

Comments for Senate committee on SCR4014

What is my connection with the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP)? I first noticed the wild horses when as a family we rode the trails on our domestic horses in the mid-1980s. My wife started keeping a spread sheet on the horses and added to it each time we came to the park. I started to volunteer for the park in 2003 thru 2019 and helped with various horse related projects: participating in a study to move a band of wild horses on foot from point A to Point B, then assisting in building a catch pen and successfully capturing 3 bands, Studying the horse behavior before and after contraception for CSU, capturing horses by chemical immobilization (darting), and working with the horses for vetting and loading.

I bought one of the wild ones in 2003 and still ride him in the park every summer. We still invite new friends to join us in the park to find and watch Teddy's horses. The horses are the reason we invite people to the park, not the pristine natural habitat. The horses are the frosting on that badlands scenery.

The NPS is saying that they have no lawful reason to have horses in the park as they now want to call them livestock. That is not true, as their own founding documents have provision for livestock as an historic scene. (1916, 36 C.F.R.&2.60(a)(3)). What can be a better example of a historic scene than Teddys wild horses. Please support this resolution to help convince the park to keep the horses in the park.