

Each year the Bobruysk hydrolysis plant processes more than 100,000 cubic metres of good-quality timber into chip. Up until quite recently railcars full of excellent logs raced from the Urals to the Osipovich paperboard and roofing paper mill carrying 30,000 cubic metres of timber annually. Even though both of these enterprises would be willing to work with waste wood alone, no one is prepared to supply them. The loggers, who are preoccupied with their production targets, are obviously not interested in dealing with these scraps. How much of this good raw material is being wasted and how much of it is being dumped right beside processing plants that could make use of it?

A. Ponomarev, Chief of the Forestry Administration of the Mogilev Oblast Executive Committee, is immediately ready with an answer: "We can tell you exactly. Each year loggers in our Oblast alone harvest up to 950,000-970,000 cubic metres of timber. This means a total of approximately 100,000 cubic metres of tops, branches, twigs and stumps. This is the amount recorded in our documentation. In actual fact, a lot more is left behind - there would be more than enough to supply the hydrolysis plant for a year."

There are only 42,000 hectares of mature forests left in the Mogilev Oblast, or 4% of the total forest area. Each year, 4,400 hectares are slated for felling. It is not hard to calculate that just under ten years of logging operations remain.

Lesnaya promyshlennost

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