

Meaning or Significance of the proposed name:

See above in (Reason for requesting name change)

Intended to Commemorate/Honor an Individual Y N O
If yes, who?

Black Elk

Are you representing an organization/public entity or acting as an individual? If representing an organization or public entity, please identify the organization and your role.

Yes - Washington highschool - Native American Student

Please provide any letters of support for the new name and list any public entities or organizations that have indicated support for the new name below:

[Empty box for letters of support]

Submitted by:

Name: Raquel Birthmark
Title (if representing organization or public entity): Native American Student
Organization or Public Entity (if applicable): Washington High School
Mailing Address: 501 N Sycamore Ave. SF. SD. 57110
Telephone: 605-367-7970
Email Address: bruce.rekstad@kl2.sd.us

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.

Submit form 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

Website: http://www.sdbgn.sd.gov/

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Propose New Name or Name Change of Geographic Feature

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Proposed Name: Hehaka Sapa

Action Requested:

- Name an unnamed feature
- Change name of existing feature

Reason for requesting name change or proposing a name for unnamed feature:

If it is not obvious at this point, the Black Hills is a very sacred site to the original people in this area. The name "Harney Peak" is very offensive to my people. In 1855, General Harney attacked the Sioux people at Blue Water Creek killing many women & children.

Type of Geographic Feature:

Harney Peak

Location of Feature (County/Geographic Coordinates):

Pennington County

Descriptive Information of the geographic feature:

Harney Peak

Meaning or Significance of the proposed name:

Hehaka Sapa means Black Elk in Lakota. He is a very important figure to the Indigenous peoples and it is believe this is where he had his vision.

Intended to Commemorate/Honor an Individual Y N O
If yes, who?

Black Elk

Are you representing an organization/public entity or acting as an individual? If representing an organization or public entity, please identify the organization and your role.

Individual.

Please provide any letters of support for the new name and list any public entities or organizations that have indicated support for the new name below:

Submitted by:

Name: Zayda Zuniga
Title (if representing organization or public entity): _____
Organization or Public Entity (if applicable): _____
Mailing Address: 501 N. Sycamore Ave. Sioux Falls, SD 57110
Telephone: (605) 367-7970
Email Address: bruce_rekstad@k12.sd.us

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South Dakota
Board on Geographic Names

**Propose New Name
or Name Change of
Geographic Feature**

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Proposed Name: Hehaka Sapa "Black Elk"

Action Requested:

- Name an unnamed feature
- Change name of existing feature

Reason for requesting name change or proposing a name for unnamed feature:

Because Harney Peak is a place of immense importance to the Native Americans. It deserves a better name, than the name of a white man who disrespected Native Americans, and was considered and called "Woman Killer." Harney attacked the Sioux. It is not appropriate to name a Native American site after a man who killed Native women.

Type of Geographic Feature: Harney Peak

Location of Feature (County/Geographic Coordinates):
Pannington County, South Dakota

Descriptive Information of the geographic feature:
Harney Peak

Meaning or Significance of the proposed name:

See above for reason for requesting name change.

Intended to Commemorate/Honor an Individual Y N

If yes, who?

Black Elk

Are you representing an organization/public entity or acting as an individual? If representing an organization or public entity, please identify the organization and your role.

I'm representing the Native American student body of Washington High School.

Please provide any letters of support for the new name and list any public entities or organizations that have indicated support for the new name below:

Submitted by:

Name: Zoe K. Asrat
 Title (if representing organization or public entity): Indigenous Student
 Organization or Public Entity (if applicable): Washington High School
 Mailing Address: 501 N. Sycamore Ave
 Telephone: (605) 367-7970
 Email Address: bruce.rekstad@k12.sd.us

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Proposed Name: Hehaka Sapa

Action Requested:

- Name an unnamed feature
- Change name of existing feature

Reason for requesting name change or proposing a name for unnamed feature:

The black hills is sacred to the indigenous people. Harney Peak is a very offensive name in 1855 General Harney attacked the Sioux he was know by the name women killer. The natives knew him as that. That's why Harney Peak is offensive.

Type of Geographic Feature:

Harney Peak

Location of Feature (County/Geographic Coordinates):

Pennington County

Descriptive Information of the geographic feature:

Harney Peak

Meaning or Significance of the proposed name:

See above, 11 years on air requesting name change.

Intended to Commemorate/Honor an Individual Y N O
If yes, who?

BLACK Elk

Are you representing an organization/public entity or acting as an individual? If representing an organization or public entity, please identify the organization and your role.

Yes, we are representing the Washington High School Native American Student Body.

Please provide any letters of support for the new name and list any public entities or organizations that have indicated support for the new name below:

Submitted by:

Name: TWA
Title (if representing organization or public entity): Student
Organization or Public Entity (if applicable): Washington High School
Mailing Address: 501 N. Scumore Ave
Telephone: 605-367-7970
Email Address: Druec.KEKSTAD@K12.SD.US

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Proposed Name: Hehaka Wapa "Black Elk"

Action Requested:

- Name an unnamed feature
 Change name of existing feature

Reason for requesting name change or proposing a name for unnamed feature:

Harney Peak is very offensive because general Harney was known as "Woman Killer" by the way he killed many women that were Lakota in the war of 1855.

Type of Geographic Feature:

Harney Peak

Location of Feature (County/Geographic Coordinates):

Pennington County, South Dakota

Descriptive Information of the geographic feature:

Harney Peak

Meaning or Significance of the proposed name:

See above in "Reason for requesting name change"

Intended to Commemorate/Honor an Individual YES NO

If yes, who?

BLACK ELK

Are you representing an organization/public entity or acting as an individual? If representing an organization or public entity, please identify the organization and your role.

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Proposed Name: "Opahata 1"

Action Requested:

- Name an unnamed feature
- Change name of existing feature

Reason for requesting name change or proposing a name for unnamed feature:

The name would be great for the Peah cause, People need to know that, because Harney Peah is a women killer. We dont want or need a bad name on some-thing that belongs to us. I feel that this name would be good because its a Lakota name, to go with the ~~sacked death~~

Type of Geographic Feature:

Harney Peah

Location of Feature (County/Geographic Coordinates):

Pennington County

Descriptive Information of the geographic feature:

Harney Peah

Meaning or Significance of the proposed name:

See above, Reason for requesting name change.

Intended to Commemorate/Honor an Individual Yes No
If yes, who?

[Empty box for name of individual]

Are you representing an organization/public entity or acting as an individual? If representing an organization or public entity, please identify the organization and your role.

Yes, we are representing Washington High School, Native American Student body, Native American Student.

Please provide any letters of support for the new name and list any public entities or organizations that have indicated support for the new name below:

[Empty box for letters of support]

Submitted by:

Name: Talawine
Title (if representing organization or public entity): Student
Organization or Public Entity (if applicable): Washington High School
Mailing Address: WHS 501 N. Sycamore Av
Telephone: (605) 367-7970
Email Address: bruce.vehstad@k12.sd.us

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Proposed Name: Hehaka Sapa

Action Requested:

- Name an unnamed feature
- Change name of existing feature

Reason for requesting name change or proposing a name for unnamed feature:

I want this changed because the current name is offending. Due to the fact that this maintain is ~~no~~ named after a man who murdered my ancestors in 1855.

Type of Geographic Feature:

Harney Peak

Location of Feature (County/Geographic Coordinates):

Pennington County South Dakota

Descriptive Information of the geographic feature:

Harney Peak

Meaning or Significance of the proposed name:

See above in (Reason for requesting name change)

Intended to Commemorate/Honor an Individual Y N

If yes, who?
Black Elk

Are you representing an organization/public entity or acting as an individual? If representing an organization or public entity, please identify the organization and your role.

Yes - Washington highschool - Native American student

Please provide any letters of support for the new name and list any public entities or organizations that have indicated support for the new name below:

[Empty box for support letters]

Submitted by:

Name: Raquel Birthmark
Title (if representing organization or public entity): Native American Student
Organization or Public Entity (if applicable): Washington High School
Mailing Address: 601 N. Sycamore Av. S.E. SD. 57110
Telephone: 605-367-7970
Email Address: bruce.rekstad@kl2.sd.us

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South Dakota
Board on Geographic Names

Propose New Name or Name Change of Geographic Feature

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Proposed Name: Black Elk Peak (Hehaka Saps)

Action Requested:

- Name an unnamed feature
 Change name of existing feature

Reason for requesting name change or proposing a name for unnamed feature:

The Black Hills are sacred to the Lakota. We considered it the center of everything. To name a mountain after someone named Woman Killer in the Black Hills is a dishonor to the culture. General Harney was known for commanding the slaughter of our people, and yet there's a sacred site named for him. The name Black Elk Peak is much more suited for a place of our people.

Type of Geographic Feature:

Harney Peak

Location of Feature (County/Geographic Coordinates):

• Pennington County, SD

Descriptive Information of the geographic feature:

Harney Peak

Meaning or Significance of the proposed name:

See above in ~~proposal~~
"Reason for requesting name change"

Intended to Commemorate/Honor an Individual Y N O
If yes, who?

Black Elk

Are you representing an organization/public entity or acting as an individual? If representing an organization or public entity, please identify the organization and your role.

Washington High School - Native American Student

Please provide any letters of support for the new name and list any public entities or organizations that have indicated support for the new name below:

Submitted by:

Name: Brendon Nelsen
Title (if representing organization or public entity): Student
Organization or Public Entity (if applicable): Washington High School
Mailing Address: 501 N Sycamore Av. SF, SD 57110
Telephone: 605-367-7970
Email Address: Bruce.Reiss@k12.sd.us

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Proposed Name: Opahata'I

- Action Requested:
- Name an unnamed feature
 - Change name of existing feature

Reason for requesting name change or proposing a name for unnamed feature:

The reason I would like this change is, the name "Harney" is the name to a man that was known as (women killer) to the Lakota people. Since the Black Hills is such a sacred place to the native people, the name should be changed in respect to them. It should be changed to something more appropriate.

Type of Geographic Feature: Harney Peak

Location of Feature (County/Geographic Coordinates):
Pennington County, South Dakota

Descriptive Information of the geographic feature:
Harney Peak

Meaning or Significance of the proposed name:

See above in "reason for requesting name change"

Intended to Commemorate/Honor an Individual Y N Q

If yes, who?

[Empty box for name]

Are you representing an organization/public entity or acting as an individual? If representing an organization or public entity, please identify the organization and your role.

yes - Washington Highschool - native American Student

Please provide any letters of support for the new name and list any public entities or organizations that have indicated support for the new name below:

[Empty box for support letters]

Submitted by:

Name: Janaiya Arendt
Title (if representing organization or public entity): Native American Student
Organization or Public Entity (if applicable): Washington Highschool
Mailing Address: 501 N. Sycamore Av. SE, SD 57110
Telephone: (605) 367-7970
Email Address: drue.rekstad@k12.sd.us

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Proposed Name: Opanata I

Action Requested:

- Name an unnamed feature
- Change name of existing feature

Reason for requesting name change or proposing a name for unnamed feature:

The reason why I want Harney Peak changed to Opanata I is because General Harney to Dakota's was known as "women killer". In 1856, he commanded troops to kill unarmed women and children at Blue Water Creek. Another reason I would like it changed is because to us lakota people it is a very sacred piece of land.

Type of Geographic Feature: Harney Peak

Location of Feature (County/Geographic Coordinates):

Pennington, South Dakota

Descriptive Information of the geographic feature:

Harney Peak

Meaning or Significance of the proposed name:

see above in ~~Reasoning~~ (Reason for requesting name change.)

Intended to Commemorate/Honor an Individual. Y N

If yes, who?

[Empty box for name]

Are you representing an organization/public entity or acting as an individual? If representing an organization or public entity, please identify the organization and your role.

yes - Washington High School - Native American Student

Please provide any letters of support for the new name and list any public entities or organizations that have indicated support for the new name below:

[Empty box for support letters]

Submitted by:

Name: Emma Brands

Title (if representing organization or public entity): Native American Stu.

Organization or Public Entity (if applicable): Washington High School.

Mailing Address: 501 N. Sycamore Ave. Sioux Falls, SD 57110

Telephone: (605)-367-7970

Email Address: bruce.rekstad@k12-sd.us

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SD EForm - 2393 V1



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Proposed Name: Black Ells Peak

- Action Requested:
- Name an unnamed feature
 - Change name of existing feature

Reason for requesting name change or proposing a name for unnamed feature:

The Black Hills are sacred to the Native American people. It is dishonorable to have the highest point in South Dakota be named after General Harney. He was known as Woman Killer for the 1855 battle at Blue Water Creek where he led an attack on a village unable to defend itself.

Type of Geographic Feature: Harney Peak

Location of Feature (County/Geographic Coordinates):
Pennington County, South Dakota

Descriptive Information of the geographic feature:
Harney Peak

Meaning or Significance of the proposed name:

See above in request for name change.

Intended to Commemorate/Honor an Individual Y N

If yes, who?

Black Elk a Lakota holy man.

Are you representing an organization/public entity or acting as an individual? If representing an organization or public entity, please identify the organization and your role.

Yes - Washington High School - Native American Student

Please provide any letters of support for the new name and list any public entities or organizations that have indicated support for the new name below:

Submitted by:

Name: Dustin Reckstad
Title (if representing organization or public entity): Native American Student
Organization or Public Entity (if applicable): Washington High School
Mailing Address: WHS 501 N. Sycamore Av. S.E. S.D. 57110
Telephone: (605) 367-7970
Email Address: bruce.rekstad@k12.sd.us

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Proposed Name: Black Elk Peak

Action Requested:

- Name an unnamed feature
- Change name of existing feature

Reason for requesting name change or proposing a name for unnamed feature:

I want this change is because it fits more to the name of the place.

Type of Geographic Feature: Harney Peak

Location of Feature (County/Geographic Coordinates):
Pennington county South Dakota

Descriptive Information of the geographic feature:
Harney Peak

Meaning or Significance of the proposed name:

See above

Intended to Commemorate/Honor an Individual: Y N
If yes, who?

Are you representing an organization/public entity or acting as an individual? If representing an organization or public entity, please identify the organization and your role.

yes - Washington High School - Native American Student

Please provide any letters of support for the new name and list any public entities or organizations that have indicated support for the new name below:

Submitted by:

Name: Denyce Taylor
Title (if representing organization or public entity): Native American Student
Organization or Public Entity (if applicable): Washington High School
Mailing Address: 501 N. Sycamore Av. S.F. SD. 57110
Telephone: (605) 367-7970
Email Address: denyce_rexstad@K12.SD.US

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Proposed Name: Black Elk Peak

Action Requested:

- Name an unnamed feature
- Change name of existing feature

Reason for requesting name change or proposing a name for unnamed feature:

I want the name to be changed because in the battle of Blue Water Creek in 1855 he killed many Lakota women and people.

Type of Geographic Feature:

Harney Peak

Location of Feature (County/Geographic Coordinates):

Pemington County South Dakota

Descriptive Information of the geographic feature:

Harney Peak

Meaning or Significance of the proposed name:

See above in Reason for Requesting name change

Intended to Commemorate/Honor an Individual Y N O
If yes, who?

Black Elk

Are you representing an organization/public entity or acting as an individual? If representing an organization or public entity, please identify the organization and your role.

Yes - Washington High School - native american student

Please provide any letters of support for the new name and list any public entities or organizations that have indicated support for the new name below:

Submitted by:

Name: Chadron Derby
Title (if representing organization or public entity): Native American Student
Organization or Public Entity (if applicable): Washington High School
Mailing Address: 501 N. Sycamore Ave. SE SA 5710
Telephone: (605) 367-7970
Email Address: ~~605~~ bruce.reksfud@k12.sd.us

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SD EForm - 2393 V1



Propose New Name or Name Change of Geographic Feature

The South Dakota Board on Geographic Names (SDBGN) is a state commission created in 2009 by SDCL Chapter 1-19C. 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>. Any proposed name changes for municipalities, counties or other political subdivisions of the State of South Dakota should be sent directly to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names for consideration.

Proposed Name: Black Elk Peak

Action Requested:

- Name an unnamed feature
- Change name of existing feature

Reason for requesting name change or proposing a name for unnamed feature:

Because the Black Hills is the center of all things, also because, General Harney lead troops to kill defenseless women and children.

Type of Geographic Feature: Harney Peak

Location of Feature (County/Geographic Coordinates):
~~Black Hills~~ ~~South Dakota~~ SD
Pennington County

Descriptive Information of the geographic feature:
Harney Peak

Meaning or Significance of the proposed name:

Above in "Reason for requesting name change"

Intended to Commemorate/Honor an Individual Y N

If yes, who?

Black Elk

Are you representing an organization/public entity or acting as an individual? If representing an organization or public entity, please identify the organization and your role.

Yes, Washington High school
- Native American Student

Please provide any letters of support for the new name and list any public entities or organizations that have indicated support for the new name below:

Submitted by:

Name: Andrew Foster
Title (if representing organization or public entity): Native American Student
Organization or Public Entity (if applicable): Washington High school
Mailing Address: 501 N. Sycamore St. SD. 57110
Telephone: (605) 367-7970
Email Address: bruce.rekstad@k12.sd.us

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.

Submit form 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

Website: http://www.sdbgn.sd.gov/



Propose New Name or Name Change of Geographic Feature

The South Dakota Board on Geographic Names (SDBGN) is a state commission created in 2009 by SDCL Chapter 1-19C. 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>. Any proposed name changes for municipalities, counties or other political subdivisions of the State of South Dakota should be sent directly to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names for consideration.

Proposed Name: Black Elk Peak

Action Requested:

- Name an unnamed feature
- Change name of existing feature

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APR 30 2015

Reason for requesting name change or proposing a name for unnamed feature:

After reading Lakota Joseph M Marshall III's book The Journey of Crazy Horse and learning that Col. Harney would wait for the braves to leave the villages then murder women and children, I have had a hard time even saying "Harney Peak". As I hike the peak at equinox and solstice time I see hundreds of pilgrims, mainly Native American hiking the peak for ceremony. I can only imagine what how it sits on their Hearts to be reminded each time they climb the peak of this person who massacred so many of their people. I am a decendant of my great-great-great grandmother Rebecca a Cree Indian from Canada. I feel great empathy with my extended Native American kin. Please give this sacred peak a sacred name.

Type of Geographic Feature: granite peak in Black Elk Wilderness

Location of Feature (County/Geographic Coordinates):
Harney Peak in Black Elk Wilderness

Descriptive Information of the geographic feature:

**MARIALEE NEIGHBOURS, J.D.
229 WASHINGTON STREET
SPEARFISH, SD 57783-2927
(605) 642-4322**

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APR 30 2015

South Dakota Board on Geographic Names
Department of Tribal Relations
302 East Dakota
Pierre, SD 57501

April 27, 2015

Dear Chairmen and Members:

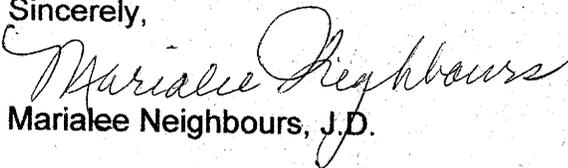
I am writing to express my strong support for changing the name of Harney Peak. I first understood how incorrect the current name is when a friend told me about General Harney's violent actions in this state and elsewhere. Since then, I have hoped the name would be changed. Harney's violent conduct is described in the Rapid City Journal Commentary dated March 28, 2015 entitled YOURS: Harney's Violent History.

In my opinion, an appropriate name would be the original Lakota name for the peak. I understand that name is Owl's Nest (translated into English). Keeping the original Lakota name would provide historical accuracy.

Names have meaning and significance. An important South Dakota peak should not be named after someone who clearly doesn't represent the kind of conduct that merits honor.

Whether the new name is Owl's Nest or Black Elk Peak, I hope it's changed to a name that justly commemorates this venerable site.

Sincerely,


Marialee Neighbours, J.D.

April 21, 2015

SD Board on Geographic Names

Dept. of Tribal Relations

302 East Dakota

Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Sirs:

I believe that renaming this mountain peak, Black Elk Peak, would be a wonderful action. It would be nice if it was in the Lakota language, but some folks might mispronounce it, and that would not be so honorable. This name change would certainly honor Black Elk, as a Lakota visionary and holy man who fasted and prayed at this most sacred location. Pilamiyaye. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jace DeCory".

Ms. Jace DeCory,

Asst. Professor in American Indian Studies

Black Hills State University

Spearfish, SD 57799-9054

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APR 30 2015

To: The SD Board on Geographic Names

We, the undersigned students from Black Hills State University, do hereby agree that Harney Peak should be renamed to Black Elk Peak. This name change would honor Black Elk as a Lakota visionary and holy man who fasted and prayed at this most sacred location. Pilamiyaye. Thank you.

Printed Name	Signature	Date
Dotti Dodson	Dotti M Dodson	3/23/15
Carlee DeWolfe	Carlee DeWolfe	3/23/15
GRAHAM WICKWIRE	GRAHAM WICKWIRE	3/23/15
Benjamin Steever	Benjamin Steever	3/23/15
Kathryn Biegler	Kathryn Biegler	3/23/15
Ariana Romero	Ariana Romero	3-23-15
Kole Simmons	Kole Simmons	3/23/15
Kevin Lawry	Kevin Lawry	3/23/15
Jolene Iran Bay	Jolene Iran Bay	3/23/15
Jamie Aulmer	Jamie Aulmer	3/23/15
Mary Mitchell	Mary Mitchell	3/23/15
Victoria Sprague	Victoria Sprague	3/24/15
Patryc Jordan	Patryc Jordan	5/24/15
Casey Greer	Casey Greer	3/24/15
Jayne Davis	Jayne Davis	3-24-15
Brandon Two Bulls	Brandon Two Bulls	3-24-15
Myles Frazer	Myles Frazer	3-24-15
Miko Smith	Miko Smith	3-24-15
Elizabeth Kessel	Elizabeth Kessel	3-24-15
Bridget Aeschbacher	Bridget Aeschbacher	3-24-15
Ryan Fisher	Ryan Fisher	3-24-15
Shaina Johnson	Shaina Johnson	3-25-15
Ida Clarke	Ida Clarke	3-25-15
Katelyn Hump	Katelyn Hump	3-25-15
Ashley Asheim	Ashley Asheim	3-26-15
Courtney Fischer	Courtney Fischer	3-27-15
Kelsey Espinosa	Kelsey Espinosa	3-27-15
Alyson Mercurian	Alyson Mercurian	3-27-15
Christopher Lord	Christopher Lord	3-27-15
Urta Marcus	Urta Marcus	3-27-15
Daryn Lends His Horse	Daryn Lends His Horse	3-30-15
Falcon Albers	Falcon Albers	3-30-15
Colby Bergman	Colby Bergman	3-30-15
Karla Kerstiens	Karla Kerstiens	3/31/15
Annie S. Pikkola	Annie S. Pikkola	4/1/15
Jara Decker	Jara Decker	4/1/15

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APR 30 2015

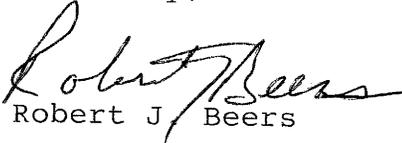
Robert J. Beers
710 Halsey Drive
Box Elder, SD 57719

April 25, 2015

South Dakota Board on Geographic Names
South Dakota Dept. Of Tribal Relations
302 East Dakota
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Attached is a copy of a letter I sent to the Rapid City Journal, this date, concerning the possible renaming of Harney Peak. If this action is actually deemed essential then I feel it could never be satisfiable to everyone if another disagreeable or controversial subject is selected. Therefore, a neutral nonhuman name must be chosen. I'm sure you have had numerous suggestions to consider.

Sincerely,


Robert J. Beers

Robert J. Beers
710 Halsey Dr
Box Elder, SD 57719
(605) 923-4422

April 25, 2015

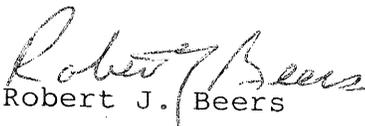
Rapid City Journal
PO Box 450
Rapid City, SD 57709

There is a movement to rename Harney Peak to Black Elk. The name Harney is offensive to some people and has been much publicized lately. What hasn't gotten publicity is that Black Elk is equally offensive to many people.

Following is an excerpt from Time-Life Books, Old West Series. "THE INDIANS." It's the chronicle of Sioux warrior chief Crazy Horse and the Battle of the Little Bighorn: "Among those who rode out to fight was Black Elk, an Oglala Sioux and cousin of Crazy Horse, who was thirteen years old....When the whites broke and ran Black Elk followed. A Sioux warrior pointed to a blue-clad soldier kicking on the ground. "Boy, get off and scalp him," he said. Black Elk dismounted and began the job, but his knife was dull. The injured man ground his teeth, so the boy shot him in the forehead with his revolver, then finished cutting away his hair.... Black Elk was not punished for his earlier disobedience that day. After all, at 13 he had his first scalp."

Why would Black Elk be any less controversial than Harney? To be impartial to everyone a neutral (nonhuman) name should be selected.

Thankyou,


Robert J. Beers

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APR 30 2015

TO: David Reiss
RE: Re-naming Harney Peak

My name is Marlene Tobias and I am a lifetime resident of the Black Hills, born in Hot Springs and have lived in Rapid City for over 50 years. I would like to add my "yes" vote to the idea of re-naming Harney Peak. I have felt for a long time that Gen. Harney was not well known enough to have his name attached to the highest peak between the Rockies and the Alps. He was an Indian fighter and, as far as I know, did little to distinguish himself. I would like to have the peak renamed Black Elk Peak in honor of the Native Americans who considered it the center of the earth.

While you are at it, I would put in a vote for changing the name of Custer State Park as well. We already have a town named after Custer and I think the park should be renamed Norbeck State Park in honor of Sen. Peter Norbeck who dreamed up the whole idea. Custer was here, I know, but it was in violation of the 1868 treaty that he and his group were sent by the government.

By the way, I am not Native American myself.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marlene Tobias
Marlene Tobias

4150 Villa Ridge Ct. #114

Rapid City, SD 57701

P.S. Your e-mail in the paper didn't work!

Elyse Cooper
330 Philadelphia St, Apt. 306
Rapid City, SD 57701

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APR 30 2015

To The SD Board on Geographic Names:

I think it would be a very good and wise decision to change the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. The sheer fact that Harney Peak is named after someone who seems like a predecessor to Hitler just sickens me, and strikes me as an extreme offense to the indigenous population. This is a prime example as to why there is so much racial tension between natives and non-natives, and it's time for all of us to take steps to resolve these issues.

For far too long I've seen the Lakota being treated poorly here in South Dakota. I've heard the racial slurs, I've seen the differences in treatment by non-natives, and I'm absolutely appalled by this behavior. Now that the Harney Peak issue has come to my attention, I've done my research and am taking this opportunity to stand up and address this. Moving from Indiana, I was astonished to find so much racism and disregard for equality towards Natives. It's as though the Civil Rights movement accomplished next to nothing. We live in Lakota Country, and I'm sick and tired of these issues of racism being ignored, downplayed, and justified by the non-natives in South Dakota. It's time for things to change, and for all of us to strive for a more peaceful coexistence with the Native population.

Black Elk was a good man, and is a very good choice for renaming Harney Peak. So, for the love of all that is right and good in this world, please rename Harney Peak so we all can finally move forward in the much-needed growth of equality. Otherwise I will continue to be thoroughly disappointed with this state and its blatant disregard of civil rights and lack of equality for those who were here first.

Elyse
Cooper