

Happy Holiday's Ms. Richman,

I am grateful for this public forum. has given me your contact information and I am taking the liberty of reaching out to you and copying our board at the Nokota Preserve, Chester Springs PA and the board of the Nokota Horse Conservancy, ND.

I am not exaggerating when I say we represent about 2000 active members and are excited to share the mystery of the Nokota Horse. As you may know, Frank Kuntz and his deceased brother, Leo Kuntz have been managing this feral herd of native horses which they carefully acquired from TRNP in the mid-70's and have bred and created a pedigree for over 40 years. They are a distinct breed, with superior health and emotional intelligence and were removed from the TRNP before the introduction of domestic lines in the 80's by park management. We have about 240 horses in our care on private land. There is a full registry, and we follow as natural a management plan as possible with minimal care and intervention. We have also reached out to Senior Wildlife Restoration Manager for American Prairie as an adjunct. It is without doubt you appreciate our findings and connection to the Lakota People, the Native Prairie-Land and American History. We feel that our mission in preserving this unique feral ancient breed runs parallel to the mission of TRNP and American Prairie to restore wildlife to the native prairie. The Nokota horse is the native horse of North America with immense history and regal presence.

The science behind our passion has brought us to part 3 of our study: the final phase. 94 Nokota horses' blood samples were gathered (with extraordinary effort and expertise by Frank and colleagues) to create a permanent biobank and pedigree registry. This will complete an in-depth study of genetic origins with the help of equine geneticist, Dr. Doug Antczak, the Baker School of Animal Health, Cornell University. The project compliments Harvard's anthropological work which strongly supports the Native Lakota narratives; and suggests the Nokota Horse ran with buffalo and lived with the 7 Lakota Sioux nations long before the Spanish "reintroduced" the horse. There is NO SPANISH MUSTANG marker in these horses. Connection to ancient lines place Nokota on the ENDANGERED SPECIES list. I would be happy to share our reports preceding this last phase and other articles which are currently rewriting history and old prejudices. They are fascinating.

Sadly, we are met with resistance from TRNP on this amazing opportunity and denying their own mission and responsibilities. Fortunately, the integrity of organizations like American Prairie have restored our enthusiasm to reach out to TRNP to reconsider its position. The unique Nokota horse might be erased from history without the clarity and dedication of those outside TRNP which does not speak well for an organization charged to protect history and native creatures. Frank Kuntz is 71 years old, and he and his family dedicated their lives to protecting this rare breed. It was always our hope that TRNP would reintroduce this historically correct animal. The current park headlines give understanding to why TRNP may no longer be an appropriate choice for our financial resources and why both non-profits are looking to American Prairie as an organization with sincere mission and integrity. Frank's Nokota herd deserve land restored to them as well as their place in American History. These horses have seen everything from the Battle of Little Bighorn and some still show battle scars and unmistakable markings in Charles Russell, Remington and Sharp paintings and the like. Frank can speak endlessly on Marques de Mores who acquired these horses for his wife after the death of Sitting Bull, the revolutionary war funder, Heidicouper Family, who ranched these horses and wrote extensively on their history as well as the legends associated with the Lakota people who centered their lives around the Nokota as a horse nation.

We would love the opportunity to speak with you directly. In short, we feel the Nokota add an authenticity that old-timers and now science support as native to the Western Prairie. TRNP and American Prairie would be visited by 1000's of passionate Nokota supporters who travel to photo and celebrate our horses. It is our desire to partner with like-minded mission and provide complementary education and history.

Have a wonderful holiday week and we look forward to hearing from you.

Best,
Christine McGowan, Vice President, Nokota Horse Conservancy
Founder, Preserve, Chester Springs