

Nebraska National Forest and National Grasslands Ranger Roll Call

Prepared by Dave Cawrse March 2022

Niobrara Forest Reserve was established as the by the General Land Office in Nebraska on April 16, 1902 with 123,779 acres through Proclamation 470 issued by President Theodore Roosevelt. It became the **Niobrara National Forest** on March 4, 1907.

Similarly, **Dismal Forest Reserve** was established as the by the General Land Office in Nebraska on April 16, 1902 with 85,123 acres through Proclamation 471 issued by President Theodore Roosevelt. It became the **Niobrara National Forest** on March 4, 1907.

The **North Platte Forest Reserve** was established on March 10th, 1906, by 34 Stat. 3193 with 347,170 acres. It became the **North Platte National Forest** on March 4, 1907. On March 1st, 1913, the land was deleted and opened for homesteading.

On July 2, 1908 the **Nebraska National Forest** was established by consolidation of Dismal River, Niobrara, and North Platte National Forests by Executive Order 908. Total area was 556,072 acres; and the other National Forest names (Niobrara, Dismal, and North Platte) were discontinued. When the North Platte Division was deleted in 1913, Nebraska National Forest acreage was reduced to 208,902. The Dismal River Division became the Bessey Ranger District in 1925.

The Fort Pierre and Oglala National Grasslands and the native ponderosa pine forest of Nebraska's Pine Ridge area were added to the National Forest System in the 1950's. The nearly 1.1 million acres administered by the Nebraska National Forests & Grasslands Supervisor are scattered across a large arc extending from central Nebraska west to the northern Panhandle, into southwestern South Dakota and on east to the state's center.

On October 15, 1971, President Richard Nixon designated the Niobrara Division the **Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest** after former Governor Samuel R. McKelvie.

Sources:

- 1) Written communication with Jack Isaacs and his staff. Jack is currently the Supervisor of Nebraska National Forest and Associated Grasslands (2022).
- 2) Forest Service Organizational Directories, as requested from Forest Service History Society – Specific pages for Nebraska National Forest library@foresthistory.org
- 3) Forest Service History Society – Organizational directories 1904-1909
- 4) ESTABLISHMENT AND MODIFICATION OF NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARIES AND NATIONAL GRASSLANDS A CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD 1891 - 2012 FS-612 United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Lands and Realty Management Staff Washington, D.C. 2012

Dismal Forest Reserve (Established 1902)

C.A. Scott 1904 – 1907

Renamed Dismal Division

Williams Mast	1908 - 1909
R.G. Pierce	1910 – 1912
H. Earl French	1912 – 1914
Fred R. Johnson	1915 – 1916
Jay Higgins	1917 – 1921
John A. Lubbe	1922 – 1925

Renamed Bessey Ranger District

M.S. Hulse	1926 – 1929
Roland Rotty	1930 – 1934
Fred Newcomer	1935 – 1937
Lawrence H. Carr	1938 – 1939
Donald W. Smith	1940 – 1942
Dwight A. Hester	1943 – 1944
Ralph R. Hill	1945
Morley Brandborg	1946
Russell K. Smith	1947 – 1953
John D. Grover	1954 – 1955
Gerald Mayberry	1958 – 1960
Lloyd D. Todd	1961 – 1963
Henry Bond	1964 – 1967
Dan Heinz	1968 – 1973
LaVerne Schultz	1974 – 1978
Warren DuBois	1979 – 1982
Mack Devereaux	1983 – 1997
Don Carpenter	1998 – 2001
Patty Barney	2002 – 2008
Terry Baker	2009 – 2011
Tim Buskirk	2012 – 2014
Julie Bain	2015 – present

Niobrara Forest Reserve (Established 1902)

C.A. Scott 1904 – 1907

Renamed Niobrara Division

Williams Mast	1908 - 1909
R.G. Pierce	1910 – 1912
H. Earl French	1912 – 1914
Fred R. Johnson	1915 – 1916
Jay Higgins	1917 – 1920
John G. Lord	1921 – 1943
Charles W. Stavely	1945 – 1957

Clarence R. Schwartz	1958 – 1961
Renamed Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest	
Martin Jetley	1962 – 1963
James Grace	1964
Lee Jenson	1968 – 1969
Billy Hardman	1970 – 1973

Merged with Bessey RD

North Platte Forest Reserve (Established 1906)

C.A. Scott	1907
Renamed North Platte Division	
Williams Mast	1908 - 1909
R.G. Pierce	1910 – 1912
Land Deleted	

Fall River Ranger Ranger District (western portion of Buffalo Gap National Grassland)

Leonard Noble	1961 – 1964
Robert M. Case	1965 – 1967
George H. Geiger	1968 – 1980
Steve Libby	1981 – 1985
Bob Childress	1986 – 1997
Clint Kyle	1998 – 2002
Mike McNeil	2003 – 2019
Julie Wheeler	2020 – present

Ft. Pierre Ranger District (Includes Ft. Pierre National Grassland)

Tony DeToy	1991 – 2008
Ruben Leal	2009 – 2012
Dan Svingen	2014 – present

Pine Ridge Ranger District (includes Oglala National Grassland)

Charles Stavely	1958 – 1961
Martin Jetley	1962 – 1964
Clifford R. Van Doren	1965 – 1968
Wallace C. Chesbro	1969 – 1976
J. Phil James	1977 – 1980
Marvin Liewer	1981 – 1994
Patricia Irwin	1995 – 1999
Charles Marsh	2000 – 2011
John Gresinger	2012 – 2014
Tim Buskirk	2015 - present