

# 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 10<sup>th</sup>, 1906, by 34 Stat. 3193 with 347,170 acres. It became the **North Platte National Forest** on March 4, 1907. On March 1<sup>st</sup>, 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@foresthistor.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. Stavelly 1945 – 1957

Clarence R. Schwartz	1958 – 1961
<b>Renamed Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest</b>	
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
<b>Renamed North Platte Division</b>	
Williams Mast	1908 - 1909
R.G. Pierce	1910 – 1912
<b>Land Deleted</b>	

**Fall River 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