

One can't help but wonder why representatives from the RSFSR Main Administration for Hunting, the "Primorokhota" (Primorskiy Kray Hunting) Production Association, and the Society for the Preservation of Nature weren't invited as well.

These organizations believe that in order to preserve the Ussuri taiga and to develop the local economy it would be best to reclassify the valuable stands as nut-industry zones where not only timber is extracted but nuts, berries, honey, furs, meat, game, medicinal plants and other forest products are collected commercially as well.

The Udegeys living in the village of Agzu have protested the planned road construction fearing that easier access to their traditional lands would bring strangers to the region with a resulting increase in forest fires and looting of the forest riches. This has already occurred in the Pastun and Terney regions where logging operations have been conducted.

It is hard to predict how the Udegeys' battle to preserve their land will end, but one thing is clear: without the taiga the native populations of the north will be unable to retain their identity and preserve their lifestyle.

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

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