2023 SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

SCR 4014

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

SCR 4014
2/9/2023

A concurrent resolution urging the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service to modify its proposed livestock management plan, and to continue to allow for interpretative, cultural, and historical purposes a herd of longhorn steers in the North Unit of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

9:00 AM Chairman Patten opened the meeting.
Chairman Patten and Senators Beard, Boehm, Kannianen, Magrum and Kessel were present.

Discussion Topics:

- Park management
- Livestock
- Historic value

9:00 AM Senator Bekkedahl introduced the resolution and testified #20019.

9:04 AM Representative Vicki Steiner spoke in favor of the resolution.

9:05 AM Sandi Tabor spoke in favor of the resolution and provided written testimony #20316.

9:20 AM Christine Kman, Chasing Horses Wild Horse Advocates, testified in favor of the resolution and provided written testimony #19984.

9:30 AM Marylu Weber, North Dakota Badlands Horse, President, testified in favor #19128.

9:36 AM Frank Kuntz testified in favor of the resolution #20317.

9:39 AM Sarah Otte Coleman, North Dakota Commerce Department Tourism and Marketing Division, testified in favor of the bill and provided written testimony #20253.

Additional written testimony:

Kim Strehlow #19588

Heather Szklarski #19601

Henry Weber #19644

Jamie Baldanza #19659, 19660

Syndi Miske #19683

Scott Musland #19684

Leroy Musland #19689

Margo Fochs #19696

Ann Ryan #19697, 19698

Chelsea Sorenson #19699

Esther Johnson #19703

Maria Borowski #19757

Jennifer Keys #19772

Nina Perino #19779

Diane Salek #19782

Jason George #19783

Marisol Norris #19784

Darynne Jessler #19785

Christina Derespiris #19786

Susan Silberberg #19787

Karin Ruch #19788

Dorothy Mansfield #19789

Down Zelinski #19790

Paul Ramos #19791

Sarah Meyers #19792

Janet Carey #19793

Lisa Welden #19796

Rachel Holzer #19797

Carlin Sappelli #19798

Betty Winholtz #20234

Joanna Vintilla #20235

Trevor Mayes #20236

Gayle Janzen #20237

Kristina Skeppler #20238

Ginger Fedak #20239

Georgeanne Matranga #20240

Gunter Singer #20241

Jessica Harvey #20242

Mike Jenkins #20243

Mary Bruesch #20244

Mary McCormick #20245

Janice Hinkle #20246

Shelley Pinck #20247

Marion Kraus #20249

Patricia McCrory #20250

Gail Dellacroce #20251

Bridget Pieroni #20254

Abbie Bernstein #20255

Lori Ugolik #20256

Lenoir Smith #20257

Patricia Regan #20259

Shannon Jacobs #20263

Michelle Arc #20264

Cynthia Hever #20265

Jared Brenner #20267, #19837

Yee Chow #20269

Robert Akerley #20270

Miho Reed #20271

Richard Compagni #20275

Tia Simon #20278

Joyce Janicki #20279

Richard Fitzhenry #20282

Naomi Weisman #20283

Jane Broendel #20287

Rosemary Kaszuba #20289

Jim Clark #20302

Carolena Larsen #20186

Jennifer D'Angelo #20187

Rebecca Radcliffe #20188

Starla Morgan #20189

Jan Weisel #20190

Sheila Williams #20191

Patrick Huggins #20195

Keeley Mangeno #20196

Darlene Handley #20197

Naomi Klass #20198

Nan Paisley #20199

Donya Hnath #20202

Michelle Barros #20203

Anne Reshadi #20205

Wendy Wolf #20206

Jane Millar #20210

Nancy Lohrenz #20211

Donna Zoll #20212

Lori Lundberg #20213

Matthew Prieve #20215

Amanda Briggs #20217

Teresa Sem #20218

Audrey Kerzner #20219

Denise Anzelmo #20220

Lauren Britton #20224

Laurel Rye #20225

Michelle Fletcher #20226

Diana As #20227

Kendra Nelson #20228

Cherrie Kerwell #20229

Shana Garcia #20232

Debra Hunt #20233

Marie Bossard #19799

Michelle Jorgensen #19800

Kendal Duryea #19802

Shannon Elliott #19803

Jaime Tomchik #19804

Christine Dorchak #19805

Tara Murray #19806

Naomi Weisman #19807

Ann Green #19808

Diana Hanna #19809

Pamela White #19810

Barbara O'Brien #19811

Penny Whitaker #19812

Lisa Jacobson #19814

Christine MaCcrindle #19815

Jessica Lears #19816

Gina Read #19820

Lisa Sarruda #19821

Catherine Pienkos #19822

Lisa Levin #19824

Michael Golembeski #19825

Jean Vieira #19826

Will Foster #19828

Julia Stewart #19833

Serena Klempin #19836

Michelle Geiger #19839

David Kerns #19841

Michelle Marhoefer #19846

Michelle Barbour #19847

Bonnie Templeton #19848

Robert Schantz #19850

Marianne Lazarus #19851

Jan Trabue #19853

Corinne Brown #19857

Kaley Scholl #19858

Bonnie Cormier #19862

Judy Salvadore #19865

Cynthia Weller #19872

L. Springer #19875

Erin Kahle #19876

Eileen Karzen #19879

Rosemary Freskos #19881

Madeline Damiano #19882

Michelle Seminoff #19883

Teresa Bippert #19884

Joyce Purtzer #19889

Karen Froming #19890

Allissa Sollitto #19892

Colette A. #19894

Crickett Miller #19895

Sarah Berger #19896

Robin Weirich #19897

Connie Butler #19898

Scott Harrison #19899

John Mayer #19900

Carol Hammond #19901

Sandra Rosque #19902

Kathleen Roche #19903

Kathleen Petullo #19905

Jennifer Southcott #19906

Mary Ann Leitch #19907

Michael Southam #19909

Tree Wright #19910

Vito Bitondo #19911

Barbara Miller #19912

Phoebe Selden #19918

Maren Fritz #19919

David Doering #19920

Bonnie Johnson #19922

Ross Bullard #19923

Mildred Gist #19924

Tania Evans #19925

Suzanne Kelly #19926

Diane Lessr #19928

Jen Ortiz #19929

JL Evans #19930

Tiffany Craigo #19933

Deborah Vaupen #19935

Karen Gottesman #19936

Maria Pisz #19937

Gina Meng #19945

Erin Baiano #19946

Megan Hashemi #19948

Jonette Bronson #19950

Liane Yuki #19952

Steven Boyce #19954

Jillana Laufer #19956

Carmen Galvan #19965

Gina S'Shaughnessy #19970

Barbara Zingg #19972

Ruth Toporoff #19973

Barbara Peachee #19974

Patricia Rinde #19975

Gretchen Clark #19977

Peter Wood #19979

Eileen Norton #19982

Jan Deluke #19983

Yolanda Calderon #19985

Kelly Hester #19986

John Kantar #19987

Deborah Richards #19988

Carrie Lewis #19992

Nona Vandamme #20001

Marcia Kellam #20002

Teresa Earle #20007

Savannah Hawkins #20008

Sheryl Starr #20011

Mari Mennel #20014

Larry Trilling #20016

Karen Mastandrea #20021

Deanna Horton #20022

Dan Horton #20023

Karon Krcmar #20025

Pam Youngquist #20027

Ruth Kastner #20032

Patricia White #20041

Daniel Toohey #20042

Lisa Feit #20044

Alcinda Wolff #20049

Katherine Kerby #20052

Laura McGowan #20053

Darla Brunner #20054

Jay Kirkus #20055

Birgit Pruess #18927

Janet Gregory #19113

Carol Priestley #19123

Claudia Low #19127

Julie Wolff #19129

Kelly Woods #19131

Ann Alvis #19132

Mary McDonald #19135

Uta Pruess #19137

Janice Waisnor #19138

Susan Green #19139

Linda Wright #19141

Donald Collings #19142

Mary Martens #19145

Scott Martens #19146

Jena Wozniak #19147

Holly Marks #19149

Sherri Christian #19153

Maggie Flynn #19154

Brenda Heilman #19161

Castle McLaughlin #19177, 19178

Maria Pisz #19179

Michelle Jennison #19188

Susan Brenan #19200

Lisa Maestas #19258

Nora Kane #19276

Elise Harron #19523

Penny McCormack #19579

Jami Yanoski #20058

Dona Laschiava #20059

Nora S. #20060

Analise McNeill #20061

Charlotte Adams #20065

Sue Bendson #20067

Susan Worden #20068

Nadine Kouba #20069

Jean Kavanaugh #20070

Julie Nelson #20071

Jackie Scherer #20072

Joanne Riske #20074

Leslie Richardson #20076

Judith Smith #20077

Robyn Reichert #20078

Bridget Palecek #20079

Gerald Hallead #20080

Ryan Muhammad #20081

Elise Caplan #20082

Louis Riechert #20083

Michelle Krueger #20084

Tony Delia #20085

Monika Sipe #20086

Nile Nugnez #20087

Shannon Hunter #20088

Anna Lukaszewicz #20089

L. Haage #20090

Judy Masbaum #20091

Revecca Falk #20093

Alison Tomlin #20094

Michelle Macbean #20095

Gary Hepner #20096

Sarah Fabian #20097

Erika Whitton #20098

Claudia Vrabie #20099

Jennifer Britton #20100

Shelley McKee #20101

Jamila Viandier #20102

Spring O'Brien #20103

Jerome Fabian #20104

Karen Spring #20107

Darlene Morrison #20108

Jaye Trottier #20109

Cindy Abernathy #20110

Judy Cranford #20111

J. Cole #20112

Mary Shabbott #20113

Sophhia Keller #20114

Reevyn Aronson #20115

Megan Lankenau #20116

Jacquelyn Hoff #20118

Bevrly Wilson #20119

Ethan Cruze #20120

Robyn Newkirk #20121

Nina Davis #20122, #20124

Tricia Rizzi #20123

Jennifer Gasbarro #20129

Zachary Fitzner #20130

Danielle Spitz #20131

Chris Penn #20133

Diana Hall #20134

Lauren Macchia #20135

Diane McClure #20136

Nina Berry #20137

Courtney Scott #20140

Karen Allred #20142

Toni Napolitano #20143

Anita Carswell #20144

Jessica Cresseveur #20146

Brian Gibbons #20147

Karen Drennen #20148

Renee Taylor #20149

Mark Gillono #20150

Robert Foley #20151

Kristen Solano #20152

Red Ryder #20154

Kari Tenfjord #20155

Lacey Levitt #20156

Jan Karpel #20157

Juliette Brush #20162

Andrew Umphries #20165

Becky Craigo #20167

Alisa Houpt #20170

Clarinda Karpov #20171

Sheena Lonecke #20172

Val Marshall #20173

Ellen Boles #20175

Cindy Rosin #20176

Aaron Kenna #20177

Carrie Smith #20178

Mark Giese #20179

Susan Bundrick #20181

Michael Stuart #19861

Andrew Marx #19849

Pat Lord #20092

9:49 AM Chairman Patten closed the

hearing. *Rick Schuchard, Committee Clerk*

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

SCR 4014
2/10/2023

A concurrent resolution urging the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service to modify its proposed livestock management plan, and to continue to allow for interpretative, cultural, and historical purposes a herd of longhorn steers in the North Unit of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

4:45 PM Chairman Patten opened the hearing.

Chairman Patten and Senators Kessel, Kannianen, Beard, Boehm and Magrum are present.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

4:46 PM The committee has discussion on proposed amendments. LC 23.3062.01001 and grazing language. #20531

4:48 PM Senator Kannianen moves to adopt the amendments LC 23.3062.01001 and grazing language. Senator Beard seconds the motion.

4:49 PM Roll call vote is taken.

Senators	Vote
Senator Dale Patten	Y
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	Y
Senator Todd Beard	Y
Senator Keith Boehm	Y
Senator Jordan L. Kannianen	Y
Senator Greg Kessel	Y

Motion passes 6-0-0.

4:49 PM Senator Kessel moves to Do Pass the resolution as amended. Senator Beard seconds the motion.

4:49 PM Roll call vote is taken.

Senators	Vote
Senator Dale Patten	Y
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	Y
Senator Todd Beard	Y
Senator Keith Boehm	Y
Senator Jordan L. Kannianen	Y
Senator Greg Kessel	Y

Motion passes 6-0-0.

Senator Kessel will carry the Resolution.

This Resolution does not affect workforce development.

4:40 PM Chairman Patten closed the meeting.

Rick Schuchard, Committee Clerk

23.3062.01002
Title.02000

Adopted by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
February 10, 2023

DK
1/1
2-10-2023

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4014

Page 1, line 2, after the comma insert "to recognize the benefits of livestock grazing,"

Page 1, line 17, remove "while not native to Theodore Roosevelt National Park originally, the"

Page 1, line 20, after the semicolon insert "and

WHEREAS, livestock grazing is beneficial to Theodore Roosevelt National Park as an effective tool to manage a variety of forage, spur growth of perennial grasses, decrease invasive species, increase organic matter, suppress wildfires, and support biodiversity and more resilient landscapes;"

Renumber accordingly

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4014, as engrossed: Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Sen. Patten, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SCR 4014 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This resolution does not affect workforce development.

Page 1, line 2, after the comma insert "to recognize the benefits of livestock grazing,"

Page 1, line 17, remove "while not native to Theodore Roosevelt National Park originally, the"

Page 1, line 20, after the semicolon insert "and

WHEREAS, livestock grazing is beneficial to Theodore Roosevelt National Park as an effective tool to manage a variety of forage, spur growth of perennial grasses, decrease invasive species, increase organic matter, suppress wildfires, and support biodiversity and more resilient landscapes;"

Renumber accordingly

2023 HOUSE AGRICULTURE

SCR 4014

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Agriculture Committee
Room JW327C, State Capitol

SCR 4014
3/10/2023

A concurrent resolution urging the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service to modify its proposed livestock management plan, to recognize the benefits of livestock grazing, and to continue to allow for interpretative, cultural, and historical purposes a heard of longhorn steers in the North Unit of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the presence of a wild horse heard in the South Unit of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Chairman Thomas call the meeting to order 10:00 AM

Members present: Chairman Thomas, Vice Chairman Beltz, Representatives Christy, Finley-DeVille, Fisher, Headland, Henderson, Kiefert, Olson, Prichard, Schreiber-Beck, Tveit, VanWinkle.

Discussion Topics:

- Bureau of Land Management
- Grazing definition
- Research in ND
- Wild horse herds

Senator Brad Bekkedahl, District 1, Williston, ND, (#23039)

Julie Roswick, on behalf of Marylu Weber, President, ND Badlands Horse, Theodore Roosevelt National Park Wild Horses, (#22648)

Julie Ellingson, ND Stockmen's Association, (#23662)

Christine Kman, President, Chasing Horses Wild Horse Advocates, (#23515)

Frank Kuntz, Owner/Preservation Breeder, Kuntz Nokota Ranch, (#23582)

Castle McLaughlin, Retired, Associate Curator of North American Ethnography at Peabody Museum Harverd University, Belmont, MA, (#23071)

Christa Ruppert, Kuntz Nokota Ranch, (#23551)

Rebecca Falk, Garden Plain, KS (#23537)

Representative Olson moved to amend, striking the word "livestock" on lines 3 and 20, (#23663.)

Representative VanWinkle seconded.

Roll call vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Paul J. Thomas	Y
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Josh Christy	Y
Representative Lisa Finley-DeVille	Y
Representative Jay Fisher	Y
Representative Craig Headland	Y
Representative Donna Henderson	Y
Representative Dwight Kiefert	Y
Representative SuAnn Olson	Y
Representative Brandon Prichard	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Bill Tveit	Y
Representative Lori VanWinkle	Y

Motion passed: 13-0-0

Representative Tveit moved a DO PASS as amended.

Representative Fisher seconded.

Roll call vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Paul J. Thomas	Y
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Josh Christy	Y
Representative Lisa Finley-DeVille	Y
Representative Jay Fisher	Y
Representative Craig Headland	Y
Representative Donna Henderson	Y
Representative Dwight Kiefert	Y
Representative SuAnn Olson	Y
Representative Brandon Prichard	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Bill Tveit	Y
Representative Lori VanWinkle	Y

Motion passed: 13-0-0

Bill carrier: Representative Fisher

Additional written testimony:

#21855, #22023, #22590, #22591, #22592, #22599, #22600, #22601, #22603, #22604, #22607, #22611, #22612, #22614, #22620, #22624, #22634, #22636, #22637, #22645, #22651, #22655, #22663, #22680, #22686, #22687, #22696, #22697, #22699, #22706, #22709, #22711, #22713, #22717, #22727, #22739, #22741, #22749, #22752, #22755, #22759, #22766, #22767, #22769,#22772, #22776, #22797, #22812, #22813, #22821, #22826, #22832, #22835, #22858, #22866, #22878, #22884, #22885, #22980, #22998,

#23000, #23006, #23007, #23010, #23034, #23036, #23038, #23048, #23067, #23068, #23075, #23085, #23119, #23121, #23166, #23169, #23172, #23180, #23189, #23197, #23214, #23232, #23233, #23241, #23250, #23264, #23265, #23269, #23271, #23290, #23305, #23320, #23345, #23364, #23408, #23411, #23430, #23439, #23442, #23449, #23454, #23462, #23465, #23466, #23467, #23468, #23469, #23470, #23583, #23568, #23567, #23566, #23545, #23541, #23536, #23514, #23500, #23651, #22617, #22646, #22647, #23079, #23518, #23533, #23534

Chairman Thomas adjourned the meeting 10:51 AM

Diane Lillis, Committee Clerk

Adopted by the House Agriculture Committee

March 10, 2023

AG 3-10-23 (1-1)

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4014

Page 1, line 3, remove "livestock"

Page 1, line 20, remove "livestock"

Renumber accordingly

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4014, as engrossed: Agriculture Committee (Rep. Thomas, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SCR 4014 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 3, remove "livestock"

Page 1, line 20, remove "livestock"

Renumber accordingly

2023 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

SCR 4014

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

SCR 4014
4/6/2023
Conference Committee

A concurrent resolution urging the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service to modify its proposed livestock management plan, and to continue to allow for interpretative, cultural, and historical purposes a herd of longhorn steers in the North Unit of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Chairman Patten, Senators Kessel, Magrum, and Representatives Kiefert, Tveit and Prichard are present.

3:30 PM Chairman Patten opened the conference committee meeting.

Discussion Topics:

- Livestock
- Grazing
- Conference committee decision

3:30 PM Committee discussion.

3:32 PM Representative Keifert moved that the House Recede from House Amendments. Motion was seconded by Representative Prichard.

3:33 PM Roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 6-0-0.

Representative Prichard is the House bill carrier.

Senator Kessel is the Senate bill carrier.

3:34 PM Chairman Patten closed the conference committee meeting.

Rick Schuchard, Committee Clerk

Date: 4/6/2023
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2023 SENATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4014 as engrossed

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Action Taken
- ☐ **SENATE accede to House Amendments**
- ☐ **SENATE accede to House Amendments and further amend**
- ☒ **HOUSE recede from House amendments**
- ☐ **HOUSE recede from House amendments and amend as follows**

☐ **Unable to agree**, recommends that the committee be discharged and a new committee be appointed

Motion Made by: *Keifert* Seconded by: *Prichard*

Senators	4-6			**Yes**	**No**		**Representatives**	4-6			**Yes**	**No**
Patten	x			x			*Keifert*	x			x	
Kessel	x			x			*Tveit*	x			x	
Magrum	x			x			*Prichard*	x			x	
Total Senate Vote				3			Total Rep. Vote				3	

Vote Count Yes: 6 No: 0 Absent: 0

Senate Carrier Kessel House Carrier Prichard

LC Number _____ . _____ of amendment

LC Number _____ . _____ of engrossment

Emergency clause added or deleted

Statement of purpose of amendment

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

SCR 4014, as engrossed: Your conference committee (Sens. Patten, Kessel, Magrum and Reps. Kiefert, Tveit, Prichard) recommends that the **HOUSE RECEDE** from the House amendments as printed on SJ page 1073 and place SCR 4014 on the Seventh order.

Engrossed SCR 4014 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

TESTIMONY

SCR 4014

Birgit Pruess, Ph.D.
3696 Harrison St. S
Fargo, ND

February 2, 2023

RE: SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4014

Dear members of the 68th Legislative Assembly of North Dakota,

I am resident of Fargo, ND and testifying as a private citizen and not in representation of any group. Please, accept the below as my testimony IN FAVOR of SCR4014 regarding the herd of wild horses that currently lives in Theodore Roosevelt National Park in Medora, ND. Note that I got my Ph.D. in biology and understand ecology and genetics.

I have followed this herd of wild horses in the South Unit since 2014 and know by now every name, parentage, age, and whatever you might want to know about the horses. I also appreciate the longhorn cattle in the North Unit. I have with concern watched our national park announce that they may remove the horses and longhorns, with a slightly better option of reducing the horses to 35 to 60 animals. This is not enough to keep the herd genetically viable.

The justification for the removal is based on ecological claims that have been presented in a one way sided way. Yes, there are negative aspects of horses and other grazing animals on grassland ecology. However, there are positive aspects of horses (this applies to horses only, not other grazers) on grassland ecology as well, such as the digging of deep water holes that can then be used by other animals during times of draught. Likewise, the genetic claims that these horses are livestock are outdated. Recent DNA evidence suggests that horses evolved on the North American continent and have likely never gone extinct, as was postulated previously. Likewise, all horses currently roaming on this planet are genetically of the species *Equus caballus*. Our are not genetically inferior to any other horses.

Adding to this lack of a biological justification for removing the horses, the resolution outlines the historical reasons for the maintenance of both the horse and the longhorn herds very well. I also appreciate that the resolution will be send to the United States Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the National Park Service, and each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation. It is time to take it up a step.

As in all my testimonies, I much appreciate the hard work and dedication that each member of my state legislative assembly puts into our state. Thank you.

Sincerely and respectfully

Birgit Pruess

I am writing in support of keeping the horses in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. This herd has been a part of my visits to the park my whole life! Every time I go to the park I watch for a glimpse of these beautiful animals and it is such a wonderful sight to see! I would hate for future generations to lose out on this experience. I also follow the herd on social media and doing so makes the herd happenings much more personal. It would be a huge loss to our state and the people who love watching these horses to have the herd removed from the park.

Janet Gregory

Thank you for this opportunity to share my Testimony In Support of SCR-4014. My name is Carol Priestley Magamoll, and hobby photographer, and almost daily visitor to Theodore Roosevelt National Park - South Unit since 2013.

I have been a documenter and volunteer in TRNP for North Dakota Badlands Horse non-profit organization for the past several years also, and not just a private citizen who loves these wild horses in TRNP. Over this time I have photographed and documented this herd including weekly head-counts, monitoring band structures and behaviors, births, deaths and injuries for documentation purposes, as well as sharing photographs and stories to the public that is well over 100,000 + social media followers. I have put in thousands of hours as a volunteer, and can tell you unequivocally how much these wild horses enhance the visitor's experience in the park. It is commonplace for visitors to approach me and state how much they not only love these horses but are the reason they come to TRNP annually and more frequently. Many are from other states in the United States, and some from as far away as Germany. It is not just the fact that these wild horses are indeed native to this land but historically and culturally are responsible for facilitating the building of what we all know as the American West. This is something Teddy Roosevelt himself experienced and I believe was a great part of his reasoning to preserve this cultural heritage for the public to always have and enjoy. The wild horses in TRNP should definitely be considered as a traditional cultural property provision and guideline inclusion in federal policies governing our federal lands and national parks. Anything short of these horses remaining on the land they have rights to would be an injustice and gross oversight by the Federal Government and the National Park Service. It would definitely be a travesty to today's visitors, our children and future generations. Many park visitors have stated they come only to see the horses in this park and should they be taken away they will not return to TRNP. Visitor loss will be of great impact on TRNP, the City of Medora and its shops, restaurants, museums, new Theodore Roosevelt Library to come, the State of North Dakota, and the Great North Dakotan Spirit overall. Therefore, I Support SCR-4014 and wish to thank Governor Burgum, our ND State Legislature Assembly Members, Congressional Delegates, and the Department of Tourism for being in Support of Saving the Wild Horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Sincerely,

Carol Priestley Magamoll

Claudia Hebert-Low
Board of Directors North Dakota Badlands Horse
2198 White Rock Rd.
San Angelo, TX 76904

Testimony for SCR 4014 (In favor of)
Committee members, thank you for allowing this written testimony;

My name is Claudia Low, I am not a North Dakota native although I was a citizen for several years. I now reside in San Angelo, TX. I am in favor of SCR 4014. I am also on the Board of Directors of North Dakota Badlands Horse (NDBH), a 501c3 non-profit organization that has partnered with the park in the past. NDBH volunteers were available to the park to help with captures, drug reversal, after capture care, and promoting the horses for auction. The volunteers then loaded the horses for transport to their new homes. NDBH is also a registry for these horses. The organization has even produced a registered TR brand for the horses in the registry. New owners keep in contact with one another via social media. These horses are shared around the world, yes, the WORLD! For example, we have documented horses living out their lives in Germany and our social media followers come from several countries around the globe. People from everywhere share training skills and stories. The adopted horses are treasured by their owners. I am an owner of a TRNP horse, and he is my heart horse. We care about this herd. We keep track of the names, the bands, the births, and the deaths. We celebrate new lives and mourn their passing. This herd is celebrated worldwide, and they are loved.

Given the cultural and historical significance of this herd of horses, they must remain in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The horses were there before the park existed, so why remove them from the only home they've ever known. Horses carried the workforce of the world in the days of Theodore Roosevelt. They plowed, help build roadways, and were used in hunting. Pioneers would not have survived without the horse. There would be no North Dakota without the horse. So how can the horses that were so significant in the history of the West, suddenly mean nothing to some. Nothing, in the way that they will be gathered and sold off by auction without vetting to whomever has the dollars. Is this what we really want to do with a national treasure? Would we let the bison go extinct again without intervening? No, we wouldn't. Therefore, we need to keep this herd in the park. They have been managed thus far without peril, so why not let them stay.

Yes, the management plan needs revision. No argument there. For the herd to be sustainable and diverse, changes are in order. Population control is priority and there is a birth control plan in place. Stress free gathers need to resume. Our organization is willing to partner with the park in this area. We will promote the horses for auction and assure, to the best of abilities, they go to safe homes. A viable herd is 100-150 horses as noted by Dr. Gus Cothran of TAMU so why would the herd be reduced to 60? Let's stick with the science.

Considering the latest findings in genomics and paleontology, the horse should likely be considered native, also. Fossils in the permafrost of the Yukon prove that horses were on the North American continent 700,000 years ago. An easy solution would be to update the park's classification of the horse from "wildlife" to "native" and these majestic animals would be protected along with the bison, elk, deer, and other mammals. How is this not a consideration? If the management plan must be updated, then so should the classification of these horses in lieu of the latest scientific findings.
These horses are unique to North Dakota, they fit in with the diversity of the Badlands. Remove them and the NPS will suffer the monetary loss. After all, many will say, "I'm here for the horses". Yes, they come to see the herd of wild horses in the park. Millions of followers on social media, yes, millions and we have the data to prove it! These horses are loved around the world.

And last but certainly not least, the peace and serenity of the park coupled with visiting a family of wild horses is soothing to the soul. There are so many stories about how this herd of horses has changed lives. They've changed my life. I know this for sure. I respectfully ask you to pass bill 4014 so these national treasures stay where they belong, in the only home they have ever known!

Thank you,
Claudia Low

Oral testimony in support of SCR 4014
Marylu Weber
President of North Dakota Badlands Horse
12880 Bogus Jim Rd.
Rapid City, SD 57702

Good morning, Committee Members,

I am Marylu Weber, President of North Dakota Badlands Horse (NDBH), a 501c3 nonprofit since 2009. I lived in ND for 57 years and began documenting TRNP horses in the 80s. I met Tom Tescher, ND rancher and rodeo cowboy who documented the horses since the 40s. We worked closely his last 10 years and I have continued his work. I volunteered for the park from 1999-2019 documenting horses and identifying them for park projects, roundups, and auctions.

Working directly with park staff, we earned their trust with hard work, and I've seen great improvements in management from chaotic helicopter roundups to quiet capture of one young horse at a time. I suggested the use of sedation in 2012; that has been the method of choice since 2015. The procedure is to dart a horse with a sedative, check all vitals, load it in a sled, and pull it to the waiting trailer. Once the horse is up and stable it can be safely driven to a small holding pasture.

For two years North Dakota Badlands Horse partnered with the park to document, photograph, and monitor the horses. When necessary to remove some younger horses to keep numbers manageable, NDBH would help capture, care for, and train horses to load and go safely through the chute system for Coggins test blood draws. Using a park-approved numerical screening tool to ensure new owners could handle the wild horse and had safe facilities, we sold them online. We loaded the horses for the new owners, providing brand inspection certificates, clear Coggins testing, and DNA ancestral reports from Texas A&M. Often park staff were not present for these tasks, all was handled by volunteers, and money earned went back into the project. I give you this background information to illustrate that having the horses in the park and managing them responsibly has been done in the past and can be done in the future. With the use of trained volunteers, it does not have to be difficult or expensive.

Much debate swirls around the horses' origin. We do know many are descendants of ranch horses from the open-range era. Tom Tescher ran horses there but also spoke of wild ones that area ranchers left when rounding up their own stock. Were they escapees from area remount operations? Did they go back to Sitting Bull's confiscated ponies? Did they go back to the 60 some untamed horses Theodore Roosevelt bought from Frederick Remington to use on his ranches? Obviously, there is no way to prove any of the stories. What we do know is that they existed in the Badlands of ND well before Theodore Roosevelt lived there and before the park existed.

North Dakota Badlands Horse and others have shared the horses on social media for years with about 1 million combined followers. People from our country and the world go just to see wild horses. They don't fly or drive to ND to see the river; they go to one of the only national parks where wild horses can easily be found. Smithsonian Magazine lists the park as the second-best place to see wild horses. They go to experience a last vestige of the old west lifestyle, cowboys, buffalo, and wild horses.

There's nothing like sitting high on a butte, a sweet ND breeze in my face, sun on my back, my once wild horse, Hawk, munching by my side and watching the wild ones far below; new foals scampering and bucking, stallions snaking harems away from marauding bachelors, the occasional fight as an old stallion defends his mares from another testing his prowess. Knowing this is how they have lived and died for well over a century in the only home they have ever known, let's keep them there!

Are there any questions? Thank you!

For the past 3 years my husband and I drive from Mandan to Medora every other week to spend time in the park. We go mostly to enjoy the wildlife, especially the horses. We spend at least 6 hours in the park "scoping" for wildlife. When we find the horses, we will pull off the road and observe/photograph them for sometimes up to an hour. We have learned so much about wild horses from just observing them. My husband does photography as a hobby. We do not sell any of his photos but we do share them with friends and family and on social media which makes others want to go to TRNP also. Between the horses and the other wildlife and beautiful scenery, TRNP is the most serene and peaceful place to be. It is a place where you can breathe in the fresh air and relax, forgetting about the problems of the world. During Covid, it was our getaway where we felt safe.

We also observe where the other visitors are from and often engage in conversation with them. Sometimes there are more out of state vehicles than in state vehicles. The #1 question we are asked is, "Have you seen any wild horses and where can we find them?" We have been told what good ambassadors we are for the state of North Dakota. My husband and I have mobility issues so therefore are unable to hike very much; our time is spent "searching with binoculars" playing our Where's Waldo game and visiting with others.

For some TRNP is more about the historical and scientific aspect but for us it is more of a mental health issue and admiring the beauty of TRNP just as it is. If you remove the horses, our every other week trips will end and we likely will maybe visit 2-3 times a year. We support local businesses and also businesses in Dickinson and Belfield each time we go.

If you limit them to 30 to 75 horses, they will be hard to find. Of the over 100s of time we have been through the loop, we have only seen the elk a handful of times and this is likely what it would be like with the horses.

It will be a travesty in so many ways if you remove these horses. Please pass this resolution to work with the park to keep these horses and keep TRNP the gem it is today!

I am writing to implore you to keep the wild horses in the South Unit of TRNP. Although I live far away in North Carolina, these horses bring me such joy. I travel to see them at least once per year and without the horses to go visit, my family and I would likely not visit the state nor the park again. I feel I am likely not alone and this would impact tourism in the state. There are many other beautiful and easier places to visit in our country. However, it is the wild horses that draws me back time and time again. They are a national treasure and even people who cannot visit in person get joy and peace from reading and learning about them online.

These horses should not be removed or reduced in any way. They are a part of nature and there are so many benefits to them being there in the park. They are families and they feel emotions and love for one another. They should be an example to all of us!

Please, please allow the wild horses to remain in the south area of TRNP. We travel from Michigan each year to see the beautiful animals that run wild and free. THIS is what the national parks are about-retaining the amazing animals and landscape as they were when the parks were originally created. They do no harm and they are enjoyed by so many people. Those that cant visit in person, both Americans and thousands from other countries, can virtually see this herd. The horses bring the comfort, serenity, and beauty of our country into many homes without even realizing it! Please do not take them away! Theodore Roosevelt would be appalled if he knew what some AMERICANS are trying to do. Please allow these animals to run wild and free as they are meant to be. Thank you so much.

Good Day

I am writing in support of keeping the long horn cattle in the North unit and the wild horses living in the South unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. There is historical and economical value for these animals.

The historical value, there have been wild horses living in the footprint of the south unit long before the park was fenced in. Some of the ancestors to the current bands may have been owned by the park's namesake. Theodore Roosevelt wrote about the horses and even brought wild horses into the footprint.

The economical value for tourism is far more important. Most people consider North Dakota to be a flyover/drive through state. They don't realize the gem that Theodore Roosevelt National Park offers. Other National Parks offer bison, Elk, pronghorn, prairie dogs, namely Glacier and Yellowstone. The wild horses are unique to TRNP. Once people see the wild horses it touches them in a very special way. I have experienced the awe of first time witnessing the wild horses. First myself visiting the park with friends and getting to see these magnificent creatures. One of my friends had commented prior to seeing that she wasn't a horse person, but after seeing them she felt a connection to them. Myself, I felt that special awe of seeing horses in family units and how close they were to each other. The next time I brought my 90 year old mother to the park to see if we could find the horses. We were on our way to meet up with my niece and her family, who live in Williston. My mother spotted the first band near the Prairie dog village, she couldn't contain her excitement to see horses wild and free. Later that day my niece and her family met up with us and we went back out to TRNP. This time I saw the joy in the faces of four children experiencing the awe of seeing the wild horses. Since they live in Williston they have visited TRNP many times, but this was the first time seeing the horses. The last one was this past May, I was in Medora for a weekend. Prior to getting together with my friends, I decided to drive through the park to see if I could find the horses. There was another family that I kept encountering, there were two young boys with their parents. I stopped at one place and was watching a band of horses in the distance withmy binoculars. The family was going passed me, I stopped them and asked if they wanted to see wild horses. They got out of their car and joined me. Since they didn't have binoculars, I shared mine with them. I handed them to the older boy and directed him where to look. I watched his face turn to excitement as he spotted the horses. He handed the binoculars to his younger brother and helped him to see the horses again, I watched the awe and excitement cross his face as he spotted the horses. We then allowed mom and dad to use the binoculars to see the wild horses. They expressed sadness that they forgot their binoculars and were appreciative of my sharing the experience with them. They were on their way to Glacier so they didn't have much time to spend at TRNP, but they planning to return in the future.

I believe that it is a misguided decision to remove the unique opportunity for people to see wild horses running free. Instead North Dakota Tourism and TRNP should celebrate and promote the wild horses so that people want to visit Instead of just driving through.

Thank you for allowing me to share.

Uta Pruess
Herne, Germany

February 2, 2023

RE: SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4014

Dear members of the 68th Legislative Assembly of North Dakota,

Please, accept the below as my testimony IN FAVOR of SCR4014 regarding the herd of wild horses that currently lives in Theodore Roosevelt National Park in Medora, ND.

For almost 20 years, I have visited my sister in Fargo. Together, we have visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park multiple times, the last years annually.

As a German, I have learned a lot about American history in Medora, in particular about life on the prairie.

As a German, I only knew the wide land of the Midwest from movies such as “Dances with Wolves” or “Little house on the Prairie”. That people really lived and continue to live this way was something I could not imagine.

The post office in Medora is an impressive example. People came from far away to pick up their mail. Likewise, people in North Dakota traveled much larger distances to go to church than I am accustomed to. For this, people needed HORSES, just like the first settlers that started on the east coast on their way to the west.

The Success Story of America would not have been possible without HORSES. They were needed much more than us Europeans would know.

HORSES are an integral part of the identity of Medora. I know of no other town or place in the US (and many Americans claim that I have seen more of the US than they have), where national awareness is of the importance as it is here.

I was deeply impressed by every one of the musical performances in the amphi theatre. Every time, a part of American history is told. Every time with HORSES. Here in Medora, children already learn to be proud to be American. A national awareness that us Germans (at least of my generation) do not know, unfortunately.

Should there be no more HORSES in TRNP, the park will lose its identity. The history can no longer be experienced in that case. This would be a massive loss to Medora, North Dakota, and the US.

What the HORSES in the park mean to me is infinite. Together with the bison, they are for me the most important living beings for human life on the prairie. Keep watching them is pure inspiration in an increasingly faster time. I can understand Theodore Roosevelt well, who collected many inspirations for his later time as President of the United States in this part of North Dakota.

The park in its current form, certainly with the HORSES, needs to be protected, to maintain a small paradise in a fragile world.

Sincerely and respectfully
Uta Pruess

Please pass SCR 4014 and ask the DOI, NPS and our Congress to keep the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. This is the letter stating my reasons why that I submitted to TRNP during their most recent comment period.

Dear Superintendent Richman:

I am writing today to comment on Theodore Roosevelt National Park's proposed management plan that includes the wild horses that have called the park home long before the park was fenced in.

The first point I would like to make is that including the wild horses in a management plan for livestock is a huge mistake. After reviewing the Theodore Roosevelt National Park 1984 General Management Plan that you and your staff referenced throughout the virtual public scoping meeting on January 12, 2023, it is clear that this document not only makes no reference to the wild horses as livestock, but also speaks of the need for a ***WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT PLAN***. Further, the park's own Foundation Document dated 2014 makes no reference to the wild horses as "livestock" but instead speaks of the need for a ***Feral Horse Management Plan.***

Second, the degrading narrative about the horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park being nothing more than local ranch horses that went unclaimed when the park was fenced has been disproved throughout Dr. Castle McLaughlin's 300+ page report entitled ***The History and Status of the Wild Horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park***. Since the original copy of this report is in Theodore Roosevelt National Park's possession, you already have the case for the historical and cultural significance of the wild horses that call the park home within that 300-page document. We also know by Theodore Roosevelt's own writings that there was no

question that he experienced wild horses running free through the Badlands of North Dakota. This includes references that go beyond his ranching experiences.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park needs an alternative that takes into consideration the genetic viability of this herd. Dr. Gus Cothran has stated repeatedly that 150-200 adult horses are needed for a genetically viable herd. On January 5, 2023, Dr. Cothran spoke to North Dakota's KX News (https://www.kxnet.com/news/state-news/cutting-the-herd-size-at-theodore-roosevelt-national-park-could-be-bad/) and reiterated this statement, this time speaking ***SPECIFICALLY*** with regards to the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The Bureau of Land Management's ***Wild Horse and Burro handbook*** also supports the need to maintain 150-200 horses for genetic viability.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park should develop and analyze an alternative in which ONLY reversible birth control is administered to the herd with the following conditions: (1) older mares should only be given birth control where they have a proven genetic representation in the herd; (2) any birth control program should be rotated to reduce the chance of permanent sterilization; and (3) treated mares should be monitored for any health or behavior changes.

Assateague Island is successfully implementing its birth control program with PZP, with marked reductions in population growth and better body condition scores within their herd. As a result, that park has added two new age groups to the herd dynamics because they now have horses living beyond the age of 25.

A similar birth control program should be implemented in this wild horse management plan. To the extent that a successful birth control program is implemented, TRNP should stop managing the

herd by numbers only and make sure that science and genetics are guiding the use of birth control on **ANY** horse in this herd.

To the extent that culling the herd is required, TRNP should develop and analyze an alternative that makes any wild horse removals contingent on rigorous genetic monitoring; that is, an alternative whereby horses are removed only if their removal would not negatively impact the genetic health of the entire herd.

As TRNP is well aware, prior gathers have largely prioritized removing foals from the Park due to their desirability in subsequent adoptions/sales. However, the National Academy of Sciences Report: BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program: A Way Forward (https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/13511/using-science-to-improve-the-blm-wild-horse-and-burro-program), concluded that "the absence of young would alter the age structure of the population and could thereby affect harem dynamics." NAS Report at 134. Similarly, citing a study of the Pryor Mountain Wild Horses which looked at the impacts of birth control and removals on the herd, 21 the NAS Report found that "management strategies based on removal and fertility control were most effective in achieving management goals" but should focus on "strategies that rely less on removal and more on fertility control." NAS Report at 177. That Report also "highlighted the importance of management actions to delay age at first reproduction and increase generation length to reduce population growth."

Throughout the January 12, 2023, meeting, you and your staff cited that 36 CFR § 2.60 will not allow horses to stay on NPS property. Communication with the Chief Resource Manager at Assateague Island National Seashore states that their horses are allowed to stay on NPS lands because they classified them as "wildlife" instead of "livestock". Since there is no clarity on how/when TRNP determined this "livestock" classification for the

horses in the park, if TRNP went back to prior classifications they used on these horses, that would resolve this issue.

Additionally, you and your staff were quick to cite the NPS's Organic Act and your own Management Policies for reasons to support your "proposed action" that would allow for no horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Those same policies also state that where certain species like wild horses are "maintained to meet specific, identified management needs," like cultivating a historic setting, the nonnative "species used must be known to be historically significant, to have existed in the park during the park's period of historical significance, to be a contributing element to a cultural landscape, or to have been commonly used in the local area at that time." NPS, Management Policies at 47 (2006), https://bit.ly/3tvupvi. Again, within your possession is Dr. Castle McLaughlin's report that speaks to the historical and cultural significance of these horses.

Furthermore, NPS, and the National Park system as a whole, were established by Congress in 1916 through the Organic Act. See 54 U.S.C. § 100101 et seq. Unlike other federal land management statutes (e.g., the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, 43 U.S.C §§ 1701(a), 1702(c)) that require a balance between conservation and extractive uses, the Organic Act focuses exclusively on the preservation of the nation's park lands and the specific resources found therein. In relevant part, the Organic Act provides that NPS:

"Shall promote and regulate the use of the National Park System by means and measures that conform to the fundamental purpose of the System units, which purpose is to conserve the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wild life in the System units and to provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wild life in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

54 U.S.C. § 100101(a).

Given the Organic Act's strict preservation mandate, NPS's regulations implementing the Act broadly prohibit the removal of any wildlife, dead or alive, from the boundaries of a National Park. See 36 C.F.R. § 2.1; see also id. § 2.2 (NPS regulations concerning wildlife, which include a prohibition against "taking" and/or intentionally "disturbing" wildlife found within a park unit). According to NPS, "wildlife means any member of the animal kingdom and includes a part, product, egg or offspring thereof, or the dead body or part thereof, except fish." 36 C.F.R. § 1.4. Notably, NPS's regulations pertaining to wildlife take do not draw any distinction between native and non-native (i.e., invasive) species, although the latter may be removed from a park unit under specified conditions. See NPS, Management Policies at 48 (2006), https://bit.ly/3tvupvi.

NPS's regulations, however, contain an exception for "livestock" animals. The "pasturing or grazing of livestock of any kind in a park area" is generally prohibited but may be permitted "as a necessary and integral part of a recreational activity or required in order to maintain a historic scene"—so long those animals have been "designated" as such by the responsible park official. 36 C.F.R. § 2.60(a)(3).

The late historian, Robert Utley, spent part of his life trying to help right the apparent wrongs done to the wild horses of TRNP. His position is significant because he actually penned many of the policies that have shaped the National Park Service. Robert Utley's position has always been that Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 applies: Section 106 of NHPA granted legal status to historic preservation in federal planning, decision-making, and project execution. Section 106 requires all federal agencies to take into account the effects of their actions on historic properties and provide a reasonable opportunity to comment on

those actions and the manner in which federal agencies are taking historic properties into account in their decisions. (Summarized at https://ncshpo.org/resources/section-106/)

Finally, there can be no question that an EA is insufficient to analyze the full extent of the impacts of and alternatives to TRNP's formation of the wild horse management plan. TRNP must prepare an EIS to evaluate this plan. As TRNP is aware, NEPA obliges agencies to prepare an EIS for any major federal action significantly affecting the environment.

For the reasons clearly stated above, I am asking that as you and your staff begin the Environmental Assessment aspect of this management planning process that you consider the above valid scientific points as well as your own NPS policies, as you formulate new alternatives to consider.

Sincerely,

Janice Waisnor

Save the TRNP Wild Horses

If this resolution passes there will be VERY significant impact to the legacy of the park, economic impact threatening the businesses in Medford and surrounding towns, cultural impact to the Native horses and the ranchers and Native Americans, along with disturbing the long standing balance of nature. Many studies have been conducted by the colleges various science departments, Visitors bureau has studies, and the TRNP, itself. I want the wild horses see for our future Americansjust as Our President Theodore Roosevelt wanted.

I am a resident of west-central Minnesota. My husband and I enjoy the outdoors and exploring what nature has to offer. It is a way to relax and renew in this demanding, stressful world. It was this desire to explore nature that lead us to Medora and Theodore Roosevelt National Park several years ago. We fell in love with the area - the history, the scenery, the people, the wildlife and especially the wild horses roaming freely in the park's south unit. To have such a smorgasbord of nature and history available for people to experience up front and personal is very exciting and fulfilling. It is what brings us back each year to spend a week taking in as much as we can while there.

The history of the area is amazing, especially knowing that a U.S. president spent time living, hunting and ranching in the area and, by his admission, that western North Dakota made him a better man. The Marquis de Mores and his family played a major role in developing the town of Medora and the surrounding area. The Medora Foundation does a remarkable job of helping visitors experience the romance and events of that era. The national park gives us a first hand look into what these great men experienced when they traveled the countryside.

I understand that the park management wants to make changes to the park by proposing to remove the wild horses.. These wild horses, many are descendants of ranch horses and Indian ponies, adapted well to the terrain and resided in the area prior to and during Roosevelt's time and continued to thrive through the years. Their ancestors played a vital role in the ranching and Native American history and the development of western North Dakota. This is their home and they make Theodore Roosevelt National Park unique. I understand that the horses were originally allowed to remain in the park because wild horses roamed the region during Theodore Roosevelt's days and the horses continued presence gives visitors a look into those ranching days. Old timers in the area referred to the wild horses as Teddy's horses.

Touring this park may be the first and only chance many visitors have to see wild horses and longhorn cattle in a natural setting. The horse herds are what draw many of us back to the Medora area. We follow them on social media, we seek them out during park visits, we know their names, we celebrate new foals and we mourn their injury and death. To see these horses roaming freely with the bison and other park animals is an awe-inspiring sight and a real life view into the area's history that makes Theodore Roosevelt National Park unique.

I am concerned about the low number of horses, 30 to 60, that is proposed by one of the park management plans that allows the herds to remain. It is not practical for a healthy herd because it does not allow for a sufficient genetic pool to prevent serious inbreeding with the resultant health issues. Since the herds have increased to around 150 to 200 horses they have been much more visible to the public. In our early trips to the park, when numbers were lower, we were lucky if we were able to see horses through our binoculars. Now we often see them near the park road for close viewing which enhances the visitors park experience. We need to preserve these wild horses but we need thoughtful, good management to maintain a viable, healthy herd. It is clear to me that the three park plans will eventually result in a goal of no horses remaining in the park.

The park management now claims that the park was established to preserve native habitat and species for future generations and not to give the public a view into the ranching lifestyle of Teddy Roosevelt's days there. The park wants to focus on "scientific management" which allows only for indigenous species and which considers the wild horses no more than weeds to be plucked out. However, the preserved Elk Horn Ranch site, the preserved Peaceful Valley Ranch site and Teddy's cabin on display testify that honoring the ranching lifestyle of that era was a part of the original park plan. The horses, longhorns, bison and other animals have coexisted well in the park since it's founding and there is no reason they can't continue to do so for future generations to enjoy.

I encourage your support for the approval of SCR 4014 to keep Teddy's horses wild and free in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the North Dakota Senate

I am a North Dakota native from Williston prior to joining the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam Era and then serving for 30 years before retiring in 1997.

Nearly every time I make the trip from Illinois to Williston we stop at the South unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park and drive around the loop to enjoy the beauty and wildlife in the park. My camera is always at the ready and have been fortunate to get many pictures of the wild horses native to the park.

Some would argue that the wild horses are not wild life, but from my perspective they have been there longer than I have and deserve the title of wild life.

Thank you for sponsoring SCR 4014 and wish for a yes vote.

Donald J Collings

2500 6th St.

Winthrop Harbor, Illinois

February 4, 2023

TO: The Legislative Branch

RE: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Public Hearing (February 9, 2023)

My husband and I became acquainted with the stunning beauty of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park North and South Units in 2009. Since then, we have visited the parks numerous times, and have shared the natural beauty with friends and family whenever possible. The parks and all of the creatures living there have provided us with countless hours of discovery, joy, spiritual inspiration, and priceless memories. The wild horses have been such a key part of our experience whenever we have had the opportunity to visit the South Unit. We use our binoculars to scan the terrain, hoping that some of the wild horses living there will give us the satisfaction of a glimpse. When we have been especially fortunate, we were granted an up-close encounter.

I feel it would be a grave disservice to the parks and to the animals, to remove the wild horse herd and the long-horn cattle herd from the parks.

Thank you for considering my feelings on this matter, as well as the feelings of many, many, many other fans of TRNP.

Mary K. Martens
Watertown, SD

February 4, 2023

TO: The Legislative Branch

RE: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Public Hearing (February 9, 2023)

If the wild horses are removed from the Theodore Roosevelt National Park South Unit, it would eliminate a great deal of incentive for me to visit the park.

I do not understand why the North Dakota Legislative Branch is trying to eliminate the wild horse herd from a National Park. Whatever the reasons may be, I feel that the time, energy and money being spent to remove the horses from the parks could be way better spent in other ways.

I truly hope the horses are allowed to remain in the park for all time.

Scott Martens
Watertown, SD

I am writing in support of SCR 4014, a resolution to maintain the feral horses and longhorn cattle in Theodore Roosevelt State Park.

As a fan of National Parks, I first visited TRNP in the summer of 2022. My enthusiasm over observing and photographing the horses has never left and I am planning a return trip to the park this summer, this time bringing my three young children along with whom I have shared the story of these herds. We have researched and read updates from groups that monitor these horses, and have enjoyed identifying individuals. The proposition from TRNP to remove these horses has sparked much passion from myself and my children - we do not want to see this piece of history vanish from the North Dakotan Badlands.

Thank you.

Jena Wozniak

In an era where so many of our historical monuments are being taken down or destroyed, it seems imperative to me that two symbols of the Old West - the wild horses and the wild longhorn cattle – be preserved in your fabulous TR National Park. For most people, these animals are the closest they will ever get to experiencing remnants of a most important time in American history, when a man's handshake was as good as a written contract, and life was lived on the edge. In other areas, these animals are being eradicated, and there may come a time when your protected herds are all that's left. The TRNP rangers obviously feel that the horses and cattle are a burden, but how heavy is the weight of a dream kept alive? I salute you for standing up for these icons, and pray that you're successful in maintaining them within the Park. Sincerely, Holly E Marks

SCR 4014 ND SENATE RESOLUTION KEEP WILD HORSES TRNP

PLEASE PASS SCR 4014

THANK YOU for taking time in your tremendously busy schedule to support keeping the wild horses in TRNP at a genetically healthy level of 150 – 200 adult horses, and also to keep the longhorn steers!

PLEASE word this resolution to specify that Theodore Roosevelt National Park MUST keep the herd at this scientifically proven level to keep the wild horses healthy and strong for future generations. Otherwise TRNP has stated, if they don't remove them all now, they will simply keep a token herd of non-breeding horses until they die – either way, TRNP accomplishes their Stated Goal of No Wild Horses in TRNP.

TRNP is unique in all of America, not just the National Park System, precisely because of the wild horses and the longhorn steers. NORTH DAKOTA MUST HOLD THIS LEGACY. Once this is gone, it is gone forever.

I want to bring my children and grandchildren to see these wild horses, and also the longhorn steers, in 2024! If this wild horse herd is extirpated, we will never again enter the state of North Dakota for Any reason. This would be so heartbreaking and tragic!

Thank you for your hard work to SAVE THE WILD HORSES and the LONGHORN STEERS in Theodore Roosevelt National Park!!

I am writing to inform you that my family and I are opposed to any plan to permanently remove the wild horse from TRNP. They are our main reason for visiting the park.

On average we travel to the park 5-7 times per year and spend 3-5 days each time we visit. The horses are the "must see" for us, above any other animals that call the park their home. We, as a family, have been visiting TRNP for 30+ years. So if you do the math, 30X6 trips=180 visits! More math, 180X4 days=720 days, we have spent in the park! And this is a low estimate.

When you deprive Medora, all of the surrounding towns and the Park of the money we spend on food, accommodations, fuel, trinkets and entertainment and multiply this by all the others that will no longer travel to that area; it will cause financial hardships for the entire area, that won't be comprehended until it is too late.

It does not appear that the negative impact of removing the horses has been given much consideration by the park administration. The visitorship will decrease dramatically and people that travel to the park from all over the United States and foreign countries will find different destinations.

It will more than sadden us if the proposed plan to terminate the existence of wild horses in TRNP is successful, it will alter our lives. We will probably seldom visit there again. The horses are truly the "Treasure of the Park." Those that get to see them are blessed.

If the horses are removed from TRNP it will cause a wound that will never heal and resentment that will last for generations.

Please do what ever you can to insure the horses remain in the Park. Their removal must not happen.

Margaret & Jack Flynn
Fairview, Montana

Brenda Heilman
5431 33rd Ave NE
Rugby, ND 58368

I am a lifetime North Dakota resident writing today as a private citizen to ask for your support in PASSING SCR 4014. My review of various National Park Service/Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP) documents supports the continued existence and management of TRNP's horse herd:

1. **36 CFR 2.6, Livestock use and agriculture, (a)** states: " The running-at-large, …or grazing of livestock of any kind in a park area or the use of a park area for agricultural purposes is prohibited, except: … (3) As designated, when conducted as a necessary and integral part of a recreational activity or required in order to maintain a historic scene." Teddy Roosevelt was a conservationist BECAUSE he was a rancher and a horseman. TRNP leadership once agreed with this based on the TRNP Foundation document which states: "The time Theodore Roosevelt spent living in the North Dakota Badlands ultimately inspired his conservation ethic." If TR's park doesn't require horses to "maintain a historic scene", I don't know what does. He'd be appalled by the very suggestion of removing horses.
2. **NPS Management Policies, Chapter 8, Use of the Parks, section 8.6.8.2 states:** "Agricultural (commercial & administrative) grazing occurs in some parks. The Park Service will only allow agricultural grazing in parks where it is: … required to maintain a historic scene, or carried out as part of a living exhibit or interpretive demonstration…" Again, if you believe these horses in this park don't meet those criteria, you need to check your premises.
3. **TRNP Foundation Document (2014)** includes these horses in their list of Other Important Resources & Values: "**Feral Horses.** Bands of feral horses roam throughout the park's South Unit. Horses were an important part of the cultural landscape when Theodore Roosevelt lived in the area, and they are a very popular visitor attraction today." They were important in 2014, what changed to make them unimportant enough now to remove them?
4. **TRNP's Superintendent Compendium (2022), "Disturbing Wildlife"** section states: **"**All wildlife in the park are wild and potentially dangerous…except for inadvertent or casual encounters with wildlife in areas where traffic is required or essential, willfully approaching, remaining, viewing, or engaging in any activity within 25 yards to bison, elk, and feral horses… creates or contributes to a potentially hazardous condition or situation". This policy seems to imply that the horses ARE 'wildlife' and lends weight to the argument for keeping them.
5. **TRNP's website openly states:** Under North Dakota state law…livestock animals include bison, cattle and horses…", further muddying the waters about the 'wildlife' argument.
6. **Precedent**. These horses were in place when the park was originally fenced; they were not introduced. If their presence was unacceptable for more than 75 years, it seems that we might have heard of staff firings, reprimands, fines, or removal of the horses before today. Insisting that these horses are not native (a contentious argument) doesn't negate their long-standing presence; and their lack of 'reintroduction' also begs the question: as integrated as they are in their habitat within the park, how can they not be considered 'naturalized species', if not native?
7. The 1996 case interpreting the Organic Act, *Bicycle Trails Council of Marin v. Babbitt*, 82 F.3d 1445, 1454 (9th Cir. 1996), states: "**the Park Service has broad discretion in determining which avenues best achieve the Organic Act's mandate."** , indicating that the Park Service has the authority to make such regulations as it deems "necessary or proper for the use and management of the parks."

SCR 4014 makes it clear that the state of North Dakota supports keeping horses in TRNP. I sincerely appreciate all you do and encourage you to support SCR 4014.

Gratefully yours, Brenda Heilman

North Dakota Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Re: SCR 4014
February 5, 2023

Dear Committee Members

I am writing in support of SCR4014, which urges the National Park Service to reconsider their intention to eliminate wild horses and longhorn steers from Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Both of these small herds are important links to the ranching and Native histories in western North Dakota, particularly the open range era of Theodore Roosevelt and the Marquis de Mores. As you know, the western heritage of the badlands is a source of pride to North Dakota citizens and a huge draw to visitors from other parts of the country. And the wild horses-which lived in the badlands before the park was created- are the star attraction for many.

Although Theodore Roosevelt National Park was created to commemorate the former president's legacy, the park superintendent recently indicated that the horses and longhorns are no longer needed because they are moving away from interpreting Roosevelt's ranching history to focus more strongly on conservation biology. I believe that is a disservice to Roosevelt, North Dakota, and the American public.

I conducted research on the history and management of the horses in the park while working for the NPS in North Dakota in the 1980s. The cultural and historic significance of the horses was made very clear in interviews with ranchers and others in western North Dakota. For the record, I am attaching a pdf of an article that I published on this topic in *North Dakota History* in 1991, "Badlands Broomtails: the Cultural History of Wild Horses in western North Dakota."

However, thanks to tourism and the internet, today there are now many more people who care about the horses. Thousands of people from North Dakota and beyond visit the park to experience the thrill of seeing and photographing the horses, and tens of thousands more follow them almost daily on various websites. And what could be a more stirring or beautiful sight? Could there be a more effective way to connect with history than to see the descendants of the wild horses that Roosevelt himself wrote about?

The horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park are a national and state treasure, and they should remain there for future generations. Thank you for supporting them.

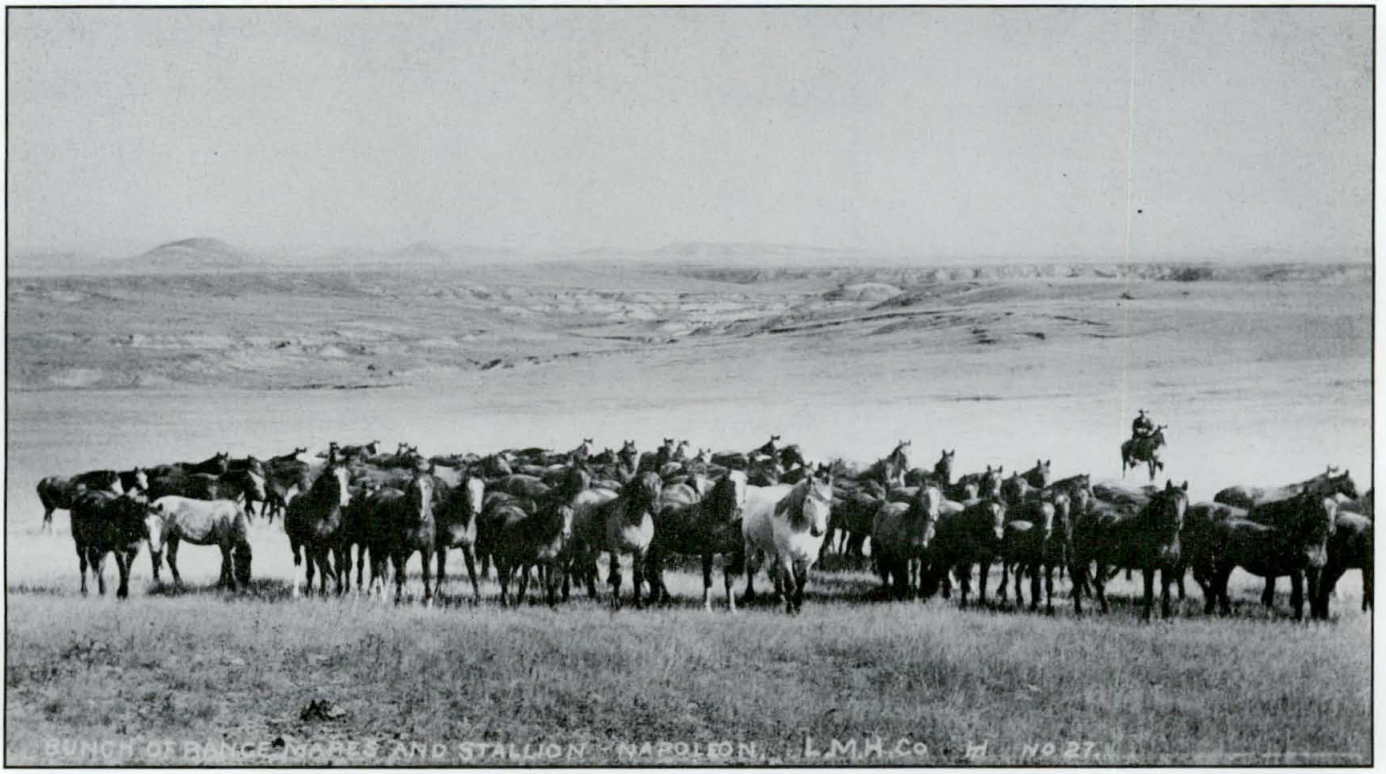
Sincerely

Castle McLaughlin, Ph.D

Badlands Broomtails

The Cultural History of Wild Horses in Western North Dakota

Castle McLaughlin



Horses raised on the open range, such as this breeding band owned by the HT Ranch, contributed to the development of feral herds in southwestern North Dakota.

Wild horses were once a common feature of the western landscape, from Texas to California and throughout the Rocky Mountains north into the Canadian plains. Following the reintroduction of the horse into the Americas by Spanish explorers in the sixteenth century, those animals that became feral adapted quickly and successfully to the plains environment, reverting to their natural form of social organization and aversion to man.[1] By 1850 there were an estimated one million wild horses on the Texas plains alone and an equal number scattered across the western range.[2] Never as plentiful on the northern plains as they were in the Southwest, they nonetheless played a significant role in the cultural history of both the Plains Indians and the ranching communities which succeeded them on the northern range. The history of wild horses in North Dakota is richly documented in the literature and oral tradition of the cattlemen, and reaches into the present with the preservation of a wild horse herd in Theodore Roosevelt National Park in southwestern North Dakota.

The wild horse population was so dense in the Spanish Southwest by the eighteenth century that the capture and marketing of these animals has been compared to the Upper Missouri fur trade, and was regulated by licensing, taxes, and hunting seasons.[3] Called "mustangs" from the Spanish *mesteno,* herds developed in the wake of the rapid diffusion of domestic horses throughout the inter-montane west during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Chasing and subduing wild horses became an integral aspect of vaquero and cowboy life, and is widely celebrated in the music, art and poetry of western American culture. So closely are they associated with the American past that Congress, in 1971, declared them "Living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West."[4]

While few other plains animals have excited the imagination as has the wild horse, the animals customarily called "wild" that inhabited the American grasslands during the historic period are more accurately described as feral, originally domestic horses that escaped from early settlements. As such, American wild horses are distinguished from indigenous wild equines, such as the Tarpan of Mongolia.

Why, then, with such prosaic origins, does the wild horse evoke such fascination, debate, and imagery of the Old West? Anthropologist Elizabeth Lawrence argues that the affective and symbolic potency of wild horses within American culture springs directly from their having made the transition from domestic to wild, thus eschewing cultural confines for a life of freedom and independence, values closely associated with the frontier experience. The dichotomy of the horse's nature, adapted to a utilitarian, servile existence but capable of readily reverting to an uncontrolled, primordial state, generated in man both a desire to conquer the animals and an admiration for their indomitability. These conflicting impulses are expressed in the widespread western legend of the uncatchable mustang stallion.[5]

Wild horses have also come to represent the contradictions inherent in transforming the West while preserving its frontier essence, as demonstrated by ongoing controversy over their protection on public lands. Man's relationship to and perception of the wild horse in the New World has been as adversarial as it has been romantic, because it is contingent upon socioeconomic patterns of land use and cultural preference for utilitarian, domesticated animals. While the history of wild horses in North Dakota is not completely known, it appears to have followed the same pattern noted throughout the West: an initial relative abundance and use, followed by the diminution of herds with the intensified utilization of rangelands, and finally, a movement for their preservation. In North Dakota, debate over the value and protection of wild horses has centered on a remnant population in the South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park that was present prior to the park's establishment and has been managed by the National Park Service as a "historical demonstration" herd since 1970.[6]

The Historic Era

Documentation of early wild horses in North Dakota is scarce. As elsewhere on the continent, the appearance of feral herds probably developed as a consequence of the introduction of domestic horses into the area by explorers, traders, and Indians, most Plains tribes having acquired these animals by 1760.[7] Trade was the primary agent for the distribution of the horse across North America; the Missouri and Knife River villages of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arickara played a significant role in their dispersal among both Indian and non-Indian groups in the Upper Missouri region. These communities were key distribution centers in an indigenous exchange network prior to and throughout the entire historic era; this system was utilized by Euroamerican traders who bartered horses, guns, and other exotic items for animal pelts and hides. Horses were reported in the Mandan villages by 1741; throughout the ensuing century they were continuously traded into and out of Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arickara villages, where they were also raised and kept for use as beasts of burden and as riding

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[1] Horses evolved on the North American Continent, but were one of many mammalian species which became extinct during the Pleistocene, 8-10,000 years ago. There is an extensive literature on wild horses in North America; the standard historical overview is J. Frank Dobie, *The Mustangs* (Reprint Ed., Austin: University of Texas Press, 1984).

[2] Dobie, *The Mustangs,* pp. 108-109.

[3] Daniel L. Flores, "Mustanging and Horse Trading: A Variant of the Early Western Fur Trade." Ms., Department of American History, Texas Tech University; G.C. Robinson, "Mustangs and Mustanging in Southwest Texas," in J. Frank Dobie, Mody C. Boatright, and Harry H. Ransom., eds., *Mustangs and Cowhorses* (Reprint Ed., Dallas: Southern Methodist University Press, 1982), pp. 3-21.

[4] PL 92-195, 85 Stat. 649, the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of December 15, 1971.

[5] Elizabeth Atwood Lawrence, "The White Mustang of the Prairies," *Great Plains Quarterly* 1 (Spring 1981), pp. 81-94.

[6] *Natural Resources Management Plan and Environmental Assessment,* Theodore Roosevelt National Park (Medora, ND: National Park Service, 1984), p. 46.

[7] Here and the following paragraphs, see: John C. Ewers, *The Horse in Blackfoot Indian Culture* (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1955); Raymond Wood and Thomas D. Thiessen, *Early Fur Trade on the Northern Plains: Canadian Traders Among the Mandan and Hidatsa Indians, 1738-1818 (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1985).*

[8] Dobie, *The Mustangs,* p. 97.

animals. It is likely that feral herds developed in proximity to such centers of trade and settlement, where the maintenance of large numbers of horses required constant vigilance and was constrained by their commodity value and limited grazing resources. In his classic work, *The Mustangs,* historian J. Frank Dobie claimed that a particularly virulent smallpox epidemic, which decimated the village tribes in 1837, "released thousands of horses to run wild."[8] Frequent trade and travel between the Hidatsa villages and their horse-rich Crow relatives along the Yellowstone may also have contributed to the development of early feral herds throughout the western Missouri Plateau.

The earliest known mention of wild horses in what is now North Dakota was made by frontier artist George Catlin, while visiting the Mandan villages along the Missouri River in 1832. Catlin noted:

> The horses which the Indians ride in this country are invariably the wild horses, which are found in great numbers on the prairies; and have, unquestionably, strayed from the Mexican borders, into which they were introduced by the Spanish invaders of that country; and now range and subsist themselves, in winter and summer, over the vast stretches of prairie that stretch from the Mexican frontiers to Lake Winnipeg on the North, a distance of 3,000 miles. . .[9]

Washington Irving observed Arickara horses during the 1840s and distinguished between horses that had been captured wild and those that had been acquired by trade, stating: "The horses owned by the Arickaras are, for the most part, of the wild stock of the prairies; some, however, have been obtained from the Poncas, Pawnees, and other tribes to the southwest, who had stolen them from the Spaniards."[10] While Plains tribes later adopted the southwestern technique of capturing horses by means of a lariat thrown during a mounted chase, a native informant told Lewis Crawford in 1930 that one band of Sioux caught their first wild horses around 1825 by placing bison hair snares along watering trails near Fire Heart Butte. Walking Elk, an Oglala, was said to have caught his first wild horse, a young colt discovered in a herd of buffalo, in the valley of the Platte River. While no date was provided for this incident, it is of interest because it was remembered that the Oglala at first attempted to feed the colt dried meat. Such a lack of familiarity with horses would indicate that the incident occurred prior to the acquisition of horses through trade, in turn suggesting the early appearance of wild herds in the region.[11]

The Open Range Ranching Era

Wild horses in North Dakota are best known for their role in the cultural history of the ranching communities along the Little Missouri River, where they have been reported in the rugged badlands and river breaks since the late nineteenth century. The late historic settlement of the region precludes written accounts of their origins, although reference to the earliest feral animals as "Indian horses" by local ranchers suggests their presence prior to the arrival of cattlemen.[12] The badlands ecosystem, combining grasslands, water, and the shelter afforded by the timbered riverbottoms and draws, made the country ideal habitat for feral horses, as it was for domestic livestock. The establishment of the ranching industry along the Little Missouri River during the 1880s seems to have augmented an extant population of wild horses in that relatively inaccessible region. Theodore Roosevelt, who ranched in the Medora area as a young man in 1884-1886, indicated that the wild horse population in the Little Missouri country was fairly substantial at that time:

> In a great many—indeed, in most—localities there are wild horses to be found, which, although invariably of domestic descent, being either themselves runaways from some ranch or Indian outfit, or else claiming such as their sires and dams, are yet quite as wild as the antelope on whose domain they have intruded. Ranchmen run in these horses whenever possible, and they are but little more difficult to break than the so-called "tame animals." But the wild stallions are, whenever possible, shot; both because of their propensity for driving off the ranch mares, and because their incurable viciousness makes them always unsafe companions for other horses still more than for men. . .[13]

The development of open-range cattle ranching in southwestern North Dakota during the late nineteenth century was the result of a tremendous northward

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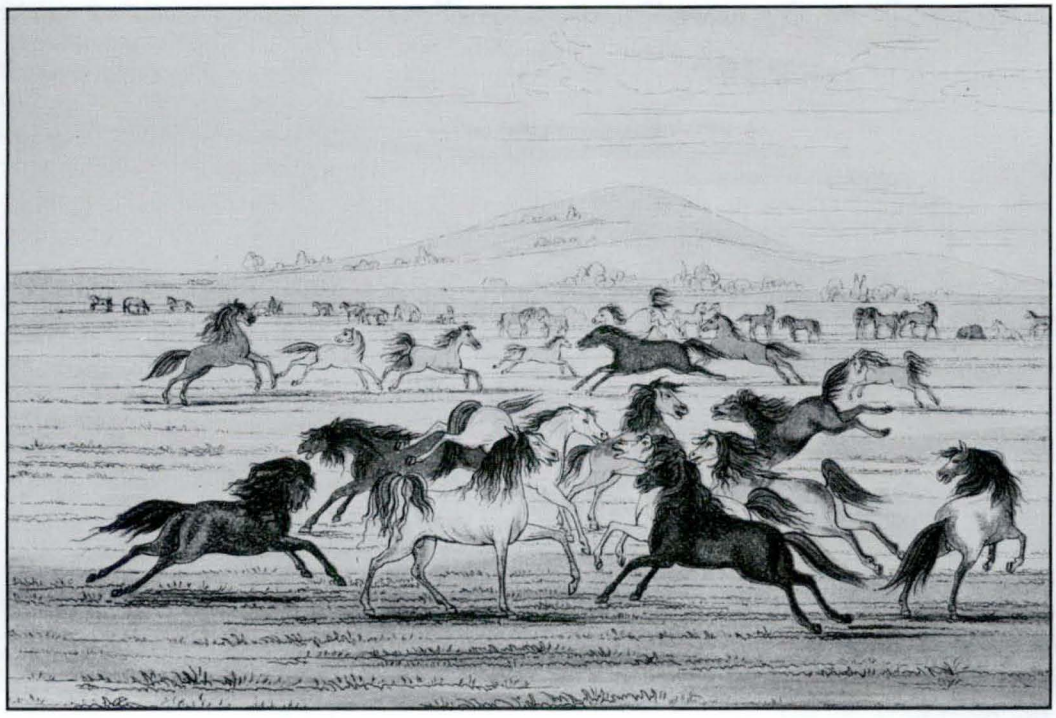
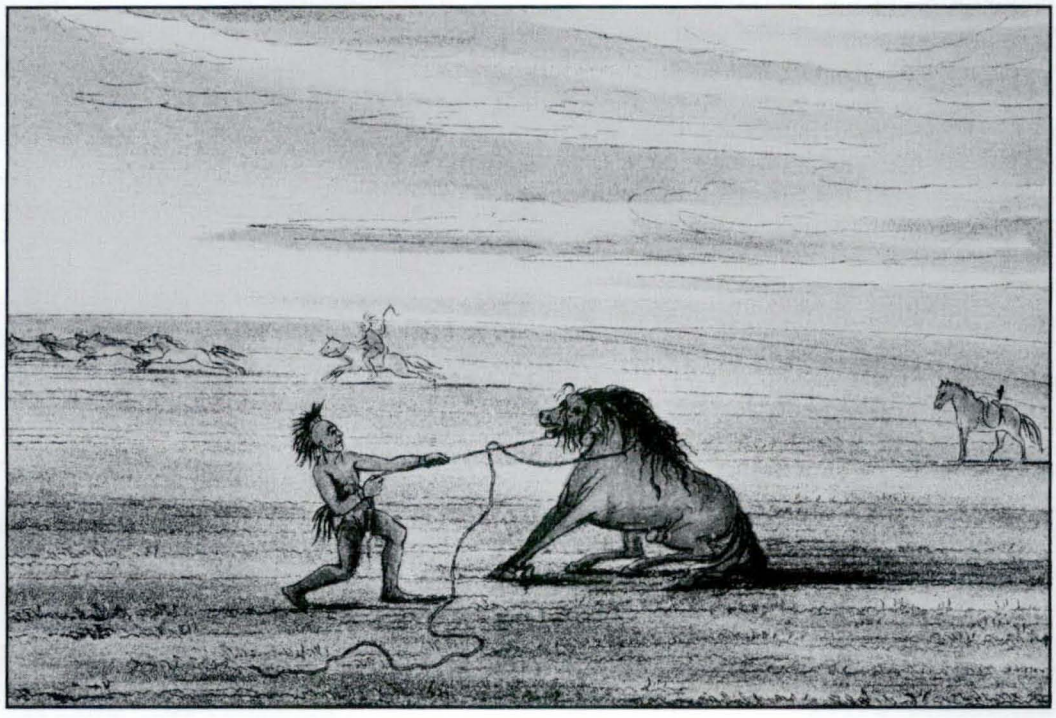
[9] George Catlin, *Letters and Notes on the Manners, Customs, and Conditions of the North American Indians, Volume I* (Reprint Ed., New York: Dover Publications, 1973), p. 142.

[10] Cited in Walker D. Wyman, *The Wild Horse of the West* (Reprint Ed., Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1963), p. 283.

[11] Lewis Crawford interview with Mrs. Waggoner, July 7, 1930, Record Group A-58, Notebook #2, State Historical Society of North Dakota.

[12] See oral history interviews in Castle McLaughlin, "The History and Status of the Wild Horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park," 1989 (On file, National Park Service, Medora, ND). (Cited hereafter as McLaughlin, "Wild Horses.")





Artist George Catlin sketched and wrote about the spirited wild horses of the northern and southern plains during his western travels in the early 1830s. In describing the difficulty of getting close enough to sketch the wild horses, he wrote, "I made many attempts to approach them by stealth, when they were grazing and playing their gambols, without ever having been more than once able to succeed." In the sketch below, Catlin illustrates the Comanches' method of breaking or taming the wild horse, after capturing it with a lasso and then hobbling it.

The ranching tradition of the Spanish southwest was transported to North Dakota by Texas cattlemen during the open-range ranching era of the late nineteenth century. In 1883, North Dakota rancher Charles Eaton was photographed in Medora with a mustang horse and Spanish riding gear.

expansion of the Texas livestock industry following the Civil War, which was initiated by large, heavily financed operations seeking new grazing lands during a period of market expansion. By 1885 many of these were established in the Medora area, including such well-known outfits as the Berry Boice Cattle Company (Three Sevens); Hughes and Simpson (The Hash Knife); Towers and Gudgell (The OX); and the Reynolds Brothers (Long X). The scale of these operations was considerable, several companies running as many as 40,000 head of cattle and trailing thousands of Texas longhorns and cow ponies into North Dakota each summer.[14]

These agents of the Texas ranching tradition introduced into the Dakotas the methods, equipment, and livestock varieties of open-range ranching, as it had developed in the Southwest out of the Spanish hacienda system.[15] A Medora rancher contemporary with Roosevelt acknowledged the influence of the southern cattlemen, saying, "All we knew of open-range ranching we learned from them."[16] In this system, cattle were grazed on unfenced range, the herds rotated seasonally from the grassy uplands and valleys to home ranges in the sheltered badlands for the winter. Although they were herded by company cowboys, range cattle received little handling except during semiannual roundups conducted to brand, sort, and move them.

Horses were handled in similar fashion. To raise horses in an unfenced expanse with minimal care, ranchers exploited the natural propensity of equines to organize into bands of mares controlled and defended by a dominant stallion, which generally maintained them within a selected home range. The rancher substituted his choice of breeding animals for natural selection and gathered the animals twice annually to remove young animals and replace breeding stock; the rest of the year they ran at large. A.C. Huidekoper, who ran 4,000 head of horses on his famous HT Ranch near Amidon between 1884-1905, described this practice in reference to his program of breeding Indian mares to Thoroughbred stallions:

> The breeding up of this herd was a most interesting problem. With the exception of some full-blooded stallions, the rest of the herd ran at large . . . The ranch work commenced with the spring roundup. The country was ridden for 100 miles square, or more . . . The colts were branded and tallied. Then some 50 mares were selected and a stallion selected that we thought would improve the confirmation [sic] of the breeding. This stallion and his mares were put in charge of a cowboy, and for a week were herded by day and corralled at night. At the end of a week, the stallion would know his mares . . . He would take them to some location favored by him, and there you would find him with his herd during the breeding season; after the breeding season they might separate into smaller bunches.[17]

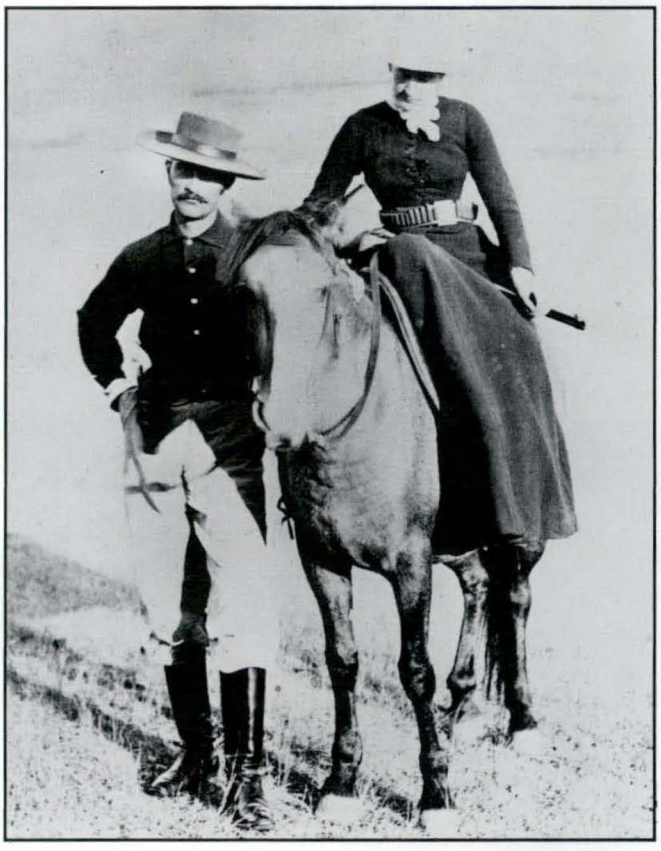
The practice of range-breeding horses resulted in the creation of feral herds throughout the American West. Essentially free roaming, such animals often found the opportunity to form or to join renegade bands that resisted capture; the physiography of the Badlands

proved especially conducive to this scenario. Ranchers called feral horses "broomtails," "cayuses," "mustangs," "ridgerunners," "broncos," and "slicks," a term applied to any unbranded livestock. Not infrequently, domestic stallions were deliberately released in order to "upgrade" the wild stock. In other areas, the local origin of particular horses or bands was inferred from circumstantial evidence or by the animal's appearance, resulting in ranchers sometimes feeling a proprietory interest in certain herds.[18]

Despite the domestic origin of feral horses, modern equine researchers have noted the remarkable rapidity with which such horses revert to forms of social organization and behavior characteristic of true wild equines. The long domestication of the horse, and genetic and historical differences among populations notwithstanding, comparative studies of free roaming horses have revealed consistent patterns in their behavior that seem to obviate the distinction between "wild' and "feral," thus animating debate over their protection.[19]

John Kolkema, who worked for the Beisigl Brothers' V Cross O Ranch west of Grassy Butte and on the George Dobson Ranch between the Cannonball and Cedar Rivers at the turn of the century, observed the process of reversion in domestic range horses, which included aggression between competing stallions and the avoidance of man:

> horses ran at will both summer and winter . . . different bands of horses were taken to the ranch, the colts branded and then turned out of the corrals. It was not necessary to drive these back to their range. They would return of their own accord in the shortest possible space of time . . . For breeding purposes, a stallion was placed in a bunch of mares in a favorable location near a spring and he would do about as neat a job of close herding and guarding as I have ever seen. He would allow no other horses to come in close proximity to his harem. Nothing missed his keen eyesight or scent and if he saw a large band of horses approaching, he would drive his herd to some secluded spot in the hills and then bring them back to their old range after the strangers had passed by. I have seen stallions stand for hours on a high point watching their band and at the same time scanning the horizon and at the first sign of danger rush for their band, head and tail held high and nostrils open. The mares seemed to immediately sense danger, would bunch together, and allow themselves to be driven off by their master. Instances have been recorded where the stallions of 2 separate bands would meet and then there would be a fight to the death. . .[20]



The riding horse of the Marquise de Mores may have formerly belonged to Sioux Indians who surrendered with Sitting Bull at Fort Buford in 1881. The Marquis de Mores purchased 250 of the Sioux horses from post traders; many were later resold to A.C. Huidekoper.

Like many of the early ranchers and hired hands in the Little Missouri country, Billy Timmons was a former Texas cowboy who came to Medora in 1896 seeking unfenced grass and new opportunity. When he arrived in the area, he first worked as a horse wrangler for the

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[13] Theodore Roosevelt, *Ranch Life in the Far West* (Golden, CO: Outbooks, 1981), p. 23.

[14] Sources on early ranching in the Little Missouri Badlands include Lewis Crawford, *History of North Dakota, Vol. I* (Chicago and New York: American Historical Society, 1931), pp. 484-516, and Ray H. Mattison, "Ranching in the Dakota Badlands: A Study of Roosevelt's Contemporaries," *North Dakota History,* XIX (April-July, 1952).

[15] The development and expansion of the Texas range cattle industry is well documented; see for instance, Lewis Atherton, *The Cattle Kings* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1972); Jimmy Skaggs, *The Cattle Trailing Industry: Between Supply and Demand, 1866-1890* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1973).

[16] Lincoln Lang, *Ranching with Roosevelt, By a Companion Rancher* (Philadelphia and London: J.B. Lippincott Co., 1926), p. 176.

HT Ranch cowboys. Left to right: Jud Lebo, Peter Roth, John Tyler, Jack Snyder, George Woodman, Wallis Huidekoper (brother of A.C. Huidekoper, owner of the HT Ranch), Frank Philbrick.

Bellows Ranch, located on the Little Missouri River fifteen miles north of Medora. In his memoirs, Timmons commented on the wildness of the Bellows' range horses:

> Some ranged a hundred miles from the ranch, as far as the Yellowstone breaks. They talked especially of Silver Tip, a wild Spanish mare that ran with a bunch of 25 or 30 horses that hadn't been corralled for several years. . .
>
> When this proud queen saw a would-be rider, she'd bolt for the nearest breaks of the Little Missouri or Beaver Creek country and hide. I'd been told how 4 or 5 cowboys had taken stands and relayed runs on her to keep her out of rough country, but she'd always eluded them and escaped. They'd run their horses down, so they quit trying to get her into a corral or in a roundup.[21]

Timmons also mentioned a large black range stallion that had become incorrigible and would fight a saddle horse and its rider. In fact, many ranchers claimed that once free, domestic saddle horses became wilder and more difficult to recover than horses that had never known captivity. Will James stated, "The meanest bucking horse I ever saw was gentle to break, and never made a jump until one day he got away and run with the wild bunch for a couple of years."[22] Likewise, C.F. Martell, who began ranching in the Little Missouri Badlands in 1910, described the difficulty of recapturing horses that had been wintered loose and noted that "We found some of the horses that had been broken were the worst (ridge) runners."[23]

Due to the excellent market for horses that prevailed until after World War I, many of the early Little Missouri ranches were primarily horse breeding operations, and several others switched entirely to horses after the

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[17] A.C.Huidekoper, *My Experience and Investment in the Bad Lands of Dakota and Some of the Men I Met There.* Introduction by Usher L. Burdick (Baltimore: Wirth Brothers, 1947), p. 35.

[18] Heather Smith Thomas, *The Wild Horse Controversy* (Cranberry, NJ: A.S. Barnes and Co., 1979), pp. 34-35, 50-54. One of the few treatments of the subject from a ranching perspective.

[19] James D. Feist and Dale R. McCullough, "Behavior Patterns and Communication in Feral Horses," *Z. Tierpsychol,* 41 (1976), p. 367.

[20] Reminiscences of John Kolkema, in Manfred Signalness, ed., *Fifty Years in the Saddle: Looking Back Down the Trail, Vol. III* (Dickinson,

disastrous winter of 1886-87 decimated the cattle herds, particularly "dogie" cattle from Minnesota and the East. In contrast, horses survived because of their organization in small, dispersed bands and their instinct to paw away snow to graze. Rancher Lincoln Lang, who lost heavily that winter, commented that the ability of horses to "rustle" during harsh winters provided an advantage both to the horse breeder and to the feral herds:

> As we would learn in due time, they were the only class of livestock that could ever really adapt themselves to the natural conditions governing the country . . . Thus, in passing, we get a side-light on why it was that from a few horses, turned loose by the Spaniards during their day in the southwest, there developed naturally and rapidly the great wild herds of the plains.[24]

There would have been little difference in type between wild and domestic horses of southwestern North Dakota during the late nineteenth century. The standard ranch mount of the era was the Spanish mustang, a breed favored by ranchmen in the Southwest and California; these cow ponies were customarily purchased by northern ranches along with delivered Texas cattle.[25] The Hash Knife, one of the largest Texas ranching enterprises operating in North Dakota, imported Spanish mustangs for use as company cow ponies and also sold them to other ranching operations in the Little Missouri Badlands.[26] Indian horses were also originally descended from Spanish stock, and although few tribes practiced selective breeding, the Indian pony was regarded as a true type. Mustangs were small, hardy horses noted for their endurance, a quality horsemen term "bottom," and which was valued for arduous rangework. It was a common practice for early ranchers to use mustang and Indian mares as their foundation stock; on the northern plains these animals were often "bred up" by crossing them with Thoroughbred stallions or other eastern breeds to increase their size while retaining their hardiness.

For example, in 1883 the Marquis de Mores, French entrepreneur and the founder of Medora, North Dakota, purchased 250 horses (including all of the mares) that had been confiscated from Sitting Bull at Fort Buford, some of which still bore bullet wounds from the Battle of the Little Bighorn.[27] His wife, the Marquise, was photographed several times with a saddle horse that may have been one of these Sioux horses, most of which would have been broken to ride. Evidently the Marquis intended to begin breeding horses on a large scale, with these mares as foundation stock, but changed his mind after horse thieves thinned his herd.[28] In 1884, de Mores sold sixty of the Sioux mares to A.C. Huidekoper for his Little Missouri Horse Company (HT Ranch). Huidekoper range-bred the mares to a Kentucky Thoroughbred stallion, and the offspring commanded high prices as polo ponies and local ranch horses.[29] Lincoln Lang, who owned one of these cross-bred mounts, noted "the western range horse of the early days usually comprised an intermixture of breeds . . . As a rule, the aboriginal strain was present to a greater or lesser extent. Sooner or later, it was likely to crop out, usually to your disadvantage."[30]

Lang captured several wild horses in the badlands; he also lost some of his own ranch stock to the wild bands, and complained that "Outlaw horses were an unqualified nuisance on the range at all times, due to their habit of inducing others to join them."[31] It is likely that considerable exchange occurred between domestic and feral range herds, with ranch horses escaping into the badlands and ranchers in turn "harvesting" feral horses for use or sale as saddle, harness, or breeding stock. John Goodall, foreman for the Marquis de Mores at age twenty-four and a noted rancher and lawman later in life, told Usher Burdick of an occasion on which he and Theodore Roosevelt watched a young cowhand attempt to break a wild horse. He also partially attributed the failure of the Marquis de Mores's ill-fated stagecoach line to the fact that "there were no horses except wild horses," noting that the animals had broken up enough equipment to have paid passenger fares for all of de

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ND: private printing, 1990), p. 230.

[21] William Timmons, *Twilight on the Range: Recollections of a Latter-day Cowboy* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1962), p. 90.

[22] Will James, *Cowboys North and South* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1926), p. 47.

[23] Reminiscences of C.F. Martell, in *Fifty Years in the Saddle, Vol. III,* p. 261.

[24] Lang, *Ranching with Roosevelt,* pp. 252-253.

[25] Lewis Crawford interview with H.H. Peays, December 26, 1923, Record Group A-58, State Historical Society of North Dakota. For the history and diffusion of the mustang horse, consult Dobie, *The Mustangs,* and Robert M. Denhardt, *The Horse of the Americas* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1947).

[26] Wallis Huidekoper, "From Cow Horse to Polo Pony," *Bar North,* 1955 (June), p. 65.

[27] Crawford, *History of North Dakota, Vol. I,* p. 492; Dobie, *The Mustangs,* p. 90; Arnold D. Goplan, *The Career of the Marquis de Mores in the Badlands of North Dakota* (Bismarck: State Historical Society of North Dakota, 1979), p. 21.

[28] See Donald Dresden, *The Marquis de Mores: Emperor of the Badlands* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1946), p. 173, and Herman Hagedorn, *Roosevelt in the Badlands* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1921), p. 67.

[29] A.C. Huidekoper, *My Experience and Investment in the Bad Lands,* pp. 23-35; Wallis Huidekoper, "From Cow Horse to Polo Pony," p. 64.

[30] Lang, *Ranching with Roosevelt,* p. 286.

[31] *Ibid.,* P. 297.

Mores's customers.[32] Roosevelt wrote of his ranch horses:

> Our outfit may be taken as a sample of everyone else's . . . All our four horse teams are strong, willing animals, though of no great size, being originally just "broncos," or *unbroken native horses,* like the others [emphasis added].[33]

Capturing wild horses was difficult and dangerous. After attempting it in the company of Comanche Indians on the southern plains, Catlin expressed the widely held view that "There is no animal on the prairies so wild and sagacious as the horse, and none so difficult to come up with."[34] Methods varied according to the purpose of the hunt and hence the number of horses desired. In early Texas, where wild horses were both abundant and valuable, Spanish and American profiteers staged large-scale, highly organized roundups designed to net hundreds of horses. On the northern plains, these events were typically informal forays undertaken for sport or to augment ranch remudas. Generally, small groups of men attempted to capture a single band of horses by positioning relay riders at intervals to tire the running animals, which were then either roped or guided into a strategically located and camouflaged trap.

Wild horse herds typically consist of a dominant stallion, one to fifteen mature mares, and their immature offspring.[35] When chased, the horses are often led by an older mare, while the stallion assumes a position in the rear, driving the others and, if necessary, fighting pursuers. The running animals will perform feats of desperation to avoid capture, such as jumping off precipices or climbing sheer cliffs, measures that sometimes prove fatal. They also have a well-developed instinct for avoiding entrapment. This behavior makes chasing wild horses a risky enterprise, which elicits all of the riding and roping skills in the repertoire of a working cowboy, particularly in deeply dissected terrain such as the Little Missouri Badlands. Injuries and even deaths have been reported for both horses and riders, usually resulting from violent falls during the chase. In the Southwest, Spanish mustangers dedicated their corrals to saints and used part of their returns to engage a priest to say mass for the souls of their departed comrades.[36]

Frequently, roundups were motivated by an ambition to capture a particular horse, generally a young stallion that displayed intelligence, speed and pride. Selected horses could occasionally be roped if encountered alone or by chance while running down an entire band. The individual pursuit of a dominant stallion was called by a nineteenth-century Texan "The chase of all chases," but generally succeeded only in ruining the rider's saddle horse.[37] Horses that eluded capture were repeatedly challenged; among both Plains Indians and ranchmen, uncatchable animals such as the "Pacing White Stallion" passed into legend, with songs and stories composed in their honor.[38] Recognition also was accorded to the men who succeeded in putting an end to their liberty: "When Berry Robuck boasted in his retirement, 'I am the man who caught the blue mustang mare,' he did not have to retell the story to his fellow cowboys at the Trail Driver's convention."[39]

Joe Strong, ex-sheriff of McHenry County and early-day cowboy in North Dakota, recounted the story of an 1899 wild horse roundup between Shell Creek and Little Knife River, close to the former town of Sanish. Mr. Strong was one of nine riders, including the owners and hired hands of the 101 and Double V ranches, who relayed a herd for three days in order to catch the lead stallion, which had attracted a good deal of local attention. Strong's detailed narrative describes the lure of a wild stallion that had the desired appearance of a domestic horse but the spirit and speed of a wild one, and expresses his eagerness to possess and master the qualities of the animal:

> There were not many horses in the band we were after, probably not more than ten or twelve, but one of them was a prize; one of the best horses I have ever laid my eyes on. He was a big chestnut stallion, and the leader of the band . . . Where he originated, none of us ever found out, but he was a beautiful animal, with real breeding in him . . . He was so fast that he made our ordinary cow ponies ashamed. His speed, stamina, and endurance was what we

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[32] "Life and Exploits of John Goodall," in *Fifty Years in the Saddle, Vol. III,* p. 143; reprinted from Usher L. Burdick, "Life and Exploits of John Goodall" (Watford City, ND: McKenzie County Farmer, 1931). Goodall may have been using the term "wild" to refer to unbroken rather than feral animals, although contemporaries describe the capture and use of wild horses near Medora. His comments counter sources which indicate that De Mores purchased broken, well-bred horses for the stage line; see Goplan, *The Career of the Marquis de Mores,* p. 24.

[33] Roosevelt, *Ranch Life in the Far West,* p. 33.

[34] Catlin, *Letters and Notes on the Manners, Customs, and Conditions of the North American Indians, Volume II,* p. 57.

[35] Herd size varies with the social and ecological conditions. The most accessible biological and behavioral discussion of wild horses is Joel Berger, *Wild Horses of the Great Basin* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980).

[36] J.W. Moses, "A Mustanger of 1850," *Mustangs and Cow Horses,* p. 42.

[37] Robinson, "Mustangs and Mustanging in Southwest Texas," *"Mustangs and Cow Horses,* p. 10.

[38] For examples, see Dobie, *The Mustangs; Mustangs and Cow Horses, passim;* for an analysis of the legends, see Lawrence, "The White Mustang of the Prairies."

[39] Jimmy Skaggs, *The Cattle Trailing Industry,* pp. 33-34.

The Medora stagecoach line, owned by the Marquis de Mores, reportedly utilized unbroken range horses, with predictable and expensive results.

> envied and wanted. He was ours, if we could catch him, because he carried no brand, as did none of the mares in his band. In those early ranching days, any horse that was without a brand was yours, if you could rope him and put your brand into his hide.[40]

On one level, a wild horse roundup may be viewed as an event that reenacts the conquest of the western frontier and the hegemony of culture over the natural world through the agency of the cowboy. For the participants, a roundup served to develop or to demonstrate skills that expressed competency within ranching culture, and validated their place within the local social order. The element of personal challenge is conspicuous in virtually all first-hand accounts of mustanging. Roundups allowed for the display of individual expertise and bravado; the ability to dominate a wild horse was an aspect of identity and achievement within ranching culture which is perpetuated today in the more structured format of rodeo.[41]

The Closed Range

By 1910 open-range ranching in western North Dakota had been eclipsed by the emergence of private property, defined by the fence and encouraged through a series of Homestead Acts and other federal legislation aimed at establishing family farmers in unoccupied regions of the Great Plains. As one rancher on the Missouri Plateau lamented, "We now had to buy our land and fence our range . . . the roundup wagon was a thing of the past."[42] Wheat farms and enterprises producing both livestock and feed crops replaced the expansive cattle operations in the Little Missouri Badlands, most of which were already out of business by 1906, when A.C. Huidekoper sold the 40,000 acre HT Ranch. The new pattern of land tenure and intensified production required more con-

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[40] Narrative of Joe Strong, North Dakota Writers Project Records, History of Grazing Files Series No. 560, 26E4, Box 109 (McHenry County), State Historical Society of North Dakota.

[41] The interpretation of rodeo as a performance expressing opposition between natural and cultural domains in ranching culture was developed in Elizabeth Atwood Lawrence, *Rodeo: An Anthropologist Looks at the Wild and the Tame* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1982).

Cowboy photographer Leo D. Harris recorded a defiant wild horse captured during a roundup in the 1930s. Although the location of the photograph is noted only as "western North Dakota," it may have been taken at the old Killdeer Rodeo Grounds near the Killdeer Mountains.

trol over the now divided range, and ushered in an increasing concern with range and livestock management techniques. These included the replacement of domestic livestock with new varieties, and the eradication of undesirable wildlife such as prairie dogs, predators, and wild horses. Larger historical processes also affected wild horse populations throughout the twentieth century, including mechanization, wars, the development of the pet food industry, the drought and depression of the 1920s and 1930s, and expanded federal management of public lands.

When homesteaders arrived in Billings County at the turn of the century, they found wild horses in the Little Missouri Badlands. One resident stated that when her parents homesteaded just north of the present boundary of Theodore Roosevelt National Park in 1909, "every hill and plateau and higher elevation had a number of horses standing on them" and local men with hired crews made their living capturing and selling the animals, shipping them on the railroad from Belfield.[43] A wild horse roundup was reported near Medora in 1915, and ranchers such as William "Badlands Bill" McCarty are reported to have captured wild horses for resale throughout the early part of the century. Some of this activity may have been related to the enormous demand for horses created by the Boer War (1898-1901) and World War I, which was met largely by the removal of wild horses from the western range.

The influx of homesteaders into western North Dakota generated a demand for the heavy work horses necessary for farming, and many North Dakota ranchers began breeding horses for the farm market by importing draft stallions such as Percherons. The selective breeding of animals for the changing demands of agricultural production and the modern saddle horse market rendered the nineteenth-century mustang and cow pony obsolete. Another impetus for this process was the Cavalry Remount Program, established in the wake

of the tremendous demand for horses during World War I. In this system, the U.S. Army placed Thoroughbred and Morgan stallions with selected horse breeders to cross with their own mares, the government retaining first right to the offspring provided they met government specifications. Several Little Missouri ranchers participated in this program as a means to improve their stock, although the widespread use of purebred, registered horses as ranch mounts did not occur in southwestern North Dakota until the 1950s.

Following World War I, the displacement of horses by mechanized farm equipment and automobiles, farm failure, and general economic decline punctured the horse market, and many animals were virtually abandoned throughout the western half of the state. Rancher John Leakey noted that as early as 1917, feral horses had "all but ruined the country" for cattle along the Little Missouri through over-grazing, and claimed that this situation contributed to the failure of his livestock operation.[44] In reference to two well-known Dunn County ranchers, a writer remarked that "Probably that same bunch of horses that they had prior to the war, and which sold at fantastic prices during the war, were running wild in the breaks along the west side of the Little Missouri during the 1920s, until they almost become a nuisance even in that sparsely settled region."[45] In 1927, a group of about thirty ranchers in eastern Montana and southwestern North Dakota organized a four day roundup which covered an area forty miles long and twenty miles wide. They succeeded in capturing 2,700 head of horses; many were branded and owned, the rest "slicks." The riders divided the animals they claimed or wanted and sold the remainder to a North Dakota buyer for $6 a head.[46]

Drought and the Depression generated a rural exodus from the western half of North Dakota during the 1920s and 1930s; many of these emigrants also left behind livestock that became feral. By 1934, 42 percent of the people in Billings County were on relief, and drought had struck a severe blow to the ranching industry.[47] Lewis Crawford observed:

> The taxes and interest on the investment in lands have been too high to make ranching profitable. The range counties are bare of cattle and county commissions are acquiring much land by tax title. In the meantime, grass is going to waste or is eaten by straggling bands of horses that no one is anxious to claim.[48]

By 1935 feral horse numbers in North Dakota had probably regained or surpassed population levels of the open-range era, although they were far fewer than in states such as Wyoming and Nevada, where thousands of horses were removed from the range during the 1930s. Feral horses were reported throughout the Little Missouri corridor from south of Medora to Williston. In reference to the area between Killdeer and Medora, one rancher told the writer that "The whole damn country was full of wild horses, especially after the drought and depression;" another that "A group made a living catching and selling wild horses, but sometimes they weren't worth stealing."[49] Herds were concentrated in the badlands and breaks along major creeks on the west side of the Little Missouri River. The rugged terrain made capture difficult because horses "got educated in knowing that saddle horses could not follow them if they jumped down this steep place," with the result that, "if you are riding a fast horse and are good with a rope, you sometimes get one or two, but not very often."[50] Frequently, wild stallions were shot by ranchers anxious to protect the grasslands for their livestock. Rancher Andrew Johnson described the range of wild horses in western North Dakota during the first half of the twentieth century in the following way:

> There were some in Beisigel Creek and Magpie Creek that were troublesome for a few years. Then there were some on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation that ran in the river breaks from Bear Den Creek to the breaks east of Boggy Creek and it took quite a few years in getting those cleaned up. The largest band of them was on the bank of the west side of the Little Missouri River in the Beaver Creek and Dry Creek country. I think those were strung up and down the river breaks for twenty miles or more. They were great sport for the person interested that liked to run wild horses for a large number of years.[51]

The expanding pet food industry provided an incentive for capturing such animals for slaughter sale, and during the 1930s and 1940s, thousands of feral horses were rounded up annually throughout the West for the

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[42] Reminiscences of Charles Bahm, in Fred E. Shafer, ed., *Fifty Years in the Saddle, Vol. I* (Watford City, ND: Private printing, 1963), p. 116.

[43] Loyla Lindbo, *Origin of the Park Horses* (Beach, ND: Private printing, 1988), p. 5; Loyla Lindbo interview, April 11, 1987; see McLaughlin, "Wild Horses."

[44] John Leakey, as told to Nellie Snyder Yost, *The West That Was: from Texas to Montana* (Dallas: Southern Methodist University Press, 1958), pp. 200-205.

[45] Biographical sketch of Gus Elfstrom, *Fifty Years in the Saddle, Vol. III*, p. 106.

[46] Reminiscences of Frank Clem, *Fifty Years in the Saddle, Vol. III*, pp. 97-98.

[47] *Echoing Trails: Billings County History* (Medora: Billings County Historical Society, 1979), p. 37.

[48] Crawford, *History of North Dakota, Vol. I*, p. 513.

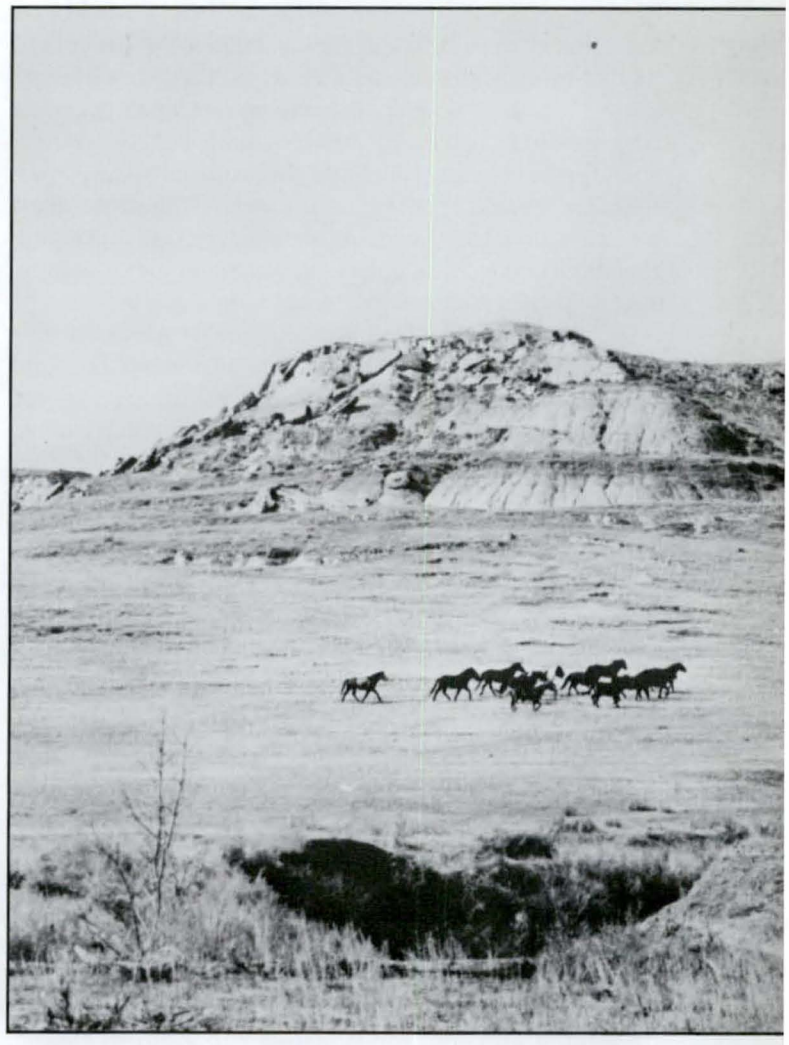
[49] Jim Connolly (Dunn Center) and Jack Murphy (Killdeer) interviews, 1987; see McLaughlin, "Wild Horses."

[50] Andrew Johnson, ed., *Fifty Years in the Saddle: Another Look at the Trail, Vol. II* (Dickinson, ND: Private printing, 1965), pp. 483-484.

"canner" market.[52] Rodeo stock contractors provided a local market for feral horses, particularly the heavy draft types, which were slow and relatively easy to capture. Many of the horses taken off the Fort Berthold Reservation and out of the badlands between Killdeer and Medora became saddle broncs on the regional rodeo circuit; a few, such as "Figure Four" and "Whizz Bang," developed national reputations in the rodeo arena.[53] During large horse roundups on the Fort Berthold Reservation during the 1940s and 1950s, captured animals were tested for their bucking ability: "We used a bareback rigging with weights. If they bucked hard enough that the straps made an "X" over their back they were kept; if not, they were canned."[54]

Vernon and Harris Goldsberry, well-known horse breeders often credited with introducing the American Quarter Horse to North Dakota during the 1950s, got their start in the business by capturing wild horses in the Little Missouri Badlands west of Grassy Butte between 1935-1945. At age fifteen, Vernon Goldsberry went to work for a rancher who hired crews to catch and break wild horses for sale as riding animals. He attributed this enterprise to the fact that draft horses so outnumbered saddle horses in western North Dakota that "About the only chance of getting something to ride would be to dip into the wild bunches."[55] After four years of employment, Vernon went into partnership with his brother; by roping two or three horses a week and capturing animals for other ranchers unable to gather their stock, they earned more income than Depression-era employment could offer. While some mustangers utilized ten to twenty relay riders, the Goldsberrys preferred to work as a team; one would run a band of horses until they were winded and could be roped by the second rider. They chased the animals in early spring or fall, partially to avoid running newborn foals, which were often killed by falling into washouts. When catching horses for the saddle horse market, the Goldsberrys targeted young stallions, which were individually roped or were snared along trails. Some animals were kept for their own breeding stock; in 1954 the Goldsberrys sold fifty-four mares in order to buy their first registered Quarter Horse stallion.

The challenge of chasing wild horses across the broken landscape of the badlands compelled many cowboys to pursue them regardless of the current market conditions, one former rancher noting that "People bragged about the badlands horses . . . you knew they were



A 1954 roundup of horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park spurred on

mustangs."[56] Most roundups were staged in early spring, when wild horses were weak from winter grazing and icy conditions favored shod saddle horses. The most widely reported technique was the relay chase, in which riders pursued one or more bands of horses, often exchanging their saddle horses for fresh mounts until the wild horses were tired enough to be roped. Concealed traps or corrals were sometimes built along trails or in natural canyons; decoy domestic horses and flags were used to direct the horses towards the opening. However, pens were seldom left standing, for fear that others would use them to capture owned range stock. Snaring

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[51] *Ibid.*, p. 484. Note that wild horses had frequented the breaks along Beaver Creek since the open range era; see Timmons, cited above.

[52] Wyman, *The Wild Horse of the West*, pp. 201-215. A first-hand account of producing and capturing horses for the slaughter market is provided in Robert W. Eigell, *Cows, Cowboys, Canners, and Corned Beef and Cabbage: The Last Large Scale Epic About the Northern Ranges of the West* (New York: Vantage Press, 1987).

[53] Both Whizz Bang and Figure Four were out of branded mares but were raised on the range and were difficult to capture and handle.

[54] Bruce Northrup interview, August 11, 1987; see McLaughlin, "Wild Horses."

[55] Here and following, Harris Goldsberry interview, July 6, 1989; see McLaughlin, "Wild Horses;" Vernon Goldsberry in *Fifty Years in the Saddle, Vol. III*, p. 146.

rea cowboys in pursuit of their own range stock as well as of wild horses.

was also a popular and successful strategy; two techniques have been recorded. Noose ropes camouflaged with green paint were hung between trees or brush along a trail that the horses were then encouraged along in hopes of snaring the leaders; to prevent strangulation, this was only employed in flat areas. Conversely, foot snares were set on sloping trails along which the desired horses were run down; the rope was secured to a cut green tree to slow the animal's flight while preventing a violent impact. The southwestern technique of "creasing" the base of a horse's neck with a rifle shot to temporarily render it immobile required specialized skill; few North Dakota ranchers reported accomplishing this without killing the horse.[57]

Preservation

By the early 1950s, wild horse populations along the Little Missouri had been considerably diminished. Economic recovery and the rebuilding of cattle herds during the 1940s encouraged the removal of horses from the range, a process accelerated by federal land management agencies such as the U.S. Grazing Service (later Bureau of Land Management), U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service (NPS) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. During the period 1945-1960, a common focus of these agencies was rehabilitation of the rangeland and other natural resources, and the development of recreation potential. The eradication of unclaimed livestock was a shared priority.[58] Various agencies, including the Forest Service, removed feral horses from the Little Missouri National Grasslands area during the 1940s and 1950s; in 1950, 500 range horses were rounded up on the Fort Berthold Reservation and sold. When Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park was created in 1947, several hundred head of owned livestock, primarily horses, and a number of unclaimed horses were grazing in the area appropriated for the South Unit. Disputes between the NPS and local ranchers over trespass horses marked the first few years of federal jurisdiction; in May of 1954, the parties agreed to hold a large-scale roundup to settle the issue.[59]

The event received national publicity, including a front page story in the *New York Times.* More than forty local ranchers and cowboys dispersed into small groups and rode through the park area for three days, gathering bands of horses and driving them into corrals at the Peaceful Valley Ranch and then through the streets of Medora. At the rodeo grounds, some were roped and ridden in front of hundreds of onlookers who also enjoyed chuckwagon barbecues, a dance, and a horse auction to benefit the March of Dimes.

Nearly all of the captured horses (and mules) were branded and owned by surrounding ranchers who had persisted in their practice of grazing livestock in the Medora badlands, in part as an expression of defiance against the NPS land annexation. Several small bands of unclaimed horses that were locally considered wild eluded capture and remained in the northern segment

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[56] Ed Newcomb interview, October 22, 1987; see McLaughlin, "Wild Horses."

[57] The techniques used by ranchers in the Little Missouri Badlands to capture wild horses were used throughout the west; the most complete surveys of these methods are found in Thomas, *The Wild Horse Controversy* and in Dobie, *The Mustangs.* For a first-hand account of twentieth century mustanging, see Will James, "Pinion and the Wild Ones," *Cowboys North and South,* p. 189-217.

[58] Samuel Trask Dana and Sally K. Fairfax, *Forest and Range Policy: Its Development in the United States* (New York: McGraw Hill, 1980), pp. 179-207, *passim.*

[59] Discussion of management in Theodore Roosevelt National Park is taken from McLaughlin, "Wild Horses."

Several generations of Medora-area cowboys subdue a young horse captured in the 1954 roundup in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Left to right: Rex Cook, Tom Tescher, Millard Lund (state brand inspector in 1954), Louis Pelliser, and Johnny Stuss.

of the park along Government Creek, an area local cowboys referred to as "wild horse country." These horses were inadvertently enclosed within the park when the northern boundary was fenced in 1956-57, thus entrapping the last known population of wild horses in North Dakota. According to a newspaper account, then Superintendent John Jay felt that the remaining horses would "lend color for tourists" over the course of the next thirty-five years, the horses would generate debate between the National Park Service, local ranchers, and the public.

Throughout the first twenty years of NPS jurisdiction, the remaining horses were considered trespass livestock. Elimination of the animals was considered necessary to facilitate the NPS goal of restoring the park's nineteenth century natural environment, which included the reintroduction of bison and other herbivorous species. Efforts to remove the horses reached a zenith during the 1960s, and by 1966 the herd had been reduced to approximately twenty head.

Nationally, a movement to protect wild horses on public lands was beginning to gain momentum in response to declining numbers and the inhumane methods of capture and handling practiced by commercial mustangers operating for the slaughter market. The first federal legislation to halt this activity was PL 86-234, the so-called, "Wild Horse Annie Act" of 1959, which forbade the use of aircraft in horse roundups on federal lands.[60]

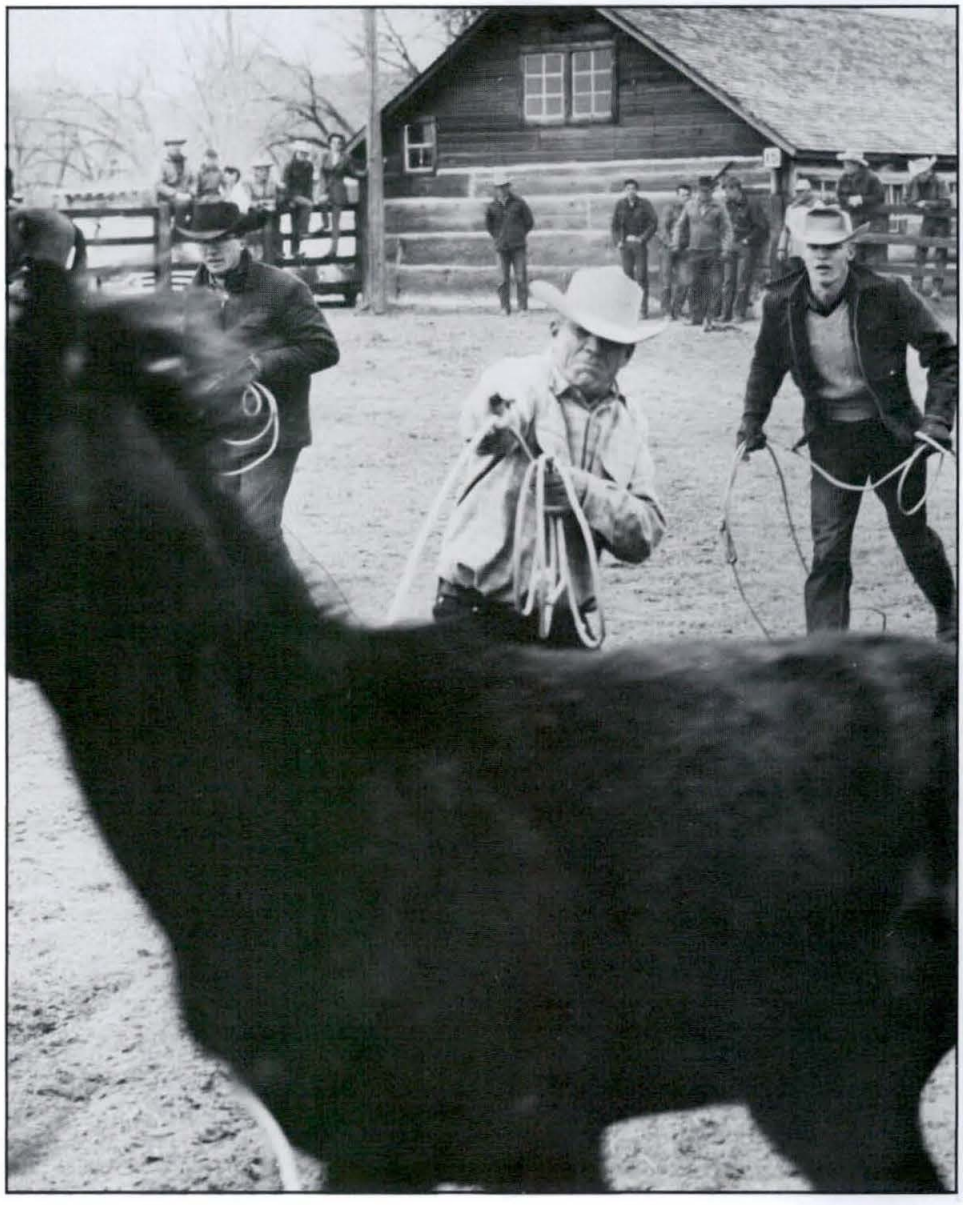
Considerable local resistance to the park's plans emerged and found expression in appeals to North Dakota legislators and in several editorials in the *Dickinson Press.* In response to efforts by the National Park Service to remove all of the remaining horses in 1965, an editorial penned by a Medora resident stated:

> Ranchers and other residents living near the proximity of the park are not happy about the ultimatum delivered to the park headquarters

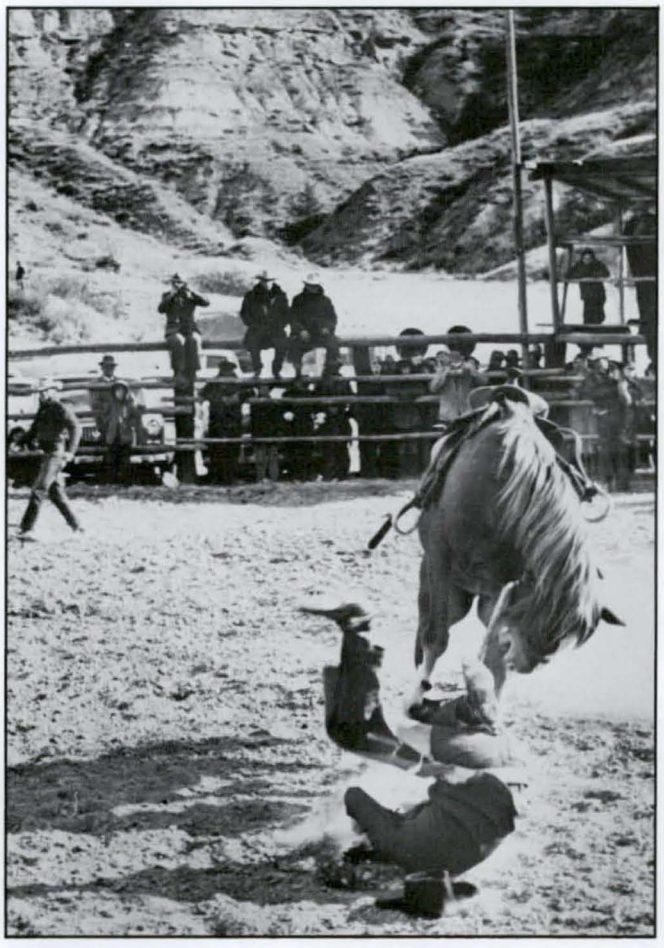
> . . . When speaking of the wild herd, local citizenry were quick to tell anyone who might ask a bit of the history and folklore surrounding this freedom loving band of horses. For as long as anyone can remember, horses have been an integral part of the North Dakota Badlands.[61]

The reaction to the proposed eradication of the horses revealed a more complex attitude toward the animals than the utilitarianism often said to characterize the relationship between ranchers and animals.[62] Rather, opposition stemmed in part from a widely shared conviction that wild horses had been in the Medora area since the nineteenth century and were part of the community's cultural heritage. In addition, the planned removal of the horses was viewed as further expression of the unwelcome federal hegemony exercised in the appropriation of rangeland by the NPS and other agencies. Area residents held various opinions regarding the origin of the remaining horses, some arguing they were direct descendants of the wild nineteenth-century bands, others that they came from stock that had escaped from their own families; proponents of each view held that the horses should remain. Essentially, these claims served the same purpose of incorporating the horses within the rubric of a local cultural identity threatened by externally imposed change.

In support of the horses, Medora community members represented their value in terms of the historicity and pleasure associated with wild horse roundups. Chasing wild horses reaffirmed traditional skills, values, and knowledge rapidly being rendered obsolete by transformations in ranching and the reduction of the range. A McKenzie County rancher interviewed in 1940 lamented the reduction of the herds, noting, "When they are gone,



During a roping exhibition held during the 1954 NPS roundup, highly regarded cowboy Louis Pelliser uncharacteristically misses a loop tossed at a running yearling, while younger hopefuls wait their chance. Horses are generally roped from the ground by means of an overhand pitch known as a "houlihan" throw.



It was a common practice for cowboys to match their skills against the bucking ability of captured wild horses, and several "buck outs" were held during the 1954 roundup in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. During one such event, Jim Jefferies judged the seemingly brief ride of Bob Abernathy. Whizz Bang, a horse captured during the roundup, later became a well-known saddle bronc. Whizz Bang was sold to World Champion cowboy Casey Tibbs, who took the horse to Japan to stage bucking demonstrations.

some more of what had been the 'Old West' will have disappeared."[63] The satisfaction gained from challenging the freedom of the horses derived from their enduring indomitability, regardless of origin; this quality elicited admiration and an identification with the plight of the horses. In commenting on the local opposition to NPS efforts to eliminate them, a former Medora rancher portrayed community sentiment in this light:

> The park roundups took out the owned horses . . . But the park never got them all—no one, I mean the cowboys, wanted to. The park wanted them out, but the locals didn't. They were fantastic to watch, as smart as they were . . . There was a heavy blue roan stud in the late 1940s and early 1950s that was a hell of a horse—no one could catch him. One time near Peaceful Valley he jumped an eight foot corral and went straight up the side of a cliff.[64]

Interestingly, a simultaneous dispute between local ranchers and the Bureau of Land Management over the proposed removal of wild horses near Lovell, Wyoming, resulted in the creation of the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range, the first federally designated wild horse refuge, by the Secretary of the Interior in 1968.[65] The Pryor Mountain controversy placed the issue of wild horses on the national political agenda and led to the passage of PL 92-195, the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act, in 1971. The Act, which declared all extant feral horses "wild" and mandated their protection on most federal lands, does not apply to NPS areas; management decisions at Theodore Roosevelt National Park have remained the prerogative of successive park superintendents.

The discovery of Theodore Roosevelt's mention of wild horses in the Medora area, coupled with the public outcry, prompted a new superintendent to reverse the park's policy from elimination to the protection of a designated number of horses. In 1970, a Wild Horse Management Plan was approved which justified the maintenance of the herd on the basis of their historical significance to the open-range ranching era.

Establishing the preservation and management of wild horses as policy during the early 1970s opened a new era in their history. Both nationally and in southwestern North Dakota, a variety of interest groups have contested subsequent management decisions regarding the animals. The vigor of this debate illustrates the power of the wild horse to evoke conflicting ideals and values

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[60] Analysis of the development of federal wild horse policy from a protectionist perspective may be found in Hope Ryden, *America's Last Wild Horses* (New York: Ballantine, 1970); a rancher's interpretation is advanced in Thomas, *The Wild Horse Controversy.* A more balanced treatment is presented in Richard Symanski, *Wild Horses and Sacred Cows* (Flagstaff: Northland Press, 1985).

[61] Jackie Anderson, "Wild Horse Roundup Commences in Theodore Roosevelt Park," *Dickinson Press,* May 29, 1965, p. 1.

[62] See Symanski, *Wild Horses and Sacred Cows;* Lawrence, *Rodeo.* Ranchers' varying attitudes toward wild horses appear to hinge on the perceived degree of competition between horses and cattle for grazing lands; where such resources are scarce and horse populations high, support for horse is minimal.

[63] Interview with T.B. Knight, February 1940. North Dakota Writers' Project Record, History of Grazing Files Series No. 560 26E4 (McKenzie County), State Historical Society of North Dakota.

[64] Gerald Barnhart interview, October, 30, 1987; see McLaughlin, "Wild Horses."

[65] Dick Thomas, "Range Feud Swirling Over Wild Horse Herd," *"The Denver Post,* April 3, 1966, p. 1; Ryden, *America's Last Wild Horses,* pp. 201-203, 243-257.

[66] Floyd Oyhus, *Riding the Range with Floyd* (Dickinson, ND: Private printing, 1989), pp. 52-53. Stanzas excerpted from "Chasin' Broomtails."

Nearly all of the horses (and mules) captured during the 1954 roundup in Theodore Roosevelt National Park were branded and owned by area ranchers, who grazed horses in the badlands during the winter. A number of unclaimed horses, which were considered "wild" and which avoided capture during the roundup, remained in the park and provided the genesis for the modern park herd.

in American culture. Their historic value springs largely from their role within the early ranching culture of the West, and their final enclosure punctuates its passing. A contemporary Medora poet addressed this theme in a poem called "Chasin' Broomtails":

.....

For there's something about chasin' broomies,
That always gets in your blood;
That keeps you ridin' and sweatin',
Through the rain, the snow, and the mud!

.....

For it's really a part of our history,
A part that we lived in the past;
A part that is gone forever,
But in our memory will always last![66]

Acknowledgements

Initial research on the history of wild horses in the Little Missouri Badlands was supported by the Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association. I would especially like to thank Medora rancher Tom Tescher, who guided my investigations in "wild horse country," and the other western North Dakota ranchers who granted me oral history interviews.

Castle McLaughlin is a Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology at Columbia University, where she received an M.A. in 1985. She is the author of several articles and reviews on historic and contemporary Plains Indians. Ms. McLaughlin is a Woodrow Wilson Rural Policy Fellow (1990-92), and is completing dissertation research on the history of ranching policy on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation.

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I am a supporter of keeping the horses in the South Unit of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I am a repeat visitor to the park and enjoy observing and photographing the many beautiful stallions, mares and foals. I have followed the herd for over 5 years and will be visiting again once I know that the herd will remain.

While many at the Federal level believe it is best to eliminate the herd, I have yet to find any logical, scientifically backed data supporting the belief. The herd has been in the Park for decades and the horses are healthy and thriving. There is no reason to eliminate the herd. The park is a great source of information about the herd and the surrounding town/area is certainly the benefactor of the support from its visitors. If the herd were eliminated, many of those small businesses would go under without the tourist support the herd brings to the area.

Please pass SCR 4014.

Save the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Thank you!

Michelle Jennison
Fargo, ND

Please Pass SCR 4014

I am one of many ND residents who have concerns regarding the NPS plans for eliminating the wild horses at TRNP.
Although the TRNP wild horses are not protected under the 1971 Wild Horses and Burros Act, they are a significant part of the natural heritage of the park and the state. Equally important, they are a tourism draw for North Dakota.

Currently the wild horses in the TRNP are managed by a 1978 Environmental Assessment. Has a recent EIS been done to determine their impact? Is there any data on how the TRNP wild horses have had a detrimental effect on other wildlife in the TRNP?

The wild horses are currently classified as "livestock" even though the NPS provides no care for them and they fend for themselves alongside the bison, elk, and other wildlife. Scientific paleontological evidence and mitochondrial DNA analysis support the fact the wild horses are a reintroduced native species to this continent. Consider changing the designation of the TRNP wild horses from "livestock" to "wildlife".

Other National Parks - Assateague Island in Maryland and Shackleford Banks in North Carolina - maintain healthy wild horse herds. In fact, the NPS calls the Assateague herd a "cultural resource", and the Shackleford herd is protected after enabling federal legislation for the Cape Lookout National Seashore was amended - a similar move could save the TRNP wild horses.

Set a minimum herd size of 150 horses to ensure a genetically viable herd, as recommended by Dr. Gus Cothran, geneticist and professor emeritus at the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine and acknowledged by the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Handbook.

Adopt a management plan that uses current science and herd data to keep the number of wild horses large enough to have a healthy breeding population and maintain vital blood lines. For fertility control - instead of using GonaCon, use PZP which has a 40-year history of being reversible and safe even for pregnant mares. If "new blood" needs to be brought into the herd, introduce horses who are historically significant to the TRNP and prioritize the Nokota horses.

The fate of wild horses that may need to be removed is also a concern. Instead of selling captured horses via the General Services Administration Online Auctions website, the NPS must develop an adoption program that screens potential adopters, includes a contract with facility and care requirements and prohibits the sale of wild horses for slaughter.

The TRNP wild horses contribute their awesome beauty to the park and are a living example of resilience. They have a history here; it is their home. They deserve to remain in the park and be treated fairly and humanely.

Thank you for your review and continued attention on this time-sensitive issue.

Susan Brenan

6280 Osgood Parkway So

Fargo, ND 58104

I’m in favor of passing this resolution which will allow these wild horses to remain in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. They have lived in the park for over 70 years. I visit the park for ONE reason, to see these horses in their natural habitat.

These horses are NOT livestock. They do not fall into the definition of livestock. The purpose of the park is to support “Wild Animals” that live in the park.

I want these horses to remain wild and free and other wild animals as was intended by Teddy Roosevelt, the reason why this park is here.

To remove these horses from the only home they know would be cruel and inhumane. The odds of them being adopted are slim and they certainly do not deserve to be sent to slaughter.

Please listen to what the people who support these wild horses and the park are asking, and that is to allow these wild horses to remain wild and free.

Thank you

My name is Nora Kane, I live in Bismarck and I have been a volunteer with North Dakota Badlands Horse for the past two years. This is the best job I have ever had. Not only do I document the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park, I hike and photograph the wild horses and I have an opportunity to talk to visitors that come to the Park to see the wild horses.

Last year I spent more than 90 days in the Park and the enthusiasm from Park visitors from all over the United States for the wild horses was overwhelming. They say “I came here to see the wild horses”!

Visitors with binoculars raised looking east and west off Boicourt or from the top of Buck Hill searching just to catch a glimpse of the wild horses and then the total elation when they spot a band of wild horses!

Another volunteer and I were photographing one of the wild horses when a car with an Illinois license plate pulled up to do the same. We asked her if she was from Illinois and sure enough she was. We then informed her that the horse she was photographing was named Illinois—yes the wild horses have names. She will never forget Illinois the wild stallion who was named after her home state. Then there was the four year old from Ohio who fell in love with colt Wyatt Earp and asked for his photo.

I have hiked with professional photographers from Florida and California to specifically photograph the horses that call Theodore Roosevelt National Park home.

I see license plates from all over the country and many come to see the wild horses. What a treasure Theodore Roosevelt National Park has for the entire nation to come and enjoy. I can’t imagine the Park without the wild horses and the negative impact that removing the wild horses will have on the surrounding communities. Many of these visitors have stated “They will not return to the Park if the wild horses are removed.”

I was raised in Minot and a major part of our childhood was spent in the south unit of the park camping in the prairie dog town with the buffalo coming into the tanks for water and our horses snorting because they didn't like the close proximity of the giant majestic beasts. Riding seemingly endless trails and encountering wild animals in their various stages of life – very young and very old. I wouldn't trade these memories for anything else we did as children – they are priceless. PLEASE protect these wild herds of horses as they are providing a lifetime of memories for so many young (and old) people who follow them on social media and visit when they can. The park has been a refuge for so many animals and so many memories. If there is dire concern for population please consider temporary birth control for the mares, this will lessen the birth rate and yet preserve the lineage as the sterilization will wear off after a couple seasons.

I cannot even imagine coming to the park without the alure to spot one of the bands being wild and free. I cannot imagine what you are thinking the park is for if not for the preservation of the wild animals in a large almost free environment. Please vote to preserve TRNP as it should be, as it is!

Thank you for reading my plea.

Sincerely,

Elise (Bruins) Harron
Currently Kingman AZ
Formerly Minot ND
3060 N Boulder Pass
Kingman AZ 86401
928.897.1364

The Teddy Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota is an area of rugged, natural beauty. That beauty is enhanced not only by the geological features caused by erosion and glacial work, plus natural vegetation, but also by the animals that inhabit the Badlands.

Every time we visit the south unit of the park, I am on the look out for the wild horses. I get so excited when I spot them! I tell my husband, "There they are!! Stop!! Pull over!" Then I hop out and take some pictures with my telephoto lens. I am in awe of these equines and watching them is priceless. Time stands still. The horses are an essential part of the landscape and they remind me of what the area must have been like when Teddy Roosevelt settled here. They are legendary, a part of history.

The horses have their herds, their family units. They live in freedom as God intended the wild horses to live. The TRNP is their home and they deserve to remain there. These horses, as well as the longhorn cattle in the north unit, are unique animals to TRNP. I am sure these animals are a big part of the draw for visitors to come to this park. I know we wouldn't visit the park as often if the horses weren't there.

I am asking that you support the passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution SCR4014 which would allow the horses and longhorn cattle to remain in TRNP as they have been living.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
Penny McCormack

Please keep the horses and other things labeled livestock in the Theodore National Park north and south units. This has been the highlight of over 50 years of going to that National Park and it would be a shame to remove them.

There are many more parks around the US that have these animals and ND could find out how they keep them in their areas without causing issues. If they are removed from the park it would drastically reduce the tourists and locals that enjoy watching and filming them. I'm sure there would be many volunteers that would contribute funds or time to keep the horses and steers in the park.

What I consider a disgrace and shameful to the park is how the prairie dogs have taken over hiking trails and picnic areas and they are not contained to any one area. Will it take someone to twist an ankle when hiking and landing in one of their holes before something is done with them?

Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee,
My name is Heather Szklarski. I was born and raised in Grafton, ND and have a love of the history and natural beauty of our state and region.

While I have admiration for Theodore Roosevelt and enjoy sharing the history of his time in North Dakota with my young family, I am writing in opposition of SRC 4014 relating to horses and cattle within Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I feel that the historical and emotional reasons for this resolution are compelling, but I do not agree that they should be the criteria used to make this decision.

Through my volunteerism in our state I have learned a great deal about the ecosystems in our region and important plants, mammals and invertebrates that call these ecosystems home. Prairie is one of the most endangered ecosystems in the world. Many pollinators that depend on prairies are also endangered and are keystone species in many regional food webs. Because horses and cattle are non-native species to our environment, I would like to see the decision to keep or remove these animals from our National Park made by the scientists and managers that work with the land and ecosystems directly.

My family had the pleasure to visit Theodore Roosevelt National Park a couple of years ago. Our biggest hope was to be able to view the majestic bison herd, an animal native to this landscape, and we were lucky to have had that experience. I have heard that many people feel the same about the wild horses in the Park, but to be honest, my family did not know that a horse herd existed in the Park until this resolution was discussed in the media.

In conclusion, I oppose SCR 4014 so that the individuals who interact with and are responsible for the awe inspiring landscape of Theodore Roosevelt National Park can make the decisions that are best at an ecosystem level rather than an emotional one.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony.

Comments for Senate committee on SCR4014

What is my connection with the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP)? I first noticed the wild horses when as a family we rode the trails on our domestic horses in the mid-1980s. My wife started keeping a spread sheet on the horses and added to it each time we came to the park. I started to volunteer for the park in 2003 thru 2019 and helped with various horse related projects: participating in a study to move a band of wild horses on foot from point A to Point B, then assisting in building a catch pen and successfully capturing 3 bands, Studying the horse behavior before and after contraception for CSU, capturing horses by chemical immobilization (darting), and working with the horses for vetting and loading.

I bought one of the wild ones in 2003 and still ride him in the park every summer. We still invite new friends to join us in the park to find and watch Teddy's horses. The horses are the reason we invite people to the park, not the pristine natural habitat. The horses are the frosting on that badlands scenery.

The NPS is saying that they have no lawful reason to have horses in the park as they now want to call them livestock. That is not true, as their own founding documents have provision for livestock as an historic scene. (1916, 36 C.F.R.&2.60(a)(3)). What can be a better example of a historic scene than Teddys wild horses. Please support this resolution to help convince the park to keep the horses in the park.

WILD LANDS
WILD HORSES

122 Arneytown Hornerstown Rd
Allentown, NJ 08570
info@wildlandswildhorses.com
www.wildlandswildhorses.com

Dear Governor Burgum and North Dakota State Legislators!

First and foremost, thank you for being the strong, logical leaders that this genetically unique and historical herd of free roaming horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park so deserve.

We support SCR 4014. Let us introduce ourselves.

We are two gals from different parts of America, Minnesota and New Jersey, who met because of this herd and have been actively working to bring the beauty of TRNP to America since 2015. We lead adventures in the park to connect humans to a landscape they may not ever experience any other way. Both of us have extensive knowledge of the herd, Deb having worked for the park and Colorado State University as a research tech on the contraceptive research study that was done on the herd, both of us have adopted horses from TRNP.

We value the legacy of T.R. and his historical contribution to the region of North Dakota that was the 'romance of his life'. Where he fought battles with wild horses, called the 'Man Killer' and the 'Devil'. Where he was inspired to roam the badlands on horseback alone and wrote about those experiences. Where T.R. came to seek solace and later to inspire a nation. We also understand the impact TRNP has had on the native nations and their sacred grounds.

We are submitting for testimony for the SCR 4014 hearing, the 400 plus impact stories from across North Dakota, America, and the world, that we collected and submitted to the NPS during the most recent public comments. Each of these powerful stories is proof of the intangible cultural heritage of this herd, and the impact they have had over generations, near and far, in person or via social media.

Even though we are not North Dakota residents, our group calls the great state of North Dakota our heart home. We are in this fight with you, every step of the way, for however long it takes. WLWH does not want to see a fissure of immense proportion, a rift that may never heal, come between the NPS and a community steeped in the traditions of honoring their culture and history. This is an opportunity to come together, to be the solution, and finally find a common ground and provide NPS with the tools and resources needed to manage this historical landscape, to its full potential, and at the same time honor and embrace the history and culture it was built on.

Sincerely,
Co-Founders of Wild Lands Wild Horses
Jamie Baldanza (732-241-5027)
Deb Lee Carson (507-269-1289)

/dlc
Attachments (1)

#19660

The Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Historical Herd of Wild Horses Free Roaming in Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Provided by

WILD LANDS

WILD HORSES

1.	**Lisa Severson** <lseverson72@gmail.com> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 11:56 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I have been going to see the wild horses since I was 3 years old. I have passed this love of the park onto my 3 children and have introduced the passion of the wild horse to my husband. We love going.into the park to see these beautiful animals being free and living life to the fullest. We have shown our love to many people who have never been to this beautiful place and in turn go back as often as they can. The horses were there when Theodore Roosevelt first visited our country and he writes many times how beautiful to see. Why the change?
2.	**Bruce Reuter** <brucereuter1@gmail.com> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 12:47 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Living in Minnesota, we spend a lot of our retired time in the west and southwest. Many years ago we stopped at Theodore Rosevelt National Park because of its location on our trip. That was some 10+ years ago and ever since then we make it a point to stop for a couple of days going both directions because of the chance to see the horses. The first time we got to see them was in the evening up in the hills and we got to be very up close and personal with the herd, and we were hooked. The horse's bring a calm to all that spend any time with them and take you back in your throughts to a time long ago when our country and native Americans depended on those horses for their lives. I personally try and sell this park to everyone I know because of the horse's. Until a person has been given a chance to get close to these animals they do not know the affect they have on oneself. Do we see the horses on every stop we make at the park, yes but some of those encounters are from far away, which is also interesting, but not like those times where you are so close you can smell them!!! Please do not remove the horse's from the park, they represent a part of our history that should be retained just as the park itself has been. Visit those wonderful animals, you too will find a calm you have never experienced before.
3.	**Carole Moll** <carolelynn.moll@yahoo.com> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 1:23 PM Reply-To: Carole Moll <carolelynn.moll@yahoo.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> Several years ago I was seriously injured when a car hit me on my bicycle. I spent many months over the last 10 years immobilized, on the couch, after each of 6 surgeries. I am an active person and found myself spiraling into a deep depression. Until I discovered a site on facebook following the wild horses of TRNP. Those horses and their lives became a sort of lifeline to me. Eventually my sister, and friends were following the news of the horses online too. In 2021, while facing another upcoming knee surgery, my sister and I made a sort of game to see these horses in person. The game developed into a real goal, and soon we had plans to take a trip of a lifetime to TRNP to find the wild horses. In June of 2022, our dream became a reality as we traveled out to North Dakota and TRNP. What a thrill it was to finally see these magnificent animals! Oh, and it was exciting to see the bonus animals too, bison, and Prarie dogs,. But most importantly wild horses! The park was spectacular. The town of Medora enchanting. The campgrounds were full of campers sharing where they had discovered horses. This truly was a trip of a lifetime. One I will never forget. A trip I would have never even thought to take if it had not been for the magnificent wild horses of TRNP. I look forward to returning one day.

4.	**Caren Reaves** <carenwreaves@icloud.com> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 2:46 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I only went to TRNP for the wild horses. I didn't know they were there and when I heard that there were wild horses in this magnificent place I couldn't wait to see them. I find it so difficult to believe that wild horses are not considered to belong there. The reason I first went to TRNP was to see wild horses. I've been 3 times now and I am In awe still. I can't believe that they aren't considered part of this great place, made greater by their presence. Wild horses should be protected everywhere. Please go and see them there. Try to imagine the amazingness of that landscape without those beautiful horses. It's perfect for them. The idea that they are somehow a nuisance is simply untrue. The problem as I see it with what's wrong with the place is entirely manmade. There are drilling rigs and litterbugs and others who don't respect the history and beauty of this great place. I expect the vast majority go to TRNP to see the it's history and ruggedness and beauty. I feel sure that wild horses are among the biggest reasons people go. If it isn't when they go, I bet it is when they leave. Save them. They demonstrate the history and ruggedness of the West. It's worth remembering.
5.	**Denise Karth** <spiritrider2127@icloud.com> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 3:00 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com To Whom it may concern: I have never been to TRNP, however I follow them everyday through the eyes of their supporters, photographers, historians of the herds story. This is their history and should not be taken away from them. If someone was to come to you and say you can not live here, your new home is Jail. That is what it would be like for them to be removed from their home. It's the worse thing I could image for the "wild and free". We the supporters of TRNP wild horses and live stock are begging for a different solution as they are our history. To take that away is unimaginable. This is my dream trip. Sincerely Denise Karth South Lyon Mi 48178
6.	**Deidre Berry** <dbrblb424@rocketmail.com> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 3:49 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> https://friendsofanimals.org/new-research-reveals-wild-horses-are-ecosystem-engineers/ You might find some useful info in this article. Also I believe it was either the Western Watershed or a Sierra Group that defended the wild horses and said that they contribute to an eco-system and that cattle are detrimental to an eco-system. I've never been to TRNP but I have always want to go there. When I do go there I want to look at wild horses, other wildlife, and the beautiful landscape.I do not want to look at cattle. All national parks are a treasure. So are the wild horses wherever they may be in America. They are our heritage. To lose either one would diminish America in more ways than one.

7.	**Heather White** <white.heather88@yahoo.com> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 2:43 PM Reply-To: Heather White <white.heather88@yahoo.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> There are so many things I can say about these horses. These horses have helped me with my depression, my anxiety and stress in my life. Being able to go walk in their world with them and get lost in the peace and silence only hearing the birds and bugs sing and hearing the neighing, snorting and stomping of these amazing horses puts my heart at peace for the first time in my life everytime I'm with them. Not only have they helped mental help they have helped physical as well many will hike anywhere to get to the wild horses and see them. Learning their names, their personalities and each one as an individual since 2015 has been a wonderful joy, I've met other wild horses and some amazing friends because of these horses. There are so many stories I could share spent with these horses so many memories with my mom that when shes gone that's all I'll have please NPS don't take that away from people and myself so many of us have so many happy memories shared with these horses we have laughed, cried and cheered for and with the horses, please don't take them away you will ruin generations to come taking away OUR wild horses.

8.

Amy White <amyann70@outlook.com> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 2:45 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

FROM THE DESK OF

AMY WHITE

December 19, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Hello, My name is Amy White and I am writing to you on behalf of the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I am asking that you please, leave the horses in the park. These horses mean so much to so many people, including me. These horses ask for nothing in return. The cost to have them in the park is minimal. They have proved they are strong and self-sufficient in some of the most trying conditions of the great state of North Dakota. A landscape that has proved to be so unforgiving that Teddy Roosevelt himself couldn't conquer. Even the Native Americans in the area gave the land the name "Miko Shaka", meaning Bad Land. How ironic is it that these horses have proven for years that yes, they can survive, and thrive in these badlands. They have endured many a hot summer and many a cold, long winter and come out in the spring looking so beautiful! How many species can be born in January in North Dakota and survive with no help at all? These horses can! I have seen it.

Let me give you a little back story on who I am and what in the heck is a woman from Wisconsin writing a letter on behalf of North Dakota horses for anyway? I am a 52 year old woman who comes from a small town of 700 people in Northern Wisconsin. I am by no means rich, or even close. What I do have is a work ethic. I have worked in the same job for 34 years now and can count on one hand how many days I have missed or called in.I can say the same for my husband, 36 years at the same job for him with the same amount of days missed. We work hard for our money and sure do not live above our means. And we are not letter writers per say. Because of our tenure at both of our jobs, we get more vacation time. We stuck close to home for many of our vacations, and for years would be payed out at the end of the year as we did not use them. Until the year 2017. In 2017, I discovered wild horses in my Facebook feed. They intrigued me, they got me thinking of possibly taking vacation to go and see them, but Colorado and Wyoming were so far, we barely left Wisconsin. Until, well you know how Facebook works, however they find out that I was clicking on wild horses, they send you more, right? One day, I was sent a post of the wild horses of North Dakota? WHAT? There are wild horses in North Dakota, I said to myself. I quickly "googled" TRNP, it was only 600 miles from us, "We can do this ?", I asked my husband. Plans were in the works! We were going to North Dakota! Fast forward to our first time through the park, we were flabbergasted by the beauty. There isn't anything even close to this beauty in Wisconsin, in our opinion. Then we came across our first wild horse, Oh My God, we have never witnessed anything so gorgeous! His name turned

	out to be Ranger. Oh, he was this dirty, unkempt, dappled grey, muscular animal! He could not compare to the White Tailed deer that we see in the wild in Wisconsin. In no way, can this compare. It was that moment we were hooked, we have spent every vacation day since in Theodore Roosevelt National Park! To me the anticipation I feel when we get to that cattle guard at the beginning of the loop road is like Christmas morning to me as a child! Yes, it has been that long since I felt anything similar! Yes, we will drive the 600 miles even for a weekend! To see these horses, we will do just about anything. I photograph these horse every time we go through so I have them to look at when we cannot be in the park, which is winter. And we all know how long winters in the midwest last. I have some 40,000 pictures on my computer and about 95% of them are your wild horses! I look at them daily. I have to. They have become something that is just as important as food and water to me. And when I hear that they might be taken from the park, I was to say the least, sick to my stomach. And I know for a fact, that I am not the only one, there are thousands of people that would be devastated by this action. I beg you to keep these horses in your great state of North Dakota. They are such a draw for us mid-westerners. Please do not remove these horses, please go back to when birth control was used and culling some young ones in the spring, it worked for so many years and it can for many more. After all, these horses deserve it, it is the least we can do to honor President Roosevelt's wishes. Sincerely yours, Amy White
9.	**Jeanne Miller** <weebit2much@gmail.com> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 5:57 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com On June 18th I took my granddaughter,sister and a friend on a journey.We came from Ohio each of us had our reasons for making this long journey in an RV we rented.I follow the wild horses on Facebook I have a 12yr old granddaughter I am raising .She has the love of all animals and wants to be in the animal field when she grows up .To look at the experience through the eyes of a child was my reward.Each day we went through the park she would say what she wanted to see .The first day she just wanted to see the wild horses and we did.The second day she wanted to see the foals playing and we did .The third day she said all I want is to see the horses up close and they ran right next to our RV.Oh what an experience it was she took her stories and photos to school in the fall to show everyone the beautiful park with the wild horses.She has learned so much being there she even became a JR Ranger.If there hadn't been horses there we would not have made the 2 week journey we would have gone somewhere else.I hope you realize the importance they hold President Roosevelt did.I hope we can find a way to save them . Thank you Jeanne Miller

10.	**Mary McDonald** <mem352672003@gmail.com> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 4:42 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I have many firsts stories, beginning with the first time I got to see the wild horses at TRNP. It was a beautiful Sunday morning when 2 friends and I met up with the professional photographer, Deb Lee Carson and another group of park visitors. The first group we saw was Red Faces band standing atop of a bluff over looking a couple of other bands. One of Red Face's mares was being flirtatious with another band stallion. We got to watch the dynamics of wild stallions work outt their differences and how Red Face kept his his mare in her place. The second time was two years later when I got to take my then 91 year old mother to the TRNP, she had been there a few other times but never saw the wild horses. She excitedly spotted her first herd at the prairie dog village. Her excitement was contagious. A short time later we encountered Flax's band led by Kat and her young filly walking toward Coal Vein. Flax even graced us by proudly posing for photos as he ushered his harem along the road. Later that afternoon I returned to the park with a niece and her family, who live in Williston. They have visited the park several times, but this was the first time they got to see the wild horses. It became a game as to who spotted the horses first. To watch the joy in the young children faces when one excitedly spotted the horses. The next first was last May when I was visiting in the park. Up near Buck Hill, I was using my binoculars to look for the wild horses. I spotted a band and was watching them to see if I could identify them. A family drove up Buck Hill behind me, I called them over to where I was standing and told them that I could show them some wild horses. I gave the binoculars to the first child and pointed out where to look. Then watched his face as he found the band. His face changed from curious to joy when he saw them. He excitedly shared the binoculars with his younger brother and again I watched his face delight in discovering the horses. He then share the binoculars with his dad and mom. Mom and dad discussing how they should have brought their own binoculars so they could find the horse bands on their own. They were also discussing when they could plan their next trip to trnp, they were on their way to Glacier so didn't have a lot of time to spend this trip. My last first again on the same trip om May, I spent a weekend in May on an adventure with several friends , some who had never visited TRNP. We saw many of the bands and bachelors interacting with each other. Again, watching the faces of those first time visitors when we caught sight of the horses. Living in Minnesota, I don't have the opportunity to visit TRNP as often as I would like, but interacting with other park visitors, I hear "there are horses!?" Because they really don't know about the horses. Theodore Roosevelt's horses. The horses are one of the unique features of the park. Instead being removed they should be celebrating and used to promote TRNP. The other comment I heard at the Painted Canyon wayside. "I didn't know about the park, I only stopped because of the wayside signs on the freeway. It seems to that North Dakota and the TRNP should take a page out of South Dakotas tourism and promote the unique opportunity that people have to visit.
11.	**Julia Iphone** <jingram234@peak.org> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 6:49 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I first went through the Theodore Rosevelt National Park in 2000 on my way home from South Dakota to Oregon via North Dakota. I was totally amazed when we came upon the park because we didn't even know it was there. I love and support freedom of wild horses, and TRNP did not disappoint us. I was so excited and amazed by the natural beauty of these wild horses as we walked around with our binoculars and spotted them. What a gift! We have since been back to the park several times, and we have told family and friends who have also gone to see them. I regularly follow posts from others concerning the lives of individual horses and their bands as well as the plight of their freedom and their removal from the parks. Please do not remove these beautiful wild horses from their natural habitat. Let them live their lives with their family bands unharmed by those wishing to remove them. This land was set aside by law for these wild horses. As a taxpayer, I support their existence on this Federal designated land. It would be sad to continue their removal. If they are removed, I feel there is no other reason for me, my family or friends to return to the TRNP. Please do what is right for these animals and their environment. I want to see future generations experience the amazing wildlife in this park as I have been fortunate to experience myself. Thank you, Julia Ingram, a Concerned citizen jingram234@peak.org PO Box 12 Shedd, OR 97377

12.	**Roberta Hambrick** <rjh@bis.midco.net> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 8:03 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com As a long term North Dakota resident I would like to say removing the wild horses would be a devastating loss to the TRNP. We have traveled there multiple times a year for years just to see them. They add so much to the beauty of the park. I cannot imagine the park without them. Thank you Roberta Hambrick
13.	**debreuter1@gmail.com** <debreuter1@gmail.com> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 9:26 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I'd like to express my support for keeping the wild horses in the park at the current levels. I was shocked to hear the government was considering eliminating them. We have enjoyed seeing the horses at Theodore Roosevelt National Park for years. They are magical to watch. I can't imagine going to the park if they are eliminated. Debbie Reuter
14.	**Katherine Plessner** <plessner@drtel.net> Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 10:15 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I have been a horse lover all my life, reading every book I could get ahold of in my younger days about wild horses, and any horse. I now make a couple trips to the Theodore Roosevelt National Park every year to see and photograph the beautiful horses that live there. I have also taken my photography friends from around the country there too. My favorite horse story from the park is about Gray Ghost. He always seemed so elusive to me, as I had only seen him far off in the distance somewhere and never close enough to get a good look at him, let alone a photo or two. Then one early morning as I was driving the loop, I came around a curve and there he was right along the road. I stopped and got out my camera, and I know I was hyperventilating and I think my hands were shaking with excitement! I crouched down beside my vehicle to get some photos, but hopefully not to disturb him and his band. He kept an eye on me as he went about having his breakfast and I was snapping away. After about ten minutes he rounded up his group and they disappeared up the hill. It was truly something, and the way I felt, that I will never forget. I still go to the park and it is always a thrill to see the horses. In fact, to see and photograph them is the reason I go there and I will be more than very sad if they are removed. Plus I have friends coming from Washington DC and New Mexico, who want me to take them there this summer to see these special and beautiful horses.

15.	**Mary Zilinski** <mchzilinski@icloud.com> Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 2:06 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Cc: Mary Zilinski <maryz@bitstream.net> I grew up in North Dakota. After I graduated from UND, I left the state and rarely returned. Fifteen years ago I learned that there were, and had been for a long time, wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. How is it that I didn't know that when I grew up? It brought me back to my home state. Since then, I've visited regularly, gotten to know the bands, the bachelor stallions, the sires, the mares, their stories, and their losses. I've stayed in Medora, hiked the trails, made purchases at the bookstore, bought the annual bands book, bought the t-shirts, and encouraged so many folks to experience the wonder of seeing wild horses, free, running across the landscape. I watch the related web sites and FB posts, and am so thankful for the opportunities to feel connected to that glorious place and those majestic animals. I've explored the north park, too, and expanded my knowledge of the state's history and its present, all while knowing part of each trip will involve contact with those equines. My point is this: these bands of horses are one of North Dakota's most important natural resources. Setting aside their origin stories, their history dates back sufficiently that their contribution to the formation of the state of North Dakota can't be denied. Now, they are a focus for tourism. They are a basis from which folks explore North Dakota's rich farming and ranching history, the significant contribution the state's offerings made to Theodore Roosevelt's life and thus to the nation's existence, and the area's rich Native American history. Please recognize the status of these horses, not only in people's hearts but also in the roll call of promoters of North Dakota's tourism, land and history.

16.	**White, Nancy** <nancy.white@essentiahealth.org> Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 3:08 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> In the fall of 2015, my husband and I took a trip from Bismarck to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Little did I know that this trip would be the start of many, many more trips to the park and an undeniable journey of love, making memories, and healing. We hiked up a beautiful trail called Ridge Line. You could see for miles, it was breathtaking. While sitting on a ledge taking in my beautiful surroundings, I noticed something white peeking through some trees. I zoomed in with my point and shoot to see what was moving, and next thing I knew there was another white something moving out into the open. My heart started to pound from excitement and I could hardly contain myself. I yelled at my husband to come see what I was seeing to make absolutely sure I wasn't mistaken. WILD HORSES I yelled. I grabbed my phone all the while watching them, and called my Daughter. "Heather, Heather, you won't believe this I said". "There are truly wild horses here. "Can you believe it?" "I have to bring you here". Almost 8 years later and my Daughter and I continue to make the 2-hour trip back to the wild horses every chance we get. (My husband comes once and a while too!!) See, My Daughter suffers from A.D.D., and high anxiety to the point of bouts with depression and stress. She sometimes feels like she doesn't matter, she doesn't fit in, and nothing she does is right. She sinks deep within her shell. So, you can imagine the tears of joy this mama had the first time we went to this magical place together, Mom and Daughter, on the hunt for HORSES, and I witnessed the most beautiful smile on my Daughter's face the minute she spotted her first wild horse. For the few hours we spent with the horses, my daughter's anxiety, GONE. Her stress, GONE. Mama's heart, full!! Since the first time we went, my Daughter purchased a better camera and lens. She gets emotional and excited when she hears Mom and her are off on another wild horse adventure together. She takes pictures of each and every wild horse we come across and shares the wild one's story through our eyes and encounters we have that particular day with anyone and everyone who will listen. She is at peace and it shows. We call in "Our Happy Place". We found out later on that they had names given to them and she rattles them off like they were her own family, ha-ha. My daughter comes alive when we are in the park with the wild horses. The sparkle in her eye, the pep in her step, if you will, is undeniable. The memories that we have made together in the home of the wilkd horses are priceless, especially for this Mama. As long as there are wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park, I feel my Daughter will be ok when I am gone. She may stumble along the way, she may miss her mom and the memories we had made with each and every one of them, but she will be ok. Any time she needs to she can go to Theodore Rooseverlt National Parkand talk to the horses. Please keep them in the only home they know. Please allow my Daughter her calm and peace with the wild ones, allow her to make more memories so she can share spiritually with me when I am absent, and continue to share with whom will listen. Please allow many more future Mothers and Daughters the same love and joy that my daughter and I have shared. There is something magical about the wild horses in TRNP, it is hard to explain. They seem to have healing power for those that need it. Their eyes look deep into our soul and mend the broken spirit. I have witnessed this first hand with my Daughter. I cannot imagine Theodore Roosevelt National Park with out our wild horses and hope that they can continue to live in their home where they were born, running wild and free for many more years to come. I have many favorites amongst the wild horses, too many to mention, so the picture I am sharing with you today is of Gary and Ghost. The 2 beautiful white, wild horses that allowed me to begin

17.	**Penny McCormack** <pennymccormack@hotmail.com> Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 4:12 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> > Every time we visit the ND Badlands near Medora, I tell my husband, "I sure hope we see the wild horses!" Sometimes we don't see them, just buffalo and prairie dogs. Other times, like the last two years when we have visited we saw them!!! I kept watch of the landscape hoping to see them. All of a sudden I saw them!!! I got SO excited!! I said to my husband, "There they are!! STOP, STOP!!" I hurried out of our vehicle to stand there watching the horses in awe and trying to photograph the moment. What a beautiful sight! My heart was filled with excitement. I was seeing part of history of the area and seeing some of God's most magnificent wild creatures! The horses live in freedom and coexistence with the other animals of the badlands. The family unit of their bands with the stallion, his mares, and their offspring warms my heart and brings a smile to my face. These horses even have names! These horses are such an important part of TRNP! The park would not be the same without them! I am sure Teddy Roosevelt would say the same thing!! Penny McCormack

18.

Heather Hellyer <kaya97524@yahoo.com> Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 7:06 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

December 27, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you today about the beautiful wild horses found at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. In early 2020, my husband and I set out in an RV to visit as many National Parks as we could before moving to Hawaii. In April 2020 we found ourselves in Cortez, CO for several weeks waiting for Mesa Verde National Park to re-open. Bored, I googled 'things to do near Cortez, CO' and the Spring Creek Basin wild horse herd came up. After doing some research I drove 70 miles out to find them and fell in love at first sight. Our trip to visit as many national parks as we could quickly turned into how many wild horse herds I could visit.

And that is how we made the trip up to North Dakota to see the wild horses living at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. North Dakota was originally not on the schedule of parks we planned to visit but I had seen photos of the wild horses there and added it to the list. We stayed in Medora for a week spending money on a spot at the RV park in town, food, gas, and souvenirs from the TRNP Visitor Center. I spent nearly every day that week in the park photographing the wild horses, the bison, the prairie dogs, and more. The park itself is beautiful of course but the wild horses were the only reason for our visit. And the only reason I would return to the park.

We also spent a day in the northern section of the park and the Longhorn cattle were a beautiful sight to see. Why remove them? Why remove the horses? One of the reasons Americans visit our National Parks is to see wildlife. Wild horses are native to North America and while these particular horses may be descendants of horses released on the range, they were born in the park and have lived there for their entire lives. That makes them wild and wildlife.

I have to wonder why the NPS is dead set on removing wild horses from the parks they reside? First Mesa Verde National Park, now TRNP. We don't understand it. Wild horses are beloved by Americans and most herds are far too remote for most people to visit without a high clearance, 4WD vehicle. But TRNP allows people to easily see wild horses living free and in family bands.

My husband and I request you keep the wild horses in TRNP at a healthy population level that allows for genetic diversity without the use of GonaCon but rather the original form of PZP. I have no doubt President Roosevelt would agree that the wild horses bring a beauty to the park that is unrivaled.

Thank you,

Heather Hellyer
Kihei, HI
808-500-3020

19.

Kelly Marquardt <kellyjene@icloud.com> Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 9:00 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I wish I could post photos of my experience. Without the horses there I would stop going to this park. I have watched for hours the different bands and have been able to capture the sole of these horses. I can't even believe this is even being discussed. It's so heart breaking that at some point I may never get to see the horses run wild in the landscape they were born to. The horses have personalities and family values in their bands. My face is wet from tears. What a sad thing to take them away.

20.

Heather Westby <schroeder.heather.ann@gmail.com> Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 9:21 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Harrison (6 yrs old) – "I like how Mom, Dad, and Olivia bring back pictures of the wild horses after they go riding out there. I like to sit with my sister, Olivia, and look up the horses in our guide book and find all their names. I am very, very excited to go riding in the park my first time this year. I want to see all the wild horses in my books (NDBH Guide Books.) I love the wild horses."

Olivia (9 yrs old) – "I love to go out in the TRNP riding our horses to go and look for the wild horses. It is so exciting to see the wild herds especially when there are foals.

This fall when we were in the park on an all day trail ride I was praying that we would see lots of horses, especially Circus. I really wanted to see Circus because he is the oldest horse in the park and I really wanted to get the experience of seeing him in person.

After riding for half the day and seeing lots of wildlife including bison, elk, pronghorns, and mule deer I was getting worried that we wouldn't see any horses. Then I spotted a black horse off in the distance. Quickly I realized it wasn't a black horse, it was CIRCUS! I was shaking I was so excited. As we followed the trail around it brought us closer to him. It was cool as he turned to watch us and our horses on the other side of the draw. We stood and watched each other for a long while and I talked to him. I told him, "Your so beautiful and amazing. Thank you for showing yourself!"

When we turned to leave and started riding along the trail. As we rode away my heart stopped because Circus was whinnying to us. It made tears come to my eyes because it felt like he was saying see you in the spring.

After seeing Circus we saw Nichols and Teton's bands. We got to see one of my favorite fillies from this year, Serendipity. It is super fun to see the foals and then come back next year and see how they have grown.

I look forward to our trips to the TRNP every year. When we are not there I like to think about what we will see next time and plan our rides. I think about Circus and his wild friends every day and hope to see them again.

One of my favorite things about spotting and finding the wild horses is that I can identify them using my NDBH Guide Book. Unlike the bison, elk, pronghorn, and deer the horses are easy to identify individuals. Each horse has their own colors and markings so I can tell who is who.

Each and every one of the wild horses has a special place in my heart. If all the horses get removed I don't know if I would want to go back as it will feel like a big piece of what makes the TRNP so special will be gone."

21.

Mandy Cannon <mandycan33@gmail.com> Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 9:22 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hi there,

I got to see these majestic wild horses at the TRNP September 8, 2022. We were on a road trip visiting a few parks and felt so lucky to get a view of these beauties from the road. We sat for a moment and really took in their beauty. We tried to understand what was happening because the way were standing so still and looked like they were sleeping but seemed to be in a formation where some were positioned to be aware of surroundings/keeping lookout. I'm not familiar with horses or their behavior and It really was magical to see them gathered like this. It's easy to imagine how it used to be open like this everywhere and feel the magnitude of what we've done to the landscape and natural habitat of the horses.

Seeing these horses brings about feelings of awe at their beauty along with a mix of shame at being part of human race that has destroyed so much of their natural landscape and home and tried to take them and make them less wild and free.

After seeing them and experiencing TRNP I feel a duty to protect these horses and this park and all of our open public land to allow animals to roam and live freely. The park and horses that live there are magical and a national treasure to be protected for future generations. My wish is this was not something we even need to fight for and that we were all united to protect this place and these horses. Our humanity depends on us doing better to protect and conserve nature and recognizing all animals deserve to be here and have a place to live freely.

Amanda Cannon

22.

Zach Hochhalter <zhochhalter34@gmail.com> Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 10:31 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

My Name: Zach Hochhalter

I was born in Bismarck, lived in Killdeer, Wing (Google it) , and Fargo, North Dakota for almost half my life. I grew up taking yearly if not twice yearly camping trips to Medora and Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The rugged badlands formed a very distinct part of some of my favorite childhood memories.

Fast forward to the spring of 2020, and like most I was in the midst of being quarantined at home. I was currently living in Phoenix, Arizona, which was a big concrete jungle compared to the Great Plains of my upbringing. I had become a regular visitor to the Salt River in Mesa, where wild horses roamed the river.

During quarantine I began to research other wild horse herds across the United States and I stumbled upon the horses at TRNP. This completely floored me, because it was a place of special memory to me, but my memories of the horses were slim. I could hardly believe I didn't have a distinct memory of them like so many other places in the park.

That spring/early summer a magnificent foal named Bloom was born. He had a very distinct coloring and two blue eyes. I was struck by his beauty and felt so proud that such an amazing animal resided in North Dakota. In that moment I knew I had to return to TRNP to see him for myself. Bloom and the other horses gave me something to look forward to in a time where the world seemed bleak.

Since that moment I now continuously visit the park 4-5 times per year to soak in the inspiring scene of the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

The horses within the park represent the quote "For the benefit and enjoyment of the people." The horses provide exactly that for the visitors of the park.

Thank you for sharing these stories. Let me know how I can continue to help. Bully!

Best,
Zach

23.

Marissa Pewe <marissa.ashley.15@gmail.com> Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 10:46 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hi Jamie & Deb,

I hope this finds you well! I'm sure you have tons of stories to share but maybe mine can help too!

Several years ago, we needed a weekend getaway from regular life after suffering from a second miscarriage. We chose Medora, specifically for TRNP, even though it was the dead of winter. The fall before we had camped in Sully Creek and had seen some of the wild horses on our drive, and wanted to return to hopefully see more. It was February and freezing cold, but we spent hours watching Silver's band grazing and trudging through the knee deep snow. As a horse owner myself, it was cathartic to watch their calmness, and was a great escape.

From there on out, we made the couple hour drive and returned at least monthly, and got to know the horses and the bands, watched as the bands grew with new foals, mourned when horses passed, became a member of a nonprofit to work more closely with them, and then in 2018 welcomed our son who also now LOVES going to hike in the park and see the horses. He was with me hiking this spring when we discovered Urban's band had an adorable brand new foal, Phoenix. He is now 4 years old and a great eagle-eye to spot things while hiking.

Some of my favorite memories have been in the TRNP, specifically with the wild horses (like hiking with a great friend to hopefully find Mystery's final resting place, getting up before dawn to discover a new baby on a snowy spring morning, discovering Circus just walking down the road.... I could go on forever). I cannot imagine my son not getting to have the same experiences as he grows. Medora is certainly a special place, and we love taking family trips there, but let's be honest....our family goes for the horses. My boyfriend isn't really a "horse person" but even he quickly learned the names of the horses, got a few favorites and enjoys hiking to find them.

Our vacations to TRNP have been one of the highlights of the last decade, and I sure hope we are able to continue getting to know the future generations of some of our favorite horses; Teton, Half Moon, Crow, Papoose & so many more.

Thank you,
Marissa

24.

Sasha Wieczorek <sashaw13@gmail.com> Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 11:10 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have been to many parks with wild horses over the years and absolutely love it when the stars align and I am able to see the wild horses in their natural habitat. It's like looking into the past when they run by. They are living history and need to be protected. When I heard about this call to action the first thing that came to mind was the fact that it is difficult to be in the right place at the right time to see these beautiful animals. There are acres of park and handfuls of horses. That's why I find it so difficult to understand the need to get rid of them all together. Wild horses have been around since BEFORE colonization of this country. The indigenous peoples have records of it despite the early government's efforts to eradicate that knowledge. These herds may not descend from the indigenous horses but they certainly represent them, and they have created their own spot in the ecosystem. We absolutely cannot remove them completely. I appreciate all your efforts to spread the word about these beautiful animals and how important they are to many cultures.

Thank you for all your hard work!

25.

Doreen Sutcliffe <doreenmiranda3@gmail.com> Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 11:20 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hi Deb and Jamie,

I have included my story below for you. I hope this helps; it's from the heart. I'm praying and hoping for wild and free horses. I am trying to understand that the purpose is to remove them. Please let me know if I can do anything else.

Hugs to you both,

Doreen

December 28, 2022

I am writing to tell my story of a recent visit to TRNP. In May of 2022, I had the pleasure of photographing the wild horses living in TRNP. If not for the horses, I would not have visited this park. With the guidance of two other photographers who knew the park well, I saw wild horses living in their natural environment for the first time. While it was exciting to see the other wildlife in the park, there are only a few places left in the United States to see wild horses.

TRNP provided opportunities to see the horses without driving or hiking for miles. Tourists visiting the park can experience the beauty of seeing wild horses.
A wild horse in its environment represents our country's open and free spaces. Where else can you sit and observe horses sparring with bands, tending to their foals, running in wide open spaces, and curiously looking back at you while watching them? Not many places in the US allow that pleasure.

Photography is all about capturing a moment in time. I loved sharing my photographs with friends and family who might not get a chance to see horses in the wild. They asked questions about the horses and the national park they had never heard of. "How do we get there?" "How can we see these horses?" "Where would we stay?" My photographs of the horses inspire others to visit and observe.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my comments. I sincerely hope the wild horses of TRNP will be there for years to come so that others can experience viewing the majestic horses.

Sincerely,

Doreen M. Sutcliffe

26.

Robyn Lorenz <robyn.lorenz24@pm.me> Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 11:50 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello,

My name is Robyn Lorenz. I grew up in, what then was a small town, Dickinson, ND. My family and I have visited Theodore National Park many times throughout my youth and now as an adult. My youthful memories are always of wanting to visit the park and hope that day would bring the spotting of the Wild Horses. Many times we were blessed to be able to see (and I would hope felt) what Teddy did so many years ago. Wild horses roaming free the badlands of North Dakota. The absolute joy, amazement and beauty they behold. Breathtaking. It hurts my heart to think that they could possibly be gone someday - for others not to see this beauty, to FEEL this beauty and innocence, to have that moment in time that one forgets all that is going on in this world and just sees life for what it is - pure, simple, innocent, majestic, elegant beauty. What our ancestors all experienced and what future generations should have available to always experience.

In my college years I loved so much the beauty and freedom of the Park and what it offered I worked for a summer at a horse ride facility in the Park. I still say to this day the best job and memories I have ever had. The wee early mornings we'd take the horses out to graze, I was blessed on a couple of those mornings to not only see the bison, but behold, a wild horse or two or three. Something in the soul is touched when you see these glorious horses.

Now I watch and enjoy following the facebook pages and websites dedicated to the Wild Horses of TRNP. I often tell my friends about the park, Medora, and the horses. Always hoping that one day to make it back up with them to show them what beauty there is.

Thank you for taking in these stories and helping fight for the horses. Prayers and good thoughts this fight is won and the horses can remain, in full, in the park.

Thank you,
Robyn Lorenz

27.

jdk1691 <jdk1691@aol.com> Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 12:16 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Please, don't move the horses.
I am a North Dakota native, 1% on the native portion. It seems wrong to dishonor the intention and wishes for this park. For me, I feel so incredibly close to the Earth when I am at the park. To see the horses run absolutely takes my breath away. It is almost like I am seeing something only intended for the wind to be a part of.
The first time I saw them, they were running. They ran as though the wind directed them. It was stunning. If you are not able to feel that, I do feel sorry for you.
The park is beautiful. So is the night sky. If you remove the stars, why look up?
Sincerely,
Jean Koch

28.

Hali Pavelka <hlpavelka@live.com> Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 6:58 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

To whom it may concern,

My name is Hali Lassiter and I am a resident of North Carolina. I have grown up my entire life riding and owning horses. I even teach lessons to children. Horses are my life. Theodore Roosevelts National Park has been an inspiration for me, for many years. I have treasured following accounts that capture the magnificence of the animals that live there, especially the horses. I follow their lives and how they are thriving in the wild. My top trip is planned specifically around visiting the Badlands horses. They are the soul of that park. Protecting them must be a key objective to the parks future. We have lost so many animals and habitats since we have focused on industry. How much more do we need to lose before we realize what we've done? These horses are history. They represent so much more than just nature. They show what our country was and what it still can be. To lose them could mean losing a piece of America. Please consider enforcing regulations to ensure their safety.

29.

Birgit Pruess <birgit.pruess@gmail.com> Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 7:48 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

My story with the horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park started in 2014 when my family came here from Germany to celebrate my 50th birthday. I was hooked to the rugged landscape the park and all the animals in there. Back then, you did not get to see as many horses as you do when you visit the park today. I went straight back the next month and my first personal personal experience was with Wind Canyon and his band right on the road. Without knowledge, I had parked my car at one of their major access points to Talkington and they just kept on walking like my car was not there. They stopped at my car and I spent quite some time looking at them. I was intrigued by Wind Canyon's color and his quiet demeanor. His mare Betty Blue had a new foal. She was cautious about it, but also curious about me. I fell in love with them right on the spot. Since that time, I had countless experiences just like that. Nicols danced in front of me once (at quite some distance), just like I was one of his mares. Cocoa exchanged the longest look with me when I was real down and crying. I witnessed Flax covering his new mare Dolly for the first time. Two years later, I saw Dolly's foal Oakley within 24 hours of her birth. I saw Bluff within 12 hours of her birth. And then, I saw sickness and death. The whole circle of life.

The horses have become my second life to me after my research career at NDSU in Fargo. They are my escape and my stress relieve. I visit the park 2 to 4 times a year, each time for 4 or 5 days. There is a good chance I know more about the horses at an individual level than many of the park personnel do. Because I deeply care about them and I am not so sure anymore whether the park cares. I recently published a book named Wild and Free in TRNP where I summed up all my experiences. The book is being sold by numerous small businesses across North Dakota. I have some 50,000 photos of horses and other wildlife. These have been shown in exhibits across the state. I am not claiming there is a lot of money to be made and I don't do it for the money. I do it for awareness. These are some wonderful horses that call our park their home and they deserve the best care they can get.

I realize that 200 horses are probably too many and that we will have to reduce the number. There is evidence that the minimum number of horses that still allows for a genetically healthy herd is in the neighborhood of 120. I highly recommend the park keep this approximate number of horses in the park. Our people need them as part of their lives and the State of North Dakota needs the economic impact from the tourism. These horses are paid from federal tax dollars and they are our horses.

Will that do?

Birgit

30.

Margaret Flynn <mcflynn@midrivers.com> Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 8:59 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

My husband and I visit the park several times each year. On average we make 5-6 visits to the park per year. During each visit we tour the park for at least 3-5 days. I was and remain completely in awe of the beauty of the badlands. The clay buttes, huge rocks, the spring crocus, the blooming prairie cactus and flowers, the cedar trees, the cottonwoods, the wild berries and the scenery all add to the beauty of the park…. then you also to see the park beauties! The wild horses are the star attraction for us. Learning each horse's name and keeping track of the bands is fascinating. We enjoy following the leaders of the bands and watching how quickly things can change.

We spend hours each day watching and taking photos. Our favorite thing to do is leave our camper(usually parked in the Cottonwood Campground) just about daybreak, head out until we find one of the bands, then settle in to watch. There is nothing like seeing your favorites grazing peacefully and the foals playing, running back and forth and around and around. Add to this a good cup of coffee and a sweet roll and you feel like this is a little bit of heaven. We always take enough food to spend the entire day.

Seeing the horses gives one a feeling of peace. It is hard to put into words but the animals seem to lift everyday concerns and instill an appreciation for their beauty and their daily struggle to survive.

We spend time watching when the buffalo bulls are fighting and chasing the cows. They are very fierce during breeding season! One year we were near the creek by the ranch house, when two bulls started to fight. They crashed and gouged and snorted and bellowed for a solid 5 minutes. They charged each other so hard that their back legs lifted off the ground when they rammed each other. They dug up so much dirt and dust that my photos appeared to be blurry!

Other animals that we've watched are coyotes, wild turkeys, antelope, elk, deer, prairie dogs, pheasants, grouse, rattlesnakes, bluebirds, eagles, owls, magpies, and porcupine. Seldom is there a dull moment.

Meeting people from all over the world happens every time we visit the park. The young couple from California with their 2 year old, the retired couple from Florida on their way to Glacier Park, the retired military man and his family, and all the others with their stories and questions add to our park experience.

The most common questions for us is "Where can we find the wild horses and the buffalo?" It is important that these animals remain in the park for future generations so they can be seen and appreciated just like Theodore Roosevelt did when he was there.

MC Flynn
Montana resident

31.

Robin Kamstra <robinkamstra67@gmail.com> Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 9:15 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

We've been to the park a few times and the main reason we go is to see the horses I just love watching them

32.

Heather Westby <schroeder.heather.ann@gmail.com> Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 10:16 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I have so many stories that I could share about the wild horses.

From my first trip to the Theodore Roosevelt National Park when I was in 7th grade with my friend and her family on a camping trip. I will never forget spotting some horses for the first time. I have always loved horses, I have grown up with them. Seeing truly wild horses for the first time was exhilarating. Wild horses are the classic image of freedom, power, and an untamable spirit.

Since that first trip to the TRNP I have been back numerous times. If fact my family loves it so much out there my husbands original plan was to bring me there to propose.

Many of our favorite memories are family trips to the park. When we travel out to the park we bring our horses and love riding all day looking for wildlife, particularly the wild horse bands. We love to try to find the same horses from year to year and when we are not visiting the park we follow the park happenings through North Dakota Badlands Horse.

The horses unlike other wildlife in the park are more easy to distinguish individuals. It makes it fun to try to find as many of the horses as possible. We all have our favorite horses and bands that we continue to find year to year and follow via social media when we are not there.

We love seeing all the wildlife in the park the bison, elk, pronghorn, deer, coyotes, prairie dogs, but the horses are by far the animal we seek out the most. There is no other place anywhere near us here in Minnesota where there are wild horses. There are other parks, and places to view the other wildlife but none that have wild horses. I wouldn't want to see any of the other wildlife there eradicated either. Park of what makes the TRNP what it is, is all these animals living there together.

In 2015 we adopted a weanling that was removed from the park to control the population. We absolutely love him and he has turned into the most amazing horse. Because this herd has been so closely followed and documented we followed the bands prior to getting Sully. We fell in love with is sire the well known stallion Mystery. When Sully (FKA Badlands) was pulled we were already in love. We had been looking at pictures of him from when they first found him only a few days old in the park. Since adopting Sully when we visit the TRNP our favorite thing to do is to try to find his closest relatives still in the park.

In 2020 Mystery was found deceased in the bottom of a wash. He had been fighting with another stallion as wild stallions will do and lost his footing and fell to his death. It was a sad day in our household, like losing a friend. In 2021 my husband and I rode into the park with a group of friends that we have made thanks to these horses. Or friend MaryLu led us on a beautiful ride into the park and surprised us by taking us to Mystery's final resting place. It was so emotional as my husband was riding Sully, Mystery's son. Since that trip is as become our ritual on our trips back to the park we take time to ride out and return to Mystery's final resting place and pay our respects to him.

This year is to be our 6 year old son's first horse back riding and camping trip to the Theodore Roosevelt National Park with us. He is so exited and already as a list of all the animals and what horses he hopes to see. I pray this isn't the only trip that he will get to experience the trill of finding a band of wild horses nestled between the buttes. I pray that my children won't be the last generation to get to experience these family trips of exploration and feeling like we have stepped back in time. I have always dreamed that one day, when our kids are grown, that they would bring their children back to the TRNP and have similar adventures as we have done with them, spending the day riding in the badlands searching for the elusive wild horse bands. I pray this isn't the end of these unique horses.

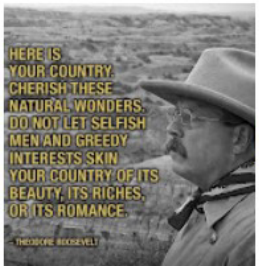
Heather

33.

Janis Lovi <jplovi5@icloud.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 12:22 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I've never been there but I love following these horses. Attached is exactly how I feel. These are public lands are meant to stay wild.

Sent from my iPhone



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34.

Jamie Baldanza <jbaldanza@gmail.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 9:31 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I went to the park for the horses and left with a whole new respect for the land and history.

I currently live in NJ and I now visit the park 2 times a year to photograph the wild horses in the landscape. For the last eight years I've gotten to know the horses, their stories and their personalities.

To visit TRNP without the horses in the landscape would be a huge void in my heart and I'm sure plenty others.

I have many memorable moments, but this one stands out in my mind:

We were 4 women from all over the country, 1 hotel room, 5 days of constant interaction, which could have been terrifying. But It was anything but. Why? Respect. Love. Passion. Strength. Individuality. Humor. These traits are all a common thread among us. A thread that will bind us in a friendship that few people will ever understand. And why were we thrown together? To see the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National park. Between laughter, stories, sadness, and 4 AM wake up calls we found and felt the heartbeat of the land, the land that the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park call home.

I've built so many friendships because of these horses. Best Friends (Deb) that I will love for the rest of my life. You see the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National park are so much more than "livestock" they are hope, a reason to gather, an inspiration, a passion for so many of us. You take that away, you take away our light, our motivation, and connection to the past. Teddy Roosevelt's past.

These horses are my family and when I get the little time I do have with them, I cherish it. Because there's nothing like growing old with a wild horse. To see them as a foal and now a mighty stallion with their own band is like watching your child grow up. And I just hope our future generations will have the same chance to watch these horses grow up in Theodore Roosevelt National park.

35.

zuriel7 <zuriel7@gmail.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 3:21 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I moved to North Dakota in 2013 quickly finding TRNP, being an introvert and nature lover. I fell in love with the badlands, prairie, community spirit, and it's lifestyle and various wildlife. I frequently filled my retired days with trips to TRNP feeling a sense of connection driving through buttes & hills in all seasons. I love deer, elk, pronghorns, bison, and all the small animals like the badger and porcupine. The raptors & birds have always been an attraction for me. When I realized there was a feral horse herd in the park, I immediately connected to them on sight. I began following them avidly. I would often stay in the park after dark, find a spot on Boicourt, turn off my engine & roll down all my windows and listen to the silence of the night broken occasionally with coyotes yipping.

One night it was pitch black with no glimmer of light anywhere. It was midnight. I heard snorting and the clip-clop of horses hooves on the road. I literally could not see 20' in any direction it was so dark. Suddenly bands of horses were all around me, and when my eyes adjusted, they were literally feet from my car windows, either side, front and behind. I froze in delight! It was as though I was engulfed into the herd as one. I felt like a welcomed intruder realizing how rare & magical this experience was; being enveloped in their world. Hearing their noises, swishing of tails, jaws chewing grasses, snorts and snickers at one another & seeing their graceful movements as they sauntered around my car, some standing so close I could smell their beautiful coats…. Well I was blessed beyond measure. How can I ever fully describe what this very enhanced and spiritual visitation meant to me. It changed everything about how I viewed this wonderful park from that night forward. All my troubles vanished for those few short hours that I spent with these magnificent equine creatures. I was indeed "In Their World". I was the intruder. This is their Home, Their Special Place where They Belong, and I was a guest that night. I will always treasure that experience as one that connected me with the great west like nothing ever has or ever will.

To not have these horses remain in their home would be a tragedy, not just for me, but for hundreds of thousands of visitors and all their future generations to experience and find the historical & cultural value & connection these wild horses do indeed provide. Their sense of family and community is something this world is losing touch with. Please allow the horses to remain & to remind us all that We Are Connected. Life is Short… treasure every God Given Moment, Creature and Blessing. Protect it above all else. Carol Priestley
Stark County
North Dakota.

36.

Christiane Weltz <cbp.weltz@gmail.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 3:24 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I first found out about TRNP when my now husband got stationed in Minot. I live in Germany and came to visit him several times. I looked for things to do in ND and found out about TRNP.
I have been a horse lover and riding since I was a little girl so when I saw that they had wild horses I for sure had to go. That was in 2012.
I enjoyed all of TRNP but when I was lucky enough to find horses all on my own back then nothing could compare to that feeling.
I visited the park 2 more times in the 1.5 years my husband was stationed there, just because I wanted to see more of the wild horses.
Back in Germany I told a friend about the horses and she fell in love with them through my stories and the pictures of the groups that you can find on social media. We told each other that one day we might even buy one of the horses and bring them to Germany.
My husband got stationed somewhere else so it took until 2015 to make it back. We went out of our way from visiting family and came to ND just to find more wild horses and meet with people we met through the social media pages. We spent a few days in the park and a lot of time with all the animals but mostly the wild horses.
In 2016 My friend and I actually ended up buying two of the horses from TRNP and knowing that I saw both of them running free with their families made me so happy and I knew we would give them great homes. They both enjoy life in Germany now and because of them I advised other horse lovers to go visit TRNP if they are ever in the USA.
I have been back in 2020 to show my little son the wild horses of TRNP and our horse's family. I hope I can still do this for our second son in a few years.
All in all I might have visited TRNP once during my visits in ND but it was the horses that kept and will keep me coming back.
Christiane W. from Germany

37.

Anne Padegimas <anne.padegimas@gmail.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 4:07 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

We went to the park two years ago. Ahhhh, it was prayerful. We camped right at the base campground there. The whole purpose of the visit was to hopefully catch a glimpse of the wild horses. Drove all the way from North Carolina.

We saw them! It was incredible to see wild horses! I will never forget the experience. We saw other animals too, but after visiting almost every national park in the US, this is the only place I saw the wild horse.

How can you take that away? It's part of the heritage. How many people visit like me just to catch a glimpse of them? And again, this is the ONLY place you can really see them in the whole country! Isn't that enough?

I recommend you keep things just the way they are. They seem to be managed very well, I know they are very well documented. Man has just got to stop thinking every available space on this planet is theirs. This is not.

Thank you,
Anne Padegimas
Matthews, North Carolina

38.

Deborah Zillich <debzillich@hotmail.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 6:44 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I am so sad that the plan has gone forward to remove the wild horses from Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I live in DIckinson and visit the park all through the year. The horses have been the highlight of every trip. I enjoy seeing the other wildlife in the park but I LOVE the horses. It became even more fun to find the horses on park visits after I started following the Facebook pages dedicated to the horses. I have so appreciated the people posting and updating these pages with the status of the horses. Seeing the new babies each spring and seeing the dynamic changes in the stallions fighting for their mares and feeling a little sorry for the bachelors roaming the park. I can't imagine Theodore Roosevelt National Park without the horses. I do not understand why they all need to be removed. I understand that the park can only support so many and there are problems with the genetics within the herd but it seems we should have the science to fix these problems and allow a herd to continue to roam in the beauty of the badlands. What a loss it will be if they are no longer living in the park. I know my visits will lose some of the richness of the trips seeing those beautiful creatures running wild and free. 😢

Deborah Zillich
Dickinson ND

39.

Deb clawson <DebClawson@comcast.net> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 7:20 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hello Jamie and Deb,

I'm writing because of the request from Dakota Grown Photos about saving the wild horses about my visit to TRNP and seeing those wild horses. It was my first visit to the park and the first time I've ever seen wild horses anywhere. They were (and are) the most magnificent animals I've seen. I was in awe watching them in the meadows - they left me breathless. Those wild horses were the highlight of my visit to the park and the reason I want to return. I've seen bison in Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Antelope Island, and other national parks and places in the country and, frankly, they are fearsome animals. In all my visits to national parks, this is the only national park where I have seen these glorious wild horses roaming freely. It is captivating to watch.

I hope this helps in some way. Thank you for doing what you can to help save these wondrous creatures.

Please let me know if I can be of further help.

Best Regards,
Deb Clawson

40.

PJ Kaszas <pjkaszas@gmail.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 7:26 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

In 2015 I began my journey to becoming a wild horse photographer. One September evening of that year, a friend of mine and I arrived in Medora, North Dakota. Why were we there? To see the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

We shopped in local stores, we camped under the trees at Medora Campground during our week in the area. To get into the park we paid our park fee and bought items at the visitor's center. We contributed to the park and the local economy by making this trip specifically to see the TRNP horses, as do many, many visitors every year.

It was here in the 1880's that Theodore Roosevelt established two ranching concerns in what was still the Dakota Territories. Around the same time, a French nobleman, the Marquis de Mores, founded the town of Medora, naming it after his wife. The two didn't exactly get along but both men helped shape the history of this region. But long before the arrival of these lofty personages, this was the land of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Crow. In the late 1800's war came to this area as the U.S Army and the Sioux clashed.

Today Medora is better known for its musical and TRNP is one of the only national parks in the US that wild horses can call home, making it unique in the western US.

Wild horses roamed this area for hundreds of years, actually thousands of years if one knows the evolutionary history of equids. The common narrative of the origins of these horses has been that Native peoples' horses were released or displaced during clashes with the U.S army. Then ranchers, of course, brought their own horses. When cars and tractors replaced horses, and harsh conditions drove many to seek employment elsewhere, these horses were abandoned. The horses of TRNP trace their roots back to these wild horses, Native American horses, and the many breeds brought by European settlers.

But modern "management" techniques have created low genetic diversity in these horses. This means park "management" has led to creating a genetically unviable population. The park is already managing these horses to extinction. Theodore Roosevelt, the park's founder, would be horrified. Wild horses were on park lands before the land was turned into a national park. This means these horses are living history. It seems at odds with the mission of the National Parks Association to destroy our shared history. It leaves me shaking my head in bafflement as I remember my time in the park.

My friend and I went searching for wild horses in the craggy, rough land of these badlands. Manure and footprints were in abundance but actually sighting the horses that left them was not easy. But

we would succeed in our mission eventually.

Near the Talkington trailhead we saw two horses. We saw their butts actually, as their heads and bodies were buried in vegetation. Stallion Flax and his newly won mare Maggie May. We would watch as these two would make their way across a sea of grass and across a high ridge. It was a breathtaking sight.

This was just the start of our sightings of horses. We would see Gary's band in the distance. And then Teton's band, also in the distance. We'd watch them perform amazing feats of balance wandering down steep ridges to water.

And our most marvelous encounter with Silver's band. We would spend a lot of time photographing and observing the family interactions between Silver and Juniper, Gunnison, Democracy, Dixie, Firefly, Olympic, Daisy, Eagle, Faith, and Esprit. I say their names to remember them, to allow others to remember them.

As I look back at this trip and this time in my life, I can't imagine the park without these horses. They are part of that landscape. They are the perfect dry grassland dweller, adapted to these badlands, prairies, and plains because they evolved here before spreading to Eurasia thousands of years ago. The empty prairie will be a place devoid of an integral part of of the history of western North America and all of human history: the horse. What a lonely place it will be.

I plan to return to see the horses. But I won't return if these horses are to be removed or managed to extinction. Many people won't return. Because we will all know the Park Service destroyed a part of our shared history the founder of the Park had sought to preserve, and who would want to give money or attention to such an entity capable of trampling on the principles on which it was founded?

PJ KASZAS PHOTOGRAPHY
WEBSITE | INSTAGRAM | FACEBOOK | BLOG | WILD HORSE PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTIVE

41.

giselle carlow <saintlady116@gmail.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 7:30 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I am a disabled person living in Manitoba, Canada. Several years ago I was thrilled to be able to travel through the Teddy Roosevelt National Park. I only caught a glimpse of the wild horses living there but that glimpse of living beauty, a true symbol of the US west, stayed with me. When I found an online site that featured those horses, I quickly joined. It has warmed my heart to be able to watch the herds by seeing the wonderful photos of them through the seasons. Each new colt or filly fills me with the hope that the horses will remain free, in the park, forever.
I also pray that the horses will be in the park for years to come because I live in hope that one day I will visit again. In the interim I look forward each day to new photos of those wonderful wild horses and thank the devoted individuals who care enough about their survival to trek out in all weather to bring them to my computer screen.
Please allow the horses to remain free.
Thank you,
Giselle Carlow
Winnipeg, Manitoba

42.

Debbie L Mack <debbielma943@gmail.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 7:43 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I have never had the opportunity to visit the park in person regretfully! But I faithfully follow the media pages that follow and document the horses and their stories! I firmly believe that they should be able to remain wild and free! I also believe it would hurt the park's tourism industry! In my opinion the horses are an attraction just like the buffalo and other wild life! Horses wild or tame bring a lot of enjoyment to their human counterparts! Go out into the park and take a child and watch the expression when they see a majestic animal like a horse running wild and free with their little foals!

43.

Squarespace <form-submission@squarespace.info> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 8:38 PM
Reply-To: ckramer1231@gmail.com
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sent via form submission from *Wild Lands Wild Horses*

Name: C Kramer

Email Address: ckramer1231@gmail.com

Subject: Save the wild horses of TRNP

Message: To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to lend my voice to the many others who learn so much from the wild horses who live and roam in TRNP. It has come to my attention that the wild horses in the park are in danger, not from natural predators, but from an agency or agencies who would like to see them removed from the park. Conservation groups world wide are working to preserve species in the wild, and yet in ND we are discussing removal of a species?? Why? Shouldn't the goal be to preserve and protect what little remains of our early history? Can't the herd be managed so that everyone can be happy? Have you exhausted all possible solutions or just determined that eradicating the herd is the easiest/cheapest/least time consuming solution? Please consider alternatives.

For centuries the ND prairies have had horses either working or running free. Now the park is home to the only remaining wild horses. Many people throughout the country live in places where they do not have the opportunity to see bison, elk, or even deer let alone a majestic wild horse roaming free. Many of those people have fallen in love with the wild horses via social media accounts. The accounts educate us on the hierarchy of the herds, the various communication within the herd and just about horses in general. We share the joy when new foals enter the various bands as well as the anguish when a horse meets its end. Some of those people MAY fall so much in love that North Dakota and TRNP become vacation destinations.

As residents, we know that North Dakota is made up of beautiful prairies, amber waves as far as the eyes can see and some of the most spectacular sunsets. We don't have a huge tourism industry because frankly we lack amusement parks, professional sports teams, fancy museums and other typical tourist destinations. What we DO have is a beautiful landscape in the rugged Badlands of southwestern North Dakota. Among that beautiful landscape live the bands of wild horses. The wild horses make the park what it is today and what it was years ago when Teddy Roosevelt himself spent time there. They are symbolic of the rugged frontier that ND was and an integral part of our ND heritage.

Please consider the BIG picture. Do NOT remove the herd.

Sincerely,
C. Kramer

Does this submission look like spam? Report it here.

44.

sbrorby@midco.net <sbrorby@midco.net> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 8:44 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hi,
I am writing in regards to the wild horses at TRNP. We go to the park at least 2-4 times a year, sometimes more. Each year for our birthday's, that's our treat, to go see the wild horses. Yes, seeing the bison and other wildlife is great too, but really the only reason we go is to see the horses. It's fun looking for them and we just love sitting and watching them. We take so many pictures, it is one of North Dakota's absolute best things to see. I also follow a lot of the people who take amazing photos of them and love learning about each one, their names, the stallions & their bands. I follow Lynn Wallen, Dakota Grown and many others who also love the horses. To be completely honest, if the horses are taken away, I am sure we will never go to the park again, as that is the reason we go there. Please leave them alone and let them live wild & free in TRNP. It would be a shame not to have them there.

Sincerely,
Shelia Brorby

45.

Boomer Carlson <boomer.carlson@yahoo.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 8:56 PM
Reply-To: Boomer Carlson <boomer.carlson@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I have been following North Dakota TRNP for years and all the wonderful works these volunteers do for these wonderful animals. My goal is to make it this year, given money and health. There are so many different animals in this park and why would you want to separate any of them. Please think of the future of the families that will make it to this park and there will be many I can say for sure. Thank you Elieen and Tiffany and many more that work hard for theses horses. Thank You Linda Carlson (Boomer).

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

46.

Maggie Edmunds <edmundsm@talktalk.net> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 9:29 PM
Reply-To: Maggie Edmunds <edmundsm@talktalk.net>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hi

My name is Maggie Edmunds, I am 77 years old and live on the Somerset Coast in the UK. I have been following the life of the TRNP herd of wild horses for many years now.

I live alone and have mobility problems which prevent me from being actively involved with horses in the way that I have been for most of my life. Keeping up to date with the life and dynamics of the horses that roam free in the TRNP, gives me great satisfaction and a sense of remaining involved in a world which has always been close to my heart.

The frequent updates posted on Facebook allow me to experience the daily lives, struggles, joys and sorrows that this herd endures. I have wept at the losses and had my heart warmed at the birth of each new foal. I cherish each announcement of a successful birth and love to watch as each foal grows and develops , learning from its family and from each other.

I may live across the ocean and will never have the chance to visit in person, but my life is enriched by knowing that the horses are there, living their lives free to roam the park. The world is a better place because they are there and would be diminished greatly if they no longer existed. Please do not let that come to pass.

Maggie Edmunds

47.

kneegee03 <kneegee03@comcast.net> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 9:44 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

We were planning a family vacation to Yellowstone and it was asked what everyone wanted to see or do. As the mom, my first comment was, we're are going to spend a few days in TRNP on our way out to Yellowstone. My love for horses goes back to when I had my own as a young child. But, I wanted to see wild horses. We spent 3 days in TRNP and I was so sad as I didn't get to see any. Even went horseback riding in hopes of seeing them. That day we left, I was almost in tears because I had not seen them. We turn a corner and there they were. I did start to cry. It was like they were there to tell me goodbye. TRNP would not be the same without them. I have traveled back since then just for them.

Thank you for trying to save them for my grandchildren to see.

Sheila Schueller
Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

48.

FRANCES FONDREN <fbfondren@aol.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 9:46 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have not had the opportunity to visit Theodore Roosevelt National Park, but hope to in the future. I will visit to see the beautiful herds of wild horses that call this park home.
I have followed these horses through social media, (Dakota Grown Photos, for one), and feel I know each horse. These beautiful animal have been a part of this park for so long and should be allowed to stay. They are the only reason I have any interest in coming to TRNP. If they are removed I will have no desire to visit. It's such a thrill to see new life being born each year and sadness with each loss.
Please leave these beautiful creatures alone and allow them to live their lives, wild and free in your park.
Wild in North Dakota and Dakota Grown Photos have done so much to promote these horses and bring attention to your park but if you remove the horses there will be no reason to promote or visit your park!

Thank you,
Frances Fondren
1375 Peach Orchard Rd
Bethel Springs, TN 38315

Sent from my iPhone

49.

Laurel Neurauter <laurelneurauter@yahoo.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 9:55 PM
Reply-To: "laurelneurauter@yahoo.com" <laurelneurauter@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I have always loved horses. I somehow found out about Blaze and fell in love with him. I think it was the gorgeous blue eye and how beautiful he was. I followed posts about him and was saddened by his death. My granddaughter and I decided we were going to TRNP to see the horses. A couple years ago we did just that. It was awesome. Hanna baby talked to them and a mare and a foal started coming to us. I knew we had to back up to our car as they are wild animals. But, it was so special. I live in ND but would not have visited the park were it not for the horses.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

50.	**Faye Foster** <fayfos@gmail.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 9:56 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I'd like to add my story to the group. 1st I cannot believe there could be any good reason for not wanting to keep these horses as a part of the park. They should be valued for their historical importance! I am 52 years old. My parents started taking me to Medora as a child. We ALWAYS drove through the park looking for the animals. The horses were the most elusive to find and caused the biggest excitement when anyone spotted them. As an adult I still love going through the park every time I visit Medora. And now as an adult I can fully appreciate how incredible it is that these horses have survived and thrived! I have learned so much following a couple of the groups that tell us about the horses, their family history and units. The changing of band leaders. Their stories are incredible and make me feel like I have a look into history. I honestly don't think I would ever visit the park again knowing that these North Dakota treasures were valued so little that they would get rid of them. It's honestly unfathomable how this is even a real possibility!! The Park service should be preserving not destroying our beautiful and important wild horses. Why have a park service if they aren't going to protect the residents of the parks? If there is anything else I can do to help fight this please let me know. Faye Foster
51.	**ROLAND BENOIT** <tjlecat@aol.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 10:46 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I am writing this with a heavy heart. I am upset to think you will take these beautiful animals from the Park. Do you really know how very many people can not travel there but get pure pleasure from the outstanding photos that are posted. Many can not travel because of health and many more because of the financial situations. These magnificent animals were born free and they should remain this way. Please do not spoil this for so very many people, let them be free. 🙏🙏🙏 Sent from my iPhone

52.

rochelle gilmore <shellrok@hotmail.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 10:49 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

The first time I heard about the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt from my mother who had recently visited the park was in 2017. She sent me pictures of them, the Buffalo, and Prarie dogs. They were so beautiful. Seeing the babies sun bathing next to their grazing mothers in the badlands is indescribable. I wanted to see that myself.

The next year my daughter and I flew from Washington State to North Dakota to visit the park and find the horses. Our luck was with us that trip. Not even across the grate into the park we saw a small band of 3 horses grazing on the hillside. It was amazing.
We went all over the park and found different families. It's a pure joy to be able to share the history and experience seeing wild horses not only surviving but thriving in just a small part of our country.

I cried when I found a family I've been following last year. The young paint colt called Bloom had recently lost his mother, and was being watched over by his older sister. It was heartbreaking to worry if he'd make it through the winter. He's still in the
park today.

We've been going back every year since to see babies grow and families change. I follow groups on Facebook who document the heards throughout the year and give updates on the horses. I buy photographs the local store in Medora sells of the horses to hang in
my home.

I will continue to go back to the park as long as the horses are there. I've loved horses my whole life and the passion for the horses of TRNP should be continued for the next generations before they too don't know the history or be able to experience the joy
of uncaged wild and free horses.

Rochelle

53.

Park Region Telephone <lwright@prtel.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 10:58 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I am upset, but not surprised, by the park administration's view of the status of the wild horses in the park. This position has been held by federal wildlife biologists for years. I heard it while attending a National Wildlife Summit at Estes Park in the mid-1970's. These wild horses are considered "invasive species" that take away from "native" species.

For me, the wild horses are a huge draw to TRNP and my husband and I have followed them for several years both through annual park visits and through social media posts by horse advocates who track these horses closely. These horses, descended from ranch horses and Indian ponies, tie us to the history and development of the Medora/Badlands area from the time of the Marquis de Mores and Theodore Roosevelt. Watching these horses, descended from the horses of the early days of the Medora area take us back in time and carry the excitement and romance of that era into our present for all to see and enjoy.

This year I purchased a book from the Western Book Store in Medora, ND entitled "Images of America, Medora and Theodore Roosevelt National Park" by Gary Leppart, published by Arcadia Publishing. There are several historical photos with comments that struck a chord with me related to the park and it's founding.

Page 116 states, "Promotional efforts to establish a park in the badlands to commemorate Theodore Roosevelt's ranching days began shortly after his death in 1919."

Page 96 states, "These promotional pamphlets prepared for Peaceful Valley Ranch were used to entice potential visitors to the ranch. Carl Olson, one of the early owners of the ranch, was also an enthusiastic supporter of the national park concept in the badlands to commemorate Theodore Roosevelt's ranching days."

Page 76 states, "According to some naturalists, bison herds on the North American continent numbered some 30 million head at the onset of European expansion. By 1883, only remnants were left. One of the last herds in the region was found near Jordan, Montana . . ."

Page 126 states, "Bison, which were once native to the entire region, were reintroduced in the North and South units of the park. The first transplant was in 1956 when 29 bison were transported from Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge in Nebraska, and released in the south unit. In 1962, 20 bison were moved from the south unit to the north unit.

Page 125 states, "In 1956, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department began transplanting the subspecies California bighorn sheep in the North Dakota Badlands. On January 15, 1959, bighorn sheep were introduced in the south unit of the park. Most of these animals disappeared, probably as a result of disease. In January 1996, 19 bighorn sheep were introduced into the north unit where wild free-roaming sheep can be seen today."

Rocky Mountain elk were reintroduced to the south unit of the park in 1985. The transplanted elk came from Wind Cave National Park in South Dakota and were so successful that within eight years, excess animals were gathered and removed from the park."

The park was originally founded to commemorate the ranching era during Roosevelt's time there. Note that the pages I referenced indicate that the native species the present park administration are advocating over the wild horses were depleted or non-existent in the area during Roosevelt's ranching period and needed to be reintroduced by the park in the 1900's. The horses, however, present prior to and during Roosevelt's ranching days remained a constant. They are very much an important aspect of that ranching era.

I very much enjoy seeing the bison, elk, antelope and bighorn sheep but the horses should have equal protection because of their place in the Roosevelt era in North Dakota.

Thank you for all you are doing to protect these park horses.

Linda Wright
Erhard, MN

54.	**Ruby** <rubyjasmin@yahoo.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 11:42 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com To whom it may concern: I recently celebrated my 45th Anniversary and my husband asked what I would like to do for our Anniversary. My response? Go see the horses in the TRNP. And we did! That was the reason we made the trip to the South unit was to see the horses. I have followed a number of social media sites that post pictures of these beautiful animals and was so thrilled to see them in person. We plan to return this coming year to camp and hike to see the horses. They are the sole reason that I wanted to visit the park and the sole reason I will visit again. Please let these horses run free! They are a beautiful site to see and I would like my grandchildren to be able to visit them throughout their lifetimes too. Sincerely, Ruby Jasmin
55.	**Susan Engen** <skengen@gmail.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 9:51 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I remember going to Medora when you had to walk up the hill and you sat on boards on cinder blocks. That is when I fell in love with the wild horses in TRNP! I keep coming back to go through TRNP to see the horses! I will never forget the Black Stallion standing high on a cliff as I came around a curve! SOOOO beautiful!!!! Keeps us grounded to the past and a simpler time!!!

56.

Amber Gonzales <amber.gonzales1979@outlook.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 10:39 PM
To: "Jbaldanza@gmail.com" <Jbaldanza@gmail.com>, "deb@debleecarson.com" <deb@debleecarson.com>

"To encounter the sacred is to be alive at the deepest center of human existence. Sacred places are the truest definitions of the earth; they stand for the earth immediately and forever; they are its flags and shields. If you would know the earth for what it really is, learn it through its sacred places. At Devil's Tower or Canyon de Chelly or the Cahokia Mounds, you touch the pulse of the living planet; you feel its breath upon you. You become one with a spirit that pervades geologic time and space."

- N. Scott Momaday

For me that pulse is felt in the earliest of hours, before dawn makes her approach and cascades her beauty across the majestic landscape of what belongs to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. It's felt as I dress for the unpredictable weather I may encounter as I prepare to spend the next several days in the park discovering, reflecting, and falling in love all over again. It's felt when I cross the iconic cattle guard and my eyes focus as they are trained to do the minute my ears hear that sound. It's felt in the excitement of my voice because I know……

I know what this wild, rugged and spiritual land has in store me. I know I will hike many miles with dearest of friends in search of what keeps calling us back to this place time and time again. I know I will see my little wild mustang, who I adopted from the park and lost tragically, in the playfulness of the wild foals. I know I will hear her calling in the nicker of a nearby mare. I know I will feel her from the pulsing ground as a band of wild horses move across their land. I know my heart will heal every time I return because they are there. And while I sit quietly a short distance away, I'm humbled and comforted to spend those magical moments with the wild horses of TRNP.

My love affair began in 2013 when I traveled from my home in Arkansas all the way to a little town called Medora and entered a National Park I had never heard of before all because a friend told me about the wild horses that lived within the boundaries of TRNP. It did not disappoint and the moment I laid eyes on Silver and his band, my soul was forever bonded to this park and the wilds that call it home. For the next 7 years I traveled twice a year to spend time among the majestic wild horses that unselfishly share the land that has such profound history deeply rooted in every inch of that park. These horses introduced me to people all over the world that I would've never met, friendships that I will forever cherish. In 2019 I moved four hours from TRNP and continue to visit the park every year exploring, healing, falling in love with new wilds born to the herd and paying my respects the seniors who welcomed me all those years ago.

I know…..

I know when I cross those cattle guards and dawn shares her light….

I am home!

57.

Mark & Sue Bendson <m.s.bendson@gmail.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 11:48 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Medora! A horse rider's dream vacation! Why is that? First, and foremost, my love for the wild horses!! It all began with my first trip to Medora. I went with a friend, and we brought our horses to ride in the park, camping at the Bar X campground.

I am a mare person, and my first ride in the park was amazing! We rode for miles. While riding, our first encounter with the wild horses was a bit frightful, yet exhilarating! Two bachelor stallions happened upon us on the trail. We were moseying along when suddenly, to the left of us, the two bachelors flew by us! It was like, WOW, absolutely beautiful! They seemed taken by my mare, and of course, she was more than excited to race after them. We held back, and for the remainder of our ride, those two followed us at a distance. I'm sure they were curious, and interested in my mare, which peaked my curiosity to follow this herd.

When finishing our ride, we returned to our trailer, and in the distance, we spotted a mare and her foal. I was instantly in love with the horses in the park, and they are what keep me coming back.

My next trip to the park, I met a gal who was there to catalog the horses. We were staying at the same campground, and we talked endlessly about the wild ones. I was hooked! Since that time, I have followed the horses of TRNP, and know them by name. My interest in them was more than just a visit. I have since adopted two fillies from the park, and they are living their life in Minnesota.

I understand the need to cull the herd, and I am fortunate to have been able to provide a soft landing for the two I have. I will continue to make my trips to the park, because of the horses. They are a huge part of the park! The reason many of us visit the park. I can't imagine removing them. I don't know who makes the final decisions, but if the decision makers are horse people, maybe they can explain just how an adjustment of this magnitude will affect the horses. Especially the older horses - who only know the park as home. How cruel for them. How many of them will just die of fear and bewilderment? How many of them will end up in slaughter? I am so fearful for their future. This is heartbreaking to me!

I understand the genetics of the herd are quite compromised. What happened to all the plans submitted to integrate new blood into this herd? The contraceptive plans? So many of us submitted valued time, thoughts, and plans for your new management plan.

I feel so defeated. If I want to visit a park, why would I go to TRNP as without the horses, it's just another park.

Respectfully submitted with hope for the future of this herd.

Sue Bendson
Minnesota

58.

Sandra Ranney <shonto4858@hotmail.com> Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 2:24 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I love these wild horses. I look forward to any and all posts about them to see the pictures and hear of how this new colt or filly was born in this or that herd and whose new little one it was. Boomer has been a favorite that I like to follow as he just seems so unique to me! I like to envision all of them like I'm looking out my window at them though they are many miles away. (I live in Michigan.) Someday I hope to be able to visit to see them living their lives wild and free there. Meanwhile I love following them online. I have quite a collection of photos in my wallpaper file on my computer that I have collected from the Wild In North Dakota website. One of my daughter's gifts me with a new calendar each year and I make regular donations to benefit these beautiful horses. I pray they are allowed to continue to thrive and live their lives as God has intended: Wild and Free.

59.

Karen Hunnicutt-Meyer <karenhunnicuttmeyer@gmail.com> Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 8:23 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Good morning,

I would like to submit my story - my experiences with the wild horses of TRNP.

Teddy Roosevelt once said "The landscapes of today are not ours to do with as we please. The original stock was given to us in trust for the benefit both of the present and the future.
We must render an accounting of this trust to those who come after us".

I believe that if President Roosevelt was alive today that he would include not only the landscapes, but the wildlife as well. On my first visit to Theodore Roosevelt National Park in the summer of 2013, I came across a band of magnificent wild horses standing high on a ridge. I was overwhelmed with awe. I spent hours watching them and studying their interactions with each other. On that same visit, I found another band preparing to retire for the evening basking in the golden sunlight closing in on the horizon.

These images are etched in my memory, images captured with my camera and scribbled in the pages of my journal. An excerpt from that day "How spectacular to be in the presence of wild horses. The joy that seems to ignite the rare elements of grace, beauty, spirit and fire".

I have made several return trips since that day, just to be able to experience these emotions time and time again. I truly believe that these horses define this National Park, they are the pure essence of why Roosevelt, Muir and others fought tirelessly to create and protect these parks for generations to come.

- Karen Hunnicutt Meyer

60.

Shayla Fortune <shayla_fortune@hotmail.com> Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 8:43 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

In July I visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park to see the wild horses. I've been following a Facebook page about the horses for some time and finally had the opportunity to make the trek from Michigan to North Dakota to see them in person. We explored a lot of the park, always on the look out for the horses. When we finally found them eating near a river we were delighted. Seeing horses living free, being able to do what is natural and important to them without humans asking anything of them was a beautiful experience. I wish there were more horses in the park! They are a treasure to the park and should be protected.

61.

Kristi Taylor <kjmleah@live.com> Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 12:01 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

To whom it may concern:
I live in Iowa but there are NO wild horses to observe so I am a tourist that benefits the communities and parks where I can satisfy my dreams in visiting and witnessing the iconic wild horses. Please benefit from people like me ….please.
I live where a person can only pretend what once was….
I want generations upcoming to witness this in person also.
Not some pretend zoo palace want a be…..
Please again please …..
I am planning to see the park this summer as my 2020 visit was delayed due to Covid.
The landscape in the park looks to be magical in the pictures I see and can only hope ….it remains iconic
Sincerely,
Kristi Taylor

Sent from my iPhone

62.	**shelley3405@aol.com** <shelley3405@aol.com> Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 1:15 PM Reply-To: "shelley3405@aol.com" <shelley3405@aol.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> I was raised in Williston, ND and although we rarely took vacations per se, a trip to the badlands and TRNP was so.ething we considered a vacation. My Dad worked 2 jobs, one of which was farming so time and money were both always hard to come by. Going to the TRNP though was always a special treat and something we could do that the whole family enjoyed every single time. While there, it didn't matter that we couldn't afford all the fun things other kids got to have, we were able to enjoy the freedom of the outdoors, run and play and make games out of searching for the wild horses and Buffalo. Those memories are treasured and although I live far away now, I've made certain my kids had the same opportunities to enjoy the park as I did. It's become somewhat of a tradition and it helps us all appreciate the value of nature. The fact that these herds have lived free for all these years and still live and thrive in what can be a very harsh environment helps keep our priorities straight and puts life in perspective when we are faced with the challenges life throws at us. This is part of our country's history and while I understand sometimes change is inevitable, there is no valid need to change the park nor the herds that reside there. As a country we need to do better preserving the natural state of the areas that we can, and the TRNP is one that should be allowed to remain beautiful and natural with all the wildlife that call it home! Sent from the all new AOL app for Android
63.	**Margaret Baie** <mbaie100182@gmail.com> Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 1:34 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> We visited the park in fall of 2020 and were only able to traverse about half of the area due to some road work. We were thrilled when coming around a bend there in front of us was a band of wild horses, the epitome of the west!. We spent a lot of time watching this band and then went to look for more. We were not disappointed. The spirit of freedom and the beauty of seeing these families of horses made our visit to TRNP one of the most memorable sights of that whole trip (which included a few days in Yellowstone). Even though horses are not considered indigenous to the plains, horses did originally evolve in North America and these wild ones need to be left to remind us humans how little time we have actually been here and how a species can survive in the most rigorous environment. Thank you for fighting for these wonderful beasts. Margaret Baie
64.	**Paulette Larson** <owllady68@yahoo.com> Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 2:05 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Sent from my iPhoneWe go to the park every year once or twice . We always drive through looking for the horses and bison. The horses are so majestic, wild and free. We take many pictures and watch them. While they may not be native to the park, they are a big attraction and it would be a shame to get rid of them all. People are always asking if we've seen them and where they're located on that day when we saw them. Keep them!
65.	**Keira Woodhart** <findnhome@yahoo.com> Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 2:12 PM Reply-To: Keira Woodhart <findnhome@yahoo.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> It has honestly been a dream of mine to see the wild horses in TRNP. The whole park is a monument in and of its self, but the wild horses will forever be synonymous with it. With out those horses I am not sure I would visit the park. I grew up around Yellowstone National Park, but the draw to Teddy Roosevelt National Park had and always will be the wild horses. Please, please let them stay. Sincerely, Keira Woodhart Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

66.

trekkie4612navi@verizon.net <trekkie4612navi@verizon.net> Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 5:40 PM
Reply-To: "trekkie4612navi@verizon.net" <trekkie4612navi@verizon.net>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

My name is Cathy Weeks and I am from New York. I first came to TRNP in 2019 after finding out there were wild horses there. I drive out west to be with wild horses and close to Native American culture. My heart soared when I saw my first TRNP wild horse. And that was Nichols....with his gorgeous mane...standing there down by the water. And then I came around a turn and there was a band up on a hill and they were stunning....so proud.....so wild...so free. I have been out every year since (except 2020) to see them. I now also hire a guide so I can venture further and find more of these beauties that roam the hills and buttes of the park. I do not come for the buffalo...I see them at Custer, Wind Cave and the Badlands. I come to TRNP for the horses. I will be returning this year and looking forward to seeing these special horses that have captured my heart. They are a part of the park and I will continue to come as long as there are the wild horses.

67.

Diane Tutas <tutasd@yahoo.com> Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 5:40 PM
Reply-To: Diane Tutas <tutasd@yahoo.com>
To: Wildlandswildhorses Info <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello my name is Diane from Indiana and I wanted to tell you just how much these horses mean to me. I've only followed them on social Media so far and have grown to admire and love them. I didn't know much about this park before seeing the horse's. I have big dreams of finally getting to see them and pray they will be there for me and my family to enjoy.

I have visited many National Parks in my lifetime and traveled a lot.This is a big one on my bucket list. The thing that sets this Park apart, besides it's rugged beauty is the Horses. It's the reason I would come to this park as North Dakota is a little more off the beaten path. I've seen Bison, Elk and Pronghorn and bears etc. many places. I love wildlife. Seeing these beautiful horses free in the elements of the park would be breathtaking and makes this park different and special.

I'm an admirer of Theodore Roosevelt and the fact that this park preserves the essence of the west sets it apart. We owe horse's such a debt for all they have done for us as a nation. A national park with free roaming horses is a good way to honor the horse's. Plus this park is a place that all people can see wild horses. History is an important part of our heritage.

I urge you along with all the people who love them, to allow the horses to remain in the Park in a capacity that is viable and enjoyable for generations to come.

Thank you,

Diane Tutas

68.

Nate & Neali Austin <neals622@gmail.com> Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 9:00 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hi friends!!

I miss you. Here is my story for the TRNP herd. Thank you for what you're doing! Feel free to use the attached photo to go along with the story.

"I am blessed to say I have many stories and memories of the TRNP herd from my first introduction to them in 2003 to my last visit in 2017. I think what's been the greatest gift from this herd is the friendships and community I've made along the way while following their story. There are so many different people that find one common interest and sanctuary in this seemingly simple, dispensable and invasive herd of livestock - or so the 'powers that be' would like you to believe that's what they are. These people find new community with one another even though they come from different backgrounds and stories of their own (fellow travelers and locals alike) because they each have come for the sole purpose of seeing the wild landscape TRNP has to offer with the added beauty of its wild horse herd. Trust me when I say, there is nothing more beautiful or mesmerizing than sunrises or sunsets dotted with their silhouettes among those badlands hills. Each sunset or sunrise I have experienced with them has its own separate memory and fondness associated with it. Often times I look back on just one picture and can replay the memory as if it was yesterday, including the people I shared it with. I now have 2 young daughters of my own and I hope to be able to bring them to TRNP in the near future so they can also experience the beauty and wonder of not only the park and its horses, but also the community. I can say with certainty, a trip would be much less prioritized if the horses are removed. If the horses go, many of the community will also go, and that would be a shame to see."

69.

Barbara Kimble <bakimb1@hotmail.com> Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 12:50 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

My job is 100% travel. The first time I came to the TRNP area I did some research and found that there were wild horses in the park. I am a horse lover and have always dreamed of seeing wild horses. At the age of about 53 I finally had the opportunity. As I approached the park on the highway I saw the horses way up on the ridge. I stopped and got out my binoculars and camera. I actually cried as I saw wild horses for the first time!!! My work has never gotten me close to the park but I am so enthralled with the horses that I take an early morning flight and make a 2.5+ hour drive to the park just to see the horses! I have done this probably 5 times in the past 12 years! Without the horses there will be no reason for me to visit the park. You can see bison and other wildlife in many other parks. My attraction to TRNP is the horses. I have always planned to return to the park after retirement to be able to spend more time with the horses. I have followed the Wild in ND website ever since I discovered it many years ago. Wild horses are just an important piece of history as are bison and should be protected as are the many bison herds in the National Park system!!!

Barb Kimble

70.	**Denise McGuire** <debdenmcguire@gmail.com> Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 11:59 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I have never been to Theodore Roosevelt National Park but I follow their story on Facebook every day. I believe everyone would agree that this world is full of sadness, chaos, misery and unending bad news, so for me, and for thousands of others around the world, logging onto social media and seeing the pure and unfettered beauty of the wild horses there is a breath of fresh air and a shining light in this world of ever-increasing darkness. Please let them be. Let them remain as they are. Let them remain free!! They are the last vestiges of our Wild West, our Last Frontier, the Wide Open Range and the New World. They're our Heritage, American Icons, the embodiment of the Soul of America, the Heartbeat of our Great Land. Many days there's nothing that can bring a smile to my face like a striking photo of a stunning wild Mustang or a video of a band of horses thundering across a wide open space. Please don't remove them. PLEASE SPARE THEM. They don't deserve to be rounded up, contained, closed into corrals, separated from their bands, removed from the only home they've ever known and most of all they do NOT deserve to be shipped to slaughter in Mexico or Canada. Please, consider their value and worth as sheerly unsullied creatures living their own lives, and letting all others live theirs. Consider the joy they bring by simply "being". They draw people to the Badlands, to North Dakota and to the Park. This has to count for something! So please, in the name of all that's Good, Real, Truly Authentic and Fundamentally American---let them stay where they are and remain free. Respectfully and With All Sincerity, Debra Mcguire
71.	**Wendy Bentley** <kymtngirlwb@gmail.com> Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 12:09 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I have never been to TRNP but look forward every day to the posts on FB about the horses. I don't know when, because I am caring for my aging mother, but at some point I dream of coming to see the horses wild and free. I am not sure why there are plans in place to remove these horses from the park. They have been and should always be a part of the park. They have been there for 100s of years and that land belongs to them more than it belongs to the people who want to remove them. It belongs to them more than it even belongs to us who love and enjoy them whether in person or from a distance. I will never understand bureaucracy's need to change things by destroying things or taking away things that make people happy!! Leave the horses alone!!!

72.

Marcia Hage <featheredhorse@me.com> Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 12:43 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Wild and Free
by Marcia Hage

Mile after mile goes by, marked by two wheels humming on pavement; heat radiating off the engine keeps me warm on this cool morning in North Dakota. We stayed last night in Devil's Lake, arriving just as the sun went down. And now, headed south on Highway 20, we are surrounded by water on both sides. Skeletal trees rise up from the fog-enshrouded lake, ghost trees that were on dry land only a decade ago. We glide past silent barns, silos and hay fields succumbing to the water.

My dad explains the shallow lake has been rising for 20 years. No one knows why, but speculate it's due to recent climate shifts resulting in higher rainfall than usual in the area. The encroaching water has risen 35 feet to flood hundreds of farms as well as parts of two small towns. The landscape is as flat as a tabletop, so even a modest rise in the water level can cover thousands of acres. Today the placid lake resembles a high plains version of the everglades.

I ride in silence, absorbing the passing scenery and musing about the abandoned barns and houses and the people who once lived there. I count the ravens perched on beckoning tree branches. Seven, eight, nine… I lose track as a grain truck roars past, empty trailer rattling, on his way to New Rockford, McClusky or Garrison to start his run all over again.

My eyes settle on the lone figure ahead. My dad, Dennis Jindra, has been riding motorcycles for more than 50 years, accumulating over 1,000,000 miles. His resume is impressive: all four corners of the United States in 10 days, 1,000 miles in one day and a ride from the Florida Keys to Seward, Alaska when he turned 60. I started riding iron horses in 2012 and this marks our third annual father/daughter road trip.

This time we are on a pilgrimage to see the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Located in the Badlands of North Dakota, it is just shy of 800 miles away from our homes in northern Minnesota. The state of North Dakota claims they are not truly wild horses, in the pure sense, as they are comprised of stock that escaped or were turned loose from nearby farms in the 1940's and 50's. This fact, however, does not lessen my desire to see them as they are meant to be: wild and free.

The day has turned hot and dusty and the wind batters us relentlessly, roaring like an ocean minus the refreshing spray. We brave temperatures pushing 100 degrees and nonstop grain trucks going the opposite direction on Hwy 200. There is no sign of human life out here, just endless fields of hay, corn and wheat. Nowhere to stop. We finally locate a tree in someone's front yard and pull over to rest and drink some water. I observe we are on Main Street in the town of Dodge, population 87. We are tired, but push on.

Watford City. The sleepy farming community has changed so much since the oil boon that my dad doesn't recognize it. We get lost. It is now 98 degrees and it takes real effort to keep emotions in check. I go into a repair shop and ask directions to the hotel while my dad rests in the meager shade offered by the hulk of a dilapidated Chevy pickup. Heat waves shimmer above the blacktop.

Finally we locate the hotel – at the end of a dirt road next to a grain elevator. My dad thinks he's hauled grain from here before, back when he owned his own truck, a 1978 light blue and white International he was so very proud of. A stockyard sits across the street, its corrals now empty of life, sharing a dusty gravel parking lot with

the *Outsiders* bar next door. Our boots are covered in a film of dirt as we make our way over to the bar for dinner.

In the morning we pack up the motorcycles. I watch, transfixed, as the early light pours through the open doors of the grain elevator. A truck pulls in to load and dirt swirls, rising into the air and catching the light. It is beautiful as the sun penetrates the slanted beams of dust. God light. The automatic sprinklers have come on overnight and soaked my bike. I wipe it off and clean my windshield as we prepare to leave. My dad says we are about 35 miles from the north entrance of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I feel light and free as I swing my leg over and mount up.

In a short time, we arrive at the park. On this day, it is deserted so we have it to ourselves. The road twists and rises to higher elevations. We pull off at a scenic lookout, where below us, the mighty Missouri river bends and turns, cutting its way through the grassy valley. Many layers of sediment are visible on the rock walls that border the grasslands. The rabbit brush is in bloom, its blue green foliage supporting delicate yellow flowers that add a punch of color to the green and gold landscape.

Everything feels endless here; the sky is an endless aching shade of blue, the grasses dance and sway as far as we can see, and the rough-edged rock formations stretch on for miles. The former president, Theodore Roosevelt once said of this place: "*Nowhere, not even at sea, does a man feel more lonely than when riding over the far-reaching, seemingly never-ending plains; and after a man has lived a little while on or near them, their very vastness and loneliness and their melancholy monotony have a strong fascination for him.*"

Since we are more likely to see wild horses at the other end of the park, we point our motorcycles towards Medora. Once there, we follow the south loop. Mile after mile ticks by with no sign of them. My heart sinks at the prospect of going home without having seen a single wild horse. Finally, I spy a small herd of four at the base of an arroyo and pull over for a closer look. They are picking their way among the prairie grass and shrubs: a dark bay mare, a splashy paint with a black filly in tow, and a gray stallion. As I carefully descend the grassy slope for a clearer view, the gray materializes, ghostlike, from behind a clump of cedars. He appears to be unaware of my presence but has strategically placed himself between me and his small band.

For every step I take in their direction, he takes one also, until only a mere gap of 100 feet separates us. I am close enough to observe the battle scars that mar his nearly white coat in stark contrast to his slate gray mane and dark-tipped ears. His forelock hangs well past his eyes, giving him a misleadingly boyish appearance, but I know a full-grown stallion fears nothing, not even a grizzly bear. I stay, kneeling in the weathered grass, and watch the horses for a few moments.

By now, a number of people have stopped on the road to take pictures. Car doors open and slam shut. I hear excited voices rising up in the background, breaking the stillness, silencing the birds. My eyes are fixed on my beautiful horses, but I can feel the tourists standing near their cars, gesturing in our direction. The spell is broken and the stallion turns to go, taking his little harem with him. Reluctantly, I get to my feet and watch them until they disappear into the sagebrush as easy as spirits, as if they had never been there at all.

Leaving the park, we round a corner and there are buffalo everywhere, surging out of the ditch and flowing over the road. Thirst drives them on, eyes and nostrils fixated on the cool river lined with cottonwood trees just across the way. A cow stops to wait for her twin calves to catch up and I am mesmerized by the fuzziness of them, close enough for me to touch. One calf stops to stare at me with her large eyes framed by long dark lashes and the other jostles her like a petulant child. The herd crosses in front of us as well as behind, and I marvel at the thick, curly hair that extends from the top of their heads down the upper ridge of their necks. It feels vaguely unsettling to be so near such massive animals with nothing between us but a scant amount of steel.

We clear the buffalo roadblock and see more prairie dogs. They are everywhere, disappearing as far as the eye can see along the flat expanse of grasslands. Sitting on their haunches, they face the late afternoon sun like dutiful sentinels and send us on our way with much fanfare as we slowly exit the park. I glance in my rearview mirror and catch a glimpse of the sun just as it dips below the horizon. Right then I make a promise to return and once more walk among the wild ones in this beautiful and rugged place called the Badlands.

72.

Jeni Smoker <dane248@hotmail.com> Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 6:51 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I currently live in central Pennsylvania and have always loved horses. It has always been a dream of mine to see wild horses in the wild. I am writing in response to the park's plan to eliminate the wild horse heard.

I follow numerous social media accounts on instagram about wild horses and some specifically about the ones in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Watching the beautiful wild horses in undeveloped land is stunning, and a fitting tribute to the park's namesake.

I have not yet been to Theodore Roosevelt National Park or seen the wild horse herd there, but I would love to. I did have a trip planned to TRNP (flying into Rapid City specifically for the purpose of seeing the horses) but unfortunately I got Covid and had to cancel my trip. I have yet to reschedule my trip but I hope that it is one of the next ones I take.

Although I do love parks, and definitely national parks, I can honestly say that TRNP would not have been on my radar if not for the wild horses living in the park. Even though I have now seen various wild horse herds in other western states, I am still planning on seeing the horses at TRNP. I was hoping that living in a national park would allow the TRNP wild horse herd to live more peacefully than the other herds managed by the BLM.

The fertility treatments seem to be a much better management tool than the roundups and complete herd eradication.

I do not plan on visiting the park if the horses are removed.

Thank you for trying to help the wild horses and I will be of assistance in any way possible.

- Jeni Smoker

73.

Claudia Low <ndbhclaudia@gmail.com> Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 10:13 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Thank you WLWH for your efforts in this fight!! Here is my story.....Feel free to add a picture of baby Gates and his band.

I viewed moving to North Dakota from Louisiana as a huge adventure. I love the outdoors and the excitement of visiting TRNP and the wild horse herd was hard to contain. Little did I know the Park would be so captivating. Once I made my first trip to the Park, nothing else fit into my spare time. I was there 3-4 times a week! I wanted to know about the history of the Park, the history of the horses and how they fit into Teddy Roosevelt's story.

The TRNP NDBH herd brings comfort, healing, and entertainment to so many, not to mention the friendships forged in mud, snow, ice, sweat and tears. There were many tears of joy and many tears of sadness as Mother Nature worked her wonders in this herd of horses. Fellowships formed that will last a lifetime all because of a dedicated group of individuals with one goal in mind, following this herd of horses for eternity.

The best feeling of all was when I became the owner of one of these amazing animals. I purchased "Gates" in 2016 and he is easily one of the best mounts and partners I have ever owned. We live in West Texas now but the fellowship continues. I return every year for the Annual NDBH Reunion Ride and spend two weeks in the Park with the horses. In the future, as long as the horses are there, I will be returning at least twice a year.

In my opinion, TR's legacy is not the same without the horses. Why remove this important chapter from the story of his life? I think he would be very disappointed.

Please don't remove this herd. They are as iconic as the beautiful buttes, bison, and homesteads. Don't take away the comfort, healing, entertainment and fellowship this herd offers.

The Organic Act is for protection of natural and CULTURAL heritage. What sort of life would TR have had without a horse???

~Claudia Hebert Low proud owner of a NDBH
San Angelo, Tx

74.

Dakota Grown Photos <dakotagrownphotos@gmail.com> Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 10:39 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

"My love for the horses inside Theodore Roosevelt National Park began in April 2015. One morning, I went to the park looking for a mare I had seen on social media. She had recently lost a foal, and I felt I needed to go to the park and see this horse in person.

While driving the loop, I saw two stallions fighting near the road. I photographed them and watched in amazement that this was happening right before me. I later learned that I had photographed a former band stallion taking on a bachelor who would win his first mare just a few weeks later. These photos led to me meeting a woman from one of the non-profits for the horses, and so began my often weekly tracking and documenting of this herd.

Through running a social media page dedicated solely to this herd, I have seen firsthand the difference they make in the lives of the thousands of people who follow them. Their existence alone has helped so many people, including myself. I have suffered from depression for most of my life and was not in a good place before learning about the park horses. Once I did, my life changed. They gave me an outlet to care for something larger than myself and took me out of a dark place.

Tracking this herd has also given me the opportunity to see countless interactions among the horses over the years. I've witnessed mares with foals at their own side protect another mare as she was foaling, stallions lose their lives defending mares they spent years protecting, mares fight to find their way back to their band after a separation, stallions and mares look after and protect foals which are not their own, and watched entire groups of mares run to defend their stallion without hesitation. All of these examples came down to one thing - family.

If you will not keep the horses in the park for all the families who will visit in the coming years or the families around the world who find joy in every single horse image shared, then allow them to stay to protect the largest family of them all – the one living inside the park."

Tiffany Craigo, Golden Valley County, North Dakota

75.

Sheri Logue <bandslogue@gmail.com> Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 11:09 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

My family recently visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota from Florida, driving from Devil's Lake, ND to Medora,ND just to see the wild horses. It was an amazing experience and one that we look forward to coming back to experience again (with a trip planned for October) and one that I have told many family members and friends about. It's truly a bucket list trip that most don't know about but what an incredibly beautiful national park it is! Even my husband, who isn't crazy about road trips, said the most amazing thing about North Dakota was seeing the wild horses.

To hear that Theodore Roosevelt National Park management recently announced its plans to eliminate the ENTIRE herd of wild horses from the park made me want to share our story and for you to see that the impact of these herds reach as far as Tallahassee, FL. I hope that common sense is used in the management of the herd and not a complete elimination of the herd. I also hope that it is taken into account that these herds are families with strong connections and the bands shouldn't be divided.

Before visiting from Florida, we watched a documentary on Theodore Roosevelt and the North Dakota he fell in love with. While visiting this park and seeing the wild horses it was amazing to feel like we were experiencing the untouched land as he did many years ago.

Thank you for fighting to save the wild horses for generations to come. They are truly amazing and we look forward to coming back to North Dakota to enjoy them in the future.

The Logue's - Tallahassee, FL

76.

Chelsea Sorenson <chelseasorenson3496@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 1, 2023 at 2:01 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

My story about the horses doesn't really have a start date. I'm a born and raised North Dakotan and I've loved horses for as long as I can remember. I have also had a camera in my hands for as long as I can remember. I have photos of the horses going as far back as (I think) 2006 and I've been visiting the park since I was 1 year old. I remember walking among a band of horses in the campground when I was a little girl- before I knew better, of course. 😉

The horses improve my physical and mental health because I never tire of hiking out to them to photograph them, and the outdoors is, of course, great for my mental health. It's a good feeling to collapse in bed after a day of hiking to find the horses- solo or with friends. The park is my happy place and has been for years, a place where my soul is refreshed. I want it to stay that way, but taking away so many of the horses would leave a void in my soul.

I know each one of these horses by name and their parentage and histories, and I've met lots of like-minded friends who love these horses just as much, many of whom own a formerly wild TRNP horse, several more than one. We have all spent countless hours with these wild horses and with each other and none of us can imagine this national park without the horses. They are the heartbeat of the park.

The photo attached is just one of hundreds of special moments I've had with the horses. On this day in 2020, Justice of Arrowhead's band had given birth just days before to an adorable little filly named Badger (Frosted Arrow). Arrowhead, Thunder/Xander, and Half Moon's bands were all close together, and I was photographing them through the fence. To my amazement, Arrowhead gently nudged mares Diamond and Justice closer to me at the fence, and I stood silently and waited to see what would happen. Justice stood close behind Badger, her head held low and calm. Badger was tiny, fuzzy, and curious, and kept coming closer and closer, until I could have touched her through the fence. I kept still and silent, and eventually the band naturally slowly moved off on their own. I'm not sure I breathed the entire time. It was as if Justice had presented her firstborn to me. It was magical.

To summarize a quote from one of my favorite horse movies, "Flicka" (2006), "The history of the West was written by the horse. Wherever a settler left his footprint, there was a hoofprint beside it. Mustangs are on their way to disappearing from the face of the earth. Sometimes when the light disappears, an afterimage remains, just for a moment. Mustangs are an afterimage of the West, no better than ghosts, hardly there at all. We need to protect them, for they are the hope for some kind of living memory of what the promise of America used to be… and could be again."

If the horses are gone from TRNP someday, they will take a piece of my soul with them.

Chelsea

78.	**Jennifer Nygaard** <jnygaard@integritysteelsupply.com> Sun, Jan 1, 2023 at 6:02 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> Good Morning I am writing this morning so that my voice may be heard regarding the Wild Horses at TRNP. I go to Medora for a chance to see the horses in the park. Last summer, I faced some challenging times and during that time took a drive from Fargo to Medora. I was hoping to see the horses as I drove through the park. It was looking like it wasn't going to happen and then there one came. I spotted the first one then an entire band came running shortly there after. It was a beautiful scene! The time we have on earth is so very short and moments like what I experienced that day, those are the moments that carry us through this life. I am asking that you keep our wild horses in TRNP. I know I am not alone when I say they are a huge draw to area. Thank you Sincerely Jennifer Nygaard

79.

Gabi Faye <actressgabifaye@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 1, 2023 at 11:16 AM
Reply-To: actressgabifaye@gmail.com
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I visited TRNP for the first time this past year with a photography group. We hiked in and out of the landscapes looking for bands. It was the most incredible weekend of my life. In a world where our attention is engulfed by screens and to-do's, seeing horses in their natural habitat is so captivating and rejuvinating, it makes time and technology fall to the wayside.

I captured a photograph of a mother and her baby during sunset just seconds before she suckled. I gifted the photo to my terminally ill mother on mother's day. A unique and personal gift that no one else in this world has. I do not have children, but when I do I want them to know their grandmother, and this experience is a connector of generations. I want them to know a world where animals have freedom, not bring them to a zoo where animals live in captivity.

Experiencing wild horses is magical and we are lucky to have them roam our lands here in the USA. I pray you make the decision to allow them to stay wild. Some things are more important than money. This is certainly at the top of the list.

80.

Melinda Kersten <kerstenmk405@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 1, 2023 at 10:35 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

From Melinda :)

Throughout my several years of working with a major wild horse sanctuary in South Dakota, visitors were thrilled to get up close and personal with our horses. And they would inquire where else could they observe wild horses actually in the wild. My response, every time, was "go straight north to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. It's the only National Park with wild horses." A quick check of directions and our visitors would adjust their travel plans to include time in TRNP.

I finally had the opportunity to visit TRNP myself in September 2022 as part of a wild horse photography workshop. Armed with a new camera, a long lens, and new friends promising adventure, I approached the 3-day excursion with the hope that I might see a few horses, but an awareness that the TRNP herds were not conditioned to daily hay delivery along routes convenient to visitor tours in the way the sanctuary horses are.

Within moments of photographing an incredible sunrise along the loop road, we came across a few wild horse bachelors wandering a horse trail near the road on their way to connect with their friends for the day. They did not want us too close and they kept moving. We parked and quietly sat, observed, and photographed the horses within the incredible landscape of TRNP. I was tearful as I had finally observed wild horses in their rangeland – undisturbed, not displaced by round ups, and living life on their terms.

A little farther around the loop road, we spotted a stallion with his only and newly acquired young mare. We spent time in their presence from a respectful distance while whispering about who they were, how they must have come together, and capturing images of "young love" in the quiet moments of the early morning.

The remainder of the days were filled with wild horses throughout TRNP within observable distances. My sanctuary experience had led me to believe that it would be rare to actually observe wild horses on their home rangeland. Instead, we managed to see nearly every horse within long lens photography range in the park over the course of 4 days.

I left TRNP thinking this is as good as it gets. Generations of wild horses living their lives on their terms on their rangeland. TRNP is their home and we humans are the guests blessed with the opportunity to catch a glimpse of their wild lives. I'll be back to TRNP in 2023, and for years to come, with my camera, friends, and wild horse guidebook – hopeful and thankful for the privilege to be a guest of the wild ones.

81.

dana christensen <danalee2000@yahoo.com> Sun, Jan 1, 2023 at 10:52 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I first saw the wild horses I think in about 2010 while riding through TRNP with my husband on a motorcycle. The site of the horses on top of a hill not far from the loop road was a thrill and captured my imagination despite the fact that my husband wouldn't stop or even slow down. About a year or 2 later, I was driving through the park with my sister and along the side of the road was the stallion, Gray Ghost and his band of mares. This time we did stop! Both of us were captivated forever, my sister even more so than I. She lives not far from the park and being involved with the advocacy group (NDBH) has become a large part of her life.

While I am not involved in advocacy, over the years I have made many trips through the park, usually several times a year. My daughter and her family live in Dickinson and I frequently swing into the park to see what horses I can see when I go to visit them. I have brought my grandchildren with me on several occasions. I have developed a deep love and appreciation for the beauty and intelligence of these animals and I hope my grandchildren will develop the same appreciation that I have.

There are very few opportunities for the general public to observe wild horses in a natural habitat that are as accessible as TRNP. What a unique and valuable experience…to be able to observe herd dynamics and watch their interactions outside of a domestic situation, having the thrill of seeing a herd of horses thunder across the prairie, or of watching 2 or more stallions spar. When the horses are gone future generations will be deprived of that opportunity!

Once the horses are gone from the park my interest in visiting will be gone. When I drive by to visit my grandchildren I will have no desire to swing in to see what bison I can see.

See the clip from the National Park Service website site below. Please note the Park Service takes pride in preserving local history and celebrating local heritage. Both the longhorns and the horses are very important pieces of local history and heritage worthy of preservation.

Dana Christensen

Since 1916, the National Park Service has been entrusted with the care of our national parks. With the help of volunteers and partners, we safeguard these special places and share their stories with more than 318 million visitors every year. But our work doesn't stop there.

We are proud that tribes, local governments, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and individual citizens ask for our help in **revitalizing their communities**, preserving local history, celebrating local heritage, and creating close-to-home opportunities for kids and families to get outside, be active, and have fun.

Taking care of the national parks and helping Americans take care of their communities is a job we love, and we need—and welcome—your help and support.

ON THIS PAGE

Our Mission

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource

82.

JudyM42@aol.com <judym42@aol.com> Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 11:16 AM
Reply-To: "JudyM42@aol.com" <judym42@aol.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hoping this helps ... let me know if it should be altered in any way.
Judy Meldahl @ JudyM42@aol.com

My first trip to Theodore Roosevelt National Park was exciting. While visiting ND family, a trip to the Park was planned with my mother-in-law. The terrain was pretty, the history interesting. What was exciting was being surrounded by buffalo on the road! I was living in Illinois, born in Pennsylvania and had never seen a buffalo! Buffalo came onto the road and surrounded all the cars. While I rolled down my window to take a picture, Caroline was less than enthused! As the buffalo got closer and closer, I did roll up the window. My only shot was the buffalo nose against my window. I never saw a horse. I did revisit the Park a couple times when friends joined me in ND ... and never saw a horse.

By 2016, again living in Illinois, I was still following Cloud's band in the Pryor Mountains and thought I had a chance to adopt a couple mustangs to live in ND. While that did not happen, I did learn that there were horses in TRNP ... and they were also being gathered and available for adoption. Figuring that I had a perfect place for a couple mustangs in ND, I did just that and heartily welcomed Carlsbad and Guadelupe into my life. While I consider them both a blessing, I have always wished that they could have lived their lives with family remaining in the Park. My last trip to TRNP was to meet Guadelupe for the first time, and I will never forget her screaming in fear when separated from the other two fillies in that gather.

To learn that TRNP is now considering removing all of the wild horses, or possibly allowing only a few to remain, is more than disturbing. In my mind, the wildlife in the Park, especially the horses, are what makes it the most outstanding National Park. To remove those horses who have called it home their entire life is both cruel and a detriment to TRNP, Surely, I am not the only one who will have no reason to return to the Park. After all, I have seen the landscape in more than one season. The heart of TRNP lies with the horses and other wildlife. Furthermore, the number listed by TRNP to possibly remain would not allow for a viable herd. In fact, I imagine that Theodore Roosevelt himself would find his dream and plan violated.

Understandably, management of herd size can be challenging .... especially to maintain healthy viability. Help is available, procedures exist, and volunteer help is ready and willing and able.

Judith A. Meldahl

83.

Deborah Kalas <deb@deborahkalas.com> Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 6:00 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

January 2nd, 2023

To whom it may concern:

I am an equestrian and have been a photographer my entire life. Seeing an opportunity to join a workshop in June of 2014 to photograph the wild horses at Theodore Roosevelt National Park was a dream come true. Watching the horses interact with each other and move through the beautiful and varied terrains of the park was breathtaking. A peace would overcome me as I watched the different bands of horses go about their day. I was smitten and decided to return on my own.

From 2014 – 2020 I traveled to the park about 4 times a year to photograph the horses. Living first on the east coast and then on the west coast this was no easy feat requiring airline flights, car and hotel rentals. I usually spent ten days to two weeks each visit to TRNP.

There was something about the family ties, bachelor and stallion rivals, mares and foals bonding and the lifelong friendships between many of the horses that caught my attention. I decided to document these ever-changing relationships through the seasons.

I would hike through the park finding remote bands and spend the day observing and photographing. I remember one winter trip when snow was on the ground and the wind was stirred up, I watched almost an entire band lay down with their bodies so close to each other, touching each other, that they looked like a giant sandwich. Even the stallion lay close and eventually stretched himself out taking a nap.

Another time two bands were grazing near each other and all of a sudden, all the mares started circling and moving and their ears flicked back and forth in alert. Low and behold, three bachelor stallions came around the corner obviously looking for a mare of their own. The band stallions immediately approached the bachelors letting it be known that their presence was unwanted. Eventually the youngsters moved along.

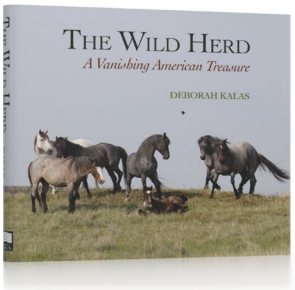
By 2019 I decided to put together a book and created an awarding winning coffee table book, The Wild Herd: A Vanishing American Treasure. It had a Kirkus star review and was considered one of the top 100 books of 2020. I gave lectures in North Dakota, California, Florida, Pennsylvania and New York sharing information about the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park and elsewhere. A number of people who came to my presentations expressed their interest in going to the park to see the horses.

The book also contains a section on "Understanding Wild Horse Behavior" and serves a visual guide with explanations for people who may not understand what they are witnessing when they observe wild horses. Libraries all over the country have multiple copies of my book so that the information can continue to be shared.

Without horses in TRNP I would not travel their again. Please keep the herd in the park. Not only for me but for everyone else who has been there or plans to visit.

Deborah Kalas

www.TheWildHerd.com



84.	**Jane Millar** <scandiajane@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 7:41 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> I've never been to the park, but I have experienced the wild horses from afar through fabulous photos taken on a regular basis by dedicated souls. I love reading about who's who and watching the horses' families grow. I'm in awe of the photographers' memory of sires and dams of every one of the horses.Their familial bonds are so strong. I look forward eagerly to every post about the TRNP horses. I've loved horses all my life, and at 75 am still in love with them. I would love to visit the park to experience in person these magnificent creatures. If the horses were gone, I cannot imagine the sadness and regret we would ultimately experience that we allowed this huge piece of our heritage to disappear. Thank you for saving the wild horses in the TRNP. Jane Millar Woodinville WA -- Jane Millar, now at scandiajane@gmail.com
85.	**denise etter** <denise_etter@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 7:49 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I have not physically visited the park of TRNP but it is on my future bucket list -why because of the wild horses there-I have fallen in love with them by watching them on Facebook and following their growth and patterns-I grew up loving wild horses and all horses and during the year 2020 they were a blessing to me and a daily go to watch-it was my happiest time and I have a very stressful job and loving these horses was my heaven -please do not remove these horses-they are not hurting anyone and deserve to be treated with honor and respect and cared for-please stand up for them and help them and thank you in advance -Denise Etter

86.

Dana Connolly <danazivagage@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 8:09 PM
Reply-To: Dana Connolly <danazivagage@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

To Whom it May Concern,

I have been following this herd since 2012 and they are the most amazing horses! I've seen a lot of wild horses around the country but the genetics of this herd is superior by far! They are on my bucket list to see and I really want them to be there when I finally get there! Please consider how extremely special this herd is genetically. I understand having to manage numbers but please don't cancel them altogether!
Sincerely,
Dana Connolly
2121 Holly Lane
Bunnell, FL 32110
386-479-0442

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

87.

Squarespace <form-submission@squarespace.info> Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 8:33 PM
Reply-To: stoddardmt@protonmail.com
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sent via form submission from *Wild Lands Wild Horses*

Name: Robbin Stoddard

Email Address: stoddardmt@protonmail.com

Subject: Wild Horse Herd

Message: Though I have never had the good fortune to see the wild horse herd in TRNP, I have followed a Facebook page devoted to sharing images of the beautiful band that lives in Teddy Roosevelt National Park. They are beautiful creatures. I've given a lot of thought to those horses, because here in Montana, where I live, there are wild horses living in the Pryor Mountains, and they are a State treasure. It is difficult for me to believe that the wild horses living in TRNP are not also State treasures. Please, please, do not eradicate this herd. I keep thinking of what Teddy Roosevelt would say about this issue, and cannot believe that he would promote or support eradication or sterilization of the horses that run wild on "his" park.

Please consider leaving the herd intact, and in place. It would be a travesty to kill those horses or to stop them from breeding. I cannot believe that wild animal management includes eradication. How could anyone entertain the idea of killing those beautiful creatures?

Sincerely hoping those horses will be left alone,

Robbin Stoddard
Belgrade, MT

Does this submission look like spam? Report it here.

88.

Kathy Monti <glassykathy@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 8:42 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

My name is Kathy Monti , I am a glass artist from Berthold , ND. I love the wild horses and I love to go to the TRNP and watch and study them. They have inspired my work and I can't imagine going to the park and not seeing them running wild. They are as much a part of our western culture as the bison . My Grandfather and Father went to the badlands and caught wild horses every Spring in the late 1800's until the 1920's. They are an important part of our history. They are a legacy we must pass on to the generations that follow. We have to ensure that they endure in the TRNP forever.
Sincerely, Kathy Monti

Sent from my iPhone

3 attachments

image0.jpeg
285K

image1.jpeg
34K

image2.jpeg
343K

89.

Stacy <svan@mtida.net> Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 10:42 PM
Reply-To: svan@mtida.net
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

To Whom It May Concern,

Regarding the park's three "alternatives" to managing the wild horse population in the park, I'm shocked. I have always believed that TRNP's beauty was as much about wild horses as it was about buffalo and other dryland prairie species. The wild horse presence has been enriching peoples' lives for many generations, since Theodore Roosevelt's time and before. To phase out the Mustangs that have thrived on this land alongside other wildlife species would be a tragedy for the park and for the people of our country. They are history, a symbol of freedom that this country needs now more than ever. And the horses were an established presence in the park when it was created. They were part of the original creation, part of what Theodore Roosevelt loved, and a part of the reason for a park. What happened to the idea of "Today in TRNP, the horses are protected as a cultural resource along with the other wildlife in the park; they are a “historic demonstration herd” representing what Teddy Roosevelt would have seen," from the article The Wild Horses of Roosevelt’s Badlands for The Cowboy Chronicle.

For decades I've driven between Idaho and Minnesota, often taking the Medora Loop, swinging off the fast paced beaten trail of the Interstate, in hopes to see one of the herds or

spot a lone Mustang high on a ridge. It's something that stirs the heart. Stirring American hearts is just as important as management of native species. I've made trips so my children grew up knowing there were wild horses still populating some of our country, letting them know that not all history is past and gone, but lives on in our National Parks. The beauty of the wild horses is no less stunning as the badland's colorful vistas or watching a bison powerfully pawing dirt over it's back.

I've been blessed with opportunities to work with wild horses, but not many people have the ability to do this. The Facebook pages such as Dakota Grown Photos, Deb Lee Carson, Wild In North Dakota and Heather White, to name a few, that share the stories and photos of the herds, their hardships, their loving and meaningful family connections, the births and deaths, stories that teach the nation of the natural cycles and the generations of family lineage are a true gift to people who can't travel to the park, and they draw us all to want to visit the park, to get out of our rigs and walk into the draws and over the next hill, explore, spend time in this land. We want to see Flax and Redface and Yoakam.

These wild horses support the park. They are a specific reason for much of the park visits. Phasing them out would be a mistake. Part of my shock over the alternatives outlined is that management of the herds has seemed to be working out for the park as well as the wild horses and the people who love and enjoy them. Why the need to phase them out? Are they threatening the existence of other native

species? Are they threatening the grasslands so buffalo and antelope cannot survive?

I'm sure I don't need to cite research to the park staff and biologists, but if you'd like citations, I can sure dig them up again. The horse evolved on the north American continent. IF it did "disappear" for awhile, it is still native to this continent, yet there are fossil records that support the presents of small horse populations that remained on this continent through the "extinction" period.

I've read also "How can you put value on someone's emotional connection to the wild horses?" Isn't that what Wild Horse Annie, Velma Johnston did? It seems the entire Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 was based more on emotions, humane treatment, symbolism, history and other emotionally based aspects than science. I know that this act doesn't affect the TRNP horses, I'm using it as an example of the importance placed on the country's emotions. Do the emotional needs of the citizens of this country, the tax payers who support the parks and other public lands, count for nothing, or for less than "science"? Why were any of the national parks preserved? It was the emotion of love that preserved the parks, and the emotion of love and respect has preserved the wild horse herds. I thought TRNP was a showcase to the rest of the country as to how a wild horse herd could be successfully managed, show cased, and preserved for future generations.

Also, regarding herd population viability, according to many studies a herd of 35-60 would not be a genetically effective

population.

Cothran now believes that the minimum wild horse and burro herd size is **150-200 animals**. Within a herd this large, about 100 animals will be of breeding age. Of those 100, approximately 50 horses would comprise the genetic effective population size. (https://americanwildhorsecampaign.org/genetic-diversity-and-viability#:~:text=Cothran%20now%20believes%20that%20the,the%20genetic%20effective%20population%20size.)

"an absolute minimum for a population in the wild, census N would need to be in excess of 139-185 wild horses, the excess to account for 3-5 removals per wild horse generation," (https://www.blm.gov/documents/national-office/blm-library/resource-note/genetic-effective-population-size-pryor-mountain).

I am hopeful that this added comment period can persuade those overseeing TRNP to keep a viable wild horse herd as a valued part of the park.

Stacy A. Van Steenwyk
Harpster, Idaho
svan@mtida.net

90.

My TRNP Wild Horse Story
1 message

Joanne Brady <jmbrad03@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 11:42 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

This is my story and it is heartbreaking that I even need to write it.
I am a native to ND, born and raised in Minot. I have always loved all animals, and a real love for horses. We had 3 horses, and they brought to me so much happiness in my childhood.
I recently moved back to Minot from CO. The first place I wanted to visit was Medora and the TRNP to see the horses.
I remember when I visited the Gift Shop, I felt it was different from the past. There was hardly any mention of the horses, few gifts about the horses, and when I inquired about the horses, no one really wanted to speak much about them.
May I ask you all, what the heck do you have against the horses?
Don't get me wrong, I enjoy seeing the bison, prairie dogs and other wildlife. But the horses, I love! I know some by name, and have so many of the items, like pictures, coasters, calendars, beautiful items with their pictures on. I could not even find any of those items in the Gift shop. 😔
To be perfectly honest with you, I will probably not be going to Medora any more if the horses go away.
I do not know what the motive would be for this plan, but if it is about money, you will see the town of Medora suffer from removing the horses.
I am sending a video of the joyful moment we saw these beautiful horses in the park.
I beg of you to not get rid of the horses, but to leave them to live in the park as they have for all these years.
Sincerely,
Joanne Brady

91.

Helena Chesters <helena.chesters@hotmail.co.uk> Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 2:09 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Good morning
This is just a quick message in support of the herd of wild horses in Roosevelt National Park. During covid lockdown I started following the Dakota Grown facebook page along with my young daughter. We both love the beautiful photos of awe inspiring scenery and wild mustangs. True symbols of a wild America. We are in the UK and may never be lucky enough to visit the park in person but photos of the wild horses have touched our lives and made our hearts sing with joy.
Don't underestimate the impact that the wild horses have, and the value they bring.
Kind regards
Helena

Sent from my iPhone

92.	**Masha Plotkina** <bonechka@yahoo.com> Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 10:49 AM Reply-To: Masha Plotkina <bonechka@yahoo.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> Hi Jamie, I'm writing to contribute my story about our beloved TRNP horses. I live in Italy and I have never seen American wild horses in person (although, obviously, I would love to one day), but for a few years these beautiful horses living wild and free in Theodore Roosevelt National Park have played an important role in my life. Ever since I discovered these amazing horses thanks to social media pages of some dedicated people, I have been regularly checking for their photo and video updates. I now feel as if I have personally met many of these horses, they have a special place in my heart and, I'm sure in the hearts of many dedicated followers around the world. I am a horse lover myself and have my own horses and observing these beautiful wild horses and there natural behaviours and herd dynamics has given me many insights into horse psychology, useful for my own interaction with my horses. When watching these horses it's so obvious what special bonds they share within their family bands and how stallions protect their mares and how the whole band looks after the foals. I really hope these beautiful horses will stay wild and free in the future and many more people will get to see them in their natural environment. Masha Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android
93.	**Barbara Mosher** <barbaramosher73@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 2:00 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Wanted to write and let you know how wonderful it is to be able to see these amazing wild horses. Haven't been to the park but would love to go and see them in person. Such joy to know these beautiful horses are being saved and given their freedom that they richly deserve. Makes my day when I see a post. Please know I keep you all in my prayers. Thank you for what you do.

94.	**Judy Richmond** <tjrichmond59@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 7:41 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com In 2019 I had the pleasure of visiting Theodore Roosevelt National Park. A friend and I were driving in the park foran after-dark photoshoot of the night skies. The skies were clear, the air was calm and a perfect night to be in TRNP. Suddenly we spotted some of the wild horses in the road ahead. We slowed to a stop and in a few seconds our car was surrounded with horses. They were in no hurry to be on their way and we enjoyed the experience of being in the middle of a wild horse herd. It was a night I won't soon forget. It will be a sad day when you can no longer enjoy the wild horses of TRNP. _JLR7155-1.jpg _JLR7173-1.jpg Judy Richmond
95.	**Thomas Wellard** <bugs_alive25@hotmail.com> Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 9:33 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> When I married my wife 30 plus years ago, she was from Sentinel Butte area. We came back to visit her grandparents who are old timers from this area and had friends who were ranch and rodeo cowboys. Conversations were of the old days and them collecting western antiques and the outdoors and horses and cattle. Wild horses we brought up and I was told of the park and the herds, which led to a visit to the park and at which time I got some pictures of the horses. When I retired we moved back to the ranch and with my love for photography this was great photo opportunity because of the uniqueness of the horses and other wildlife. It was amplified when I came upon the groups who track and monitor the horses. This introduced me to names, habits, bands, babies and lineages. Know these things made the horses much more intriguing knowing about them and being able to tell others about which horses you saw and tell other the name of the horses in the picture , which created a excitement and following of different horses by those who were not from here. Friends come out and have me take them to see the horses from my photos which because they have names and history are easy to connect to and follow. Without the horses it would not fit Roosevelt's idea of the wild country he so loved. Horses were a big part of his history here! Sent from my iPad

96.

Judy Frasch <jmfrasch@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 4, 2023 at 12:59 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

The thoughts of writing 'a' story to encapsulate these horses and what they mean to me has stopped me cold for days. Believe me, I have many. First, I want to make it clear, I'm not a writer and I have difficulty in expressing my thoughts & feelings..definitely not to the depth I feel or think them. But try I must because of my great love for these horses.

We live 40 miles away & I've been coming to the Park for years. In 2011 I retired & started spending more time in the Park & I loved seeing the horses but I didn't now them. Around 2015 I met Marylu & Henry Weber, founders of North Dakota Badlands Horse who'd been following & documenting the horses since the early 80's. Through them I started learning the bands, stallions, mares, foals and some of their history. Then they came alive to me & I really fell in love with them at that point.

When I brought my grandson's to the Park for the first time when they were about 5 & 6, I wasn't sure if they'd be bored or not. When you say Park, little ones immediately think of a park with playground equipment or some kind of entertainment. This Park was not that kind but I made a list up before we went of all the wildlife we'd see and we played a new version of 'I Spy'. The object was who could spot a prairie dog, coyote, deer, bison, horse etc. first. After seeing bison, deer, prairie dogs numerous times the game started getting old. But when they'd spotted a horse(s)!! Ahhh!!! The game was on!! Then to figure out who it was. They wanted to know more about them. My younger grandson in time lost interest in the Park but Kiptyn was like his Gramma & his love for the horses grew. Most every planned time to Grandpa and Gramma's had to include a trip to the Park to see the horses.

It was always our dream to one day see Circus. We called him the 'Phantom Horse' because we never saw him. We'd hear and see photos of him by others who did but he is illusive..a loner who seldom shows himself & who hangs out in a remote part of the Park. Many never see him. But, Kiptyn & I were always on the look for him & we'd say, 'maybe this is our lucky day to find Circus'.

On a slow day in June 2021 (6.24.21 to be exact!) around 2:30 we were headed to Medora to take in an afternoon show on Teddy Roosevelt. . We made a sharp turn in the road and started down a hill with 'S' curves and guard rails on both sides. We spotted him at the same time & started sucking in air. I was speechless and Kiptyn was only able to squeak out, 'is that....is that....is that CIRCUS?!!' Oh my goodness...it was!!!! He was slowly meandering down the road in the same direction we were in the other lane! At that point he couldn't get off the road because of the guard rails so we just stayed behind him giving him plenty of room. Cars at the bottom waited when they saw him coming. Cars behind us were lining up impatiently..one actually passed us! WHA...???? Didn't they know who this legendary horse was?!! But we weren't to be hurried by anyone...we'd waited for this moment way to long & we knew it would never be repeated. This was no doubt our one and only moment with Circus. When he got to the bottom, he turned left off the road and headed for a low area looking for water. There was dry stream bed but occasionally a small muddy pool. Eventually we lost him but I told Kiptyn we might see him again if we hurried and got to the upper Jones Creek turnout and waited for him. And sure enough we did! This time we had him all to ourselves making the moment even more epic. He wandered into an open area and we ready for him already sitting on a higher nob. We happily started snapping away with our cameras. When he moved out of sight, I told Kiptyn if he wanted to hike out south & make a wide berth to the west, he'd probably see him again. Gramma was not near agile or quick enough to go along. He was keen on it and armed with walkie talkie he started off. Sure enough, this time he practically came face to face with him as they each rounded a corner at the same time.

How do you explain the thrill of moments like this?!!! I can't. Kiptyn & I have had so many 'moments' out there with horses racing towards us because of a deer that spooked them and then having to run to get out of their way..horses fighting, the one trying to get his band back, seeing Gray Ghost in his last days. Oh so so many. Just this last week between Christmas and New Year's break he wanted to come & spend time in the Park with me. He has the most keen eyes and we saw so many I wouldn't have on my own & we had a wonderful time. But at one point he said, 'Gramma, if they take the horses away I don't want to come back.' With a huge lump and with hidden tears I agreed. Me either. It is way to painful to consider going to the Park with no horses. I won't, but I pray it won't happen.

Oh! By the way...Kiptyn got the best shots of Circus that day taking over 400 of him!!

Judy

97.	**John Schaper** <johnschaper69@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 4, 2023 at 6:49 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I been going to TRNP over 50 years n have guided free for all sorts of people from all over the US and there first thing 100% of them first said is they wanted to see the wild horses. Buffalo n Elk were 2nd on their list . Getting rid of the wild horses would impact TRNP big time ! There are so many stories I could share about my experience and the experience I have seen guiding people in the park when they see the wild horses I could write a novel. TRNP will loose tons of money n visitors if they remove the horses. The prairie dogs are the ones that need managing because there is way more prairie dogs than coyotes n other predators can eat n they're spreading bigger every yr. I'm very disappointed that TRNP would even consider getting rid of the horses. Yes maybe reduce a few 1/4 at most of the heard . Sent from my iPhone
98.	**TAMMY SHINTON-CLERMONT** <wired426@aol.com> Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 9:20 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com A while ago I stumbled onto a group of amazing photographers who photograph the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National park. As I travel from the east coast I have been getting closer and closer to this park. Watching these magnificent horses grow, reproduce and unfortunately sometimes die, is the magic of the park itself. They're free to live off the land how it was meant to be. Their beauty is what is drawing me there. To hear that they may be destroyed or removed all together is astonishingly upsetting. These precious animals deserve to live their lives, given the harsh conditions in the park year round they have earned that right. If this is to take place, what is next? Removing bison from Yellowstone National Park? Please leave these stunning horses alone. Thank you for allowing me this time to express my opinion. Regards. Tammy Clermont Sent from my iPad

99.

Brenda Heilman <bheilman.gondtc@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 4, 2023 at 8:21 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

His name was Bentley, this TRNP horse that stole my heart and began my wild horse journey. I followed his story, and through him, learned that there's just something about a wild horse that captivates us. id: "There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man."—whether it was Winston Churchill or someone else sharing these words, I'm guessing he wasn't talking about wild horses, but the sentiment remains: wild or not, horses are good for humans. Just the sight of them lifts the spirit, doesn't it?

Because of Bentley, I've met some amazing people, built cool friendships, hiked many miles in TRNP, seen every wild horse in the park, and purchased a wild of my own. The combination of TRNP's badlands and horse herd do wonders for my soul. Within a matter of minutes after arriving, all is well. Hiking or driving, that first sight of a horse in the park just brings a smile to your face. You never know when or where that first sight will happen—that's probably the magical part, isn't it?

My TRNP mare, Massachusetts (Little Sorrel x Trouble's Girl), is a sweetheart as I imagine Bentley was. Her heart, try, and smarts never cease to amaze me. These TRNP horses are assets, not liabilities. They have more value than can be measured. One of Theodore Roosevelt's passions was horses. As the National Park that bears his name states, "<the horses'> presence represents Theodore Roosevelt's experiences here during the open-range ranching era…For several years the National Park Service tried to remove all horses from the park. In 1970, a change of park policy recognized the horse as part of the historical setting. New policies were written and enacted to manage the horses as a historic demonstration herd." If they were representative then, aren't they now? If they were part of the historical setting then, aren't they now? TRNP employs crazy smart folks. They have the skills and tools to manage these horses. Is funding the issue? Staff? I don't know, but I hope with everything I have that all of our hands, hearts and minds together can come up with a solution that keeps horses in TRNP. As proud as Teddy Roosevelt might have been about a Presidential Library in his name, I bet he'd give it up in a heartbeat to keep the horses in TRNP to 'represent his experiences'.

100.

Kendel Cody <kendelcody@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 12:05 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have been fallowing Theodore Roosevelt's wild horse for almost 10 years my favorite being the stallion Circus. Circus and I have some common ground we both walk with a limp. Circus and I are both old I am 71 he is 23 years old. Circus has been really wonderful to view and watch.

Circus and all the horses in TRNP have been a part of my life daily. I have fallowed their births, deaths, their interactions with each other. It had been wonderful!! It will break my heart if your get rid of all of those beautiful horses. I have lost a lot during this very hard and unkind world these last 3 years. In truth I do not understand why you want to get rid of all these wonderful horses?

Please cut me and everyone else a brake and allow these beautiful horse to stay in Theodore Roosevelt National Park! For me horses are not livestock they are my soul.

For the love of horses, Kendel Cornwell

101.

STEVEN JANICE MOE <moehaven@msn.com> Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 5:01 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

We visit twice a year and have visited for many years. We have brought many new people to the park for the experiences of sight seeing and horse back riding. Having camped and stayed multiple times at the Round up camp within the park. We have been to the park a few times just sight seeing and picture taking as not all our friends and family ride horses. This is the only park that the horses can be seen wild and free with in a park. We have been to other parks but none compare. To lose this wonderful experience for up coming generations will be a huge loss the likes which we would never be able to get back. We understand that there is a natural "carrying capacity" for which the limited acres of land the park has can sustain. We believe that a reduction in ALL the critters big and small must be done to some course. Prairie dogs, elk, bison...and on. They all should be managed. We having back country ridden trails on our horses ,have over the years, witnessed the prairie dogs claiming grass land many times over. We get that visitors love seeing the little creatures....from the road. BUT way back in the park away from the road ways they are thriving like no other. The grass is gone a short time after they move into the area an area that very few see and that the horses and other grazers could utilize to a much better purpose IMO. Keep the grass = keep the dogs by the roads where visitors who like seeing them can. TRNP will never be the same majestic park it is without the wild horses in it. It is a national treasure and we pray that a compromise can be made to have horses and all the other animals in the park for all to enjoy now and for many generations to come.
Has it ever been thought of to "in house " adopt a horse. People could help pay for birth control or ? by adopting a wild horse and for $ per year or month assist in the care for one or more ? I know that the numbers are high right now, but to have the small amount of horses that we have heard numbers of (25 -50) which would be almost invisable within the park of hundresds of thousands of acres....you would have to look a very long time before ever seeing a horse in the park. If the park experts could find a real number that would be acceptable to meet the criteria for sustainability within the park, limiting new births by contraceptives only allowing a new foal in when old die keep even pace with mortality vs birth. Horses could live full lives well into senior years and after the passing it would be a much anticipated date for which a new foal would arrive = celebrating the event with great fan fair. I know getting long. I will quit.

Take care.
Jancie L. Moe

102.

Chris Wiese <wiesefamily_80124@msn.com> Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 5:27 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I'm not a writer, just another mammal that is blessed to share this space. Being a human I feel privallaged to be the smartest among those that inhabit the planet. That being said it is a BIG responsibility being one that gets to chose. My hope is that you chose fairness. This group of horses that inhabits TRNP Is in the crosshairs, why? They have done nothing but add pleasure to humans. Do they need to be managed, Yes. Eliminated, I hope not. I have heard comment that they are not native. Well you my friends you are not either. So choose carefully as it is a GREAT responsibility that you have been given.

Sincerely;

Chris Wiese

Horse owner and horse lover.

103.

Eunice Guthrie <eguthrie44@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 6:43 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

As a native North Dakota resident, I am saddened to learn of the plan to remove these horses from the park.
Roosevelt himself commented on frequently seeing wild horses wandering the range — stray ranch stock or American Indian ponies that got loose. The ancestry of the park horses traces its lineage to American Indian ponies, including horses surrendered by Sitting Bull and his followers at Fort Buford in 1881, as well as ranch stock.
I think too much history is being removed from the public. What will be next? The Bison? the prairie dogs?
One of the reasons I wander to TR Park whenever I visit my home state of ND is for the horse bands. I have been privileged to see them twice. However, I also realize they are wild and free and so seeing them is just a lucky chance. Please reconsider removing these horses from the Park. They have roamed there for generations as some of the horses have blood from the ponies Sitting Bull surrendered to the army.
Thank you for any consideration you may give this request.

104.

Darrel & Tracey Thomas <mdwcrkrch@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 7:15 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hi, my name is Tracey, i've been going out to the park since 1999, on our 1st trip driving the park we came across Curious George and his band. Needless to say it was love at first sight. Every year it was always a challenge to see if we could find him while riding the park. We started following the different horses getting to know who was who.
It started out with myself and 2 sisters and their husbands, over the years our group grew to include extended family and friends and kids and now i'm passing the love of the park to my grandbabies.
When i found out they we doing roundups of the horses i knew someday somehow i would get one. I went to the sale in Dickenson and also Wishek but came home with an empty trailer. Then they started the low stress gathering and in 2016 my dream became a reality.. I adopted 2015 park name Olympic now called Sully. My next part of a dream come true will be this summer when i take Sully back out to the park and ride him there. I included a pic of Sully and myself.

IMG_2920.jpg
523K

105.	**charly ebenal** <charlylady@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 9:57 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com We visit TRNP as often as we can. A few times a year. The whole point of the visit is to see the wildlife in their natural environment. To see the horses and the bison, is truly a moving and even spiritual experience. It is not the same as seeing animals in a Zoo. Please, cull the herds in a humane way if the numbers must be reduced, but it would be a sin to remove them all. Sincerely The Ebenals

106.

Otto had the truck pointed the wrong way, and I was impatient. I walked my short, chubby little legs just as fast as they would go around the side of that hill, while he turned around. He caught up with me fairly quickly, but stayed a good ways back, as to not startle the horses.

As I turned the corner of the hill, there they were! The ENTIRETY OF REDFACE'S FAMILY BAND! Most of them on the road, walking together.

Pretty Girl, Cash, and Molly lagging behind to "beckon" Lakota along.

And there SHE STOOD. LOOKING RIGHT AT ME.

Be still my heart.

I never did see "The Black" (aka Mystery) on that first trip to TRNP.

My heart found "it's horse". Mare Lakota

I fell instantly in love with that wild, beautiful, independent, strong-willed mare.

I followed them a little way down the road. 3 times she stopped and looked back at me. 3 times I stopped also. I never encroached on her space, but I FELT her.

Once the band was off the road, I walked back to our truck, and Otto, ever so patiently, again waiting for me.

We continued down the road. I had more experiences that trip. Found more love and passion for this herd of horses, and could go on and on about them all.

The herd in Theodore Roosevelt National Park is where I started learning about and falling in love with wild horses and burros.

I have had amazing experiences, met some outstanding people, learned about, and been to see other wild horse herds because of them.

The herd of Theodore Roosevelt National Park will ALWAYS be my "heart and soul" herd. I will continue to learn, grow, share and, hopefully, "teach" about AMERICA'S wild horses and burros, THANKS TO THEM.

Kerri Jenkins <kerrijenkins65@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 1:42 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Good morning,
I am writing from the UK.
As an adult I became an unexpected horse owner when I took on the care of a retired racehorse in her later years. I lost her when she was 23 and whilst looking at Facebook one day found the horses of TRNP. These horses have filled the void left by losing Chance and I follow their lives and journeys regularly.
The wild horse is an iconic symbol of American freedom and I have watched with increasing concern the way this seems to be eroding. I know many other people in the Uk follow these horses and share the same concerns about their future.
I would love one day to visit TRNP to see the horses living wild and free, it is their birth right, their home and a symbol of Americas past and present; I hope that they remain part of the future and will run wild and free when I finally manage to visit.

Kerri Jenkins

Sent from my iPhone

107.

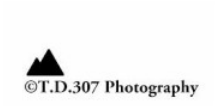
Tony <tony@td307photography.com> Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 7:57 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello,

I'm writing you today to share my experiences with the TRNP Wild Horses in an effort to save their freedom. I'm a professional wildhorse documentary photographer from Wyoming, and have visited the horses of the TRNP multiple times. My documentations of them have been nothing less than extraordinary. While being a wild horse photographer, I see them much differently. I don't see them as animals. I see them as families with personalities no different than us as humans. In my documentations back in Wyoming, I have grown to connect and learn about each horses personalities, their tendencies, family dynamics, emotions, etc. That's what drove me to want to see and document the behavioral tendencies of the TRNP Wild Horses. To not only witness their beauty that they present, but to also learn about who they are as individuals horses as I have done in Wyoming, which they did not disappoint.

The horses of the TRNP are not only unique in their own ways, but they have a mystique about them that is astonishing. Their rugged beauty is captivating, with some of the most stunning roan breed horses I have ever seen. One of the horses that I had been wanting to meet was stallion, Yoakum. I had tears of joy when I got to finally meet him. I had the upmost privilege of spending hours with them, and I most certainly have plans to make routine summer and possibly fall trips to visit them, and I strongly believe they deserve to continue to embrace their freedom with their families in TRNP.

Sincerely,



Tony Douzenis

108.

Tammy Mackey <dtmackey@ndsupernet.com> Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 5:19 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

My husband and I are from Dickinson and visit the park every other weekend and sometimes more. We spend many hours there. We are hobby photographers and take hundreds of photos. We love to go and search the horses even out the East side of the park where the horses hang out. We will sit for hours watching the bands. We bring a lunch an sit outside the fence watching them with our binoculars and cameras. To me it is a relaxing time enjoying the weather and fresh air and the wildlife.
We also take our granddaughters through the loop and they now have a love for them also. I can't imagine them not having the horses there so they can enjoy taking pictures and having their own experiences for all the horses like we enjoy.
Once if they would make this bad decision it never can be undone.

Seriously if they are worried about having the loosing the grassland acreage I feel the prairie dogs are taking over the parks grasses and they should control the prairie dogs population because once they live on the towns the grasses never grow back like they used to be. I know this isn't the wild horse problem bit this is a problem the park should address.

For the next generation and on.... I pray they keep these wild horses.
Tammy Mackey

109.

Lynn Rennert <lmrennert@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 9:05 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

To whom it may concern,
I write this on behalf of myself along with my 87 yr. old mother.
We have visited the park 3 separate times since 2017. Our sole reason for going was in hopes of seeing the wild horses of Teddy Roosevelt National Park. We not only saw them but we had or should say took the opportunity to observe and photograph these beautiful horses. We sat on the roadsides observing from afar as they nursed their foals, interacting within their band. We learned about their hierarchy by studying them and reading up on them.
This past fall almost didn't happen, the gas prices were high leaving us to consider not going. But my mom being 87 wanted to see "her" beloved wild horses and so we did. We observed them each and every day. The beauty of this is that she was able to observe from the car with the window down ... There is no other place that I can think of where she at her age can still be a part of something so magnificent and be filled with such joy. We were able to watch as 3 bachelors make every attempt to work their way into the Band....the Band moved closer and as if a line was drawn in the sand... stood their ground until the 3 moved to higher ground, the Band turned and galloped our way with dust flying and stopping to resume grazing. It is a moment I will never forget... we both had tears streaming at the sheer beauty of that moment and we talk about it frequently. As a amature photographer I was lucky enough to capture that moment so that she has it to view as often as she likes.
There are many moments that she and I have shared over our 3 visits to the Park. It is the wild horses that seem to call us at each return. We as a society need places like TRNP to provide a sense of the "Wild" we need to protect our wildlife because once we let it go ....it is gone.
My mother's great granddaughter, my granddaughter deserves to grow up and have the opportunity to see the descendents of the Bands of today.

There are other options, please maintain their existence as they are .... Wild!

Sincerely,
Lynn Rennert
Bev Fretchel

110.

Margo Fochs <fochsklock2014@outlook.com> Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 7:16 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

When I was young, I could name every last bone in a horse's body. All 205 of them.

I did not mind mucking stalls, throwing hay, cleaning hooves, brushing or bathing them.

I was with a horse.

They were my passion.

Whenever I had something "hurting" me, physically, or emotionally I envisioned wild horses... It was a clear vision, a specific "place".

I could see it, feel it, hear it, smell it, almost taste it...

This "place" was so clear, in my heart, I KNEW, it had to be REAL...

The vision got me through (and still does now) some really, really rotten moments in life... healed my heart, soul and body... numerous times...

Then one day, I came upon a photo by Deb Lee Carson.

It was of Stallion Mystery, in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

There he was.... THE BLACK of my dreams... THE ENVIRONMENT I felt,...THE HOME my soul was called to....

I could not believe my eyes! I had heard about TRNP through different Facebook groups. I had seen some of the photos of the wild horses. But THIS PHOTO...

It changed my life.

My “dream” felt as though it was actually “a vision”.

The Black in all his glory. The landscape exactly what I had always envisioned in my “mind’s eye”. And better yet... His name was “Mystery”

In January of 2016, my father in law passed away. Leaving my husband and I feeling depleted, sad, and worried about other loved ones who were aging. We made a plan to visit dear friends in upstate New York.

Unfortunately, those plans fell through, due to unforeseen circumstances. So mid planning of our trip to NY, my husband rerouted us to ND.

On to THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK!

He had listened to me for days, weeks, months... heck, years, about the wild horses, and about TRNP. So, he decided to take me there!!

I will NEVER forget the moment we arrived in Medora, ND.

We pulled up to the C Store to buy NDBH’s Guide. We got out of the truck, and just “took it all in”.

My soul felt at ease. A sense of peace came over me like I have only ever experienced there (each time I go!) I was “home”.

I told my husband that I would move there in a minute.. He said “if you can find me a job making what I do at home, we will.” (trust me, it was a discussion ! 😉)

We entered the park, instantly, completely in awe. Just after entering we saw “the welcoming committee” aka Teton’s Family band. I was amazed.

Those “wild” horses looked healthier than most “domestic” horses I had seen. They were FABULOUS! Yet, the “world” wanted us to think they were “starving, unhealthy, and overpopulated.”

We continued our drive through the park. We saw more wild horses, all equally as healthy looking.

Back and forth on the loop road we drove. I was on a mission! I had to see “the Black” of my dreams! MYSTERY!

We looked and looked, drove and drove the loop road.... Falling completely in love with every single horse we saw! I knew (I thought) every one of them by name! The ones I was unsure of, I used the NDBH Guide to be certain.

THEN.... ALL OF A SUDDEN, up on the hill.... A COMPLETELY BLACK HORSE! IT HAD TO BE MYSTERY!!

I had my husband pull over so I could watch “him”. I zoomed in with my camera, taking a couple of shots. I watched through our binoculars.

My husband (Otto) said, why don’t you walk up a little closer, and try to get a couple of photos? He did not want to walk with me, but was willing to sit for as long as I wanted to be on the hillside.

I climbed about 2/3rds of the way up that hillside, being careful to not impose on “his” space, and assuring I maintained a safe 75 yards, or further away.

As I stood there observing, I was "oblivious" to the rest of the world. It was ONLY me and "the Black".... Nothing else existed.

I felt like I was in a scene straight out of "The Black Stallion".

It was absolutely Heaven on Earth.

I looked around, making sure the ground was "clear" and safe (aka no noticeable snakes, jagged rocks, mud etc), and decided to sit awhile. I sat there, softly "talking to him". Telling "him" how my dream included "him" frequently... how this felt like "home to my soul" and as if "we were meant to meet, to be HERE, together". "His" ears twitched and turned, as a horse's does, when they "listen". I felt heard, really, really "heard".

AHHHHH, I WILL NEVER FORGET the calm, peaceful feeling of that meeting....

I sat a little longer, starting to "observe" the rest of the environment. The "Black" appeared to doze.

Over my left shoulder, I realized, there were 3 more horses. 2 sorrels, and a bay. They, also, appeared to be "dozing". A little past the "Black" and to my right I noticed at least 2 more sorrels, and just the "rears" of others. I sat there, taking it all in. After a little while, I watched as the bay to my left started moving about. Soon after the 3 came down, towards the "Black" and proceeded past to the ones to my right. The "Black" stayed put. The bay came back, twice, and eventually, the "Black" moved on. I stood up and watched, until they were all at the peak of the hill, and almost out of sight.

I headed back down the hill to Otto and our truck. Completely sated. Probably a hundred or more photos on the camera.

I walked towards our truck, and as I was just about there, a car pulled over in front of it. A lady got out and walked up to my husband's window.

I thought UH OH.... He's been parked there too long. I got us in trouble!

I walked faster, fully intending to explain and take all the fault !

Well, there was nothing to explain... you see, the lady, was none other than Deb Lee Carson HERSELF! She knew we were making the trip to TRNP that week, and saw the WISCONSIN license plates on our truck.

She walked up to our truck, and asked Otto if he was "with Margo". He told her I was up on the hill (Mr. Literal 😊)

She told him she saw the plates, and thought it might be us, so she stopped.

I made my way back to the truck, offering explanations.... For Deb to tell me the story of her stopping. It was FABULOUS! We chatted for a little while, and I told her about spending time up on the hill with MYSTERY... She chuckled at me and said I was wrong.

WAIT, WHAT? How was that not Mystery? It was a black horse! Mystery is BLACK.

Again, Deb chuckled. She told me it was MARE LAKOTA of Stallion Red Face's band. She said if we hurried, we might be able to still catch the WHOLE BAND coming down the hill.

Well, she did not have to tell me twice!

110.

talie2rose@gmail.com <talie2rose@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 8, 2023 at 1:48 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

It's always been my dream to visit North Dakota to see Theodore Roosevelt national park. I was so saddened to hear that the wild horses were under threat. Here in the U.K we have many national parks with herds of wild ponies. These national parks are protected along with all the animals that inhabit there. I fear for the future of this planet and the destruction man is causing. We need to protect our wild animals globally otherwise we'll have nothing.

111.

Margaret K <mking@uwalumni.com> Sun, Jan 8, 2023 at 1:52 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I first visited TRNP in 2018. I returned with my son in 2020. Both times were unforgettable. It's become 1 of my favorite places on Earth. I wear my TRNP t-shirts as much as possible, with pride. I tell people about the park all the time. I can't wait to visit again with my family--hopefully this summer.

I can never forget seeing the wild horses in the park, and the longhorn steer in the Northern Unit. The wild horses are what originally drew me to drive to the park from WI in the 1st place. It was even more meaningful when I learned the history of Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders, and the history of the steer--that Roosevelt wanted to raise cattle in the Badlands. The legacy of his time in the area, and what he learned about the natural world, are such important pieces of our American history, as well as important environmental lessons we need today, in the age of extinction and climate change.

As humans seem to grow more and more disconnected from nature and animals, I hope TRNP will continue to manage these animals herds in the park. These herds are living history. Animals have an effect on us far more than history guides or museum displays have.

In addition, I would like to see more humane herd management of the horses instead of capture, breaking up family/herd hierarchy, and sale of these animals. These horses have known nothing but the majestic free range lifestyle, and it would be cruel to capture and confine them. They are not domesticated animals. Especially disturbing is the practice of unregulated livestock auctions, which are notoriously places of misery and cruelty.

My son has special needs and does weekly equine therapy. Horses, I've seen firsthand, are very attached to their families and herd. They are smart and sensitive animals who are easily terrified by confinement and changes in their surroundings. I do not think cruelty towards them is justified or at all necessary. I urge the local people and horse experts to find a better way to manage the special and unique horses and steer of TRNP. These particular animals have given so much to the local people, park visitors, and our nation's legacy. Let's do right by them in return, and with our gratitude.

Thank you,

Margaret King

112.

Gretchen Clark <prettylizard_2000@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 2:41 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

To Whom It May Concern,

My sister and I are wild horse photographers.

In early December, like we always do for the upcoming year, we made a list of new places to travel to view and photograph wild horses. At the top of our list was The Theodore Roosevelt National Park. For several months we'd been following many Instagram accounts that documented the beautiful Theodore Roosevelt horses against the stunning, striated landscape of the badlands they call home. It was a photo of a gorgeous gray stallion maneuvering high atop a craggy outcrop of cliffs colored a muted pastel that made this park and these wild horses a must-see this year.

I was shocked and saddened when it was made public in mid-December that the park intends to remove all the wild horses from Theodore Roosevelt Park. Since this news, I've done research on this news and I have yet to find any valid reason given by the NFS on why this has to happen right now. Let alone at all. This idea to remove the wild horses from this park is akin to deciding to whitewash the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

My sister and I have spent thousands of dollars over the years on plane tickets, hotel rooms, car rentals, and restaurants in otherwise small towns on the map that we would never normally visit save for the draw of wild horses that can be found in these areas. We had fully intended to spend money in the state of North Dakota too. But not now. Not if NFS goes forward and removes the wild horses. Beyond their historical significance, this particular animal, above all others, was especially revered by Mr. Roosevelt. Horses helped heal him physically as a boy, and later, as a man when he was recovering from the double loss of his wife and mother.

These horses were in this area well before this park even came into existence. They simply got fenced into the boundaries of the park. What was added to the park, however, was the bison, and pronghorn.

Please keep these wild horses, the original animals of this land, in the park where all can continue to not just enjoy them, but be emotionally and spiritually elevated by them. Just like Roosevelt was by their presence.

Sincerely,
Gretchen Clark

113.	**Lynn Brogdon** <lynn@brogdongroup.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:12 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Hi All, I plan to visit TRNP for the first time in 2023 and one of the main reasons is to view and witness the wild horses living and roaming free. Please do not destroy these horses on the wild lands. Thank you. Lynn Brogdon RE/MAX LIVING 706-614-8820 Lynn@brogdongroup.com
114.	**Stephanie Crawley** <stephieloucrawley@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:13 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com 1. Have you been to TRNP? We visited TRNP last summer for the sole purpose of seeing the wild horses. The other things were great too but we planned our trip around the horses specifically. We stayed at a historic ranch for a week, which provided income to a fifth generation ranching family. Bought things at the park, ate at the restaurants of Medora. I would like to think we contributed to the area economy quite a bit, for the sole purpose of seeing the horses. No disrespect to TRNP but it doesn't have much to draw folks in, eliminating the ability to see these majestic animals living wild and free would surely impact traffic to the park. And honestly Teddy would be ashamed.

115.

Jessica <jessgallison@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:13 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hello,

I recently heard that the livestock management plan under review is considering ending the ability of wild horses in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. This decision disappoints me greatly, as I have long followed the wild horses in the national park and greatly support working towards the peaceful co-existence of horses and other interest groups. Unlike many other places where wild horses roam free, the TRNP is better equipped ecologically to support these animals. The greater availability of grassland compared to places like Burns, OR support healthier animals in the long term. Without the cooperation of parks which have ability to support controlled herd groups, these animals will eventually be entirely removed from the wild. This will prevent future generations of Americans from seeing the animals, learning about them, and understanding a critical part of our American history.

The Wild in North Dakota facebook group is superbly managed and provides in-depth information about the animals in the park. It lets horse enthusiasts follow herd dynamics, become familiar with the animals, and learn about wild horses and ecological preservation. Without things to love, like majestic wild horses, people will likely be less interested in the preservation of natural parks, which will hurt ecological preservation long term.

My lifelong love of wild horses was fueled by Wild in North Dakota, and overtime I have adopted two wild horses of my own. These animals came from other areas that were closer to me, but I credit the facebook group with the inspiration to adopt. This group is highly visible and gets people interested in wild horse adoption, which moves animals out of the holding pen all over the country. Ending the ability of the herd to live free will do away with critical wild horse ambassadors who place a crucial role in driving adoptions elsewhere. This decision is bad for horses, ecological systems, and even in the long run, ranchers. Wild horses and ranchers do better with responsible management, and the Wild in North Dakota ambassadors drive adoptions better than most other methods available. I'd highly recommend leaving room for the wild horses in the park.

Best,
Jessica Allison

116.

Susan Engen <skengen@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:17 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I rember as a little kid my parents bringing our family to Medora and TRNP. This would have been back in the 60s. The musical was using cinder blocks and planks for seating and you walked up the hill. We went back many times and I still do to this day! I have also told friends and I know alot of people I have told are like me and fell in love with the Wild horses! They are so Majestic & reminds you of a simpler time! If the horses aren't there I will not ever be back! Thank you for reading my story.

Susan Engen

117.	**jensenstacy114@gmail.com** <jensenstacy114@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:29 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I am writing to tell you, that we are frequent visitors to Theodore Roosevelt national Park. One of the main reasons we love to attend the park is to see the wildlife in its natural habitat. A special interest of ours has always been the wild horse horses that reside there. It's an absolute joy to watch those herds grow and move about the park. My hope and wish is that you will manage that herd in a humane way with Assistance and support from groups that care about them while allowing the horses to maintain their important role in the national park for years to come. Thanks, Stacy Jensen. Sent from my iPhone
118.	**Jane Snell** <raineshoe@hotmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:30 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> Hi I'd like to voice my concern that the wild horses may no longer roam in TRNP. I live in the UK but follow the wild horses of North Dakota on social media along with other herds in Canada and Namibia It is fascinating seeing the difference in how they exist in some at times quite hostile environments, the joy of seeing them with their foals, the despair when something happens to one of them and how they interact with each other. Herds like this in North America are more remote than our home "wild native ponies" so live a much more natural lifestyle. They are also very much a part of the natural hierarchy of the park and have their place in the park as much as other animals such as the bison. I would find it extremely disappointing if the horses were removed from the park and could no longer follow them and their exploits, especially as if I ever get the chance I'd love to come and visit and perhaps be fortunate enough to see these ponies in action in person. Jane Snell

119.

Virginia Brophy <vbrophy13@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:33 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Have been following this herd on Facebook for several years. They are beautiful animals, with very good bone structure and builds.
I have not visited the park. Only via the excellent posts on Facebook.
I would plan a visit when I head west again.
I am a horse person from NJ, born and raised with horses, and also judged as well.
As I stated above, these are beautiful animals and in very good shape. Better than most mustangs that I have ever seen.
I would like to see this herd continue with management where necessary, but they appear to be thriving.
Their confirmation is very good, and they appear in very good health.
It is amazing to see in the wild. I also understand that some have been adopted and did well.
Hopefully round ups are done with lots of care, as to not injure them. And lots of common sense as far as keeping mares and babies, together, etc.
Just trying to help save this beautiful herd.
I thought I made comments on another facebook post, but not sure that it was received.
Virginia Brophy
910 Maple Path
Newton, NJ 07860

120.

Dennis Edinger <dedinger@bis.midco.net> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:34 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I am writing to you in regards to the wild horses in the park. It is said you plan on removing them from the park …..my question is why. Why do humans have to mess with this? They are free and such a joy to come to watch. They offer a peace to people who come to see them. They ARE THE ONLY REASON we visit this park. You can go to any park and see buffalo, elk, deer and other wild animals but the horses are a unique experience that is hard to put into words. I do not understand why you can't see what they offer to this park. I know of many people that feel his way and like me they are very upset by this, and like me will no longer visit this park. That means we will longer visit Medora or the musical. The horses were the reason we came in he first place.
Please, please reconsider this …they are the most special part of the park.

Sandy Edinger

121

Alicia Kottre <ajwolf22@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:36 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I personally follow all of the Facebook pages that document the wild horse herd in the Badlands. Every time I take my horse out there to ride, I have to have someone else drive when we are first entering the park, because all I want to do it see and take photos of the horses and Bison. There are so few places that you can see wild horses in a natural, rugged habitat. Many animal lovers would drive from across the country to see the wildlife in a natural habitat. I know many people who add viewing the wild horses in the Badlands to their bucket list. There are thousands of people that follow this herd on social media and cry when one of the herd passes. That is how strongly the public feels are this herd

122.

Tanya Caruso <tanyatales27@hotmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:37 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hello

I just wanted to write to say that I have been following the TRNP wild horses online for a few years and have been inspired. I have been saving money towards planning a trip for the sole hope of being able to see these magnificent horses in person.

I hope all efforts will be made to maintain the TRNP herds so that the opportunity exists for generations to come!!

Sincerely;

Tanya Caruso
Kenora Ontario, Canada

Sent from my iPhone

123.

Lisa Peters <info@lisa-peters.de> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:37 PM
Reply-To: info@lisa-peters.de
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hi everyone.

I would not like to hear that the horses weren't in your beautiful park anymore! We have plans to come and see them in the future...that's the ONLY reason for us coming to the park and from the long way from Germany! Let these wonderful wild horses there! I follow them at the facebookpage Wild in North Dakota and want to see them in real. Please let them there for us and many other people to find them and follow them online.

Best regards

Lisa Peters
Felsenstr. 33
55629 Seesbach

Germany

124.

Kris Torske <ketorske@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:40 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

We have visited TRNP 3 times on family vacations. Seeing the wild horses there has always been a breathtaking part of our visits.
Visiting the park and seeing free roaming horses and bison and the magnificent landscapes feels like stepping back into the history of the American west. One can easily imagine campsites of native Americans along the River.
I completely understand managing the herd in a way to control population numbers so as not to exceed the carrying capacity of the park but I think the park would lose a lot of its magic without those wild horses. There are very few if any similar places that one can visit to get a sense of the history of the American plains and the horses are very much a part of that.

Sincerely,
Kris Torske

125.	**Kristi Hansen** <kristihansen@live.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:43 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> I grew up 30 miles from Medora and my family took weekend trips in the 70's to drive to the park. We'd drive to the park to see the buffalo and the wild horses. That's what visiting TRNP meant to me and I can't imagine the park's being the park without the wild horses. They remind you of a time before we inhabited the area and therefore have a great historical significance. Whatever their origin they stand in my mind forever a reminder of the great state of North Dakota.
126.	**Loay Turner** <loayloveshorses3@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:43 P To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> I follow TRNP on Facebook and wanted to comment on plans to remove the herd from Teddy Roosevelt Park. I believe that the herd should be preserved for future generations to see horses that helped win the West. I believe that these beautiful creatures that God created are for us to enjoy roaming free in the wild with little to no interference from man. I follow a group of wild horse advocates in Gardnerville, NV called the Pine Nut horses. They have been working with the BLM to keep their herds wild and free by using birth control on the mares. The have trained darters, who go out and dart the mares with birth control in order to control their population. This group has been successful in doing just that—controlling their numbers by preventing overpopulation, letting fillies mature before having a foal, and preventing older mares from producing anymore foals. If this program has been and continues to be successful for them in preventing overpopulation on the range, why can't this program be implemented for all wild herds? I personally have not been to TRNP; however, one day I would like to go there and I hope on that day the wild horses are still roaming wild and free. It is a great opportunity for people to see these beautiful animals in their natural environment and they have been entrusted to us by God to not be destroyed. We were not given the right to act as God and destroy for human greed just to support the tearing down of the environment. I follow this group to enjoy the horses since I am not able to financially afford to make the trip, as well as their beauty in the beautiful park setting. Please consider using train darters to dart the mares with birth control to keep the herds manageable. Loay Turner

127.	**Pam Bacon** <pambacon2011@hotmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:44 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> I have never had the honor of visiting TNRP and seeing the horses that call it home and at the age of 70 I doubt that I ever will. I have however been following them on Facebook for several years. I love seeing their pictures and reading about them. So many have been lost and this must stop. I sincerely doubt President Roosevelt ever had that in mind.
128.	**Monica Harris** <monica4harris@icloud.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:45 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I have Followed the North Dakota Badland horses for many years. We lived in Watford City, ND in 2019 and If we wouldn't have been so busy working I would have made it like a monthly visit to the park as I find It so interesting to see the Wild horses. The bison, sheep, and other animals were fun to see as well but most people go to see the horses & get super excited when they do spot a ban of wild horses. I think leaving wild animals in the park is apart of history and removing them completely would be a shame & also a feeling of history being left behind and no more. There's something so majestic & peaceful about a wild horse ban living free and wild. This world already has so many negatives in it, please don't take such a beautiful thing away from travelers. I got to visit the park just once while living in ND for the year and because of the parks wild animals(mostly the horses) is why I am so fond of North Dakota and the badlands in general. I will Always remember when we turned the curve and the band was crossing the road right Infront of us. If I was Still in the area I'd most likely take up photographing and knowing the bands more. This is something thousands of people follow and thousands of people look forward to their post on how the bands have changed and what stallion is with what band. Favorite part would be seeing how resilient, strong, & smart these mommas and babies are to live their lives out there. It's simply amazing!!! We love the TRNP wild horses!!!!! It's always been a goal/bucket list to buy a wild horse from this park, please don't 100% remove the horses that we so dearly love ❤️

129.	**Karen Bentrup** <bentrupkk@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:45 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> YES, YES and YES we have been to Theodore Roosevelt National Park and we saw a few of the wild horses. We have driven through North Dakota on the interstate and have seen the wild horses many times. It gives me a thrill beyond any other wild animals I have seen. It was the first time I have seen wild horses and growing up I read about as many books as I could find about Wild Horses. To see them, follow them on fb and learn about them is absolutely one of my favorite things. I am appalled that we as human beings think we have to control every animal out there. Why can't these horses stay wild and free in TRP? Why do they have to be controlled or taken away. The national parks need to treat them as any other wild animal in this park. It makes this park one of the most unique parks I have been to. Please leave these beautiful animals wild and free in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. It's part of the history of the plains and this country. Sincerely: Karen Bentrup
130.	**Carol Richardson** <crichardson6896@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:47 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com We need to do all that we can to keep the herd of horses in TRNP. They are a part of our state's history and need to be preserved for future generations. Sent from my iPhone

131.

Lindats121 <lindats121@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:49 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I live in NJ and have been fortunate enough to visit TRNP 3 times. Each time I marveled at the nature surrounding me and the wildlife. The bison, coyotes, prairie dogs, the pronghor, and the wild horses all in their natural habitat was breathtaking. Watching the wild horses gallop across fields, stopping to graze or wait for others is something that I will never forget. At one visit I was lucky enough to find a hill to sit on and watch the horses grazing below. TRNP is their home, a place where they belong to live and to die . They are part of the park -a very integral part of the story of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. They are part of the park's historical background. Complete removal of these majestic creatures is unnecessary. There are options to consider and implement. The horses were here in Teddy Roosevelt's time and I hope they will be there for generations to come.

Please reconsider complete removal.

Linda Tsirikos

132.

MeShell Jones <meshell.jones@hotmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:51 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I have never been to TRNP however, I have plans to visit this park only because of these magnificent horses-

These wild Horses hold a great deal of significance to this park, I plan to visit this park only for the reason of these horses roaming freely here.

Thanks to the people who document their existence, America knows this herd and has come to love and treasure them.

Removing them would be detrimental to the park. Not only environmentally, but financially as well.
Leave them, let nature take its course with the herd.

MeShell J
Weatherford Tx.

MJ

133.

Carla Harper <lostgirl2762@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:54 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

To whom it may concern:
I would like to take a moment to let you know how much these horses mean to me and so many others. I have followed these horses on a couple of different pages and they have had a wonderful impact on me and my disabled husband as well. We look forward to seeing the pictures of them, where they are in the park, and how they go about their everyday lives. We have learned so much about each of them. My husband and I were excited to hear that there was a possibility of them being close enough in the park, where even a person with ambulatory issues, could see them in their own surroundings with out having to hike out to them.
I would urge the park to keep these horses in the park for all the world to have the opportunity to see them in person. They are national treasures and knowing a National Park doesn't want them there is atrocious, to say the least. They are part of our National heritage and should be revered as such.
While herds are being pushed to extinction in other states, I am asking you to step up and keep these beautiful animals in our National park where they can be safe from all of the other outside factors that they face in other areas.
Thank you and keep them wild and free the way they were meant to be.

Carla Harper

134.	**Tracey Boles** <traceyboles79@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:59 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> Writing to let you know, I follow several Facebook groups that post the horses in TRNP and have for years, to watch them give birth, and grow to mares and stallions that are running in the park. It will be a great loss, to have the numbers go to breeding numbers of less than 60, or none at all. I understand, the need for management, but I also understand the need to do it wisely. Having raised horses for over 20 years, I get that it gets out of control with free range. However, there has to be a 50/50 solution.
135.	**Shyanne Ulrich** <shyanneu98@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:01 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Hi, I am sending this in response to the facebook post from Wild in North Dakota. The horses bring so much joy to so many and I hope my addition can help us save the herd <3 I am from Canada and as a lifelong horse lover, have loved seeing the photos and hearing the stories of these horses. I have not yet had the opportunity to visit the park in person, but I can say the only reason I even know it exists is the horses. They are also the reason I plan to visit. I would love to be able to see them with my own eyes one day soon and I know for many they are what draw them to the park. I know I would not have enough interest in visiting TRNP over any other national park if the horses were not a part of the equation. I would go as far as to say I would actively choose not to visit if the horses were to be removed as they have such a large community of people who love them. Hoping to see the horses for myself soon, wild and free, as they belong Shyanne AB, Canada
136.	**Maxine Gallett** <LugerLTD@hotmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:01 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> I have been to the park maybe 5=6 times over the years. The first time we located a huge herd on the east side and enjoyed seeing the new foals. Since then I have encountered smaller herds near the roads. The last two years we have ridden down into Painted Canyon and observed small herds. This is the last of the wild horses in the Midwest states, and so fun to see first hand. Maxine Gallett Lindstrom, MN

137.

acjr777@aol.com <acjr777@aol.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:02 PM
Reply-To: acjr777@aol.com
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

WHILE I DO LIVE IN THE EAST I DO OWN HORSES ...THESE ANIMALS ARE AN AMERICAN HERITAGE AND THEY MUST BE PRESERVED OR THE FUTURE. PLEASE PROTECT THEM ALL..A GALLOPING HORSE IS POETRY IN MOTION!

138.

Jody Gullickson <jagg0129@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:04 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

1. Yes, this is my only nature break, seeing these beautiful animals brings tears of joy.

2. I specifically go to see the horses, I read so much about them and it is mere pleasure to see them in person.

This is a rarity to find a beautiful park with majestic horses. Please don't take that away from us.
Sent from Yahoo for iPhone

139.

Suzy Heise <suzyheise65@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:12 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hi, I have visited TRNP probably 20 times in my 57 years of life. The times I remember most vividly are the numerous times that I have seen the many types of wildlife in the park. The two specific times I recall as my favorite trips are the one we took as a family when I was 9 and last year. These two times I saw horses! When I was young we saw them from a long ways away and it was magnificent to watch the two bands run along the river/creek bed. This past year we saw a band much closer on a nearby ridge and a lone bachelor. I was so excited to see them as close as I did. Those two sighting made my whole trip!
I will continue to visit TRNP in order to see the beautiful horses free and wild. While I enjoy Medora and the scenic views of the park my favorite view is that of the wild horses.

Suzy Heise
Valley City ND

140.

eason for coming! PLEASE allow these wild horses, that truly belong to the American people, to be seen for years to come!

1 message

Bonnie Gansemer <bbgansemer@yousq.net> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:11 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

141.

Julie patchett <jewelz1969@hotmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:14 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hi, I am writing to you to let you I have never been TRNP but I have plans to go. I feel that the horses are a great link to our past and they should be protected and stay on the only land they ever knew. There are certain things that need to be left alone for people i future generations to actually see for their own eyes, a part of the past. For me personally, I'm planning a trip to see the horses & bison so that I can feel connected to my ancestors & to the people that came before me & see the wild animals as they once were all over the lands. Please don't take away this part of history. I look forward to not only going but taking my grandchildren as well.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.
Sincerely,
Julie Patchett

142.

Sara Larson <larsonsara80@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:14 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hey I'm responding to the Wild in ND call:

1. I myself have only been to TRNP to pick up Andromeda (from spring 2019 auction) and bring her home to Iowa. I have not been able to make it back but… my parents went to visit because I made them aware of the park and Wild horses. They had a nice time but did say only thing to see are the horses and other herds. It is the entire reason for the parks existence and tourism.

2. My dream one day is to ride Andromeda (now names BB) at the park and hopefully get a glimpse of the herds. Nothing that matters scientifically but there will be no reason for me, my parents, or anyone I know to visit that park which not only affects the parks tourism but the local community that relies on it.

Thank you for you time working on this issue

Sara Larson
Delmar, IA
563-940-3611

143.

Sue Von Eschen <suevon55@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:15 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Please keep the wild horses in the TRNP! We live in Montana and when we are traveling east, we have stopped at TRNP. A few years ago, we camped for 2 nights and explored various areas. Our highlight was getting to see the wild horses.

I also follow two different Facebook pages on the wild horses. One is "Wild in North Dakota" and the other is "Deb Lee Carson Photography". I enjoy seeing pictures of the new babies in the spring and all the other beautiful pictures and stories of the horses.

It would be tragic to not keep these horses.

Sue Von Eschen
1237 Powder River Ct.
Helena, MT 59602

144.

Sandy Wiedenmeyer <swiedenmeyer@bis.midco.net> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:35 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I am a lifelong North Dakota resident and yearly visitor to the TRNP near Medora, North Dakota. The quest and goal of our family visits have always been to explore the amazing Badlands and all the wild animals that inhabit them. Our trips are not complete until we have located several bison and wild horse herds. These herds of animals are something that we don't see everyday and are a very special treat and quite a site to behold in their native habitat. We consider them the royalty of the park and indeed part of its great history and heritage.
The wild horses are of special interest and importance to me. A horseback ride is always a treat in the area, but to witness horses that live wild and free with little human intervention is breathtaking. There are some very knowledgeable groups that spend countless hours tracking and photographing these magnificent horses. It is amazing what we can learn from them. I can't be there as often as I'd like but these groups help me keep up to date on the dynamics of the herds.
I don't know what scientific reasons the park system has for wanting to eradicate this herd. The horses, like all the creatures of the park should be allowed to stay and live in their natural lands. Without the wild horses in the park, I wouldn't spend nearly the number of hours I do now viewing and hiking in the park. They and their history need to remain for all of us and the next generations.

Sent from my iPhone

145.

Sent via form submission from *Wild Lands Wild Horses*

Name: Lorraine Larson

Email Address: Raineeday@att.net

Subject: Saving TRNP Wild horses

Message: Good evening. I am writing as asked by Wild in North Dakota and Dakota Grown Photos to help save the wild horses at the TRNP. I am appalled that these horses may no longer be protected and all will be removed. Since I was just a wee child, 62 years ago, I have been in love with these beautiful animals. These animals have helped me through some traumatic times in my life. I have never had the luxury of owning a horse but nothing can compare to seeing these horses in their natural (wild) habitat enjoying freedom. I don't know if I'll ever make it to the parks to see wild horses. I would love to. But if the horses are going to be removed there is no point in going. What makes thes animals different from bison or antelope? Why don't they deserve the same protection? I can only see it as a remedy to letting cattle devastate the area. I am beyond words. With all the negative news and happenings going on, I count on the F.B. pages to bring me the beauty, the education, videos and pictures of the horses I've come to know and love. I've learned so much! They deserve to remain and share the land with all the other native animals. They are a part of Americana, our country's growth. Please please don't let them become a memory. They belong for my grandbabies to enjoy when they grow up. There is enough industrialization in this country. We need these animals to be wild as much as bears, wildcats, coyotes, wolves, deer moose, elk etc. Horses deserve no less. Thanks for hearing me out.

Does this submission look like spam? Report it here.

146.

Sent via form submission from *Wild Lands Wild Horses*

Name: Janet Engebretson

Email Address: engebretsonjanet@outlook.com

Subject: North Dakota Wild Horses

Message: The Wild Hosrs in North Dakota are a National Treasure and they are the reason I go to Medora to visit the park. Please help to save these beautiful horses for generations to come.

147.

Sheila <coyotehollow@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:39 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I haven't had the opportunity yet, to visit the park but I certainly hope to in the very near future! And my reason for visiting is to see the wild horses. It would be a shame if the park removed the herd that has brought pleasure to so many people over the years. There are tens of thousands of wild horses living in small dusty holding pastures already, please don't add to that.

Thank you.

Sheila Peterson
Minnesota

148.

Ann Morris <amorris7373@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:50 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello! I am writing this email in hopes of saving the wild horses at TRNP! I am from Michigan and I have visited TRNP and plan another trip here in the very near future. I love seeing all of the animals that call TRNP home but of course my favorite is the wild horses! Please DO NOT TAKE THESE HORSES AWAY!! DO NOT KILL THESE beautiful wild horses, this land at TRNP is our land, it belongs to all of us, it does not belong solely to the government. these horses have every right to continue to live their lives just like the wolves, and the bison here at TRNP! This is a National park and the horses are apart of it. Please do not do anything to hurt or remove these beautiful horses!

Thank you, Ann Morris

149.	**candi deadrockstar.net** <candi@deadrockstar.net> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:53 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> To Whom It Concerns: It would be a sad day if the herd was taken out if TRNP. I have wanted to go watch them in person for years, as I follow them in Facebook. Due to health issues I couldn't but am getting healthier & will be able to in the next year or so. Then I see a post that they may be taken out of the park!!! They're the only reason I would go to the park. I hope you realize the wonderous resource they are to the park & ND. Thank you! Candi Holcomb Get Outlook for Android
150.	**Mari** <lovely1m@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:55 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com One of my best memories as a child is driving through TRNP in an open top Jeep and a herd of wild horses ran around us. Close enough to touch if it was safe. It was truly magical and I dream of it happening again. Plus that area was sacred to the indigenous population and this should always be home to horses.

151.

Beth P <missbethb@acsalaska.net> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:02 PM
To: Info@wildlandswildhorses.com

To Whom it May concern at NPS and/or DOI.

Please reconsider the potential plan to remove all the horses from TRNP. The national parks are the US citizens most valuable treasures and the horses in TRNP are a BIG part of that park. To base the removal saying they are invasive is ludicrous. If that's true, then everybody except Native American Indians should be removed from the country! Crazy huh?
Our country is currently in turmoil suffering so much diversity and negativity. Our parks and all they stand for and protect, are critical in bringing our citizens back together in a positive way, and teaching all, including future generations, our great American History. These horses are an IMPORTANT part of that history!

I'm a senior citizen (70), and a visit to TRNP has long been on my bucket list in order to see these horses. I'm retired from the NPS (2015), and first learned of the horses from a classmate (an employee at TRNP) in 2010. I have wanted to visit ever since. I follow several FB and IG groups featuring these horses. It would be a great loss if that was no longer an option.

Again, PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE THE HORSES FROM TRNP. Save them, support them, and protect them!

Sincerely,
Beth Patterson
North Pole, Alaska

152.

Ann Alvis <aalvis0710@comcast.net> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:22 PM
To: "Info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <Info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Following is my letter in support of saving the wild horses of TRNP

My husband and I visit TRNP as often as we can. We have driven from Michigan to the park at least once a year for the past 8 years (not during Covid shutdown though). The entire reason for our visits is to see the incredible wildlife in their natural home. There is nothing more exciting than seeing the wild horses! It is truly a dream come true, almost a spiritual experience. They are truly a representation of all that is wild and free in our national parks. If the herd must be made smaller, although I'm it sure why that is even necessary, please do it in a very humane way, and continue to allow them to be adopted. If you destroy this herd entirely, you will be doing a great injustice to the People of America, as well as so many foreign visitors, who follow and truly care about these horses being allowed to run wild and free. Thank you for your consideration. Ann & Dennis Alvis

153.

Elizabeth Kuykendall <elizabeth.kuykendall@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:23 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I am a horse owner and horse lover. I also love Nature. Please save the wild horses and let them run free. There is nothing more beautiful. Thank you from Mississippi.
Sent from my iPhone

154.

Mardell Kok <sdranch10@icloud.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:26 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Where does one even begin to share the memories and life lessons learned from visiting the wild horses in TRNP! I along with my 5 grandchildren will visit the park at a minimum of 6 time per year for the last 5 yrs! I will list several life lessons my grandkids have learned from observing the wild horses!
1. Respect- for the horses home, keeping a distance to not scare or harass them!
2. Family bonds within the bands! (nurturing, guarding, teaching, guiding how to survive the elements of weather, droughts!
3. Family dynamics of stallions, mares, colts, filly's! The role of each horse in the band and how and why they are kicked out when to join anther band or hopefully have their own some day! Grandkids have questioned the reasoning and understanding for this to happen so cross breeding doesn't take place! They have learned first hand so much biology, scientific, and topics on genetics! They have love following social media pages that keep a very active gallery on each band! My grand kids are amazed and love learning the history how they came to be here in the park even before the Buffalo and elk were reintroduced! Each time we visit we are always in hopes of being able to find and observe as many bands as possible! I can honestly say the buffaloes are ok to observe, but not much interest! If by any chance we see an elk or deer, coyote, badger or porcupine we consider it a bonus! Most of those animals are seen very frequently outside the park on our beautiful praises!
4. Over the last 3 yrs we have noticed the drastic devastation the prairie dogs have caused by not controlling their reproduction! Which in turn has eliminated the precious food for the horses, Buffalo, elk, etc! My grandkids have questioned the practice of controlling the reproduction of the wild horses, but not the prairie dogs that are rodents and destroying the parks natural plants and food sources for all the animals! As a grandmother I cannot explain this ridiculous practice to them! If young children can see this happening, why can't our park service and biologists see this! They should be concerned about this practice before even thinking about the wild horses! (My grandkids remarks after hearing the possibility of losing the beloved horses).
In summary, my family absolutely love each time we visit the park and spend $ and time in Medora area and ND! BUT, if the horses are eliminated I can say this family will have no reason to return! That will be a very sad day if that happens and we will visit other parks in SD.

Mardell Kok
Follow: Wild In North Dakota
Thank you for all you do!!
Sent from my iPhone

155.	**Greg & Wanda** <gnwranch@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:33 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com PLEASE....DO NOT REMOVE the Wild Horses at Theodore Roosevelt Park in North Dakota. They are the primary reason we visit the Park and Medora. We keep up with them on Facebook and enjoy traveling in and around the park to spot the wild horses and taking pictures of them. They, along with the Longhorns and Buffalo are very important to us.
156.	**Janette Martin Goins** <5hillbillywolfs@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 4:40 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com My family and a group of around 50 friends are planning on going to Theodore Roosevelt National Park mainly to see the horses. We are still struggling to pick a date later this year, preferably this fall. But as I said we are mainly going to see the horses and if you guys remove them, there is no reason for us to go. Please please do not remove the herds of horses. I want to be able to show my kids and grandchildren the horses running wild.
157.	**Stacy Sullivan** <swillybay@blackfoot.net> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:41 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Hello, Although I have never had the pleasure or honor of witnessing these herds in North Dakota,I have followed the page vigilantly. To threaten the existence of these herds makes me sad beyond belief and makes me so resentful of the humans who wish to do this. I live in Montana and am so tired of the wild animals being pushed out of their native habitats. Please, please, please consider saving these majestic horses. Eradicating the herd is a crime and a complete cop-out, constituting an act of tremendous irresponsibility and lack of foresight. It is obvious that money and only money is behind this horrible act, and although we as a family ranch for a living, I am sick and tired of hearing about people "leasing" property to ranch on for nothing and then ruining it and killing wildlife for their own personal gain. Disgusting. Please save the herd! Stacy Sullivan

158.

Shelly Christenson <sj3christenson@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:45 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

TRNP was started to protect the wildlife and the land. The Mustangs are part of the wildlife in the TRNP and are just as important as the buffalo and the other wildlife that call TRNP home. I have not had the opportunity to visit the park yet, but hope to make the trip soon. I do follow the Mustangs on social media and love reading and seeing the pictures about their lives and families. The Mustangs were a big part American history and helping in the development of this country. They deserve to be protected just as all the wildlife in the park.
Sincerely,
Shelly Christenson
Westmoreland, Kansas
Sent from my iPhone

159.

Suzanne Deuel <suzannedeuel1@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:56 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hello

My name is Suzanne Deuel and I live in Ontario Canada. I first came across the Facebook page following the wild horses in the park several years ago, during Covid restrictions here.

The stories of the horses, the photos and the intrepid dedication of the photographers have been compelling from the first. The horses are brave, strong, inspirational. They survive in tough conditions with beauty and grace, they live their lives according to natures rhythms. All this has been fascinating.

I found them because I was researching the origins of my surname -Deuel. It is not a common name in Canada but we have learned that it is much more common in Nebraska and South Dakota. Now that travel is easier, my husband and I are planning a trip to the area and we will certainly go to the TRNP with the express objective of seeing the horses. We have told many people about them and they inevitably become fascinated.

Please don't remove these horses from their natural environment. I'm sure that their impact on the land is manageable and they are a beautiful testament to the confluence of nature and human history in the area.

Sincerely Suzanne Deuel

Sent from my iPhone

160.

Ann Shryock <jasshryock@comcast.net> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:58 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I follow the horse on Facebook. I love learning about the interaction of the bands and seeing the photos of these amazing horses.
Boomer is my favorite and I can't imagine him and the rest of the horses not living wild and free.
With so much going on in the world these horse are a bright spot in my day
Thank you
Ann Shryock

Sent from my iPad

161.

alea.kerch@gmail.com <alea.kerch@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:58 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have never been to TRNP, but would love to take my kids there. I have been a follower of Wild in North Dakota for years now. Through their platform, I have learned so much about the wild herds that roam freely at TRNP. It's truly amazing to see them grow up. The individuality of horses, of the bands, and the herds that is portrayed and shared with the public who can not make the trip is really fascinating. They provide so much information to the way of life of wild horses and their herds. Please save these lands for the wild herds, for them to live off of and be free!

Alea

162.

SHANNON Koenig <shannonkoenig123@msn.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:01 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I am writing about the Livestock Management Plan review currently being done that threatens the existence of the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I have been following a Facebook page about the horses for a couple of years now, but I have never got to see them in person. My husband and I have been planning a week long trip to the park in June 2023 for the sole purpose of seeing the horses. I am a wildlife photographer and was excited to finally get an opportunity to see and photograph the horses. If the herd is eliminated I honestly have no desire to travel to the park or North Dakota. The horses are the one thing North Dakota has that Montana doesn't from a wildlife photography viewpoint. I know a lot of my fellow photographers from Montana feel the same way. Please don't remove the wild horses from the park!

Sincerely,
Shannon Koenig

163.

Angie DeGraaf <akdegraaf58@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:02 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I just wanted to say what the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park mean to me. Although I have never been to the park I have subscribed to several of the Facebook pages that show pictures of and tell stories of these wild horses. In my opinion wild horses are the epitome of America. They are what America was and what America is... wild and free. I look forward every day or every week to catching up on the herds that are discussed or shown in the Facebook pages that I follow. The horses are beautiful. I love learning about the bands the new fillies and folds that come every Spring and early summer. If you take away the wild horses from these lands you take away part of our history. I do hope one day to make it to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I hope the horses are still there so that I can see what I've been reading about all these years. If you want information on wild horses you should contact Help Alberta Wildies Society. They too were told the horses were destroying the habitat and being a nuisance. They have proven in Alberta Canada that is not the case with the wild horses. We here in the states could learn a lot from them.

Angela DeGraaf

164.

Mahan Stock Farm And Haflingers <mocowgirl831@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:09 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I have not been to the park yet however, I plan to visit to be able to see all the horses wild and free. I follow several of the social media pages that share the horses, their herds and families. These pages bring light in a dismal time. These horses are a piece of our history as a nation. They signify freedom at its finest. I feel that they should remain in the park.

Jamie Hall

165.

Deanne <dlsampson@gmx.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:10 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I plan to come and visit the wild horses. We are specifically planning a trip to North Dakota for the sole purpose of visiting the wild horses in the park. We can't wait to hike out and go look for them. We will be staying in the area and visiting local attractions. Our main draw though are the horses in the park.

We also follow the social media posts of the beautiful heard that is running wild and free in the park. It's a beautiful and special resource that the state has to offer the public. I hope the park realizes what a special treasure they have.

The horses are the main reason for my planned visit!

Sincerely,
Deanne Sampson

166.

P Strupp <pstrupp@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:13 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I am writing in support of the wild horse herds at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The first time I saw the wild horses, I saw them from the highway, driving on I-94. I recognized some of the horses from the Facebook page that reports on the herd. I was thrilled to actually see horses in the wild. Since then, I have visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park several times to look for the wild horses. These horses are a "desired exotic species" that can be seen in their natural habitat. They are a part of America and a part of our history. The herd brings in my tax dollars and inspires me to support the national parks. Please continue to manage these herds for the benefit of all.

--
Peggy Ann Strupp
Redrock Dalmatians, Crane, Montana
"Where Dalmatians are what they were meant to be."
CH RDCH Aberdeen's Let's Make A Deal, CD, RN, RD, RDX, CCNC (LUA Dalmatian)
RDCH RDXCH Lucas Legend N Redrock's Montana Snow RN, CC, RD, RDX (LUA Dal)
"Artemis" (Pointer)
the horses:"Apollo's MoonFire" (Appaloosa), & "Shadowfax"

167.

Abigail Thew <thewabigail@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:15 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Abigail, and I follow the "Wild in North Dakota" Facebook page. I'm from Australia, yet I find that hearing the stories and seeing the pictures of this herd makes me feel transported into a space beyond place and time. A space where horse-lovers unite to simply enjoy the fact that these horses can live wild and free in the only place they have ever known. These horses unite us.

Sincerely,
Abigail

168.

Jaclyn Ketola <jmketola@icloud.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:29 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have lived in Upper Michigan the majority of my life, but for 6 years recently, I resided in Montana. The TRNP is a must stop for us while traveling back and forth between the 2 states mentioned-
It's nice to see the buffalo, but I go to the park to see the horses. They are beautiful animals, that I loved to see as a child (every summer we traveled westward) and as an adult and I have loved introducing my granddaughters to them also. It always excites me in hopes of even getting a glimpse of the horses - but so elated when I do get to witness them. (You don't always see a horse) They are magnificent creatures that deserve to roam the park freely, just as the buffalo do… we were disappointed that the gift shop had nothing with horses on it- no t-shirts or anything… there aren't many places that people might get the opportunity to see bands of wild horses, no one should be denied that experience.
It would crush my spirit if I traveled through knowing that the horses were no longer a part of the park.
Thank you,
Jaclyn Bietila Ketola

Sent from my iPhone

169.	**Angela** <rodriguezangela56@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:32 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com **I follow two social media accounts that write about the horses of TRNP. I love seeing posts about the horses living wild and free in TRNP. I feel it would be a shame to rid the park of these horses that have lived in the TRNP for so long. I feel the round ups and birth control methods can help control the population of this TRNP herd. I urge the park to continue on this same path so that people young and old for generations to come may enjoy the horses in TRNP.** Thank you! Sent from my iPhone

170.

Kathy Camp <casey31450@aol.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:44 PM
Reply-To: Kathy Camp <casey31450@aol.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

We visited Bismarck ND in 2006 and were captivated by the many life-sized horse statues throughout the town painted by local artists, groups & businesses. We were very impressed with the obvious love in your state's of its heritage & culture.

We then headed west to visit Theodore Roosevelt State Park. It was nearing closing time but we managed to get a glimpse of distant wild horses through binoculars and were thrilled to see this symbol of our history running free & protected in a state park. I will never forget that image. Since then I have followed online social groups like 'Wild In North Dakota' to stay connected to that experience so imagine our horror to learn that your state now wants to 'manage' these horses as livestock? Shame on anyone wanting to eliminate the horses removed from their own lands, discarding a much beloved resource.

If horses are removed from TRNP, I see no reason to return there...it will have lost the history & draw it now has to preserve the area as it has been for a very long time. What would Teddy Roosevelt think???

Kathy Camp
Bloomington IL
casey31450@aol.com

171.

Peggy Struber <pastruber@me.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:46 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have followed the bands for several years and plan to go see them with the next 2 years when I retire! They are a national treasure. Manage them but do not destroy them.

Peggy Struber

Sent from my iPad

172.

Teresa Phoenix <floridachs_2013@hotmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:54 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

2. Do you have plans to visit TRNP? IF YES: YES. Tell us why?
SEE ANSWER BELOW TO 1.
Is it for a specific reason? **To see the park itself and most importantly to see the horses.**
Why are you going to see the horses? SEE ANSWER BELOW TO 1.

1. Do you follow social media accounts that focus primarily on the herd in TRNP? YES
IF YES: Write what the impact of following the herd located in TRNP has on you. Why do you follow social media accounts that tell stories of the free roaming horses of TRNP? **Following these horses keeps us connected to a historical time in our past where we shared freedoms and a way of life in our country that is being phased out and silenced. It is being auctioned away and sold off never to return and these horses along with the land, the beauty and the freedom the represent is of irreplaceable value to our country, our nation and to our people. I follow these horses on social media as a way to remind myself and others of that which we must not forget and to share in the beauty of our nation and it's resources which are still available to us if we just remain devoted and diligent to their conservation and care.**

Sincerely,
Teresa L. Phoenix
FloriDachs Miniature Dachshunds
www.FloriDachs.com
(727) 798-2596 {text or call}
(727) 656-4253 {text or call}

173.

Eileen Van Fossen <ervf01@icloud.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:57 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I'm from ND but live in Florida. coming to TRNP and seeing the horses is such an amazing experience. My grandsons saw them last year and couldn't believe there was still wild horses roaming free. Don't let this program go away.
Eileen Van Fossen

Sent from my iPhone. ERVF.

174.

Dawn <dawnhawk@comcast.net> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:57 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

My daughter and I visited the park in 2020. Most of the world was shut down and we were so worried we wouldn't get to go to the park. But we did! We were visiting from CO. My daughter is an avid equestrian and we both love horses. We follow the beautiful and informative Facebook page and it was my daughter's dream to come see the herds. We had a hard time finding them, but when we did, they took our breath away! To see them in a wide open and free environment was an unforgettable beautiful experience. We got out of the car and watched for hours. I will never forget that. We still talk about it frequently. We hope to come back and see them again. We pray that these beautiful, free, gorgeous creatures will be allowed to remain together in this park.

Sincerely,
Dawn and Ashlyn Hawkinson

Sent from my iPhone

175.

Debbie Alber <dova_car@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:04 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

1. Have you been to TRNP? Yes, many times over the years! It is thrilling to even catch a glimpse of the horses while in the park and we even are on the lookout if we are just passing through on Interstate 94. We are always are on the watch to catch sight of these beautiful wild creatures living in this wilderness environment and seeing their strength and their will to survive in difficult circumstances! It just leaves one in awe!
2. Do you have plans to visit TRNP? We try to visit the park every few years or if we have out of state visitors! We are proud of this natural beauty of our state and seeing the wild horses, Buffalo and other wildlife is always a bonus to this rugged and beautiful geography!

I also follow the TRNP herd on social
Media and feel like i have a personal relationship with the horses and hearing and learning about the herd dynamics! A wealth of knowledge about the lifestyles of these wild animals is shared on these pages! I learn something new every day!

Please, please save the wild horses of TRNP! The park will not be the same without them or their stories! You are educating a wild audience! And giving them a new found interest in learning!

Debbie Alber
Glenfield, ND
dova_car@yahoo.com

176.	**Thomas Jackson** <tlsazarac@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:11 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I visit TRNP at least twice a year one of the best things is viewing the horses. The wild west is rapidly shrinking, the horses are a unique feature of TRNP. Leave them alone. Sent from my iPhone
178.	**Personal** <pkellyot@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:16 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I have never been to TRNP but it is a bucket list event. I have been following the herd of horses on several Facebook pages, and I am always thrilled to see my favorites. I have cheered on the goals born in the cold winter and followed the soap opera stories of the intermixing herds. I have cried when my favorites have disappeared or died. It would be devastating to know that if I ever do visit that the horses won't be there. I will never get to see the magnificent stallions and crafty mares. I hope you keep the status quo and the horses remain safe for this and future generations to enjoy. Sent from my iPhone

179.

DeeAnn Kjelshus <deeann@artbydeeann.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:23 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I visited TRNP a few times when I was under the age of 18. I feel blessed to have witnessed the wild horses that call the park home. When I saw them I was overwhelmed with a sense of joy and complete aw. These horses represent the wild freedom that formed our country. Without horses America would have never been born.

I'm an artist now. The focus of my art is the horse. The horses at the park have often inspired my work. They inspire me to share the sense of wild freedom in my work that they all possess. They are a gift to all of us. One that should remain free and untouched.

I now have 2 teen age girls of my own and we are planning a vacation to the park in the near future. I want them to experience seeing the horses for themselves. To feel the sense of history that comes from seeing something so free and untouched. I am praying that all the horses will be able to remain at the park, untouched and with their families.

I follow many of the photographers and people who document the horses that live at TRNP. I love getting a glimpse at the horses roaming free and untouched. A sense of our history and culture captured in these beautiful beings.

--
DeeAnn Kjelshus
www.artbydeeann.com

180.

Brooke Rice <bittenfox@icloud.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:23 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I am writing in defense of not just the horses of TRNP…but also of the very land that comprises their native range.

These horses represent the purest form of freedom that America has left. We have stripped away every last shred of it that is possible. If we see something wild and untamed, we, as humans, feel that we are entitled to some sort of ownership over it. We buy it, then we mutilate it, and nothing of it remains. There is hardly a square foot of this country that has been left untouched as the land the TRNP horses graze upon.

The horses are a vital and integral part TRNP—as much as the ground itself. Nature has been designed to balance itself, and flourish when left untarnished by human invasion. Humans disrupt nature and the balance of all natural ecological systems. The removal of the horses and subsequent fallout does not require scientific backing to prevent it. You and I know that the removal of the horses will be the rock that starts the landslide down. You are playing Jenga with America's natural, virgin, lands. Which brick will you pull that implodes everything around us? Humans did this crap to Yellowstone with the wolves…and the results were detrimental to the point that humans had to do their best to "undo" it. Though this time, the wolves that now exist are from a tiny gene pool, no thanks to mass wolf culling, and the gene pool cannot be recovered. What makes you think that removing wild horses will not cause damage? It may not be the same kind of damage- but it will be there and it will reverberate for generations to come.

Tell me how my great-grandkids are supposed to ever breathe unpolluted air while viewing an expanse of land so vast that they can only stare. Tell me how my great-grandkids are supposed to believe that horses ever roamed free across America? from photos of mass-round-ups? From looking at some stalled-up show-horse at the fair? Nothing … and I mean nothing … can grip a kid's soul than the thundering of wild horses across their native rangeland.

These horses symbolize the days before humans had wrecked too much of the North American landscape and the Lost American Wild West. These horses represent freedom, spirit, and history. We have plenty of farms, ranches, skyscrapers, malls, subdivisions, suburbs, resorts, and damn parking lots. What we are very quickly running out of is the very parts of America that set us apart from any other place on this planet. Humans preserve monuments and giant parks of manicured non-native grass - all incredibly boring and generic.

Leave TRNP horses in their native land- it was their land and still is…more than it belongs to any human, and for God's sake, leave a part of America untamed and wild. You cannot bring back wild horses once we've driven them to extinction. You cannot restore their land once you've built a bunch of houses on it. No one has ever driven miles across the country to see a suburb, parking lot, or fast food restaurant. People will drive from all over to see wild horses roam…and to take in the vast expanse of their untamed prairie-lands.

Go break something else to make your greed-supporting money. If you rob future generations of these animals and their range, I can guarantee you that you will go down as a villain. No one will be thanking you for destroying a lineage of wild horses to do something generic and meaningless with their home, or worse yet, to do nothing with their land.

Heroes are those whom save those that cannot save themselves. Be the heroes of history.

Brooke Rice-Stivers
Minnesota, USA 🇺🇸

181.

Denise Walker <dwalker4269@msn.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:25 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I rode my own personal horse through the Yellowstone River, and up onto the Maah Daah Hey Trail in TRNP, several years prior, and was blessed with a personal view of the wild horse herd inside the park. The effect was awe inspiring, moving, emotional. The herd represents to me the true wildlands that Theodore Roosevelt was determined to preserve within the North Dakota badlands - he even commented on the herd's wildness, and the importance of their inclusion in this vast, challenging, beautifully melancholy expanse.

How can we preserve the intent of the National Parks and the belief of President Roosevelt that these mammals in their habitat represent a land that should never be extinguished, if we now remove them and disallow future generations to experience their beauty?

President Roosevelt himself stated: "Of all the questions which can come before this nation, short of the actual preservation of its existence in a great war, there is none which compares in importance with the great central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us."

Removing these animals from this land is counterintuitive to the task of leaving this land better for our descendants. Based on my personal experience, I left the TRNP a better human for having seen these wild animals in their wild home. They represent freedom, struggle, life-and-death, strength and endurance under the most extreme circumstances. What world would we be leaving for the generations to follow, if such creatures were removed by humans from this wild land? A better world? No, certainly not!

Sincerely -

Denise M Walker
Denver, Colorado

Sent from my iPhone

182.

Donna Riley <victoryaussies@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:31 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

HELLO,
I would like to write to you and tell you the joy that following the updates and news about the TRNP wild horses brings to me .

Wild horses are very much a part of our world . This herd is an amazing source of education and the badlands history. They are part of the landscape and without them the TRNP would not be the same. In fact I'd really lose interest in visiting it to be honest.

For me the updates and education I get from following this herd of wild horses is huge . I look forward to the posts and photos . I look forward to meeting new friends through the others that follow the herd and comment on things . Often we engage in wonderful conversations centered around these horses the park and the landscape.

I am planning to visit the park in the next couple years specifically to hike and hope to see some of these animals specifically. If these horse are removed or harmed I will not have any desire to visit the park to be honest . It would leave a bitter taste in my mouth and a hole in my heart.

Please understand the value this herd of wild horses has to so many people and to the park itself. Please realize and respect the beauty they bring to TRNP and the many visitors that follow the herd online and travel to the park specifically in hopes to get a glimpse of these amazing wild horses. Please respect the fact that this is their home and that they belong to the land and the park and so many people that admire them.

Please allow this herd to live and reign free in TRNP.

Thank You

Donna Riley
Victoryaussies@gmail.com
973 222 6183

183.

Kemberlie Anderson <dockda54@aol.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:36 PM
Reply-To: Kemberlie Anderson <dockda54@aol.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Sent from the all new AOL app for Android

I don't know where to start. I was shocked when I first found out that there were plans to eliminate or at least greatly reduce the number of wild horses at TRNP. I will admit it's been over 3 years since I last was at the park but I have plans to go back this summer.

The horses have been one of my main reasons for visiting the park and searching them out is one of the main ways we spend time at the park. A friend and I camp at the park for at least 3 to 5 days and spend most of our time wildlife and wild horse "hunting" and viewing. One year we had a stallion and his 3 mares "supervising" as we set up our tent. It was a once in a lifetime experience. There are so few places where we, the public, can have the experience of seeing these magnificent animals in a natural setting.

I realize that the horses technically are not native, but they have been such a part of the West historically that I feel they deserve the right to continue on in the park. Teddy Roosevelt would "roll over in his grave" to know the current plans for the horses.

I feel the horses should stay at approximately their current number. I doubt they cause as much damage as the bison do and I suspect they are one of the main draws to the park for most people.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kemberlie Anderson, D.V.M.
dockda54@aol.com
537 Church St.
Hartford, WI 53027

184.

kim ball <kball1969@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:39 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hi. My name is Kim Ball and I live in Bozeman, MT just over an hour from Yellowstone. I had never had any interest at all in going to Theodore Roosevelt National Park until I heard that they had wild horses! This past August 2022 my kids and I decided to take a road trip to see friend in MN. The map said we should go through SD but instead we opted for ND so we could stop at the park in hopes of seeing them.

Upon arrival we realized that the park itself is fine. Frankly, there are much more beautiful national parks. But like many who come to Yellowstone just for the wolves, we were there in hopes for the horses. And they did not disappoint. It was a very hot day, but about 15 minutes into our drive we spotted two from the herd hanging out in the distance. We pulled over and watched them for 25 minutes. We drove further, wondering if we would see more of the herd. After about 30 minutes we realized we had seen the most important thing there so we headed back hoping to spot them again. They were still there so we waited another 20 minutes before heading on to Bismarck.

My kids and will not ever return to Theodore Roosevelt NP if the horses get removed. However, we would like to return annually if they remain. This experience was one of the top sights of our week long trip.

185.

Brenda Loney <bkl_nd@hotmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 10:19 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I love Theodore Roosevelt National Park, with the history of Medora and Teddy Roosevelt, the tourist attractions, and the small town western feel. But I love driving by on the Interstate or through the park because of the horses. They represent freedom and beauty in the harsh badlands. They are self-sustaining and thriving as only wild animals can do. They bring so much to the park, entertainment, and the joy of catching a glimpse of them as they graze. Some of these horses have been captured and auctioned, bringing that history of wild horses into someone's special care. Thousands of people love seeing these horses every year, and even more follow them on Facebook pages. The beauty of these horses is so important to the park and to the history of wild horses!

Brenda Loney

Dickinson, ND

186.

llarson26@gmail.com <llarson26@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 10:59 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

- I lived in central North Dakota, when we were growing up, every year we would drive to Medora, go to the show & always drove around the loop of the National Park. We would spend the weekend & go though the park at different times of the day to see the wild horses. We had many family reunions in the Park, or at the cottonwood camp ground. My kids grew up going to Medora & going through the park, climbed Buck Hill many times. We did trail rides at Peaceful Valley, was sad to see that it closed. Now my grandkids love to go to Medora, drive through the loop & see who can find the wild horses first. Would be a real shame not to have the beautiful horses in the park. Please consider keeping them. To be honest, not sure I would go through the park if the wild horses are gone. Thank you, Joan Larson

187.

Karrie Morse <aladdinn.klm@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 11:27 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I follow the pages of the photographers that share the pictures and stories with those of us that are unable to visit the park. It would be devastating to me and my family to know that these horse families are being removed...to zero...so many of our mustangs and burros are ending up in kill pens and worse. I urge you to please leave the horses where they are, wild and free...not "managed" by the blm because that is not boding well for the horses. Thank you for taking the time to consider our pleas to keep the horses wild and free. Thank you

188.

daslater@sasktel.net <daslater@sasktel.net> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 11:29 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Losing that wild horse herd will be a serious blow to the park. I haven't been there but my brother has and he said the sight of those horses was something he would never forget. The park and horses are on my bucket list, hope they are still there when I get down that way.
Dave Slater
Regina. Saskatchewan
Canada

189.

Brie Ella Knifong <brieellak@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 11:56 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

On my trip to TRNP & the wild horses were by far the highlight of the trip.
These horses are the heart & souls of this park & to remove or further reduce the number in this herd should not be an option. I am saddened by the fact that there is even a consideration of changing the herd in the park. It is very disappointing & shows a lack of respect to the public. Please show that your priorities are in the right place : preserving the wild beautiful nature of this park & respecting a species that helped our ancestors. We want to be able to continue to visit & share the beauty of these horses with our children & grandchildren. I know many people invested in these wild horses & follow their lives through social media accounts as well. Thousands of us have heard about this situation & it would mean a lot to us for them to be respected & preserved by the park management. I know we would be ever thankful for these horses to continue to grace these lands & devastated should you choose to alter their lives & freedoms.
Thank you- Mary Knifong

Brie Ella Knifong <knifongb@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 11:50 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have been to TRNP & the wild horses were by far the highlight of the trip. They represent America & the history of our country in a way that is very important to many of the American people.
These horses are an essential part of this park & the reason I plan to return again in the near future. To remove or further reduce the number in this herd should not be an option - especially if they are to be replaced by livestock that do not benefit all of us but rather a few ranchers etc. the fact that there is even a consideration of changing the herd in the park is very disappointing & show a lack of respect to the public. Please show that your priorities are in the right place : preserving the wild beautiful nature of this park & showing respect to a species that helped our ancestors. We want to be able to continue to visit & share the beauty of these horses with our children & grandchildren - for you to change the park & reduce the number of horses or the size of their habitat is not what the public wants. Also if you plan to replace them with cattle the land will become more damaged & destroyed than it is now. I know a lot of people invested in these wild horses & it would mean a lot to us for them to be respected & preserved by the park management. Thank you for your time, I hope to be able to continue to see these beautiful creatures where they belong.
- Brie Knifong

190.

Jennifer Choate <jenniferchoatecearveterinary@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 11:59 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Please listen to the many locals like me who love the horses present on this land. We hope you will choose to preserve & respect these wild herds. They are a integral part of the park & need to be left on the land where we as a people can see them continue to be the best part of this beautiful park.

191.

Sarah Schmitt <sldeak1234@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 12:17 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello,
I follow Wild in North Dakota. I follow this page because it shows the beauty of Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota. Not just the geography, but I follow this page to see what America used to be. I love seeing the wild horses doing what they were interned to do, RUN FREE. I have ridden horses all my life, in an arena….they lived in box stalls, and some were sold when they were of no use to their owners anymore. I have so much respect for these animals that give so much. To see them in their natural habitat is beyond amazing. The only reason I would ever visit North Dakota would be to go to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I would honestly love to take my daughter on the adventure of a lifetime, trying to spot some of these beautiful animals.
I believe endangering TRNP's horse herds would be a tragedy to all generations to come and a huge loss for America.

Sarah Schmitt
949-449-6346

192.

Kristina Skeppler <kristinaskeppler@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 12:26 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hi, I have, to my sorrow, heard you are having bad plans for the wild horses in the park. I, my family and friends are having plans to visit the park but not if you are not going on taking good care of the wild horses, meaning not letting them be wild and free and instead restricting the numbers in different ways.
Best regards
Kristina Skeppler
Sweden

Skickat från min iPad

193.

Viviane Carvalho Schäffner <viviccarvalho@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 12:43 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hi!

I urge here to keep the TRNP park open. The horse herd there are a daylight for me every time I see its pictures in Facebook. It brings consciousness to the important of preserving horses free in a world where animals are becoming extinct or stuck in zoos and private parks.

As a horse enthusiast, I have the dream to visit TRNP one day and witness this miracle of nature in person.

Please preserve the park!

Thank you so much
Viviane Schäffner

194.	**Nadia Wilson** <nadiasnotes@icloud.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 1:49 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Dear Sir/Madam, I'm writing as I follow a social media page that documents the wonderful wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I feel compelled to write to you to express my disappointment to hear a terrible programme is being planned to round up and potentially cull these beautiful natural wild land managers just because of human encroachment. I've never been to America before and we were planning a family holiday to the US just to see all the wild horses as it is only one of a few countries left that have wild herds and I am passionate about horses. It would be my only reason to visit America - to see the wild places and horses. It would be a shame if they were to be persecuted. I hope the authorities will reconsider. Best wishes, Nadia 07701053146
195.	**NM** <njmartz@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 2:20 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> To whom it may concern. I grew up in Dickinson, and always loved seeing the wild horses in the park. Just like the North American bison, TRNP is one of the few places in the world to see wild animals in a somewhat natural setting. Though I now live in Germany, I have made sure to take my 4 children and spouse to the park to see the wild horses and really enjoy following them on social media. They are a resource that once gone can never be replaced. Sincerely, LCDR Nathan Martz, USN retired DSU class of 86 -- Mobile - +49.151.523.90.443

196.

Liz Mitchell <lizm@manx.net> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 2:31 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I am writing this to express how I feel about the wild horses in TRNP.

I am a 69 year old woman who does not live in the USA. However, I have a strong interest in wildlife and conservation. I follow the posts on social media made by Wild in North Dakota, and love to hear about the wild horses in the park. I watch the photos of the new foals and love to hear about the familial ties that bind these horses, and the incredible behaviour that they exhibit. I sorrow when I learn about a horse dying, but also rejoice that it died free as it would have wished to do. However, I also am greatly disgusted by the roundups that happen under the misguided "management" system, causing injury, breaking of family groups and a lot of stress. It seems to me to be a symptom of the majority USA's total disregard for life – at least that is how it seems to outsiders like me. Your society's love of guns and insistence of everyone being able to own one is a hangover of a past that should be let go. There are very few people that carry guns where I live and I feel totally safe.

Please leave these horse alone. There are better ways of catching horses if absolutely necessary, and maybe a system of birth control when needed. However, the best way would be to leave their land to them. The reason things are out of balance is because ranchers, farmers and hunters have wiped out the predators that kept your land in ecological balance.

The way you treat your wildlife speaks to the rest of the world, not just the USA. You are not alone in this, as we all need to have more compassion, and to fight for the world we live in, or our great grandchildren will not have a world that is habitable.

Thank you

Liz Mitchell

197.	**diane mckinnon** <lazerlightmckinnon2@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 3:58 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I don't know much about scientific studies or actually what it has to do with any of this, except maybe to discourage people from writing. I'd like to know why people especially government feel the need to control and own every last natural parts of the earth. Do things need to be etched in stone, fossilized or labeled as "alien" to be deemed worthy of being saved. I'm fairly new to the forum, but what is more important than nature and what is more natural than our wild animals?
198.	**Bonnie Goodson** <bug_ee64@yahoo.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 4:08 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com To Whom It May Concern: The herds of wild horses of this country, specifically the herd in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, are a national treasure! Our country would never be what it is without horses! From giving their lives on the battlefield to carrying people, and hauling their belongings, across this country to create settlements, towns, cities, capitals, and states from East to West—it could not have been done without horses. The American buffalo and the wolf were almost wiped out by greedy hunters, but miraculously, those beautiful animals have been given back to our country's landscape. The wild horses shouldn't be any different. In order to keep up with the news of our wild horse herds, I follow groups on social media. It's not ideal, but unfortunately, due to financial restrictions, I have not been able to personally visit TRNP, but if I could, I would take my entire family to see those beautiful wild horses running free on the land. If a National Park is established to protect the environment, it should include ALL animals within its borders, not just some. To me, a horse running wild and free is a symbol of our own freedom. These horses deserve to live and remain free in TRNP forever. Sincerely, Bonnie Goodson Kennebunk, Maine

199.	Good morning to all from England, I am writing from the UK to make known my feelings about the wild horses that roam in this amazing National Park as I am being led to understand that there is a danger of them being removed from what they regard as their homeland. Obviously being so far away, it is not possible to visit to see them, but I take great pleasure in following their progress and the different family herds through the terrific social media reports given by those who love these herds so much. It is a great thrill to see how their families grow and interact, and something that we will never see in any other country. To me they represent the freedom that the US offers to all which is awesome. They are just as iconic as the bison that used to roam the ranges in their millions. I am at a loss to understand why anyone would think to remove these amazing horses who live so wild and free on land designated as a National Park. I cannot see that it could be of use to any other type of creature and believe that having the horses there manages the ecology of the area as they have done over time. Please,please respect them and let them live their lives in freedom as they always have, and we can continue to enjoy them. Thank you kindly, Helen Aiken Chelmsford, England.
200.	**Tammy L Wilkinson** <tammy.lwilkinson81@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 4:16 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Please save the horses! I've always loved watching them roam free in this beautiful park! My grandchildren love watching them. This is their land too and they should be able to roam free in this beautiful country. We are losing the roaming free animals and this should never happen! Our future children need to be able to experience this always and not see animals caged! Tammy Wilkinson

201.	**Wendy Fulco** <fulcolyn@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 4:56 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> I have followed Wild In North Dakota on Facebook for decades. It is very important for me to see the pictures and stories about the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I look forward to seeing and reading the stories shown there about the amazing bands of wild horse families and bachelor stallions. Seeing the beautiful horses living wild and learning about their interactions is a part of each of my days. To travel to TRNP and see these majestic wild horses is a dream of mine. Any time I read about helicopter round up of the horses I feel angry and sad. These horses should be able to live out their lives free with their families. I feel so sad to think of the wild horses in holding pens with no shelter and separated from their families. I am grateful for the people who observe and photograph the wild horses of TRNP. Sincerely, Wendy Fulco @ fulcolyn@gmail.com
202.	**karina fox** <karinafox85@hotmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 5:47 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> I have visited TRNP several times just to see these horses. They are the main reason for me to visit. Without them, I wouldn't bother. I have followed these horses for years, I live them like family. I have family trees for them and follow the lives of each and every one. Without the horses, the magical feeling of visiting the park will be Los to many. This is their land and they have a right to live there, natural and free. Cutting a herd of 200 down to 40 will ruin the genetic diversity of the herd and lead to inbred horses. I fear for the older horses being removed from the park. They would not cope in captivity and to kill them would be cruel beyond measure. The current system of removing the youngsters works well. If the herd is too large, then perhaps some of the stallions can be gelded or the mares put on birth control. Please do not remove these horses which so many of us know and love. It's not fair to them, or to us that love them. Leave them be, please! This is breaking my heart. Sent from Outlook for Android

203.

Sunkist Farm <sunkistfarm@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 6:30 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I saw a post regarding the wild horses of the park. I lead a busy life so I don't have the time to really dig into what exactly is going on and I do feel ALOT of people are in a similar boat as myself passioned enough to respond but don't want it to consume our day and I feel a lot of people care but simply will just not get involved.
Regardless I wanted to touch on my personal point of view and experience. I like to think I'm a pretty reasonable person wild/feral animals need monitoring and many times need population control and I'm not against any of that as the stewards for animals sometimes we need to step in for the greater good. Im not sure what's going on or why this plea for help had been posted but I'm hoping it's simply about management and not because of an attempt to get rid of the herd entirely. I travel for a living (transport horses and livestock) and have passed thru TRNP several times usually at night. We were able to stop once this past fall to sight see a few min and I'd like to share my experience. I don't follow locations of wild herds so I couldn't tell anyone the first place to go beyond "somewhere out west" to see wild horses I was born in and reside in Maine we have no vast spacious lands like I love visiting out west even if ts just a drive thru.
Anyways on this particular stop in which I had my elderly mother and my 4yo and it was incredibly cold we stopped in part because I knew it would be one of my moms last long trips with me and I wanted her to see some places she's never seen. We stopped and I figured we would just get to see a decent view which we did. We also saw some Buffalo in the distance which was Exciting for my 4yo as well as my mother. What I didn't know was that wild horses can be see from there as well (we stopped on 94) . We did not see any however on this cold bitter day where all I wanted to do was sit in my truck there were probably 5 different groups of couples and individuals I overheard mention possibly seeing wild horses and 4 of those groups had binoculars and made a point to really look and see if they could see any from that location. It was an inspiration to hear and see people wishing to see the horses and such an easy location to stop and have a chance to see such an icon of the American west. We plan to stop again when we travel thru during the day and hope at some point to visit other parts of the park and maybe actually see them along with other sights. Hopefully the concerns risen are simply just about managing the herd vs eradication. My experience that day showed me that there are a lot of individuals who stop with the hope to see some wild horses and it's a good possibility they wouldn't stop if seeing horses wouldn't be a possibility. Horses have a way of bringing people together, and I feel wild horses do a lot of the same. Sadly there is a lot of activism and bad press that comes along with the BLM and animal rights etc a lot of unrealistic points of view etc I'm here to step in as someone with a farming/ranching mindset but wishes to still see the wild horses present in the park and surrounding lands. Management is key but alot of the aura of the west surrounds mustangs and they bring alot of that silly excitement to those who either intentionally visit the park or just happen to stop and look just passing thru.
If you have read this far I appreciate you taking the time to do so.
Have a good day
Feel free to reach back to discuss on the phone or via email.
Alexis Ingraham
2073220346

Sent from my iPhone

204.

Squarespace <form-submission@squarespace.info> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 6:55 AM
Reply-To: pagayle47@yahoo.com
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sent via form submission from *Wild Lands Wild Horses*

Name: Peggy Gayle

Email Address: pagayle47@yahoo.com

Subject: Horses of TRNP

Message: I have no idea what the plan will be for the horses of TRNP, but anything less than allowing these wild horses to survive free in the park is unacceptable. They are the true picture of what this great country was formed on, FREEDOM.

I've only had the privilege of visiting the park and seeing those magnificent horses once, but it is something that will stay with me forever. That is why I follow Wild in North Dakota Facebook page. The story they tell of these wild bands of horses, their lives, the new lives and even the deaths keeps me linked to the park and these hores in a way that feels deep in my soul.

I pray these magnificent horses will forever remain free in TRNP. They deserve to be free as a symbol of this great country.

Does this submission look like spam? Report it here.

205.

Charlene Milliren <tcxoxo@icloud.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 8:21 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

To whom it may concern ,
I know money is tight in every budget. However , please keep searching for a way to make the balance to be able to keep the wild horses in the park. Along with the buffalo , the wild horses are the main attraction.
We often ride our own horses through the park, and coming across a band of wild horses is the biggest thrill.
Thank you for your consideration,
Char Milliren.
1902 10th st NW
Reeder, ND. 58649

Char

206.

Nicole Ashcraft <kopper29@aol.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 8:32 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

To whom it may concern, I am deeply saddened to hear of the recent discussion of the eradication of the beloved horses from Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Our country formed from the back of horses, they are a integral part of our history what will we have to show our future generations of how our great country came to be if all we do is destroy it's very foundation. Ask yourself what Theodore Roosevelt himself would think if he only knew what was on the line today and what shame that would bring him to his very own namesake that the park has come to love. These animals represent freedom! And deserve just that FREEDOM!!! I hope you come to see the importance they hold to our country and our future generations!

Sincerely- Nicole Reed (Ohio)

207.

Carol Blechschmidt <cablechschmidt@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 8:39 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>
Cc: cablechschmidt@gmail.com

To Whom it May Concern:

Please do everything you can to preserve the lands in Teddy Roosevelt National Park for the bison, horses, and other animals who live there. The animals are a unique treasure to that area.

As a child growing up in North Dakota, our favorite family vacation spot was TRNP. Now I drive through the park whenever I can when I return to North Dakota to visit family.

As an adult living in Colorado, I primarily follow the horses through the Wild in North Dakota Facebook site. This is a perfect site for following the beautiful horses which reflect the history and heritage of the Badlands.

Seventy percent of the world's animals have disappeared since 1970. Please do everything you can to protect those which remain.

Sincerely,
Carol Blechschmidt
cablechschmidt@gmail.com

208.

Casey Ellis <casey.superiorcarcredit@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 8:47 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

My husband and I love coming to the park and viewing all of the wild life. It's one of our favorite parts of the national park. Watching the horses in their natural habitat and running free gives us a sense of what was and what they love. Being free and wild. What America was built on and what we hope to continue with our country. The moms looking over their young, the males fighting for leadership resembles what we need in this country. My husband and myself stand to fight with the others who believe in keeping the park what it is and what it has been for all of these years.

Casey Ellis

209.	**Judy Wharton** <jaww5917@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:22 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I live in Pennsylvania and am disabled, I will never be in a position to visit these beautiful creatures on their home range. I follow quite a few of the organizations that are trying to save the wild horses including Wild in North Dakota, the TRNP. What we do as humans to all animals sickens me. They need to be left on their range, free, wild,& safe from our intervention and removal. Please honor these beautiful creatures, leave them be. Pleading Judy Wharton

210.

Judy Lessenden <JLessenden@nkcendo.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:22 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I would like to weigh in on the proposed plan to eliminate the wild horses from TRNP. This would be a horrible decision, and one I would be very sad about.

I have loved horses since I was a child, and seeing horses in the wild has always been a dream of mine. Though there was other places in the U.S. to see wild horses (HMAs, Salt River in AZ), TRNP always captured my imagination. The beautiful scenery, the wide variety of horse colors, and the relative ease to have a chance to see them, made TRNP a bucket list destination. Two years ago my friend and I planned a trip to Badland National Park in SD (her choice), and I insisted on extending the trip to North Dakota to TRNP, with the sole purpose of seeing the wild horses. We were fortunate enough to see several bands and lots of horses during our trip, and it remains one of my favorite places that I have ever been, solely due to the horses. I believe there is not another national park that has horses, though there are many places where you can see bison, elk, pronghorn, and other wildlife. TRNP is unique *because* of the wild horses. The landscape is similar, yet different from the Badlands, but I don't think TRNP would have the draw it does if the horses were removed.

The stories that several facebook pages share about the horses, their bands, and the way they interact with each other and the landscape is fascinating to me. Anyone who loves the outdoors and wildlife should be in an uproar about the removal of these horses from TRNP. This is their home, and they should be considered a national treasure.

Judy Lessenden, MHSA, CMPE

Administrator

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Medical Practice Executives (ACMPE)

211.	**Ryan Magnan** <rm.welding90@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:42 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com TRNP has been a part of my life since I was a child. Now as an adult I have shared the beauty of this land with my partner and my own child. The wild horses are such a huge piece of the park. Part of the magic that bridges the gaps between what was and what is. How is used to be. The beauty our ancestors saw when they decided to keep those lands safe forever. The horses are and always will be part of that. Removing them would be a huge disservice to our ancestors, our future generations, and to Theodore Roosevelt himself.
212.	**Karrie Morse** <aladdinn.klm@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:43 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com The mere thought of these horse families being separated and removed, for no good reason, is very disturbing. Our tax dollars fund the park, the horses take care of themselves. We follow them on social media as it brings us to the park from all over the world. I have relatives that live near and go to the park to visit. Teddy Roosevelt would not want this to happen either. Please leave the wild horses and their families undisturbed and wild and free.
213.	**dlbrguy1@aol.com** <dlbrguy1@aol.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:50 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> I am writing regarding the proposed removal of wild horse herds from the Theodore Roosevelt National Park area. The NPS expects the public input to be of a scientific nature only. I think this is backwards since the wild horses are property of taxpaying Americans and not the government! It seems to me proof to remove these wild horses lands on the government to provide valid points to remove these horses to their owners, us, not the other way around! Okay reducing a wild horse herd of 400 to 40 greatly reduces the genetic pool to a point of not having the diversity in the gene pool to maintain a healthy herd. Now I expect the government to provide their reasons for proposing this removal of these horses.

214.

coral verhaagen <coralv@hotmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 10:09 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I went to the park to see the Buffalo as a child then I saw wild horses and wow! The beauty and freedom I felt watching these animals was something that is hard to explain. My parents bought me some of the books so I could keep up. Since then I have taken my own children and the the internet was invented and we all followed the horses and we only go to see the horses. The horses are what we got exited about. Now we take the Grandchildren and they go for the horses. We love the Buffalo but go for the horses. We go every year and buy new books on the horses and their different bands.
I am in awe of the people that keep track and post the stories of these beautiful animals.

Please keep this tradition going. Theses horses belong there
They have been there for decades I can't even understand the thought process in taking them out. If they go we will never go back.
There will be no real reason.
Thank you
Coral Verhaagen

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

215.

Lavonne Daniels <oregon.native@hotmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 10:39 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

These wild and free horses represent our national heritage. They are incredibly important for us to remember where we came from. I live in the Western United States and still feel the spirit of my ancestors who came across the plains to a new home. They carved it out of the wilderness just as these horses survive in incredible environment all on their own.
I plan to visit the Park in the near future as part of seeing this incredible land we live in. These horses must remain free and as is so we can still enjoy our freedom also.
I don't have big, wonderful words to say what is in my heart, but seeing these horses on social media and the time the ladies spend to track the herds and share the specialness of seeing their freedom and natural instincts. These horses are families who care for each other and represent the freedom I hold so dear.
Please, Please leave these horses be so we do not lose this historical part of the West.
Sincerely
Lavonne Daniels

216.	**Carolyn Edson** <carolynedson@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 11:16 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I had always wanted to go to TRNP since I heard there were wild horses. I am a wild horse photographer and have been since 2009. My images have been published 6 times. I mostly go to SE Oregon and photograph the BLM mustangs there. Last year was our 40th Wedding Anniversary and we decided to make the trip to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The round trip with my truck and RV trailer was 2700 miles from our home in Washington State. I found 2/3 of the horses in our 3 days visiting the Park. The horses were all in good shape. I was amazed at the amount of grass they had and the abundant water with the Little Missouri running through. I did not see any damage to the land that bands can sometimes do when they don't have enough feed. Please do not remove the horses from the Park. I understand management of numbers if they get overpopulated. I specifically visited the Park to see the horses. If they are removed, I will never go back. I feel that a lot of people feel the same way. The horses are a draw to the Park just like the Bison are. Thank you. Carolyn

217.

Regina Mason <RDM1960@outlook.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 11:23 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

To Whom it May Concern,

This park was is named for a great American President who felt very strongly about the conservation of the wild animals of this region. The Mustangs are a HUGE part of our National history, and are part of the conservation efforts he began and President Ronald Reagan built on and wrote laws to protect. I have been a horse lover my entire life. I have a dream of one day getting to go to Theodore Roosevelt National Park to actually get to SEE the wild animals that helped to shape our great nation. The Bison….the Elk….and YES the Mustang! They are beautiful, and embody the spirit of our great country. THEY are what the park was in part made for……not domesticated cattle. I know and understand we need beef cattle, but the ranchers should NOT hold sway on what happens in a National Park created to conserve the wild animals that have always lived there!

I closely follow the facebook pages that feature these Mustang herds and live vicariously through these wonderful peoples pictures and stories. These horse live long and fulfilled lives FREE, as they should. There are humane ways to control population, but THEY belong in that park along with the Bison, Elk, Pronghorn, wolves and other wild animals of the region. THEY were there long LONG before humans ever were, and they should REMAIN there, because that was what is right!

Do the RIGHT thing! Leave these herds where there are!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Regina Mason

218.

Nancy Chandler <njchander04@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 12:16 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

TRNP is a beautiful place to visit
You can see more wild life in a small area than anywhere else. There is nothing more beautiful than to see a herd of horses standing on the bluffs in the badlands. So many people especially our younger generations who have never seen or experienced the wild open outdoors let alone wild horses roaming freely. It would be a shame to lose this.

219.

Donna J. Owens <dowens@umd.edu> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 1:35 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I've been following this herd for several years through Facebook. I haven't been to the park since the early 70's but I've enjoyed following the movements of the herds in the park from my home. The Park Service plan to zero out these horses with the significant DNA that they possess is abominable. Watching the wildlife at parks is one of my greatest joys. I've posted my comments on the park service website as well.

220.

Lisa Rani <lisaraniphoto@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 2:05 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello!

I am writing to let you know that this year, specifically, I was planning a trip to TRNP and meet, enjoy and photograph the herd of wild horses at Theodore Rosevelt National Park.
I have been following a variety of photographers who photograph the beautiful horses at the park.
I was always so hopeful for this herd as it is within a national park, Teddy Roosevelt's of all national parks, and felt of all horses that will remain protected it would be this herd.
I have a friend I am meeting in Bismarck later in the summer and thats why I thought perfect time to make it to the park.

I look forward to coming to the park this year. And honestly without the horses there I would have never known this park and certainly not make the added effort to go while in North Dakota.

A wild horse photographer and lover of open spaces and wild life.

Lisa Rani Horn

221.

FRANCES FONDREN <fbfondren@aol.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 3:17 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have not had the opportunity to visit Theodore Roosevelt National Park, but hope to in the future. I will visit to see the beautiful herds of wild horses that call this park home.
I have followed these horses through social media, (Dakota Grown Photos, for one), and feel I know each horse. These beautiful animal have been a part of this park for so long and should be allowed to stay. They are the only reason I have any interest in coming to TRNP. If they are removed I will have no desire to visit. It's such a thrill to see new life being born each year and sadness with each loss.
Please leave these beautiful creatures alone and allow them to live their lives, wild and free in your park.
Wild in North Dakota and Dakota Grown Photos have done so much to promote these horses and bring attention to your park but if you remove the horses there will be no reason to promote or visit your park!

Thank you,
Frances Fondren
1375 Peach Orchard Rd
Bethel Springs, TN 38315

Sent from my iPhone

222.	**Gretchen Jones** <jonesg1@icloud.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 3:28 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Cc: Doug <djindians4@yahoo.com> I'm so devastated to not be able to see the wild horses, a trip we have been saving for. We learned of the park through a friend. Watching the bands of horses via Facebook has been my constant daily prayer routine. This was how I was able to cope with the destruction that COVID 19 left. Please please please keep this a Park full of the beauty these horses bring to America!! Thank you, Gretchen Jones Grove City Ohio Sent from my iPhone
223.	**maren_domke@inspire.net.nz** <maren_domke@inspire.net.nz> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 3:38 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Hi, I live in New Zealand and have been following the Wild in North Dakota facebook page for years now. The stories and beautiful photos of the stunning horses and landscape bring so much joy and hope that there is still a place for these beautiful horses. Knowing they have a safe space even though I am not able to visit is enough for me. Following the stories teaches me a lot about horses, their behaviour and environments they thrive in, please don't destroy them for commercial interests. Cheers Maren

224.

Marylu Weber <marylu.weber@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 4:22 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hello, I added a few pictures to illustrate the story. The first is our family in the 80s, the second is TomTescher by Carol Tescher, and the last is Henry and me on our ND Badlands Horses, Fire and Hawk, taken by Kristin Dunbar.

4 attachments

weberfamriding.jpeg
65K

271832772_10159871844314530_5954868871145017325_n.jpeg
108K

IMG_6353.jpeg
1686K

Marylu's story.docx
15K

LEGACIES BORN OF WILD HORSES

Having grown up in North Dakota, I don't remember the first time I visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP) and saw the wild horses; it was many decades ago.

Life happened and I did not return to the park until my family moved back to ND in 1979. Once we moved to Bismarck and had enough horses for all of us to ride together, we headed for TRNP to enjoy riding our horses in the park. Always a horse lover, it was only natural that I would begin to document the wild horses that I saw. They were much more elusive back then, but we would often hobble our horses and crawl to the rim of a butte to watch the wild ones. It was fascinating just watching them as they grazed or stood fighting flies, knowing that they had no one to look after them, no one to feed, water, or care for them. They were alone and vulnerable, yet strong, resilient, and free.

Sometime in the 90s, we met then Resource Manager, Russ Runge, who encouraged us to come to his office and meet Tom Tescher. We were to find out that Tom was the man who had documented the horses for about four decades. Thus began the adventure of learning about the horses, their history, and the man who humbly dedicated half his life to them. Many, many hours were spent driving the loop to spot and identify horses while just as many were spent sitting around Tom and Lorraine's table looking at pictures, comparing notes, and talking about each horse, whom Tom knew only by the numbers he had assigned to each one. Later, when Tom could no longer drive, his daughter would pick him up and drive him around the loop searching for horses. Finally, Tom could no longer speak but he would get excited and hmmph when he saw a horse. Tom died in 2008. I will never forget the unassuming gentleman cowboy with the twinkle in his eye and the memories of the old days of the horses. I was determined to continue the documentation of those horses and the legacy Tom had created with stacks of handwritten lists of bands, stallions, mares, and foals.

For two decades my husband and I volunteered for the park, getting to know and helping with each new staff member, all the while documenting and photographing the horses. We watched as each new foal romped the greening hills and grieved as each older member of the band disappeared. Sometimes we would find some remains and could experience some closure but losing any of them was never easy. Knowing the horses had been in that area long before the park even existed, I wondered how many beautiful wild horses were lying here, reduced to sun-bleached bones. Yet, they lived and died free, something few people in the world ever have the honor of witnessing.

Over the years, by sharing our experiences with friends and other park visitors, as well as followers on social media, we have been able to bring the history and the culture of the horses to generations, many of whom were prompted to visit the horses for themselves. The history of the horses is a history of Native American hunters on the backs of fleet-footed horses finding game to feed their families, of pioneers and settlers pushing west behind the teams of draft horses, ranchers like the Marquis and Theodore Roosevelt, himself, riding across the rugged Badlands, restoring their souls with the sights, sounds, and hardships of living in the Dakota Badlands. This is the history and culture granted us by the horses who still run free across the buttes and valleys of the park. I pray they will remain there long after I am gone so that our children and children's children may have their souls renewed as well.

If the current TRNP horses are removed, these legacies, of brave indigenous warriors going to battle mounted on sacred blue roan horses, farmers and ranchers riding through blizzards and dust storms to care for their stock, cowboys roping and taming wild horses to be their own sure-footed mounts, will be forever lost.

225.	**Sheila Porreca** <sheilaporreca@yahoo.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 5:22 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com To whom it may concern, I've been to TRNP many times in my lifetime and enjoyed the park experience very much with each trip. We recently were at the park for the Halloween weekend and had the most amazing time with the bison 🦬 all around the scenic drive and we were **absolutely** thrilled when we had the chance to be up close and see the marvelous wild horses. It was an experience I'll always remember it was so unexpected and thrilling to see those horses it was like being in an old western movie. We took plenty of pics and I'll never forget that wonderful lil weekend at the TRNP :) Don't take those beautiful horses out of OUR national park leave them right where they belong….at the TRNP! These beautiful horses deserve some respect and to let them enjoy the park. Teddy would agree they need to be protected and allowed to roam on this Teddy Roosevelt natl'park. Thank You

226.

Loretta Mullett <etta329@hotmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 6:20 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I am against the Theodore Roosevelt National Park wildlife management plan, hoping to decrease the population objective of its wild horse herd to 30 to 70 horses. Around 200 wild horses currently live at the park, and the plan would sell most of them to reach their goal.

There are only a handful of areas in the country you can view actual wild mustangs to this day, and one of them is in the TRNP in North Dakota. These horses are true wild mustangs and have lived here for generations, completely untouched. They survive among the rugged badlands throughout the entire year among the wild herds of bison and elk.

These horses are strikingly beautiful and come in many colors and patterns - roans, pintos, bays and grays. The beautiful colors and unique color patterns make horses identifiable so you can enjoy watching the growth and herd dynamics. In the spring and summer seeing foals alongside their mothers in herds are a delight.

I am against decreasing the herd by a large degree as it would impact the genetic viability of the herd. According to wild horse geneticists herd levels of 120 or 150 horses are needed for the genetic viability of the herd. You need some amount of genetic diversity to keep health of the herd strong.

Wild horses are a major part of North Dakota's cultural heritage and the herd of wild horses in TRNP is unique to the park. Bison can be seen in many places throughout the state, but the herd of wild horses can only be found in the park.

Preservation of the wild mustangs was a legacy of President Thoedore Roosevelt. The archaic policy of round up and selling these beautiful horses who often end up auctioned off for meat is cruel and unnecessary. Other wild horse management programs use darting the horses with birth control to manage their populations. The are alternatives. The barbaric BLM policy of roundup and sell off of the magnificent herds is out dated. We need to protect these historical wild mustang herds.

Loretta Mullett

227.

Kay Harth <kdharth@hotmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 6:35 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

The reason we go to Theodore Roosevelt Park every year is to find the wild horses!!!
I look for my favorite horses every time we go, I absolutely love seeing the baby foals every spring.
I follow Wild in North Dakota on Facebook, I donate by buying pictures etc at the Minnesota Horse Expo.
Please keep the horses in the park. Thank you for listening to me.
Very truly,
Kay Harth
Minnesota

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get Outlook for Android

228.

Candida Eugenio <cannie123@msn.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 6:38 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello,

I wanted to just write a little about why the TRNP horses need to remain part of the park.

First of all, I have never been to the park but have wanted to go to see the horses for a long time. My family and I were going to go this last summer but were unable to do our trip. I am over 50 and that park and its horses are on my bucket list of places to see. If you remove the horses then there really isn't a need to go to the park anymore. Not every park in America has wild horses. So to remove them would keep a lot of people from visiting TRNP as they can see landscapes and even bison in other parks as well.

Secondly, Teddy Roosevelt created the park and ALL its wonderful land and creatures were to be cared for, not removed or changed or built on. This goes for the animals in it as well.

So, to remove those horses would be changing his dream and his picture that he had for our beautiful country.

Leave the horses alone! Let them be free. America stands for Life, Liberty and Pursuit of happiness. Liberty means Freedom. They are part of that freedom.

Candida Eugenio

Get Outlook for iOS

229.	**Squarespace** <form-submission@squarespace.info> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 6:40 PM Reply-To: acjr777@aol.com To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Sent via form submission from *Wild Lands Wild Horses* **Name:** joe russo **Email Address:** acjr777@aol.com **Subject:** wild horses **Message:** WHILE I DO LIVE IN THE EAST I DO OWN HORSES ...THESE ANIMALS ARE AN AMERICAN HERITAGE AND THEY MUST BE PRESERVED FOR THE FUTURE. PLEASE PROTECT THEM ALL..A GALLOPING HORSE IS POETRY IN MOTION! Does this submission look like spam? Report it here.

230.	**Miki E-mail** <grey_wolf@charter.net> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 7:33 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I was born and raised my first 19 years in North Dakota and the Theodore Roosevelt National Park has always been my favorite place. It holds a very special place in my heart as it's the only place I've ever seen wild/free horses in their natural beauty. Seeing the horses in the grandeur of the Badlands in western North Dakota has always thrilled me and I cannot imagine the park without them. Eliminating the horses would go against everything Theodore Roosevelt wanted for this National Park! It is one of the few areas where free-roaming horses may be readily observed. The horses of TRNP have existed in the badlands of western North Dakota since at least the middle of the 19th century. While ranching near Medora in the 1880s, Theodore Roosevelt wrote of the horses there: “In a great many--indeed, in most--localities there are wild horses to be found.” The horses have a rich history that can be traced back to Chief Sitting Bull in 1881. These horses figure prominently in the cultural history of the American West and are living legends that should be treasured! North Dakota should be proud of these free-roaming horses, it is all the richer for them- let them live! Please, do not rob North Dakota of this national treasure and its heritage! The parks' horses have been officially recognized as a part of the historical setting since 1970. There is no good reason to eliminate Theodore Roosevelt's free-roaming horses from the great state of North Dakota! Sincerely, Miki Wolf-Krenelka

231.

Sherry Mills Moore <sherry@millsmoorelaw.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 7:42 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>
Cc: "sherrymillsmoore51@gmail.com" <sherrymillsmoore51@gmail.com>

Here is my horse story. Please feel free to use it in any manner which helps save the horses. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for them.

Wild Horses Couldn't Drag Me Away

"I can't believe you are lucky enough to live here". Not something we native North Dakotans often hear. But this is what a fellow participant in a Badlands photography workshop from Pennsylvania said to me after a day in the park photographing the horses. That was back in 1999 and my first experience with the TRNP wild horses. Even though my family had a reunion in the park every 3 years, I had not previously been prescient enough to recognize their splendor. Over the following 24 years, not only have these horses risen to the top of my living-being popularity poll, but I have lit that same enthusiasm in my surrounding four generations – 96 year old mother, 41 year old daughter, and 13 year old granddaughter. Sadly, I just can't get my California raised husband to bite.

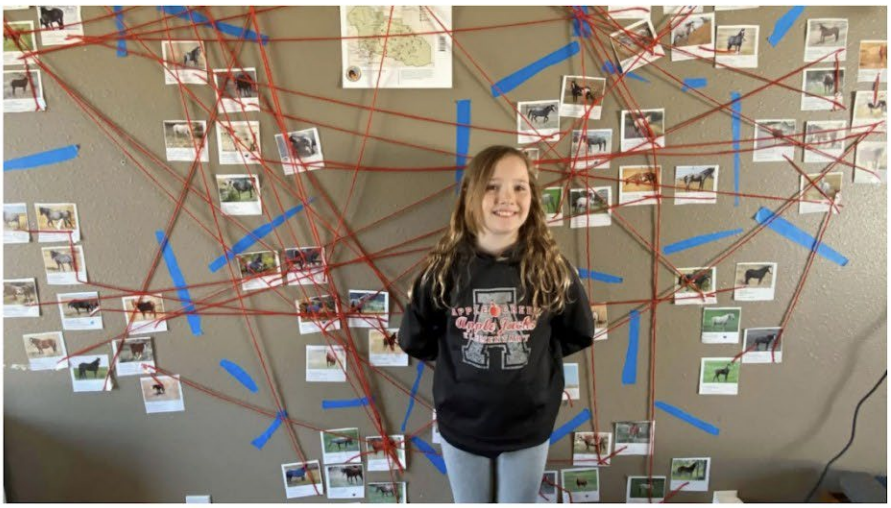
Since that time in 1999 I now travel to the park at least 4 times a year. Sometimes they are day trips, sometimes for a few days. Each trip is devoted to finding and photographing the horses. My very best friend is similarly afflicted. Because of our excursions I have been in places in the park I never would otherwise have been. We have seen every animal the park offers, except a mountain lion. We regularly visit the "nun rocks". We have slid through gumbo, raced up buttes, dodged snakes, and skirted bison. We have been there in snow and sleet and extreme heat. After one particularly poor placement choice between warring bands and a race to our car, I blew out my knee and had to have it replaced, but boy did I get a great picture of Sidekick, mad, really mad Sidekick. And each time as we leave the park – tired, sun or wind burned – we say, *that was the best trip ever*.

Never will I forget the first stallion fight we saw. After nearly hitting our limit in photographs of a grazing group, suddenly even the prairie dogs went on high alert. Over the butte came a stallion and the band stallion raced over to meet him. They took off as did we, following the skirmish in our jeep like paparazzi chasing the British royals. They fought and ran and pooped and sniffed for over a mile as we madly changed rolls of film and documented the battle. It was glorious.

Even more glorious was being witness to the birth of a foal. Having spotted a mare earlier in the day who seemed planted, we watched from the road as first the foot, then the baby emerged. The mare sent the stallion away while the baby worked hard to stand up. It was, to be frank, a holy moment.

Then there is the joy of watching my family and friends light up as I took them to see the horses. And each year my Christmas list includes sending the latest NDBH horse guide to these same people. My daughter and granddaughter love to spot them, to see them skirmish, to take their pictures, to walk on the trails and to scale the buttes.

At age 10, my granddaughter did a North Dakota history project making a crime wall type connection art piece on her wall of the all the horses in the park in 2019. A television station picked it up as a story featuring her hard and creative work, and of course, the horses.



To those who aren't enamored with the horses perhaps it seems they are same as if not secondary to the bison, or the elk, the deer, even (gasp) the prairie dogs. But her project illustrates the difference. These horses can and have been individually identified. Their history is documented in photographs, their dna, and the genealogical renderings. The horse people of

TRNP like to figure out who is who, who is related to whom, their age, their temperaments, their families, their bands, their territories. It is an exercise and immersion in history and nature and identification. Nobody does that for the bison or the prairie dogs or the deer. Not because they aren't important but, the diversity in the horses presents the opportunity to take nature to the next degree. There are reunion rides and photography tours and family traditional gatherings and weddings and memorials and photography contests all centered on these horses. They have many non-profits with followers all over the world. This is completely unique to the horses.

Personally, if the horses are removed, I am unlikely to come to the park on any regular basis if at all. I want the horses there for my progeny and for the visitors young and old all over the world. They have made the last 24 years of my life vastly more meaningful and have brought the splendors of the park home to me over and over again. Now, I have as my own message, how lucky I am to live here.

232.

Wendy Maurstad <wmaursta@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 8:08 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I just feel like I must contribute to the cause for the wild horse herd at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. We've been to the park more than once and the main draw each time is the wild horses. There just isn't anything that can compare to the thrill of seeing wild horses, living, thriving and surviving in the elements of the gateway to the west. We've had our own horses for so long but these TRNP horses just make a person feel and understand the link to the days gone by like bison and elk just can't. It's amazing how hardy and we'll suited the herds are to their environment.

The loss of the herds from the park would leave a huge hole in so many peoples link to American history and what on earth - Medora North Dakota has the cowboy museum and there sure wouldn't have been cowboys without horses. Teddy Roosevelt would be rolling over in his grave.

233.	**Pat Young** <wildmtn@aol.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:18 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I'm writing to support keeping the wild horses in TRNP. While they, themselves, may not be indigenous, the herds have been there for generations and they are part of the mythos of the west. I have never been to Theodore Roosevelt, but I follow the herd on social media, which has opened my eyes to a truly beautiful part of the country, one that i wish to visit soon. Without the wild horses, I don't think I would ever have known about the park or considered visiting. Regards, Pat Young Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS
234.	**Kate Taibbi** <ktaibbi@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:23 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com We are retired and hope to make it out to the Dakota's to see these magnificent horses! This park has been on our "bucket" list for quite some time! Thank you for the wonderful pictures! - Kate Sent from my iPhone
235.	**From:** "Linda Carver" <lindac1236@yahoo.com> **To:** "info@wildlandwildhorses.com" <info@wildlandwildhorses.com> **Sent:** Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:06 PM **Subject:** Horse saving thoughts I have never been to TRNP, yet. I have plans to make it there this summer. I previously had little interest in touring this area. Then I came across the Facebook pages that support and share info about the beautiful wild horse herds. I have been a horse lover forever and always enjoy seeing them. To see them running wild and free will be a dream come true. Please leave the horses to be free.

236.	**Squarespace** <form-submission@squarespace.info> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:46 PM Reply-To: sl_mj1960@yahoo.com To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Sent via form submission from *Wild Lands Wild Horses* **Name:** sarah levering **Email Address:** sl_mj1960@yahoo.com **Subject:** Horses **Message:** Please let the horses be free they were here before any of us and deserve their freedom.Someday i would love to come to the park just to see the wild horses running free. Does this submission look like spam? Report it here.
237.	**Kris** <funkybunch_2000@yahoo.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:46 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I have never been to this area. I do know that, in order to save our earth and ourselves, we must live in harmony with all creatures great and small. Humans have no right to destroy the lives and habitats of any wild creature, just because we can. You cannot sacrifice others for your gain. It is an atrocious act. These horses are gorgeous creatures. They live here. It is sacred ground to them! Humans have driven wild creatures out of their habitats. Humans have driven others out of their homes (think American Indigenous people). Learn your lessons!! Sent from my iPhone

238.

Delbert N Deana Glaser <dndglaser@hotmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:48 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello,
I understand that the Theodore Roosevelt National Park herd of wild horses is currently being reviewed via a Livestock Management Plan that threatens their continued ability to live wild and free in this National Park!
I was born and have lived in North Dakota my whole life (50+years) and have visited the park every year for as long as I can remember. As a child complete excitement if we could catch a glimpse of the wild horse herd from the interstate as we entered Medora. Dad drove us through the park every year. We would sit and watch for a very long time if the wild horses were around, they were so memorizing ! Screeches erupted if it was the spring of the year and there were foals with their moms! They were so free and so beautiful! So perfect!
As an adult with horses of my own we frequent TRNP. We ride the trails and search for a glimpse of the wild horses. We will sit and watch them from afar I admire their beauty and freedom and often wonder if my ride wishes he was one of them. It makes my heart so happy!
It would be a sad shame to one day come to the TRNP and not see these amazing creatures or worse yet to tell my nieces and nephews about the time when we would come
to the park where there used to be the most beautiful wild herd of horses that roamed free in this park! That would be a very sad day!!!!
SAVE THE WILD HORSES AT TRNP!!!!!
Thank you!
Deana Glaser

239.

Amy Litton <alitton1989@yahoo.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:56 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hello,

I am writing to add my voice to the many others writing in support of the wild horses at Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

The opportunity that is afforded, both through social media and in person, to actually see these beautiful animals in a natural habitat is such a treasure. Seeing these majestic animals in the wild, even through the window of social media, has been an incredible experience for which I am truly grateful.

I believe that we have a responsibility as a nation to continue to preserve / manage this heard (and others) so that generations to come have the opportunity to see and learn from these animals in the wild.

Thank you,

Amy Litton
Rowlett, TX

240.

Jill Ricker <kenandjillricker@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:59 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I have followed the horses in the Theodore Roosevelt Park on Facebook for several years. I feel I know these horses and am trying to get to the park to see them in person! It is a beautiful sight to see them free and living life as a wild herd. I would hate to see them removed! I own horses and I understand them through my 62 years. They are a national treasure. Let them be wild.

241.

Kristin Caron <kristincaron317@yahoo.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 10:30 PM
Reply-To: Kristin Caron <kristincaron317@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello,

My name is Kristin Caron from Carver Massachusetts. I spend quite a lot of my time on line following the horse families that live within the TRNP. It is a miracle that in this time of life, there are still sanctuaries that allow the wild herds their freedom.

I am an avid horse lover, and have been my entire life. I have chosen to never own a horse. I believe horses carry mighty souls that can show you what true freedom is meant to be. When I see horses with their owners, I see the pain in many of their eyes. The pain of being taken from their families, being sold over and over again to new owners. I see the love they give and the anguish they endure when they are sent away once again.

As I said, I have followed the TRNP heards online for many years. In my darkest hours, I look to the photos of the free, the loved and untouched spirits. I dream of visiting them someday, to see their untouched spirt within their eyes. It's in the amazing photos posted of them. The eyes of a horse are the windows to their souls, and never have I been more in awe of the humanity I see within them.

These horses have every right to live free!! They have the ability to heal the broken hearts and minds of those of us (mankind) that are broken, sad, forgotten and in need of unbiased, unconditional, love.

The human race has forgotten where it came from, where we started, and that we are no different than the horses at TRNP. We want to be free!! We fought for freedom and seldom of us have any. What right do we have to take that freedom away from these animals? We are animals of the homosapian race, they are animals of the equine race. They deserve the same freedom and more!

What right do you, or any man, have to take away another's freedom! What right do you or any man have to disrespect the wishes of Teddy Roosevelt? He is a famous man for the words he spoke and the actions he took. Who are you? What do you want people to look back on, in history, and remember you for?? I pray it's that you are remembered for the protection you provided the free horses, maybe then, we will know your name!

242.

Bunny Metzger <bunnymetzger50@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 11:07 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Yes, i have been to the park, a couple of times, we love the bison but the horses are so special. It feels like you are back in the 1800's. I love watching the posts of the new babies and the different herds. Its so special to follow their lives. A little bit of heaven. I was born in NDak and was an owner of horses for many years. Please reconsider and think how important they are to the park and all those that love them. ♥--
Smiles

243.

Debbie L Mack <debbielma943@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 12:17 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have never been able to visit the park, but I am a horse lover! I've had horses since before I could walk! I so enjoy the photos and stories of the horses in TRNP! They are some of the most beautiful horses I have ever seen! I think they should be left alone to live wild and free just as their ancestors did! It is on my bucket list to be able to visit the park, just to be able to watch the horses in the park! But if they are removed I will not be going to visit the park! The horses are the main reason I want to go! I get a lot of enjoyment from the photos and stories that are posted concerning them! I really appreciate the people who photograph , keep a check on them and also share the stories of the horses! I truly believe that if they are removed it would cause a decrease in the visits to the park!

244.

We are very upset about the possibility of losing the wild horses. We have been to the park and love seeing the herds. We have fun guessing which herd is which. Our grandchildren love seeing the horses too. Having the wild horses in the park brings in a lot of people from all over the United States. We would probably not visit the park if the horses were taken away. We love seeing the new foals every year. We live in North Dakota and are able to go to the park regularly. PLEASE leave the horses there

1 message

lbcurren <lbcurren@restel.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 12:18 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

245.

DEBORAH WIELAGE <dwielage@comcast.net> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 2:26 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP) in May of 2022. The horses drew me to the park which I learned about from Dakota Grown Photos on Facebook, and got me learning about TRNP, and North Dakota, and planning my vacation.

I spent a week at Medora and I drove to the North Entrance and spent a day, however my favorite is the South Entrance because that is home to the horses. Not many National Parks have wild horses which makes TRNP special. The horses are are like frosting on a cake.
That's why I chose this park and why I spent a week, and why I'm hoping to return someday.

I hope the horses get to stay at TRNP because people expect to see horses . That has been their home for centuries, hopefully, now and future generations of horses will have the opportunity to run free and wild like past generations of horses. They are a symbol of our country.

246.

Squarespace <form-submission@squarespace.info> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 2:55 AM
Reply-To: beth.gerow@gmail.com
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sent via form submission from *Wild Lands Wild Horses*

Name: beth Gerow

Email Address: beth.gerow@gmail.com

Subject: THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK

Message: contributing to the fight for the wild horses there.... When cattle graze, they wrap their tongues arround grass and rip it out by the roots. A few hundred steers can cause the area to become a desert in a very short time...no grass seed,, no grass roots. Horses BITE the grass off near the roots when they eat....the roots are preserved and can grow the grass back, and horses CANNOT digest grass seed.....each seed passes through the horse and is deposited on the ground in a packet of fertilizer from the horse. Result....luxurious grasslands!! Good luck, Wild Horses! the Earth needs you desperately!

Does this submission look like spam? Report it here.

247.	**From:** Squarespace <form-submission@squarespace.info> **Date:** January 11, 2023 at 5:18:54 AM EST **To:** thismustanglife@gmail.com **Subject: Form Submission - New Form - Saving the wild horses** **Reply-To:** bonniescrittercottage@yahoo.com Sent via form submission from *Wild Lands Wild Horses* **Name:** Bonnie Lentz **Email Address:** bonniescrittercottage@yahoo.com **Subject:** Saving the wild horses **Message:** My family and I feel it is very important these horses stay wild. It is part of our history. And their beauty is for all to see. In the wild! Does this submission look like spam? Report it here.

248.

kristal eggert <kristal_eggert@yahoo.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 10:53 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Thank you for all your organization is doing to advocate for the incredible wild horses in TRNP. Here is why I love the horses and why I hope we can all still enjoy these treasures for years to come!

Every year I take a week long trip out to North and South Dakota for my birthday. TRNP has been apart of that trip for many years. I still remember my first time seeing the wild horses...it was near Peaceful Valley Ranch and Nichols and Cloud were hanging out in the shade. I can't fully describe in words the level of my excitement. But it truly is the driving force behind multiple visits to the park each year. There is something so rewarding to just sitting quietly and watching their interactions within each family band and of course the heated encounters between other bands and bachelor stallions. I work as a nurse in a hospital and this is a stressful environment to say the least...especially the past couple years...these trips to the National Park are my way of de-stressing and relaxing. I am not a photographer but i do enjoy taking pictures during my trips and I have met many others who come for that reason. I have made some really nice friendships with these people and occasionally plan to meet with them while I am out visiting. I have tent camped in Cottonwood each time I visit...from March thru November. I have watched the wild horses and buffalo walk right thru my campsites multiple times. Its something so unique to this park and I love being in nature with the animals. I prefer the off season or quiet months in the park with less people. I am an avid hiker and the rugged landscape combined with wild horses is a perfect combination.

This IS my happy place. Each time when I climb high up on a butte to watch the horses, I close my eyes and I can feel and hear the mighty North Dakota wind...I can smell the warm scent of sage. I can hear the language the horses speak to each other...a soft nicker, a loud whinny and squeal or a deep sigh as they relax and take a nap in the warm sun. I cherish this place...its my church...its my medicine...its my therapy. So many people cherish this herd...especially the locals who come here weekly know each and every horse by name who their parents were and who the new foals belong too. I believe each of us has special stories and ties to this place and the horses. And I truly believe the wild horses are the single biggest draw for returning visitors. I can't imagine this place without them. I truly believe the horses have an important place in the park. I also would agree the buffalo have an important place as well. But at the end of the day I would like to see a management plan for both these animals so they may continue to share the land. Over the years most of the return visitors I have met are here for the horses. And this means the charming town of Medora is hugely benefiting from the revenue when they stay a week at a time. It is my hope that the horses are allowed to stay in the only home they have ever known. I don't know if there is a way the NP could take in monetary donations from visitors that would be directly applied to help/save the horses...but I would do it. I do understand the need for management of the herd. We want the best for them. Please continue to allow the horses to live in the park. I wish you could look into my heart and see the love, excitement, peace and joy these horses bring me each time I visit. It breaks my heart to think they might be completely removed.

Thank you for your time and reading my thoughts.

Kristal Eggert

249.

Terrie Pieczonka <terziz1@yahoo.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 11:09 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hi! I'm Terrie Pieczonka from Millington, Tennessee and I have been following the stories and photographs of the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt State Park for several years on Facebook.

I am constantly surprised and delighted by the stories and this ongoing piece of Great American history embodied by these horses. Their lives are beautiful and ugly, strong and sadly weak—really struggling and living magnificently in the National Park. It's very interesting to see the dynamic way they interact, breed, give birth and survive. Really a priceless piece of Americana. And, I'm not even a horse owner or farmer. It's just incomprehensible to me that such valuable animals could be taken out of this setting and be gone forever. It seems like so many things with deep history and meaning are being lost in the United States. (And I'm speaking as one of the evil snowflake democrats!)

I've probably said too much. I just wanted to offer my feelings on behalf of these horses in the hope that they remain wild and free.

Thank you so much for offering the forum.

Respectfully,
Terrie Pieczonka

Sent from my iPhone

250.

Jeanie Lynn Andringa <zetapita@icloud.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 11:27 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Just sharing my story
As a little girl my grandparents would bring us to Medora we should see the musical and go through the park. My favorite parts were looking for the horses, Bison and our family likes the prairie dogs. As an adult I could not wait to share this magical place with my son. The horses in the park are truly one of the main reasons we go there. I have traveled to many state parks throughout the USA, and truly find the horses are majestic as mountains. The history they share and joy they bring to so many people is amazing. I think the park would be such a different place without the horses. I know my family and myself would probably choose other locations to visit. Many parks have beautiful scenery and even amazing wildlife, but the horses are a true draw for us. Please leave them in the park. I don't understand how they can be anything but a positive impact for the park.
Thanks
Jeanie Berns
Minnesota

Sent from my iPhone

251.

Carol Blevins <carolnblevins@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 11:58 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Please don't remove the wild horses from TRNP. They are a national treasure & are the main reason people visit the park.
They have been there for so many years & are being maintained well.
My husband & I visited several years ago & were absolutely enthralled with the beauty of the Park & the Wild horses.
There aren't many places left in the world where you are able to enjoy such beauty & majesty.
Thank you for your consideration,
Carol & Ken Blevins
Winter Park, FL

252.

DEB LEE CARSON <everseethelight@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 12:24 PM
To: Wild Lands Wild Horses <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Please, please, please… Save the wild horses in the TRNP! The horses have been here longer than the park has. There are only a few National Parks in the United States that have wild horses still roaming their land, in fact TRNP is the only place in North Dakota that has them. About 175 wild horses are living in the 47,000 acres in the park. My earliest memory is when I was a little girl, my favorite memory in N.D. is going through the park to see these magnificent horses 60 years ago! I remember I talked about this rare experience to anyone that would listen! At that age, I thought of them as MY horses, as I do today also. In the last ten years I have gotten to know a lot of the horses. I have visited them often and follow the dedicated posts that people write about them. My favorite horse in the park is the '2000' oldest stallion Circus. I remember him as a young stallion with stunning blue eyes and a wild mane that he tossed about proudly. I worry about him and follow his progress. He is still doing good and living his life the way he wants. (Could you imagine what he and the other horses would do if they were removed from the only home they have known?) He wouldn't live long in a forced captivity. It been exciting to follow him through the years. 2002 Gray Ghost elderly stallion I followed closely and I worried about him as I saw him getting so thin right before his death. Someone wrote that they found him and the buffalo were standing and grieving over him with him in the bidder of their circle. His faithful mare Twister died shortly after along with their young colt Atlas, but Gray Ghost has sired other offspring which will carry on his legacy. I cry when I hear the death of each horse but I was sad for days when I heard that Betsy, an older mare, had been rounded up and was killed in the process. If you ever witnessed the round up of wild horses, it is a horrendous sight. They are terrified when they are separated from their family, hurt and often killed in the process. Wildrye, Teton, Nichols, Urban, Flax, Remington, Coal, Vamoose, and the other stunning stallions have their own personalities and dwell in their Young Boomer is an unique stallion who is everyones favorite with his older brother, Amite. Boomer was orphaned at 6 months and his aunt Taylor and brother have taken care of him. Various families have been so special to keep track of like the the devoted mom Dolly and her lovey daughters Oakley, and Zoe. Flame is Flax's mom and is the oldest mare at 23 years old. She has had 10 offspring. Many people around the world view the horses treasured photos from years ago to now, and often remember when the horses of the past were happy and running free. With each birth is a great celebration and their death is always a heartbreak. But I wouldn't trade the experiences for anything in the world. They have become a great part of my life. I look forward to hearing what mares are which stallion now and where the herds are. It is like a soap opera but so much more because you can follow them almost daily from the dedicated posts of the amazing followers. The old west has almost vanished and we are so fortunate to experience it through the wild horses which is so much a part of the Native Americans and Cowboys! The culture and history are rich in Medora and the park is known for the wild and free herds! Just imagine listening to the mighty galloping and strong snorting of the horses in the distance. Nothing can compare… Tourists have brought in much income to this surrounding area because of wanting to be a part of this old west history. TRNP superintendents and staff need to step up and work cooperatively and effectively with the people and save the wild horses! ❤️

I wanted to add to some of this and proof read but I sent this before I was ready to proof read…. It would not let me email this. If you would like me to write another copy- I will do so, but hopefully this will convey my feelings. I meant to add after writing "and other stunning stallions have their own personalities and dwell in their own section of territory they have chosen. "
❤️😊❤️ Just let me know if you received this or I'll try again. Please also let me know if there is anything I can do. I wrote two letters…

253.	**Tammy Mackey** <dtmackey@ndsupernet.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 12:31 PM To: Info@wildlandswildhorses.com How can we save the wild horses from being removed from the park? I sit here thinking who exactly wants them gone? I mean the people that are thinking about this? I just don't understand why? When I look at all the people that are posting stories of how they love to go to the park to see the horses. I mean hundreds of people from everywhere in the country how can the park remove them? The horses are so loved. The western history from the area involves cowboys and cowgirls and HORSES Many people go to Medora to have a WESTERN EXPERIENCE. To have a feeling of the old west and part of this is going into the park to see the wild horses and buffalo. If they are removed it can and will not never be the same again. Many people are from cities somewhere and can't see horses in their area and will not ever have that feeling of seeing them in the wild here. Please don't make this mistake of removing them. Tammy Mackey
254.	**George - Bonnie Overby** <gboverby@hotmail.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 12:34 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Sugar, a scared little red roan filly, came home with me in October 2009. I hadn't really planned on buying at wild horse at an auction. The auction in Dickinson, North Dakota, was meant to be a fun event with a friend as a celebration of my birthday. It was also going to be a distraction from current events in Afghanistan where my husband was serving a year-long deployment with the National Guard. That autumn day turned out to be the beginning of some of my most beautiful experiences!

This same year, North Dakota Badland's Horse (NDBH), was established to promote and preserve the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. It was through this nonprofit organization I was able to connect to other lovers of the badland's horses where I was introduced to the many wonders of the horses and their rugged environment. Though I grew up in North Dakota, I had not really experienced the park until 2010 when I went to see Sugar's sire and dam. The year 2012 had special significance when I was able to return riding my once wild horse in her birth place. I have since enjoyed the yearly horse parade on Flag Day in Medora and the annual reunion ride where owners return together on their former wild horse to TRNP

The wild horses has been the draw for me to keep returning to TRNP. Since 2010, I no longer travel outside of North Dakota as I can think of no place I'd rather spend my summer vacation. It has been my pleasure to be able to volunteer with documentation teams helping to care for captured young horses at the holding pen while awaiting their owners. In the last 12 years I have visited the park up to 4 times a year often spending a week or more at a time as I return with family and friends.

These horses and this park bring me back to my roots in rural North Dakota, growing up on the solitude of the prairie riding my horse, smelling the aromatic sage brush, listening to the meadowlarks and killdeers and exploring nooks and crannies of the land. The park and its horses bring me back to simpler times away from the daily stresses of my life as a nurse in an urban setting. A place I am able to draw close to God, renew my strength and find healing for my soul with the gentle spirit of the horses against the rugged and beautiful backdrop of the badlands.

255.

Toni Barnett <tonibarnett@ndsupernet.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 2:11 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have been to TRNP many times as I live South of Dickinson, North Dakota. Every time I venture into the park I am looking for the wild horses that live there. I get such a feeling of adventure and longing when I see the horses. I always have my camera (not my phone) with me so that I can get good pictures of the different bands.

I do plan on visiting the park again and do so every couple of months. Winter, spring, summer and my most favorite time, fall. I enjoy seeing the bison, but my main focus is the horses. Seeing them running free and interacting with the environment, along with the other wildlife is so interesting. To take them out of the park would be such a loss to all visitors to the park.

Thank you for reading.

Toni Barnett

New England, North Dakota

256.

George - Bonnie Overby <gboverby@hotmail.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 1:56 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Sugar, a scared little red roan filly, came home with me in October 2009. I hadn't really planned on buying at wild horse at an auction. The auction in Dickinson, North Dakota, was meant to be a fun event with a friend as a celebration of my birthday. It was also going to be a distraction from current events in Afghanistan where my husband was serving a year-long deployment with the National Guard. That autumn day turned out to be the beginning of some of my most beautiful experiences!

That same year, North Dakota Badland's Horse (NDBH), was established to promote and preserve the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. It was through this nonprofit organization I was able to connect to other lovers of the badland's horses where I was introduced to the many wonders of the horses and their rugged environment. Though I grew up in North Dakota, I had not really experienced the park until 2010 when I went to see Sugar's sire and dam. The year 2012 had special significance when I was able to return riding my once wild horse in her birth place. I have since enjoyed the yearly horse parade on Flag Day in Medora and the annual reunion ride where owners return together on their former wild horse to TRNP.

A memory etched in my mind that still brings me goose-bumps is one of my first trips to the park. Our group rode east out of the horse camp in hopes of spotting a certain elusive stallion and his herd. Just when we were about to turn around and return to camp, an ethereal mane appeared just over a hilltop, about 60 yards in front of us. Could it be… a head popped-up and there he was, the majestic "Wind Canyon", his mane flowing above him! He and his small herd came out around the hill and circled us once. Then, just as quickly as they seemed to magically appear they eloquently disappeared. I think we all felt as if we had just had a spiritual experience.

The wild horses continue to be a draw for me to keep returning to TRNP. Since 2010, I no longer travel outside of North Dakota as I can think of no place I'd rather spend my summer vacation. It has been my pleasure to be able to volunteer with documentation teams helping to care for captured young horses at the holding pens while awaiting their owners. In the last 12 years I have visited the park up to 4 times a year often spending a week or more at a time as I return with family and friends.

Access to these horses and this park bring me back to my roots in rural North Dakota where I grew up on the solitude of the prairie riding my horse, smelling the aromatic sage brush, listening to the meadowlarks and killdeers and exploring nooks and crannies of the land. I am reminded of simpler times away from the daily stresses of my life as a nurse in an urban setting. A place I am able to draw close to God, renew my strength and find healing for my soul with the gentle spirit of the horses against the rugged and beautiful backdrop of the badlands.

257.

Randa Veazie <randaveazie@hotmail.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 2:38 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello,

My name is Randa and although I have never made it out there, I love the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Starting in March 2020, I started following many of the pages documenting and sharing these beautiful pieces of our history and park. The wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

My then 9 year old step-daughter and I fell in love, and learning more and more about these horses helped get us through some of the darkest times in our nation's history while I was also home with a newborn. We know the names, families and bands of these horses so well now in 2023. Our daughter has a book that shows every horse and their dad and sire. We've also purchased a calendar. Our now almost 3-year-old has toy horses that look like those in the park. We've yet to find one with the markings like Red Face or Roosevelt but we are still looking. We love seeing the foals named, each one is special. Watching for any sign that Boomer was surviving without his mom. Each loss in the park is felt deeply. Seeing how dedicated all of you are in tracking and documenting these horses. To us these horses are the main reason we are looking to take a vacation to the park in 2023.

Without those horses, the park will never be the same. Their numbers should be managed humanely. Taking these horses away would erase an important part of history and a vital tourist attraction for the area.

I've also researched and found that horses do not have as negative of an environmental impact on the land as previously thought, unlike cattle and other livestock.
https://awionline.org/content/myths-and-facts-about-wild-horses-and-burros

It is imperative that we keep these horses safe, and manage populations in a manner that doesn't negatively impact these herds.

If you'd like you can share this without my name attached.

Kind regards,

Randa

258.

Dixie Whitman <risingwolf1@yahoo.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 2:40 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Dear Sir or Ma'am:

I lift my virtual pen today to add my name to those who wish to see the TRNP horses roam wild and free.

As a child of the 1950s, the National Park Service had yet to establish TRNP. So my family swooshed by on our trips westward. My husband and I first encountered the horses on a cross-country trip where we stumbled upon Theodore Roosevelt National Park on June 22, 2010. On the spur-of-the-moment, we detoured through Medora and took a late afternoon drive along a scenic loop that mesmerized us with stunning views and wildlife, including a small band of horses grazing near the roadside. What a moment!

That encounter motivates me to champion the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Whenever one of my friends travels in that direction, I always encourage them to visit and see some of the stunning vistas, flora, and of course, America's greatest fauna.

We love it so much that when I discovered Wild In North Dakota, I began to follow them on Facebook to reconnect, even virtually, with these amazing animals and a legacy of the old west.

Celebrating our 50th Wedding Anniversary this year, we hope to make a more leisurely trip west and spend more time with these magnificent creatures that we ask you to continue to protect and treasure as the legacy they are.

Thank you for your time.

Best regards,

Dixie Whitman

Dixie Whitman “A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words.”

259.

Personal <ndjules939@hotmail.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 10:14 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

My name is Julie Otto. Although I don't live in ND at this time I grew up in Dickinson and lived in that area for a large portion of my young adult life - never more than 70 miles from a park entrance. We took trips through the park regularly and felt lucky to live so close and be able to share in the park's beauty so often. On our never ending search for the animals in the park it was always a stroke of luck to find the horses - they were the elusive treasure we looked for the hardest. I follow the Wild in North Dakota page on Facebook so I can still see the horses running free which truly helps connect my soul back to the park and North Dakota.

Growing up on a farm we had horses and I was riding by the time I was 5. My love for the animal itself runs deep. Being able to see the horses running free in the park is a vision I will never forget - such beauty; the true essence of freedom. I cannot imagine them not being in the park. I have been through the park with my parents, my grandparents, and have taken my own child through the park. We're talking four generations of visiting the park! I sincerely hope that when my son is lucky enough to take the 5th generation of our family through the park that the horses and other animals are still living free for them to see and enjoy.

There has to be a plan possible that allows for all animals to be able to live there. A good management plan would control the size of the herd as they have been (through the adoption of these beautiful animals) as well as the removal to and introduction from other bands of horses living in other parks to control the inbreeding. What is not acceptable is the removal of the horses all together. This is not fair to the current and future generations of visitors and especially not fair to the animals.

Thank you,
Julie Otto

260.

lthares@valleytel.net <lthares@valleytel.net> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 11:59 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hi Jamie and Deb,

My husband and I, live in South Dakota and when trying to find somewhere to go during summer of 2020, we decided to go to TRNP, as we heard about the Wild Horses. We had been to Rapid City and the Badlands, and the attraction of the horses, is what made the decision to go to North Dakota. I, myself, love to take pictures and my husband loves the outdoors. So we enjoyed trying to find the herds and then I would take many many pictures. We enjoyed the time at TRNP, so much, that we took 2 of our adult kids back there, later that summer.

The horses are beautiful creatures of God's. They are a wonderful and unique attraction, that bring people to the Park. We hope to go back to the Park again this summer, and the only reason would be the Horses. I hope and pray they are there to see.

Sincerely,

Lynn Thares

261.

Kimberly Saul <kahsaul@yahoo.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 1:57 AM
Reply-To: Kimberly Saul <kahsaul@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

To whom it may concern,
Please let these horses remain free with the help of the people who are concerned for them!
I am Native American and these horses are a gift and a reminder of our culture and how this great country was built. They are a very important piece of our existence.We need them as much as they need us. Please protect them so that thousands of folks may someday visit them in their natural habitat including me . Exactly what Theodore Roosevelt intended for this Park!
I too follow them on Facebook. I'm so grateful for the folks who go to great lengths to document and photograph these great and majestic spirits in their natural place ,where they have survived year upon year.
Please let them thrive as they are in the natural habitat thanks for listening.
Thank you,
Kimberly Saul

262.

Patti Faloon <patti.faloon@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 5:21 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

To the people of North Dakota and the TRNP. I have never been to North Dakota; however, I am in awe of your beautiful horses. I am a 64 yr old woman from Maine who faithfully follows these extraordinary animals. I live in a State that has beautiful coasts, landscape, mountains, and our animals that attract tourist's. While some constantly complain about the tourist's, other's depend on them for their livelihood. There are lifelong Mainer's who also complain about the animals who help draw these visitor's to our beautiful state. Many times in my life I have taken rides on dirt roads to the north woods and Mt Katahdin area in hopes of seeing a big cat, bear, or a moose. Each time this happens I feel blessed that I live where I do. And if I head in the opposite direction I can sit and watch our beautiful coastline. On a really lucky day we may see seals or even a whale. It is also a bird lover's dream. We are truly blessed.
I have a very dear friend of 50+ years who lives in ND. She shared with me different attractions of your beautiful State. One of these and most loved by me is your beloved TRNP horses. I follow these beautiful horses online faithfully. I have my directories and calendars and look often to quickly reference a specific stallion, mare, or foal line. She has asked me repeatedly to come for a visit. I would love to come and we've talked about what we would do when I come. Of course, TRNP is right on the top of the list. Your horses are a daily part of my life even though I've never actually had the pleasure of seeing them in person. I feel I know these gorgeous beings because I see them daily though the eyes of a camera and the stories attached from the beautiful lady's who share these magnificent creatures with those of us who aren't blessed to have seen them in person, but dream of someday fulfilling that dream.
I truly hope that the efforts to save this park and the natural wildlife that called it home before it was a national park are successful. I pray that I am able to make it to your beautiful State before the people who are trying to destroy it succeed. Thank you for listening to me in trying to save the beautiful horses of TRNP. They have become a very positive part of my daily routine. Even though we are separated by many states I feel connected and look forward to pictures, video's, and writings about the magnificent horses and their history and also their future.
Prayers.

263.

Donna Riley <victoryaussies@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 9:51 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

HELLO,
I would like to write to you and tell you the joy that following the updates and news about the TRNP wild horses brings to me .

Wild horses are very much a part of our world . This herd is an amazing source of education and the badlands history. They are part of the landscape and without them the TRNP would not be the same. In fact I'd really lose interest in visiting it to be honest.

For me the updates and education I get from following this herd of wild horses is huge . I look forward to the posts and photos . I look forward to meeting new friends through the others that follow the herd and comment on things . Often we engage in wonderful conversations centered around these horses the park and the landscape.

I am planning to visit the park in the next couple years specifically to hike and hope to see some of these animals specifically. If these horse are removed or harmed I will not have any desire to visit the park to be honest . It would leave a bitter taste in my mouth and a hole in my heart.

Please understand the value this herd of wild horses has to so many people and to the park itself. Please realize and respect the beauty they bring to TRNP and the many visitors that follow the herd online and travel to the park specifically in hopes to get a glimpse of these amazing wild horses. Please respect the fact that this is their home and that they belong to the land and the park and so many people that admire them.

Please allow this herd to live and reign free in TRNP.

Thank You

Donna Riley
Victoryaussies@gmail.com
973 222 6183

264.

Renae Abraham <renae.abraham@valleyexp.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 10:18 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Good Morning,

I am writing in response to the Wild Horses in TRNP.

Every time we go past Medora and TRNP on the interstate we are always scouring the landscape for the wild horses. If we see them, even from afar, it's major excitement every time.

I have been to the park a couple times. Every single time our goal is to see some horses. You always see the bison and while it's great they are there…they just aren't that exciting as the horses as you see so many of them. It gets to the point…oh, there's more bison. Yeah. But the horses…..oh, boy. That is the ultimate goal. We were lucky enough to see a couple bands not far from each other a couple years ago and get some pictures. It was amazing to see these wild horses just out grazing and roaming in a natural setting. That was the highlight of the visit. I could have sat and watched them longer than we did, but we had to get to the musical. The way all the other cars were stopped and taking pictures it was obviously a highlight and huge attraction to many other park visitors as well. There was a traffic jam of cars and people stopping and taking pics and getting out of the cars to get better pics and to just stand and watch them. I saw more cars stopped watching these horses than I did any other attraction in TRNP.

I was there last fall camping at Roundup camp and riding horse in the park. I was so hoping to see the wild horses and we didn't see any that trip and it was such a disappointment. I still say, it was a great trip, but I wish we would have seen the wild horses. I kept hoping we would. We saw lots of bison, deer and an elk in the distance. I have heard of other trail riders that have come across the wild horses while riding in the park and they say it is just phenomenal to see them and watch them interact. That is still my goal as we do plan to take more trips to camp in the park in future. I really hope that I will have the opportunity to see these wild horses in future.

I also follow multiple social media accounts on the park and specifically the wild horses. It's interesting to hear about the bands and their history and which stallion has taken over which band. I enjoy hearing and seeing the pics when a baby is born and it's even heartbreaking when you hear of a baby or any horse passing on. It's part of life and educational to see and hear about these horses and how they live. It's great to see horses living like they used to in the past.

I even buy the book at the Medora C-store about the Wild horses when I pass through. I really do hope they continue to keep the wild horses in TRNP as it will be a huge mistake to get rid of them.

Renae Abraham

265.

Elaine Poole <elainepoole64@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 10:28 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Dear Sir / Madam
I'm writing to implore you to keep the herds of wild horses on the badlands of north Dakota wild and free, for ever, as they have done long before you were born, they need to keep at least the same numbers if not more to remain viable and not cross breed into extinction, .
These horses have no voice and so here I am pleading with you from Devon England to save these most noble wild horses who do only good to the environment unlike farm animals.
These mustangs are pretty much indigenous as new evidence is leading towards and have certainly lived wild for centuries
May I kindly point to the fact that America would be no where if it wasnt for the millions of horses who were used until modern machinery took over. So even horses proven to be descendants of tame horses have long since earned their precious freedom and right to live their lives free from guns and other barbaric ways that some have been rounded up and sent to slaughter.
These beautiful creatures are the american people symbols along with the Golden Eagles of freedom. Many peoples from all over the world, travel to see them and watch them in the wild, in a habitat that supports them very well, with awe and wonder
Please take the public's love for these precious and beloved wild horses into great consideration
Your sincerly
Elaine Poole (Ms.)

266.

sue newland <snewland@hotmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 10:39 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

This is insane,,, I was born in Stanley, N.D. In 1955, my father worked the first oil bomb at that time, we lived in Stanley as well in Tioga during those years.
As a child we made many trips a year to Dunn County which is where my Uncle and his family lived and farmed. It's one of my greatest memories riding through the badlands and admire the wild horses, I Loved them then and still do keep up on them horses through 2 of the FB Groups, I find it both interesting and informative as they share their photos and their knowledge of the goings on with Badlands Wild Horses!
I do not live in N. D. now, but visit when I can and still watch for them horses, they are a sight to behold and your willing to destroy that pleasure we've enjoyed for years! This plan is not in the interest of those Horses! So why destroy something people have looked forward to for decades because of someones crazy notion? It's time to give it up and move on to something more Productive and give the wild horses the life they deserve! Thank you for your time and I'm looking forward to seeing those horses Summer 2023
Sincerely, Sue Wyman

Sent from my iPhone

267.

Patricia Longo <diggers1991@yahoo.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 11:44 AM
Reply-To: Patricia Longo <diggers1991@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello I am just a person who has been in love with wild and domestic horses since my childhood n I'll turn 70 this month. These horses bring so much joy to our world. I myself have not gotten to visit TRNP yet; however, I follow 2 different Facebook pages to enable me to see them. Everyday I look forward to the joy of the photos that the 2 women post for our enjoyment. The pages are Dakota Grown Photos and Wild in North Dakota. These dedicated women follow and document the herds located in TRNP and share that information willingly for more than just enjoyment they also do it to be informative to the happenings of the herds and their treatment and whenever there is a possibility of auctions to help save these horses. To reduce TRNP to no livestock would be absolutely devastating. Please reconsider alternative methods to help save and preserve the magnificent wild horses in TRNP.

I thank you in advance for any assistance in keeping the wild horses of TRNP. As I mentioned I haven't been able to reach TRNP yet but I was extremely fortunate 7 years ago in my 1st year of retirement to travel solo to visit the Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary located in South Dakota for a private 3 hour tour. It was the most incredible experience in my lifetime to finally observe and be up close to Wild Mustangs. I cherish that experience to this day so please I ask again do not reduce TRNP to no livestock.

Sincerely,
Patricia Longo
A concerned citizen for the preservation of our Wild Horses

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

268.

Roxanne Westman <Roxiesplacephotography@hotmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 11:45 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

As a resident of North Dakota and a long time visitor to TRNP, there is a lot of personal pride in our National Park in North Dakota allowing a home for these wild horses. North Dakota doesn't have huge majestic mountains or oceans or wild streams or beautiful lakeshores, but we do have the Wild horses! Many hours have been spent watching these beautiful horses in nature; the mares with their new foals, the yearlings shaking things up with their mock fighting and my favorite, the wild stallions fighting for their rights to the herd. Where else can you experience nature like this, without traveling hundreds of miles!

I am a nature/landscape photographer who travels throughout North Dakota displaying and selling my photography, many images of the badlands, at Art/Craft shows and when customers see my images of Theodore Roosevelt National park/North Dakota badlands, they love to stop and share their experience of seeing the wild horses out in nature. For instance: how many horses they saw, their location in the park. You can just see the joy on their face when they talk about their experiences or what horses they saw. I believe that most people, familiar with TRNP, when they hear Theodore Roosevelt National park mentioned, they automatically think about the wild horses.

The Wild Horses are a huge draw for the Theodore Roosevelt National park, and my personal opinion is that the attendance of the park would drop dramatically. These horses bring no harm to the environment and should be allowed to remain in the park.

Roxanne Westman
Roxie's Place Photography
Mapleton, ND

269.

Kim Scoville <kscoville0015@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 11:48 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I'm writing this email to remind you that these horses are a very important part of History. The removal or reducing their numbers to very few is like rewriting or erasing History and quite frankly I think their has been alot of that lately. People have the need to do what they think is best and listen to other's who think they know what is best. If you stop and listen to others who have been there for years and years and have documented the horses you will see they have been there longer than most people think. They have been on their own and have survived through it all for all those years without people stepping in, so why now do you feel the need to step in and remove History? Please listen to the people who are fighting for the horses and understand why we want them to stay in the park for everyone to see for years to come and beyond. I will continue to fight for their future to be free and wild as they have been for all these years. Please do not take their rights away.

Sincerely a let them be wild and free believer...

270.

Elke <sojourner.ok@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 11:49 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

We encountered these wild horses on our visit to TRNP - it was a wonderful and memorable experience and the park in my mind became synonymous with wild horses that day. They are very much part of the picture, and clearly an inspiration to many people. We have enjoyed following their lives virtually for several years now. We hope they are always treasured and permitted to remain wild, living, in the park.

Elke Edwards, Norman, OK

271.

Donald Green <dgreenassoc@comcast.net> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 12:05 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Before I can hardly even remember there were trips to North Dakota to visit my relatives. The excitement of finally leaving eastern Montana and reaching the North Dakota Badlands has been etched in my memories. My parents were beyond excited to see the buttes and canyons. Why? My dad was from Texas with the forever flat land and Mom was from North Dakota. They loved the colors and the wildness. Stories were made up over the years while we traveled and nothing better than bringing the Wild West alive 'in our minds and in the car'! Then to see the very first buffalo and the very first wild horse! I want everyone to have this experience today and forever.

Our 26th president Teddy Roosevelt also wanted us to have this experience of the outdoors and thus his Conservation Legacy came to be and the development of national parks. He knew that being outdoors and seeing our country was good for the soul.

Visiting this part of the world (just as important as visiting the Everglades, Grand Canyon, Glacier Park, etc) is experiencing and learning about all of the differences in this part of our world, the United States.

Taking away the Wild Horses in TRNP….please don't. If You start dissecting pieces out of the park we lose the total effect, the total experience, our culture, our Heritage. Do we take a coloring book and only color part of the page…no. We color the entire page to experience the whole picture.

Part of what I have read is that the horses are classified as livestock. The Webster definition of livestock is "farm animals" regarded as an asset for agricultural 'market'.
The wild horses are not livestock. They are a creature the same as the buffalo, the wolves, elk, etc. in Yellowstone we saw the wolves dissipated from the park and then had to be placed on Endangered Species Act. Do we have to keep re-establishing everything? No we do not.

There is a plan in place now for the management of the wild horses in TRNP and in other areas of the United States. Let the plan be or refine the plan. Just don't do away with the horses because it seems a burden.

Keep alive the history and legacies of our Indian warriors, the wild horses, the beauty of our park. Let's keep making memories. Let's keep the park full of color……the buttes, canyons, buffalo, elk, and wild horses…..let it live on as it was meant to be. As Teddy Roosevelt wanted it to be.

Sent from Sue's iPad

272.	**Marna Schulz** <marna_schulz@me.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 12:07 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Please don't remove the wild horses from the park. Anytime I get the chance to drive thru the park they are the most beautiful things I watch for and look forward to seeing. Sent from my iPad
273.	**Lori Swanson** <ljswanson@pioneerpress.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 12:33 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com During Covid for my 60th birthday, my sister and sister-in-law took our horses to Theodore Roseville National Park (from MN) to see the wild horses. It was a trip of a life time. We were lucky enough to see a band of wild horse and Circus one of the bachelor stallions. I wrote a story for the travel section for the Saint Paul Pioneer Press and TwinCities.com (link below). My impression of visitors at the park were more excited to see the horse than the buffalos. They horse bring a smile on everyone face. They are beautiful animals living in the wild - where else can you enjoy something like this. Keep the for our children enjoy. Leave them there so history can live on gracefully. Lori Swanson https://www.twincities.com/2020/09/05/where-to-throw-a-60th-birthday-bash-in-the-time-of-corona-the-badlands-good-idea/

274.

Kay Sakaris <sakakay@icloud.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 12:45 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

To Whom it May Concern:

I follow all of the Social Media accounts pertaining to the beautiful Wild Horses of Theodore Roosevelt Park.

While I am not sure I will ever be able to visit there in person as I am a disabled senior citizen, I live vicariously on the photo and stories of these beautiful horses. Every morning I eagerly look at Facebook to see what's new at TNRP. There are so many favorite horses, but my heart belongs to Boomer, the foal colt whose mother died shortly after he was born. He faced so many hardships but with the love and protection of his band he is thriving and will grow up to be a beautiful adult stallion. His whole band pitched in to help raise him. This is a testament to the fact that horses have love for their families, just as we do. I look every single day to get another glimpse of how Boomer is growing up and how he's doing.

Please don't take the horses away from us. I am not the only one who loves to see them, even if by a distance. They are beloved worldwide. I can't imagine Teddy Roosevelt wanting this herd to be eliminated. This Park was his vision. Please don't destroy it!

Thank you,
Kay Sakaris

275.

Mona Dagestad <mona.dagestad@yahoo.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 1:28 PM
Reply-To: Mona Dagestad <mona.dagestad@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I have been coming to TRNP for some time now. We used to come to the horse camp with our horses. My favorite feature in the park is the horses and second is the scenery/terrain. If the park no longer has the horse I will probably find other scenic parks to visit. My husband told me he would probably dusourse my ashes there as that seems to be mt happy place.

I would be very disappointed to hear the horses were gone. We need to do a better job when controlling number of foals born mithin the park.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

276.

Judy P <jsunnysis@yahoo.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 3:47 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

To the committee deciding the fate of our wild horses. That's right, I call them "our" wild horses. I know you have the best fate for TRNP in mind but our wild horses have become TRNP and American national treasures. I have seen the beauty of them running free and I believe our anthem, home of the brave and the free doesn't just relate to humans, but to the animals that live with us.

Please, please don't take away their freedom! Visitors, like myself, love to visit the park specifically to see them and my heart feels the freedom they stand for.

Thank you!

Judith Parins

278.

Erin Phillips <erinannaphillips@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 4:14 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hello Ms. Baldanza! Here's my story:

"Ever since I can remember, I've loved horses. I had as many horse figurines as I could when I was little, got my first "real" horse at seven, and started a mustang and burro rescue at seventeen. I have spent the majority of my free time for the last five years advocating for mustangs and burros and educating the public. That is just how much they mean to me.

I have never been to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. But I will be - as long as there are wild horses. I LOVE wild horses. Wild horses are the epitome of freedom and family. They are beautiful, proud, and loyal to their families. In 2020, I spent roughly the same amount of time with elk and bison in Yellowstone as I did with wild horses in Montana. As much as I love all of the wildlife I saw, I had a closer connection with the wild horses - they became my friends. Not many species of wild animals are followed and beloved enough to have names, but hundreds of wild horses do!

The first time I saw pictures of the TRNP wild horses, I was amazed at the various colors and how well the horses fit into the environment! These horses are truly special animals, and without them, the park would lose much of its value. I look forward to visiting TRNP someday and seeing the wild horses that helped give purpose and meaning to Theodore Roosevelt's life of conservation."

Thank you so much for all you are doing for the TRNP horses!

Erin Phillips
Founder | Mustang Mission | Fundraiser
Photographer | Nature Art | Store
Volunteer Coordinator | The Cloud Foundation
"The earth is the Lord's." Psalm 24:1

279.

Leanne Deptula <leanneud@yahoo.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 5:14 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

In September 2022 I had the pleasure of visiting Theodore Roosevelt National Park with my mom and sister on a 2 week road trip - taking in the beauty of MT, ND, SD, and WY. What a blessing it was to be able to see the wild horses at Theodore Roosevelt National Park at sunset. Just absolutely magical beauty. We could've stared for hours. I hope that we can preserve these wild horses so that other people can experience such majestic beauty in the wild.

280.	**Kacey Sykora** <kmtomchuk1@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 7:25 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I love going hiking and seeing the horses. I have grown up in SW ND and seeing horses in the park is part of the natural wonder, beauty, and pride. The park would not be the same without them.
281.	**Tiss Johnson** <tiss81@hotmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 8:53 PM To: "Info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <Info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK

My first visit to the park was in 2014. My friend wanted me to see his "Happy Place", the place he went when he wanted to "get away" from cattle or just to get away.
He loves to drive 80 miles to look at the wild horses and the scenery of the park.

On this, my first visit, we spotted a horse who was coming down to drink from the river. Later learning that this particular horse, was named Circus. So, he is one of my favorite horses in the park. And if he makes this hard long winter, he is the oldest stallion in the park.

As we continued to visit the park over the years. I would take my camera and take pictures of the horses. On one particular trip, we came across some other photographers, and I became friends with Deb Lee Carson and Lyle Glass. Deb told me that to get closer pictures from afar, I needed a bigger lens, so my friend bought me a 600 mm lens to fit my camera. And I have taken a lot of really nice pictures of the horses. Cocoa was another of my favorite horses and I have some really nice pictures of him.

As my friend calls me Sweetheart, Sweetheart the horse became another favorite and I have a really cool picture of her with her colt Rocky Mountain and a buffalo rolling in the background.

I follow several others, who also take pictures of the horses and keep track of what is going on in the park.

As a person who grew up around horses, I have some knowledge of the domestic horse. Wild horses are a bit different. But they are still horses and I feel they draw people to the park. Yes, the park is beautiful with all the different rocks, trees, etc. But being able to see

wild horses, in their environment is exciting too. To see them interact with one another.

I do understand that you can't have the herds getting out of hand with size, as to the size of the park, but there are other animals that need to be controlled too. The prairie dogs are taking over the park and ruining the landscape. I have prairie dogs on my own ranch, and I try to control them as best I can, not let them move in and take over. Grazing land does not need holes all over it.

I also feel that in removing the horses from this park, you will lose a lot of the people, local and from afar, who come to look for and at the wild horses. I know there are a lot of local people who drive to the park at least once or twice week, if not more, to check up on and see how the bands are doing and what changes they have made.

I feel that if the horses are removed from the park, that my friend and I will not be returning to the park. It has become our second home away from home, to enjoy the horses and have a day away from the ranch.

Sincerely;

Esther Johnson

282.

F **Family Works** Thu, Jan 12, 10:51 PM (4 days ago)

to me

My husband and I have been going to TRNP at least one time a year for the past 5 years. TRNP is one of the few places I know I can count on seeing wild horses so I can sit with them, observe them, and photograph them. We always stay in Medora and my husband loves to golf nearby while I travel the park roads from sunrise to sunset looking for the horses. I have traveled all over the US to photograph wild horses. I have been to 14 of the 17 or so states that have wild horses. TRNP is by far one of the easiest to find the horses and its beauty provides stunning backdrops for these beautiful horses. This is by far one of my favorite places to continue my quest for photographing wild horses. Often people will ask me for my opinion where they should go to find wild horses. TRNP is always the first I tell them about. The horses can be found from the car so it is family friendly for the younger kids and the older adults. The horses is the only reason I keep going back. The park would not be the same without this species of wildlife. Beauty is great but to me, the wildlife amidst the beauty is a rare gift, one that draws in all lovers of nature, wildlife, and their historical ties to the land. What TRNP has is truly remarkable. Teddy Roosevelt knew that and those who are avid nature lovers know it too. Over the years as I have photographed these horses, I have had many interesting and, exciting for me, adventures. One of the best times I had was photographing who I had learned is referred to as 'Gray Ghost.' His body showed his age and the wear and tear of fighting battles and staying alive. During this period of time while photographing him, I came to a deep realization of just how enduring these horses are! They must endure weather onsloughts, natural predators, and battles with other horses. Every bit of their behavior is driven by the instinct to survive. What impressed me the most was the weight of what they endure yet manage to win, to stay alive! That deeper realization has stayed with me and bled into other areas of my life, impacting me in ways that are all good. During one trip I found a beautiful blue roan stallion wearing unusual facial markings, standing in front of a beautiful backdrop.

After posing for me to get the shots I wanted, he ran off to trail Gray Ghost. Nearby, I saw the older white stallion (Gray Ghost) I had been photographing. He looked injured, a gash in his

flank, and moved slowly. The blue roan stallion followed him. Wherever Gray Ghost parked himself the blue roan was always nearby. I stayed with Gray Ghost for nearly 6 hours. I observed him, studied him, photographed him, talked to him. I didn't know the real story of Gray Ghost or the blue roan. I didn't know Gray Ghost would be found dead 2 months after I spent that day with him. But as I spent time with him I suspected he was at death's door. He looked beaten up and beaten down. That experience had such an impact on me, shaping my attitude about survival, deepening my understanding and appreciation for the fragility of life, and expanding my admiration of wildlife. I have to think Teddy Roosevelt had many such experiences that culminated in the creation of the park.

It was sad to me during the trips to follow this one, to not see him anymore. I learned much about these horses from the annual book published about the horses. I still love learning about the horses and making friends with many other fans of them. The wild horses are what draws me to TRNP. I would have no interest in the investment of time and money to make a trip there if there are no wild horses to photograph, learn about, observe and make new friends with other fans of the wildies.

Sincerely, Jan Trabue

283.

Karen Guthmueller <abccde6d@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 10:21 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

There is nothing more exciting when you are driving thru the park and come across a group of horses..so exciting to see them as it was years gone by..please don't take this away from us and future generations.
Karen Guthmueller Grantsburg WI

284.

Kathy Lee <kayosandhavoc@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 10:32 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

In 2016 I retired from my job. I traveled a lot for work but not much for personal pleasure. My sister, a school teacher, used her summers to see the country. She invited me on a trip to see some sights in the Dakotas. I went along for the ride. She asked me what I wanted to see. I thought for just a minute and said Theodore Roosevelt National Park. She said what's there ? I said wild horses.

I have always loved horses. I have never had the opportunity to have a horse but I took every opportunity to ride or care for other people's horses.

I was first introduced to the plight of wild horses in a book about Wild Horse Annie when I was a young girl. I have had a place for these wild ones in my heart ever since. Why is it that they are constantly under fire? What gain is there in eliminating them? They have been running wild and free on this land for centuries. They are as much a part of the ecosystem as the bison or elk.

My sister and I arrived at TNRP early in the morning. She was not excited. I was. We saw every kind of wild animal that helped shape the west. The horse herds were spectacular. At the end of our time she said this ended up being the best part of our trip. We actually returned the following morning at daybreak for one last visit. She said we must come back again. We are planning a trip for this next summer to see the horses. Without the horses there is no reason to return.

These horses are an integral part of this park. They have lived there for centuries. They cause no harm. Leave them be. Manage them humanely but leave the the wild ones in the wild places.

Respectfully,

Kathy Lee

--
Kathy

285.

Jill Robertson <jillrobertson010@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 12:36 PM
To: Jamie And Deb <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I have never personally been to TRNP.... But I know all about it and follow many photographers and FB groups made just for the Wild Ones as I like to call them.... My love of horses started when I was just a young girl... Then I always dreamed of owning and being best friends with a Mustang... My favourite breed of horse, Pure Black and Black and White are the colours I have always dreamed about..... When I think about or I am asked about my love of horses it is a Pure Black Mustang Stallion I picture in my head.... TRNP is the very first FB group I started to follow when I discovered I could see and learn about the Wild Ones, I loved the fact that I could follow along with the Wild ones and not be saddened by having to see that the BLM or the US government was rounding them up with those absolute disgusting cruel helicopters, there were at peace and could always run free and stay wild and they were safe living in TRNP and I was absolutely amazed that I could see pictures and videos and learn about the Wild Ones by loving, caring devoted people.... See I live In Midland Ontario Canada 🇨🇦 and unable to see these absolute majestic, beautiful, soulful creatures in person so following the ones I can was a thrill of a life time, and knowing I could probably follow the lives of some of these Mustangs from foal to adult to their end was so thrilling and a dream come true.... Now I know some of the foals are removed and find loving forever homes and I do understand why this happens, although this saddens me I do know it is something that needs to happen to help them flourish and thrive in the safety of the Park.... I have always been so proud and at peace with the way the park takes care of, and documents, and makes sure every single Wild One is thriving, along with the groups that tell their stories , take many many pictures and videos, who are so knowledgeable about each individual Wild One.... Who take the time to name them and notice personalities, know who mother is, who father is, siblings etc. I am proud to say I follow along with you all... TRNP turned me on to a whole new world of the Wild Ones.... Without them living their I would not know all I know today, I would not have my dream come true, I would not know all about my absolute favourite Mustang of all time "Circus" I wouldn't have even known he existed at all.... I would not have the pictures and videos of him (and many others) that bring much needed smiles to my face every time I log on to FB, and trust me those smiles I get are needed in my life more then words can describe.... Following these absolutely beautiful majestic has changed my life drastically for the better, for seeing these Mustangs and knowing that I will never have to see them being rounded up like so many others (which just disgusts me and makes me so angry and so sad and so frustrated with the BLM and the US government) brought peace of mind and joy to my soul and heart I can't wait to get on FB and see what's up with, oh let me see, Sidekick, Coal, Spotted Blue, Ember's Girl, Brutus, Circus(when he shows his amazing self) Red Face and the many others.... They are so at peace, I am at peace knowing they will always be safe, wild and free living in TRNP.... Well that is until now anyways.... Does your government not remember what the Horse is to all us human beings, what they have done for us, how they brought us into the future, how they gave themselves to allow us the freedom to travel easier and quicker, how many gave their lives beside your soldiers, how without them we wouldn't know anything about the famous "Horsepower" of our now transportation, how they are happy, free, wild not bothering anyone, not asking for anything, not depending on anyone for food, shelter etc.... How they are not costing anyone one red cent????? How TRNP wouldn't be the park it is without Thier choosing to live out their lives within the Parks boundaries, how many people wouldn't even know or care to know the park itself, and do they not even think about or acknowledge the money they actually bring the local towns and the probably the Park itself with the visitors that only go to see the Wild Ones the photographers that travel to the park for the soul reason to document and photograph the wild ones, they all need to eat somewhere, lay their heads somewhere, that all brings in revenue that a portion goes to the government, nope instead they want you tax payers, pay to take care of them, feed them, round them up..... Makes no sense to me..... Discombobulating if you ask me..... Just the pure joy the Wild Ones bring to people, they make many people's lives better, happier, more adventurous just being in the Park.... I know I was to write a story, I don't have just one story to write I have my reason for following and loving TRNP and believing in them and thanking them everyday for not being like so many other places the Wild Ones call home(or did call home) I loved the fact that other then being sadden by a death of one of the Wild Ones their would be no. Other reason for me to be sad, or angry, or frustrated and mad that I can only do so much from here in Canada to help them.... I could just peacefully watch, learn and enjoy them.... TRNP was the one place I could be at peace with and along side the Wild Ones.... Now that is being threatened and Iam at a loss for words, I am disappointed that this is even being thought of, Iam worried for all the parks Wild Ones, Iam frustrated with your government and their way of thinking, handling and total disregard and disrespect and lack of Caring for the one animal that gave us so much, brought us into the future we now know.. They need to re think their logic here bck off and leave all the Wild Ones in TRNP to Thier peaceful, not bothering anyone lives..... I don't know where I would get smiles from or be able to be at peace and fill my heart with joy and beauty and majestic loving souls. I stand behind all the Wild Ones in the park and across the USA.... Keep them thriving, keep them wild and free, leave them to their simple peaceful family oriented lives..... From here in Midland Ontario Canada 🇨🇦

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion.... Praying this and all the other stories, emails have a huge impact and the right thing is done....The Wild Ones remain as are in TRNP.....

JILL ROBERTSON
jillrobertson010@gmail.com
360 Borden Street
Midland Ontario Canada
L4R 2X2
DOI-BLM-WY-R020-2023-0003-EA

286.	**Jodi Bock** <jodi.bock@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 12:51 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I am writing in regards to the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt Park. I have been following the wild horses for years on Facebook and to be honest, I closed my Facebook account and then opened one under a pseudo name just to follow them. We also have been to the park to see them and it's the only reason we go there. The bison are OK, but I would never make a trip there to see them. I also realize there is a lot of other wildlife in the park, but most of them are elusive and you never see them. The horses deserve a place in the park and if they are removed completely I see no reason I would ever visit the park again. I also, understand, that there has to be some plan in place to control their numbers. By following the Facebook sites, I have seen that there are many other parks that have great plans in place that are working. I wonder why they aren't checked into and implemented in the TRP. Please, please keep these beautiful animals in the park, these horses aren't livestock, they were born wild and have shown that they can survive on their own. I know you consider them livestock because they are not native to the state, but truly the bison you have are not the original native bison either, they have been planted there from domesticated herds. The park is big and has room for all the horses, bison and other wildlife with good plans put in place, please take the time and find and research such plans. I'm asking that you please keep the horses in the park, I feel your park visitors will greatly decrease if they are removed. Sincerely, Jodi Bock

287.

Pat Young <PatriciaJoYoung@aol.com> Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 1:07 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hi Deb and Jamie,

Thank you for fighting for the horses at TRNP. I've been meaning to sit down and tell my experience there, but it's just been really hard and discouraging. It's yet another battle that shouldn't have to be fought. F'ing politics where there shouldn't be, can't start on that, argh.

It feels like it won't help, but here's my story. I love you both for what you are doing.

Pat

The first time I visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park was in 2014. My family had traveled from Minnesota to Dickenson, ND for a baseball tournament. We were looking for something to do to pass some time between games. TRNP seemed like it might be just the thing. We arrived there not knowing a thing about the park. Words cannot express the joy and excitement we felt at finding out there were wild horses there! We were short of time that day, but I knew that I needed to find out more. And I knew that I needed to return.

Since that initial trip in 2014, to learn more, I have found and follow several social media groups that highlight the wild horses. I've attended two photography workshops there, one in 2017 and one in 2018, with hopes to do more. The opportunity to see these beautiful animals living wild and free is beyond priceless. It's a chance to learn about wild horses living in natural herds and family units. It's seeing horses that are thriving without the interference of humans. It's a place to study wild horse behavior to help understand domestic horse behavior. They represent the romance and intrigue of taming the Wild West. It's a location where young and old can get a glimpse of our history, ask questions and have an idea of what our ancestors faced when settling in our great Country. Understanding that history is crucial to shaping our future. What a gift to have these horses protected in a location that is accessible to all!

Following the 2017 workshop, our leader asked if we would share a few thoughts regarding our experience. This is what I shared at the time:

"The beautiful scenery - the rugged terrain, the weather, the sunrises and sunsets - the people, the herds of bison, and the wild horses all played an important part in the weekend I spent at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. But for me, it was the wild horses that left the most lasting images in my mind and in my camera.

The powerful band stallions, the bachelors, and the mares were all breathtakingly beautiful. They each have their own battles, hardships, and struggles to survive wild and free. Getting a glimpse into their lives was captivating, inspiring, and heartbreaking all rolled into one.

That being said, it was the littlest foals that left the biggest impression on me and truly captured my heart. New lives that haven't been touched by the hardships of survival yet. Fuzzy spring babies that haven't seen many humans. They only know about naps in the soft grass in the sunshine, warm milk from their mamas,

romping with friends, and learning how to make those long legs go in the right direction. We got to see them before their curiosity turned into the wariness they will need to survive.

What a precious gift. I don't know the name of the foal in my favorite photograph, but for now I'm calling him Little Toot."

~Pat Young

(I used a long lens and cropped to bring this wee one closer in for the viewer.)

Hearing that there are discussions about drastically reducing the numbers and potentially removing these horses from the park has left me feeling heartsick. They are a National Treasure. They represent generations of our past. They need to be protected for our future generations at all costs.

Thank you for listening.

Pat Young

Minnesota

288.

Squarespace <form-submission@squarespace.info> Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 1:19 PM
Reply-To: barrie@bitstream.net
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sent via form submission from *Wild Lands Wild Horses*

Name: Barrie E Smeeth

Email Address: barrie@bitstream.net

Subject: Nokota horses

Message: To Jamie and Deb,
Please consider maintaining the wild horse herd which roams in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. These Nokota Horses are a primary resource within this park, along with the land formations and the buffalo. My husband and I discovered TRNP in 2002 or 2003 when we traveled from Minneapolis to Seattle. We had driven Hwy 2 before but had never stopped to see the park, and we were so delighted to find this treasure in our country!

On our first visit we simply drove the loop road in the southern section. It was early morning, a "swing through" the park before continuing our trip westward, and we were treated to the early stirring of the park's various creatures. The prairie dogs and hawks, some deer and a coyote pouncing on his breakfast - just outside our car window...We had driven through a large herd of buffalo before ascending and my husband commented, "Wouldn't it be amazing if we saw some horses also?" Moments later we rounded a bend to see before us, seven silhouetted horses single-filing along the ridge. It was breath taking. An absolute gift in the beginning of our day's journey. We planned to return to visit again one day.

Which we did! Twice! We camped alongside the Little Missouri River in TRNP and it was one of our favorite camping experiences ever. Groups of buffalo and wild horses crossed the river several times, right near our tent. We horseback rode, hiked, swam, photographed and explored the park (both the northern and southern sections), an exceptional area of land in our country. It is difficult to imagine Theodore Roosevelt National Park without the horses. The herd carries unique colorations with many blue and red roans and overo pintos, and contributes immensely to the park's attraction. There are few places in our country where visitors can view and even mingle a bit with horses living as these do in their natural habitat. I certainly hope a way can be found to maintain the viability of this unique feature of our North American west.
Warmly,
Barrie Smeeth

289.

Sharon Magnuson <smagnuson1026@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 2:09 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

My name is Sharon Magnuson, I grew up on a farm in the middle of Kansas lucky enough to have an Appaloosa mare but far from the lands that were home to wildies I loved so much. Without the existence of the internet in the 1980's my only connection I had to them was my beloved wild horse books, I read every Fury (wild stallion) book so many times I wore them out. I first discovered Picasso, the stunning stallion famous to the Sand Wash Basin in Colorado on Facebook and began following that herd on various pages until they came under threat from the very Bureau that was supposed to be there to protect them. The fight to save them was waged and lost and it was so disgusting to watch those regal proud mustangs rounded up and culled. Many foals died in the process, lost or trampled, unable to keep up with the inhumane helicopter used to run them down mercilessly. In the following days and weeks we were able to celebrate tiny victories as we were able to cheer for each horse that was lucky enough to survive the cull, released back into the land they loved lost without any connection to their band, their family and loved ones. The stallions running out bewildered and worried about their band of mares and foals they spent their lives protecting. It was devastating. I found Deb Lee Carson's page through Blaze who was in my mind an equally stunning and regal stallion to Picasso and discovered the North Dakota Badlands herd who I also began following in recent years through various Facebook pages and I truly fell in love with them. It was a sad day the passing of Blaze was announced but at least we knew he lived his best life and died free. With all the roan patterns so common to their coloring that so beautifully mimick the beautiful colors of the wild lands they call home I find them to be the most unique and stunning herd I have come across and vowed to visit in person and spend time with them. Last summer I made a quick trip to Deadwood South Dakota and Custer State Park and while it was very cool to learn the history of and to engage with the wild burros in Custer I was very disappointed that time did not allow me to make it up to see the horses. I vowed to make another trip up to TRNP exclusively for the horses very soon thinking they would be there waiting for me and now to know that I may have missed my chance is devastating. I can assure you if these horses are removed (such a benign word for slaughtered) North Dakota will not be receiving a dime of this tax payers money. These horses represent a living history of our past and the development of our country and it would be a disgrace if they aren't there for us and future generations to be able to visit and dream wistfully of the peace of simpler times. I won't even get into the politics of it as that would be another long and much angrier rant but I pray that we don't continue down this path of removing every reminder of how this country was built and the animals that helped build it. I have often hoped that after I retired I would have a chance to buy some land and adopt my own piece of living history, a TRNP horse, so I hope that opportunity doesn't die or more aptly is killed.. 😞

Sincerely a wistful, history loving, horse loving, proud American

Sent from my iPhone

290.

sandy hansen <schansen1@yahoo.com> Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 2:36 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

What better way to honor the park's namesake than to have wild horses running free in its borders? These horses represent the American Spirit, surviving and thriving in some of the harshest conditions found in the United States. There are 70,000 acres in Theodore Roosevelt National Park - there is more than enough room for the small bands running wild and thrilling park visitors. Please allow them to stay and add to the park history in a positive way.

Sandy Hansen
3951 115th Ave SE
Valley City, ND. 58072
schansen1@yahoo.com

291.

Elias Free <eliasdfree@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 12:07
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hi,

I thought I would send you a copy of what I have sent to Theodore Roosevelt National Park:

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to comment on the Livestock Plan in development for Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP). Since I heard about this plan being put in place I have spent a lot of time thinking and researching the problem (as I understand it.) Of course, I want what is best for the National Park and not just it's horses.

My wife and I are from Wisconsin and stumbled upon your park on one of our trips out west. I remember vividly, having completed the park loop road, driving towards the exit when we spotted a band of horses cooling off in a watering hole just past cottonwood campground. This moment immediately spoke volumes to me of a place that historically has had such a rich history of horses (both post and pre settlement) and sparked a love for your park and North Dakota. My wife and I have been to 53 of the nations National Parks and are working towards seeing the rest. I'll be honest, before this experience North Dakota would be in my bottom five states to visit in the US. But after having this experience with the horses my wife and I have been back 21 times since 2016. We've researched and recorded the bands as they moved through the park and changed through the years. It is our only reason to ever visit North Dakota. Without the horses, we would not return.

I have friends that have a career in conservation here in Wisconsin that I have been taking time to learn from. I have been growing in my understanding of horses and the role they play in North America, specifically in the geographical makeup of North Dakota. The term "rewilding" keeps coming up in our conversations. This is a mainstream practice in Europe's conservation efforts on their quest to help restore Europe back to what it may have been like in ancient times. This movement has been gaining momentum in the past 5 years in the United States. With horses playing a roll in the ecosystem of the badlands millions of years ago, I wonder if there is an important role the horses provide in reigniting what has been lost through settlement. Wether these horses are genetically related or not, their presence and behaviors positively affect the environment of the park. I'm wondering if TRNP is researching the ideas around "rewilding" and considering what a gift they may have in the park.

If the amount of horses need to be reduced based on their environmental impact, I wonder if reducing the heard by a smaller number could be beneficial. Reducing the herd by two thirds as proposed seems to be more aggressive than it needs to be. I wonder if one of the alternative plans could reduce the herd size down to 120 head and then asses the impact that size is having on the environment and adjusting from there. It seems to me the park is taking a more aggressive approach than it needs to.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts on this issue. My wife and I want what is best for the park and North Dakota and firmly believe keeping the horses in the park is in your best interest.

Please continue to preserve what the park has been since it's founding.

— Elias & Grace Free

292.

silverfoxes2227@outlook.com <silverfoxes2227@outlook.com> Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 6:08 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

To whom it may concern,
My email is in regards to the Wild herd of Horses living freely in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park.
I myself am a keen equestrian here in Scotland UK, I stand a APHA stud colt.
I have followed this herd of wild horses for a long time now. I enjoy following the individual horses and how they live, interact and move around the national park in their bands. It's beautiful to follow and watch, especially coming from a country where our own governments opinion is virtually non existent on our depleting number of wild horses, which is still dwindling.
Obviously I don't share your heritage being English, but seeing how the National Park is carefully managed with horses being an integral part of that eco system, and how proud, protective and loyal the vast majority of the human population are in regards to the continued preservation of the horses is nothing more than extraordinary. I cannot understand why anyone would fight to disrupt this. To remove something that is loved far beyond the bounds of the national park. I know there are a large population of followers of these horses in the UK alone.
These horses don't owe people anything, nor do they cause any harm.
I expect the also bring in visitors from afar, which financially helps surrounding businesses. Equestrians all over the world travel thousands of miles to see wild horses. Hopefully I will make the trip one day.
Here in the UK native horses have recently started to be used in regeneration programmes, where herds historically roamed before being wiped out. These natural grazing practices are being reintroduced, the impact of the horses moving across the terrain, the grazing habit and natural behaviours have impacted greatly already. Wildlife around these reserves here in the UK have flourish, more so small animals. Studies can be found easily online. We have no large predators in the UK, but I suspect that the horses will be a benefit also in the natural food chain.
Please don't make the stupid mistake our own government and societies made, they gave horses a backseat and almost treated them as pests on the land. In reality they were assets to the eco system when carefully managed. I believe there is deep regret in this now looking back.
It would be a really shame to remove the wild horses. The Equestrian world is an immense population. These horses, and many other wild horses are loved by millions.
Thankyou for reading, I hope this helps the cause.
Sally

293.

Nikki Bohn <snirt013@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 6:39 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Since 2009, my friend and I grabbed our daughters and set out to see TRNP. Never being there before, it would be a adventure, and only living 200 miles away, why not. Our first stop was the Painted Canyon, OMG so breath taking, how could something be so beautiful, peaceful, and magnificent and only 200 miles away. Needless to say, we have been going out there ever since things have changed a little kids have grown up with there own families and they are bringing there kids out to see what we saw. The first time we ventured into the park, the loop was under construction for repairs so we only saw a few horses, but we all fell in love with watching and seeing the horses. Many times in two days we went out to see just the Horses, watch them run, just peacefully graze, little ones sleeping or frolicking around, I could go on and on. With thousands of pictures from Old Fashion snapshot to the digital age. Even took Senior pictures with the horses in the background. Now with the potential of removing the horses, my Grandkids might never enjoy taking their kids to the Park, so sad. Yes there are other wonderful animals out there, don't get me wrong, but a lot of the wildlife are out of sight, because that is their instinct to hide in daylight hours. I love the buffalo traffic jams, but the horses are always different, new foals, with so many different patterns and colors, the stallions, fighting for their mares. Now if horses are removed totally removed the balloon will be deflated. The atmosphere will be flattened. The joy will be diminished. Thank you for fighting to save the Horses 🐂🐂🐂🐂🐂. Please God help us save the beautiful Creatures you created roam Free in TRNP. ❤️🐂❤️

294.

Jennifer Heppner Long <jjheppner@hotmail.com> Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 10:33 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I have been visiting the park annually since 2012. The favorite part of the park for me is seeing the wild horses. The park itself is so unique in landscape and beauty but the wild horses add so much more to my visits. For me i travel 560 miles one way to visit the park. I stay at sully creek camp group and bring my own horses to ride in the park. The peace i feel when riding in the park looking for the wild horses is worth the long travel and the expense. We regularly go to town to eat out or escape the heat of the day with some shopping. The park would not be the same without the wild horses. I hope they continue to reside peacefully in the park. They are an icon of our history and should be treated as such. Such a treasure, the park and the wild horses. Sincerely Jennifer Heppner Long, International falls, MN.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get Outlook for Android

295.

Vickie Olson <jimvicol@drtel.net> Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 12:21 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I am an 80 year old citizen from North Dakota and am very worried about the wild horses in TRP. The horses have always called TRP home and always should. My family and visiting family and friends from around the USA have enjoyed visiting and staying in the park. Besides the buffalo, the horses are such a beautiful part of the park. The children (and adults) loved to see who would spot the horses first. Their colors and majesty is amazing to see. There is nothing like spotting the colts with the herd. If there is a need to cull or control breeding then do that do not remove, please. My next statement will be sarcastic, but also meant in honesty!! What drunk (and that is an insult to a good drunk) on the board ever thought this was a good idea!!!

Vickie Olson (a person who adores these horses) – Oakes, ND

Sent from Mail for Windows

296.

Alissa Thiessen <alissajt@nemont.net> Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 4:16 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I'm writing this email to voice my feelings on keeping the horses at TRNP. I've been visiting both the north and south units my entire life. We've had many family gatherings in Medora over the years, and in the north unit. The highlight of touring the parks has always been seeing the horses. Seeing the horses in the park was like winning the lottery. I tour the parks just to see the horses. I can't imagine why anyone in their right mind would want to remove these beautiful animals from the parks. What a terrible thing to do. They belong there, and deserve to keep their home. Please keep the horses. Would not want to visit again if they are removed. Alissa Thiessen

297.

Deborah Turvey <debturvey@hotmail.com> Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 5:00 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Good morning, I live in Australia and follow your magnificent wild horses. Please don't take them away from their environment. We have nothing like this in Australia you should be very proud to have them not wanting to get rid of them. Please leave them where they are.
Yours Faithfully,
Deborah Turvey
44 Merewether Street,
Merewether. 2291

Sent from my iPad

298.

Claudette Biel <bielclaudette@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 5:08 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I am writing to give my story about why we go to TRNP. We have been going to Medora for over 20 years and we go to the park to see the wild horses. We have rode our horses in the park several times and always try to spot the wild horses. It is very exciting when we see them! They are so beautiful and interesting to watch. We don't get too close because they are wild! Even if we don't go into the park, we try to spot the horses as we drive by the park on the interstate. It is always a win when we spot them! Last summer we rented the Roundup Horse Camp for four days and there was a herd close to the camp. We saw them several times. That was very thrilling!! I want to do it again and maybe we could see more of the horses. Our kids and grandkids enjoy them, too. We had 8 of our grandkids with last summer at the Roundup camp and I am so happy that they got to see the wild horses roaming free! I hope that the horses can continue to live in the TRNP.
Sincerely,
Claudette Biel
New Effington, SD

299.

Elise Larson <Elise.Larson@k12.nd.us> Sun, Jan 15, 2023 at 10:32 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

300.

I was born and raised in small town North Dakota. Our family took summer trips out to Medora/TRNP as it was the only place my father was willing to take time off from his business to travel to. He loved the Park—it was always the highlight of our trips. In 1988, I found myself at a crossroads, blowing in the wind. College wasn't working out and I really had no purpose or direction in life. I turned to the place that had always spoke to me and found myself employed at TRMF at the Badlands Saloon as a bartender/waitress. Those of us at the Saloon (We were 21) lived in a little white square house east of the Old Town Hall. At random times of the day or night, we'd come home to find Leo Kuntz watching TV in the living room and we'd chat for a bit. That was the first I became aware of the Nakota horses in the Park. I spent what little free time I had exploring the Park—the trails, hills, creeks—and it's wildlife, especially the horses.

In the mid-1990s, my husband and I began taking our small family on a yearly trip to TRNP. We stayed in Dickinson and traveled out each day to drive the park. We packed our lunch and would sit for hours watching the bison and the horses whenever we came upon them. Eventually, we could afford to stay in Medora and do our travels through the Park twice a day! About seven or eight years ago, we bought a camper and now we camp in Medora and spend 75% of our three night stay in the Park. This is our annual family vacation and our children are grown and beginning their own families, yet they still eagerly look forward to our time together in TRNP.

Why are our trips to TRNP so incredible? We love the breathtaking views; the bison who travel on the road, grunt and plow the earth; the trails that twist and turn to reveal more splendor; the sound of the wind in the grass as it brings the chirp of the prairie dogs or the trill of the bird; the smell of sagebrush and dirt—even sulfur—on a hot dry wind; the sight of a regal elk along the skyline at dusk and a loping coyote as it hunts its next meal. But to be honest? It is the horses that draw us yearly for an extended exploration of TRNP.

I have always had an affinity for horses, yet never had the means to own one of my own. I stumbled upon Deb Lee Carson's Facebook page where she documents in photography the horses of TRNP. It was like it was meant for me to find! I eagerly began following other pages that also depicted the horses. Cowboy Lyle, who I knew from my days in 1988 in Medora, also posted his photographs. I was hooked in a way I had never been before with the horses I had always loved! I bought books that contained photos and lineages of the horses, maps of various band locations and members of each band. My children passed the books around as we drove through the park with our binoculars and it became an even more exciting trip—to find and identify as many horses as we could; to watch the horses in their natural environment, living free and wild. The kids each have their favorites. They know what part of the Park to expect to run across horses and even the names of various locations within the Park where the horses like to reside. It's not because of the buffalo or the elk or the prairie dogs that my children have this intimate knowledge of TRNP. It is due to the horses. Those horses are what we come to TRNP for.

My youngest is recovering from neurological Lyme disease. She is an animal lover, and always begged for a horse but we live in a small town. Over the years when we explored TRNP, she struggled to keep up on trails or even to stay engaged while we drove through at dusk. She has lacked stamina for years. In late April of 2019 I drove the 3.5 hours to take her to TRNP for the day. She was 16 years old. She slept most of the way out but when we entered the Park, she was sitting up in the car, eagerly looking for horses, with my NDBH books in her lap. We traveled almost halfway through, past Buck Hill (loop

road was open), before we saw our first band of horses. We were by Talkington when we found Redface's band close to the road, with several foals. The little ones were jumping, running and displaying all kinds of antics! We shut off the car and sat for over an hour just watching the horses along the road. My daughter was smiling, laughing at the little ones and excited to be there. That trip still makes me tear up because my daughter, through her Lyme, had lost her spark in life. Lyme robs you of your emotion, energy, and interests. Lyme gives you pain, panic, anxiety, depression. She was slowly slipping away from us, but that day, with those horses—I saw my daughter light up. She was engaged with life—even for those few precious hours. Those horses were the only thing that always broke through to bring joy to my daughter's life. In 2020 we finally got a Lyme diagnosis and she began treatment.

In 2022, we spent our three days in the Park in early August. This time, our youngest daughter had healed enough to enjoy TRNP in a way she had never been able to before. She asked to hike! She was leaning out the window with her binoculars, spotting all the horses first. When we found several bands of horses by Talkington, she jumped out and into the bed of the pickup to have the best view as horses loped all the way around the pickup as they made their way up the side of the butte. She was excited but trying to stay quiet but couldn't help herself—we heard her giggling. We stayed there for over an hour at dusk as the horses walked over the road, alongside the pickup, down the ditches as they made their way out of the valley. We identified most of the bands and a majority of the individual horses. Our hearts were singing and we were all grinning on the way back to town as we discussed the amazing experience with the horses that day.

I had been in education for 27 years teaching 7-12 social studies. North Dakota history is packed full of the horse in our state. Kids learn about the West and Teddy Roosevelt and experience them first hand while in Medora and TRNP. The horses are an integral cultural part of our state's history that cannot be separated from Teddy Roosevelt, the Sioux, Cheyenne or MHA. History comes alive and has a much greater impact when one experiences it rather than reading about it in a textbook.

For many, I would venture the majority, of visitors—the horses are a soul soothing and exciting part of TRNP. Without the horses in the Park, my entire family has already voiced they would no longer wish to spend three days exploring the Park on our visits. I believe our annual visits would cease as a family. Day trips out and back would be done instead. The Park would be empty of that spark of excitement the horses, living wild and free, give it. There is a profound connection between horses and children—humans—that bison, elk or coyotes do not have. These horses are an iconic part of this particular park. Please listen as I plead for their protection within the park—not only for me and my family, but for my children's children.

These horses in TRNP a necessary part to our cultural, historical, economical and spiritual essence of our state and people. Their loss would be a gaping wound.

Elise Larson
Linton, ND

301.

Sandra Ranney <shonto4858@hotmail.com> Sun, Jan 15, 2023 at 1:30 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I, and I'm sure many others, was sickened by the callous way that meeting was handled. I read the report of their findings. So unreal and heartless. Wild horses may not be considered "wildlife", but they have been a part of the wildlife community for more years than we care to count. Pictures have been posted of the horses alongside buffalo and other wild, non-predatory animals, as they fit in without a problem. Should it really matter that the herds may have started with horses strayed from this ranch or that? ABSOLUTELY NOT! Come on! Even those horses may very well have started out wild and roaming the range. Do we need to go into where they came from originally? I think not! Regardless of those factors, they have lived as wild animals for many years and through many generations. I feel they should have the right to remain as such. They already keep the horse population down with the captures they do, which can be hard enough to deal with, though we can pray all of those adopted do go to loving, understanding homes. But what about those who are captured and not adopted? What happens to them? We really don't like to think about that, but I feel they should be returned to the wild.

Their reasoning for removing all of these beautiful horses from the Park is unsound. The Park consists of a huge area that is not to be developed and I highly doubt that, to allow the horses to remain, any noticeable damage will result from their presence. The horses do attract visitors to the Park. I live in Michigan and have my entire life (almost 65 years). I learned of this Park and these horses through the "Wild in North Dakota" group and the pictures and comments posted from them online. Getting to see the new posts and following these herds, loving the pictures, even saving many of the pictures to my computer wallpaper file, makes my day. Every day. I hoped to, someday, make the trip from Michigan to North Dakota JUST TO VISIT THESE HORSES!! I make donations to help support this group and one of my daughters makes it a point to purchase a calendar for me every year which I receive as a Christmas gift. I'm sure there are many others who donate far more than I do who do this FOR THE HORSES. It's not fair to the people nor to the horses to deny the Park these glorious animals.

The Park belongs to the people? Does it not? Is there not some way we, as citizens of the United States of America, can petition/protest against this action??? Is there not some way it can be dealt with by the votes of the people (us!) Shouldn't we have a right to some say, say that will COUNT, regarding this National Park???? We don't want to lose these wild horses. They are an icon that deserves to continue to exist in wild area's like this!

302.

Theresa Mallory <tess_92@hotmail.com> Sun, Jan 15, 2023 at 3:26 PM
To: "Info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <Info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I've been going to TRNP for 45 years now it wasn't until my 5th year I'm guessing? that I learned about the wild horses I seen them just thought they were someone's ranch horses..lol I am a huge horse lover and since I have learned there are wild horses out there I try to visit as much as I can every year to photograph them or to show them to friends and family from out of state. I would really have no reason to go to the park if they were to take them out as that is the only reason I continue to visit.
As many years as I have been going there I have never known the park to really advertise them so there are many people who don't know they exist in the park. Thanks to people like yourselves who do talk about them are making more people aware so thank you for that!
I do believe the park will take a hit if they do take them out ..granted they will still get the people who go for the musical .
It really saddens me as to me those horses are a huge part of that park.

303.

Bonnie Maier <maierbonnie82@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 15, 2023 at 4:51 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

To Whom It May Concern:

I've been following several blogs regarding the wild horses in TRNP for quite a few years, and it has been on my bucket list to visit the park and see the herd for myself. In fact, a large group of us were well into the planning stages of a week-long visit to the park in the summer of 2020, but obviously COVID-19 happened and put a hold on those plans. Now, we understand that the park is considering removing most, if not all, of the wild horses and we are deeply distressed. The wild horses are what sets this National Park apart from most other Parks in the United States. Now that travel restrictions have eased my group was planning to finally visit and see them for ourselves, but if they are to be rounded up and sold we will have no choice but to look elsewhere for the opportunity to experience wild horses. We realize that managing the Park and all its wild inhabitants is far from being an easy task, but there must be a better solution. For the sake of the horses themselves and the visitors who are anxious to see them wild and free, please reconsider this course of action.

Thank You Very Much,
Bonnie Maier
Downers Grove, Illinois

304.

January 12, 2023

The wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park brought my family closer together and many other families in my life as well. My daughter and I visited the park in April 2022. We would not have traveled to North Dakota or this particular National Park if it were not for the chance to see these incredible horses and their families. It gave my daughter and I a chance to spend precious time together giving back to animals that have given us so much in our lives.

What is more, on this trip to see the TRNP wild horses, I made a decision that has positively impacted the lives of many families in Richmond Va. I am a Therapist who specializes in the treatment of eating disorders and have been for many years. But, after seeing the wild horses with their families, I decided to focus my work on helping families keep their children at home to recover rather than what is traditionally done and facilitate children being taken from their families and placed in treatment facilities to recover. Now, I have a highly sought after, growing Outpatient Practice, providing a multi-person care team to help families to keep their children at home to heal.

Seeing the incredibly strong and loving bonds that horses have in the wild, so different from the domesticated horses I grew up with, shook me awake to see the truth of family attachments. If given the right environment in which to grow, family bonds are more powerful than any non-family attachment. I see that in my work, when parents help their children to heal they heal faster and have a better chance of full recovery than if clinical teams help them to heal. And keeping families together makes the relationships stronger, positively impacting the lives these children touch throughout their lives.

I know I'm just one of many humans who have been profoundly changed by these wild horses. In a world where family, freedom and wild, wide open spaces are dwindling, these horses, in this place, remind us they are worth protecting.

My daughter and I want to visit TRNP and its wild horses for years to come and hope we get the chance!

Julie Samitt
Richmond, Va

305.

Nancy Gorla <elrttchr@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 15, 2023 at 6:52 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I am writing to comment on how following the horses of TRNP has effected me. I started following the posts from WILD IN NORTH DAKOTA on Facebook many years ago. The pictures of the beautiful, majestic horses caught my attention, and reading the information posted by page manager Eileen has taught me so much. I learned about the role of the stallions and the protection of their bands, the frequent attempt by other stallions to 'steal' from another's band, and the role of the lead mare. I saw the birth of a foal and have watched them grow. All of this in the beautiful TRNP. I have learned so much through this site. The photos, stories/information, have provided a look into the incredible world of wild horses that I would have otherwise never known. Although I have not visited TRNP (I live in the midwest), I'm able to step into this world via Wild in North Dakota. The horses have become familiar to me, and truly hold a place in my heart. I worry about new foals as winter comes, and I'm saddened when a beloved horse dies. I find joy in the close bond between mare and foal, and the closeness of siblings. I've watched and worried about the birth of a particular foal who would face a struggle for survival when his mother died shortly after his birth. How this foal was taken under an older sibling's wing is still remarkable to me. It is important that these horses are allowed to live wild and free on the only land that they've known. To remove them would be incredibly cruel and heartbreaking to these ma all who love them.

306.

Nancy Gorla <elrttchr@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 15, 2023 at 6:52 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I am writing to comment on how following the horses of TRNP has effected me. I started following the posts from WILD IN NORTH DAKOTA on Facebook many years ago. The pictures of the beautiful, majestic horses caught my attention, and reading the information posted by page manager Eileen has taught me so much. I learned about the role of the stallions and the protection of their bands, the frequent attempt by other stallions to 'steal' from another's band, and the role of the lead mare. I saw the birth of a foal and have watched them grow. All of this in the beautiful TRNP. I have learned so much through this site. The photos, stories/information, have provided a look into the incredible world of wild horses that I would have otherwise never known. Although I have not visited TRNP (I live in the midwest), I'm able to step into this world via Wild in North Dakota. The horses have become familiar to me, and truly hold a place in my heart. I worry about new foals as winter comes, and I'm saddened when a beloved horse dies. I find joy in the close bond between mare and foal, and the closeness of siblings. I've watched and worried about the birth of a particular foal who would face a struggle for survival when his mother died shortly after his birth. How this foal was taken under an older sibling's wing is still remarkable to me. It is important that these horses are allowed to live wild and free on the only land that they've known. To remove them would be incredibly cruel and heartbreaking to these ma all who love them.

307.

Marlene Martin <marlenesellsmichigan@yahoo.com> Sun, Jan 15, 2023 at 7:16 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

This Letter is to EVERYONE that loves the wild horses of TRNP and wants to keep them wild and free!

My interest in the TRNP wild horse herds began in 2012 when I took my 8-year-old son on a 22 state road trip. We researched every State that we visited and learned much about Teddy Rosevelt and how he used his authority to establish many National Forests and Parks. We learned that they built a boundary fence to enclose the TRNP in 1956, relegating the horses to roam the south unit's 46,158 acres, which became the enclave for North Dakota's last remaining wild horses. I saw the wild horses that day and since then I have followed the herd and bought a calendar every year with pictures of the horses! I cried when Blaze and Strawberry died (and many others too) I laughed at the antics of the young ones and watched the bachelor boys become band stallions in their own right. For 67 years now we as people of the United States trapped the horses in the park and WE have the responsibility to protect them!
There are a number of reasons why people argue that the North Dakota Badland horses should be saved. Some of the main reasons include:
The horses are an important part of the ecosystem, helping to maintain the grasslands and providing food for predators.
The horses are a part of the cultural heritage of the region, and have been present in the Badlands for centuries.
The horses are a unique and distinct subspecies, known as the Kiger Mustangs, that are not found anywhere else in the world.
The population of the horses is relatively small and vulnerable, and they are at risk of extinction if not protected.
Saving the horses can also have economic benefits, as they can be used for ecotourism and other activities that can generate income for local communities.
Overall, many people believe that the North Dakota Badland horses are a valuable and important part of the natural and cultural heritage of the region, and that efforts should be made to protect and preserve them for future generations.
Thank you for your time and I hope" We the People" will be heard to protect the wild herd!
M. Martin from Holly Mi

Marlene Martin

308.

Lee Mitchelson <leemitchelsonart@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 16, 2023 at 10:23 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

My thoughtfully-planned and excitedly prepared for trip to TRNP from many states away, will simply never occur if the wild horses are removed from the park. The travesty of it will be compounded by the cruelty of removing the oldest patriarch and matriarch stallions and mares and by the dangerous over-stressing of the oldest and the very young. I am from The Black Hills of South Dakota. When I say that the wild West and the pioneer-spirit still exist in the Dakotas, I know of what I speak. There is a reason Teddy Roosevelt loved it there and loved the horses and the aura of the region has changed very little since those days! People who do not understand or value that lifestyle or genre, have no concept of what they are threatening when they destroy wild horse's lives and critical family structures that are part of that world. I do not hesitate to say that cruelty to animals and blatant disregard for the wishes of the people who seek their protection is the devil's work...as his greatest powers to affect living things are lack of compassion, absence of conscience and limitless greed. Those are what I see at work, when wild horses and burros are in danger. Lee Mitchelson

309.

John Fontneau <devon451@comcast.net> Mon, Jan 16, 2023 at 10:16 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

To Theodore Roosevelt National Park,

We have followed the wild Mustangs, and Burros, who reside at National Parks across our country. Some of them, we have been lucky enough to be able to visit, others are on our bucket lists to visit sometime in the future. Still others, we will probably never be able to visit, but, we still look forward to, and, enjoy all the posts from fellow horse/ nature lovers so that we can enjoy them from afar. To say that they are a huge part of our love of our national Parks is an understatement. They are all part of our history, and part of our future. They are what is great about the parks system, they keep the parks balanced and add to the beauty of nature. There are so many groups who work endlessly to help manage and protect the horses and burros. and they have programs that work, and have been proven to work well. If the horses are removed from the parks, or culled back to herds so small that they can not genetically survive, then we will never visit those parks in the future, or support them. The assault on our Nations wild horses and burros has to stop. We hope to continue to see all these beautiful souls, running wild and free on our lands. They are the reason that so many visit and support the Parks. Please let them have a future. We will always support good, well planned management of the herds, and we are hoping that this is how it works out for TRNP.

Sincerely,

John & Karen Fontneau

Attleboro, MA

310.

Kari Nelson <attuneequine@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 16, 2023 at 10:24 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I wish I had the experience, I hope I have the chance to see the TRNP wild horses with my own eyes…in the park.

I have been watching these horses from a distance for the past 10+ years. Although I have never personally witness the beauty, I have watched through the eyes of many talented professional and amateur photographers that frequently travel the lands. The stories of herd dynamics is simply fascinating. You can't learn about it at a zoo or a farm. It's just not the same experience.

My family and I had our first trip to the park planned for the summer of 2020. As you can guess, it was cancelled due to the pandemic. My busy schedule did not allow a trip last summer. 2023 was going to be the year, but now, I fear my motivation to visit will be lost if the wild horses are not freely roaming the park as they have done for so long. The horses call TRNP home, I pray they aren't taken from it.

~Kari N.

Sent from my iPhone

311.

cdmontana@aol.com <cdmontana@aol.com> Mon, Jan 16, 2023 at 11:13 PM
To: Info@wildlandswildhorses.com

The wild horses at TRNP represent the Spirit of the Wild West and the great history America grew out of.

These wild horses are the descendants of Spanish, embraced by the Native Americans over the last 400 years, to live by hunting and traversing the great plains, mountains and deserts. An incredible lifestyle was enabled by these wild horses for Native Americans to become independent and not bound to waterways for travel.

The roaming life that was harnessed with these animals, fueled by hardy determination, as witnessed by Lewis & Clark, the pioneers and settlers, fostered the essence of the American Dream and drove the Manifest Destiny that is the foundation of America.

The inspiration provided by these horses with their beauty that adorns the TRNP reminds us of our past, the roots of our great country and the deep swirling hard nature that the young United States of America was born from, inspiring Teddy Roosevelt.

Please keep the wild horses at TRNP

Sincerely

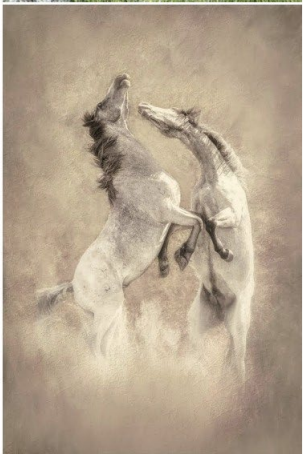
Dan Roesler

312.

Karen Mahoney <kmahoney605@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 12:35 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

My first visit to TRNP came just short of six years ago, a trip planned by fellow photographers. I so vividly remember the first day of being in the midst of the wild horses. It was a foggy, damp May morning. I sat in the wet grass with my camera as the herds nickered and neighed and gently moved through the fog.
This was just the beginning of many trips to TRNP to photograph the wild horses, and more importantly, just to spend time with them.
The badlands landscapes are beautiful in their own right, but the wild horses breathe life into the hills and valleys. To take them away would take away the spirit of the land.
Words fail me. How does one describe the feeling of sitting on a hillside at sunrise watching a string of wild horses step down the adjoining hill to their grazing land? Or quiet nickering of a herd as they move to the edge of a stream to water? The sound and energy of two band stallions facing off for the right to keep their family? The neigh of a mare calling her foal who has wandered a little too far?
One doesn't just see these things, one must feel these things, as well. One must step into nature and let it soak into your soul. That's what the wild horse herd at TRNP does for this photographer. May we keep the herd, so future generations may experience it as well.

Karen J Mahoney
KJMahoney Photography



313.

arabians <arabians@nuveramail.net> Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 8:05 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I go every year to North Dakota to see the Wild Horses! They are the reason I go. I love to see them in their natural habitat.
I also drive to CO to visit all 3 Wild Horse places I know about.

This year I went twice to ND to see them. I even stopped for 2 days to see them when I was coming thru from a vacation in Montans. I made time to stop, see the horses, get a room, see the play.
If not for the horses I would have just driven thru your state without staying a few days.

If you have to cut the herd I understand but to eliminate them???

Ted Roosevelt support Wild life.. these horses are wild!!! And tourists want to see them

Please keep our horses!!!

Sue Barlage
Minnesota

314.

Nora Macbook <kanedla@midco.net> Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 12:10 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have owned, ridden and showed horses for many years. I do live in the city but managed to ride or tend to my horses every day. Boarding facilities became more scarce so when my last horse died I sold all my tack and moved on to photography. I didn't lose my love for horses. I would photograph friends' horses or try to photograph other wildlife but my heart wasn't in it. When I went to TRNP for inspiration the bison, prairie dogs, coyotes etc. just didn't get it for me. When I saw the wild horses my lens instantly focused on them! How beautiful, how free and how in tune they were with their surroundings. I fell in love all over again. I couldn't wait to see the next band or even a single horse! It was exhilarating! I would send pictures to a friend of mine who I knew spent a number of years in the park studying the wild horses. I would ask "Which horse is this? What band is she in?" I think my friend got tired of my asking questions so then she asked "How would you like to volunteer to document the horses in the park? You hike, learn their names, and photograph all you want"? This was my dream job! When can I start? After a bit of training I was on my own, but always had someone to help if needed. I soon learned their personalities, families, where they hung out during which season. I was awe struck! The wild horses were more than I ever imagined! The wild horses were truly amazing. This must be what heaven is like. I was sad when I had a leave to make the 135 mile drive home. But I knew when I returned the wild horses would still be there.

In 2022 I spent approximately 1200 hours in the park. I would hike to find them, document new foals, band changes, who's with who, who got kicked out and now a new bachelor learning his way in the place that is home and just sit and watch. I stayed in motels, ate out of a cooler, dodged the bison, up early in the morning and to bed late at night. As long as a could see the wild horses I was more than happy. They made my heart sing.

2023 is here and if the horses from TRNP are removed I for one will not return. The bison, prairie dogs, coyotes, magpies, etc all look the same-if you've seen one you've seen them all and the scenery is only beautiful when there is a horse in it.

Nora Kane
,

315.

Dona M <countryslickerincity@yahoo.com> Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 1:15 PM
Reply-To: Dona M <countryslickerincity@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I have been to Theodore Roosevelt National Park many times. I was raised in North Dakota but moved to Arizona in 1979. When I travel home one of the first things I plan is a trip back to the park. The beauty of the park is spectacular seeing the bison is always enjoyable but when I get to see the wild horses an emotional connection comes over me I can't explain. They are as much or more a part of the park as any animal there. To remove the horses would be like removing the spirit of the entire area. There are not a lot of places to see wild horses any longer. Please consider allowing the wild horses to stay for all that visit the park to enjoy the full beauty of the area.

Cordially,
Dona Molet
1443 S. Palo Verde St.
Mesa, Az 85209

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

316.

RK Lagler <RKLagler@outlook.com> Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 1:52 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I will never forget when stallion Mystery's body was located. I will never forget the bison surrounding Gray Ghost's body paying their last respect. I am so happy to catch a glimpse of Bloom/Boomer and Amite affirming they are thriving in TRNP. I end every day visiting several social media accounts sharing, enjoying, and being part of daily life of the wild horse herd.

And now, suddenly, out of the blue, we learn the beloved herd will be eliminated?!?! I will never fulfill my dream to visit TRNP if the horses are gone. The horses ARE the park – the main attraction, the reason people go to TRNP. The horses enhance the natural beauty, remind us of earlier times, the mystic of the Native American culture. It's exciting to see them! The horses have lived in the Badlands for hundreds of years… and now they are a problem? Or is the government the problem..

Teddy Roosevelt would fight to keep the herd. It's unfortunate that the superintendent and bureauocrats cannot find the basis to keep the herd. Perhaps the horses were excluded from the 1916 Act because they were a natural part of the Badlands. Reading between the lines and twisting language into a pretzel to accomplish something that no one wants does nothing but antagonize. The taxpayers own the park and overwhelmingly want the wild horses to remain. "Herd management" does not mean "herd elimination". Perhaps the State of North Dakota should assume management of wild horse herd.

The possibility that the government will eradicate a beloved herd is sad, frustrating, and simply outrageous.

317.	**Noreen Mohr** <noreenmohr@hotmail.com> Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 2:37 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> My sister and I added an addition to TRNP when we went to Mt. Rushmore several years ago. She is an avid horse lover and it was a dream of hers to go see the wild horses. It was a wonderful experience to see them in their natural habitat, free as their ancestors were to run wild. It would be a shame for future generations of horse lovers to not be able to experience this and for the horses to be removed from their land. Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S22 Ultra 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone

318.

Janie Thompson <janiewt2008@att.net> Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 6:07 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Comments: I have never been to TRNP and may never get there in my lifetime, but I avidly follow both Wild in North Dakota and Dakota Grown Facebook pages that document the horses that call the park home. These wild horses absolutely represent the very image of the American ideal of life in the great American West. Theodore Roosevelt held a special place in his heart for the rugged West and worked his entire life to preserve portions of this country via the National Park system so that current and future citizens could develop the same appreciation. How could decimation of this special herd of horses do anything but destroy the very thing he established and in the very park named for him? These wild horses typify the ideal he wanted as many Americans as possible to experience - whether personally or vicariously. This herd of horses have a world wide audience that are interested in them on a daily basis. This appreciation has translated in park visitors from many countries, as well as providing a targeted destination for US citizens. They have provided untold publicity for the state of North Dakota itself.

While I can understand the concept of minor Park involvement in herd number management control, I fail to comprehend why the Park Service would wish to destroy animals that do nothing but provide greater interest in the state and their beautiful representation of life on the prairie as it occurred naturally in days long gone by! These horses live their lives quietly and without any outside care for their health. They survive the hot summers and the bitter winters. They represent the very heartiness of the two-legged pioneers that settled this great country

I pray that the Park Service of North Dakota will reconsider their plan to destroy this most wonderful natural resource - a totally wild, free, and beautiful herd of horses. They are a great asset to your state, not a liability!

320.	**Eileen Muus** <eileenm@srt.com> Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 6:57 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Please leave the horse's alone in the park they have been there for years and are park of the park's eco system. They are not hurting anyone they and are beautiful to see. People go see the horse's and know their names and which band they are from. You don't hear that with any other animal in the park. Eileen Muus
321.	**Syndi Miske** <smiske75@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 17, 9:17 PM (18 hours ago) to me, Syndi

THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK HORSE EXPERIENCE
by Syndi (Musland) Miske

I do not recall exactly how old I was the first time I saw the horses at Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP), however, I have had a relationship with them as long as I can remember. My family faithfully vacationed to Medora every summer when I was a child. In my younger years it was extremely difficult to get a close look at the horses because they were so spirited, spooky, and unattainable. As the nature of the round-ups changed the horses became easier to view.

I was the third of four children and every summer we consistently pleaded with our parents to bring our own horses to Medora to ride in the park. As a young child I thought that would be the ultimate vacation. Several decades later, having experienced this, I truly believe this to be the ultimate vacation.

My Dad told us that when he had a reliable enough pickup to make the trip we would take our horses. I secretly hoped that if I had my own horse to ride I would be able to get closer to the horses. Instead of visions of sugar plums in my head the night before Christmas, I had visions of TRNP wild horse manes and tails blowing in the wind. The unique colors of the TRNP horses painted the already beautiful ND landscape. When I was in seventh grade we finally had a vehicle that could withstand the trip carrying a load of saddle horses that far.

Our first trip to TRNP with our own horses was in the late ’80's. Many may remember how difficult the ’80’s were due to drought and high interest rates. It was a tough time for people, especially those raising a family. My little sister and I felt as though we were traveling first class as we nestled in the hay in the gooseneck of our stock trailer traveling 280 miles across the state to Medora. It was in July and quite warm. The vents of the stock trailer afforded a constant flow of air on our youthful skin which was soon to be sunburnt from hot sun under the spacious ND sky. When our parents stopped to fuel up we would crawl out of the gooseneck of the stock trailer and go for a brief walk. Back in those days we did not have the means to stop and buy a candy bar or refreshment with each stop. We were saving that for when we arrived at our destination, the breathtaking badlands of

ND and the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I remember our discussions as we laid in the hay watching our horses on the drive. We thought we were the luckiest kids alive, and we were! The notion of getting close to the wild horses was almost too much excitement to contain. It was a good six hour drive to Medora and we were too excited to fall asleep. The trip home was different. We were so fulfilled and exhausted from long hours of riding in the July heat we were able to nap some of the time. The heavy iron of the trailer gooseneck was warm to lay on, the musty smell of hay and manure pleasant. We did not have to worry about being crowded in the single cab pick up that was pulling the trailer. On the way home, not as much horse hay was left, but it was still enough to provide an itchy and luxurious cushion.

Somehow during our first trip to TRNP with our horses our Momma cat Caroline was in the horse trailer and accompanied us. To this day I do not remember whether or not we knew she was in the trailer before we left home. My younger sister was especially partial to her cats and it is entirely possible that in our naive, young minds we thought it appropriate to bring our cat on vacation. Fortunately, this was during a period of time in which the Kuntz family camped at the Medora Ranchorama where we boarded our horses. We visited with them daily as we cared for our horses. They were giving buggy rides in Medora during the summer. My Dad found a little girl (who I believe was a Kuntz) at the Ranchorama and hired her to watch over our Momma cat for the week. She took excellent care of Caroline and at the end of the week our cat was also exhausted as we journeyed back home.

Since we had been spying on these horses for years on family trips, we knew that it would be best to unload our horses somewhere on the East side of the park. We did just that. The suspense had been building knowing this childhood dream was finally coming to fruition. We found out quickly that even with a trusty saddle horse it was still a challenge to get very close to the wild and free swift footed prairie beauties. Our hearts thumped with anticipation as we knew that over one of the next hills we would likely see some wild horses. We peered from atop the butte down on a herd of wild horses. We carefully walked our horses down the clay colored badland terrain to get closer.

The moment I had been longing for had finally come. Initially, I remember hearing one of the grayish-white band stallions snort as he danced around his harem trotting with his head held high and nodding disagreeably as if sensing danger. His back athletically arched and tail held high while blowing in the wind. Other bands in the meadow keenly picked up on the cue and became uneasy. The leader in each band circled, snorted, and commanded his harem to move out. Before we knew it they were galloping across the meadow and trailing up the rugged badland trails winding up and down in single file motion. The movement so swift and expertly calculated in the unforgiving dangerous terrain. I remember thinking to myself how amazing it would be to ride one of these sure-footed steads. From that point on I could not get enough of seeing the TRNP horses. It was like a cat and mouse game. Just as we would get to a point to see the horses they would be working their way over the next hill. Witnessing the trails the horses used and riding them in years to come further maximized our visitor experience. This was their home and they knew it well, navigating through areas which at first seemed impossible to climb.

I had never seen anything as majestic the TRNP horses and to this day I stand firm on that analysis. By the time I was a college student I had traveled to several other states and also to Europe. I remember giving a speech in college about my favorite place. That place was in the TRNP watching the wild horses. I was mesmerized by these amazing creatures. Words could not express the sense of peace seeing them gave me. The horses nostalgic and graceful movements were unlike the domestic horses I had been around. To this day when I see the wild horses feelings of warmth and excitement encompass me as memories flood back reminding me of the special family time we shared searching for, finding, and observing the wild horses. Approximately forty years from the first time I remember seeing the wild horses, I still get just as excited each time. My husband and son will readily attest to that! As an adult I have been able to share the love, thrill, and passion that I have for the horses with my nieces, nephews, friends, and family. Seeing others witness their healing presence and magic warms my heart as well. They are a unique ND treasure that is timeless and keeps on giving despite the time of the year. This is further evident to me as I notice people from around the world comment on our beloved TRNP horses on social media.

	As a college student I was able to attend the TRNP horse sales in Dickinson after the horses were rounded up and culled. I recall my younger sister missed a day of high school to attend the sale with me. She bought a weanling filly that strongly resembled the 2022 filly named Cricket. She trained this filly to ride and our Dad trained her to pull a buggy. Years later that very mare was part of the magnificent team that carried me over the ND prairie at my parent's pasture on the ranch to the site of our wedding on my wedding day. Her reliable, strong, and quiet disposition made her perfect for the task. Time and time again, the TRNP horses have blessed me. It is my dream for these horses to continue to bless others for years to come.

322.

Syndi Miske <smiske75@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 9:22 PM

1. My Dad (1989)
2. My Dad, sister and I (1988)
3. My husband and I (next to our TRNP mustang) on our wedding day (2000)

One more photo to be sent of our next generation (my niece in 2022)

Sent from my iPhone

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3 attachments

IMG_8141.jpg
3200K

IMG_8143.jpg
1496K

IMG_8144.jpg
3239K

Syndi Miske <smiske75@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 9:27 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com
Cc: Syndi Miske <smiske75@gmail.com>

This is my niece Keyahana with some of TRNP horses in the background. My Dad who will be 80 in a few months was still riding on this day and lives to see the wild horses. My niece is a third generation North Dakotan who loves seeing the horses at the park. I did not know how to include all of this in one email. Sorry!

Thanks again,
Syndi Miske

Sent from my iPhone

IMG_2665.jpg
4603K

323.

Susan Vette <susyvette@icloud.com> Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 11:51 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have wanted to visit TRNP. Actually, I just learned of it when planning a family reunion and trip to the Dakotas. One of the reasons to head to South Dakota and the Badlands was to visit and tour the Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary. We'd planned on going, first, to Theodore Roosevelt (one of my favorite historic figures.) but realized that travel there would — should — be a trip unto itself, so we saved it for "next time."

Seeking and discovering America's wild horse herds has become a special kind of quest for us. Prior to visiting the Black Hills Sanctuary, we'd gone to see the Salt River horses. What a thrill to see those beautiful, non-predatory creatures living, safe and protected, in a free and natural habitat. Like the bison, grizzlies, wolves, and other wildlife of our country, wild horses are such a part of our history. They help make our country and our continent unique. As a feral species, one that sprang from the migrant peoples who populated — especially — the West, they reconnect us to the raw and colorful conquering of those rugged lands; to the triumphs and tragedies of communities and civilizations built, lost, and changed. May they be forever protected and preserved!

I look forward to our visit to Theodore Roosevelt Park. It's a reasonable drive from our home in Wisconsin, and will be on the itinerary soon. One of the great reasons to visit will be the wild horses;. All of our national parks are beautiful. Few provide the rare opportunity to view wild horses; a pleasure and a privilege. TRNP is a "detour" of the main highways west. The fact that they protect their wild horse herd is a reason to take that less-traveled route to spend a few days there. I cannot wait … maybe next summer!

Thank you for the work you are doing to help save the horses…mustangs, appaloosas, paints, all of them... to help us understand their origins and bloodlines; who brought them here and how they partnered in settling the west.

Warm regards,
Susan Vette - Oshkosh, WI

324.

From: Squarespace <form-submission@squarespace.info>
Date: January 17, 2023 at 10:49:51 PM EST
To: thismustanglife@gmail.com
Subject: Form Submission - New Form - Management Plan TRNP wild horses
Reply-To: gypsyspirit58@ymail.com

Sent via form submission from *Wild Lands Wild Horses*

Name: Marlene Mead

Email Address: gypsyspirit58@ymail.com

Subject: Management Plan TRNP wild horses

Message: As a lifelong resident of ND have enjoyed the presence of the wild horses of TRNP since a young child, which my daughter and now my grandaughter share. Saddens me to think that my grandaughter may be the last generation to ever witness them. Even at her young age she recognizes their importance and is enthralled by their spirit, as I and her mom werem as children. An appreciation that has spanned four generations of my family starting with my father. A highlight of any trip to TRNP is when we see the wild horses. We look for them. Something about their spirit speaks to us. The spirit and beauty of the wild horses truly do embody the spirit of our ancestors and Theodore Roosevelt. Theodore Rooservelt spoke of the wild horses of ND.

The horses of TRNP are a living cultural and historical testament to the history of ND. My understanding by some accounts some of their bloodline dates back to the horses Sitting Bull relinquished. One buyer was the Marquis De Mores who refined them, an unique genetic breed of horses to ND. When he left Medora, some remained in the badlands and were fenced in at TRNP inception. In 2018 genetic testing showed a genetic lineage of horses unique from all other 48 breeds.

Now under two current considerations for TRNP proposed livestock management plan, eliminating of the wild horses is consideration. Argument heard at presentation on Jan 12th is they are not a native species and current laws for TRNP do not allow them even though they have been kept since fenced in and maintained as cultural representation of ND history. Some research into orgin of horses do say they originated in North America with fossil record. They crossed the land bridges but later immigrated back. Dr. Ross MacPhee, Curator of Mammalogy at the American Museum of Natural History, and colleagues, have dated the existence of woolly mammoths and horses in North America to as recent as 7,600 years ago. Had it not been for previous westward migration, over the 2 Bering Land Bridge, into northwestern Russia (Siberia) and Asia, the horse would have faced complete extinction. However, Equus survived and spread to all continents of the globe, except Australia and Antarctica.

I don't understand proposed outcome for their removal. Under current "NPS Management Policy" the wild horses of TRNP fit criteria for cultural and historical preservation allowed and even encouraged in national parks. Under chapter 4.4.4.1 "Introduction and Maintenence of Exotic Species" NPS policy states:

•needed to meet the desired conditions of historic resources, but only when it is noninvasive...In such cases, the exotic species used must be known to be historically significant, to have existed in the park during the parks period of historical significance, to be an contributing element to a cultural landscape, or been commonly used in the area at the time.

36 CFR 2.6, Livestock use and agriculture, (a) states: "The running-at-large, herding, driving across, allowing on, pasturing or grazing of livestock of any kind in a park area or the use of a park area for agricultural purposes is prohibited, except: … (3) As designated, when conducted as a necessary and integral part of a recreational activity or required in order to maintain a historic scene.". The wild horses of TRNP do that and have since the parks inception when fenced over 75 years ago.

The wild horses of TRNP have historical and cultural value and worth protecting, so that current and future generations can see an animal important historically and culturally to the native population, ND settlers and Theodore Roosevelt legacy.

Sincerely,

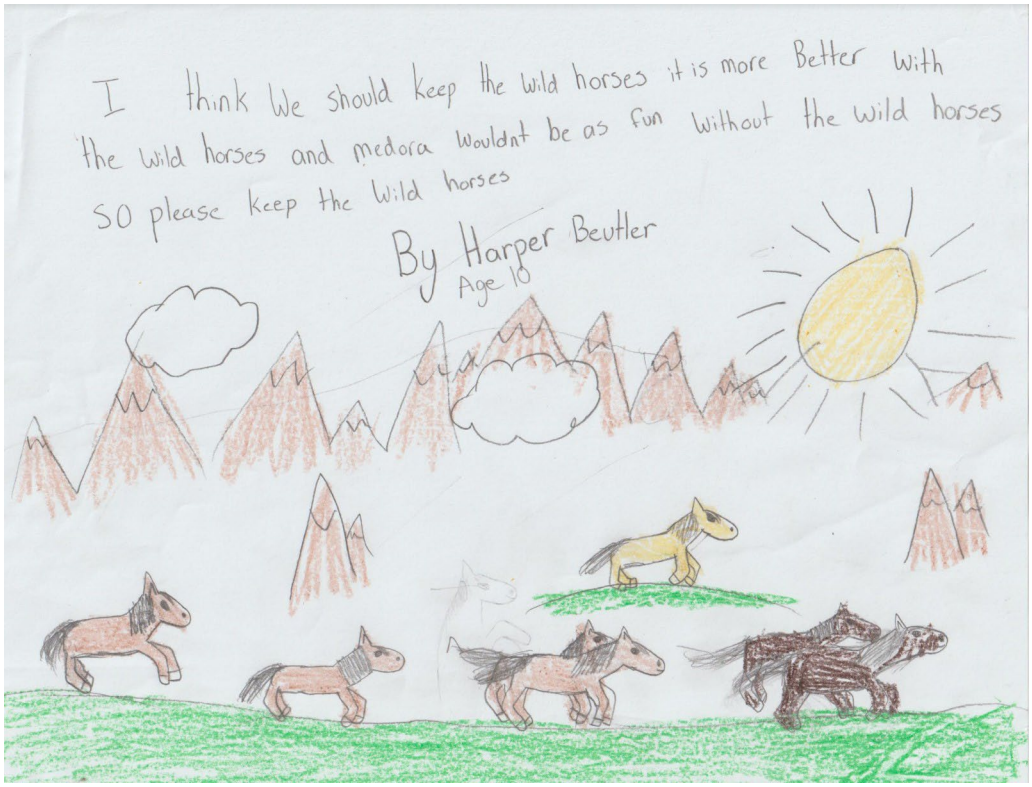
Marlene Mead

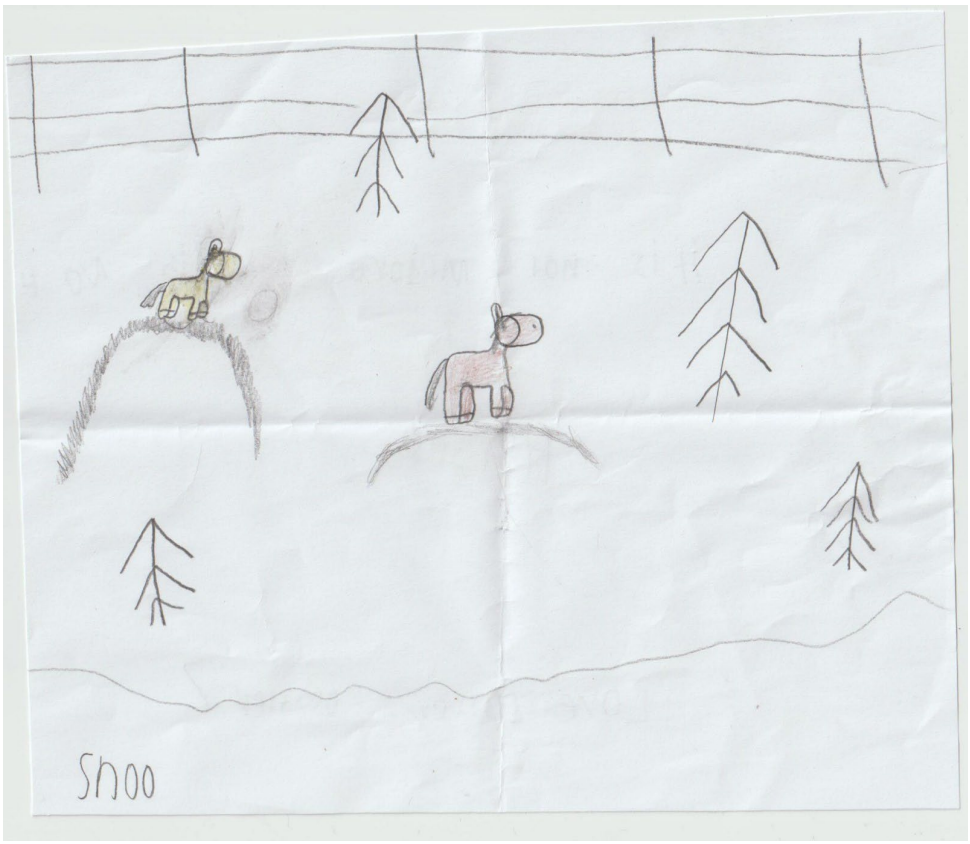
325.

Alissa <alissaroppel@hotmail.com> Mon, Jan 16, 2023 at 5:48 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

My daughter and nieces learned about the park's plans for the horses and have been very upset ever since. One evening I came home and they had made these pictures to send to the park.

Alissa Schramm

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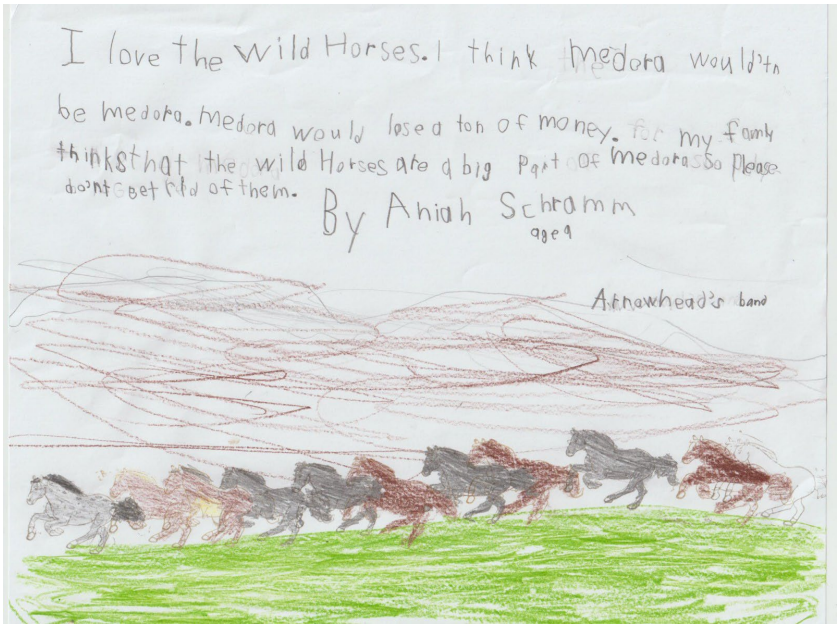
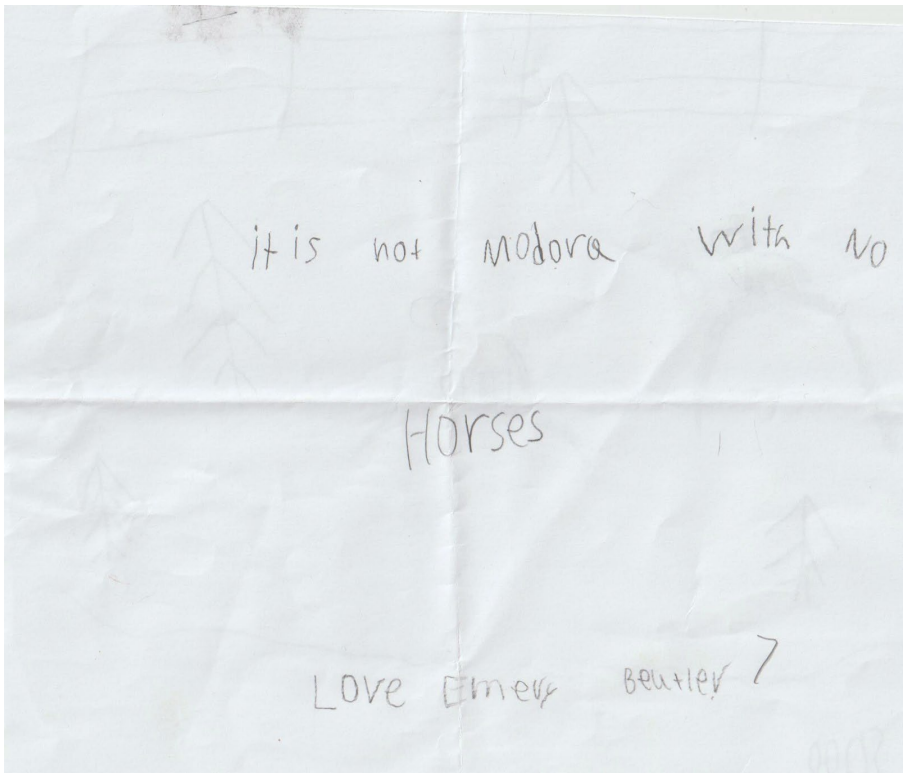

I love the Wild Horses. I think medora wouldn't be medora. Medora would lose a ton of money. for my family thinks that the wild Horses are a big Part of medora so Please don't get rid of them.
By Aniah Schramm
aged
Arrowhead's band


it is not Modora with no
Horses
Love Emery Beutler 7

326.

I have been to both units of Theodore Roosevelt National Park so many times I've lost count. Living in central North Dakota allows me the privilege of visiting often. My favorite unit is the north; however, I visit the south unit to see the wild horses.

I am a member of and have been following Wild in North Dakota on Facebook for quite some time. I've gotten to know the names of some of the horses and have been able to pick them out in a herd when I am blessed enough to see them in the park. From the knowledge I've gleaned from the group, I challenge myself to find and identify the individual horses, which makes me want to visit more often.

My first experience with the wild horses was several years ago, from horseback, riding into the park from Painted Canyon Overlook. It was breathtaking to ride up the hill to find several on the plateau, the stallion then rounding up his herd to take them from our sight. I've since seen several herds while driving the loop, and they are the main reason I visit that unit.

My husband and I have also ridden in the north unit, and very much enjoyed spying the longhorns there. Although they are few, they have been an icon of that unit. Both units have oodles of wildlife one can see, such as deer, elk and bison, but the horses and the longhorns make each unique.

I have a large photo taken by the late Crystal Albrecht of Crystal's Concepts that hangs in my house. In the photo is Redface, my favorite stallion. My husband and I no longer ride, but horses hold a special place in our hearts.

I intend to visit the park this summer, taking my kids and grandkids. We will be searching for the wild horses more than any other animal. If we want to see bison, we'll drive the five miles to our nearest bison ranch. We've seen elk many times on the north side of Bismarck and near our friends' by Medina. But there is no where else to view horses in the wild in this part of the country except for the south unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. ***No where.*** Please keep them there.

Sincerely,

Lori Gefroh
2552 Main St W
Underwood, ND 58576
lori@gefroh.com

327.

Eileen Balliet <eeballiet@icloud.com> Wed, Jan 18, 2023 at 7:28 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

We go to TRNP about three times a year and drive around the park for a couple of hours looking for the horses. We enjoy watching the different bands and little colts. If you take them out there is no reason to go back to the park unless you want to see nothing but buffalo and prairie dogs. If there is a problem with the horses grazing to much of the park mabe try to get rid of some of the prairie dogs it looks to me like they are ruining a lot of land in the park. Also, there seems to be a lot of buffalo and some of them could be taken out of the park. The horses, buffalo, deer and elk were all there when Teddy Roosevelt lived there and I'm sure he wouldn't have wanted them removed or made it a national park. Allen and Eileen Balliet

Sent from my iPhone

328.

DEB LEE CARSON <everseethelight@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 7:06 AM
To: Wild Lands Wild Horses <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Jim Cobbs** <jcobbs2@icloud.com>
Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2023
Subject: TRNP wild horses
To: deb@debleecarson.com

The TR displays, bison, and the herds of wild horses are the best things we saw in TRNP. Herds of free roaming bison, horses, elk, deer, and other hooved animals are a large part of what makes the western National Parks such great places to visit.

Sent from the iPhone of Jim Cobbs

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329.

Audrey Aabey <ajaabey@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 12:04 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

We have been planning a visit to TRNP in order to experience the wonder of the horses living there & are very disappointed, worried & angry that elimination of this national treasure is being considered. With all the resources of 21st century science & conservation knowledge I can't believe a sustainable solution which incudes the creatures who live there can't be found!
Please do not rob future generations of this glimpse of a vanished world.
Audrey J Aabey

330.	**Joanie Stene** <jmastene@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 10:06 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> We took our grandchildren to TRNP last year. Our granddaughter, Taylor, then age 18 months, had been introduced to horses just the previous winter. She got to meet and ride a pony named Penny. She was enthralled - from thereafter all she could do was talk about Penny the Pony - to her daycare teacher, friends, relatives. Driving through the park that beautiful June day, we came around a corner and there were 4-5 wild horses. They took my breath away, as they always do. Taylor, from her car seat in the back, squeals and points and says Penny! Penny the Pony! And starts calling to the horses: "Here, Penny! C'mere Penny!" And didn't want to drive on. All horses are Pennies! Keep our colorful history and beautiful park as it was meant to be: full of priceless Pennies for all future generations to enjoy. -- Joanie Stene Horsemaster Certified Instructor

331.

Linda Alves <picklli@yahoo.com> Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 5:25 PM
Reply-To: Linda Alves <picklli@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello -

Thank you for all you do! I'm happy to add my voice to help these beautiful wild horses. This nonsense just has to be stopped.

Here's a copy of what I just submitted on the TRNP site a few minutes ago:

I am writing to make an earnest request for you to keep an open mind towards a more humane path for the wild horses at Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP). After all, these wild horses are the sole reason that I was even aware of this park's existence.

Please take a closer look at the Salt River Wild Horse Management Group and speak with your colleagues at the Tonto National Forest in Arizona. It's one of the best managed national forests and enjoys 8 million visitors yearly.

The Salt River wild horses are not everywhere in the Tonto National Forest, but the public gets to enjoy them and they create tourism income for the local community. Not one horse has ever been removed from the Salt River.

With some work and compromise, an intergovernmental agreement for the management of the Salt River horses was signed in 2017 - and, has produced outstanding results. The wild horse population has been managed humanely with PZP fertility control.

Wouldn't Theodore Roosevelt National Park like to also be a shining example of what can be done?

"The time is always right to do what is right." - Dr. Martin Luther King

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Best regards,
Linda Alves

332.

Martinez, Holly <Holly.Martinez@westernmidstream.com> Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 6:20 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>
Cc: Holly Martinez <shajamart@att.net>

To Whom It May Concern,

By far, the most beautiful and inspirational thing I see on social media is the stories and pictures of the Wild Horses in TRNP. I live in Texas and think how wonderful it would be if my state could have a herd of wild horses, how wonderous to see that majesty and freedom, I get chills just seeing their pictures. Please reconsider, give us something real to hold on to in this time of technology and violence, greed and sloth. It would be such a shame, just like so many beautiful, historic things we have lost in the last few years.

Thank you for allowing me to give my opinion.

Sincerely,

Holly Martinez

333.

Jodell Kruse <jekmjkkruse@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 8:50 PM
To: Info@wildlandswildhorses.com

As a hobby photographer, from my first visit to Theodore Roosevelt National Park, I've loved seeing and photographing its beautiful landscapes, the bison, the prairie dogs, the eagles, the coyotes, the songbirds, and the wildflowers at TRNP but from first sight, the horses are what really spoke to my heart and spirit. Seeing their beauty, their interactions within the herds, the foals, mares and stallions, all really made an impact on me and their interaction with the landscape enhanced both the landscape and the horses. Whether it's merely getting a glimpse of horses in the distance, or seeing a horse sleeping or grazing along the road, laughing to see the foals play, or watching in awe as they climb the steep slopes with ease, or viewing them as they run across the prairie, or pausing as they proudly run up the road past my car, each sight touched my heart and lifted my spirit and made me forget my worries and troubles, if only for a moment. The horses more than anything made me feel closer to nature which brings me a sense of peace and of closeness with those who have gone before me.

I've returned to the park several times after my first visit and was currently planning my next trip there and anticipating the lift seeing the horses would give to my heart and spirit. But without the horses there to see, I wouldn't return.

I can't imagine these horses without that land nor can I imagine that land without these horses.

Jodell Kruse

334.

Macey Hvistendahl <maceyhvistendahl@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 10:34 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Theodore Roosevelt National Park is so special to me. I first visited the park in August 2020 on my way to Montana. At the time I did not know that wild horses lived there, only that it was a beautiful national park. Two months after that trip I was researching the Pryor Mountain Mustangs, and I stumbled upon the North Dakota Badlands Horse page on Facebook. Posted on the page was the news that they had recently announced the birth of a tiny black filly. For the next several months all I did was research the ancestry of these horses and dream of going to visit them. My dream finally came true. In July of 2021 my dad and I headed out to see these wild horses. While driving next to the park I saw my very first Theodore Roosevelt National Park wild horse. I quickly identified her as Twister. After that moment I was sold. I returned in March of 2022 and was able to see a 2 day old colt: Titan (AKA Pax). Then we came back in both August and October! I was able to see a total of 161 different individual horses throughout my four trips.

One of my favorite experiences in the park was seeing the 20 year old stallion Thundercloud. My dad and I were driving down the road going past Boicourt Trail. My dad spotted a horse and I took a quick look, all I saw was a dark horse. Immediately I thought it was Circus because he had been seen in the area recently. We turned around and I got a better look at him. When I saw he was a blue roan I knew he wasn't Circus. I then thought he was Applewood because we saw Applewood and Alluvium in the same area the day before. When I didn't see Alluvium I thought we should go see if the blue roan was someone else. We parked by the Boicourt trail and headed off in the opposite direction. When we first started heading out we couldn't see where he was. When we finally got to him he was standing on a butte catching the wind. It was around 100 degrees at the time. The old stallion was showing his age. I was trying to explain to my Dad that he had recently lost his band to his son Xander. He soon climbed higher on his butte where he stood looking over his wild home. In the distance I could see a few other bands.

I was sad to hear that he passed away late in 2021. After learning of his death I was hopeful to be able to find and photograph his remaining offspring and their offspring. After all four trips I was able to find and photograph all of them.

The horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park have become such a significant part of my life during my teenage years. I've spent countless hours building a connection with the horse through research, visits to the park, and photography. I cannot imagine the park without these wild horses, and only hope they will continue to remain a part of the park for generations to come.

335.

Maria Tigermoln <moln711@msn.com> Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 6:32 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello,
My name is Maria Podal and I am emailing you about the wild horses in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park in Dakota, U.S.A. I myself live in Sweden, but I follow them on the internet.

There are not words enough to describe what this means to me personally, to be able to know and follow wild horses. I think it is important to respect all life, wild or domestic, or human.

I don't agree with the way roundups are performed in the U.S.. I sincerely hope this way of taking care of wild animals, whether they are horses, zebras or other wildlife, will change.

If you are interested in learning other ways of taking care of wild horses or horses in general, I can recommend Rosemary Farm in the U.S.A. and Skydog Sanctuary. There are some other, but these I know for sure are capable and they have a lot of knowledge about wild and unhandled horses. I am also sure they know to refer to other capable sanctuaries for wildlife or for domestic animals, if needed.

I do hope humans would be a kinder population on this earth. Whether you think we are the patrons of the earth as God intended or you have the scientific view I wish the politics of how we should act towards both each other and the species we share this place with would always have in mind that we all have the right to live and thrive, and when we act to intervene in the nature, that should also be with respect for the life we want to interact with.

With the most sincere regards.
Med vänlig hälsning,
Ystävällisin terveisin,
Maria Podal

336.

Henry Weber <henryjweb@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 12:21 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Henry's Story

Where do I start to tell my story with the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. 38 years of observing, following, and enjoying the wild horses. Initially riding our horses in the park as a family and seeing the wild horses from a distance. Riding around the loop road in Tom Tescher's blue pickup, looking for the horses and then sitting at his kitchen table learning the history of these horses. Studying their behavior for the CSU contraceptive study, and volunteering for the Park, assisting in captures by low stress chemical immobilization, working them thru the chutes for vetting, practicing loading in a trailer by low stress pressure & release so they would go to their new owner with loading not being traumatic. Participating in a Park research study on moving a band of horses from point A to point B, alone, on foot using low stress handling techniques. This method was successful 80% of the time, but only 40 % when a catch pen was at point B.

A major highlight was buying, gentling, training, and riding one of these wild ones back in the park for the last 16 years. Ember's Fire is the best trail horse I have ever ridden. No natural obstacle phases these wild ones. The most unique behavior with Fire is that he would not pass up a chance to drink. The first time I had him back in the park it had rained and he would go from hoof print to hoof print drinking the water. He still does.

One early memory burned in my mind is of stallion Red Face. We were riding on Talkington trail when this young stallion came over a rise on the same trail. He stopped, stood and smelled the breeze watching us with head up and neck arched. Suddenly he snorted, whirled and disappeared to where he had come. This winter he has disappeared and presumed gone. He led a great life in the wild.

Another time we were watching several bands of horses down on Lindbo Flats from the top edge of Sheep Butte. We heard a noise behind us, turned and saw Cocoa and his band about 20 feet behind us. Cocoa was breeding a mare. We rapidly moved part-way down the slope and waited for them to leave. Natures call takes precedence over scary humans.

For the CSU contraceptive study, we had to observe a band of horses for 20 minutes and record what each horse was doing each minute. A few minutes into

a study the band moved to a water pond created by a recent rain. They drank and proceeded to stomp and roll in the mud. Then the stallion started to breed a mare. Because of the mud we could not identify the mare and our study ended as incomplete. Better luck next time. We learned so much about the behavior and band structure from these studies. The contraceptive had no effect on behavior other than no reproductive behavior for the treated mares.

One trial in the horse herding study that stands out to me was with the infamous stallion Blaze. Initially he didn't want to give control of the band, so I ignored him and pressured the lead mare to move the band the direction I wanted them to go. Blaze stayed in the back between me and the band. We were moving on Lindbo Flats along Sheep butte. When we got to the North end of the butte and I wanted to make a slow turn East, Blaze moved to the front and headed the band West. They didn't go far so I followed and started over, moving them East. I was able to successfully move them to point B. The route had a slight detour, and it took longer than I planned. The following summer Marylu and I successfully moved 3 bands of horses into the new catch pen and sorted out horses for removal.

I still love to sit on a butte and watch the horses interact with each other. Nothing relieves stress like watching Teddy's horses. It would be difficult to ride or hike the Park without the anticipation of seeing wild horses. These horses have been our passion. When we found out that 75% of the horses captured in helicopter roundups ended up sold to kill buyers, we started the non-profit NDBH to prevent that from happening again. We have been successful until now. Older horses have been allowed to live out their lives in the wild. Younger horses have gone to loving homes. I pray it will remain that way and generations will continue to experience the beauty and thrill of seeing wild ones in Teddy's Park.

337.

Barb Herzog <barb@islandtimesteeldrums.com> Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 12:59 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hello,
I am writing to support keeping a genetically healthy herd of wild horses in the Park for future generations to experience the Great West as it was when Teddy Roosevelt realized it must be preserved and created the Park.

I was born and raised in Fargo, ND. As a child my family visited TRNP and we saw the wild horses. At that time my parents gifted me the book "Misty of Chincoteague" and I learned the love of reading - all because of the horses we saw at TRNP.

When I was in high school my love of horses kept me out of trouble - I was starting to run with the wrong crowd and my parents bought me a horse. This, too, was because they knew of my love of horses that started at TRNP. Their 'trick' worked - my attention turned to my horse and away from the 'wrong crowd'.

Years later I took my kids to TRNP to see the horses. My kids have since moved out of state, but I know they have very fond memories of their trip to the Park. They have suggested TRNP to some of their out of state friends as the best place to take their young kids for a family vacation.

Now, years later I have trips planned with my grandchildren to visit the horses. I cannot imagine taking my grandkids there if the horses are not there. I bought my grandkids the "Misty of Chincoteague" book to have them read before visiting the horses this summer. I would love to have them fall in love with horses just like I did - all because of the wild horses that are part of the heritage of TRNP.

Thank you for your efforts to keep the wild horses in TRNP.

V/r

Barb Herzog
1130 Lake Av
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

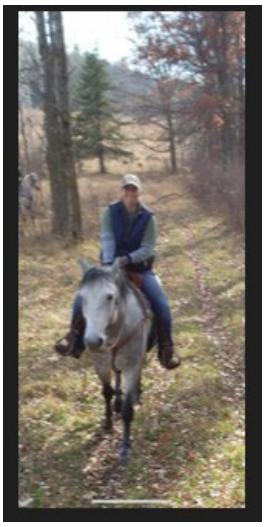
338.

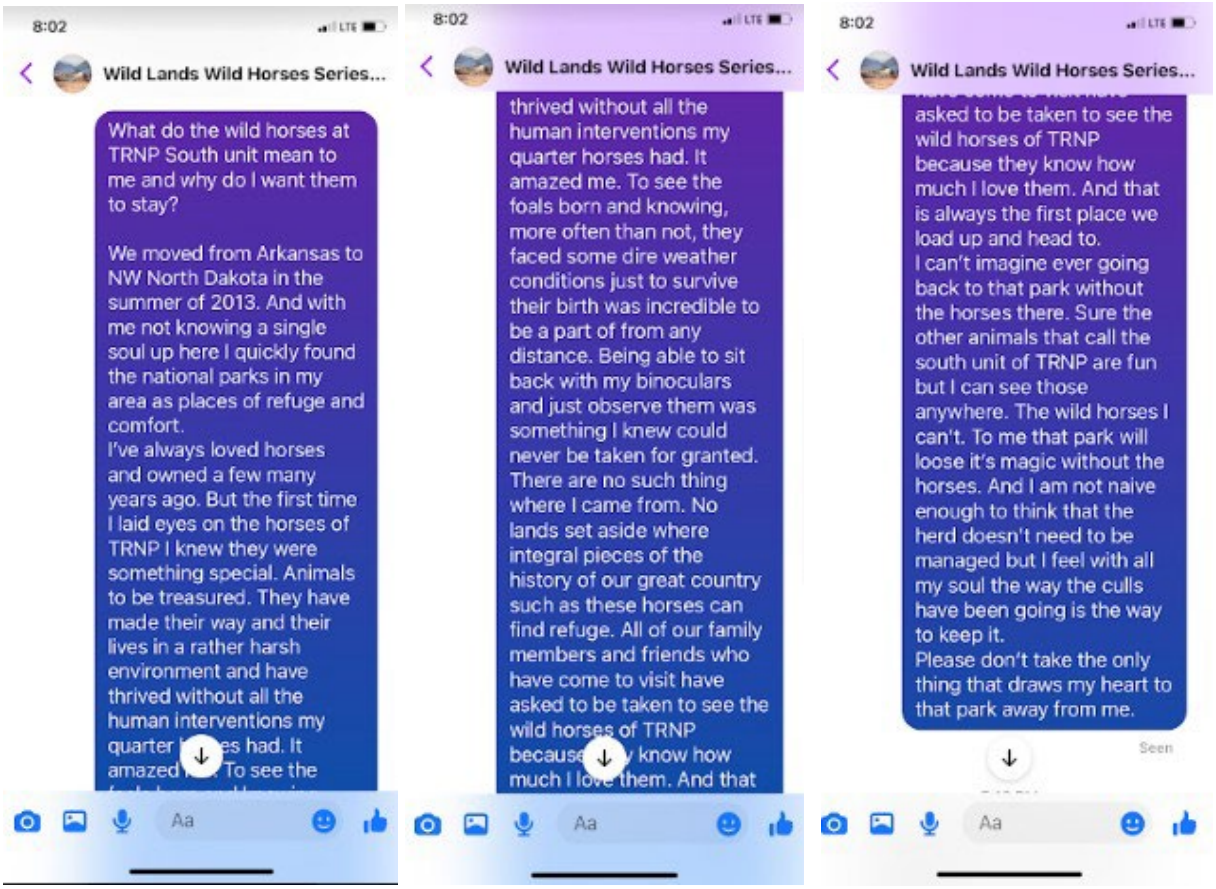
Beth Heebner <bethheebner@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 4:18 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

When someone thinks of the old west, they imagine land not altered by people. They envision breath taking landscape and the wild animals that roam free: bison, pronghorns and yes, wild horses. This is what brings tourists to Theodore Roosevelt National Park.
TRNP was never on my national park list of places I wanted to visit, until I started following several social media accounts that show case the wild horses of TRNP. I have gotten to know these majestic creatures and how they live in harmony with the other wild animals of the park. This park is now at the top of my list for my next vacation with my family and one day with my grandchildren. These wild horses need to be saved for our present selves and our future children.

Beth Heebner

339.	**mmeldahl53** <mmeldahl53@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 7:15 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I have read many of the stories posted, and the factual articles presented. They are all so articulate and spot on. I can't compete with them. What I will say is that we make one trip out to Teddy Roosevelt Park including Medora every year. We take in all the things and enjoy them all. My absolute heart tug is to drive into the park a few times during our stay. I watch with camera ready for any glimpse of a wild horse. We go early in the morning, mid day, and in the evening. Sometimes we have been lucky, and sometimes not, but the horses are what call me back, over and over. There is a peace like no other, watching them and enjoying them in their home. I would see no reason to go back if the horses are gone. The horses are the catalyst for me to make the trip. North Dakota proud Mary Meldahl
340.	**Lisa Beimert** <doublelb@brained.net> Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 8:24 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Hi my name is Lisa Beimert and here is my story. My very first time out to TRNP was back in 1999 when after one of my aunts and her husband stop in Medora on a motorcycle ride to Montana. They took one whole day to drive the park loop in search of these magnificent wild horses. After they returned back to Minnesota they said we wanted all our family to come to a magical place that they had fell in love with. So the next year my whole family and when I say whole family it goes from my grandparents, there children to there children and now our children. We loaded up our Minnesota ponies and headed west to Medora. We rode the park in search of the horses and found big herds hanging out next to Holliday wells. The first stallion I seen was a big black and white paint that we nicknamed Baldie due to his white face, he was magnificent standing there watching while we unloaded and saddles up. As we continued to ride jones creek we ran into another herd. We went back home and I couldn't wait till the next year to get out there to see baldie and all the rest of them. Well on 2004 my whole family again loaded up and headed out except for my aunt who turned us onto this place in the beginning fell ill so we dedicated our ride to her for she had past away in 2005 due to cancer. Now since that year we still go out and ride. I have 2 beautiful horses from the park Kentucky out of the late Silver and Democracy. Styx out of Sidekick and River. Keeping these magnificent horses in the park will continue the return of many.

	
341.	**Dale Gowen** <dalegowen@yahoo.com> Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 9:03 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Sent from my iPhone **3 attachments**


8:02
Wild Lands Wild Horses Series...
What do the wild horses at TRNP South unit mean to me and why do I want them to stay?
We moved from Arkansas to NW North Dakota in the summer of 2013. And with me not knowing a single soul up here I quickly found the national parks in my area as places of refuge and comfort.
I've always loved horses and owned a few many years ago. But the first time I laid eyes on the horses of TRNP I knew they were something special. Animals to be treasured. They have made their way and their lives in a rather harsh environment and have thrived without all the human interventions my quarter horses had. It amazed me. To see the foals born and knowing, more often than not, they faced some dire weather conditions just to survive their birth was incredible to be a part of from any distance. Being able to sit back with my binoculars and just observe them was something I knew could never be taken for granted. There are no such thing where I came from. No lands set aside where integral pieces of the history of our great country such as these horses can find refuge. All of our family members and friends who have come to visit have asked to be taken to see the wild horses of TRNP because they know how much I love them. And that is always the first place we load up and head to.
I can't imagine ever going back to that park without the horses there. Sure the other animals that call the south unit of TRNP are fun but I can see those anywhere. The wild horses I can't. To me that park will loose it's magic without the horses. And I am not naive enough to think that the herd doesn't need to be managed but I feel with all my soul the way the culls have been going is the way to keep it.
Please don't take the only thing that draws my heart to that park away from me.
Seen
Aa

342.

joanrood2b@icloud.com <joanrood2b@icloud.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 2:04 AM

I have always loved horses, but only in a superficial way in my youth when we would go on occasional trail rides. Fast forward to recent years when I was introduced to and inspired by Deb Lee Carson's photos of her beautiful horses captured as they romped and played like puppies in the freshly fallen snow at her farm in MN. Later I met her personally through Capture Minnesota, an online website of MN photographers sponsored by tpt. Deb's passion for photographing not only her own horses, but her passionate advocacy for the wild mustangs at the TRNP lit a fire of interest in hoping to see them for the first time in the park. Our first drive through in 2019 was a bust, but two years later in 2021 my dream was finally realized. As we rounded a bend on the Loop Rd, I laid my eyes on the first of two gorgeous herds from the side of a ridge where they were all standing like statues facing the hot wind for relief from the pesky nose flies that day. My first shot was a side view of the first herd, but as I walked farther around the road, I witnessed the 2nd herd on the opposite side of that ridge. As if they were posing for a couple of us with cameras, who maintained more than the minimum of 25 yards, my heart was in my throat as my hands shook throughout most of the countless images taken that day.

To observe their familial behavior, loyalty, and affection for one another was beyond amazing to me. Much of it I was privileged to see firsthand, but other subtleties of their behavior were caught later when the images were downloaded at home. Additionally, I counted 4 mares standing guard over their sleeping foals. Eventually, they all rose, a few nursed, and then herd began to move out. I still pinch myself for what I witnessed that day.

The wildlife in this beautiful national park was incredible to view on that trip. The wild mustangs are such an integral part of this park's history, and to imagine TRNP without them is inconceivable to me. To the point that I could not visit the park ever again. It would be incomplete to me. The thought of rounding up and breaking up, these familial herds would be horribly traumatizing for them is an understatement. It breaks my heart thinking about this unbelievable action, which would also result in injuries and deaths of some of the horses. I sincerely hope the TRNP service will reconsider what could dramatically change the landscape of this park forever, not to mention the effects their decision could have on the local tourism business for the park and surrounding towns.

Note: I learned from Deb later that the attached photo of this mare and her foal, is Deb's adopted Pinnacles' dame Domino that was sired by Blaze. This foal was sired by Arrowhead and would be Pinnacles' half sibling.

A group of horses standing on a hill Description automatically generated with low confidence.jpeg

A group of horses standing on a hill
103K

343.

Nicola Morris <morrisnicola299@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 9:01 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Your story has become my passion as I wasn't aware that wild horses, untainted by the ways of the world still exist and roam free.
Nature's national flag is freedom as designed by the Almighty God and I long to see nature in its natural state rather than controlled by the cruelties of this world. 🤗💝
Free nature and the people will shurly follow.
Hopefully we can trek up to TRNP whilst we still can, please preserve the wild horses they hold a legacy that can't ever be repeated🌍🌈🙏

344.	**Eva S** <eva.schapiro@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 9:55 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> At the end of my Au Pair time in the US I stumbled upon TRNP on the internet. Completely by accident. I had 4 weeks left on my visa and just enough money to afford a flight to Colorado, a rental car and a tent. The two weeks I spent in the park with the horses were the most magical thing I could have never imagined. Never again have I felt so free. Every once in a while I look up the price of flights (I'm back in Europe now) and sigh with great sorrow. The prospect of never getting to feel what I felt back then again rips my heart to shreds. To anyone who reads this, if you can afford it, go now. I could cry just thinking about it. It's all worth it, the 10 hour drive from Denver, the nights spent in a tent under a tree while a thunderstorm rages outside, the freezing showers at the campground. What I wouldn't give to get to do all that again just to roll up to the park in the morning and observe Tetons band going about their day.
345.	**Sybille Krug** <bunjyp13@aol.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 11:01 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com My name is Sybille, I am from Germany. I can't even remember, when I first saw a picture of Blaze, postet by Deb. But I was fascinated by this amazing stallion from the first moment. So I started to follow her account and learned a lot about the wild horses of TRNP. Before I didn't even know this NP. When Blaze changed worlds, I was more than shocked. Feels like losing a horse I knew for a long time. One year later me and a friend did a road trip in the States. 3 weeks packed with sights we want to visit. And I put TRNP on my list. Even it was a detour of 400 miles, a long and sometimes boring drive, to be honest… But it was worth every minute! We were lucky to see some of the bands in the park, spend nearly one hour watching Flax and his mares grazing peacefully close to the road. It was such an amazing experience to see the wild ones living their best life. Wild and free! Von der neuen AOL-App für iOS gesendet

346.	**tdr123@aol.com** <tdr123@aol.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 11:02 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> Please reconsider your plans to close TR National park in Badlands and remove the wild mustangs!!! We are planning a trip there with grandchildren and they are so excited to go!!! We have researched the park and the horses and have our favorite mustang pictures on our walls to remind us of our upcoming goal and why we are saving our penny's now!! These beautiful, majestic creatures were here first and deserve our care, consideration and respect!!! Thank you for your thoughtful consideration!! Teresa Burbach
347.	**Mike Tweeton** <miketweeton38@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 11:27 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Several years ago, on my first photo trip to visit TRNP at Medora, the first discovery of seeing those magnificent horses and their families, have left indelible memories !! The presence of these majestic inhabitants of the already beautiful Park, adds a dimension that is really incomparable ! My sons and grandchildren on subsequent trips were equally thrilled to see those amazing horses in their natural habitat ! To even consider removing the wild horses from TRNP borders on the unconscionable ! To succumb to the political whims of "management" would be the worst of decisions—despite what any well-meaning "expert" tries to foist on those beloved, unsuspecting horses ! To take those horses out of TRNP would be like taking the Buffalo out of Yellowstone Park !! Please don't abandon the successful studies and labors of all who have worked with the horses over the years to insure their survival ! Help find other options for continuing to make TRNP horses a special experience for future generations !!

348.	**Rebecca Jones** <rebeccajjones74@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 1:50 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> Sent in by Rebecca Falk I have not had the great opportunity to see the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt park yet. I hope that changes planning on seeing them in the future so the park better leave them there. What is the park without the wild horses I would say very barren and beauty and history will be gone. Looking at the book " The Wild Herd" by Deborah Kalas and also pictures of the wild horses on your website makes my mouth drop in awe. These horses are gorgeous and have so many colors. Let alone what they endure for winters not all horses can take and live like they do. I long to see these wild horses. I know a little about them now. I want to see their bands. I would like to see a few of the stallions such as Cloud or Thunder. Thunder seems pretty unusual to allow his daughter to go run off with another stallion and gladly greet her back. Cant wait to see these historical horses of North Dakota
349.	**magcornfoot@gmail.com** <magcornfoot@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 2:01 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Salutations Deb and Jamie As someone who is not new to advocating for human and environmental rights and now as a yoga instructor for the past twenty years my focus is on the relationship of being connected to the internal compass that guides and inspires our sense of being It also requires a responsibility of awareness to function Without knowing our place within the environment we become orphaned and sometimes callous To recover this misplaced identity I designed and coordinated a government youth project which brought native and non-native youth together to educate the community of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of Durham Region I also had a small part in establishing a Land Trust on the Oak Ridges Moraine Indolent domesticity entombs the unwary For me this is the life lesson of wild horses which enrich my life in just knowing that they are there Wildness Teaches Civility The struggle of native wild horses to remain free is our struggle to remain humane The Wild Horses of North America represent the Gracious Spirit of Freedom Globally and affects us deeply Fundamental to Our Humanity Our decision making today is what future generations will inherit For many our enduring affinity for wild horses is inherent

	It seems that TRNP has lost the vision to protect wilderness habitat for indigenous species and provide a service to the public Personally I believe in the innate value of horses in the wild as therapy for those that get to experience their presence as well as those like myself who respect their right to remain in their home continuing to revitalize a healthy gene pool I would hope and expect that their presence continues unhindered by any human shortsightedness I am keen to see the stories of individual horse families that I have met through Facebook posts My intention when I visit TRNP is to embrace their terrain ,breathe their familiar scent , listen for their unmistakable vocalizations and to feel the pulse of their hoofbeats resonating into my core while they recharge the living landscape Thank you Deb and Jamie for all that you do to inspire us with your wonderful documentaries Mag Cornfoot **magcornfoot@gmail.com** <magcornfoot@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 4:06 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I forgot to mention that while I am in Ontario Canada I feel connected by continent rather than divided by country and Native wild horses belong to our North America 🙏

350.

Mark Bearden <mwbbunch@att.net> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 2:55 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

My name is Mark Bearden and I wanted to share my story about the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.
I first found out about these amazing horses through Instagram. This was in early 2016. I started following several of the photographers who followed the horses and would post their photographs on Instagram. I was amazed at how healthy these horses looked even though they were living in the wild.
After a few weeks of looking at the photos, I knew I had to make a trip to North Dakota to see these horses for myself and to take my own photos. I told my wife that my 2017 vacation was to Theodore Roosevelt National Park to photograph the wild horses, to which she replied, why not go this year..(2016).
So I started planning my trip to Medora, North Dakota for August 2016. I drove from Mesquite, Texas to Medora in about two days and spent three days in the park photographing the wild horses. I stayed in one of the Wooly Wagons at Custer's Cottage, which was just perfect for me.
I will never forget the feeling I got when I topped a hill and just below me were several horses with their little ones. It was so exhilarating.
I cannot imagine the park without these wonderful horses. To me, it would be just another park. Sure, the landscape is gorgeous, but it is much more beautiful when wild horses are present.
I really hope the horses are left inside the park and not removed. I think it would be a tremendous blow to the park and the surrounding area of Medora if that takes place. I know the wild horses are on of the major draws for tourists, after all, they were the main reason I went to Theodore Roosevelt National Park in 2016.
I attached a few photos from my trip.

Thank you for letting me share my story,
Mark Bearden
Mesquite, Texas

© 2016 Mark Bearden

© 2016 Mark Bearden

351.	**Sharon Rezac** <rezacsharon@icloud.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 3:41 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Having read Jack Zaleskis editorial in todays FORUM and following this story for a number of years, I am writing to show my support for the wild horses in Roosevelt National Park. They have managed to survive without being managed by man! That's proof that they are North Dakota strong! Sharon Rezac, 1337 7 Street South, Fargo, ND Sent from my iPhone
352.	**Melissa Hodgson** <lot2lodge@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 4:03 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com In 2012 my husband and I were camping in South Dakota, we were lucky to meet 2 former park horses, and their owners. We fell in love! That evening we were invited to another campsite to watch a slideshow on the wild horses in the Park. They were so beautiful, almost magical. The way they are able to navigate the difficult terrain of the Park was amazing to see. We decided then if we were ever able,we would adopt one of these magnificent horses! We kept in touch with the campers we had met,and found out there was going to be an auction in 2013. We did our research and had a list of 10 potential horses. We went to look at all of the captured horses the night before the auction. # 5 on our list was little Pride(Teddy),unlike the other's, he turned toward my voice and walked 3 steps towards me. HE PICKED ME!! We were lucky enough to bring him home. He will be 10 in March and is the most loving, smart, and funny horse. We were also lucky to be able to adopt Flynn Ryder (Rango) in 2017. He too is a very special horse. Both have become brave,strong, steady riding horses. In 2021 we brought both of our boys back to Medora. I can't imagine not being able to see or follow the still wild horses in the Park. They are the only reason why we went to the Park. I hope that the Park continues to have horses as part of their history. They represent hope, dreams, and freedom. A huge part of my life, my heart,would be missing if I didn't have my 2 TRNP horses. I look forward to seeing how the wild horses are doing and follow the changes with the herds, births and even deaths on Facebook. It would be tragic if the Park decides to eliminate the beautiful animals.

353.	**Eileen** <emnorton@aol.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 4:33 PM Reply-To: Eileen <emnorton@aol.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com The year was 1980 and I followed my boyfriend at the time from Minnesota to Dickinson State University. The first time we drove to TRNP on Interstate 94, I looked out as we passed the beautiful Badlands and couldn't believe my eyes as an entire band of wild horses were galloping at full speed freely across the landscape of this beautiful National Park! I'd never seen anything like this in my life and was awestruck, to say the least! It was other worldly to me and truly the most magnificent thing I'd ever been witness to at that time! That moment was emblazoned deep into my heart and mind, and I never forgot these incredible horses living wild and free in this gorgeous National Park! I took many trips into the park during the time I spent in North Dakota and seeing the wild horses was always on the top of my list! In 1998 my now husband and I returned from a 3-year assignment in Tokyo Japan. Living in the hustle and bustle of Tokyo was interesting but being a Minnesota gal, I always yearned to get back to the country. In our third year in Japan, I announced to him that when we returned to the states, I was going to work with horses again. And you guessed it, it was the TRNP herd I had in mind! The first thing I did when I returned to the states was to stop in the park and see those magnificent horses that awed me so many years ago! I visited as often as I could and then in 2007, I asked my husband if he would make a trip with me to my favorite place on earth! We did just that and during that trip, we came across a black and white stallion named Curious George! He was magnificent and we just sat along the side of the road and watched all the amazing dynamics taking place in his band. Again, this experience was like no other and it was obvious to us both that we were indeed in a very special land filled with dozens of different species of animals that could cross one's path at any given time. Where does one find that kind of glory anywhere else? Theodore Roosevelt National Park, that's where!

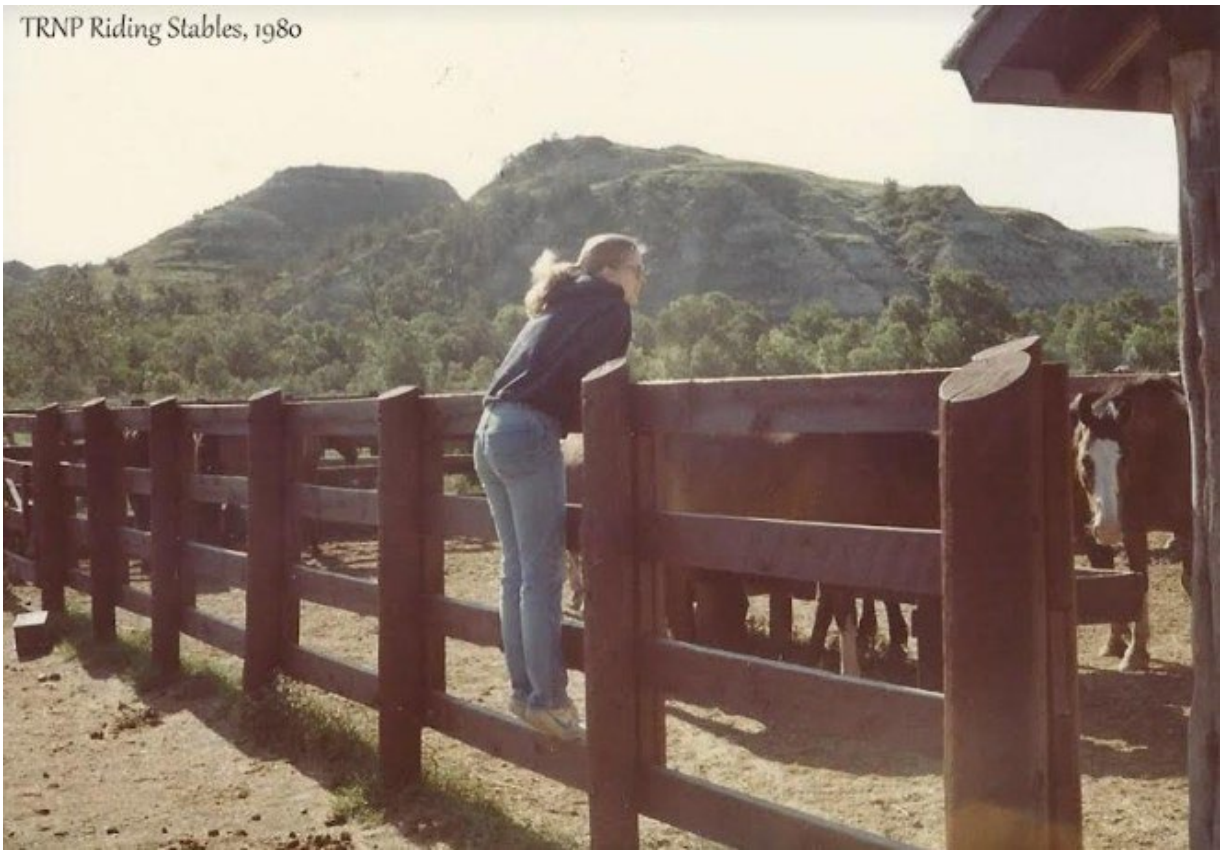
By the fall of that year, it was rumored another round up of the horses was going to take place and that Curious George was on the list to be taken out. This was devastating news to us and so we ended up meeting a group of like-minded people and hoped and prayed that Curious George would remain in the park which was the only home he'd ever known. It turned out that not only did he not get captured that year, but he also was spared from the roundup of 2009. That year he became sick and was very thin. The day the helicopter flew to round up horses, I sat in an open field with him and told him what he meant to me, and I wished him well in his journey forward. That was the last time I saw Curious George and it still makes my heart ache to this day!

The 2009 round up was a tough one as 70 some horses were brought to the stock yards in Dickinson to be sold. The kill buyers were there and were winning horses on low bids that others didn't bid on. In all, 8 perfectly good horses ended up in the hands of kill buyers and despite a gallant effort, there was nothing any of us could do to save them! It literally broke all our hearts to have to witness that and left an indelible mark on us all. They were ages 2-15 and there wasn't a thing wrong with any of them, but they suffered at the hands of those who chose to remove them from the National Park. This is where my life changed from being a fan to becoming an activist working in support of this herd! At that 2009 sale, we bid on Charlie (one of the last colts of Curious George), his little brother Chip and our precious Dakota Page. Curious George was indeed the one who started it all for us, but these three were now our new ambassadors to help recognize and support this herd.

In 2012 I started my Facebook page Wild in North Dakota where I shared photos and told stories of my adventures out in the park. The main goal was to raise awareness of this herd, so no horse had to end up in the hands of a kill buyer ever again! In 2014 we were granted our 501 (c)(3) status as a nonprofit corporation and did what we could through the years to support this herd. The Facebook page grew to over 400,000 followers and includes an audience reach from across the U. S. all the way to countries across Europe and as far as South Africa, Australia, Canada, Mexico and many more countries in between. In 2016 and 2017 we added colts Warrior and Renegade to our personal herd, and it has been a joy to bring each of them into our ranch family. We have two sets of brothers and that has been amazing to watch them continue in captivity as siblings.

In summary, that fateful day 43 years ago when I saw this herd for the first time literally changed the trajectory of my life! These horses live in my heart and soul and there's not a day that goes by that they are not in my life either in the park or at home on our ranch! The horses that still call the Park home deserve to be managed, respected, and revered so generations to come can live the same types experiences I have been blessed with for the past four decades! We all need to continue to make that happen, not only for the horses but for each one of us whose lives have been or will be changed once their eyes have been graced upon this herd of magnificent horses running wild and free in beautiful Theodore Roosevelt National Park!

The first photo is of Stallion Curious George who many may have never met. The second photo is of me at the riding stables in the park back in 1980!


TRNP Riding Stables, 1980

354.

Brenda Miller <auntiebrenda1988@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 6:12 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I'm writing this to help tell the
story of how important it is to leave the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park! These horses serve as a link to our past that we get to enjoy today and, more importantly, a link to the past for many generations to come! These horses are a piece history that only time itself can produce!! And you cannot buy time to make history!! We live in a throw away world today and how sad that is! It is utterly reckless to consider ridding TRNP of the wild horses!! This would be throwing away a piece of America! Once we rid ourselves of something, it's gone, forever!! These horses have a lineage that cannot be replaced!!

It was a dream come true for me to bring my young daughter to TRNP and look for the wild horses. What a beautiful scene when we finally spotted them on our second day!! We sat and watched them from afar as they interacted with each other without any human interventions! Nature is truly an amazing thing! Can you imagine the memories that those horses gave my young daughter? Memories that I hope she will remember when she is old and tells her grandchildren! Wouldn't it be wonderful for her to someday go with her grandchildren and visit offspring of the herd she once visited as a young girl!!

If you remove the horses, you are ending history! You are ending a piece of who America is!! You are ending dreams of the unborn citizens of this great country!
DON'T MAKE A RECKLESS DECISION!!!

These wild horses are amazing, beautiful and are a symbol of American freedoms!

I am asking that the wild horses be left in TRNP for generations to come so they can have the opportunity to experience what America stands for, freedom!!

Respectfully,
Brenda Miller
Caledonia, Minnesota

355.

Kayla Turbiville <turbivillek@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 7:19 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Please help to not get rid of the 158 wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The wild horses have been here since before it was a national park, it's THEIR rightful home we need to protect it and them. What an abomination for anyone to think that this would be okay.

356.

Nicole Bowling <nicole.lamps@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 8:05 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hello,

I wanted to submit a story about my trip to Theodore Roosevelt National Park in 2016 and my experience with the horses. Please feel free to use this submission if it will help. Thank you for fighting for them, you have our full support.

Thank you,
Nicole Bowling
Cincinnati, Ohio

My husband and I traveled to Theodore Roosevelt National Park as part of a three week long camping trip that I dubbed "The Great American Road-Trip." As a newly wedded couple, visiting our country's great national parks was a goal that we decided to prioritize during the first years of our marriage. From our home in Ohio we traveled to Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas, stopping at the national parks and monuments in each state.

As we approached the park, we both hoped to catch a glimpse of the famous wild horses that we had read about prior to starting our journey. After arriving at our campsite, we excitedly discussed waking up at dawn to hike the trails with hopes of having an encounter with the herd. That morning, as the mists of early dawn were rising in layers beneath the deep blue of the sky, we walked along the trail and into the painted landscape of the wilderness. As the sun was breaking over the horizon, we saw two photographers in the distance.

As we looked out over the ridge, my heart raced and my spirits soared as we caught our first sight of the spectacular herd of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The photographers that we had previously spotted were kind enough to say hello to us and share some of their stories and encounters with the herd. We heard tales of the different bands of horses, the stallions that watched over their harem of mares, and the individuals that roamed freely over the plains and badlands of the park. It became clear that each one of these beautiful horses were unique individuals, with strong family bonds and with their own stories. There was a wild beauty captured in these majestic creatures that matched the rugged and untamed grandeur of the landscape.

	As I watched this family unit and listened to their stories, a spark of love grew in my heart for the wild things and wild places that continue to endure in our national parks. This tranquil scene was suddenly broken by the appearance of a helicopter looming over the canyon. The horses broke into a stampede as they fled from the potential danger and galloped right towards us. The photographers calmly instructed us to band together as one unit as the herd thundered forward. My heart pounded, my breath caught in my throat, and all of my consciousness was pulled into the present moment as we waited for the inevitable encounter. At what seemed like the last second the herd split around us, sparing us, protecting us. Colors raced by in flashes of brown, white, red, black, and gray as the herd charged onward. As we watched them go, I knew that this would be an experience that would never leave me and that I would carry in my memory for the rest of my time on this earth. Experiences that connect us with the wild power of nature are rare and precious. The wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park will always represent to me the wildness, freedom, and rugged beauty that our national park system was established to preserve. I hope that all visitors to the park will have the opportunity to form their own connection and have their own experience with the horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for years to come. It would be a great loss to the park and to the American people if this opportunity was taken away.

357.	**Genevieve DELCUVE** <gdelcuve@shaw.ca> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 11:14 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I live in Winnipeg, Manitoba and this coming spring we are planning a vacation to New Mexico where we will spend a few days on a guest ranch. The focus of this trip is to enjoy and spend time with horses. On the way back from New Mexico, we are planning to make a two-day stop in Medora to see the horses in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I have been following "North Dakota Badlands Horse" on Facebook and would love to see them in real life. Until now I had taken solace in the fact that the horses in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park are not under the jurisdiction of the BLM, seeing how so many horses have been and still are ruthlessly removed from all the HMAs. Needless to say, I am crushed by the National Park Service proposal to remove the wild horses from Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Ten years ago, I began horseback riding, which brought a lot of joy and gratitude into my life. I have formed a deep respect for these animals. I find that their sensitivity to our moods and ability to pick up on nuances in our way of being are therapeutic, in that they allow for self-discovery. Moreover, as a society, we are indebted to them as they have done so much for us through the millennium. Still today, their tendency to form strong bonds with people and between each other is so inspiring and heartwarming. I believe, therefore, that the Theodore Roosevelt National Park horses, like all wild horses, deserve that we do all we can to let them live free according to their nature. Thank you for reading my plea. Sincerely, Genevieve

358.

Kimberly Stordeur <kimberlystordeur@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 11:25 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I grew up in North Dakota my whole life every summer I would go to Medora with my parents and the National Park was our highlight because of the Wild Horses with the horse loving little girl excitement sparkling in her eyes I left the park with my family with memories for a lifetime left on my heart and with pictures. I grew up into a woman that would work her college years in Medora North Dakota at the Cowboy Cafe for Beth and Kevin Clyde(amazing people) and the Theodore Roosevelt Foundation. Every day after work I'd go out into the park to watch and visit the horses and photograph them . National Park Service you have no idea just how special these horses are and their lineage going back to the Battle of Little Bighorn. Circus aka Ace and the others this landscape is all they ever known. I went to college and met my now husband and I have 2 sons. My parents husband and kids have kept the tradition going alive camping hiking and watching the horses, my sons are always in Awww of them and enjoy seeing them everytime. My horse loving spirit hasn't stopped and my photography passion continues. I want you all to think about all these precious moments with the wild horses we can continue on for future generations, and all the work you guys can do with all the pro horse people involved to keep all the horses and work on keeping the herds young and healthy! It is doable! Please National Park Service do not make the biggest mistake that down the road will your biggest regret because there would be no going back!

359.

Jen Smith <kianainwis1@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 1:03 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I was introduced to the TRNP horses in 2013. A friend of a friend had a couple and my friend was thinking of getting one. As a young girl, I had read Mustang, Wild Spirit of the West by Marguerite Henry. As an avid horse lover, I was intrigued by the thought of gentling a wild horse. My friend so generously said that I could get one too and she would keep the horse for me as I didn't have the proper facility. I got a young mare, Ivy. Ivy was out of Strawberry and sired by Copper. I was hooked. I began following any pages that spoke of the TRNP herd. I wanted to learn as much as I could about them. I loved seeing Ivy's wild family and the beautiful landscape that they lived in.

Ivy proved to be a bit much for my first wild one. I took her as far as I could and then re-homed her to someone with more wild horse experience. However, that did not stop my interest in these horses. In 2016 I adopted a plain brown colt that didn't have many bids. He was born to Cheyenne and sired by Mystery. He is an AMAZING animal and will be my forever horse. I again loved following the pages and learned about his family.

In the summer of 2017, my husband and I were on the way back from a trip to Montana. I talked him into taking the park road to see if we could see any horses. We saw some bison, some prairie dogs, and coming around a corner, some horses! As luck would have it, we drove directly through Mystery's band! My heart was pounding! I was able to see my horse's family! We watched them for quite some time. The foals were just like Dakota and the adults were grazing and keeping an eye on the little ones, while the great Mystery stood guard. We wouldn't have even considered taking time out of our long drive if the horses were not in the park.

	Fall of 2023 we are planning a trip to TRNP. We want to take our horses back to ride in the land that they were born in. We couldn't even imagine the trip without seeing these horses in the park. Please let these horses remain in TRNP. Remove the young ones if you must, but the older horses deserve to die in the way of nature, in their own home, the way that Mystery and Cheyenne did. To see these band stallions, a symbol of strength and freedom, and their families removed to die in a place that they don't understand would be the greatest of indignities. Jen Smith, WI
360.	Several years back I ran across Eileen's Facebook page and became aware of the wild horses at TRNP. As a horsewoman and photographer I decided to find out as much as I could about the wild horses of the west. The closest herd to my home was in Arizona so I took a long weekend and drove to see them. I was hooked. These wild horses brought my husband and I together, (another wildlife photographer and a story for another time). Our trips and vacations have been to photograph wildlife and the wild horses of the different herd management areas. We have photographed thousands of horses in the past few years. We have also adopted a few. I kept telling my husband that we needed to go see the TRNP horses. Finally we did. We made the long trip from SW Oregon last year and absolutely fell in love with the horses and the park. It is by far the most beautiful setting we've seen for photographing and observing horses in the wild. We planned to make this an annual adventure. Removing the horses will be a serious tragedy for visitors to the park and the park as a whole. Where else will you find the wild horses of America in a National Park? I understand management of the horses is necessary but to remove them from the park altogether just doesn't seem like a fiscally sound decision. Instead of removing the horses, the park should be capitalizing on them. They should create a program to enhance education about wild horses to help support the park. Visitation to the park will never be the same if the horses are gone. What a terrible decision and shame.

Kathryn Wheland ©

361.

WILD CHILD SHIIELD_DANA FROM MONTANA_STORY

1 message

DEB LEE CARSON <everseethelight@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 1:59 PM
To: Wild Lands Wild Horses <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

The first time my mom had visited us, in Montana, we went to TRNP. While there, we saw many horses! My mom was more excited than I was and, of course, wanted to bring them ALL home. 🙂 We had no idea there were horses there, but you can bet I started researching as soon as we got home! One of the most informative things I came across was a blog, written by Marylu Weber, telling all about the horses that live inside the park. I read and read. Looked at pictures and shared all the stories with my mom, who was back home in Washington. In early 2013, I got wind of a round up and sale of the wild horses from the park! My mind whirled...I needed to go back and see them again. Maybe I could get one of these beautiful horses?

During this same time, my mothers dementia really started to kick in. She started her stove on fire for the second time! She emailed me that maybe it was time she moved to be with us. Long story short, we made it happen, in the summer of 2014. It was tough on all our family and her friends. Dementia is a slow ride with the devil, and not something I wish on anyone!

The week before the auction, my pal Courtney and I went to the park. When we got to the visitor center we over heard talk of "the helicopter" and "the holding pens". We were both very anxious about what was happening! Once we made it into the park, we found a few horses standing behind a small hill. We trekked up the hill and sat on the ground watching them. Soon, a rustling started in the trees to our right. Out walked the most amazing stud! He was glowing white, almost shimmering! With a mane like nothing I'd ever seen in person. You guessed it! The one and only Gray Ghost. But, he wasn't alone, he was followed by a super sassy red colt! As they walked below us, GG acted as though we didn't exist. The little red colt, tossed his head at us and flicked his tail, before running back to the group we originally saw. What a hoot, and what an amazing thing,

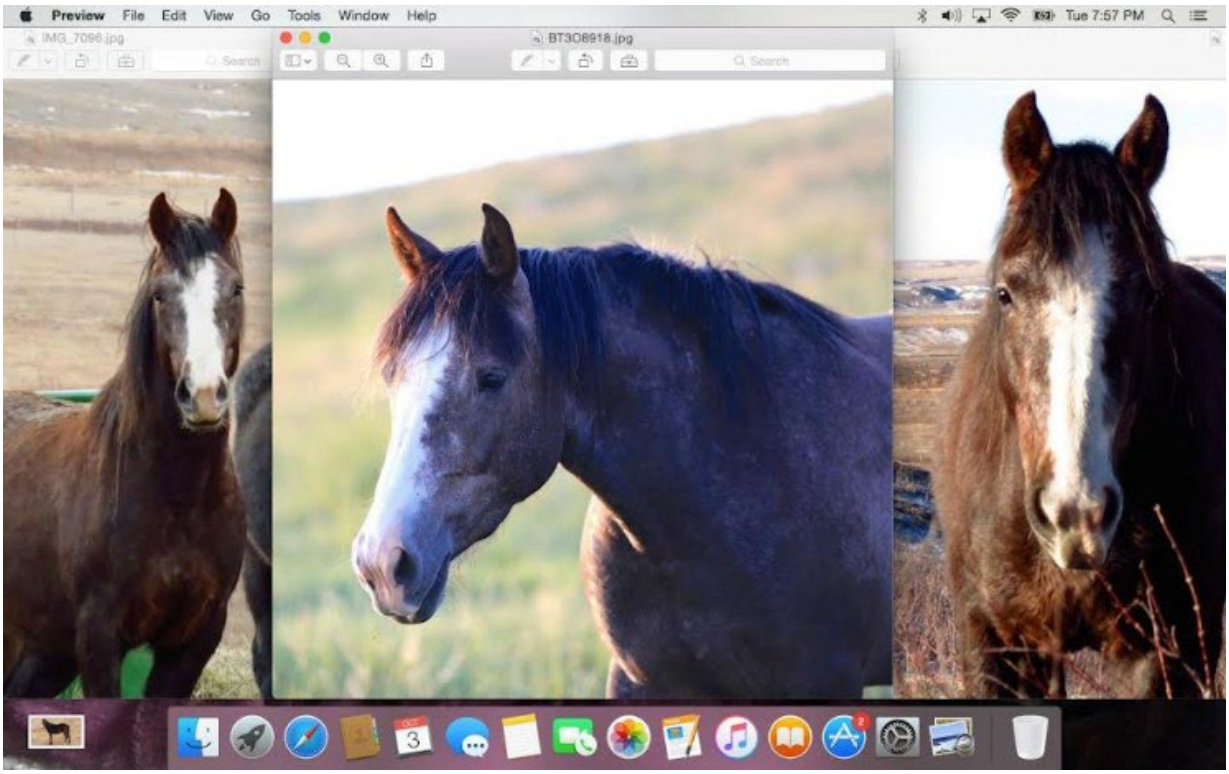
having GG walk right by us! But, soon the atmosphere changed in the park as the helicopter began it's duties of moving horses.... It wasn't long before we saw large groups of horses running up hills and through valleys. All being moved in the same direction. The direction of the holding pens. Talk about a day of mixed emotions. Sadness for all the horses. Worry for all the horses. Anxiousness on deciding to defy Chuck and get one, even though he told me I'd be living in my camp trailer in the field with the horses! What if the kill buyers showed up and nobody else did. The 'what if's' were the worst, for me, and I decided to get one!

I wanted one of those horses. My main concern wasn't on a certain horse, it was just on saving ANY horse that was being bid on by a meat buyer. I was unable to go to Wishek for the sale, but found a wonderful woman named Julie Lander, who lived close and who was also going to bring home a horse or two. Julies friend Tandra was going to the auction and she would bid for me as well. And best part of all, they would get the horse to me! All I had to do was get the spot ready and pay the dues when they showed up! OH and break the news to Chuck! LOL

There were over 100 horses rounded up for the Wishek sale. Mares and foals and stallions. Mares and foals were separated, not sold together. In my mind, a meat buyer would be most likely to get an older stud horse. So, that was what I had anticipated. I was ready for it. I could do it!..... Half an hour into the sale my phone buzzes! My heart was in my throat. I bet this was it.... I opened the text and there is a message and a photo of the horse Tandra bought for me. (I'm such a sap, I am crying while I'm writing this) There on my phone screen was the sassy little red colt who had snubbed his nose at Courtney and I !! The little brat that was bold enough to march around in the trees with his amazing dad, until two humans scared him back to his mommy! A five month old turd that was now coming to live with ME! Not a stud horse that I would never do anything with, except feed and hope to make a pet out of, but a freaking five month old baby! And not just ANY baby, but THE baby that I had just teased and laughed and felt such joy with, a week earlier. Out of all those horses, somehow, Tandra had picked THAT horse for me. His name was Shield. His name is still Shield. The day he stepped off the trailer onto our property was the day my heart changed. It swelled and it tingled and I

swear it opened up!

Shield was a divine gift, that put a shield around my heart! He is the kindest soul. He gives me unconditional love and feels every emotion. He was my saving grace. He rescued me from the horror that was Dementia. The disease that turned my hero, my rock, the only person I looked up to, my Mother, into a complete stranger. I lost my mother in March of 2018. I'm not sure I would have made it through all of our trials, without that amazing little red colt!
**First two photos are from the day Courtney and I sat and watched Shield with Gray Ghost. Just half and hour before they were on the run, from the helicopter.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362.

bobshoemaker@frontiernet.net <bobshoemaker@frontiernet.net> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 2:33 PM

To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Jan 22, 2023

Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP) had long been on our list of National Parks to visit. While we had even passed by on the freeway a couple of times while enroute to or from other destinations we never had it in our schedule to make an actual visit to the park until 2018 as a part of a multiple NP photographic tour including The Grand Tetons, Yellowstone and Glacier with a 2 day visit in TRNP on the way home to Minnesota. With both of us being serious photography enthusiasts, it was a trip with the goal of finding beauty in nature of all sorts including the landscapes, weather conditions, environmental changes such as fire scarring and plant rebirth and largely for wildlife.

As for wildlife, the Grand Tetons, Yellowstone and Glacier NP's yielded some Elk, Moose, Turkey, Deer, Coyote, Bison, Grizzly Bear, and a few other animals and birds but TRNP gave us the rare opportunity to see Wild Horses in their natural habitat behaving and interacting in their own unique natural ways, something that is rarely seen by most people and even less understood by casual observers.

Unfortunately for us our 2 days in the park gifted us several beautiful landscapes but only gifted us with sighting 2 solo horses, one standing in the middle of the road and the second farther into the park standing not far off the road doing the same thing as all horses, wild or domestic, Grazing.
While he kindly raised his head for a moment to take a look at us, enough time for a quick photo, he quickly went right back to eating.
Well this was just enough to have us vow to come back and spend more time in search of the wild horses that fit so well into this varied terrain.

It took 4 years but in September 2022 we made it back for more. This time we came not alone but as part of an adventure tour/workshop with extremely knowledgeable guides, Deb Lee Carson and Jamie Baldanza, from the WildLandsWildHorses foundation.

In the 4 days we were there we saw so many horses even though a large part of the loop road was closed due to erosion issues. It made all the difference having someone that knows not only the park extremely well but who also knows the behaviors of wild horses so well.
It is easy for the casual park visitor to see the landscape and usually abundant Bison and maybe a few Deer and if lucky an Elk. And perhaps on a good day with a little luck they will see some of the wild horses and get a jolt of excitement for a short while.
But getting up early and staying out late taking the time to find the bands with someone who knows where to look and take time to really observe them as they interact within their band and with rival bands is an amazing experience, especially with a guide or guides who know and can explain to you what the different behaviors mean, how the horses communicate and things like the pecking order of the bands. Having been around horses growing up, I can say that I saw a big difference between domestic horses behavior and the natural behaviors of wild horses. The intelligence, strength, rivalry, comradeship, and emotions whether affection or fear. They are all something not only wonderful to observe but also enlightening and spirit lifting.

We pray and we hope that the wild horses will forever be a large part of the park and their contribution to the park be always appreciated by the park service.

I think it would be a great addition to the park experience to have a quality interpretive film showing regularly in the visitor center. One that would tell the story of the wild horse, their history, their contribution to man throughout time, some explanation of wild horse behaviors and so on. It would certainly enhance visitors experience in and of the park and appreciation of the horses. Maybe Deb Lee Carson and Jamie Baldanza could be an integral part of the content production.

Our thanks to them for their guidance and knowledge shared as well as for their efforts in protecting not only the wild horses all over the country but also the heritage and historical contributions of horses to humanity and an unending desire for understanding and truth of the wild horse and how they can coexist in todays world.

Bob & Deb Shoemaker

363.

Carol Goulson <carlog1945@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 3:19 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I support the effort to save the wild horses of TRNP.

Here is My Story,

My one and only visit to the park occurred when I visited my son who was living in Bismarck at the time. At that time we saw several bands in the distance. As a lifelong lover of horses, I was so excited to see them and wished I could have been closer to them. One special memory I have of that time was of a band running across the crest of a ridge; so proud and free. I can still see it in my mind's eye. At the time I didn't know what I was seeing; but it was beautiful and awe-inspiring to witness. It left me with a wonderful memory that I hope others can experience. Later, I learned more about TRNP through the photos and stories of Blaze. I cried for days when he passed; sad but he died wild and free. That is when I learned about the other bands. Since then I have been inspired by all the beautiful photos and stories of all the horses and bands. I follow and look forward to the stories, photos, and seeing the new foals. It makes me happy.

Now, I have been devastated to hear the news about the possible removal of the horses in TRNP. I don't know if I'll ever have another opportunity to visit the park again; but the horses are the only reason I would go back. The loss of the genetically unique horses of TRNP and their history in the park will be immeasurable. This natural treasure will be lost; never to be regained. Once they're gone, they're gone. No going back; no recreating. I pray the agencies and individuals on the committees involved will realize what a loss this would be to North Dakota, the Nation, and globally.

Carol G

364.

Betty Fred <bettyjeanfred@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 3:21 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I moved to ND in Sept. of 2011. The next summer I went to my first Medora Musical. Which was the first time I really learned anything about Theodore Roosevelt. I fell in love with Medora that night. Little did I know just how in love I was. Later in the summer we got the chance to drive through TRNP. I couldn't believe what we saw. From the prairie dogs, to the bison, to the beautiful mustangs. And that is the reason we come back multiple times a year. All year long we follow along with Badlands Horses on Facebook and hear the tales of the horses and who's leading what pack and their names. And then we get to go and drive through and see these actual packs. It is a highlight for my entire family and everyone who comes to visit us in Dickinson. By getting rid of the mustangs, you would be getting rid of Medora. It is their home and if we haven't learned anything from history, we need to stop stepping in and moving species. They will become extinct and all the people of Medora will be the ones paying.
Thank you,
Betty Fred
Dickinson, ND
701.690.6747

365.

Krista Ginger <kristaginger@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 3:30 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing as very concerned citizens regarding the proposed removal of the wild horses from the North Dakota Badlands/Teddy Roosevelt National Park (TRNP). We honestly can't believe that we are having to write this letter, as this herd and their connection to the Badlands and our American history is synonymous. We have followed every Facebook page that shares photos of these horses just to catch glimpses of the beautiful creatures running free in the TRNP Badlands.

We have never been lucky enough to visit in person but now that we are retired, it is on our list of future travels. However, if the herd is removed, so will be our desire to travel to North Dakota. Please don't take these symbols of our history away from us citizens. Please protect these magical creatures for future generations to enjoy as well. Thank you.

[Quoted text hidden]

366.	**Sandy** <sandykp126@yahoo.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 3:35 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I'm writing as I have heard you are considering Removing the wild horses at Teddy Roosevelt National Park. I oppose this action. The wild horses were the reason we wanted to go to the park. I love horses but had ever seen them roaming free. They are amazing! We went into the park from town one evening and watched the animals and the set set. No wild horses until we turned around a bend in the road while making our way out toward leaving the park. Here were two herds crossing the road. We sat and watch them interact up close and as they road away. They were magnificent. Other cars had stopped and watched too. My point is people are drawn to this national park for the horses and other animals. This is the only NPS that I know of that has free bands of roaming horses . Bison and prairie dogs are at several. Your horses are what draw people to this area of North Dakota. I'm sure visitors to Menorah look for them. I was most impressed by this little known National Park. By its rangers, it's trails and history were well represented. I will saw again it was the wild horses that drew me here. Next the story of President Theodore Roosevelt. Last the scenery and buffalo. Medora was an add on. Please leave the wild horses roaming free here were their life stories may be remembered and enjoyed. Thank you, Sandra Poisel Louisville KY Sent from my iPhone
367.	**B Jordan** <limewithenvy@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 4:20 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I've never been to TRNP but I absolutely plan to visit the park to respectfully photograph & take in the wild horses myself. The park has a wealth of visitors who regularly post about the wild horses, their movements, their births, their lives and their deaths. These are much loved animals. Living in Canada, I have enjoyed the wild horses from afar for years. These horses are not escaped livestock & deserve to be free. Please keep the wild horses in the park for future conservationists, wildlife enthusiasts and animal lovers all over the world to follow and enjoy. Sincerely, Barbara Jordan 33 Dawson Road GUELPH, ON CANADA N1H 5V3

368.	**Judy Berger** <fordvalleypits@yahoo.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 4:23 PM Reply-To: Judy Berger <fordvalleypits@yahoo.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> We live in Alaska. Every time we traveled to Alabama and back we always drove through TRNP to see the horses. Im 65 and to see the horses has been a dream since i was a young child. Please leave the horses for my grandchildren to love and see. The horses bring an extra thrill when you see them. Such powerful loving family bands. The love of a stallion who will defend his family with his life. I love them. Judy Berger
369.	**Tracey Aafedt** <taafedt@rocketmail.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 4:30 PM Reply-To: Tracey Aafedt <taafedt@rocketmail.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> Hi I grew up in ND and love the badlands. I used to go there almost every year and drive thru the park. THE main reason I always drove thru the park was to see the wild horses. I don't care how many times I had to make that loop, I wouldn't leave until I saw the horses. There would be a lineup of cars to take pics if the horses were visible. This is just a shame and criminal what they are doing to the horses. I live in OK now, but if there is anything I can do please let me know. Tracey

370.

From: **TIM SPENCER** <tspencer37@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 4:32 PM
Subject: My Story about TRNP
To: <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Last year around May my wife and I made vacation plans to hike around a few places in the Black Hills of South Dakota. We have been there many times in the past because I love to photograph the wildlife there. We planned on visiting The Badlands, Custer State Park and Wind Cave National Park. I then stumbled across a Facebook page called Dakota Grown Photos and fell in love with the photography of the horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I messaged the page and got a response from Tiffany. She was very helpful with information about the horses and the park. We immediately changed our vacation plans to include TRNP. As a photographer of landscapes and wildlife I was so excited to be able to see these beautiful animals that call the park their home. We drove 800 miles and arrived at the park the last week of Oct of last year (2022). The park is such a beautiful place and when we seen a small band of horses near the campground I knew right then that this park was a place we would definitely be visiting many times again. I immediately recognized Teton and Casper from the photos that I've seen. I was in awe at being able to see these magnificent animals in this natural environment. We stayed near the campground for a couple of hours. I used a telephoto lens so I would get to close or disrupt their day. I could have stayed longer but we wanted to see more of the South Unit. A road was closed so we could not complete the circle so we had to turn around. Good thing because we saw many more horses. Again more photographs. I probably took 200 pictures of all the horses and so many more of the bison herd. We were only able to spend 1 day at the park. There was a snowstorm heading in and we wanted to get to Wall, SD that evening.
The day we spent at TRNP is a day I will never forget because of the beautiful horses that live there. When I heard that they might be removed it broke our hearts. I was already making plans to go back there very soon and spend a few days there. If the horses are removed then there really isn't a need to visit there again.

Tim and Denise Spencer
Tspencer37@sbcglobal.net

371.

7012123929@vzwpix.com <7012123929@vzwpix.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 6:05 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Dear Sir,

I would be very sad if the Theodore Roosevelt wild horses are removed from the park. I enjoy the "horse stories" and photos. We have colorful black and white paint mare. I look for other black and white wild TRNP wild horses. My favorite is Circus, a beautiful black and white spunky stallion. He is also 23 years old just like our black and white mare, Moxie. It's wonderful to see social media video clips, photos, and photos of the unicorn park horse, Circus like taking a bath and splashing in the river. He is magical, and should be allowed to retire peacefully as a free wild stallion in the TRNP. I even have a T-shirt from TRNP with "real wild horses" on it. My daughter and her husband hike deep into the park to take photos of the beautiful wild horses. I share the pics like with my horse shoer, who love the photos. Please save the wild horses so horse owners and people who love them can enjoy the videos, photos and stories of the wild horses and their families roaming free!

Thank you, Susan Ness

P.S. I would not go to TRNP to see buffalo but free wild horses Absolutely yes

372.

Claudia Low <ndbhclaudia@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 6:25 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hi ladies. This is my 16 year old granddaughter's story. 2300 miles from the Park in Louisiana!

Claudia Hebert-Low
NDBH BOD

My name is Hannah and I love the beautiful horses in North Dakota!! I'm from Louisiana so I knew nothing about them until my Mimi went to live there. I went there one summer when I was around 12 years old and I loved it. I loved all the mountains, bison, prairie dogs, the whole landscape and everything. Especially since, again, I'm from Louisiana so I had never seen anything like this before. But my favorite thing about my trip to North Dakota were the wild horses. They are so beautiful and the most graceful things I'd ever seen. Just the fact that they live in the wild and thrive on their own and have been for years and years is really a special thing to know and see. The fact that they all have names and can go in their natural habitat and see them in their own state is such a beautiful thing to experience. My Mimi eventually ended up buying one. His name is Whiskey and he's the most goofy, sweet, and cutest thing. He has so much personality and he's so loving. My Mimi now lives in texas but even when I do go to visit, I still thing about how cool it is that he was once a wild horse in the badlands. Before I had gone on my trip to North Dakota, my Mimi would send me pictures of them and tell me their names so when I finally was able to go I was so excited. Seeing them in person, somehow they became even more magical in person. I hope to go back again and visit them again, but I've heard that they are taking them out of the parks and if I'm being honest I don't think the experience will be nowhere near as amazing without them.

373.

Diana Schmidt <dianaluvsphotos@yahoo.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 6:29 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sorry mine is so long. I felt all over the place with it. It's so hard to put everything into words.

Diana

Diana Schnidt

The horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park have impacted the lives of my family in many ways. There is no one story that can define what these horses mean to us and how they have changed our lives. As a family we have taken many family trips to Medora before we knew much about the horses and their history. We would drive through the park multiple times on each trip, the primary thing the kids wanted to see was the horses, and every time one was spotted, it was as if they'd never seen a horse before.

In the spring of 2017, my 13-year old horse loving daughter purchased her first NDBH horse guide at the Minnesota Horse Expo, this was a life changing purchase when she found out every horse had a name, a family, a story. This fueled her passion for the TRNP horses. She was able to now identify all the horses in TRNP and she was hooked! Our next family trip was June 2017. At the end of our 4th and final drive through the park, the girls, Sierra age 13 and Ella age 8 (both total horse lovers) were disappointed that we didn't find many horses, which we all know happens sometimes as they have many places to hide in that terrain. We spotted a pronghorn near the river and decided to get out to photograph it. Then suddenly, Sierra spotted a horse figure off in the distanc and new right away it was the elusive Circus, the girls were beyond excited! He gradually made his way in our direction, drinking from the Little Missouri River, then laying in the water and rolling around, making funny faces and finally crossing to our side. He stopped and looked at us many times and then went up the trail we came down and disappeared. It was quite the magical moment and it was as though he knew the girls needed a pick me up after a discouraging trip for the lack of horses and he alone made the whole trip worth it. We have not had this honor again since as he stays well hidden within the boundaries of the park. This was the start of our annual "hiking for the horses" trips.

Sierra was always an old soul, grown up beyond her years. She followed several horse pages, researched as much as she possibly could so that when she returned to the park, she could identify most of the horses. That fall, we connected with a gal named Claudia on Facebook who knew we were heading out west to find the horses and she kindly offered to meet up with us to help us. It was refreshing to meet up with someone who was willing to spend an entire day with us looking for horses, but she knew just where to go and our daughter was having the time of her life. A true and lasting friendship was formed that day.

During the tough years of junior high and high school, this was the best thing for her. To see your child so passionate about something that has deep meaning and historical significance was amazing. I am not an outdoorsy person who normally enjoys hiking, but when I am there with her searching and hiking for horses, it's the best thing in the world and nothing else matters.

On our hiking trips, we have watched foals that were newly born navigate their new surroundings next to their mother's side, we have watched a band who lost a great mare during foaling complications as the band tried to help the new motherless foal, not leaving her side until she passed. We have watched stallions fighting to keep their mares, and young ones blissfully playing with their siblings. We have met so many amazing people on our horse

journey, restoring some faith in humanity, as we come together to talk about the horses, cry over the horses, or simply watch together with a feeling of gratitude and amazement. We all share a common and deep love for the majestic beauties that run free through the North Dakota Badlands.

One particular day touched our hearts in a special way. We met a family from the Minnesota, which happened to be an older gentleman who had lost his wife a few months prior, and his kids who brought him to TRNP to see the wild horses. The one thing he really wanted, was to see wild horses running. A friend Carol, my daughter Sierra and I spoke with the family for quite some time about the horses, and told them about how a lot of the horses hang out in the open area by the Fryburg exit. The next afternoon while we were out at Fryburg watching the horses, the family showed up and all the horses started running around and carrying on. Seeing how much this meant to the man was the best part of the entire trip. Sierra and I cried as we drove back to Medora to enter the park again, and we talk about this experience quite often. We have also kept in touch with the family and have met up with them again.

The horses have allowed us to meet some pretty amazing people and create forever friendships. For me and my girls it has also given us time to bond, learn and grow together. The horses teach us every time we visit them. They teach us perseverance as we navigate and hike through the rough badlands to meet up with them. They make navigation look effortless as they climb huge buttes and cross massive ravines, it's a bit more work for us, but more than worth it to spend time with them. They teach us how to enjoy and be at peace in wide open spaces as we disconnect from the craziness of everyday life and electronics/social media. They teach us patience as we wait for moments to photograph them living their wild lives, and trust me, a lot of patience is needed as they spend a huge amount of time grazing and resting. They teach us to never give up on family, even when things are difficult. They teach us that friendships can form in unexpected ways. They teach us about history and determination as they continue to thrive in the park through droughts and rough winters. Most importantly, they teach us how to fight. Those of us who love these horses, we won't stop fighting for them. They are a huge and important part of all our lives and the lives of our children and grandchildren. We need them. The future generations need them. They are a part of our soul.

374.

Allison Tighe <tighedyedhair@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 6:40 PM

On rare, privileged occasions, we are lucky enough to see something so beautiful that it literally stops us in our tracks, leaving us without words as we temporarily disconnect from everything else surrounding us.

I was lucky enough to experience this after seeing a photo of what I now know was a horse at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. A gentle voice brought me back to reality. "Have you ever been?" she said. I turned with wide eyes and replied, "Where IS this magical place?"

Imagine my surprise, as a Minnesotan, to learn that this beautiful image came from my neighboring state of North Dakota. As a lifelong horse lover, I was floored. How did I not know this place existed?!?! In that moment, I knew I must go.

Six months later, I was celebrating my birthday at TRNP.
A breathtaking sight greeted me as I entered the park. Nichols and his band stood right in front of my tear-filled eyes --- just as a storm was rolling in. Dark clouds filled the sky, and I couldn't tell if the deep rumble I was hearing was thunder or my own heart beating. Manes swirled and babies rose from slumber as the storm was upon us. Even though the winds were whipping and ice pelted my face, I could've stood there for an eternity.

Over the next two days, I was able to see every horse in park, minus the elusive Circus. The experience was surreal. I felt as though the initial photo that stopped me in my tracks had teleported me there, like some sort of magical dream. To this day, it still brings tears to my eyes every time I remember that it was actually real.

As a hairstylist in the Twin Cities, I spent the next several months sharing with my clients every morsel of information I had learned about the horses, their bands and the beyond-words beauty I was honored to witness. I shared photos, in hopes that they could have a glimpse into the beauty of the magnificent animals.

Of the several hundred people I spoke with, almost all had no idea that horses even existed at Theodore Roosevelt. They were absolutely floored, and several have since traveled there to experience their beauty firsthand.
Seeing such stunning animals in the wild was an incredible gift. The BEST gift actually, and it makes me incredibly sad that something so magical and accessible seems to be hidden from so many, when in all actuality, it should be shouted from the rooftops!

What words can give justice to a truly life-changing experience? They elude me, just as Circus thwarted my hopes of seeing him. What I do have are images I will never forget. Nichols, majestically standing guard during the storm. A standoff between stallions after someone got too close to a sleeping foal. An aging bachelor, living out whatever time he has left in his rightful home. A band, grazing peacefully, as the sky lit up with shades of yellow, orange and pink

I can say for certain that I would have never made the trip to TRNP if it weren't for the horses, and my world is a better place with them in it. I will carry these images in my mind and heart until the day I die. And when that day comes, I hope the other side is just as beautiful.

375.	**Elaine Ferron** <elaineferron@comcast.net> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 6:51 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com We have a very personal connection to TRNP. Our first two trips to the park was all about seeing the wild horses as the park itself. Once in springtime & once in the fall. Our goal was to see the river & foliage at different times of the year. Hoping every year to see the wild horses. I failed to see Circus but was overwhelmed by the sitings of many horses! The photos & videos taken when they graced us with close ups and trips past our park car to the water hole; excited us. Once we even got a foal surprise! They are beautiful & majestic beyond words. This is the heritage of Theodore Roosevelt and it is fitting these horses remain! They fit the nature of the park and we wholeheartedly regret and disagree with your plans to remove them. It is the same cruelty of our government and BLM that has me sponsoring and following wild horses in America. I even scattered my mother's remains where wild horses had lain in Arizona. We will be short and direct… if you remove these horses it will be our last trip to the park. Yes, there is still beautiful scenery and other wild animals but, it shows human cruelty and lack of direction for you to proceed with this plan. We would always remember the loss! It would not be the same without a "Dolly" standing point on a hillside or the hoof beats down to the water. Post CoVid now and our health issues aside we planned a trip to TRNP this spring… but that now is on hold until your decision is finalized. We hear that there is a firestorm of support adrift. We will also contact government officials to see if they can garner support. We plan to use our retirement vacations to see wild horses. We have encouraged younger friends to visit with their children. We beg you to leave them be! Thomas & Elaine Ferron 3951 Fawn Lake Dr. Swiss Twp, WI 54830
376.	**scon@frontiernet.net** <scon@frontiernet.net> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 7:22 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> I have always had a love for the wild horses at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. They are a beautiful part of our history. There isn't much in our country that has been untouched but these horses, that are ancestors of what the natives rode, continue on. They are part of history. Hearing that they could be removed is heartbreaking and does not make sense. They are part of the history that President Roosevelt preserved. They are a legacy and deserve to remain. I do not see a reason why they all need to be removed. They are in a park, not on someone's farmland. They are not doing anything wrong, they live on their own and provide for themselves. We have a grandchild coming soon and I would love to travel back with her someday to see the wild horses. It is so important, to see history in person than just from a book, movie or social media. Connie Kellington

377.

Veronica Clarke <queenievc@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 7:43 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

More than 60years ago, as a child in the U.K. I fell in love with horses. When I was old enough to go to the local library I would seek out any and all horse related books. My favorite were tales of the wild horses and the wild lands they lived on. They fired my imagination as no other books could. I longed to come to the USA to visit them.
I finally got the opportunity, job related to my husband, to come here in 1986 and we made Arkansas our home. I have never lost my passion for seeing these wonderful, iconic and native beings who helped to make this land what it is. I yearned to visit the wild ones that had so fired my imagination as a child. Sadly work constraints never gave enough time to visit and find them, although vacations did allow me to visit many places.

I retired 6 years ago due to health issues, but my desire to visit the horses has never waned. My husband retires this year and we are determined to visit these places in the hopes of seeing these horses for ourselves.

I have followed many social media accounts of them, wonderful photos and accounts of their lives. However, mixed with the good has been the bad. Reports of the decimation of the herds everywhere and the cruelty they have suffered. TRNP was one of the places I learned I could see them so you can imagine my dismay when I learned that the Park Service is going to get rid of the majority, if not all, of the herd there.

Is the area beautiful? I am sure it is as I have managed to get to Custer for a few days - just not long enough to do all the things I would have done if time and circumstances had permitted. However, without the horses that draw me there, I will not visit TRNP, as a vista without the horses thundering across the land, or playing at a river or watering hole, is empty and sad and would only make me sad for those no longer there.

Sincerely

Veronica A Clarke
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378.	**kemmerick4** <kemmerick4@charter.net> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 7:45 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I am writing to express how important it is to keep the wild horses at TRNP. My husband and I have learned of TRNP through Deb Lee Photography Facebook page. We wish to visit the park to see the beautiful wilds through our own eyes. Through Deb Lee Carson Photography we can appreciate how important the wild horses are to the area. Her spectacular pictures and information shared has spurred our interest to go see and experience the park and area for ourselves. The horses are an important part of history. It is their legacy to be. They are part of the landscape there and a reason for visitors to come to the park. Patricia and Ryan Kemmerick Rochester, MN

379.

Mia Kozitka <miakozitka@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 10:03 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello! I hope I'm not too late in submitting this.

I'm writing to tell my story of how the horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park are very important to me. To remove these wild (emphasize "Wild" - these are NOT domesticated livestock) horses from the park would be a huge mistake. Their removal would impact the park negatively from a historical, scientific, and tourism perspective.

I grew up visiting TRNP, and I've always been a "horse-crazy" girl. I remember going there as a child and my big highlight was driving through the south loop with my family and hoping to spot some of the real wild horses.

As an adult living in Fargo, ND. TRNP is one of my favorite places to go to hike and backpack. There was a many year gap in my 20's where I didn't venture out of eastern ND and Minnesota much. But as I grew older and started hiking more, I decided I wasn't going to wait for friends and family to come with me to go on my adventures. So I started travelling to TRNP on my own for solo hiking and kayaking trips on the Little Missouri River. On one of my first solo trips I launched at Sully Creek State Park, paddled up to my camp at Cottonwood in the National Park where I dropped my kayak at my site, then hiked back to Sully Creek. Along the paddle I almost tipped over my kayak in excitement when I turned a bend of the river to notice a wild horse watching me! I took out my camera and started snapping photos, as the horse (I realized later was the stallion Georgia's Boy) calmly watched me almost go into the river. That was when the magic of these wild horses really sparked me as an adult. After dropping my kayak off at camp, I started the long hike back to my Jeep parked at Sully Creek State Park, on the other side of Medora. As I walked, happily munching on my trail snacks I heard hoof-steps behind me. Naturally I thought it was a bison and spun around, only to see it was the same horse! It was so cool. He must've crossed the river and followed me out of curiosity. I watched him cross the road a ways behind me and trot off. Totally made my day. I didn't know his name at the time (so I just referred to him as "My Buddy"). However, I later found out that he was a young bachelor stallion by the name "Georgia's Boy." Today he has his own band of mares in the park, and he's a proud papa. It has been fun following his story on the "Chasing Horses" and "Wild in North Dakota" Facebook pages, especially after seeing him on that trip in person. I love how these photographers keep track of the horses, and the online community

names these magnificent creatures. Their work following these wild horses really does a lot for the park tourism (the park clearly doesn't appreciate this). I know people who haven't been there, but love to follow the stories of these horses living wild in the park - people who otherwise might not have thought ever to visit ND, but through a connection with these horses want to come and learn more about this beautiful park and its wildlife.

A couple other magical encounters I've had include drinking my morning coffee in Cottonwood campground. Again, this is early May. So the campground is pretty empty. I'm sitting on a picnic table, and I hear a whinny. I turn away from the river to see a gray horse trot through the campground. I later found out this was the stallion, "Teton." This was also before he had his own band, and again it's been fun seeing his story unfold online.

My favorite horse however, is hands down the famous park unicorn, "Circus." I have a black and white paint horse myself so I'm really partial to black and white horses. This magnificent stallion is the same age as my horse, and is an elderly bachelor stallion (22 years old). I spotted him at a distance while hiking with a friend on the Petrified Forest Trail. Circus was standing at the edge of a cliff in the distance shaking his head. I was so excited to see him, as I know he can be quite elusive. Since then I've also come across Xander's band while hiking with my husband. We had our good DSLR and Sony cameras with and got some pretty great shots as the band trotted by.

To remove these wild horses would be a huge mistake for the park and North Dakota tourism. Wild horses in today's world are incredibly rare, and
these magnificent creatures should be cherished. They are honestly a huge draw to the park. Very few places in today's world can you find wild, feral horses. It really is special. They are not domesticated and therefore should not be considered livestock. They are elusive and wild. You wouldn't want to get any closer to these animals than you would to bison. They are wild and should be categorized as such. In fact, these horses were there before the area was officially designated as a National Park in 1947. Scientifically these horses have been traced back to the rare Nokota breed. A breed dating back to Sitting Bull.

To remove these horses would be removing a piece of history from the park. Horses are a critical part of Theodore Roosevelt's story. He came to ND to ranch, and these horses are an essential part of his story and the history of this land.

Mia Kozitka

380.

Norman Nather <cowboyshonorride@yahoo.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 10:52 PM

To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I may need to send this in more than one part, as yahoo doesn't like to allow large files. I have a few photos, and a great video, you may want to post with the text. Marylu also shared my video.

My Theodore Roosevelt National Park story begins in the year 2000; while driving with my father Ken, back to his home state North Dakota, on a trip to visit relatives. While driving east into North Dakota on Highway 94 from Montana, I look over at my 70-year-old father and I see tears rolling down his face. Worried about him, I ask "What's wrong, are you okay?" He smiles while pointing to the Badlands and says, "Nothing's wrong," he pauses and then says, "I am home!" We talked for a few minutes then he said, "In a few more miles let's take the Medora exit and go into the Park, to see if we can find any of Teddy's Horses." At this time, I was 30 years old and I had only visited North Dakota once as a kid, I had no idea what he meant but I am always up to pausing any trip to admire horses.

To fill you in on the back story, about half of this info, I learned for the first time that day as we drove into the park. Poor people who needed horses back then in North Dakota, (as my Dad says "...and we were all poor") had to be resourceful. The locals from hundreds of miles around, who couldn't afford to buy horses, went to the badlands to capture them. At the time, locals referred to the wild badlands horses as "Teddy's Horses." My father was born in North Dakota, on July 22, 1929, on that same day, a filly they named Lady, was born at my great grandfather's ranch near Napoleon ND, 200 miles east of Medora. Great-

grandpa decided that, because this filly was born the same day as his grandson, she would be Kenny's horse and would be given to my father when he was old enough to ride. Lady's mother had been gathered in the badlands earlier that same year. Lady was a speckled white horse who stood about 14 hands tall. That horse helped to raise my father. Sometime in the early 1930s, they needed a team, and found another one of "Teddy's Horses." This one was a blue roan gelding named Tarzan. Tarzan was a tough horse to train and considered a problem horse who had bucked off most everyone, so he was very inexpensive. Tarzan took a liking to my very young dad and was very gentle with him. Dad has lots of stories with Lady, gathering cattle, riding to school, her tripping on a badger hole falling on him, and seeing his first deer as he rode through the pasture. (It may be hard to believe, but deer in the 1930s and early 1940s were not a common sight in most of North Dakota farm country. The tree rows planted after WWII created a habitat that the deer needed to live in the plains.) I remember his other stories of him using Lady and Tarzan as a team, pulling a plow, cutting hay, raking hay, and driving the wagons. When he was about 9 years old, he was raking hay with a dump rake, when something spooked the horses. They took off running and wouldn't stop, he luckily baled off the back. Lady and Tarzan literally ran the wheels off that rake, the harness broke off and the horses returned to the barn on their own. The family never retrieved that old dump rake. Back in 2011, Dad and I drove all over the northern Napoleon area, looking for that old dump rake, but we never found it.

My great-grandfather on my mother's side moved to eastern Montana in 1908. He worked for the Chicago Milwaukee St Paul and Pacific Railroad line, commonly called the Milwaukee Road, as a land salesman. He bought one of his own checkerboard plots in Ismay, MT, about 100 miles southwest of Medora. Unfortunately, my mother's side of the family is long gone, including my mother, but in September we visited Ismay retracing my family history. We spoke to people in that town who knew of "Teddy's Horses" as well.

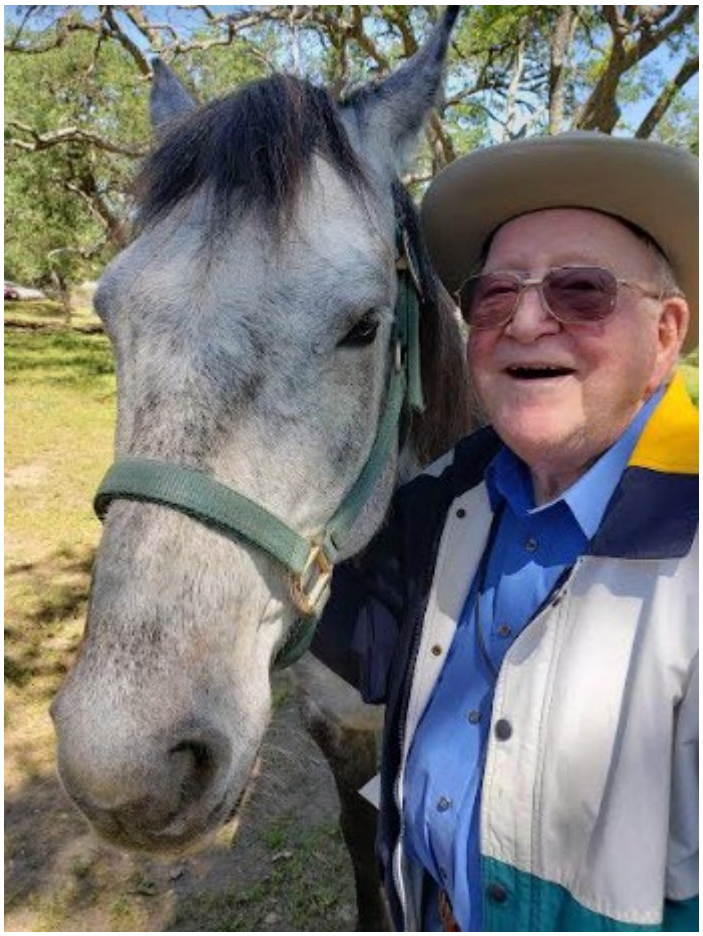
These TRNP horses are a part of most every family's story, in the region of Eastern Montana and North Dakota during the 1800s through 1940s. If you lived in this region during that time and didn't have one of Teddy's Horses, one of your friends and neighbors did have one.

I have visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park a dozen times over the past 23 years. Now, that may not seem like a lot of TRNP visits, but consider that until last year, I lived 1500 miles away from the park. In late 2021, my wife and I moved to Western Montana, where we now only live only 700 miles away. We visited the park in September 2022, and we have intentions of visiting annually to see the horses. The only reason I have ever visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park was to see Teddy's Horses.

In 2012, my wife and I became horse owners. A couple years later, we found out people could adopt some of the horses removed for park population control, so we looked into adopting one. We wanted to continue my family legacy of a stewardship and love for these historic group of wild horses. We did eventually adopt a park horse into our family and have become much more involved in North Dakota Badlands Horse organization. We admire NDBH for their efforts to name, catalog, and help maintain herd sizes in the park. They also follow up and keep in touch with adopters, helping each other and checking in on the care and welfare of adopted horses. Interestingly, the horse we adopted had a few owners before my wife and I gave him a forever home. I had inquired about adopting an NDBH a few years before actually getting one, however; at that time we could not find available NDBH horses that were any closer to us than 2000 miles away, so we put that goal on the back burner. A few years had gone by and I received an email from NDBH, asking if I was still interested in owning an NDBH, that one was available in my area. The NDBH people care about them, even after they get adopted, and will do what they can to keep these horses in loving homes. Of all the wild horse herds in the world, the NDBH organization keeps really good track of the adopted horses and follows up, ensuring the best lives possible for the adopted horses. We love these horses.

Meeting with several NDBH owners at the reunion in September, we met several who have adopted multiple park horses and many who have fostered several as they were looking for a new home.

These horses have caused the Park a lot of free and positive exposure and publicity. There have been a few short films, annual calendars, several books, new social media pages, and several websites, featuring these horses, if the horses are eliminated, the positive publicity will become much less park favorable. Travelers from around the world visit TRNP just to be able to see a glimpse of the Wild Horses. Horse tourism is a real thing. The North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame is located in Medora for a reason, removing the park horses will hurt their organization.

381.

Deborah March <debbiefroggie@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 11:22 PM

To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I moved here from Pennsylvania in 2007, I choice here because I visited Medora and the park and saw the wild horses I grew up watching the Cinatinge ponies in Maryland ..can you imagine if they did away with them? Anyway I am a disabled veteran and do not have to pay to enter the park, but I will not ever go again if the horses are removed or Medora and trust me I spend alot of money there. I have family and friends that come in the summer just to see t he wild horses, for God's sale geld some of the males its not that costly and the herd would not grow so fast and no one would have to be taken out.
BOY TEDDY IS PROBABLY TURNING IN HIS GRAVE .

382.

Richard Rand <dick.rand@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 11:26 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have never visited the park since I live in Maine and my husband and I no longer travel due to our ages.(77 & 79)

I have followed the horses of the park for many years on Facebook. I have also read the history of the park and on facebook read other TRNP lovers stories regarding the park. People as far away as Europe have come to the park and been lucky enough to see the magnificent horses personally.

What can I say to reflet how so many people feel about the park and its horses.? The park is a true piece of history. Many years ago Theodore Roosevelt had the foresight to create the park so that the land of the park and its many inhabitants would be safe and continue forever to be available for generations of Americans to visit and enjoy.

Foremost of the inhabitants of the park that have drawn visitors to the park of course are the wild horses who live there and have lived there for generations. Every day I open up the FB page for the park and am transported to the park in my imagination. I have learned to love the horses, know their names and their family groups. I have thrilled to the birth of new horses and occasionally cried at the death of one on of the beautiful horses, usually older horses but occasionally nature is cruel and takes horses before their time.

I have read about the various options of what could happen to the horses at the park and to me the only viable one is to leave the horses be and when necessary use birth control if the numbers get out of hand which clearly they are not at present. Cutting the number of horses at the park will in my opinion make the herd unviable due to inbreeding and taking into account the number of horses who die of natural causes each year. Wild horses only rarely live to be geriatric and a number of the horse in the family groups are older and each winter may fall victim to the infirmities of old age.

I follow a number of wild horse herds at other parks which have been subject to helicopter gathers and until recently have felt that at least the horses of TRNP were safe and now I read that in fact they not only are not safe but that they could be eliminated from the park. In my opinion that would take all of the magic from the park and make it much less a tourist destination. The horses who have lived in the park for generations are an integral part of the attraction of the park. Visitors to the park are lucky to be able to observe the horses that many have followed for years.

I hope that the decision will be to let the status quo remain and that no horses are gathered and sold at auction.

Sincerely

Nan Rand
nanrand@gmail.com

383.	**Laurie G** <rideamustangnow@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 6:46 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> In October 2013 there was a round up in the park. The Cloud Foundation and Legacy Mustang Preservation in Louisa, VA somehow were able to rescue about 35 mustangs and they arrived in VA mid October. I arrived the next day for a fundraiser at the farm. I stayed a few days, took lots of pictures of the horses and observed how confused and disoriented they were having been ripped from home, trucked hundreds of miles and now confined to a few acres. It was heartbreaking. Legacy Mustang Preservation did not survive and I wonder now what happened to all those horses.... Laurie
384.	**Carol Thouin** <honk421@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 9:02 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

	MEDORA

THEODORE
ROOSEVELT
NATIONAL PARK
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

My husband and I had the pleasure of traveling to Teddy Roosevelt National Park last summer. On my bucket list was to see wild horses. We recently retired and we could go anywhere and this was a place that was at the top of our list. We loved the quaint and friendly community of Medora but we were blown away at the majesty and beauty of Teddy Roosevelt National Park. When we spied the first wild horse on a ridge in the distance, our hearts began to pound. We saw several herds in our journey throughout the park. We were so excited that we could see horses living wild in their natural environment as they so deserve to inhabit. We also saw Buffalo, which was exciting, but the horses are something very special to the park, and to all the visitors from around the country and world that come to visit the west. These animals make the park even more phenomenal than it already is and should remain a key part of this beautiful, rugged land.

385.	**Crystal Moser** <rcmt@drtel.net> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 9:47 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com My retired husband and I have enjoyed the TRNP since we were very young. The wild horses are a part of the park and need to stay there! Can't imagine a good reason to take them out of the park! Crystal and Bob Moser Sent from my iPhone
386.	**Jeff Marcus** <jeff@marcusweb.org> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 9:49 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> Good day, I know the NPS has received pleas from around the country and perhaps beyond our borders to allow the existence of the wildlife at TRNP. While I agree completely with the pleas to save the wildlife, my comments take a different approach. You know your attendance numbers better than I do. You know the income generated by the tens of thousands of visitors yearly. I ask you, what is the motivation to visit a park that has for so many years been known as a haven for wildlife when the wildlife is gone? As a photographer, I don't need to travel hundreds of miles to capture sunrises and sunsets. I can photograph incredible vistas much closer to my home. I can hike hundreds of trails nearer to my home. What is the draw to TRNP if not for the wildlife? Have you prepared for a stunning decrease in attendance? That surely will happen as word spreads. And what of the surrounding communities that rely on TRNP visitors for food, lodging, and related tourist services? Should your decision be to reduce or eliminate the wildlife at the park, it won't be long that you'll be reducing staff and services. There will be nothing TRNP offers that my local National parks do not. The consideration to abandon the primary draw to the park is ludicrous and financially a disaster for the employees of the park who are no longer needed and the communities who rely so heavily on the park's visitors. Jeff Marcus Red Wing, Minnesota Jeff@marcusweb.org

387.	**Debbie Larson** <dkls57@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 1:25 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> First thing, thank you for fighting for our wild Mustangs! I have never been to TRNP and hope too someday! The first moment I laid eyes on Blaze, and the first moment that Deb Lee Carson "popped" up on cyber-space, was my FIRST encounter with these AMAZING, BEAUTIFUL creatures! I knew I wanted to see more of them. So, I started following Deb. It is so unbelievable that they are throwing them in to the "livestock" category! #1. Wild Horses are not livestock, they are Native Wildlife. #2. They are not an economic asset & not "kept" for pleasure...they are Wild. In fact they are not "kept" at all, let alone used. #3. The independent living free-roaming horses of the park-call them wild or call them feral-are NOT livestock. I will do my best to fight for their FREEDOM to stay WILD for future generations. Sincerely, Debbie Larson
388.	**From:** boylekathrin@gmail.com **Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2023 3:15 PM **To:** info@atwildlandswildhorses.com **Subject:** TRNP public comment submission Please see attached file! Katie

WILD HORSE HERD OF THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK

PUBLIC COMMENT:

I am writing to the address the TRNP Livestock Management gather plan for the free-roaming Wild horses that occupy the historic landscape of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. President Theodore Roosevelt was a politician, statesman, soldier, writer, conservationist, naturalist and historian. He was also an avid outdoorsman who loved horses and to ride. In 1898, he served as a Colonel in the Army. While there, he started the first volunteer Calvary later known as the "Rough Riders." He later wrote about the infamous Rough Riders, and it eventually ended up on silent film somewhere in the archives.

My own story starts in 1974, when I was 10. It was the year I learned there was such a things as Wild Mustangs and Burros. Then I learned about the government's adoption program in a Social studies class. It is the year my love affair with horses started full-time. I would draw them, ride them and of course daydream out how I would be adopting a wild mustang or two someday. That year was also the year that my parents, siblings and I went on our biggest adventure yet with a Ford Explorer camper that slept all 5 of us, very snugly. That 2-person tent came in very handy on our 5 week adventure out west! This was The BIG Trip for our family and my parents planned very carefully where and what we would see. We all had a say in what we would go see, and mine was always to find wild horses. I didn't care where, I just wanted to see them. I was that girl who asked for a horse every birthday and Christmas. I always got a very nice Breyer Horse and have a big collection. We went to see the Chincoteague Ponies swim down in Maryland, on a previous "Southward" trip. We saw all of the "Popular" National Parks, Yellowstone, Bryce and Zion, but no wild horses. The closest we got to Theodore Roosevelt National Park was Mount Rushmore. In the years since, I have seen the Corolla North Carolina wild horses, and signs for wild horses in Nevada, but never saw the wild mustangs.

It is my hope to do just this by renting an RV and hitting every single National Park in the U.S. Just like many tourists that come to this park to see the wild horses, I am also excited to see this herd. It is because of our 26th president that we have any National Parks, National Forests, Bird Reserves, game reserves and national monuments. Because of whom he was, I do not think he would be in agreement with reducing this genetically unique herd. If it is reduced too much you lose genetic viability which is crucial to continuing a bloodline and will eventually lead to total extinction of the breed. It would be such a travesty of justice to do go ahead with this reduction of the herd considering what President Theodore Roosevelt himself, stood for. His legacy can be found in the National Parks across the US.

389.

Nellie Ralston <ralstonnellie@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 10:12 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have never been to the Park myself but a friend from Facebook post about it all the time with pictures and writes pages on the horses their.
I feel very privileged to be able to see and read about such amazing animals that are able to live there lives their.
I was close to there a few times on some trips with my Church.
My friend Claudia Herbert-low has kept me up on the goings in at the park.I would hate to have the life that these horses know taken from them.
I am a 75 year old woman with a lot of health issues who enjoys seeing these majestic animals running free through the eyes of Claudia.
Thank you for at least reading this .Please don't take them away.
Always a horse lover.Nellie Shannon

390.

Musland, Keyahna <keyahna.musland@ndsu.edu> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 5:10 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Here is a story about my families connection to the TRNP!

My name is Keyahna Musland, I am currently a first-year student at North Dakota State University studying Biomedical Sciences with an emphasis on the Pre-Veterinary route. I am writing to you to share my family's connection with the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The wild horses in the park create a landmark in our state and have formed memories with people across the nation. The removal of these horses would be detrimental to the people and the park. I can't speak for others, but I can for my family and myself about our experiences with the wild horses of North Dakota.

My family visits the park yearly to go riding with our personal horses. Many people go out to the park to go hiking and see the scenery, but for my family we make the trip to see the wild horses. Annually, my family makes the trip out to Medora with a trailer full of horses to go riding in the park to get a better look at the wild horses in their natural state. Going out to see the wild horses has formed into a family tradition over the years that started well before I was born. I just happened to fall in in love with them the same way as my grandfather did over 70 years ago. The fondness that my grandpa holds for the wild horses of Medora has been passed down the family line like a hereditary trait. The wild horses have created so many memories for me and my family that we cherish to no end. We have even started to get to know the wild horses by name and have had the opportunity to see them grow from a tiny, high-hearted colt, into a powerful spirited mustang.

My family has shared many memories at the park but one of my favorite things about going to see the wild horses is the journey to find them. Taking on the path going up and down the rocky trails on horseback hoping to get a glimpse of them over each butte. At the same time stories are being told, laughter is in the air, memories being made, and everyone is trying to be the first one to spot the wild horses. Then finally, making your way over a hill, there they are. The wild band of horses galloping around experiencing true freedom. There is always a silence in the air of the group that went out as everyone takes in the breathtaking view. You can hear the thunder of their hooves and the snorting of the stallion keeping the herd of mustangs together and warning others off. That feeling of seeing those mustangs in the natural like that creates a sensation like no other.

Out in the park these wild horses experience a pure freedom that would be irreplicable if they were to be removed from the park. Within the park, the horses can follow their natural instincts and live happily. The love my family and I hold for these wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park is unparalleled. Seeing these mustangs removed from the park would be heartbreaking.

Musland, Keyahna <keyahna.musland@ndsu.edu> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 5:31 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Here are some pictures of my family there to go along with the story!

Me when I was little and was so mad I wasn't old enough to go on the big trail ride to look for the wild horses!

My Grandpa, dad, and I all riding out in the badlands!

My grandpa who is still riding out there at 79 years old and is in love with the TRNP horses!

My dad and I riding out to look for the wild mustangs!

Me with the TRNP wild mustangs!

391.

Aurum Canine Services <aurumcanineservices@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 5:45 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I always had been fascinated by horses. Growing up in the suburbs of St Paul, Minnesota and San Diego, California; my ability to interact with horses was pretty limited.

As I grew older, I struggled with disabilities that started to show in my late teens. After a head injury and a yearlong stint of physical therapy to be able to walk unassisted with a cane, my physical therapist recommended that I look into horseback riding to keep core strength. I was intrigued to have encouragement to have a horse and I purchased my first horse, a quarter horse named Marvel. Marvel unfortunately was not sound, so, he was retired to the pasture.

I started to look into horses that were "sturdy" and healthy. On one such search, I came across the North Dakota Badlands Horses page and was quite intrigued. There were so many passionate, friendly people to talk more about these historic horses. Quicksilver, a little colt, joined my life in September 2016. He spent some time training with Travis of Walk By Faith Therapeutic Riding, before coming home to grow up.

Quicksilver is always the first to come up to the gate when we visit, and the last to leave. He has a puppy dog personality - enjoying neck scratches and interactive toys. He can be lead around without a halter and lead rope, just follows to see if we may engage in a training session. Quicksilver has participated in a few of the Minnesota Horse Expos, delighting many with his affection and silliness.

After finding such an amazing horse, we've shared his story with many others, who have fell in love with these group of horses as well. I was amazed by the gentle, caring nature of the North Dakota Badlands Horses. My husband and I have visited the Theodore Roosevelt National Park numerous times to see more of the North Dakota Badlands Horses to document and learn more about their stories, which we have shared with many. Quicksilver has changed many preconceived notions about trainability and friendliness, to which we now have had several interested people going out to visit the park to preserve this American symbol.

Not only does Quicksilver help with my mobility, he also teaches the dogs through our service dog program on how to interact with horses. He is everything I could have ever wanted or dreamed of. I cannot imagine my life without him now.

392.

KMM <kyrissamorigeau@hotmail.com> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 6:32 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Our TRNP Wild Horse Story begins in January of 2015 when two of my daughters, Daytona and Holiday, at the ages of 4 and 6 started to take horse riding lessons. All it took was one lesson for them (and me) to be absolutely smitten with horses. By the late spring of 2016 Holiday started asking me if we could go see "wild horses." At the time, I knew very little about wild horses and where they could be found within the United States. A quick hashtag search of #wildhorses on Instagram led me to Jamie of @thismustanglife. Through her beautiful images we discovered the magnificent wild horses that call Theodore Roosevelt National Park home.

Before I came across Jamie's Instagram account I'd never even heard of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Yet, just over a month later, in July of that same year, my husband and I loaded our 4 kids into the car and equipped with the 2016 Guide to the Wild Horses of TNRP, made the 18-hour drive from Washington state to North Dakota with the sole purpose of seeing the wild horses. On our first day in the park we drove the Loop Road and saw a lot of horses but most of them were far off and my kids took turns viewing them through binoculars. As we were heading out of the park we saw the backside of 4 horses standing on a grassy knoll overlooking prairie dog town so we pulled over to watch them as this was the closest we'd come to any horses all day. I started taking pictures and as we watched all four horses – Cloud, Chubby, Flicka and Holly, turned in our direction and were looking directly at us. It literally stopped me in my tracks and all I could do was lower my camera and stare back. I looked at my girls and the pure awe on their faces was priceless. No matter how many horses you've seen, I don't think anything compares to the feeling of seeing a wild horse living free in nature, untethered by the demands and expectations of humans. For me it was exhilarating. As we continued to observe them they meandered down the knoll and briefly out of sight as they entered a dip in the terrain. Within a few minutes we saw the tips of 4 ears and then 4 more as they came back into sight heading in our general direction with Cloud leading the way, followed by Chubby, Flicka and Holly bringing up the rear. Suddenly, a tiny foal (who we had not glimpsed before this time) came shooting from the rear, galloping as fast as her spindly little legs would carry her. In the next second Chubby started charging after her. At this point, with our hearts beating out of our chests, we made a quick and nervous retreat to the car as we were fairly certain the ground between us and the horses

could be covered very quickly even though they were at least a football field's length away. Talk about adrenaline rush! As the rest of the herd caught up to the foal, (who we later learned was a filly named, Maryland, belonging to Holly) my girls were transfixed by the action playing out in front of us. The adults settled into grazing and Maryland was rambunctious and tenacious, circling around them. My girls watched, eyes wide open and huge smiles plastered across their tiny faces. I will never forget it.

We spent two more full days in the park, waking before sunrise and heading to the park in the cool dark of the morning, with windows rolled down and heads sticking out to see who could spot the first horse. We had close encounters from the car when we rounded a bend and Teton's band was grazing right near the road and another when Cloud's band was meandering down the road in front of us and far off sightings from Bucks Hill. We were thrilled to find the old sentinel Singlefoot, with his beautiful blue eyes, grazing alone near a rock face and sweet little colt Puerto Rico of Teton's band became the family favorite. We spent the entire day in the park, sun up to sun down each day and quickly realized that we should've planned to stay for longer. Three days was just not enough.

To this day, my girls will thumb through the 2016 Guide and reminisce on our trip and wonder how the horses are. I continue to follow many Instagram accounts dedicated to the horses in the park and even accounts of some who've been adopted out. We have not been back to the park since, but have talked about wanting to visit again many times. We've been seriously considering a trip back this summer and I'm heartbroken thinking that the park is considering removing all of the wild horses. For us, without the wild horses there is no reason to go back, they are what put Theodore Roosevelt National Park on the map for us. The absence of their presence from the park is unimaginable and will be devastating if it becomes reality.

Kyrissa

393.	**zelmarah** <zelmarah@activ8.net.au> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 7:08 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Hi Deb and Jamie....Have been meaning to send this email for a a few days so sorry about the delay.....Apart from seeing the horses in the park and the beautiful badlands which took a piece of my heart and soul in 2015 it is still there I am sure following the horses around as they traverse those buttes and valleys...The social media report that absolutely touched me to the core was the photograph of the bison saying their goodbyes to Grey Ghost (who also stole my heart when I saw him) this photo to this day still stirs so many emotions cant put them into words...I know people say that animals do not do that sort of thing but they obviously have never witnessed anything like this..I know when I lost my beautiful Chia to a paddock accident a few years ago..his paddock mates came over and stood with me and his body and each one in turn licked him and blew softly in his face and my goodness I have to say it was so spiritual like being on a different planet...my husband stood back and took quite a few photos..but after he had gone and I turned to leave..one of the boys came back and stood very quietly and repeated the process and just stood by himself for a little while then quietly turned and walked away...this moment was obviously not meant to be captured and was just his moment alone...sorry about the diviation... getting back to the bison and Grey Ghost...I am sure that these animals being such spiritual animals in native american culture....were indeed saying their goodbyes to him and had in all probably grazed by his side at times throughout his life in the park...and were honouring him in their own way and wishing him well on his journey to the other side..I am sure he is one of the stars that shines down on the park..I know the probability of seeing this is rare but people should be allowed to be able to visit the park ,horses , bison and all the other wildlife and witness the beautiful and sometimes not so beautiful moments of the interactions of these animals..we the human race can learn so much about the circle of life from this..I hope from the bottom of my heart that park officials do actually listen to the people who have shared their experiences and let the horses stay...so that if I get back there someday these wonderful beings will still be there... please feel free to edit this rather long drawn out response...cheers Hazel from Australia...have a beautiful day...

394.

Red Falcon Ranch <redfalconranch@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 7:41 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I first learned of the wild horses in TRNP through my daughter, Rachel Abraham. She saw the Nokota horse booth at the Minnesota Horse Expo and was hooked on the story of this former TRNP herd in North Dakota. At 12 years old, Rachel saved her own money and bought a TRNP horse that another person had bought at a roundup auction in 2009. After buying Autumn, we had to visit the homeland of this beautiful young horse.

Through Autumn, we became friends with several advocates for the horses: Eileen Norton, Marylu Weber, and Deb Carson. They took Rachel under their wing and she spent several weeks every summer tagging along with them as they documented the horses. She studied alongside them and knew then that she would enter a field that involved these magnificent horses. She had the opportunity to meet Blake, the TRNP biologist, one of those summers, and he encouraged her to pursue her degree. Rachel will graduate from the University of Idaho this spring with a degree in Wildlife Resources, and a double minor in French and Rangeland Ecology Management. How sad that the very horses that guided her path in life are now at risk of being no more.

The North Dakota Badlands were the love of Teddy Roosevelt's life. To quote Teddy, "I have always said I would not have been President had it not been for my experience in North Dakota". My daughter, Rachel, pursued her university degree because of these horses. How many more people out there have had life changing experiences because of these horses? I am sure all of the people writing on behalf of keeping the horses in the park have similar experiences to share.

The TRNP horses have had a powerful impact on my entire family. We have spent countless hours in the park watching the horses in their natural environment - a place that has been their home long before the land was a park. Generation upon generation of horses have lived in these beautiful badlands. We have been fortunate to witness these horses where they belong.

North Dakota has a legacy in these horses and removal of the horses should be taken with extreme hesitation and caution. The reasons should be carefully weighed to make sure that the American people are not robbed of the legacy of their wild horses in TRNP. In the park that is Teddy Roosevelt's namesake, we must remember that he said, "Our duty to the whole, including the unborn generations, bids us restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations." The decisions made today impact not only my generation and my children, but my grandchildren and great grandchildren - the unborn generations that Teddy Roosevelt was talking about.

The horses are the biggest draw to the park for my family. I want to take my grandchildren there some day to watch the horses living wild and free. Removing the horses takes away this treasure from not just today, but also from tomorrow. Removing these horses will forever remove the heritage of horses on these lands. Once done, it can not be undone. How sad will be the day there are no horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I add my voice to the many who say KEEP THE HORSES IN THE PARK! Do not ignore the voices of the people. I ask you to work with the horses, not against them. Do not rush to removal and make the biggest mistake ever made in TRNP.

Many thanks,
Angela Abraham
249 Caprine Lane
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
208-597-5110

395.

Cindy Sandvick <c.sandvick@finleyusa.com> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 7:43 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Theodore Roosevelt National Park has always been my "Happy Place"! Why, you ask? It is because of the beautiful WILD HORSES! I love the beauty of the Badlands and love to drive thru the park on a warm summer day or a snowy sunny day. It doesn't matter, AS LONG AS I GET A GLIMPSE OF THE BEAUTIFUL WILD HORSES! The thought of Flax, Teton, Dolly, Circus, Taylor and all the other wild horses getting round up for slaughter, or to sell just makes me sick! The thought of the Park Service considers them as Livestock and not Wildlife is absolutely stupid! These horses have been in the park before it became a park. Tourist travel from near and far to drive thru the park in hopes of seeing the wild horses. I go to the park as much as possible, and I will see Bison, deer, coyotes, and other wildlife, but if I don't see the wild horses, it is a HUGE disappointment and I feel that the day thru the park was not successful. If the horses get removed, I will not go to the park ever again, no matter how beautiful the Badlands are. I have talked to many other people that have the same sentiment that I do. The park will lose a huge number of tourist by removing the horses. They are harmless. They don't hurt anyone, they stay our of peoples way. They are not mean like the Bison. A tourist can get out of their car to photograph a wild horse grazing in the ditch or on the hillside. A tourist would be crazy to do that if a Bison was near by. PLEASE SAVE OUR WILD HORSES! HAVE THEM STAY IN THE PARK FOR GENERATIONS TO COME! It has been my dream to be able to take my little granddaughter to the Park to show her the horses when she get older. I will lose that opportunity if they are removed. WILD AND FREE IS WHAT THEY SHOULD BE!

FINLEY ENGINEERING
INTEGRITY INTO EVERYTHING

Cindy A. Sandvick

OSP Project Coordinator

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Bismarck, ND 58502-1698

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Cell: (701) 391-3492

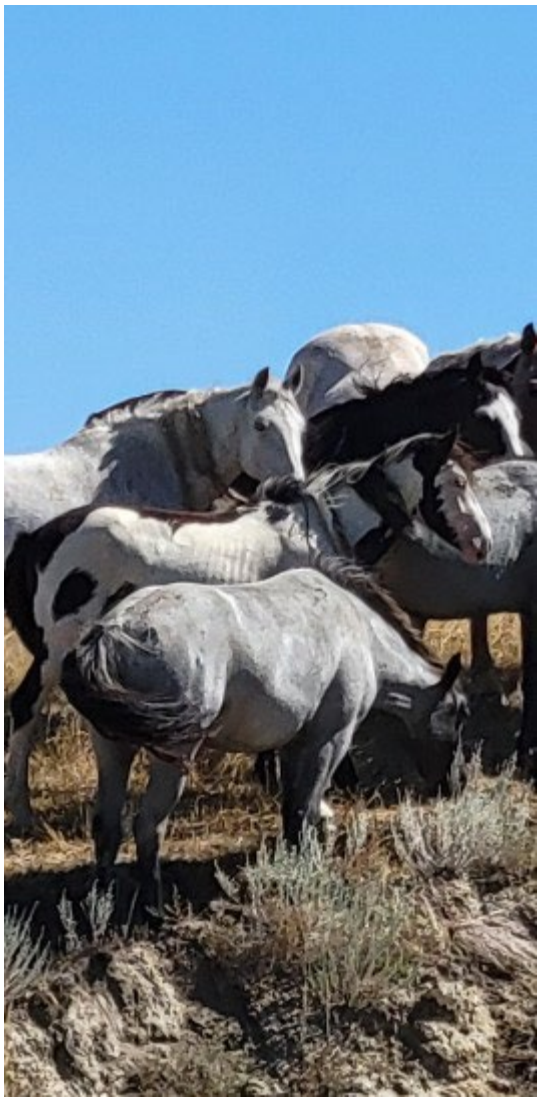
396.

Tina Hartmann <quarterhorsesforever@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 8:37 PM
Reply-To: Tina Hartmann <quarterhorsesforever@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: "Tina Hartmann" <quarterhorsesforever@yahoo.com>
To: " info@wildlandswildhorses.com
Sent: Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 7:14 PM
Subject: My trip to Theodore Roosevelt National Park

My name is Tina Hartmann, I have been following a couple of groups on the Wild Horses for several years now. And this one in particular when I first started following it, this picture of this Sorrel Overo caught my attention. It was has if I was looking at my Sorrel Overo Paint gelding Red Clouds Boy who I raised from a yearling until he passed away in 2004 he was 20 years old. I had to find out more about this horse, I learned her name was Mare Strawberry. Then I saw 2 beautiful black Stallions who happened to be father and son Mystery and Gunner. And then I see this beautiful black and white Stallion named Circus. So I thought to myself I have to get to this Park to see these beautiful horses. Unfortunately Mystery had passed away in an accident. The gorgeous mare Strawberry then had her foal who was absolutely gorgeous. As I am looking at him I couldn't believe how much he looked like my paint horse mother. When I heard that Strawberry had passed away at the age of 20 it was like losing my paint horse all over again. In August of 2022 last year me and my sister took the trip of a life time to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. We drove 1200 miles from Missouri. I got to see Strawberry's son Boomer and Amite, I saw Gunner and his father's mares, I saw Arrowhead and his ladies. And a bunch of the other families. I was in Heaven it was so peaceful, relaxing to be around all of these beautiful horses. I took so many great pictures of the Horses. The couple who took out to see the horses were awesome people. I am wanting to make this trip again this summer so I can get that little bit of Heaven and peacefulness. But if the Park gets rid of the wild Horses I will not be going back ever. I will not be spending lots and lots of money in that cool little town of Medora which I absolutely love. Here are some pictures of that awesome day. Plus the one of my horse who could have passed as a sibling to Strawberry and his mother.

397.

Zach Hochhalter <zhochhalter34@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 9:02 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hi all,

I am forwarding this story from my grandparents Durward and Phyllis Otterness. Both are life long North Dakota residents who have lived their 95 and 85 years respectively all in the state.

The badlands of North Dakota belong to us who live in North Dakota with its rugged beauty and the wild horses.

We have memories of going to Medora and the park from our childhood (75-80 years ago) and many times since then with our children and grandchildren.

Our goal in driving to the badlands has always to see the horses, even if they can be hard to spot from the car.

We have been given books that record generations of the horse families including the new foals.

In our most recent trip, there were three horses just below the road and it made it easy for us to get a closer look and a picture. What a joy to see them! They are part of the heritage of the park.

We like to think the wild horses are unique to the park. Beautiful pictures document the horses and celebrate their history in the park. As life long dairy farmers we realize how much attention is required for animals, and it is worth it! Horses have always been a part of our lives.

The wild horses represent one of our favorite memories of the park throughout decades of visits. Memories that will stay with us long after our trips to the park have ended.

Durward and Phyllis Otterness

Tower City, North Dakota

398.	**zelmarah** <zelmarah@activ8.net.au> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 10:03 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Hi Deb and Jamie....Have been meaning to send this email for a a few days so sorry about the delay.....Apart from seeing the horses in the park and the beautiful badlands which took a piece of my heart and soul in 2015 it is still there I am sure following the horses around as they traverse those buttes and valleys...The social media report that absolutely touched me to the core was the photograph of the bison saying their goodbyes to Grey Ghost (who also stole my heart when I saw him) this photo to this day still stirs so many emotions cant put them into words...I know people say that animals do not do that sort of thing but they obviously have never witnessed anything like this..I know when I lost my beautiful Chia to a paddock accident a few years ago..his paddock mates came over and stood with me and his body and each one in turn licked him and blew softly in his face and my goodness I have to say it was so spiritual like being on a different planet...my husband stood back and took quite a few photos..but after he had gone and I turned to leave..one of the boys came back and stood very quietly and repeated the process and just stood by himself for a little while then quietly turned and walked away...this moment was obviously not meant to be captured and was just his moment alone...sorry about the diviation... getting back to the bison and Grey Ghost...I am sure that these animals being such spiritual animals in native american culture....were indeed saying their goodbyes to him and had in all probably grazed by his side at times throughout his life in the park...and were honouring him in their own way and wishing him well on his journey to the other side..I am sure he is one of the stars that shines down on the park..I know the probability of seeing this is rare but people should be allowed to be able to visit the park ,horses , bison and all the other wildlife and witness the beautiful and sometimes not so beautiful moments of the interactions of these animals..we the human race can learn so much about the circle of life from this..I hope from the bottom of my heart that park officials do actually listen to the people who have shared their experiences and let the horses stay...so that if I get back there someday these wonderful beings will still be there... please feel free to edit this rather long drawn out response...cheers Hazel from Australia...have a beautiful day...

399.	**Benton, Graham** <Gbenton@csum.edu> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 10:39 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> From Helena Kriel and Graham Benton In 2022, we traveled to TRNP with the specific purpose of seeing the horses and experiencing the herds. We had heard about the park from mutual friends who are horse lovers, and we were curious and enthusiastic to learn more about wild herd behavior. We traveled from Minnesota and California to the park expressly for this purpose. And although the park contains many points of wonder and fascination, the horses far surpassed the other natural and cultural attractions. We were struck by the horses in their habitat and have never seen anything like it anywhere in all our travels – we left filled with awe and wonder that has not left us to this day. We have plans to return to the park this year to introduce other family members to the park, the horses, and the Badlands. Our family members are scientists and very interested in learning more about wild horse behavior. We cannot imagine that the horses could pose a threat to habitat for other species that would justify equine removal from TRNP. We also cannot imagine coming to a park without horses and would certainly cancel our trip if they were removed. From a customer service and tourism perspective as well as an ecological one, we are extremely confused and concerned that park staff would even suggest removing the horse herds. Please preserve this unique, beautiful, and scientifically relevant resource of wild herds for future generations to learn from, love, and enjoy. Dr. Helena Kriel and Dr. Graham Benton
400.	**ssshorselover@yahoo.com** <ssshorselover@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 10:54 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

By: Sierra Schmidt

The horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park have helped to shape and mold me into the young adult that I am today. I have learned so much about them as I have followed them through the years. They really can be easily related to humans, and I find that we have more in common with them than many would think. The horses protect one another, put their family first, fight for one another and show unconditional love.

I have visited the park since I was about 3, I am now 19. The first concrete memory that sticks out in my mind is when I saw Cloud's band walking down the road near the prairie dog town. They walked single file down the road, with the young one walking between them as if they were protecting it. At the time I didn't know the horses had names, but every trip we took, I remember looking for the horse with the big white face and white on his sides.

In early spring 2017, I purchased my very first NDBH horse guide. I was excited to learn that they had names and I studied the guide to try and memorize as many horses as possible before our family trip in June. The guide was a huge help in identifying the horses, but we were still amateurs and didn't know quite how to find a lot of the horses, so sadly we didn't see as many as we would have liked. We were blessed, however, to come across the elusive Circus on our way out of the park.

My parents planned a trip for October to bring me to the park solely to find the horses. We met up with Claudia, whom my mom chatted with on Facebook when she offered to help us locate them. We had the best time hiking with her, and it felt like we knew her forever. We talked a lot about the horses and learned that there are many others just like us who quickly became obsessed with hiking for and photographing these magnificent horses of the North Dakota Badlands.

It didn't take me long to find all the Facebook pages of others like me who loved them all so much. We all share information with one another, we share our stories – some that bring us smiles and laughter, some that bring us tears and sorrow. We learn from one another; we grow together, and we will continue to fight together to keep these horses in the home where they belong.

My plan for the future has been to eventually move to western North Dakota to be closer to the park so that I can continue to follow, document, photograph and share these horses with everyone who loves them, near or far. It is important for my generation to be able to have a place to go for peace and tranquility, and to be able to sit for hours watching the horses living out their lives wild and free.

401.

Christine Messerli <messerli.christine@bluewin.ch> Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 4:34 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I live in Europe but have visited the USA, my secret dream country, three times so far. Since I follow many great photographers on Facebook who document the life of the Mustang in the different HMA's, it is my biggest wish to make a trip just to the horses. Especially to spend a lot of time in the TRNP, which I love because of its impressive landscape. The idea of not seeing wild horses there, of not hearing their snorting and the thundering of their hooves, breaks my heart and is unimaginable to me. I take a lot of photographs myself and paint and draw, especially horses. I fear that soon it will no longer be possible for me to paint mustangs in the wild, which is a great wish of mine. The impending fate of these wonderful animals is difficult for me and many other concerned people to bear. Many tourists and visitors from home and abroad will then, like me, forego a stay in a TRNP without mustangs. Apart from the tragedy for the animals, it would also be a great loss for all the local people who live from tourism. Can this really be what is wanted? I hope from the bottom of my heart that reason will prevail and the herd will be allowed to remain in TRNP. Otherwise, I am sure Teddy Roosevelt would turn over in his grave with anger.

PS Heather White from "Memories Captured in Time Photography" on Facebook gave me the permission using her photos as ref. for paintings/drawings. This is a small sketch of Mare Dolly with foal Oakley. Will I ever get to see these two in their habitat????

Christine Messerli
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402.

judy hawn <judyafh@yahoo.com> Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 10:45 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello,
My name is Judy, and I am from Illinois. I have not had the great pleasure of seeing our wild horses in person, so my story may not be so great. However I began loving horses as a child. Our family would watch all the old western shows on TV every night. You will know of some of them. Gun Smoke, Rawhide, Paliden, Bonanza, and more.

Yes, I loved the horses on those shows, though I had none in my life. It bothered me greatly that every time I did see a horse, he was always strapped to something, or saddled. To see the cattle being branded on those shows bothered me greatly. To know our beloved horses are being branded now is equally upsetting. Can you imagine the horrific pain of it? It makes me want to see the cowboys get branded to see how they like it. Would that even change their minds about doing it?

I always felt better as a child, and into adulthood, that horses had wide open spaces to run and be free with their families, and herds. It was right that they did, and I didn't hate people so much either thinking they actually cared about them. However that is no longer true. The very people charged with protecting our horses, burros, and other wildlife on our public lands, are the very ones brutally, and callously wiping them off of those very lands. It is as heart breaking, and unbelievable, as it it the reality. Our very Congress full of people that we ourselves voted in, are not just allowing it. They are funding it with billions of our hard earned tax payer dollars.

How did we devolve to this? I believe it is two things. People don't know, because this is unheard of on National news networks; and people don't care, because of shows like 60 Minutes who spout the very same lies the BLM spouts to justify it. They are our "trusted" news people, why would the average person delve any deeper than the so-called investigative programs? So it boils down to two things. People don't know, and don't care. Ignorance, and apathy are nearly across the board on this. This must change. Figuring out how is imperative. How to effectively fight the billionaires? There in lies the great need to share this knowledge in every way conceivable.

403.

Rachel Abraham <barnprincess98@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 11:30 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Imagine a young 13-year-old with long blonde hair and big brown eyes. She is horse-crazy, has been since she was born. Learned how to ride before she could walk. Like any young girl, she wanted a horse of her own. This young girl had a wild spirit that couldn't be tamed. Her mother wisely suggested that maybe the little girl should look into getting a horse that would reflect her personality. And thus, the little girl who could name every breed of horse in the world became obsessed with mustangs.

At the Minnesota Horse Expo one dreary April day, a little girl's dream sparked to life outside the stall of a Nokota horse. This horse breed goes back to Sitting Bull's horse herd. Afterwards, the little girl cleverly laid hints and clues across her parent's path to encourage them to take her to a place that had a few Nokota horses for sale. The parents obligingly agreed. The little girl's heart was set on a Nokota horse, specifically a sleek chocolate-colored filly named Wokini. However, fate had a different story in mind.

When the parents and little girl arrived at the farm, the owners took them into the pasture with a bunch of young, playful horses. They all came up and greeted us with their frosty muzzles and then continued frolicking through the snow. However, one horse did not join in with her friends. She was perfectly content staying right beside the little girl. As if she had chosen her. Everyone was amazed, including the little girl. This frosty bay roan filly had chosen to stay with her rather than go play with her friends.

The owners began to spin a tale about a magical place in North Dakota called Theodore Roosevelt National Park. A place where the land is so rugged that only the toughest can survive there. A living echo from a time before. A place where wild horses still ran free. This young horse who gazed deep into the eyes of the little girl was a true wild horse. You can only imagine how the little girl felt.

So, as destiny would have it, a 13-year-old girl bought a 2-year-old mustang from the badlands of North Dakota. The little girl trained the wild filly although some could argue that the filly trained the little girl. The filly was only halter broke when the little girl got her. Yet the following winter, the little girl rode this wild mustang bareback in a halter in a winter parade filled with jingling sleigh bells and cheering people. The little girl and her wild horse had the time of their life. Their initial connection grew deeper, turning into a bond that could never be broken. Their friendship is something that even a language as advanced as English would have trouble describing.

	The wild horse that this little girl bought turned out to be a very important key that opened up many doors for the little girl. She was able to go visit her beloved horse's homeland and even see her horse's parents. It was life-changing experience for her. She was a child of the west wind, and this was her home. The wind in the canyon, the swaying buffalograss, the rugged ridges, the buffalo en masse. And then, she could feel them before she heard them and she could hear them before she saw them. I swear, her heart stopped beating for a mere moment at the sight. Their muscular bodies glistening, their manes flowing. They walked with an effortless confidence that could come from knowing that this is where they belong. It's where they have always belonged. It was their home. These horses of old that have survived here for hundreds of years. They were living history and the little girl would never be the same. She visited many more times, learning all the horses by looks and names. This was her horse's homeland. A piece of both their hearts remain there to this day. They will both return someday. I know they will return because I am that little girl, just 10 years older and wiser. I also have a wildlife degree under my belt with a minor in Range and French. I outfitted myself with the tools needed to keep the horses in the park. I know that is my destiny and I will do everything in my power to make sure the horses stay in native homeland. I am a child of the west wind, a wild child that is a force to be reckoned with. If you come after my horse's family, you come after me. And that will be your first and last mistake. Rachel Abraham BS Wildlife Resources, double minor in French & Rangeland Ecology/Management '23 from University of Idaho (507) 461-7350
404.	

405.	**Dolores Lambert** <rlambert@bis.midco.net> Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 2:22 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com My family has lived in North Dakota since the early 70's. We soon had heard about the national park and decided to make a Sunday trip to see what it was about. I was amazed by the beauty of the landscape. Once entering the park we were able to see the bison, wild and free. The prairie dogs in abundance. Our young children were excited by all of this different surroundings. A few years later we made the trip again and this time we saw the wild horses. At this time I was so excited. I have always been a horse lover, never being able to have my own growing up. Our trips became more frequent and camera in hand we were watching more diligent for them and seeing new foals appear In the last 20 years we go to the park at least twice a year. My only reason is to see the horses. They have become a part of my heart. They ask nothing of humans but to live the way they know how. They have brought so much joy to many people. We stop to watch them again and again. I've talked to people about the wild horses when we are standing around watching them. Many people did not know about these horses being here. It's an educational opportunity for most. I'm willing to help educate others and continue to keep them in my heart, prayers and faith that they will continue to stay in their safety zone. I see the pictures other people post and my heart wants to be with them. They are beautiful creatures on this planet. They are part of this State. Part of the people who go and observe them and keep records on them. A sad part is when one becomes missing and not found. The foals that become orphaned but by the way the "family " is willing to take care of that baby is hope. The horses in this park are loved by many. To lose them from the park would be heartbreaking for me. I can not understand the reason for removal of any. These horses are part of this country. They should stay here for the historic value. TRoosevelt himself would want the horses to be here. Lastly I am just one of many that want the wild horses to be left alone. My prayers are with the decision to keep the horses in their natural home for life. For their lives.

406.

DEB LEE CARSON <everseethelight@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 2:38 PM

To: Wild Lands Wild Horses <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Jackie Scherer's Story

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Jackie Scherer** <khalua80111@hotmail.com>
Date: Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 9:51 PM
Subject: Jackie's story
To: DEB LEE CARSON <everseethelight@gmail.com>

Deb-

There is a lot of babbling here. I didn't know where to start or where I was going :/

Feel free to fix things…like paragraphs. Or omit stuff. Lol.

"My whole life I have been introverted and self-conscious. I would get severe anxiety around people I didn't know to the point where I couldn't stand in line at a fast food restaurant by myself. From 2011-2013, I was introduced to the great outdoors…traveling, camping, hiking, State Parks and National Parks. When I found myself single I had to make a choice. I could either never go hiking or camping again or I could buck up and figure out how to do it by myself. In late 2013, I borrowed some camping gear and made my first solo trip to the North Shore of Lake Superior. It felt amazing! In 2014, I made my first out of state solo trip to the Badlands in South Dakota. I wanted to go bigger so a few months later I made a 5 day solo trip to Yellowstone. I survived! All of the traveling I was doing led to a love of the North Shore and photography. I wanted to become a landscape photographer. I followed every landscape and North Shore photographer I could find on social media. In 2015, while scrolling on FB, I came across a photo of a beautiful horse. I had always loved horses growing up but of course couldn't have one. I took riding lessons for a few years around 2010 but stopped going when my instructor left. The caption in the post said it was a wild horse in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I needed to go! I booked a campsite in April of 2016, packed my car and drove all night to get to the park just after sunrise. As I passed the Painted Canyon visitor center, my jaw dropped as the landscape opened up. The formations. The colors. It was nothing I had seen before. Just before the exit to Medora I saw my first horses. I pulled over on the freeway squealing. A beautiful white mare was walking along a trail with her mane flowing in the wind. As she turned and walked away, a little brown foal come out from behind a sage bush. My heart became theirs in that second. I found out later that the foal I saw was only 4 days old and was to be named Illinois because of his white socks. My first trip to the park was wonderful. I spent my 8 hour drive home swooning over

	the horses I had met…especially Flax. Hubba Hubba! When I got home I searched for the next available camp site in the park. I needed to go back. September 2016…booked it. During my first year of photography, I had noticed a lot of folks hosting workshops or classes you could sign up for to better your photography. The thought of meeting a bunch of people I didn't know scared me. This is why I did so much solo traveling. One day I saw a workshop being offered by Deb Lee Carson in TRNP and it happened to be the same weekend I had already booked a trip out to the park. This was meant to be. I reached out and signed up. This time my overnight drive to the park was filled with anxiety. I was set to meet a person I didn't know and then more people I didn't know. This was not me. What was I thinking?! Driving down the freeway and seeing the landscape open up again made everything ok. Seeing horses swishing their tales in the sun and wind made everything ok. Meeting Deb for the first time at Boots made everything ok. The moment I stepped foot in Medora in April of 2016, my life changed. Over the next 6 years I would make a trip out to park every few months. I switched from landscape photography to wildlife photography with a focus on the wild horses of TRNP. Deb, her husband and their 4 legged ones would not only become dear friends but family. Each visit to the park created a new memory, allowed me to relive old memories, had the potential for a new relationship, and was an opportunity to catch up with the many friends I made in Medora. As I'm driving the loop road, I can picture the great battles I've witnessed, the wobbly first steps of a new foal, the last moments spent with an aged stallion. Every moment spent with these horses becomes a new memory that I will never forget. I don't often do solo trips to the park anymore. Instead I bring others along to introduce them to the horses. It doesn't take long for them to become hooked. I found who I am and who I was meant to have in my life at TRNP. The horses of TRNP have helped me find my path. Without them my life would not be the same! If removed, there would be no reason for me to return to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Every turn of the loop road would contain memories and the heartbreak of knowing no new memories would ever be made again. Friends made in TRNP would be lost as a lot of us wouldn't come from across the country to visit anymore. The lives of many would change. These horses mean a lot to people and great care should be taken when deciding on removing them. They could literally be someone's only reason to get out of bed in the morning…their purpose in life. The power of these wild horses is strong and should not to be taken lightly. The fence was built around the horses. The park belongs to them. Let the horses stay wild and free in TRNP."

407.

Maggie Bauer <MBGriefRecovery@outlook.com> Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 4:30 PM

To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Maggie Bauer
Colorado State University Alumni

My introduction to the wild horses of TRNP was July 4th , 2010. The previous winter I had spent 3 months volunteering in Namibia and South Africa. My old college roommate who was working on her veterinary degree called me and told me about her job documenting with the wild horse of Theodore Roosevelt Park (TRNP). I was headed to the family cabin in central Minnesota for the holiday weekend and literally turned around and started the drive to Medora. I drove late into the night and watched the fireworks in the Western North Dakota skies. The next day, we were up early to hike in TRNP and do behavioral observations on the mares in specific herd. Fast forward to March of 2011, I was hired by CSU to continue the research on the wild horses of TRNP. It was a job of a lifetime, searching for, finding and documenting wild horses in 46,000 acres of land for 5 months. The goal was to get "eyes" on at least 90% if not 100% of the mares, once a week.

I was often alone but never felt alone as the spirit of this magical place and the horses within it enticed me with every footstep I took. To observe the herd dynamics, the horses' reactions to their environment, the affection they showed each other, the collaboration, the subtitle cues that created their (mostly) silent and beautiful language that I was only a novice at understanding was a gift of a lifetime! Colorado State hired me for 2 more seasons. Ooo the stories I have. The sagas I witnessed between the horses of TRNP. One time in particular, I walked up towards a herd where a mare had just had a foal earlier that morning. I walked by the placenta (afterbirth) as I got closer to the herd. There were multiple stallions in this herd and one of them was trying to push the mare closer to the group. The mare urgently danced around her wet foal protecting them. The second stallion fed up with the disruptive behavior of the first stallion CHARGED. He chased off the first stallion so that the mare and foal could slowly, safely and peacefully integrate back into the herd. I was in an inopportune location 5 feet to my left was a deep gully that I didn't

want to jump into and to my right was open space but I had to huge testosterone filled stallions coming straight at me. FAST. I raised my arms and my voice. There was zero acknowledgement from either stallion as they thundered past me, within a few feet. Luckily, I was unscathed and so was the new born foal. One of hundreds of exhilarating experiences about these horses that I hold in my heart.

A lifechanging event happened in August of 2012. My big brother and only sibling suddenly and tragically died. Once returning back to North Dakota after the funeral, I spent as much time as I could in TRNP with the horses because that was the only way I knew, to work on the healing process. There was nothing more powerful for me than to hike my tush off and rest within the presence of the wild horses that I had gotten to intimately know over the last 2 years. I can't think of a better place to put salve on a broken heart than within the herds of wild horses in TRNP. I am one of the few that has spent hundreds of hours with these horses and I know it would be a travesty if they were permanently removed from the rugged and stunningly beautiful land, they call home. It is your American right and duty to see and experience the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I hope you get the opportunity before they are gone. You will not regret it.

Maggie Bauer
Certified Grief Recovery Specialist®
(952) 237-8719
MBGriefRecovery@outlook.com | http://www.mbgriefrecovery.info

408.

Brenda Hoffman <blhoff5@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 6:39 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

To Whom It May Concern,

I fell in love with the horses of TRNP in 2019 when on a bucket list vacation with my sister. It would be an offense to the past, the present, and the future if these horses are taken, eradicated, removed, or whatever you want to call it. Shame on those who think they don't belong....they belong more than we do. Below, Stallion Cloud, who so graciously allowed me to take this picture. He and the rest of the horses of TRNP will forever be in my heart and soul. I have added additional pictures to this email of many other pictures of other horses I photographed during my trip to TRNP. I hope to revisit the park again someday, but will be sadly disappointed if there are no longer horses roaming free as this was the draw for me and I suspect for others who visit the park as well. See attached photos. These are only a few of the hundreds of photos taken. I truly hope to be able to take more. Leave the horses alone.

Respectfully,
Brenda Hoffman
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409.

Jackie Lang <wolfie19@mindspring.com> Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 8:00 PM
Reply-To: wolfie19@mindspring.com
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hi Deb,
Here is my story about my love for the horses at TRNP. I have sent a comment to the park service, but it probably won't do any good because I had no facts, just emotion about the horses. I know there are people who would help them manage the herd but they don't want the horses and don't seem to care what anyone thinks. I have contacted, Cramer, and Armstrong, but couldn't get ahold of anyone at Hoeven's office. Will try again. I left messages with 2 so far of the national park subcommittee. I will keep working on getting ahold of the rest. Sent the list to my mom as well. Also contacted my state senators and rep about it. Got an email back from one who has signed on to a letter or whatever they are working on about the horses. I feel so helpless though.

What the horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park mean to me.

When I was a child, my grandparents would take my sister and I camping around North Dakota. Sometimes we would go all the way to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. My grandpa would tell me stories about the geology of this special place, why it looked the way it does; what wildlife roamed in the park and how many species like the bison had been driven to near extinction. I think my love of conservation and the protection of wildlife began with these early lessons.

Grandpa also told me about the early ranches in the area and how Theodore Roosevelt came to Dakota territory to heal from the deaths of his wife and mother. He ranched there and commented on the beauty of the place and mentioned the wildlife and wild horses that roamed the area. My ears perked up at this...Wild horses? I was a typical horse crazy little girl and questions flew...where did the horses come from? Does nobody take care of them? Will we see any?

I did see them, not close up, but a couple on top of a butte, manes and tails blowing in the wind. It was love at first sight. From then on those horses were my horses, because I could never have a horse of my own. I didn't always see them when we visited, but the horses were what I looked for the most.

I had read about Wild horse Annie and her attempts to protect the mustangs of the United States. A law was passed and I thought my horses would always be safe and I could always see them. So I thought.

As an adult I visited the park with my mom. We had just passed a horse trailer parked in the road and I saw a horse run across the road. I stopped and another horse followed. I realized in shock that these were not domesticated horses but the wild ones! I had never seen them so close before. Horse after horse ran across the road, right in front of my car. So many colors and long manes blowing in the wind. It was over in a flash with only a dust cloud to note their passing. Mom and I looked at each other and then started laughing in absolute delight. I have worked at Yellowstone and visited many parks, but that moment was the best and most memorable moment I have had in any park.

I got to know these horses through the many facebook pages that feature them. Seeing their photos and hearing how they were doing was about the only thing that kept me sane during the COVID lockdown. I could always turn to my beautiful horses to give me joy.

Imagine my horror, when I read a newspaper article stating the park service wanted to 'get rid' of the Wild horses and Longhorns in the park. The park states they are livestock and have no right to be there even though they have been there longer than the bison who went extinct and had to be reintroduced. They are not livestock! Nobody takes care of them. They take care of themselves and are wild animals and a living symbol of the American West, every bit as much as the bison are.

The park states that the park is only about Roosevelt's conservation legacy, not his ranching legacy. Where are these people from? There would BE no national park without Roosevelt's ranching legacy. He came to North Dakota to ranch and learned his love of conservation there. He himself stated he would not have become president if he had never come to North Dakota...so there would have been no conservation legacy either. One of the things Roosevelt mentions are the wild horses in the area. They deserve the protection that Roosevelt would fight for now, if he were still in North Dakota.

Theodore Roosevelt once said, "Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance."

How can I say it better than that? The horses and Longhorns are a natural resource for our state, a tourist draw and are beloved by the people. They are our history and a sacred heritage for all the little children, like me, who fell in love with them at a young age. They belong in the park as much as the bison, elk and deer do. Wild horse Annie isn't here to speak for them, so I will and I know so many other Americans and people from other countries who want to see these wonders will to! My question to the park service is this: are you managing the park for yourselves or for the American people. Listen to us!

Jackie Lang
Fargo, ND

410.

Stephanie Beck <sbeck785@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 8:24 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I got interested in the horses when they were going to be sold in Wishek. I read about them in the Bismarck Tribune and needed to know more about them. I first came across Wild in North Dakota's page and learned quite a bit from that page. Of course I came across other sites about the horses after that. Never could have imagined how many people loved these horses. I eventually needed a break from my life and decided to go visit the park in 2016. After standing on a small hill with 5 bands around the area I was hooked. I spent 3 days and didn't want to leave ever but had too. I started following lots of pages on Facebook so I could know everything possible about them. In the next couple years I made it out a few more times and met some very wonderful people that loved these beauties too. I eventually started going almost every month if I could and decided to volunteer with the NDBH group. So many wonderful people in this group that I get to call my badlands horse friends. I'm am very addicted to these horses now and can't imagine not having them to go visit when I need my happy place to help my depression. Stephanie in Bismarck

411.

Amy Chaney <achay08@yahoo.com> Wed, Jan 25, 2023 at 1:25 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

My story is this. I grew up on a small ranch and my horses were my best friends. I felt more comfortable riding horses than walking on my own two feet really. There's just something about a bond with a horse and it's something you just never get over.
Roughly 12 years ago, my brother in law was diagnosed with cancer. I live in Washington state, my sister in Arizona. I went to help them out and stayed a week or so when he was starting chemo. I found myself one night, not able to fall asleep, reached for my phone and got onto Facebook, which was somewhat new to me. I was scrolling and reading and scrolling some more when I found Wild in North Dakota. I remember I stayed up until 4 am reading all of Eileen's posts and falling in love with all of the horses. Eileen is a wonderful and powerful author. Her details are amazing. She makes you feel like you are sitting right beside her. I didn't know Curious George but I cried knowing that he had passed. I fell in love with Circus, Blaze, Silver and Gray Ghost. I wanted Valor so very badly when he was captured and put up for adoption. I cried for Gary & Ghost but what a legacy they were. I routed for the ever handsome Copper when he was injured. I prayed Blaze would be found safe & sound and cried when the news came in. Chubby was the best mare. Arrowhead captured my heart. Thunder grew older passing on his wisdom to his son before his passing. The family dynamics are so incredible. Boomer & Amite are evidence of that. Each year, beloved horses change worlds and offspring are born. This is nature, at times cruel and other times, sweet and tender. I love following these horses. I have calendars and books of them. I go onto Facebook just to check on them. Come to find out, my sister follows this Eileen's page too! And my brother in law is healthy and living his best life.

It was my intention to travel to TRNP this summer to see the horses. Now I'm not sure what to do with the news of the horse's potentially being taken out of the park. My heart is breaking and I don't quite understand. I won't come if there are no horses to see. People come to see the horses. Visitors come to the park who pay to stay at hotels, eat at restaurants etc. I'm just baffled & sorta at a loss of words so I did some research on TRNP and this is a little of what I found.

North Dakota has the only National Park that is named directly after a single person. Theodore Roosevelt loved the badlands, the ruggedness of the land and the wild things living there so much that his passion for conservation began. He used his authority as President to protect lands. President Truman established the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Park. Teddy even wrote about the horses on these very lands in the 1880's. This park is one of the few national parks where visitors can see free roaming horses.

This isn't the first or second time that wild horses have been in trouble at TRNP. There was a round up in 1954 were 200 branded horses were taken out of the park. Of the few small bands of horses remaining after the round up, several were thought to be descendants of horses that had run free in the badlands since the turn of the century. Horses in the park today bear a striking resemblance to the horses common to the area in the 19th century depicted from drawings and early photographs. The herds had been under constant pressure from the outside to be removed. Thankfully in 1970, a new policy was written for the herds at the TRNP. The policy states that the horses are a historic demonstration herd so that visitors may experience the badlands seen as it appeared during the open range ranching era of Theodore Roosevelt. How lovely an idea.

In my research, I have found that some horses were indeed released from ranchers in winter months so they did not have to feed them. Horses are herd animals so of course domesticated and wild horses would join. Horses belonging to Native Americans would have joined the bands too. Some horses are born wild and remained wild. Horses changed the way Native Americans traveled & hunted in the plains. The horses have been here far longer than our ancestors. From this knowledge and knowing that for many decades, these horses have been "wild" and not domesticated or used as livestock, they should not be labeled in that category.

I want to see the badlands as they are today- with the wild horses. It is the only reason I want to come to North Dakota. I live closer to other parks to see bison, elk, coyotes etc. I want to see the wilderness and step back in time. I want to see a night sky not polluted with city lights. Please learn from the past—the bison! Bison had to be reintroduced to North Dakota -to their native land! Horses, along with bison, deer, elk, coyote, prairie dogs and 185 species of birds make up the Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Amy Chaney- Camas,WA

412.	**caroline christie** <ccfinearts@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 25, 2023 at 10:26 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Our first trip to Theodore Roosevelt National Park was in 2015. Since then we have returned many times to visit with and revel amongst the wild horses of the park. I have had some of the most memorable moments of my life photographing the wild horses of TRNP. When you step into this National Park it's like you have opened a time capsule and you are witnessing the west as it was over 250 years ago. You are at peace and the winds that blow calm you. You are in wild country now. The park landscape is so dynamic. The Little Missouri river meanders through the park, flowing by buttes and lush prairie grass meadows. You can hike around hoodoos where you could find a herd of wild horses sunning themselves as the hoodoo blocks the wind.The horses are warmed and mellow in the midday sun. One clearly beautiful thing that happens in the park is the prevalence of animal sybiosis. The absolute harmony between the bison, wild horses and my second favorite resident of the park…the mighty prairie dog is on full display. You will see wild horses drink from a hidden waterhole while a bison naps gracefully in has sandy wollow nearby.Which in turn if the wollow is free, you will see a herd of happy wild horses stop, drop and roll to enjoy an afternoon sand bath.Even the prairie dogs can connect with our wild horses by calling out a warning chirp informing the herd that there is a girl with a camera on her way. I believe the chirp translates as "Vamoose" to it's compadre. The connection is real. If you keep hiking you may find yourself looking up at a herd of wild horses…standing in formation as if on lookout as they survey their land. This may lead you to feel out of your mind as such a scene could only exist here in this park and I am bearing witness to this awe inspiring site. One can just sit down in the prairie grass, let the wind tangle your hair and appreciate what life has given you. I have never left the park feeling sad as I often do when leaving certain HMA's in the west. I always left the park knowing that they would be safe, respected and protects. Scenes like this will cease to exist if the horses are removed.The west will have taken the wild away from us once again. I may never return to the park if the horses are gone but if I do, it would not be the same. If they were removed twenty years from now a new generation will drive through the park not having a clue what such great majesty once lived here.
413.	**Melissa Sivigny** <melissa.sivigny@yahoo.com> Wed, Jan 25, 2023 at 5:32 PM To: Wildlandswildhorses Info <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

My TRNP Story Missy Sivigny

In the early 2000's a friend and I set out to ride our horses in the Badlands of North Dakota. I had no idea how life changing this trip would be for me at the time we decided to plan and take off for Medora North Dakota.

We stayed at the Buffalo Gap Ranch, and for the first few days we rode the trails around the ranch rather than trailering our horses anywhere. We would ride in the mornings and then plan for things to do during the midday hours. One of the first things we did was go to check out Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The moment I set foot in the park I felt like I was drawn to the place like it was home.

We stopped at the visitor center to get any information we needed, seeing it was our first time in the park. We drove out and stopped in at Peaceful Valley Ranch. At that time, they were doing guided trial rides throughout the park on horses there. We ladies are drawn to any place that has horses so it was natural for us to stop there first. As my boots hit the red dirt I immediately was rushed by the wind and the smell of sage. This is something I will never forget and I long for that smell every day. If I smell anywhere I am immediately immersed back into the park even if I'm not there.

We were walking around and were lucky enough to meet the grandfather of one of the young wranglers for the ranch as he was unsaddling his horse from a ride earlier at his trailer. This kind man offered to take us out with their group the next day because we had not ridden in the park and were unfamiliar with it.

The next morning we loaded up to head to Peaceful Valley Ranch. We were very excited and nervous while we saddled up our horses that morning. There were 6 of us that rode out of the ranch that morning. I checked my cinch one last time on my saddle and made sure I had everything I needed packed into my saddle bags along with my rain slicker just in case the weather changed. Then I lifted my leg, put it in my stirrup and lifted myself into my saddle as the leather creaked as I settled in for a trail ride, I would never forget.

Out we went across the Little Missouri River that was moving along at a pretty good rate. This was the first time we had crossed this river and we were told to only cross the river where other animals are crossing as it was full of slit and if we got into an area that wasn't safe and got pulled into the river it would fill our cloths and make it hard for us to get out of the water. Even though it was shallow at the time of year we were there.

The sun had come out from behind the clouds and we hit our first well on the other side of the river and watered our horses. We rode out to a huge rock formation, walked around it and got a lesson on rattlesnakes at this time and I immediately got myself off of that rock. We rode back towards the ranch crossed some areas where the water runs off from the buttes and were educated again on how to cross where others are because those can be deeper than they look and can suck horses in as they fight to get out similar to quick sand. My horse decided to jump most of them. The first one caught me by surprise but by the second one I had his game down. We thought we were heading back when we took a left hand turn and headed up this steep butte. It was an incredible climb but once we were on the top you could see the whole park and the Little Missouri was below it. It was breathtaking.

We then rode down into a flat area that I now know as the area where Theodore Roosevelt had once gathered his cattle at. We were heading back towards the ranch at this time when out of nowhere came some horses. I had no idea there were wild horses in the park. These bachelor stallions rode right up to us and circled us, gave a few snorts, and then took off running the same way they came. It was exhilarating and scary at the same time. While riding back we saw more wild horses on the other side of the river. The grandfather had mentioned to us to make sure we stayed away from that group as the big beautiful black and white paint stallion was very protective of his family.

I had no idea that this day would be one that would change my life. After I returned home I longed to go back to the park to see the horses. I knew deep down I wanted to adopt a mustang at this point. What I didn't know was I would be adopting a mustang from Theodore Roosevelt National Park about 12 years later. Which is the start of another story.

414.

Robin Hosemann <rhosemann@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 25, 2023 at 9:39 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

My partner, my son, and I recently drove in an RV van from Wisconsin to TRNP. It was our first trip together to a National Park, and I told them I really wanted to try to see the wild horse band there, if at all possible. We spent hours touring the park, hiking, and marveling at the landscape, but I began to think I wouldn't see the horses. Every dark shape in the distance proved to be bison. Ever since I was a young girl, I read and studied about the mustangs of the West, and I have had the fortune to have my own horses. I know the realities of horse ownership, and I am no stranger to the horrors of kill pens and the slaughter system for the American horse population that often outpaces the ability for humans to provide humane and lifelong care. My connection to these animals means that I do whatever I can to prevent horses from uncertain fates. However, I thought the management of the herd at TRNP seemed solid: the numbers in the band and the size of the landscape seemed compatible. I was so excited to just get a glimpse of them. However, dusk was approaching and our time there was coming to an end. We pulled around one of the bends in the road on the way out of the park, and I spotted way off in the distant grasslands, the unmistakable swish of horsetails. We pulled over and rushed out with our binoculars. I could see a roan and a black and a bay, and it took my breath away. Even just that distant glimpse of animals as magnificent of these with the freedom to be themselves swelled my heart and squeezed it with pride for our nation and the NPS. I'm concerned that the herd is in peril. I want to do whatever I can to help us maintain wild horse herds on public lands. We don't deserve horses as humans who treat them in so many disrespectful ways. The very least we can do is protect those who are a part of our National lands. We owe them that.

Sincerely,
Robin Hosemann
TRNP Visitor, August 2022

415.

Chelsea Halat <chelsea.halat@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 25, 2023 at 11:07 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I was first introduced to the mustangs of TRNP in 2015 by my then-acquaintance, Jamie Baldanza. In short, the TRNP mustangs have truly changed my life and deserve the opportunity to do so for future generations.

Jamie introduced me not only to the amazing mustangs of the park, but also the beautiful community that the horses have created. These mustangs and their community helped me find myself and showed me love and friendship like I've never experienced before.

In 2015 Jamie adopted two mustangs, one being from TRNP, and sent both to a trainer in Minnesota. That year I visited MN with Jamie and was greatly inspired by the immensely kind people whose community is centered on their love for the TRNP horses. On that trip I met a weanling filly named Denali who came out of the park that same year. She was the most beautiful thing I'd ever seen and had such a strong inquisitive presence. She was a spitfire, and from that day forward I thought of her often. I visited again and always made sure to visit Denali during my travels.

In 2019 I quit my corporate marketing job and headed to Minnesota to work as an intern for that horse trainer Jamie first introduced to me in 2015. I was so fortunate enough to be able to make this possible because of incredible people I met through the TRNP mustang community. Deb Lee Carson so generously allowed me to stay with her while I worked with the trainer, she became my satellite family. Bob and Deb Fjetland so kindly allowed me to work with Denali, that TRNP filly I first met in 2015, who became my main intern project. At the end of my internship the Fjetland's then gave me the most utterly amazing surprise by gifting me with being able to keep this special girl Denali forever. We both now reside in New Jersey.

Working with Denali has been different from anything I've ever experienced. She is strong, but she is soft. She is intelligent, she is honest, and she has challenged me to let go of everything I thought I knew before in order to make me a better horseman. Everywhere we go, from the vet clinic - to the beach - to a trail ride - to a horse show - Denali is a show stopper. She's an incredible mascot for the breed. Most everyone we meet admires her, they say she is the most beautiful horse they've ever seen, they ask what she is, and how they can get a horse like her. I proudly share that she is a mustang from Theodore Roosevelt National Park in Medora, North Dakota.

After 6 years of knowing about the mustangs in the park, I finally got to experience them for myself in November 2021. My former-acquaintance and now incredible best friend Jamie so graciously gifted me a trip to TRNP for my 30th birthday with herself and the amazing Deb Lee Carson. The mission of our trip to TRNP was to find the parents of my mustang mare, Denali - to see her mother, Frosty, and father, Red Face. We had a difficult time finding them, which was a surprise considering they typically are a very easy band to locate. On the 2nd day we ended up hiking into an isolated part of the park with blind faith and no leads through some tough, but breathtaking, terrain. I will never forget the look on Deb's face when she realized we had found them. It was an incredible afternoon and such a special moment to see Denali's family living wild and free.

The horses of TRNP mean so much - they are simply magic. Each one I've met has been strong and powerful, but also kind and sensitive. To Denali, Sleeping Bear, Valor, Amidon, Willow, & Pinnacles - thank you for being such a rich part of my journey. I feel deep sorrow for you and the future of your families. I pray that more generations are able to experience the magic of the TRNP mustangs and that they're able to continue to change countless lives.

Chelsea Halat
Allentown, New Jersey

Myself in front of Red Face and Frosty's band

Myself and the most amazing Denali, born wild and free in 2015

416.

klamaize@westriv.com <klamaize@westriv.com> Thu, Jan 26, 2023 at 6:25 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Good Morning,

I am writing in support of keeping the horses in the TRNP.

I am attaching my story in case that makes it easier to share. Here is my story and my interest in them:

My name is Linda Maize. My family is from Beulah, North Dakota. We are writing in support of keeping the wild horses in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

The horses of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park are a major attraction to the park, drawing thousands of visitors to the park each year. My family and extended family are just some of the visitors who come to see the horses. The horses have a following of thousands around the world on Facebook where sites are posting pictures and information about the different horses in the park. There is a huge interest in the horses which translates into income to the town of Medora when the people visit the park and stay in the area for days to watch horses in the park.

These horses are not just any horses. The study of their genetics has determined that they are descendants of some of the first horses originally brought to this continent. That alone should be enough to preserve them. Even the Smithsonian lists the park as one of the best places to see the wild horses. Medora is famous for the Marquis De Mores and Theodore Roosevelt who lived there during the ranching days in the area. While that tradition continues and horses still play an important part of life there, these horses are threatened with removal. It doesn't make sense to destroy part of the heritage of the area by removing them while you try to preserve other parts of the region's heritage. These horses predate the park according to studies done on them. Once they are removed, the damage is done and can't be undone. The horses will be scattered and their history in the park removed forever.

While my family enjoys the scenery of the park and the changing landscape, it is the wildlife, particularly the horses and buffalo that make our numerous annual trips to the park more exciting. We would not be in the park as often if it weren't for the wildlife. We have more photographs of the wildlife than we do of the landscape. The landscape changes in the park happen slowly while the wildlife makes each visit a unique experience and keeps us coming to the park. We hope you will keep the horses there so we have a reason to spend more time in the park.

Thank you for helping keep the horses in the park.

Linda Maize

	My name is Linda Maize. My family is from Beulah, North Dakota. We are writing in support of keeping the wild horses in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The horses of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park are a major attraction to the park, drawing thousands of visitors to the park each year. My family and extended family are just some of the visitors who come to see the horses. The horses have a following of thousands around the world on Facebook where sites are posting pictures and information about the different horses in the park. There is a huge interest in the horses which translates into income to the town of Medora when the people visit the park and stay in the area for days to watch horses in the park. These horses are not just any horses. The study of their genetics has determined that they are descendants of some of the first horses originally brought to this continent. That alone should be enough to preserve them. Even the Smithsonian lists the park as one of the best places to see the wild horses. Medora is famous for the Marquis De Mores and Theodore Roosevelt who lived there during the ranching days in the area. While that tradition continues and horses still play an important part of life there, these horses are threatened with removal. It doesn't make sense to destroy part of the heritage of the area by removing them while you try to preserve other parts of the region's heritage. These horses predate the park according to studies done on them. Once they are removed, the damage is done and can't be undone. The horses will be scattered and their history in the park removed forever. While my family enjoys the scenery of the park and the changing landscape, it is the wildlife, particularly the horses and buffalo that make our numerous annual trips to the park more exciting. We would not be in the park as often if it weren't for the wildlife. We have more photographs of the wildlife than we do of the landscape. The landscape changes in the park happen slowly while the wildlife makes each visit a unique experience and keeps us coming to the park. We hope you will keep the horses there so we have a reason to spend more time in the park.
417.	

418.

Craig Clifford <clifford.craig@hotmail.com> Thu, Jan 26, 2023 at 2:57 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I'm writing this message to ensure the wild horses continue to have a place within the park after learning about the options presented for livestock management in Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP).

The wild horses of TNRP remain crucial in preserving cultural heritage. These horses have had a cultural significance to the American West and native tribes of the area for centuries, seen as powerful symbols of strength, freedom, and spiritual connection to the land. Their presence in the park maintains the rich history and culture of the region.

Wild horses are a popular attraction for TRNP and contribute economically to local communities through tourism. Visitors are drawn to the park to see the horses thriving in the badlands habitat. Increasing revenue for local businesses, such as hotels, restaurants, and shops. Without wild horses, there would likely be a decrease in visitors, resulting in a loss of revenue for local businesses.

I've had the privilege of experiencing the beauty of these horses during my time at TRNP. It is an unforgettable memory that I will always look back on with a big smile. I'm forever grateful for the friendships I've made through the horses at TRNP, friendships that will continue forever.

One of the National Park's missions is to preserve cultural heritage. It would go against Theodore Roosevelt's vision of cultural conservation and alter the experience for future generations. I hope the officials at TRNP see the impact the horses have on visitors and the value they bring to the park. I do not support the removal of horses that have been free roaming in Theodore Roosevelt National Park for the past 76 years.

Craig Clifford

Dear ND Legislators:

Thank you for listening to your constituents regarding the horses in TRNP. Please support the SCR 4014.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK HORSE EXPERIENCE
by Syndi (Musland) Miske

I do not recall exactly how old I was the first time I saw the horses at Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP), however, I have had a relationship with them as long as I can remember. My family faithfully vacationed to Medora every summer when I was a child. In my younger years it was extremely difficult to get a close look at the horses because they were so spirited, spooky, and unattainable. As the nature of the round-ups changed the horses became easier to view.

I was the third of four children and every summer we consistently pleaded with our parents to bring our own horses to Medora to ride in the park. As a young child I thought that would be the ultimate vacation. Several decades later, having experienced this, I truly believe this to be the ultimate vacation.

My Dad told us that when he had a reliable enough pickup to make the trip we would take our horses. I secretly hoped that if I had my own horse to ride I would be able to get closer to the horses. Instead of visions of sugar plums in my head the night before Christmas, I had visions of TRNP wild horse manes and tails blowing in the wind. The unique colors of the TRNP horses painted the already beautiful ND landscape. When I was in seventh grade we finally had a vehicle that could withstand the trip carrying a load of saddle horses that far.

Our first trip to TRNP with our own horses was in the late ’80's. Many may remember how difficult the ’80’s were due to drought and high interest rates. It was a tough time for people, especially those raising a family. My little sister and I felt as though we were traveling first class as we nestled in the hay in the gooseneck of our stock trailer traveling 280 miles across the state to Medora. It was in July and quite warm. The vents of the stock trailer afforded a constant flow of air on our youthful skin which was soon to

be sunburnt from hot sun under the spacious ND sky. When our parents stopped to fuel up we would crawl out of the gooseneck of the stock trailer and go for a brief walk. Back in those days we did not have the means to stop and buy a candy bar or refreshment with each stop. We were saving that for when we arrived at our destination, the breathtaking badlands of ND and the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I remember our discussions as we laid in the hay watching our horses on the drive. We thought we were the luckiest kids alive, and we were! The notion of getting close to the wild horses was almost too much excitement to contain. It was a good six hour drive to Medora and we were too excited to fall asleep. The trip home was different. We were so fulfilled and exhausted from long hours of riding in the July heat we were able to nap some of the time. The heavy iron of the trailer gooseneck was warm to lay on, the musty smell of hay and manure pleasant. We did not have to worry about being crowded in the single cab pick up that was pulling the trailer. On the way home, not as much horse hay was left, but it was still enough to provide an itchy and luxurious cushion.

Since we had been spying on these horses for years on family trips, we knew that it would be best to unload our horses somewhere on the East side of the park. We did just that. The suspense had been building knowing this childhood dream was finally coming to fruition. We found out quickly that even with a trusty saddle horse it was still a challenge to get very close to the wild and free swift footed prairie beauties. Our hearts thumped with anticipation as we knew that over one of the next hills we would likely see some wild horses. We peered from atop the butte down on a herd of wild horses. We carefully walked our horses down the clay colored badland terrain to get closer.

The moment I had been longing for had finally come. Initially, I remember hearing one of the grayish-white band stallions snort as he danced around his harem trotting with his head held high and nodding disagreeably as if sensing danger. His back athletically arched and tail held high while blowing in the wind. Other bands in the meadow keenly picked up on the cue and became uneasy. The leader in each band circled, snorted, and commanded his harem to move out. Before we knew it they were galloping across the meadow and trailing up the rugged badland trails winding up and down in single file motion. The movement so swift and expertly

calculated in the unforgiving dangerous terrain. I remember thinking to myself how amazing it would be to ride one of these sure-footed steads. From that point on I could not get enough of seeing the TRNP horses. It was like a cat and mouse game. Just as we would get to a point to see the horses they would be working their way over the next hill. Witnessing the trails the horses used and riding them in years to come further maximized our visitor experience. This was their home and they knew it well, navigating through areas which at first seemed impossible to climb.

I had never seen anything as majestic the TRNP horses and to this day I stand firm on that analysis. By the time I was a college student I had traveled to several other states and also to Europe. I remember giving a speech in college about my favorite place. That place was in the TRNP watching the wild horses. I was mesmerized by these amazing creatures. Words could not express the sense of peace seeing them gave me. The horses nostalgic and graceful movements were unlike the domestic horses I had been around. To this day when I see the wild horses feelings of warmth and excitement encompass me as memories flood back reminding me of the special family time we shared searching for, finding, and observing the wild horses. Approximately forty years from the first time I remember seeing the wild horses, I still get just as excited each time. My husband and son will readily attest to that! As an adult I have been able to share the love, thrill, and passion that I have for the horses with my nieces, nephews, friends, and family. Seeing others witness their healing presence and magic warms my heart as well. They are a unique ND treasure that is timeless and keeps on giving despite the time of the year. This is further evident to me as I notice people from around the world comment on our beloved TRNP horses on social media.

As a college student I was able to attend the TRNP horse sales in Dickinson after the horses were rounded up and culled. I recall my younger sister missed a day of high school to attend the sale with me. She bought a weanling filly that strongly resembled the 2022 filly named Cricket. She trained this filly to ride and our Dad trained her to pull a buggy. Years later that very mare was part of the magnificent team that carried me over the ND prairie at my parent's pasture on the ranch to the site of our wedding on my wedding day. Her reliable, strong, and quiet disposition made her perfect for the task. Time and time again, the TRNP horses have

blessed me. It is my dream for these horses to continue to bless others for years to come.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input regarding SCR 4014. I am in strong support of keeping the horses at TRNP. These horses are part of our North Dakota heritage and removal of them from the TRNP would be a terrible mistake. Please vote in favor of SCR 4014 so that future generations have the opportunity to enjoy them.

Please support SCR 4014. I am a lifelong ND resident and also a Vietnam veteran. The horses at TRNP are part of our ND history and removal of them would rob future generations of experiencing the joy associated with viewing them. My family has enjoyed annual trips to TRNP in which we bring our own horses to ride in the park. Seeing these magnificent animals in the ND Badlands has been what draws us back each year. Removing them from the park would negatively affect tourism and morale. Please help preserve this precious ND treasure. Thank you for your time and consideration.

LeRoy P. Musland

January 29, 2023

Dear Superintendent Richman:

I am writing today to comment on Theodore Roosevelt National Park's (TRNP) proposed management plan for the wild/feral horses. These horses are of lineage that have called the park home long before the park was fenced in. **Records from TRNP, itself, claim that the horses lived in the area of the park before it was created in 1947** (1)

Including the wild/ feral horses in a management plan for livestock is a huge mistake. After reviewing the Theodore Roosevelt National Park 1984 General Management Plan, which was referenced throughout the virtual public scoping meeting on January 12, 2023, it is clear this document makes no reference to the wild/ feral horses as livestock. It also speaks of the need for a ***WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT PLAN***. (2)

To elaborate further on the wild/ feral verses livestock, research is showing that the horses now on this continent have the same DNA as those who originally lived in North America.

From the research article, Genetic diversity and origin of the feral horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park, (3) "The phylogenetic test placed this sequence in a group consisting of two horses from China, one from Yakutia, and one from Italy raising a possibility of historical transportation of horses from Siberia and East Asia to North America."

This research article also states "the TRNP horses were distinctly different from 48 major horse breeds." This in of itself should be a valid reason to preserve the TRNP wild/ feral horses.

TRNP's Foundation Document dated 2014 (4) makes no reference to the wild/ feral horses as "livestock" but instead speaks of the need for a *Feral Horse Management Plan**.***

Dr. Castle McLaughlin's 300+ page report entitled ***The History and Status of the Wild Horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park*** (5) disproves the narrative claiming the horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park are nothing more than local, unclaimed ranch horses when the park was fenced, The original copy of this report is in Theodore Roosevelt National Park's possession, therefore, you already have the case for the historical and cultural significance of the wild/ feral TRNP horses within that document.

We also know by Theodore Roosevelt's own writings that he experienced wild/ feral horses running free through the Badlands of North Dakota. This includes references that go beyond his ranching experiences. As quoted on your website (6): "In a great many--indeed, in most--localities there are wild horses to be found, which, although invariably of domestic descent, being either themselves runaways from some ranch or Indian outfit, or else claiming such for their sires and dams, yet are quite as wild as the antelope on whose domain they have intruded."

Theodore Roosevelt National Park needs an alternative that takes into consideration the genetic viability of this herd. Dr. Gus Cothran has stated repeatedly that 150-200 adult horses are needed for a genetically viable herd. On January 5, 2023, Dr. Cothran spoke to North Dakota's KX News (7) and reiterated this statement, speaking ***SPECIFICALLY*** with regards to the wild/ feral horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

The Bureau of Land Management's ***Wild Horse and Burro handbook*** (8) also supports the need to maintain 150-200 horses for genetic viability.

Consider developing and analyzing an alternative in which ONLY reversible birth control is administered to the herd with the following conditions:

- older mares given birth control where they have a proven genetic representation in the herd.
- any birth control program rotated to reduce the chance of permanent sterilization.
- treated mares monitored for any health or behavior changes.

Another consideration for the Management Plan is adding similarly genetic mares into the herd. Specifically, those of the Nokota Horse, as their foundation horses came from Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

In 1993, the Nokota was declared the Honorary State Equine of the state of North Dakota. (9) On numerous occasions, Mr. Frank Kuntz has offered to collaborate with TRNP in this process.

Assateague Island is successfully implementing its birth control program with PZP (10), with marked reductions in population growth and better body condition scores within their herd. As a result, that park has added two new age groups to the herd dynamics because they now have horses living beyond the age of 25.

A similar birth control program could be implemented in this wild/ feral horse management plan. To the extent that a successful birth control program is implemented, TRNP would be able to stop managing the herd by numbers and ease of access only. TRNP could, also, make sure that science and genetics are guiding the use of birth control on **ANY** horse in this herd.

To the extent that culling the herd is required, there is a need for TRNP to develop and analyze an alternative that makes any wild/ feral horse removals contingent on rigorous genetic monitoring; that is, an alternative whereby horses are removed only if their removal would not negatively impact the genetic health of the entire herd.

TRNP prior gathers have largely prioritized removing foals from the park due to their desirability in subsequent adoptions/sales. However, the ***National Academy of Sciences Report: BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program: A Way Forward*** (11) concluded "the absence of young would alter the age structure of the population and could thereby affect harem dynamics."

Similarly, citing a study of the Pryor Mountain Wild Horses which looked at the impacts of birth control and removals on the herd, the ***NAS Report*** (11) found that "management strategies based on removal and fertility control were most effective in achieving management goals" but should focus on "strategies that rely less on removal and more on fertility control.". That Report also "highlighted the importance of management actions to delay age at first reproduction and increase generation length to reduce population growth."

Throughout the January 12, 2023, meeting, you and your staff cited ***36 CFR § 2.60*** will not allow horses to stay on NPS property. The Chief Resource Manager at Assateague Island National Seashore states their horses are allowed to stay on NPS lands because they are classified as "wildlife" (10) instead of "livestock". Since there is no clarity on how/when TRNP determined this "livestock" classification for the horses, if TRNP went back to their prior classifications of wild/ feral, this issue would be resolved.

Additionally, you and your staff cited the ***NPS's Organic Act*** (12) and your own Management Policies for reasons to support your

"proposed action" that would allow for no horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Those same policies also state " *The service thus established shall promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations hereinafter specified by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose of the said parks, monuments, and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. (U.S.C., title 16, sec. 1).*"

NPS, Management Policies also discusses management of wildlife. (13) Again, within your possession is Dr. Castle McLaughlin's report that speaks to the historical and cultural significance of these horses.

To elaborate further on the cultural element, there are multiple social media groups who follow and report on these horses. They have followers in all 50 states, along with other countries. To list a few, on Facebook, alone:

- North Dakota Badlands Horse (104 K followers);
- Full Moon Rising Wild Horses (6.9 K followers);
- Chasing Horses (83,865 followers);
- Wild Lands Wild Horses Series and Fund (3.2 K followers);
- Dakota Grown Photos (108K followers);
- Chasing Horses Wild Horse Advocates (2.5 K followers);

- Memories Captured in Time Photography (4.1 K followers);
- Ode to the Wilds (1.8 K followers);
- Deb Lee Carson Photography (18K followers);
- This Mustang Life (11K followers);
- Wild Horse Journey (3.9 K followers);
- Lynn Walleen Photography (5.4 K followers)

This is not an all-inclusive list, nor does it include the multiple other social media platforms.

The National Park system was established by Congress in 1916 through the ***Organic Act***. (12)(See 54 U.S.C. § 100101 et seq.) Unlike other federal land management statutes (e.g., the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, 43 U.S.C §§ 1701(a), 1702(c)) that require a balance between conservation and extractive uses, the ***Organic Act*** (12) focuses exclusively on the preservation of the nation's park lands and the specific resources found therein. In relevant part, the ***Organic Act*** (12) provides that NPS:

"Shall promote and regulate the use of the National Park System by means and measures that conform to the fundamental purpose of the System units, which purpose is to conserve the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wild life in the System units and to provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wild life in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

(See 54 U.S.C. § 100101(a).)

Given the ***Organic Act***'s strict preservation mandate, NPS's regulations implementing the Act broadly prohibit the removal of any wildlife, dead or alive, from the boundaries of a National Park. (See 36 C.F.R. § 2.1; see also id. § 2.2) (NPS regulations concerning wildlife, which include a prohibition against "taking" and/or intentionally "disturbing" wildlife found within a park unit).

According to NPS, "wildlife means any member of the animal kingdom and includes a part, product, egg or offspring thereof, or the dead body or part thereof, except fish." (See 36 C.F.R. § 1.4.) Notably, NPS's regulations pertaining to wildlife take do not draw any distinction between native and non-native (i.e., invasive) species, although the latter may be removed from a park unit under specified conditions (13)

NPS's regulations, however, contain an exception for "livestock" animals. The "pasturing or grazing of livestock of any kind in a park area" is generally prohibited but may be permitted "as a necessary and integral part of a recreational activity or required in order to maintain a historic scene"—so long those animals have been "designated" as such by the responsible park official. (See 36 C.F.R. § 2.60(a)(3).)

According to the Agricultural Holdings Act of 1986 the definition of livestock (per the Free Dictionary by Farlex (14) is:

1 any creature kept for the production of food, wool, skins or fur or for the purpose of its use in the farmin g of land or the carrying on of any agricultural activity: Agricultural Holdings Act 1986.
2 cattle, horses, asses, mules, hinnies, sheep, pigs, goats and poultry and deer not in the wild state for th e purpose of the legislation relating to liability for animals. Scots law has similar statutory provisions.
Collins Dictionary of Law © W.J. Stewart, 2006

As such, the wild/ feral horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park are not kept for the production of any of the above; they are not used for farming of land, nor to carry on with any agricultural activity.

Instead, they fit into the definition of wild (per the Free Dictionary by Farlex (15)

1. Occurring, growing, or living in a natural state; not domesticated, cultivated, or tamed: *wild geese; edible wild plants. (adj,).*

1. A natural or undomesticated state: *returned the zoo animals to the wild; plants that grow abundantly in the wild. (n)*

The horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park do not receive any form of human assistance from the park staff. They do not receive food, shelter, veterinary care, nor intervention. For example, in 2018 when Mare "Chubby" (CSU/ TRNP number 200122) died during foaling (a filly followers named Miracle), multiple requests were made, along with offers of assistance to gather the filly so she would live. The park would not intervene, nor interfere with the "natural consequences", and the filly perished. There are other documented events of the wild/ feral horses having serious/ life threatening injuries the park, also, would not intervene/ interfere with.

It stands to reason, by practice/ policy alone, Theodore Roosevelt National Park deems the horses as wildlife (wild/ feral).

The late historian, Robert Utley, spent part of his life trying to help right the apparent wrongs done to the wild/ feral horses of TRNP. His position is significant because he penned many of the policies that shaped the National Park Service. Robert Utley's position is that Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 applies: Section 106 of NHPA granted legal status to historic preservation in federal planning, decision-making, and project execution. Section 106 requires all federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties and provide a reasonable opportunity to comment on those actions and the manner in which federal agencies are taking historic properties into account in their decisions. (16 Summarized)

Finally, there can be no question that an EA is insufficient to analyze the full extent of the impacts of and alternatives to TRNP's formation of the wild/ feral horse management plan. TRNP

essentially needs to prepare an EIS to evaluate this plan. As TRNP is aware, the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (17) for certain actions "significantly affecting the quality of the human environment"

The wild/ feral horses of TRNP affect “the human environment” in multiple ways, including, but not limited to, emotional, psychosocial, physical (many followers are active in the park due to the horses), and monetarily (many businesses would be affected by the removal of the horses). For monetary information please reference: economics_of_loss_of_horses_to_park.docx.pdf (ndbh.org) (18)

For the reasons clearly stated above, I am asking as you and your staff begin the Environmental Impact Statement aspect of this management planning process, you consider the above valid scientific points, as well as your own NPS policies, while you formulate new alternatives to consider.

While considering, please keep in mind this quote from Theodore Roosevelt, himself, listed on your park website (6): "I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use the natural resources of our land; but I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob, by wasteful use, the generations that come after us."

I, genuinely, hope the wild/ feral horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park will remain in OUR National Park for my kids, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great- great grandchildren to enjoy, as I have. I, also, hope the herd is maintained at a genetically viable herd size, as suggested by Dr. Cothran, of 150 to 200 horses. (7)

Sincerely,

Margo L. Fochs (fochsklock2014@outlook.com)

1304 15th Street
Suite 400
Santa Monica, CA 90404

02/07/22

Dear North Dakota Senate,

Thank you for this opportunity to write to you about the Theodore Roosevelt National Park Wild Horse and Longhorn steer proposed changes. I would like to say that I'm in agreement with the United Tribes of North Dakota's recent letter in support of the animals maintaining their current home while supporting the rich cultural history that has been part of the park for decades. It is heartwarming to see the outpouring of support from your state and surrounding communities in support of the animals remaining on their land and the land of the indigenous people. Apparently I leaned that the Nokota horses were also a part of this legacy at one time.

I have included also a photo of part of the letter I sent to Congress at the beginning of this journey. I am so grateful to the Tourism Board, the people of Medora, the North Dakota government, Chasing Horses Wild Horse Advocates and the North Dakota media for their efforts as well.

Warm regards and with hope for a positive outcome,

Ann Ryan, MD

May the wisdom and insight of the members of years past guide [illegible] May God inspire you with right action as the New Year draws near.

May you and your loved ones stay safe and protected in 2023 and always…including Democrats, Republicans, Independents and other parties.

Now in regards to the wild horses, on my bucket list one of my items is to visit the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota. We have until the end of January 2023 to make our wishes known before plans are made to limit the wild horses to a number (under 70) 30-60 I believe which essentially makes the herd genetically unviable (need minimum 150 horses). Please intercede so these horses can stay on the National Park land and not potentially end up in the kill buyer's hands. These horses have also been used to study birth control methods in the past. I would also like the longhorn steers to stay on their home in the North Unit at the Theodore Roosevelt National Park as well. The longhorn steers are located at the Long X Trail area where cowboys used to drive their cattle north. There is a Zoom meeting planned for further discussion on 1/12/23 at 6 PM MT - the link can be found on the park web page. The wild horses and longhorn steer are part of the livestock/wildlife that maintains the cultural scene. I understand that the bison also need to be protected but the longhorn steers have been there since 1967 without any difficulties/threatening infections that I am aware of.

Please ask yourself if your children and your children's children would like to see the ongoing legacy of what Theodore Roosevelt's conservation efforts accomplished.

What would Teddy do?

Best regards,

A Ryan, MD

"There can be no greater issue than that of conservation in this country."
Quote from Theodore Roosevelt AKA Teddy, 26th President of the United States of America

Thank you for this opportunity to share my testimony in support of SCR-4014. My name is Chelsea Sorenson, hobby photographer, and park visitor to Theodore Roosevelt National Park ‖ South Unit since 1990.

I ve lived in western and central North Dakota all my life and am extremely knowledgeable about my local wild horse herd in Theodore Roosevelt National Park in Medora. I know each of the horses by name, which band they re in, their band members, each horse s ancestry back several generations, etc. Who do we know who can take on 130 wild horses, with sanctuaries already overflowing and inflation increasing hay prices among everything else? Who gets to choose which horses stay and which are adopted out?

Genetic viability, according to scientists like Gus Cothran and Castle McLaughlin, is 100-150 horses in a herd. It is clear that GonaCon works in reducing births and balancing herd numbers, in conjunction with small biannual gathers of 10-20 a year. Stabilizing the population is what will grant these horses their perpetual freedom.

I know each one of these horses by name, their parentage and histories, and I ve met many like-minded friends who love these horses just as much, many of whom own a formerly wild TRNP horse, several more than one. We have all spent countless hours with these wild horses and with each other and none of us can imagine this national park without the horses. They are the heartbeat of the park.

The horses improve both my physical and mental health. I never tire of hiking out to them to photograph them, and the outdoors is great for my mental health. It s a good feeling to collapse in bed after a day of hiking to find the horses, solo or with friends. The park is my happy place and has been for years, a place where my soul is refreshed. I want it to stay that way, but taking away so many of the horses would leave a void in my soul. While in Medora, I also contribute to the economy of Medora and the park, by eating at restaurants, buying merchandise in stores, sleeping in hotels and camping in the park, buying lots of gas and food and drink, and sometimes going to the Pitchfork Fondue and musical. Visitor loss will be of great impact on TRNP, the city of Medora and its shops, museums, restaurants, the new Theodore Roosevelt Library to come, the State of North Dakota, and the great North Dakotan spirit overall.

If the horses are gone from TRNP, I might just turn in my season pass and go somewhere else where wild horses can be found. Therefore, I SUPPORT SCR-4014 and wish to thank Governor Burgum, our ND State Legislature Assembly members, Congressional Delegates, and the Department of Tourism for being IN SUPPORT of saving the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Sorenson

SCR 4014

As a rancher in western North and South Dakota, from a family who has raised horses our whole lives, I understand that you have to control population of your animals, but as a cattle rancher, if you sold all your young stock and didn't keep replacements, the herd will not flourish. In domestic horse and cattle herds the older ones are sold, in wild horse herds they die off.

With the park service giving some of the mares birth control shots, they are controlling the reproduction of the herds, to some extent. If they want to cull down the herd this is one way of doing so and the older horses will pass away in time. As we follow several nonprofit organizations who follow the horses, we have learned of some of the older horses that did not make it through the last storm and most seem to pass away around age 20.

These horses, well not the ones now, but the ancestors of the horses in the park now were there before the park was ever created. There are approximately 46,000 acres in the park. If the park service is worried about grazing, they should control their prairie dogs. That is what is eating and ruining the landscape of the park.

I have been in the park when they rounded up buffalo with a helicopter. They take out some animals and turn others loose. I don't know what they do with the elk. As far as I've seen the prairie dogs are moving out of the park and to the south. Landowners are not going to be happy when they move onto them. As a landowner who has prairie dogs, that is my personal opinion.

It is my personal opinion that the horses and longhorns should be allowed to remain in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I feel that it

will be detrimental to the tourism in ND and Medora if they are removed.

My friend and I, raise cattle near Mott, ND and when we need to get away for a day, we usually drive to the park, and I take pictures of the horses and other wildlife that we find. I have met many photographers from other states who come to photograph the horses. If the horses are removed, we will have no reason to visit Medora or the park, meaning we will be among those who will not buy another pass to the park, or spend money in Medora.

Respectfully,

Esther H. Johnson

January 29, 2023

Comment ID: 2308950-125324/18621

Angela Richman
Acting Superintendent
Theodore Roosevelt National Park
P.O. Box 7
Medora, ND 58645

Re: Livestock Plan

Ms. Richman;

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed Livestock Plan. After much time and research in an attempt to compile compelling evidence in a grand slam style comment on this "Plan" that is being presented one finds there are more questions being left unanswered than a simple comment can adequately express.

Firstly, Theodore Roosevelt National Park is in the unique position of having a new species developing within its borders. A species that has genetic tie backs to ancient horse breeds that have since been declared extinct on our continent. These markers do not appear in other herds of feral horses on this continent. (Ovchinnikov IV, Dahms T, Herauf B, McCann B, Juras R, Castaneda C, et al. (2018) Genetic diversity and origin of the feral horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. PLoS ONE 13(8): e0200795. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0200795)

Is this administration seriously considering the genocide of an entire species? A species that has originated because of the park system that is now failing them.Does that not fly in the face of the National Park services manifesto of conservation?

These animals were present before the park became a park, and they have been allowed to continue to exist within its confines since its inception and grand fencing project.

Historical records show a great round up was held and over 200 animals were mustered out of the park. 99% of them were branded and yet 75 of them were turned back as well as an unknown number that evaded capture thus creating the herd we are now debating over.

Follow up questions to the above information:

1. If branded animals were turned back into the park, who owns them, and now their progeny? Would those original brand holders have a say in the deposition of these grand-generations?
2. Simple math shows that 75 is significantly more than 1%, why were those animals chosen to be turned back into the park?

The horses have been cited over and over again in management plans, and up until now have never been considered the nuisance that this administration is making them into.

The management plan the park seems to have been following is Leave them alone until they hit critical levels and then uncaringly reduce the herd to nearly nothing. The park and their feast or famine "management" of the horses have been the ones to cause the genetic bottleneck addressed in several research papers.

When the public reached out and said they would like a more proactive approach to actually managing the horses, thus far the park response has been that of a petulant child "fine then I'll just take them all away!"

Is the park administration really putting itself in the position of adversary to the public it claims to serve? Admittedly, the approach of the public that finally started this travesty was, let's say, antagonistic. There is a long history of peaceful work with other advocacy groups and pressure from the more understanding public to adjust the way the herd has been handled.

It becomes incumbent on both sides to find a way to negotiate to the middle ground between two extremes. The extremes being, Ultimately no horses, or No management. The public did not ask for NO Management. We are not asking for carte-blanche, let the horses live wherever, whenever, however, or at least the groups that I interact with certainly aren't!

Instead of trying to remove the horses instead of addressing the fact that the lack of management is a slap in the face to the collective public that does not wish to see the herds decimated.

The park has had an active, albeit unwilling, hand in the current situation these horses are facing, genetic stagnation, recessive genetic disorders gaining a foothold. This member of the public would like the park to take a more active role in those management. I would suggest turning blood stock from other wild horse herds across the nation. Bonded herds of mares rather than stallions, and turning them into parts of the park that horses have not been found in to encourage the herds to spread themselves out and reduce the impacts the inhabiting their usual haunts.

The park could stand to take a more active role in the reproduction of these horses by using a wholistic herd management solution include field vasectomy for the stallions as well as continuing birth control in the mares. However, continuing with the hands off approach most definitely needs to stop.

I implore TRNP to look at the treasure trove they have within the boundaries of their own fences. A genetically diverse unique species that is there ready for the study! In addition to having one of the only completely closed herds in the nation There are several to dozens of studies that these herds have provided data for, not the least of which are the studies that Park Staff Biologist Blake McCann has personally contributed to. I do not think the administration has fully considered the potential economic devastation this plan could create within the community the park calls home, and in the wider region.

TRNP is the tourist attraction for Western North Dakota, and these hoses have a huge impact on those visitors. In a grassroots survey data was gathered that supports the far reaching

potential economic impact that this removal could cause. I have copied the highlights into this memo below, without the ability to attach documents to this electronic submission form I am unsure how to submit its contents entirely.

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1kAuCrdAurDVvi-H_AcWJvsZ14VO68A0pNK5AJZbwAmA/viewanalytics?chromeless=1&fbclid=IwAR2G2iTPea6tItXas0-rVmSsg8XcYrCfm-dVgTVOlngux1v2mszw6X6XPG0)

How many participants in the survey have never been to the park: 75
(These responses were excluded from monetary and day's stayed statistics)

Unique responses to the entire survey: 1364

Age Demographics:
18-24 2.3%
25-29 3%
30-34 4.9%
35-39 6.4%
40-50 16.5%
50+ 34.6%

Where do you live:
Closest- Medora
Farthest Away: Germany, Australia

Average amount of 2022 visits : 2.84 visits
Low- 0 High- 616
Average amounts of visits per year : 20.51 visits
Low- 0 High-1000
Park Entrance Fee :
Day Fees : 62.8%
TRNP Yearly 19.5%
Interagency Pass 17.7%
What Unit do you Visit Most:
North 9.5%
South 90.5%

Why do you visit the park
Wildlife 10.2%
Sightseeing 8.7%
Horses 68.8%
Other Text Answers :12.3%

How many days do you typically spend:
Average 3.75
Low- 1 High- 10

Where do you stay:
Medora 61.6%
Dickinson 12.6%
Camping 9.9%
Watford City 2.7%
Belfield 2.2%
All Other Text Answers: 11%

Accommodations
Hotels 42.5%
Campgrounds: 31.7%
Family 9%
Air BNB 3.4%
Home: 2.4%
Other 2.2%
All Other text answers 8.8%

How much does each trip cost?
Low-$0 High $7000
Average $881.43
Total recorded $704,260

Will the Removal impact your reason for visiting the park?
Yes 93.7%
No 2.1%
Maybe 4.2%

Responses to: If yes can you explain:
1269 Unique responses

Open Forum:
912 unique responses

Please, reconsider the "Options" that were presented in this last round of public comment period. Please be willing to find the middle ground between all or nothing that is being provided. Please, allow the learned people on your staff that have the knowledge and the heart to write a

viable management plan for these beloved horses. Please do not commit genocide on an entire unique species, they deserve to be in the badlands as much the rest of the species that have had to be reintroduced to this environment. The horses have been there since before the park was the park.

Though this may come across as grandstanding to a more learned opinion.
The park is, with this so-called process to involve the public, very much alienating the public by giving them prepared scripts and very obviously biased moderators for these "conversations" which aren't conversations at all. It has been very obvious at each "input meeting" there was a prepared list of questions the panel would address and that would be that.

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

The horses in the park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd. They should be protected as such. This herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses. It is also consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

Please know that if the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

I am fully in support of SCR 4014 for the below reasons:

- Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

- The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

- The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

- The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept

at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

- SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

- SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

- If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

- Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today. **The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses** with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected. It will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. The herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

Please vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you!
Diane Salek

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Sincerely,

Jason George

Brooklyn NY

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

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SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these

A message from my horse Danny and I :

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
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6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

February 8, 2023

RE: SCR 4014

I am writing in support of SCR 4014, to preserve the Teddy Roosevelt herd of wild horses and burros.

Please consider the following:

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

I implore you to vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you.

Christina DeRespiris

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

Why do you want to take away a national treasure. The Teddy Roosevelt heard and all the others belong there. Please stop letting them be eradicated. There are just enough genetically to keep them healthy. Here are some reasons why you need to vote yes to protect them:

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

1.The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
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5.SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
6.If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
7.Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you for your time!

Karin Ruch
The Dragon Sanctuary

Please preserve the cherished Teddy Roosevelt wild horse herd.

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8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home

I support SCR 4014 and the preservation of wild horses.
Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park.
They too are citizens of this country, and deserve to live unmolested - especially by the NPS.
If animals can't be safe in our National Parks, where can they be safe?

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
If the horses are removed, I will never spend tourism dollars in North Dakota.

Do the ethical thing, and vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

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Senate Energy and Natural Resource hearing participants:

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6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janet M. Carey

619 Oxford Drive

Wylie, Texas 75098

Jmcarey@aol.com

Mobile: 214.850-5565

To Whom It May Concern in regards to SCR 4014:

I am in support of SCR 4014 in furthering to protect the wild horses that have resided on this land for hundreds of years, and to maintain a genetically viable herd for years to come. Further:

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Regards,

Lisa Welden

I support SCR 40414 for the following summary reasons:

1. Wild horses are an enduring symbol of the the wildness of the western United States. They are integral to the Western States identities and embody their spirit. They are also integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The Park horses descended from the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s. Therefore, these horses and our Nations history are inextricably linked.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakotas only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

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5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Hello,

I am in support of SCR 4014. When I visit one of the beautiful American Parks, I want to see nature! Nature without wild life, including horses, is NOT nature. We need to preserve this so that our grand children can see them live instead of in the picture book showing was USED to be!
A viable herd of wild horses need at least 150 horses.
Ecotourism will also benefit the state of North Dakota.
Please vote YES on SCR 4014.
Thank you!

Marie Bossard

Please do the right thing and vote yes on SCR 4014. In this day and age, it makes little sense to eradicate species and the thTeddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd. I believe that we have enough endangered species and have caused enough harm to wild life.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses. I know people who plan to go to North Dakota to see these beautiful animals.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected. That is a very large percentage of the population that does not want to see these horses harmed.

If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state, nor will my friends or family.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you. Michelle Jorgensen – a concerned citizen

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

To whom it may concern,

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. The herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses to ensure a genetically viable herd. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

I encourage you to vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you,

Shannon Elliott

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
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5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Christine A. Dorchak, Esq.
11A Lakeview Street
Arlington, MA 02476

February 8, 2023

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: Support SCR 4014 to protect the Teddy Roosevelt mustangs

Dear Chairman Kreun, Vice Chair Roers and Honorable Members,

As the daughter of a proud North Dakotan, I urge you to support SCR 4014 to protect the Teddy Roosevelt mustangs. The beautiful but small group of horses are descendants of the original Badland horses. Additionally, they are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected.

Please Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Sincerely,

C. A. Dorchak

Christine A. Dorchak, Esq.

Tara Murray
22 Causeway Street
Jefferson, MA 01522
508-829-1994
February 8, 1994
Testimony in support of SCR 4014

Please protect America's wild horses.

- Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
- The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
- The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
- The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd. 150 IS NOT ENOUGH, IT NEEDS TO BE IN THE THOUSANDS. LEAVE THE HORSES ALONE.
- SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses. Most of my vacations are outdoor, exploration vacations. I would pay to see these majestic animals. Leave them alone.
- SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected. Yes, protect the wild horses, please.
- If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state. I will never return to North Dakota again.
- Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home. I don't believe they need to be 'managed'. There is plenty of room for them. It is people who need to be population controlled.

Thank you for your time.

2/8/23

Dear Members of the North Dakota Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

I am writing to you today in support of SCR 4014 for the following reasons:

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you for your thoughtful, compassionate and humane consideration of my comments in support of protecting and keeping these innocent horses in the Teddy Roosevelt Wild Horse Park. This is where they have always been and should remain.

Sincerely,

Naomi M. Weisman

Please support SCR 4014

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7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

testimony in support of SCR 4014:

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6 SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7 If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8 Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of

managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Diana Hanna
dsd77788@gmail.com

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
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6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home

I urge you to vote YES on SCR 4014 to manage North Dakota's wild horse herd safely and humanely. Wild horses should be protected, and their existence is a draw to tourists to North Dakota who come there to enjoy the native wildlife and wilderness. Thank you.

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6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

I believe that wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
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If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

In support of: SCR 4014

- Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
- The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
- The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's *only* wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
- The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd for future generations to treasure.
- SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
- SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
- If the horses are removed, myself, family, and horse friends will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
- **Vote YES on SCR 4014** to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

February 8, 2023

Subject: **Testimony *in support* of SCR 4014**

To Whom it may Concern:

Please consider the following as my testimony in support of SCR 4014.

I urge you to preserve and protect the wild horse herd in Theodore Roosevelt Park. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and atmosphere of the Park. The historical significance of this herd of horses is undeniable. The Teddy Roosevelt horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s. They are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected.

Herd numbers of 150+ are necessary to maintain a genetically viable herd. Reduction of numbers or worse, eradicating these animals, would be irresponsible.

The landscape and native species which inspired President Theodore Roosevelt continues to inspire visitors today. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

Please vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Sincerely,

Jessica Lears

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. Roosevelt saw the need to protect the land and the animals within it. Since SCR 4014 reflects the 80 percent of Americans who want to see wild horses protected, SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

I am completely against the removal of any of the WILD horses from the Theodore Roosevelt National Park as they are an integral part of the beautiful and historic scenery, native wildlife and possess wilderness qualities that citizens and tourists have come to love.

The WILD horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s. Being that the Teddy Roosevelt horses are No Dakota's ONLY wild horse herd, they should be protected and left to roam WILD and FREE. Keeping the herd at a minimum of 150 horses to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the WILD horses and it is also consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want the WILD horses protected and to roam FREELY there.

I am sure President Theodore Roosevelt if alive today to witness such removal would be fitting mad and fight like hell to protect them from any such removal. Removing the herd will certainly have a negative impact on tourism and I for one will not spend nor visit there.

"There can be no greater issue than that of conservation in this country." - Theodore Roosevelt

Lisa Sarruda

To Whom it May Concerns,

I am writing in support of maintaining the Teddy Roosevelt wild horse herd in North Dakota through approval of SCR 4014.

I am a veterinarian and we know from research and attempts to control overpopulation in other species that eradication programs do not work. What we do know is that sterilization programs are highly successful. These programs are also more humane and more appealing to the public at large. Approximately 80 percent of Americans want wild horses protected and not removed from their habitat.

This herd in particular has a special meaning to all Americans for their historical value. The herd has the potential to bring tourism to North Dakota. These tourists would include historians, horse and animal lovers, and ecotourists. I personally will not travel to North Dakota for tourism if the herd is removed.

In addition, this herd's lineage can be traced back to Sitting Bull in the late 1800's and is part not only of our national heritage but a part of the heritage of our indigenous people.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns and support for SCR 4014.

Sincerely,
Catherine Pienkos DVM

Dear North Dakota lawmakers:

As a veterinarian and an individual interested in the welfare of animals, I respectfully urge you to consider supporting SCR 4014.

I understand that there are competing interests between animal agribusiness and those primarily focusing on the preservation of the Teddy Roosevelt wild horses. From a science standpoint, I believe that already proven successful contraception methods paired with recommended conversations among agribusiness representatives, environmental scientists, equine geneticists, large animal veterinarians, and the interested public could do much to reconcile the present disagreement regarding the handling of this horse population.

I hope that your distinguished legislators will give the most careful consideration to encouraging the diplomatic avenues I have suggested.

Kind regards,

Lisa Hara Levin, DVM

In support of SCR 4014:

1 Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
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5 SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6 SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7 If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8 Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
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7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014

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7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Please protect our "Wild Horses"! They represent our beautiful heritage. They deserve our protection! With there help they established America. We love them, and want them protected . Our children have the right to see them free, and protected "forever "!

- Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

- The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

- The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

- The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

- SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

- SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

- If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

- Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses .

Thank you,
Julia Stewart

In Support of SCR 4014

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Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today;
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s;
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such;
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a <u>minimum of 150</u> horses in order to ensure a genetically-viable herd;
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses;
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected;
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the State of North Dakota; &
8. I ask that you vote "YES" on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically-recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

To the North Dakota Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources;

My husband and I are in support of SCR 4014.

Wild horses are part of our landscape, they are living breathing beautiful creatures that have been roaming our land for hundreds of years. The fact that they should be rounded up is very repulsive. We know what happens to them, they can't be adopted, they are wild. They are frightened, separated from their families, then most die or are slaughtered.

These horses are an integral part of the Park that President Roosevelt intended.
They are descendants of the original Badland horses with great lineage dating beyond the time of Sitting Bull.
SCR 4014 will will help support ecotourism, it's found that 80% of Americans want wild Mustangs protected. Please vote YES to SCR 4014. There are scientific humane methods for managing wild horses. It's a crime to intimately kill them.

Thank you for reading our testimony,
Michelle and Bill Marhoefer

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8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Michelle Barbour
Tyler, Texas
2-8-23

Save the Wild Horses

It is not the job of government to increase the profits of ranchers by taking the grazing lands of wild horses and other wildlife and giving the land to ranchers thus reducing the costs and increasing the profits of certain ranchers. Not all ranchers in the state get this handout, only certain ones. The land and ecology is denigrated by this action. Support the wild horses and other wildlife that are part of the natural ecology. You are supposed to be care takers, not destroyers.

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8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

I respectfully wish to add my support of SCR 4014, encouraging the National Park Service and the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to preserve the wild horses in Teddy Roosevelt National Park for these reasons:

The horses in the Teddy Roosevelt National Park are North Dakotas only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

They are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s. They symbolize the American West and the history North Dakota and our nation.

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and continues to draw tourists even today. The wonders of the Park are a draw for visitors and contribute in many ways to the local economy. Oftentimes grazing only benefits a small slice of the economy or even a foreign corporation with no ties to the Park and its surroundings.

The herd needs to be kept a minimum level of 150 animals to maintain genetic diversity and to ensure that these horses remain healthy and vibrant for future generations. Many advocacy organizations report that a majority (even 80%) of Americans want wild horses protected on public lands, where they belong and can be horses, not pets.

Please vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Dear North Dakota Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,

There is no better natural resource than the Teddy Roosevelt wild horses. I am totally, wholehearted in favor of SCR 4014.

North Dakota must preserve its only wild herd. It has historic value to our entire country. The horses are integral to what the to the President Theodore Roosevelt Park means to the people of North Dakota and all of the country that can or cannot be fortunate to visit that park. Eighty percent of American want the horses to be free and wild. They are a national treasure.

SCR 4014 will benefit North Dakota's economy as it will bring ecotourism and business growth due to of the value of the American people who wish to see the West as it once was and to able to watch the vista of the wild horses running free, just as they should be. If the travesty of getting rid of the horses come into being, I and all my colleagues will never visit or spend dollars to the North Dakota economy.

We MUST keep the herd in order to the preserve a viable, genetically sound herd and to support humane, SCIENTIFICALLY recommended methods of management of the public lands where they do so belong.

YES on SCR 4014!!!!

Sincerely,

Marianne Lazarus

I am writing in support of maintaining the TRNP wild horse numbers at a minimum of 150 to ensure a genetically viable herd. Please listen to the science of what is required for these horses- whose native home is TRNP- to be sustainable. I am a Kentucky native who travels across the US to observe, sit with, and photograph the wild horses. TRNP is one of the easiest places for me to do this because I can often find them and observe them from my car or hike short distances. Most of the places I travel to requires a high clearance, 4 wheel drive and a lot of hiking carrying my equipment. But not TRNP. This is one of the few places people can go to see wild horses that is handicap accessible and safe for elderly and kids (because they can see the horses often from the car!) At my photography shows I am often asked where my customers can go to see these wild horses. I inform them that TRNP is by far the easiest! Yes, the backdrops are beautiful but if there are no wild horses I won't be going there anymore. My only reason for going is the wild horses. I can see bison anywhere, even here in Kentucky but the horses are unique to TRNP and is what sets it apart from other beautiful places with bison, prairie dogs, coyotes, and elk. I feel bad for the Airbnb hosts we rent from when we go there twice a year because they won't get our business anymore if the horses aren't there and cared for so they can survive. I feel bad for the restaurant owners, golf course (where my husband golfs while I am at TRNP sunrise to sunset) and the musicals and shows we often go to while there. I guess the Smithsonian will no longer be stating that TRNP is one of the best places to go to view wild horses. I do not understand why less than 200 wild horses are such a priority to be removed or reduced! That is a philosophy that seems to me to be the total opposite of the Teddy Roosevelt stood for when it comes to wildlife and the historical importance of the horse. One of the things I so enjoy telling my customers at photography shows is that these horses are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by

Sitting Bull in the late 1800s!!!! How can that tidbit not be shared with TRNP tourists? How can anyone not get excited at the prospect of seeing these wild horses? I would suspect most people are used to seeing bison at Yellowstone or any of the hundreds of other places they can be seen including 2 hours from my hometown in Kentucky! But the wild horses! Their history, their survival skills, their families, their interactions with each other, their beauty…THAT is what makes TRNP come alive for me and many others. Everyone I have observed in the park over the past decade gets pumped when they even just see a glimpse of a wild horse. That is what they talk about. That is what smile about! As I advocate for all wild horses across the US, it amazes me that the issue of managing the wild horses is so difficult for those in charge. Listen to the people who are there a lot more often than me! People who live nearby and frequent the park multiple times weekly to monitor and document these horses. Listen to the scientists and the people who study the nature of these wild animals. Listen to what works in other places, the birth control darting, understand the ages of the horses there and how removal of certain ages will impact the viability of the herd. Listen to what happens when stallions are removed and put in a pen together, the fights, the stress, the injuries. These are wild animals. Listen to the people who study them and have documented them for years and to the people who know what works in other places. This isn't a hard 'problem.' Collaborate with those who disagree with rerducing or eradicating them. Find out why and together find solutions. Effective leadership for the win!

Please preserve this legacy herd for the future of our children, for the diversity of the land and for the sake of all wild things.

Thank you,

Corinne J. Brown

writer

Kaley Scholl

1747 18th Street NW, Apt 1

Washington, D.C. 20009

310-922-7042

February 08, 2023

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

I am seeking your support in your position on the National Parks Subcommittee to NOT remove the historic, genetically unique, herd of horses that have been free roaming in Theodore Roosevelt National Park for the past 76 years.

I believe that removing this genetically unique herd of horses is a profound loss to a direct, historical link to President Teddy Roosevelt himself and the native nations of the United States. I also believe this is a significant loss of tourism revenue for North Dakota. In addition, this herd of horses would be an overwhelming loss of an intangible cultural heritage for the state of North Dakota, the American West, and America for our future generations.

I do support creating a new wildlife management plan that will ensure the herd will remain a genetically viable and productive herd using modern scientific methods. I support providing the staffing and resources to Theodore Roosevelt National Park so the herd will continue to thrive and co-exist with all other species as they have been doing since before the reintroduction of bison and elk to this historic landscape.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I imagine you would like to be known as the legislator who preserved President Teddy Roosevelt's legacy to the America West, the wild mustangs, and the native nations of this region.

Respectfully,

Kaley Scholl

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
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4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

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February 7, 2023

North Dakota Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Please support SCR 4014!

Dear Committee Members,

Please keep the wild horses, ALL of them, living free and wild in Teddy Roosevelt National Park. This is what Teddy Roosevelt would have wanted and this is what millions of Americans want now (taxpaying and voting!). By protecting the horses, SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota.

Traveling to the park in order to see the wild horses is on our Bucket List - please don't take this opportunity away from us. These horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

Just like people go to see wild animals in zoos that they wouldn't normally see in this country, the "wildness" of wild horses out on the range, exhibiting wild horse behaviors, being a family, is something everyone should be able to see and experience, especially in a special place that was founded on the principals of conservation. These horses have historical lineage back to Sitting Bull! They are living history!

We want to visit Teddy Roosevelt National Park to observe wild horses undisturbed in their natural environment, along with other native animals and plants amongst them. Removing them will change our plans to visit.

Also, wild horses need a certain size herd to protect their genetic diversity and by disturbing the count, by breaking up the close-knit bands and families, you will be forever hurting them.

The Teddy Roosevelt way is to protect the "wildness" of our beautiful open spaces: you cannot change it, or even disturb it, or you will forever ruin the magnificence of these lands.

Please support SCR 4014 and SAVE THE WILD HORSES!

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Salvadore and Bob Cazzani
North Kingstown, Rhode Island USA

Im writing in support of the South Dakota resolution to keep the wild horses at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Removing these horses would eliminate one of the parks main attractions and definitely affect future tourism. When my husband and I visited TRNP a few years ago, the wild horses were the primary reason for doing so. The National Park Service needs to do the right thing and leave the horses right where they arepart of the fabric of the park and Teddy Roosevelts legacy.

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7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

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7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

I urge you to please vote YES on SCR 4014 for the following reasons:

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you for your consideration.

I am a citizen of Granbury, TX who urges you to support this bill for the following reasons:

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Thank you, Rosemary Freskos 6008 Nutcracker Dr. Granbury, TX

February 8, 2023

I am writing in support of SCR 4014. Specifically, I hope that the Teddy Roosevelt herd of wild horses is maintained at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

As North Dakota's only wild horse herd, it should be protected and encouraged to thrive, particularly in light of its DNA heritage proving a connection to horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s. It is incumbent on us to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

To me, wild horses embody the spirit of America. I know I'm not alone in this, given that polls have shown that 80 percent of Americans want wild horses to be protected.

Thank you for sponsoring this bill. I hope that we will soon celebrate its passage.

Regards,
Madeline Damiano

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I SUPPORT SCR4014 because:

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
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7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

The wild horses in Theodore National Park are beautiful and wonderful. Visitors come from all over the world to see them. Removal of the wild horses would be a horrible tragedy.

The horses are wildlife not livestock. The herd of horses at Assateague are considered wildlife and are managed by the National Park Service.

The wild horses lived here before the park was founded.The wild horses are descended from the famous Nokata horses. In the 1800's the famous artists Frederick Remington and George Caitlin depicted the Nokata horses. President Theodore Roosevelt who ranched in the Little Missouri between 1883-1886 describes the wild horses living here.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park brought in the elk and buffalo living in the park.

If the Park removes all livestock the buffalo must be removed. Buffalo are classified as livestock.

The Organic Act directs the National Park Service to conserve the natural and historical objects and the wildlife and provide for the enjoyment for future generations.

To reduce the size of the herd would destroy its genetic viability.

An EA is insufficient. NEPA requires an EIS for any action taken.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Hopefully my comments will help in your decision about the wild horses.

My references:

1.The Organic Act of 1916 2. 54 U.S.C. 100101 3. 36 C.F.R. 2.60, 21 and 22
4.The History and Status of the Wild Horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Dr. McLoughlin
5.htpps://www.kxnet.com/news/state-news/cutting-the-herd-size-at-theodore-national-park-could-be-bad/, Dr. Gus Cothran

Sincerely,
Joyce Purtzer

Karen Froming notes on SCR 4014 Testimony in SUPPORT:

Testimony *in support* of SCR 4014:

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
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5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

This horse herd is one of the reason I have visited and will continue to visited N. Dakota. Please keep your scenery wild with the horse herd in it! They are part of history!

Please Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing wild horses on public lands:

1. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism.
2. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
3. The horses are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
5. If the horses and rounded up and removed, they will most likely be sent to slaughter in Canada or Mexico, it is completely unethical to let that happen.

I am writing to urge your SUPPORT of SCR 4014.

Please Vote YES to preserve this cherished and majestic wild horse herd, and to support humane and scientifically recommended methods of managing these historic horses. It is imperative that this herd, to be genetically viable, be kept at a minimum of 150 horses.

The Teddy Roosevelt herd's lineage goes back to those horses surrendered by Sitting Bull back in the late 1800's. They are part of what makes this inspirational landscape extremely beautiful. People come from all over the world to view this part of the United States and to witness what remains of these amazing animals in this park.

How profoundly sad it would be to eradicate these mustangs from this land. They are a part of our American History. Help us preserve a healthy, happy herd going into our future by voting YES in Support of SCR 4014.

Good afternoon,

I'm writing in support of SCR 4014.

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Please vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Kind regards,

Crickett Miller
1485 Duke Rd
Augusta, MO 63332

Hello and thank you for taking the time to consider my comments in support of SCR 4014.

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

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SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you!

Sarah Berger

sending in your testimony *in support* of SCR 4014:

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Teddy Roosevelt wild horse herd in north Dakota

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Connie Butler

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Dear Senate Committee Members,

I am writing in support of SCR 4014. and the Teddy Roosevelt Horses. This is an issue particularly close to my heart, my family's heart and those of many in my community. I can site a number of reasons why we should protect the Roosevelt Horses. First, as an animal lover I abhor the suffering of any living creature, and the thought of these beautiful animals being removed and sent to an uncertain fate, possibly slaughter breaks my heart. Secondly, from a cultural perspective, these horses are a unique American icon and a symbol of the beautiful western United States. The National Park Service has not always done a good job of protecting wild horses and many wind up injured, or sent to slaughter. There is clearly something special about these animals that touches the majority of people in this country. I respectfully ask for your support, you can save these beautiful animals and with them an important symbol of our beautiful west.

Sincerely,

John P. Mayer, Ph.D.

University of Colorado,

Boulder, CO

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park. This is the same landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today with its magnificence and natural beauty. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses; they have historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. Thus, the Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting these horses. It is also consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected. If the horses are removed, I know that I, at least, will not spend tourism dollars in the state. Please vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Please preserve the **Teddy Roosevelt wild horses**

- These wild horses have become an integral to the native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
- The horses in the park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
- The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
- The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses to ensure a genetically viable herd.
- SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
- If the horses are removed, I vow not spend any tourism dollars in the state.

Sincerely,
Sandra Rosque

Kathleen S. Roche
63255 Stonewood Drive
Bend, OR 97701
February 8, 2023

North Dakota Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Preserve this cherished wild horse herd at Teddy Roosevelt

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

/s/Kathleen S. Roche

February 8, 2023

From: Kathleen L Petullo

Please hear my testimony:

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.
9. There is nothing more beautiful and majestic than a Stallion and his heard rooming this wonderful state of North Dakota.
10. We need to preserve these cherished wild horses.

In SUPPORT of SCR 4014

1 Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2 The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3 The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4 The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5 SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6 SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected. This percentage has held steady in America for over a decade.
7 Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you for your support of SCR 4014,

Jennifer Southcott
Evergreen,Colorado

I am in support of SCR 4014- it reflects what 80% of Americans desire – wild horses to run free on their designated lands and cattle removed. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, wildlife, qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Best regards,

Mary Ann Leitch Philadelphia Pa 19147

Dear Honorable Senators,

My Testimony is in Support of SCR 4014 and I ask that you give this resolution a Do Pass.

The wild horse herd in Theodore Roosevelt National Park is a historic and cultural legacy in our state. Much has been said and written in the last six weeks about the herd and the longhorn steers. They deserve the commitment of a home within North Dakota in a genetically viable number as described by many of the experts in this field. I urge the Senators to amend the resolution to include commitments as described by Governor Burgum in his press conference for management and resources to their care.

Personally, I, as many young North Dakotans, worked in Medora during breaks of my college education. I have my pay stubs from Gold Seal Co. as momentos! I was fortunate enough one fall in the late 1970's as a part of a crew "closing" the tourist attractions to go with one of the ranch hands to feed the bison from the back of his pickup! While most young people will not have that experience, it is a memory of an experience I haven't forgotten. The horses and steers that reside in the North and South Units are a critical part of the experience of people from all over the state, country and indeed the world. Those tourists deserve to enjoy and take away memories just as I did. I might suggest the many visitors to the future Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library will hope if not expect to see not only the bison, prairie dogs, elk and other flora and fauna unique to our state but the longhorn steer and wild horses. Let's unite to protect this resource.

I urge the addition of an amendment pledging state resources and support for the continued genetic well-being of the horses and steers.

Thank you for your consideration and time. Thank you also for the commitment of your service to our great state!

Best Regards,

Michael J. Southam

February 8, 2023

Secretary of Interior, North Dakota

Director of the National Park Service

Re: Testimony in support of SCR 4014

Dear Sir:

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

Please vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Sincerely,
Tree Wright
226 Puesta Del Sol
Oak View, CA 93022

I am in support of resolution SCR 4014Vito Bitondo10392 North Fair Mountain Dr.Oro Valley, AZ 85737

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

February 8, 2023

To Whom it may Concern,

Below please find my testimony in support of SCR 4014. I have been planning a visit to N. Dakota at some point in 2024 or 2025 when I retire and seeing the wild horses is an important part of why I would visit.

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you,

Phoebe Selden
6930 Birch Ave.
Gary, IN 46403
312-307-2938

Wild horses and long horns are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

The animals in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

If the herds are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses and steer on the public lands they call home.

I write in support of the Resolution.

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today. Further, the horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. Specialists have concluded that the Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

This resolution, SCR 4014, will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses. It is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected. As one example, if the horses are removed from the Park I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Please vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Sincerely,

David Doering

From Bonnie Johnson, Roanoke, Virginia bonnielou2@cox.net Feb. 8, 2023

CONCERNING THE TEDDY ROOSEVELT WILD HORSES TO BE DISCUSSED BY THE NORTH DAKOTA SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO HEAR SCR 4014 URGING THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO PRESERVE THE CHERISHED WILD HORSE HERD:

1) Integral Inspiration:The horses are part of the scenery, wildlife and qualities of wilderness of the Park—which has inspired people through time, including Teddy Roosevelt

2) Lineage: The horses are descendants of the original Badland horses, as far back as the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

3) Singularity and Protection: The horses are.North Dakota's onlyl wild horse herd.

4) Population Size: At least 150 horses are needed in the herd to allow appropriate reproduction.

5) Importance of SCR 40414: Support for Economic Development, Ecotourism, and Protection of the horses. Bill also reflects wishes of 80% of American population that wild horses be protected.

6) Supports Tourism: Many will no longer come without the horses.

7) RECOMMENDATION: SUPPORT SCR 4014 by voting YES to assure appropriate and successful methods of wild horse management on the wild horses' homelands on North Dakota's public lands.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. America hopes for your success and management excellence of the North Dakota wild horses.

Bonnie Johnson

bonnielou2@cox.net

Roanoke, Virginia

To whom it my concern,

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Please vote yes on SCR 4014, it will be good for the great state of North Dakota and the American people!

Thank you for reading.

R Hap Bullard
Boulder Creek, Ca. 95006

Please do not introduce cows/steers into this area. Humans have set up an artificial ‘war’ between cows and wild horses.

Wild horses DESERVE to live free on American soil. They do not hurt the environment as they are not ‘farmed’ industrially like cattle and as wild beings their habitat ought to be preserved.

Let’s not be shortsighted with living, feeling animals – it is torment and tragedy to round these wonderful animals into slavery pens.

Just because you provide food doesn’t mean the abducted horses will have a ‘good’ life. Would you like to be confined but get your hay each day?

Is that LIFE?

PLEASE FOR GOD’S SAKE LEAVE THEM ALONE.

Sincerely,

Mildred Gist
Army veteran and retired civil servant.

February 8, 2023

In support of SCR 4014

To Whom It May Concern:

As an appraiser for many years and a lifetime horse person, I bring years of research and equine industry experience to bear on this subject. Currently, I am researching and appraising two rare breed equine herds. This research has led me into a complex niche in an industry that packs an economic punch and which is held in high regard by people who simply love the horse.

The herd you would eradicate is one proven to trace back genetically to the Asian steppes. It is a part of the Native American story no less integral to their culture than is the buffalo.

It is the contention of the many organizations in the world saving rare breed mammals that these genetics offer strengths that are lost through over-industrializing for high volume production. Our chickens, beef, pigs, buffalo and anything we eat is vulnerable to disease from inbreeding and breeding for specific traits such as size for commercial use. In time, it is likely that only these few, saved rare breeds can reintroduce immnunity and survival through genetic diversification.

This herd should be considered a rarity worth saving. Science has dramatically improved the ability to reinforce ancient lines by matching one genetic equine with a close relative that is equally ancient. Thus, both are preserved and thrive.

Plus, tourism attraction should justify its continued existence. To view a wild herd is a rarity in itself.

Best -

Tania Evans

Tania Evans
Riverbend Equine Appraisals
Expert Witness, Research, Consulting
Photojournalism

www.riverbendequineappraisals.com
riverbendfarm@comcast.net

734-904-3106 cell USA
809-523-3333 DR, ask for GV109

3220 W. Huron River Drive
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

I am writing in **support of SCR 4014**, **to preserve the cherished wild horse herd** of the Teddy Roosevelt National Park.

- As you know, wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
- The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
- The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
- The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be **kept at at a *minimum* of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.**
- SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
- SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

Please, Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support *humane, scientifically recommended* methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Suzanne Kelly

5242 Oleatha Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63139

Diane Lesser Testimony in Support of SCR 4014

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park - the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support eco-tourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Please Preserve this cherished wild horse herd, we don't have the right to remove these wild horses from their land for 100s of years!

I love horses and have spent tremendous time and money enjoying them, vacationing with them and now, oddly having to defend one of earth's most beautiful creatures. I am in support of SCR 4014

1. People who love horses, LOVE them. They read books, watch all the horse movies… I even take a longer drive most days simply because I get to see two of the most beautiful mustangs. I know I'm not the only one. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. The alternative, of course, is extinction. Why would anyone choose that? A hundred years from now would people think this is insane?
3. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
4. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state. **Why would you take future business away from your state???**
5. ***SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.***
6. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakotas only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony with you today. I am writing IN FAVOR of SCR 4014 regarding the wild herd of horses in the South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

I am a resident of North Dakota and have been visiting the park 200+ times a year for the last eight years. I began documenting the herd of wild horses inside the park in 2015, working with the non-profit Wild in North Dakota. During my eight years in the field, I have worked with the Wildlife Biologist for TRNP, reporting births, deaths, injuries, and so forth. I have also volunteered time for roundups and worked at the handling facility caring for the horses pulled for sale.

Along with tracking and documenting the herd inside the park, I run a social media page dedicated to the TRNP horses. Through sharing photos and stories of the horses on this page, I have seen firsthand the difference they make in the lives of the thousands of people worldwide who follow them. Many individuals have followed the horses for years through social media and, as a result, have visited or planned to visit TRNP specifically to see the horses.

Removing the horses would negatively impact the town of Medora, the businesses, and surrounding communities relying on the summer crowds to sustain them financially throughout the rest of the year. Most importantly, removing the horses would destroy the family bands who have lived together in the park for decades. Therefore, I support SCR 4014 and any further steps to save the herd of wild horses inside the South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Craigo

Golden Valley County, North Dakota

Deborah Vaupen
1004 Pacific Street
Santa Monica, CA 90405
Deborahv9@verizon.net

8th February, 2023

To the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service:

I am writing to urge you to Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses and is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state, and will discourage friends and family as well.

Sincerely,

Deborah Vaupen

As a photographer and advocate of American wild horses, I urge you to
Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

- The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

- SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

- SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

- If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires me every time I return.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. This herd of horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. I support keeping the herd at no fewer than 150 horses which would ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. This bill will help support tourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses. Having the herd in the Park was what has me returning each year to the Park.
6. Approximately 80 percent of Americans want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend return to North Dakota.

Dear Senate Committee on energy and natural resources,

I am writing in favor of SCR 4014. Please support humane methods of managing wild horses. These horses are an important part of the park, and need to be kept at a minimum of 150 to retain genetic viability. 80 percent of Americans want wild horses protected, and as they are North Dakota's only wild herd they should be protected. I hope to plan a trip to visit the park in the near future as I love wild horses. I do think ecotourism and the herd is a draw for visitors, and can bring in business to the area. Mm

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Gina Meng
23632 Atex Ct
92065

I, Erin Baiano, am in support of SCR 4014 for the following reasons:

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you,
Erin Baiano
New York, NY

I am in support of SCR 4014 for these reasons:

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you,

Megan Hashemi

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the taxpayer funded public lands.

To North Dakota Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Secretary of Interior and Director of National Park Service

TO PRESERVE THIS CHERISHED WILD HORSRE HERD

Testimony in support of SCR 4014:

Wild horses are integral to scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park.
This is the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and continues to inspire visitors today.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of **80** percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the wild horses.

Thank you for protecting the wild horses.

Sincerely, Liane L. Yukl

Comments in Support of SCR 4014

Being from Arizona I have first hand knowledge of how wild horses can and do benefit a state in terms of biodiversity and tourism economics. And as someone involved in the management and care of wild horses how the herds can be humanely managed to control Herd size with fertility control measures.

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment,

Steven W Boyce

New message

From jillana@lauferco.net

To Email address CC BCC

Subject Subject

Arial 14px

In support of SCR 4014:

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Saved at 11:59 AM

Send

The Teddy Roosevelt wild horses are a national treasure and deserve to be protected.

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd. But we can use humane ways to prevent overpopulation! Death is not the answer.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent or more of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state ever again.
8. Please vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thanks

Wild Horses have always been a symbol of freedom, love, respect, pride, and self-assurance; values that helped me find my true self. As I grew up my love and respect for these beautiful wild horses grew even stronger. We have a bond that is unbreakable. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and they must be protected eternally. I will never visit North Dakota again, nor would I spend any money in support of North Dakota's National Park Service (NPS) that wants to reduce/total eradicate these mustangs. This is not acceptable. They are turning their backs to these precious wild horses and that is not their job. Their job must be to protect them. The Teddy Roosevelt wild horses represent the best of our country the true meaning of America the Sweet Land of Liberty and the Land of the Noble Free.

Comments in Support of SCR 4014

As someone involved in the management and care of wild horses how the herds can be humanely managed to control Herd size with fertility control measures.

And Being from Arizona I have first hand knowledge of how wild horses can and do benefit a state in terms of biodiversity and tourism economics.

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

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6. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
7. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify,

Barbara Marie Zingg

February 8, 2023

Gentlemen -

Please Listen! The currently management plan, which will result in the severe harm and reduction or total eradication of these mustangs, is wrong and must be halted. I agree with resolution SCR 4014, which properly urges the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service (NPS) to preserve **this cherished and important wild horse herd.**

As an American and horse lover, any harm, let alone destruction, to these beautiful, wild, historic animals, who are a symbols of freedom in American and part of the joy in maintaining life and liberty, is a sad and unnecessary act that lacks any merit. Only harm and pain. Other less restrictive alternatives are available and should be used so that no life is unnecessarily harmed in the control of this herd. Why is that even a question?

The herd consist of unknowing old and young wild horses, who only know this land as their home. Their care should be a primary concern to you as the humans who are in charge of their management in this area. Management should NOT look toward hurtful and destructive choices, but instead be concerned with what are the best methods available in order to keep these souls protected from harm! Otherwise, what is the point of management - if not protection from harm? If it is not a priority to keep these animals from unnecessary pain and abandonment and to protect them from harm, they should not be in charge of their management in the first place! Certainly not be able to construct plans to lead to eradication!

These horses cannot speak - They need our protection. It is only fair and humane to protect these historical America assets and symbols of liberty and freedom, and do everything in your power to protect them from harm. Please do not desert them!

Thank you -

Additionally, Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today. **If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.**

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota’s only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected. SCR 4014 will support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Sincerely -

Ruth Toporoff, RA, JD
she/her/hers

Vote Yes SCR 4014 Public Hearing 2/9/2023

When will you learn? Look at the mess always created when the government steps in to “control” wildlife. We mess it up worse! Preserving the Teddy Roosevelt horses is a MUST!

Please don't do what the BLM has done in rounding up wild Mustangs! Herds are split, foals torn from their mothers, and the harm, both physically and mentally, is awful and terrifying. Sometimes even death, or injuries so bad, they are shot on the scene. I think what bothers me most is many workers become calloused and lose empathy for the safety of the horses. Unless you have witnessed mass roundups, then you must physically be there to see what happens should you decide to “control” the herd. To watch it and live it is heartbreaking. The fear when broken from their friends and family. Foals separated from their mothers. Herds are torn apart. For what?

Preserving the Teddy Roosevelt horses is a MUST. You know their heritage and history. You know they contributed to President Teddy Roosevelt's wonder at the natural world, leading to his CREATION of the FIRST NATIONAL PARKS. Horses have lived in TRNP for generations, and MILLIONS of Park visitors cherish these animals as an integral part of the cultural heritage of the Badlands. Why not keep them for people who tour to see such heritage? To see them in their natural habitat, together, as a herd, is so inspiring! Untouched by man.

Teddy Roosevelt’s horses are North Dakota’s only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. I know what happens when man tries to control populations. It usually doesn’t go well. Name one program that is working today! The population should be a minimum of 150 to protect the GENETIC HEALTH of the herd and promote its genetic viability. The herd can and should be managed at a HIGHER MINIMUM POPULATION LEVEL.

The Governor has already spoken out against this plan and the legislature is now following suit!
Most Americans want wild horses protected. The herd will promote tourism and bring in money. But if not passed, it won’t be me or my money that comes back to Nevada, there are plenty of horses here in Kentucky.

Support of SCR 4014! Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home. Just do it.

Barbara Peachee

I am writing in support of the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I would like to see the entire herd remain in the park that has been home to wild horses since before the park was established, and is the only home these amazing creatures have known.

With less than 200 horses currently in the park and over 70,000 acres to roam, their impact on the environment is minimal. They have lived in harmony with the other park wildlife which was evident by the incredible respect shown to Gray Ghost at his death when the buffalo herd walked to him one by one and then surrounded his body as if to protect him. I regularly view pictures from two photographers and the horses overall appear to be in good condition.

They are part of our heritage and should remain in the park. If there is a concern of population control, safer birth control methods are now available. Additionally, the longhorn cattle are also an important part of Teddy Roosevelt's ranching history and are also a part of our North Dakota history. I have fond memories of visiting the park to see the wild horses and hope others will have this opportunity, as well.

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: The proposed removal of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park Wild Horses

My name is Gretchen Clark. I'm a teacher, writer, wild horse photographer and advocate from Arizona. I am in support of SCR 4014 and keeping the wild horses of TRNP in the park. My reasons are as follows:

1.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakotas only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

2.

There's no "compromise" of reducing the this herd to under 70 as the NPS is also considering because that would all but ensure their extinction because the herd will cease to be genetically viable.

At a minimum, herd size must be preserved at 150 breeding adult horses to secure genetic sustainability. This is scientifically researched fact, not only supported by Dr. Gus Cothran, premier horse geneticist and professor of emeritus at the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine, but it is also affirmed in the Bureau of Land Management's Wild Horse and Burro Handbook.

3.

The horses in the Park are offspring of the original Badlands horses with historical bloodlines that trace all the way back to the horses relinquished by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

4.

Consider carefully the tourism dollars North Dakota will lose if these horses are removed. They are a huge draw and point of interest. Every year, I travel across the country with my sister photographing wild horses. The TRNP wild horses were on our trip schedule list this year, but if these horses are removed we--and many others who love wild horses--will not be spending our money in North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Clark
4338 E. Mountain Vista Dr.
Phoenix, AZ, 85048
email: prettylizard_2000@yahoo.com

I support of SCR 4014:

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

I am in full support of SCR 4014 as the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park have been part of the landscape since before the Park fenced them in. They deserve to be managed and honored as part of the historic scene that President Theodore Roosevelt himself witnessed and inspired him during his years living in North Dakota. Huge thanks to all who have worked so diligently to put this Bill in place to protect these magnificent horses for years to come and future generations to enjoy same as I have.

Are you aware that wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today?

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are also North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. The herd ***must*** be kept at a minimum of 150 horses to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses, and is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

If these horses are removed, I, for one, would not spend my tourism dollars in this state.

Please vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you.

Senators, thank you for giving the public this audience. My name is Christine Kman. I am here representing Chasing Horses Wild Horse Advocates, a nonprofit organization based in Dickinson, ND that advocates for the wild horses that call Theodore Roosevelt National Park home. I am here to ask that you pass Senate Concurrent Resolution SCR 4014: A concurrent resolution urging the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service to modify its proposed livestock management plan, and to continue to allow for interpretative, cultural, and historical purposes a herd of longhorn steers in the North Unit of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the presence of a wild horse herd in the South Unit of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

On December 12, 2022, Theodore Roosevelt National Park announced their plans to eliminate the entire herd of wild horses from the park's boundaries. The realization of the park's announcement was very surreal. I resonated with the message coming from all across our state, our nation and our world: What would Theodore Roosevelt National Park be WITHOUT the wild horses?

Early on in the incorporation of Chasing Horses Wild Horse Advocates, our lawyer reminded me that this was not MY nonprofit. This organization belongs to the community it serves. I pride myself on being open and honest with our community of followers and I am proud of the dedication they have to this herd. We have over 100,000 people who follow us from as close as our state of North Dakota and as far away as Germany, England and Australia. Across the miles, these horses have captured the hearts of literally at least hundreds of thousands of people worldwide.

The history of these horses is well documented. Scientists have weighed in on the impacts of the proposed actions of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Policies have been cited. Cultural and spiritual significance has been well stated.

In the moments when I found myself overwhelmed by the gravity of this moment, there always seemed to be a letter or a message of support that would come through at just the right time. Messages like "We'll do our best to try and send a small contribution to you when our Social Security checks comes through." Or messages as simple as "Please save our TRNP horses."

Messages that let me know that there was a large group of people looking to me and our board for guidance on how WE would navigate through this journey to Fight for the Spirit of the Badlands.

One by one, businesses from across our state have also stepped forward in opposition of Theodore Roosevelt National Park's announcement. State media outlets such as The Dickinson Press and the Fargo Forum have also weighed in:

From the The Dickinson Press:

We understand some of the concerns raised by the park service. We understand the challenges of preserving and interpreting the horses. We understand that the National Park Service has a

limited ability to keep livestock in any park, let alone one that isn't counted among their most visited attractions in the country.

We understand that...but.

The idea of removing these horses is not only a blow to the local economy, but it also goes against the very principles of the Park's namesake, President Theodore Roosevelt. As an advocate for conservation and the protection of America's wild spaces, it is hard to imagine that he would stand idly by while these horses are removed from the land that bears his name.

These horses are not just a tourist attraction, they are a vital part of the park's ecosystem and a symbol of the rugged spirit that defines the West. They are a reminder of the importance of preserving our natural heritage for future generations. The day that horses no longer peer out over the beautiful badlands from atop a butte, is the day that WE as citizens of the Western Edge have failed in our duty.

As area residents, it is our responsibility to speak up and take action to protect these horses and their legacy.

We must make our voices heard and let the National Park Service know that the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park are a treasured part of our community and should be protected for future generations to enjoy.

As we ponder the fate of the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, we must ask ourselves, do we want to live in a Western Edge that no longer has these majestic creatures roaming the Badlands?

From the Fargo Forum:

Yet park officials now turn their back on the historical significance of the horses — kept in the park for decades as a “demonstration herd” depicting the “historic scene” the park honors.

Park officials argue that they don’t have the authority under the park’s enabling legislation or the Organic Act of 1916 — a farcical position that ignores the plain language of the law, “to conserve the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wild life in the System units and to provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wild life in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

Assateague Island National Seashore, a National Park Service site in Maryland, manages its horse herd as wildlife, not livestock — so obviously Theodore Roosevelt National Park can do the same.

The park is not instilling public confidence in the way it is going about its “planning” process. Even though it is considering the option of continuing its current management plan, which dates back to 1978, it has announced that it has “no basis” to keep the horses.

This is a train running down the tracks — unless those who value the horses speak out, loudly and clearly.

In keeping with the sense that Chasing Horses Wild Horse Advocates is a nonprofit organization that belongs to the community it serves; I stand before you now as a representative of Chasing Horses Wild Horse Advocates and have chosen to read highlights from some of the comment letters that were submitted to Theodore Roosevelt National Park that were shared with us by our followers. These are the messages that brought all of us here to this moment.

I want to start this testimony by stating the sincerest gratitude on behalf of wild horse lovers across the globe. The leadership and support that our North Dakota legislators have given as you stood up and advocated WITH us is something that we are sure that history will look back on favorably. Because of your help and support, recent events such as Governor Burgum's press conference along with Senator Hoeven and Senator Cramer's support became reality. North Dakota now stands ready to be a model for how state and federal agencies can work together to protect wild horses everywhere. Thank you for meeting us in this moment.

Upon renaming as Theodore Roosevelt National Park in 1978 (P.L. 95-625, title VI, §610), Congress did not further specify a new purpose. One must turn to the Congressional Reports to fully understand the intent behind creation and management of this NPS unit. In the Senate report of the 80th Congress (Calendar No. 51, Report No. 54), the Senate Committee on Public Lands lays out a detailed description behind the intent to create Theodore Roosevelt National Park. They describe the purpose as stated above, but further explained their rationale as: "It was to this area, that 25-year-old Theodore Roosevelt came in 1892… He became so attached to this scenic area and its possibilities for stock raising that he decided to remain." Further, they state: "It is deemed fitting at this time for the citizens of the State of North Dakota, through the State Historical Society of North Dakota and other organizations, to request Congress to set aside a portion of the Badlands of the Little Missouri as a national park and dedicate it to the memory of one of our most prominent citizens and former Presidents. The Badlands of North Dakota have a distinct value from a recreational, scenic, and historical viewpoint."

I moved here from Cleveland Ohio, lived in Dickinson for 11 yrs. and fell in love with Medora. My husband and I loved going on daytrips to drive through Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and would go as often as we could. One of the main attractions of the park are the horses. To be able to see them running wild and free is just something extraordinary that you don't always get to experience. I fell in love with them immediately and started following the family bands online. To have that history and knowledge is awesome. My husband and I even love Medora so much we got married there. All of my family traveled mainly from Ohio to

attend. It was the first time they'd ever seen anything like it before, and guess what their favorite part was… the wild horses.

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the NPS has always been ambivalent about the horses. On several occasions in the past, the park considered eliminating the horses, but refrained because of public opposition. Reluctant to commit resources towards their management, the park has conducted virtually no 2 scientific studies to understand their environmental impacts, relationship with other species, or genetic health. Instead, successive superintendents have pursued diverse management goals. Because of this long neglect, the announcement of a management plan was considered a welcome development by many advocates and fans of the horses.

Many people welcomed the park's proposal for a Livestock Management Plan and the opportunity to participate in the process. The park proposed a series of wide-ranging alternatives and presented them by emphasizing the need for scientific management and "best practices," balancing priorities and inviting "public engagement." The original newsletter issued by the park to announce their plans was even addressed to "Friends." However, it soon became clear that this entire process was disingenuous and undertaken only to satisfy a bureaucratic "public engagement" mandate.

Suddenly past references to "wild horses" and "feral horses" have been replaced by a firm injunction that the horses are "livestock." Suddenly after 75 years the park has discovered that "livestock" are not permitted in any National Park-although in recent years at least two other NPS units have intentionally incorporated wild horses into their missions because they are viewed as contributing to an historic scene. All references to "history" have disappeared, and the park has subtly revised several key documents, adding language stating that only native wildlife are allowed in the park.

I cannot support any of the three final alternatives, and I am deeply concerned about the process that has landed us here. It is abundantly clear that the NPS and THRO initiated the ostensible process of developing a Livestock Management Plan having pre-determined their desired outcome, which is the elimination of the herd. They have been deliberately deceptive, while offering no justifications for their own decision.

I would also like the wild horses to stay at TRNP the bison and elk are no big deal seeing how you can see them for FREE at White Horse Hill south of Devils Lake,ND now the horses on the other hand is a different story we make several trips to TRNP a year just for the horses last year we seen something that was the best experience we could have ever had there. There were at least 30 horses all running in fact ran across the road in front of us what a beautiful site to see my wife was so excited . So let me put it this way if the horses are removed from TRNP WE WILL NOT GO BACK TO TRNP plain and simple and there are alot of people that think the same way!!!!!!

Are wild horses truly "wild," as an indigenous species in North America, or are they "feral weeds"—barnyard escapees, far removed genetically from their prehistoric ancestors? The question at hand is, therefore, whether or not modern horses, Equus caballus, should be considered native wildlife.

The non-native, feral, and exotic designations given by agencies are not merely reflections of their failure to understand modern science but also a reflection of their desire to preserve old ways of thinking to keep alive the conflict between a species (wild horses), with no economic value anymore (by law), and the economic value of commercial livestock.

Native status for wild horses would place these animals, under law, within a new category for management considerations. As a form of wildlife, embedded with wildness, ancient behavioral patterns, and the morphology and biology of a sensitive prey species, they may finally be released from the "livestock-gone-loose" appellation.

If the NPS wants to call wild horses livestock, then it needs to call bison and elk livestock as well. The NPS needs to drop the label of "livestock" on the wild horses in the TRNP as they are not being bred for home use or for profit.

FERAL VERSUS WILD: The difference between feral and wild is the following: Wild means the animal is native living in a wild state. Feral is non-native to an area living first in a domestic state and then turned out to be wild. The wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt Park are native to N America and to that area compared to bison and elk. History wants to tell us they were used by Sitting Bull but were they wild captured then to be used for transport or were they used for transport and then turned out. The NPS managing TRNP today need to change the verbiage used in their scoping letter as it is incorrect and it is biased resulting in attempts at devaluation and exclusion of its wild horses, an action witnessed all too frequently today in the interfacing with minorities.

I currently live in Pennsylvania. I first visited the wild horses in the summer of 2019. That's when I fell in love… with the horses… with the land… with Medora… with North Dakota! I am finally able to visit again this summer and I am bringing my husband and two small children. I am eager to share the wild horses and TRNP with them! I was devastated to hear of your plans to remove the horses from the park. I can't bear the thought of my family not being able to experience what I did when I visited in 2019. PLEASE do not remove the horses from the park. There is ALWAYS another way… a BETTER way!

In response to your information expressed during your TRNP Livestock Plan, I would like to make comment and have included current scientific data to review to reevaluate TRNP

decision to NOT remove the horses from TRNP.
Facts: T. Roosevelt saw in his first historic visit in 1883, when the frontier was fast disappearing, native horses thriving on the land. Understanding the script presented of the "mission " of the park is to follow guidelines assumed to be Teddy's vision when establishing the park for Native Wildlife Conservation System, in which your assumptions excluded the horse. Although, I suspect, since the horses were present prior to 1947 when the park system was first established would logically include the horse. Please refer to the documents to confirm the horse is Native and part of the wildlife Roosevelt saw.

In that Sept 2022 NPS on TRNP "Horse Background and History" states: "Their presence represents Theodore Roosevelt's experiences here during the open-range ranching era. By the late 1800s European settlement of the plains had reached the Dakotas.". Goes on to say "In 1970, a change of park policy recognized the horse as part of the historical setting. New policies were written and enacted to manage the horses as a historic demonstration herd". When did that policy change? Why now? According to 36 CFR 2.6, (cited in Jan 12th meeting) current policy (a) states: "The running-at-large, herding, driving across, allowing on, pasturing or grazing of livestock of any kind in a park area or the use of a park area for agricultural purposes is prohibited, except: … (3) As designated, when conducted as a necessary and integral part of a recreational activity or required in order to maintain a historic scene.". The wild horses of TRNP do that and have since the parks inception when fenced in over 75 years ago. That I have enjoyed since a child as my grandaughter does now and I continue to.

Please don't eliminate the wild horse herd. There are better ways to manage them and many organizations and volunteers who would be willing to help. The wild horses are an American icon embodying freedom, toughness, ability to survive despite all obstacles and strong family bonds. We need more of this in our fractured society. The wild horses are a tourist attraction and can be utilized to promote all the great things our parks are supposed to represent. Come up with an alternative plan and find a better way.

One of the most profound comments from one of our followers actually came in the form of another alternative to consider.

At a minimum, if the horses are unwisely removed from TRNP, NPS alternative management plans should provide for mitigation of the harm from extermination of the herds. Please understand, this is not meant to be sarcastic, although it is plainly critical. Minimally, the mitigation of harm should include producing a permanent exhibit and video recording commemorating the rich multi cultural tradition of free-roaming horse herds on the Northern Plains. As a way of educating future generations about the tragic effects of bureaucratic management by the National Park Service in the brief period 1978-2023, a permanent bronze plaque could be installed overlooking Cedar Valley, or another setting in which we

have observed the horses, informing future generations of the consequences of irresponsible neglect of a living heritage resource.

The plaque might read, “Had you stood in this spot anytime from 1880 to 2020 you could have experienced iconic free roaming herds of naturalized horses that were the product of Native American and Euro-American ranchers and cowboys. In your experience of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, consider the reasons and rationale for why this experience no longer exists. Then, the visitor should travel to the reservation lands of the MHA Nation near Mandaree and Twin Buttes, or the habitat of free roaming Nokota horses near Linton, ND to experience the equine heritage that no longer exists here (within the park).

There have also been a ton of Theodore Roosevelt quotes thrown around over the last couple of months. This one in particular has stuck with me:

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

At a recent meeting held by the Dickinson Chamber of Commerce, Attorney General Drew Wrigley said, “Yes, this is a national park, but it is under the stewardship of the people of North Dakota.” That line has stood strongly with me throughout this process. Our national parks belong to the people. Theodore Roosevelt National Park specifically falls under the stewardship of all of us in this room; all of us in the state. We have an obligation to protect this park and all of the resources it currently offers for future generations. Thank you again for meeting us in this moment; for stepping into the arena with us and for being a unified voice with us for the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Dear National Park Service,

I am writing to you in support of SCR 4014!

Please protect the Teddy R wild horse herd so that they can continue to live the life they deserve.

We humans have already destroyed too much of nature, and it is important to preserve what we have left. These horses are an integral part of the little bit of wildness left in this country. Please help save them!

With Kind Regards,

Yolanda Calderon

I want to provide testimony in support of SCR 4014.

SCR 4014 is an important step in preserving the ecosystem of this area. Wild Horses are an integral part of this environment and removing them will hurt the ecotourism in the area as well as the natural environment where they reside. My parents visited this park several years ago and one of the main draws to the area, which is not close to where they live, was the chance to see the Wild Mustangs. I myself have not yet visited, but have traveled to Canada to see wild horses as well as spent time at a wild horse rescue in California in an effort to learn more about our native wild horses.

Repeated polls have shown that **80%** of Americans want the wild horses protected. We want our native animals to have a place to live out their lives free from the terrifying and dangerous round ups that are decimating their populations through out our country. Please protect them. Listen to our voices since the horses cannot defend their own freedom.

If these horses are removed there will be no need for me to ever visit this park.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kelly Hester

I am writing in support of SCR 4014:

1) Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

2) The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

3) The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

4) The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

5) SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

6) SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

7) If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars to visit Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

I have had a Nokota horse for 17 years that I have raised from a wild colt off the North Dakota prairie. These badlands Nokotas are different from really almost all other wild horses. They are smart, tough, and capable. They carry a tremendous history that connects directly to Native American history and culture. They deserve to be preserved and to guarantee that preservation the NPS should seek connections with the Nokota Horse Conservancy in Linton ND to assist in the mission of educating the public and preserving the longstanding natural environment.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

John Kantar

We support of SCR 4014:

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
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6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Wild horses and burros are treaures of the people of the United States.
The majority of people support their being allowed to live on their traditional lands.
Special interests should not be allowed to dictate their future.
Thank You

To: North Dakota Legislative Assembly staff
Re: SCR 4104
From: Carrie Lewis
Date: February 8, 2023

Dear Secretary of the Interior and Director of the National Park Service,

North Dakota has only 1 herd of wild horses in the entire state. They are iconic and worth saving.

Please manage these horses in a safe and humane way that preserves their genetic bloodline and ensures the long-term health and viability of the herd.

Preserving them provides a sense of pride for locals and tourists to enjoy (who bring dollars the state). Eradication brings only shame to you, the ones making the decisions, and to all involved.

Thank you for listening to my comments,

Carrie Lewis
938 Elm St SW
Albany, OR 97321

Teddy Roosevelt Wild Horses

To whom it concerns:

I am in support of SCR 4014, a state resolution that urges the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service (NPS) to preserve The Teddy Roosevelt wild Horses.

I am totally AGAINST a management plan that would result in a severe reduction or the total eradication of these mustangs.

I understand this herd is the only WILD HORSE HERD in N. D. and we must protect this herd.

For a genetically viable herd the Teddy Roosevelt horses should be kept at a minimum of 150 horses.

SCR 4014 has the support of approx...80% business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses of Americans that want Wild HORSES protected. !!

SCR 4014 would support business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

The Teddy Roosevelt wild horse herd calls this area HOME. They have been loved for years by the park visitors and horse lovers.

"Legend has it that the Teddy Roosevelt horses are descendants of the horses that were used by Sitting Bull and the Sioux tribe to defeat Lt. Col. George Custer at the Battle of the Little Big Horn," said Gus Cothran, a clinical professor at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM)."*

Teddy Roosevelt horses are still a piece of living history. In fact, feral horses have existed in the park area since the mid-1800s.

The wild horses belong here, and to keep any history alive in this country we must STOP getting rid of Wild Mustangs that usually end up in long term holding pens or slip away to a horrific end to their life in another country. This is HISTORY. Leave it alone.

Years ago we had over 3 million Wild Mustangs.

Preserving North Dakota's Wild Horse herd is a small token of our gratitude for this Teddy Roosevelt herd. THEY ARE FREE. LEAVE THEM FREE FOR AMERICA.

WHO DOES NOT WANT TO PRESERVE THIS PART OF OUR AMERICAN HISTORY????

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Date: 2/8/23

To: Members of the North Dakota Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

From: Teresa Earle, citizen who is concerned about removal of animals who are integral to our history and wild landscape

Tel: 310/529-7718 Resident in Malibu, Calif 90265

Dear esteemed committee members:

Thank you for your kind consideration of my comments in support of SCR 4014.

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Teddy Roosevelt NationalPark – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today. My opinions can be outlined as follows:

1. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
2. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected to keep that designation
3. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd. Removing them removes that protection.
4. SCR 4014 will clearly help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
5. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

I can guarantee you that if these horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state any more. It is for all these reasons that I urge you all to **vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended**

methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thanks for taking my comments into consideration as you vote

Teresa

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

1.The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
2.The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
3.The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
4.SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
5.SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
6.If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
7.Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

February 8, 2023

Secretary of the Interior

Director of the National Park Service

I am writing in support of SCR 4014 to keep the wild horses on the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. They are an integral to the wilderness of the park. It is a landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and inspires countless visitors today. I was a first time visitor to the park in October 2022 and loved being there and feeling the history, yes the history of how this country came to be. Horses were a major part of our journey.

The horses in the park are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in the state. Eighty percent of Americans want wild horses protected. SCR 4014 would do that for the horses in North Dakota.

Two final thoughts: I will NOT spend tourism dollars in the state if the horses are removed. There is no reason to visit the park. Please vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the PUBLIC lands they call home.

Sincerely,

Sheryl L. Starr

1. I can't tell you how frustrating and how much time I have spent trying to enter my opinion as a word doc to send to you! You don't make it easy for citizens to express our opinions!!!
Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
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7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

MARI MENNEL-BELL, Dir./Creator of JazzSLAM
CFP Board Emeritus (r), MSW, MA in Music (K-12) & Elem Ed (K-6)
954-401-1564

***www.JazzSLAM.com**, www.sharemylessson.com-JazzSLAM, www.jazzednet.org/JazzSLAM/*
FB: JazzSlam Twitter: Jazz_SLAM Instagram: jazzslam

I have visited most of the western US National Parks during my lifetime, and have to say that one of the most special experiences that I ever had was been photographing a small band of wild horses at play in Theodore Roosevelt NP in October 2021. The attached photos have each been viewed well over 1000 times on my website and on a public Facebook group, and are among the most commented-upon photos that I have published.

Parks in neighboring states have their spectacular desert, forest and mountain landscapes, but none can offer the unique attraction of the wild horses in Teddy Roosevelt NP!

Larry Trilling

Senate Concurrent Resolution 4014 February 9, 2023

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Honorable Senator Dale Patten, Chairman

Chairman Patten and Committee,

For the record, I am Senator Brad Bekkedahl from District 1 in Williston and I am honored to introduce today SCR 4014, which is a resolution encouraging the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service to modify its proposed livestock management plan to continue to allow for interpretative, cultural, and historical purposes the presence of longhorn steers in the North Unit and the presence of a wild horse herd in the South Unit of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota. The resolution is self -explanatory and the title aptly describes its intent. With your permission Chairman Patten and for further support I would like to quote Governor Burgum in his letter to the National Park Service "For decades and decades, these horses have coexisted peacefully with the national park, and, in the process, have become a hugely popular attraction and an indelible symbol of the untamed character of the Badlands." This resolution expresses our legislative intent further urging the US Department of Interior to find a way to manage the wild horses and longhorn herd in a manner and size that protects the environmental integrity and capacity of the park, as well as for the wild horses, that supports the genetic diversity necessary for their survival.

Chairman Patten, this issue has raised enormous support and passions, not just in North Dakota, but nationally and internationally. You will hear from others this morning supporting the resolution and its intent, and I thank them for their presence as well. I appreciate the consideration of the committee for this resolution and will stand for any questions at this time.

I've been to Medora many times just to see the beautiful, majestic wild horses that live, roam and run free in Theodore Roosevelt National Park!

They are the most magnificent creatures I have ever seen!

Spent many tourist dollars in adorable Medora. Stayed at the Rough Riders Hotel, went to the Medora Musical. Ate in the restaurants, shopped, purchased gas, had drinks at the Saloon.

I cannot believe this proposal to remove these horses is a reality! This would be beyond tragic if they removed the horses, for livestock?!? It makes ZERO sense by any stretch of the imagination!

Do you realize how many tourist dollars you will lose if this passes?

Who wants to go to a national park to see cows?

The horses and the handsome bison live beautifully together! The elk, coyote and pronghorn are amazing to see!

This would be a major mistake and once it's done it can NEVER be undone!!!

This action would be a disgrace to this country.

Read below some important points:

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Karen Mastandrea

Fort Lee, NJ

Please SAVE OUR WLD HORSES!!!!

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
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they call home.

Dear North Dakota Legislative Assembly,

Thank you for this opportunity to give testimony about SCR 4014, the state resolution to keep the Teddy Roosevelt wild horse herd intact.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and must be protected. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

Not only will SCR 4014 help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses, the state resolution is also consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected. If North Dakota stands strong on this issue supporting the wild horse herd, you can be sure there will be many more people in the nation proud of this state and standing up to support you.

It is imperative that SCR 4014 be specific in clarifying that the Teddy Roosevelt wild horse herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd. There is a plethora of scientifically recommended humane methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home. Those resources are available to you.

Please vote YES on SCR 4014.

Thank You,

Pam Youngquist PhD

I would like to ask you to please support SCR 4014 for the following important reasons:
* Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

* The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
* The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakotas only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
* The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
* SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
* SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
* If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
* Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you for your attention and I look forward to the protection, rather than removal at taxpayer expense, of these animals.

Sincerely,
Ruth E. Kastne

The mass roundup of our wild horses in this country is criminal. What are we going to tell future generations when they ask what happened to the symbol of the West, our wild horses? Therefore, I strongly support SCR 4014 for the following reasons:

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

This herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

Please protect these magnificent animals.

Please consider these topics *in support* of SCR 4014

- Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

- The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

- The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

- The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

- SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

- SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

- If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

- Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you,

Daniel Toohey

I am writing because I just received word that tomorrow, Thursday, February 9, the North Dakota Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will meet to hear SCR 4014, a state resolution that urges the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service (NPS) to preserve this cherished wild horse herd.

I am very much against the management plan the NPS is currently considering that would result in the severe reduction or total eradication of these mustangs.

The Governor has already spoken out against this plan and the legislature is now following suit.

These are the reasons for my objection to the plan, and why I believe you should support SCR 4014:

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Please vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Alcinda Wolff
984 Red Falcon Ct
Sparks, NV 89441

Feb. 8, 2023

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Public Hearing

I'm writing to support measure SCR4014 in terms of managing/leaving the current herd of wild horses in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

If you are considering leaving Long Horn Cattle in the part, then the Wild Horses deserve to be there too! They are as much a part of this nations history, if not more, than cattle are.

Tourists love to see wild horses, it's a real treat. Living in NV, it's always so exciting when I see wild horses roaming the mountains near Reno/Sparks.

I know the herds need to be managed with birth control practices to ensure they don't get overpopulated, but I hope the cattle will be managed as well. Horses don't do near as much damage to the range as cattle do. They are an integral part of the ecosystem and deserve to live free on the range.

Sincerely,

Alcinda Wolff

Concerned Citizen

In support of SCR 4014:
Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my support of SCR 4014 to IMPLORE the Secretary pf the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service to preserve North Dakota's wild horse herd. I am completely against the severe reduction or total eradication of these magnificent mustangs. These horses have been there for eons and they deserve to be protected, NOT exterminated. The Governor has already spoken out against this plan. The majority of the public (80%) are against removing these wild horses, and for that matter, I will never visit this state if lethal means are used to manage the herd. It is a heinous proposition to destroy part of our national heritage. These horses are remaining descendants of the Badland horses that trace all the way back to horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the 1800's. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's ONLY wild horse herd and they have a right to be protected, NOT murdered. The herd should be kept at a minimum of 150 horses to maintain a genetically viable herd.

I IMPLORE you to vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane methods of managing these iconic horses on PUBLIC lands they call home.

Best regards,

Laura McGowan

In Support of Resolution to Protect the Teddy Roosevelt Herd in North Dakota

I understand that SCR 4014 in North Dakota resolves that the Teddy Roosevelt horse herd should be protected and saved. I, like many Americans, Idolize Teddy Roosevelt for many reasons and his love of nature is paramount. My husband and I have been talking about coming to North Dakota for years and are getting serious about the plans but now I hear that there is a plan on the table to severely reduce the size of this herd – to round up individuals and sell them off to whatever horrid fate – it makes me wonder if North Dakota will have any intact wilderness left. Removing wild animals (so cattle can be grazed, usually!) is tantamount to raping and pillaging nature itself. These beloved creatures belong to nature and they belong to America. We must HONOR President Roosevelt's heritage, his burning desire to save nature for future generations! We are the future generations but there will be more after us. If we thin this herd to less than about 160 individuals, they are going to inbreed themselves to extinction.

Please respect and preserve the Teddy Roosevelt horses. Please limit or eliminate cattle grazing which steals from our heritage, our right to nature and the horses' right to exist.

Most Americans want our wild horses protected. American who visit North Dakota don't want to visit a barren nature but one alive with horses as our forefathers experienced.

Thank you for hearing my views.

Darla Brunner
Richmond, Indiana

Jay Kirkus
485 Harrison Av
Boston, MA 02118

February 8, 2023

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: Support SCR 4014 to protect the Teddy Roosevelt mustangs

Dear Chairman Kreun, Vice Chair Roers and Honorable Members,
As a descendant of proud farmers who made their home in the Dakota Territory over 150 years ago and who still reside there, I urge you to support SCR 4014 to protect the Teddy Roosevelt mustangs.

This group of horses are descendants of the original Badland horses and being North Dakota's only wild horse herd, they should be protected.

Please Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Sincerely,
Jay Kirkus

1/ LEAVE THE WILD HORSES ALONE, LET THEM LIVE IN THEIR HERD IN PEACE. YOU HAVE BETTER AND MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO SPEND YOUR TIME ON. LEAVE NATURE ALONE, nature is smarter than we are. There is a reason this wild herd has survived for 100's of years.
2/ If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state. Period. And ND is one of the 4 states I haven't visited yet and will be one of several states I am not spending tourism dollars in at the moment.
3/ Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
4/ The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s. There is great history there- leave the horses alone.
5/ The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. Protect them- they are magnificent!
6/ The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
7/ SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
8/ SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected. Yes, they need to be protected.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to SUPPORT humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

February 8, 2023

Subject: **Public Testimony Registration and Submission**

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Public Hearing

February 09, 2023 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Peace Garden Room - ND State Capitol

As a lifelong equine lover and advocate I support SCR 4014. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be revered and protected as such.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Most Sincerely,

Dona LaSchiava
556 W. Paseo Solana
Green Valley, AZ 85614

SCR 4014

I support the wild horses of Teddy Roosevelt National Park!

These wild horses are supported by over 80% of Americans and my family. They have every right to exist on their homeland.

Stop using Gonacon contraceptive. Stop destroying the natural wild horse behavior by using such a destructive drug.

Keep ALL 200+ wild horses. As you know by reading scientific papers that more than 500 animals are needed for genetic diversity. No idiotic numbers below 60 wild horses to remain in the park. These wild horses MUST be the cornerstone of the Park's "livestock management plan".

The wild horses of the park provide the opportunity for visitors to see wild horses!

These wild horses DNA can be traced back to the great Sitting Bull horses of the 1800s.

And most importantly, I will not visit a Park that destroys wild horses; that want to remove them. My dollars will go elsewhere.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nora S

Austin TX

February 8, 2023

Dear North Dakota Senate Committee,

Thank you for your time and efforts to effectually care for the great state of North Dakota. Please consider my remarks **in support** of SCR4014.

Please preserve this cherished wild horse herd. The Governor has already spoken out against this plan and 80% of Americans want our wild horses protected. I love to visit North Dakota and spend my hard earned money enjoying all it has to offer but I will absolutely stop if these beautiful descendants of the Badland horses are removed as I cannot support a state that eradicates native icons. Here are a few points to consider:

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

Please vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on public lands they call home! They are not only icons but fellow souls who deserve to be honored and respected for generations to come.

Thank you for your time,
Analise W. McNeill
analisemcneill@gmail.com

I am in support of SCR 4014, being heard tomorrow 2/9/2023.

Removal of the wild horse herd will be folly, economically, for the area. Not only are the wild horses loved and followed on social media throughout the world, but tourism to visit the Park and the exciting anticipation of seeing the wild horses adds gre4atly to the local economy. In addition, the wild horses are healthy, as is the Park in total, and they are not causing any undue stress or damage to the ecosystem.

I am not educated in the natural resources area, nor do I claim that I can write a letter regarding the forage/eco system in TRNP. I am, however, educated in the Human Services field, and have spent many years of my career in the field of supporting human beings. The impact of the NPS plan to remove the horses from the park is devastating to the lives of so many people.

Your plans, whether it be your A, B, or C plan, will be the demise of this beautiful herd that many thousands of people all over the world love and follow. These horses have names! These horses are the light in the life of many. Not only are your plans destroying the human hearts, some of which only have these non-profit pages to follow, can you imagine how you will literally destroy the horses as you auction them off?

I am the owner of two of the TRNP horses. They were culled very young and have adapted to a domestic setting, however, to pull the other horses, aged 3-24? They will never survive. Not everybody who loves these horses have the capability, nor the skills, to gentle them into a new way of life. So where do they end up? In a life of fear and a death to end their lives in a slaughter house. Pure fear! Do you think the public wants that to happen? Those aging horses have no alternative to a successful happy ending to life.

I have thought long and hard how to approach my appeal to you, as your ecological demands for consideration of a plan is not in the mindset or scope of an average person. I am angry that this subject has even had to cross the minds of people. The HUMAN side. Where are your hearts? You have no expense in caring for these horses, and the therapy alone they bring to humans who love them is also in your hands. I speak from the human heart and mind. I care for those who suffer depression in this awful, cruel world. I see devastation every day. I hear the voices of those speaking out to save the horses. Please, find your hearts in this matter, and open your minds to listen to the voice of the people.

Thank you for your time.

Sue Bendson

I appeal to the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service (NPS) to allow this herd their traditional freedom. What harm are these beloved and iconic American creatures creating? Why, why, why is everyone set on traumatizing, killing and slaughtering all wild horses and burros? Why must humans destroy every other living being on this earth?

This particular herd has historic value. They are healthy, and they are the only herd existing in North Dakota. Americans love wild horses. Please do the bidding of the American people and allow them to thrive.

I am writing in support of SCR 4014. Please consider the following points:

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Sincerely,

Nadine L. Kouba, PhD

February 8, 2023

Dear Committee:

I am writing in support of SCR 4014 in support of the horses as they have no voice. Viewing wild horses is like breathing fresh air or watching a sunset. They have been on this land forever and should not have to fight to stay there. This is home. In this age of anxiety and uncertainty it is emotionally necessary to know that we still have places available where burros, horses and ponies are free to live their lives roaming free like they have for eons. It makes me sad as they are innocents and have no power and if we don't advocate for them, they are lost and forgotten and we all lose a piece of our humanity.

These horses do not deserve to be terrified for their lives and loss of their herd/family members. Please do the humane and right thing and support SCR 4014. We are all granted so much time on this earth and the horses will be a source of emotional wellbeing for generations to come. Once there gone it will leave a void and emptiness in the world that cannot be replaced.

Please support the wild horses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Daniel & Jean Kavanaugh, LMHC

February 8, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as a concerned citizen who is in favor of SCR 4014 which is to support the humane and scientifically recommended methods of managing the wild horse herds on public lands in North Dakota that they call home. The wild horses are part of the beauty of the native wildlife and wilderness qualities of the park – which is indeed the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses to ensure a genetically viable herd. Reducing to less causes many complications to the herd dynamics and gene pool. In addition, SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

I promise you that if the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
I live in Arizona where safe and humane methods of herd population is in effect and successful.
Please look at this website for the Salt River wild horses of Arizona.
https://saltriverwildhorsemanagementgroup.org/the-pzp-program-is-still-working/

Sincerely,

Julie Nelson

Dear Governor Burgum and North Dakota State Legislators,

Thank you for this opportunity to give testimony about SCR 4014, the state resolution to keep the Theodore Roosevelt wild horse herd intact.

I am in support of SCR 4014.

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today. These are North Dakota's only wild horse herd, and they must be protected.

Not only will SCR 4014 help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses, it is also consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

It is imperative that SCR 4014 be specific in clarifying that the Theodore Roosevelt wild horse herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

Please vote YES to SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you,
Jackie Scherer

"There is a delight in the hardy life of the open. There are no words that can tell the hidden spirit of the wilderness that can reveal its mystery, it's melancholy and it's charm. The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased and not impaired in value."
— Speech by Theodore Roosevelt in Osawatomie, Kansas, August 31, 1910.

Public Testimony Registration and Submission
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Public Hearing
February 09, 2023 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Peace Garden Room - ND State Capitol

Dear Committee,

I support SCR 4014 that will keep the Theodore Rooselvelt National Park wild horses as part of the living museum of Roosevelts time.

I have not been to visit TRNP at this time, but once I heard there were wild horses in the park I decided to plan a trip to see them. While the park must have other wildlife and vistas to make it a destination park, if the wild horses are removed there will be no draw for me to spend my tourist dollars getting to this park. That means no airfare or rental car or gasoline or hotel stay or restaurant expenses and subsequent gift shops to bring home souvenirs from.

For genetics to keep this herd healthy, according to Texas A&M Veterinary Medicine Dr. Gus Cothran, there needs to be at least 150 breeding aged adults. The previous park efforts to reduce this herd and then to bring in other breeds for genetics to make the horses look non-native was a mistake. They have been through enough. Let's give them the freedom they have fought for through all of man's mismanagment.

For a good history please go to:
The Creation of the Nakota® breed from Nakota® History in Brief by Castle McLaughlin, Ph.D. on nakotahorse.org

Sincerely,
Joanne Riske
1270 Lynn Way
Sunnyvale, CA 94087
joriske@mac.com

SCR 4014 - Yes

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Along with millions of Americans I value America's wild horses!

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .

The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found. Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.

The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource. A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.

The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock. I come to the Dakotas for the wild horses and *will no longer want to visit if the wild horses are removed.*

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.
The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park
Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .
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•I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.
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•The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.
•A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.
•The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.
•If you had any plans to visit TRNP in North Dakota, you may say you will no longer want to visit if the wild horses are removed.

To Whom It May Concern:

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Respectfully yours,

Gerald Hallead

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.
The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the parkLocal economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .
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Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.
The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.
A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.
The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.
If you had any plans to visit TRNP in North Dakota, you may say you will no longer want to visit if the wild horses are removed.

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.
The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park
Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .
The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.
Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.
The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.
A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park. Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .

The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.

Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.

The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.

A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.

The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.

If you had any plans to visit TRNP in North Dakota, you may say you will no longer want to visit if the wild horses are removed.

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park. Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .

The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource. A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.

The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock. I will no longer visit North Dakota or the TRNP if the wild horses are removed.

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be allowed to remain in their intact herds, to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of **Americans who want wild horses protected.**
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.
9. The wild horses and burros are our heritage and we - as a nation - wouldn't have been able to survive without them. They need our help and not our persecution. They don't deserve this.
10. The 'overpopulation' math doesn't add up. Also, the management has been very effective in eliminating natural predators.
11. The NPS must honor its commitment and duty to protect the wild horses and burros. The wild horses are considered an integral part of the natural system of the public lands.

- I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.
- The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park
- Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .
- The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.
- Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.
- The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.
- A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.
- The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife: they are not to be designated as livestock.

I **strongly** oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed.

Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed. The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.

The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.

I was hoping to visit TRNP this summer just to see these horses; to see them in the wild. It’s one of the only National Parks I haven’t been to, but I will not come if these majestic animals are no longer there.

-Shannon Hunter
California

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakotaâ€™s only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Lisa Haage lhaage@hotmail.com

February 8, 2023

Comments submitted in opposition of removal of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

I note that the wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park and local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed. In addition, the horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found elsewhere. In fact, the native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.

The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource. The park's Environmental Assessment needs to have a new alternative added that includes scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park. The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.

I believe that these horses are essential elements in North Dakota and will influence the plans of myself and many others who would otherwise travel to this lovely state.

- Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
- The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
- The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
- The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
- SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
- SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
- If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
- Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

- *I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.*
- *The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .*
- *The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.*
- *Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.*
- *The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.*

Please protect America's precious wildlife, horses, steers, birds, all of it.

A concurrent resolution urging the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National park service to modify its proposed livestock management plan, and to continue to allow for interpretative, cultural, and historical purposes a herd of wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt national Park :

I am in support of SCR 4014 along with at least 80% of Americans who want wild horses protected.

2) Wild horses are part of the park. They are great scenery arepart of native wildlife and qualities of the park. They are the landscape inspired by the president Teddy Roosevelt . Recreating Theodore Roosevelt legacy and recreating history and a great experience for visitors to the park.

3) The wild horses are direct descendents of the orginal “Badland” horses with historical lineages tracing all the way back to the wild horses sired by Sitting Bull in the late 1800’s.stc22

4) Teddy Roosevelt’s wild horses in the park are the only wild horses in North Dakota. 9poppo]fThey deserve protection. They also draw in a lot of tourists and they are part of North Dakota’s history.

5)Teddy Roosevelt’s herd needs to be kept at a minimum of 150 wild horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd. This has been recommended by Dr. Gus Cothran equine geneticist for all wild horse herds in US. (There was also a study on this herd in 2018 by Texas A + M showing that this herd was at risk of inbreeding. This herd should not have a removal in fact maybe add some new blood to prevent inbreeding).

6) I am from Kansas and am planning on visiting this park with my family. Theodore Roosevelt National Park is the wild horses to me. They are a very unique herd. If they are removed I will not come visit. I certainally will not spend any money in North Dakota.

7) Vote yes on SCR 4014 to support humane scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on public lands they call home. Don’t take away North Dakota’s history.

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw
for visitors to the park. In addition, local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed.

The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found. Native species wild horses have been observed in the area
of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed. The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming
free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.

A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.
The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.

My future vacation plans included a visit to TRNP, however I don't think I will visit after all if the wild horses are removed.

Resepectifully submitted,
Alison Tomlin

Feb. 8, 2023

To the attention of :
North Dakota Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Secretary of the Interior
Director of the National Park Service.

Dear Sirs,

I urge you to please preserve the cherished Teddy Roosevelt wild horses.

As someone who has adored horses from a very young age, ridden most of her life, and currently owns and cares for 2 of her own, and is a big advocate for preserving all of our wild American herds across our great nation, I cannot imagine how you can take action to eradicate a herd that

1. Are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
2. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

I pledge my support to SCR 4014 as

1. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
2. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

I strongly urge you all to please Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Sincerely,

Michelle MacBeanPre

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

To whom it concerns,

First, I would like to say that I support keeping the herd of wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The horses play an important role in the history of TRNP, the park would not be the same without them. My family and I have been drawn to this herd and because of them have goals to one day visit Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Not only do I hope these horses remain so we can view them but that the herd is kept close to its current size to remain healthy and thrive. I know the North Dakota government supports this herd and I want to say a very huge thank you to the North Dakota Government for that support. Hoping that this herd of wild horses in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park get to stay in their home and with the governments help can be studied to be kept wild and free!

Thank you,

Sarah Fabian

North Bloomfield, Ohio

8 Feb. 2023

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. These animals were here long-before humans; their history goes back to the age of mammals: 65 million years ago. Their presence improves the ecosystems that they are in; whereas animal agriculture destroys it. (Yes, the Europeans brought back what had been destroyed by humans – equines – and it would be criminal to do this again.) We are down to 3% or less of mammalian wildlife biomass left on earth due to animal agriculture taking up an area the size of the continent of Africa (globally): when will this end? When there is nothing left?

Every action our species takes is an important one; everything on our planet is connected. So please, do the right thing: leave the horses alone; let wildlife flourish. Intact ecosystems capture carbon; and we do not have hardly any of these left globally; this is the reason for the climate crisis. We are going to be left with a world that is a ghost of what it once-was (we are already nearly there). A horrific world full of humans consuming, and literally devouring this planet to-death.

Sincerely,

Erika Whitton

Cell: 949-285-3968

e-mail: efortuny73@gmail.com

- *I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.*

- *The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed.*

- *The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.*

- *Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.*

- *The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.*

- *A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.*

- *The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.*

- *I had plans to visit TRNP in North Dakota, but I will no longer visit if the wild horses are removed.*

Jennifer L Britton
2714 Poplar St.
Philadelphia, PA 19130

Greetings people of North Dakota,
I'm an east coast city person who works in higher education in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. You might assume that I'd have nothing in common with North Dakota, and actually that's mostly true. However, as a wild horse photographer I spend a great deal of time exploring American public lands, and I visit your state regularly to view and photograph the horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. My favorite horse there is the mare Allison and I look for her every time I visit.

The park reminds us how little of the once-magnificent North American grasslands remain and how little remains of those wild ecosystems as well as the nations that preceded European occupation. Horses were part of the fabric of this land at the time Theodore Roosevelt settled there and they had a profoundly important place in indigenous culture. The National Park Service's plan to remove the horses would erase this legacy in favor of an arbitrary notion of ecological purity that is all but meaningless in a globalized world in which no ecosystems have escaped anthropogenic change.

I hope you will support SCR 4014, urging the park service to pull back on its poorly conceived plan for removing the horses from the park.

Thanks for your support,
Jennifer Britton
Philadelphia, PA

- *I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.*
- *The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park*

Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .

- *The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.*
- *Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.*
- *The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.*
- *A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.*
- *The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.*
- *If you had any plans to visit TRNP in North Dakota, you may say you will no longer want to visit if the wild horses are removed*

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee,
Please support the resolution to save the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park and do not allow them to be removed. They (and other wildlife) are one of the main reasons people visit TRNP. A friend of mine did a cross country trip this past year and explicitly went to TRNP to see the wildlife there. He highly recommended it, and by all the pictures I saw, it was incredible. However, if wild horses are going to be removed from the park, I'd rather go to another national park, where the animals are free to be themselves and I can watch them. Visiting a national park where animals have been removed takes the magic and nature out of it.
Wild horses have been there for years and years. They are a part of the park; without them, the iconic herds we all want a glimpse of won't be there, ruining the nature of the park.
Please let the horses stay on TRNP.
Thank you,
Jamila Viandier

Greetings,

Regarding the proposal, I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. As I understand, the wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park. The towns around depend on the tourists eating and shopping. This is very important.

In researching I found out that the horses in TRNP are historic, the herd of Nakota wild horses are rare and native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries. They were only fenced in when the park was formed. The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource. This is remarkable.

Please redesignate the wild horses as wildlife, as they should not be designated as livestock. They need humane management.

I have a visit to TRNP planned with my family for this June. I will no longer visit if the wild horses are removed. It is very important to me and many others!

Thank you,
Spring OBrien

To whom it concerns,

I would like to say that I support keeping the herd of wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I know the North Dakota government supports this herd and I want to say thank you for that support. My hopes are that the National Park Service will be agreeable to work with the North Dakota Government to keep and maintain this herd.

Thank you,

Jerome Fabian

North Bloomfield, Ohio

I am writing to say that I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. These horses are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.

I firmly believe that these horses are a national treasure and should be treated as so. The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in North Dakota.

A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.

The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Karen Spring
Westville, NJ

To whom it concerns,

I support leaving this magnificent wild herd in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I would like to thank the North Dakota Government for taking a stand to protect these horses and helping to keep them wild and free in Theodore Roosevelt National Park!

Thank you,

Darlene Morrison

Bristolville, Ohio

I would like to submit comments in favor of the North Dakota State Senate's resolution to save the wild horses in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I am strongly opposed to the removal of any of the wild horses located in TRNP.

The economies of towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed, since those wild horses are the number one reason visitors come to the park.

The horses themselves are a Native species that has been observed in the area of TRNP for centuries. They were only fenced in when the park was formed. They are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found. These horses are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.

Anything added to TRNP'S Environmental

Assessment must be done so with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park. They must also be designated as wildlife, not as livestock. There is clearly a difference between wild animals and domesticated animals.

Please do the right thing for all involved and leave the wild horses in TRNP.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to comment.

2/8/23

To Senate Energy and Natural Resources Public Hearing

I am against the removal of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. These horses are an historic herd, going back centuries.

These horses are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be protected as an historic resource with interest to the North Dakota people, as well as to visitors to the state.

Alternatives to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with humane and science-based management of these horses in the Park.

Also, please redesignate the horses as wildlife and not as livestock that would be managed under livestock laws.

Thank you,

Cindy Abernathy, RN

Visitor of North Dakota; living in Nibley, Utah

- *I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.*
- *The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .*
- *The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.*
- *Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.*
- *The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.*
- *A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.*
- *The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.*

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Native species wild horses have been in the area for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.
The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.
They are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.

The wild horses are wildlife; they are not livestock.
A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment should be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.

Sincerely,
J Cole

I am against the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. These wild horses are why tourists come to the park. Local economies will suffer of these horses are removed.

Sophia Keller <keltiawind@gmail.com>
5:40 PM (2 minutes ago)
to me

I am writing to support SCR 4014, which recommends maintaining the historic mustang herd of the Teddy Roosevelt reserve at its current size. Please do not reduce or eliminate these animals, who play an important role in the history and culture of our nation.
I would like to point out a few facts to strengthen my testimony. These mustangs have a unique genetic lineage leading back to the time of Chief Sitting Bull. They are also the only wild herd in North Dakota and as such, provide a unique tourism attraction for the state.
In order to maintain the genetic lineage of the herd, the number of animals must be kept at a minimum of 150. "thinning" or "culling" will diminish the gene pool and weaken the herd's resilience and ability to survive.
Finally, protecting the wild state of this herd is in harmony with the ideals and beliefs of President Roosevelt, for whom this reserve is named. His love for wilderness and wildlife was a great gift to our nation. We can honor his memory by protecting the herd that carries his name.

Thank you.

Reverend Sophia Keller, RN, MA
Seattle, Washington

1. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
2. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
3. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

I do not support any plan to remove wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Please allow the horses to remain! These horses are an incredibly important part of the landscape, economy, and heritage of the park. The horses are alluring for visitors and celebrated by many. These horses have been in the area for centuries and existed long prior to the park boundaries being drawn. The horses are wildlife and should be treated as such, rather than livestock. There are humane ways to manage these horses which I encourage the committee and the State Senate to support. Thank you for your consideration!

I stand AGAINST the removal or thinning of any kind of the Rare, Native Wild Horses in TRNP.

I made plans to visit Theodore Roosevelt National Park late this coming Summer. I am a nature lover, and this would have been my 3rd visit. However**, I will cancel my plans for any future visits unless the native wild horses, which should be considered a treasured resource, are adequately treated as such and redesignated as WILDLIFE, rather than livestock.**

This native species of horse is unique, and was fenced in when the park was formed. You owe it to all Americans who support the National Park system to treat these rare horses with a scientific and humane management program geared toward the horses best interest.

Please do the right thing by these magnificent horses and allow them to stay, since they were in ND long before any of us living today were. Also, consider the impact on the loss of tourism to your state as well, and in particular the local economies around TRNP with the removal of these native horses. I will be watching you North Dakota.

Jacquelyn Hoff

Scottsdale, AZ

If horses are seen as livestock, their removal turns them into deadstock. What tourist, parent, or child wants to know murder and pain are the nature of the nature they're experiencing the park.

- *A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.*
- *The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.*

Regards,

Beverly Wilson

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you for considering my thoughts.

- *I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.*

- *The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park*

Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .

- *The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.*

- *Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.*

- *The horses in TRNP are the only wild*

horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.

- *A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.*

- *The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.*

- *If you had any plans to visit TRNP in North Dakota, you may say you will no longer want to visit if the wild horses are removed.*

This is important.

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses. Also, SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

If the horses are removed, I will not spend my tourist dollars in North Dakota.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you.

Nina Davis

February 8, 2023

To the North Dakota Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

- I've been saving up and planning a trip out to the Midwest as it has been a life-long dream to see these beautiful, wild, and majestic horses.
- Please, I urge you to vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.
- It is imperative that this cherished wild horse herd be preserved, as The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
- The Governor has already spoken out against this plan and the legislature is now following suit.
- Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
- SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
- SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
- If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Thank you for your time and attention to this most important matter,

Tricia Rizzi
Massapequa, NY

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park
Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .

The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.

Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.

The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.

A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.

The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.

If the wild horses are removed, I will not TRNP in North Dakota and will actively discourage others from doing so.

Thank you.

Nina Davis

As a citizen of the United States, I oppose the killing of American wild horses in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. My daughter is currently in fourth grade and we are celebrating our National Parks and excited for our explorations using her pass. However, as a family involved with horse rescue, the eradication of horses in TRNP is despicable. * I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.* The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the parkLocal economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .* The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.* Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.* The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.* A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.* The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.* If you had any plans to visit TRNP in North Dakota, you may say you will no longer want to visit if the wild horses are removed.Thank you.Sincerely,Jennifer Gasbarro

I am writing today to support the resolution to keep wild horses and donkeys in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Wild equids are a huge draw for tourists and they belong in the environment. By looking at the fossil record we can see that horses and donkeys are merely reintroductions to North America. Further these animals are beautiful symbols of freedom. Please leave these wild equids where they are.

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. These lands belong to America, and our iconic wild horses have a right to be on them. The horses in the TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses – they carry a rare and unique equine genetic makeup. Native species of wild horses have been observed in the geographic area this park comprises for centuries. They are the only wild horses roaming free in North Dakota and are the biggest draw for visitors to the park. Local economies in the towns around TRNP will suffer from the loss of tourism if the wild horses are removed. These horses are a national treasure and should be treated as such! Please redesignate them as wildlife – they should not be designated as livestock. Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my comments. Please do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Danielle A Spitz
Kamuela, HI

The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.
The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park
Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .
The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.
Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.
The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.
A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.

Lauren Macchia
50 Langsford Street
Gloucester, MA 01930
6177168245
Laurenmacchia@outlook.co

The horses are an integral part of the ecosystem in the North Dakota National Parks. Saving them is the right thing to do for the environment and humanity.

Respectfully yours,
Lauren Macchia

February 8, 2023, 9:14 PM

#20136

Attention: Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Dear Committee Members,

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

One of the most enjoyable qualities of this park are its free roaming horses, and its no small wonder that they are the biggest attraction for visitors to the park.

Please support the resolution to save the wild horses in the park, these horses are truly a treasure for the community, the state and our country's heritage.

Diane McClure
5525 Seneca St
West Seneca NY 14224

- *I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.*
- *The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park*

Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .

- *The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.*
- *Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.*
- *The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.*
- *A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.*
- *The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.*

I will not visit the TRNP if the horses are killed or removed.

Thank you,

Nina Berry

I support the resolution to save the wild horses in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park for these reasons:

The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park
Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .
The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.
Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.
The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.
A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.
The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.
We are prililedged to live in a country that still has herds of wild horses, I urge you to pass this resolution to preserve these beautiful wild animals for now and for all the generations to come.

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

To: North Dakota Governor, North Dakota State Senate and the North Dakota State Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

From: Toni Napolitano, 421 Longs Road, Silverthorne, Colorado 80498

It is my understanding that you are issuing a "resolution" to save the wild horses in the Roosevelt National Park and I am hoping everyone will vote "yes" on the resolution to save these magnificent horses and allow them to remain free with their horse families in the park.

Here are some of the reasons to save these wild horses:

- As a American citizen, I cherish our wild horses and they are apart of our culture and heritage and I strongly encourage you to find a way for them to remain free in Roosevelt National Park.
- These wild horses are a major attraction bringing visitors to the park and to North Dakota. Tourism brings in financial support to the local economies in the towns surrounding the park. Tourism will suffer will decrease if the wild horses are removed.
- These wild horses are a historical herd and their unique genetics are inherent in this Dakota herd and are not found elsewhere.
- Native species of these wild horses have been observed in the habitat around the Theodore Roosevelt National Park for hundreds of years.
- These wild horses are a "treasure" and a marvelous asset to North Dakota's natural resources in the state. They are the only free roaming wild horses in the state. Please do not remove this TREASURE!!
- Scientific and humane management of these wild horses should be developed for the Park's Environmental Assessment.
- A 1971 Federal Law was developed to protect our wild horses and I realize that the National Park service may not have to follow these regulations, but ……they should protect them. These horses need to be designated as "wildlife" (not livestock) and forever protected.

Thank you for reading my comments and I hope you preserve our Iconic American wild horses in Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota. I will be a tourist and come visit them.

Sincerely,

Toni Napolitano

Silverthorne, Colorado

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. They are the biggest draw for visitors to the park. Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed. Native species of wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.

The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource. A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.

The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park. Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed. The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found. Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed. The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource. A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park. The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock. If you had any plans to visit TRNP in North Dakota, you may say you will no longer want to visit if the wild horses are removed.

I oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota.

The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found. Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.

Any Environmental Assessment must include scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park. The TRNP must re-designate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not livestock.

As a former resident of North Dakota I traveled to TRNP in a part to see wild horses in their own habitat. Others should have the same opportunity. Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed

I strongly oppose the removal of any wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. These animals are indigenous to the land and this is their home. They are part of the history and flavor of TRNP and must be protected. This seems to be an ongoing problem where wild horses and burros are the subject of removal by the Bureau of Land Management. The horses are to be protected by the wild horse and burro act of 1971. Herd management areas should be managed for these animals based on scientific methods and appropriate birth control like PZP which has proven to be effective on Assateague Island to contain the population. The BLM has failed miserably conducting inhumane round ups and not assessing and conducting plans and ways to manage the different HMA's (herd management areas); where each environmental setting is unique to the horses and burros on how they live and forage. A lot of them are sold to kill buyers and end up sent to slaughter. The same thing applies to TRNP. The correct step is to protect them and manage them not cull them. It seems everything that we do not want anymore in wildlife is being eliminated. The wolves, the bears and now the wild horses. There are scientific ways and humane strategies to handle animal populations in order to preserve them. Managing the area through analysis of scientific data collected so they have the ability to thrive and use effective non-invasive birth control. These horses are historic Nakota wild horses and are unique and are a drawing card for people who visit the park. They are the only wild horses in North Dakota and should not be deemed as livestock. Colorado is also trying to save their wild horses from the BLM round ups and are opening up over 20,000 acres for a sanctuary for them. Theodore Roosevelt was part of the Rough Riders. I am sure he would want to save the horses in his park if he would have been able to comment on this proposed resolution.

- *I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.*
- *The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park*
  Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .
- *The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.*
- *Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.*
- *The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.*
- *A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.*
- *The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.*

Testimony of M. Renee Taylor in support of Resolution to Save the Wild Horses in Roosevelt National Park.

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife because they cannot to be designated as livestock!

The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park and local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed.

The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found native species. Wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries but were only fenced in when the park was formed.

The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource so a new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.

Thank you.

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated"-**Gandhi**

"Our humanity isn't measured by how we treat other people… Our humanity is measured by how we treat animals." **–Chuck Palahniuk**

"Compassion, in which all ethics must take root, can only attain its full breadth and depth if it embraces all living creatures and does not limit itself to mankind." **–Albert Schweitzer**

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.
The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park
Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .
The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.
Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.
The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.
A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.
The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Public Hearing

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.

Sincerely,

Kristen Solano

Dear ND Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

The National Park Service (NPS) is currently considering a management plan that would result in the severe reduction or total eradication of these mustangs.

A concurrent resolution urges the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service to modify its proposed livestock management plan in the Theodore Roosevelt Park.

Here is my testimony in support of SCR 4014:

- - Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
- - The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
- The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
- The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.- SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
- SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses PROTECTED.
- If the horses are removed, I will NEVER AGAIN spend tourism dollars in the state.
- Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically-recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call HOME.

Sincerely,

Red Ryder
Texas

To the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on why I support SCR 4014.

Eighty percent of Americans want our wild horses protected. They are the symbol of the American west and our country could not have become what it is without them. They have served us with loyalty, dependability, endurance and strength for centuries. They have also provided us with companionship, freedom and protection. They inspire us with their beauty and their power- they are one of the most popular subjects of photographs and paintings, stories as well. They form strong family bonds not so unlike ours, and they take care of each other.

The Teddy Roosevelt herd of wild horses is the only herd in the state of North Dakota. These horses should be protected, treated with the respect they've earned and given the continued opportunity to thrive in their native lands. Their presence brings in ecotourism dollars from people like me who delight in their presence and care deeply about their well being. If these horses are culled or removed, I will never again spend my time or dollars in North Dakota. I hope you will do the right thing. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Kari Tenfjord

February 8, 2023

As an American, I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP). Native species wild horses have been observed in the area for centuries. They were only fenced in when the park was formed. The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state and should be protected. A plan for the scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park must be added to the Environmental Assessment. The TRNP should redesignate the wild horses as wildlife. It is absurd to designate them as livestock.

Sincerely,

Lacey Levitt, Ph.D.

- I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.
- The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park
  Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .
- The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.
- Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.
- The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.
- A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.
- The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.
-

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.
The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found. They are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.
A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.
The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.

North Dakota,

Just a quick note to express that my family, friends and I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park.

Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed; and, furthermore, we would absolutely scrap our plans to visit North Dakota if any of the wild horses were to be removed.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

The Umphries Family

Tucson, Arizona

To whom it may concern regarding SCR 4014,

I am writing you to urge you to please vote **DO PASS** on SCR 4014.

Horses belong in the Theodore Roosevelt National park. Please allow them to stay by voting **DO PASS on** SCR 4014

The horses in TRNP have lived there for generations, and people come from around the world to see them. I can not imagine a world without those majestic creatures living in the park.

Please, vote yes on SCR 4014 and keep the legacy of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park alive.

Regards,

Becky Craigo

Citizen of Beach, North Dakota

I am writing to express my support for SC4014.

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today. Trying to change perception of these magnificent creatures by labeling them "livestock" is creating a false narrative. Wild horse are more similar to wildlife such as deer, elk, and antelope than cattle which have never been "native" in any part of our nation's history.

I am one of the 80% of Americans who want wild horses to be protected and humanely managed on our public lands where they exist peacefully today. And, I want our wild horses and burros to continue to exist on our public lands far beyond my lifetime. That requires that our wild horses are not managed to extinction by poor choices of those charged with their protection.

Our wild mustangs must be allowed to exist in herd sizes that preserve genetic viability. It is well documented that a minimum viable herd must have at least 150 breeding adults. And, any choice of fertility control must be humane, reversible, and preserve wild horse behavior/herd dynamics.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses. I am a wildlife photographer and I enjoy visiting and photographing our wild horses. I spend tourist dollars in the areas I visit. I do not spend time or dollars in areas void of interesting wildlife.

I find time spent in nature among wildlife nourishing to my soul. We live in an age of high-tech, over-stimulating gadgetry. We need to preserve the precious few areas of nature that we still have as a place of respite and renewal. And a place void of the wild animals that make it special is just scenery. We need the entirety of these wild spaces protected…including our wild horses.

Please Support SCR 4014

I write in support of SCR 4014. Although not a resident of North Dakota, I appreciate the State's beauty, and its contribution to our national heritage of iconic wild horses symbolizing our freedom. The wild horses of North Dakota are a source of wonder, beauty, and inspiration, and we have much to learn from the life of their herd and families, as they cooperate and care for one another. Please consider --

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires and draws visitors today.

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans across the political spectrum who want wild horses protected, kept on our public lands, and humanely managed (as for example, through the use of humane, effective, proven, and economical PZP birth control vaccines, recommended by the National Academy of Sciences, to manage herd numbers as needed).

We now know that preserving the wild and protecting biodiversity are essential to our future and that of our world. The horses' removal would be a tragedy, in the face of which I could not bring myself to visit North Dakota and spend my tourism dollars there. I think that many might feel that way. I believe that the people of North Dakota, too, would feel bereft, and the land would be lonely.

I urge you to vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you,
Clarinda Karpov
3030 Cass Street, Apt. 2
Omaha, Nebraska 68131

Wild horses belong here. They deserve to be protected and remain free in their home. They are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s. They are North Dakotas only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. The herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses and it is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected. These are public lands and the public overwhelmingly supports the freedom of these animals.

If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state and will never visit the park. I urge you to vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you,
Sheena Lonecke

I respectfully request that the wild horses in TRNP be designated as wildlife. These native horses have been in the area since before the making of the park. They are a great tourist draw & local communities will suffer the loss if the horses are removed. There are more scientific & humane options than removal. Thank you.

Regarding SCR 4014-

The Theodore Roosevelt Horses are incredibly special and part of our American heritage and history and should be protected at any cost. This herd has roots dating back to Custer's Last Stand. This administration, under the Sec. Deb Haaland, has brazenly rounded up the majority of this nation's wild equine against popular opinion all for the betterment of Cattle Ranchers. Cattle and Sheep Ranchers are only a tiny percentage of this nation. It has been proven that using birth control methods that have been used for decades to control herd populations and should be considered and utilized instead of the permanent destruction of these animals.

I urge you to protect these horses so that future generations and this present generation can continue to enjoy them. In addition, horses live in complex social structures and removing them to face a future in crowded, dusty and hot BLM pens facing an unknown ending is cruel and inhumane and we, as a nation are better than that. We need to seize this opportunity and protect and defend the wild equine in this national park and beyond. I am certain you do not what to be the very people who were asked to save them and did not.

Thank you!

Ellen Boles

Costa Mesa, Ca. 92626

Concerned citizen.

I am writing to urge you to Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. This herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

If the horses are removed, North Dakota will lose tourism dollars, including mine.

Sincerely,
Cindy Rosin
New York, NY

- I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.
- The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park
- Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed.
- The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.
- Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed. These wild lives have rights to live on these public lands.
- The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.
- A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.
- The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.
- I will not make any plans to visit TRNP in North Dakota if the wild horses are removed.

To whom it concerns,

I would like to thank the North Dakota Government for stepping in to help keep and maintain this herd. I agree with your concern for their vitality and hope the National Park Service does as well. It is my desire that this historical herd gets to remain free in their home, Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Thank you,

Carrie Smith

North Bloomfield, Ohio

I am in support of SCR 4014:

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakotas only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you.

February 8, 2023 at 9:45 p.m CDT

I am writing to ask you to vote YES on SCR 4014 which will support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home. They should NOT be removed! These horses have been on this land for hundreds of years, and there is no reason to take it away from them! We humans are becoming impossibly greedy in claiming all land, resources, wildlife, as "ours" to be dealt with however we choose. Why not leave them the hell alone!!!

It will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses and is consistent with the wishes of 80% of Americans who want wild horses protected. I love wildlife, and have been asking my husband to find wild horses that we could observe in their natural environment on our next vacation! I would dearly love to see wild horses on the public lands they call home, and if these horses are removed or even reduced in number, I will not spend any tourism dollars in North Dakota!

Sincerely,

Susan Bundrick

/skb

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. It is their rightful land, and good for tourism. Those horses have unique genetics, and are a treasured resource of North Dakota. Theodore Roosevelt National Park must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife not livestock. You need to keep the precious wild horses !

Thank you,

Mrs. Carolena Larsen

February 8, 2023

Good Day,

I am reaching out to lend my voice to those **supporting** SCR 4014 – to prohibit the removal of any wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park – for the following reasons:

- The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park.
- Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .
- The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.
- Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.
- The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be protected.
- A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.
- The TRNP must re-designate the wild horses as wildlife as they are not livestock.
- **It's what President Roosevelt would have done.**

I greatly appreciate you considering my feedback.

Respectfully,
Jennifer D'Angelo

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found. Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed. The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource. A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park. The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock. If you had any plans to visit TRNP in North Dakota, you may say you will no longer want to visit if the wild horses are removed.

- *I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.*
- *The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park*
  Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .
- *The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.*
- *Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.*
- *The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.*
- *A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.*
- *The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.*
- *If you had any plans to visit TRNP in North Dakota, you may say you will no longer want to visit if the wild horses are removed.*

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

I believe that SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses and is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

I am asking you to Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

My name is Sheila Williams, and although I'm a resident of the state of Missouri, I have been a tourist in North Dakota a number of times and I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

It's well known that the wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park. It's very likely that the local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed.

The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found. Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.

The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and they should be considered a treasured resource.

A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park. The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.

Should the wild horses be removed, I will not be visiting North Dakota again for any reason, as the main draw for me coming there has always been seeing the wild horses in their natural habitat. My family members, friends, and work associates feel the same about not coming to North Dakota again if the wild horses are purged from the magnificent Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Thank you for considering my comments. (2/7/2023)

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate of the State of North Dakota.

I am not a resident of North Dakota. I am a American who understands and appreciates the history of America. I am a concerned American who believes that we need to preserve of most precious gift from our fore-fathers- our history.

I have recently learned of your proud attempt to block the Biden Administration from once again removing a valued piece of our history, the great Theodore Roosevelt Horses. The very horses who ;ive as a sharp reminder of our American history.

Please do not allow the herd to be destroyed by a blind and white-washed Federal Government ignorant action.

As an American, and an Eagle Scout, I stand with the People of North Dakota and urge you to take every lawful action to block Joe Biden's mismanagement of American History.

Regards,

Patrick A. Huggins J.D.

Costa Mesa, California

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park and local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed.

Additionally, it should be noted that the horses in TRNP are a historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found. Native species of wild horses have been observed in the area for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed. The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.

A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park. And, the TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Keeley Mangeno

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. These horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed, not to mention that they are the only wild horses in TRNP roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.

These horses are not livestock, and should not be categorized as such, either.

Finally, a new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and *humane* management of the wild horses in the park.

It's high time we stop removing wild horses and predators from our public lands, at taxpayer expense, mind you, in favor of privately owned cattle grazing on them, which is what this is really about.

February 8, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park. Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed.

The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found. Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.

The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource. The TRNP must re-designate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.

A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.

If the wild horses are removed, I, my family and friends will no longer visit TRNP in North Dakota. We shall all make sure that none of our money will be spent in that area ever again.

Thank you for your consideration and cooperation in this matter.

Naomi Klass
CSFA

To whom it may concern,

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park.

Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed.

The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.

Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.

The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.

A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.

The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.

I plan to visit TRNP in North Dakota, but I will no longer want to visit if the wild horses are removed.

It should be as it was when Teddy Roosevelt was there. As a history buff who has read many books on TR, he would want it to remain wild for all Americans to see.

Thank you.

February 8, 2023

To whom it may concern at the National Park Service,

My family and I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

We visit TRNP in ND every summer as a family and have always enjoyed our visit, especially because of the majestic, historic herd of Nakota wild horses that came to these lands way before we were here. Our family has vowed to no longer make that trip if these wild horses are removed.

Please choose to be on the right side of history by leaving these native herds alone to roam wild, safe and free on their land.

Sincerely,

Donya Hnath (Colorado Resident)

To whom it may concern:

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing wild horses and steers on public lands, specifically Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Wild horses are an indispensible asset to the park, attracting visitors that support ecotourism and related businesses in North Dakota. As the only wild horse herd in the state, they should be protected as living history with lineages that can be traced back to the days of Sitting Bull in the 1800's. They must be preserved in a manner that ensures genetic viability (150 horses and more).

The sole purpose of my visit to North Dakota was to explore Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The unforgettable, awe-inspiring part of that visit was finding wild horses roaming through the park. I am honored to have experienced that landscape, preserved in the same way that inspired President Roosevelt to establish the National Park System. The reputation of this park would be ruined without its historically appropriate wildlife, especially the horses.

To be clear, if the horses are removed or harmed in any way, I and other like-minded Americans and tourists will have no reason or desire to go to North Dakota. I will only spend my time and money on places that value conservation and respect the legacy of the Wild West. There is no great American landscape that would be intact without the iconic image of wild horses roaming freely, as nature intended.

Sincerely,

Michelle Barros

I am testifying in support of SCR 4014. As a child my grandmother took my family on a three week motorhome trip to see the "treasures of the west" - her favorite parks. One of our first stops was in North Dakota where we saw the Teddy Roosevelt horses. I had no idea there were "wild horses" and was enamored by them. Ever since I have made many trips with my own family to see these majestic animals with historical lineage. These horses are ND's only wild horse herd and must be preserved and protected for generations to come. SCR 4014 will help support business development and ecotourism in ND by protecting these wild horses. I am not alone in my support when approximately 80% of Americans want wild horses protected. I have spent thousands of dollars in ND over the years on my family's visits - if they are removed I will no longer have reasons to visit ND and spend my hard earned money in ND. I urge you to support and vote yes on SCR 4014 to support humanely managing this herd on the public lands they call home for future generations of Americans to witness and enjoy.

There are so few wild horses remaining in the country and so many of us love them. We want them protected. I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. They're national treasures. Please—redesignate the wild horses as wildlife, not livestock. And protect them. For all our sakes. Thank you.

As you consider Yellowstone National Park's wild herds and their future in the Park, I feel strongly that the longhorn cattle and wild horses should remain in the Park. Without question, the Park was dedicated by then-President Teddy Roosevelt as a revered space to allow these herds to roam unencumbered for perpetuity as part of our national heritage.

I follow two photographers who document the wild horses, their lineage, their families, their births and deaths as magnificent wild animals in the Park. I continue to be inspired and amazed at the strength of their familial bonds. I believe that removing either herd would negatively impact the local State economy and tourism to the area. I've never been to the Park, and may never as I'm now 75, but I continue to take immense pleasure in the photographers' work to document these wild horses' lives. As part of our heritage, I'd be saddened greatly if you chose to remove them from the Park. Please do whatever you're able to keep these wild herds in Yellowstone National Park.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jane Millar
13337 NE 147th Place
Woodinville WA 98072
425 301 0204

2/08/2023

- To Whom it may concern,
- I am writing on behalf of the wild horses in TRNP,

I am asking the National Park Service to consider the following points.

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

- *The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.*
- *The wild horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.*
-
- *The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.*
-
- *A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.*
-
- *The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.*
- *As a citizen of the United States I have a vested interest in the wild horses of America and would like to see them treasured and maintained in the National Park for my children and future generations to enjoy as part of our National Heritage and history. They should be treated with respect, kindness and compassion and their lineage preserved.*

Please do not remove the horses from TRNP. I plan to visit the park in the next year but will not do that if the horses are removed.

Sincerely,

Nancy Lohrenz

Silverthorne, CO 80498

RE: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Public Hearing

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

It is morally wrong to harm sentient beings. Humans must stop their abusive behavior towards the horses living in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I expect good people to protect the innocent from bad people. All sentient beings want to live freely to enjoy life with their friends and families. Good people love to visit wild horses. I have always been under the impression that our parks services protected the natural world from the injustices unleashed by humans. Good people must rise up and protect the innocent from cold heartless humans. The systemic abuse of innocent species must come to an end.

This is my testimony **in support of SCR 4014**:

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Do the right thing!

Thank you!

Lori Lundberg

I am writing about the proposal to destroy the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Please do whatever is needed to prevent the NPS from killing the historic and amazing wild horses that live there. I have visited TRNP many times and seen the horses that live there along with the Bison and other reintroduced animals. If it is natural for Bison that had to be brought back to the park to live there, then it is natural for horses to live there, since horses are here naturally. I would be disgusted forever if the NPS kills these animals and I would not come to North Dakota to visit the park again.

These animals are not livestock and should be classified as wildlife instead. These are a wildlife treasure, not livestock to be exterminated.

To whom it may concern,

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park. Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed.

The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found. Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed. The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.

Furthermore, a new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park. The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Regards,
Amanda Briggs

To the North Dakota Legislative Assembly,

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park. Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed.
The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found. Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.
The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource. A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.

Please redesignate the wild horses as wildlife. They should not be designated as livestock.

Thank you and sincerely,
Teresa Sem

#20219

RE: OPPOSE THE REMOVAL OF THE WILD HORSES AT THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK.

My sister and her family were in North Dakota recently and decided to go out of their way to see the Wild Horses at TRNP. The entire family, including the children, were So thrilled to watch the horses, they didn't want to leave!! To hear that you want to get 'rid' of them is shameful and a disgrace! They are beautiful WILD HORSES NOT LIVESTOCK!!

MRS. A. KERZNER
MRS. R. MOLITOR
2740 HARVARD ST., CASPER, WYOMING
82601

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the parkLocal economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .

The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.

Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.

The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.

A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.

The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.

I will not visit North Dakota if you remove the horses.

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakotas only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Dear North Dakota Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources members,

I am writing on behalf of the wild horse herd residing in the Teddy Roosevelt National Park. For over 16 years, I lived in Richland County, Montana and often traveled through that magnificent area of North Dakota, often stopping in Medora and Sentinel Butte. My favorite views of the drive across your state include the vast prairies, the Badlands areas and the Painted Canyon vistas. I enjoyed attending the shows in Medora, which begins with the horsemen, the Teddy Roosevelt Rough Riders; still a vivid memory, even though it's been over 23 years since I've seen the performance. Thank goodness for the foresight in setting aside this very special and unique area for future generations to explore, enjoy, preserve and protect.

The wild horses, these historic icons of the West, are part of the landscape and legends of beautiful North Dakota. These horses, the ONLY wild horse herd in North Dakota, are related to the very horses Sitting Bull surrendered in the late 1800s. They have survived in their rugged environment, and brought joy and inspiration to all who witness their tenacity, strength, beauty and determination to thrive in the Park. Protecting these horses is vital to maintaining the specific genetically viable line, and the herd should not fall below the minimum pf 150 horses.

SCR 4014 will support tourism and the economical impact tourists provide. Over 80% of Americans want wild horses protected, SCR 4014 is consistent with this desire. Please support and vote YES for SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands that are their home.

If the North Dakota wild horses are NOT protected, are you prepared to tell your children, grandchildren and great grandchildren what happened? Will future generation only see wild horses in photos, books, documentaries, or old family videos? Please do what you can NOW to protect and preserve North Dakota's wild horses, our living symbols of the America's history.

Sincerely, Laurel O. Rye

- I strongly oppose
- The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.
- A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.
- The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.

- *strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.*
- *The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .*
- *The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.*
- *Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.*
- *The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.*
- *A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.*
- *The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.*
- *If you had any plans to visit TRNP in North Dakota, you may say you will no longer want to visit if the wild horses are removed.*

February 8, 2023

To Whom it may Concern,

Below please find my testimony in support of SCR 4014.

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at an absolute minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the North Dakota.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you,

Kendra Nelson

19000 View Circle
Fiddletown, CA 95629
530-957-5229

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park
Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .

The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found. Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed. The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.

A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park. The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock. If you had any plans to visit TRNP in North Dakota, you may say you will no longer want to visit if the wild horses are removed.

Sincerely,
Cherrie Kerwell

WILD HORSES TO STAY

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the parkLocal economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .

The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.

Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.

The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.

A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.

The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.

Any plans to visit TRNP in North Dakota, will no longer be if the wild horses are removed.

To The North Dakota Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

I am sending testimony in support of SCR 4014

There are approximately 160 wild horses on 70,000 acres of land in TRNP. While they are designated livestock, they were on this land before man deemed them “livestock” as the wild horses are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s. This is part of America’s history.

Wild horses are, and have been an integral part of the scenery and wilderness of the Park. This is the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt, and visitors past, present and future. I have a feeling, he would be one of the horses biggest supporters.

The wild horses are North Dakota’s only wild horse herd, and as such, should be protected.

Wild horses can inbreed, thus these horses need to be kept at a minimum of 150 horses to ensure a genetically viable herd vs an inbred herd.

Congress approved $11 Million dollars for fertility control of America’s wild horses. There should be some means to allocate some of this money for the herd in North Dakota so they may be humanely and scientifically managed within their homeland in TRNP.

While I have not visited TRNP as yet, I have seen many photos from photographers who have visited the park to take photos of the wild horses and shared those photos on Social Media sites. SCR 4014 will help support the continued ecotourism in North Dakota, and protect the wild horses and their history at the same time.

I believe that SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans like myself who want to see and know our wild horses are protected on public lands. I hope you agree and support SCR 4014 and the wild horses of North Dakota that call TRNP their home.

Written Testimony for Theodore Roosevelt National Park

I am a visitor to the state of North Dakota. Since you are not visitors, you may not know that observing wild horses in their normal habitat is a huge attraction for us.

I strongly oppose wild horses being designated as livestock; they are anything but, particularly the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. These horses are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found. They have been there for centuries. Do you understand how unique that is?

The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.

A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.

Sincerely,
Betty Winholtz

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are the State of North Dakota's only wild horse herd and as such, need to be preserved.
The Teddy Roosevelt herd has to be maintained at no less than 150 horses to ensure a genetically-viable herd.

To whom it may concern,

I strongly oppose the removal of wild horses from TRNP. They are a top attraction and key to the local economy.

Moreover, TRNP horses have unique, historic genetics. Please protect them as a treasured resource by redesignating them as wildlife and implementing scientific, humane management. Loss of horses will deter future visitors.

Thank you for your consideration.

Trevor Mayes

I fully support SCR 4014 and urge a YES vote to make sure the NPS isnt allowed to wipe out the beloved Teddy Roosevelt NP horses. These horses are descendants from the original Badland horses and have been a part of the Park since it was first established by President Roosevelt. It seems that they have lived there peacefully, not disturbing the ecosystem so what exactly is the reason the NPS wants to remove them and leave only 70 behind? A very low minimum would be 150 to keep the herd genetically viable so it seems that NPSs goal is to get rid of them altogether. 80% of Americans want to see wild horses on our public lands, yet the BLM, USFS and now the NPS seem bound and determined to remove as many as possible.

These magnificent horses are NDs only wild horse herd, so please keep them safe from the NPS and make sure they can never to rounded up by any other government agencies. Tourists love seeing the wild horses so I think ND would lose a great deal of tourist money if they are removed.

Thank you for proposing SCR 4014 and please pass it!

The US are the origin of all hoses in the world, from fossils findings and DNA, they have been on the land before humans, more than 11 000 years ago and was only brought back in the 16 th century (they were exstinct twice), which means there are a responsibility to take the best care of them, providing for them! If we want the people in f i Africa to take care of the wild elephants, we have to do the same thing with the wild horses in the US. They are wildlife and not livestock. Also the adopting system does not work well, people putting them in kill pens, it is disgusting and in 2023, it is animal abuse. The wild horse belong to the land and should be protected and safe as a national treasure!

The horses in the park are also descendants of the original Badland horses, way back to Sitting Bull.

The Teddy Roosevelt park are North Dakota`s only wild horses and should be protected as such.

The herd must be kept a minimum 150 horses in order to ensure a gentically viable herd.

Comment submission to NPS re: TRNP wild horses

Please accept the following comments on the Livestock Plan Scoping Newsletter for the Theodore Roosevelt National Park's (TRNP) Livestock Management Plan (LMP) for its wild horses.

I attended the virtual public scoping meeting on January 12, 2023 where I learned that TRNP believes the park management plans are confined to current relevant laws, regulations, policies, and park management priorities and NPS directives. Park staff categorically claimed they must follow current park regulations. I would like to address this point first to pave the way for the rest of my comments.

- TRNP laws, regulations, policies, and park management priorities can be amended and changed. They are not intended to be forever and absolute! Even those directives coming from the National Park Service can be adapted or changed. An example of this is the management at Assateague Island National Seashore where wild horses have been successfully managed for over 30 years. I will elaborate with proof of concept on this fact further below.

Further points of consideration for the TRNP Livestock Plan with the required "*information that can be used when developing alternatives, present reasonable alternatives…"*

- The TRNP Livestock Plan, as drafted, erroneously refers to the wild horses as "livestock," inferring that they are not a native species. Wild horses ***are*** a native species to North America. In the virtual scoping meeting, Blake McCann said that historical records and genetics show the TRNP horses to be "domestic stock." While wild horses closely resemble their domestic cousins in appearance, they are vastly different in behavior and other ways. You must take into account the rapidly emerging scientific research - and archeological **proof** - that America's wild horses are native species. Dr. Ross MacPhee is the curator of the Division of Vertebrate Zoology at the American Museum of Natural History who has scientifically studied horse evolution for many years. MacPhee declares "*The family Equidae evolved on this continent; it is as American as anything you could possibly imagine. That was 55 million years ago. Progressive evolution occurred thereafter, eventually culminating 1.8 million years ago when a horse very like modern horses evolved… most people regard bison as a native species even though it has only occupied North America for the past 125,000 years.*" Wild horses did not just materialize in North Dakota when the TRNP was designated. Wild horses have been observed by humans in the TRNP area for centuries, in native cultures and documents from early European/American explorers. Further, The TRNP specifically includes wild horses in its definition of "wildlife" for purposes of its prohibition against "Disturbing Wildlife" in the Park. Alternately, the definition of livestock in all major reference works is noted in some generic form of "domestic animals kept or raised for use or pleasure." The wild horses of TRNP do not in any way fit this definition.

- In the Scoping meeting, Blake McCann stated that there was a “clear distinction” between what is wildlife and what is non-native. However, the “clear distinction” that TRNP holds, as shown above, is erroneous and unscientific. With documented and peer reviewed scientific evidence, the TRNP wild horses should be designated as native species wildlife, with equal native status to the bison in TRNP.
- Currently, horse management is guided by a 1978 Environmental Assessment (EA), and cattle management is guided by a 1970 Management Plan. With these two documents showing the horses and cattle as different park entities, their separation should remain so, and the native wildlife horses should be managed separately from the cattle in the park. While I hold no bias or position against the cattle in TRNP, as a definite non-native species, they should be evaluated separately from the native species wild horses.
- Regarding the 1978 EA, it is old and outdated. Documents such at these must be updated even more frequently than the normal 10 years.
- The Livestock Plan as currently drafted would have a significant impact on tourism to the park and surrounding communities. In the Scoping meeting Maureen answered that comment by saying that protecting the scenery and wildlife was what Teddy Roosevelt championed. As the mandate for following Roosevelt’s ideals, that is what the park follows, to keep the wildlife community and habitat intact. As noted above, the wild horses are native wildlife in their native habitat. But, that does not address the negative impact on tourism that removing the horses would cause. The TRNP horses are beloved by visitors from all over the country and the world. Proof of the impact that removing the wild horses would cause can be found in a USA Today *10 Best Readers’ Choice Awards in 2017* which found the Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center in Lovell Wyoming to be the Number One Best Attraction in the state of Wyoming. Keep in mind, Wyoming is the home to Yellowstone National Park! Tourism entities in North Dakota are already concerned about the removal of wild horses from TRNP as they are hearing from multitudes of past and future visitors opposed to the wild horse removals. The economic impact from the reduction in tourism to the area will be significant to the surrounding communities of TRNP.
- In the Scoping meeting, Blake McCann cited a “large body of evidence and research” that livestock creates significant impacts to wildlife habitat. He is correct, but he failed to mention that the evidence and research is about cattle and sheep livestock, not horses. A 1977 report to Congress from the General Accounting Office (GAO) by the Comptroller General of the United States was titled “Public Rangelands Continue to Deteriorate.” It stated, “*The Nation’s public rangelands have been deteriorating for years and, for the most part, are not improving. Deterioration can be attributed principally to poorly managed livestock grazing.*” By contrast, wild horses have been shown to improve their habitat, as whole grass seeds are deposited in the soil from their manure. The complex four-stomach digestive system of cattle does not allow for new forage reseeding and growth.
  https://www.idausa.org/campaign/wild-animals-and-habitats/horse-protection/latest-news/wild-horses-and-burros/

In the Scoping meeting it was noted several times that in public comments to the Scoping Notice, if other options than the provided three alternatives were needed, they should be submitted in our written comments. In reference to all the above substantiated points: ***None*** of the Livestock Plans three proposed Alternatives are acceptable. Therefore, I submit a fourth alternative to be included in your follow up EA:

Alternative D - Scientific Management of Horse Herd for Population and Natural Behavior

This alternative would require scientific management of the current herd of wild horses. As a native species they would be managed to protect and preserve the unique genetics and natural behaviors of this historic herd. A population objective of 150 to 200 horses would be achieved through PZP fertility control, administered and thoroughly documented with the help of trained volunteers. Those mares in the herd already rendered infertile through the experimental use of GonaCon in a prior study, and also its current use, would be allowed to remain in the Park to live out their lives with their family band members and herd mates. Under this alternative, it will not be necessary to remove and transfer any horses to other authorized entities or sold via GSA auction.

* * * * * * * *

Regarding the above proposed Alternative D, the following points should be used to support it. To achieve the population objective of Alternate D, the following actions would be implemented:

- Immediately discontinue the use of GonaCon as it severely affects the fertility of mares, often leading to their permanent infertility. In the Scoping meeting, Blake McCann said he was not aware of any horses “sterilized” by GonaCon. It is widely known from the studies conducted in TRNP that some mares became infertile after two doses and more after three doses.
- Instead of GonaCon, use the proven safe and effective fertility control PZP. Precedent for preventing wild horse population to outgrow resources in a national park has been set at Assateague Island National Seashore where the wild horses have been successfully managed using PZP for over 30 years. Staff at the Scoping meeting again claimed they could not follow the lead of Assateague Island National Seashore because TRNP’s enabling legislation would not allow it and “each park is different.” Again, this “excuse” is easy to resolve: Please use the guidance of Assateague Island National Seashore to change TRNP’s policies and protocols to allow for PZP use for wild horses in the national park.
- PZP is safe, effective, and humane. It allows stallions and mares to continue their natural behavior in family bands, protecting and caring for their band members. Visitors to the park and other wild horse herd areas do not want to see sterilized wild horses acting like domestic horses or animals in a zoo. They want to observe the excitement of wild horse family bands and interactions between the bands.
- Mr. McCann stated in the Scoping meeting that PZP is not an option because the horses have to be boosted. This argument is irrelevant due to the willingness of volunteers to administer the PZP program.

- Volunteers in the TRNP area are earnestly willing and available to carry out a PZP darting program to keep the population within the bounds of the objective. Identification and record-keeping software and databases are in use and effective in other wild herd areas using PZP. Volunteers would be trained in accordance with all requirements. The staff at TRNP would have only light oversight for the agreements and would not be responsible for the work of implementing the PZP program.
- With many of the current 200 wild horses within TRNP being infertile, the population objective of 150 - 200 horses is easily attainable and will reduce with natural attrition. It has been well accepted as fact that a wild horse herd must be at least between 150-200 animals for genetic viability. This has been established by the leading equine geneticist, Dr. E. Gus Cothran, professor emeritus at the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM). The TRNP herd must be maintained with a population of at least 150 to 200 horses.

As a final comment to conclude: ALL the issues outlined above can be solved very simply by amending park documents and regulations to remove the designation of the horses as livestock. Once that is done, TRNP does not have to adhere to their enabling legislation and policy that does not allow for livestock in regard to the wild horses. The native species wild horses can be managed under the proposed **Alternate D**, above.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

Ginger Fedak, B.S. Range Animal Science and Range Management
Wild Horse and Burro Senior Campaigner
In Defense of Animals

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed.

The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.

Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.

The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.

A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.

The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.

I will no longer want to visit if the wild horses are removed.

Sincerely,

Georgeanne Matranga

Brightwaters, New York 11718

To whom it may concern,

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.
The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park
Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .
The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.
Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.
The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.
A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.
The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.

Respectfully,

Gunter Singer

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park
Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .

I am writing in support of retaining the Theodore Roosevelt wild horses in place.

I will briefly address cost, heritage, environmental, genetic diversity as reasons to retain the wild horses. The cost of removing the horses is not insignificant. The dollar cost avoided by not taking action to remove the horses can be diverted into other programs. The wild horses are part of the national and North Dakota heritage. These animals carry forward genetics from horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800's. The claims that the wild horses have a negative impact on the environment are sourced in data which – when more objectively evaluated – leads to the opposite conclusion that they are a natural part of the echo system in the park. Genetic studies show that a population below 150 animals places the herd at risk. Genetic diversity is required for them to be sustained in the wild. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses. 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected agree with the proposed SCR 4014 recommendations. Please vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

- I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.
- The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .
- The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.
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- The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.
- A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.
- The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.
- If you had any plans to visit TRNP in North Dakota, you may say you will no longer want to visit if the wild horses are removed.

To: ND Legislative Branch

RE: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Public Hearing

- I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.
- The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park
  Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .
- A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.
- The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.

Thank you,

Mary McCormick

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed. They are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found. The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.

A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park. The TRNP should redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.

I would never visit TRNP if the wild horses are removed.

AWHC Support 4014

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Shelley Pinck

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. The herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses. It is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected. Please vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

I would like to ask for your support of SCR 4014. The Teddy Roosevelt National Park's wild horses are an integral part of the beautiful and unique park land. In the early 1980's my husband and I spent a year in Sidney, Montana. Our favorite thing to do was to drive over to Teddy Roosevelt and spend hours hiking around amazed at the beauty of the hills, the abundant wildlife and always on the look out for the wild horses. Those are cherished memories of a special, unique part of the US for which I thank the people of North Dakota for having the foresight to continue to protect and maintain oversight of the park and the federal agencies involved. To even consider allowing any agency to eradicate or even lower the wild horse population in order to run more long horn steer for private profit on Teddy Roosevelt National Park land is sacrilege. As I'm sure you're aware, the Teddy Roosevelt wild horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and they need your protection by voting yes on SCR 4014.

SCR 4014 ND SENATE RESOLUTION KEEP WILD HORSES TRNP

PLEASE PASS SCR 4014

THANK YOU for taking time in your tremendously busy schedule to support keeping the wild horses in TRNP at a genetically healthy level of 150 – 200 adult horses, and also to keep the longhorn steers!

PLEASE word this resolution to specify that Theodore Roosevelt National Park MUST keep the herd at this scientifically proven level to keep the wild horses healthy and strong for future generations. Otherwise TRNP has stated, if they don't remove them all now, they will simply keep a token herd of non-breeding horses until they die – either way, TRNP accomplishes their Stated Goal of No Wild Horses in TRNP.

TRNP is unique in all of America, not just the National Park System, precisely because of the wild horses and the longhorn steers. NORTH DAKOTA MUST HOLD THIS LEGACY. Once this is gone, it is gone forever.

I want to bring my children and grandchildren to see these wild horses, and also the longhorn steers, in 2024! If this wild horse herd is extirpated, we will never again enter the state of North Dakota for Any reason. This would be so heartbreaking and tragic!

Thank you for your hard work to SAVE THE WILD HORSES and the LONGHORN STEERS in Theodore Roosevelt National Park!!

NORTH Dakota | Commerce
Be Legendary.

Testimony in Support of
SCR Bill No. 4014
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
February 8, 2023

TESTIMONY OF
Sara Otte Coleman, Director Tourism and Marketing Division
ND Department of Commerce

Good morning, Chairman Patten and members of the committee, I am Sara Otte Coleman, Director of the Tourism and Marketing Division for the North Dakota Department of Commerce. I am here today in support of SCR 4014 which urges the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service to reconsider its proposed plan to eliminate livestock in Theodore Roosevelt National Park and develop a management plan that allows the wild horse to remain in the south unit as they have since the park opened.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park is a top location for leisure travelers visiting North Dakota. The park has seen an average of 700,000 visitors over the last 5 years. Our research has shown that visiting a national or state park is the top motivator of marketable trips to North Dakota. We love to tout the uncrowded adventure visitors can enjoy in all three units of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Based on the outpouring of comments our office has received, we believe park visitors highly value seeing the horses as part of their park experience.

The iconic wild horses found in Theodore Roosevelt National Park make this experience unique. No other national park in our region can offer this experience. Watchable wildlife motivates travel and the opportunity to see horses, bison, elk, mule deer, pronghorn and prairie dogs cohabitating within a preserved natural landscape is one of the joys of visiting Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The horses really set us apart from other national parks in the region.

These horses capture the attention of the media and influencers. In 2022, the Wild Horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park have been featured in 194 articles reaching 501 million. These stories have an advertising equivalency of $4.6 million.

Sara Broers, travel writer, CEO of Travel with Sara, and Co-owner of the Midwest Travel Network says, "The wild horses are the magic of Theodore Roosevelt National Park and what makes the park unique. North Dakota, Medora, and the park will miss out on thousands of visitors each year without them. If the national park system wants to keep Theodore Roosevelt National Park alive and thriving the horses need to be a part of it."

- #1 on Midwest Living's list for photo ops in TRNP is Wild Horses: "Perhaps the most magical part of Theodore Roosevelt National Park is the free-roaming horses, found only in the South Unit." https://www.midwestliving.com/travel/north-dakota/9-cant-miss-photo-ops-theodore-roosevelt-national-park/
- Quirky Travel Guy, Scott Shetler: "The Theodore Roosevelt National Park wild horse are among the biggest attractions for tourism in this famed North Dakota park." https://quirkytravelguy.com/roosevelt-national-park-animals-wildlife-horses/

- The Greatest Road Trip: "Theodore Roosevelt National Park is one of the few parks that is home to wild horses, another easy-to-spot species, offering a glimpse of what early visitors to America's wildest areas might have seen when horses roamed across the entire western half of the country." http://www.thegreatestroadtrip.com/theodore-roosevelt-national-park
- Made #4 on the top 10 list for 10 Traveling Feet - https://10travelingfeet.com/10-great-things-to-do-in-theodore-roosevelt-national-park-south-unit/
- According to Wandering Rose Travels, "The most interesting sightings at Theodore Roosevelt were wild horses." https://www.wanderingrosetravels.com/destinations/united-states/five-reasons-visit-theodore-roosevelt-national-park/

Tourism is key to growing North Dakota's economy. Visitors to Billings County spent $16 million in 2021. The opening of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library will create new visitors to the area and the Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Horses have been present in the park since its founding. Generations of travelers have visited the park and have enjoyed free roaming bands of horses. Removal of the horses eliminate a feature of the park guests are accustomed to seeing and a much-loved species of the North Dakota badlands. Many of the comments our office has been receiving are from visitors who frequently make return trips to the park to view the horses and have been coming for many years.

Thank you for your focus on this important issue.

- I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.
- The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park
  Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .
- The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.
- Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.
- The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.
- A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.
- The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.

Bridget Pieroni
bridgetmpieroni@gmail.com
24912 Silver Crest Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20882
240-441-5556

SCR 4014

As an American citizen, I am writing in support of bill SCR 4014. Wild horses and burros deserve to live in peace on land that already supports them; Americans deserve to feel confident that our wildlife is being treated with respect.

Lori Ugolik

- I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.
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- A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.
- The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Please allow the longhorn steers to continue to reside in the North Unit of the Theodore Roosevelt NP. The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource. The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found. The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park. Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed . Please redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock. I appreciate your time.
Shannon Jacobs

Dear lawmaker:

- *I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.*
- *The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .*
- *The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.*
- *Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.*
- *The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.*
- *A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.*
- *The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.*
- *If you had any plans to visit TRNP in North Dakota, you may say you will no longer want to visit if the wild horses are removed.*

Thank-you,

Michelle Arc

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

The wild horses are a unique genetics rarely found. In addition, removal will harm the local economy as toursits are drawn to visit the horses.

Do the right thing.

Sincely, Cynthia Hever

- *I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.*
- *The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed.*
- *The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.*
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- *The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.*
- *A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.*
- *The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.*

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
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5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

I have had the distinct pleasure of visiting the great state of North Dakota on several occasions. The ONLY REASON for our visit was to see the wild horses and other wildlife in TRNP. Thank goodness I got to see them; EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE WILD HORSES. If you remove them, I will no longer visit your state. LET THE WILD HORSES REMAIN AND FLUISH!
Thank you.

- *I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.*
- *The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .*
- *The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Dakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.*
- *Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.*
- *The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.*
- *A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.*
- *The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.*

I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .

The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.

Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.

The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.

A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.

The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.

I am testifying to support allowing herds of wild burros and horses to roam free in Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses or burros located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I have visited this park SOLELY for the purpose of seeing wild horses – and I did! It was amazing. It encompassed so much of the reason we preserve national parks in America – to revisit our roots, to feel our wild selves, to remember who we are as a species, to appreciate species diversity and life, to remember what is important, to move away from our small, egocentric selves and have a worldview, to know life, to heal, to have hope.

The wild horses are TRNP's largest reason for tourism. To murder them (soften the words as you will, killing and murdering wildlife is what it is) is anti-capitalist, something Americans sadly worship. More pointedly, eradicating them is to eradicate local businesses. That's just foolish.

More importantly, TRNP's herd is genetically unique. This in itself must be preserved in life, in the wild where nature does a far, far, far, far better job of genetic health than humans, even at our best. The horses predate the park and have intrinsic rights to roam free within, and without its borders.

I encourage the park's Environmental Assessment to add peer-reviewed, unbiased, scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park, meaning mostly to remove farmed animals, support wild predators, and stay out of it – nature can manager herself.

Crucially, the TRNP must re-designate the wild horses as wildlife, as they are and should be. Goodness, wild horses are NOT livestock. We didn't create them the way we create dogs, cows and farmed sheep. Let's get science back into this picture - it's a national park, after all, not a ranch.

Thank you!

strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.
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A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.
The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.
If you had any plans to visit TRNP in North Dakota, you may say you will no longer want to visit if the wild horses are removed.

- *I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.*
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- *A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.*
- *The TRNP must redesignate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.*

2/9/23

Dear Members of the North Dakota Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

I am writing to you today, again, in support of SCR 4014 and to provide more input on this resolution because I understand the state senate has just scheduled a hearing, and is taking comments, on this resolution. So, here are my additional comments:

- **I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.**
- **The wild horses in TRNP are the biggest draw for visitors to the park**
  Local economies in towns around TRNP will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed.
- **The horses in TRNP are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics rarely found.**
- **Native species wild horses have been observed in the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for centuries and were only fenced in when the park was formed.**
- **The horses in TRNP are the only wild horses roaming free in the state of North Dakota and should be considered a treasured resource.**
- **A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park.**
- **The TRNP must re-designate the wild horses as wildlife; they are not to be designated as livestock.**
- **If you had any plans to visit TRNP in North Dakota, you may say you will no longer want to visit if the wild horses are removed.**

Thank you for your thoughtful, compassionate and humane consideration of my comments in support of protecting and keeping these innocent horses in the Teddy Roosevelt Wild Horse Park. This is where they have always been and should remain.

Sincerely,

Naomi M. Weisman

2/8/23

Dear Members of the North Dakota Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

I am writing to you today in support of SCR 4014 for the following reasons:

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you for your thoughtful, compassionate and humane consideration of my comments in support of protecting and keeping these innocent horses in the Teddy Roosevelt Wild Horse Park. This is where they have always been and should remain.

Sincerely,

Naomi M. Weisman

- *I strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The wild horses in the Park are the biggest draw for visitors to the park which means local economies in towns around the Park will suffer with the loss of tourist visits if the wild horses are removed .*
- *These horses are an historic herd of Nakota wild horses with unique genetics—they are a treasured resource. The Theodore Roosevelt National Park must redesignate the wild horses as WILDLIFE, they are not livestock! A new alternative to the park's Environmental Assessment must be added with scientific **and humane** management of the wild horses in the park.*
- *I, and my family have been looking forward to another trip to South Dakota and had planned to visit the Park in North Dakota this time. We won't bother to extend the trip to ND, but most likely go to Wyoming if the wild horses are removed.*

ROSEMARY A. KASZUBA
kaszubarose@gmail.com

- written testimony in support of SCR 414
-

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
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7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

I am writing in SUPPORT OF SCR 4014.

Protecting the Teddy Roosevelt wild horse herd is a great opportunity for the state of North Dakota to not only do the right thing for the horses, but by doing so
will provide tourists one more reason to visit North Dakota.

And please, you MUST keep a large enough herd to maintain genetic variability in order to prevent the negative effects that comes with too much in-breeding.
Biodiversity is key to any healthy population.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Jim Clark

Testimony of Sandi Tabor

SCR 4014

Feb 9, 2023

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee let me start by thanking the sponsors of the SCR 4014 for introducing the bill and their willingness to introduce the amendment.

I am testifying in support of the amendment to line 17 on page 1. The amendment deletes the reference suggesting that the longhorns and wild horses are not native to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. While this may be true regarding the longhorns, the issue of whether the wild horses are native to the Park is one of great contention. The language in question is superfluous to the overall intent of the Concurrent Resolution. More importantly, its inclusion could have unintended consequences if it were adopted as originally drafted. As such, I urge the committee to adopt the amendment.

The concurrent resolution was introduced in response to the latest attempt by the Park to remove the horses. This is nothing new when it comes to the Park's historic management of the horses. In fact, one might describe it as just another "dip" in the teeter totter of the Park's many ups and downs relating to the status of the horses. A review of the Park's management history reveals confusion which seems largely unrelated to science and more related to any given park superintendent's opinion as to whether the horses should be in the Park. Some believing the horses should remain as part of the Theodore Roosevelt legacy, and other insisting the horses are nothing more than an invasive species which must be removed. And after some 76 years of park management here we are again.

Mr. Chairman and committee members your efforts to pass Senate Concurrent Resolution 4014 as amended will serve as just one more reminder to the National Park Service that North Dakota not only cares about the legacy of Theordore Roosevelt, but also about legacy of the wild horses of the Badlands.

I respectfully request the adoption of the amendment and a recommendation of "Do Pass" to the bill as amended.

February 9, 2023

ND Energy & Natural Resource Committee Senate

Chairman Curt Kreun and committee members,

My name is Frank Kuntz with the Nokota horses. I am here to testify in favor of SCR4014. I am so very pleased that Governor Burgum and the tourism office and others are stepping up to the plate to save the wild horses in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP). These horses belong there! The TRNP created that type of horse. But what are we saving? After 40 some years of total mismanagement of the wild horses in TRNP with the introduction of domestic breeds like the Quarter Horse, Arabian and a Shire cross stud and changing the historic phenotype horses that were there before the white man came here. In 2018, a genetic analyst of the wild horses in TRNP showed that the horses there are one of the worst inbred wild horses on public lands. It also stated that they need to introduce new bloodlines.

Also, the TRNP has been using the horses there as guinea pigs for the drug Gonacon to permanently sterilize the mares in the park. What will be the long-term effect of this drug? And will the TRNP continue to dart the mares with Gonacon? And what new blood lines will they introduce?

I also noted that in Governor Burgum's press release that the legacy of Theodore Roosevelt was important to the state of North Dakota. I did not hear one word about Sitting Bull's people's legacy. That was their type of horse that was in the TRNP when it was fenced in.

So, if we are going to save the wild horses in TRNP based on science and genetics and historical evidence, let's do it the right way.

Slowly reintroduce the Nokotas, the State's Honorary Equine into the TRNP, set up an interpretive center in the park, which should include the history of the descendants of Sitting Bull's horses. After all Sitting Bull's name is well known worldwide.

The TRNP should stop using Gonacon on the horses in the TRNP. TRNP should work with the tribes to take some of the excess horses to the reservations for use in therapy programs for traumatized, PTSD people, etc. And find a way to help the tribes with some of the infrastructure to help make it happen.

It's a win-win situation for all ... TRNP, the State of ND, and the native people of North Dakota.

Thank you,

Frank Kuntz

23.3062.01001
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Representative Steiner
January 27, 2023

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4014

Page 1, line 17, remove "while not native to Theodore Roosevelt National Park originally, the"

Renumber accordingly

Birgit Pruess, Ph.D.
3696 Harrison St. S
Fargo, ND

March 1, 2023

RE: SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4014

Dear members of the 68th Legislative Assembly of North Dakota,

I am resident of Fargo, ND and testifying as a private citizen and not in representation of any group. Please, accept the below as my testimony IN FAVOR of SCR4014 regarding the herd of wild horses that currently lives in Theodore Roosevelt National Park in Medora, ND. Note that I got my Ph.D. in biology and understand ecology and genetics. I am making a friendly amendment to the resolution.

I have followed this herd of wild horses in the South Unit since 2014 and know by now every name, parentage, age, and whatever else you might want to know about the horses. I also appreciate the longhorn cattle in the North Unit. I have with concern watched our national park announce that they may remove the horses and longhorns, with a slightly better option of reducing the horses to 35 to 60 animals. This is not enough to keep the herd genetically viable.

The justification for the removal is based on ecological claims that have been presented in a one way sided way. Yes, there are negative aspects of horses and other grazing animals on grassland ecology. However, there are positive aspects of horses (this applies to horses only, not other grazers) on grassland ecology as well, such as the digging of deep water holes that can then be used by other animals during times of draught. Likewise, the genetic claims that these horses are livestock are outdated. Recent DNA evidence suggests that horses evolved on the North American continent and have likely never gone extinct, as was postulated previously. All horses currently roaming on this planet are genetically of the species *Equus caballus*. Ours are not genetically inferior to any other horses.

While I would prefer the livestock designation to be dropped in conjunction with the horses, I understand that the longhorn cattle are livestock. In case you are open to an amendment of using ‘feral’ for the horses and ‘livestock’ for the longhorns, I propose that as an amendment.

Furthermore, the resolution outlines the historical reasons for the maintenance of both the horse and the longhorn herds. I appreciate that the resolution will be send to the United States Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the National Park Service, and each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation. It is time to take it up a step.

My recommendation for this resolution is ‘DO PASS’ either with my amendment or without it.

As in all my testimonies, I much appreciate the hard work and dedication that each member of my state legislative assembly puts into our state. Thank you.

Sincerely and respectfully
Birgit Pruess

March 4, 2023

Jannett Heckert
7908 Mustang Loop Road
Park City, Utah 84098

Regarding: Livestock Plan – Theodore Roosevelt National Park – Public Scoping Phase of NEPA

Livestock Plan Description:

The Theodore Roosevelt National Park Service is developing a Livestock Plan and Environmental Assessment (EA) to address livestock, horses, and cattle, within the park, under relevant laws, regulations, policies, and park management priorities including the conservation of native species and natural prairie ecosystem functions.

I am submitting comments on the preliminary alternatives, proposed action, and what the EA should address and analyze. Here is the Theodore Roosevelt National Park Service Alternative and my response.

I AM AGAINST ALL OF THE Alternative A (No Action Alternative: continued herd management under the 1978 EA and 1970 Management Plan) as written.

The national park Superintendent, Angela Richman, and her staff have not presented "reasonable alternatives" but has presented a piecemeal plan with limited scope in Alternative B & C. Using "conservation of native species and natural prairie ecosystems" is a scape goat approach to enforce the Department of Interiors intent to eliminate wild horses from public lands including this national park which fall under the direction of the Department of Interior. The National Park Service carries out its responsibilities in parks and programs under the authority of Federal laws, regulations, and Executive Orders, and in accord with policies established by the Director of the National Park Service and the **Secretary of the Interior**. The Biden administration proposal to continue the Trump roundup plan to remove 90,000 wild horses and burros from public lands over the next five years at a cost to taxpayers of nearly $1 billion. You are part of the public lands. Soon

the national park will be the only place visitors will be able to observe free roaming wild mustangs.

National parks are governed by a law called the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA—one of the most important environmental laws in the country. NEPA requires that federal agencies must measure the environmental impacts of any proposed actions that would affect federal lands and must also allow public comment on these proposals. This means that **we as Americans not only own these places together, we have a right to tell the Park Service that we agree or disagree with how they want to handle a particular issue that affects our parks.**

This statement is out of regulations IN THEIR SCOPING RULES:
Comments that cannot be considered include comments for or against an action without any reasoning, comments that only agree or disagree with NPS policy, comments without justification or supporting data, comments that take the form of vague, open-ended questions, and form letters.

An Environment Assessment (EA) does not support sufficient NEPA requirements when changing the landscape of the park. Eliminating the wild horse herds that where present in the area before the Badland area became a national park is changing the landscape. An Environment Impact Statement (**EIS) functions as a more holistic, landscape-level planning with greater details to promote a natural prairie ecosystem not only for native species.**

The NPS formed under the Organic Act of 1916 with the mission "to conserve the scenery and the natural historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." Further amendments solidified the NPS's value of preserving the "naturalness" of parklands.

Park Management Priorities

Horse numbers have historically been managed at the park through periodic (every three to four years) roundups, utilizing helicopters to herd horses to a handling facility. Removed horses are then sold at public auction. However, the park is exploring alternative methods for herd management, including:

1. **Contraceptives:** In 2009, scientists from Colorado State University began a research program to evaluate the effectiveness of GonaCon® (an immunocontraceptive agent) for controlling reproduction in feral horses at the park. The research is complete, and results are encouraging.
2.
3. **Low-Stress Livestock Herding:** Low-stress techniques have been used since 2008 for gently herding escaped bison back onto park lands. Similar methods are effective at controlling the movement and capture of horses. The technique is currently under structured evaluation as a practice for horse capture.
4. **Corral Trapping:** Corral traps are effective for capture of feral horses on other federal lands. During 2015, the park established a corral trap in an area that horses frequently visit. Though using bait (e.g. water and mineral blocks) is minimally effective at luring horses, the corral trap facilities are used in combination with low-stress herding to capture horses.
5. **Chemical Immobilization:** Tranquilizer darts are widely used for wildlife capture. They allow managers to selectively handle individuals with minimal impact on other members of the population. Chemical immobilization is utilized to capture horses at the park, and this tool is under evaluation to ensure safety of the animals.
6. **Adoption Program:** The park works with the General Services Administration (GSA) to transfer animals to private ownership.
7. **Genetics Research:** Hair samples from horses are processed for mitochondrial DNA sequence at the University of North Dakota and for nuclear microsatellite data at Texas A&M University. Molecular data is used to evaluate the genetic diversity, ancestry, and demography of the herd to inform management decisions.

- Role on the Park Landscape
- Balance with natural and cultural resource management priorities are developed by the park management.
    - The government regulates the activities of businesses in five core areas: **advertising, labor, environmental impact, privacy and health and safety**.

Environmental Impact

Polls show that 3 in 4 Americans want wild horses protected on our public lands. and 80% of Americans oppose horse slaughter. There must be regulations set for Tribal distribution of wild horses to the Tribes. They should not be allowed to send wild horses

from the National Park cannot be sold to kill buyers or slaughter houses outside of the United States.

The town of Modera depends on and prospers from tourism.

Health and Safety

We go to these special places to hike, camp, hunt, fish, and engage in recreation that revitalizes our souls and connects us to history and nature.

Conservation of Native Species

- Impacts on Native Species
  - Virtual Public Scoping Meeting on January 12, 2023
  - Q. Have you seen a decline in native species in the South Unit.
  - A. No change in native species in the South Unit.
- Non-Native Species
- Bison VS Horses
  - Bison **graze the grasses at different heights, providing nesting grounds for birds**. So do wild horses.
- A horse is considered feral, selectively bred by humans for domestic and agricultural purposes, turned loose on the plains . It has been decades, since 1939 that this herd in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park have has been selectively bred by humans for domestic or agricultural purposes. They were in the park when it was declared a national park. That was 84 years ago.
- Conservation of our Nation's Resources by preserving and protecting the landscape that inspired Teddy Roosevelt
- Indian Tribes send many horses to slaughter ever year. GSA should be the only way these horses leave the NPS land.

Alternative B (Action Alternative: expedited reduction of herds to no livestock), and Alternative

Relevant Laws

Regulations

NEPA requires that prior to funding, authorizing, or implementing an action, federal agencies must **consider the effects the proposed action may have on the environment, and the related social and economic effects**.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park Superintendent should understand the environmental consequences of removing the wild horses from the park. The wild horses enhance the environment.

The Park Management Priorities in Alternative B and C

Conservation of Native Species

Alternative C (Proposed Action Alternative: phased reduction of herds to no livestock). This newsletter includes more details about the alternatives.

Relevant Laws

Regulations

Policies - "reasonable alternatives"

Park Management Priorities

Conservation of Native Species
The Bison are native species. They were not present in the park when Roosevelt made this a national park. The species were reintroduced into the park in Do the bison have any negative impacts on their ecosystem?

Bison have trampled archaeological sites, affected water resources, and damaged native plants through overgrazing and reducing plant diversity. "The basic quality of the meadow ecosystems is changing because of grazing and some plants aren't growing anymore.

It is the policy of Congress that wild free-roaming horses and burros shall be **protected from capture, branding, harassment, or death**; and to accomplish this they are to be considered in the area where presently found, as an integral part of the natural system of the public lands.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park is one of the few national parks where visitors can observe free-roaming horses. Their presence represents Theodore Roosevelt's experiences here during the open-range ranching era. **There are no wild horses roaming in the geographic interior of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.**

Genetic Diversity
Assateague Island National Seashore

- More than 300 wild ponies wander the beaches, inland pine forest, and salt marshes. They live on the islands of Assateague (Maryland) and Chincoteague (Virginia). Both islands are largely made up of national park areas. The Maryland herd is managed by the National Park Service.

The wild horses live primarily in the northern portion of the Outer Banks, which includes **Corolla and Carova Beach**. The horses roam the northern portion of Currituck Beach, which is a rural area with little development. They now have access to 7,544 acres (3,331, acres are public land and 4,213 are privately owned).

Some of the most popular Ocracoke locals are the Wild Ponies, which are protected in a secluded 180 acre area enclosure on the soundside of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, but can still be enjoyed by anyone passing through the island on NC Highway 12.

herds of wild horses and bison roam the prairie in this surprisingly diverse preserve south of Gainesville. Paynes Prairie is unique in many ways. Nowhere else in Florida can visitors experience wild-roaming bison and horses.

Shackleford Banks, the southern-most barrier island in **Cape Lookout National Seashore**, is home to more than 100 wild horses.
Cumberland Island National Seashore, one of the many islands off Georgia, is a stunning place to explore. One of the area's best-known inhabitants is the **Cumberland Island horses, which are the only herd of wild horses on the Atlantic coast that aren't managed.**

Cumberland has the only herd of feral horses on the Atlantic coast that is not managed (no food, water, veterinary care, or population control). The herd is affected by all the natural stressors faced by native wildlife. The lifespan of horses on the island may be as long as 9 to 10 years.

Wild horses roam the beaches of the Outer Banks and Crystal Coast. Take a guided tour to see them at **Corolla and Shackleford Banks**. For 500 years, the most enduring – and endearing – residents of the Outer Banks, the wild Colonial Spanish Mustangs, have called this sliver of land between sound and sea home.

How many wild horses are in Carova NC?
Several herds of wild horses—totaling **around 400** in total—live throughout the barrier islands and have become a sought-after tourist attraction in their own right. They can be seen strolling along the beaches and wooded areas near Cape Lookout, Beaufort, Ocracoke, and Corolla.

n the Virginia district, the wild horses are commonly referred to as "**Chincoteague Ponies**". Unlike the Maryland district where the horses are free to roam, the Chincoteague Ponies are fenced off the road and trails in two separate large management areas of the refuge resulting in a northern herd and a southern herd.

Increased tourism
National parks are recognized as premier tourist destinations and marketed internationally as a prime reason to visit America. As a result, they support more than $30 billion in economic activity each year and more than 252,000 private-sector jobs in communities around the country. Tourists intentionally seek out national park destinations when they travel because they understand these sites are the very best our country has to offer. And whereas state and local park information varies greatly from place to place, visitors to national parks can expect consistent, reliable resources for planning and enjoying their trips—from comprehensive online information to quality hiking maps to well-maintained trails.

Visitors expect something different when they enter a national park—they expect a world-class experience. And that's exactly why they visit Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

BIRTH CONTROL
The primary available tool recommended by the National Academy of Science (NAS) is the PZP birth control vaccine, which has proven safe, effective and economical in humanely reducing reproductive rates on the range.

I request the updated NPS alternatives based on public input following the closing of the scoping period be publicly published on any media, public forum, or any internet media sources about the intended removal of the wild horses from the national park which is a public place. The public is intitled to be informed and the issue of the removal of wild horses should not be hidden in the deep rules and regulations of the government archives.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Janett Heckert,
Wild Horse Advocate

I would like Teddy Roosevelt wild horses to stay protected in the Park for the following reasons:

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you for your consideration,

Amy Freeman

Please Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park, the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

Sincerely,
Lynette Ridder
Concord CA 94521

To whom it may concern,

Hello, my name is Daniel Aquino and I am writing to you today concerning the removal of the wild horses of North Dakota. I am in support of state resolution 4014, urging the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of National Park Service to modify their proposed livestock management and grazing plan for the following reason:

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
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7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you,

Daniel Aquino

North Dakota

SCR4014

030723

Please preserve this horse herd and do whatever is needed to assure that they can have a natural and pleasant life free from restraint. There are very few wild herds left in our country and they are and should continue to be a precious part of our culture. Seeing wild horses run, roam and interact with one another is breathtaking.

Thank you!

Ellen Baer

Ellen Baer

In SUPPORT of SCR 4014

To the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service:

The Federal government has spent millions in inhumane treatment, capture, and eradication of America's wild horses, which is deeply against the spirit of this country, and deeply against the will of 80 percent of Americans. The NPS mission statement begins with the word "preserve." These wild horses are descendants of the original Badland horses, which makes them a natural and cultural resource, wording which comes up again in the NPS mission statement. To preserve the integrity of this herd is to abide by your mission statement, in multiple ways. Wild horses inspire and are enjoyed by people of all backgrounds and ages, and are great starting points for discussion and education. To dismantle this herd is to go against the mission of the National Park Service, and the people which it serves.

As the only wild horse herd in North Dakota, please take responsible management approaches to ensure this historic herd's continued vitality and great asset to the wilderness, state, and country. A minimum of 150 wild horses in the Teddy Roosevelt herd must be maintained to ensure genetic viability, and only humane, scientifically recommended methods of management should be used.

If wild horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state of North Dakota, including making trips to the state and purchasing products made in North Dakota. Wild horses are a draw for many visitors and maintaining the Teddy Roosevelt herd will bring tourism dollars to the state and localities.

Please vote YES on SCR 4014.

Sincerely,

Stefanie Landman

Forest Grove, Oregon

Most Americans (80%) want to see wild horses protected. They are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakotas only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

Please Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

To whom it may concern,

As a tax-paying American I am deeply attached to the healthy existence of wild horses on federal land. It distresses me to no end that cattle ranchers are allowed to graze their income producing animals on MY LAND FOR FREE and yet they want to eradicate wild horses. They export most of meat to China so it is not even benefiting Americans. You know what does benefit Americans as a whole? Beautiful, historic horses on federal land! Here are some reasons why….

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Sincerely,

Chrissy Kaufman
Sacramento, CA

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Please vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Wild horses are part of the scenery, aid native wildlife, and give the wilderness qualities to the Park that visitors adore– President Theodore Roosevelt and visitors today are inspired by the horses and the park, and the Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected and promoted as such. Less than 150 horses will not ensure a genetically viable herd–and the larger herd will bring more benefits to the state than killing them for pet food will do.SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses. They are descendants of the original Badland horses that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s. I travel to many state parks including in North Dakota. If these historically important horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state. Please note that many people agree with me: SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

With thanks for your attention to this comment,

Best wishes,

Judith Worrall

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.They are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected and will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakotas only wild horse herd and should be protected as such, with numbers being kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

The large mesquite trees are shade trees with great importance to all wildlife, these trees rely almost 100% on their seeds being spread through horse manure, which also provides the bed for fertilization.
Horse manure improves overall fertility of the soil which promotes all green growth in the area.
Wild horses significantly reduce the fire danger by keeping dry flammable grasses and underbrush from growing too tall and becoming a fire hazard.
Overabundant eel grass in the river can become a problem in the summer months when it clogs the river, the wild horses are the only species reducing the river eel grass, in doing so they keep the river from becoming stagnant.
Wild horses provide a diet for predators and scavengers; such has mountain lions and bob cats as well as coyotes, foxes and vultures.

Each individual life and the quality of it needs to be considered and the value of compassion should never be underestimated.
Albert Einstein, who has had a limitless influence on our modern day society, knew it when he said: The notion that animals have no rights and our treatment of them bears no significance is a perfect example of the crudity and barbarity of western society.

There’s no reason that wild horses shouldn’t be allowed to graze.

We’ve been dealing with these large ranchers in various states who believe their cattle should be allowed to graze wherever, then they’re rewarded when something happens to their cattle that THEY are supposed to be dealing with. This feels like the same issue.

And at the same time, we are supposed to remove wildlife for them or corporations, regardless of what ‘their’ definition of ‘wildlife’ is. They are useful **wildlife** that deserve to stay where they are.

Please keep them protected!

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
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If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
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If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

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SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Why I want the Teddy Roosevelt wild horses to stay protected in the Park is because wild horses are our legacy and that needs to be preserved. They are intelligent, wise creatures that are depending on us to protect them. Let’s do our job!!!

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Testimony in Support of SCR 4014

The Teddy Roosevelt herd should be protected. It is part of North Dakota's, and indeed America's, heritage. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd. Herds can be managed rather than removed. It has been proven time and again.

I cannot imagine the loss of this herd, with its majesty and beauty, and yes, tourist dollars. I plan a trip to North Dakota to see the horses but will not come to North Dakota if they are not there. How sad it would be for our children and grandchildren to lose these horses.

Signed: Nancy Bearg

March 7, 2023

Attn: Distinguished Members of the North Dakota House Agriculture Committee

I urge you to protect the Teddy Roosevelt wild horses of North Dakota. These magnificent creatures deserve protection because:

- Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

- The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

- The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

- The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

- SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

- SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
- If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Please Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Ward
417 South Jefferson #204
Chicago, IL 60607

NORTH DAKOTA BADLANDS HORSE

THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK WILD HORSES

12880 Bogus Jim Road, Rapid City, South Dakota 57702

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SCR 4014

Submitted for North Dakota Badlands Horse by Marylu Weber, President, March 10, 2023

To the **North Dakota House Agriculture Committee**,

Greetings,
Thank you for allowing my representative, Julie Roswick, to speak to you this morning.

I speak in favor of SCR 4014, however, I respectfully request these changes:

Line 3: the word "livestock" be replaced with the word, "ungulate"
Line 20: the word "livestock" be replaced with the words, diverse ungulate"

REASONS:

1. Theodore Roosevelt National Park staff and the National Park Service are basing their arguments for allowing the complete removal of horses from the park on the recent change of designation of the horses from feral/wild to livestock.
   I am sure this legislature would not want to inadvertently feed into that change of designation, giving fodder for the National Park Service to continue with its plan to remove all the horses from our park.

2. Recent genetic studies are finding that today's horse is the same species as those that were once thought to have become extinct on this continent.

   a. "Although mammoths are gone forever, horses are not" says Ross MacPhee of the American Museum of Natural History, another co-author. "The horse that lived in the Yukon 5,000 years ago is directly related to the horse species we have today, ***Equus caballus***. Biologically, this makes the horse a native North American mammal, and it should be treated as such."

b. MacPhee also stated, “It had been thought that they mysteriously went extinct in this hemisphere almost 12,000 years ago. However, recent scientific research and archeological digs have provided a considerable body of evidence that some remnant horses did survive and continued to endure up to the time of the colonization of the Americas by Europeans. Archeological sites such as Wolf Spider Cave in Colorado, Horsethief Cave and Little Box Elder Cave in Wyoming, and Pratt Cave in Texas have provided horse bones which were radiocarbon dated to show horses lived in the western United States during the period between 8,000 years ago all the way to 1481 AD.”

c. Executive Director of the Western Watershed Project, Eric Molvar, recently wrote to the park: “Horses evolved in North America, all the way to the Yukon horse (*Equus lambei*). Barron-Ortiz et al. (2017) examined mitochondrial DNA samples and concluded that *E. lambei* and *Equus caballus ferus* (the modern horse) are one and the same species. Thus, the horses that roam Theodore Roosevelt National Park evolved to that species here in North America. Fossil DNA evidence places wild horses in North America as recently as 5,700 years before the present (Murchie et al. 2021), well into the Holocene Epoch, meaning that they were not just a creature of the mammoth steppe, but that they were sympatric with (and co-evolved with) the full suite of modern vegetation communities found in North America today.”

For these reasons, I urge this committee to amend SCR 4014 as stated above.
Thank you for your dedication to do what is right for North Dakota and preserve Theodore Roosevelt National Park’s wild horses, the only wild horses existing in a national park west of the east coast.

Respectfully submitted,
Marylu Weber, President of North Dakota Badlands Horse

Why remove the wild horses? Who came up with that idea? Who benefits?

If it's thought that there are just too many of this unique tourist attraction, any unwanted increase in herd size can/should be managed with PZP. It's been proven effective for decades and is currently in use in a growing number of herd areas as the approved, science-based best method. It's humane and obviates any need for terrorizing the horses, destroying family bonds, and imposing captivity on wild animals whose raison d'etre is to move freely through the landscape in which they were born and in which they belong. Livestock, my foot.

Blessings to those with wide-angle vision who have brought this to the attention of the legislature, the people's voice, so that this awful plan cannot be rammed through without notice. The people's vote is for protection of these beautiful animals, and for them to remain wild, best of all, in a National Park where we can come to see them.

March 7, 2023

To: North Dakota House Agricultural Committee

Director of the Natural Park Service

Secretary of the Interior

Re: Support for SCR 4014

PLEASE Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing the Teddy Roosevelt wild horses on the public lands they call home.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected. I have friends and family in North Dakota who are outraged at the very idea of removing these wild horses. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

The horses in the Park are living breathing icons of our western heritage. They are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

Wild horses are an integral part of the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's ONLY wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

Sincerely,

Rene Ruston

Cynthia Lynch
17 Netcong Hts, Apt 11
Netcong NJ 07857
201-306-0322

March 7, 2023

House Agriculture Public Hearing
SCR 4014
March 10, 2023

Hello,

Please Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing the Teddy Roosevelt wild horses on the public lands they call home.

The Teddy Roosevelt wild horses are North Dakota's ONLY wild horse herd and MUST be protected as such.

Not only are the wild horses integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park, these horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a MINIMUM of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd. Any less would cause irreparable damage.

By protecting the horses, SCR 4014 will also help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota.

Personally, if the horses are removed, I will not spend any more tourism dollars in the state, as myself and my family have done many times in the past. This would sadden me greatly, but I could not support a state that would let this historic herd decline or be harmed in ny way.

Please follow the wishes of 80 percent of Americans and preserve this cherished wild horse herd. Please protect them under SCR 4014.

Thank you.
Cynthia Lynch

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As a lover of horses, nature and history, I am writing to speak up for the Teddy Roosevelt wild horses of North Dakota. This cherished herd is integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

Another of these horses' ties to American history is that they are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. We must keep a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

So, I am advocating for SCR 4014 as a way to help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

Please vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank You!

Lisa

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

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SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

March 7,2023

In support of SCR 4014

I feel that preserving the American wild Mustangs Is our responsibility as citizens
Of the United States, they represent our history, heritage and legacy. Specifically,
The Teddy Roosevelt wild horses need to stay protected in the park. The inspiration
Of President Theodore Roosevelt needs to be preserved and those Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park.

We need to preserve the legacy that traces back to the early 1800s otherwise there is nothing of value to pass down to our children's children, their children's children etc. It is also important to protect them as they are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and so very important to maintain the herd at a minimum of 150 horses for genetic viability. Otherwise, a smaller herd can cause serious disruption and damage to the herds longevity.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the wild horses.

80% of Americans who want wild horses protected are consistent with SCR4014 and if the horses are removed, those Americans have united power to affect tourism in the state.

Please vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, and scientifically methods of managing these Wild horses on the public lands they call home. It's 2023 and I cannot believe we have to address inhumane treatments and can't work together for a solution to help these beautiful Wild horses as they are a part of America's heart and soul.

Thank you,

Stephanie Brokamp

Wild horses are not only integral to preserving the ecology, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Theodore Roosevelt Park they are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineage back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses, not livestock are the true inhabitants of the park. They are North Dakota's *only* wild horse herd and should be protected as such. To ensure the herd's genetic viability they must be kept to a bare minimum of 150 horses.

SCR 4014 is not only consistent with the wishes of 80% of Americans who want wild horses protected it will in fact support the ecotourism that helps business development in North Dakota.

If the horses are removed, North Dakota will lose it's uniqueness as well as important to tourism revenue. Many, like me, will not spend our money in North Dakota.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands that is their home.

Hello,

I am writing with regard to SCR 4014 and asking you to vote YES.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected. I am part of that 80 percent.

Wild horses are integral to the ecosystem of the landscape of the Park that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and inspires so many people today. They are not just part of the scenery, but are essential to the native wildlife and wilderness. These horses are vastly less intrusive than other animals, such as cows and sheep.

The horses in the Park descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s. **The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.**

The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses. Many visitors love to visit places where they can spot wild horses and they add so much to the landscape for tourists.

Last summer, I visited North Dakota for the first time. We loved it and discussed buying land and/or traveling up more frequently for vacationing and sightseeing. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state and we will seek out other places to take those trips and spend the money.

Please vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Mankamyer

Members of the Committee,

I write to encourage you to vote YES on SCR 4014. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected and will therefore help to support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such They are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

My plans in the next year include domestic travel but if the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Sincerely,

David Doering

I am writing in support of SCR 4014.

1. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
2. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
3. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
4. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
5. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home

Please keep the Mustangs and Longhorns wild and free.
Thank you

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

I will not spend any of my tourism dollars in this state if you proceed with this roundup.

Members of the Legislature:
I am writing to urge you to support SCR 4014. The mustangs are a part of our country's history. They represent the spirit of the west, and America's love for freedom.

I do not understand why it is thought that mustangs overgraze the plains. Several PBS documentaries have featured initiatives to restore our environment. One of the things related on more than one such program is the discovery that free-roaming grazing animals are essential to preserving grasslands. (For example, see the clip, "How Wildebeest Saved the Serengeti," or "Are Some Species More Important Than Others," or various others.)

If grazers are confined, they do overgraze. (Where mustangs are rounded up and kept in pens, there is no grass.) But if they are left wild, pressure from predators keeps them on the move. As they eat, they disperse grass seeds from the seed heads. Their droppings then fertilize the soil, their hooves til it in, and then they move on and leave the grass to grow. Areas where there have been grazing herds spring up to lush grass, where if there are no grazing herds, the grass dies off and it becomes a dust bowl. In the areas where grazing animals have been, the lush growth helps hold moisture in the soil, and the roots help prevent erosion from wind. The grass provides habitat for birds and small mammals, which in turn support predators. Then trees begin to grow ... there is a whole cascade of things that happen. The balance of the entire system depends on the grazers, which have been declared "keystone" species.

This summer my daughter and son-in-law are planning to take their three children on a road trip to see our beautiful America while there are still some wild lands left. I am hoping they will be able to see some mustangs in the wild when they pass through the ranges where they still roam free. Last year, their family took a trip that included several southeastern states. One of the high points of that trip was a visit to Assateague Island off the coast of Virginia, where they were fortunate to see a band of wild ponies grazing right nearby at sunrise. I know that even a glimpse of a band of mustangs would be a real thrill for them.

Please do all you can to assure that the mustangs will be able to continue to roam free. We need them to help heal our land.

Thank you.

Roberta Manter, Fayette, Maine

Wild horses belong in this park, they always have been part of it, and deserve to stay here without being endangered in this wellknown park which inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and tourists alike! These horses are descendants of the original Badland horses going all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s. This herd is

North Dakota’s only wild horse herd and should be protected as such! I fully agree with SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home, by contraceptive , PZP, methods that have been proven to work

To the North Dakota Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources;

My husband and I are in support of SCR 4014.

Wild horses are part of our landscape, they are living breathing beautiful creatures that have been roaming our land for hundreds of years. The fact that they should be rounded up is very repulsive. We know what happens to them, they can't be adopted, they are wild. They are frightened, separated from their families, then most die or are slaughtered.

These horses are an integral part of the Park that President Roosevelt intended.
They are descendants of the original Badland horses with great lineage dating beyond the time of Sitting Bull.
SCR 4014 will will help support ecotourism, it's found that 80% of Americans want wild Mustangs protected. Please vote YES to SCR 4014. There are scientific humane methods for managing wild horses. It's a crime to intimately kill them.

Thank you for reading our testimony,
Michelle and Bill Marhoefer

March 7, 2023 Jason George

To All Interested Parties,

I am an animal and nature lover and I believe that Wild Horses are part of our Country's grand history and should be systematically reduced. They should be allowed to thrive as they have for thousands of years.

Please consider:

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. **If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state. BE SURE OF THAT!!!!**

Respectfully submitted,

Jason George

Brooklyn, NY

Hello and thank you for your time,

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Connor Hansell

PLEASE Protect the Wild HORSES of Teddy Roosevelt, they were here first, they belong here, please preseve the herds for future generations!

R Reichert
Florida

Theodore Roosevelt National Park Livestock Management Plan

March 7, 2023

Park: Theodore Roosevelt National Park
Project: Livestock Management Plan
Document: TSCR 4014 Theodore Roosevelt National Park Livestock Management Plan

Name: Bonnie L Johnson
Address: 3479 Overbrook Drive
City: Roanoke
State: VA
Postal Code: 24018
Email Address: bonnielou2@cox.net
Organization:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. It is very important that the wild horses and burros (if any) be present, as they are today and were in President Teddy Roosevelt's time. Do not disturb the wild horses and do not try to change their natural actions, including their fertility, or reduce their number. Let them continue to live on their homelands in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Do not remove any of them from this, their home. These wild horses are beloved by Americans and we want them on our national parklands, living their natural lives. They are symbolic of the freedom and independence we Americans possess and treasure.

Please let me say again, preserve and protect the wild horses and burros (if any) and do not relocate any of them somewhere else. Leave them on their homelands at the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. They are part of the natural landscape, its wonder and beauty. Without them, a visitor would miss seeing what President Teddy Roosevelt saw and appreciated.

Comments: Thank you for your consideration.

Hello and thank you for your time,

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Connor Hansell

Dear North Dakota House Agriculture Committee,

I am writing to provide public input on SCR 4014.

I am in support of preserving the wild horse herd in Teddy Roosevelt National Park. I do not consider them livestock and that wording should not apply to wild animals.

I sincerely hope your decision is to allow this herd of horses to stay on the land they belong on. Although I live in California, this matter is very close to my heart as an avid horse lover who wants the best for all horses.

Thank you very much,
Ivy Miller-Jacobs
406 370 6925
ivyamiller@gmail.com

I want the Teddy Roosevelt wild horses to stay protected because they are beautiful wild creatures and deserve our respect and care.

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Hello,

I am in support of SCR 4014 for these reasons:

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you,

Megan Hashemi

Fort Myers, Florida

We are writing to ask that you vote yes on SCR 4014. Mostly to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing wild horses on the public lands. We love our wild horses and see them as part of the iconic American wildlife. The Teddy Roosevelt wild horses are ND's only wild horses and descend from the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.These make them extra precious and at least 150 of them are needed to make sure that the herd is genetically viable. In addition, SCR is good for eco-tourism and wild horses are valued by the vast majority of Americans. Certainly, many families like ours travel for wildlife viewing and thus naturally travel to places that protect their wildlife.

Thank you for your attention to our comments.

Hello and greetings to the North Dakota House Agriculture Committee,
My husband and I are writing to provide public input on SCR 4014.

We are in support of preserving the wild horse herd in Teddy Roosevelt National Park. We are planning a trip this summer to the park for the sole purpose as to witness these wild animals in a natural and preserved setting. We do not consider them livestock and that terminology is just meant to confuse the matter.

We hope your decision is to allow this herd of horses to be maintained in a gentle manner as is their inherent nature. And although, we live in Montana and far away, we will make the trip In hopes that this is not the last time to see these animals in the wild.

Sincerely,
Anna Sikula-Miller and Tom Miller
390 Jorgy Way
Hamilton, MT 59840

annam@cybernet1.com

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

1. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
2. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
4. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
5. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
6. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
7. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Wild horses belong here. They deserve to be protected and remain free in their home. They are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park the landscape that inspired President Theordore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s. They are North Dakotas only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. The herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses and it is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected. These are public lands and the public overwhelmingly supports the freedom of these animals.

If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state and will never visit the park. I urge you to vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you,
Sheena Lonecke

Jean Kavanaugh, M.A.,LMHC
Licensed Mental Health Counselor (retired)

P. O. Box 1346 Yelm, WA. 98597
3 6 0 . 5 8 4 . 6 4 8 4
E-mail: hijean2u@yahoo.com

...compassionate professional help since 1983

March 3, 2023

North Dakota House Agriculture Committee

Dear Committee:

I am writing in support of SCR 4014.

In this day and age of so much violence in our cities, the pandemic and all the other stressors of life we all need a place where we can gaze on the beauty and wonder of God's creation. God made us stewards of these beautiful horses that have no voice other than ours.

In order for our spirits to not become depressed we need to be able to observe and take in the wonders of watching wild horses allowed to live free.

North Dakota is their home. We do not have the right to take it from them and destroy them in the process. The horses are a legacy of love and wonder for generations to come.

Please support SCR 4014. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jean Kavanaugh *Daniel Kavanaugh*

Jean Kavanaugh
Daniel J. Kavanaugh

From: Elise Holcombe

To: North Dakota House Agriculture Committee

Please vote to PASS SCR 4014 and keep the Teddy Roosevelt Wild Horses protected. This is a cherished and historical herd that needs to be protected for a number of reasons.

- The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s
- This is North Dakota's only wild herd and therefore should be protected as such.
- These horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
- The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
- SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
- SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
- If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
- Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Let's protect wild horses! These beautiful creates deserve to live and roam peacefully.

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakotas only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

- PLEASE Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

- SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

- SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

- If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state, and I will discourage others from doing so, too.

- Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

- The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

- PLEASE Vote YES on SCR 4014.

Thank you.

Angela Treat Lyon
Chico, CA

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state and will encourage my friends to also avoid the state.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Wild horses are being hunted in cruel and inhumane ways currently (sniping from airplanes, forced roundups, etc., as examples).
That said, this pack (the Teddy Roosevelt) is iconic:
- FIRST: These horses are descendants of the original Bandland horses, with historical lineages that trace all the way back to horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800's. They have historical value, and should be protected for this.
- SECOND: This herd are North Dakota's ONLY wild horse herd, and should be protected as such. Does the State of North Dakota really wish to be a party to species extinction? Even more than it already is?
- THIRD: 80% of Americans who want wild horses protected concur that SCR 4014 is a good bill, and it willl help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting these horses.
- fourth:
- President Theodore Roosevelt, who established this park, was inspired by its wilderness. Wild horses are integral to this quality of the park, and found in few other national parks.
- The herd must be kept at a MINIMUM (!) of 150 to ensure a genetically viable herd.
- SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota, by protecting the horses.

And so I am writing to urge you to support SCR 4014!

Thank you.

Hannah Lee
Madison WI

I fully support SCR 4014 and urge a YES vote to make sure the NPS isnt allowed to wipe out the beloved Teddy Roosevelt NP horses. These horses are descendants from the original Badland horses and have been a part of the Park since it was first established by President Roosevelt. It seems that they have lived there peacefully, not disturbing the ecosystem so what exactly is the reason the NPS wants to remove them and leave only 70 behind? A very low minimum would be 150 to keep the herd genetically viable so it seems that NPSs goal is to get rid of them altogether. 80% of Americans want to see wild horses on our public lands, yet the BLM, USFS and now the NPS seem bound and determined to remove as many as possible.

These magnificent horses are NDs only wild horse herd, so please keep them safe from the NPS and make sure they can never to rounded up by any other government agencies. Tourists love seeing the wild horses so I think ND would lose a great deal of tourist money if they are removed.

Thank you for proposing SCR 4014 and please pass it!

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
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7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

AND

From fossil findings and DNA, the United States are the origin land of all horses in the world, they walked over at Bering Land to Asia and Europe. Extinct by humans in US twice. Columbus just brought them back from Europe to their origin land. Are you going to save the wild horse or eradicate them again?

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
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7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

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7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my Testimony In Support of SCR-4014. My name is Carol Priestley Magamoll, and hobby photographer, and almost daily visitor to Theodore Roosevelt National Park - South Unit since 2013.

I have been a documenter and volunteer in TRNP for North Dakota Badlands Horse non-profit organization for the past several years also, and not just a private citizen who loves these wild horses in TRNP. Over this time I have photographed and documented this herd including weekly head-counts, monitoring band structures and behaviors, births, deaths and injuries for documentation purposes, as well as sharing photographs and stories to the public that is well over 100,000 + social media followers. I have put in thousands of hours as a volunteer, and can tell you unequivocally how much these wild horses enhance the visitor's experience in the park. It is commonplace for visitors to approach me and state how much they not only love these horses but are the reason they come to TRNP annually and more frequently. Many are from other states in the United States, and some from as far away as Germany. It is not just the fact that these wild horses are indeed native to this land but historically and culturally are responsible for facilitating the building of what we all know as the American West. This is something Teddy Roosevelt himself experienced and I believe was a great part of his reasoning to preserve this cultural heritage for the public to always have and enjoy. The wild horses in TRNP should definitely be considered as a traditional cultural property provision and guideline inclusion in federal policies governing our federal lands and national parks. Anything short of these horses remaining on the land they have rights to would be an injustice and gross oversight by the Federal Government and the National Park Service. It would definitely be a travesty to today's visitors, our children and future generations. Many park visitors have stated they come only to see the horses in this park and should they be taken away they will not return to TRNP. Visitor loss will be of great impact on TRNP, the City of Medora and its shops, restaurants, museums, new Theodore Roosevelt Library to come, the State of North Dakota, and the Great North Dakotan Spirit overall. Therefore, I Support SCR-4014 and wish to thank Governor Burgum, our ND State Legislature Assembly Members, Congressional Delegates, and the Department of Tourism for being in Support of Saving the Wild Horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Sincerely,

Carol Priestley Magamoll

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. They have historical and wilderness value adding to ecotourism. Teddy Roosevelt appeared to appreciate their wild nature as do most Americans. Their numbers must be maintained at 150 or more as a genetically viable herd.

Minimizing or deleting the herd will only harm North Dakota's economy and the good will of people in general.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing wild horses on the public lands.

The Teddy Roosevelt wild horses are not harming the lands they live on and should be protected in any way possible. There are far more affordable solutions to “livestock management and far less costly than the billions of dollars wasted on rounding up and then “holding” horses indefinitely. The cruel and costly federal wild horse and burro roundup program can be replaced with humane management that keeps wild horses and burros wild, protected, and free. American Wild Horse Campaign manages the largest, humane fertility control program for wild, free-roaming horses in the world.

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

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8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Dear North Dakota House Agriculture Committee

As a US citizen and animal lover, I am urging you to leave the Teddy Roosevelt wild horses FREE and WILD on our PUBLIC lands, as they are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. Not only are they an iconic symbol of our country, they are a vital part of the ecosystem, as much as any animal in the wild. I am against the eradication of this or any other herd; and they must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses (preferably more, all of them) in order to ensure a genetically viable herd. Once they are near extinction, it will be too late to save this beautiful and loved breed of horses. There is vast room to roam, and room for all of the horses, burros and cows to coexist.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

Please Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Doris Kelly

I am advocating for a wild horse management plan and protection
the existing wild horses that call Theodore Roosevelt National Park home.
A management plan can be implemented by copying ones that have already proven
successful with their science-based results.
Do not remove these creatures!

Senate Concurrent Resolution 4014 March 9, 2023

House Agriculture Committee

Honorable Representative Thomas, Chairman

Chairman Thomas and Committee,

For the record, I am Senator Brad Bekkedahl from District 1 in Williston and I am honored to introduce today SCR 4014, which is a resolution encouraging the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service to modify its proposed livestock management plan to continue to allow for interpretative, cultural, and historical purposes the presence of longhorn steers in the North Unit and the presence of a wild horse herd in the South Unit of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota. The resolution is self -explanatory and the title aptly describes its intent. With your permission Chairman Thomas and for further support I would like to quote Governor Burgum in his letter to the National Park Service "For decades and decades, these horses have coexisted peacefully with the national park, and, in the process, have become a hugely popular attraction and an indelible symbol of the untamed character of the Badlands." This resolution expresses our legislative intent further urging the US Department of Interior to find a way to manage the wild horses and longhorn herd in a manner and size that protects the environmental integrity and capacity of the park, as well as for the wild horses, that supports the genetic diversity necessary for their survival.

Chairman Thomas, this issue has raised enormous support and passions, not just in North Dakota, but nationally and internationally. You will hear from others this morning supporting the resolution and its intent, and I thank them for their presence as well. I appreciate the consideration of the committee for this resolution and will stand for any questions at this time.

Teddy Roosevelt National Park Wild Horses & Livestock

I hope to add my voice to the preservation of Livestock and especially our wild horses now and in the park's future.

According to the equine experts, these horses do not harm the environment. They are roamers they constantly move over the land, never overgrazing any on area. They do not stay and wallow at watering pools so there is minimal affects on them. Actually, their presence in the park actually helps disburse native plants. These horses are our north american heritage. I believe they should be protected from eradication.

When we visited the park in 2022, we were mesmerized by the beautiful animals we saw and are planning to visit again to find them. If they are truly a part of the amazing experiences of the park.

Please make North Dakota's only wild horses a permanent part of the park in perpetuity.

March 8, 2023

Dear Members of the North Dakota Agriculture Committee:

I am writing to you today because I have just learned that this Friday, March 10, the North Dakota House Agriculture Committee will meet to hear SCR 4014, a state resolution that urges the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service (NPS) to preserve this cherished wild horse herd. I urge you to support this resolution, and the Teddy Roosevelt wild horses of North Dakota, for the following reasons:

1. As you likely already know, the National park Service (NPS) is currently considering a management plan that would result in the severe reduction or total eradication of these mustangs and the Longhorn cattle that call the Park home. The Governor has already spoken out against this plan and the legislature is now following suit!

2. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

3. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

4. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

5. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

6. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

7. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

8. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

9. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you for taking action for North Dakota's only wild horse herd. Your thoughtful, humane and compassionate consideration of my request on behalf of these magnificent wild horses is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Naomi M Weisman

My name is Heather Brandborg. I am originally from North Dakota and have been an avid equine enthusiast my entire life.

The wild horses in the North Dakota Badlands and located in the National Park are an integral part of the west, part of North Dakota's history, and should be allowed to continue to roam and reside in the park.

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses and is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

I typically return to North Dakota to ride horses in the park and visit the Badlands on an annual basis. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Please Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Heather Brandborg

Evansville, MN

North Dakota Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Re: SCR 4014
February 5, 2023

Dear Committee Members

I am writing in support of SCR4014, which urges the National Park Service to reconsider their intention to eliminate wild horses and longhorn steers from Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Both of these small herds are important links to the ranching and Native histories in western North Dakota, particularly the open range era of Theodore Roosevelt and the Marquis de Mores. As you know, the western heritage of the badlands is a source of pride to North Dakota citizens and a huge draw to visitors from other parts of the country. And the wild horses-which lived in the badlands before the park was created- are the star attraction for many.

Although Theodore Roosevelt National Park was created to commemorate the former president's legacy, the park superintendent recently indicated that the horses and longhorns are no longer needed because they are moving away from interpreting Roosevelt's ranching history to focus more strongly on conservation biology. I believe that is a disservice to Roosevelt, North Dakota, and the American public.

I conducted research on the history and management of the horses in the park while working for the NPS in North Dakota in the 1980s. The cultural and historic significance of the horses was made very clear in interviews with ranchers and others in western North Dakota. For the record, I am attaching a pdf of an article that I published on this topic in *North Dakota History* in 1991, "Badlands Broomtails: the Cultural History of Wild Horses in western North Dakota."

However, thanks to tourism and the internet, today there are now many more people who care about the horses. Thousands of people from North Dakota and beyond visit the park to experience the thrill of seeing and photographing the horses, and tens of thousands more follow them almost daily on various websites. And what could be a more stirring or beautiful sight? Could there be a more effective way to connect with history than to see the descendants of the wild horses that Roosevelt himself wrote about?

The horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park are a national and state treasure, and they should remain there for future generations. Thank you for supporting them.

Sincerely

Castle McLaughlin, Ph.D

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
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8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

In support of SCR4014

Wild horses are part of our history, heritage and are much loved. They are descendents that can trace back over a hundred years. I will not spend my money in North Dakota if the horses are removed. Removing them is barbaric and cruel. Family herds are broken up and separated forever and a few horses also lose their lives. Over 80 percent of Americans want the wild horses saved. Please support humane ways to manage these horses on their home lands.

Thank you,

Robin Martinek

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
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8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Bijan Foroutan

16732 Adlon Road

Encino CA 91436

08-Mar-2023

Ref: Testimony in support of SCR 4014

Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

1. **The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.**
2. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should **be protected as such.**
3. **The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.**
4. **SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.**
5. **SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.**
6. **If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.**
7. **Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.**

Kind Regards,

Bijan Foroutan

Please preserve the Teddy Roosevelt wild horses as a genetically viable herd by voting YES on SCR 4014. They are a part of our heritage which if not cherished and preserved will be lost forever. This bill will not only be good for the horses, but for the state of North Dakota as well.

To Whom it May Concern:

Wild horses are a treasure in any world – but especially a world like ours. Habitats are decreasing and disappearing; actions taken now could prevent the wild horse from one day becoming endangered. SCR 4014 is meant to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing the wild horse population, preserving them for their own sake and for their own right to life, as well as for other reasons that touch the lives of humans.

Wild horses are not only a part of the Park and a part of the ecosystem, but a part of the identity of the American West as well as a piece of living history – these horses are descendants of Sitting Bull's horses. They are the only wild herd in North Dakota – and this too makes them special.

80% of Americans want protections for wild horses – on which side will your vote fall?

Please, protect the wild horses, for now and for always.

Thank you,

Holly Mellas

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8. **Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.**

Horses are beautiful, loving animals, please protect them

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

I am writing in support of SCR 4014 that urges the National Park Service to preserve the historic Teddy Roosevelt wild horses of North Dakota. It is simply outrageous that NPS would develop any management plan that reduces or eradicates these mustangs. This herd is North Dakota's only wild horse herd.

Thank you for your compassionate leadership with the Teddy Roosevelt wild horses. They deserve a safe future and protection!

Polly Haynes
Vermont

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

I am writing to strongly support **SCR 4014**. President Theodore Roosevelt felt compelled to create legislation to protect this country's national parks due to this nation's natural beauty. The parks system continues to inspire and enthrall visitors to this day, due in part to it's wildlife. The wild horses that reside in the Park today are the sons and daughters of the original Badland horses. They can be traced genetically all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The federal government has taken an active role in promoting bison conservation and stewardship, after the species was nearly extinguished by early settlers. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and accordingly warrant similar protection. As has been learned through bison conservation efforts, genetic diversity is a key concern for management The Teddy Roosevelt herd shouldn't be allowed to fall below 150 horses to prevent genetic bottlenecking.

SCR 4014 has the potential to not only protect the horses, but also help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota. I know as concerned citizen I would make concerted effort to bring tourism dollars to the area if I knew the horses would be protected. Therefore, I Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home. Thank you.

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7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joyce H. Dixon

P.O. Box 721057

Dallas, TX 75372-1057

Hello,
Here is why I support SCR4014:

—Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

—The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

—The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

—The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

—SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

—SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Thank you,
Cara
3.8.23

Public Testimony Submission
9:00 AM - SCR 4014

As an American citizen who has a stake in the protection and preservation of the unique and cherished wild horses living freely in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP), I am writing to strongly urge you to vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

I strongly oppose the NPS proposal to either eradicate all 200 or so wild horses estimated to be living in the TRNP or possibly leave a mere 35-60 mustangs in the targeted area, a number far below the accepted population number for genetic viability.

The Park has consistently recognized the historic value of maintaining wild horses in the Dakotas, therefore, eradicating this unique mustang herd would deprive the public of the ability to experience the park in historical context.

I strongly support expanding Alternative A to include managing a GENETICALLY VIABLE, REPRODUCTIVE population of at least 160-200 mustangs within the park, as well as establishing an annual adoption program in partnership with wild horse advocate organizations. Any alternative involving the utter destruction of this wild horse herd must not even be considered.

The mustangs of the TRNP are cultural icons in our nation's history and Teddy Roosevelt, no doubt, experienced their presence, along with wild bison, when exploring the area in his younger days. Moreover, millions of Park visitors have viewed these unique wild horses as an integral part of the cultural heritage of the Badlands and undoubtedly bring tourist dollars to the local area.

As North Dakota's only wild horse herd, the NPS, instead of seeking to eliminate these iconic wild horses living freely in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, must prioritize preserving this irreplaceable mustang herd for future generations.

These unique and iconic mustangs are an important part of our nation's cultural heritage and should be protected and preserved for future generations. The TRNP was created to honor President Theodore Roosevelt, who formed the US national conservation policy in the early 20th century. He visited the area and enjoyed the irreplaceable natural landscape, which included bison and wild horses exhibiting natural wild behaviors.

Myriad visitors also experience the awesome beauty of this unique landscape and especially the wild horses who call this area home and whose ancestors have freely roamed the area for generations. These majestic wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park and every effort must be made to accommodate them.

Although the horses who live here are WILD by nature, they are still oddly referred to as "livestock" and, as such, the NPS is proposing to wipe them out as if they were nothing but pests who have no right to exist on the western landscape. Denying their wildness by labeling them as "feral" to justify their removal is wrong and ignores the reality of their history. Recent research reveals that such mislabeling is scientifically unsound and must be changed to "native horse" or "reintroduced native."

These mustangs are cultural icons in our nation's history and Teddy Roosevelt, no doubt, experienced their presence, along with wild bison, when exploring the area in his younger days.

In fact, millions of Park visitors have viewed these unique wild horses as an integral part of the cultural heritage of the Badlands. These mustangs are a significant part of the historical and natural heritage of the park and the state, and are a huge tourism draw for North Dakota. Protecting them for their future survival and the economic benefit of the state must be a top priority.

Furthermore, wild equine geneticist, Gus Cothran warns that the wild equines must be managed at populations at least

150-200 adult breeders of standard reproductive age (not counting foals, yearlings or bachelors) that is necessary to protect the long-term genetic viability and the preservation of healthy, self-sustaining wild horse populations while maintaining vital bloodlines.

Additionally, any fertility manipulation of herds ruins the visitor experience of those seeking to view natural wild horse behaviors and interactions such as stallions protecting their families and mothers nursing their foals as Teddy Roosevelt must have witnessed as he pondered this scenic landscape and its wildlife which led ultimately to his CREATION of the very first National Parks.

The majority of Americans would agree that our national heritage must be preserved, including our nation's last remaining wild horses and burros. The fact that the NPS is "technically" not obligated to honor the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros ct of 1971 like other government agencies, the NPS should still respect the public sentiment for these national treasures and do everything in its power to ensure their survival for future generations by focusing on their PRESERVATION -- not their annihilation to pander to special interests.

Although these wild horses are not protected under Federal law, they should by no means be labeled "livestock" considering they have freely roamed the badlands for centuries, and are widely believed to be descendants of Sitting Bull's horses and related to the rare Nokota breed and, as such, they have richly earned the change in designation to that of WILDLIFE. Paleontological evidence and mitochondrial DNA analysis support the fact that wild horses are a reintroduced native species to this continent.

Since NPS provides no care for these mustangs -- as the horses fend for themselves (as do bison, elk, and other wildlife) -- it makes no sense to refer to them as "livestock", "invasive", or a "non-native species". NPS cannot continue to ignore these scientific facts by arbitrarily lumping wild horses together with domestic cattle, misrepresenting them as "livestock".

An overwhelming 80% of the American people support the presence of OUR wild horses and burros on OUR public lands in reproductive, genetically viable herds.

Preserving the unique and irreplaceable wild horses of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park MUST be a cornerstone of the Park's livestock management plan, so future generations will, for years to come, be able to enjoy and treasure these symbols of freedom who are so cherished by the American People and tourists alike.

Sincerely,

Eileen Hennessy
Melrose, MA

Please Vote yes on SCR 4014

Hello I am concerned about the wild horses that call Theodore Roosevelt National Park home,these wild horses are native wildlife and have called this park theyre home for centuries,they are an iconic symbol to be cherished as most Americans agree they should be protected not rounded up!

I am looking forward to visiting Theodore Roosevelt NP and seeing these amazing horses and if they are not there neither am I or my family or my money. Please vote yes on SCR 4014 and support humane methods of managing these iconic horses on the Public land they call home.

Thank you Suzanne P

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Please vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home. Shipping them to ultimately face slaughter is NOT the answer the American public wants.

Testimony to support SCR 4014

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd, therefore, they must be protected and we have to let them be and live on this land which belong to them. Earth is home for every creature and all need to co-exist. I do not understand why human think that they are in control and can kill and destroy everything. Furthermore, SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected. Additionally, SCR 4014 will help support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Sincerely,

Maria Jablonska

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota’s only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
The herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
I kindly ask you to vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
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SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

IN SUPPORT OF SCR 4014

Why do I want the Teddy Roosevelt wild horses to stay protected in the Park?

1. Teddy Roosevelt National Park is quite literally only on my bucket list for the sake of seeing the wild horses. Taking them away or even reducing/harming their existing family dynamics would make me opposed to ever even visiting.

   TOURISM DOLLARS WOULD BE LOST IF THE HORSES ARE REMOVED.

2. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
3. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
5. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
6. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
7. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
8. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
9. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Secretary of the Interior SCR 4014
Director of the National Park Service (NPS)

- Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today. Why would you even consider going against one of our president's mission to protect them.
- The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
- The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. They should covered under the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act as the other Wild horses and burros inhabiting public lands in 10 western states are federally protected. I don't understand **why** they are considered livestock? Are deer, bears, and mountain lions considered live stock??
- The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd. Any less will cause herd health issues.
- SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
- SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 85 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
- If the horses are removed, I **will not** spend tourism dollars in the state. Please allow them to live free and healthy for future generations to enjoy and observe. Do we have to wait until they are on the endangered list before we take notice and protect them?
- Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.
- **PLEASE** preserve this cherished wild horse herd.

Joy Yehnert

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

To the North Dakota Agriculture Committee

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony on SCR 4014. I am in favor of this resolution but suggest a change in the word “livestock”.

Livestock are “ domesticated animals raised in an agricultural setting to provide labor and produce diversified products for consumption such as meat, eggs, milk, fur, leather and wool.” The wild/feral horses in TRNP are NOT livestock. They are NOT domesticated. They have lived wild in the Park since it was fenced 54 years ago. The wild horses are not fed nor cared for by humans. The wild horses are TOTALLY on their own for survival WITHOUT human interventions. They have adapted to the harsh conditions of the badlands.

After years of classifying the wild/feral horses as such, the National Park Service reclassified them as livestock to facilitate their total removal.

Please do not allow one word “Livestock” to inadvertently give reason for the National Park Service to remove the wild horses from the Park.

I ask you to please remove the word “livestock” from this resolution and help preserve the wild horses in the only national park in the western part of the United States.

Thank You

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

House Agriculture Public Hearing

SCR 4014

Every year herds of wild horses are culled so ranchers have access to free land and feed. It is a battle that has been going on for decades. What does it do for the spirit of America! I imagine that you don't walk these lands to see the herds, I imagine you may never have walked lands where herds that date back to homesteading are still running. Can't we see them there? Is America really about the ALMIGHTY DOLLAR? Have our lands just turned into Cash Grabs??? Sadly, it appears so. Wyoming, Utah, Oregon, and other states all culled and kill these horses. We kill animals we haven't seen and don't care about, all pretending to our children and others that we care about all animals and the planet. And since most of you will not be attending the murder of these animals (which of course you don't want to call it but if it happened to people that's what it would be called) it doesn't really affect you. BFD…. However, Some of you may have even owned a horse or too but they are different then these animals because you care about them, like dogs. Please reconsider these horses which are living landmarks and breathing, loving Horses. Or at the very least, attend the murder of them so you understand and know really what you agreed to. It's a horrible thing to watch.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tracy Rene' Burkard

Formerly of Wyoming

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. They are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires hundreds of thousands of visitors today.

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s. They should be considered a historical treasure from our countries beginning. To sustain a healthy genetically viable herd it must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses. It is also consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

Please vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing this historically treasured wild horse herd on the public lands they have called home since their beginning.

Sincerely,
JoAnn Kidd

TO: North Dakota House Agriculture Committee

RE: SCR 4014

Why I want the Teddy Roosevelt wild horses to stay protected in the Park:

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires VISITORS TODAY. As a photographer and tax paying stake holder of our public lands I would travel to The Park today to see the horses.

2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.“I believe that those (horses) running wild within the Theodore Roosevelt National Park constitute a historic resource just like TR’s cabin and so forth, and the landscape is a historic resource that the park is obligated to interpret and preserve,” Utley, the parks historian said in the written testimony.

3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota’s only wild horse herd and should be protected as such. Preserved and protected at the same level as the bald eagle. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd. It does not matter if. The have lived as free on Park lands since the 1800’s. LIVED AS FREE native non native does not matter.

4. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

5. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected. I am one of those who pays taxes and ant these horse to remain wild and free.

6. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

7. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

8. To quote Theodore Roosevelt himself “ Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children children. Do NOT let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty or riches or romance. These horses are loved by many Americans and they’ve been under siege across the USA . I love them and I want them saved as Teddy would have saved them himself

Mar 8, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to urge you to vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing wild horses on the public lands that have always been their home.

In addition to being an integral part of the ecosystem of the park, the Teddy Roosevelt Park wild horses support tourism in North Dakota. I for one would not spend my dollars in North Dakota if the horses are removed. I am not the only one for whom the preservation of wild horses is an important issue. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of **80 percent of Americans** who want wild horses protected.

Please do the right thing and protect these majestic animals from extinction.

Sincerely,

H. Ashley Hager
Brooklyn, New York 11217

I am among the 80% of Americans who want wild horses protected. They are part of our heritage, and inspire us whenever we see them running freely on OUR public lands.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses park trace back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s, and contribute to the quality of the park, and as North Dakota's only wild horse herd, they deserve protection.

Therefore, I urge you to vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on these public lands they call home. This means keeping their numbers at a genetically viable level – a minimum of 150 – so they can continue to thrive and draw visitors such as myself to the park.

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.
9. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
10. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
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12. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
13. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
14. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
15. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
16. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.
17. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
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19. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
20. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
21. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
22. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
23. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
24. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended met

The Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Historical Herd of Wild Horses Free Roaming in Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Provided by

WILD LANDS

WILD HORSES

1.	**Lisa Severson** <lseverson72@gmail.com> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 11:56 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I have been going to see the wild horses since I was 3 years old. I have passed this love of the park onto my 3 children and have introduced the passion of the wild horse to my husband. We love going.into the park to see these beautiful animals being free and living life to the fullest. We have shown our love to many people who have never been to this beautiful place and in turn go back as often as they can. The horses were there when Theodore Roosevelt first visited our country and he writes many times how beautiful to see. Why the change?
2.	**Bruce Reuter** <brucereuter1@gmail.com> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 12:47 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Living in Minnesota, we spend a lot of our retired time in the west and southwest. Many years ago we stopped at Theodore Rosevelt National Park because of its location on our trip. That was some 10+ years ago and ever since then we make it a point to stop for a couple of days going both directions because of the chance to see the horses. The first time we got to see them was in the evening up in the hills and we got to be very up close and personal with the herd, and we were hooked. The horse's bring a calm to all that spend any time with them and take you back in your throughts to a time long ago when our country and native Americans depended on those horses for their lives. I personally try and sell this park to everyone I know because of the horse's. Until a person has been given a chance to get close to these animals they do not know the affect they have on oneself. Do we see the horses on every stop we make at the park, yes but some of those encounters are from far away, which is also interesting, but not like those times where you are so close you can smell them!!! Please do not remove the horse's from the park, they represent a part of our history that should be retained just as the park itself has been. Visit those wonderful animals, you too will find a calm you have never experienced before.
3.	**Carole Moll** <carolelynn.moll@yahoo.com> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 1:23 PM Reply-To: Carole Moll <carolelynn.moll@yahoo.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> Several years ago I was seriously injured when a car hit me on my bicycle. I spent many months over the last 10 years immobilized, on the couch, after each of 6 surgeries. I am an active person and found myself spiraling into a deep depression. Until I discovered a site on facebook following the wild horses of TRNP. Those horses and their lives became a sort of lifeline to me. Eventually my sister, and friends were following the news of the horses online too. In 2021, while facing another upcoming knee surgery, my sister and I made a sort of game to see these horses in person. The game developed into a real goal, and soon we had plans to take a trip of a lifetime to TRNP to find the wild horses. In June of 2022, our dream became a reality as we traveled out to North Dakota and TRNP. What a thrill it was to finally see these magnificent animals! Oh, and it was exciting to see the bonus animals too, bison, and Prarie dogs,. But most importantly wild horses! The park was spectacular. The town of Medora enchanting. The campgrounds were full of campers sharing where they had discovered horses. This truly was a trip of a lifetime. One I will never forget. A trip I would have never even thought to take if it had not been for the magnificent wild horses of TRNP. I look forward to returning one day.

4.	**Caren Reaves** <carenwreaves@icloud.com> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 2:46 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I only went to TRNP for the wild horses. I didn't know they were there and when I heard that there were wild horses in this magnificent place I couldn't wait to see them. I find it so difficult to believe that wild horses are not considered to belong there. The reason I first went to TRNP was to see wild horses. I've been 3 times now and I am In awe still. I can't believe that they aren't considered part of this great place, made greater by their presence. Wild horses should be protected everywhere. Please go and see them there. Try to imagine the amazingness of that landscape without those beautiful horses. It's perfect for them. The idea that they are somehow a nuisance is simply untrue. The problem as I see it with what's wrong with the place is entirely manmade. There are drilling rigs and litterbugs and others who don't respect the history and beauty of this great place. I expect the vast majority go to TRNP to see the it's history and ruggedness and beauty. I feel sure that wild horses are among the biggest reasons people go. If it isn't when they go, I bet it is when they leave. Save them. They demonstrate the history and ruggedness of the West. It's worth remembering.
5.	**Denise Karth** <spiritrider2127@icloud.com> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 3:00 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com To Whom it may concern: I have never been to TRNP, however I follow them everyday through the eyes of their supporters, photographers, historians of the herds story. This is their history and should not be taken away from them. If someone was to come to you and say you can not live here, your new home is Jail. That is what it would be like for them to be removed from their home. It's the worse thing I could image for the "wild and free". We the supporters of TRNP wild horses and live stock are begging for a different solution as they are our history. To take that away is unimaginable. This is my dream trip. Sincerely Denise Karth South Lyon Mi 48178
6.	**Deidre Berry** <dbrblb424@rocketmail.com> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 3:49 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> https://friendsofanimals.org/new-research-reveals-wild-horses-are-ecosystem-engineers/ You might find some useful info in this article. Also I believe it was either the Western Watershed or a Sierra Group that defended the wild horses and said that they contribute to an eco-system and that cattle are detrimental to an eco-system. I've never been to TRNP but I have always want to go there. When I do go there I want to look at wild horses, other wildlife, and the beautiful landscape.I do not want to look at cattle. All national parks are a treasure. So are the wild horses wherever they may be in America. They are our heritage. To lose either one would diminish America in more ways than one.

7.	**Heather White** <white.heather88@yahoo.com> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 2:43 PM Reply-To: Heather White <white.heather88@yahoo.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> There are so many things I can say about these horses. These horses have helped me with my depression, my anxiety and stress in my life. Being able to go walk in their world with them and get lost in the peace and silence only hearing the birds and bugs sing and hearing the neighing, snorting and stomping of these amazing horses puts my heart at peace for the first time in my life everytime I'm with them. Not only have they helped mental help they have helped physical as well many will hike anywhere to get to the wild horses and see them. Learning their names, their personalities and each one as an individual since 2015 has been a wonderful joy, I've met other wild horses and some amazing friends because of these horses. There are so many stories I could share spent with these horses so many memories with my mom that when shes gone that's all I'll have please NPS don't take that away from people and myself so many of us have so many happy memories shared with these horses we have laughed, cried and cheered for and with the horses, please don't take them away you will ruin generations to come taking away OUR wild horses.

8.

Amy White <amyann70@outlook.com> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 2:45 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

FROM THE DESK OF

AMY WHITE

December 19, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Hello, My name is Amy White and I am writing to you on behalf of the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I am asking that you please, leave the horses in the park. These horses mean so much to so many people, including me. These horses ask for nothing in return. The cost to have them in the park is minimal. They have proved they are strong and self-sufficient in some of the most trying conditions of the great state of North Dakota. A landscape that has proved to be so unforgiving that Teddy Roosevelt himself couldn't conquer. Even the Native Americans in the area gave the land the name "Miko Shaka", meaning Bad Land. How ironic is it that these horses have proven for years that yes, they can survive, and thrive in these badlands. They have endured many a hot summer and many a cold, long winter and come out in the spring looking so beautiful! How many species can be born in January in North Dakota and survive with no help at all? These horses can! I have seen it.

Let me give you a little back story on who I am and what in the heck is a woman from Wisconsin writing a letter on behalf of North Dakota horses for anyway? I am a 52 year old woman who comes from a small town of 700 people in Northern Wisconsin. I am by no means rich, or even close. What I do have is a work ethic. I have worked in the same job for 34 years now and can count on one hand how many days I have missed or called in.I can say the same for my husband, 36 years at the same job for him with the same amount of days missed. We work hard for our money and sure do not live above our means. And we are not letter writers per say. Because of our tenure at both of our jobs, we get more vacation time. We stuck close to home for many of our vacations, and for years would be payed out at the end of the year as we did not use them. Until the year 2017. In 2017, I discovered wild horses in my Facebook feed. They intrigued me, they got me thinking of possibly taking vacation to go and see them, but Colorado and Wyoming were so far, we barely left Wisconsin. Until, well you know how Facebook works, however they find out that I was clicking on wild horses, they send you more, right? One day, I was sent a post of the wild horses of North Dakota? WHAT? There are wild horses in North Dakota, I said to myself. I quickly "googled" TRNP, it was only 600 miles from us, "We can do this ?", I asked my husband. Plans were in the works! We were going to North Dakota! Fast forward to our first time through the park, we were flabbergasted by the beauty. There isn't anything even close to this beauty in Wisconsin, in our opinion. Then we came across our first wild horse, Oh My God, we have never witnessed anything so gorgeous! His name turned

	out to be Ranger. Oh, he was this dirty, unkempt, dappled grey, muscular animal! He could not compare to the White Tailed deer that we see in the wild in Wisconsin. In no way, can this compare. It was that moment we were hooked, we have spent every vacation day since in Theodore Roosevelt National Park! To me the anticipation I feel when we get to that cattle guard at the beginning of the loop road is like Christmas morning to me as a child! Yes, it has been that long since I felt anything similar! Yes, we will drive the 600 miles even for a weekend! To see these horses, we will do just about anything. I photograph these horse every time we go through so I have them to look at when we cannot be in the park, which is winter. And we all know how long winters in the midwest last. I have some 40,000 pictures on my computer and about 95% of them are your wild horses! I look at them daily. I have to. They have become something that is just as important as food and water to me. And when I hear that they might be taken from the park, I was to say the least, sick to my stomach. And I know for a fact, that I am not the only one, there are thousands of people that would be devastated by this action. I beg you to keep these horses in your great state of North Dakota. They are such a draw for us mid-westerners. Please do not remove these horses, please go back to when birth control was used and culling some young ones in the spring, it worked for so many years and it can for many more. After all, these horses deserve it, it is the least we can do to honor President Roosevelt's wishes. Sincerely yours, Amy White
9.	**Jeanne Miller** <weebit2much@gmail.com> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 5:57 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com On June 18th I took my granddaughter,sister and a friend on a journey.We came from Ohio each of us had our reasons for making this long journey in an RV we rented.I follow the wild horses on Facebook I have a 12yr old granddaughter I am raising .She has the love of all animals and wants to be in the animal field when she grows up .To look at the experience through the eyes of a child was my reward.Each day we went through the park she would say what she wanted to see .The first day she just wanted to see the wild horses and we did.The second day she wanted to see the foals playing and we did .The third day she said all I want is to see the horses up close and they ran right next to our RV.Oh what an experience it was she took her stories and photos to school in the fall to show everyone the beautiful park with the wild horses.She has learned so much being there she even became a JR Ranger.If there hadn't been horses there we would not have made the 2 week journey we would have gone somewhere else.I hope you realize the importance they hold President Roosevelt did.I hope we can find a way to save them . Thank you Jeanne Miller

10.	**Mary McDonald** <mem352672003@gmail.com> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 4:42 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I have many firsts stories, beginning with the first time I got to see the wild horses at TRNP. It was a beautiful Sunday morning when 2 friends and I met up with the professional photographer, Deb Lee Carson and another group of park visitors. The first group we saw was Red Faces band standing atop of a bluff over looking a couple of other bands. One of Red Face's mares was being flirtatious with another band stallion. We got to watch the dynamics of wild stallions work outt their differences and how Red Face kept his his mare in her place. The second time was two years later when I got to take my then 91 year old mother to the TRNP, she had been there a few other times but never saw the wild horses. She excitedly spotted her first herd at the prairie dog village. Her excitement was contagious. A short time later we encountered Flax's band led by Kat and her young filly walking toward Coal Vein. Flax even graced us by proudly posing for photos as he ushered his harem along the road. Later that afternoon I returned to the park with a niece and her family, who live in Williston. They have visited the park several times, but this was the first time they got to see the wild horses. It became a game as to who spotted the horses first. To watch the joy in the young children faces when one excitedly spotted the horses. The next first was last May when I was visiting in the park. Up near Buck Hill, I was using my binoculars to look for the wild horses. I spotted a band and was watching them to see if I could identify them. A family drove up Buck Hill behind me, I called them over to where I was standing and told them that I could show them some wild horses. I gave the binoculars to the first child and pointed out where to look. Then watched his face as he found the band. His face changed from curious to joy when he saw them. He excitedly shared the binoculars with his younger brother and again I watched his face delight in discovering the horses. He then share the binoculars with his dad and mom. Mom and dad discussing how they should have brought their own binoculars so they could find the horse bands on their own. They were also discussing when they could plan their next trip to trnp, they were on their way to Glacier so didn't have a lot of time to spend this trip. My last first again on the same trip om May, I spent a weekend in May on an adventure with several friends , some who had never visited TRNP. We saw many of the bands and bachelors interacting with each other. Again, watching the faces of those first time visitors when we caught sight of the horses. Living in Minnesota, I don't have the opportunity to visit TRNP as often as I would like, but interacting with other park visitors, I hear "there are horses!?" Because they really don't know about the horses. Theodore Roosevelt's horses. The horses are one of the unique features of the park. Instead being removed they should be celebrating and used to promote TRNP. The other comment I heard at the Painted Canyon wayside. "I didn't know about the park, I only stopped because of the wayside signs on the freeway. It seems to that North Dakota and the TRNP should take a page out of South Dakotas tourism and promote the unique opportunity that people have to visit.
11.	**Julia Iphone** <jingram234@peak.org> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 6:49 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I first went through the Theodore Rosevelt National Park in 2000 on my way home from South Dakota to Oregon via North Dakota. I was totally amazed when we came upon the park because we didn't even know it was there. I love and support freedom of wild horses, and TRNP did not disappoint us. I was so excited and amazed by the natural beauty of these wild horses as we walked around with our binoculars and spotted them. What a gift! We have since been back to the park several times, and we have told family and friends who have also gone to see them. I regularly follow posts from others concerning the lives of individual horses and their bands as well as the plight of their freedom and their removal from the parks. Please do not remove these beautiful wild horses from their natural habitat. Let them live their lives with their family bands unharmed by those wishing to remove them. This land was set aside by law for these wild horses. As a taxpayer, I support their existence on this Federal designated land. It would be sad to continue their removal. If they are removed, I feel there is no other reason for me, my family or friends to return to the TRNP. Please do what is right for these animals and their environment. I want to see future generations experience the amazing wildlife in this park as I have been fortunate to experience myself. Thank you, Julia Ingram, a Concerned citizen jingram234@peak.org PO Box 12 Shedd, OR 97377

12.	**Roberta Hambrick** <rjh@bis.midco.net> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 8:03 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com As a long term North Dakota resident I would like to say removing the wild horses would be a devastating loss to the TRNP. We have traveled there multiple times a year for years just to see them. They add so much to the beauty of the park. I cannot imagine the park without them. Thank you Roberta Hambrick
13.	**debreuter1@gmail.com** <debreuter1@gmail.com> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 9:26 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I'd like to express my support for keeping the wild horses in the park at the current levels. I was shocked to hear the government was considering eliminating them. We have enjoyed seeing the horses at Theodore Roosevelt National Park for years. They are magical to watch. I can't imagine going to the park if they are eliminated. Debbie Reuter
14.	**Katherine Plessner** <plessner@drtel.net> Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 10:15 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I have been a horse lover all my life, reading every book I could get ahold of in my younger days about wild horses, and any horse. I now make a couple trips to the Theodore Roosevelt National Park every year to see and photograph the beautiful horses that live there. I have also taken my photography friends from around the country there too. My favorite horse story from the park is about Gray Ghost. He always seemed so elusive to me, as I had only seen him far off in the distance somewhere and never close enough to get a good look at him, let alone a photo or two. Then one early morning as I was driving the loop, I came around a curve and there he was right along the road. I stopped and got out my camera, and I know I was hyperventilating and I think my hands were shaking with excitement! I crouched down beside my vehicle to get some photos, but hopefully not to disturb him and his band. He kept an eye on me as he went about having his breakfast and I was snapping away. After about ten minutes he rounded up his group and they disappeared up the hill. It was truly something, and the way I felt, that I will never forget. I still go to the park and it is always a thrill to see the horses. In fact, to see and photograph them is the reason I go there and I will be more than very sad if they are removed. Plus I have friends coming from Washington DC and New Mexico, who want me to take them there this summer to see these special and beautiful horses.

15.	**Mary Zilinski** <mchzilinski@icloud.com> Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 2:06 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Cc: Mary Zilinski <maryz@bitstream.net> I grew up in North Dakota. After I graduated from UND, I left the state and rarely returned. Fifteen years ago I learned that there were, and had been for a long time, wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. How is it that I didn't know that when I grew up? It brought me back to my home state. Since then, I've visited regularly, gotten to know the bands, the bachelor stallions, the sires, the mares, their stories, and their losses. I've stayed in Medora, hiked the trails, made purchases at the bookstore, bought the annual bands book, bought the t-shirts, and encouraged so many folks to experience the wonder of seeing wild horses, free, running across the landscape. I watch the related web sites and FB posts, and am so thankful for the opportunities to feel connected to that glorious place and those majestic animals. I've explored the north park, too, and expanded my knowledge of the state's history and its present, all while knowing part of each trip will involve contact with those equines. My point is this: these bands of horses are one of North Dakota's most important natural resources. Setting aside their origin stories, their history dates back sufficiently that their contribution to the formation of the state of North Dakota can't be denied. Now, they are a focus for tourism. They are a basis from which folks explore North Dakota's rich farming and ranching history, the significant contribution the state's offerings made to Theodore Roosevelt's life and thus to the nation's existence, and the area's rich Native American history. Please recognize the status of these horses, not only in people's hearts but also in the roll call of promoters of North Dakota's tourism, land and history.

16.	**White, Nancy** <nancy.white@essentiahealth.org> Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 3:08 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> In the fall of 2015, my husband and I took a trip from Bismarck to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Little did I know that this trip would be the start of many, many more trips to the park and an undeniable journey of love, making memories, and healing. We hiked up a beautiful trail called Ridge Line. You could see for miles, it was breathtaking. While sitting on a ledge taking in my beautiful surroundings, I noticed something white peeking through some trees. I zoomed in with my point and shoot to see what was moving, and next thing I knew there was another white something moving out into the open. My heart started to pound from excitement and I could hardly contain myself. I yelled at my husband to come see what I was seeing to make absolutely sure I wasn't mistaken. WILD HORSES I yelled. I grabbed my phone all the while watching them, and called my Daughter. "Heather, Heather, you won't believe this I said". "There are truly wild horses here. "Can you believe it?" "I have to bring you here". Almost 8 years later and my Daughter and I continue to make the 2-hour trip back to the wild horses every chance we get. (My husband comes once and a while too!!) See, My Daughter suffers from A.D.D., and high anxiety to the point of bouts with depression and stress. She sometimes feels like she doesn't matter, she doesn't fit in, and nothing she does is right. She sinks deep within her shell. So, you can imagine the tears of joy this mama had the first time we went to this magical place together, Mom and Daughter, on the hunt for HORSES, and I witnessed the most beautiful smile on my Daughter's face the minute she spotted her first wild horse. For the few hours we spent with the horses, my daughter's anxiety, GONE. Her stress, GONE. Mama's heart, full!! Since the first time we went, my Daughter purchased a better camera and lens. She gets emotional and excited when she hears Mom and her are off on another wild horse adventure together. She takes pictures of each and every wild horse we come across and shares the wild one's story through our eyes and encounters we have that particular day with anyone and everyone who will listen. She is at peace and it shows. We call in "Our Happy Place". We found out later on that they had names given to them and she rattles them off like they were her own family, ha-ha. My daughter comes alive when we are in the park with the wild horses. The sparkle in her eye, the pep in her step, if you will, is undeniable. The memories that we have made together in the home of the wilkd horses are priceless, especially for this Mama. As long as there are wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park, I feel my Daughter will be ok when I am gone. She may stumble along the way, she may miss her mom and the memories we had made with each and every one of them, but she will be ok. Any time she needs to she can go to Theodore Rooseverlt National Parkand talk to the horses. Please keep them in the only home they know. Please allow my Daughter her calm and peace with the wild ones, allow her to make more memories so she can share spiritually with me when I am absent, and continue to share with whom will listen. Please allow many more future Mothers and Daughters the same love and joy that my daughter and I have shared. There is something magical about the wild horses in TRNP, it is hard to explain. They seem to have healing power for those that need it. Their eyes look deep into our soul and mend the broken spirit. I have witnessed this first hand with my Daughter. I cannot imagine Theodore Roosevelt National Park with out our wild horses and hope that they can continue to live in their home where they were born, running wild and free for many more years to come. I have many favorites amongst the wild horses, too many to mention, so the picture I am sharing with you today is of Gary and Ghost. The 2 beautiful white, wild horses that allowed me to begin

17.	**Penny McCormack** <pennymccormack@hotmail.com> Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 4:12 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> > Every time we visit the ND Badlands near Medora, I tell my husband, "I sure hope we see the wild horses!" Sometimes we don't see them, just buffalo and prairie dogs. Other times, like the last two years when we have visited we saw them!!! I kept watch of the landscape hoping to see them. All of a sudden I saw them!!! I got SO excited!! I said to my husband, "There they are!! STOP, STOP!!" I hurried out of our vehicle to stand there watching the horses in awe and trying to photograph the moment. What a beautiful sight! My heart was filled with excitement. I was seeing part of history of the area and seeing some of God's most magnificent wild creatures! The horses live in freedom and coexistence with the other animals of the badlands. The family unit of their bands with the stallion, his mares, and their offspring warms my heart and brings a smile to my face. These horses even have names! These horses are such an important part of TRNP! The park would not be the same without them! I am sure Teddy Roosevelt would say the same thing!! Penny McCormack

18.

Heather Hellyer <kaya97524@yahoo.com> Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 7:06 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

December 27, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you today about the beautiful wild horses found at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. In early 2020, my husband and I set out in an RV to visit as many National Parks as we could before moving to Hawaii. In April 2020 we found ourselves in Cortez, CO for several weeks waiting for Mesa Verde National Park to re-open. Bored, I googled 'things to do near Cortez, CO' and the Spring Creek Basin wild horse herd came up. After doing some research I drove 70 miles out to find them and fell in love at first sight. Our trip to visit as many national parks as we could quickly turned into how many wild horse herds I could visit.

And that is how we made the trip up to North Dakota to see the wild horses living at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. North Dakota was originally not on the schedule of parks we planned to visit but I had seen photos of the wild horses there and added it to the list. We stayed in Medora for a week spending money on a spot at the RV park in town, food, gas, and souvenirs from the TRNP Visitor Center. I spent nearly every day that week in the park photographing the wild horses, the bison, the prairie dogs, and more. The park itself is beautiful of course but the wild horses were the only reason for our visit. And the only reason I would return to the park.

We also spent a day in the northern section of the park and the Longhorn cattle were a beautiful sight to see. Why remove them? Why remove the horses? One of the reasons Americans visit our National Parks is to see wildlife. Wild horses are native to North America and while these particular horses may be descendants of horses released on the range, they were born in the park and have lived there for their entire lives. That makes them wild and wildlife.

I have to wonder why the NPS is dead set on removing wild horses from the parks they reside? First Mesa Verde National Park, now TRNP. We don't understand it. Wild horses are beloved by Americans and most herds are far too remote for most people to visit without a high clearance, 4WD vehicle. But TRNP allows people to easily see wild horses living free and in family bands.

My husband and I request you keep the wild horses in TRNP at a healthy population level that allows for genetic diversity without the use of GonaCon but rather the original form of PZP. I have no doubt President Roosevelt would agree that the wild horses bring a beauty to the park that is unrivaled.

Thank you,

Heather Hellyer
Kihei, HI
808-500-3020

19.

Kelly Marquardt <kellyjene@icloud.com> Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 9:00 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I wish I could post photos of my experience. Without the horses there I would stop going to this park. I have watched for hours the different bands and have been able to capture the sole of these horses. I can't even believe this is even being discussed. It's so heart breaking that at some point I may never get to see the horses run wild in the landscape they were born to. The horses have personalities and family values in their bands. My face is wet from tears. What a sad thing to take them away.

20.

Heather Westby <schroeder.heather.ann@gmail.com> Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 9:21 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Harrison (6 yrs old) – "I like how Mom, Dad, and Olivia bring back pictures of the wild horses after they go riding out there. I like to sit with my sister, Olivia, and look up the horses in our guide book and find all their names. I am very, very excited to go riding in the park my first time this year. I want to see all the wild horses in my books (NDBH Guide Books.) I love the wild horses."

Olivia (9 yrs old) – "I love to go out in the TRNP riding our horses to go and look for the wild horses. It is so exciting to see the wild herds especially when there are foals.

This fall when we were in the park on an all day trail ride I was praying that we would see lots of horses, especially Circus. I really wanted to see Circus because he is the oldest horse in the park and I really wanted to get the experience of seeing him in person.

After riding for half the day and seeing lots of wildlife including bison, elk, pronghorns, and mule deer I was getting worried that we wouldn't see any horses. Then I spotted a black horse off in the distance. Quickly I realized it wasn't a black horse, it was CIRCUS! I was shaking I was so excited. As we followed the trail around it brought us closer to him. It was cool as he turned to watch us and our horses on the other side of the draw. We stood and watched each other for a long while and I talked to him. I told him, "Your so beautiful and amazing. Thank you for showing yourself!"

When we turned to leave and started riding along the trail. As we rode away my heart stopped because Circus was whinnying to us. It made tears come to my eyes because it felt like he was saying see you in the spring.

After seeing Circus we saw Nichols and Teton's bands. We got to see one of my favorite fillies from this year, Serendipity. It is super fun to see the foals and then come back next year and see how they have grown.

I look forward to our trips to the TRNP every year. When we are not there I like to think about what we will see next time and plan our rides. I think about Circus and his wild friends every day and hope to see them again.

One of my favorite things about spotting and finding the wild horses is that I can identify them using my NDBH Guide Book. Unlike the bison, elk, pronghorn, and deer the horses are easy to identify individuals. Each horse has their own colors and markings so I can tell who is who.

Each and every one of the wild horses has a special place in my heart. If all the horses get removed I don't know if I would want to go back as it will feel like a big piece of what makes the TRNP so special will be gone."

21.

Mandy Cannon <mandycan33@gmail.com> Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 9:22 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hi there,

I got to see these majestic wild horses at the TRNP September 8, 2022. We were on a road trip visiting a few parks and felt so lucky to get a view of these beauties from the road. We sat for a moment and really took in their beauty. We tried to understand what was happening because the way were standing so still and looked like they were sleeping but seemed to be in a formation where some were positioned to be aware of surroundings/keeping lookout. I'm not familiar with horses or their behavior and It really was magical to see them gathered like this. It's easy to imagine how it used to be open like this everywhere and feel the magnitude of what we've done to the landscape and natural habitat of the horses.

Seeing these horses brings about feelings of awe at their beauty along with a mix of shame at being part of human race that has destroyed so much of their natural landscape and home and tried to take them and make them less wild and free.

After seeing them and experiencing TRNP I feel a duty to protect these horses and this park and all of our open public land to allow animals to roam and live freely. The park and horses that live there are magical and a national treasure to be protected for future generations. My wish is this was not something we even need to fight for and that we were all united to protect this place and these horses. Our humanity depends on us doing better to protect and conserve nature and recognizing all animals deserve to be here and have a place to live freely.

Amanda Cannon

22.

Zach Hochhalter <zhochhalter34@gmail.com> Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 10:31 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

My Name: Zach Hochhalter

I was born in Bismarck, lived in Killdeer, Wing (Google it) , and Fargo, North Dakota for almost half my life. I grew up taking yearly if not twice yearly camping trips to Medora and Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The rugged badlands formed a very distinct part of some of my favorite childhood memories.

Fast forward to the spring of 2020, and like most I was in the midst of being quarantined at home. I was currently living in Phoenix, Arizona, which was a big concrete jungle compared to the Great Plains of my upbringing. I had become a regular visitor to the Salt River in Mesa, where wild horses roamed the river.

During quarantine I began to research other wild horse herds across the United States and I stumbled upon the horses at TRNP. This completely floored me, because it was a place of special memory to me, but my memories of the horses were slim. I could hardly believe I didn't have a distinct memory of them like so many other places in the park.

That spring/early summer a magnificent foal named Bloom was born. He had a very distinct coloring and two blue eyes. I was struck by his beauty and felt so proud that such an amazing animal resided in North Dakota. In that moment I knew I had to return to TRNP to see him for myself. Bloom and the other horses gave me something to look forward to in a time where the world seemed bleak.

Since that moment I now continuously visit the park 4-5 times per year to soak in the inspiring scene of the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

The horses within the park represent the quote "For the benefit and enjoyment of the people." The horses provide exactly that for the visitors of the park.

Thank you for sharing these stories. Let me know how I can continue to help. Bully!

Best,
Zach

23.

Marissa Pewe <marissa.ashley.15@gmail.com> Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 10:46 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hi Jamie & Deb,

I hope this finds you well! I'm sure you have tons of stories to share but maybe mine can help too!

Several years ago, we needed a weekend getaway from regular life after suffering from a second miscarriage. We chose Medora, specifically for TRNP, even though it was the dead of winter. The fall before we had camped in Sully Creek and had seen some of the wild horses on our drive, and wanted to return to hopefully see more. It was February and freezing cold, but we spent hours watching Silver's band grazing and trudging through the knee deep snow. As a horse owner myself, it was cathartic to watch their calmness, and was a great escape.

From there on out, we made the couple hour drive and returned at least monthly, and got to know the horses and the bands, watched as the bands grew with new foals, mourned when horses passed, became a member of a nonprofit to work more closely with them, and then in 2018 welcomed our son who also now LOVES going to hike in the park and see the horses. He was with me hiking this spring when we discovered Urban's band had an adorable brand new foal, Phoenix. He is now 4 years old and a great eagle-eye to spot things while hiking.

Some of my favorite memories have been in the TRNP, specifically with the wild horses (like hiking with a great friend to hopefully find Mystery's final resting place, getting up before dawn to discover a new baby on a snowy spring morning, discovering Circus just walking down the road.... I could go on forever). I cannot imagine my son not getting to have the same experiences as he grows. Medora is certainly a special place, and we love taking family trips there, but let's be honest....our family goes for the horses. My boyfriend isn't really a "horse person" but even he quickly learned the names of the horses, got a few favorites and enjoys hiking to find them.

Our vacations to TRNP have been one of the highlights of the last decade, and I sure hope we are able to continue getting to know the future generations of some of our favorite horses; Teton, Half Moon, Crow, Papoose & so many more.

Thank you,
Marissa

24.

Sasha Wieczorek <sashaw13@gmail.com> Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 11:10 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have been to many parks with wild horses over the years and absolutely love it when the stars align and I am able to see the wild horses in their natural habitat. It's like looking into the past when they run by. They are living history and need to be protected. When I heard about this call to action the first thing that came to mind was the fact that it is difficult to be in the right place at the right time to see these beautiful animals. There are acres of park and handfuls of horses. That's why I find it so difficult to understand the need to get rid of them all together. Wild horses have been around since BEFORE colonization of this country. The indigenous peoples have records of it despite the early government's efforts to eradicate that knowledge. These herds may not descend from the indigenous horses but they certainly represent them, and they have created their own spot in the ecosystem. We absolutely cannot remove them completely. I appreciate all your efforts to spread the word about these beautiful animals and how important they are to many cultures.

Thank you for all your hard work!

25.

Doreen Sutcliffe <doreenmiranda3@gmail.com> Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 11:20 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hi Deb and Jamie,

I have included my story below for you. I hope this helps; it's from the heart. I'm praying and hoping for wild and free horses. I am trying to understand that the purpose is to remove them. Please let me know if I can do anything else.

Hugs to you both,

Doreen

December 28, 2022

I am writing to tell my story of a recent visit to TRNP. In May of 2022, I had the pleasure of photographing the wild horses living in TRNP. If not for the horses, I would not have visited this park. With the guidance of two other photographers who knew the park well, I saw wild horses living in their natural environment for the first time. While it was exciting to see the other wildlife in the park, there are only a few places left in the United States to see wild horses.

TRNP provided opportunities to see the horses without driving or hiking for miles. Tourists visiting the park can experience the beauty of seeing wild horses.
A wild horse in its environment represents our country's open and free spaces. Where else can you sit and observe horses sparring with bands, tending to their foals, running in wide open spaces, and curiously looking back at you while watching them? Not many places in the US allow that pleasure.

Photography is all about capturing a moment in time. I loved sharing my photographs with friends and family who might not get a chance to see horses in the wild. They asked questions about the horses and the national park they had never heard of. "How do we get there?" "How can we see these horses?" "Where would we stay?" My photographs of the horses inspire others to visit and observe.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my comments. I sincerely hope the wild horses of TRNP will be there for years to come so that others can experience viewing the majestic horses.

Sincerely,

Doreen M. Sutcliffe

26.

Robyn Lorenz <robyn.lorenz24@pm.me> Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 11:50 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello,

My name is Robyn Lorenz. I grew up in, what then was a small town, Dickinson, ND. My family and I have visited Theodore National Park many times throughout my youth and now as an adult. My youthful memories are always of wanting to visit the park and hope that day would bring the spotting of the Wild Horses. Many times we were blessed to be able to see (and I would hope felt) what Teddy did so many years ago. Wild horses roaming free the badlands of North Dakota. The absolute joy, amazement and beauty they behold. Breathtaking. It hurts my heart to think that they could possibly be gone someday - for others not to see this beauty, to FEEL this beauty and innocence, to have that moment in time that one forgets all that is going on in this world and just sees life for what it is - pure, simple, innocent, majestic, elegant beauty. What our ancestors all experienced and what future generations should have available to always experience.

In my college years I loved so much the beauty and freedom of the Park and what it offered I worked for a summer at a horse ride facility in the Park. I still say to this day the best job and memories I have ever had. The wee early mornings we'd take the horses out to graze, I was blessed on a couple of those mornings to not only see the bison, but behold, a wild horse or two or three. Something in the soul is touched when you see these glorious horses.

Now I watch and enjoy following the facebook pages and websites dedicated to the Wild Horses of TRNP. I often tell my friends about the park, Medora, and the horses. Always hoping that one day to make it back up with them to show them what beauty there is.

Thank you for taking in these stories and helping fight for the horses. Prayers and good thoughts this fight is won and the horses can remain, in full, in the park.

Thank you,
Robyn Lorenz

27.

jdk1691 <jdk1691@aol.com> Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 12:16 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Please, don't move the horses.
I am a North Dakota native, 1% on the native portion. It seems wrong to dishonor the intention and wishes for this park. For me, I feel so incredibly close to the Earth when I am at the park. To see the horses run absolutely takes my breath away. It is almost like I am seeing something only intended for the wind to be a part of.
The first time I saw them, they were running. They ran as though the wind directed them. It was stunning. If you are not able to feel that, I do feel sorry for you.
The park is beautiful. So is the night sky. If you remove the stars, why look up?
Sincerely,
Jean Koch

28.

Hali Pavelka <hlpavelka@live.com> Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 6:58 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

To whom it may concern,

My name is Hali Lassiter and I am a resident of North Carolina. I have grown up my entire life riding and owning horses. I even teach lessons to children. Horses are my life. Theodore Roosevelts National Park has been an inspiration for me, for many years. I have treasured following accounts that capture the magnificence of the animals that live there, especially the horses. I follow their lives and how they are thriving in the wild. My top trip is planned specifically around visiting the Badlands horses. They are the soul of that park. Protecting them must be a key objective to the parks future. We have lost so many animals and habitats since we have focused on industry. How much more do we need to lose before we realize what we've done? These horses are history. They represent so much more than just nature. They show what our country was and what it still can be. To lose them could mean losing a piece of America. Please consider enforcing regulations to ensure their safety.

29.

Birgit Pruess <birgit.pruess@gmail.com> Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 7:48 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

My story with the horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park started in 2014 when my family came here from Germany to celebrate my 50th birthday. I was hooked to the rugged landscape the park and all the animals in there. Back then, you did not get to see as many horses as you do when you visit the park today. I went straight back the next month and my first personal personal experience was with Wind Canyon and his band right on the road. Without knowledge, I had parked my car at one of their major access points to Talkington and they just kept on walking like my car was not there. They stopped at my car and I spent quite some time looking at them. I was intrigued by Wind Canyon's color and his quiet demeanor. His mare Betty Blue had a new foal. She was cautious about it, but also curious about me. I fell in love with them right on the spot. Since that time, I had countless experiences just like that. Nicols danced in front of me once (at quite some distance), just like I was one of his mares. Cocoa exchanged the longest look with me when I was real down and crying. I witnessed Flax covering his new mare Dolly for the first time. Two years later, I saw Dolly's foal Oakley within 24 hours of her birth. I saw Bluff within 12 hours of her birth. And then, I saw sickness and death. The whole circle of life.

The horses have become my second life to me after my research career at NDSU in Fargo. They are my escape and my stress relieve. I visit the park 2 to 4 times a year, each time for 4 or 5 days. There is a good chance I know more about the horses at an individual level than many of the park personnel do. Because I deeply care about them and I am not so sure anymore whether the park cares. I recently published a book named Wild and Free in TRNP where I summed up all my experiences. The book is being sold by numerous small businesses across North Dakota. I have some 50,000 photos of horses and other wildlife. These have been shown in exhibits across the state. I am not claiming there is a lot of money to be made and I don't do it for the money. I do it for awareness. These are some wonderful horses that call our park their home and they deserve the best care they can get.

I realize that 200 horses are probably too many and that we will have to reduce the number. There is evidence that the minimum number of horses that still allows for a genetically healthy herd is in the neighborhood of 120. I highly recommend the park keep this approximate number of horses in the park. Our people need them as part of their lives and the State of North Dakota needs the economic impact from the tourism. These horses are paid from federal tax dollars and they are our horses.

Will that do?

Birgit

30.

Margaret Flynn <mcflynn@midrivers.com> Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 8:59 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

My husband and I visit the park several times each year. On average we make 5-6 visits to the park per year. During each visit we tour the park for at least 3-5 days. I was and remain completely in awe of the beauty of the badlands. The clay buttes, huge rocks, the spring crocus, the blooming prairie cactus and flowers, the cedar trees, the cottonwoods, the wild berries and the scenery all add to the beauty of the park…. then you also to see the park beauties! The wild horses are the star attraction for us. Learning each horse's name and keeping track of the bands is fascinating. We enjoy following the leaders of the bands and watching how quickly things can change.

We spend hours each day watching and taking photos. Our favorite thing to do is leave our camper(usually parked in the Cottonwood Campground) just about daybreak, head out until we find one of the bands, then settle in to watch. There is nothing like seeing your favorites grazing peacefully and the foals playing, running back and forth and around and around. Add to this a good cup of coffee and a sweet roll and you feel like this is a little bit of heaven. We always take enough food to spend the entire day.

Seeing the horses gives one a feeling of peace. It is hard to put into words but the animals seem to lift everyday concerns and instill an appreciation for their beauty and their daily struggle to survive.

We spend time watching when the buffalo bulls are fighting and chasing the cows. They are very fierce during breeding season! One year we were near the creek by the ranch house, when two bulls started to fight. They crashed and gouged and snorted and bellowed for a solid 5 minutes. They charged each other so hard that their back legs lifted off the ground when they rammed each other. They dug up so much dirt and dust that my photos appeared to be blurry!

Other animals that we've watched are coyotes, wild turkeys, antelope, elk, deer, prairie dogs, pheasants, grouse, rattlesnakes, bluebirds, eagles, owls, magpies, and porcupine. Seldom is there a dull moment.

Meeting people from all over the world happens every time we visit the park. The young couple from California with their 2 year old, the retired couple from Florida on their way to Glacier Park, the retired military man and his family, and all the others with their stories and questions add to our park experience.

The most common questions for us is "Where can we find the wild horses and the buffalo?" It is important that these animals remain in the park for future generations so they can be seen and appreciated just like Theodore Roosevelt did when he was there.

MC Flynn
Montana resident

31.

Robin Kamstra <robinkamstra67@gmail.com> Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 9:15 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

We've been to the park a few times and the main reason we go is to see the horses I just love watching them

32.

Heather Westby <schroeder.heather.ann@gmail.com> Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 10:16 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I have so many stories that I could share about the wild horses.

From my first trip to the Theodore Roosevelt National Park when I was in 7th grade with my friend and her family on a camping trip. I will never forget spotting some horses for the first time. I have always loved horses, I have grown up with them. Seeing truly wild horses for the first time was exhilarating. Wild horses are the classic image of freedom, power, and an untamable spirit.

Since that first trip to the TRNP I have been back numerous times. If fact my family loves it so much out there my husbands original plan was to bring me there to propose.

Many of our favorite memories are family trips to the park. When we travel out to the park we bring our horses and love riding all day looking for wildlife, particularly the wild horse bands. We love to try to find the same horses from year to year and when we are not visiting the park we follow the park happenings through North Dakota Badlands Horse.

The horses unlike other wildlife in the park are more easy to distinguish individuals. It makes it fun to try to find as many of the horses as possible. We all have our favorite horses and bands that we continue to find year to year and follow via social media when we are not there.

We love seeing all the wildlife in the park the bison, elk, pronghorn, deer, coyotes, prairie dogs, but the horses are by far the animal we seek out the most. There is no other place anywhere near us here in Minnesota where there are wild horses. There are other parks, and places to view the other wildlife but none that have wild horses. I wouldn't want to see any of the other wildlife there eradicated either. Park of what makes the TRNP what it is, is all these animals living there together.

In 2015 we adopted a weanling that was removed from the park to control the population. We absolutely love him and he has turned into the most amazing horse. Because this herd has been so closely followed and documented we followed the bands prior to getting Sully. We fell in love with is sire the well known stallion Mystery. When Sully (FKA Badlands) was pulled we were already in love. We had been looking at pictures of him from when they first found him only a few days old in the park. Since adopting Sully when we visit the TRNP our favorite thing to do is to try to find his closest relatives still in the park.

In 2020 Mystery was found deceased in the bottom of a wash. He had been fighting with another stallion as wild stallions will do and lost his footing and fell to his death. It was a sad day in our household, like losing a friend. In 2021 my husband and I rode into the park with a group of friends that we have made thanks to these horses. Or friend MaryLu led us on a beautiful ride into the park and surprised us by taking us to Mystery's final resting place. It was so emotional as my husband was riding Sully, Mystery's son. Since that trip is as become our ritual on our trips back to the park we take time to ride out and return to Mystery's final resting place and pay our respects to him.

This year is to be our 6 year old son's first horse back riding and camping trip to the Theodore Roosevelt National Park with us. He is so exited and already as a list of all the animals and what horses he hopes to see. I pray this isn't the only trip that he will get to experience the trill of finding a band of wild horses nestled between the buttes. I pray that my children won't be the last generation to get to experience these family trips of exploration and feeling like we have stepped back in time. I have always dreamed that one day, when our kids are grown, that they would bring their children back to the TRNP and have similar adventures as we have done with them, spending the day riding in the badlands searching for the elusive wild horse bands. I pray this isn't the end of these unique horses.

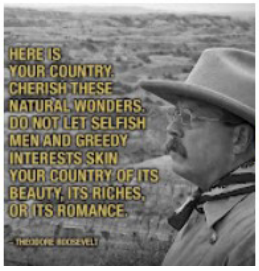
Heather

33.

Janis Lovi <jplovi5@icloud.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 12:22 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I've never been there but I love following these horses. Attached is exactly how I feel. These are public lands are meant to stay wild.

Sent from my iPhone



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34.

Jamie Baldanza <jbaldanza@gmail.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 9:31 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I went to the park for the horses and left with a whole new respect for the land and history.

I currently live in NJ and I now visit the park 2 times a year to photograph the wild horses in the landscape. For the last eight years I've gotten to know the horses, their stories and their personalities.

To visit TRNP without the horses in the landscape would be a huge void in my heart and I'm sure plenty others.

I have many memorable moments, but this one stands out in my mind:

We were 4 women from all over the country, 1 hotel room, 5 days of constant interaction, which could have been terrifying. But It was anything but. Why? Respect. Love. Passion. Strength. Individuality. Humor. These traits are all a common thread among us. A thread that will bind us in a friendship that few people will ever understand. And why were we thrown together? To see the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National park. Between laughter, stories, sadness, and 4 AM wake up calls we found and felt the heartbeat of the land, the land that the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park call home.

I've built so many friendships because of these horses. Best Friends (Deb) that I will love for the rest of my life. You see the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National park are so much more than "livestock" they are hope, a reason to gather, an inspiration, a passion for so many of us. You take that away, you take away our light, our motivation, and connection to the past. Teddy Roosevelt's past.

These horses are my family and when I get the little time I do have with them, I cherish it. Because there's nothing like growing old with a wild horse. To see them as a foal and now a mighty stallion with their own band is like watching your child grow up. And I just hope our future generations will have the same chance to watch these horses grow up in Theodore Roosevelt National park.

35.

zuriel7 <zuriel7@gmail.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 3:21 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I moved to North Dakota in 2013 quickly finding TRNP, being an introvert and nature lover. I fell in love with the badlands, prairie, community spirit, and it's lifestyle and various wildlife. I frequently filled my retired days with trips to TRNP feeling a sense of connection driving through buttes & hills in all seasons. I love deer, elk, pronghorns, bison, and all the small animals like the badger and porcupine. The raptors & birds have always been an attraction for me. When I realized there was a feral horse herd in the park, I immediately connected to them on sight. I began following them avidly. I would often stay in the park after dark, find a spot on Boicourt, turn off my engine & roll down all my windows and listen to the silence of the night broken occasionally with coyotes yipping.

One night it was pitch black with no glimmer of light anywhere. It was midnight. I heard snorting and the clip-clop of horses hooves on the road. I literally could not see 20' in any direction it was so dark. Suddenly bands of horses were all around me, and when my eyes adjusted, they were literally feet from my car windows, either side, front and behind. I froze in delight! It was as though I was engulfed into the herd as one. I felt like a welcomed intruder realizing how rare & magical this experience was; being enveloped in their world. Hearing their noises, swishing of tails, jaws chewing grasses, snorts and snickers at one another & seeing their graceful movements as they sauntered around my car, some standing so close I could smell their beautiful coats…. Well I was blessed beyond measure. How can I ever fully describe what this very enhanced and spiritual visitation meant to me. It changed everything about how I viewed this wonderful park from that night forward. All my troubles vanished for those few short hours that I spent with these magnificent equine creatures. I was indeed "In Their World". I was the intruder. This is their Home, Their Special Place where They Belong, and I was a guest that night. I will always treasure that experience as one that connected me with the great west like nothing ever has or ever will.

To not have these horses remain in their home would be a tragedy, not just for me, but for hundreds of thousands of visitors and all their future generations to experience and find the historical & cultural value & connection these wild horses do indeed provide. Their sense of family and community is something this world is losing touch with. Please allow the horses to remain & to remind us all that We Are Connected. Life is Short… treasure every God Given Moment, Creature and Blessing. Protect it above all else. Carol Priestley
Stark County
North Dakota.

36.

Christiane Weltz <cbp.weltz@gmail.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 3:24 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I first found out about TRNP when my now husband got stationed in Minot. I live in Germany and came to visit him several times. I looked for things to do in ND and found out about TRNP.
I have been a horse lover and riding since I was a little girl so when I saw that they had wild horses I for sure had to go. That was in 2012.
I enjoyed all of TRNP but when I was lucky enough to find horses all on my own back then nothing could compare to that feeling.
I visited the park 2 more times in the 1.5 years my husband was stationed there, just because I wanted to see more of the wild horses.
Back in Germany I told a friend about the horses and she fell in love with them through my stories and the pictures of the groups that you can find on social media. We told each other that one day we might even buy one of the horses and bring them to Germany.
My husband got stationed somewhere else so it took until 2015 to make it back. We went out of our way from visiting family and came to ND just to find more wild horses and meet with people we met through the social media pages. We spent a few days in the park and a lot of time with all the animals but mostly the wild horses.
In 2016 My friend and I actually ended up buying two of the horses from TRNP and knowing that I saw both of them running free with their families made me so happy and I knew we would give them great homes. They both enjoy life in Germany now and because of them I advised other horse lovers to go visit TRNP if they are ever in the USA.
I have been back in 2020 to show my little son the wild horses of TRNP and our horse's family. I hope I can still do this for our second son in a few years.
All in all I might have visited TRNP once during my visits in ND but it was the horses that kept and will keep me coming back.
Christiane W. from Germany

37.

Anne Padegimas <anne.padegimas@gmail.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 4:07 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

We went to the park two years ago. Ahhhh, it was prayerful. We camped right at the base campground there. The whole purpose of the visit was to hopefully catch a glimpse of the wild horses. Drove all the way from North Carolina.

We saw them! It was incredible to see wild horses! I will never forget the experience. We saw other animals too, but after visiting almost every national park in the US, this is the only place I saw the wild horse.

How can you take that away? It's part of the heritage. How many people visit like me just to catch a glimpse of them? And again, this is the ONLY place you can really see them in the whole country! Isn't that enough?

I recommend you keep things just the way they are. They seem to be managed very well, I know they are very well documented. Man has just got to stop thinking every available space on this planet is theirs. This is not.

Thank you,
Anne Padegimas
Matthews, North Carolina

38.

Deborah Zillich <debzillich@hotmail.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 6:44 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I am so sad that the plan has gone forward to remove the wild horses from Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I live in DIckinson and visit the park all through the year. The horses have been the highlight of every trip. I enjoy seeing the other wildlife in the park but I LOVE the horses. It became even more fun to find the horses on park visits after I started following the Facebook pages dedicated to the horses. I have so appreciated the people posting and updating these pages with the status of the horses. Seeing the new babies each spring and seeing the dynamic changes in the stallions fighting for their mares and feeling a little sorry for the bachelors roaming the park. I can't imagine Theodore Roosevelt National Park without the horses. I do not understand why they all need to be removed. I understand that the park can only support so many and there are problems with the genetics within the herd but it seems we should have the science to fix these problems and allow a herd to continue to roam in the beauty of the badlands. What a loss it will be if they are no longer living in the park. I know my visits will lose some of the richness of the trips seeing those beautiful creatures running wild and free. 😢

Deborah Zillich
Dickinson ND

39.

Deb clawson <DebClawson@comcast.net> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 7:20 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hello Jamie and Deb,

I'm writing because of the request from Dakota Grown Photos about saving the wild horses about my visit to TRNP and seeing those wild horses. It was my first visit to the park and the first time I've ever seen wild horses anywhere. They were (and are) the most magnificent animals I've seen. I was in awe watching them in the meadows - they left me breathless. Those wild horses were the highlight of my visit to the park and the reason I want to return. I've seen bison in Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Antelope Island, and other national parks and places in the country and, frankly, they are fearsome animals. In all my visits to national parks, this is the only national park where I have seen these glorious wild horses roaming freely. It is captivating to watch.

I hope this helps in some way. Thank you for doing what you can to help save these wondrous creatures.

Please let me know if I can be of further help.

Best Regards,
Deb Clawson

40.

PJ Kaszas <pjkaszas@gmail.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 7:26 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

In 2015 I began my journey to becoming a wild horse photographer. One September evening of that year, a friend of mine and I arrived in Medora, North Dakota. Why were we there? To see the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

We shopped in local stores, we camped under the trees at Medora Campground during our week in the area. To get into the park we paid our park fee and bought items at the visitor's center. We contributed to the park and the local economy by making this trip specifically to see the TRNP horses, as do many, many visitors every year.

It was here in the 1880's that Theodore Roosevelt established two ranching concerns in what was still the Dakota Territories. Around the same time, a French nobleman, the Marquis de Mores, founded the town of Medora, naming it after his wife. The two didn't exactly get along but both men helped shape the history of this region. But long before the arrival of these lofty personages, this was the land of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Crow. In the late 1800's war came to this area as the U.S Army and the Sioux clashed.

Today Medora is better known for its musical and TRNP is one of the only national parks in the US that wild horses can call home, making it unique in the western US.

Wild horses roamed this area for hundreds of years, actually thousands of years if one knows the evolutionary history of equids. The common narrative of the origins of these horses has been that Native peoples' horses were released or displaced during clashes with the U.S army. Then ranchers, of course, brought their own horses. When cars and tractors replaced horses, and harsh conditions drove many to seek employment elsewhere, these horses were abandoned. The horses of TRNP trace their roots back to these wild horses, Native American horses, and the many breeds brought by European settlers.

But modern "management" techniques have created low genetic diversity in these horses. This means park "management" has led to creating a genetically unviable population. The park is already managing these horses to extinction. Theodore Roosevelt, the park's founder, would be horrified. Wild horses were on park lands before the land was turned into a national park. This means these horses are living history. It seems at odds with the mission of the National Parks Association to destroy our shared history. It leaves me shaking my head in bafflement as I remember my time in the park.

My friend and I went searching for wild horses in the craggy, rough land of these badlands. Manure and footprints were in abundance but actually sighting the horses that left them was not easy. But

we would succeed in our mission eventually.

Near the Talkington trailhead we saw two horses. We saw their butts actually, as their heads and bodies were buried in vegetation. Stallion Flax and his newly won mare Maggie May. We would watch as these two would make their way across a sea of grass and across a high ridge. It was a breathtaking sight.

This was just the start of our sightings of horses. We would see Gary's band in the distance. And then Teton's band, also in the distance. We'd watch them perform amazing feats of balance wandering down steep ridges to water.

And our most marvelous encounter with Silver's band. We would spend a lot of time photographing and observing the family interactions between Silver and Juniper, Gunnison, Democracy, Dixie, Firefly, Olympic, Daisy, Eagle, Faith, and Esprit. I say their names to remember them, to allow others to remember them.

As I look back at this trip and this time in my life, I can't imagine the park without these horses. They are part of that landscape. They are the perfect dry grassland dweller, adapted to these badlands, prairies, and plains because they evolved here before spreading to Eurasia thousands of years ago. The empty prairie will be a place devoid of an integral part of of the history of western North America and all of human history: the horse. What a lonely place it will be.

I plan to return to see the horses. But I won't return if these horses are to be removed or managed to extinction. Many people won't return. Because we will all know the Park Service destroyed a part of our shared history the founder of the Park had sought to preserve, and who would want to give money or attention to such an entity capable of trampling on the principles on which it was founded?

PJ KASZAS PHOTOGRAPHY
WEBSITE | INSTAGRAM | FACEBOOK | BLOG | WILD HORSE PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTIVE

41.

giselle carlow <saintlady116@gmail.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 7:30 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I am a disabled person living in Manitoba, Canada. Several years ago I was thrilled to be able to travel through the Teddy Roosevelt National Park. I only caught a glimpse of the wild horses living there but that glimpse of living beauty, a true symbol of the US west, stayed with me. When I found an online site that featured those horses, I quickly joined. It has warmed my heart to be able to watch the herds by seeing the wonderful photos of them through the seasons. Each new colt or filly fills me with the hope that the horses will remain free, in the park, forever.
I also pray that the horses will be in the park for years to come because I live in hope that one day I will visit again. In the interim I look forward each day to new photos of those wonderful wild horses and thank the devoted individuals who care enough about their survival to trek out in all weather to bring them to my computer screen.
Please allow the horses to remain free.
Thank you,
Giselle Carlow
Winnipeg, Manitoba

42.

Debbie L Mack <debbielma943@gmail.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 7:43 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I have never had the opportunity to visit the park in person regretfully! But I faithfully follow the media pages that follow and document the horses and their stories! I firmly believe that they should be able to remain wild and free! I also believe it would hurt the park's tourism industry! In my opinion the horses are an attraction just like the buffalo and other wild life! Horses wild or tame bring a lot of enjoyment to their human counterparts! Go out into the park and take a child and watch the expression when they see a majestic animal like a horse running wild and free with their little foals!

43.

Squarespace <form-submission@squarespace.info> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 8:38 PM
Reply-To: ckramer1231@gmail.com
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sent via form submission from *Wild Lands Wild Horses*

Name: C Kramer

Email Address: ckramer1231@gmail.com

Subject: Save the wild horses of TRNP

Message: To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to lend my voice to the many others who learn so much from the wild horses who live and roam in TRNP. It has come to my attention that the wild horses in the park are in danger, not from natural predators, but from an agency or agencies who would like to see them removed from the park. Conservation groups world wide are working to preserve species in the wild, and yet in ND we are discussing removal of a species?? Why? Shouldn't the goal be to preserve and protect what little remains of our early history? Can't the herd be managed so that everyone can be happy? Have you exhausted all possible solutions or just determined that eradicating the herd is the easiest/cheapest/least time consuming solution? Please consider alternatives.

For centuries the ND prairies have had horses either working or running free. Now the park is home to the only remaining wild horses. Many people throughout the country live in places where they do not have the opportunity to see bison, elk, or even deer let alone a majestic wild horse roaming free. Many of those people have fallen in love with the wild horses via social media accounts. The accounts educate us on the hierarchy of the herds, the various communication within the herd and just about horses in general. We share the joy when new foals enter the various bands as well as the anguish when a horse meets its end. Some of those people MAY fall so much in love that North Dakota and TRNP become vacation destinations.

As residents, we know that North Dakota is made up of beautiful prairies, amber waves as far as the eyes can see and some of the most spectacular sunsets. We don't have a huge tourism industry because frankly we lack amusement parks, professional sports teams, fancy museums and other typical tourist destinations. What we DO have is a beautiful landscape in the rugged Badlands of southwestern North Dakota. Among that beautiful landscape live the bands of wild horses. The wild horses make the park what it is today and what it was years ago when Teddy Roosevelt himself spent time there. They are symbolic of the rugged frontier that ND was and an integral part of our ND heritage.

Please consider the BIG picture. Do NOT remove the herd.

Sincerely,
C. Kramer

Does this submission look like spam? Report it here.

44.

sbrorby@midco.net <sbrorby@midco.net> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 8:44 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hi,
I am writing in regards to the wild horses at TRNP. We go to the park at least 2-4 times a year, sometimes more. Each year for our birthday's, that's our treat, to go see the wild horses. Yes, seeing the bison and other wildlife is great too, but really the only reason we go is to see the horses. It's fun looking for them and we just love sitting and watching them. We take so many pictures, it is one of North Dakota's absolute best things to see. I also follow a lot of the people who take amazing photos of them and love learning about each one, their names, the stallions & their bands. I follow Lynn Wallen, Dakota Grown and many others who also love the horses. To be completely honest, if the horses are taken away, I am sure we will never go to the park again, as that is the reason we go there. Please leave them alone and let them live wild & free in TRNP. It would be a shame not to have them there.

Sincerely,
Shelia Brorby

45.

Boomer Carlson <boomer.carlson@yahoo.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 8:56 PM
Reply-To: Boomer Carlson <boomer.carlson@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I have been following North Dakota TRNP for years and all the wonderful works these volunteers do for these wonderful animals. My goal is to make it this year, given money and health. There are so many different animals in this park and why would you want to separate any of them. Please think of the future of the families that will make it to this park and there will be many I can say for sure. Thank you Elieen and Tiffany and many more that work hard for theses horses. Thank You Linda Carlson (Boomer).

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

46.

Maggie Edmunds <edmundsm@talktalk.net> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 9:29 PM
Reply-To: Maggie Edmunds <edmundsm@talktalk.net>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hi

My name is Maggie Edmunds, I am 77 years old and live on the Somerset Coast in the UK. I have been following the life of the TRNP herd of wild horses for many years now.

I live alone and have mobility problems which prevent me from being actively involved with horses in the way that I have been for most of my life. Keeping up to date with the life and dynamics of the horses that roam free in the TRNP, gives me great satisfaction and a sense of remaining involved in a world which has always been close to my heart.

The frequent updates posted on Facebook allow me to experience the daily lives, struggles, joys and sorrows that this herd endures. I have wept at the losses and had my heart warmed at the birth of each new foal. I cherish each announcement of a successful birth and love to watch as each foal grows and develops , learning from its family and from each other.

I may live across the ocean and will never have the chance to visit in person, but my life is enriched by knowing that the horses are there, living their lives free to roam the park. The world is a better place because they are there and would be diminished greatly if they no longer existed. Please do not let that come to pass.

Maggie Edmunds

47.

kneegee03 <kneegee03@comcast.net> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 9:44 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

We were planning a family vacation to Yellowstone and it was asked what everyone wanted to see or do. As the mom, my first comment was, we're are going to spend a few days in TRNP on our way out to Yellowstone. My love for horses goes back to when I had my own as a young child. But, I wanted to see wild horses. We spent 3 days in TRNP and I was so sad as I didn't get to see any. Even went horseback riding in hopes of seeing them. That day we left, I was almost in tears because I had not seen them. We turn a corner and there they were. I did start to cry. It was like they were there to tell me goodbye. TRNP would not be the same without them. I have traveled back since then just for them.

Thank you for trying to save them for my grandchildren to see.

Sheila Schueller
Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

48.

FRANCES FONDREN <fbfondren@aol.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 9:46 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have not had the opportunity to visit Theodore Roosevelt National Park, but hope to in the future. I will visit to see the beautiful herds of wild horses that call this park home.
I have followed these horses through social media, (Dakota Grown Photos, for one), and feel I know each horse. These beautiful animal have been a part of this park for so long and should be allowed to stay. They are the only reason I have any interest in coming to TRNP. If they are removed I will have no desire to visit. It's such a thrill to see new life being born each year and sadness with each loss.
Please leave these beautiful creatures alone and allow them to live their lives, wild and free in your park.
Wild in North Dakota and Dakota Grown Photos have done so much to promote these horses and bring attention to your park but if you remove the horses there will be no reason to promote or visit your park!

Thank you,
Frances Fondren
1375 Peach Orchard Rd
Bethel Springs, TN 38315

Sent from my iPhone

49.

Laurel Neurauter <laurelneurauter@yahoo.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 9:55 PM
Reply-To: "laurelneurauter@yahoo.com" <laurelneurauter@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I have always loved horses. I somehow found out about Blaze and fell in love with him. I think it was the gorgeous blue eye and how beautiful he was. I followed posts about him and was saddened by his death. My granddaughter and I decided we were going to TRNP to see the horses. A couple years ago we did just that. It was awesome. Hanna baby talked to them and a mare and a foal started coming to us. I knew we had to back up to our car as they are wild animals. But, it was so special. I live in ND but would not have visited the park were it not for the horses.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

50.	**Faye Foster** <fayfos@gmail.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 9:56 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I'd like to add my story to the group. 1st I cannot believe there could be any good reason for not wanting to keep these horses as a part of the park. They should be valued for their historical importance! I am 52 years old. My parents started taking me to Medora as a child. We ALWAYS drove through the park looking for the animals. The horses were the most elusive to find and caused the biggest excitement when anyone spotted them. As an adult I still love going through the park every time I visit Medora. And now as an adult I can fully appreciate how incredible it is that these horses have survived and thrived! I have learned so much following a couple of the groups that tell us about the horses, their family history and units. The changing of band leaders. Their stories are incredible and make me feel like I have a look into history. I honestly don't think I would ever visit the park again knowing that these North Dakota treasures were valued so little that they would get rid of them. It's honestly unfathomable how this is even a real possibility!! The Park service should be preserving not destroying our beautiful and important wild horses. Why have a park service if they aren't going to protect the residents of the parks? If there is anything else I can do to help fight this please let me know. Faye Foster
51.	**ROLAND BENOIT** <tjlecat@aol.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 10:46 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I am writing this with a heavy heart. I am upset to think you will take these beautiful animals from the Park. Do you really know how very many people can not travel there but get pure pleasure from the outstanding photos that are posted. Many can not travel because of health and many more because of the financial situations. These magnificent animals were born free and they should remain this way. Please do not spoil this for so very many people, let them be free. 🙏🙏🙏 Sent from my iPhone

52.

rochelle gilmore <shellrok@hotmail.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 10:49 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

The first time I heard about the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt from my mother who had recently visited the park was in 2017. She sent me pictures of them, the Buffalo, and Prarie dogs. They were so beautiful. Seeing the babies sun bathing next to their grazing mothers in the badlands is indescribable. I wanted to see that myself.

The next year my daughter and I flew from Washington State to North Dakota to visit the park and find the horses. Our luck was with us that trip. Not even across the grate into the park we saw a small band of 3 horses grazing on the hillside. It was amazing.
We went all over the park and found different families. It's a pure joy to be able to share the history and experience seeing wild horses not only surviving but thriving in just a small part of our country.

I cried when I found a family I've been following last year. The young paint colt called Bloom had recently lost his mother, and was being watched over by his older sister. It was heartbreaking to worry if he'd make it through the winter. He's still in the
park today.

We've been going back every year since to see babies grow and families change. I follow groups on Facebook who document the heards throughout the year and give updates on the horses. I buy photographs the local store in Medora sells of the horses to hang in
my home.

I will continue to go back to the park as long as the horses are there. I've loved horses my whole life and the passion for the horses of TRNP should be continued for the next generations before they too don't know the history or be able to experience the joy
of uncaged wild and free horses.

Rochelle

53.

Park Region Telephone <lwright@prtel.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 10:58 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I am upset, but not surprised, by the park administration's view of the status of the wild horses in the park. This position has been held by federal wildlife biologists for years. I heard it while attending a National Wildlife Summit at Estes Park in the mid-1970's. These wild horses are considered "invasive species" that take away from "native" species.

For me, the wild horses are a huge draw to TRNP and my husband and I have followed them for several years both through annual park visits and through social media posts by horse advocates who track these horses closely. These horses, descended from ranch horses and Indian ponies, tie us to the history and development of the Medora/Badlands area from the time of the Marquis de Mores and Theodore Roosevelt. Watching these horses, descended from the horses of the early days of the Medora area take us back in time and carry the excitement and romance of that era into our present for all to see and enjoy.

This year I purchased a book from the Western Book Store in Medora, ND entitled "Images of America, Medora and Theodore Roosevelt National Park" by Gary Leppart, published by Arcadia Publishing. There are several historical photos with comments that struck a chord with me related to the park and it's founding.

Page 116 states, "Promotional efforts to establish a park in the badlands to commemorate Theodore Roosevelt's ranching days began shortly after his death in 1919."

Page 96 states, "These promotional pamphlets prepared for Peaceful Valley Ranch were used to entice potential visitors to the ranch. Carl Olson, one of the early owners of the ranch, was also an enthusiastic supporter of the national park concept in the badlands to commemorate Theodore Roosevelt's ranching days."

Page 76 states, "According to some naturalists, bison herds on the North American continent numbered some 30 million head at the onset of European expansion. By 1883, only remnants were left. One of the last herds in the region was found near Jordan, Montana . . ."

Page 126 states, "Bison, which were once native to the entire region, were reintroduced in the North and South units of the park. The first transplant was in 1956 when 29 bison were transported from Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge in Nebraska, and released in the south unit. In 1962, 20 bison were moved from the south unit to the north unit.

Page 125 states, "In 1956, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department began transplanting the subspecies California bighorn sheep in the North Dakota Badlands. On January 15, 1959, bighorn sheep were introduced in the south unit of the park. Most of these animals disappeared, probably as a result of disease. In January 1996, 19 bighorn sheep were introduced into the north unit where wild free-roaming sheep can be seen today."

Rocky Mountain elk were reintroduced to the south unit of the park in 1985. The transplanted elk came from Wind Cave National Park in South Dakota and were so successful that within eight years, excess animals were gathered and removed from the park."

The park was originally founded to commemorate the ranching era during Roosevelt's time there. Note that the pages I referenced indicate that the native species the present park administration are advocating over the wild horses were depleted or non-existent in the area during Roosevelt's ranching period and needed to be reintroduced by the park in the 1900's. The horses, however, present prior to and during Roosevelt's ranching days remained a constant. They are very much an important aspect of that ranching era.

I very much enjoy seeing the bison, elk, antelope and bighorn sheep but the horses should have equal protection because of their place in the Roosevelt era in North Dakota.

Thank you for all you are doing to protect these park horses.

Linda Wright
Erhard, MN

54.	**Ruby** <rubyjasmin@yahoo.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 11:42 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com To whom it may concern: I recently celebrated my 45th Anniversary and my husband asked what I would like to do for our Anniversary. My response? Go see the horses in the TRNP. And we did! That was the reason we made the trip to the South unit was to see the horses. I have followed a number of social media sites that post pictures of these beautiful animals and was so thrilled to see them in person. We plan to return this coming year to camp and hike to see the horses. They are the sole reason that I wanted to visit the park and the sole reason I will visit again. Please let these horses run free! They are a beautiful site to see and I would like my grandchildren to be able to visit them throughout their lifetimes too. Sincerely, Ruby Jasmin
55.	**Susan Engen** <skengen@gmail.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 9:51 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I remember going to Medora when you had to walk up the hill and you sat on boards on cinder blocks. That is when I fell in love with the wild horses in TRNP! I keep coming back to go through TRNP to see the horses! I will never forget the Black Stallion standing high on a cliff as I came around a curve! SOOOO beautiful!!!! Keeps us grounded to the past and a simpler time!!!

56.

Amber Gonzales <amber.gonzales1979@outlook.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 10:39 PM
To: "Jbaldanza@gmail.com" <Jbaldanza@gmail.com>, "deb@debleecarson.com" <deb@debleecarson.com>

"To encounter the sacred is to be alive at the deepest center of human existence. Sacred places are the truest definitions of the earth; they stand for the earth immediately and forever; they are its flags and shields. If you would know the earth for what it really is, learn it through its sacred places. At Devil's Tower or Canyon de Chelly or the Cahokia Mounds, you touch the pulse of the living planet; you feel its breath upon you. You become one with a spirit that pervades geologic time and space."

- N. Scott Momaday

For me that pulse is felt in the earliest of hours, before dawn makes her approach and cascades her beauty across the majestic landscape of what belongs to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. It's felt as I dress for the unpredictable weather I may encounter as I prepare to spend the next several days in the park discovering, reflecting, and falling in love all over again. It's felt when I cross the iconic cattle guard and my eyes focus as they are trained to do the minute my ears hear that sound. It's felt in the excitement of my voice because I know……

I know what this wild, rugged and spiritual land has in store me. I know I will hike many miles with dearest of friends in search of what keeps calling us back to this place time and time again. I know I will see my little wild mustang, who I adopted from the park and lost tragically, in the playfulness of the wild foals. I know I will hear her calling in the nicker of a nearby mare. I know I will feel her from the pulsing ground as a band of wild horses move across their land. I know my heart will heal every time I return because they are there. And while I sit quietly a short distance away, I'm humbled and comforted to spend those magical moments with the wild horses of TRNP.

My love affair began in 2013 when I traveled from my home in Arkansas all the way to a little town called Medora and entered a National Park I had never heard of before all because a friend told me about the wild horses that lived within the boundaries of TRNP. It did not disappoint and the moment I laid eyes on Silver and his band, my soul was forever bonded to this park and the wilds that call it home. For the next 7 years I traveled twice a year to spend time among the majestic wild horses that unselfishly share the land that has such profound history deeply rooted in every inch of that park. These horses introduced me to people all over the world that I would've never met, friendships that I will forever cherish. In 2019 I moved four hours from TRNP and continue to visit the park every year exploring, healing, falling in love with new wilds born to the herd and paying my respects the seniors who welcomed me all those years ago.

I know…..

I know when I cross those cattle guards and dawn shares her light….

I am home!

57.

Mark & Sue Bendson <m.s.bendson@gmail.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 11:48 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Medora! A horse rider's dream vacation! Why is that? First, and foremost, my love for the wild horses!! It all began with my first trip to Medora. I went with a friend, and we brought our horses to ride in the park, camping at the Bar X campground.

I am a mare person, and my first ride in the park was amazing! We rode for miles. While riding, our first encounter with the wild horses was a bit frightful, yet exhilarating! Two bachelor stallions happened upon us on the trail. We were moseying along when suddenly, to the left of us, the two bachelors flew by us! It was like, WOW, absolutely beautiful! They seemed taken by my mare, and of course, she was more than excited to race after them. We held back, and for the remainder of our ride, those two followed us at a distance. I'm sure they were curious, and interested in my mare, which peaked my curiosity to follow this herd.

When finishing our ride, we returned to our trailer, and in the distance, we spotted a mare and her foal. I was instantly in love with the horses in the park, and they are what keep me coming back.

My next trip to the park, I met a gal who was there to catalog the horses. We were staying at the same campground, and we talked endlessly about the wild ones. I was hooked! Since that time, I have followed the horses of TRNP, and know them by name. My interest in them was more than just a visit. I have since adopted two fillies from the park, and they are living their life in Minnesota.

I understand the need to cull the herd, and I am fortunate to have been able to provide a soft landing for the two I have. I will continue to make my trips to the park, because of the horses. They are a huge part of the park! The reason many of us visit the park. I can't imagine removing them. I don't know who makes the final decisions, but if the decision makers are horse people, maybe they can explain just how an adjustment of this magnitude will affect the horses. Especially the older horses - who only know the park as home. How cruel for them. How many of them will just die of fear and bewilderment? How many of them will end up in slaughter? I am so fearful for their future. This is heartbreaking to me!

I understand the genetics of the herd are quite compromised. What happened to all the plans submitted to integrate new blood into this herd? The contraceptive plans? So many of us submitted valued time, thoughts, and plans for your new management plan.

I feel so defeated. If I want to visit a park, why would I go to TRNP as without the horses, it's just another park.

Respectfully submitted with hope for the future of this herd.

Sue Bendson
Minnesota

58.

Sandra Ranney <shonto4858@hotmail.com> Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 2:24 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I love these wild horses. I look forward to any and all posts about them to see the pictures and hear of how this new colt or filly was born in this or that herd and whose new little one it was. Boomer has been a favorite that I like to follow as he just seems so unique to me! I like to envision all of them like I'm looking out my window at them though they are many miles away. (I live in Michigan.) Someday I hope to be able to visit to see them living their lives wild and free there. Meanwhile I love following them online. I have quite a collection of photos in my wallpaper file on my computer that I have collected from the Wild In North Dakota website. One of my daughter's gifts me with a new calendar each year and I make regular donations to benefit these beautiful horses. I pray they are allowed to continue to thrive and live their lives as God has intended: Wild and Free.

59.

Karen Hunnicutt-Meyer <karenhunnicuttmeyer@gmail.com> Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 8:23 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Good morning,

I would like to submit my story - my experiences with the wild horses of TRNP.

Teddy Roosevelt once said "The landscapes of today are not ours to do with as we please. The original stock was given to us in trust for the benefit both of the present and the future.
We must render an accounting of this trust to those who come after us".

I believe that if President Roosevelt was alive today that he would include not only the landscapes, but the wildlife as well. On my first visit to Theodore Roosevelt National Park in the summer of 2013, I came across a band of magnificent wild horses standing high on a ridge. I was overwhelmed with awe. I spent hours watching them and studying their interactions with each other. On that same visit, I found another band preparing to retire for the evening basking in the golden sunlight closing in on the horizon.

These images are etched in my memory, images captured with my camera and scribbled in the pages of my journal. An excerpt from that day "How spectacular to be in the presence of wild horses. The joy that seems to ignite the rare elements of grace, beauty, spirit and fire".

I have made several return trips since that day, just to be able to experience these emotions time and time again. I truly believe that these horses define this National Park, they are the pure essence of why Roosevelt, Muir and others fought tirelessly to create and protect these parks for generations to come.

- Karen Hunnicutt Meyer

60.

Shayla Fortune <shayla_fortune@hotmail.com> Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 8:43 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

In July I visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park to see the wild horses. I've been following a Facebook page about the horses for some time and finally had the opportunity to make the trek from Michigan to North Dakota to see them in person. We explored a lot of the park, always on the look out for the horses. When we finally found them eating near a river we were delighted. Seeing horses living free, being able to do what is natural and important to them without humans asking anything of them was a beautiful experience. I wish there were more horses in the park! They are a treasure to the park and should be protected.

61.

Kristi Taylor <kjmleah@live.com> Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 12:01 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

To whom it may concern:
I live in Iowa but there are NO wild horses to observe so I am a tourist that benefits the communities and parks where I can satisfy my dreams in visiting and witnessing the iconic wild horses. Please benefit from people like me ….please.
I live where a person can only pretend what once was….
I want generations upcoming to witness this in person also.
Not some pretend zoo palace want a be…..
Please again please …..
I am planning to see the park this summer as my 2020 visit was delayed due to Covid.
The landscape in the park looks to be magical in the pictures I see and can only hope ….it remains iconic
Sincerely,
Kristi Taylor

Sent from my iPhone

62.	**shelley3405@aol.com** <shelley3405@aol.com> Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 1:15 PM Reply-To: "shelley3405@aol.com" <shelley3405@aol.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> I was raised in Williston, ND and although we rarely took vacations per se, a trip to the badlands and TRNP was so.ething we considered a vacation. My Dad worked 2 jobs, one of which was farming so time and money were both always hard to come by. Going to the TRNP though was always a special treat and something we could do that the whole family enjoyed every single time. While there, it didn't matter that we couldn't afford all the fun things other kids got to have, we were able to enjoy the freedom of the outdoors, run and play and make games out of searching for the wild horses and Buffalo. Those memories are treasured and although I live far away now, I've made certain my kids had the same opportunities to enjoy the park as I did. It's become somewhat of a tradition and it helps us all appreciate the value of nature. The fact that these herds have lived free for all these years and still live and thrive in what can be a very harsh environment helps keep our priorities straight and puts life in perspective when we are faced with the challenges life throws at us. This is part of our country's history and while I understand sometimes change is inevitable, there is no valid need to change the park nor the herds that reside there. As a country we need to do better preserving the natural state of the areas that we can, and the TRNP is one that should be allowed to remain beautiful and natural with all the wildlife that call it home! Sent from the all new AOL app for Android
63.	**Margaret Baie** <mbaie100182@gmail.com> Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 1:34 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> We visited the park in fall of 2020 and were only able to traverse about half of the area due to some road work. We were thrilled when coming around a bend there in front of us was a band of wild horses, the epitome of the west!. We spent a lot of time watching this band and then went to look for more. We were not disappointed. The spirit of freedom and the beauty of seeing these families of horses made our visit to TRNP one of the most memorable sights of that whole trip (which included a few days in Yellowstone). Even though horses are not considered indigenous to the plains, horses did originally evolve in North America and these wild ones need to be left to remind us humans how little time we have actually been here and how a species can survive in the most rigorous environment. Thank you for fighting for these wonderful beasts. Margaret Baie
64.	**Paulette Larson** <owllady68@yahoo.com> Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 2:05 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Sent from my iPhoneWe go to the park every year once or twice . We always drive through looking for the horses and bison. The horses are so majestic, wild and free. We take many pictures and watch them. While they may not be native to the park, they are a big attraction and it would be a shame to get rid of them all. People are always asking if we've seen them and where they're located on that day when we saw them. Keep them!
65.	**Keira Woodhart** <findnhome@yahoo.com> Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 2:12 PM Reply-To: Keira Woodhart <findnhome@yahoo.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> It has honestly been a dream of mine to see the wild horses in TRNP. The whole park is a monument in and of its self, but the wild horses will forever be synonymous with it. With out those horses I am not sure I would visit the park. I grew up around Yellowstone National Park, but the draw to Teddy Roosevelt National Park had and always will be the wild horses. Please, please let them stay. Sincerely, Keira Woodhart Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

66.

trekkie4612navi@verizon.net <trekkie4612navi@verizon.net> Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 5:40 PM
Reply-To: "trekkie4612navi@verizon.net" <trekkie4612navi@verizon.net>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

My name is Cathy Weeks and I am from New York. I first came to TRNP in 2019 after finding out there were wild horses there. I drive out west to be with wild horses and close to Native American culture. My heart soared when I saw my first TRNP wild horse. And that was Nichols....with his gorgeous mane...standing there down by the water. And then I came around a turn and there was a band up on a hill and they were stunning....so proud.....so wild...so free. I have been out every year since (except 2020) to see them. I now also hire a guide so I can venture further and find more of these beauties that roam the hills and buttes of the park. I do not come for the buffalo...I see them at Custer, Wind Cave and the Badlands. I come to TRNP for the horses. I will be returning this year and looking forward to seeing these special horses that have captured my heart. They are a part of the park and I will continue to come as long as there are the wild horses.

67.

Diane Tutas <tutasd@yahoo.com> Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 5:40 PM
Reply-To: Diane Tutas <tutasd@yahoo.com>
To: Wildlandswildhorses Info <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello my name is Diane from Indiana and I wanted to tell you just how much these horses mean to me. I've only followed them on social Media so far and have grown to admire and love them. I didn't know much about this park before seeing the horse's. I have big dreams of finally getting to see them and pray they will be there for me and my family to enjoy.

I have visited many National Parks in my lifetime and traveled a lot.This is a big one on my bucket list. The thing that sets this Park apart, besides it's rugged beauty is the Horses. It's the reason I would come to this park as North Dakota is a little more off the beaten path. I've seen Bison, Elk and Pronghorn and bears etc. many places. I love wildlife. Seeing these beautiful horses free in the elements of the park would be breathtaking and makes this park different and special.

I'm an admirer of Theodore Roosevelt and the fact that this park preserves the essence of the west sets it apart. We owe horse's such a debt for all they have done for us as a nation. A national park with free roaming horses is a good way to honor the horse's. Plus this park is a place that all people can see wild horses. History is an important part of our heritage.

I urge you along with all the people who love them, to allow the horses to remain in the Park in a capacity that is viable and enjoyable for generations to come.

Thank you,

Diane Tutas

68.

Nate & Neali Austin <neals622@gmail.com> Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 9:00 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hi friends!!

I miss you. Here is my story for the TRNP herd. Thank you for what you're doing! Feel free to use the attached photo to go along with the story.

"I am blessed to say I have many stories and memories of the TRNP herd from my first introduction to them in 2003 to my last visit in 2017. I think what's been the greatest gift from this herd is the friendships and community I've made along the way while following their story. There are so many different people that find one common interest and sanctuary in this seemingly simple, dispensable and invasive herd of livestock - or so the 'powers that be' would like you to believe that's what they are. These people find new community with one another even though they come from different backgrounds and stories of their own (fellow travelers and locals alike) because they each have come for the sole purpose of seeing the wild landscape TRNP has to offer with the added beauty of its wild horse herd. Trust me when I say, there is nothing more beautiful or mesmerizing than sunrises or sunsets dotted with their silhouettes among those badlands hills. Each sunset or sunrise I have experienced with them has its own separate memory and fondness associated with it. Often times I look back on just one picture and can replay the memory as if it was yesterday, including the people I shared it with. I now have 2 young daughters of my own and I hope to be able to bring them to TRNP in the near future so they can also experience the beauty and wonder of not only the park and its horses, but also the community. I can say with certainty, a trip would be much less prioritized if the horses are removed. If the horses go, many of the community will also go, and that would be a shame to see."

69.

Barbara Kimble <bakimb1@hotmail.com> Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 12:50 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

My job is 100% travel. The first time I came to the TRNP area I did some research and found that there were wild horses in the park. I am a horse lover and have always dreamed of seeing wild horses. At the age of about 53 I finally had the opportunity. As I approached the park on the highway I saw the horses way up on the ridge. I stopped and got out my binoculars and camera. I actually cried as I saw wild horses for the first time!!! My work has never gotten me close to the park but I am so enthralled with the horses that I take an early morning flight and make a 2.5+ hour drive to the park just to see the horses! I have done this probably 5 times in the past 12 years! Without the horses there will be no reason for me to visit the park. You can see bison and other wildlife in many other parks. My attraction to TRNP is the horses. I have always planned to return to the park after retirement to be able to spend more time with the horses. I have followed the Wild in ND website ever since I discovered it many years ago. Wild horses are just an important piece of history as are bison and should be protected as are the many bison herds in the National Park system!!!

Barb Kimble

70.	**Denise McGuire** <debdenmcguire@gmail.com> Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 11:59 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I have never been to Theodore Roosevelt National Park but I follow their story on Facebook every day. I believe everyone would agree that this world is full of sadness, chaos, misery and unending bad news, so for me, and for thousands of others around the world, logging onto social media and seeing the pure and unfettered beauty of the wild horses there is a breath of fresh air and a shining light in this world of ever-increasing darkness. Please let them be. Let them remain as they are. Let them remain free!! They are the last vestiges of our Wild West, our Last Frontier, the Wide Open Range and the New World. They're our Heritage, American Icons, the embodiment of the Soul of America, the Heartbeat of our Great Land. Many days there's nothing that can bring a smile to my face like a striking photo of a stunning wild Mustang or a video of a band of horses thundering across a wide open space. Please don't remove them. PLEASE SPARE THEM. They don't deserve to be rounded up, contained, closed into corrals, separated from their bands, removed from the only home they've ever known and most of all they do NOT deserve to be shipped to slaughter in Mexico or Canada. Please, consider their value and worth as sheerly unsullied creatures living their own lives, and letting all others live theirs. Consider the joy they bring by simply "being". They draw people to the Badlands, to North Dakota and to the Park. This has to count for something! So please, in the name of all that's Good, Real, Truly Authentic and Fundamentally American---let them stay where they are and remain free. Respectfully and With All Sincerity, Debra Mcguire
71.	**Wendy Bentley** <kymtngirlwb@gmail.com> Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 12:09 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I have never been to TRNP but look forward every day to the posts on FB about the horses. I don't know when, because I am caring for my aging mother, but at some point I dream of coming to see the horses wild and free. I am not sure why there are plans in place to remove these horses from the park. They have been and should always be a part of the park. They have been there for 100s of years and that land belongs to them more than it belongs to the people who want to remove them. It belongs to them more than it even belongs to us who love and enjoy them whether in person or from a distance. I will never understand bureaucracy's need to change things by destroying things or taking away things that make people happy!! Leave the horses alone!!!

72.

Marcia Hage <featheredhorse@me.com> Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 12:43 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Wild and Free
by Marcia Hage

Mile after mile goes by, marked by two wheels humming on pavement; heat radiating off the engine keeps me warm on this cool morning in North Dakota. We stayed last night in Devil's Lake, arriving just as the sun went down. And now, headed south on Highway 20, we are surrounded by water on both sides. Skeletal trees rise up from the fog-enshrouded lake, ghost trees that were on dry land only a decade ago. We glide past silent barns, silos and hay fields succumbing to the water.

My dad explains the shallow lake has been rising for 20 years. No one knows why, but speculate it's due to recent climate shifts resulting in higher rainfall than usual in the area. The encroaching water has risen 35 feet to flood hundreds of farms as well as parts of two small towns. The landscape is as flat as a tabletop, so even a modest rise in the water level can cover thousands of acres. Today the placid lake resembles a high plains version of the everglades.

I ride in silence, absorbing the passing scenery and musing about the abandoned barns and houses and the people who once lived there. I count the ravens perched on beckoning tree branches. Seven, eight, nine… I lose track as a grain truck roars past, empty trailer rattling, on his way to New Rockford, McClusky or Garrison to start his run all over again.

My eyes settle on the lone figure ahead. My dad, Dennis Jindra, has been riding motorcycles for more than 50 years, accumulating over 1,000,000 miles. His resume is impressive: all four corners of the United States in 10 days, 1,000 miles in one day and a ride from the Florida Keys to Seward, Alaska when he turned 60. I started riding iron horses in 2012 and this marks our third annual father/daughter road trip.

This time we are on a pilgrimage to see the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Located in the Badlands of North Dakota, it is just shy of 800 miles away from our homes in northern Minnesota. The state of North Dakota claims they are not truly wild horses, in the pure sense, as they are comprised of stock that escaped or were turned loose from nearby farms in the 1940's and 50's. This fact, however, does not lessen my desire to see them as they are meant to be: wild and free.

The day has turned hot and dusty and the wind batters us relentlessly, roaring like an ocean minus the refreshing spray. We brave temperatures pushing 100 degrees and nonstop grain trucks going the opposite direction on Hwy 200. There is no sign of human life out here, just endless fields of hay, corn and wheat. Nowhere to stop. We finally locate a tree in someone's front yard and pull over to rest and drink some water. I observe we are on Main Street in the town of Dodge, population 87. We are tired, but push on.

Watford City. The sleepy farming community has changed so much since the oil boon that my dad doesn't recognize it. We get lost. It is now 98 degrees and it takes real effort to keep emotions in check. I go into a repair shop and ask directions to the hotel while my dad rests in the meager shade offered by the hulk of a dilapidated Chevy pickup. Heat waves shimmer above the blacktop.

Finally we locate the hotel – at the end of a dirt road next to a grain elevator. My dad thinks he's hauled grain from here before, back when he owned his own truck, a 1978 light blue and white International he was so very proud of. A stockyard sits across the street, its corrals now empty of life, sharing a dusty gravel parking lot with

the *Outsiders* bar next door. Our boots are covered in a film of dirt as we make our way over to the bar for dinner.

In the morning we pack up the motorcycles. I watch, transfixed, as the early light pours through the open doors of the grain elevator. A truck pulls in to load and dirt swirls, rising into the air and catching the light. It is beautiful as the sun penetrates the slanted beams of dust. God light. The automatic sprinklers have come on overnight and soaked my bike. I wipe it off and clean my windshield as we prepare to leave. My dad says we are about 35 miles from the north entrance of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I feel light and free as I swing my leg over and mount up.

In a short time, we arrive at the park. On this day, it is deserted so we have it to ourselves. The road twists and rises to higher elevations. We pull off at a scenic lookout, where below us, the mighty Missouri river bends and turns, cutting its way through the grassy valley. Many layers of sediment are visible on the rock walls that border the grasslands. The rabbit brush is in bloom, its blue green foliage supporting delicate yellow flowers that add a punch of color to the green and gold landscape.

Everything feels endless here; the sky is an endless aching shade of blue, the grasses dance and sway as far as we can see, and the rough-edged rock formations stretch on for miles. The former president, Theodore Roosevelt once said of this place: "*Nowhere, not even at sea, does a man feel more lonely than when riding over the far-reaching, seemingly never-ending plains; and after a man has lived a little while on or near them, their very vastness and loneliness and their melancholy monotony have a strong fascination for him.*"

Since we are more likely to see wild horses at the other end of the park, we point our motorcycles towards Medora. Once there, we follow the south loop. Mile after mile ticks by with no sign of them. My heart sinks at the prospect of going home without having seen a single wild horse. Finally, I spy a small herd of four at the base of an arroyo and pull over for a closer look. They are picking their way among the prairie grass and shrubs: a dark bay mare, a splashy paint with a black filly in tow, and a gray stallion. As I carefully descend the grassy slope for a clearer view, the gray materializes, ghostlike, from behind a clump of cedars. He appears to be unaware of my presence but has strategically placed himself between me and his small band.

For every step I take in their direction, he takes one also, until only a mere gap of 100 feet separates us. I am close enough to observe the battle scars that mar his nearly white coat in stark contrast to his slate gray mane and dark-tipped ears. His forelock hangs well past his eyes, giving him a misleadingly boyish appearance, but I know a full-grown stallion fears nothing, not even a grizzly bear. I stay, kneeling in the weathered grass, and watch the horses for a few moments.

By now, a number of people have stopped on the road to take pictures. Car doors open and slam shut. I hear excited voices rising up in the background, breaking the stillness, silencing the birds. My eyes are fixed on my beautiful horses, but I can feel the tourists standing near their cars, gesturing in our direction. The spell is broken and the stallion turns to go, taking his little harem with him. Reluctantly, I get to my feet and watch them until they disappear into the sagebrush as easy as spirits, as if they had never been there at all.

Leaving the park, we round a corner and there are buffalo everywhere, surging out of the ditch and flowing over the road. Thirst drives them on, eyes and nostrils fixated on the cool river lined with cottonwood trees just across the way. A cow stops to wait for her twin calves to catch up and I am mesmerized by the fuzziness of them, close enough for me to touch. One calf stops to stare at me with her large eyes framed by long dark lashes and the other jostles her like a petulant child. The herd crosses in front of us as well as behind, and I marvel at the thick, curly hair that extends from the top of their heads down the upper ridge of their necks. It feels vaguely unsettling to be so near such massive animals with nothing between us but a scant amount of steel.

We clear the buffalo roadblock and see more prairie dogs. They are everywhere, disappearing as far as the eye can see along the flat expanse of grasslands. Sitting on their haunches, they face the late afternoon sun like dutiful sentinels and send us on our way with much fanfare as we slowly exit the park. I glance in my rearview mirror and catch a glimpse of the sun just as it dips below the horizon. Right then I make a promise to return and once more walk among the wild ones in this beautiful and rugged place called the Badlands.

72.

Jeni Smoker <dane248@hotmail.com> Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 6:51 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I currently live in central Pennsylvania and have always loved horses. It has always been a dream of mine to see wild horses in the wild. I am writing in response to the park's plan to eliminate the wild horse heard.

I follow numerous social media accounts on instagram about wild horses and some specifically about the ones in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Watching the beautiful wild horses in undeveloped land is stunning, and a fitting tribute to the park's namesake.

I have not yet been to Theodore Roosevelt National Park or seen the wild horse herd there, but I would love to. I did have a trip planned to TRNP (flying into Rapid City specifically for the purpose of seeing the horses) but unfortunately I got Covid and had to cancel my trip. I have yet to reschedule my trip but I hope that it is one of the next ones I take.

Although I do love parks, and definitely national parks, I can honestly say that TRNP would not have been on my radar if not for the wild horses living in the park. Even though I have now seen various wild horse herds in other western states, I am still planning on seeing the horses at TRNP. I was hoping that living in a national park would allow the TRNP wild horse herd to live more peacefully than the other herds managed by the BLM.

The fertility treatments seem to be a much better management tool than the roundups and complete herd eradication.

I do not plan on visiting the park if the horses are removed.

Thank you for trying to help the wild horses and I will be of assistance in any way possible.

- Jeni Smoker

73.

Claudia Low <ndbhclaudia@gmail.com> Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 10:13 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Thank you WLWH for your efforts in this fight!! Here is my story.....Feel free to add a picture of baby Gates and his band.

I viewed moving to North Dakota from Louisiana as a huge adventure. I love the outdoors and the excitement of visiting TRNP and the wild horse herd was hard to contain. Little did I know the Park would be so captivating. Once I made my first trip to the Park, nothing else fit into my spare time. I was there 3-4 times a week! I wanted to know about the history of the Park, the history of the horses and how they fit into Teddy Roosevelt's story.

The TRNP NDBH herd brings comfort, healing, and entertainment to so many, not to mention the friendships forged in mud, snow, ice, sweat and tears. There were many tears of joy and many tears of sadness as Mother Nature worked her wonders in this herd of horses. Fellowships formed that will last a lifetime all because of a dedicated group of individuals with one goal in mind, following this herd of horses for eternity.

The best feeling of all was when I became the owner of one of these amazing animals. I purchased "Gates" in 2016 and he is easily one of the best mounts and partners I have ever owned. We live in West Texas now but the fellowship continues. I return every year for the Annual NDBH Reunion Ride and spend two weeks in the Park with the horses. In the future, as long as the horses are there, I will be returning at least twice a year.

In my opinion, TR's legacy is not the same without the horses. Why remove this important chapter from the story of his life? I think he would be very disappointed.

Please don't remove this herd. They are as iconic as the beautiful buttes, bison, and homesteads. Don't take away the comfort, healing, entertainment and fellowship this herd offers.

The Organic Act is for protection of natural and CULTURAL heritage. What sort of life would TR have had without a horse???

~Claudia Hebert Low proud owner of a NDBH
San Angelo, Tx

74.

Dakota Grown Photos <dakotagrownphotos@gmail.com> Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 10:39 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

"My love for the horses inside Theodore Roosevelt National Park began in April 2015. One morning, I went to the park looking for a mare I had seen on social media. She had recently lost a foal, and I felt I needed to go to the park and see this horse in person.

While driving the loop, I saw two stallions fighting near the road. I photographed them and watched in amazement that this was happening right before me. I later learned that I had photographed a former band stallion taking on a bachelor who would win his first mare just a few weeks later. These photos led to me meeting a woman from one of the non-profits for the horses, and so began my often weekly tracking and documenting of this herd.

Through running a social media page dedicated solely to this herd, I have seen firsthand the difference they make in the lives of the thousands of people who follow them. Their existence alone has helped so many people, including myself. I have suffered from depression for most of my life and was not in a good place before learning about the park horses. Once I did, my life changed. They gave me an outlet to care for something larger than myself and took me out of a dark place.

Tracking this herd has also given me the opportunity to see countless interactions among the horses over the years. I've witnessed mares with foals at their own side protect another mare as she was foaling, stallions lose their lives defending mares they spent years protecting, mares fight to find their way back to their band after a separation, stallions and mares look after and protect foals which are not their own, and watched entire groups of mares run to defend their stallion without hesitation. All of these examples came down to one thing - family.

If you will not keep the horses in the park for all the families who will visit in the coming years or the families around the world who find joy in every single horse image shared, then allow them to stay to protect the largest family of them all – the one living inside the park."

Tiffany Craigo, Golden Valley County, North Dakota

75.

Sheri Logue <bandslogue@gmail.com> Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 11:09 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

My family recently visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota from Florida, driving from Devil's Lake, ND to Medora,ND just to see the wild horses. It was an amazing experience and one that we look forward to coming back to experience again (with a trip planned for October) and one that I have told many family members and friends about. It's truly a bucket list trip that most don't know about but what an incredibly beautiful national park it is! Even my husband, who isn't crazy about road trips, said the most amazing thing about North Dakota was seeing the wild horses.

To hear that Theodore Roosevelt National Park management recently announced its plans to eliminate the ENTIRE herd of wild horses from the park made me want to share our story and for you to see that the impact of these herds reach as far as Tallahassee, FL. I hope that common sense is used in the management of the herd and not a complete elimination of the herd. I also hope that it is taken into account that these herds are families with strong connections and the bands shouldn't be divided.

Before visiting from Florida, we watched a documentary on Theodore Roosevelt and the North Dakota he fell in love with. While visiting this park and seeing the wild horses it was amazing to feel like we were experiencing the untouched land as he did many years ago.

Thank you for fighting to save the wild horses for generations to come. They are truly amazing and we look forward to coming back to North Dakota to enjoy them in the future.

The Logue's - Tallahassee, FL

76.

Chelsea Sorenson <chelseasorenson3496@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 1, 2023 at 2:01 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

My story about the horses doesn't really have a start date. I'm a born and raised North Dakotan and I've loved horses for as long as I can remember. I have also had a camera in my hands for as long as I can remember. I have photos of the horses going as far back as (I think) 2006 and I've been visiting the park since I was 1 year old. I remember walking among a band of horses in the campground when I was a little girl- before I knew better, of course. 😉

The horses improve my physical and mental health because I never tire of hiking out to them to photograph them, and the outdoors is, of course, great for my mental health. It's a good feeling to collapse in bed after a day of hiking to find the horses- solo or with friends. The park is my happy place and has been for years, a place where my soul is refreshed. I want it to stay that way, but taking away so many of the horses would leave a void in my soul.

I know each one of these horses by name and their parentage and histories, and I've met lots of like-minded friends who love these horses just as much, many of whom own a formerly wild TRNP horse, several more than one. We have all spent countless hours with these wild horses and with each other and none of us can imagine this national park without the horses. They are the heartbeat of the park.

The photo attached is just one of hundreds of special moments I've had with the horses. On this day in 2020, Justice of Arrowhead's band had given birth just days before to an adorable little filly named Badger (Frosted Arrow). Arrowhead, Thunder/Xander, and Half Moon's bands were all close together, and I was photographing them through the fence. To my amazement, Arrowhead gently nudged mares Diamond and Justice closer to me at the fence, and I stood silently and waited to see what would happen. Justice stood close behind Badger, her head held low and calm. Badger was tiny, fuzzy, and curious, and kept coming closer and closer, until I could have touched her through the fence. I kept still and silent, and eventually the band naturally slowly moved off on their own. I'm not sure I breathed the entire time. It was as if Justice had presented her firstborn to me. It was magical.

To summarize a quote from one of my favorite horse movies, "Flicka" (2006), "The history of the West was written by the horse. Wherever a settler left his footprint, there was a hoofprint beside it. Mustangs are on their way to disappearing from the face of the earth. Sometimes when the light disappears, an afterimage remains, just for a moment. Mustangs are an afterimage of the West, no better than ghosts, hardly there at all. We need to protect them, for they are the hope for some kind of living memory of what the promise of America used to be… and could be again."

If the horses are gone from TRNP someday, they will take a piece of my soul with them.

Chelsea

78.	**Jennifer Nygaard** <jnygaard@integritysteelsupply.com> Sun, Jan 1, 2023 at 6:02 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> Good Morning I am writing this morning so that my voice may be heard regarding the Wild Horses at TRNP. I go to Medora for a chance to see the horses in the park. Last summer, I faced some challenging times and during that time took a drive from Fargo to Medora. I was hoping to see the horses as I drove through the park. It was looking like it wasn't going to happen and then there one came. I spotted the first one then an entire band came running shortly there after. It was a beautiful scene! The time we have on earth is so very short and moments like what I experienced that day, those are the moments that carry us through this life. I am asking that you keep our wild horses in TRNP. I know I am not alone when I say they are a huge draw to area. Thank you Sincerely Jennifer Nygaard

79.

Gabi Faye <actressgabifaye@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 1, 2023 at 11:16 AM
Reply-To: actressgabifaye@gmail.com
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I visited TRNP for the first time this past year with a photography group. We hiked in and out of the landscapes looking for bands. It was the most incredible weekend of my life. In a world where our attention is engulfed by screens and to-do's, seeing horses in their natural habitat is so captivating and rejuvinating, it makes time and technology fall to the wayside.

I captured a photograph of a mother and her baby during sunset just seconds before she suckled. I gifted the photo to my terminally ill mother on mother's day. A unique and personal gift that no one else in this world has. I do not have children, but when I do I want them to know their grandmother, and this experience is a connector of generations. I want them to know a world where animals have freedom, not bring them to a zoo where animals live in captivity.

Experiencing wild horses is magical and we are lucky to have them roam our lands here in the USA. I pray you make the decision to allow them to stay wild. Some things are more important than money. This is certainly at the top of the list.

80.

Melinda Kersten <kerstenmk405@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 1, 2023 at 10:35 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

From Melinda :)

Throughout my several years of working with a major wild horse sanctuary in South Dakota, visitors were thrilled to get up close and personal with our horses. And they would inquire where else could they observe wild horses actually in the wild. My response, every time, was "go straight north to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. It's the only National Park with wild horses." A quick check of directions and our visitors would adjust their travel plans to include time in TRNP.

I finally had the opportunity to visit TRNP myself in September 2022 as part of a wild horse photography workshop. Armed with a new camera, a long lens, and new friends promising adventure, I approached the 3-day excursion with the hope that I might see a few horses, but an awareness that the TRNP herds were not conditioned to daily hay delivery along routes convenient to visitor tours in the way the sanctuary horses are.

Within moments of photographing an incredible sunrise along the loop road, we came across a few wild horse bachelors wandering a horse trail near the road on their way to connect with their friends for the day. They did not want us too close and they kept moving. We parked and quietly sat, observed, and photographed the horses within the incredible landscape of TRNP. I was tearful as I had finally observed wild horses in their rangeland – undisturbed, not displaced by round ups, and living life on their terms.

A little farther around the loop road, we spotted a stallion with his only and newly acquired young mare. We spent time in their presence from a respectful distance while whispering about who they were, how they must have come together, and capturing images of "young love" in the quiet moments of the early morning.

The remainder of the days were filled with wild horses throughout TRNP within observable distances. My sanctuary experience had led me to believe that it would be rare to actually observe wild horses on their home rangeland. Instead, we managed to see nearly every horse within long lens photography range in the park over the course of 4 days.

I left TRNP thinking this is as good as it gets. Generations of wild horses living their lives on their terms on their rangeland. TRNP is their home and we humans are the guests blessed with the opportunity to catch a glimpse of their wild lives. I'll be back to TRNP in 2023, and for years to come, with my camera, friends, and wild horse guidebook – hopeful and thankful for the privilege to be a guest of the wild ones.

81.

dana christensen <danalee2000@yahoo.com> Sun, Jan 1, 2023 at 10:52 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I first saw the wild horses I think in about 2010 while riding through TRNP with my husband on a motorcycle. The site of the horses on top of a hill not far from the loop road was a thrill and captured my imagination despite the fact that my husband wouldn't stop or even slow down. About a year or 2 later, I was driving through the park with my sister and along the side of the road was the stallion, Gray Ghost and his band of mares. This time we did stop! Both of us were captivated forever, my sister even more so than I. She lives not far from the park and being involved with the advocacy group (NDBH) has become a large part of her life.

While I am not involved in advocacy, over the years I have made many trips through the park, usually several times a year. My daughter and her family live in Dickinson and I frequently swing into the park to see what horses I can see when I go to visit them. I have brought my grandchildren with me on several occasions. I have developed a deep love and appreciation for the beauty and intelligence of these animals and I hope my grandchildren will develop the same appreciation that I have.

There are very few opportunities for the general public to observe wild horses in a natural habitat that are as accessible as TRNP. What a unique and valuable experience…to be able to observe herd dynamics and watch their interactions outside of a domestic situation, having the thrill of seeing a herd of horses thunder across the prairie, or of watching 2 or more stallions spar. When the horses are gone future generations will be deprived of that opportunity!

Once the horses are gone from the park my interest in visiting will be gone. When I drive by to visit my grandchildren I will have no desire to swing in to see what bison I can see.

See the clip from the National Park Service website site below. Please note the Park Service takes pride in preserving local history and celebrating local heritage. Both the longhorns and the horses are very important pieces of local history and heritage worthy of preservation.

Dana Christensen

Since 1916, the National Park Service has been entrusted with the care of our national parks. With the help of volunteers and partners, we safeguard these special places and share their stories with more than 318 million visitors every year. But our work doesn't stop there.

We are proud that tribes, local governments, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and individual citizens ask for our help in **revitalizing their communities**, preserving local history, celebrating local heritage, and creating close-to-home opportunities for kids and families to get outside, be active, and have fun.

Taking care of the national parks and helping Americans take care of their communities is a job we love, and we need—and welcome—your help and support.

ON THIS PAGE

Our Mission

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource

82.

JudyM42@aol.com <judym42@aol.com> Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 11:16 AM
Reply-To: "JudyM42@aol.com" <judym42@aol.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hoping this helps ... let me know if it should be altered in any way.
Judy Meldahl @ JudyM42@aol.com

My first trip to Theodore Roosevelt National Park was exciting. While visiting ND family, a trip to the Park was planned with my mother-in-law. The terrain was pretty, the history interesting. What was exciting was being surrounded by buffalo on the road! I was living in Illinois, born in Pennsylvania and had never seen a buffalo! Buffalo came onto the road and surrounded all the cars. While I rolled down my window to take a picture, Caroline was less than enthused! As the buffalo got closer and closer, I did roll up the window. My only shot was the buffalo nose against my window. I never saw a horse. I did revisit the Park a couple times when friends joined me in ND ... and never saw a horse.

By 2016, again living in Illinois, I was still following Cloud's band in the Pryor Mountains and thought I had a chance to adopt a couple mustangs to live in ND. While that did not happen, I did learn that there were horses in TRNP ... and they were also being gathered and available for adoption. Figuring that I had a perfect place for a couple mustangs in ND, I did just that and heartily welcomed Carlsbad and Guadelupe into my life. While I consider them both a blessing, I have always wished that they could have lived their lives with family remaining in the Park. My last trip to TRNP was to meet Guadelupe for the first time, and I will never forget her screaming in fear when separated from the other two fillies in that gather.

To learn that TRNP is now considering removing all of the wild horses, or possibly allowing only a few to remain, is more than disturbing. In my mind, the wildlife in the Park, especially the horses, are what makes it the most outstanding National Park. To remove those horses who have called it home their entire life is both cruel and a detriment to TRNP, Surely, I am not the only one who will have no reason to return to the Park. After all, I have seen the landscape in more than one season. The heart of TRNP lies with the horses and other wildlife. Furthermore, the number listed by TRNP to possibly remain would not allow for a viable herd. In fact, I imagine that Theodore Roosevelt himself would find his dream and plan violated.

Understandably, management of herd size can be challenging .... especially to maintain healthy viability. Help is available, procedures exist, and volunteer help is ready and willing and able.

Judith A. Meldahl

83.

Deborah Kalas <deb@deborahkalas.com> Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 6:00 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

January 2nd, 2023

To whom it may concern:

I am an equestrian and have been a photographer my entire life. Seeing an opportunity to join a workshop in June of 2014 to photograph the wild horses at Theodore Roosevelt National Park was a dream come true. Watching the horses interact with each other and move through the beautiful and varied terrains of the park was breathtaking. A peace would overcome me as I watched the different bands of horses go about their day. I was smitten and decided to return on my own.

From 2014 – 2020 I traveled to the park about 4 times a year to photograph the horses. Living first on the east coast and then on the west coast this was no easy feat requiring airline flights, car and hotel rentals. I usually spent ten days to two weeks each visit to TRNP.

There was something about the family ties, bachelor and stallion rivals, mares and foals bonding and the lifelong friendships between many of the horses that caught my attention. I decided to document these ever-changing relationships through the seasons.

I would hike through the park finding remote bands and spend the day observing and photographing. I remember one winter trip when snow was on the ground and the wind was stirred up, I watched almost an entire band lay down with their bodies so close to each other, touching each other, that they looked like a giant sandwich. Even the stallion lay close and eventually stretched himself out taking a nap.

Another time two bands were grazing near each other and all of a sudden, all the mares started circling and moving and their ears flicked back and forth in alert. Low and behold, three bachelor stallions came around the corner obviously looking for a mare of their own. The band stallions immediately approached the bachelors letting it be known that their presence was unwanted. Eventually the youngsters moved along.

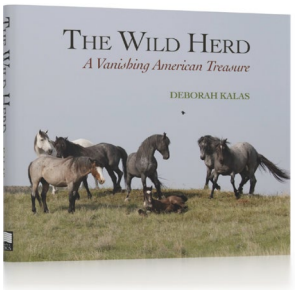
By 2019 I decided to put together a book and created an awarding winning coffee table book, The Wild Herd: A Vanishing American Treasure. It had a Kirkus star review and was considered one of the top 100 books of 2020. I gave lectures in North Dakota, California, Florida, Pennsylvania and New York sharing information about the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park and elsewhere. A number of people who came to my presentations expressed their interest in going to the park to see the horses.

The book also contains a section on "Understanding Wild Horse Behavior" and serves a visual guide with explanations for people who may not understand what they are witnessing when they observe wild horses. Libraries all over the country have multiple copies of my book so that the information can continue to be shared.

Without horses in TRNP I would not travel their again. Please keep the herd in the park. Not only for me but for everyone else who has been there or plans to visit.

Deborah Kalas

www.TheWildHerd.com



84.	**Jane Millar** <scandiajane@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 7:41 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> I've never been to the park, but I have experienced the wild horses from afar through fabulous photos taken on a regular basis by dedicated souls. I love reading about who's who and watching the horses' families grow. I'm in awe of the photographers' memory of sires and dams of every one of the horses.Their familial bonds are so strong. I look forward eagerly to every post about the TRNP horses. I've loved horses all my life, and at 75 am still in love with them. I would love to visit the park to experience in person these magnificent creatures. If the horses were gone, I cannot imagine the sadness and regret we would ultimately experience that we allowed this huge piece of our heritage to disappear. Thank you for saving the wild horses in the TRNP. Jane Millar Woodinville WA -- Jane Millar, now at scandiajane@gmail.com
85.	**denise etter** <denise_etter@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 7:49 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I have not physically visited the park of TRNP but it is on my future bucket list -why because of the wild horses there-I have fallen in love with them by watching them on Facebook and following their growth and patterns-I grew up loving wild horses and all horses and during the year 2020 they were a blessing to me and a daily go to watch-it was my happiest time and I have a very stressful job and loving these horses was my heaven -please do not remove these horses-they are not hurting anyone and deserve to be treated with honor and respect and cared for-please stand up for them and help them and thank you in advance -Denise Etter

86.

Dana Connolly <danazivagage@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 8:09 PM
Reply-To: Dana Connolly <danazivagage@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

To Whom it May Concern,

I have been following this herd since 2012 and they are the most amazing horses! I've seen a lot of wild horses around the country but the genetics of this herd is superior by far! They are on my bucket list to see and I really want them to be there when I finally get there! Please consider how extremely special this herd is genetically. I understand having to manage numbers but please don't cancel them altogether!
Sincerely,
Dana Connolly
2121 Holly Lane
Bunnell, FL 32110
386-479-0442

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

87.

Squarespace <form-submission@squarespace.info> Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 8:33 PM
Reply-To: stoddardmt@protonmail.com
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sent via form submission from *Wild Lands Wild Horses*

Name: Robbin Stoddard

Email Address: stoddardmt@protonmail.com

Subject: Wild Horse Herd

Message: Though I have never had the good fortune to see the wild horse herd in TRNP, I have followed a Facebook page devoted to sharing images of the beautiful band that lives in Teddy Roosevelt National Park. They are beautiful creatures. I've given a lot of thought to those horses, because here in Montana, where I live, there are wild horses living in the Pryor Mountains, and they are a State treasure. It is difficult for me to believe that the wild horses living in TRNP are not also State treasures. Please, please, do not eradicate this herd. I keep thinking of what Teddy Roosevelt would say about this issue, and cannot believe that he would promote or support eradication or sterilization of the horses that run wild on "his" park.

Please consider leaving the herd intact, and in place. It would be a travesty to kill those horses or to stop them from breeding. I cannot believe that wild animal management includes eradication. How could anyone entertain the idea of killing those beautiful creatures?

Sincerely hoping those horses will be left alone,

Robbin Stoddard
Belgrade, MT

Does this submission look like spam? Report it here.

88.

Kathy Monti <glassykathy@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 8:42 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

My name is Kathy Monti , I am a glass artist from Berthold , ND. I love the wild horses and I love to go to the TRNP and watch and study them. They have inspired my work and I can't imagine going to the park and not seeing them running wild. They are as much a part of our western culture as the bison . My Grandfather and Father went to the badlands and caught wild horses every Spring in the late 1800's until the 1920's. They are an important part of our history. They are a legacy we must pass on to the generations that follow. We have to ensure that they endure in the TRNP forever.
Sincerely, Kathy Monti

Sent from my iPhone

3 attachments

image0.jpeg
285K

image1.jpeg
34K

image2.jpeg
343K

89.

Stacy <svan@mtida.net> Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 10:42 PM
Reply-To: svan@mtida.net
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

To Whom It May Concern,

Regarding the park's three "alternatives" to managing the wild horse population in the park, I'm shocked. I have always believed that TRNP's beauty was as much about wild horses as it was about buffalo and other dryland prairie species. The wild horse presence has been enriching peoples' lives for many generations, since Theodore Roosevelt's time and before. To phase out the Mustangs that have thrived on this land alongside other wildlife species would be a tragedy for the park and for the people of our country. They are history, a symbol of freedom that this country needs now more than ever. And the horses were an established presence in the park when it was created. They were part of the original creation, part of what Theodore Roosevelt loved, and a part of the reason for a park. What happened to the idea of "Today in TRNP, the horses are protected as a cultural resource along with the other wildlife in the park; they are a “historic demonstration herd” representing what Teddy Roosevelt would have seen," from the article The Wild Horses of Roosevelt’s Badlands for The Cowboy Chronicle.

For decades I've driven between Idaho and Minnesota, often taking the Medora Loop, swinging off the fast paced beaten trail of the Interstate, in hopes to see one of the herds or

spot a lone Mustang high on a ridge. It's something that stirs the heart. Stirring American hearts is just as important as management of native species. I've made trips so my children grew up knowing there were wild horses still populating some of our country, letting them know that not all history is past and gone, but lives on in our National Parks. The beauty of the wild horses is no less stunning as the badland's colorful vistas or watching a bison powerfully pawing dirt over it's back.

I've been blessed with opportunities to work with wild horses, but not many people have the ability to do this. The Facebook pages such as Dakota Grown Photos, Deb Lee Carson, Wild In North Dakota and Heather White, to name a few, that share the stories and photos of the herds, their hardships, their loving and meaningful family connections, the births and deaths, stories that teach the nation of the natural cycles and the generations of family lineage are a true gift to people who can't travel to the park, and they draw us all to want to visit the park, to get out of our rigs and walk into the draws and over the next hill, explore, spend time in this land. We want to see Flax and Redface and Yoakam.

These wild horses support the park. They are a specific reason for much of the park visits. Phasing them out would be a mistake. Part of my shock over the alternatives outlined is that management of the herds has seemed to be working out for the park as well as the wild horses and the people who love and enjoy them. Why the need to phase them out? Are they threatening the existence of other native

species? Are they threatening the grasslands so buffalo and antelope cannot survive?

I'm sure I don't need to cite research to the park staff and biologists, but if you'd like citations, I can sure dig them up again. The horse evolved on the north American continent. IF it did "disappear" for awhile, it is still native to this continent, yet there are fossil records that support the presents of small horse populations that remained on this continent through the "extinction" period.

I've read also "How can you put value on someone's emotional connection to the wild horses?" Isn't that what Wild Horse Annie, Velma Johnston did? It seems the entire Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 was based more on emotions, humane treatment, symbolism, history and other emotionally based aspects than science. I know that this act doesn't affect the TRNP horses, I'm using it as an example of the importance placed on the country's emotions. Do the emotional needs of the citizens of this country, the tax payers who support the parks and other public lands, count for nothing, or for less than "science"? Why were any of the national parks preserved? It was the emotion of love that preserved the parks, and the emotion of love and respect has preserved the wild horse herds. I thought TRNP was a showcase to the rest of the country as to how a wild horse herd could be successfully managed, show cased, and preserved for future generations.

Also, regarding herd population viability, according to many studies a herd of 35-60 would not be a genetically effective

population.

Cothran now believes that the minimum wild horse and burro herd size is **150-200 animals**. Within a herd this large, about 100 animals will be of breeding age. Of those 100, approximately 50 horses would comprise the genetic effective population size. (https://americanwildhorsecampaign.org/genetic-diversity-and-viability#:~:text=Cothran%20now%20believes%20that%20the,the%20genetic%20effective%20population%20size.)

"an absolute minimum for a population in the wild, census N would need to be in excess of 139-185 wild horses, the excess to account for 3-5 removals per wild horse generation," (https://www.blm.gov/documents/national-office/blm-library/resource-note/genetic-effective-population-size-pryor-mountain).

I am hopeful that this added comment period can persuade those overseeing TRNP to keep a viable wild horse herd as a valued part of the park.

Stacy A. Van Steenwyk
Harpster, Idaho
svan@mtida.net

90.

My TRNP Wild Horse Story
1 message

Joanne Brady <jmbrad03@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 11:42 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

This is my story and it is heartbreaking that I even need to write it.
I am a native to ND, born and raised in Minot. I have always loved all animals, and a real love for horses. We had 3 horses, and they brought to me so much happiness in my childhood.
I recently moved back to Minot from CO. The first place I wanted to visit was Medora and the TRNP to see the horses.
I remember when I visited the Gift Shop, I felt it was different from the past. There was hardly any mention of the horses, few gifts about the horses, and when I inquired about the horses, no one really wanted to speak much about them.
May I ask you all, what the heck do you have against the horses?
Don't get me wrong, I enjoy seeing the bison, prairie dogs and other wildlife. But the horses, I love! I know some by name, and have so many of the items, like pictures, coasters, calendars, beautiful items with their pictures on. I could not even find any of those items in the Gift shop. 😔
To be perfectly honest with you, I will probably not be going to Medora any more if the horses go away.
I do not know what the motive would be for this plan, but if it is about money, you will see the town of Medora suffer from removing the horses.
I am sending a video of the joyful moment we saw these beautiful horses in the park.
I beg of you to not get rid of the horses, but to leave them to live in the park as they have for all these years.
Sincerely,
Joanne Brady

91.

Helena Chesters <helena.chesters@hotmail.co.uk> Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 2:09 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Good morning
This is just a quick message in support of the herd of wild horses in Roosevelt National Park. During covid lockdown I started following the Dakota Grown facebook page along with my young daughter. We both love the beautiful photos of awe inspiring scenery and wild mustangs. True symbols of a wild America. We are in the UK and may never be lucky enough to visit the park in person but photos of the wild horses have touched our lives and made our hearts sing with joy.
Don't underestimate the impact that the wild horses have, and the value they bring.
Kind regards
Helena

Sent from my iPhone

92.	**Masha Plotkina** <bonechka@yahoo.com> Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 10:49 AM Reply-To: Masha Plotkina <bonechka@yahoo.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> Hi Jamie, I'm writing to contribute my story about our beloved TRNP horses. I live in Italy and I have never seen American wild horses in person (although, obviously, I would love to one day), but for a few years these beautiful horses living wild and free in Theodore Roosevelt National Park have played an important role in my life. Ever since I discovered these amazing horses thanks to social media pages of some dedicated people, I have been regularly checking for their photo and video updates. I now feel as if I have personally met many of these horses, they have a special place in my heart and, I'm sure in the hearts of many dedicated followers around the world. I am a horse lover myself and have my own horses and observing these beautiful wild horses and there natural behaviours and herd dynamics has given me many insights into horse psychology, useful for my own interaction with my horses. When watching these horses it's so obvious what special bonds they share within their family bands and how stallions protect their mares and how the whole band looks after the foals. I really hope these beautiful horses will stay wild and free in the future and many more people will get to see them in their natural environment. Masha Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android
93.	**Barbara Mosher** <barbaramosher73@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 2:00 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Wanted to write and let you know how wonderful it is to be able to see these amazing wild horses. Haven't been to the park but would love to go and see them in person. Such joy to know these beautiful horses are being saved and given their freedom that they richly deserve. Makes my day when I see a post. Please know I keep you all in my prayers. Thank you for what you do.

94.	**Judy Richmond** <tjrichmond59@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 7:41 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com In 2019 I had the pleasure of visiting Theodore Roosevelt National Park. A friend and I were driving in the park foran after-dark photoshoot of the night skies. The skies were clear, the air was calm and a perfect night to be in TRNP. Suddenly we spotted some of the wild horses in the road ahead. We slowed to a stop and in a few seconds our car was surrounded with horses. They were in no hurry to be on their way and we enjoyed the experience of being in the middle of a wild horse herd. It was a night I won't soon forget. It will be a sad day when you can no longer enjoy the wild horses of TRNP. _JLR7155-1.jpg _JLR7173-1.jpg Judy Richmond
95.	**Thomas Wellard** <bugs_alive25@hotmail.com> Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 9:33 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> When I married my wife 30 plus years ago, she was from Sentinel Butte area. We came back to visit her grandparents who are old timers from this area and had friends who were ranch and rodeo cowboys. Conversations were of the old days and them collecting western antiques and the outdoors and horses and cattle. Wild horses we brought up and I was told of the park and the herds, which led to a visit to the park and at which time I got some pictures of the horses. When I retired we moved back to the ranch and with my love for photography this was great photo opportunity because of the uniqueness of the horses and other wildlife. It was amplified when I came upon the groups who track and monitor the horses. This introduced me to names, habits, bands, babies and lineages. Know these things made the horses much more intriguing knowing about them and being able to tell others about which horses you saw and tell other the name of the horses in the picture , which created a excitement and following of different horses by those who were not from here. Friends come out and have me take them to see the horses from my photos which because they have names and history are easy to connect to and follow. Without the horses it would not fit Roosevelt's idea of the wild country he so loved. Horses were a big part of his history here! Sent from my iPad

96.

Judy Frasch <jmfrasch@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 4, 2023 at 12:59 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

The thoughts of writing 'a' story to encapsulate these horses and what they mean to me has stopped me cold for days. Believe me, I have many. First, I want to make it clear, I'm not a writer and I have difficulty in expressing my thoughts & feelings..definitely not to the depth I feel or think them. But try I must because of my great love for these horses.

We live 40 miles away & I've been coming to the Park for years. In 2011 I retired & started spending more time in the Park & I loved seeing the horses but I didn't now them. Around 2015 I met Marylu & Henry Weber, founders of North Dakota Badlands Horse who'd been following & documenting the horses since the early 80's. Through them I started learning the bands, stallions, mares, foals and some of their history. Then they came alive to me & I really fell in love with them at that point.

When I brought my grandson's to the Park for the first time when they were about 5 & 6, I wasn't sure if they'd be bored or not. When you say Park, little ones immediately think of a park with playground equipment or some kind of entertainment. This Park was not that kind but I made a list up before we went of all the wildlife we'd see and we played a new version of 'I Spy'. The object was who could spot a prairie dog, coyote, deer, bison, horse etc. first. After seeing bison, deer, prairie dogs numerous times the game started getting old. But when they'd spotted a horse(s)!! Ahhh!!! The game was on!! Then to figure out who it was. They wanted to know more about them. My younger grandson in time lost interest in the Park but Kiptyn was like his Gramma & his love for the horses grew. Most every planned time to Grandpa and Gramma's had to include a trip to the Park to see the horses.

It was always our dream to one day see Circus. We called him the 'Phantom Horse' because we never saw him. We'd hear and see photos of him by others who did but he is illusive..a loner who seldom shows himself & who hangs out in a remote part of the Park. Many never see him. But, Kiptyn & I were always on the look for him & we'd say, 'maybe this is our lucky day to find Circus'.

On a slow day in June 2021 (6.24.21 to be exact!) around 2:30 we were headed to Medora to take in an afternoon show on Teddy Roosevelt. . We made a sharp turn in the road and started down a hill with 'S' curves and guard rails on both sides. We spotted him at the same time & started sucking in air. I was speechless and Kiptyn was only able to squeak out, 'is that....is that....is that CIRCUS?!!' Oh my goodness...it was!!!! He was slowly meandering down the road in the same direction we were in the other lane! At that point he couldn't get off the road because of the guard rails so we just stayed behind him giving him plenty of room. Cars at the bottom waited when they saw him coming. Cars behind us were lining up impatiently..one actually passed us! WHA...???? Didn't they know who this legendary horse was?!! But we weren't to be hurried by anyone...we'd waited for this moment way to long & we knew it would never be repeated. This was no doubt our one and only moment with Circus. When he got to the bottom, he turned left off the road and headed for a low area looking for water. There was dry stream bed but occasionally a small muddy pool. Eventually we lost him but I told Kiptyn we might see him again if we hurried and got to the upper Jones Creek turnout and waited for him. And sure enough we did! This time we had him all to ourselves making the moment even more epic. He wandered into an open area and we ready for him already sitting on a higher nob. We happily started snapping away with our cameras. When he moved out of sight, I told Kiptyn if he wanted to hike out south & make a wide berth to the west, he'd probably see him again. Gramma was not near agile or quick enough to go along. He was keen on it and armed with walkie talkie he started off. Sure enough, this time he practically came face to face with him as they each rounded a corner at the same time.

How do you explain the thrill of moments like this?!!! I can't. Kiptyn & I have had so many 'moments' out there with horses racing towards us because of a deer that spooked them and then having to run to get out of their way..horses fighting, the one trying to get his band back, seeing Gray Ghost in his last days. Oh so so many. Just this last week between Christmas and New Year's break he wanted to come & spend time in the Park with me. He has the most keen eyes and we saw so many I wouldn't have on my own & we had a wonderful time. But at one point he said, 'Gramma, if they take the horses away I don't want to come back.' With a huge lump and with hidden tears I agreed. Me either. It is way to painful to consider going to the Park with no horses. I won't, but I pray it won't happen.

Oh! By the way...Kiptyn got the best shots of Circus that day taking over 400 of him!!

Judy

97.	**John Schaper** <johnschaper69@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 4, 2023 at 6:49 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I been going to TRNP over 50 years n have guided free for all sorts of people from all over the US and there first thing 100% of them first said is they wanted to see the wild horses. Buffalo n Elk were 2nd on their list . Getting rid of the wild horses would impact TRNP big time ! There are so many stories I could share about my experience and the experience I have seen guiding people in the park when they see the wild horses I could write a novel. TRNP will loose tons of money n visitors if they remove the horses. The prairie dogs are the ones that need managing because there is way more prairie dogs than coyotes n other predators can eat n they're spreading bigger every yr. I'm very disappointed that TRNP would even consider getting rid of the horses. Yes maybe reduce a few 1/4 at most of the heard . Sent from my iPhone
98.	**TAMMY SHINTON-CLERMONT** <wired426@aol.com> Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 9:20 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com A while ago I stumbled onto a group of amazing photographers who photograph the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National park. As I travel from the east coast I have been getting closer and closer to this park. Watching these magnificent horses grow, reproduce and unfortunately sometimes die, is the magic of the park itself. They're free to live off the land how it was meant to be. Their beauty is what is drawing me there. To hear that they may be destroyed or removed all together is astonishingly upsetting. These precious animals deserve to live their lives, given the harsh conditions in the park year round they have earned that right. If this is to take place, what is next? Removing bison from Yellowstone National Park? Please leave these stunning horses alone. Thank you for allowing me this time to express my opinion. Regards. Tammy Clermont Sent from my iPad

99.

Brenda Heilman <bheilman.gondtc@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 4, 2023 at 8:21 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

His name was Bentley, this TRNP horse that stole my heart and began my wild horse journey. I followed his story, and through him, learned that there's just something about a wild horse that captivates us. id: "There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man."—whether it was Winston Churchill or someone else sharing these words, I'm guessing he wasn't talking about wild horses, but the sentiment remains: wild or not, horses are good for humans. Just the sight of them lifts the spirit, doesn't it?

Because of Bentley, I've met some amazing people, built cool friendships, hiked many miles in TRNP, seen every wild horse in the park, and purchased a wild of my own. The combination of TRNP's badlands and horse herd do wonders for my soul. Within a matter of minutes after arriving, all is well. Hiking or driving, that first sight of a horse in the park just brings a smile to your face. You never know when or where that first sight will happen—that's probably the magical part, isn't it?

My TRNP mare, Massachusetts (Little Sorrel x Trouble's Girl), is a sweetheart as I imagine Bentley was. Her heart, try, and smarts never cease to amaze me. These TRNP horses are assets, not liabilities. They have more value than can be measured. One of Theodore Roosevelt's passions was horses. As the National Park that bears his name states, "<the horses'> presence represents Theodore Roosevelt's experiences here during the open-range ranching era…For several years the National Park Service tried to remove all horses from the park. In 1970, a change of park policy recognized the horse as part of the historical setting. New policies were written and enacted to manage the horses as a historic demonstration herd." If they were representative then, aren't they now? If they were part of the historical setting then, aren't they now? TRNP employs crazy smart folks. They have the skills and tools to manage these horses. Is funding the issue? Staff? I don't know, but I hope with everything I have that all of our hands, hearts and minds together can come up with a solution that keeps horses in TRNP. As proud as Teddy Roosevelt might have been about a Presidential Library in his name, I bet he'd give it up in a heartbeat to keep the horses in TRNP to 'represent his experiences'.

100.

Kendel Cody <kendelcody@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 12:05 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have been fallowing Theodore Roosevelt's wild horse for almost 10 years my favorite being the stallion Circus. Circus and I have some common ground we both walk with a limp. Circus and I are both old I am 71 he is 23 years old. Circus has been really wonderful to view and watch.

Circus and all the horses in TRNP have been a part of my life daily. I have fallowed their births, deaths, their interactions with each other. It had been wonderful!! It will break my heart if your get rid of all of those beautiful horses. I have lost a lot during this very hard and unkind world these last 3 years. In truth I do not understand why you want to get rid of all these wonderful horses?

Please cut me and everyone else a brake and allow these beautiful horse to stay in Theodore Roosevelt National Park! For me horses are not livestock they are my soul.

For the love of horses, Kendel Cornwell

101.

STEVEN JANICE MOE <moehaven@msn.com> Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 5:01 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

We visit twice a year and have visited for many years. We have brought many new people to the park for the experiences of sight seeing and horse back riding. Having camped and stayed multiple times at the Round up camp within the park. We have been to the park a few times just sight seeing and picture taking as not all our friends and family ride horses. This is the only park that the horses can be seen wild and free with in a park. We have been to other parks but none compare. To lose this wonderful experience for up coming generations will be a huge loss the likes which we would never be able to get back. We understand that there is a natural "carrying capacity" for which the limited acres of land the park has can sustain. We believe that a reduction in ALL the critters big and small must be done to some course. Prairie dogs, elk, bison...and on. They all should be managed. We having back country ridden trails on our horses ,have over the years, witnessed the prairie dogs claiming grass land many times over. We get that visitors love seeing the little creatures....from the road. BUT way back in the park away from the road ways they are thriving like no other. The grass is gone a short time after they move into the area an area that very few see and that the horses and other grazers could utilize to a much better purpose IMO. Keep the grass = keep the dogs by the roads where visitors who like seeing them can. TRNP will never be the same majestic park it is without the wild horses in it. It is a national treasure and we pray that a compromise can be made to have horses and all the other animals in the park for all to enjoy now and for many generations to come.
Has it ever been thought of to "in house " adopt a horse. People could help pay for birth control or ? by adopting a wild horse and for $ per year or month assist in the care for one or more ? I know that the numbers are high right now, but to have the small amount of horses that we have heard numbers of (25 -50) which would be almost invisable within the park of hundresds of thousands of acres....you would have to look a very long time before ever seeing a horse in the park. If the park experts could find a real number that would be acceptable to meet the criteria for sustainability within the park, limiting new births by contraceptives only allowing a new foal in when old die keep even pace with mortality vs birth. Horses could live full lives well into senior years and after the passing it would be a much anticipated date for which a new foal would arrive = celebrating the event with great fan fair. I know getting long. I will quit.

Take care.
Jancie L. Moe

102.

Chris Wiese <wiesefamily_80124@msn.com> Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 5:27 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I'm not a writer, just another mammal that is blessed to share this space. Being a human I feel privallaged to be the smartest among those that inhabit the planet. That being said it is a BIG responsibility being one that gets to chose. My hope is that you chose fairness. This group of horses that inhabits TRNP Is in the crosshairs, why? They have done nothing but add pleasure to humans. Do they need to be managed, Yes. Eliminated, I hope not. I have heard comment that they are not native. Well you my friends you are not either. So choose carefully as it is a GREAT responsibility that you have been given.

Sincerely;

Chris Wiese

Horse owner and horse lover.

103.

Eunice Guthrie <eguthrie44@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 6:43 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

As a native North Dakota resident, I am saddened to learn of the plan to remove these horses from the park.
Roosevelt himself commented on frequently seeing wild horses wandering the range — stray ranch stock or American Indian ponies that got loose. The ancestry of the park horses traces its lineage to American Indian ponies, including horses surrendered by Sitting Bull and his followers at Fort Buford in 1881, as well as ranch stock.
I think too much history is being removed from the public. What will be next? The Bison? the prairie dogs?
One of the reasons I wander to TR Park whenever I visit my home state of ND is for the horse bands. I have been privileged to see them twice. However, I also realize they are wild and free and so seeing them is just a lucky chance. Please reconsider removing these horses from the Park. They have roamed there for generations as some of the horses have blood from the ponies Sitting Bull surrendered to the army.
Thank you for any consideration you may give this request.

104.

Darrel & Tracey Thomas <mdwcrkrch@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 7:15 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hi, my name is Tracey, i've been going out to the park since 1999, on our 1st trip driving the park we came across Curious George and his band. Needless to say it was love at first sight. Every year it was always a challenge to see if we could find him while riding the park. We started following the different horses getting to know who was who.
It started out with myself and 2 sisters and their husbands, over the years our group grew to include extended family and friends and kids and now i'm passing the love of the park to my grandbabies.
When i found out they we doing roundups of the horses i knew someday somehow i would get one. I went to the sale in Dickenson and also Wishek but came home with an empty trailer. Then they started the low stress gathering and in 2016 my dream became a reality.. I adopted 2015 park name Olympic now called Sully. My next part of a dream come true will be this summer when i take Sully back out to the park and ride him there. I included a pic of Sully and myself.

IMG_2920.jpg
523K

105.	**charly ebenal** <charlylady@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 9:57 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com We visit TRNP as often as we can. A few times a year. The whole point of the visit is to see the wildlife in their natural environment. To see the horses and the bison, is truly a moving and even spiritual experience. It is not the same as seeing animals in a Zoo. Please, cull the herds in a humane way if the numbers must be reduced, but it would be a sin to remove them all. Sincerely The Ebenals

106.

Otto had the truck pointed the wrong way, and I was impatient. I walked my short, chubby little legs just as fast as they would go around the side of that hill, while he turned around. He caught up with me fairly quickly, but stayed a good ways back, as to not startle the horses.

As I turned the corner of the hill, there they were! The ENTIRETY OF REDFACE'S FAMILY BAND! Most of them on the road, walking together.

Pretty Girl, Cash, and Molly lagging behind to "beckon" Lakota along.

And there SHE STOOD. LOOKING RIGHT AT ME.

Be still my heart.

I never did see "The Black" (aka Mystery) on that first trip to TRNP.

My heart found "it's horse". Mare Lakota

I fell instantly in love with that wild, beautiful, independent, strong-willed mare.

I followed them a little way down the road. 3 times she stopped and looked back at me. 3 times I stopped also. I never encroached on her space, but I FELT her.

Once the band was off the road, I walked back to our truck, and Otto, ever so patiently, again waiting for me.

We continued down the road. I had more experiences that trip. Found more love and passion for this herd of horses, and could go on and on about them all.

The herd in Theodore Roosevelt National Park is where I started learning about and falling in love with wild horses and burros.

I have had amazing experiences, met some outstanding people, learned about, and been to see other wild horse herds because of them.

The herd of Theodore Roosevelt National Park will ALWAYS be my "heart and soul" herd. I will continue to learn, grow, share and, hopefully, "teach" about AMERICA'S wild horses and burros, THANKS TO THEM.

Kerri Jenkins <kerrijenkins65@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 1:42 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Good morning,
I am writing from the UK.
As an adult I became an unexpected horse owner when I took on the care of a retired racehorse in her later years. I lost her when she was 23 and whilst looking at Facebook one day found the horses of TRNP. These horses have filled the void left by losing Chance and I follow their lives and journeys regularly.
The wild horse is an iconic symbol of American freedom and I have watched with increasing concern the way this seems to be eroding. I know many other people in the Uk follow these horses and share the same concerns about their future.
I would love one day to visit TRNP to see the horses living wild and free, it is their birth right, their home and a symbol of Americas past and present; I hope that they remain part of the future and will run wild and free when I finally manage to visit.

Kerri Jenkins

Sent from my iPhone

107.

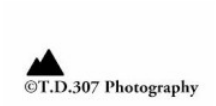
Tony <tony@td307photography.com> Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 7:57 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello,

I'm writing you today to share my experiences with the TRNP Wild Horses in an effort to save their freedom. I'm a professional wildhorse documentary photographer from Wyoming, and have visited the horses of the TRNP multiple times. My documentations of them have been nothing less than extraordinary. While being a wild horse photographer, I see them much differently. I don't see them as animals. I see them as families with personalities no different than us as humans. In my documentations back in Wyoming, I have grown to connect and learn about each horses personalities, their tendencies, family dynamics, emotions, etc. That's what drove me to want to see and document the behavioral tendencies of the TRNP Wild Horses. To not only witness their beauty that they present, but to also learn about who they are as individuals horses as I have done in Wyoming, which they did not disappoint.

The horses of the TRNP are not only unique in their own ways, but they have a mystique about them that is astonishing. Their rugged beauty is captivating, with some of the most stunning roan breed horses I have ever seen. One of the horses that I had been wanting to meet was stallion, Yoakum. I had tears of joy when I got to finally meet him. I had the upmost privilege of spending hours with them, and I most certainly have plans to make routine summer and possibly fall trips to visit them, and I strongly believe they deserve to continue to embrace their freedom with their families in TRNP.

Sincerely,



Tony Douzenis

108.

Tammy Mackey <dtmackey@ndsupernet.com> Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 5:19 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

My husband and I are from Dickinson and visit the park every other weekend and sometimes more. We spend many hours there. We are hobby photographers and take hundreds of photos. We love to go and search the horses even out the East side of the park where the horses hang out. We will sit for hours watching the bands. We bring a lunch an sit outside the fence watching them with our binoculars and cameras. To me it is a relaxing time enjoying the weather and fresh air and the wildlife.
We also take our granddaughters through the loop and they now have a love for them also. I can't imagine them not having the horses there so they can enjoy taking pictures and having their own experiences for all the horses like we enjoy.
Once if they would make this bad decision it never can be undone.

Seriously if they are worried about having the loosing the grassland acreage I feel the prairie dogs are taking over the parks grasses and they should control the prairie dogs population because once they live on the towns the grasses never grow back like they used to be. I know this isn't the wild horse problem bit this is a problem the park should address.

For the next generation and on.... I pray they keep these wild horses.
Tammy Mackey

109.

Lynn Rennert <lmrennert@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 9:05 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

To whom it may concern,
I write this on behalf of myself along with my 87 yr. old mother.
We have visited the park 3 separate times since 2017. Our sole reason for going was in hopes of seeing the wild horses of Teddy Roosevelt National Park. We not only saw them but we had or should say took the opportunity to observe and photograph these beautiful horses. We sat on the roadsides observing from afar as they nursed their foals, interacting within their band. We learned about their hierarchy by studying them and reading up on them.
This past fall almost didn't happen, the gas prices were high leaving us to consider not going. But my mom being 87 wanted to see "her" beloved wild horses and so we did. We observed them each and every day. The beauty of this is that she was able to observe from the car with the window down ... There is no other place that I can think of where she at her age can still be a part of something so magnificent and be filled with such joy. We were able to watch as 3 bachelors make every attempt to work their way into the Band....the Band moved closer and as if a line was drawn in the sand... stood their ground until the 3 moved to higher ground, the Band turned and galloped our way with dust flying and stopping to resume grazing. It is a moment I will never forget... we both had tears streaming at the sheer beauty of that moment and we talk about it frequently. As a amature photographer I was lucky enough to capture that moment so that she has it to view as often as she likes.
There are many moments that she and I have shared over our 3 visits to the Park. It is the wild horses that seem to call us at each return. We as a society need places like TRNP to provide a sense of the "Wild" we need to protect our wildlife because once we let it go ....it is gone.
My mother's great granddaughter, my granddaughter deserves to grow up and have the opportunity to see the descendents of the Bands of today.

There are other options, please maintain their existence as they are .... Wild!

Sincerely,
Lynn Rennert
Bev Fretchel

110.

Margo Fochs <fochsklock2014@outlook.com> Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 7:16 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

When I was young, I could name every last bone in a horse's body. All 205 of them.

I did not mind mucking stalls, throwing hay, cleaning hooves, brushing or bathing them.

I was with a horse.

They were my passion.

Whenever I had something "hurting" me, physically, or emotionally I envisioned wild horses... It was a clear vision, a specific "place".

I could see it, feel it, hear it, smell it, almost taste it...

This "place" was so clear, in my heart, I KNEW, it had to be REAL...

The vision got me through (and still does now) some really, really rotten moments in life... healed my heart, soul and body... numerous times...

Then one day, I came upon a photo by Deb Lee Carson.

It was of Stallion Mystery, in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

There he was.... THE BLACK of my dreams... THE ENVIRONMENT I felt,...THE HOME my soul was called to....

I could not believe my eyes! I had heard about TRNP through different Facebook groups. I had seen some of the photos of the wild horses. But THIS PHOTO...

It changed my life.

My “dream” felt as though it was actually “a vision”.

The Black in all his glory. The landscape exactly what I had always envisioned in my “mind’s eye”. And better yet... His name was “Mystery”

In January of 2016, my father in law passed away. Leaving my husband and I feeling depleted, sad, and worried about other loved ones who were aging. We made a plan to visit dear friends in upstate New York.

Unfortunately, those plans fell through, due to unforeseen circumstances. So mid planning of our trip to NY, my husband rerouted us to ND.

On to THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK!

He had listened to me for days, weeks, months... heck, years, about the wild horses, and about TRNP. So, he decided to take me there!!

I will NEVER forget the moment we arrived in Medora, ND.

We pulled up to the C Store to buy NDBH’s Guide. We got out of the truck, and just “took it all in”.

My soul felt at ease. A sense of peace came over me like I have only ever experienced there (each time I go!) I was “home”.

I told my husband that I would move there in a minute.. He said “if you can find me a job making what I do at home, we will.” (trust me, it was a discussion ! 😉)

We entered the park, instantly, completely in awe. Just after entering we saw “the welcoming committee” aka Teton’s Family band. I was amazed.

Those “wild” horses looked healthier than most “domestic” horses I had seen. They were FABULOUS! Yet, the “world” wanted us to think they were “starving, unhealthy, and overpopulated.”

We continued our drive through the park. We saw more wild horses, all equally as healthy looking.

Back and forth on the loop road we drove. I was on a mission! I had to see “the Black” of my dreams! MYSTERY!

We looked and looked, drove and drove the loop road.... Falling completely in love with every single horse we saw! I knew (I thought) every one of them by name! The ones I was unsure of, I used the NDBH Guide to be certain.

THEN.... ALL OF A SUDDEN, up on the hill.... A COMPLETELY BLACK HORSE! IT HAD TO BE MYSTERY!!

I had my husband pull over so I could watch “him”. I zoomed in with my camera, taking a couple of shots. I watched through our binoculars.

My husband (Otto) said, why don’t you walk up a little closer, and try to get a couple of photos? He did not want to walk with me, but was willing to sit for as long as I wanted to be on the hillside.

I climbed about 2/3rds of the way up that hillside, being careful to not impose on “his” space, and assuring I maintained a safe 75 yards, or further away.

As I stood there observing, I was "oblivious" to the rest of the world. It was ONLY me and "the Black".... Nothing else existed.

I felt like I was in a scene straight out of "The Black Stallion".

It was absolutely Heaven on Earth.

I looked around, making sure the ground was "clear" and safe (aka no noticeable snakes, jagged rocks, mud etc), and decided to sit awhile. I sat there, softly "talking to him". Telling "him" how my dream included "him" frequently... how this felt like "home to my soul" and as if "we were meant to meet, to be HERE, together". "His" ears twitched and turned, as a horse's does, when they "listen". I felt heard, really, really "heard".

AHHHHH, I WILL NEVER FORGET the calm, peaceful feeling of that meeting....

I sat a little longer, starting to "observe" the rest of the environment. The "Black" appeared to doze.

Over my left shoulder, I realized, there were 3 more horses. 2 sorrels, and a bay. They, also, appeared to be "dozing". A little past the "Black" and to my right I noticed at least 2 more sorrels, and just the "rears" of others. I sat there, taking it all in. After a little while, I watched as the bay to my left started moving about. Soon after the 3 came down, towards the "Black" and proceeded past to the ones to my right. The "Black" stayed put. The bay came back, twice, and eventually, the "Black" moved on. I stood up and watched, until they were all at the peak of the hill, and almost out of sight.

I headed back down the hill to Otto and our truck. Completely sated. Probably a hundred or more photos on the camera.

I walked towards our truck, and as I was just about there, a car pulled over in front of it. A lady got out and walked up to my husband's window.

I thought UH OH.... He's been parked there too long. I got us in trouble!

I walked faster, fully intending to explain and take all the fault !

Well, there was nothing to explain... you see, the lady, was none other than Deb Lee Carson HERSELF! She knew we were making the trip to TRNP that week, and saw the WISCONSIN license plates on our truck.

She walked up to our truck, and asked Otto if he was "with Margo". He told her I was up on the hill (Mr. Literal 😊)

She told him she saw the plates, and thought it might be us, so she stopped.

I made my way back to the truck, offering explanations.... For Deb to tell me the story of her stopping. It was FABULOUS! We chatted for a little while, and I told her about spending time up on the hill with MYSTERY... She chuckled at me and said I was wrong.

WAIT, WHAT? How was that not Mystery? It was a black horse! Mystery is BLACK.

Again, Deb chuckled. She told me it was MARE LAKOTA of Stallion Red Face's band. She said if we hurried, we might be able to still catch the WHOLE BAND coming down the hill.

Well, she did not have to tell me twice!

110.

talie2rose@gmail.com <talie2rose@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 8, 2023 at 1:48 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

It's always been my dream to visit North Dakota to see Theodore Roosevelt national park. I was so saddened to hear that the wild horses were under threat. Here in the U.K we have many national parks with herds of wild ponies. These national parks are protected along with all the animals that inhabit there. I fear for the future of this planet and the destruction man is causing. We need to protect our wild animals globally otherwise we'll have nothing.

111.

Margaret K <mking@uwalumni.com> Sun, Jan 8, 2023 at 1:52 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I first visited TRNP in 2018. I returned with my son in 2020. Both times were unforgettable. It's become 1 of my favorite places on Earth. I wear my TRNP t-shirts as much as possible, with pride. I tell people about the park all the time. I can't wait to visit again with my family--hopefully this summer.

I can never forget seeing the wild horses in the park, and the longhorn steer in the Northern Unit. The wild horses are what originally drew me to drive to the park from WI in the 1st place. It was even more meaningful when I learned the history of Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders, and the history of the steer--that Roosevelt wanted to raise cattle in the Badlands. The legacy of his time in the area, and what he learned about the natural world, are such important pieces of our American history, as well as important environmental lessons we need today, in the age of extinction and climate change.

As humans seem to grow more and more disconnected from nature and animals, I hope TRNP will continue to manage these animals herds in the park. These herds are living history. Animals have an effect on us far more than history guides or museum displays have.

In addition, I would like to see more humane herd management of the horses instead of capture, breaking up family/herd hierarchy, and sale of these animals. These horses have known nothing but the majestic free range lifestyle, and it would be cruel to capture and confine them. They are not domesticated animals. Especially disturbing is the practice of unregulated livestock auctions, which are notoriously places of misery and cruelty.

My son has special needs and does weekly equine therapy. Horses, I've seen firsthand, are very attached to their families and herd. They are smart and sensitive animals who are easily terrified by confinement and changes in their surroundings. I do not think cruelty towards them is justified or at all necessary. I urge the local people and horse experts to find a better way to manage the special and unique horses and steer of TRNP. These particular animals have given so much to the local people, park visitors, and our nation's legacy. Let's do right by them in return, and with our gratitude.

Thank you,

Margaret King

112.

Gretchen Clark <prettylizard_2000@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 2:41 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

To Whom It May Concern,

My sister and I are wild horse photographers.

In early December, like we always do for the upcoming year, we made a list of new places to travel to view and photograph wild horses. At the top of our list was The Theodore Roosevelt National Park. For several months we'd been following many Instagram accounts that documented the beautiful Theodore Roosevelt horses against the stunning, striated landscape of the badlands they call home. It was a photo of a gorgeous gray stallion maneuvering high atop a craggy outcrop of cliffs colored a muted pastel that made this park and these wild horses a must-see this year.

I was shocked and saddened when it was made public in mid-December that the park intends to remove all the wild horses from Theodore Roosevelt Park. Since this news, I've done research on this news and I have yet to find any valid reason given by the NFS on why this has to happen right now. Let alone at all. This idea to remove the wild horses from this park is akin to deciding to whitewash the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

My sister and I have spent thousands of dollars over the years on plane tickets, hotel rooms, car rentals, and restaurants in otherwise small towns on the map that we would never normally visit save for the draw of wild horses that can be found in these areas. We had fully intended to spend money in the state of North Dakota too. But not now. Not if NFS goes forward and removes the wild horses. Beyond their historical significance, this particular animal, above all others, was especially revered by Mr. Roosevelt. Horses helped heal him physically as a boy, and later, as a man when he was recovering from the double loss of his wife and mother.

These horses were in this area well before this park even came into existence. They simply got fenced into the boundaries of the park. What was added to the park, however, was the bison, and pronghorn.

Please keep these wild horses, the original animals of this land, in the park where all can continue to not just enjoy them, but be emotionally and spiritually elevated by them. Just like Roosevelt was by their presence.

Sincerely,
Gretchen Clark

113.	**Lynn Brogdon** <lynn@brogdongroup.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:12 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Hi All, I plan to visit TRNP for the first time in 2023 and one of the main reasons is to view and witness the wild horses living and roaming free. Please do not destroy these horses on the wild lands. Thank you. Lynn Brogdon RE/MAX LIVING 706-614-8820 Lynn@brogdongroup.com
114.	**Stephanie Crawley** <stephieloucrawley@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:13 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com 1. Have you been to TRNP? We visited TRNP last summer for the sole purpose of seeing the wild horses. The other things were great too but we planned our trip around the horses specifically. We stayed at a historic ranch for a week, which provided income to a fifth generation ranching family. Bought things at the park, ate at the restaurants of Medora. I would like to think we contributed to the area economy quite a bit, for the sole purpose of seeing the horses. No disrespect to TRNP but it doesn't have much to draw folks in, eliminating the ability to see these majestic animals living wild and free would surely impact traffic to the park. And honestly Teddy would be ashamed.

115.

Jessica <jessgallison@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:13 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hello,

I recently heard that the livestock management plan under review is considering ending the ability of wild horses in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. This decision disappoints me greatly, as I have long followed the wild horses in the national park and greatly support working towards the peaceful co-existence of horses and other interest groups. Unlike many other places where wild horses roam free, the TRNP is better equipped ecologically to support these animals. The greater availability of grassland compared to places like Burns, OR support healthier animals in the long term. Without the cooperation of parks which have ability to support controlled herd groups, these animals will eventually be entirely removed from the wild. This will prevent future generations of Americans from seeing the animals, learning about them, and understanding a critical part of our American history.

The Wild in North Dakota facebook group is superbly managed and provides in-depth information about the animals in the park. It lets horse enthusiasts follow herd dynamics, become familiar with the animals, and learn about wild horses and ecological preservation. Without things to love, like majestic wild horses, people will likely be less interested in the preservation of natural parks, which will hurt ecological preservation long term.

My lifelong love of wild horses was fueled by Wild in North Dakota, and overtime I have adopted two wild horses of my own. These animals came from other areas that were closer to me, but I credit the facebook group with the inspiration to adopt. This group is highly visible and gets people interested in wild horse adoption, which moves animals out of the holding pen all over the country. Ending the ability of the herd to live free will do away with critical wild horse ambassadors who place a crucial role in driving adoptions elsewhere. This decision is bad for horses, ecological systems, and even in the long run, ranchers. Wild horses and ranchers do better with responsible management, and the Wild in North Dakota ambassadors drive adoptions better than most other methods available. I'd highly recommend leaving room for the wild horses in the park.

Best,
Jessica Allison

116.

Susan Engen <skengen@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:17 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I rember as a little kid my parents bringing our family to Medora and TRNP. This would have been back in the 60s. The musical was using cinder blocks and planks for seating and you walked up the hill. We went back many times and I still do to this day! I have also told friends and I know alot of people I have told are like me and fell in love with the Wild horses! They are so Majestic & reminds you of a simpler time! If the horses aren't there I will not ever be back! Thank you for reading my story.

Susan Engen

117.	**jensenstacy114@gmail.com** <jensenstacy114@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:29 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I am writing to tell you, that we are frequent visitors to Theodore Roosevelt national Park. One of the main reasons we love to attend the park is to see the wildlife in its natural habitat. A special interest of ours has always been the wild horse horses that reside there. It's an absolute joy to watch those herds grow and move about the park. My hope and wish is that you will manage that herd in a humane way with Assistance and support from groups that care about them while allowing the horses to maintain their important role in the national park for years to come. Thanks, Stacy Jensen. Sent from my iPhone
118.	**Jane Snell** <raineshoe@hotmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:30 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> Hi I'd like to voice my concern that the wild horses may no longer roam in TRNP. I live in the UK but follow the wild horses of North Dakota on social media along with other herds in Canada and Namibia It is fascinating seeing the difference in how they exist in some at times quite hostile environments, the joy of seeing them with their foals, the despair when something happens to one of them and how they interact with each other. Herds like this in North America are more remote than our home "wild native ponies" so live a much more natural lifestyle. They are also very much a part of the natural hierarchy of the park and have their place in the park as much as other animals such as the bison. I would find it extremely disappointing if the horses were removed from the park and could no longer follow them and their exploits, especially as if I ever get the chance I'd love to come and visit and perhaps be fortunate enough to see these ponies in action in person. Jane Snell

119.

Virginia Brophy <vbrophy13@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:33 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Have been following this herd on Facebook for several years. They are beautiful animals, with very good bone structure and builds.
I have not visited the park. Only via the excellent posts on Facebook.
I would plan a visit when I head west again.
I am a horse person from NJ, born and raised with horses, and also judged as well.
As I stated above, these are beautiful animals and in very good shape. Better than most mustangs that I have ever seen.
I would like to see this herd continue with management where necessary, but they appear to be thriving.
Their confirmation is very good, and they appear in very good health.
It is amazing to see in the wild. I also understand that some have been adopted and did well.
Hopefully round ups are done with lots of care, as to not injure them. And lots of common sense as far as keeping mares and babies, together, etc.
Just trying to help save this beautiful herd.
I thought I made comments on another facebook post, but not sure that it was received.
Virginia Brophy
910 Maple Path
Newton, NJ 07860

120.

Dennis Edinger <dedinger@bis.midco.net> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:34 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I am writing to you in regards to the wild horses in the park. It is said you plan on removing them from the park …..my question is why. Why do humans have to mess with this? They are free and such a joy to come to watch. They offer a peace to people who come to see them. They ARE THE ONLY REASON we visit this park. You can go to any park and see buffalo, elk, deer and other wild animals but the horses are a unique experience that is hard to put into words. I do not understand why you can't see what they offer to this park. I know of many people that feel his way and like me they are very upset by this, and like me will no longer visit this park. That means we will longer visit Medora or the musical. The horses were the reason we came in he first place.
Please, please reconsider this …they are the most special part of the park.

Sandy Edinger

121

Alicia Kottre <ajwolf22@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:36 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I personally follow all of the Facebook pages that document the wild horse herd in the Badlands. Every time I take my horse out there to ride, I have to have someone else drive when we are first entering the park, because all I want to do it see and take photos of the horses and Bison. There are so few places that you can see wild horses in a natural, rugged habitat. Many animal lovers would drive from across the country to see the wildlife in a natural habitat. I know many people who add viewing the wild horses in the Badlands to their bucket list. There are thousands of people that follow this herd on social media and cry when one of the herd passes. That is how strongly the public feels are this herd

122.

Tanya Caruso <tanyatales27@hotmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:37 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hello

I just wanted to write to say that I have been following the TRNP wild horses online for a few years and have been inspired. I have been saving money towards planning a trip for the sole hope of being able to see these magnificent horses in person.

I hope all efforts will be made to maintain the TRNP herds so that the opportunity exists for generations to come!!

Sincerely;

Tanya Caruso
Kenora Ontario, Canada

Sent from my iPhone

123.

Lisa Peters <info@lisa-peters.de> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:37 PM
Reply-To: info@lisa-peters.de
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hi everyone.

I would not like to hear that the horses weren't in your beautiful park anymore! We have plans to come and see them in the future...that's the ONLY reason for us coming to the park and from the long way from Germany! Let these wonderful wild horses there! I follow them at the facebookpage Wild in North Dakota and want to see them in real. Please let them there for us and many other people to find them and follow them online.

Best regards

Lisa Peters
Felsenstr. 33
55629 Seesbach

Germany

124.

Kris Torske <ketorske@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:40 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

We have visited TRNP 3 times on family vacations. Seeing the wild horses there has always been a breathtaking part of our visits.
Visiting the park and seeing free roaming horses and bison and the magnificent landscapes feels like stepping back into the history of the American west. One can easily imagine campsites of native Americans along the River.
I completely understand managing the herd in a way to control population numbers so as not to exceed the carrying capacity of the park but I think the park would lose a lot of its magic without those wild horses. There are very few if any similar places that one can visit to get a sense of the history of the American plains and the horses are very much a part of that.

Sincerely,
Kris Torske

125.	**Kristi Hansen** <kristihansen@live.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:43 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> I grew up 30 miles from Medora and my family took weekend trips in the 70's to drive to the park. We'd drive to the park to see the buffalo and the wild horses. That's what visiting TRNP meant to me and I can't imagine the park's being the park without the wild horses. They remind you of a time before we inhabited the area and therefore have a great historical significance. Whatever their origin they stand in my mind forever a reminder of the great state of North Dakota.
126.	**Loay Turner** <loayloveshorses3@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:43 P To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> I follow TRNP on Facebook and wanted to comment on plans to remove the herd from Teddy Roosevelt Park. I believe that the herd should be preserved for future generations to see horses that helped win the West. I believe that these beautiful creatures that God created are for us to enjoy roaming free in the wild with little to no interference from man. I follow a group of wild horse advocates in Gardnerville, NV called the Pine Nut horses. They have been working with the BLM to keep their herds wild and free by using birth control on the mares. The have trained darters, who go out and dart the mares with birth control in order to control their population. This group has been successful in doing just that—controlling their numbers by preventing overpopulation, letting fillies mature before having a foal, and preventing older mares from producing anymore foals. If this program has been and continues to be successful for them in preventing overpopulation on the range, why can't this program be implemented for all wild herds? I personally have not been to TRNP; however, one day I would like to go there and I hope on that day the wild horses are still roaming wild and free. It is a great opportunity for people to see these beautiful animals in their natural environment and they have been entrusted to us by God to not be destroyed. We were not given the right to act as God and destroy for human greed just to support the tearing down of the environment. I follow this group to enjoy the horses since I am not able to financially afford to make the trip, as well as their beauty in the beautiful park setting. Please consider using train darters to dart the mares with birth control to keep the herds manageable. Loay Turner

127.	**Pam Bacon** <pambacon2011@hotmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:44 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> I have never had the honor of visiting TNRP and seeing the horses that call it home and at the age of 70 I doubt that I ever will. I have however been following them on Facebook for several years. I love seeing their pictures and reading about them. So many have been lost and this must stop. I sincerely doubt President Roosevelt ever had that in mind.
128.	**Monica Harris** <monica4harris@icloud.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:45 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I have Followed the North Dakota Badland horses for many years. We lived in Watford City, ND in 2019 and If we wouldn't have been so busy working I would have made it like a monthly visit to the park as I find It so interesting to see the Wild horses. The bison, sheep, and other animals were fun to see as well but most people go to see the horses & get super excited when they do spot a ban of wild horses. I think leaving wild animals in the park is apart of history and removing them completely would be a shame & also a feeling of history being left behind and no more. There's something so majestic & peaceful about a wild horse ban living free and wild. This world already has so many negatives in it, please don't take such a beautiful thing away from travelers. I got to visit the park just once while living in ND for the year and because of the parks wild animals(mostly the horses) is why I am so fond of North Dakota and the badlands in general. I will Always remember when we turned the curve and the band was crossing the road right Infront of us. If I was Still in the area I'd most likely take up photographing and knowing the bands more. This is something thousands of people follow and thousands of people look forward to their post on how the bands have changed and what stallion is with what band. Favorite part would be seeing how resilient, strong, & smart these mommas and babies are to live their lives out there. It's simply amazing!!! We love the TRNP wild horses!!!!! It's always been a goal/bucket list to buy a wild horse from this park, please don't 100% remove the horses that we so dearly love ❤️

129.	**Karen Bentrup** <bentrupkk@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:45 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> YES, YES and YES we have been to Theodore Roosevelt National Park and we saw a few of the wild horses. We have driven through North Dakota on the interstate and have seen the wild horses many times. It gives me a thrill beyond any other wild animals I have seen. It was the first time I have seen wild horses and growing up I read about as many books as I could find about Wild Horses. To see them, follow them on fb and learn about them is absolutely one of my favorite things. I am appalled that we as human beings think we have to control every animal out there. Why can't these horses stay wild and free in TRP? Why do they have to be controlled or taken away. The national parks need to treat them as any other wild animal in this park. It makes this park one of the most unique parks I have been to. Please leave these beautiful animals wild and free in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. It's part of the history of the plains and this country. Sincerely: Karen Bentrup
130.	**Carol Richardson** <crichardson6896@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:47 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com We need to do all that we can to keep the herd of horses in TRNP. They are a part of our state's history and need to be preserved for future generations. Sent from my iPhone

131.

Lindats121 <lindats121@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:49 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I live in NJ and have been fortunate enough to visit TRNP 3 times. Each time I marveled at the nature surrounding me and the wildlife. The bison, coyotes, prairie dogs, the pronghor, and the wild horses all in their natural habitat was breathtaking. Watching the wild horses gallop across fields, stopping to graze or wait for others is something that I will never forget. At one visit I was lucky enough to find a hill to sit on and watch the horses grazing below. TRNP is their home, a place where they belong to live and to die . They are part of the park -a very integral part of the story of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. They are part of the park's historical background. Complete removal of these majestic creatures is unnecessary. There are options to consider and implement. The horses were here in Teddy Roosevelt's time and I hope they will be there for generations to come.

Please reconsider complete removal.

Linda Tsirikos

132.

MeShell Jones <meshell.jones@hotmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:51 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I have never been to TRNP however, I have plans to visit this park only because of these magnificent horses-

These wild Horses hold a great deal of significance to this park, I plan to visit this park only for the reason of these horses roaming freely here.

Thanks to the people who document their existence, America knows this herd and has come to love and treasure them.

Removing them would be detrimental to the park. Not only environmentally, but financially as well.
Leave them, let nature take its course with the herd.

MeShell J
Weatherford Tx.

MJ

133.

Carla Harper <lostgirl2762@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:54 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

To whom it may concern:
I would like to take a moment to let you know how much these horses mean to me and so many others. I have followed these horses on a couple of different pages and they have had a wonderful impact on me and my disabled husband as well. We look forward to seeing the pictures of them, where they are in the park, and how they go about their everyday lives. We have learned so much about each of them. My husband and I were excited to hear that there was a possibility of them being close enough in the park, where even a person with ambulatory issues, could see them in their own surroundings with out having to hike out to them.
I would urge the park to keep these horses in the park for all the world to have the opportunity to see them in person. They are national treasures and knowing a National Park doesn't want them there is atrocious, to say the least. They are part of our National heritage and should be revered as such.
While herds are being pushed to extinction in other states, I am asking you to step up and keep these beautiful animals in our National park where they can be safe from all of the other outside factors that they face in other areas.
Thank you and keep them wild and free the way they were meant to be.

Carla Harper

134.	**Tracey Boles** <traceyboles79@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:59 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> Writing to let you know, I follow several Facebook groups that post the horses in TRNP and have for years, to watch them give birth, and grow to mares and stallions that are running in the park. It will be a great loss, to have the numbers go to breeding numbers of less than 60, or none at all. I understand, the need for management, but I also understand the need to do it wisely. Having raised horses for over 20 years, I get that it gets out of control with free range. However, there has to be a 50/50 solution.
135.	**Shyanne Ulrich** <shyanneu98@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:01 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Hi, I am sending this in response to the facebook post from Wild in North Dakota. The horses bring so much joy to so many and I hope my addition can help us save the herd <3 I am from Canada and as a lifelong horse lover, have loved seeing the photos and hearing the stories of these horses. I have not yet had the opportunity to visit the park in person, but I can say the only reason I even know it exists is the horses. They are also the reason I plan to visit. I would love to be able to see them with my own eyes one day soon and I know for many they are what draw them to the park. I know I would not have enough interest in visiting TRNP over any other national park if the horses were not a part of the equation. I would go as far as to say I would actively choose not to visit if the horses were to be removed as they have such a large community of people who love them. Hoping to see the horses for myself soon, wild and free, as they belong Shyanne AB, Canada
136.	**Maxine Gallett** <LugerLTD@hotmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:01 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> I have been to the park maybe 5=6 times over the years. The first time we located a huge herd on the east side and enjoyed seeing the new foals. Since then I have encountered smaller herds near the roads. The last two years we have ridden down into Painted Canyon and observed small herds. This is the last of the wild horses in the Midwest states, and so fun to see first hand. Maxine Gallett Lindstrom, MN

137.

acjr777@aol.com <acjr777@aol.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:02 PM
Reply-To: acjr777@aol.com
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

WHILE I DO LIVE IN THE EAST I DO OWN HORSES ...THESE ANIMALS ARE AN AMERICAN HERITAGE AND THEY MUST BE PRESERVED OR THE FUTURE. PLEASE PROTECT THEM ALL..A GALLOPING HORSE IS POETRY IN MOTION!

138.

Jody Gullickson <jagg0129@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:04 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

1. Yes, this is my only nature break, seeing these beautiful animals brings tears of joy.

2. I specifically go to see the horses, I read so much about them and it is mere pleasure to see them in person.

This is a rarity to find a beautiful park with majestic horses. Please don't take that away from us.
Sent from Yahoo for iPhone

139.

Suzy Heise <suzyheise65@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:12 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hi, I have visited TRNP probably 20 times in my 57 years of life. The times I remember most vividly are the numerous times that I have seen the many types of wildlife in the park. The two specific times I recall as my favorite trips are the one we took as a family when I was 9 and last year. These two times I saw horses! When I was young we saw them from a long ways away and it was magnificent to watch the two bands run along the river/creek bed. This past year we saw a band much closer on a nearby ridge and a lone bachelor. I was so excited to see them as close as I did. Those two sighting made my whole trip!
I will continue to visit TRNP in order to see the beautiful horses free and wild. While I enjoy Medora and the scenic views of the park my favorite view is that of the wild horses.

Suzy Heise
Valley City ND

140.

eason for coming! PLEASE allow these wild horses, that truly belong to the American people, to be seen for years to come!

1 message

Bonnie Gansemer <bbgansemer@yousq.net> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:11 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

141.

Julie patchett <jewelz1969@hotmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:14 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hi, I am writing to you to let you I have never been TRNP but I have plans to go. I feel that the horses are a great link to our past and they should be protected and stay on the only land they ever knew. There are certain things that need to be left alone for people i future generations to actually see for their own eyes, a part of the past. For me personally, I'm planning a trip to see the horses & bison so that I can feel connected to my ancestors & to the people that came before me & see the wild animals as they once were all over the lands. Please don't take away this part of history. I look forward to not only going but taking my grandchildren as well.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.
Sincerely,
Julie Patchett

142.

Sara Larson <larsonsara80@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:14 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hey I'm responding to the Wild in ND call:

1. I myself have only been to TRNP to pick up Andromeda (from spring 2019 auction) and bring her home to Iowa. I have not been able to make it back but… my parents went to visit because I made them aware of the park and Wild horses. They had a nice time but did say only thing to see are the horses and other herds. It is the entire reason for the parks existence and tourism.

2. My dream one day is to ride Andromeda (now names BB) at the park and hopefully get a glimpse of the herds. Nothing that matters scientifically but there will be no reason for me, my parents, or anyone I know to visit that park which not only affects the parks tourism but the local community that relies on it.

Thank you for you time working on this issue

Sara Larson
Delmar, IA
563-940-3611

143.

Sue Von Eschen <suevon55@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:15 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Please keep the wild horses in the TRNP! We live in Montana and when we are traveling east, we have stopped at TRNP. A few years ago, we camped for 2 nights and explored various areas. Our highlight was getting to see the wild horses.

I also follow two different Facebook pages on the wild horses. One is "Wild in North Dakota" and the other is "Deb Lee Carson Photography". I enjoy seeing pictures of the new babies in the spring and all the other beautiful pictures and stories of the horses.

It would be tragic to not keep these horses.

Sue Von Eschen
1237 Powder River Ct.
Helena, MT 59602

144.

Sandy Wiedenmeyer <swiedenmeyer@bis.midco.net> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:35 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I am a lifelong North Dakota resident and yearly visitor to the TRNP near Medora, North Dakota. The quest and goal of our family visits have always been to explore the amazing Badlands and all the wild animals that inhabit them. Our trips are not complete until we have located several bison and wild horse herds. These herds of animals are something that we don't see everyday and are a very special treat and quite a site to behold in their native habitat. We consider them the royalty of the park and indeed part of its great history and heritage.
The wild horses are of special interest and importance to me. A horseback ride is always a treat in the area, but to witness horses that live wild and free with little human intervention is breathtaking. There are some very knowledgeable groups that spend countless hours tracking and photographing these magnificent horses. It is amazing what we can learn from them. I can't be there as often as I'd like but these groups help me keep up to date on the dynamics of the herds.
I don't know what scientific reasons the park system has for wanting to eradicate this herd. The horses, like all the creatures of the park should be allowed to stay and live in their natural lands. Without the wild horses in the park, I wouldn't spend nearly the number of hours I do now viewing and hiking in the park. They and their history need to remain for all of us and the next generations.

Sent from my iPhone

145.

Sent via form submission from *Wild Lands Wild Horses*

Name: Lorraine Larson

Email Address: Raineeday@att.net

Subject: Saving TRNP Wild horses

Message: Good evening. I am writing as asked by Wild in North Dakota and Dakota Grown Photos to help save the wild horses at the TRNP. I am appalled that these horses may no longer be protected and all will be removed. Since I was just a wee child, 62 years ago, I have been in love with these beautiful animals. These animals have helped me through some traumatic times in my life. I have never had the luxury of owning a horse but nothing can compare to seeing these horses in their natural (wild) habitat enjoying freedom. I don't know if I'll ever make it to the parks to see wild horses. I would love to. But if the horses are going to be removed there is no point in going. What makes thes animals different from bison or antelope? Why don't they deserve the same protection? I can only see it as a remedy to letting cattle devastate the area. I am beyond words. With all the negative news and happenings going on, I count on the F.B. pages to bring me the beauty, the education, videos and pictures of the horses I've come to know and love. I've learned so much! They deserve to remain and share the land with all the other native animals. They are a part of Americana, our country's growth. Please please don't let them become a memory. They belong for my grandbabies to enjoy when they grow up. There is enough industrialization in this country. We need these animals to be wild as much as bears, wildcats, coyotes, wolves, deer moose, elk etc. Horses deserve no less. Thanks for hearing me out.

Does this submission look like spam? Report it here.

146.

Sent via form submission from *Wild Lands Wild Horses*

Name: Janet Engebretson

Email Address: engebretsonjanet@outlook.com

Subject: North Dakota Wild Horses

Message: The Wild Hosrs in North Dakota are a National Treasure and they are the reason I go to Medora to visit the park. Please help to save these beautiful horses for generations to come.

147.

Sheila <coyotehollow@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:39 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I haven't had the opportunity yet, to visit the park but I certainly hope to in the very near future! And my reason for visiting is to see the wild horses. It would be a shame if the park removed the herd that has brought pleasure to so many people over the years. There are tens of thousands of wild horses living in small dusty holding pastures already, please don't add to that.

Thank you.

Sheila Peterson
Minnesota

148.

Ann Morris <amorris7373@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:50 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello! I am writing this email in hopes of saving the wild horses at TRNP! I am from Michigan and I have visited TRNP and plan another trip here in the very near future. I love seeing all of the animals that call TRNP home but of course my favorite is the wild horses! Please DO NOT TAKE THESE HORSES AWAY!! DO NOT KILL THESE beautiful wild horses, this land at TRNP is our land, it belongs to all of us, it does not belong solely to the government. these horses have every right to continue to live their lives just like the wolves, and the bison here at TRNP! This is a National park and the horses are apart of it. Please do not do anything to hurt or remove these beautiful horses!

Thank you, Ann Morris

149.	**candi deadrockstar.net** <candi@deadrockstar.net> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:53 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> To Whom It Concerns: It would be a sad day if the herd was taken out if TRNP. I have wanted to go watch them in person for years, as I follow them in Facebook. Due to health issues I couldn't but am getting healthier & will be able to in the next year or so. Then I see a post that they may be taken out of the park!!! They're the only reason I would go to the park. I hope you realize the wonderous resource they are to the park & ND. Thank you! Candi Holcomb Get Outlook for Android
150.	**Mari** <lovely1m@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:55 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com One of my best memories as a child is driving through TRNP in an open top Jeep and a herd of wild horses ran around us. Close enough to touch if it was safe. It was truly magical and I dream of it happening again. Plus that area was sacred to the indigenous population and this should always be home to horses.

151.

Beth P <missbethb@acsalaska.net> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:02 PM
To: Info@wildlandswildhorses.com

To Whom it May concern at NPS and/or DOI.

Please reconsider the potential plan to remove all the horses from TRNP. The national parks are the US citizens most valuable treasures and the horses in TRNP are a BIG part of that park. To base the removal saying they are invasive is ludicrous. If that's true, then everybody except Native American Indians should be removed from the country! Crazy huh?
Our country is currently in turmoil suffering so much diversity and negativity. Our parks and all they stand for and protect, are critical in bringing our citizens back together in a positive way, and teaching all, including future generations, our great American History. These horses are an IMPORTANT part of that history!

I'm a senior citizen (70), and a visit to TRNP has long been on my bucket list in order to see these horses. I'm retired from the NPS (2015), and first learned of the horses from a classmate (an employee at TRNP) in 2010. I have wanted to visit ever since. I follow several FB and IG groups featuring these horses. It would be a great loss if that was no longer an option.

Again, PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE THE HORSES FROM TRNP. Save them, support them, and protect them!

Sincerely,
Beth Patterson
North Pole, Alaska

152.

Ann Alvis <aalvis0710@comcast.net> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:22 PM
To: "Info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <Info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Following is my letter in support of saving the wild horses of TRNP

My husband and I visit TRNP as often as we can. We have driven from Michigan to the park at least once a year for the past 8 years (not during Covid shutdown though). The entire reason for our visits is to see the incredible wildlife in their natural home. There is nothing more exciting than seeing the wild horses! It is truly a dream come true, almost a spiritual experience. They are truly a representation of all that is wild and free in our national parks. If the herd must be made smaller, although I'm it sure why that is even necessary, please do it in a very humane way, and continue to allow them to be adopted. If you destroy this herd entirely, you will be doing a great injustice to the People of America, as well as so many foreign visitors, who follow and truly care about these horses being allowed to run wild and free. Thank you for your consideration. Ann & Dennis Alvis

153.

Elizabeth Kuykendall <elizabeth.kuykendall@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:23 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I am a horse owner and horse lover. I also love Nature. Please save the wild horses and let them run free. There is nothing more beautiful. Thank you from Mississippi.
Sent from my iPhone

154.

Mardell Kok <sdranch10@icloud.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:26 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Where does one even begin to share the memories and life lessons learned from visiting the wild horses in TRNP! I along with my 5 grandchildren will visit the park at a minimum of 6 time per year for the last 5 yrs! I will list several life lessons my grandkids have learned from observing the wild horses!
1. Respect- for the horses home, keeping a distance to not scare or harass them!
2. Family bonds within the bands! (nurturing, guarding, teaching, guiding how to survive the elements of weather, droughts!
3. Family dynamics of stallions, mares, colts, filly's! The role of each horse in the band and how and why they are kicked out when to join anther band or hopefully have their own some day! Grandkids have questioned the reasoning and understanding for this to happen so cross breeding doesn't take place! They have learned first hand so much biology, scientific, and topics on genetics! They have love following social media pages that keep a very active gallery on each band! My grand kids are amazed and love learning the history how they came to be here in the park even before the Buffalo and elk were reintroduced! Each time we visit we are always in hopes of being able to find and observe as many bands as possible! I can honestly say the buffaloes are ok to observe, but not much interest! If by any chance we see an elk or deer, coyote, badger or porcupine we consider it a bonus! Most of those animals are seen very frequently outside the park on our beautiful praises!
4. Over the last 3 yrs we have noticed the drastic devastation the prairie dogs have caused by not controlling their reproduction! Which in turn has eliminated the precious food for the horses, Buffalo, elk, etc! My grandkids have questioned the practice of controlling the reproduction of the wild horses, but not the prairie dogs that are rodents and destroying the parks natural plants and food sources for all the animals! As a grandmother I cannot explain this ridiculous practice to them! If young children can see this happening, why can't our park service and biologists see this! They should be concerned about this practice before even thinking about the wild horses! (My grandkids remarks after hearing the possibility of losing the beloved horses).
In summary, my family absolutely love each time we visit the park and spend $ and time in Medora area and ND! BUT, if the horses are eliminated I can say this family will have no reason to return! That will be a very sad day if that happens and we will visit other parks in SD.

Mardell Kok
Follow: Wild In North Dakota
Thank you for all you do!!
Sent from my iPhone

155.	**Greg & Wanda** <gnwranch@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:33 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com PLEASE....DO NOT REMOVE the Wild Horses at Theodore Roosevelt Park in North Dakota. They are the primary reason we visit the Park and Medora. We keep up with them on Facebook and enjoy traveling in and around the park to spot the wild horses and taking pictures of them. They, along with the Longhorns and Buffalo are very important to us.
156.	**Janette Martin Goins** <5hillbillywolfs@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 4:40 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com My family and a group of around 50 friends are planning on going to Theodore Roosevelt National Park mainly to see the horses. We are still struggling to pick a date later this year, preferably this fall. But as I said we are mainly going to see the horses and if you guys remove them, there is no reason for us to go. Please please do not remove the herds of horses. I want to be able to show my kids and grandchildren the horses running wild.
157.	**Stacy Sullivan** <swillybay@blackfoot.net> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:41 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Hello, Although I have never had the pleasure or honor of witnessing these herds in North Dakota,I have followed the page vigilantly. To threaten the existence of these herds makes me sad beyond belief and makes me so resentful of the humans who wish to do this. I live in Montana and am so tired of the wild animals being pushed out of their native habitats. Please, please, please consider saving these majestic horses. Eradicating the herd is a crime and a complete cop-out, constituting an act of tremendous irresponsibility and lack of foresight. It is obvious that money and only money is behind this horrible act, and although we as a family ranch for a living, I am sick and tired of hearing about people "leasing" property to ranch on for nothing and then ruining it and killing wildlife for their own personal gain. Disgusting. Please save the herd! Stacy Sullivan

158.

Shelly Christenson <sj3christenson@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:45 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

TRNP was started to protect the wildlife and the land. The Mustangs are part of the wildlife in the TRNP and are just as important as the buffalo and the other wildlife that call TRNP home. I have not had the opportunity to visit the park yet, but hope to make the trip soon. I do follow the Mustangs on social media and love reading and seeing the pictures about their lives and families. The Mustangs were a big part American history and helping in the development of this country. They deserve to be protected just as all the wildlife in the park.
Sincerely,
Shelly Christenson
Westmoreland, Kansas
Sent from my iPhone

159.

Suzanne Deuel <suzannedeuel1@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:56 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hello

My name is Suzanne Deuel and I live in Ontario Canada. I first came across the Facebook page following the wild horses in the park several years ago, during Covid restrictions here.

The stories of the horses, the photos and the intrepid dedication of the photographers have been compelling from the first. The horses are brave, strong, inspirational. They survive in tough conditions with beauty and grace, they live their lives according to natures rhythms. All this has been fascinating.

I found them because I was researching the origins of my surname -Deuel. It is not a common name in Canada but we have learned that it is much more common in Nebraska and South Dakota. Now that travel is easier, my husband and I are planning a trip to the area and we will certainly go to the TRNP with the express objective of seeing the horses. We have told many people about them and they inevitably become fascinated.

Please don't remove these horses from their natural environment. I'm sure that their impact on the land is manageable and they are a beautiful testament to the confluence of nature and human history in the area.

Sincerely Suzanne Deuel

Sent from my iPhone

160.

Ann Shryock <jasshryock@comcast.net> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:58 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I follow the horse on Facebook. I love learning about the interaction of the bands and seeing the photos of these amazing horses.
Boomer is my favorite and I can't imagine him and the rest of the horses not living wild and free.
With so much going on in the world these horse are a bright spot in my day
Thank you
Ann Shryock

Sent from my iPad

161.

alea.kerch@gmail.com <alea.kerch@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:58 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have never been to TRNP, but would love to take my kids there. I have been a follower of Wild in North Dakota for years now. Through their platform, I have learned so much about the wild herds that roam freely at TRNP. It's truly amazing to see them grow up. The individuality of horses, of the bands, and the herds that is portrayed and shared with the public who can not make the trip is really fascinating. They provide so much information to the way of life of wild horses and their herds. Please save these lands for the wild herds, for them to live off of and be free!

Alea

162.

SHANNON Koenig <shannonkoenig123@msn.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:01 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I am writing about the Livestock Management Plan review currently being done that threatens the existence of the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I have been following a Facebook page about the horses for a couple of years now, but I have never got to see them in person. My husband and I have been planning a week long trip to the park in June 2023 for the sole purpose of seeing the horses. I am a wildlife photographer and was excited to finally get an opportunity to see and photograph the horses. If the herd is eliminated I honestly have no desire to travel to the park or North Dakota. The horses are the one thing North Dakota has that Montana doesn't from a wildlife photography viewpoint. I know a lot of my fellow photographers from Montana feel the same way. Please don't remove the wild horses from the park!

Sincerely,
Shannon Koenig

163.

Angie DeGraaf <akdegraaf58@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:02 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I just wanted to say what the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park mean to me. Although I have never been to the park I have subscribed to several of the Facebook pages that show pictures of and tell stories of these wild horses. In my opinion wild horses are the epitome of America. They are what America was and what America is... wild and free. I look forward every day or every week to catching up on the herds that are discussed or shown in the Facebook pages that I follow. The horses are beautiful. I love learning about the bands the new fillies and folds that come every Spring and early summer. If you take away the wild horses from these lands you take away part of our history. I do hope one day to make it to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I hope the horses are still there so that I can see what I've been reading about all these years. If you want information on wild horses you should contact Help Alberta Wildies Society. They too were told the horses were destroying the habitat and being a nuisance. They have proven in Alberta Canada that is not the case with the wild horses. We here in the states could learn a lot from them.

Angela DeGraaf

164.

Mahan Stock Farm And Haflingers <mocowgirl831@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:09 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I have not been to the park yet however, I plan to visit to be able to see all the horses wild and free. I follow several of the social media pages that share the horses, their herds and families. These pages bring light in a dismal time. These horses are a piece of our history as a nation. They signify freedom at its finest. I feel that they should remain in the park.

Jamie Hall

165.

Deanne <dlsampson@gmx.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:10 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I plan to come and visit the wild horses. We are specifically planning a trip to North Dakota for the sole purpose of visiting the wild horses in the park. We can't wait to hike out and go look for them. We will be staying in the area and visiting local attractions. Our main draw though are the horses in the park.

We also follow the social media posts of the beautiful heard that is running wild and free in the park. It's a beautiful and special resource that the state has to offer the public. I hope the park realizes what a special treasure they have.

The horses are the main reason for my planned visit!

Sincerely,
Deanne Sampson

166.

P Strupp <pstrupp@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:13 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I am writing in support of the wild horse herds at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The first time I saw the wild horses, I saw them from the highway, driving on I-94. I recognized some of the horses from the Facebook page that reports on the herd. I was thrilled to actually see horses in the wild. Since then, I have visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park several times to look for the wild horses. These horses are a "desired exotic species" that can be seen in their natural habitat. They are a part of America and a part of our history. The herd brings in my tax dollars and inspires me to support the national parks. Please continue to manage these herds for the benefit of all.

--
Peggy Ann Strupp
Redrock Dalmatians, Crane, Montana
"Where Dalmatians are what they were meant to be."
CH RDCH Aberdeen's Let's Make A Deal, CD, RN, RD, RDX, CCNC (LUA Dalmatian)
RDCH RDXCH Lucas Legend N Redrock's Montana Snow RN, CC, RD, RDX (LUA Dal)
"Artemis" (Pointer)
the horses:"Apollo's MoonFire" (Appaloosa), & "Shadowfax"

167.

Abigail Thew <thewabigail@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:15 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Abigail, and I follow the "Wild in North Dakota" Facebook page. I'm from Australia, yet I find that hearing the stories and seeing the pictures of this herd makes me feel transported into a space beyond place and time. A space where horse-lovers unite to simply enjoy the fact that these horses can live wild and free in the only place they have ever known. These horses unite us.

Sincerely,
Abigail

168.

Jaclyn Ketola <jmketola@icloud.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:29 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have lived in Upper Michigan the majority of my life, but for 6 years recently, I resided in Montana. The TRNP is a must stop for us while traveling back and forth between the 2 states mentioned-
It's nice to see the buffalo, but I go to the park to see the horses. They are beautiful animals, that I loved to see as a child (every summer we traveled westward) and as an adult and I have loved introducing my granddaughters to them also. It always excites me in hopes of even getting a glimpse of the horses - but so elated when I do get to witness them. (You don't always see a horse) They are magnificent creatures that deserve to roam the park freely, just as the buffalo do… we were disappointed that the gift shop had nothing with horses on it- no t-shirts or anything… there aren't many places that people might get the opportunity to see bands of wild horses, no one should be denied that experience.
It would crush my spirit if I traveled through knowing that the horses were no longer a part of the park.
Thank you,
Jaclyn Bietila Ketola

Sent from my iPhone

169.	**Angela** <rodriguezangela56@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:32 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com **I follow two social media accounts that write about the horses of TRNP. I love seeing posts about the horses living wild and free in TRNP. I feel it would be a shame to rid the park of these horses that have lived in the TRNP for so long. I feel the round ups and birth control methods can help control the population of this TRNP herd. I urge the park to continue on this same path so that people young and old for generations to come may enjoy the horses in TRNP.** Thank you! Sent from my iPhone

170.

Kathy Camp <casey31450@aol.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:44 PM
Reply-To: Kathy Camp <casey31450@aol.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

We visited Bismarck ND in 2006 and were captivated by the many life-sized horse statues throughout the town painted by local artists, groups & businesses. We were very impressed with the obvious love in your state's of its heritage & culture.

We then headed west to visit Theodore Roosevelt State Park. It was nearing closing time but we managed to get a glimpse of distant wild horses through binoculars and were thrilled to see this symbol of our history running free & protected in a state park. I will never forget that image. Since then I have followed online social groups like 'Wild In North Dakota' to stay connected to that experience so imagine our horror to learn that your state now wants to 'manage' these horses as livestock? Shame on anyone wanting to eliminate the horses removed from their own lands, discarding a much beloved resource.

If horses are removed from TRNP, I see no reason to return there...it will have lost the history & draw it now has to preserve the area as it has been for a very long time. What would Teddy Roosevelt think???

Kathy Camp
Bloomington IL
casey31450@aol.com

171.

Peggy Struber <pastruber@me.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:46 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have followed the bands for several years and plan to go see them with the next 2 years when I retire! They are a national treasure. Manage them but do not destroy them.

Peggy Struber

Sent from my iPad

172.

Teresa Phoenix <floridachs_2013@hotmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:54 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

2. Do you have plans to visit TRNP? IF YES: YES. Tell us why?
SEE ANSWER BELOW TO 1.
Is it for a specific reason? **To see the park itself and most importantly to see the horses.**
Why are you going to see the horses? SEE ANSWER BELOW TO 1.

1. Do you follow social media accounts that focus primarily on the herd in TRNP? YES
IF YES: Write what the impact of following the herd located in TRNP has on you. Why do you follow social media accounts that tell stories of the free roaming horses of TRNP? **Following these horses keeps us connected to a historical time in our past where we shared freedoms and a way of life in our country that is being phased out and silenced. It is being auctioned away and sold off never to return and these horses along with the land, the beauty and the freedom the represent is of irreplaceable value to our country, our nation and to our people. I follow these horses on social media as a way to remind myself and others of that which we must not forget and to share in the beauty of our nation and it's resources which are still available to us if we just remain devoted and diligent to their conservation and care.**

Sincerely,
Teresa L. Phoenix
FloriDachs Miniature Dachshunds
www.FloriDachs.com
(727) 798-2596 {text or call}
(727) 656-4253 {text or call}

173.

Eileen Van Fossen <ervf01@icloud.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:57 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I'm from ND but live in Florida. coming to TRNP and seeing the horses is such an amazing experience. My grandsons saw them last year and couldn't believe there was still wild horses roaming free. Don't let this program go away.
Eileen Van Fossen

Sent from my iPhone. ERVF.

174.

Dawn <dawnhawk@comcast.net> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:57 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

My daughter and I visited the park in 2020. Most of the world was shut down and we were so worried we wouldn't get to go to the park. But we did! We were visiting from CO. My daughter is an avid equestrian and we both love horses. We follow the beautiful and informative Facebook page and it was my daughter's dream to come see the herds. We had a hard time finding them, but when we did, they took our breath away! To see them in a wide open and free environment was an unforgettable beautiful experience. We got out of the car and watched for hours. I will never forget that. We still talk about it frequently. We hope to come back and see them again. We pray that these beautiful, free, gorgeous creatures will be allowed to remain together in this park.

Sincerely,
Dawn and Ashlyn Hawkinson

Sent from my iPhone

175.

Debbie Alber <dova_car@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:04 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

1. Have you been to TRNP? Yes, many times over the years! It is thrilling to even catch a glimpse of the horses while in the park and we even are on the lookout if we are just passing through on Interstate 94. We are always are on the watch to catch sight of these beautiful wild creatures living in this wilderness environment and seeing their strength and their will to survive in difficult circumstances! It just leaves one in awe!
2. Do you have plans to visit TRNP? We try to visit the park every few years or if we have out of state visitors! We are proud of this natural beauty of our state and seeing the wild horses, Buffalo and other wildlife is always a bonus to this rugged and beautiful geography!

I also follow the TRNP herd on social
Media and feel like i have a personal relationship with the horses and hearing and learning about the herd dynamics! A wealth of knowledge about the lifestyles of these wild animals is shared on these pages! I learn something new every day!

Please, please save the wild horses of TRNP! The park will not be the same without them or their stories! You are educating a wild audience! And giving them a new found interest in learning!

Debbie Alber
Glenfield, ND
dova_car@yahoo.com

176.	**Thomas Jackson** <tlsazarac@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:11 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I visit TRNP at least twice a year one of the best things is viewing the horses. The wild west is rapidly shrinking, the horses are a unique feature of TRNP. Leave them alone. Sent from my iPhone
178.	**Personal** <pkellyot@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:16 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I have never been to TRNP but it is a bucket list event. I have been following the herd of horses on several Facebook pages, and I am always thrilled to see my favorites. I have cheered on the goals born in the cold winter and followed the soap opera stories of the intermixing herds. I have cried when my favorites have disappeared or died. It would be devastating to know that if I ever do visit that the horses won't be there. I will never get to see the magnificent stallions and crafty mares. I hope you keep the status quo and the horses remain safe for this and future generations to enjoy. Sent from my iPhone

179.

DeeAnn Kjelshus <deeann@artbydeeann.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:23 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I visited TRNP a few times when I was under the age of 18. I feel blessed to have witnessed the wild horses that call the park home. When I saw them I was overwhelmed with a sense of joy and complete aw. These horses represent the wild freedom that formed our country. Without horses America would have never been born.

I'm an artist now. The focus of my art is the horse. The horses at the park have often inspired my work. They inspire me to share the sense of wild freedom in my work that they all possess. They are a gift to all of us. One that should remain free and untouched.

I now have 2 teen age girls of my own and we are planning a vacation to the park in the near future. I want them to experience seeing the horses for themselves. To feel the sense of history that comes from seeing something so free and untouched. I am praying that all the horses will be able to remain at the park, untouched and with their families.

I follow many of the photographers and people who document the horses that live at TRNP. I love getting a glimpse at the horses roaming free and untouched. A sense of our history and culture captured in these beautiful beings.

--
DeeAnn Kjelshus
www.artbydeeann.com

180.

Brooke Rice <bittenfox@icloud.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:23 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I am writing in defense of not just the horses of TRNP…but also of the very land that comprises their native range.

These horses represent the purest form of freedom that America has left. We have stripped away every last shred of it that is possible. If we see something wild and untamed, we, as humans, feel that we are entitled to some sort of ownership over it. We buy it, then we mutilate it, and nothing of it remains. There is hardly a square foot of this country that has been left untouched as the land the TRNP horses graze upon.

The horses are a vital and integral part TRNP—as much as the ground itself. Nature has been designed to balance itself, and flourish when left untarnished by human invasion. Humans disrupt nature and the balance of all natural ecological systems. The removal of the horses and subsequent fallout does not require scientific backing to prevent it. You and I know that the removal of the horses will be the rock that starts the landslide down. You are playing Jenga with America's natural, virgin, lands. Which brick will you pull that implodes everything around us? Humans did this crap to Yellowstone with the wolves…and the results were detrimental to the point that humans had to do their best to "undo" it. Though this time, the wolves that now exist are from a tiny gene pool, no thanks to mass wolf culling, and the gene pool cannot be recovered. What makes you think that removing wild horses will not cause damage? It may not be the same kind of damage- but it will be there and it will reverberate for generations to come.

Tell me how my great-grandkids are supposed to ever breathe unpolluted air while viewing an expanse of land so vast that they can only stare. Tell me how my great-grandkids are supposed to believe that horses ever roamed free across America? from photos of mass-round-ups? From looking at some stalled-up show-horse at the fair? Nothing … and I mean nothing … can grip a kid's soul than the thundering of wild horses across their native rangeland.

These horses symbolize the days before humans had wrecked too much of the North American landscape and the Lost American Wild West. These horses represent freedom, spirit, and history. We have plenty of farms, ranches, skyscrapers, malls, subdivisions, suburbs, resorts, and damn parking lots. What we are very quickly running out of is the very parts of America that set us apart from any other place on this planet. Humans preserve monuments and giant parks of manicured non-native grass - all incredibly boring and generic.

Leave TRNP horses in their native land- it was their land and still is…more than it belongs to any human, and for God's sake, leave a part of America untamed and wild. You cannot bring back wild horses once we've driven them to extinction. You cannot restore their land once you've built a bunch of houses on it. No one has ever driven miles across the country to see a suburb, parking lot, or fast food restaurant. People will drive from all over to see wild horses roam…and to take in the vast expanse of their untamed prairie-lands.

Go break something else to make your greed-supporting money. If you rob future generations of these animals and their range, I can guarantee you that you will go down as a villain. No one will be thanking you for destroying a lineage of wild horses to do something generic and meaningless with their home, or worse yet, to do nothing with their land.

Heroes are those whom save those that cannot save themselves. Be the heroes of history.

Brooke Rice-Stivers
Minnesota, USA 🇺🇸

181.

Denise Walker <dwalker4269@msn.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:25 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I rode my own personal horse through the Yellowstone River, and up onto the Maah Daah Hey Trail in TRNP, several years prior, and was blessed with a personal view of the wild horse herd inside the park. The effect was awe inspiring, moving, emotional. The herd represents to me the true wildlands that Theodore Roosevelt was determined to preserve within the North Dakota badlands - he even commented on the herd's wildness, and the importance of their inclusion in this vast, challenging, beautifully melancholy expanse.

How can we preserve the intent of the National Parks and the belief of President Roosevelt that these mammals in their habitat represent a land that should never be extinguished, if we now remove them and disallow future generations to experience their beauty?

President Roosevelt himself stated: "Of all the questions which can come before this nation, short of the actual preservation of its existence in a great war, there is none which compares in importance with the great central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us."

Removing these animals from this land is counterintuitive to the task of leaving this land better for our descendants. Based on my personal experience, I left the TRNP a better human for having seen these wild animals in their wild home. They represent freedom, struggle, life-and-death, strength and endurance under the most extreme circumstances. What world would we be leaving for the generations to follow, if such creatures were removed by humans from this wild land? A better world? No, certainly not!

Sincerely -

Denise M Walker
Denver, Colorado

Sent from my iPhone

182.

Donna Riley <victoryaussies@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:31 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

HELLO,
I would like to write to you and tell you the joy that following the updates and news about the TRNP wild horses brings to me .

Wild horses are very much a part of our world . This herd is an amazing source of education and the badlands history. They are part of the landscape and without them the TRNP would not be the same. In fact I'd really lose interest in visiting it to be honest.

For me the updates and education I get from following this herd of wild horses is huge . I look forward to the posts and photos . I look forward to meeting new friends through the others that follow the herd and comment on things . Often we engage in wonderful conversations centered around these horses the park and the landscape.

I am planning to visit the park in the next couple years specifically to hike and hope to see some of these animals specifically. If these horse are removed or harmed I will not have any desire to visit the park to be honest . It would leave a bitter taste in my mouth and a hole in my heart.

Please understand the value this herd of wild horses has to so many people and to the park itself. Please realize and respect the beauty they bring to TRNP and the many visitors that follow the herd online and travel to the park specifically in hopes to get a glimpse of these amazing wild horses. Please respect the fact that this is their home and that they belong to the land and the park and so many people that admire them.

Please allow this herd to live and reign free in TRNP.

Thank You

Donna Riley
Victoryaussies@gmail.com
973 222 6183

183.

Kemberlie Anderson <dockda54@aol.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:36 PM
Reply-To: Kemberlie Anderson <dockda54@aol.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Sent from the all new AOL app for Android

I don't know where to start. I was shocked when I first found out that there were plans to eliminate or at least greatly reduce the number of wild horses at TRNP. I will admit it's been over 3 years since I last was at the park but I have plans to go back this summer.

The horses have been one of my main reasons for visiting the park and searching them out is one of the main ways we spend time at the park. A friend and I camp at the park for at least 3 to 5 days and spend most of our time wildlife and wild horse "hunting" and viewing. One year we had a stallion and his 3 mares "supervising" as we set up our tent. It was a once in a lifetime experience. There are so few places where we, the public, can have the experience of seeing these magnificent animals in a natural setting.

I realize that the horses technically are not native, but they have been such a part of the West historically that I feel they deserve the right to continue on in the park. Teddy Roosevelt would "roll over in his grave" to know the current plans for the horses.

I feel the horses should stay at approximately their current number. I doubt they cause as much damage as the bison do and I suspect they are one of the main draws to the park for most people.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kemberlie Anderson, D.V.M.
dockda54@aol.com
537 Church St.
Hartford, WI 53027

184.

kim ball <kball1969@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:39 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hi. My name is Kim Ball and I live in Bozeman, MT just over an hour from Yellowstone. I had never had any interest at all in going to Theodore Roosevelt National Park until I heard that they had wild horses! This past August 2022 my kids and I decided to take a road trip to see friend in MN. The map said we should go through SD but instead we opted for ND so we could stop at the park in hopes of seeing them.

Upon arrival we realized that the park itself is fine. Frankly, there are much more beautiful national parks. But like many who come to Yellowstone just for the wolves, we were there in hopes for the horses. And they did not disappoint. It was a very hot day, but about 15 minutes into our drive we spotted two from the herd hanging out in the distance. We pulled over and watched them for 25 minutes. We drove further, wondering if we would see more of the herd. After about 30 minutes we realized we had seen the most important thing there so we headed back hoping to spot them again. They were still there so we waited another 20 minutes before heading on to Bismarck.

My kids and will not ever return to Theodore Roosevelt NP if the horses get removed. However, we would like to return annually if they remain. This experience was one of the top sights of our week long trip.

185.

Brenda Loney <bkl_nd@hotmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 10:19 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I love Theodore Roosevelt National Park, with the history of Medora and Teddy Roosevelt, the tourist attractions, and the small town western feel. But I love driving by on the Interstate or through the park because of the horses. They represent freedom and beauty in the harsh badlands. They are self-sustaining and thriving as only wild animals can do. They bring so much to the park, entertainment, and the joy of catching a glimpse of them as they graze. Some of these horses have been captured and auctioned, bringing that history of wild horses into someone's special care. Thousands of people love seeing these horses every year, and even more follow them on Facebook pages. The beauty of these horses is so important to the park and to the history of wild horses!

Brenda Loney

Dickinson, ND

186.

llarson26@gmail.com <llarson26@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 10:59 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

- I lived in central North Dakota, when we were growing up, every year we would drive to Medora, go to the show & always drove around the loop of the National Park. We would spend the weekend & go though the park at different times of the day to see the wild horses. We had many family reunions in the Park, or at the cottonwood camp ground. My kids grew up going to Medora & going through the park, climbed Buck Hill many times. We did trail rides at Peaceful Valley, was sad to see that it closed. Now my grandkids love to go to Medora, drive through the loop & see who can find the wild horses first. Would be a real shame not to have the beautiful horses in the park. Please consider keeping them. To be honest, not sure I would go through the park if the wild horses are gone. Thank you, Joan Larson

187.

Karrie Morse <aladdinn.klm@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 11:27 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I follow the pages of the photographers that share the pictures and stories with those of us that are unable to visit the park. It would be devastating to me and my family to know that these horse families are being removed...to zero...so many of our mustangs and burros are ending up in kill pens and worse. I urge you to please leave the horses where they are, wild and free...not "managed" by the blm because that is not boding well for the horses. Thank you for taking the time to consider our pleas to keep the horses wild and free. Thank you

188.

daslater@sasktel.net <daslater@sasktel.net> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 11:29 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Losing that wild horse herd will be a serious blow to the park. I haven't been there but my brother has and he said the sight of those horses was something he would never forget. The park and horses are on my bucket list, hope they are still there when I get down that way.
Dave Slater
Regina. Saskatchewan
Canada

189.

Brie Ella Knifong <brieellak@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 11:56 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

On my trip to TRNP & the wild horses were by far the highlight of the trip.
These horses are the heart & souls of this park & to remove or further reduce the number in this herd should not be an option. I am saddened by the fact that there is even a consideration of changing the herd in the park. It is very disappointing & shows a lack of respect to the public. Please show that your priorities are in the right place : preserving the wild beautiful nature of this park & respecting a species that helped our ancestors. We want to be able to continue to visit & share the beauty of these horses with our children & grandchildren. I know many people invested in these wild horses & follow their lives through social media accounts as well. Thousands of us have heard about this situation & it would mean a lot to us for them to be respected & preserved by the park management. I know we would be ever thankful for these horses to continue to grace these lands & devastated should you choose to alter their lives & freedoms.
Thank you- Mary Knifong

Brie Ella Knifong <knifongb@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 11:50 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have been to TRNP & the wild horses were by far the highlight of the trip. They represent America & the history of our country in a way that is very important to many of the American people.
These horses are an essential part of this park & the reason I plan to return again in the near future. To remove or further reduce the number in this herd should not be an option - especially if they are to be replaced by livestock that do not benefit all of us but rather a few ranchers etc. the fact that there is even a consideration of changing the herd in the park is very disappointing & show a lack of respect to the public. Please show that your priorities are in the right place : preserving the wild beautiful nature of this park & showing respect to a species that helped our ancestors. We want to be able to continue to visit & share the beauty of these horses with our children & grandchildren - for you to change the park & reduce the number of horses or the size of their habitat is not what the public wants. Also if you plan to replace them with cattle the land will become more damaged & destroyed than it is now. I know a lot of people invested in these wild horses & it would mean a lot to us for them to be respected & preserved by the park management. Thank you for your time, I hope to be able to continue to see these beautiful creatures where they belong.
- Brie Knifong

190.

Jennifer Choate <jenniferchoatecearveterinary@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 11:59 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Please listen to the many locals like me who love the horses present on this land. We hope you will choose to preserve & respect these wild herds. They are a integral part of the park & need to be left on the land where we as a people can see them continue to be the best part of this beautiful park.

191.

Sarah Schmitt <sldeak1234@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 12:17 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello,
I follow Wild in North Dakota. I follow this page because it shows the beauty of Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota. Not just the geography, but I follow this page to see what America used to be. I love seeing the wild horses doing what they were interned to do, RUN FREE. I have ridden horses all my life, in an arena….they lived in box stalls, and some were sold when they were of no use to their owners anymore. I have so much respect for these animals that give so much. To see them in their natural habitat is beyond amazing. The only reason I would ever visit North Dakota would be to go to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I would honestly love to take my daughter on the adventure of a lifetime, trying to spot some of these beautiful animals.
I believe endangering TRNP's horse herds would be a tragedy to all generations to come and a huge loss for America.

Sarah Schmitt
949-449-6346

192.

Kristina Skeppler <kristinaskeppler@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 12:26 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hi, I have, to my sorrow, heard you are having bad plans for the wild horses in the park. I, my family and friends are having plans to visit the park but not if you are not going on taking good care of the wild horses, meaning not letting them be wild and free and instead restricting the numbers in different ways.
Best regards
Kristina Skeppler
Sweden

Skickat från min iPad

193.

Viviane Carvalho Schäffner <viviccarvalho@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 12:43 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hi!

I urge here to keep the TRNP park open. The horse herd there are a daylight for me every time I see its pictures in Facebook. It brings consciousness to the important of preserving horses free in a world where animals are becoming extinct or stuck in zoos and private parks.

As a horse enthusiast, I have the dream to visit TRNP one day and witness this miracle of nature in person.

Please preserve the park!

Thank you so much
Viviane Schäffner

194.	**Nadia Wilson** <nadiasnotes@icloud.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 1:49 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Dear Sir/Madam, I'm writing as I follow a social media page that documents the wonderful wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I feel compelled to write to you to express my disappointment to hear a terrible programme is being planned to round up and potentially cull these beautiful natural wild land managers just because of human encroachment. I've never been to America before and we were planning a family holiday to the US just to see all the wild horses as it is only one of a few countries left that have wild herds and I am passionate about horses. It would be my only reason to visit America - to see the wild places and horses. It would be a shame if they were to be persecuted. I hope the authorities will reconsider. Best wishes, Nadia 07701053146
195.	**NM** <njmartz@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 2:20 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> To whom it may concern. I grew up in Dickinson, and always loved seeing the wild horses in the park. Just like the North American bison, TRNP is one of the few places in the world to see wild animals in a somewhat natural setting. Though I now live in Germany, I have made sure to take my 4 children and spouse to the park to see the wild horses and really enjoy following them on social media. They are a resource that once gone can never be replaced. Sincerely, LCDR Nathan Martz, USN retired DSU class of 86 -- Mobile - +49.151.523.90.443

196.

Liz Mitchell <lizm@manx.net> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 2:31 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I am writing this to express how I feel about the wild horses in TRNP.

I am a 69 year old woman who does not live in the USA. However, I have a strong interest in wildlife and conservation. I follow the posts on social media made by Wild in North Dakota, and love to hear about the wild horses in the park. I watch the photos of the new foals and love to hear about the familial ties that bind these horses, and the incredible behaviour that they exhibit. I sorrow when I learn about a horse dying, but also rejoice that it died free as it would have wished to do. However, I also am greatly disgusted by the roundups that happen under the misguided "management" system, causing injury, breaking of family groups and a lot of stress. It seems to me to be a symptom of the majority USA's total disregard for life – at least that is how it seems to outsiders like me. Your society's love of guns and insistence of everyone being able to own one is a hangover of a past that should be let go. There are very few people that carry guns where I live and I feel totally safe.

Please leave these horse alone. There are better ways of catching horses if absolutely necessary, and maybe a system of birth control when needed. However, the best way would be to leave their land to them. The reason things are out of balance is because ranchers, farmers and hunters have wiped out the predators that kept your land in ecological balance.

The way you treat your wildlife speaks to the rest of the world, not just the USA. You are not alone in this, as we all need to have more compassion, and to fight for the world we live in, or our great grandchildren will not have a world that is habitable.

Thank you

Liz Mitchell

197.	**diane mckinnon** <lazerlightmckinnon2@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 3:58 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I don't know much about scientific studies or actually what it has to do with any of this, except maybe to discourage people from writing. I'd like to know why people especially government feel the need to control and own every last natural parts of the earth. Do things need to be etched in stone, fossilized or labeled as "alien" to be deemed worthy of being saved. I'm fairly new to the forum, but what is more important than nature and what is more natural than our wild animals?
198.	**Bonnie Goodson** <bug_ee64@yahoo.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 4:08 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com To Whom It May Concern: The herds of wild horses of this country, specifically the herd in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, are a national treasure! Our country would never be what it is without horses! From giving their lives on the battlefield to carrying people, and hauling their belongings, across this country to create settlements, towns, cities, capitals, and states from East to West—it could not have been done without horses. The American buffalo and the wolf were almost wiped out by greedy hunters, but miraculously, those beautiful animals have been given back to our country's landscape. The wild horses shouldn't be any different. In order to keep up with the news of our wild horse herds, I follow groups on social media. It's not ideal, but unfortunately, due to financial restrictions, I have not been able to personally visit TRNP, but if I could, I would take my entire family to see those beautiful wild horses running free on the land. If a National Park is established to protect the environment, it should include ALL animals within its borders, not just some. To me, a horse running wild and free is a symbol of our own freedom. These horses deserve to live and remain free in TRNP forever. Sincerely, Bonnie Goodson Kennebunk, Maine

199.	Good morning to all from England, I am writing from the UK to make known my feelings about the wild horses that roam in this amazing National Park as I am being led to understand that there is a danger of them being removed from what they regard as their homeland. Obviously being so far away, it is not possible to visit to see them, but I take great pleasure in following their progress and the different family herds through the terrific social media reports given by those who love these herds so much. It is a great thrill to see how their families grow and interact, and something that we will never see in any other country. To me they represent the freedom that the US offers to all which is awesome. They are just as iconic as the bison that used to roam the ranges in their millions. I am at a loss to understand why anyone would think to remove these amazing horses who live so wild and free on land designated as a National Park. I cannot see that it could be of use to any other type of creature and believe that having the horses there manages the ecology of the area as they have done over time. Please,please respect them and let them live their lives in freedom as they always have, and we can continue to enjoy them. Thank you kindly, Helen Aiken Chelmsford, England.
200.	**Tammy L Wilkinson** <tammy.lwilkinson81@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 4:16 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Please save the horses! I've always loved watching them roam free in this beautiful park! My grandchildren love watching them. This is their land too and they should be able to roam free in this beautiful country. We are losing the roaming free animals and this should never happen! Our future children need to be able to experience this always and not see animals caged! Tammy Wilkinson

201.	**Wendy Fulco** <fulcolyn@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 4:56 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> I have followed Wild In North Dakota on Facebook for decades. It is very important for me to see the pictures and stories about the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I look forward to seeing and reading the stories shown there about the amazing bands of wild horse families and bachelor stallions. Seeing the beautiful horses living wild and learning about their interactions is a part of each of my days. To travel to TRNP and see these majestic wild horses is a dream of mine. Any time I read about helicopter round up of the horses I feel angry and sad. These horses should be able to live out their lives free with their families. I feel so sad to think of the wild horses in holding pens with no shelter and separated from their families. I am grateful for the people who observe and photograph the wild horses of TRNP. Sincerely, Wendy Fulco @ fulcolyn@gmail.com
202.	**karina fox** <karinafox85@hotmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 5:47 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> I have visited TRNP several times just to see these horses. They are the main reason for me to visit. Without them, I wouldn't bother. I have followed these horses for years, I live them like family. I have family trees for them and follow the lives of each and every one. Without the horses, the magical feeling of visiting the park will be Los to many. This is their land and they have a right to live there, natural and free. Cutting a herd of 200 down to 40 will ruin the genetic diversity of the herd and lead to inbred horses. I fear for the older horses being removed from the park. They would not cope in captivity and to kill them would be cruel beyond measure. The current system of removing the youngsters works well. If the herd is too large, then perhaps some of the stallions can be gelded or the mares put on birth control. Please do not remove these horses which so many of us know and love. It's not fair to them, or to us that love them. Leave them be, please! This is breaking my heart. Sent from Outlook for Android

203.

Sunkist Farm <sunkistfarm@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 6:30 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I saw a post regarding the wild horses of the park. I lead a busy life so I don't have the time to really dig into what exactly is going on and I do feel ALOT of people are in a similar boat as myself passioned enough to respond but don't want it to consume our day and I feel a lot of people care but simply will just not get involved.
Regardless I wanted to touch on my personal point of view and experience. I like to think I'm a pretty reasonable person wild/feral animals need monitoring and many times need population control and I'm not against any of that as the stewards for animals sometimes we need to step in for the greater good. Im not sure what's going on or why this plea for help had been posted but I'm hoping it's simply about management and not because of an attempt to get rid of the herd entirely. I travel for a living (transport horses and livestock) and have passed thru TRNP several times usually at night. We were able to stop once this past fall to sight see a few min and I'd like to share my experience. I don't follow locations of wild herds so I couldn't tell anyone the first place to go beyond "somewhere out west" to see wild horses I was born in and reside in Maine we have no vast spacious lands like I love visiting out west even if ts just a drive thru.
Anyways on this particular stop in which I had my elderly mother and my 4yo and it was incredibly cold we stopped in part because I knew it would be one of my moms last long trips with me and I wanted her to see some places she's never seen. We stopped and I figured we would just get to see a decent view which we did. We also saw some Buffalo in the distance which was Exciting for my 4yo as well as my mother. What I didn't know was that wild horses can be see from there as well (we stopped on 94) . We did not see any however on this cold bitter day where all I wanted to do was sit in my truck there were probably 5 different groups of couples and individuals I overheard mention possibly seeing wild horses and 4 of those groups had binoculars and made a point to really look and see if they could see any from that location. It was an inspiration to hear and see people wishing to see the horses and such an easy location to stop and have a chance to see such an icon of the American west. We plan to stop again when we travel thru during the day and hope at some point to visit other parts of the park and maybe actually see them along with other sights. Hopefully the concerns risen are simply just about managing the herd vs eradication. My experience that day showed me that there are a lot of individuals who stop with the hope to see some wild horses and it's a good possibility they wouldn't stop if seeing horses wouldn't be a possibility. Horses have a way of bringing people together, and I feel wild horses do a lot of the same. Sadly there is a lot of activism and bad press that comes along with the BLM and animal rights etc a lot of unrealistic points of view etc I'm here to step in as someone with a farming/ranching mindset but wishes to still see the wild horses present in the park and surrounding lands. Management is key but alot of the aura of the west surrounds mustangs and they bring alot of that silly excitement to those who either intentionally visit the park or just happen to stop and look just passing thru.
If you have read this far I appreciate you taking the time to do so.
Have a good day
Feel free to reach back to discuss on the phone or via email.
Alexis Ingraham
2073220346

Sent from my iPhone

204.

Squarespace <form-submission@squarespace.info> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 6:55 AM
Reply-To: pagayle47@yahoo.com
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sent via form submission from *Wild Lands Wild Horses*

Name: Peggy Gayle

Email Address: pagayle47@yahoo.com

Subject: Horses of TRNP

Message: I have no idea what the plan will be for the horses of TRNP, but anything less than allowing these wild horses to survive free in the park is unacceptable. They are the true picture of what this great country was formed on, FREEDOM.

I've only had the privilege of visiting the park and seeing those magnificent horses once, but it is something that will stay with me forever. That is why I follow Wild in North Dakota Facebook page. The story they tell of these wild bands of horses, their lives, the new lives and even the deaths keeps me linked to the park and these hores in a way that feels deep in my soul.

I pray these magnificent horses will forever remain free in TRNP. They deserve to be free as a symbol of this great country.

Does this submission look like spam? Report it here.

205.

Charlene Milliren <tcxoxo@icloud.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 8:21 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

To whom it may concern ,
I know money is tight in every budget. However , please keep searching for a way to make the balance to be able to keep the wild horses in the park. Along with the buffalo , the wild horses are the main attraction.
We often ride our own horses through the park, and coming across a band of wild horses is the biggest thrill.
Thank you for your consideration,
Char Milliren.
1902 10th st NW
Reeder, ND. 58649

Char

206.

Nicole Ashcraft <kopper29@aol.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 8:32 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

To whom it may concern, I am deeply saddened to hear of the recent discussion of the eradication of the beloved horses from Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Our country formed from the back of horses, they are a integral part of our history what will we have to show our future generations of how our great country came to be if all we do is destroy it's very foundation. Ask yourself what Theodore Roosevelt himself would think if he only knew what was on the line today and what shame that would bring him to his very own namesake that the park has come to love. These animals represent freedom! And deserve just that FREEDOM!!! I hope you come to see the importance they hold to our country and our future generations!

Sincerely- Nicole Reed (Ohio)

207.

Carol Blechschmidt <cablechschmidt@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 8:39 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>
Cc: cablechschmidt@gmail.com

To Whom it May Concern:

Please do everything you can to preserve the lands in Teddy Roosevelt National Park for the bison, horses, and other animals who live there. The animals are a unique treasure to that area.

As a child growing up in North Dakota, our favorite family vacation spot was TRNP. Now I drive through the park whenever I can when I return to North Dakota to visit family.

As an adult living in Colorado, I primarily follow the horses through the Wild in North Dakota Facebook site. This is a perfect site for following the beautiful horses which reflect the history and heritage of the Badlands.

Seventy percent of the world's animals have disappeared since 1970. Please do everything you can to protect those which remain.

Sincerely,
Carol Blechschmidt
cablechschmidt@gmail.com

208.

Casey Ellis <casey.superiorcarcredit@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 8:47 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

My husband and I love coming to the park and viewing all of the wild life. It's one of our favorite parts of the national park. Watching the horses in their natural habitat and running free gives us a sense of what was and what they love. Being free and wild. What America was built on and what we hope to continue with our country. The moms looking over their young, the males fighting for leadership resembles what we need in this country. My husband and myself stand to fight with the others who believe in keeping the park what it is and what it has been for all of these years.

Casey Ellis

209.	**Judy Wharton** <jaww5917@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:22 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I live in Pennsylvania and am disabled, I will never be in a position to visit these beautiful creatures on their home range. I follow quite a few of the organizations that are trying to save the wild horses including Wild in North Dakota, the TRNP. What we do as humans to all animals sickens me. They need to be left on their range, free, wild,& safe from our intervention and removal. Please honor these beautiful creatures, leave them be. Pleading Judy Wharton

210.

Judy Lessenden <JLessenden@nkcendo.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:22 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I would like to weigh in on the proposed plan to eliminate the wild horses from TRNP. This would be a horrible decision, and one I would be very sad about.

I have loved horses since I was a child, and seeing horses in the wild has always been a dream of mine. Though there was other places in the U.S. to see wild horses (HMAs, Salt River in AZ), TRNP always captured my imagination. The beautiful scenery, the wide variety of horse colors, and the relative ease to have a chance to see them, made TRNP a bucket list destination. Two years ago my friend and I planned a trip to Badland National Park in SD (her choice), and I insisted on extending the trip to North Dakota to TRNP, with the sole purpose of seeing the wild horses. We were fortunate enough to see several bands and lots of horses during our trip, and it remains one of my favorite places that I have ever been, solely due to the horses. I believe there is not another national park that has horses, though there are many places where you can see bison, elk, pronghorn, and other wildlife. TRNP is unique *because* of the wild horses. The landscape is similar, yet different from the Badlands, but I don't think TRNP would have the draw it does if the horses were removed.

The stories that several facebook pages share about the horses, their bands, and the way they interact with each other and the landscape is fascinating to me. Anyone who loves the outdoors and wildlife should be in an uproar about the removal of these horses from TRNP. This is their home, and they should be considered a national treasure.

Judy Lessenden, MHSA, CMPE

Administrator

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Medical Practice Executives (ACMPE)

211.	**Ryan Magnan** <rm.welding90@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:42 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com TRNP has been a part of my life since I was a child. Now as an adult I have shared the beauty of this land with my partner and my own child. The wild horses are such a huge piece of the park. Part of the magic that bridges the gaps between what was and what is. How is used to be. The beauty our ancestors saw when they decided to keep those lands safe forever. The horses are and always will be part of that. Removing them would be a huge disservice to our ancestors, our future generations, and to Theodore Roosevelt himself.
212.	**Karrie Morse** <aladdinn.klm@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:43 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com The mere thought of these horse families being separated and removed, for no good reason, is very disturbing. Our tax dollars fund the park, the horses take care of themselves. We follow them on social media as it brings us to the park from all over the world. I have relatives that live near and go to the park to visit. Teddy Roosevelt would not want this to happen either. Please leave the wild horses and their families undisturbed and wild and free.
213.	**dlbrguy1@aol.com** <dlbrguy1@aol.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:50 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> I am writing regarding the proposed removal of wild horse herds from the Theodore Roosevelt National Park area. The NPS expects the public input to be of a scientific nature only. I think this is backwards since the wild horses are property of taxpaying Americans and not the government! It seems to me proof to remove these wild horses lands on the government to provide valid points to remove these horses to their owners, us, not the other way around! Okay reducing a wild horse herd of 400 to 40 greatly reduces the genetic pool to a point of not having the diversity in the gene pool to maintain a healthy herd. Now I expect the government to provide their reasons for proposing this removal of these horses.

214.

coral verhaagen <coralv@hotmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 10:09 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I went to the park to see the Buffalo as a child then I saw wild horses and wow! The beauty and freedom I felt watching these animals was something that is hard to explain. My parents bought me some of the books so I could keep up. Since then I have taken my own children and the the internet was invented and we all followed the horses and we only go to see the horses. The horses are what we got exited about. Now we take the Grandchildren and they go for the horses. We love the Buffalo but go for the horses. We go every year and buy new books on the horses and their different bands.
I am in awe of the people that keep track and post the stories of these beautiful animals.

Please keep this tradition going. Theses horses belong there
They have been there for decades I can't even understand the thought process in taking them out. If they go we will never go back.
There will be no real reason.
Thank you
Coral Verhaagen

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

215.

Lavonne Daniels <oregon.native@hotmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 10:39 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

These wild and free horses represent our national heritage. They are incredibly important for us to remember where we came from. I live in the Western United States and still feel the spirit of my ancestors who came across the plains to a new home. They carved it out of the wilderness just as these horses survive in incredible environment all on their own.
I plan to visit the Park in the near future as part of seeing this incredible land we live in. These horses must remain free and as is so we can still enjoy our freedom also.
I don't have big, wonderful words to say what is in my heart, but seeing these horses on social media and the time the ladies spend to track the herds and share the specialness of seeing their freedom and natural instincts. These horses are families who care for each other and represent the freedom I hold so dear.
Please, Please leave these horses be so we do not lose this historical part of the West.
Sincerely
Lavonne Daniels

216.	**Carolyn Edson** <carolynedson@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 11:16 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I had always wanted to go to TRNP since I heard there were wild horses. I am a wild horse photographer and have been since 2009. My images have been published 6 times. I mostly go to SE Oregon and photograph the BLM mustangs there. Last year was our 40th Wedding Anniversary and we decided to make the trip to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The round trip with my truck and RV trailer was 2700 miles from our home in Washington State. I found 2/3 of the horses in our 3 days visiting the Park. The horses were all in good shape. I was amazed at the amount of grass they had and the abundant water with the Little Missouri running through. I did not see any damage to the land that bands can sometimes do when they don't have enough feed. Please do not remove the horses from the Park. I understand management of numbers if they get overpopulated. I specifically visited the Park to see the horses. If they are removed, I will never go back. I feel that a lot of people feel the same way. The horses are a draw to the Park just like the Bison are. Thank you. Carolyn

217.

Regina Mason <RDM1960@outlook.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 11:23 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

To Whom it May Concern,

This park was is named for a great American President who felt very strongly about the conservation of the wild animals of this region. The Mustangs are a HUGE part of our National history, and are part of the conservation efforts he began and President Ronald Reagan built on and wrote laws to protect. I have been a horse lover my entire life. I have a dream of one day getting to go to Theodore Roosevelt National Park to actually get to SEE the wild animals that helped to shape our great nation. The Bison….the Elk….and YES the Mustang! They are beautiful, and embody the spirit of our great country. THEY are what the park was in part made for……not domesticated cattle. I know and understand we need beef cattle, but the ranchers should NOT hold sway on what happens in a National Park created to conserve the wild animals that have always lived there!

I closely follow the facebook pages that feature these Mustang herds and live vicariously through these wonderful peoples pictures and stories. These horse live long and fulfilled lives FREE, as they should. There are humane ways to control population, but THEY belong in that park along with the Bison, Elk, Pronghorn, wolves and other wild animals of the region. THEY were there long LONG before humans ever were, and they should REMAIN there, because that was what is right!

Do the RIGHT thing! Leave these herds where there are!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Regina Mason

218.

Nancy Chandler <njchander04@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 12:16 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

TRNP is a beautiful place to visit
You can see more wild life in a small area than anywhere else. There is nothing more beautiful than to see a herd of horses standing on the bluffs in the badlands. So many people especially our younger generations who have never seen or experienced the wild open outdoors let alone wild horses roaming freely. It would be a shame to lose this.

219.

Donna J. Owens <dowens@umd.edu> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 1:35 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I've been following this herd for several years through Facebook. I haven't been to the park since the early 70's but I've enjoyed following the movements of the herds in the park from my home. The Park Service plan to zero out these horses with the significant DNA that they possess is abominable. Watching the wildlife at parks is one of my greatest joys. I've posted my comments on the park service website as well.

220.

Lisa Rani <lisaraniphoto@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 2:05 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello!

I am writing to let you know that this year, specifically, I was planning a trip to TRNP and meet, enjoy and photograph the herd of wild horses at Theodore Rosevelt National Park.
I have been following a variety of photographers who photograph the beautiful horses at the park.
I was always so hopeful for this herd as it is within a national park, Teddy Roosevelt's of all national parks, and felt of all horses that will remain protected it would be this herd.
I have a friend I am meeting in Bismarck later in the summer and thats why I thought perfect time to make it to the park.

I look forward to coming to the park this year. And honestly without the horses there I would have never known this park and certainly not make the added effort to go while in North Dakota.

A wild horse photographer and lover of open spaces and wild life.

Lisa Rani Horn

221.

FRANCES FONDREN <fbfondren@aol.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 3:17 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have not had the opportunity to visit Theodore Roosevelt National Park, but hope to in the future. I will visit to see the beautiful herds of wild horses that call this park home.
I have followed these horses through social media, (Dakota Grown Photos, for one), and feel I know each horse. These beautiful animal have been a part of this park for so long and should be allowed to stay. They are the only reason I have any interest in coming to TRNP. If they are removed I will have no desire to visit. It's such a thrill to see new life being born each year and sadness with each loss.
Please leave these beautiful creatures alone and allow them to live their lives, wild and free in your park.
Wild in North Dakota and Dakota Grown Photos have done so much to promote these horses and bring attention to your park but if you remove the horses there will be no reason to promote or visit your park!

Thank you,
Frances Fondren
1375 Peach Orchard Rd
Bethel Springs, TN 38315

Sent from my iPhone

222.	**Gretchen Jones** <jonesg1@icloud.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 3:28 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Cc: Doug <djindians4@yahoo.com> I'm so devastated to not be able to see the wild horses, a trip we have been saving for. We learned of the park through a friend. Watching the bands of horses via Facebook has been my constant daily prayer routine. This was how I was able to cope with the destruction that COVID 19 left. Please please please keep this a Park full of the beauty these horses bring to America!! Thank you, Gretchen Jones Grove City Ohio Sent from my iPhone
223.	**maren_domke@inspire.net.nz** <maren_domke@inspire.net.nz> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 3:38 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Hi, I live in New Zealand and have been following the Wild in North Dakota facebook page for years now. The stories and beautiful photos of the stunning horses and landscape bring so much joy and hope that there is still a place for these beautiful horses. Knowing they have a safe space even though I am not able to visit is enough for me. Following the stories teaches me a lot about horses, their behaviour and environments they thrive in, please don't destroy them for commercial interests. Cheers Maren

224.

Marylu Weber <marylu.weber@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 4:22 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hello, I added a few pictures to illustrate the story. The first is our family in the 80s, the second is TomTescher by Carol Tescher, and the last is Henry and me on our ND Badlands Horses, Fire and Hawk, taken by Kristin Dunbar.

4 attachments

weberfamriding.jpeg
65K

271832772_10159871844314530_5954868871145017325_n.jpeg
108K

IMG_6353.jpeg
1686K

Marylu's story.docx
15K

LEGACIES BORN OF WILD HORSES

Having grown up in North Dakota, I don't remember the first time I visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP) and saw the wild horses; it was many decades ago.

Life happened and I did not return to the park until my family moved back to ND in 1979. Once we moved to Bismarck and had enough horses for all of us to ride together, we headed for TRNP to enjoy riding our horses in the park. Always a horse lover, it was only natural that I would begin to document the wild horses that I saw. They were much more elusive back then, but we would often hobble our horses and crawl to the rim of a butte to watch the wild ones. It was fascinating just watching them as they grazed or stood fighting flies, knowing that they had no one to look after them, no one to feed, water, or care for them. They were alone and vulnerable, yet strong, resilient, and free.

Sometime in the 90s, we met then Resource Manager, Russ Runge, who encouraged us to come to his office and meet Tom Tescher. We were to find out that Tom was the man who had documented the horses for about four decades. Thus began the adventure of learning about the horses, their history, and the man who humbly dedicated half his life to them. Many, many hours were spent driving the loop to spot and identify horses while just as many were spent sitting around Tom and Lorraine's table looking at pictures, comparing notes, and talking about each horse, whom Tom knew only by the numbers he had assigned to each one. Later, when Tom could no longer drive, his daughter would pick him up and drive him around the loop searching for horses. Finally, Tom could no longer speak but he would get excited and hmmph when he saw a horse. Tom died in 2008. I will never forget the unassuming gentleman cowboy with the twinkle in his eye and the memories of the old days of the horses. I was determined to continue the documentation of those horses and the legacy Tom had created with stacks of handwritten lists of bands, stallions, mares, and foals.

For two decades my husband and I volunteered for the park, getting to know and helping with each new staff member, all the while documenting and photographing the horses. We watched as each new foal romped the greening hills and grieved as each older member of the band disappeared. Sometimes we would find some remains and could experience some closure but losing any of them was never easy. Knowing the horses had been in that area long before the park even existed, I wondered how many beautiful wild horses were lying here, reduced to sun-bleached bones. Yet, they lived and died free, something few people in the world ever have the honor of witnessing.

Over the years, by sharing our experiences with friends and other park visitors, as well as followers on social media, we have been able to bring the history and the culture of the horses to generations, many of whom were prompted to visit the horses for themselves. The history of the horses is a history of Native American hunters on the backs of fleet-footed horses finding game to feed their families, of pioneers and settlers pushing west behind the teams of draft horses, ranchers like the Marquis and Theodore Roosevelt, himself, riding across the rugged Badlands, restoring their souls with the sights, sounds, and hardships of living in the Dakota Badlands. This is the history and culture granted us by the horses who still run free across the buttes and valleys of the park. I pray they will remain there long after I am gone so that our children and children's children may have their souls renewed as well.

If the current TRNP horses are removed, these legacies, of brave indigenous warriors going to battle mounted on sacred blue roan horses, farmers and ranchers riding through blizzards and dust storms to care for their stock, cowboys roping and taming wild horses to be their own sure-footed mounts, will be forever lost.

225.	**Sheila Porreca** <sheilaporreca@yahoo.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 5:22 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com To whom it may concern, I've been to TRNP many times in my lifetime and enjoyed the park experience very much with each trip. We recently were at the park for the Halloween weekend and had the most amazing time with the bison 🦬 all around the scenic drive and we were **absolutely** thrilled when we had the chance to be up close and see the marvelous wild horses. It was an experience I'll always remember it was so unexpected and thrilling to see those horses it was like being in an old western movie. We took plenty of pics and I'll never forget that wonderful lil weekend at the TRNP :) Don't take those beautiful horses out of OUR national park leave them right where they belong….at the TRNP! These beautiful horses deserve some respect and to let them enjoy the park. Teddy would agree they need to be protected and allowed to roam on this Teddy Roosevelt natl'park. Thank You

226.

Loretta Mullett <etta329@hotmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 6:20 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I am against the Theodore Roosevelt National Park wildlife management plan, hoping to decrease the population objective of its wild horse herd to 30 to 70 horses. Around 200 wild horses currently live at the park, and the plan would sell most of them to reach their goal.

There are only a handful of areas in the country you can view actual wild mustangs to this day, and one of them is in the TRNP in North Dakota. These horses are true wild mustangs and have lived here for generations, completely untouched. They survive among the rugged badlands throughout the entire year among the wild herds of bison and elk.

These horses are strikingly beautiful and come in many colors and patterns - roans, pintos, bays and grays. The beautiful colors and unique color patterns make horses identifiable so you can enjoy watching the growth and herd dynamics. In the spring and summer seeing foals alongside their mothers in herds are a delight.

I am against decreasing the herd by a large degree as it would impact the genetic viability of the herd. According to wild horse geneticists herd levels of 120 or 150 horses are needed for the genetic viability of the herd. You need some amount of genetic diversity to keep health of the herd strong.

Wild horses are a major part of North Dakota's cultural heritage and the herd of wild horses in TRNP is unique to the park. Bison can be seen in many places throughout the state, but the herd of wild horses can only be found in the park.

Preservation of the wild mustangs was a legacy of President Thoedore Roosevelt. The archaic policy of round up and selling these beautiful horses who often end up auctioned off for meat is cruel and unnecessary. Other wild horse management programs use darting the horses with birth control to manage their populations. The are alternatives. The barbaric BLM policy of roundup and sell off of the magnificent herds is out dated. We need to protect these historical wild mustang herds.

Loretta Mullett

227.

Kay Harth <kdharth@hotmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 6:35 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

The reason we go to Theodore Roosevelt Park every year is to find the wild horses!!!
I look for my favorite horses every time we go, I absolutely love seeing the baby foals every spring.
I follow Wild in North Dakota on Facebook, I donate by buying pictures etc at the Minnesota Horse Expo.
Please keep the horses in the park. Thank you for listening to me.
Very truly,
Kay Harth
Minnesota

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get Outlook for Android

228.

Candida Eugenio <cannie123@msn.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 6:38 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello,

I wanted to just write a little about why the TRNP horses need to remain part of the park.

First of all, I have never been to the park but have wanted to go to see the horses for a long time. My family and I were going to go this last summer but were unable to do our trip. I am over 50 and that park and its horses are on my bucket list of places to see. If you remove the horses then there really isn't a need to go to the park anymore. Not every park in America has wild horses. So to remove them would keep a lot of people from visiting TRNP as they can see landscapes and even bison in other parks as well.

Secondly, Teddy Roosevelt created the park and ALL its wonderful land and creatures were to be cared for, not removed or changed or built on. This goes for the animals in it as well.

So, to remove those horses would be changing his dream and his picture that he had for our beautiful country.

Leave the horses alone! Let them be free. America stands for Life, Liberty and Pursuit of happiness. Liberty means Freedom. They are part of that freedom.

Candida Eugenio

Get Outlook for iOS

229.	**Squarespace** <form-submission@squarespace.info> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 6:40 PM Reply-To: acjr777@aol.com To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Sent via form submission from *Wild Lands Wild Horses* **Name:** joe russo **Email Address:** acjr777@aol.com **Subject:** wild horses **Message:** WHILE I DO LIVE IN THE EAST I DO OWN HORSES ...THESE ANIMALS ARE AN AMERICAN HERITAGE AND THEY MUST BE PRESERVED FOR THE FUTURE. PLEASE PROTECT THEM ALL..A GALLOPING HORSE IS POETRY IN MOTION! Does this submission look like spam? Report it here.

230.	**Miki E-mail** <grey_wolf@charter.net> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 7:33 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I was born and raised my first 19 years in North Dakota and the Theodore Roosevelt National Park has always been my favorite place. It holds a very special place in my heart as it's the only place I've ever seen wild/free horses in their natural beauty. Seeing the horses in the grandeur of the Badlands in western North Dakota has always thrilled me and I cannot imagine the park without them. Eliminating the horses would go against everything Theodore Roosevelt wanted for this National Park! It is one of the few areas where free-roaming horses may be readily observed. The horses of TRNP have existed in the badlands of western North Dakota since at least the middle of the 19th century. While ranching near Medora in the 1880s, Theodore Roosevelt wrote of the horses there: “In a great many--indeed, in most--localities there are wild horses to be found.” The horses have a rich history that can be traced back to Chief Sitting Bull in 1881. These horses figure prominently in the cultural history of the American West and are living legends that should be treasured! North Dakota should be proud of these free-roaming horses, it is all the richer for them- let them live! Please, do not rob North Dakota of this national treasure and its heritage! The parks' horses have been officially recognized as a part of the historical setting since 1970. There is no good reason to eliminate Theodore Roosevelt's free-roaming horses from the great state of North Dakota! Sincerely, Miki Wolf-Krenelka

231.

Sherry Mills Moore <sherry@millsmoorelaw.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 7:42 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>
Cc: "sherrymillsmoore51@gmail.com" <sherrymillsmoore51@gmail.com>

Here is my horse story. Please feel free to use it in any manner which helps save the horses. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for them.

Wild Horses Couldn't Drag Me Away

"I can't believe you are lucky enough to live here". Not something we native North Dakotans often hear. But this is what a fellow participant in a Badlands photography workshop from Pennsylvania said to me after a day in the park photographing the horses. That was back in 1999 and my first experience with the TRNP wild horses. Even though my family had a reunion in the park every 3 years, I had not previously been prescient enough to recognize their splendor. Over the following 24 years, not only have these horses risen to the top of my living-being popularity poll, but I have lit that same enthusiasm in my surrounding four generations – 96 year old mother, 41 year old daughter, and 13 year old granddaughter. Sadly, I just can't get my California raised husband to bite.

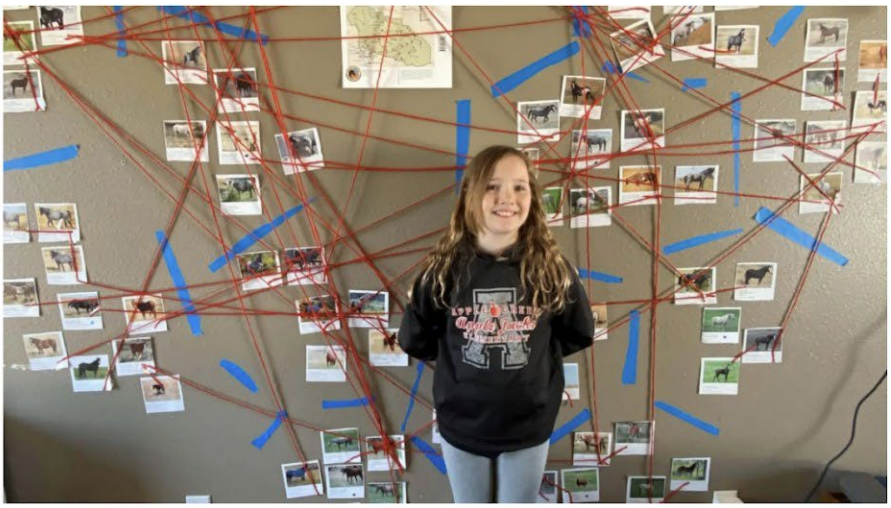
Since that time in 1999 I now travel to the park at least 4 times a year. Sometimes they are day trips, sometimes for a few days. Each trip is devoted to finding and photographing the horses. My very best friend is similarly afflicted. Because of our excursions I have been in places in the park I never would otherwise have been. We have seen every animal the park offers, except a mountain lion. We regularly visit the "nun rocks". We have slid through gumbo, raced up buttes, dodged snakes, and skirted bison. We have been there in snow and sleet and extreme heat. After one particularly poor placement choice between warring bands and a race to our car, I blew out my knee and had to have it replaced, but boy did I get a great picture of Sidekick, mad, really mad Sidekick. And each time as we leave the park – tired, sun or wind burned – we say, *that was the best trip ever*.

Never will I forget the first stallion fight we saw. After nearly hitting our limit in photographs of a grazing group, suddenly even the prairie dogs went on high alert. Over the butte came a stallion and the band stallion raced over to meet him. They took off as did we, following the skirmish in our jeep like paparazzi chasing the British royals. They fought and ran and pooped and sniffed for over a mile as we madly changed rolls of film and documented the battle. It was glorious.

Even more glorious was being witness to the birth of a foal. Having spotted a mare earlier in the day who seemed planted, we watched from the road as first the foot, then the baby emerged. The mare sent the stallion away while the baby worked hard to stand up. It was, to be frank, a holy moment.

Then there is the joy of watching my family and friends light up as I took them to see the horses. And each year my Christmas list includes sending the latest NDBH horse guide to these same people. My daughter and granddaughter love to spot them, to see them skirmish, to take their pictures, to walk on the trails and to scale the buttes.

At age 10, my granddaughter did a North Dakota history project making a crime wall type connection art piece on her wall of the all the horses in the park in 2019. A television station picked it up as a story featuring her hard and creative work, and of course, the horses.



To those who aren't enamored with the horses perhaps it seems they are same as if not secondary to the bison, or the elk, the deer, even (gasp) the prairie dogs. But her project illustrates the difference. These horses can and have been individually identified. Their history is documented in photographs, their dna, and the genealogical renderings. The horse people of

TRNP like to figure out who is who, who is related to whom, their age, their temperaments, their families, their bands, their territories. It is an exercise and immersion in history and nature and identification. Nobody does that for the bison or the prairie dogs or the deer. Not because they aren't important but, the diversity in the horses presents the opportunity to take nature to the next degree. There are reunion rides and photography tours and family traditional gatherings and weddings and memorials and photography contests all centered on these horses. They have many non-profits with followers all over the world. This is completely unique to the horses.

Personally, if the horses are removed, I am unlikely to come to the park on any regular basis if at all. I want the horses there for my progeny and for the visitors young and old all over the world. They have made the last 24 years of my life vastly more meaningful and have brought the splendors of the park home to me over and over again. Now, I have as my own message, how lucky I am to live here.

232.

Wendy Maurstad <wmaursta@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 8:08 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I just feel like I must contribute to the cause for the wild horse herd at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. We've been to the park more than once and the main draw each time is the wild horses. There just isn't anything that can compare to the thrill of seeing wild horses, living, thriving and surviving in the elements of the gateway to the west. We've had our own horses for so long but these TRNP horses just make a person feel and understand the link to the days gone by like bison and elk just can't. It's amazing how hardy and we'll suited the herds are to their environment.

The loss of the herds from the park would leave a huge hole in so many peoples link to American history and what on earth - Medora North Dakota has the cowboy museum and there sure wouldn't have been cowboys without horses. Teddy Roosevelt would be rolling over in his grave.

233.	**Pat Young** <wildmtn@aol.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:18 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I'm writing to support keeping the wild horses in TRNP. While they, themselves, may not be indigenous, the herds have been there for generations and they are part of the mythos of the west. I have never been to Theodore Roosevelt, but I follow the herd on social media, which has opened my eyes to a truly beautiful part of the country, one that i wish to visit soon. Without the wild horses, I don't think I would ever have known about the park or considered visiting. Regards, Pat Young Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS
234.	**Kate Taibbi** <ktaibbi@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:23 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com We are retired and hope to make it out to the Dakota's to see these magnificent horses! This park has been on our "bucket" list for quite some time! Thank you for the wonderful pictures! - Kate Sent from my iPhone
235.	**From:** "Linda Carver" <lindac1236@yahoo.com> **To:** "info@wildlandwildhorses.com" <info@wildlandwildhorses.com> **Sent:** Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:06 PM **Subject:** Horse saving thoughts I have never been to TRNP, yet. I have plans to make it there this summer. I previously had little interest in touring this area. Then I came across the Facebook pages that support and share info about the beautiful wild horse herds. I have been a horse lover forever and always enjoy seeing them. To see them running wild and free will be a dream come true. Please leave the horses to be free.

236.	**Squarespace** <form-submission@squarespace.info> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:46 PM Reply-To: sl_mj1960@yahoo.com To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Sent via form submission from *Wild Lands Wild Horses* **Name:** sarah levering **Email Address:** sl_mj1960@yahoo.com **Subject:** Horses **Message:** Please let the horses be free they were here before any of us and deserve their freedom.Someday i would love to come to the park just to see the wild horses running free. Does this submission look like spam? Report it here.
237.	**Kris** <funkybunch_2000@yahoo.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:46 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I have never been to this area. I do know that, in order to save our earth and ourselves, we must live in harmony with all creatures great and small. Humans have no right to destroy the lives and habitats of any wild creature, just because we can. You cannot sacrifice others for your gain. It is an atrocious act. These horses are gorgeous creatures. They live here. It is sacred ground to them! Humans have driven wild creatures out of their habitats. Humans have driven others out of their homes (think American Indigenous people). Learn your lessons!! Sent from my iPhone

238.

Delbert N Deana Glaser <dndglaser@hotmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:48 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello,
I understand that the Theodore Roosevelt National Park herd of wild horses is currently being reviewed via a Livestock Management Plan that threatens their continued ability to live wild and free in this National Park!
I was born and have lived in North Dakota my whole life (50+years) and have visited the park every year for as long as I can remember. As a child complete excitement if we could catch a glimpse of the wild horse herd from the interstate as we entered Medora. Dad drove us through the park every year. We would sit and watch for a very long time if the wild horses were around, they were so memorizing ! Screeches erupted if it was the spring of the year and there were foals with their moms! They were so free and so beautiful! So perfect!
As an adult with horses of my own we frequent TRNP. We ride the trails and search for a glimpse of the wild horses. We will sit and watch them from afar I admire their beauty and freedom and often wonder if my ride wishes he was one of them. It makes my heart so happy!
It would be a sad shame to one day come to the TRNP and not see these amazing creatures or worse yet to tell my nieces and nephews about the time when we would come
to the park where there used to be the most beautiful wild herd of horses that roamed free in this park! That would be a very sad day!!!!
SAVE THE WILD HORSES AT TRNP!!!!!
Thank you!
Deana Glaser

239.

Amy Litton <alitton1989@yahoo.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:56 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hello,

I am writing to add my voice to the many others writing in support of the wild horses at Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

The opportunity that is afforded, both through social media and in person, to actually see these beautiful animals in a natural habitat is such a treasure. Seeing these majestic animals in the wild, even through the window of social media, has been an incredible experience for which I am truly grateful.

I believe that we have a responsibility as a nation to continue to preserve / manage this heard (and others) so that generations to come have the opportunity to see and learn from these animals in the wild.

Thank you,

Amy Litton
Rowlett, TX

240.

Jill Ricker <kenandjillricker@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:59 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I have followed the horses in the Theodore Roosevelt Park on Facebook for several years. I feel I know these horses and am trying to get to the park to see them in person! It is a beautiful sight to see them free and living life as a wild herd. I would hate to see them removed! I own horses and I understand them through my 62 years. They are a national treasure. Let them be wild.

241.

Kristin Caron <kristincaron317@yahoo.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 10:30 PM
Reply-To: Kristin Caron <kristincaron317@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello,

My name is Kristin Caron from Carver Massachusetts. I spend quite a lot of my time on line following the horse families that live within the TRNP. It is a miracle that in this time of life, there are still sanctuaries that allow the wild herds their freedom.

I am an avid horse lover, and have been my entire life. I have chosen to never own a horse. I believe horses carry mighty souls that can show you what true freedom is meant to be. When I see horses with their owners, I see the pain in many of their eyes. The pain of being taken from their families, being sold over and over again to new owners. I see the love they give and the anguish they endure when they are sent away once again.

As I said, I have followed the TRNP heards online for many years. In my darkest hours, I look to the photos of the free, the loved and untouched spirits. I dream of visiting them someday, to see their untouched spirt within their eyes. It's in the amazing photos posted of them. The eyes of a horse are the windows to their souls, and never have I been more in awe of the humanity I see within them.

These horses have every right to live free!! They have the ability to heal the broken hearts and minds of those of us (mankind) that are broken, sad, forgotten and in need of unbiased, unconditional, love.

The human race has forgotten where it came from, where we started, and that we are no different than the horses at TRNP. We want to be free!! We fought for freedom and seldom of us have any. What right do we have to take that freedom away from these animals? We are animals of the homosapian race, they are animals of the equine race. They deserve the same freedom and more!

What right do you, or any man, have to take away another's freedom! What right do you or any man have to disrespect the wishes of Teddy Roosevelt? He is a famous man for the words he spoke and the actions he took. Who are you? What do you want people to look back on, in history, and remember you for?? I pray it's that you are remembered for the protection you provided the free horses, maybe then, we will know your name!

242.

Bunny Metzger <bunnymetzger50@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 11:07 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Yes, i have been to the park, a couple of times, we love the bison but the horses are so special. It feels like you are back in the 1800's. I love watching the posts of the new babies and the different herds. Its so special to follow their lives. A little bit of heaven. I was born in NDak and was an owner of horses for many years. Please reconsider and think how important they are to the park and all those that love them. ♥--
Smiles

243.

Debbie L Mack <debbielma943@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 12:17 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have never been able to visit the park, but I am a horse lover! I've had horses since before I could walk! I so enjoy the photos and stories of the horses in TRNP! They are some of the most beautiful horses I have ever seen! I think they should be left alone to live wild and free just as their ancestors did! It is on my bucket list to be able to visit the park, just to be able to watch the horses in the park! But if they are removed I will not be going to visit the park! The horses are the main reason I want to go! I get a lot of enjoyment from the photos and stories that are posted concerning them! I really appreciate the people who photograph , keep a check on them and also share the stories of the horses! I truly believe that if they are removed it would cause a decrease in the visits to the park!

244.

We are very upset about the possibility of losing the wild horses. We have been to the park and love seeing the herds. We have fun guessing which herd is which. Our grandchildren love seeing the horses too. Having the wild horses in the park brings in a lot of people from all over the United States. We would probably not visit the park if the horses were taken away. We love seeing the new foals every year. We live in North Dakota and are able to go to the park regularly. PLEASE leave the horses there

1 message

lbcurren <lbcurren@restel.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 12:18 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

245.

DEBORAH WIELAGE <dwielage@comcast.net> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 2:26 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP) in May of 2022. The horses drew me to the park which I learned about from Dakota Grown Photos on Facebook, and got me learning about TRNP, and North Dakota, and planning my vacation.

I spent a week at Medora and I drove to the North Entrance and spent a day, however my favorite is the South Entrance because that is home to the horses. Not many National Parks have wild horses which makes TRNP special. The horses are are like frosting on a cake.
That's why I chose this park and why I spent a week, and why I'm hoping to return someday.

I hope the horses get to stay at TRNP because people expect to see horses . That has been their home for centuries, hopefully, now and future generations of horses will have the opportunity to run free and wild like past generations of horses. They are a symbol of our country.

246.

Squarespace <form-submission@squarespace.info> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 2:55 AM
Reply-To: beth.gerow@gmail.com
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sent via form submission from *Wild Lands Wild Horses*

Name: beth Gerow

Email Address: beth.gerow@gmail.com

Subject: THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK

Message: contributing to the fight for the wild horses there.... When cattle graze, they wrap their tongues arround grass and rip it out by the roots. A few hundred steers can cause the area to become a desert in a very short time...no grass seed,, no grass roots. Horses BITE the grass off near the roots when they eat....the roots are preserved and can grow the grass back, and horses CANNOT digest grass seed.....each seed passes through the horse and is deposited on the ground in a packet of fertilizer from the horse. Result....luxurious grasslands!! Good luck, Wild Horses! the Earth needs you desperately!

Does this submission look like spam? Report it here.

247.	**From:** Squarespace <form-submission@squarespace.info> **Date:** January 11, 2023 at 5:18:54 AM EST **To:** thismustanglife@gmail.com **Subject: Form Submission - New Form - Saving the wild horses** **Reply-To:** bonniescrittercottage@yahoo.com Sent via form submission from *Wild Lands Wild Horses* **Name:** Bonnie Lentz **Email Address:** bonniescrittercottage@yahoo.com **Subject:** Saving the wild horses **Message:** My family and I feel it is very important these horses stay wild. It is part of our history. And their beauty is for all to see. In the wild! Does this submission look like spam? Report it here.

248.

kristal eggert <kristal_eggert@yahoo.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 10:53 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Thank you for all your organization is doing to advocate for the incredible wild horses in TRNP. Here is why I love the horses and why I hope we can all still enjoy these treasures for years to come!

Every year I take a week long trip out to North and South Dakota for my birthday. TRNP has been apart of that trip for many years. I still remember my first time seeing the wild horses...it was near Peaceful Valley Ranch and Nichols and Cloud were hanging out in the shade. I can't fully describe in words the level of my excitement. But it truly is the driving force behind multiple visits to the park each year. There is something so rewarding to just sitting quietly and watching their interactions within each family band and of course the heated encounters between other bands and bachelor stallions. I work as a nurse in a hospital and this is a stressful environment to say the least...especially the past couple years...these trips to the National Park are my way of de-stressing and relaxing. I am not a photographer but i do enjoy taking pictures during my trips and I have met many others who come for that reason. I have made some really nice friendships with these people and occasionally plan to meet with them while I am out visiting. I have tent camped in Cottonwood each time I visit...from March thru November. I have watched the wild horses and buffalo walk right thru my campsites multiple times. Its something so unique to this park and I love being in nature with the animals. I prefer the off season or quiet months in the park with less people. I am an avid hiker and the rugged landscape combined with wild horses is a perfect combination.

This IS my happy place. Each time when I climb high up on a butte to watch the horses, I close my eyes and I can feel and hear the mighty North Dakota wind...I can smell the warm scent of sage. I can hear the language the horses speak to each other...a soft nicker, a loud whinny and squeal or a deep sigh as they relax and take a nap in the warm sun. I cherish this place...its my church...its my medicine...its my therapy. So many people cherish this herd...especially the locals who come here weekly know each and every horse by name who their parents were and who the new foals belong too. I believe each of us has special stories and ties to this place and the horses. And I truly believe the wild horses are the single biggest draw for returning visitors. I can't imagine this place without them. I truly believe the horses have an important place in the park. I also would agree the buffalo have an important place as well. But at the end of the day I would like to see a management plan for both these animals so they may continue to share the land. Over the years most of the return visitors I have met are here for the horses. And this means the charming town of Medora is hugely benefiting from the revenue when they stay a week at a time. It is my hope that the horses are allowed to stay in the only home they have ever known. I don't know if there is a way the NP could take in monetary donations from visitors that would be directly applied to help/save the horses...but I would do it. I do understand the need for management of the herd. We want the best for them. Please continue to allow the horses to live in the park. I wish you could look into my heart and see the love, excitement, peace and joy these horses bring me each time I visit. It breaks my heart to think they might be completely removed.

Thank you for your time and reading my thoughts.

Kristal Eggert

249.

Terrie Pieczonka <terziz1@yahoo.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 11:09 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hi! I'm Terrie Pieczonka from Millington, Tennessee and I have been following the stories and photographs of the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt State Park for several years on Facebook.

I am constantly surprised and delighted by the stories and this ongoing piece of Great American history embodied by these horses. Their lives are beautiful and ugly, strong and sadly weak—really struggling and living magnificently in the National Park. It's very interesting to see the dynamic way they interact, breed, give birth and survive. Really a priceless piece of Americana. And, I'm not even a horse owner or farmer. It's just incomprehensible to me that such valuable animals could be taken out of this setting and be gone forever. It seems like so many things with deep history and meaning are being lost in the United States. (And I'm speaking as one of the evil snowflake democrats!)

I've probably said too much. I just wanted to offer my feelings on behalf of these horses in the hope that they remain wild and free.

Thank you so much for offering the forum.

Respectfully,
Terrie Pieczonka

Sent from my iPhone

250.

Jeanie Lynn Andringa <zetapita@icloud.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 11:27 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Just sharing my story
As a little girl my grandparents would bring us to Medora we should see the musical and go through the park. My favorite parts were looking for the horses, Bison and our family likes the prairie dogs. As an adult I could not wait to share this magical place with my son. The horses in the park are truly one of the main reasons we go there. I have traveled to many state parks throughout the USA, and truly find the horses are majestic as mountains. The history they share and joy they bring to so many people is amazing. I think the park would be such a different place without the horses. I know my family and myself would probably choose other locations to visit. Many parks have beautiful scenery and even amazing wildlife, but the horses are a true draw for us. Please leave them in the park. I don't understand how they can be anything but a positive impact for the park.
Thanks
Jeanie Berns
Minnesota

Sent from my iPhone

251.

Carol Blevins <carolnblevins@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 11:58 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Please don't remove the wild horses from TRNP. They are a national treasure & are the main reason people visit the park.
They have been there for so many years & are being maintained well.
My husband & I visited several years ago & were absolutely enthralled with the beauty of the Park & the Wild horses.
There aren't many places left in the world where you are able to enjoy such beauty & majesty.
Thank you for your consideration,
Carol & Ken Blevins
Winter Park, FL

252.

DEB LEE CARSON <everseethelight@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 12:24 PM
To: Wild Lands Wild Horses <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Please, please, please… Save the wild horses in the TRNP! The horses have been here longer than the park has. There are only a few National Parks in the United States that have wild horses still roaming their land, in fact TRNP is the only place in North Dakota that has them. About 175 wild horses are living in the 47,000 acres in the park. My earliest memory is when I was a little girl, my favorite memory in N.D. is going through the park to see these magnificent horses 60 years ago! I remember I talked about this rare experience to anyone that would listen! At that age, I thought of them as MY horses, as I do today also. In the last ten years I have gotten to know a lot of the horses. I have visited them often and follow the dedicated posts that people write about them. My favorite horse in the park is the '2000' oldest stallion Circus. I remember him as a young stallion with stunning blue eyes and a wild mane that he tossed about proudly. I worry about him and follow his progress. He is still doing good and living his life the way he wants. (Could you imagine what he and the other horses would do if they were removed from the only home they have known?) He wouldn't live long in a forced captivity. It been exciting to follow him through the years. 2002 Gray Ghost elderly stallion I followed closely and I worried about him as I saw him getting so thin right before his death. Someone wrote that they found him and the buffalo were standing and grieving over him with him in the bidder of their circle. His faithful mare Twister died shortly after along with their young colt Atlas, but Gray Ghost has sired other offspring which will carry on his legacy. I cry when I hear the death of each horse but I was sad for days when I heard that Betsy, an older mare, had been rounded up and was killed in the process. If you ever witnessed the round up of wild horses, it is a horrendous sight. They are terrified when they are separated from their family, hurt and often killed in the process. Wildrye, Teton, Nichols, Urban, Flax, Remington, Coal, Vamoose, and the other stunning stallions have their own personalities and dwell in their Young Boomer is an unique stallion who is everyones favorite with his older brother, Amite. Boomer was orphaned at 6 months and his aunt Taylor and brother have taken care of him. Various families have been so special to keep track of like the the devoted mom Dolly and her lovey daughters Oakley, and Zoe. Flame is Flax's mom and is the oldest mare at 23 years old. She has had 10 offspring. Many people around the world view the horses treasured photos from years ago to now, and often remember when the horses of the past were happy and running free. With each birth is a great celebration and their death is always a heartbreak. But I wouldn't trade the experiences for anything in the world. They have become a great part of my life. I look forward to hearing what mares are which stallion now and where the herds are. It is like a soap opera but so much more because you can follow them almost daily from the dedicated posts of the amazing followers. The old west has almost vanished and we are so fortunate to experience it through the wild horses which is so much a part of the Native Americans and Cowboys! The culture and history are rich in Medora and the park is known for the wild and free herds! Just imagine listening to the mighty galloping and strong snorting of the horses in the distance. Nothing can compare… Tourists have brought in much income to this surrounding area because of wanting to be a part of this old west history. TRNP superintendents and staff need to step up and work cooperatively and effectively with the people and save the wild horses! ❤️

I wanted to add to some of this and proof read but I sent this before I was ready to proof read…. It would not let me email this. If you would like me to write another copy- I will do so, but hopefully this will convey my feelings. I meant to add after writing "and other stunning stallions have their own personalities and dwell in their own section of territory they have chosen. "
❤️😊❤️ Just let me know if you received this or I'll try again. Please also let me know if there is anything I can do. I wrote two letters…

253.	**Tammy Mackey** <dtmackey@ndsupernet.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 12:31 PM To: Info@wildlandswildhorses.com How can we save the wild horses from being removed from the park? I sit here thinking who exactly wants them gone? I mean the people that are thinking about this? I just don't understand why? When I look at all the people that are posting stories of how they love to go to the park to see the horses. I mean hundreds of people from everywhere in the country how can the park remove them? The horses are so loved. The western history from the area involves cowboys and cowgirls and HORSES Many people go to Medora to have a WESTERN EXPERIENCE. To have a feeling of the old west and part of this is going into the park to see the wild horses and buffalo. If they are removed it can and will not never be the same again. Many people are from cities somewhere and can't see horses in their area and will not ever have that feeling of seeing them in the wild here. Please don't make this mistake of removing them. Tammy Mackey
254.	**George - Bonnie Overby** <gboverby@hotmail.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 12:34 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Sugar, a scared little red roan filly, came home with me in October 2009. I hadn't really planned on buying at wild horse at an auction. The auction in Dickinson, North Dakota, was meant to be a fun event with a friend as a celebration of my birthday. It was also going to be a distraction from current events in Afghanistan where my husband was serving a year-long deployment with the National Guard. That autumn day turned out to be the beginning of some of my most beautiful experiences!

This same year, North Dakota Badland's Horse (NDBH), was established to promote and preserve the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. It was through this nonprofit organization I was able to connect to other lovers of the badland's horses where I was introduced to the many wonders of the horses and their rugged environment. Though I grew up in North Dakota, I had not really experienced the park until 2010 when I went to see Sugar's sire and dam. The year 2012 had special significance when I was able to return riding my once wild horse in her birth place. I have since enjoyed the yearly horse parade on Flag Day in Medora and the annual reunion ride where owners return together on their former wild horse to TRNP

The wild horses has been the draw for me to keep returning to TRNP. Since 2010, I no longer travel outside of North Dakota as I can think of no place I'd rather spend my summer vacation. It has been my pleasure to be able to volunteer with documentation teams helping to care for captured young horses at the holding pen while awaiting their owners. In the last 12 years I have visited the park up to 4 times a year often spending a week or more at a time as I return with family and friends.

These horses and this park bring me back to my roots in rural North Dakota, growing up on the solitude of the prairie riding my horse, smelling the aromatic sage brush, listening to the meadowlarks and killdeers and exploring nooks and crannies of the land. The park and its horses bring me back to simpler times away from the daily stresses of my life as a nurse in an urban setting. A place I am able to draw close to God, renew my strength and find healing for my soul with the gentle spirit of the horses against the rugged and beautiful backdrop of the badlands.

255.

Toni Barnett <tonibarnett@ndsupernet.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 2:11 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have been to TRNP many times as I live South of Dickinson, North Dakota. Every time I venture into the park I am looking for the wild horses that live there. I get such a feeling of adventure and longing when I see the horses. I always have my camera (not my phone) with me so that I can get good pictures of the different bands.

I do plan on visiting the park again and do so every couple of months. Winter, spring, summer and my most favorite time, fall. I enjoy seeing the bison, but my main focus is the horses. Seeing them running free and interacting with the environment, along with the other wildlife is so interesting. To take them out of the park would be such a loss to all visitors to the park.

Thank you for reading.

Toni Barnett

New England, North Dakota

256.

George - Bonnie Overby <gboverby@hotmail.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 1:56 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Sugar, a scared little red roan filly, came home with me in October 2009. I hadn't really planned on buying at wild horse at an auction. The auction in Dickinson, North Dakota, was meant to be a fun event with a friend as a celebration of my birthday. It was also going to be a distraction from current events in Afghanistan where my husband was serving a year-long deployment with the National Guard. That autumn day turned out to be the beginning of some of my most beautiful experiences!

That same year, North Dakota Badland's Horse (NDBH), was established to promote and preserve the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. It was through this nonprofit organization I was able to connect to other lovers of the badland's horses where I was introduced to the many wonders of the horses and their rugged environment. Though I grew up in North Dakota, I had not really experienced the park until 2010 when I went to see Sugar's sire and dam. The year 2012 had special significance when I was able to return riding my once wild horse in her birth place. I have since enjoyed the yearly horse parade on Flag Day in Medora and the annual reunion ride where owners return together on their former wild horse to TRNP.

A memory etched in my mind that still brings me goose-bumps is one of my first trips to the park. Our group rode east out of the horse camp in hopes of spotting a certain elusive stallion and his herd. Just when we were about to turn around and return to camp, an ethereal mane appeared just over a hilltop, about 60 yards in front of us. Could it be… a head popped-up and there he was, the majestic "Wind Canyon", his mane flowing above him! He and his small herd came out around the hill and circled us once. Then, just as quickly as they seemed to magically appear they eloquently disappeared. I think we all felt as if we had just had a spiritual experience.

The wild horses continue to be a draw for me to keep returning to TRNP. Since 2010, I no longer travel outside of North Dakota as I can think of no place I'd rather spend my summer vacation. It has been my pleasure to be able to volunteer with documentation teams helping to care for captured young horses at the holding pens while awaiting their owners. In the last 12 years I have visited the park up to 4 times a year often spending a week or more at a time as I return with family and friends.

Access to these horses and this park bring me back to my roots in rural North Dakota where I grew up on the solitude of the prairie riding my horse, smelling the aromatic sage brush, listening to the meadowlarks and killdeers and exploring nooks and crannies of the land. I am reminded of simpler times away from the daily stresses of my life as a nurse in an urban setting. A place I am able to draw close to God, renew my strength and find healing for my soul with the gentle spirit of the horses against the rugged and beautiful backdrop of the badlands.

257.

Randa Veazie <randaveazie@hotmail.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 2:38 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello,

My name is Randa and although I have never made it out there, I love the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Starting in March 2020, I started following many of the pages documenting and sharing these beautiful pieces of our history and park. The wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

My then 9 year old step-daughter and I fell in love, and learning more and more about these horses helped get us through some of the darkest times in our nation's history while I was also home with a newborn. We know the names, families and bands of these horses so well now in 2023. Our daughter has a book that shows every horse and their dad and sire. We've also purchased a calendar. Our now almost 3-year-old has toy horses that look like those in the park. We've yet to find one with the markings like Red Face or Roosevelt but we are still looking. We love seeing the foals named, each one is special. Watching for any sign that Boomer was surviving without his mom. Each loss in the park is felt deeply. Seeing how dedicated all of you are in tracking and documenting these horses. To us these horses are the main reason we are looking to take a vacation to the park in 2023.

Without those horses, the park will never be the same. Their numbers should be managed humanely. Taking these horses away would erase an important part of history and a vital tourist attraction for the area.

I've also researched and found that horses do not have as negative of an environmental impact on the land as previously thought, unlike cattle and other livestock.
https://awionline.org/content/myths-and-facts-about-wild-horses-and-burros

It is imperative that we keep these horses safe, and manage populations in a manner that doesn't negatively impact these herds.

If you'd like you can share this without my name attached.

Kind regards,

Randa

258.

Dixie Whitman <risingwolf1@yahoo.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 2:40 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Dear Sir or Ma'am:

I lift my virtual pen today to add my name to those who wish to see the TRNP horses roam wild and free.

As a child of the 1950s, the National Park Service had yet to establish TRNP. So my family swooshed by on our trips westward. My husband and I first encountered the horses on a cross-country trip where we stumbled upon Theodore Roosevelt National Park on June 22, 2010. On the spur-of-the-moment, we detoured through Medora and took a late afternoon drive along a scenic loop that mesmerized us with stunning views and wildlife, including a small band of horses grazing near the roadside. What a moment!

That encounter motivates me to champion the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Whenever one of my friends travels in that direction, I always encourage them to visit and see some of the stunning vistas, flora, and of course, America's greatest fauna.

We love it so much that when I discovered Wild In North Dakota, I began to follow them on Facebook to reconnect, even virtually, with these amazing animals and a legacy of the old west.

Celebrating our 50th Wedding Anniversary this year, we hope to make a more leisurely trip west and spend more time with these magnificent creatures that we ask you to continue to protect and treasure as the legacy they are.

Thank you for your time.

Best regards,

Dixie Whitman

Dixie Whitman “A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words.”

259.

Personal <ndjules939@hotmail.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 10:14 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

My name is Julie Otto. Although I don't live in ND at this time I grew up in Dickinson and lived in that area for a large portion of my young adult life - never more than 70 miles from a park entrance. We took trips through the park regularly and felt lucky to live so close and be able to share in the park's beauty so often. On our never ending search for the animals in the park it was always a stroke of luck to find the horses - they were the elusive treasure we looked for the hardest. I follow the Wild in North Dakota page on Facebook so I can still see the horses running free which truly helps connect my soul back to the park and North Dakota.

Growing up on a farm we had horses and I was riding by the time I was 5. My love for the animal itself runs deep. Being able to see the horses running free in the park is a vision I will never forget - such beauty; the true essence of freedom. I cannot imagine them not being in the park. I have been through the park with my parents, my grandparents, and have taken my own child through the park. We're talking four generations of visiting the park! I sincerely hope that when my son is lucky enough to take the 5th generation of our family through the park that the horses and other animals are still living free for them to see and enjoy.

There has to be a plan possible that allows for all animals to be able to live there. A good management plan would control the size of the herd as they have been (through the adoption of these beautiful animals) as well as the removal to and introduction from other bands of horses living in other parks to control the inbreeding. What is not acceptable is the removal of the horses all together. This is not fair to the current and future generations of visitors and especially not fair to the animals.

Thank you,
Julie Otto

260.

lthares@valleytel.net <lthares@valleytel.net> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 11:59 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hi Jamie and Deb,

My husband and I, live in South Dakota and when trying to find somewhere to go during summer of 2020, we decided to go to TRNP, as we heard about the Wild Horses. We had been to Rapid City and the Badlands, and the attraction of the horses, is what made the decision to go to North Dakota. I, myself, love to take pictures and my husband loves the outdoors. So we enjoyed trying to find the herds and then I would take many many pictures. We enjoyed the time at TRNP, so much, that we took 2 of our adult kids back there, later that summer.

The horses are beautiful creatures of God's. They are a wonderful and unique attraction, that bring people to the Park. We hope to go back to the Park again this summer, and the only reason would be the Horses. I hope and pray they are there to see.

Sincerely,

Lynn Thares

261.

Kimberly Saul <kahsaul@yahoo.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 1:57 AM
Reply-To: Kimberly Saul <kahsaul@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

To whom it may concern,
Please let these horses remain free with the help of the people who are concerned for them!
I am Native American and these horses are a gift and a reminder of our culture and how this great country was built. They are a very important piece of our existence.We need them as much as they need us. Please protect them so that thousands of folks may someday visit them in their natural habitat including me . Exactly what Theodore Roosevelt intended for this Park!
I too follow them on Facebook. I'm so grateful for the folks who go to great lengths to document and photograph these great and majestic spirits in their natural place ,where they have survived year upon year.
Please let them thrive as they are in the natural habitat thanks for listening.
Thank you,
Kimberly Saul

262.

Patti Faloon <patti.faloon@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 5:21 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

To the people of North Dakota and the TRNP. I have never been to North Dakota; however, I am in awe of your beautiful horses. I am a 64 yr old woman from Maine who faithfully follows these extraordinary animals. I live in a State that has beautiful coasts, landscape, mountains, and our animals that attract tourist's. While some constantly complain about the tourist's, other's depend on them for their livelihood. There are lifelong Mainer's who also complain about the animals who help draw these visitor's to our beautiful state. Many times in my life I have taken rides on dirt roads to the north woods and Mt Katahdin area in hopes of seeing a big cat, bear, or a moose. Each time this happens I feel blessed that I live where I do. And if I head in the opposite direction I can sit and watch our beautiful coastline. On a really lucky day we may see seals or even a whale. It is also a bird lover's dream. We are truly blessed.
I have a very dear friend of 50+ years who lives in ND. She shared with me different attractions of your beautiful State. One of these and most loved by me is your beloved TRNP horses. I follow these beautiful horses online faithfully. I have my directories and calendars and look often to quickly reference a specific stallion, mare, or foal line. She has asked me repeatedly to come for a visit. I would love to come and we've talked about what we would do when I come. Of course, TRNP is right on the top of the list. Your horses are a daily part of my life even though I've never actually had the pleasure of seeing them in person. I feel I know these gorgeous beings because I see them daily though the eyes of a camera and the stories attached from the beautiful lady's who share these magnificent creatures with those of us who aren't blessed to have seen them in person, but dream of someday fulfilling that dream.
I truly hope that the efforts to save this park and the natural wildlife that called it home before it was a national park are successful. I pray that I am able to make it to your beautiful State before the people who are trying to destroy it succeed. Thank you for listening to me in trying to save the beautiful horses of TRNP. They have become a very positive part of my daily routine. Even though we are separated by many states I feel connected and look forward to pictures, video's, and writings about the magnificent horses and their history and also their future.
Prayers.

263.

Donna Riley <victoryaussies@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 9:51 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

HELLO,
I would like to write to you and tell you the joy that following the updates and news about the TRNP wild horses brings to me .

Wild horses are very much a part of our world . This herd is an amazing source of education and the badlands history. They are part of the landscape and without them the TRNP would not be the same. In fact I'd really lose interest in visiting it to be honest.

For me the updates and education I get from following this herd of wild horses is huge . I look forward to the posts and photos . I look forward to meeting new friends through the others that follow the herd and comment on things . Often we engage in wonderful conversations centered around these horses the park and the landscape.

I am planning to visit the park in the next couple years specifically to hike and hope to see some of these animals specifically. If these horse are removed or harmed I will not have any desire to visit the park to be honest . It would leave a bitter taste in my mouth and a hole in my heart.

Please understand the value this herd of wild horses has to so many people and to the park itself. Please realize and respect the beauty they bring to TRNP and the many visitors that follow the herd online and travel to the park specifically in hopes to get a glimpse of these amazing wild horses. Please respect the fact that this is their home and that they belong to the land and the park and so many people that admire them.

Please allow this herd to live and reign free in TRNP.

Thank You

Donna Riley
Victoryaussies@gmail.com
973 222 6183

264.

Renae Abraham <renae.abraham@valleyexp.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 10:18 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Good Morning,

I am writing in response to the Wild Horses in TRNP.

Every time we go past Medora and TRNP on the interstate we are always scouring the landscape for the wild horses. If we see them, even from afar, it's major excitement every time.

I have been to the park a couple times. Every single time our goal is to see some horses. You always see the bison and while it's great they are there…they just aren't that exciting as the horses as you see so many of them. It gets to the point…oh, there's more bison. Yeah. But the horses…..oh, boy. That is the ultimate goal. We were lucky enough to see a couple bands not far from each other a couple years ago and get some pictures. It was amazing to see these wild horses just out grazing and roaming in a natural setting. That was the highlight of the visit. I could have sat and watched them longer than we did, but we had to get to the musical. The way all the other cars were stopped and taking pictures it was obviously a highlight and huge attraction to many other park visitors as well. There was a traffic jam of cars and people stopping and taking pics and getting out of the cars to get better pics and to just stand and watch them. I saw more cars stopped watching these horses than I did any other attraction in TRNP.

I was there last fall camping at Roundup camp and riding horse in the park. I was so hoping to see the wild horses and we didn't see any that trip and it was such a disappointment. I still say, it was a great trip, but I wish we would have seen the wild horses. I kept hoping we would. We saw lots of bison, deer and an elk in the distance. I have heard of other trail riders that have come across the wild horses while riding in the park and they say it is just phenomenal to see them and watch them interact. That is still my goal as we do plan to take more trips to camp in the park in future. I really hope that I will have the opportunity to see these wild horses in future.

I also follow multiple social media accounts on the park and specifically the wild horses. It's interesting to hear about the bands and their history and which stallion has taken over which band. I enjoy hearing and seeing the pics when a baby is born and it's even heartbreaking when you hear of a baby or any horse passing on. It's part of life and educational to see and hear about these horses and how they live. It's great to see horses living like they used to in the past.

I even buy the book at the Medora C-store about the Wild horses when I pass through. I really do hope they continue to keep the wild horses in TRNP as it will be a huge mistake to get rid of them.

Renae Abraham

265.

Elaine Poole <elainepoole64@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 10:28 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Dear Sir / Madam
I'm writing to implore you to keep the herds of wild horses on the badlands of north Dakota wild and free, for ever, as they have done long before you were born, they need to keep at least the same numbers if not more to remain viable and not cross breed into extinction, .
These horses have no voice and so here I am pleading with you from Devon England to save these most noble wild horses who do only good to the environment unlike farm animals.
These mustangs are pretty much indigenous as new evidence is leading towards and have certainly lived wild for centuries
May I kindly point to the fact that America would be no where if it wasnt for the millions of horses who were used until modern machinery took over. So even horses proven to be descendants of tame horses have long since earned their precious freedom and right to live their lives free from guns and other barbaric ways that some have been rounded up and sent to slaughter.
These beautiful creatures are the american people symbols along with the Golden Eagles of freedom. Many peoples from all over the world, travel to see them and watch them in the wild, in a habitat that supports them very well, with awe and wonder
Please take the public's love for these precious and beloved wild horses into great consideration
Your sincerly
Elaine Poole (Ms.)

266.

sue newland <snewland@hotmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 10:39 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

This is insane,,, I was born in Stanley, N.D. In 1955, my father worked the first oil bomb at that time, we lived in Stanley as well in Tioga during those years.
As a child we made many trips a year to Dunn County which is where my Uncle and his family lived and farmed. It's one of my greatest memories riding through the badlands and admire the wild horses, I Loved them then and still do keep up on them horses through 2 of the FB Groups, I find it both interesting and informative as they share their photos and their knowledge of the goings on with Badlands Wild Horses!
I do not live in N. D. now, but visit when I can and still watch for them horses, they are a sight to behold and your willing to destroy that pleasure we've enjoyed for years! This plan is not in the interest of those Horses! So why destroy something people have looked forward to for decades because of someones crazy notion? It's time to give it up and move on to something more Productive and give the wild horses the life they deserve! Thank you for your time and I'm looking forward to seeing those horses Summer 2023
Sincerely, Sue Wyman

Sent from my iPhone

267.

Patricia Longo <diggers1991@yahoo.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 11:44 AM
Reply-To: Patricia Longo <diggers1991@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello I am just a person who has been in love with wild and domestic horses since my childhood n I'll turn 70 this month. These horses bring so much joy to our world. I myself have not gotten to visit TRNP yet; however, I follow 2 different Facebook pages to enable me to see them. Everyday I look forward to the joy of the photos that the 2 women post for our enjoyment. The pages are Dakota Grown Photos and Wild in North Dakota. These dedicated women follow and document the herds located in TRNP and share that information willingly for more than just enjoyment they also do it to be informative to the happenings of the herds and their treatment and whenever there is a possibility of auctions to help save these horses. To reduce TRNP to no livestock would be absolutely devastating. Please reconsider alternative methods to help save and preserve the magnificent wild horses in TRNP.

I thank you in advance for any assistance in keeping the wild horses of TRNP. As I mentioned I haven't been able to reach TRNP yet but I was extremely fortunate 7 years ago in my 1st year of retirement to travel solo to visit the Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary located in South Dakota for a private 3 hour tour. It was the most incredible experience in my lifetime to finally observe and be up close to Wild Mustangs. I cherish that experience to this day so please I ask again do not reduce TRNP to no livestock.

Sincerely,
Patricia Longo
A concerned citizen for the preservation of our Wild Horses

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

268.

Roxanne Westman <Roxiesplacephotography@hotmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 11:45 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

As a resident of North Dakota and a long time visitor to TRNP, there is a lot of personal pride in our National Park in North Dakota allowing a home for these wild horses. North Dakota doesn't have huge majestic mountains or oceans or wild streams or beautiful lakeshores, but we do have the Wild horses! Many hours have been spent watching these beautiful horses in nature; the mares with their new foals, the yearlings shaking things up with their mock fighting and my favorite, the wild stallions fighting for their rights to the herd. Where else can you experience nature like this, without traveling hundreds of miles!

I am a nature/landscape photographer who travels throughout North Dakota displaying and selling my photography, many images of the badlands, at Art/Craft shows and when customers see my images of Theodore Roosevelt National park/North Dakota badlands, they love to stop and share their experience of seeing the wild horses out in nature. For instance: how many horses they saw, their location in the park. You can just see the joy on their face when they talk about their experiences or what horses they saw. I believe that most people, familiar with TRNP, when they hear Theodore Roosevelt National park mentioned, they automatically think about the wild horses.

The Wild Horses are a huge draw for the Theodore Roosevelt National park, and my personal opinion is that the attendance of the park would drop dramatically. These horses bring no harm to the environment and should be allowed to remain in the park.

Roxanne Westman
Roxie's Place Photography
Mapleton, ND

269.

Kim Scoville <kscoville0015@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 11:48 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I'm writing this email to remind you that these horses are a very important part of History. The removal or reducing their numbers to very few is like rewriting or erasing History and quite frankly I think their has been alot of that lately. People have the need to do what they think is best and listen to other's who think they know what is best. If you stop and listen to others who have been there for years and years and have documented the horses you will see they have been there longer than most people think. They have been on their own and have survived through it all for all those years without people stepping in, so why now do you feel the need to step in and remove History? Please listen to the people who are fighting for the horses and understand why we want them to stay in the park for everyone to see for years to come and beyond. I will continue to fight for their future to be free and wild as they have been for all these years. Please do not take their rights away.

Sincerely a let them be wild and free believer...

270.

Elke <sojourner.ok@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 11:49 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

We encountered these wild horses on our visit to TRNP - it was a wonderful and memorable experience and the park in my mind became synonymous with wild horses that day. They are very much part of the picture, and clearly an inspiration to many people. We have enjoyed following their lives virtually for several years now. We hope they are always treasured and permitted to remain wild, living, in the park.

Elke Edwards, Norman, OK

271.

Donald Green <dgreenassoc@comcast.net> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 12:05 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Before I can hardly even remember there were trips to North Dakota to visit my relatives. The excitement of finally leaving eastern Montana and reaching the North Dakota Badlands has been etched in my memories. My parents were beyond excited to see the buttes and canyons. Why? My dad was from Texas with the forever flat land and Mom was from North Dakota. They loved the colors and the wildness. Stories were made up over the years while we traveled and nothing better than bringing the Wild West alive 'in our minds and in the car'! Then to see the very first buffalo and the very first wild horse! I want everyone to have this experience today and forever.

Our 26th president Teddy Roosevelt also wanted us to have this experience of the outdoors and thus his Conservation Legacy came to be and the development of national parks. He knew that being outdoors and seeing our country was good for the soul.

Visiting this part of the world (just as important as visiting the Everglades, Grand Canyon, Glacier Park, etc) is experiencing and learning about all of the differences in this part of our world, the United States.

Taking away the Wild Horses in TRNP….please don't. If You start dissecting pieces out of the park we lose the total effect, the total experience, our culture, our Heritage. Do we take a coloring book and only color part of the page…no. We color the entire page to experience the whole picture.

Part of what I have read is that the horses are classified as livestock. The Webster definition of livestock is "farm animals" regarded as an asset for agricultural 'market'.
The wild horses are not livestock. They are a creature the same as the buffalo, the wolves, elk, etc. in Yellowstone we saw the wolves dissipated from the park and then had to be placed on Endangered Species Act. Do we have to keep re-establishing everything? No we do not.

There is a plan in place now for the management of the wild horses in TRNP and in other areas of the United States. Let the plan be or refine the plan. Just don't do away with the horses because it seems a burden.

Keep alive the history and legacies of our Indian warriors, the wild horses, the beauty of our park. Let's keep making memories. Let's keep the park full of color……the buttes, canyons, buffalo, elk, and wild horses…..let it live on as it was meant to be. As Teddy Roosevelt wanted it to be.

Sent from Sue's iPad

272.	**Marna Schulz** <marna_schulz@me.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 12:07 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Please don't remove the wild horses from the park. Anytime I get the chance to drive thru the park they are the most beautiful things I watch for and look forward to seeing. Sent from my iPad
273.	**Lori Swanson** <ljswanson@pioneerpress.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 12:33 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com During Covid for my 60th birthday, my sister and sister-in-law took our horses to Theodore Roseville National Park (from MN) to see the wild horses. It was a trip of a life time. We were lucky enough to see a band of wild horse and Circus one of the bachelor stallions. I wrote a story for the travel section for the Saint Paul Pioneer Press and TwinCities.com (link below). My impression of visitors at the park were more excited to see the horse than the buffalos. They horse bring a smile on everyone face. They are beautiful animals living in the wild - where else can you enjoy something like this. Keep the for our children enjoy. Leave them there so history can live on gracefully. Lori Swanson https://www.twincities.com/2020/09/05/where-to-throw-a-60th-birthday-bash-in-the-time-of-corona-the-badlands-good-idea/

274.

Kay Sakaris <sakakay@icloud.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 12:45 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

To Whom it May Concern:

I follow all of the Social Media accounts pertaining to the beautiful Wild Horses of Theodore Roosevelt Park.

While I am not sure I will ever be able to visit there in person as I am a disabled senior citizen, I live vicariously on the photo and stories of these beautiful horses. Every morning I eagerly look at Facebook to see what's new at TNRP. There are so many favorite horses, but my heart belongs to Boomer, the foal colt whose mother died shortly after he was born. He faced so many hardships but with the love and protection of his band he is thriving and will grow up to be a beautiful adult stallion. His whole band pitched in to help raise him. This is a testament to the fact that horses have love for their families, just as we do. I look every single day to get another glimpse of how Boomer is growing up and how he's doing.

Please don't take the horses away from us. I am not the only one who loves to see them, even if by a distance. They are beloved worldwide. I can't imagine Teddy Roosevelt wanting this herd to be eliminated. This Park was his vision. Please don't destroy it!

Thank you,
Kay Sakaris

275.

Mona Dagestad <mona.dagestad@yahoo.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 1:28 PM
Reply-To: Mona Dagestad <mona.dagestad@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I have been coming to TRNP for some time now. We used to come to the horse camp with our horses. My favorite feature in the park is the horses and second is the scenery/terrain. If the park no longer has the horse I will probably find other scenic parks to visit. My husband told me he would probably dusourse my ashes there as that seems to be mt happy place.

I would be very disappointed to hear the horses were gone. We need to do a better job when controlling number of foals born mithin the park.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

276.

Judy P <jsunnysis@yahoo.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 3:47 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

To the committee deciding the fate of our wild horses. That's right, I call them "our" wild horses. I know you have the best fate for TRNP in mind but our wild horses have become TRNP and American national treasures. I have seen the beauty of them running free and I believe our anthem, home of the brave and the free doesn't just relate to humans, but to the animals that live with us.

Please, please don't take away their freedom! Visitors, like myself, love to visit the park specifically to see them and my heart feels the freedom they stand for.

Thank you!

Judith Parins

278.

Erin Phillips <erinannaphillips@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 4:14 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hello Ms. Baldanza! Here's my story:

"Ever since I can remember, I've loved horses. I had as many horse figurines as I could when I was little, got my first "real" horse at seven, and started a mustang and burro rescue at seventeen. I have spent the majority of my free time for the last five years advocating for mustangs and burros and educating the public. That is just how much they mean to me.

I have never been to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. But I will be - as long as there are wild horses. I LOVE wild horses. Wild horses are the epitome of freedom and family. They are beautiful, proud, and loyal to their families. In 2020, I spent roughly the same amount of time with elk and bison in Yellowstone as I did with wild horses in Montana. As much as I love all of the wildlife I saw, I had a closer connection with the wild horses - they became my friends. Not many species of wild animals are followed and beloved enough to have names, but hundreds of wild horses do!

The first time I saw pictures of the TRNP wild horses, I was amazed at the various colors and how well the horses fit into the environment! These horses are truly special animals, and without them, the park would lose much of its value. I look forward to visiting TRNP someday and seeing the wild horses that helped give purpose and meaning to Theodore Roosevelt's life of conservation."

Thank you so much for all you are doing for the TRNP horses!

Erin Phillips
Founder | Mustang Mission | Fundraiser
Photographer | Nature Art | Store
Volunteer Coordinator | The Cloud Foundation
"The earth is the Lord's." Psalm 24:1

279.

Leanne Deptula <leanneud@yahoo.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 5:14 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

In September 2022 I had the pleasure of visiting Theodore Roosevelt National Park with my mom and sister on a 2 week road trip - taking in the beauty of MT, ND, SD, and WY. What a blessing it was to be able to see the wild horses at Theodore Roosevelt National Park at sunset. Just absolutely magical beauty. We could've stared for hours. I hope that we can preserve these wild horses so that other people can experience such majestic beauty in the wild.

280.	**Kacey Sykora** <kmtomchuk1@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 7:25 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I love going hiking and seeing the horses. I have grown up in SW ND and seeing horses in the park is part of the natural wonder, beauty, and pride. The park would not be the same without them.
281.	**Tiss Johnson** <tiss81@hotmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 8:53 PM To: "Info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <Info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK

My first visit to the park was in 2014. My friend wanted me to see his "Happy Place", the place he went when he wanted to "get away" from cattle or just to get away.
He loves to drive 80 miles to look at the wild horses and the scenery of the park.

On this, my first visit, we spotted a horse who was coming down to drink from the river. Later learning that this particular horse, was named Circus. So, he is one of my favorite horses in the park. And if he makes this hard long winter, he is the oldest stallion in the park.

As we continued to visit the park over the years. I would take my camera and take pictures of the horses. On one particular trip, we came across some other photographers, and I became friends with Deb Lee Carson and Lyle Glass. Deb told me that to get closer pictures from afar, I needed a bigger lens, so my friend bought me a 600 mm lens to fit my camera. And I have taken a lot of really nice pictures of the horses. Cocoa was another of my favorite horses and I have some really nice pictures of him.

As my friend calls me Sweetheart, Sweetheart the horse became another favorite and I have a really cool picture of her with her colt Rocky Mountain and a buffalo rolling in the background.

I follow several others, who also take pictures of the horses and keep track of what is going on in the park.

As a person who grew up around horses, I have some knowledge of the domestic horse. Wild horses are a bit different. But they are still horses and I feel they draw people to the park. Yes, the park is beautiful with all the different rocks, trees, etc. But being able to see

wild horses, in their environment is exciting too. To see them interact with one another.

I do understand that you can't have the herds getting out of hand with size, as to the size of the park, but there are other animals that need to be controlled too. The prairie dogs are taking over the park and ruining the landscape. I have prairie dogs on my own ranch, and I try to control them as best I can, not let them move in and take over. Grazing land does not need holes all over it.

I also feel that in removing the horses from this park, you will lose a lot of the people, local and from afar, who come to look for and at the wild horses. I know there are a lot of local people who drive to the park at least once or twice week, if not more, to check up on and see how the bands are doing and what changes they have made.

I feel that if the horses are removed from the park, that my friend and I will not be returning to the park. It has become our second home away from home, to enjoy the horses and have a day away from the ranch.

Sincerely;

Esther Johnson

282.

F **Family Works** Thu, Jan 12, 10:51 PM (4 days ago)

to me

My husband and I have been going to TRNP at least one time a year for the past 5 years. TRNP is one of the few places I know I can count on seeing wild horses so I can sit with them, observe them, and photograph them. We always stay in Medora and my husband loves to golf nearby while I travel the park roads from sunrise to sunset looking for the horses. I have traveled all over the US to photograph wild horses. I have been to 14 of the 17 or so states that have wild horses. TRNP is by far one of the easiest to find the horses and its beauty provides stunning backdrops for these beautiful horses. This is by far one of my favorite places to continue my quest for photographing wild horses. Often people will ask me for my opinion where they should go to find wild horses. TRNP is always the first I tell them about. The horses can be found from the car so it is family friendly for the younger kids and the older adults. The horses is the only reason I keep going back. The park would not be the same without this species of wildlife. Beauty is great but to me, the wildlife amidst the beauty is a rare gift, one that draws in all lovers of nature, wildlife, and their historical ties to the land. What TRNP has is truly remarkable. Teddy Roosevelt knew that and those who are avid nature lovers know it too. Over the years as I have photographed these horses, I have had many interesting and, exciting for me, adventures. One of the best times I had was photographing who I had learned is referred to as 'Gray Ghost.' His body showed his age and the wear and tear of fighting battles and staying alive. During this period of time while photographing him, I came to a deep realization of just how enduring these horses are! They must endure weather onsloughts, natural predators, and battles with other horses. Every bit of their behavior is driven by the instinct to survive. What impressed me the most was the weight of what they endure yet manage to win, to stay alive! That deeper realization has stayed with me and bled into other areas of my life, impacting me in ways that are all good. During one trip I found a beautiful blue roan stallion wearing unusual facial markings, standing in front of a beautiful backdrop.

After posing for me to get the shots I wanted, he ran off to trail Gray Ghost. Nearby, I saw the older white stallion (Gray Ghost) I had been photographing. He looked injured, a gash in his

flank, and moved slowly. The blue roan stallion followed him. Wherever Gray Ghost parked himself the blue roan was always nearby. I stayed with Gray Ghost for nearly 6 hours. I observed him, studied him, photographed him, talked to him. I didn't know the real story of Gray Ghost or the blue roan. I didn't know Gray Ghost would be found dead 2 months after I spent that day with him. But as I spent time with him I suspected he was at death's door. He looked beaten up and beaten down. That experience had such an impact on me, shaping my attitude about survival, deepening my understanding and appreciation for the fragility of life, and expanding my admiration of wildlife. I have to think Teddy Roosevelt had many such experiences that culminated in the creation of the park.

It was sad to me during the trips to follow this one, to not see him anymore. I learned much about these horses from the annual book published about the horses. I still love learning about the horses and making friends with many other fans of them. The wild horses are what draws me to TRNP. I would have no interest in the investment of time and money to make a trip there if there are no wild horses to photograph, learn about, observe and make new friends with other fans of the wildies.

Sincerely, Jan Trabue

283.

Karen Guthmueller <abccde6d@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 10:21 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

There is nothing more exciting when you are driving thru the park and come across a group of horses..so exciting to see them as it was years gone by..please don't take this away from us and future generations.
Karen Guthmueller Grantsburg WI

284.

Kathy Lee <kayosandhavoc@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 10:32 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

In 2016 I retired from my job. I traveled a lot for work but not much for personal pleasure. My sister, a school teacher, used her summers to see the country. She invited me on a trip to see some sights in the Dakotas. I went along for the ride. She asked me what I wanted to see. I thought for just a minute and said Theodore Roosevelt National Park. She said what's there ? I said wild horses.

I have always loved horses. I have never had the opportunity to have a horse but I took every opportunity to ride or care for other people's horses.

I was first introduced to the plight of wild horses in a book about Wild Horse Annie when I was a young girl. I have had a place for these wild ones in my heart ever since. Why is it that they are constantly under fire? What gain is there in eliminating them? They have been running wild and free on this land for centuries. They are as much a part of the ecosystem as the bison or elk.

My sister and I arrived at TNRP early in the morning. She was not excited. I was. We saw every kind of wild animal that helped shape the west. The horse herds were spectacular. At the end of our time she said this ended up being the best part of our trip. We actually returned the following morning at daybreak for one last visit. She said we must come back again. We are planning a trip for this next summer to see the horses. Without the horses there is no reason to return.

These horses are an integral part of this park. They have lived there for centuries. They cause no harm. Leave them be. Manage them humanely but leave the the wild ones in the wild places.

Respectfully,

Kathy Lee

--
Kathy

285.

Jill Robertson <jillrobertson010@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 12:36 PM
To: Jamie And Deb <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I have never personally been to TRNP.... But I know all about it and follow many photographers and FB groups made just for the Wild Ones as I like to call them.... My love of horses started when I was just a young girl... Then I always dreamed of owning and being best friends with a Mustang... My favourite breed of horse, Pure Black and Black and White are the colours I have always dreamed about..... When I think about or I am asked about my love of horses it is a Pure Black Mustang Stallion I picture in my head.... TRNP is the very first FB group I started to follow when I discovered I could see and learn about the Wild Ones, I loved the fact that I could follow along with the Wild ones and not be saddened by having to see that the BLM or the US government was rounding them up with those absolute disgusting cruel helicopters, there were at peace and could always run free and stay wild and they were safe living in TRNP and I was absolutely amazed that I could see pictures and videos and learn about the Wild Ones by loving, caring devoted people.... See I live In Midland Ontario Canada 🇨🇦 and unable to see these absolute majestic, beautiful, soulful creatures in person so following the ones I can was a thrill of a life time, and knowing I could probably follow the lives of some of these Mustangs from foal to adult to their end was so thrilling and a dream come true.... Now I know some of the foals are removed and find loving forever homes and I do understand why this happens, although this saddens me I do know it is something that needs to happen to help them flourish and thrive in the safety of the Park.... I have always been so proud and at peace with the way the park takes care of, and documents, and makes sure every single Wild One is thriving, along with the groups that tell their stories , take many many pictures and videos, who are so knowledgeable about each individual Wild One.... Who take the time to name them and notice personalities, know who mother is, who father is, siblings etc. I am proud to say I follow along with you all... TRNP turned me on to a whole new world of the Wild Ones.... Without them living their I would not know all I know today, I would not have my dream come true, I would not know all about my absolute favourite Mustang of all time "Circus" I wouldn't have even known he existed at all.... I would not have the pictures and videos of him (and many others) that bring much needed smiles to my face every time I log on to FB, and trust me those smiles I get are needed in my life more then words can describe.... Following these absolutely beautiful majestic has changed my life drastically for the better, for seeing these Mustangs and knowing that I will never have to see them being rounded up like so many others (which just disgusts me and makes me so angry and so sad and so frustrated with the BLM and the US government) brought peace of mind and joy to my soul and heart I can't wait to get on FB and see what's up with, oh let me see, Sidekick, Coal, Spotted Blue, Ember's Girl, Brutus, Circus(when he shows his amazing self) Red Face and the many others.... They are so at peace, I am at peace knowing they will always be safe, wild and free living in TRNP.... Well that is until now anyways.... Does your government not remember what the Horse is to all us human beings, what they have done for us, how they brought us into the future, how they gave themselves to allow us the freedom to travel easier and quicker, how many gave their lives beside your soldiers, how without them we wouldn't know anything about the famous "Horsepower" of our now transportation, how they are happy, free, wild not bothering anyone, not asking for anything, not depending on anyone for food, shelter etc.... How they are not costing anyone one red cent????? How TRNP wouldn't be the park it is without Thier choosing to live out their lives within the Parks boundaries, how many people wouldn't even know or care to know the park itself, and do they not even think about or acknowledge the money they actually bring the local towns and the probably the Park itself with the visitors that only go to see the Wild Ones the photographers that travel to the park for the soul reason to document and photograph the wild ones, they all need to eat somewhere, lay their heads somewhere, that all brings in revenue that a portion goes to the government, nope instead they want you tax payers, pay to take care of them, feed them, round them up..... Makes no sense to me..... Discombobulating if you ask me..... Just the pure joy the Wild Ones bring to people, they make many people's lives better, happier, more adventurous just being in the Park.... I know I was to write a story, I don't have just one story to write I have my reason for following and loving TRNP and believing in them and thanking them everyday for not being like so many other places the Wild Ones call home(or did call home) I loved the fact that other then being sadden by a death of one of the Wild Ones their would be no. Other reason for me to be sad, or angry, or frustrated and mad that I can only do so much from here in Canada to help them.... I could just peacefully watch, learn and enjoy them.... TRNP was the one place I could be at peace with and along side the Wild Ones.... Now that is being threatened and Iam at a loss for words, I am disappointed that this is even being thought of, Iam worried for all the parks Wild Ones, Iam frustrated with your government and their way of thinking, handling and total disregard and disrespect and lack of Caring for the one animal that gave us so much, brought us into the future we now know.. They need to re think their logic here bck off and leave all the Wild Ones in TRNP to Thier peaceful, not bothering anyone lives..... I don't know where I would get smiles from or be able to be at peace and fill my heart with joy and beauty and majestic loving souls. I stand behind all the Wild Ones in the park and across the USA.... Keep them thriving, keep them wild and free, leave them to their simple peaceful family oriented lives..... From here in Midland Ontario Canada 🇨🇦

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion.... Praying this and all the other stories, emails have a huge impact and the right thing is done....The Wild Ones remain as are in TRNP.....

JILL ROBERTSON
jillrobertson010@gmail.com
360 Borden Street
Midland Ontario Canada
L4R 2X2
DOI-BLM-WY-R020-2023-0003-EA

286.	**Jodi Bock** <jodi.bock@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 12:51 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I am writing in regards to the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt Park. I have been following the wild horses for years on Facebook and to be honest, I closed my Facebook account and then opened one under a pseudo name just to follow them. We also have been to the park to see them and it's the only reason we go there. The bison are OK, but I would never make a trip there to see them. I also realize there is a lot of other wildlife in the park, but most of them are elusive and you never see them. The horses deserve a place in the park and if they are removed completely I see no reason I would ever visit the park again. I also, understand, that there has to be some plan in place to control their numbers. By following the Facebook sites, I have seen that there are many other parks that have great plans in place that are working. I wonder why they aren't checked into and implemented in the TRP. Please, please keep these beautiful animals in the park, these horses aren't livestock, they were born wild and have shown that they can survive on their own. I know you consider them livestock because they are not native to the state, but truly the bison you have are not the original native bison either, they have been planted there from domesticated herds. The park is big and has room for all the horses, bison and other wildlife with good plans put in place, please take the time and find and research such plans. I'm asking that you please keep the horses in the park, I feel your park visitors will greatly decrease if they are removed. Sincerely, Jodi Bock

287.

Pat Young <PatriciaJoYoung@aol.com> Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 1:07 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hi Deb and Jamie,

Thank you for fighting for the horses at TRNP. I've been meaning to sit down and tell my experience there, but it's just been really hard and discouraging. It's yet another battle that shouldn't have to be fought. F'ing politics where there shouldn't be, can't start on that, argh.

It feels like it won't help, but here's my story. I love you both for what you are doing.

Pat

The first time I visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park was in 2014. My family had traveled from Minnesota to Dickenson, ND for a baseball tournament. We were looking for something to do to pass some time between games. TRNP seemed like it might be just the thing. We arrived there not knowing a thing about the park. Words cannot express the joy and excitement we felt at finding out there were wild horses there! We were short of time that day, but I knew that I needed to find out more. And I knew that I needed to return.

Since that initial trip in 2014, to learn more, I have found and follow several social media groups that highlight the wild horses. I've attended two photography workshops there, one in 2017 and one in 2018, with hopes to do more. The opportunity to see these beautiful animals living wild and free is beyond priceless. It's a chance to learn about wild horses living in natural herds and family units. It's seeing horses that are thriving without the interference of humans. It's a place to study wild horse behavior to help understand domestic horse behavior. They represent the romance and intrigue of taming the Wild West. It's a location where young and old can get a glimpse of our history, ask questions and have an idea of what our ancestors faced when settling in our great Country. Understanding that history is crucial to shaping our future. What a gift to have these horses protected in a location that is accessible to all!

Following the 2017 workshop, our leader asked if we would share a few thoughts regarding our experience. This is what I shared at the time:

"The beautiful scenery - the rugged terrain, the weather, the sunrises and sunsets - the people, the herds of bison, and the wild horses all played an important part in the weekend I spent at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. But for me, it was the wild horses that left the most lasting images in my mind and in my camera.

The powerful band stallions, the bachelors, and the mares were all breathtakingly beautiful. They each have their own battles, hardships, and struggles to survive wild and free. Getting a glimpse into their lives was captivating, inspiring, and heartbreaking all rolled into one.

That being said, it was the littlest foals that left the biggest impression on me and truly captured my heart. New lives that haven't been touched by the hardships of survival yet. Fuzzy spring babies that haven't seen many humans. They only know about naps in the soft grass in the sunshine, warm milk from their mamas,

romping with friends, and learning how to make those long legs go in the right direction. We got to see them before their curiosity turned into the wariness they will need to survive.

What a precious gift. I don't know the name of the foal in my favorite photograph, but for now I'm calling him Little Toot."

~Pat Young

(I used a long lens and cropped to bring this wee one closer in for the viewer.)

Hearing that there are discussions about drastically reducing the numbers and potentially removing these horses from the park has left me feeling heartsick. They are a National Treasure. They represent generations of our past. They need to be protected for our future generations at all costs.

Thank you for listening.

Pat Young

Minnesota

288.

Squarespace <form-submission@squarespace.info> Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 1:19 PM
Reply-To: barrie@bitstream.net
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sent via form submission from *Wild Lands Wild Horses*

Name: Barrie E Smeeth

Email Address: barrie@bitstream.net

Subject: Nokota horses

Message: To Jamie and Deb,
Please consider maintaining the wild horse herd which roams in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. These Nokota Horses are a primary resource within this park, along with the land formations and the buffalo. My husband and I discovered TRNP in 2002 or 2003 when we traveled from Minneapolis to Seattle. We had driven Hwy 2 before but had never stopped to see the park, and we were so delighted to find this treasure in our country!

On our first visit we simply drove the loop road in the southern section. It was early morning, a "swing through" the park before continuing our trip westward, and we were treated to the early stirring of the park's various creatures. The prairie dogs and hawks, some deer and a coyote pouncing on his breakfast - just outside our car window...We had driven through a large herd of buffalo before ascending and my husband commented, "Wouldn't it be amazing if we saw some horses also?" Moments later we rounded a bend to see before us, seven silhouetted horses single-filing along the ridge. It was breath taking. An absolute gift in the beginning of our day's journey. We planned to return to visit again one day.

Which we did! Twice! We camped alongside the Little Missouri River in TRNP and it was one of our favorite camping experiences ever. Groups of buffalo and wild horses crossed the river several times, right near our tent. We horseback rode, hiked, swam, photographed and explored the park (both the northern and southern sections), an exceptional area of land in our country. It is difficult to imagine Theodore Roosevelt National Park without the horses. The herd carries unique colorations with many blue and red roans and overo pintos, and contributes immensely to the park's attraction. There are few places in our country where visitors can view and even mingle a bit with horses living as these do in their natural habitat. I certainly hope a way can be found to maintain the viability of this unique feature of our North American west.
Warmly,
Barrie Smeeth

289.

Sharon Magnuson <smagnuson1026@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 2:09 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

My name is Sharon Magnuson, I grew up on a farm in the middle of Kansas lucky enough to have an Appaloosa mare but far from the lands that were home to wildies I loved so much. Without the existence of the internet in the 1980's my only connection I had to them was my beloved wild horse books, I read every Fury (wild stallion) book so many times I wore them out. I first discovered Picasso, the stunning stallion famous to the Sand Wash Basin in Colorado on Facebook and began following that herd on various pages until they came under threat from the very Bureau that was supposed to be there to protect them. The fight to save them was waged and lost and it was so disgusting to watch those regal proud mustangs rounded up and culled. Many foals died in the process, lost or trampled, unable to keep up with the inhumane helicopter used to run them down mercilessly. In the following days and weeks we were able to celebrate tiny victories as we were able to cheer for each horse that was lucky enough to survive the cull, released back into the land they loved lost without any connection to their band, their family and loved ones. The stallions running out bewildered and worried about their band of mares and foals they spent their lives protecting. It was devastating. I found Deb Lee Carson's page through Blaze who was in my mind an equally stunning and regal stallion to Picasso and discovered the North Dakota Badlands herd who I also began following in recent years through various Facebook pages and I truly fell in love with them. It was a sad day the passing of Blaze was announced but at least we knew he lived his best life and died free. With all the roan patterns so common to their coloring that so beautifully mimick the beautiful colors of the wild lands they call home I find them to be the most unique and stunning herd I have come across and vowed to visit in person and spend time with them. Last summer I made a quick trip to Deadwood South Dakota and Custer State Park and while it was very cool to learn the history of and to engage with the wild burros in Custer I was very disappointed that time did not allow me to make it up to see the horses. I vowed to make another trip up to TRNP exclusively for the horses very soon thinking they would be there waiting for me and now to know that I may have missed my chance is devastating. I can assure you if these horses are removed (such a benign word for slaughtered) North Dakota will not be receiving a dime of this tax payers money. These horses represent a living history of our past and the development of our country and it would be a disgrace if they aren't there for us and future generations to be able to visit and dream wistfully of the peace of simpler times. I won't even get into the politics of it as that would be another long and much angrier rant but I pray that we don't continue down this path of removing every reminder of how this country was built and the animals that helped build it. I have often hoped that after I retired I would have a chance to buy some land and adopt my own piece of living history, a TRNP horse, so I hope that opportunity doesn't die or more aptly is killed.. 😞

Sincerely a wistful, history loving, horse loving, proud American

Sent from my iPhone

290.

sandy hansen <schansen1@yahoo.com> Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 2:36 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

What better way to honor the park's namesake than to have wild horses running free in its borders? These horses represent the American Spirit, surviving and thriving in some of the harshest conditions found in the United States. There are 70,000 acres in Theodore Roosevelt National Park - there is more than enough room for the small bands running wild and thrilling park visitors. Please allow them to stay and add to the park history in a positive way.

Sandy Hansen
3951 115th Ave SE
Valley City, ND. 58072
schansen1@yahoo.com

291.

Elias Free <eliasdfree@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 12:07
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hi,

I thought I would send you a copy of what I have sent to Theodore Roosevelt National Park:

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to comment on the Livestock Plan in development for Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP). Since I heard about this plan being put in place I have spent a lot of time thinking and researching the problem (as I understand it.) Of course, I want what is best for the National Park and not just it's horses.

My wife and I are from Wisconsin and stumbled upon your park on one of our trips out west. I remember vividly, having completed the park loop road, driving towards the exit when we spotted a band of horses cooling off in a watering hole just past cottonwood campground. This moment immediately spoke volumes to me of a place that historically has had such a rich history of horses (both post and pre settlement) and sparked a love for your park and North Dakota. My wife and I have been to 53 of the nations National Parks and are working towards seeing the rest. I'll be honest, before this experience North Dakota would be in my bottom five states to visit in the US. But after having this experience with the horses my wife and I have been back 21 times since 2016. We've researched and recorded the bands as they moved through the park and changed through the years. It is our only reason to ever visit North Dakota. Without the horses, we would not return.

I have friends that have a career in conservation here in Wisconsin that I have been taking time to learn from. I have been growing in my understanding of horses and the role they play in North America, specifically in the geographical makeup of North Dakota. The term "rewilding" keeps coming up in our conversations. This is a mainstream practice in Europe's conservation efforts on their quest to help restore Europe back to what it may have been like in ancient times. This movement has been gaining momentum in the past 5 years in the United States. With horses playing a roll in the ecosystem of the badlands millions of years ago, I wonder if there is an important role the horses provide in reigniting what has been lost through settlement. Wether these horses are genetically related or not, their presence and behaviors positively affect the environment of the park. I'm wondering if TRNP is researching the ideas around "rewilding" and considering what a gift they may have in the park.

If the amount of horses need to be reduced based on their environmental impact, I wonder if reducing the heard by a smaller number could be beneficial. Reducing the herd by two thirds as proposed seems to be more aggressive than it needs to be. I wonder if one of the alternative plans could reduce the herd size down to 120 head and then asses the impact that size is having on the environment and adjusting from there. It seems to me the park is taking a more aggressive approach than it needs to.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts on this issue. My wife and I want what is best for the park and North Dakota and firmly believe keeping the horses in the park is in your best interest.

Please continue to preserve what the park has been since it's founding.

— Elias & Grace Free

292.

silverfoxes2227@outlook.com <silverfoxes2227@outlook.com> Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 6:08 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

To whom it may concern,
My email is in regards to the Wild herd of Horses living freely in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park.
I myself am a keen equestrian here in Scotland UK, I stand a APHA stud colt.
I have followed this herd of wild horses for a long time now. I enjoy following the individual horses and how they live, interact and move around the national park in their bands. It's beautiful to follow and watch, especially coming from a country where our own governments opinion is virtually non existent on our depleting number of wild horses, which is still dwindling.
Obviously I don't share your heritage being English, but seeing how the National Park is carefully managed with horses being an integral part of that eco system, and how proud, protective and loyal the vast majority of the human population are in regards to the continued preservation of the horses is nothing more than extraordinary. I cannot understand why anyone would fight to disrupt this. To remove something that is loved far beyond the bounds of the national park. I know there are a large population of followers of these horses in the UK alone.
These horses don't owe people anything, nor do they cause any harm.
I expect the also bring in visitors from afar, which financially helps surrounding businesses. Equestrians all over the world travel thousands of miles to see wild horses. Hopefully I will make the trip one day.
Here in the UK native horses have recently started to be used in regeneration programmes, where herds historically roamed before being wiped out. These natural grazing practices are being reintroduced, the impact of the horses moving across the terrain, the grazing habit and natural behaviours have impacted greatly already. Wildlife around these reserves here in the UK have flourish, more so small animals. Studies can be found easily online. We have no large predators in the UK, but I suspect that the horses will be a benefit also in the natural food chain.
Please don't make the stupid mistake our own government and societies made, they gave horses a backseat and almost treated them as pests on the land. In reality they were assets to the eco system when carefully managed. I believe there is deep regret in this now looking back.
It would be a really shame to remove the wild horses. The Equestrian world is an immense population. These horses, and many other wild horses are loved by millions.
Thankyou for reading, I hope this helps the cause.
Sally

293.

Nikki Bohn <snirt013@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 6:39 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Since 2009, my friend and I grabbed our daughters and set out to see TRNP. Never being there before, it would be a adventure, and only living 200 miles away, why not. Our first stop was the Painted Canyon, OMG so breath taking, how could something be so beautiful, peaceful, and magnificent and only 200 miles away. Needless to say, we have been going out there ever since things have changed a little kids have grown up with there own families and they are bringing there kids out to see what we saw. The first time we ventured into the park, the loop was under construction for repairs so we only saw a few horses, but we all fell in love with watching and seeing the horses. Many times in two days we went out to see just the Horses, watch them run, just peacefully graze, little ones sleeping or frolicking around, I could go on and on. With thousands of pictures from Old Fashion snapshot to the digital age. Even took Senior pictures with the horses in the background. Now with the potential of removing the horses, my Grandkids might never enjoy taking their kids to the Park, so sad. Yes there are other wonderful animals out there, don't get me wrong, but a lot of the wildlife are out of sight, because that is their instinct to hide in daylight hours. I love the buffalo traffic jams, but the horses are always different, new foals, with so many different patterns and colors, the stallions, fighting for their mares. Now if horses are removed totally removed the balloon will be deflated. The atmosphere will be flattened. The joy will be diminished. Thank you for fighting to save the Horses 🐂🐂🐂🐂🐂. Please God help us save the beautiful Creatures you created roam Free in TRNP. ❤️🐂❤️

294.

Jennifer Heppner Long <jjheppner@hotmail.com> Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 10:33 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I have been visiting the park annually since 2012. The favorite part of the park for me is seeing the wild horses. The park itself is so unique in landscape and beauty but the wild horses add so much more to my visits. For me i travel 560 miles one way to visit the park. I stay at sully creek camp group and bring my own horses to ride in the park. The peace i feel when riding in the park looking for the wild horses is worth the long travel and the expense. We regularly go to town to eat out or escape the heat of the day with some shopping. The park would not be the same without the wild horses. I hope they continue to reside peacefully in the park. They are an icon of our history and should be treated as such. Such a treasure, the park and the wild horses. Sincerely Jennifer Heppner Long, International falls, MN.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get Outlook for Android

295.

Vickie Olson <jimvicol@drtel.net> Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 12:21 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I am an 80 year old citizen from North Dakota and am very worried about the wild horses in TRP. The horses have always called TRP home and always should. My family and visiting family and friends from around the USA have enjoyed visiting and staying in the park. Besides the buffalo, the horses are such a beautiful part of the park. The children (and adults) loved to see who would spot the horses first. Their colors and majesty is amazing to see. There is nothing like spotting the colts with the herd. If there is a need to cull or control breeding then do that do not remove, please. My next statement will be sarcastic, but also meant in honesty!! What drunk (and that is an insult to a good drunk) on the board ever thought this was a good idea!!!

Vickie Olson (a person who adores these horses) – Oakes, ND

Sent from Mail for Windows

296.

Alissa Thiessen <alissajt@nemont.net> Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 4:16 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I'm writing this email to voice my feelings on keeping the horses at TRNP. I've been visiting both the north and south units my entire life. We've had many family gatherings in Medora over the years, and in the north unit. The highlight of touring the parks has always been seeing the horses. Seeing the horses in the park was like winning the lottery. I tour the parks just to see the horses. I can't imagine why anyone in their right mind would want to remove these beautiful animals from the parks. What a terrible thing to do. They belong there, and deserve to keep their home. Please keep the horses. Would not want to visit again if they are removed. Alissa Thiessen

297.

Deborah Turvey <debturvey@hotmail.com> Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 5:00 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Good morning, I live in Australia and follow your magnificent wild horses. Please don't take them away from their environment. We have nothing like this in Australia you should be very proud to have them not wanting to get rid of them. Please leave them where they are.
Yours Faithfully,
Deborah Turvey
44 Merewether Street,
Merewether. 2291

Sent from my iPad

298.

Claudette Biel <bielclaudette@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 5:08 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I am writing to give my story about why we go to TRNP. We have been going to Medora for over 20 years and we go to the park to see the wild horses. We have rode our horses in the park several times and always try to spot the wild horses. It is very exciting when we see them! They are so beautiful and interesting to watch. We don't get too close because they are wild! Even if we don't go into the park, we try to spot the horses as we drive by the park on the interstate. It is always a win when we spot them! Last summer we rented the Roundup Horse Camp for four days and there was a herd close to the camp. We saw them several times. That was very thrilling!! I want to do it again and maybe we could see more of the horses. Our kids and grandkids enjoy them, too. We had 8 of our grandkids with last summer at the Roundup camp and I am so happy that they got to see the wild horses roaming free! I hope that the horses can continue to live in the TRNP.
Sincerely,
Claudette Biel
New Effington, SD

299.

Elise Larson <Elise.Larson@k12.nd.us> Sun, Jan 15, 2023 at 10:32 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

300.

I was born and raised in small town North Dakota. Our family took summer trips out to Medora/TRNP as it was the only place my father was willing to take time off from his business to travel to. He loved the Park—it was always the highlight of our trips. In 1988, I found myself at a crossroads, blowing in the wind. College wasn't working out and I really had no purpose or direction in life. I turned to the place that had always spoke to me and found myself employed at TRMF at the Badlands Saloon as a bartender/waitress. Those of us at the Saloon (We were 21) lived in a little white square house east of the Old Town Hall. At random times of the day or night, we'd come home to find Leo Kuntz watching TV in the living room and we'd chat for a bit. That was the first I became aware of the Nakota horses in the Park. I spent what little free time I had exploring the Park—the trails, hills, creeks—and it's wildlife, especially the horses.

In the mid-1990s, my husband and I began taking our small family on a yearly trip to TRNP. We stayed in Dickinson and traveled out each day to drive the park. We packed our lunch and would sit for hours watching the bison and the horses whenever we came upon them. Eventually, we could afford to stay in Medora and do our travels through the Park twice a day! About seven or eight years ago, we bought a camper and now we camp in Medora and spend 75% of our three night stay in the Park. This is our annual family vacation and our children are grown and beginning their own families, yet they still eagerly look forward to our time together in TRNP.

Why are our trips to TRNP so incredible? We love the breathtaking views; the bison who travel on the road, grunt and plow the earth; the trails that twist and turn to reveal more splendor; the sound of the wind in the grass as it brings the chirp of the prairie dogs or the trill of the bird; the smell of sagebrush and dirt—even sulfur—on a hot dry wind; the sight of a regal elk along the skyline at dusk and a loping coyote as it hunts its next meal. But to be honest? It is the horses that draw us yearly for an extended exploration of TRNP.

I have always had an affinity for horses, yet never had the means to own one of my own. I stumbled upon Deb Lee Carson's Facebook page where she documents in photography the horses of TRNP. It was like it was meant for me to find! I eagerly began following other pages that also depicted the horses. Cowboy Lyle, who I knew from my days in 1988 in Medora, also posted his photographs. I was hooked in a way I had never been before with the horses I had always loved! I bought books that contained photos and lineages of the horses, maps of various band locations and members of each band. My children passed the books around as we drove through the park with our binoculars and it became an even more exciting trip—to find and identify as many horses as we could; to watch the horses in their natural environment, living free and wild. The kids each have their favorites. They know what part of the Park to expect to run across horses and even the names of various locations within the Park where the horses like to reside. It's not because of the buffalo or the elk or the prairie dogs that my children have this intimate knowledge of TRNP. It is due to the horses. Those horses are what we come to TRNP for.

My youngest is recovering from neurological Lyme disease. She is an animal lover, and always begged for a horse but we live in a small town. Over the years when we explored TRNP, she struggled to keep up on trails or even to stay engaged while we drove through at dusk. She has lacked stamina for years. In late April of 2019 I drove the 3.5 hours to take her to TRNP for the day. She was 16 years old. She slept most of the way out but when we entered the Park, she was sitting up in the car, eagerly looking for horses, with my NDBH books in her lap. We traveled almost halfway through, past Buck Hill (loop

road was open), before we saw our first band of horses. We were by Talkington when we found Redface's band close to the road, with several foals. The little ones were jumping, running and displaying all kinds of antics! We shut off the car and sat for over an hour just watching the horses along the road. My daughter was smiling, laughing at the little ones and excited to be there. That trip still makes me tear up because my daughter, through her Lyme, had lost her spark in life. Lyme robs you of your emotion, energy, and interests. Lyme gives you pain, panic, anxiety, depression. She was slowly slipping away from us, but that day, with those horses—I saw my daughter light up. She was engaged with life—even for those few precious hours. Those horses were the only thing that always broke through to bring joy to my daughter's life. In 2020 we finally got a Lyme diagnosis and she began treatment.

In 2022, we spent our three days in the Park in early August. This time, our youngest daughter had healed enough to enjoy TRNP in a way she had never been able to before. She asked to hike! She was leaning out the window with her binoculars, spotting all the horses first. When we found several bands of horses by Talkington, she jumped out and into the bed of the pickup to have the best view as horses loped all the way around the pickup as they made their way up the side of the butte. She was excited but trying to stay quiet but couldn't help herself—we heard her giggling. We stayed there for over an hour at dusk as the horses walked over the road, alongside the pickup, down the ditches as they made their way out of the valley. We identified most of the bands and a majority of the individual horses. Our hearts were singing and we were all grinning on the way back to town as we discussed the amazing experience with the horses that day.

I had been in education for 27 years teaching 7-12 social studies. North Dakota history is packed full of the horse in our state. Kids learn about the West and Teddy Roosevelt and experience them first hand while in Medora and TRNP. The horses are an integral cultural part of our state's history that cannot be separated from Teddy Roosevelt, the Sioux, Cheyenne or MHA. History comes alive and has a much greater impact when one experiences it rather than reading about it in a textbook.

For many, I would venture the majority, of visitors—the horses are a soul soothing and exciting part of TRNP. Without the horses in the Park, my entire family has already voiced they would no longer wish to spend three days exploring the Park on our visits. I believe our annual visits would cease as a family. Day trips out and back would be done instead. The Park would be empty of that spark of excitement the horses, living wild and free, give it. There is a profound connection between horses and children—humans—that bison, elk or coyotes do not have. These horses are an iconic part of this particular park. Please listen as I plead for their protection within the park—not only for me and my family, but for my children's children.

These horses in TRNP a necessary part to our cultural, historical, economical and spiritual essence of our state and people. Their loss would be a gaping wound.

Elise Larson
Linton, ND

301.

Sandra Ranney <shonto4858@hotmail.com> Sun, Jan 15, 2023 at 1:30 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I, and I'm sure many others, was sickened by the callous way that meeting was handled. I read the report of their findings. So unreal and heartless. Wild horses may not be considered "wildlife", but they have been a part of the wildlife community for more years than we care to count. Pictures have been posted of the horses alongside buffalo and other wild, non-predatory animals, as they fit in without a problem. Should it really matter that the herds may have started with horses strayed from this ranch or that? ABSOLUTELY NOT! Come on! Even those horses may very well have started out wild and roaming the range. Do we need to go into where they came from originally? I think not! Regardless of those factors, they have lived as wild animals for many years and through many generations. I feel they should have the right to remain as such. They already keep the horse population down with the captures they do, which can be hard enough to deal with, though we can pray all of those adopted do go to loving, understanding homes. But what about those who are captured and not adopted? What happens to them? We really don't like to think about that, but I feel they should be returned to the wild.

Their reasoning for removing all of these beautiful horses from the Park is unsound. The Park consists of a huge area that is not to be developed and I highly doubt that, to allow the horses to remain, any noticeable damage will result from their presence. The horses do attract visitors to the Park. I live in Michigan and have my entire life (almost 65 years). I learned of this Park and these horses through the "Wild in North Dakota" group and the pictures and comments posted from them online. Getting to see the new posts and following these herds, loving the pictures, even saving many of the pictures to my computer wallpaper file, makes my day. Every day. I hoped to, someday, make the trip from Michigan to North Dakota JUST TO VISIT THESE HORSES!! I make donations to help support this group and one of my daughters makes it a point to purchase a calendar for me every year which I receive as a Christmas gift. I'm sure there are many others who donate far more than I do who do this FOR THE HORSES. It's not fair to the people nor to the horses to deny the Park these glorious animals.

The Park belongs to the people? Does it not? Is there not some way we, as citizens of the United States of America, can petition/protest against this action??? Is there not some way it can be dealt with by the votes of the people (us!) Shouldn't we have a right to some say, say that will COUNT, regarding this National Park???? We don't want to lose these wild horses. They are an icon that deserves to continue to exist in wild area's like this!

302.

Theresa Mallory <tess_92@hotmail.com> Sun, Jan 15, 2023 at 3:26 PM
To: "Info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <Info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I've been going to TRNP for 45 years now it wasn't until my 5th year I'm guessing? that I learned about the wild horses I seen them just thought they were someone's ranch horses..lol I am a huge horse lover and since I have learned there are wild horses out there I try to visit as much as I can every year to photograph them or to show them to friends and family from out of state. I would really have no reason to go to the park if they were to take them out as that is the only reason I continue to visit.
As many years as I have been going there I have never known the park to really advertise them so there are many people who don't know they exist in the park. Thanks to people like yourselves who do talk about them are making more people aware so thank you for that!
I do believe the park will take a hit if they do take them out ..granted they will still get the people who go for the musical .
It really saddens me as to me those horses are a huge part of that park.

303.

Bonnie Maier <maierbonnie82@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 15, 2023 at 4:51 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

To Whom It May Concern:

I've been following several blogs regarding the wild horses in TRNP for quite a few years, and it has been on my bucket list to visit the park and see the herd for myself. In fact, a large group of us were well into the planning stages of a week-long visit to the park in the summer of 2020, but obviously COVID-19 happened and put a hold on those plans. Now, we understand that the park is considering removing most, if not all, of the wild horses and we are deeply distressed. The wild horses are what sets this National Park apart from most other Parks in the United States. Now that travel restrictions have eased my group was planning to finally visit and see them for ourselves, but if they are to be rounded up and sold we will have no choice but to look elsewhere for the opportunity to experience wild horses. We realize that managing the Park and all its wild inhabitants is far from being an easy task, but there must be a better solution. For the sake of the horses themselves and the visitors who are anxious to see them wild and free, please reconsider this course of action.

Thank You Very Much,
Bonnie Maier
Downers Grove, Illinois

304.

January 12, 2023

The wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park brought my family closer together and many other families in my life as well. My daughter and I visited the park in April 2022. We would not have traveled to North Dakota or this particular National Park if it were not for the chance to see these incredible horses and their families. It gave my daughter and I a chance to spend precious time together giving back to animals that have given us so much in our lives.

What is more, on this trip to see the TRNP wild horses, I made a decision that has positively impacted the lives of many families in Richmond Va. I am a Therapist who specializes in the treatment of eating disorders and have been for many years. But, after seeing the wild horses with their families, I decided to focus my work on helping families keep their children at home to recover rather than what is traditionally done and facilitate children being taken from their families and placed in treatment facilities to recover. Now, I have a highly sought after, growing Outpatient Practice, providing a multi-person care team to help families to keep their children at home to heal.

Seeing the incredibly strong and loving bonds that horses have in the wild, so different from the domesticated horses I grew up with, shook me awake to see the truth of family attachments. If given the right environment in which to grow, family bonds are more powerful than any non-family attachment. I see that in my work, when parents help their children to heal they heal faster and have a better chance of full recovery than if clinical teams help them to heal. And keeping families together makes the relationships stronger, positively impacting the lives these children touch throughout their lives.

I know I'm just one of many humans who have been profoundly changed by these wild horses. In a world where family, freedom and wild, wide open spaces are dwindling, these horses, in this place, remind us they are worth protecting.

My daughter and I want to visit TRNP and its wild horses for years to come and hope we get the chance!

Julie Samitt
Richmond, Va

305.

Nancy Gorla <elrttchr@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 15, 2023 at 6:52 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I am writing to comment on how following the horses of TRNP has effected me. I started following the posts from WILD IN NORTH DAKOTA on Facebook many years ago. The pictures of the beautiful, majestic horses caught my attention, and reading the information posted by page manager Eileen has taught me so much. I learned about the role of the stallions and the protection of their bands, the frequent attempt by other stallions to 'steal' from another's band, and the role of the lead mare. I saw the birth of a foal and have watched them grow. All of this in the beautiful TRNP. I have learned so much through this site. The photos, stories/information, have provided a look into the incredible world of wild horses that I would have otherwise never known. Although I have not visited TRNP (I live in the midwest), I'm able to step into this world via Wild in North Dakota. The horses have become familiar to me, and truly hold a place in my heart. I worry about new foals as winter comes, and I'm saddened when a beloved horse dies. I find joy in the close bond between mare and foal, and the closeness of siblings. I've watched and worried about the birth of a particular foal who would face a struggle for survival when his mother died shortly after his birth. How this foal was taken under an older sibling's wing is still remarkable to me. It is important that these horses are allowed to live wild and free on the only land that they've known. To remove them would be incredibly cruel and heartbreaking to these ma all who love them.

306.

Nancy Gorla <elrttchr@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 15, 2023 at 6:52 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I am writing to comment on how following the horses of TRNP has effected me. I started following the posts from WILD IN NORTH DAKOTA on Facebook many years ago. The pictures of the beautiful, majestic horses caught my attention, and reading the information posted by page manager Eileen has taught me so much. I learned about the role of the stallions and the protection of their bands, the frequent attempt by other stallions to 'steal' from another's band, and the role of the lead mare. I saw the birth of a foal and have watched them grow. All of this in the beautiful TRNP. I have learned so much through this site. The photos, stories/information, have provided a look into the incredible world of wild horses that I would have otherwise never known. Although I have not visited TRNP (I live in the midwest), I'm able to step into this world via Wild in North Dakota. The horses have become familiar to me, and truly hold a place in my heart. I worry about new foals as winter comes, and I'm saddened when a beloved horse dies. I find joy in the close bond between mare and foal, and the closeness of siblings. I've watched and worried about the birth of a particular foal who would face a struggle for survival when his mother died shortly after his birth. How this foal was taken under an older sibling's wing is still remarkable to me. It is important that these horses are allowed to live wild and free on the only land that they've known. To remove them would be incredibly cruel and heartbreaking to these ma all who love them.

307.

Marlene Martin <marlenesellsmichigan@yahoo.com> Sun, Jan 15, 2023 at 7:16 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

This Letter is to EVERYONE that loves the wild horses of TRNP and wants to keep them wild and free!

My interest in the TRNP wild horse herds began in 2012 when I took my 8-year-old son on a 22 state road trip. We researched every State that we visited and learned much about Teddy Rosevelt and how he used his authority to establish many National Forests and Parks. We learned that they built a boundary fence to enclose the TRNP in 1956, relegating the horses to roam the south unit's 46,158 acres, which became the enclave for North Dakota's last remaining wild horses. I saw the wild horses that day and since then I have followed the herd and bought a calendar every year with pictures of the horses! I cried when Blaze and Strawberry died (and many others too) I laughed at the antics of the young ones and watched the bachelor boys become band stallions in their own right. For 67 years now we as people of the United States trapped the horses in the park and WE have the responsibility to protect them!
There are a number of reasons why people argue that the North Dakota Badland horses should be saved. Some of the main reasons include:
The horses are an important part of the ecosystem, helping to maintain the grasslands and providing food for predators.
The horses are a part of the cultural heritage of the region, and have been present in the Badlands for centuries.
The horses are a unique and distinct subspecies, known as the Kiger Mustangs, that are not found anywhere else in the world.
The population of the horses is relatively small and vulnerable, and they are at risk of extinction if not protected.
Saving the horses can also have economic benefits, as they can be used for ecotourism and other activities that can generate income for local communities.
Overall, many people believe that the North Dakota Badland horses are a valuable and important part of the natural and cultural heritage of the region, and that efforts should be made to protect and preserve them for future generations.
Thank you for your time and I hope" We the People" will be heard to protect the wild herd!
M. Martin from Holly Mi

Marlene Martin

308.

Lee Mitchelson <leemitchelsonart@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 16, 2023 at 10:23 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

My thoughtfully-planned and excitedly prepared for trip to TRNP from many states away, will simply never occur if the wild horses are removed from the park. The travesty of it will be compounded by the cruelty of removing the oldest patriarch and matriarch stallions and mares and by the dangerous over-stressing of the oldest and the very young. I am from The Black Hills of South Dakota. When I say that the wild West and the pioneer-spirit still exist in the Dakotas, I know of what I speak. There is a reason Teddy Roosevelt loved it there and loved the horses and the aura of the region has changed very little since those days! People who do not understand or value that lifestyle or genre, have no concept of what they are threatening when they destroy wild horse's lives and critical family structures that are part of that world. I do not hesitate to say that cruelty to animals and blatant disregard for the wishes of the people who seek their protection is the devil's work...as his greatest powers to affect living things are lack of compassion, absence of conscience and limitless greed. Those are what I see at work, when wild horses and burros are in danger. Lee Mitchelson

309.

John Fontneau <devon451@comcast.net> Mon, Jan 16, 2023 at 10:16 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

To Theodore Roosevelt National Park,

We have followed the wild Mustangs, and Burros, who reside at National Parks across our country. Some of them, we have been lucky enough to be able to visit, others are on our bucket lists to visit sometime in the future. Still others, we will probably never be able to visit, but, we still look forward to, and, enjoy all the posts from fellow horse/ nature lovers so that we can enjoy them from afar. To say that they are a huge part of our love of our national Parks is an understatement. They are all part of our history, and part of our future. They are what is great about the parks system, they keep the parks balanced and add to the beauty of nature. There are so many groups who work endlessly to help manage and protect the horses and burros. and they have programs that work, and have been proven to work well. If the horses are removed from the parks, or culled back to herds so small that they can not genetically survive, then we will never visit those parks in the future, or support them. The assault on our Nations wild horses and burros has to stop. We hope to continue to see all these beautiful souls, running wild and free on our lands. They are the reason that so many visit and support the Parks. Please let them have a future. We will always support good, well planned management of the herds, and we are hoping that this is how it works out for TRNP.

Sincerely,

John & Karen Fontneau

Attleboro, MA

310.

Kari Nelson <attuneequine@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 16, 2023 at 10:24 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I wish I had the experience, I hope I have the chance to see the TRNP wild horses with my own eyes…in the park.

I have been watching these horses from a distance for the past 10+ years. Although I have never personally witness the beauty, I have watched through the eyes of many talented professional and amateur photographers that frequently travel the lands. The stories of herd dynamics is simply fascinating. You can't learn about it at a zoo or a farm. It's just not the same experience.

My family and I had our first trip to the park planned for the summer of 2020. As you can guess, it was cancelled due to the pandemic. My busy schedule did not allow a trip last summer. 2023 was going to be the year, but now, I fear my motivation to visit will be lost if the wild horses are not freely roaming the park as they have done for so long. The horses call TRNP home, I pray they aren't taken from it.

~Kari N.

Sent from my iPhone

311.

cdmontana@aol.com <cdmontana@aol.com> Mon, Jan 16, 2023 at 11:13 PM
To: Info@wildlandswildhorses.com

The wild horses at TRNP represent the Spirit of the Wild West and the great history America grew out of.

These wild horses are the descendants of Spanish, embraced by the Native Americans over the last 400 years, to live by hunting and traversing the great plains, mountains and deserts. An incredible lifestyle was enabled by these wild horses for Native Americans to become independent and not bound to waterways for travel.

The roaming life that was harnessed with these animals, fueled by hardy determination, as witnessed by Lewis & Clark, the pioneers and settlers, fostered the essence of the American Dream and drove the Manifest Destiny that is the foundation of America.

The inspiration provided by these horses with their beauty that adorns the TRNP reminds us of our past, the roots of our great country and the deep swirling hard nature that the young United States of America was born from, inspiring Teddy Roosevelt.

Please keep the wild horses at TRNP

Sincerely

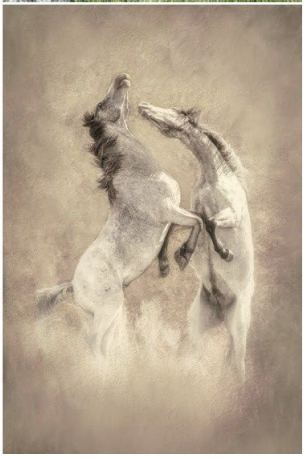
Dan Roesler

312.

Karen Mahoney <kmahoney605@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 12:35 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

My first visit to TRNP came just short of six years ago, a trip planned by fellow photographers. I so vividly remember the first day of being in the midst of the wild horses. It was a foggy, damp May morning. I sat in the wet grass with my camera as the herds nickered and neighed and gently moved through the fog.
This was just the beginning of many trips to TRNP to photograph the wild horses, and more importantly, just to spend time with them.
The badlands landscapes are beautiful in their own right, but the wild horses breathe life into the hills and valleys. To take them away would take away the spirit of the land.
Words fail me. How does one describe the feeling of sitting on a hillside at sunrise watching a string of wild horses step down the adjoining hill to their grazing land? Or quiet nickering of a herd as they move to the edge of a stream to water? The sound and energy of two band stallions facing off for the right to keep their family? The neigh of a mare calling her foal who has wandered a little too far?
One doesn't just see these things, one must feel these things, as well. One must step into nature and let it soak into your soul. That's what the wild horse herd at TRNP does for this photographer. May we keep the herd, so future generations may experience it as well.

Karen J Mahoney
KJMahoney Photography



313.

arabians <arabians@nuveramail.net> Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 8:05 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I go every year to North Dakota to see the Wild Horses! They are the reason I go. I love to see them in their natural habitat.
I also drive to CO to visit all 3 Wild Horse places I know about.

This year I went twice to ND to see them. I even stopped for 2 days to see them when I was coming thru from a vacation in Montans. I made time to stop, see the horses, get a room, see the play.
If not for the horses I would have just driven thru your state without staying a few days.

If you have to cut the herd I understand but to eliminate them???

Ted Roosevelt support Wild life.. these horses are wild!!! And tourists want to see them

Please keep our horses!!!

Sue Barlage
Minnesota

314.

Nora Macbook <kanedla@midco.net> Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 12:10 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have owned, ridden and showed horses for many years. I do live in the city but managed to ride or tend to my horses every day. Boarding facilities became more scarce so when my last horse died I sold all my tack and moved on to photography. I didn't lose my love for horses. I would photograph friends' horses or try to photograph other wildlife but my heart wasn't in it. When I went to TRNP for inspiration the bison, prairie dogs, coyotes etc. just didn't get it for me. When I saw the wild horses my lens instantly focused on them! How beautiful, how free and how in tune they were with their surroundings. I fell in love all over again. I couldn't wait to see the next band or even a single horse! It was exhilarating! I would send pictures to a friend of mine who I knew spent a number of years in the park studying the wild horses. I would ask "Which horse is this? What band is she in?" I think my friend got tired of my asking questions so then she asked "How would you like to volunteer to document the horses in the park? You hike, learn their names, and photograph all you want"? This was my dream job! When can I start? After a bit of training I was on my own, but always had someone to help if needed. I soon learned their personalities, families, where they hung out during which season. I was awe struck! The wild horses were more than I ever imagined! The wild horses were truly amazing. This must be what heaven is like. I was sad when I had a leave to make the 135 mile drive home. But I knew when I returned the wild horses would still be there.

In 2022 I spent approximately 1200 hours in the park. I would hike to find them, document new foals, band changes, who's with who, who got kicked out and now a new bachelor learning his way in the place that is home and just sit and watch. I stayed in motels, ate out of a cooler, dodged the bison, up early in the morning and to bed late at night. As long as a could see the wild horses I was more than happy. They made my heart sing.

2023 is here and if the horses from TRNP are removed I for one will not return. The bison, prairie dogs, coyotes, magpies, etc all look the same-if you've seen one you've seen them all and the scenery is only beautiful when there is a horse in it.

Nora Kane
,

315.

Dona M <countryslickerincity@yahoo.com> Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 1:15 PM
Reply-To: Dona M <countryslickerincity@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I have been to Theodore Roosevelt National Park many times. I was raised in North Dakota but moved to Arizona in 1979. When I travel home one of the first things I plan is a trip back to the park. The beauty of the park is spectacular seeing the bison is always enjoyable but when I get to see the wild horses an emotional connection comes over me I can't explain. They are as much or more a part of the park as any animal there. To remove the horses would be like removing the spirit of the entire area. There are not a lot of places to see wild horses any longer. Please consider allowing the wild horses to stay for all that visit the park to enjoy the full beauty of the area.

Cordially,
Dona Molet
1443 S. Palo Verde St.
Mesa, Az 85209

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

316.

RK Lagler <RKLagler@outlook.com> Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 1:52 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I will never forget when stallion Mystery's body was located. I will never forget the bison surrounding Gray Ghost's body paying their last respect. I am so happy to catch a glimpse of Bloom/Boomer and Amite affirming they are thriving in TRNP. I end every day visiting several social media accounts sharing, enjoying, and being part of daily life of the wild horse herd.

And now, suddenly, out of the blue, we learn the beloved herd will be eliminated?!?! I will never fulfill my dream to visit TRNP if the horses are gone. The horses ARE the park – the main attraction, the reason people go to TRNP. The horses enhance the natural beauty, remind us of earlier times, the mystic of the Native American culture. It's exciting to see them! The horses have lived in the Badlands for hundreds of years… and now they are a problem? Or is the government the problem..

Teddy Roosevelt would fight to keep the herd. It's unfortunate that the superintendent and bureauocrats cannot find the basis to keep the herd. Perhaps the horses were excluded from the 1916 Act because they were a natural part of the Badlands. Reading between the lines and twisting language into a pretzel to accomplish something that no one wants does nothing but antagonize. The taxpayers own the park and overwhelmingly want the wild horses to remain. "Herd management" does not mean "herd elimination". Perhaps the State of North Dakota should assume management of wild horse herd.

The possibility that the government will eradicate a beloved herd is sad, frustrating, and simply outrageous.

317.	**Noreen Mohr** <noreenmohr@hotmail.com> Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 2:37 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> My sister and I added an addition to TRNP when we went to Mt. Rushmore several years ago. She is an avid horse lover and it was a dream of hers to go see the wild horses. It was a wonderful experience to see them in their natural habitat, free as their ancestors were to run wild. It would be a shame for future generations of horse lovers to not be able to experience this and for the horses to be removed from their land. Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S22 Ultra 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone

318.

Janie Thompson <janiewt2008@att.net> Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 6:07 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Comments: I have never been to TRNP and may never get there in my lifetime, but I avidly follow both Wild in North Dakota and Dakota Grown Facebook pages that document the horses that call the park home. These wild horses absolutely represent the very image of the American ideal of life in the great American West. Theodore Roosevelt held a special place in his heart for the rugged West and worked his entire life to preserve portions of this country via the National Park system so that current and future citizens could develop the same appreciation. How could decimation of this special herd of horses do anything but destroy the very thing he established and in the very park named for him? These wild horses typify the ideal he wanted as many Americans as possible to experience - whether personally or vicariously. This herd of horses have a world wide audience that are interested in them on a daily basis. This appreciation has translated in park visitors from many countries, as well as providing a targeted destination for US citizens. They have provided untold publicity for the state of North Dakota itself.

While I can understand the concept of minor Park involvement in herd number management control, I fail to comprehend why the Park Service would wish to destroy animals that do nothing but provide greater interest in the state and their beautiful representation of life on the prairie as it occurred naturally in days long gone by! These horses live their lives quietly and without any outside care for their health. They survive the hot summers and the bitter winters. They represent the very heartiness of the two-legged pioneers that settled this great country

I pray that the Park Service of North Dakota will reconsider their plan to destroy this most wonderful natural resource - a totally wild, free, and beautiful herd of horses. They are a great asset to your state, not a liability!

320.	**Eileen Muus** <eileenm@srt.com> Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 6:57 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Please leave the horse's alone in the park they have been there for years and are park of the park's eco system. They are not hurting anyone they and are beautiful to see. People go see the horse's and know their names and which band they are from. You don't hear that with any other animal in the park. Eileen Muus
321.	**Syndi Miske** <smiske75@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 17, 9:17 PM (18 hours ago) to me, Syndi

THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK HORSE EXPERIENCE
by Syndi (Musland) Miske

I do not recall exactly how old I was the first time I saw the horses at Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP), however, I have had a relationship with them as long as I can remember. My family faithfully vacationed to Medora every summer when I was a child. In my younger years it was extremely difficult to get a close look at the horses because they were so spirited, spooky, and unattainable. As the nature of the round-ups changed the horses became easier to view.

I was the third of four children and every summer we consistently pleaded with our parents to bring our own horses to Medora to ride in the park. As a young child I thought that would be the ultimate vacation. Several decades later, having experienced this, I truly believe this to be the ultimate vacation.

My Dad told us that when he had a reliable enough pickup to make the trip we would take our horses. I secretly hoped that if I had my own horse to ride I would be able to get closer to the horses. Instead of visions of sugar plums in my head the night before Christmas, I had visions of TRNP wild horse manes and tails blowing in the wind. The unique colors of the TRNP horses painted the already beautiful ND landscape. When I was in seventh grade we finally had a vehicle that could withstand the trip carrying a load of saddle horses that far.

Our first trip to TRNP with our own horses was in the late ’80's. Many may remember how difficult the ’80’s were due to drought and high interest rates. It was a tough time for people, especially those raising a family. My little sister and I felt as though we were traveling first class as we nestled in the hay in the gooseneck of our stock trailer traveling 280 miles across the state to Medora. It was in July and quite warm. The vents of the stock trailer afforded a constant flow of air on our youthful skin which was soon to be sunburnt from hot sun under the spacious ND sky. When our parents stopped to fuel up we would crawl out of the gooseneck of the stock trailer and go for a brief walk. Back in those days we did not have the means to stop and buy a candy bar or refreshment with each stop. We were saving that for when we arrived at our destination, the breathtaking badlands of

ND and the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I remember our discussions as we laid in the hay watching our horses on the drive. We thought we were the luckiest kids alive, and we were! The notion of getting close to the wild horses was almost too much excitement to contain. It was a good six hour drive to Medora and we were too excited to fall asleep. The trip home was different. We were so fulfilled and exhausted from long hours of riding in the July heat we were able to nap some of the time. The heavy iron of the trailer gooseneck was warm to lay on, the musty smell of hay and manure pleasant. We did not have to worry about being crowded in the single cab pick up that was pulling the trailer. On the way home, not as much horse hay was left, but it was still enough to provide an itchy and luxurious cushion.

Somehow during our first trip to TRNP with our horses our Momma cat Caroline was in the horse trailer and accompanied us. To this day I do not remember whether or not we knew she was in the trailer before we left home. My younger sister was especially partial to her cats and it is entirely possible that in our naive, young minds we thought it appropriate to bring our cat on vacation. Fortunately, this was during a period of time in which the Kuntz family camped at the Medora Ranchorama where we boarded our horses. We visited with them daily as we cared for our horses. They were giving buggy rides in Medora during the summer. My Dad found a little girl (who I believe was a Kuntz) at the Ranchorama and hired her to watch over our Momma cat for the week. She took excellent care of Caroline and at the end of the week our cat was also exhausted as we journeyed back home.

Since we had been spying on these horses for years on family trips, we knew that it would be best to unload our horses somewhere on the East side of the park. We did just that. The suspense had been building knowing this childhood dream was finally coming to fruition. We found out quickly that even with a trusty saddle horse it was still a challenge to get very close to the wild and free swift footed prairie beauties. Our hearts thumped with anticipation as we knew that over one of the next hills we would likely see some wild horses. We peered from atop the butte down on a herd of wild horses. We carefully walked our horses down the clay colored badland terrain to get closer.

The moment I had been longing for had finally come. Initially, I remember hearing one of the grayish-white band stallions snort as he danced around his harem trotting with his head held high and nodding disagreeably as if sensing danger. His back athletically arched and tail held high while blowing in the wind. Other bands in the meadow keenly picked up on the cue and became uneasy. The leader in each band circled, snorted, and commanded his harem to move out. Before we knew it they were galloping across the meadow and trailing up the rugged badland trails winding up and down in single file motion. The movement so swift and expertly calculated in the unforgiving dangerous terrain. I remember thinking to myself how amazing it would be to ride one of these sure-footed steads. From that point on I could not get enough of seeing the TRNP horses. It was like a cat and mouse game. Just as we would get to a point to see the horses they would be working their way over the next hill. Witnessing the trails the horses used and riding them in years to come further maximized our visitor experience. This was their home and they knew it well, navigating through areas which at first seemed impossible to climb.

I had never seen anything as majestic the TRNP horses and to this day I stand firm on that analysis. By the time I was a college student I had traveled to several other states and also to Europe. I remember giving a speech in college about my favorite place. That place was in the TRNP watching the wild horses. I was mesmerized by these amazing creatures. Words could not express the sense of peace seeing them gave me. The horses nostalgic and graceful movements were unlike the domestic horses I had been around. To this day when I see the wild horses feelings of warmth and excitement encompass me as memories flood back reminding me of the special family time we shared searching for, finding, and observing the wild horses. Approximately forty years from the first time I remember seeing the wild horses, I still get just as excited each time. My husband and son will readily attest to that! As an adult I have been able to share the love, thrill, and passion that I have for the horses with my nieces, nephews, friends, and family. Seeing others witness their healing presence and magic warms my heart as well. They are a unique ND treasure that is timeless and keeps on giving despite the time of the year. This is further evident to me as I notice people from around the world comment on our beloved TRNP horses on social media.

	As a college student I was able to attend the TRNP horse sales in Dickinson after the horses were rounded up and culled. I recall my younger sister missed a day of high school to attend the sale with me. She bought a weanling filly that strongly resembled the 2022 filly named Cricket. She trained this filly to ride and our Dad trained her to pull a buggy. Years later that very mare was part of the magnificent team that carried me over the ND prairie at my parent's pasture on the ranch to the site of our wedding on my wedding day. Her reliable, strong, and quiet disposition made her perfect for the task. Time and time again, the TRNP horses have blessed me. It is my dream for these horses to continue to bless others for years to come.

322.

Syndi Miske <smiske75@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 9:22 PM

1. My Dad (1989)
2. My Dad, sister and I (1988)
3. My husband and I (next to our TRNP mustang) on our wedding day (2000)

One more photo to be sent of our next generation (my niece in 2022)

Sent from my iPhone

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3 attachments

IMG_8141.jpg
3200K

IMG_8143.jpg
1496K

IMG_8144.jpg
3239K

Syndi Miske <smiske75@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 9:27 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com
Cc: Syndi Miske <smiske75@gmail.com>

This is my niece Keyahana with some of TRNP horses in the background. My Dad who will be 80 in a few months was still riding on this day and lives to see the wild horses. My niece is a third generation North Dakotan who loves seeing the horses at the park. I did not know how to include all of this in one email. Sorry!

Thanks again,
Syndi Miske

Sent from my iPhone

IMG_2665.jpg
4603K

323.

Susan Vette <susyvette@icloud.com> Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 11:51 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have wanted to visit TRNP. Actually, I just learned of it when planning a family reunion and trip to the Dakotas. One of the reasons to head to South Dakota and the Badlands was to visit and tour the Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary. We'd planned on going, first, to Theodore Roosevelt (one of my favorite historic figures.) but realized that travel there would — should — be a trip unto itself, so we saved it for "next time."

Seeking and discovering America's wild horse herds has become a special kind of quest for us. Prior to visiting the Black Hills Sanctuary, we'd gone to see the Salt River horses. What a thrill to see those beautiful, non-predatory creatures living, safe and protected, in a free and natural habitat. Like the bison, grizzlies, wolves, and other wildlife of our country, wild horses are such a part of our history. They help make our country and our continent unique. As a feral species, one that sprang from the migrant peoples who populated — especially — the West, they reconnect us to the raw and colorful conquering of those rugged lands; to the triumphs and tragedies of communities and civilizations built, lost, and changed. May they be forever protected and preserved!

I look forward to our visit to Theodore Roosevelt Park. It's a reasonable drive from our home in Wisconsin, and will be on the itinerary soon. One of the great reasons to visit will be the wild horses;. All of our national parks are beautiful. Few provide the rare opportunity to view wild horses; a pleasure and a privilege. TRNP is a "detour" of the main highways west. The fact that they protect their wild horse herd is a reason to take that less-traveled route to spend a few days there. I cannot wait … maybe next summer!

Thank you for the work you are doing to help save the horses…mustangs, appaloosas, paints, all of them... to help us understand their origins and bloodlines; who brought them here and how they partnered in settling the west.

Warm regards,
Susan Vette - Oshkosh, WI

324.

From: Squarespace <form-submission@squarespace.info>
Date: January 17, 2023 at 10:49:51 PM EST
To: thismustanglife@gmail.com
Subject: Form Submission - New Form - Management Plan TRNP wild horses
Reply-To: gypsyspirit58@ymail.com

Sent via form submission from *Wild Lands Wild Horses*

Name: Marlene Mead

Email Address: gypsyspirit58@ymail.com

Subject: Management Plan TRNP wild horses

Message: As a lifelong resident of ND have enjoyed the presence of the wild horses of TRNP since a young child, which my daughter and now my grandaughter share. Saddens me to think that my grandaughter may be the last generation to ever witness them. Even at her young age she recognizes their importance and is enthralled by their spirit, as I and her mom werem as children. An appreciation that has spanned four generations of my family starting with my father. A highlight of any trip to TRNP is when we see the wild horses. We look for them. Something about their spirit speaks to us. The spirit and beauty of the wild horses truly do embody the spirit of our ancestors and Theodore Roosevelt. Theodore Rooservelt spoke of the wild horses of ND.

The horses of TRNP are a living cultural and historical testament to the history of ND. My understanding by some accounts some of their bloodline dates back to the horses Sitting Bull relinquished. One buyer was the Marquis De Mores who refined them, an unique genetic breed of horses to ND. When he left Medora, some remained in the badlands and were fenced in at TRNP inception. In 2018 genetic testing showed a genetic lineage of horses unique from all other 48 breeds.

Now under two current considerations for TRNP proposed livestock management plan, eliminating of the wild horses is consideration. Argument heard at presentation on Jan 12th is they are not a native species and current laws for TRNP do not allow them even though they have been kept since fenced in and maintained as cultural representation of ND history. Some research into orgin of horses do say they originated in North America with fossil record. They crossed the land bridges but later immigrated back. Dr. Ross MacPhee, Curator of Mammalogy at the American Museum of Natural History, and colleagues, have dated the existence of woolly mammoths and horses in North America to as recent as 7,600 years ago. Had it not been for previous westward migration, over the 2 Bering Land Bridge, into northwestern Russia (Siberia) and Asia, the horse would have faced complete extinction. However, Equus survived and spread to all continents of the globe, except Australia and Antarctica.

I don't understand proposed outcome for their removal. Under current "NPS Management Policy" the wild horses of TRNP fit criteria for cultural and historical preservation allowed and even encouraged in national parks. Under chapter 4.4.4.1 "Introduction and Maintenence of Exotic Species" NPS policy states:

•needed to meet the desired conditions of historic resources, but only when it is noninvasive...In such cases, the exotic species used must be known to be historically significant, to have existed in the park during the parks period of historical significance, to be an contributing element to a cultural landscape, or been commonly used in the area at the time.

36 CFR 2.6, Livestock use and agriculture, (a) states: "The running-at-large, herding, driving across, allowing on, pasturing or grazing of livestock of any kind in a park area or the use of a park area for agricultural purposes is prohibited, except: … (3) As designated, when conducted as a necessary and integral part of a recreational activity or required in order to maintain a historic scene.". The wild horses of TRNP do that and have since the parks inception when fenced over 75 years ago.

The wild horses of TRNP have historical and cultural value and worth protecting, so that current and future generations can see an animal important historically and culturally to the native population, ND settlers and Theodore Roosevelt legacy.

Sincerely,

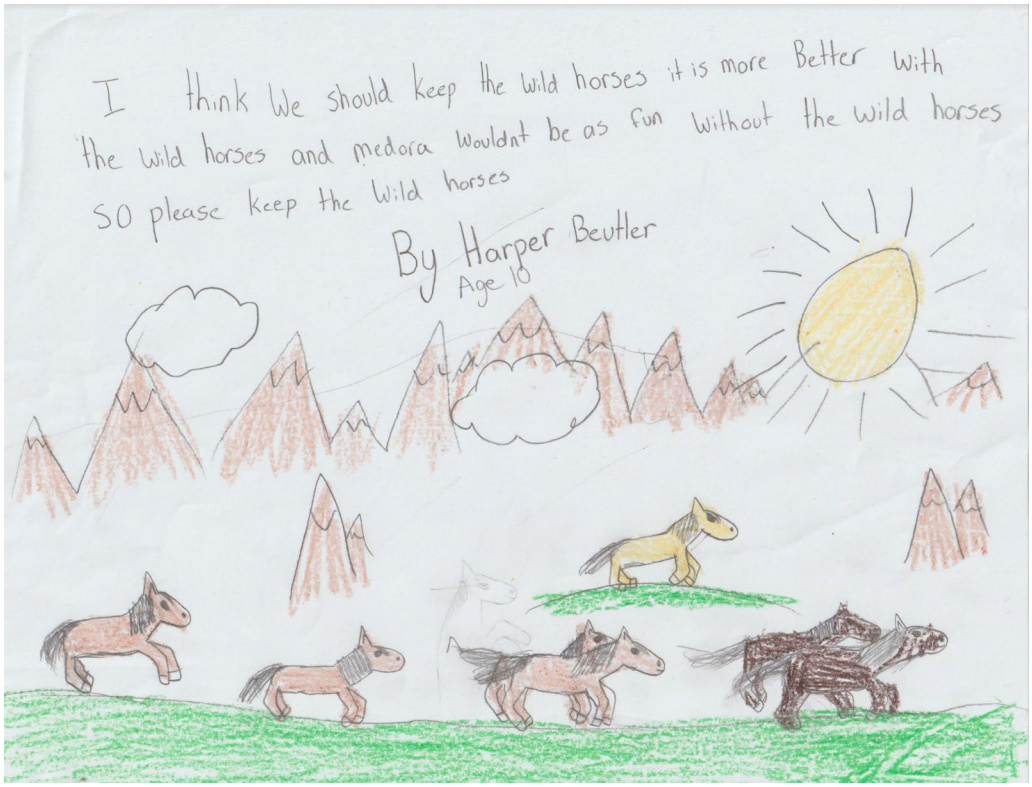
Marlene Mead

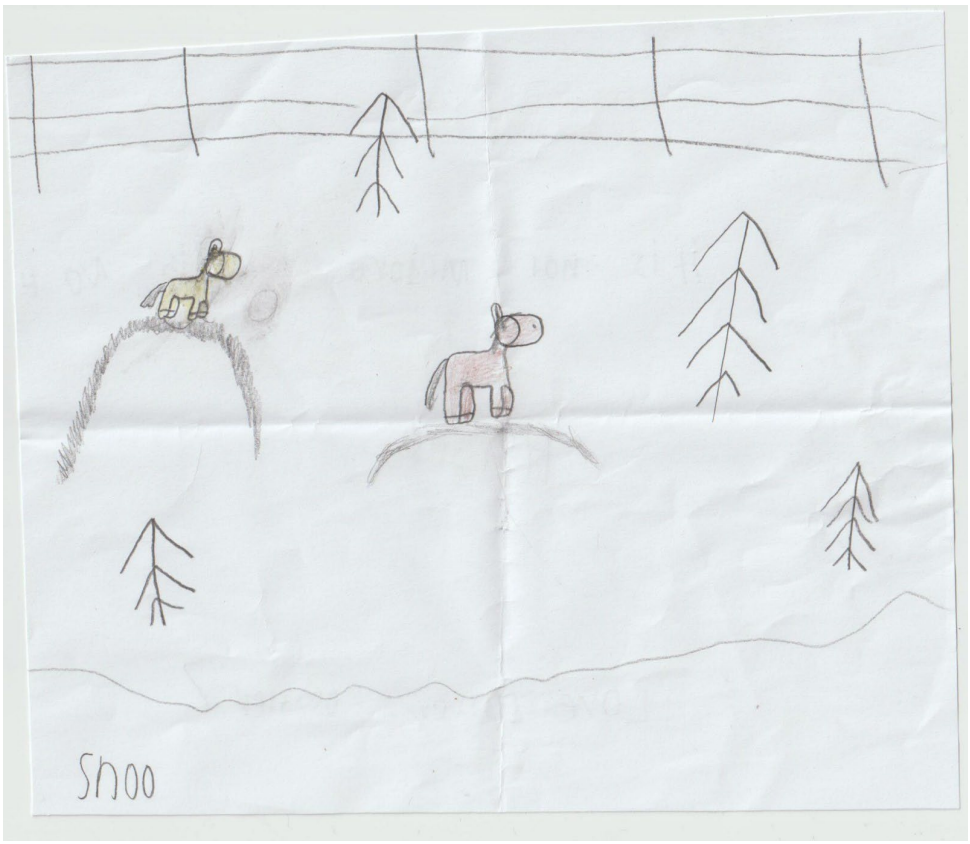
325.

Alissa <alissaroppel@hotmail.com> Mon, Jan 16, 2023 at 5:48 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

My daughter and nieces learned about the park's plans for the horses and have been very upset ever since. One evening I came home and they had made these pictures to send to the park.

Alissa Schramm

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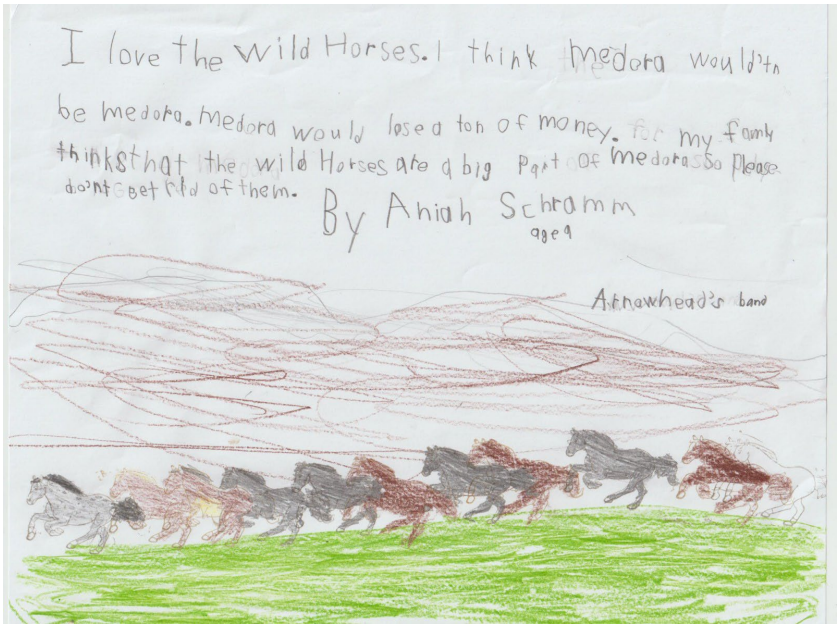
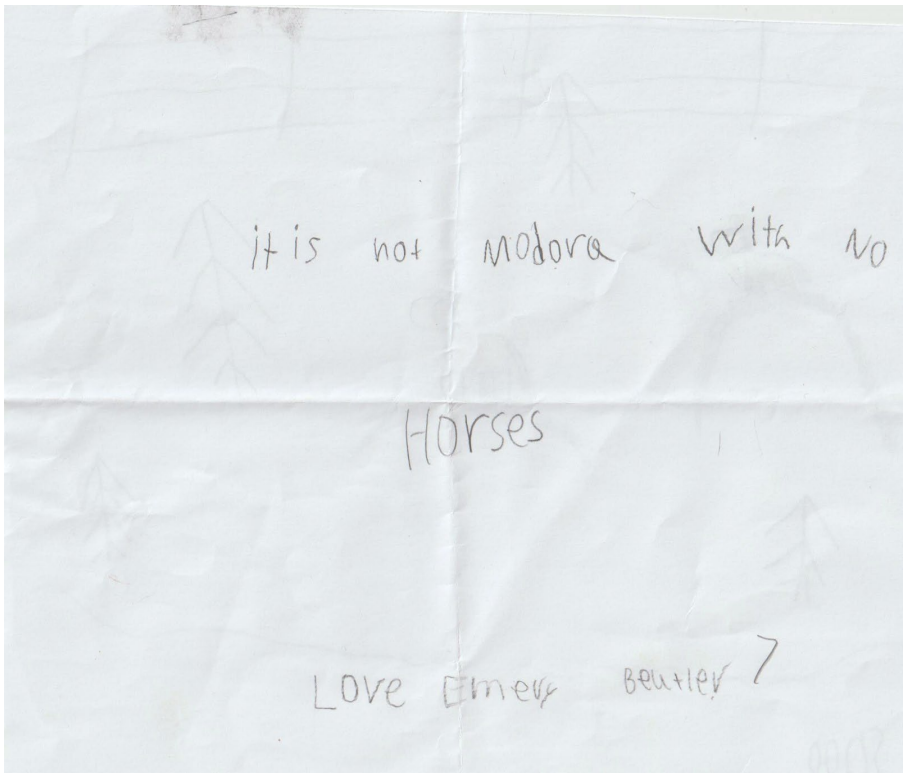

I love the Wild Horses. I think medora wouldn't be medora. Medora would lose a ton of money. for my family thinks that the wild Horses are a big Part of medora so Please don't get rid of them.
By Aniah Schramm
aged
Arrowhead's band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Horses
Love Emery Beutler 7

326.

I have been to both units of Theodore Roosevelt National Park so many times I've lost count. Living in central North Dakota allows me the privilege of visiting often. My favorite unit is the north; however, I visit the south unit to see the wild horses.

I am a member of and have been following Wild in North Dakota on Facebook for quite some time. I've gotten to know the names of some of the horses and have been able to pick them out in a herd when I am blessed enough to see them in the park. From the knowledge I've gleaned from the group, I challenge myself to find and identify the individual horses, which makes me want to visit more often.

My first experience with the wild horses was several years ago, from horseback, riding into the park from Painted Canyon Overlook. It was breathtaking to ride up the hill to find several on the plateau, the stallion then rounding up his herd to take them from our sight. I've since seen several herds while driving the loop, and they are the main reason I visit that unit.

My husband and I have also ridden in the north unit, and very much enjoyed spying the longhorns there. Although they are few, they have been an icon of that unit. Both units have oodles of wildlife one can see, such as deer, elk and bison, but the horses and the longhorns make each unique.

I have a large photo taken by the late Crystal Albrecht of Crystal's Concepts that hangs in my house. In the photo is Redface, my favorite stallion. My husband and I no longer ride, but horses hold a special place in our hearts.

I intend to visit the park this summer, taking my kids and grandkids. We will be searching for the wild horses more than any other animal. If we want to see bison, we'll drive the five miles to our nearest bison ranch. We've seen elk many times on the north side of Bismarck and near our friends' by Medina. But there is no where else to view horses in the wild in this part of the country except for the south unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. ***No where.*** Please keep them there.

Sincerely,

Lori Gefroh
2552 Main St W
Underwood, ND 58576
lori@gefroh.com

327.

Eileen Balliet <eeballiet@icloud.com> Wed, Jan 18, 2023 at 7:28 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

We go to TRNP about three times a year and drive around the park for a couple of hours looking for the horses. We enjoy watching the different bands and little colts. If you take them out there is no reason to go back to the park unless you want to see nothing but buffalo and prairie dogs. If there is a problem with the horses grazing to much of the park mabe try to get rid of some of the prairie dogs it looks to me like they are ruining a lot of land in the park. Also, there seems to be a lot of buffalo and some of them could be taken out of the park. The horses, buffalo, deer and elk were all there when Teddy Roosevelt lived there and I'm sure he wouldn't have wanted them removed or made it a national park. Allen and Eileen Balliet

Sent from my iPhone

328.

DEB LEE CARSON <everseethelight@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 7:06 AM
To: Wild Lands Wild Horses <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Jim Cobbs** <jcobbs2@icloud.com>
Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2023
Subject: TRNP wild horses
To: deb@debleecarson.com

The TR displays, bison, and the herds of wild horses are the best things we saw in TRNP. Herds of free roaming bison, horses, elk, deer, and other hooved animals are a large part of what makes the western National Parks such great places to visit.

Sent from the iPhone of Jim Cobbs

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329.

Audrey Aabey <ajaabey@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 12:04 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

We have been planning a visit to TRNP in order to experience the wonder of the horses living there & are very disappointed, worried & angry that elimination of this national treasure is being considered. With all the resources of 21st century science & conservation knowledge I can't believe a sustainable solution which incudes the creatures who live there can't be found!
Please do not rob future generations of this glimpse of a vanished world.
Audrey J Aabey

330.	**Joanie Stene** <jmastene@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 10:06 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> We took our grandchildren to TRNP last year. Our granddaughter, Taylor, then age 18 months, had been introduced to horses just the previous winter. She got to meet and ride a pony named Penny. She was enthralled - from thereafter all she could do was talk about Penny the Pony - to her daycare teacher, friends, relatives. Driving through the park that beautiful June day, we came around a corner and there were 4-5 wild horses. They took my breath away, as they always do. Taylor, from her car seat in the back, squeals and points and says Penny! Penny the Pony! And starts calling to the horses: "Here, Penny! C'mere Penny!" And didn't want to drive on. All horses are Pennies! Keep our colorful history and beautiful park as it was meant to be: full of priceless Pennies for all future generations to enjoy. -- Joanie Stene Horsemaster Certified Instructor

331.

Linda Alves <picklli@yahoo.com> Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 5:25 PM
Reply-To: Linda Alves <picklli@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello -

Thank you for all you do! I'm happy to add my voice to help these beautiful wild horses. This nonsense just has to be stopped.

Here's a copy of what I just submitted on the TRNP site a few minutes ago:

I am writing to make an earnest request for you to keep an open mind towards a more humane path for the wild horses at Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP). After all, these wild horses are the sole reason that I was even aware of this park's existence.

Please take a closer look at the Salt River Wild Horse Management Group and speak with your colleagues at the Tonto National Forest in Arizona. It's one of the best managed national forests and enjoys 8 million visitors yearly.

The Salt River wild horses are not everywhere in the Tonto National Forest, but the public gets to enjoy them and they create tourism income for the local community. Not one horse has ever been removed from the Salt River.

With some work and compromise, an intergovernmental agreement for the management of the Salt River horses was signed in 2017 - and, has produced outstanding results. The wild horse population has been managed humanely with PZP fertility control.

Wouldn't Theodore Roosevelt National Park like to also be a shining example of what can be done?

"The time is always right to do what is right." - Dr. Martin Luther King

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Best regards,
Linda Alves

332.

Martinez, Holly <Holly.Martinez@westernmidstream.com> Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 6:20 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>
Cc: Holly Martinez <shajamart@att.net>

To Whom It May Concern,

By far, the most beautiful and inspirational thing I see on social media is the stories and pictures of the Wild Horses in TRNP. I live in Texas and think how wonderful it would be if my state could have a herd of wild horses, how wonderous to see that majesty and freedom, I get chills just seeing their pictures. Please reconsider, give us something real to hold on to in this time of technology and violence, greed and sloth. It would be such a shame, just like so many beautiful, historic things we have lost in the last few years.

Thank you for allowing me to give my opinion.

Sincerely,

Holly Martinez

333.

Jodell Kruse <jekmjkkruse@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 8:50 PM
To: Info@wildlandswildhorses.com

As a hobby photographer, from my first visit to Theodore Roosevelt National Park, I've loved seeing and photographing its beautiful landscapes, the bison, the prairie dogs, the eagles, the coyotes, the songbirds, and the wildflowers at TRNP but from first sight, the horses are what really spoke to my heart and spirit. Seeing their beauty, their interactions within the herds, the foals, mares and stallions, all really made an impact on me and their interaction with the landscape enhanced both the landscape and the horses. Whether it's merely getting a glimpse of horses in the distance, or seeing a horse sleeping or grazing along the road, laughing to see the foals play, or watching in awe as they climb the steep slopes with ease, or viewing them as they run across the prairie, or pausing as they proudly run up the road past my car, each sight touched my heart and lifted my spirit and made me forget my worries and troubles, if only for a moment. The horses more than anything made me feel closer to nature which brings me a sense of peace and of closeness with those who have gone before me.

I've returned to the park several times after my first visit and was currently planning my next trip there and anticipating the lift seeing the horses would give to my heart and spirit. But without the horses there to see, I wouldn't return.

I can't imagine these horses without that land nor can I imagine that land without these horses.

Jodell Kruse

334.

Macey Hvistendahl <maceyhvistendahl@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 10:34 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Theodore Roosevelt National Park is so special to me. I first visited the park in August 2020 on my way to Montana. At the time I did not know that wild horses lived there, only that it was a beautiful national park. Two months after that trip I was researching the Pryor Mountain Mustangs, and I stumbled upon the North Dakota Badlands Horse page on Facebook. Posted on the page was the news that they had recently announced the birth of a tiny black filly. For the next several months all I did was research the ancestry of these horses and dream of going to visit them. My dream finally came true. In July of 2021 my dad and I headed out to see these wild horses. While driving next to the park I saw my very first Theodore Roosevelt National Park wild horse. I quickly identified her as Twister. After that moment I was sold. I returned in March of 2022 and was able to see a 2 day old colt: Titan (AKA Pax). Then we came back in both August and October! I was able to see a total of 161 different individual horses throughout my four trips.

One of my favorite experiences in the park was seeing the 20 year old stallion Thundercloud. My dad and I were driving down the road going past Boicourt Trail. My dad spotted a horse and I took a quick look, all I saw was a dark horse. Immediately I thought it was Circus because he had been seen in the area recently. We turned around and I got a better look at him. When I saw he was a blue roan I knew he wasn't Circus. I then thought he was Applewood because we saw Applewood and Alluvium in the same area the day before. When I didn't see Alluvium I thought we should go see if the blue roan was someone else. We parked by the Boicourt trail and headed off in the opposite direction. When we first started heading out we couldn't see where he was. When we finally got to him he was standing on a butte catching the wind. It was around 100 degrees at the time. The old stallion was showing his age. I was trying to explain to my Dad that he had recently lost his band to his son Xander. He soon climbed higher on his butte where he stood looking over his wild home. In the distance I could see a few other bands.

I was sad to hear that he passed away late in 2021. After learning of his death I was hopeful to be able to find and photograph his remaining offspring and their offspring. After all four trips I was able to find and photograph all of them.

The horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park have become such a significant part of my life during my teenage years. I've spent countless hours building a connection with the horse through research, visits to the park, and photography. I cannot imagine the park without these wild horses, and only hope they will continue to remain a part of the park for generations to come.

335.

Maria Tigermoln <moln711@msn.com> Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 6:32 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello,
My name is Maria Podal and I am emailing you about the wild horses in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park in Dakota, U.S.A. I myself live in Sweden, but I follow them on the internet.

There are not words enough to describe what this means to me personally, to be able to know and follow wild horses. I think it is important to respect all life, wild or domestic, or human.

I don't agree with the way roundups are performed in the U.S.. I sincerely hope this way of taking care of wild animals, whether they are horses, zebras or other wildlife, will change.

If you are interested in learning other ways of taking care of wild horses or horses in general, I can recommend Rosemary Farm in the U.S.A. and Skydog Sanctuary. There are some other, but these I know for sure are capable and they have a lot of knowledge about wild and unhandled horses. I am also sure they know to refer to other capable sanctuaries for wildlife or for domestic animals, if needed.

I do hope humans would be a kinder population on this earth. Whether you think we are the patrons of the earth as God intended or you have the scientific view I wish the politics of how we should act towards both each other and the species we share this place with would always have in mind that we all have the right to live and thrive, and when we act to intervene in the nature, that should also be with respect for the life we want to interact with.

With the most sincere regards.
Med vänlig hälsning,
Ystävällisin terveisin,
Maria Podal

336.

Henry Weber <henryjweb@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 12:21 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Henry's Story

Where do I start to tell my story with the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. 38 years of observing, following, and enjoying the wild horses. Initially riding our horses in the park as a family and seeing the wild horses from a distance. Riding around the loop road in Tom Tescher's blue pickup, looking for the horses and then sitting at his kitchen table learning the history of these horses. Studying their behavior for the CSU contraceptive study, and volunteering for the Park, assisting in captures by low stress chemical immobilization, working them thru the chutes for vetting, practicing loading in a trailer by low stress pressure & release so they would go to their new owner with loading not being traumatic. Participating in a Park research study on moving a band of horses from point A to point B, alone, on foot using low stress handling techniques. This method was successful 80% of the time, but only 40 % when a catch pen was at point B.

A major highlight was buying, gentling, training, and riding one of these wild ones back in the park for the last 16 years. Ember's Fire is the best trail horse I have ever ridden. No natural obstacle phases these wild ones. The most unique behavior with Fire is that he would not pass up a chance to drink. The first time I had him back in the park it had rained and he would go from hoof print to hoof print drinking the water. He still does.

One early memory burned in my mind is of stallion Red Face. We were riding on Talkington trail when this young stallion came over a rise on the same trail. He stopped, stood and smelled the breeze watching us with head up and neck arched. Suddenly he snorted, whirled and disappeared to where he had come. This winter he has disappeared and presumed gone. He led a great life in the wild.

Another time we were watching several bands of horses down on Lindbo Flats from the top edge of Sheep Butte. We heard a noise behind us, turned and saw Cocoa and his band about 20 feet behind us. Cocoa was breeding a mare. We rapidly moved part-way down the slope and waited for them to leave. Natures call takes precedence over scary humans.

For the CSU contraceptive study, we had to observe a band of horses for 20 minutes and record what each horse was doing each minute. A few minutes into

a study the band moved to a water pond created by a recent rain. They drank and proceeded to stomp and roll in the mud. Then the stallion started to breed a mare. Because of the mud we could not identify the mare and our study ended as incomplete. Better luck next time. We learned so much about the behavior and band structure from these studies. The contraceptive had no effect on behavior other than no reproductive behavior for the treated mares.

One trial in the horse herding study that stands out to me was with the infamous stallion Blaze. Initially he didn't want to give control of the band, so I ignored him and pressured the lead mare to move the band the direction I wanted them to go. Blaze stayed in the back between me and the band. We were moving on Lindbo Flats along Sheep butte. When we got to the North end of the butte and I wanted to make a slow turn East, Blaze moved to the front and headed the band West. They didn't go far so I followed and started over, moving them East. I was able to successfully move them to point B. The route had a slight detour, and it took longer than I planned. The following summer Marylu and I successfully moved 3 bands of horses into the new catch pen and sorted out horses for removal.

I still love to sit on a butte and watch the horses interact with each other. Nothing relieves stress like watching Teddy's horses. It would be difficult to ride or hike the Park without the anticipation of seeing wild horses. These horses have been our passion. When we found out that 75% of the horses captured in helicopter roundups ended up sold to kill buyers, we started the non-profit NDBH to prevent that from happening again. We have been successful until now. Older horses have been allowed to live out their lives in the wild. Younger horses have gone to loving homes. I pray it will remain that way and generations will continue to experience the beauty and thrill of seeing wild ones in Teddy's Park.

337.

Barb Herzog <barb@islandtimesteeldrums.com> Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 12:59 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hello,
I am writing to support keeping a genetically healthy herd of wild horses in the Park for future generations to experience the Great West as it was when Teddy Roosevelt realized it must be preserved and created the Park.

I was born and raised in Fargo, ND. As a child my family visited TRNP and we saw the wild horses. At that time my parents gifted me the book "Misty of Chincoteague" and I learned the love of reading - all because of the horses we saw at TRNP.

When I was in high school my love of horses kept me out of trouble - I was starting to run with the wrong crowd and my parents bought me a horse. This, too, was because they knew of my love of horses that started at TRNP. Their 'trick' worked - my attention turned to my horse and away from the 'wrong crowd'.

Years later I took my kids to TRNP to see the horses. My kids have since moved out of state, but I know they have very fond memories of their trip to the Park. They have suggested TRNP to some of their out of state friends as the best place to take their young kids for a family vacation.

Now, years later I have trips planned with my grandchildren to visit the horses. I cannot imagine taking my grandkids there if the horses are not there. I bought my grandkids the "Misty of Chincoteague" book to have them read before visiting the horses this summer. I would love to have them fall in love with horses just like I did - all because of the wild horses that are part of the heritage of TRNP.

Thank you for your efforts to keep the wild horses in TRNP.

V/r

Barb Herzog
1130 Lake Av
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

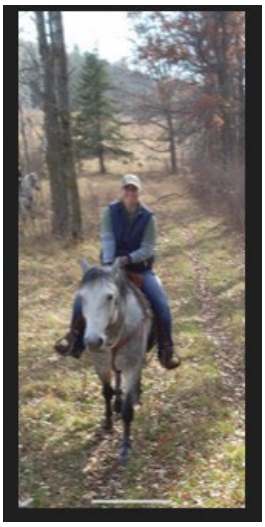
338.

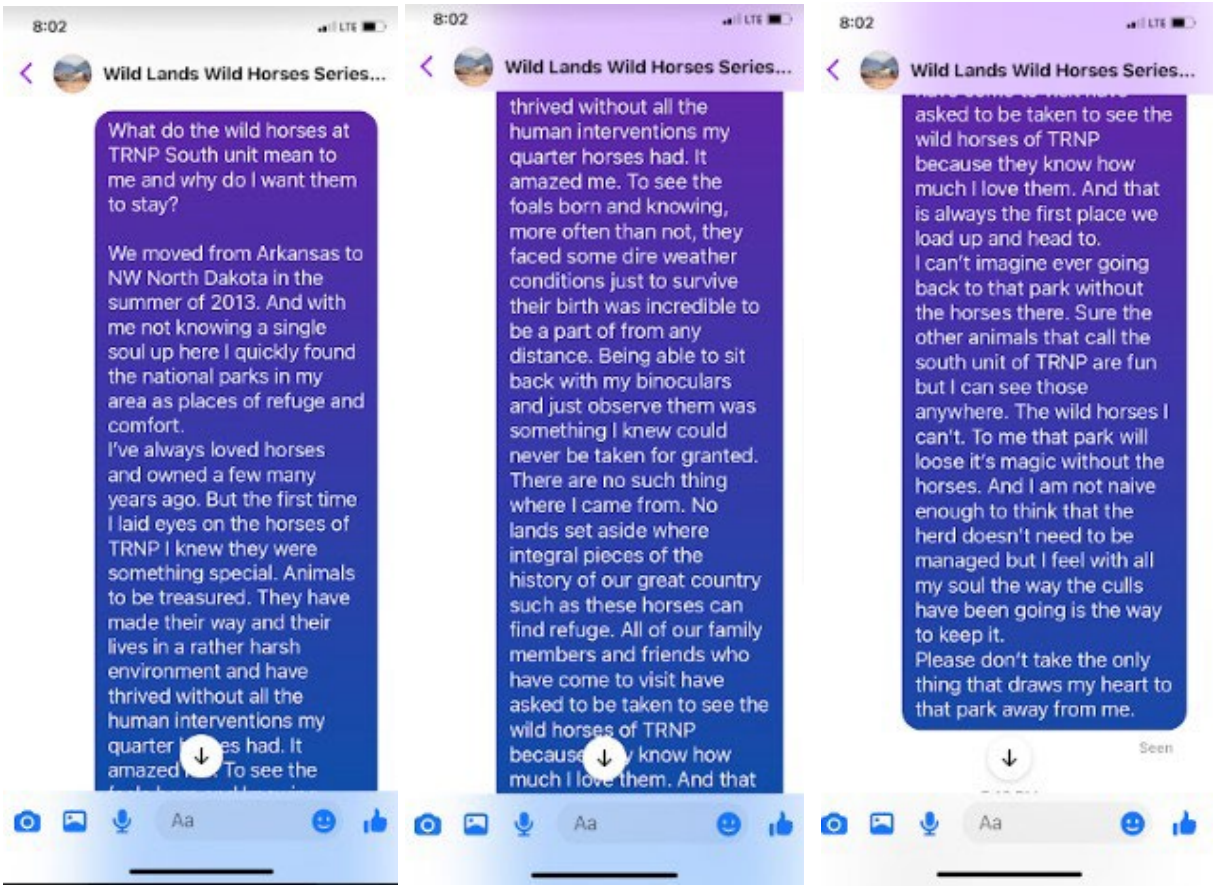
Beth Heebner <bethheebner@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 4:18 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

When someone thinks of the old west, they imagine land not altered by people. They envision breath taking landscape and the wild animals that roam free: bison, pronghorns and yes, wild horses. This is what brings tourists to Theodore Roosevelt National Park.
TRNP was never on my national park list of places I wanted to visit, until I started following several social media accounts that show case the wild horses of TRNP. I have gotten to know these majestic creatures and how they live in harmony with the other wild animals of the park. This park is now at the top of my list for my next vacation with my family and one day with my grandchildren. These wild horses need to be saved for our present selves and our future children.

Beth Heebner

339.	**mmeldahl53** <mmeldahl53@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 7:15 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I have read many of the stories posted, and the factual articles presented. They are all so articulate and spot on. I can't compete with them. What I will say is that we make one trip out to Teddy Roosevelt Park including Medora every year. We take in all the things and enjoy them all. My absolute heart tug is to drive into the park a few times during our stay. I watch with camera ready for any glimpse of a wild horse. We go early in the morning, mid day, and in the evening. Sometimes we have been lucky, and sometimes not, but the horses are what call me back, over and over. There is a peace like no other, watching them and enjoying them in their home. I would see no reason to go back if the horses are gone. The horses are the catalyst for me to make the trip. North Dakota proud Mary Meldahl
340.	**Lisa Beimert** <doublelb@brained.net> Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 8:24 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Hi my name is Lisa Beimert and here is my story. My very first time out to TRNP was back in 1999 when after one of my aunts and her husband stop in Medora on a motorcycle ride to Montana. They took one whole day to drive the park loop in search of these magnificent wild horses. After they returned back to Minnesota they said we wanted all our family to come to a magical place that they had fell in love with. So the next year my whole family and when I say whole family it goes from my grandparents, there children to there children and now our children. We loaded up our Minnesota ponies and headed west to Medora. We rode the park in search of the horses and found big herds hanging out next to Holliday wells. The first stallion I seen was a big black and white paint that we nicknamed Baldie due to his white face, he was magnificent standing there watching while we unloaded and saddles up. As we continued to ride jones creek we ran into another herd. We went back home and I couldn't wait till the next year to get out there to see baldie and all the rest of them. Well on 2004 my whole family again loaded up and headed out except for my aunt who turned us onto this place in the beginning fell ill so we dedicated our ride to her for she had past away in 2005 due to cancer. Now since that year we still go out and ride. I have 2 beautiful horses from the park Kentucky out of the late Silver and Democracy. Styx out of Sidekick and River. Keeping these magnificent horses in the park will continue the return of many.

	
341.	**Dale Gowen** <dalegowen@yahoo.com> Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 9:03 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Sent from my iPhone **3 attachments**


8:02
Wild Lands Wild Horses Series...
What do the wild horses at TRNP South unit mean to me and why do I want them to stay?
We moved from Arkansas to NW North Dakota in the summer of 2013. And with me not knowing a single soul up here I quickly found the national parks in my area as places of refuge and comfort.
I've always loved horses and owned a few many years ago. But the first time I laid eyes on the horses of TRNP I knew they were something special. Animals to be treasured. They have made their way and their lives in a rather harsh environment and have thrived without all the human interventions my quarter horses had. It amazed me. To see the foals born and knowing, more often than not, they faced some dire weather conditions just to survive their birth was incredible to be a part of from any distance. Being able to sit back with my binoculars and just observe them was something I knew could never be taken for granted. There are no such thing where I came from. No lands set aside where integral pieces of the history of our great country such as these horses can find refuge. All of our family members and friends who have come to visit have asked to be taken to see the wild horses of TRNP because they know how much I love them. And that is always the first place we load up and head to.
I can't imagine ever going back to that park without the horses there. Sure the other animals that call the south unit of TRNP are fun but I can see those anywhere. The wild horses I can't. To me that park will loose it's magic without the horses. And I am not naive enough to think that the herd doesn't need to be managed but I feel with all my soul the way the culls have been going is the way to keep it.
Please don't take the only thing that draws my heart to that park away from me.
Seen
Aa

342.

joanrood2b@icloud.com <joanrood2b@icloud.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 2:04 AM

I have always loved horses, but only in a superficial way in my youth when we would go on occasional trail rides. Fast forward to recent years when I was introduced to and inspired by Deb Lee Carson's photos of her beautiful horses captured as they romped and played like puppies in the freshly fallen snow at her farm in MN. Later I met her personally through Capture Minnesota, an online website of MN photographers sponsored by tpt. Deb's passion for photographing not only her own horses, but her passionate advocacy for the wild mustangs at the TRNP lit a fire of interest in hoping to see them for the first time in the park. Our first drive through in 2019 was a bust, but two years later in 2021 my dream was finally realized. As we rounded a bend on the Loop Rd, I laid my eyes on the first of two gorgeous herds from the side of a ridge where they were all standing like statues facing the hot wind for relief from the pesky nose flies that day. My first shot was a side view of the first herd, but as I walked farther around the road, I witnessed the 2nd herd on the opposite side of that ridge. As if they were posing for a couple of us with cameras, who maintained more than the minimum of 25 yards, my heart was in my throat as my hands shook throughout most of the countless images taken that day.

To observe their familial behavior, loyalty, and affection for one another was beyond amazing to me. Much of it I was privileged to see firsthand, but other subtleties of their behavior were caught later when the images were downloaded at home. Additionally, I counted 4 mares standing guard over their sleeping foals. Eventually, they all rose, a few nursed, and then herd began to move out. I still pinch myself for what I witnessed that day.

The wildlife in this beautiful national park was incredible to view on that trip. The wild mustangs are such an integral part of this park's history, and to imagine TRNP without them is inconceivable to me. To the point that I could not visit the park ever again. It would be incomplete to me. The thought of rounding up and breaking up, these familial herds would be horribly traumatizing for them is an understatement. It breaks my heart thinking about this unbelievable action, which would also result in injuries and deaths of some of the horses. I sincerely hope the TRNP service will reconsider what could dramatically change the landscape of this park forever, not to mention the effects their decision could have on the local tourism business for the park and surrounding towns.

Note: I learned from Deb later that the attached photo of this mare and her foal, is Deb's adopted Pinnacles' dame Domino that was sired by Blaze. This foal was sired by Arrowhead and would be Pinnacles' half sibling.

A group of horses standing on a hill Description automatically generated with low confidence.jpeg

A group of horses standing on a hill
103K

343.

Nicola Morris <morrisnicola299@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 9:01 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Your story has become my passion as I wasn't aware that wild horses, untainted by the ways of the world still exist and roam free.
Nature's national flag is freedom as designed by the Almighty God and I long to see nature in its natural state rather than controlled by the cruelties of this world. 🤗💝
Free nature and the people will shurly follow.
Hopefully we can trek up to TRNP whilst we still can, please preserve the wild horses they hold a legacy that can't ever be repeated🌍🌈🙏

344.	**Eva S** <eva.schapiro@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 9:55 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> At the end of my Au Pair time in the US I stumbled upon TRNP on the internet. Completely by accident. I had 4 weeks left on my visa and just enough money to afford a flight to Colorado, a rental car and a tent. The two weeks I spent in the park with the horses were the most magical thing I could have never imagined. Never again have I felt so free. Every once in a while I look up the price of flights (I'm back in Europe now) and sigh with great sorrow. The prospect of never getting to feel what I felt back then again rips my heart to shreds. To anyone who reads this, if you can afford it, go now. I could cry just thinking about it. It's all worth it, the 10 hour drive from Denver, the nights spent in a tent under a tree while a thunderstorm rages outside, the freezing showers at the campground. What I wouldn't give to get to do all that again just to roll up to the park in the morning and observe Tetons band going about their day.
345.	**Sybille Krug** <bunjyp13@aol.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 11:01 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com My name is Sybille, I am from Germany. I can't even remember, when I first saw a picture of Blaze, postet by Deb. But I was fascinated by this amazing stallion from the first moment. So I started to follow her account and learned a lot about the wild horses of TRNP. Before I didn't even know this NP. When Blaze changed worlds, I was more than shocked. Feels like losing a horse I knew for a long time. One year later me and a friend did a road trip in the States. 3 weeks packed with sights we want to visit. And I put TRNP on my list. Even it was a detour of 400 miles, a long and sometimes boring drive, to be honest… But it was worth every minute! We were lucky to see some of the bands in the park, spend nearly one hour watching Flax and his mares grazing peacefully close to the road. It was such an amazing experience to see the wild ones living their best life. Wild and free! Von der neuen AOL-App für iOS gesendet

346.	**tdr123@aol.com** <tdr123@aol.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 11:02 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> Please reconsider your plans to close TR National park in Badlands and remove the wild mustangs!!! We are planning a trip there with grandchildren and they are so excited to go!!! We have researched the park and the horses and have our favorite mustang pictures on our walls to remind us of our upcoming goal and why we are saving our penny's now!! These beautiful, majestic creatures were here first and deserve our care, consideration and respect!!! Thank you for your thoughtful consideration!! Teresa Burbach
347.	**Mike Tweeton** <miketweeton38@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 11:27 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Several years ago, on my first photo trip to visit TRNP at Medora, the first discovery of seeing those magnificent horses and their families, have left indelible memories !! The presence of these majestic inhabitants of the already beautiful Park, adds a dimension that is really incomparable ! My sons and grandchildren on subsequent trips were equally thrilled to see those amazing horses in their natural habitat ! To even consider removing the wild horses from TRNP borders on the unconscionable ! To succumb to the political whims of "management" would be the worst of decisions—despite what any well-meaning "expert" tries to foist on those beloved, unsuspecting horses ! To take those horses out of TRNP would be like taking the Buffalo out of Yellowstone Park !! Please don't abandon the successful studies and labors of all who have worked with the horses over the years to insure their survival ! Help find other options for continuing to make TRNP horses a special experience for future generations !!

348.	**Rebecca Jones** <rebeccajjones74@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 1:50 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> Sent in by Rebecca Falk I have not had the great opportunity to see the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt park yet. I hope that changes planning on seeing them in the future so the park better leave them there. What is the park without the wild horses I would say very barren and beauty and history will be gone. Looking at the book " The Wild Herd" by Deborah Kalas and also pictures of the wild horses on your website makes my mouth drop in awe. These horses are gorgeous and have so many colors. Let alone what they endure for winters not all horses can take and live like they do. I long to see these wild horses. I know a little about them now. I want to see their bands. I would like to see a few of the stallions such as Cloud or Thunder. Thunder seems pretty unusual to allow his daughter to go run off with another stallion and gladly greet her back. Cant wait to see these historical horses of North Dakota
349.	**magcornfoot@gmail.com** <magcornfoot@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 2:01 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Salutations Deb and Jamie As someone who is not new to advocating for human and environmental rights and now as a yoga instructor for the past twenty years my focus is on the relationship of being connected to the internal compass that guides and inspires our sense of being It also requires a responsibility of awareness to function Without knowing our place within the environment we become orphaned and sometimes callous To recover this misplaced identity I designed and coordinated a government youth project which brought native and non-native youth together to educate the community of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of Durham Region I also had a small part in establishing a Land Trust on the Oak Ridges Moraine Indolent domesticity entombs the unwary For me this is the life lesson of wild horses which enrich my life in just knowing that they are there Wildness Teaches Civility The struggle of native wild horses to remain free is our struggle to remain humane The Wild Horses of North America represent the Gracious Spirit of Freedom Globally and affects us deeply Fundamental to Our Humanity Our decision making today is what future generations will inherit For many our enduring affinity for wild horses is inherent

	It seems that TRNP has lost the vision to protect wilderness habitat for indigenous species and provide a service to the public Personally I believe in the innate value of horses in the wild as therapy for those that get to experience their presence as well as those like myself who respect their right to remain in their home continuing to revitalize a healthy gene pool I would hope and expect that their presence continues unhindered by any human shortsightedness I am keen to see the stories of individual horse families that I have met through Facebook posts My intention when I visit TRNP is to embrace their terrain ,breathe their familiar scent , listen for their unmistakable vocalizations and to feel the pulse of their hoofbeats resonating into my core while they recharge the living landscape Thank you Deb and Jamie for all that you do to inspire us with your wonderful documentaries Mag Cornfoot **magcornfoot@gmail.com** <magcornfoot@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 4:06 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I forgot to mention that while I am in Ontario Canada I feel connected by continent rather than divided by country and Native wild horses belong to our North America 🙏

350.

Mark Bearden <mwbbunch@att.net> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 2:55 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

My name is Mark Bearden and I wanted to share my story about the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.
I first found out about these amazing horses through Instagram. This was in early 2016. I started following several of the photographers who followed the horses and would post their photographs on Instagram. I was amazed at how healthy these horses looked even though they were living in the wild.
After a few weeks of looking at the photos, I knew I had to make a trip to North Dakota to see these horses for myself and to take my own photos. I told my wife that my 2017 vacation was to Theodore Roosevelt National Park to photograph the wild horses, to which she replied, why not go this year..(2016).
So I started planning my trip to Medora, North Dakota for August 2016. I drove from Mesquite, Texas to Medora in about two days and spent three days in the park photographing the wild horses. I stayed in one of the Wooly Wagons at Custer's Cottage, which was just perfect for me.
I will never forget the feeling I got when I topped a hill and just below me were several horses with their little ones. It was so exhilarating.
I cannot imagine the park without these wonderful horses. To me, it would be just another park. Sure, the landscape is gorgeous, but it is much more beautiful when wild horses are present.
I really hope the horses are left inside the park and not removed. I think it would be a tremendous blow to the park and the surrounding area of Medora if that takes place. I know the wild horses are on of the major draws for tourists, after all, they were the main reason I went to Theodore Roosevelt National Park in 2016.
I attached a few photos from my trip.

Thank you for letting me share my story,
Mark Bearden
Mesquite, Texas

© 2016 Mark Bearden

© 2016 Mark Bearden

351.	**Sharon Rezac** <rezacsharon@icloud.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 3:41 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Having read Jack Zaleskis editorial in todays FORUM and following this story for a number of years, I am writing to show my support for the wild horses in Roosevelt National Park. They have managed to survive without being managed by man! That's proof that they are North Dakota strong! Sharon Rezac, 1337 7 Street South, Fargo, ND Sent from my iPhone
352.	**Melissa Hodgson** <lot2lodge@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 4:03 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com In 2012 my husband and I were camping in South Dakota, we were lucky to meet 2 former park horses, and their owners. We fell in love! That evening we were invited to another campsite to watch a slideshow on the wild horses in the Park. They were so beautiful, almost magical. The way they are able to navigate the difficult terrain of the Park was amazing to see. We decided then if we were ever able,we would adopt one of these magnificent horses! We kept in touch with the campers we had met,and found out there was going to be an auction in 2013. We did our research and had a list of 10 potential horses. We went to look at all of the captured horses the night before the auction. # 5 on our list was little Pride(Teddy),unlike the other's, he turned toward my voice and walked 3 steps towards me. HE PICKED ME!! We were lucky enough to bring him home. He will be 10 in March and is the most loving, smart, and funny horse. We were also lucky to be able to adopt Flynn Ryder (Rango) in 2017. He too is a very special horse. Both have become brave,strong, steady riding horses. In 2021 we brought both of our boys back to Medora. I can't imagine not being able to see or follow the still wild horses in the Park. They are the only reason why we went to the Park. I hope that the Park continues to have horses as part of their history. They represent hope, dreams, and freedom. A huge part of my life, my heart,would be missing if I didn't have my 2 TRNP horses. I look forward to seeing how the wild horses are doing and follow the changes with the herds, births and even deaths on Facebook. It would be tragic if the Park decides to eliminate the beautiful animals.

353.	**Eileen** <emnorton@aol.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 4:33 PM Reply-To: Eileen <emnorton@aol.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com The year was 1980 and I followed my boyfriend at the time from Minnesota to Dickinson State University. The first time we drove to TRNP on Interstate 94, I looked out as we passed the beautiful Badlands and couldn't believe my eyes as an entire band of wild horses were galloping at full speed freely across the landscape of this beautiful National Park! I'd never seen anything like this in my life and was awestruck, to say the least! It was other worldly to me and truly the most magnificent thing I'd ever been witness to at that time! That moment was emblazoned deep into my heart and mind, and I never forgot these incredible horses living wild and free in this gorgeous National Park! I took many trips into the park during the time I spent in North Dakota and seeing the wild horses was always on the top of my list! In 1998 my now husband and I returned from a 3-year assignment in Tokyo Japan. Living in the hustle and bustle of Tokyo was interesting but being a Minnesota gal, I always yearned to get back to the country. In our third year in Japan, I announced to him that when we returned to the states, I was going to work with horses again. And you guessed it, it was the TRNP herd I had in mind! The first thing I did when I returned to the states was to stop in the park and see those magnificent horses that awed me so many years ago! I visited as often as I could and then in 2007, I asked my husband if he would make a trip with me to my favorite place on earth! We did just that and during that trip, we came across a black and white stallion named Curious George! He was magnificent and we just sat along the side of the road and watched all the amazing dynamics taking place in his band. Again, this experience was like no other and it was obvious to us both that we were indeed in a very special land filled with dozens of different species of animals that could cross one's path at any given time. Where does one find that kind of glory anywhere else? Theodore Roosevelt National Park, that's where!

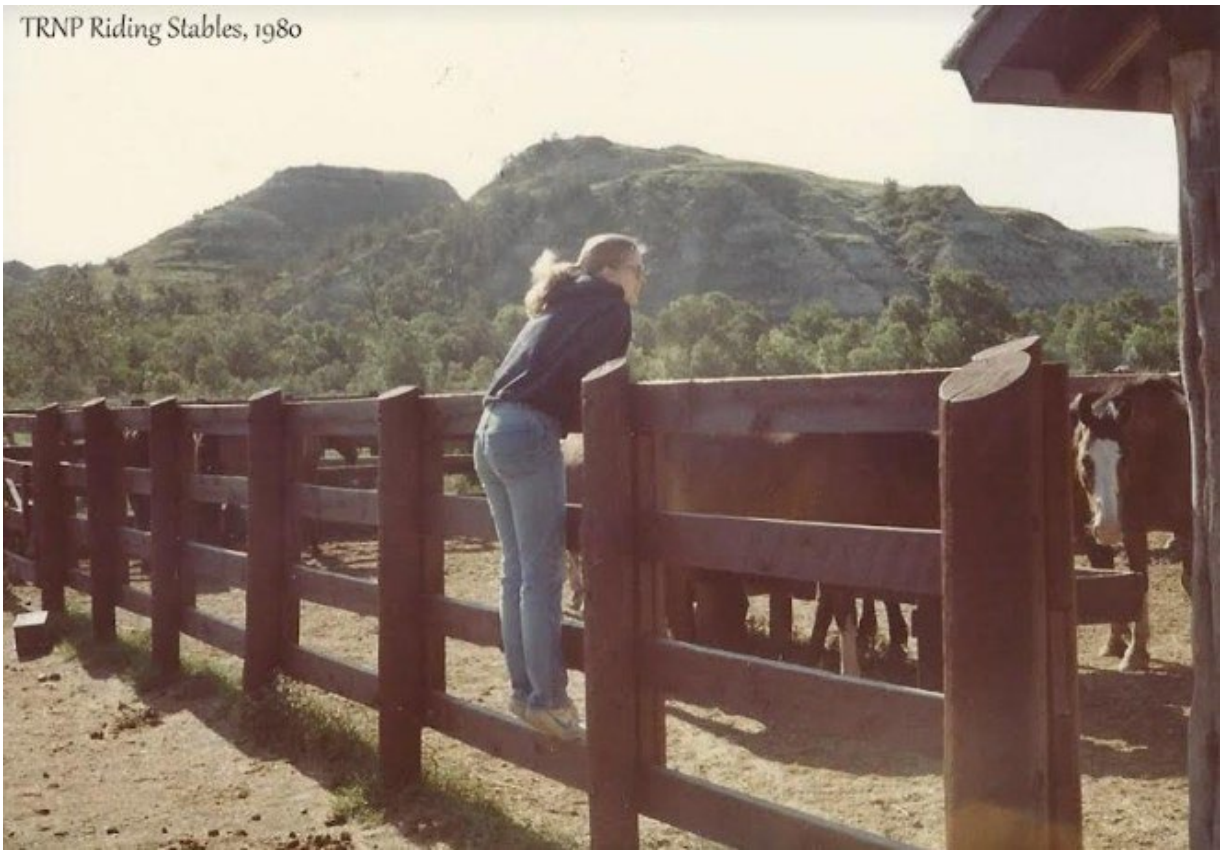
By the fall of that year, it was rumored another round up of the horses was going to take place and that Curious George was on the list to be taken out. This was devastating news to us and so we ended up meeting a group of like-minded people and hoped and prayed that Curious George would remain in the park which was the only home he'd ever known. It turned out that not only did he not get captured that year, but he also was spared from the roundup of 2009. That year he became sick and was very thin. The day the helicopter flew to round up horses, I sat in an open field with him and told him what he meant to me, and I wished him well in his journey forward. That was the last time I saw Curious George and it still makes my heart ache to this day!

The 2009 round up was a tough one as 70 some horses were brought to the stock yards in Dickinson to be sold. The kill buyers were there and were winning horses on low bids that others didn't bid on. In all, 8 perfectly good horses ended up in the hands of kill buyers and despite a gallant effort, there was nothing any of us could do to save them! It literally broke all our hearts to have to witness that and left an indelible mark on us all. They were ages 2-15 and there wasn't a thing wrong with any of them, but they suffered at the hands of those who chose to remove them from the National Park. This is where my life changed from being a fan to becoming an activist working in support of this herd! At that 2009 sale, we bid on Charlie (one of the last colts of Curious George), his little brother Chip and our precious Dakota Page. Curious George was indeed the one who started it all for us, but these three were now our new ambassadors to help recognize and support this herd.

In 2012 I started my Facebook page Wild in North Dakota where I shared photos and told stories of my adventures out in the park. The main goal was to raise awareness of this herd, so no horse had to end up in the hands of a kill buyer ever again! In 2014 we were granted our 501 (c)(3) status as a nonprofit corporation and did what we could through the years to support this herd. The Facebook page grew to over 400,000 followers and includes an audience reach from across the U. S. all the way to countries across Europe and as far as South Africa, Australia, Canada, Mexico and many more countries in between. In 2016 and 2017 we added colts Warrior and Renegade to our personal herd, and it has been a joy to bring each of them into our ranch family. We have two sets of brothers and that has been amazing to watch them continue in captivity as siblings.

In summary, that fateful day 43 years ago when I saw this herd for the first time literally changed the trajectory of my life! These horses live in my heart and soul and there's not a day that goes by that they are not in my life either in the park or at home on our ranch! The horses that still call the Park home deserve to be managed, respected, and revered so generations to come can live the same types experiences I have been blessed with for the past four decades! We all need to continue to make that happen, not only for the horses but for each one of us whose lives have been or will be changed once their eyes have been graced upon this herd of magnificent horses running wild and free in beautiful Theodore Roosevelt National Park!

The first photo is of Stallion Curious George who many may have never met. The second photo is of me at the riding stables in the park back in 1980!


TRNP Riding Stables, 1980

354.

Brenda Miller <auntiebrenda1988@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 6:12 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I'm writing this to help tell the
story of how important it is to leave the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park! These horses serve as a link to our past that we get to enjoy today and, more importantly, a link to the past for many generations to come! These horses are a piece history that only time itself can produce!! And you cannot buy time to make history!! We live in a throw away world today and how sad that is! It is utterly reckless to consider ridding TRNP of the wild horses!! This would be throwing away a piece of America! Once we rid ourselves of something, it's gone, forever!! These horses have a lineage that cannot be replaced!!

It was a dream come true for me to bring my young daughter to TRNP and look for the wild horses. What a beautiful scene when we finally spotted them on our second day!! We sat and watched them from afar as they interacted with each other without any human interventions! Nature is truly an amazing thing! Can you imagine the memories that those horses gave my young daughter? Memories that I hope she will remember when she is old and tells her grandchildren! Wouldn't it be wonderful for her to someday go with her grandchildren and visit offspring of the herd she once visited as a young girl!!

If you remove the horses, you are ending history! You are ending a piece of who America is!! You are ending dreams of the unborn citizens of this great country!
DON'T MAKE A RECKLESS DECISION!!!

These wild horses are amazing, beautiful and are a symbol of American freedoms!

I am asking that the wild horses be left in TRNP for generations to come so they can have the opportunity to experience what America stands for, freedom!!

Respectfully,
Brenda Miller
Caledonia, Minnesota

355.

Kayla Turbiville <turbivillek@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 7:19 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Please help to not get rid of the 158 wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The wild horses have been here since before it was a national park, it's THEIR rightful home we need to protect it and them. What an abomination for anyone to think that this would be okay.

356.

Nicole Bowling <nicole.lamps@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 8:05 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hello,

I wanted to submit a story about my trip to Theodore Roosevelt National Park in 2016 and my experience with the horses. Please feel free to use this submission if it will help. Thank you for fighting for them, you have our full support.

Thank you,
Nicole Bowling
Cincinnati, Ohio

My husband and I traveled to Theodore Roosevelt National Park as part of a three week long camping trip that I dubbed "The Great American Road-Trip." As a newly wedded couple, visiting our country's great national parks was a goal that we decided to prioritize during the first years of our marriage. From our home in Ohio we traveled to Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas, stopping at the national parks and monuments in each state.

As we approached the park, we both hoped to catch a glimpse of the famous wild horses that we had read about prior to starting our journey. After arriving at our campsite, we excitedly discussed waking up at dawn to hike the trails with hopes of having an encounter with the herd. That morning, as the mists of early dawn were rising in layers beneath the deep blue of the sky, we walked along the trail and into the painted landscape of the wilderness. As the sun was breaking over the horizon, we saw two photographers in the distance.

As we looked out over the ridge, my heart raced and my spirits soared as we caught our first sight of the spectacular herd of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The photographers that we had previously spotted were kind enough to say hello to us and share some of their stories and encounters with the herd. We heard tales of the different bands of horses, the stallions that watched over their harem of mares, and the individuals that roamed freely over the plains and badlands of the park. It became clear that each one of these beautiful horses were unique individuals, with strong family bonds and with their own stories. There was a wild beauty captured in these majestic creatures that matched the rugged and untamed grandeur of the landscape.

	As I watched this family unit and listened to their stories, a spark of love grew in my heart for the wild things and wild places that continue to endure in our national parks. This tranquil scene was suddenly broken by the appearance of a helicopter looming over the canyon. The horses broke into a stampede as they fled from the potential danger and galloped right towards us. The photographers calmly instructed us to band together as one unit as the herd thundered forward. My heart pounded, my breath caught in my throat, and all of my consciousness was pulled into the present moment as we waited for the inevitable encounter. At what seemed like the last second the herd split around us, sparing us, protecting us. Colors raced by in flashes of brown, white, red, black, and gray as the herd charged onward. As we watched them go, I knew that this would be an experience that would never leave me and that I would carry in my memory for the rest of my time on this earth. Experiences that connect us with the wild power of nature are rare and precious. The wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park will always represent to me the wildness, freedom, and rugged beauty that our national park system was established to preserve. I hope that all visitors to the park will have the opportunity to form their own connection and have their own experience with the horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for years to come. It would be a great loss to the park and to the American people if this opportunity was taken away.

357.	**Genevieve DELCUVE** <gdelcuve@shaw.ca> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 11:14 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I live in Winnipeg, Manitoba and this coming spring we are planning a vacation to New Mexico where we will spend a few days on a guest ranch. The focus of this trip is to enjoy and spend time with horses. On the way back from New Mexico, we are planning to make a two-day stop in Medora to see the horses in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I have been following "North Dakota Badlands Horse" on Facebook and would love to see them in real life. Until now I had taken solace in the fact that the horses in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park are not under the jurisdiction of the BLM, seeing how so many horses have been and still are ruthlessly removed from all the HMAs. Needless to say, I am crushed by the National Park Service proposal to remove the wild horses from Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Ten years ago, I began horseback riding, which brought a lot of joy and gratitude into my life. I have formed a deep respect for these animals. I find that their sensitivity to our moods and ability to pick up on nuances in our way of being are therapeutic, in that they allow for self-discovery. Moreover, as a society, we are indebted to them as they have done so much for us through the millennium. Still today, their tendency to form strong bonds with people and between each other is so inspiring and heartwarming. I believe, therefore, that the Theodore Roosevelt National Park horses, like all wild horses, deserve that we do all we can to let them live free according to their nature. Thank you for reading my plea. Sincerely, Genevieve

358.

Kimberly Stordeur <kimberlystordeur@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 11:25 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I grew up in North Dakota my whole life every summer I would go to Medora with my parents and the National Park was our highlight because of the Wild Horses with the horse loving little girl excitement sparkling in her eyes I left the park with my family with memories for a lifetime left on my heart and with pictures. I grew up into a woman that would work her college years in Medora North Dakota at the Cowboy Cafe for Beth and Kevin Clyde(amazing people) and the Theodore Roosevelt Foundation. Every day after work I'd go out into the park to watch and visit the horses and photograph them . National Park Service you have no idea just how special these horses are and their lineage going back to the Battle of Little Bighorn. Circus aka Ace and the others this landscape is all they ever known. I went to college and met my now husband and I have 2 sons. My parents husband and kids have kept the tradition going alive camping hiking and watching the horses, my sons are always in Awww of them and enjoy seeing them everytime. My horse loving spirit hasn't stopped and my photography passion continues. I want you all to think about all these precious moments with the wild horses we can continue on for future generations, and all the work you guys can do with all the pro horse people involved to keep all the horses and work on keeping the herds young and healthy! It is doable! Please National Park Service do not make the biggest mistake that down the road will your biggest regret because there would be no going back!

359.

Jen Smith <kianainwis1@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 1:03 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I was introduced to the TRNP horses in 2013. A friend of a friend had a couple and my friend was thinking of getting one. As a young girl, I had read Mustang, Wild Spirit of the West by Marguerite Henry. As an avid horse lover, I was intrigued by the thought of gentling a wild horse. My friend so generously said that I could get one too and she would keep the horse for me as I didn't have the proper facility. I got a young mare, Ivy. Ivy was out of Strawberry and sired by Copper. I was hooked. I began following any pages that spoke of the TRNP herd. I wanted to learn as much as I could about them. I loved seeing Ivy's wild family and the beautiful landscape that they lived in.

Ivy proved to be a bit much for my first wild one. I took her as far as I could and then re-homed her to someone with more wild horse experience. However, that did not stop my interest in these horses. In 2016 I adopted a plain brown colt that didn't have many bids. He was born to Cheyenne and sired by Mystery. He is an AMAZING animal and will be my forever horse. I again loved following the pages and learned about his family.

In the summer of 2017, my husband and I were on the way back from a trip to Montana. I talked him into taking the park road to see if we could see any horses. We saw some bison, some prairie dogs, and coming around a corner, some horses! As luck would have it, we drove directly through Mystery's band! My heart was pounding! I was able to see my horse's family! We watched them for quite some time. The foals were just like Dakota and the adults were grazing and keeping an eye on the little ones, while the great Mystery stood guard. We wouldn't have even considered taking time out of our long drive if the horses were not in the park.

	Fall of 2023 we are planning a trip to TRNP. We want to take our horses back to ride in the land that they were born in. We couldn't even imagine the trip without seeing these horses in the park. Please let these horses remain in TRNP. Remove the young ones if you must, but the older horses deserve to die in the way of nature, in their own home, the way that Mystery and Cheyenne did. To see these band stallions, a symbol of strength and freedom, and their families removed to die in a place that they don't understand would be the greatest of indignities. Jen Smith, WI
360.	Several years back I ran across Eileen's Facebook page and became aware of the wild horses at TRNP. As a horsewoman and photographer I decided to find out as much as I could about the wild horses of the west. The closest herd to my home was in Arizona so I took a long weekend and drove to see them. I was hooked. These wild horses brought my husband and I together, (another wildlife photographer and a story for another time). Our trips and vacations have been to photograph wildlife and the wild horses of the different herd management areas. We have photographed thousands of horses in the past few years. We have also adopted a few. I kept telling my husband that we needed to go see the TRNP horses. Finally we did. We made the long trip from SW Oregon last year and absolutely fell in love with the horses and the park. It is by far the most beautiful setting we've seen for photographing and observing horses in the wild. We planned to make this an annual adventure. Removing the horses will be a serious tragedy for visitors to the park and the park as a whole. Where else will you find the wild horses of America in a National Park? I understand management of the horses is necessary but to remove them from the park altogether just doesn't seem like a fiscally sound decision. Instead of removing the horses, the park should be capitalizing on them. They should create a program to enhance education about wild horses to help support the park. Visitation to the park will never be the same if the horses are gone. What a terrible decision and shame.

Kathryn Wheland ©

361.

WILD CHILD SHIIELD_DANA FROM MONTANA_STORY

1 message

DEB LEE CARSON <everseethelight@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 1:59 PM
To: Wild Lands Wild Horses <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

The first time my mom had visited us, in Montana, we went to TRNP. While there, we saw many horses! My mom was more excited than I was and, of course, wanted to bring them ALL home. 🙂 We had no idea there were horses there, but you can bet I started researching as soon as we got home! One of the most informative things I came across was a blog, written by Marylu Weber, telling all about the horses that live inside the park. I read and read. Looked at pictures and shared all the stories with my mom, who was back home in Washington. In early 2013, I got wind of a round up and sale of the wild horses from the park! My mind whirled...I needed to go back and see them again. Maybe I could get one of these beautiful horses?

During this same time, my mothers dementia really started to kick in. She started her stove on fire for the second time! She emailed me that maybe it was time she moved to be with us. Long story short, we made it happen, in the summer of 2014. It was tough on all our family and her friends. Dementia is a slow ride with the devil, and not something I wish on anyone!

The week before the auction, my pal Courtney and I went to the park. When we got to the visitor center we over heard talk of "the helicopter" and "the holding pens". We were both very anxious about what was happening! Once we made it into the park, we found a few horses standing behind a small hill. We trekked up the hill and sat on the ground watching them. Soon, a rustling started in the trees to our right. Out walked the most amazing stud! He was glowing white, almost shimmering! With a mane like nothing I'd ever seen in person. You guessed it! The one and only Gray Ghost. But, he wasn't alone, he was followed by a super sassy red colt! As they walked below us, GG acted as though we didn't exist. The little red colt, tossed his head at us and flicked his tail, before running back to the group we originally saw. What a hoot, and what an amazing thing,

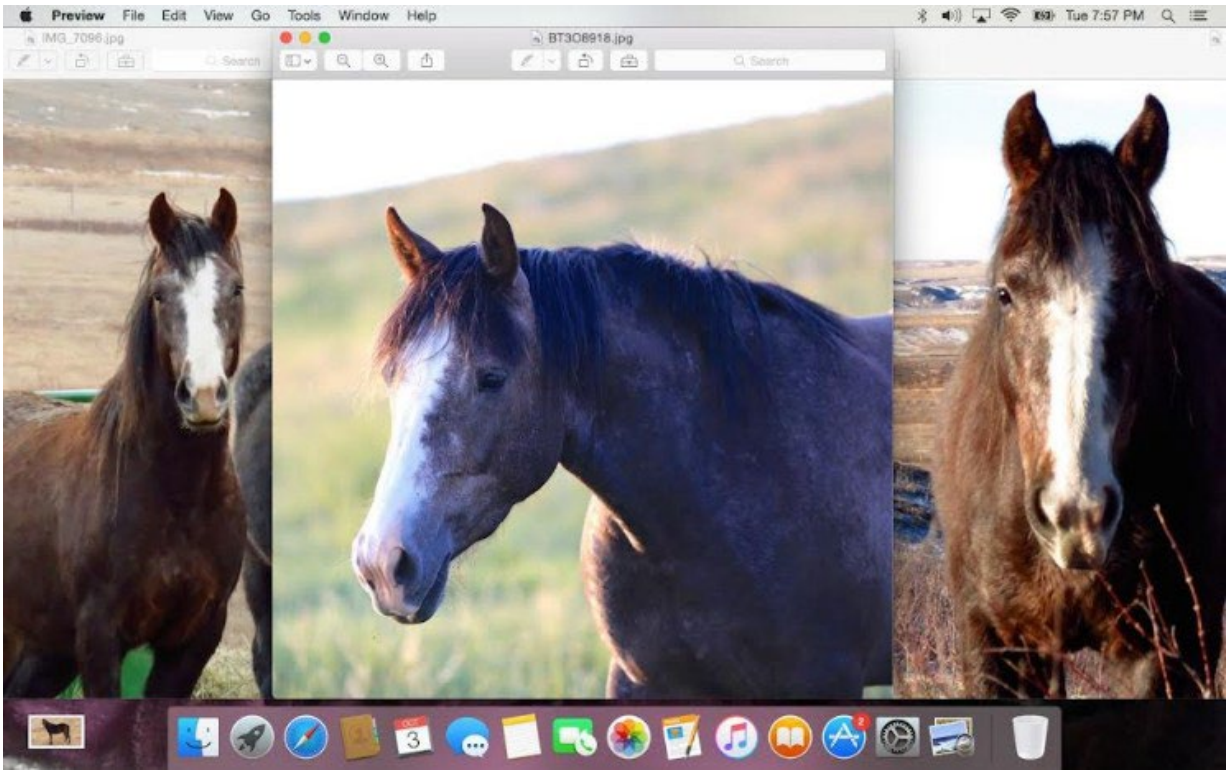
having GG walk right by us! But, soon the atmosphere changed in the park as the helicopter began it's duties of moving horses.... It wasn't long before we saw large groups of horses running up hills and through valleys. All being moved in the same direction. The direction of the holding pens. Talk about a day of mixed emotions. Sadness for all the horses. Worry for all the horses. Anxiousness on deciding to defy Chuck and get one, even though he told me I'd be living in my camp trailer in the field with the horses! What if the kill buyers showed up and nobody else did. The 'what if's' were the worst, for me, and I decided to get one!

I wanted one of those horses. My main concern wasn't on a certain horse, it was just on saving ANY horse that was being bid on by a meat buyer. I was unable to go to Wishek for the sale, but found a wonderful woman named Julie Lander, who lived close and who was also going to bring home a horse or two. Julies friend Tandra was going to the auction and she would bid for me as well. And best part of all, they would get the horse to me! All I had to do was get the spot ready and pay the dues when they showed up! OH and break the news to Chuck! LOL

There were over 100 horses rounded up for the Wishek sale. Mares and foals and stallions. Mares and foals were separated, not sold together. In my mind, a meat buyer would be most likely to get an older stud horse. So, that was what I had anticipated. I was ready for it. I could do it!..... Half an hour into the sale my phone buzzes! My heart was in my throat. I bet this was it.... I opened the text and there is a message and a photo of the horse Tandra bought for me. (I'm such a sap, I am crying while I'm writing this) There on my phone screen was the sassy little red colt who had snubbed his nose at Courtney and I !! The little brat that was bold enough to march around in the trees with his amazing dad, until two humans scared him back to his mommy! A five month old turd that was now coming to live with ME! Not a stud horse that I would never do anything with, except feed and hope to make a pet out of, but a freaking five month old baby! And not just ANY baby, but THE baby that I had just teased and laughed and felt such joy with, a week earlier. Out of all those horses, somehow, Tandra had picked THAT horse for me. His name was Shield. His name is still Shield. The day he stepped off the trailer onto our property was the day my heart changed. It swelled and it tingled and I

swear it opened up!

Shield was a divine gift, that put a shield around my heart! He is the kindest soul. He gives me unconditional love and feels every emotion. He was my saving grace. He rescued me from the horror that was Dementia. The disease that turned my hero, my rock, the only person I looked up to, my Mother, into a complete stranger. I lost my mother in March of 2018. I'm not sure I would have made it through all of our trials, without that amazing little red colt!
**First two photos are from the day Courtney and I sat and watched Shield with Gray Ghost. Just half and hour before they were on the run, from the helicopter.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362.

bobshoemaker@frontiernet.net <bobshoemaker@frontiernet.net> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 2:33 PM

To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Jan 22, 2023

Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP) had long been on our list of National Parks to visit. While we had even passed by on the freeway a couple of times while enroute to or from other destinations we never had it in our schedule to make an actual visit to the park until 2018 as a part of a multiple NP photographic tour including The Grand Tetons, Yellowstone and Glacier with a 2 day visit in TRNP on the way home to Minnesota. With both of us being serious photography enthusiasts, it was a trip with the goal of finding beauty in nature of all sorts including the landscapes, weather conditions, environmental changes such as fire scarring and plant rebirth and largely for wildlife.

As for wildlife, the Grand Tetons, Yellowstone and Glacier NP's yielded some Elk, Moose, Turkey, Deer, Coyote, Bison, Grizzly Bear, and a few other animals and birds but TRNP gave us the rare opportunity to see Wild Horses in their natural habitat behaving and interacting in their own unique natural ways, something that is rarely seen by most people and even less understood by casual observers.

Unfortunately for us our 2 days in the park gifted us several beautiful landscapes but only gifted us with sighting 2 solo horses, one standing in the middle of the road and the second farther into the park standing not far off the road doing the same thing as all horses, wild or domestic, Grazing.
While he kindly raised his head for a moment to take a look at us, enough time for a quick photo, he quickly went right back to eating.
Well this was just enough to have us vow to come back and spend more time in search of the wild horses that fit so well into this varied terrain.

It took 4 years but in September 2022 we made it back for more. This time we came not alone but as part of an adventure tour/workshop with extremely knowledgeable guides, Deb Lee Carson and Jamie Baldanza, from the WildLandsWildHorses foundation.

In the 4 days we were there we saw so many horses even though a large part of the loop road was closed due to erosion issues. It made all the difference having someone that knows not only the park extremely well but who also knows the behaviors of wild horses so well.
It is easy for the casual park visitor to see the landscape and usually abundant Bison and maybe a few Deer and if lucky an Elk. And perhaps on a good day with a little luck they will see some of the wild horses and get a jolt of excitement for a short while.
But getting up early and staying out late taking the time to find the bands with someone who knows where to look and take time to really observe them as they interact within their band and with rival bands is an amazing experience, especially with a guide or guides who know and can explain to you what the different behaviors mean, how the horses communicate and things like the pecking order of the bands. Having been around horses growing up, I can say that I saw a big difference between domestic horses behavior and the natural behaviors of wild horses. The intelligence, strength, rivalry, comradeship, and emotions whether affection or fear. They are all something not only wonderful to observe but also enlightening and spirit lifting.

We pray and we hope that the wild horses will forever be a large part of the park and their contribution to the park be always appreciated by the park service.

I think it would be a great addition to the park experience to have a quality interpretive film showing regularly in the visitor center. One that would tell the story of the wild horse, their history, their contribution to man throughout time, some explanation of wild horse behaviors and so on. It would certainly enhance visitors experience in and of the park and appreciation of the horses. Maybe Deb Lee Carson and Jamie Baldanza could be an integral part of the content production.

Our thanks to them for their guidance and knowledge shared as well as for their efforts in protecting not only the wild horses all over the country but also the heritage and historical contributions of horses to humanity and an unending desire for understanding and truth of the wild horse and how they can coexist in todays world.

Bob & Deb Shoemaker

363.

Carol Goulson <carlog1945@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 3:19 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I support the effort to save the wild horses of TRNP.

Here is My Story,

My one and only visit to the park occurred when I visited my son who was living in Bismarck at the time. At that time we saw several bands in the distance. As a lifelong lover of horses, I was so excited to see them and wished I could have been closer to them. One special memory I have of that time was of a band running across the crest of a ridge; so proud and free. I can still see it in my mind's eye. At the time I didn't know what I was seeing; but it was beautiful and awe-inspiring to witness. It left me with a wonderful memory that I hope others can experience. Later, I learned more about TRNP through the photos and stories of Blaze. I cried for days when he passed; sad but he died wild and free. That is when I learned about the other bands. Since then I have been inspired by all the beautiful photos and stories of all the horses and bands. I follow and look forward to the stories, photos, and seeing the new foals. It makes me happy.

Now, I have been devastated to hear the news about the possible removal of the horses in TRNP. I don't know if I'll ever have another opportunity to visit the park again; but the horses are the only reason I would go back. The loss of the genetically unique horses of TRNP and their history in the park will be immeasurable. This natural treasure will be lost; never to be regained. Once they're gone, they're gone. No going back; no recreating. I pray the agencies and individuals on the committees involved will realize what a loss this would be to North Dakota, the Nation, and globally.

Carol G

364.

Betty Fred <bettyjeanfred@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 3:21 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I moved to ND in Sept. of 2011. The next summer I went to my first Medora Musical. Which was the first time I really learned anything about Theodore Roosevelt. I fell in love with Medora that night. Little did I know just how in love I was. Later in the summer we got the chance to drive through TRNP. I couldn't believe what we saw. From the prairie dogs, to the bison, to the beautiful mustangs. And that is the reason we come back multiple times a year. All year long we follow along with Badlands Horses on Facebook and hear the tales of the horses and who's leading what pack and their names. And then we get to go and drive through and see these actual packs. It is a highlight for my entire family and everyone who comes to visit us in Dickinson. By getting rid of the mustangs, you would be getting rid of Medora. It is their home and if we haven't learned anything from history, we need to stop stepping in and moving species. They will become extinct and all the people of Medora will be the ones paying.
Thank you,
Betty Fred
Dickinson, ND
701.690.6747

365.

Krista Ginger <kristaginger@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 3:30 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing as very concerned citizens regarding the proposed removal of the wild horses from the North Dakota Badlands/Teddy Roosevelt National Park (TRNP). We honestly can't believe that we are having to write this letter, as this herd and their connection to the Badlands and our American history is synonymous. We have followed every Facebook page that shares photos of these horses just to catch glimpses of the beautiful creatures running free in the TRNP Badlands.

We have never been lucky enough to visit in person but now that we are retired, it is on our list of future travels. However, if the herd is removed, so will be our desire to travel to North Dakota. Please don't take these symbols of our history away from us citizens. Please protect these magical creatures for future generations to enjoy as well. Thank you.

[Quoted text hidden]

366.	**Sandy** <sandykp126@yahoo.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 3:35 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I'm writing as I have heard you are considering Removing the wild horses at Teddy Roosevelt National Park. I oppose this action. The wild horses were the reason we wanted to go to the park. I love horses but had ever seen them roaming free. They are amazing! We went into the park from town one evening and watched the animals and the set set. No wild horses until we turned around a bend in the road while making our way out toward leaving the park. Here were two herds crossing the road. We sat and watch them interact up close and as they road away. They were magnificent. Other cars had stopped and watched too. My point is people are drawn to this national park for the horses and other animals. This is the only NPS that I know of that has free bands of roaming horses . Bison and prairie dogs are at several. Your horses are what draw people to this area of North Dakota. I'm sure visitors to Menorah look for them. I was most impressed by this little known National Park. By its rangers, it's trails and history were well represented. I will saw again it was the wild horses that drew me here. Next the story of President Theodore Roosevelt. Last the scenery and buffalo. Medora was an add on. Please leave the wild horses roaming free here were their life stories may be remembered and enjoyed. Thank you, Sandra Poisel Louisville KY Sent from my iPhone
367.	**B Jordan** <limewithenvy@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 4:20 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I've never been to TRNP but I absolutely plan to visit the park to respectfully photograph & take in the wild horses myself. The park has a wealth of visitors who regularly post about the wild horses, their movements, their births, their lives and their deaths. These are much loved animals. Living in Canada, I have enjoyed the wild horses from afar for years. These horses are not escaped livestock & deserve to be free. Please keep the wild horses in the park for future conservationists, wildlife enthusiasts and animal lovers all over the world to follow and enjoy. Sincerely, Barbara Jordan 33 Dawson Road GUELPH, ON CANADA N1H 5V3

368.	**Judy Berger** <fordvalleypits@yahoo.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 4:23 PM Reply-To: Judy Berger <fordvalleypits@yahoo.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> We live in Alaska. Every time we traveled to Alabama and back we always drove through TRNP to see the horses. Im 65 and to see the horses has been a dream since i was a young child. Please leave the horses for my grandchildren to love and see. The horses bring an extra thrill when you see them. Such powerful loving family bands. The love of a stallion who will defend his family with his life. I love them. Judy Berger
369.	**Tracey Aafedt** <taafedt@rocketmail.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 4:30 PM Reply-To: Tracey Aafedt <taafedt@rocketmail.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> Hi I grew up in ND and love the badlands. I used to go there almost every year and drive thru the park. THE main reason I always drove thru the park was to see the wild horses. I don't care how many times I had to make that loop, I wouldn't leave until I saw the horses. There would be a lineup of cars to take pics if the horses were visible. This is just a shame and criminal what they are doing to the horses. I live in OK now, but if there is anything I can do please let me know. Tracey

370.

From: **TIM SPENCER** <tspencer37@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 4:32 PM
Subject: My Story about TRNP
To: <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Last year around May my wife and I made vacation plans to hike around a few places in the Black Hills of South Dakota. We have been there many times in the past because I love to photograph the wildlife there. We planned on visiting The Badlands, Custer State Park and Wind Cave National Park. I then stumbled across a Facebook page called Dakota Grown Photos and fell in love with the photography of the horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I messaged the page and got a response from Tiffany. She was very helpful with information about the horses and the park. We immediately changed our vacation plans to include TRNP. As a photographer of landscapes and wildlife I was so excited to be able to see these beautiful animals that call the park their home. We drove 800 miles and arrived at the park the last week of Oct of last year (2022). The park is such a beautiful place and when we seen a small band of horses near the campground I knew right then that this park was a place we would definitely be visiting many times again. I immediately recognized Teton and Casper from the photos that I've seen. I was in awe at being able to see these magnificent animals in this natural environment. We stayed near the campground for a couple of hours. I used a telephoto lens so I would get to close or disrupt their day. I could have stayed longer but we wanted to see more of the South Unit. A road was closed so we could not complete the circle so we had to turn around. Good thing because we saw many more horses. Again more photographs. I probably took 200 pictures of all the horses and so many more of the bison herd. We were only able to spend 1 day at the park. There was a snowstorm heading in and we wanted to get to Wall, SD that evening.
The day we spent at TRNP is a day I will never forget because of the beautiful horses that live there. When I heard that they might be removed it broke our hearts. I was already making plans to go back there very soon and spend a few days there. If the horses are removed then there really isn't a need to visit there again.

Tim and Denise Spencer
Tspencer37@sbcglobal.net

371.

7012123929@vzwpix.com <7012123929@vzwpix.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 6:05 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Dear Sir,

I would be very sad if the Theodore Roosevelt wild horses are removed from the park. I enjoy the "horse stories" and photos. We have colorful black and white paint mare. I look for other black and white wild TRNP wild horses. My favorite is Circus, a beautiful black and white spunky stallion. He is also 23 years old just like our black and white mare, Moxie. It's wonderful to see social media video clips, photos, and photos of the unicorn park horse, Circus like taking a bath and splashing in the river. He is magical, and should be allowed to retire peacefully as a free wild stallion in the TRNP. I even have a T-shirt from TRNP with "real wild horses" on it. My daughter and her husband hike deep into the park to take photos of the beautiful wild horses. I share the pics like with my horse shoer, who love the photos. Please save the wild horses so horse owners and people who love them can enjoy the videos, photos and stories of the wild horses and their families roaming free!

Thank you, Susan Ness

P.S. I would not go to TRNP to see buffalo but free wild horses Absolutely yes

372.

Claudia Low <ndbhclaudia@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 6:25 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hi ladies. This is my 16 year old granddaughter's story. 2300 miles from the Park in Louisiana!

Claudia Hebert-Low
NDBH BOD

My name is Hannah and I love the beautiful horses in North Dakota!! I'm from Louisiana so I knew nothing about them until my Mimi went to live there. I went there one summer when I was around 12 years old and I loved it. I loved all the mountains, bison, prairie dogs, the whole landscape and everything. Especially since, again, I'm from Louisiana so I had never seen anything like this before. But my favorite thing about my trip to North Dakota were the wild horses. They are so beautiful and the most graceful things I'd ever seen. Just the fact that they live in the wild and thrive on their own and have been for years and years is really a special thing to know and see. The fact that they all have names and can go in their natural habitat and see them in their own state is such a beautiful thing to experience. My Mimi eventually ended up buying one. His name is Whiskey and he's the most goofy, sweet, and cutest thing. He has so much personality and he's so loving. My Mimi now lives in texas but even when I do go to visit, I still thing about how cool it is that he was once a wild horse in the badlands. Before I had gone on my trip to North Dakota, my Mimi would send me pictures of them and tell me their names so when I finally was able to go I was so excited. Seeing them in person, somehow they became even more magical in person. I hope to go back again and visit them again, but I've heard that they are taking them out of the parks and if I'm being honest I don't think the experience will be nowhere near as amazing without them.

373.

Diana Schmidt <dianaluvsphotos@yahoo.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 6:29 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sorry mine is so long. I felt all over the place with it. It's so hard to put everything into words.

Diana

Diana Schnidt

The horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park have impacted the lives of my family in many ways. There is no one story that can define what these horses mean to us and how they have changed our lives. As a family we have taken many family trips to Medora before we knew much about the horses and their history. We would drive through the park multiple times on each trip, the primary thing the kids wanted to see was the horses, and every time one was spotted, it was as if they'd never seen a horse before.

In the spring of 2017, my 13-year old horse loving daughter purchased her first NDBH horse guide at the Minnesota Horse Expo, this was a life changing purchase when she found out every horse had a name, a family, a story. This fueled her passion for the TRNP horses. She was able to now identify all the horses in TRNP and she was hooked! Our next family trip was June 2017. At the end of our 4th and final drive through the park, the girls, Sierra age 13 and Ella age 8 (both total horse lovers) were disappointed that we didn't find many horses, which we all know happens sometimes as they have many places to hide in that terrain. We spotted a pronghorn near the river and decided to get out to photograph it. Then suddenly, Sierra spotted a horse figure off in the distanc and new right away it was the elusive Circus, the girls were beyond excited! He gradually made his way in our direction, drinking from the Little Missouri River, then laying in the water and rolling around, making funny faces and finally crossing to our side. He stopped and looked at us many times and then went up the trail we came down and disappeared. It was quite the magical moment and it was as though he knew the girls needed a pick me up after a discouraging trip for the lack of horses and he alone made the whole trip worth it. We have not had this honor again since as he stays well hidden within the boundaries of the park. This was the start of our annual "hiking for the horses" trips.

Sierra was always an old soul, grown up beyond her years. She followed several horse pages, researched as much as she possibly could so that when she returned to the park, she could identify most of the horses. That fall, we connected with a gal named Claudia on Facebook who knew we were heading out west to find the horses and she kindly offered to meet up with us to help us. It was refreshing to meet up with someone who was willing to spend an entire day with us looking for horses, but she knew just where to go and our daughter was having the time of her life. A true and lasting friendship was formed that day.

During the tough years of junior high and high school, this was the best thing for her. To see your child so passionate about something that has deep meaning and historical significance was amazing. I am not an outdoorsy person who normally enjoys hiking, but when I am there with her searching and hiking for horses, it's the best thing in the world and nothing else matters.

On our hiking trips, we have watched foals that were newly born navigate their new surroundings next to their mother's side, we have watched a band who lost a great mare during foaling complications as the band tried to help the new motherless foal, not leaving her side until she passed. We have watched stallions fighting to keep their mares, and young ones blissfully playing with their siblings. We have met so many amazing people on our horse

journey, restoring some faith in humanity, as we come together to talk about the horses, cry over the horses, or simply watch together with a feeling of gratitude and amazement. We all share a common and deep love for the majestic beauties that run free through the North Dakota Badlands.

One particular day touched our hearts in a special way. We met a family from the Minnesota, which happened to be an older gentleman who had lost his wife a few months prior, and his kids who brought him to TRNP to see the wild horses. The one thing he really wanted, was to see wild horses running. A friend Carol, my daughter Sierra and I spoke with the family for quite some time about the horses, and told them about how a lot of the horses hang out in the open area by the Fryburg exit. The next afternoon while we were out at Fryburg watching the horses, the family showed up and all the horses started running around and carrying on. Seeing how much this meant to the man was the best part of the entire trip. Sierra and I cried as we drove back to Medora to enter the park again, and we talk about this experience quite often. We have also kept in touch with the family and have met up with them again.

The horses have allowed us to meet some pretty amazing people and create forever friendships. For me and my girls it has also given us time to bond, learn and grow together. The horses teach us every time we visit them. They teach us perseverance as we navigate and hike through the rough badlands to meet up with them. They make navigation look effortless as they climb huge buttes and cross massive ravines, it's a bit more work for us, but more than worth it to spend time with them. They teach us how to enjoy and be at peace in wide open spaces as we disconnect from the craziness of everyday life and electronics/social media. They teach us patience as we wait for moments to photograph them living their wild lives, and trust me, a lot of patience is needed as they spend a huge amount of time grazing and resting. They teach us to never give up on family, even when things are difficult. They teach us that friendships can form in unexpected ways. They teach us about history and determination as they continue to thrive in the park through droughts and rough winters. Most importantly, they teach us how to fight. Those of us who love these horses, we won't stop fighting for them. They are a huge and important part of all our lives and the lives of our children and grandchildren. We need them. The future generations need them. They are a part of our soul.

374.

Allison Tighe <tighedyedhair@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 6:40 PM

On rare, privileged occasions, we are lucky enough to see something so beautiful that it literally stops us in our tracks, leaving us without words as we temporarily disconnect from everything else surrounding us.

I was lucky enough to experience this after seeing a photo of what I now know was a horse at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. A gentle voice brought me back to reality. "Have you ever been?" she said. I turned with wide eyes and replied, "Where IS this magical place?"

Imagine my surprise, as a Minnesotan, to learn that this beautiful image came from my neighboring state of North Dakota. As a lifelong horse lover, I was floored. How did I not know this place existed?!?! In that moment, I knew I must go.

Six months later, I was celebrating my birthday at TRNP.
A breathtaking sight greeted me as I entered the park. Nichols and his band stood right in front of my tear-filled eyes --- just as a storm was rolling in. Dark clouds filled the sky, and I couldn't tell if the deep rumble I was hearing was thunder or my own heart beating. Manes swirled and babies rose from slumber as the storm was upon us. Even though the winds were whipping and ice pelted my face, I could've stood there for an eternity.

Over the next two days, I was able to see every horse in park, minus the elusive Circus. The experience was surreal. I felt as though the initial photo that stopped me in my tracks had teleported me there, like some sort of magical dream. To this day, it still brings tears to my eyes every time I remember that it was actually real.

As a hairstylist in the Twin Cities, I spent the next several months sharing with my clients every morsel of information I had learned about the horses, their bands and the beyond-words beauty I was honored to witness. I shared photos, in hopes that they could have a glimpse into the beauty of the magnificent animals.

Of the several hundred people I spoke with, almost all had no idea that horses even existed at Theodore Roosevelt. They were absolutely floored, and several have since traveled there to experience their beauty firsthand.
Seeing such stunning animals in the wild was an incredible gift. The BEST gift actually, and it makes me incredibly sad that something so magical and accessible seems to be hidden from so many, when in all actuality, it should be shouted from the rooftops!

What words can give justice to a truly life-changing experience? They elude me, just as Circus thwarted my hopes of seeing him. What I do have are images I will never forget. Nichols, majestically standing guard during the storm. A standoff between stallions after someone got too close to a sleeping foal. An aging bachelor, living out whatever time he has left in his rightful home. A band, grazing peacefully, as the sky lit up with shades of yellow, orange and pink

I can say for certain that I would have never made the trip to TRNP if it weren't for the horses, and my world is a better place with them in it. I will carry these images in my mind and heart until the day I die. And when that day comes, I hope the other side is just as beautiful.

375.	**Elaine Ferron** <elaineferron@comcast.net> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 6:51 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com We have a very personal connection to TRNP. Our first two trips to the park was all about seeing the wild horses as the park itself. Once in springtime & once in the fall. Our goal was to see the river & foliage at different times of the year. Hoping every year to see the wild horses. I failed to see Circus but was overwhelmed by the sitings of many horses! The photos & videos taken when they graced us with close ups and trips past our park car to the water hole; excited us. Once we even got a foal surprise! They are beautiful & majestic beyond words. This is the heritage of Theodore Roosevelt and it is fitting these horses remain! They fit the nature of the park and we wholeheartedly regret and disagree with your plans to remove them. It is the same cruelty of our government and BLM that has me sponsoring and following wild horses in America. I even scattered my mother's remains where wild horses had lain in Arizona. We will be short and direct… if you remove these horses it will be our last trip to the park. Yes, there is still beautiful scenery and other wild animals but, it shows human cruelty and lack of direction for you to proceed with this plan. We would always remember the loss! It would not be the same without a "Dolly" standing point on a hillside or the hoof beats down to the water. Post CoVid now and our health issues aside we planned a trip to TRNP this spring… but that now is on hold until your decision is finalized. We hear that there is a firestorm of support adrift. We will also contact government officials to see if they can garner support. We plan to use our retirement vacations to see wild horses. We have encouraged younger friends to visit with their children. We beg you to leave them be! Thomas & Elaine Ferron 3951 Fawn Lake Dr. Swiss Twp, WI 54830
376.	**scon@frontiernet.net** <scon@frontiernet.net> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 7:22 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> I have always had a love for the wild horses at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. They are a beautiful part of our history. There isn't much in our country that has been untouched but these horses, that are ancestors of what the natives rode, continue on. They are part of history. Hearing that they could be removed is heartbreaking and does not make sense. They are part of the history that President Roosevelt preserved. They are a legacy and deserve to remain. I do not see a reason why they all need to be removed. They are in a park, not on someone's farmland. They are not doing anything wrong, they live on their own and provide for themselves. We have a grandchild coming soon and I would love to travel back with her someday to see the wild horses. It is so important, to see history in person than just from a book, movie or social media. Connie Kellington

377.

Veronica Clarke <queenievc@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 7:43 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

More than 60years ago, as a child in the U.K. I fell in love with horses. When I was old enough to go to the local library I would seek out any and all horse related books. My favorite were tales of the wild horses and the wild lands they lived on. They fired my imagination as no other books could. I longed to come to the USA to visit them.
I finally got the opportunity, job related to my husband, to come here in 1986 and we made Arkansas our home. I have never lost my passion for seeing these wonderful, iconic and native beings who helped to make this land what it is. I yearned to visit the wild ones that had so fired my imagination as a child. Sadly work constraints never gave enough time to visit and find them, although vacations did allow me to visit many places.

I retired 6 years ago due to health issues, but my desire to visit the horses has never waned. My husband retires this year and we are determined to visit these places in the hopes of seeing these horses for ourselves.

I have followed many social media accounts of them, wonderful photos and accounts of their lives. However, mixed with the good has been the bad. Reports of the decimation of the herds everywhere and the cruelty they have suffered. TRNP was one of the places I learned I could see them so you can imagine my dismay when I learned that the Park Service is going to get rid of the majority, if not all, of the herd there.

Is the area beautiful? I am sure it is as I have managed to get to Custer for a few days - just not long enough to do all the things I would have done if time and circumstances had permitted. However, without the horses that draw me there, I will not visit TRNP, as a vista without the horses thundering across the land, or playing at a river or watering hole, is empty and sad and would only make me sad for those no longer there.

Sincerely

Veronica A Clarke
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378.	**kemmerick4** <kemmerick4@charter.net> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 7:45 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com I am writing to express how important it is to keep the wild horses at TRNP. My husband and I have learned of TRNP through Deb Lee Photography Facebook page. We wish to visit the park to see the beautiful wilds through our own eyes. Through Deb Lee Carson Photography we can appreciate how important the wild horses are to the area. Her spectacular pictures and information shared has spurred our interest to go see and experience the park and area for ourselves. The horses are an important part of history. It is their legacy to be. They are part of the landscape there and a reason for visitors to come to the park. Patricia and Ryan Kemmerick Rochester, MN

379.

Mia Kozitka <miakozitka@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 10:03 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello! I hope I'm not too late in submitting this.

I'm writing to tell my story of how the horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park are very important to me. To remove these wild (emphasize "Wild" - these are NOT domesticated livestock) horses from the park would be a huge mistake. Their removal would impact the park negatively from a historical, scientific, and tourism perspective.

I grew up visiting TRNP, and I've always been a "horse-crazy" girl. I remember going there as a child and my big highlight was driving through the south loop with my family and hoping to spot some of the real wild horses.

As an adult living in Fargo, ND. TRNP is one of my favorite places to go to hike and backpack. There was a many year gap in my 20's where I didn't venture out of eastern ND and Minnesota much. But as I grew older and started hiking more, I decided I wasn't going to wait for friends and family to come with me to go on my adventures. So I started travelling to TRNP on my own for solo hiking and kayaking trips on the Little Missouri River. On one of my first solo trips I launched at Sully Creek State Park, paddled up to my camp at Cottonwood in the National Park where I dropped my kayak at my site, then hiked back to Sully Creek. Along the paddle I almost tipped over my kayak in excitement when I turned a bend of the river to notice a wild horse watching me! I took out my camera and started snapping photos, as the horse (I realized later was the stallion Georgia's Boy) calmly watched me almost go into the river. That was when the magic of these wild horses really sparked me as an adult. After dropping my kayak off at camp, I started the long hike back to my Jeep parked at Sully Creek State Park, on the other side of Medora. As I walked, happily munching on my trail snacks I heard hoof-steps behind me. Naturally I thought it was a bison and spun around, only to see it was the same horse! It was so cool. He must've crossed the river and followed me out of curiosity. I watched him cross the road a ways behind me and trot off. Totally made my day. I didn't know his name at the time (so I just referred to him as "My Buddy"). However, I later found out that he was a young bachelor stallion by the name "Georgia's Boy." Today he has his own band of mares in the park, and he's a proud papa. It has been fun following his story on the "Chasing Horses" and "Wild in North Dakota" Facebook pages, especially after seeing him on that trip in person. I love how these photographers keep track of the horses, and the online community

names these magnificent creatures. Their work following these wild horses really does a lot for the park tourism (the park clearly doesn't appreciate this). I know people who haven't been there, but love to follow the stories of these horses living wild in the park - people who otherwise might not have thought ever to visit ND, but through a connection with these horses want to come and learn more about this beautiful park and its wildlife.

A couple other magical encounters I've had include drinking my morning coffee in Cottonwood campground. Again, this is early May. So the campground is pretty empty. I'm sitting on a picnic table, and I hear a whinny. I turn away from the river to see a gray horse trot through the campground. I later found out this was the stallion, "Teton." This was also before he had his own band, and again it's been fun seeing his story unfold online.

My favorite horse however, is hands down the famous park unicorn, "Circus." I have a black and white paint horse myself so I'm really partial to black and white horses. This magnificent stallion is the same age as my horse, and is an elderly bachelor stallion (22 years old). I spotted him at a distance while hiking with a friend on the Petrified Forest Trail. Circus was standing at the edge of a cliff in the distance shaking his head. I was so excited to see him, as I know he can be quite elusive. Since then I've also come across Xander's band while hiking with my husband. We had our good DSLR and Sony cameras with and got some pretty great shots as the band trotted by.

To remove these wild horses would be a huge mistake for the park and North Dakota tourism. Wild horses in today's world are incredibly rare, and
these magnificent creatures should be cherished. They are honestly a huge draw to the park. Very few places in today's world can you find wild, feral horses. It really is special. They are not domesticated and therefore should not be considered livestock. They are elusive and wild. You wouldn't want to get any closer to these animals than you would to bison. They are wild and should be categorized as such. In fact, these horses were there before the area was officially designated as a National Park in 1947. Scientifically these horses have been traced back to the rare Nokota breed. A breed dating back to Sitting Bull.

To remove these horses would be removing a piece of history from the park. Horses are a critical part of Theodore Roosevelt's story. He came to ND to ranch, and these horses are an essential part of his story and the history of this land.

Mia Kozitka

380.

Norman Nather <cowboyshonorride@yahoo.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 10:52 PM

To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I may need to send this in more than one part, as yahoo doesn't like to allow large files. I have a few photos, and a great video, you may want to post with the text. Marylu also shared my video.

My Theodore Roosevelt National Park story begins in the year 2000; while driving with my father Ken, back to his home state North Dakota, on a trip to visit relatives. While driving east into North Dakota on Highway 94 from Montana, I look over at my 70-year-old father and I see tears rolling down his face. Worried about him, I ask "What's wrong, are you okay?" He smiles while pointing to the Badlands and says, "Nothing's wrong," he pauses and then says, "I am home!" We talked for a few minutes then he said, "In a few more miles let's take the Medora exit and go into the Park, to see if we can find any of Teddy's Horses." At this time, I was 30 years old and I had only visited North Dakota once as a kid, I had no idea what he meant but I am always up to pausing any trip to admire horses.

To fill you in on the back story, about half of this info, I learned for the first time that day as we drove into the park. Poor people who needed horses back then in North Dakota, (as my Dad says "...and we were all poor") had to be resourceful. The locals from hundreds of miles around, who couldn't afford to buy horses, went to the badlands to capture them. At the time, locals referred to the wild badlands horses as "Teddy's Horses." My father was born in North Dakota, on July 22, 1929, on that same day, a filly they named Lady, was born at my great grandfather's ranch near Napoleon ND, 200 miles east of Medora. Great-

grandpa decided that, because this filly was born the same day as his grandson, she would be Kenny's horse and would be given to my father when he was old enough to ride. Lady's mother had been gathered in the badlands earlier that same year. Lady was a speckled white horse who stood about 14 hands tall. That horse helped to raise my father. Sometime in the early 1930s, they needed a team, and found another one of "Teddy's Horses." This one was a blue roan gelding named Tarzan. Tarzan was a tough horse to train and considered a problem horse who had bucked off most everyone, so he was very inexpensive. Tarzan took a liking to my very young dad and was very gentle with him. Dad has lots of stories with Lady, gathering cattle, riding to school, her tripping on a badger hole falling on him, and seeing his first deer as he rode through the pasture. (It may be hard to believe, but deer in the 1930s and early 1940s were not a common sight in most of North Dakota farm country. The tree rows planted after WWII created a habitat that the deer needed to live in the plains.) I remember his other stories of him using Lady and Tarzan as a team, pulling a plow, cutting hay, raking hay, and driving the wagons. When he was about 9 years old, he was raking hay with a dump rake, when something spooked the horses. They took off running and wouldn't stop, he luckily baled off the back. Lady and Tarzan literally ran the wheels off that rake, the harness broke off and the horses returned to the barn on their own. The family never retrieved that old dump rake. Back in 2011, Dad and I drove all over the northern Napoleon area, looking for that old dump rake, but we never found it.

My great-grandfather on my mother's side moved to eastern Montana in 1908. He worked for the Chicago Milwaukee St Paul and Pacific Railroad line, commonly called the Milwaukee Road, as a land salesman. He bought one of his own checkerboard plots in Ismay, MT, about 100 miles southwest of Medora. Unfortunately, my mother's side of the family is long gone, including my mother, but in September we visited Ismay retracing my family history. We spoke to people in that town who knew of "Teddy's Horses" as well.

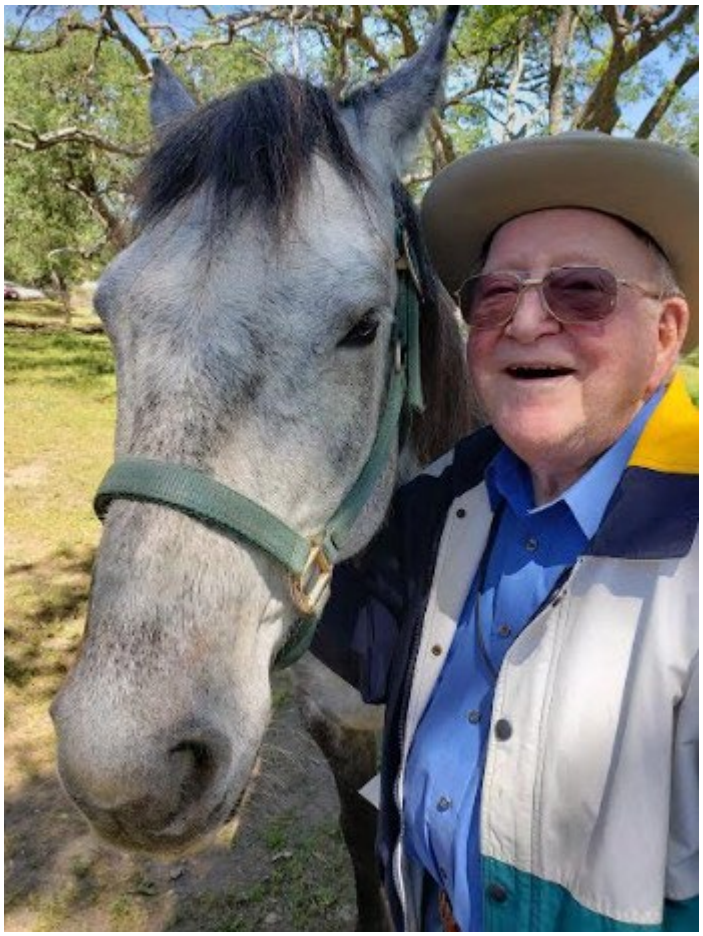
These TRNP horses are a part of most every family's story, in the region of Eastern Montana and North Dakota during the 1800s through 1940s. If you lived in this region during that time and didn't have one of Teddy's Horses, one of your friends and neighbors did have one.

I have visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park a dozen times over the past 23 years. Now, that may not seem like a lot of TRNP visits, but consider that until last year, I lived 1500 miles away from the park. In late 2021, my wife and I moved to Western Montana, where we now only live only 700 miles away. We visited the park in September 2022, and we have intentions of visiting annually to see the horses. The only reason I have ever visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park was to see Teddy's Horses.

In 2012, my wife and I became horse owners. A couple years later, we found out people could adopt some of the horses removed for park population control, so we looked into adopting one. We wanted to continue my family legacy of a stewardship and love for these historic group of wild horses. We did eventually adopt a park horse into our family and have become much more involved in North Dakota Badlands Horse organization. We admire NDBH for their efforts to name, catalog, and help maintain herd sizes in the park. They also follow up and keep in touch with adopters, helping each other and checking in on the care and welfare of adopted horses. Interestingly, the horse we adopted had a few owners before my wife and I gave him a forever home. I had inquired about adopting an NDBH a few years before actually getting one, however; at that time we could not find available NDBH horses that were any closer to us than 2000 miles away, so we put that goal on the back burner. A few years had gone by and I received an email from NDBH, asking if I was still interested in owning an NDBH, that one was available in my area. The NDBH people care about them, even after they get adopted, and will do what they can to keep these horses in loving homes. Of all the wild horse herds in the world, the NDBH organization keeps really good track of the adopted horses and follows up, ensuring the best lives possible for the adopted horses. We love these horses.

Meeting with several NDBH owners at the reunion in September, we met several who have adopted multiple park horses and many who have fostered several as they were looking for a new home.

These horses have caused the Park a lot of free and positive exposure and publicity. There have been a few short films, annual calendars, several books, new social media pages, and several websites, featuring these horses, if the horses are eliminated, the positive publicity will become much less park favorable. Travelers from around the world visit TRNP just to be able to see a glimpse of the Wild Horses. Horse tourism is a real thing. The North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame is located in Medora for a reason, removing the park horses will hurt their organization.

381.

Deborah March <debbiefroggie@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 11:22 PM

To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I moved here from Pennsylvania in 2007, I choice here because I visited Medora and the park and saw the wild horses I grew up watching the Cinatinge ponies in Maryland ..can you imagine if they did away with them? Anyway I am a disabled veteran and do not have to pay to enter the park, but I will not ever go again if the horses are removed or Medora and trust me I spend alot of money there. I have family and friends that come in the summer just to see t he wild horses, for God's sale geld some of the males its not that costly and the herd would not grow so fast and no one would have to be taken out.
BOY TEDDY IS PROBABLY TURNING IN HIS GRAVE .

382.

Richard Rand <dick.rand@gmail.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 11:26 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have never visited the park since I live in Maine and my husband and I no longer travel due to our ages.(77 & 79)

I have followed the horses of the park for many years on Facebook. I have also read the history of the park and on facebook read other TRNP lovers stories regarding the park. People as far away as Europe have come to the park and been lucky enough to see the magnificent horses personally.

What can I say to reflet how so many people feel about the park and its horses.? The park is a true piece of history. Many years ago Theodore Roosevelt had the foresight to create the park so that the land of the park and its many inhabitants would be safe and continue forever to be available for generations of Americans to visit and enjoy.

Foremost of the inhabitants of the park that have drawn visitors to the park of course are the wild horses who live there and have lived there for generations. Every day I open up the FB page for the park and am transported to the park in my imagination. I have learned to love the horses, know their names and their family groups. I have thrilled to the birth of new horses and occasionally cried at the death of one on of the beautiful horses, usually older horses but occasionally nature is cruel and takes horses before their time.

I have read about the various options of what could happen to the horses at the park and to me the only viable one is to leave the horses be and when necessary use birth control if the numbers get out of hand which clearly they are not at present. Cutting the number of horses at the park will in my opinion make the herd unviable due to inbreeding and taking into account the number of horses who die of natural causes each year. Wild horses only rarely live to be geriatric and a number of the horse in the family groups are older and each winter may fall victim to the infirmities of old age.

I follow a number of wild horse herds at other parks which have been subject to helicopter gathers and until recently have felt that at least the horses of TRNP were safe and now I read that in fact they not only are not safe but that they could be eliminated from the park. In my opinion that would take all of the magic from the park and make it much less a tourist destination. The horses who have lived in the park for generations are an integral part of the attraction of the park. Visitors to the park are lucky to be able to observe the horses that many have followed for years.

I hope that the decision will be to let the status quo remain and that no horses are gathered and sold at auction.

Sincerely

Nan Rand
nanrand@gmail.com

383.	**Laurie G** <rideamustangnow@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 6:46 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> In October 2013 there was a round up in the park. The Cloud Foundation and Legacy Mustang Preservation in Louisa, VA somehow were able to rescue about 35 mustangs and they arrived in VA mid October. I arrived the next day for a fundraiser at the farm. I stayed a few days, took lots of pictures of the horses and observed how confused and disoriented they were having been ripped from home, trucked hundreds of miles and now confined to a few acres. It was heartbreaking. Legacy Mustang Preservation did not survive and I wonder now what happened to all those horses.... Laurie
384.	**Carol Thouin** <honk421@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 9:02 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

	MEDORA

THEODORE
ROOSEVELT
NATIONAL PARK
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

My husband and I had the pleasure of traveling to Teddy Roosevelt National Park last summer. On my bucket list was to see wild horses. We recently retired and we could go anywhere and this was a place that was at the top of our list. We loved the quaint and friendly community of Medora but we were blown away at the majesty and beauty of Teddy Roosevelt National Park. When we spied the first wild horse on a ridge in the distance, our hearts began to pound. We saw several herds in our journey throughout the park. We were so excited that we could see horses living wild in their natural environment as they so deserve to inhabit. We also saw Buffalo, which was exciting, but the horses are something very special to the park, and to all the visitors from around the country and world that come to visit the west. These animals make the park even more phenomenal than it already is and should remain a key part of this beautiful, rugged land.

385.	**Crystal Moser** <rcmt@drtel.net> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 9:47 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com My retired husband and I have enjoyed the TRNP since we were very young. The wild horses are a part of the park and need to stay there! Can't imagine a good reason to take them out of the park! Crystal and Bob Moser Sent from my iPhone
386.	**Jeff Marcus** <jeff@marcusweb.org> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 9:49 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> Good day, I know the NPS has received pleas from around the country and perhaps beyond our borders to allow the existence of the wildlife at TRNP. While I agree completely with the pleas to save the wildlife, my comments take a different approach. You know your attendance numbers better than I do. You know the income generated by the tens of thousands of visitors yearly. I ask you, what is the motivation to visit a park that has for so many years been known as a haven for wildlife when the wildlife is gone? As a photographer, I don't need to travel hundreds of miles to capture sunrises and sunsets. I can photograph incredible vistas much closer to my home. I can hike hundreds of trails nearer to my home. What is the draw to TRNP if not for the wildlife? Have you prepared for a stunning decrease in attendance? That surely will happen as word spreads. And what of the surrounding communities that rely on TRNP visitors for food, lodging, and related tourist services? Should your decision be to reduce or eliminate the wildlife at the park, it won't be long that you'll be reducing staff and services. There will be nothing TRNP offers that my local National parks do not. The consideration to abandon the primary draw to the park is ludicrous and financially a disaster for the employees of the park who are no longer needed and the communities who rely so heavily on the park's visitors. Jeff Marcus Red Wing, Minnesota Jeff@marcusweb.org

387.	**Debbie Larson** <dkls57@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 1:25 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> First thing, thank you for fighting for our wild Mustangs! I have never been to TRNP and hope too someday! The first moment I laid eyes on Blaze, and the first moment that Deb Lee Carson "popped" up on cyber-space, was my FIRST encounter with these AMAZING, BEAUTIFUL creatures! I knew I wanted to see more of them. So, I started following Deb. It is so unbelievable that they are throwing them in to the "livestock" category! #1. Wild Horses are not livestock, they are Native Wildlife. #2. They are not an economic asset & not "kept" for pleasure...they are Wild. In fact they are not "kept" at all, let alone used. #3. The independent living free-roaming horses of the park-call them wild or call them feral-are NOT livestock. I will do my best to fight for their FREEDOM to stay WILD for future generations. Sincerely, Debbie Larson
388.	**From:** boylekathrin@gmail.com **Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2023 3:15 PM **To:** info@atwildlandswildhorses.com **Subject:** TRNP public comment submission Please see attached file! Katie

WILD HORSE HERD OF THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK

PUBLIC COMMENT:

I am writing to the address the TRNP Livestock Management gather plan for the free-roaming Wild horses that occupy the historic landscape of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. President Theodore Roosevelt was a politician, statesman, soldier, writer, conservationist, naturalist and historian. He was also an avid outdoorsman who loved horses and to ride. In 1898, he served as a Colonel in the Army. While there, he started the first volunteer Calvary later known as the "Rough Riders." He later wrote about the infamous Rough Riders, and it eventually ended up on silent film somewhere in the archives.

My own story starts in 1974, when I was 10. It was the year I learned there was such a things as Wild Mustangs and Burros. Then I learned about the government's adoption program in a Social studies class. It is the year my love affair with horses started full-time. I would draw them, ride them and of course daydream out how I would be adopting a wild mustang or two someday. That year was also the year that my parents, siblings and I went on our biggest adventure yet with a Ford Explorer camper that slept all 5 of us, very snugly. That 2-person tent came in very handy on our 5 week adventure out west! This was The BIG Trip for our family and my parents planned very carefully where and what we would see. We all had a say in what we would go see, and mine was always to find wild horses. I didn't care where, I just wanted to see them. I was that girl who asked for a horse every birthday and Christmas. I always got a very nice Breyer Horse and have a big collection. We went to see the Chincoteague Ponies swim down in Maryland, on a previous "Southward" trip. We saw all of the "Popular" National Parks, Yellowstone, Bryce and Zion, but no wild horses. The closest we got to Theodore Roosevelt National Park was Mount Rushmore. In the years since, I have seen the Corolla North Carolina wild horses, and signs for wild horses in Nevada, but never saw the wild mustangs.

It is my hope to do just this by renting an RV and hitting every single National Park in the U.S. Just like many tourists that come to this park to see the wild horses, I am also excited to see this herd. It is because of our 26th president that we have any National Parks, National Forests, Bird Reserves, game reserves and national monuments. Because of whom he was, I do not think he would be in agreement with reducing this genetically unique herd. If it is reduced too much you lose genetic viability which is crucial to continuing a bloodline and will eventually lead to total extinction of the breed. It would be such a travesty of justice to do go ahead with this reduction of the herd considering what President Theodore Roosevelt himself, stood for. His legacy can be found in the National Parks across the US.

389.

Nellie Ralston <ralstonnellie@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 10:12 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have never been to the Park myself but a friend from Facebook post about it all the time with pictures and writes pages on the horses their.
I feel very privileged to be able to see and read about such amazing animals that are able to live there lives their.
I was close to there a few times on some trips with my Church.
My friend Claudia Herbert-low has kept me up on the goings in at the park.I would hate to have the life that these horses know taken from them.
I am a 75 year old woman with a lot of health issues who enjoys seeing these majestic animals running free through the eyes of Claudia.
Thank you for at least reading this .Please don't take them away.
Always a horse lover.Nellie Shannon

390.

Musland, Keyahna <keyahna.musland@ndsu.edu> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 5:10 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Here is a story about my families connection to the TRNP!

My name is Keyahna Musland, I am currently a first-year student at North Dakota State University studying Biomedical Sciences with an emphasis on the Pre-Veterinary route. I am writing to you to share my family's connection with the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The wild horses in the park create a landmark in our state and have formed memories with people across the nation. The removal of these horses would be detrimental to the people and the park. I can't speak for others, but I can for my family and myself about our experiences with the wild horses of North Dakota.

My family visits the park yearly to go riding with our personal horses. Many people go out to the park to go hiking and see the scenery, but for my family we make the trip to see the wild horses. Annually, my family makes the trip out to Medora with a trailer full of horses to go riding in the park to get a better look at the wild horses in their natural state. Going out to see the wild horses has formed into a family tradition over the years that started well before I was born. I just happened to fall in in love with them the same way as my grandfather did over 70 years ago. The fondness that my grandpa holds for the wild horses of Medora has been passed down the family line like a hereditary trait. The wild horses have created so many memories for me and my family that we cherish to no end. We have even started to get to know the wild horses by name and have had the opportunity to see them grow from a tiny, high-hearted colt, into a powerful spirited mustang.

My family has shared many memories at the park but one of my favorite things about going to see the wild horses is the journey to find them. Taking on the path going up and down the rocky trails on horseback hoping to get a glimpse of them over each butte. At the same time stories are being told, laughter is in the air, memories being made, and everyone is trying to be the first one to spot the wild horses. Then finally, making your way over a hill, there they are. The wild band of horses galloping around experiencing true freedom. There is always a silence in the air of the group that went out as everyone takes in the breathtaking view. You can hear the thunder of their hooves and the snorting of the stallion keeping the herd of mustangs together and warning others off. That feeling of seeing those mustangs in the natural like that creates a sensation like no other.

Out in the park these wild horses experience a pure freedom that would be irreplicable if they were to be removed from the park. Within the park, the horses can follow their natural instincts and live happily. The love my family and I hold for these wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park is unparalleled. Seeing these mustangs removed from the park would be heartbreaking.

Musland, Keyahna <keyahna.musland@ndsu.edu> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 5:31 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Here are some pictures of my family there to go along with the story!

Me when I was little and was so mad I wasn't old enough to go on the big trail ride to look for the wild horses!

My Grandpa, dad, and I all riding out in the badlands!

My grandpa who is still riding out there at 79 years old and is in love with the TRNP horses!

My dad and I riding out to look for the wild mustangs!

Me with the TRNP wild mustangs!

391.

Aurum Canine Services <aurumcanineservices@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 5:45 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I always had been fascinated by horses. Growing up in the suburbs of St Paul, Minnesota and San Diego, California; my ability to interact with horses was pretty limited.

As I grew older, I struggled with disabilities that started to show in my late teens. After a head injury and a yearlong stint of physical therapy to be able to walk unassisted with a cane, my physical therapist recommended that I look into horseback riding to keep core strength. I was intrigued to have encouragement to have a horse and I purchased my first horse, a quarter horse named Marvel. Marvel unfortunately was not sound, so, he was retired to the pasture.

I started to look into horses that were "sturdy" and healthy. On one such search, I came across the North Dakota Badlands Horses page and was quite intrigued. There were so many passionate, friendly people to talk more about these historic horses. Quicksilver, a little colt, joined my life in September 2016. He spent some time training with Travis of Walk By Faith Therapeutic Riding, before coming home to grow up.

Quicksilver is always the first to come up to the gate when we visit, and the last to leave. He has a puppy dog personality - enjoying neck scratches and interactive toys. He can be lead around without a halter and lead rope, just follows to see if we may engage in a training session. Quicksilver has participated in a few of the Minnesota Horse Expos, delighting many with his affection and silliness.

After finding such an amazing horse, we've shared his story with many others, who have fell in love with these group of horses as well. I was amazed by the gentle, caring nature of the North Dakota Badlands Horses. My husband and I have visited the Theodore Roosevelt National Park numerous times to see more of the North Dakota Badlands Horses to document and learn more about their stories, which we have shared with many. Quicksilver has changed many preconceived notions about trainability and friendliness, to which we now have had several interested people going out to visit the park to preserve this American symbol.

Not only does Quicksilver help with my mobility, he also teaches the dogs through our service dog program on how to interact with horses. He is everything I could have ever wanted or dreamed of. I cannot imagine my life without him now.

392.

KMM <kyrissamorigeau@hotmail.com> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 6:32 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Our TRNP Wild Horse Story begins in January of 2015 when two of my daughters, Daytona and Holiday, at the ages of 4 and 6 started to take horse riding lessons. All it took was one lesson for them (and me) to be absolutely smitten with horses. By the late spring of 2016 Holiday started asking me if we could go see "wild horses." At the time, I knew very little about wild horses and where they could be found within the United States. A quick hashtag search of #wildhorses on Instagram led me to Jamie of @thismustanglife. Through her beautiful images we discovered the magnificent wild horses that call Theodore Roosevelt National Park home.

Before I came across Jamie's Instagram account I'd never even heard of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Yet, just over a month later, in July of that same year, my husband and I loaded our 4 kids into the car and equipped with the 2016 Guide to the Wild Horses of TNRP, made the 18-hour drive from Washington state to North Dakota with the sole purpose of seeing the wild horses. On our first day in the park we drove the Loop Road and saw a lot of horses but most of them were far off and my kids took turns viewing them through binoculars. As we were heading out of the park we saw the backside of 4 horses standing on a grassy knoll overlooking prairie dog town so we pulled over to watch them as this was the closest we'd come to any horses all day. I started taking pictures and as we watched all four horses – Cloud, Chubby, Flicka and Holly, turned in our direction and were looking directly at us. It literally stopped me in my tracks and all I could do was lower my camera and stare back. I looked at my girls and the pure awe on their faces was priceless. No matter how many horses you've seen, I don't think anything compares to the feeling of seeing a wild horse living free in nature, untethered by the demands and expectations of humans. For me it was exhilarating. As we continued to observe them they meandered down the knoll and briefly out of sight as they entered a dip in the terrain. Within a few minutes we saw the tips of 4 ears and then 4 more as they came back into sight heading in our general direction with Cloud leading the way, followed by Chubby, Flicka and Holly bringing up the rear. Suddenly, a tiny foal (who we had not glimpsed before this time) came shooting from the rear, galloping as fast as her spindly little legs would carry her. In the next second Chubby started charging after her. At this point, with our hearts beating out of our chests, we made a quick and nervous retreat to the car as we were fairly certain the ground between us and the horses

could be covered very quickly even though they were at least a football field's length away. Talk about adrenaline rush! As the rest of the herd caught up to the foal, (who we later learned was a filly named, Maryland, belonging to Holly) my girls were transfixed by the action playing out in front of us. The adults settled into grazing and Maryland was rambunctious and tenacious, circling around them. My girls watched, eyes wide open and huge smiles plastered across their tiny faces. I will never forget it.

We spent two more full days in the park, waking before sunrise and heading to the park in the cool dark of the morning, with windows rolled down and heads sticking out to see who could spot the first horse. We had close encounters from the car when we rounded a bend and Teton's band was grazing right near the road and another when Cloud's band was meandering down the road in front of us and far off sightings from Bucks Hill. We were thrilled to find the old sentinel Singlefoot, with his beautiful blue eyes, grazing alone near a rock face and sweet little colt Puerto Rico of Teton's band became the family favorite. We spent the entire day in the park, sun up to sun down each day and quickly realized that we should've planned to stay for longer. Three days was just not enough.

To this day, my girls will thumb through the 2016 Guide and reminisce on our trip and wonder how the horses are. I continue to follow many Instagram accounts dedicated to the horses in the park and even accounts of some who've been adopted out. We have not been back to the park since, but have talked about wanting to visit again many times. We've been seriously considering a trip back this summer and I'm heartbroken thinking that the park is considering removing all of the wild horses. For us, without the wild horses there is no reason to go back, they are what put Theodore Roosevelt National Park on the map for us. The absence of their presence from the park is unimaginable and will be devastating if it becomes reality.

Kyrissa

393.	**zelmarah** <zelmarah@activ8.net.au> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 7:08 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Hi Deb and Jamie....Have been meaning to send this email for a a few days so sorry about the delay.....Apart from seeing the horses in the park and the beautiful badlands which took a piece of my heart and soul in 2015 it is still there I am sure following the horses around as they traverse those buttes and valleys...The social media report that absolutely touched me to the core was the photograph of the bison saying their goodbyes to Grey Ghost (who also stole my heart when I saw him) this photo to this day still stirs so many emotions cant put them into words...I know people say that animals do not do that sort of thing but they obviously have never witnessed anything like this..I know when I lost my beautiful Chia to a paddock accident a few years ago..his paddock mates came over and stood with me and his body and each one in turn licked him and blew softly in his face and my goodness I have to say it was so spiritual like being on a different planet...my husband stood back and took quite a few photos..but after he had gone and I turned to leave..one of the boys came back and stood very quietly and repeated the process and just stood by himself for a little while then quietly turned and walked away...this moment was obviously not meant to be captured and was just his moment alone...sorry about the diviation... getting back to the bison and Grey Ghost...I am sure that these animals being such spiritual animals in native american culture....were indeed saying their goodbyes to him and had in all probably grazed by his side at times throughout his life in the park...and were honouring him in their own way and wishing him well on his journey to the other side..I am sure he is one of the stars that shines down on the park..I know the probability of seeing this is rare but people should be allowed to be able to visit the park ,horses , bison and all the other wildlife and witness the beautiful and sometimes not so beautiful moments of the interactions of these animals..we the human race can learn so much about the circle of life from this..I hope from the bottom of my heart that park officials do actually listen to the people who have shared their experiences and let the horses stay...so that if I get back there someday these wonderful beings will still be there... please feel free to edit this rather long drawn out response...cheers Hazel from Australia...have a beautiful day...

394.

Red Falcon Ranch <redfalconranch@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 7:41 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I first learned of the wild horses in TRNP through my daughter, Rachel Abraham. She saw the Nokota horse booth at the Minnesota Horse Expo and was hooked on the story of this former TRNP herd in North Dakota. At 12 years old, Rachel saved her own money and bought a TRNP horse that another person had bought at a roundup auction in 2009. After buying Autumn, we had to visit the homeland of this beautiful young horse.

Through Autumn, we became friends with several advocates for the horses: Eileen Norton, Marylu Weber, and Deb Carson. They took Rachel under their wing and she spent several weeks every summer tagging along with them as they documented the horses. She studied alongside them and knew then that she would enter a field that involved these magnificent horses. She had the opportunity to meet Blake, the TRNP biologist, one of those summers, and he encouraged her to pursue her degree. Rachel will graduate from the University of Idaho this spring with a degree in Wildlife Resources, and a double minor in French and Rangeland Ecology Management. How sad that the very horses that guided her path in life are now at risk of being no more.

The North Dakota Badlands were the love of Teddy Roosevelt's life. To quote Teddy, "I have always said I would not have been President had it not been for my experience in North Dakota". My daughter, Rachel, pursued her university degree because of these horses. How many more people out there have had life changing experiences because of these horses? I am sure all of the people writing on behalf of keeping the horses in the park have similar experiences to share.

The TRNP horses have had a powerful impact on my entire family. We have spent countless hours in the park watching the horses in their natural environment - a place that has been their home long before the land was a park. Generation upon generation of horses have lived in these beautiful badlands. We have been fortunate to witness these horses where they belong.

North Dakota has a legacy in these horses and removal of the horses should be taken with extreme hesitation and caution. The reasons should be carefully weighed to make sure that the American people are not robbed of the legacy of their wild horses in TRNP. In the park that is Teddy Roosevelt's namesake, we must remember that he said, "Our duty to the whole, including the unborn generations, bids us restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations." The decisions made today impact not only my generation and my children, but my grandchildren and great grandchildren - the unborn generations that Teddy Roosevelt was talking about.

The horses are the biggest draw to the park for my family. I want to take my grandchildren there some day to watch the horses living wild and free. Removing the horses takes away this treasure from not just today, but also from tomorrow. Removing these horses will forever remove the heritage of horses on these lands. Once done, it can not be undone. How sad will be the day there are no horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I add my voice to the many who say KEEP THE HORSES IN THE PARK! Do not ignore the voices of the people. I ask you to work with the horses, not against them. Do not rush to removal and make the biggest mistake ever made in TRNP.

Many thanks,
Angela Abraham
249 Caprine Lane
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
208-597-5110

395.

Cindy Sandvick <c.sandvick@finleyusa.com> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 7:43 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Theodore Roosevelt National Park has always been my "Happy Place"! Why, you ask? It is because of the beautiful WILD HORSES! I love the beauty of the Badlands and love to drive thru the park on a warm summer day or a snowy sunny day. It doesn't matter, AS LONG AS I GET A GLIMPSE OF THE BEAUTIFUL WILD HORSES! The thought of Flax, Teton, Dolly, Circus, Taylor and all the other wild horses getting round up for slaughter, or to sell just makes me sick! The thought of the Park Service considers them as Livestock and not Wildlife is absolutely stupid! These horses have been in the park before it became a park. Tourist travel from near and far to drive thru the park in hopes of seeing the wild horses. I go to the park as much as possible, and I will see Bison, deer, coyotes, and other wildlife, but if I don't see the wild horses, it is a HUGE disappointment and I feel that the day thru the park was not successful. If the horses get removed, I will not go to the park ever again, no matter how beautiful the Badlands are. I have talked to many other people that have the same sentiment that I do. The park will lose a huge number of tourist by removing the horses. They are harmless. They don't hurt anyone, they stay our of peoples way. They are not mean like the Bison. A tourist can get out of their car to photograph a wild horse grazing in the ditch or on the hillside. A tourist would be crazy to do that if a Bison was near by. PLEASE SAVE OUR WILD HORSES! HAVE THEM STAY IN THE PARK FOR GENERATIONS TO COME! It has been my dream to be able to take my little granddaughter to the Park to show her the horses when she get older. I will lose that opportunity if they are removed. WILD AND FREE IS WHAT THEY SHOULD BE!

FINLEY ENGINEERING
INTEGRITY INTO EVERYTHING

Cindy A. Sandvick

OSP Project Coordinator

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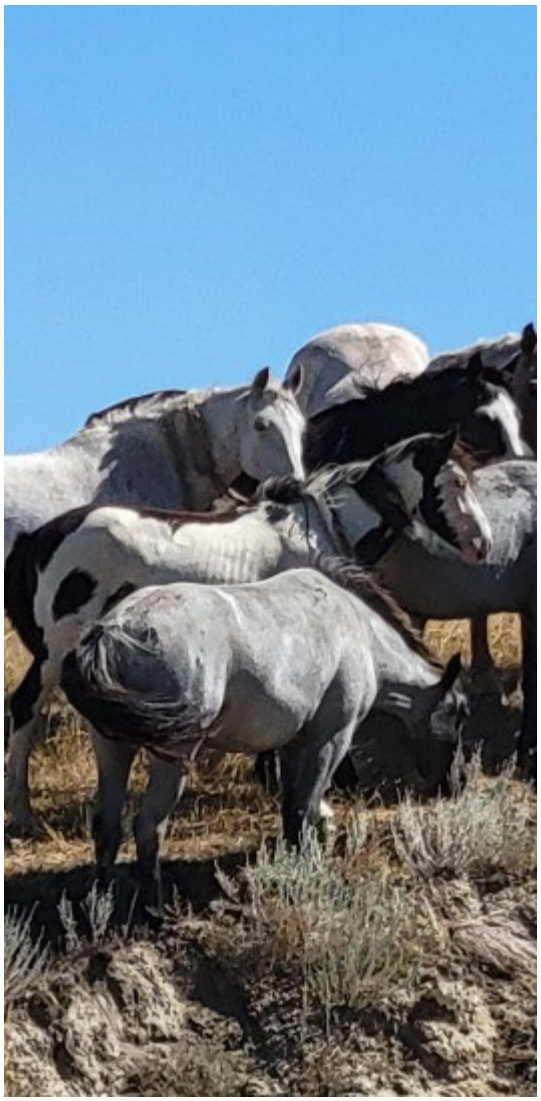
396.

Tina Hartmann <quarterhorsesforever@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 8:37 PM
Reply-To: Tina Hartmann <quarterhorsesforever@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: "Tina Hartmann" <quarterhorsesforever@yahoo.com>
To: " info@wildlandswildhorses.com
Sent: Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 7:14 PM
Subject: My trip to Theodore Roosevelt National Park

My name is Tina Hartmann, I have been following a couple of groups on the Wild Horses for several years now. And this one in particular when I first started following it, this picture of this Sorrel Overo caught my attention. It was has if I was looking at my Sorrel Overo Paint gelding Red Clouds Boy who I raised from a yearling until he passed away in 2004 he was 20 years old. I had to find out more about this horse, I learned her name was Mare Strawberry. Then I saw 2 beautiful black Stallions who happened to be father and son Mystery and Gunner. And then I see this beautiful black and white Stallion named Circus. So I thought to myself I have to get to this Park to see these beautiful horses. Unfortunately Mystery had passed away in an accident. The gorgeous mare Strawberry then had her foal who was absolutely gorgeous. As I am looking at him I couldn't believe how much he looked like my paint horse mother. When I heard that Strawberry had passed away at the age of 20 it was like losing my paint horse all over again. In August of 2022 last year me and my sister took the trip of a life time to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. We drove 1200 miles from Missouri. I got to see Strawberry's son Boomer and Amite, I saw Gunner and his father's mares, I saw Arrowhead and his ladies. And a bunch of the other families. I was in Heaven it was so peaceful, relaxing to be around all of these beautiful horses. I took so many great pictures of the Horses. The couple who took out to see the horses were awesome people. I am wanting to make this trip again this summer so I can get that little bit of Heaven and peacefulness. But if the Park gets rid of the wild Horses I will not be going back ever. I will not be spending lots and lots of money in that cool little town of Medora which I absolutely love. Here are some pictures of that awesome day. Plus the one of my horse who could have passed as a sibling to Strawberry and his mother.

397.

Zach Hochhalter <zhochhalter34@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 9:02 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hi all,

I am forwarding this story from my grandparents Durward and Phyllis Otterness. Both are life long North Dakota residents who have lived their 95 and 85 years respectively all in the state.

The badlands of North Dakota belong to us who live in North Dakota with its rugged beauty and the wild horses.

We have memories of going to Medora and the park from our childhood (75-80 years ago) and many times since then with our children and grandchildren.

Our goal in driving to the badlands has always to see the horses, even if they can be hard to spot from the car.

We have been given books that record generations of the horse families including the new foals.

In our most recent trip, there were three horses just below the road and it made it easy for us to get a closer look and a picture. What a joy to see them! They are part of the heritage of the park.

We like to think the wild horses are unique to the park. Beautiful pictures document the horses and celebrate their history in the park. As life long dairy farmers we realize how much attention is required for animals, and it is worth it! Horses have always been a part of our lives.

The wild horses represent one of our favorite memories of the park throughout decades of visits. Memories that will stay with us long after our trips to the park have ended.

Durward and Phyllis Otterness

Tower City, North Dakota

398.	**zelmarah** <zelmarah@activ8.net.au> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 10:03 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Hi Deb and Jamie....Have been meaning to send this email for a a few days so sorry about the delay.....Apart from seeing the horses in the park and the beautiful badlands which took a piece of my heart and soul in 2015 it is still there I am sure following the horses around as they traverse those buttes and valleys...The social media report that absolutely touched me to the core was the photograph of the bison saying their goodbyes to Grey Ghost (who also stole my heart when I saw him) this photo to this day still stirs so many emotions cant put them into words...I know people say that animals do not do that sort of thing but they obviously have never witnessed anything like this..I know when I lost my beautiful Chia to a paddock accident a few years ago..his paddock mates came over and stood with me and his body and each one in turn licked him and blew softly in his face and my goodness I have to say it was so spiritual like being on a different planet...my husband stood back and took quite a few photos..but after he had gone and I turned to leave..one of the boys came back and stood very quietly and repeated the process and just stood by himself for a little while then quietly turned and walked away...this moment was obviously not meant to be captured and was just his moment alone...sorry about the diviation... getting back to the bison and Grey Ghost...I am sure that these animals being such spiritual animals in native american culture....were indeed saying their goodbyes to him and had in all probably grazed by his side at times throughout his life in the park...and were honouring him in their own way and wishing him well on his journey to the other side..I am sure he is one of the stars that shines down on the park..I know the probability of seeing this is rare but people should be allowed to be able to visit the park ,horses , bison and all the other wildlife and witness the beautiful and sometimes not so beautiful moments of the interactions of these animals..we the human race can learn so much about the circle of life from this..I hope from the bottom of my heart that park officials do actually listen to the people who have shared their experiences and let the horses stay...so that if I get back there someday these wonderful beings will still be there... please feel free to edit this rather long drawn out response...cheers Hazel from Australia...have a beautiful day...

399.	**Benton, Graham** <Gbenton@csum.edu> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 10:39 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> From Helena Kriel and Graham Benton In 2022, we traveled to TRNP with the specific purpose of seeing the horses and experiencing the herds. We had heard about the park from mutual friends who are horse lovers, and we were curious and enthusiastic to learn more about wild herd behavior. We traveled from Minnesota and California to the park expressly for this purpose. And although the park contains many points of wonder and fascination, the horses far surpassed the other natural and cultural attractions. We were struck by the horses in their habitat and have never seen anything like it anywhere in all our travels – we left filled with awe and wonder that has not left us to this day. We have plans to return to the park this year to introduce other family members to the park, the horses, and the Badlands. Our family members are scientists and very interested in learning more about wild horse behavior. We cannot imagine that the horses could pose a threat to habitat for other species that would justify equine removal from TRNP. We also cannot imagine coming to a park without horses and would certainly cancel our trip if they were removed. From a customer service and tourism perspective as well as an ecological one, we are extremely confused and concerned that park staff would even suggest removing the horse herds. Please preserve this unique, beautiful, and scientifically relevant resource of wild herds for future generations to learn from, love, and enjoy. Dr. Helena Kriel and Dr. Graham Benton
400.	**ssshorselover@yahoo.com** <ssshorselover@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 10:54 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

By: Sierra Schmidt

The horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park have helped to shape and mold me into the young adult that I am today. I have learned so much about them as I have followed them through the years. They really can be easily related to humans, and I find that we have more in common with them than many would think. The horses protect one another, put their family first, fight for one another and show unconditional love.

I have visited the park since I was about 3, I am now 19. The first concrete memory that sticks out in my mind is when I saw Cloud's band walking down the road near the prairie dog town. They walked single file down the road, with the young one walking between them as if they were protecting it. At the time I didn't know the horses had names, but every trip we took, I remember looking for the horse with the big white face and white on his sides.

In early spring 2017, I purchased my very first NDBH horse guide. I was excited to learn that they had names and I studied the guide to try and memorize as many horses as possible before our family trip in June. The guide was a huge help in identifying the horses, but we were still amateurs and didn't know quite how to find a lot of the horses, so sadly we didn't see as many as we would have liked. We were blessed, however, to come across the elusive Circus on our way out of the park.

My parents planned a trip for October to bring me to the park solely to find the horses. We met up with Claudia, whom my mom chatted with on Facebook when she offered to help us locate them. We had the best time hiking with her, and it felt like we knew her forever. We talked a lot about the horses and learned that there are many others just like us who quickly became obsessed with hiking for and photographing these magnificent horses of the North Dakota Badlands.

It didn't take me long to find all the Facebook pages of others like me who loved them all so much. We all share information with one another, we share our stories – some that bring us smiles and laughter, some that bring us tears and sorrow. We learn from one another; we grow together, and we will continue to fight together to keep these horses in the home where they belong.

My plan for the future has been to eventually move to western North Dakota to be closer to the park so that I can continue to follow, document, photograph and share these horses with everyone who loves them, near or far. It is important for my generation to be able to have a place to go for peace and tranquility, and to be able to sit for hours watching the horses living out their lives wild and free.

401.

Christine Messerli <messerli.christine@bluewin.ch> Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 4:34 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I live in Europe but have visited the USA, my secret dream country, three times so far. Since I follow many great photographers on Facebook who document the life of the Mustang in the different HMA's, it is my biggest wish to make a trip just to the horses. Especially to spend a lot of time in the TRNP, which I love because of its impressive landscape. The idea of not seeing wild horses there, of not hearing their snorting and the thundering of their hooves, breaks my heart and is unimaginable to me. I take a lot of photographs myself and paint and draw, especially horses. I fear that soon it will no longer be possible for me to paint mustangs in the wild, which is a great wish of mine. The impending fate of these wonderful animals is difficult for me and many other concerned people to bear. Many tourists and visitors from home and abroad will then, like me, forego a stay in a TRNP without mustangs. Apart from the tragedy for the animals, it would also be a great loss for all the local people who live from tourism. Can this really be what is wanted? I hope from the bottom of my heart that reason will prevail and the herd will be allowed to remain in TRNP. Otherwise, I am sure Teddy Roosevelt would turn over in his grave with anger.

PS Heather White from "Memories Captured in Time Photography" on Facebook gave me the permission using her photos as ref. for paintings/drawings. This is a small sketch of Mare Dolly with foal Oakley. Will I ever get to see these two in their habitat????

Christine Messerli
Eggweg 11
CH-3065 Bolligen
+41 78 802 39 78
messerli.christine@bluewin.ch

402.

judy hawn <judyafh@yahoo.com> Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 10:45 AM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello,
My name is Judy, and I am from Illinois. I have not had the great pleasure of seeing our wild horses in person, so my story may not be so great. However I began loving horses as a child. Our family would watch all the old western shows on TV every night. You will know of some of them. Gun Smoke, Rawhide, Paliden, Bonanza, and more.

Yes, I loved the horses on those shows, though I had none in my life. It bothered me greatly that every time I did see a horse, he was always strapped to something, or saddled. To see the cattle being branded on those shows bothered me greatly. To know our beloved horses are being branded now is equally upsetting. Can you imagine the horrific pain of it? It makes me want to see the cowboys get branded to see how they like it. Would that even change their minds about doing it?

I always felt better as a child, and into adulthood, that horses had wide open spaces to run and be free with their families, and herds. It was right that they did, and I didn't hate people so much either thinking they actually cared about them. However that is no longer true. The very people charged with protecting our horses, burros, and other wildlife on our public lands, are the very ones brutally, and callously wiping them off of those very lands. It is as heart breaking, and unbelievable, as it it the reality. Our very Congress full of people that we ourselves voted in, are not just allowing it. They are funding it with billions of our hard earned tax payer dollars.

How did we devolve to this? I believe it is two things. People don't know, because this is unheard of on National news networks; and people don't care, because of shows like 60 Minutes who spout the very same lies the BLM spouts to justify it. They are our "trusted" news people, why would the average person delve any deeper than the so-called investigative programs? So it boils down to two things. People don't know, and don't care. Ignorance, and apathy are nearly across the board on this. This must change. Figuring out how is imperative. How to effectively fight the billionaires? There in lies the great need to share this knowledge in every way conceivable.

403.

Rachel Abraham <barnprincess98@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 11:30 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Imagine a young 13-year-old with long blonde hair and big brown eyes. She is horse-crazy, has been since she was born. Learned how to ride before she could walk. Like any young girl, she wanted a horse of her own. This young girl had a wild spirit that couldn't be tamed. Her mother wisely suggested that maybe the little girl should look into getting a horse that would reflect her personality. And thus, the little girl who could name every breed of horse in the world became obsessed with mustangs.

At the Minnesota Horse Expo one dreary April day, a little girl's dream sparked to life outside the stall of a Nokota horse. This horse breed goes back to Sitting Bull's horse herd. Afterwards, the little girl cleverly laid hints and clues across her parent's path to encourage them to take her to a place that had a few Nokota horses for sale. The parents obligingly agreed. The little girl's heart was set on a Nokota horse, specifically a sleek chocolate-colored filly named Wokini. However, fate had a different story in mind.

When the parents and little girl arrived at the farm, the owners took them into the pasture with a bunch of young, playful horses. They all came up and greeted us with their frosty muzzles and then continued frolicking through the snow. However, one horse did not join in with her friends. She was perfectly content staying right beside the little girl. As if she had chosen her. Everyone was amazed, including the little girl. This frosty bay roan filly had chosen to stay with her rather than go play with her friends.

The owners began to spin a tale about a magical place in North Dakota called Theodore Roosevelt National Park. A place where the land is so rugged that only the toughest can survive there. A living echo from a time before. A place where wild horses still ran free. This young horse who gazed deep into the eyes of the little girl was a true wild horse. You can only imagine how the little girl felt.

So, as destiny would have it, a 13-year-old girl bought a 2-year-old mustang from the badlands of North Dakota. The little girl trained the wild filly although some could argue that the filly trained the little girl. The filly was only halter broke when the little girl got her. Yet the following winter, the little girl rode this wild mustang bareback in a halter in a winter parade filled with jingling sleigh bells and cheering people. The little girl and her wild horse had the time of their life. Their initial connection grew deeper, turning into a bond that could never be broken. Their friendship is something that even a language as advanced as English would have trouble describing.

	The wild horse that this little girl bought turned out to be a very important key that opened up many doors for the little girl. She was able to go visit her beloved horse's homeland and even see her horse's parents. It was life-changing experience for her. She was a child of the west wind, and this was her home. The wind in the canyon, the swaying buffalograss, the rugged ridges, the buffalo en masse. And then, she could feel them before she heard them and she could hear them before she saw them. I swear, her heart stopped beating for a mere moment at the sight. Their muscular bodies glistening, their manes flowing. They walked with an effortless confidence that could come from knowing that this is where they belong. It's where they have always belonged. It was their home. These horses of old that have survived here for hundreds of years. They were living history and the little girl would never be the same. She visited many more times, learning all the horses by looks and names. This was her horse's homeland. A piece of both their hearts remain there to this day. They will both return someday. I know they will return because I am that little girl, just 10 years older and wiser. I also have a wildlife degree under my belt with a minor in Range and French. I outfitted myself with the tools needed to keep the horses in the park. I know that is my destiny and I will do everything in my power to make sure the horses stay in native homeland. I am a child of the west wind, a wild child that is a force to be reckoned with. If you come after my horse's family, you come after me. And that will be your first and last mistake. Rachel Abraham BS Wildlife Resources, double minor in French & Rangeland Ecology/Management '23 from University of Idaho (507) 461-7350
404.	

405.	**Dolores Lambert** <rlambert@bis.midco.net> Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 2:22 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com My family has lived in North Dakota since the early 70's. We soon had heard about the national park and decided to make a Sunday trip to see what it was about. I was amazed by the beauty of the landscape. Once entering the park we were able to see the bison, wild and free. The prairie dogs in abundance. Our young children were excited by all of this different surroundings. A few years later we made the trip again and this time we saw the wild horses. At this time I was so excited. I have always been a horse lover, never being able to have my own growing up. Our trips became more frequent and camera in hand we were watching more diligent for them and seeing new foals appear In the last 20 years we go to the park at least twice a year. My only reason is to see the horses. They have become a part of my heart. They ask nothing of humans but to live the way they know how. They have brought so much joy to many people. We stop to watch them again and again. I've talked to people about the wild horses when we are standing around watching them. Many people did not know about these horses being here. It's an educational opportunity for most. I'm willing to help educate others and continue to keep them in my heart, prayers and faith that they will continue to stay in their safety zone. I see the pictures other people post and my heart wants to be with them. They are beautiful creatures on this planet. They are part of this State. Part of the people who go and observe them and keep records on them. A sad part is when one becomes missing and not found. The foals that become orphaned but by the way the "family " is willing to take care of that baby is hope. The horses in this park are loved by many. To lose them from the park would be heartbreaking for me. I can not understand the reason for removal of any. These horses are part of this country. They should stay here for the historic value. TRoosevelt himself would want the horses to be here. Lastly I am just one of many that want the wild horses to be left alone. My prayers are with the decision to keep the horses in their natural home for life. For their lives.

406.

DEB LEE CARSON <everseethelight@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 2:38 PM

To: Wild Lands Wild Horses <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Jackie Scherer's Story

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Jackie Scherer** <khalua80111@hotmail.com>
Date: Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 9:51 PM
Subject: Jackie's story
To: DEB LEE CARSON <everseethelight@gmail.com>

Deb-

There is a lot of babbling here. I didn't know where to start or where I was going :/

Feel free to fix things…like paragraphs. Or omit stuff. Lol.

"My whole life I have been introverted and self-conscious. I would get severe anxiety around people I didn't know to the point where I couldn't stand in line at a fast food restaurant by myself. From 2011-2013, I was introduced to the great outdoors…traveling, camping, hiking, State Parks and National Parks. When I found myself single I had to make a choice. I could either never go hiking or camping again or I could buck up and figure out how to do it by myself. In late 2013, I borrowed some camping gear and made my first solo trip to the North Shore of Lake Superior. It felt amazing! In 2014, I made my first out of state solo trip to the Badlands in South Dakota. I wanted to go bigger so a few months later I made a 5 day solo trip to Yellowstone. I survived! All of the traveling I was doing led to a love of the North Shore and photography. I wanted to become a landscape photographer. I followed every landscape and North Shore photographer I could find on social media. In 2015, while scrolling on FB, I came across a photo of a beautiful horse. I had always loved horses growing up but of course couldn't have one. I took riding lessons for a few years around 2010 but stopped going when my instructor left. The caption in the post said it was a wild horse in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I needed to go! I booked a campsite in April of 2016, packed my car and drove all night to get to the park just after sunrise. As I passed the Painted Canyon visitor center, my jaw dropped as the landscape opened up. The formations. The colors. It was nothing I had seen before. Just before the exit to Medora I saw my first horses. I pulled over on the freeway squealing. A beautiful white mare was walking along a trail with her mane flowing in the wind. As she turned and walked away, a little brown foal come out from behind a sage bush. My heart became theirs in that second. I found out later that the foal I saw was only 4 days old and was to be named Illinois because of his white socks. My first trip to the park was wonderful. I spent my 8 hour drive home swooning over

	the horses I had met…especially Flax. Hubba Hubba! When I got home I searched for the next available camp site in the park. I needed to go back. September 2016…booked it. During my first year of photography, I had noticed a lot of folks hosting workshops or classes you could sign up for to better your photography. The thought of meeting a bunch of people I didn't know scared me. This is why I did so much solo traveling. One day I saw a workshop being offered by Deb Lee Carson in TRNP and it happened to be the same weekend I had already booked a trip out to the park. This was meant to be. I reached out and signed up. This time my overnight drive to the park was filled with anxiety. I was set to meet a person I didn't know and then more people I didn't know. This was not me. What was I thinking?! Driving down the freeway and seeing the landscape open up again made everything ok. Seeing horses swishing their tales in the sun and wind made everything ok. Meeting Deb for the first time at Boots made everything ok. The moment I stepped foot in Medora in April of 2016, my life changed. Over the next 6 years I would make a trip out to park every few months. I switched from landscape photography to wildlife photography with a focus on the wild horses of TRNP. Deb, her husband and their 4 legged ones would not only become dear friends but family. Each visit to the park created a new memory, allowed me to relive old memories, had the potential for a new relationship, and was an opportunity to catch up with the many friends I made in Medora. As I'm driving the loop road, I can picture the great battles I've witnessed, the wobbly first steps of a new foal, the last moments spent with an aged stallion. Every moment spent with these horses becomes a new memory that I will never forget. I don't often do solo trips to the park anymore. Instead I bring others along to introduce them to the horses. It doesn't take long for them to become hooked. I found who I am and who I was meant to have in my life at TRNP. The horses of TRNP have helped me find my path. Without them my life would not be the same! If removed, there would be no reason for me to return to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Every turn of the loop road would contain memories and the heartbreak of knowing no new memories would ever be made again. Friends made in TRNP would be lost as a lot of us wouldn't come from across the country to visit anymore. The lives of many would change. These horses mean a lot to people and great care should be taken when deciding on removing them. They could literally be someone's only reason to get out of bed in the morning…their purpose in life. The power of these wild horses is strong and should not to be taken lightly. The fence was built around the horses. The park belongs to them. Let the horses stay wild and free in TRNP."

407.

Maggie Bauer <MBGriefRecovery@outlook.com> Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 4:30 PM

To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Maggie Bauer
Colorado State University Alumni

My introduction to the wild horses of TRNP was July 4th , 2010. The previous winter I had spent 3 months volunteering in Namibia and South Africa. My old college roommate who was working on her veterinary degree called me and told me about her job documenting with the wild horse of Theodore Roosevelt Park (TRNP). I was headed to the family cabin in central Minnesota for the holiday weekend and literally turned around and started the drive to Medora. I drove late into the night and watched the fireworks in the Western North Dakota skies. The next day, we were up early to hike in TRNP and do behavioral observations on the mares in specific herd. Fast forward to March of 2011, I was hired by CSU to continue the research on the wild horses of TRNP. It was a job of a lifetime, searching for, finding and documenting wild horses in 46,000 acres of land for 5 months. The goal was to get "eyes" on at least 90% if not 100% of the mares, once a week.

I was often alone but never felt alone as the spirit of this magical place and the horses within it enticed me with every footstep I took. To observe the herd dynamics, the horses' reactions to their environment, the affection they showed each other, the collaboration, the subtitle cues that created their (mostly) silent and beautiful language that I was only a novice at understanding was a gift of a lifetime! Colorado State hired me for 2 more seasons. Ooo the stories I have. The sagas I witnessed between the horses of TRNP. One time in particular, I walked up towards a herd where a mare had just had a foal earlier that morning. I walked by the placenta (afterbirth) as I got closer to the herd. There were multiple stallions in this herd and one of them was trying to push the mare closer to the group. The mare urgently danced around her wet foal protecting them. The second stallion fed up with the disruptive behavior of the first stallion CHARGED. He chased off the first stallion so that the mare and foal could slowly, safely and peacefully integrate back into the herd. I was in an inopportune location 5 feet to my left was a deep gully that I didn't

want to jump into and to my right was open space but I had to huge testosterone filled stallions coming straight at me. FAST. I raised my arms and my voice. There was zero acknowledgement from either stallion as they thundered past me, within a few feet. Luckily, I was unscathed and so was the new born foal. One of hundreds of exhilarating experiences about these horses that I hold in my heart.

A lifechanging event happened in August of 2012. My big brother and only sibling suddenly and tragically died. Once returning back to North Dakota after the funeral, I spent as much time as I could in TRNP with the horses because that was the only way I knew, to work on the healing process. There was nothing more powerful for me than to hike my tush off and rest within the presence of the wild horses that I had gotten to intimately know over the last 2 years. I can't think of a better place to put salve on a broken heart than within the herds of wild horses in TRNP. I am one of the few that has spent hundreds of hours with these horses and I know it would be a travesty if they were permanently removed from the rugged and stunningly beautiful land, they call home. It is your American right and duty to see and experience the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I hope you get the opportunity before they are gone. You will not regret it.

Maggie Bauer
Certified Grief Recovery Specialist®
(952) 237-8719
MBGriefRecovery@outlook.com | http://www.mbgriefrecovery.info

408.

Brenda Hoffman <blhoff5@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 6:39 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

To Whom It May Concern,

I fell in love with the horses of TRNP in 2019 when on a bucket list vacation with my sister. It would be an offense to the past, the present, and the future if these horses are taken, eradicated, removed, or whatever you want to call it. Shame on those who think they don't belong....they belong more than we do. Below, Stallion Cloud, who so graciously allowed me to take this picture. He and the rest of the horses of TRNP will forever be in my heart and soul. I have added additional pictures to this email of many other pictures of other horses I photographed during my trip to TRNP. I hope to revisit the park again someday, but will be sadly disappointed if there are no longer horses roaming free as this was the draw for me and I suspect for others who visit the park as well. See attached photos. These are only a few of the hundreds of photos taken. I truly hope to be able to take more. Leave the horses alone.

Respectfully,
Brenda Hoffman
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409.

Jackie Lang <wolfie19@mindspring.com> Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 8:00 PM
Reply-To: wolfie19@mindspring.com
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Hi Deb,
Here is my story about my love for the horses at TRNP. I have sent a comment to the park service, but it probably won't do any good because I had no facts, just emotion about the horses. I know there are people who would help them manage the herd but they don't want the horses and don't seem to care what anyone thinks. I have contacted, Cramer, and Armstrong, but couldn't get ahold of anyone at Hoeven's office. Will try again. I left messages with 2 so far of the national park subcommittee. I will keep working on getting ahold of the rest. Sent the list to my mom as well. Also contacted my state senators and rep about it. Got an email back from one who has signed on to a letter or whatever they are working on about the horses. I feel so helpless though.

What the horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park mean to me.

When I was a child, my grandparents would take my sister and I camping around North Dakota. Sometimes we would go all the way to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. My grandpa would tell me stories about the geology of this special place, why it looked the way it does; what wildlife roamed in the park and how many species like the bison had been driven to near extinction. I think my love of conservation and the protection of wildlife began with these early lessons.

Grandpa also told me about the early ranches in the area and how Theodore Roosevelt came to Dakota territory to heal from the deaths of his wife and mother. He ranched there and commented on the beauty of the place and mentioned the wildlife and wild horses that roamed the area. My ears perked up at this...Wild horses? I was a typical horse crazy little girl and questions flew...where did the horses come from? Does nobody take care of them? Will we see any?

I did see them, not close up, but a couple on top of a butte, manes and tails blowing in the wind. It was love at first sight. From then on those horses were my horses, because I could never have a horse of my own. I didn't always see them when we visited, but the horses were what I looked for the most.

I had read about Wild horse Annie and her attempts to protect the mustangs of the United States. A law was passed and I thought my horses would always be safe and I could always see them. So I thought.

As an adult I visited the park with my mom. We had just passed a horse trailer parked in the road and I saw a horse run across the road. I stopped and another horse followed. I realized in shock that these were not domesticated horses but the wild ones! I had never seen them so close before. Horse after horse ran across the road, right in front of my car. So many colors and long manes blowing in the wind. It was over in a flash with only a dust cloud to note their passing. Mom and I looked at each other and then started laughing in absolute delight. I have worked at Yellowstone and visited many parks, but that moment was the best and most memorable moment I have had in any park.

I got to know these horses through the many facebook pages that feature them. Seeing their photos and hearing how they were doing was about the only thing that kept me sane during the COVID lockdown. I could always turn to my beautiful horses to give me joy.

Imagine my horror, when I read a newspaper article stating the park service wanted to 'get rid' of the Wild horses and Longhorns in the park. The park states they are livestock and have no right to be there even though they have been there longer than the bison who went extinct and had to be reintroduced. They are not livestock! Nobody takes care of them. They take care of themselves and are wild animals and a living symbol of the American West, every bit as much as the bison are.

The park states that the park is only about Roosevelt's conservation legacy, not his ranching legacy. Where are these people from? There would BE no national park without Roosevelt's ranching legacy. He came to North Dakota to ranch and learned his love of conservation there. He himself stated he would not have become president if he had never come to North Dakota...so there would have been no conservation legacy either. One of the things Roosevelt mentions are the wild horses in the area. They deserve the protection that Roosevelt would fight for now, if he were still in North Dakota.

Theodore Roosevelt once said, "Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance."

How can I say it better than that? The horses and Longhorns are a natural resource for our state, a tourist draw and are beloved by the people. They are our history and a sacred heritage for all the little children, like me, who fell in love with them at a young age. They belong in the park as much as the bison, elk and deer do. Wild horse Annie isn't here to speak for them, so I will and I know so many other Americans and people from other countries who want to see these wonders will to! My question to the park service is this: are you managing the park for yourselves or for the American people. Listen to us!

Jackie Lang
Fargo, ND

410.

Stephanie Beck <sbeck785@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 8:24 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I got interested in the horses when they were going to be sold in Wishek. I read about them in the Bismarck Tribune and needed to know more about them. I first came across Wild in North Dakota's page and learned quite a bit from that page. Of course I came across other sites about the horses after that. Never could have imagined how many people loved these horses. I eventually needed a break from my life and decided to go visit the park in 2016. After standing on a small hill with 5 bands around the area I was hooked. I spent 3 days and didn't want to leave ever but had too. I started following lots of pages on Facebook so I could know everything possible about them. In the next couple years I made it out a few more times and met some very wonderful people that loved these beauties too. I eventually started going almost every month if I could and decided to volunteer with the NDBH group. So many wonderful people in this group that I get to call my badlands horse friends. I'm am very addicted to these horses now and can't imagine not having them to go visit when I need my happy place to help my depression. Stephanie in Bismarck

411.

Amy Chaney <achay08@yahoo.com> Wed, Jan 25, 2023 at 1:25 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

My story is this. I grew up on a small ranch and my horses were my best friends. I felt more comfortable riding horses than walking on my own two feet really. There's just something about a bond with a horse and it's something you just never get over.
Roughly 12 years ago, my brother in law was diagnosed with cancer. I live in Washington state, my sister in Arizona. I went to help them out and stayed a week or so when he was starting chemo. I found myself one night, not able to fall asleep, reached for my phone and got onto Facebook, which was somewhat new to me. I was scrolling and reading and scrolling some more when I found Wild in North Dakota. I remember I stayed up until 4 am reading all of Eileen's posts and falling in love with all of the horses. Eileen is a wonderful and powerful author. Her details are amazing. She makes you feel like you are sitting right beside her. I didn't know Curious George but I cried knowing that he had passed. I fell in love with Circus, Blaze, Silver and Gray Ghost. I wanted Valor so very badly when he was captured and put up for adoption. I cried for Gary & Ghost but what a legacy they were. I routed for the ever handsome Copper when he was injured. I prayed Blaze would be found safe & sound and cried when the news came in. Chubby was the best mare. Arrowhead captured my heart. Thunder grew older passing on his wisdom to his son before his passing. The family dynamics are so incredible. Boomer & Amite are evidence of that. Each year, beloved horses change worlds and offspring are born. This is nature, at times cruel and other times, sweet and tender. I love following these horses. I have calendars and books of them. I go onto Facebook just to check on them. Come to find out, my sister follows this Eileen's page too! And my brother in law is healthy and living his best life.

It was my intention to travel to TRNP this summer to see the horses. Now I'm not sure what to do with the news of the horse's potentially being taken out of the park. My heart is breaking and I don't quite understand. I won't come if there are no horses to see. People come to see the horses. Visitors come to the park who pay to stay at hotels, eat at restaurants etc. I'm just baffled & sorta at a loss of words so I did some research on TRNP and this is a little of what I found.

North Dakota has the only National Park that is named directly after a single person. Theodore Roosevelt loved the badlands, the ruggedness of the land and the wild things living there so much that his passion for conservation began. He used his authority as President to protect lands. President Truman established the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Park. Teddy even wrote about the horses on these very lands in the 1880's. This park is one of the few national parks where visitors can see free roaming horses.

This isn't the first or second time that wild horses have been in trouble at TRNP. There was a round up in 1954 were 200 branded horses were taken out of the park. Of the few small bands of horses remaining after the round up, several were thought to be descendants of horses that had run free in the badlands since the turn of the century. Horses in the park today bear a striking resemblance to the horses common to the area in the 19th century depicted from drawings and early photographs. The herds had been under constant pressure from the outside to be removed. Thankfully in 1970, a new policy was written for the herds at the TRNP. The policy states that the horses are a historic demonstration herd so that visitors may experience the badlands seen as it appeared during the open range ranching era of Theodore Roosevelt. How lovely an idea.

In my research, I have found that some horses were indeed released from ranchers in winter months so they did not have to feed them. Horses are herd animals so of course domesticated and wild horses would join. Horses belonging to Native Americans would have joined the bands too. Some horses are born wild and remained wild. Horses changed the way Native Americans traveled & hunted in the plains. The horses have been here far longer than our ancestors. From this knowledge and knowing that for many decades, these horses have been "wild" and not domesticated or used as livestock, they should not be labeled in that category.

I want to see the badlands as they are today- with the wild horses. It is the only reason I want to come to North Dakota. I live closer to other parks to see bison, elk, coyotes etc. I want to see the wilderness and step back in time. I want to see a night sky not polluted with city lights. Please learn from the past—the bison! Bison had to be reintroduced to North Dakota -to their native land! Horses, along with bison, deer, elk, coyote, prairie dogs and 185 species of birds make up the Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Amy Chaney- Camas,WA

412.	**caroline christie** <ccfinearts@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 25, 2023 at 10:26 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Our first trip to Theodore Roosevelt National Park was in 2015. Since then we have returned many times to visit with and revel amongst the wild horses of the park. I have had some of the most memorable moments of my life photographing the wild horses of TRNP. When you step into this National Park it's like you have opened a time capsule and you are witnessing the west as it was over 250 years ago. You are at peace and the winds that blow calm you. You are in wild country now. The park landscape is so dynamic. The Little Missouri river meanders through the park, flowing by buttes and lush prairie grass meadows. You can hike around hoodoos where you could find a herd of wild horses sunning themselves as the hoodoo blocks the wind.The horses are warmed and mellow in the midday sun. One clearly beautiful thing that happens in the park is the prevalence of animal sybiosis. The absolute harmony between the bison, wild horses and my second favorite resident of the park…the mighty prairie dog is on full display. You will see wild horses drink from a hidden waterhole while a bison naps gracefully in has sandy wollow nearby.Which in turn if the wollow is free, you will see a herd of happy wild horses stop, drop and roll to enjoy an afternoon sand bath.Even the prairie dogs can connect with our wild horses by calling out a warning chirp informing the herd that there is a girl with a camera on her way. I believe the chirp translates as "Vamoose" to it's compadre. The connection is real. If you keep hiking you may find yourself looking up at a herd of wild horses…standing in formation as if on lookout as they survey their land. This may lead you to feel out of your mind as such a scene could only exist here in this park and I am bearing witness to this awe inspiring site. One can just sit down in the prairie grass, let the wind tangle your hair and appreciate what life has given you. I have never left the park feeling sad as I often do when leaving certain HMA's in the west. I always left the park knowing that they would be safe, respected and protects. Scenes like this will cease to exist if the horses are removed.The west will have taken the wild away from us once again. I may never return to the park if the horses are gone but if I do, it would not be the same. If they were removed twenty years from now a new generation will drive through the park not having a clue what such great majesty once lived here.
413.	**Melissa Sivigny** <melissa.sivigny@yahoo.com> Wed, Jan 25, 2023 at 5:32 PM To: Wildlandswildhorses Info <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

My TRNP Story Missy Sivigny

In the early 2000's a friend and I set out to ride our horses in the Badlands of North Dakota. I had no idea how life changing this trip would be for me at the time we decided to plan and take off for Medora North Dakota.

We stayed at the Buffalo Gap Ranch, and for the first few days we rode the trails around the ranch rather than trailering our horses anywhere. We would ride in the mornings and then plan for things to do during the midday hours. One of the first things we did was go to check out Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The moment I set foot in the park I felt like I was drawn to the place like it was home.

We stopped at the visitor center to get any information we needed, seeing it was our first time in the park. We drove out and stopped in at Peaceful Valley Ranch. At that time, they were doing guided trial rides throughout the park on horses there. We ladies are drawn to any place that has horses so it was natural for us to stop there first. As my boots hit the red dirt I immediately was rushed by the wind and the smell of sage. This is something I will never forget and I long for that smell every day. If I smell anywhere I am immediately immersed back into the park even if I'm not there.

We were walking around and were lucky enough to meet the grandfather of one of the young wranglers for the ranch as he was unsaddling his horse from a ride earlier at his trailer. This kind man offered to take us out with their group the next day because we had not ridden in the park and were unfamiliar with it.

The next morning we loaded up to head to Peaceful Valley Ranch. We were very excited and nervous while we saddled up our horses that morning. There were 6 of us that rode out of the ranch that morning. I checked my cinch one last time on my saddle and made sure I had everything I needed packed into my saddle bags along with my rain slicker just in case the weather changed. Then I lifted my leg, put it in my stirrup and lifted myself into my saddle as the leather creaked as I settled in for a trail ride, I would never forget.

Out we went across the Little Missouri River that was moving along at a pretty good rate. This was the first time we had crossed this river and we were told to only cross the river where other animals are crossing as it was full of slit and if we got into an area that wasn't safe and got pulled into the river it would fill our cloths and make it hard for us to get out of the water. Even though it was shallow at the time of year we were there.

The sun had come out from behind the clouds and we hit our first well on the other side of the river and watered our horses. We rode out to a huge rock formation, walked around it and got a lesson on rattlesnakes at this time and I immediately got myself off of that rock. We rode back towards the ranch crossed some areas where the water runs off from the buttes and were educated again on how to cross where others are because those can be deeper than they look and can suck horses in as they fight to get out similar to quick sand. My horse decided to jump most of them. The first one caught me by surprise but by the second one I had his game down. We thought we were heading back when we took a left hand turn and headed up this steep butte. It was an incredible climb but once we were on the top you could see the whole park and the Little Missouri was below it. It was breathtaking.

We then rode down into a flat area that I now know as the area where Theodore Roosevelt had once gathered his cattle at. We were heading back towards the ranch at this time when out of nowhere came some horses. I had no idea there were wild horses in the park. These bachelor stallions rode right up to us and circled us, gave a few snorts, and then took off running the same way they came. It was exhilarating and scary at the same time. While riding back we saw more wild horses on the other side of the river. The grandfather had mentioned to us to make sure we stayed away from that group as the big beautiful black and white paint stallion was very protective of his family.

I had no idea that this day would be one that would change my life. After I returned home I longed to go back to the park to see the horses. I knew deep down I wanted to adopt a mustang at this point. What I didn't know was I would be adopting a mustang from Theodore Roosevelt National Park about 12 years later. Which is the start of another story.

414.

Robin Hosemann <rhosemann@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 25, 2023 at 9:39 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

My partner, my son, and I recently drove in an RV van from Wisconsin to TRNP. It was our first trip together to a National Park, and I told them I really wanted to try to see the wild horse band there, if at all possible. We spent hours touring the park, hiking, and marveling at the landscape, but I began to think I wouldn't see the horses. Every dark shape in the distance proved to be bison. Ever since I was a young girl, I read and studied about the mustangs of the West, and I have had the fortune to have my own horses. I know the realities of horse ownership, and I am no stranger to the horrors of kill pens and the slaughter system for the American horse population that often outpaces the ability for humans to provide humane and lifelong care. My connection to these animals means that I do whatever I can to prevent horses from uncertain fates. However, I thought the management of the herd at TRNP seemed solid: the numbers in the band and the size of the landscape seemed compatible. I was so excited to just get a glimpse of them. However, dusk was approaching and our time there was coming to an end. We pulled around one of the bends in the road on the way out of the park, and I spotted way off in the distant grasslands, the unmistakable swish of horsetails. We pulled over and rushed out with our binoculars. I could see a roan and a black and a bay, and it took my breath away. Even just that distant glimpse of animals as magnificent of these with the freedom to be themselves swelled my heart and squeezed it with pride for our nation and the NPS. I'm concerned that the herd is in peril. I want to do whatever I can to help us maintain wild horse herds on public lands. We don't deserve horses as humans who treat them in so many disrespectful ways. The very least we can do is protect those who are a part of our National lands. We owe them that.

Sincerely,
Robin Hosemann
TRNP Visitor, August 2022

415.

Chelsea Halat <chelsea.halat@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 25, 2023 at 11:07 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I was first introduced to the mustangs of TRNP in 2015 by my then-acquaintance, Jamie Baldanza. In short, the TRNP mustangs have truly changed my life and deserve the opportunity to do so for future generations.

Jamie introduced me not only to the amazing mustangs of the park, but also the beautiful community that the horses have created. These mustangs and their community helped me find myself and showed me love and friendship like I've never experienced before.

In 2015 Jamie adopted two mustangs, one being from TRNP, and sent both to a trainer in Minnesota. That year I visited MN with Jamie and was greatly inspired by the immensely kind people whose community is centered on their love for the TRNP horses. On that trip I met a weanling filly named Denali who came out of the park that same year. She was the most beautiful thing I'd ever seen and had such a strong inquisitive presence. She was a spitfire, and from that day forward I thought of her often. I visited again and always made sure to visit Denali during my travels.

In 2019 I quit my corporate marketing job and headed to Minnesota to work as an intern for that horse trainer Jamie first introduced to me in 2015. I was so fortunate enough to be able to make this possible because of incredible people I met through the TRNP mustang community. Deb Lee Carson so generously allowed me to stay with her while I worked with the trainer, she became my satellite family. Bob and Deb Fjetland so kindly allowed me to work with Denali, that TRNP filly I first met in 2015, who became my main intern project. At the end of my internship the Fjetland's then gave me the most utterly amazing surprise by gifting me with being able to keep this special girl Denali forever. We both now reside in New Jersey.

Working with Denali has been different from anything I've ever experienced. She is strong, but she is soft. She is intelligent, she is honest, and she has challenged me to let go of everything I thought I knew before in order to make me a better horseman. Everywhere we go, from the vet clinic - to the beach - to a trail ride - to a horse show - Denali is a show stopper. She's an incredible mascot for the breed. Most everyone we meet admires her, they say she is the most beautiful horse they've ever seen, they ask what she is, and how they can get a horse like her. I proudly share that she is a mustang from Theodore Roosevelt National Park in Medora, North Dakota.

After 6 years of knowing about the mustangs in the park, I finally got to experience them for myself in November 2021. My former-acquaintance and now incredible best friend Jamie so graciously gifted me a trip to TRNP for my 30th birthday with herself and the amazing Deb Lee Carson. The mission of our trip to TRNP was to find the parents of my mustang mare, Denali - to see her mother, Frosty, and father, Red Face. We had a difficult time finding them, which was a surprise considering they typically are a very easy band to locate. On the 2nd day we ended up hiking into an isolated part of the park with blind faith and no leads through some tough, but breathtaking, terrain. I will never forget the look on Deb's face when she realized we had found them. It was an incredible afternoon and such a special moment to see Denali's family living wild and free.

The horses of TRNP mean so much - they are simply magic. Each one I've met has been strong and powerful, but also kind and sensitive. To Denali, Sleeping Bear, Valor, Amidon, Willow, & Pinnacles - thank you for being such a rich part of my journey. I feel deep sorrow for you and the future of your families. I pray that more generations are able to experience the magic of the TRNP mustangs and that they're able to continue to change countless lives.

Chelsea Halat
Allentown, New Jersey

Myself in front of Red Face and Frosty's band

Myself and the most amazing Denali, born wild and free in 2015

416.

klamaize@westriv.com <klamaize@westriv.com> Thu, Jan 26, 2023 at 6:25 AM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Good Morning,

I am writing in support of keeping the horses in the TRNP.

I am attaching my story in case that makes it easier to share. Here is my story and my interest in them:

My name is Linda Maize. My family is from Beulah, North Dakota. We are writing in support of keeping the wild horses in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

The horses of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park are a major attraction to the park, drawing thousands of visitors to the park each year. My family and extended family are just some of the visitors who come to see the horses. The horses have a following of thousands around the world on Facebook where sites are posting pictures and information about the different horses in the park. There is a huge interest in the horses which translates into income to the town of Medora when the people visit the park and stay in the area for days to watch horses in the park.

These horses are not just any horses. The study of their genetics has determined that they are descendants of some of the first horses originally brought to this continent. That alone should be enough to preserve them. Even the Smithsonian lists the park as one of the best places to see the wild horses. Medora is famous for the Marquis De Mores and Theodore Roosevelt who lived there during the ranching days in the area. While that tradition continues and horses still play an important part of life there, these horses are threatened with removal. It doesn't make sense to destroy part of the heritage of the area by removing them while you try to preserve other parts of the region's heritage. These horses predate the park according to studies done on them. Once they are removed, the damage is done and can't be undone. The horses will be scattered and their history in the park removed forever.

While my family enjoys the scenery of the park and the changing landscape, it is the wildlife, particularly the horses and buffalo that make our numerous annual trips to the park more exciting. We would not be in the park as often if it weren't for the wildlife. We have more photographs of the wildlife than we do of the landscape. The landscape changes in the park happen slowly while the wildlife makes each visit a unique experience and keeps us coming to the park. We hope you will keep the horses there so we have a reason to spend more time in the park.

Thank you for helping keep the horses in the park.

Linda Maize

	My name is Linda Maize. My family is from Beulah, North Dakota. We are writing in support of keeping the wild horses in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The horses of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park are a major attraction to the park, drawing thousands of visitors to the park each year. My family and extended family are just some of the visitors who come to see the horses. The horses have a following of thousands around the world on Facebook where sites are posting pictures and information about the different horses in the park. There is a huge interest in the horses which translates into income to the town of Medora when the people visit the park and stay in the area for days to watch horses in the park. These horses are not just any horses. The study of their genetics has determined that they are descendants of some of the first horses originally brought to this continent. That alone should be enough to preserve them. Even the Smithsonian lists the park as one of the best places to see the wild horses. Medora is famous for the Marquis De Mores and Theodore Roosevelt who lived there during the ranching days in the area. While that tradition continues and horses still play an important part of life there, these horses are threatened with removal. It doesn't make sense to destroy part of the heritage of the area by removing them while you try to preserve other parts of the region's heritage. These horses predate the park according to studies done on them. Once they are removed, the damage is done and can't be undone. The horses will be scattered and their history in the park removed forever. While my family enjoys the scenery of the park and the changing landscape, it is the wildlife, particularly the horses and buffalo that make our numerous annual trips to the park more exciting. We would not be in the park as often if it weren't for the wildlife. We have more photographs of the wildlife than we do of the landscape. The landscape changes in the park happen slowly while the wildlife makes each visit a unique experience and keeps us coming to the park. We hope you will keep the horses there so we have a reason to spend more time in the park.
417.	

418.

Craig Clifford <clifford.craig@hotmail.com> Thu, Jan 26, 2023 at 2:57 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I'm writing this message to ensure the wild horses continue to have a place within the park after learning about the options presented for livestock management in Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP).

The wild horses of TNRP remain crucial in preserving cultural heritage. These horses have had a cultural significance to the American West and native tribes of the area for centuries, seen as powerful symbols of strength, freedom, and spiritual connection to the land. Their presence in the park maintains the rich history and culture of the region.

Wild horses are a popular attraction for TRNP and contribute economically to local communities through tourism. Visitors are drawn to the park to see the horses thriving in the badlands habitat. Increasing revenue for local businesses, such as hotels, restaurants, and shops. Without wild horses, there would likely be a decrease in visitors, resulting in a loss of revenue for local businesses.

I've had the privilege of experiencing the beauty of these horses during my time at TRNP. It is an unforgettable memory that I will always look back on with a big smile. I'm forever grateful for the friendships I've made through the horses at TRNP, friendships that will continue forever.

One of the National Park's missions is to preserve cultural heritage. It would go against Theodore Roosevelt's vision of cultural conservation and alter the experience for future generations. I hope the officials at TRNP see the impact the horses have on visitors and the value they bring to the park. I do not support the removal of horses that have been free roaming in Theodore Roosevelt National Park for the past 76 years.

Craig Clifford

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WILD LANDS
WILD HORSES

122 Arneytown Hornerstown Rd
Allentown, NJ 08570
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www.wildlandswildhorses.com

Dear Governor Burgum and North Dakota State Legislators!

First and foremost, thank you for being the strong, logical leaders that this genetically unique and historical herd of free roaming horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park so deserve.

We support SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4014.

This herd of historical horses is a direct link to T.R.'s own experiences, along with the first peoples of the region, and later the ranching culture.

WLWH does not want to see a fissure of immense proportion, a rift that may never heal, come between the NPS and a community steeped in the traditions of honoring their culture and history. This is an opportunity to come together, to be the solution, and finally find a common ground and provide NPS with the tools and resources needed to manage this historical landscape, to its full potential, and at the same time honor and embrace the history and culture it was built on.

Please vote yes on SCR 4014.

Sincerely,
Co-Founders of Wild Lands Wild Horses
Jamie Baldanza (732-241-5027)
Deb Lee Carson (507-269-1289)

/dlc

NAME OF PAGE	SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM	PRIMARY HERD	SECONDARY HERD	REASON FOR PAGE	# OF UNIQUE FOLLOWERS	SOCIAL MEDIA REACH IN LAST 28 DAYS	SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT
Deb Lee Carson Photography	Facebook and Instagram	TRNP	MP, PRYORS	ART, ADVOCACY, HISTORY, EDUCATION STORYTELLING	27,237	51,683	26,108
WLWH Series and Fund	Facebook and Instagram	TRNP		ADVOCACY, EDUCATION, FILM, ART, RESUCE ADOPTION	4,921	92,256	15,415
This Mustang Life	Facebook and Instagram	TRNP		ADVOCACY, EDUCATION, FILM, ART, RESUCE ADOPTION	236,239	10,223	26,270
Wild At Heart	Facebook	MP	TRNP	ADVOCAY, EDUCATION,	100,679	1,938,857	248,639
Carol Priestley Magamoll	Facebook and Instagram	TRNP		NATURE PHOTOGRAHY MAINLY TRNP HORSES	350	6000	2200
North Dakota Badlands Horse	Facebook and Instagram	TRNP		Promote adoptions, documentation, education, advocacy and stories	131,694	229,108	109,108
Dakota Grown Photos	Facebook and Instagram	TRNP		ADVOCACY, HISTORY, EDUCATION, STORYTELLING, PHOTOGRAPHY	118,383	159,755	66,163
Jackie Scherer Photography	Facebook and Instagram	TRNP		Art, Storytelling	835	751	416
Wild In North Dakota	Facebook	TRNP		Raising awareness, History, Education and Story Telling	398,025	111,293	31,338
Jen Britton Photography	Facebook, Instagram, Vero	Assateague Island		Art, Advocacy, Education, Storytelling, Wildlife appreciation, fun	6,978	50,641	19,194
Karen Voepel Photography	Facebook	TRNP		Photography	449	2,753	1,204
We 3 B's	Facebook and Instagram	TRNP		Photography, art, storytelling	1832	13,730	11,234
				TOTAL	**1,027,622**	**2,667,050**	557,289

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
8. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.
9. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
10. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.
11. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
12. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
13. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
14. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
15. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
16. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.
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18. The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

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22. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
23. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.
24. Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended met

January 21, 2023

Superintendent, Theodore Roosevelt National Park
P.O. Box 7
Medora, ND 58645

RE: Scoping Comments for the NPS Livestock Plan for Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Good Day,

My name is Tammi Adams and I am submitting the following comments as an individual taxpaying citizen of the United States of America, as a member and volunteer for Wild Horse Education (WHE), and as an authorized representative of Wild Horse Education, its members, board, and volunteers. I have been visiting Theodore Roosevelt National Park regularly since 1976, often four or more times a year. While I have greatly enjoyed viewing the bison, wild horses, and longhorn steers, with the removal of two of the three highlights, my trips to North Dakota shall diminish should the agency's preferred option in this Livestock Plan be chosen.

After attending (and providing comments – none of which were addressed during the meeting) the public scoping meeting held by the National Park Service (NPS) on January 12, 2023, several comments and concerns came to mind regarding the Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP) Livestock Plan. The following comments regard my trepidations towards the NPS's Livestock Plan (LP) and the credibility behind the LP.

1. First and foremost is the NPS egregious premise for this LP and the removal of wild horses and longhorn steer because they are "livestock." The NPS has arbitrarily decided that wild horses are not native to the North American continent – this is scientifically proven false. Wild horses are a native species to North America; wild horses are NOT livestock. It is always amazing how Department of Interior (DOI) agencies pick and choose which scientific research they believe and labels wildlife in accordance to their intended actions. Despite the NPS's arbitrary defining of wild horses as "livestock," current and statistically repeatable scientific research proves otherwise.

From securely dated sediment samples, scientific experts identified DNA of *Equus caballus* (the North American Horse) in the Yukon of Canada from permafrost samples dating ~9,700 years before this present time (cal BP). These findings post-date previous macrofossil evidence (such as bones, teeth and soft tissue) of *Equus caballus* found in Alaska by some 3,300 years, indicative of a cryptic population and proving *Equus caballus* did not go extinct and is native to the North American Continent (NAC). The research was published online on December 8, 2021 with support of the National Academy of Sciences, *Collapse of the mammoth-steppe in central Yukon as revealed by ancient environmental DNA* (Collapse of the mammoth-steppe in central Yukon as revealed by ancient environmental DNA - PMC (nih.gov)) – link provided for your review. (While some believe this research had competing interests, regulating authorities confirm that the research presented in this paper was completed prior to funding by the CANA Foundation.)

Further supporting the argument that wild horses are native to the NAC is that the permafrost samples collected in the Yukon permafrost were evaluated by at least three other international

laboratories who utilized different laboratory analytical procedures, yet confirmed and validated this report's findings (McMaster University, CA and University of Alberta, Edmonton, CA). Again, solid scientific research proving that *Equus caballus* is, in fact, native to the NAC.

Please provide scientifically collected DNA data from the wild horses in TRNP proving the wild horses are NOT of the *Equus caballus* kingdom in the coming Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) to support the NPS labeling of wild horses as "livestock."

2. It is outrageous for the NPS to "interpret" what Theodore Roosevelt "intended" his namesake park to represent over 100-years after his passing. It is fact that wild horses were within North Dakota (and the TRNP) while our ex-President was alive and owned his ranch in North Dakota. Proven by his many quoted sayings expressing his "admiration" of those willing to "break a wild mustang."

During the public scoping meeting, an NPS employee repeatedly stated that the NPS believes that Theodore Roosevelt never intended for national parks to have livestock reside within the park. Where NPS got this information is ambiguous, as the law was not referenced in the public meeting. If this is in actuality law, the NPS is legally bound to keep livestock out of the NP systems. Albeit Theodore Roosevelt was indeed a rancher, removal of the longhorn steers (livestock) seems prudent, removal of wild horses which ARE NOT LIVESTOCK (despite what NPS is trying to sell – see comment #1) is NOT valid based on the arbitrary definition recently selected for wild horses by NPS. Noteworthy, was the NPS representative clearly stating in the public meeting, "Livestock grazing is responsible for 'impacts' (degradation) to the park's natural ecosystem." (Too bad the BLM was not listening; this NPS message would direct the BLM to significantly reduce the numbers of livestock on our public lands. Rangeland degradation research has been consistently provided to BLM for decades!)

Please provide the federal law(s) indicating livestock grazing is not allowed in national parks in the PEA.

3. NPS personnel stated additional LP options would be appreciated. One of which would be: Remove longhorn steer (livestock) as defined by law in the preferred plan option to restore the natural habitat and ecosystem of the Northern portion. No removal of wild horses from the Southern portion of the TRNP. (Potential for PZP fertility control incorporating darting for administration could be an additional option along with no removal of wild horses.)

Please include this proposed action in the following PEA.

4. Furthermore, since wild horses are native to the NAC, any arbitrary rangeland degradation projected towards wild horses is moot. The natural ecosystem of TRNP has not changed since before the park was designated and wild horses roamed freely in North America (i.e., North Dakota). However, fencing that impedes movement of wild horses within the southern portion of the TRNP should be removed.

Please provide verification in the PEA that all fencing shall be removed from within the South park area to improve wild horse natural movement. Additionally, please provide historical and current rangeland data in the forthcoming PEA.

In April of 2021, Sec Haaland promised in her Secretarial order, "…to improve agency transparency and public engagement in the decision making process." Thank you for the opportunity of public engagement to provide my comments for the **Theodore Roosevelt National Park Livestock Plan**. However, DOI and its agencies blatantly ignore the law, falsify information to provide "need and purpose," fail to provide requested information, lack transparency of data, etc., and comments presented herein reflect public mistrust. We look forward to a direct written response from NPS regarding these scoping comments and concerns.

Best Regards,

Tammi M. Adams, Wild Horse Education
21991 150th Street NW
Elk River, Minnesota 55330

As herself, a taxpayer, a private citizen, member and volunteer for Wild Horse Education, and as an authorized representative of Wild Horse Education, their individual board members, and members worldwide.

March 9, 2023

Heather Hellyer
Save Our Wild Horses
Kihei, HI 96753

North Dakota House Agriculture Committee

In regard to: “Why should the Theodore Roosevelt National Park wild horses continue to live within the park’s boundaries?”

Dear Committee,

In February 2020 my husband and I set out on a road trip to visit as many national parks as we could before to the state of Hawaii. The main reason Theodore Roosevelt National Park was on our list? Our love of wild horses.

I am a photographer who specializes in wild horse photography and therefore am part of a large community of photographers. There are countless times when the groups share photographs of their trips to TRNP featuring photographs of the wild horses. Just today a fellow photographer asked for tips on how to view the horses when she and her sister take a trip there this summer.

TRNP is a beautiful national park, and yes, I love the bison, the prairie dogs, and the other wildlife. But the wild horses are what drew me to the park. And they are what draw thousands to the park each year.

TRNP is the last national park in the country with a wild horse herd. I believe the park service would be making a terrible error in removing or even greatly reducing the wild horse herd in TRNP. Wild horses are an American icon and bring a unmatched beauty to the landscape.

I respectfully request you work to keep the wild horse herd at TRNP, I believe that is what President Roosevelt would want, and that you ask the park service to keep the herd at a healthy genetically viable population number.

These horses are a treasure to the national park system and should be treated as such.

Sincerely,

Heather Hellyer
Save Our Wild Horses
Run Wild Images

"What a country chooses to save is what a country chooses to say about itself." ~ Mollie Beattie

Chasing Horses

Wild Horse Advocates

P.O. Box 3562
Dickinson, ND 58645
info@chwha.org
701-300-4144
ww.chwha.org

Thank you for giving the public this audience. My name is Christine Kman. I am here representing Chasing Horses Wild Horse Advocates, a nonprofit organization based in Dickinson, ND that advocates for the wild horses that call Theodore Roosevelt National Park home. I am here to ask that you pass Senate Concurrent Resolution SCR 4014 as amended by the ND Senate.

On December 12, 2022, Theodore Roosevelt National Park announced their plans to eliminate the entire herd of wild horses from the park's boundaries. The realization of the park's announcement was very surreal. I resonated with the message coming from all across our state, our nation and our world: What would Theodore Roosevelt National Park be WITHOUT the wild horses?

Our organization immediately began fighting to keep this iconic group of wild horses in the park. Thank you to all of you who answered our phone calls and emails that have brought us to this moment.

The park is currently working on their Environmental Assessment. Under the laws of NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act), they have to look at the impacts of their decision, to remove ALL of the wild horses from the park. They also have to look at a no-action alternative – following their outdated 1978 Environmental Assessment and other reasonable alternatives that they received during the public scoping period that ended on January 31, 2023. The park has stated that they will be back in the spring with the results of the Environmental Assessment.

WHY does the park want to eliminate ALL of the wild horses? THAT is the million-dollar question. The park has recently reclassified the horses, without any public input, and now call them “livestock” instead of past titles such as “historical demonstration herd” or even “wildlife/wild horses”. As such, the park has stated that it is against National Park Service rules and regulations to have “livestock” within the park boundaries. It is clear that there are ways around that. Assateague Island National Seashore and Cape Lookout National Seashore are two other national parks that currently have wild horses. To the best of my knowledge, there are no plans to eliminate horses from either park. How is that possible? Neither park classifies their horses as “livestock”. The horses are seen and appreciated for their cultural and historical value as well as the draw for tourism in their respective states.

The history of horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park shows us that park management repeatedly tries to eliminate the entire herd of horses every 10-20 years.

THAT is why this moment, and THIS resolution is important to the future of this herd.

The history of these horses is well documented. Scientists have weighed in on the impacts of the proposed actions of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Policies have been cited. Cultural and spiritual significance has been well stated. The people of North Dakota have spoken out and asked for the help of our North Dakota legislators. THANK YOU for representing the voice of the people of our state.

I was asked during the senate hearing what Chasing Horses Wild Horse Advocates is hoping happens after SCR 4014 passes?

Our organization hopes that this starts a chain of events that gets these horses protected so that the constant threats to these horses and the only home they have ever known stop once and for all.

The biggest problem is that these horses are NOT protected under the Wild Horse & Burro Act. Wild horses within The National Park Service boundaries were excluded from protection under that act. We are hoping that once this resolution passes, that Congressman Armstrong will clearly hear the voices of the people of North Dakota that he was elected to represent and join Governor Burgum, Senator Cramer, Senator Hoeven, The United Tribes of North Dakota, and all of you, our North Dakota State legislators and support the wild horses staying IN Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

I have been asked to speak at a wild horse advocacy conference in Washington DC in April. I will use my time there to connect with as many members of our federal senate and house members and discuss getting these horses protected under public law, similar to the way that the Shackleford Banks wild horses are protected in Cape Lookout National Seashore.

In order to ask for help from federal senate and congressional members in other states on the Natural Resources Committee and the Subcommittee on National Parks, we need to show that North Dakota stands behind legislation to protect these horses. Thank you again for the part

you play in getting these horses protected and stopping attempts to eliminate the horses from the park now and in the future.

During the hearing of SCR 4014 in the ND Senate, an amendment request was submitted from the North Dakota Livestock Association. We are happy to hear that the wild horses and longhorn cattle have their support. We are also pleased that they shared the benefits of livestock grazing with the committee. That amendment was voted on and the resolution was amended accordingly.

We understand that there is a motion for an amendment to this resolution. As much as our organization hates that the park has relabeled the wild horses as "livestock", the truth is that the state of North Dakota recognizes horses, cattle, and even bison as livestock. Since the resolution asks specifically that a herd of WILD HORSES be kept within the park boundaries, we have no issues with the resolution as amended and ask that you vote to give it a "DO PASS" as amended by the North Dakota Senate. The parties involved in the request for an amendment now were present at the hearing when the proposed amendment was discussed. If there was an issue with the proposed amendment, the time to speak up was when it was presented and discussed within the North Dakota Senate committee.

Early on in the incorporation of Chasing Horses Wild Horse Advocates, our lawyer reminded me that this was not MY nonprofit. This organization belongs to the community it serves. I pride myself on being open and honest with our community of followers and I am proud of the dedication they have to this herd. We have over 100,000 people who follow us from as close as our state of North Dakota and as far away as Germany, England and Australia. Across the miles, these horses have captured the hearts of literally at least hundreds of thousands of people worldwide.

In keeping with the sense that Chasing Horses Wild Horse Advocates is a nonprofit organization that belongs to the community it serves; I stand before you now as a representative of Chasing Horses Wild Horse Advocates. I have added comments from some of our followers to be entered as part of our testimony today. They have been submitted online and can be read at your leisure.

There have been a ton of Theodore Roosevelt quotes thrown around over the last couple of months. This one in particular has stuck with me:

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly,

so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

At a recent meeting held by the Dickinson Chamber of Commerce, Attorney General Drew Wrigley said, "Yes, this is a national park, but it is under the stewardship of the people of North Dakota." That line has stood strongly with me throughout this process. Our national parks belong to the people. Theodore Roosevelt National Park specifically falls under the stewardship of all of us in this room; all of us in the state. We have an obligation to protect this park and all of the resources it currently offers for future generations. Thank you again for meeting us in this moment; for stepping into the arena with us and for being a unified voice with us for the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Following are comments from some of our followers to be entered in as part of our testimony.

Thank you! We truly appreciate all of the support our North Dakota legislators have given to save our states only wild horse herd!

Christine Kman
Chasing Horses Wild Horse Advocates
www.chwha.org

To whom it concerns, I would like to show support for the wild horses within Teddy Roosevelt National Park. The wild bands are what draw me and my family to North Dakota as part of the landscape that inspires us to visit that part of our great Nation. We have not had a chance to travel north and see this magnificent herd in person and would like SCR 4014 passed as amended by the North Dakota Senate so maybe one day they will still be present for us to visit. Just the thought of the history stirred in our minds by being in the presence of these horses linked to sitting bull is amazing. What a rich way to keep the stories of Teddy Roosevelt and all of the historical figures of that area alive. It would be wonderful to see a flourishing robust herd of 150 plus horses someday in their natural environment thriving within the park. I would like to close by voting yes in support of the humane, scientifically recommended management of these wild horses in their home at Teddy Roosevelt National Park. Thank you for your time, Sarah Fabian N. Bloomfield, Ohio

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To All, I don't even know where to start, getting rid of the horses or even breaking up the herd, is wrong on all levels! 186 horses on thousands of acres should be no problem. The impact of losing those horses is is crazy wrong, To see them running together on the hills, watch them enjoying the warm spring sunshine with a foal sleeping in the grass is just plain ol' amazing!! There is a peaceful feeling you get from the sight! Please keep them there for our Children and grandchildren! I have been going to the Park since i was 9 or 10 I am now 67. As I walk thru the

vendor booths at shows, and see the amazing photos of the Horses, Bison, and Elk, for sale, I am in awe of the sheer beauty of the landscape and the animals. I would think that they have earned the right to live in the Park. President Roosevelt would be very ashamed and upset with the fact we are not protecting them, when they need protecting. As for Kelly Armstrong, I thought that you were supposed to be the voice in Washington for the people of North Dakota?? They are speaking loud and clear to save the 186 horses in TRNP. PLEASE help with this fight to save them!!
Trish Hulm

Please support SCR 4014. The wild horses at TRNP are a piece of North Dakota history that needs to be preserved. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.
Syndi Miske

PLEASE PASS SCR 4014 THANK YOU for taking time in your tremendously busy schedule to SUPPORT Keeping the Wild Horses and the Longhorn Steers in TRNP. TRNP has stated, if they don't remove all the wild horses now, they will only keep a token herd of non-breeding horses until they die out. Either way, TRNP accomplishes their Stated Goal of NO wild horses in TRNP in a few short years. This would be accomplished by inhumane and cruel roundups, permanently destroying family bands and NO guarantee of a safe home for any of these wild horses. We visited TRNP in 2021 precisely to experience these majestic wild horses. The park badlands environment was in glorious autumn color, but the wild horses are The Unique feature! As you know, there are Many badlands parks and places throughout the West but only TRNP has these wild horses. We want to bring our children and grandchildren to see these unique and historic wild horses (and also the longhorn steers) in 2024. HOWEVER, If the wild horses are removed from TRNP or are kept as a dying out token herd, my family and I will never enter North Dakota again for any reason. We are not alone in this decision. North Dakota is a destination tourism state. People don't stop there "along the way," they go there intentionally or not at all. Please do not allow the poor decisions and the unscientific and inhumane management by this National Park to irreparably damage ND tourism. The economic damage to supporting communities would be significant and likely permanent. SCR 4014 adds valuable pressure upon TRNP to reverse their intention to remove the wild horses. THANK YOU for joining this fight for the lives of this iconic herd of wild horses. They are unique among All the wild horses in America, both in phenotype and in history. Sincerely, Sherri Christian

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When will man cease to be so selfish and actually hold dear what nature has provided in this beautiful country/world. Makes me sick to my stomach.
Mary Mohler

Save these wild horses, they've been here along time and are icons of our heritage. they are beautiful and enhance the Park. Let them be...
Mary Ann Johnston

The horses are one reason I travel to North Dakota. Please don't take them out of the park. Thousands of people come to see the wild horses.
Betty Marsolek

I have been following the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Parks for sometime. I finally got the opportunity to see them in person two years ago and was thrilled and delighted. Many of the other Parks have Bison, big horn sheep, elk, pronghorn elk, bears etc. the only place I've seen the wild horses are In Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The argument that they are livestock is erroneous, I know as I've had as many as 100 horses to care for, raise, train and sell. These horses are wild, no intervention from man, just survival of the fittest. If you remove them from the Park, not only will the attendance to the Park die down but you're dooming the community of Medora and all the small and wonderful businesses there. I cannot fathom how this idea even saw the light of day but it is horrible and sad. These horses have been in the Park as long as the bison and elk. No one cares for them either. just the fact that you can see them up close and personal is a once of a lifetime opportunity and a boon to all the businesses in Medora. Please do not let this aspect of our history be exterminated. They are irreplaceable and have value. Protect these precious resources for future generations.
Chad Vaccaro

Horses and Longhorns

We find it suspicious that after 76 years and the established ranches that were once on the landscape of those badlands buttes only now you park administrators consider eliminating the wild horses and longhorns. The reasons are weak.

By way of your own park purpose statement, how are the horses and longhorns not contributing to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness quality? Yes, the landscape did inspire Roosevelt as did the ranching that he did while he was here. He was fascinated and loved the wild horses and the western life while he was grieving the loss of his beloved wife and mother. All of it comforted him in this difficult time. I can't imagine the heartache.

If you are concerned about non-native, then how about us? We are also non-native. If you need to address some thing it should be the prairie dogs because they are destroying the park. We used to drive into the park numerous times when we had our coffee shop in Medora specifically to see the horses. They contribute to the park and all of North Dakota and surrounding area and people from around the world ask about the horses always have, always will. Please make the right decision for the horses and longhorns, as they have loved their home and for all North Dakotan's, and tourists from all over the world who come to visit .

Why would you take some thing away that is so loved from the people that you represent. They have been there for many decades.

How dare you make light of the history of the Park. When you came to work for the park did you do your research and learn about the history, that all of the Superintendent's, biologists,

etc. who came before you; what their goals were. Did you ever go out into the park and just sit up on a butte and take in the scenery and feel the ambience of the surroundings? Taking on such a radical decision as this shows that you are only thinking of yourselves and not the people you represent, and the horses and longhorns that give such beauty to the landscape. Those of you making this decision should be ashamed to even be considering it.

76 years. I would like to know exactly why after all this time, there is no reason to keep the livestock. Richman, the superintendent said the park service has very limited ability to keep livestock in the park. Interesting that they had the ability all of those years prior. There are so many reasons to continue to keep the wild horses and longhorns in the park. Visitors and tourists come to our park specifically to see the wild horses and the longhorns just as if we were going to the Serengeti, we would want to see elephants and giraffes. Otherwise we would not go just to see the hills. They need to rethink this decision.

Who's to know exactly where those horses all came from? And what does it matter? I remember an old timer telling about when he was a kid, they would run wild horses in from the west that had come from who knows where. The fact remains, those horses that are in the park now are wild. They have lived their entire lives there regardless of their age. They should remain wild and free.

You like to use hollow and abstract words. For example, Eco system. Take a look at what the meaning of Eco system is according to the encyclopedia. "An ecosystem (or ecological system) consists of all the organisms and the physical environment with which they interact.[2]:?458? These biotic and abiotic components are linked together through nutrient cycles and energy flows. Energy enters the system through photosynthesis and is incorporated into plant tissue. By feeding on plants and on one another, animals play an important role in the movement of matter and energy through the system. They also influence the quantity of plant and microbial biomass present. By breaking down dead organic matter, decomposers release carbon back to the atmosphere and facilitate nutrient cycling by converting nutrients stored in dead biomass back to a form that can be readily used by plants and microbes." Note what it says about animals.

Please do what is right and leave things as they are with the wild horses and longhorns? You have absolutely no support, and in the future, you will be scarred and marred and boycotted, which will affect numerous entities and people including Theodore Roosevelt National Park that you represent and are paid to work at. You will not have support by us and thousands of people.

"I see horses, running wild, I wish I could feel like that for just a minute." Maggie Rogers, song Horses.

We must speak for them. We owe it to them. What horses represent, their contribution to America in World War I, how they contributed to the development of agriculture and ranching. To have a herd like this that represents freedom is so very representative to what I believe America is about; freedom.

Kathy James

Beautiful herd. I follow them on Facebook. Good looking horses, with excellent confirmation. Please keep this herd. I am a horse person from NJ. My father is in the Quarter Horse Hall of Fame. Bud Ferber. First AQHA President, East of the Mississippi. He even presented 2 Quarter Horses to Mickey Mantle on a Mickey Mantle Day at Yankee Stadium in 1965. Horses built this country.
Virginia Brophy

I hope that this campaign will bring to light how wrong this is. These horses are part of our heritage and should be protected. I would love to visit the park just to see the wild horses running free and being loved by everyone. We are totally fighting for the spirit of the badlands and protection for these wonderful horses that call the Theodore National park their home. There has to be an alternative solution to removal. Other management plans have worked I am sure if you discuss it there is another plan. So I hope that you can think of something different so I can come and visit and see them running free.
Jeanette Kirk

The TRNP Wild Horses are the only reason my family and I drive through the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. This would be devastating to lots of people should the park go through with this decision, it would also result in lost revenue for the park. Teddy Roosevelt would be ashamed to have his name attached to a park that would get rid of wild horses. Please pass SCR 4014.
Amy Johnson

I support SCR 4014.
Gary Hepner

Please pass SCR 4014
JoAnne Browne

Honorable legislators,

I am in full support of efforts to pass SCR 4014. The history and heritage of this great cultural resource should be protected.

I respectfully ask that you vote a DO PASS on this resolution.

Thank you for your support and service to our state.

Michael Southam, Fargo, ND

Dear House Members,

Please do not remove the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. These animals produce only beauty and strength for this national park. I believe Mr. Theodore Roosevelt himself would be honored to know that the wild animals he viewed himself in this great land were still available for all Americans to see and draw inspiration from. To remove these wild horses (which cause no harm) will rob all Americans of the ability to enjoy such creatures a national park should be lucky enough to call their own! I plan on coming to North Dakota this year for the sole purpose of seeing the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I spend more than half of every year in states that have wild horses. I have no other reason to visit or spend time in states that have removed their wild horses. I know there are many other people that do the same. Therefore, by removing and deleting the wild horses in the state of North Dakota, you will be removing a viable reason for visiting and spending my money and time in your state. Please take this into consideration for myself and others like me that spend our time and money visiting wild horses of North America. Keep wild horses free as our great nation intended for us all to be!!

Thank you,

Debbie Hayes

People from north Dakota that if the horses, so does a whole town that depends on them. Is that what Teddy Roosevelt would do? I think not. Very bad move by NPS.
Alison James

Please pass SCR 4014 to help the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park live wild and free for generations to come. They make up the HEART AND SOUL of this park, and we North Dakotans and folks everywhere love them!!

Brian & Lynn Brubaker

I'm asking you guys to pass SCR 4014. They are so important to history and culture especially North Dakota culture. They bring a lot of visitors to the National Park and state of North Dakota every year and furthermore being representatives of North Dakota it is your duty to represent what the people of North Dakota want and represent North Dakota's best interests .
Kimberly Stordeur

Dear ND Legislators:
Please support the resolution to keep the horses in the park. I have visited the park several years, 2 weeks stay, and enjoy the beautiful badlands, but mostly the wild horses. The horses bring peace, relaxation, joy, and excitement as I watch them. I have spoken to many other visitors while there and they also come for the horses. You are very fortunate to have the

history of one of our presidents behind the park which includes these horses. Please keep them in the park for us, our children, grandchildren, and future generations to come to be able to enjoy and learn. Also a new management plan needs to be adopted where that plan is guided by science regarding the removal of horses and the administration of birth control. No less than 150 horses need to stay and the genectics need to be considered. Also PZP has been proven to be a more effective form of birth control and should replace the current GonaCon. If the horses are gone I'm sorry to say I will no longer come back to ND, but spend my time somewhere else.
Respectfully,
Cynthia (Cindy) Brown

I am a resident of west-central Minnesota. My husband and I enjoy the outdoors and exploring what nature has to offer. It is a way to relax and renew in this demanding, stressful world. It was this desire to explore nature that lead us to Medora and Theodore Roosevelt National Park several years ago. We fell in love with the area - the history, the scenery, the people, the wildlife and especially the wild horses roaming freely in the park's south unit. To have such a smorgasbord of nature and history available for people to experience up front and personal is very exciting and fulfilling. It is what brings us back each year to spend a week taking in as much as we can while there.

The history of the area is amazing, especially knowing that a U.S. president spent time living, hunting and ranching in the area and, by his admission, that western North Dakota made him a better man. The Marquis de Mores and his family played a major role in developing the town of Medora and the surrounding area. The Medora Foundation does a remarkable job of helping visitors experience the romance and events of that era. The national park gives us a first hand look into what these great men experienced when they traveled the countryside.

I understand that the park management wants to make changes to the park by proposing to remove the wild horses.. These wild horses, many are descendants of ranch horses and Indian ponies, adapted well to the terrain and resided in the area prior to and during Roosevelt's time and continued to thrive through the years. Their ancestors played a vital role in the ranching and Native American history and the development of western North Dakota. This is their home and they make Theodore Roosevelt National Park unique. I understand that the horses were originally allowed to remain in the park because wild horses roamed the region during Theodore Roosevelt's days and the horses continued presence gives visitors a look into those ranching days. Old timers in the area referred to the wild horses as Teddy's horses.

Touring this park may be the first and only chance many visitors have to see wild horses and longhorn cattle in a natural setting. The horse herds are what draw many of us back to the Medora area. We follow them on social media, we seek them out during park visits, we know their names, we celebrate new foals and we mourn their injury and death. To see these horses

roaming freely with the bison and other park animals is an awe-inspiring sight and a real life view into the area's history that makes Theodore Roosevelt National Park exceptional.

I am concerned about the low number of horses, 30 to 60, that is proposed by one of the park management plans that allows the herds to remain. It is not practical for a healthy herd because it does not allow for a sufficient genetic pool to prevent serious inbreeding with the resultant health issues. Since the herds have increased to around 150 to 200 horses they have been much more visible to the public. In our early trips to the park, when numbers were lower, we were lucky if we were able to see horses through our binoculars. Now we often see them near the park road for close viewing which enhances the visitors park experience. We need to preserve these wild horses but we need thoughtful, good management to maintain a viable, healthy herd. It is clear to me that the three park plans will eventually result in a goal of no horses remaining in the park.

The park management now claims that the park was established to preserve native habitat and species for future generations and not to give the public a view into the ranching lifestyle of Teddy Roosevelt's days there. The park wants to focus on "scientific management" which allows only for indigenous species and which considers the wild horses no more than weeds to be plucked out. However, the preserved Elk Horn Ranch site, the preserved Peaceful Valley Ranch site and Teddy's cabin on display testify that honoring the ranching lifestyle of that era was a part of the original park plan. The horses, longhorns, bison and other animals have coexisted well in the park since it's founding and there is no reason they can't continue to do so for future generations to enjoy.

I encourage your support for the approval of SCR 4014 to keep Teddy's horses wild and free in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Linda Wright

Keep them wild
Trudy Hastings

Please pass SCR 4014.
Susan Holsopple

"I want to be in the room with the horse picture." "I heard about a horse picture." "That is the most beautiful picture I have ever seen!" These are comments I hear several times a day by patients in my dermatology office in upstate New York. There are badlands pictures with bison in the hallway and pictures of TRNP in other rooms, but it is the horse picture that really gets people. Most of my patients have never seen the badlands but when they see that picture of the wild horses climbing up a butte they think ND is the most amazing place in the world. North Dakota should do everything It can to keep this bragging right! Jessica Severson, MD, Miss Rodeo North Dakota 1988

Please join forces to save the wild horses of TRNP. There is such history there with them. We travel from Louisiana yearly to see them. Please fight for them! Respectfully, Suzan Cahanin

Please leave the wild horses as they have lived. Monitor their health, not removal.

Marty Leake

Please keep our wild horses free in the park! Theodore Roosevelt National Park will be better off with its wildlife wild and free!!@ better for the horses, the environment. The other wildlife, the specific ecosystem there!!!!! This is their home and there is room and food for them there. Please help!

Linda Granato

These horses are the first owners of this land and to remove them is unacceptable these unique wild horse and there family's call this land home that they had roamed for years you have not right to change that.iam sure plans can be made to keep the safe to be free ,these round ups are so horrible and unfair to them and herd family.please change their outcome\

Clarissa Frank

Please pass SCR4014. The horses are an important part of TRNP, they have been there before there was even a park. They are an important part of tourism people come to see our only herd of Wild Horses in ND

Janice Waisnor

HELP KEEP THE WILD HORSES OF THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK RUNNING WILD AND FREE FOR DECADES TO COME!

Brian and Lynn Brubaker

Please support SCR 4014 this bill would support humane scientifically methods of managing wild horses in the park. The wild horses have been there for over 100 years they are historical and part of the park and need to stay.

These wild horses date all the way back to our President Theodore Roosevelt. These wild horses inspire visitors all around the world I know I want to go see them. Without the wild horses the park is missing something. A lot of history will be gone. These wild horses are descendents of the orginal Badland horses with historical lineages tracing all the way back to the horses by Sitting Bull in the late 1800's These wild horses are the only ones in North Dakota they should be protected and cherished not thrown in holding pens.

Teddy Roosevelt's herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 breeding adults in order to ensure a genetically viable herd. a study was conducted in 2019 by Texas A and M that already showed

inbreeding. I n order to make sure there is a good herd do not remove horses. in fact additional horses with the same background should be introduced to the group.

The Senators of North Dakota and many people care about these wild horses and want to see them stay in the park. They historically are part of North Dakota I strongly support SCR 4014. This bill will support protecting Theodore Roosevelt wild horses in the park by methods of humane science and keeping the wild horses in the park.

These wild horses are very historical and are part of the park. They have been there for over a 100 years and they should stay in the park. These wild horses are descendents of the orginal Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to Sitting Bull in the late 1800's. Teddy Roosevelt's horses are very historical and the only wild horses in North Dakota bringing visitors in from everywhere. I know I plan on seeing the wild horses. All the way from Kansas. Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 breeding adults. They have already shown the white gene showing inbreeding stated by a study in 2019 by Texas A and M. In fact some horses with their historical background should be released into the herd. So there is no inbreeding.

Again please support SCR 4014 I will not visit the park without the wild horses there.

For the wild ones

Rebecca Falk

Please save ND's wild horse herd!

Michelle Jennison

I vote to keep the wild mustangs in the national park. I wish to express my concerns about the TRNP removing the Longhorn cattle and wild Mustangs from the park. They have been a part of the Badlands landscape for centuries. This small herd of horses and cattle do not put a dent in the acreage of the park. There are more bison then any other species including elk, deer or antelope on this park range. People can not go to any other park on the west coast or 10 western states to see these magnificent animals. We have dozens of non-native species in zoos but no wild mustangs. Please do not eradicate the wild mustangs from the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. They are there for all humanity to cherish. They are special!

Sincerely,

Jannett Heckert

Our family traveled from where we were vacationing in Devil's Lake, ND to Medora, ND in October 2022 just to see the wild horses and they did not disappoint! I write from Florida to encourage you to pass Resolution SCR 4014 in support of keeping the wild horses free, in the land they have always known. They are an incredible part of history and I hope the protections

will be put in place so that they will be there for my grandchildren and their children to enjoy generations from now. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sheri Logue and Family, Tallahassee, FL

Please leave the horses alone, without their presence, I would NEVER visit the park!

Stephanie Gyure

Dear N. D. House Members:

Please vote to keep ours wild horses in TRNP and bring in management that will use better means of birth control plus keep the genetics of these herds in mind. I have spent several summers, (2 weeks at a time) in the park enjoying these awesome wild horses. I speak to many other people who visit our park who, like me, come just for the horses ! The park's name sake enjoyed these horses and are a big part of N. D. history. Please leave them there and manage them wisely so that we and future generations can enjoy the peace and tranquility they bring to The Badlands. Without them, the beautiful landscape is just that, beautiful landscape, but with the wild horses and other wildlife in the park that beautiful landscape becomes magical and more inviting for many of us to return year after year . Removing them would be a great loss of revenue for I, along with many, many others, will not be back to TRNP and North Dakota.

Respectfully,

Cynthia (Cindy) Brown

The Horses of Theodore Roosevelt Park are unique to see while visiting the park.They have historical significance to this park and the spirt of the badkands. They were around before it became a Park and deserve to live in there home. They are the main reason myself and others visit the park. They need to be protected and kept genetically viable a reasonable management plan needs to be in place. The Horses need to be around for the enjoyment of current and future generations. Without them I would choose to just visit other parks. Thank you. I appreciate your consideration and hope you will take action quickly.

Diane Tutas

These horses are so very important to this Park and to a lot of people. So many of us feel removing them is wrong. Controlling the population thru contraceptives and adopting young ones out to loving homes is more than enough. Please allow for these horses to remain in the Park and to call they Park their forever home.

Sandra Ranney

Please, please keep the wild horses!

Debra Lindemann

PLEASE PASS SCR 4014

THANK YOU for taking time in your tremendously busy schedule to SUPPORT KEEPING THE WILD HORSES in TRNP at a genetically healthy level of 150 – 200 adult horses, and ALSO to KEEP the LONGHORN STEERS!

PLEASE word this resolution to Specify that Theodore Roosevelt National Park MUST keep the herd at this scientifically proven level to keep the wild horses healthy and strong for future generations. OTHERWISE – TRNP HAS STATED, if they don't remove them all now, they will simply keep a token herd of non-breeding horses until they die – either way, TRNP accomplishes their Stated Goal of No Wild Horses in TRNP.

TRNP is unique in all of America, not just the National Park System, precisely because of the wild horses and the longhorn steers. NORTH DAKOTA MUST HOLD THIS LEGACY. Once this legacy is gone, it is gone forever!

We visited TRNP for the first time in September 2021 specifically to see the wild horses. The park is glorious and the wild horses are a vital part in the balance of this ecosystem, and they have been for hundreds of years!

I want to bring my children and grandchildren to see these wild horses, and also the longhorn steers, in this gorgeous natural ecosystem in 2024! There are many badlands environment parks and lands across the West, and we have visited most of them several times. Only TRNP has the wild horses!

If this wild horse herd is extirpated, we will never again enter the state of North Dakota for Any reason. This would be so heartbreaking and tragic!

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH FOR YOUR HARD WORK to SAVE THE WILD HORSES and the LONGHORN STEERS in Theodore Roosevelt National Park for generations to come!!

With much hope and determination, Sherri Christian

THANKS TO ND SENATE FOR VOTING YES TO PASS SCR 4014! NOW I'M PRAYING MIGHTILY THAT THE HOUSE WILL ALSO PASS THIS RESOLUTION TO HELP KEEP THE SPECIAL AND WILD HORSES OF TRNP WHERE THEY ARE AND WHERE THEY BELONG! AS AN AMERICAN I WHOLEHEARTEDLY ADVOCATE FOR THIS PARK, FOUNDED BY OUR FORMER PRESIDENT WHO WAS DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THIS LAND AND ALL OF THE ANIMALS IN IT! THIS INCLUDES THE LEGENDARY HERDS OF WILD HORSES! THEY ARE AS MUCH A PART OF TRNP TODAY AS THEY WERE WHEN

THIS HISTORIC PARK WAS FOUNDED BY TEDDY ROOSEVELT! AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR ALSO VOTING YES TO KEEP THESE MAGNIFICENT DESCENDANTS SAFE AND WILD!!!

Kim Evans

Please keep the wild horses where they belong - in the wild. They will thrive there in a way they never will if you put them in captivity. And the park will never be the same without them. We stopped there on the way home from a trail ride in the Badlands and seeing the wild horses made the stop that much better,

Michelle Cowley

My thoughts are that we need to let this horses live free and wild Definitely no helicopter round ups. Birth control if that can be safe. I'm sorry but cattle farmers and sheep hurders should be responsible for their feeding of their cattle and sheep It should not affect these horses from staying wild and free. There has to be ways to advocate for these horses. Please try to help save them

Kathleen Chubirka

I grew up in ND but now live out of state. When I come back home to visit, my family and I make a trip to the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. We LOVE seeing the beautiful wild horses. I truly can't imagine the park without them. They are the highlight for so many visitors. Leave them be. Please.

Shelly Shain

Please leave the wild horses alone. You're doing the state a disservice by removing them. People come to se them thus adding to state revenue. It cost money to remove them which is bad for You're state budget. Reduce cattle & sheep which will reduce erosion, & save native plants.

Mari Szabo

If horses are gone, i will never go to medora again.

Marjorie Rendell

I grew up loving horses. They are majestic animals that bring joy to many people. The North Dakota wild horses call TRNP home. Taking them away from the only home they know is not ok. All horses deserve a fighting chance and taking away their freedom and home is not the right answer. Please, let these majestic free horses continue to live in their home!

Geneva Buttler

Pass SCR 4014!

Joan Wager

The horse as a native species to North America is an "integral component of the Natural System," as stated by the Bureau of Land Management's WILD FREE-ROAMING HORSES AND BURROS ACT OF 1971 (PUBLIC LAW 92-195) Many scientists and conservationist's have made scientific arguments to "rewilding" natural spaces in North America. The horse is important in the ecosystem and was present in ancient North America. Rewilding is an idea that is very common in Europe and gaining popularity in the US. By allowing horses to continue in the National Park we can help to restore the land to what it once was before settlement.

There is no evidence the horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park have had a negative impact on the park. The NPS stated this themselves in their public meeting. When asked if there was any evidence the horses were negatively effecting the ecosystem of TRNP, their response was only "we have no legal obligation to keep them in the park." This tells me it's not about the ecosystem, it's about the parks preference.

My wife and I live in Wisconsin but stumbled upon the park 7 years ago. We have been back 21 times since to document and research the horse bands in the park. Sadly, we have no reason to return to North Dakota if the plan is executed to remove the horses. I know this is true for a vast majority of people who visit this park. Would you consider representing the people and demanding Theodore Roosevelt National Park not remove the horses? For science, conservation, tourism, and the health of North Dakota.

- Grace Free

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to comment on the Livestock Plan in development for Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP). Since I heard about this plan being put in place I have spent a lot of time thinking and researching the problem (as I understand it.) Of course, I want what is best for the National Park and not just it's horses.

My wife and I are from Wisconsin and stumbled upon your park on one of our trips out west. I remember vividly, having completed the park loop road, driving towards the exit when we spotted a band of horses cooling off in a watering hole just past cottonwood campground. This moment immediately spoke volumes to me of a place that historically has had such a rich history of horses (both post and pre settlement) and sparked a love for your park and North Dakota. My wife and I have been to 45 of the nations National Parks and are working towards seeing the rest. I'll be honest, before this experience North Dakota would be in my bottom five states to visit in the US. But after having this experience with the horses my wife and I have been back 21 times since 2016. We've researched and recorded the bands as they moved through the park and changed through the years. It is our only reason to ever visit North Dakota. Without the horses, we would not return.

I have friends that have a career in conservation here in Wisconsin that I have been taking time to learn from. I have been growing in my understanding of horses and the role they play in North America, specifically in the geographical makeup of North Dakota. The term "rewilding" keeps coming up in our conversations. This is a mainstream practice in Europe's conservation efforts on their quest to help restore Europe back to what it may have been like in ancient times. This movement has been gaining momentum in the past 5 years in the United States. With horses playing a roll in the ecosystem of the badlands millions of years ago, I wonder if there is an important role the horses provide in reigniting what has been lost through settlement. Wether these horses are genetically related or not, their presence and behaviors positively affect the environment of the park. I'm wondering if TRNP is researching the ideas around "rewilding" and considering what a gift they may have in the park.

If the amount of horses need to be reduced based on their environmental impact, I wonder if reducing the heard by a smaller number could be beneficial. Reducing the herd by two thirds as proposed seems to be more aggressive than it needs to be. I wonder if one of the alternative plans could reduce the herd size down to 120 head and then asses the impact that size is having on the environment and adjusting from there. It seems to me the park is taking a more aggressive approach than it needs to.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts on this issue. My wife and I want what is best for the park and North Dakota and firmly believe keeping the horses in the park is in your best interest. Please continue to preserve what the park has been since it's founding.

- Elias Free

Thank you, ND Senators, from the bottom of my heart for voting unanimously to keep the wild horses in TRNP. You've made my heart rejoice with gratitude.

Jane Millar

Thank you to ND Senate for supporting keeping the horses in TNRP! Please, House of Representatives, do the same.

Janine Ferris

The wild horses need to remain in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. They are as important as any other feature there. This is their home. Please keep them there. Thank you.

Susan Hanson

I want to thank all those that voted for the safety of our Wild Horses in Theodore National Park. Being Cherokee, the wild and nature are very special and we MUST protect our heritage at ALL times. These horses need to run free, unhindered, foals be born to carry on that heritage and we must all understand that they are a very important part of our land and of each of us and that they in their own way contribute to the ecosystem which I must remind all that God is the one

that set it up and knew EXACTLY what the land and people need to survive and keep HIS creation in balance. They are not only beautiful, but remind us that they persevere through struggles and survive, we humans need to keep them safe and protected from humans, as the human is the most destructive, blood thirsty of all Gods creation and needs to learn to control their ungodly desires to destroy everything they do not like or understand. I beseech all to keep our heritage safe and protected and do not let anyone or anything destroy the wild horses for any reason.

Elizabeth McFarland

I was born and raised in Arthur, ND. Home of the current Gov. And yes our families were friends and attended the same school and church.

But, the important thing is the parts and current memories I have of visiting TRNP. I currently still have a sticker from there on my car. I follow the wild mustangs web sight. I have bought their calendar. They are one of the few real wild things left in this America. We seem to think progress means destroying all of our past but we really need to keep it around for our future young folks.

Please let these Mustangs live their lives in the park, they deserve this little piece of the world!

Suzanne Landon

If you have a love for wild horses that have their freedom in the park, you will save these beautiful animals that have the support of people from all over. They are loved by many for their beauty and the park wouldn't be the same without them. They, along with the Buffalo are a part of North Dakota's history. Blessings to all the people that do care what happens to them! Your love and compassion is appreciated!!! ??

Deb Smith

I thank you for taking the time for reviewing these comments. This beautiful park would not be the same without our wild horse's who have called this park home for decades. They add something by being here that's just mesmerizing. A gift of mystery and beauty that so many of us understand. It has been proven they do not destroy the landscapes but enhance it.God approves I'm sure. They deserve to be able to live in peace just like you and I hope to. Please pass this bill and know in your hearts this is the right thing for us to do.

Carol Rife

Please allow these amazing wild horses to continue reside in TRNP. This is their home . The horses are an amazing part of the park and are part of the circle of life there just like the Buffalo and other animals that call it home. The herd is managed and they balance the natural order of the park . They have been there for many years some of them are documented as living wild and gree there for over 20 years ! These are not domestic horses turned lose disrupting balance

they are wild horses born and living and dying in their home as they should. Of course management is needed so the horses do not reach unhealthy numbers as with the Buffalo or any other herd animal . They are managed they do belong and they definitely are a part of the TRNP that makes the park unique and extra enjoyable. To see them wild and free is the very reason so many people journey to the park honestly . Removing them will not only remove a part of the established balance of the parks wildlife but also the joy TRNP brings to so many people.

Donna Riley

Theodore Roosevelt National Park will be nothing without tge beautiful and majestic wild horses! They make that park! I go there often and even if I see tons of other wildlife, I am never satisfied until I come upon the wild horses. Even if it is just one horse, I am satisfied! Please keep them in the park for generations to come! My grandbabies are still very young but I can't wait for the day to take them there to see those majestic animals!

Cindy Sandvick

You need to keep the wild horses in TRNP. They are a part of that park and their absence will be met by fewer visitors to the park. They belong there aside the other wild animals that call the park their home.

Tina Gustafson

Let the horse stay. They are part of the ECO system.

Steve Zinsli

We are getting up there in age, & would VERY MUCH like to come, just to SEE the wild horses up close! PLEASE keep them there! TY!

Robert Gansemer

Have been following the herd for over 50 years. Many trips thru the park specifically to get glimpses and photos. Please reconsider and keep these horses alive and free in TRNP. Thank you.

Tina Lantz

Dear North Dakota House of Representatives,

Even though I don't live in North Dakota, I share in the people of your state's concerns about TRNP removing the wild mustangs. Thie south unit of the national park offer the complete picture of the west when Theodore Roosevelt was alive. People visit because there is only one national park in the 10 western state with horses. My friend visited the park to video the horse. It took her 3 days to find the horses, so it's not like there are too many. She found the bison

before she found the wild horses. Please look her video up on YouTube. Her name is Karen King. Please save the horses of TRNP.

Sincerely,

Jannett

The wild horses in TRNP are an intricate part of our States History and a top reason tourists decide to visit DD. They need to be preserved and protected for future Generations. Thank you

Tawnel Blore

Thank you for working with advocates like Chasing Horses Wild Horse Advocates to help save the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park! These horses are an asset to the state of North Dakota and should be left to be wild and free the same as they always have been!

Gary Kman

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing to urge you to vote YES to protect and preserve the wild horses and the Longhorn cattle in the Teddy Roosevelt park. The horses are an important part of our national heritage, which MOST Americans want to see maintained. They also are the only wild horse herd in North Dakota and an important source of ecotourism. Please ensure that enough horses are saved to guarantee a viable genetic pool. There are humane, scientifically-based methods for managing population control, and I urge you to consider using those rather than simply removing these horses and sending them off to almost certain slaughter.

Thank you so much for your time and attention to this issue!

Dr. Michele Clark
Dept. of Radiology
UNC-Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC 27599

Vote YES on SCR 4014

Where can one go to see wild horses? Well, in Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota – that's where! This is the home of wild horses. No one should take these wild horses away and deprive them of their freedom, or land, or heritage. The great majority of Americans want wild horses to remain wild, not imprisoned or sold for slaughter.

And those dozen wild cattle are tough and cool ! They are to be admired at their resilience and strength to survive. They shouldn't be removed or killed.

Let these wild horses and wild cattle be. Leave them alone. They have formed social groups and families. Why would anyone want to destroy them and their families? They have centuries of history and standing in this Park. They are what makes this Park so beautiful. These horses and cattle are designed and built to live off this land. It's their natural habitat. They are the ones that live WITH the land.

The 'overpopulation' math doesn't add up. Also, the management has been very effective in eliminating their natural predators.

The Teddy Roosevelt herds are a huge draw for tourists from everywhere. And people learn so much from just watching the wild horses and wild cattle from afar. It's an experience like no other. Removing these wild animals will be detrimental to the local economies because the tourists will stop coming.

Vote YES on SCR 4014

I urge you to continue protecting the Teddy Roosevelt wild horses in the Park.

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in North Dakota.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony with you today. I am writing IN FAVOR of SCR 4014. I support SCR 4014 and any further steps to save the herd of wild horses inside the South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Craigo

Golden Valley County, North Dakota

A concurrent resolution urging the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National park service to modify its proposed livestock management plan, and to continue to allow for interpretative, cultural, and historical purposes a herd of wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt national Park :

I am in support of SCR 4014 along with at least 80% of Americans who want wild horses protected.

2) Wild horses are part of the park. They are great scenery arepart of native wildlife and qualities of the park. They are the landscape inspired by the president Teddy Roosevelt . Recreating Theodore Roosevelt legacy and recreating history and a great experience for visitors to the park.

3) The wild horses are direct descendents of the orginal “Badland” horses with historical lineages tracing all the way back to the wild horses sired by Sitting Bull in the late 1800’s.stc22

4) Teddy Roosevelt’s wild horses in the park are the only wild horses in North Dakota. 9poppo]fThey deserve protection. They also draw in a lot of tourists and they are part of North Dakota’s history.

5)Teddy Roosevelt’s herd needs to be kept at a minimum of 150 wild horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd. This has been recommended by Dr. Gus Cothran equine geneticist for all wild horse herds in US. (There was also a study on this herd in 2018 by Texas A + M showing that this herd was at risk of inbreeding. This herd should not have a removal in fact maybe add some new blood to prevent inbreeding).

6) I am from Kansas and am planning on visiting this park with my family. Theodore Roosevelt National Park is the wild horses to me. They are a very unique herd. If they are removed I will not come visit. I certainally will not spend any money in North Dakota.

7) Vote yes on SCR 4014 to support humane scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on public lands they call home. Don’t take away North Dakota’s history.

Mary K. Kimbro

North Dakota Wild Horses 03/10/23

AGENDA

Treatment of North Dakota's Wild Horses/SCR4014

NOTES:

Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

Answer: As such, it should behoove us all to maintain park pieces and not disrupt the fragile nature hierarchy.

The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

Answer: These horses are remnants of American history that should be taught in American schools.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

Answer: Something so unique should be protected, not maligned or removed.

The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

Answer: North Dakota is the owner of these horses, and must, they absolutely must be responsible and humane in all herd management practices, putting the welfare of these animals before their own needs.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

Answer: those avenues bring in much needed tax revenue that can be put toward the care and keeping of these magnificent creatures and the lands they call home.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.

Answer: Putting the wishes of the majority of Americans is good both politically, economically and morally.

If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

Answer: I will spend my money in surrounding states, and permanently boycott your state.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

Bold items are my own opinions.

Recently I was driving from Arizona to Colorado and along the way off to the side of the highway was a wonderful sight…a mare and her baby in the wilderness where they belong! Though not the North Dakota's horses it reminded of me how integral they are to our American landscape and in the spirit of President Roosevelt's dream for these horses. These horses need to be protected for us and future generations of Americans, a good thriving herd for the environment and for the majority of us to enjoy. Please do not sell out these horses. I as an American and tourist have made myself a pledge not to travel to places here and abroad that do not protect the environment or the animals in it. Please vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically based methods to help these animals survive on our public lands. This is not only our land but theirs! Thank you.

February 9, 2023

My name is Christa Ruppert with the Kuntz Nokota Ranch.I am here to testify in favor of SCR4014. As you may know, my father, Frank Kuntz and my late uncle, Leo Kuntz have been managing this feral herd of native horses which they carefully acquired from TRNP in the mid-70's and have bred and created a pedigree for over 40 years. They are a distinct breed, with superior health and emotional intelligence and were removed from the TRNP before the introduction of domestic lines in the 80's by park management. We have about 185 horses in our care on private land.

It is without doubt we need to appreciate the connection to the Lakota People, the Native Prairie-Land and American History. We feel that our mission in preserving this unique feral ancient breed runs parallel to the mission of TRNP and American Prairie to restore wildlife to the native prairie. The Nokota horse is the native horse of North America with immense history and regal presence.

94 Nokota horses' blood samples were gathered (with extraordinary effort and expertise by Frank and colleagues) to create a permanent biobank and pedigree registry. This will complete an in-depth study of genetic origins with the help of equine geneticist, Dr. Doug Antczak, the Baker School of Animal Health, Cornell University. The project compliments Harvard's anthropological work which strongly supports the Native Lakota narratives; and suggests the Nokota Horse ran with buffalo and lived with the 7 Lakota Sioux nations long before the Spanish "reintroduced" the horse. There is NO SPANISH MUSTANG marker in these horses. Connection to ancient lines place Nokota on the ENDANGERED SPECIES list.

Sadly we are met with resistance from TRNP on this amazing opportunity and denying their own mission and responsibilities. Fortunately the integrity of organizations like American Prairie have restored our enthusiasm to reach out to TRNP to reconsider its position. The unique Nokota horse might be erased from history without the clarity and dedication of those outside TRNP which does not speak well for an organization charged to protect history and native creatures. Frank Kuntz is 71 years old and we as a family have dedicated our lives to protecting this rare breed. It was always our hope that TRNP would reintroduce this historically correct animal.

These horses have seen everything from the Battle of Little Bighorn and some still show battle scars and unmistakable markings in Charles Russell, Remington and Sharp paintings and the like. Frank can speak endlessly on Marques de Mores who acquired these horses for his wife after the death of Sitting Bull, the revolutionary war funder, Heidicouper Family, who ranched these horses and wrote extensively on their history as well as the legends associated with the Lakota people who centered their lives around the Nokota as a horse nation.

In short, we feel the Nokota add an authenticity that old-timers and now science support as native to the Western Prairie. TRNP and American Prairie would be visited by 1000's of passionate Nokota supporters who travel to photo and celebrate our horses. It is our desire to partner with like-minded mission and provide complementary education and history.

Christa Ruppert

Senate Concurrent Resolution, SCR 4014

I support the passage of SCR 4014, as amended by the ND Senate.

The historic and cultural value of the wild horses of TRNP is supported by Dr. Castle McLaughlin's report, The Historical Status of the Wild Horses of TRNP. There is documentation by President Theodore Roosevelt, as well. This herd has also been established as a globally diverse genetic herd.
For me personally, I travel from the eastern part of the state to drive through the park to watch the horses. This is my respite at the end of my summers. In the off season, I follow three specific social media sites which document the wild horses of TRNP. If these wild horses are eradicated, I do not have reason to return to TRNP.
In our world, when we are trying to prevent species from becoming extinct on our planet, in the US, we are considering eradicating a species by our own hand? I do not understand. There is plenty of land. We should be instrumental in supporting their viability. It's our responsibility to figure out how to live together. The wild horses in TRNP are part of the ecotourism system and business development in our state. We actually are dependent on them.

Vote YES on SCR 4014, as it has been amended by our Senate, to support humane, scientific methods to manage the wild horses of TRNP on the land in our state, which they call home.

Sincerely,
Susan M. McCullough
Native ND Resident

Why do I want the Teddy Roosevelt wild horses to stay protected in the Park? The facts:

1. *Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.*
2. *The horses in the Park are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.*
3. *The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.*
4. *The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.*
5. *SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.*
6. *SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.*
7. *If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.*

I love all animals, but especially the wild ones. The ones who truly represent the freedom and strength and beauty and untamed spirit that so many people cherish, and perhaps aspire to. America's wild horses truly and wonderfully represent that unspoiled, beautifully wild freedom. Not only should they ALL be protected (as was promised in the Wild Horse Protection Act of 1971), they should be our national animal.

Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.

We ask that you please pass SCR 4014 as amended by the ND Senate. We urge you to recognize North Dakota as a state with Historical roots, as such with horses that have genetic lineage that date back to the late 1800's horses of Sitting Bull. And to be proud and honored. Also to designate the park as a learning center, a place to represent Western history, for children, and families, to explore and experience Western lore, of the Wild West, the Wild horses, and the American spirit that thrives in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park today. Thank you for your honorable attention on this Very Important and Historical Matter.

Angela Fiedler
Calimesa, California.

March 9, 2023

House Representatives

My name is Frank Kuntz with the Kuntz Nokota Ranch. I am here to testify in favor of SCR4014. I am so very pleased that Governor Burgum and the tourism office and others are stepping up to the plate to save the wild horses in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP). These horses belong there. TRNP created that type of horse. But what are we saving? After 40 some years of total mismanagement the wild horses of TRNP, with the introduction of domestic breeds like the quarter horse and the Arabian and a shire crossed stud and changing the historic phenotype horses that were there before the white man came here. In 2018, the genetic analyst of the wild horses in the TRNP showed that the horses there are one of the worst inbred wild horses on public lands. It also stated that they needed to introduce new bloodlines.

Also, the TRNP has been using the horses there as guinea pigs for the drug Gonacon to permanently sterilize the mares in the park. What will be the long term effect of this drug? Will the TRNP continue to dart the mares with Gonacon and what new bloodlines do they need to introduce?

They also noted in Governor Burgums press release, that the legacy of Theodore Roosevelt was important to the state of ND. I did not hear one word about Sitting Bull's legacy. That was their type of horse that was in the TRNP when it was fenced in.

So, if you are going to save the wild horses in the TRNP based on science, genetics and historical evidence, let's do it the right way.

Slowly reintroduce the NOkotas, the state's Honorary Equine into the TRNP, set up an interpretive center in the park, which should include the history of descendants of SItting Bull's horses. After all, Sitting Bull's name is known worldwide.

The TRNP should stop using Gonacon on the horses and the TRNP should work with the tribes to take some of the excess horses to the reservations for use in therapy programs for traumatized, PTSD people, etc. ANd find a way to help the tribes with some of the infrastructure to make it happen.

It's a win-win situation for all. TRNP, the state of ND and the native people of ND.

Thank you

Frank Kuntz
Owner and Preservation Breeder of the NOkota HOrse

March 10, 2023

Superintendent, Theodore Roosevelt National Park
P.O. Box 7
Medora, ND 58645

RE: Comments for the NPS Livestock Plan for Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Good Day,

I would like to make a couple of things clear for the folks in the NPS. Definitions have become clouded for you folks regarding the wild horses in TRNP.

Feral - (especially of an animal) in a wild state, especially after escape from captivity or domestication.

Livestock - Livestock are the domesticated animals raised in an agricultural setting to provide labor and produce diversified products for consumption such as meat, eggs, milk, fur, leather, and wool.

Wild - Animals that have not been domesticated or tamed and are usually living in a natural environment, including both game and nongame species.

The NPS seems to need an English lesson, or learn how to use Google. The wild horses in TRNP, are certainly NOT livestock.

Some may argue that they are feral, that is if they do not understand science or keep up on scientific research, especially if they are just trying to push an unorthodox agenda not supported by the American people.

The wild horses on TRNP, even if they were released almost 100- years ago, are generations away from that situation. They have been WILD for over 75 years, and are proven by peer reviewed scientific research, to be descendants of the native species know to exists and survive the ice age on the North American Continent.

The basis of this entire situation is the NPS's erroneous definition of the wild horses in TRNP being "livestock."

Wild horses in TRNP are just that, "wild." Not feral, and most certainly not "livestock."

The horses presently found in TRNP cannot be claimed to have EVER escaped from captivity and they have certainly NEVER been domesticated, they are native, wild horses and deserve to be protected just as Theodore Roosevelt intended.

Please correct the egregious error of how NPS and the DOI have decided to "define" the wild horses of TRNP as "livestock." Leave the wild horses there in their natural environment just as Theodore Roosevelt had intended when he designated the area as a national park.

Best Regards,

Tammi M. Adams, Wild Horse Education
21991 150th Street NW
Elk River, Minnesota 55330

Please pass SCR 4014.

Jeannie Beyer

North Dakota Stockmen's Association
Testimony to the
House Agriculture Committee on SCR 4014
March 10, 2023

Good morning, Chairman Thomas and House Agriculture Committee members. For the record, my name is Julie Ellingson and I represent the North Dakota Stockmen's Association.

The Stockmen's Association filed formal comments to the Theodore Roosevelt National Park about its proposed Livestock Plan in January. In those comments, we made two main points:

1) the National Park Service should take the appropriate steps to maintain the health of its cattle and horse herds and, like any other good neighbor, maintain good fences and keep its animals contained, so as not to cause conflict with any neighboring private herds; and
2) the National Park Service should not be using the faulty premise that livestock grazing is detrimental to the rangeland as rationale to remove the animals from the park.

We were very disappointed to hear National Park Service officials say in a recent public meeting, "I would offer that there is a large body of evidence in the published

research demonstrating that livestock in native ecosystems or in places where natural landscapes occur cause significant impacts, so we know that they are out of place in terms of the ecosystem," while the Park superintendent also said in a media interview, "The more hoofed animals you have on the landscape, the more pressure that it puts on the landscape."

We strongly disagree with these assertions, and so would volumes of scientific evidence, including that which has been conducted by our own North Dakota State University experts, who have demonstrated that native plant species can flourish under proper management with livestock grazing.

Grazing is, in fact, an effective tool to manage a wide variety of forage, spurring growth of perennial grasses, decreasing invasive species, increasing organic matter, improving soil health and carbon storage and suppressing wildfire.

That's why we asked the Senate to add the whereas statement beginning on line 20 to this resolution. Our thoughts: If the National Park Service uses unsubstantiated anti-grazing rationale to support its decision to eliminate livestock from Theodore Roosevelt National Park, this not only sends the wrong message to the public, but contributes to a false narrative about grazing and can have spillover impacts on other grazing decisions, especially those on federal ground.

We feel strongly that a resolution regarding the Theodore Roosevelt National Park Livestock Plan must include this very important topic. I understand that some groups would prefer that the word "livestock" not be included before "grazing" and we would be OK with striking it on lines 3 and 20, as long as our grazing statements remain intact.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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Title.03000

Adopted by the Agriculture Committee

March 10, 2023

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4014

Page 1, line 3, remove "livestock"

Page 1, line 20, remove "livestock"

Renumber accordingly