

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.”