

## **The Public is No Longer Welcome at Roundups of Wild...**

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(Source: Bismarck Tribune)By ; LAUREN DONOVAN

The public is no longer welcome at roundups of wild animals from the Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

The park has postponed plans to round up wild horses this year, after a helicopter crash aborted last year's horse roundup at the South Unit of the park near Medora.

However, it will proceed with rounding up the unit's bison this November. The plan is to remove 125 of the herd of 360 for shipping to the Intertribal Bison Cooperative based in Rapid City, S.D.

Normally, the roundups are attended by some members of the public and the occasional busload of school kids on a field trip.

Superintendent Valerie Naylor said the practice of allowing the public to observe the roundups, in which helicopters are used to push the animals into a fenced enclosure, will be suspended.

"It's serious business that we're doing," Naylor said.

The helicopter crash that occurred during the wild horse roundup last fall may have spooked Naylor and park officials.

Only the pilot and a passenger were affected by the crash, with only minor injuries, though other personnel and the horses could have been involved. It happened because the pilot failed to maintain proper altitude and snagged a landing skid in a 10-foot high fence.

Naylor said the park is making plans to remove about 70 wild horses next year, about half the park's population.

She said a band of 10 horses was removed from the park this year because it had taken up residency near Cottonwood Campground and the horses were chewing up park fixtures.