

**For Immediate Release:** Wednesday, April 22, 2015

**Contact:** June Hansen, Chair, SD Board on Geographic Names – 605-773-3415

## **Board on Geographic Names Schedules Public Hearings on Proposed Name Change for Harney Peak**

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Board on Geographic Names (SDBGN) has scheduled public meetings statewide to take citizen comment on a proposed name change for Harney Peak.

The peak is located in western Pennington County in the Black Hills National Forest.

Those testifying can provide input regarding the proposed new name, Black Elk Peak, or provide support to retain the current name. The board is asking for suggestions on possible alternate names.

The meetings will be held as follows:

April 28, 2015 (Tuesday)	Martin, SD Library/Community Room 101 Main Street	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (MDT)
April 29, 2015 (Wednesday)	Custer, SD Custer County Annex – Pine Room 447 Crook Street	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (MDT)
April 29, 2015 (Wednesday)	Rapid City, SD Adoba Eco Hotel – Ballroom 445 Mt. Rushmore Road	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (MDT)
May 5, 2015 (Tuesday)	Flandreau, SD Royal River Hotel – Royal Room 607 S. Veterans Street	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (CDT)
May 6, 2015 (Wednesday)	Pierre, SD SD Cultural Heritage Center 900 Governors Drive	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (CDT)

Please note the Custer meeting is starting at 10:00 a.m. (MDT). All other meetings start at 5:00 p.m. local time. The meetings are an open forum for public comment that will allow individuals to come any time within the stated time period. The board will be available to the public for a minimum of two hours in each location. SDBGN will extend its meeting in any location to accommodate individuals who wish to give public comment.

The board will conclude its meeting on Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in Pierre at the Becker-Hansen Building Commission Room, 700 E. Broadway, Ave. The board will accept additional public comment at this meeting, but the purpose of the meeting will be for the transaction of board business including discussion on the proposed name change for Harney Peak. The agenda for the board meeting is online at: [www.sdbgn.sd.gov](http://www.sdbgn.sd.gov).

The SDBGN follows the guidance from the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. The guidelines state that preferred names be descriptive of topographic forms suggested by local history, folklore, incident, or by associated natural life or other phenomena, including American Indian or other ethnic names appropriate to the area. A proposed name should not duplicate another name in the state or nearby in an adjoining state. If a personal name is proposed, it must be determined in the public interest to honor the person or family for historical or commemorative reasons, and that person must have been deceased at least five years.

The board is also taking written comments until May 1, 2015. A comment form is available upon request or available on the SDBGN website: [http://www.sdbgn.sd.gov/](http://www.sdbgn.sd.gov) Written comments will also be accepted at any of the public meetings including the meetings after May 1.

Please send comments and recommendations to:

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

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For more information, contact June Hansen at 605-773-3415.