

"There is a delight in the hardy life of the open. There are no words that can tell the hidden spirit of the wilderness that can reveal its mystery, its melancholy and its charm. The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased and not impaired in value."

— Speech by Theodore Roosevelt in Osawatimie, Kansas, August 31, 1910.

Public Testimony Registration and Submission
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Public Hearing
February 09, 2023 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Peace Garden Room - ND State Capitol

Dear Committee,

I support SCR 4014 that will keep the Theodore Roosevelt National Park wild horses as part of the living museum of Roosevelt's time.

I have not been to visit TRNP at this time, but once I heard there were wild horses in the park I decided to plan a trip to see them. While the park must have other wildlife and vistas to make it a destination park, if the wild horses are removed there will be no draw for me to spend my tourist dollars getting to this park. That means no airfare or rental car or gasoline or hotel stay or restaurant expenses and subsequent gift shops to bring home souvenirs from.

For genetics to keep this herd healthy, according to Texas A&M Veterinary Medicine Dr. Gus Cothran, there needs to be at least 150 breeding aged adults. The previous park efforts to reduce this herd and then to bring in other breeds for genetics to make the horses look non-native was a mistake. They have been through enough. Let's give them the freedom they have fought for through all of man's mismanagement.

For a good history please go to:

The Creation of the Nakota® breed from Nakota® History in Brief by Castle McLaughlin, Ph.D. on nakotahorse.org

Sincerely,
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