



# FVS Newsletter

Issue 3

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## Forest Vegetation Simulator



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## Highlights

Welcome to the June 2017 issue Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS) Newsletter! In this issue we discuss FVS recent occurrences and open our doors to hear from readers like you. We also highlight any major updates since our last FVS version release in April 2017.

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 whatever you think will help to our [email](#).

## Recent Training

The FVS staff recently completed two abbreviated versions of the basic FVS course. These trainings followed our standard exercise approach, however, they were geared more toward specific areas and topics of interest to the host agency.

The first training was for the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) and was held in Fort Collins, CO from April 11-13. There were 23 students in attendance. Thanks to Pete Barry for his support and helping us update our training curriculum to best meet the needs of CSFS and their field crews.

The second training for the Western Oregon Bureau of Land Management was held April 18-20 in Salem, OR. There were 15 students in attendance. Thank you Stephanie Wessell for coordinating the training and giving guidance on focus areas for the group.

As always, we had a great time interacting with the students and hearing their stories. The students are what make the training interesting and give us a chance to learn something new. Thank you to all who participated.

## Submit your FVS Success

The FVS staff is interested in hearing about your success stories. If you have a project or have developed best practices that you believe can benefit the FVS community as whole, please submit them to us via [email](#).

We would like to start using the Newsletter as a means to share relevant information with our users. To kick things off, we have posted a submission from Donald Robinson at ESSA Technologies (below) outlining some recent work with ODF.

## ODF Recommends Best Practices for FVS

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) uses FVS for intermediate and long range planning, where the model plays an important role in landscape planning and timber harvest scheduling. ODF is also incorporating FVS into its annual inventory updates, in order to increase consistency between planning and operational estimates.

To support its continuous efforts to improve the quality of its forest modeling, Department staff recently identified a set of topic areas related to FVS growth and yield methodology, and asked ESSA Technologies to recommend ways to strengthen its modeling work and decision-making processes as they relate to these topics.

Based on a literature review, the expertise of the FVS community and interviews with FVS and ODF staff, ESSA recently completed a study which provides recommendations covering six topic areas: Site Index, Stand Density Index, Basal Area multipliers, Volume Estimation, Genetic Gain and Disturbance, and Uncertainty.

The [report](#) has been accepted by the Oregon Board of Forestry and provides concrete best practice recommendations which address ODF's specific needs, and will be of interest to all FVS users.

## Climate FVS Revision

The FVS Climate Exercise [Guide](#) content has been updated to be consistent with the inputs and outputs of the latest version of the FVS Climate Extension. Exercises and the answer key are now current.

## FVS Updates

### RHK and RHXS Variable Initialization

Variants affected: CI

The height growth modification routine in the CI variant was not working properly for Curl Leaf Mountain Mahogany. This has been fixed.

Impact on users: Accurate growth output for Curl Leaf Mountain Mahogany.

### Version and RV columns added to the Cases Table

Variants affected: All

Executable version information that appears in the header of the main FVS output (.out) file was added to the output database Cases table. The two new columns are Version and RV (ReVision date). Both columns are defined as text. RV is the date that the executable was generated and has changed format from mm/dd/yy to yyyymmdd

Impact on users: Cases table now has two additional columns that identify the specific FVS variant executable version used for projection.

### Econ Model

Variants affected: All

Stand ID was added to the output database of the FVS Econ Summary Table for each simulation.

Impact on users: Econ summary output can now be tracked by Stand ID over the course of a simulation.

### Top Diameter Corrections for Volume Calculation

Variant affected: All

Heights to top diameters for merchantable Cuft and BdFt (pulp and saw timber for CS, LS, NE and SN variants) were not being reported correctly. These height values are only provided in the database output treelist.

Please note that some volume equations do not calculate height to a top diameter, so no value will be reported when those equations are used.

There were a few instances where an incorrect merchantable top diameter was being used. This has been corrected.

Impact on users: Users of the output database treelist table will have correct heights to top merchantable diameter. Note: Height to top diameter is not available in the text treelist output file (.trl).

## CCAdj Activity Processing

Variants affected: All

Resolved Canopy Cover Adjustment (CCAdj keyword) activity conflict with ThinCC activity when both occurred in the first cycle.

Impact on users: ThinCC and CCAdj are now co-schedulable in the first cycle, and order no longer matters regarding the two keywords.

### Regional coordinators for information specific to your geographic area.

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1 - Northern	Renate Bush	406-329-3107	<a href="mailto:renatebush@fs.fed.us">renatebush@fs.fed.us</a>
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