

March 9, 2023

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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