

Fukushima Forest Regeneration Project




If thinning and other forest management slow down, forests degraded increase, and the multiple functions that forest previously had are no longer fully available. For example, there is concern that functions for watershed conservation and preventing landslides could decline, impacting everyday living.

Since FY2013, Fukushima Prefecture has been working on the “Fukushima Forest Regeneration Project”, which improves forests to maintain and enhance their public functions, and performs radioactive substance countermeasures that are necessary for the implementation of such improvements. The Fukushima Forest Regeneration Project is led by municipalities and other public entities, and implements forest management etc. on intensive

survey areas of contamination etc. (including areas for which evacuation orders have been lifted). Main measures in the project include the following:

- (1) Surveying air dose rates and obtaining the consent of forest owners
- (2) Measures to suppress movement of soil material (installation of log terracing, etc.)
- (3) Forest management (thinning, regeneration cutting, etc.)
- (4) Development of Road network maintenance (construction of forestry operation road etc.).

Since 2013, so far, the project has been implemented in 44 municipalities. By the end of March 2018, it had performed work such as thinning on 4,888ha, and built 559km of forestry operation roads.







Forest surveys etc. to select areas for validation	Forest management by public entities	Validation of countermeasures for radioactive substance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview surveys of forest radiation levels etc. to select validation areas Investigation of validation target forests for the purpose of studying working plans Providing forest owners with explanations and obtaining their consent.  <p>Overview surveys etc. Obtaining consent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thinning etc. by public entities, such as prefectures and municipalities, for planted forests where maintenance is difficult due to the effects of radioactive substances.  <p>Appropriate forest management through thinning etc.</p>	<p>To counter the impact of radioactive substances,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crushing, packing, and migrating foliage produced in the course of forest management Installing terracing to suppress the movement of radioactive substances are implemented as validation.  <p>Validation of crushing Installation of log terracing</p>

[Figure] Summary of the Fukushima Forest Regeneration Project

Validation Project for Forestry Regeneration

With efforts making progress towards residents' return, such as the lifting of areas under evacuation orders, it is important to resume the forestry and timber industries, which are core industries for the region, in order to secure places for residents to live and work. From FY2014, the Forestry Agency has been working on validation projects

against radioactive substances, using knowledge gained so far. These projects target districts where evacuation instructions had been issued, and are intended to enable the smooth resumption of forest maintenance and forestry livelihoods and activities (Figure).

<p>Safety measures for working in forests</p>  <p>Use of elite trees to save work on undergrowth clearing</p>  <p>Raising working efficiency to shorten radiation exposure time</p>	<p>Forest management measures to suppress movement</p>  <p>Movement suppression through thinning</p>
<p>Measurement of concentrations of radioactive substances</p>  <p>Measurement of radioactive concentrations in each part of trees</p>  <p>Measurement of concentrations of radioactive substances in the bark of living trees</p>	<p>Changes in air dose rates associated with forest management</p>  <p>Measurement of air dose rates at harvesting / planting site</p>

[Figure] Validation Project for Forestry Regeneration in Districts Where Evacuation Orders Have Been Lifted

Reference : Forestry Agency “Summary of the Validation Project for Forestry Regeneration in FY2016 in Districts Where Evacuation Orders Have Been Lifted” ; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries “Action to Regenerate Forests and Forestry in Fukushima Prefecture”, February 5, 2016