



**The Intangible Cultural Heritage
of the Historical Herd of Wild Horses
Free Roaming in
Theodore Roosevelt National Park**

Provided by

.....WILD LANDS.....
WILD HORSES

<p>1.</p>	<p>Lisa Severson <lseverson72@gmail.com> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 11:56 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>I have been going to see the wild horses since I was 3 years old. I have passed this love of the park onto my 3 children and have introduced the passion of the wild horse to my husband. We love going into the park to see these beautiful animals being free and living life to the fullest. We have shown our love to many people who have never been to this beautiful place and in turn go back as often as they can. The horses were there when Theodore Roosevelt first visited our country and he writes many times how beautiful to see. Why the change?</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Bruce Reuter <brucereuter1@gmail.com> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 12:47 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Living in Minnesota, we spend a lot of our retired time in the west and southwest. Many years ago we stopped at Theodore Roosevelt National Park because of its location on our trip. That was some 10+ years ago and ever since then we make it a point to stop for a couple of days going both directions</p> <p>because of the chance to see the horses. The first time we got to see them was in the evening up in the hills and we got to be very up close and personal with the herd, and we were hooked. The horse's bring a calm to all that spend any time with them and take you back in your thoughts to a time long ago</p> <p>when our country and native Americans depended on those horses for their lives. I personally try and sell this park to everyone I know because of the horse's. Until a person has been given a chance to get close to these animals they do not know the affect they have on oneself. Do we see the horses on</p> <p>every stop we make at the park, yes but some of those encounters are from far away, which is also interesting, but not like those times where you are so close you can smell them!!!</p> <p>Please do not remove the horse's from the park, they represent a part of our history that should be retained just as the park itself has been. Visit those wonderful animals, you too will find a calm you have never experienced before.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Carole Moll <carolelynn.moll@yahoo.com> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 1:23 PM Reply-To: Carole Moll <carolelynn.moll@yahoo.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>Several years ago I was seriously injured when a car hit me on my bicycle. I spent many months over the last 10 years immobilized, on the couch, after each of 6 surgeries. I am an active person and found myself spiraling into a deep depression. Until I discovered a site on facebook following the wild horses of TRNP. Those horses and their lives became a sort of lifeline to me. Eventually my sister, and friends were following the news of the horses online too. In 2021, while facing another upcoming knee surgery, my sister and I made a sort of game to see these horses in person. The game developed into a real goal, and soon we had plans to take a trip of a lifetime to TRNP to find the wild horses. In June of 2022, our dream became a reality as we traveled out to North Dakota and TRNP. What a thrill it was to finally see these magnificent animals! Oh, and it was exciting to see the bonus animals too, bison, and Prarie dogs,. But most importantly wild horses! The park was spectacular. The town of Medora enchanting. The campgrounds were full of campers sharing where they had discovered horses. This truly was a trip of a lifetime. One I will never forget. A trip I would have never even thought to take if it had not been for the magnificent wild horses of TRNP. I look forward to returning one day.</p>

<p>4.</p>	<p>Caren Reaves <carenwreaves@icloud.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 2:46 PM</p> <p>I only went to TRNP for the wild horses. I didn't know they were there and when I heard that there were wild horses in this magnificent place I couldn't wait to see them. I find it so difficult to believe that wild horses are not considered to belong there. The reason I first went to TRNP was to see wild horses. I've been 3 times now and I am In awe still. I can't believe that they aren't considered part of this great place, made greater by their presence. Wild horses should be protected everywhere. Please go and see them there. Try to imagine the amazingness of that landscape without those beautiful horses. It's perfect for them. The idea that they are somehow a nuisance is simply untrue. The problem as I see it with what's wrong with the place is entirely manmade. There are drilling rigs and litterbugs and others who don't respect the history and beauty of this great place. I expect the vast majority go to TRNP to see the it's history and ruggedness and beauty. I feel sure that wild horses are among the biggest reasons people go. If it isn't when they go, I bet it is when they leave. Save them. They demonstrate the history and ruggedness of the West. It's worth remembering.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Denise Karth <spiritrider2127@icloud.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 3:00 PM</p> <p>To Whom it may concern:</p> <p>I have never been to TRNP, however I follow them everyday through the eyes of their supporters, photographers, historians of the herds story. This is their history and should not be taken away from them.</p> <p>If someone was to come to you and say you can not live here, your new home is Jail. That is what it would be like for them to be removed from their home. It's the worse thing I could image for the "wild and free".</p> <p>We the supporters of TRNP wild horses and live stock are begging for a different solution as they are our history. To take that away is unimaginable.</p> <p>This is my dream trip. Sincerely Denise Karth South Lyon Mi 48178</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Deidre Berry <dbrblb424@rocketmail.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 3:49 PM</p> <p>https://friendsofanimals.org/new-research-reveals-wild-horses-are-ecosystem-engineers/ You might find some useful info in this article. Also I believe it was either the Western Watershed or a Sierra Group that defended the wild horses and said that they contribute to an eco-system and that cattle are detrimental to an eco-system.</p> <p>I've never been to TRNP but I have always want to go there. When I do go there I want to look at wild horses, other wildlife, and the beautiful landscape.I do not want to look at cattle.</p> <p>All national parks are a treasure. So are the wild horses wherever they may be in America. They are our heritage. To lose either one would diminish America in more ways than one.</p>

7.

Heather White <white.heather88@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: Heather White <white.heather88@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 2:43 PM

There are so many things I can say about these horses. These horses have helped me with my depression, my anxiety and stress in my life. Being able to go walk in their world with them and get lost in the peace and silence only hearing the birds and bugs sing and hearing the neighing, snorting and stomping of these amazing horses puts my heart at peace for the first time in my life everytime I'm with them.

Not only have they helped mental help they have helped physical as well many will hike anywhere to get to the wild horses and see them.

Learning their names, their personalities and each one as an individual since 2015 has been a wonderful joy, I've met other wild horses and some amazing friends because of these horses.

There are so many stories I could share spent with these horses so many memories with my mom that when shes gone that's all I'll have please NPS don't take that away from people and myself so many of us have so many happy memories shared with these horses we have laughed, cried and cheered for and with the horses, please don't take them away you will ruin generations to come taking away OUR wild horses.

8.

Amy White <amyann70@outlook.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 2:45 PM

FROM THE DESK OF

AMY WHITE

December 19, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Hello, My name is Amy White and I am writing to you on behalf of the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I am asking that you please, leave the horses in the park. These horses mean so much to so many people, including me. These horses ask for nothing in return. The cost to have them in the park is minimal. They have proved they are strong and self-sufficient in some of the most trying conditions of the great state of North Dakota. A landscape that has proved to be so unforgiving that Teddy Roosevelt himself couldn't conquer. Even the Native Americans in the area gave the land the name "Miko Shaka", meaning Bad Land. How ironic is it that these horses have proven for years that yes, they can survive, and thrive in these badlands. They have endured many a hot summer and many a cold, long winter and come out in the spring looking so beautiful! How many species can be born in January in North Dakota and survive with no help at all? These horses can! I have seen it.

Let me give you a little back story on who I am and what in the heck is a woman from Wisconsin writing a letter on behalf of North Dakota horses for anyway? I am a 52 year old woman who comes from a small town of 700 people in Northern Wisconsin. I am by no means rich, or even close. What I do have is a work ethic. I have worked in the same job for 34 years now and can count on one hand how many days I have missed or called in. I can say the same for my husband, 36 years at the same job for him with the same amount of days missed. We work hard for our money and sure do not live above our means. And we are not letter writers per say. Because of our tenure at both of our jobs, we get more vacation time. We stuck close to home for many of our vacations, and for years would be payed out at the end of the year as we did not use them. Until the year 2017. In 2017, I discovered wild horses in my Facebook feed. They intrigued me, they got me thinking of possibly taking vacation to go and see them, but Colorado and Wyoming were so far, we barely left Wisconsin. Until, well you know how Facebook works, however they find out that I was clicking on wild horses, they send you more, right? One day, I was sent a post of the wild horses of North Dakota? WHAT? There are wild horses in North Dakota, I said to myself. I quickly "googled" TRNP, it was only 600 miles from us, "We can do this ?", I asked my husband. Plans were in the works! We were going to North Dakota! Fast forward to our first time through the park, we were flabbergasted by the beauty. There isn't anything even close to this beauty in Wisconsin, in our opinion. Then we came across our first wild horse, Oh My God, we have never witnessed anything so gorgeous! His name turned

out to be Ranger. Oh, he was this dirty, unkempt, dappled grey, muscular animal! He could not compare to the White Tailed deer that we see in the wild in Wisconsin. In no way, can this compare. It was that moment we were hooked, we have spent every vacation day since in Theodore Roosevelt National Park! To me the anticipation I feel when we get to that cattle guard at the beginning of the loop road is like Christmas morning to me as a child! Yes, it has been that long since I felt anything similar! Yes, we will drive the 600 miles even for a weekend! To see these horses, we will do just about anything. I photograph these horse every time we go through so I have them to look at when we cannot be in the park, which is winter. And we all know how long winters in the midwest last. I have some 40,000 pictures on my computer and about 95% of them are your wild horses! I look at them daily. I have to. They have become something that is just as important as food and water to me. And when I hear that they might be taken from the park, I was to say the least, sick to my stomach. And I know for a fact, that I am not the only one, there are thousands of people that would be devastated by this action. I beg you to keep these horses in your great state of North Dakota. They are such a draw for us mid-westerners. Please do not remove these horses, please go back to when birth control was used and culling some young ones in the spring, it worked for so many years and it can for many more. After all, these horses deserve it, it is the least we can do to honor President Roosevelt's wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Amy White

9.

Jeanne Miller <weebit2much@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 5:57 PM

On June 18th I took my granddaughter,sister and a friend on a journey.We came from Ohio each of us had our reasons for making this long journey in an RV we rented.I follow the wild horses on Facebook I have a 12yr old granddaughter I am raising . She has the love of all animals and wants to be in the animal field when she grows up .To look at the experience through the eyes of a child was my reward.Each day we went through the park she would say what she wanted to see .The first day she just wanted to see the wild horses and we did.The second day she wanted to see the foals playing and we did .The third day she said all I want is to see the horses up close and they ran right next to our RV.Oh what an experience it was she took her stories and photos to school in the fall to show everyone the beautiful park with the wild horses.She has learned so much being there she even became a JR Ranger.If there hadn't been horses there we would not have made the 2 week journey we would have gone somewhere else.I hope you realize the importance they hold President Roosevelt did.I hope we can find a way to save them .

Thank you
Jeanne Miller

<p>10.</p>	<p>Mary McDonald <mem352672003@gmail.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 4:42 PM</p> <p>I have many firsts stories, beginning with the first time I got to see the wild horses at TRNP. It was a beautiful Sunday morning when 2 friends and I met up with the professional photographer, Deb Lee Carson and another group of park visitors. The first group we saw was Red Faces band standing atop of a bluff over looking a couple of other bands. One of Red Face's mares was being flirtatious with another band stallion. We got to watch the dynamics of wild stallions work out their differences and how Red Face kept his his mare in her place.</p> <p>The second time was two years later when I got to take my then 91 year old mother to the TRNP, she had been there a few other times but never saw the wild horses. She excitedly spotted her first herd at the prairie dog village. Her excitement was contagious. A short time later we encountered Flax's band led by Kat and her young filly walking toward Coal Vein. Flax even graced us by proudly posing for photos as he ushered his harem along the road.</p> <p>Later that afternoon I returned to the park with a niece and her family, who live in Williston. They have visited the park several times, but this was the first time they got to see the wild horses. It became a game as to who spotted the horses first. To watch the joy in the young children faces when one excitedly spotted the horses.</p> <p>The next first was last May when I was visiting in the park. Up near Buck Hill, I was using my binoculars to look for the wild horses. I spotted a band and was watching them to see if I could identify them. A family drove up Buck Hill behind me, I called them over to where I was standing and told them that I could show them some wild horses. I gave the binoculars to the first child and pointed out where to look. Then watched his face as he found the band. His face changed from curious to joy when he saw them. He excitedly shared the binoculars with his younger brother and again I watched his face delight in discovering the horses. He then share the binoculars with his dad and mom. Mom and dad discussing how they should have brought their own binoculars so they could find the horse bands on their own. They were also discussing when they could plan their next trip to trnp, they were on their way to Glacier so didn't have a lot of time to spend this trip.</p> <p>My last first again on the same trip om May, I spent a weekend in May on an adventure with several friends , some who had never visited TRNP. We saw many of the bands and bachelors interacting with each other. Again, watching the faces of those first time visitors when we caught sight of the horses.</p> <p>Living in Minnesota, I don't have the opportunity to visit TRNP as often as I would like, but interacting with other park visitors, I hear "there are horses!?" Because they really don't know about the horses. Theodore Roosevelt's horses. The horses are one of the unique features of the park. Instead being removed they should be celebrating and used to promote TRNP. The other comment I heard at the Painted Canyon wayside. "I didn't know about the park, I only stopped because of the wayside signs on the freeway. It seems to that North Dakota and the TRNP should take a page out of South Dakotas tourism and promote the unique opportunity that people have to visit.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Julia Iphone <jingram234@peak.org> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 6:49 PM</p> <p>I first went through the Theodore Rosevelt National Park in 2000 on my way home from South Dakota to Oregon via North Dakota. I was totally amazed when we came upon the park because we didn't even know it was there. I love and support freedom of wild horses, and TRNP did not disappoint us. I was so excited and amazed by the natural beauty of these wild horses as we walked around with our binoculars and spotted them. What a gift! We have since been back to the park several times, and we have told family and friends who have also gone to see them. I regularly follow posts from others concerning the lives of individual horses and their bands as well as the plight of their freedom and their removal from the parks. Please do not remove these beautiful wild horses from their natural habitat. Let them live their lives with their family bands unharmed by those wishing to remove them. This land was set aside by law for these wild horses. As a taxpayer, I support their existence on this Federal designated land. It would be sad to continue their removal. If they are removed, I feel there is no other reason for me, my family or friends to return to the TRNP. Please do what is right for these animals and their environment. I want to see future generations experience the amazing wildlife in this park as I have been fortunate to experience myself.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Julia Ingram, a Concerned citizen jingram234@peak.org PO Box 12 Shedd, OR 97377</p>

<p>12.</p>	<p>Roberta Hambrick <rjh@bis.midco.net> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 8:03 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>As a long term North Dakota resident I would like to say removing the wild horses would be a devastating loss to the TRNP. We have traveled there multiple times a year for years just to see them. They add so much to the beauty of the park. I cannot imagine the park without them.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Roberta Hambrick</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>debreuter1@gmail.com <debreuter1@gmail.com> Mon, Dec 26, 2022 at 9:26 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>I'd like to express my support for keeping the wild horses in the park at the current levels. I was shocked to hear the government was considering eliminating them. We have enjoyed seeing the horses at Theodore Roosevelt National Park for years. They are magical to watch. I can't imagine going to the park if they are eliminated.</p> <p>Debbie Reuter</p>
<p>14.</p>	<p>Katherine Plessner <plessner@drtel.net> Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 10:15 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>I have been a horse lover all my life, reading every book I could get ahold of in my younger days about wild horses, and any horse. I now make a couple trips to the Theodore Roosevelt National Park every year to see and photograph the beautiful horses that live there. I have also taken my photography friends from around the country there too. My favorite horse story from the park is about Gray Ghost. He always seemed so elusive to me, as I had only seen him far off in the distance somewhere and never close enough to get a good look at him, let alone a photo or two. Then one early morning as I was driving the loop, I came around a curve and there he was right along the road. I stopped and got out my camera, and I know I was hyperventilating and I think my hands were shaking with excitement! I crouched down beside my vehicle to get some photos, but hopefully not to disturb him and his band. He kept an eye on me as he went about having his breakfast and I was snapping away. After about ten minutes he rounded up his group and they disappeared up the hill. It was truly something, and the way I felt, that I will never forget. I still go to the park and it is always a thrill to see the horses. In fact, to see and photograph them is the reason I go there and I will be more than very sad if they are removed. Plus I have friends coming from Washington DC and New Mexico, who want me to take them there this summer to see these special and beautiful horses.</p>

15.

Mary Zilinski <mchzilinski@icloud.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com
Cc: Mary Zilinski <maryz@bitstream.net>

Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 2:06 PM

I grew up in North Dakota. After I graduated from UND, I left the state and rarely returned. Fifteen years ago I learned that there were, and had been for a long time, wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. How is it that I didn't know that when I grew up? It brought me back to my home state. Since then, I've visited regularly, gotten to know the bands, the bachelor stallions, the sires, the mares, their stories, and their losses. I've stayed in Medora, hiked the trails, made purchases at the bookstore, bought the annual bands book, bought the t-shirts, and encouraged so many folks to experience the wonder of seeing wild horses, free, running across the landscape. I watch the related web sites and FB posts, and am so thankful for the opportunities to feel connected to that glorious place and those majestic animals. I've explored the north park, too, and expanded my knowledge of the state's history and its present, all while knowing part of each trip will involve contact with those equines.

My point is this: these bands of horses are one of North Dakota's most important natural resources. Setting aside their origin stories, their history dates back sufficiently that their contribution to the formation of the state of North Dakota can't be denied. Now, they are a focus for tourism. They are a basis from which folks explore North Dakota's rich farming and ranching history, the significant contribution the state's offerings made to Theodore Roosevelt's life and thus to the nation's existence, and the area's rich Native American history.

Please recognize the status of these horses, not only in people's hearts but also in the roll call of promoters of North Dakota's tourism, land and history.

16.

White, Nancy <nancy.white@essentiahealth.org>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 3:08 PM

In the fall of 2015, my husband and I took a trip from Bismarck to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Little did I know that this trip would be the start of many, many more trips to the park and an undeniable journey of love, making memories, and healing. We hiked up a beautiful trail called Ridge Line. You could see for miles, it was breathtaking. While sitting on a ledge taking in my beautiful surroundings, I noticed something white peeking through some trees. I zoomed in with my point and shoot to see what was moving, and next thing I knew there was another white something moving out into the open. My heart started to pound from excitement and I could hardly contain myself. I yelled at my husband to come see what I was seeing to make absolutely sure I wasn't mistaken. WILD HORSES I yelled. I grabbed my phone all the while watching them, and called my Daughter. "Heather, Heather, you won't believe this I said". "There are truly wild horses here. "Can you believe it?" "I have to bring you here". Almost 8 years later and my Daughter and I continue to make the 2-hour trip back to the wild horses every chance we get. (My husband comes once and a while too!!) See, My Daughter suffers from A.D.D., and high anxiety to the point of bouts with depression and stress. She sometimes feels like she doesn't matter, she doesn't fit in, and nothing she does is right. She sinks deep within her shell. So, you can imagine the tears of joy this mama had the first time we went to this magical place together, Mom and Daughter, on the hunt for HORSES, and I witnessed the most beautiful smile on my Daughter's face the minute she spotted her first wild horse. For the few hours we spent with the horses, my daughter's anxiety, GONE. Her stress, GONE. Mama's heart, full!!!

Since the first time we went, my Daughter purchased a better camera and lens. She gets emotional and excited when she hears Mom and her are off on another wild horse adventure together. She takes pictures of each and every wild horse we come across and shares the wild one's story through our eyes and encounters we have that particular day with anyone and everyone who will listen. She is at peace and it shows. We call in "Our Happy Place". We found out later on that they had names given to them and she rattles them off like they were her own family, ha-ha. My daughter comes alive when we are in the park with the wild horses. The sparkle in her eye, the pep in her step, if you will, is undeniable. The memories that we have made together in the home of the wild horses are priceless, especially for this Mama. As long as there are wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park, I feel my Daughter will be ok when I am gone. She may stumble along the way, she may miss her mom and the memories we had made with each and every one of them, but she will be ok. Any time she needs to she can go to Theodore Roosevelt National Park and talk to the horses. Please keep them in the only home they know. Please allow my Daughter her calm and peace with the wild ones, allow her to make more memories so she can share spiritually with me when I am absent, and continue to share with whom will listen. Please allow many more future Mothers and Daughters the same love and joy that my daughter and I have shared. There is something magical about the wild horses in TRNP, it is hard to explain. They seem to have healing power for those that need it. Their eyes look deep into our soul and mend the broken spirit. I have witnessed this first hand with my Daughter. I cannot imagine Theodore Roosevelt National Park with out our wild horses and hope that they can continue to live in their home where they were born, running wild and free for many more years to come.

I have many favorites amongst the wild horses, too many to mention, so the picture I am sharing with you today is of Gary and Ghost. The 2 beautiful white, wild horses that allowed me to begin

17.

Penny McCormack <pennymccormack@hotmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 4:12 PM

Every time we visit the ND Badlands near Medora, I tell my husband, "I sure hope we see the wild horses!" Sometimes we don't see them, just buffalo and prairie dogs. Other times, like the last two years when we have visited we saw them!!! I kept watch of the landscape hoping to see them. All of a sudden I saw them!!! I got SO excited!! I said to my husband, "There they are!! STOP, STOP!!" I hurried out of our vehicle to stand there watching the horses in awe and trying to photograph the moment. What a beautiful sight! My heart was filled with excitement. I was seeing part of history of the area and seeing some of God's most magnificent wild creatures! The horses live in freedom and coexistence with the other animals of the badlands. The family unit of their bands with the stallion, his mares, and their offspring warms my heart and brings a smile to my face. These horses even have names!

These horses are such an important part of TRNP! The park would not be the same without them! I am sure Teddy Roosevelt would say the same thing!!

Penny McCormack

18.

Heather Hellyer <kaya97524@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 7:06 PM

December 27, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you today about the beautiful wild horses found at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. In early 2020, my husband and I set out in an RV to visit as many National Parks as we could before moving to Hawaii. In April 2020 we found ourselves in Cortez, CO for several weeks waiting for Mesa Verde National Park to re-open. Bored, I googled 'things to do near Cortez, CO' and the Spring Creek Basin wild horse herd came up. After doing some research I drove 70 miles out to find them and fell in love at first sight. Our trip to visit as many national parks as we could quickly turned into how many wild horse herds I could visit.

And that is how we made the trip up to North Dakota to see the wild horses living at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. North Dakota was originally not on the schedule of parks we planned to visit but I had seen photos of the wild horses there and added it to the list. We stayed in Medora for a week spending money on a spot at the RV park in town, food, gas, and souvenirs from the TRNP Visitor Center. I spent nearly every day that week in the park photographing the wild horses, the bison, the prairie dogs, and more. The park itself is beautiful of course but the wild horses were the only reason for our visit. And the only reason I would return to the park.

We also spent a day in the northern section of the park and the Longhorn cattle were a beautiful sight to see. Why remove them? Why remove the horses? One of the reasons Americans visit our National Parks is to see wildlife. Wild horses are native to North America and while these particular horses may be descendants of horses released on the range, they were born in the park and have lived there for their entire lives. That makes them wild and wildlife.

I have to wonder why the NPS is dead set on removing wild horses from the parks they reside? First Mesa Verde National Park, now TRNP. We don't understand it. Wild horses are beloved by Americans and most herds are far too remote for most people to visit without a high clearance, 4WD vehicle. But TRNP allows people to easily see wild horses living free and in family bands.

My husband and I request you keep the wild horses in TRNP at a healthy population level that allows for genetic diversity without the use of GonaCon but rather the original form of PZP. I have no doubt President Roosevelt would agree that the wild horses bring a beauty to the park that is unrivaled.

Thank you,

Heather Hellyer
Kihei, HI
808-500-3020

19.

Kelly Marquardt <kellyjene@icloud.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 9:00 PM

I wish I could post photos of my experience. Without the horses there I would stop going to this park. I have watched for hours the different bands and have been able to capture the sole of these horses. I can't even believe this is even being discussed. It's so heart breaking that at some point I may never get to see the horses run wild in the landscape they were born to. The horses have personalities and family values in their bands. My face is wet from tears. What a sad thing to take them away.

20.

Heather Westby <schroeder.heather.ann@gmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 9:21 PM

Harrison (6 yrs old) – "I like how Mom, Dad, and Olivia bring back pictures of the wild horses after they go riding out there. I like to sit with my sister, Olivia, and look up the horses in our guide book and find all their names. I am very, very excited to go riding in the park my first time this year. I want to see all the wild horses in my books (NDBH Guide Books.) I love the wild horses."

Olivia (9 yrs old) – "I love to go out in the TRNP riding our horses to go and look for the wild horses. It is so exciting to see the wild herds especially when there are foals.

This fall when we were in the park on an all day trail ride I was praying that we would see lots of horses, especially Circus. I really wanted to see Circus because he is the oldest horse in the park and I really wanted to get the experience of seeing him in person.

After riding for half the day and seeing lots of wildlife including bison, elk, pronghorns, and mule deer I was getting worried that we wouldn't see any horses. Then I spotted a black horse off in the distance. Quickly I realized it wasn't a black horse, it was CIRCUS! I was shaking I was so excited. As we followed the trail around it brought us closer to him. It was cool as he turned to watch us and our horses on the other side of the draw. We stood and watched each other for a long while and I talked to him. I told him, "Your so beautiful and amazing. Thank you for showing yourself!"

When we turned to leave and started riding along the trail. As we rode away my heart stopped because Circus was whinnying to us. It made tears come to my eyes because it felt like he was saying see you in the spring.

After seeing Circus we saw Nichols and Teton's bands. We got to see one of my favorite fillies from this year, Serendipity. It is super fun to see the foals and then come back next year and see how they have grown.

I look forward to our trips to the TRNP every year. When we are not there I like to think about what we will see next time and plan our rides. I think about Circus and his wild friends every day and hope to see them again.

One of my favorite things about spotting and finding the wild horses is that I can identify them using my NDBH Guide Book. Unlike the bison, elk, pronghorn, and deer the horses are easy to identify individuals. Each horse has their own colors and markings so I can tell who is who.

Each and every one of the wild horses has a special place in my heart. If all the horses get removed I don't know if I would want to go back as it will feel like a big piece of what makes the TRNP so special will be gone."

21.	<p>Mandy Cannon <mandycan33@gmail.com> Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 9:22 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Hi there,</p> <p>I got to see these majestic wild horses at the TRNP September 8, 2022. We were on a road trip visiting a few parks and felt so lucky to get a view of these beauties from the road. We sat for a moment and really took in their beauty. We tried to understand what was happening because the way were standing so still and looked like they were sleeping but seemed to be in a formation where some were positioned to be aware of surroundings/keeping lookout. I'm not familiar with horses or their behavior and It really was magical to see them gathered like this. It's easy to imagine how it used to be open like this everywhere and feel the magnitude of what we've done to the landscape and natural habitat of the horses.</p> <p>Seeing these horses brings about feelings of awe at their beauty along with a mix of shame at being part of human race that has destroyed so much of their natural landscape and home and tried to take them and make them less wild and free.</p> <p>After seeing them and experiencing TRNP I feel a duty to protect these horses and this park and all of our open public land to allow animals to roam and live freely. The park and horses that live there are magical and a national treasure to be protected for future generations. My wish is this was not something we even need to fight for and that we were all united to protect this place and these horses. Our humanity depends on us doing better to protect and conserve nature and recognizing all animals deserve to be here and have a place to live freely.</p> <p>Amanda Cannon</p>
22.	<p>Zach Hochhalter <zhochhalter34@gmail.com> Tue, Dec 27, 2022 at 10:31 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>My Name: Zach Hochhalter</p> <p>I was born in Bismarck, lived in Killdeer, Wing (Google it) , and Fargo, North Dakota for almost half my life. I grew up taking yearly if not twice yearly camping trips to Medora and Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The rugged badlands formed a very distinct part of some of my favorite childhood memories.</p> <p>Fast forward to the spring of 2020, and like most I was in the midst of being quarantined at home. I was currently living in Phoenix, Arizona, which was a big concrete jungle compared to the Great Plains of my upbringing. I had become a regular visitor to the Salt River in Mesa, where wild horses roamed the river.</p> <p>During quarantine I began to research other wild horse herds across the United States and I stumbled upon the horses at TRNP. This completely floored me, because it was a place of special memory to me, but my memories of the horses were slim. I could hardly believe I didn't have a distinct memory of them like so many other places in the park.</p> <p>That spring/early summer a magnificent foal named Bloom was born. He had a very distinct coloring and two blue eyes. I was struck by his beauty and felt so proud that such an amazing animal resided in North Dakota. In that moment I knew I had to return to TRNP to see him for myself. Bloom and the other horses gave me something to look forward to in a time where the world seemed bleak.</p> <p>Since that moment I now continuously visit the park 4-5 times per year to soak in the inspiring scene of the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.</p> <p>The horses within the park represent the quote "For the benefit and enjoyment of the people." The horses provide exactly that for the visitors of the park.</p> <p>Thank you for sharing these stories. Let me know how I can continue to help. Bully!</p> <p>Best, Zach</p>

23.

Marissa Pewe <marissa.ashley.15@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 10:46 AM

Hi Jamie & Deb,

I hope this finds you well! I'm sure you have tons of stories to share but maybe mine can help too!

Several years ago, we needed a weekend getaway from regular life after suffering from a second miscarriage. We chose Medora, specifically for TRNP, even though it was the dead of winter. The fall before we had camped in Sully Creek and had seen some of the wild horses on our drive, and wanted to return to hopefully see more. It was February and freezing cold, but we spent hours watching Silver's band grazing and trudging through the knee deep snow. As a horse owner myself, it was cathartic to watch their calmness, and was a great escape.

From there on out, we made the couple hour drive and returned at least monthly, and got to know the horses and the bands, watched as the bands grew with new foals, mourned when horses passed, became a member of a nonprofit to work more closely with them, and then in 2018 welcomed our son who also now LOVES going to hike in the park and see the horses. He was with me hiking this spring when we discovered Urban's band had an adorable brand new foal, Phoenix. He is now 4 years old and a great eagle-eye to spot things while hiking.

Some of my favorite memories have been in the TRNP, specifically with the wild horses (like hiking with a great friend to hopefully find Mystery's final resting place, getting up before dawn to discover a new baby on a snowy spring morning, discovering Circus just walking down the road.... I could go on forever). I cannot imagine my son not getting to have the same experiences as he grows. Medora is certainly a special place, and we love taking family trips there, but let's be honest....our family goes for the horses. My boyfriend isn't really a "horse person" but even he quickly learned the names of the horses, got a few favorites and enjoys hiking to find them.

Our vacations to TRNP have been one of the highlights of the last decade, and I sure hope we are able to continue getting to know the future generations of some of our favorite horses; Teton, Half Moon, Crow, Papoose & so many more.

Thank you,
Marissa

24.

Sasha Wiczorek <sashaw13@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 11:10 AM

I have been to many parks with wild horses over the years and absolutely love it when the stars align and I am able to see the wild horses in their natural habitat. It's like looking into the past when they run by. They are living history and need to be protected. When I heard about this call to action the first thing that came to mind was the fact that it is difficult to be in the right place at the right time to see these beautiful animals. There are acres of park and handfults of horses. That's why I find it so difficult to understand the need to get rid of them all together. Wild horses have been around since BEFORE colonization of this country. The indigenous peoples have records of it despite the early government's efforts to eradicate that knowledge. These herds may not descend from the indigenous horses but they certainly represent them, and they have created their own spot in the ecosystem. We absolutely cannot remove them completely. I appreciate all your efforts to spread the word about these beautiful animals and how important they are to many cultures.

Thank you for all your hard work!

25.

Doreen Sutcliffe <doreenmiranda3@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 11:20 AM

Hi Deb and Jamie,

I have included my story below for you. I hope this helps; it's from the heart. I'm praying and hoping for wild and free horses. I am trying to understand that the purpose is to remove them. Please let me know if I can do anything else.

Hugs to you both,

Doreen

December 28, 2022

I am writing to tell my story of a recent visit to TRNP. In May of 2022, I had the pleasure of photographing the wild horses living in TRNP. If not for the horses, I would not have visited this park. With the guidance of two other photographers who knew the park well, I saw wild horses living in their natural environment for the first time. While it was exciting to see the other wildlife in the park, there are only a few places left in the United States to see wild horses.

TRNP provided opportunities to see the horses without driving or hiking for miles. Tourists visiting the park can experience the beauty of seeing wild horses.

A wild horse in its environment represents our country's open and free spaces. Where else can you sit and observe horses sparring with bands, tending to their foals, running in wide open spaces, and curiously looking back at you while watching them? Not many places in the US allow that pleasure.

Photography is all about capturing a moment in time. I loved sharing my photographs with friends and family who might not get a chance to see horses in the wild. They asked questions about the horses and the national park they had never heard of. "How do we get there?" "How can we see these horses?" "Where would we stay?" My photographs of the horses inspire others to visit and observe.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my comments. I sincerely hope the wild horses of TRNP will be there for years to come so that others can experience viewing the majestic horses.

Sincerely,

Doreen M. Sutcliffe

<p>26.</p>	<p>Robyn Lorenz <robyn.lorenz24@pm.me> Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 11:50 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Robyn Lorenz. I grew up in, what then was a small town, Dickinson, ND. My family and I have visited Theodore National Park many times throughout my youth and now as an adult. My youthful memories are always of wanting to visit the park and hope that day would bring the spotting of the Wild Horses. Many times we were blessed to be able to see (and I would hope felt) what Teddy did so many years ago. Wild horses roaming free the badlands of North Dakota. The absolute joy, amazement and beauty they behold. Breathtaking. It hurts my heart to think that they could possibly be gone someday - for others not to see this beauty, to FEEL this beauty and innocence, to have that moment in time that one forgets all that is going on in this world and just sees life for what it is - pure, simple, innocent, majestic, elegant beauty. What our ancestors all experienced and what future generations should have available to always experience.</p> <p>In my college years I loved so much the beauty and freedom of the Park and what it offered I worked for a summer at a horse ride facility in the Park. I still say to this day the best job and memories I have ever had. The wee early mornings we'd take the horses out to graze, I was blessed on a couple of those mornings to not only see the bison, but behold, a wild horse or two or three. Something in the soul is touched when you see these glorious horses.</p> <p>Now I watch and enjoy following the facebook pages and websites dedicated to the Wild Horses of TRNP. I often tell my friends about the park, Medora, and the horses. Always hoping that one day to make it back up with them to show them what beauty there is.</p> <p>Thank you for taking in these stories and helping fight for the horses. Prayers and good thoughts this fight is won and the horses can remain, in full, in the park.</p> <p>Thank you, Robyn Lorenz</p>
<p>27.</p>	<p>jdk1691 <jdk1691@aol.com> Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 12:16 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Please, don't move the horses. I am a North Dakota native, 1% on the native portion. It seems wrong to dishonor the intention and wishes for this park. For me, I feel so incredibly close to the Earth when I am at the park. To see the horses run absolutely takes my breath away. It is almost like I am seeing something only intended for the wind to be a part of. The first time I saw them, they were running. They ran as though the wind directed them. It was stunning. If you are not able to feel that, I do feel sorry for you. The park is beautiful. So is the night sky. If you remove the stars, why look up? Sincerely, Jean Koch</p>
<p>28.</p>	<p>Hali Pavelka <hlpavelka@live.com> Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 6:58 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>My name is Hali Lassiter and I am a resident of North Carolina. I have grown up my entire life riding and owning horses. I even teach lessons to children. Horses are my life. Theodore Roosevelt's National Park has been an inspiration for me, for many years. I have treasured following accounts that capture the magnificence of the animals that live there, especially the horses. I follow their lives and how they are thriving in the wild. My top trip is planned specifically around visiting the Badlands horses. They are the soul of that park. Protecting them must be a key objective to the parks future. We have lost so many animals and habitats since we have focused on industry. How much more do we need to lose before we realize what we've done? These horses are history. They represent so much more than just nature. They show what our country was and what it still can be. To lose them could mean losing a piece of America. Please consider enforcing regulations to ensure their safety.</p>

29.

Birgit Pruess <birgit.pruess@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 7:48 PM

My story with the horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park started in 2014 when my family came here from Germany to celebrate my 50th birthday. I was hooked to the rugged landscape the park and all the animals in there. Back then, you did not get to see as many horses as you do when you visit the park today. I went straight back the next month and my first personal personal experience was with Wind Canyon and his band right on the road. Without knowledge, I had parked my car at one of their major access points to Talkington and they just kept on walking like my car was not there. They stopped at my car and I spent quite some time looking at them. I was intrigued by Wind Canyon's color and his quiet demeanor. His mare Betty Blue had a new foal. She was cautious about it, but also curious about me. I fell in love with them right on the spot. Since that time, I had countless experiences just like that. Nicols danced in front of me once (at quite some distance), just like I was one of his mares. Cocoa exchanged the longest look with me when I was real down and crying. I witnessed Flax covering his new mare Dolly for the first time. Two years later, I saw Dolly's foal Oakley within 24 hours of her birth. I saw Bluff within 12 hours of her birth. And then, I saw sickness and death. The whole circle of life.

The horses have become my second life to me after my research career at NDSU in Fargo. They are my escape and my stress relieve. I visit the park 2 to 4 times a year, each time for 4 or 5 days. There is a good chance I know more about the horses at an individual level than many of the park personnel do. Because I deeply care about them and I am not so sure anymore whether the park cares. I recently published a book named Wild and Free in TRNP where I summed up all my experiences. The book is being sold by numerous small businesses across North Dakota. I have some 50,000 photos of horses and other wildlife. These have been shown in exhibits across the state. I am not claiming there is a lot of money to be made and I don't do it for the money. I do it for awareness. These are some wonderful horses that call our park their home and they deserve the best care they can get.

I realize that 200 horses are probably too many and that we will have to reduce the number. There is evidence that the minimum number of horses that still allows for a genetically healthy herd is in the neighborhood of 120. I highly recommend the park keep this approximate number of horses in the park. Our people need them as part of their lives and the State of North Dakota needs the economic impact from the tourism. These horses are paid from federal tax dollars and they are our horses.

Will that do?

Birgit

<p>30.</p>	<p>Margaret Flynn <mcflynn@midrivers.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 8:59 PM</p> <p>My husband and I visit the park several times each year. On average we make 5-6 visits to the park per year. During each visit we tour the park for at least 3-5 days. I was and remain completely in awe of the beauty of the badlands. The clay buttes, huge rocks, the spring crocus, the blooming prairie cactus and flowers, the cedar trees, the cottonwoods, the wild berries and the scenery all add to the beauty of the park.... then you also to see the park beauties! The wild horses are the star attraction for us. Learning each horse's name and keeping track of the bands is fascinating. We enjoy following the leaders of the bands and watching how quickly things can change.</p> <p>We spend hours each day watching and taking photos. Our favorite thing to do is leave our camper(usually parked in the Cottonwood Campground) just about daybreak, head out until we find one of the bands, then settle in to watch. There is nothing like seeing your favorites grazing peacefully and the foals playing, running back and forth and around and around. Add to this a good cup of coffee and a sweet roll and you feel like this is a little bit of heaven. We always take enough food to spend the entire day.</p> <p>Seeing the horses gives one a feeling of peace. It is hard to put into words but the animals seem to lift everyday concerns and instill an appreciation for their beauty and their daily struggle to survive.</p> <p>We spend time watching when the buffalo bulls are fighting and chasing the cows. They are very fierce during breeding season! One year we were near the creek by the ranch house, when two bulls started to fight. They crashed and gouged and snorted and bellowed for a solid 5 minutes. They charged each other so hard that their back legs lifted off the ground when they rammed each other. They dug up so much dirt and dust that my photos appeared to be blurry!</p> <p>Other animals that we've watched are coyotes, wild turkeys, antelope, elk, deer, prairie dogs, pheasants, grouse, rattlesnakes, bluebirds, eagles, owls, magpies, and porcupine. Seldom is there a dull moment.</p> <p>Meeting people from all over the world happens every time we visit the park. The young couple from California with their 2 year old, the retired couple from Florida on their way to Glacier Park, the retired military man and his family, and all the others with their stories and questions add to our park experience.</p> <p>The most common questions for us is "Where can we find the wild horses and the buffalo?" It is important that these animals remain in the park for future generations so they can be seen and appreciated just like Theodore Roosevelt did when he was there.</p> <p>MC Flynn Montana resident</p>
<p>31.</p>	<p>Robin Kamstra <robinkamstra67@gmail.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 9:15 PM</p> <p>We've been to the park a few times and the main reason we go is to see the horses I just love watching them</p>

32.

Heather Westby <schroeder.heather.ann@gmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 10:16 PM

I have so many stories that I could share about the wild horses.

From my first trip to the Theodore Roosevelt National Park when I was in 7th grade with my friend and her family on a camping trip. I will never forget spotting some horses for the first time. I have always loved horses, I have grown up with them. Seeing truly wild horses for the first time was exhilarating. Wild horses are the classic image of freedom, power, and an untamable spirit.

Since that first trip to the TRNP I have been back numerous times. In fact my family loves it so much out there my husband's original plan was to bring me there to propose.

Many of our favorite memories are family trips to the park. When we travel out to the park we bring our horses and love riding all day looking for wildlife, particularly the wild horse bands. We love to try to find the same horses from year to year and when we are not visiting the park we follow the park happenings through North Dakota Badlands Horse.

The horses unlike other wildlife in the park are more easy to distinguish individuals. It makes it fun to try to find as many of the horses as possible. We all have our favorite horses and bands that we continue to find year to year and follow via social media when we are not there.

We love seeing all the wildlife in the park the bison, elk, pronghorn, deer, coyotes, prairie dogs, but the horses are by far the animal we seek out the most. There is no other place anywhere near us here in Minnesota where there are wild horses. There are other parks, and places to view the other wildlife but none that have wild horses. I wouldn't want to see any of the other wildlife there eradicated either. Part of what makes the TRNP what it is, is all these animals living there together.

In 2015 we adopted a weanling that was removed from the park to control the population. We absolutely love him and he has turned into the most amazing horse. Because this herd has been so closely followed and documented we followed the bands prior to getting Sully. We fell in love with his sire the well known stallion Mystery. When Sully (FKA Badlands) was pulled we were already in love. We had been looking at pictures of him from when they first found him only a few days old in the park. Since adopting Sully when we visit the TRNP our favorite thing to do is to try to find his closest relatives still in the park.

In 2020 Mystery was found deceased in the bottom of a wash. He had been fighting with another stallion as wild stallions will do and lost his footing and fell to his death. It was a sad day in our household, like losing a friend. In 2021 my husband and I rode into the park with a group of friends that we have made thanks to these horses. Our friend MaryLu led us on a beautiful ride into the park and surprised us by taking us to Mystery's final resting place. It was so emotional as my husband was riding Sully, Mystery's son. Since that trip is as become our ritual on our trips back to the park we take time to ride out and return to Mystery's final resting place and pay our respects to him.

This year is to be our 6 year old son's first horse back riding and camping trip to the Theodore Roosevelt National Park with us. He is so excited and already has a list of all the animals and what horses he hopes to see. I pray this isn't the only trip that he will get to experience the thrill of finding a band of wild horses nestled between the buttes. I pray that my children won't be the last generation to get to experience these family trips of exploration and feeling like we have stepped back in time. I have always dreamed that one day, when our kids are grown, that they would bring their children back to the TRNP and have similar adventures as we have done with them, spending the day riding in the badlands searching for the elusive wild horse bands. I pray this isn't the end of these unique horses.

Heather

33.

Janis Lovi <jplovi5@icloud.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 12:22 AM

I've never been there but I love following these horses. Attached is exactly how I feel. These are public lands are meant to stay wild.

Sent from my iPhone

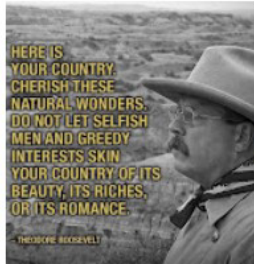


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34.

Jamie Baldanza <jbaldanza@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 9:31 AM

I went to the park for the horses and left with a whole new respect for the land and history.

I currently live in NJ and I now visit the park 2 times a year to photograph the wild horses in the landscape. For the last eight years I've gotten to know the horses, their stories and their personalities.

To visit TRNP without the horses in the landscape would be a huge void in my heart and I'm sure plenty others.

I have many memorable moments, but this one stands out in my mind:

We were 4 women from all over the country, 1 hotel room, 5 days of constant interaction, which could have been terrifying. But it was anything but. Why? Respect. Love. Passion. Strength. Individuality. Humor. These traits are all a common thread among us. A thread that will bind us in a friendship that few people will ever understand. And why were we thrown together? To see the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National park. Between laughter, stories, sadness, and 4 AM wake up calls we found and felt the heartbeat of the land, the land that the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park call home.

I've built so many friendships because of these horses. Best Friends (Deb) that I will love for the rest of my life. You see the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National park are so much more than "livestock" they are hope, a reason to gather, an inspiration, a passion for so many of us. You take that away, you take away our light, our motivation, and connection to the past. Teddy Roosevelt's past.

These horses are my family and when I get the little time I do have with them, I cherish it. Because there's nothing like growing old with a wild horse. To see them as a foal and now a mighty stallion with their own band is like watching your child grow up. And I just hope our future generations will have the same chance to watch these horses grow up in Theodore Roosevelt National park.

35.

zuriel7 <zuriel7@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 3:21 PM

I moved to North Dakota in 2013 quickly finding TRNP, being an introvert and nature lover. I fell in love with the badlands, prairie, community spirit, and it's lifestyle and various wildlife. I frequently filled my retired days with trips to TRNP feeling a sense of connection driving through buttes & hills in all seasons. I love deer, elk, pronghorns, bison, and all the small animals like the badger and porcupine. The raptors & birds have always been an attraction for me. When I realized there was a feral horse herd in the park, I immediately connected to them on sight. I began following them avidly. I would often stay in the park after dark, find a spot on Boicourt, turn off my engine & roll down all my windows and listen to the silence of the night broken occasionally with coyotes yipping.

One night it was pitch black with no glimmer of light anywhere. It was midnight. I heard snorting and the clip-clop of horses hooves on the road. I literally could not see 20' in any direction it was so dark. Suddenly bands of horses were all around me, and when my eyes adjusted, they were literally feet from my car windows, either side, front and behind. I froze in delight! It was as though I was engulfed into the herd as one. I felt like a welcomed intruder realizing how rare & magical this experience was; being enveloped in their world. Hearing their noises, swishing of tails, jaws chewing grasses, snorts and snickers at one another & seeing their graceful movements as they sauntered around my car, some standing so close I could smell their beautiful coats.... Well I was blessed beyond measure. How can I ever fully describe what this very enhanced and spiritual visitation meant to me. It changed everything about how I viewed this wonderful park from that night forward. All my troubles vanished for those few short hours that I spent with these magnificent equine creatures. I was indeed "In Their World". I was the intruder. This is their Home, Their Special Place where They Belong, and I was a guest that night. I will always treasure that experience as one that connected me with the great west like nothing ever has or ever will.

To not have these horses remain in their home would be a tragedy, not just for me, but for hundreds of thousands of visitors and all their future generations to experience and find the historical & cultural value & connection these wild horses do indeed provide. Their sense of family and community is something this world is losing touch with. Please allow the horses to remain & to remind us all that We Are Connected. Life is Short... treasure every God Given Moment, Creature and Blessing. Protect it above all else. Carol Priestley
Stark County
North Dakota.

36.

Christiane Weltz <cbp.weltz@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 3:24 PM

I first found out about TRNP when my now husband got stationed in Minot. I live in Germany and came to visit him several times. I looked for things to do in ND and found out about TRNP.

I have been a horse lover and riding since I was a little girl so when I saw that they had wild horses I for sure had to go. That was in 2012.

I enjoyed all of TRNP but when I was lucky enough to find horses all on my own back then nothing could compare to that feeling.

I visited the park 2 more times in the 1.5 years my husband was stationed there, just because I wanted to see more of the wild horses.

Back in Germany I told a friend about the horses and she fell in love with them through my stories and the pictures of the groups that you can find on social media. We told each other that one day we might even buy one of the horses and bring them to Germany.

My husband got stationed somewhere else so it took until 2015 to make it back. We went out of our way from visiting family and came to ND just to find more wild horses and meet with people we met through the social media pages. We spent a few days in the park and a lot of time with all the animals but mostly the wild horses.

In 2016 My friend and I actually ended up buying two of the horses from TRNP and knowing that I saw both of them running free with their families made me so happy and I knew we would give them great homes. They both enjoy life in Germany now and because of them I advised other horse lovers to go visit TRNP if they are ever in the USA.

I have been back in 2020 to show my little son the wild horses of TRNP and our horse's family. I hope I can still do this for our second son in a few years.

All in all I might have visited TRNP once during my visits in ND but it was the horses that kept and will keep me coming back.

Christiane W. from Germany

37.

Anne Padegimas <anne.padegimas@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 4:07 PM

We went to the park two years ago. Ahhhh, it was prayerful. We camped right at the base campground there. The whole purpose of the visit was to hopefully catch a glimpse of the wild horses. Drove all the way from North Carolina.

We saw them! It was incredible to see wild horses! I will never forget the experience. We saw other animals too, but after visiting almost every national park in the US, this is the only place I saw the wild horse.

How can you take that away? It's part of the heritage. How many people visit like me just to catch a glimpse of them? And again, this is the ONLY place you can really see them in the whole country! Isn't that enough?

I recommend you keep things just the way they are. They seem to be managed very well, I know they are very well documented. Man has just got to stop thinking every available space on this planet is theirs. This is not.

Thank you,
Anne Padegimas
Matthews, North Carolina

<p>38.</p>	<p>Deborah Zillich <debzillich@hotmail.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 6:44 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>I am so sad that the plan has gone forward to remove the wild horses from Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I live in Dickinson and visit the park all through the year. The horses have been the highlight of every trip. I enjoy seeing the other wildlife in the park but I LOVE the horses. It became even more fun to find the horses on park visits after I started following the Facebook pages dedicated to the horses. I have so appreciated the people posting and updating these pages with the status of the horses. Seeing the new babies each spring and seeing the dynamic changes in the stallions fighting for their mares and feeling a little sorry for the bachelors roaming the park. I can't imagine Theodore Roosevelt National Park without the horses. I do not understand why they all need to be removed. I understand that the park can only support so many and there are problems with the genetics within the herd but it seems we should have the science to fix these problems and allow a herd to continue to roam in the beauty of the badlands. What a loss it will be if they are no longer living in the park. I know my visits will lose some of the richness of the trips seeing those beautiful creatures running wild and free. 😞</p> <p>Deborah Zillich Dickinson ND</p>
<p>39.</p>	<p>Deb clawson <DebClawson@comcast.net> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 7:20 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Hello Jamie and Deb,</p> <p>I'm writing because of the request from Dakota Grown Photos about saving the wild horses about my visit to TRNP and seeing those wild horses. It was my first visit to the park and the first time I've ever seen wild horses anywhere. They were (and are) the most magnificent animals I've seen. I was in awe watching them in the meadows - they left me breathless. Those wild horses were the highlight of my visit to the park and the reason I want to return. I've seen bison in Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Antelope Island, and other national parks and places in the country and, frankly, they are fearsome animals. In all my visits to national parks, this is the only national park where I have seen these glorious wild horses roaming freely. It is captivating to watch.</p> <p>I hope this helps in some way. Thank you for doing what you can to help save these wondrous creatures.</p> <p>Please let me know if I can be of further help.</p> <p>Best Regards, Deb Clawson</p>

40.

PJ Kaszas <pjkaszas@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 7:26 PM

In 2015 I began my journey to becoming a wild horse photographer. One September evening of that year, a friend of mine and I arrived in Medora, North Dakota. Why were we there? To see the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

We shopped in local stores, we camped under the trees at Medora Campground during our week in the area. To get into the park we paid our park fee and bought items at the visitor's center. We contributed to the park and the local economy by making this trip specifically to see the TRNP horses, as do many, many visitors every year.

It was here in the 1880's that Theodore Roosevelt established two ranching concerns in what was still the Dakota Territories. Around the same time, a French nobleman, the Marquis de Mores, founded the town of Medora, naming it after his wife. The two didn't exactly get along but both men helped shape the history of this region. But long before the arrival of these lofty personages, this was the land of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Crow. In the late 1800's war came to this area as the U.S Army and the Sioux clashed.

Today Medora is better known for **its musical** and TRNP is one of the only national parks in the US that **wild horses can call home**, making it unique in the western US.

Wild horses roamed this area for hundreds of years, actually thousands of years if one knows the evolutionary history of equids. The common narrative of the origins of these horses has been that Native peoples' horses were released or displaced during clashes with the U.S army. Then ranchers, of course, brought their own horses. When cars and tractors replaced horses, and harsh conditions drove many to seek employment elsewhere, these horses were abandoned. The horses of TRNP trace their roots back to these wild horses, Native American horses, and the many breeds brought by European settlers.

But modern "management" techniques have created low genetic diversity in these horses. This means park "management" has led to creating a genetically unviable population. The park is already managing these horses to extinction. Theodore Roosevelt, the park's founder, would be horrified. Wild horses were on park lands before the land was turned into a national park. This means these horses are living history. It seems at odds with the mission of the National Parks Association to destroy our shared history. It leaves me shaking my head in bafflement as I remember my time in the park.

My friend and I went searching for wild horses in the craggy, rough land of these badlands. Manure and footprints were in abundance but actually sighting the horses that left them was not easy. But

we would succeed in our mission eventually.

Near the Talkington trailhead we saw two horses. We saw their butts actually, as their heads and bodies were buried in vegetation. Stallion Flax and his newly won mare Maggie May. We would watch as these two would make their way across a sea of grass and across a high ridge. It was a breathtaking sight.

This was just the start of our sightings of horses. We would see Gary's band in the distance. And then Teton's band, also in the distance. We'd watch them perform amazing feats of balance wandering down steep ridges to water.

And our most marvelous encounter with Silver's band. We would spend a lot of time photographing and observing the family interactions between Silver and Juniper, Gunnison, Democracy, Dixie, Firefly, Olympic, Daisy, Eagle, Faith, and Esprit. I say their names to remember them, to allow others to remember them.

As I look back at this trip and this time in my life, I can't imagine the park without these horses. They are part of that landscape. They are the perfect dry grassland dweller, adapted to these badlands, prairies, and plains because they evolved here before spreading to Eurasia thousands of years ago. The empty prairie will be a place devoid of an integral part of the history of western North America and all of human history: the horse. What a lonely place it will be.

I plan to return to see the horses. But I won't return if these horses are to be removed or managed to extinction. Many people won't return. Because we will all know the Park Service destroyed a part of our shared history the founder of the Park had sought to preserve, and who would want to give money or attention to such an entity capable of trampling on the principles on which it was founded?

PJ KASZAS PHOTOGRAPHY

[WEBSITE](#) | [INSTAGRAM](#) | [FACEBOOK](#) | [BLOG](#) | [WILD HORSE PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTIVE](#)

41.

giselle carlow <saintlady116@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 7:30 PM

I am a disabled person living in Manitoba, Canada. Several years ago I was thrilled to be able to travel through the Teddy Roosevelt National Park. I only caught a glimpse of the wild horses living there but that glimpse of living beauty, a true symbol of the US west, stayed with me. When I found an online site that featured those horses, I quickly joined. It has warmed my heart to be able to watch the herds by seeing the wonderful photos of them through the seasons. Each new colt or filly fills me with the hope that the horses will remain free, in the park, forever.

I also pray that the horses will be in the park for years to come because I live in hope that one day I will visit again. In the interim I look forward each day to new photos of those wonderful wild horses and thank the devoted individuals who care enough about their survival to trek out in all weather to bring them to my computer screen.

Please allow the horses to remain free.

Thank you,
Giselle Carlow
Winnipeg, Manitoba

<p>42.</p>	<p>Debbie L Mack <debbielma943@gmail.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 7:43 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>I have never had the opportunity to visit the park in person regretfully! But I faithfully follow the media pages that follow and document the horses and their stories! I firmly believe that they should be able to remain wild and free! I also believe it would hurt the park's tourism industry! In my opinion the horses are an attraction just like the buffalo and other wild life! Horses wild or tame bring a lot of enjoyment to their human counterparts! Go out into the park and take a child and watch the expression when they see a majestic animal like a horse running wild and free with their little foals!</p>
<p>43.</p>	<p>Squarespace <form-submission@squarespace.info> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 8:38 PM Reply-To: ckramer1231@gmail.com To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Sent via form submission from <i>Wild Lands Wild Horses</i></p> <p>Name: C Kramer Email Address: ckramer1231@gmail.com Subject: Save the wild horses of TRNP Message: To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>I am writing to lend my voice to the many others who learn so much from the wild horses who live and roam in TRNP. It has come to my attention that the wild horses in the park are in danger, not from natural predators, but from an agency or agencies who would like to see them removed from the park. Conservation groups world wide are working to preserve species in the wild, and yet in ND we are discussing removal of a species?? Why? Shouldn't the goal be to preserve and protect what little remains of our early history? Can't the herd be managed so that everyone can be happy? Have you exhausted all possible solutions or just determined that eradicating the herd is the easiest/cheapest/least time consuming solution? Please consider alternatives.</p> <p>For centuries the ND prairies have had horses either working or running free. Now the park is home to the only remaining wild horses. Many people throughout the country live in places where they do not have the opportunity to see bison, elk, or even deer let alone a majestic wild horse roaming free. Many of those people have fallen in love with the wild horses via social media accounts. The accounts educate us on the hierarchy of the herds, the various communication within the herd and just about horses in general. We share the joy when new foals enter the various bands as well as the anguish when a horse meets its end. Some of those people MAY fall so much in love that North Dakota and TRNP become vacation destinations.</p> <p>As residents, we know that North Dakota is made up of beautiful prairies, amber waves as far as the eyes can see and some of the most spectacular sunsets. We don't have a huge tourism industry because frankly we lack amusement parks, professional sports teams, fancy museums and other typical tourist destinations. What we DO have is a beautiful landscape in the rugged Badlands of southwestern North Dakota. Among that beautiful landscape live the bands of wild horses. The wild horses make the park what it is today and what it was years ago when Teddy Roosevelt himself spent time there. They are symbolic of the rugged frontier that ND was and an integral part of our ND heritage.</p> <p>Please consider the BIG picture. Do NOT remove the herd.</p> <p>Sincerely, C. Kramer</p> <p>Does this submission look like spam? Report it here.</p>

<p>44.</p>	<p>sbrorby@midco.net <sbrorby@midco.net> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 8:44 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Hi, I am writing in regards to the wild horses at TRNP. We go to the park at least 2-4 times a year, sometimes more. Each year for our birthday's, that's our treat, to go see the wild horses. Yes, seeing the bison and other wildlife is great too, but really the only reason we go is to see the horses. It's fun looking for them and we just love sitting and watching them. We take so many pictures, it is one of North Dakota's absolute best things to see. I also follow a lot of the people who take amazing photos of them and love learning about each one, their names, the stallions & their bands. I follow Lynn Wallen, Dakota Grown and many others who also love the horses. To be completely honest, if the horses are taken away, I am sure we will never go to the park again, as that is the reason we go there. Please leave them alone and let them live wild & free in TRNP. It would be a shame not to have them there.</p> <p>Sincerely, Shelia Brorby</p>
<p>45.</p>	<p>Boomer Carlson <boomer.carlson@yahoo.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 8:56 PM Reply-To: Boomer Carlson <boomer.carlson@yahoo.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>I have been following North Dakota TRNP for years and all the wonderful works these volunteers do for these wonderful animals. My goal is to make it this year, given money and health. There are so many different animals in this park and why would you want to separate any of them. Please think of the future of the families that will make it to this park and there will be many I can say for sure. Thank you Elieen and Tiffany and many more that work hard for theses horses. Thank You Linda Carlson (Boomer).</p> <p>Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android</p>
<p>46.</p>	<p>Maggie Edmunds <edmundsm@talktalk.net> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 9:29 PM Reply-To: Maggie Edmunds <edmundsm@talktalk.net> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Hi</p> <p>My name is Maggie Edmunds, I am 77 years old and live on the Somerset Coast in the UK. I have been following the life of the TRNP herd of wild horses for many years now.</p> <p>I live alone and have mobility problems which prevent me from being actively involved with horses in the way that I have been for most of my life. Keeping up to date with the life and dynamics of the horses that roam free in the TRNP, gives me great satisfaction and a sense of remaining involved in a world which has always been close to my heart.</p> <p>The frequent updates posted on Facebook allow me to experience the daily lives, struggles, joys and sorrows that this herd endures. I have wept at the losses and had my heart warmed at the birth of each new foal. I cherish each announcement of a successful birth and love to watch as each foal grows and develops , learning from its family and from each other.</p> <p>I may live across the ocean and will never have the chance to visit in person, but my life is enriched by knowing that the horses are there, living their lives free to roam the park. The world is a better place because they are there and would be diminished greatly if they no longer existed. Please do not let that come to pass.</p> <p>Maggie Edmunds</p>

<p>47.</p>	<p>kneegee03 <kneegee03@comcast.net> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 9:44 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>We were planning a family vacation to Yellowstone and it was asked what everyone wanted to see or do. As the mom, my first comment was, we're are going to spend a few days in TRNP on our way out to Yellowstone. My love for horses goes back to when I had my own as a young child. But, I wanted to see wild horses. We spent 3 days in TRNP and I was so sad as I didn't get to see any. Even went horseback riding in hopes of seeing them. That day we left, I was almost in tears because I had not seen them. We turn a corner and there they were. I did start to cry. It was like they were there to tell me goodbye. TRNP would not be the same without them. I have traveled back since then just for them.</p> <p>Thank you for trying to save them for my grandchildren to see.</p> <p>Sheila Schueller Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone</p>
<p>48.</p>	<p>FRANCES FONDREN <fbfondren@aol.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 9:46 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>I have not had the opportunity to visit Theodore Roosevelt National Park, but hope to in the future. I will visit to see the beautiful herds of wild horses that call this park home. I have followed these horses through social media, (Dakota Grown Photos, for one), and feel I know each horse. These beautiful animal have been a part of this park for so long and should be allowed to stay. They are the only reason I have any interest in coming to TRNP. If they are removed I will have no desire to visit. It's such a thrill to see new life being born each year and sadness with each loss. Please leave these beautiful creatures alone and allow them to live their lives, wild and free in your park. Wild in North Dakota and Dakota Grown Photos have done so much to promote these horses and bring attention to your park but if you remove the horses there will be no reason to promote or visit your park!</p> <p>Thank you, Frances Fondren 1375 Peach Orchard Rd Bethel Springs, TN 38315</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
<p>49.</p>	<p>Laurel Neurauter <laurelneurauter@yahoo.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 9:55 PM Reply-To: "laurelneurauter@yahoo.com" <laurelneurauter@yahoo.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>I have always loved horses. I somehow found out about Blaze and fell in love with him. I think it was the gorgeous blue eye and how beautiful he was. I followed posts about him and was saddened by his death. My granddaughter and I decided we were going to TRNP to see the horses. A couple years ago we did just that. It was awesome. Hanna baby talked to them and a mare and a foal started coming to us. I knew we had to back up to our car as they are wild animals. But, it was so special. I live in ND but would not have visited the park were it not for the horses.</p> <p>Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android</p>

<p>50.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 9:56 PM</p> <p>Faye Foster <fayfos@gmail.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>I'd like to add my story to the group.</p> <p>1st I cannot believe there could be any good reason for not wanting to keep these horses as a part of the park. They should be valued for their historical importance!</p> <p>I am 52 years old. My parents started taking me to Medora as a child. We ALWAYS drove through the park looking for the animals. The horses were the most elusive to find and caused the biggest excitement when anyone spotted them. As an adult I still love going through the park every time I visit Medora. And now as an adult I can fully appreciate how incredible it is that these horses have survived and thrived! I have learned so much following a couple of the groups that tell us about the horses, their family history and units. The changing of band leaders. Their stories are incredible and make me feel like I have a look into history. I honestly don't think I would ever visit the park again knowing that these North Dakota treasures were valued so little that they would get rid of them. It's honestly unfathomable how this is even a real possibility!!</p> <p>The Park service should be preserving not destroying our beautiful and important wild horses. Why have a park service if they aren't going to protect the residents of the parks?</p> <p>If there is anything else I can do to help fight this please let me know.</p> <p>Faye Foster</p>
<p>51.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 10:46 PM</p> <p>ROLAND BENOIT <tjlecat@aol.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>I am writing this with a heavy heart. I am upset to think you will take these beautiful animals from the Park. Do you really know how very many people can not travel there but get pure pleasure from the outstanding photos that are posted. Many can not travel because of health and many more because of the financial situations. These magnificent animals were born free and they should remain this way. Please do not spoil this for so very many people, let them be free. 🙏🙏🙏</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>

52.

rochelle gilmore <shellrok@hotmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 10:49 PM

The first time I heard about the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt from my mother who had recently visited the park was in 2017. She sent me pictures of them, the Buffalo, and Prarie dogs. They were so beautiful. Seeing the babies sun bathing next to their grazing mothers in the badlands is indescribable. I wanted to see that myself.

The next year my daughter and I flew from Washington State to North Dakota to visit the park and find the horses. Our luck was with us that trip. Not even across the grate into the park we saw a small band of 3 horses grazing on the hillside. It was amazing.

We went all over the park and found different families. It's a pure joy to be able to share the history and experience seeing wild horses not only surviving but thriving in just a small part of our country.

I cried when I found a family I've been following last year. The young paint colt called Bloom had recently lost his mother, and was being watched over by his older sister. It was heartbreaking to worry if he'd make it through the winter. He's still in the park today.

We've been going back every year since to see babies grow and families change. I follow groups on Facebook who document the herds throughout the year and give updates on the horses. I buy photographs the local store in Medora sells of the horses to hang in my home.

I will continue to go back to the park as long as the horses are there. I've loved horses my whole life and the passion for the horses of TRNP should be continued for the next generations before they too don't know the history or be able to experience the joy of uncaged wild and free horses.

Rochelle

53.

Park Region Telephone <lwright@prtcl.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 10:58 PM

I am upset, but not surprised, by the park administration's view of the status of the wild horses in the park. This position has been held by federal wildlife biologists for years. I heard it while attending a National Wildlife Summit at Estes Park in the mid-1970's. These wild horses are considered "invasive species" that take away from "native" species.

For me, the wild horses are a huge draw to TRNP and my husband and I have followed them for several years both through annual park visits and through social media posts by horse advocates who track these horses closely. These horses, descended from ranch horses and Indian ponies, tie us to the history and development of the Medora/Badlands area from the time of the Marquis de Mores and Theodore Roosevelt. Watching these horses, descended from the horses of the early days of the Medora area take us back in time and carry the excitement and romance of that era into our present for all to see and enjoy.

This year I purchased a book from the Western Book Store in Medora, ND entitled "Images of America, Medora and Theodore Roosevelt National Park" by Gary Leppart, published by Arcadia Publishing. There are several historical photos with comments that struck a chord with me related to the park and it's founding.

Page 116 states, "Promotional efforts to establish a park in the badlands to commemorate Theodore Roosevelt's ranching days began shortly after his death in 1919."

Page 96 states, "These promotional pamphlets prepared for Peaceful Valley Ranch were used to entice potential visitors to the ranch. Carl Olson, one of the early owners of the ranch, was also an enthusiastic supporter of the national park concept in the badlands to commemorate Theodore Roosevelt's ranching days."

Page 76 states, "According to some naturalists, bison herds on the North American continent numbered some 30 million head at the onset of European expansion. By 1883, only remnants were left. One of the last herds in the region was found near Jordan, Montana . . ."

Page 126 states, "Bison, which were once native to the entire region, were reintroduced in the North and South units of the park. The first transplant was in 1956 when 29 bison were transported from Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge in Nebraska, and released in the south unit. In 1962, 20 bison were moved from the south unit to the north unit.

Page 125 states, "In 1956, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department began transplanting the subspecies California bighorn sheep in the North Dakota Badlands. On January 15, 1959, bighorn sheep were introduced in the south unit of the park. Most of these animals disappeared, probably as a result of disease. In January 1996, 19 bighorn sheep were introduced into the north unit where wild free-roaming sheep can be seen today."

Rocky Mountain elk were reintroduced to the south unit of the park in 1985. The transplanted elk came from Wind Cave National Park in South Dakota and were so successful that within eight years, excess animals were gathered and removed from the park."

The park was originally founded to commemorate the ranching era during Roosevelt's time there. Note that the pages I referenced indicate that the native species the present park administration are advocating over the wild horses were depleted or non-existent in the area during Roosevelt's ranching period and needed to be reintroduced by the park in the 1900's. The horses, however, present prior to and during Roosevelt's ranching days remained a constant. They are very much an important aspect of that ranching era.

I very much enjoy seeing the bison, elk, antelope and bighorn sheep but the horses should have equal protection because of their place in the Roosevelt era in North Dakota.

Thank you for all you are doing to protect these park horses.

Linda Wright
Erhard, MN

<p>54.</p>	<p>Ruby <rubyjasmin@yahoo.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 11:42 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>To whom it may concern: I recently celebrated my 45th Anniversary and my husband asked what I would like to do for our Anniversary. My response? Go see the horses in the TRNP. And we did! That was the reason we made the trip to the South unit was to see the horses. I have followed a number of social media sites that post pictures of these beautiful animals and was so thrilled to see them in person. We plan to return this coming year to camp and hike to see the horses. They are the sole reason that I wanted to visit the park and the sole reason I will visit again. Please let these horses run free! They are a beautiful site to see and I would like my grandchildren to be able to visit them throughout their lifetimes too.</p> <p>Sincerely, Ruby Jasmin</p>
<p>55.</p>	<p>Susan Engen <skengen@gmail.com> Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 9:51 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>I remember going to Medora when you had to walk up the hill and you sat on boards on cinder blocks. That is when I fell in love with the wild horses in TRNP! I keep coming back to go through TRNP to see the horses! I will never forget the Black Stallion standing high on a cliff as I came around a curve! SOOOO beautiful!!!! Keeps us grounded to the past and a simpler time!!!</p>

56.

Amber Gonzales <amber.gonzales1979@outlook.com>

Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 10:39 PM

To: "Jbaldanza@gmail.com" <Jbaldanza@gmail.com>, "deb@debleecarson.com" <deb@debleecarson.com>

"To encounter the sacred is to be alive at the deepest center of human existence. Sacred places are the truest definitions of the earth; they stand for the earth immediately and forever; they are its flags and shields. If you would know the earth for what it really is, learn it through its sacred places. At Devil's Tower or Canyon de Chelly or the Cahokia Mounds, you touch the pulse of the living planet; you feel its breath upon you. You become one with a spirit that pervades geologic time and space."

- N. Scott Momaday

For me that pulse is felt in the earliest of hours, before dawn makes her approach and cascades her beauty across the majestic landscape of what belongs to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. It's felt as I dress for the unpredictable weather I may encounter as I prepare to spend the next several days in the park discovering, reflecting, and falling in love all over again. It's felt when I cross the iconic cattle guard and my eyes focus as they are trained to do the minute my ears hear that sound. It's felt in the excitement of my voice because I know.....

I know what this wild, rugged and spiritual land has in store me. I know I will hike many miles with dearest of friends in search of what keeps calling us back to this place time and time again. I know I will see my little wild mustang, who I adopted from the park and lost tragically, in the playfulness of the wild foals. I know I will hear her calling in the nicker of a nearby mare. I know I will feel her from the pulsing ground as a band of wild horses move across their land. I know my heart will heal every time I return because they are there. And while I sit quietly a short distance away, I'm humbled and comforted to spend those magical moments with the wild horses of TRNP.

My love affair began in 2013 when I traveled from my home in Arkansas all the way to a little town called Medora and entered a National Park I had never heard of before all because a friend told me about the wild horses that lived within the boundaries of TRNP. It did not disappoint and the moment I laid eyes on Silver and his band, my soul was forever bonded to this park and the wilds that call it home. For the next 7 years I traveled twice a year to spend time among the majestic wild horses that unselfishly share the land that has such profound history deeply rooted in every inch of that park. These horses introduced me to people all over the world that I would've never met, friendships that I will forever cherish. In 2019 I moved four hours from TRNP and continue to visit the park every year exploring, healing, falling in love with new wilds born to the herd and paying my respects the seniors who welcomed me all those years ago.

I know.....

I know when I cross those cattle guards and dawn shares her light....

I am home!

57.

Mark & Sue Bendson <m.s.bendson@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Thu, Dec 29, 2022 at 11:48 PM

Medora! A horse rider's dream vacation! Why is that? First, and foremost, my love for the wild horses!! It all began with my first trip to Medora. I went with a friend, and we brought our horses to ride in the park, camping at the Bar X campground.

I am a mare person, and my first ride in the park was amazing! We rode for miles. While riding, our first encounter with the wild horses was a bit frightful, yet exhilarating! Two bachelor stallions happened upon us on the trail. We were moseying along when suddenly, to the left of us, the two bachelors flew by us! It was like, WOW, absolutely beautiful! They seemed taken by my mare, and of course, she was more than excited to race after them. We held back, and for the remainder of our ride, those two followed us at a distance. I'm sure they were curious, and interested in my mare, which peaked my curiosity to follow this herd.

When finishing our ride, we returned to our trailer, and in the distance, we spotted a mare and her foal. I was instantly in love with the horses in the park, and they are what keep me coming back.

My next trip to the park, I met a gal who was there to catalog the horses. We were staying at the same campground, and we talked endlessly about the wild ones. I was hooked! Since that time, I have followed the horses of TRNP, and know them by name. My interest in them was more than just a visit. I have since adopted two fillies from the park, and they are living their life in Minnesota.

I understand the need to cull the herd, and I am fortunate to have been able to provide a soft landing for the two I have. I will continue to make my trips to the park, because of the horses. They are a huge part of the park! The reason many of us visit the park. I can't imagine removing them. I don't know who makes the final decisions, but if the decision makers are horse people, maybe they can explain just how an adjustment of this magnitude will affect the horses. Especially the older horses - who only know the park as home. How cruel for them. How many of them will just die of fear and bewilderment? How many of them will end up in slaughter? I am so fearful for their future. This is heartbreaking to me!

I understand the genetics of the herd are quite compromised. What happened to all the plans submitted to integrate new blood into this herd? The contraceptive plans? So many of us submitted valued time, thoughts, and plans for your new management plan.

I feel so defeated. If I want to visit a park, why would I go to TRNP as without the horses, it's just another park.

Respectfully submitted with hope for the future of this herd.

Sue Bendson
Minnesota

58.

Sandra Ranney <shonto4858@hotmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 2:24 AM

I love these wild horses. I look forward to any and all posts about them to see the pictures and hear of how this new colt or filly was born in this or that herd and whose new little one it was. Boomer has been a favorite that I like to follow as he just seems so unique to me! I like to envision all of them like I'm looking out my window at them though they are many miles away. (I live in Michigan.) Someday I hope to be able to visit to see them living their lives wild and free there. Meanwhile I love following them online. I have quite a collection of photos in my wallpaper file on my computer that I have collected from the Wild In North Dakota website. One of my daughter's gifts me with a new calendar each year and I make regular donations to benefit these beautiful horses. I pray they are allowed to continue to thrive and live their lives as God has intended: Wild and Free.

<p>59.</p>	<p>Karen Hunnicutt-Meyer <karenhunnicuttmeyer@gmail.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 8:23 AM</p> <p>Good morning,</p> <p>I would like to submit my story - my experiences with the wild horses of TRNP.</p> <p>Teddy Roosevelt once said "The landscapes of today are not ours to do with as we please. The original stock was given to us in trust for the benefit both of the present and the future. We must render an accounting of this trust to those who come after us".</p> <p>I believe that if President Roosevelt was alive today that he would include not only the landscapes, but the wildlife as well. On my first visit to Theodore Roosevelt National Park in the summer of 2013, I came across a band of magnificent wild horses standing high on a ridge. I was overwhelmed with awe. I spent hours watching them and studying their interactions with each other. On that same visit, I found another band preparing to retire for the evening basking in the golden sunlight closing in on the horizon.</p> <p>These images are etched in my memory, images captured with my camera and scribbled in the pages of my journal. An excerpt from that day "How spectacular to be in the presence of wild horses. The joy that seems to ignite the rare elements of grace, beauty, spirit and fire".</p> <p>I have made several return trips since that day, just to be able to experience these emotions time and time again. I truly believe that these horses define this National Park, they are the pure essence of why Roosevelt, Muir and others fought tirelessly to create and protect these parks for generations to come.</p> <p>- Karen Hunnicutt Meyer</p>
<p>60.</p>	<p>Shayla Fortune <shayla_fortune@hotmail.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 8:43 AM</p> <p>In July I visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park to see the wild horses. I've been following a Facebook page about the horses for some time and finally had the opportunity to make the trek from Michigan to North Dakota to see them in person. We explored a lot of the park, always on the look out for the horses. When we finally found them eating near a river we were delighted. Seeing horses living free, being able to do what is natural and important to them without humans asking anything of them was a beautiful experience. I wish there were more horses in the park! They are a treasure to the park and should be protected.</p>
<p>61.</p>	<p>Kristi Taylor <kjmleah@live.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 12:01 PM</p> <p>To whom it may concern: I live in Iowa but there are NO wild horses to observe so I am a tourist that benefits the communities and parks where I can satisfy my dreams in visiting and witnessing the iconic wild horses. Please benefit from people like meplease. I live where a person can only pretend what once was.... I want generations upcoming to witness this in person also. Not some pretend zoo palace want a be..... Please again please</p> <p>I am planning to see the park this summer as my 2020 visit was delayed due to Covid. The landscape in the park looks to be magical in the pictures I see and can only hopeit remains iconic</p> <p>Sincerely, Kristi Taylor</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>

<p>62.</p>	<p>shelley3405@aol.com <shelley3405@aol.com> Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 1:15 PM Reply-To: "shelley3405@aol.com" <shelley3405@aol.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>I was raised in Williston, ND and although we rarely took vacations per se, a trip to the badlands and TRNP was so.ething we considered a vacation. My Dad worked 2 jobs, one of which was farming so time and money were both always hard to come by. Going to the TRNP though was always a special treat and something we could do that the whole family enjoyed every single time. While there, it didn't matter that we couldn't afford all the fun things other kids got to have, we were able to enjoy the freedom of the outdoors, run and play and make games out of searching for the wild horses and Buffalo. Those memories are treasured and although I live far away now, I've made certain my kids had the same opportunities to enjoy the park as I did. It's become somewhat of a tradition and it helps us all appreciate the value of nature. The fact that these herds have lived free for all these years and still live and thrive in what can be a very harsh environment helps keep our priorities straight and puts life in perspective when we are faced with the challenges life throws at us. This is part of our country's history and while I understand sometimes change is inevitable, there is no valid need to change the park nor the herds that reside there. As a country we need to do better preserving the natural state of the areas that we can, and the TRNP is one that should be allowed to remain beautiful and natural with all the wildlife that call it home! Sent from the all new AOL app for Android</p>
<p>63.</p>	<p>Margaret Baie <mbaie100182@gmail.com> Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 1:34 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>We visited the park in fall of 2020 and were only able to traverse about half of the area due to some road work. We were thrilled when coming around a bend there in front of us was a band of wild horses, the epitome of the west!. We spent a lot of time watching this band and then went to look for more. We were not disappointed. The spirit of freedom and the beauty of seeing these families of horses made our visit to TRNP one of the most memorable sights of that whole trip (which included a few days in Yellowstone). Even though horses are not considered indigenous to the plains, horses did originally evolve in North America and these wild ones need to be left to remind us humans how little time we have actually been here and how a species can survive in the most rigorous environment. Thank you for fighting for these wonderful beasts. Margaret Baie</p>
<p>64.</p>	<p>Paulette Larson <owllady68@yahoo.com> Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 2:05 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Sent from my iPhoneWe go to the park every year once or twice . We always drive through looking for the horses and bison. The horses are so majestic, wild and free. We take many pictures and watch them. While they may not be native to the park, they are a big attraction and it would be a shame to get rid of them all. People are always asking if we've seen them and where they're located on that day when we saw them. Keep them!</p>
<p>65.</p>	<p>Keira Woodhart <findnhome@yahoo.com> Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 2:12 PM Reply-To: Keira Woodhart <findnhome@yahoo.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>It has honestly been a dream of mine to see the wild horses in TRNP. The whole park is a monument in and of its self, but the wild horses will forever be synonymous with it. With out those horses I am not sure I would visit the park. I grew up around Yellowstone National Park, but the draw to Teddy Roosevelt National Park had and always will be the wild horses. Please, please let them stay. Sincerely, Keira Woodhart</p> <p>Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android</p>

<p>66.</p>	<p>trekkie4612navi@verizon.net <trekkie4612navi@verizon.net> Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 5:40 PM Reply-To: "trekkie4612navi@verizon.net" <trekkie4612navi@verizon.net> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>My name is Cathy Weeks and I am from New York. I first came to TRNP in 2019 after finding out there were wild horses there. I drive out west to be with wild horses and close to Native American culture. My heart soared when I saw my first TRNP wild horse. And that was Nichols....with his gorgeous mane...standing there down by the water. And then I came around a turn and there was a band up on a hill and they were stunning....so proud.....so wild...so free. I have been out every year since (except 2020) to see them. I now also hire a guide so I can venture further and find more of these beauties that roam the hills and buttes of the park. I do not come for the buffalo...I see them at Custer, Wind Cave and the Badlands. I come to TRNP for the horses. I will be returning this year and looking forward to seeing these special horses that have captured my heart. They are a part of the park and I will continue to come as long as there are the wild horses.</p>
<p>67.</p>	<p>Diane Tutas <tutasd@yahoo.com> Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 5:40 PM Reply-To: Diane Tutas <tutasd@yahoo.com> To: Wildlandswildhorses Info <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>Hello my name is Diane from Indiana and I wanted to tell you just how much these horses mean to me. I've only followed them on social Media so far and have grown to admire and love them. I didn't know much about this park before seeing the horse's. I have big dreams of finally getting to see them and pray they will be there for me and my family to enjoy.</p> <p>I have visited many National Parks in my lifetime and traveled a lot. This is a big one on my bucket list. The thing that sets this Park apart, besides it's rugged beauty is the Horses. It's the reason I would come to this park as North Dakota is a little more off the beaten path. I've seen Bison, Elk and Pronghorn and bears etc. many places. I love wildlife. Seeing these beautiful horses free in the elements of the park would be breathtaking and makes this park different and special.</p> <p>I'm an admirer of Theodore Roosevelt and the fact that this park preserves the essence of the west sets it apart. We owe horse's such a debt for all they have done for us as a nation. A national park with free roaming horses is a good way to honor the horse's. Plus this park is a place that all people can see wild horses. History is an important part of our heritage.</p> <p>I urge you along with all the people who love them, to allow the horses to remain in the Park in a capacity that is viable and enjoyable for generations to come.</p> <p>Thank you, Diane Tutas</p>

68.

Nate & Neali Austin <neals622@gmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Fri, Dec 30, 2022 at 9:00 PM

Hi friends!!

I miss you. Here is my story for the TRNP herd. Thank you for what you're doing! Feel free to use the attached photo to go along with the story.

"I am blessed to say I have many stories and memories of the TRNP herd from my first introduction to them in 2003 to my last visit in 2017. I think what's been the greatest gift from this herd is the friendships and community I've made along the way while following their story. There are so many different people that find one common interest and sanctuary in this seemingly simple, dispensable and invasive herd of livestock - or so the 'powers that be' would like you to believe that's what they are. These people find new community with one another even though they come from different backgrounds and stories of their own (fellow travelers and locals alike) because they each have come for the sole purpose of seeing the wild landscape TRNP has to offer with the added beauty of its wild horse herd. Trust me when I say, there is nothing more beautiful or mesmerizing than sunrises or sunsets dotted with their silhouettes among those badlands hills. Each sunset or sunrise I have experienced with them has its own separate memory and fondness associated with it. Often times I look back on just one picture and can replay the memory as if it was yesterday, including the people I shared it with. I now have 2 young daughters of my own and I hope to be able to bring them to TRNP in the near future so they can also experience the beauty and wonder of not only the park and its horses, but also the community. I can say with certainty, a trip would be much less prioritized if the horses are removed. If the horses go, many of the community will also go, and that would be a shame to see."

69.

Barbara Kimble <bakimb1@hotmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 12:50 AM

My job is 100% travel. The first time I came to the TRNP area I did some research and found that there were wild horses in the park. I am a horse lover and have always dreamed of seeing wild horses. At the age of about 53 I finally had the opportunity. As I approached the park on the highway I saw the horses way up on the ridge. I stopped and got out my binoculars and camera. I actually cried as I saw wild horses for the first time!!! My work has never gotten me close to the park but I am so enthralled with the horses that I take an early morning flight and make a 2.5+ hour drive to the park just to see the horses! I have done this probably 5 times in the past 12 years! Without the horses there will be no reason for me to visit the park. You can see bison and other wildlife in many other parks. My attraction to TRNP is the horses. I have always planned to return to the park after retirement to be able to spend more time with the horses. I have followed the Wild in ND website ever since I discovered it many years ago. Wild horses are just an important piece of history as are bison and should be protected as are the many bison herds in the National Park system!!!

Barb Kimble

<p>70.</p>	<p>Denise McGuire <debdenmcguire@gmail.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 11:59 AM</p> <p>I have never been to Theodore Roosevelt National Park but I follow their story on Facebook every day. I believe everyone would agree that this world is full of sadness, chaos, misery and unending bad news, so for me, and for thousands of others around the world, logging onto social media and seeing the pure and unfettered beauty of the wild horses there is a breath of fresh air and a shining light in this world of ever-increasing darkness. Please let them be. Let them remain as they are. Let them remain free!! They are the last vestiges of our Wild West, our Last Frontier, the Wide Open Range and the New World. They're our Heritage, American Icons, the embodiment of the Soul of America, the Heartbeat of our Great Land. Many days there's nothing that can bring a smile to my face like a striking photo of a stunning wild Mustang or a video of a band of horses thundering across a wide open space. Please don't remove them. PLEASE SPARE THEM. They don't deserve to be rounded up, contained, closed into corrals, separated from their bands, removed from the only home they've ever known and most of all they do NOT deserve to be shipped to slaughter in Mexico or Canada. Please, consider their value and worth as sheerly unsullied creatures living their own lives, and letting all others live theirs. Consider the joy they bring by simply "being". They draw people to the Badlands, to North Dakota and to the Park. This has to count for something! So please, in the name of all that's Good, Real, Truly Authentic and Fundamentally American---let them stay where they are and remain free.</p> <p>Respectfully and With All Sincerity, Debra McGuire</p>
<p>71.</p>	<p>Wendy Bentley <kyrmtngirlwb@gmail.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 12:09 PM</p> <p>I have never been to TRNP but look forward every day to the posts on FB about the horses. I don't know when, because I am caring for my aging mother, but at some point I dream of coming to see the horses wild and free.</p> <p>I am not sure why there are plans in place to remove these horses from the park. They have been and should always be a part of the park. They have been there for 100s of years and that land belongs to them more than it belongs to the people who want to remove them. It belongs to them more than it even belongs to us who love and enjoy them whether in person or from a distance.</p> <p>I will never understand bureaucracy's need to change things by destroying things or taking away things that make people happy!! Leave the horses alone!!!</p>

72.

Marcia Hage <featheredhorse@me.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 12:43 PM

Wild and Free

by Marcia Hage

Mile after mile goes by, marked by two wheels humming on pavement; heat radiating off the engine keeps me warm on this cool morning in North Dakota. We stayed last night in Devil's Lake, arriving just as the sun went down. And now, headed south on Highway 20, we are surrounded by water on both sides. Skeletal trees rise up from the fog-enshrouded lake, ghost trees that were on dry land only a decade ago. We glide past silent barns, silos and hay fields succumbing to the water.

My dad explains the shallow lake has been rising for 20 years. No one knows why, but speculate it's due to recent climate shifts resulting in higher rainfall than usual in the area. The encroaching water has risen 35 feet to flood hundreds of farms as well as parts of two small towns. The landscape is as flat as a tabletop, so even a modest rise in the water level can cover thousands of acres. Today the placid lake resembles a high plains version of the everglades.

I ride in silence, absorbing the passing scenery and musing about the abandoned barns and houses and the people who once lived there. I count the ravens perched on beckoning tree branches. Seven, eight, nine... I lose track as a grain truck roars past, empty trailer rattling, on his way to New Rockford, McClusky or Garrison to start his run all over again.

My eyes settle on the lone figure ahead. My dad, Dennis Jindra, has been riding motorcycles for more than 50 years, accumulating over 1,000,000 miles. His resume is impressive: all four corners of the United States in 10 days, 1,000 miles in one day and a ride from the Florida Keys to Seward, Alaska when he turned 60. I started riding iron horses in 2012 and this marks our third annual father/daughter road trip.

This time we are on a pilgrimage to see the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Located in the Badlands of North Dakota, it is just shy of 800 miles away from our homes in northern Minnesota. The state of North Dakota claims they are not truly wild horses, in the pure sense, as they are comprised of stock that escaped or were turned loose from nearby farms in the 1940's and 50's. This fact, however, does not lessen my desire to see them as they are meant to be: wild and free.

The day has turned hot and dusty and the wind batters us relentlessly, roaring like an ocean minus the refreshing spray. We brave temperatures pushing 100 degrees and nonstop grain trucks going the opposite direction on Hwy 200. There is no sign of human life out here, just endless fields of hay, corn and wheat. Nowhere to stop. We finally locate a tree in someone's front yard and pull over to rest and drink some water. I observe we are on Main Street in the town of Dodge, population 87. We are tired, but push on.

Watford City. The sleepy farming community has changed so much since the oil boom that my dad doesn't recognize it. We get lost. It is now 98 degrees and it takes real effort to keep emotions in check. I go into a repair shop and ask directions to the hotel while my dad rests in the meager shade offered by the hulk of a dilapidated Chevy pickup. Heat waves shimmer above the blacktop.

Finally we locate the hotel – at the end of a dirt road next to a grain elevator. My dad thinks he's hauled grain from here before, back when he owned his own truck, a 1978 light blue and white International he was so very proud of. A stockyard sits across the street, its corrals now empty of life, sharing a dusty gravel parking lot with

the *Outsiders* bar next door. Our boots are covered in a film of dirt as we make our way over to the bar for dinner.

In the morning we pack up the motorcycles. I watch, transfixed, as the early light pours through the open doors of the grain elevator. A truck pulls in to load and dirt swirls, rising into the air and catching the light. It is beautiful as the sun penetrates the slanted beams of dust. God light. The automatic sprinklers have come on overnight and soaked my bike. I wipe it off and clean my windshield as we prepare to leave. My dad says we are about 35 miles from the north entrance of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I feel light and free as I swing my leg over and mount up.

In a short time, we arrive at the park. On this day, it is deserted so we have it to ourselves. The road twists and rises to higher elevations. We pull off at a scenic lookout, where below us, the mighty Missouri river bends and turns, cutting its way through the grassy valley. Many layers of sediment are visible on the rock walls that border the grasslands. The rabbit brush is in bloom, its blue green foliage supporting delicate yellow flowers that add a punch of color to the green and gold landscape.

Everything feels endless here; the sky is an endless aching shade of blue, the grasses dance and sway as far as we can see, and the rough-edged rock formations stretch on for miles. The former president, Theodore Roosevelt once said of this place: *"Nowhere, not even at sea, does a man feel more lonely than when riding over the far-reaching, seemingly never-ending plains; and after a man has lived a little while on or near them, their very vastness and loneliness and their melancholy monotony have a strong fascination for him."*

Since we are more likely to see wild horses at the other end of the park, we point our motorcycles towards Medora. Once there, we follow the south loop. Mile after mile ticks by with no sign of them. My heart sinks at the prospect of going home without having seen a single wild horse. Finally, I spy a small herd of four at the base of an arroyo and pull over for a closer look. They are picking their way among the prairie grass and shrubs: a dark bay mare, a splashy paint with a black filly in tow, and a gray stallion. As I carefully descend the grassy slope for a clearer view, the gray materializes, ghostlike, from behind a clump of cedars. He appears to be unaware of my presence but has strategically placed himself between me and his small band.

For every step I take in their direction, he takes one also, until only a mere gap of 100 feet separates us. I am close enough to observe the battle scars that mar his nearly white coat in stark contrast to his slate gray mane and dark-tipped ears. His forelock hangs well past his eyes, giving him a misleadingly boyish appearance, but I know a full-grown stallion fears nothing, not even a grizzly bear. I stay, kneeling in the weathered grass, and watch the horses for a few moments.

By now, a number of people have stopped on the road to take pictures. Car doors open and slam shut. I hear excited voices rising up in the background, breaking the stillness, silencing the birds. My eyes are fixed on my beautiful horses, but I can feel the tourists standing near their cars, gesturing in our direction. The spell is broken and the stallion turns to go, taking his little harem with him. Reluctantly, I get to my feet and watch them until they disappear into the sagebrush as easy as spirits, as if they had never been there at all.

Leaving the park, we round a corner and there are buffalo everywhere, surging out of the ditch and flowing over the road. Thirst drives them on, eyes and nostrils fixated on the cool river lined with cottonwood trees just across the way. A cow stops to wait for her twin calves to catch up and I am mesmerized by the fuzziness of them, close enough for me to touch. One calf stops to stare at me with her large eyes framed by long dark lashes and the other jostles her like a petulant child. The herd crosses in front of us as well as behind, and I marvel at the thick, curly hair that extends from the top of their heads down the upper ridge of their necks. It feels vaguely unsettling to be so near such massive animals with nothing between us but a scant amount of steel.

We clear the buffalo roadblock and see more prairie dogs. They are everywhere, disappearing as far as the eye can see along the flat expanse of grasslands. Sitting on their haunches, they face the late afternoon sun like dutiful sentinels and send us on our way with much fanfare as we slowly exit the park. I glance in my rearview mirror and catch a glimpse of the sun just as it dips below the horizon. Right then I make a promise to return and once more walk among the wild ones in this beautiful and rugged place called the Badlands.

72.

Jeni Smoker <dane248@hotmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 6:51 PM

I currently live in central Pennsylvania and have always loved horses. It has always been a dream of mine to see wild horses in the wild. I am writing in response to the park's plan to eliminate the wild horse herd.

I follow numerous social media accounts on instagram about wild horses and some specifically about the ones in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Watching the beautiful wild horses in undeveloped land is stunning, and a fitting tribute to the park's namesake.

I have not yet been to Theodore Roosevelt National Park or seen the wild horse herd there, but I would love to. I did have a trip planned to TRNP (flying into Rapid City specifically for the purpose of seeing the horses) but unfortunately I got Covid and had to cancel my trip. I have yet to reschedule my trip but I hope that it is one of the next ones I take.

Although I do love parks, and definitely national parks, I can honestly say that TRNP would not have been on my radar if not for the wild horses living in the park. Even though I have now seen various wild horse herds in other western states, I am still planning on seeing the horses at TRNP. I was hoping that living in a national park would allow the TRNP wild horse herd to live more peacefully than the other herds managed by the BLM.

The fertility treatments seem to be a much better management tool than the roundups and complete herd eradication.

I do not plan on visiting the park if the horses are removed.

Thank you for trying to help the wild horses and I will be of assistance in any way possible.

- Jeni Smoker

73.

Claudia Low <ndbhclaudia@gmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 10:13 PM

Thank you WLWH for your efforts in this fight!! Here is my story.....Feel free to add a picture of baby Gates and his band.

I viewed moving to North Dakota from Louisiana as a huge adventure. I love the outdoors and the excitement of visiting TRNP and the wild horse herd was hard to contain. Little did I know the Park would be so captivating. Once I made my first trip to the Park, nothing else fit into my spare time. I was there 3-4 times a week! I wanted to know about the history of the Park, the history of the horses and how they fit into Teddy Roosevelt's story.

The TRNP NDBH herd brings comfort, healing, and entertainment to so many, not to mention the friendships forged in mud, snow, ice, sweat and tears. There were many tears of joy and many tears of sadness as Mother Nature worked her wonders in this herd of horses. Fellowships formed that will last a lifetime all because of a dedicated group of individuals with one goal in mind, following this herd of horses for eternity.

The best feeling of all was when I became the owner of one of these amazing animals. I purchased "Gates" in 2016 and he is easily one of the best mounts and partners I have ever owned. We live in West Texas now but the fellowship continues. I return every year for the Annual NDBH Reunion Ride and spend two weeks in the Park with the horses. In the future, as long as the horses are there, I will be returning at least twice a year.

In my opinion, TR's legacy is not the same without the horses. Why remove this important chapter from the story of his life? I think he would be very disappointed.

Please don't remove this herd. They are as iconic as the beautiful buttes, bison, and homesteads. Don't take away the comfort, healing, entertainment and fellowship this herd offers.

The Organic Act is for protection of natural and CULTURAL heritage. What sort of life would TR have had without a horse???

~Claudia Hebert Low proud owner of a NDBH
San Angelo, Tx

74.

Dakota Grown Photos <dakotagrownphotos@gmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 10:39 PM

"My love for the horses inside Theodore Roosevelt National Park began in April 2015. One morning, I went to the park looking for a mare I had seen on social media. She had recently lost a foal, and I felt I needed to go to the park and see this horse in person.

While driving the loop, I saw two stallions fighting near the road. I photographed them and watched in amazement that this was happening right before me. I later learned that I had photographed a former band stallion taking on a bachelor who would win his first mare just a few weeks later. These photos led to me meeting a woman from one of the non-profits for the horses, and so began my often weekly tracking and documenting of this herd.

Through running a social media page dedicated solely to this herd, I have seen firsthand the difference they make in the lives of the thousands of people who follow them. Their existence alone has helped so many people, including myself. I have suffered from depression for most of my life and was not in a good place before learning about the park horses. Once I did, my life changed. They gave me an outlet to care for something larger than myself and took me out of a dark place.

Tracking this herd has also given me the opportunity to see countless interactions among the horses over the years. I've witnessed mares with foals at their own side protect another mare as she was foaling, stallions lose their lives defending mares they spent years protecting, mares fight to find their way back to their band after a separation, stallions and mares look after and protect foals which are not their own, and watched entire groups of mares run to defend their stallion without hesitation. All of these examples came down to one thing - family.

If you will not keep the horses in the park for all the families who will visit in the coming years or the families around the world who find joy in every single horse image shared, then allow them to stay to protect the largest family of them all – the one living inside the park."

Tiffany Craig, Golden Valley County, North Dakota

75.

Sheri Logue <bandslogue@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 11:09 PM

My family recently visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota from Florida, driving from Devil's Lake, ND to Medora, ND just to see the wild horses. It was an amazing experience and one that we look forward to coming back to experience again (with a trip planned for October) and one that I have told many family members and friends about. It's truly a bucket list trip that most don't know about but what an incredibly beautiful national park it is! Even my husband, who isn't crazy about road trips, said the most amazing thing about North Dakota was seeing the wild horses.

To hear that Theodore Roosevelt National Park management recently announced its plans to eliminate the ENTIRE herd of wild horses from the park made me want to share our story and for you to see that the impact of these herds reach as far as Tallahassee, FL. I hope that common sense is used in the management of the herd and not a complete elimination of the herd. I also hope that it is taken into account that these herds are families with strong connections and the bands shouldn't be divided.

Before visiting from Florida, we watched a documentary on Theodore Roosevelt and the North Dakota he fell in love with. While visiting this park and seeing the wild horses it was amazing to feel like we were experiencing the untouched land as he did many years ago.

Thank you for fighting to save the wild horses for generations to come. They are truly amazing and we look forward to coming back to North Dakota to enjoy them in the future.

The Logue's - Tallahassee, FL

76.

Chelsea Sorenson <chelseasorenson3496@gmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Sun, Jan 1, 2023 at 2:01 AM

My story about the horses doesn't really have a start date. I'm a born and raised North Dakotan and I've loved horses for as long as I can remember. I have also had a camera in my hands for as long as I can remember. I have photos of the horses going as far back as (I think) 2006 and I've been visiting the park since I was 1 year old. I remember walking among a band of horses in the campground when I was a little girl- before I knew better, of course. 😊

The horses improve my physical and mental health because I never tire of hiking out to them to photograph them, and the outdoors is, of course, great for my mental health. It's a good feeling to collapse in bed after a day of hiking to find the horses- solo or with friends. The park is my happy place and has been for years, a place where my soul is refreshed. I want it to stay that way, but taking away so many of the horses would leave a void in my soul.

I know each one of these horses by name and their parentage and histories, and I've met lots of like-minded friends who love these horses just as much, many of whom own a formerly wild TRNP horse, several more than one. We have all spent countless hours with these wild horses and with each other and none of us can imagine this national park without the horses. They are the heartbeat of the park.

The photo attached is just one of hundreds of special moments I've had with the horses. On this day in 2020, Justice of Arrowhead's band had given birth just days before to an adorable little filly named Badger (Frosted Arrow). Arrowhead, Thunder/Xander, and Half Moon's bands were all close together, and I was photographing them through the fence. To my amazement, Arrowhead gently nudged mares Diamond and Justice closer to me at the fence, and I stood silently and waited to see what would happen. Justice stood close behind Badger, her head held low and calm. Badger was tiny, fuzzy, and curious, and kept coming closer and closer, until I could have touched her through the fence. I kept still and silent, and eventually the band naturally slowly moved off on their own. I'm not sure I breathed the entire time. It was as if Justice had presented her firstborn to me. It was magical.

To summarize a quote from one of my favorite horse movies, "Flicka" (2006), "The history of the West was written by the horse. Wherever a settler left his footprint, there was a hoofprint beside it. Mustangs are on their way to disappearing from the face of the earth. Sometimes when the light disappears, an afterimage remains, just for a moment. Mustangs are an afterimage of the West, no better than ghosts, hardly there at all. We need to protect them, for they are the hope for some kind of living memory of what the promise of America used to be... and could be again."

If the horses are gone from TRNP someday, they will take a piece of my soul with them.

Chelsea

78.

Jennifer Nygaard <jnygaard@integritysteelsupply.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Sun, Jan 1, 2023 at 6:02 AM

Good Morning

I am writing this morning so that my voice may be heard regarding the Wild Horses at TRNP. I go to Medora for a chance to see the horses in the park. Last summer, I faced some challenging times and during that time took a drive from Fargo to Medora. I was hoping to see the horses as I drove through the park. It was looking like it wasn't going to happen and then there one came. I spotted the first one then an entire band came running shortly there after. It was a beautiful scene! The time we have on earth is so very short and moments like what I experienced that day, those are the moments that carry us through this life. I am asking that you keep our wild horses in TRNP. I know I am not alone when I say they are a huge draw to area.
Thank you

Sincerely
Jennifer Nygaard

79.

Gabi Faye <actressgabifaye@gmail.com>
Reply-To: actressgabifaye@gmail.com
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sun, Jan 1, 2023 at 11:16 AM

I visited TRNP for the first time this past year with a photography group. We hiked in and out of the landscapes looking for bands. It was the most incredible weekend of my life. In a world where our attention is engulfed by screens and to-do's, seeing horses in their natural habitat is so captivating and rejuvenating, it makes time and technology fall to the wayside.

I captured a photograph of a mother and her baby during sunset just seconds before she suckled. I gifted the photo to my terminally ill mother on mother's day. A unique and personal gift that no one else in this world has. I do not have children, but when I do I want them to know their grandmother, and this experience is a connector of generations. I want them to know a world where animals have freedom, not bring them to a zoo where animals live in captivity.

Experiencing wild horses is magical and we are lucky to have them roam our lands here in the USA. I pray you make the decision to allow them to stay wild. Some things are more important than money. This is certainly at the top of the list.



80.

Melinda Kersten <kerstenmk405@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sun, Jan 1, 2023 at 10:35 PM

From Melinda :)

Throughout my several years of working with a major wild horse sanctuary in South Dakota, visitors were thrilled to get up close and personal with our horses. And they would inquire where else could they observe wild horses actually in the wild. My response, every time, was “go straight north to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. It’s the only National Park with wild horses.” A quick check of directions and our visitors would adjust their travel plans to include time in TRNP.

I finally had the opportunity to visit TRNP myself in September 2022 as part of a wild horse photography workshop. Armed with a new camera, a long lens, and new friends promising adventure, I approached the 3-day excursion with the hope that I might see a few horses, but an awareness that the TRNP herds were not conditioned to daily hay delivery along routes convenient to visitor tours in the way the sanctuary horses are.

Within moments of photographing an incredible sunrise along the loop road, we came across a few wild horse bachelors wandering a horse trail near the road on their way to connect with their friends for the day. They did not want us too close and they kept moving. We parked and quietly sat, observed, and photographed the horses within the incredible landscape of TRNP. I was tearful as I had finally observed wild horses in their rangeland – undisturbed, not displaced by round ups, and living life on their terms.

A little farther around the loop road, we spotted a stallion with his only and newly acquired young mare. We spent time in their presence from a respectful distance while whispering about who they were, how they must have come together, and capturing images of “young love” in the quiet moments of the early morning.

The remainder of the days were filled with wild horses throughout TRNP within observable distances. My sanctuary experience had led me to believe that it would be rare to actually observe wild horses on their home rangeland. Instead, we managed to see nearly every horse within long lens photography range in the park over the course of 4 days.

I left TRNP thinking this is as good as it gets. Generations of wild horses living their lives on their terms on their rangeland. TRNP is their home and we humans are the guests blessed with the opportunity to catch a glimpse of their wild lives. I’ll be back to TRNP in 2023, and for years to come, with my camera, friends, and wild horse guidebook – hopeful and thankful for the privilege to be a guest of the wild ones.

81.

dana christensen <danalee2000@yahoo.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sun, Jan 1, 2023 at 10:52 PM

I first saw the wild horses I think in about 2010 while riding through TRNP with my husband on a motorcycle. The site of the horses on top of a hill not far from the loop road was a thrill and captured my imagination despite the fact that my husband wouldn't stop or even slow down. About a year or 2 later, I was driving through the park with my sister and along the side of the road was the stallion, Gray Ghost and his band of mares. This time we did stop! Both of us were captivated forever, my sister even more so than I. She lives not far from the park and being involved with the advocacy group (NDBH) has become a large part of her life.

While I am not involved in advocacy, over the years I have made many trips through the park, usually several times a year. My daughter and her family live in Dickinson and I frequently swing into the park to see what horses I can see when I go to visit them. I have brought my grandchildren with me on several occasions. I have developed a deep love and appreciation for the beauty and intelligence of these animals and I hope my grandchildren will develop the same appreciation that I have.

There are very few opportunities for the general public to observe wild horses in a natural habitat that are as accessible as TRNP. What a unique and valuable experience...to be able to observe herd dynamics and watch their interactions outside of a domestic situation, having the thrill of seeing a herd of horses thunder across the prairie, or of watching 2 or more stallions spar. When the horses are gone future generations will be deprived of that opportunity!

Once the horses are gone from the park my interest in visiting will be gone. When I drive by to visit my grandchildren I will have no desire to swing in to see what bison I can see.

See the clip from the National Park Service website site below. Please note the Park Service takes pride in preserving local history and celebrating local heritage. Both the longhorns and the horses are very important pieces of local history and heritage worthy of preservation.

Dana Christensen

Since 1916, the National Park Service has been entrusted with the care of our national parks. With the help of volunteers and partners, we safeguard these special places and share their stories with more than 318 million visitors every year. But our work doesn't stop there.

We are proud that tribes, local governments, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and individual citizens ask for our help in [revitalizing their communities](#), preserving local history, celebrating local heritage, and creating close-to-home opportunities for kids and families to get outside, be active, and have fun.

Taking care of the national parks and helping Americans take care of their communities is a job we love, and we need—and welcome—your help and support.

ON THIS PAGE 

Our Mission

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource

82.

JudyM42@aol.com <judym42@aol.com>
Reply-To: "JudyM42@aol.com" <judym42@aol.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 11:16 AM

Hoping this helps ... let me know if it should be altered in any way.
Judy Meldahl @ JudyM42@aol.com

My first trip to Theodore Roosevelt National Park was exciting. While visiting ND family, a trip to the Park was planned with my mother-in-law. The terrain was pretty, the history interesting. What was exciting was being surrounded by buffalo on the road! I was living in Illinois, born in Pennsylvania and had never seen a buffalo! Buffalo came onto the road and surrounded all the cars. While I rolled down my window to take a picture, Caroline was less than enthused! As the buffalo got closer and closer, I did roll up the window. My only shot was the buffalo nose against my window. I never saw a horse. I did revisit the Park a couple times when friends joined me in ND ... and never saw a horse.

By 2016, again living in Illinois, I was still following Cloud's band in the Pryor Mountains and thought I had a chance to adopt a couple mustangs to live in ND. While that did not happen, I did learn that there were horses in TRNP ... and they were also being gathered and available for adoption. Figuring that I had a perfect place for a couple mustangs in ND, I did just that and heartily welcomed Carlsbad and Guadalupe into my life. While I consider them both a blessing, I have always wished that they could have lived their lives with family remaining in the Park. My last trip to TRNP was to meet Guadalupe for the first time, and I will never forget her screaming in fear when separated from the other two fillies in that gather.

To learn that TRNP is now considering removing all of the wild horses, or possibly allowing only a few to remain, is more than disturbing. In my mind, the wildlife in the Park, especially the horses, are what makes it the most outstanding National Park. To remove those horses who have called it home their entire life is both cruel and a detriment to TRNP, Surely, I am not the only one who will have no reason to return to the Park. After all, I have seen the landscape in more than one season. The heart of TRNP lies with the horses and other wildlife. Furthermore, the number listed by TRNP to possibly remain would not allow for a viable herd. In fact, I imagine that Theodore Roosevelt himself would find his dream and plan violated.

Understandably, management of herd size can be challenging especially to maintain healthy viability. Help is available, procedures exist, and volunteer help is ready and willing and able.

Judith A. Meldahl

83.

Deborah Kalas <deb@deborahkalas.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 6:00 PM

January 2nd, 2023

To whom it may concern:

I am an equestrian and have been a photographer my entire life. Seeing an opportunity to join a workshop in June of 2014 to photograph the wild horses at Theodore Roosevelt National Park was a dream come true. Watching the horses interact with each other and move through the beautiful and varied terrains of the park was breathtaking. A peace would overcome me as I watched the different bands of horses go about their day. I was smitten and decided to return on my own.

From 2014 – 2020 I traveled to the park about 4 times a year to photograph the horses. Living first on the east coast and then on the west coast this was no easy feat requiring airline flights, car and hotel rentals. I usually spent ten days to two weeks each visit to TRNP.

There was something about the family ties, bachelor and stallion rivals, mares and foals bonding and the lifelong friendships between many of the horses that caught my attention. I decided to document these ever-changing relationships through the seasons.

I would hike through the park finding remote bands and spend the day observing and photographing. I remember one winter trip when snow was on the ground and the wind was stirred up, I watched almost an entire band lay down with their bodies so close to each other, touching each other, that they looked like a giant sandwich. Even the stallion lay close and eventually stretched himself out taking a nap.

Another time two bands were grazing near each other and all of a sudden, all the mares started circling and moving and their ears flicked back and forth in alert. Low and behold, three bachelor stallions came around the corner obviously looking for a mare of their own. The band stallions immediately approached the bachelors letting it be known that their presence was unwanted. Eventually the youngsters moved along.

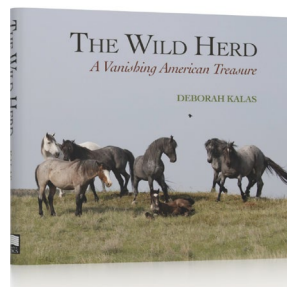
By 2019 I decided to put together a book and created an awarding winning coffee table book, The Wild Herd: A Vanishing American Treasure. It had a Kirkus star review and was considered one of the top 100 books of 2020. I gave lectures in North Dakota, California, Florida, Pennsylvania and New York sharing information about the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park and elsewhere. A number of people who came to my presentations expressed their interest in going to the park to see the horses.

The book also contains a section on “Understanding Wild Horse Behavior” and serves a visual guide with explanations for people who may not understand what they are witnessing when they observe wild horses. Libraries all over the country have multiple copies of my book so that the information can continue to be shared.

Without horses in TRNP I would not travel their again. Please keep the herd in the park. Not only for me but for everyone else who has been there or plans to visit.

Deborah Kalas

www.TheWildHerd.com



<p>84.</p>	<p>Jane Millar <scandiajane@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 7:41 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>I've never been to the park, but I have experienced the wild horses from afar through fabulous photos taken on a regular basis by dedicated souls. I love reading about who's who and watching the horses' families grow. I'm in awe of the photographers' memory of sires and dams of every one of the horses. Their familial bonds are so strong. I look forward eagerly to every post about the TRNP horses.</p> <p>I've loved horses all my life, and at 75 am still in love with them. I would love to visit the park to experience in person these magnificent creatures. If the horses were gone, I cannot imagine the sadness and regret we would ultimately experience that we allowed this huge piece of our heritage to disappear.</p> <p>Thank you for saving the wild horses in the TRNP.</p> <p>Jane Millar Woodinville WA</p> <p>-- Jane Millar, now at scandiajane@gmail.com</p>
<p>85.</p>	<p>denise etter <denise_etter@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 7:49 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>I have not physically visited the park of TRNP but it is on my future bucket list -why because of the wild horses there-I have fallen in love with them by watching them on Facebook and following their growth and patterns-I grew up loving wild horses and all horses and during the year 2020 they were a blessing to me and a daily go to watch-it was my happiest time and I have a very stressful job and loving these horses was my heaven -please do not remove these horses-they are not hurting anyone and deserve to be treated with honor and respect and cared for-please stand up for them and help them and thank you in advance -Denise Etter</p>

<p>86.</p>	<p>Dana Connolly <danazivagage@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 8:09 PM Reply-To: Dana Connolly <danazivagage@yahoo.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>To Whom it May Concern,</p> <p>I have been following this herd since 2012 and they are the most amazing horses! I've seen a lot of wild horses around the country but the genetics of this herd is superior by far! They are on my bucket list to see and I really want them to be there when I finally get there! Please consider how extremely special this herd is genetically. I understand having to manage numbers but please don't cancel them altogether!</p> <p>Sincerely, Dana Connolly 2121 Holly Lane Bunnell, FL 32110 386-479-0442</p> <p>Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android</p>
<p>87.</p>	<p>Squarespace <form-submission@squarespace.info> Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 8:33 PM Reply-To: stoddardmt@protonmail.com To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Sent via form submission from <i>Wild Lands Wild Horses</i></p> <p>Name: Robbin Stoddard Email Address: stoddardmt@protonmail.com Subject: Wild Horse Herd</p> <p>Message: Though I have never had the good fortune to see the wild horse herd in TRNP, I have followed a Facebook page devoted to sharing images of the beautiful band that lives in Teddy Roosevelt National Park. They are beautiful creatures. I've given a lot of thought to those horses, because here in Montana, where I live, there are wild horses living in the Pryor Mountains, and they are a State treasure. It is difficult for me to believe that the wild horses living in TRNP are not also State treasures. Please, please, do not eradicate this herd. I keep thinking of what Teddy Roosevelt would say about this issue, and cannot believe that he would promote or support eradication or sterilization of the horses that run wild on "his" park.</p> <p>Please consider leaving the herd intact, and in place. It would be a travesty to kill those horses or to stop them from breeding. I cannot believe that wild animal management includes eradication. How could anyone entertain the idea of killing those beautiful creatures?</p> <p>Sincerely hoping those horses will be left alone,</p> <p>Robbin Stoddard Belgrade, MT</p> <p>Does this submission look like spam? Report it here.</p>

88.

Kathy Monti <glassykathy@yahoo.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 8:42 PM

My name is Kathy Monti , I am a glass artist from Berthold , ND. I love the wild horses and I love to go to the TRNP and watch and study them. They have inspired my work and I can't imagine going to the park and not seeing them running wild. They are as much a part of our western culture as the bison . My Grandfather and Father went to the badlands and caught wild horses every Spring in the late 1800's until the 1920's. They are an important part of our history. They are a legacy we must pass on to the generations that follow. We have to ensure that they endure in the TRNP forever.

Sincerely, Kathy Monti

Sent from my iPhone

3 attachments



image0.jpeg
285K



image1.jpeg
34K



image2.jpeg
343K

89.

Stacy <svan@mtida.net>
Reply-To: svan@mtida.net
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 10:42 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

Regarding the park's three "alternatives" to managing the wild horse population in the park, I'm shocked. I have always believed that TRNP's beauty was as much about wild horses as it was about buffalo and other dryland prairie species.

The wild horse presence has been enriching peoples' lives for many generations, since Theodore Roosevelt's time and before. To phase out the Mustangs that have thrived on this land alongside other wildlife species would be a tragedy for the park and for the people of our country. They are history, a symbol of freedom that this country needs now more than ever. And the horses were an established presence in the park when it was created. They were part of the original creation, part of what Theodore Roosevelt loved, and a part of the reason for a park. What happened to the idea of "Today in TRNP, the horses are protected as a cultural resource along with the other wildlife in the park; they are a "historic demonstration herd" representing what Teddy Roosevelt would have seen," from the article The Wild Horses of Roosevelt's Badlands for The Cowboy Chronicle.

For decades I've driven between Idaho and Minnesota, often taking the Medora Loop, swinging off the fast paced beaten trail of the Interstate, in hopes to see one of the herds or

spot a lone Mustang high on a ridge. It's something that stirs the heart. Stirring American hearts is just as important as management of native species. I've made trips so my children grew up knowing there were wild horses still populating some of our country, letting them know that not all history is past and gone, but lives on in our National Parks. The beauty of the wild horses is no less stunning as the badland's colorful vistas or watching a bison powerfully pawing dirt over it's back.

I've been blessed with opportunities to work with wild horses, but not many people have the ability to do this. The Facebook pages such as Dakota Grown Photos, Deb Lee Carson, Wild In North Dakota and Heather White, to name a few, that share the stories and photos of the herds, their hardships, their loving and meaningful family connections, the births and deaths, stories that teach the nation of the natural cycles and the generations of family lineage are a true gift to people who can't travel to the park, and they draw us all to want to visit the park, to get out of our rigs and walk into the draws and over the next hill, explore, spend time in this land. We want to see Flax and Redface and Yoakam.

These wild horses support the park. They are a specific reason for much of the park visits. Phasing them out would be a mistake. Part of my shock over the alternatives outlined is that management of the herds has seemed to be working out for the park as well as the wild horses and the people who love and enjoy them. Why the need to phase them out? Are they threatening the existence of other native

species? Are they threatening the grasslands so buffalo and antelope cannot survive?

I'm sure I don't need to cite research to the park staff and biologists, but if you'd like citations, I can sure dig them up again. The horse evolved on the north American continent.

IF it did "disappear" for awhile, it is still native to this continent, yet there are fossil records that support the presents of small horse populations that remained on this continent through the "extinction" period.

I've read also "How can you put value on someone's emotional connection to the wild horses?" Isn't that what Wild Horse Annie, Velma Johnston did? It seems the entire Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 was based more on emotions, humane treatment, symbolism, history and other emotionally based aspects than science. I know that this act doesn't affect the TRNP horses, I'm using it as an example of the importance placed on the country's emotions. Do the emotional needs of the citizens of this country, the tax payers who support the parks and other public lands, count for nothing, or for less than "science"?

Why were any of the national parks preserved? It was the emotion of love that preserved the parks, and the emotion of love and respect has preserved the wild horse herds. I thought TRNP was a showcase to the rest of the country as to how a wild horse herd could be successfully managed, show cased, and preserved for future generations.

Also, regarding herd population viability, according to many studies a herd of 35-60 would not be a genetically effective

population.

Cothran now believes that the minimum wild horse and burro herd size is **150-200 animals**. Within a herd this large, about 100 animals will be of breeding age. Of those 100, approximately 50 horses would comprise the genetic effective population size. (<https://americanwildhorsecampaign.org/genetic-diversity-and-viability#:~:text=Cothran%20now%20believes%20that%20the,the%20genetic%20effective%20population%20size.>)

"an absolute minimum for a population in the wild, census N would need to be in excess of 139-185 wild horses, the excess to account for 3-5 removals per wild horse generation," (<https://www.blm.gov/documents/national-office/blm-library/resource-note/genetic-effective-population-size-pryor-mountain>).

I am hopeful that this added comment period can persuade those overseeing TRNP to keep a viable wild horse herd as a valued part of the park.

Stacy A. Van Steenwyk
Harpster, Idaho
svan@mtida.net

90.

My TRNP Wild Horse Story

1 message

Joanne Brady <jmbrad03@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Mon, Jan 2, 2023 at 11:42 PM

This is my story and it is heartbreaking that I even need to write it.
I am a native to ND, born and raised in Minot. I have always loved all animals, and a real love for horses. We had 3 horses, and they brought to me so much happiness in my childhood.
I recently moved back to Minot from CO. The first place I wanted to visit was Medora and the TRNP to see the horses. I remember when I visited the Gift Shop, I felt it was different from the past. There was hardly any mention of the horses, few gifts about the horses, and when I inquired about the horses, no one really wanted to speak much about them.
May I ask you all, what the heck do you have against the horses?
Don't get me wrong, I enjoy seeing the bison, prairie dogs and other wildlife. But the horses, I love! I know some by name, and have so many of the items, like pictures, coasters, calendars, beautiful items with their pictures on. I could not even find any of those items in the Gift shop. 😞
To be perfectly honest with you, I will probably not be going to Medora any more if the horses go away.
I do not know what the motive would be for this plan, but if it is about money, you will see the town of Medora suffer from removing the horses.
I am sending a video of the joyful moment we saw these beautiful horses in the park.
I beg of you to not get rid of the horses, but to leave them to live in the park as they have for all these years.
Sincerely,
Joanne Brady

91.

Helena Chesters <helena.chesters@hotmail.co.uk>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 2:09 AM

Good morning
This is just a quick message in support of the herd of wild horses in Roosevelt National Park. During covid lockdown I started following the Dakota Grown facebook page along with my young daughter. We both love the beautiful photos of awe inspiring scenery and wild mustangs. True symbols of a wild America. We are in the UK and may never be lucky enough to visit the park in person but photos of the wild horses have touched our lives and made our hearts sing with joy. Don't underestimate the impact that the wild horses have, and the value they bring.
Kind regards
Helena

Sent from my iPhone

92.	<p>Masha Plotkina <bonechka@yahoo.com> Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 10:49 AM Reply-To: Masha Plotkina <bonechka@yahoo.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>Hi Jamie, I'm writing to contribute my story about our beloved TRNP horses.</p> <p>I live in Italy and I have never seen American wild horses in person (although, obviously, I would love to one day), but for a few years these beautiful horses living wild and free in Theodore Roosevelt National Park have played an important role in my life. Ever since I discovered these amazing horses thanks to social media pages of some dedicated people, I have been regularly checking for their photo and video updates. I now feel as if I have personally met many of these horses, they have a special place in my heart and, I'm sure in the hearts of many dedicated followers around the world. I am a horse lover myself and have my own horses and observing these beautiful wild horses and their natural behaviours and herd dynamics has given me many insights into horse psychology, useful for my own interaction with my horses. When watching these horses it's so obvious what special bonds they share within their family bands and how stallions protect their mares and how the whole band looks after the foals. I really hope these beautiful horses will stay wild and free in the future and many more people will get to see them in their natural environment.</p> <p>Masha Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android</p>
93.	<hr/> <p>Barbara Mosher <barbaramosher73@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 2:00 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Wanted to write and let you know how wonderful it is to be able to see these amazing wild horses. Haven't been to the park but would love to go and see them in person. Such joy to know these beautiful horses are being saved and given their freedom that they richly deserve. Makes my day when I see a post. Please know I keep you all in my prayers. Thank you for what you do.</p>

94.

Judy Richmond <tjrichmond59@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 7:41 PM

In 2019 I had the pleasure of visiting Theodore Roosevelt National Park. A friend and I were driving in the park for an after-dark photoshoot of the night skies. The skies were clear, the air was calm and a perfect night to be in TRNP. Suddenly we spotted some of the wild horses in the road ahead. We slowed to a stop and in a few seconds our car was surrounded with horses. They were in no hurry to be on their way and we enjoyed the experience of being in the middle of a wild horse herd. It was a night I won't soon forget. It will be a sad day when you can no longer enjoy the wild horses of TRNP.

_JLR7155-1.jpg

_JLR7173-1.jpg

Judy Richmond

95.

Thomas Wellard <bugs_alive25@hotmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Tue, Jan 3, 2023 at 9:33 PM

When I married my wife 30 plus years ago, she was from Sentinel Butte area. We came back to visit her grandparents who are old timers from this area and had friends who were ranch and rodeo cowboys. Conversations were of the old days and them collecting western antiques and the outdoors and horses and cattle. Wild horses we brought up and I was told of the park and the herds, which led to a visit to the park and at which time I got some pictures of the horses. When I retired we moved back to the ranch and with my love for photography this was great photo opportunity because of the uniqueness of the horses and other wildlife. It was amplified when I came upon the groups who track and monitor the horses. This introduced me to names, habits, bands, babies and lineages. Know these things made the horses much more intriguing knowing about them and being able to tell others about which horses you saw and tell other the name of the horses in the picture, which created an excitement and following of different horses by those who were not from here. Friends come out and have me take them to see the horses from my photos which because they have names and history are easy to connect to and follow.

Without the horses it would not fit Roosevelt's idea of the wild country he so loved. Horses were a big part of his history here!

Sent from my iPad

96.

Judy Frasch <jmfrasch@gmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Wed, Jan 4, 2023 at 12:59 PM

The thoughts of writing 'a' story to encapsulate these horses and what they mean to me has stopped me cold for days. Believe me, I have many. First, I want to make it clear, I'm not a writer and I have difficulty in expressing my thoughts & feelings..definitely not to the depth I feel or think them. But try I must because of my great love for these horses.

We live 40 miles away & I've been coming to the Park for years. In 2011 I retired & started spending more time in the Park & I loved seeing the horses but I didn't now them. Around 2015 I met Marylu & Henry Weber, founders of North Dakota Badlands Horse who'd been following & documenting the horses since the early 80's. Through them I started learning the bands, stallions, mares, foals and some of their history. Then they came alive to me & I really fell in love with them at that point.

When I brought my grandson's to the Park for the first time when they were about 5 & 6, I wasn't sure if they'd be bored or not. When you say Park, little ones immediately think of a park with playground equipment or some kind of entertainment. This Park was not that kind but I made a list up before we went of all the wildlife we'd see and we played a new version of 'I Spy'. The object was who could spot a prairie dog, coyote, deer, bison, horse etc. first. After seeing bison, deer, prairie dogs numerous times the game started getting old. But when they'd spotted a horse(s)!! Ahhh!!! The game was on!! Then to figure out who it was. They wanted to know more about them. My younger grandson in time lost interest in the Park but Kiptyn was like his Gramma & his love for the horses grew. Most every planned time to Grandpa and Gramma's had to include a trip to the Park to see the horses.

It was always our dream to one day see Circus. We called him the 'Phantom Horse' because we never saw him. We'd hear and see photos of him by others who did but he is illusive..a loner who seldom shows himself & who hangs out in a remote part of the Park. Many never see him. But, Kiptyn & I were always on the look for him & we'd say, 'maybe this is our lucky day to find Circus'.

On a slow day in June 2021 (6.24.21 to be exact!) around 2:30 we were headed to Medora to take in an afternoon show on Teddy Roosevelt. . We made a sharp turn in the road and started down a hill with 'S' curves and guard rails on both sides. We spotted him at the same time & started sucking in air. I was speechless and Kiptyn was only able to squeak out, 'is that....is that....is that CIRCUS?!!' Oh my goodness...it was!!!! He was slowly meandering down the road in the same direction we were in the other lane! At that point he couldn't get off the road because of the guard rails so we just stayed behind him giving him plenty of room. Cars at the bottom waited when they saw him coming. Cars behind us were lining up impatiently..one actually passed us!

WHA...???? Didn't they know who this legendary horse was?!! But we weren't to be hurried by anyone...we'd waited for this moment way to long & we knew it would never be repeated. This was no doubt our one and only moment with Circus. When he got to the bottom, he turned left off the road and headed for a low area looking for water. There was dry stream bed but occasionally a small muddy pool. Eventually we lost him but I told Kiptyn we might see him again if we hurried and got to the upper Jones Creek turnout and waited for him. And sure enough we did! This time we had him all to ourselves making the moment even more epic. He wandered into an open area and we ready for him already sitting on a higher nob. We happily started snapping away with our cameras. When he moved out of sight, I told Kiptyn if he wanted to hike out south & make a wide berth to the west, he'd probably see him again. Gramma was not near agile or quick enough to go along. He was keen on it and armed with walkie talkie he started off. Sure enough, this time he practically came face to face with him as they each rounded a corner at the same time.

How do you explain the thrill of moments like this?!! I can't. Kiptyn & I have had so many 'moments' out there with horses racing towards us because of a deer that spooked them and then having to run to get out of their way..horses fighting, the one trying to get his band back, seeing Gray Ghost in his last days. Oh so so many. Just this last week between Christmas and New Year's break he wanted to come & spend time in the Park with me. He has the most keen eyes and we saw so many I wouldn't have on my own & we had a wonderful time. But at one point he said, 'Gramma, if they take the horses away I don't want to come back.' With a huge lump and with hidden tears I agreed. Me either. It is way to painful to consider going to the Park with no horses. I won't, but I pray it won't happen.

Oh! By the way...Kiptyn got the best shots of Circus that day taking over 400 of him!!

Judy

97.

John Schaper <johnschaper69@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Wed, Jan 4, 2023 at 6:49 PM

I been going to TRNP over 50 years n have guided free for all sorts of people from all over the US and there first thing 100% of them first said is they wanted to see the wild horses. Buffalo n Elk were 2nd on their list .
Getting rid of the wild horses would impact TRNP big time !
There are so many stories I could share about my experience and the experience I have seen guiding people in the park when they see the wild horses I could write a novel.
TRNP will loose tons of money n visitors if they remove the horses.
The prairie dogs are the ones that need managing because there is way more prairie dogs than coyotes n other predators can eat n they're spreading bigger every yr.
I'm very disappointed that TRNP would even consider getting rid of the horses.
Yes maybe reduce a few 1/4 at most of the heard .

Sent from my iPhone

98.

TAMMY SHINTON-CLERMONT <wired426@aol.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 9:20 AM

A while ago I stumbled onto a group of amazing photographers who photograph the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National park. As I travel from the east coast I have been getting closer and closer to this park. Watching these magnificent horses grow, reproduce and unfortunately sometimes die, is the magic of the park itself. They're free to live off the land how it was meant to be. Their beauty is what is drawing me there. To hear that they may be destroyed or removed all together is astonishingly upsetting. These precious animals deserve to live their lives, given the harsh conditions in the park year round they have earned that right. If this is to take place, what is next? Removing bison from Yellowstone National Park? Please leave these stunning horses alone. Thank you for allowing me this time to express my opinion. Regards.
Tammy Clermont

Sent from my iPad

99.

Brenda Heilman <bheilman.gondtc@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Wed, Jan 4, 2023 at 8:21 PM

His name was Bentley, this TRNP horse that stole my heart and began my wild horse journey. I followed his story, and through him, learned that there's just something about a wild horse that captivates us. id: "There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man."—whether it was Winston Churchill or someone else sharing these words, I'm guessing he wasn't talking about wild horses, but the sentiment remains: wild or not, horses are good for humans. Just the sight of them lifts the spirit, doesn't it?

Because of Bentley, I've met some amazing people, built cool friendships, hiked many miles in TRNP, seen every wild horse in the park, and purchased a wild of my own. The combination of TRNP's badlands and horse herd do wonders for my soul. Within a matter of minutes after arriving, all is well. Hiking or driving, that first sight of a horse in the park just brings a smile to your face. You never know when or where that first sight will happen—that's probably the magical part, isn't it?

My TRNP mare, Massachusetts (Little Sorrel x Trouble's Girl), is a sweetheart as I imagine Bentley was. Her heart, try, and smarts never cease to amaze me. These TRNP horses are assets, not liabilities. They have more value than can be measured. One of Theodore Roosevelt's passions was horses. As the National Park that bears his name states, "<the horses's> presence represents Theodore Roosevelt's experiences here during the open-range ranching era...For several years the National Park Service tried to remove all horses from the park. In 1970, a change of park policy recognized the horse as part of the historical setting. New policies were written and enacted to manage the horses as a historic demonstration herd." If they were representative then, aren't they now? If they were part of the historical setting then, aren't they now? TRNP employs crazy smart folks. They have the skills and tools to manage these horses. Is funding the issue? Staff? I don't know, but I hope with everything I have that all of our hands, hearts and minds together can come up with a solution that keeps horses in TRNP. As proud as Teddy Roosevelt might have been about a Presidential Library in his name, I bet he'd give it up in a heartbeat to keep the horses in TRNP to 'represent his experiences'.

100.

Kendel Cody <kendelcody@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 12:05 AM

I have been following Theodore Roosevelt's wild horse for almost 10 years my favorite being the stallion Circus. Circus and I have some common ground we both walk with a limp. Circus and I are both old I am 71 he is 23 years old. Circus has been really wonderful to view and watch.

Circus and all the horses in TRNP have been a part of my life daily. I have followed their births, deaths, their interactions with each other. It had been wonderful!! It will break my heart if your get rid of all of those beautiful horses. I have lost a lot during this very hard and unkind world these last 3 years. In truth I do not understand why you want to get rid of all these wonderful horses?

Please cut me and everyone else a brake and allow these beautiful horse to stay in Theodore Roosevelt National Park! For me horses are not livestock they are my soul.

For the love of horses, Kendel Cornwell

101.

STEVEN JANICE MOE <moehaven@msn.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 5:01 PM

We visit twice a year and have visited for many years. We have brought many new people to the park for the experiences of sight seeing and horse back riding. Having camped and stayed multiple times at the Round up camp within the park. We have been to the park a few times just sight seeing and picture taking as not all our friends and family ride horses. This is the only park that the horses can be seen wild and free with in a park. We have been to other parks but none compare. To lose this wonderful experience for up coming generations will be a huge loss the likes which we would never be able to get back. We understand that there is a natural "carrying capacity" for which the limited acres of land the park has can sustain. We believe that a reduction in ALL the critters big and small must be done to some course. Prairie dogs, elk, bison...and on. They all should be managed. We having back country ridden trails on our horses ,have over the years, witnessed the prairie dogs claiming grass land many times over. We get that visitors love seeing the little creatures....from the road. BUT way back in the park away from the road ways they are thriving like no other. The grass is gone a short time after they move into the area an area that very few see and that the horses and other grazers could utilize to a much better purpose IMO. Keep the grass = keep the dogs by the roads where visitors who like seeing them can. TRNP will never be the same majestic park it is without the wild horses in it. It is a national treasure and we pray that a compromise can be made to have horses and all the other animals in the park for all to enjoy now and for many generations to come.

Has it ever been thought of to "in house " adopt a horse. People could help pay for birth control or ? by adopting a wild horse and for \$ per year or month assist in the care for one or more ? I know that the numbers are high right now, but to have the small amount of horses that we have heard numbers of (25 -50) which would be almost invisable within the park of hundresds of thousands of acres....you would have to look a very long time before ever seeing a horse in the park. If the park experts could find a real number that would be acceptable to meet the criteria for sustainability within the park, limiting new births by contraceptives only allowing a new foal in when old die keep even pace with mortality vs birth. Horses could live full lives well into senior years and after the passing it would be a much anticipated date for which a new foal would arrive = celebrating the event with great fan fair. I know getting long. I will quit.

Take care.
Jancie L. Moe

102.

Chris Wiese <wiesefamily_80124@msn.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 5:27 PM

I'm not a writer, just another mammal that is blessed to share this space. Being a human I feel privallaged to be the smartest among those that inhabit the planet. That being said it is a BIG responsibility being one that gets to chose. My hope is that you chose fairness. This group of horses that inhabits TRNP Is in the crosshairs, why? They have done nothing but add pleasure to humans. Do they need to be managed, Yes. Eliminated, I hope not. I have heard comment that they are not native. Well you my friends you are not either. So choose carefully as it is a GREAT responsibility that you have been given.

Sincerely;
Chris Wiese
Horse owner and horse lover.

103.

Eunice Guthrie <eguthrie44@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 6:43 PM

As a native North Dakota resident, I am saddened to learn of the plan to remove these horses from the park. Roosevelt himself commented on frequently seeing wild horses wandering the range — stray ranch stock or American Indian ponies that got loose. The ancestry of the park horses traces its lineage to American Indian ponies, [including horses surrendered by Sitting Bull and his followers at Fort Buford in 1881](#), as well as ranch stock. I think too much history is being removed from the public. What will be next? The Bison? the prairie dogs? One of the reasons I wander to TR Park whenever I visit my home state of ND is for the horse bands. I have been privileged to see them twice. However, I also realize they are wild and free and so seeing them is just a lucky chance. Please reconsider removing these horses from the Park. They have roamed there for generations as some of the horses have blood from the ponies Sitting Bull surrendered to the army. Thank you for any consideration you may give this request.

104.

Darrel & Tracey Thomas <mdwcrkrch@gmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 7:15 PM

Hi, my name is Tracey, i've been going out to the park since 1999, on our 1st trip driving the park we came across Curious George and his band. Needless to say it was love at first sight. Every year it was always a challenge to see if we could find him while riding the park. We started following the different horses getting to know who was who. It started out with myself and 2 sisters and their husbands, over the years our group grew to include extended family and friends and kids and now i'm passing the love of the park to my grandbabies. When i found out they we doing roundups of the horses i knew someday somehow i would get one. I went to the sale in Dickenson and also Wishek but came home with an empty trailer. Then they started the low stress gathering and in 2016 my dream became a reality.. I adopted 2015 park name Olympic now called Sully. My next part of a dream come true will be this summer when i take Sully back out to the park and ride him there. I included a pic of Sully and myself.



IMG_2920.jpg
523K

105.

charly ebenal <charlylady@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Thu, Jan 5, 2023 at 9:57 PM

We visit TRNP as often as we can. A few times a year. The whole point of the visit is to see the wildlife in their natural environment. To see the horses and the bison, is truly a moving and even spiritual experience. It is not the same as seeing animals in a Zoo. Please, cull the herds in a humane way if the numbers must be reduced, but it would be a sin to remove them all.

Sincerely
The Ebenals

106.

Otto had the truck pointed the wrong way, and I was impatient. I walked my short, chubby little legs just as fast as they would go around the side of that hill, while he turned around. He caught up with me fairly quickly, but stayed a good ways back, as to not startle the horses.

As I turned the corner of the hill, there they were! The ENTIRETY OF REDFACE'S FAMILY BAND! Most of them on the road, walking together.

Pretty Girl, Cash, and Molly lagging behind to "beckon" Lakota along.

And there SHE STOOD. LOOKING RIGHT AT ME.

Be still my heart.

I never did see "The Black" (aka Mystery) on that first trip to TRNP.

My heart found "it's horse". Mare Lakota

I fell instantly in love with that wild, beautiful, independent, strong-willed mare.

I followed them a little way down the road. 3 times she stopped and looked back at me. 3 times I stopped also. I never encroached on her space, but I FELT her.

Once the band was off the road, I walked back to our truck, and Otto, ever so patiently, again waiting for me.

We continued down the road. I had more experiences that trip. Found more love and passion for this herd of horses, and could go on and on about them all.

The herd in Theodore Roosevelt National Park is where I started learning about and falling in love with wild horses and burros.

I have had amazing experiences, met some outstanding people, learned about, and been to see other wild horse herds because of them.

The herd of Theodore Roosevelt National Park will ALWAYS be my "heart and soul" herd. I will continue to learn, grow, share and, hopefully, "teach" about AMERICA'S wild horses and burros, THANKS TO THEM.

Kerri Jenkins <kerrijenkins65@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 1:42 AM

Good morning,

I am writing from the UK.

As an adult I became an unexpected horse owner when I took on the care of a retired racehorse in her later years. I lost her when she was 23 and whilst looking at Facebook one day found the horses of TRNP. These horses have filled the void left by losing Chance and I follow their lives and journeys regularly.

The wild horse is an iconic symbol of American freedom and I have watched with increasing concern the way this seems to be eroding. I know many other people in the UK follow these horses and share the same concerns about their future. I would love one day to visit TRNP to see the horses living wild and free, it is their birth right, their home and a symbol of Americas past and present; I hope that they remain part of the future and will run wild and free when I finally manage to visit.

Kerri Jenkins

Sent from my iPhone

107.

Tony <tony@td307photography.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 7:57 AM

Hello,

I'm writing you today to share my experiences with the TRNP Wild Horses in an effort to save their freedom. I'm a professional wildhorse documentary photographer from Wyoming, and have visited the horses of the TRNP multiple times. My documentations of them have been nothing less than extraordinary. While being a wild horse photographer, I see them much differently. I don't see them as animals. I see them as families with personalities no different than us as humans. In my documentations back in Wyoming, I have grown to connect and learn about each horses personalities, their tendencies, family dynamics, emotions, etc. That's what drove me to want to see and document the behavioral tendencies of the TRNP Wild Horses. To not only witness their beauty that they present, but to also learn about who they are as individuals horses as I have done in Wyoming, which they did not disappoint.

The horses of the TRNP are not only unique in their own ways, but they have a mystique about them that is astonishing. Their rugged beauty is captivating, with some of the most stunning roan breed horses I have ever seen. One of the horses that I had been wanting to meet was stallion, Yoakum. I had tears of joy when I got to finally meet him. I had the upmost privilege of spending hours with them, and I most certainly have plans to make routine summer and possibly fall trips to visit them, and I strongly believe they deserve to continue to embrace their freedom with their families in TRNP.

Sincerely,



©T.D.307 Photography

Tony Douzenis

108.

Tammy Mackey <dtmackey@ndsupernet.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 5:19 PM

My husband and I are from Dickinson and visit the park every other weekend and sometimes more. We spend many hours there. We are hobby photographers and take hundreds of photos. We love to go and search the horses even out the East side of the park where the horses hang out. We will sit for hours watching the bands. We bring a lunch and sit outside the fence watching them with our binoculars and cameras. To me it is a relaxing time enjoying the weather and fresh air and the wildlife.

We also take our granddaughters through the loop and they now have a love for them also. I can't imagine them not having the horses there so they can enjoy taking pictures and having their own experiences for all the horses like we enjoy.

Once if they would make this bad decision it never can be undone.

Seriously if they are worried about having the loosing the grassland acreage I feel the prairie dogs are taking over the parks grasses and they should control the prairie dogs population because once they live on the towns the grasses never grow back like they used to be. I know this isn't the wild horse problem bit this is a problem the park should address.

For the next generation and on.... I pray they keep these wild horses.

Tammy Mackey

109.

Lynn Rennert <lmrennert@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 9:05 AM

To whom it may concern,

I write this on behalf of myself along with my 87 yr. old mother.

We have visited the park 3 separate times since 2017. Our sole reason for going was in hopes of seeing the wild horses of Teddy Roosevelt National Park. We not only saw them but we had or should say took the opportunity to observe and photograph these beautiful horses. We sat on the roadsides observing from afar as they nursed their foals, interacting within their band. We learned about their hierarchy by studying them and reading up on them.

This past fall almost didn't happen, the gas prices were high leaving us to consider not going. But my mom being 87 wanted to see "her" beloved wild horses and so we did. We observed them each and every day. The beauty of this is that she was able to observe from the car with the window down ... There is no other place that I can think of where she at her age can still be a part of something so magnificent and be filled with such joy. We were able to watch as 3 bachelors make every attempt to work their way into the Band...the Band moved closer and as if a line was drawn in the sand... stood their ground until the 3 moved to higher ground, the Band turned and galloped our way with dust flying and stopping to resume grazing. It is a moment I will never forget... we both had tears streaming at the sheer beauty of that moment and we talk about it frequently. As a amateur photographer I was lucky enough to capture that moment so that she has it to view as often as she likes.

There are many moments that she and I have shared over our 3 visits to the Park. It is the wild horses that seem to call us at each return. We as a society need places like TRNP to provide a sense of the "Wild" we need to protect our wildlife because once we let it goit is gone.

My mother's great granddaughter, my granddaughter deserves to grow up and have the opportunity to see the descendents of the Bands of today.

There are other options, please maintain their existence as they are Wild!

Sincerely,
Lynn Rennert
Bev Fretchel

110.

Margo Fochs <fochsklock2014@outlook.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 7:16 PM

When I was young, I could name every last bone in a horse's body. All 205 of them.

I did not mind mucking stalls, throwing hay, cleaning hooves, brushing or bathing them.

I was with a horse.

They were my passion.

Whenever I had something "hurting" me, physically, or emotionally I envisioned wild horses... It was a clear vision, a specific "place".

I could see it, feel it, hear it, smell it, almost taste it...

This "place" was so clear, in my heart, I KNEW, it had to be REAL...

The vision got me through (and still does now) some really, really rotten moments in life... healed my heart, soul and body... numerous times...

Then one day, I came upon a photo by Deb Lee Carson.

It was of Stallion Mystery, in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

There he was.... THE BLACK of my dreams... THE ENVIRONMENT I felt,...THE HOME my soul was called to....



I could not believe my eyes! I had heard about TRNP through different Facebook groups. I had seen some of the photos of the wild horses. But THIS PHOTO...

It changed my life.

My “dream” felt as though it was actually “a vision”.

The Black in all his glory. The landscape exactly what I had always envisioned in my “mind’s eye”. And better yet... His name was “Mystery”

In January of 2016, my father in law passed away. Leaving my husband and I feeling depleted, sad, and worried about other loved ones who were aging. We made a plan to visit dear friends in upstate New York.

Unfortunately, those plans fell through, due to unforeseen circumstances. So mid planning of our trip to NY, my husband rerouted us to ND.

On to THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK!

He had listened to me for days, weeks, months... heck, years, about the wild horses, and about TRNP. So, he decided to take me there!!

I will NEVER forget the moment we arrived in Medora, ND.

We pulled up to the C Store to buy NDBH's Guide. We got out of the truck, and just “took it all in”.

My soul felt at ease. A sense of peace came over me like I have only ever experienced there (each time I go!) I was “home”.

I told my husband that I would move there in a minute.. He said “if you can find me a job making what I do at home, we will.” (trust me, it was a discussion ! 😊)

We entered the park, instantly, completely in awe. Just after entering we saw “the welcoming committee” aka Teton’s Family band. I was amazed.

Those “wild” horses looked healthier than most “domestic” horses I had seen. They were FABULOUS! Yet, the “world” wanted us to think they were “starving, unhealthy, and overpopulated.”

We continued our drive through the park. We saw more wild horses, all equally as healthy looking.

Back and forth on the loop road we drove. I was on a mission! I had to see “the Black” of my dreams! MYSTERY!

We looked and looked, drove and drove the loop road.... Falling completely in love with every single horse we saw! I knew (I thought) every one of them by name! The ones I was unsure of, I used the NDBH Guide to be certain.

THEN.... ALL OF A SUDDEN, up on the hill.... A COMPLETELY BLACK HORSE! IT HAD TO BE MYSTERY!!

I had my husband pull over so I could watch “him”. I zoomed in with my camera, taking a couple of shots. I watched through our binoculars.

My husband (Otto) said, why don’t you walk up a little closer, and try to get a couple of photos? He did not want to walk with me, but was willing to sit for as long as I wanted to be on the hillside.

I climbed about 2/3rds of the way up that hillside, being careful to not impose on “his” space, and assuring I maintained a safe 75 yards, or further away.

As I stood there observing, I was “oblivious” to the rest of the world. It was ONLY me and “the Black”... Nothing else existed.

I felt like I was in a scene straight out of “The Black Stallion”.

It was absolutely Heaven on Earth.

I looked around, making sure the ground was “clear” and safe (aka no noticeable snakes, jagged rocks, mud etc), and decided to sit awhile. I sat there, softly “talking to him”. Telling “him” how my dream included “him” frequently... how this felt like “home to my soul” and as if “we were meant to meet, to be HERE, together”. “His” ears twitched and turned, as a horse’s does, when they “listen”. I felt heard, really, really “heard”.

AHHHHH, I WILL NEVER FORGET the calm, peaceful feeling of that meeting...

I sat a little longer, starting to “observe” the rest of the environment. The “Black” appeared to doze.

Over my left shoulder, I realized, there were 3 more horses. 2 sorrels, and a bay. They, also, appeared to be “dozing”. A little past the “Black” and to my right I noticed at least 2 more sorrels, and just the “rears” of others. I sat there, taking it all in. After a little while, I watched as the bay to my left started moving about. Soon after the 3 came down, towards the “Black” and proceeded past to the ones to my right. The “Black” stayed put. The bay came back, twice, and eventually, the “Black” moved on. I stood up and watched, until they were all at the peak of the hill, and almost out of sight.

I headed back down the hill to Otto and our truck. Completely sated. Probably a hundred or more photos on the camera.

I walked towards our truck, and as I was just about there, a car pulled over in front of it. A lady got out and walked up to my husband’s window.

I thought UH OH.... He’s been parked there too long. I got us in trouble!

I walked faster, fully intending to explain and take all the fault !

Well, there was nothing to explain... you see, the lady was none other than Deb Lee Carson HERSELF! She knew we were making the trip to TRNP that week, and saw the WISCONSIN license plates on our truck.

She walked up to our truck, and asked Otto if he was “with Margo”. He told her I was up on the hill (Mr. Literal 😊)

She told him she saw the plates, and thought it might be us, so she stopped.

I made my way back to the truck, offering explanations.... For Deb to tell me the story of her stopping. It was FABULOUS! We chatted for a little while, and I told her about spending time up on the hill with MYSTERY... She chuckled at me and said I was wrong.

WAIT, WHAT? How was that not Mystery? It was a black horse! Mystery is BLACK.

Again, Deb chuckled. She told me it was MARE LAKOTA of Stallion Red Face’s band. She said if we hurried, we might be able to still catch the WHOLE BAND coming down the hill.

Well, she did not have to tell me twice!

<p>110.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Sun, Jan 8, 2023 at 1:48 AM</p> <p>talie2rose@gmail.com <talie2rose@gmail.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>It's always been my dream to visit North Dakota to see Theodore Roosevelt national park. I was so saddened to hear that the wild horses were under threat. Here in the U.K we have many national parks with herds of wild ponies. These national parks are protected along with all the animals that inhabit there. I fear for the future of this planet and the destruction man is causing. We need to protect our wild animals globally otherwise we'll have nothing.</p>
<p>111.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Sun, Jan 8, 2023 at 1:52 PM</p> <p>Margaret K <mking@uwalumni.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>I first visited TRNP in 2018. I returned with my son in 2020. Both times were unforgettable. It's become 1 of my favorite places on Earth. I wear my TRNP t-shirts as much as possible, with pride. I tell people about the park all the time. I can't wait to visit again with my family--hopefully this summer.</p> <p>I can never forget seeing the wild horses in the park, and the longhorn steer in the Northern Unit. The wild horses are what originally drew me to drive to the park from WI in the 1st place. It was even more meaningful when I learned the history of Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders, and the history of the steer--that Roosevelt wanted to raise cattle in the Badlands. The legacy of his time in the area, and what he learned about the natural world, are such important pieces of our American history, as well as important environmental lessons we need today, in the age of extinction and climate change.</p> <p>As humans seem to grow more and more disconnected from nature and animals, I hope TRNP will continue to manage these animals herds in the park. These herds are living history. Animals have an effect on us far more than history guides or museum displays have.</p> <p>In addition, I would like to see more humane herd management of the horses instead of capture, breaking up family/herd hierarchy, and sale of these animals. These horses have known nothing but the majestic free range lifestyle, and it would be cruel to capture and confine them. They are not domesticated animals. Especially disturbing is the practice of unregulated livestock auctions, which are notoriously places of misery and cruelty.</p> <p>My son has special needs and does weekly equine therapy. Horses, I've seen firsthand, are very attached to their families and herd. They are smart and sensitive animals who are easily terrified by confinement and changes in their surroundings. I do not think cruelty towards them is justified or at all necessary. I urge the local people and horse experts to find a better way to manage the special and unique horses and steer of TRNP. These particular animals have given so much to the local people, park visitors, and our nation's legacy. Let's do right by them in return, and with our gratitude.</p> <p>Thank you, Margaret King</p>

112.

Gretchen Clark <prettylizard_2000@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 2:41 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

My sister and I are wild horse photographers.

In early December, like we always do for the upcoming year, we made a list of new places to travel to view and photograph wild horses. At the top of our list was The Theodore Roosevelt National Park. For several months we'd been following many Instagram accounts that documented the beautiful Theodore Roosevelt horses against the stunning, striated landscape of the badlands they call home. It was a photo of a gorgeous gray stallion maneuvering high atop a craggy outcrop of cliffs colored a muted pastel that made this park and these wild horses a must-see this year.

I was shocked and saddened when it was made public in mid-December that the park intends to remove all the wild horses from Theodore Roosevelt Park. Since this news, I've done research on this news and I have yet to find any valid reason given by the NFS on why this has to happen right now. Let alone at all. This idea to remove the wild horses from this park is akin to deciding to whitewash the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

My sister and I have spent thousands of dollars over the years on plane tickets, hotel rooms, car rentals, and restaurants in otherwise small towns on the map that we would never normally visit save for the draw of wild horses that can be found in these areas. We had fully intended to spend money in the state of North Dakota too. But not now. Not if NFS goes forward and removes the wild horses. Beyond their historical significance, this particular animal, above all others, was especially revered by Mr. Roosevelt. Horses helped heal him physically as a boy, and later, as a man when he was recovering from the double loss of his wife and mother.

These horses were in this area well before this park even came into existence. They simply got fenced into the boundaries of the park. What was added to the park, however, was the bison, and pronghorn.

Please keep these wild horses, the original animals of this land, in the park where all can continue to not just enjoy them, but be emotionally and spiritually elevated by them. Just like Roosevelt was by their presence.

Sincerely,
Gretchen Clark

113.	<p>Lynn Brogdon <lynn@brodongroup.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:12 PM</p> <p>Hi All,</p> <p>I plan to visit TRNP for the first time in 2023 and one of the main reasons is to view and witness the wild horses living and roaming free. Please do not destroy these horses on the wild lands.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Lynn Brogdon RE/MAX LIVING 706-614-8820 Lynn@brodongroup.com</p>
114.	<p>Stephanie Crawley <stephieloucrawley@gmail.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:13 PM</p> <p>1. Have you been to TRNP? We visited TRNP last summer for the sole purpose of seeing the wild horses. The other things were great too but we planned our trip around the horses specifically. We stayed at a historic ranch for a week, which provided income to a fifth generation ranching family. Bought things at the park, ate at the restaurants of Medora. I would like to think we contributed to the area economy quite a bit, for the sole purpose of seeing the horses. No disrespect to TRNP but it doesn't have much to draw folks in, eliminating the ability to see these majestic animals living wild and free would surely impact traffic to the park. And honestly Teddy would be ashamed.</p>

<p>115.</p>	<p>Jessica <jessgallison@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:13 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>I recently heard that the livestock management plan under review is considering ending the ability of wild horses in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. This decision disappoints me greatly, as I have long followed the wild horses in the national park and greatly support working towards the peaceful co-existence of horses and other interest groups. Unlike many other places where wild horses roam free, the TRNP is better equipped ecologically to support these animals. The greater availability of grassland compared to places like Burns, OR support healthier animals in the long term. Without the cooperation of parks which have ability to support controlled herd groups, these animals will eventually be entirely removed from the wild. This will prevent future generations of Americans from seeing the animals, learning about them, and understanding a critical part of our American history.</p> <p>The Wild in North Dakota facebook group is superbly managed and provides in-depth information about the animals in the park. It lets horse enthusiasts follow herd dynamics, become familiar with the animals, and learn about wild horses and ecological preservation. Without things to love, like majestic wild horses, people will likely be less interested in the preservation of natural parks, which will hurt ecological preservation long term.</p> <p>My lifelong love of wild horses was fueled by Wild in North Dakota, and overtime I have adopted two wild horses of my own. These animals came from other areas that were closer to me, but I credit the facebook group with the inspiration to adopt. This group is highly visible and gets people interested in wild horse adoption, which moves animals out of the holding pen all over the country. Ending the ability of the herd to live free will do away with critical wild horse ambassadors who place a crucial role in driving adoptions elsewhere. This decision is bad for horses, ecological systems, and even in the long run, ranchers. Wild horses and ranchers do better with responsible management, and the Wild in North Dakota ambassadors drive adoptions better than most other methods available. I'd highly recommend leaving room for the wild horses in the park.</p> <p>Best, Jessica Allison</p>
<p>116.</p>	<p>Susan Engen <skengen@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:17 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>I rember as a little kid my parents bringing our family to Medora and TRNP. This would have been back in the 60s. The musical was using cinder blocks and planks for seating and you walked up the hill. We went back many times and I still do to this day! I have also told friends and I know alot of people I have told are like me and fell in love with the Wild horses! They are so Majestic & reminds you of a simpler time! If the horses aren't there I will not ever be back! Thank you for reading my story.</p> <p>Susan Engen</p>

<p>117.</p>	<p>jensenstacy114@gmail.com <jensenstacy114@gmail.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:29 PM</p> <p>I am writing to tell you, that we are frequent visitors to Theodore Roosevelt national Park. One of the main reasons we love to attend the park is to see the wildlife in its natural habitat. A special interest of ours has always been the wild horse horses that reside there. It's an absolute joy to watch those herds grow and move about the park. My hope and wish is that you will manage that herd in a humane way with Assistance and support from groups that care about them while allowing the horses to maintain their important role in the national park for years to come. Thanks, Stacy Jensen.</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
<p>118.</p>	<p>Jane Snell <rainseshoe@hotmail.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:30 PM</p> <p>Hi</p> <p>I'd like to voice my concern that the wild horses may no longer roam in TRNP.</p> <p>I live in the UK but follow the wild horses of North Dakota on social media along with other herds in Canada and Namibia It is fascinating seeing the difference in how they exist in some at times quite hostile environments, the joy of seeing them with their foals, the despair when something happens to one of them and how they interact with each other. Herds like this in North America are more remote than our home "wild native ponies" so live a much more natural lifestyle. They are also very much a part of the natural hierarchy of the park and have their place in the park as much as other animals such as the bison.</p> <p>I would find it extremely disappointing if the horses were removed from the park and could no longer follow them and their exploits, especially as if I ever get the chance I'd love to come and visit and perhaps be fortunate enough to see these ponies in action in person.</p> <p>Jane Snell</p>

<p>119.</p>	<p>Virginia Brophy <vbrophy13@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:33 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>Have been following this herd on Facebook for several years. They are beautiful animals, with very good bone structure and builds. I have not visited the park. Only via the excellent posts on Facebook. I would plan a visit when I head west again. I am a horse person from NJ, born and raised with horses, and also judged as well. As I stated above, these are beautiful animals and in very good shape. Better than most mustangs that I have ever seen. I would like to see this herd continue with management where necessary, but they appear to be thriving. Their confirmation is very good, and they appear in very good health. It is amazing to see in the wild. I also understand that some have been adopted and did well. Hopefully round ups are done with lots of care, as to not injure them. And lots of common sense as far as keeping mares and babies, together, etc. Just trying to help save this beautiful herd. I thought I made comments on another facebook post, but not sure that it was received. Virginia Brophy 910 Maple Path Newton, NJ 07860</p>
<p>120.</p>	<p>Dennis Edinger <dedinger@bis.midco.net> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:34 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>I am writing to you in regards to the wild horses in the park. It is said you plan on removing them from the parkmy question is why. Why do humans have to mess with this? They are free and such a joy to come to watch. They offer a peace to people who come to see them. They ARE THE ONLY REASON we visit this park. You can go to any park and see buffalo, elk, deer and other wild animals but the horses are a unique experience that is hard to put into words. I do not understand why you can't see what they offer to this park. I know of many people that feel his way and like me they are very upset by this, and like me will no longer visit this park. That means we will longer visit Medora or the musical. The horses were the reason we came in he first place. Please, please reconsider this ...they are the most special part of the park.</p> <p>Sandy Edinger</p>
<p>121</p>	<p>Alicia Kottre <ajwolf22@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:36 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>I personally follow all of the Facebook pages that document the wild horse herd in the Badlands. Every time I take my horse out there to ride, I have to have someone else drive when we are first entering the park, because all I want to do it see and take photos of the horses and Bison. There are so few places that you can see wild horses in a natural, rugged habitat. Many animal lovers would drive from across the country to see the wildlife in a natural habitat. I know many people who add viewing the wild horses in the Badlands to their bucket list. There are thousands of people that follow this herd on social media and cry when one of the herd passes. That is how strongly the public feels are this herd</p>

<p>122.</p>	<p>Tanya Caruso <tanyatales27@hotmail.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:37 PM</p> <p>Hello</p> <p>I just wanted to write to say that I have been following the TRNP wild horses online for a few years and have been inspired. I have been saving money towards planning a trip for the sole hope of being able to see these magnificent horses in person.</p> <p>I hope all efforts will be made to maintain the TRNP herds so that the opportunity exists for generations to come!!</p> <p>Sincerely;</p> <p>Tanya Caruso Kenora Ontario, Canada</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
<p>123.</p>	<p>Lisa Peters <info@lisa-peters.de> Reply-To: info@lisa-peters.de To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:37 PM</p> <p>Hi everyone.</p> <p>I would not like to hear that the horses weren't in your beautiful park anymore! We have plans to come and see them in the future...that's the ONLY reason for us coming to the park and from the long way from Germany! Let these wonderful wild horses there! I follow them at the facebookpage Wild in North Dakota and want to see them in real. Please let them there for us and many other people to find them and follow them online.</p> <p>Best regards</p> <p>Lisa Peters Felsenstr. 33 55629 Seesbach</p> <p>Germany</p>
<p>124.</p>	<p>Kris Torske <ketorske@gmail.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:40 PM</p> <p>We have visited TRNP 3 times on family vacations. Seeing the wild horses there has always been a breathtaking part of our visits.</p> <p>Visiting the park and seeing free roaming horses and bison and the magnificent landscapes feels like stepping back into the history of the American west. One can easily imagine campsites of native Americans along the River.</p> <p>I completely understand managing the herd in a way to control population numbers so as not to exceed the carrying capacity of the park but I think the park would lose a lot of its magic without those wild horses. There are very few if any similar places that one can visit to get a sense of the history of the American plains and the horses are very much a part of that.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kris Torske</p>

<p>125.</p>	<p>Kristi Hansen <kristihansen@live.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:43 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>I grew up 30 miles from Medora and my family took weekend trips in the 70's to drive to the park. We'd drive to the park to see the buffalo and the wild horses. That's what visiting TRNP meant to me and I can't imagine the park's being the park without the wild horses. They remind you of a time before we inhabited the area and therefore have a great historical significance. Whatever their origin they stand in my mind forever a reminder of the great state of North Dakota.</p>
<p>126.</p>	<p>Loay Turner <loayloveshorses3@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:43 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>I follow TRNP on Facebook and wanted to comment on plans to remove the herd from Teddy Roosevelt Park. I believe that the herd should be preserved for future generations to see horses that helped win the West. I believe that these beautiful creatures that God created are for us to enjoy roaming free in the wild with little to no interference from man. I follow a group of wild horse advocates in Gardnerville, NV called the Pine Nut horses. They have been working with the BLM to keep their herds wild and free by using birth control on the mares. They have trained darters, who go out and dart the mares with birth control in order to control their population. This group has been successful in doing just that—controlling their numbers by preventing overpopulation, letting fillies mature before having a foal, and preventing older mares from producing anymore foals. If this program has been and continues to be successful for them in preventing overpopulation on the range, why can't this program be implemented for all wild herds?</p> <p>I personally have not been to TRNP; however, one day I would like to go there and I hope on that day the wild horses are still roaming wild and free. It is a great opportunity for people to see these beautiful animals in their natural environment and they have been entrusted to us by God to not be destroyed. We were not given the right to act as God and destroy for human greed just to support the tearing down of the environment. I follow this group to enjoy the horses since I am not able to financially afford to make the trip, as well as their beauty in the beautiful park setting.</p> <p>Please consider using train darters to dart the mares with birth control to keep the herds manageable.</p> <p>Loay Turner</p>

<p>127.</p>	<p>Pam Bacon <pambacon2011@hotmail.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:44 PM</p> <p>I have never had the honor of visiting TNRP and seeing the horses that call it home and at the age of 70 I doubt that I ever will. I have however been following them on Facebook for several years.</p> <p>I love seeing their pictures and reading about them. So many have been lost and this must stop. I sincerely doubt President Roosevelt ever had that in mind.</p>
<p>128.</p>	<p>Monica Harris <monica4harris@icloud.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:45 PM</p> <p>I have Followed the North Dakota Badland horses for many years. We lived in Watford City, ND in 2019 and If we wouldn't have been so busy working I would have made it like a monthly visit to the park as I find It so interesting to see the Wild horses. The bison, sheep, and other animals were fun to see as well but most people go to see the horses & get super excited when they do spot a ban of wild horses. I think leaving wild animals in the park is apart of history and removing them completely would be a shame & also a feeling of history being left behind and no more. There's something so majestic & peaceful about a wild horse ban living free and wild. This world already has so many negatives in it, please don't take such a beautiful thing away from travelers.</p> <p>I got to visit the park just once while living in ND for the year and because of the parks wild animals(mostly the horses) is why I am so fond of North Dakota and the badlands in general. I will Always remember when we turned the curve and the band was crossing the road right Infront of us. If I was Still in the area I'd most likely take up photographing and knowing the bands more. This is something thousands of people follow and thousands of people look forward to their post on how the bands have changed and what stallion is with what band. Favorite part would be seeing how resilient, strong, & smart these mommas and babies are to live their lives out there. It's simply amazing!!!</p> <p>We love the TRNP wild horses!!!! It's always been a goal/bucket list to buy a wild horse from this park, please don't 100% remove the horses that we so dearly love ❤️</p>

129.	<p>Karen Bentrup <bentrupkk@gmail.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:45 PM</p> <p>YES, YES and YES we have been to Theodore Roosevelt National Park and we saw a few of the wild horses. We have driven through North Dakota on the interstate and have seen the wild horses many times. It gives me a thrill beyond any other wild animals I have seen. It was the first time I have seen wild horses and growing up I read about as many books as I could find about Wild Horses. To see them, follow them on fb and learn about them is absolutely one of my favorite things. I am appalled that we as human beings think we have to control every animal out there. Why can't these horses stay wild and free in TRP? Why do they have to be controlled or taken away. The national parks need to treat them as any other wild animal in this park. It makes this park one of the most unique parks I have been to. Please leave these beautiful animals wild and free in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. It's part of the history of the plains and this country. Sincerely: Karen Bentrup</p>
130.	<hr/> <p>Carol Richardson <crichardson6896@gmail.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:47 PM</p> <p>We need to do all that we can to keep the herd of horses in TRNP. They are a part of our state's history and need to be preserved for future generations.</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>

<p>131.</p>	<p>Lindats121 <lindats121@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:49 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>I live in NJ and have been fortunate enough to visit TRNP 3 times. Each time I marveled at the nature surrounding me and the wildlife. The bison, coyotes, prairie dogs, the pronghorn, and the wild horses all in their natural habitat was breathtaking. Watching the wild horses gallop across fields, stopping to graze or wait for others is something that I will never forget. At one visit I was lucky enough to find a hill to sit on and watch the horses grazing below. TRNP is their home, a place where they belong to live and to die. They are part of the park -a very integral part of the story of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. They are part of the park's historical background. Complete removal of these majestic creatures is unnecessary. There are options to consider and implement. The horses were here in Teddy Roosevelt's time and I hope they will be there for generations to come.</p> <p>Please reconsider complete removal.</p> <p>Linda Tsirikos</p>
<p>132.</p>	<p>MeShell Jones <meshell.jones@hotmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:51 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>I have never been to TRNP however, I have plans to visit this park only because of these magnificent horses-</p> <p>These wild Horses hold a great deal of significance to this park, I plan to visit this park only for the reason of these horses roaming freely here.</p> <p>Thanks to the people who document their existence, America knows this herd and has come to love and treasure them.</p> <p>Removing them would be detrimental to the park. Not only environmentally, but financially as well. Leave them, let nature take its course with the herd.</p> <p>MeShell J Weatherford Tx.</p> <p>MJ</p>
<p>133.</p>	<p>Carla Harper <lostgirl2762@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:54 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>I would like to take a moment to let you know how much these horses mean to me and so many others. I have followed these horses on a couple of different pages and they have had a wonderful impact on me and my disabled husband as well. We look forward to seeing the pictures of them, where they are in the park, and how they go about their everyday lives. We have learned so much about each of them. My husband and I were excited to hear that there was a possibility of them being close enough in the park, where even a person with ambulatory issues, could see them in their own surroundings with out having to hike out to them.</p> <p>I would urge the park to keep these horses in the park for all the world to have the opportunity to see them in person. They are national treasures and knowing a National Park doesn't want them there is atrocious, to say the least. They are part of our National heritage and should be revered as such.</p> <p>While herds are being pushed to extinction in other states, I am asking you to step up and keep these beautiful animals in our National park where they can be safe from all of the other outside factors that they face in other areas.</p> <p>Thank you and keep them wild and free the way they were meant to be.</p> <p>Carla Harper</p>

<p>134.</p>	<p>Tracey Boles <traceyboles79@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:59 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>Writing to let you know, I follow several Facebook groups that post the horses in TRNP and have for years, to watch them give birth, and grow to mares and stallions that are running in the park. It will be a great loss, to have the numbers go to breeding numbers of less than 60, or none at all. I understand, the need for management, but I also understand the need to do it wisely. Having raised horses for over 20 years, I get that it gets out of control with free range. However, there has to be a 50/50 solution.</p>
<p>135.</p>	<p>Shyanne Ulrich <shyanneu98@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:01 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Hi, I am sending this in response to the facebook post from Wild in North Dakota. The horses bring so much joy to so many and I hope my addition can help us save the herd <3</p> <p>I am from Canada and as a lifelong horse lover, have loved seeing the photos and hearing the stories of these horses. I have not yet had the opportunity to visit the park in person, but I can say the only reason I even know it exists is the horses. They are also the reason I plan to visit. I would love to be able to see them with my own eyes one day soon and I know for many they are what draw them to the park. I know I would not have enough interest in visiting TRNP over any other national park if the horses were not a part of the equation. I would go as far as to say I would actively choose not to visit if the horses were to be removed as they have such a large community of people who love them.</p> <p>Hoping to see the horses for myself soon, wild and free, as they belong</p> <p>Shyanne AB, Canada</p>
<p>136.</p>	<p>Maxine Gallett <LugerLTD@hotmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:01 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>I have been to the park maybe 5=6 times over the years. The first time we located a huge herd on the east side and enjoyed seeing the new foals. Since then I have encountered smaller herds near the roads. The last two years we have ridden down into Painted Canyon and observed small herds. This is the last of the wild horses in the Midwest states, and so fun to see first hand.</p> <p>Maxine Gallett Lindstrom, MN</p>

<p>137.</p>	<p>acjr777@aol.com <acjr777@aol.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:02 PM Reply-To: acjr777@aol.com To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>WHILE I DO LIVE IN THE EAST I DO OWN HORSES ...THESE ANIMALS ARE AN AMERICAN HERITAGE AND THEY MUST BE PRESERVED OR THE FUTURE. PLEASE PROTECT THEM ALL..A GALLOPING HORSE IS POETRY IN MOTION!</p>
<p>138.</p>	<p>Jody Gullickson <jagg0129@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:04 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes, this is my only nature break, seeing these beautiful animals brings tears of joy. 2. I specifically go to see the horses, I read so much about them and it is mere pleasure to see them in person. <p>This is a rarity to find a beautiful park with majestic horses. Please don't take that away from us. Sent from Yahoo for iPhone</p>
<p>139.</p>	<p>Suzy Heise <suzyheise65@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:12 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>Hi, I have visited TRNP probably 20 times in my 57 years of life. The times I remember most vividly are the numerous times that I have seen the many types of wildlife in the park. The two specific times I recall as my favorite trips are the one we took as a family when I was 9 and last year. These two times I saw horses! When I was young we saw them from a long ways away and it was magnificent to watch the two bands run along the river/creek bed. This past year we saw a band much closer on a nearby ridge and a lone bachelor. I was so excited to see them as close as I did. Those two sighting made my whole trip!</p> <p>I will continue to visit TRNP in order to see the beautiful horses free and wild. While I enjoy Medora and the scenic views of the park my favorite view is that of the wild horses.</p> <p>Suzy Heise Valley City ND</p>

<p>140.</p>	<hr/> <p>eason for coming! PLEASE allow these wild horses, that truly belong to the American people, to be seen for years to come!</p> <p>1 message</p> <hr/> <p>Bonnie Gansemer <bbgansemer@yousq.net> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:11 PM</p>
<p>141.</p>	<p>Julie patchett <jewelz1969@hotmail.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:14 PM</p> <p>Hi, I am writing to you to let you I have never been TRNP but I have plans to go. I feel that the horses are a great link to our past and they should be protected and stay on the only land they ever knew. There are certain things that need to be left alone for people i future generations to actually see for their own eyes, a part of the past. For me personally, I'm planning a trip to see the horses & bison so that I can feel connected to my ancestors & to the people that came before me & see the wild animals as they once were all over the lands. Please don't take away this part of history. I look forward to not only going but taking my grandchildren as well.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to read this. Sincerely, Julie Patchett</p>
<p>142.</p>	<p>Sara Larson <larsonsara80@gmail.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:14 PM</p> <p>Hey I'm responding to the Wild in ND call:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I myself have only been to TRNP to pick up Andromeda (from spring 2019 auction) and bring her home to Iowa. I have not been able to make it back but... my parents went to visit because I made them aware of the park and Wild horses. They had a nice time but did say only thing to see are the horses and other herds. It is the entire reason for the parks existence and tourism. 2. My dream one day is to ride Andromeda (now names BB) at the park and hopefully get a glimpse of the herds. Nothing that matters scientifically but there will be no reason for me, my parents, or anyone I know to visit that park which not only affects the parks tourism but the local community that relies on it. <p>Thank you for you time working on this issue</p> <p>Sara Larson Delmar, IA 563-940-3611</p>

<p>143.</p>	<p>Sue Von Eschen <suevon55@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:15 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Please keep the wild horses in the TRNP! We live in Montana and when we are traveling east, we have stopped at TRNP. A few years ago, we camped for 2 nights and explored various areas. Our highlight was getting to see the wild horses.</p> <p>I also follow two different Facebook pages on the wild horses. One is "Wild in North Dakota" and the other is "Deb Lee Carson Photography". I enjoy seeing pictures of the new babies in the spring and all the other beautiful pictures and stories of the horses.</p> <p>It would be tragic to not keep these horses.</p> <p>Sue Von Eschen 1237 Powder River Ct. Helena, MT 59602</p>
<p>144.</p>	<p>Sandy Wiedenmeyer <swiedenmeyer@bis.midco.net> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:35 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>I am a lifelong North Dakota resident and yearly visitor to the TRNP near Medora, North Dakota. The quest and goal of our family visits have always been to explore the amazing Badlands and all the wild animals that inhabit them. Our trips are not complete until we have located several bison and wild horse herds. These herds of animals are something that we don't see everyday and are a very special treat and quite a site to behold in their native habitat. We consider them the royalty of the park and indeed part of its great history and heritage.</p> <p>The wild horses are of special interest and importance to me. A horseback ride is always a treat in the area, but to witness horses that live wild and free with little human intervention is breathtaking. There are some very knowledgeable groups that spend countless hours tracking and photographing these magnificent horses. It is amazing what we can learn from them. I can't be there as often as I'd like but these groups help me keep up to date on the dynamics of the herds.</p> <p>I don't know what scientific reasons the park system has for wanting to eradicate this herd. The horses, like all the creatures of the park should be allowed to stay and live in their natural lands. Without the wild horses in the park, I wouldn't spend nearly the number of hours I do now viewing and hiking in the park. They and their history need to remain for all of us and the next generations.</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
<p>145.</p>	<p>Sent via form submission from Wild Lands Wild Horses</p> <p>Name: Lorraine Larson</p> <p>Email Address: Raineeday@att.net</p> <p>Subject: Saving TRNP Wild horses</p> <p>Message: Good evening. I am writing as asked by Wild in North Dakota and Dakota Grown Photos to help save the wild horses at the TRNP. I am appalled that these horses may no longer be protected and all will be removed. Since I was just a wee child, 62 years ago, I have been in love with these beautiful animals. These animals have helped me through some traumatic times in my life. I have never had the luxury of owning a horse but nothing can compare to seeing these horses in their natural (wild) habitat enjoying freedom. I don't know if I'll ever make it to the parks to see wild horses. I would love to. But if the horses are going to be removed there is no point in going. What makes these animals different from bison or antelope? Why don't they deserve the same protection? I can only see it as a remedy to letting cattle devastate the area. I am beyond words. With all the negative news and happenings going on, I count on the F.B. pages to bring me the beauty, the education, videos and pictures of the horses I've come to know and love. I've learned so much! They deserve to remain and share the land with all the other native animals. They are a part of Americana, our country's growth. Please please don't let them become a memory. They belong for my grandbabies to enjoy when they grow up. There is enough industrialization in this country. We need these animals to be wild as much as bears, wildcats, coyotes, wolves, deer moose, elk etc. Horses deserve no less. Thanks for hearing me out.</p> <p>Does this submission look like spam? Report it here.</p>

<p>146.</p>	<p>Sent via form submission from Wild Lands Wild Horses</p> <p>Name: Janet Engebretson</p> <p>Email Address: engebretsonjanet@outlook.com</p> <p>Subject: North Dakota Wild Horses</p> <p>Message: The Wild Hosrs in North Dakota are a National Treasure and they are the reason I go to Medora to visit the park. Please help to save these beautiful horses for generations to come.</p>
<p>147.</p>	<hr/> <p>Sheila <coyotehollow@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:39 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>I haven't had the opportunity yet, to visit the park but I certainly hope to in the very near future! And my reason for visiting is to see the wild horses. It would be a shame if the park removed the herd that has brought pleasure to so many people over the years. There are tens of thousands of wild horses living in small dusty holding pastures already, please don't add to that.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Sheila Peterson Minnesota</p>
<p>148.</p>	<hr/> <p>Ann Morris <amorris7373@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:50 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>Hello! I am writing this email in hopes of saving the wild horses at TRNP! I am from Michigan and I have visited TRNP and plan another trip here in the very near future. I love seeing all of the animals that call TRNP home but of course my favorite is the wild horses! Please DO NOT TAKE THESE HORSES AWAY!! DO NOT KILL THESE beautiful wild horses, this land at TRNP is our land, it belongs to all of us, it does not belong solely to the government. these horses have every right to continue to live their lives just like the wolves, and the bison here at TRNP! This is a National park and the horses are apart of it. Please do not do anything to hurt or remove these beautiful horses!</p> <p>Thank you, Ann Morris</p>

149.	<hr/> <p>candi deadrockstar.net <candi@deadrockstar.net> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:53 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>To Whom It Concerns: It would be a sad day if the herd was taken out of TRNP. I have wanted to go watch them in person for years, as I follow them in Facebook. Due to health issues I couldn't but am getting healthier & will be able to in the next year or so. Then I see a post that they may be taken out of the park!!! They're the only reason I would go to the park. I hope you realize the wonderful resource they are to the park & ND.</p> <p>Thank you! Candi Holcomb</p> <p>Get Outlook for Android</p>
150.	<hr/> <p>Mari <lovely1m@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 6:55 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>One of my best memories as a child is driving through TRNP in an open top Jeep and a herd of wild horses ran around us. Close enough to touch if it was safe. It was truly magical and I dream of it happening again. Plus that area was sacred to the indigenous population and this should always be home to horses.</p>

151.

Beth P <missbethb@acsalaska.net>
To: Info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:02 PM

To Whom it May concern at NPS and/or DOI.

Please reconsider the potential plan to remove all the horses from TRNP. The national parks are the US citizens most valuable treasures and the horses in TRNP are a BIG part of that park. To base the removal saying they are invasive is ludicrous. If that's true, then everybody except Native American Indians should be removed from the country! Crazy huh?

Our country is currently in turmoil suffering so much diversity and negativity. Our parks and all they stand for and protect, are critical in bringing our citizens back together in a positive way, and teaching all, including future generations, our great American History. These horses are an IMPORTANT part of that history!

I'm a senior citizen (70), and a visit to TRNP has long been on my bucket list in order to see these horses. I'm retired from the NPS (2015), and first learned of the horses from a classmate (an employee at TRNP) in 2010. I have wanted to visit ever since. I follow several FB and IG groups featuring these horses. It would be a great loss if that was no longer an option.

Again, PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE THE HORSES FROM TRNP. Save them, support them, and protect them!

Sincerely,
Beth Patterson
North Pole, Alaska

152.

Ann Alvis <aalvis0710@comcast.net>
To: "Info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <Info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:22 PM

Following is my letter in support of saving the wild horses of TRNP

My husband and I visit TRNP as often as we can. We have driven from Michigan to the park at least once a year for the past 8 years (not during Covid shutdown though). The entire reason for our visits is to see the incredible wildlife in their natural home. There is nothing more exciting than seeing the wild horses! It is truly a dream come true, almost a spiritual experience. They are truly a representation of all that is wild and free in our national parks. If the herd must be made smaller, although I'm it sure why that is even necessary, please do it in a very humane way, and continue to allow them to be adopted. If you destroy this herd entirely, you will be doing a great injustice to the People of America, as well as so many foreign visitors, who follow and truly care about these horses being allowed to run wild and free. Thank you for your consideration. Ann & Dennis Alvis

<p>153.</p>	<p>Elizabeth Kuykendall <elizabeth.kuykendall@yahoo.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:23 PM</p> <p>I am a horse owner and horse lover. I also love Nature. Please save the wild horses and let them run free. There is nothing more beautiful. Thank you from Mississippi. Sent from my iPhone</p>
<p>154.</p>	<p>Mardell Kok <sdranch10@icloud.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:26 PM</p> <p>Where does one even begin to share the memories and life lessons learned from visiting the wild horses in TRNP! I along with my 5 grandchildren will visit the park at a minimum of 6 time per year for the last 5 yrs! I will list several life lessons my grandkids have learned from observing the wild horses!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Respect- for the horses home, keeping a distance to not scare or harass them! 2. Family bonds within the bands! (nurturing, guarding, teaching, guiding how to survive the elements of weather, droughts! 3. Family dynamics of stallions, mares, colts, filly's! The role of each horse in the band and how and why they are kicked out when to join another band or hopefully have their own some day! Grandkids have questioned the reasoning and understanding for this to happen so cross breeding doesn't take place! They have learned first hand so much biology, scientific, and topics on genetics! They have love following social media pages that keep a very active gallery on each band! My grand kids are amazed and love learning the history how they came to be here in the park even before the Buffalo and elk were reintroduced! Each time we visit we are always in hopes of being able to find and observe as many bands as possible! I can honestly say the buffaloes are ok to observe, but not much interest! If by any chance we see an elk or deer, coyote, badger or porcupine we consider it a bonus! Most of those animals are seen very frequently outside the park on our beautiful prairises! 4. Over the last 3 yrs we have noticed the drastic devastation the prairie dogs have caused by not controlling their reproduction! Which in turn has eliminated the precious food for the horses, Buffalo, elk, etc! My grandkids have questioned the practice of controlling the reproduction of the wild horses, but not the prairie dogs that are rodents and destroying the parks natural plants and food sources for all the animals! As a grandmother I cannot explain this ridiculous practice to them! If young children can see this happening, why can't our park service and biologists see this! They should be concerned about this practice before even thinking about the wild horses! (My grandkids remarks after hearing the possibility of losing the beloved horses). <p>In summary, my family absolutely love each time we visit the park and spend \$ and time in Medora area and ND! BUT, if the horses are eliminated I can say this family will have no reason to return! That will be a very sad day if that happens and we will visit other parks in SD.</p> <p>Mardell Kok Follow: Wild In North Dakota Thank you for all you do!! Sent from my iPhone</p>

<p>155.</p>	<p>Greg & Wanda <gnwranch@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:33 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>PLEASE....DO NOT REMOVE the Wild Horses at Theodore Roosevelt Park in North Dakota. They are the primary reason we visit the Park and Medora. We keep up with them on Facebook and enjoy traveling in and around the park to spot the wild horses and taking pictures of them. They, along with the Longhorns and Buffalo are very important to us.</p>
<p>156.</p>	<p>Janette Martin Goins <5hillbillywolfs@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 4:40 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>My family and a group of around 50 friends are planning on going to Theodore Roosevelt National Park mainly to see the horses. We are still struggling to pick a date later this year, preferably this fall. But as I said we are mainly going to see the horses and if you guys remove them, there is no reason for us to go. Please please do not remove the herds of horses. I want to be able to show my kids and grandchildren the horses running wild.</p>
<p>157.</p>	<p>Stacy Sullivan <swillybay@blackfoot.net> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:41 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>Although I have never had the pleasure or honor of witnessing these herds in North Dakota,I have followed the page vigilantly. To threaten the existence of these herds makes me sad beyond belief and makes me so resentful of the humans who wish to do this. I live in Montana and am so tired of the wild animals being pushed out of their native habitats.</p> <p>Please, please, please consider saving these majestic horses. Eradicating the herd is a crime and a complete cop-out, constituting an act of tremendous irresponsibility and lack of foresight. It is obvious that money and only money is behind this horrible act, and although we as a family ranch for a living, I am sick and tired of hearing about people "leasing" property to ranch on for nothing and then ruining it and killing wildlife for their own personal gain. Disgusting.</p> <p>Please save the herd!</p> <p>Stacy Sullivan</p>

<p>158.</p>	<hr/> <p>Shelly Christenson <sj3christenson@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:45 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>TRNP was started to protect the wildlife and the land. The Mustangs are part of the wildlife in the TRNP and are just as important as the buffalo and the other wildlife that call TRNP home. I have not had the opportunity to visit the park yet, but hope to make the trip soon. I do follow the Mustangs on social media and love reading and seeing the pictures about their lives and families. The Mustangs were a big part American history and helping in the development of this country. They deserve to be protected just as all the wildlife in the park.</p> <p>Sincerely, Shelly Christenson Westmoreland, Kansas Sent from my iPhone</p>
<p>159.</p>	<hr/> <p>Suzanne Deuel <suzannedeuel1@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:56 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Hello</p> <p>My name is Suzanne Deuel and I live in Ontario Canada. I first came across the Facebook page following the wild horses in the park several years ago, during Covid restrictions here.</p> <p>The stories of the horses, the photos and the intrepid dedication of the photographers have been compelling from the first. The horses are brave, strong, inspirational. They survive in tough conditions with beauty and grace, they live their lives according to natures rhythms. All this has been fascinating.</p> <p>I found them because I was researching the origins of my surname -Deuel. It is not a common name in Canada but we have learned that it is much more common in Nebraska and South Dakota. Now that travel is easier, my husband and I are planning a trip to the area and we will certainly go to the TRNP with the express objective of seeing the horses. We have told many people about them and they inevitably become fascinated.</p> <p>Please don't remove these horses from their natural environment. I'm sure that their impact on the land is manageable and they are a beautiful testament to the confluence of nature and human history in the area.</p> <p>Sincerely Suzanne Deuel</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>

<p>160.</p>	<p>Ann Shryock <jasshryock@comcast.net> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:58 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>I follow the horse on Facebook. I love learning about the interaction of the bands and seeing the photos of these amazing horses. Boomer is my favorite and I can't imagine him and the rest of the horses not living wild and free. With so much going on in the world these horse are a bright spot in my day Thank you Ann Shryock</p> <p>Sent from my iPad</p>
<p>161.</p>	<p>alea.kerch@gmail.com <alea.kerch@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 7:58 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>I have never been to TRNP, but would love to take my kids there. I have been a follower of Wild in North Dakota for years now. Through their platform, I have learned so much about the wild herds that roam freely at TRNP. It's truly amazing to see them grow up. The individuality of horses, of the bands, and the herds that is portrayed and shared with the public who can not make the trip is really fascinating. They provide so much information to the way of life of wild horses and their herds. Please save these lands for the wild herds, for them to live off of and be free!</p> <p>Alea</p>
<p>162.</p>	<p>SHANNON Koenig <shannonkoenig123@msn.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:01 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>I am writing about the Livestock Management Plan review currently being done that threatens the existence of the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I have been following a Facebook page about the horses for a couple of years now, but I have never got to see them in person. My husband and I have been planning a week long trip to the park in June 2023 for the sole purpose of seeing the horses. I am a wildlife photographer and was excited to finally get an opportunity to see and photograph the horses. If the herd is eliminated I honestly have no desire to travel to the park or North Dakota. The horses are the one thing North Dakota has that Montana doesn't from a wildlife photography viewpoint. I know a lot of my fellow photographers from Montana feel the same way. Please don't remove the wild horses from the park!</p> <p>Sincerely, Shannon Koenig</p>

<p>163.</p>	<p>Angie DeGraaf <akdegraaf58@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:02 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>I just wanted to say what the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park mean to me. Although I have never been to the park I have subscribed to several of the Facebook pages that show pictures of and tell stories of these wild horses. In my opinion wild horses are the epitome of America. They are what America was and what America is... wild and free. I look forward every day or every week to catching up on the herds that are discussed or shown in the Facebook pages that I follow. The horses are beautiful. I love learning about the bands the new fillies and folds that come every Spring and early summer. If you take away the wild horses from these lands you take away part of our history. I do hope one day to make it to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I hope the horses are still there so that I can see what I've been reading about all these years. If you want information on wild horses you should contact Help Alberta Wildies Society. They too were told the horses were destroying the habitat and being a nuisance. They have proven in Alberta Canada that is not the case with the wild horses. We here in the states could learn a lot from them.</p> <p>Angela DeGraaf</p>
<p>164.</p>	<p>Mahan Stock Farm And Haflingers <mocowgirl831@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:09 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>I have not been to the park yet however, I plan to visit to be able to see all the horses wild and free. I follow several of the social media pages that share the horses, their herds and families. These pages bring light in a dismal time. These horses are a piece of our history as a nation. They signify freedom at its finest. I feel that they should remain in the park.</p> <p>Jamie Hall</p>
<p>165.</p>	<p>Deanne <dlsampson@gmx.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:10 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>I plan to come and visit the wild horses. We are specifically planning a trip to North Dakota for the sole purpose of visiting the wild horses in the park. We can't wait to hike out and go look for them. We will be staying in the area and visiting local attractions. Our main draw though are the horses in the park.</p> <p>We also follow the social media posts of the beautiful heard that is running wild and free in the park. It's a beautiful and special resource that the state has to offer the public. I hope the park realizes what a special treasure they have.</p> <p>The horses are the main reason for my planned visit!</p> <p>Sincerely, Deanne Sampson</p>

<p>166.</p>	<p>P Strupp <pstrupp@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:13 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>I am writing in support of the wild horse herds at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The first time I saw the wild horses, I saw them from the highway, driving on I-94. I recognized some of the horses from the Facebook page that reports on the herd. I was thrilled to actually see horses in the wild. Since then, I have visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park several times to look for the wild horses. These horses are a "desired exotic species" that can be seen in their natural habitat. They are a part of America and a part of our history. The herd brings in my tax dollars and inspires me to support the national parks. Please continue to manage these herds for the benefit of all.</p> <p>-- Peggy Ann Strupp Redrock Dalmatians, Crane, Montana "Where Dalmatians are what they were meant to be." CH RDCH Aberdeen's Let's Make A Deal, CD, RN, RD, RDX, CCNC (LUA Dalmatian) RDCH RDXCH Lucas Legend N Redrock's Montana Snow RN, CC, RD, RDX (LUA Dal) "Artemis" (Pointer) the horses: "Apollo's MoonFire" (Appaloosa), & "Shadowfax"</p>
<p>167.</p>	<p>Abigail Thew <thewabigail@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:15 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>My name is Abigail, and I follow the "Wild in North Dakota" Facebook page. I'm from Australia, yet I find that hearing the stories and seeing the pictures of this herd makes me feel transported into a space beyond place and time. A space where horse-lovers unite to simply enjoy the fact that these horses can live wild and free in the only place they have ever known. These horses unite us.</p> <p>Sincerely, Abigail</p>
<p>168.</p>	<p>Jaclyn Ketola <jmketola@icloud.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:29 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>I have lived in Upper Michigan the majority of my life, but for 6 years recently, I resided in Montana. The TRNP is a must stop for us while traveling back and forth between the 2 states mentioned- It's nice to see the buffalo, but I go to the park to see the horses. They are beautiful animals, that I loved to see as a child (every summer we traveled westward) and as an adult and I have loved introducing my granddaughters to them also. It always excites me in hopes of even getting a glimpse of the horses - but so elated when I do get to witness them. (You don't always see a horse) They are magnificent creatures that deserve to roam the park freely, just as the buffalo do... we were disappointed that the gift shop had nothing with horses on it- no t-shirts or anything... there aren't many places that people might get the opportunity to see bands of wild horses, no one should be denied that experience. It would crush my spirit if I traveled through knowing that the horses were no longer a part of the park.</p> <p>Thank you, Jaclyn Bietila Ketola</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>

169.

Angela <rodriguezangela56@yahoo.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:32 PM

I follow two social media accounts that write about the horses of TRNP. I love seeing posts about the horses living wild and free in TRNP. I feel it would be a shame to rid the park of these horses that have lived in the TRNP for so long. I feel the round ups and birth control methods can help control the population of this TRNP herd. I urge the park to continue on this same path so that people young and old for generations to come may enjoy the horses in TRNP.

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

170.

Kathy Camp <casey31450@aol.com>
Reply-To: Kathy Camp <casey31450@aol.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:44 PM

We visited Bismarck ND in 2006 and were captivated by the many life-sized horse statues throughout the town painted by local artists, groups & businesses. We were very impressed with the obvious love in your state's of its heritage & culture.

We then headed west to visit Theodore Roosevelt State Park. It was nearing closing time but we managed to get a glimpse of distant wild horses through binoculars and were thrilled to see this symbol of our history running free & protected in a state park. I will never forget that image. Since then I have followed online social groups like 'Wild In North Dakota' to stay connected to that experience so imagine our horror to learn that your state now wants to 'manage' these horses as livestock? Shame on anyone wanting to eliminate the horses removed from their own lands, discarding a much beloved resource.

If horses are removed from TRNP, I see no reason to return there...it will have lost the history & draw it now has to preserve the area as it has been for a very long time. What would Teddy Roosevelt think???

Kathy Camp
Bloomington IL
casey31450@aol.com



171.

Peggy Struber <pastruber@me.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:46 PM

I have followed the bands for several years and plan to go see them with the next 2 years when I retire! They are a national treasure. Manage them but do not destroy them.

Peggy Struber

Sent from my iPad

<p>172.</p>	<p>Teresa Phoenix <floridachs_2013@hotmail.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:54 PM</p> <p>2. Do you have plans to visit TRNP? IF YES: YES. Tell us why? SEE ANSWER BELOW TO 1. Is it for a specific reason? To see the park itself and most importantly to see the horses. Why are you going to see the horses? SEE ANSWER BELOW TO 1.</p> <p>1. Do you follow social media accounts that focus primarily on the herd in TRNP? YES IF YES: Write what the impact of following the herd located in TRNP has on you. Why do you follow social media accounts that tell stories of the free roaming horses of TRNP? Following these horses keeps us connected to a historical time in our past where we shared freedoms and a way of life in our country that is being phased out and silenced. It is being auctioned away and sold off never to return and these horses along with the land, the beauty and the freedom they represent is of irreplaceable value to our country, our nation and to our people. I follow these horses on social media as a way to remind myself and others of that which we must not forget and to share in the beauty of our nation and its resources which are still available to us if we just remain devoted and diligent to their conservation and care.</p> <p>Sincerely, Teresa L. Phoenix FloriDachs Miniature Dachshunds www.FloriDachs.com (727) 798-2596 {text or call} (727) 656-4253 {text or call}</p>
<p>173.</p>	<p>Eileen Van Fossen <ervf01@icloud.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:57 PM</p> <p>I'm from ND but live in Florida. coming to TRNP and seeing the horses is such an amazing experience. My grandsons saw them last year and couldn't believe there was still wild horses roaming free. Don't let this program go away. Eileen Van Fossen</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone. ERVF.</p>

174.

Dawn <dawnhawk@comcast.net>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:57 PM

My daughter and I visited the park in 2020. Most of the world was shut down and we were so worried we wouldn't get to go to the park. But we did! We were visiting from CO. My daughter is an avid equestrian and we both love horses. We follow the beautiful and informative Facebook page and it was my daughter's dream to come see the herds. We had a hard time finding them, but when we did, they took our breath away! To see them in a wide open and free environment was an unforgettable beautiful experience. We got out of the car and watched for hours. I will never forget that. We still talk about it frequently. We hope to come back and see them again. We pray that these beautiful, free, gorgeous creatures will be allowed to remain together in this park.

Sincerely,
Dawn and Ashlyn Hawkinson

Sent from my iPhone

175.

Debbie Alber <dova_car@yahoo.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:04 PM

1. Have you been to TRNP? Yes, many times over the years! It is thrilling to even catch a glimpse of the horses while in the park and we even are on the lookout if we are just passing through on Interstate 94. We are always on the watch to catch sight of these beautiful wild creatures living in this wilderness environment and seeing their strength and their will to survive in difficult circumstances! It just leaves one in awe!

2. Do you have plans to visit TRNP? We try to visit the park every few years or if we have out of state visitors! We are proud of this natural beauty of our state and seeing the wild horses, Buffalo and other wildlife is always a bonus to this rugged and beautiful geography!

I also follow the TRNP herd on social Media and feel like i have a personal relationship with the horses and hearing and learning about the herd dynamics! A wealth of knowledge about the lifestyles of these wild animals is shared on these pages! I learn something new every day!

Please, please save the wild horses of TRNP! The park will not be the same without them or their stories! You are educating a wild audience! And giving them a new found interest in learning!

Debbie Alber
Glenfield, ND
dova_car@yahoo.com

176.	<p>Thomas Jackson <tlsazarac@yahoo.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:11 PM</p> <p>I visit TRNP at least twice a year one of the best things is viewing the horses. The wild west is rapidly shrinking, the horses are a unique feature of TRNP. Leave them alone.</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
178.	<p>Personal <pkellyot@gmail.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:16 PM</p> <p>I have never been to TRNP but it is a bucket list event. I have been following the herd of horses on several Facebook pages, and I am always thrilled to see my favorites. I have cheered on the goals born in the cold winter and followed the soap opera stories of the intermixing herds. I have cried when my favorites have disappeared or died.</p> <p>It would be devastating to know that if I ever do visit that the horses won't be there. I will never get to see the magnificent stallions and crafty mares.</p> <p>I hope you keep the status quo and the horses remain safe for this and future generations to enjoy.</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>

179.

DeeAnn Kjelshus <deeann@artbydeeann.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:23 PM

I visited TRNP a few times when I was under the age of 18. I feel blessed to have witnessed the wild horses that call the park home. When I saw them I was overwhelmed with a sense of joy and complete aw. These horses represent the wild freedom that formed our country. Without horses America would have never been born.

I'm an artist now. The focus of my art is the horse. The horses at the park have often inspired my work. They inspire me to share the sense of wild freedom in my work that they all possess. They are a gift to all of us. One that should remain free and untouched.

I now have 2 teen age girls of my own and we are planning a vacation to the park in the near future. I want them to experience seeing the horses for themselves. To feel the sense of history that comes from seeing something so free and untouched. I am praying that all the horses will be able to remain at the park, untouched and with their families.

I follow many of the photographers and people who document the horses that live at TRNP. I love getting a glimpse at the horses roaming free and untouched. A sense of our history and culture captured in these beautiful beings.

--
DeeAnn Kjelshus
www.artbydeeann.com

180.

Brooke Rice <bittenfox@icloud.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:23 PM

I am writing in defense of not just the horses of TRNP...but also of the very land that comprises their native range.

These horses represent the purest form of freedom that America has left. We have stripped away every last shred of it that is possible. If we see something wild and untamed, we, as humans, feel that we are entitled to some sort of ownership over it. We buy it, then we mutilate it, and nothing of it remains. There is hardly a square foot of this country that has been left untouched as the land the TRNP horses graze upon.

The horses are a vital and integral part TRNP—as much as the ground itself. Nature has been designed to balance itself, and flourish when left untarnished by human invasion. Humans disrupt nature and the balance of all natural ecological systems. The removal of the horses and subsequent fallout does not require scientific backing to prevent it. You and I know that the removal of the horses will be the rock that starts the landslide down. You are playing Jenga with America's natural, virgin, lands. Which brick will you pull that implodes everything around us? Humans did this crap to Yellowstone with the wolves...and the results were detrimental to the point that humans had to do their best to "undo" it. Though this time, the wolves that now exist are from a tiny gene pool, no thanks to mass wolf culling, and the gene pool cannot be recovered. What makes you think that removing wild horses will not cause damage? It may not be the same kind of damage- but it will be there and it will reverberate for generations to come.

Tell me how my great-grandkids are supposed to ever breathe unpolluted air while viewing an expanse of land so vast that they can only stare. Tell me how my great-grandkids are supposed to believe that horses ever roamed free across America? from photos of mass-round-ups? From looking at some stalled-up show-horse at the fair? Nothing ... and I mean nothing ... can grip a kid's soul than the thundering of wild horses across their native rangeland.

These horses symbolize the days before humans had wrecked too much of the North American landscape and the Lost American Wild West. These horses represent freedom, spirit, and history. We have plenty of farms, ranches, skyscrapers, malls, subdivisions, suburbs, resorts, and damn parking lots. What we are very quickly running out of is the very parts of America that set us apart from any other place on this planet. Humans preserve monuments and giant parks of manicured non-native grass - all incredibly boring and generic.

Leave TRNP horses in their native land- it was their land and still is...more than it belongs to any human, and for God's sake, leave a part of America untamed and wild. You cannot bring back wild horses once we've driven them to extinction. You cannot restore their land once you've built a bunch of houses on it. No one has ever driven miles across the country to see a suburb, parking lot, or fast food restaurant. People will drive from all over to see wild horses roam...and to take in the vast expanse of their untamed prairie-lands.

Go break something else to make your greed-supporting money. If you rob future generations of these animals and their range, I can guarantee you that you will go down as a villain. No one will be thanking you for destroying a lineage of wild horses to do something generic and meaningless with their home, or worse yet, to do nothing with their land.

Heroes are those whom save those that cannot save themselves. Be the heroes of history.

Brooke Rice-Stivers
Minnesota, USA 🇺🇸

<p>181.</p>	<p>Denise Walker <dwalker4269@msn.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:25 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>I rode my own personal horse through the Yellowstone River, and up onto the Maah Daah Hey Trail in TRNP, several years prior, and was blessed with a personal view of the wild horse herd inside the park. The effect was awe inspiring, moving, emotional. The herd represents to me the true wildlands that Theodore Roosevelt was determined to preserve within the North Dakota badlands - he even commented on the herd's wildness, and the importance of their inclusion in this vast, challenging, beautifully melancholy expanse.</p> <p>How can we preserve the intent of the National Parks and the belief of President Roosevelt that these mammals in their habitat represent a land that should never be extinguished, if we now remove them and disallow future generations to experience their beauty?</p> <p>President Roosevelt himself stated: "Of all the questions which can come before this nation, short of the actual preservation of its existence in a great war, there is none which compares in importance with the great central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us."</p> <p>Removing these animals from this land is counterintuitive to the task of leaving this land better for our descendants. Based on my personal experience, I left the TRNP a better human for having seen these wild animals in their wild home. They represent freedom, struggle, life-and-death, strength and endurance under the most extreme circumstances. What world would we be leaving for the generations to follow, if such creatures were removed by humans from this wild land? A better world? No, certainly not!</p> <p>Sincerely -</p> <p>Denise M Walker Denver, Colorado</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
<p>182.</p>	<p>Donna Riley <victoryaussies@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:31 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>HELLO, I would like to write to you and tell you the joy that following the updates and news about the TRNP wild horses brings to me .</p> <p>Wild horses are very much a part of our world . This herd is an amazing source of education and the badlands history. They are part of the landscape and without them the TRNP would not be the same. In fact I'd really lose interest in visiting it to be honest.</p> <p>For me the updates and education I get from following this herd of wild horses is huge . I look forward to the posts and photos . I look forward to meeting new friends through the others that follow the herd and comment on things . Often we engage in wonderful conversations centered around these horses the park and the landscape.</p> <p>I am planning to visit the park in the next couple years specifically to hike and hope to see some of these animals specifically. If these horse are removed or harmed I will not have any desire to visit the park to be honest . It would leave a bitter taste in my mouth and a hole in my heart.</p> <p>Please understand the value this herd of wild horses has to so many people and to the park itself. Please realize and respect the beauty they bring to TRNP and the many visitors that follow the herd online and travel to the park specifically in hopes to get a glimpse of these amazing wild horses. Please respect the fact that this is their home and that they belong to the land and the park and so many people that admire them.</p> <p>Please allow this herd to live and reign free in TRNP.</p> <p>Thank You</p> <p>Donna Riley Victoryaussies@gmail.com 973 222 6183</p>

183.

Kemberlie Anderson <dockda54@aol.com>
Reply-To: Kemberlie Anderson <dockda54@aol.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:36 PM

[Sent from the all new AOL app for Android](#)

I don't know where to start. I was shocked when I first found out that there were plans to eliminate or at least greatly reduce the number of wild horses at TRNP. I will admit it's been over 3 years since I last was at the park but I have plans to go back this summer.

The horses have been one of my main reasons for visiting the park and searching them out is one of the main ways we spend time at the park. A friend and I camp at the park for at least 3 to 5 days and spend most of our time wildlife and wild horse "hunting" and viewing. One year we had a stallion and his 3 mares "supervising" as we set up our tent. It was a once in a lifetime experience. There are so few places where we, the public, can have the experience of seeing these magnificent animals in a natural setting.

I realize that the horses technically are not native, but they have been such a part of the West historically that I feel they deserve the right to continue on in the park. Teddy Roosevelt would "roll over in his grave" to know the current plans for the horses.

I feel the horses should stay at approximately their current number. I doubt they cause as much damage as the bison do and I suspect they are one of the main draws to the park for most people.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kemberlie Anderson, D.V.M.
dockda54@aol.com
537 Church St.
Hartford, WI 53027

184.

kim ball <kball1969@gmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 9:39 PM

Hi. My name is Kim Ball and I live in Bozeman, MT just over an hour from Yellowstone. I had never had any interest at all in going to Theodore Roosevelt National Park until I heard that they had wild horses! This past August 2022 my kids and I decided to take a road trip to see friend in MN. The map said we should go through SD but instead we opted for ND so we could stop at the park in hopes of seeing them.

Upon arrival we realized that the park itself is fine. Frankly, there are much more beautiful national parks. But like many who come to Yellowstone just for the wolves, we were there in hopes for the horses. And they did not disappoint. It was a very hot day, but about 15 minutes into our drive we spotted two from the herd hanging out in the distance. We pulled over and watched them for 25 minutes. We drove further, wondering if we would see more of the herd. After about 30 minutes we realized we had seen the most important thing there so we headed back hoping to spot them again. They were still there so we waited another 20 minutes before heading on to Bismarck.

My kids and will not ever return to Theodore Roosevelt NP if the horses get removed. However, we would like to return annually if they remain. This experience was one of the top sights of our week long trip.

185.

Brenda Loney <bkl_nd@hotmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 10:19 PM

I love Theodore Roosevelt National Park, with the history of Medora and Teddy Roosevelt, the tourist attractions, and the small town western feel. But I love driving by on the Interstate or through the park because of the horses. They represent freedom and beauty in the harsh badlands. They are self-sustaining and thriving as only wild animals can do. They bring so much to the park, entertainment, and the joy of catching a glimpse of them as they graze. Some of these horses have been captured and auctioned, bringing that history of wild horses into someone's special care. Thousands of people love seeing these horses every year, and even more follow them on Facebook pages. The beauty of these horses is so important to the park and to the history of wild horses!

Brenda Loney

Dickinson, ND

<p>186.</p>	<p>llarson26@gmail.com <llarson26@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 10:59 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I lived in central North Dakota, when we were growing up, every year we would drive to Medora, go to the show & always drove around the loop of the National Park. We would spend the weekend & go though the park at different times of the day to see the wild horses. We had many family reunions in the Park, or at the cottonwood camp ground. My kids grew up going to Medora & going through the park, climbed Buck Hill many times. We did trail rides at Peaceful Valley, was sad to see that it closed. Now my grandkids love to go to Medora, drive through the loop & see who can find the wild horses first. Would be a real shame not to have the beautiful horses in the park. Please consider keeping them. To be honest, not sure I would go through the park if the wild horses are gone. Thank you, Joan Larson
<p>187.</p>	<p>Karrie Morse <aladdinn.klm@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 11:27 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>I follow the pages of the photographers that share the pictures and stories with those of us that are unable to visit the park. It would be devastating to me and my family to know that these horse families are being removed...to zero...so many of our mustangs and burros are ending up in kill pens and worse. I urge you to please leave the horses where they are, wild and free...not "managed" by the blm because that is not boding well for the horses. Thank you for taking the time to consider our pleas to keep the horses wild and free. Thank you</p>
<p>188.</p>	<p>daslater@sasktel.net <daslater@sasktel.net> Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 11:29 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Losing that wild horse herd will be a serious blow to the park. I haven't been there but my brother has and he said the sight of those horses was something he would never forget. The park and horses are on my bucket list, hope they are still there when I get down that way. Dave Slater Regina. Saskatchewan Canada</p>

<p>189.</p>	<p>Brie Ella Knifong <brieellak@yahoo.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 11:56 PM</p> <p>On my trip to TRNP & the wild horses were by far the highlight of the trip. These horses are the heart & souls of this park & to remove or further reduce the number in this herd should not be an option. I am saddened by the fact that there is even a consideration of changing the herd in the park. It is very disappointing & shows a lack of respect to the public. Please show that your priorities are in the right place : preserving the wild beautiful nature of this park & respecting a species that helped our ancestors. We want to be able to continue to visit & share the beauty of these horses with our children & grandchildren. I know many people invested in these wild horses & follow their lives through social media accounts as well. Thousands of us have heard about this situation & it would mean a lot to us for them to be respected & preserved by the park management. I know we would be ever thankful for these horses to continue to grace these lands & devastated should you choose to alter their lives & freedoms. Thank you- Mary Knifong</p> <p>Brie Ella Knifong <knifongb@gmail.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 11:50 PM</p> <p>I have been to TRNP & the wild horses were by far the highlight of the trip. They represent America & the history of our country in a way that is very important to many of the American people. These horses are an essential part of this park & the reason I plan to return again in the near future. To remove or further reduce the number in this herd should not be an option - especially if they are to be replaced by livestock that do not benefit all of us but rather a few ranchers etc. the fact that there is even a consideration of changing the herd in the park is very disappointing & show a lack of respect to the public. Please show that your priorities are in the right place : preserving the wild beautiful nature of this park & showing respect to a species that helped our ancestors. We want to be able to continue to visit & share the beauty of these horses with our children & grandchildren - for you to change the park & reduce the number of horses or the size of their habitat is not what the public wants. Also if you plan to replace them with cattle the land will become more damaged & destroyed than it is now. I know a lot of people invested in these wild horses & it would mean a lot to us for them to be respected & preserved by the park management. Thank you for your time, I hope to be able to continue to see these beautiful creatures where they belong. - Brie Knifong</p>
<p>190.</p>	<p>Jennifer Choate <jenniferchoatecearveterinary@gmail.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 11:59 PM</p> <p>Please listen to the many locals like me who love the horses present on this land. We hope you will choose to preserve & respect these wild herds. They are a integral part of the park & need to be left on the land where we as a people can see them continue to be the best part of this beautiful park.</p>

<p>191.</p>	<p>Sarah Schmitt <sldeak1234@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 12:17 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>Hello, I follow Wild in North Dakota. I follow this page because it shows the beauty of Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota. Not just the geography, but I follow this page to see what America used to be. I love seeing the wild horses doing what they were interned to do, RUN FREE. I have ridden horses all my life, in an arena....they lived in box stalls, and some were sold when they were of no use to their owners anymore. I have so much respect for these animals that give so much. To see them in their natural habitat is beyond amazing. The only reason I would ever visit North Dakota would be to go to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I would honestly love to take my daughter on the adventure of a lifetime, trying to spot some of these beautiful animals. I believe endangering TRNP's horse herds would be a tragedy to all generations to come and a huge loss for America.</p> <p>Sarah Schmitt 949-449-6346</p>
<p>192.</p>	<p>Kristina Skeppler <kristinaskeppler@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 12:26 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Hi, I have, to my sorrow, heard you are having bad plans for the wild horses in the park. I, my family and friends are having plans to visit the park but not if you are not going on taking good care of the wild horses, meaning not letting them be wild and free and instead restricting the numbers in different ways. Best regards Kristina Skeppler Sweden</p> <p>Skickat från min iPad</p>
<p>193.</p>	<p>Viviane Carvalho Schöffner <vivicarvalho@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 12:43 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Hi!</p> <p>I urge here to keep the TRNP park open. The horse herd there are a daylight for me every time I see its pictures in Facebook. It brings consciousness to the important of preserving horses free in a world where animals are becoming extinct or stuck in zoos and private parks.</p> <p>As a horse enthusiast, I have the dream to visit TRNP one day and witness this miracle of nature in person.</p> <p>Please preserve the park!</p> <p>Thank you so much Viviane Schöffner</p>

<p>194.</p>	<hr/> <p>Nadia Wilson <nadinasnotes@icloud.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 1:49 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Dear Sir/Madam,</p> <p>I'm writing as I follow a social media page that documents the wonderful wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.</p> <p>I feel compelled to write to you to express my disappointment to hear a terrible programme is being planned to round up and potentially cull these beautiful natural wild land managers just because of human encroachment.</p> <p>I've never been to America before and we were planning a family holiday to the US just to see all the wild horses as it is only one of a few countries left that have wild herds and I am passionate about horses. It would be my only reason to visit America - to see the wild places and horses. It would be a shame if they were to be persecuted.</p> <p>I hope the authorities will reconsider.</p> <p>Best wishes,</p> <p>Nadia 07701053146</p>
<p>195.</p>	<hr/> <p>NM <njmartz@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 2:20 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>To whom it may concern.</p> <p>I grew up in Dickinson, and always loved seeing the wild horses in the park. Just like the North American bison, TRNP is one of the few places in the world to see wild animals in a somewhat natural setting.</p> <p>Though I now live in Germany, I have made sure to take my 4 children and spouse to the park to see the wild horses and really enjoy following them on social media. They are a resource that once gone can never be replaced.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>LCDR Nathan Martz, USN retired DSU class of 86 -- Mobile - +49.151.523.90.443</p>

196.

Liz Mitchell <lizm@manx.net>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 2:31 AM

I am writing this to express how I feel about the wild horses in TRNP.

I am a 69 year old woman who does not live in the USA. However, I have a strong interest in wildlife and conservation. I follow the posts on social media made by Wild in North Dakota, and love to hear about the wild horses in the park. I watch the photos of the new foals and love to hear about the familial ties that bind these horses, and the incredible behaviour that they exhibit. I sorrow when I learn about a horse dying, but also rejoice that it died free as it would have wished to do. However, I also am greatly disgusted by the roundups that happen under the misguided "management" system, causing injury, breaking of family groups and a lot of stress. It seems to me to be a symptom of the majority USA's total disregard for life – at least that is how it seems to outsiders like me. Your society's love of guns and insistence of everyone being able to own one is a hangover of a past that should be let go. There are very few people that carry guns where I live and I feel totally safe.

Please leave these horse alone. There are better ways of catching horses if absolutely necessary, and maybe a system of birth control when needed. However, the best way would be to leave their land to them. The reason things are out of balance is because ranchers, farmers and hunters have wiped out the predators that kept your land in ecological balance.

The way you treat your wildlife speaks to the rest of the world, not just the USA. You are not alone in this, as we all need to have more compassion, and to fight for the world we live in, or our great grandchildren will not have a world that is habitable.

Thank you

Liz Mitchell

197.

diane mckinnon <lazerlightmckinnon2@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 3:58 AM

I don't know much about scientific studies or actually what it has to do with any of this, except maybe to discourage people from writing. I'd like to know why people especially government feel the need to control and own every last natural parts of the earth. Do things need to be etched in stone, fossilized or labeled as "alien" to be deemed worthy of being saved. I'm fairly new to the forum, but what is more important than nature and what is more natural than our wild animals?

198.

Bonnie Goodson <bug_ee64@yahoo.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 4:08 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

The herds of wild horses of this country, specifically the herd in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, are a national treasure! Our country would never be what it is without horses! From giving their lives on the battlefield to carrying people, and hauling their belongings, across this country to create settlements, towns, cities, capitals, and states from East to West—it could not have been done without horses.

The American buffalo and the wolf were almost wiped out by greedy hunters, but miraculously, those beautiful animals have been given back to our country's landscape. The wild horses shouldn't be any different.

In order to keep up with the news of our wild horse herds, I follow groups on social media. It's not ideal, but unfortunately, due to financial restrictions, I have not been able to personally visit TRNP, but if I could, I would take my entire family to see those beautiful wild horses running free on the land. If a National Park is established to protect the environment, it should include ALL animals within its borders, not just some.

To me, a horse running wild and free is a symbol of our own freedom. These horses deserve to live and remain free in TRNP forever.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Goodson
Kennebunk, Maine

<p>199.</p>	<p>Good morning to all from England,</p> <p>I am writing from the UK to make known my feelings about the wild horses that roam in this amazing National Park as I am being led to understand that there is a danger of them being removed from what they regard as their homeland.</p> <p>Obviously being so far away, it is not possible to visit to see them, but I take great pleasure in following their progress and the different family herds through the terrific social media reports given by those who love these herds so much. It is a great thrill to see how their families grow and interact, and something that we will never see in any other country. To me they represent the freedom that the US offers to all which is awesome. They are just as iconic as the bison that used to roam the ranges in their millions.</p> <p>I am at a loss to understand why anyone would think to remove these amazing horses who live so wild and free on land designated as a National Park. I cannot see that it could be of use to any other type of creature and believe that having the horses there manages the ecology of the area as they have done over time.</p> <p>Please, please respect them and let them live their lives in freedom as they always have, and we can continue to enjoy them.</p> <p>Thank you kindly, Helen Aiken Chelmsford, England.</p>
<p>200.</p>	<hr/> <p>Tammy L Wilkinson <tammy.lwilkinson81@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 4:16 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Please save the horses!</p> <p>I've always loved watching them roam free in this beautiful park! My grandchildren love watching them. This is their land too and they should be able to roam free in this beautiful country. We are losing the roaming free animals and this should never happen! Our future children need to be able to experience this always and not see animals caged!</p> <p>Tammy Wilkinson</p>

<p>201.</p>	<p>Wendy Fulco <fulcolyn@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 4:56 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>I have followed Wild In North Dakota on Facebook for decades. It is very important for me to see the pictures and stories about the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I look forward to seeing and reading the stories shown there about the amazing bands of wild horse families and bachelor stallions. Seeing the beautiful horses living wild and learning about their interactions is a part of each of my days. To travel to TRNP and see these majestic wild horses is a dream of mine. Any time I read about helicopter round up of the horses I feel angry and sad. These horses should be able to live out their lives free with their families. I feel so sad to think of the wild horses in holding pens with no shelter and separated from their families. I am grateful for the people who observe and photograph the wild horses of TRNP. Sincerely, Wendy Fulco @ fulcolyn@gmail.com</p>
<p>202.</p>	<p>karina fox <karinafox85@hotmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 5:47 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>I have visited TRNP several times just to see these horses. They are the main reason for me to visit. Without them, I wouldn't bother. I have followed these horses for years, I live them like family. I have family trees for them and follow the lives of each and every one.</p> <p>Without the horses, the magical feeling of visiting the park will be lost to many. This is their land and they have a right to live there, natural and free.</p> <p>Cutting a herd of 200 down to 40 will ruin the genetic diversity of the herd and lead to inbred horses. I fear for the older horses being removed from the park. They would not cope in captivity and to kill them would be cruel beyond measure.</p> <p>The current system of removing the youngsters works well. If the herd is too large, then perhaps some of the stallions can be gelded or the mares put on birth control. Please do not remove these horses which so many of us know and love. It's not fair to them, or to us that love them. Leave them be, please! This is breaking my heart.</p> <p>Sent from Outlook for Android</p>

<p>203.</p>	<p>Sunkist Farm <sunkistfarm@gmail.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 6:30 AM</p> <p>I saw a post regarding the wild horses of the park. I lead a busy life so I don't have the time to really dig into what exactly is going on and I do feel ALOT of people are in a similar boat as myself passionate enough to respond but don't want it to consume our day and I feel a lot of people care but simply will just not get involved.</p> <p>Regardless I wanted to touch on my personal point of view and experience. I like to think I'm a pretty reasonable person wild/feral animals need monitoring and many times need population control and I'm not against any of that as the stewards for animals sometimes we need to step in for the greater good. Im not sure what's going on or why this plea for help had been posted but I'm hoping it's simply about management and not because of an attempt to get rid of the herd entirely. I travel for a living (transport horses and livestock) and have passed thru TRNP several times usually at night. We were able to stop once this past fall to sight see a few min and I'd like to share my experience. I don't follow locations of wild herds so I couldn't tell anyone the first place to go beyond "somewhere out west" to see wild horses I was born in and reside in Maine we have no vast spacious lands like I love visiting out west even if ts just a drive thru.</p> <p>Anyways on this particular stop in which I had my elderly mother and my 4yo and it was incredibly cold we stopped in part because I knew it would be one of my moms last long trips with me and I wanted her to see some places she's never seen. We stopped and I figured we would just get to see a decent view which we did. We also saw some Buffalo in the distance which was Exciting for my 4yo as well as my mother. What I didn't know was that wild horses can be see from there as well (we stopped on 94). We did not see any however on this cold bitter day where all I wanted to do was sit in my truck there were probably 5 different groups of couples and individuals I overheard mention possibly seeing wild horses and 4 of those groups had binoculars and made a point to really look and see if they could see any from that location. It was an inspiration to hear and see people wishing to see the horses and such an easy location to stop and have a chance to see such an icon of the American west. We plan to stop again when we travel thru during the day and hope at some point to visit other parts of the park and maybe actually see them along with other sights. Hopefully the concerns risen are simply just about managing the herd vs eradication. My experience that day showed me that there are a lot of individuals who stop with the hope to see some wild horses and it's a good possibility they wouldn't stop if seeing horses wouldn't be a possibility. Horses have a way of bringing people together, and I feel wild horses do a lot of the same. Sadly there is a lot of activism and bad press that comes along with the BLM and animal rights etc a lot of unrealistic points of view etc I'm here to step in as someone with a farming/ranching mindset but wishes to still see the wild horses present in the park and surrounding lands. Management is key but alot of the aura of the west surrounds mustangs and they bring alot of that silly excitement to those who either intentionally visit the park or just happen to stop and look just passing thru.</p> <p>If you have read this far I appreciate you taking the time to do so. Have a good day Feel free to reach back to discuss on the phone or via email. Alexis Ingraham 2073220346</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
<p>204.</p>	<p>Squarespace <form-submission@squarespace.info> Reply-To: pagayle47@yahoo.com To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 6:55 AM</p> <p>Sent via form submission from Wild Lands Wild Horses</p> <p>Name: Peggy Gayle Email Address: pagayle47@yahoo.com Subject: Horses of TRNP</p> <p>Message: I have no idea what the plan will be for the horses of TRNP, but anything less than allowing these wild horses to survive free in the park is unacceptable. They are the true picture of what this great country was formed on, FREEDOM.</p> <p>I've only had the privilege of visiting the park and seeing those magnificent horses once, but it is something that will stay with me forever. That is why I follow Wild in North Dakota Facebook page. The story they tell of these wild bands of horses, their lives, the new lives and even the deaths keeps me linked to the park and these hores in a way that feels deep in my soul.</p> <p>I pray these magnificent horses will forever remain free in TRNP. They deserve to be free as a symbol of this great country.</p> <p>Does this submission look like spam? Report it here.</p>

<p>205.</p>	<hr/> <p>Charlene Milliren <tcxoxo@icloud.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 8:21 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>To whom it may concern , I know money is tight in every budget. However , please keep searching for a way to make the balance to be able to keep the wild horses in the park. Along with the buffalo , the wild horses are the main attraction. We often ride our own horses through the park, and coming across a band of wild horses is the biggest thrill. Thank you for your consideration, Char Milliren. 1902 10th st NW Reeder, ND. 58649</p> <p>Char</p>
<p>206.</p>	<hr/> <p>Nicole Ashcraft <kopper29@aol.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 8:32 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>To whom it may concern, I am deeply saddened to hear of the recent discussion of the eradication of the beloved horses from Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Our country formed from the back of horses, they are a integral part of our history what will we have to show our future generations of how our great country came to be if all we do is destroy it's very foundation. Ask yourself what Theodore Roosevelt himself would think if he only knew what was on the line today and what shame that would bring him to his very own namesake that the park has come to love. These animals represent freedom! And deserve just that FREEDOM!!!! I hope you come to see the importance they hold to our country and our future generations!</p> <p>Sincerely- Nicole Reed (Ohio)</p>

207.	<p>Carol Blehschmidt <cablehschmidt@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 8:39 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> Cc: cablehschmidt@gmail.com</p> <p>To Whom it May Concern:</p> <p>Please do everything you can to preserve the lands in Teddy Roosevelt National Park for the bison, horses, and other animals who live there. The animals are a unique treasure to that area.</p> <p>As a child growing up in North Dakota, our favorite family vacation spot was TRNP. Now I drive through the park whenever I can when I return to North Dakota to visit family.</p> <p>As an adult living in Colorado, I primarily follow the horses through the Wild in North Dakota Facebook site. This is a perfect site for following the beautiful horses which reflect the history and heritage of the Badlands.</p> <p>Seventy percent of the world's animals have disappeared since 1970. Please do everything you can to protect those which remain.</p> <p>Sincerely, Carol Blehschmidt cablehschmidt@gmail.com</p>
208.	<p>Casey Ellis <casey.superiorcarcredit@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 8:47 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>My husband and I love coming to the park and viewing all of the wild life. It's one of our favorite parts of the national park. Watching the horses in their natural habitat and running free gives us a sense of what was and what they love. Being free and wild. What America was built on and what we hope to continue with our country. The moms looking over their young, the males fighting for leadership resembles what we need in this country. My husband and myself stand to fight with the others who believe in keeping the park what it is and what it has been for all of these years.</p> <p>Casey Ellis</p>

209.

Judy Wharton <jaww5917@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:22 AM

I live in Pennsylvania and am disabled, I will never be in a position to visit these beautiful creatures on their home range. I follow quite a few of the organizations that are trying to save the wild horses including Wild in North Dakota, the TRNP. What we do as humans to all animals sickens me. They need to be left on their range, free, wild, & safe from our intervention and removal. Please honor these beautiful creatures, leave them be.

Pleading
Judy Wharton

210.

Judy Lessenden <JLessenden@nkcendo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:22 AM

I would like to weigh in on the proposed plan to eliminate the wild horses from TRNP. This would be a horrible decision, and one I would be very sad about.

I have loved horses since I was a child, and seeing horses in the wild has always been a dream of mine. Though there was other places in the U.S. to see wild horses (HMAs, Salt River in AZ), TRNP always captured my imagination. The beautiful scenery, the wide variety of horse colors, and the relative ease to have a chance to see them, made TRNP a bucket list destination. Two years ago my friend and I planned a trip to Badland National Park in SD (her choice), and I insisted on extending the trip to North Dakota to TRNP, with the sole purpose of seeing the wild horses. We were fortunate enough to see several bands and lots of horses during our trip, and it remains one of my favorite places that I have ever been, solely due to the horses. I believe there is not another national park that has horses, though there are many places where you can see bison, elk, pronghorn, and other wildlife. TRNP is unique *because* of the wild horses. The landscape is similar, yet different from the Badlands, but I don't think TRNP would have the draw it does if the horses were removed.

The stories that several facebook pages share about the horses, their bands, and the way they interact with each other and the landscape is fascinating to me. Anyone who loves the outdoors and wildlife should be in an uproar about the removal of these horses from TRNP. This is their home, and they should be considered a national treasure.

Judy Lessenden, MHSA, CMPE

Administrator

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<p>211.</p>	<hr/> <p>Ryan Mangan <rm.welding90@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:42 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>TRNP has been a part of my life since I was a child. Now as an adult I have shared the beauty of this land with my partner and my own child. The wild horses are such a huge piece of the park. Part of the magic that bridges the gaps between what was and what is. How is used to be. The beauty our ancestors saw when they decided to keep those lands safe forever. The horses are and always will be part of that. Removing them would be a huge disservice to our ancestors, our future generations, and to Theodore Roosevelt himself.</p>
<p>212.</p>	<hr/> <p>Karrie Morse <aladdinn.klm@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:43 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>The mere thought of these horse families being separated and removed, for no good reason, is very disturbing. Our tax dollars fund the park, the horses take care of themselves. We follow them on social media as it brings us to the park from all over the world. I have relatives that live near and go to the park to visit. Teddy Roosevelt would not want this to happen either. Please leave the wild horses and their families undisturbed and wild and free.</p>
<p>213.</p>	<hr/> <p>dlbrguy1@aol.com <dlbrguy1@aol.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:50 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>I am writing regarding the proposed removal of wild horse herds from the Theodore Roosevelt National Park area. The NPS expects the public input to be of a scientific nature only. I think this is backwards since the wild horses are property of taxpaying Americans and not the government! It seems to me proof to remove these wild horses lands on the government to provide valid points to remove these horses to their owners, us, not the other way around! Okay reducing a wild horse herd of 400 to 40 greatly reduces the genetic pool to a point of not having the diversity in the gene pool to maintain a healthy herd. Now I expect the government to provide their reasons for proposing this removal of these horses.</p>

<p>214.</p>	<p>coral verhaagen <coralv@hotmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 10:09 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>I went to the park to see the Buffalo as a child then I saw wild horses and wow! The beauty and freedom I felt watching these animals was something that is hard to explain. My parents bought me some of the books so I could keep up. Since then I have taken my own children and the the internet was invented and we all followed the horses and we only go to see the horses. The horses are what we got exited about. Now we take the Grandchildren and they go for the horses. We love the Buffalo but go for the horses. We go every year and buy new books on the horses and their different bands. I am in awe of the people that keep track and post the stories of these beautiful animals.</p> <p>Please keep this tradition going. Theses horses belong there They have been there for decades I can't even understand the thought process in taking them out. If they go we will never go back. There will be no real reason. Thank you Coral Verhaagen</p> <p>Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone</p>
<p>215.</p>	<p>Lavonne Daniels <oregon.native@hotmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 10:39 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>These wild and free horses represent our national heritage. They are incredibly important for us to remember where we came from. I live in the Western United States and still feel the spirit of my ancestors who came across the plains to a new home. They carved it out of the wilderness just as these horses survive in incredible environment all on their own.</p> <p>I plan to visit the Park in the near future as part of seeing this incredible land we live in. These horses must remain free and as is so we can still enjoy our freedom also.</p> <p>I don't have big, wonderful words to say what is in my heart, but seeing these horses on social media and the time the ladies spend to track the herds and share the specialness of seeing their freedom and natural instincts. These horses are families who care for each other and represent the freedom I hold so dear.</p> <p>Please, Please leave these horses be so we do not lose this historical part of the West.</p> <p>Sincerely Lavonne Daniels</p>

216.

Carolyn Edson <carolynedson@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 11:16 AM

I had always wanted to go to TRNP since I heard there were wild horses.

I am a wild horse photographer and have been since 2009. My images have been published 6 times.
I mostly go to SE Oregon and photograph the BLM mustangs there.

Last year was our 40th Wedding Anniversary and we decided to make the trip to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The round trip with my truck and RV trailer was 2700 miles from our home in Washington State.

I found 2/3 of the horses in our 3 days visiting the Park. The horses were all in good shape. I was amazed at the amount of grass they had and the abundant water with the Little Missouri running through. I did not see any damage to the land that bands can sometimes do when they don't have enough feed.

Please do not remove the horses from the Park. I understand management of numbers if they get overpopulated. I specifically visited the Park to see the horses.

If they are removed, I will never go back. I feel that a lot of people feel the same way. The horses are a draw to the Park just like the Bison are.

Thank you.

Carolyn

217.

Regina Mason <RDM1960@outlook.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 11:23 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

This park was is named for a great American President who felt very strongly about the conservation of the wild animals of this region. The Mustangs are a HUGE part of our National history, and are part of the conservation efforts he began and President Ronald Reagan built on and wrote laws to protect. I have been a horse lover my entire life. I have a dream of one day getting to go to Theodore Roosevelt National Park to actually get to SEE the wild animals that helped to shape our great nation. The Bison....the Elk....and YES the Mustang! They are beautiful, and embody the spirit of our great country. THEY are what the park was in part made for.....not domesticated cattle. I know and understand we need beef cattle, but the ranchers should NOT hold sway on what happens in a National Park created to conserve the wild animals that have always lived there!

I closely follow the facebook pages that feature these Mustang herds and live vicariously through these wonderful peoples pictures and stories. These horse live long and fulfilled lives FREE, as they should. There are humane ways to control population, but THEY belong in that park along with the Bison, Elk, Pronghorn, wolves and other wild animals of the region. THEY were there long LONG before humans ever were, and they should REMAIN there, because that was what is right!

Do the RIGHT thing! Leave these herds where there are!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Regina Mason

218.

Nancy Chandler <njchandler04@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 12:16 PM

TRNP is a beautiful place to visit

You can see more wild life in a small area than anywhere else. There is nothing more beautiful than to see a herd of horses standing on the bluffs in the badlands. So many people especially our younger generations who have never seen or experienced the wild open outdoors let alone wild horses roaming freely. It would be a shame to lose this.

<p>219.</p>	<p>Donna J. Owens <dowens@umd.edu> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 1:35 PM</p> <p>I've been following this herd for several years through Facebook. I haven't been to the park since the early 70's but I've enjoyed following the movements of the herds in the park from my home. The Park Service plan to zero out these horses with the significant DNA that they possess is abominable. Watching the wildlife at parks is one of my greatest joys. I've posted my comments on the park service website as well.</p>
<p>220.</p>	<p>Lisa Rani <lisananphoto@gmail.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 2:05 PM</p> <p>Hello!</p> <p>I am writing to let you know that this year, specifically, I was planning a trip to TRNP and meet, enjoy and photograph the herd of wild horses at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I have been following a variety of photographers who photograph the beautiful horses at the park. I was always so hopeful for this herd as it is within a national park, Teddy Roosevelt's of all national parks, and felt of all horses that will remain protected it would be this herd. I have a friend I am meeting in Bismarck later in the summer and thats why I thought perfect time to make it to the park.</p> <p>I look forward to coming to the park this year. And honestly without the horses there I would have never known this park and certainly not make the added effort to go while in North Dakota.</p> <p>A wild horse photographer and lover of open spaces and wild life.</p> <p>Lisa Rani Horn</p>
<p>221.</p>	<p>FRANCES FONDREN <fbfondren@aol.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 3:17 PM</p> <p>I have not had the opportunity to visit Theodore Roosevelt National Park, but hope to in the future. I will visit to see the beautiful herds of wild horses that call this park home. I have followed these horses through social media, (Dakota Grown Photos, for one), and feel I know each horse. These beautiful animal have been a part of this park for so long and should be allowed to stay. They are the only reason I have any interest in coming to TRNP. If they are removed I will have no desire to visit. It's such a thrill to see new life being born each year and sadness with each loss. Please leave these beautiful creatures alone and allow them to live their lives, wild and free in your park. Wild in North Dakota and Dakota Grown Photos have done so much to promote these horses and bring attention to your park but if you remove the horses there will be no reason to promote or visit your park!</p> <p>Thank you, Frances Fondren 1375 Peach Orchard Rd Bethel Springs, TN 38315</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>

222.	<p>Gretchen Jones <jonesg1@icloud.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 3:28 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com Cc: Doug <djindians4@yahoo.com></p> <p>I'm so devastated to not be able to see the wild horses, a trip we have been saving for. We learned of the park through a friend. Watching the bands of horses via Facebook has been my constant daily prayer routine. This was how I was able to cope with the destruction that COVID 19 left. Please please please keep this a Park full of the beauty these horses bring to America!! Thank you, Gretchen Jones Grove City Ohio</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
223.	<p>maren_domke@inspire.net.nz <maren_domke@inspire.net.nz> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 3:38 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Hi,</p> <p>I live in New Zealand and have been following the Wild in North Dakota facebook page for years now. The stories and beautiful photos of the stunning horses and landscape bring so much joy and hope that there is still a place for these beautiful horses. Knowing they have a safe space even though I am not able to visit is enough for me. Following the stories teaches me a lot about horses, their behaviour and environments they thrive in, please don't destroy them for commercial interests.</p> <p>Cheers Maren</p>

224.

Marylou Weber <marylu.weber@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 4:22 PM

Hello, I added a few pictures to illustrate the story. The first is our family in the 80s, the second is Tom Tescher by Carol Tescher, and the last is Henry and me on our ND Badlands Horses, Fire and Hawk, taken by Kristin Dunbar.

4 attachments



weberfamriding.jpeg
65K



271832772_10159871844314530_5954868871145017325_n.jpeg
108K



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 **Marylou's story.docx**
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LEGACIES BORN OF WILD HORSES

Having grown up in North Dakota, I don't remember the first time I visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP) and saw the wild horses; it was many decades ago.

Life happened and I did not return to the park until my family moved back to ND in 1979. Once we moved to Bismarck and had enough horses for all of us to ride together, we headed for TRNP to enjoy riding our horses in the park. Always a horse lover, it was only natural that I would begin to document the wild horses that I saw. They were much more elusive back then, but we would often hobble our horses and crawl to the rim of a butte to watch the wild ones. It was fascinating just watching them as they grazed or stood fighting flies, knowing that they had no one to look after them, no one to feed, water, or care for them. They were alone and vulnerable, yet strong, resilient, and free.

Sometime in the 90s, we met then Resource Manager, Russ Runge, who encouraged us to come to his office and meet Tom Tescher. We were to find out that Tom was the man who had documented the horses for about four decades. Thus began the adventure of learning about the horses, their history, and the man who humbly dedicated half his life to them. Many, many hours were spent driving the loop to spot and identify horses while just as many were spent sitting around Tom and Lorraine's table looking at pictures, comparing notes, and talking about each horse, whom Tom knew only by the numbers he had assigned to each one. Later, when Tom could no longer drive, his daughter would pick him up and drive him around the loop searching for horses. Finally, Tom could no longer speak but he would get excited and hmph when he saw a horse. Tom died in 2008. I will never forget the unassuming gentleman cowboy with the twinkle in his eye and the memories of the old days of the horses. I was determined to continue the documentation of those horses and the legacy Tom had created with stacks of handwritten lists of bands, stallions, mares, and foals.

For two decades my husband and I volunteered for the park, getting to know and helping with each new staff member, all the while documenting and photographing the horses. We watched as each new foal romped the greening hills and grieved as each older member of the band disappeared. Sometimes we would find some remains and could experience some closure but losing any of them was never easy. Knowing the horses had been in that area long before the park even existed, I wondered how many beautiful wild horses were lying here, reduced to sun-bleached bones. Yet, they lived and died free, something few people in the world ever have the honor of witnessing.

Over the years, by sharing our experiences with friends and other park visitors, as well as followers on social media, we have been able to bring the history and the culture of the horses to generations, many of whom were prompted to visit the horses for themselves. The history of the horses is a history of Native American hunters on the backs of fleet-footed horses finding game to feed their families, of pioneers and settlers pushing west behind the teams of draft horses, ranchers like the Marquis and Theodore Roosevelt, himself, riding across the rugged Badlands, restoring their souls with the sights, sounds, and hardships of living in the Dakota Badlands. This is the history and culture granted us by the horses who still run free across the buttes and valleys of the park. I pray they will remain there long after I am gone so that our children and children's children may have their souls renewed as well.

If the current TRNP horses are removed, these legacies, of brave indigenous warriors going to battle mounted on sacred blue roan horses, farmers and ranchers riding through blizzards and dust storms to care for their stock, cowboys roping and taming wild horses to be their own sure-footed mounts, will be forever lost.

225.

Sheila Porreca <sheilaporreca@yahoo.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 5:22 PM

To whom it may concern,

I've been to TRNP many times in my lifetime and enjoyed the park experience very much with each trip.

We recently were at the park for the Halloween weekend and had the most amazing time with the bison 🐃 all around the scenic drive and we were **absolutely** thrilled when we had the chance to be up close and see the marvelous wild horses.

It was an experience I'll always remember it was so unexpected and thrilling to see those horses it was like being in an old western movie.

We took plenty of pics and I'll never forget that wonderful lil weekend at the TRNP :)

Don't take those beautiful horses out of OUR national park leave them right where they belong...at the TRNP!

These beautiful horses deserve some respect and to let them enjoy the park. Teddy would agree they need to be protected and allowed to roam on this Teddy Roosevelt natl park.

Thank You

226.

Loretta Mullett <etta329@hotmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 6:20 PM

I am against the Theodore Roosevelt National Park wildlife management plan, hoping to decrease the population objective of its wild horse herd to 30 to 70 horses. Around 200 wild horses currently live at the park, and the plan would sell most of them to reach their goal.

There are only a handful of areas in the country you can view actual wild mustangs to this day, and one of them is in the TRNP in North Dakota. These horses are true wild mustangs and have lived here for generations, completely untouched. They survive among the rugged badlands throughout the entire year among the wild herds of bison and elk.

These horses are strikingly beautiful and come in many colors and patterns - roans, pintos, bays and grays. The beautiful colors and unique color patterns make horses identifiable so you can enjoy watching the growth and herd dynamics. In the spring and summer seeing foals alongside their mothers in herds are a delight.

I am against decreasing the herd by a large degree as it would impact the genetic viability of the herd. According to wild horse geneticists herd levels of 120 or 150 horses are needed for the genetic viability of the herd. You need some amount of genetic diversity to keep health of the herd strong.

Wild horses are a major part of North Dakota's cultural heritage and the herd of wild horses in TRNP is unique to the park. Bison can be seen in many places throughout the state, but the herd of wild horses can only be found in the park.

Preservation of the wild mustangs was a legacy of President Theodore Roosevelt. The archaic policy of round up and selling these beautiful horses who often end up auctioned off for meat is cruel and unnecessary. Other wild horse management programs use darting the horses with birth control to manage their populations. There are alternatives. The barbaric BLM policy of roundup and sell off of the magnificent herds is out dated. We need to protect these historical wild mustang herds.

Loretta Mullett

227.

Kay Harth <kdharth@hotmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 6:35 PM

The reason we go to Theodore Roosevelt Park every year is to find the wild horses!!!
I look for my favorite horses every time we go, I absolutely love seeing the baby foals every spring.
I follow Wild in North Dakota on Facebook, I donate by buying pictures etc at the Minnesota Horse Expo.
Please keep the horses in the park. Thank you for listening to me.
Very truly,
Kay Harth
Minnesota

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

228.

Candida Eugenio <cannie123@msn.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 6:38 PM

Hello,

I wanted to just write a little about why the TRNP horses need to remain part of the park.

First of all, I have never been to the park but have wanted to go to see the horses for a long time. My family and I were going to go this last summer but were unable to do our trip. I am over 50 and that park and its horses are on my bucket list of places to see. If you remove the horses then there really isn't a need to go to the park anymore. Not every park in America has wild horses. So to remove them would keep a lot of people from visiting TRNP as they can see landscapes and even bison in other parks as well.

Secondly, Teddy Roosevelt created the park and ALL its wonderful land and creatures were to be cared for, not removed or changed or built on. This goes for the animals in it as well.

So, to remove those horses would be changing his dream and his picture that he had for our beautiful country.

Leave the horses alone! Let them be free. America stands for Life, Liberty and Pursuit of happiness. Liberty means Freedom. They are part of that freedom.

Candida Eugenio

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229.

Squarespace <form-submission@squarespace.info>
Reply-To: acjr777@aol.com
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 6:40 PM

Sent via form submission from [Wild Lands Wild Horses](#)

Name: joe russo

Email Address: acjr777@aol.com

Subject: wild horses

Message: WHILE I DO LIVE IN THE EAST I DO OWN HORSES ...THESE ANIMALS ARE AN AMERICAN HERITAGE AND THEY MUST BE PRESERVED FOR THE FUTURE. PLEASE PROTECT THEM ALL..A GALLOPING HORSE IS POETRY IN MOTION!

Does this submission look like spam? [Report it here.](#)

230.

Miki E-mail <grey_wolf@charter.net>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 7:33 PM

I was born and raised my first 19 years in North Dakota and the Theodore Roosevelt National Park has always been my favorite place. It holds a very special place in my heart as it's the only place I've ever seen wild/free horses in their natural beauty. Seeing the horses in the grandeur of the Badlands in western North Dakota has always thrilled me and I cannot imagine the park without them. Eliminating the horses would go against everything Theodore Roosevelt wanted for this National Park! It is one of the few areas where free-roaming horses may be readily observed. The horses of TRNP have existed in the badlands of western North Dakota since at least the middle of the 19th century. While ranching near Medora in the 1880s, Theodore Roosevelt wrote of the horses there: "In a great many--indeed, in most--localities there are wild horses to be found." The horses have a rich history that can be traced back to Chief Sitting Bull in 1881. These horses figure prominently in the cultural history of the American West and are living legends that should be treasured! North Dakota should be proud of these free-roaming horses, it is all the richer for them- let them live!

Please, do not rob North Dakota of this national treasure and its heritage! The parks' horses have been officially recognized as a part of the historical setting since 1970. There is no good reason to eliminate Theodore Roosevelt's free-roaming horses from the great state of North Dakota!

Sincerely,

Miki Wolf-Krenelka

231.

Sherry Mills Moore <sherry@millsmoorelaw.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>
Cc: "sherrymillsmoore51@gmail.com" <sherrymillsmoore51@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 7:42 PM

Here is my horse story. Please feel free to use it in any manner which helps save the horses. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for them.

Wild Horses Couldn't Drag Me Away

"I can't believe you are lucky enough to live here". Not something we native North Dakotans often hear. But this is what a fellow participant in a Badlands photography workshop from Pennsylvania said to me after a day in the park photographing the horses. That was back in 1999 and my first experience with the TRNP wild horses. Even though my family had a reunion in the park every 3 years, I had not previously been prescient enough to recognize their splendor. Over the following 24 years, not only have these horses risen to the top of my living-being popularity poll, but I have lit that same enthusiasm in my surrounding four generations – 96 year old mother, 41 year old daughter, and 13 year old granddaughter. Sadly, I just can't get my California raised husband to bite.

Since that time in 1999 I now travel to the park at least 4 times a year. Sometimes they are day trips, sometimes for a few days. Each trip is devoted to finding and photographing the horses. My very best friend is similarly afflicted. Because of our excursions I have been in places in the park I never would otherwise have been. We have seen every animal the park offers, except a mountain lion. We regularly visit the "nun rocks". We have slid through gumbo, raced up buttes, dodged snakes, and skirted bison. We have been there in snow and sleet and extreme heat. After one particularly poor placement choice between warring bands and a race to our car, I blew out my knee and had to have it replaced, but boy did I get a great picture of Sidekick, mad, really mad Sidekick. And each time as we leave the park – tired, sun or wind burned – we say, *that was the best trip ever*.

Never will I forget the first stallion fight we saw. After nearly hitting our limit in photographs of a grazing group, suddenly even the prairie dogs went on high alert. Over the butte came a stallion and the band stallion raced over to meet him. They took off as did we, following the skirmish in our jeep like paparazzi chasing the British royals. They fought and ran and pooped and sniffed for over a mile as we madly changed rolls of film and documented the battle. It was glorious.

Even more glorious was being witness to the birth of a foal. Having spotted a mare earlier in the day who seemed planted, we watched from the road as first the foot, then the baby emerged. The mare sent the stallion away while the baby worked hard to stand up. It was, to be frank, a holy moment.

Then there is the joy of watching my family and friends light up as I took them to see the horses. And each year my Christmas list includes sending the latest NDBH horse guide to these same people. My daughter and granddaughter love to spot them, to see them skirmish, to take their pictures, to walk on the trails and to scale the buttes.



At age 10, my granddaughter did a North Dakota history project making a crime wall type connection art piece on her wall of the all the horses in the park in 2019. A television station picked it up as a story featuring her hard and creative work, and of course, the horses.



To those who aren't enamored with the horses perhaps it seems they are same as if not secondary to the bison, or the elk, the deer, even (gasp) the prairie dogs. But her project illustrates the difference. These horses can and have been individually identified. Their history is documented in photographs, their dna, and the genealogical renderings. The horse people of

TRNP like to figure out who is who, who is related to whom, their age, their temperaments, their families, their bands, their territories. It is an exercise and immersion in history and nature and identification. Nobody does that for the bison or the prairie dogs or the deer. Not because they aren't important but, the diversity in the horses presents the opportunity to take nature to the next degree. There are reunion rides and photography tours and family traditional gatherings and weddings and memorials and photography contests all centered on these horses. They have many non-profits with followers all over the world. This is completely unique to the horses.

Personally, if the horses are removed, I am unlikely to come to the park on any regular basis if at all. I want the horses there for my progeny and for the visitors young and old all over the world. They have made the last 24 years of my life vastly more meaningful and have brought the splendors of the park home to me over and over again. Now, I have as my own message, how lucky I am to live here.

232.

Wendy Maurstad <wmaursta@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 8:08 PM

I just feel like I must contribute to the cause for the wild horse herd at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. We've been to the park more than once and the main draw each time is the wild horses. There just isn't anything that can compare to the thrill of seeing wild horses, living, thriving and surviving in the elements of the gateway to the west. We've had our own horses for so long but these TRNP horses just make a person feel and understand the link to the days gone by like bison and elk just can't. It's amazing how hardy and well suited the herds are to their environment.

The loss of the herds from the park would leave a huge hole in so many peoples link to American history and what on earth - Medora North Dakota has the cowboy museum and there sure wouldn't have been cowboys without horses. Teddy Roosevelt would be rolling over in his grave.

<p>233.</p>	<p>Pat Young <wildmtn@aol.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:18 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>I'm writing to support keeping the wild horses in TRNP. While they, themselves, may not be indigenous, the herds have been there for generations and they are part of the mythos of the west.</p> <p>I have never been to Theodore Roosevelt, but I follow the herd on social media, which has opened my eyes to a truly beautiful part of the country, one that i wish to visit soon. Without the wild horses, I don't think I would ever have known about the park or considered visiting.</p> <p>Regards, Pat Young</p> <p>Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS</p>
<p>234.</p>	<p>Kate Taibbi <ktaibbi@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:23 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>We are retired and hope to make it out to the Dakota's to see these magnificent horses! This park has been on our "bucket" list for quite some time! Thank you for the wonderful pictures! - Kate</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
<p>235.</p>	<p>From: "Linda Carver" <lindac1236@yahoo.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com> Sent: Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 8:06 PM Subject: Horse saving thoughts</p> <p>I have never been to TRNP, yet. I have plans to make it there this summer. I previously had little interest in touring this area. Then I came across the Facebook pages that support and share info about the beautiful wild horse herds. I have been a horse lover forever and always enjoy seeing them. To see them running wild and free will be a dream come true. Please leave the horses to be free.</p>

236.	<hr/> <p>Squarespace <form-submission@squarespace.info> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:46 PM Reply-To: sl_mj1960@yahoo.com To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Sent via form submission from Wild Lands Wild Horses</p> <p>Name: sarah levering Email Address: sl_mj1960@yahoo.com Subject: Horses</p> <p>Message: Please let the horses be free they were here before any of us and deserve their freedom.Someday i would love to come to the park just to see the wild horses running free.</p> <p>Does this submission look like spam? Report it here.</p>
237.	<hr/> <p>Kris <funkybunch_2000@yahoo.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:46 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>I have never been to this area. I do know that, in order to save our earth and ourselves, we must live in harmony with all creatures great and small. Humans have no right to destroy the lives and habitats of any wild creature, just because we can. You cannot sacrifice others for your gain. It is an atrocious act. These horses are gorgeous creatures. They live here. It is sacred ground to them! Humans have driven wild creatures out of their habitats. Humans have driven others out of their homes (think American Indigenous people). Learn your lessons!!</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>

<p>238.</p>	<p>Delbert N Deana Glaser <dndglaser@hotmail.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:48 PM</p> <p>Hello, I understand that the Theodore Roosevelt National Park herd of wild horses is currently being reviewed via a Livestock Management Plan that threatens their continued ability to live wild and free in this National Park! I was born and have lived in North Dakota my whole life (50+years) and have visited the park every year for as long as I can remember. As a child complete excitement if we could catch a glimpse of the wild horse herd from the interstate as we entered Medora. Dad drove us through the park every year. We would sit and watch for a very long time if the wild horses were around, they were so memorizing ! Screeches erupted if it was the spring of the year and there were foals with their moms! They were so free and so beautiful! So perfect! As an adult with horses of my own we frequent TRNP. We ride the trails and search for a glimpse of the wild horses. We will sit and watch them from afar I admire their beauty and freedom and often wonder if my ride wishes he was one of them. It makes my heart so happy! It would be a sad shame to one day come to the TRNP and not see these amazing creatures or worse yet to tell my nieces and nephews about the time when we would come to the park where there used to be the most beautiful wild herd of horses that roamed free in this park! That would be a very sad day!!!! SAVE THE WILD HORSES AT TRNP!!!! Thank you! Deana Glaser</p>
<p>239.</p>	<p>Amy Litton <alitton1989@yahoo.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:56 PM</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing to add my voice to the many others writing in support of the wild horses at Theodore Roosevelt National Park.</p> <p>The opportunity that is afforded, both through social media and in person, to actually see these beautiful animals in a natural habitat is such a treasure. Seeing these majestic animals in the wild, even through the window of social media, has been an incredible experience for which I am truly grateful.</p> <p>I believe that we have a responsibility as a nation to continue to preserve / manage this heard (and others) so that generations to come have the opportunity to see and learn from these animals in the wild.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Amy Litton Rowlett, TX</p>

<p>240.</p>	<hr/> <p>Jill Ricker <kenandjillricker@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 9:59 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>I have followed the horses in the Theodore Roosevelt Park on Facebook for several years. I feel I know these horses and am trying to get to the park to see them in person! It is a beautiful sight to see them free and living life as a wild herd. I would hate to see them removed! I own horses and I understand them through my 62 years. They are a national treasure. Let them be wild.</p>
<p>241.</p>	<hr/> <p>Kristin Caron <kristincaron317@yahoo.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 10:30 PM Reply-To: Kristin Caron <kristincaron317@yahoo.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Kristin Caron from Carver Massachusetts. I spend quite a lot of my time on line following the horse families that live within the TRNP. It is a miracle that in this time of life, there are still sanctuaries that allow the wild herds their freedom.</p> <p>I am an avid horse lover, and have been my entire life. I have chosen to never own a horse. I believe horses carry mighty souls that can show you what true freedom is meant to be. When I see horses with their owners, I see the pain in many of their eyes. The pain of being taken from their families, being sold over and over again to new owners. I see the love they give and the anguish they endure when they are sent away once again.</p> <p>As I said, I have followed the TRNP herds online for many years. In my darkest hours, I look to the photos of the free, the loved and untouched spirits. I dream of visiting them someday, to see their untouched spirit within their eyes. It's in the amazing photos posted of them. The eyes of a horse are the windows to their souls, and never have I been more in awe of the humanity I see within them.</p> <p>These horses have every right to live free!! They have the ability to heal the broken hearts and minds of those of us (mankind) that are broken, sad, forgotten and in need of unbiased, unconditional, love.</p> <p>The human race has forgotten where it came from, where we started, and that we are no different than the horses at TRNP. We want to be free!! We fought for freedom and seldom of us have any. What right do we have to take that freedom away from these animals? We are animals of the homosapian race, they are animals of the equine race. They deserve the same freedom and more!</p> <p>What right do you, or any man, have to take away another's freedom! What right do you or any man have to disrespect the wishes of Teddy Roosevelt? He is a famous man for the words he spoke and the actions he took. Who are you? What do you want people to look back on, in history, and remember you for?? I pray it's that you are remembered for the protection you provided the free horses, maybe then, we will know your name!</p>

<p>242.</p>	<hr/> <p>Bunny Metzger <bunnymetzger50@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 10, 2023 at 11:07 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>Yes, i have been to the park, a couple of times, we love the bison but the horses are so special. It feels like you are back in the 1800's. I love watching the posts of the new babies and the different herds. Its so special to follow their lives. A little bit of heaven. I was born in NDak and was an owner of horses for many years. Please reconsider and think how important they are to the park and all those that love them. ♥-- Smiles</p>
<p>243.</p>	<hr/> <p>Debbie L Mack <debbielma943@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 12:17 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>I have never been able to visit the park, but I am a horse lover! I've had horses since before I could walk! I so enjoy the photos and stories of the horses in TRNP! They are some of the most beautiful horses I have ever seen! I think they should be left alone to live wild and free just as their ancestors did! It is on my bucket list to be able to visit the park, just to be able to watch the horses in the park! But if they are removed I will not be going to visit the park! The horses are the main reason I want to go! I get a lot of enjoyment from the photos and stories that are posted concerning them! I really appreciate the people who photograph , keep a check on them and also share the stories of the horses! I truly believe that if they are removed it would cause a decrease in the visits to the park!</p>
<p>244.</p>	<hr/> <p>We are very upset about the possibility of losing the wild horses. We have been to the park and love seeing the herds. We have fun guessing which herd is which. Our grandchildren love seeing the horses too. Having the wild horses in the park brings in a lot of people from all over the United States. We would probably not visit the park if the horses were taken away. We love seeing the new foals every year. We live in North Dakota and are able to go to the park regularly. PLEASE leave the horses there</p> <p>1 message</p> <hr/> <p>lbcurren <lbcurren@restel.com> Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 12:18 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p>

<p>245.</p>	<p>DEBORAH WIELAGE <dwielage@comcast.net> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 2:26 AM</p> <p>I visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP) in May of 2022. The horses drew me to the park which I learned about from Dakota Grown Photos on Facebook, and got me learning about TRNP, and North Dakota, and planning my vacation.</p> <p>I spent a week at Medora and I drove to the North Entrance and spent a day, however my favorite is the South Entrance because that is home to the horses. Not many National Parks have wild horses which makes TRNP special. The horses are are like frosting on a cake. That's why I chose this park and why I spent a week, and why I'm hoping to return someday.</p> <p>I hope the horses get to stay at TRNP because people expect to see horses . That has been their home for centuries, hopefully, now and future generations of horses will have the opportunity to run free and wild like past generations of horses. They are a symbol of our country.</p>
<p>246.</p>	<p>Squarespace <form-submission@squarespace.info> Reply-To: beth.gerow@gmail.com To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 2:55 AM</p> <p>Sent via form submission from Wild Lands Wild Horses</p> <p>Name: beth Gerow</p> <p>Email Address: beth.gerow@gmail.com</p> <p>Subject: THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK</p> <p>Message: contributing to the fight for the wild horses there.... When cattle graze, they wrap their tongues around grass and rip it out by the roots. A few hundred steers can cause the area to become a desert in a very short time...no grass seed,, no grass roots. Horses BITE the grass off near the roots when they eat....the roots are preserved and can grow the grass back, and horses CANNOT digest grass seed.....each seed passes through the horse and is deposited on the ground in a packet of fertilizer from the horse. Result....luxurious grasslands!! Good luck, Wild Horses! the Earth needs you desperately!</p> <p>Does this submission look like spam? Report it here.</p>

247.

From: Squarespace <form-submission@squarespace.info>
Date: January 11, 2023 at 5:18:54 AM EST
To: thismustanglife@gmail.com
Subject: Form Submission - New Form - Saving the wild horses
Reply-To: bonniescrittercottage@yahoo.com

Sent via form submission from [Wild Lands Wild Horses](#)

Name: Bonnie Lentz

Email Address: bonniescrittercottage@yahoo.com

Subject: Saving the wild horses

Message: My family and I feel it is very important these horses stay wild. It is part of our history. And their beauty is for all to see. In the wild!

Does this submission look like spam? [Report it here.](#)

248.

kristal eggert <kristal_eggert@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 10:53 AM

Thank you for all your organization is doing to advocate for the incredible wild horses in TRNP. Here is why I love the horses and why I hope we can all still enjoy these treasures for years to come!

Every year I take a week long trip out to North and South Dakota for my birthday. TRNP has been apart of that trip for many years. I still remember my first time seeing the wild horses...it was near Peaceful Valley Ranch and Nichols and Cloud were hanging out in the shade. I can't fully describe in words the level of my excitement. But it truly is the driving force behind multiple visits to the park each year. There is something so rewarding to just sitting quietly and watching their interactions within each family band and of course the heated encounters between other bands and bachelor stallions. I work as a nurse in a hospital and this is a stressful environment to say the least...especially the past couple years...these trips to the National Park are my way of de-stressing and relaxing. I am not a photographer but i do enjoy taking pictures during my trips and I have met many others who come for that reason. I have made some really nice friendships with these people and occasionally plan to meet with them while I am out visiting. I have tent camped in Cottonwood each time I visit...from March thru November. I have watched the wild horses and buffalo walk right thru my campsites multiple times. Its something so unique to this park and I love being in nature with the animals. I prefer the off season or quiet months in the park with less people. I am an avid hiker and the rugged landscape combined with wild horses is a perfect combination.

This IS my happy place. Each time when I climb high up on a butte to watch the horses, I close my eyes and I can feel and hear the mighty North Dakota wind...I can smell the warm scent of sage. I can hear the language the horses speak to each other...a soft nicker, a loud whinny and squeal or a deep sigh as they relax and take a nap in the warm sun. I cherish this place...its my church...its my medicine...its my therapy. So many people cherish this herd...especially the locals who come here weekly know each and every horse by name who their parents were and who the new foals belong too. I believe each of us has special stories and ties to this place and the horses. And I truly believe the wild horses are the single biggest draw for returning visitors. I can't imagine this place without them. I truly believe the horses have an important place in the park. I also would agree the buffalo have an important place as well. But at the end of the day I would like to see a management plan for both these animals so they may continue to share the land. Over the years most of the return visitors I have met are here for the horses. And this means the charming town of Medora is hugely benefiting from the revenue when they stay a week at a time. It is my hope that the horses are allowed to stay in the only home they have ever known. I don't know if there is a way the NP could take in monetary donations from visitors that would be directly applied to help/save the horses...but I would do it. I do understand the need for management of the herd. We want the best for them. Please continue to allow the horses to live in the park. I wish you could look into my heart and see the love, excitement, peace and joy these horses bring me each time I visit. It breaks my heart to think they might be completely removed.

Thank you for your time and reading my thoughts.

Kristal Eggert

249.

Terrie Pieczonka <terziz1@yahoo.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 11:09 AM

Hi! I'm Terrie Pieczonka from Millington, Tennessee and I have been following the stories and photographs of the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt State Park for several years on Facebook.

I am constantly surprised and delighted by the stories and this ongoing piece of Great American history embodied by these horses. Their lives are beautiful and ugly, strong and sadly weak—really struggling and living magnificently in the National Park. It's very interesting to see the dynamic way they interact, breed, give birth and survive. Really a priceless piece of Americana. And, I'm not even a horse owner or farmer. It's just incomprehensible to me that such valuable animals could be taken out of this setting and be gone forever. It seems like so many things with deep history and meaning are being lost in the United States. (And I'm speaking as one of the evil snowflake democrats!)

I've probably said too much. I just wanted to offer my feelings on behalf of these horses in the hope that they remain wild and free.

Thank you so much for offering the forum.

Respectfully,
Terrie Pieczonka

Sent from my iPhone

250.

Jeanie Lynn Andringa <zetapita@icloud.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 11:27 AM

Just sharing my story
As a little girl my grandparents would bring us to Medora we should see the musical and go through the park. My favorite parts were looking for the horses, Bison and our family likes the prairie dogs. As an adult I could not wait to share this magical place with my son. The horses in the park are truly one of the main reasons we go there. I have traveled to many state parks throughout the USA, and truly find the horses are majestic as mountains. The history they share and joy they bring to so many people is amazing. I think the park would be such a different place without the horses. I know my family and myself would probably choose other locations to visit. Many parks have beautiful scenery and even amazing wildlife, but the horses are a true draw for us. Please leave them in the park. I don't understand how they can be anything but a positive impact for the park.

Thanks
Jeanie Berns
Minnesota

Sent from my iPhone

251.

Carol Blevins <carolnblevins@gmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 11:58 AM

Please don't remove the wild horses from TRNP. They are a national treasure & are the main reason people visit the park. They have been there for so many years & are being maintained well. My husband & I visited several years ago & were absolutely enthralled with the beauty of the Park & the Wild horses. There aren't many places left in the world where you are able to enjoy such beauty & majesty. Thank you for your consideration,
Carol & Ken Blevins
Winter Park, FL

252.

DEB LEE CARSON <everseethelight@gmail.com>
To: Wild Lands Wild Horses <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 12:24 PM

Please, please, please... Save the wild horses in the TRNP! The horses have been here longer than the park has. There are only a few National Parks in the United States that have wild horses still roaming their land, in fact TRNP is the only place in North Dakota that has them. About 175 wild horses are living in the 47,000 acres in the park. My earliest memory is when I was a little girl, my favorite memory in N.D. is going through the park to see these magnificent horses 60 years ago! I remember I talked about this rare experience to anyone that would listen! At that age, I thought of them as MY horses, as I do today also. In the last ten years I have gotten to know a lot of the horses. I have visited them often and follow the dedicated posts that people write about them. My favorite horse in the park is the '2000' oldest stallion Circus. I remember him as a young stallion with stunning blue eyes and a wild mane that he tossed about proudly. I worry about him and follow his progress. He is still doing good and living his life the way he wants. (Could you imagine what he and the other horses would do if they were removed from the only home they have known?) He wouldn't live long in a forced captivity. It been exciting to follow him through the years. 2002 Gray Ghost elderly stallion I followed closely and I worried about him as I saw him getting so thin right before his death. Someone wrote that they found him and the buffalo were standing and grieving over him with him in the bidder of their circle. His faithful mare Twister died shortly after along with their young colt Atlas, but Gray Ghost has sired other offspring which will carry on his legacy. I cry when I hear the death of each horse but I was sad for days when I heard that Betsy, an older mare, had been rounded up and was killed in the process. If you ever witnessed the round up of wild horses, it is a horrendous sight. They are terrified when they are separated from their family, hurt and often killed in the process. Wildrye, Teton, Nichols, Urban, Flax, Remington, Coal, Vamoose, and the other stunning stallions have their own personalities and dwell in their Young Boomer is an unique stallion who is everyones favorite with his older brother, Amite. Boomer was orphaned at 6 months and his aunt Taylor and brother have taken care of him. Various families have been so special to keep track of like the the devoted mom Dolly and her lovey daughters Oakley, and Zoe. Flame is Flax's mom and is the oldest mare at 23 years old. She has had 10 offspring. Many people around the world view the horses treasured photos from years ago to now, and often remember when the horses of the past were happy and running free. With each birth is a great celebration and their death is always a heartbreak. But I wouldn't trade the experiences for anything in the world. They have become a great part of my life. I look forward to hearing what mares are which stallion now and where the herds are. It is like a soap opera but so much more because you can follow them almost daily from the dedicated posts of the amazing followers. The old west has almost vanished and we are so fortunate to experience it through the wild horses which is so much a part of the Native Americans and Cowboys! The culture and history are rich in Medora and the park is known for the wild and free herds! Just imagine listening to the mighty galloping and strong snorting of the horses in the distance. Nothing can compare... Tourists have brought in much income to this surrounding area because of wanting to be a part of this old west history. TRNP superintendents and staff need to step up and work cooperatively and effectively with the people and save the wild horses! ❤️



I wanted to add to some of this and proof read but I sent this before I was ready to proof read... It would not let me email this. If you would like me to write another copy- I will do so, but hopefully this will convey my feelings. I meant to add after writing "and other stunning stallions have their own personalities and dwell in their own section of territory they have chosen. " ❤️💕❤️ Just let me know if you received this or I'll try again. Please also let me know if there is anything I can do. I wrote two letters...

253.

Tammy Mackey <dtmackey@ndsupernet.com>
To: Info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 12:31 PM

How can we save the wild horses from being removed from the park?
I sit here thinking who exactly wants them gone? I mean the people that are thinking about this? I just don't understand why? When I look at all the people that are posting stories of how they love to go to the park to see the horses. I mean hundreds of people from everywhere in the country how can the park remove them? The horses are so loved. The western history from the area involves cowboys and cowgirls and HORSES Many people go to Medora to have a WESTERN EXPERIENCE. To have a feeling of the old west and part of this is going into the park to see the wild horses and buffalo. If they are removed it can and will not never be the same again. Many people are from cities somewhere and can't see horses in their area and will not ever have that feeling of seeing them in the wild here. Please don't make this mistake of removing them.
Tammy Mackey

254.

George - Bonnie Overby <gboverby@hotmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 12:34 PM



Sugar, a scared little red roan filly, came home with me in October 2009. I hadn't really planned on buying at wild horse at an auction. The auction in Dickinson, North Dakota, was meant to be a fun event with a friend as a celebration of my birthday. It was also going to be a distraction from current events in Afghanistan where my husband was serving a year-long deployment with the National Guard. That autumn day turned out to be the beginning of some of my most beautiful experiences!

This same year, North Dakota Badland's Horse (NDBH), was established to promote and preserve the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. It was through this nonprofit organization I was able to connect to other lovers of the badland's horses where I was introduced to the many wonders of the horses and their rugged environment. Though I grew up in North Dakota, I had not really experienced the park until 2010 when I went to see Sugar's sire and dam. The year 2012 had special significance when I was able to return riding my once wild horse in her birth place. I have since enjoyed the yearly horse parade on Flag Day in Medora and the annual reunion ride where owners return together on their former wild horse to TRNP

The wild horses has been the draw for me to keep returning to TRNP. Since 2010, I no longer travel outside of North Dakota as I can think of no place I'd rather spend my summer vacation. It has been my pleasure to be able to volunteer with documentation teams helping to care for captured young horses at the holding pen while awaiting their owners. In the last 12 years I have visited the park up to 4 times a year often spending a week or more at a time as I return with family and friends.

These horses and this park bring me back to my roots in rural North Dakota, growing up on the solitude of the prairie riding my horse, smelling the aromatic sage brush, listening to the meadowlarks and killdeers and exploring nooks and crannies of the land. The park and its horses bring me back to simpler times away from the daily stresses of my life as a nurse in an urban setting. A place I am able to draw close to God, renew my strength and find healing for my soul with the gentle spirit of the horses against the rugged and beautiful backdrop of the badlands.

255.

Toni Barnett <tonibarnett@ndsupernet.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 2:11 PM

I have been to TRNP many times as I live South of Dickinson, North Dakota. Every time I venture into the park I am looking for the wild horses that live there. I get such a feeling of adventure and longing when I see the horses. I always have my camera (not my phone) with me so that I can get good pictures of the different bands.

I do plan on visiting the park again and do so every couple of months. Winter, spring, summer and my most favorite time, fall. I enjoy seeing the bison, but my main focus is the horses. Seeing them running free and interacting with the environment, along with the other wildlife is so interesting. To take them out of the park would be such a loss to all visitors to the park.

Thank you for reading.

Toni Barnett

New England, North Dakota

256.

George - Bonnie Overby <gboverby@hotmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 1:56 PM



Sugar, a scared little red roan filly, came home with me in October 2009. I hadn't really planned on buying at wild horse at an auction. The auction in Dickinson, North Dakota, was meant to be a fun event with a friend as a celebration of my birthday. It was also going to be a distraction from current events in Afghanistan where my husband was serving a year-long deployment with the National Guard. That autumn day turned out to be the beginning of some of my most beautiful experiences!

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A memory etched in my mind that still brings me goose-bumps is one of my first trips to the park. Our group rode east out of the horse camp in hopes of spotting a certain elusive stallion and his herd. Just when we were about to turn around and return to camp, an ethereal mane appeared just over a hilltop, about 60 yards in front of us. Could it be... a head popped-up and there he was, the majestic "Wind Canyon", his mane flowing above him! He and his small herd came out around the hill and circled us once. Then, just as quickly as they seemed to magically appear they eloquently disappeared. I think we all felt as if we had just had a spiritual experience.

The wild horses continue to be a draw for me to keep returning to TRNP. Since 2010, I no longer travel outside of North Dakota as I can think of no place I'd rather spend my summer vacation. It has been my pleasure to be able to volunteer with documentation teams helping to care for captured young horses at the holding pens while awaiting their owners. In the last 12 years I have visited the park up to 4 times a year often spending a week or more at a time as I return with family and friends.

Access to these horses and this park bring me back to my roots in rural North Dakota where I grew up on the solitude of the prairie riding my horse, smelling the aromatic sage brush, listening to the meadowlarks and killdeers and exploring nooks and crannies of the land. I am reminded of simpler times away from the daily stresses of my life as a nurse in an urban setting. A place I am able to draw close to God, renew my strength and find healing for my soul with the gentle spirit of the horses against the rugged and beautiful backdrop of the badlands.

257.

Randa Veazie <randaveazie@hotmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 2:38 PM

Hello,

My name is Randa and although I have never made it out there, I love the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Starting in March 2020, I started following many of the pages documenting and sharing these beautiful pieces of our history and park. The wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

My then 9 year old step-daughter and I fell in love, and learning more and more about these horses helped get us through some of the darkest times in our nation's history while I was also home with a newborn. We know the names, families and bands of these horses so well now in 2023. Our daughter has a book that shows every horse and their dad and sire. We've also purchased a calendar. Our now almost 3-year-old has toy horses that look like those in the park. We've yet to find one with the markings like Red Face or Roosevelt but we are still looking. We love seeing the foals named, each one is special. Watching for any sign that Boomer was surviving without his mom. Each loss in the park is felt deeply. Seeing how dedicated all of you are in tracking and documenting these horses. To us these horses are the main reason we are looking to take a vacation to the park in 2023.

Without those horses, the park will never be the same. Their numbers should be managed humanely. Taking these horses away would erase an important part of history and a vital tourist attraction for the area.

I've also researched and found that horses do not have as negative of an environmental impact on the land as previously thought, unlike cattle and other livestock.

<https://awionline.org/content/myths-and-facts-about-wild-horses-and-burros>

It is imperative that we keep these horses safe, and manage populations in a manner that doesn't negatively impact these herds.

If you'd like you can share this without my name attached.

Kind regards,

Randa

258.

Dixie Whitman <risingwolf1@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 2:40 PM

Dear Sir or Ma'am:

I lift my virtual pen today to add my name to those who wish to see the TRNP horses roam wild and free.

As a child of the 1950s, the National Park Service had yet to establish TRNP. So my family swooshed by on our trips westward. My husband and I first encountered the horses on a cross-country trip where we stumbled upon Theodore Roosevelt National Park on June 22, 2010. On the spur-of-the-moment, we detoured through Medora and took a late afternoon drive along a scenic loop that mesmerized us with stunning views and wildlife, including a small band of horses grazing near the roadside. What a moment!

That encounter motivates me to champion the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Whenever one of my friends travels in that direction, I always encourage them to visit and see some of the stunning vistas, flora, and of course, America's greatest fauna.

We love it so much that when I discovered Wild In North Dakota, I began to follow them on Facebook to reconnect, even virtually, with these amazing animals and a legacy of the old west.

Celebrating our 50th Wedding Anniversary this year, we hope to make a more leisurely trip west and spend more time with these magnificent creatures that we ask you to continue to protect and treasure as the legacy they are.

Thank you for your time.

Best regards,

Dixie Whitman

Dixie Whitman "A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words."

259.	<p>Personal <ndjules939@hotmail.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 10:14 PM</p> <p>My name is Julie Otto. Although I don't live in ND at this time I grew up in Dickinson and lived in that area for a large portion of my young adult life - never more than 70 miles from a park entrance. We took trips through the park regularly and felt lucky to live so close and be able to share in the park's beauty so often. On our never ending search for the animals in the park it was always a stroke of luck to find the horses - they were the elusive treasure we looked for the hardest. I follow the Wild in North Dakota page on Facebook so I can still see the horses running free which truly helps connect my soul back to the park and North Dakota.</p> <p>Growing up on a farm we had horses and I was riding by the time I was 5. My love for the animal itself runs deep. Being able to see the horses running free in the park is a vision I will never forget - such beauty; the true essence of freedom. I cannot imagine them not being in the park. I have been through the park with my parents, my grandparents, and have taken my own child through the park. We're talking four generations of visiting the park! I sincerely hope that when my son is lucky enough to take the 5th generation of our family through the park that the horses and other animals are still living free for them to see and enjoy.</p> <p>There has to be a plan possible that allows for all animals to be able to live there. A good management plan would control the size of the herd as they have been (through the adoption of these beautiful animals) as well as the removal to and introduction from other bands of horses living in other parks to control the inbreeding. What is not acceptable is the removal of the horses all together. This is not fair to the current and future generations of visitors and especially not fair to the animals.</p> <p>Thank you, Julie Otto</p>
260.	<p>lthares@valleytel.net <lthares@valleytel.net> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 11:59 PM</p> <p>Hi Jamie and Deb,</p> <p>My husband and I, live in South Dakota and when trying to find somewhere to go during summer of 2020, we decided to go to TRNP, as we heard about the Wild Horses. We had been to Rapid City and the Badlands, and the attraction of the horses, is what made the decision to go to North Dakota. I, myself, love to take pictures and my husband loves the outdoors. So we enjoyed trying to find the herds and then I would take many many pictures. We enjoyed the time at TRNP, so much, that we took 2 of our adult kids back there, later that summer.</p> <p>The horses are beautiful creatures of God's. They are a wonderful and unique attraction, that bring people to the Park. We hope to go back to the Park again this summer, and the only reason would be the Horses. I hope and pray they are there to see.</p> <p>Sincerely, Lynn Thares</p>

<p>261.</p>	<p>Kimberly Saul <kahsaul@yahoo.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 1:57 AM Reply-To: Kimberly Saul <kahsaul@yahoo.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>To whom it may concern, Please let these horses remain free with the help of the people who are concerned for them! I am Native American and these horses are a gift and a reminder of our culture and how this great country was built. They are a very important piece of our existence. We need them as much as they need us. Please protect them so that thousands of folks may someday visit them in their natural habitat including me . Exactly what Theodore Roosevelt intended for this Park! I too follow them on Facebook. I'm so grateful for the folks who go to great lengths to document and photograph these great and majestic spirits in their natural place ,where they have survived year upon year. Please let them thrive as they are in the natural habitat thanks for listening. Thank you, Kimberly Saul</p>
<p>262.</p>	<p>Patti Faloon <patti.faloon@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 5:21 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>To the people of North Dakota and the TRNP. I have never been to North Dakota; however, I am in awe of your beautiful horses. I am a 64 yr old woman from Maine who faithfully follows these extraordinary animals. I live in a State that has beautiful coasts, landscape, mountains, and our animals that attract tourist's. While some constantly complain about the tourist's, other's depend on them for their livelihood. There are lifelong Mainer's who also complain about the animals who help draw these visitor's to our beautiful state. Many times in my life I have taken rides on dirt roads to the north woods and Mt Katahdin area in hopes of seeing a big cat, bear, or a moose. Each time this happens I feel blessed that I live where I do. And if I head in the opposite direction I can sit and watch our beautiful coastline. On a really lucky day we may see seals or even a whale. It is also a bird lover's dream. We are truly blessed. I have a very dear friend of 50+ years who lives in ND. She shared with me different attractions of your beautiful State. One of these and most loved by me is your beloved TRNP horses. I follow these beautiful horses online faithfully. I have my directories and calendars and look often to quickly reference a specific stallion, mare, or foal line. She has asked me repeatedly to come for a visit. I would love to come and we've talked about what we would do when I come. Of course, TRNP is right on the top of the list. Your horses are a daily part of my life even though I've never actually had the pleasure of seeing them in person. I feel I know these gorgeous beings because I see them daily through the eyes of a camera and the stories attached from the beautiful lady's who share these magnificent creatures with those of us who aren't blessed to have seen them in person, but dream of someday fulfilling that dream. I truly hope that the efforts to save this park and the natural wildlife that called it home before it was a national park are successful. I pray that I am able to make it to your beautiful State before the people who are trying to destroy it succeed. Thank you for listening to me in trying to save the beautiful horses of TRNP. They have become a very positive part of my daily routine. Even though we are separated by many states I feel connected and look forward to pictures, video's, and writings about the magnificent horses and their history and also their future. Prayers.</p>

263.

Donna Riley <victoryaussies@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 9:51 AM

HELLO,

I would like to write to you and tell you the joy that following the updates and news about the TRNP wild horses brings to me .

Wild horses are very much a part of our world . This herd is an amazing source of education and the badlands history. They are part of the landscape and without them the TRNP would not be the same. In fact I'd really lose interest in visiting it to be honest.

For me the updates and education I get from following this herd of wild horses is huge . I look forward to the posts and photos . I look forward to meeting new friends through the others that follow the herd and comment on things . Often we engage in wonderful conversations centered around these horses the park and the landscape.

I am planning to visit the park in the next couple years specifically to hike and hope to see some of these animals specifically. If these horse are removed or harmed I will not have any desire to visit the park to be honest . It would leave a bitter taste in my mouth and a hole in my heart.

Please understand the value this herd of wild horses has to so many people and to the park itself. Please realize and respect the beauty they bring to TRNP and the many visitors that follow the herd online and travel to the park specifically in hopes to get a glimpse of these amazing wild horses. Please respect the fact that this is their home and that they belong to the land and the park and so many people that admire them.

Please allow this herd to live and reign free in TRNP.

Thank You

Donna Riley
[Victoryaussies@gmail.com](mailto:victoryaussies@gmail.com)
973 222 6183

264.

Renaë Abraham <renae.abraham@valleyexp.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 10:18 AM

Good Morning,

I am writing in response to the Wild Horses in TRNP.

Every time we go past Medora and TRNP on the interstate we are always scouring the landscape for the wild horses. If we see them, even from afar, it's major excitement every time.

I have been to the park a couple times. Every single time our goal is to see some horses. You always see the bison and while it's great they are there...they just aren't that exciting as the horses as you see so many of them. It gets to the point...oh, there's more bison. Yeah. But the horses....oh, boy. That is the ultimate goal. We were lucky enough to see a couple bands not far from each other a couple years ago and get some pictures. It was amazing to see these wild horses just out grazing and roaming in a natural setting. That was the highlight of the visit. I could have sat and watched them longer than we did, but we had to get to the musical. The way all the other cars were stopped and taking pictures it was obviously a highlight and huge attraction to many other park visitors as well. There was a traffic jam of cars and people stopping and taking pics and getting out of the cars to get better pics and to just stand and watch them. I saw more cars stopped watching these horses than I did any other attraction in TRNP.

I was there last fall camping at Roundup camp and riding horse in the park. I was so hoping to see the wild horses and we didn't see any that trip and it was such a disappointment. I still say, it was a great trip, but I wish we would have seen the wild horses. I kept hoping we would. We saw lots of bison, deer and an elk in the distance. I have heard of other trail riders that have come across the wild horses while riding in the park and they say it is just phenomenal to see them and watch them interact. That is still my goal as we do plan to take more trips to camp in the park in future. I really hope that I will have the opportunity to see these wild horses in future.

I also follow multiple social media accounts on the park and specifically the wild horses. It's interesting to hear about the bands and their history and which stallion has taken over which band. I enjoy hearing and seeing the pics when a baby is born and it's even heartbreaking when you hear of a baby or any horse passing on. It's part of life and educational to see and hear about these horses and how they live. It's great to see horses living like they used to in the past.

I even buy the book at the Medora C-store about the Wild horses when I pass through. I really do hope they continue to keep the wild horses in TRNP as it will be a huge mistake to get rid of them.

Renaë Abraham

<p>265.</p>	<p>Elaine Poole <elainepoole64@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 10:28 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Dear Sir / Madam I'm writing to implore you to keep the herds of wild horses on the badlands of north Dakota wild and free, for ever, as they have done long before you were born, they need to keep at least the same numbers if not more to remain viable and not cross breed into extinction. . These horses have no voice and so here I am pleading with you from Devon England to save these most noble wild horses who do only good to the environment unlike farm animals. These mustangs are pretty much indigenous as new evidence is leading towards and have certainly lived wild for centuries May I kindly point to the fact that America would be no where if it wasnt for the millions of horses who were used until modern machinery took over. So even horses proven to be descendants of tame horses have long since earned their precious freedom and right to live their lives free from guns and other barbaric ways that some have been rounded up and sent to slaughter. These beautiful creatures are the american people symbols along with the Golden Eagles of freedom. Many peoples from all over the world, travel to see them and watch them in the wild, in a habitat that supports them very well, with awe and wonder Please take the public's love for these precious and beloved wild horses into great consideration Your sincerely Elaine Poole (Ms.)</p>
<p>266.</p>	<p>sue newland <snewland@hotmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 10:39 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>This is insane,,, I was born in Stanley, N.D. In 1955, my father worked the first oil bomb at that time, we lived in Stanley as well in Tioga during those years. As a child we made many trips a year to Dunn County which is where my Uncle and his family lived and farmed. It's one of my greatest memories riding through the badlands and admire the wild horses, I Loved them then and still do keep up on them horses through 2 of the FB Groups, I find it both interesting and informative as they share their photos and their knowledge of the goings on with Badlands Wild Horses! I do not live in N. D. now, but visit when I can and still watch for them horses, they are a sight to behold and your willing to destroy that pleasure we've enjoyed for years! This plan is not in the interest of those Horses! So why destroy something people have looked forward to for decades because of someones crazy notion? It's time to give it up and move on to something more Productive and give the wild horses the life they deserve! Thank you for your time and I'm looking forward to seeing those horses Summer 2023 Sincerely, Sue Wyman</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>

267.

Patricia Longo <diggers1991@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: Patricia Longo <diggers1991@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 11:44 AM

Hello I am just a person who has been in love with wild and domestic horses since my childhood n I'll turn 70 this month. These horses bring so much joy to our world. I myself have not gotten to visit TRNP yet; however, I follow 2 different Facebook pages to enable me to see them. Everyday I look forward to the joy of the photos that the 2 women post for our enjoyment. The pages are Dakota Grown Photos and Wild in North Dakota. These dedicated women follow and document the herds located in TRNP and share that information willingly for more than just enjoyment they also do it to be informative to the happenings of the herds and their treatment and whenever there is a possibility of auctions to help save these horses. To reduce TRNP to no livestock would be absolutely devastating. Please reconsider alternative methods to help save and preserve the magnificent wild horses in TRNP.

I thank you in advance for any assistance in keeping the wild horses of TRNP. As I mentioned I haven't been able to reach TRNP yet but I was extremely fortunate 7 years ago in my 1st year of retirement to travel solo to visit the Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary located in South Dakota for a private 3 hour tour. It was the most incredible experience in my lifetime to finally observe and be up close to Wild Mustangs. I cherish that experience to this day so please I ask again do not reduce TRNP to no livestock.

Sincerely,
Patricia Longo
A concerned citizen for the preservation of our Wild Horses

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

268.

Roxanne Westman <Roxiesplacephotography@hotmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 11:45 AM

As a resident of North Dakota and a long time visitor to TRNP, there is a lot of personal pride in our National Park in North Dakota allowing a home for these wild horses. North Dakota doesn't have huge majestic mountains or oceans or wild streams or beautiful lakeshores, but we do have the Wild horses! Many hours have been spent watching these beautiful horses in nature; the mares with their new foals, the yearlings shaking things up with their mock fighting and my favorite, the wild stallions fighting for their rights to the herd. Where else can you experience nature like this, without traveling hundreds of miles!

I am a nature/landscape photographer who travels throughout North Dakota displaying and selling my photography, many images of the badlands, at Art/Craft shows and when customers see my images of Theodore Roosevelt National park/North Dakota badlands, they love to stop and share their experience of seeing the wild horses out in nature. For instance: how many horses they saw, their location in the park. You can just see the joy on their face when they talk about their experiences or what horses they saw. I believe that most people, familiar with TRNP, when they hear Theodore Roosevelt National park mentioned, they automatically think about the wild horses.

The Wild Horses are a huge draw for the Theodore Roosevelt National park, and my personal opinion is that the attendance of the park would drop dramatically. These horses bring no harm to the environment and should be allowed to remain in the park.

Roxanne Westman
Roxie's Place Photography
Mapleton, ND

269.

Kim Scoville <kscoville0015@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 11:48 AM

I'm writing this email to remind you that these horses are a very important part of History. The removal or reducing their numbers to very few is like rewriting or erasing History and quite frankly I think there has been a lot of that lately. People have the need to do what they think is best and listen to others who think they know what is best. If you stop and listen to others who have been there for years and years and have documented the horses you will see they have been there longer than most people think. They have been on their own and have survived through it all for all those years without people stepping in, so why now do you feel the need to step in and remove History? Please listen to the people who are fighting for the horses and understand why we want them to stay in the park for everyone to see for years to come and beyond. I will continue to fight for their future to be free and wild as they have been for all these years. Please do not take their rights away.

believer... Sincerely a let them be wild and free

270.

Elke <sojourner.ok@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 11:49 AM

We encountered these wild horses on our visit to TRNP - it was a wonderful and memorable experience and the park in my mind became synonymous with wild horses that day. They are very much part of the picture, and clearly an inspiration to many people. We have enjoyed following their lives virtually for several years now. We hope they are always treasured and permitted to remain wild, living, in the park.

Elke Edwards, Norman, OK

271.

Donald Green <dgreenassoc@comcast.net>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 12:05 PM

Before I can hardly even remember there were trips to North Dakota to visit my relatives. The excitement of finally leaving eastern Montana and reaching the North Dakota Badlands has been etched in my memories. My parents were beyond excited to see the buttes and canyons. Why? My dad was from Texas with the forever flat land and Mom was from North Dakota. They loved the colors and the wildness. Stories were made up over the years while we traveled and nothing better than bringing the Wild West alive 'in our minds and in the car'! Then to see the very first buffalo and the very first wild horse! I want everyone to have this experience today and forever.

Our 26th president Teddy Roosevelt also wanted us to have this experience of the outdoors and thus his Conservation Legacy came to be and the development of national parks. He knew that being outdoors and seeing our country was good for the soul.

Visiting this part of the world (just as important as visiting the Everglades, Grand Canyon, Glacier Park, etc) is experiencing and learning about all of the differences in this part of our world, the United States.

Taking away the Wild Horses in TRNP....please don't. If You start dissecting pieces out of the park we lose the total effect, the total experience, our culture, our Heritage. Do we take a coloring book and only color part of the page...no. We color the entire page to experience the whole picture.

Part of what I have read is that the horses are classified as livestock. The Webster definition of livestock is "farm animals" regarded as an asset for agricultural 'market'. The wild horses are not livestock. They are a creature the same as the buffalo, the wolves, elk, etc. in Yellowstone we saw the wolves dissipated from the park and then had to be placed on Endangered Species Act. Do we have to keep re-establishing everything? No we do not.

There is a plan in place now for the management of the wild horses in TRNP and in other areas of the United States. Let the plan be or refine the plan. Just don't do away with the horses because it seems a burden.

Keep alive the history and legacies of our Indian warriors, the wild horses, the beauty of our park. Let's keep making memories. Let's keep the park full of color.....the buttes, canyons, buffalo, elk, and wild horses.....let it live on as it was meant to be. As Teddy Roosevelt wanted it to be.

Sent from Sue's iPad

<p>272.</p>	<p>Marna Schulz <marna_schulz@me.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 12:07 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Please don't remove the wild horses from the park. Anytime I get the chance to drive thru the park they are the most beautiful things I watch for and look forward to seeing.</p> <p>Sent from my iPad</p>
<p>273.</p>	<p>Lori Swanson <ljswanson@pioneerpress.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 12:33 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>During Covid for my 60th birthday, my sister and sister-in-law took our horses to Theodore Roseville National Park (from MN) to see the wild horses. It was a trip of a life time. We were lucky enough to see a band of wild horse and Circus one of the bachelor stallions. I wrote a story for the travel section for the Saint Paul Pioneer Press and TwinCities.com (link below).</p> <p>My impression of visitors at the park were more excited to see the horse than the buffalos. They horse bring a smile on everyone face. They are beautiful animals living in the wild - where else can you enjoy something like this. Keep the for our children enjoy. Leave them there so history can live on gracefully.</p> <p>Lori Swanson</p> <p>https://www.twincities.com/2020/09/05/where-to-throw-a-60th-birthday-bash-in-the-time-of-corona-the-badlands-good-idea/</p>

<p>274.</p>	<p>Kay Sakaris <sakakay@icloud.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 12:45 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>To Whom it May Concern:</p> <p>I follow all of the Social Media accounts pertaining to the beautiful Wild Horses of Theodore Roosevelt Park.</p> <p>While I am not sure I will ever be able to visit there in person as I am a disabled senior citizen, I live vicariously on the photo and stories of these beautiful horses. Every morning I eagerly look at Facebook to see what's new at TNRP. There are so many favorite horses, but my heart belongs to Boomer, the foal colt whose mother died shortly after he was born. He faced so many hardships but with the love and protection of his band he is thriving and will grow up to be a beautiful adult stallion. His whole band pitched in to help raise him. This is a testament to the fact that horses have love for their families, just as we do. I look every single day to get another glimpse of how Boomer is growing up and how he's doing.</p> <p>Please don't take the horses away from us. I am not the only one who loves to see them, even if by a distance. They are beloved worldwide. I can't imagine Teddy Roosevelt wanting this herd to be eliminated. This Park was his vision. Please don't destroy it!</p> <p>Thank you, Kay Sakaris</p>
<p>275.</p>	<p>Mona Dagestad <mona.dagestad@yahoo.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 1:28 PM Reply-To: Mona Dagestad <mona.dagestad@yahoo.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>I have been coming to TRNP for some time now. We used to come to the horse camp with our horses. My favorite feature in the park is the horses and second is the scenery/terrain. If the park no longer has the horse I will probably find other scenic parks to visit. My husband told me he would probably disourse my ashes there as that seems to be mt happy place.</p> <p>I would be very disappointed to hear the horses were gone. We need to do a better job when controlling number of foals born mithin the park.</p> <p>Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android</p>

276.

Judy P <jsunnysis@yahoo.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 3:47 PM

To the committee deciding the fate of our wild horses. That's right, I call them "our" wild horses. I know you have the best fate for TRNP in mind but our wild horses have become TRNP and American national treasures. I have seen the beauty of them running free and I believe our anthem, home of the brave and the free doesn't just relate to humans, but to the animals that live with us.

Please, please don't take away their freedom! Visitors, like myself, love to visit the park specifically to see them and my heart feels the freedom they stand for.

Thank you!

Judith Parins

278.

Erin Phillips <erinannaphillips@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 4:14 PM

Hello Ms. Baldanza! Here's my story:

"Ever since I can remember, I've loved horses. I had as many horse figurines as I could when I was little, got my first "real" horse at seven, and started a mustang and burro rescue at seventeen. I have spent the majority of my free time for the last five years advocating for mustangs and burros and educating the public. That is just how much they mean to me.

I have never been to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. But I will be - as long as there are wild horses. I LOVE wild horses. Wild horses are the epitome of freedom and family. They are beautiful, proud, and loyal to their families. In 2020, I spent roughly the same amount of time with elk and bison in Yellowstone as I did with wild horses in Montana. As much as I love all of the wildlife I saw, I had a closer connection with the wild horses - they became my friends. Not many species of wild animals are followed and beloved enough to have names, but hundreds of wild horses do!

The first time I saw pictures of the TRNP wild horses, I was amazed at the various colors and how well the horses fit into the environment! These horses are truly special animals, and without them, the park would lose much of its value. I look forward to visiting TRNP someday and seeing the wild horses that helped give purpose and meaning to Theodore Roosevelt's life of conservation."

Thank you so much for all you are doing for the TRNP horses!

Erin Phillips
Founder | Mustang Mission | Fundraiser
Photographer | Nature Art | Store
Volunteer Coordinator | The Cloud Foundation
"The earth is the Lord's." Psalm 24:1

279.

Leanne Deptula <leanneud@yahoo.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 5:14 PM

In September 2022 I had the pleasure of visiting Theodore Roosevelt National Park with my mom and sister on a 2 week road trip - taking in the beauty of MT, ND, SD, and WY. What a blessing it was to be able to see the wild horses at Theodore Roosevelt National Park at sunset. Just absolutely magical beauty. We could've stared for hours. I hope that we can preserve these wild horses so that other people can experience such majestic beauty in the wild.



280.	<p>Kacey Sykora <kmtomchuk1@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 7:25 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>I love going hiking and seeing the horses. I have grown up in SW ND and seeing horses in the park is part of the natural wonder, beauty, and pride. The park would not be the same without them.</p>
281.	<p>Tiss Johnson <tiss81@hotmail.com> Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 8:53 PM To: "Info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <Info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p>

THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK

My first visit to the park was in 2014. My friend wanted me to see his “Happy Place”, the place he went when he wanted to “get away” from cattle or just to get away.

He loves to drive 80 miles to look at the wild horses and the scenery of the park.

On this, my first visit, we spotted a horse who was coming down to drink from the river. Later learning that this particular horse, was named Circus. So, he is one of my favorite horses in the park. And if he makes this hard long winter, he is the oldest stallion in the park.

As we continued to visit the park over the years. I would take my camera and take pictures of the horses. On one particular trip, we came across some other photographers, and I became friends with Deb Lee Carson and Lyle Glass. Deb told me that to get closer pictures from afar, I needed a bigger lens, so my friend bought me a 600 mm lens to fit my camera. And I have taken a lot of really nice pictures of the horses. Cocoa was another of my favorite horses and I have some really nice pictures of him.

As my friend calls me Sweetheart, Sweetheart the horse became another favorite and I have a really cool picture of her with her colt Rocky Mountain and a buffalo rolling in the background.

I follow several others, who also take pictures of the horses and keep track of what is going on in the park.

As a person who grew up around horses, I have some knowledge of the domestic horse. Wild horses are a bit different. But they are still horses and I feel they draw people to the park. Yes, the park is beautiful with all the different rocks, trees, etc. But being able to see

wild horses, in their environment is exciting too. To see them interact with one another.

I do understand that you can't have the herds getting out of hand with size, as to the size of the park, but there are other animals that need to be controlled too. The prairie dogs are taking over the park and ruining the landscape. I have prairie dogs on my own ranch, and I try to control them as best I can, not let them move in and take over. Grazing land does not need holes all over it.

I also feel that in removing the horses from this park, you will lose a lot of the people, local and from afar, who come to look for and at the wild horses. I know there are a lot of local people who drive to the park at least once or twice week, if not more, to check up on and see how the bands are doing and what changes they have made.

I feel that if the horses are removed from the park, that my friend and I will not be returning to the park. It has become our second home away from home, to enjoy the horses and have a day away from the ranch.

Sincerely;

Esther Johnson

282.



Family Works

to me ▼

📧 Thu, Jan 12, 10:51 PM (4 days ago)

My husband and I have been going to TRNP at least one time a year for the past 5 years. TRNP is one of the few places I know I can count on seeing wild horses so I can sit with them, observe them, and photograph them. We always stay in Medora and my husband loves to golf nearby while I travel the park roads from sunrise to sunset looking for the horses. I have traveled all over the US to photograph wild horses. I have been to 14 of the 17 or so states that have wild horses. TRNP is by far one of the easiest to find the horses and its beauty provides stunning backdrops for these beautiful horses. This is by far one of my favorite places to continue my quest for photographing wild horses. Often people will ask me for my opinion where they should go to find wild horses. TRNP is always the first I tell them about. The horses can be found from the car so it is family friendly for the younger kids and the older adults. The horses is the only reason I keep going back. The park would not be the same without this species of wildlife. Beauty is great but to me, the wildlife amidst the beauty is a rare gift, one that draws in all lovers of nature, wildlife, and their historical ties to the land. What TRNP has is truly remarkable. Teddy Roosevelt knew that and those who are avid nature lovers know it too. Over the years as I have photographed these horses, I have had many interesting and, exciting for me, adventures. One of the best times I had was photographing who I had learned is referred to as 'Gray Ghost.' His body showed his age and the wear and tear of fighting battles and staying alive. During this period of time while photographing him, I came to a deep realization of just how enduring these horses are! They must endure weather onslaughts, natural predators, and battles with other horses. Every bit of their behavior is driven by the instinct to survive. What impressed me the most was the weight of what they endure yet manage to win, to stay alive! That deeper realization has stayed with me and bled into other areas of my life, impacting me in ways that are all good. During one trip I found a beautiful blue roan stallion wearing unusual facial markings, standing in front of a beautiful backdrop.



After posing for me to get the shots I wanted, he ran off to trail Gray Ghost. Nearby, I saw the older white stallion (Gray Ghost) I had been photographing. He looked injured, a gash in his

flank, and moved slowly. The blue roan stallion followed him. Wherever Gray Ghost parked himself the blue roan was always nearby. I stayed with Gray Ghost for nearly 6 hours. I observed him, studied him, photographed him, talked to him. I didn't know the real story of Gray Ghost or the blue roan. I didn't know Gray Ghost would be found dead 2 months after I spent that day with him. But as I spent time with him I suspected he was at death's door. He looked beaten up and beaten down. That experience had such an impact on me, shaping my attitude about survival, deepening my understanding and appreciation for the fragility of life, and expanding my admiration of wildlife. I have to think Teddy Roosevelt had many such experiences that culminated in the creation of the park.



It was sad to me during the trips to follow this one, to not see him anymore. I learned much about these horses from the annual book published about the horses. I still love learning about the horses and making friends with many other fans of them. The wild horses are what draws me to TRNP. I would have no interest in the investment of time and money to make a trip there if there are no wild horses to photograph, learn about, observe and make new friends with other fans of the wildies.

Sincerely, Jan Trabue

283.

Karen Guthmueller <abccde6d@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 10:21 PM

There is nothing more exciting when you are driving thru the park and come across a group of horses..so exciting to see them as it was years gone by..please don't take this away from us and future generations.
Karen Guthmueller Grantsburg WI

284.

Kathy Lee <kayosandhavo@gmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 10:32 AM

In 2016 I retired from my job. I traveled a lot for work but not much for personal pleasure. My sister, a school teacher, used her summers to see the country. She invited me on a trip to see some sights in the Dakotas. I went along for the ride. She asked me what I wanted to see. I thought for just a minute and said Theodore Roosevelt National Park. She said what's there ? I said wild horses.

I have always loved horses. I have never had the opportunity to have a horse but I took every opportunity to ride or care for other people's horses.

I was first introduced to the plight of wild horses in a book about Wild Horse Annie when I was a young girl. I have had a place for these wild ones in my heart ever since. Why is it that they are constantly under fire? What gain is there in eliminating them? They have been running wild and free on this land for centuries. They are as much a part of the ecosystem as the bison or elk.

My sister and I arrived at TNRP early in the morning. She was not excited. I was. We saw every kind of wild animal that helped shape the west. The horse herds were spectacular. At the end of our time she said this ended up being the best part of our trip. We actually returned the following morning at daybreak for one last visit. She said we must come back again. We are planning a trip for this next summer to see the horses. Without the horses there is no reason to return.

These horses are an integral part of this park. They have lived there for centuries. They cause no harm. Leave them be. Manage them humanely but leave the the wild ones in the wild places.

Respectfully,

Kathy Lee

--

Kathy

285.

Jill Robertson <jillrobertson010@gmail.com>
To: Jamie And Deb <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 12:36 PM

I have never personally been to TRNP.... But I know all about it and follow many photographers and FB groups made just for the Wild Ones as I like to call them.... My love of horses started when I was just a young girl... Then I always dreamed of owning and being best friends with a Mustang... My favourite breed of horse, Pure Black and Black and White are the colours I have always dreamed about..... When I think about or I am asked about my love of horses it is a Pure Black Mustang Stallion I picture in my head.... TRNP is the very first FB group I started to follow when I discovered I could see and learn about the Wild Ones, I loved the fact that I could follow along with the Wild ones and not be saddened by having to see that the BLM or the US government was rounding them up with those absolute disgusting cruel helicopters, there were at peace and could always run free and stay wild and they were safe living in TRNP and I was absolutely amazed that I could see pictures and videos and learn about the Wild Ones by loving, caring devoted people.... See I live in Midland Ontario Canada 🇨🇦 and unable to see these absolute majestic, beautiful, soulful creatures in person so following the ones I can was a thrill of a life time, and knowing I could probably follow the lives of some of these Mustangs from foal to adult to their end was so thrilling and a dream come true.... Now I know some of the foals are removed and find loving forever homes and I do understand why this happens, although this saddens me I do know it is something that needs to happen to help them flourish and thrive in the safety of the Park.... I have always been so proud and at peace with the way the park takes care of, and documents, and makes sure every single Wild One is thriving, along with the groups that tell their stories , take many many pictures and videos, who are so knowledgeable about each individual Wild One.... Who take the time to name them and notice personalities, know who mother is, who father is, siblings etc. I am proud to say I follow along with you all... TRNP turned me on to a whole new world of the Wild Ones.... Without them living their I would not know all I know today, I would not have my dream come true, I would not know all about my absolute favourite Mustang of all time "Circus" I wouldn't have even known he existed at all.... I would not have the pictures and videos of him (and many others) that bring much needed smiles to my face every time I log on to FB, and trust me those smiles I get are needed in my life more then words can describe.... Following these absolutely beautiful majestic has changed my life drastically for the better, for seeing these Mustangs and knowing that I will never have to see them being rounded up like so many others (which just disgusts me and makes me so angry and so sad and so frustrated with the BLM and the US government) brought peace of mind and joy to my soul and heart I can't wait to get on FB and see what's up with, oh let me see, Sidekick, Coal, Spotted Blue, Ember's Girl, Brutus, Circus(when he shows his amazing self) Red Face and the many others.... They are so at peace, I am at peace knowing they will always be safe, wild and free living in TRNP.... Well that is until now anyways.... Does your government not remember what the Horse is to all us human beings, what they have done for us, how they brought us into the future, how they gave themselves to allow us the freedom to travel easier and quicker, how many gave their lives beside your soldiers, how without them we wouldn't know anything about the famous "Horsepower" of our now transportation, how they are happy, free, wild not bothering anyone, not asking for anything, not depending on anyone for food, shelter etc.... How they are not costing anyone one red cent????? How TRNP wouldn't be the park it is without Thier choosing to live out their lives within the Parks boundaries, how many people wouldn't even know or care to know the park itself, and do they not even think about or acknowledge the money they actually bring the local towns and the probably the Park itself with the visitors that only go to see the Wild Ones the photographers that travel to the park for the soul reason to document and photograph the wild ones, they all need to eat somewhere, lay their heads somewhere, that all brings in revenue that a portion goes to the government, nope instead they want you tax payers, pay to take care of them, feed them, round them up..... Makes no sense to me..... Discombobulating if you ask me..... Just the pure joy the Wild Ones bring to people, they make many people's lives better, happier, more adventurous just being in the Park.... I know I was to write a story, I don't have just one story to write I have my reason for following and loving TRNP and believing in them and thanking them everyday for not being like so many other places the Wild Ones call home(or did call home) I loved the fact that other then being saddened by a death of one of the Wild Ones their would be no. Other reason for me to be sad, or angry, or frustrated and mad that I can only do so much from here in Canada to help them.... I could just peacefully watch, learn and enjoy them.... TRNP was the one place I could be at peace with and along side the Wild Ones.... Now that is being threatened and lam at a loss for words, I am disappointed that this is even being thought of, lam worried for all the parks Wild Ones, lam frustrated with your government and their way of thinking, handling and total disregard and disrespect and lack of Caring for the one animal that gave us so much, brought us into the future we now know.. They need to re think their logic here bck off and leave all the Wild Ones in TRNP to Thier peaceful, not bothering anyone lives..... I don't know where I would get smiles from or be able to be at peace and fill my heart with joy and beauty and majestic loving souls. I stand behind all the Wild Ones in the park and across the USA.... Keep them thriving, keep them wild and free, leave them to their simple peaceful family oriented lives..... From here in Midland Ontario Canada 🇨🇦

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion.... Praying this and all the other stories, emails have a huge impact and the right thing is done....The Wild Ones remain as are in TRNP.....

JILL ROBERTSON
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360 Borden Street
Midland Ontario Canada
L4R 2X2
DOI-BLM-WY-R020-2023-0003-EA

286.

Jodi Bock <jodi.bock@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 12:51 PM

I am writing in regards to the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt Park. I have been following the wild horses for years on Facebook and to be honest, I closed my Facebook account and then opened one under a pseudo name just to follow them. We also have been to the park to see them and it's the only reason we go there. The bison are OK, but I would never make a trip there to see them. I also realize there is a lot of other wildlife in the park, but most of them are elusive and you never see them. The horses deserve a place in the park and if they are removed completely I see no reason I would ever visit the park again. I also, understand, that there has to be some plan in place to control their numbers. By following the Facebook sites, I have seen that there are many other parks that have great plans in place that are working. I wonder why they aren't checked into and implemented in the TRP. Please, please keep these beautiful animals in the park, these horses aren't livestock, they were born wild and have shown that they can survive on their own. I know you consider them livestock because they are not native to the state, but truly the bison you have are not the original native bison either, they have been planted there from domesticated herds. The park is big and has room for all the horses, bison and other wildlife with good plans put in place, please take the time and find and research such plans. I'm asking that you please keep the horses in the park, I feel your park visitors will greatly decrease if they are removed.

Sincerely,
Jodi Bock

287.

Pat Young <PatriciaJoYoung@aol.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 1:07 PM

Hi Deb and Jamie,

Thank you for fighting for the horses at TRNP. I've been meaning to sit down and tell my experience there, but it's just been really hard and discouraging. It's yet another battle that shouldn't have to be fought. F'ing politics where there shouldn't be, can't start on that, argh.

It feels like it won't help, but here's my story. I love you both for what you are doing.

Pat

The first time I visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park was in 2014. My family had traveled from Minnesota to Dickenson, ND for a baseball tournament. We were looking for something to do to pass some time between games. TRNP seemed like it might be just the thing. We arrived there not knowing a thing about the park. Words cannot express the joy and excitement we felt at finding out there were wild horses there! We were short of time that day, but I knew that I needed to find out more. And I knew that I needed to return.

Since that initial trip in 2014, to learn more, I have found and follow several social media groups that highlight the wild horses. I've attended two photography workshops there, one in 2017 and one in 2018, with hopes to do more. The opportunity to see these beautiful animals living wild and free is beyond priceless. It's a chance to learn about wild horses living in natural herds and family units. It's seeing horses that are thriving without the interference of humans. It's a place to study wild horse behavior to help understand domestic horse behavior. They represent the romance and intrigue of taming the Wild West. It's a location where young and old can get a glimpse of our history, ask questions and have an idea of what our ancestors faced when settling in our great Country. Understanding that history is crucial to shaping our future. What a gift to have these horses protected in a location that is accessible to all!

Following the 2017 workshop, our leader asked if we would share a few thoughts regarding our experience. This is what I shared at the time:

"The beautiful scenery - the rugged terrain, the weather, the sunrises and sunsets - the people, the herds of bison, and the wild horses all played an important part in the weekend I spent at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. But for me, it was the wild horses that left the most lasting images in my mind and in my camera.

The powerful band stallions, the bachelors, and the mares were all breathtakingly beautiful. They each have their own battles, hardships, and struggles to survive wild and free. Getting a glimpse into their lives was captivating, inspiring, and heartbreaking all rolled into one.

That being said, it was the littlest foals that left the biggest impression on me and truly captured my heart. New lives that haven't been touched by the hardships of survival yet. Fuzzy spring babies that haven't seen many humans. They only know about naps in the soft grass in the sunshine, warm milk from their mamas,

romping with friends, and learning how to make those long legs go in the right direction. We got to see them before their curiosity turned into the wariness they will need to survive.

What a precious gift. I don't know the name of the foal in my favorite photograph, but for now I'm calling him Little Toot."

~Pat Young

(I used a long lens and cropped to bring this wee one closer in for the viewer.)

Hearing that there are discussions about drastically reducing the numbers and potentially removing these horses from the park has left me feeling heartsick. They are a National Treasure. They represent generations of our past. They need to be protected for our future generations at all costs.

Thank you for listening.

Pat Young

Minnesota



288.

Squarespace <form-submission@squarespace.info>
Reply-To: barrie@bitstream.net
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 1:19 PM

Sent via form submission from [Wild Lands Wild Horses](#)

Name: Barrie E Smeeth

Email Address: barrie@bitstream.net

Subject: Nokota horses

Message: To Jamie and Deb,

Please consider maintaining the wild horse herd which roams in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. These Nokota Horses are a primary resource within this park, along with the land formations and the buffalo. My husband and I discovered TRNP in 2002 or 2003 when we traveled from Minneapolis to Seattle. We had driven Hwy 2 before but had never stopped to see the park, and we were so delighted to find this treasure in our country!

On our first visit we simply drove the loop road in the southern section. It was early morning, a "swing through" the park before continuing our trip westward, and we were treated to the early stirring of the park's various creatures. The prairie dogs and hawks, some deer and a coyote pouncing on his breakfast - just outside our car window...We had driven through a large herd of buffalo before ascending and my husband commented, "Wouldn't it be amazing if we saw some horses also?" Moments later we rounded a bend to see before us, seven silhouetted horses single-filing along the ridge. It was breath taking. An absolute gift in the beginning of our day's journey. We planned to return to visit again one day.

Which we did! Twice! We camped alongside the Little Missouri River in TRNP and it was one of our favorite camping experiences ever. Groups of buffalo and wild horses crossed the river several times, right near our tent. We horseback rode, hiked, swam, photographed and explored the park (both the northern and southern sections), an exceptional area of land in our country. It is difficult to imagine Theodore Roosevelt National Park without the horses. The herd carries unique colorations with many blue and red roans and overo pintos, and contributes immensely to the park's attraction. There are few places in our country where visitors can view and even mingle a bit with horses living as these do in their natural habitat. I certainly hope a way can be found to maintain the viability of this unique feature of our North American west.

Warmly,
Barrie Smeeth

289.

Sharon Magnuson <smagnuson1026@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 2:09 PM

My name is Sharon Magnuson, I grew up on a farm in the middle of Kansas lucky enough to have an Appaloosa mare but far from the lands that were home to wildies I loved so much. Without the existence of the internet in the 1980's my only connection I had to them was my beloved wild horse books, I read every Fury (wild stallion) book so many times I wore them out. I first discovered Picasso, the stunning stallion famous to the Sand Wash Basin in Colorado on Facebook and began following that herd on various pages until they came under threat from the very Bureau that was supposed to be there to protect them. The fight to save them was waged and lost and it was so disgusting to watch those regal proud mustangs rounded up and culled. Many foals died in the process, lost or trampled, unable to keep up with the inhumane helicopter used to run them down mercilessly. In the following days and weeks we were able to celebrate tiny victories as we were able to cheer for each horse that was lucky enough to survive the cull, released back into the land they loved lost without any connection to their band, their family and loved ones. The stallions running out bewildered and worried about their band of mares and foals they spent their lives protecting. It was devastating. I found Deb Lee Carson's page through Blaze who was in my mind an equally stunning and regal stallion to Picasso and discovered the North Dakota Badlands herd who I also began following in recent years through various Facebook pages and I truly fell in love with them. It was a sad day the passing of Blaze was announced but at least we knew he lived his best life and died free. With all the roan patterns so common to their coloring that so beautifully mimick the beautiful colors of the wild lands they call home I find them to be the most unique and stunning herd I have come across and vowed to visit in person and spend time with them. Last summer I made a quick trip to Deadwood South Dakota and Custer State Park and while it was very cool to learn the history of and to engage with the wild burros in Custer I was very disappointed that time did not allow me to make it up to see the horses. I vowed to make another trip up to TRNP exclusively for the horses very soon thinking they would be there waiting for me and now to know that I may have missed my chance is devastating. I can assure you if these horses are removed (such a benign word for slaughtered) North Dakota will not be receiving a dime of this tax payers money. These horses represent a living history of our past and the development of our country and it would be a disgrace if they aren't there for us and future generations to be able to visit and dream wistfully of the peace of simpler times. I won't even get into the politics of it as that would be another long and much angrier rant but I pray that we don't continue down this path of removing every reminder of how this country was built and the animals that helped build it. I have often hoped that after I retired I would have a chance to buy some land and adopt my own piece of living history, a TRNP horse, so I hope that opportunity doesn't die or more aptly is killed.. 😞

Sincerely a wistful, history loving, horse loving, proud American

Sent from my iPhone

290.

sandy hansen <schansen1@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 2:36 PM

What better way to honor the park's namesake than to have wild horses running free in its borders? These horses represent the American Spirit, surviving and thriving in some of the harshest conditions found in the United States. There are 70,000 acres in Theodore Roosevelt National Park - there is more than enough room for the small bands running wild and thrilling park visitors. Please allow them to stay and add to the park history in a positive way.

Sandy Hansen
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schansen1@yahoo.com

291.

Elias Free <eliasdfree@gmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 12:07

Hi,

I thought I would send you a copy of what I have sent to Theodore Roosevelt National Park:

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 53 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 & Grace Free

<p>292.</p>	<p>silverfoxes2227@outlook.com <silverfoxes2227@outlook.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 6:08 AM</p> <p>To whom it may concern, My email is in regards to the Wild herd of Horses living freely in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I myself am a keen equestrian here in Scotland UK, I stand a APHA stud colt. I have followed this herd of wild horses for a long time now. I enjoy following the individual horses and how they live, interact and move around the national park in their bands. It's beautiful to follow and watch, especially coming from a country where our own governments opinion is virtually non existent on our depleting number of wild horses, which is still dwindling. Obviously I don't share your heritage being English, but seeing how the National Park is carefully managed with horses being an integral part of that eco system, and how proud, protective and loyal the vast majority of the human population are in regards to the continued preservation of the horses is nothing more than extraordinary. I cannot understand why anyone would fight to disrupt this. To remove something that is loved far beyond the bounds of the national park. I know there are a large population of followers of these horses in the UK alone. These horses don't owe people anything, nor do they cause any harm. I expect they also bring in visitors from afar, which financially helps surrounding businesses. Equestrians all over the world travel thousands of miles to see wild horses. Hopefully I will make the trip one day. Here in the UK native horses have recently started to be used in regeneration programmes, where herds historically roamed before being wiped out. These natural grazing practices are being reintroduced, the impact of the horses moving across the terrain, the grazing habit and natural behaviours have impacted greatly already. Wildlife around these reserves here in the UK have flourish, more so small animals. Studies can be found easily online. We have no large predators in the UK, but I suspect that the horses will be a benefit also in the natural food chain. Please don't make the stupid mistake our own government and societies made, they gave horses a backseat and almost treated them as pests on the land. In reality they were assets to the eco system when carefully managed. I believe there is deep regret in this now looking back. It would be a really shame to remove the wild horses. The Equestrian world is an immense population. These horses, and many other wild horses are loved by millions. Thankyou for reading, I hope this helps the cause. Sally</p>
<p>293.</p>	<p>Nikki Bohn <snirt013@gmail.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 6:39 AM</p> <p>Since 2009, my friend and I grabbed our daughters and set out to see TRNP. Never being there before, it would be a adventure, and only living 200 miles away, why not. Our first stop was the Painted Canyon, OMG so breath taking, how could something be so beautiful, peaceful, and magnificent and only 200 miles away. Needless to say, we have been going out there ever since things have changed a little kids have grown up with there own families and they are bringing there kids out to see what we saw. The first time we ventured into the park, the loop was under construction for repairs so we only saw a few horses, but we all fell in love with watching and seeing the horses. Many times in two days we went out to see just the Horses, watch them run, just peacefully graze, little ones sleeping or frolicking around, I could go on and on. With thousands of pictures from Old Fashion snapshot to the digital age. Even took Senior pictures with the horses in the background. Now with the potential of removing the horses, my Grandkids might never enjoy taking their kids to the Park, so sad. Yes there are other wonderful animals out there, don't get me wrong, but a lot of the wildlife are out of sight, because that is their instinct to hide in daylight hours. I love the buffalo traffic jams, but the horses are always different, new foals, with so many different patterns and colors, the stallions, fighting for their mares. Now if horses are removed totally removed the balloon will be deflated. The atmosphere will be flattened. The joy will be diminished. Thank you for fighting to save the Horses 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾. Please God help us save the beautiful Creatures you created roam Free in TRNP. ❤️🐾❤️</p>

<p>294.</p>	<p>Jennifer Heppner Long <jjheppner@hotmail.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 10:33 AM</p> <p>I have been visiting the park annually since 2012. The favorite part of the park for me is seeing the wild horses. The park itself is so unique in landscape and beauty but the wild horses add so much more to my visits. For me i travel 560 miles one way to visit the park. I stay at sully creek camp group and bring my own horses to ride in the park. The peace i feel when riding in the park looking for the wild horses is worth the long travel and the expense. We regularly go to town to eat out or escape the heat of the day with some shopping. The park would not be the same without the wild horses. I hope they continue to reside peacefully in the park. They are an icon of our history and should be treated as such. Such a treasure, the park and the wild horses. Sincerely Jennifer Heppner Long, International falls, MN.</p> <p>Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone Get Outlook for Android</p>
<p>295.</p>	<p>Vickie Olson <jimvicol@drtel.net> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 12:21 PM</p> <p>I am an 80 year old citizen from North Dakota and am very worried about the wild horses in TRP. The horses have always called TRP home and always should. My family and visiting family and friends from around the USA have enjoyed visiting and staying in the park. Besides the buffalo, the horses are such a beautiful part of the park. The children (and adults) loved to see who would spot the horses first. Their colors and majesty is amazing to see. There is nothing like spotting the colts with the herd. If there is a need to cull or control breeding then do that do not remove, please. My next statement will be sarcastic, but also meant in honesty!! What drunk (and that is an insult to a good drunk) on the board ever thought this was a good idea!!!</p> <p>Vickie Olson (a person who adores these horses) – Oakes, ND</p> <p>Sent from Mail for Windows</p>
<p>296.</p>	<p>Alissa Thiessen <alissajt@nemont.net> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 4:16 PM</p> <p>I'm writing this email to voice my feelings on keeping the horses at TRNP. I've been visiting both the north and south units my entire life. We've had many family gatherings in Medora over the years, and in the north unit. The highlight of touring the parks has always been seeing the horses. Seeing the horses in the park was like winning the lottery. I tour the parks just to see the horses. I can't imagine why anyone in their right mind would want to remove these beautiful animals from the parks. What a terrible thing to do. They belong there, and deserve to keep their home. Please keep the horses. Would not want to visit again if they are removed. Alissa Thiessen</p>

<p>297.</p>	<hr/> <p>Deborah Turvey <debturvey@hotmail.com> Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 5:00 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>Good morning, I live in Australia and follow your magnificent wild horses. Please don't take them away from their environment. We have nothing like this in Australia you should be very proud to have them not wanting to get rid of them. Please leave them where they are.</p> <p>Yours Faithfully, Deborah Turvey 44 Merewether Street, Merewether. 2291</p> <p>Sent from my iPad</p>
<p>298.</p>	<hr/> <p>Claudette Biel <bielclaudette@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 14, 2023 at 5:08 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>I am writing to give my story about why we go to TRNP. We have been going to Medora for over 20 years and we go to the park to see the wild horses. We have rode our horses in the park several times and always try to spot the wild horses. It is very exciting when we see them! They are so beautiful and interesting to watch. We don't get too close because they are wild! Even if we don't go into the park, we try to spot the horses as we drive by the park on the interstate. It is always a win when we spot them! Last summer we rented the Roundup Horse Camp for four days and there was a herd close to the camp. We saw them several times. That was very thrilling!! I want to do it again and maybe we could see more of the horses. Our kids and grandkids enjoy them, too. We had 8 of our grandkids with last summer at the Roundup camp and I am so happy that they got to see the wild horses roaming free! I hope that the horses can continue to live in the TRNP.</p> <p>Sincerely, Claudette Biel New Effington, SD</p>
<p>299.</p>	<hr/> <p>Elise Larson <Elise.Larson@k12.nd.us> Sun, Jan 15, 2023 at 10:32 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p>

300.

I was born and raised in small town North Dakota. Our family took summer trips out to Medora/TRNP as it was the only place my father was willing to take time off from his business to travel to. He loved the Park—it was always the highlight of our trips. In 1988, I found myself at a crossroads, blowing in the wind. College wasn't working out and I really had no purpose or direction in life. I turned to the place that had always spoke to me and found myself employed at TRMF at the Badlands Saloon as a bartender/waitress. Those of us at the Saloon (We were 21) lived in a little white square house east of the Old Town Hall. At random times of the day or night, we'd come home to find Leo Kuntz watching TV in the living room and we'd chat for a bit. That was the first I became aware of the Nakota horses in the Park. I spent what little free time I had exploring the Park—the trails, hills, creeks—and it's wildlife, especially the horses.

In the mid-1990s, my husband and I began taking our small family on a yearly trip to TRNP. We stayed in Dickinson and traveled out each day to drive the park. We packed our lunch and would sit for hours watching the bison and the horses whenever we came upon them. Eventually, we could afford to stay in Medora and do our travels through the Park twice a day! About seven or eight years ago, we bought a camper and now we camp in Medora and spend 75% of our three night stay in the Park. This is our annual family vacation and our children are grown and beginning their own families, yet they still eagerly look forward to our time together in TRNP.

Why are our trips to TRNP so incredible? We love the breathtaking views; the bison who travel on the road, grunt and plow the earth; the trails that twist and turn to reveal more splendor; the sound of the wind in the grass as it brings the chirp of the prairie dogs or the trill of the bird; the smell of sagebrush and dirt—even sulfur—on a hot dry wind; the sight of a regal elk along the skyline at dusk and a loping coyote as it hunts its next meal. But to be honest? It is the horses that draw us yearly for an extended exploration of TRNP.

I have always had an affinity for horses, yet never had the means to own one of my own. I stumbled upon Deb Lee Carson's Facebook page where she documents in photography the horses of TRNP. It was like it was meant for me to find! I eagerly began following other pages that also depicted the horses. Cowboy Lyle, who I knew from my days in 1988 in Medora, also posted his photographs. I was hooked in a way I had never been before with the horses I had always loved! I bought books that contained photos and lineages of the horses, maps of various band locations and members of each band. My children passed the books around as we drove through the park with our binoculars and it became an even more exciting trip—to find and identify as many horses as we could; to watch the horses in their natural environment, living free and wild. The kids each have their favorites. They know what part of the Park to expect to run across horses and even the names of various locations within the Park where the horses like to reside. It's not because of the buffalo or the elk or the prairie dogs that my children have this intimate knowledge of TRNP. It is due to the horses. Those horses are what we come to TRNP for.

My youngest is recovering from neurological Lyme disease. She is an animal lover, and always begged for a horse but we live in a small town. Over the years when we explored TRNP, she struggled to keep up on trails or even to stay engaged while we drove through at dusk. She has lacked stamina for years. In late April of 2019 I drove the 3.5 hours to take her to TRNP for the day. She was 16 years old. She slept most of the way out but when we entered the Park, she was sitting up in the car, eagerly looking for horses, with my NDBH books in her lap. We traveled almost halfway through, past Buck Hill (loop

road was open), before we saw our first band of horses. We were by Talkington when we found Redface's band close to the road, with several foals. The little ones were jumping, running and displaying all kinds of antics! We shut off the car and sat for over an hour just watching the horses along the road. My daughter was smiling, laughing at the little ones and excited to be there. That trip still makes me tear up because my daughter, through her Lyme, had lost her spark in life. Lyme robs you of your emotion, energy, and interests. Lyme gives you pain, panic, anxiety, depression. She was slowly slipping away from us, but that day, with those horses—I saw my daughter light up. She was engaged with life—even for those few precious hours. Those horses were the only thing that always broke through to bring joy to my daughter's life. In 2020 we finally got a Lyme diagnosis and she began treatment.

In 2022, we spent our three days in the Park in early August. This time, our youngest daughter had healed enough to enjoy TRNP in a way she had never been able to before. She asked to hike! She was leaning out the window with her binoculars, spotting all the horses first. When we found several bands of horses by Talkington, she jumped out and into the bed of the pickup to have the best view as horses loped all the way around the pickup as they made their way up the side of the butte. She was excited but trying to stay quiet but couldn't help herself—we heard her giggling. We stayed there for over an hour at dusk as the horses walked over the road, alongside the pickup, down the ditches as they made their way out of the valley. We identified most of the bands and a majority of the individual horses. Our hearts were singing and we were all grinning on the way back to town as we discussed the amazing experience with the horses that day.

I had been in education for 27 years teaching 7-12 social studies. North Dakota history is packed full of the horse in our state. Kids learn about the West and Teddy Roosevelt and experience them first hand while in Medora and TRNP. The horses are an integral cultural part of our state's history that cannot be separated from Teddy Roosevelt, the Sioux, Cheyenne or MHA. History comes alive and has a much greater impact when one experiences it rather than reading about it in a textbook.

For many, I would venture the majority, of visitors—the horses are a soul soothing and exciting part of TRNP. Without the horses in the Park, my entire family has already voiced they would no longer wish to spend three days exploring the Park on our visits. I believe our annual visits would cease as a family. Day trips out and back would be done instead. The Park would be empty of that spark of excitement the horses, living wild and free, give it. There is a profound connection between horses and children—humans—that bison, elk or coyotes do not have. These horses are an iconic part of this particular park. Please listen as I plead for their protection within the park—not only for me and my family, but for my children's children.

These horses in TRNP a necessary part to our cultural, historical, economical and spiritual essence of our state and people. Their loss would be a gaping wound.

Elise Larson
Linton, ND

301.

Sandra Ranney <shonto4858@hotmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Sun, Jan 15, 2023 at 1:30 PM

I, and I'm sure many others, was sickened by the callous way that meeting was handled. I read the report of their findings. So unreal and heartless. Wild horses may not be considered "wildlife", but they have been a part of the wildlife community for more years than we care to count. Pictures have been posted of the horses alongside buffalo and other wild, non-predatory animals, as they fit in without a problem. Should it really matter that the herds may have started with horses strayed from this ranch or that? ABSOLUTELY NOT! Come on! Even those horses may very well have started out wild and roaming the range. Do we need to go into where they came from originally? I think not! Regardless of those factors, they have lived as wild animals for many years and through many generations. I feel they should have the right to remain as such. They already keep the horse population down with the captures they do, which can be hard enough to deal with, though we can pray all of those adopted do go to loving, understanding homes. But what about those who are captured and not adopted? What happens to them? We really don't like to think about that, but I feel they should be returned to the wild.

Their reasoning for removing all of these beautiful horses from the Park is unsound. The Park consists of a huge area that is not to be developed and I highly doubt that, to allow the horses to remain, any noticeable damage will result from their presence. The horses do attract visitors to the Park. I live in Michigan and have my entire life (almost 65 years). I learned of this Park and these horses through the "Wild in North Dakota" group and the pictures and comments posted from them online. Getting to see the new posts and following these herds, loving the pictures, even saving many of the pictures to my computer wallpaper file, makes my day. Every day. I hoped to, someday, make the trip from Michigan to North Dakota JUST TO VISIT THESE HORSES!! I make donations to help support this group and one of my daughters makes it a point to purchase a calendar for me every year which I receive as a Christmas gift. I'm sure there are many others who donate far more than I do who do this FOR THE HORSES. It's not fair to the people nor to the horses to deny the Park these glorious animals.

The Park belongs to the people? Does it not? Is there not some way we, as citizens of the United States of America, can petition/protest against this action??? Is there not some way it can be dealt with by the votes of the people (us!) Shouldn't we have a right to some say, say that will COUNT, regarding this National Park???? We don't want to lose these wild horses. They are an icon that deserves to continue to exist in wild area's like this!

<p>302.</p>	<p>Theresa Mallory <tess_92@hotmail.com> To: "Info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <Info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sun, Jan 15, 2023 at 3:26 PM</p> <p>I've been going to TRNP for 45 years now it wasn't until my 5th year I'm guessing? that I learned about the wild horses I seen them just thought they were someone's ranch horses..lol I am a huge horse lover and since I have learned there are wild horses out there I try to visit as much as I can every year to photograph them or to show them to friends and family from out of state. I would really have no reason to go to the park if they were to take them out as that is the only reason I continue to visit.</p> <p>As many years as I have been going there I have never known the park to really advertise them so there are many people who don't know they exist in the park. Thanks to people like yourselves who do talk about them are making more people aware so thank you for that!</p> <p>I do believe the park will take a hit if they do take them out ..granted they will still get the people who go for the musical . It really saddens me as to me those horses are a huge part of that park.</p>
<p>303.</p>	<p>Bonnie Maier <maierbonnie82@gmail.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sun, Jan 15, 2023 at 4:51 PM</p> <p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>I've been following several blogs regarding the wild horses in TRNP for quite a few years, and it has been on my bucket list to visit the park and see the herd for myself. In fact, a large group of us were well into the planning stages of a week-long visit to the park in the summer of 2020, but obviously COVID-19 happened and put a hold on those plans. Now, we understand that the park is considering removing most, if not all, of the wild horses and we are deeply distressed. The wild horses are what sets this National Park apart from most other Parks in the United States. Now that travel restrictions have eased my group was planning to finally visit and see them for ourselves, but if they are to be rounded up and sold we will have no choice but to look elsewhere for the opportunity to experience wild horses. We realize that managing the Park and all its wild inhabitants is far from being an easy task, but there must be a better solution. For the sake of the horses themselves and the visitors who are anxious to see them wild and free, please reconsider this course of action.</p> <p>Thank You Very Much, Bonnie Maier Downers Grove, Illinois</p>

304.

January 12, 2023

The wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park brought my family closer together and many other families in my life as well. My daughter and I visited the park in April 2022. We would not have traveled to North Dakota or this particular National Park if it were not for the chance to see these incredible horses and their families. It gave my daughter and I a chance to spend precious time together giving back to animals that have given us so much in our lives.

What is more, on this trip to see the TRNP wild horses, I made a decision that has positively impacted the lives of many families in Richmond Va. I am a Therapist who specializes in the treatment of eating disorders and have been for many years. But, after seeing the wild horses with their families, I decided to focus my work on helping families keep their children at home to recover rather than what is traditionally done and facilitate children being taken from their families and placed in treatment facilities to recover. Now, I have a highly sought after, growing Outpatient Practice, providing a multi-person care team to help families to keep their children at home to heal.

Seeing the incredibly strong and loving bonds that horses have in the wild, so different from the domesticated horses I grew up with, shook me awake to see the truth of family attachments. If given the right environment in which to grow, family bonds are more powerful than any non-family attachment. I see that in my work, when parents help their children to heal they heal faster and have a better chance of full recovery than if clinical teams help them to heal. And keeping families together makes the relationships stronger, positively impacting the lives these children touch throughout their lives.

I know I'm just one of many humans who have been profoundly changed by these wild horses. In a world where family, freedom and wild, wide open spaces are dwindling, these horses, in this place, remind us they are worth protecting.

My daughter and I want to visit TRNP and its wild horses for years to come and hope we get the chance!

Julie Samitt
Richmond, Va

305.

Nancy Gorla <elrttchr@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sun, Jan 15, 2023 at 6:52 PM

I am writing to comment on how following the horses of TRNP has effected me. I started following the posts from WILD IN NORTH DAKOTA on Facebook many years ago. The pictures of the beautiful, majestic horses caught my attention, and reading the information posted by page manager Eileen has taught me so much. I learned about the role of the stallions and the protection of their bands, the frequent attempt by other stallions to 'steal' from another's band, and the role of the lead mare. I saw the birth of a foal and have watched them grow. All of this in the beautiful TRNP. I have learned so much through this site. The photos, stories/information, have provided a look into the incredible world of wild horses that I would have otherwise never known. Although I have not visited TRNP (I live in the midwest), I'm able to step into this world via Wild in North Dakota. The horses have become familiar to me, and truly hold a place in my heart. I worry about new foals as winter comes, and I'm saddened when a beloved horse dies. I find joy in the close bond between mare and foal, and the closeness of siblings. I've watched and worried about the birth of a particular foal who would face a struggle for survival when his mother died shortly after his birth. How this foal was taken under an older sibling's wing is still remarkable to me. It is important that these horses are allowed to live wild and free on the only land that they've known. To remove them would be incredibly cruel and heartbreaking to these ma all who love them.

306.

Nancy Gorla <elrttchr@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sun, Jan 15, 2023 at 6:52 PM

I am writing to comment on how following the horses of TRNP has effected me. I started following the posts from WILD IN NORTH DAKOTA on Facebook many years ago. The pictures of the beautiful, majestic horses caught my attention, and reading the information posted by page manager Eileen has taught me so much. I learned about the role of the stallions and the protection of their bands, the frequent attempt by other stallions to 'steal' from another's band, and the role of the lead mare. I saw the birth of a foal and have watched them grow. All of this in the beautiful TRNP. I have learned so much through this site. The photos, stories/information, have provided a look into the incredible world of wild horses that I would have otherwise never known. Although I have not visited TRNP (I live in the midwest), I'm able to step into this world via Wild in North Dakota. The horses have become familiar to me, and truly hold a place in my heart. I worry about new foals as winter comes, and I'm saddened when a beloved horse dies. I find joy in the close bond between mare and foal, and the closeness of siblings. I've watched and worried about the birth of a particular foal who would face a struggle for survival when his mother died shortly after his birth. How this foal was taken under an older sibling's wing is still remarkable to me. It is important that these horses are allowed to live wild and free on the only land that they've known. To remove them would be incredibly cruel and heartbreaking to these ma all who love them.

307.

Marlene Martin <marlenesellsmichigan@yahoo.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sun, Jan 15, 2023 at 7:16 PM

This Letter is to EVERYONE that loves the wild horses of TRNP and wants to keep them wild and free!

My interest in the TRNP wild horse herds began in 2012 when I took my 8-year-old son on a 22 state road trip. We researched every State that we visited and learned much about Teddy Rosevelt and how he used his authority to establish many National Forests and Parks. We learned that they built a boundary fence to enclose the TRNP in 1956, relegating the horses to roam the south unit's 46,158 acres, which became the enclave for North Dakota's last remaining wild horses. I saw the wild horses that day and since then I have followed the herd and bought a calendar every year with pictures of the horses! I cried when Blaze and Strawberry died (and many others too) I laughed at the antics of the young ones and watched the bachelor boys become band stallions in their own right. For 67 years now we as people of the United States trapped the horses in the park and WE have the responsibility to protect them! There are a number of reasons why people argue that the North Dakota Badland horses should be saved. Some of the main reasons include:

The horses are an important part of the ecosystem, helping to maintain the grasslands and providing food for predators.

The horses are a part of the cultural heritage of the region, and have been present in the Badlands for centuries.

The horses are a unique and distinct subspecies, known as the Kiger Mustangs, that are not found anywhere else in the world.

The population of the horses is relatively small and vulnerable, and they are at risk of extinction if not protected.

Saving the horses can also have economic benefits, as they can be used for ecotourism and other activities that can generate income for local communities.

Overall, many people believe that the North Dakota Badland horses are a valuable and important part of the natural and cultural heritage of the region, and that efforts should be made to protect and preserve them for future generations.

Thank you for your time and I hope " We the People" will be heard to protect the wild herd!

M. Martin from Holly Mi

Marlene Martin

308.

Lee Mitchelson <leemitchelsonart@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Mon, Jan 16, 2023 at 10:23 AM

My thoughtfully-planned and excitedly prepared for trip to TRNP from many states away, will simply never occur if the wild horses are removed from the park. The travesty of it will be compounded by the cruelty of removing the oldest patriarch and matriarch stallions and mares and by the dangerous over-stressing of the oldest and the very young. I am from The Black Hills of South Dakota. When I say that the wild West and the pioneer-spirit still exist in the Dakotas, I know of what I speak. There is a reason Teddy Roosevelt loved it there and loved the horses and the aura of the region has changed very little since those days! People who do not understand or value that lifestyle or genre, have no concept of what they are threatening when they destroy wild horse's lives and critical family structures that are part of that world. I do not hesitate to say that cruelty to animals and blatant disregard for the wishes of the people who seek their protection is the devil's work...as his greatest powers to affect living things are lack of compassion, absence of conscience and limitless greed. Those are what I see at work, when wild horses and burros are in danger. Lee Mitchelson

309.

John Fontneau <devon451@comcast.net>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Mon, Jan 16, 2023 at 10:16 PM

To Theodore Roosevelt National Park,

We have followed the wild Mustangs, and Burros, who reside at National Parks across our country. Some of them, we have been lucky enough to be able to visit, others are on our bucket lists to visit sometime in the future. Still others, we will probably never be able to visit, but, we still look forward to, and, enjoy all the posts from fellow horse/ nature lovers so that we can enjoy them from afar. To say that they are a huge part of our love of our national Parks is an understatement. They are all part of our history, and part of our future. They are what is great about the parks system, they keep the parks balanced and add to the beauty of nature. There are so many groups who work endlessly to help manage and protect the horses and burros. and they have programs that work, and have been proven to work well. If the horses are removed from the parks, or culled back to herds so small that they can not genetically survive, then we will never visit those parks in the future, or support them. The assault on our Nations wild horses and burros has to stop. We hope to continue to see all these beautiful souls, running wild and free on our lands. They are the reason that so many visit and support the Parks. Please let them have a future. We will always support good, well planned management of the herds, and we are hoping that this is how it works out for TRNP.

Sincerely,

John & Karen Fontneau

Attleboro, MA

310.

Kari Nelson <attuneequine@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Mon, Jan 16, 2023 at 10:24 PM

I wish I had the experience, I hope I have the chance to see the TRNP wild horses with my own eyes...in the park.

I have been watching these horses from a distance for the past 10+ years. Although I have never personally witness the beauty, I have watched through the eyes of many talented professional and amateur photographers that frequently travel the lands. The stories of herd dynamics is simply fascinating. You can't learn about it at a zoo or a farm. It's just not the same experience.

My family and I had our first trip to the park planned for the summer of 2020. As you can guess, it was cancelled due to the pandemic. My busy schedule did not allow a trip last summer. 2023 was going to be the year, but now, I fear my motivation to visit will be lost if the wild horses are not freely roaming the park as they have done for so long. The horses call TRNP home, I pray they aren't taken from it.

~Kari N.

Sent from my iPhone

311.

cdmontana@aol.com <cdmontana@aol.com>
To: Info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Mon, Jan 16, 2023 at 11:13 PM

The wild horses at TRNP represent the Spirit of the Wild West and the great history America grew out of.

These wild horses are the descendants of Spanish, embraced by the Native Americans over the last 400 years, to live by hunting and traversing the great plains, mountains and deserts. An incredible lifestyle was enabled by these wild horses for Native Americans to become independent and not bound to waterways for travel.

The roaming life that was harnessed with these animals, fueled by hardy determination, as witnessed by Lewis & Clark, the pioneers and settlers, fostered the essence of the American Dream and drove the Manifest Destiny that is the foundation of America.

The inspiration provided by these horses with their beauty that adorns the TRNP reminds us of our past, the roots of our great country and the deep swirling hard nature that the young United States of America was born from, inspiring Teddy Roosevelt.

Please keep the wild horses at TRNP

Sincerely

Dan Roesler

312.

Karen Mahoney <kmahoney605@gmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 12:35 AM

My first visit to TRNP came just short of six years ago, a trip planned by fellow photographers. I so vividly remember the first day of being in the midst of the wild horses. It was a foggy, damp May morning. I sat in the wet grass with my camera as the herds nickered and neighed and gently moved through the fog.

This was just the beginning of many trips to TRNP to photograph the wild horses, and more importantly, just to spend time with them.

The badlands landscapes are beautiful in their own right, but the wild horses breathe life into the hills and valleys. To take them away would take away the spirit of the land.

Words fail me. How does one describe the feeling of sitting on a hillside at sunrise watching a string of wild horses step down the adjoining hill to their grazing land? Or quiet nickering of a herd as they move to the edge of a stream to water?

The sound and energy of two band stallions facing off for the right to keep their family? The neigh of a mare calling her foal who has wandered a little too far?

One doesn't just see these things, one must feel these things, as well. One must step into nature and let it soak into your soul. That's what the wild horse herd at TRNP does for this photographer. May we keep the herd, so future generations may experience it as well.

Karen J Mahoney
KJMahoney Photography





313.

arabians <arabians@nuveramail.net>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 8:05 AM

I go every year to North Dakota to see the Wild Horses! They are the reason I go. I love to see them in their natural habitat.

I also drive to CO to visit all 3 Wild Horse places I know about.

This year I went twice to ND to see them. I even stopped for 2 days to see them when I was coming thru from a vacation in Montans. I made time to stop, see the horses, get a room, see the play.

If not for the horses I would have just driven thru your state without staying a few days.

If you have to cut the herd I understand but to eliminate them???

Ted Roosevelt support Wild life.. these horses are wild!!! And tourists want to see them

Please keep our horses!!!

Sue Barlage
Minnesota

314.

Nora Macbook <kanedla@midco.net>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 12:10 PM

I have owned, ridden and showed horses for many years. I do live in the city but managed to ride or tend to my horses every day. Boarding facilities became more scarce so when my last horse died I sold all my tack and moved on to photography. I didn't lose my love for horses. I would photograph friends' horses or try to photograph other wildlife but my heart wasn't in it. When I went to TRNP for inspiration the bison, prairie dogs, coyotes etc. just didn't get it for me. When I saw the wild horses my lens instantly focused on them! How beautiful, how free and how in tune they were with their surroundings. I fell in love all over again. I couldn't wait to see the next band or even a single horse! It was exhilarating! I would send pictures to a friend of mine who I knew spent a number of years in the park studying the wild horses. I would ask "Which horse is this? What band is she in?" I think my friend got tired of my asking questions so then she asked "How would you like to volunteer to document the horses in the park? You hike, learn their names, and photograph all you want"? This was my dream job! When can I start? After a bit of training I was on my own, but always had someone to help if needed. I soon learned their personalities, families, where they hung out during which season. I was awe struck! The wild horses were more than I ever imagined! The wild horses were truly amazing. This must be what heaven is like. I was sad when I had a leave to make the 135 mile drive home. But I knew when I returned the wild horses would still be there.

In 2022 I spent approximately 1200 hours in the park. I would hike to find them, document new foals, band changes, who's with who, who got kicked out and now a new bachelor learning his way in the place that is home and just sit and watch. I stayed in motels, ate out of a cooler, dodged the bison, up early in the morning and to bed late at night. As long as a could see the wild horses I was more than happy. They made my heart sing.

2023 is here and if the horses from TRNP are removed I for one will not return. The bison, prairie dogs, coyotes, magpies, etc all look the same-if you've seen one you've seen them all and the scenery is only beautiful when there is a horse in it.

Nora Kane

315.

Dona M <countrylickerincity@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: Dona M <countrylickerincity@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 1:15 PM

I have been to Theodore Roosevelt National Park many times. I was raised in North Dakota but moved to Arizona in 1979. When I travel home one of the first things I plan is a trip back to the park. The beauty of the park is spectacular seeing the bison is always enjoyable but when I get to see the wild horses an emotional connection comes over me I can't explain. They are as much or more a part of the park as any animal there. To remove the horses would be like removing the spirit of the entire area. There are not a lot of places to see wild horses any longer. Please consider allowing the wild horses to stay for all that visit the park to enjoy the full beauty of the area.

Cordially,
Dona Molet
1443 S. Palo Verde St.
Mesa, Az 85209

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

316.

RK Lagler <RKLagler@outlook.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 1:52 PM

I will never forget when stallion Mystery's body was located. I will never forget the bison surrounding Gray Ghost's body paying their last respect. I am so happy to catch a glimpse of Bloom/Boomer and Amite affirming they are thriving in TRNP. I end every day visiting several social media accounts sharing, enjoying, and being part of daily life of the wild horse herd.

And now, suddenly, out of the blue, we learn the beloved herd will be eliminated?!?! I will never fulfill my dream to visit TRNP if the horses are gone. The horses ARE the park – the main attraction, the reason people go to TRNP. The horses enhance the natural beauty, remind us of earlier times, the mystic of the Native American culture. It's exciting to see them! The horses have lived in the Badlands for hundreds of years... and now they are a problem? Or is the government the problem..

Teddy Roosevelt would fight to keep the herd. It's unfortunate that the superintendent and bureaucrats cannot find the basis to keep the herd. Perhaps the horses were excluded from the 1916 Act because they were a natural part of the Badlands. Reading between the lines and twisting language into a pretzel to accomplish something that no one wants does nothing but antagonize. The taxpayers own the park and overwhelmingly want the wild horses to remain. "Herd management" does not mean "herd elimination". Perhaps the State of North Dakota should assume management of wild horse herd.

The possibility that the government will eradicate a beloved herd is sad, frustrating, and simply outrageous.

317.

Noreen Mohr <noreenmohr@hotmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 2:37 PM

My sister and I added an addition to TRNP when we went to Mt. Rushmore several years ago. She is an avid horse lover and it was a dream of hers to go see the wild horses. It was a wonderful experience to see them in their natural habitat, free as their ancestors were to run wild. It would be a shame for future generations of horse lovers to not be able to experience this and for the horses to be removed from their land.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S22 Ultra 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone

318.

Janie Thompson <janiewt2008@att.net>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 6:07 PM

Comments: I have never been to TRNP and may never get there in my lifetime, but I avidly follow both Wild in North Dakota and Dakota Grown Facebook pages that document the horses that call the park home. These wild horses absolutely represent the very image of the American ideal of life in the great American West. Theodore Roosevelt held a special place in his heart for the rugged West and worked his entire life to preserve portions of this country via the National Park system so that current and future citizens could develop the same appreciation. How could decimation of this special herd of horses do anything but destroy the very thing he established and in the very park named for him? These wild horses typify the ideal he wanted as many Americans as possible to experience - whether personally or vicariously. This herd of horses have a world wide audience that are interested in them on a daily basis. This appreciation has translated in park visitors from many countries, as well as providing a targeted destination for US citizens. They have provided untold publicity for the state of North Dakota itself.

While I can understand the concept of minor Park involvement in herd number management control, I fail to comprehend why the Park Service would wish to destroy animals that do nothing but provide greater interest in the state and their beautiful representation of life on the prairie as it occurred naturally in days long gone by! These horses live their lives quietly and without any outside care for their health. They survive the hot summers and the bitter winters. They represent the very heartiness of the two-legged pioneers that settled this great country

I pray that the Park Service of North Dakota will reconsider their plan to destroy this most wonderful natural resource - a totally wild, free, and beautiful herd of horses. They are a great asset to your state, not a liability!

320.

Eileen Muus <eileenm@srt.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com


Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 6:57 PM

Please leave the horse's alone in the park they have been there for years and are park of the park's eco system. They are not hurting anyone they and are beautiful to see. People go see the horse's and know their names and which band they are from. You don't hear that with any other animal in the park.

Eileen Muus

321.

Syndi Miske <smiske75@gmail.com>
to me, Syndi ▾

 Tue, Jan 17, 9:17 PM (18 hours ago)

THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK HORSE EXPERIENCE

by Syndi (Musland) Miske

I do not recall exactly how old I was the first time I saw the horses at Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP), however, I have had a relationship with them as long as I can remember. My family faithfully vacationed to Medora every summer when I was a child. In my younger years it was extremely difficult to get a close look at the horses because they were so spirited, spooky, and unattainable. As the nature of the round-ups changed the horses became easier to view.

I was the third of four children and every summer we consistently pleaded with our parents to bring our own horses to Medora to ride in the park. As a young child I thought that would be the ultimate vacation. Several decades later, having experienced this, I truly believe this to be the ultimate vacation.

My Dad told us that when he had a reliable enough pickup to make the trip we would take our horses. I secretly hoped that if I had my own horse to ride I would be able to get closer to the horses. Instead of visions of sugar plums in my head the night before Christmas, I had visions of TRNP wild horse manes and tails blowing in the wind. The unique colors of the TRNP horses painted the already beautiful ND landscape. When I was in seventh grade we finally had a vehicle that could withstand the trip carrying a load of saddle horses that far.

Our first trip to TRNP with our own horses was in the late '80's. Many may remember how difficult the '80's were due to drought and high interest rates. It was a tough time for people, especially those raising a family. My little sister and I felt as though we were traveling first class as we nestled in the hay in the gooseneck of our stock trailer traveling 280 miles across the state to Medora. It was in July and quite warm. The vents of the stock trailer afforded a constant flow of air on our youthful skin which was soon to be sunburnt from hot sun under the spacious ND sky. When our parents stopped to fuel up we would crawl out of the gooseneck of the stock trailer and go for a brief walk. Back in those days we did not have the means to stop and buy a candy bar or refreshment with each stop. We were saving that for when we arrived at our destination, the breathtaking badlands of

ND and the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I remember our discussions as we laid in the hay watching our horses on the drive. We thought we were the luckiest kids alive, and we were! The notion of getting close to the wild horses was almost too much excitement to contain. It was a good six hour drive to Medora and we were too excited to fall asleep. The trip home was different. We were so fulfilled and exhausted from long hours of riding in the July heat we were able to nap some of the time. The heavy iron of the trailer gooseneck was warm to lay on, the musty smell of hay and manure pleasant. We did not have to worry about being crowded in the single cab pick up that was pulling the trailer. On the way home, not as much horse hay was left, but it was still enough to provide an itchy and luxurious cushion.

Somehow during our first trip to TRNP with our horses our Momma cat Caroline was in the horse trailer and accompanied us. To this day I do not remember whether or not we knew she was in the trailer before we left home. My younger sister was especially partial to her cats and it is entirely possible that in our naive, young minds we thought it appropriate to bring our cat on vacation. Fortunately, this was during a period of time in which the Kuntz family camped at the Medora Ranchorama where we boarded our horses. We visited with them daily as we cared for our horses. They were giving buggy rides in Medora during the summer. My Dad found a little girl (who I believe was a Kuntz) at the Ranchorama and hired her to watch over our Momma cat for the week. She took excellent care of Caroline and at the end of the week our cat was also exhausted as we journeyed back home.

Since we had been spying on these horses for years on family trips, we knew that it would be best to unload our horses somewhere on the East side of the park. We did just that. The suspense had been building knowing this childhood dream was finally coming to fruition. We found out quickly that even with a trusty saddle horse it was still a challenge to get very close to the wild and free swift footed prairie beauties. Our hearts thumped with anticipation as we knew that over one of the next hills we would likely see some wild horses. We peered from atop the butte down on a herd of wild horses. We carefully walked our horses down the clay colored badland terrain to get closer.

The moment I had been longing for had finally come. Initially, I remember hearing one of the grayish-white band stallions snort as he danced around his harem trotting with his head held high and nodding disagreeably as if sensing danger. His back athletically arched and tail held high while blowing in the wind. Other bands in the meadow keenly picked up on the cue and became uneasy. The leader in each band circled, snorted, and commanded his harem to move out. Before we knew it they were galloping across the meadow and trailing up the rugged badland trails winding up and down in single file motion. The movement so swift and expertly calculated in the unforgiving dangerous terrain. I remember thinking to myself how amazing it would be to ride one of these sure-footed steeds. From that point on I could not get enough of seeing the TRNP horses. It was like a cat and mouse game. Just as we would get to a point to see the horses they would be working their way over the next hill. Witnessing the trails the horses used and riding them in years to come further maximized our visitor experience. This was their home and they knew it well, navigating through areas which at first seemed impossible to climb.

I had never seen anything as majestic the TRNP horses and to this day I stand firm on that analysis. By the time I was a college student I had traveled to several other states and also to Europe. I remember giving a speech in college about my favorite place. That place was in the TRNP watching the wild horses. I was mesmerized by these amazing creatures. Words could not express the sense of peace seeing them gave me. The horses nostalgic and graceful movements were unlike the domestic horses I had been around. To this day when I see the wild horses feelings of warmth and excitement encompass me as memories flood back reminding me of the special family time we shared searching for, finding, and observing the wild horses. Approximately forty years from the first time I remember seeing the wild horses, I still get just as excited each time. My husband and son will readily attest to that! As an adult I have been able to share the love, thrill, and passion that I have for the horses with my nieces, nephews, friends, and family. Seeing others witness their healing presence and magic warms my heart as well. They are a unique ND treasure that is timeless and keeps on giving despite the time of the year. This is further evident to me as I notice people from around the world comment on our beloved TRNP horses on social media.

As a college student I was able to attend the TRNP horse sales in Dickinson after the horses were rounded up and culled. I recall my younger sister missed a day of high school to attend the sale with me. She bought a weanling filly that strongly resembled the 2022 filly named Cricket. She trained this filly to ride and our Dad trained her to pull a buggy. Years later that very mare was part of the magnificent team that carried me over the ND prairie at my parent's pasture on the ranch to the site of our wedding on my wedding day. Her reliable, strong, and quiet disposition made her perfect for the task. Time and time again, the TRNP horses have blessed me. It is my dream for these horses to continue to bless others for years to come.

322.

Syndi Miske <smiske75@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 9:22 PM

1. My Dad (1989)
2. My Dad, sister and I (1988)
3. My husband and I (next to our TRNP mustang) on our wedding day (2000)

One more photo to be sent of our next generation (my niece in 2022)

Sent from my iPhone

3 attachments



IMG_8141.jpg
3200K



IMG_8143.jpg
1496K



IMG_8144.jpg
3239K

Syndi Miske <smiske75@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com
Cc: Syndi Miske <smiske75@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 9:27 PM

This is my niece Keyahana with some of TRNP horses in the background. My Dad who will be 80 in a few months was still riding on this day and lives to see the wild horses. My niece is a third generation North Dakotan who loves seeing the horses at the park. I did not know how to include all of this in one email. Sorry!

Thanks again,
Syndi Miske

Sent from my iPhone



IMG_2665.jpg
4603K

323.

Susan Vette <susyvette@icloud.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 11:51 PM

I have wanted to visit TRNP. Actually, I just learned of it when planning a family reunion and trip to the Dakotas. One of the reasons to head to South Dakota and the Badlands was to visit and tour the Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary. We'd planned on going, first, to Theodore Roosevelt (one of my favorite historic figures.) but realized that travel there would — should — be a trip unto itself, so we saved it for "next time."

Seeking and discovering America's wild horse herds has become a special kind of quest for us. Prior to visiting the Black Hills Sanctuary, we'd gone to see the Salt River horses. What a thrill to see those beautiful, non-predatory creatures living, safe and protected, in a free and natural habitat. Like the bison, grizzlies, wolves, and other wildlife of our country, wild horses are such a part of our history. They help make our country and our continent unique. As a feral species, one that sprang from the migrant peoples who populated — especially — the West, they reconnect us to the raw and colorful conquering of those rugged lands; to the triumphs and tragedies of communities and civilizations built, lost, and changed. May they be forever protected and preserved!

I look forward to our visit to Theodore Roosevelt Park. It's a reasonable drive from our home in Wisconsin, and will be on the itinerary soon. One of the great reasons to visit will be the wild horses;. All of our national parks are beautiful. Few provide the rare opportunity to view wild horses; a pleasure and a privilege. TRNP is a "detour" of the main highways west. The fact that they protect their wild horse herd is a reason to take that less-traveled route to spend a few days there. I cannot wait ... maybe next summer!

Thank you for the work you are doing to help save the horses...mustangs, appaloosas, paints, all of them... to help us understand their origins and bloodlines; who brought them here and how they partnered in settling the west.

Warm regards,
Susan Vette - Oshkosh, WI

324.

From: Squarespace <form-submission@squarespace.info>
Date: January 17, 2023 at 10:49:51 PM EST
To: thismustanglife@gmail.com
Subject: Form Submission - New Form - Management Plan TRNP wild horses
Reply-To: gypsypirit58@ymail.com

Sent via form submission from *Wild Lands Wild Horses*

Name: Marlene Mead

Email Address: gypsypirit58@ymail.com

Subject: Management Plan TRNP wild horses

Message: As a lifelong resident of ND have enjoyed the presence of the wild horses of TRNP since a young child, which my daughter and now my granddaughter share. Saddens me to think that my granddaughter may be the last generation to ever witness them. Even at her young age she recognizes their importance and is enthralled by their spirit, as I and her mom werem as children. An appreciation that has spanned four generations of my family starting with my father. A highlight of any trip to TRNP is when we see the wild horses. We look for them. Something about their spirit speaks to us. The spirit and beauty of the wild horses truly do embody the spirit of our ancestors and Theodore Roosevelt. Theodore Roosevelt spoke of the wild horses of ND.

The horses of TRNP are a living cultural and historical testament to the history of ND. My understanding by some accounts some of their bloodline dates back to the horses Sitting Bull relinquished. One buyer was the Marquis De Mores who refined them, an unique genetic breed of horses to ND. When he left Medora, some remained in the badlands and were fenced in at TRNP inception. In 2018 genetic testing showed a genetic lineage of horses unique from all other 48 breeds.

Now under two current considerations for TRNP proposed livestock management plan, eliminating of the wild horses is consideration. Argument heard at presentation on Jan 12th is they are not a native species and current laws for TRNP do not allow them even though they have been kept since fenced in and maintained as cultural representation of ND history. Some research into orgin of horses do say they originated in North America with fossil record. They crossed the land bridges but later immigrated back. Dr. Ross MacPhee, Curator of Mammalogy at the American Museum of Natural History, and colleagues, have dated the existence of woolly mammoths and horses in North America to as recent as 7,600 years ago. Had it not been for previous westward migration, over the 2 Bering Land Bridge, into northwestern Russia (Siberia) and Asia, the horse would have faced complete extinction. However, Equus survived and spread to all continents of the globe, except Australia and Antarctica.

I don't understand proposed outcome for their removal. Under current "NPS Management Policy" the wild horses of TRNP fit criteria for cultural and historical preservation allowed and even encouraged in national parks. Under chapter 4.4.4.1 "Introduction and Maintenance of Exotic Species" NPS policy states:

•needed to meet the desired conditions of historic resources, but only when it is noninvasive...In such cases, the exotic species used must be known to be historically significant, to have existed in the park during the parks period of historical significance, to be an contributing element to a cultural landscape, or been commonly used in the area at the time.

36 CFR 2.6, Livestock use and agriculture, (a) states: "The running-at-large, herding, driving across, allowing on, pasturing or grazing of livestock of any kind in a park area or the use of a park area for agricultural purposes is prohibited, except: ... (3) As designated, when conducted as a necessary and integral part of a recreational activity or required in order to maintain a historic scene.". The wild horses of TRNP do that and have since the parks inception when fenced over 75 years ago.

The wild horses of TRNP have historical and cultural value and worth protecting, so that current and future generations can see an animal important historically and culturally to the native population, ND settlers and Theodore Roosevelt legacy.

Sincerely,

Marlene Mead

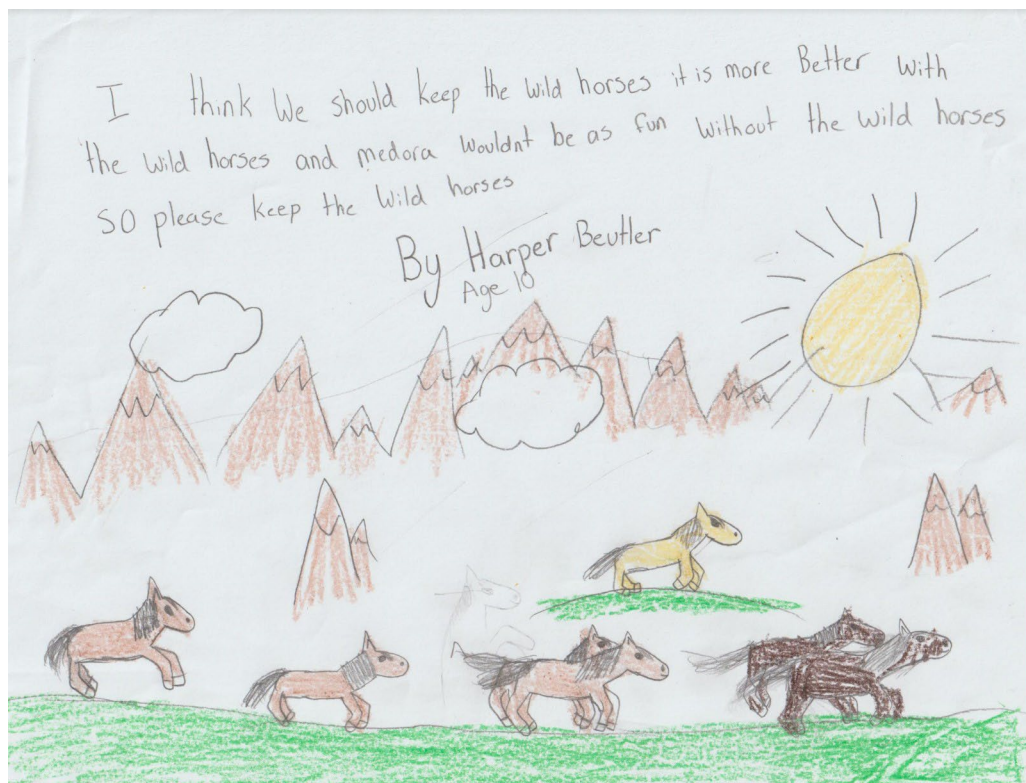
325.

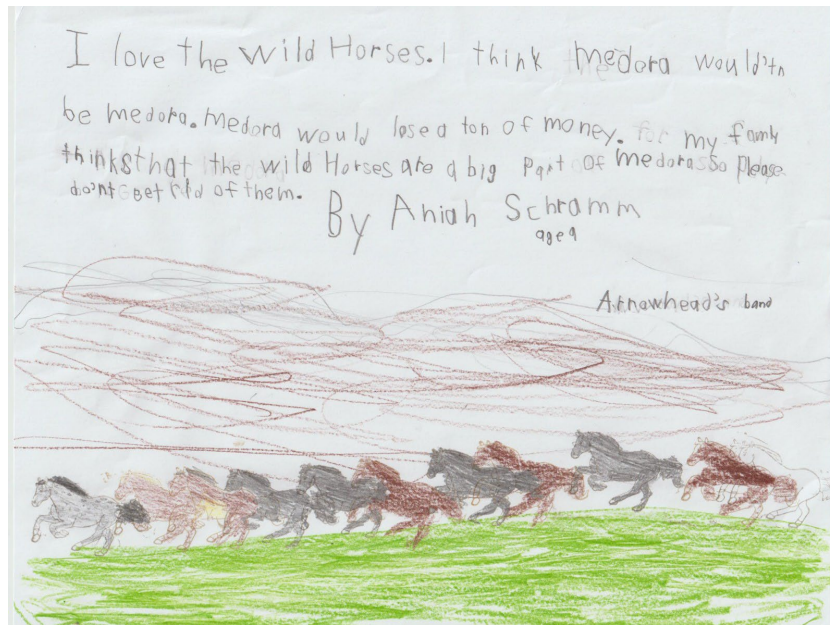
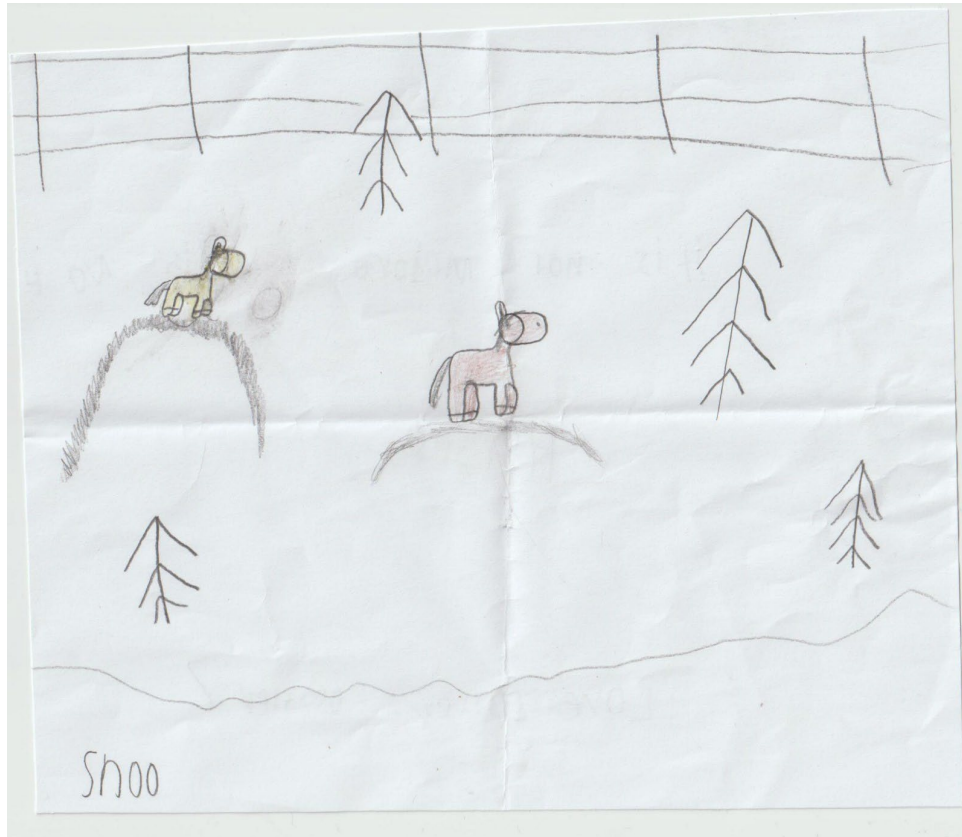
Alissa <alissaroppel@hotmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Mon, Jan 16, 2023 at 5:48 PM

My daughter and nieces learned about the park's plans for the horses and have been very upset ever since. One evening I came home and they had made these pictures to send to the park.

Alissa Schramm





it is not modora with no
Horses
Love Emerx Bentley 7

326.

I have been to both units of Theodore Roosevelt National Park so many times I've lost count. Living in central North Dakota allows me the privilege of visiting often. My favorite unit is the north; however, I visit the south unit to see the wild horses.

I am a member of and have been following Wild in North Dakota on Facebook for quite some time. I've gotten to know the names of some of the horses and have been able to pick them out in a herd when I am blessed enough to see them in the park. From the knowledge I've gleaned from the group, I challenge myself to find and identify the individual horses, which makes me want to visit more often.

My first experience with the wild horses was several years ago, from horseback, riding into the park from Painted Canyon Overlook. It was breathtaking to ride up the hill to find several on the plateau, the stallion then rounding up his herd to take them from our sight. I've since seen several herds while driving the loop, and they are the main reason I visit that unit.

My husband and I have also ridden in the north unit, and very much enjoyed spying the longhorns there. Although they are few, they have been an icon of that unit. Both units have oodles of wildlife one can see, such as deer, elk and bison, but the horses and the longhorns make each unique.

I have a large photo taken by the late Crystal Albrecht of Crystal's Concepts that hangs in my house. In the photo is Redface, my favorite stallion. My husband and I no longer ride, but horses hold a special place in our hearts.

I intend to visit the park this summer, taking my kids and grandkids. We will be searching for the wild horses more than any other animal. If we want to see bison, we'll drive the five miles to our nearest bison ranch. We've seen elk many times on the north side of Bismarck and near our friends' by Medina. But there is no where else to view horses in the wild in this part of the country except for the south unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. **No where.** Please keep them there.

Sincerely,

Lori Gefroh
2552 Main St W
Underwood, ND 58576
lori@gefroh.com

<p>327.</p>	<p>Eileen Balliet <eeballiet@icloud.com> Wed, Jan 18, 2023 at 7:28 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>We go to TRNP about three times a year and drive around the park for a couple of hours looking for the horses. We enjoy watching the different bands and little colts. If you take them out there is no reason to go back to the park unless you want to see nothing but buffalo and prairie dogs. If there is a problem with the horses grazing to much of the park mabe try to get rid of some of the prairie dogs it looks to me like they are ruining a lot of land in the park. Also, there seems to be a lot of buffalo and some of them could be taken out of the park. The horses, buffalo, deer and elk were all there when Teddy Roosevelt lived there and I'm sure he wouldn't have wanted them removed or made it a national park. Allen and Eileen Balliet</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
<p>328.</p>	<p>DEB LEE CARSON <everseethelight@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 7:06 AM To: Wild Lands Wild Horses <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>----- Forwarded message ----- From: Jim Cobbs <jcobbs2@icloud.com> Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 Subject: TRNP wild horses To: deb@debleecarson.com</p> <p>The TR displays, bison, and the herds of wild horses are the best things we saw in TRNP. Herds of free roaming bison, horses, elk, deer, and other hooved animals are a large part of what makes the western National Parks such great places to visit.</p> <p>Sent from the iPhone of Jim Cobbs</p> <p>--</p>
<p>329.</p>	<p>Audrey Aabey <ajaabey@gmail.com> Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 12:04 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>We have been planning a visit to TRNP in order to experience the wonder of the horses living there & are very disappointed, worried & angry that elimination of this national treasure is being considered. With all the resources of 21st century science & conservation knowledge I can't believe a sustainable solution which incudes the creatures who live there can't be found! Please do not rob future generations of this glimpse of a vanished world. Audrey J Aabey</p>

330.

Joanie Stene <jmastene@gmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 10:06 AM

We took our grandchildren to TRNP last year. Our granddaughter, Taylor, then age 18 months, had been introduced to horses just the previous winter. She got to meet and ride a pony named Penny. She was enthralled - from thereafter all she could do was talk about Penny the Pony - to her daycare teacher, friends, relatives.

Driving through the park that beautiful June day, we came around a corner and there were 4-5 wild horses. They took my breath away, as they always do. Taylor, from her car seat in the back, squeals and points and says Penny! Penny the Pony! And starts calling to the horses: "Here, Penny! C'mere Penny!" And didn't want to drive on. All horses are Pennies!

Keep our colorful history and beautiful park as it was meant to be: full of priceless Pennies for all future generations to enjoy.

--

Joanie Stene
Horsemaster
Certified Instructor

331.

Linda Alves <picklli@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: Linda Alves <picklli@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 5:25 PM

Hello -

Thank you for all you do! I'm happy to add my voice to help these beautiful wild horses. This nonsense just has to be stopped.

Here's a copy of what I just submitted on the TRNP site a few minutes ago:

I am writing to make an earnest request for you to keep an open mind towards a more humane path for the wild horses at Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP). After all, these wild horses are the sole reason that I was even aware of this park's existence.

Please take a closer look at the Salt River Wild Horse Management Group and speak with your colleagues at the Tonto National Forest in Arizona. It's one of the best managed national forests and enjoys 8 million visitors yearly.

The Salt River wild horses are not everywhere in the Tonto National Forest, but the public gets to enjoy them and they create tourism income for the local community. Not one horse has ever been removed from the Salt River.

With some work and compromise, an intergovernmental agreement for the management of the Salt River horses was signed in 2017 - and, has produced outstanding results. The wild horse population has been managed humanely with PZP fertility control.

Wouldn't Theodore Roosevelt National Park like to also be a shining example of what can be done?

"The time is always right to do what is right." - Dr. Martin Luther King

Best regards,
Linda Alves

332.

Martinez, Holly <Holly.Martinez@westernmidstream.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>
Cc: Holly Martinez <shajamart@att.net>

Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 6:20 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

By far, the most beautiful and inspirational thing I see on social media is the stories and pictures of the Wild Horses in TRNP. I live in Texas and think how wonderful it would be if my state could have a herd of wild horses, how wonderful to see that majesty and freedom, I get chills just seeing their pictures. Please reconsider, give us something real to hold on to in this time of technology and violence, greed and sloth. It would be such a shame, just like so many beautiful, historic things we have lost in the last few years.

Thank you for allowing me to give my opinion.

Sincerely,

Holly Martinez

333.

Jodell Kruse <jekmjkkkruse@gmail.com>
To: Info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 8:50 PM

As a hobby photographer, from my first visit to Theodore Roosevelt National Park, I've loved seeing and photographing its beautiful landscapes, the bison, the prairie dogs, the eagles, the coyotes, the songbirds, and the wildflowers at TRNP but from first sight, the horses are what really spoke to my heart and spirit. Seeing their beauty, their interactions within the herds, the foals, mares and stallions, all really made an impact on me and their interaction with the landscape enhanced both the landscape and the horses. Whether it's merely getting a glimpse of horses in the distance, or seeing a horse sleeping or grazing along the road, laughing to see the foals play, or watching in awe as they climb the steep slopes with ease, or viewing them as they run across the prairie, or pausing as they proudly run up the road past my car, each sight touched my heart and lifted my spirit and made me forget my worries and troubles, if only for a moment. The horses more than anything made me feel closer to nature which brings me a sense of peace and of closeness with those who have gone before me.

I've returned to the park several times after my first visit and was currently planning my next trip there and anticipating the lift seeing the horses would give to my heart and spirit. But without the horses there to see, I wouldn't return.

I can't imagine these horses without that land nor can I imagine that land without these horses.

Jodell Kruse

334.

Macey Hvistendahl <maceyhvistendahl@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 10:34 PM

Theodore Roosevelt National Park is so special to me. I first visited the park in August 2020 on my way to Montana. At the time I did not know that wild horses lived there, only that it was a beautiful national park. Two months after that trip I was researching the Pryor Mountain Mustangs, and I stumbled upon the North Dakota Badlands Horse page on Facebook. Posted on the page was the news that they had recently announced the birth of a tiny black filly. For the next several months all I did was research the ancestry of these horses and dream of going to visit them. My dream finally came true. In July of 2021 my dad and I headed out to see these wild horses. While driving next to the park I saw my very first Theodore Roosevelt National Park wild horse. I quickly identified her as Twister. After that moment I was sold. I returned in March of 2022 and was able to see a 2 day old colt: Titan (AKA Pax). Then we came back in both August and October! I was able to see a total of 161 different individual horses throughout my four trips.

One of my favorite experiences in the park was seeing the 20 year old stallion Thundercloud. My dad and I were driving down the road going past Boicourt Trail. My dad spotted a horse and I took a quick look, all I saw was a dark horse. Immediately I thought it was Circus because he had been seen in the area recently. We turned around and I got a better look at him. When I saw he was a blue roan I knew he wasn't Circus. I then thought he was Applewood because we saw Applewood and Alluvium in the same area the day before. When I didn't see Alluvium I thought we should go see if the blue roan was someone else. We parked by the Boicourt trail and headed off in the opposite direction. When we first started heading out we couldn't see where he was. When we finally got to him he was standing on a butte catching the wind. It was around 100 degrees at the time. The old stallion was showing his age. I was trying to explain to my Dad that he had recently lost his band to his son Xander. He soon climbed higher on his butte where he stood looking over his wild home. In the distance I could see a few other bands.

I was sad to hear that he passed away late in 2021. After learning of his death I was hopeful to be able to find and photograph his remaining offspring and their offspring. After all four trips I was able to find and photograph all of them.

The horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park have become such a significant part of my life during my teenage years. I've spent countless hours building a connection with the horse through research, visits to the park, and photography. I cannot imagine the park without these wild horses, and only hope they will continue to remain a part of the park for generations to come.



<p>335.</p>	<p>Maria Tigermoln <moln711@msn.com> Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 6:32 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>Hello, My name is Maria Podal and I am emailing you about the wild horses in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park in Dakota, U.S.A. I myself live in Sweden, but I follow them on the internet.</p> <p>There are not words enough to describe what this means to me personally, to be able to know and follow wild horses. I think it is important to respect all life, wild or domestic, or human.</p> <p>I don't agree with the way roundups are performed in the U.S.. I sincerely hope this way of taking care of wild animals, whether they are horses, zebras or other wildlife, will change.</p> <p>If you are interested in learning other ways of taking care of wild horses or horses in general, I can recommend Rosemary Farm in the U.S.A. and Skydog Sanctuary. There are some other, but these I know for sure are capable and they have a lot of knowledge about wild and unhandled horses. I am also sure they know to refer to other capable sanctuaries for wildlife or for domestic animals, if needed.</p> <p>I do hope humans would be a kinder population on this earth. Whether you think we are the patrons of the earth as God intended or you have the scientific view I wish the politics of how we should act towards both each other and the species we share this place with would always have in mind that we all have the right to live and thrive, and when we act to intervene in the nature, that should also be with respect for the life we want to interact with.</p> <p>With the most sincere regards. Med vänlig hälsning, Ystävällisin terveisin, Maria Podal</p>
<p>336.</p>	<p>Henry Weber <henryjweb@gmail.com> Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 12:21 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p>

Henry's Story

Where do I start to tell my story with the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. 38 years of observing, following, and enjoying the wild horses. Initially riding our horses in the park as a family and seeing the wild horses from a distance. Riding around the loop road in Tom Tescher's blue pickup, looking for the horses and then sitting at his kitchen table learning the history of these horses. Studying their behavior for the CSU contraceptive study, and volunteering for the Park, assisting in captures by low stress chemical immobilization, working them thru the chutes for vetting, practicing loading in a trailer by low stress pressure & release so they would go to their new owner with loading not being traumatic. Participating in a Park research study on moving a band of horses from point A to point B, alone, on foot using low stress handling techniques. This method was successful 80% of the time, but only 40 % when a catch pen was at point B.

A major highlight was buying, gentling, training, and riding one of these wild ones back in the park for the last 16 years. Ember's Fire is the best trail horse I have ever ridden. No natural obstacle phases these wild ones. The most unique behavior with Fire is that he would not pass up a chance to drink. The first time I had him back in the park it had rained and he would go from hoof print to hoof print drinking the water. He still does.

One early memory burned in my mind is of stallion Red Face. We were riding on Talkington trail when this young stallion came over a rise on the same trail. He stopped, stood and smelled the breeze watching us with head up and neck arched. Suddenly he snorted, whirled and disappeared to where he had come. This winter he has disappeared and presumed gone. He led a great life in the wild.

Another time we were watching several bands of horses down on Lindbo Flats from the top edge of Sheep Butte. We heard a noise behind us, turned and saw Cocoa and his band about 20 feet behind us. Cocoa was breeding a mare. We rapidly moved part-way down the slope and waited for them to leave. Nature's call takes precedence over scary humans.

For the CSU contraceptive study, we had to observe a band of horses for 20 minutes and record what each horse was doing each minute. A few minutes into

a study the band moved to a water pond created by a recent rain. They drank and proceeded to stomp and roll in the mud. Then the stallion started to breed a mare. Because of the mud we could not identify the mare and our study ended as incomplete. Better luck next time. We learned so much about the behavior and band structure from these studies. The contraceptive had no effect on behavior other than no reproductive behavior for the treated mares.

One trial in the horse herding study that stands out to me was with the infamous stallion Blaze. Initially he didn't want to give control of the band, so I ignored him and pressured the lead mare to move the band the direction I wanted them to go. Blaze stayed in the back between me and the band. We were moving on Lindbo Flats along Sheep butte. When we got to the North end of the butte and I wanted to make a slow turn East, Blaze moved to the front and headed the band West. They didn't go far so I followed and started over, moving them East. I was able to successfully move them to point B. The route had a slight detour, and it took longer than I planned. The following summer Marylu and I successfully moved 3 bands of horses into the new catch pen and sorted out horses for removal.

I still love to sit on a butte and watch the horses interact with each other. Nothing relieves stress like watching Teddy's horses. It would be difficult to ride or hike the Park without the anticipation of seeing wild horses. These horses have been our passion. When we found out that 75% of the horses captured in helicopter roundups ended up sold to kill buyers, we started the non-profit NDBH to prevent that from happening again. We have been successful until now. Older horses have been allowed to live out their lives in the wild. Younger horses have gone to loving homes. I pray it will remain that way and generations will continue to experience the beauty and thrill of seeing wild ones in Teddy's Park.



337.

Barb Herzog <barb@islandtimesteeldrums.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 12:59 PM

Hello,

I am writing to support keeping a genetically healthy herd of wild horses in the Park for future generations to experience the Great West as it was when Teddy Roosevelt realized it must be preserved and created the Park.

I was born and raised in Fargo, ND. As a child my family visited TRNP and we saw the wild horses. At that time my parents gifted me the book "Misty of Chincoteague" and I learned the love of reading - all because of the horses we saw at TRNP.

When I was in high school my love of horses kept me out of trouble - I was starting to run with the wrong crowd and my parents bought me a horse. This, too, was because they knew of my love of horses that started at TRNP. Their 'trick' worked - my attention turned to my horse and away from the 'wrong crowd'.

Years later I took my kids to TRNP to see the horses. My kids have since moved out of state, but I know they have very fond memories of their trip to the Park. They have suggested TRNP to some of their out of state friends as the best place to take their young kids for a family vacation.

Now, years later I have trips planned with my grandchildren to visit the horses. I cannot imagine taking my grandkids there if the horses are not there. I bought my grandkids the "Misty of Chincoteague" book to have them read before visiting the horses this summer. I would love to have them fall in love with horses just like I did - all because of the wild horses that are part of the heritage of TRNP.

Thank you for your efforts to keep the wild horses in TRNP.

V/r

Barb Herzog
1130 Lake Av
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

338.

Beth Heebner <bethheebner@gmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

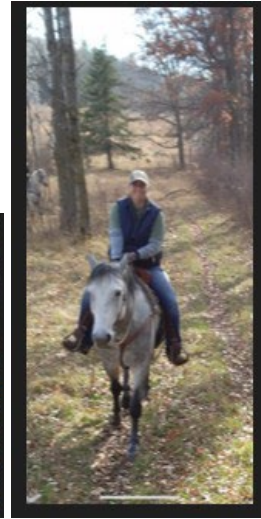
Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 4:18 PM

When someone thinks of the old west, they imagine land not altered by people. They envision breath taking landscape and the wild animals that roam free: bison, pronghorns and yes, wild horses. This is what brings tourists to Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

TRNP was never on my national park list of places I wanted to visit, until I started following several social media accounts that show case the wild horses of TRNP. I have gotten to know these majestic creatures and how they live in harmony with the other wild animals of the park. This park is now at the top of my list for my next vacation with my family and one day with my grandchildren. These wild horses need to be saved for our present selves and our future children.

Beth Heebner

<p>339.</p>	<p>mmeldahl53 <mmeldahl53@gmail.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>I have read many of the stories posted, and the factual articles presented. They are all so articulate and spot on. I can't compete with them. What I will say is that we make one trip out to Teddy Roosevelt Park including Medora every year. We take in all the things and enjoy them all. My absolute heart tug is to drive into the park a few times during our stay. I watch with camera ready for any glimpse of a wild horse. We go early in the morning, mid day, and in the evening. Sometimes we have been lucky, and sometimes not, but the horses are what call me back, over and over. There is a peace like no other, watching them and enjoying them in their home. I would see no reason to go back if the horses are gone. The horses are the catalyst for me to make the trip. North Dakota proud Mary Meldahl</p>	<p>Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 7:15 PM</p>
<p>340.</p>	<p>Lisa Beimert <doublelb@brained.net> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Hi my name is Lisa Beimert and here is my story. My very first time out to TRNP was back in 1999 when after one of my aunts and her husband stop in Medora on a motorcycle ride to Montana. They took one whole day to drive the park loop in search of these magnificent wild horses. After they returned back to Minnesota they said we wanted all our family to come to a magical place that they had fell in love with. So the next year my whole family and when I say whole family it goes from my grandparents, there children to there children and now our children. We loaded up our Minnesota ponies and headed west to Medora. We rode the park in search of the horses and found big herds hanging out next to Holliday wells. The first stallion I seen was a big black and white paint that we nicknamed Baldie due to his white face, he was magnificent standing there watching while we unloaded and saddles up. As we continued to ride jones creek we ran into another herd. We went back home and I couldn't wait till the next year to get out there to see baldie and all the rest of them. Well on 2004 my whole family again loaded up and headed out except for my aunt who turned us onto this place in the beginning fell ill so we dedicated our ride to her for she had past away in 2005 due to cancer. Now since that year we still go out and ride. I have 2 beautiful horses from the park Kentucky out of the late Silver and Democracy. Styx out of Sidekick and River. Keeping these magnificent horses in the park will continue the return of many.</p>	<p>Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 8:24 PM</p>



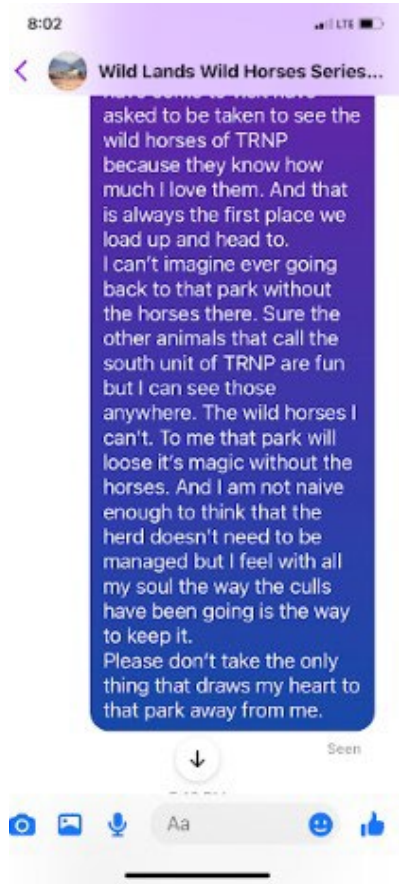
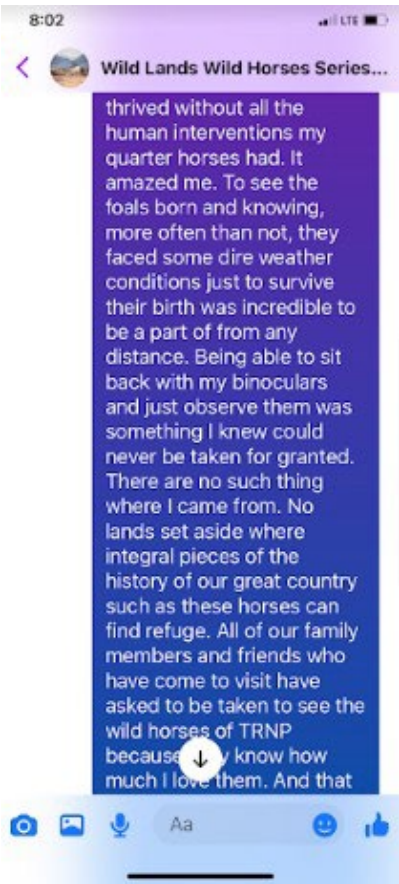
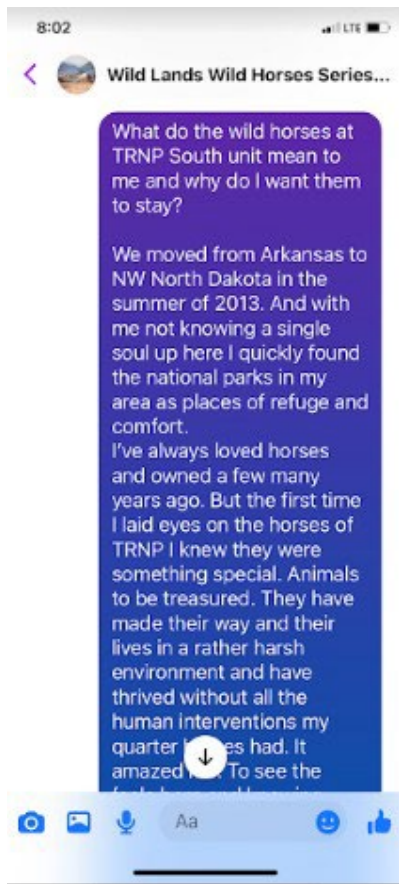
341.

Dale Gowen <dalegowen@yahoo.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 9:03 PM

Sent from my iPhone

3 attachments



342.

joanrood2b@icloud.com <joanrood2b@icloud.com>

Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 2:04
AM


To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I have always loved horses, but only in a superficial way in my youth when we would go on occasional trail rides. Fast forward to recent years when I was introduced to and inspired by Deb Lee Carson's photos of her beautiful horses captured as they romped and played like puppies in the freshly fallen snow at her farm in MN. Later I met her personally through Capture Minnesota, an online website of MN photographers sponsored by tpt. Deb's passion for photographing not only her own horses, but her passionate advocacy for the wild mustangs at the TRNP lit a fire of interest in hoping to see them for the first time in the park. Our first drive through in 2019 was a bust, but two years later in 2021 my dream was finally realized. As we rounded a bend on the Loop Rd, I laid my eyes on the first of two gorgeous herds from the side of a ridge where they were all standing like statues facing the hot wind for relief from the pesky nose flies that day. My first shot was a side view of the first herd, but as I walked farther around the road, I witnessed the 2nd herd on the opposite side of that ridge. As if they were posing for a couple of us with cameras, who maintained more than the minimum of 25 yards, my heart was in my throat as my hands shook throughout most of the countless images taken that day.

To observe their familial behavior, loyalty, and affection for one another was beyond amazing to me. Much of it I was privileged to see firsthand, but other subtleties of their behavior were caught later when the images were downloaded at home. Additionally, I counted 4 mares standing guard over their sleeping foals. Eventually, they all rose, a few nursed, and then herd began to move out. I still pinch myself for what I witnessed that day.

The wildlife in this beautiful national park was incredible to view on that trip. The wild mustangs are such an integral part of this park's history, and to imagine TRNP without them is inconceivable to me. To the point that I could not visit the park ever again. It would be incomplete to me. The thought of rounding up and breaking up, these familial herds would be horribly traumatizing for them is an understatement. It breaks my heart thinking about this unbelievable action, which would also result in injuries and deaths of some of the horses. I sincerely hope the TRNP service will reconsider what could dramatically change the landscape of this park forever, not to mention the effects their decision could have on the local tourism business for the park and surrounding towns.

Note: I learned from Deb later that the attached photo of this mare and her foal, is Deb's adopted Pinnacles' dame Domino that was sired by Blaze. This foal was sired by Arrowhead and would be Pinnacles' half sibling.

 A group of horses standing on a hill Description automatically generated with low confidence.jpeg



A group of horses standing on a hill
103K

343.

Nicola Morris <morrisnicola299@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 9:01 AM

Your story has become my passion as I wasn't aware that wild horses, untainted by the ways of the world still exist and roam free.
Nature's national flag is freedom as designed by the Almighty God and I long to see nature in its natural state rather than controlled by the cruelties of this world. 🤔❤️
Free nature and the people will shurly follow.
Hopefully we can trek up to TRNP whilst we still can, please preserve the wild horses they hold a legacy that can't ever be repeated 🌍🌈🙏

<p>344.</p>	<p>Eva S <eva.schapiro@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 9:55 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>At the end of my Au Pair time in the US I stumbled upon TRNP on the internet. Completely by accident. I had 4 weeks left on my visa and just enough money to afford a flight to Colorado, a rental car and a tent. The two weeks I spent in the park with the horses were the most magical thing I could have never imagined. Never again have I felt so free. Every once in a while I look up the price of flights (I'm back in Europe now) and sigh with great sorrow. The prospect of never getting to feel what I felt back then again rips my heart to shreds. To anyone who reads this, if you can afford it, go now. I could cry just thinking about it. It's all worth it, the 10 hour drive from Denver, the nights spent in a tent under a tree while a thunderstorm rages outside, the freezing showers at the campground. What I wouldn't give to get to do all that again just to roll up to the park in the morning and observe Tetons band going about their day.</p>
<p>345.</p>	<p>Sybille Krug <bunjyp13@aol.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 11:01 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>My name is Sybille, I am from Germany. I can't even remember, when I first saw a picture of Blaze, posted by Deb. But I was fascinated by this amazing stallion from the first moment. So I started to follow her account and learned a lot about the wild horses of TRNP. Before I didn't even know this NP. When Blaze changed worlds, I was more than shocked. Feels like losing a horse I knew for a long time.</p> <p>One year later me and a friend did a road trip in the States. 3 weeks packed with sights we want to visit. And I put TRNP on my list. Even it was a detour of 400 miles, a long and sometimes boring drive, to be honest... But it was worth every minute! We were lucky to see some of the bands in the park, spend nearly one hour watching Flax and his mares grazing peacefully close to the road. It was such an amazing experience to see the wild ones living their best life. Wild and free!</p> <p>Von der neuen AOL-App für iOS gesendet</p>

<p>346.</p>	<p>tdr123@aol.com <tdr123@aol.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 11:02 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>Please reconsider your plans to close TR National park in Badlands and remove the wild mustangs!!! We are planning a trip there with grandchildren and they are so excited to go!!! We have researched the park and the horses and have our favorite mustang pictures on our walls to remind us of our upcoming goal and why we are saving our penny's now!! These beautiful, majestic creatures were here first and deserve our care, consideration and respect!!!</p> <p>Thank you for your thoughtful consideration!!</p> <p>Teresa Burbach</p>
<p>347.</p>	<p>Mike Tweeton <miketweeton38@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 11:27 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Several years ago, on my first photo trip to visit TRNP at Medora, the first discovery of seeing those magnificent horses and their families, have left indelible memories !! The presence of these majestic inhabitants of the already beautiful Park, adds a dimension that is really incomparable ! My sons and grandchildren on subsequent trips were equally thrilled to see those amazing horses in their natural habitat ! To even consider removing the wild horses from TRNP borders on the unconscionable ! To succumb to the political whims of "management" would be the worst of decisions—despite what any well-meaning "expert" tries to foist on those beloved, unsuspecting horses ! To take those horses out of TRNP would be like taking the Buffalo out of Yellowstone Park !! Please don't abandon the successful studies and labors of all who have worked with the horses over the years to insure their survival ! Help find other options for continuing to make TRNP horses a special experience for future generations !!</p>

<p>348.</p>	<p>Rebecca Jones <rebeccajones74@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 1:50 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>Sent in by Rebecca Falk</p> <p>I have not had the great opportunity to see the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt park yet. I hope that changes planning on seeing them in the future so the park better leave them there. What is the park without the wild horses I would say very barren and beauty and history will be gone. Looking at the book " The Wild Herd" by Deborah Kalas and also pictures of the wild horses on your website makes my mouth drop in awe. These horses are gorgeous and have so many colors. Let alone what they endure for winters not all horses can take and live like they do. I long to see these wild horses. I know a little about them now. I want to see their bands. I would like to see a few of the stallions such as Cloud or Thunder. Thunder seems pretty unusual to allow his daughter to go run off with another stallion and gladly greet her back. Cant wait to see these historical horses of North Dakota</p>
<p>349.</p>	<p>magcornfoot@gmail.com <magcornfoot@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 2:01 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Salutations Deb and Jamie</p> <p>As someone who is not new to advocating for human and environmental rights and now as a yoga instructor for the past twenty years my focus is on the relationship of being connected to the internal compass that guides and inspires our sense of being It also requires a responsibility of awareness to function Without knowing our place within the environment we become orphaned and sometimes callous To recover this misplaced identity I designed and coordinated a government youth project which brought native and non-native youth together to educate the community of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of Durham Region I also had a small part in establishing a Land Trust on the Oak Ridges Moraine</p> <p>Indolent domesticity entombs the unwary For me this is the life lesson of wild horses which enrich my life in just knowing that they are there Wildness Teaches Civility</p> <p>The struggle of native wild horses to remain free is our struggle to remain humane The Wild Horses of North America represent the Gracious Spirit of Freedom Globally and affects us deeply</p> <p>Fundamental to Our Humanity Our decision making today is what future generations will inherit For many our enduring affinity for wild horses is inherent</p>

It seems that TRNP has lost the vision to protect wilderness habitat for indigenous species and provide a service to the public

Personally I believe in the innate value of horses in the wild as therapy for those that get to experience their presence as well as those like myself who respect their right to remain in their home continuing to revitalize a healthy gene pool

I would hope and expect that their presence continues unhindered by any human shortsightedness

I am keen to see the stories of individual horse families that I have met through Facebook posts

My intention when I visit TRNP is to embrace their terrain ,breathe their familiar scent , listen for their unmistakable vocalizations and to feel the pulse of their hoofbeats resonating into my core while they recharge the living landscape

Thank you Deb and Jamie for all that you do to inspire us with your wonderful documentaries
Mag Cornfoot

magcornfoot@gmail.com <magcornfoot@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 4:06 PM

I forgot to mention that while I am in Ontario Canada I feel connected by continent rather than divided by country and Native wild horses belong to our North America 🙏

350.

Mark Bearden <mwbbunch@att.net>

Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 2:55 PM

To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

My name is Mark Bearden and I wanted to share my story about the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

I first found out about these amazing horses through Instagram. This was in early 2016. I started following several of the photographers who followed the horses and would post their photographs on Instagram. I was amazed at how healthy these horses looked even though they were living in the wild.

After a few weeks of looking at the photos, I knew I had to make a trip to North Dakota to see these horses for myself and to take my own photos. I told my wife that my 2017 vacation was to Theodore Roosevelt National Park to photograph the wild horses, to which she replied, why not go this year..(2016).

So I started planning my trip to Medora, North Dakota for August 2016. I drove from Mesquite, Texas to Medora in about two days and spent three days in the park photographing the wild horses. I stayed in one of the Woolly Wagons at Custer's Cottage, which was just perfect for me.

I will never forget the feeling I got when I topped a hill and just below me were several horses with their little ones. It was so exhilarating.

I cannot imagine the park without these wonderful horses. To me, it would be just another park.

Sure, the landscape is gorgeous, but it is much more beautiful when wild horses are present.

I really hope the horses are left inside the park and not removed. I think it would be a tremendous blow to the park and the surrounding area of Medora if that takes place. I know the wild horses are on of the major draws for tourists, after all, they were the main reason I went to Theodore Roosevelt National Park in 2016.

I attached a few photos from my trip.

Thank you for letting me share my story,
Mark Bearden
Mesquite, Texas





<p>351.</p>	<p>Sharon Rezac <rezacsharon@icloud.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 3:41 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Having read Jack Zaleskis editorial in todays FORUM and following this story for a number of years, I am writing to show my support for the wild horses in Roosevelt National Park. They have managed to survive without being managed by man! That's proof that they are North Dakota strong! Sharon Rezac, 1337 7 Street South, Fargo, ND</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>
<p>352.</p>	<p>Melissa Hodgson <lot2lodge@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 4:03 PM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>In 2012 my husband and I were camping in South Dakota, we were lucky to meet 2 former park horses, and their owners. We fell in love! That evening we were invited to another campsite to watch a slideshow on the wild horses in the Park. They were so beautiful, almost magical. The way they are able to navigate the difficult terrain of the Park was amazing to see.</p> <p>We decided then if we were ever able,we would adopt one of these magnificent horses! We kept in touch with the campers we had met,and found out there was going to be an auction in 2013. We did our research and had a list of 10 potential horses. We went to look at all of the captured horses the night before the auction.</p> <p># 5 on our list was little Pride(Teddy),unlike the other's, he turned toward my voice and walked 3 steps towards me. HE PICKED ME!! We were lucky enough to bring him home. He will be 10 in March and is the most loving, smart, and funny horse.</p> <p>We were also lucky to be able to adopt Flynn Ryder (Rango) in 2017. He too is a very special horse.</p> <p>Both have become brave,strong, steady riding horses.</p> <p>In 2021 we brought both of our boys back to Medora.</p> <p>I can't imagine not being able to see or follow the still wild horses in the Park. They are the only reason why we went to the Park. I hope that the Park continues to have horses as part of their history. They represent hope, dreams, and freedom. A huge part of my life, my heart,would be missing if I didn't have my 2 TRNP horses.</p> <p>I look forward to seeing how the wild horses are doing and follow the changes with the herds, births and even deaths on Facebook.</p> <p>It would be tragic if the Park decides to eliminate the beautiful animals.</p>

353.

Eileen <emnorton@aol.com>
Reply-To: Eileen <emnorton@aol.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 4:33 PM

The year was 1980 and I followed my boyfriend at the time from Minnesota to Dickinson State University. The first time we drove to TRNP on Interstate 94, I looked out as we passed the beautiful Badlands and couldn't believe my eyes as an entire band of wild horses were galloping at full speed freely across the landscape of this beautiful National Park! I'd never seen anything like this in my life and was awestruck, to say the least! It was other worldly to me and truly the most magnificent thing I'd ever been witness to at that time! That moment was emblazoned deep into my heart and mind, and I never forgot these incredible horses living wild and free in this gorgeous National Park! I took many trips into the park during the time I spent in North Dakota and seeing the wild horses was always on the top of my list!

In 1998 my now husband and I returned from a 3-year assignment in Tokyo Japan. Living in the hustle and bustle of Tokyo was interesting but being a Minnesota gal, I always yearned to get back to the country. In our third year in Japan, I announced to him that when we returned to the states, I was going to work with horses again. And you guessed it, it was the TRNP herd I had in mind! The first thing I did when I returned to the states was to stop in the park and see those magnificent horses that awed me so many years ago! I visited as often as I could and then in 2007, I asked my husband if he would make a trip with me to my favorite place on earth!

We did just that and during that trip, we came across a black and white stallion named Curious George! He was magnificent and we just sat along the side of the road and watched all the amazing dynamics taking place in his band. Again, this experience was like no other and it was obvious to us both that we were indeed in a very special land filled with dozens of different species of animals that could cross one's path at any given time. Where does one find that kind of glory anywhere else? Theodore Roosevelt National Park, that's where!

By the fall of that year, it was rumored another round up of the horses was going to take place and that Curious George was on the list to be taken out. This was devastating news to us and so we ended up meeting a group of like-minded people and hoped and prayed that Curious George would remain in the park which was the only home he'd ever known. It turned out that not only did he not get captured that year, but he also was spared from the roundup of 2009. That year he became sick and was very thin. The day the helicopter flew to round up horses, I sat in an open field with him and told him what he meant to me, and I wished him well in his journey forward. That was the last time I saw Curious George and it still makes my heart ache to this day!

The 2009 round up was a tough one as 70 some horses were brought to the stock yards in Dickinson to be sold. The kill buyers were there and were winning horses on low bids that others didn't bid on. In all, 8 perfectly good horses ended up in the hands of kill buyers and despite a gallant effort, there was nothing any of us could do to save them! It literally broke all our hearts to have to witness that and left an indelible mark on us all. They were ages 2-15 and there wasn't a thing wrong with any of them, but they suffered at the hands of those who chose to remove them from the National Park. This is where my life changed from being a fan to becoming an activist working in support of this herd! At that 2009 sale, we bid on Charlie (one of the last colts of Curious George), his little brother Chip and our precious Dakota Page. Curious George was indeed the one who started it all for us, but these three were now our new ambassadors to help recognize and support this herd.

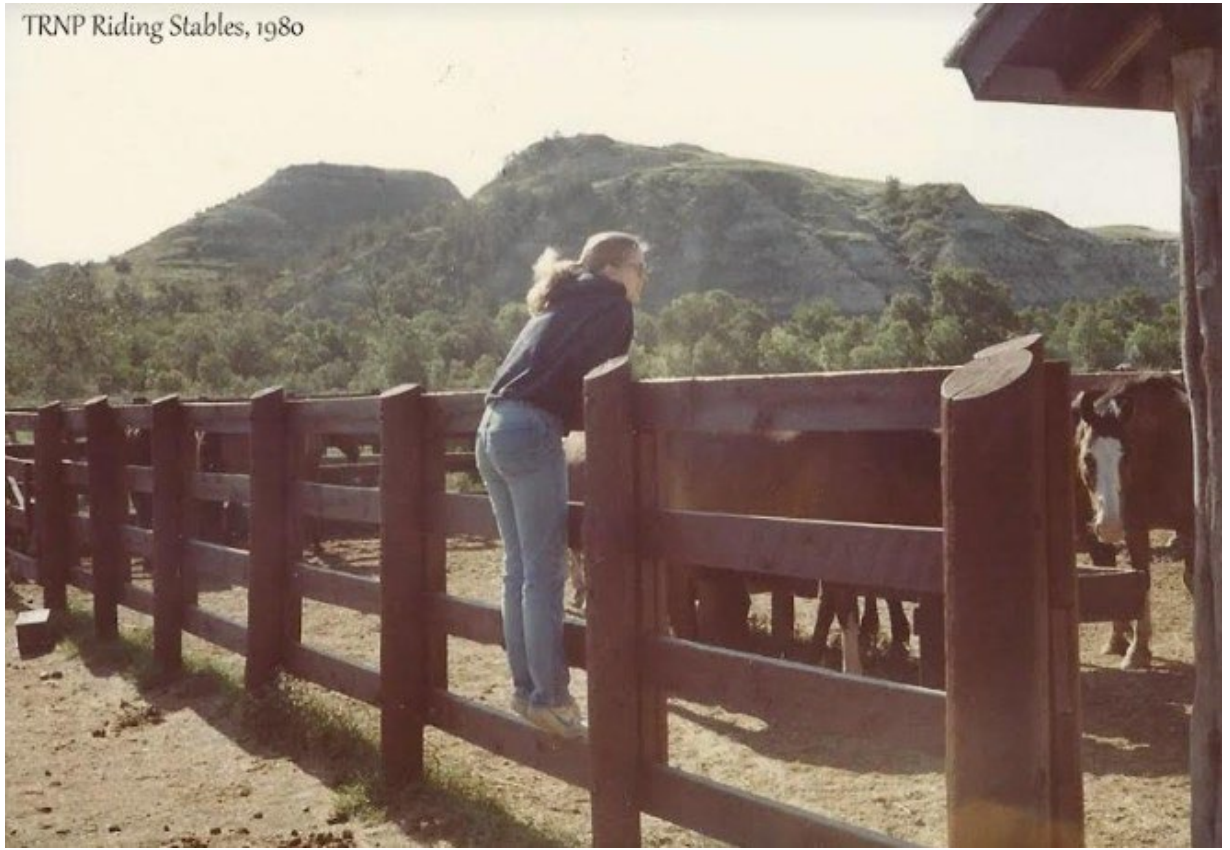
In 2012 I started my Facebook page Wild in North Dakota where I shared photos and told stories of my adventures out in the park. The main goal was to raise awareness of this herd, so no horse had to end up in the hands of a kill buyer ever again! In 2014 we were granted our 501 (c)(3) status as a nonprofit corporation and did what we could through the years to support this herd. The Facebook page grew to over 400,000 followers and includes an audience reach from across the U. S. all the way to countries across Europe and as far as South Africa, Australia, Canada, Mexico and many more countries in between. In 2016 and 2017 we added colts Warrior and Renegade to our personal herd, and it has been a joy to bring each of them into our ranch family. We have two sets of brothers and that has been amazing to watch them continue in captivity as siblings.

In summary, that fateful day 43 years ago when I saw this herd for the first time literally changed the trajectory of my life! These horses live in my heart and soul and there's not a day that goes by that they are not in my life either in the park or at home on our ranch! The horses that still call the Park home deserve to be managed, respected, and revered so generations to come can live the same types experiences I have been blessed with for the past four decades! We all need to continue to make that happen, not only for the horses but for each one of us whose lives have been or will be changed once their eyes have been graced upon this herd of magnificent horses running wild and free in beautiful Theodore Roosevelt National Park!

The first photo is of Stallion Curious George who many may have never met. The second photo is of me at the riding stables in the park back in 1980!



TRNP Riding Stables, 1980



<p>354.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 6:12 PM</p> <p>Brenda Miller <auntiebrenda1988@gmail.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>I'm writing this to help tell the story of how important it is to leave the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park! These horses serve as a link to our past that we get to enjoy today and, more importantly, a link to the past for many generations to come! These horses are a piece history that only time itself can produce!! And you cannot buy time to make history!! We live in a throw away world today and how sad that is! It is utterly reckless to consider ridding TRNP of the wild horses!! This would be throwing away a piece of America! Once we rid ourselves of something, it's gone, forever!! These horses have a lineage that cannot be replaced!!</p> <p>It was a dream come true for me to bring my young daughter to TRNP and look for the wild horses. What a beautiful scene when we finally spotted them on our second day!! We sat and watched them from afar as they interacted with each other without any human interventions! Nature is truly an amazing thing! Can you imagine the memories that those horses gave my young daughter? Memories that I hope she will remember when she is old and tells her grandchildren! Wouldn't it be wonderful for her to someday go with her grandchildren and visit offspring of the herd she once visited as a young girl!!</p> <p>If you remove the horses, you are ending history! You are ending a piece of who America is!! You are ending dreams of the unborn citizens of this great country! DON'T MAKE A RECKLESS DECISION!!!</p> <p>These wild horses are amazing, beautiful and are a symbol of American freedoms!</p> <p>I am asking that the wild horses be left in TRNP for generations to come so they can have the opportunity to experience what America stands for, freedom!!</p> <p>Respectfully, Brenda Miller Caledonia, Minnesota</p>
<p>355.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 7:19 PM</p> <p>Kayla Turbiville <turbivillek@gmail.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>Please help to not get rid of the 158 wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The wild horses have been here since before it was a national park, it's THEIR rightful home we need to protect it and them. What an abomination for anyone to think that this would be okay.</p>

356.

Nicole Bowling <nicole.lamps@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 8:05 PM

Hello,

I wanted to submit a story about my trip to Theodore Roosevelt National Park in 2016 and my experience with the horses. Please feel free to use this submission if it will help. Thank you for fighting for them, you have our full support.

Thank you,
Nicole Bowling
Cincinnati, Ohio

My husband and I traveled to Theodore Roosevelt National Park as part of a three week long camping trip that I dubbed "The Great American Road-Trip." As a newly wedded couple, visiting our country's great national parks was a goal that we decided to prioritize during the first years of our marriage. From our home in Ohio we traveled to Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas, stopping at the national parks and monuments in each state.

As we approached the park, we both hoped to catch a glimpse of the famous wild horses that we had read about prior to starting our journey. After arriving at our campsite, we excitedly discussed waking up at dawn to hike the trails with hopes of having an encounter with the herd. That morning, as the mists of early dawn were rising in layers beneath the deep blue of the sky, we walked along the trail and into the painted landscape of the wilderness. As the sun was breaking over the horizon, we saw two photographers in the distance.

As we looked out over the ridge, my heart raced and my spirits soared as we caught our first sight of the spectacular herd of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The photographers that we had previously spotted were kind enough to say hello to us and share some of their stories and encounters with the herd. We heard tales of the different bands of horses, the stallions that watched over their harem of mares, and the individuals that roamed freely over the plains and badlands of the park. It became clear that each one of these beautiful horses were unique individuals, with strong family bonds and with their own stories. There was a wild beauty captured in these majestic creatures that matched the rugged and untamed grandeur of the landscape.

As I watched this family unit and listened to their stories, a spark of love grew in my heart for the wild things and wild places that continue to endure in our national parks. This tranquil scene was suddenly broken by the appearance of a helicopter looming over the canyon. The horses broke into a stampede as they fled from the potential danger and galloped right towards us. The photographers calmly instructed us to band together as one unit as the herd thundered forward. My heart pounded, my breath caught in my throat, and all of my consciousness was pulled into the present moment as we waited for the inevitable encounter. At what seemed like the last second the herd split around us, sparing us, protecting us. Colors raced by in flashes of brown, white, red, black, and gray as the herd charged onward. As we watched them go, I knew that this would be an experience that would never leave me and that I would carry in my memory for the rest of my time on this earth.

Experiences that connect us with the wild power of nature are rare and precious. The wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park will always represent to me the wildness, freedom, and rugged beauty that our national park system was established to preserve. I hope that all visitors to the park will have the opportunity to form their own connection and have their own experience with the horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for years to come. It would be a great loss to the park and to the American people if this opportunity was taken away.

357.

Genevieve DELCUVE <gdelcuve@shaw.ca>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sat, Jan 21, 2023 at 11:14 PM

I live in Winnipeg, Manitoba and this coming spring we are planning a vacation to New Mexico where we will spend a few days on a guest ranch. The focus of this trip is to enjoy and spend time with horses. On the way back from New Mexico, we are planning to make a two-day stop in Medora to see the horses in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I have been following "North Dakota Badlands Horse" on Facebook and would love to see them in real life.

Until now I had taken solace in the fact that the horses in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park are not under the jurisdiction of the BLM, seeing how so many horses have been and still are ruthlessly removed from all the HMAs. Needless to say, I am crushed by the National Park Service proposal to remove the wild horses from Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Ten years ago, I began horseback riding, which brought a lot of joy and gratitude into my life. I have formed a deep respect for these animals. I find that their sensitivity to our moods and ability to pick up on nuances in our way of being are therapeutic, in that they allow for self-discovery. Moreover, as a society, we are indebted to them as they have done so much for us through the millennium. Still today, their tendency to form strong bonds with people and between each other is so inspiring and heartwarming.

I believe, therefore, that the Theodore Roosevelt National Park horses, like all wild horses, deserve that we do all we can to let them live free according to their nature.

Thank you for reading my plea.

Sincerely,
Genevieve

<p>358.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 11:25 AM</p> <p>Kimberly Stordeur <kimberlystordeur@gmail.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>I grew up in North Dakota my whole life every summer I would go to Medora with my parents and the National Park was our highlight because of the Wild Horses with the horse loving little girl excitement sparkling in her eyes I left the park with my family with memories for a lifetime left on my heart and with pictures. I grew up into a woman that would work her college years in Medora North Dakota at the Cowboy Cafe for Beth and Kevin Clyde(amazing people) and the Theodore Roosevelt Foundation. Every day after work I'd go out into the park to watch and visit the horses and photograph them . National Park Service you have no idea just how special these horses are and their lineage going back to the Battle of Little Bighorn. Circus aka Ace and the others this landscape is all they ever known. I went to college and met my now husband and I have 2 sons. My parents husband and kids have kept the tradition going alive camping hiking and watching the horses, my sons are always in Awww of them and enjoy seeing them everytime. My horse loving spirit hasn't stopped and my photography passion continues. I want you all to think about all these precious moments with the wild horses we can continue on for future generations, and all the work you guys can do with all the pro horse people involved to keep all the horses and work on keeping the herds young and healthy! It is doable! Please National Park Service do not make the biggest mistake that down the road will your biggest regret because there would be no going back!</p>
<p>359.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 1:03 PM</p> <p>Jen Smith <kianainwis1@gmail.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>I was introduced to the TRNP horses in 2013. A friend of a friend had a couple and my friend was thinking of getting one. As a young girl, I had read Mustang, Wild Spirit of the West by Marguerite Henry. As an avid horse lover, I was intrigued by the thought of gentling a wild horse. My friend so generously said that I could get one too and she would keep the horse for me as I didn't have the proper facility. I got a young mare, Ivy. Ivy was out of Strawberry and sired by Copper. I was hooked. I began following any pages that spoke of the TRNP herd. I wanted to learn as much as I could about them. I loved seeing Ivy's wild family and the beautiful landscape that they lived in.</p> <p>Ivy proved to be a bit much for my first wild one. I took her as far as I could and then re-homed her to someone with more wild horse experience. However, that did not stop my interest in these horses. In 2016 I adopted a plain brown colt that didn't have many bids. He was born to Cheyenne and sired by Mystery. He is an AMAZING animal and will be my forever horse. I again loved following the pages and learned about his family.</p> <p>In the summer of 2017, my husband and I were on the way back from a trip to Montana. I talked him into taking the park road to see if we could see any horses. We saw some bison, some prairie dogs, and coming around a corner, some horses! As luck would have it, we drove directly through Mystery's band! My heart was pounding! I was able to see my horse's family! We watched them for quite some time. The foals were just like Dakota and the adults were grazing and keeping an eye on the little ones, while the great Mystery stood guard. We wouldn't have even considered taking time out of our long drive if the horses were not in the park.</p>

Fall of 2023 we are planning a trip to TRNP. We want to take our horses back to ride in the land that they were born in. We couldn't even imagine the trip without seeing these horses in the park.

Please let these horses remain in TRNP. Remove the young ones if you must, but the older horses deserve to die in the way of nature, in their own home, the way that Mystery and Cheyenne did. To see these band stallions, a symbol of strength and freedom, and their families removed to die in a place that they don't understand would be the greatest of indignities.

Jen Smith, WI

360.

Several years back I ran across Eileen's Facebook page and became aware of the wild horses at TRNP. As a horsewoman and photographer I decided to find out as much as I could about the wild horses of the west. The closest herd to my home was in Arizona so I took a long weekend and drove to see them. I was hooked. These wild horses brought my husband and I together, (another wildlife photographer and a story for another time). Our trips and vacations have been to photograph wildlife and the wild horses of the different herd management areas. We have photographed thousands of horses in the past few years. We have also adopted a few.

I kept telling my husband that we needed to go see the TRNP horses. Finally we did. We made the long trip from SW Oregon last year and absolutely fell in love with the horses and the park. It is by far the most beautiful setting we've seen for photographing and observing horses in the wild. We planned to make this an annual adventure.

Removing the horses will be a serious tragedy for visitors to the park and the park as a whole. Where else will you find the wild horses of America in a National Park? I understand management of the horses is necessary but to remove them from the park altogether just doesn't seem like a fiscally sound decision. Instead of removing the horses, the park should be capitalizing on them. They should create a program to enhance education about wild horses to help support the park. Visitation to the park will never be the same if the horses are gone. What a terrible decision and shame.



361.

WILD CHILD SHIELD_DANA FROM MONTANA_STORY

1 message

DEB LEE CARSON <everseethelight@gmail.com>

Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 1:59 PM

To: Wild Lands Wild Horses <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

The first time my mom had visited us, in Montana, we went to TRNP. While there, we saw many horses! My mom was more excited than I was and, of course, wanted to bring them ALL home. 😊 We had no idea there were horses there, but you can bet I started researching as soon as we got home! One of the most informative things I came across was a blog, written by Marylu Weber, telling all about the horses that live inside the park. I read and read. Looked at pictures and shared all the stories with my mom, who was back home in Washington. In early 2013, I got wind of a round up and sale of the wild horses from the park! My mind whirled...I needed to go back and see them again. Maybe I could get one of these beautiful horses?

During this same time, my mothers dementia really started to kick in. She started her stove on fire for the second time! She emailed me that maybe it was time she moved to be with us. Long story short, we made it happen, in the summer of 2014. It was tough on all our family and her friends. Dementia is a slow ride with the devil, and not something I wish on anyone!

The week before the auction, my pal Courtney and I went to the park. When we got to the visitor center we over heard talk of "the helicopter" and "the holding pens". We were both very anxious about what was happening! Once we made it into the park, we found a few horses standing behind a small hill. We trekked up the hill and sat on the ground watching them. Soon, a rustling started in the trees to our right. Out walked the most amazing stud! He was glowing white, almost shimmering! With a mane like nothing I'd ever seen in person. You guessed it! The one and only Gray Ghost. But, he wasn't alone, he was followed by a super sassy red colt! As they walked below us, GG acted as though we didn't exist. The little red colt, tossed his head at us and flicked his tail, before running back to the group we originally saw. What a hoot, and what an amazing thing,

having GG walk right by us! But, soon the atmosphere changed in the park as the helicopter began it's duties of moving horses.... It wasn't long before we saw large groups of horses running up hills and through valleys. All being moved in the same direction. The direction of the holding pens. Talk about a day of mixed emotions. Sadness for all the horses. Worry for all the horses. Anxiousness on deciding to defy Chuck and get one, even though he told me I'd be living in my camp trailer in the field with the horses! What if the kill buyers showed up and nobody else did. The 'what if's' were the worst, for me, and I decided to get one!

I wanted one of those horses. My main concern wasn't on a certain horse, it was just on saving ANY horse that was being bid on by a meat buyer. I was unable to go to Wishek for the sale, but found a wonderful woman named Julie Lander, who lived close and who was also going to bring home a horse or two. Julies friend Tandra was going to the auction and she would bid for me as well. And best part of all, they would get the horse to me! All I had to do was get the spot ready and pay the dues when they showed up! OH and break the news to Chuck! LOL

There were over 100 horses rounded up for the Wishek sale. Mares and foals and stallions. Mares and foals were separated, not sold together. In my mind, a meat buyer would be most likely to get an older stud horse. So, that was what I had anticipated. I was ready for it. I could do it!..... Half an hour into the sale my phone buzzes! My heart was in my throat. I bet this was it.... I opened the text and there is a message and a photo of the horse Tandra bought for me. (I'm such a sap, I am crying while I'm writing this) There on my phone screen was the sassy little red colt who had snubbed his nose at Courtney and I !! The little brat that was bold enough to march around in the trees with his amazing dad, until two humans scared him back to his mommy! A five month old turd that was now coming to live with ME! Not a stud horse that I would never do anything with, except feed and hope to make a pet out of, but a freaking five month old baby! And not just ANY baby, but THE baby that I had just teased and laughed and felt such joy with, a week earlier. Out of all those horses, somehow, Tandra had picked THAT horse for me. His name was Shield. His name is still Shield. The day he stepped off the trailer onto our property was the day my heart changed. It swelled and it tingled and I

swear it opened up!

Shield was a divine gift, that put a shield around my heart! He is the kindest soul. He gives me unconditional love and feels every emotion. He was my saving grace. He rescued me from the horror that was Dementia. The disease that turned my hero, my rock, the only person I looked up to, my Mother, into a complete stranger. I lost my mother in March of 2018. I'm not sure I would have made it through all of our trials, without that amazing little red colt!

**First two photos are from the day Courtney and I sat and watched Shield with Gray Ghost. Just half and hour before they were on the run, from the helicopter.







362.

bobshoemaker@frontiernet.net <bobshoemaker@frontiernet.net>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at
2:33 PM

Jan 22, 2023

Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP) had long been on our list of National Parks to visit. While we had even passed by on the freeway a couple of times while enroute to or from other destinations we never had it in our schedule to make an actual visit to the park until 2018 as a part of a multiple NP photographic tour including The Grand Tetons, Yellowstone and Glacier with a 2 day visit in TRNP on the way home to Minnesota. With both of us being serious photography enthusiasts, it was a trip with the goal of finding beauty in nature of all sorts including the landscapes, weather conditions, environmental changes such as fire scarring and plant rebirth and largely for wildlife.

As for wildlife, the Grand Tetons, Yellowstone and Glacier NP's yielded some Elk, Moose, Turkey, Deer, Coyote, Bison, Grizzly Bear, and a few other animals and birds but TRNP gave us the rare opportunity to see Wild Horses in their natural habitat behaving and interacting in their own unique natural ways, something that is rarely seen by most people and even less understood by casual observers.

Unfortunately for us our 2 days in the park gifted us several beautiful landscapes but only gifted us with sighting 2 solo horses, one standing in the middle of the road and the second farther into the park standing not far off the road doing the same thing as all horses, wild or domestic, Grazing.

While he kindly raised his head for a moment to take a look at us, enough time for a quick photo, he quickly went right back to eating.

Well this was just enough to have us vow to come back and spend more time in search of the wild horses that fit so well into this varied terrain.

It took 4 years but in September 2022 we made it back for more. This time we came not alone but as part of an adventure tour/workshop with extremely knowledgeable guides, Deb Lee Carson and Jamie Baldanza, from the WildLandsWildHorses foundation.

In the 4 days we were there we saw so many horses even though a large part of the loop road was closed due to erosion issues. It made all the difference having someone that knows not only the park extremely well but who also knows the behaviors of wild horses so well.

It is easy for the casual park visitor to see the landscape and usually abundant Bison and maybe a few Deer and if lucky an Elk. And perhaps on a good day with a little luck they will see some of the wild horses and get a jolt of excitement for a short while.

But getting up early and staying out late taking the time to find the bands with someone who knows where to look and take time to really observe them as they interact within their band and with rival bands is an amazing experience, especially with a guide or guides who know and can explain to you what the different behaviors mean, how the horses communicate and things like the pecking order of the bands. Having been around horses growing up, I can say that I saw a big difference between domestic horses behavior and the natural behaviors of wild horses. The intelligence, strength, rivalry, comradeship, and emotions whether affection or fear. They are all something not only wonderful to observe but also enlightening and spirit lifting.

We pray and we hope that the wild horses will forever be a large part of the park and their contribution to the park be always appreciated by the park service.

I think it would be a great addition to the park experience to have a quality interpretive film showing regularly in the visitor center. One that would tell the story of the wild horse, their history, their contribution to man throughout time, some explanation of wild horse behaviors and so on. It would certainly enhance visitors experience in and of the park and appreciation of the horses. Maybe Deb Lee Carson and Jamie Baldanza could be an integral part of the content production.

Our thanks to them for their guidance and knowledge shared as well as for their efforts in protecting not only the wild horses all over the country but also the heritage and historical contributions of horses to humanity and an unending desire for understanding and truth of the wild horse and how they can coexist in todays world.

Bob & Deb Shoemaker

363.

Carol Goulson <carlog1945@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 3:19 PM

I support the effort to save the wild horses of TRNP.

Here is My Story,

My one and only visit to the park occurred when I visited my son who was living in Bismarck at the time. At that time we saw several bands in the distance. As a lifelong lover of horses, I was so excited to see them and wished I could have been closer to them. One special memory I have of that time was of a band running across the crest of a ridge; so proud and free. I can still see it in my mind's eye. At the time I didn't know what I was seeing; but it was beautiful and awe-inspiring to witness. It left me with a wonderful memory that I hope others can experience. Later, I learned more about TRNP through the photos and stories of Blaze. I cried for days when he passed; sad but he died wild and free. That is when I learned about the other bands. Since then I have been inspired by all the beautiful photos and stories of all the horses and bands. I follow and look forward to the stories, photos, and seeing the new foals. It makes me happy.

Now, I have been devastated to hear the news about the possible removal of the horses in TRNP. I don't know if I'll ever have another opportunity to visit the park again; but the horses are the only reason I would go back. The loss of the genetically unique horses of TRNP and their history in the park will be immeasurable. This natural treasure will be lost; never to be regained. Once they're gone, they're gone. No going back; no recreating. I pray the agencies and individuals on the committees involved will realize what a loss this would be to North Dakota, the Nation, and globally.

Carol G

364.

Betty Fred <bettyjeanfred@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 3:21 PM

I moved to ND in Sept. of 2011. The next summer I went to my first Medora Musical. Which was the first time I really learned anything about Theodore Roosevelt. I fell in love with Medora that night. Little did I know just how in love I was. Later in the summer we got the chance to drive through TRNP. I couldn't believe what we saw. From the prairie dogs, to the bison, to the beautiful mustangs. And that is the reason we come back multiple times a year. All year long we follow along with Badlands Horses on Facebook and hear the tales of the horses and who's leading what pack and their names. And then we get to go and drive through and see these actual packs. It is a highlight for my entire family and everyone who comes to visit us in Dickinson. By getting rid of the mustangs, you would be getting rid of Medora. It is their home and if we haven't learned anything from history, we need to stop stepping in and moving species. They will become extinct and all the people of Medora will be the ones paying.

Thank you,
Betty Fred
Dickinson, ND
701.690.6747











365.

Krista Ginger <kristaginger@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 3:30 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing as very concerned citizens regarding the proposed removal of the wild horses from the North Dakota Badlands/Teddy Roosevelt National Park (TRNP). We honestly can't believe that we are having to write this letter, as this herd and their connection to the Badlands and our American history is synonymous. We have followed every Facebook page that shares photos of these horses just to catch glimpses of the beautiful creatures running free in the TRNP Badlands.

We have never been lucky enough to visit in person but now that we are retired, it is on our list of future travels. However, if the herd is removed, so will be our desire to travel to North Dakota. Please don't take these symbols of our history away from us citizens. Please protect these magical creatures for future generations to enjoy as well. Thank you.

[Quoted text hidden]

<p>366.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 3:35 PM</p> <p>Sandy <sandykp126@yahoo.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>I'm writing as I have heard you are considering Removing the wild horses at Teddy Roosevelt National Park. I oppose this action. The wild horses were the reason we wanted to go to the park. I love horses but had ever seen them roaming free. They are amazing! We went into the park from town one evening and watched the animals and the set set. No wild horses until we turned around a bend in the road while making our way out toward leaving the park. Here were two herds crossing the road. We sat and watch them interact up close and as they road away. They were magnificent. Other cars had stopped and watched too. My point is people are drawn to this national park for the horses and other animals. This is the only NPS that I know of that has free bands of roaming horses . Bison and prairie dogs are at several. Your horses are what draw people to this area of North Dakota. I'm sure visitors to Menorah look for them. I was most impressed by this little known National Park. By its rangers, it's trails and history were well represented. I will saw again it was the wild horses that drew me here. Next the story of President Theodore Roosevelt. Last the scenery and buffalo. Medora was an add on. Please leave the wild horses roaming free here were their life stories may be remembered and enjoyed.</p> <p>Thank you, Sandra Poisel Louisville KY Sent from my iPhone</p>
<p>367.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 4:20 PM</p> <p>B Jordan <limewithenvy@gmail.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>I've never been to TRNP but I absolutely plan to visit the park to respectfully photograph & take in the wild horses myself. The park has a wealth of visitors who regularly post about the wild horses, their movements, their births, their lives and their deaths. These are much loved animals. Living in Canada, I have enjoyed the wild horses from afar for years. These horses are not escaped livestock & deserve to be free. Please keep the wild horses in the park for future conservationists, wildlife enthusiasts and animal lovers all over the world to follow and enjoy.</p> <p>Sincerely, Barbara Jordan 33 Dawson Road GUELPH, ON CANADA N1H 5V3</p>

<p>368.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 4:23 PM</p> <p>Judy Berger <fordvalleypits@yahoo.com> Reply-To: Judy Berger <fordvalleypits@yahoo.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>We live in Alaska. Every time we traveled to Alabama and back we always drove through TRNP to see the horses. Im 65 and to see the horses has been a dream since i was a young child. Please leave the horses for my grandchildren to love and see. The horses bring an extra thrill when you see them. Such powerful loving family bands. The love of a stallion who will defend his family with his life. I love them. Judy Berger</p>
<p>369.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 4:30 PM</p> <p>Tracey Aafedt <taafedt@rocketmail.com> Reply-To: Tracey Aafedt <taafedt@rocketmail.com> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>Hi</p> <p>I grew up in ND and love the badlands. I used to go there almost every year and drive thru the park. THE main reason I always drove thru the park was to see the wild horses. I don't care how many times I had to make that loop, I wouldn't leave until I saw the horses. There would be a lineup of cars to take pics if the horses were visible.</p> <p>This is just a shame and criminal what they are doing to the horses.</p> <p>I live in OK now, but if there is anything I can do please let me know.</p> <p>Tracey</p>

370.

From: TIM SPENCER <tspencer37@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 4:32 PM
Subject: My Story about TRNP
To: <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Last year around May my wife and I made vacation plans to hike around a few places in the Black Hills of South Dakota. We have been there many times in the past because I love to photograph the wildlife there. We planned on visiting The Badlands, Custer State Park and Wind Cave National Park. I then stumbled across a Facebook page called Dakota Grown Photos and fell in love with the photography of the horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I messaged the page and got a response from Tiffany. She was very helpful with information about the horses and the park. We immediately changed our vacation plans to include TRNP. As a photographer of landscapes and wildlife I was so excited to be able to see these beautiful animals that call the park their home. We drove 800 miles and arrived at the park the last week of Oct of last year (2022). The park is such a beautiful place and when we seen a small band of horses near the campground I knew right then that this park was a place we would definitely be visiting many times again. I immediately recognized Teton and Casper from the photos that I've seen. I was in awe at being able to see these magnificent animals in this natural environment. We stayed near the campground for a couple of hours. I used a telephoto lens so I would get to close or disrupt their day. I could have stayed longer but we wanted to see more of the South Unit. A road was closed so we could not complete the circle so we had to turn around. Good thing because we saw many more horses. Again more photographs. I probably took 200 pictures of all the horses and so many more of the bison herd. We were only able to spend 1 day at the park. There was a snowstorm heading in and we wanted to get to Wall, SD that evening.

The day we spent at TRNP is a day I will never forget because of the beautiful horses that live there. When I heard that they might be removed it broke our hearts. I was already making plans to go back there very soon and spend a few days there. If the horses are removed then there really isn't a need to visit there again.

Tim and Denise Spencer
Tspencer37@sbcglobal.net



371.

7012123929@vzwpix.com <7012123929@vzwpix.com> Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 6:05 PM
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Dear Sir,

I would be very sad if the Theodore Roosevelt wild horses are removed from the park. I enjoy the "horse stories" and photos. We have colorful black and white paint mare. I look for other black and white wild TRNP wild horses. My favorite is Circus, a beautiful black and white spunky stallion. He is also 23 years old just like our black and white mare, Moxie. It's wonderful to see social media video clips, photos, and photos of the unicorn park horse, Circus 🦄 like taking a bath and splashing in the river. He is magical, and should be allowed to retire peacefully as a free wild stallion in the TRNP. I even have a T-shirt from TRNP with "real wild horses" on it. My daughter and her husband hike deep into the park to take photos of the beautiful wild horses. I share the pics like with my horse shoer, who love the photos. Please save the wild horses so horse owners and people who love them can enjoy the videos, photos and stories of the wild horses and their families roaming free!

Thank you, Susan Ness

P.S. I would not go to TRNP to see buffalo 🐃 but free wild horses 🦄 Absolutely yes 👍





372.

Claudia Low <ndbhclaudia@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 6:25 PM

Hi ladies. This is my 16 year old granddaughter's story. 2300 miles from the Park in Louisiana!

Claudia Hebert-Low
NDBH BOD

My name is Hannah and I love the beautiful horses in North Dakota!! I'm from Louisiana so I knew nothing about them until my Mimi went to live there. I went there one summer when I was around 12 years old and I loved it. I loved all the mountains, bison, prairie dogs, the whole landscape and everything. Especially since, again, I'm from Louisiana so I had never seen anything like this before. But my favorite thing about my trip to North Dakota were the wild horses. They are so beautiful and the most graceful things I'd ever seen. Just the fact that they live in the wild and thrive on their own and have been for years and years is really a special thing to know and see. The fact that they all have names and can go in their natural habitat and see them in their own state is such a beautiful thing to experience. My Mimi eventually ended up buying one. His name is Whiskey and he's the most goofy, sweet, and cutest thing. He has so much personality and he's so loving. My Mimi now lives in Texas but even when I do go to visit, I still think about how cool it is that he was once a wild horse in the badlands. Before I had gone on my trip to North Dakota, my Mimi would send me pictures of them and tell me their names so when I finally was able to go I was so excited. Seeing them in person, somehow they became even more magical in person. I hope to go back again and visit them again, but I've heard that they are taking them out of the parks and if I'm being honest I don't think the experience will be nowhere near as amazing without them.

373.

Diana Schmidt <dianaluvspphotos@yahoo.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 6:29 PM

Sorry mine is so long. I felt all over the place with it. It's so hard to put everything into words.

Diana

Diana Schnidt

The horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park have impacted the lives of my family in many ways. There is no one story that can define what these horses mean to us and how they have changed our lives. As a family we have taken many family trips to Medora before we knew much about the horses and their history. We would drive through the park multiple times on each trip, the primary thing the kids wanted to see was the horses, and every time one was spotted, it was as if they'd never seen a horse before.

In the spring of 2017, my 13-year old horse loving daughter purchased her first NDBH horse guide at the Minnesota Horse Expo, this was a life changing purchase when she found out every horse had a name, a family, a story. This fueled her passion for the TRNP horses. She was able to now identify all the horses in TRNP and she was hooked! Our next family trip was June 2017. At the end of our 4th and final drive through the park, the girls, Sierra age 13 and Ella age 8 (both total horse lovers) were disappointed that we didn't find many horses, which we all know happens sometimes as they have many places to hide in that terrain. We spotted a pronghorn near the river and decided to get out to photograph it. Then suddenly, Sierra spotted a horse figure off in the distanc and new right away it was the elusive Circus, the girls were beyond excited! He gradually made his way in our direction, drinking from the Little Missouri River, then laying in the water and rolling around, making funny faces and finally crossing to our side. He stopped and looked at us many times and then went up the trail we came down and disappeared. It was quite the magical moment and it was as though he knew the girls needed a pick me up after a discouraging trip for the lack of horses and he alone made the whole trip worth it. We have not had this honor again since as he stays well hidden within the boundaries of the park. This was the start of our annual "hiking for the horses" trips.

Sierra was always an old soul, grown up beyond her years. She followed several horse pages, researched as much as she possibly could so that when she returned to the park, she could identify most of the horses. That fall, we connected with a gal named Claudia on Facebook who knew we were heading out west to find the horses and she kindly offered to meet up with us to help us. It was refreshing to meet up with someone who was willing to spend an entire day with us looking for horses, but she knew just where to go and our daughter was having the time of her life. A true and lasting friendship was formed that day.

During the tough years of junior high and high school, this was the best thing for her. To see your child so passionate about something that has deep meaning and historical significance was amazing. I am not an outdoorsy person who normally enjoys hiking, but when I am there with her searching and hiking for horses, it's the best thing in the world and nothing else matters.

On our hiking trips, we have watched foals that were newly born navigate their new surroundings next to their mother's side, we have watched a band who lost a great mare during foaling complications as the band tried to help the new motherless foal, not leaving her side until she passed. We have watched stallions fighting to keep their mares, and young ones blissfully playing with their siblings. We have met so many amazing people on our horse

journey, restoring some faith in humanity, as we come together to talk about the horses, cry over the horses, or simply watch together with a feeling of gratitude and amazement. We all share a common and deep love for the majestic beauties that run free through the North Dakota Badlands.

One particular day touched our hearts in a special way. We met a family from the Minnesota, which happened to be an older gentleman who had lost his wife a few months prior, and his kids who brought him to TRNP to see the wild horses. The one thing he really wanted, was to see wild horses running. A friend Carol, my daughter Sierra and I spoke with the family for quite some time about the horses, and told them about how a lot of the horses hang out in the open area by the Fryburg exit. The next afternoon while we were out at Fryburg watching the horses, the family showed up and all the horses started running around and carrying on. Seeing how much this meant to the man was the best part of the entire trip. Sierra and I cried as we drove back to Medora to enter the park again, and we talk about this experience quite often. We have also kept in touch with the family and have met up with them again.

The horses have allowed us to meet some pretty amazing people and create forever friendships. For me and my girls it has also given us time to bond, learn and grow together. The horses teach us every time we visit them. They teach us perseverance as we navigate and hike through the rough badlands to meet up with them. They make navigation look effortless as they climb huge buttes and cross massive ravines, it's a bit more work for us, but more than worth it to spend time with them. They teach us how to enjoy and be at peace in wide open spaces as we disconnect from the craziness of everyday life and electronics/social media. They teach us patience as we wait for moments to photograph them living their wild lives, and trust me, a lot of patience is needed as they spend a huge amount of time grazing and resting. They teach us to never give up on family, even when things are difficult. They teach us that friendships can form in unexpected ways. They teach us about history and determination as they continue to thrive in the park through droughts and rough winters. Most importantly, they teach us how to fight. Those of us who love these horses, we won't stop fighting for them. They are a huge and important part of all our lives and the lives of our children and grandchildren. We need them. The future generations need them. They are a part of our soul.

374.

Allison Tighe <tighedyedhair@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 6:40 PM

On rare, privileged occasions, we are lucky enough to see something so beautiful that it literally stops us in our tracks, leaving us without words as we temporarily disconnect from everything else surrounding us.

I was lucky enough to experience this after seeing a photo of what I now know was a horse at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. A gentle voice brought me back to reality. "Have you ever been?" she said. I turned with wide eyes and replied, "Where IS this magical place?"

Imagine my surprise, as a Minnesotan, to learn that this beautiful image came from my neighboring state of North Dakota. As a lifelong horse lover, I was floored. How did I not know this place existed?!?! In that moment, I knew I must go.

Six months later, I was celebrating my birthday at TRNP. A breathtaking sight greeted me as I entered the park. Nichols and his band stood right in front of my tear-filled eyes --- just as a storm was rolling in. Dark clouds filled the sky, and I couldn't tell if the deep rumble I was hearing was thunder or my own heart beating. Manes swirled and babies rose from slumber as the storm was upon us. Even though the winds were whipping and ice pelted my face, I could've stood there for an eternity.

Over the next two days, I was able to see every horse in park, minus the elusive Circus. The experience was surreal. I felt as though the initial photo that stopped me in my tracks had teleported me there, like some sort of magical dream. To this day, it still brings tears to my eyes every time I remember that it was actually real.

As a hairstylist in the Twin Cities, I spent the next several months sharing with my clients every morsel of information I had learned about the horses, their bands and the beyond-words beauty I was honored to witness. I shared photos, in hopes that they could have a glimpse into the beauty of the magnificent animals.

Of the several hundred people I spoke with, almost all had no idea that horses even existed at Theodore Roosevelt. They were absolutely floored, and several have since traveled there to experience their beauty firsthand.

Seeing such stunning animals in the wild was an incredible gift. The BEST gift actually, and it makes me incredibly sad that something so magical and accessible seems to be hidden from so many, when in all actuality, it should be shouted from the rooftops!

What words can give justice to a truly life-changing experience? They elude me, just as Circus thwarted my hopes of seeing him. What I do have are images I will never forget. Nichols, majestically standing guard during the storm. A standoff between stallions after someone got too close to a sleeping foal. An aging bachelor, living out whatever time he has left in his rightful home. A band, grazing peacefully, as the sky lit up with shades of yellow, orange and pink

I can say for certain that I would have never made the trip to TRNP if it weren't for the horses, and my world is a better place with them in it. I will carry these images in my mind and heart until the day I die. And when that day comes, I hope the other side is just as beautiful.





<p>375.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 6:51 PM</p> <p>Elaine Ferron <elaineferron@comcast.net> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>We have a very personal connection to TRNP. Our first two trips to the park was all about seeing the wild horses as the park itself. Once in springtime & once in the fall. Our goal was to see the river & foliage at different times of the year. Hoping every year to see the wild horses. I failed to see Circus but was overwhelmed by the sitings of many horses! The photos & videos taken when they graced us with close ups and trips past our park car to the water hole; excited us. Once we even got a foal surprise! They are beautiful & majestic beyond words. This is the heritage of Theodore Roosevelt and it is fitting these horses remain! They fit the nature of the park and we wholeheartedly regret and disagree with your plans to remove them. It is the same cruelty of our government and BLM that has me sponsoring and following wild horses in America. I even scattered my mother's remains where wild horses had lain in Arizona. We will be short and direct... if you remove these horses it will be our last trip to the park. Yes, there is still beautiful scenery and other wild animals but, it shows human cruelty and lack of direction for you to proceed with this plan. We would always remember the loss! It would not be the same without a "Dolly" standing point on a hillside or the hoof beats down to the water. Post CoVid now and our health issues aside we planned a trip to TRNP this spring... but that now is on hold until your decision is finalized. We hear that there is a firestorm of support adrift. We will also contact government officials to see if they can garner support. We plan to use our retirement vacations to see wild horses. We have encouraged younger friends to visit with their children. We beg you to leave them be!</p> <p>Thomas & Elaine Ferron 3951 Fawn Lake Dr. Swiss Twp, WI 54830</p>
<p>376.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 7:22 PM</p> <p>scon@frontiernet.net <scon@frontiernet.net> To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>I have always had a love for the wild horses at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. They are a beautiful part of our history. There isn't much in our country that has been untouched but these horses, that are ancestors of what the natives rode, continue on. They are part of history. Hearing that they could be removed is heartbreaking and does not make sense. They are part of the history that President Roosevelt preserved. They are a legacy and deserve to remain.</p> <p>I do not see a reason why they all need to be removed. They are in a park, not on someone's farmland. They are not doing anything wrong, they live on their own and provide for themselves.</p> <p>We have a grandchild coming soon and I would love to travel back with her someday to see the wild horses. It is so important, to see history in person than just from a book, movie or social media.</p> <p>Connie Kellington</p>

377.

Veronica Clarke <queeniev@gmail.com>

Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 7:43 PM

To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

More than 60years ago, as a child in the U.K. I fell in love with horses. When I was old enough to go to the local library I would seek out any and all horse related books. My favorite were tales of the wild horses and the wild lands they lived on. They fired my imagination as no other books could. I longed to come to the USA to visit them. I finally got the opportunity, job related to my husband, to come here in 1986 and we made Arkansas our home. I have never lost my passion for seeing these wonderful, iconic and native beings who helped to make this land what it is. I yearned to visit the wild ones that had so fired my imagination as a child. Sadly work constraints never gave enough time to visit and find them, although vacations did allow me to visit many places.

I retired 6 years ago due to health issues, but my desire to visit the horses has never waned. My husband retires this year and we are determined to visit these places in the hopes of seeing these horses for ourselves.

I have followed many social media accounts of them, wonderful photos and accounts of their lives. However, mixed with the good has been the bad. Reports of the decimation of the herds everywhere and the cruelty they have suffered. TRNP was one of the places I learned I could see them so you can imagine my dismay when I learned that the Park Service is going to get rid of the majority, if not all, of the herd there.

Is the area beautiful? I am sure it is as I have managed to get to Custer for a few days - just not long enough to do all the things I would have done if time and circumstances had permitted. However, without the horses that draw me there, I will not visit TRNP, as a vista without the horses thundering across the land, or playing at a river or watering hole, is empty and sad and would only make me sad for those no longer there.

Sincerely

Veronica A Clarke

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378.

kemmerick4 <kemmerick4@charter.net>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 7:45 PM

I am writing to express how important it is to keep the wild horses at TRNP. My husband and I have learned of TRNP through Deb Lee Photography Facebook page. We wish to visit the park to see the beautiful wilds through our own eyes. Through Deb Lee Carson Photography we can appreciate how important the wild horses are to the area. Her spectacular pictures and information shared has spurred our interest to go see and experience the park and area for ourselves. The horses are an important part of history. It is their legacy to be. They are part of the landscape there and a reason for visitors to come to the park.

Patricia and Ryan Kemmerick
Rochester, MN

379.

Mia Kozitka <miakozitka@gmail.com>

Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 10:03 PM

To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello! I hope I'm not too late in submitting this.

I'm writing to tell my story of how the horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park are very important to me. To remove these wild (emphasize "Wild" - these are NOT domesticated livestock) horses from the park would be a huge mistake. Their removal would impact the park negatively from a historical, scientific, and tourism perspective.

I grew up visiting TRNP, and I've always been a "horse-crazy" girl. I remember going there as a child and my big highlight was driving through the south loop with my family and hoping to spot some of the real wild horses.

As an adult living in Fargo, ND. TRNP is one of my favorite places to go to hike and backpack. There was a many year gap in my 20's where I didn't venture out of eastern ND and Minnesota much. But as I grew older and started hiking more, I decided I wasn't going to wait for friends and family to come with me to go on my adventures. So I started travelling to TRNP on my own for solo hiking and kayaking trips on the Little Missouri River. On one of my first solo trips I launched at Sully Creek State Park, paddled up to my camp at Cottonwood in the National Park where I dropped my kayak at my site, then hiked back to Sully Creek. Along the paddle I almost tipped over my kayak in excitement when I turned a bend of the river to notice a wild horse watching me! I took out my camera and started snapping photos, as the horse (I realized later was the stallion Georgia's Boy) calmly watched me almost go into the river. That was when the magic of these wild horses really sparked me as an adult. After dropping my kayak off at camp, I started the long hike back to my Jeep parked at Sully Creek State Park, on the other side of Medora. As I walked, happily munching on my trail snacks I heard hoof-steps behind me. Naturally I thought it was a bison and spun around, only to see it was the same horse! It was so cool. He must've crossed the river and followed me out of curiosity. I watched him cross the road a ways behind me and trot off. Totally made my day. I didn't know his name at the time (so I just referred to him as "My Buddy"). However, I later found out that he was a young bachelor stallion by the name "Georgia's Boy." Today he has his own band of mares in the park, and he's a proud papa. It has been fun following his story on the "Chasing Horses" and "Wild in North Dakota" Facebook pages, especially after seeing him on that trip in person. I love how these photographers keep track of the horses, and the online community.

names these magnificent creatures. Their work following these wild horses really does a lot for the park tourism (the park clearly doesn't appreciate this). I know people who haven't been there, but love to follow the stories of these horses living wild in the park - people who otherwise might not have thought ever to visit ND, but through a connection with these horses want to come and learn more about this beautiful park and its wildlife.

A couple other magical encounters I've had include drinking my morning coffee in Cottonwood campground. Again, this is early May. So the campground is pretty empty. I'm sitting on a picnic table, and I hear a whinny. I turn away from the river to see a gray horse trot through the campground. I later found out this was the stallion, "Teton." This was also before he had his own band, and again it's been fun seeing his story unfold online.

My favorite horse however, is hands down the famous park unicorn, "Circus." I have a black and white paint horse myself so I'm really partial to black and white horses. This magnificent stallion is the same age as my horse, and is an elderly bachelor stallion (22 years old). I spotted him at a distance while hiking with a friend on the Petrified Forest Trail. Circus was standing at the edge of a cliff in the distance shaking his head. I was so excited to see him, as I know he can be quite elusive. Since then I've also come across Xander's band while hiking with my husband. We had our good DSLR and Sony cameras with and got some pretty great shots as the band trotted by.

To remove these wild horses would be a huge mistake for the park and North Dakota tourism. Wild horses in today's world are incredibly rare, and these magnificent creatures should be cherished. They are honestly a huge draw to the park. Very few places in today's world can you find wild, feral horses. It really is special. They are not domesticated and therefore should not be considered livestock. They are elusive and wild. You wouldn't want to get any closer to these animals than you would to bison. They are wild and should be categorized as such. In fact, these horses were there before the area was officially designated as a National Park in 1947. Scientifically these horses have been traced back to the rare Nokota breed. A breed dating back to Sitting Bull.

To remove these horses would be removing a piece of history from the park. Horses are a critical part of Theodore Roosevelt's story. He came to ND to ranch, and these horses are an essential part of his story and the history of this land.

Mia Kozitka

380.

Norman Nather <cowboyshonorride@yahoo.com>

Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 10:52 PM

To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I may need to send this in more than one part, as yahoo doesn't like to allow large files. I have a few photos, and a great video, you may want to post with the text. Marylu also shared my video.

My Theodore Roosevelt National Park story begins in the year 2000; while driving with my father Ken, back to his home state North Dakota, on a trip to visit relatives. While driving east into North Dakota on Highway 94 from Montana, I look over at my 70-year-old father and I see tears rolling down his face. Worried about him, I ask "What's wrong, are you okay?" He smiles while pointing to the Badlands and says, "Nothing's wrong," he pauses and then says, "I am home!" We talked for a few minutes then he said, "In a few more miles let's take the Medora exit and go into the Park, to see if we can find any of Teddy's Horses." At this time, I was 30 years old and I had only visited North Dakota once as a kid, I had no idea what he meant but I am always up to pausing any trip to admire horses.

To fill you in on the back story, about half of this info, I learned for the first time that day as we drove into the park. Poor people who needed horses back then in North Dakota, (as my Dad says "...and we were all poor") had to be resourceful. The locals from hundreds of miles around, who couldn't afford to buy horses, went to the badlands to capture them. At the time, locals referred to the wild badlands horses as "Teddy's Horses." My father was born in North Dakota, on July 22, 1929, on that same day, a filly they named Lady, was born at my great grandfather's ranch near Napoleon ND, 200 miles east of Medora. Great-

grandpa decided that, because this filly was born the same day as his grandson, she would be Kenny's horse and would be given to my father when he was old enough to ride. Lady's mother had been gathered in the badlands earlier that same year. Lady was a speckled white horse who stood about 14 hands tall. That horse helped to raise my father. Sometime in the early 1930s, they needed a team, and found another one of "Teddy's Horses." This one was a blue roan gelding named Tarzan. Tarzan was a tough horse to train and considered a problem horse who had bucked off most everyone, so he was very inexpensive. Tarzan took a liking to my very young dad and was very gentle with him. Dad has lots of stories with Lady, gathering cattle, riding to school, her tripping on a badger hole falling on him, and seeing his first deer as he rode through the pasture. (It may be hard to believe, but deer in the 1930s and early 1940s were not a common sight in most of North Dakota farm country. The tree rows planted after WWII created a habitat that the deer needed to live in the plains.) I remember his other stories of him using Lady and Tarzan as a team, pulling a plow, cutting hay, raking hay, and driving the wagons. When he was about 9 years old, he was raking hay with a dump rake, when something spooked the horses. They took off running and wouldn't stop, he luckily baled off the back. Lady and Tarzan literally ran the wheels off that rake, the harness broke off and the horses returned to the barn on their own. The family never retrieved that old dump rake. Back in 2011, Dad and I drove all over the northern Napoleon area, looking for that old dump rake, but we never found it.

My great-grandfather on my mother's side moved to eastern Montana in 1908. He worked for the Chicago Milwaukee St Paul and Pacific Railroad line, commonly called the Milwaukee Road, as a land salesman. He bought one of his own checkerboard plots in Ismay, MT, about 100 miles southwest of Medora. Unfortunately, my mother's side of the family is long gone, including my mother, but in September we visited Ismay retracing my family history. We spoke to people in that town who knew of "Teddy's Horses" as well.

These TRNP horses are a part of most every family's story, in the region of Eastern Montana and North Dakota during the 1800s through 1940s. If you lived in this region during that time and didn't have one of Teddy's Horses, one of your friends and neighbors did have one.

I have visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park a dozen times over the past 23 years. Now, that may not seem like a lot of TRNP visits, but consider that until last year, I lived 1500 miles away from the park. In late 2021, my wife and I moved to Western Montana, where we now only live only 700 miles away. We visited the park in September 2022, and we have intentions of visiting annually to see the horses. The only reason I have ever visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park was to see Teddy's Horses.

In 2012, my wife and I became horse owners. A couple years later, we found out people could adopt some of the horses removed for park population control, so we looked into adopting one. We wanted to continue my family legacy of a stewardship and love for these historic group of wild horses. We did eventually adopt a park horse into our family and have become much more involved in North Dakota Badlands Horse organization. We admire NDBH for their efforts to name, catalog, and help maintain herd sizes in the park. They also follow up and keep in touch with adopters, helping each other and checking in on the care and welfare of adopted horses.

Interestingly, the horse we adopted had a few owners before my wife and I gave him a forever home. I had inquired about adopting an NDBH a few years before actually getting one, however; at that time we could not find available NDBH horses that were any closer to us than 2000 miles away, so we put that goal on the back burner. A few years had gone by and I received an email from NDBH, asking if I was still interested in owning an NDBH, that one was available in my area. The NDBH people care about them, even after they get adopted, and will do what they can to keep these horses in loving homes. Of all the wild horse herds in the world, the NDBH organization keeps really good track of the adopted horses and follows up, ensuring the best lives possible for the adopted horses. We love these horses.

Meeting with several NDBH owners at the reunion in September, we met several who have adopted multiple park horses and many who have fostered several as they were looking for a new home.

These horses have caused the Park a lot of free and positive exposure and publicity. There have been a few short films, annual calendars, several books, new social media pages, and several websites, featuring these horses, if the horses are eliminated, the positive publicity will become much less park favorable. Travelers from around the world visit TRNP just to be able to see a glimpse of the Wild Horses. Horse tourism is a real thing. The North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame is located in Medora for a reason, removing the park horses will hurt their organization.









381.

Deborah March <debbiefroggie@gmail.com>

Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 11:22
PM

To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

I moved here from Pennsylvania in 2007, I choice here because I visited Medora and the park and saw the wild horses I grew up watching the Cinatinge ponies in Maryland ..can you imagine if they did away with them? Anyway I am a disabled veteran and do not have to pay to enter the park, but I will not ever go again if the horses are removed or Medora and trust me I spend alot of money there. I have family and friends that come in the summer just to see t he wild horses, for God's sale geld some of the males its not that costly and the herd would not grow so fast and no one would have to be taken out.
BOY TEDDY IS PROBABLY TURNING IN HIS GRAVE .

382.

Richard Rand <dick.rand@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 11:26 PM

I have never visited the park since I live in Maine and my husband and I no longer travel due to our ages.(77 & 79)

I have followed the horses of the park for many years on Facebook. I have also read the history of the park and on facebook read other TRNP lovers stories regarding the park. People as far away as Europe have come to the park and been lucky enough to see the magnificent horses personally.

What can I say to reflet how so many people feel about the park and its horses.? The park is a true piece of history. Many years ago Theodore Roosevelt had the foresight to create the park so that the land of the park and its many inhabitants would be safe and continue forever to be available for generations of Americans to visit and enjoy.

Foremost of the inhabitants of the park that have drawn visitors to the park of course are the wild horses who live there and have lived there for generations. Every day I open up the FB page for the park and am transported to the park in my imagination. I have learned to love the horses, know their names and their family groups. I have thrilled to the birth of new horses and occasionally cried at the death of one on of the beautiful horses, usually older horses but occasionally nature is cruel and takes horses before their time.

I have read about the various options of what could happen to the horses at the park and to me the only viable one is to leave the horses be and when necessary use birth control if the numbers get out of hand which clearly they are not at present. Cutting the number of horses at the park will in my opinion make the herd unviable due to inbreeding and taking into account the number of horses who die of natural causes each year. Wild horses only rarely live to be geriatric and a number of the horse in the family groups are older and each winter may fall victim to the infirmities of old age.

I follow a number of wild horse herds at other parks which have been subject to helicopter gathers and until recently have felt that at least the horses of TRNP were safe and now I read that in fact they not only are not safe but that they could be eliminated from the park. In my opinion that would take all of the magic from the park and make it much less a tourist destination. The horses who have lived in the park for generations are an integral part of the attraction of the park. Visitors to the park are lucky to be able to observe the horses that many have followed for years.

I hope that the decision will be to let the status quo remain and that no horses are gathered and sold at auction.

Sincerely

Nan Rand
nanrand@gmail.com

383.

Laurie G <rideamustangnow@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 6:46 AM

To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

In October 2013 there was a round up in the park. The Cloud Foundation and Legacy Mustang Preservation in Louisa, VA somehow were able to rescue about 35 mustangs and they arrived in VA mid October. I arrived the next day for a fundraiser at the farm. I stayed a few days, took lots of pictures of the horses and observed how confused and disoriented they were having been ripped from home, trucked hundreds of miles and now confined to a few acres. It was heartbreaking. Legacy Mustang Preservation did not survive and I wonder now what happened to all those horses....

Laurie

384.

Carol Thouin <honk421@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 9:02 AM

To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com











My husband and I had the pleasure of traveling to Teddy Roosevelt National Park last summer. On my bucket list was to see wild horses. We recently retired and we could go anywhere and this was a place that was at the top of our list. We loved the quaint and friendly community of Medora but we were blown away at the majesty and beauty of Teddy Roosevelt National Park. When we spied the first wild horse on a ridge in the distance, our hearts began to pound. We saw several herds in our journey throughout the park. We were so excited that we could see horses living wild in their natural environment as they so deserve to inhabit. We also saw Buffalo, which was exciting, but the horses are something very special to the park, and to all the visitors from around the country and world that come to visit the west. These animals make the park even more phenomenal than it already is and should remain a key part of this beautiful, rugged land.

<p>385.</p>	<p>Crystal Moser <rcmt@drtel.net> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 9:47 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>My retired husband and I have enjoyed the TRNP since we were very young. The wild horses are a part of the park and need to stay there! Can't imagine a good reason to take them out of the park! Crystal and Bob Moser Sent from my iPhone</p>
<p>386.</p>	<p>Jeff Marcus <jeff@marcusweb.org> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 9:49 AM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>Good day,</p> <p>I know the NPS has received pleas from around the country and perhaps beyond our borders to allow the existence of the wildlife at TRNP. While I agree completely with the pleas to save the wildlife, my comments take a different approach.</p> <p>You know your attendance numbers better than I do. You know the income generated by the tens of thousands of visitors yearly. I ask you, what is the motivation to visit a park that has for so many years been known as a haven for wildlife when the wildlife is gone?</p> <p>As a photographer, I don't need to travel hundreds of miles to capture sunrises and sunsets. I can photograph incredible vistas much closer to my home. I can hike hundreds of trails nearer to my home. What is the draw to TRNP if not for the wildlife? Have you prepared for a stunning decrease in attendance? That surely will happen as word spreads. And what of the surrounding communities that rely on TRNP visitors for food, lodging, and related tourist services?</p> <p>Should your decision be to reduce or eliminate the wildlife at the park, it won't be long that you'll be reducing staff and services. There will be nothing TRNP offers that my local National parks do not.</p> <p>The consideration to abandon the primary draw to the park is ludicrous and financially a disaster for the employees of the park who are no longer needed and the communities who rely so heavily on the park's visitors.</p> <p>Jeff Marcus Red Wing, Minnesota Jeff@marcusweb.org</p>

<p>387.</p>	<p>Debbie Larson <dkls57@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 1:25 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>First thing, thank you for fighting for our wild Mustangs! I have never been to TRNP and hope too someday!</p> <p>The first moment I laid eyes on Blaze, and the first moment that Deb Lee Carson "popped" up on cyber-space, was my FIRST encounter with these AMAZING, BEAUTIFUL creatures! I knew I wanted to see more of them. So, I started following Deb.</p> <p>It is so unbelievable that they are throwing them in to the "livestock" category!</p> <p>#1. Wild Horses are not livestock, they are Native Wildlife.</p> <p>#2. They are not an economic asset & not "kept" for pleasure...they are Wild. In fact they are not "kept" at all, let alone used.</p> <p>#3. The independent living free-roaming horses of the park-call them wild or call them feral-are NOT livestock.</p> <p>I will do my best to fight for their FREEDOM to stay WILD for future generations.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Debbie Larson</p>
<p>388.</p>	<p>From: boylekathrin@gmail.com Sent: Monday, January 23, 2023 3:15 PM To: info@atwildlandswildhorses.com Subject: TRNP public comment submission</p> <p>Please see attached file! Katie</p>

WILD HORSE HERD OF THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK

PUBLIC COMMENT:

I am writing to address the TRNP Livestock Management gather plan for the free-roaming Wild horses that occupy the historic landscape of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. President Theodore Roosevelt was a politician, statesman, soldier, writer, conservationist, naturalist and historian. He was also an avid outdoorsman who loved horses and to ride. In 1898, he served as a Colonel in the Army. While there, he started the first volunteer Cavalry later known as the "Rough Riders." He later wrote about the infamous Rough Riders, and it eventually ended up on silent film somewhere in the archives.

My own story starts in 1974, when I was 10. It was the year I learned there was such a thing as Wild Mustangs and Burros. Then I learned about the government's adoption program in a Social studies class. It is the year my love affair with horses started full-time. I would draw them, ride them and of course daydream out how I would be adopting a wild mustang or two someday. That year was also the year that my parents, siblings and I went on our biggest adventure yet with a Ford Explorer camper that slept all 5 of us, very snugly. That 2-person tent came in very handy on our 5 week adventure out west! This was The BIG Trip for our family and my parents planned very carefully where and what we would see. We all had a say in what we would go see, and mine was always to find wild horses. I didn't care where, I just wanted to see them. I was that girl who asked for a horse every birthday and Christmas. I always got a very nice Breyer Horse and have a big collection. We went to see the Chincoteague Ponies swim down in Maryland, on a previous "Southward" trip. We saw all of the "Popular" National Parks, Yellowstone, Bryce and Zion, but no wild horses. The closest we got to Theodore Roosevelt National Park was Mount Rushmore. In the years since, I have seen the Corolla North Carolina wild horses, and signs for wild horses in Nevada, but never saw the wild mustangs.

It is my hope to do just this by renting an RV and hitting every single National Park in the U.S. Just like many tourists that come to this park to see the wild horses, I am also excited to see this herd. It is because of our 26th president that we have any National Parks, National Forests, Bird Reserves, game reserves and national monuments. Because of whom he was, I do not think he would be in agreement with reducing this genetically unique herd. If it is reduced too much you lose genetic viability which is crucial to continuing a bloodline and will eventually lead to total extinction of the breed. It would be such a travesty of justice to do go ahead with this reduction of the herd considering what President Theodore Roosevelt himself, stood for. His legacy can be found in the National Parks across the US.]

389.

Nellie Ralston <ralstonnellie@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 10:12 AM

I have never been to the Park myself but a friend from Facebook post about it all the time with pictures and writes pages on the horses their.

I feel very privileged to be able to see and read about such amazing animals that are able to live there lives their.

I was close to there a few times on some trips with my Church.

My friend Claudia Herbert-low has kept me up on the goings in at the park.I would hate to have the life that these horses know taken from them.

I am a 75 year old woman with a lot of health issues who enjoys seeing these majestic animals running free through the eyes of Claudia.

Thank you for at least reading this .Please don't take them away.

Always a horse lover.Nellie Shannon

390.

Musland, Keyahna <keyahna.musland@ndsu.edu> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 5:10 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Here is a story about my families connection to the TRNP!

My name is Keyahna Musland, I am currently a first-year student at North Dakota State University studying Biomedical Sciences with an emphasis on the Pre-Veterinary route. I am writing to you to share my family's connection with the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The wild horses in the park create a landmark in our state and have formed memories with people across the nation. The removal of these horses would be detrimental to the people and the park. I can't speak for others, but I can for my family and myself about our experiences with the wild horses of North Dakota.

My family visits the park yearly to go riding with our personal horses. Many people go out to the park to go hiking and see the scenery, but for my family we make the trip to see the wild horses. Annually, my family makes the trip out to Medora with a trailer full of horses to go riding in the park to get a better look at the wild horses in their natural state. Going out to see the wild horses has formed into a family tradition over the years that started well before I was born. I just happened to fall in in love with them the same way as my grandfather did over 70 years ago. The fondness that my grandpa holds for the wild horses of Medora has been passed down the family line like a hereditary trait. The wild horses have created so many memories for me and my family that we cherish to no end. We have even started to get to know the wild horses by name and have had the opportunity to see them grow from a tiny, high-hearted colt, into a powerful spirited mustang.

My family has shared many memories at the park but one of my favorite things about going to see the wild horses is the journey to find them. Taking on the path going up and down the rocky trails on horseback hoping to get a glimpse of them over each butte. At the same time stories are being told, laughter is in the air, memories being made, and everyone is trying to be the first one to spot the wild horses. Then finally, making your way over a hill, there they are. The wild band of horses galloping around experiencing true freedom. There is always a silence in the air of the group that went out as everyone takes in the breathtaking view. You can hear the thunder of their hooves and the snorting of the stallion keeping the herd of mustangs together and warning others off. That feeling of seeing those mustangs in the natural like that creates a sensation like no other.

Out in the park these wild horses experience a pure freedom that would be irreplicable if they were to be removed from the park. Within the park, the horses can follow their natural instincts and live happily. The love my family and I hold for these wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park is unparalleled. Seeing these mustangs removed from the park would be heartbreaking.

Musland, Keyahna <keyahna.musland@ndsu.edu>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 5:31 PM

Here are some pictures of my family there to go along with the story!



Me when I was little and was so mad I wasn't old enough to go on the big trail ride to look for the wild horses!



My Grandpa, dad, and I all riding out in the badlands!



My grandpa who is still riding out there at 79 years old and is in love with the TRNP horses!



My dad and I riding out to look for the wild mustangs!



Me with the TRNP wild mustangs!

391.

Aurum Canine Services <aurumcanineservices@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 5:45 PM
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

I always had been fascinated by horses. Growing up in the suburbs of St Paul, Minnesota and San Diego, California; my ability to interact with horses was pretty limited.

As I grew older, I struggled with disabilities that started to show in my late teens. After a head injury and a yearlong stint of physical therapy to be able to walk unassisted with a cane, my physical therapist recommended that I look into horseback riding to keep core strength. I was intrigued to have encouragement to have a horse and I purchased my first horse, a quarter horse named Marvel. Marvel unfortunately was not sound, so, he was retired to the pasture.

I started to look into horses that were "sturdy" and healthy. On one such search, I came across the North Dakota Badlands Horses page and was quite intrigued. There were so many passionate, friendly people to talk more about these historic horses. Quicksilver, a little colt, joined my life in September 2016. He spent some time training with Travis of Walk By Faith Therapeutic Riding, before coming home to grow up.

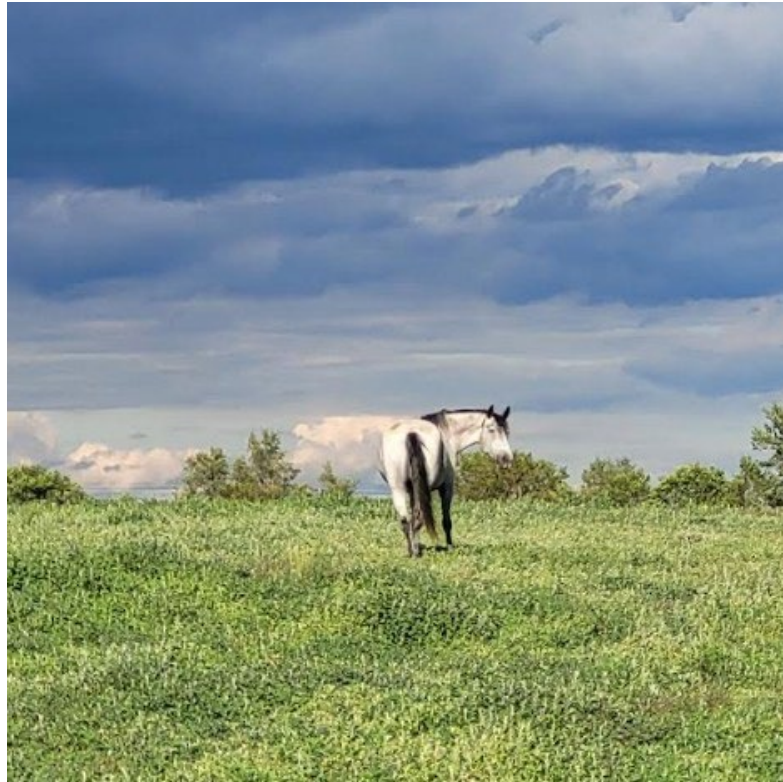
Quicksilver is always the first to come up to the gate when we visit, and the last to leave. He has a puppy dog personality - enjoying neck scratches and interactive toys. He can be lead around without a halter and lead rope, just follows to see if we may engage in a training session. Quicksilver has participated in a few of the Minnesota Horse Expos, delighting many with his affection and silliness.

After finding such an amazing horse, we've shared his story with many others, who have fell in love with these group of horses as well. I was amazed by the gentle, caring nature of the North Dakota Badlands Horses. My husband and I have visited the Theodore Roosevelt National Park numerous times to see more of the North Dakota Badlands Horses to document and learn more about their stories, which we have shared with many. Quicksilver has changed many preconceived notions about trainability and friendliness, to which we now have had several interested people going out to visit the park to preserve this American symbol.

Not only does Quicksilver help with my mobility, he also teaches the dogs through our service dog program on how to interact with horses. He is everything I could have ever wanted or dreamed of. I cannot imagine my life without him now.









392.

KMM <kyrissamorigeau@hotmail.com>

Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 6:32 PM

To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Our TRNP Wild Horse Story begins in January of 2015 when two of my daughters, Daytona and Holiday, at the ages of 4 and 6 started to take horse riding lessons. All it took was one lesson for them (and me) to be absolutely smitten with horses. By the late spring of 2016 Holiday started asking me if we could go see "wild horses." At the time, I knew very little about wild horses and where they could be found within the United States. A quick hashtag search of #wildhorses on Instagram led me to Jamie of @thismustanglife. Through her beautiful images we discovered the magnificent wild horses that call Theodore Roosevelt National Park home.

Before I came across Jamie's Instagram account I'd never even heard of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Yet, just over a month later, in July of that same year, my husband and I loaded our 4 kids into the car and equipped with the 2016 Guide to the Wild Horses of TNRP, made the 18-hour drive from Washington state to North Dakota with the sole purpose of seeing the wild horses. On our first day in the park we drove the Loop Road and saw a lot of horses but most of them were far off and my kids took turns viewing them through binoculars. As we were heading out of the park we saw the backside of 4 horses standing on a grassy knoll overlooking prairie dog town so we pulled over to watch them as this was the closest we'd come to any horses all day. I started taking pictures and as we watched all four horses – Cloud, Chubby, Flicka and Holly, turned in our direction and were looking directly at us. It literally stopped me in my tracks and all I could do was lower my camera and stare back. I looked at my girls and the pure awe on their faces was priceless. No matter how many horses you've seen, I don't think anything compares to the feeling of seeing a wild horse living free in nature, untethered by the demands and expectations of humans. For me it was exhilarating. As we continued to observe them they meandered down the knoll and briefly out of sight as they entered a dip in the terrain. Within a few minutes we saw the tips of 4 ears and then 4 more as they came back into sight heading in our general direction with Cloud leading the way, followed by Chubby, Flicka and Holly bringing up the rear. Suddenly, a tiny foal (who we had not glimpsed before this time) came shooting from the rear, galloping as fast as her spindly little legs would carry her. In the next second Chubby started charging after her. At this point, with our hearts beating out of our chests, we made a quick and nervous retreat to the car as we were fairly certain the ground between us and the horses

could be covered very quickly even though they were at least a football field's length away. Talk about adrenaline rush! As the rest of the herd caught up to the foal, (who we later learned was a filly named, Maryland, belonging to Holly) my girls were transfixed by the action playing out in front of us. The adults settled into grazing and Maryland was rambunctious and tenacious, circling around them. My girls watched, eyes wide open and huge smiles plastered across their tiny faces. I will never forget it.

We spent two more full days in the park, waking before sunrise and heading to the park in the cool dark of the morning, with windows rolled down and heads sticking out to see who could spot the first horse. We had close encounters from the car when we rounded a bend and Teton's band was grazing right near the road and another when Cloud's band was meandering down the road in front of us and far off sightings from Bucks Hill. We were thrilled to find the old sentinel Singlefoot, with his beautiful blue eyes, grazing alone near a rock face and sweet little colt Puerto Rico of Teton's band became the family favorite. We spent the entire day in the park, sun up to sun down each day and quickly realized that we should've planned to stay for longer. Three days was just not enough.

To this day, my girls will thumb through the 2016 Guide and reminisce on our trip and wonder how the horses are. I continue to follow many Instagram accounts dedicated to the horses in the park and even accounts of some who've been adopted out. We have not been back to the park since, but have talked about wanting to visit again many times. We've been seriously considering a trip back this summer and I'm heartbroken thinking that the park is considering removing all of the wild horses. For us, without the wild horses there is no reason to go back, they are what put Theodore Roosevelt National Park on the map for us. The absence of their presence from the park is unimaginable and will be devastating if it becomes reality.

Kyrissa







393.

zelmarah <zelmarah@activ8.net.au>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 7:08 PM

Hi Deb and Jamie...Have been meaning to send this email for a few days so sorry about the delay.....Apart from seeing the horses in the park and the beautiful badlands which took a piece of my heart and soul in 2015 it is still there I am sure following the horses around as they traverse those buttes and valleys...The social media report that absolutely touched me to the core was the photograph of the bison saying their goodbyes to Grey Ghost (who also stole my heart when I saw him) this photo to this day still stirs so many emotions cant put them into words...I know people say that animals do not do that sort of thing but they obviously have never witnessed anything like this..I know when I lost my beautiful Chia to a paddock accident a few years ago..his paddock mates came over and stood with me and his body and each one in turn licked him and blew softly in his face and my goodness I have to say it was so spiritual like being on a different planet...my husband stood back and took quite a few photos..but after he had gone and I turned to leave..one of the boys came back and stood very quietly and repeated the process and just stood by himself for a little while then quietly turned and walked away...this moment was obviously not meant to be captured and was just his moment alone...sorry about the diviation... getting back to the bison and Grey Ghost...I am sure that these animals being such spiritual animals in native american culture....were indeed saying their goodbyes to him and had in all probably grazed by his side at times throughout his life in the park...and were honouring him in their own way and wishing him well on his journey to the other side..I am sure he is one of the stars that shines down on the park..I know the probability of seeing this is rare but people should be allowed to be able to visit the park ,horses , bison and all the other wildlife and witness the beautiful and sometimes not so beautiful moments of the interactions of these animals..we the human race can learn so much about the circle of life from this..I hope from the bottom of my heart that park officials do actually listen to the people who have shared their experiences and let the horses stay...so that if I get back there someday these wonderful beings will still be there... please feel free to edit this rather long drawn out response...cheers Hazel from Australia...have a beautiful day...

394.

Red Falcon Ranch <redfalconranch@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 7:41 PM

I first learned of the wild horses in TRNP through my daughter, Rachel Abraham. She saw the Nokota horse booth at the Minnesota Horse Expo and was hooked on the story of this former TRNP herd in North Dakota. At 12 years old, Rachel saved her own money and bought a TRNP horse that another person had bought at a roundup auction in 2009. After buying Autumn, we had to visit the homeland of this beautiful young horse.

Through Autumn, we became friends with several advocates for the horses: Eileen Norton, Marylu Weber, and Deb Carson. They took Rachel under their wing and she spent several weeks every summer tagging along with them as they documented the horses. She studied alongside them and knew then that she would enter a field that involved these magnificent horses. She had the opportunity to meet Blake, the TRNP biologist, one of those summers, and he encouraged her to pursue her degree. Rachel will graduate from the University of Idaho this spring with a degree in Wildlife Resources, and a double minor in French and Rangeland Ecology Management. How sad that the very horses that guided her path in life are now at risk of being no more.

The North Dakota Badlands were the love of Teddy Roosevelt's life. To quote Teddy, "I have always said I would not have been President had it not been for my experience in North Dakota". My daughter, Rachel, pursued her university degree because of these horses. How many more people out there have had life changing experiences because of these horses? I am sure all of the people writing on behalf of keeping the horses in the park have similar experiences to share.

The TRNP horses have had a powerful impact on my entire family. We have spent countless hours in the park watching the horses in their natural environment - a place that has been their home long before the land was a park. Generation upon generation of horses have lived in these beautiful badlands. We have been fortunate to witness these horses where they belong.

North Dakota has a legacy in these horses and removal of the horses should be taken with extreme hesitation and caution. The reasons should be carefully weighed to make sure that the American people are not robbed of the legacy of their wild horses in TRNP. In the park that is Teddy Roosevelt's namesake, we must remember that he said, "Our duty to the whole, including the unborn generations, bids us restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations." The decisions made today impact not only my generation and my children, but my grandchildren and great grandchildren - the unborn generations that Teddy Roosevelt was talking about.

The horses are the biggest draw to the park for my family. I want to take my grandchildren there some day to watch the horses living wild and free. Removing the horses takes away this treasure from not just today, but also from tomorrow. Removing these horses will forever remove the heritage of horses on these lands. Once done, it can not be undone. How sad will be the day there are no horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I add my voice to the many who say KEEP THE HORSES IN THE PARK! Do not ignore the voices of the people. I ask you to work with the horses, not against them. Do not rush to removal and make the biggest mistake ever made in TRNP.

Many thanks,
Angela Abraham
249 Caprine Lane
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
208-597-5110

395.

Cindy Sandvick <c.sandvick@finleyusa.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 7:43 PM

Theodore Roosevelt National Park has always been my "Happy Place"! Why, you ask? It is because of the beautiful WILD HORSES! I love the beauty of the Badlands and love to drive thru the park on a warm summer day or a snowy sunny day. It doesn't matter, AS LONG AS I GET A GLIMPSE OF THE BEAUTIFUL WILD HORSES! The thought of Flax, Teton, Dolly, Circus, Taylor and all the other wild horses getting round up for slaughter, or to sell just makes me sick! The thought of the Park Service considers them as Livestock and not Wildlife is absolutely stupid! These horses have been in the park before it became a park. Tourist travel from near and far to drive thru the park in hopes of seeing the wild horses. I go to the park as much as possible, and I will see Bison, deer, coyotes, and other wildlife, but if I don't see the wild horses, it is a HUGE disappointment and I feel that the day thru the park was not successful. If the horses get removed, I will not go to the park ever again, no matter how beautiful the Badlands are. I have talked to many other people that have the same sentiment that I do. The park will lose a huge number of tourist by removing the horses. They are harmless. They don't hurt anyone, they stay out of peoples way. They are not mean like the Bison. A tourist can get out of their car to photograph a wild horse grazing in the ditch or on the hillside. A tourist would be crazy to do that if a Bison was near by. PLEASE SAVE OUR WILD HORSES! HAVE THEM STAY IN THE PARK FOR GENERATIONS TO COME! It has been my dream to be able to take my little granddaughter to the Park to show her the horses when she get older. I will lose that opportunity if they are removed. WILD AND FREE IS WHAT THEY SHOULD BE!



Cindy A. Sandvick

OSP Project Coordinator

Finley Engineering Company, Inc.

PO Box 1698

901 Basin Avenue

Bismarck, ND 58502-1698

Office: (701) 222-1500

Direct: (701)712-7020

Cell: (701) 391-3492















396.

Tina Hartmann <quarterhorsesforever@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: Tina Hartmann <quarterhorsesforever@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 8:37 PM

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Tina Hartmann" <quarterhorsesforever@yahoo.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com"
Sent: Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 7:14 PM
Subject: My trip to Theodore Roosevelt National Park

My name is Tina Hartmann, I have been following a couple of groups on the Wild Horses for several years now. And this one in particular when I first started following it, this picture of this Sorrel Overo caught my attention. It was has if I was looking at my Sorrel Overo Paint gelding Red Clouds Boy who I raised from a yearling until he passed away in 2004 he was 20 years old. I had to find out more about this horse, I learned her name was Mare Strawberry. Then I saw 2 beautiful black Stallions who happened to be father and son Mystery and Gunner. And then I see this beautiful black and white Stallion named Circus. So I thought to myself I have to get to this Park to see these beautiful horses. Unfortunately Mystery had passed away in an accident. The gorgeous mare Strawberry then had her foal who was absolutely gorgeous. As I am looking at him I couldn't believe how much he looked like my paint horse mother. When I heard that Strawberry had passed away at the age of 20 it was like losing my paint horse all over again. In August of 2022 last year me and my sister took the trip of a life time to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. We drove 1200 miles from Missouri. I got to see Strawberry's son Boomer and Amite, I saw Gunner and his father's mares, I saw Arrowhead and his ladies. And a bunch of the other families. I was in Heaven it was so peaceful, relaxing to be around all of these beautiful horses. I took so many great pictures of the Horses. The couple who took out to see the horses were awesome people. I am wanting to make this trip again this summer so I can get that little bit of Heaven and peacefulness. But if the Park gets rid of the wild Horses I will not be going back ever. I will not be spending lots and lots of money in that cool little town of Medora which I absolutely love. Here are some pictures of that awesome day. Plus the one of my horse who could have passed as a sibling to Strawberry and his mother.









397.

Zach Hochhalter <zhochhalter34@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 9:02 PM

Hi all,

I am forwarding this story from my grandparents Durward and Phyllis Otterness. Both are life long North Dakota residents who have lived their 95 and 85 years respectively all in the state.

The badlands of North Dakota belong to us who live in North Dakota with its rugged beauty and the wild horses.

We have memories of going to Medora and the park from our childhood (75-80 years ago) and many times since then with our children and grandchildren.

Our goal in driving to the badlands has always to see the horses, even if they can be hard to spot from the car.

We have been given books that record generations of the horse families including the new foals.

In our most recent trip, there were three horses just below the road and it made it easy for us to get a closer look and a picture. What a joy to see them! They are part of the heritage of the park.

We like to think the wild horses are unique to the park. Beautiful pictures document the horses and celebrate their history in the park. As life long dairy farmers we realize how much attention is required for animals, and it is worth it! Horses have always been a part of our lives.

The wild horses represent one of our favorite memories of the park throughout decades of visits. Memories that will stay with us long after our trips to the park have ended.

Durward and Phyllis Otterness

Tower City, North Dakota

398.

zelmarah <zelmarah@activ8.net.au>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 10:03 PM

Hi Deb and Jamie....Have been meaning to send this email for a a few days so sorry about the delay.....Apart from seeing the horses in the park and the beautiful badlands which took a piece of my heart and soul in 2015 it is still there I am sure following the horses around as they traverse those buttes and valleys...The social media report that absolutely touched me to the core was the photograph of the bison saying their goodbyes to Grey Ghost (who also stole my heart when I saw him) this photo to this day still stirs so many emotions cant put them into words...I know people say that animals do not do that sort of thing but they obviously have never witnessed anything like this..I know when I lost my beautiful Chia to a paddock accident a few years ago..his paddock mates came over and stood with me and his body and each one in turn licked him and blew softly in his face and my goodness I have to say it was so spiritual like being on a different planet...my husband stood back and took quite a few photos..but after he had gone and I turned to leave..one of the boys came back and stood very quietly and repeated the process and just stood by himself for a little while then quietly turned and walked away...this moment was obviously not meant to be captured and was just his moment alone...sorry about the diviation... getting back to the bison and Grey Ghost... I am sure that these animals being such spiritual animals in native american culture....were indeed saying their goodbyes to him and had in all probably grazed by his side at times throughout his life in the park...and were honouring him in their own way and wishing him well on his journey to the other side..I am sure he is one of the stars that shines down on the park..I know the probability of seeing this is rare but people should be allowed to be able to visit the park ,horses , bison and all the other wildlife and witness the beautiful and sometimes not so beautiful moments of the interactions of these animals..we the human race can learn so much about the circle of life from this..I hope from the bottom of my heart that park officials do actually listen to the people who have shared their experiences and let the horses stay...so that if I get back there someday these wonderful beings will still be there... please feel free to edit this rather long drawn out response...cheers Hazel from Australia...have a beautiful day...

399.	<p>Benton, Graham <Gbenton@csum.edu> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 10:39 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p>From Helena Kriel and Graham Benton</p> <p>In 2022, we traveled to TRNP with the specific purpose of seeing the horses and experiencing the herds. We had heard about the park from mutual friends who are horse lovers, and we were curious and enthusiastic to learn more about wild herd behavior. We traveled from Minnesota and California to the park expressly for this purpose. And although the park contains many points of wonder and fascination, the horses far surpassed the other natural and cultural attractions. We were struck by the horses in their habitat and have never seen anything like it anywhere in all our travels – we left filled with awe and wonder that has not left us to this day. We have plans to return to the park this year to introduce other family members to the park, the horses, and the Badlands. Our family members are scientists and very interested in learning more about wild horse behavior. We cannot imagine that the horses could pose a threat to habitat for other species that would justify equine removal from TRNP. We also cannot imagine coming to a park without horses and would certainly cancel our trip if they were removed. From a customer service and tourism perspective as well as an ecological one, we are extremely confused and concerned that park staff would even suggest removing the horse herds. Please preserve this unique, beautiful, and scientifically relevant resource of wild herds for future generations to learn from, love, and enjoy.</p> <p>Dr. Helena Kriel and Dr. Graham Benton</p>
400.	<p>ssshorselover@yahoo.com <ssshorselover@yahoo.com> Mon, Jan 23, 2023 at 10:54 PM To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p>

	<p>By: Sierra Schmidt</p> <p>The horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park have helped to shape and mold me into the young adult that I am today. I have learned so much about them as I have followed them through the years. They really can be easily related to humans, and I find that we have more in common with them than many would think. The horses protect one another, put their family first, fight for one another and show unconditional love.</p> <p>I have visited the park since I was about 3, I am now 19. The first concrete memory that sticks out in my mind is when I saw Cloud's band walking down the road near the prairie dog town. They walked single file down the road, with the young one walking between them as if they were protecting it. At the time I didn't know the horses had names, but every trip we took, I remember looking for the horse with the big white face and white on his sides.</p> <p>In early spring 2017, I purchased my very first NDBH horse guide. I was excited to learn that they had names and I studied the guide to try and memorize as many horses as possible before our family trip in June. The guide was a huge help in identifying the horses, but we were still amateurs and didn't know quite how to find a lot of the horses, so sadly we didn't see as many as we would have liked. We were blessed, however, to come across the elusive Circus on our way out of the park.</p> <p>My parents planned a trip for October to bring me to the park solely to find the horses. We met up with Claudia, whom my mom chatted with on Facebook when she offered to help us locate them. We had the best time hiking with her, and it felt like we knew her forever. We talked a lot about the horses and learned that there are many others just like us who quickly became obsessed with hiking for and photographing these magnificent horses of the North Dakota Badlands.</p> <p>It didn't take me long to find all the Facebook pages of others like me who loved them all so much. We all share information with one another, we share our stories – some that bring us smiles and laughter, some that bring us tears and sorrow. We learn from one another; we grow together, and we will continue to fight together to keep these horses in the home where they belong.</p> <p>My plan for the future has been to eventually move to western North Dakota to be closer to the park so that I can continue to follow, document, photograph and share these horses with everyone who loves them, near or far. It is important for my generation to be able to have a place to go for peace and tranquility, and to be able to sit for hours watching the horses living out their lives wild and free.</p>
<p>401.</p>	<p>Christine Messerli <messerli.christine@bluewin.ch> Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 4:34 AM To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p>I live in Europe but have visited the USA, my secret dream country, three times so far. Since I follow many great photographers on Facebook who document the life of the Mustang in the different HMA's, it is my biggest wish to make a trip just to the horses. Especially to spend a lot of time in the TRNP, which I love because of its impressive landscape. The idea of not seeing wild horses there, of not hearing their snorting and the thundering of their hooves, breaks my heart and is unimaginable to me. I take a lot of photographs myself and paint and draw, especially horses. I fear that soon it will no longer be possible for me to paint mustangs in the wild, which is a great wish of mine. The impending fate of these wonderful animals is difficult for me and many other concerned people to bear. Many tourists and visitors from home and abroad will then, like me, forego a stay in a TRNP without mustangs. Apart from the tragedy for the animals, it would also be a great loss for all the local people who live from tourism. Can this really be what is wanted? I hope from the bottom of my heart that reason will prevail and the herd will be allowed to remain in TRNP. Otherwise, I am sure Teddy Roosevelt would turn over in his grave with anger.</p> <p>PS Heather White from "Memories Captured in Time Photography" on Facebook gave me the permission using her photos as ref. for paintings/drawings. This is a small sketch of Mare Dolly with foal Oakley. Will I ever get to see these two in their habitat????</p>



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402.

judy hawn <judyafh@yahoo.com>

Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 10:45 AM

To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Hello,

My name is Judy, and I am from Illinois. I have not had the great pleasure of seeing our wild horses in person, so my story may not be so great. However I began loving horses as a child. Our family would watch all the old western shows on TV every night. You will know of some of them. Gun Smoke, Rawhide, Paliden, Bonanza, and more.

Yes, I loved the horses on those shows, though I had none in my life. It bothered me greatly that every time I did see a horse, he was always strapped to something, or saddled. To see the cattle being branded on those shows bothered me greatly. To know our beloved horses are being branded now is equally upsetting. Can you imagine the horrific pain of it? It makes me want to see the cowboys get branded to see how they like it. Would that even change their minds about doing it?

I always felt better as a child, and into adulthood, that horses had wide open spaces to run and be free with their families, and herds. It was right that they did, and I didn't hate people so much either thinking they actually cared about them. However that is no longer true. The very people charged with protecting our horses, burros, and other wildlife on our public lands, are the very ones brutally, and callously wiping them off of those very lands. It is as heart breaking, and unbelievable, as it is the reality. Our very Congress full of people that we ourselves voted in, are not just allowing it. They are funding it with billions of our hard earned tax payer dollars.

How did we devolve to this? I believe it is two things. People don't know, because this is unheard of on National news networks; and people don't care, because of shows like 60 Minutes who spout the very same lies the BLM spouts to justify it. They are our "trusted" news people, why would the average person delve any deeper than the so-called investigative programs? So it boils down to two things. People don't know, and don't care. Ignorance, and apathy are nearly across the board on this. This must change. Figuring out how is imperative. How to effectively fight the billionaires? There in lies the great need to share this knowledge in every way conceivable.

403.

Rachel Abraham <barnprincess98@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 11:30 AM

Imagine a young 13-year-old with long blonde hair and big brown eyes. She is horse-crazy, [has](#) been since she was born. Learned how to ride before she could walk. Like any young girl, she wanted a horse of her own. This young girl had a wild spirit that couldn't be tamed. Her mother wisely suggested that maybe the little girl should look into getting a horse that would reflect her personality. And thus, the little girl who could name every breed of horse in the world became obsessed with mustangs.

At the Minnesota Horse Expo one dreary April day, a little girl's dream sparked to life outside the stall of a Nokota horse. This horse breed goes back to Sitting Bull's horse herd. Afterwards, the little girl cleverly laid hints and clues across her parent's path to encourage them to take her to a place that had a few Nokota horses for sale. The parents obligingly agreed. The little girl's heart was set on a Nokota horse, specifically a sleek chocolate-colored filly named Wokini. However, fate had a different story in mind.

When the parents and little girl arrived at the farm, the owners took them into the pasture with a bunch of young, playful horses. They all came up and greeted us with their frosty muzzles and then continued frolicking through the snow. However, one horse did not join in with her friends. She was perfectly content staying right beside the little girl. As if she had chosen her. Everyone was amazed, including the little girl. This frosty bay roan filly had chosen to stay with her rather than go play with her friends.

The owners began to spin a tale about a magical place in North Dakota called Theodore Roosevelt National Park. A place where the land is so rugged that only the toughest can survive there. A living echo from a time before. A place where wild horses still ran free. This young horse who gazed deep into the eyes of the little girl was a true wild horse. You can only imagine how the little girl felt.

So, as destiny would have it, a 13-year-old girl bought a 2-year-old mustang from the badlands of North Dakota. The little girl trained the wild filly although some could argue that the filly trained the little girl. The filly was only [halter broke](#) when the little girl got her. Yet the following winter, the little girl rode this wild mustang bareback in a halter in a winter parade filled with jingling sleigh bells and cheering people. The little girl and her wild horse had the time of their life. Their initial connection grew deeper, turning into a bond that could never be broken. Their friendship is something that even a language as advanced as English would have trouble describing.

The wild horse that this little girl bought turned out to be a very important key that opened up many doors for the little girl. She was able to go visit her beloved horse's homeland and even see her horse's parents. It was life-changing experience for her. She was a child of the west wind, and this was her home. The wind in the canyon, the swaying buffalograss, the rugged ridges, the buffalo en masse. And then, she could feel them before she heard them and she could hear them before she saw them. I swear, her heart stopped beating for a mere moment at the sight. Their muscular bodies glistening, their manes flowing. They walked with an effortless confidence that could come from knowing that this is where they belong. It's where they have always belonged. It was their home. These horses of old that have survived here for hundreds of years. They were living history and the little girl would never be the same.

She visited many more times, learning all the horses by looks and names. This was her horse's homeland. A piece of both their hearts remain there to this day. They will both return someday. I know they will return because I am that little girl, just 10 years older and wiser. I also have a wildlife degree under my belt with a minor in Range and French. I outfitted myself with the tools needed to keep the horses in the park. I know that is my destiny and I will do everything in my power to make sure the horses stay in native homeland. I am a child of the west wind, a wild child that is a force to be reckoned with. If you come after my horse's family, you come after me. And that will be your first and last mistake.

Rachel Abraham

BS Wildlife Resources, double minor in French & Rangeland Ecology/Management '23 from University of Idaho

(507) 461-7350

404.

405.

Dolores Lambert <rlambert@bis.midco.net>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 2:22 PM

My family has lived in North Dakota since the early 70's. We soon had heard about the national park and decided to make a Sunday trip to see what it was about. I was amazed by the beauty of the landscape. Once entering the park we were able to see the bison, wild and free. The prairie dogs in abundance. Our young children were excited by all of this different surroundings. A few years later we made the trip again and this time we saw the wild horses. At this time I was so excited. I have always been a horse lover, never being able to have my own growing up. Our trips became more frequent and camera in hand we were watching more diligent for them and seeing new foals appear. In the last 20 years we go to the park at least twice a year. My only reason is to see the horses. They have become a part of my heart. They ask nothing of humans but to live the way they know how. They have brought so much joy to many people. We stop to watch them again and again. I've talked to people about the wild horses when we are standing around watching them. Many people did not know about these horses being here. It's an educational opportunity for most. I'm willing to help educate others and continue to keep them in my heart, prayers and faith that they will continue to stay in their safety zone. I see the pictures other people post and my heart wants to be with them. They are beautiful creatures on this planet. They are part of this State. Part of the people who go and observe them and keep records on them. A sad part is when one becomes missing and not found. The foals that become orphaned but by the way the "family" is willing to take care of that baby is hope. The horses in this park are loved by many. To lose them from the park would be heartbreaking for me. I can not understand the reason for removal of any. These horses are part of this country. They should stay here for the historic value. TRoosevelt himself would want the horses to be here.

Lastly I am just one of many that want the wild horses to be left alone.

My prayers are with the decision to keep the horses in their natural home for life. For their lives.

406.

DEB LEE CARSON <everseethelight@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 2:38 PM

To: Wild Lands Wild Horses <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Jackie Scherer's Story

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jackie Scherer <khalua80111@hotmail.com>

Date: Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 9:51 PM

Subject: Jackie's story

To: DEB LEE CARSON <everseethelight@gmail.com>

Deb-

There is a lot of babbling here. I didn't know where to start or where I was going :/

Feel free to fix things...like paragraphs. Or omit stuff. Lol.

"My whole life I have been introverted and self-conscious. I would get severe anxiety around people I didn't know to the point where I couldn't stand in line at a fast food restaurant by myself. From 2011-2013, I was introduced to the great outdoors...traveling, camping, hiking, State Parks and National Parks. When I found myself single I had to make a choice. I could either never go hiking or camping again or I could buck up and figure out how to do it by myself. In late 2013, I borrowed some camping gear and made my first solo trip to the North Shore of Lake Superior. It felt amazing! In 2014, I made my first out of state solo trip to the Badlands in South Dakota. I wanted to go bigger so a few months later I made a 5 day solo trip to Yellowstone. I survived! All of the traveling I was doing led to a love of the North Shore and photography. I wanted to become a landscape photographer. I followed every landscape and North Shore photographer I could find on social media. In 2015, while scrolling on FB, I came across a photo of a beautiful horse. I had always loved horses growing up but of course couldn't have one. I took riding lessons for a few years around 2010 but stopped going when my instructor left. The caption in the post said it was a wild horse in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I needed to go! I booked a campsite in April of 2016, packed my car and drove all night to get to the park just after sunrise. As I passed the Painted Canyon visitor center, my jaw dropped as the landscape opened up. The formations. The colors. It was nothing I had seen before. Just before the exit to Medora I saw my first horses. I pulled over on the freeway squealing. A beautiful white mare was walking along a trail with her mane flowing in the wind. As she turned and walked away, a little brown foal come out from behind a sage bush. My heart became theirs in that second. I found out later that the foal I saw was only 4 days old and was to be named Illinois because of his white socks. My first trip to the park was wonderful. I spent my 8 hour drive home swooning over

the horses I had met... especially Flax. Hubba Hubba! When I got home I searched for the next available camp site in the park. I needed to go back. September 2016...booked it. During my first year of photography, I had noticed a lot of folks hosting workshops or classes you could sign up for to better your photography. The thought of meeting a bunch of people I didn't know scared me. This is why I did so much solo traveling. One day I saw a workshop being offered by Deb Lee Carson in TRNP and it happened to be the same weekend I had already booked a trip out to the park. This was meant to be. I reached out and signed up. This time my overnight drive to the park was filled with anxiety. I was set to meet a person I didn't know and then more people I didn't know. This was not me. What was I thinking?! Driving down the freeway and seeing the landscape open up again made everything ok. Seeing horses swishing their tails in the sun and wind made everything ok. Meeting Deb for the first time at Boots made everything ok. The moment I stepped foot in Medora in April of 2016, my life changed. Over the next 6 years I would make a trip out to park every few months. I switched from landscape photography to wildlife photography with a focus on the wild horses of TRNP. Deb, her husband and their 4 legged ones would not only become dear friends but family. Each visit to the park created a new memory, allowed me to relive old memories, had the potential for a new relationship, and was an opportunity to catch up with the many friends I made in Medora. As I'm driving the loop road, I can picture the great battles I've witnessed, the wobbly first steps of a new foal, the last moments spent with an aged stallion. Every moment spent with these horses becomes a new memory that I will never forget. I don't often do solo trips to the park anymore. Instead I bring others along to introduce them to the horses. It doesn't take long for them to become hooked. I found who I am and who I was meant to have in my life at TRNP. The horses of TRNP have helped me find my path. Without them my life would not be the same! If removed, there would be no reason for me to return to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Every turn of the loop road would contain memories and the heartbreak of knowing no new memories would ever be made again. Friends made in TRNP would be lost as a lot of us wouldn't come from across the country to visit anymore. The lives of many would change. These horses mean a lot to people and great care should be taken when deciding on removing them. They could literally be someone's only reason to get out of bed in the morning...their purpose in life. The power of these wild horses is strong and should not to be taken lightly. The fence was built around the horses. The park belongs to them. Let the horses stay wild and free in TRNP."

407.

Maggie Bauer <MBGriefRecovery@outlook.com>

Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 4:30 PM

To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Maggie Bauer
Colorado State University Alumni

My introduction to the wild horses of TRNP was July 4th, 2010. The previous winter I had spent 3 months volunteering in Namibia and South Africa. My old college roommate who was working on her veterinary degree called me and told me about her job documenting with the wild horse of Theodore Roosevelt Park (TRNP). I was headed to the family cabin in central Minnesota for the holiday weekend and literally turned around and started the drive to Medora. I drove late into the night and watched the fireworks in the Western North Dakota skies. The next day, we were up early to hike in TRNP and do behavioral observations on the mares in specific herd. Fast forward to March of 2011, I was hired by CSU to continue the research on the wild horses of TRNP. It was a job of a lifetime, searching for, finding and documenting wild horses in 46,000 acres of land for 5 months. The goal was to get "eyes" on at least 90% if not 100% of the mares, once a week.

I was often alone but never felt alone as the spirit of this magical place and the horses within it enticed me with every footstep I took. To observe the herd dynamics, the horses' reactions to their environment, the affection they showed each other, the collaboration, the subtle cues that created their (mostly) silent and beautiful language that I was only a novice at understanding was a gift of a lifetime! Colorado State hired me for 2 more seasons. Ooo the stories I have. The sagas I witnessed between the horses of TRNP. One time in particular, I walked up towards a herd where a mare had just had a foal earlier that morning. I walked by the placenta (afterbirth) as I got closer to the herd. There were multiple stallions in this herd and one of them was trying to push the mare closer to the group. The mare urgently danced around her wet foal protecting them. The second stallion fed up with the disruptive behavior of the first stallion CHARGED. He chased off the first stallion so that the mare and foal could slowly, safely and peacefully integrate back into the herd. I was in an inopportune location 5 feet to my left was a deep gully that I didn't

want to jump into and to my right was open space but I had to huge testosterone filled stallions coming straight at me. FAST. I raised my arms and my voice. There was zero acknowledgement from either stallion as they thundered past me, within a few feet. Luckily, I was unscathed and so was the new born foal. One of hundreds of exhilarating experiences about these horses that I hold in my heart.

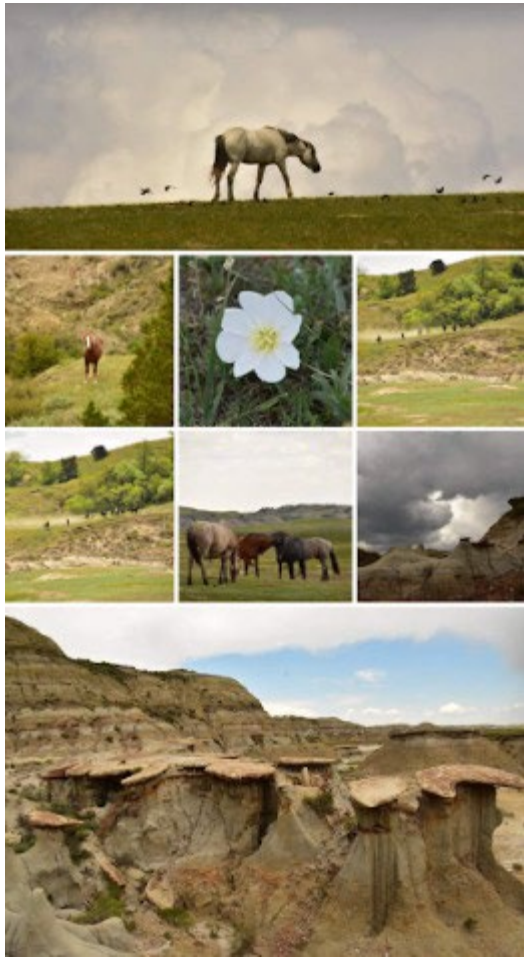
A lifechanging event happened in August of 2012. My big brother and only sibling suddenly and tragically died. Once returning back to North Dakota after the funeral, I spent as much time as I could in TRNP with the horses because that was the only way I knew, to work on the healing process. There was nothing more powerful for me than to hike my tush off and rest within the presence of the wild horses that I had gotten to intimately know over the last 2 years. I can't think of a better place to put salve on a broken heart than within the herds of wild horses in TRNP. I am one of the few that has spent hundreds of hours with these horses and I know it would be a travesty if they were permanently removed from the rugged and stunningly beautiful land, they call home. It is your American right and duty to see and experience the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I hope you get the opportunity before they are gone. You will not regret it.

Maggie Bauer

Certified Grief Recovery Specialist®

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408.

Brenda Hoffman <blhoff5@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 6:39 PM

To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

To Whom It May Concern,

I fell in love with the horses of TRNP in 2019 when on a bucket list vacation with my sister. It would be an offense to the past, the present, and the future if these horses are taken, eradicated, removed, or whatever you want to call it. Shame on those who think they don't belong....they belong more than we do. Below, Stallion Cloud, who so graciously allowed me to take this picture. He and the rest of the horses of TRNP will forever be in my heart and soul. I have added additional pictures to this email of many other pictures of other horses I photographed during my trip to TRNP. I hope to revisit the park again someday, but will be sadly disappointed if there are no longer horses roaming free as this was the draw for me and I suspect for others who visit the park as well. See attached photos. These are only a few of the hundreds of photos taken. I truly hope to be able to take more. Leave the horses alone.

Respectfully,
Brenda Hoffman

—











409.

Jackie Lang <wolfie19@mindspring.com>
Reply-To: wolfie19@mindspring.com
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 8:00 PM

Hi Deb,

Here is my story about my love for the horses at TRNP. I have sent a comment to the park service, but it probably won't do any good because I had no facts, just emotion about the horses. I know there are people who would help them manage the herd but they don't want the horses and don't seem to care what anyone thinks. I have contacted, Cramer, and Armstrong, but couldn't get ahold of anyone at Hoeven's office. Will try again. I left messages with 2 so far of the national park subcommittee. I will keep working on getting ahold of the rest. Sent the list to my mom as well. Also contacted my state senators and rep about it. Got an email back from one who has signed on to a letter or whatever they are working on about the horses. I feel so helpless though.

What the horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park mean to me.

When I was a child, my grandparents would take my sister and I camping around North Dakota. Sometimes we would go all the way to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. My grandpa would tell me stories about the geology of this special place, why it looked the way it does; what wildlife roamed in the park and how many species like the bison had been driven to near extinction. I think my love of conservation and the protection of wildlife began with these early lessons.

Grandpa also told me about the early ranches in the area and how Theodore Roosevelt came to Dakota territory to heal from the deaths of his wife and mother. He ranched there and commented on the beauty of the place and mentioned the wildlife and wild horses that roamed the area. My ears perked up at this...Wild horses? I was a typical horse crazy little girl and questions flew...where did the horses come from? Does nobody take care of them? Will we see any?

I did see them, not close up, but a couple on top of a butte, manes and tails blowing in the wind. It was love at first sight. From then on those horses were my horses, because I could never have a horse of my own. I didn't always see them when we visited, but the horses were what I looked for the most.

I had read about Wild horse Annie and her attempts to protect the mustangs of the United States. A law was passed and I thought my horses would always be safe and I could always see them. So I thought.

As an adult I visited the park with my mom. We had just passed a horse trailer parked in the road and I saw a horse run across the road. I stopped and another horse followed. I realized in shock that these were not domesticated horses but the wild ones! I had never seen them so close before. Horse after horse ran across the road, right in front of my car. So many colors and long manes blowing in the wind. It was over in a flash with only a dust cloud to note their passing. Mom and I looked at each other and then started laughing in absolute delight. I have worked at Yellowstone and visited many parks, but that moment was the best and most memorable moment I have had in any park.

I got to know these horses through the many facebook pages that feature them. Seeing their photos and hearing how they were doing was about the only thing that kept me sane during the COVID lockdown. I could always turn to my beautiful horses to give me joy.

Imagine my horror, when I read a newspaper article stating the park service wanted to 'get rid' of the Wild horses and Longhorns in the park. The park states they are livestock and have no right to be there even though they have been there longer than the bison who went extinct and had to be reintroduced. They are not livestock! Nobody takes care of them. They take care of themselves and are wild animals and a living symbol of the American West, every bit as much as the bison are.

The park states that the park is only about Roosevelt's conservation legacy, not his ranching legacy. Where are these people from? There would BE no national park without Roosevelt's ranching legacy. He came to North Dakota to ranch and learned his love of conservation there. He himself stated he would not have become president if he had never come to North Dakota...so there would have been no conservation legacy either. One of the things Roosevelt mentions are the wild horses in the area. They deserve the protection that Roosevelt would fight for now, if he were still in North Dakota.

Theodore Roosevelt once said, "Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance."

How can I say it better than that? The horses and Longhorns are a natural resource for our state, a tourist draw and are beloved by the people. They are our history and a sacred heritage for all the little children, like me, who fell in love with them at a young age. They belong in the park as much as the bison, elk and deer do. Wild horse Annie isn't here to speak for them, so I will and I know so many other Americans and people from other countries who want to see these wonders will to! My question to the park service is this: are you managing the park for yourselves or for the American people. Listen to us!

Jackie Lang
Fargo, ND

410.

Stephanie Beck <sbeck785@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 8:24 PM

I got interested in the horses when they were going to be sold in Wishek. I read about them in the Bismarck Tribune and needed to know more about them. I first came across Wild in North Dakota's page and learned quite a bit from that page. Of course I came across other sites about the horses after that. Never could have imagined how many people loved these horses. I eventually needed a break from my life and decided to go visit the park in 2016. After standing on a small hill with 5 bands around the area I was hooked. I spent 3 days and didn't want to leave ever but had to. I started following lots of pages on Facebook so I could know everything possible about them. In the next couple years I made it out a few more times and met some very wonderful people that loved these beauties too. I eventually started going almost every month if I could and decided to volunteer with the NDBH group. So many wonderful people in this group that I get to call my badlands horse friends. I'm am very addicted to these horses now and can't imagine not having them to go visit when I need my happy place to help my depression. Stephanie in Bismarck





411.

Amy Chaney <achay08@yahoo.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Wed, Jan 25, 2023 at 1:25 AM

My story is this. I grew up on a small ranch and my horses were my best friends. I felt more comfortable riding horses than walking on my own two feet really. There's just something about a bond with a horse and it's something you just never get over.

Roughly 12 years ago, my brother in law was diagnosed with cancer. I live in Washington state, my sister in Arizona. I went to help them out and stayed a week or so when he was starting chemo. I found myself one night, not able to fall asleep, reached for my phone and got onto Facebook, which was somewhat new to me. I was scrolling and reading and scrolling some more when I found Wild in North Dakota. I remember I stayed up until 4 am reading all of Eileen's posts and falling in love with all of the horses. Eileen is a wonderful and powerful author. Her details are amazing. She makes you feel like you are sitting right beside her. I didn't know Curious George but I cried knowing that he had passed. I fell in love with Circus, Blaze, Silver and Gray Ghost. I wanted Valor so very badly when he was captured and put up for adoption. I cried for Gary & Ghost but what a legacy they were. I routed for the ever handsome Copper when he was injured. I prayed Blaze would be found safe & sound and cried when the news came in. Chubby was the best mare. Arrowhead captured my heart. Thunder grew older passing on his wisdom to his son before his passing. The family dynamics are so incredible. Boomer & Amite are evidence of that. Each year, beloved horses change worlds and offspring are born. This is nature, at times cruel and other times, sweet and tender. I love following these horses. I have calendars and books of them. I go onto Facebook just to check on them. Come to find out, my sister follows this Eileen's page too! And my brother in law is healthy and living his best life.

It was my intention to travel to TRNP this summer to see the horses. Now I'm not sure what to do with the news of the horse's potentially being taken out of the park. My heart is breaking and I don't quite understand. I won't come if there are no horses to see. People come to see the horses. Visitors come to the park who pay to stay at hotels, eat at restaurants etc. I'm just baffled & sorta at a loss of words so I did some research on TRNP and this is a little of what I found.

North Dakota has the only National Park that is named directly after a single person. Theodore Roosevelt loved the badlands, the ruggedness of the land and the wild things living there so much that his passion for conservation began. He used his authority as President to protect lands. President Truman established the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Park. Teddy even wrote about the horses on these very lands in the 1880's. This park is one of the few national parks where visitors can see free roaming horses.

This isn't the first or second time that wild horses have been in trouble at TRNP. There was a round up in 1954 where 200 branded horses were taken out of the park. Of the few small bands of horses remaining after the round up, several were thought to be descendants of horses that had run free in the badlands since the turn of the century. Horses in the park today bear a striking resemblance to the horses common to the area in the 19th century depicted from drawings and early photographs. The herds had been under constant pressure from the outside to be removed. Thankfully in 1970, a new policy was written for the herds at the TRNP. The policy states that the horses are a historic demonstration herd so that visitors may experience the badlands seen as it appeared during the open range ranching era of Theodore Roosevelt. How lovely an idea.

In my research, I have found that some horses were indeed released from ranchers in winter months so they did not have to feed them. Horses are herd animals so of course domesticated and wild horses would join. Horses belonging to Native Americans would have joined the bands too. Some horses are born wild and remained wild. Horses changed the way Native Americans traveled & hunted in the plains. The horses have been here far longer than our ancestors. From this knowledge and knowing that for many decades, these horses have been "wild" and not domesticated or used as livestock, they should not be labeled in that category.

I want to see the badlands as they are today- with the wild horses. It is the only reason I want to come to North Dakota. I live closer to other parks to see bison, elk, coyotes etc. I want to see the wilderness and step back in time. I want to see a night sky not polluted with city lights. Please learn from the past—the bison! Bison had to be reintroduced to North Dakota -to their native land! Horses, along with bison, deer, elk, coyote, prairie dogs and 185 species of birds make up the Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Amy Chaney- Camas,WA

<p>412.</p>	<p>caroline christie <ccfinearts@gmail.com> To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Wed, Jan 25, 2023 at 10:26 AM</p> <p>Our first trip to Theodore Roosevelt National Park was in 2015. Since then we have returned many times to visit with and revel amongst the wild horses of the park. I have had some of the most memorable moments of my life photographing the wild horses of TRNP.</p> <p>When you step into this National Park it's like you have opened a time capsule and you are witnessing the west as it was over 250 years ago. You are at peace and the winds that blow calm you. You are in wild country now. The park landscape is so dynamic. The Little Missouri river meanders through the park, flowing by buttes and lush prairie grass meadows. You can hike around hoodoos where you could find a herd of wild horses sunning themselves as the hoodoo blocks the wind.The horses are warmed and mellow in the midday sun. One clearly beautiful thing that happens in the park is the prevalence of animal sybiosis. The absolute harmony between the bison, wild horses and my second favorite resident of the park...the mighty prairie dog is on full display. You will see wild horses drink from a hidden waterhole while a bison naps gracefully in has sandy willow nearby.Which in turn if the willow is free, you will see a herd of happy wild horses stop, drop and roll to enjoy an afternoon sand bath.Even the prairie dogs can connect with our wild horses by calling out a warning chirp informing the herd that there is a girl with a camera on her way. I believe the chirp translates as "Vamoose" to it's compadre. The connection is real. If you keep hiking you may find yourself looking up at a herd of wild horses...standing in formation as if on lookout as they survey their land. This may lead you to feel out of your mind as such a scene could only exist here in this park and I am bearing witness to this awe inspiring site. One can just sit down in the prairie grass, let the wind tangle your hair and appreciate what life has given you. I have never left the park feeling sad as I often do when leaving certain HMA's in the west. I always left the park knowing that they would be safe, respected and protects.</p> <p>Scenes like this will cease to exist if the horses are removed.The west will have taken the wild away from us once again. I may never return to the park if the horses are gone but if I do, it would not be the same. If they were removed twenty years from now a new generation will drive through the park not having a clue what such great majesty once lived here.</p>
<p>413.</p>	<p>Melissa Sivigny <melissa.sivigny@yahoo.com> To: Wildlandswildhorses Info <info@wildlandswildhorses.com></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Wed, Jan 25, 2023 at 5:32 PM</p>

My TRNP Story Missy Sivigny

In the early 2000's a friend and I set out to ride our horses in the Badlands of North Dakota. I had no idea how life changing this trip would be for me at the time we decided to plan and take off for Medora North Dakota.

We stayed at the Buffalo Gap Ranch, and for the first few days we rode the trails around the ranch rather than trailering our horses anywhere. We would ride in the mornings and then plan for things to do during the midday hours. One of the first things we did was go to check out Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The moment I set foot in the park I felt like I was drawn to the place like it was home.

We stopped at the visitor center to get any information we needed, seeing it was our first time in the park. We drove out and [stopped in at Peaceful Valley Ranch](#). At that time, they were doing guided [trial rides](#) throughout the park on horses there. We ladies are drawn to any place that has horses so it was natural for us to stop there first. As my boots hit the red dirt I immediately was rushed by the wind and the smell of sage. This is something I will never forget and I long for that smell every day. If I smell anywhere I am immediately immersed back into the park even if I'm not there.

We were walking around and were lucky enough to meet the grandfather of one of the young wranglers for the ranch as he was unsaddling his horse from a ride earlier at his trailer. This kind man offered to take us out with their group the next day because we had not ridden in the park and were unfamiliar with it.

The next morning we loaded up to head to Peaceful Valley Ranch. We were very excited and nervous while we saddled up our horses that morning. There were 6 of us that rode out of the ranch that morning. I checked my cinch one last time on my saddle and made sure I had everything I needed packed into my saddle bags along with my rain slicker just in case the weather changed. Then I lifted my leg, put it in my stirrup and lifted myself into my saddle as the leather creaked as I settled in for a trail ride, I would never forget.

Out we went across the Little Missouri River that was moving along at a pretty good rate. This was the first time we had crossed this river and we were told to only cross the river where other animals are crossing as it was full of silt and if we got into an area that wasn't safe and got pulled into the river it would fill our cloths and make it hard for us to get out of the water. Even though it was shallow at the time of year we were there.

The sun had come out from behind the clouds and we hit our first well on the other side of the river and watered our horses. We rode out to a huge rock formation, walked around it and got a lesson on rattlesnakes at this time and I immediately got myself off of that rock. We rode back towards the ranch crossed some areas where the water runs off from the buttes and were educated again on how to cross where others are because those can be deeper than they look and can suck horses in as they fight to get out similar to quick sand. My horse decided to jump most of them. The first one caught me by surprise but by the second one I had his game down. We thought we were heading back when we took a left hand turn and headed up this steep butte. It was an incredible climb but once we were on the top you could see the whole park and the Little Missouri was below it. It was breathtaking.

We then rode down into a flat area that I now know as the area where Theodore Roosevelt had once gathered his cattle at. We were heading back towards the ranch at this time when out of nowhere came some horses. I had no idea there were wild horses in the park. These bachelor stallions rode right up to us and circled us, gave a few snorts, and then took off running the same way they came. It was exhilarating and scary at the same time. While riding back we saw more wild horses on the other side of the river. The grandfather had mentioned to us to make sure we stayed away from that group as the big beautiful black and white paint stallion was very protective of his family.

I had no idea that this day would be one that would change my life. After I returned home I longed to go back to the park to see the horses. I knew deep down I wanted to adopt a mustang at this point. What I didn't know was I would be adopting a mustang from Theodore Roosevelt National Park about 12 years later. Which is the start of another story.

414.

Robin Hosemann <rhosemann@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Wed, Jan 25, 2023 at 9:39 PM

My partner, my son, and I recently drove in an RV van from Wisconsin to TRNP. It was our first trip together to a National Park, and I told them I really wanted to try to see the wild horse band there, if at all possible. We spent hours touring the park, hiking, and marveling at the landscape, but I began to think I wouldn't see the horses. Every dark shape in the distance proved to be bison. Ever since I was a young girl, I read and studied about the mustangs of the West, and I have had the fortune to have my own horses. I know the realities of horse ownership, and I am no stranger to the horrors of kill pens and the slaughter system for the American horse population that often outpaces the ability for humans to provide humane and lifelong care. My connection to these animals means that I do whatever I can to prevent horses from uncertain fates. However, I thought the management of the herd at TRNP seemed solid: the numbers in the band and the size of the landscape seemed compatible. I was so excited to just get a glimpse of them. However, dusk was approaching and our time there was coming to an end. We pulled around one of the bends in the road on the way out of the park, and I spotted way off in the distant grasslands, the unmistakable swish of horsetails. We pulled over and rushed out with our binoculars. I could see a roan and a black and a bay, and it took my breath away. Even just that distant glimpse of animals as magnificent of these with the freedom to be themselves swelled my heart and squeezed it with pride for our nation and the NPS. I'm concerned that the herd is in peril. I want to do whatever I can to help us maintain wild horse herds on public lands. We don't deserve horses as humans who treat them in so many disrespectful ways. The very least we can do is protect those who are a part of our National lands. We owe them that.

Sincerely,
Robin Hosemann
TRNP Visitor, August 2022

415.

Chelsea Halat <chelsea.halat@gmail.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Wed, Jan 25, 2023 at 11:07 PM

I was first introduced to the mustangs of TRNP in 2015 by my then-acquaintance, Jamie Baldanza. In short, the TRNP mustangs have truly changed my life and deserve the opportunity to do so for future generations.

Jamie introduced me not only to the amazing mustangs of the park, but also the beautiful community that the horses have created. These mustangs and their community helped me find myself and showed me love and friendship like I've never experienced before.

In 2015 Jamie adopted two mustangs, one being from TRNP, and sent both to a trainer in Minnesota. That year I visited MN with Jamie and was greatly inspired by the immensely kind people whose community is centered on their love for the TRNP horses. On that trip I met a weanling filly named Denali who came out of the park that same year. She was the most beautiful thing I'd ever seen and had such a strong inquisitive presence. She was a spitfire, and from that day forward I thought of her often. I visited again and always made sure to visit Denali during my travels.

In 2019 I quit my corporate marketing job and headed to Minnesota to work as an intern for that horse trainer Jamie first introduced to me in 2015. I was so fortunate enough to be able to make this possible because of incredible people I met through the TRNP mustang community. Deb Lee Carson so generously allowed me to stay with her while I worked with the trainer, she became my satellite family. Bob and Deb Fjetland so kindly allowed me to work with Denali, that TRNP filly I first met in 2015, who became my main intern project. At the end of my internship the Fjetland's then gave me the most utterly amazing surprise by gifting me with being able to keep this special girl Denali forever. We both now reside in New Jersey.

Working with Denali has been different from anything I've ever experienced. She is strong, but she is soft. She is intelligent, she is honest, and she has challenged me to let go of everything I thought I knew before in order to make me a better horseman. Everywhere we go, from the vet clinic - to the beach - to a trail ride - to a horse show - Denali is a show stopper. She's an incredible mascot for the breed. Most everyone we meet admires her, they say she is the most beautiful horse they've ever seen, they ask what she is, and how they can get a horse like her. I proudly share that she is a mustang from Theodore Roosevelt National Park in Medora, North Dakota.

After 6 years of knowing about the mustangs in the park, I finally got to experience them for myself in November 2021. My former-acquaintance and now incredible best friend Jamie so graciously gifted me a trip to TRNP for my 30th birthday with herself and the amazing Deb Lee Carson. The mission of our trip to TRNP was to find the parents of my mustang mare, Denali - to see her mother, Frosty, and father, Red Face. We had a difficult time finding them, which was a surprise considering they typically are a very easy band to locate. On the 2nd day we ended up hiking into an isolated part of the park with blind faith and no leads through some tough, but breathtaking, terrain. I will never forget the look on Deb's face when she realized we had found them. It was an incredible afternoon and such a special moment to see Denali's family living wild and free.

The horses of TRNP mean so much - they are simply magic. Each one I've met has been strong and powerful, but also kind and sensitive. To Denali, Sleeping Bear, Valor, Amidon, Willow, & Pinnacles - thank you for being such a rich part of my journey. I feel deep sorrow for you and the future of your families. I pray that more generations are able to experience the magic of the TRNP mustangs and that they're able to continue to change countless lives.

Chelsea Halat
Allentown, New Jersey

Myself in front of Red Face and Frosty's band



Myself and the most amazing Denali, born wild and free in 2015



416.

klamaize@westriv.com <klamaize@westriv.com>
To: info@wildlandswildhorses.com

Thu, Jan 26, 2023 at 6:25 AM

Good Morning,

I am writing in support of keeping the horses in the TRNP.

I am attaching my story in case that makes it easier to share. Here is my story and my interest in them:

My name is Linda Maize. My family is from Beulah, North Dakota. We are writing in support of keeping the wild horses in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

The horses of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park are a major attraction to the park, drawing thousands of visitors to the park each year. My family and extended family are just some of the visitors who come to see the horses. The horses have a following of thousands around the world on Facebook where sites are posting pictures and information about the different horses in the park. There is a huge interest in the horses which translates into income to the town of Medora when the people visit the park and stay in the area for days to watch horses in the park.

These horses are not just any horses. The study of their genetics has determined that they are descendants of some of the first horses originally brought to this continent. That alone should be enough to preserve them. Even the Smithsonian lists the park as one of the best places to see the wild horses. Medora is famous for the Marquis De Mores and Theodore Roosevelt who lived there during the ranching days in the area. While that tradition continues and horses still play an important part of life there, these horses are threatened with removal. It doesn't make sense to destroy part of the heritage of the area by removing them while you try to preserve other parts of the region's heritage. These horses predate the park according to studies done on them. Once they are removed, the damage is done and can't be undone. The horses will be scattered and their history in the park removed forever.

While my family enjoys the scenery of the park and the changing landscape, it is the wildlife, particularly the horses and buffalo that make our numerous annual trips to the park more exciting. We would not be in the park as often if it weren't for the wildlife. We have more photographs of the wildlife than we do of the landscape. The landscape changes in the park happen slowly while the wildlife makes each visit a unique experience and keeps us coming to the park. We hope you will keep the horses there so we have a reason to spend more time in the park.

Thank you for helping keep the horses in the park.

Linda Maize

My name is Linda Maize. My family is from Beulah, North Dakota. We are writing in support of keeping the wild horses in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

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417.

418.

Craig Clifford <clifford.craig@hotmail.com>
To: "info@wildlandswildhorses.com" <info@wildlandswildhorses.com>

Thu, Jan 26, 2023 at 2:57 PM

I'm writing this message to ensure the wild horses continue to have a place within the park after learning about the options presented for livestock management in Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP).

The wild horses of TNRP remain crucial in preserving cultural heritage. These horses have had a cultural significance to the American West and native tribes of the area for centuries, seen as powerful symbols of strength, freedom, and spiritual connection to the land. Their presence in the park maintains the rich history and culture of the region.

Wild horses are a popular attraction for TRNP and contribute economically to local communities through tourism. Visitors are drawn to the park to see the horses thriving in the badlands habitat. Increasing revenue for local businesses, such as hotels, restaurants, and shops. Without wild horses, there would likely be a decrease in visitors, resulting in a loss of revenue for local businesses.

I've had the privilege of experiencing the beauty of these horses during my time at TRNP. It is an unforgettable memory that I will always look back on with a big smile. I'm forever grateful for the friendships I've made through the horses at TRNP, friendships that will continue forever.

One of the National Park's missions is to preserve cultural heritage. It would go against Theodore Roosevelt's vision of cultural conservation and alter the experience for future generations. I hope the officials at TRNP see the impact the horses have on visitors and the value they bring to the park. I do not support the removal of horses that have been free roaming in Theodore Roosevelt National Park for the past 76 years.

Craig Clifford