The Alaska Northern Forest Cooperative, together with University of Alaska Fairbanks is hosting a workshop to bring together forest managers and scientists who are interested in learning about the potential uses of the Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS) model in Alaska’s northern boreal forest. The FVS growth and yield modeling tool and its extensions (e.g., Fire and Fuels, Insects, Pathogens) and visualization tools (e.g., Stand Visualization System) are used throughout many forested regions in the United States and Canada for project-level planning, landscape analysis, forest health assessments, forest plan revisions, inventory updates, and wildlife habitat evaluations. The Fire and Fuels Extension allows for simulations of fire behavior, fire effects, fuel loading, and snag dynamics. A wide variety of insect, pathogen and other extensions allow for simulations of impacts caused by bark beetles, defoliators, mistletoe, white pine blister rust, etc. Currently there is no FVS variant for Alaska’s northern boreal forest. For more information about Forest Vegetation Simulator (nationally supported by the USDA Forest Service): http://www.fs.fed.us/fmsc/fvs/description/index.shtml

For more information about the workshop please contact Andy Mason, amason@fs.fed.us, or (907) 743-9452.

Workshop Purpose
There are three workshop objectives: 1) Inform participants about FVS and its extensions/tools through presentations and demonstrations; 2) Participants gain understanding about what would be needed to develop and support a FVS variant for the northern boreal forest; and 3) Participants determine the level of interest in a new variant including potential users, cooperator funding, other support needed, and next steps.

Who Should Attend
This workshop is designed for forest resource managers, specialists, scientists and decision makers who are interested in learning about the potential uses of the FVS as a management/planning/research/communication tool in Alaska’s northern boreal forest. It is also designed for those who could potentially support the development of a northern boreal forest FVS variant and its extensions with inventory data, growth and yield expertise, etc.

Date and Location
The workshop will be held May 31 – June 1, 2006 on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus, International Arctic Research Center (Room 401), in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Tentative Agenda

Wednesday, May 31
800-810: Welcome/Introductions/Purpose of Workshop - Andy Mason, USFS State & Private Forestry, Alaska Region
810-830: Keynote – Bov Eav, Director, USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station
830-930: Overview of FVS/Demo of FVS Capabilities using UAF campus plots - Gary Dixon, Stephanie Rebain, USFS Forest Management Service Center

Desired Outcome: Participants gain basic understanding of FVS and its capabilities,
including extensions (fire-fuels, insects and pathogens), visualization tools, etc. Also past, present, and future FVS development/plans in Alaska

930-1000: BREAK
1000-1030: Overview of FVS - Continued
1030-1210: Examples of Current FVS Applications
1030-1050: FVS as a Forest Management Tool (timber sales, endangered species mgmt, military mission support) for Dept. of Defense -DoD forester TBD, Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia
1050-1110: Using FVS as a Landscape Analysis Tool - Robert Monserud and Susan Stevens Hummel, USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station
1110-1130: BIA/Tribal Uses of FVS -Dave Wilson, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Denver
1130-1150: Fire/Fuels Application –Stephanie Rebain, USFS Forest Management Service Ctr
Desired Outcome: Participants learn more about “what FVS can do for you”, including applications in silviculture, wildlife, fire, etc.
1200-110: LUNCH (on your own)
110-240: What is needed to develop a basic AK Northern Forest variant?
- Gary Dixon, Stephanie Rebain, USFS Forest Management Service Center
Desired Outcome: Participants gain understanding of the data, staff support, development costs, time requirements/schedule, etc., to develop, use, and maintain an FVS variant and its extensions.
240-300: Past Research Efforts in Alaska’s Northern Forest Applicable to the Development of a FVS Variant -John Shaw, USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station
300-330: BREAK
330-430: Data – Overview of what is currently available, useable, future data?
330-345: Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) -Ken Winterberger, USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station
345-400: University of Alaska Fairbanks -Ed Packee, UAF (retired)
400-415: Fort Wainwright -Dan Rees, Dept. of Defense, Fort Wainwright
415-430: BIA/Tanana Chiefs Conference -Bryan Rice/David Wilson, Bureau of Indian Affairs; Will Putman, Tanana Chiefs Conference
430-445: State of Alaska -Doug Hanson, Alaska Division of Forestry
445-500: UAF Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) -Terry Chapin/Scott Rupp, UAF
Desired Outcome: Participants learn about quantity and quality of existing data that could be used to develop a northern variant; also potential for future data from FIA, other sources.
500-600: BREAK
600-730: Social and FVS Demos @ Sophie Station (Zach’s Boardroom), 1717 University Ave.
- Gary Dixon, Stephanie Rebain
730: Group dinner @ Sophie Station (optional)

Thursday, June 1
800-1200: Field trip to view sample inventory plots -UAF plot(s) on Campus (Ed Packee/Tom Malone); FIA plot(s) on Campus (Ken Winterberger)
1200-100: LUNCH (on Campus)
100-300: Where do we go from here? – Andy Mason
Desired Outcome: Determine interest in northern variant, next steps, potential cooperator funding and other kinds of support
300: ADJOURN