Experience in Countering Illegal Logging in Primorskii Krai

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Efforts to Address Illegal Logging
Chronology

• November 1999 – March 2003: Special Inspection *Tiger*
• March 2003 – May 2004: *PALEKS*
• August 2005 - February 2006: Directorate of *Rosprirodnadzor* (Russian nature protection agency) for Primorskii Krai
• March 2006 – November 2008: *CHOP Zashchita Prim*
Definition of Illegal Logging

Illegal logging includes the cutting of trees, shrubbery, and liana without a logging permit or warrant or logging with a permit or warrant that violates existing rules for logging; and also logging that occurs in the wrong sector or beyond the borders, or in excessive quantities; Cutting trees and shrubs that are not specified in the permit or warrant before or after the established permit or warrant for cutting trees or shrubs or liana is valid is prohibited by the rules of uprooting timber in the forests of the Russian Federation, as asserted by the governmental decree of the Russian Federation of 1 June 1998, no. 551 or after the decision on suspension, limitation or termination of the activity of the forest-user or the right to use a sector of the forest fund.

Taking possession of trees, cut and prepared for the warehouse, market or export to other persons is considered theft of foreign goods. (п. 11 Decree of the Supreme Court Plenum of the RF №14 5.11.1998 “The Practice of the Court Applying Laws regarding the responsibility for ecological violations.”)
## The Scale of Illegal Logging

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Дата обнаружения</th>
<th>Место обнаружения</th>
<th>Обнаруженный объем</th>
<th>Поданный лесхозом</th>
<th>Номер и место регистрации материала</th>
<th>Разница в показаниях</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24.09.02</td>
<td>Кв 96 М.Полянское л-во. Малиновский лесхоз</td>
<td>1315 м³</td>
<td>77 м³</td>
<td>Дальнереченское ГООВД</td>
<td>17раз</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.01.04</td>
<td>Кв29 Новопокровского л-во Рощинский лесхоз</td>
<td>240 м³ длина хлыстов 200 м</td>
<td>5,46 м³</td>
<td>Красноармейское РОВД</td>
<td>40раз</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04.11.01</td>
<td>Кв85,103.Новопокровского л-во Рощинский лесхоз</td>
<td>3697 м³</td>
<td>369 м³</td>
<td>Красноармейское РОВД</td>
<td>10раз</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Scale of Illegal Logging

A stash of illegally obtained Korean pine trees on a truck platform in the city of Dal’nerechensk
Key Aspects of Illegal Logging

- Absence of documents
- Felling above the allowed quantities as well as felling trees that are prohibited from cutting (those are the most easily uncovered)
- Felling with the appropriate documentation, but in the wrong locations (these are hardest to uncover)
Felling without Documents

Key aspects:
- Cutting of valuable, prohibited species of trees: oak, ash, walnut, velvet, lime, and pine.
- Along old roads
- Perpetrators? Often rural residents

Methods of Detecting:
- Control by means of patrolling and observing transportation
Felling without Documents

A resident of the village Malinovo in the forest on a tractor in search of a “wood cutting area” without documentation, 2007, town of Kliuch Smolny.
Felling without Documents

An arrested woodcutter and material evidence of the crime: sawdust on the gloves.
Felling without Documents

Interrogation of the accused by an investigator of the nature protection prosecutor’s office at the scene of the crime.
Felling of timber in excessive quantities and that which is “off limits” from cutting

Key Features:

• These crimes are the easiest to investigate;
• For the most part, these crimes are committed by staff forest managers
• Together with article 260 of the criminal code, workers in forest farms can be arrested for the following crimes:
  – Increasing the size of the cutting area
  – Permitting valuable wood to be cut
  – Permitting too much valuable wood to be exported
  – Permitting the felling of wood that is too young (of small diameter and height)
Felling timber in excessive quantities and Felling timber that is “off limits”

Methods of Detection:
– Ascertain the location of felling

Key Indications:
– Incompatibility of the scale and species in the approved documents with the top level of the cut logs.
– The presence of wood-cutting scraps and tree trunks of cut trees that are prohibited from felling
Felling of “off limits” Timber

Chunks of lime trees on the above stash in the Ussurisk DOK (Lesozavodsky raion)
Felling in a location not specified by approved documents

Key features:
- Most difficult to prosecute
- OCGs (Organized Criminal Groups) are involved
- They work in concert with the forest farm staff

Methods of investigation:
- Documents outlining the lumber needed by the village administration
- Small quantities of indicated timber
- Increased removal of high quality timber
- Constant extension of forest permits
- Obvious disparity between the forest materials transferred and the transfer documents themselves.
- Subsequent inspection trip into the forest sector in order to determine its actual location.
Felling in a location not specified by approved documents
Felling in a location not specified by approved documents
Felling in a location not specified by approved documents

An organized crime brigade arrested for felling valuable species of timber (кв. 51, Zimnikovskii Timber Enterprise, Malinovsky Forest Farm, December 2006)
Felling in a location not specified by approved documents

Determining the location of illegal logging with the aid of GPS and GIS
Addressing Illegal Logging in the northern regions of the Primorskii Krai: Indicators for «Tiger», Paleks

Exposing Illegal Logging
Addressing Illegal Logging in the Krasnoarmeiskii region of Primorskiii Krai: Indicators for Paleks and Protection Agency Kedr

Preventing Illegal Logging
## Apprehending Workers who Steal Timber

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How they steal?</th>
<th>How to confront?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>They sell high quality timber only for cash</td>
<td>Brand the timber and control security of the branding process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leave the felled timber at the site and take it away after work.</td>
<td>Control transportation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recommended Amendments to the Law

Forest Code:
- Must prohibit the entry and occupation of the forests by citizens with equipment and transportation for timber (tractor, chain saw, trailer) without permits. This also applies to citizens with permits in a location not specified by the permit.

The Criminal Code:
- must increase the degree of responsibility according to art. 260 and amend:
  - The definition of illegal logging: Illegal logging is the separation of the trunk from the root system.
  - In the future skidding of illegally obtained timber and its export must be viewed as theft or as the misappropriation, arbitrary disregard for the law. This should entail confiscation of criminal equipment (tractors, trailers).