

"Our loggers have virtually no competitors. It is sufficient to have qualitatively and promptly formulated felling plans, even though in principle, variants of leasing arrangements may exist. It is important that the interests of the interested parties should not suffer through this, and what is of paramount importance, the forest lands themselves."

Lesnaya promyshlennost
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Glaring Inadequacies in Forest Firefighting Capabilities
Suggest Opportunities for Trade

More than six months have elapsed since the expedition "Ecological Task Force 01", organized by the editorial office of "Lesnaya promyshlennost" and the Production Association "Avialesookhrana" (Aerial Protection of the Forests), set out on its journey. The itinerary extended from Sakhalin to Moscow by way of Vladivostok, Chita, Ulan-Ude, Krasnoyarsk, Sverdlovsk, Tomsk and Perm.

The following is a condensed transcript of the discussions at a "round table" held in the editorial office to report on the expedition's findings. (Note to reader: a transcript of an earlier "round table" in which many of the same speakers took part, was published in the May 1989 edition of these Extracts (INI F3/89, 25 September 1989, pp. 23-32)).

G. Korovin (Deputy Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Forestry - Goskomles SSSR). "First, I want to report on the totals for the 1989 forest fire season. During the current year, more than 28,000 fires have been reported from the actively protected territories of the general forest lands administered by the State (Goslesfond). The area affected by fire exceeds 2,000,070