

# Concerns Over Northern Plains National Heritage Area

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**KFYR-TV**

Landowners concerned about a federally-designated area along the Missouri River met with those who support it this evening to try to iron out those concerns. The land, located between Huff and the Knife River Indian Village, has already been designated the Northern Plains Heritage Area. Those who support the designation say it could bring \$10 million in federal funds for historic sites over the next 15 years, helping to boost tourism, jobs and economic development.

But landowners in the area don't like the idea of the government having any right to the land. One board member explained that landowners have nothing to worry about.

"This will mostly apply to land that is already public. Nobody, nobody wants to touch your private land and tell you what to do with it," says Tracy Potter, a board member with the Northern Plains National Heritage Area.

A community member said even though there were close to 200 people at the event showing their disapproval, nothing will be done.

"Our input will not make any difference to you on this board, you will take our input and you will shove it under the table and never see the light of day," said Bismarck landowner Margaret Sitte.

The Northern Plains Heritage Foundation will be holding more public meetings in Mercer, McLean, Oliver, Morton and Burleigh Counties to gain public input.