

Rogers



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Theodore Roosevelt National Park
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Medora, North Dakota 58645

IN REPLY REFER TO:

N1515 (THRO-M)

March 7, 1997

Memorandum

To: Field Director, Midwest Field Office
From: Superintendent, Theodore Roosevelt National Park
Subject: Feral (Wild) Horse Management Plan

Enclosed is a draft copy of the *Discussion Document on Feral (Wild) Horse Management* at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The idea to produce this paper came during a park squad meeting shortly after your visit with Mr. Poppen of the Andrea and Norman Jr. Waitt Foundation. It is our hope that this paper addresses the staff's concerns with the introduction of any "outside" horses into the park's herd and provides some direction for our ungulate management program, which includes horses as one species.

After developing the basic five page document, it was suggested that we use endnotes and appendices to include historical information about the wild horse situation. For example, refer to Endnote No. 4, second paragraph on page 6. We recently found information about more than 4000 horses that were brought into the Little Missouri Badlands by three ranchers between 1888 and 1906. You might also be interested in reading Appendix B, years 1948-53, 1971, 1976, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1994 and 1996. These years offer background on the original situation and discussions about introducing horses into the park.

You may also want to read Appendix A. Jay and I have given this summary a lot of thought and have developed the annual operating costs to properly manage our ungulate program.

Would you please review the document. If you have any suggestions or thoughts to make this a better document, please contact me or Jay Liggett.

I have provided review copies to Ron Hiebert, Steve Cinnamon and Flo Six. I also asked them for their comments. After incorporating your staff's comments into the document, I will sign and send you the final paper.

Noel R. Poe

Enclosure