

- management process;
- provide management information systems from which evidence about the dynamics of forest ecosystems can be unequivocally deduced and reported;
- develop and utilise growth models which are in balance with overall system sensitivities; and
- focus on internal monitoring and reporting of operational performance and the state of ecosystems, in addition to auditing and certification by independent outsiders.

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Forestry Software use in New Zealand

Hugh Bigsby

In order to get an idea of what software people are using in the forestry sector, a survey was sent out with the November issue of the Journal. There were only 27 respondents to this inaugural survey so the results will have to be viewed accordingly. Nonetheless, the surveys that were returned provide some interesting observations.

Respondents were asked to indicate the major types of forestry analysis that they were involved with. As can be seen in Table 1, most were involved in some sort of financial analysis or forest valuation activity. In many cases this also meant that they were also involved in plantation establishment and management, or involved in wood supply analysis.

Respondents were asked to identify the software that

Table 1 Major types of forestry analysis

Financial Analysis and Forest Valuation	22
Plantation Establishment and Management	17
Wood Supply Analysis	12
Forest Engineering	0
Forest Health	1
Market Forecasting	1
Logistics	1
Harvesting Documentation	1

they used in particular applications. The responses are summarised in Table 2.

Database modelling showed the widest variation in software used. While Microsoft Access was the most frequently used software, with 50 per cent of respondents using this package, there were 7 other packages with 2 or more users.

In growth and yield modelling, Forest Research's software dominates. Of those involved in growth and yield modeling, 82 per cent use Standpak, and 59 per cent use some version of MARVL. In addition, 55 per cent of those involved in growth and yield modeling use both Standpak and one of the versions of MARVL.

Forest Research's software also dominates in inventory analysis, with 81 per cent of respondents in this area using MARVL. FMS and Forest Master were being used as a substitute for MARVL by 2 respondents.

Table 2 Software

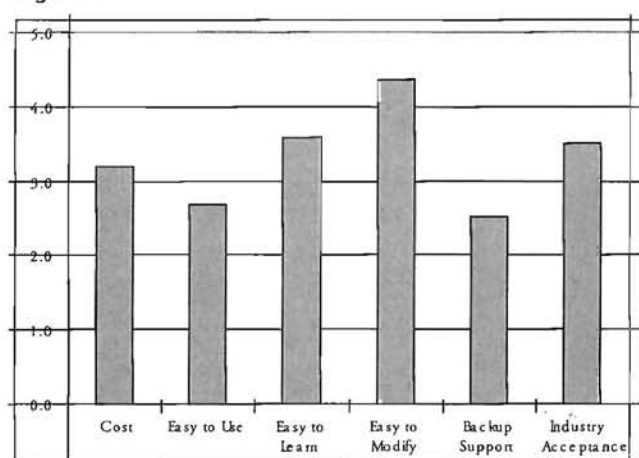
	Database (n=18)	Growth & Yield (n=22)	Inventory (n=21)	Estate (n=14)	Financial (n=18)
Access	9	-	1	-	3
Arcview	2	-	-	-	-
C+	-	1	1	-	-
CH	1	-	-	1	-
Crystal Ball	-	-	-	-	1
Cash Manager	-	-	-	-	1
Cwhiz	-	-	-	1	-
Excel	2	1	3	2	16
FIPS	2	-	-	-	2
FMS	2	-	1	-	-
FOLPI	-	-	-	7	2
Foresight	-	-	-	1	-
Forest Master	2	-	1	-	-
Foxpro	1	-	-	-	-
GroMARVL	-	7	-	-	-
IFS	-	-	-	6	-
Impromptu	-	-	-	-	1
Ingres	2	-	-	-	1
Lotus	1	-	1	-	1
MARVL	-	11	17	-	-
MIP	-	-	-	1	-
MSDE	1	-	-	1	-
Psp	1	-	-	-	-
QADI	-	-	1	-	-
RMS20/20	-	-	-	3	1
SAS	2	1	1	2	2
SQL Server	3	-	-	-	-
Standpak	-	18	1	1	1
TT	-	1	-	-	-
Unix	-	1	1	-	-
VB	1	-	-	1	-

Estate modelling is dominated by Forest Research's FOLPI and IFS packages. 79 per cent of respondents in this area used either FOLPI or IFS (only one indicated they used both). Most other software was used in conjunction with either of these packages.

Financial modelling is largely done using spreadsheets. Microsoft Excel was used by 89 per cent of respondents and 5 per cent used Lotus 123. Almost half of those using spreadsheets, used them in conjunction with other software.

Respondents were also asked to rank, in order of importance with 1 being most important, the key factors that they looked for in forestry software. As can be seen in Figure 1, ease of use and backup support were the most important factors overall.

Figure 1



Forest Modelling Part II

Due to the number of contributions received for this Focus On: Forest Modelling, not all copy could be used in this edition of the Journal.

Therefore, the next edition of the Journal will include a Forest Modelling Part II section.

Look out for, among others, an update on programmes at Forest Research.

For further information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact the publisher.

Tel: (07) 349 4107; Fax: (07) 349 4157; Email: bms@wave.co.nz