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“I think by 1851 our tribes are still in a state of shock and recovery. The loss of buffalo, the encroachment by that time—westward expansion was occurring.

Forts were being established. The fur trade was thriving. Life was changing for them; no longer were they able to go to their hunting grounds and bring home enough buffalo.”

Marilyn Hudson (Mandan/Hidatsa), NMAI Interview, August 2016

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By 1851 Northern Plains people faced enormous pressures and impacts on their traditional ways of life. Their leaders were forced to make hard choices under difficult circumstances.