



# Conservation in the Soviet Union

PHILIP R. PRYDE

*Associate Professor of Geography  
California State University  
San Diego*

**CAMBRIDGE**

**At the University Press 1972**

# Contents

---

List of illustrations	page	vii
List of appendices		viii
System of transliteration		x
Preface		xiii
1 Introduction: towards an understanding of the Soviet concept of conservation		1
2 The historical and institutional framework of conservation in the Soviet Union		9
The pre-revolutionary conservation movement in tsarist Russia		9
Conservation measures taken by the Soviet government		13
The current institutional framework of Soviet conservation		18
3 The conservation of Soviet land and soil resources		25
Problems in the conservation of agricultural resources		25
The prevention of soil erosion and deflation		33
The question of evaluating Soviet land resources		42
4 <i>Zapovedniki</i> in the Soviet Union		45
The nature and history of <i>zapovedniki</i>		45
Profile of a prominent <i>zapovednik</i> – the Kavkaz		54
Problem areas in the administration of <i>zapovedniki</i>		58
National parks and other types of protected areas in the U.S.S.R.		62
5 The management of fisheries and wildlife		68
The regulation of hunting and wildlife preservation		68
The conservation of Soviet fisheries		78
The acclimatization of fish and wildlife		85
International cooperation in fish and wildlife conservation		88
6 The extraction and conservation of timber and mineral resources		92
The organization of Soviet forestry		92
Problem areas in Soviet forestry		96
Conservation in the extraction of mineral resources		100

## *Contents*

7	Water resource utilization and conservation	<i>page</i> 107
	The planning and management of the U.S.S.R.'s water resources	107
	Conservation problems associated with Soviet river development planning	112
	Irrigation and water conservation in the arid regions	120
	The Caspian and Aral Seas problem	126
	Soviet investigation of ocean resources	131
8	Environmental pollution and environmental quality in the Soviet Union	136
	Water pollution in the U.S.S.R.	137
	The Lake Baykal controversy	147
	Air pollution in the U.S.S.R.	151
	Other aspects of the quality of the Soviet environment	155
9	Conservation in the Soviet Union: a summary of attitudes, problems and trends	161
	Political aspects of Soviet natural resource development and conservation	161
	Soviet theory and practice regarding population control	166
	Synopsis of current problems and future prospects in Soviet conservation	170
	<i>Appendices 1-27</i>	179
	<i>Notes</i>	248
	<i>Bibliography</i>	264
	<i>Index</i>	295