

Forestry and the USSR State Planning Commission (Gosplan). Furthermore, the Council of Ministers of the RSFSR issued a special decree making it "legitimate" to go over and above the allowable cut and fell coniferous forests, which this assembly contends is plundering our national property.

The reserves of materials and machinery available for forestry are extremely sparse. For the establishing of a hectare of new forest 150 roubles are allocated. In taiga forests the amount is even less (compare this with 600 dollars in the USA).

It is not only the cardinal principle of sustained forest use that is being held in contempt but other principles of forest management as well. The goals and tasks of forestry are being increasingly devalued and subordinated to the short-term interests and demands of the timber merchants. Fellings for regeneration purposes (both shelterwood and selection fellings) have been transformed into the worst variety of clear fellings, namely, those that leave small and inferior trees standing. Even in the course of improvement fellings, undertaken to ensure the growth of highly productive stands, it is often not the worst, but the best trees that are removed. All this is leading to a situation in which the growing stock in mature stands is diminishing in comparison with those approaching maturity, and the gene pool of the forests is being depreciated.

Those who, in obeying administrative orders, are cutting down our forests, in many cases right to the last tree, are unfortunately the very ones who ought to be taking care of them and preserving them. In these circumstances forestry workers are often compelled to engage in an imitation of silvicultural