

**COLORADO WILD HORSE WORKING GROUP (CWHWG)
CHARTER - FINAL
October 25, 2023**

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Colorado Wild Horse Working Group was created by Senate Bill 23-275 to make recommendations on humane, non-lethal alternatives for wild and feral equines¹ that are taken off range in Colorado. Senate Bill 23-275 also allows the Colorado Department of Agriculture to provide state-level support for the existing work of local non-profit groups in delivering immunocontraceptives through darting and to support on-range stewardship of rangelands and wild horses.

Due to the interconnected nature of these efforts and the scope and scale of subsequent off-range care and adoption needed, the Wild Horse Working Group may make recommendations regarding other wild horse management topics, including fertility control, to the Colorado Department of Agriculture for implementation under SB 23-275.

The Wild Horse Working Group is a recommending body only. While its recommendations are expected to be highly influential in on- and off-range wild horse management in Colorado, the Working Group has no authority to bind or obligate the State or any Working Group members.

MEMBERSHIP

Senate Bill 23-275 identified the diverse stakeholders and interests to be represented in the Working Group. Members were appointed by the Governor, the Majority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, the Colorado State Director of the Bureau of Land Management, the Southern Ute Tribe, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and the US Forest Service Regional Forester. Each Working Group member may designate one alternate to attend meetings and participate in discussions and decision points if the member is unable to attend.

<i>STAKEHOLDER SEAT</i>	<i>WORKING GROUP MEMBER</i>	<i>ALTERNATE</i>
Colorado Governor's Office	Nicole Rosmarino	
Colorado Department of Natural Resources	Tim Brass	
Colorado Department of Agriculture	Les Owen	
Colorado Tourism Office	Andrew Grossman	
State Land Board	Abe Medina	William Woolsten
House Majority Leader's Designee	Rep. Barbara McLachlan	
House Minority Leader's Designee	Rep. Mike Lynch	Sen. Perry Will
Wild Horse Advocate #1	Tessa Archibald	
Wild Horse Advocate #2	Sandra Solin	
West Slope Resident	Tracy Scott	
Nonprofit Environmental Conservation Org.	Elise Lowe-Vaughn	
Rancher #1	Donald Broom	
Rancher #2	Callie Scritchfield	
Local On Range BLM Partner #1	Stella Trueblood	
Local On Range BLM Partner #2	Cindy Wright	Aletha Dove
Local On Range BLM Partner #3	Kathy DeGonia	Cindy Day

¹ This term is intended to be inclusive of members of a species of the genus equus that is free-roaming and is historically associated with Colorado and the western US. "Wild horse" includes wild, free-roaming horses and burros as defined under the federal Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act and any other feral horses, burros, and mules.

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<i>STAKEHOLDER SEAT</i>	<i>WORKING GROUP MEMBER</i>	<i>ALTERNATE</i>
Local On Range BLM Partner #4	Judy Cady	George Brauneis
Local On Range BLM Partner #5	TJ Holmes	
US Forest Service	Dwayne Rice	
Bureau of Land Management	Alan Bittner	
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	David Stoner	
Department of Corrections	Mitch Karstens	Kayla Shock
Southern Ute Tribe	Jason Mietchen	Tom Arthur

WORKING GROUP MEMBER COMMITMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

The Colorado Wild Horse Working Group was established to work collaboratively to develop recommendations to improve wild horse management in Colorado. In order to deliver on this charge, Working Group members will hold themselves and one another to the following commitments and expectations.

- Attend all Working Group meetings; if unable to attend, ensure that designated alternate is informed and prepared to engage fully in the discussion and in any decision points.
- Share opinions, experiences, and ideas with honesty, respect, and kindness; be hard on problems but easy on people.
- Be open to new ideas and perspectives; acknowledging and understanding others' views can occur without acceptance or agreement with them.
- Commit to and participate in shared learning; the better the group understands, the better prepared it will be to find new solutions.
- Recognize that disagreement is part of the collaborative process and is important for healthy and thoughtful decision making; disagree without being disagreeable.
- Be forthcoming with concerns and counter-perspectives; the group cannot address issues it has not heard.
- Speak for yourself and those you may represent; do not presume to know what anyone else thinks, wants, or knows.
- Refrain from characterizing other Working Group members' positions, ideas, or perspectives outside of meetings; refrain from speaking on behalf of the Working Group or appearing to do so.
- Make every effort to avoid surprises; notify the Working Group of any upcoming statements, actions, or decision by you or your entity that may relate to the work of the Working Group.
- Commit to consensus building; work hard to find ways to bring others on board with proposals and be forthcoming with what it would take for you to support a proposal.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

The Colorado Wild Horse Working Group welcomes civil and constructive public comment. The Working Group anticipates that public comment will enhance members' understanding of issues and inform their decision making. Written public comment may be provided at any time at CDA_wildhorseprogram@state.co.us. The facilitation team will combine written comments into a single document and provide that document to Working Group members on a monthly basis. If requested by the Working Group, the facilitation team may also provide a monthly high-level summary of written comments.

Every full Working Group meeting will include 30 minutes for verbal public comment. Commenters must sign up prior to speaking. Each comment will be limited to 2 minutes. First-time commenters will have the opportunity to speak before individuals who have commented at previous meetings. The Working Group will hear as many comments as possible during the identified 30-minute window. Personal attacks, name calling, and profanity will not be tolerated and will result in a commenter's time concluding prematurely. All threats, verbal or written, will be referred to local law enforcement.

DECISION MAKING

In order to honor the interests and contributions of all stakeholders, the Working Group will strive to achieve consensus in all its decisions. Consensus means that all Working Group members can live with a decision, even if it is not their preferred outcome. Coming to a consensus decision requires that all Working Group members commit to creative problem solving and to revising and refining ideas to create as much opportunity for agreement and support as possible. Consensus is a high bar for decision making and will result from considerable deliberation and problem solving by Working Group members. Consensus decisions are expected to be the most impactful as they will reflect the greatest amount of agreement and the best work of committed stakeholders in wild horse management in Colorado.

Consensus also means that Working Group members will not block, fight, or disparage agreements during or outside Working Group meetings. If all Working Group members cannot commit to this, consensus has not been achieved. In the event that consensus cannot be achieved, the Working Group may make final decisions through majoritarian voting. A proposal will "pass" and be part of Working Group recommendations when supported by a two-thirds majority of Working Group members (or designated alternates) present during the meeting. If the Working Group resorts to voting, the primary considerations for majority support and minority opposition will be clearly articulated in meeting summaries, recommendation documents, and final reports submitted to the Colorado Legislature.

THE ROLE OF THE FACILITATION TEAM

It is the role of the facilitator to ensure a safe and constructive collaboration environment during all meetings. The facilitator will develop agendas based on the ideas and preferences of the Working Group. The facilitator will enforce the Working Group commitments and expectations outlined above in a respectful, neutral, and even manner. It is not the job of the facilitator to advance or support any individual position, idea, or outcome. It is the job of the facilitator to ensure that all

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member voices are heard and treated with respect. The facilitator will also ensure that all public commenters and their perspectives are heard and treated with respect.

The rest of the facilitation team supports the Working Group by assisting with meeting planning and preparation and documentation. The facilitation team will provide members with a draft summary within a week of each meeting. Meeting summaries will capture key discussion themes, decisions, action items, and next steps. Except for presentations or stated official positions of an agency or organization, summaries will not attribute comments to individual members. Working Group members will provide any suggestions for change to a draft summary within a week of receiving it. Members will refrain from editing the contributions of others as captured in draft summaries and proposing content to be added to summaries that was not shared during the meeting. Working Group members and alternates will not share draft documents outside of the Working Group membership. Final documents are public information and may be shared widely.

Birth Order ID	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
199909	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	G,F	G,F	n/a	G	G*
200001	G	F	F	F	G,F	F	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G,F	n/a	G	n/a	G
200010	G	F	F	F	G,F	F	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G
200107	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	F	n/a	G, F	G,F	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	G	n/a	G
200108	G	n/a	n/a	F	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G*
200113	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	n/a	G,F	G,F	n/a	G	G*
200123	G, F	F	F	n/a	G,F	F	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G
200221	G	F	F	F	G,F	F	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	F	G	n/a	G
200326	F	F	F	n/a	F	F	F	F	F	n/a	F	G	G,F	n/a	G	G*
200404	G, F	F	n/a	n/a	G,F	n/a	n/a	F	F	F	G,F	G,F	F	G	F	G
200405	G, F	F	n/a	F	G	F	n/a	F	n/a	F	G,F	G,F	G	n/a	n/a	G
200406	G	F	n/a	F	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G
200409	G, F	F	n/a	n/a	G, F	F	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G
200417	F	F	F	F	n/a	F	F	F	F	F	G,F	G,F	n/a	G	n/a	G
200510	G, F	n/a	F	F	G, F	F	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G
200515	G, F	n/a	F	F	G, F	F	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G
200519	G	n/a	F	F	G, F	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G
200521	G	F	F	n/a	G, F	F	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G,F	n/a	G	n/a	G
200601	n/a	n/a	F	F	F	F	n/a	F	F	F	G,F	G,F	n/a	G	G	G*
200603	G	F	F	F	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	G	n/a	G
200606	n/a	n/a	F	F	F	n/a	F	n/a	F	F	n/a	G,F	G	n/a	G	G*
200608	G, F	F	n/a	n/a	G, F	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G
200613	n/a	n/a	F	F	F	n/a	F	F	F	F	F	G,F	G,F	n/a	G	G*
200614	F	F	F	F	F	n/a	F	F	F	F	G	G,F	n/a	G	F	G*
200615	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G
200618	G	F	F	F	G, F	F	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G,F	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	G
200619	F	F	n/a	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	G,F	G,F	G	n/a	G
200620	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	G,F	G,F	F	G,F	n/a	G, F
200701	G, F	n/a	F	n/a	G, F	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G
200706	F	F	F	F	F	n/a	F	F	F	F	F	G,F	G	F	G	G*
200707	G	F	n/a	F	G, F	F	n/a	F	n/a	n/a	G,F	F	G	n/a	n/a	G
200709	F	F	F	F	n/a	F	F	F	F	F	F	G,F	G,F	n/a	G	G*
200710	G	F	F	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G
200713	G	F	n/a	F	G, F	F	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G
200714	n/a	n/a	n/a	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	G,F	G,F	n/a	G	G*
200715	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G, F	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G
200718	F	F	n/a	F	n/a	n/a	F	F	F	n/a	G,F	G,F	n/a	G	n/a	G
200719	n/a	n/a	F	F	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	F	n/a	G	G	n/a	G,F	G*
200940	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	G, F	F	F	n/a	G,F	F	G	F	G	G*
200941	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	G	F	F	F	G,F	F	G,F	n/a	G	G*
201001	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	G, F	F	n/a	F	G,F	n/a	G,F	n/a	G	G, F*

201013	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	G, F	F	F	F	G,F	n/a	G,F	F	G,F	G*
201015	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	G	n/a	F	n/a	G,F	F	G	F	G	G, F*
201021	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	G	F	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	G	n/a	G
201033	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G*
201035	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	G	F	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G
201036	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G, F	G,F	F	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G
201101	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G
201105	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G,F	n/a	n/a	G,F	F	G,F	n/a	G,F	G*
201106	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	G, F	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	G,F	F	G
201117	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	G, F	F	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G
201310	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G,F	F	G	n/a	G
201341	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G,F	F	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G
201342	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G,F	n/a	n/a	G,F	F	G	n/a	n/a	G
201343	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G,F	F	F	F	F	G,F	F	G,F	G, F*
201345	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G,F	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G
201349	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G,F	n/a	n/a	G,F	F	n/a	G	n/a	G
201404	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G	F	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G
201405	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G
201407	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G	n/a	n/a	F	G	F	G	G	G*
201408	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G,F	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	F	G	n/a	G
201409	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G	F	n/a	G	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	G
201410	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G,F	n/a	F	G,F	F	G	F	G	G, F*
201411	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G,F	n/a	n/a	n/a	G,F	n/a	G	n/a	G
201412	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G,F	F	G	n/a	G
201415	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G,F	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G
201416	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G
201417	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G	n/a	n/a	G,F	F	G,F	n/a	n/a	G
201418	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G,F	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
201420	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G,F	F	n/a	G,F	F	G	n/a	n/a	G
201423	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G	F	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	n/a	G
201427	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G	F	n/a	G,F	n/a	G	n/a	F	G
201432	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G	F	n/a	G,F	n/a	G	n/a	n/a	G
201437	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G	n/a	F	G,F	F	G	n/a	n/a	G
201610	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	F	G	G,F	F	G	G*
201644	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G,F	G,F	n/a	G,F	G*
201702	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	F	G,F	G,F	n/a	G	G, F*
201713	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G	n/a	G	G*
201807	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G	n/a	G,F	G*
201917	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G	n/a	G	G*
201921	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G	n/a	G	G*
201923	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G	n/a	G	G*
201925	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	G	n/a	G	G*
201926	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	G	n/a	G	n/a	G



January 30, 2023

Angie Richman
Superintendent
Theodore Roosevelt National Park
P.O. Box 7
Medora, ND 58645

RE: National Park Service Livestock Plan for Horses at Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Dear Superintendent Richman,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comment on the alternatives developed by the National Park Service (NPS) for management of the horse and cattle herds at Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP), North Dakota's top tourism destination.

Over 500 years ago, European colonists introduced horses to the North American mainland. Horses have been a common sight on our landscape since long before North Dakota became a state in 1889.

As the NPS has noted, wild horses were already established in the North Dakota Badlands when President Truman signed the bill creating Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park in 1947 and when it received official national park status in 1978. For decades upon decades, these horses have coexisted peacefully with the national park and, in the process, have become a hugely popular attraction and an indelible symbol of the untamed character of the Badlands.

While there is no data linking TRNP visitation directly to the horses, one needs only to look at the outpouring of passionate comments and personal stories being shared with the NPS, elected representatives and local, state and national media outlets to understand that these wild horses are a major tourist attraction treasured by hundreds of thousands of visitors and social media followers from near and far.

Removing these horses from the park, or reducing the herd size to a level that fails to support genetic diversity and longevity, would strike a blow not only to park visitation but also to the economic vitality of Medora, nearby communities including Dickinson, and our entire state. Data compiled for our state Tourism Division shows TRNP was the top point of interest for travelers in

our state last year, accounting for 770,000 trips – more than half of those being visitors from out of state. In Billings County, home to Medora and the South Unit, visitor spending totaled more than \$16 million in 2021.

We understand that management of feral horses is a constant challenge for the NPS and other U.S. lands, with more than 82,000 wild horses and burros nationwide according to the Bureau of Land Management. On your [website](#), you have acknowledged that “Horses are ingrained in our nation’s history, representing the old West, freedom, and beauty in many people’s minds,” but added that “The presence of feral horses in several park units is a challenge because they exhaust the park’s natural resources with overgrazing, degradation of natural water sources, and out-competing native wildlife as their populations grow and grow.” Your efforts to manage these herds and protect our beautiful national parks are deeply appreciated. We would offer to meet face-to-face with the National Park Service to explore opportunities for collaboration to help address these challenges at TRNP, as we recognize that the park is often underfunded despite trillions of dollars in federal spending.

We believe the wild horses in TRNP are worthy of your best management efforts, not only because of their positive impact on the park experience and tourism economy but also because of the deep connection they create to the park’s namesake. Theodore Roosevelt recorded his observation of wild horses during his ranching days in the Badlands in the 1880s, writing, “In a great many – indeed, in most – localities there are wild horses to be found, which, although invariably of domestic descent, being either themselves runaways from some ranch or Indian outfit, or else claiming such for their sires and dams, yet are quite as wild as the antelope on whose domain they have intruded.”

Roosevelt also famously stated: “I have always said I would not have been President had it not been for my experience in North Dakota. It was here that the romance of my life began.” To this day, the wild horses in TRNP continue to evoke that sense of romanticism, adding to the ruggedness and otherworldly intrigue of the Badlands.

The NPS has said the park’s mission is to preserve Roosevelt’s conservation legacy and not his ranching legacy, yet the two cannot and should not be separated. Roosevelt famously said, “Conservation means development as much as it does protection.” Ranching is development, and ranchers continue to play a vital role in conservation and the protection of our natural resources in North Dakota. To preserve one side of Roosevelt’s conservation philosophy while dismissing the other is a disservice to his legacy and misses a golden opportunity to teach current and future generations about his critical role in the modern conservation movement – which will be prominently featured at the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum under development in Medora.

With less than 200 horses at TRNP, and given the vast resources of the federal government and vast size of the 46,000-acre South Unit, we have every confidence the NPS can find a way to manage the wild horses in a manner and herd size that supports genetic diversity and protects the environmental integrity and capacity of the park for current and future generations of visitors. The State of North Dakota stands ready to meet to discuss collaboration to assist in this effort. Thank you for your consideration.

With gratitude,



Doug Burgum
Governor of North Dakota

TESTIMONY OF

**Sara Otte Coleman, Director Tourism and Marketing Division
ND Department of Commerce**

Good morning, Chairman Patten and members of the committee, I am Sara Otte Coleman, Director of the Tourism and Marketing Division for the North Dakota Department of Commerce. I am here today in support of SCR 4014 which urges the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service to reconsider its proposed plan to eliminate livestock in Theodore Roosevelt National Park and develop a management plan that allows the wild horse to remain in the south unit as they have since the park opened.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park is a top location for leisure travelers visiting North Dakota. The park has seen an average of 700,000 visitors over the last 5 years. Our research has shown that visiting a national or state park is the top motivator of marketable trips to North Dakota. We love to tout the uncrowded adventure visitors can enjoy in all three units of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Based on the outpouring of comments our office has received, we believe park visitors highly value seeing the horses as part of their park experience.

The iconic wild horses found in Theodore Roosevelt National Park make this experience unique. No other national park in our region can offer this experience. Watchable wildlife motivates travel and the opportunity to see horses, bison, elk, mule deer, pronghorn and prairie dogs cohabitating within a preserved natural landscape is one of the joys of visiting Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The horses really set us apart from other national parks in the region.

These horses capture the attention of the media and influencers. In 2022, the Wild Horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park have been featured in 194 articles reaching 501 million. These stories have an advertising equivalency of \$4.6 million.

Sara Broers, travel writer, CEO of Travel with Sara, and Co-owner of the Midwest Travel Network says, "The wild horses are the magic of Theodore Roosevelt National Park and what makes the park unique. North Dakota, Medora, and the park will miss out on thousands of visitors each year without them. If the national park system wants to keep Theodore Roosevelt National Park alive and thriving the horses need to be a part of it."

- #1 on Midwest Living's list for photo ops in TRNP is Wild Horses: "Perhaps the most magical part of Theodore Roosevelt National Park is the free-roaming horses, found only in the South Unit." <https://www.midwestliving.com/travel/north-dakota/9-cant-miss-photo-ops-theodore-roosevelt-national-park/>
- Quirky Travel Guy, Scott Shetler: "The Theodore Roosevelt National Park wild horse are among the biggest attractions for tourism in this famed North Dakota park." <https://quirkytravelguy.com/roosevelt-national-park-animals-wildlife-horses/>

- The Greatest Road Trip: "Theodore Roosevelt National Park is one of the few parks that is home to wild horses, another easy-to-spot species, offering a glimpse of what early visitors to America's wildest areas might have seen when horses roamed across the entire western half of the country."
<http://www.thegreatestroadtrip.com/theodore-roosevelt-national-park>
- Made #4 on the top 10 list for 10 Traveling Feet - <https://10travelingfeet.com/10-great-things-to-do-in-theodore-roosevelt-national-park-south-unit/>
- According to Wandering Rose Travels, "The most interesting sightings at Theodore Roosevelt were wild horses."
<https://www.wanderingrosetravels.com/destinations/united-states/five-reasons-visit-theodore-roosevelt-national-park/>

Tourism is key to growing North Dakota's economy. Visitors to Billings County spent \$16 million in 2021. The opening of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library will create new visitors to the area and the Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Horses have been present in the park since its founding. Generations of travelers have visited the park and have enjoyed free roaming bands of horses. Removal of the horses eliminate a feature of the park guests are accustomed to seeing and a much-loved species of the North Dakota badlands. Many of the comments our office has been receiving are from visitors who frequently make return trips to the park to view the horses and have been coming for many years.

Thank you for your focus on this important issue.

Introduced by

Senators Boschee, Patten, Rummel

Representatives Lefor, J. Olson, Steiner

1 A concurrent resolution urging Congress to establish federal protections for the wild horse herd
2 at Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

3 **WHEREAS**, Theodore Roosevelt was an American statesman, conservationist, historian,
4 and writer, who served as the twenty-sixth President of the United States; and

5 **WHEREAS**, in 1978, Theodore Roosevelt National Park became the only national park
6 named directly for a single person; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the wild horse herd, which was present during Theodore Roosevelt's era and
8 contributes to the historical setting and the culture of North Dakota, should be preserved as part
9 of our state's history; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park bring tourism and
11 economic benefits to the state; and

12 **WHEREAS**, there are significant concerns regarding the management of the wild horse
13 herd by Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the long-term health and preservation of the
14 herd;

15 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE**
16 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:**

17 That the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly urges Congress to enact legislation establishing
18 federal protections for the wild horse herd of Theodore Roosevelt National Park to ensure the
19 long-term health and preservation of the herd for generations to come; and

20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution
21 to the Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the National Park Service, the Superintendent of
22 the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, the House Subcommittee on Public Lands and
23 Environmental Regulation, the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks, and to each member
24 of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.



X Chasing Horses Wild Horse Advocates's post ...



Brenda Ready
 After fighting for two years, Theodore Roosevelt National Park decided to let the wild horses stay in the park with a proper management plan, and being transparent with Advocates and their followers, and visitors of the park.
 AGAIN! The Park has pulled the wool over our eyes with removing the older mares who are resistant to GonaCon...
 Shame all all of you involved!
 We travel from Nebraska two or three times a YEAR to spend time with these beautiful creatures. NOT ANYMORE! We are tired of paying your entry fees just to be slapped in the face!
 I hope you feel better knowing people will not come...

[#BOYCOTTING](#)
[#boycotttheodorerooseveltnationalpark](#)
[#shameonevilpeople](#)
[#fightingforthespiritofthebadlands](#)

2h Like Reply Message Hide 1

X Theodore Roosevelt National Park ...

Nikola Olson
 I visited Theodore Roosevelt NP back in June. The horses ARE the reason I came! My third trip for that same reason. Will I have a 4th?

17h Like Reply 6

X Theodore Roosevelt National Park · Follow ...



Linda Redman
 BOYCOTT THIS PARK UNTIL THEY STOP TRYING TO WIPE OUT THE STATE'S ONLY WILD HORSE HERD!!!!!!!!!!!!11

19h Like Reply 6

X Theodore Roosevelt National Park ...



Preston Scott
 Please reconsider your plans to roundup all wild horses and many bisons. A lot can happen whilst rounding up via helicopter. Animals die routinely in every roundup. And please don't remove any horses- especially don't hive them to reservations: they breed and sell horses to slaughter every season! Please don't make the herd infertile- if they are eradicated in a few years your park will have significantly less visitors!
 Sincerely

11h Like Reply

X Theodore Roosevelt National Park ...



Maggie Flynn
 With the dark plans (and the underhanded way you have handled informing the public) for the wild horses that reside in TRNP, you could make it FEE-FREE DAY every day and I still would not support you!!

22h Like Reply 4



Kathy Lee
[Maggie Flynn](#) amen

22h Like Reply



Greg Linn
 We have been here for 4.nights and love this place. Sadly we're moving on today and we are not done exploring the park. That means we're leaving some explorations for our next visit. Yes we're talking about having to return here someday. The beauty of this place is amazing. Until next time TRNP!

3d Like Reply 2



Sue Sefscik
[Greg Linn](#) Don't return until they keep their promise not to zero out the wild horses!

7h Like Reply 1