



Wild Horse Advocates

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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 They also have to look at a no-action alternative – following their outdated 1978 Environmental Assessment and other reasonable alternatives that they received during the public scoping period that ended on January 31, 2023.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

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

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 genetics 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 original 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. In 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 original 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 than 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 our 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