  - All information is sensitive at the facility/mill level
- Data is to be held confidential based upon assurances given to respondents (as approved by OMB) and Food Security Act
  - Results available via aggregate summaries