

CHASING HORSES AUGUST 20, 2019 FACEBOOK PAGE

Hello everyone and Happy Tuesday!

We cannot thank you enough for your outpouring of support for these beautiful horses that call TRNP home!

Many of you have asked for a form letter of sorts. Here is one that states FACTS along with goals we would like to work toward. We ask that at the beginning, you introduce yourself and how/why these horses are important to you.

At the end, we have listed some contacts we have. Please feel free to add contacts in the comments below. Please email everyone - eventually we will find the right person!

Please share this far and wide so that we can FINALLY get some much needed help for these amazing horses at TRNP.

As always, thank you for your support and for loving these beautiful horses right along with us!

To Whom It May Concern:

[Insert your personal introduction and why these horses are important to you]

I am writing to ask for your help with a specific situation in Medora, ND.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP) is home to approximately 135 wild horses. The horses have been a part of the park since the development of TRNP in the 1950's. These horses need your help! They have been the subject of animal neglect and abuse for far too long.

- The park NOT the BLM is responsible for the health and well being of these horses. However, their horse management plan is outdated and has not been updated for 41 years.
- Colorado State University (CSU) is currently in its 11th year of what was supposed to be a 3-year Birth Control Study where they are testing Gona Con on our horses. This has caused a significant change in herd dynamics. It has also negatively impacted the mental and physical health of this herd.

- The only way the park manages the number of horses in the park is by culling the young horses 4 months to 3 years. There is nothing scientific about the culling; they are simply culled by ease of capture, or whoever is closest to the road.
- The impacts of the last two points has taken a very healthy, genetically unique and viable herd of horses and turned them into the most inbred herd of horses in the world. That information was published in a research paper by Dr. Blake McCann, the Chief of Resource Management for TRNP, and other researchers, last August.

What makes things worse is that the park personnel refuse to listen to common sense arguments from the public on alternatives that have been proven to work with other wild horse herds across the USA.

- When they were rounding up horses last fall, it was asked that one colt be left in the park. The reasoning was the lack of offspring in the park by his sire and his dam who passed away earlier that year. Even though the park was presented with over 700 signatures that were collected in 4 short days, that colt was the first to be pulled.
- This year it was announced that they would be pulling 4-month-old foals in the August culling. After it was announced, Park Superintendent Wendy Ross and Chief Resource Manager, Dr. Blake McCann, were unavailable until the day the captures began.
- Several individuals and groups have begged the park to update their Horse Management Plan for 40+ years. Every year when we ask, we are misled again and again about when they will be updating their management plan. That is then followed by excuse after excuse as to why what they said previously cannot be done to update the management plan. We are tired of being lied to!

What is Theodore Roosevelt National Park hiding and why do they NOT care about the health and well being of their horses? They are an extremely popular attraction for the park and the small town of Medora that surrounds the park. These horses are followed by more than a half a million people around the world on social media.

As taxpaying citizens whose tax dollars pay for this park, we are asking for help to reach the following goals:

- An end to the 3-year CSU birth control study. We are demanding the no further extensions be given to CSU so that the park can start to repair the damage that has been done to our horses over the last 11 years.
- A 3rd party to begin to research and construct a much-needed horse management plan. As part of the process, the Department of the Interior, which governs the National Park Service, states that town hall meetings must be conducted throughout the process so that the public's voice can FINALLY be heard.
- That no other horses be removed from the park without a town hall meeting where the public can voice their opinion and where we can be presented with scientific facts on the reasons for specific horses being removed.

We are open to any and all suggestions you may have to help institute the necessary changes within the park we love so that our horses can continue to thrive for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration. Due to the extreme nature of this situation, we are hoping to hear from you very soon.

Sincerely,

Please send to:

Leah Baker

Acting Assistant Director, Resources and Planning, BLM Montana-Dakotas State Office

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Nikki Haskett

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Governor Burgum (you have to fill out the online form to contact him but you can copy the letter in the form)

<https://www.governor.nd.gov/contact>

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