

In recent years, it is as if the organization of forest exploitation has been frozen in situ. In establishing the most important forestry norm, the planned coupe, the State Planning Commission (Gosplan SSSR), contrary to scientifically validated methods, acted on the basis of current demands for timber and attempted (and is still attempting at present) to raise exploitation norms. Thus, in 1980, at its suggestion a planned coupe was adopted for the 26 Oblasts, Krai and autonomous and Union republics of the European-Urals part of the USSR, the volume of which was not supported by forest resources.

At a number of places, the established scale of principal fellings in potentially exploitable forests has surpassed the mean annual increment indicators: by 86% in the Arkhangel'sk Oblast, by 69% in the Murmansk Oblast, by 56% in the Komi ASSR, by 45% in the Vologda Oblast, by 29% in the Karelian ASSR, and by 22% in the Kirov and Perm' Oblasts. Thus, the existing volumes of mature and over-mature forests suitable for primary conversion and extraction will be used up in only 13 years in Kostroma Oblast, in 20 years in the Kirov and Vologda Oblasts, and in 30 years in the Karelian ASSR! The current maturation rate of the forests, due to the small volume of ripening and middle-aged stands, cannot replenish the volumes of mature forest and sustain utilization at the level which has been attained. Therefore, the time has come to specify planned coupes in all Oblasts and regions and to bring the scale of them into line with existing resources.

The inefficient use of forest resources is in many respects due to the unbalanced state of the plans (State orders). There is an obvious lack of coordination between assignments for forest product deliveries, the resource base structure, and the designated coupe. Thus, in the Krasnoyarsk Krai they are planning to procure 88 per cent of large assortments when only 74 per cent of these are present in the designated coupe. In the Perm' and Kirov Oblasts, the gap is between 8 and 10 per cent. The excessive assignments for supply of large assortments and valuable arboreal species are forcing the loggers to fell the most valuable stands at an accelerated pace, and to leave the low-quality and small timber at clearings, on roadsides, and at lower landings. According to control