

Resource Inventory and Forest Regulation) have returned from expeditions. An inventory of the forests of Western Siberia has been made.

The maps that have been compiled show the exact positions of taiga massifs and protected zones, and point to sites which are rich in berries, nuts, mushrooms and medicinal plants. Detailed information has been derived on the state of the taiga and raw material reserves. During the last five years, the areas of the region which are occupied by pines have increased by almost 450,000 hectares. This is on account of increased planting volumes.

In areas of industrial development, human interference has had a noticeable impact on Nature. But this is not the only reason why fewer forests are indicated on the map of the Tyumen' Oblast today. It was discovered the earlier findings, also derived through aerial surveys, had been overstated. Recently conducted ground-based expeditions have made it possible to refine the figures. The inventory has also revealed that almost two-thirds of the forests in Western Siberia are mature and in decline.

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