

Parallel with the work on the methodological aspects of remote sensing of forests, a great deal of attention has been devoted to solving practical problems in forestry, using new techniques and equipment.

The most obvious advances in applying these approaches are in the compiling of inventories and special purpose mapping of forest resources, protecting forests from fires, and identifying and recording day to day changes in the land categories of the total forest area, caused by natural disasters, forest fires and felling.

Remote techniques are being used over hundreds of millions of hectares for recording day to day changes in the land categories of the total forest area caused by human activity (felling, industrial and urban construction, mineral workings and so on), and by forest fires and other unfavourable factors.

On the practical side, multizonal scanning information received from the "Meteor" earth satellite is being used for protecting the forests against fires, monitoring the dynamics of the snow cover, ascertaining the synoptic situation and storm and convection cloud conditions, and monitoring the dynamics of major forest fires. This information makes it possible to plan and implement more purposefully the tactics and strategy of the entire complex of measures for protecting the forests against fires.

A number of other methods and technologies for studying forests and assessing their state which are based on the use of satellite information are in the experimental and industrial evaluation stage.