

Name(s)

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2008 PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Number

J1306

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Project Title Transect Sampling: A Statistical Model Demonstration of Accuracy in Forestry Management

Objectives/Goals

Abstract

This project considers a mathematical model that examines whether transect sampling of small forest areas statistically represents larger populations.

Methods/Materials

A model of 24 scale hectares with "tree" samples was created to represent a large population. Random transect lines were drawn and smaller hectare samples were derived and t-tested for reliability. Later stages of the project examined real data to examine whether the model duplicated actual field data.

Results

All of the smaller model samples failed the t-test at a 95% confidence level. An examination of comparative real field data also indicated similar results in that most samples failed t-test reliability.

Conclusions/Discussion

Transect sampling may not adequately represent a medium size larger mother population.

Summary Statement

This project considers a mathematical model that examines whether transect sampling of small forest areas statistically represents larger populations.

Help Received