

I am testifying to support allowing herds of wild burros and horses to roam free in Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and strongly oppose the removal of any of the wild horses or burros located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I have visited this park SOLELY for the purpose of seeing wild horses – and I did! It was amazing. It encompassed so much of the reason we preserve national parks in America – to revisit our roots, to feel our wild selves, to remember who we are as a species, to appreciate species diversity and life, to remember what is important, to move away from our small, egocentric selves and have a worldview, to know life, to heal, to have hope.

The wild horses are TRNP's largest reason for tourism. To murder them (soften the words as you will, killing and murdering wildlife is what it is) is anti-capitalist, something Americans sadly worship. More pointedly, eradicating them is to eradicate local businesses. That's just foolish.

More importantly, TRNP's herd is genetically unique. This in itself must be preserved in life, in the wild where nature does a far, far, far, far better job of genetic health than humans, even at our best. The horses predate the park and have intrinsic rights to roam free within, and without its borders.

I encourage the park's Environmental Assessment to add peer-reviewed, unbiased, scientific and humane management of the wild horses in the park, meaning mostly to remove farmed animals, support wild predators, and stay out of it – nature can manager herself.

Crucially, the TRNP must re-designate the wild horses as wildlife, as they are and should be. Goodness, wild horses are NOT livestock. We didn't create them the way we create dogs, cows and farmed sheep. Let's get science back into this picture - it's a national park, after all, not a ranch.

Thank you!