

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
Land Division  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

June 10, 2021

Board of Land and Natural Resources  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii

21HD-040

Hawaii

Issuance of Right-of-Entry Permits to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service for the Forest Inventory and Analysis Project (FIA) on State Lands at six plot (sample site) locations at Kukalau, Hamakua, Hawaii, Tax Map Key: (3) 4-2-007:002, Kalopa, Hamakua, Hawaii, Tax Map Key: (3) 4-4-014:002, Kaohe, Hamakua, Hawaii, Tax Map Key: (3) 4-3-010:002, Mahuu, Puna, Hawaii, Tax Map Key: (3) 1-5-010:002, Keonepoke, Puna, Hawaii, Tax Map Key: (3) 1-5-008:001 and Puako, South Kohala, Hawaii, Tax Map Key: (3) 6-6-001:002.

APPLICANT:

USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station, Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry.

LEGAL REFERENCE:

Section 171-55, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as amended.

PLOT LOCATIONS:

Portion of Government lands situated at the following six plot locations as shown on the attached maps labeled Exhibit A.

FIA Plot # 2237, Kukalau, Hamakua, Hawaii, Tax Map Key: (3) 4-2-007:002  
FIA Plot # 2248, Kalopa, Hamakua, Hawaii, Tax Map Key: (3) 4-4-014:002  
FIA Plot # 2252, Kaohe, Hamakua, Hawaii, Tax Map Key: (3) 4-3-010:002  
FIA Plot # 2530, Mahuu, Puna, Hawaii, Tax Map Key: (3) 1-5-010:002  
FIA Plot # 2582, Keonepoke, Puna, Hawaii, Tax Map Key: (3) 1-5-008:001  
FIA Plot # 5292, Puako, South Kohala, Hawaii, Tax Map Key: (3) 6-6-001:002

PROJECT AREA:

Each plot is under an acre in size and consists of four assessment sites (subplots) of approximately 48' in diameter.

ZONING:

All six FIA Plots are:

State Land Use District: Agriculture

County of Hawaii CZO: Ranging from A-5a to A-40a

TRUST LAND STATUS:

Section 5(b) lands of the Hawaii Admission Act

DHHL 30% entitlement lands pursuant to Hawaii State Constitution: Not applicable as short term easement permit at no cost.

CURRENT USE STATUS:

FIA Plot # 2237, TMK: (3) 4-2-007:002, encumbered by GLS-6054 to Mauna Kea Moo, LLC for dairy purposes.

FIA Plot # 2248, TMK: (3) 4-4-014:002, encumbered by GLS-4475 to K.K. Ranch Inc. for pasture purposes.

FIA Plot # 2252, TMK: (3) 4-3-010:002, encumbered by GLS-4478 to Boteilho Hawaii Enterprises for pasture purposes.

FIA Plot # 2530, TMK: (3) 1-5-010:002, vacant and unencumbered.

FIA Plot # 2582, TMK: (3) 1-5-008:001, vacant with easement encumbrances:

FIA Plot # 5292, TMK: (3) 6-6-001:002, encumbered by GLS-5373 to Gregory and Kristen Garcia for pasture purposes, and other easement encumbrances.

CHARACTER OF USE:

Plots (sample sites) are used to collect data as part of the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program managed by the USDA Forest Service.

TERM OF RIGHT-OF-ENTRY:

One year from date of approval.

CONSIDERATION:

Gratis.

CHAPTER 343 - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

In accordance with Hawaii Administrative Rule Sections 11-200.1-16 and the Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources approved by the Environmental Council and dated November 10, 2020, the subject request is exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment pursuant to Exemption Class 5, No. 1, that states "Basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource and infrastructure testing and evaluation activities that do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource." and Item No. 13 "Research that the Department declares is designed specifically to monitor, conserve, or enhance native species or native species' habitat." See attached Exhibit B.

DCCA VERIFICATION:

Applicant is a federal agency and therefore is not required to register with the DCCA.

APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS:

Applicant shall be required to:

1. Obtain permission from respective lessees to enter property and conduct work.

REMARKS:

The purpose of the proposed research activities on State lands is to complete a large-scale assessment of the forests of Hawaii. The Forest Inventory and Analysis Program (FIA) of the US Forest Service is carrying out this inventory with the support and coordination of numerous entities in Hawaii including the Division of Forestry and Wildlife and the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH). The overall goal of this inventory is to provide a baseline assessment of the current state of Hawaii's forest and to monitor changes in forest resources that have occurred since the previous FIA inventory of 2010-2015. This study requests to re-measure forest data on previously established research plots on DLNR lands. These plots are part of approximately 450 that are scheduled to be re-measured across all land ownerships in Hawaii. At each of these plots forest composition and structure will be assessed. This includes measures of tree and understory species composition as well as the presence of invasive plants and pathogens including Rapid Ohia Death or ROD (*Puccinia psidii*), and other disturbances such as feral pigs. This large-scale assessment will provide key insights into the extent of forests and their composition and structure. Such information is important in determining island wide carbon budgets and forest health. These research plots are scheduled to be measured

every 10-years to provide large scale insights into changes in forest extent, composition, structure and disturbances. See FIA review attached as Exhibit C.

The following agencies were consulted on this request with the results indicated:

Agency	Comment
DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW)	DOFAW reports that it has worked with the program in the past and supports it.
Department of Agriculture (DOA)	The properties are not under DOA's jurisdiction; DOA has no comment.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board

1. Declare that, after considering the potential effects of the proposed disposition as provided by Chapter 343, HRS, and Chapter 11-200.1, HAR, this project will probably have minimal or no significant effect on the environment and is therefore exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment.
2. Authorize the issuance of right-of-entry permits to U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station, Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry covering the subject areas under the terms and conditions cited above, which are by this reference incorporated herein and further subject to the following:
  - A. The standard terms and conditions of the most current right-of-entry permit form, as may be amended from time to time; and
  - B. Such other terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Chairperson to best serve the interests of the State.

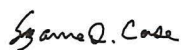
Respectfully Submitted,



Pua Ishibashi  
Land Agent

*gch*

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:

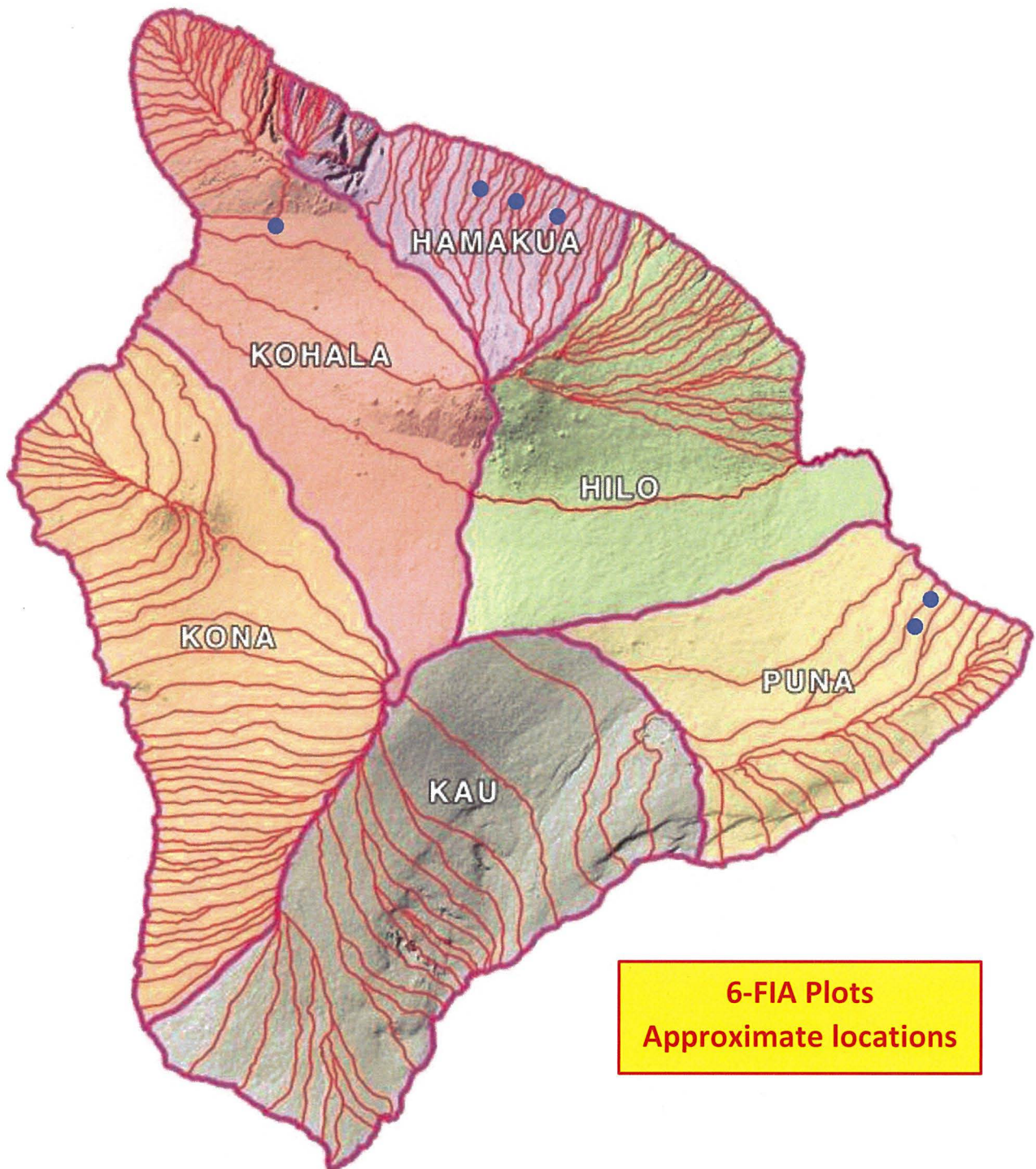


Suzanne D. Case, Chairperson

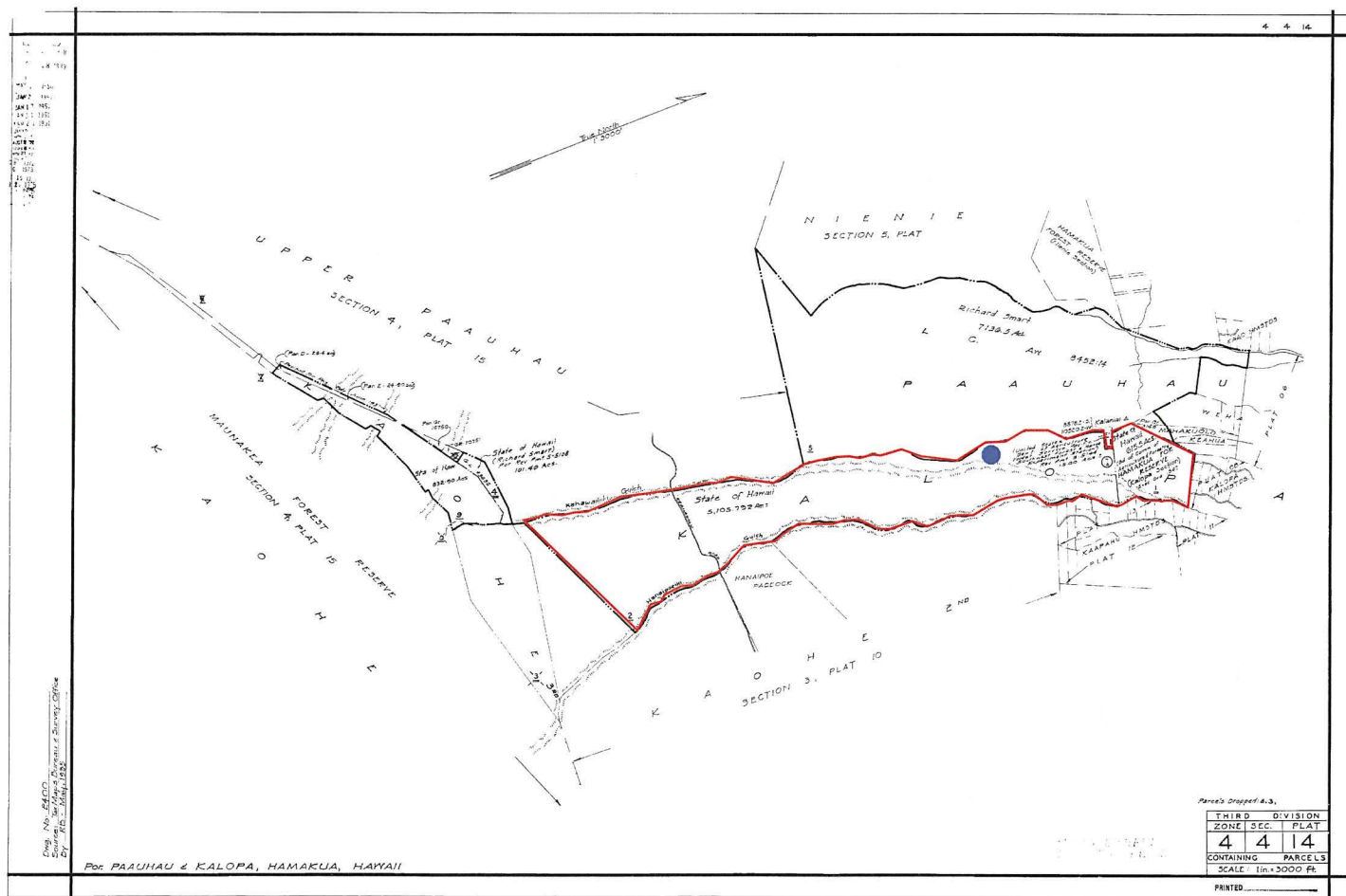
RT



## EXHIBIT A







**Plot# 2248, TMK (3) 4-4-014:002**











DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



## EXHIBIT B

SUZANNE D. CASE  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA  
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY. T. PEARSON, P.E.  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

### STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

May 18, 2021

### EXEMPTION NOTIFICATION

Regarding the preparation of an environmental assessment pursuant to Chapter 343, HRS and Chapter 11-200.1, HAR

Project Title: Issuance of Right-of-Entry Permits to U.S. Forest Service for Forest Inventory and Analysis Project (FIA), six (6) plots (sample sites) on State Lands.

Project / Reference No.: PSF No. 21HD-040

Plot Locations: FIA Plot # 2237, Kukalau, Hamakua, Hawaii,  
Tax Map Key: (3) 4-2-007:002.

FIA Plot # 2248, Kalopa, Hamakua, Hawaii,  
Tax Map Key: (3) 4-4-014:002.

FIA Plot # 2252, Kaohe, Hamakua, Hawaii,  
Tax Map Key: (3) 4-3-010:002.

FIA Plot # 2530, Mahuu, Puna, Hawaii,  
Tax Map Key: (3) 1-5-010:002.

FIA Plot # 2582, Keonepoke, Puna, Hawaii,  
Tax Map Key: (3) 1-5-008:001.

FIA Plot # 5292, Puako, South Kohala, Hawaii,  
Tax Map Key: (3) 6-6-001:002.

Project Description: Forest Inventory and Analysis Program (FIA) managed by the USDA Forest Service. Six plots (sample sites) on State lands assessed for health, condition, and forest trends. Data collected to be used for forest management and policy development. Plots are about one acre in size and consists of four subplots 48' in diameter.

Chap. 343 Trigger(s): Use of State Lands.



Exemption Class No.:	Administrative Rule Sections 11-200.1-16 and the Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources approved by the Environmental Council and dated November 10, 2020, the subject request is exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment pursuant to Exemption Class No. 5, that states: "Basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource and infrastructure testing and evaluation activities that do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource." and Item No. 13, that states: "Research that the Department declares is designed specifically to monitor, conserve, or enhance native species or native species' habitat."
Cumulative Impact of Planned Successive Actions in Same Place Significant?:	No. Staff believes there are no cumulative impacts involved
Action may have Significant Impact on Particularly Sensitive Environment?:	No. There are no particularly sensitive environmental issues involved with the proposed use of properties.
Analysis:	Staff believes the proposed use will involve negligible or no expansion or change of use beyond that previously existing
Consulted Parties:	Division of Forestry and Wildlife and Department of Agriculture.
Recommendation:	That the Board find that issuance of Right-of-Entry Permits to U.S. Forest Service will probably have minimal or no significant effect on the environment and is presumed to be exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment.

# Forest Inventory and Analysis in Hawai‘i

**Who is FIA?** The Forest Inventory and Analysis or “FIA” program is a nationwide forest census managed by the USDA Forest Service. The Hawai‘i FIA data collection team consists of Federal employees in Alaska and Hawai‘i as well as a Hilo-based field crew hired through a cooperative agreement with the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. All crew members receive the same standardized and rigorous trainings on FIA sampling protocols and attend local workshops on plant and pest identification.



**What does FIA do?** FIA monitors and measures the health, condition and trends of our forests. The data we collect can answer questions about tree species, size, and overall health; tree growth and mortality; carbon storage; the presence and severity of invasive plants and pathogens including Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death; as well as changes in forest cover and use over time. The inventory data we collect are used by land managers, policy makers, and those interested in understanding the past, present, and future conditions of our forests.



**Where does FIA work?** We collect data from randomly distributed sample sites or “plots” across Hawai‘i. There are approximately 450 plots in Hawai‘i with roughly one plot every 3 miles. Plots fall on both public and private lands, and nearly half of all the FIA plots in Hawai‘i are located on privately owned land. Plots on private land are sampled only with owner permission. By law, the exact plot locations and land ownership information are kept confidential.

**When will FIA be working in my area?** The re-measurement of FIA plots that were initially visited in 2010 through 2015 will begin in January 2019. Our field crew will measure approximately 100 FIA plots per year on Hawai‘i Island in 2019, 2020, and 2021. In addition, the field crew will travel to O‘ahu in 2019, Maui County in 2020, and Kaua‘i in 2021.

**How does FIA work?** The FIA protocol is a standardized, reliable, and repeatable method for collecting forest inventory data. FIA plots in Hawai‘i are part of a nationwide permanent plot network that extends throughout all 50 states and associated territories from the Caribbean to the southern and western Pacific. Funding for FIA is appropriated by Congress and is supported by local partnerships. Our partners are an integral part of FIA and their contributions of personnel, funding, and continued support make this endeavor possible.



# Frequently Asked Questions

- **I remember getting a letter like this before, why are you contacting me again?**

*We are starting our second inventory cycle and will be re-measuring plots across Hawai'i for the next 3 years. It is our policy to contact landowners each cycle to obtain permission before visiting.*

- **My land is not forested, do you still need access?**

*Sometimes we can make calls on whether an area is forested or not using aerial imagery. For areas that appear marginally forested or on the cusp of non-forest, we like to send a crew out to check. Our field crew is trained to take measurements that distinguish whether or not an area has enough tree cover to be classified as forested.*

- **What happens if I don't respond to this letter?**

*We try our best to get responses from all FIA plot landowners. We attempt multiple times during an inventory cycle if previous attempts were not successful. Participation is voluntary and if you choose to say no we will not contact you until the next inventory.*

- **How big is the plot and how long will it take to measure?**

*The measured area is about 1/5 of an acre and consists of 4 circular subplots each 24 feet in diameter. It typically takes a 3-person crew one day to complete all measurements.*

- **My neighbor has more trees on their land than I do, can you move your plot?**

*FIA plots are permanent and fixed, they cannot be reconfigured or moved.*

- **Do I need to be on site while the field crew is taking their measurements?**

*The field crew can work independently while on your property. However, if you are interested in the measurements we take and would like to see how data are collected you are welcome to accompany the field crew.*

- **I have a locked gate or dogs, can you let me know when you will be working on my property?**

*If there are gates or animals that may prevent the field crew from accessing the FIA plot on your property please let us know on the response form. We will contact you prior to going to schedule a visit and make the necessary arrangements.*

- **Do you follow sanitation and decontamination protocols to prevent the spread of invasive species and Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD)?**

*Our crew regularly sanitizes outdoor gear, tools, boots, and vehicles with soap and water, and/or bleach solution or isopropanol alcohol in accordance with recommendations by the ROD working group and Big Island Invasive Species Council. We also have separate sets of field gear and boots for work on different islands.*

- **If I requested a landowner summary, what's included and how long will it take to receive it?**

*The landowner summary is a generalized report that includes a tree tally, present disturbances and treatments (i.e., silvicultural applications), tree, sapling and seedling tables and graphs, vegetation cover data, and an appendix of terminology. It takes roughly one month after data are collected to be sent out.*

For additional information, please contact:

Jon Marshall, Hawaii Assistant Coordinator: [Jonathan.Marshall@usda.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Marshall@usda.gov); 808-854-2618

Ashley Lehman, Pacific Islands Project Coordinator: [ashley.d.lehman@usda.gov](mailto:ashley.d.lehman@usda.gov); 907-748-2091

FIA website: <https://www.fia.fs.fed.us>; Pacific Northwest FIA website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/pnw/program/rma>