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STAGES OF TAIGA-ALAS LANDSCAPES SETTLING IN CENTRAL YAKUTIA

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Archaeologists found that people are lived on the territory of Central Yakutia in Paleolithic age. At that time all Eastern Siberia was populated by tribes which are ancestors of indigenous peoples who lived a nomadic life, hunting, fishing and reindeer herding. Aboriginal peoples of Siberia not caused significant damage to the nature, and their greatest impact on the environment has been associated with forest fires. This period can be identified as the period of the natural development of taiga-alas landscapes, that lasted until the end of the first millennium AD.

Subsequent period, relates to anthropogenic period of taiga-alas landscapes development. At the beginning of the second millennium penetration of cattle breeders to the Lena River basin began. These peoples have made a radical restructuring of economic life of the region, organized a hay-pastoralism and made foundation of unique cattle breeding culture in the severe conditions of the North-East Eurasia. Period from XII-XIV centuries until the middle of the XVII century AD represents the initial phase of extensive anthropogenic pressure on alas-taiga landscapes.

In the XVII century begins extensive anthropogenic pressure on taiga-alas landscapes. Joining the vast territories of Siberia to the Russia led to a marked shift in the structure of the natural environment of taiga-alas landscapes. As a result of predatory hunting depleted natural stocks of wild animals, sable was near to disappear, beaver was completely disappeared. The most important result of Yakutian lands joining to Russia was the development of arable farming culture in this territory. Formation of settled cattle farming culture with elements of arable farming on taiga-alas landscapes at the beginning of XX century led to the formation of early forms of anthropogenic dynamics in ecosystem structure, expressed in change of botanical composition of grasslands, disturbance of natural cycles of matter and energy, disappearance of some fauna representative and the transformation of virgin forest areas in cultural land.

At the end of the 20s of the XX century comes technogenic stage of settling, which continues till today and has led to a significant transformation of taiga-alas landscapes. The initial stage of anthropogenic press characterized by development of accelerated agricultural production as a result of the land nationalization, establishment of collective farms with mechanization. Creating collective farms with farm machinery accelerated the expansion of cultivated area, which in 1928 reached 26.1, in 1936 - 89.4 and the beginning of 1940 - 115,800 hectares. Before the Second World War began the campaign of village making, concentration of population in local areas of taiga-alas landscapes.

In the 50s of the XX century came the stage of intensive technogenic press which continues till present. Against the background of significant growth in the number of population there have been radical changes in the management and intensification of agricultural production. At this time, resulting inefficient use of the natural environment has been a sharp decline of forested areas and goes essential dynamics of biodiversity, a decrease in the productivity of natural systems and appeared anthropogenic degradation of taiga-alas landscapes.