

## Reiss, David

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**From:** K Spring <kminerals@gwtc.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2015 5:25 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Comments regarding the renaming of Harney Peak

Mr. Reiss,

We am sorry we cannot attend the "Comment" meeting in Custer, SD, regarding the renaming of Harney Peak. We apologize in advance for our skepticism that our comments will have any effect on what we believe is a foregone conclusion. We feel as many do, that by the time meetings are scheduled, a decision has already been made. By putting the name, "Black Elk Peak," out for public discussion, it is already assumed that unless there is a good reason NOT to rename Harney Peak, it will be renamed Black Elk Peak. So what are we commenting on?

But in hopes that our voices will be heard, we are opposed to renaming Harney Peak as Black Elk Peak and we put forth the following "comments:"

- A. Black Elk has already been honored with the naming of Black Elk Wilderness Area
- B. Is Black Elk the only Lakota worthy of honor?
- C. The Lakota drove out other tribes to take control of the Black Hills, is this what we are honoring?
- D. Are there no persons of note from one of the earlier tribes?
- E. Isn't it time to stop naming geographical points of interest after individuals and then renaming them whenever the mood strikes?
- F. Why should the naming and renaming of South Dakota's icons be granted to you and the committee you serve?
- G. Why aren't the people of South Dakota permitted to choose or vote on the renaming of landmarks in their landscape?
- H. How well has the intention to rename Harney Peak been publicized? We only heard of it via word of mouth.
- I. Shouldn't all South Dakotans be made aware of the intent to rename Harney Peak and the reasons WHY it should be renamed?
- J. Harney Peak was named in the late 1850's. Unless there is a compelling reason to rename the Peak, it should remain Harney Peak. It's a name that we all recognize as the name of a Peak, NOT a person. After all, perhaps there are those who take exception to honoring Black Elk.

Ken and Karen Spring  
Custer, South Dakota

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Lee Stroschine <lstrosch@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2015 5:39 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Barney Peak name change

Sir,

I am opposed to changing the name of Harney Peak. Why make changes that will cost time, money and effort for a name that has no offensive language in it.

Thank you,  
Lee Stroschine  
Sturgis, SD

## Reiss, David

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**From:** adv.auto <carfixer8510@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2015 11:37 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Inquiry from SDBGN website-----Harney Peak Historical Name

Enough already with changing names due to allegations of crimes against Native Americans. It was a different time, not a criminal action and today's laws can not, and should not be applied to these individuals. In fact many of these instances were because of a military person carrying out orders and not necessarily a personal choice. The same complaint could be raised about Sitting Bull, Black Elk, or Crazy Horse, they undoubtedly had a hand in harming or killing settlers or families traveling through the Dakota Territories. This is similar to the loss of Annie Tallent's name on schools and streets, and the attempted disgrace to her name due to the way she referred to the Native Americans, again it was a different time. Gen. Harney was, and continues to be a prominent name in the history of The Dakota Territories on into statehood of South Dakota. If you continue to 'give in' to special interest groups in this manner, there will be no end.

## Reiss, David

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**From:** Ralph Kruse <melrosetoo@wildblue.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2015 4:55 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Harney Peak name change input

To the SD Board on Geographic names,

We are OPPOSING the proposed name change of Harney Peak. We have the Black Elk Wilderness already named to honor this man. Col. Harney and Black Elk were both responsible for killing during the battles that are part of the history of South Dakota and our country. And both were responsible for improving race relations during that time. To discredit one over the other would be inappropriate. Please leave the names in place.

We suggest that the costs involved, should the name be changed, become the responsibility of all of the people who are in favor of the name change. It should not be the burden of the taxpayers of this county or our state to bear the unnecessary costs involved. We wonder how many of the people who sent letters from out of our state, have ever hiked to Harney Peak, or even been to this area? It's easy to say we should change the name, unless you are the one paying for it.

We are totally against the names "Hinhan Kaga Paha". "Okawita Paha", "Opahata'I" or "Hehaka Sapa". They are not easily pronounced, and relate only to Native American names. There are many different cultures of people who live in this state that have contributed to it's history. There are plenty of names that could be submitted to honor any one of these cultures.

We are lifelong residents of this area. We live on the Palmer Creek Road, with Harney Peak trails adjacent to this road. Harney Peak is within two miles of our home. To change the name would impact history. We don't feel that a name change will impact race relations, for better or worse. We feel there is a better need for time and money spent on bigger problems in our state, rather on the time and money being spent to consider this name change.

Thank you for allowing us to give our input..

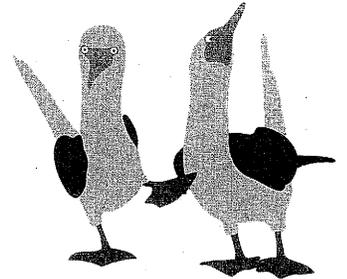
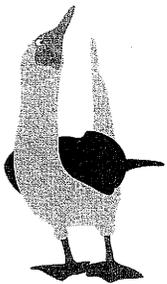
Ralph & Sandy Kruse  
Hill City, SD

To Whom it may concern,

We don't need to change  
the name of Harney Peak for  
any reason.

Sincerely

Wm Miller



William Miller  
PO Box 15  
Oelrichs, SD 57763

RAPID CITY SD 577

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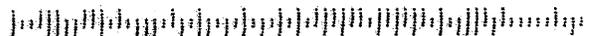


White-Throated Sparrow  
2014

So Dak Board on Geographies Names  
So Dak Dept of Tribal Relations  
302 East Dakota  
Pierre, S.D. 57501

57763

57501\$3133



**Reiss, David**

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**From:** BHF <blackhillsfun@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2015 10:51 AM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Harney Peak Name Change

Please DO NOT change the name of Harney Peak. History is history! The current climate of changing history to be politically correct is not only unfortunate but, also a poor use of taxpayer dollars. The state should have other priorities for spending time and money rather than to give 'warm fuzzies' to a limited and select number of people. Changing the name will do nothing for race relations nor, change the significance of the place. It is only a name and....is what it is. Leave it be. What is important is the historical significance of it's use throughout history. Changing the name won't do anything significant but cost taxpayers money. Given that, I have no other recommendations for a name change.

By the way, the name Black Elk Peak will not necessarily mean to people what some intend it to mean. To me, it means that there must be black elk in the area (which I don't know if there is or not). But, that is how I would explain that name to tourists or other people.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my input!  
Rebecca Cooper  
Spearfish, SD

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Nora Antoine <njantoine@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2015 11:48 AM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Name change request

Please consider this my formal request to change the name of Harney Peak to Hinhan Kaga.

Thank you!

Nora Antoine  
POB 432  
White River SD. 57579

Sent from my iPad

## Reiss, David

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**From:** Ken Wesche <kdwesche@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2015 7:35 AM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Harney Peak Name Change

First, let me adamantly say that I do not support renaming Harney Peak at all. I can see no reason whatever why it needs to be changed. In wartime people kill people and people get killed. A lot of people do both. Why should this have been any different? I view any move to change the name to be nothing more than runaway political correctness.

If the decision is made that the name must be changed, then do NOT change it to an Indian name. If we cannot honor a white person then we should not honor an Indian either. Personally, I think that if Harney Peak must be renamed, then so should Crazy Horse Mountain.

If it MUST be renamed, then make it something generic like Rock Tower Peak or something (I would have suggested Stone Tower Peak, but in today's stupid world Stone would quickly mutate into "Stoned"). For me personally, I will always call it Harney Peak and I will not acknowledge it by any other name.

**Ken Wesche**  
**Rapid City, South Dakota**  
**Phone: 605-721-6131**  
**Cell: 605-484-6013**

Set your course by the stars, not by the lights of every passing ship. -- *General Omar N Bradley (1893-1981)*

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Jerry Wilson <wilson57069@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2015 8:53 AM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Black Elk Peak

Dear Mr. Reiss,

I downloaded what I thought was the public comment form regarding changing the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak, but could not input my comment. Please inform me exactly how to do so, or accept this email as my comment.

When I served as managing editor of South Dakota Magazine from 1999 to 2005, I began to think seriously about how inappropriate it was to honor Gen. Harney by giving a prominent feature of our state his name. After all, his record as an Indian fighter, should we say his record of racist, genocidal disregard for human life, was undeniable. And what an affront to the Native people from whom the Black Hills were illegally taken to insult them and to honor Harney by affixing his name to the obvious center, the pinnacle, of that sacred land.

I was very happy to learn that the SD Board of Geographic Names was considering this long-overdue move. Please do make this important change. It will go far toward removing a century and a half of dishonor and disrespect of our Native people and heritage.

Thank you,  
Jerry Wilson, PhD  
Vermillion, SD

## Reiss, David

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**From:** Wilson, Norma <Norma.Wilson@usd.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2015 9:51 AM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Black Elk Peak

David Reiss  
SD Department of Geographic Names

Dear Mr. Reiss:

I am a resident of Vermillion, who first came to South Dakota in 1976 in order to visit the mountain peak I had read about in the book "Black Elk Speaks." I came because I wanted to stand at the center of the Lakota world where Nicholas Black Elk experienced the balanced vision of life he related to John Neihardt in that book. There on the mountaintop, I saw others with their copies of the book sitting and looking out from the center of the Black Hills, which I later learned from Charlotte Black Elk was considered "The Heart of Everything that Is."

In 1978 I began teaching Native American Literature at the University of South Dakota, and during my twenty-seven years on the English faculty, I often used "Black Elk Speaks" as a text, never growing tired of sharing with my students the story of Black Elk and his vision of life. I have made my home in this state and came to love the place in large part of what Black Elk's vision taught me about living in good relationship.

Words are important in our daily lives. They demonstrate what we most value and honor.

It is time for our state to recognize the Lakota people's relationship to the Black Hills.

The name change from the name "Harney" Peak to "Black Elk" Peak would restore to the Lakota a small portion of the respect and appreciation they are due and would also be a far more appropriate name for the mountain.

Sincerely,

Norma C. Wilson  
30959 Frog Creek Road  
Vermillion, SD  
(605) 624-9279

## Reiss, David

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**From:** Ernie Nauman <einauman@rushmore.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2015 11:22 AM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Harney Peak Name Change

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

Mr. Reiss:

I am opposed to changing the Name of Harney Peak. If it is being considered to change the name from Harney Peak because he killed Indians then it should not be named Black Elk Peak either because he killed U.S. Cavalry soldiers at the battle of the Little Big Horn. In his book "Black Elk Speaks" written by John Neihardt Black Elk admits that he killed and mutilated a wounded soldier, stole from dead soldiers and helped with the death of another soldier. The fact is whether either whites or Indians want to admit it both did bad things and committed atrocities against each other and to say one was better or more justified is hypocritical. It is simply the way it was then when U.S. Federal Policies and social views of both whites and Indians were much different than today and name changes now are not going to erase the bad things that either side did well over 100 years ago.

Thank You for your time and work on this matter.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions.

Ernie Nauman  
117 S. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Spearfish, SD 5778

605-722-6653 or [einauman@rushmore.com](mailto:einauman@rushmore.com)

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Wayne Booze <wbooze@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2015 12:03 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Comments on Proposed Harney Peak Name Change

Thank you for collecting public comments on the requested name change of what is currently called Harney Peak in the Black Hills.

I greatly respect Mr Basil Brave Heart and the request to change the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. He honors us with his service to his country and to his people. However, I would encourage the State Board on Geographic Names to consider the rich history of the Black Hills to make a decision regarding any proposed name changes.

We know that indigenous peoples have inhabited the area known today as the Black Hills since at least 7,000 B.C. We know of the Arikara inhabiting the area since 1500 A.D., and the Kiowa existing there since at least 1650 AD. We know of the Crow inhabiting the area and also considering it sacred ground. We know the Cheyenne displaced these earlier tribes in the region, and were themselves displaced by the Lakota during the 19th century. By the 1770s, the Lakota Sioux had claimed through force the Black Hills.

If Harney Peak is to be renamed, and if we are to do so to attempt to alleviate the wounds inflicted by invading the Black Hills and naming its geography after our Anglican forebears, why should it be renamed to honor the memory of another invading faction?

I concede Black Elk was a spiritual leader, and it seems more appropriate recognition than that of a war leader. However, should we not seek to honor those who first inhabited the region and found its natural beauty sacred? Who among the Lakota, Cheyenne, Crow, Kiowa, Arapaho, or Arikara peoples (all of whom have at one point in time inhabited the Black Hills) has the proper moral agency to submit for consideration a new name?

I would encourage the Board on Geographic Names to maintain the status quo, as the proposed change in name of Harney Peak would serve to create confusion while failing to honor the first peoples to inhabit the region.

Maintaining the names of geography such as Harney Peak and Custer State Park can serve as a reminder to us all of our not so distant past as a young America. These peoples, just like Christopher Columbus, were flawed persons. However, they also were supremely influential in sculpting America and ultimately the United States. We have the opportunity to remember and reflect upon the good and ill that they brought. This contemplation hopefully will make us a wiser community.

Sincerely,

Wayne Booze



## 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:**

Our son, Nehemiah Larimer, is a Senior at Stevens High School. A month ago he was killed in a traffic accident.

Several months ago Nehemiah shared a name change petition with us. He supported the name change, and encouraged us to do the same.

Nehemiah was passionate about spending as much time as possible in the Hills. Rock climbing, hiking, high-lining, etc. He connected with God's creation, and was respectful of Native culture and history.

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

In Nehemiah's honor, ~~we~~ our family supports the name change.

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.

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**Submitted by:**

Name: Kayne Larimer  
Title (if representing organization or public entity):  
Organization or Public Entity (if applicable):  
Mailing Address: 2421 Cedar Dr AC SD 57762  
Telephone: 605 434 4724  
Email Address: Kayne.larimer@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**

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**From:** Bernie Osberg <osbergsd@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2015 1:47 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Renaming The Highest Peak in the Black Hills

I'm not sure this message is going to the correct party at an appropriate time but I would like to state my opinion.

Given the current name of the peak is inappropriate, I would suggest the new name be "Paha Sapa Peak". I have no problem with the name "Black Elk Peak" but I prefer something that is 1) a bit more more inclusive, and 2) written in the Dakota language.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my opinion.

Bernie Osberg  
rural Hermosa, SD

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Jeff & Darlene <djhallem@midco.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2015 3:45 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Harney Peak name change

**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 support leaving Harney Peak as is. We are going down a slippery slope when we start changing these names. For example, many towns were named after railroad men when the rails came through. Some of them could be less than desirable if checked. Words and their meanings change through the course of history and actually I'm against many of the name changes already made because of political correctness.

I'm originally from ND and live in SD these past 47 years. I've endured every bad ND joke that came along. It's just the way it is. Places were named in the past and it's just the way it is. I'm not prejudiced in any way to any race so let's just leave well enough alone and honor the Natives or any other ethnic group by naming new places Native names until there is enough equality to satisfy the disgruntled.

**Submitted by:**

Darlene Hallem

1127 N. Central

Pierre, SD 57501

Telephone: 224-2008

Email Address: [djhallem@midco.net](mailto:djhallem@midco.net)

## Reiss, David

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**From:** Gasque, Thomas <Thomas.Gasque@usd.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2015 7:21 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Harney Peak/Black Elk Peak

Dear Mr. Reiss,

I would like to comment on the proposal to change the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. I attempted to use the form that is part of the SDBGN website, but it doesn't seem to work, so I'm writing this directly to you as the contact person in the hope that it finds its way to the right place.

I am a professor emeritus from the University of South Dakota and for many years was involved in a study of the place names of South Dakota. I also served as the liaison between South Dakota and the U.S. Board on Geographic Names and was consulted in many cases involving name changes. I retired before the creation of the South Dakota Board but should say that I am happy that the Board has taken on the many proposals to eliminate the offensive names from the landscape of the state, an effort I championed but did not succeed in accomplishing.

According to "South Dakota Geographic Names," edited by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve (1973, mostly a reprint of a 1941 WPA study), Harney Peak got its name when Lt. G. K. Warren, making a topographic survey of the Black Hills area, spotted this peak from a distance (he did not go into the Hills) and named it for General William S. Harney, his commanding officer. This was in 1857. In 1855, Warren had been part of a campaign to punish the Brule Sioux for their part in killing a number of U.S. Army soldiers in what is known as the Grattan Massacre. Harney's troops came upon the Brule at Ash Hollow, in Nebraska, and indiscriminately killed many of the them, including many women and children. To his credit, Harney felt bad about this afterwards, but among the Sioux he was known as a "butcher" and a "woman killer."

I suspect that few people today in South Dakota have any clear knowledge of General Harney; and the mountain named in his honor, like most features on the landscape, has a name which is just a name. General Harney likely never saw the peak and his association with it is rather casual. Yet the name Harney Peak is deeply ingrained, and it is not easy for the name of such a prominent feature to be changed. Yet it can be done if there is enough local support for it.

Black Elk was an important and deeply respected medicine man who had a close association with this feature, as is made clear in the important biography, "Black Elk Speaks," by John G. Neihardt. Since the Black Hills are so central to Lakota history and tradition, it seems highly fitting to connect this prominent feature with a man whose life and thoughts are so closely connected to the Black Hills.

I encourage the South Dakota Board to vote for this change and submit this proposal to the U. S. Board, where representatives of various agencies, including the National Forest Service, will make the decision.

Thomas J. Gasque, PhD.  
3919 Dubose Drive  
Columbia, SC 29204  
803-738-1628

Professor Emeritus, English, University of South Dakota, Vermillion Formerly Liaison between South Dakota and the U.S. Board on Geographic Names

Sent from my iPad

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Robert Hatch <roberthatch47@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 9:08 AM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Renaming Harney Peak

Dear Mr. Reiss,

My wife and I are among those who support the Lakota Native American community's request to rename Harney Peak Black Elk Peak.

We think this would be a restorative justice measure to help salve a portion of the deep wounds inflicted on the Lakota people at the hands of the US military and specifically at the hands of Harney's troops when they massacred women and children long ago.

Black Elk was and continues to be a revered native leader possessing great foresight, wisdom and leadership for his people and is a fitting figure for the peak's new name.

We think the time is long over due for our dominant culture to acknowledge and honor the holistic, spiritual and energetic relationship the Lakota people have with Mother Earth and the personal resonance which connects these people to significant geological places such as the Black Hills and this peak in particular.

Please, in the spirit of peace and human dignity, rename the peak.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Robert and Monica Hatch

## Reiss, David

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**From:** Erb, Mike <MErb@hazeldenbettyford.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 10:46 AM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Cc:** Mark Clements <clem744@icloud.com> (clem744@icloud.com)  
**Subject:** Renaming Harney Peak

David,

I am apparently unable to figure out how to complete the form and send it electronically, so below is an e-mail I had previously sent on this topic. Please accept this as a vote in favor of the renaming. Thank you.

I am writing to you in support of a proposal to rename Harney Peak in Pennington County to Black Elk Peak. The reason for my support is that I believe the current name is not reflective of the values espoused by the State of South Dakota or the United States of America. Specifically, actions taken by General Harney and those under his command against defenseless Native American people were essentially war crimes and would be considered as such under current military rules of engagement. And I do not believe that South Dakota or the United States support or condone war crimes in any form.

Continuing to name a landmark in honor of such an individual represents at least tacit approval of his actions. And while I do not believe that is intended by any current residents of South Dakota or by any governing authorities therein, the name continues to be a reminder of the atrocities committed to the descendants of the victims of General Harney, to all Native peoples and to those who care about their history and current struggles.

As you are aware, the wilderness area within which Harney Peak is contained is already named the Black Elk Wilderness Area, and it would seem that changing the name of the peak would be consistent with an acknowledgement that has already been made.

I am not Native American, nor even a resident of South Dakota. I am, however, a citizen who has chosen to take an interest in Native history and current issues, and I have personal friends who are Native, including many from the Pine Ridge reservation. As an American and human being, I am asking you to support this request as it will assist with continued healing that is taking place both within Native communities and between the larger cultures in South Dakota, the United States and the world as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

**Mike Erb**  
2310 Woodland Trail  
Cumberland, WI 54829

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Keya Brighi <keyawin1951@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 10:55 AM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Harney Peak name change

Mr. Reiss, This is in regard to the name change of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. I think this is an important step in healing old wounds that are still felt around South Dakota. I have lived in South Dakota and know the rich and tragic history of the Native Americans in the area.

These are sacred grounds and the name change would reflect that importance.

I understand that some of Harney relatives are in support of this change and I would hope that would weigh heavily in the decision process.

I hope the committee will take this into consideration. Thank you for your time.

Peace to You,

Keya Brighi

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Monica Minnesota <minnesotamonica@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 11:14 AM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Harney Peak Name Change

Please consider this request from Monica Rudawski for the name of Harney's Peak to be changed to Black Elk Peak. Can it really be true that in this day and age we have become so unrelated to one another that we cannot see or feel the hurt that our Native American sisters and brothers consistently experience by the memorialization of a person who did such unspeakable harm to their great grandparents? Please listen deeply to your heart and hear the One Spirit that holds us all together, and change this name so that we may begin anew to restore a sense of trust and belief in our United States Government. Thank you.

Monica Rudawski  
13537 47th St. NW  
Annandale, MN 55302  
320-274-3512  
[minnesotamonica@yahoo.com](mailto:minnesotamonica@yahoo.com)

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Cj Heckmann <cj.heckmann@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 12:15 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Renaming Harney Peak

I am in favor of renaming Harney Peak. I do not think a sacred space should be named after someone who took so many lives. What a disgrace to the Native Americans who were here before whites and who respected and honored the land. Please rename it in order to put the honor where it so rightfully belongs.

Thank you!

Carol Heckmann

## Reiss, David

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**From:** Sue Nash <augsburgsue@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 12:35 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Black Elk vs Harney  
  
**Importance:** High

Dear Mr Reiss,

I am a Minnesota resident who has had the honor of climbing “Harney’s Peak” several times and celebrating the amazing heritage of the Native American people. I was saddened when I realized the real history of the military action of Harney and it pained me to think that we have named a beautiful and sacred national resource after a military man who’s actions exemplify that pain of the past. I realize also that the history of our settling this land is complex and not a one sided discussion. My husband is a direct decedent of William Bradford. I think it would honor those people who’s lives have been most affected by our expansion into the western territories and would be a small step of healing and respect for our fellow American’s who’s relatives lived in this land long before my ancestors cross the ocean to join in the blessing of being part of this great nation. Thank you for considering this name change to honor Black Elk.

Susan K Nash  
nash@augsbuurg.edu  
Professor Emeritus  
507-250-2282

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** amber king <amberking11@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 12:39 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Please rename Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak

Hello David Reiss,

I'm writing you this email in hopes that the area of Harney Peak will someday be known as Black Elk Peak. Black Elk Peak is a appropriate name for the highest peak in such sacred area of the black hills.

This is beautiful land, and right now its named after a man that has done horrific actions to woman and children. Calling it Black Elk peak will be lifting a shadow that has been in that area for way to long now.

Please let me know how I can help.

Thank you , and

Best regards,

Amber King

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Laura Bond <peeanogirl007@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 1:03 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Renaming Harney Peak

Dear Mr. Reiss,

I ask that you prayerfully consider the renaming of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. Please add my name to the list of those that heartily support this change.

Respectfully yours,  
Laura Bond  
River Falls, Wisconsin

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Mike K. <mkandaras@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 1:03 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Renaming Harney Peak

Hello,

I'm writing in support of the proposed change. I see many people urging you not to change "history", or saying that the actions of Col. Harney the man are entirely severed from the mountain we enjoy today.

The name was not ordained by God; it was given to the mountain by people as flawed as we are. We have the advantage, though, of historical context in retrospection, and we can undo poor choices of the past. Keeping Harney "alive" by attaching his legacy to one of the Black Hills' landmark sites isn't preserving our history - it's showing that we've been woefully unmoved to better our community by acknowledging our own past.

I think "Black Elk Peak" is a wonderful name, though I'm also amenable to the ideal that such 'eternal' places maybe shouldn't be named after individuals at all.

Thank you for your hard work,

Michael Kandaras  
Rapid City, SD

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Clares Well <clwell@lakedalelink.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 1:38 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** rename Harney Peak

It is appropriate that the lovely natural area now named Harney Peak have a name change. Harney's military career included terrible acts against women and children of Native America Families. How shameful to keep his name associated to precious native lands. Black Elk Peak is a much better name. Thank You. Carol Schmit, Annandale MN

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Brad McKinney <bradmckinney@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 1:44 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Black Elk Peak

In my opinion, we are long overdue in changing the name of Harney Peak. Black Elk Peak is a much more appropriate name of this major landmark here in Paha Sapa.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brad McKinney, President  
Snipe Unlimited  
Custer, SD

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Tina Falk <firehorsesixty6@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 2:21 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** It's time for Change...

Dear Mr Reiss,

I am just planning a road rip back to my home this summer, the Black Hills, when a friend of mine told me of the State Board's discussion about changing the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. It feels to me, that making this change, is the most conscientious and respectful thing to do, don't you?

Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to assist in making this change a reality.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Tina Falk

**Reiss, David**

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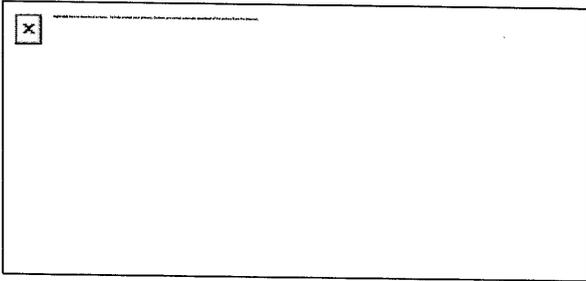
**From:** Christopher Quinn <CWQ@QuinnLawGroup.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 2:40 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Renaming Harney Peak

Dear Mr Reiss,

I would like to voice my support for the proposal to rename Harney Peak as Black Elk Peak. That was, and still is, sacred land to the native people. It should be named accordingly.

Sincerely,

**Christopher W. Quinn**



**Quinn Law Group, PLLC – Intellectual Property Law**  
39555 Orchard Hill Place, Ste. 520  
Novi, Michigan 48375  
[www.quinnlawgroup.com](http://www.quinnlawgroup.com)  
w. 248.380.9300  
f. 248.380.8968  
[cwq@quinnlawgroup.com](mailto:cwq@quinnlawgroup.com)

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**Reiss, David**

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**From:** John Zimms <john.zimms@lpl.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 3:14 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Haney Peak to Black Elk Peak

Dear Mr. Reiss

It is a shame that a peak in which Black Elk had done his Vision Quest be named Haney Peak. A man whose reputation to the Lakota is not different than Hitler's to the Jew's. It is a simple matter to change this name if one has the will and is looking to do the right thing.

Thank You for your listening to the needs of the Lakota people.

John Zimms

John W. Zimms, CFP®  
LPL Registered Principal  
140 Intracoastal Pointe Dr., Suite 207

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## Reiss, David

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**From:** nimbly <windwalker@frontiernet.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 3:35 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Changing Harney Peak

This area is sacred, and the name should reflect someone who honored the land, not someone who spilled the blood of innocent children.

Please consider the issues carefully. It is an honorable and unique opportunity.

Thank you,

Suzanne Schmidt

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S® 6, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Gayle Knopik <gayleknopik@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 3:37 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Harney Peak

Dear Mr. Reiss,

I can't say enough about how much I feel Harney Peak needs to be changed to Black Elk Peak The land is Sacred and needs to be treated as such.

Thank you

Gayle Knopik

Sent from my iPad

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Brad McKinney <bradmckinney@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 4:06 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Name change Harney Peak

As in many of our society's challenges, making positive changes, no matter how small, can be a step toward equality and justice in the world. I support the changing of the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. It is the respectful and honorable thing to do.

Connie McKinney

## Reiss, David

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**From:** Clares Well <clwell@lakedalelink.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 4:47 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Harney Peak ??

Dear David,

I've been following the situation in South Dakota – the lingering tinges of racism. Remnants of negative attitudes are still evident in the effort to retain the name of Harney Peak. I find it impossible to justify maintaining the antagonistic name of Harney, who committed atrocities against Native Americans, for a place sacred to this Native nation of peoples.

I urge you to do what you are able to re-name Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak.

God bless you.

Sister Jan Kilian  
Franciscan Sisters

## Reiss, David

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**From:** Doreen Mundie <dfmundie@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 5:54 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Rename Harney Peak

We tried to kill off our Native population, we starved them, attempted to destroy their culture, take their spiritual life from them, take their children from them.. this country tried.

Yet the Native Lakota People I know are the kindest, most deeply thinking, gentle people I have ever met. Why should they have a peak named for a man who tried to kill them, in their territory. It is beyond time, when we as a nation, should honor one of their Elders and leaders.

I urge you to take the name of Harney off of the Peak and declare the Name Black Elk Peat, in its place. It is the least we can do for the damage we did to an ancient culture and way past time! Black Elk was a HOLY man, a man who carried an honorable tradition forward.

We need to heal so much in this nation and renaming Harney Peak would be a good place to begin.

If you have not met Basil Brave Heart, then you have not met a man who is the highest spiritual being I have ever known. He should see his desire for this name change, in his life time. He works tirelessly for his people and also helps the people of the dominant culture with out judgement. I have never met a finer human being and if for no other reason than this, the name change should go forward, as a reward to him, for years and years of service to humans this nation had forgotten. He is a veteran and suffered the consequences of his service in Korea.

I hope you will have a chance to meet the finest human I have ever known. Please consider removing a peak, named for a killer with the name, Black Elk Peak. It will not be a mistake. Of course, the white folks in the area, will not like the change, but that is where justice and courage come in, on your part.

Thank-you,

Doreen Mundie

## Reiss, David

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**From:** Rod Anderson <mohawker68@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 7:40 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Fwd: Harney Peak name change

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Rod Anderson** <mohawker68@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Tue, Apr 21, 2015 at 4:12 PM  
**Subject:** Harney Peak name change  
**To:** [david.reiss@state.sd.us](mailto:david.reiss@state.sd.us)

I am opposed to renaming Harney Peak for the sake of political correctness. We have already changed the name of Shannon County and that was ok because it is mostly native american and the new name reflects tribal history. But now, because Harney maybe be offensive to a few a name change is suggested. The Indian wars were bloody to both sides and are now history. Where does this end. You could also say Terry peak is offensive and perhaps Custer State and even the town of Custer. You can't change history. This board should stick to its purpose regarding changing obvious offensive geographic names and not play politics to please a few. It will always be Harney Peak to me and if it were put to a vote of the people of South Dakota I suspect the name would stay.

Rod Anderson  
Rapid City SD

David - I just left the board meeting in Rapid City and wanted to share some comments my 11 year old grandson made to me regarding the name change. He said if naming it Harney is offensive couldn't calling it Black Elk peak also be offensive to some. His suggestion was name it after some geographic feature of the area or after some of the wildlife in the area which wouldn't be offensive to anyone.. After listening at the Rapid City meeting what my grandson said to me makes sense. If the decision is to change the name don't rename it after a person. Keep it neutral.

Rod Anderson

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Ben & Diana Walton <walt7200@att.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 8:05 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Changing name of Harney Peak

Dear Sir, I am writing concerning the name change of Harney Peak to Black Elk. I know that the black Hills and this area in particular are very sacred to the Lakota people and have been used for ceremonial purposes since they have been in the Black Hills. It does make sense to me to change the name to one that denotes the name of Black Elk...a person also most sacred to the Lakota. So, if there is a vote...I would vote in favor of changing the name. Sincerely, Diana Walton

P.S. I have spent a lot of time in South Dakota over the past 25 years and have dear friends among the Lakota people. I know how important this is to them.

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** kheimerl@new.rr.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 9:55 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Cc:** kheimerl@new.rr.com  
**Subject:** I am in favor of Renaming Harney Peak

Dear Mr. Reiss:

I am writing you to please support the initiative to rename Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. The atrocities committed by Harney are now well known and documented. It is a disgrace to the state of South Dakota and especially to the indigenous people there to honor this man who was responsible for slaughtering innocent women and children. Black Elk stood for the equality of all people. He supported a "rainbow tribe" of all races and an attitude of integration and acceptance. The fact that members of the Harney family also support this initiative speaks to it's justice and fairness. I strongly urge you to bring this to the committee for renaming landmarks and let them know the importance of making this change.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,  
Kay Heimerl

## Reiss, David

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**From:** Julie Kilpatrick <jkilpatrick@me.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 10:21 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Renaming of Harney Peak

We have been following the process of renaming Harney Peak. The Harney descendants are in favor of this. Renaming the peak would do a lot to help with reconciliation with the Lakota people. The Black Hills are sacred land to the Lakota. We urge you and others to see the reconciliatory value and honor to return claiming of the name back to the Lakota.

Thank you,  
Julie Kilpatrick  
Andrew Jenks  
1209 2nd St N  
Stillwater MN  
651-285-4251

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** hobowyo06@rtconnect.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 11:15 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Harney Peak renaming

Though I am not Native American, I am very proud of Dakota history. Instead of "Harney" or "Black Elk" why not Paha Sapa Peak. As it is in the Black Hills (Paha Sapa) and still gives it a native heritage (per the treaty). Just trying to be fair to both sides. Roberta Paul