

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