

**2016 NASP Inventory/Monitoring and Decision Support (IMDS)**

Statistics Module, Lisa M. Ganio

September 12-23, 2016, Oregon State University, Corvallis

Please read “A Statistics Primer for Foresters” by S. Stafford (from the *Journal of Forestry*) and Chapter 1 of “*Statistics as Principled Argument*” by R. Abelson (both on the IMDS website) before you do the pre-class exercise below.

This pre-class exercise is designed to get you thinking about the purpose of statistical description and analysis. You’re not required to conduct any statistical hypothesis tests for this exercise, but you may wish to compute some summary statistics. This exercise is due on Monday morning of September 12<sup>th</sup> at the start of class. You might find it helpful to bring 2 copies to class – one to turn in and one to keep and refer to. I’ll grade them based on the quality of your description of the 2 plots and the 2 types of trees.

The data in the associated Excel spreadsheet are the diameters (DBH in inches) of 70 trees located in 2 different plots. Each tree may be alive or dead (indicated by ‘snag’). Each plot was 0.1 acres in size, and all the trees in each plot were measured. Assume that the measured plot trees are representative of all the trees in the area.

You may use any tools you wish – computer/software, paper/pencil etc. to complete the assignment. This is not meant to be an exercise in learning new software. Feel free to do simple things if that’s what’s comfortable for you.

**Assignment:**

1. Examine (analyze) the data. Then write a paragraph describing the distributions of diameters of trees in plot 1 and (separately) plot 2. Also describe any similarities or differences between those plots. Please use simple language that a co-worker or supervisor would understand.
2. Summarize your results by describing what the stands that surround the plots might look like assuming the plots are representative of the surrounding stand.
3. In a short paragraph summarize your past experience with statistics. Describe any courses on statistics that you have taken, list the software you use to analyze or describe “data”. This information will help us understand the range of experience in the class.