

要 旨

高知県の森林環境税を用いた間伐方法に関する調査研究

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近年、日本では外国産木材の輸入の自由化等の原因から、国産木材の価格が低迷し、林業経営者の経営意欲の減退を招いている。その結果、人工林が放置され、荒廃が進み、森林の機能の低下や自然災害の発生等が懸念されている。そこで高知県では、県民全員で森林を保全していくために平成 15 年度より森林環境税が導入されている。

税の導入後、県民意識の向上などの効果は表れているが、まだ充分とはいえない。また間伐も目標以上の成果はあげているが、その面積はまだまだ少なく、森林の多面的機能の向上が図られるまでには至っていない。税は来年度で第一期を満了するため、森林環境税の存続についてもう一度見直す時期にきている。

本研究では、文献調査や関係者への聞きとり調査から森林環境税が抱える問題点を探り、その構造を分析し、重要な問題点をあきらかにすることを試みた。

分析を試みた結果、ボランティア団体と林業関係者の不十分な連携など、様々な問題を抽出できた。そこで、行政や林業団体などの各組織が協働・協力していくことによってボランティア活動の場を増やすこと、それらの活動報告を公開することによって、県民の森林環境税の認知と森林への関心を高めることを提案した。これらの方策によって、県民参加の森づくりが推進されることを期待したい。

キーワード 森林機能低下, 森林環境税, 協働, 県民参加の森づくり

Abstract

Investigation about the thinning method using the forest environmental tax of Kochi Prefecture

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In recent years, prices of wood have been lowered in Japan since the import of foreign wood was liberalized. It caused a decline of management will of forestry managers. Consequently, the artificial forest is left unmanaged, and its desolation progresses. People are anxious about the decline of the function of forests and outbreak of natural disasters, etc. In Kochi Prefecture, in order to preserve the forest by all people of the prefecture, the forest environmental tax was introduced from fiscal 2003.

After introduction of the tax, the effect of improvement in people-of-the-prefecture consciousness towards forest management has shown up. However, it still seems insufficient. Moreover, although the actual thinning area is higher than the thinning target, this area is not sufficient enough to improve the multiple functions of forests. Since the first phase of the tax will be completed in the next year, it is a time to discuss whether the tax is effective and should be continued and where should be improved if there is any.

In this research, an attempt is made to identify problems associated with the forest environmental tax from literature surveys and interviews, to analyze and structurize main problems, and to derive solutions to the problems.

As a result of analysis, various problems are identified including inadequate cooperation between volunteer organizations and the silviculture worker. The author first proposes more collaboration and cooperating from the silviculture workers and Kochi prefecture

with volunteer organizations to increase the opportunities and amount of volunteer activities. The second proposal is active disclosure of information on volunteer organizations' activities. These measures are expected to bring effects of better understanding of the forest environmental tax and raising concerns with forest by people-of-the-prefecture. Through these effects, the author hopes that development and management of forests through active participation by people-of-the-prefecture will be promoted.

Key words Fall of a forest function, forest environmental tax, Collaboration,
Development and management of forests through active participation by
people-of-the-prefecture