



Evaluation of the Economic Values of Natural Resources(Case study: Zanjan Province Pastures)

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Value is a subjective issue and people evaluate a subject according to their interests and ideas. In fact, value is a means for optimal allocation of resources and determination of the favorable position of a target that is somewhat variable based on a preferred way of thinking politicians, influential individuals and groups. Values are the basis of planning, so the actual valuation of issues is very important in the development to society. One of the main causes of the destruction of natural resources is lack of awareness about the economic value of these resources; in particular, in our country, a good mechanism for economic valuation of natural resources has not been provided yet. A watershed basin as an area for water production or the value of one hectare of forest has no objective meaning. Economic development issues are the main challenge and duty of any government, but the consequences of ignoring the environment and nature along with scientific achievement and experiences of the past two decades, have suggested the importance of the environment and its conservation and management in the economic literature and economists are emphasizing on the importance of natural resources and its sustainable economic development. More than 50 percent of Zanjan province is composed of national land area and ranges that make up an important role in the economy of the province. Understanding the economic values of pastures can be as the first step towards sustainable development.

Key Words: Economic value, Sustainable Development, Ranges, Zanjan