

FScruiser Bulletin

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FOREST PRODUCTS MEASUREMENTS GROUP
FOREST MANAGEMENT SERVICE CENTER
FT. COLLINS, CO

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MAIN TOPIC: **Version 2010.03.18**



INTRODUCTION

This bulletin provides a list of the most recent changes, repairs, known bugs and cautions, a list of planned improvements for future versions, and a table of contacts.

If you've never used FScruiser please read the User's Guide, go through the exercises and take a look at the sample cruise files to get a general idea of how they were established. These files are available at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/fmhc/measure/cruising/fscruiser/fscruiserTraining.php>

There is also an excellent computer-based FScruiser tutorial that can be downloaded from: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fmhc/measure/training>

CHANGES / REPAIRS (since version 2009.01.16)

All:

- Updated cruise structure version updater to 2010.03.18.
- Streamlined some code to improve program performance.
- Disabled compression of cruise files each time a cruise was closed in FScruiser. This now only occurs 1) to new setup files created from a cruise file, 2) to newly created FDR component cruise files, or 3) when new "Compress Cruise File" utility is used on the PC version.
- Added a "*Disable the Customize button on field data recorders*" checkbox to Customize → Options.
- Added an "*Audit*" button to Establish → Cruise page to audit cruise-level information such as sale number, cruise number and region code.
- Restrict defect fields (SDefP, CDefP and CDefP) to 3 numbers in the SubPopulation Table.
- Added a tree record audit requiring an integer (whole number) in the TreeCnt field.

- Added a “*Automatically backup data to CSV files*” checkbox to Customize → Options. If checked, FScruiser will save current data to small CSV files during Data Entry. The data is saved in a subfolder of the cruise file’s folder. A PC-based cruise file editing program, under development, will be able to import these CSV backup files into a cruise file to recover field data if necessary. *These CSV files are meant as emergency backups, and should not be edited in a spreadsheet.*

When “*Automatically backup data to CSV files*” is checked:

Method	What is saved	When is it saved
Tree-based	Tree data for the current unit/stratum + any existing log data	Each time the “Save” button is pressed, press F5 (save), change cutting unit or exit Data Entry.
	Count data for the current unit/stratum	Each time you switch from a tree page to the tally page, press F5 (save), change cutting unit or exit Data Entry
Area-based	Tree data for the current unit/stratum/plot + the current plot data + any existing log data	Each time a plot is left (create a new plot, navigate to a different plot, change cutting unit or exit Data Entry)

- Due to tightened security, both the PC and FDR setup files will require administration privileges to install.

PC:

- Fixed a bug preventing Null (empty) plots from being merged into a master cruise file.
- Added a “Compress Cruise File” Utility.
- Fixed an installation script bug that caused an error when installing on some PC’s.

FDR:

- Changed the sampling method from blocked to simple random sampling for the sample tree cruise method. This is a temporary change until blocked sampling is repaired.

KNOWN BUGS AND CAUTIONS

All:

- It has been reported that double clicking the “Count” or “SumKPI” fields on the tally table occasionally doesn’t put the field in edit mode. I can’t duplicate this. Remember: to help protect tally counts from accidental editing, you must double click/tap to go into edit mode in the tally table.
- Watch what you’re doing when copying and pasting cruise data files: If you

have multiple cruise files with the same name (like you would when making backup copies) be careful not to overwrite a newer file with an older one. If you accidentally do this there is no going back.

- Be careful with the now editable “Units” field in the Stratum Table: This is not where you delete cutting units. Removing a cutting unit code from the “Units” list will orphan any tree data within that unit-stratum. The Utility module is where you delete entire cutting units or strata.

PC Version:

- Never open a cruise file residing on a server, even via a mapped drive (e.g. J, K, L, O or T). Copy it from the server to a local directory on your PC first.
- Never try opening a cruise (*.crz) or setup (*.stp) file with a non-National Timber Cruising Suite program.

FDR Versions (Good field practices):

- Never transfer a cruise file to/from a FDR/PC while it is open by FScruiser. Always make sure FScruiser is closed on both ends when transferring a cruise file.
- Use FScruiser’s Backup utility to save backup copies of the cruise file to a removable storage card. However, never run FScruiser directly from a storage card or keep the active cruise file on a storage card. Keep FScruiser.exe and the active cruise file in built-in, non-volatile storage on the FDR itself (for example, “C_Drive” on Allegros and “iPAQ File Store” on HP iPAQ’s).
- Periodically press the “Save” button on the tree table when collecting STR, 3P and S3P field data.
- When possible, back up the current cruise file to the PC at the end of each field day.
- Close FScruiser during your lunch break. Reopen FScruiser and reload the cruise file when ready to continue after lunch.

PLANNED ADDITIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS

All:

- Improve PCM and FCM by having FScruiser keep track of sample frequency.
- Improve 3P by having FScruiser keep track of insurance tree frequency.
- Add additional options for entering 3P estimates (for 3P and S3P): 1) estimate DBH – calculates a rough volume estimate using a given mean tree height, and 2) select a volume estimate from a custom volume table appearing in a grid.
- Create an alternate multi-strata tally interface similar to the FIXCNT tally.
- Allow multiple species on one SubPopulation record as a comma-separated list.

PC Version:

- Continued enhancements to the Merge Two Cruises utility.
- Continued enhancements to Make FDR Components utility.
- Add Establishment Report file generation.
- Add Windows Help.

Data Recorder Versions:

- Improve program speed during area-based data entry.
- Power warning options.
- Add Windows CE Help.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you are in the U.S. Forest Service or an organization listed in the table below and have any questions or problems, please contact your representative.

Agency	Region/Office	Representative
USFS	1 – Northern	Mike McVeigh
USFS	2 – Rocky Mountain	Don Martinez
USFS	2 – Rocky Mountain	Gerald Ryszka
USFS	2 – Rocky Mountain	Mary Lu Eilers
USFS	3 – Southwestern	Jeff Hogg
USFS	3 – Southwestern	Brion Drought
USFS	4 – Intermountain	Lucy Wilkins
USFS	5 – Pacific Southwest	Craig Bodenhausen
USFS	5 – Pacific Southwest	Dan Merritt
USFS	6 – Pacific Northwest	Frank Duran
USFS	6 – Pacific Northwest	Jeff Penman
USFS	8 – Southern	Rich Aubuchon
USFS	8 – Southern	Kim Bowman
USFS	9 – Eastern	Howard Freerksen
USFS	10 – Alaska	Ken Dinsmore
BLM	Oregon and Washington	Cloy Bittinger
BLM	Montana and Dakotas	Bill Hensley
Idaho Department of Lands		Bob Helmer

If you are from an organization not listed in the table, please feel free to contact me directly.

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