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Logging Cost Indices for the United States

Authors: Elizabeth Dodson, Dale Greene, Shawn Baker, Steve Hayes

University of Montana, USA, elizabeth.dodson@umontana.edu

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In 2012, the University of Georgia (UGA) developed a Southern Logging Cost Index through intensive interviews with contractors to determine the makeup of logging costs for individual firms. UGA's methodology relies on publicly-available data for a quarterly computation of changes in cut and load logging costs. Following the same methodology, the University of Montana (UM) is currently collecting baseline logging cost information for the western United States (ID, MT, OR and WA) to serve as a basis for a western logging cost index while UGA develops and tests methodology for periodic validation of these indices through both an online survey and personal interviews. This presentation will discuss how different sectors of the forest value chain can use these logging cost indices in planning and negotiation, thereby providing businesses an additional tool to assist in financial management of their firm.