

Alexandre Samoilenko

February 10 – March 31, 2009

The three-men team led by Alexandre Samoilenko worked in Dalnerechensky, Pozharski and Krasnoarmeisky district. The conditions in which the inspectors conducted patrols were rather severe: 1 m of snow and more.

In total, seven patrols were made, 11 reports on hunting violations were drawn, four guns and 35 cartridges confiscated. Among the confiscated poached animals there were seven roe deer, two red deer, and a musk deer. The inspectors revealed three illegal logging sites, on one of these facts a criminal procedure was initiated.

On March 13, when returning from the patrol in Pozharsky district the inspectors saw a "GAZ-66" all-terrain military vehicle loaded with timber. Knowing that there were no legal forestries or logging sites in the area, they called the road police and asked them to intercept the violators. Having come to the place of detention they saw the three of them: a gamekeeper who, as he said, was on a patrol in those hunting grounds; his son, also a gamekeeper; and they picked up an stranger on the way. The father had a carbine and a Huskvarna petrol-powered saw in the car. The two relatives explained that they had seen a broken "Kamaz" all-terrain vehicle loaded with timber by the roadside. Its driver asked them to give him a lift and bring the timber to the place of destination, so they transshipped it to their car. As nobody of the detainees had any documents, they were all accompanied to Dalnerechensky police station. The next day the inspectors took an investigator and two witnesses and started searching for the place of illegal logging. Following "Kamaz" tracks, they found them in Pozharski district. A criminal proceeding was initiated.

On February 22, the team revealed illegal logging of cedar and Manchurian nut tree in the total volume of 500 m<sup>3</sup>. There were no people on the site. The inspectors reported to the police station in the nearest village.

The next day the team led by Alexandre Samoilenko saw tracks of a "Kamaz" all-terrain vehicle and followed them. It was clear that the people were searching for animals to hunt, as the tracks led along the hills and in floodplains. Having covered 15 km, the environmental inspectors had to leave their car and continue pursuit of the violators on foot, as there was deep snow. Finally they found the vehicle and three people by it, two foresters of Dalnerechensky forestry and their driver. On the question what they were doing in the hunting lease and why they had a carbine with telescopic sight with them, one of the foresters said it was his and showed a hunting license with the date corrected by hand. All the three said they had no other gun, but by the car the team found another one, and in the car there were cartridges to it. The second forester said he was the owner of it, but he had no gun license. In the result, an administrative report was made, the two guns were confiscated, and a fine of 1,500 roubles (\$40) was paid.

On March 14, during a patrol in Dalnerechenski district the inspectors saw an armed man in a camouflage cloak. Having noticed he was followed, he dropped the gun and the cartridges and tried to run away. When caught, he take an assumed name and said he had found the arms and went up the hill to practice shooting. The team wrote an administrative report and passed the gun and the cartridges to Dalnerechensky police station. As the young man was under-age, the team also reported to Juvenile Delinquent Commission.

On March 14, the team spotted an illegal logging site with 30 Korean pine trees cut. About 700 m away the inspectors heard a sound of a tractor that was moving off. They tried to chase it but it turned impossible due to deep snow.

On March 20, in the hunting grounds of Krasnoarmeisky district the team found an illegal logging site where a minivan was parked, from which ski tracks went to the forest. The man was accompanied by two dogs. The inspectors laid an ambush. Once they heard gunshots. Finally the hunter appeared. He said he was just walking but when the team followed his tracks back into the forest, he confessed he was indeed hunting. 200 m away a backpack with two cut roe deer and hunting skis were hidden in snow under a tree. The dead animals had dog bites on their bodies. It was clear that the deer were very emaciated, their total weight was 18 kg. The inspectors burnt the carcasses and made an administrative report on the poacher.

On March 21, the team was patrolling in hunting grounds and apprehended two brothers who had poached a musk deer. On March 25, they stopped a vehicle for examination and found a loaded gun and eight cartridges to it. The driver, a worker from a logging site, had no gun license, so an administrative proceeding was initiated against him. On March 26, in the hunting grounds of Terneisky district the team stopped an armed fishermen, who had not gun license.

While patrolling the inspectors saw at least five places, where animals were previously killed and removed from the forest by dragging. Hunters often use dogs to kill exhausted ungulates. For example, once the inspectors paid attention that the dogs that were accompanying fishermen had bloodstains on them. After some search in the area, they discovered a young dead red deer and a roe deer hidden in the snow, and obviously killed by the dogs. The two fishermen admitted their guilt, and an administrative report was made on them.

On March 28, after laying an ambush the inspectors detained two men with a snowmobile, to which a sledge with four poached roe deer and a red deer were attached. One of the detainees confessed to having killed them a day before and kill those deer and then arranged with a friend (who has a snowmobile and a truck) that he would help him get them home. The inspectors made an administrative report on each of the violators, and the deer were burnt.