Workload benefits of using synthetic ropes in cable yarder rigging in Norway

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Giovanna Ottaviani¹, Bruce Talbot¹, Morten Nitteberg¹, Karl Stampfer²,
¹Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute
²University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna
3,5 mm steel wire, 39 g/m

4 mm fibre rope, 11g/m
QUESTION

Can we quantify the ergonomic benefit, if any, gained by using a synthetic rope instead than a steel cable in the rigging task while setting up a skyline?
THE TRIAL’S SITE

The site was located on a west facing slope outside the town of Kvam in central Norway. A 300m trail on an active logging site (an actual corridor that had been logged) was marked out in twelve 25 m segments.
The terrain profile was captured using a Haglöf Vertex® clinometer. The mean inclination from first to last point was 65%
THE OPERATORS
TREATMENTS

- Walking the profile with no load (Z)
- Pulling out the 4.0 mm synthetic strawline weighing 11g/m (X)
- Pulling out the 3.5 mm steel wire strawline weighing 39 g/m (W)
THE DATA

COLLECTED:
1. Gradient (%)  
2. Distance (m)  
3. Heart rate (Beats/sec)  
4. Force (N)  
5. Velocity (m/s)  
6. Time (s)

DERIVED:
1. Work (Joule)  
2. Rate of work (W)  
3. Altitude (m)
THE MAIN VARIABLES

FORCE (N)
WORK (J)
RATE OF WORK (W)
HEART RATE (Bpm)
THE GENERAL ANALYSIS

ERGONOMIC ADVANTAGE?

FORCE, WORK DONE, WORK RATE and HEART RATE

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TREATMENTS
FORCE MONITORING
Put the model regression equation
Giovanna Ottaviani; 31.03.2011
THE RATE OF WORK
PHYSIOLOGICAL MEASUREMENTS

Heart rate monitoring.
THE HEART RATE

![Heart Rate Graph](image_url)

Subject B

Heart rate (bpm)

Time (s)
CONCLUSIONS

The use of the synthetic rope in the rigging task results in an **ergonomic advantage** because:

- The force needed to pull the synthetic rope up to 300 m is 25% of the force needed for the steel wire.
- 140N was the maximum possible pulling force exerted by the subjects.
- Beyond 300m two workers would be necessary to pull the steel wire. The 140N barrier for the synthetic rope would only be reached at 1200m.

This finding is illustrated by the heart rate pattern.
Dank für ihre Aufmerksamkeit
(Thank you for your attention!)