



# FVS Newsletter

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## Forest Vegetation Simulator



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## Highlights

Welcome to the twentieth issue of the Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS) Newsletter. In this newsletter we describe the major updates since our last FVS version release dated January 2022.

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 may [email](#) us with any advice, ideas, or other input that you think will help.

## Release Info

Version: 3915

Revision: 20220311

## National-Level Training Videos

The FVS staff has created training videos for each of the modules and individual associated exercises that are contained within the FVSTrainingGuide.pdf file included with the installation package. By default, this training guide is installed to C:\FVS\Training Guides. Users can now view these videos on our [Self-Paced Training](#) webpage and follow along using this step-by step guide. Please note, at the time of this newsletter, some videos may still be undergoing final preparation for public distribution and will be posted to the web site as this is completed.

## FVS Conference

The first FVS Conference was held in 1997 and has reoccurred every five years since. The next normally scheduled event would have been held in 2022. However,

due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we've decided to postpone the conference until 2023. We are hoping this will allow us to conduct this event in person. Additional information will be included in future newsletters. If you are interested in learning more about the past conferences, there is information on our [Conferences web page](#), which includes links to the published proceedings.

## Base FVS Updates

This section highlights the main updates to the base FVS code.

### User Defined Variable Naming Convention

In the previous release, a new feature was described in which user-defined variable names are scanned for special characters. The response to invalid characters has been updated. When special characters are found in the user defined variable name, FVS will now terminate and return the error message "FVS39 ERROR: USER DEFINED COMPUTE VARIABLE NAME CONTAINS INVALID SPECIAL CHARACTERS. PROJECTION TERMINATED.". Users will need to make necessary corrections before being able to complete a successful run.

For more information on custom variable naming guidance, please refer to "Creating Custom Output Variables", Chapter 5.6 of the [Essential FVS Guide](#).

### Correction to FVS\_POTFIRE\_COND Table Output

The FVS\_POTFIRE\_COND table reports parameters for moderate and severe potential fires. When the user entered custom potential fire parameters such as wind speed, temperature, or fuel moisture level for both severe and moderate potential fires, the parameters for the moderate fire were reported for both moderate and severe fires. This has been corrected.

### Updates to User Defined Plot Number Input Functionality

An update was made to base FVS in how the plot ID on input tree records is handled when a stand is designated as having a single plot. This also affects the FVS option of running plots as stands where individual plots are treated as a stand in the projection. In the past, whenever a stand was designated as having a single plot, the plot ID on the input tree records was ignored and a plot ID of 1 was assigned. Be careful not to confuse plot index (the index of internal array) and plot ID (the actual plot label,

the content of that array) while reviewing the output. Now, the plot ID is retained for these single plot stands. This enables the ability to relate a single plot projection back to the plot within the multiplot stand projection. The exception to retaining the plot ID is when the stand is designated as a single plot but more than one plot ID is found in the input tree list. In this case the plot ID will be set to 1. There are legitimate occasions when this could happen. One possible scenario is when tree records are accumulated from multiple plot samples to create a single plot representing a special condition.

## FVS Interface Updates

This release does not include any updates to the FVS interface.

**Regional coordinators for information specific to your geographic area**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
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2 - Rocky Mountain	Jeff Overturf	303-275-5048	<a href="mailto:jeffery.overturf@usda.gov">jeffery.overturf@usda.gov</a>
3 - Southwestern	Ryan Heaslip	505-842-3240	<a href="mailto:ryan.heaslip@usda.gov">ryan.heaslip@usda.gov</a>
4 - Intermountain	Pat Murphy	435-636-3320	<a href="mailto:pat.m.murphy@usda.gov">pat.m.murphy@usda.gov</a>
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