Video Script

TITLE:

SERIES: Dakota Pathways: A History

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FADE IN:

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| 1. Open | Nat Sound Up and Under  Music  Music Under |
| 2. Corn field. | Narrator: East River… |
| 3. Cattle grazing West River | West River. |
| 4. CU East River Cornfield then West River CU Steer grazing Dissolve to aerial of Missouri River and half-dissolve SD Map with river dividing it. Fade off river shot to reveal: | South Dakotans seem to be always talking about East River and West River, and visitors sometimes have no idea where those places are. The names have to do with the Missouri River, the great water that runs through the middle of our state. |
| 5. MAP:South Dakota highlighting East River | Everything east of the Missouri is…East River. |
| 6. MAP:South Dakota highlighting West River | The other side is West River. |
| 7. Western landscape, then cowboy herding cattle.  Sioux Falls Minnesota Avenue  Soybean field, small town street, cornfield in rainstorm. | The reason South Dakotans talk so much about the two parts of their state is that life, in many ways, is different from one half to the other. East River feels like the Midwestern part of the United States: corn and soybean fields, towns fairly close together, plenty of rain most years. |
| 8. MAP of SD pan to show Minneapolis, Minnesota, Dissolve to Vikings football fans. | East River people, if they want to visit a big, out-of-state city, might choose Minneapolis. Each fall, they’re most likely to be Vikings football fans. |
| 9. SD MAP, pan to locate Denver Colorado Dissolve to: Broncos football fans. | In the West, Denver is the big city people like to visit, and the Broncos are the most popular football team. |
| 10. East River cows in field  11. West River aerial of farm.  Rain Clouds over Spearfish Mountain , Rapid City WS  Sioux Falls WS | Of course, none of this holds true all the time. There are some ranches East River, and some farms West River. There are years when it rains too much West River and not enough East River. You can even find Vikings fans in Rapid City, and Broncos fans in Sioux Falls. |
| 12. Farmers in farm implement or seed caps, young cowboy on horse with cowboy hat.. | But the expected differences between Midwest and West hold up much of the time—right down to the way folks dress. |
| 13. Minneapolis Skyline  14. Downtown Minneapolis | South Dakota isn’t alone in being a state split this way. In Minnesota, people talk about the metro area, where millions of people live in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. |
| 15. Aerial of Minnesota Lake | The rest of Minnesota they call outstate. |
| 16. Nebraska farmer plowing. | Both Nebraska and North Dakota are split east… |
| 17. Chimney Rock.  18. SUPER: Chimney Rock, western Nebraska | …and west, just like our state. |
| 19. Building rainclouds | How did South Dakota get divided between East River and West River? Well, it all started with something we talked about earlier. |
|  | Rain. |
| 20. Re-creation of traveling American Indians with travois,  22. Fur trappers. | American Indians who crossed the plains knew they found less rain and snow the farther west they traveled. European explorers and fur trappers noticed the same thing in the 1700s and 1800s. |
| 23. MAP showing meridian markers.  24. MAP Move in to 100th meridian | European people measured the world east to west with imaginary lines on their maps and globes called meridians. The 100th meridian runs right through the middle of South Dakot |
| 25. MAP: showing the 100th meridian coming down through South Dakota. | The 100th meridian, people in the 1800s believed, was especially important. |
| 26. Old-time farm with horse-powered plow. | East of the 100th there was usually plenty of rain, and farms would likely develop and succeed, along with towns. |
| 27. Dry area near Castle Rocks  Deserted ranch building in Red Canyon region.  Red Canyon, with wolf howls. | But old-timers called the country on the other side of the 100th meridian, “west of 20 inches,” meaning west of where it rained at least 20 inches of water most years. Without that much rain, people believed, lots of farms would fail—or never get started in the first place. Some people called the region the Great American Desert… |
| 28. Lone Wolfe  29. Rattlesnake. | lonely, dangerous, and likely to stay that way. |
| 30. Re-creations of old-time farming techniques. | But even where the rains came regularly, life was a challenge. Settlers who came to eastern South Dakota in the 1860s and 1870s worked harder on their farms than most of us can imagine today. Every spring, with horses and mules, they plowed and dragged their fields so the soil would be as powdery as possible for planting. |
| 31. Old time farming: SUPER: Wheat, corn soybeans barley and oats. | They planted crops…wheat, corn, soybeans, barley, and oats. |
| 32. Old time farming: weeding | All summer long they protected their crops by pulling weeds that could destroy their plants. All the time they knew there was no protection from other crop-killers… |
| 33. Dark hail clouds. | …like hail. |
| 34. Close-ups Grasshoppers  35. CU Beetles. | Or grasshoppers and beetles. |
| 36. Various stages of old time haying.  37. POP-UP FACT: Hay is grass, or alfalfa, that’s dried so it remains good food for animals in winter. | At the same time, during the hottest part of the year, farm families were cutting, tying and storing the hay in haylofts. |
| 38. Dairy cows, milking, and other chores.  Feeding chickens, slopping pigs, drawing water from old pump,  Old time threshing | The animals that ate the most eastern South Dakota hay were dairy cows, which farmers milked twice a day, every day of the year. Farms almost always had chickens, and lots of them raised pigs. The first farm work most kids did was feeding animals and giving them water. In the fall, when crops were done growing, everyone helped with harvesting-—gathering the corn, beans, and grain. Tasks were never finished and, said one farmer, the way members of these families showed they loved one another was by their hard work. |
| 39. Old Time threshing with neighbors helping | When unusually big jobs, or illness, kept a farmer from getting everything done, neighbors helped. |
| 40. Photos of farmers, railroads and other activities representing the populist movement.  PHOTO: Adrew E. Lee, Governor of SD 1897-1901 Populist Party | Of course, when it was time to sell their crops, milk, animals, and other products, farmers believed they should get most of the money. Sometimes, though, it seemed like railroads that hauled the products, and other companies farmers did business with, took most of the money. So in 1890 farmers got together at Huron and started an organization that became known as the Populist Party. It was a political party, like Democrat and Republican organizations. Populists fought for fair railroad prices and for good farm prices controlled by the government. |
| 41. Reenactments of Old time farming,  42. DISSOLVE TO: PHOTOS: Reservation life Circa 1900 | Hard work, neighbors helping neighbors, getting involved in politics so that things would be fair for even the smallest farm business…all this made South Dakotans proud to be farmers. The United States government looked at the farmers’ success and decided the best thing that could happen American Indian people was to become farmers. It was something entirely new to these people, whose parents and grandparents had fed themselves by being fine hunters… |
| 43. CU: Bison herd running  44. CU: American Indians on horses driving bison.  45. PHOTO: Indian with plow horse.  Early Sisseton tribal members. | especially bison hunters. But almost all the bison had been killed. So there was little choice but to try farming.  Those living on the Sisseton Reservation… |
| 46. Map showing Sisseton Reservation’s location. | …in East River, had some success with crops. |
| 47. Add West River reservations to the map, dissolve to PHOTO MONTAGE: Pine ridge reservation life.  48. Old-time Texas cowboys driving herd of longhorns.  49. WEB POINTER | But people living on West River reservations, beyond 20 inches of rain, had trouble. Not only were they expected to learn everything about farming immediately, but they were to grow crops without enough water. It was impossible.  MUSIC UP AND UNDER  About the same time, another people, far to the south in Texas, found something that grew well West River.  Cattle. Not dairy cows for milk, but cattle for beef. Texas cattlemen learned they got better beef if they herded their animals hundreds of miles north, to a land they called Dakota, to grasslands that once fed bison. Moving the cattle north were some of the most famous characters in American history: cowboys. |
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| 50. WS: Cattle grazing…dissolving to shots of snowfall and blizzard.   1. Cattle half-seen through snowfall. 2. Cowboy riding horse off to Texas | At first, cattlemen thought West River got so little snow that animals could eat grass year round. Then came harsh winters of 1886, 1887…and especially 1888. Grass was buried under heavy snow, thousands and thousands of cattle died, and lots of cattlemen returned to Texas to stay. Those who remained started ranches where they cut hay, just like East River farmers, so they could feed their animals through snowy winters. |
| 1. PHOTOS: old-time branding.   AERIAL wild horses running over open range. | The first ranches had no fences. Ranchers burned marks—called brands—into their cattle. Each ranchers’ brand was different, so they’d know who owned each animal when the cattle got mixed together on the big, unfenced prairie. Cattlemen liked the idea of using the whole West River grassland, and they opposed anyone who wanted fences… |
| 1. Barbed-wire fences   Rack focus to Sheep.  Cowgirl mending fence. | especially folks who wanted to move in and raise sheep, which required fencing. But fences went up anyway, some built by cattlemen themselves, because they learned there was good money in raising sheep. |
| 55. Sheep Dissolve to Longhorns being herded across river. | Some years sheep made more money, and some years cattle did. It was smart to have both.  MUSIC CHANGE to Immigrants music. |
| 56. PHOTOS: Historical shots of homesteaders arriving West River, and of their sod houses.  POP-UP FACT: “In a 1902 roundup cowboys gathered cattle from all across West River, to make room for the newcomers.” | In the early 1900s, ranchers looked on in disbelief when the United States government started opening up West River land for farmers. Not enough rain, the cattlemen said.  MUSIC UP |
| 57. PHOTOS: Immigrant montage showing ranchers and west river sod busters, sod houses, railroads etc.. Ending with plowing with horses and mules. | MUSIC UNDER  But the government predicted “rain would follow the plow,” meaning if enough crops were planted, the plant life would put moisture into the air and create regular rainfall. |
| 58. PHOTOS: Old time plowing, mules and steam driven.  Deserted homestead West River Hot sunny sky, | If it worked—if rain followed the plow—West River would soon look just like East River. But it didn’t happen. Most West River farms dried up, failed, and were bought by ranchers for cattle and sheep.  MUSIC TRANSITION |
| 59. Orman Dam.  Old time windmills,  Modern irrigation system.  60. POP-UP FACT: “Moving water into dry land so it can be farmed is called irrigation.” | West River farms that succeeded were mostly along rivers and creeks, or in areas where dams were built to supply water for crops. Or wells dug to bring water up from the aquifers.  NAT SOUND UP AND UNDER |
| 61. Rodeo. | Just like farming, ranching became a proud tradition, with its own customs and celebrations. |
| 62. Aerial view of a ranch. | And while ranches… |
| 63. Aerial view of a farm.  And harvesting crops. | and farms are different in lots of ways, they combined to create the number-one money-maker ever for South Dakota: agriculture. Agriculture means growing plants or animals to sell as food… |
| 64. Shearing wool. | or as other products, like wool. |
| 65. Barge being loaded with grain  Large ship being pushed out to sea by tugs. | For more than a hundred years, the state’s agricultural products have been sold around the world. |
| 66. Various Early tractors.  67. POP-UP FACT: “To this day, how much power a tractor has is measured by how many horses would be needed to match it—called horsepower.” | Both farms and ranches changed in the 1900s because of machines, beginning with tractors more powerful than horses and mules. |
| 68. Hay-baler | Machines were developed for cutting hay… |
| 69. Cultivator. | killing weeds… |
| 70. Harvester. | and harvesting crops. |
| 71. Farmer working on machines. | The machines made farm work easier in some ways, but also made it necessary for farmers and ranchers to be good mechanics, able to keep the machines running. |
| 72. Shots of farm machines at work.  From smaller operations to large combines harvesting beans.  Aerial of large farm with cattle running. | The machines made it possible to farm or ranch bigger and bigger pieces of land, sometimes creating more work, not less. And because machines could do the work of many men and women, agriculture grew lonelier and lonelier. Starting in the 1960s, lots of farmers and ranchers and their families moved to town as big farms and ranches bought out smaller ones. |
| 73. WS thriving farm yard  74. DISSOVLE TO: deserted farmyard | The fields were still full of crops and animals. But some country houses and barns, once full of life and work, stood empty. |
| 75. MONTAGE of farming in1980s farm crisis, and headlines. | MUSIC UP AND UNDER  In the 1980s prices for farm and ranch products were low. At the same time, banks were charging lots of money for borrowing money… |
| 76. MONTAGE continues.  Ends with deserted farm. | and some farmers and ranchers had borrowed lots of money to pay for the latest equipment. All this added up to a sad situation where even more families, both East River and West River, had to give up on agriculture. |
|  | THEME MUSIC UP AND UNDER |
| 77. Active modern farming aerial shot Aerial showing good harvest. | But while agriculture has changed, it remains South Dakota’s number one business. |
|  | It’s likely to remain so for years to come. |
| 78. AERIAL of harvesting crops East River | And for those of us who live here, it’s what makes East River feel like East River… |
| 79. Horses being driven down a ravine by cowboys on horseback. | and West River like West River.  THEME MUSIC UP |
| 80. Close | Close. |