

Mine permission process in state forests and the importance of rehabilitation (Example of Bartın Province)

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Abstract: Turkey, which is a country very rich in respect to natural resources, sometimes has a conflict of priority between renewable natural resources and non-renewable natural resources due to its level of superiority. This is inevitable especially in the demand for mining exploration and exploitation in forest areas covering about 27% of the country's total surface area. Mining on forest lands is an important land use change example and is directly related to global climate change. Nowadays, while the adverse effects of global climate change are increasing at a noticeable rate and while the areas where the forests allowed as mining sites are exposed to other negative natural phenomena such as flood, erosion and so on, it is necessary that the legal background is to be very carefully formed and the permission period is to be controlled very well. For this reason, mining permits in the state owned forests have been subjected to very detailed and comprehensive legal regulations. Since forest functions should be protected the best during the operations of these activities, it is essential to forests are minimally damaged. In addition, the rehabilitation of the areas after the end of the permit periods have been arranged in detail both in the Turkish environmental and forestry legislation. In this context, according to the Article 16 of the Forest Law No. 6831 and the relevant regulation, after the mining activities are carried out in the State forests, the owner of the mining permit has to make the rehabilitation of the site to be delivered to the forest administration. The rehabilitation issue is very important when the permit period reach the expiration. The conditions such as aiming/trying to give permission from forest areas with low productivity, inspection during the permission period, examination the provisions of rehabilitation conditions at the end of the permission period and retrieval of the field, clearly, show that the forest areas are being protected in the mining permit process.

In this research, the quantities of mining permits given in the State Forests within the boundaries of Bartın province, which is rich both in terms of forest and mineral resources, will be determined and the legal process will be examined at each stage. Later on, the concerns about rehabilitation, the precautions to be taken for the fields that mining permits have expired, and the legal provisions will be evaluated

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