

Forest resources

In Northwest Russia forest fund consists of 113 million hectares. Forests outside the forest fund include urban forests, protected areas, etc. Main parts of the territory are located in the Taiga, but in the most southern parts also temperate mixed forests are met. The dominating tree species are spruce, pine and birch.

Forest area	118 million ha, 53% of land area	
Forest ownership	100% state (forest fund)	
Growing stock	10 384 million m ³	88 m ³ /ha
Annual increment	134 million m ³	1,1 m ³ /ha
Annual harvesting	50 million m ³	0,4 m ³ /ha

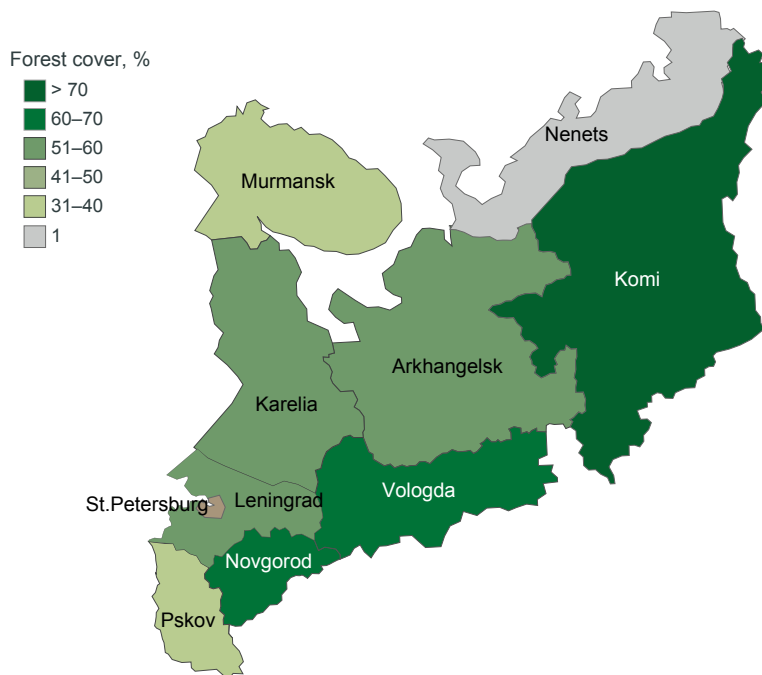
Rotation periods in the Russian forestry are long, and half of the forests are mature or over-mature by their development class. Large areas of old-growth forests are situated in Northwest Russia.

Northwest Federal District

- ▶ Land area: 1 687 000 km²
- ▶ Population: 13,7 million (84% urban)
- ▶ Subjects:
 - Republics of Karelia and Komi,
 - Arkhangelsk, Vologda, Kaliningrad,
 - Leningrad, Murmansk, Novgorod
 - and Pskov regions,
 - St.Petersburg (adm. centre),
 - Nenets autonomous area
- ▶ Gross Regional Product (2012):
 - 132 billion EUR, 9 600 EUR/per capita

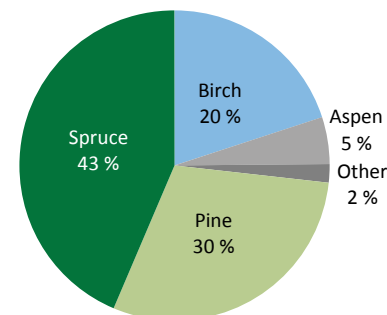


*Forest cover in the regions of Northwest Russia
(excl. Kaliningrad region)*



In Russia forests are classified into three groups according to their designated function: production, protective and reserve forests. In Northwest Russia almost 70% of the forests are mainly targeted for wood production, and 30% are classified as protective forests with some restrictions to use. Share of protective forests differ greatly between the regions being highest in the Murmansk and Leningrad regions. There are no reserve forests in Northwest Russia.

Main tree species in Northwest Russia



Forest policy and management

The forest fund is owned by the Russian Federation. Forest governance is shared between the Federation and regions. Powers related to forest management, protection and use are delegated to the regions, while the authority of the federal bodies focus mainly on policymaking, governance of forest relations by laws and regulations, and on some specific issues, such as forest inventory.

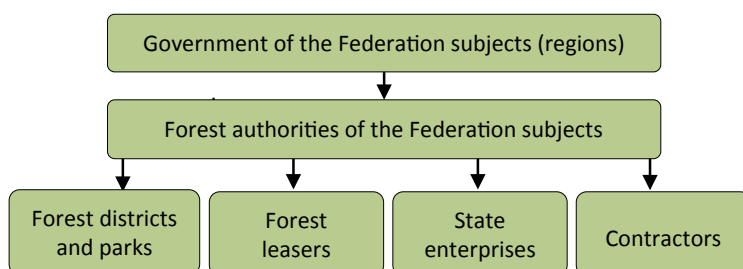
The main authority in the Russian forestry is the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology and its subordinate, the Federal Forestry Agency. At the regional level the highest forest authority is a part of the regional administrative structure – a ministry, department, committee, etc. The elementary units of the forest administration at the local level are forest districts and forest parks. The regional forest authorities are responsible for allocation of forest use rights.

State forests can be obtained for wood harvesting, recreation or other use primarily through 10–49 years lease contracts that can be concluded as a result of public auction. Rights for short-term use are granted by a sale/purchase contract of forest stand. Forest users pay a lease charge or payment for sale/purchase contract for the state.

Main tasks of the Russian forest policy are:

- ▶ improvement of effectiveness in forest sector
- ▶ intensification of forest use and regeneration
- ▶ boosting domestic market of forest products
- ▶ increasing competitiveness of the Russian forest industry
- ▶ more effective protection of forests against fires, insects, diseases and illegal loggings
- ▶ improvement forests' productivity and tree species composition.

Participants in forestry relations at regional level



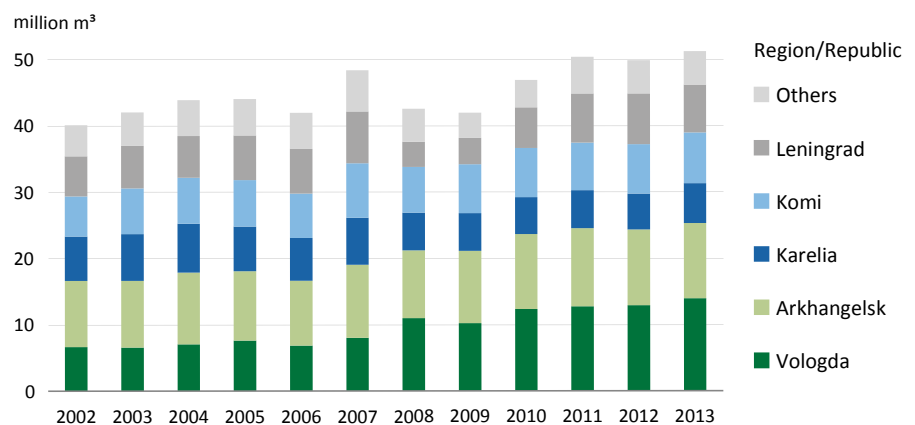
Forest use and silviculture

In Northwest Russia 60% of the forestland is leased for long-term use with almost 7 000 lease contracts. Annual allowable cut is about 120 million m³ and realized wood harvesting 50 million m³. The largest volumes, over 10 million m³ are harvested in Vologda and Arkhangelsk regions annually. Intermediate fellings are not common, and their share is less than 10% of the total wood harvesting volume. Cut-to-length method has replaced traditional tree length harvesting system to a large extent.

In leased areas all silvicultural measures are responsibility of leaseholders, whereas regional authorities take care of activities in forests outside leasing. Forest regeneration work is carried out in 190 000 ha area annually covering about 80% of the final felling area. About 20% of the forest regeneration is conducted artificially, and the rest by assisted natural regeneration, mainly by saving existing undergrowth. Tending of young stands is carried out insufficiently, as well as thinnings.

Main challenges for the forestry are low density of forest roads, outdated forest resource data, insufficient financing of silviculture and deteriorating quality of forests.

Development of wood harvesting in the Northwest Russian regions



More information

Fedstat.ru

Northwest Russian Forest Sector in a Nutshell

Information service for Russian forestry