

Q. "And what is the State Committee for Forestry doing to bring order into forest utilization?"

A. "First of all, it is necessary to have objective information on the state of our forests. We created the All-Union Scientific Research Information Centre known as "Forest Resources of the USSR". By combining this centre with "Lesproekt" (All-Union Association for Aerial Photography, Forest Resource Inventory and Forest Regulation) and Soyuzgiproleskhoz (All-Union Institute for Planning and Research in Forestry), we shall be in a better position to use information and scientific data for the improvement of forest inventory and control.

The forest management plan must include a maximum of silvicultural, forest biological and economic data. On this plan will depend the effectiveness of the entire management activity of the enterprise. It must utilize forest resources scientifically. At such time as the forest management plan shall contain a commercial-financial estimate of the allowable cut, calculated structurally, financially and spatially, and it forms the basis of a Five- or Ten-Year Plan, let us say, then the very possibility of burdening enterprises with an obligation to produce assortments which do not exist in the stands and in volumes which they cannot meet or which contradict the rules of forest utilization, will be eliminated.

In short, "Lesproekt" is being integrated into the forest resource management and control system. A data bank is being created both for individual enterprises and for the country as a whole. The forest management program will be computerized, so that any required information can be accessed quickly and efficiently.