

Reiss, David

From: Lance Rom <lrom@qualityservices.us.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2015 1:10 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Comment of proposed name change to Harney Peak, Pennington County, SD

I do not believe the current name of Harney Peak should be changed to Black Elk Peak. The current name fits with the naming conventions for geographic features and the current name is not objectionable or derogatory in any way. I don't think there is a good reason to change the name to Black Elk Peak. If the name does get changed I would prefer it to be changed to the actual name the Lakota people would have called the peak prior to Euro-American expansion into the Black Hills.

Thank you!

Lance Rom
605-209-0265

Quality Services, Inc.

Archeology, Forestry, Geophysics, History & Paleontology

1621 Sheridan Lake Road, Suite A
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-3420
Phone 605-388-5309
Fax 605-388-5319

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Reiss, David

From: Jerrym <jerry.mcquay@pie.midco.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2015 11:31 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: oppose to Harney Peak Name Change

Hi David, I like to go on record opposing the changing of the name of Harney Peak. It's been that way for along time and I see no reason to change it now or ever.

Jerry McQuay

410 So Central

Pierre South Dakota

Reiss, David

From: Sam Clauson <snbclaus@northcentralcredits.com>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 9:33 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Renaming Harney Peak

Dear Mr Reiss:

As a lifetime resident of South Dakota, I believe that Harney Peak should not be named after an Indian War general, and should be renamed after the great Native American leader of the Lakota people. My first name preference would be for Opahata'l, second choice Hehaka Sapa, and thirdly Black Elk Peak.

Sincerely,
Sam N Clauson
9860 Sheridan Lake Rd
Rapid City, SD 57702
snbclaus@northcentralcredits.com

Reiss, David

From: Dennis Winters <dwinters22@pie.midco.net>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 12:21 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Renaming Harney Peak

In my opinion, renaming Harney Peak is a really a dumb idea. There is nothing offensive about the name and it a well known land mark in the state. Leave it the way it is.

The next thing we will probably hear about is the renaming of Custer State Park. This is ridiculous and totally unnecessary.

Dennis Winters
Pierre, SD

Reiss, David

From: Frank Crisler <frankcrisler.asn@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 2:57 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Inquiry from SDBGN website

Mr. Reiss,

I'm not sure as to whether you are the right person to contact to comment on the proposed name change of Harney Peak, but since you are where the "Contact" button leads, I'll assume I'm not too far off.

First, I like the idea of changing the name. William S. Harney has little to do with South Dakota; even the battle he fought against the Sioux was in Nebraska. Black Elk is a much better choice, but I would like to nominate Red Cloud, a Lakota leader who cast a far bigger shadow than did Black Elk, and whose life encompassed all of the Indian Wars, born in 1822 and dying in 1909. (As opposed to Black Elk, who was born in 1863, and was thus too young to remember anything more than the bitter end of those wars.)

Sitting Bull might be another good choice. Sitting Bull's Peak sounds fine. But Red Cloud has the better story—a war leader who matured into an advocate for peace, or at least accommodation, after going East and seeing the Indians' hope to continue the old ways was impossible.

Red Cloud was once a famous name among the Lakota; there was even a Red Cloud Agency. But it was moved, and renamed, and now is called the Pine Ridge Reservation. Red Cloud himself resigned himself to living there in 1873, before it was renamed in 1878, and did much to adapt his people to their humbled status in the white man's America. It wasn't what he wanted, for himself or the Oglala. But he knew it was what had to be.

In my opinion, it would be a good thing if the state were to, once again, give the great man his due. (As nearly as I can tell, the only thing in SD named after him is a mine in Deadwood.)

But the strongest argument in favor of Red Cloud? The official name is Harney Peak, but you often hear it spoken of as Harney's Peak. Red Cloud's Peak has a lovely ring to it.

But Black Elk's Peak? It sounds like a pun on the famous book.

And that's my pitch. Red Cloud (1822/1909) whose name still lives on among the Lakota people. His most famous quote? "They made us many promises, more than I can remember. But they kept but one-- They promised to take our land...and they took it."

I'm not saying we give back the Black Hills, but at least we could give the Lakota this much.

Frank Crisler
Editor, The Arlington Sun
frankcrisler.asn@gmail.com

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

RECEIVED

MAR 3 0 2015

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:

Absolutely! It is long past time to recognize the Indians were there before Mr. Harney. And at this critical time of unrest and cultural misunderstanding it's a great time to do it!

Steve VanEpps - Taylor

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

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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:

This is the name that has been and should continue to be.
We cannot change history by changing names. Let us
Remember the Sioux have killed white men also.

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: *Gene Williams*

Title (if representing organization or public entity):

Organization or Public Entity (if applicable):

Mailing Address: *12303 Navajo DR Piedmont SD 57769*

Telephone: *605-787-6456*

Email Address: *Home @ rapidnet.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/>

3728 Schamber St.
Rapid City SD 57702
March 27, 2015

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

RECEIVED

MAR 31 2015

Attn. David.Reiss@state.sd.us

Re: Harney Peak Name Change

Dear Mr. Reiss and the SD Board on Geographic Names,

Thank you for requesting public comment on changing the name of Harney Peak. I favor the name change to one that is more significant to the indigenous people of this area. Black Elk's vision was considering the sacred highest peak, Opahata'I or in English, "center of all that is," as the focal point where all could come for prayer and renewal.

While the suggestion of renaming the mountain to Black Elk (Hehaka Sapa in Lakota) is a step in the right direction, I believe the Opahata'I designation is more inclusive of the many tribal nations who have used and continue to use the peak and surrounding area for ceremonial purposes.

People of the Great Sioux Nation (Oceti Sakowin) did *not* traditionally name sacred sites after individuals; that is a European convention. It would, therefore, be more appropriate to rename Harney Peak as Opahata'I. It still honors Black Elk and his vision.

At the very least, if the only other choice for changing Harney Peak is Black Elk Peak, it would be better to use his name as written in Lakota: Hehaka Sapa.

Thank you for hearing my comments.

Sincerely,



Jean Katus
jean44ka@gmail.com

Reiss, David

From: Gene Kroell <kroell@midco.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 10:21 AM
To: Reiss, David

Leave The name of Harney peak as it is. I am sure several other people had a vision while on Harney peak. The Harney battle happened in Nebraska, let them rename a sand dune.

Gene Kroell
Pierre,SD

Reiss, David

From: Vern Urlacher <vurlach@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 11:20 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Name Change

Please add our support to the name change from Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak.

Vern and Joyce Urlacher Salem SD

Reiss, David

From: Valerie <valdv@rushmore.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 11:44 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Opahata'I wins my vote

one vote for ALL THAT IS...

Opahata'I

hope this comes with the "pronunciation... how do we say this again?

Thank you,
Valerie d'Vonn
Rapid City

Reiss, David

From: Marcia Dunsmore <marciad@rushmore.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 11:47 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: proposed name change for Harney Peak

I would suggest the following as the best alternative name for the highest sacred peak in the Black Hills, as the traditional Lakota name and also consistent with Black Elk's vision from the top of the sacred peak:

Opahata'I (*"the center of all that is", best*)

If the only option is to rename the highest peak after Black Elk or leave it as Harney Peak, then it would be preferable to use his Lakota name:

Hehaka Sapa (*"Black Elk", better*)

If the only rename option is to use the Anglicized name, this is still preferable to the peak remaining named after a controversial 19th century Cavalry officer:

Black Elk Peak (*good*)

Reiss, David

From: Irene Strong <IreneStrong@GoldenWest.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 11:49 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Public Comment

Current Name: Harney Peak

Proposed Name: Black Elk Peak

Support naming the Feature: Black Elk Peak

In support of Black Elk Peak

In Honor of Black Elk, medicine holy man of the Oglala Lakota, naming our great mountain in the Black Hills, Black Elk, would show respect for our earth and for all people.

Changing the name to someone who is revered by South Dakotans would heal our state and our nations broken and scattered hoop. The name Black Elk represents a vision of mother earth as a whole, all that is beautiful, wise and good.

Thank you
Irene Strong

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Reiss, David

From: Elizabeth Cook-Lynn <ecooklynn@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 1:27 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: name change

IT IS LONG PAST THE TIME WHEN THE NAME CHANGE OF "HARNEY PEAK" SHOULD OCCUR. WHO THINKS SOUTHDAKOTANS WANT THE NAME OF A MURDERER OF THE SICANGU AT BLUE WATER TO BE ON A SACRED SITE? He led his army into a village (LITTLE THUNDER) of innocents. Isn't that called a military genocidal act? I think so. The racial situation in the Black Hills and Rapid City is a disgrace to thinking people, even though the tourist people and others continue to corrupt the historical view of one of the most beautiful places in our state. Even the refurbishing of the McGillicuddy House here should be a corrective, not a renewal of the awful reputation of a man who was the commander of a concentration camp now known as the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. He became one of the richest men in the state and, unfortunately, in a world where money and wealth iARE the only criteria for knowing an honorable life, he is history's star!!! The Oglala resisted him and hated him (because he was defending a colonizing and genocidal period called "the vanishing American era) yet he continued to say he was a "friend" to Indians, helping Crazy Horse in his death throes. There is nothing wrong in trying to re-write history in a more accurate way. There is something wrong in telling the same old corrupt story over and over again. This effort at re-naming is not a "revision" in order to make Indians righteous. Nor is it useful to promote war. Or Peace. **It is, instead, a movement to restore the vitality of the values of a democratic nation.** We know that the first thing a colonizer does is invade, kill the inhabitants, take his land, make self-serving laws and name everything in sight. Do we want to continue that?

I am not in favor of using Black Elk as a re-name. There are, after all, seven council fires of the Sioux Nation. (Oglala, Santee, Minneconjou, Yankton, Hasapa, Sicangu, Hunkpapa) and we go by many names.) It would be good to use a name that non-L/Dakota speakers could pronounce. yes?

Reiss, David

From: Bill Schreier <bschreier@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 1:42 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak Name Change Comment

South Dakota Board of Geographic Names,

I would like to add my support to changing the name of Harney Peak. I have never been pleased with the peak being named after someone who had no respect for life and liberty of women and children.

I would also be in support of a name that the tribes are in favor of. Naming it after a prominent Native American seems very appropriate, such as Black Elk.

Thank You

Bill Schreier
Custer, SD

Reiss, David

From: elhend@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 3:17 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak name change

To whom it may concern:

I think research is needed to determine how long it has been named Harney Peak. Also, if it is renamed, does it mean that ownership of the surrounding land is changed or is it still open to the public who wish to hike in the area.? If the name is changed, would a fee be charged to hike on the property as I believe has happened at Bear Butte.

I think the current name should be retained.
E Henderson
Rapid City

Reiss, David

From: Kensuz <kensuz5@rap.midco.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 5:40 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Changing the name of Harney Peak

I do think, in view of the history of this area, that it is a good idea to change the name of Harney Peak. It would be a step toward reconciliation with our Native friends and I just think it makes sense. Suzan Nolan, Rapid City

Reiss, David

From: Thomas Thorson <tdthorson55@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 7:25 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

Dear David Reiss,

I like the idea of renaming, or recovering the older closer to original name of Harney Peak. Few people today have any clue or care who Harney was so I am not offended so much by his name on the peak. Naming the peak Black Elk, also a man, a good man, but a man, seems more to exacerbate the issue of naming places after people and who gets to choose. But naming, or recovering the historic name, ***Opahata'I*** ("*the center of all that is*"), for the place recovers the broader cultural older history and is more evocative.

Thanks for receiving my comment,
Thomas D Thorson

Reiss, David

From: Patti Martinson <pmartinson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 7:06 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Renaming Harney Peak

Mr. Reiss,

I understand that public comments are being taken to rename Harney Peak. One suggestion that I have heard is Black Elk Peak. If this is the only naming option, then that is preferable to Harney Peak.

However I think it would more appropriate to name the highest sacred peak in the Black Hills by the Lakota words 'Opahata'I', which means 'the center of all that is'. It puts focus on the peak itself, rather than on an individual.

Patti

Reiss, David

From: Barry Wick <rikwrybac@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 10:13 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Changing the name of a Black Hills mountain

Dear Mr. Reiss,

In 2014, I moved from South Dakota, the state of my birth and ancestry, to Iowa City to allow my final years more access to the life of a writer. I am related to two South Dakota Governors. Gov. Carl Gunderson was my great-grandfather, and his mother's brother was Gov. Andrew Lee. Gov. Gunderson's father was a territorial representative...my great-great grandfather, Hans Gunderson. Florence Gunderson Soutar/Coopey was my maternal grandmother. Gov. Gunderson surveyed the reservations in South Dakota prior to his many years in the legislature. My grandmother taught on the Rosebud Reservation. And all other family has deep roots in the state...I just buried my mother in Rapid in January of 2014 having cared for her most of the last 10 years of her life. Her father, Lt. Frank Soutar, graduated as the valedictorian of the class of 1910 at USD. He also was deeply involved in the CCC camps, Camp Lodge, which is now the Black Hills Playhouse, and Camp Custer. He was born in Spearfish to Scottish immigrants Eva and James Soutar. My father, author, educator, Dr. Ralph Wick was born in Tyndal, SD and raised in Mitchell where my grandparents Leonard and Ella Wick owned a jewelry store. They later moved it to Rapid City. Why this history? Because history and family are all we have that makes us who we are. General William S. Harney, for whom Harney Peak was named had no South Dakota roots...he was commanding General of the Black Hills District in the late 1870s....and from Tennessee. If there is one mountain in the Black Hills that deserves the name of a Lakota Chief and spiritual leader...it ought to be the mountain now known as Harney Peak...and it should be changed to Mount Black Elk. I remember his son at Mt. Rushmore for many years when I was a child. I've read the book "Black Elk Speaks"--the 1932 book by John G. Neihardt. Nothing, in my opinion is more important than renaming that mountain in honor of Black Elk. Mount Black Elk. If there is one thing my generation can do to right some wrongs...we can't do it all...but this we can. I'm 63 and have mostly family graves since the 1800s left in South Dakota. Black Elk's family goes back generation upon generation...much farther than mine. It's time for a change. Let it be Mount Black Elk.

Barry G. Wick
3701 2nd Street Lot 366
Coralville, IA 52241-3259
319-621-9345
rikwrybac@yahoo.com

Reiss, David

From: Jason <msidegrad@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 11:11 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Renaming of Harney Peak

To: South Dakota Board of Geographic Names

From: Jason Bennett, resident of Sioux Falls

I sincerely hope that if the South Dakota Board of Geographic Names does in fact decide to change the label of the peak currently named after US Army General William S. Harney (circa 1870's), it puts much of its focus on naming it NOT after an individual, regardless of which race or "nation" that individual originated from. Nothing good will come from naming it after a person. I believe a name that could and would include all of South Dakota's residents would be far more beneficial and inclusive.

Not McGillicuddy (peak's first surveyor), not Mellette (SD's 1st gov), not Black Elk (Lakota holy man).

I believe using Sioux words for "high peak", etc, would be completely acceptable.

Thank you for your considerations.

-Jason

Reiss, David

From: Helen Baron-Wishard <helen@pie.midco.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 6:27 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak name change

Mr. Reiss,

I would like to see Harney Peak renamed because I don't find some of General Harney's actions admirable. I would be agreeable to renaming it Black Elk.

Helen Baron-Wishard
612 Yucca Dr
Pierre SD 57501

Be glad of life because it gives you the chance to love and to work and to play and to look up at the stars. Mary Groth

Reiss, David

From: Ned Leonard <nedeb.leonard@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 10:33 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Renaming Harney Peak.

My brother Ben, who resides in Rapid City where we both grew up and who recently re-climbed Harney Peak as we often did together as Boy Scouts and young adults, told me of the South Dakota Board on Geographic Names' deliberations concerning a possible change in the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak or some other name deemed appropriate. I was a staff assistant to Sen. George McGovern (D-SD) in 1979 when the U.S. Forest Service sought declaration of a RARE II wilderness in the Black Hills National Forest. I would like to provide you some background information concerning how the area around Harney Peak came to be designated Black Elk Wilderness Area as a way of closing the loop and advocating the heart of the Black Hills become Black Elk Peak.

The Forest Service originally nominated two areas, one around Harney Peak and the other further north and near Sturgis. The three-member congressional delegation preferred designation of the area within the state-managed Norbeck Wildlife Preserve and surrounding Harney Peak. The only difference (not disagreement) among the congressional delegation concerned its name; a House-passed bill designated it Harney Peak Wilderness as suggested by the U.S. Forest Service. Senator McGovern preferred it be named Black Elk Wilderness instead. Sen. Larry Pressler (R-SD) concurred.

I negotiated with Rep. Abdnor's staff in Sen. McGovern's behalf and Congressman Abdnor was in accord with Sen. McGovern's preference when, on August 25, 1980 the Senate took up the bill containing the wilderness designation. I'd like to review a little of what Sen. McGovern said at the time; I believe it may be relevant to your deliberations. Quoting the late native American historian and theologian Vine Deloria, Sen. McGovern told his colleagues:

Today the book [John G. Neihardt's Black Elk Speaks] is familiar reading for millions of people, some of whom have no clear conception of Black Elk's tribe, the Oglala Sioux, and others of whom do not, as a rule, even like Indians. The spiritual framework of the pipe ceremonies and the story of Black Elk's life and vision are well-known, and speculations on the nature and substance of Plains Indian religion use the book as the criterion by which other books and interpretive essays are to be judged. If any great religious classic has emerged in this century or on this continent, it must certainly be judged in the company of Black Elk Speaks and withstand the criticism which such a comparison would invite.

Black Elk shared his vision with John Neihardt because he wished to pass along to future generations some of the reality of Oglala life and, one suspects, to share the burden of the visions that remained unfulfilled with a compatible spirit.

Black Elk's vision - that was the key to why Sen. McGovern sought designation of the area as Black Elk Wilderness. As he said, "Mr. President, I don't ask that this wilderness area be named so much for the man Black Elk as much as I ask it be named for the vision he held in sacred trust and passed down the generations. In designating this area, Congress will be doing more than naming a part of the Black Hills for a man. We will be affirming a vision of the way life is, has been, and can be."

Yet, as Sen. McGovern noted, if the name of the area must be justified by the quality of the man, it is intriguing to let what John Neihardt tells us of Black Elk contrast with what Annie D. Tallent wrote concerning Gen. William S. Harney's visit to the peak in The Black Hills: or the Last Hunting Grounds of the Dakotahs:

Prior to the year 1874 ... none of the several expeditions sent to this Western country for the purpose of exploration or subduing the hostilities of the Indians had succeeded individually or collectively in penetrating the mountain fastnesses of the Black Hills, with the sole exception of General Harney who, with members of his staff, climbed the rugged peak ... and on its lofty summit unfurled our national emblem for the first time to the mountain breeze, and under its sacred folds pledged to it their allegiance and undying loyalty in numerous bumpers of sparkling champagne, as evidenced by the many empty bottles discovered on the spot by pioneers two decades later.

Could the contrast be any greater? Set aside whether Gen. Harney is the butcher alledged by some and Black Elk as a holy man. Is it appropriate that the highest elevation east of the Rocky Mountains in the heart of a state-preserved wildlife area and federally-designated wilderness area be named for the area's first polluter or the one who held it sacred as the locus for a vision promoting unity between all races of humankind and all life - "the two-leggeds, the four-leggeds, the wings of the air and all green things that live?"

Thank you for taking into account my views on renaming Harney Peak. Best wishes, sincerely,

Edward S. Leonard (Ned)
nedeb.leonard@verizon.net
(703) 538-5759 home
(703) 725-2036 mobile

49 N. Woodrow St.
Arlington, VA 22207-4321

Reiss, David

From: Della Hall <ddhall75@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 11:02 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

Do not change the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. This is history and should not be changed. Della Hall

Reiss, David

n: Kristen Anderson <kione@hcinet.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 11:39 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: RENAMING HARNEY

In response to a blog with suggestions for the renaming of Harney Peak, I'm weighing in with my opinion. I believe that renaming the peak is a good idea in that it will rid one spot (a quite significant spot) in the Hills of the name of a person who reminds the local Native Americans of some dark history. Of course, following through on that premise, this then leads to the potential re-naming of Custer City and County, etcetera, etcetera. But that is another issue; and to the winner go some of the spoils. This particular re-naming addresses a particularly sacred area; and it is a good and right idea to honor this place and this man with this name change -- if the local Native Americans indeed, believe this re-naming is appropriate with their practices. Carving the likeness of a man into stone was not in the past one of their practices; but creating the monument of Crazy Horse has been in full swing for some time now with the blessing of Sioux members. It is not unknown for any groups beliefs and practices to morph. Sometimes we even make progress in doing so.

The blog suggests that the best choice for a new name for Harney Peak would be Opahata'I, which translates to "the center of all things". Doing so would be acknowledging the mythology of the Native Americans *who most recently* occupied the area prior to the occupying Europeans. However, this particular name is putting a name on a physical place, making it a metaphor, or physical symbol, for a spiritual idea. And it's my observation that history has showed us over and over ad nauseum that the conservatives and literalists and fundamentalists will have trouble seeing the *mere* symbolism. The exact location of the center of all that is is unknowable. But those who lose sight of what is truly significant about our striving to understand our existence will go to war for the idiocy of the idea of a physical location that is sacred; who owns it; who has access to it. Therefore, I deem this name a bad idea.

So, If naming the peak Hehaka Sapa is deemed appropriate with societal mores of local Native Americans, then that would be my recommendation.

To protect our privacy, after reading this email, please print it off and burn it.
Pour proteger notre retraite, apres de lire cet email, s'il te plait l'imprime et le brule.

Kris Anderson
kione@hcinet.net
605-666-4408



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Reiss, David

From: Leonard Spomer <leonard.spomer@beckmtr.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 11:53 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

Mr. Reiss and SD Board of Geographic Names.

I find the request to change the name of Harney Peak unacceptable.

It is unfortunate that we have come to a point in history when everything must be "politically correct".

There are good names and there are some questionable names of historic geographic features in South Dakota. But they are all part of our history and the culture of our ancestors.

Are we to forget history?

Do we not learn from our mistakes, and those of our ancestors?

We need to not only remember the great people of the past, but also some of who may have been not so perfect, or offensive to some cultures.

Was General Harney reprimanded by any military tribunal for his actions? No. Were some of his actions questionable? Perhaps. But, we must not forget them.

To erase General Harney's name from the mountain after 150+ years will cast him out of history.

Black Elk was a great Medicine Man, and we already have a wilderness area named after him.

Please retain the name of Harney Peak.

Thank You.

Leonard Spomer
20476 Browning Road
Pierre, SD 57501

Just A Note...

To: Dept of Tribal Relations

As to the name
Change of Harney Peak,
Why? Isn't there more
Constructive things to
be done? Spend the time
& resources on something
Constructive. This change
is not going to make Relations
better. Hope you see
it this way.

RECEIVED

APR 02 2015

Thanks
R. Jackson

RECEIVED

APR 02 2015

Dear South Dakota Board on Geographic Names

I am very much against changing the names on any city, County or landmarks that have had their name for years.

Everytime you change a name on any of these to favor one ethnic group you are discriminating against all the other many ethnic groups in South Dakota.

Even area of a town can rename a street or building to honor an individual who has contributed much to their town if the citizens of that area agree to do so.

That would be ~~map~~ map maker the map maker happier than changing at every whim of some group.

Cora Jeffries

St. Pierre, S.D.

57532