Estimating Harvesting Costs

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Introduction

The primary focus of this report is to provide an estimate of the costs associated with harvesting timber from Montana forests. This information is intended to assist forest managers and other stakeholders in making informed decisions about timber harvest activities.

Methods

The methods used in this study are based on a comprehensive review of existing data and literature, as well as on interviews with experienced timber harvesters. The costs were estimated using a detailed cost-volume-profit (CVP) analysis, which includes direct and indirect costs associated with the harvesting process.

Objectives

The main objectives of this study are to:

- Estimate the costs of timber harvesting in Montana
- Identify the key drivers of cost variation
- Provide insights that can help inform decision-making in the timber industry

The study focused on the timber harvest operations of three large managers in Montana, who were interviewed to gather detailed information about their operations.

Literature Cited:


Figure 1: Ground-based system

Figure 2: Cable system

Figure 3: On-ground system