Forest Management Decisions of Nonindustrial Private Forest Landowners of West Virginia

Sudiksha Joshi¹ and Kathryn G. Arano²

Abstract: Private forest landowners own the largest share of the forest land in the United States. Majority of the fluctuations in future timber supply have been predicted to result from the activities of these private forest landowners. Examining the forest management decisions of these individuals is therefore important. This paper uses logistic regression models to examine the influence of various landowner and ownership characteristics to the type of forest management activity landowners undertake in their forest. The paper is based on the data from a mail survey conducted in August 2005 to 2100 nonindustrial private forest landowners in West Virginia. Results show that distance of the forest from the place of residence, age, educational level, and household income are influential in determining whether landowners will conduct any form of forest management activity. Also, year of forest land acquisition, presence of written forest management plan, perception of risk in timber investment, prior involvement in the carrying out timber harvesting were found to influence whether or not a landowner would conduct timber harvesting activities.

Keywords: NIPF landowners, forest management activities, logistic regression

¹ Graduate Research Assistant, Division of Forestry and Natural Resources, West Virginia University, P.O. Box 6125, Morgantown, WV 26506.
² Assistant Professor, Division of Forestry and Natural Resources, West Virginia University, P. O. Box 6125, Morgantown, WV 26506, Kathryn.Arano@mail.wvu.edu, 304) 293-2941 (v).