October 18, 2023

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

ND SHPO Ref.: 23-6643 H4217 LIVESTOCK PLAN Theodore Roosevelt National Park in Billings and McKenzie Counties, North Dakota

Thank you for the opportunity to review ND SHPO Ref.: 23-6643 H4217 LIVESTOCK PLAN, Theodore Roosevelt National Park in Billings and McKenzie Counties, North Dakota. We request additional information.

Page D-2 of the EA states: "Manage a Herd for Historical and Cultural Significance—Horses and cattle existed on the landscape during the time that Theodore Roosevelt resided at Elkhorn Ranch. While horses and cattle are identified as part of the area's cultural history, there is no NPS statute, regulation, or policy requiring the Park staff to manage horses or cattle at the ranch. This alternative would continue management out of alignment with NPS priorities to maintain the native prairie ecosystem. This alternative also would not meet the project's purpose and need, because it would not address the livestock's impacts on natural and cultural resources or comply with relevant laws, regulations, and policies. Therefore, it was not brought forward for further analysis."

The ND SHPO requests that Theodore Roosevelt National Park conduct further analysis discussing how the herds contribute to cultural landscapes and biotic cultural resources as they relate to historic properties, including Elkhorn Ranch.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions please contact Lisa Steckler, Historic Preservation Specialist at (701) 328-3577, e-mail lsteckler@nd.gov

Sincerely,

William D. Peterson, PhD
State Historic Preservation Officer
(North Dakota)

23-6643