

Fire Regime and Condition Class (FRCC) Software User Guide

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Section 1: Installing the Software

1. Download the FRCC software from the FRCC website (www.frcc.gov). The software install file is called FRCC_Install.zip and can be downloaded from the FRCC Software download page by clicking on the “Software Download” link.
2. The FRCC software has been developed as a Java application which accesses an MS Access database. The software requires that a current version of the Java 2 Run-time Environment (J2RE) has been installed on the computer the FRCC software will be installed on. A J2RE (version 1.4.2) install file (j2re-1_4_2_04-windows-i586-p.exe) has been included in FRCC_Install.zip. Make sure you are also running MS Access 2000 or a later version on the computer that the FRCC software will be installed on.
3. Extract the files in FRCC_Install.zip into a destination drive. Make sure that FRCC.jar and FRCC.mdb are in the same directory. If you are downloading the software from a CD, make sure these files are not read-only.

User Tip:

- Ø Create a shortcut on your desktop to the FRCC application by right-clicking on the FRCC.jar in Windows Explorer, then select *Send To—Desktop*.

If you have previously installed a prior version of the FRCC Landscape Scorecard application, follow the Install/Upgrade Notes which can be found on the FRCC website (www.frcc.gov).

Section 2: Starting the Program

Navigate to the folder where you downloaded the FRCC Landscape Scorecard software. Double click on FRCC.jar to start the program. You may alternately double click the shortcut on your desktop, if you created a shortcut there.

The first time you open either the Standard Landscape, Landscape Scorecard or Stand Scorecard form, you will be asked if you have a version 1.0.5 Standard Landscape database (FRCCdata.mdb) you would like to import to the FRCC database (frcc.mdb). If you answer “Yes”, an Open dialog will appear in which you can navigate to the version 1.0.5 database (FRCCdata.mdb) containing your Standard Landscape data. The FRCC application will then import your Standard Landscape data from the database you specified.

Section 3: Standard Landscape

To open the FRCC Standard Landscape Data Entry form in the FRCC software, click the “File” menu, choose “Open Form,” then click “Standard Landscape.” When the FRCC Standard Landscape form starts, a sample project is displayed.

The first time you run the Standard Landscape form, you will be asked whether you have a version 1.0.5 database you want to import landscapes from. If this is a new installation, click on “No”. If you have previously entered landscape data into a previous version of the FRCC software (version 1.0.5) click on “Yes”. The software will then display an “Open” dialog. Navigate to the FRCCdata.mdb database containing the version 1.0.5 Standard Landscape data you wish to import into this version of the software.

Viewing Data.

To view projects, scroll through previously entered projects using the  (“Previous Project”) and the  (“Next Project”) buttons located to the right of the Characterization Date field.

Entering Data.

The data is entered into three blocks (Landscape Data, Strata Data and Veg-Fuel Class Data); each is explained in more detail below. A pop-up error message will appear when a project is saved if required fields are incomplete. Refer to the FRCC Methods Document (available at the FRCC website, www.frcc.gov) for information about individual fields on the form.

User Tips

- Ø Have the Methods Document in hand when filling in the project form. It provides more detail about which fields are required.

Landscape Data Block

- *Starting a new project.* Since the database automatically opens with an example project already entered, you will need to create a new landscape. Click on the “Landscape” menu, then select the “New” menu item.
- *Adding Photos.* Photos of the landscape can be stored in a project as hyperlinks. To enter a photo, place an electronic copy of the photo on the computer’s hard drive. It is recommended that the photo be stored in a compressed format such as TIFF or JPEG. Click the **browse** (“Load Photo”) button next to the photo field. Navigate to the folder containing the photo file, click on the photo file and click the “Save” button. Once a photo has been added to the strata, the photo can be viewed by clicking the **Photo** (“View Photo”) button. When a photo is added to the strata, the Photo Date field will also be populated with the date associated with the photo on your hard drive. This default photo date can be overwritten if desired.

User Tips

- Ø You can move to the next field by hitting the “tab” key on your keyboard. When you come to a dropdown menu, use your up and down arrow keys to choose the menu item you want, then hit the “tab” key to move to the next field.

Strata Block

- *Adding Strata.* To add additional strata to the project, click on the **New** (“New Strata”) button located to the right of the Strata Number field. Once multiple strata have been entered for a project, the **<** (“Previous Strata”) and the **>** (“Next Strata”) buttons can be used to scroll between the strata. To copy an existing strata, click on the “Strata” menu, then click on “Copy.” The new strata will be assigned the next available strata number.
- *Selecting a Bp Land Unit.* Bp Land Units can be selected from a drop down list of codes. To see the title of each of the Potential Natural Vegetation Groups (PNVGs) in the list, hold the cursor over a code in the drop-down list. A caption containing the PNVG title will appear.
- *Strata Composition.* In the Biophysical Stratification block, you are required to enter a percentage in *Strata Comp* field that shows how much of the landscape project is composed of this strata. As you enter data for each strata, the *Total Strata Comp* field will be automatically updated with the sum of percentages for all strata. If this sum does not equal 100, the value will be displayed as red on yellow.
- *Species Codes.* When entering the *Indicator Species*, use the NRCS species code. There are two ways to enter NRCS codes:
 1. Select a species from the drop-down menu in the *Indicator Species* fields. Instructions for adding species to this drop-down list appear below.
 2. Select a species code through a search. Click on the button labeled *Species*. The *NRCS Species Lookup* form will appear. Scroll through the species using the **<** (“Previous Species”) and the **>** (“Next Species”) buttons. There are over 82,000 species to choose from in the species list so it will be necessary to query the species list for the species you are looking for. Click on the **Build Query** button to put the *NRCS Species Lookup* form into query mode. Enter either the scientific name in the *Scientif Name* (Scientific Name) field or the common name in the *Comm Name* (Common Name) field. Then press the **Exe Query** (Execute Query) button. The form will query the list of species stored in the database, looking for one with the scientific or common name entered. When specifying either the Common or Scientific name you wish to look for, a wildcard of “%” may be used. If more than one species is found for the name you specified for the query, use the **<** (“Previous Species”) and the **>** (“Next Species”) buttons to scroll through the species returned from the query. Once the desired species has been found, check the *Used Locally* checkbox to have this species appear in species dropdown lists in the future. The code for the species can be propagated to the species field on the form by pressing the *Exit w/ Code* button.
- *Adding Photos.* Photos of the strata can be stored in a project as hyperlinks. To enter a photo, place an electronic copy of the photo on the computer’s hard drive. It is recommended that the photo be stored in a compressed format such as TIFF or JPEG. Click the **browse** (“Load Photo”) button next to the photo field.

User Tips

- Ø Any error messages will appear in black text in the lower left portion of the screen.

Navigate to the folder containing the photo file, click on the photo file and click the “Save” button. Once a photo has been added to the strata, the photo can be viewed by clicking the **Photo** (“View Photo”) button. When a photo is added to the strata, the Photo Date field will also be populated with the date associated with the photo on your hard drive. This default photo date can be overwritten if desired.

- *Selecting the drop-down menu fields.* The fields Bp Land Unit Lifeform, Indicator Species, Landform, Average Slope, Insolation Class, Elevation Type, Datum, Reference Composition Source, Current Composition Source, and Native American Influence are all selected using drop-down menus. Click on the grey buttons associated with the field, and then click on the item you want on the drop-down menu. Or, use the “tab” key to move to the next field, then use the up and down arrows to select the desired menu item from the drop-down menu.

User Tip:

∅ When selecting a code from a drop-down menu, hold the cursor over the item (code) in the menu for a second. A tooltip will appear with a description corresponding to the code.

Vegetation-Fuel Class Block

- *Entering Veg-Fuel Class.* To enter the Vegetation Fuel Class, go to the spreadsheet section at the bottom of the strata form. When you create a new strata, five Characteristic Veg-Fuel Classes are defaulted into that part of the form. Each row represents one Characteristic Veg-Fuel Class. From there you fill in the information requested in the columns for each Veg-Fuel Class. When you choose a PNVG, the Reference Composition field is defaulted in.
- *Creating a new Uncharacteristic V-F Class.* To create a new Uncharacteristic V-F Class, click on the “New” button located to the left of the screen, right beneath the “Veg-Fuel Class Data” label. A new row will be added at the bottom of the table.
- *Required Fields.* If you fill in Upper Layer Lifeform, Size Class or Canopy Closure, then those three and the Dominant Species 1 are all required for that Veg-Fuel Class. Required cells will have a light blue background.
- *Percent Composition.* The *Reference Percent Composition* and *Current Percent Composition* are automatically summed for each strata and are displayed at the bottom of the block. If the sum does not equal 100, the value will be displayed as red on yellow.
- *Dominant Species.* Use the NRCS species code. See *Species Codes* above for more information on selecting the NRCS species codes.

Saving the Landscape

Once the Landscape and its Strata and Veg-Fuel Classes have been entered, save the Landscape to the database by pressing the **Save** (“Save Project”) button. The application will check the data for any errors before saving to the database. An error message may appear if an error is present in the data.

Viewing Reports

- View a Standard Landscape report (containing the data entered and the results of the FRCC calculations) by clicking on the **Report** (“Generate Report”) button in the bottom right corner of the Standard Landscape Data Entry Form. A window will come up which displays the Standard Landscape Report for this landscape.
- If the user generates a report for a landscape where the sum of the Strata Compositions does not equal to 100, the report will be generated with the strata composition total in red. The report graphs will also have warnings that the composition total does not equal 100.
- To view the graphs, press the “Page Down” key to move down the report, and the “Page Up” key to move back up the report.
- Print a report by clicking on the “File” menu, then clicking the “Print” menu item. Click “Print” on the print options box that appears.

Section 4: Landscape Scorecard

To open the FRCC Landscape Scorecard Data Entry form in the FRCC software, click the “File” menu, choose “Open Form,” then click “Landscape Scorecard.” When the FRCC Landscape Scorecard starts, the Landscape Data Entry form is opened with a sample project.

Viewing Data.

To view data, scroll through previously entered projects using the  (“Previous Project”) and the  (“Next Project”) buttons located to the right of the Characterization Date field.

Entering Data.

The data is entered into two blocks (Landscape Data and Strata Data); each is explained in more detail below. Each block must be completed before you can move onto the next block and a pop-up error message will appear if required fields are incomplete. Refer to the FRCC Methods Document (available at the FRCC website, (www.frcc.gov) for information about individual fields on the form.

Project Data Block

- *Starting a new project.* Since the database automatically opens with an example project already entered, you will need to create a new project. Click on the “Landscape” menu, then select the “New” menu item.
- *Copying a project.* Click on the “Landscape” menu, then select the “Copy” menu item. Simply change any of the primary key values in the popup box that appears (Registration Code, Project Code, Project ID or Characterization Date) to copy the current Landscape to a new Landscape. In the process of creating the new copy, the existing Landscape will be retained.
- *Adding Photos.* Photos can be stored with a project as hyperlinks. To enter a photo, place an electronic copy of the photo on the computer’s hard drive. It is recommended that the photo be stored in a compressed format such as TIFF or JPEG. Click the  (“Load Photo”) button next to the photo field. Navigate to the folder containing the photo file, click on the photo file and click the “Save” button. Once a photo has been added to the Landscape, the photo can be viewed by pressing the  (“View Photo”) button. When a photo is added to the landscape, the Photo Date field will also be populated with the date associated with the photo on your hard drive. This default photo date can be overwritten if desired.

Strata Block

- *Strata Composition (%).* In the Strata block, you are required to enter a percentage in *Strata Composition* field that shows how much of the landscape project is composed of this strata. When you save the landscape, if the sum of the landscape’s Strata Composition does not equal 100, a warning popup message will alert the user that the sum does not equal 100. Despite the warning, the landscape will still be saved to the database.

- *Adding Strata.* To add additional strata in the Biophysical Stratification block, click on the **New** (“New Strata”) button located to the right of the Strata Num. Once multiple strata have been entered for a project, the **◀** (“Previous Strata”) and the **▶** (“Next Strata”) buttons can be used to scroll between the strata. To copy an existing strata, click on the “Strata” menu, then click on “Copy”.
- *Selecting a Bp Land Unit.* Bp Land Units can be selected from a drop down list of codes. To see the title of each of the Potential Natural Vegetation Groups (PNVG) in the list, hold the cursor over a code in the drop-down list. A caption containing the PNVG title will appear.
- *Selecting a Fire Interval.* The Fire Interval can be selected from a drop down list. To see the Fire Interval along with its associated score (from Table 4-1 in the guidebook) in the list, hold the cursor over a Fire Interval in the drop-down list. A caption containing the Fire Interval and its score will appear.
- *Selecting Frequent Fire Evidence.* To enter the Frequent Fire Evidence, click on the grey button marked “Freq Evid.” A box will pop up with the Frequent Fire Evidence Form. You can fill this out using the dropdown lists. After filling these in, click on the button marked “Sum Freq Fire Ev” and the program will calculate the evidence value for you and enter it in the appropriate field.
- *Selecting a Fire Severity Evidence.* To enter the Fire Severity Evidence, click on the grey button marked “Sev Evid.” A box will pop up with the Fire Severity Evidence Form. You can fill this out using the dropdown lists. After filling these in, click on the button marked “Sum Fire Sev Ev” and the program will calculate the evidence value for you and enter it in the appropriate field.
- *Selecting a Fire Severity Class.* The Fire Severity Class can be selected from a drop down list. To see the Fire Severity Class along with its associated score (from Table 4-1 in the guidebook) in the list, hold the cursor over a Fire Severity Class in the drop-down list. A caption containing the Fire Severity Class and its score will appear.

User Tip

- If you are familiar with this method and are able to calculate the frequent fire evidence and fire severity evidence in your head, you can just enter your value in the appropriate field without using the pop up boxes.
- The forms that pop up when you hit the button for “Freq Fire Ev,” or “Sev Ev” will help you make the necessary calculations without referring to the tables listed in the guide book.

Saving the Landscape

- Once the Landscape and its Strata have been entered, save the Landscape to the database by pressing the **Save** (“Save Project”) button. The application will check for errors before saving to the database.

Viewing Reports

- View a Landscape Scorecard report (containing the data entered and the results of the FRCC calculations) by clicking on the **Report** (“Generate Report”) button in

the bottom right corner of the Landscape Data Entry Form. A window will come up which displays the Landscape Scorecard Report for this Landscape.

- Press the “Page Down” key on your keyboard to view the “Landscape Natural Fire Regime” and “Landscape Fire Regime Condition Class” graphs.
- . If the user generates a report for a landscape where the sum of the Strata Compositions does not equal to 100, the report will be generated with the strata composition total in red. The report graphs will also have warnings that the composition total does not equal 100.
- Print a report by clicking on the “File” menu, then clicking the “Print” menu item. Click “Print” on the print options box that appears

Section 5: Stand Scorecard

To open the FRCC Stand Scorecard Data Entry form in the FRCC software, click the “File” menu, choose “Open Form,” then click “Stand Scorecard.” When the FRCC Stand Scorecard starts, the Stand Data Entry form is opened with a sample project.

Viewing Data.

To view data, scroll through previously entered projects using the  (“Previous Project”) and the  (“Next Project”) buttons located to the right of the Characterization Date field.

Entering Data.

The data is entered into two blocks (Landscape Data and Stand Data); each is explained in more detail below. Each block must be completed before you can move onto the next block. A pop-up error message will appear if required fields are incomplete. Refer to the FRCC Methods Document (available at the FRCC website, (www.frcc.gov) for information about individual fields on the form.

Project Data Block

- *Starting a new project.* Since the database automatically opens with an example project already entered, you will need to create a new project. Click on the “Landscape” menu, then select the “New” menu item.

Stand Block

- *Adding Stands.* To add additional stand to the project, click on the **New** (“New Stand”) button located to the right of the Stand Number field. Once multiple stands have been entered for a project, the  (“Previous Stand”) and the  (“Next Stand”) buttons can be used to scroll between the strata. To copy an existing stand, click on the “Stand” menu, then click on “Copy.”
- *Selecting a Bp Land Unit.* Bp Land Units can be selected from a drop down list of codes. To see the title of each of the Potential Natural Vegetation Groups (PNVG) in the list, hold the cursor over a code in the drop-down list. A caption containing the PNVG title will appear.
- *Adding Photos.* Photos of the stand can be stored in a project as hyperlinks. To enter a photo, place an electronic copy of the photo on the computer’s hard drive. It is recommended that the photo be stored in a compressed format such as TIFF or JPEG. Click the **browse** (“Load Photo”) button next to the photo field. Navigate to the folder containing the photo file, click on the photo file and click the “Save” button. Once a photo has been added to the Landscape, the photo can be viewed by clicking the **Photo** (“View Photo”) button. When a photo is added to the landscape, the Photo Date field will also be populated with the date associated with the photo on your hard drive. This default photo date can be overwritten if desired.
- *Selecting a V-F Class.* Vegetation Fuel Classes can be selected from a drop down list of codes. To see the title of each of the Vegetation Fuel Classes, hold the

cursor over a code in the drop-down list. A caption containing the title will appear.

- *Selecting the remaining fields.* The remaining fields (Abundance, Strata FRCC, Uncharact Amount, Rest Diff) are all selected using drop-down menus. Click on the grey button associated with the field, and then click on the item you want on the drop-down menu. Or, use the “tab” key to move to the next field, then use the up and down arrows to select the desired menu item from the drop-down menu.

Saving the Stand

- Once the Landscape and its Stands have been entered, save the Landscape to the database by pressing the **Save** (“Save Project”) button.

Viewing Reports

- View a Stand Scorecard report (containing the data entered and the results of the FRCC calculations) by clicking on the **Report** (“Generate Report”) button in the bottom right corner of the Landscape Data Entry Form. A window will come up which displays the Stand Scorecard Report for this Landscape.
- To view the graphs associated with the report, press the “Page Down” key to move down the report and the “Page Up” key to move up the report.
- Print a report by clicking on the “File” menu, then clicking the “Print” menu item. Click “Print” on the print options box that appears.