

Reiss, David

From: Suzanne Schmidt <windwalker@frontiernet.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 10:38 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Changing Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak

So much of our history has been measured by wars fought. Now we have an opportunity to shift the remembrance to one of

Sent by iPhone

Reiss, David

From: Mark Clements <clem744@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 10:40 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Renaming Harney Peak

April 8, 2015

South Dakota Board on Graphic Names

Department of Tribal Relations

302 East Dakota

Pierre, SD 57501

RE: Renaming Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak

Dear David Reiss,

My wife and I want to tell you how important we think it is to change the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. General Harney was responsible for killing many Lakota people in the 1800's. We think it is a travesty to honor General Harney by naming the highest peak in the Black Hills after him. This peak is a very sacred peak to the Lakota people and we believe that its name should be changed to Black Elk Peak to acknowledge how sacred it is.

We also understand that the descendants of General Harney are in support of this name change. Please change the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak so the Lakota people do not have to continually relive the tragic history General Harney is responsible for.

Thank you,

Mark & Maggie Clements

5820 – 131st Street West
ople Valley, MN 55124

Reiss, David

From: Michelle Campanis <michelle.campanis@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 10:52 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Name Change of Harney Peak

Hello,

I am writing to express my support of the proposal to change the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. This is a wonderful opportunity for the State of South Dakota to take the lead in offering healing gestures to all Native American people in our nation. We are not able to change the past, but neither should we continue to honor men whose past actions promote shame and division to our present or future. I have grown to love the land and people of South Dakota from my numerous visits to the Black Hills, Badlands and Pine Ridge Reservation. I believe if people understand the history behind the name they cannot hesitate to support a name change.

I work for Belmont University and we faced a related issue several years ago when deciding to change our school mascot from the Rebels. It was a different situation, but our leaders recognized that any name or label that promoted, honored or glorified in any way a shameful part of our Nation's past must be changed to promote healing and reconciliation.

Please take this opportunity to have the name of this land match the sacred beauty that each person experiences when they are there.

Sincerely yours,

Michelle Bradley Campanis
3425B Richards Street
Nashville, TN 37215

Reiss, David

From: Sue Merritt <suemerritt49@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 11:16 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: SUPPORT - change the name of Harney Peak to BLACK ELK PEAK!

I am writing you to express my support for changing the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. As you are aware, this initiative is led by Basil Brave Heart of Pine Ridge, SD.

I was extremely troubled when I learned about Colonel Harney's role in the Blue Water Creek Massacre in September 1855, and other actions he took while serving in the U.S. Army. As a frequent visitor to South Dakota I find it highly offensive that this peak, located in the heart of one of the most beautiful state parks I have ever visited, should continue to be named after such an individual.

The fact that this peak was known to the Lakota as *Hinhan Kaga Paha* and played an important role in their spirituality, and that it is also the location where the Lakota holy man Black Elk received his vision, makes the current name even more offensive.

It is time that the South Dakota state government do the right thing and change the name to Black Elk Peak. In the face of all the injustices that have been done to the Lakota people throughout this country's history, this is a small but important step that the state can make to help right past wrongs, promote better understanding of the state's history, and improve relations with its Native American inhabitants.

This name change is really a very small thing to ask, but the symbolic significance is tremendous to the Lakota people. It is also extremely important to visitors to South Dakota like me. In fact, should the name not be changed to Black Elk Peak I would have to wonder why a state that is so eager to attract my tourism dollars would be unwilling to do what is clearly -- clearly -- the right thing in this situation.

Thank you!

Sue Merritt

Sue Merritt
Marketing, Communications, Events and Trade Shows
952-807-2508
<http://www.linkedin.com/in/suemerritt>

Reiss, David

From: Wessel Lori <loriw@pennco.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 11:56 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak name change

Please ***do not*** change the name of Harney Peak. It is a historical landmark in South Dakota and it would be a very sad day if that were to change.

Thank you!!

Lori

Lori Wessel
Deputy Auditor
Pennington County
130 Kansas City St. Suite 230
Rapid City, SD 57701
Phone: (605) 721-5584
Fax: (605) 394-6840
loriw@pennco.org

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Reiss, David

From: Doreen Mundie <dfmundie@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 12:33 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Renaming Harney Peak

In this nation, we generally neglect and forget the suffering of our Native Americans. We teach little of the history of abuse and murder they suffered or the attempted destruction of their culture, through death, boarding schools and refusal of rations when they did not attend a church. WE slaughtered women and children, looted their camps and make life for them intolerable. It was genocide.

In the recent Sequestration, the poorest of the poor, our Natives peoples were hit the hardest of any group. Yet, proportionally, they volunteer for military services at a much higher rate than any other group.

If we honored them and their proud history, by changing the name Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak, we would go a long way in acknowledging that they deserve recognition and support. It seems that having a high peak to look up to named for a man responsible for slaughtering Native Americans, who were struggling for their very existence is a gross insult to these proud people and their earth connected ways.

This nation has always been short on compassion for these amazing people. This is the least we can do to acknowledge their right to a strong pride in their heritage.

I have frequently visited a family on Pine Ridge and find them to be the kindest, most generous, grounded people I have ever encounter. The problems the tribes have, come from this countries efforts to disconnect them from their culture. Now it is time to rename Harney Peak and acknowledge all that is good, about our Native American citizens. Please put yourself in their position. Young people commit suicide in way to many Reservations, this is will be one small step to show these children that this nations honors them as human beings.

Thank-you,

Doreen Mundie RN

Reiss, David

From: Harlan Strong <harlanstrong@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 1:27 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Another Email

Supporting the name change for Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak.

This is all part of **Reconciliation** which SD and the US in general is terribly last and remiss in addressing.

Regards,
Harlan+

The Rev. Harlan Strong
(612)749-6810
harlanstrong@comcast.net

Reiss, David

From: Janice Zvail <starluta@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 1:29 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Black Elk Peak

Hello. My name is Janice Zvail and I have dear friends on Pine Ridge.
I'm greatly in support of renaming Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak out of respect to the Native Americans who have contributed so much to our nation.

Thank you very much for your consideration. Be well!

Reiss, David

From: Rebecca Leas <rrleas@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 1:39 PM
To: Reiss, David
Cc: Rebecca Leas
Subject: Harney Peak

Dear Mr. Reiss,

I strongly support the changing of Harney Peak to a more culturally sensitive name. After reading the biographical data on William Selby Harney - it honestly is disgusting that the highest and most special peak in SD be named after him. As a historian has noted, Harney's actions both off and on the field were reprehensible under any standard of human decency. He was, even for that era, an unnecessarily violent man who is not worthy of this geographical honor bestowed upon him. It is incumbent upon us to rectify this misdeed and name the peak something honorable and historically related to our Native American Lakota people. The disregard for treaties by our government is a heinous black-mark on the historical record - let's "do the right thing" and re-name Harney peak.

Sincerely,
Rebecca R. Leas

Dr. Rebecca R. Leas, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus
Health Education Specialist
Rapid City, SD 57702
605-791-2951

"It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends on his not understanding it" --Upton Sinclair

Reiss, David

From: bapatchin@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 1:51 PM
To: Reiss, David
Cc: highs777@gmail.com
Subject: Black Elk Peak

Dear Mr. Reiss,

We want to voice our complete support of renaming Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. This renaming is very important to us. We view it as the right thing to do and is long overdue.

Respectfully,

Rita and Bruce Patchin
195 Casa Palmero Way
Mesquite, NV 89027

Reiss, David

From: Sherrie Whitehead <swista@mac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 3:09 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Black Elk Peak

South Dakota Board on Graphic Names
Department of Tribal Relations
302 East Dakota
Pierre, SD 57501
email: david.reiss@state.sd.us

I hope you are having a good day.
I am writing in support of changing the name of Haney Peak to Black Elk Peak.
Please lend your voice to this beautiful and sacred message.

"I was standing on the highest mountain of them all, and round about beneath me was the whole hoop of the world.
And while I stood there I saw more than I can tell and I understood more than I saw; for I was seeing in a sacred manner
the shapes of all things in the spirit, and the shape of all shapes as they must live together like one being."

Black Elk described his Great Vision on Okawita Paha (Harney Peak)

Thank you for listening and blessings.

Sherrie Whitehead

CFCC Dept. Of Humanities and Fine Arts
Wilmington,
North Carolina
910-233-2130

Reiss, David

From: Thomas Anthony Penna <tompenna@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 3:18 PM
To: Reiss, David
Cc: highs777@gmail.com
Subject: Renaming Harney Peak

This email is in support of changing the name "Harney Peak" to "Black Elk Peak."

Black Elk Peak aligns more with the sacred qualities of the land. The story behind Black Elk Peak inspires reverence of life and nature. The name Harney connects to an era in our history when treaties were broken and indigenous peoples were displaced.

Mitakuye Oyasin

Tom Penna

Reiss, David

From: Patty Bordeaux Nelson <patty3471@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 3:41 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak Name Change

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
SD DEPARTMENT OF TRIBAL RELATIONS
302 EAST DAKOTA
PIERRE, SD

MR. REISS:

I AM AN ENROLLED MEMBER OF THE ROSEBUD SIOUX TRIBE; I LIVE IN MADISON, SD. I HAVE BEEN MADE AWARE OF THE PROPOSED NAME CHANGE FOR HARNEY PEAK. I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE IT KNOWN THAT I SUPPORT THE NAME OF HINHAN KAGA (THE MAKING OF OWLS) FOR HARNEY PEAK. I WOULD ASK THOSE THAT ARE MAKING THIS DECISION TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER LYDIA WHIRLWIND SOLDIER'S STATEMENT FOR THE NAME OF HINHAN KAGA. IT MAKES SENSE TO NAME THE PEAK BASED ON OUR HISTORY AND RELATIONSHIP TO THE LAND AS FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE OF SOUTH DAKOTA.

FURTHER MORE, WHEN MOUNT RUSHMORE WAS CONSTRUCTED ON OUR SACRED BLACK HILLS; I AM NOT AWARE THAT WE AS THE NATIVES OF THIS LAND WERE ASKED IF WE APPROVED OF THE SCULPTURES. WHITE AMERICA RECOGNIZES THE FACES AS SYMBOLS OF THEIR HISTORY. HOWEVER, FOR WE AS NATIVES OF THIS LAND, THE FACES REMIND US OF OUR HISTORIC TRAUMA. I BELIEVE THAT TO ASK THAT THE NAME OF HARNEY PEAK TO BE NAMED HINHAN KAGA IS A SMALL GESTURE OF RECONCILIATION TO THE THE FIRST NATIONS OF SOUTH DAKOTA. IT WOULD BE SHOWING HONOR AND RESPECT TO THE NATIVES OF THIS LAND. ALL TO OFTEN OUR VOICE IS OVERLOOKED AND IT IS TIME IN SOUTH DAKOTA TO SHOW HONOR AND RESPECT TO LAKOTA, DAKOTA, AND NAKOTA NATIONS OF SOUTH DAKOTA.

I WOULD ASK THAT MY COMMENT BE INCLUDED AS PART OF YOUR DOCUMENTATION REGARDING THIS NAME CHANGE. I REGRET I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE MAY 5TH MEETING IN FLANDREAU, SD.

I RESPECTFULLY SUBMIT MY COMMENT IN FAVOR OF THE NAME CHANGE TO HINHAN KAGA.

PILAMIYA (THANK YOU)
PATTY BORDEAUX NELSON
520 SE 4TH STREET
MADISON, SD 57042
605-256-4116
605-270-3471
patty3471@hotmail.com

Reiss, David

From: Meyer, Casualene
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 4:14 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Inquiry from SDBGN website

Greetings, Mr. Reiss:

I support renaming Harney Peak *The Making of Owls*. Yes, it's not a quick name, but I don't have a quick name, either, but it fits me ☺.

Please let's honor the sacred land with a good name.

Best Regards,
Casualene Meyer

Casualene Meyer, PhD
adjunct instructor of English
Dakota State University
820 N. Washington Ave.
Madison, SD 57042
605.256.5270

Tolle lege

Reiss, David

From: Aplan, Kathy
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 4:33 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: FW: Co-Mentor for August 2-6 Oak Lake Writers' Retreat

David Reiss,

Received this from Lowell Amiotte.

From: Amiotte, Lowell
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 4:16 PM
To: Aplan, Kathy; 'Bordeaux, Shawn'; Cody Russell (codyrussell@lowerbrule.net); Emery, Steve; Dan Prue (dan.prue@pergroup.com); Thin elk, Gene; 'jtakenalive@standingrock.org'; Herrera, Jesse; 'Green, James'; 'Karen Comeau'; 'kippey51@yahoo.com'; Schad, Laura; Twiss, Maurice; 'mabel picotte'; 'mato@oncllc.com'; Stacy Phelps (phelpsstacy@gmail.com); 'lamiotte12@gmail.com'
Subject: FW: Co-Mentor for August 2-6 Oak Lake Writers' Retreat

FYI-- Lowell

hello, Everyone,

Please help support the name change of Harney Peak to Hinhan Kaga.

Here is an excerpt from Lydia Whirlwind Soldier:

"Went to the Land and Natural committee mtg today. We talked about the renaming of Harney Peak. We are hoping it is given its original name Hinhan Kaga which translate to The Making of Owls. Named because of the many rock formations shaped like owls - the formations are even clearer at nights. It is connected to our creation stories - thousands of years old. Those who do not know this history are suggesting that it be renamed Black Elk Peak. I hope we stick with our history and traditions."

and also from Lydia:

"We passed a resolution when I was on council to change the name back to its traditional name so a copy of the resolution will be sent to Pennington Co. with a cover letter. But we need people to give testimony."

So, how do we help get the name changed? There are a series of meetings that the South Dakota Board of Geographic Names is holding throughout the state this month. Public comments will be taken at those meetings. But, if you cannot make it to a meeting, then please send in a written comment/email to the addresses listed below.

Comments should be submitted no later than May 1, 2015. A comment form is available upon request or can be downloaded from the SDBGN website: <http://www.sdbgn.sd.gov/>

Please send comments and recommendations to:

South Dakota Board on Geographic Names

South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations

302 East Dakota

Pierre, SD 57501

Phone: 605-773-3415

FAX: 605-773-6592

Email: David.Reiss@state.sd.us

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

Deanna Stands

Imagination is more important than knowledge.

Albert Einstein

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

RECEIVED

Proposed Name(s): Black Elk Peak

APR 08 2015

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:

- 1) TOO MUCH COST
- 2) WASTE OF TIME WHEN THERE ARE MORE PRESSING ISSUES
- 3) TOURISTS WILL BE CONFUSED AND THERE IS GOOD HISTORY BEHIND THE NAME,

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: GREGORY WERNER
Title (if representing organization or public entity):
Organization or Public Entity (if applicable):
Mailing Address: 25328 BEAVER LAKE ROAD, CUSTER, SD
Telephone: 563-580-9090 57730
Email Address: buffwerner@aol.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/>

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

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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:

- 1) Cost
 - 2) Waste of time & resources to change names of maps, signs, etc that could be spent on better projects.
 - 3) Will cause confusion to out of state visitors having older literature.
 - 4) History as it currently stands
 - 5) Money is tight. This is foolish spending.
- Connie Werner
25328 Beaver Lake Rd
Custer, SD 57730
563-580-6844
headforthehills52@gmail.com

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:

Leave As Is

Origin/Meaning of Name:

Leave as is

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

=====

Submitted by:

Name:

Connie Werner

Title (if representing organization or public entity):

Organization or Public Entity (if applicable):

Mailing Address:

Telephone:

Email Address:

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/>