Economic efficiency of different wildland fire prevention management schemes: a case study in Catalunya (NE Spain)

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Abstract

In Catalonia wildland fires are a severe problem. In the past 20 years 6 extreme fire events occurred, resulting in 140.000 ha of burned forests. Therefore, nowedays, more emphasis is put to the implementation of forest management schemes which could prevent such chatastrophies. When selecting the appropriate management scheme it is not only evaluated by it's preformance regarding the risk of forest fire occurence, but as well with regard to it's economic efficiency. The paper examines a case study conducted in the rural area of Solsona county (NE Spain). By applying a Cost Benefit analysis the economic efficiency of four different possible landscape management schemes were estimated and compared. A special attention is focussed on the effects of forest management and grazing activities in fire risk decrease.

Key Words: wildland fire, landscape management scenarios, economic efficiency, Cost Benefit analysis, Catalonia, Spain

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