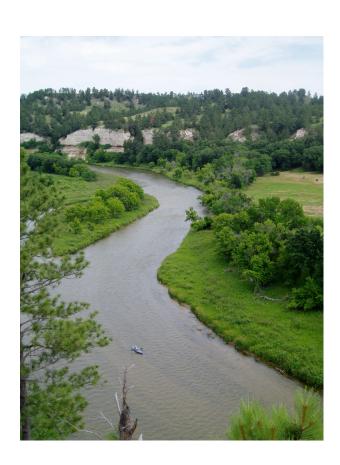


Niobrara National Scenic River Visitor Study



OMB Approval 1024-0224 (NPS#10-036)

Expiration date: 06-30-2011



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Niobrara National Scenic River 146 S. Hall St. P.O. Box 319 Valentine, NE 69201

Summer 2010

Dear Visitor:

Thank you for participating in this important study. Our goal is to learn about the expectations, opinions, and interests of visitors to Niobrara National Scenic River. This information will assist us in our efforts to better manage this park and to serve you.

This questionnaire is only being given to a select number of visitors, so your participation is very important. It should only take about 20 minutes to complete after your visit.

When your visit is over, please complete this questionnaire. Seal it with the stickers provided on the last page and drop it in any U.S. mailbox.

If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Littlejohn, NPS VSP Director, Park Studies Unit, College of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 441139, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83844-1139, phone: 208-885-7863, email: littlej@uidaho.edu.

We appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

Dan Foster Superintendent

Mr. a Fester

Niobrara National Scenic River

This visitor study is partially funded by Recreation Fee Program funding.

DIRECTIONS

At the end of your visit:

- 1) Please have the selected individual complete this questionnaire.
- 2) Answer the questions carefully since each question is different.
- 3) For questions that use circles (O), please mark your answer by filling in the circle with black or blue ink, or a #2 pencil-

Like this:



Not like this: (1)





- 4) Seal it with the stickers provided.
- 5) Drop it in a U.S. mailbox.

Thank you!

PRIVACY ACT and PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT statement:

16 U.S.C. 1a-7 authorizes collection of this information. This information will be used by park managers to better serve the public. Response to this request is voluntary. No action may be taken against you for refusing to supply the information requested. Your name is requested for follow-up mailing purposes only. When analysis of the questionnaire is completed, all name and address files will be destroyed. Thus the permanent data will be anonymous. Please do not put your name or that of any member of your personal group on the questionnaire. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Burden estimate statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 20 minutes per response. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to Margaret Littlejohn, NPS Visitor Services Project, College of Natural Resources, University of Idaho, P.O. Box 441139, Moscow, ID, 83844-1139; email: littlej@uidaho.edu.

Your Visit To Niobrara National Scenic River

NOTE: In this questionnaire "personal group" is defined as anyone that you are visiting the park with, such as spouse, family, friends, etc. This does not include the larger group that you might be traveling with, such as school, church, scouts, or tour group.

- a) Prior to this visit, how did you and your personal group obtain information about Niobrara National Scenic River (NSR)? Please mark (●) all that apply in column (a).
 - b) If you were to visit Niobrara NSR in the future, how would you and your personal group prefer to obtain information about the park? Please mark (●) all that apply in column (b).

<u>a) P</u>	rior to this visit b)	Prior to future visits
Ο	Did not obtain information prior to visit → Go to par	rt b of this question
0	Chamber of commerce/welcome center	Ο
0	Friends/relatives/word of mouth	Ο
Ο	Inquiry to park via phone, mail, or email	Ο
Ο	Local businesses (motels, restaurants, outfitters, etc.	.) O
Ο	Maps/brochures/rack cards	Ο
Ο	Newspaper/magazine articles	Ο
Ο	Niobrara National Scenic River website: www.nps.go	ov/niob O
Ο	Other websites	O
0	Previous visits	Ο
0	School class/program	O
Ο	Social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	Ο
0	Television/radio programs/DVDs	Ο
Ο	Travel agent	Ο
Ο	Travel guides/tour books (such as AAA, etc.)	Ο
Ο	Other (Please specify below)	Ο
Prior to	this visit Prior to future visits	

	,	om the sources marked in column (a), did you and your personal group receive by type of information about the park that you needed?
	Ο	No O Yes → Go to Question 2
		NO, what type of park information did you and your personal group need that is not available? Please be specific.
2.	,	ow did this visit to Niobrara NSR fit into your personal group's travel plans? ease mark (●) one .
	Ο	Niobrara National Scenic River was the primary destination
	Ο	Niobrara National Scenic River was one of several destinations
	Ο	Niobrara National Scenic River was not a planned destination
	b) If N	Niobrara NSR was not your primary destination, what was?
3.		nis trip, what were the reasons that you and your personal group came to eara NSR? Please mark (●) all that apply.
	Ο	Enjoy recreation in the park (floating, hiking, camping, hunting, etc.)
	Ο	Enjoy scenery
	Ο	Experience quiet/natural sounds and solitude
	Ο	Socialize with family/friends
	Ο	View or study plants or animals
	Ο	Other (Please specify)
4.	and the various Game Natur this v	rara National Scenic River (NSR) is managed by the National Park Service the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through partnerships and agreements with us agencies and organizations such as The Niobrara Council, The Nebraska e and Parks Commission, The Nature Conservancy, The Middle Niobrara ral Resources District, and with the cooperation of private landowners. Prior to isit, were you aware of the different entities that collaboratively administer this Please mark (•) one.
	O	Yes, aware of the different groups managing Niobrara NSR
	Ο	No, thought Niobrara NSR was managed by National Park Service only
	Ο	No, thought Niobrara NSR was managed by other organizations, not by National Park Service
	Ο	No, only aware of private landowners, but not other organizations
	Ο	Didn't know who managed Niobrara NSR

5.	River	e list below, please mark (●) all the l that you and your personal group vis p find the locations.	ocation sited du	ns at Niobrara National Scenic Iring this visit. Use the map below					
	0	Cornell Bridge Landing	0	Brewer Bridge Landing					
	0	Ft. Niobrara Nat'l Wildlife Refuge	0	Rocky Ford Landing					
	0	Berry Bridge Landing	0	Norden Bridge					
	Ο	Smith Falls State Park	Ο	Niobrara Valley Preserve - The Nature Conservancy (TNC)					
	0	Other (Please specify)		``					
		Highway 12							
	E L	Berry Bridge Bridge Anding Smith Falls State Park Ft. Niobrara Nat'l Wildlife Valentine Refuge Brewer Bridge Landing		Rocky Ford Landing Norden Bridge TNC					
6.		sing the map above, which location and your group visit first ? Please list o							
	First location visited								
	b) Us ar	sing the map above, which location and your group visit last ? Please list o	t Niobr	ara National Scenic River did you e.					
	La	ast location visited							
7.	your p	is visit, how much time in total (both personal group spend visiting Niobrand), or 3/4.							
		Number of hours if less than 24 h OR	ours						

Number of days if 24 hours or more

- a) As you were planning your trip to Niobrara NSR, which activities did you and your personal group expect to include on this visit? Please mark (●) all that apply in column (a).
 - b) On this visit, in which activities did you and your personal group participate at Niobrara NSR? Please mark (•) all that apply in column (b).

<u>a) Exp</u>	pected activity	b) Activity on this visit
0	Attending ranger programs	Ο
0	Camping	Ο
0	Canoeing/kayaking/rafting	Ο
0	Enjoying natural quiet	Ο
0	Fishing	Ο
0	Hiking	0
0	Horseback riding	0
0	Photography	0
0	Picnicking	0
0	Recreational sports (Frisbee, horseshoes, etc.)	Ο
0	Star-gazing	Ο
0	Swimming	0
0	Tubing	Ο
0	Viewing wildlife/birds	Ο
0	Other (Please specify)	Ο
Expected _	This visit	
•	nich one of the above activities was most important oup on this visit? Please list only one response.	to you and your personal
	ere there any activities that you and your personal g	roup had expected
0	Yes O No → Go on to Question	9

	e) If Y that	ES, why weren't you a t apply.	able to do wh	at you wanted to do? Pl	ease mark (●) all				
	Ο	Financial constrair	nts						
	Ο	Time constraints							
	Ο	Weather condition	S						
	Ο	Other reasons (Ple	ease specify)						
9.				s and facilities that you o ic River during this visit					
	,	kt, for only those serv ase rate their importar		acilities that you or your personal group used r visit from 1-5.					
 c) Finally, for only those services and facilities that you or your personal group used, please rate their quality from 1-5. 									
				b) If used, how important? 1=Not important	c) If used, what quality? 1=Very poor				
a) Vi Mark		ervices/facilities use	ed	2=Somewhat important 3=Moderately important 4=Very important 5=Extremely important	2=Poor 3=Average 4=Good 5=Very good				
	Ο	Access for people wi	th disabilities						
	Ο	Assistance from park	staff						
	Ο	Niobrara NSR brochu	ure/map						
	0	Orientation/park infor	rmation						
	0	Park website: www.n	. •						
	0	Ranger talks/program	ns						
	0	Restrooms							
	0	Signs along the river							
10.	a) Cor you	npared to what you a r overall experience a	nd your perso It Niobrara NS	onal group expected, ho SR? Please mark (●) or	w would you rate ne.				
	Excee	eded expectations	About the s	same Worse th	an expected				
		0	Ο		0				
		is visit did not meet yould be provided to imp		ons, what additional fac perience?	ilities or services				

11.	a)	to or d	uring this		rate how hel	pful the web		ps.gov/niob) prior in planning your				
		Ο	Did not	use the park v	vebsite → 0	So to Ques	tion 12					
	Not at all helpful		Somewhat helpful	Modera helpfi	•	Very helpful	Extremely helpful					
		Ο		Ο	Ο		0	Ο				
	b)			park website gest to improv			"Somew	hat helpful," what				
12.	a)	a) Whether or not you used them on this visit, please rate the importance from 1-5 of the following commercial/outfitter services and facilities to you and your personal group.										
	b)			o) all the com group used d				lities that you or				
	c)	•		those comm used, please				ies that you or your				
	a)			t? (Please rate on this visit.)		b) Comme outfitter se	rvices	c) If used, what quality ?				
	2=		ortant hat import tely impor			and facilities used during this visit Mark (●)		1=Very poor 2=Poor 3=Average 4=Good				
		Very imp Extreme	portant ely importa	ant				5=Very good				
			Campg	rounds			0					
			Restroc	oms			0					
			_ Canoe/	kayak/tube re	ental		Ο					
			Custom	er service			Ο					
			Educati	on/river inforr	er information		Ο					
		River safety orientation			on	O						
			Shuttle	transportation	า	Ο						

13. During this visit to Niobrara National Scenic River, please indicate how the following elements may have affected your personal group's park experience. Please mark (●) **one** response for each element.

Element	Detracted from	No effect	Added to	Did not experience
Availability of ranger interpretive programs	S O	0	Ο	Ο
Consumption of alcohol by other visitors	Ο	0	Ο	Ο
Development along the river (towers, houses, barns, etc.)	0	0	Ο	Ο
Litter on the river (glass, plastic, Styrofoam)	Ο	Ο	0	Ο
Noisy visitors	Ο	Ο	0	Ο
Nudity	Ο	Ο	0	Ο
Public access areas to the river	Ο	Ο	0	Ο
Ranger presence	Ο	Ο	0	Ο
Signage along the river	Ο	Ο	0	Ο
Visitors using good river ethics	Ο	Ο	0	Ο
Visitors using poor river ethics	0	Ο	0	0

14. On this visit to Niobrara National Scenic River, compared to what you expected, how crowded did you and your personal group feel at the following locations? Please mark (●) one response for each location.

	How crowded?							
Location	Less than expected	About same as expected	More than expected	Did not know what to expect	Did not use the facility			
In campgrounds	0	Ο	Ο	0	Ο			
On landings/boat launch areas	0	Ο	0	Ο	Ο			
On the river	0	Ο	0	Ο	Ο			
On the roads	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	0			
On trails	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	0			

15.	a) Did yo					any	equi	ipment	(canoe,	kayak	, tu	be,	tank	, .,
	etc.) f	rom a c	omm	nercial ou	ıtfitter?									

O Yes O No → Go to Question	Ο,	Yes	O N) → (Go to	Question	16
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		ark (●) one a			by the con	nmercial ou		·	
	•		es/es		No		Dia not	receive p	re-trip sate	ety briefing
	c) If y	you a	nswered	d "No," p	lease	explain.				
16.	featu how	ires a impoi	nd scen tant wa	ery and s the pro	visito tectio	r experien on of the for r each attr	olished to p ces that de ollowing to ibute/resou	epend on the you and yource.	nese. On to our persor	this visit, nal group?
	Attr	ibute/	resourc	е		Not important		Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
	Clea	an air.	/visibility	/		Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	0
	Clea	an wa	ter			0	Ο	0	Ο	0
	Dar	k, sta	rry nigh	sky		0	Ο	0	Ο	0
	Edu	ıcatioı	nal oppo	ortunities		0	Ο	0	Ο	0
	Geo	ologic	feature	5		Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	0
	Nat	ural q	uiet/sou	nds of na	ature	Ο	Ο	0	Ο	0
	Plant diversity			Ο	0	0	Ο	0		
				ortunitie amping, e		Ο	0	Ο	0	0
	Sce	nic vi	ews			Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	0
	Soli	tude				Ο	0	0	Ο	0
	Wild	dlife				Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	0
17.	,	•					cenic River tending rar		•	you and
	Ο	Yes	, likely		O V	No, un	likely Question	O 18 k	Not sure	
	b) If	YES,	how lor	g should	I the	orogram b	e? Please	mark (●) o	one.	
	Ο	Less	s than ½	hour	Ο	½ hour	O 1h	our	O More	than 1 hour

12				Niobi	rara Natio	onal So	cenic River	Visitor Study			
18.	, yoʻl	ou were to visit Niobra and your personal grout? Please mark (●) a	oup be	most in							
	Ο	Not interested in learning about the park → Go to Question 19									
	Ο	Cliff and canyon rock formations, waterfalls and erosion effects									
	0	Diversity and identity of plants and animals									
	0	Human history of the area									
	0	Nationally and internationally significant fossil finds									
	O Threats to high water quality and consistent quantity										
	O Variety of recreation available										
	O Other (Please specify)										
	 b) If you were to visit in the future, how would you and your personal group prefer to learn about the natural and cultural history of Niobrara National Scenic River Please mark (●) all that apply. 										
	O Not interested in learning about natural and cultural history Guestion							Go to Question 19			
	O Films, movies, slideshows					0	Children'	s programs			
	0	O Guided activities/informational programs				0	Self-guid	ed tours			
	Ο	Outdoor exhibits				0	Special e	events			
	Ο	Park website: www.n	ps.gov	/niob		0	Voluntee	r opportunities			
	Ο	Printed materials (bro	chures	s, books	s, maps, e	etc.)					
	Ο	Roving rangers availa	able to	answer	question	IS					
	0	Electronic media/dev cell phone tours, i			•		•				
	Ο	Other (Please specify	/)								
19.		this visit, did anyone i ticipating in any activit	-	•	•	nave d	ifficulty acc	essing or			
	Ο	Yes	0	No 🗗	Go to	Quest	ion 20				
	,	ES, what activities or ticipating in during this			•	` '	e difficulty	accessing or			

20.	On this visit, were you and your personal group part of one of the following types of organized groups? Please mark (•) one for each.									
	a) Commercial guided tour group) Yes	Ο	No		
	b) School/educational group) Yes	Ο	No		
	c) Other group (scouts, work, church, etc.)) Yes	0	No		
	d) If you were with one of these organized groups, about how many people including yourself, were in this group?									
			_ Number of p							
21.	a) On this visit, what kind of personal group group) were you with? Please mark (●)				ip (not one .	o (not guided tour/school/other organized				
		Ο	Alone		Ο	Friends				
		Ο	Family		Ο	Family and	d friends			
		0	Other (Please	specify)						
	h)	On th	ie vieit how m	any neonle were in	. vour r	personal aro	un inclu	dina voure	edlf?	
	b) On this visit, how many people were in your personal group, including you									
	Number of people in personal group									
	 c) On this visit, how many vehicles did you and your personal group use to arrive the park? Please write "0" if you did not arrive by vehicle. 									
	Number of vehicles									
22.	For you and your personal group on this visit, please provide the following information. If you do not know the answer, leave blank.									
				b) U.S. ZIP cod		lumber of v (includ	risits to		NSR	
			a) Current age	name of coun other than U.		c) In past months	12 c) Lifetime date	to	
Yo	urs	elf			_					
Member #2					_					
Member #3										
Member #4										
Member #5										
Member #6 _										
Member #7										

Nichroro	Motional	Cassia	Divos	\/:a:tar	C4d
Niobrara	เงลแบบสเ	Scenic	Rivei	VISILOI	Sluuv

O

None

Service(s)

26.	a) Which category be (●) one.	st repre	sents your annual h	ousehold ir	ncome? Please mark		
0	Less than \$24,999	0	\$50,000-\$74,999	Ο	\$150,000-\$199,999		
0	\$25,000-\$34,999	Ο	\$75,000-\$99,999	Ο	\$200,000 or more		
0	\$35,000-\$49,999	0	\$100,000-\$149,999	Ο	Do not wish to answer		
	b) How many people are in your household? Number of people						
27. a) On this visit, what did you and your personal group like most about your vinibrara National Scenic River?							
-	b) On this visit, what on Niobrara National S	•	,	roup like lea	ast about your visit to		
28.	If you were a manage what would you and y		•		tional Scenic River,		
29.	Is there anything else visit to Niobrara Natio			up would like	e to tell us about your		
30.	Overall, how would yo opportunities provided visit? Please mark (•	d to you	the quality of the fac and your personal o	ilities, servic group at Nio	es, and recreational brara NSR during this		
	Very poor	Poor	Average	Good	Very good		
	Ο	0	Ο	Ο	Ο		

Thank you for your help! Please seal the questionnaire with the stickers provided and drop it in any U.S. mailbox.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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Park Studies Unit
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University of Idaho
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Moscow, Idaho 83844-1139