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CONIFEROUS FOREST SYMPOSIUM SET AT UM

MISSOULA---

Dozens of internationally noted scholars and researchers will gather at the University of Montana in Missoula next September for a regional symposium on the Coniferous Forest of the Northern Rocky Mountains.

The symposium has resulted from University planning for the Center for Natural Resources.

Dr. Richard D. Taber, UM forestry professor and associate director of the Montana Forest and Conservation Experiment Station, has served as planning director for the center and the symposium.

Dr. Taber said the coniferous forest symposium provides a logical start for the center's activities. It also is the first of a series of Montana-sponsored gatherings intended to contribute to the International Biological Program.

The center was incorporated and funded by the University of Montana Foundation in November 1966. It since has conducted planning under a National Science Foundation grant of \$30,000.

The symposium on September 18-20, will consider questions of basic biology, man's uses and human institutions affecting coniferous or cone-bearing forest species.

The Center for Natural Resources seeks to promote rational decisions affecting the use of natural resources.

Therefore, the center's objectives are to improve methods of accumulating and retrieving scientific data, using the data in broad studies of the present and potential conservation and administration of natural resources.

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As the center creates a scholarly climate for intensive investigation of contemporary natural resource use and preservation problems, it will serve as a clearing house for information, help avoid redundancy in costly efforts and bring together persons of similar research interests, Dr. Taber said.

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