

To all that this concerns,

I'm writing to express my deep concern regarding the potential removal of the magnificent wild horses from Theodore Roosevelt National Park. These horses are the most unique feature of the park, and removing them seems absolutely absurd to me.

I first went to TRNP in 2015. My wife and I had just moved to North Dakota, and whenever we asked the locals where we should visit, TRNP came up as a suggestion. Initially, I wasn't too intrigued by the idea. I had already been to South Dakota's Badlands several times, and I imagined that North Dakota's must be very similar.

Then I heard about the wild horses. I've seen bison, bears, elk, deer, and other critters at other parks, but wild horses was something new. I couldn't wait to see them roaming free in a National Park, not just on a farm or ranch. Their presence is what makes Theodore Roosevelt National Park so unique.

On our first visit, we didn't manage to see any of the horses. All we saw were some prairie dogs, one single bison, and a dried-up river. I was so disheartened, and I couldn't help feeling that I had been right: this park was pretty much the same as the Badlands in South Dakota. Still, the idea of the wild horses intrigued me, and I decided to do some research on how best to see them for my next visit.

The first time I saw a wild horse is an experience I'll never forget. I was sitting in my car, completely awestruck by their beauty. After that day, I returned to TRNP many, many times. It became my passion, and I would regularly wake up at 3:30AM and make the 2 hour drive to the park just to catch a glimpse of a few horses before I needed to turn around and return to Bismarck for work later that day.

It was truly amazing!! I would find a different kind of peace that I had not felt before, in my heart a kind of oneness with the land, with the many critters that made their way out of their hiding spots so early in the morning. Is that not what a National Park should be? I can go to many different places to see Bison, but the wild horses are a huge part of what makes Theodore Roosevelt National Park special. With so many other amazing National Parks for visitors to choose from, without the horses, TRNP would quickly fall behind. I beg you to keep the park unique and give the opportunity for future generations to experience this sacred wildness.

I urge congress to Establish protections For this amazing herd Who calls Theodore Roosevelt National Park their home.

Sincerely,
David Jones

I have enclosed several images to aid in my plea...Thank you