

## Reiss, David

---

**From:** Delbert Blocker <dblocker@rtconnect.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2015 9:51 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Harney Peak name change

It has been Harney Peak forever. Let's just leave it that way and not confuse people with a name that most people can't even pronounce. Thank you. Delbert Blocker

**Reiss, David**

---

**From:** DAVE STONE <dlstone@rushmore.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2015 10:00 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** do not change

Hi please leave harney peak the name of he tallest moutain between the Rockies to Mt. Everest. I hope you will not change the name because in his day and time he was a brave man in the military of the United States of America. thank you

## Reiss, David

---

**From:** Schorn, Timothy <Timothy.Schorn@usd.edu>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 20, 2015 12:14 AM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Renaming Harney Peak

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

I know that you have a difficult decision to make at the end of this month. It is my hope that you will help the state of South Dakota address in some small part the historical treatment of the native people of our state. While many in our state may find "Hinhan Kaga" to be uncomfortable or even objectionable, like any other new name it will become more accepted over time. If a new name is chosen and it is not Hinhan Kaga, let the new name be sensitive to the history of this state and the history of the Balck Hills.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Tim

Timothy J. Schorn, JD, PhD  
Associate Professor of Political Science  
Director, International Studies Program  
Director, MA in Political Science  
University of South Dakota  
414 East Clark Street  
Vermillion, SD 57069-2390 USA  
Ph: 605-677-5707  
Fax: 605-677-8808



## Reiss, David

---

**From:** outlook\_36786ec074409934@outlook.com on behalf of Maria Talsma  
<mktalsma@gwtc.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 20, 2015 12:49 AM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** RE: NO to Harney Peak Name Change

NO , I am apposed to changing the "Historical" name of Harney Peak. Please leave history HISTORY. Just because somebody's "offended" isn't a good enough reason to change anything. It just shows people don't want to deal with anything so "we just change it to our liking". People have almost forgotten the whole beginning of history, they keep changing it and nobody will know nothing. I, as a tax payer, am really offended by this myself and think there are more important issues that need to be taken care of with taxpayer money. Changing historical names isn't one of them. History is history leave it alone so our kids know how things "originally" were. We need more people willing to work at a job than doing nonsense like this. This isn't a job, it's for self-gratification so they can make their "own history". I'm glad I read the Kennebec paper this week, or I would not have known this. LEAVE IT ALONE and move on to more important things. Thank you.

## Reiss, David

---

**From:** Shannon Freed <shannonfreed@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 20, 2015 1:23 AM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Please approve name change for Harney Peak  
**Attachments:** popesTwoCents.tiff

Dear Mr. Reiss,

Lakota lands were stolen and sacred spaces and plain sites as well were named after the men who helped steal them. These places were named for men who committed terrible atrocities to Lakota women and children. Help begin to right this wrong with a simple name change. This is the name that the Lakota people have for this mountain. It was not uncharted territory in need of a name. It is a sacred site for the Lakota and should be called as such by everyone. You wouldn't go and rename the Sistine Chapel would you? Even the pope acknowledges indigenous peoples and acknowledges our need for change... just check his twitter feed from June 18 (attached is a screen shot of one of his posts from that day).

Thank you,

--

Shannon Freed  
Founder/Director  
Earth Tipi  
408-859-4624  
[earthtipi.org](http://earthtipi.org)

For information on mixing your own plaster from all natural materials check out:  
[What Raven Says](#)

## Reiss, David

---

**From:** Galen Niederwerder <gniederwerder@meadecounty.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 20, 2015 7:25 AM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Cc:** Bob Bertolotto; Alan Aker; Jerry Derr; Linda Rausch; Alan Aker; Robert Heidgerken  
**Subject:** Harney Peak

Dear Mr. Reiss:

As a boy growing up in the 1960's on a Meade County farm/ranch near Hereford herding cows, planting corn, working summer fallow, coming in from milking in the fall and winter, it was my privilege to always have Harney Peak in my line of vision. I watched storm clouds gather over the mountain almost every day during the summer, before moving out over the plains to unleash their fury. One of the most vivid memories I have is the incredibly menacing black cloud, the likes of which I have not seen since, hovering over the Hills on June 9, 1972, while I finished planting corn. In the fall and winter, I watched spectacular sunsets take place over the peak.

In 2009, my wife, Donna, and I were privileged to build a new home on the bluffs overlooking Elk Creek near Viewfield. Once again, I have the opportunity to gaze upon Harney Peak through my office and living room windows, and while I'm in my tractor out in the fields. If the blinds are closed in the morning while I have my first cup of coffee, I must open them to be able to see this landmark which has come to mean so much to me. Even hearing the name Harney Peak mentioned brings feelings of peace and comfort.

Is it a "spiritual" connection I feel with the mountain, as so many proponents of a name change have claimed - many of whom have never even seen it? No; I do not project spirituality on to something created, only on the Creator. But I sure do have a strong emotional connection to the mountain - and to its name.

Hearing the name Harney Peak mentioned brings to mind the image of the mountain, not some rogue general who died over 100 years ago. I have read many of the comments submitted to your office, and I'm saddened that some peoples' sensibilities are so easily offended; and that some feel we must somehow make amends to promote some elusive sort of reconciliation, or some unobtainable sort of justice to atone for actions that occurred way over a century ago.

Resist the urge of being politically correct, I implore you. Keep the name as it is, I ask you. But, if you all feel it absolutely must be changed, then add my support for the name "Harmony Peak." That's close enough to the present name that it has a good chance of being adopted by the people who will continue to live in the shadow of the mountain. And it promotes true reconciliation; changing it to Hinhan Kaga or some other name that honors only one group of people will only cause more division, and feelings of resentment. Nobody I know gave a tinker's dam about changing the name of Shannon County to Oglala Lakota County; the people who live there should decide that. But Harney Peak belongs to all the people. Honor everyone or no one, if you must change the name of this beloved mountain.

The above is my personal opinion, and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Meade County Commission.

Sincerely,

Galen Niederwerder  
Meade County Commissioner  
District 1

## Reiss, David

---

**From:** Monica S. McGowan <msmcgowan@integraonline.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 20, 2015 9:16 AM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Renaming of Harney Peak

Dear David:

I am registering my opposition in renaming Harney Peak.

I do not believe the name should be changed. The history of our nation is its history and the settlement and discovery of landmarks in this part of the country should remain as they have been named.

Time, effort and funds could better be spent on the education and inclusion of the people of this country rather than spending the funds necessary to find and rename all the instances in which Harney Peak currently appears.

In deference to the gentlemen who initially raised the issue: there are other areas in the Black Hills that recognize the cultures that have called the Black Hills, Paha Sapa, their home, ancestral and current "settlers."

Sincerely,  
Monica S. McGowan

born in Rapid City, South Dakota  
raised in Custer, South Dakota  
currently residing in Lakeville, Minnesota but still have property near Custer, South Dakota

## Reiss, David

---

**From:** Rhonda Cordonnier <kolana@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 20, 2015 9:21 AM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Cc:** Paul Stover Soderman; Cathie Soderman  
**Subject:** Final List: Submitting signatures to support the campaign to rename Harney Peak  
**Attachments:** Final List in favor of changing name of Harney Peak 06202015.xlsx

Good morning!

Thank you for your confirmation - and my apologies for the piece-mail way of giving these to you. This is my first time leading a campaign via Causes.com - next time I will know better.

This is the final list from me for the names who are in favor of changing the name of Harney Peak - total 128 signatures. I have highlighted in green the new ones that were collected since my last submission.

To be very clear, there are other sources who are giving their input and so this is not an inclusive list, just the ones that I have collected through the [causes.com](http://causes.com) campaign.

Again, thank you for all your time and attention and for the work you do that ensures every voice is heard and properly processed through the system.

Blessings  
Rhonda

On Tue, Jun 16, 2015 at 1:04 PM, Reiss, David <[David.Reiss@state.sd.us](mailto:David.Reiss@state.sd.us)> wrote:

Ms. Cordonnier,

I am in receipt of your submission for public comment to be considered by the SD Board on Geographic Names pertaining to the Harney Peak name change proposal, the final cutoff date for comment is June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Best Regards,

David Reiss

SDBGN Administrator and Secretary

**From:** Rhonda Cordonnier [<mailto:kolana@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2015 3:24 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Cc:** Mark Clements; Rhonda Cordonnier  
**Subject:** IMPORTANT: More names to Submitting signatures to support the campaign to rename Harney Peak

We have 16 more names to add to the list making a total of 81 voices speaking in favor of changing the name of Harney Peak.

I am not sure when the cutoff is so when you receive this update can you please confirm you have received the signatures and also tell me when the cutoff is?

Many thanks

Rhonda

On Mon, Jun 15, 2015 at 7:02 AM, Rhonda Cordonnier <[kolana@gmail.com](mailto:kolana@gmail.com)> wrote:

Good morning,

Attached is a list of 65 people, their names and contact information (PDF and CSV format) that have been collected in favor of changing the name of Harney Peak to the original Lakota name for the mountain: Making the Sacred Owl Hill.

Please add these names to the others who are in support of this name change.

If you have any questions please contact me directly and thank you for your kind assistance.

With blessings and much respect for all you do for so many.

Rhonda Cordonnier

6735 Knight Drive

Colorado Springs, CO 80918

(719) 641-2114

--

\*\*\*\*\*

"You have to be willing to give up the life you've planned for in order to live the life that's waiting for you." ~  
Joseph Campbell

--

\*\*\*\*\*

"You have to be willing to give up the life you've planned for in order to live the life that's waiting for you." ~  
Joseph Campbell

--

\*\*\*\*\*

"You have to be willing to give up the life you've planned for in order to live the life that's waiting for you." ~  
Joseph Campbell

Number	User	Name	Zip Code	Country	Created At
1		97809768 Rhonda Cordonnier		80918 United States	05/15/2015
2		79831373 James Hamp		80241 United States	05/15/2015
3		70854754 Nicole Spencer		80236 United States	05/15/2015
4		85795820 Colorado Haze		80817 United States	05/15/2015
5		55351011 Shauna Zeck		50701 United States	05/15/2015
6		58548556 Christina Castle		46808 United States	05/15/2015
7		84334434 Maureen Brucker		80634 United States	05/15/2015
8		143161862 Don Baumgartner		59801 United States	05/15/2015
9		150277524 Aquene Oceans		43039 Italy	05/16/2015
10		119240637 Julia Holleran		93020 United States	05/17/2015
11		135427397 Bill Clark		86403 United States	05/17/2015
12		183254180 Cathy Botha		1450 South Africa	05/18/2015
13		71666017 Susan Domitrz Sapienza		48183 United States	05/20/2015
14		189093391 Bhabani Sankar Sahoo		110007 India	05/23/2015
15		165467200 Mardi Strong		99507 United States	05/26/2015
16		189095867 Laura Rollin		80831 United States	05/27/2015
17		187257720 Ketty Ahern		93020 United States	05/30/2015
18		188173262 Luke Ahern		93020 United States	06/02/2015
19		22597302 Terry Rudd	LS9 6JX	United Kingdom	06/06/2015
20		189101607 Doris Franklin		29160 United States	06/07/2015
21		182705893 Abdul Malik Khan		60645 United States	06/07/2015
22		123200030 LuAnn Giunta		6880 United States	06/07/2015
23		143698614 Trina Lilbit Hawkins		51106 United States	06/07/2015
24		61031966 Carolyn Palmer	BN3 8BL	United Kingdom	06/07/2015
25		181662863 Samir Allariha		972 Israel	06/07/2015
26		182325113 Luise Behr		68794 Germany	06/07/2015
27		160999552 Barbara Hoskins		32405 United States	06/07/2015
28		148057482 Linda Smigelski		7304 United States	06/07/2015
29		188455745 Eva PlzÄĭkovÄĭ	332 02	Czech Republic	06/08/2015
30		188179634 Natan Khambu Kirat		9771 Nepal	06/08/2015
31		188591778 Wilma Lagrand	4451RN	Netherlands	06/08/2015
32		189042141 Petra Egging	6836 hd netherlands	Netherlands	06/08/2015
33		137267411 Sylvia Ferro	33126-5030	United States	06/08/2015

34	189074770	Curt Maes		8530	Belgium	06/08/2015
35	187904404	Maya Wolfgang		12240130	Brazil	06/08/2015
36	185941754	Willem Kom	9602vd		Netherlands	06/08/2015
37	74911493	Lisbeth Jensen		9330	Denmark	06/08/2015
38	76369511	Macropod Whisperer Antje Struth		4214	Australia	06/09/2015
39	133961752	Jana AxamÃ-tovÃj KlaudivÃj		90203	Slovakia	06/09/2015
40	110157006	Ile Minculescu		70000	Romania	06/09/2015
41	187722794	Lutz Kollbach			Germany	06/09/2015
42	188201966	Iris Cornet	2352RD		Netherlands	06/09/2015
43	189087688	Ioana Anca			Romania	06/09/2015
44	188144291	Sigrid Altmann	5020 salzburg		Austria	06/09/2015
45	21695739	Roberta Limoli Barufaldi		1803	United States	06/09/2015
46	183192293	Jenny Bron	1506 kd		Netherlands	06/09/2015
47	182330731	Michael Foster		25430	United States	06/09/2015
48	99249939	Maria Schulz		300424	Romania	06/09/2015
49	182223207	Manuela Wolter		50309	Costa Rica	06/09/2015
50	188792692	jolanda meier	3181za		Netherlands	06/09/2015
51	186878639	Ingrid Benker	benkeringa@googlemail.com		Germany	06/10/2015
52	106487188	Judy La Hair		81143	United States	06/10/2015
53	189103515	Luke Cammack		80904	United States	06/10/2015
54	85130997	Rose M Romero		80911	United States	06/10/2015
55	188860731	Antje Lorenz		42113	Germany	06/10/2015
56	188823992	Eduardo En Ingrid Ruiz	1015SX		Netherlands	06/11/2015
57	187175691	Angelina Stoycheva		31513	Spain	06/11/2015
58	139043343	Marleen Geudens		22605	Belgium	06/12/2015
59	188859382	SunWolf Chaney		95632	United States	06/12/2015
60	189104809	Daniel Cordonnier		80918	United States	06/12/2015
61	189104825	Karen Murray		80921	United States	06/12/2015
62	55916425	Marc Rogers		80918	United States	06/13/2015
63	189104994	Phoenix Armijo		87505	United States	06/13/2015
64	179480654	Maria Keranez Carpentieri	Keranez@hotmail.com		Brazil	06/14/2015
65	186430151	Lisa Ernst		59638	United States	06/14/2015
66	147516511	Susan Mattson		59601	United States	06/15/2015
67	109893933	Laura Stone		55609	United States	06/15/2015

68	51043473	Randall Wallace	94114	United States	06/15/2015
69	126437318	Sonny Bass	59635	United States	06/15/2015
70	137158573	Peter Spooner	55804	United States	06/15/2015
71	27966285	Molly Luna Iris	97146	United States	06/15/2015
72	184076381	Maren Souders	97206	United States	06/15/2015
73	188237779	Alison Tibbals	85711	United States	06/15/2015
74	16841684	Ellen Galbreath	85719	United States	06/15/2015
75	50355115	Hortensia Pohm MacLeod	55057	United States	06/15/2015
76	23720729	T. Michael Rock	55422	United States	06/15/2015
77	123455361	Linda Gryczan	59601	United States	06/15/2015
78	47997205	David Weiss	55104	United States	06/15/2015
79	186551195	Karen Brokken	97223	United States	06/15/2015
80	43337498	Carol Thurston Martin	50010	United States	06/15/2015
81	42680049	Phil Robison	59601	United States	06/15/2015
82	104265191	Fred Langan	80910	United States	06/15/2015
83	104108258	Jacqui Ireland	80903	United States	06/15/2015
84	48877233	Naomi Nemtzow	11215	United States	06/15/2015
85	188969346	Scott Vaala	80906	United States	06/15/2015
86	93049959	Brian Herzog	50613	United States	06/15/2015
87	146840944	Rubie Merten	52217	United States	06/15/2015
88	179954198	Cynthia Bryson	80919	United States	06/15/2015
89	139672624	Roger Slattery	52003	United States	06/15/2015
90	34393264	Kathleen Ely	59601	United States	06/15/2015
91	110659748	Ruth Rouvier	95841	United States	06/15/2015
92	160345304	Alex Idontplaygames Stuart	52079	United States	06/15/2015
93	75613932	Sandra Bailey	83835	United States	06/15/2015
94	188570572	Joy Maes	87110	United States	06/15/2015
95	26710235	Leslie McClain	97202	United States	06/16/2015
96	187591283	Priska Jaeger	4103	Switzerland	06/16/2015
97	107341819	Cathie Quigley-Soderman	80301	United States	06/16/2015
98	71014403	Cynthia Quigley	98239	United States	06/16/2015
99	83855110	Paul Prilik	80904	United States	06/16/2015
100	51574141	Joanne Mcguire-Baxley	80020	United States	06/16/2015
101	55226129	Jeb Bennett	80304	United States	06/16/2015

102	4407510 Shaunti Lallyiam	94117 United States	06/16/2015
103	181865318 Kevin Hamilton	94061 United States	06/16/2015
104	79176212 Nye Galloway	80829 United States	06/16/2015
105	44082589 Tara Martinette O'Leary	8628 United States	06/16/2015
106	78392311 Woody Vaspra	80301 United States	06/16/2015
107	49516758 Tim Holmes	59601 United States	06/16/2015
108	27324771 Kathleen M. Daily	80005 United States	06/16/2015
109	96503823 George Quigley	46143 United States	06/16/2015
110	5170363 Holly Taylor	66018 United States	06/16/2015
111	169671687 Nicola Winters	Ireland	06/17/2015
112	130023157 Theresa Best	8540 United States	06/17/2015
113	186787167 Joyanna Laughlin	85704 United States	06/17/2015
114	32322341 Marian Salley	80304 United States	06/17/2015
115	57306786 Hossein Forouzandeh	80917 United States	06/17/2015
116	26543305 Kelly Newlon	80301 United States	06/17/2015
117	185134334 Helen Blundon Cheromcka	18938 United States	06/17/2015
118	98420092 Paul Soderman	80301 United States	06/17/2015
119	182219478 Charlene Altrichter	80905 United States	06/18/2015
120	187145687 Walter Martin	80212 United States	06/18/2015
121	183194688 Rani Klose	5074 Australia	06/18/2015
122	28543949 Rosie Mocerì	80304 United States	06/18/2015
123	34943161 Laura Bruess	80301 United States	06/18/2015
124	104321966 Sherry Chen Yu Shen	Canada	06/18/2015
125	15051351 Brittany Elizabeth Salley-Rains	59801 United States	06/19/2015
126	186899528 Thomas Ingerick	85750 United States	06/19/2015
127	189111064 Kat Moriarty	80027 United States	06/19/2015
128	47182046 Mitch Baum	7751 United States	06/19/2015

**Reiss, David**

---

**From:** Wade McIntyre <wademcintyre@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 20, 2015 9:38 AM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Renaming of Harney Peak

I am fully supportive of renaming Harney Peak to Hinhan Kaga. We should continue to honor and repair our relationships with indigenous people and work to return the respect and honor to their lands that we violently stripped from them through years of murder, abuse, and mistrust.

--

Wade McIntyre  
1921 W 18th St  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105  
605-310-8485

## Reiss, David

---

**From:** First Stop, Inc <strum@Rapidcity.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 20, 2015 10:10 AM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Harney Peak name change

Dear Sirs,  
I have lived in South Dakota my entire life. I think the name of Harney Peak should not be changed. Thank you.  
Mark Blote  
701 Main St  
Rapid City  
S.D.



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.  
[www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

**Reiss, David**

---

**From:** AJ Kumar <aakumar@fas.harvard.edu>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 20, 2015 1:40 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Proposed Name Change for Harney Peak

To the South Dakota Board of Geographic Names;

I am writing to express my support for the change of the name of Harney Peak to Hinhan Kaga.

I grew up in the Black Hills and still return often to see my family and friends. I have climbed the peak more times than I can remember with family, friends, and visitors from out of the state. I have read the public comments on this topic, and I saw that some are concerned that the name Hinhan Kaga is too difficult to pronounce or that changing the name would cause confusion, especially for tourists. I respectfully disagree because there are many names that derive from Native American languages that we have no problem with, like Manhattan and Massachusetts. I also think the name Hinhan Kaga would make the peak more unique and more memorable for tourists.

Perhaps more importantly, the name change is about respect. It shows respect for the Lakota people and respect for ourselves as South Dakotans who will no longer need to feel embarrassed when someone asks them, "Who is Harney and why did you name a mountain after him?"

Sincerely,  
A.J. Kumar

## Reiss, David

---

**From:** Wounded Knee Museum <info@woundedkneemuseum.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 20, 2015 2:08 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Cc:** info@woundedkneemuseum.org  
**Subject:** Harney Peak Name Change - SD Statement  
**Attachments:** HARNEY PEAK SD STATEMENT\_.docx

<="" td="">

Please see the attached statement regarding Harney Peak name change.

Thank you,

Steve Wyant

Wounded Knee The Museum  
<http://www.woundedkneemuseum.org>  
<http://blog.woundedkneemuseum.org>  
BOX 348 600 Main St, Wall, South Dakota 57790

I stand with the Lakota elder, Basil Brave Heart, in his petition for the changing of the name of Harney Peak in South Dakota.

The historical record is clear for those that have studied this record that created the events leading to General Harney's slaughter of Lakota in 1855, and the RENAMING of the peak by a subservient officer of his command for his superior. Although the renaming by the topographical engineer was not contested at the time, this was not a widespread protocol. Colorado extensively consulted with native tribes to establish a naming convention for mountain peaks. Lakota or any tribe would be the last consultants desired by the topographical engineer for they were seen as impediments to European settlements.

The United States Board of Geographic Names with the resources of Historical Societies and the Smithsonian has an opportunity to shine a light on the events leading to naming of Harney Peak and recommend a reconsideration of this appellation.

In the absence of an impetuous lieutenant's murder of a Lakota chief in 1854, there would not have been a massacre of Lakota at Blue Water Creek. Military authorities and politicians agreed at the time that Lieutenant Grattan's actions were self-destructive.

Lieutenant Warren subsequently named the peak and possibly accumulated possessions of the victims and forwarded these to the fledgling Smithsonian Institution for display. If documented, these should be returned to Lakota under NAGPRA.

The Smithsonian's and National Archive's curators, researchers and archivists' will recognize this massacre of Lakota as a crime against humanity-although in 1855-and agree with prominent South Dakota historian, Doane Robinson, "...the battle of Ash Hollow (Blue Water Creek) was a shameful affair, unworthy of American arms and a disgrace to the officer who planned and executed it."

Should South Dakota, Florida, Washington, Nebraska and others reconsider Harney's appellation on their geographic features and roadways? I believe they should be reconsidered, and we should begin in South Dakota.

Steve Wyant  
Wounded Knee, The Museum

## Reiss, David

---

**From:** Barbara Landers <barbland@rushmore.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 20, 2015 2:20 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Cc:** flossiek2012@yahoo.com; aaa AAA; joshua2415@dishmail.net; ebbersw@rap.midco.net; Eldon Rice; gopherbroke@reagan.com; Jeb Bordewyk; Jody Frye Byington ; Mike & Julie Mueller  
**Subject:** Name Change for Harney Peak

To: The Members of the South Dakota Board of Geographic Names

The members of South Dakota Citizens for Liberty, Inc. have voted unanimously to oppose the effort to change the name of Harney Peak.

If we begin a process of changing the names of places that segments of our contemporary society deem offensive, where does the process end? One or two generations from now when tastes and moods of the culture change once more do we again rename, and then again and again to satisfy current opinion or to placate a new set of offended parties?

We believe that every wrong cannot be made right by second guessing our ancestors. General William S. Harney, for whom Harney Peak is named, had a long and distinguished career in the US military. He followed the orders of his superiors and did his duty. If those orders were sometimes ill advised that does not reflect on his honorable service to his country.

Changing the name of Harney Peak is a poor precedent to set.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Mueller

President, SDCFL, Inc.

**Reiss, David**

---

**From:** Jan Steinle <liberty785@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 20, 2015 6:18 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Harney name change

Leave the name unchanged.

The suggested owl name is too long and confusing.

Sioux Indians were not the first native people in the Hills. They have no more first naming rights than white folks.

Jan

## Reiss, David

---

**From:** Ed Trigg <sdtowerguy@rushmore.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 20, 2015 6:35 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Inquiry from SDBGN website

Concerning changing the name of Harney Peak. WHAT ARE YOU DOING? What next? Change the name of Custer county (named after General Custer)?

Washington and Jefferson owned slaves, should we erase them from Mt Rushmore so we don't offend people of African American descent? I am not offended by "Crazy Horse Mountain" although I had distant cousins killed by American Indians. Once you make sure that no one is offended by a name will anyone have any rights to refer to a landmark with any name?

Cripple Creek, or Lame Johnny Creek is that offensive to people with certain disabilities? What about Bear Mt, Buzzard Butte or Elk Mt, is that offensive to the people from PETA.

I plan on talking to my state legislators and ask them to stop this in anyway possible including defunding this organization.

## Reiss, David

---

**From:** llspitz1@abe.midco.net  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 20, 2015 7:50 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Harney Peak

SDBGN

We are opposed to changing the name of Harney Peak to Making of Owls. I think that you will always have people who will complain about something that happened in our state or country's history. Have you checked to see who did not make mistake's in our history and are we going to change the name of every landmark where somebody claims they are offended by that name. Please reconsider your preliminary recommendation and leave the name as HARNEY PEAK.

Larry and Linda Spitzer

## Reiss, David

---

**From:** ggoof/Bonnie <ggoof@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 20, 2015 9:34 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Fwd: I have mailed my YES to the name change to the Custer Chronicle so as not to miss deadline!! I could not read your email clearly in news clip, when it was sent to me in Illinois. Plz I form me if you got it! Thanks from Bonnie Sue Arp-Stinton, dau...

Sent from my ZTE Prelude™ 2, a Cricket 4G smartphone

----- Original Message -----

Subject: I have mailed my YES to the name change to the Custer Chronicle so as not to miss deadline!! I could not read your email clearly in news clip, when it was sent to me in Illinois. Plz I form me if you got it! Thanks from Bonnie Sue Arp-Stinton, daughter of the late Wayne&Edna ARP of Winner & Custer.

From: ggoof/Bonnie <ggoof@earthlink.net>

To: david:reiss@state.sd.us

CC:

Sent from my ZTE Prelude™ 2, a Cricket 4G smartphone

## Reiss, David

---

**From:** Karen Paugh <karenjpaugh@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 20, 2015 10:17 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Name change, Harney Peak

Please add my voice to the many in support of the name change from Harney Peak to Hinhan Kaga Paha with the added English translation Great Owls Nest or similar.

We must not continue to venerate perpetrators of genocide. For the same reason, we must demand that states remove Confederate flags from public places. We must give honor and show respect for the Lakota people.

This site is a significant geographic feature of the Black Hills. The new name focuses on both the cultural and natural history of the Black Hills and for this reason will be much more meaningful. No one has any real notion of what "Harney" represents. It is a meaningless name.

I have been hiking in this area for many years and appreciate the natural beauty it offers to all visitors. The name change will offer an opportunity to educate residents and visitors regarding the history of the region, and perhaps influence people to be more tolerant and kind to one another.

--

*Karen Paugh*

## Reiss, David

---

**From:** paleenknechtr@juno.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 20, 2015 11:19 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Harney Peak

I agree with Mr. Helper and Mr. Hagen that the name change of Harney Peak is not a good idea. It would affect tourism, and Hinhan Kaga is difficult to pronounce. If it was truly spelled phonetically, there would be no need to have to provide the correct pronunciation in parentheses behind the name in articles or other communications.

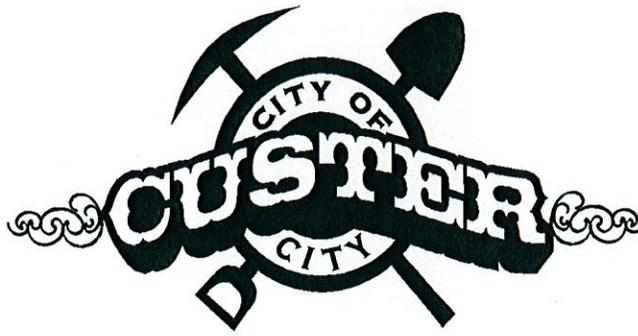
The Lakota, Nakota and Dakota tribes were not native to this area, but from east of the Mississippi. If a tribal name is desired, I think we should honor the history of the Arikira by using their name for the peak. The Sioux tribes were warriors and like Harney, were not a peaceful people. They raided and attacked other tribes and peoples.

Or use a generic descriptive name with no history.

Better yet, leave it as is. All of this name changing to be politically correct, to avoid offending someone, or to erase historical content, is not only confusing but an expensive undertaking. Perhaps it should be included in the next general state wide election whether to change the name of the peak and if so, what the name should be.

Peggy Roberts

JUN 22 2015



622 Crook Street  
Custer, SD 57730  
Email: [custermayor@gwtc.net](mailto:custermayor@gwtc.net)

Office of Mayor  
Gary Lipp

Phone: (605) 673-4824  
Fax: (605) 673-2411  
Cell: 605-517-0558

June 11, 2015

South Dakota Board of Geographic Names  
Attn: David Reiss  
Department of Tribal Relations  
302 East Dakota Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Mr. Reiss,

The City Council and I took the time to address the proposed Harney Peak name change at our Regular City Council Meeting held on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and we do not support the changing of history. We would like to thank you for the opportunity to make our voice heard regarding this matter and sincerely hope that you will take it into consideration when making your decision.

Sincerely,

  
Gary Lipp

Mayor, City of Custer City

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or mail at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).