**Materials of a comprehensive environmental survey of areas of the Smolensky, Altaisky and Soloneshensky districts of the Altai Territory, justifying their status as the “Foothills of Altai” natural park**

INTRODUCTION

According to the technical assignment of the State Contract No. F.2016.50161 dated April 18, 2016, the goal of the work to justify the creation of a natural park of regional significance “Altai Foothills” in the Altai Territory is to conduct research on the state of the environment and assess the impact of the projected park on ecosystems and human activities. To achieve the goal, the following tasks were set for the temporary research team established at Altai State University:

* Prepare “Materials of a comprehensive environmental survey of areas of the Smolensky, Altaisky and Soloneshensky districts of the Altai Territory, justifying their status as a state natural park of regional importance in the area of ​​the Belokurikha 2 tourist cluster.
* Estimate the attractiveness of landscapes, tourist and recreational capacity of landscapes.
* Develop tourist routes.
* Estimate permissible recreational and tourist loads in the zone of recreational-tourist use.
* Develop protection modes for each functional zone.
* Develop recommendations for monitoring in the territory of the planned specially protected natural areas as a whole, as well as within the functional areas.
* Allocate a buffer protection zone around the designed protected areas.
* Develop a prototype (pilot version) of the GIS-project of a natural park in the area of ​​the Belokurikha 2 tourist cluster, block 2 “Functional zoning of the territory” (hereinafter “GIS-project block 2”), designed to store, analyze and graphically visualize complex information on materials the planned object of protected areas, which allows using standard tools and a set of tools to view maps of various subjects, to carry out analytical procedures.

In the course of the work, an analytical analysis of stock and printed materials, as well as information collected during the expeditionary work and the creation of a geographic information system (GIS) on the natural park was carried out. Research expeditions were organized from July 2015 to July 2016. More than 40 people took part in the work. Conducted as specialized (botanical, physicogeographical, zoological) and complex expeditions. The materials contain 24 maps developed by the authors, 36 tables, 120 drawings (including author's photos).