

The time has come to stop exceeding the allowable cut on the coniferous forest sites, to use each cubic metre of harvested timber in an intelligent and responsible manner, and to make full use of each hectare of deciduous forest. If there is good regrowth in a stand it should be maintained in a quantity sufficient for natural regeneration of the coniferous forest.

An assizes of the board of the USSR State Forestry Commission was held recently in Kostroma to discuss the further expansion of intermediate harvesting. The viable regrowth of coniferous species which remained would make it possible to shorten the time required for the growth of mature timber by 15-20 years.

A year ago we approached the USSR Ministry for the Timber Industry with a proposal to significantly increase the total felling areas and leave untouched the viable coniferous regrowth at consumption bases of enterprises in the European Urals zone. However, this proposal did not receive the support it deserved. Clear felling areas in which regrowth has been destroyed do not become smaller, but larger. There were 47,000 ha of such areas in 1985, 50,000 ha in 1986, and in 1987 they exceeded 52,000 ha.

The condition of the timber resources in the European Urals has been seriously undermined. Today we need deeds, not words, to achieve constant forest use and ensure that it is protected and managed in a rational, responsible way. Time is of the essence.

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