



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Northern  
Research Station

1992 Folwell Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55108-1034  
(651) 649-5000

March 13, 2019

USA Sawmill  
1234 First Avenue  
Anytown, USA

Dear Mill Owner/Operator,

This letter is to inform you that the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program within the USDA Forest Service is transitioning from a periodic census of primary wood-using facilities to an annual sample beginning in early in 2019.

In the U.S., Timber Product Output (TPO) monitoring has been an important program within the FIA program since 1948. The goal of this effort is to estimate the amount of roundwood removed (by product) at the county and state-level, along with the cross-regional movement of industrial roundwood. Estimates from the TPO program have provided the essential foundation for U.S. timber market analyses and projections, sustainability analyses, policy analysis, and state availability of wood resources as it pertains to potential market expansion.

Rapid technological changes in the forest product sector, mill closures and start-ups, dynamic housing cycles, and the changing demand for mill residues have increased the need for timelier mill consumption and production data. Over the last few years the FIA program has been working on methodologies to provide annual sample-based estimates of TPO to accompany its annual sample-based forest inventory estimates. The testing is mostly behind us, and over the last several months the Northern Research Station (NRS) TPO staff has been coordinating with State partners to prepare for the 2019 rollout of the enhanced TPO program.

The NRS FIA program will initiate the annual TPO sample for its entire 24-state region starting in early 2019. Your primary wood-using facility may or may not be included in the 2019 sample and/or the annual samples in the years ahead. If your facility is selected for the 2019 sample you will be receiving information from the FIA program or a State partner early in 2019.

Thank you for your cooperation in this important process. If you have any questions or would like more information on the enhanced TPO program, please contact Ron Piva at 651-649-5150 or [ron.piva@usda.gov](mailto:ron.piva@usda.gov).

Sincerely,

Dennis May  
NRS FIA Program Manager

