



Efforts and results of mountain area conservation by Forestry conservancy projects

Yuki Yamana⁽¹⁾, Kojiro Shiraki⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ Forestry Conservation Division, Forestry Agency, MAFF, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, 1-2-1, Tokyo, Japan, (yuki_yamana960@maff.go.jp)

Forests constitute about 70% of Japan's national land and are characterized by steep terrain and fragile geological conditions. Moreover, concentrations of heavy rain during the rainy and typhoon seasons and frequent earthquakes cause many forest area disasters across the country every year. The Forestry Agency of Japan has been taking forestry conservation measures, specifically, two major countermeasures consisting of the regulation of forestry-related activities under the Protection Forest System outlined in the Forest Act, and preventive and restorative measures taken through the placement of structures via civil engineering construction projects through forest conservation works, called "CHISAN," so as to protect the lives and properties of the public and ensure regional safety and security.

The agency's forest conservation efforts consist of stream works, which are intended to prevent erosion of banks and riverbeds and the outflow of earth and sands through the construction of check dams and other civil engineering structures, as well as hillside works, which are intended to reduce hillside slope gradients and disperse downflows of surface water through installation of structures such as retaining walls and through planting based on landslide characteristics for the purpose of recovering vegetation. Moreover, landslide prevention works provided to locations where landslides have occurred or are likely to occur consist of the following two types: control work, intended to mitigate landslide-causing factors by draining underground water, and restraining work, intended to directly stop soil movement. These measures enhance the water resource conservation function of forests and stabilize mountainside soils.

The agency of Japan will endeavor further to enhance the disaster-prevention functions in forests, promote projects for ensuring regional safety and security, and promote public relations and public-awareness-raising by publicly explaining forest conservation works through various means, including this presentation.

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