

KRONOTSKY FEDERAL NATURE BIOSPHERE RESERVE



SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ACTIVITIES



Marine mammals registration is held annually. The water area is visited by gray whales, killer whales, northern humpback whales and by other cetaceans. As a result of photo-identification the "Catalogue of gray whales" is replenished with new kinds.



Kozlov Cape is the only reproductive rookery of the Kamchatka Peninsula where sea lions are being observed. Northern sea otter, listed in the Red book, is being observed along the coastal area.



Monitoring studies explore the species composition, inter-annual changes in the number of water fauna, hydrological regime of water area, spawning features, qualitative and quantitative composition of zooplankton and benthos. As a result of research the living group of kumja was found, the population of endemic char was found, the unique population of Kokanee is now being explored.



Kamchatka snow sheep – is another rare species in the mammalian fauna. Annual registrations show a decline in population and the need for measures to restore the species. According to the results of registration in 2012, the population decreased by 1.5 times and counts not more than 350 animals.



The reserve conducts long term studies of Kamchatka reindeer, which has remained exclusively in the Kronotskiy reserve. According to the registration results the herd population does not exceed 900 animals.



Kronotskiy Reserve became the fourth place on the World's map where Erioderma pedicellatum moss was discovered. This species is listed in the Red Book and grows in the coniferous forests only, undisturbed by human activity.

PROTECTED AREA SECURITY



Preservation of natural systems is the priority task of Kronotskiy reserve. The reserve has particularly strict regime: it prohibits all economic activity and staying in the territory without permission of the administration. Territory patrol, anti-poaching works and collection of primary scientific information, guiding the groups and working with visitors – this is not a complete list of duties of the security staff.



The staff of the security department includes the best professionals from other regions and also local personnel. Today the security department consists of 42 state inspectors and 8 operating cordons.



The reserve organized task group in 2007 which included invited qualified professionals with extensive experience in other reserves of Russia. Today the reserve has 3 task groups (2 overland, 1 nautical). Since their creation the number of violations of environmental legislation significantly increased and the crime rate has fallen.



For timely transmission of the information and communication between remote cordons, operational groups and administration of the reserve the coverage is expanded, satellite is used.



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Fighting forest fires and emergency situations is the responsibility of state inspection. The inspectors are trained annually to improve their skills. In the fire-dangerous period special forest fire team responsible for fire safety operates in each cordon.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



Specialists of the environmental education department work closely with schools, kindergartens, summer camps, centers of continuing education, secondary and higher educational institutions of Kamchatka, using their foreign and home experience. Children and adults get acquainted with native land, its nature and inhabitants with great interest and pleasure. The most difficult part of this work is to interpret the available scientific data, because the perception of new information is determined by the interests of each age category.



Staff of the department is involved in teaching associations, seminars, teachers training courses of biology, geography, ecology, also for managers and teachers of pre-school educational institutions; they organize field seminars and round tables for teachers from remote regions of Kamchatka. The required component is methodical assistance; it includes movies, presentations, posters, calendars, booklets and training sessions on the reserve, its flora and fauna.



The following forms of work and methods are used: thematic lessons, competitions, quizzes, mind games, environmental activities, exhibitions of children's creativity, research conferences.

EDUCATIONAL TOURISM



Kronotskiy Reserve organizes one-day and multi-day eco-educational excursions. Since the establishment of regulated routes we can note the increase of protected area's visitors. Kronotskiy Reserve is the third most visited protected area in Kamchatka and is second only to the natural park "Volcanoes of Kamchatka". Annually Kronotskiy reserve is visited by thousands of tourists from all over the world. For five years the number of foreign visitors has increased more than twice.



Kronotskiy Reserve is the first that received the certificate of compliance with the requirements of the federal law "On the basis of tourist activities in the Russian Federation". Excursion activity, guide services, organization of training seminars for tour guides are certified now. Kronotskiy Reserve got the confirmation to show the high level of excursion services, to increase trust of potential visitors and partners and to improve its competitiveness in the tourism industry.



The staff of reserve organizes seminars for tour guides of travel companies working in the protected area. Examinations for guides are held annually before the touristic season. Only being tested they get access to self-guided tours.

WORKING WITH THE MEDIA



The reserve is closely watched by the public and the press. Researchers, writers, publicists, journalists, wrote thousands of books, directories and articles. Kronotskiy geysers and hot springs, volcanoes and mountain ranges, forests, rivers, lakes, ocean beaches and the sea, the animals living in the reserve inspire Russian and foreign photographers, representatives of the television and film industry. Dozens of interesting films and colorful reports about the reserve and its workers have been made.



In 2012 Kronotskiy Reserve started an unprecedented project – shooting the French widescreen 3D documentary movie "The Land of bears". The movie is for distribution in France and Russia.



In 2008 the website www.kronoki.ru was created. Here you can find any information about protected area: the unique objects and their history, people who began to explore the area; you can read the publications of scientists and much more. Constantly updated news line tells you about all events taking place in Kronotskiy Reserve.



It is possible to visit the protected area without leaving your home computer: use the virtual tour to the Valley of Geysers and the caldera Uzon created by Kamchatka photographer S. Koznoschikov. Thanks to the web camera installed in the valley of the river Geysernaya visitors can observe the activity of geysers in real-time.

VOLUNTEERS



Volunteer movement of the reserve is developing every year. Volunteers are involved in clearing grazing trails, in capital construction and repair works; they also collect field data for researchers. Volunteers are involved in the translation of texts for trips, help to create electronic library. Generally speaking, they make a contribution to the development of the reserve using all their knowledge and skills.



In 2011 an unusual project was implemented: four Kamchatka painters visited the reserve and created dozens of sketches as volunteers. As the result the art exhibition "Four easels – four legends" was opened in Ilzovskiy museum, it was dedicated to the geysers of Kronotskiy reserve.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



In autumn 2012 the delegation from the reserve with the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia visited Alaska (USA). Representatives of the 8-marine and coastal protected areas took part in the Russian-American seminar, where they shared experiences in government of the protected areas. The Russian delegation was headed by Deputy Director of the Department of State Policy in the field of environmental protection and ecological safety Vladimir Stepanitskiy.



Within the framework of the UNEP / GEF Project "Strengthening the Marine and Coastal Protected Areas of Russia" the workers of Kronotskiy reserve visited national park "Galapagos Islands". The participants shared their internship experience in eco-tourism and protection of unique natural complexes.



International recognition as a part of UNESCO "The Human and the Biosphere" Kronotskiy reserve got on February 5, 1985 and was included in the international network of biosphere reserves. All over the World biosphere reserves are created to preserve the planet's biodiversity and cultural values by their sustainable use. On December 6, 1996 Kronotskiy reserve was included in the UNESCO World Heritage list in the nomination of "Volcanoes of Kamchatka".

THE YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT IS 1934. ONE OF THE OLDEST RESERVES IN RUSSIA, IT WAS ORIGINALLY CREATED TO PROTECT THE SABLE. NOW REINDEER AND SNOW SHEEP ARE IN NEED OF PROTECTION. SPRUCE, LARCH AND FIR FORESTS OF THE RESERVE ARE THE TREASURES OF KAMCHATKA. THE GEOTHERMAL ECOSYSTEMS OF PROTECTED AREAS ARE UNIQUE NOT ONLY FOR RUSSIA, BUT FOR THE WHOLE WORLD.

- 1,147,619, 4 hectares – the total area of the Reserve
- 26 volcanoes, 8 of them are active
- 3,528 m – the height of the highest peak – Kronotskiy volcano
- 8 km – the length of the most powerful glacier – Tuyshevskiy
- more than 40 geysers
- 242 square km – the area of Kronotskoye lake
- 54 species of mammals
- more than 700 bears
- 244 species of birds
- 104 species of fish
- spawning ground of 5 species of Pacific salmon
- 767 species of vascular plants

