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978-0-521-10351-0 - Conservation in the Soviet Union  
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# Conservation in the Soviet Union

**PHILIP R. PRYDE**

*Associate Professor of Geography  
California State University  
San Diego*

**CAMBRIDGE**  
**At the University Press 1972**

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press  
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521103510](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521103510)

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First published 1972  
This digitally printed version 2009

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Catalogue Card Number: 72-182025*

ISBN 978-0-521-08432-1 hardback  
ISBN 978-0-521-10351-0 paperback

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## System of transliteration

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The transliteration system used in this study is patterned after that proposed by the Board of Geographical Names of the United States Department of the Interior, and is as follows:

<i>Cyrillic symbol</i>	<i>Transliteration</i>
А, а	a
Б, б	b
В, в	v
Г, г	g
Д, д	d
Е, е	e, ye*
Ж, ж	zh
З, з	z
И, и	i
Й, й	y
К, к	k
Л, л	l
М, м	m
Н, н	n
О, о	o
П, п	p
Р, р	r
С, с	s
Т, т	t
У, у	u
Ф, ф	f
Х, х	kh
Ц, ц	ts
Ч, ч	ch
Ш, ш	sh
Щ, щ	shch
Ь	'
Ы	y

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### *System of Transliteration*

ь	'
Э, э	e
Ю, ю	yu
Я, я	ya

\* *Ye* is used at the beginning of words, after vowels, and following the soft or hard signs (').

The English form of certain common place names has been retained, e.g. *Georgia, Armenia*, etc.

## Preface

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Natural resource management and conservation is a subject which continues to attract increasing amounts of world-wide attention, and nowhere more so than in the Soviet Union. Many studies and monographs presently exist concerning the natural resource base of the U.S.S.R., which represents an appreciable fraction of the total resources of the world. However, very little has as yet been written regarding Soviet attitudes and accomplishments concerning the conservation of these natural resources. It is towards questions of this nature that the present study is directed.

Experience in the utilization of natural resources has shown that not only do all resources have inherent ecological interrelationships with other natural resources, but the uses to which they may be put by man have decisive functional relationships as well. That is, virtually any manner of developing a given natural resource will have some bearing on the human use of other resources, either as they exist in their natural state, or with regard to the manner in which they may ultimately be employed. This study will examine various instances of how the Soviet Union has approached these interdependencies in resource management, in order to attempt to summarize for the U.S.S.R. as a whole present attitudes and levels of sophistication regarding natural resource use and conservation.

The study will in no sense attempt to quantify, analyze, or compare with other countries the natural resource base of the U.S.S.R. itself; numerous such studies already exist in the literature. Nor will it have as an end in itself an exhaustive investigation into how each individual natural resource group of the Soviet Union has been developed, exploited, or conserved. Rather, it will deal mainly with the current state of Soviet efforts on behalf of natural resource conservation and, to such extent as is possible, environmental quality. Its basic objectives are two-fold.

First, the study will serve as a review of the more important or unique features of natural resource management and conservation in the Soviet Union at the present time. It will briefly summarize the administrative organization governing the use of each broad category of natural resource in the U.S.S.R., and will isolate and discuss some of the major problem areas that have arisen out of the particular Soviet approach to the management of these resources.

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Its second purpose is an analytical one; to examine these Soviet approaches towards the use of their natural resources, and towards the problems which have consequently arisen, with the goal of acquiring insight into the contemporary Soviet perception of what constitutes proper natural resource conservation, and the causal attitudes and assumptions which shape these resource use patterns. In this way, the study will endeavor to determine the present understanding of the term 'conservation' in the Soviet Union, and the extent to which this understanding is broadening and deepening. It will attempt to suggest strengths and weaknesses in the Soviet approach to the employment and conservation of natural resources, as well as some of the probable trends in Soviet conservation and the quest for environmental quality in the future.

Studies such as the present ones, which would attempt to analyze Soviet actions and attitudes in a particular area of endeavor, are always subject to limitations in the availability of information, the representativeness and accuracy of that which is available, and an inability to conduct the desired intensity of field research. Nevertheless, in view of the increasing amount of descriptive, analytical, and technical material which is becoming available from the U.S.S.R. concerning the use and conservation of its natural resources, a study of this type seems timely, and should provide a useful complement to existing studies on the quantitative aspects of that endowment. In addition, growing pressures on known world resource stocks and the increasing threat of world environmental pollution lend to such an effort still further significance.

Inasmuch as this will represent one of the first broadly inclusive qualitative studies of Soviet conservation practices to be developed outside the U.S.S.R., a selected, representative bibliography is presented at the end of the book. Obviously, only a small percentage of the total number of existing references have been included, generally selected only from among those which the author was able personally to examine. An effort has been made to include as many significant sources as possible which have been translated into English, so that these listings might also be of service to students of conservation who are not familiar with the Russian language.

This study was carried out under the sponsorship of the Foreign Area Fellowship Program whose generous assistance, including partial funding of an extensive trip through the Soviet Union in the summer of 1967, greatly facilitated its completion. Appreciation is extended to Professors W. A. D. Jackson and Richard A. Cooley for their knowledgeable suggestions and constructive criticisms during the preparation of the manuscript, and to Professors Marion E. Marts, Richard L. Morrill, Denis A. Flagg, and Donald E. Bevan for their critiques of individual chapters.

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The cartographic assistance of Ann Sires and the many tedious hours of typing and proofreading willingly donated by my wife Lucy are also most gratefully acknowledged. Any errors of either compilation or inference remain, of course, solely the responsibility of the author.

PHILIP R. PRYDE