

MAPS OF NATURAL RESOURCES POTENTIAL OF NORTH OSSETIA

DELIARA TEBIEVA

ST. BELIAEVSKY 3, VLADIKAVKAZ RUSSIA 362040

Regional geographical atlases must necessarily contain the section "Estimation of natural resources potential". It's especially important for small states where every piece of land must be evaluated properly. North-Ossetia is situated on the north slope of the Bolshoi Caucasus in a reservoir of the upper flow of Terek river. It is eight thousand square kilometres in area. But a various nature complexes and landscape zones from steppes and flood land forests in the north till Alpines of the Waterstand mountain ranges are presented on this small territory.

The nature of the North Ossetia was changed by the economical activities of a man but in a different degree. The plains were ploughed up on the whole, because of it a natural vegetation was preserved only in parts and we may speak about the destruction of natural associations. And in a considerable area of a mountain part of the republic the aspect of wild natural ecological systems was reserved.

The scientific basis of any applied research, connected with the usage, transformation and protection of natural medium must be fundamental landscape investigation and its main derivative - common scientific landscape map. In applied purposes it's more convenient to use typological landscape maps where individual geosystems are classified.

The process of classification turns to collection, comparison and arrangement of data characterizing landscape or another geosystem, therefore it's desirable to form the characteristics of geosystems as tables or forms. The contents of tables are easy to interpret and if necessary to carry to resource maps which simultaneously serve as estimation maps as they characterize geocomplexes in respect of supply with this or that natural resource - warmth, moisture, fertile soils, mineral wealth, etc.

The most important problem in this method is the fact that natural resources maps are derivatives of common scientific landscape map. Data about natural conditions and resources are put to one and the same net of contours.

In the process of making resource maps the landscapes or groups of landscapes more or less useful for some economical application or demanding special measures for improvement or protection are necessarily found.

For the detection of the most perspective directions of economical application and all-round optimization of landscape it is necessary to give a full characteristics of the natural complexes investigated therefore it is necessary to have data about spread of geomorphological processes, degree of territory exploitation - ploughing, forestry, melioration, erosion of lands - besides the information of natural conditions and resources.

Special importance has been gained by ecological landscape condition estimation lately.