



Assessing the Economic Value of Forest Fire Danger Forecasts in Germany

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In Germany a total area of 740 hectares of wood are burned in 1160 forest fires on average (1991-2013). Due to this in most federal states of Germany forest fire warning systems are implemented. Prevention actions are often based on the forest fire danger forecasts provided from March to October by the German Meteorological Service. To determine the value of these forecasts one has to calculate the damages prevented with them or in other words: What is the difference of the damages with and without the forecasts?

This contribution first provides a framework to determine the economic damage caused by forest fires in Germany. It is shown that the economic damage of forest fires in Germany depends mainly on the value of the loss of wood, the reforestation costs and the extinguishing costs. The results for Germany are presented in the contribution. Secondly - based on the forest fire warning system in the federal state of Bavaria - a part of the damages without forest fire danger forecasts are estimated.

Finally the contribution deals with the difficulties to take into account all important influences regarding forest fire damage. Particularly the change in reaction of humans with information about forest fire danger has to be included and not only the forecasts as a factor to make decisions in federal institutions.