

FORESTRY

Forest Conservation and Regeneration a Major Element  
in Environment-Saving Program for Lake Baikal

Newspaper articles on the subject of Lake Baikal have recently been characterized by less emotion and more constructive criticism than was formerly the case. In the last few weeks, a joint session of the Collegium of the RSFSR Ministry of Forestry and the USSR State Committee for Forestry (Goskomles) was convened to discuss progress made in implementing a whole series of decrees of the Party and the government concerning the protection of Baikal.

Mention was made of the fact that, in compliance with the plan and based on the enterprises of the timber industry that had been transferred from the jurisdiction of the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry (Minlesprom SSSR), and also on the forestry enterprises located in the shore zone of Baikal, nine integrated timber and forestry enterprises have been established for the conservation, regeneration and rational use of the forests. Beginning in January 1988 a new allowable cut amounting to 8.6 million cubic metres was introduced for the forestry enterprises of the Baikal Basin, which is 25 per cent less than the previous allowable cut.

With the participation of the forestry agencies a General Concept of the Productive Forces in the Basin of Lake Baikal has been formulated, together with a General Schematic Plan of the Fire Control and Prevention Arrangements for the Forests of Baikal Basin and an Integrated Territorial System of Nature Preservation.