Fires in Arid Agroforestal Landscapes and Their Damage Assessment

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ABSTRACT

Impact of shelter forest belts of *Robínia pseudoacácia L*. on spread of fires and the damage caused by them was investigated for arid agroforestal landscapes of Russia. For arid regions of the world, we have obtained a mathematical model according to which in habitats where shelter forest belts of 1st class life-state grow, the area of fires in agrarian lands varies by an average of 1.22 ha / hour, and as to plantations of 2nd and 3rd classes - up to 1.56 ha / hour. The forest belts could suffer low (a forest stand is not substantially damaged), medium (more than 10% of live trees) and severe (less than 10% of live trees) degree of damages by fire. The damage caused in this case amounts to US\$ 220, 853 and 2,210 / ha. The world community has been recommended a method for fighting fires in arid agroforestal landscapes "Don Fire Protection" developed at Don State Agrarian University. A new scientific direction "agroforestry pyrology" is substantiated; its research object is agroforestal landscapes exposed to wildfires, and the main task is to study the patterns of occurrence, behaviour and consequences of fires on forest-meliorated lands in order to develop fire-safe technologies of protective afforestation under global climate warming.

Key words: agroforestal landscape; fire; shelterbelt planting; damage assessment; agroforestry pyrology.