

A Suggestion for Forestry: Assigning Idle Public Lands to Private Sector by Projecting and Provisioning

Mustafa Durman, Murat Fatih Köymen

F.E.&A.S. of DPÜ

E –mails: *durman007@hotmail.com, siffah@gmail.com*

Abstract

Land is a widespread natural resource and commonly used by humans. It is commonly used distributed for agriculture, forestry, urbanization, resting, transportation and settling. Land is not a renewable resource and is under the threat of erosion, polluting and salinization because of agricultural irrigations. In consequence of increasing population and industrialization wetlands, agricultural lands and forests are used for settlement and industrial areas. Maximizing utility of resources is an essential issue for environmental economics. Thus maximizing utility of land uses is an essential issue for land using strategies. When viewed from this aspect it is obvious that land areas of a country are shared by public (state) and private sectors. In public areas forest areas have an important share. There are enormous amount of areas which are owned by state but they are waiting idle. In this paper after analyzing present administrations we will make a suggestion. We will focus on assigning these idle areas to private sector for forestry use. It is hoped that this assignment will contribute the problems of unemployment, income, cleaning the atmosphere, preventing erosion and input for industrial production. Despite the subsidies, private foresting is inadequate. We will suggest publicizing investors by projecting the proper lands, subsidizing and presenting economic potentials of these areas.

1. INTRODUCTION

Forests create distinctive climates on large land masses. Organisms forming forests are trees lives on significant altitudes, soil and density, bushes, alga, fern, mushrooms, underground and surface microorganisms, insects and animals (Ayanoğlu 1999). The 6831 numbered forest law defines as “Trees growing naturally or by planting and woods are ranked as forests with their land areas. But...” Then the law defines exceptions.

Forests occupy an important place in human life. They are one of the most important renewable raw materials and energy resources. Forests clean the weather and protect the moisture balance of atmosphere. Because they oxygenate for carbon dioxide balance forests

are essential. Forests decrease the negative effects of drought, frost, high temperature, spankings and protect earth against erosion. They help protecting plant and animal diversity. Forests as a natural resource which are subject to distribution between generations should be protected for future generations while providing today's human needs (Aras, Çalışkan 2004).

Forests are natural resources which affect water and earth regimes, economy, the need of recreation, climate and health positively (Korkmaz 2010).

While reviewing contributions of forests economically it is possible to divide these like pecuniary and non pecuniary contributions. Timber based first order forest products, non timber based second order products, decreasing effect on difference between regional development levels, contribution to other sectors and positive effect on balance of payments can be examples to their pecuniary contributions. On the other hand their help on climate, water and soil can be examples to their non pecuniary contributions (Ormanlarımızın Faydaları OGM).

2. Material and Method

Literature review on forestry and private forestry is made and works on this field are tried to be presented. Share of private forests on world and Turkey will be revealed by percentage. Subsidies for private forestry in Turkey, the expectations of private afforesters, sum of private afforestation in last years will be revealed and will be tried to analyze the disruptions. Then with a review, a suggestion will be enhanced.

2.1. Findings

Forests are not homogenous on natural diversity and property basis. Forests grow without human effort is called natural forests and forests planted by humans are called artificial forests. They can be described in three ways. Forests which help the protection of water, earth and climate are defined as conservation forests. These cannot be operated. Forests which help tourism, help recreation need, embody natural beauties and serves science and art are defined as national parks. Operating these parks is tied to strict rules. Forests which are used for harvesting forest products are defined as operation forests (Korkmaz 2010).

All world attach importance to forests and there are researches for utilizing from them more efficiently. The idea 'private forestry increases efficiency of producing, management and protection' spreads. Some countries extend private forestry with respect to this idea. The proportions of private forests in the continental basis are: Africa 2%, Asia 5%, South America 17%, Oceania 24%, North and Central America 30% (Yeşildağ 2009). "Percentage of forests in total land area for countries: Germany 31.5%, Austria 47%, Spain 51.3%, Sweden 68.1%, Finland 77.8%, and the world average is 40.9%" (Korkmaz 2010). Countries appreciate both forests and private forestry. Thanks to this appreciation and subsidies

percentage of private and public corporation forests in total forest areas in Germany 42%, Spain 61%, Sweden 71%, Finland 71%. But in Turkey it is only about 1% (Korkmaz 2010).

According to Orman Genel Müdürlüğü (General Directorate of Forestry) the view of afforestation efforts in world and Turkey are like this: 24% of world forests are private forests. This percentage reaches to 61% in EU (VII. Five Year Development Plan). In Turkey 99.5% of forests are belong to state. The percentage of registered private forests is only 0.05% (URL2).

Turkey's location on world is very proper for afforestation. 75% of Anatolian lands were forests ten thousands years ago but unfortunately today it is 26%. Sufficient productive forests are only 14% of Anatolian area. A country can be counted as a rich forest country she should have 33% forest of total lands. Therefore Turkey's forests are not enough with this statistics (Seval Aras, meb, 182). If we look at Turkey's forests 27% of forests are marsh forests (19% non yielding, 8% yielding), 73% woods (31% non yielding, 42 yielding) (Ormanlarımızın Faydaları, OGM).

Ağaçlandırma Genel Müdürlüğü (General Directory of Forestation) defines private forestation like this: "Properties protected and utilized by owner; non yielding forest lands, idle forest lands, treasury lands, properties of individuals and corporations; which are projected and approved by Ministry of Environment and Forestry are "private forestation"" (URL2). Figures which can afforest are: Village Corporations, Municipalities, Public Institutions and Corporations, Agricultural Development co-ops, Village Serving Units, Chambers, Clubs, Foundations, Commercial Corporations and Individuals. There is no difference between private forestation as an individual or corporation in Turkey.

Subsidies given to private forestation by General Directory of Forestry: In purpose of private forestation grants given to village corporations and loans given to individuals or other corporations. Groups can get grants or loans are;

- Land clearing (clearance of undesirable ground cover of area and plowing),
- Sowing and planting costs,
- Seedling (grafted or ungrafted) and seed costs,
- Barbed tape, fence, surrounding wall costs,
- 3 year maintenance costs,
- Projecting costs,
- Pruning costs,
- Grafting costs,

Grants or loans are assigned by General Directory according to General Directory of Forestation and Erosion Control's constant prices with regard to projected work's amount. After project is done interim payments are given. Therefore projectors should sign an

obligation or estate mortgage. For obligation there should be two respected and solidary bailsmen and public notary approval. Bailsmen should be registered to Commercial or Industrial Chambers or Craftsman's Associations. (URL3). Loans given for trees like pine, cedar and fir will be paid after the end of 30th year as only capital. Loans given for trees like walnut, chestnut and pistachio will be paid after the end 15th year with an interest rate which equals 1/7 of T.C. Ziraat Bank's agricultural loan interest rate for small business stock (URL3).

Despite these subsidies private forestators have some demands:

- To be informed by experts about buying seedlings, planting and maintaining,
- Faster bureaucratic transactions for subsidies,
- Increase in loan unit prices or increase in number of components
- After reaching a point of land area permission to build a wooden shelter for tools,
- Disengage village headmen and abolish the need of their permission,
- Grants or loans should be given by a unique institution,
- Permission to graft for olive groves,
- Permission to second order plants and their loaning (Özkurt, A., Yeşilkaynak, B)

The results of private forestation efforts in last 10 years in Turkey are given below.

Year	State Forests (decare)	Treasury Areas (decare)	Private Areas (decare)	Total (decare)
2002	17,110	4,851	29	21,990
2003	43,177	6,228	25	49,430
2004	77,683	6,344	2,213	86,240
2005	90,535	10,178	4,317	105,030
2006	69,611	37,241	3,168	110,020
2007	55,663	22,987	3,250	81,900

2008	77,759	11,217	1,364	90,340
2009	71,858	18,337	5,155	95,350
2010	145,581	16,116	11,363	173,060
2011	70,785	7,909	6,966	85,660
Total	719,762	141,408	37,850	899,020

Table 1: The Results Of Private Forestation Efforts In Last 10 Years In Turkey

Source:URL3

Despite the subsidies private forestations are not even 100.000ha/year in last ten years.

There are 3,715,642 real estates registered to Turkish Treasury with an areas 211,151 km². This area is 25.92% of Turkey's total land surface. Only 651,585 of these areas are allocated. These areas are 13.39% of Turkey's total land surface. Therefore Turkey's lands' 12.53% is waiting idle or utilized illegally (URL4).

3. Review and Conclusion

Pecuniary and non pecuniary benefits of forests and forestation are indicated above. Plus these benefits while a country has a serious problem of unemployment and low income problem laying aside these areas idle doesn't seem rational. If the present administrative applications are not enough then disruptions and inabilities should be determined, problems should be asked to investors. And then the precautions believed to solve the problem should be taken. In this paper we found that despite all these subsidies, idle treasury and state owned lands and the unemployment rate above 10% there is no enough private forestation. Cause of this situation is not the scarce of labor, capital or natural resources. Most important reason here is inadequacy of information flows. Lots of investors are unaware about this investment option. We suggest that: Opportunities in this investment field should be announced clearly and may be the most importantly this investment options should be projected properly and be reported to individuals. This work is agriculture focused. And people who interest in agriculture might give up because of the technical difficulties as projecting.

REFERENCES

Aras,S., Çalışkan, V., Türkiye'nin Beşeri Ve Ekonomik Coğrafyası, Meb Basımevi, İstanbul, 2004

Ayanoğlu, S. Anayasa Hükümleri Karşısında Orman Mevzuatımız, Ormancılık Hukuku, Türkiye Çevre Vakfı Yayını, Ankara 1999.

Korkmaz, Y., Özel Ormanlar ve Mülkiyet Açısından Değerlendirilmesi, Gazi Üniversitesi Hukuk Fakültesi Dergisi, C.XIV, 2010

Orman Genel Müdürlüğü, URL2,
<http://www.agm.gov.tr/AGM/AnaSayfa/faliyetler/ozelagaclandirma.aspx?sflang=tr>

Orman Genel Müdürlüğü, URL3,
http://www.agm.gov.tr/AGM/Files/faaliyetler/ozel_agaclandirma/sorularla_ozel_agaclandirma.pdf

Ormanlarımızın Faydaları, OGM, URL1,
http://web.ogm.gov.tr/Resimler/sanalkutuphane/ormanin_faydalari.pdf

Özkurt, A.,Yeşilkaynak, B., Özel Ağaçlandırma Çalışmalarının Sosyal Ve Ekonomik Boyutu - Mersin Örneği-, 1. Ormancılıkta Sosyo-Ekonomik Sorunlar Kongresi, Isparta, 2009

URL3, <http://www2.tbmm.gov.tr/d24/7/7-3270sgc.pdf>

URL4, <http://www.milliemlak.gov.tr/istatistiksel-bilgiler> Tarih:07.03.1

Yeşildağ, G., Dünyada Bazı Ülkelerde Özel Orman Mülkiyetinin Gelişimi, Ormancılıkta Sosyo-Ekonomik Sorunlar Kongresi, Isparta, 2009