

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND FORESTRY

2800 North Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City OK 73105-4298

August 7, 2017

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Suzanne McCombs, suzanne.mccombs@ag.ok.gov, 405-421-3071

Oklahoma Forestry Services conducting inventory in central and north central Oklahoma

What type of forest or woodlands is present in Oklahoma? What tree species are in the state's counties? Is our forest healthy?

These and many other questions will be answered as a Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) crew from Oklahoma Forestry Services begins collecting data on plots in Caddo, Canadian, Grady, Oklahoma, Garfield, Grant, Kay, Kingfisher, Lincoln, Logan, Noble and Payne Counties.

Foresters began this important data collection in 2009. Each subsequent year, foresters continue gathering information about the amount of land under forest cover, the type of forests and tree species that are present, tree size, invasive species and forest health issues.

"Healthy forests and woodlands provide Oklahoma with many valuable goods and services," said George Geissler, Oklahoma Forestry Services director and State Forester. "We are collecting information about our forests in all 77 counties which will improve our planning and management strategies and ensure our citizens receive the greatest benefit possible."

The analysis is conducted on randomly located plots across private, industrial, and public lands and includes both forested and non-forested areas. Private landowners are contacted directly by mail if a plot falls on their land. The information gathered from this analysis determines the status of the local forest resource and shows trends seen in the forests of Oklahoma. This data also contributes to similar nationwide efforts of the USDA Forest Service.

"The information we collect is added to the national database to give policymakers the data they need to make informed decisions for the future of our forest resources," said FIA Coordinator Carri Abner. "We appreciate landowners allowing us access to their land so we will have an accurate assessment of Oklahoma's trees and forests."

Crews will be traveling in marked Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry vehicles and will be carrying proper identification with them. Landowners and lessees can assist in this endeavor by granting crews access to property if an FIA plot falls on their land, as well as telling others about the program. They are also welcome to be present when the crew is conducting the measurements on their property. If you would like more information, contact FIA Coordinator, Carri Abner at 918-290-9208 or carri.abner@ag.ok.gov.

###

About Oklahoma Forestry Services

Oklahoma Forestry Services, a division of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, is committed to conserving, enhancing and protecting Oklahoma's 12.5 million acres of forests and woodlands. Since 1925 Oklahoma Forestry Services has worked with individuals and communities throughout the state to create resilient landscapes, fire-adaptive communities and provide wildfire response. Headquartered in Oklahoma City, the division also has regional offices in Goldsby, Broken Bow, Wilburton and Tahlequah. For more information, visit <http://www.forestry.ok.gov>.

###