

bodies of water and the atmosphere. Although our forest resources are at par with those of Finland, we are harvesting only half as much timber as the Finns. Nor is there any end in sight to the paradoxical situation in which the Oblast is shipping millions of cubic metres of timber beyond its boundaries while leaving its own mills without sawtimber. With the arrival of spring, production at those mills will almost dry up.

"The state of our forests is such that to continue to put up with further overfellings - in excess of the allowable cut - especially of coniferous trees, given the shrinkage of the tundra forests, would be criminal.

"I categorically disagree with the decision of the USSR Council of Ministers sanctioning overfelling for the Northwestern region in 1990 in the amount of 11,600,000 cubic metres, including more than 4,000,000 cubic metres for the Archangel Oblast.

"I am hoping that the executive committees of the local Soviets will exercise their right to review questions of forest use and that they will not permit fellings in excess of the scientifically validated coupes.

"Returning to the ecological consequences of the activities of the pulp and paper enterprises, it is clear that without united efforts, and perhaps, without a special governmental decision, this matter will not be resolved, since the enterprises don't have enough funds to modify the technology and build highly efficient purification plants."

Lesnaya promyshlennost

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