

Reiss, David

From: Teesie Vallero <teesie553@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 12:01 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Renaming Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak

To Whom It May Concern,

It is incredibly important to me that I share my opinion on this very important and current subject. The fact that Harney Peak is named after an individual who knowingly organized an attack in which several Native children and women were massacred has always been unsettling to me. Why would we honor such an individual by naming a mountain that has always been and is still revered by the Lakota people?

The sacred vision experienced by Black Elk when he was only a twelve year old boy took place on the peak of that mountain. Many sacred ceremonies have been held at that location for well over a hundred years now. Out of respect for the Lakota Nation that mountain should definitely bear the name Black Elk Peak. The rich ancestral heritage and stories that have been maintained through the verbal passing on of the Lakota have never made it into the text books of American History.

Please allow the honor and the deep reverence for the sacredness of that mountain to be restored by renaming it Black Elk Peak. All American people could be proud of the stories about Black Elk and his experiences there. There can be no pride taken by anyone with the name Harney Peak attached to that sacred site.

The Harney family themselves have worked tirelessly with Basil Brave Heart and his wife, Charlotte toward getting this name change through the proper channels. With Harney's own current family members favoring this change it seems ludicrous that this issue is still being debated. Please do the honorable thing by renaming Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak.

I appreciate your time in reading this correspondence. Please honor history and the steadfast efforts of Basil Brave Heart and the Lakota people. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mary T Vallero
St. Paul, MN

Sent from my iPad

Reiss, David

From: inori49@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 12:29 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Please change the name of 'Harney Peak' to 'Black Elk Peak' ...

I am writing to support the proposed name change for the mountain known as 'Harney Peak', that it henceforth be known officially as 'Black Elk Peak' in honor of the famous Lakhota holy man. It is a travesty & shame that this sacred site should ever have been named for a war criminal who was responsible for the wanton slaughter of innocent Lakhota lives at the massacre of Blue Water Creek in 1855.

Thank you.

Nicole Spencer
2885 S Raleigh St
Denver CO, 80236
(303) 691-2925

Reiss, David

From: Peter and Lori Tokley <pltokley@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 1:57 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Name change of Harney Peak

I do not believe that the name of Harney Peak should be changed. I have lived in the Black Hills area for 47 years. The Indians talk about reconciliation. I believe that the only way the Indians will ever be happy is if the Black Hills were returned to them which we all know will not happen because of the years that have passed. We can not reconcile history. What happened in the 1800's is history. Be it right or wrong, it happened and there's nothing that can change that. We also can not question what or why something happened. White men killed Indians, Indians killed white men, Indians killed Indians, and white men killed white men. Again, it's history and nothing will change that. Changing the name of Harney Peak will not change history. It will also not change the fact that to people that grew up in the Black Hills, it will always be Harney Peak. For some reason, the state of South Dakota panders to the Indians. Columbus Day is now Native American Day. What will be next for name change? Sheridan Lake? Custer? Fort Meade? The Indians need to accept history, stop living in the past and start accepting the way things are and learn to deal with. History is not going to change because we change the names of mountains, lakes and everything else because it offends the Indians.

Leave Harney Peak and everything else alone.

Lori Tokley
Belle Fourche

Reiss, David

From: wyattnutes@goldenwest.net
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 2:34 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: For renaming to Black Elk Peak-please read

To: South Dakota Board on Geographic Names

Respectfully, I am in favor of changing the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak.

I am not of Native American decent. I grew up in Chadron, NE and currently live in Hot Springs, SD. Living in and around the Black Hills and when I was only minutely aware of the Lakota culture it was obvious the significance of Harney Peak to the Lakota people. At Chadron High School between the years 1990 and 1994, the junior English class was required to read Black Elk Speaks and was made aware of Black Elk's vision on Harney Peak.

As I have lived through more experiences in life, I have learned that when an opportunity to have groups of people reconcile their discrepancies or as in this case injustices, these opportunities should not be passed over. Since the Gordon Party entered the Black Hills and disregarded the Treaties set forth by the US Government towards the Native Americans and the Native Americans were forced onto reservations, there has been the attitude of superiority against the Native Americans.

General William Harney led the attack of the Blue Water Massacre (which I am sure has been previously been made known). I feel taking a Sacred place to one society and naming it after someone who massacred people of that society is wrong. The attitude of that era permitted those injustices to occur in favor of the "dominant race." Since, hopefully, the era in which we are currently living is an era where all races are actually equal, we can properly evaluate circumstances of the past and work to reconcile past errors.

The important thing to realize about Harney Peak is that it is one of the "Sacred Sites" in the Black Hills to the Indigenous tribes prior to white settlement. The other places are Devils Tower, Bear Butte, Reynolds Prairie, Wind Cave, Inya Kara Mountain, Buffalo Gap and Hot Springs. This information is found on buffalo robes, oral histories of the Lakota and is discussed in the publication, Lakota Star Knowledge.

That publication also discusses that each of the above locations correspond to locations of constellations at the time of the year that the Indigenous people were to travel to each location. It is very evident in many ways that these locations are of Spiritual significance to people of Native American ancestry. It is also fact that each of the above named locations have had names and were referenced by other names for thousands of years longer than the above names. I feel we let the culture who holds the most significance to the place suggest the new "English Translation".

I find an equal comparison of this situation would be to name a Jewish synagogue after one of the members of Hitler's Third Reich, which would absolutely not be tolerated. The Native American people were repeatedly treated inhumanely and massacred by the United States Government and General William Harney was part of making it happen.

The people working towards the change are not out for publicity, nor are they out to change an unlimited number of names. This is a Sacred Location and should be respected as such.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Dr. Nathan T. Ritterbush, B.A., D.C., Dip.Med.Ac.

Reiss, David

From: Dwight Moose <dmoose@rap.midco.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 7:23 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: The Peak

David, I believe the needs of tribal members go far deeper than can be remedied by re-naming Harney Peak. At this stage of our history, to consider doing so is at best a petty offer.

My experience with tribes is limited to some Sioux, some Assiniboine, and some Chippewa. What I have seen, on and off the reservation where we lived for 9 years, are many people so bound by notions of race differences and misunderstood traditions that their incredible gifts and talents are rarely developed and given full rein. Too often the result has been that of lives lost in one downward spiral or another. However, I have also seen those who rise above whatever may be trying to keep them down and go on to build happy, productive lives, enjoying life as free Americans.

I realize there are fine, good hearted folks vitally interested in the very issues mentioned above. No doubt you and your colleagues are some of them. But I have to say that such stuff as re-naming mountains to placate somebody, to give some false sense of "self-esteem," or whatever, isn't going to cut it. We are what we are. We are where we are. The only ones to benefit from such moves as the one being debated are map makers and others who make a living from changing things that require much paper and time spent on computers.

Well, all you wanted was an opinion about poor old Harney Peak, but the article with your address mentioned "Tribal Relations." Relationships between the races are important, and sometimes little old ladies (that would be me) get carried away in expounding on their opinions.

Best wishes to all,
Kathy Moose

Dwight & Kathy Moose
SD/WY
dmoose@rap.midco.net

Reiss, David

From: Christine Adamek <dtadamek@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 7:38 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Renaming of Harney Peak

Dear Mr Reiss,

Some thoughts on the renaming of Harney Peak As we reflected on the Major Religions around the world, we see that most have physical buildings, grand mosques, temples, churches, and cathedrals where the people go to connect with their God. The names of these buildings reflects that belief ie: St Peters Cathedral, St Mary's, St Sahag, to mention only a few. The Native Americans of South Dakota do not have grand fortresses in which to connect with their guiding spirits. They have, however, the grandness of nature. Certain locations are sacred to them. Shouldn't these locations reflect, in there naming, a reference or connection to their beliefs?

Recently, we read in the newspaper Govenor Daugaard acknowledged the Armenian massacre of 1915. My family was chased out of their country and home but were lucky enough to have escaped the many atrocities but the sorrow in their hearts never left them. The events of that genocide came and went. The genocide of the Native Americans, on the other hand, continues as a destruction of spirit and the hope to renew their connection with their god. As we now follow the Red Road, know Basil Braveheart and his devotion to his people, we humbly add our support to the renaming of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak to assist in the healing of a nation of people that have waited so long to rise from a long history of sorrow.

Our very best,
Christine and David Adamek

Reiss, David

From: Claudia & Steve Dempsey <dakotakids@goldenwest.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 7:57 AM
To: Reiss, David
Cc: dakotakids@goldenwest.net
Subject: Harney Peak renaming issue

Re: Harney Peak renaming issue

David,

Please share my comments with Jay Vogt, June Hansen and Steve Emery.

1. I am not in favor of a name change simply based on the cost of a name change.
2. However, I would like to suggest a name which I do not recall seeing in the press...
3. Paha Sapa Peak...
4. The term Paha Sapa is already used and recognized term by many, including the Lakota.
5. The term does not appear to be offensive to anyone, because my suggested name does not refer to an individual.
6. Please consider my suggestions. Thank you.

Steve Dempsey
Custer, SD
605-673-5272

Reiss, David

From: Careme Starr <crstarr@visi.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 8:08 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Renaming the Peak

David Reiss -

This letter is to inform you that I wholeheartedly support the renaming of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak.

Respectfully submitted,
Careme Starr

Reiss, David

From: Emily Boyle <emilyengland@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 8:18 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: New Name - Harney Peak

I strongly approve of the name change from Harney Peak to Black Elk. I LOVE Harney Peak and it would represent our spot on the earth much more appropriately having a native name. All fighting aside, this is native land. We should embrace change - and honor the native people who love the Paha Sapa just as I do as a white person. A native name seems more than appropriate to my family and I.

Thanks,

Emily Boyle
Rapid City

Reiss, David

From: COJAK2deej@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 8:40 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Black Elk Peak

Dear Mr. Reiss,

I am writing to you as a friend of Basil Braveheart of the Oglala Nation. I wish to join him in asking that the now named Harney Peak be renamed to Black Elk Peak. I believe the submission made by Basil Braveheart in describing the history of the area is a strong and convincing reason this name change should be effected. I hope my writing to you will show that there is broad support for this change. What a healing and solemn gesture this name change would be to those people who lost their lives then and for those who speak for them now. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. McKinney



PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

The South Dakota Board on Geographic Names (SDBGN) is a state commission created in 2009 by SDCL Chapter 1-19C to recommend revision of offensive names for geographic places. The SDBGN has adopted a Public Involvement Process which seeks public comment on the existing historic name and offering recommendations and justification for the new name as well as names for unnamed geographic features. The SDBGN follows the United States Board on Geographic Names' principles, policies, and procedures. For further information visit: <http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/policies.htm>.

Current Name: Harney Peak

Proposed Name(s): Black Elk Peak

Location/Identification: Pennington County: Located in the Black Hills National Forest

The above feature is currently named Harney Peak and the SDBGN is soliciting public input on the current name and the proposed new name for the geographic feature. One name has been proposed. Please complete the section if supportive of the current name or the proposed new name.

Support naming the Feature: Black Elk Peak _____ Harney Peak _____ X _____

Reason/Justification of support to name the feature Harney Peak or Black Elk Peak:

I was born and raised in the Black Hills and strongly oppose any name change of Harney Peak. The Harney Peak name has been synonymous with the Black Hills for over 150 years. Changing the name to Black Elk Peak or anything else imaginable would take away any historic connection already recorded and disgrace the late William S Harney.

Please attach any supporting documentation such as resolutions from governing boards or organizations; newspaper articles; petitions or historical references.

To propose a new name for the feature, please complete the section below:

Recommended Name:

Reason/Justification for Name:

Origin/Meaning of Name:

Please attach any supporting documentation such as resolutions from governing boards or organizations; newspaper articles; petitions or historical references.

=====

Submitted by:

Name: Patricia McGuire

Title (if representing organization or public entity):

Organization or Public Entity (if applicable):

Mailing Address: 13595 Warrington Ct, Rapid City, SD 57702

Telephone: 605-341-6568

Email Address: plmcguire@q.com

If the recommended name is adopted by the SDBGN, additional information may be needed to support the recommendation to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

Comments should be submitted no later than May 1, 2015. Submit comments to:

SD Board on Geographic Names
Dept. of Tribal Relations
302 East Dakota
Pierre, SD 57501

Email: David.Reiss@state.sd.us
FAX: 605-773-6592

Or access Public Comment Form: <http://www.sdbgn.sd.gov/>

Reiss, David

From: ♡Katie♡ forever loved <my_perfect_rose_07@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 9:05 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak Name Change

David,

I was born and raised in Box Elder, SD. I grew up knowing and hiking Harney Peak. I currently reside in Grand Forks, ND. I am completely against changing the name of Harney Peak. The Harney Peak name change is similar to the name change going on at the University of North Dakota. We were forced to drop the Fighting Sioux name after having it for years. However, at every game, fans still refer to the team as the Fighting Sioux. Forcing a name change on a landmark in South Dakota isn't going to make people refer to it as the new name. I know I will forever know it as Harney Peak which is the name it should stay as. Just because a group of people don't like the person it was named after, doesn't mean it has to change. I have read comments how people say that many people will like the new name Black Elk Peak. I apologize, but I don't like the name at all. Harney Peak has a lot of meaning to me as a landmark, not because of who it was named after. **My vote stands as NAY!**

Reiss, David

From: Dana West <danaw@rushmore.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 9:40 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Proposed name change for Harney Peak

Mr. Reiss,

My name is Dana West. I have lived in South Dakota all my life (63 years). I *do not* think that Harney Peak should be renamed. It is an iconic landmark. If you follow through on this same line of thought then are we going to cover or remove Washington and Jefferson from Mt. Rushmore because they owned slaves? Leave Harney Peak as Harney Peak.

Thank You for considering my opinion on this matter. Dana West

Email: dwest51@hotmail.com (I'm not very techie and wasn't sure if you'd automatically receive my address.)



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Reiss, David

From: maldefour@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 9:34 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Regarding the Harney Peak name change

Dear Mr. Reiss,

Our opinion is that Harney Peak should NOT be renamed. Nationally recognized landmark names such as Harney Peak do not need to be changed. I'm sorry, but there is nothing offensive about the current name. History should not be changed.

Some individuals seem bent on demanding that any small detail they don't like should be removed from the public regardless of the cost or inconvenience. I am sure that every single individual has something or someone in their past that may seem offensive. Just because "Bob" offended me in the past is no reason to demand that every Bob in the world be renamed so that I feel better. There are many more nationalities in South Dakota other than just Native Americans. Please carefully consider the whole state in this decision.

Please leave history alone and keep the tallest peak in South Dakota HARNEY PEAK.

Thank you,
Brian and Sheryl Malde

Reiss, David

From: Jan Dietrich <jan.dietrich57@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 10:10 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: My suggestion for Harney Peak name change is High point Peak. We need to stay from reference to race or nationality My name is Jan Dietrich

Reiss, David

From: Don & Sheila De Vries <devries@gwtc.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 10:15 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

I thought I was going to be at one of the public meetings regarding the name change of Harney Peak, but could not make it.

I favor the name of Harney Peak to remain the same. There are many sites, locations, roads, facilities, etc. named for individuals throughout the country. The re-naming of them in most cases would be problematic. If it is decided to rename Harney Peak, I encourage a name not of any individual, or even group, to prevent any problems in the future. If we were to rename every location currently named for a person, I believe it would be next to impossible. What could we call Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls, or The Mickelson Trail, or the Sanford Lab? We could even extend this one step farther, and rename the Cheyenne River. The list of locations is endless.

Even considering the controversy of the name of Harney Peak, I would like it to remain with the current name. Not everything Basil Brave Heart has said has been true, as discovered through "winter counts", when he calls for the renaming of Battle Mountain near Hot Springs. Again, I encourage the name of Harney Peak not to be changed, but if it is changed, I strongly recommend it being not named for any person, or any group or culture. Few people or cultures have no black marks in their history at some point.

Thank You.

Don De Vries
Hot Springs, SD
605-745-6089
devries@gwtc.net

Reiss, David

From: Nicholas Calingaert <ncalingaert@roosevelt.edu>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 10:34 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

?Dear Mr. Reiss,

?

I believe it important that the name of Harney Peak be changed to Black Elk Peak. Although it is tempting to ignore the impact of history on our present, I hold strongly that there is little justification in doing so in this case, beyond ignorance and prejudice. The land that Harney Peak sits on was taken from the Lakota nation in clear contravention of treaties signed by the U.S. federal government. To then name part of that land after an individual who committed war crimes against the same people from whom the land was taken was, to put it diplomatically, a bold move. There is significant evidence implicating General William S. Harney in the slaughter of unarmed Native women and children, and other acts that would now be considered clear violations of the Geneva Conventions. Why would we possibly want to have a significant landmark in our country named after a war criminal, particularly when that landmark sits on land that was acquired through deceit on the part of our country's government? I don't think much imagination is required to understand why Native Americans, in particular, would experience keeping the name of Harney Peak as yet one more example in an endless litany of acts of oppression against them. I believe what makes our country particularly great are the values to which we aspire, among them justice and equality. In light of these considerations, I strongly urge you to support that the name of Harney Peak be changed to Black Elk Peak.

Respectfully,
Nick Calingaert

Nicholas Calingaert, M.A.
Adjunct Instructor
Department of Psychology
Roosevelt University
ncalingaert@roosevelt.edu

Reiss, David

From: Carol Robinson <montyrobinson@rushmore.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 11:33 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

Dear sir,

I am writing to you today to express my opinion concerning the renaming of Harney Peak. Please know that it is with no disrespect to our fellow Native American citizens and the feelings of concern regarding the history of events toward that end, but I am not in favor of renaming Harney Peak.

My interest and understanding of our history with the Native American populations across the United State has grown as a result of the publicity and attention brought forth. I am reminded of a magnificent Native American Warrior statue that was on display on the corner of Main and 6th Street in downtown Rapid City, now removed but not forgotten. I would drive by that corner and would reflect on all that has transpired with our cultures, and how quickly it is forgotten now that it is gone.

As a society we need to have these monuments preserved to help us remember those events of the past, to remove them may well do just that - remove them from our memories. I for one am more acutely aware of the Sioux culture as a result of these documents of treasure.

Please preserve our history as it stands, to remind us of not only our mistakes, but of the opportunities we have before us.

Very sincerely yours,

Monty Robinson
Rapid City, SD

Sent from my iPad



PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

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Current Name: Harney Peak

Proposed Name(s): Black Elk Peak

Location/Identification: Pennington County: Located in the Black Hills National Forest

The above feature is currently named Harney Peak and the SDBGN is soliciting public input on the current name and the proposed new name for the geographic feature. One name has been proposed. Please complete the section if supportive of the current name or the proposed new name.

Support naming the Feature: Black Elk Peak Harney Peak

Reason/Justification of support to name the feature Harney Peak or Black Elk Peak:

The Black Hills is a sacred place in Lakota culture. To them it is "the heart of all that is". It's bad enough that the federal government robbed the Lakota of their sacred hills with the use of intentional deceit and underhandedness; but to then name the highest peak in honor of someone who was responsible for the cold-blooded massacre of innocent & defenseless Lakota women and children is unconscionable. I believe that in order to begin to heal the wounds of historic trauma inflicted upon the Lakota at the hands of the white government and their emissaries, it is imperative that we in white society begin to do what we can to help restore their dignity, their culture, and to show them the respect they are entitled to. This is an important step in that healing process and I stand in wholehearted support of it. Thank you (pitamaya ye).

Respectfully,  - 4/30/15

Please attach any supporting documentation such as resolutions from governing boards or organizations; newspaper articles; petitions or historical references.

To propose a new name for the feature, please complete the section below:

Recommended Name:

Reason/Justification for Name:

Origin/Meaning of Name:

Please attach any supporting documentation such as resolutions from governing boards or organizations; newspaper articles; petitions or historical references.

=====

Submitted by:

Name: Paula Sibal

Title (if representing organization or public entity):

Organization or Public Entity (if applicable):

Mailing Address: PO Box 234, Hay Springs, NE 69347

Telephone: 308-360-1854

Email Address: pjsredroad@gmail.com

If the recommended name is adopted by the SDBGN, additional information may be needed to support the recommendation to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

Comments should be submitted no later than May 1, 2015. Submit comments to:

SD Board on Geographic Names
Dept. of Tribal Relations
302 East Dakota
Pierre, SD 57501

Email: David.Reiss@state.sd.us
FAX: 605-773-6592

Or access Public Comment Form: <http://www.sdbgn.sd.gov/>

Reiss, David

From: Paula Sibal <pjsredroad@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 11:55 AM
To: Reiss, David
Cc: Email
Subject: Public comment form for re-naming of Harney Peak
Attachments: Public comment form to rename Harney Peak.pdf

Please find attached my completed form. Thank you.

Reiss, David

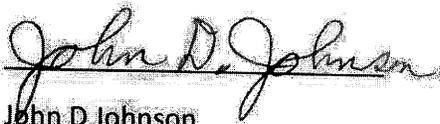
From: Gerry Avery <gandsavery@rushmore.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 1:22 PM
To: Reiss, David
Cc: Avery Gerry
Subject: Harney Peak name change

Good Day David,

I am opposed to any name change for Harney Peak. There are several reasons for my opposition. 1. The Sioux did not always reside in SD nor did they ever live in the Black Hills, but they were pushed into SD by the constant westward movement from the eastern part of this country. 2. Offensive names like beauty are often in the eye of the beholder. If we change the name of Harney Peak, should we also change the name of Terry Peak, Custer Peak, and the City of Custer? 3. It seems highly unlikely that we can change the past by attempting to change the present. Harney Peak had no name until White people came here and if General Harney committed atrocities I would venture to say that so did the Indians. 4. Also it is time to quit accepting blame for something that happened years ago in which current generations had no part. People of those times were what they were, regardless of race, and times were what times were. 5. Changing the name of Harney Peak has nothing to do with how we get along with all people, regardless of race, creed or color. 6. I am not offended by the name, Harney Peak, nor are many others. Leave the name as it is.

Gerry Avery
Spearfish

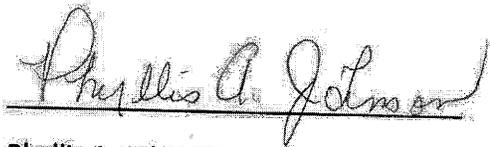
It is absolutely ridiculous to even consider changing the name of Harney Peak. If Harney was involved in what is now considered a 'massacre' of Indians, what in the world do Indians consider the 'massacre' of Custer? When will it be proposed to change the name of Custer Peak? We have lived very close to that peak for about 80 years!



John D. Johnson

22115 US HWY 385

Deadwood, SD 57732



Phyllis A. Johnson

22115 US HWY 385

Deadwood, SD 57732



Sherri Mattson

22104 Killoern Springs Road

Deadwood, SD 57732

Reiss, David

From: Hank and Marianne Fridell <handm@gwtc.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 4:14 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Comment on name change to Black Elk Peak

I support the change to Black Elk Peak. I commented at the Custer meeting on April 29, but I would like to make my support of this change clear.

All the granite rocks point toward the peak and embody what Black Elk called the center of the universe. Then he added that wherever one may be, is the center of the universe. This is an inclusive statement that resonates with people around the world. I believe that changing the name to Black Elk Peak will be one of the simplest transitions in cartography because Black Elk is known and revered all over the world.

Working with Elders on the reservation, I see how resilient they are. Every death and loss on the reservation travels through the closely connected circles of family and relatives. Every loss is felt deeply.

The Black Hills is the spiritual center for connecting with the great mysteries of life. The Black Hills are visible from many locations on the reservation, but from the high hill just above the KILI radio station—the highest hill closest to Wounded Knee—the Black Hills may be viewed.

I think of people on the reservation looking toward the Black Hills and finding comfort when they see Black Elk Peak—knowing that a great Lakota spiritual leader and the spiritual understanding he shared is being honored.

There is a deep understanding and culture is all places in the Black Hills. I believe that learning about this will make all of us better human beings.

Recognizing Black Elk Peak will help us begin this journey.

Thank you,

Marianne Fridell
25005 Tanglewood Drive
Custer, SD 57730
(605) 517-6182

Reiss, David

From: Nielsen <wnconnected@gwtc.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 5:07 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak name change

David, I am distraught that this is even an issue. It seems as though discrimination is running amok. Every one of us can find something that we don't like about history. History needs to be kept in place and taught. I don't believe changing the name will make for better relations until we instill respect for all. If we change this name where will it stop? I am against any name change. The cost is too high regardless, look at our national debt. Thank you in advance. Nina Nielsen Custer, SD

Reiss, David

From: Defenders of the Black Hills <bhdefenders@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 7:24 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak Name Change

April 30, 2015

Dear Mr. Reiss,

Please consider this my recommendation for the Harney Peak Name change.

I recommend Paha Hinhan Kaga.

The reason is that this is the common, traditional Sioux name for Harney Peak in correct Lakota grammar. It means the Mountain of Owl Making.

Thank you.

Charmaine White Face
PO Box 2003
Rapid City, SD 57709
605 - 342 - 1626

Email address: cwhiteface@gmail.com

Reiss, David

From: Bud <rbanke@lakedalelink.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 8:07 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Renaming Harney Peak

Dear David,

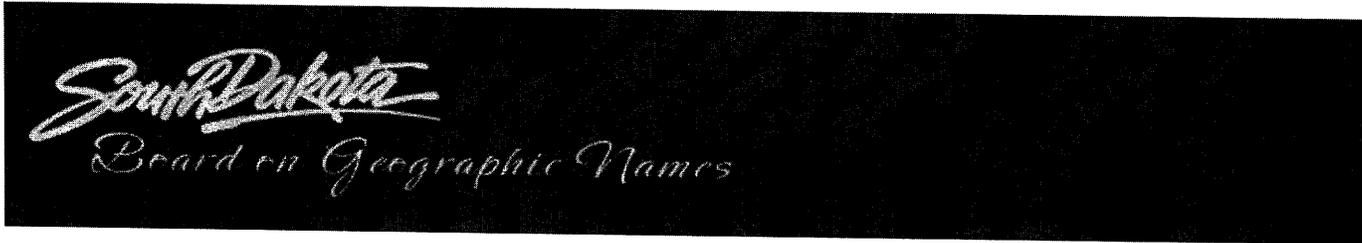
I've noticed the articles in the Rapid City Journal in regards to the racism demonstrated toward the Lakota students at a basketball game.

I also learned about the proposal to change the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. This is because Black Elk Peak is one of the most Lakota revered people for the Lakota people. By renaming the peak, I believe it would encourage more respect toward the Lakotas. And it would help change the negative attitudes and racism between our two cultures. And also, hopefully, it would create more dialogue.

So, please help stop the racism and do all you can to change the Peak to Black Elk Peak.
Sincerely,

R. Bankes

R. Bankes
11587 Kimball Avenue NW
Annandale, MN 55302



PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

The South Dakota Board on Geographic Names (SDBGN) is a state commission created in 2009 by SDCL Chapter 1-19C to recommend revision of offensive names for geographic places. The SDBGN has adopted a Public Involvement Process which seeks public comment on the existing historic name and offering recommendations and justification for the new name as well as names for unnamed geographic features. The SDBGN follows the United States Board on Geographic Names' principles, policies, and procedures. For further information visit: <http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/policies.htm>.

Current Name: Harney Peak

Proposed Name(s): Black Elk Peak

Location/Identification: Pennington County: Located in the Black Hills National Forest

The above feature is currently named Harney Peak and the SDBGN is soliciting public input on the current name and the proposed new name for the geographic feature. One name has been proposed. Please complete the section if supportive of the current name or the proposed new name.

Support naming the Feature: Black Elk Peak _____ Harney Peak _____

Reason/Justification of support to name the feature Harney Peak or Black Elk Peak:

Everyone knows Harney Peak as Harney Peak. Hardly anyone knows who Harney was or why Harney Peak was named after him. If the name were to be changed people would still call it by Harney Peak. Harney Peak also has the Harney Peak lookout tower, Harney Range and several other places named named after Harney. It won't go away. Harney Peak is my sacred place and I like the name Harney Peak. I climb Harney Peak every year and I have lived here for nearly 60 years. All of my family and friends like the name Harney Peak. Changing the name won't change the past.

Please attach any supporting documentation such as resolutions from governing boards or organizations; newspaper articles; petitions or historical references.

To propose a new name for the feature, please complete the section below:

Recommended Name:

Reason/Justification for Name:

Origin/Meaning of Name:

Please attach any supporting documentation such as resolutions from governing boards or organizations; newspaper articles; petitions or historical references.

=====

Submitted by:

Name: Lucille Howey

Title (if representing organization or public entity):

Organization or Public Entity (if applicable):

Mailing Address: PO Box 561 Hill City SD 57745

Telephone: 605-574-4306

Email Address: lou-howey@q.com

If the recommended name is adopted by the SDBGN, additional information may be needed to support the recommendation to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

Comments should be submitted no later than May 1, 2015. Submit comments to:

SD Board on Geographic Names

Dept. of Tribal Relations

302 East Dakota

Pierre, SD 57501

Email: David.Reiss@state.sd.us

FAX: 605-773-6592

Or access Public Comment Form: <http://www.sdbgn.sd.gov/>

Reiss, David

From: Lou <lou-howey@q.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 8:44 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak Name Change
Attachments: PenningtonCounty-HarneyPeak-PublicCommentForm.pdf

Please don't change the name of Harney Peak.



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Support naming the Feature: Black Elk Peak _____ Harney Peak _____

Reason/Justification of support to name the feature Harney Peak or Black Elk Peak:

A feature as prominent as the state's highest peak should positively reflect South Dakota's heritage. Given that the Black Hills are so central to the Lakota culture, naming it's highest point for the well-known and admired Lakota man, Black Elk, would be most appropriate. Certainly it would be an improvement on the peak's current name, honoring a person that killed innocent Brule Sioux in the Blue Water massacre of 1855.

As the SDBGN is surely aware, the peak resides within the Black Elk Wilderness, making the name change all the more fitting. Please take this small but meaningful step in honoring our state's heritage, including those that called the area home before it was known as South Dakota.

Please attach any supporting documentation such as resolutions from governing boards or organizations; newspaper articles; petitions or historical references.

To propose a new name for the feature, please complete the section below:

Recommended Name:

Reason/Justification for Name:

Origin/Meaning of Name:

Please attach any supporting documentation such as resolutions from governing boards or organizations; newspaper articles; petitions or historical references.

Submitted by:

Name: Lenard Ramacher
Title (if representing organization or public entity):
Organization or Public Entity (if applicable):
Mailing Address: 128 S. 16th St., Hot Springs, SD 57747
Telephone: 605.745.5003
Email Address: lennie.ramacher@gmail.com

If the recommended name is adopted by the SDBGN, additional information may be needed to support the recommendation to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

Comments should be submitted no later than May 1, 2015. Submit comments to:

SD Board on Geographic Names
Dept. of Tribal Relations
302 East Dakota
Pierre, SD 57501

Email: David.Reiss@state.sd.us
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Dear Chairperson June, Jay, and members of the SD Board on Geographic Names:

I read with interest the news coverage of recent hearings regarding proposed name change for the Black Hills landmark currently called "Harney Peak."

All of the proposals represent very recent history in the life of this granite outcropping. I learned in a geology class this winter that the peak represents the most ancient rock in all of South Dakota—a "deep intrusive" in geologic terms.

For far better information, I refer you to Dr. Alvis Lisenbee, a very knowledgeable geologist at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. He can help you work up a description of the peak that will truly do justice to its rightful significance to the Black Hills and all of South Dakota.

For the sake of discussion, I propose it be called "Precambrian Peak"—it was thrust into its current location by forces of great magnitude 2.5 billion years ago, according to my class notes. By comparison, other well-known landmarks such as Bear Butte and Devils Towers were "only" formed 58 million years ago. The Badlands came into existence 34 million years ago.

Please consult with Dr. Lisenbee before you further consider this idea. All I know is that the peak in question has great geologic significance in the area.

Thank you for giving consideration to this option, and for your service to the great state of South Dakota.

Sincerely,

Karon L. Schaack