

FORESTRY

The Karelian Forest Complex - the First Year Under Perestroika

The forest complex of Karelia is the result of a long and agonizing process. How many obstacles were placed in its path by the various agencies before anything was agreed to!

At first, it comprised only a few logging enterprises and large forest farms; later, sawmills, wood chemistry establishments and medium-sized forest farms were added, and ultimately all the construction, trading and pulp-and-paper enterprises. Thus, it was only in 1988 that the Karelian forest complex came in to its own, which is why the administrative staff was then reduced by 334 persons and more than 850,000 roubles in wages were saved.

There can be no question that it is very difficult to operate under conditions of continual perestroika. People on the move have to turn away from narrow bureaucratic attitudes and habits; they must learn to think and act on the basis of common interests, end results, long-term prospects and sustained forest use. Some managers have been unable to adapt. They strove to cling to the old management methods, so much so that the collectives of the enterprises were obliged to dispense with their services. It was in the middle of last year that the first general director of the "Karellesprom" Territorial Association, V.S. Posnov, was elected.