

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!