

TRNP BILL SB 2331

Please DO PASS this bill.

The bill, SB 2331 which proposes forming a state working group to collaborate with Theodore Roosevelt National Park on managing the wild horses, is a necessary progression. A working group will help to protect the horses of the Park.

As these last three years have shown, they do need protection, because the Park appears to want to remove the horses, one way or another. This is not in accordance with the view of the many who visit the Park and who find the horses such an important part of the experience. Although I personally am unable to visit the park, I have several sets of relatives who have, and they cannot stop talking about their experience of seeing the horses in their natural habitat. I think this is key – the horses are wild, they are free, and this is important to people because they can experience awe.

Currently the Gonacox treatment is a worrying move on the part of the park. The treatment can lead to a situation where mares are unable to reproduce, and this already appears to be the case with some.

As with the Working Group in Colorado state, respectful clarity and collaboration from a number of stakeholders – and with the wellbeing of the horses at heart – is surely the way forward for all.

May I briefly refer to **3** on the working group proposal report.

“All management activities must be humane and nonlethal.”

“Humane” can mean different things to different people, for example wild horse roundups in parts of the US are not humane, despite being under welfare guidelines known as CAWP. Perhaps this could be addressed as it is, I feel, important.

Thank you for your time and kind consideration. Please DO PASS this bill.

Lindsay Mann BSc (hons) applied animal behaviour
UK