



Forest Data Modernization Act of 2023

Introduced by Representatives Kim Schrier (D-WA) and Barry Moore (R-AL) this legislation would modernize data collection efforts of the USFS Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program.

Problem: Forestry stakeholders identified a need to modernize the FIA program to meet rapidly growing market demand for standardized, high-quality, and easily accessible data, including carbon, to support sustainable forest management decisions.

Solution: Direct USFS to adopt available technologies and data collection methods as well as increase program transparency to modernize the FIA program in a way that allows it to serve the ever-increasing user community.

This legislation accomplishes a necessary upgrade of our national forest data by delivering the most accurate, helpful information possible to key forestry industry stakeholders and the public alike. It improves:

- **Data accessibility** - by requiring the publication of summary statistics every two years and the creation of a fee-for-service program to handle complex data requests.
- **Data usability** - by directing the FIA to measure forest carbon and requiring that clear definitions are provided with FIA data to ensure better interpretability of datasets which would allow the forestry sector to leverage collected data consistently.
- **Data collection** - by recommending consideration of advanced technologies for data collection, such as satellite sensors and computer models that could improve data accuracy and reduce costs as well as codifying existing surveys on wood use and forest landownership to ensure continued availability of datasets on which forestry stakeholders rely.
- **FIA program transparency** - by requiring the existing FIA strategic plan to be updated, that future updates be made every five years, and that FIA costs and priorities be published annually.

This legislation ultimately has a tremendous impact on enhancing the contributions of our forests to our nation's economy, climate, and general wellbeing.

For questions contact in Representative Schrier's office: Jim Beck at jim.beck@mail.house.gov and Sam Barnett at samantha.barnett@mail.house.gov with Representative Barry Moore

Senate Companion [S.1743](#) Led By: Jon Ossoff (GA) and Bill Cassidy (LA)



Image: Unsplash/ Maxim Hopman