

The main objectives of the Society of Foresters of the USSR are to rescue the country's forestry from the present crisis situation; protect the forests from becoming exhausted by excessive fellings, fires and industrial emissions; and instill in the consciousness and actions of governmental bodies and all citizens everywhere the need for a careful attitude towards the forest as a source of renewable timber and non-timber resources for many generations to come.

The Society maintains that, inasmuch as the forest is a highly complex ecological system, it can only be entrusted to competent specialists. The participants in the assembly enunciated their credo in an appeal to the public and the People's Deputies of the USSR. The following is a quotation from it.

From an appeal at the constituent-assembly of the Society of Foresters of the USSR

"Our finest coniferous forests have been plundered and impoverished in the traditional harvesting zones: in the European North, the Urals, the Tyumen and Irkutsk Oblasts, and the Krasnoyarsk and Primorskii Krai. In the past decade, in the European-Urals zone alone, some 666.8 million cubic metres of timber have been felled in excess of the allowable cut, which is 1.5 times the maximum amount of timber that could be sold. Even in the current year of political and economic restructuring and renewal of the economy, the lumbermen have again requested authorization from the government to fell the senselessly high figure of 17.6 million cubic metres of coniferous timber. Strange as it may seem, they obtained the consent of the RSFSR Ministry of