

The wild horses in Theodore National Park are beautiful and wonderful. Visitors come from all over the world to see them. Removal of the wild horses would be a horrible tragedy.

The horses are wildlife not livestock. The herd of horses at Assateague are considered wildlife and are managed by the National Park Service.

The wild horses lived here before the park was founded. The wild horses are descended from the famous Nokata horses. In the 1800's the famous artists Frederick Remington and George Catlin depicted the Nokata horses. President Theodore Roosevelt who ranched in the Little Missouri between 1883-1886 describes the wild horses living here.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park brought in the elk and buffalo living in the park.

If the Park removes all livestock the buffalo must be removed. Buffalo are classified as livestock.

The Organic Act directs the National Park Service to conserve the natural and historical objects and the wildlife and provide for the enjoyment for future generations.

To reduce the size of the herd would destroy its genetic viability.

An EA is insufficient. NEPA requires an EIS for any action taken.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Hopefully my comments will help in your decision about the wild horses.

My references:

1. The Organic Act of 1916
2. 54 U.S.C. 100101
3. 36 C.F.R. 2.60, 21 and 22
4. The History and Status of the Wild Horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Dr. McLoughlin
5. <https://www.kxnet.com/news/state-news/cutting-the-herd-size-at-theodore-national-park-could-be-bad/>, Dr. Gus Cothran

Sincerely,
Joyce Purtzer