This study clarified the modern meaning of forest development, which was previously implemented in protected areas, by examining the concept of “protection” and investigating forestry heritage that remains in protected areas. First, the author examined the present state of Japan’s national parks, the core protected area category in Japan, based on “protection” from the global perspective. Second, the author reviewed historical forest development, investigated forestry heritage’s present state in Hokkaido’s national parks as examples, and examined the meaning and issue of preserving forestry heritage. Results showed that Japan’s national parks were intended to be designated “highly natural areas to protect the ecological process” and “areas to protect characteristic features formed by long-term interaction between man and nature”; the former is aimed at protecting the wild natural environment, while the latter is aimed at protecting cultural landscapes. Previously, large-scale forest development was implemented in national parks, and therefore, forest landscapes resulting from such development are characterized as cultural landscapes, which have value as cultural heritage; moreover, remains of forestry facilities used for past forest development have value as forestry heritage. Therefore, the author investigated the present state of the remains of forestry railroads as examples of forestry heritage in Shikotsu Toya and Daisetsuzan National Parks in Hokkaido. Most remains were found in a poor state of preservation and so will disappear in the future. Because the range of cultural heritage is now spreading from shrines, temples, and archaeological ruins to industrial heritage, the forestry heritage that remains, together with cut-over areas and planted forests in protected areas, has significance as cultural heritage. However, preserving forestry heritage under the present protected area system is difficult. Because forestry heritage upholds the memory of the relationship between man and nature, preserving such heritage proactively plays an important role in protected areas.

Key words: protected area, national park, forestry heritage, forest railroad, Hokkaido