



Section 1 - FFI Terminology

FFI Data Hierarchy

FFI uses a unique set of terms to describe the FFI database hierarchy.

- Administrative unit – An *administrative unit* is an area that is managed as an individual entity, such as a park, forested area, county or city, hunting unit, watershed study area, or other discrete land area. Although multiple administrative units can reside in a database, no data is shared between them. Species list are managed at the Administrative Unit level.
- Project unit – a *project unit* is a division of the entire sample population of an administrative unit. Project units are usually defined to represent an area on the ground. For example, a project unit could be the area where a treatment was applied; however, project units are not required to have any spatial meaning and may be created simply to group data together for analysis purposes. Project units can be defined so that they overlap spatially, and macro plots can be associated with multiple project units.
- Macro plot – a *macro plot* is a distinct area where observations are taken, and data collected. The plot is used to establish and define permanent sampling sites as well as sites that contain multiple subsamples and sample types. Examples of macro plots might include:
 - A fixed-area plot for sampling trees, two vegetation sampling transects lines, ten herb frames, and four fuels transects.
 - A CBI plot with an understory circle and an overstory circle.
- Sample event – the date of a visit to a macro plot.

Monitoring status – a “name” given to sample event to describe, group and order sample events for reports, analysis and query builder.

Hierarchy Diagram

- 1) Database
 - 2) Administration Unit - Can have multiple Administration Units per database. Species lists and sampling protocols are carried with the Administration Unit. Macro plots must be in only one Administration Unit per database.
 - 3) Project Unit - FFI allows an unlimited number of Projects per Administration Unit. Data summaries and analysis are done at the Project Unit level.
 - 4) Macro plot – Unlimited number. Can assign Macro plots to more than one Project Unit.
 - 5) Sample Event – Date identifying re-measurements of a Macro plot. Macro plots may have an unlimited number of Sample Events.
- Monitoring Status – Used to “name”, order and group sample events for reports, analysis and query.

FFI Terminology

Other FFI Terms

- Protocol – A way to collect data in the field. Protocols are made up of methods. For instance, the Surface Fuels protocol is made up of methods for sampling duff and litter, fine woody debris and coarse woody debris.
- Standard protocols – Includes the protocols in FEAT and FIREMON, plus some new protocols that users have requested. Summary and analysis reports for these protocols are available in FFI. These protocols are covered in the Protocols PowerPoint.
- Custom protocols – These protocols are designed by the user in Protocol Manager. Reports for data stored in custom protocols must be created in the FFI Query Builder.
- Strata or 'Stratify by' – Used for grouping data reports or analysis. Typically entered as a user variable but reports can also be stratified by Plot Type or Plot Purpose.
- Sample Attributes – Sometimes referred to as the 'header data', the sample attributes describe the implementation of the protocol on the plot, such as number transects sampled, transect length, plot area and quadrat size. They should also be used to identify who collected and entered the data, and may include a description of the user variable. Sample attributes are generally collected once per sampling event.
- Method Attributes – These attributes describe the data being collected and analyzed, such as species, count, diameter, height, percent cover and status. They are usually entered in a data grid below the sample attributes and are generally collected more than once per sampling event.

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Trees	Surface Fuels - Vegetation	Surface Fuels	Plot Description	Biomass - Plants	Cover - Line Intercept	Cover - Points																																								
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