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FVS Newsletter

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Forest Vegetation Simulator

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In This Issue

Highlights

Welcome to the Fifth issue of the Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS) Newsletter! In this issue we discuss FVS recent occurrences and discuss our upcoming FY18 instructor led trainings. We also highlight any major updates since our last FVS version release in October 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.

We appreciate your feedback. You can pass along any advice, ideas, or ways to improve the program to our email.

Recent and Upcoming Trainings

Recent Trainings

The FVS staff recently completed their first instructor-led training for FY18. Training for Regions 1-4 was conducted in Missoula, MT, December 4th -8th 2017, and had 30 students in attendance.

Special thanks to Joel Egan, R1 Entomologist, and Andy Kies, Silviculturist in R1for giving presentations on insect and disease applications and silvicuture prescription modeling in FVS. Also a big thanks to Renate Bush, R1 Inventory and Analysis Coordinator, for her perspective and insight into regional FVS topics.

We had a diverse group of motivated students participate. The mix ranged from local USFS foresters and silviculturists to regional BLM, BIA and RMRS personnel. We also had students from State Agencies, the University of Montana, and private organizations. As always, a huge thank you goes out to the students for participating and sharing their experiences on regional issues and concerns.

Upcoming Trainings

Fiscal year 2018 FVS training registration is now open! Please check out our Instructor-Led Training webpage for more details and instructions on how to register.

There will be three basic level courses offered throughout the year. The following sessions have been scheduled:

- Central Point, OR: Feb 26 – Mar 02, 2018
- Milwaukee, WI: Apr 16 – 20, 2018

The objective of the basic FVS training is to introduce vegetation growth and yield modelling through the use of FVS and its extensions. Training will emphasize the capabilities of FVS in simulating forest management and impacts on forest structure, growth, fire behavior, and carbon accounting.

We will also be offering an advanced-level FVS course in 2018. Course content is preliminarily planned to cover topics pertaining to specific management scenarios and model modifications.

Students participating in this course are expected to have previously taken the basic training and/or have a good working knowledge of FVS. The following advanced session has been scheduled:

- Ogden, UT: Mar 05 – 09, 2018

Please sign up early if you are interested in any of the courses. Space is limited and priority will be given to US Forest Service and National Advanced Silviculture Program (NASP) applicants.

FVS Updates

RV:20180108

Curtis' Relative Density Calculation

Variants affected: All

The process for the summation method of calculating relative density was replaced with code developed by B. Lu, F. Martin, and R. Johnson (Washington State Department of Natural Resources).

This modification affects the specific performance of the ThinRDen management action and the Event Monitor variables BRDEN and ARDEN.

Impact on users: Better arithmetic consistency for relative density values.

Outputs to Excel Table

Variants affected: All

For the output to Excel table there's been an increase in the number of rows from 65535 to 1048576, an increase from 64K to 1MB to reflect the increased capacity of new Excel files. This will alleviate output failures for runs generating enormous number of records in the output tables.

Impact on users: Minimizes output failures for runs generating large numbers of records in the output tables.

Stand Information Processing

Variants affected: All

Corrected formatting issue in stand information processing that caused the loss of the rightmost character of the site species code in the main output file.

Impact on users: Main Output file will now display the entire site species code.

FVS & Suppose File Extensions

Variants affected: All

FVS and the Suppose interface will now recognize ".sqlite" and ".db" as file extensions for SQLite database files. The option to specify an alternate "Default Parameter File" (eg: suppose.prm) in the Suppose Preferences is also functional once again.

Impact on users: Increased the number of file extensions recognized by FVS and Suppose. Users are also able to maintain customized parameter file(s).

CS and LS Variants

Variants affected: CS and LS

Central States variant tree species other softwood (6=OS) uses eastern white pine (7=WP) as surrogate for all coefficients.

Lake States variant tree species commercial hardwood (44=CH) uses black walnut (46=WN) as surrogate for all coefficients.

Impact on users: The corrected tree species coefficients resolves fatal errors that occurred while processing these two species designations.

OC and OP Variants

Variants affected: OC and OP

Update Change: Several miscellaneous updates and corrections were made to the FVS-ORGANON hybrid models. Event Monitor variables for ORG%CC and ORGAHT were added which use the ORGANON calculated methodology. This will enable users to generate values that match the desktop ORGANON values for canopy cover and average height. A correction was also made to volume for truncated tree records.

Impact on users: Produces answers consistent with the stand-alone ORGANON growth and yield model. Users of these two variants should obtain a new executable.

WC Variant

Variant affected: WC

Update Change: The mapping of plant association code CHF132 (references 618, 621, and 639) has been changed to CHF135 from CHF125.

Impact on users: Westside Cascades variant users can expect faster growth and increases in stand density, and may see differences in snag fall rates in FFE with plant association code CHF 132.

For all users it is recommended to update their software to the newest version.

Regional coordinators for information specific to your geographic area.

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