

## News from Nan

### NEWS 'N' VIEWS

# ONE OF OUR FAVORITE WEBSITES: PRAIRIE ECOLOGIST

SEPTEMBER 25, 2018 | ANNA



### Photo of the Week – September 21, 2018

by [Chris Helzer](#)

I spent much of this week in northern Nebraska, attending various events and staying at the Niobrara Valley Preserve. It rained much of the time, but I caught a break in the clouds Monday evening and happened upon the bison in our east herd as the sun was going down. I spent about an hour and a half tagging along with them as they moved slowly toward the setting sun. If you haven't spent much time with bison, one of the things you notice immediately is how quiet they are. Apart from some contented grunting, the primary sounds I heard as I accompanied them was the crunching of their hooves in the grass and the sound of them tearing mouthfuls of food from the prairie. It was very peaceful, and provided the perfect accompaniment to the sun going down over the hills.



I'm sure many of you are as sick and tired of the usual day's "news" as we are. If so, we have a recommendation: The Prairie Ecologist ( <https://prairieecologist.com/> ), a blog written by Chris Helzer, the Nature Conservancy's Director of Science in Nebraska.

Chris works on land management issues and raises awareness about the value of prairies and prairie conservation through his photography, writing, and presentations.

His photos are spectacular (especially his close-ups), and his writing is charming and full of subtle humor and wisdom. Yes, nature is also a dog-eat-dog world (or should I say "bug eat plant" world), but it can be a

lot more interesting than the “dog-eat-dog” world (or should I say “Reps-eat-Dems” world) that exhausts and depresses us these days.

◀ 2018   ◀ CHRIS HELZER   ◀ NATURE CONSERVANCY   ◀ NEBRASKA   ◀ NIOBRARA RIVER   ◀ PLATTE RIVER   ◀ PRAIRIE  
◀ PRAIRIE ECOLOGIST