

SASKATCHEWAN NEEDS ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

An invitation for co-operation

Canada is officially participating in the International Biological Program. The program has a number of facets, an important one exemplified by the study of production processes in grasslands at the Matador site in Saskatchewan. In Canada there are also research projects underway on fresh water and marine ecosystems as well as on human adaptability in the north.

All programs of research on land and its productivity require areas where the uses can be controlled in the interests of long-term studies. A special section of the IBP has therefore been set up, with the responsibility with each country for selecting natural areas worthy of preservation for purposes of research and education. The survival of representative tracts of Saskatchewan's native landscape will not come about by happy chance; the only hope is an immediate program of ecological reserve establishment, encouraged and supported by responsible people. Rapid action is necessary because of the increasing mobility of populations and of man's increasing ability to drastically alter the earth's environments.

Natural areas are necessary for many reasons:

- (1) to serve as outdoor laboratories of natural phenomena.
- (2) to maintain large, heterogeneous, natural gene pools.
- (3) to provide for research on natural ecosystems.
- (4) as outdoor museums for education and public enjoyment.
- (5) to develop intellectual and esthetic appreciation of nature.

As a first step, the Saskatchewan Committee of the IBP-CT (Conservation of Terrestrial Communities) would like to locate areas, within each geographical zone of the province, which are worthy of preservation because of their unique natural features.

This is an open invitation to people interested in participating in the program. Information on areas worthy of preservation in the grassland zone, parklands, forests and wetlands should be sent to one of the undersigned:

J. S. Rowe
Department of Plant Ecology
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Sask.

G. F. Ledingham
Department of Biology
University of Saskatchewan
Regina, Sask.

SNHS SUMMER MEET, 1969

Val Marie, Saskatchewan, June 13-15, 1969

The SNHS Summer Meeting will be held this year in southwestern Saskatchewan in the Frenchman River country, with headquarters at **Val Marie**. The feature attraction will be a visit to the SNHS Prairie Dog Sanctuary, and it is hoped that the cairn which is being erected in the sanctuary can be unveiled at that time.

Members will be interested to know that a film depicting the colony of Prairie Dogs protected in the SNHS

sanctuary, "The Little Fellows", will be shown on CBC television at 10:00 a.m., March 17, 1969.

Hosts at the 1969 Summer Meeting will be **David and Ruth Chandler**.

In addition to accommodation at Val Marie and adjacent towns, there will be a camp ground near the Prairie Dog sanctuary for those who wish to bring their tents. Further information about the meet will appear in the NEWSLETTER.