

Now the decision has been made. From now on, over half the area of the Yamal-Nenets Okrug, a third of the Khanty-Mansiisk Okrug, and 8000 square kilometers of the Uvat Raion have acquired this special status. These are not reservations, sanctuaries or preserves.

In these areas industry and agriculture will develop in a natural fashion, but no drilling, timberfelling or major construction projects can be undertaken without the permission of local authorities. And the emphasis is on the word "local" since, within the zones of precedential nature use, orders "from above" will no longer have any force.

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OIL AND GAS

Siberia's "Oil Kings" Air Their Frustrations

Western Siberia. The Tyumen Northland. So much has been said and written in recent decades about this harsh and lavishly endowed land! It was here, near the little known Lake Samotlor, that man struck the first oil gushers and the remote Siberian region became famous.