

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: The proposed removal of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park Wild Horses

My name is Gretchen Clark. I'm a teacher, writer, wild horse photographer and advocate from Arizona. I am in support of SCR 4014 and keeping the wild horses of TRNP in the park. My reasons are as follows:

1.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

2.

There's no "compromise" of reducing this herd to under 70 as the NPS is also considering because that would all but ensure their extinction because the herd will cease to be genetically viable.

At a minimum, herd size must be preserved at 150 breeding adult horses to secure genetic sustainability. This is scientifically researched fact, not only supported by Dr. Gus Cothran, premier horse geneticist and professor emeritus at the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine, but it is also affirmed in the Bureau of Land Management's Wild Horse and Burro Handbook.

3.

The horses in the Park are offspring of the original Badlands horses with historical bloodlines that trace all the way back to the horses relinquished by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

4.

Consider carefully the tourism dollars North Dakota will lose if these horses are removed. They are a huge draw and point of interest. Every year, I travel across the country with my sister photographing wild horses. The TRNP wild horses were on our trip schedule list this year, but if these horses are removed we--and many others who love wild horses--will not be spending our money in North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Clark  
4338 E. Mountain Vista Dr.  
Phoenix, AZ, 85048  
email: [prettylizard\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:prettylizard_2000@yahoo.com)

