

My name's Sara Goeking, and I'm a biological scientist with the Forest Inventory Analysis Program, otherwise known as FIA with the Rocky Mountain Research Station based in Ogden, Utah.

I have two main roles with the FIA program.

The first is to provide regular updates on forest resources.

So status and trends of forest resources in an eight state area of the interior West.

My second role is to respond to the needs and questions provided by our customers which might include forest managers, policymakers, nongovernmental organizations, and sometimes other scientists.

The most exciting thing about being an analyst for the FIA program is that we collect a tremendous amount of high quality forestry source data from thousands of plots.

On any given workday in our eight state area, we have about 40 field crews collecting data.

Every year they collect data from about 3500 forest plots, and they re-measure these plots every ten years.

The reason I really love what I'm doing is that I get to work with a huge, high quality forest monitoring data set that allows me to answer a wide variety of forest resource questions at a very broad landscape scale.

FIA is a nationwide program, and that means that all forest users and stakeholders have access to great forest information.