

them has now been reduced, although there are still more than 300 losing logging enterprises and sawmills in the sector. The collegium of the Ministry of the Timber Industry has instructed managers of the union republic ministries, and the territorial production associations, to analyze the activity of each losing enterprise and take all necessary steps to facilitate the transition to progressive forms of work. This includes borrowing from the experience of those who have already mastered them.

Our story today is about one such enterprise - the Mezhevaya logging enterprise of the "Kostromalesprom" Association.

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A backward glance into history

Just a year ago, and incidentally throughout its entire life, the Mezhevaya logging enterprise was a planned loser. The raw materials base was scattered; the average hauling distance: 59 kilometres. The inventory yield of commercial timber was 84% for spruce, 62% for birch and 36% for aspen. The average long-log volume was 0.28 cubic metres; the average standing volume per hectare, 218 cubic metres. The coupes designated for felling in 1987 and the following year were scattered over more than 20 compartments, separated by tens of kilometres from each other. Scarcely anyone would envy such a raw materials base...

The yearly extraction volume is 270,000 cubic metres, of which 60,000 is in the form of commercial long logs supplied to the woodworking and sawmill enterprises in the town of Shar'ya. The rest are cross-cut into long logs at a riverside lower landing and handed over in this form to the Unzha timber floating bureau. The cross-cutting is done in the summer by four, and in the winter by six enlarged crews, some of which are made up of seasonal workers.

But the enterprise's chief misfortune lies in the fact that, having only one lower landing for four logging units, it supplies output in the form of long-logs or roundwood without any processing. Essentially, this enterprise was a raw materials adjunct of the "Shar'yadrev" Association and the Unzha timber floating bureau and did not have a share in their profits.