



FVS Newsletter

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Forest Vegetation Simulator



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Highlights

Welcome to the twelfth issue of the Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS) Newsletter! The new interface has been on the street for five months and we'll discuss how the use and visibility is going. We'll discuss the plans for discontinuing the Legacy FVS (Suppose) system. We'll also touch our most recent instructor-led trainings and update you on the status of recently cancelled trainings. Lastly, we describe any major updates since our last FVS version release in January 2020.

Our goal is to keep FVS users up-to-date on recent changes and new additions to the software. For more information on FVS, or to find past issues of our Newsletters or Bulletins, please visit our [website](#).

Feel free to let us know how we are doing. You can pass along any advice, ideas, or other input that you think will help to our [email](#).

Release Info

Version: 3039

Revision: 20200403

The New FVS Interface Continues to Evolve

It has been five months now since the release of the new FVS interface and we are excited about the reviews and the feedback.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the first two months we went on the road to various locations and showcased

the new features in short day-long workshops. These have continued over the past few months in tandem with the week-long trainings (more on those later). Overall, the feedback has been very positive, and valuable in continuing the development of the new interface.

If you haven't had a chance to use the new interface, please head on over to our website and download the [latest version](#). We hope you find it more user-friendly and the outputs more useful.

Legacy FVS System Plans

This quarterly release will be the last time the FVS Legacy software (with the Suppose interface) will be updated. This version of the Legacy FVS installation package will still be available for future download on our website, but all new changes made to FVS will only go into future releases of the new FVS system.

You should plan to transition to the new FVS system soon. The new interface still accepts Access input databases (such as the ones created by the FSveg DBLink utility) and converts them to the SQLite database format required by the new variants.

Users who currently utilize the Legacy FVS executable variants in conjunction with other pieces of software should contact the FVS staff to discuss the changes necessary to utilize the new FVS system.

Training Update

Recent Trainings

The FVS staff recently completed two instructor-led trainings for FY20:

- Milwaukee, WI: Feb 03 – 07, 2020
- Albuquerque, NM: Feb 24 – 28, 2020

Special thanks to our regional coordinators, Carrie Sweeny (R9) and Jim Youtz (R3) for their perspective and insight into regional topics regarding FVS and its many uses. Milwaukee had 15 students attend, and Albuquerque had 31.

Cancelled Trainings

Due to the cancellation of agency-related travel stemming from the COVID-19 virus concerns, the following three basic-level training sessions were cancelled:

- Bend, OR: Mar 09 – 13, 2020

- Ogden, UT: Apr 06 – 10, 2020
- Sacramento, CA: Apr 20 – 24, 2020

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. A series of virtual sessions are planned for the students that were signed up to attend the cancelled sessions.

There is also the option for users to go through the Regional Training guides on their own by following these steps:

1. Download the complete setup package to your desktop.
<https://www.fs.fed.us/fvs/software/complete.php>
2. Install the complete setup package
3. Once the new software has been installed. Navigate to the “c:\FVS\Training Guides” and open the regional training .pdf document.
4. Walk through the “Getting Started” section of the guide (pages 5-9)

FVS Updates

In this section we will highlight the main updates to FVS and will note which interfaces are affected.

Height to Top Diameter Units

Variants affected: All

Interface: All

Incorrect values were being written to the “Height to top diameter” column in the treelist database output (FVS_TreeList: Ht2TDCF, FVS_TreeList_East: Ht2TDMCF). This has been corrected

Impact on users: Users should re-run simulations to get the correct values in their output tree lists for the aforementioned two variables.

Root Disease Reporting

Variants affected: All western variants

Interface: All

The Western Root Disease Detail report (FVS_RD_Det) was failing to be sent to an output database. This has been corrected.

Impact on users: Users can now get the FVS_RD_Det report output to a database.

Species Codes in Output Databases

Variants affected: All

Interface: Online/Local FVS configurations

Output database tables that included a Species column have been updated to include three species columns: FVS 2-character alpha codes (SpeciesFVS), PLANTS database species symbols (SpeciesPLANTS), and FIA species codes (SpeciesFIA).

Impact on users: Users now have the option to use any of the three species codes in their output database tables.

FVS Stop/Restart

Variants affected: All

Interface: All

The Stop/Restart functionality was not continuing database output upon restart. This has been fixed.

Impact on users: Users will want to obtain new executables in order to successfully use the stop/restart functionality.

Volume Profile Code

Variants affected: All

Interface: All

Correction in volume profile code to avoid occasional undefined variable and error. Not all variables are used by all species in this process, yet the current system requires all variables be defined and initialized whether all parameter variables are invoked in processing a specific species or not. There was the potential for a process failure due to an issue in the calculation of volumes. This has been corrected.

Impact on users: Users who experienced a process failure should obtain new executables and rerun those simulations. Users who had not experienced a process failure with previous release will not experience different projection results.

Relative Density for Aspen

Variants affected: CI

Interface: All

Relative density value was not properly set for aspen regeneration in the Central Idaho variant, which resulted in a process failure. This has been corrected.

Impact on users: Users who experienced a process failure should obtain new executables and rerun those simulations. Users who did not experience a process failure will not experience any change in projection results when compared to previous software release.

Burn Conditions Report

Variants affected: All

Interface: All

When simulating a pile burn, the Burn Conditions Report heading in the main output file was being printed when it should not have been. This has been corrected.

Impact on users: The heading will no longer show up in the main output file when performing simulations with pile burns management actions.

Climate FVS

Variants affected: All western

Interface: All

There was the potential for a numerical error in the calculation of mortality in the Climate extension. This has been corrected.

Impact on users: Users will want to obtain new executables in order to successfully use the Climate extension.

Event Monitor Variable Calculations

Variants affected: All

Interface: All

A condition where all trees in the stand are dead resulted in some Event Monitor compute variables not having values calculated. This has been resolved.

Impact on users: Stands with all dead tree records upon inventory will be able to have all compute variables calculated.

FVS_Regen_Sprouts

Variants affected: All

Interface: All

Unrealistically tall weighted average sprout heights were being reported for "All" sprouts. This was only a reporting issue and does not change model behavior. It has been corrected.

Impact on users: the weighted average sprout heights for the "All" species category are now being reported

correctly. There are no other impacts on simulation results.

Regional coordinators for information specific to your geographic area.

Region	Name	Phone Number	Email Address
1 - Northern	Renate Bush	406-329-3107	renate.bush@usda.gov
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