USDA Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FVS Release Bulletin

September 30, 2026

Forest Vegetation Simulator



Forest Management Service Center
Email: SM.FS.fvs-support@usda.gov
Web: https://www.fs.usda.gov/fvs/index.shtml

Github: https://github.com/USDAForestService/ForestVegetationSimulator

https://github.com/USDAForestService/ForestVegetationSimulator-Interface

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Update

Highlights

We are pleased to announce the September 2026 release of the Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS). The latest version is now available for download via our website or from the Forest Service Software Center.

In this bulletin we describe the major updates since our last FVS version release dated July 2026.

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

Release date: 20260930

2026-2027 Forest Vegetation Simulator Training Schedule

Registration is **open** for instructor-led Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS) courses for the 2026-2027 training year. Courses are tuition free.

The objective of the training is to introduce the concepts of forest growth and yield modeling using the simulator. Training will emphasize the capabilities to simulate the impacts of active forest management on forest structure, growth, timber yield/volume, fire behavior, and biomass.

The following sessions will be in-person. The in-person course includes regular structured exercises and data that participants will work through, as well as time set aside for students to work on modeling active forest management for their own local projects. If you are not able to attend an in-person course, the regular structured classes exercises are also available as pre-recorded modules.

- November 2-5 2026: Sisters, OR*
- February 8-11, 2027: Ogden, UT
- March 22-25, 2027: Asheville, NC
- March or April 2027: TBD, AK*

*The Sisters, OR session already has a waitlist, but please apply if you are interested as we often fill spots off the waitlist. Details about the dates and location of the training in Alaska will be available soon. We will provide updates as soon as they are available.

There is space for 25-30 students in each session. Registration priority will be given to Forest Service and National Advanced Silviculture Program (NASP) applicants, although external applicants are encouraged to apply. A waiting list will be maintained to track applicants in excess of the student limit. Early registration is encouraged. Please register no later than six weeks prior to the start date. After that point, available spaces will be filled from the waitlist.

Please complete the electronic registration form to register for 2026-2027 FVS Training. Approximately six weeks before the course, you will receive an e-mail asking you to confirm that you still plan to attend. If you do not confirm, we will assume that you are no longer planning to attend, and we will fill your spot with someone on the waiting list.

If for some reason you need to cancel, or have questions regarding this registration, please contact the FVS Staff (e-mail: sm.fs.fvs-support@usda.gov).

Release Schedule Change

For the past several years, the FVS software has been on a quarterly release schedule. Moving forward, the FVS staff will be changing its release schedule to an 'as needed' basis where updates will be released as corrections are completed or new features are ready. This change is intended to allow the FVS staff more flexibility in work prioritization while still delivering the quality product our users have come to expect. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at sm.fs.fvs-support@usda.gov .

Base FVS Updates

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

Improvements to STDINFO Keyword

A filter has been added to the STDINFO keyword to prevent an unnecessary warning when users omit region and forest location information.

Internal Versioning Updates

The version and revision information have been updated to reference Git build source information and date. Included with this update, users now can check the version and build information associated with a stand alone FVS executable via command line flags --version and --build-info.

National Volume Estimator Library Update

FVS utilizes the National Volume Estimator Library (NVEL) for volume and FIA biomass computations. The internal version of NVEL has been updated to Git commit 3854807. Users should not notice any computational differences.

FVS Interface Updates

This section highlights the updates and improvements made to the FVS interface which are intended to provide an improved user experience.

Update to Framework Versioning

The FVS Interface is powered by R and the R Shiny web framework. The base included R version has been updated to version 4.6 and all packages have been updated. Users should not notice any performance differences.

Changes to Directory Checking Logic

Additional error checking has been implemented to allow FVS to run on some systems where directory structure cannot be determined. In the event the directory structure cannot be evaluated, the 'Change Working Directory' tool is automatically disabled and a notice is reported to the user.

Improvements to Keyword Logic

Users may notice improvements to drop down list option selection when editing existing components using the MODTYPE or CLIMDATA keywords.

Stand and Stock Table Rounding

Variables reported in the stand and stock tables have been rounded to two decimal place precision to provide a cleaner user experience.

User Database Upload Validation Logic

Logic has been added to the user database upload process to limit the potential of a user to inadvertently overwrite data required for existing runs within their project or to prevent database replacement with incompatible table types.

Regional Coordinators (for information specific to your geographic area):

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