

This cedar, from the banks of the Niobrara, is a symbol of the Niobrara Valley Preserve's rich natural heritage. In branding it, we honor the valley's long ranching tradition—each has sustained the other for more than 100 years and they depend on each other to thrive in the future.

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NIORARA VALLEY PRESERVE © MICHAEL FORSEBERG WWW.MICHAELFORSEBERG.COM

The Nature Conservancy 
SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH

Looking forward,
looking back

The Nature Conservancy on the Niobrara

In celebrating 25 years in the Niobrara Valley, we wish to recognize the unique community of ranchers, friends and neighbors who have helped to make this one of the most successful, dynamic projects in The Nature Conservancy's history.

Our celebration also prompts us to look back with gratitude and appreciation to the ranching families who managed this place so carefully for so many years. We build on their commitment to the future and their deep concern for the land.

The occasion of the Niobrara Valley Preserve's 25th anniversary is but one brief moment in time for this ageless landscape. But it prompts us to reflect on how far we have come in our quest to preserve the Niobrara. It reminds us that here, the natural beauty and character of this place will endure well beyond the next 25 years, leaving a lasting legacy for future generations.

“The Niobrara Valley Preserve still looks today as it did when I first saw it in the 1960s and as it must have when Native Americans camped on the banks of the river. It is comforting to know that future generations will have the opportunity to experience this place like I did. The Conservancy's sustainable management approach assures the preserve will continue to be the ‘crown jewel’ of the Sandhills.”

— Jim Van Winkle, Rancher and Sandhills Task Force Coordinator

“I've been coming to the Niobrara River Valley and the Sandhills every spring for more than 20 years and I'm always amazed at the abundance and variety of waterfowl and shorebirds here. Yet the grass that sustains them is also the economic heart of this area. The Conservancy's grasslands management program is a great example of a system that's both economically viable and environmentally sustainable.”

— Phil James, Board of Directors, The Nature Conservancy,
Senior Vice President, ConAgra Foods

“Growing up on the north side of the river, I never dreamed I'd be doing this for a living one day. This is a very special place for me. My parents fought to keep the valley as a ranching community and now my siblings and I are working toward the same goal. The Conservancy holds a conservation easement on our family property which has helped keep it as one unit.”

— Richard Egelhoff, 23 year employee and Bison Manager,
Niobrara Valley Preserve

“The Niobrara River has always been a part of my life. As a young girl I loved feeling the cool water and clean sand while wading and fishing in the river. The Nature Conservancy's efforts here ensure that the river and the [fossil] quarry my father and his childhood friend discovered will always be protected and available to the world of science.”

— Barb Lamb, former Trustee, The Nature Conservancy in Nebraska,
daughter of renowned paleontologist Morris Skinner

