

Regrettably, the point must be made that the present attitude towards forestry operations on the part of the directors of the Northern Sakhalin logging enterprise remains at the level of the sixties, for a rational attitude to the use of timber resources is lacking here. The following facts graphically illustrate this: fines levied in recent years for timber processing offences have undergone a two-to threefold increase. Procedures for protecting the forests against fires are not being implemented, as a result of which the largest fire in the Oblast originated in 1988 on the territory of the forest resource base of the Northern Sakhalin logging enterprise.

All this convinces us that the merging of the forest farm and the logging enterprise will adversely affect the conduct of forestry in our district. Moreover, the creation of an integrated timber industry enterprise will deprive the district of consumer goods and of the output derived from improvement fellings, which is being sold directly in the district for a sum exceeding 400,000 roubles.

A decree of the CC CPSU and USSR Council of Ministers dated March 10, 1988 which was headed "On Improving the Management of Forestry and the Timber Industry in the USSR" provides for the leasing of forest tracts to integrated timber industry enterprises for periods of 30 to 40 years. We note, however, that on the territory of the Aleksandrovo forest farm the logging enterprises are already operating for seven tenths of the year. Every year they cut more than 500,000 cubic metres of timber in an area exceeding 2,000,000 hectares. During the last Five-Year Plan logging volumes on the territory of our forest farm increased 1.5-fold and the trend towards increased logging is continuing.