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Aims and Scope
Journal of Rangeland Science (JRS) is a national scholarly refereed research journal which aims to promote the theory and practice of rangeland science, innovation, engineering and management. A broad outline of the journals' scope includes: peer reviewed original research articles, case and technical reports, reviews and analyses papers, short communications and notes to the editor, in interdisciplinary information on the practice and status of research in rangeland science, both natural and man made. The main aspects of research areas include, but are not exclusive to: Rangeland Ecology, Eco-physiology of Rangeland Plants, Socio-Economic Factors of Basin, Rangeland Hydrology, GIS and Rangelands, Biodiversity Conservation, Natural Resource Sustainability, Modeling and Decision Support Tools in Natural Resource, Analysis and Assessment of Rangeland, Rangeland Development and Improvement, Grass and Forage Production, Management and Utilization, Soil and Water Conservation.

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Investigation on Effects of Environmental and Soil Factors on Establishment of Vegetation Types (Case Study: Sabzdasht, Bafgh)

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Abstract. This research was conducted to investigate the relationships between soil (organic matter, potassium, phosphorous, sodium, fine gravel, soil texture, EC, lime, gypsum, nitrogen) and environmental (elevation, slope) factors with distribution of vegetation types in rangelands of Sabzdasht, located in Bafgh, Yazd province at 2012. For this purpose, four vegetation types were selected as follows: \textit{Artemisia sieberi}; \textit{Artemisia sieberi}, \textit{Stipa barbata}, \textit{Eurotia ceratoides}; \textit{Dorema ammoniacum}, \textit{Artemisia sieberi}, \textit{Eurotia ceratoides}; and \textit{Hammada salicornica}. Minimal area was determined using nested plots. Afterward, vegetation factors were measured and five soil profiles were dug randomly in minimal area. In each profile, data for depths of 0-10 and 10-80 cm were recorded. Principal component analysis was applied to analyze the data. Results showed that soil texture, potassium, phosphorous, EC and lime had the most impact on variation and distribution of vegetation types.

Key words: Soil properties, Environmental factors, Principal component analysis, Minimal area, Bafgh, Yazd.