

SIGN ESTIMATOR TOOL – USER GUIDE

Purpose: The Sign Estimator Tool can assist sign program managers in obtaining near-perfect panel measurements for site-specific (custom grid) signage. This is an interim tool to provide some level of functionality in the absence of Sign Pro.

Step 1: Visit the NRM Gateway sign page “[Working Without Sign Pro](#)” and scroll to the design section

Working Without Sign Pro – Tips and Tools

BACKGROUND: Sign Pro System is Adobe Flash supported and was rendered inoperable January 1, 2021 as part of a DoD-wide mandate to improve cyber security. Sign Pro is a frequently used tool and teams are actively working the problem, but a resolution date has yet to be determined. The following are interim tips and tools for maintaining basic functions of your project sign program without the Sign Pro tool.

Inventory Management
Teams are working on a method to pull the existing inventory data out of sign pro into an accessible format for project sign managers. It is recognized changes to inventories are ongoing and a method is needed to document these changes. To accomplish this, sign managers should reference and adapt any existing inventories maintained at their project in hardcopy or electronic format. If an existing inventory is not available, guidance on developing and maintaining a sign plan/inventory is available in section 3 of the sign manual. The following forms are available to assist program managers until an enterprise-wide inventory tool is available:

- [Sign Inventory Worksheets](#) – forms established in the sign manual
- [Alternative Sign Inventory Worksheet](#) – fillable form (excel), incorporating additional feature information similar to Sign Pro data-entry requirements

Design
One of the most helpful features of Sign Pro is the design tool to create compliant, site-specific (custom grid) signage and generate dimensions and scaled image proofs. Options for reproducing this feature are admittedly limited, but include:

- Reference Volume II, Section D of the sign manual to determine legend lengths and panel dimensions. The Sign Advisory Working Group is developing an excel-based grid calculator tool to facilitate the process established in Section D of the manual. A link to that tool is targeted for February, 2022.

Navigation:

- Home
- Sign Pro
- Sign Manual
- Policy & Procedures
- Training
- News & Current Issues
- Toolbox/Best Practices
- Points of Contact & Expertise
- FAQs
- Program Summary

Step 2: Determine the type of sign needed and open the corresponding excel file.
Additional sign types/files will be made available as time/demand allows

Sec. 5 – Standard ID (primary)

Oak Camp
Campsites 1-20

Sec. 5 – Standard ID (secondary)

Step 3: Select the appropriate grid (number of lines of text) from the excel tabs (bottom of spreadsheet)

Instructions | Grid 1-0 | Grid 1-1 | Grid 1-2 | Grid 2-0 | Grid 2-1 | Grid 2-2

Step 4: Enter the sign legend (text) for each line

Floating Mill
Center Hill Lake

Line 1
Line 2

Enter Font Size: **6**

Panel Dimension: **102.69** x **27**

line 1 text length: **54.69**
line 2 text length: **35.94**

Step 4: Enter the legend height in yellow cell and press enter. The panel dimensions & line lengths will automatically be calculated.

Remember: legend height does not always correspond to the largest letter – see the sign manual for details

The screenshot shows a software interface for sign estimation. At the top, a dark green banner contains the text "Floating Mill" and "Center Hill Lake" in white. To the left of the banner is the US Army Corps of Engineers logo, and to the right is the U.S. Army logo. Below the banner, the text "Enter Font Size" is followed by a yellow box containing the number "6". A red arrow points to this box. To the right, "Panel Dimension" is shown as "102.69 x 27" in green boxes. Below that, "line 1 text length" is 54.69 and "line 2 text length" is 35.94. On the far right, "Line 1" and "Line 2" are labeled.

Enter Font Size	6	Panel Dimension	Width	Height	line 1 text length	line 2 text length
			102.69	27	54.69	35.94

Disclaimers:

- The Sign Estimator Tool is a calculator to determine panel sizes. It does not reflect a proportionate mock-up. Some lines of text may appear shorter/longer in the tool versus the final panel (note the line length measurements in tool)
- Take care in preparing messages and line lengths to ensure visual balance, legibility, and communicated impact.
- The tool cannot reproduce every nuance of the sign standards. Users must still be familiar with the sign standards manual to ensure compliant signage.

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