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PE-S-DE (98) 63

COMMITTEE FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
IN THE FIELD OF BIOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE DIVERSITY

CO-DBP

Group of specialists - European Diploma

Tsentralno-Chernozemny Biosphere Reserve

(Russia)

APPLICATION

Evaluation report
by Mr Hervé LETHIER
(France)

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the visit was to evaluate the two Russian protected areas for the award of the European Diploma :

— the Kostomuksha Strict Nature Reserve, situated in the north-west of the country, at the Finnish border (60E-65E North) (Part 1),

— the Tsentralno Tchernozemny Biosphere Reserve situated in the Kursk district, some 550 km south of Moscow [see document *PE-S-DE (98) 63].*

The visit took place from 4 to 13 August 1997, in the presence of Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons, of the Environment Conservation and Management Division[1].

In view of the large distance between the two areas and the limited amount of time available, the visit concentrated on two priorities:

— checking that each of the two protected areas fulfilled the conditions required for the award of the European Diploma, in one of the three categories, A, B or C;

— responding to the requests of the Group of specialists - European Diploma, as defined for each of the two areas at its session of 24-25 April 1997.

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1 For the programme of the visit, see Appendix I.

TSENTRALNO-CHERNOZEMNY BIOSPHERE RESERVE

1. ELIGIBILITY OF THE AREA FOR THE AWARD OF THE DIPLOMA

1.1. Presentation

Reference should be made to the excellent application document presented by the Russian authorities for all detailed information on this protected area[2], also designated a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO; we simply recall here, for the record, the main characteristics of the reserve, on the basis of information taken from the said document.

Created in 1935 for the conservation of the chernozem and the virgin steppe grasslands[3] the Tsentralno-Chernozemny reserve is known throughout the world by pedologists and, more generally, by biologists because of its very great floral diversity.

Situated some 500 km south of Moscow and 125 km north of Karkhov, this reserve with a total area of over 5 000 hectares[4] is in fact made up of six separate units representative of the different types of landscape and natural environment associated with these soils[5] in the Black Sea region to which it is attached; its territory is divided between the districts of Kursk and Belgorod.

This is one of the last large steppes of central Europe which is still virgin and not given over to agriculture; slightly over half of the total area is steppe and meadowland and about one-third is forest.

Made somewhat late in the season, the visit unfortunately did not permit us to appreciate the no doubt wonderful landscapes offered by this type of milieu in the season of full growth nor to see for ourselves the true quality of the habitats.

The importance of the vegetable diversity recorded[6] and the endemism and the large number of higher plants recorded in the red book of threatened plants in Russia, mean that this reserve is of incontestable and quite special importance for the biological and landscape diversity of Europe. There is here an irreplaceable and unique genetic heritage. Located on an important migratory path — the Black Sea route — the reserve also hosts a very interesting bird population[7].

Subject to a strict protection regime, the reserve has long been managed in exemplary fashion in every way, controlled by a large team of high quality[8], the fruit of over 60 years of experience; the scientific work carried out by the reserve is remarkable[9] and has made it possible to define rules of management and operation of the meadows that are optimal from the standpoint of conserving the biological diversity.

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2 Document *PE-S-DE (97) 62.*

3 Deep humus soil, often known as "black earth"; very aerated through the action of burrowing fauna, more or less saturated, depending on the hydromorphy of the area, and extremely fertile.

4 To which should be added a buffer zone 1 to 3 km wide, depending on the case, around each of the reserve zones.

5 See Appendix III for the areas of these zones and the relative areas of the main types of vegetation present.

6 920 species of vascular plants, for example.

7 See Attached Document 1 for the list of bird species observed in the reserve.

8 See the Management organisation chart, Appendix IV..

9 See the Research Department organisation chart, Appendix V.

Although it has not been possible to produce a true management plan for the reserve in the western sense of the term, the reserve benefits from an extremely sophisticated management framework which goes far beyond most of the management plans found in protected areas in general.

Despite its great interest and its good general of state conservation, several weaknesses and certain threats were identified in the course of the visit; some are directly connected with the structure of the reserve, others with its immediate environment.

1.1.1. Weaknesses of a structural nature

The most obvious weakness is the relatively small size of the different units that comprise the reserve; this makes these units particularly sensitive to the conditions in the surrounding areas:

— intensive agriculture[10];

— industry; we shall return to this;

— poaching, mentioned several times in the course of the visit and particularly frequent near the towns and villages;

— disturbances of all kinds, the effects of which are all the greater the smaller the zone concerned.

The systematic presence of a buffer zone one to three kilometres wide around each unit constitutes but a partial response to these problems. The best solution in each case would be to increase the area of the units where this is possible; any effort in this direction should be encouraged, in particular where the local authorities are in favour of this[11].

1.1.2. Threats connected with the immediate environment

These threats are often correlative to the small size of the zones in question; this is the case with several of them, directly subject to the pressure of neighbouring industrial and agricultural activities:

- Jamskoi, next to the biggest open cast iron ore mine in the world[12] and situated very close to a town of 80 000 inhabitants, a quarter of whom work at the mine; in this case, several threats combine, both direct (air pollution, degradation of the landscape, discharge of industrial effluent, etc.), and indirect (poaching).

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10 With, for example, all this implies in terms of the use and dispersal of fertilisers, plan health products, etc.

11 Cf. for example, the meeting with General Ruskoye, governor of the Kursk district, favourable to the 'extension of part of the reserve.

12 40 % of national production, 10 km in diameter and 1 km deep.

The local authorities are aware of interest of the area; several interesting initiatives have been taken to promote the conservation of Jamskoi and, on the basis of this protected area, to develop actions in favour of the conservation or rehabilitation of the degraded natural environment as a whole[13];

- Stinky Izgoria: this part of the reserve is not actually threatened, but its originality lies in the presence of the only wetland zone of the reserve[14], the importance of which could justify intervention under the Ramsar Convention.

In addition, this zone could in the near future benefit from an extension now being negotiated[15], onto land now abandoned by the local population. The attention of the Russian authorities should be drawn to this project in particular.

1.2. Category of protected area

The Tsentralno-Chernozemny reserve has a purely scientific vocation, which means that it meets the criteria for the category A Diploma. It is not the intention of the reserve authorities to open the land to other uses, notwithstanding certain training and information activities which are likely to develop around the reserve.

2. OPINION OF THE GROUP OF SPECIALISTS

2.1. Requests formulated

The Group of specialists was concerned about the economic pressures likely to be exerted on the different parts of the protected area; the mission was instructed[16]:

– to study all the protection and management measures of these separate zones,

– to pay particular attention to the activities surrounding the zone,

– to study the outlook for the future of this reserve, with or without the European Diploma, and the role that the European Diploma could play in maintaining the present level of protection.

The Group of specialists also requested the reserve authorities to provide information on the exact status of the six zones together with the texts governing the protected area, with a résumé in English.

2.2. Responses obtained

The information appearing in 1 provides certain responses to the requests formulated by the Group of specialists.

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13 Cf. in this respect the initiatives taken by the mine management and the Regional committee for Environmental Conservation (long-term development plans for the environment, information on clean technologies, campaigns for the spearing use of fertilisers, environmental education activities, creation of a special environmental police, financial aid with the management of the reserve, etc.).

14 Zorinsky Bolota.

15 It should be noted that decisions of this type depend directly on the local authorities, and not on the federal level.

16 Document *PE-S-DE (97) 68* of 30 April 1997, p. 11.

The visit was able to see the importance attached by the local authorities to the European Diploma; the meeting with the governor of the Kursk district having been particularly interesting in this respect.

When asked what value they attributed to the European Diploma and what they expected from it, the reserve authorities replied as follows:

— scientific exchanges and exchanges of information and data with the managers of other protected areas,

— exchanges of personnel on specific themes,

— expert appraisal by other countries of the management and rehabilitation of the steppe environment,

— the creation of true "ecological corridors" between the areas holding the Diploma,

— better knowledge of the optimal biological diversity conditions,

— experience in environmental education (examples, case studies, supports, etc.),

— exchanges of exhibitions,

— visits by foreign students and researchers interested in the management of steppe environments,

— the publication of pedagogical documents and the provision of technical advice on photography and cinematography, etc.

Despite the weaknesses and threats listed above, the reserve has major assets to which the Group of specialists cannot remain indifferent:

— valuable human resources[17];

— a very strict regulatory framework which prohibits the traditional uses and activities (hunting, fishing, gathering, construction, work to combat erosion, use of pesticides, camping, forestry, bee-keeping, picnicking, etc.) and makes all visits to the reserve subject to authorisation; the only activities authorised are those carried out for the management of the reserve (study, research, collection, monitoring, etc.) or in order to prevent or reduce degradation (culling of animals present in excessive numbers, such as wild boars) ;

— a sound tradition of experimental management, applied to a very particular type of ecosystem whose interest extends far beyond the limits of the reserve and is recognised on all continents;

— lastly, an incomparable and irreplaceable genetic stock.

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[17] The reserve has a total staff of over 70; about fifteen perform warden duties and some thirty are in the research department...

CONCLUSION

The Tsentralno-Chernozemny strict nature reserve meets the criteria required for it to obtain the European Diploma; the mission proposes that the Diploma should be granted to it as a protected area of category A.

If this choice is confirmed, the granting of the Diploma could however be made subject to the following condition:

— the extension of Stinky Izgoria and, more generally, a systematic effort to extend all of the units of the reserve and in favour of the establishment of ecological corridors between these units.

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

PROGRAMME OF THE VISIT

(4-13 August 1997)

3 August 1997	Geneva/Strasbourg-Helsinki
4 August 1997	Helsinki-Kayani (Finland) and Kayani-Kostomuksha (Russia)
5 August 1997	Meeting with the management of the Kostomuksha Reserve
6-7 August 1997	Visit of the Kostomuksha Reserve and summing-up meeting with the management
8 August 1997	Kostomuksha-Kayani (car), Kayani-Helsinki-Moscow (air) and Moscow-Kursk (car)
9-12 August 1997	Visit to the Tsentralno Tchernozemny Biosphere Reserve and various meetings with local authorities
12-13 August 1997	Kursk-Moscow (night train)
13 August morning	Summing-up meeting at the State Committee for Environmental Protection of the Russian Federation (Moscow)
13 August afternoon	Moscow-Geneva

APPENDIX 2

PERSONALITIES MET DURING THE VISIT

M. AMIRKHANOV, Vice Minister, State Committee for Environmental Protection of the Russian Federation, Department responsible for the management of natural reserves

B. DURNEV, Warden at Jamskoi

M. GAROKOVA, Head of the Environment Committee of the Belgorod district

U. GNEZDILOV, Warden at Jamskoi

N. MALESHIN, Director of the Tsentralno-Chernozemny Biosphere Reserve

A. RUTSKOI, Governor of the Kursk district

V. SHCHUPANOVSKY, Manager of the Lebedinski ore concentration plant

V. SMIRNOV, Manager of the Lebedinski mine

V. STEPANISKI, State Committee for Environmental Protection of the Russian Federation, Head of the department responsible for the management of natural reserves

V. SURZHIKOV, Plenipotentiary Representative of the President of the Russian Federation for the Kursk region

A. TOLSTUCH, Chief Warden of Jamskoi

M. ZAMRAEV, Head of administration of Gubkin commune

N. ZOLOTUCHIN, Deputy Director of the Tsentralno-Chernozemny Biosphere Reserve

APPENDIX 3

TSENTRALNO-CHERNOZEMNY BIOSPHERE RESERVE

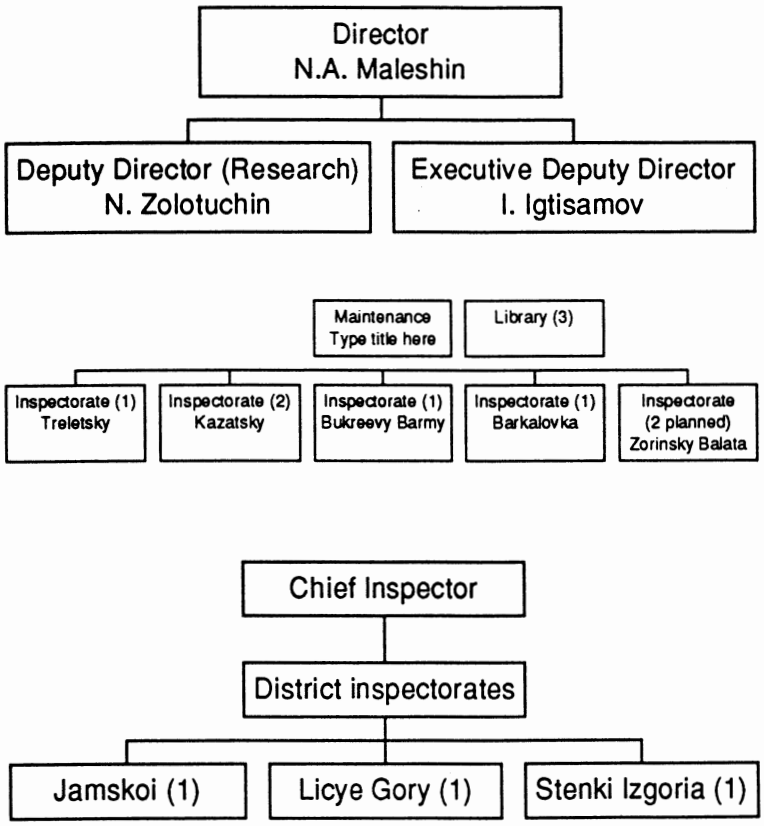
(occupation of the area/site as of 13/12/95)

TYPE OF GROUND COVER	AREA (in hectares)							
	STRELETSKY	KAZATSKY	YAMSKOI	BARKALOVKA	BOUKREEVY BARMY	LYCYE GORY	STINKY IZGORIA	TOTAL
Forests	1 104	507	62	319	211	111	180	**2 494**
Natural	609	343	33	205	92	24	164	**1 470**
Plantations	213	105		38	12	87	16	**471**
Other	282	59	29	76	107			**553**
OTHER COVER	942	1 131	504	46	48	59	87	**2 817**
Steppes, moors and meadows	877	1 105	494	44	48	58	76	**2 613**
Pasture	100	7	4					**111**
Marsh							5	**5**
Waters	1						2	**3**
Constructions	8	1	1					**10**
Crops	16	1	1					**18**
Roads, paths, tracks	19	16	4	2		1	1	**43**
Other	10	1					3	**14**
Total area	**2 046**	**1 638**	**566**	**365**	**259**	**170**	**267**	**5 311**
Area of the buffer zone	**2 440**	**2 079**	**1 400**	**1 746**	**1 418**	**860**		**9 943**

NB. The area of the Tsentralno-Chernozemny Reserve was increased in 1995, with the inclusion of the Stinky-Izgoria site, neighbouring Novy Oskol, Belgorod region (Cf. Order No. 660 of 17 May 1995).

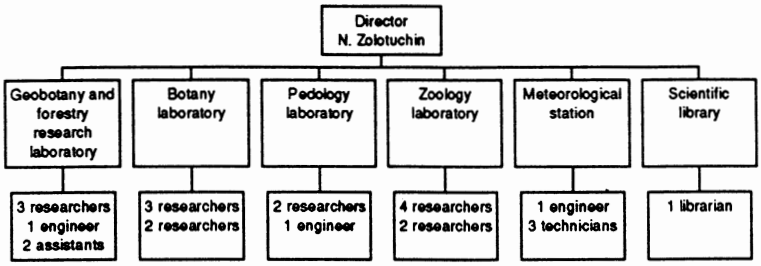
APPENDIX 4

TSENTRALNO-CHERNOZEMNY BIOSPHERE RESERVE ORGANISATION CHART



APPENDIX 5

TSENTRALNO-CHERNOZEMNY BIOSPHERE RESERVE
ORGANISATION CHART OF THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT



NB: A new unit "Environmental awareness raising and education" is being set up. This is planned to have five staff, one of whom is already at work.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS ATTACHED

1 List of bird species observed in the reserve

2 Situation map and Stinky Izgoria extension project

3 Map of Streletsky (6 parts)

4 Map of Kazatsky

5 Map of Yamskoi (2 parts)

6 Map of Barkalovka

7 Map of Boukreevy Barmy

8 Map of Lycye Gory

9 Map of Stinky Izgoria

СПИСОК ВИДОВ ПТИЦ

Виды	Зоринские Болота
Класс *AVES* - ПТИЦЫ	
Отряд *PODICIPEDIFORMES* - ПОГАНКООБРАЗНЫЕ	
Семейство *Podicipedidae* - Поганковые	
1. *Podiceps cristatus* (Linnaues, 1758) - Большая поганка	прол.
Отряд *CICONIIFORMES* - АИСТООБРАЗНЫЕ	
Семейство *Ardeidae* - Цаплевые	
2. *Botaurus stellaris* (Linnaues, 1758) - Большая выпь	?
3. *Egretta alba* (Linnaues, 1758) - Большая белая цапля	на корм.
4. *Ardea cinerea* Linnaues, 1758 - Серая цапля	гн.~150 пар
Семейство *Ciconiidae* - Аистовые	
5. *Ciconia ciconia* (Linnaues, 1758) - Белый аист	гн. 1 пара
Отряд *ANSERIFORMES* - ГУСЕОБРАЗНЫЕ	
Семейство *Anatidae* - Утиные	
6. *Anser anser* (Linnaues, 1758) - Серый гусь	прол.
7. *Cygnus olor* (Gmelin, 1789) - Лебедь-шипун	?
8. *Anas platyrhynchos* Linnaues, 1758 - Кряква	гн., обычн.
9. *Anas crecca* Linnaues, 1758 - Чирок-свистунок	прол.
10. *Anas querquedula* Linnaues, 1758 - Чирок-трескунок	гн., обычн.
11. *Anas clypeata* Linnaues, 1758 - Широконоска	прол.
12. *Aythya ferina* (Linnaues, 1758) - Красноголовая чернеть	прол.
13. *Aythya fuligula* (Linnaues, 1758) - Хохлатая чернеть	прол.
14. *Mergus albellus* Linnaues, 1758 - Луток	прол.
Отряд *FALCONIFORMES* - СОКОЛООБРАЗНЫЕ	
Семейство *Accipitridae* - Ястребиные	
15. *Pernis apivorus* (Linnaues, 1758) - Обыкновенный осоед	гн.?
16. *Milvus migrans* (Boddaert, 1783) - Черный коршун	?
17. *Circus pygargus* (Linnaues, 1758) - Луговой лунь	гн.
18. *Circus aeruginosus* (Linnaues, 1758) - Болотный лунь	гн. , обычн.
19. *Accipiter gentilis* (Linnaues, 1758) - Тетеревятник	гн. , обычн.
20. *Accipiter nisus* (Linnaues, 1758) - Перепелятник	гн.?
21. *Buteo lagopus* (Pontoppidan, 1763) - Зимняк	зим.
22. *Buteo buteo* (Linnaues, 1758) - Обыкновенный канюк	гн. , обычн.
23. *Hieraaetus pennatus* (Gmelin, 1788) - Орел-карлик	гн.
Семейство *Falconidae* - Соколиные	
24. *Falco subbuteo* Linnaues, 1758 - Чеглок	?
Отряд *GALLIFORMES* - КУРООБРАЗНЫЕ	
Семейство *Phasianidae* - Фазановые	
25. *Perdix perdix* (Linnaues, 1758) - Серая куропатка	гн.

Виды	Зоринские Болота
26. *Coturnix coturnix* (Linnaues, 1758) - Перепел	гн. , обычн.
Отряд *GRUIFORMES* - ЖУРАВЛЕОБРАЗНЫЕ	
Семейство *Gruidae* - Журавлиные	
27. *Grus grus* (Linnaues, 1758) - Серый журавль	прол , гн.?
Семейство *Rallidae* - Пастушковые	
28. *Crex crex* (Linnaues, 1758) - Коростель	гн.
29. *Gallinula chloropus* (Linnaues, 1758) - Камышница	гн.?
30. *Fulica atra* Linnaues, 1758 - Лысуха	прол.
Отряд *CHARADRIIFORMES* - РЖАНКООБРАЗНЫЕ	
Семейство *Charadriidae* - Ржанковые	
31. *Charadrius dubius* Scopoli, 1786 - Малый зуек	прол.
32. *Vanellus vanellus* (Linnaues, 1758) - Чибис	гн., обычн.
Семейство *Recurvirostridae* - Шилоклювковые	
33. *Recurvirostra avosetta* Linnaues, 1758 - Шилоклювка	прол.
Семейство *Scolopacidae* - Бекасовые	
34. *Actitis hypoleucos* (Linnaues, 1758) - Перевозчик	прол.
35. *Gallinago gallinago* (Linnaues, 1758) - Бекас	гн.
36. *Scolopax rusticola* Linnaues, 1758 - Вальдшнеп	прол.
37. *Numenius arquata* (Linnaues, 1758) - Большой кроншнеп	прол.
Семейство *Laridae* - Чайковые	
38. *Larus ridibundus* Linnaues, 1766 - Озерная чайка	корм., обычн.
39. *Chlidonias niger* (Linnaues, 1758) - Черная крачка	гн., обычн.
Отряд *COLUMBIFORMES* - ГОЛУБЕОБРАЗНЫЕ	
Семейство *Columbidae* - Голубиные	
40. *Columba palumbus* Linnaues, 1758 - Вяхирь	?
41. *Columba livia* Gmelin, 1789 - Сизый голубь	гн.
42. *Streptopelia decaocto* (Frivaldszky, 1838) - Кольчатая горлица	гн.
43. *Streptopelia turtur* (Linnaues, 1758) - Обыкновенная горлица	гн., обычн
Отряд *CUCULIFORMES* - КУКУШКООБРАЗНЫЕ	
Семейство *Cuculidae* - Кукушковые	
44. *Cuculus canorus* Linnaues, 1758 - Обыкновенная кукушка	гн.
Отряд *STRIGIFORMES* - СОВООБРАЗНЫЕ	
Семейство *Strigidae* - Совиные	
45. *Asio otus* (Linnaues, 1758) - Ушастая сова	?
Отряд APODIFORMES - СТРИЖЕОБРАЗНЫЕ	
Семейство Apodidae - Стрижиные	
46. *Apus apus* (Linnaues, 1758) - Черный стриж	корм.
Отряд CORACIIFORMES - РАКШЕОБРАЗНЫЕ	
Семейство *Alcedinidae* - Зимородковые	

3

Виды	Зоринские Болота
47. *Alcedo atthis* (Linnaues, 1758) - Обыкновенный зимородок	корм.
Семейство *Meropidae* - Щурковые	
48. *Merops apiaster* Linnaues, 1758 - Золотистая щурка	гн., обычн.
Отряд *UPUPIFORMES* - УДОДООБРАЗНЫЕ	
Семейство *Upupidae* - Удодовые	
49. *Upupa epops* Linnaues, 1758 - Удод	?
Отряд *PICIFORMES* - ДЯТЛООБРАЗНЫЕ	
Семейство *Picidae* - Дятловые	
50. *Jynx torquilla* Linnaues, 1758 - Вертишейка	гн., обычн.
51. *Dendrocopos major* (Linnaues, 1758) - Пестрый дятел	гн., обычн.
52. *Dendrocopos minor* (Linnaues, 1758) - Малый дятел	гн.
Отряд *PASSERIFORMES* - ВОРОБЬИНООБРАЗНЫЕ	
Семейство *Hirundinidae* - Ласточковые	
53. *Riparia riparia* (Linnaues, 1758) - Береговая ласточка	гн., обычн.
54. *Hirundo rustica* Linnaues, 1758 - Деревенская ласточка	гн., обычн.
55. *Delichon urbica* (Linnaues, 1758) - Воронок	гн., обычн.
Семейство *Alaudidae* - Жаворонковые	
56. *Alauda arvensis* Linnaues, 1758 - Полевой жаворонок	гн., обычн.
57. Семейство Motacillidae - Трясогузковые	
58. *Anthus trivialis* (Linnaues, 1758) - Лесной конек	гн., обычн.
59. *Motacilla flava* Linnaues, 1758 - Желтая трясогузка	гн., обычн.
60. *Motacilla citreola* Pallas, 1776 - Желтоголовая трясогузка	гн
61. *Motacilla alba* Linnaues, 1758 - Белая трясогузка	гн., обычн.
Семейство *Laniidae* - Сорокопутовые	
62. *Lanius collurio* Linnaues, 1758 - Обыкновенный жулан	гн., обычн.
Семейство *Oriolidae* - Иволговые	
63. *Oriolus oriolus* (Linnaues, 1758) - Обыкновенная иволга	гн.
Семейство *Sturnidae* - Скворцовые	
64. *Sturnus vulgaris* Linnaues, 1758 - Обыкновенный скворец	гн.
Семейство *Corvidae* - Врановые	
65. *Garrulus glandarius* (Linnaues, 1758) - Сойка	гн., обычн.
66. *Pica pica* (Linnaues, 1758) - Сорока	гн., обычн.
67. *Corvus monedula* Linnaues, 1758 - Галка	гн.
68. *Corvus frugilegus* Linnaues, 1758 - Грач	гн., обычн.
69. *Corvus cornix* Linnaues, 1758 - Серая ворона	гн., обычн.
70. *Corvus corax* Linnaues, 1758 - Ворон	гн., обычн.
Семейство *Sylviidae* - Славковые	
71. *Locustella fluviatilis* (Wolf, 1810) - Речной сверчок	?
72. *Locustella naevia* (Boddaert, 1783) - Обыкновенный сверчок	?

4

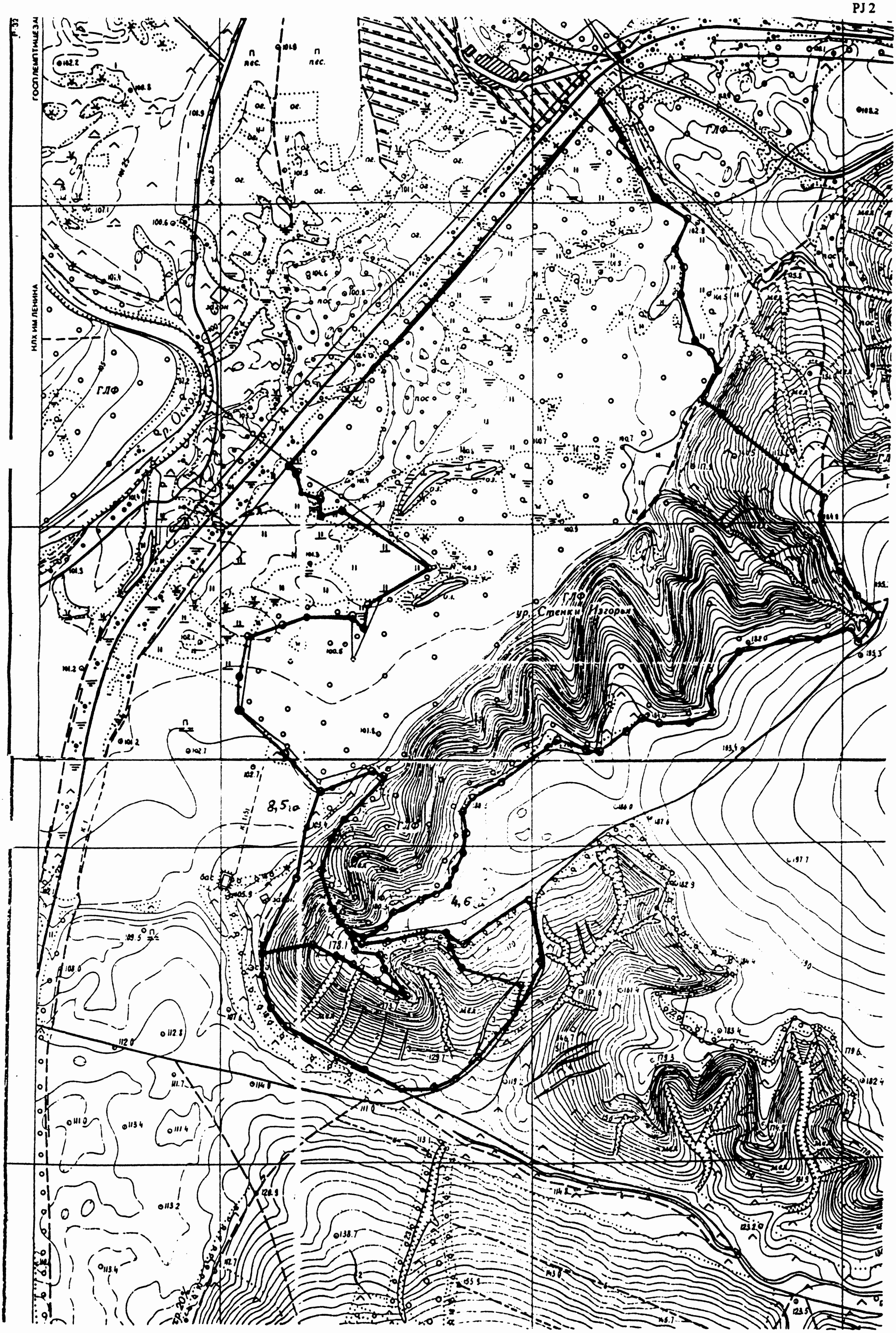
Виды	Зоринские Болота
73. *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* (Linnaues, 1758) - Камышевка-барсучок	гн., обычн.
74. *Acrocephalus palustris* (Bechstein, 1798) - Болотная камышевка	гн.
75. *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* (Linnaues, 1758) - Дроздовидная камышевка	гн.
76. *Hippolais icterina* (Vieillot, 1817) - Зеленая пересмешка	гн.
77. *Sylvia atricapilla* (Linnaues, 1758) - Черноголовая славка	гн., обычн.
78. *Sylvia borin* (Boddaert, 1783) - Садовая славка	гн., обычн.
79. *Sylvia communis* Latham, 1787 - Серая славка	гн., обычн.
80. *Sylvia curruca* (Linnaues, 1758) - Славка-завирушка	гн., обычн.
81. *Phylloscopus trochilus* (Linnaues, 1758) - Пеночка-весничка	прол, гн.?, обычн.
82. *Phylloscopus collybita* (Vieillot, 1817) - Пеночка-теньковка	гн., обычн.
83. *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* (Bechstein, 1793) - Пеночка-трещотка	гн., обычн.
Семейство *Muscicapidae* - Мухоловковые	
84. *Ficedula hypoleuca* (Pallas, 1764) - Мухоловка-пеструшка	?
85. *Ficedula albicollis* (Temminck, 1815) - Мухоловка-белошейка	?
86. *Muscicapa striata* (Pallas, 1764) - Серая мухоловка	гн.
87. *Saxicola rubetra* (Linnaues, 1758) - Лутовой чекан	гн., обычн.
88. *Saxicola torquata* (Linnaues, 1766) - Черноголовый чекан	?
89. *Oenanthe oenanthe* (Linnaues, 1758) - Обыкновенная каменка	гн.
90. *Erithacus rubecula* (Linnaues, 1758) - Зарянка	гн., обычн.
91. *Luscinia luscinia* (Linnaues, 1758) - Обыкновенный соловей	гн., обычн.
92. *Luscinia svecica* (Linnaues, 1758) - Варакушка	гн., обычн.
93. *Turdus pilaris* Linnaues, 1758 - Рябинник	гн., обычн.
94. *Turdus merula* Linnaues, 1758 - Черный дрозд	гн., обычн.
95. *Turdus iliacus* Linnaues, 1766 - Белобровик	гн.
96. *Turdus philomelos* C.L. Brehm, 1831 - Певчий дрозд	гн., обычн.
Семейство *Aegithalidae* - Длиннохвостые синицы	
97. *Aegithalos caudatus* (Linnaues, 1758) - Длиннохвостая синица	гн.
Семейство *Paridae* - Синицевые	
98. *Remiz pendulinus* (Linnaues, 1758) - Обыкновенный ремез	гн.
99. *Parus caeruleus* Linnaues, 1758 - Обыкновенная лазоревка	гн., обычн.
100. *Parus major* Linnaues, 1758 - Большая синица	гн., обычн.
Семейство *Sittidae* - Поползневые	
101. *Sitta europaea* Linnaues, 1758 - Обыкновенный поползень	гн.
Семейство *Certhiidae* - Пищуховые	
102. *Certhia familiaris* Linnaues, 1758 - Обыкновенная пищуха	гн.?
Семейство *Passeridae* - Воробьиные	
103. *Passer domesticus* (Linnaues, 1758) - Домовый воробей	гн., обычн.

5

Виды	Зоринские Болота
104. *Passer montanus* (Linnaues. 1758) - Полевой воробей	гн.. обычн.
Семейство *Fringillidae* - Вьюрковые	
105. *Fringilla coelebs* Linnaues, 1758 - Зяблик	гн.. обычн.
106. *Chloris chloris* (Linnaues, 1758) - Обыкновенная зеленушка	гн
107. *Carduelis carduelis* (Linnaues. 1758) - Черноголовый щегол	гн.. обычн.
108. *Acanthis cannabina* (Linnaues, 1758) - Коноплянка	гн.. обычн
109. *Carpodacus erythrinus* (Pallas, 1770) - Обыкновенная чечевица	гн.. обычн.
110. *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* (Linnaues, 1758) - Обыкновенный снегирь	зим.. обычн.
111. *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* (Linnaues, 1758) - Обыкновенный дубонос	гн.. обычн.
Семейство *Emberizidae* - Овсянковые	
112. *Emberiza citrinella* Linnaues, 1758 - Обыкновенная овсянка	гн.. обычн.
113. *Emberiza schoeniclus* (Linnaues, 1758) - Тростниковая овсянка	гн.. обычн.
114. *Emberiza hortulana* Linnaues, 1758 - Садовая овсянка	гн . обычн

Примечания: гн. - гнездится, зим. - зимует; прол. - встречается на пролете; корм. встречается на кормежке; обычн. - виды, наиболее часто встречаемые; ? - требует уточнения.

PJ 2


ГОСПЛЕМПТИЦЕЗАВ
НЛХ ИМ ЛЕНИНА
ГЛФ
р. Оскол
ур. Стенки Изгорья
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4,6
мел
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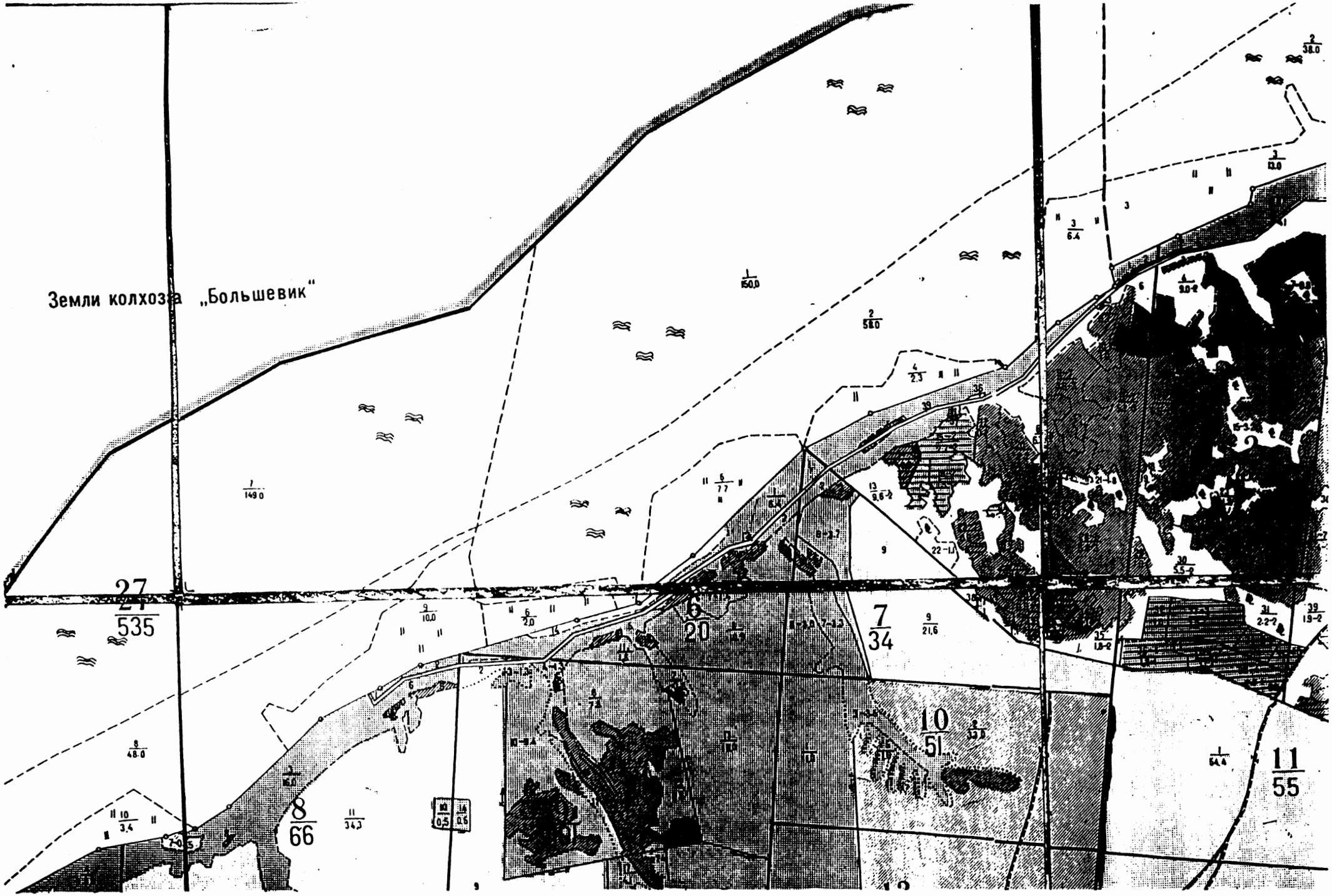
пес.

STRELETSKY
PJ 3
Курская
29/500
12/124
11/55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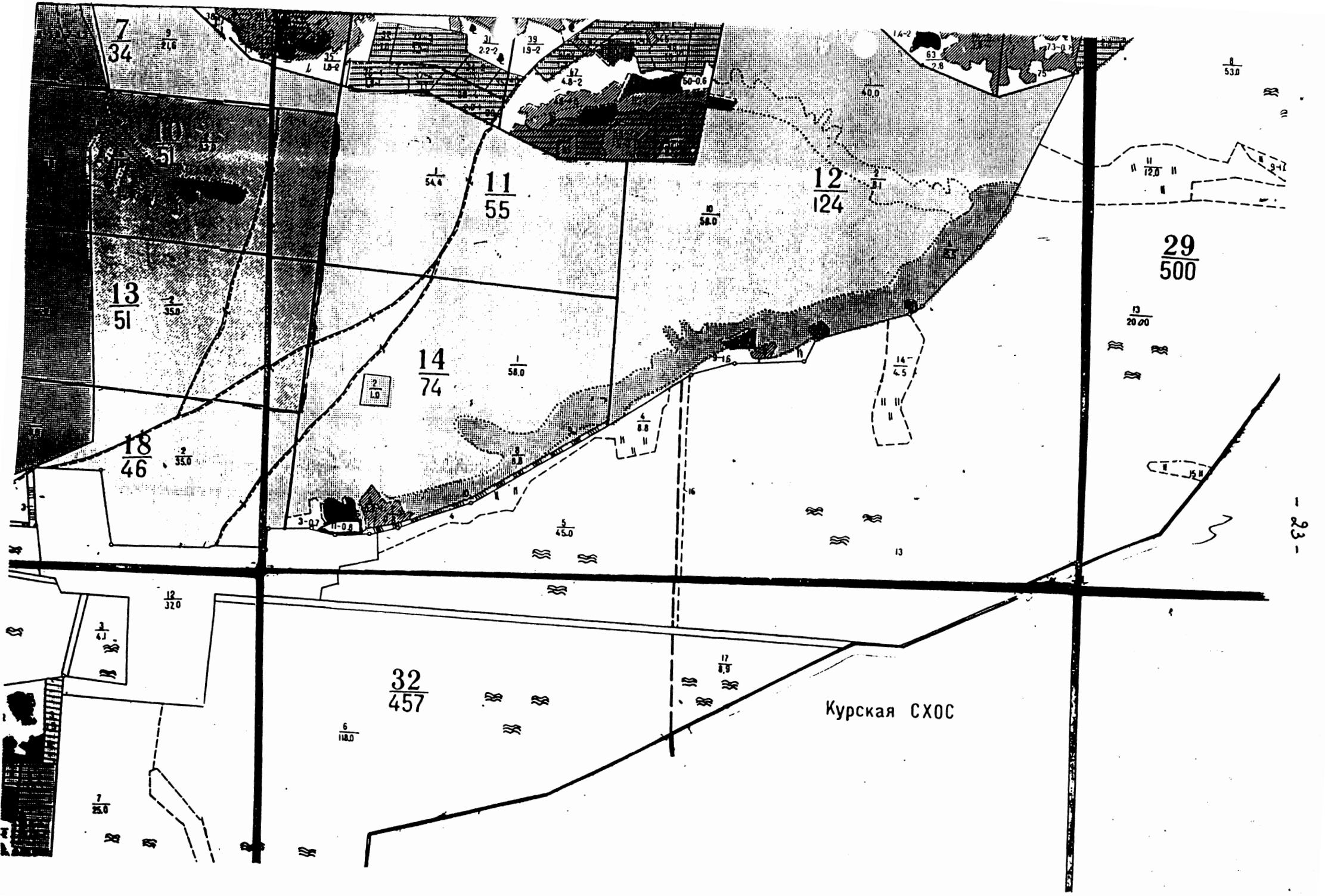
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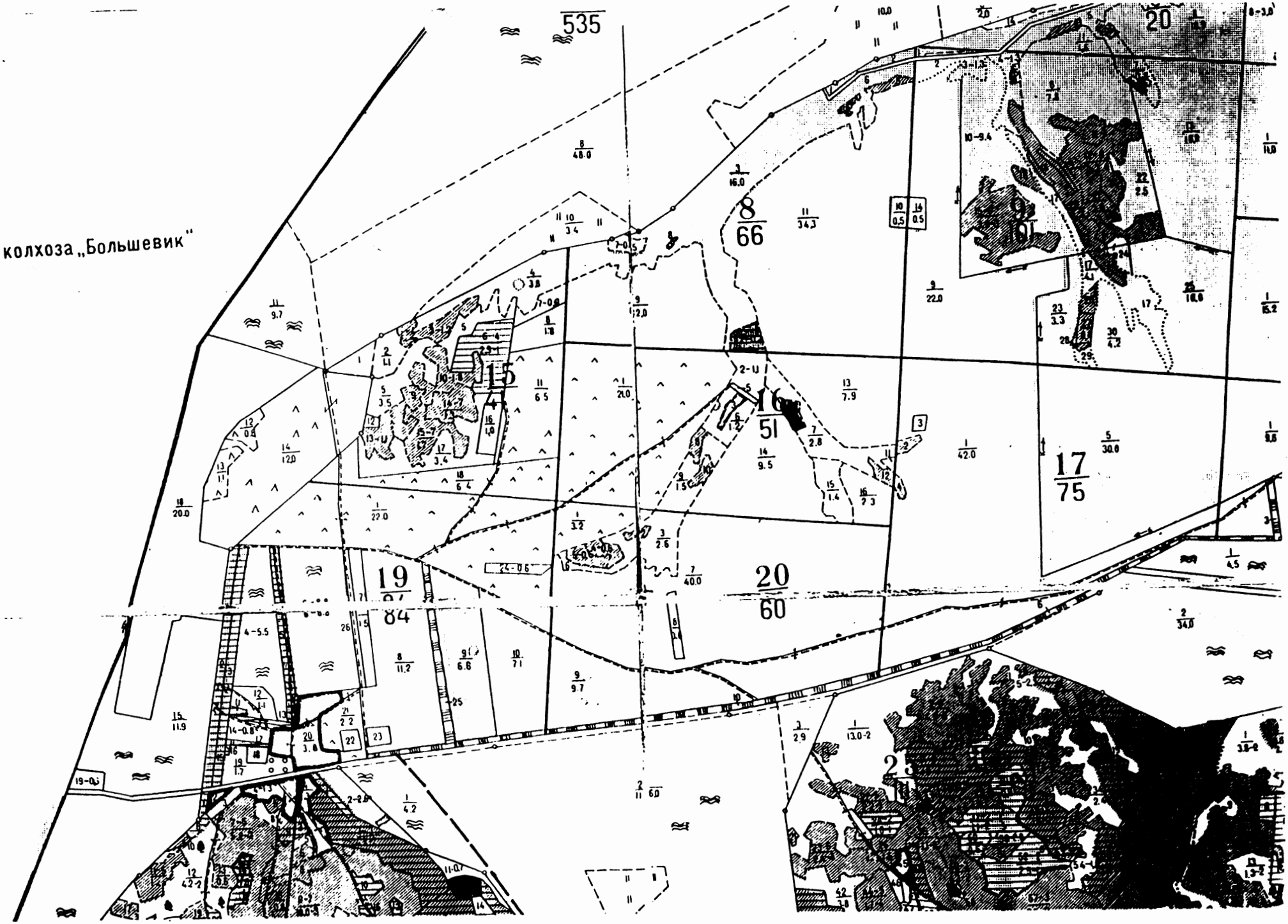
18/46
11/55
14/74
12/124
29/500
32/457
Курская СХОС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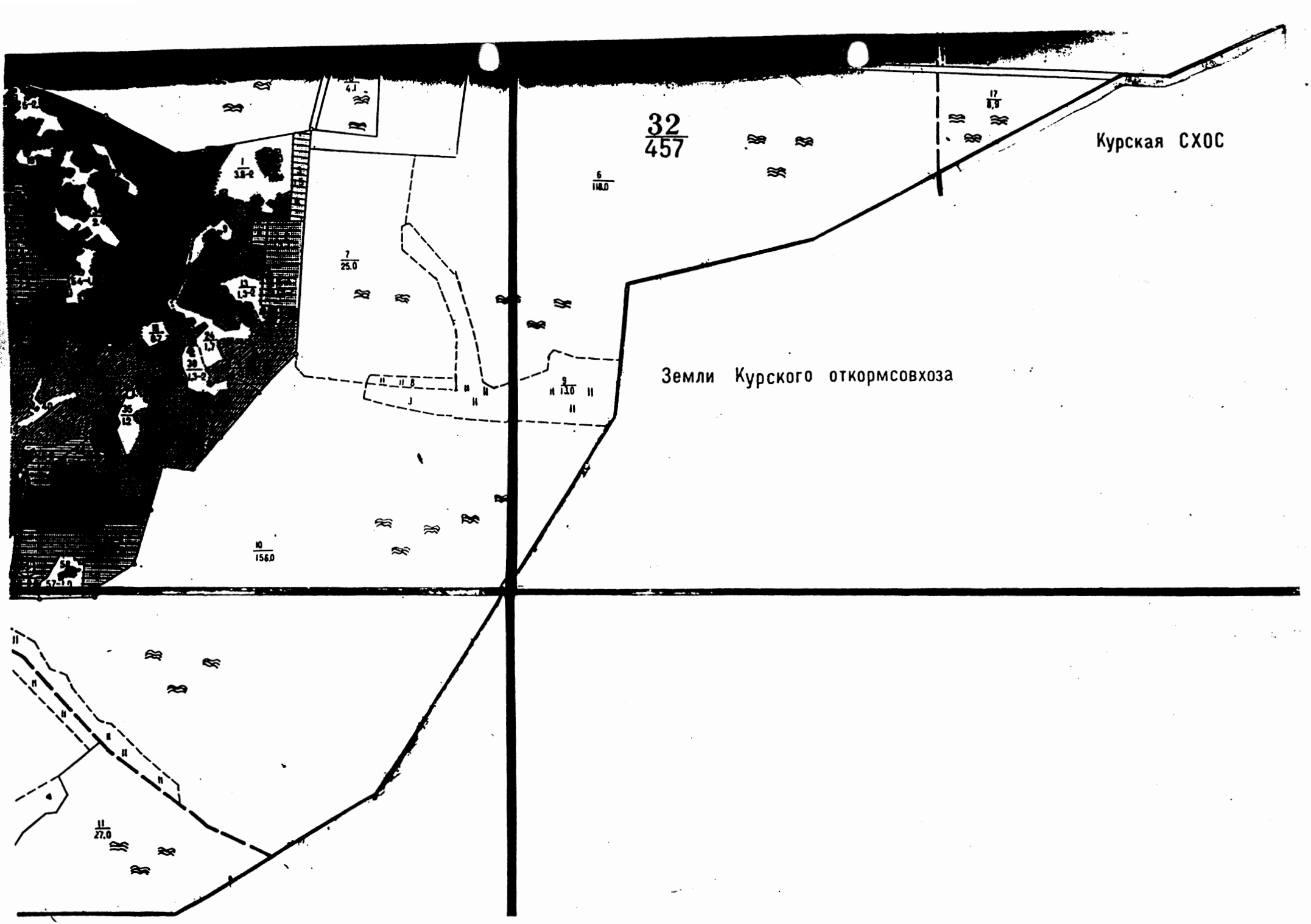
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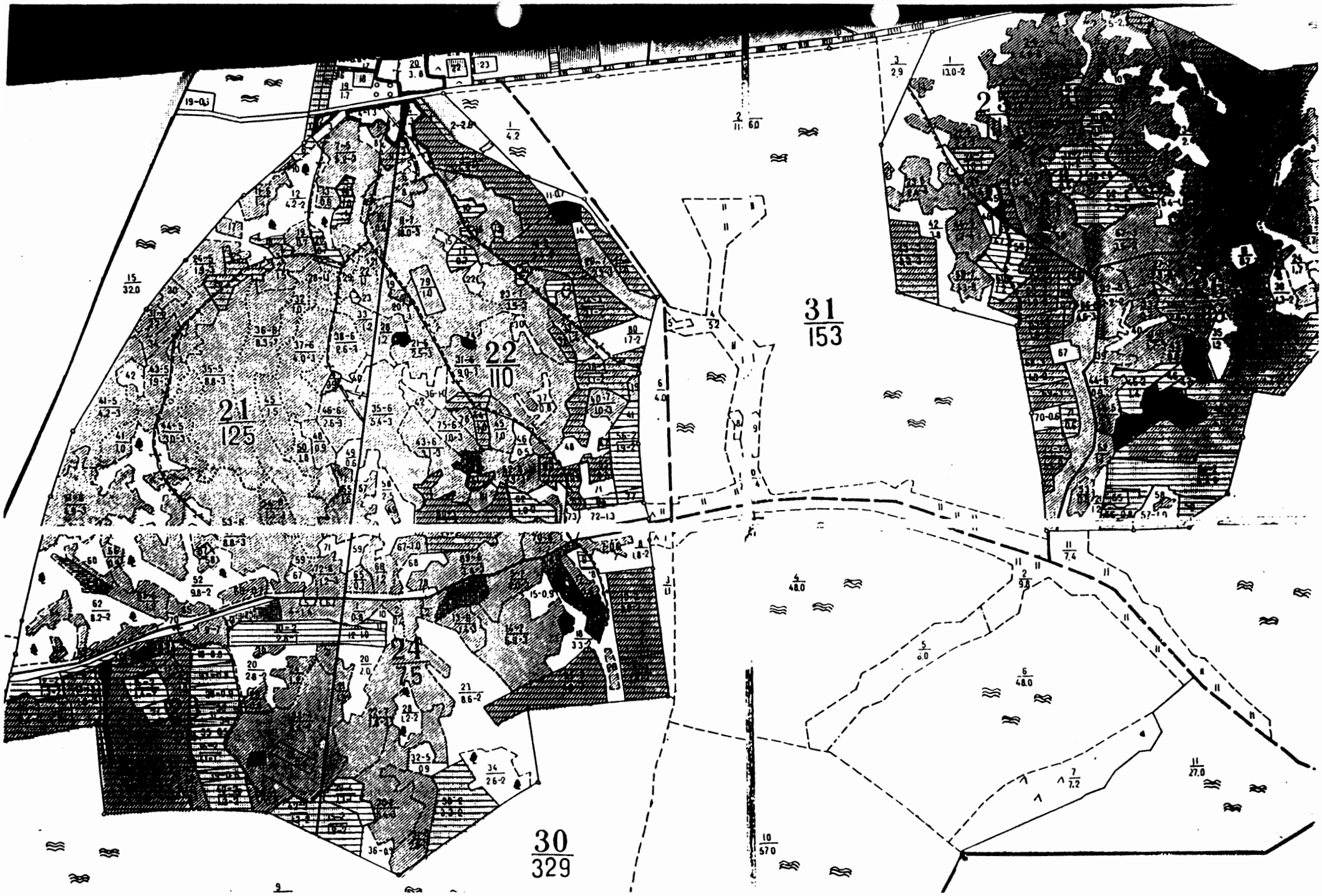
Курская СХОС
Земли Курского откормсовхоза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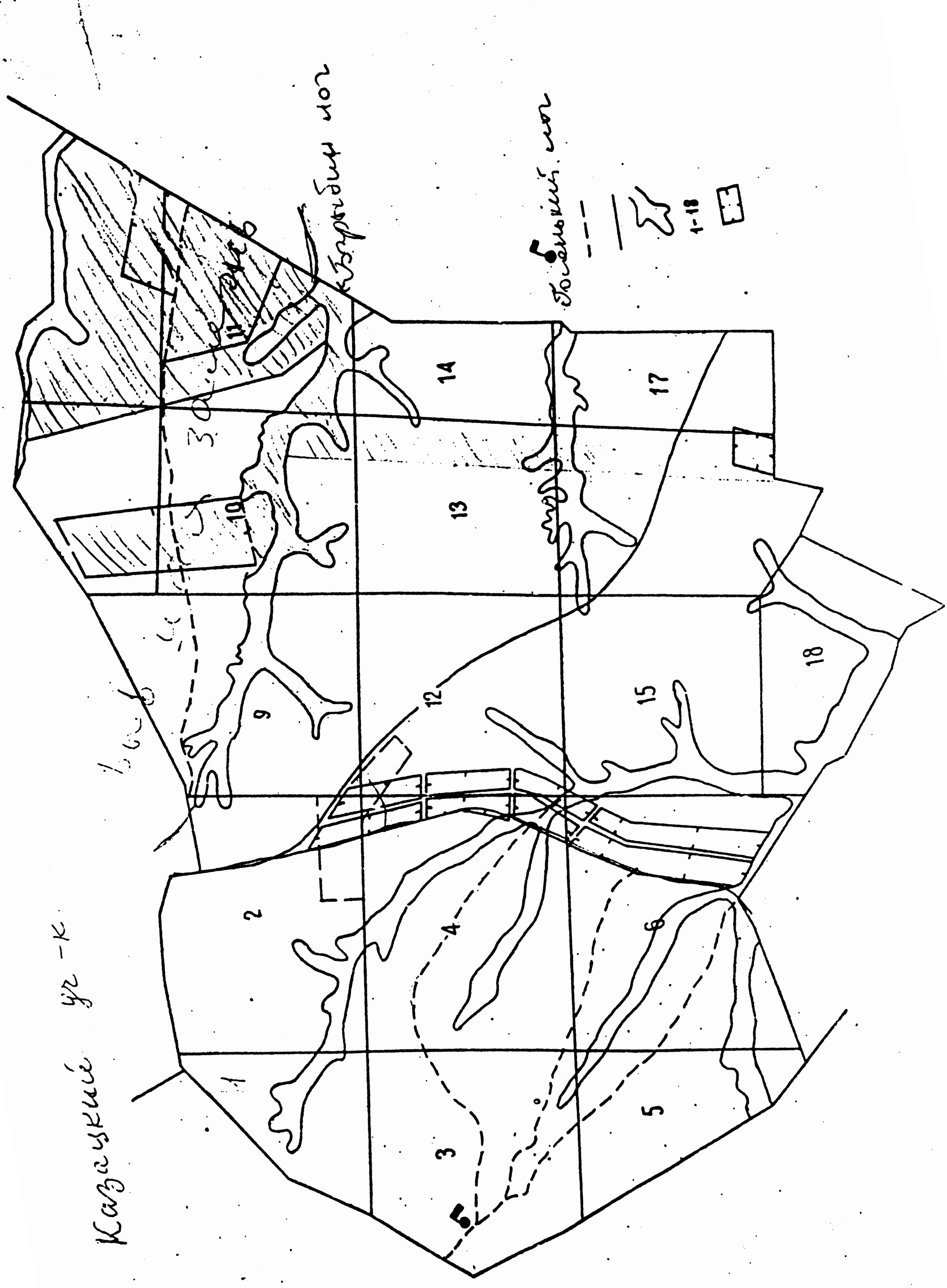
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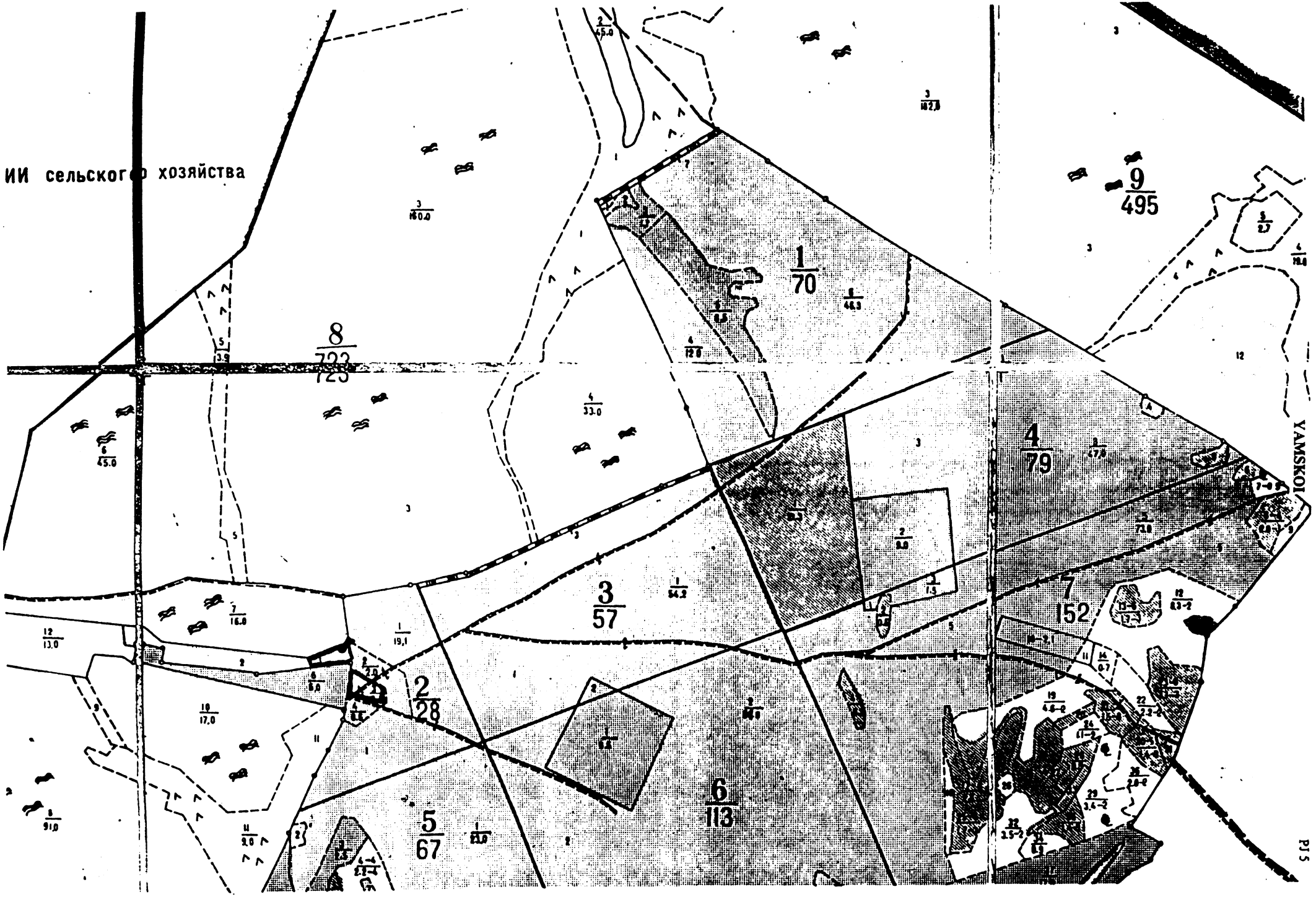
ИИ сельского хозяйства
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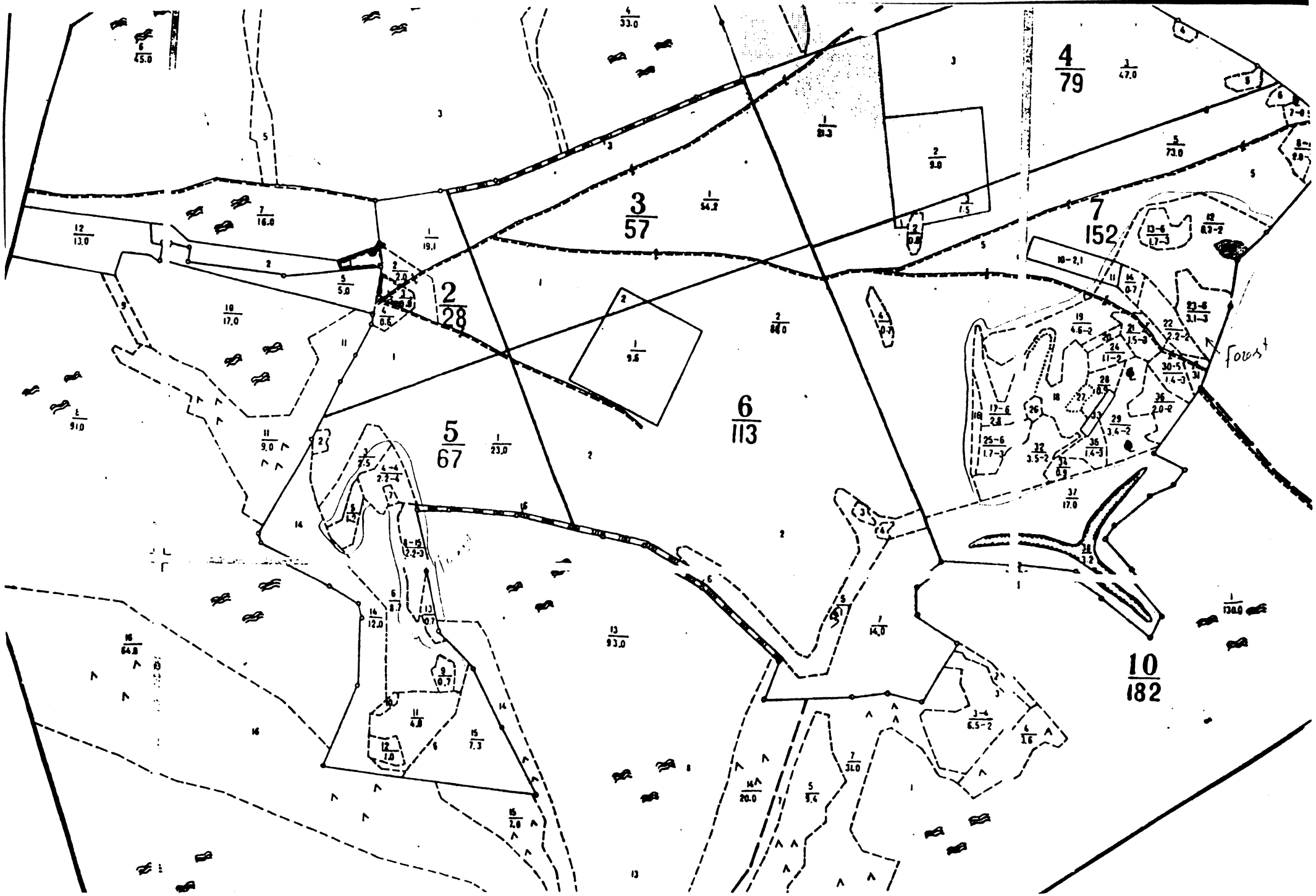
YAMSKOI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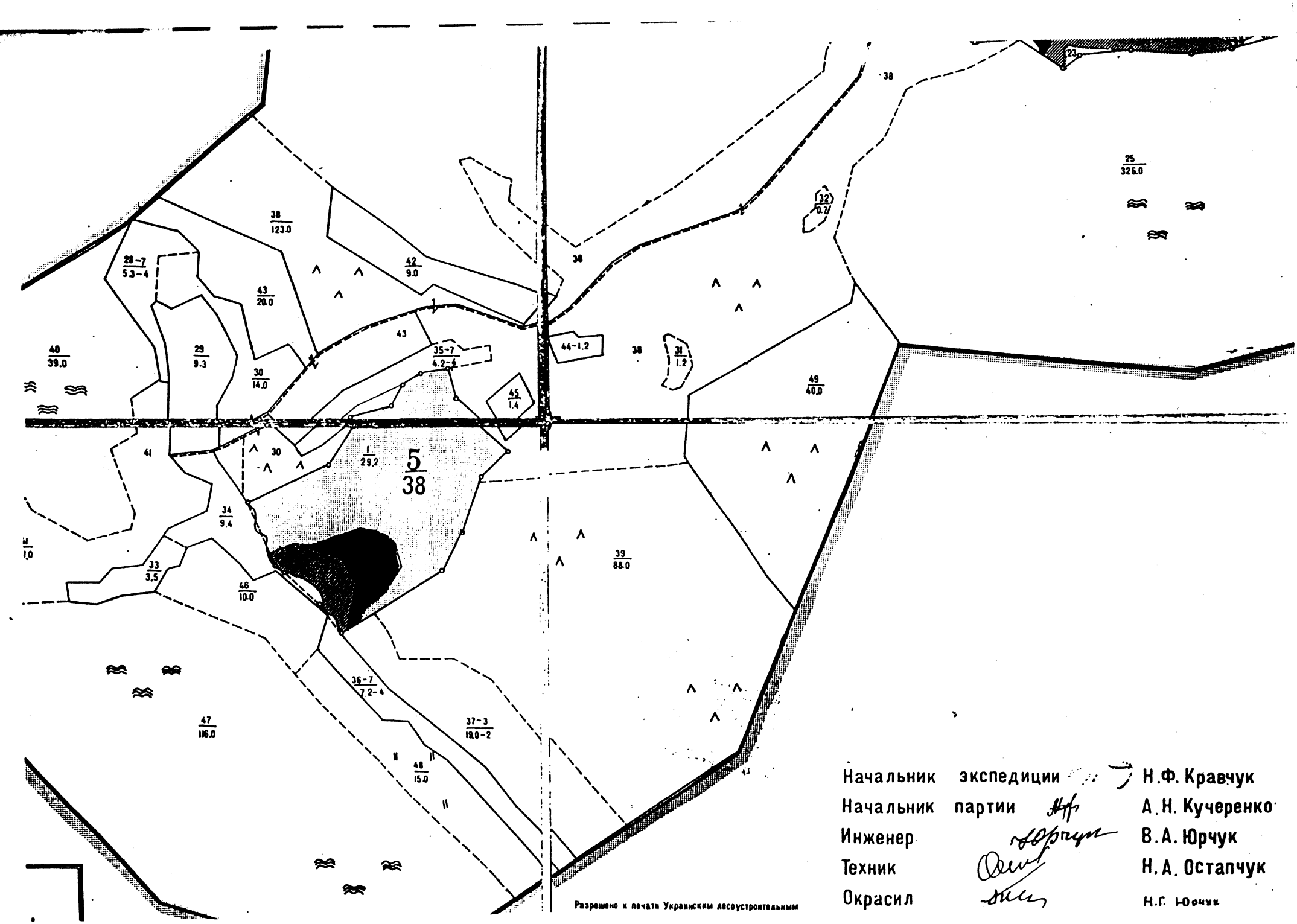
PJ 6



Разрешено к печати Украинским лесоустроительным

Начальник экспедиции Н.Ф. Кравчук

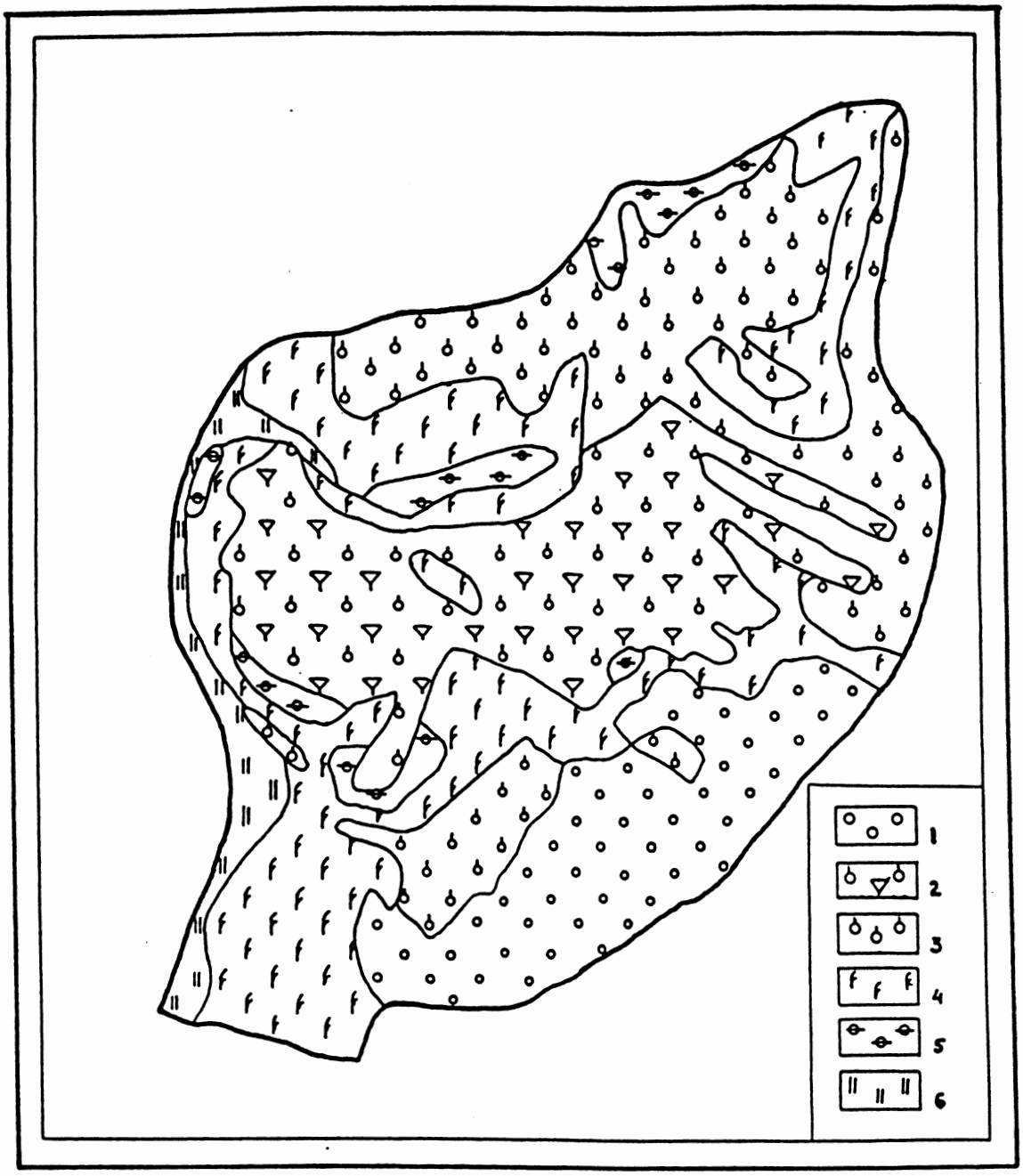
Начальник партии А.Н. Кучеренко

Инженер В.А. Юрчук

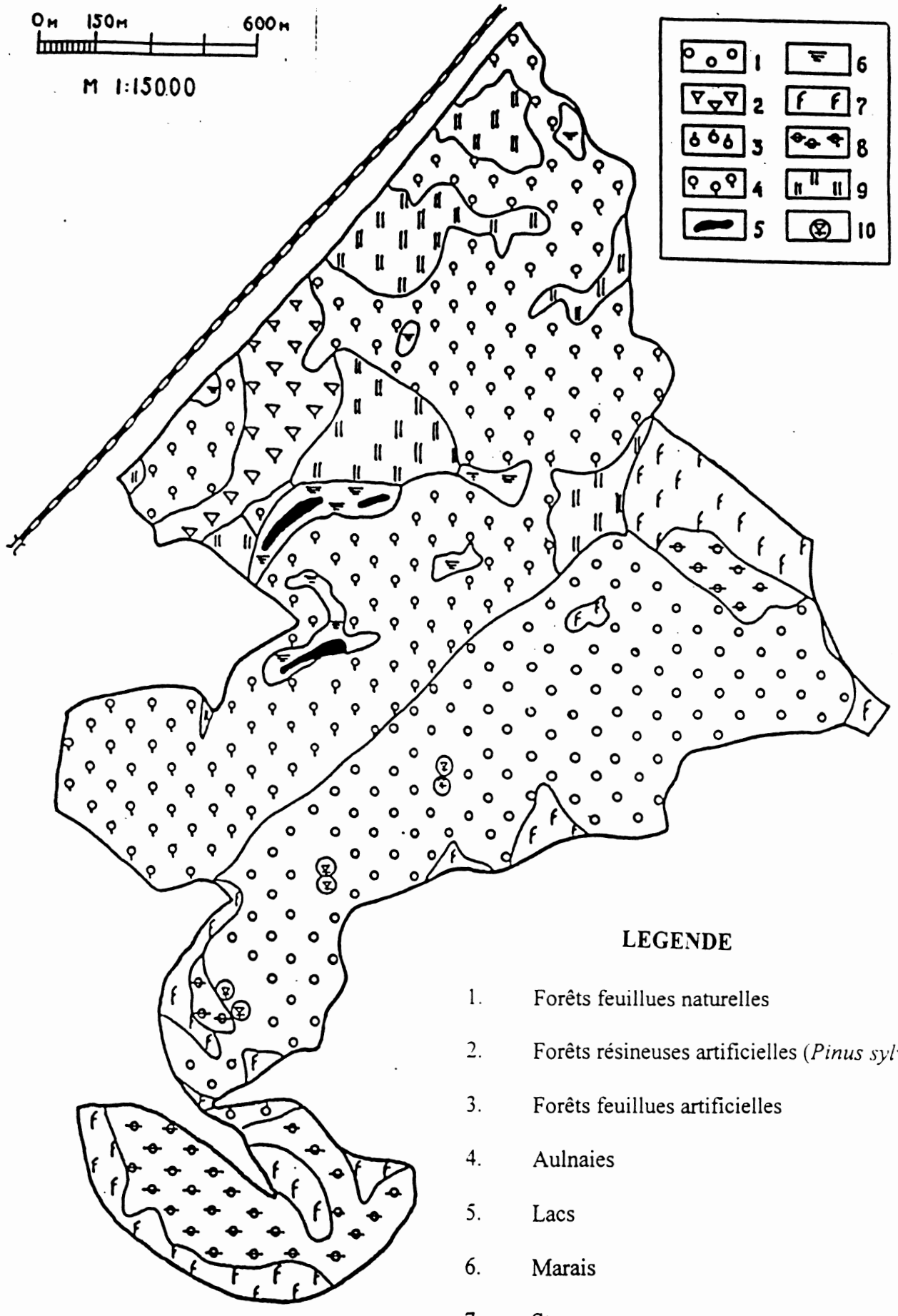
Техник Н.А. Остапчук

Окрасил Н.Г. Юрчук


BOUKREEVY
BARMY
PJ 7
3/126
4/958

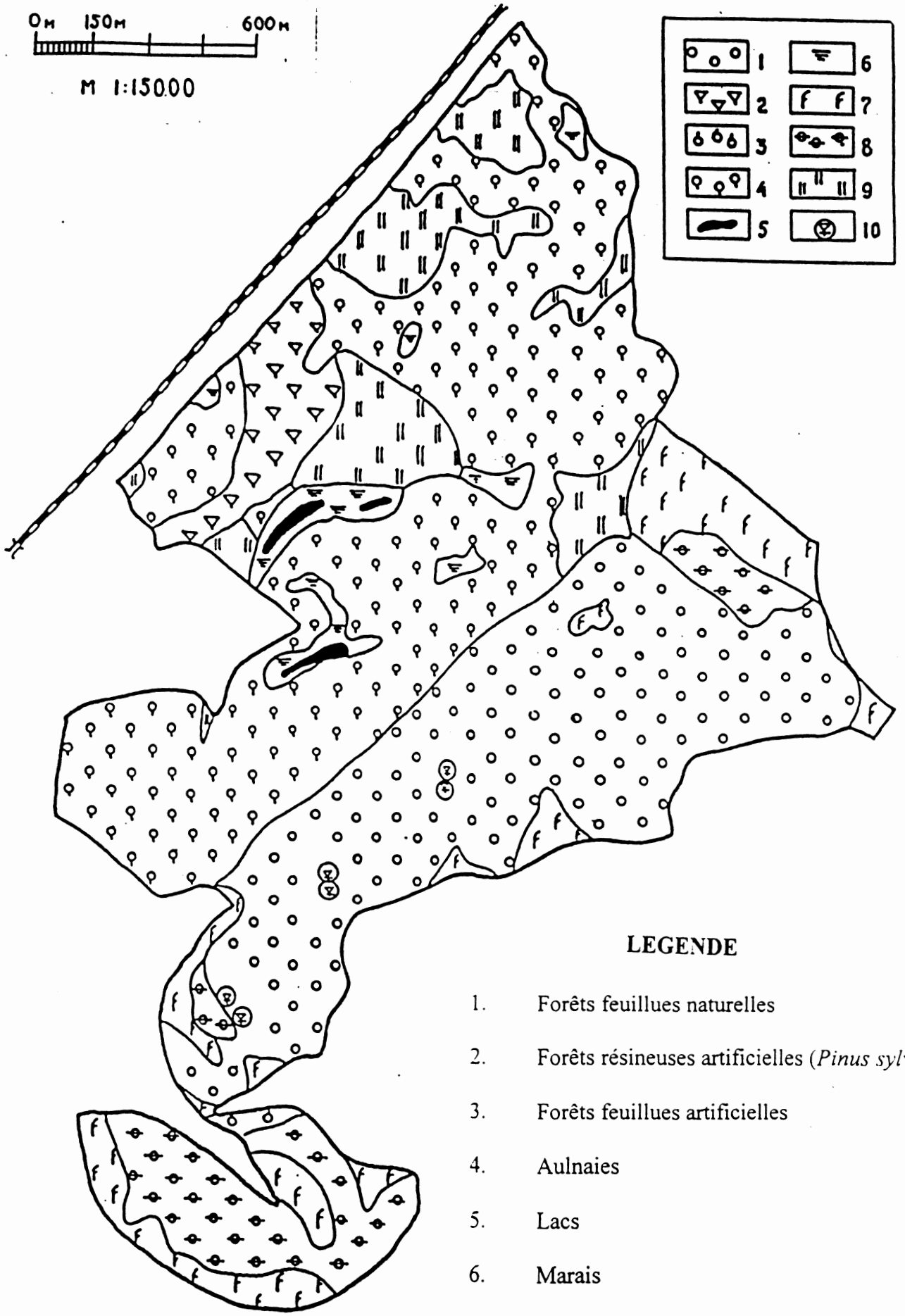


1. Forêts feuillues naturelles
2. Forêts mixtes (*Pinus sylvestris/Betula alba*)
3. Forêts feuillues artificielles
4. Steppes
5. Steppes calcaires
6. Prairies humides



LEGENDE

1. Forêts feuillues naturelles
2. Forêts résineuses artificielles (*Pinus sylvestris*
3. Forêts feuillues artificielles
4. Aulnaies
5. Lacs
6. Marais
7. Steppes
8. Steppes calcaires
9. Prairies humides
10. Pinèdes à *Pinus sylvestris ver. critatsia*



LEGENDE

1. Forêts feuillues naturelles
2. Forêts résineuses artificielles (*Pinus sylvestris*
3. Forêts feuillues artificielles
4. Aulnaies
5. Lacs
6. Marais
7. Steppes
8. Steppes calcaires
9. Prairies humides

COMMENTS BY THE SECRETARIAT

At the meeting of the Group of Specialists for the award of the European Diploma on 24 and 25 April 1997, Mr Vladimir PISHELIEV, Deputy Director of the Protected Areas Department, presented the application of the Tsentralno-Chernozemny National Biosphere Reserve.

The Group, while acknowledging the great interest of the reserve, expressed concern about the economic pressures that were likely to be a threat to these zones. It recommended that an expert appraisal should be carried out, with the following terms of reference:

- study all methods of protection and management of the applicant zones, which are not adjascent to one another;

- pay particular attention to what is happening outside the reserve;

- study the future prospects of this reserve with or without the European Diploma and the role the European Diploma could play in maintaining the present level of protection.

The Group also recommended the competent authorities to send it information on the precise status of the six units and the texts governing the reserve, with a summary in English.

Mr Hervé LETHIER was designated as the expert. The visit was organised by Mr Nikolai MALESHIN, Director of the reserve. We were also accompanied by Mr Nikolai ZOLOTUCHIN, Deputy Director of the reserve. The Secretariat expresses its sincere thanks for their welcome.

1. Persons met

We were able to visit the headquarters of the reserve, in the Streletsky unit, and the museum. The buildings are old and have a certain character and the organisation is very good. The museum presents many species and has interesting explanatory panels. The buildings also included a substantial library, with a room containing herbariums, and equipped with four computers. There is a total staff of 70. We were able to meet most of these people, who were highly motivated. We were given an organisation chart.

We were able to meet the Governor of the Kursk region, Mr Alexander RUTSKOI, and the representative of the President of the Russian Federation of this same region, Mr Victor P. SURZHIKOV. We also met the Deputy Mayor of the Gubkin district (Belgorod region), Mr A. ZAMARAEV, and Mrs GOROCHOVA, chef inspector of the Committee for the Conservation of the Environment of this district.

The discussions proved very useful. Some journalists were present at the second meeting. We were also able to meet Mr V.F. SHCHUPANOVSKY, Deputy Director of the Lebedinsky enterprise, an open-cast iron ore mine and concentration plant. This enterprise has embarked on a depollution programme and implemented various actions in favour of nature conservation. The management maintains good relations with the Director of the reserve, the Jamskoy unit being adjascent to the mine. The impact of pollution from this source, which mainly affected water, is diminishing.

At a meeting in Moscow, at the State Committee for Environmental Protection, we were able to meet Mr AMIRKHANOV, Vice-Secretary of State of the Committee, and Mr Vsevolod STEPANITSKY, Director of Nature Reserves.

2. Status of the reserve

The reserve is placed under the authority of the State Committee for Environmental Protection of the Russian Federation. It is one of the oldest Russian nature reserves, having been created on 10 February 1935 by decision of the Presidium.

It has the particularity of being made up of seven units at present, probably to become eight soon, some of which are almost 400 km apart.

These eight units are located in two different regions: Kursk region (the Streletsky, Kazatsky, Barkalovka, Bukreevy Barmy and Zorynsky Bolota units) and Belgorod region (Jamskoy, Lysye Gory and of Stenki-Izgorya). Three were created in 1935, two in 1969, one in 1993, one in 1995 and the latest in 1997.

3. Value of the reserve

The reserve is made up of unique virgin steppe covered with grasses associated with broad-leaved trees, on chernozem soil, with an area of over 5 311 hectares. Its main particular value is the botanical diversity, which is of international renown (USA, Japan, Germany, etc.). Taking all parts of the reserve together, 1 150 species have been recorded. Some have not been recorded in any other Russian reserve, and 15 species are listed in the Russian Red Book. Each of the units constitutes a component of this mosaic and has its particularities (chalk hills, forests, steppes, wetlands, etc.).

4. Zoning

Each unit is subject to particularly strict zoning. Each has a buffer zone one or two kilometres wide. We were able to obtain maps of each of these reserves, for which there is a scientific management plan for the period 1995 to the year 2000, running to some 150 pages.

5. Regulation

We also obtained the applicable texts, with summaries in English. Generally speaking, no activity is authorised other than the scientific activities carried out by the personnel of the reserve. This regulation is strictly applied by wardens who control poaching in each of the reserves. Heavy fines are imposed. The main problems in fact result from poaching, the runoff of agricultural fertilisers and pollution in the industrial zones.

6. Conclusion

This reserve, spectacular during the months of May and June, is particularly interesting from the standpoint of scientific research. Over 300 scientific publications on the reserve were produced during the period 1935-1989 and a bibliography of all the publications from 1989 to the present day is currently being compiled. To celebrate its 60th anniversary in 1995, the reserve organised a major scientific conference, with 128 participants, on the theme of the problems connected with the conservation of the biodiversity of the steppe regions,. A publication in Russian was produced by the

Ministry for the Protection of Nature and Natural Resources of the Russian Federation, and we received a copy of this. More generally, the reserve contains a fantastic genetic stock and could serve as a source for restoring steppe ecosystems in Russia and in any other countries of southern Europe who desire it. Management practice is exemplary in all respects. The documents that were submitted to the Federal Government four years ago, with a view to the award of the European Diploma, covered six units. It would be useful however to examine the application for the seven and perhaps eight reserves, since they all form part of the same complex. The government should therefore submit a formal application for the two missing units, so that the Group of Specialists for the award of the European Diploma can examine the question.

It will be necessary to draw up certain recommendations of a technical nature (no grazing in the ravines, etc.) and also of a general nature (extension of the zones). It is also necessary in this connection to ensure the continuing support of the local authorities. These authorities benefit from the existence of the units of the reserve to the extent that they can carry out useful activities in the buffer zones. The accent should therefore be placed on this mutual benefit that results from the existence of this ecological network of units.

The representative of the Secretariat shares the opinions expressed by the expert in his report. The criteria for the award of the European Diploma are met. There follows a draft resolution on the award of the European Diploma to the Tsentralno-Chernozemny Biosphere Reserve.

DRAFT RESOLUTION (98) ...

on the award of the European Diploma
to the Tsentralno-Chernozemny Biosphere Reserve

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.*a* of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 5 instituting the European Diploma,

Having regard to proposals of the Committee for the activities of the Council of Europe in the field of biological and landscape diversity (CO-DBP) ;

Having noted the agreement of the Government of the Russian Federation,

After deliberation,

Solemnly awards the European Diploma, Category..., to the Tsentralno-Chernozemny Biosphere Reserve,

Places the aforesaid zone under the patronage of the Council of the Europe until ...,

Attaches the following recommendations to the award:

1. pursue the research into and monitoring of the biological and landscape diversity of the reserve;

2. ensure that the budgetary resources permit the high and exemplary level of the state of conservation of the reserve to be maintained;

3. strengthen the protection status of the peripheral zones around the different units of the reserve;

4. proceed to a systematic effort to extend all the units of the reserve and to promote the constitution and restoration of ecological corridors between these units.