WFI Logging Cost Program - 10/9/98

Steps to set up the program:

After downloading the folders and placing them in a directory, open the folder “wfi”

From windows explorer, select the setup.exe program and run it. Follow the installation instructions.

Next the costs need to be updated from what was contained in the program. To do this you need to replace the cost file with another one. Move the file called MainWfia.mdb from the directory where the archived files are to the one the program was installed into.

Delete the file called MainWfi.mdb. This is a different file than the one you moved in the previous step.

Rename the file called MainWfia.mdb to MainWfi.mdb.

The program should be operational now.

WFI Logging Cost Program:

The WFI logging cost program is another way to estimate logging costs. It is a program that estimates costs up to the point where logs are on the truck. The included logging systems are three classes of skyline, cut to length, helicopter (use Helipace for helicopter for Forest Service projects rather than this), shovel, track skidder and wheel skidder. For some of the systems you can either use prebunching or not. This is not a production estimating tool. Its use must be based on a logging feasibility analysis.

When entering data into the program, use the tab key to make the computer accept it. Also use the curser to highlight the cell to enter the data into. There is another tool to use to update the data.

Steps for use:

Select a logging system.

Select a process.

View machinery costs. If you selected a system that has more than one machine type, they are listed at the bottom of the page. Select each of these to view data for the system. The final result of this screen is to come up with total costs or $/operating hour for each machine.

Select the button that says view site costs. This screen lists the machines and their monthly costs and allows you to select different numbers of them. This is also where you put in the number of cutters (called chainsaws in the program) and their cost. The way the program determines falling cost is confusing and potentially misleading because cutters aren't on the job all the time while the program assumes they are. It is possible for you to zero out the number of cutters and figure falling costs outside the program. Also the cost per day of $300 is not correct for some areas so it may be necessary for you to use a different number. The purpose of this screen is to determine total site costs.

Select next to go to the next screen which is the yarding distance screen.

This program figures costs for a few different situations, one of them being yarding distances. During program development, many loggers throughout Oregon were interviewed to determine production for different yarding distances and cut volume per acre and tree size. The program is not a production model so you need to know what production to expect. So select the yarding distance then the next button to go to the next screen.

Select a harvesting regimen and tree size.

The program produces loads per day and board feet per load. Don't change this because there is probably not a basis for changing it.

Select the calculate logging cost button

The next screen is the net logging costs screen. The program has the capability of displaying results in $/MBF or $/CCF. To control this it needs a conversion factor. The default conversion factor is wrong. Enter a correct one. The costs are for the logging situations the data was based on. In the center of the screen there is a listing of loads per day and costs per MBF or CCF. Here you need some judgement. You can pick whatever production level you like but it must be based on a feasibility analysis that provides production.

To toggle between MBF and CCF cost select the To Hundred Cubic Feet or To Board Feet button.

You can also graph it and print it.

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