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RMRS-GTR-116: The Fire and Fuels Extension to the Forest Vegetation Simulator

Reinhardt, Elizabeth; Crookston, Nicholas L. (Technical Editors). 2003. **The Fire and Fuels Extension to the Forest Vegetation Simulator**. Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-116. Ogden, UT: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 209 p.

The Fire and Fuels Extension (FFE) to the Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS) simulates fuel dynamics and potential fire behaviour over time, in the context of stand development and management. Existing models of fire behavior and fire effects were added to FVS to form this extension. New submodels representing snag and fuel dynamics were created to complete the linkages. This report contains four chapters. Chapter 1 states the purpose and chronicles some applications of the model. Chapter 2 details the model's content, documents links to the supporting science, and provides annotated examples of the outputs. Chapter 3 is a user's guide that presents options and examples of command usage. Chapter 4 describes how the model was customized for use in different regions. Fuel managers and silviculturists charged with managing fire-prone forests can use the FFEFVS and this document to better understand and display the consequences of alternative management actions.

Keywords: FVS, FFE, forest fire, stand dynamics, FOFEM, BEHAVE, NEXUS, snags, coarse woody debris

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Title: RMRS-GTR-116: The Fire and Fuels Extension to the Forest Vegetation Simulator

Electronic Publish Date: September 29, 2003

Last Update: [June 17, 2009](#)

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