VRI Overview

What is the Vegetation Resource Inventory designed to do?

The Vegetation Resources Inventory is designed to answer two questions:

Where is the resource located?

How much of a given vegetation resource (for example, timber or coarse woody debris) is within an inventory unit?

What are the processes of a VRI?

The Vegetation Resources Inventory is carried out in two phases. The photo interpretation (Phase I) involves estimating vegetation polygon characteristics, from existing information, aerial photography, or other sources. No sampling is done in Phase I.

The ground sampling phase (Phase II) provides the information necessary to determine how much of a given characteristic is within the inventory area. Ground samples alone cannot be collected in sufficient numbers to provide the specific locations of the land cover characteristics being inventoried.

Net Volume Adjustment Factor (NVAF) sampling collects data on a number of selected trees to account for errors in the estimates of net tree volume. The NVAF is calculated from the ratio of actual to estimates of sample tree volumes and is applied as a correction to VRI ground sample volumes. This data, used in conjunction with the original ground sampling data, provides an unbiased estimate of the net volume in the project area.

The ground measurements are used to provide a level of certainty regarding means and totals for key attributes for the population.

How do I initiate a VRI?

All VRI projects are initiated through the Forest Analysis Inventory Branch. Coordination and prioritization of projects is lead by FAIB. Government staff are now responsible for the preparation of the Inventory plans. Phase II will only be required where confirmation of volumes is required or where the Chief Forester explicitly deems it necessary in the rationale. If there is interest in a VRI in your area, contact the Forest Inventory Manager.