



Fragment of a petrophyte steppe of the order *Festucetalia valesiacae*



Scarce swallowtail (*Iphiclides podalirius*)



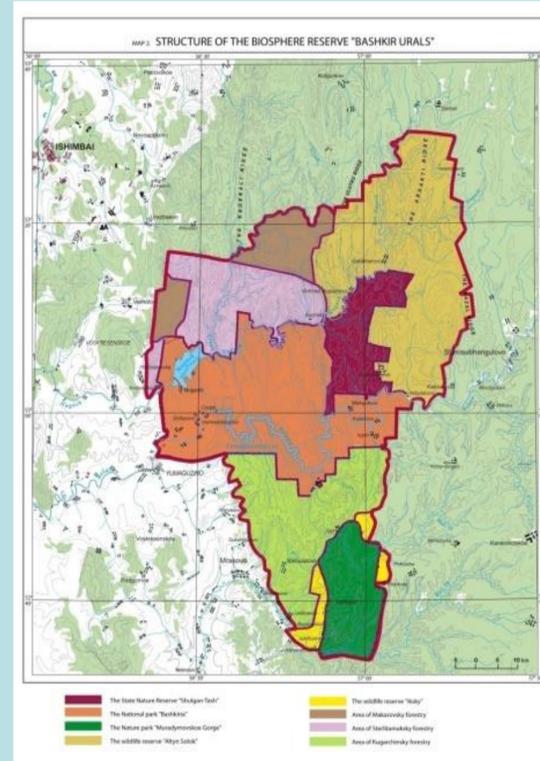
Density of brown bears in BR is the highest in Europe



Grown-up nestling of the falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

Biosphere Reserve «Bashkirskiy Ural» was established in 2012 on the basis of five protected areas. It represents the nature of the Southern Urals, which is one of 200 ecological regions of the World, significant for biological diversity conservation. The mosaic of landscapes, from steppe to the south taiga, is providing the high level of diversity of flora and fauna

To the present time more than 1650 plant species are registered in BR, from them 34 endemic and 30 relict species of higher vascular plants. There are 2157 animal species, including 177 species listed in the European Red List and the List of Bern Convention. The BR includes two key ornithological territories of European importance «Bielsko-Nugush interfluvium» and «Uryuk»



In limits of BR five different Specially Protected Natural Areas are represented: the State Nature reserve «Shulgan-Tash», the National park «Bashkiria», the Regional Nature park «Muradymovskoe Gorge», the Natural Zoological (Entomological) sanctuary «Altyn Solok» and Zoological sanctuary «Iksky». Management of BR is conducting by the Coordination Council established on the 12th of April, 2013 and included 23 persons



Burzyansky wild-hive bee (*Apis mellifera mellifera*)

Staff of BR jointly with local population protects the gene pool of honey bee aboriginal population in natural conditions, using artificial hives (bort and koloda) and apiaries. Wild hive bee-keeping in this area has more than a thousand years history. Thanks to wild honey marketing and a brand policy of the Shulgan-Tash Reserve wild hive bee-keeping became profitable and returned to local community's lifestyle



Work of a wild-hive beekeeper on a bee bort tree



Annual contest of professional wild-hive beekeepers in the Reserve «Shulgan-Tash»



Museum of apiculture in the Reserve «Shulgan-Tash»

Close collaboration with landscape and natural parks of the Republic of Poland in the field of wild-hive beekeeping development, in conducting bird counts of passage, in experience exchange and joint organization of ecological education seminars have been established



Unique natural phenomenon - "Kuperlya" karst bridge



Deepest downfall (kutuk) in Urals - Sumgan



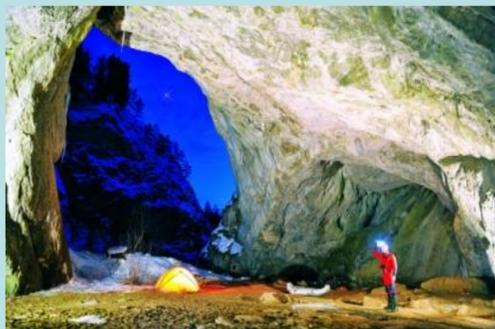
Valley of the Belaya river (to the right - expanses of the Reserve «Shulgan-Tash», to the left - of the National park «Bashkiria»)



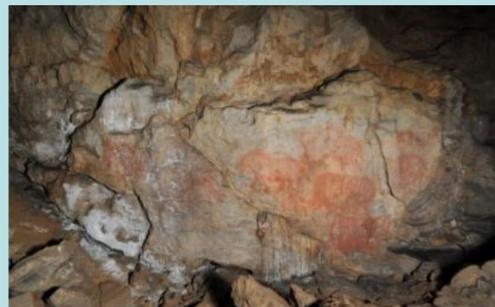
Rafting tourism is very popular on the Nugush and Belaya rivers



Equine tourism is the most popular in the National park «Bashkiria»



Entry to the cave Shulgan-Tash (Kapova)



Upper Paleolithic wall paintings in the Shulgan-Tash (Kapova) cave

Karst processes are widespread on the territory of BR. There are known 166 caves; some of them unique at the global scale: the cave «Shulgan-Tash» (Kapova), Novomuradymovskaya cave, the downfall Sumgan. Surface karst forms (craters, ponors, bridges, canyons, residual outcrops, karst lakes) are also common

Unique historical and cultural heritage: of BR paleolithic paintings (14-17 ths. years) in the Shulgan-Tash (Kapova) cave and mesolithic ones in Staromuradymovskaya Cave; many upperpaleolithic sites were already examined by archeologists. In BR there are sources of the Bashkir folk mythology, which represented in the famous eposes «Ural Bator» and «Akbulzat»



Canyon in the Regional Nature park «Muradymovskoe Gorge»

BR possesses the rich diversity of landscapes - gorges of mountain rivers, szyrts with plateau-like summits, mountain ridges with steep slopes, floodplains and water reservoirs



Instructions before visiting the Novomuradymovskaya cave



On the territory of a former farmstead Kashela the BR's supporting base with the aboriginal bee apiary is being built. For ensuring everyday life in the settlement solar batteries were installed

Further development of the region adjacent to BR is planned according to the following directions: a) organization of baseline monitoring; b) biodiversity conservation control; c) development of traditional use of natural resources, not damaging the environment; d) rationalization of modern ecosystem exploitation; e) correction of the impacts of unsustainable natural management in the past; f) development of all possible types of tourism (ecotourism, ethno tourism, bird watching, social recreational, educational, fabulous, event, adventurous, speleotourism, mountain climbing, wild life photography etc.); g) rise of ecological education of the local population; h) initiation of projects for support and development of environmentally oriented small business; i) involving local people in tourist services, revival of traditional local crafts, souvenir production, folklore services to visitors, preservation and arrangement of historically significant and memorable places