

Preface to the Saskatchewan Native Prairie Curriculum Units

The survival of human beings will depend on our ability to live in harmony with our environment and to maintain healthy ecosystems – to be stewards of this earth we call home.

Saskatchewan's original native prairie grasslands have been largely converted to croplands, roads and cities, and gas and oil developments. Plants and wildlife, which depend on this ecosystem for life, are declining. Many are species at risk. As citizens, we must act to conserve what little native prairie remains.

Education is one of the tools we can use to increase awareness and appreciation of the Saskatchewan prairies and grasslands. By educating our youth, we can help them gain an understanding of our home in the native prairie grasslands and knowledge about the plants and animals that make their home there.

These native prairie curriculum units are designed to directly match the learning objectives of the Saskatchewan Core Curricula. Further, they use our native plants, wildlife and landscapes as the examples for plants, animals, habitats and ecosystems. Lessons are supplemented by quality environmental education programs such as Project WILD and Below Zero, Project WET, and Focus on Forests Saskatchewan. Additionally, the lessons include resources that have been recently developed in Saskatchewan.

We hope that you enjoy teaching these units and that your students enjoy learning about the unique plants, wildlife and landscapes in our home place, the Saskatchewan native prairie.

Environmental Education Unit
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority