

Comparison of recreation value versus non-use values (existence and bequest) of the Bazangan Lake

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Abstract

Bazangan Lake is the largest natural lake in northeastern part of Iran, which is one of the national monuments and typical tourist areas of Khorasan Razavi province. The present study tries to help the wiser management of ecotourism by estimation and comparing the recreation value of Bazangan Lake versus non-use value (bequest and existence) values of this natural-tourism site. Recreational value by using the travel cost method, according to the average annual cost per person per household, which was measured at 375,000 Tomans, was estimated at about 33.75 billion Tomans. The protective value of Bazangan was calculated 370.8 million Tomans by using the conditional valuation method according to the average willingness to pay (WTP), 324,000 Tomans. Moreover, intrinsic attraction of this natural lake one of the reasons for the considerable value for the conservation value of the lake compared to its recreational value is the insufficient infrastructure for tourism development and the high understanding of tourists about the conservational of the lake and the need for its survival for future generations. Finally, with the condition of improving and preparing the conditions for easier recreation of tourists, an average of 15,000 Tomans was offered for the entry of each person, which can still be used to meet the needs of tourists.

Keywords: Ecotourism, Economic valuation, Non-use value, Natural environment.