

preserving the water- and fish spawning protection zones along the banks of rivulets, in water-meadows and near the sources of streams.

In the Vinogradov district alone, in 39 small rivers with an overall length of 1,265 kilometres these zones have been completely destroyed. Beds of rivers formerly used for logging are choked with trees. To facilitate fording them, birches by the hundred are being dumped there. The banks have been damaged by caterpillar tractors, which is leading to erosion and soil ablation.

We have become accustomed to saying, in justification of just about anything, "Whatever you do, it's the elements". But it is precisely the unsystematic fellings that are giving rise to the "elements". In spring they lead to rapid melting of the snow and frequent ruinous floods, in summer - to the shallowing of rivers and their transformation into pitiful little streams.

Unless immediate and urgent steps are taken, the prospect is that in 40 to 50 years the region's raw material resource bases for the lespromkhozy will be exhausted, which means that there will be an interruption in forest use with all of the ensuing economic and ecological consequences. The resulting catastrophe will prove to be a major disaster for the northerners.

To avert this, the combined efforts of all interested parties, including scientists, will be needed. Their debt to the ecology is enormous. Until now the question of the effect of selective logging on the state of the water resources has remained unexplained. There are no scientifically validated norms for determining the width of