

Dear Superintendent Richman, Thank you for letting us write to you with our questions and opinions!! It is much appreciated.

1) Why after years of referring to the TRNP's Wild Horses as Feral or Wild are they now called livestock? The designation of the "livestock" given to the TRNP wild horses needs to be changed. The Park has never explained why they're designated as livestock. These horses do not fit the state or federal definitions of livestock; therefore, **they are wild horses.**

2) I truly feel that these Wild Horses are descendants of Sitting Bull's War Ponies! **Teddy Roosevelt wrote** about seeing wild horses around Medora and the badlands when he was here in the late 1880's. **TRNP's wild horses have unique genetics that must be preserved.** Melissa Thompson's 2022 study is the latest report to show that the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park are a uniquely genetic herd of horses. They are our history!

3) I have read that the National Park Service's Brownlee Study shows that **89% of visitors polled support the ongoing presence of wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.** The study supports the concerns of local business owners in Medora who know that the removal of these horses would have a negative impact on their business.

4) The **United Tribes** of North Dakota have requested the preservation of the wild horses that call Theodore Roosevelt National Park home. **The Governor of N.D., Doug Burgum, has stated he wants the wild horses to stay in the Park! The same goes for Senator Cramer and Senator Hoeven. The town of Medora wants the Wild Horses to remain!** Please don't remove the horses from the park!!

5) GonaCon, from what I have read, is unsafe (Abscesses) for the mares . It should be eliminated and not used. I am not a vet, but instead of GonaCon, **the NPS should research and try a fertility control program using PZP that has been proven to be reversible and safe for the mare.** Any fertility control program that the Park embarks upon should take into consideration the herd's genetics and bloodlines as well as the safety of mares.

6) **I pray every night that the horses are not taken from the park,** but if they are, you need to have a **safe and effective plan in place for the safety of the horses!** Instead of selling captured horses via the General Services Administration Online Auctions website, the NPS must develop an adoption program that vets potential buyers, follows up with buyers and helps prohibit the sale of horses for slaughter. Please!!

7) TRNP needs to accept offers of help made by North Dakota Legislators and Non-Profit organizations to help manage this Wild Horse Herd and keep them in the park Wild and Free as they should be!!

One thing is for certain, if you remove those Wild Horses from the South Unit of TRNP.....We will NOT BE BACK To VISIT YOUR PARK EVER! The horses will suffer, the town of Medora will suffer and we who love these horses will suffer!

I am sorry that this got a little long. I feel so strongly about keeping the Wild Horses in the Park, unharmed! In this sad world where there is so much killing, **can't you try and listen to the people who love these horses and save them from the agony of being removed and a very uncertain future?** Please, Please try to do the right thing here, Supt. Richman!

I sincerely Thank you for listening! Angie Erickson, Medora N.D.