

forest utilization. Only 45% of the allowable cut is taken throughout the Primorskiy Kray forests as a whole, whereas 65% of the allowable cut is harvested in the pine forests. Looking at these figures it would appear that there is nothing to worry about: there are no overcuts in the Siberian nut pine forests.

But this is the problem. The forests in the timber limits of the logging enterprises in the south and central regions of the Kray have been logged several times. The stands have not managed to become reforested in valuable species since they are always being subjected to the screech of the gas-powered saws and the roar of the tractors. Each young generation of trees suffers through this incredible stress and does not survive. The majority of the timber reserves in these regions cannot be exploited since their density index is no higher than 0.3-0.4. Forest exploitation is carried out on the verge of depletion. To add insult to injury, the allowable cut is not utilized rationally: undercuts remain on the felling sites; the undergrowth and young trees are destroyed; the felling sites are not cleaned up properly afterwards, etc. The loggers continue, as before, to try to "cream" the forests, taking only the large assortments of primarily coniferous species. Hardwoods, despite the long years of endless discussions, are still only very slowly being introduced into production. The allowable cut in the hardwood forests has been exploited at only 20% over the past number of years.

The logging enterprises have developed the bad habit of having several enterprises log in the same timber limits. This practice leads to a premature depletion of the reserves.