The end of the Cowboy line  
By Darrell D. Wendt

The remaining eastern portion of the former Chicago & North Western’s “Cowboy Line” (most recently operated by the Fremont & Elkhorn Valley Railroad) are having rails removed from various road crossings between Hooper and Fremont, Nebraska (some 17 miles of remaining trackage). Almost all of the remaining tracks are submerged in thick brush and trees, having not been used for several years, especially between Nickerson and Hooper where a bridge near Nickerson was washed-out over a decade ago and was never replaced due to lack of funds. Recently the FEVR abandoned the remaining trackage from Nickerson to Fremont, since dinner train operations ended over one year ago.  
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Some of the tracks of the Cowboy Line are visible just east of Hooper near MP 15 embedded in a farm road crossing.
Just outside of Nickerson are the remaining tracks buried in thick foliage.

North of Nickerson is the signal relay shanty surrounded by overgrowth with some rail visible.

At Fremont and looking north from the road crossing, tracks have been removed crossing U.S. Highway 30 (West 23rd St.) This spelled doom to the FEVR and the C&NW Cowboy Line which ran from Fremont to Wyoming and into the Black Hills dating back to 1869.