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SOVIET MINISTRY OF FORESTRY REPORTS SOME FIGURES
 ON POSTWAR FIVE-YEAR PLAN IN FORESTRY

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The founding of the Ministry of Forestry, which was organized on 4 April 1947, initiated a new stage in the development of Soviet forestry.

Article 33 of the law concerning the 1946-1950 Five-Year Plan set forth the following tasks to be accomplished in the forestry field: for the purpose of restoring and developing the forestry of the country, as well as reforesting the areas denuded under the German occupation, surveying and inventory of forests and forest organization are to be carried out on an area totaling 123 million hectares; collection of seeds and establishment of tree nurseries are to be expanded on a broad scale; measures are to be taken to preserve and improve the condition of steppe region forest massifs, which have significant agricultural and water-conservation importance.

While the tasks set forth in Article 33 were assigned to the former Main Administration of Forest Conservation, attached to the Council of Ministers USSR, and to other forest reserve custodians which were later incorporated into the Ministry of Forestry USSR, there was no Five-Year Plan as such for forestry. During the entire five-year period, forestry goals were set each year by the annual national economic plan; therefore, the forestry Five-Year Plan may be considered as being the sum of the annual national economic plans for the five-year period.

The following table shows the main forestry goals as planned and met during the period of the 1946-1950 Five-Year Plan.

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<u>Type of Work</u>	<u>Total Vol of Work, 1946-1950</u>		
	<u>Planned</u>	<u>Performed*</u>	<u>Percent of Plan</u>
Forest organization (ha)	55,521,000	56,384,000	101
Aerial photographing and surveying (ha)	179,319,000	189,943,300	106
Maintenance felling, for timber			
Area (ha)	8,609,800	9,882,300	115
Quantity (cu m)	92,578,300	100,460,500	108
Sowing and planting (ha)	1,752,800	1,892,400	108
Tree nurseries established (ha)	30,922	32,801	106
Forest plantings maintained (ha)	9,696,400	9,765,800	101
Natural restoration (ha)	1,006,800	1,010,900	100
Soil preparation of land used for forest plantings, plantations, and nurseries (ha)	2,393,900	2,520,900	105
Establishment of plantations (ha)	16,677	17,542	105
Collection of tree seeds (ton)	91,187	95,476	105
Including			
Acorns (ton)	77,582	80,561	104
Larch (larix) seeds (ton)	70	42	60

*Including results anticipated for 1950.

Forest Organization

When the Ministry of Forestry was formed, it faced the problem of organizing the territory set aside as USSR state forest reserves. Forest inventories had to be taken, and timber reserves estimated.

After the formation of the Ministry of Forestry, considerable changes were made in the state forest reserve. These changes reflected the requirements of the government with respect to setting aside and protecting forest massifs which are of particularly great state importance. Classification of forested areas according to groups of forests is still proceeding at present.

In January 1948, forests of the first group comprised 20,500,000 hectares; of the second group, 80,900,000 hectares; and of the third group, 913,600,000 hectares. On 1 January 1950, forests of the first group comprised 27,200,200 hectares; of the second group, 85,400,000 hectares; and of the third group, 900 million hectares. In 1950, another 3,700,000 hectares were added to forests of the first group.

In 1948, the width of the forbidden zones along the banks of the Volga and its right tributaries was restored to that set by the 2 July 1936 decree of the Central Executive Committee USSR and the Council of People's Commissars USSR. In 1949, a forbidden zone, 6 kilometers wide, was restored along the right bank of the Ob' River and a protected zone of the same width was restored in the area

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of the upper and middle Ob' forest massifs in Novosibirsk Oblast and Altay Kray. In 1950, a forbidden zone 3 kilometers wide was restored along the Sorot' and L'sta rivers in Pskov Oblast.

As of 1 January 1950, the state forest reserve of the USSR was conservatively estimated to be as follows:

	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Total Area	1,068,600,000	100
Including kolkhoz forests	41,200,000	--
Area covered with forests	628,300,000	62
Area not covered with forests	114,300,000	11
Unforested area	270,000,000	27

Coniferous forests predominate, occupying 492,000,000 hectares, or 78 percent, of the area.

According to age groups, the state forest fund is distributed approximately as follows (in percent).

Mature and overmature trees	55
Trees approaching maturity	16
Middle-aged trees	15
Young trees	14

Total resources of all forest amount to 58.1 billion cubic meters. Forests in which coniferous species predominate account for 85 percent of this figure.

About 52.5 billion cubic meters, or 89.5 percent of total resources, are concentrated in forests of the third group; about 2.9 billion cubic meters, or 5 percent of total resources, in forests of the second group; and 3.3 billion cubic meters, or 5.5 percent of total resources, in forests of the first group.

About 800 forest managements had been organized by the end of 1950; their number will increase to 1,200 by the end of 1951.

From 1951 on, all forest organization work will be carried out only by the All-Union "Lesproyekt" organization with its 10 trusts, 44 expeditions, and seven offices. "Lesproyekt" has become a large organization, numbering more than 3,000 engineering-technical workers; they not only do high-quality work in the forest, but also assemble high-quality forest organization plans.

Forest Planting

The decree issued on 20 October 1948 by the Council of Ministers USSR and TsK VKP(b) concerning the planting of shelter-belt forests in the steppe regions of the European USSR charged the Ministry of Forestry USSR with the following tasks: creation of eight state shelter belts in the period 1950-1965; afforestation of ravines, gullies, and of sands and land on the territory of the state forest fund; growing of tree sets in state tree nurseries; collection of seeds; organization of 300 shelter-belt stations and of steppe forest managements.

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In 1949 and 1950, 202 shelter-belt stations, 164 nurseries, and 55 steppe forest managements were constructed or were under construction in the steppe regions.

In 1949 and 1950, the steppe forest managements and shelter-belt stations planted a total of 560,180 hectares, or 111 percent of plan, distributed as follows (in hectares):

Voronezh Oblast	28,940	Bashkir ASSR	21,320
Kursk Oblast	27,590	Ul'yanovsk Oblast	18,300
Orel Oblast	14,410	Tatar ASSR	15,390
Tambov Oblast	19,550	Penza Oklast	13,070
Ryazan Oblast	13,770	Krasnodar Kray	4,290
Tula Oblast	6,600	Rostov Oblast	28,360
Mordov ASSR	12,700	Stavropol' Kray	15,300
Astrakhan' Oblast	11,190	Groznyy Oblast	3,750
Kuybyshev Oblast	16,740	Crimea Oblast	5,200
Saratov Oblast	19,420	Ukrainian SSR	218,650
Chkalov Oblast	10,740	Kazakh SSR	2,040
Stalingrad Oblast	34,860	Total	560,180

In 1948, 5,600 tons of tree and bush seeds were collected, and in 1949 eight times that amount were gathered. Special attention was paid to the collection of oak, larch, maple, ash, and Siberian acacia seeds.

Forest Fire Control

Measures taken during the last few years have considerably reduced forest fires. If the area destroyed by forest fires in 1947 is taken as 100 percent, the areas so destroyed in 1948, 1949, and 1950 equal 39, 61, and 50 percent, respectively.

Since forest fires are related to a considerable degree to meteorological factors, Professor V. G. Nesterov has calculated the mathematical interrelationship between meteorological factors and forest fires. He has worked out a scale for determining the degree of fire danger as related to the weather. This scale permits forestry workers to plan their fire-control work more rationally and to mobilize the fire-fighting apparatus and other fire-extinguishing means of the timber managements at the proper time.

On the basis of Nesterov's scale, the Central Forecasting Institute has developed a method of compiling short-range and long-range (monthly) forecasts of fire danger due to weather. These forecasts are sent to all oblast, kray, and republic forestry administrations and to the forestry ministries of the union republics.

Forestry aviation plays an important role in combating forest fires. In some areas of the northern European USSR and also in Siberia and the Far East, forestry aviation is the sole means of detecting forest fires quickly and precisely.

Forestry aviation carries out patrol service but is also effective in extinguishing fires. Parachutists, who have received special training, jump directly into the fire zone or near the closest populated point. In the former case, they extinguish the fire with their own forces; in the second case, they organize the forces of the local population and supervise the extinguishing work.

In recent times, liquid chemical solutions (calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, ammonium phosphate, ammonium sulfate, and others) have been widely used for extinguishing fires or creating firebreaks. For the purpose of wide application of chemical fire-fighting methods, organization of 400 forest-fire

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chemical stations will soon be completed. Each station will be staffed by 6-8 men and equipped with spray pumps and the necessary chemicals.

Radiotelephone communications play an important role in combating forest fires. During the period 1947-1950, 5,000 kilometers of telephone wire were strung, 2,400 telephones installed, and 527 radio stations placed in use. Of the radio stations, 300 were set up at shelter-belt stations, in production centers, and in tractor brigades. In 1951, it is planned to string another 3,000 kilometers of telephone wire and to set up 200 more radio stations, including 100 at shelter-belt stations, in production sections, and in tractor brigades.

Forest Protection

To carry out its forest-protection mission, the Ministry of Forestry USSR laid down strict rules for forest sanitation in all USSR forests; inspection operations were broadened, a service for detecting the presence of forest pests and diseases was organized, and preventive and remedial measures for combating pests and diseases were applied.

Pest and disease control was very vigorously pursued in steppe forest culture. During the 4-year period 1947-1950, forest-pathological surveys were made of areas totaling more than 10 million hectares; aerial surveys checking infested areas were made of areas totalling more than 26 million hectares; preventive and remedial measures for combating pests and diseases were applied to areas exceeding 1,300,000 hectares.

Aviation was widely employed in combating pests and diseases with chemicals; 275,000 hectares were treated during the 4-year period. In 1948-1950, planes were used to apply chemicals to 20,000 hectares of cedar forests in the mountainous areas of Irkutsk Oblast; these forests were infested with the Siberian silkworm. In 1950, this method gave excellent results in Izyum Forest Management, Khar'kov Oblast, where chemicals were applied to more than 20,000 hectares to combat pine cutworm moths (Noctuidae).

Chemicals used were DDT and hexachloride (geksakhloran); these are very effective against insect pests. Dust application of these chemicals was so effective that the survival rate of afforestation plantings was high in 1950. At present, effective means are being sought for combating insects which attack acorns and other tree and bush seeds.

Forests of Special Importance

Forests of special importance are green zones, resort forests, and valuable forest massifs. Green zones around 725 large cities and industrial centers and 900 other populated points total 8,621,000 hectares. Resort forests total 1,306,000 hectares.

Forests designated as valuable forests by the decree of 20 October 1948 are mainly those in the steppe and forest-steppe areas of the European USSR -- Buzuluk Pine Forest, Shipov Forest, Chernyy (Black) Forest, and pine forests along the Severnyy (Northern) Donets River (along the route of the Belgorod-Don State Shelter Belt) -- but also include pine forests in West Siberia and Kazakhstan, the nut and fruit forests of southern Kirgizia, and others. They cover 4,386,000 hectares.

All valuable forests have been in the process of being organized since 1949; this work will be completed in 1952. Special attention is being paid to care of young trees and to replacement of low-quality trees with highly productive and valuable trees. Livestock grazing has been forbidden in some areas. Forest restoration has been speeded up. Protection of forests from harmful insects and diseases has been improved. Specialists in the valuable forests are gradually being replaced with persons who have higher training in forestry and have adequate qualifications.

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Five-Year Plans have been worked out and approved for the valuable forests of Voronezh Oblast (Shipov Forest, Borisoglebsk Massif, Khrenovo Pine Forest, and others). Forestry rules have been introduced in Buzuluk Pine Forest. Plans for measures to be undertaken in 1951-1955 have also been worked out for the other valuable forests and green zones around oblast and republic centers.

Instructions for organizing kolkhoz forests were worked out and approved in 1948. The kolkhoz forest organization plan is being carried out by 32 economic calculation bureaus created in oblast and republic centers. Kolkhozes which have forests (there are 150,000 such kolkhozes) have been attached to forest managements and forestries; the latter exercise systematic control over the forests and extend technical aid to the kolkhozes.

A complete survey of kolkhoz forests is being made and measures for improving them and controlling exploitation are being worked out for each kolkhoz.

The Ministry of Forestry USSR and central and local forestry organs have been charged with systematic and planned control of kolkhoz forests and of the parks of cities and industrial centers. This control has not been exercised wisely in all cases. There have been frequent cases of serious infraction of basic forestry rules in kolkhoz forests, leading in a number of places to disorganized administration of kolkhoz forest resources.

Forestry Workers

The creation of cadres of permanent forestry workers was a basic task. In 1949, 17,000 workers were recruited. By December 1950, 4,500 permanent workers had been assigned to shelter-belt stations. In 1949 and 1950, the ministry received 1,822 young graduates of trade schools; these had been trained as machinists, carpenters, blacksmiths, lathe workers, electricians, and as other specialists.

The number of permanent workers at forestry enterprises was 46.6 percent greater in 1950 than in 1948.

Together with a numerical increase in permanent and seasonal workers, the number of skilled workers increased. The following table shows the number of workers trained and the increase in skilled workers.

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950 (10 mo)</u>
Skilled workers (tractor operators, members of tractor brigades, drivers, members of forest cultivation brigades)	7,064	11,949	20,046	16,992
Increase in total number of skilled workers	16,474	25,816	29,800	30,052

In 1948, living space of forestry enterprises amounted to about 2 million square meters; by the end of 1950, it had increased to 2.5 million square meters.

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