

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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BIG BASIN PRAIRIE-ST. JACOB'S WELL NAMED NATIONAL LANDMARK, DOLE ANNOUNCES

WASHINGTON -- The 1,818-acre Big Basin Prairie Preserve - St. Jacob's Well, south of Minneola in Clark County, has been officially entered in the National Registry of Natural Landmarks at Washington, D.C., Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) announced today.

The area represents an excellent example of "collapse features" formed by groundwater geologic processes. One of the geologic "sinks," St. Jacob's Well, is well-known historically as a famous watering place. The 1,800-acre grassland is healthy bluestem-grama prairie, which is intensively grazed elsewhere in the central Great Plains.

The purpose of the Natural Landmark designation is to identify and recognize geological or ecological areas of national significance. Potential landmarks are chosen through studies undertaken by the secretary of interior in accordance with the Historic Sites Act of 1935.

Since acquiring the Big Basin Prairie Preserve project in 1974, the Kansas Fish and Game Commission has begun restoring the land to its original condition. Many of the natural forms and native grasses are now found throughout the prairie. Antelope were recently released on the Big Basin project and native wildlife populations are thriving.

Long-range plans for the area will be to maintain it in its natural state and to utilize the area as an educational center, providing opportunities for conservation education and research along ecological and biological lines.

The preserve is open to the public with restrictions on vehicular use.