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#### 4. Transitional provisions

The Concept Paper provides for the adoption of a special law on enactment of the new «Forest Code of the Russian Federation» in order to take into account all peculiarities of the new Forest Code implementation and to avoid loss of forest management sustainability and decrease of the forest complex efficiency. In accordance with the mentioned law, it is supposed to preserve the existing relations of the state with the persons using forests based on forest lease agreements until the moment of bringing the mentioned agreements in line with the new forest law.

To bring forest lease agreements in line with the draft bill, applications for re-execution of such agreements in the form of forestry license agreements or agreements for trust management of protective forests for the period established earlier by the forest lease agreement shall be submitted.

In accordance with the Concept Paper, bringing the lease agreement of the forest fund plot in line with the new forest law is carried out within the period of validity of the forest management project prepared by the lessee for the types of forest use established by the forest lease agreement.

This approach to the implementation of the proposed legislative innovations allows to ensure the continuity of forest use by providing the lessees of the forest plots with the opportunity to operate forests without re-executing the previously concluded forest area lease agreements until the implementation of the drawn-up forest development projects.

It is also assumed that the application of legal norms of the future law regulating issues related to the use of forests will be extended to persons using forests based on forest land lease agreement only after the execution in the form of license agreements or trust management agreements. Before the constituent entities of the Russian Federation adopt relevant regional laws and regulatory acts, the Concept Paper provides for the maintenance of the legal force of laws and regulations adopted (issued) by the Government of the Russian Federation, federal executive agencies within the powers determined by the current «Forest Code of the Russian Federation».

To motivate legal entities and individuals to switch to the new forest management system, the Concept Paper provides for the possibility of early (before the end of the forest management project term) bringing previously concluded forest lease agreements into compliance with the new forest law. Such right is granted at the forest user's request.

#### 5. Place of future federal law in the system of current laws

The «Forest Code of the Russian Federation» is a piece of law that acts as a system-forming (basic) act in the system of forest relations laws. The Code is aimed at the implementation of the provisions of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, establishing rights and obligations on the use and protection of natural resources and providing for the division of jurisdictions and powers between the agencies of state power of the Russian Federation and the agencies of state power of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation in matters of the

possession, use and disposal of natural resources.

In case of adoption of the new «Forest Code of the Russian Federation», the «Forest Code of the Russian Federation» No. 200-FZ, dated December 4, 2006, and Federal Law No. 201-FZ, dated December 4, 2006, On Enactment of the «Forest Code of the Russian Federation» shall be deemed invalid. Besides, for the purpose of ensuring communication and hierarchy of norms and the balance of the system of laws in the field of forest relations, certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation containing provisions regulating the field of forest relations, as well as legislative acts of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation in the relevant field, are subject to amendments.

The adoption of the Federal Law "Forest Code of the Russian Federation" will require that a number of by-laws adopted by the agencies of state power of the Russian Federation and the agencies of state power of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation to develop the «Forest Code of the Russian Federation» of 2006 be declared invalid.

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