

FORESTRY

Destruction of Siberian Nut Pine Stands in the Gorno-Altay Region

Decades ago Siberians cared for their nut pine stands and made good use of them, producing pine oil and oil cake from them. One can only be ashamed that this is no longer the case and that the pine groves are being felled. The Siberian nut pine matures at close to 200 years of age and it will take several generations before the Siberian pine taiga with its riches of nuts, game, resin, edible or medicinal plants and other plants that can serve as industrial raw materials, will grow up again on the empty patches of land..... All this, unfortunately, is being sacrificed to one cause - logging interests.

The Soviet Union has a well-developed logging industry in Siberia now as well as in the European part of the country. Despite the fact that the Siberian nut pine stands make up approximately only 6% of the country's total forested area and that the vast majority (almost 90%) of the log assortments made from this type of timber could be replaced by timber from other coniferous species, the Siberian nut pine stands continue to be felled.

The forestry ministries, departments and enterprises for many years did not carry out and, by the way, still are not carrying out the important resolutions taken at various levels to improve forestry management in the nut pine forests. Extremely valuable nut pine groves continue to be logged using methods that do not facilitate regeneration. These practices are the most blatant