

domestically. By using only half of the currency presently earned by our country through the export of timber and paper products we would be able to improve the situation substantially in as little as three years time.

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FORESTRY

Forest Fire Protection Aviation Should  
Be Placed on an Economic Footing

More than two million hectares were ravaged by forest fires last year. The losses are numbered in tens of millions of roubles.

What will it be like this year? Will the firefighters be able to keep forest fires in check? And do they have the necessary equipment and funds?

During the sessions of "Ecological Task Force 01" the sensible views of my colleague V. Onyanov from the Western Urals Air Base finally prevailed when he made the point that success in protecting the forests from fires is largely if not wholly dependent on economics. In the meantime, as far as our own forest protection arrangements are concerned the economics have been turned upside down.