FAQs and Tips – October 2011

Frequently Asked Questions from Landscape Architects Regarding the Installation of the Newest Version of RUSLE2 August 2011

QUESTION #1

As we start to work with this program and questions come up who can we direct them to?

ANSWER #1

You can direct your questions about RUSLE2 to Robert (Bob) Schott in the Office of Storm Water Management. You should also cc to Lisa Worthington as she with be the RUSLE2 contact in the Landscape Architecture Program.

QUESTION #2

I'd like to know where the files that we create in profiles are stored. I've done searches on my computer for the file names and extensions and I don't come up with anything.

ANSWER #2

The profiles you create are stored in the Caltrans _moses database (the .gdb file). It is the only RUSLE2 file I can see that updates its modification date when you save a profile.

QUESTION #3

Has the last class been posted on the Web - we haven't been able to find it?

ANSWER #3

You should be able to find all the recent updates associated with RUSLE2 software and training posted on the following link:

http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/oppd/stormwtr/rusle2.htm#crs

This includes revised RUSLE2 software zip file, revised EPP and appendixes, advanced topics webinar, quick start sheets and the RUSLE2 worksheet.

QUESTION #4

I am having problems deleting old RUSLE2 files and my program gets locked up. I thought I might be able to the source and remove all the files at once rather than one by one?

ANSWER #4

No short method, unfortunately. One trick is to read through the installation instructions for the RUSLE2 Aug 2011 program to ensure that all the folders containing the previous file are identified and removed before installing the new version.

QUESTION #5

Is there a way to create folders in the profile dialog box. I can't seem to locate a way yet?

ANSWER #5

If you want to add a new folder, like in the open profile dialog box- the first one you go to when you launch RUSLE2, do the following. Make sure you don't have any profiles running or any other RUSLE2 sub-window open. Menu click "Database" and select "Rearrange". You will get a window with two "panes" and the pane on the left will have a memory tree with a list of folders and "+" and "-" that should be familiar. Click the "+" opposite "Profiles" folder. Now- position your mouse in the right pane and right-click your mouse to get a grey pop-up window. With any luck and if "Profiles" was highlighted when you right-clicked, you should see "New Folder" in the grey pop-up. From here things are easy, just select "new folder", give it a name. Close the windows and then open a profile- you should see your new folder listed in the window. From here, you should open a profile and then when you do a "save-as" you can direct the save to your new folder.

Warning. Rearranging can damage your database. However, adding new folders should not be a problem- deleting files could be.

QUESTION #6

I wanted to know specifically what files to delete from my previous Rusle2 files so that I do not mess up my previously generated rusle2 runs stored in MOSES.

ANSWER #6

For the following, I believe you can do all of these things using the "rearrange" menu option as described in QUESTION & ANSWER #5. I can't promise that "bad things won't happen" when you use this feature. I am extremely wary of deleting runs that later runs are built upon- earlier versions of RUSLE2 were sensitive to this; the current version may be more robust and stable.

QUESTION #7

Does this new Rulse2 August version allow for the user to file runs into folders?
Make changes to file names?
Allow for the deletion runs not needed?

ANSWER #7

I have some bad news regarding the RUSLE2 update. To update, you need to replace the "moses" file. Unfortunately, the moses file is where all your profile runs are stored. You'd loose these when you update. I'm not sure what is the best way to store RUSLE2 runs. You could print reports, do screen shots, or summarize the results on the new RUSLE2 Worksheets. None of these is automated.

At present, we do not have a consultant on board that has access to the RUSLE2 expert we used to do this year's major revision. However, if we get a list of issues and questions that need expert advice, we may be able to contract for a webinar/ workshop as an aid to our growing number of users.

QUESTION #8

In the installation process, I get as far as the penultimate paragraph in 1. (i.e. "Locate the Rusle2.exe file within the Binaries folder. Double click on the icon. The program should launch as described under # 2 below."

When I do that an Introduction field appears, and asks "2. Which template would you like to use?" and which offers the choice of "CALTRANS Basic Complex Slope" or "CALTRANS Basic Complex Slope Advanced"

Which one should I select?

ANSWER #8

You could select either; the installation instructions suggest the Advanced option but both will work.

A. Download Caltrans RUSLE2

1) Go to the **Caltrans Division of Design, Storm Water website** located at: http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/oppd/stormwtr/rusle2.htm

2) Follow the instructions for downloading and installing Caltrans RUSLE2 under the section entitled "Caltrans RUSLE2 Software."

3) Before running the RUSLE2 program for the first time, make sure to first delete any existing versions of RUSLE from your computer.

B. How to Run RUSLE2

1) Open the "RUSLE2" folder, select the "Binaries" folder, and open the "Rusle2.exe" file.

2) Select "OK" to close the window that appears – it is a warning note for advanced users.

3) The first time you open RUSLE2, an "Introduction" window appears.
   a. Select "Profile" under question 1. Where would you like to start?
   b. Select the "Caltrans Basic Complex slope advanced" option under question 2. Which template would you like to use?

4) Create a new RUSLE2 profile or modify an existing one:
   a. In the "File" menu of the main toolbar, select "Open" then select "Profile."
   b. An "Open" window appears. Open the profile "default" to begin a new profile.
   c. To save your profile, always do a "save as" so you do save over the existing "default" profile.
   d. To open an existing profile, in Step 4b, search for your file when the "Open" window appears and open that one instead of the "default" profile.

5) Modify **climate (R)** by
    a. Selecting the ▼ symbol on the right side of the "Location" box
    b. Climate options are organized by Caltrans District or California County.
    c. To open a folder or make a selection, double-click on the climate file.

6) Modify **slope steepness (S)** by entering the numeric value (%) of your slope.

7) Modify **slope length (L)** by entering the numeric value of the horizontal slope length for your site.

8) Modify **soil (K)** by:
    a. Selecting "Soil" tab.
    b. Click on the ▼ symbol on the right side of the "Soil" field to view the soil options.
    c. Soils are organized by soil texture or California region or County.
    d. Double click to open a folder or to select the soil type corresponding to your site.

9) Modify **C and P Factors to select BMPs**.
    a. Select the "Management" tab. The C and P factors are combined into "Management" options in RUSLE2.
    b. Click on the ▼ symbol on the right side of the "Management" field to view the management options.
    c. Double click to open a folder or to select the BMP or vegetative cover that corresponds to your site.
    d. BMPs organization:
        i. Pre-construction phase BMPs are found under the "Existing Undisturbed Vegetative Cover" folder.
        ii. Construction phase BMPs are found under the "Construction with Temporary Practices" subfolder within the "Highly Disturbed" folder.
        iii. Post-construction phase BMPs are found under the "Post Construction Cut/Fill Surfaces" subfolder within the "Highly Disturbed" folder.
        i.

10) Predicted **erosion results** are reported in tons per acre per year (t/ac/yr). The results are displayed in two fields at the top right corner of the RUSLE2 profile: "Soil loss erodible portion" and "Sediment delivery."

C. Where to Find RUSLE2 Help

1) Caltrans RUSLE2 training class materials
    a. Go to Caltrans Division of Design, Storm Water website (see link above).
    b. Download class presentations and exercises from "Caltrans RUSLE2 Training" section of website.
    c. See presentation slides in Modules 2A for detailed discussions regarding how to select RUSLE2 climate (R) and soil (K) slope steepness (S) and length (L) factors. Modules 2B and 2C provide details on how to select cover (C) and practices (P) within the management tab in RUSLE2 for erosion prediction.
2) Caltrans Erosion Prediction Procedure Manual
    a. Go to Caltrans Division of Design, Storm Water website (see link above).
    b. Download EPP Manual from "Erosion Prediction Procedure" section of website. The EPP Manual details how to predict erosion on Caltrans construction sites, the components and development history of the RUSLE2 program, and the resources available to users in the EPP Manual appendices.

11) Printing

Profile: When you are doing a soil loss calculation and are in the Profile screen, go to the Toolbar,to *File*. Click on *File*, go to the bottom of the drop-down box, to the *Print to MS Word Template* choice. You will get a box that says *"Which Report template would you like to use?"* All of the choices are for Profiles – they will just display different amounts of information. The fourth one down, *"NRCS RUSLE2 profile Record with SCI product"* is usually the most useful one for a field office or a producer. Click on your choice for the template you want to print. This will open up a Word document on your screen. This is an actual MS Word file, so you can add or edit information just like you could in any word document. If you want to print this out, you do that just like you do in word – hit the "*File – Print"* button on the toolbar. If you want to save this document, you can hit "*File – Save As"*, choose the place where you want to save it (on your hard drive, in the producers case file in toolkit, etc.), and save.

Worksheet: The procedure for printing the worksheet, when you are in the Worksheet screen, is the same as described above. When you go to *"File, Print to MS Word Template"* you will still get the box that says "*Which Report template would you like to use?"* This time you will have a choice of three templates. They will each display different amounts of information. When you click on one of these choices, it will open up a word document on your screen. Just as described above, you can enter and edit information in this document, print out a hard copy, and save it on y our hard drive in whatever location you want to.

Plan: The procedure for printing from the Plan screen is the same as above. This time you will have four choices of templates to print.