Equipment and Terrain Impacts on Costs of Erosion Control on Skid Trails in Kentucky

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Abstract

A time and motion study for skid trail construction in Kentucky revealed important relationships between terrain, equipment available for water bar construction, and operator experience. Labor, machine activities, and revegetation times and expenses were recorded non-industrial private logging sites in eastern central and western Kentucky. Average total machine time for retirement activities was similar for sites using dozers (51 minutes / 1000 ft.) and skidders (52 minutes / 1000 ft.), but the per water bar construction time was much less for dozers (1.5 minutes) than skidders (3.5 minutes). Equipment, operator experience, and skid trail percent slope are important considerations when attempting to minimize erosion control costs.

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