

Sophia Keller <keltiawind@gmail.com>

5:40 PM (2 minutes ago)

to me

I am writing to support SCR 4014, which recommends maintaining the historic mustang herd of the Teddy Roosevelt reserve at its current size. Please do not reduce or eliminate these animals, who play an important role in the history and culture of our nation.

I would like to point out a few facts to strengthen my testimony. These mustangs have a unique genetic lineage leading back to the time of Chief Sitting Bull. They are also the only wild herd in North Dakota and as such, provide a unique tourism attraction for the state.

In order to maintain the genetic lineage of the herd, the number of animals must be kept at a minimum of 150. "thinning" or "culling" will diminish the gene pool and weaken the herd's resilience and ability to survive.

Finally, protecting the wild state of this herd is in harmony with the ideals and beliefs of President Roosevelt, for whom this reserve is named. His love for wilderness and wildlife was a great gift to our nation. We can honor his memory by protecting the herd that carries his name.

Thank you.

Reverend Sophia Keller, RN, MA  
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