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Translation

FOREST RESERVES IN THE SOVIET UNION:

CONCISE HANDBOOK

By

A.G. Bannikov, et al



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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FOREST RESERVES IN THE SOVIET UNION:
CONCISE HANDBOOK

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INTRODUCTION

[Text] The creation of forest reserves where standard natural complexes are conserved to study the natural course of natural processes plays an important role in the system of government conservation measures in the USSR. The objects of conservation in forest reserves are both ecosystems capable of self-regulation and self-reproduction (i.e., those in which different trophic levels and blocks are represented so fully that a natural course of processes of exchange of matter and energy is provided) and reproducible ecosystems, but incapable of self-reproduction and self-regulation due to the small dimensions of the territory and the powerful anthropogenic effect on the part of surrounding territories. Study of the principles of processes in complex natural systems may yield results only if the state of these processes are recorded at individual moments of their development, which requires continuous scientific research work. According to this, forest reserves are regional scientific research institutions with a staff of scientific workers and the corresponding equipment that supports conducting of stationary multiple research over a period of years. Scientific investigations in forest reserves are directed toward study of objects of nature and natural complexes to substantiate methods of efficient use of nature.

Any kind of production activity is prohibited on forest reserve territories. Mass excursions to forest reserves by nonspecialists are not authorized. A protection zone within which economic activity is limited (only those forms of it are permitted which do not inflict harm on the natural complexes of the forest reserve) is established around the forest reserve territory.

There are now 108 forest reserves (including game-hunting reserves) with a total area of 7.8 million hectares in the USSR. During the last 10 years 26 forest reserves on an area of more than three million hectares have been newly organized and restored.

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The activity of forest reserves is frequently and validly linked to protection of rare animals, birds or plants.

Only several pairs of nutrias remained in the Voronezh' Forest Reserve at the time it was organized. During the 50 years that this forest reserve has been in existence, more than 3,000 nutrias have been taken from it and resettled in 73 regions of our country. We now count approximately 70,000 of these animals.

At the moment the Barguzin Forest Reserve on Lake Baykal was organized, it was inhabited by no more than 20-30 sables that sheltered in inaccessible rocky placer deposits. Within 15 years the sables populated the entire prohibited taiga and began to spread rapidly through the Transbaykal region.

Great white herons and pelicans were almost completely destroyed in the Volga delta during the years preceding organization of the Astrakhan' Game Reserve. There is now an abundance of life there, an unceasing hubbub of birds and thousands of birds now nest in trees, countless green islands and on sandbars.

Only a little more than 100 wild reindeer remained in the Lapland tundra on the Kola Peninsula at the moment the Lapland Game Reserve was created and there are now more than 20,000 of them.

The Amur tiger is considerably obligated for its existence to the Sikhote-Alin' and other forest reserves in the Far East, the Asiatic wild ass owes its existence to the Badkhyzy Game Reserve in Turkmeniya and the Bukhara deer owes its existence to the game reserves in Tadzhikistan. Hundreds of thousands of wintering swans, geese, ducks and other aquatic fowl have found quiet refuges in the game reserves on the Caspian Sea. This list could be continued not only for animals but for plants as well, recalling the preserved groves of yews, foxtree, the unique nut forests of the Tyan'-Shan' and the pistachio forests of Turkmeniya.

Game reserves are of great significance as scientific centers for study of nature. Methods of conservation, restoration and efficient use of valuable commercial animals (sable, nutria, reindeer and elk) and many species of birds are developed successfully in them; much has been done to restore oak, beech, cedar and nut forests; extensive work has been done to study the change of natural resources with regard to construction of hydroengineering facilities and reclamation measures and other forms of economic activity.

More than 600 scientists and specialists work in game reserves and just as many scientists of other scientific institutions participate actively in the scientific research of game reserves.

Historically established natural ecosystems retained the capability of self-regulation and self-reproduction in such game reserves as the Caucasus, Kronotskiy and Sikhote-Alin'. The territories of these reserves are sufficiently vast and systems of surrounding territories related to them ecologically contribute to the normal function of the ecosystems and the protected zones perform buffer functions. The regime in these game reserves is directed primarily toward maintenance of quiet and the natural course of natural processes.

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Reproducible systems, but incapable of autonomous self-regulation due to the limited composition of ecosystems, the small dimensions of the territory and the powerful anthropogenic pressure on the part of the transformed surrounding territories are conserved in many game reserves. For example, changing hydrological conditions can in some cases alter the water regime of an entire region, including the territory of the game reserve located in this region. The active interference in the fate of natural complexes by artificial regulation of natural phenomena inherent to these complexes in undisturbed conditions (restoration of the hydrological regime disturbed by reclamation, restoration of basic types of forest on areas timbered in the past and so on) arises in this regard.

Ecosystems of anthropogenic landscapes formed on the location of destroyed natural landscapes are conserved in some game reserves. The regime in this group of protected territories is directed toward providing optimum conditions for restoration of natural complexes.

Creation of new forest reserves in Arctic zones, the tundra, northern taiga, in the steppes, deserts and waters of the seas and oceans is planned during the next 10-15 years. The primary problem should be creation of 40-45 game reserves on an area of 4.5-5 million hectares in these zones so that the total number of game reserves in the country comprises 145-150 and the territory of these reserves comprises no less than 12-13 million hectares.

The project to form a global network of biosphere game reserves as standard systems of the basic biomes of earth, storehouses of the entire variety of the planet's genetic material, background stations for observation of the global state of the environment and the biological components of the corresponding section of the biosphere occupies a prominent position in the program of international cooperation "Man and the Biosphere" now being implemented. The principles of Soviet game reserves are the basis of the criteria for selection, the structure and functions of biosphere game reserves.

Besides the game reserves in our country, there are several game-hunting reserves created to protect the main natural complex. Along with them, work is being implemented to propagate and improve the habitation conditions of predatory animals, including diverse bioengineering, forest management and other measures. Strictly regulated hunting is authorized in these reserves with the increasing population of wild game.

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BRIEF INFORMATION ON THE GAME RESERVES OF THE USSR

[Text] The Azerbaijan SSR

The Bastuchay State Game Reserve (Azerbaijan SSR, Zangelanskiy Rayon)

It was organized in 1974 with an area of 117 hectares. It is subordinate to the State Committee of the Council of Ministers, Azerbaijan SSR for Environmental Protection (scientific investigations have only begun there with regard to the fact that the reserve was recently established).

The Gek-Gel' State Game Reserve with El'dar Pine Branch (Azerbaijan SSR, Kirovobod, ulitsa Kommunisticheskaya, 294)

It was organized in 1925, has existed since 1965 in its current boundaries, its area is 7,131 hectares of which 3,896 hectares are forest area and 109 hectares are reservoirs. It is located in the northeastern part of the Minor Caucasian Ridge at an altitude of 1,000-3,600 meters above sea level.

It is subordinate to the State Committee of the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers for Environmental Protection.

Deciduous forests and subalpine meadows, unique complexes of lake Gek-Gel', a unique grove of El'dar pine (in Khenlarskiy Rayon) and yew groves are typical for the forest reserve. The fauna is typical for the northeastern part of the Lesser Caucasus. The wild goat is found among rare species.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is study of the natural landscapes of the Lesser Caucasus, reacclimatization of the Caucasian red deer, development of methods of conservation and study of the unique stand of El'dar pine and also the biogeocenoses of lakes Gek-Gel' and Moral-Gel'.

The Girkan State Forest Reserve (Azerbaijan SSR, Lenkoran', Tea Sovkhoz Avrora, ulitsa Lenina, 2)

It was organized in 1936, has existed since 1969 within current boundaries and its area is 2,900 hectares. It is located on the subtropical Lenkoran' lowland and in the lower mountain belt of the Talysh.

It is subordinate to the State Committee of the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers for Environmental Protection.

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The territory of the forest reserve can be divided into three landscape belts: lowland (up to 200 meters above sea level), foothills (up to 500 meters) and low-mountain (up to 1,000 meters above sea level). The vegetation of the lowland section is most abundant and diverse.

The flora of the forest reserve numbers 1,900 species, of which 162 are endemic, 95 are rare and 38 are endangered species. The main varieties of relic forests are of the girkan type--Persian ironwood, silk tree, wing nut, elm, chestnut-leaved oak, Caspian honey-locust, girkan fig, smooth-leaved elm and bearded alder; the silk tree predominates in the lowland belt; fern, deer tongue and sedges dominate in the ground cover. Hornbeam, beech and walnut are the prevalent varieties in the foothills belt; groves of Persian ironwood have been maintained.

Endemic and relic species of animals, especially among mollusks and insects, are numerous. The green-bellied lizard and the girkan subspecies of birds are interesting. The appearance of the leopard in the forest reserve, which was recently a permanent inhabitant here, is possible.

The scientific profile of the reserve is study of problems of restoring ancient endangered varieties: Persian ironwood, chestnut-leaved oak, silk tree and also the ecology of individual species of animals.

The Zakataly State Forest Reserve (Azerbaijan SSR, Zakataly, Plats, 2)

It was organized in 1929 with an area of 25,218 hectares, of which 15,772 hectares is forest area and 48 hectares are reservoirs. It is located on the southern slopes of the Great Caucasian Ridge at an altitude of 650-3,646 meters above sea level.

It is subordinate to the State Committee of the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers for Environmental Protection.

A mountain-forest landscape of deciduous trees, high-altitude thin forest with sub-alpine high-altitude grasses and subalpine and alpine meadows is typical for the forest reserve.

More than 75 percent of the forests of the reserve consist of beech forests. The main forest-forming varieties are oak, beech, hornbeam, linden, maples, ash, smooth-leaved elm, chestnut, walnut and so on in the lower part of the forest belt; dogwood, filbert, cornel, medlar, wild myrobalan, dewberry and rhododendron predominate in the shrub belt. The central-altitude belt is represented mainly by beech plantations. The flora of the forest preserve numbers more than 1,000 species. The common yew is found among rare plants; gean, apple, pear, mountain ash, aspen, birch, alder and so on are found in the forest belt.

The fauna of the forest reserve is typical for the eastern part of the Greater Caucasus. Such species as Caucasian tur, chamois, the maral, roe deer, wild boar, brown bear, otter, badger, fox, weasel, stone and pine martens, common raccoon, lynx, European wildcat, squirrel, European hare, fat dormouse, voles and so on are typical. The bearded vulture, white-headed vulture, black vulture, Caucasian black-cock, chough, alpine chough, great and lesser spotted woodpeckers, the shore lark, nuthatch, cuckoo and so on are found among birds.

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The scientific profile of the forest preserve is the study of the flora and fauna of the southern slopes of the Great Caucasus and also high-altitude meadow and mountain forest biogeocenoses.

The Kyzyl-Lagach State Forest Reserve (Azerbaijan SSR, Port Il'ich Station, Nariman-Abad Village, 2)

It was organized in 1929 with an area of 88,000 hectares, of which 62,000 hectares is a water basin. It is located on the southwestern coast of the Caspian Sea. It includes Kirov Bay and part of the Lenkoran lowland.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Nature Conservation, Game Reserves and Hunting, USSR Ministry of Agriculture

The relief of the greater part of the territory of the reserve is flatland and a small area is occupied by narrow ridges up to 10 meters high consisting of crags. The area of the shallow sea area is significant.

The following plant communities are typical for the forest reserve: a strip of halophytes consisting of glasswort, knotted shvedka, sea asters (beyond the coastal strip along the Great Bay), salt marsh meadows with prevalence of alkali grass, reed beds and rushes, thickets of rushes with dewberry and camelthorn, ephemeral cereal grass wasteland and wormwood, thickets of dewberry pomegranates (Sara Peninsula) and reed thickets frequently with scirpus and tamarisk. Aquatic vegetation is abundant: pond weed, milfoil, hornwort, wild celery, water chestnut, grass-wrack, spiral widgeon grass and so on. The flora of the forest reserve numbers approximately 250 species of flowering plants.

The fauna of the forest reserve is abundant. The reservoirs contain more than 30 species of fish--herring, carp, pike-perch, mullet and more rarely the salmon and sturgeon families; the amphibians include the tree frog, lake frog, green toad and so on. The reptiles include the Caspian and swamp tortoises, the common zheltopuzik, grass snakes, lizard snake, blunt-nosed viper and so on. The common animals include the hedgehog, bats, jackal, fox, wolf, badger, Caspian seal, Transcaucasian hare, rats, voles, nutria and wild boar. The forest reserve is inhabited by 248 species of birds, including the Indian gallinule, francolin, little bustard, the great bustard, glossy ibis, spoonbill, buff-backed and squacco herons, night herons, great white heron and little egret, cormorant, bald coot, widgeon, mallard, pintail, gadwall, swan, flamingo, gray-lag and white-fronted geese, red-breasted goose, peregrine falcon, steppe eagle and so on.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is complex study of the nature of the shallow waters in maritime reservoirs and adjacent sections of the coastline of the southwestern Caspian Sea and also study of the wintering of birds, primarily of the goose family, bald coots, flamingoes, francolin, little bustard and the great bustard.

Pirkuli State Forest Reserve (Azerbaijan SSR, Shemakhinskiy Rayon, Yuriy Mammedaliyev Village, Pirkuli Post Office)

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It was organized in 1969 with an area of 1,521 hectares, including 1,362 hectares of forest area. It is located on the southeastern slopes of the Great Caucasian ridge.

It is subordinate to the State Committee of the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers for Environmental Protection.

Steppe foothills, high-altitude deciduous forests and subalpine thin forest and yew groves are typical for the forest reserve. The flora include 45 rare and endemic species. The Persian gazelle among the mammals inhabits the foothills.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is developing methods of protection and restoration of the yew, study of the hydrological role of the forest and developing methods of protection and multiplication of the Persian gazelle population.

The Turianchay State Forest Reserve (Azerbaijan SSR, Agdash, SU-18)

It was organized in 1958 with an area of 12,246 hectares, of which 5,031 hectares are forest area. It is located in the steppe foothills of the Great Caucasus and on the forest slopes of the Bozdag ridge.

It is subordinate to the State Committee of the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers for Environmental Protection.

Terebrinth-juniper thin forest, terebrinths, juniper, meadow-steppe groupings, beard grass steppe and tugai are typical for the forest reserve. The main varieties forming the thin forest are terebrinth and junipers (polycarpic, Phoenician, heavy-scented and more rarely the oblate). The Iberian oak, Georgian maple, smooth-leaved elm and poplar grow in the forest reserve; the pomegranate, Christ's thorn, eastern honeysuckle, small-fruited cherry, Dahurian mudthorn, common smoke tree, fir, sumac, jasmine and so on grow in the underbrush. The tugai is formed of southern willow, poplar, bearded alder, olive, dogwood, puckthorn, dewberry, clomatis and so on.

The most widespread types of thin forest are terebrinth-juniper with jasmine with moss-lichen cover and terebrinth-juniper with xerofil cover of friganoid type. Thick groves of pomegranate and dewberry are common along the beds of ravines and the Turanchay River valley.

The forest reserve is inhabited by 15 species of mammals, 108 species of birds and 11 species of reptiles. The reptiles include tortoises (Caspian terrapin and Grecian tortoise), common zheltopuzik, Caucasian lizard, yellow-bellied rat snake, the collared Contia and blunt-nosed viper. Among the birds found are the rock partridge, rock-dove, turtle-dove, falcon, griffon vulture, black vulture, green-finch, rock bunting, black cap, thrush and so on. There are many bats--common bats and horseshoe bats; there are wild boar, bear, badger, stone marten, jackal, lynx, European hare and so on.

The branches of the forest reserve are the El'dar pine grove with an area of 300 hectares, located in the El'dar steppe on the El'yarougi ridge (the world's only natural growth of El'dar pine--a relic of the Tertiary Period) and also a grove

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of terebrinth thin forest with an area of 100 hectares located in the Karabakha steppe in Agdamskiy Rayon in the vicinity of Sul'tanbud Hills.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is developing methods of protection and restoration of the biogeocenoses of juniper thin forest and study of the ecology of xerophytic trees and shrubs.

Shirvan State Forest Reserve (Azerbaijan SSR, Sal'yanskiy Rayon, Yeni-Kend Village Soviet, Khalach Village)

It was organized in 1969 with an area of 17,745 hectares, of which 3,500 hectares occupy reservoirs. It is located in the southeastern part of the Shirvan lowland.

It is subordinate to the State Committee of the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers for Environmental Protection.

Biocenoses of wormwood-solonchak of semiarid land with ephemerals are typical for the forest reserve. The Persian gazelle among the mammals and the Indian gallinule, francolin, great bustard and little bustard among rare species of birds are found here.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to develop methods of protection and reproduction of the Persian gazelle.

The Armenian SSR

The Dilizhan State Forest Reserve (Armenian SSR, Dilizhan, Tbilisskoye shosse, 4)

It was organized in 1958 with an area of 23,071 hectares, of which 19,836 hectares are forest area. It is located in Northern Armenia on the slopes of spurs of the Pambak, Badumi, Murguz and Areguni ridges (the Lesser Caucasian ridge).

It is subordinate to the State Committee of Forestry, Armenian SSR Council of Ministers.

Natural complexes of the northern slopes of the Lesser Caucasian ridge are typical for the forest reserve. Approximately 87 percent of the territory is occupied by forests. The prevailing varieties are Iberian and eastern oak (45 percent), eastern beech, hornbeam, maples (Georgian, redwood and Norway maples), elm, sharp-leaved ash, hackberry, lindens (small-leaved lyme and Caucasian linden), aspen and great willow; walnut, apple, cherry, oriental hornbeam, juniper and so on are found; dewberry, raspberry, blackthorn, black haw, plum, cornel and so on are common among shrubs. There are also small tracts of pine and a natural grove of yew in the forest reserve.

The animal world is typical for mountain forests of the Lesser Caucasus. The fauna contains such animals as the maral, roe deer, brown bear, Persian squirrel, lynx, wildcat, otter and so on; birds include the snow partridge, Caucasian black-cock, keklik, common partridge, quail, bullfinch, grosbeak, black vulture, golden eagle, griffon vulture, goshawk, booted eagle and so on; the axis deer has been established.

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The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to develop methods of restoring the eastern oak and to study its natural restoration, to study ecosystems of the high-altitude vegetation belt and yew grove, to preserve in the natural state the natural complex typical for the Lesser Caucasus and to study the ecology of the badger, bear, marten, roe deer and snow partridge.

The Khosrovy State Forest Reserve (Armenian SSR, Araratskiy Rayon, Bedu Village, Kal'yana ulitsa, 79)

It was organized in 1958 with an area of 23,267 hectares, including 10,000 hectares of forest area. It is located on the southern horns of the Gegama ridge in the Garni and Vedy River basins.

It is subordinate to the State Committee of Forestry, Armenian SSR Council of Ministers.

Landscapes of three vertical belts of Southern Armenia--semiarid land, mountain steppes and forests--are typical for the forest reserve. Plantations of oaks (eastern and Iberian), juniper, ash, maple, lém, pear, birch and mountain ash predominate in the forest belt; honeysuckle, warfaring tree, rose, hawthorne, wild myrobalm and so on predominate in the underbrush. Large areas are occupied by juniper forests with a mixture of almond, hawthorne (black and silver), pear, wild myrobalm, walnut, poplar, barberry, cottoneaster and so on; pure plantations of ash, maple, walnut and poplar are found.

More than 1,500 species of plants, including the Armenian hawthorne (endemic), volvalov rye (endangered species) and some other rare and endemic species grow in the forest reserve. The fauna is represented by such species as the wild goat, mouflon (rare), bear, leopard (rare), Transcaucasian mole-vole, Persian jird, the snow vole and so on; the axis deer has become established. The forest reserve is inhabited by 120 species of birds, including the bearded vulture, black vulture, booted eagle, wall creeper, rock nuthatch, common partridge, keklik and alpine chough; the long-legged skink, neutral and rock lizards, trauch's yashchurka, common zheltopuzik, slow-worm, blind snake, yellow-bellied snake, olive snake, variegated snake and Transcaucasian snake, vipers (steppe and Armenian), blunt-nosed viper and so on are found among reptiles; amphibians include the green toad, frogs (lake and Transcaucasian), tree frog and so on. The brook trout, Kurinskiy barbel, bystryanka, common loach, khramulya and so on swim in the rivers of the forest reserve.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve it to study the ecosystems of typical landscapes of southern Armenia, to develop methods of protection and to study the mouflon and wild goat and to study the natural forests typical for the southern part of Armenia.

Belorusskaya SSR

State Forest-Hunting Reserve Belovezhskaya Pushcha (Belorusskaya SSR, Bretskaya Oblast, Post Office, Kamenyuki)

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In 1957 the forest reserve, which has been in existence since 1940, was transformed into a forest-hunting reserve with an area of 87,447 ha, of which 77,148 ha are forest area and 293 ha are reservoirs. It is located in Bretskaya and Gradninskaya Oblasts along the state border with Poland.

It is subordinate to the Administration of Affairs, Belorussian SSR Council of Ministers.

Almost 90 percent of the territory of the reserve is occupied by forests; a variety of forest plantations of different composition and age is typical. There are 12 types of forest in the reserve: pine forests, pine-fir forests, pine-oak forests, horn beam-oak forests and swampy alder thickets with abundant undergrowth and so on; it numbers 21 ancient varieties, including pine (it occupies approximately 50 per cent of the territory), fir, alder, oak, ash, horn beam, birch and so on. Among herbaceous plants, heath, whortleberry, bog whortleberry, cranberry, Korean rhododendron, sphagnum moss, marsh marigold, reeds, bullrushes, horsetail, sedges, nettles, asarabacca, herb robert and ferns predominate. Currant (black and red), choke-cherry, filbert, spindle-tree, bramble, wayfaring tree, willows and so on are usually found in the undergrowth. A total of 836 species of higher plants has been recorded in Belovezhkaya Pushcha.

The fauna is typical for the forests of Eastern Europe. A total of 53 species of mammals, 212 species of birds, 11 species of amphibians and 7 species of reptiles is known; European bison, elk, European deer, roe deer, wild boar, wolf, lynx, hares--common hare and mountain hare, nutria (reacclimatized), muskrat, forest dormouse, fat dormouse, common dormouse, squirrel, yellow-neck field mouse, common forest mouse, harvest mouse, mole, shrew and so on are encountered. There are usually hazel hens, great grouse, grouse, canary, white and black storks, three-toed woodpecker, Ural owl, barred warbler, peregrine falcon, hobby, buzzard, lesser spotted eagle and also black kites and common kites, goshawks, booted eagle, harrier and so on are common. Frogs (tree frogs, pond frogs, common frogs and sharp-nosed), toads (gray, green and reed), toad frogs, fire-bellied frogs, lizards (sand and viviparous), snakes, vipers, smooth snakes and aquatic turtles are found among amphibians and reptiles.

The scientific profile of the forest-hunting reserve is to develop methods of conservation and reproduction of the flora and fauna of coniferous-deciduous forests, to study the consequences of economic activity in adjacent areas and to study and to breed the European bison.

Berezino State Forest Reserve (Belorusskaya SSR, Vitebskaya Oblast, Lipel'skiy Rayon, Kraytsy Village)

It was organized in 1925 and the area is 76,201 ha, of which 58,183 ha are forest area and 1,836 ha are reservoirs. It is located in the northern part of the Belorusskaya SSR, in Minskaya and Vitebskaya Oblasts.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Nature Conservation, Game Reserves and Hunting, USSR Ministry of Agriculture.

There is a diverse combination of meadow and forest associations and an abundance of rivers and lakes in the forest reserve. Forests occupy 56,500 ha or 77 percent

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of the territory. The predominant variety is pine (42 percent). The most widespread types of forest and spindle-shaped pine, green-leaved pine, pine-birch forest with a mixture of fir, fir-pine and birch, oak forests with brushy undergrowth, fir-whortleberry and fir-deciduous; black alder forests with birch, fir, ash and oak are predominate on peat soils. There are many mushrooms, especially cep Boletus, maslyat, lisehek, gruzdey, those growing in pine forests and birch forests and berries--strawberries, brambleberries, cranberries, bog whortleberries, and currants (red and black).

The fauna includes 52 species of mammals, approximately 200 species of birds, 5 species of reptiles, 8 species of amphibians and 30 species of fish. There are usually European bison, elk, roe deer, red deer (imported in 1956) in the reserve; the brown bear, wolf, fox, raccoon-dog (introduced in 1963), badger, pine marten, forest polecat, weasel, ermine, otter, mink and lynx are inhabitants among the predators.

Fifteen species of bats are found in the forest reserve and the common noctule and hairy-armed bat, the great bat and long-eared bat are most common; the hedgehog, shrew and mole are found among insectivores. One of the indigenous populations of nutria has been preserved; the black stork and osprey have been preserved among rare birds and grouse and great grouse are abundant.

The scientific profile of the reserve is to study coniferous and deciduous forest, sphagnum swamps and other natural complexes of the Upper Bereziny lowland and to determine the hydrological role of swamps in the headwaters of the Bereziny River and to study the biology of the nutria, elk, great grouse, black grouse, and other valuable species of animals.

Pripyatskiy Landscape-Hydrological State Forest Reserve (Belorusskaya SSR, Gomel'skaya Oblast, Zhitkovichskiy Rayon, Turov, ulitsa Kirova, 32)

It was organized in 1969 as an area of 60,767 hectares. It is located in the southern part of Gomel'skaya Oblast on the territory of three administrative rayons--Zhitkovichskiy, Petrikovskiy and Lel'chitskiy--on the south bank of the Pripyati River in its middle course. It occupies the central part of the Belorussian Poles'ye.

It is subordinate to the Ministry of Forest Management, Belorussian SSR.

Approximately 78 percent of the territory of the forest reserve is covered with forests and approximately 15 percent is occupied by swamps. Pine, oak and birch predominate in the forests and linden, maple, elm and hornbeam are found in smaller quantities; filbert, black haw, spindle-tree, buckthorn, dewberry and raspberry are found in the undergrowth. There is a total of approximately 684 species of plants in the forest reserve, including 12 rare species.

The fauna of the forest reserve includes 50 species of mammals, 256 species of birds (including 7 rare species), of which 193 species are nesting birds, 8 species of reptiles, 13 species of amphibians and 34 species of fish. The elk, roe deer, wild boar, fox, raccoon-dog, marten, lynx, wolf, ermine, weasel, polecat, mink, otter, muskrat, nutria, squirrel and European hare are found

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among animals; the birds include the great grouse, grouse, mallard, gadwall, pochards (red-crested and white-eyed duck), golden-eye, bald coot, common snipe, swan, common redshank, eagle owl, tawny owl, kite and so on.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to work out methods of preserving the landscape-hydrological complex of the central part of the Belorussian Poles'ye and to study the effect of reclamation of the Poles'ye lowland on the hydrological regime, climate, vegetation and animal world of the Poles'ye.

Georgian SSR

Adzhametskiy State Forest Reserve (Georgian SSR, Mayakovskiy Rayon, Vartsikhe Post Office)

It was organized in 1946 with an area of 4,848 hectares, of which 4,794 hectares are forest area. It is located in Western Georgia in the Kolkhidskaya lowland in the Rioni River valley.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Game Preserves and Hunting attached to the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers.

The forest reserve includes unique tracts of oak (imeretinskiy, Hartwis and Iberian) and elm zelkova. Ash and Caucasian pear are found in the oak forests and hawthorn, hornbeam, medlar, Pontian Ruscus, rose and so on are numerous among shrubs.

Roe deer, the Persian squirrel, the jackal, badger and others inhabit the forests.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the natural complexes of oak forests and to work out forest-protective and forest-restoration measures to preserve and restore oaks (imeretinskiy, Georgian and Hartwis) and also the relic grove of elm zelkova.

Algeti State Forest Reserve (Georgian SSR, Tetritskaroyvskiy Rayon, Manglisi Post Office, ulitsa Kurortnaya, 21)

It was organized in 1965 with an area of 5,910 hectares, of which 5,055 hectares is forest area. It is located in the Algeti River cut on the eastern spurs of the Trialetskiy ridge.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Game Preserves and Hunting attached to the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers.

The predominant plantations of the forest reserve are oriental spruce and Nordmann fir in combination with oak, red maple, pears and other varieties.

The maral, roe deer, wild boar, brown bear, stone marten and others are preserved here among the rare mammals of Georgia.

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The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the population of oriental spruce on the southern boundary of the distribution area and its relationships to other forest varieties on the edge of the distribution area and also to study the ecology of the roe deer, marten, bear, maral and other species of animals.

Batsara-Babanaurskiy State Forest Reserve (Georgian SSR, Akhmeta, ulitsa Rustaveli, 45)

It was organized in 1935 but until 1960 consisted of two forest reserves--the Batsarskiy and Babanaurskiy. It has existed in its current boundaries since 1960 with an area of 3,809 hectares. It is located in the southern foothills of the eastern part of the Main Caucasian Ridge in the region of the Kakhetskiy mountains.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Game Preserves and Hunting attached to the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers.

Mixed deciduous forest and the largest tract of elm zelkova in Georgia--a relic of the Tertiary period, grow on the territory of the former Babanaurskiy Forest Reserve. Elm zelkova forms pure plantations or is found in a mixture with other varieties: oak, hornbeam and maple: oriental hornbeam, hawthorn, common privet, rose and dogwood are found in the undergrowth. There is a unique tract of yew 400-700 years old in the belt of beech forests on the territory of the former Batsarskiy forest reserve; yew plantations mixed with beech, maple, ash, linden and other varieties, with abundant and varied undergrowth formed mainly by cherry laurel and holly, are found.

The fauna of the forest reserve is typical for the mixed forest belt of the eastern part of the Main Caucasian Ridge. It also includes such animals as the stone marten, Caucasian brown bear, roe deer and chamois.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to develop methods of protection and study of the elm zelkova and its relationships to other varieties and also of the yew tract and of the animals inhabiting it.

Borzhomi State Forest Reserve (Georgian SSR, Borzhomi, Likani village)

It was organized in 1935 with an area of 18,048 hectares, of which 15,863 hectares are forest area and 18 hectares are reservoirs. It is located on the southeastern slopes of the Meskhetskiy Ridge.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Game Preserves and Hunting attached to the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers.

Colchis type forests of the Tertiary period consisting of chestnut, oak, beech, hornbeam with elm, ash, maple, yew, apple, pear and others are preserved in the forest reserve; there are many lianas--ivy, dewberry, clematis, old man's beard and grapevine. Among the shrubs should be noted holly, docks, Pontian rhododendron, cherry laurel, Ruscus and so on. Oriental spruce and fir grow on the shaded slopes; pine forests of hackly pine and pine with a mixture of

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birch occupy a considerable area; there are alpine and subalpine meadow groupings.

The fauna of the forest reserve is typical for the foothills of the Western Caucasus. Rare animals for Georgia such as the Caucasian brown bear, lynx, European wildcat, badger, maral, roe deer, chamois, Persian squirrel and the Caucasian salamander, endemic to the western Transcaucasus, are found here.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to develop methods of protection of the vegetation and animal world of the Meskhetskiy Ridge, to study their relationships and also to develop biological methods of insect control --forest pests.

Vashlovanskiy State Forest Research (Georgian SSR, Tsitelitskaro, ulitsa Rustaveli, 25)

It was organized in 1935 with an area of 4,868 hectares, of which 4,069 hectares is forest area. It is located on the Shirkonetskoye Plateau at the end of the Tsivi-Gamborskiy Ridge in the eastern part of Georgia.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Game Preserves and Hunting attached to the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers.

The forest reserve contains pistachio, juniper and pomegranate forests with Christ's-thorn, barberry, willow-leaved pear, gean, jasmine, small-fruited cherry, Iberian honeysuckle, ephedra and other varieties.

Thin pistachio forests are distributed at a height of 300-400 meters above sea level on level contours of the relief; thin aris pistachio and juniper forests are found on the slopes at a height of 150-800 meters above sea level and pure stands of savin are found on slopes with northern exposure. The pistachio, three species of juniper, hackberry, long-stemmed oak, Sosnovskiy poplar, smooth-leaved elm, olive, Christ's-thorn, Pallas buckthorn, jasmine and so on should be noted among ancient shrubs.

There are approximately 550 species of higher plants in the forest reserve, of which there are 41 species of trees and shrubs; there are 40 species of plants endemic to Georgia.

The fauna includes 17 species of mammals, 60 species of birds and 18 species of amphibians and reptiles. The mammals include the striped hyena--a rare animal in our country; the Caucasian brown bear, lynx and wild boar are common. The bird fauna is represented by both forest and steppe species. The blunt-nosed viper, cat snake and lizard snake, four species of racers, the Grecian tortoise and others are numerous among reptiles.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to develop methods of preservation and to study the relic vegetation of "light forests"--pistachio, juniper, hackberry, turanga, pomegranate and others and also to develop methods of preservation and to study the striped hyena and a number of reptile species.

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Kintrishskiy State Forest Reserve

(Georgian SSR, Kobuleti Post Office, ulitsa Leselidze, 4)

It was organized in 1960 with an area of 6,983 hectares. It is located in Kobuletskiy Rayon, Adzharskaya ASSR, on the northwestern and western slopes of the Meskhetskiy Ridge in Western Georgia.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Game Preserves and Hunting attached to the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers.

The forest reserve includes relic forests of the Tertiary period: chestnut and beech with evergreen undergrowth, endemic ferns, Medvedev's birch, Pontian oak, sweet bay, common yew, Ungern's rhododendron and others. The main tree species is eastern beech, which forms different types of forest with cherry laurel, bilberry and rhododendron; more than 1,000 species of flowering plants are known.

The mountain fauna of Colchis type includes the Caucasian brown bear, badger, jackal, Persian squirrel, chamois, roe deer, snow partridge and other animals.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to develop methods of protection and to study the Colchis relic forests and the animal world of this natural complex.

Colchis State Forest Reserve

(Georgian SSR, Khobskiy Rayon)

It was organized in 1935 and has existed since 1959 in its current boundaries with an area of 500 hectares, of which 342.5 hectares are forest area. It is located in Potiyskiy Rayon in the swampy part of the Colchis lowland on the banks of the Pichori River and Lake Paleostomi.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Game Preserves and Hunting attached to the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers.

Swampy forests of Colchis type and stands of relic bearded alder are typical for the forest reserve. The roe deer and wild boar are found among large animals.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is complex study of the flora and fauna of the Colchis lowland with regard to reclamation and agricultural development of the territory.

Lagodekhi Order of Badge of Honor State Forest Reserve

(Georgian SSR, Lagodekhi)

It was organized in 1912 with an area of 17,668 hectares, of which 12,648 hectares are forest and 9 hectares are reservoirs. It is located on the southern

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slopes of the eastern part of the Main Caucasian Ridge in the Alazani River basin.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Game Preserves and Hunting attached to the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers.

There are several waterfalls in the forest reserve and there is a lake of glacier origin and sulphur springs.

The main vegetation formations are oak-hornbeam (with a mixture of beech, chestnut, ash, elm and other varieties) and beech forests with subalpine and alpine vegetation. The main forest-forming varieties are Caucasian hornbeam, redwood maple, eastern oak, birch and eastern beech.

Approximately 1,400 species of flowering plants have been recorded on the territory of the forest reserve; there are 12 endemic species (Julia's primrose, Mlokosevich's peony, Lagodekhi gentian and so on). A total of 15 rare and disappearing species of plants: Shovits's lily, Lagodekhi peony, Turkish filbert, common elder, alpine violet and others are noted in the beech forest belt.

Among the fauna are 38 species of mammals, including the Caucasian tur, chamois, maral, roe deer, wild boar, brown bear, pine and stone martens, lynx, forest cat and others; there are approximately 50 species of birds (snow partridge, Caucasian blackcock and so on).

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is complex study of the ecological series of associations from the subtropics to the subnival belt and study of endemic species of plants and animals.

Mariamdzhvarskiy State Forest Reserve

(Georgian SSR, Sagaredzho Post Office, Korukhskoye Hunting Industry)

It was organized in 1935 with an area of 1,040 hectares, of which 949 hectares are forest area. It is located in Sagaredzhoyskiy Rayon on the southern slopes of the Tsivi-Gamborskiy Ridge.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Game Preserves and Hunting attached to the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers.

Conifer and conifer-deciduous forests with hornbeam, oak and birch and with abundant undergrowth are typical for the forest reserve; natural pine plantations are found in rock placers. The deciduous forests are formed of Iberian oak, hornbeam, oriental hornbeam, beech and other varieties.

The low-altitude fauna of the southern slope of the main Caucasian ridge includes Iranian-Afghan and Indian elements. Among the large animals are found the roe deer, maral, badger and others and among rare species to Georgia are the Caucasian brown bear and Persian squirrel.

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The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the ecosystems of ancient vegetation under conditions of periodic mud-laden torrents and avalanches and also to study the biology and ecology of Sosnovskiy's pine.

Pitsundo-Myusserskiy State Forest Reserve

(Abkhazskaya ASSR, Pitsunda Post Office, ulitsa Gochua, 45)

It was organized in 1966 and until that time there were two forest reserves--the Myusserskiy (since 1946) and the Pitsunda (since 1935). It has an area of 3,771 hectares, of which 3,680 hectares are forest area. It is located on the Black Sea coast on the territory of Gudautskiy Rayon, Abkhazskaya ASSR (Myusserskiye mountains, Cape Pitsunda).

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Game Preserves and Hunting attached to the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers.

Limestone terraces that break off into the sea, groves with a predominance of Iberian oak, beech and Caucasian hornbeam and also such varieties as Pitsunda pine, chestnut, strawberry tree, Caucasian wing nut, alder and birch are typical for the former Myusserskiy Forest Reserve. The undergrowth includes Pontian rhododendron, rock-rose, dewberry, hawthorne, Caucasian ivy, dogwood, medlar, barberry and holly.

A grove of relic endemic pine and box, a mixed-deciduous forest and psammophyte vegetation have been preserved on Cape Pitsunda.

The average height of Pitsunda pine is up to 27 meters, while individual trees reach a height of 40 meters or more; the average diameter is 0.5 meter, but there are pines with diameter of approximately 2 meters. The plantation is of the same age--110-130 years. One of the interesting biological features of the Pitsunda pine is that this tree produces several verticils during a single vegetation season. Pontian Ruscus, smoke tree, rock-rose, privet, Colchis box, hornbeam, dogwood, serviceberry, mountain ash, rose and hornbeam-leaved honeysuckle dominate in Pitsunda pine groves. There is abundant undergrowth and many lianas in the mixed-deciduous forest. The main ancient varieties are linden, ash and hornbeam. The flora of the forest reserve includes 480 species of plants, of which 9 are endemic, 28 are rare and 11 are disappearing.

The fauna of the forest reserve includes 51 species of birds, among which are the Colchis pheasant, the coal tit and others. The roe deer, wild boar, badger, marten and Persian squirrel are found among the mammals.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to develop methods of protection and restoration of plantations of Pitsunda pine, strawberry tree, holly, chestnut and Iberian oak and also to study the Black Sea flora and fauna.

Ritsa State Forest Reserve

(Abkhazskaya ASSR, Gagrinskiy Rayon, Pitsunda village, Kiparisovaya alleya, 8)

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It was organized in 1946 with an area of 16,167 hectares, of which 13,219 hectares are forest area and 209.7 hectares are reservoirs. It is located on the southern horn of the main Caucasian ridge near Lake Ritsa.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Game Preserves and Hunting attached to the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers

The relief of the forest reserve is characterized by severe broken terrain and large drops. The forests are hornbeam, linden and Colchis box; there are groves of pine and eastern beech and subalpine forests of Nordmann fir, eastern beech, Sosnovskiy's pine and oriental spruce. Pontian rhododendron, filbert, laurel, cherry, holly, Caucasian bilberry and others predominate in the undergrowth. Lake Ritsa is surrounded by beautiful alpine meadows; there are many mineral springs, trout inhabit the lake and whitefish have become acclimatized.

The forest reserve fauna is typical for the mountain forests of the Caucasus. Among the large animals are found the maral, roe deer, chamois and wild boar; rare and valuable species of fauna include the Caucasian brown bear, the Caucasian tur, the Persian squirrel, Caucasian snowcock and the Caucasian blackcock.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to develop methods of protection and to study the mountain landscapes of the Black Sea coast and the rich mountain lake abundant with relic flora and fauna.

Saguramo State Forest Reserve

(Georgian SSR, Mikhetskiy Rayon, Saguramo village)

It was organized in 1948 with an area of 5,247 hectares, of which 5,191 hectares is forest area. It is located on the Saguramo ridge on the horns of the southern slopes of the main Caucasian ridge.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Game Preserves and Hunting attached to the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers.

There are many relic Colchis varieties in the belt of oak forests of the reserve: Colchis box, bladder-nut, azaleas (rare species), Colchis ivy, yew and also beech, hornbeam, wych elm, pear, holly, sumac and others. The main types of forest are hornbeam, beech, beech-hornbeam, oak-hornbeam and oak-oriental hornbeam. All the forests are distinguished by abundant species composition.

The fauna of the deciduous forests is typical for the southern slope of the Main Caucasian ridge. It includes the maral, roe deer, Caucasian bear, forest cat, lynx, beech marten, badger, jackal and Persian squirrel; approximately 200 species of birds have been noted.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to develop methods of protection and to study the relics of Colchis flora of the Tertiary period and also to study the ecology of the red deer, roe deer, marten and bear.

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Satapliyskiy State Forest Reserve

(Georgian SSR, Tskhaltubo)

It was organized in 1935 and has existed in its current boundaries since 1958, with an area of 354 hectares, of which 352 hectares is forest.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Game Preserves and Hunting attached to the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers.

It is located on the southern slopes of the Main Caucasian Ridge in its southwestern part. Karst caverns, wells, dinosaur fossils, an encampment of prehistoric man and a crater of an extinct volcano are preserved in the forest reserve.

The reserve forests are Colchis type with yew, Colchis box, Colchis holly, laurel cherry, Colchis bladder-nut, beech and so on. There are 20 species of endemic and rare plants in the forest reserve.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the forest vegetation of Colchis type, flora of the Tertiary period (holly, box, yew and so on) and fauna, to develop methods of protection and to study karst caverns, the volcanic crater and other geological and historical monuments.

Kazakh SSR

Aksu-Dzhabagly State Forest Reserve

(Kazakh SSR, Chimkentskaya Oblast, Tyul'kubassiy Rayon, Novonikolaevka village)

It was organized in 1926 with an area of 74,316 hectares, of which 10,377 hectares are occupied by reservoirs. It is located in the northwestern part of the Talasskiy Alatau.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Game Preserves and Hunting attached to the Kazakh SSR Council of Ministers

There are 10 types of vegetation in the forest reserve: mountainous ephemeral semiarid land, mountainous semi-savannahs, mountain steppes, foothill xerophytes (frigany), mountain deciduous forests, mountain coniferous forests, shiblyak (xerophilic trees and shrubs), meadow-swamp vegetation, cliff and talus vegetation, niveal vegetation and high and creeping juniper. The high-altitude vegetation belts of the Western Tyan'-Shan' are well marked: from the tall-grass semi-savannahs and savins to high-altitude meadows and steppes. The flora, which includes more 1,300 species, is abundant. Such plants as cotoneaster (large-berried and black-berried), oblong quince, Regel's pear, apples (Nedzvetskiy and Sivers), Persian mountain ash, hawthorns, yew, roses (10 species), wild myrobalan, almond (three species), cherry (three species), choke-cherry, apricot, oblong barberry, Meier's currant, sea buckthorn, buckthorn and so on are common; there are many decorative plants, including tulips

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(Greig's and Kaufmann's), alatavy crocus, altay globeflower and golden saffron.

The fauna of the forest reserve includes 238 species of birds, 42 species of mammals, 9 species of reptiles and 2 species each of amphibians and fishes. Among the animals, the Pamir argali, Siberian mountain goat, roe deer, maral, wild boar, snow leopard, African wildcat, stone marten, ermine, badger, fox, white-clawed bear, long-tailed marmot, Menzbier's marmot and others are of special interest.

Cliff representations of the Saxonian period and imprints of animals and plants of the Jurassic period are also known on the territory of the forest reserve.

The scientific profile of the reserve is to study the natural complexes of the western Tyan'-Shan', paleontological investigations and to study the migrations and nesting ecology of birds, the ecology and population dynamics of mouse-like rodents and the ecology and ethology of the long-tailed marmot.

Alma-Ata State Forest Reserve

(Kazakh SSR, Alma-Atinskaya Oblast, Talgar, Lebedinka village, Dorors Post Office)

It was organized in 1931 with an area of 89,524 hectares. It is located in the Zailiyskiy Alatau in the Ili River floodplain.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Game Preserves and Hunting attached to the Kazakh SSR Council of Ministers.

The zone nature of vegetation is well-marked in the forest reserve. Apple-aspens, apple-hawthornes and apricot-apples are located primarily along the river valleys and ravines predominate in the lower forest-meadow-steppe zone. Sea buckthornes, Russian wild olives, barberry, prickly rose, raspberry, spiraea and honeysuckle are abundant here. Sections of steppe vegetation are found on the slopes of southern exposure. Spruce groves grow at an altitude of 1,450 to 2,600 meters above sea level, primarily on slopes of northern exposure. These are thin, park-type forests; the undergrowth includes willows, honeysuckle, mountain ash, prickly rose and others. Subalpine and alpine meadows and meadow-steppes are well-represented in the forest reserve; rocky deserts, rock placers and talus, bare cliffs, morain deposits and tugai are found frequently; there is a unique "singing sand dune."

The fauna of the forest reserve includes 117 species of birds and 39 species of mammals--the Siberian roe deer, maral, Siberian ibex, Pamir argali, wild boar, snow leopard, white-clawed bear and also the stone marten, sable (imported), ermine, weasel, otter, badger, lynx, wolf, fox, Tolai hare, porcupine, red squirrel, altay marmot and others.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to develop methods of protection and complex study of the nature of the mountain landscapes of the Zailiyskiy Alatau, to study the ecological systems of the vegetation zones--forest-meadow-steppe, subalpine and alpine, and to study and protect the "singing sand dune."

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Barsakel'mes State Forest Reserve

(Kazakh SSR, Kzyl-Ordinskaya Oblast, Aral'sk)

It was organized in 1939 with an area of 18,300 hectares. It is located on Lake Barsakel'mes in the Aral Sea in the northern desert zone.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Game Preserves and Hunting attached to the Kazakh SSR Council of Ministers.

The landscape of the forest reserve is clay wormwood-biyurgunovaya desert with sparse shrubs of saxaul, leaveless globe thistle, biyurgunom, meadow-grass, mortuk and others. Approximately 200 species of higher plants are known.

The green toad, Horsfield's terrapin, squeaking gecko, takyr lizard, fast lizard, the ornamented racer, the dart-snake and Pallas's mamushi are found among amphibians and reptiles. The fauna includes 12 species of mammals: the white-bellied white-toothed shrew, long-eared hedgehog, late noctule, grey hamster, small five-toed jerboa, large-toothed suslik, wolf, fox, corsac fox, saiga, Persian gazelle and Asiatic wild ass; there are 202 species of birds, including wheatears, stone curlew, plovers (Kentish and Asiatic), Houbara bustard, black-bellied sand grouse, Pallas's sand grouse, swifts, sand martin, bee-eater, black-headed bunting, bearded tit, warblers, sheldrake and others.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to develop methods of protection and complex study of the nature of northern deserts and to study the ecology and restoration of saiga, wild ass and Persian gazelle livestock.

Kurgal'dzhino State Forest Reserve

(Kazakh SSR, Tselinogradskaya Oblast, Kurgal'dzhino, ulitsa 40 let Oktyabrya, 22)

It was organized in 1968 with an area of 185,200 hectares, of which reservoirs occupy 145,000 hectares. It is located in the lower reaches of the Nury and Kulan-Utpesa Rivers. It occupies lakes Kurgal'dzhin and Tengiz and the zone adjacent to them with sections of wormwood-fiscu-feather grass steppes.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Game Preserves and Hunting attached to the Kazakh SSR Council of Ministers.

The Tengiz-Kurgal'dzhin depression is a flight habitat of aquatic birds wintering over in India, Pakistan, on the Caspian Sea and also in northern Africa and in southern Europe. Birds of central and northern Kazakhstan and of western and eastern Siberia gather here for moulting.

Lake Kurgal'dzhin with an area of 39,600 hectares is a system of reaches and there are approximately 40 islands on it. The lake vegetation is represented by such species as common reed, bulrush, lesser reedmace, arrowhead, water plantain, fennel pondweed and duckweed. Phytoplankton and zooplankton are abundant.

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Lake Tengiz is an enormous sor and there are approximately 60 islands, many sandbars and peninsulas on it. Saltwoods are located along the shores and barilla grass and wormwoods predominate; spyrea, niter bush, dwarf almond and dog rose are found among the shrubs.

There are 30 species of mammals in the forest reserve, including the korsak fox, wild boar, saiga, hares (mountain and European), Himalayan marmot, striped hairy-footed hamster, muskrat and others and there are approximately 223 species of birds: flamingos, black-headed laughing gull, sea dove, demoiselle crane, bustard, scaup, ruff, white stork, scoter, black-throated diver, red-breasted goose, spoonbill, oyster catcher, white-headed duck, sheldrake, crane, bittern, mute swan and so on; there are approximately 27 species of web-footed birds and more than 30 species of sandpipers.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study and develop methods of protecting nesting places, mass moulting and migration of birds and complex study of desert steppes.

Naurzum State Forest Reserve

(Kazakh SSR, Kustanayskaya Oblast, Naurzumskiy Rayon, Naurzum Post Office)

It was organized in 1931 with an area of 85,642 hectares. It is located in a vast depression that connects the west Siberian plane and the Turanskaya lowland.

It is subordinate to the State Committee of Forest Management, Kazakh SSR Council of Ministers.

The largest lakes of the forest reserve Aksuat, Zharkol', Karazhar, Sary-Moin and Shushkaly are an aquatic fowl reserve. The source for filling the lakes are so-called crucian rivulets and minute channels of the spring runoff of fall water. The relic Naurzum steppe pine forest and the tersek ribbon pine forest are preserved in the forest reserve. The absence of forest species in the grass cover and in the animal world is typical for the Naurzum pine forest. Joanna's feather grass, sand wormwood, lyme grass and others are typical among grass plants. Many aquatic birds--swans (whooper and mute), geese, ducks and black-throated diver--appear in the forest reserve during migration; such rare birds as the great and little bustards have also been preserved here.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to develop methods of protecting the migration routes, to create a rest zone for migrating birds and to restore the relic Naurzum pine forest.

Kirgiz SSR

Issyk-Kul' State Forest Reserve

Kirgiz SSR, Issyk-Kul'skaya Oblast, Anan'yev village, ulitsa Pushkina, 68)

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It was organized in 1948 with an area of 702,000 hectares of which 612,000 hectares are occupied by water basins and 90,000 hectares are dry land. It is located in the Issyk-Kul' trough in the eastern part of the Tyan'-Shan'.

It is subordinate to the State Committee of Forest Management, Kirgiz SSR Council of Ministers.

The lowland section of the forest reserve is occupied by wormwood-fescu steppe, reed thickets, buckthorn thickets, barberry, dogrose and pea shrub. The mountain section is covered with savan and Schrenk spruce.

The fauna of the forest reserve includes approximately 40 species of mammals: the snow leopard (a rare species), roe deer, maral, Siberian ibex, Pamir Argali, Persian gazelle, wild boar and also the red squirrel, Tolai hare, muskrat and others, approximately 20 species of birds, including pheasant, grouse, red-crested pochard, bald coot, swan, white stork and so on, three species of amphibians and approximately 20 species of fish, of which six are endemic and five are introduced.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study and develop methods of protecting the wintering locations of aquatic birds, pheasants and commercial fishes and in the mountain section of the forest reserve to study the ecology of the roe deer and ibex (Siberian ibex).

Sary-Chelekskiy State Forest Reserve

(Kirgiz SSR, Oshskaya Oblast, Dzhangi-Dzhol'skiy Rayon, Arkit settlement)

It was organized in 1960 with an area of 23,868 hectares, of which 8,748 hectares are forest area and 611 hectares are reservoirs. It is located in the southwestern part of the Tyan'-Shan'.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration Nature Conservation, Game Preserves and Hunting, USSR Ministry of Agriculture.

A total of 981 species of higher plants, including 52 endemic species to the Tyan'-Shan', has been noted in the forest reserve.

The vegetation is unusually complex and diverse. The following types of vegetation have been determined in the forest reserve: deciduous forests, represented by formations of walnut, apple (Kirgiz and Sievers), sogdian myrobalan, hawthorn (Turkistan, Songor and Altay), Turkistan maple, feather-limbed elm, poplars (balm-of-Gilead and laurel); the most widely distributed is the formation of walnut forests, spruce forests of Schrenk spruce (pure spruce, shrub-spruce, birch-spruce, juniper-spruce and fir-spruce), savin groves (pure savin, spruce-savin, maple-savin, prangos-savin and so on), deciduous shrubs represented by associations with predominance of pearl bush, willow, dogrose, honeysuckle and so on, mountain semi-savannahs or savannah-like steppes represented by beard grass, desert-candle, lyme grass and prangos formations, meadows formed of small-reed, eastern fescue, meadow grass, crane's-bill,

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irises, willow-grass and so on and swamp vegetation represented by bulrush, reed, small-reed and sedge swamps.

The forms of walnut, apple, pea, juniper, apricot, cherry, almond, grape and so on are of great value.

The fauna of the forest reserve includes 41 species of mammals (including five acclimatized), 157 species of birds, five species of reptiles and two species of amphibians. Rare animals--the Pamir Argali, white-clawed bear and snow leopard--are of greatest interest.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is complex study of the nature of mountain forests and meadows of the southern Tyan'-Shan', study of the conditions for restoration and preservation of the ecological systems of mountain forests on reserve and nonreserve territories and development of methods of protection and restoration of walnut-fruit forests.

Latvian SSR

Griņi State Forest Reserve (Latvian SSR, Līepāpayskiy Rayon, Sakskoje Forestry)

It was organized in 1936 and has existed in its modern boundaries since 1957 with an area of 799 hectares, of which 689 hectares are forest area. It is located in the maritime lowland of western Latvia along the Baltic Sea coast.

It is subordinate to the Ministry of Forestry and Timber Industry, Latvian SSR.

Juniper pine forests and pine forests with birch are typical for the forest reserve. The coastal strip overgrown with pine or birch with solid juniper or grass cover is called "grinis," hence the name of the forest reserve. Two main types of grinis--sphagnum-juniper that occupies elevated sections of the relief and sedge-moorgrass on the low sections--are distinguished. The ancient vegetation is very sparse, the pines are low-growing with stunted trunks and the birches are also low-growing. Heath, moorgrass, bog myrtle, red whortleberry, bog whortleberry, sedges, loosestrife, devil's bit and so on are found in the soil cover.

The typical animals of the Baltic area are the European deer, roe deer, pond tortoise and so on.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the ecosystems of the unique location of growing cross-leaved heath and to develop methods of protecting and restoring it.

Moritssala State Forest Reserve

(Latvian SSR, Ventspilskiy Rayon, Ugal'skiy Lumber Management Industry)

It was organized in 1912 and has existed in its current boundaries since 1954, with an area of 859 hectares.

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It is subordinate to the Ministry of Forestry and the Timber Industry, Latvian SSR.

The territory of the forest reserve includes the western part of Lake Usma-Luzikerte-Luzikerte Bay (776 hectares) and Moritsa Island on this lake (83 hectares). Luzikerte is separated from the remaining part of the lake by three islands.

The greater part of the island (79 hectares) is covered with virgin forest of deciduous varieties with a mixture of birch, aspen, pine, European alder, spruce and other varieties. Forest associations of oak, linden and maple with thick undergrowth of filbert and choke-cherry and the biocenoses of the maritime coast have been well preserved.

There are approximately 38 species of trees and shrubs on the island, more than 350 species of grass plants, approximately 300 species of lichens, 123 species of moss, 297 species of mushrooms and 321 species of algae. Yellow archangel, goutweed, woodruff, dog's mercury, may-lily, lily-of-the-valley, stitchworts (wood and greater), common Solomon's seal, trientale, herb-paris, beefsteak mushroom, bracken and so on predominate in the grass cover. Coral root, ramsons (long-rooted onion), marsh violet, hollow birthwort, red-leaved willow herb and so on should be noted among the species rare to the republic. There are many birds in the forest reserve.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to inventory the natural components and to study the ecosystems of the island and bay.

Shlitere State Forest Reserve

(Latvian SSR, Talsinskiy Rayon, Dundaga settlement, Dundaga Lumber Management Industry)

It was organized in 1921 and has existed in its current boundaries since 1957, with an area of 9,409.7 hectares, of which 5,646.6 hectares occupy forests and 15 hectares occupy reservoirs. It is located in the northwestern part of the Kurzem Peninsula on the Baltic Sea coast.

It is subordinate to the Ministry of Forestry and the Timber Industry, Latvian SSR.

It is an escarpment of the ancient coast of the Litorinoye Sea and the Baltic glacial lake and coastal terraces; the swamp and dune sections of the forest reserve are covered with deciduous forests of ash, maple, oak, elm, European alder and spruce with abundant undergrowth of filbert, mountain ash, buckthorn (black alder and common buckthorn), honeysuckle, spurge olive and so on. Male fern, ostrich fern, goutweed, long-rooted onion and so on predominate in the grass cover. Such species as common yew and ivy also grow here. Almost all types of forest typical to the republic are represented in the forest reserve. There are many escarpments and ravines and there are caves. The wild boar, roe deer, nutria, mink, weasel, common dormouse, hedgehog, bats and so on and many birds are found among the animals.

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The scientific profile of the forest reserve is geological, flora and fauna investigations of the ecosystems typical for the maritime lowland.

Engurskoye Forest-Hunting Reserve

(Latvian SSR, Tukumskiy Rayon, Selya Village Soviet of Worker's Deputies)

It was organized in 1957 with an area of 4,400 hectares, including 3,230 hectares of reservoirs, 1,100 hectares of meadows and 70 hectares of forests. It is located on the western coast of the Gulf of Riga.

It is subordinate to the Ministry of Forestry and the Timber Industry, Latvian SSR.

The Greb'i Peninsula and part of the thickly overgrown shallow Lake Engure are included in the territory of the forest-hunting reserve. The shores of the lake are covered with pine and mixed forests. There are wet sedge meadows overgrown in places with reeds and shrubs, on Greb'i peninsula.

Approximately 114 species of birds, including the mute swan and such rare species of birds to the republic as the white-tailed eagle, eagle owl and common crane, has been noted in the forest reserve fauna. The lake is abundant with fish (pike, perch, carp, ide, eel and so on).

The scientific profile is to study and develop methods of protecting aquatic birds and to study the population ecology of a number of species of ducks by mass tagging of nestlings.

Lithuanian SSR

Zhuvintas State Forest Reserve

(Lithuanian SSR, Alitusskiy Rayon, Simnas Post Office)

It was organized in 1937 and has existed in its current boundaries since 1951. It has an area of 5,420 hectares, of which 1,211 hectares are forest area and 1,039 hectares are reservoirs. It is located in the southwestern part of the republic in the Dovins River basin.

It is subordinate to the Committee for Environmental Protection attached to the Lithuanian SSR Council of Ministers.

The territory of the forest reserve includes Lake Zhuvintas, the surrounding lowland and upstream swamps and the small, mainly marshy forest tract.

The fauna includes the following types of mammals: the common hedgehog, desman, common mole, common shrew, water-shrew, pond and bearded bats, forest bat, wolf, fox, raccoon-dog, badger, pine marten, weasel, European polecat, otter, wild boar; roe deer, elk, European hare, nutria, common squirrel, harvest mouse, water vole and voles and lemmings. The ornithological fauna is abundant: 245 species have been recorded, including the mallard, pintail,

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teal, gadwall, shoveller, tufted duck, scaup, golden-eye, long-tailed duck, scoter, smew, grey-lag goose, white-fronted goose, bean goose, mute swan, terns, seagulls, grebes (great-crested and red-necked), bald coots, sandpipers, grouse, hazel hen, common crane, storks (white and black), great white heron and so on.

The vegetation of the forest reserve is represented by formations of lesser reedmace, common reed, pure white waterlily, yellow waterlilies, broad-leaved pondweed and common water-soldier and there are algae beds. A total of 473 species of plants, including 368 species of higher plants, has been found in the forest reserve territory. Water-loving and aquatic vegetation is abundant and diverse and there are many invertebrate animals.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study aquatic birds, to develop methods of protection and reproduction of relic and rare species of plants and to study the hydrological regime of the lake.

Moldavian SSR

Kodry State Forest Reserve

(Moldavian SSR, Nisporenskiy Rayon, Lozovo village)

It was organized in 1971 with an area of 2,737 hectares, of which 2,695 hectares are forest area. It is located in the central part of Moldavia.

It is subordinate to the State Committee of Forestry, Moldavian SSR Council of Ministers.

The territory of the forest reserve consists of one tract and is a typical forest landscape of the central part of Moldavia. The main forest-forming varieties of the reserve are oaks (pedunculate and sessile), beech, common ash, hornbeam, lindens (silver and small-leaved lyme), maples (Norway, common and sycamore), gean, birch, pear and others; the undergrowth contains filbert, dogwood, warty-barked spindle-tree, hawthorn, cornel, European cornel and so on; goutweed, wild ginger, long-rooted onion, sedges (hairy and parvian), woodruff, violets (wonder and dwarf) and so on predominate in the grass cover. There is a total of 615 species in the flora of the forest reserve.

The fauna includes 70 species of mammals: roe deer, maral (acclimated), wild boar, badger, fox, European hare, squirrel, European wildcat, marten, weasel, polecat, common red-backed vole, hedgehog, mole, several species of bats and others. There are 51 species of birds in the forest reserve, including the stock-dove, wood-pigeon, wood-lark, jay, woodpecker, nuthatch, tree creeper, owl, golden eagles, imperial eagle, hawks (goshawk and sparrowhawk), spotted eagles (greater and lesser) and so on.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to develop methods of protection and to study the natural complex of landscapes typical to central Moldavia.

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RSFSR

Altay State Forest Reserve

Altay State Forest Reserve

(Altayskiy Kray, Turochakskiy Rayon, Yaylyu settlement)

It was organized in 1932 and has existed in its current boundaries since 1968. It has an area of 863,861 hectares, of which 292,919 hectares are forest area and 15,588 hectares are reservoirs. It is located in the high-altitude part of the Northeastern and Central Altay within Turochakskiy and Ulganaskiy Rayons of the Gorno-Altayskaya Autonomous Oblast.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Hunting and Game Preserves attached to the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

Steppe, forest and alpine zones and a rocky tundra zone can be distinguished in the forest reserve. The forests are fir, cedar-fir, cedar, cedar-deciduous and deciduous. The main forest-forming variety is Siberian cedar. There are many decorative species of plants: peonies, delphiniums, orchids, gentians, violets and so on. There are rhododendron thickets on the slopes of Telets-koye Ozero. There is a total of 1,003 species in the flora of the forest reserve.

The fauna of the forest reserve includes 64 species of mammals, 303 species of birds and 10 species of amphibians and reptiles. Animals typical for the mountain taiga of Southern Siberia are found: elk, maral, reindeer, Pamir Argali, snow leopard and also sable, great grouse, hazel hen, willow grouse, Altay snow-partridge and black stork.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the natural complex of mountain-taiga forests of the Altay and the Priteletsckaya taiga and the vertical distribution of vegetation and the animal world.

Astrakhan' Order of Red Banner of Labor State Forest Reserve imeni V. I. Lenin

(Astrakhan', Naberezhnaya reka Tsareva, 119)

It was organized in 1919 with an area of 62,423 hectares, of which 4,715 hectares is forest area. It is located in the maritime part of the Volga River delta and consists of three sections: Damchikskiy, Trekhizbinskiy and Obzhorovskiy.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Nature Conservation, Game Preserves and Hunting, USSR Ministry of Agriculture.

The territory of the forest reserve consists of numerous islands divided by tributaries that flow into shallow bays (kultuks). The islands are covered with reed thickets and willow forests; there are sections of solonchak meadows in the upper part of the delta. Vast sections occupied by water vegetation:

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celery--a root plant for many valuable species of birds, and also lotus, water chestnut and water fern, are found.

Many species of birds nest in the forest reserve: the mute swan, pelican, herons (great white, little egret and squacco), grey-lag goose, bald coot, spoonbill, glossy ibis and night heron; there are many cormorants and pheasants and the Siberian crane is found during migration. Approximately 240 species of birds are counted in the forest reserve. Common carp and bullheads are numerous in the reservoirs; valuable commercial species (sturgeon, Caspian sturgeon and roach) appear during spawning.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is complex study of the nature of the lower reaches of the Volga River delta under conditions of fluctuations of the Caspian Sea level, determination of the general principles of processes in the ecological systems of river deltas, the specifics of life under conditions of a combination of reservoirs and lands, determination of ways and methods of conservation, efficient use and enrichment of nature of the lower reaches of the Volga River delta, maritime forests, reed thickets, fish reserves and aquatic and other birds. The Caspian Ornithological Station has been organized within the forest reserve.

Baikal State Forest Reserve

(Buryatskaya ASSR, Kabanskiy Rayon, Tankhoy settlement)

It was organized in 1969 with an area of 165,724 hectares, of which 121,766 hectares is forest area and 1,552 hectares is reservoirs. It is located on the coastal terrace in the southern part of Lake Baikal and Khamar-Daban ridge.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Hunting and Game Preserves attached to the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

The uniqueness of the climatic conditions of the forest reserve is explained by the close proximity of Lake Baikal on the one hand and the Mongolian steppes on the other. The climate of the southern slope of Khamar-Daban is more severe and drier than the northern climate, with regard to which the vegetation of the slopes is also different. A dark-coniferous complex--alternation of birch groves, sphagnum swamps, spruce-cedar and fir-spruce forests--predominates in the northern half of the Khamar-Daban, park type fir groves in the subalpine zone are replaced by rhododendron thickets and subalpine meadows and lichen tundra are located higher up. Cedar-deciduous forests with steppe groupings are located in the lower part of the southern slopes.

The flora of the forest reserve numbers 845 species; the fauna includes 37 species of mammals and 260 species of birds. The forest reserve is inhabited by the maral, reindeer, musk deer, wild boar, roe deer, elk, lynx, sable, brown bear and also the Siberian weasel, ermine, otter, wolverine, wolf, fox, common hare, pika, squirrel, high-mountain vole and so on. The hazel hen, great grouse (common and stone), grouse, partridges (alpine ptarmigan and white), hawks (sparrowhawk and goshawk), hen-harrier, kite, kestrel, osprey,

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bearded owl, woodpeckers, thrushes, Siberian ruby-throat and so on; endemic and rare species of birds include the swan goose, Naumann's thrush, Siberian tit and blue nightingale.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the natural complex of the coastal terrace of Lake Baikal and the Khamar-Daba; investigations are also being conducted in theriology, ornithology and geobotany.

Barguzinskiy State Forest Reserve

(Buryatskaya ASSR, Severo-Baykal'skiy Rayon, Davshe settlement)

It was organized in 1916 with an area of 263,176 hectares, of which 248,176 hectares is forest area and 17,083 hectares is reservoirs. It is located on the northeastern coast of Lake Baikal and the western slopes of the Barguzinskiy Ridge.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Hunting and Game Preserves attached to the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

The high-altitude zone nature of vegetation is well marked in the forest reserve due to the large drop of altitudes and brokenness of the relief. The uppermost zone is occupied by bald peaks (more than half of the territory); sections are found here that are covered with lichens, green meadows of caprezia and sedges and rocky tundra. Thickets of Japanese stone pine begin lower down and spots of lichens and stone birch are sometimes found. The taiga zone, which extends to the shore of Lake Baikal, is located even lower down. The upper part of this zone is formed of fir and cedar with a mixture of stone birch and on the slopes of southern exposure there are pure "cedar thickets" of Siberian stone pine. The central taiga zone is formed of cedar-fir forests with a mixture of larch and pine. Chosenia, birches, aspens and firs are found in the river valleys; thickets of choke-cherry, black and red currants, honeysuckle, mountain ash, dogrose and other shrubs are also common here. Larch (Dahurian and Siberian) grow in the narrow coastal strip. More than 600 species, including 10 endemic species, are known in the flora of the forest reserve.

The forest reserve territory includes 39 species of mammals, 233 species of birds, 4 species of reptiles and 2 species of amphibians. Among the animals are the well-known Barguzinskiy sable, brown bear, elk, maral, reindeer, musk deer, Kamchatka, marmot and animals endemic to the Baykal include the Baykal seal and there are many endemic and rare species and forms of birds, for example, the black stork, Siberian redstart, whooper swan, eagle owl and so on.

The forest reserve also has hot springs coming to the surface--habitat of relic species of plants and animals.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the processes that determine the natural productivity of the main elements of the natural complex of western slopes of the Barguzinskiy Ridge; special attention is being devoted to study of the population of the Barguzinskiy sable.

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Bashkir State Forest Reserve

(Bashkirskaya ASSR, Burzyanskiy Rayon, Baynazarovo Post Office)

It was organized in 1930 with an area of 72,140 hectares, of which 64,396 hectares is forest area and 131 hectares is reservoirs. It is located on the western slopes of the Southern Urals.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Hunting, and Game Preserves attached to the RSFSR Council of Ministers

The territory of the forest reserve consists of three individual sections--the Ural-Tau, Southern Krak and Pribel'skiy, which differ considerably in natural conditions. The Ural-Tau is a flat-upper mountain range consisting of quartzites, the Southern Krak is a mountain massif formed of volcanic rock and the Pribel'skiy section is a level plateau consisting of limestones. The well-known Kapov's cave with wall drawings from the paleolithic period is located in the reserve.

The forest reserve is located in the southernmost part of the forest subzone, for which European pine-deciduous forests and Urals-Siberian pine-birch forests and larch are typical. The flora of the reserve includes 750 species, including one endemic and 10 rare species.

Among the large mammals in the forest reserve are found the elk, maral, roe deer, brown bear and forest marten. The bird fauna includes 155 species, among which there are rare species--the imperial eagle and eagle owl.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the natural dynamics of the forest, meadow and steppe biogeocenoses of the Southern Urals, the changes of their boundaries, reasons for these changes and also to study the apiary bee.

Bol'shekhekhtsir State Forest Reserve

(Khabarovsk, ulitsa Kim Yu Chen', 65)

It was organized in 1964 with an area of 44,720.9 hectares, of which 40,174 hectares are forest area and 250 hectares are reservoirs. It is located in the western part of Khekhtsir Ridge.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration for Nature Conservation, Game Preserves and Hunting, USSR Ministry of Agriculture.

Coniferous-deciduous forests, which include Yeddo spruce, Khingan fir, Amur oak, Manchurian walnut, lemon tree, aralia, prickly eleuterococcus, Amur grape, tara vine, Manchurian ash, Amur lilac, red whortleberry, bog whortleberry, cranberry, thin-leaved jasmine, currants (four species), Ussurian pear, apples (Siberian and Pallas's), Amur mountain ash, hawthorns, eastern strawberry and so on are typical for the forest reserve. Trees, shrubs and lianas number up to 150 species, among which are many endemic and relic species. There are approximately 706 species of plants in the forest reserve.

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The animal world of the reserve consists of representatives of Siberian-taiga and Chinese-Himalayan fauna. Thirty-six species of mammals, 135 species of birds and 11 species of reptiles and amphibians are found here. The Manchurian wapiti, roe deer, musk deer, wild boar, brown bear, Asiatic black bear, lynx, sable, kharza marten, chipmunk, Manchurian hare, northern pika, squirrel, voles, shrews and also chickensnakes and mamushis (two species each), the far eastern terrapin and others.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the natural complexes of the Amur area; methods of conservation and reproduction of ginseng are also being developed and plants--carriers of biologically active substances--are being studied.

Visim State Forest Reserve

(Sverdlovskaya Oblast, Prigorodnyy Rayon, Visim settlement)

It was organized in 1971 with an area of 13,319 hectares, of which 12,734 hectares are forest area and 52 hectares are reservoirs. It is located on the Urals ridge along the line of the watershed of its eastern and western slopes.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Hunting and Game Preserves attached to the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

Specific types of mountain landscapes of the depression strip of the central Urals (southern taiga subzone) have been preserved in the forest reserve. Virgin mountain taiga of spruce, fir and cedar with grass cover of green mosses, bush grass and wood sorrel is the most typical landscape; fir groves are less widely distributed and cedar groves are rarely encountered. Small areas are occupied by pine forests, birch groves, aspen groves, forest meadows and peat bogs; bald mountain vegetation is distributed on the peaks of the highest uplifts.

The vertical zone nature is well marked in the forest reserve; there are relics of the glacial and pre-glacial periods. The flora of the reserve has been little studied. Among grass plants are found alpine willow-grass, sosyureya, hare's-ear and valerian; European oak forest elements are represented: asarabacca, crowberry, male fern, sudetskiy small bladder, ox-eye daisy, willow-herb, ragwort and also linden, maple, Siberian elm, elm, choke-cherry, alder and willows.

The fauna of the forest reserve also includes species such as the bear, lynx, Siberian weasel, ermine, forest marten, polecat, mink, otter, fox, hare, chipmunk, squirrel, elk, roe deer, mole, great grouse, black grouse, hazel hen, goshawk and nutcracker.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the ecosystems of the mountain range on the slopes of different exposure.

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Volga-Kama State Forest Reserve

(Tatarskaya ASSR, Zelenodol'skiy Rayon, Raifa settlement)

It was organized in 1960 with an area of 8,040 hectares.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Hunting and Game Preserves attached to the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

The forest reserve consists of two sections: the Raifa and Saralovskiy (the boundary of two geographic zones--forest and steppe--passes through here). The Raifa section is located 25 kilometers northwest of Kazan' on the boundary of the southern taiga. Forests of all the main types typical for the central zone of the European USSR grow here on a small area. The predominant species is pine and spruce, fir, larch, Amur oak tree, birch and linden are less widely distributed. An arboretum founded in 1921 is of important scientific value in the Raifa section of the forest reserve. More than 400 species of trees and shrubs from America, Asia and Europe grow here.

The Saralovskiy section of the reserve is located at the mouth of the Kama River on the shore of the Kuybyshevskoye Reservoir. The area of the section is covered with mixed deciduous forests with prevalence of linden and pine; oak, birch and aspen are also found. There are many bays, islands and shallows with well-developed aquatic vegetation--favorable conditions for aquatic birds and spawning of fish--on this section.

The fauna of the forest reserve includes forest and steppe species such as the brown bear, lynx, raccoon-dog, forest polecat, ermine, weasel, forest marten, American mink, elk, hares (European and common), squirrel, red-backed souslik, muskrat, garden dormouse and so on; among the birds are found the great grouse, hazel hen, black grouse, hoopoe, roller, three-toed woodpecker, mute cuckoo, wax-wing, siskin, goldfinch, lesser redpoll and so on.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the relationships of the southern taiga and forest-steppe and the effect of the Kuybyshev reservoir and other anthropogenic factors on natural complexes.

Voronezh State Forest Reserve

(Voronezhskaya Oblast, Grafskaya Station)

It was organized in 1923 with an area of 31,029 hectares. It is located on the boundary of Voronezhskaya and Lipetskaya Oblasts in the northern part of the Usman' pine forest.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Nature Conservation, Forest Preserves and Hunting, USSR Ministry of Agriculture.

The vegetation of the forest reserve is represented by pine forests, oak forests and floodplain alder groves. Lichen pine forests and green moss covers are located on poor soils; there are oak groves and also pine-oak and pine

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forests with oak in the second level on richer soils. The abundant undergrowth of complex pine and oak forests consists of spindle-tree, filbert, lyme tree and mountain ash. Approximately 1,000 species have been described in the flora of the forest reserve.

The fauna of the forest reserve includes 54 species of mammals (elk, European deer, wild boar, roe deer and so on), 187 species of birds and 8 species each of reptiles and amphibians. The nutria is of most important significance among the species related to aquatic habitats. One of the few populations of nutrias was preserved in the forest reserve, which subsequently became a source of scattering these animals throughout the country. Work is being conducted at an experimental nursery on open-air breeding of nutrias. The desman is sometimes found in the forest reserve.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is complex study of the nature of complex island pine and oak forests of the forest-steppe zone, the characteristic features of their ecological systems to find ways of restoring the native types of forest and their biocenoses, study of methods of restoration, distribution and efficient use of the European beaver and European deer in the USSR. The forest reserve is a scientific center for study of the European beaver and experimental cage breeding of beavers.

Darwin State Forest Reserve

(Kalininskaya Oblast, Ves'yegonskiy Rayon, Nikolo-Vysokoye Post Office, Borok settlement)

It was organized in 1945 with an area of 112,611 hectares, of which 47,684 hectares are forest area and 46,348 hectares are reservoirs. It is located on the northwestern bank and adjacent shallows of the Rybinskoye Reservoir within Vologodskaya and Yaroslavskaya Oblasts.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Hunting and Game Preserves attached to the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

The territory of the forest reserve is a section of southern taiga located on the lowland lying between Molozhski and Sheksninskiy Bays of the reservoir. Approximately 50 percent of the territory is occupied by forests, primarily pine forests. There are many peat bogs and in places berries--cranberry, cloudberry and bog whortleberry--grow abundantly. Floating peat bogs formed as a result of sinking of vast swampy spaces, are found near the shores. The flora of the forest reserve includes 540 species.

The fauna of the forest reserve includes 40 species of mammals, among which are the elk, roe deer, brown bear, badger, lynx, common hare, squirrel and so on.

The forest reserve has become a reservation for pine forest and aquatic wildlife due to the diversity of natural conditions and protection. A total of 230 species of birds is numbered here. There are especially many aquatic birds during migration (grey-lag goose, bean goose, white-fronted goose,

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whooper swan and so on. The great grouse, black grouse, willow grouse and others inhabit the forests of the reserve.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the effect of the Rybinskaya Reservoir on the nature of the southern taiga and to determine and develop methods of protecting it, efficient use and enrichment under conditions created by an artificial reservoir with fluctuating level.

Zhigulevsk State Forest Reserve

(Kuybyshevskaya Oblast, Zhigulevsk, Bakhilova Polyana Post Office)

It was organized in 1927 and has existed since 1966 in its current boundaries. It has an area of 19,130 hectares, of which 18,011 hectares are forest area and 194 hectares are reservoirs. It is located in the northern part of Samarskaya Luka within Kuybyshevskaya Oblast.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Hunting and Game Preserves attached to the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

Mixed coniferous-deciduous forests of the central Volga area with relics of the tertiary and glacial periods and endemic species of the Zhiguli area predominate in the forest reserve. Approximately 800 species of plants has been recorded in the reserve. The grass cover is formed mainly of plants typical for the forest-steppe zone, but there are also representatives of the southern arid steppes, semidesert and desert (saltwort, summer cypress and so on) and also northern species (barberry, wintergreen and May lily).

The fauna of the reserve includes 40 species of mammals (elk, roe deer, badger, European hare and so on) and 178 species of birds, of which 141 species are nesting types.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the natural complex of mixed coniferous-deciduous forests of the Central Volga region, the native types of forest and individual representatives of flora of the Zhiguli area (relics and endemic species).

Zavidovskiy Scientific Experimental Hunting Preserve

(Kalininskaya Oblast, Zavidovskiy Rayon)

It was organized in 1972 on the basis of a hunting preserve. It has an area of 84,000 hectares, of which 44,000 hectares are forest area. It is located in Kalininskaya and Moskovskaya Oblasts.

It is subordinate to the USSR Ministry of Defense.

A large number of swamps and marshy sections is typical to the game preserve. The most widely distributed are mixed forests of birch, aspen, pine and spruce. The undergrowth includes willow, buckthorn, mountain ash, raspberry, juniper and so on; there are pine forests (arid and wet), spruce forests (mainly green moss and marshy-grass type) and alder forests.

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The elk, maral, roe deer, wild boar, hares (common and European), common partridge, great grouse, black grouse, hazel hen and so on are common among the animals in the reserve.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to develop methods of increasing the productivity of forest hunting lands and to introduce hunting animals (deer, wild boar, nutria and so on).

Zeya State Forest Reserve

(Amurskaya Oblast, Zeya, ulitsa Lev Tolstogo, 2 "B")

It was organized in 1963 with an area of 82,300 hectares, of which 78,036 hectares are forest area. It is located in the mountain regions of Amurskaya Oblast on the Tukuringra range, at the junction of subzones of the middle and southern taiga, light coniferous-deciduous and light coniferous forests with elementary Manchurian flora.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration for Nature Conservation, Game Preserves and Hunting, USSR Ministry of Agriculture.

The wooded nature of the reserve is 95 percent, of which 85 percent occupy light coniferous forests of Dahurian larch. Birches (Asian white birch and Erman's birch), aspen, Yeddo spruce are found among tree varieties and Dahurian rhododendron, Japanese stone pine, Manchurian alder and so on are found among shrubs. The forests are abundant with berries (edible honeysuckle, currants, red whortleberries and so on) and with mushrooms.

The Manchurian wapiti, elk, roe deer, musk deer, brown bear, lynx, sable, Siberian weasel and European hare are common among the animals in the forest reserve and the wolverine and ermine are more rarely found. The three-toed woodpecker, black woodpecker, hazel hen, rock partridge and black grouse are found among the birds and the Siberian spruce grouse is sometimes found. Eighteen species of fish are counted.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the natural resources of mountain regions of Amurskaya Oblast, to protect methods of complex use of them, and to predict changes of the natural environment due to the effect of human activity, especially with regard to construction of the Zeyskaya Ges.

Il'men State Forest Reserve imeni V. I. Lenin

(Chelyabinskaya Oblast, Miass-1)

It was organized in 1920 with an area of 30,380 hectares, of which 25,864 hectares are forest area and 2,791 hectares are reservoirs. It is located in the eastern foothills of the Southern Urals on the boundary of the forest and steppe zone in Miasskiy, Chebarkul'skiy and Argayashskiy Rayons, Chelyabinskaya Oblast.

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It is subordinate to the Urals Scientific Center, USSR Academy of Sciences.

A natural complex of mountain regions of the subzone of coniferous-birch forests of the Trans-Urals area and Western Siberia and also the unique Il'menogorsk geological-minerological complex (approximately 200 different minerals) are represented in the forest reserve.

The forests, primarily pine and birch, cover 85 percent of the territory. The flora is abundant, unique and it includes more than 1,000 species of flowering plants, mosses and lichens. There are many relic species of the Pleistocene forest-steppe and the Quarternary period of glaciation.

There are 50 species of mammals, 217 species of birds, 6 species of reptiles, 2 species of amphibians and 14 species of fish in the forest reserve.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the relationships between soils, vegetation and the animal world for complex knowledge of the processes of migration of matter and energy in the earth's biosphere and also to study the hydrological regime of the Il'men mountains and the dynamics of surface and ground waters.

Caucasian State Forest Reserve

(Krasnodarskiy Kray, Sochi, Sukhumskiye shosse, 7a)

It was organized in 1924 with an area of 263,485 hectares, of which 163,130 hectares are forest area and 1,985 hectares are reservoirs. It is located in the western part of the Main Caucasian Range and in the Peredovyy Range.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration for Nature Conservation, Game Preserves and Hunting, USSR Ministry of Agriculture.

The territory of the forest reserve encompasses all high-altitude zones (from deciduous forests to alpine meadows and permanent glaciers) and is distinguished by abundant and unique flora and fauna. There are 1,600 species of higher plants in the forest reserve, of which 327 species are endemic and 21 are rare species; there are many relic species. The greater part of the forest-forming varieties are relics of the Tertiary period: Eastern beech, Nordmann fir, chestnut, oriental spruce, Iberian oak, sycamore, Caucasian linden and so on. Fruit and nut plants, extremely valuable for selection and also medicinal, honey, food, tanning and decorative plants occupy a significant position.

The fauna of the forest reserve includes 59 species of animals, including the chamois, maral, kaban' tor, Caucasian bear, lynx, forest and stone martens, long-clawed vole and Caucasian mole. The ornithological fauna numbers 192 species. The European bison has been successfully reacclimatized in the forest reserve.

A branch of the forest reserve--the Khostinskaya yew-box grove with an area of 300 hectares--is located on the southeastern slope of the Bol'shoy Akhun mountain.

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The scientific profile of the forest reserve is complex study of the ecological systems of mountain forests and meadows of the northwestern part of the Caucasus, methods of conservation, restoration and propagation of representatives of Caucasian endemic flora, development of methods of increasing the population, settlement and efficient use of such mammals as the European bison, deer, tur, chamois and roe deer and study of the interaction of forest reserve and contiguous (economically used) ecological systems.

Kandalaksha State Forest Reserve

(Murmanskaya Oblast, Kandalaksha-2, ulitsa Rechnaya, 18)

It was organized in 1932 with an area of 35,027 hectares, of which 12,122 hectares are forest area and 15,380 hectares are reservoirs and marine water basin. It is located on islands at the vertex of Kandalaksha Bay of the White Sea and along the Murmansk coast of the Barents Sea.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Hunting and Game Preserves attached to the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

The main landscapes of the reserve are mainland Arctic taiga, maritime tundra, forest-tundra and forest and tundra islands. The conserved objects are "bird markets" (eider, murre and puffin) and also individual species of birds.

The forest reserve consists of three sections of mainland coast and five groups of islands.

The Aynovy Islands, covered with a layer of peat, are populated by puffins and seagulls (great and herring-gull); the eider and also the Arctic tern and ruffs have also settled here. The islands are inhabited by approximately 40 species of birds and another 90 species are found during migration. The islands are covered during the spring-summer season with various types of grasses (catchfly, pink, camomile, angelica and so on).

The bird markets are located on the "seven islands." Murres and kittiwakes and also razorbills, seagulls, eiders, puffins, Arctic terns and so on are numerous. Gray seals give birth to their pups on the shores of the islands. A total of 109 species of birds, of which 43 species are nesting, is found on the territory of the "seven islands."

Yet another group of islands of the reserve occupies the greater part of the Kandalaksha cliffs of the White Sea. These islands are covered with spruce-pine forests with a mixture of birch, aspen, mountain ash, willow and other varieties.

A total of 23 species of land mammals, 10 species of marine mammals and 208 species of birds have been recorded on the territory of the Kandalaksha Reserve; 539 species of higher plants are numbered.

The scientific profile of the reserve is to study the natural complex of the archipelagos of the White and Barents Seas. The main objects of study are the common eider, the birds of the "bird markets" and puffin colonies.

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Kedrovaya Pad' Forest Reserve

(Primorskiy Kray, Khasanskiy Rayon, Primorskaya Station, Far Eastern Railroad)

It was organized in 1916 with an area of 17,897 hectares, of which 13,094 hectares are forest area. It is located on the western shore of Amur Bay in the foothills of the Chernyye Mountains in the Kedrovaya River Basin at the junction of the North Korean and South Ussurian flora provinces.

It is subordinate to the Far Eastern Scientific Center, USSR Academy of Sciences.

Southern coniferous-deciduous boreal and oak forests and also forests with a predominance of linden (Amur and Manchurian) are typical for the forest reserve. Broad-leaved and leafy forests occupy 85 percent of the area of the reserve.

The flora of the reserve numbers 817 species. The ancient nemoral formations and the related relic species of plants are of great value. Woody plants (118 species, among which are 51 species of trees, 58 species of shrubs and 9 species of lianas) and rose plants (26 species) are numerous. There are also many rare and valuable medicinal plants, relics and endemic species in the forest reserve: Shmidt's birch, old-fashioned weigela, Ross's violet, toothed oak, mainland aralia, Manchurian fir, ginkgo, tara vine, Amur grape, Chinese magnolia vine, ginseng, tea-plant, eleutherococcus, Chinese valerian, Manchurian walnut, thin-leaved jasmine, Sakhalin cherry and so on. There are more than 200 species of mosses and lichens and 150 species of mushrooms in the forest reserve.

A combination of southern and northern species is typical for the animal world. There are the world's rarest species--the Ussurian tube-nosed bat and the giant shrew, a relic cockroach and others. The leopard, Amur cat, spotted deer, kharza, Asiatic black bear, otter, raccoon-dog and so on are found. The mandarin duck, mute cuckoo, small sparrowhawk, brown and narcissus flycatchers, black stork, white-banded swift, black-headed oriole, Chinese green finch, Chinese grosbeak, striped shrike, rock thrush and so on are found among birds. A total of 224 species of birds and 57 species of mammals has been recorded in the forest reserve.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the biocenoses of the southernmost (within the USSR) versions of Manchurian mixed forests.

Kivach State Forest Reserve

(Karel'skaya ASSR, Kondopozhskiy Rayon, Sopokha Post Office)

It was organized in 1931 with an area of 10,460 hectares of which 8,673.2 hectares are forest area and 1,057.2 hectares are reservoirs. It is located in the Trans-Onega area at the junction of two zones--taiga and broad-leaved forests.

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It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Hunting and Game Preserves attached to the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

Almost all the main geographic complexes of the central taiga landscape are represented on the territory of the forest reserve. The greater part of the territory (82 percent) is covered with forests. Green-moss spruce and pine forests with elements of broad-leaved trees are typical.

The well-known Kivach Waterfall with a height of 10.7 meters is located on the Sune River. The Kivach Waterfall is recognized as one of Europe's highest waterfalls. The unique Sopokhskiy pine forest, where the height of pines reaches 30 meters and the trunk diameter reaches 100 cm, has been preserved in the reserve; there are trees approximately 350 years old.

The fauna of the forest reserve includes 44 species of mammals, 185 species of birds, four species each of reptiles and amphibians and 17 species of fishes. There are both middle-taiga species of animals (wood lemming, squirrel, common hare, bear, elk, hazel hen, black grouse, willow grouse and three-toed woodpecker) and southern forest and forest-steppe species (harvest mouse, quail, common partridge, corncrake, oriole, grosbeak and so on).

There are a nature museum, dendrological section and nursery in the forest reserve.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the dynamics of processes that determine the natural productivity of the main elements of the natural complex of Central Karelia.

Komsomol'sk State Forest Reserve

(Khabarovskiy Kray, Komsomol'skiy Rayon, Pivan' settlement, Sovgavan'skoye shosse, 36)

It was organized in 1963 with an area of 31,958 hectares. It is located on the right bank of the Amur River in the Bel'go River Basin; a branch of the forest reserve is located on the left bank of the Khungari River and its tributary the Chermal River.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Nature Conservation, Game Preserves and Hunting, USSR Ministry of Agriculture.

The junction of three forest formations--cedar-broad-leaved (pre-Amur), dark-coniferous (Sikhote-Alin') and light-coniferous (East Siberian)--is typical for the forest reserve, which also explains the uniqueness of the flora and fauna. Sections of cedar-spruce forests with undergrowth of pointed yew are interesting. Relic species of plants and animals are found and there are spawning grounds of the chum and humpback salmon.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the biogeocenoses of the transition zone from cedar-broad-leaved to taiga spruce-fir forests and also natural complexes of the Amur flora and fauna.

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Kronotskiy State Forest Reserve

(Kamchatskaya Oblast, Yelizovskiy Rayon, Zhupanovo settlement, ulitsa Oktyabr'skaya, 24)

It was organized in 1934 and has existed since 1967 in its current boundaries. It has an area of 964,000 hectares, of which 534,825 hectares are forest area and 26,835 hectares are reservoirs. It is located in the system of mountain ranges that descend from west to east toward Kamchatka and Kronotskiy Bays.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Hunting and Game Preserves attached to the RSFSR Council of Ministers

The forest reserve is distinguished by unusual beauty and uniqueness of nature: a chain of extinct and dormant volcanos, unusual forms of relief and waterfalls. The thermal lakes and calders of the Uzon volcano, the Kikhpinych geysers and numerous hot springs are of special interest. The landscapes of mountain tundra and thickets of cedar and Japanese stone pine, forests of Erman's birch with high grass and maritime complexes are widely distributed. The flora of the forest reserve includes approximately 800 species, including the graceful fir.

The vertebrate fauna numbers 33 species of mammals and more than 130 species of birds. The most valuable inhabitant of the forest reserve is the Kamchatka sable; reindeer, bighorn sheep, brown bear and other animals are common. Breeding grounds of sea lions, ringed seal, common seal and akiba are found in the coastal waters of the forest reserve. A total of 179 species of birds, including the stone partridge, whooper swan, bean goose, Pacific Ocean eagle and others, are known.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the natural complex of the Pacific Ocean highlands of the central part of Kamchatka, relic vegetation, valuable representatives of the animal world and also of current volcanism, geysers and warm springs.

Lazo State Forest Reserve imeni L. G. Kaplanov

(Primorskiy Kray, Lazovskiy Rayon, Lazo Village)

It was organized in 1935 as a branch of the Sikhote-Alin' forest reserve. It became the independent Sudzukhinskiy Forest Reserve in 1940. It was renamed the Lazo Forest Reserve in 1970. It has an area of 116,520 hectares, of which 115,344 hectares are forest area and 231 hectares are reservoirs. It is located in the southern part of the Sikhote-Alin' in the interfluvium of the Kiyevka and Chernaya Rivers. The forest reserve includes two small islands in the Sea of Japan--Petrov and Bel'tsov.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Nature Conservation, Game Preserves and Hunting, USSR Ministry of Agriculture.

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The forest reserve is located in the Manchurian flora region, which also determines the abundance of species and forms of ancient, shrub and grassy plants in it. The main ancient varieties are the Mongolian oak and cedar; lindens (Amur and Manchurian) dominate in the mixed forests; the Amur oak tree grows everywhere and cedar-broad-leaved forests predominate. A large number of lianas--grape, tara vine, magnolia vine and so on and also large thickets of a valuable medicinal plant--eleutherococcus--are typical for the forests of the reserve. A total of 1,271 species of plants, including 57 endemic and 9 rare species, grow in the reserve.

The vertebrate fauna numbers 48 species of mammals, many of which are endemic to the Primor'ye: the long-tailed goral, axis deer, Manchuria wapiti, Asiatic black bear, Manchurian hare, mojer mole, kharza, Amur wildcat, Amur tiger, leopard and so on. A total of 282 species of birds, including the Ussurian pheasant, Mandarin duck, squamous merganser and so on, has been noted.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is complex study of the ecological systems of the mountain forests of the southern part of the Sikhote-Alin', development of methods of conserving primary ecological systems of the mountain forests of the Far East under conditions of economic activity in surrounding territories, study of the forests of the Southern Primor'ye and finding ways of restoration and conservation of especially valuable representatives of flora and fauna--pointed yew, ginseng, aralia and also the goral, axis deer, tiger, leopard, pheasant and so on.

Lapland State Forest Reserve

(Murmanskaya Oblast, Monchegorsk)

It was founded in 1930 with an area of 161,254 hectares, of which 85,763 hectares are forest area and 8,546 hectares are reservoirs. It is located on the western Kola peninsula, west of Imandra and Monga Lakes, 160 kilometers north of the Arctic Circle. The season of white nights continues here for more than three months. The annual total precipitation is 400 mm, but the climate is moist due to weak evaporation and low temperatures. There is no real permafrost but a frozen nucleus remains on hummocky swamps.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Hunting and Game Preserves attached to the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

The territory of the reserve is mountainous and diverse in landscapes. Almost half of it is occupied by reindeer moss pine forests and northern thin forest and a third is occupied by forestless mountain tundra. Birch forests and forest-tundra occupy 12 percent of the territory and marshes occupy 6 percent. Complexes of mountain tundra and northern taiga are well represented in the forest reserve: forests with predominance of pine, spruce and birch, marshes and lakes and reindeer moss covers. There are many alpine and arctic species of plants: dwarf rhododendron, partridge grass and dwarf willows. The flora of the forest reserve includes 928 species. The lakes and rivers are distinguished by very sparse aquatic vegetation.

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The vertebrate fauna numbers 29 species of mammals. The wild reindeer, elk, marten, fox, ermine, wolverine, otter, bear and Norwegian lemming are common; the beaver has become reacclimatized. A total of 176 species of birds, including the great grouse, willow grouse, black grouse and hazel hen and the whooper swan and the golden eagle among rare species has been noted.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the natural complex of the northern taiga, mountain tundra and lakes of the Kola peninsula and to develop methods of conservation of the reindeer moss pine forests; special attention is being devoted to study of the reindeer and to development of methods of efficient use of its reserves.

Mordovian State Forest Reserve imeni P. G. Smidovich

(Mordovskaya ASSR, Temnikov, Pushta settlement)

It was organized in 1936 with an area of 32,300 hectares, of which 31,059 hectares are forest and 20.7 hectares are reservoirs. It is located in the eastern part of the Oksko-Klyaz'minskaya plane between the Moksha River and its right tributary the Satis River on the boundary of the forest and forest-steppe zones.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Hunting and Game Preserves attached to the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

The flora of the forest reserve is abundant: 947 species of plants, including 619 species of vascular plants. A total of 96.6 percent of the territory is covered with forests; pine forests predominate and significant areas are also occupied by birch, aspen and linden forests; oak forests are found in the Moksha River floodplain. The pine forests are very diverse--from white moss to sphagnum moss pine forests.

The fauna of the forest reserve is typical for a transition forest-steppe zone. Sixty species of mammals and 196 species of birds are known. The desman, elk, hares (common and European), lynx and so on are found among animals; the birds include the great grouse, hazel hen, black grouse, willow grouse, black stork and eagle owl. The roe deer and nutria have been reacclimatized and the axis deer, maral, European bison, raccoon-dog and muskrat have been acclimatized.

Karst phenomena are typical for the forest reserve; there are lakes of karst origin.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to develop methods of conservation and to study the southern wooded plains on the boundary of the forest and forest-steppe zone, to study the natural complex of pine and pine-broad-leaved forests of the Oksko-Klyaz'minskaya Poles'ye and also the ecology of the desman.

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Okskiy State Forest Reserve

(Ryazanskaya Oblast, Spasskiy Rayon, Lakash Post Office)

It was organized in 1935 with an area of 22,896 hectares, of which 18,492 hectares are forest area and 410 hectares are reservoirs. It is located in the southeastern part of the Meshcherskaya lowland.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Nature Conservation, Game Preserves and Hunting, USSR Ministry of Agriculture.

The forest vegetation of the reserve is represented by pine forests with a mixture of birch and broad-leaved varieties and also by sections of oak forests, including floodplain forests; there are many swamps and lakes. The flora of the reserve includes more than 400 species of plants, including two endemic, 69 rare and five disappearing species.

The fauna of the reserve is abundant: 49 species of mammals and 227 species of birds, including rare species: the desman, otter, black stork, white-tailed eagle and so on; the European beaver has been reacclimatized. The central ornithological station has been in operation since 1956 and a beaver nursery and biological survey group have been operating since 1959.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is complex study of the nature of the southeastern part of the Meshcherskaya lowland, the ecological systems of the floodplain and areas outside the floodplain, development of methods of conservation, restoration and efficient use of the natural complexes of the southeastern part of the Meshcherskaya lowland and also rare, disappearing and valuable species of animals and plants (desman, beaver, elk, bear, lynx, badger, great grouse, swan, black stork, white-tailed eagle, osprey, aquatic birds, water chestnuts, water ferns and so on).

Pechora-Ilych State Forest Reserve

(Komi ASSR, Troitsko-Pechorskiy Rayon, Yaksha Post Office)

It was organized in 1930 with an area of 721,322 hectares, of which 612,214 hectares are forest area and 2,297 hectares are reservoirs. It is located in the western foothills of the Northern Urals in the interfluvium of the Pechora and Ilych Rivers.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Hunting and Game Preserves attached to the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

The forest reserve is represented by three landscape regions: the Pechora lowland overgrown with pine forests, undulating foothills with spruce, fir and spruce-fir forests and with a mixture of cedar in places and the mountains of the Northern Urals.

The upper boundary of the forest is located at an altitude of 500-600 meters above sea level and pure birch forests are found here, but the trees are

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usually stunted, low-growing and with goblet shape of the crown. The stone fir grows in this high-altitude zone. A zone of subalpine meadows with various types of grasses bright during the blooming period--anemones, bare fistula, Urals peony, cranesbills, buttercups and forget-me-nots, begins beyond the forest zone. The high-altitude zone is represented by tundra and rocky placers. The shrub tundra is formed of willows, dwarf birch and Siberian juniper and the grass tundra is formed of sedges and cereal grasses. The bushy tundra is located above the shrub zone. These are primarily berries: bilberries, bog whortleberries, crowberries, ptarmigan-berries and red whortleberries. The highest is the arctic-alpine zone: a thin cover of alpine azaleas, cushion pinks, sedges, lagotis, filodose and so on.

The flora of the forest reserve numbers more than 700 species, including 6 endemic, 7 rare and 11 disappearing species.

The animal world is represented both by Asiatic and European species. A total of 40 species of animals and 204 species of birds has been recorded. Among the animals are the elk, the forest reindeer, wolf, brown bear and wolverine; otters, ermine and mink are numerous; the weasel, fox, chipmunk, flying squirrel and mountain hare are common; the white fox and lynx (rare) are found. The forest reserve is the only place where the sable, marten and their hybrid --kidusy--are found together; the beaver, which was well accustomed to this area, has been reacclimatized.

Among the birds are found the great grouse, black grouse, hazel hen and grouse (the willow and alpine ptarmigan), cuckoos (European and Asian) and so on. The rivers are inhabited by salmon, grayling, whitefish, ide, tench, perch, pike and so on.

There is an experimental nursery to study the possibility of breeding elk in captivity and of using domesticated elk under taiga conditions is available in the forest reserve.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the mountain-taiga natural complex of the western slopes of the Northern Urals and of the upper course of the Pechora River. The main objects of study are the elk, forest reindeer, squirrel, sable, marten, beaver, grouse-type birds, salmon and cedar.

Pinezhskiy State Forest Reserve

(Arkhangel'skaya Oblast)

It was organized in 1974 with an area of 41,244 hectares.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Hunting and Game Preserves attached to the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

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Oka-Terrace State Forest Reserve

(Moskovskaya Oblast, Serpukhovskiy Rayon, Danki Post Office)

It was organized in 1945 with an area of 4,945 hectares, of which 4,704 hectares are forest and 16 hectares are reservoirs. It is located in Southern Moskovskaya Oblast on the left bank terraces of the Oka River.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Nature Conservation, Game Preserves and Hunting, USSR Ministry of Agriculture.

The forest reserve contains pine, broad-leaved and small-leaved forests, sections of relic steppe vegetation (with feather grass, sheep fescue, ground cherry, European mountain ash and so on); the flora contains approximately 900 species.

The fauna of the forest reserve numbers 47 species of mammals and 127 species of birds. The elk, wild boar, roe deer and deer are common; the European muskrat has been reacclimatized. There is a central European bison nursery in the forest reserve and purebred bison are delivered annually for resettlement throughout the country; a breeding log of European bison in the USSR is maintained.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is complex study of the ecological systems of the Oka River valley with unique sections of steppe vegetation study of the individual components of the forest and floodplain to restore and preserve them, study and breeding of purebred European bison and development and planning of measures to restore and resettle these animals in the USSR.

Severo-Osetina State Forest Reserve

(Severo-Osetinskaya ASSR, Alagir, ulitsa Chabakhana Basiyeva, 17)

It was organized in 1967 with an area of 26,133 hectares, of which 7,933 hectares are forest area and 50 hectares are reservoirs. It is located on the northern slopes of the Main Caucasian Ridge at an altitude of 1,350-4,646 meters above sea level.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Hunting and Game Preserves attached to the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

The forest reserve is distinguished by an abundance of flora: of 6,000 species of plants growing in the Caucasus, 2,000 are found in the forest reserve, including 80 species of trees and shrubs. The high-altitude zone is well-marked. Large tracts of pine forest exist in the upper reaches of the Tseya and Ardon Rivers.

The forest zone consists mainly of pine, birch and mixed forests and rises to an altitude of 2,000-2,200 meters above sea level. Oak, maple, ash, hornbeam, eastern beech, common filbert, Iberian honeysuckle and yellow rhododendron

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grow in the mixed forests; the thick grass cover consists primarily of serial grasses and legumes; small areas are occupied by berries: strawberry, red whortleberry and bilberry.

Cereal grasses--cocksfoot, reed-grass, timothy and so on--reach especially strong development in the subalpine zone; brilliant diverse grasses are distinguished by an abundance of species. Endemic species are Caucasian snowdrop, golden hare's ear and brilliant larkspur; five rare species of plants are known.

The fauna is typical for the high mounds of the northern slope of the Main Caucasian ridge. The forest reserve is inhabited by chamois, the eastern Caucasian tur, snow vole, brown bear, fox, martens (stone and forest), badger, lynx, European wildcat and so on (a total of 50 species of mammals) and approximately 200 species of birds, including the Caucasian blackcock, rock partridge, Caucasian snowcock, chough, alpine chough and so on.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the mountain-forest and cliff-meadow landscapes of the Central Caucasus, vegetation groupings and fauna typical for this geographic region.

Sikhote-Alin' State Forest Reserve

(Primorskiy Kray, Terneyskiy Rayon, Terney settlement)

It was organized in 1935 with an area of 340,200 hectares, of which 339,670 hectares are forest area and 270 hectares are reservoirs. It is located on the eastern and western slopes of the central part of the Sikhote-Alin' ridge.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Nature Conservation, Game Preserves and Hunting, USSR Ministry of Agriculture

Coniferous-broad-leaved forest with numerous relic and endemic species predominates in the forest reserve. Cedar and broad-leaved forests, spruce-fir taiga, forests of Erman's birch, groves of Japanese stone pine and rocky tundra are found. More than 200 species of trees, shrubs and lianas are known; the grass cover is multilevel and there are many decorative species of plants. The flora of the forest reserve numbers 797 species, including more than 100 endemic, two rare and one disappearing species.

A total of 61 species of mammals, approximately 320 species of birds, nine species of reptiles, six species of amphibians and 16 species of fish are known in the forest reserve. Among the mammals are found the tiger, sable, kharza, bears (Asiatic black and brown), musk deer, Manchurian wapiti, goral and among the birds are found the squamous merganser, mandarin duck, Siberian spruce grouse, fish owl and so on.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is complex study of the ecological systems of the forests and meadows of the central part of the Sikhote-Alin', study of the conditions of conservation of primary ecological systems of the mountain forests of the Far East under conditions of economic activity

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in the surrounding territory and also ways of restoration and conservation of valuable representatives of the fauna (tiger, Asiatic black bear, goral, Manchurian wapiti and Siberian spruce grouse) and valuable relic plants (Japanese stone pine, lemon tree, eleutherococcus and so on).

Sokhondo State Forest Reserve

(Chitinskaya Oblast, Kyrinskiy Rayon, Kyra settlement)

It was organized in 1974 with an area of 210,500 hectares. It is located in the region of the Sokhondo mountain tract (2,500 meters above sea level) and several adjacent bare mountains (up to 2,000 meters above sea level).

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Hunting and Game Preserves attached to the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

Sokhondo is a section of typical Siberian taiga extending far to the south to the region of the Dahurian-Mongolian steppes in the type of vegetation. The vertical zones of vegetation are well marked.

The most typical of the steppe formations are tansies and various grasses among steppe formations and mountain-meadow associations with shrub thickets are also common. Steppe vegetation formations penetrate rather deeply into the taiga from the south and meadow vegetation is well marked.

Three-fourths of the forest reserve is occupied by taiga, represented by zones of light-coniferous (pine and larch) and dark-coniferous (cedar) forests. The most widespread types of forests are mixed-cereal grasses, whortleberries and dwarf Arctic birch stands. Bog-red whortleberry, Siberian tea and rhododendron predominate among the cedar groves. Krasodnev, spreading pasque-flower, steppe edelweiss, Siberian tea, Japanese stone pine, shrubby cinquefoil spiraea, cotoneaster and so on are found in the flora of the forest reserve.

The forest reserve is represented by complexes of Siberian, Dahurian-Mongolian and high-altitude fauna. Elk, Manchurian wapiti, roe deer, musk deer, wild boar, brown bear, lynx, sable, long-tailed souslik, Dahurian zokor and also the Siberian capercaillie, hazel hen, Daurian partridge, sheldrake and so on are found here; a special race of greenlings is found in Bukukunskoye Lake.

Stolby State Forest Reserve

(Krasnoyarskiy Kray, Krasnoyarsk, ulitsa Kar'yernaya, 26a)

It was organized in 1925 with an area of 47,154 hectares, of which 46,308 hectares are forest area. It is located on the right bank of the Yenisey River on the northwestern horns of the Eastern Cayan.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Hunting and Game Preserves attached to the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

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The attraction of the forest reserve are unique granite-syenite cliffs--"columns" up to 100 meters high, consisting of Lower Devonian Rose-Red Syenites, which acquire different shapes as a result of weathering.

The forest reserve lies in the zone of the typical mountain taiga of the eastern Sayan. The vegetation is represented by forest and steppe associations of the Krasnoyarsk trough: pine-larch mixed-grass and mountain dark-coniferous (fir) taiga; spruce-fir forests grown in the river valleys and streams. Berries--bilberry, red whortleberry, raspberry, currants (red and black), Altay honeysuckle and so on--are typical for the mountain taiga. There are many decorative plants--Siberian globeflowers, irises, lilies, lady's slippers and so on--in the forests of the foothills. Typical sections of steppes and meadows are found in the foothills region.

Fir forests predominate in the mountain-taiga zone. Above them (at an altitude of 800 meters above sea level) lie cedar forests formed of Siberian stone pine--the most valuable variety of the Siberian taiga. An interesting plant of the forest reserve is Siberian linden--a relic of the Oligocene-Miocene period. A total of 551 species of plants has been recorded in the forest reserve.

The fauna of the forest reserve is typical for the Central Siberian mountain taiga and is represented by 49 species of mammals, 145 species of birds and 22 species of fish. The rivers of the forest reserve are inhabited by whitefish, tugun, grayling, dace, ide, perch, trout, lenoks and so on. The hen, great grouse, black grouse, three-toed woodpecker, nuthatch, crossbill, thrush, nightingales (Far Eastern and blue), sparrowhawk, red-eared bunting, dipper, bean goose, eagle owl, golden eagle and so on are numerous among the birds; the mammals include the sable, bear, lynx, otter, wolverine, Siberian weasel, ermine, weasel, maral, musk deer, roe deer, elk and so on.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to develop methods of protection and natural restoration of the Siberian stone pine and also restoration of the pine-deciduous plantation and study of the bird and mammal fauna.

Teberda State Forest Reserve

(Stavropol'skiy Kray, Teberda)

It was organized in 1936 with an area of 83,122 hectares, of which 29,448 hectares are forest area and 263 hectares are reservoirs. It is located on the northern slopes of the Western Caucasus. It consists of two sections--the main section located in the upper part of the Teberda River Basin, and the Arkhyz part located 150 kilometers west of the main part in the Kizgich River valley. There are more than 100 glaciers in the forest reserve and approximately as many high-altitude glacial lakes and many waterfalls.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Hunting and Game Reserves attached to the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

Mountain forests and also subalpine and alpine meadows with typical flora and fauna complexes are represented in the forest reserve. The forests are

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distinguished by abundant species composition (up to 100 species of trees and shrubs): hooked pine, Caucasian fir, oriental spruce, maples, hornbeam, beech and common yew (a relic of the Tertiary period); wild fruit trees and shrubs valuable for selection include apple, pear, savin, cherry, blackthorn, raspberry, currant, gooseberry, barberry and also serviceberry, choke-cherry, filbert, honeysuckle, spindle-tree and rhododendrons (Caucasian and Pontian). Cow parsnip, angelica, monkshood, campanula, variegated fescue, globe flower, spreading pasque-flower and so on are typical among grassy plants. A total of 1,180 species of plants, including 186 endemic to the Caucasus, three endemic to the forest reserve and four rare species, has been described in the forest reserve.

The fauna includes 36 species of mammals, 160 species of birds, seven species of reptiles, four species of amphibians and three species of fish. The endemic and rare species include the Kuban' tur, chamois, leopard, Caucasian birch mouse, Caucasian snowcock, Caucasian blackcock, eagle owl and so on. The maral, wild board, brown bear, lynx, European wildcat, fox, wolf, stone marten, Caucasian weasel, ermine, otter, mountain hare, squirrel, forest mouse, shrub vole, common noctule and so on are found. The bearded vulture, Ural owl, kestrel, goshawk, sparrowhawk, rock partridge, corncrake, shore lark, warblers, whitethroats, tits, jays, nuthatch, wrens, woodpeckers (black, green and great spotted), dipper, finch, siskin, greenfinch, bullfinch, nightjar and so on are common among the birds. The sand lizard, slow-worm, grass and Renard's viper are found in the forest reserve among the reptiles and amphibians include the tree frog and green toad.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to develop methods of conservation, restoration and efficient use of mountain meadows and forests of water-protection, soil-protection and resort-climatological significance and also valuable species of hunting animals (tur, chamois, snowcock and so on) in different altitude zones of the eastern part of the Northwestern Caucasus.

Ussuriysk State Forest Reserve

(Primorskiy Kray, Ussuriyskiy Rayon, Kamenushka Post Office)

It was organized in 1935 with an area of 40,432 hectares, of which 40,375 hectares are forest area and 40 hectares are reservoirs. It is located on the southwestern horns of the Sikhote-Alin' range.

It is subordinate to the Far Eastern Scientific Center, USSR Academy of Sciences.

Natural complexes of southern Ussurian taiga, cedar and broad-leaved, dark-coniferous, elm and ash forests are represented in the reserve. The ancient dark-coniferous and broad-leaved forests that have retained their initial phytocenotic structure are interesting. Yew, Japanese stone pine, Manchurian fir, Amur oak tree, Manchurian walnut, Manchurian aralia, eleutherococcus, tea-plant and ginseng grow in the forest reserve; there are many lianas-- Chinese magnolia vine, Amur grape, three species of tara vine and so on. The flora of spore plants--mosses, lichens and mushrooms--is diverse. The forests

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of the reserve have never been cut and there are many gigantic trees here: pines up to 42 meters high, with diameter of more than 200 cm. There are standing liana forests with hornbeam and approximately 30 species of ferns. Approximately 700 species of higher plants have been described among the flora of the forest reserve.

There are many valuable and rare species of animals--the tiger, leopard, Manchurian wapiti, giant mole, lungless newt, giant longhorn beetle, relic cockroach and so on--in the forest reserve. The grey starling, thrush, hoopoe, white wagtail, eastern blue magpie, kite, warblers, bunting, pheasant, hazel hen, mandarin duck, kingfisher, dipper and so on are found among the birds.

A total of 36 of 77 species of mammals that inhabit the Soviet Far East are found on the forest reserve. These are the axis deer, maral, musk deer, wild boar, bears (brown and Asiatic black), European wildcat, lynx, badger, sable, otter, Siberian weasel, kharza, raccoon-dog, fox, wolf, Manchurian hare, squirrel, flying squirrel, chipmunk, carrion rat, Mikhno's vole, hedgehog, three species of shrews including the giant mole and the moger mole and several species of bats.

Chickensnakes (patterned and Amur), mottled grass snake, mamushki (Ussurian and Pallas's) and the lizard--Amur long-tailed--are found among reptiles.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the natural complex of ancient nemoral formations and to develop methods of protecting them.

Khingan State Forest Reserve

(Amurskaya Oblast, Arkharinskiy Rayon, Kundur settlement)

It was organized in 1964 with an area of 59,300 hectares, of which 34,312 hectares are forest area and 178 hectares are reservoirs. It is located in southeastern Amurskaya Oblast in the transition zone from the Amur flatlands covered with small-reed meadows, to the foothills of the Less Khingan with mountain cedar and broad-leaved forests.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Nature Conservation, Game Reserves and Hunting, USSR Ministry of Agriculture.

The fauna and flora of the reserve are Amur and taiga types. The main ancient variety is the Mongolian oak; the Japanese stone pine, Yeddo spruce, Khingan fir, Dahurian larch, Amur linden, Manchurian ash, Dahurian birch and other varieties also grow there.

The fauna of the forest reserve includes both typically taiga species and representatives of the Amur fauna: brown bear, black bear, lynx, Siberian weasel, sable, kharza, raccoon-dog, Manchurian hare, chipmunk, Manchurian wapiti and also the hazel hen, eastern blue magpie, black-headed oriole and so on.

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The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the biocenoses of the Central Amur region.

Khopra State Forest Reserve

(Voronezhskaya Oblast, Novokhoperskiy Rayon, Varvarino Post Office)

It was organized in 1935 with an area of 16,178 hectares, of which 13,811 hectares are forest area and 1,065 hectares are reservoirs. It is located in the Khopra River floodplain.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Nature Conservation, Game Reserves and Hunting, USSR Ministry of Agriculture.

The protected ecosystems in the forest reserve are the forest-steppe floodplain with oak forests, European alder and white poplar forests, floodplain and highland oak forests with ash, lakes with abundant aquatic vegetation, flooded meadows and steppe vegetation with feathergrass-fescue mixed grass cover. Approximately 1,000 species of plants, including tegular gladiolas, irises (sea-shore, Siberian and yellow flag), lily-leaved gland flower, fragrant toadflax, wood vetch, Bieberstein's tulip, common solomon's seal, dune violet and evening primrose are found in the forest reserve; plantains (lanceolate, common water and Leselle's), water dragon, sweet-grasses (reed and floating), cut-grass, buckbean, naiads (small and holly-leaved), water lillies (white, pure white and tetrahedral), pondweeds (12 species), bur-reeds, small yellow water-lilly and so on are found in reservoirs.

The steppe vegetation is represented by feathergrass-fescue-mixed grass, fescue-mixed grass and medium couch grass associations (with bedstraw, Elzass's fennel and ray sawwort) and also shrub association of snow spiraea and laburnum and fennel-feathergrass associations on alkaline soils.

There are approximately 180 species of birds and 43 species of mammals in the fauna of the forest reserve, among which is one endemic to our country--the desman. The roe deer, wild boar, badger and other animals inhabit the forest reserve; the nutria has been reacclimatized, axis deer have been acclimatized and European bison have been imported. An experimental vivarium has been created to study the biology of the desman and an experimental nursery has also been created where axis deer are maintained.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is complex study of the ecological systems of floodplains and non-floodplain territories, development of methods of conservation, restoration and efficient use of the natural complexes of Khopra Valley, study of elm and oak forests with ash, unique alder floodplain forests, finding ways of conserving them with regard to changes of the hydrological regime and study of the biology of the desman and development of methods of conservation, restoration and resettlement of it throughout the USSR.

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Central Forest State Reserve

(Kalininskaya Oblast, Nelidovskiy Rayon, Vysokoye Post Office)

It was organized in 1934 with an area of 21,348 hectares, of which 20,158 hectares are forest area and 26 hectares are reservoirs. It is located in the northwestern part of the Central Russian Upland near the sources of the Volga and Zapadnaya Dvina Rivers.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Nature Conservation, Game Preserves and Hunting, USSR Ministry of Agriculture.

The territory of the reserve is covered with spruce and mixed spruce and broad-leaved forests and peat bogs. The main tree-forming variety is spruce; there is a small inclusion of maple, linden, elm and so on. The well preserved complex spruce forests with thick undergrowth and abundant grass cover are most interesting; there are many berry plants (cranberry, bilberry, red whortleberry, raspberry, cloudberry and so on).

The fauna of the reserve is typical for the southern taiga of European type. It includes such animals as the brown bear, lynx, wolf, marten, elk, wild boar, flying squirrel, European hare and also the great grouse, black grouse and hazel hen.

Complex biocenological investigations are being conducted in the reserve in the spruce forests and a station of the Botanical Institute, USSR Academy of Sciences, has been organized.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is complex study of the ecological systems of spruce and spruce and broad-leaved forests of the Central Russian Upland, study of the reasons for destruction of spruce forests and methods of increasing their biological productivity, study of the factors that regulate formation of biogeocenoses of different composition and structure and development of methods of increasing the population and efficient of valuable fauna representatives.

Central Chernozem State Forest Reserve imeni Professor V. V. Alekhin

(Kurskaya Oblast, Kursk, Zapovednoye Post Office)

It was organized in 1935 with an area of 4,795 hectares, of which 2,186 hectares are forest area. It is located on the boundary of Kurskaya and Belgorodskaya Oblasts and consists of five sections: Streletskiy, Kazatskiy, Bar-kalovka and Bukreyevy Barmy in Kurskaya Oblast and Yamskiy in Belgorodskaya Oblast.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Hunting and Game Preserves attached to the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

The main vegetation formations of the reserve are virgin meadow steppes and sections of island type broad-leaved forests. A total of 843 species of

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flowering plants grows on the forest reserve territory. The most widely distributed are shore brome, sheep's fescue, Hungarian sainfoin, bristly yarrow, Ukrainian sandwort, lady's bedstraw, Popov's forget-me-not, meadow sage, thyme, Marshall's thyme and so on. The aspect of the steppe changes many times during the vegetation period.

The fauna of the forest reserve consists mainly of steppe species and includes approximately 40 species of mammals and 50 species of birds: the South Russian mole, spotted souslik, great jerboa, southern birch mouse, European hare, buzzard, hoopoe, turtle-dove and quail; the elk, roe deer and great bustard are found.

A station of the Institute of Geography, USSR Academy of Sciences, has been organized in the forest reserve.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the nature of the meadow-steppe virgin land, forest-steppe oak forests, their contact zone and the processes occurring in thick chernozems to work out the scientific fundamentals of conservation and reproduction of the Central Chernozem forest-steppe complex.

Tadzhik SSR

Ramit State Forest Reserve

(Tadzhik SSR, Ordzhonikidzeabadskiy Rayon, Ramit settlement)

It was organized in 1959 with an area of 16,179 hectares, including 3,779 hectares of forest area. It is located on the southern slopes of the horn of the Gissari range at the interfluve of the Sarday-Mioni and Sarbo Rivers.

It is subordinate to the State Committee of Forestry, Tadzhik SSR Council of Ministers.

The forest reserve is represented by walnut-fruit trees and savin groves. The ancient shrub vegetation includes walnut, Bukhara almond, apple, honeysuckle, barberry, serviceberry, chelon, Turkistan maple, Regel's maple, wild mirobelan, Turkistan hawthorn, Mahaleb cherry, long-leaved buckthorn, pistachio, hackberry, willow, poplar, sallow-thorn, birch, saving, kokanda rose and so on; there are many decorative plants--tulips, irises, fritillary, desert-candles and so on.

The complex of mountain animals of Northern Tadzhikistan is typical for the forest reserve: Siberian ibex, porcupine, long-tailed marmot, stone marten, white-clawed bear, snow leopard, lynx, wolf, fox, forest dormouse, Turkistan rat, Carruther's vole, mole-vole and Tolai hare; the Bukhara deer has become acclimatized; birds include the rock dove, Indian paradise flycatcher, Himalayan whistling thrush, rock thrush, griffon vulture, oriole, ring-dove, Himalayan snow partridge, Himalayan accentor, Siberian rubythroat, Tibetan raven, dippers (white-breasted and brown), grey wagtail, sickle-claw and so on; the reptiles include chickensnakes (red-banded and mottled), Turkestan viper,

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Asiatic snake-eyed lizard, water snake, blunt-nosed viper, mamushi and so on. The rivers of the forest reserve are inhabited by trout, Schizothorax fish, Turkestan catfish and so on.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to develop methods of conservation and to study the nut-fruit forests and also the natural complex of the forest reserve.

Tigrovaya Balka State Forest Reserve

(Tadzhik SSR, Kumsangirskiy Rayon, Dusti settlement)

It was organized in 1938 with an area of 52,212 hectares, of which 25,461 hectares are forest area and 4,329 hectares are reservoirs. It is located in Southern Tadzhikistan in the Vakhsh and Pyandzh River floodplains.

It is subordinate to the State Committee of Forestry, Tadzhik SSR Council of Ministers.

The forest reserve is represented by a tugai natural complex and a sandy desert complex, oxbow lakes with reed and plume grass thickets, turanga forests with grass cover of ephemeral grasses: meadow-grass, sedges, poppies and so on and dune sands alternating with bulky saltwort.

Poplar, tamarisk, olive, licorice, Bermuda grass, Aeluropus grass, saltwort, desert sedge, reedmace, bush grass and various types of saltworts.

There are 28 species of mammals in the forest reserve, including the Bukhara deer, Persian gazelle and spotted hyena; the jackal, desert monitor, skink, cobra, blunt-nosed viper, saw-scaled viper and so on are common. A total of 143 species of birds, including the pheasant, pin-tailed sand grouse, goosander, gadwall, whooper swan, golden-eye, tufted duck, great bustard, stone curlew, desert owl, little owl and so on has been noted. Carp, barbels (Aral Sea and Turkestan), Bukhara roach, Turkestan gudgeon, Aspiolucius fish and so on inhabit the reservoirs of the forest reserve.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to develop methods of protection and to increase the population of the Bukhara deer, Persian gazelle, pheasant and also migratory birds which winter on the reservoirs of the forest reserve and to study the tugay vegetation.

Turkmen SSR

Badkhyzy State Forest Reserve

(Turkmen SSR, Kushka, Morgunovka settlement)

It was organized in 1941 with an area of 87,640 hectares. It is located on the territory of Takhta-Bazarskiy and Serakhskiy Rayons, Maryyskaya Oblast in the interfluvium of the Tedzhen and Murgab Rivers.

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It is subordinate to the State Committee of Forestry, Turkmen SSR Council of Ministers.

A natural desert complex, subtropical semi-savannahs, pistachio forests, residual bald mountains and cliffs are typical for the forest reserve.

There are approximately 430 species of higher plants in the forest reserve, 10 percent of which are endemic: the Kushkino tulip, Badkhyz kuziniya and so on; Linchevskiy's kuziniya and linguiform feathergrass are found among rare species. The pistachio, which occupies considerable areas, Afghan fig tree, Turgana poplar, prickly almond and so on are common among ancient plants; bulbous meadowgrass, various species of sedges, poppies, malcomia, horned poppy, tulips, irises, honeysuckle, Gagea, Russian sea kale, campion, tansy, kuziniya, desert lyme grass, ferula, saltwort, milk vetch, scurf-pea, camel thorn, onions (Caspian and giant) and so on dominate among grassy plants.

The fauna of the forest reserve includes 37 species of animals, including rare animals: wild boar (aboriginal population), Persian gazelle, mountain goat, leopard, spotted hyena, Indian honey-badger, karakal lynx and so on; the Afghan vole, great gerbil, steppe cat, porcupine, Siberian ibex and so on are also found; there are 37 species of reptiles: the monitor, agamas (Khorasan and steppe), geckoes, snake-eyed lizards, yashchurki, long-legged skink, blunt-nosed viper, saw-scaled viper, cobra, sand snakes, arrow snake, chicken-snakes (variegated and red-banded), steppe tortoise and so on; there are approximately 200 species of birds, including the bay-backed shrike, Indian tinted lapwing, courser, Houbara buzzard, griffon vulture, black kite, ant-eater, Egyptian vulture, black vulture, snake eater, falcon, booted eagle, keklik, desert grouse, sheldrake and so on.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to develop methods of conservation and restoration of the wild ass, Persian gazelle and mountain goat population and to study and restore pistachios.

Krasnovodsk State Forest Reserve

(Turkmen SSR, Krasnovodsk, ulitsa Chapayeva, 15)

It was organized in 1932 as the Gasan-Kuliysk Forest Reserve; it was renamed the Krasnovodsk Forest Reserve in 1968. It has an area of 262,037 hectares, of which 192,129 hectares occupy reservoirs. It is located in the Turkmen SSR along the Caspian Sea coast and the sections of desert adjacent to it.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Nature Conservation, Game Preserves and Hunting, USSR Ministry of Agriculture.

The fauna of the forest reserve includes nine species of mammals and 140 species of birds, including rare species--the Indian honey-badger, flamingo and so on; the francolin nests here.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is complex study of the nature of shallow bays of the eastern and southeastern regions of the Caspian Sea and

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the desert adjacent to them, study of the wintering areas of flamingos, divers and river ducks, bald coots and other birds and observation of the perennial changes of the bird populations in the wintering areas and study of the ecology of wintering birds.

Repetek State Forest Reserve

(Turkmen SSR, Chardzhouskaya Oblast, Repetek Station)

It was organized in 1928 and has existed since 1952 in its current boundaries with an area of 34,274 hectares. It is located in the southeastern part of the Karakumy.

It is subordinate to the Institute of Deserts, Turkmen SSR Academy of Sciences.

The territory of the forest reserve is a tract of consolidated sand dunes with shrub thickets and barkhan-stratified sands of the Amu-Dar'ya barkhan strip with rarefied psammophytic vegetation. A total of 134 species of aboriginal plants, 18 species of cultivated trees and shrubs and 59 species not inherent to the forest reserve territory imported from other locations has been recorded in the reserve area. Black saksaul vegetation, where more than 100 species of plants grow, is most abundant. The flora of ephemerals and ephemerooids (peacock poppy, camomile, delphiniums, malcolmia, mortuk, drooping brome, ilak and so on) is abundant.

The predominant vegetation grouping of the forest reserve is white saksaul thickets where saltwort, ephedra, dog's-tooth violet, Ammodendron and so on are common. The vegetation of the transition zone from moving barkhan sands to dune sands is widely distributed. Selinum (Karelin's and feathered), Litvinov's ferula, small-leaved milk vetch and so on are typical here.

The vegetation of moving barkhan sands is also distinguished in the forest reserve. Background species of barkhan sands are Ammodendron and also eremosparton, smirnovia, selins, heliotropes, dog's-tooth violets (white and black), ephedra and so on.

There are 23 species of reptiles in the forest reserve, of which the more common are the Phrynocephalus lizards, yashchurki, skink, grey monitor, saw-scaled viper, arrowsnake and so on. Twenty-nine species of mammals are found: rodents predominate and the great gerbil, tolai hare, long-clawed ground squirrel, long-eared hedgehog and jerboas (northern three-toed, desert and comb-toed) are common; the mottled polecat, weasel, wolf, jackal, korsac fox, African wildcat, sand cat, caracal lynx, fox, Persian gazelle, porcupine, dwarf bat and so on are found. Approximately 140 species of birds has been recorded (there are 229 species in the Karakumy), of which 30 species are nesting birds. An endemic species is the saksaul jay; the white-winged woodpecker, desert raven, pin-tailed sand grouse, desert nightjar, desert warbler, yellow wagtail, red-spotted bluethroat, spotted flycatcher, long-eared owl and so on are abundant. There are many endemic forms of insects; nocturnal ground beetles, scarabs, tree-borers, tiger and ground beetles, ants and so on are abundant.

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The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to develop methods of conservation and to study the saksaul thin forest, to study the natural complex of the sand desert, the evolution of the barkhan-stratified relief and to develop methods of maintenance and strengthening of sands and methods of adaptation of living organisms to arid conditions.

Uzbek SSR

Aral-Paygambar State Forest Reserve

(Uzbek SSR, Surkhandar'inskaya Oblast, Termez, ulits Leningradskaya, 1)

It was organized in 1960 and has existed since 1971 in its current boundaries. It has an area of 3,850 hectares, of which 2,975 hectares are forest area. It is located on an island of the Amu-Dar'ya River.

It is subordinate to the State Committee of Forestry, Uzbek SSR Council of Ministers.

Tugai forests of turanga and olive, tamarisk thickets, dzhingil, reed thickets, licorice thickets and sand desert sections are typical for the forest reserve.

There are three species of tugais on the island: poplar that forms a closed cover with undergrowth of olive and depressed grass cover (the closeness of the tree stand is up to 80 percent), Russian wild olive or olive frequently with tamarisk and poplar, thickets of licorice, plume grass, reed, reedmace, intertwined swallow-wart and dogbane and tamarisk with poplar thickets and halophyte plants: saltwort, bean caper, camel thorn, Halostachys and so on.

Saksaul, Nitraria, Calligonum aphyllum, bean caper and erianthus grow in the desert part of the forest reserve; there are many ephemerals.

The Bukhara deer, wild boar, wolf, jackal, karagana fox, jungle cat and short-tailed bandicoot rat inhabit the tugai; 79 species of birds--the Turkestan rock-dove, stock-dove, common crane, gray-lag goose, sheldrake, herons (great white and common), night heron, kestrel, moor buzzard, white-tailed eagle, black buzzard, Turkestan eagle owl, desert owl, little desert owl, Turkestan roller, green bee-eater and so on; the pheasant is common.

There are many reptiles--desert monitor, steppe agama, blunt-nosed viper and so on--in the desert part of the island.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the vegetation and animal world of tugais, to develop methods of conservation and restoration of the natural complex and to study the ecology of the Bukhara deer.

Baday-Tugay State Forest Reserve

(Karakalpakskaya ASSR, Nukus, ulitsa Engel'sa, 102a)

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It was organized in 1971 with an area of 6,497 hectares, of which 5,987 hectares are forest area and 105 hectares are reservoirs. It is located in the Amu-Dar'ya River floodplain in Biruniyskiy Rayon.

It is subordinate to the State Committee of Forestry, Uzbek SSR Council of Ministers.

The territory of the forest reserve is covered with tugai vegetation. Persian asparagus is found among rare species of plants.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to develop methods of conservation and restoration of the tugai forest complex and the desert adjacent to it and to study the ecosystems of islands and peninsulas in the Amu-Dar'ya River floodplain.

Vardanzi Desert-Sand Game Preserve

It was organized in 1975 with an area of 324 hectares. It is located in Shafrikanskiy Rayon, Bukharskaya Oblast.

The territory of the forest reserve is a section of valley-desert forests of the most widely distributed type of vegetation in Uzbekistan. The predominate tree variety is saksaul (plantations of saksaul of artificial origin are better represented here); thickets of ferula, ephedra, camel thorn and other desert plants are also typical.

The main value of the forest reserve is the ancient city of Vardanzi buried under the sand.

Zaaminsk State Forest Reserve

(Uzbek SSR, Syr'dar'inskaya Oblast, Dzhizak, ulitsa Lenina, 19)

It was organized in 1960 with an area of 10,560 hectares, of which 10,514 hectares are forest area. It is located in the Pamir-Alay in the Guralash-Saya River valley in Zaaminskiy and Bakhmal'skiy Rayons.

It is subordinate to the State Committee of Forestry, Uzbek SSR Council of Ministers.

Thin woody vegetation, fescue and wheat-grass associations are found in the steppe zone of the forest reserve; desert-candle, skullcap, bulbous meadow grass and other species are found in the steppe zone of the forest reserve. The vegetation of the timber zone is occupied by juniper thickets (three species); barberry, service-berry, ephedra, rose, mountain ash and so on are typical. Mountain xerophytes--acanthus lemon, kuziniya, oxytropis, speedwell and so on--predominate in the subalpine zone.

The fauna of the forest reserve is typical for the steppe and forest zones of the Central Asian mountains. The white-clawed bear, lynx, mountain goat, bighorn sheep, long-tailed marmot, porcupine and also the Himalayan snow partridge, rock partridge, rose-colored starling, Indian mynah and so on are found here.

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The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the ecosystems of high-altitude vegetation zones (steppe, forest and subalpine).

Zeravshan Forest Reserve

It was organized in 1975 with an area of 2,518 hectares. It is located in Bulungurskiy and Dzhambayskiy Rayons, Camarkandskaya Oblast.

The main type of vegetation of the forest reserve is buckthorn thickets. The Zeravshan pheasant is common.

Karakul' State Forest Reserve

(Uzbek SSR, Bukharskaya Oblast, Karakul'skiy Rayon, Alat settlement)

It was organized in 1971 with an area of 21,021 hectares, of which 18,673 hectares are forest and 333 hectares are reservoirs. It is located in Bukharskaya Oblast between the Amu-Bukhara and Amu-Karakul' irrigation canals in the lower reaches of the Zeravshan River.

It is subordinate to the State Committee of Forestry, Uzbek SSR Council of Ministers.

The forest reserve is located on the boundary of an oasis and sand desert and therefore it can be called a desert-oasis type. The greater part of the territory is occupied by aeolian sand tracts in combination with depressions, bulky solonchaks, takyr and dry and flooded lakes. The most common among the plants are the black saksaul, tamarisk, calligonum, Selinum grass, camel thorn, saltwort and reeds; there are many halophytes and an abundance of ephemerals in spring.

The animal world of the forest reserve is abundant. The lakes and channels are inhabited by more than 20 species of fish: common carp, Zeravshan dace, barbel, Aspius, sichel, silver carp, Amur and so on; there are approximately 40 species of reptiles--Phrynocephalus lizards (sand and eared), desert monitor, geckoes (skink and comb-toed), steppe agama, steppe tortoise, sand snake, chickensnakes, saw-scaled viper and so on.

A total of 278 species of birds has been recorded in the forest reserve, including the stone curlew, saksaul jay, tugai nightingale, cowbird, little owl, eagle owl, long-legged buzzard, Houbara buzzard, Zeravshan pheasant, geese, ducks and so on. The wild boar, Persian gazelle, jackal, fox, desert cat, tolai hare, jerboas, great and red-tailed gerbils, long-eared hedgehog, bats and so on are found among the mammals.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the changes of vegetation and the animal world of the desert zone with regard to construction of irrigation canals.

Kyzyl-Kumy State Forest Reserve

(Uzbek SSR, Chardzhouskaya Oblast, Dargan-Ata Post Office)

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It was organized in 1971 with an area of 4,000 hectares, of which 3,100 hectares are forest area and 820 hectares are reservoirs. It is located in the Amu-Dar'ya River floodplain.

It is subordinate to the State Committee of Forestry, Uzbek SSR Council of Ministers.

Tugai-sand natural complexes are typical for the forest reserve. The Bukhara deer, Persian gazelle and pheasant are especially interesting among animals.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the tugai-sand complexes and also to study and develop methods of conservation of the Bukhara deer, Persian gazelle, pheasant and other animals.

Kyzyl-Suy Mountain-Juniper Forest Reserve

(Uzbek SSR, Kashkandar'inskaya Oblast, Yakkabag'skiy Rayon, Yakkabag settlement)

It was organized in 1975 with an area of 17,800 hectares. It is located in Yakkabag'skiy Rayon, Kashkandar'inskaya Oblast.

Two species of juniper--Zeravshan and semispherical, maples (Semenov's and Turkestan), barberries (elongated and round-leaved), pears (common, Bukhara and Regel's), gissarian apple, cherries (almond-colored and warty), hawthorns (Songorsk, Pontian and Turkestan), Persian mountain ash, round-leaved honeysuckle, roses (Samarkand and Fedchenko's) and so on are of special interest among woody-shrubby plants.

The fauna of the forest reserve is abundant and diverse. Such species as the snow leopard, Central Asian ibex, wild boar, Turkestan subspecies of lynx, Tyan'-Shan' subspecies of brown bear, Turkestan subspecies of otter, marten, weasel, tolai hare, wolf, fox, badger, porcupine, long-tailed marmot and so on are found. The snow partridge, keklik, rock dove, ring-dove, bearded vulture, Egyptian vulture and so on are common among the birds.

The unique karst Tamerlane's cave, framed with stalactites and stalagmites, is in the forest reserve; the cave is 10-15 meters high, 8-10 meters wide and 625 meters long.

Nurata Mountain-Nut Forest Reserve

It was organized in 1975 with an area of 22,537 hectares. It is located in Farshinskiy Rayon, Syrdar'inskaya Oblast.

Woody-shrubby vegetation grows primarily in the sayakh area. The nut forests are usually confined to well-moistened rich soils and are located on northern slopes well protected from cold winds. Under favorable conditions a walnut tree reaches 36 meters in height with diameter up to 2.3 meters and develops a thick crown. Several types of nut trees--pomaceous, plum, mixed, mixed-grass and so on--are found in the forest reserve. Pomaceous nut trees are

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most frequently found. These are rather thin plantations with walnut and Sievers apple trees in the first level and wild mirobela and hawthorn in the second level; the grass cover is well developed.

Plum nut trees are also found, where the first level is formed of walnut and the second is formed of wild mirobela, Sievers apple, maple and so on. Such varieties as mulberry, ash, Mahaleb cherry and so on also grow in the nut forests.

The animal world of the forest reserve is abundant--the wild boar, fox, wolf, porcupine and hare are numerous; the bear and badger are found, there are many species of birds and there are snakes. A rare species--Severtsov's sheep, recorded in the "Red Book"--is found.

Chatkal'skiy State Forest Reserve

(Uzbek SSR, Tashkentskaya Oblast, Verkhnechirchikskiy Rayon, Parkent Village)

It was organized in 1947 with an area of 35,255.5 hectares, of which 10,450 hectares are forest area and 13,839 hectares are meadows and pastures. It is located in the western part of the Tyan'-Shan'.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Nature Conservation, Game Preserves and Hunting, USSR Ministry of Agriculture.

Ecosystems of mixed grass dry steppe of the Turan type and woody-shrubby vegetation (nut-fruit trees and juniper thickets), high-mountainous steppe, pistachios, alpine meadows and cliffs are typical for the forest reserve. A total of 712 species of higher plants, approximately 40 species of trees and shrubs and 72 rare and endemic species is known; there are many wild fruit plants--pear, apple, wild mirobela, cherries, barberry and so on.

The fauna of the forest reserve includes 31 species of mammals: mountain goat, wild boar, roe deer, bear, snow leopard, porcupine, Menzbier's marmot, snow partridge, keklik, griffin vulture and so on.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is complex study of the ecological systems of mountain forests and meadows of the western horns of the Chatkal'skiy Range, development of methods of restoration and conservation of mountain forests on reserve and non-reserve territories, study of savin, wild fruit and other trees of the Western Tyan'-Shan' and methods of conservation, restoration and efficient use of them and the search for methods of restoration and increase of the population of the mountain goat, snow leopard, keklik, snow partridge and so on.

Ukrainian SSR

Azov-Sivash Game-Hunting Preserve

(Ukrainian SSR, Khersonskaya Oblast, Genicheskiy)

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It was organized in 1957 on the basis of the Azovo-Sivash Forest Reserve (1927). It has an area of 33,697 hectares (including water basin) and 8,497 hectares are located on land. It is located on the coastal islands of the Sea of Azov and the Sivash.

It is subordinate to the Ministry of Forestry, Ukrainian SSR.

The game and hunting preserve includes Biryuchiy Island in the Sea of Azov and four islands on the Sivash: Kuyuktuk, Churyuk, Martyniy and Kitay. The dunes, salt lakes and sand and solonchak vegetation are of interest in the preserve territory. Tall reed thickets, plantings of olive, false acacia, tamarisk and so on are located in the coastal parts of the islands. The nature of the islands of the "Rotting Sea" (as the Sivash is frequently called) is typical for the alkaline steppe and solonchaks of the pre-Sivash era.

Colonies of herring gulls ("martynty"), sea doves, terns and other birds are similar to the bird bazaars of the Transarctic region. The bustard, demoiselle crane and other nest on the territory of the preserve. Deer, fallow deer and pheasant have become acclimatized on Biryuchiy Island.

The scientific profile is to develop methods of conservation and reproduction of valuable species of local fauna and acclimatized species.

Askaniya-Nova State Forest Reserve

(Ukrainian SSR, Khersonskaya Oblast, Chaplinskiy Rayon, Askaniya-Nova settlement)

It was organized in 1921 and has existed since 1956 in its modern boundaries, with an area of 11,000 hectares. It is located in Khersonskaya Oblast in the South Ukrainian arid sheep's fescue-feathergrass virgin steppe.

It is subordinate to the Southern Division, All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences imeni V. I. Lenin.

The Askaniya steppe numbers 417 species of plants; cereal grasses predominate-- feathergrasses, fescue and hare-grass. Tulips, irises, mullein, pinks, sandwort, goat's-beard and so on are abundant among the mixed grass. There are more than 150 species and forms of trees and shrubs in the arboretum. Approximately 40 species of plants of the forest reserves are endemic to the southern Ukrainian SSR; there are 56 rare and 10 disappearing species.

Among the birds larks, quail, tawny pipit, common partridge, steppe eagle, pale harrier and the kestrel are numerous; the demoiselle crane, stone curlew, bustard and little bustard are rare. The souslik, great gerbil and others are common in the forest reserve; the Himalayan marmot has been reacclimatized.

The Askaniya-Nova contains such species of animals as Przewalski's horse, antelopes (eland, gnu and nilgai), zebra, ostriches (rhea and emu), pheasants, whooper swan, black swan and so on.

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The scientific profile of the forest reserve is acclimatization and development of methods of conservation of rare species of animals, conservation of a section of virgin fescue-feathergrass steppe of the subzone of arid feathergrass steppes, to study the dynamics of the vegetation cover and the biology of promising wild-growing fodder grasses and to develop methods of conservation and restoration of the vegetation cover of the forest reserve steppe.

Dnepr-Teterev State Forest and Hunting Preserve

(Ukrainian SSR, Kievskaya Oblast, Kiev-Svyatoshinskiy Rayon, Sukhosuch'ye Village)

It was organized in 1968 with an area of 30,265 hectares, of which 17,210 hectares are forest area and 9,332 hectares are reservoirs. It is located in the northern part of Kievskaya Oblast (the southern part of the eastern Poles'ye) in the mixed forest zone.

It is subordinate to the Ministry of Forestry, Ukrainian SSR.

There are many swamps and lakes in the forest reserve. The mammals include the wild boar, roe deer and beaver; the red deer has been acclimatized and the black grouse and common partridge (rare) are found; there is an abundance of aquatic and marsh wildlife.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to develop methods of conservation and reproduction of the natural complex of the eastern Poles'ye.

Zalesskoye State Forest and Hunting Preserve

(Ukrainian SSR, Kievskaya Oblast, Brovarskiy Rayon, Bogdanovka Post Office)

It was organized in 1965 on the basis of a hunting preserve (1957). It has an area of 35,089 hectares, of which 11,908 hectares are forest area and 150 hectares are reservoirs. It is located in Brovarskiy Rayon, Kievskaya Oblast, on the left bank of the Desna River.

It is subordinate to the Ministry of Forestry, Ukrainian SSR.

The main forest-forming variety is pine. Broad-leaved forests with thick undergrowth are found in the Ovrut natural boundary. Ancient earthworks that served to shelter the residents of Kievskaya Rus' during the onslaught of aggressors are located in the natural boundary.

Kanevskiy State Forest Reserve

(Ukrainian SSR, Cherkasskaya Oblast, Kanevskiy Rayon)

It was organized in 1931 and has existed since 1968 in its current boundaries. It has an area of 1,042 hectares, of which 952 hectares are forest area and 1 hectare is reservoir. It is located in Cherkasskaya Oblast on the right bank of the Dnepr River.

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It is subordinate to the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, Ukrainian SSR.

The territory of the forest reserve is represented by typical Central Dnepr landscapes. The Kanevskiye Mountains are an interesting geological formation: there are outcrops of deposits of the Triassic and Jurassic periods and the fossils of ancient animals are numerous; a settlement of ancient mammoth hunters has been found.

Intensive erosion processes are found in the forest reserve.

The meadow vegetation on Kruglik Island, the hornbeam oakwoods of the Kanevskiye Mountains, the hornbeam forest and steppe sections are interesting. The flora of the forest reserve numbers approximately 800 species of flowering plants, approximately 150 species of mosses and lichens and 500 species of mushrooms. There are many relic and endemic species of plants.

Among the animals the lynx, roe deer, wild boar, badger, marten and squirrel are common; there is a colony of beavers on Kruglik Island and the otter is found.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to develop methods of conservation and to study the unique natural complex of the Kanevskiye Mountains and also the biocenoses of the forest reserve (their composition and productivity) and sections of the relic hornbeam forest and to study erosion processes.

Carpathian State Forest Reserve

(Ukrainian SSR, Ivano-Frankovskaya Oblast)

It was organized in 1968 with an area of 12,672 hectares, of which 11, 913 hectares are forest area and 691 hectares are reservoirs. It is located in Ivano-Frankovskaya and Zakarpatskaya Oblasts.

It is subordinate to the Ministry of the Timber and Woodworking Industry, Ukrainian SSR.

The zone distribution of vegetation is well marked in the Chernogorsk tract of the Carpathian Mountains. Yew, Swiss stone pine, savin, European green alder, rhododendron, larch, Hungarian lilac, monkshood, aster, columbine and so on are common in the forest reserve. A total of 4 endemic, 17 rare and 4 disappearing species of plants has been recorded.

The animals include the deer, roe deer, wild boar, marten, ermine, lynx, bear, wildcat, squirrel, snow vole and also the great grouse, black grouse, hazel hen, black stork, eagle owl and so on.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to develop methods of restoring the natural complexes of the high-mountain landscape of the Carpathian Mountains and also of the rare and disappearing species of plants and animals.

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Crimean State Forest and Hunting Preserve

(Ukrainian SSR, Krymskaya Oblast, Alushta, ulitsa Putsatova, 29)

It was organized in 1957 on the basis of a forest reserve. It has an area of 30,741 hectares, of which 28,010 hectares are forest area and 61 hectares are reservoirs. It is located in the mountain part of the Crimea.

It is subordinate to the Ministry of Forestry, Ukrainian SSR.

Beech, oak and pine forests are located on the slopes of the mountains and they cover approximately 90 percent of the territory. The main forest-forming varieties are oaks (pedunculate, sessile and pubescent) and pines (common and Scots); oriental hornbeam, maples, lindens, European alder and elm are found in the form of an admixture and the shrubs include hawthorns, oriental hornbeam, smoketree, cornel, filbert, spindle-trees, dogwood, barberry, mountain ash, roses and so on. There are relic and endemic species: common yew, arborescent juniper, coral root and so on. The total flora of the forest and hunting preserve numbers approximately 1,030 species of plants, including approximately 100 species of trees and shrubs.

The Crimean red deer, roe deer, mouflon, wild boar, stone marten, badger and fox are typical for the preserve fauna. Six species of freshwater fish, 4 species of amphibians, 10 species of reptiles and 39 species of mammals have been noted; there are 162 species of birds in the mountain-forest part. A branch of the preserve is swan island near the northwestern coast of the peninsula where large accumulations of birds form during migration, moulting and wintering, including several thousand mute swans. A total of 192 species of birds has been recorded on swan islands.

The scientific profile of the forest and hunting preserve is to develop methods of conservation and reproduction of the natural complex of the mountain-forest Crimea.

Lugansk State Forest Reserve With Strel'tsovskaya Steppe and Kondrashev Forestry Branches

(Ukrainian SSR, Voroshilovgradskaya Oblast, Luganskoye-2 station, ulitsa Rubezhnaya, 95)

It was organized in 1968 with an area of 992 hectares, of which 448 hectares are forest area and 12 hectares are reservoirs. It is located on the left bank of the Northern Donets River floodplain.

It is subordinate to the Institute of Zoology, Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences.

Floodplain tree plantations and northern versions of mixed grass-fescue-feathergrass steppes are typical for the forest reserve.

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Sheep's fescue, feathergrass, fescues, Syreyshchikov's bent, small-reed, ground cherry, spiraea, tartar maple, spindle-tree and so on are typical among the plants. A total of 500 species of plants, of which 8 are rare, is known in the forest reserve.

The fauna include 24 species of mammals (including the European bobak-marmet) and 90 species of birds.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the natural landscapes of floodplane forests, meadows and steppes and to develop methods of conservation and reproduction of the bobak-marmet and desman.

Mys Mart'yan State Forest Reserve

(Ukrainian SSR, Crimea, Yalta, Nikitskiy Botanical Garden)

It was organized in 1973 with an area of 240 hectares, of which 100 hectares are forest area and 120 hectares are reservoirs. It is contained in the Nikitskiy Botanical Garden on the plains of the section.

It is subordinate to the Southern Division of VASKhNIL [All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences imeni V. I. Lenin].

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study and preserve in the natural state the natural complex typical for the oak-juniper forests and shrub thickets of the southern coast of the Crimea with the adjacent Black Sea basin.

Poles'ye State Forest Reserve

(Ukrainian SSR, Zhitomirskaya Oblast, Olevskiy Rayon)

It was organized in 1968 with an area of 20,097 hectares, of which 17,088 hectares are forest area and 8 hectares are reservoirs. It is located in the upper reaches of the Ubort' River.

It is subordinate to the Ministry of Forestry, Ukrainian SSR.

Forest and marsh biocenoses of the Volynskoye Poles'ye--pine forests, subpine forests, peat bogs with cranberries, relic thickets of common rhododendron and plantations of sessile oak--are typical for the forest reserve.

The elk, lynx, nutria, muskrat, roe deer, wild boar, forest marten and so on are common among the animals; the birds include the black grouse, great grouse, hazel hen, common partridge, black stork and so on.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to develop methods of conservation and to study the typical pine forests and subpine forests and peat bogs of the Volynskoye Poles'ye and to study the nutria colonies.

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Ukrainian State Steppe Forest Reserve

(Ukrainian SSR, Donetskaya Oblast, Novoazovskiy Rayon, Khomutovo Post Office)

It was organized in 1961 on the basis of four forest reserves--Mikhaylovskaya tselina, Strel'ovskaya steppe, Khomutovskaya steppe and Kamennyye mogily. It has an area of 1,634 hectares, of which 3 hectares is occupied by reservoirs. It is located on the territory of Donetskaya, Luganskaya and Sumskaya Oblasts.

It is subordinate to the Institute of Botany, Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences.

The forest reserve is represented by virgin meadow steppes (Mikhaylovskaya tselina), mixed grass-fescue-feathergrass virgin steppe on pre-Azov chernozems (Khomutovskaya steppe), a rocky steppe and also vegetation of granite cliffs (Kamennyye mogily) with narrow endemic species. A total of 540 species of plants, including 8 rare species, is known in the forest reserve.

The typical species of Khomutovskaya steppe are cereal grasses: fescue, feathergrass, wheat-grass, brome and so on; there is an abundance of Russian sea kale; endemic and relic plants--tall gypsophila, Azov snakeweed, Scythian greenweed, Chernyayev's flax and so on--are found on limestone deposits; buckthorn and blackthorn are common among the shrubs.

Kamennyye mogily is distinguished by an abundance and diversity of ephemerals and ephemeroids. Hyacinths, granite tulips, star of Bethlehem, goose onions, chickweed, alyssum, prominents, pea, scrow and so on grow here.

Mikhaylovskaya tselina is a mesophyllous version of mixed grass-cereal grass-meadow steppe with predominance of tyrsov and mixed grass-fescue-tyrsov groupings. Typical plants are spring adonis, snowdrop anemone, Hungarian iris, meadow sage and feathergrasses; species endemic to the European USSR are found--Yevgeniy's carnation, cuneate delphinium, rose iris and so on.

The marmet, fox, weasel, modelled polecat, European hare, mole rat, hamster, great gerbil, long-eared hedgehog, Renard's viper, yellow-bellied rat snake, water snake, common partridge and so on inhabit the forest reserve.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study steppe ecosystems, to develop methods of conservation of steppe sections in the forest-steppe and steppe zone and to study the ecology of rare and endemic species.

Black Sea State Forest Reserve

(Ukrainian SSR, Khersonskaya Oblast, Golaya pristan', ulitsa Dneprovskaya, 1)

It was organized in 1927 with an area of 63,806 hectares, of which 417 hectares are forest area and 51,200 hectares are reservoirs. It is located in Khersonskaya and Nikolayevskaya Oblasts along the Black Sea coast from the Dnepr-Bug estuary to Dzharylgach Bay.

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It is subordinate to the Institute of Zoology, Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences.

Marked fescue-wormwood steppes, solonchaks, birch, oak, pine grove and alder forest, sand dunes, salt lakes and coastal (including island) ecosystems and Scythian mounds are typical for the forest reserve. A total of 605 species of plants is known, including jurinea, grain-leaved sea-lavender, Dnepr broom, downy-flowered wheat grass, field wormwood, sand centaury, common whitlow grass, alyssum, dead-nettle, violets, forget-me-nots, campanula, squill, buttercup, feathergrasses, solonchak aster, hairy vetch, iris, Dnepr mother-of-thyme and Seguer's spurge; woody varieties include oaks, elm, Dnepr birch and so on.

The forest reserve is inhabited by 43 species of mammals, 280 species of birds, 8 species of reptiles, 5 species of amphibians and 40 species of fish. The main value of the forest reserve is as nesting locations, wintering areas and migratory routes of birds, among which are many valuable and rare species. Seagulls and terns are numerous and there are ducks in large quantities. The forest reserve serves as a resting spot in the migration of geese, swans, stints and sparrows and its bays are the most important wintering location of swans and ducks. The pheasant, common partridge, herons, storks and so on nest in the forest-steppe sections. Among the rare species are found the bustard, little bustard, red-breasted goose, demoiselle crane and white-tailed eagle.

Among the reptiles in the forest reserve, the four-banded snake, Renard's viper, variegated lizard, sand lizard and smooth snakes (water and grass) are common; the mammals include the spotted seal, great jerboa, thick tailed three-toed jerboa, mole rat, hedgehog, muskrat, steppe polecat and so on.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the ecology of the black-headed gull, ducks and other birds and also to study the coastal ecosystems and ecosystems of steppe sections.

Yalta State Mountain-Forest Reserve

(Ukrainian SSR, Yalta)

It was organized in 1973 with an area of 14,180 hectares, of which 10,872 hectares are forest area and 1 hectare is reservoirs.

It is subordinate to the Ministry of Forestry, Ukrainian SSR.

The forest reserve includes 1,800 species of plants and many rare and endemic species.

Estonian SSR

Viydu-Myae State Forest Reserve

(Estonian SSR, Kingiseppskiy Rayon, Lyumanda Post Office, Viydu Village)

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It was organized in 1958 with an area of 593 hectares, of which 461 hectares are forest areas. It is located on Lake Saaremaa and along the Baltic Sea coast.

It is subordinate to the Ministry of Forestry and Nature Conservation, Estonian SSR.

The forest reserve is divided into three parts by relief: a plateau section adjacent to the western Saaremaa lowland, steep terrace and level marshy section. Mixed and in places marshy forests predominate; there are alpine and oak forest and heath forests.

The main value of the forest reserve is rare relic and endemic species of plants and vegetation associations. Such species as ezel rattlebox, poduzlovatyy rush, whitebeam, rough-toothed horsetail, forest apple, common yew, hairy oxytropis, kashubskiy vetch, spurge olive, ivy, alpine butterwort, mountain St. John's wort, Siberian iris, lady's slipper, narrow helleborine, fragrant orchid and pyramidal orchid are found among the plants preserved in the Estonian SSR in the forest reserve.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study rare and relic species of plants and plant associations.

Vil'sandiskiy State Forest Reserve

(Estonian SSR, Kingiseppskiy Rayon)

It was organized in 1958 as the Vaykaskiy Forest Reserve and has existed since 1971 in its current boundaries, with an area of 10,689 hectares. It is located on more than 100 marine rocky islands.

It is subordinate to the Ministry of Forestry and Nature Conservation, Estonian SSR.

The preserved islands themselves, which are dolomite coral reefs of the warm Silurian Sea, are interesting.

The vegetation is rather sparse and halophytes predominate. This is the only habitation of Danish scurvy grass in Estonia. The most important object of protection is the eider colony (approximately 200 birds). Besides the eider, pochards and reed ducks, mergansers (goosander and red-breasted) and grey-lag geese nest in the forest reserve; the mute swan is included among the rare species. Not only the population but the species composition of the ornithological fauna has been increased as a result of protection. The Atlantic murre, model-beaked tern, purple sandpiper and bee-eater have appeared here during the past few years.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to develop methods of protection and to study the species composition, population and ecology of birds of the marine islands (eiders, red-breasted merganser, terns, sheldrakes, grey-lag goose and so on) and also of animals.

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Matsaluskiy State Forest Reserve

(Estonian SSR, Khaapsaluskiy Rayon, Likhula Post Office)

It was organized in 1958 with an area of 13,500 hectares, of which 2,066.3 hectares are forest area and 2,500 hectares are reservoirs. It is located on a plain in the western part of Estonia at the mouth of the Kazari River; the water basin of the Matsaluskiy Bay and the archipelago of the Vyaynameri Islands are included in the forest reserve.

It is subordinate to the Ministry of Forestry and Nature Conservation, Estonian SSR.

Wet and flooded meadows, forest-meadows, reedmeadow thickets, bullrush and reed are typical for the forest reserve and moisture-loving and aquatic vegetation are common; there are many orchids in the forest-meadows. This is a region of mass nesting, moulting and resting during migration of aquatic birds; there is a grey-lag goose colony in the forest reserve.

The scientific profile of the reserve is to develop methods of protection and to study migratory and nesting birds.

Nigulaskiy State Forest Reserve

(Estonian SSR, Kilingi-Nymme, ulitsaPyarnu, 2)

It was organized in 1958 with an area of 2,730 hectares, of which 699 hectares are forest area. It is located in the northeast of the East European Plain. It is encompassed by the tract of the Nigulaskiy upstream marsh and the forests surrounding this tract.

It is subordinate to the Ministry of Forestry and Nature Conservation, Estonian SSR.

Ecosystems of upstream marshes and the surrounding forests formed primarily of birch are protected in the forest reserve. Peat bogs that form deposits several meters thick predominate in the marsh. Scotch heather, black whortleberry, dwarf birch, Korean rhododendron, cranberry, butterbur, sundew, cloudberry, cottongrass and so on are widely distributed among marsh plants. There are many rare species of plants in fir-broad-leaved forests.

The fauna of the forest reserve includes animals typical for European forests: elk, roe deer, wild boar, badger, fox and so on; approximately 97 species of birds are known.

The scientific profile of the forest reserve is to study the process of bogging up and to study the succession of plant associations and also the dynamics of the populations and ecology of individual species of animals and plants.

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Forest Reserves Organized in 1976

Kabardino-Balkarskaya State Forest Reserve

It has an area of 53,300 hectares and is located on the northern slopes of Main Caucasian Ridge in Sovetskiy and Chegemskiy Rayons of the Kabardino-Balkarskaya ASSR in the Chereka Balkarskiy and Bizengiyskiy and Chegema River basins.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Hunting and Game Preserves attached to the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

The territory of the forest reserve includes the main mass of mountains--5,000 meter peaks with special climate and geomorphological structure. The tur, chamois, snow leopard, snow partridge and so on are found among the animals.

The forest reserve was organized to study the natural complexes of high mountain northern slopes of the Caucasus and rare and endemic species of plants and animals.

Malaya Sos'va State Forest Reserve

It has an area of 92,900 hectares and is located in Sovetskiy Rayon of Khanty-Mansiysk National Okrug, Tyumenskaya Oblast.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Hunting and Game Preserves attached to the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

Pine forests, larch and birch forests, floodplains with lakes and marshes and so on are typical for the landscape of the forest reserve.

The wild reindeer is common among the animals; elk, sable, lynx, mink, otter and muskrat are numerous; the great grouse population is high. There is a protected zone around the forest reserve within which beaver colonies have been located.

The forest reserve was organized to conserve and study the taiga natural complex of Western Siberia and the aboriginal population of the Ural beavers and valuable species of commercial hunting animals, birds and fish.

Vrangel' Island State Forest Reserve

It has an area of 795,600 hectares and is located on Vrangel' and GERAL'D Islands.

It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Hunting and Game Preserves attached to the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

The islands on which the forest reserve is located are related to the Arctic desert subzone. Despite the extreme conditions, one can encounter small areas of locked vegetation and the initial stages of the soil-forming process. The

vegetation is distinguished in nature by Arctic lichen, moss and grass wilderness. The grass-shrub, grass-moss and white dryas-mixed grass-lichen associations are of special interest. The flora of the forest reserve includes 312 species of plants.

The polar bear and snow goose--species included in the "Red book," are of special value among the animals.

One of the main birthing locations of the polar bear is located on Vrangal' Island. More than 250 female bears arrange their lairs and bring up their offspring here. The main mass of the lairs is concentrated along the northern, western and eastern slopes of the Drem-Khed, Tundrovaya and Kitovaya Mountains. The USSR's largest walrus lair is located in the game preserve. The Pacific and king eider nest here, the brent goose and snowy owl are rare and the Arctic fox is common.

The game preserve is organized to conserve and study the animal and plant world of the island part of the Arctic.

Sayan-Shushen' State Forest Reserve

It has an area of 389,600 hectares. It is subordinate to the Main Administration of Hunting and Game Preserves attached to the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

Mixed flora elements and fauna of the Altay, Sayan, Tuvy and Khakassii are typical to the game preserve. Endemic, rare and disappearing species of plants and animals are found. The vegetation represented by a number of formations--from mountain-steppe to alpine and tundra--is diverse. The Siberian ibex and reindeer of the mountain-taiga form are common among the animals; the Siberian red dog and Altay snow partridge, entered in the "Red book," are found among rare species.

The game preserve was created to protect the mountain-taiga natural complexes.

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