Assignment 4 – Setting up FVS

Introduction

FVS is a framework and a collection of models developed and maintained by the USDA Forest Service. The model is widely used, in academia for teaching and research, and by industry, consulting and government for management planning, silvicultural decision-making, and gaming. The official FVS web site is http://www.fs.fed.us/fmsc/fvs. FVS is not perfect, especially in the Lake States. But you will almost certainly encounter FVS in your careers as forest managers or scientists.

Objectives

In this assignment you’ll get FVS working with data from even and uneven-aged stands on the FRES Ford Forest. Your task is to load inventory data into the “blank database” provided with FVS and then perform a simple simulation. You will simulate the development of your stand for 100 years with no management, and generate some summary outputs.

Instructions

First, create a folder on your “H:” drive and copy the contents of the C:/FVSData/Blank-Database folder into your folder. You can rename “Blank_Database.mdb” to something more descriptive, but if you do, you need to also edit the contents of “Suppose.loc” to match.

Then, use the forms in the database to load the stand and tree data for two stands sampled in 2011/12 on the Ford Forest:

Stand 43 (MU 3) – this is an uneven-aged hardwood stand harvested most recently in 2004
Stand 17 (MU 25) – this is a jack pine stand originating from about 1971

The inventory data are available on the class website, as well as the inventory guidebook, which explains the sampling design.

Once you are confident that your database is loaded, simulate the development of your stand for 100 years with no management. Use the “stand and stock table” post processor to produce stand and stock tables, and submit tables for year 2012, 2062 and 2112 to me in a very brief memo.

Due Date

This assignment is due no later than Friday, 22 February 2013. The task is quite straightforward. However, FVS is sensitive to small errors in configuration so it may take a while to get your simulation debugged. Be careful!