

Thermokarst in the areas of Russia's legally nature protected geosites

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Abstract

Thermokarst is one of the pseudokarst varieties. The main condition for thermokarst development is a presence of ice in the upper layers of the permafrost, comprising sedimentary detrital and argillaceous rocks. Two types of underground ice are widespread: ice-wedges and segregation ice. Tetragonal forms as well as baydzharakhs, have developed as a result of melting of the first type of ice. Melting of the segregation ice stimulates the development of alas relief. Thermokarst processes favour the formation of the bone-bearing horizon, consisting of the Pleistocene mammal fauna. Such sites are legally protected areas.

Key words

Thermokarst, nature conservation, Russia.