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Permafrost and indigenous land use in the northern Urals: Komi and Nenets reindeer husbandry

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2 **husbandry**

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15 **Abstract**

16 Permafrost is an integral part of the environmental conditions that frame indigenous peoples'
17 livelihoods in many parts of the circumpolar region. On the basis of their long-term ethnographic
18 field researches, the authors describe the various ways in which permafrost dynamics influence
19 the lives and economic activities of two groups of reindeer-herding nomads in North-Eastern
20 Europe and Western Siberia: Komi and Nenets. Permafrost affects the herders directly, for the
21 herders have to take into account the probability of thermokarst while choosing the campsite and
22 performing certain herding procedures. It also affects the herders indirectly, through its influence
23 on landscape and vegetation and thus on reindeer behavior. More rapid permafrost degradation
24 will have a range of adverse effects on reindeer herding.

25

26 **Keywords:** indigenous peoples, khasyrey, Komi, Nenets, permafrost, reindeer herding, tabey,
27 thermokarst

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