

RITA GUILD Owner <rguild@centurylink.net>

Apr 12 (6 days ago)

to david.reiss, me

Dear Mr. Reiss,

I strongly support the renaming of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. Because of the sacredness of the site to the Native people and the sufferings that were endured under Officer Harney, it would be a great help toward healing to honor this site with the name of this sacred native elder, who brought reconciliation, healing and great wisdom...to us all.

Thank you for this thoughtful consideration.

Rita A. Guild

4/23/15

South Dakota Board on Graphic Names:

Please consider the request to change the name of Harney Peak in the Black Hills of South Dakota to Black Elk Peak.

General Harney ordered an attack on innocent Lakota people, slaughtering children and adults. It is a matter of moral decency and respect to name this cherished place after someone notable, especially someone who has so deeply showed veneration for the area.

Changing the name to Black Elk Peak would be very meaningful to a number of people, both Lakota and others.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Derenne

Green Bay, WI

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

Dear Sires or Madames:

I stand in solidarity with esteemed Lakota Elder and Korean War combat Veteran Basil Brave Heart who says the highest peak in the He Sapa (Black Hills) is named after a general who massacred Sioux women and children. I stand with Brave Heart when he say's, I am in favor of changing the name of Harney Peak. According to columnist Charles Trimble Hinhan Kaga was the peak that Oglala holy man Black Elk referred to as the "center of the world," and to rename it after such a man as Harney adds insult to the stealing of their sacred He Sapa, the Black Hills. Trimble (2014) posed the question, why was the Lakota designation of Hinhan (Owl) Kaga (Make) changed to that of Harney Peak? It was, after all, General William S. Harney who led the punitive campaign of 1855 against the Sioux, which was in retribution for the Sioux annihilation of Lt. John Grattan and his troops. It was Grattan who provoked the attack by firing on the Lakota over the so-called Mormon cow incident. Harney's most famous "battle" in that campaign was at Blue Water Creek, which actually was a massacre that rivals Wounded Knee in its senseless brutality (Lakotacountrytimes.com).

General William S. Harney was described as an arrogant, abusive and bare-knuckled murderer according to a Historian George R. Adams who wrote his doctoral dissertation on the famous Indian fighter. The dissertation later evolved into a 286- page scholarly biography called "General William S. Harney, Prince of Dragoons," published by the University of Nebraska Press in 2001. Harney was an imperialist; "According to the historian Adams, Harney was firm believer in Manifest Destiny the notion that the

nation was destined by God to conquer the continent and worked tirelessly to make it happen”(2001). Adams (2001) says he should be remembered for his quick temper, foul mouth, violent nature, vindictive bent and callous behavior. In his book, Adams (2001) says he should be remembered for abusing soldiers and committing murder. According to Adams (2001), he fathered a child out of wedlock and beat a slave to death in a fit of rage, after which he stayed on the lam for several months to avoid prosecution.

According to Adams (2001) he was twice court-martialed, and disobeying orders from Washington DC, he nearly provoked a war with Britain over a boundary dispute in the San Juan Islands, leading to his removal from command.

In conclusion, the scholar Adams (2001) in his overall judgment, he state’s “I think Harney was a great military leader and a great soldier by the standards of his times” but the scholar goes on to say that he was not a great human being by the standards of his time”(Hewitt, 2005). The standards of Harney’s time, Trimble says, saw the replacement of traditional names with new Anglo designations may also have been done as a step to break the tribal structure and disappear their people into the mythical melting pot as Manifest Destiny demanded. I think it’s a healthy exercise in undoing historical racism to change the names back to their traditional place names, and, wherever it is appropriate, original names.

Richard Iron Cloud  
PO Box 72  
Porcupine SD 57772  
Wicasa Ikce, Oglala Lakota

#### Reference

Adams G. (2001) General William S. Harney: Prince of Dragoons, University of Nebraska Press, ISBN-10: 0803210582, ISBN-13: 978-0803210585

Hewitt, S. (2005, May 25). Harney heights: General Harney's neighborhood; is there too much blood on the 19th-century soldier's hands for harney heights residents?

Columbian Retrieved from

<http://search.proquest.com/docview/253231753?accountid=14872>

Trimble C. (2014), Indiancountrytimes.com What's in a Name?



**ROSEBUD SIOUX TRIBE**

PO Box 430  
Rosebud, SD 57570  
Phone: 605.747.2381  
Fax: 605.747.2243  
Website: [rosebudsiouxtribe-nsn.gov](http://rosebudsiouxtribe-nsn.gov)

Cyril Scott, President  
Willie Kindle, Vice President  
Julia M. Peneaux, Secretary  
Byron L. Wright, Treasurer  
Glen Yellow Eagle, Sergeant-at-Arms

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN  
**FROM:** Bernadette Howard, Committee Secretary   
**DATE:** April 28, 2015  
**SUBJECT:** Motion Excerpt

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The following motion was made and passed in a regular scheduled meeting of the Land & Resources Committee held on April 06, 2015.

**HARNEY NAME CHANGE** – Motion by Mary Waln to recommend to reconsider and amend Resolution No. 2014-314 and add to change Harney Peak to Hinhan Kaga Paha. Seconded by Keith Fielder. Vote: 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 not voting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**ROSEBUD SIOUX TRIBE  
RESOLUTION NO. 2014-314**

**WHEREAS**, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe is a federally recognized Indian tribe organized pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 and all pertinent amendments thereof; and

**WHEREAS**, the tribal governing body of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe is the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council exercising power and authority under the Tribal Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe is a standing member of the Great Sioux Nation and the Oceti Sakowin in general and as such has innumerable millennia associated with the Great Plains topography and landscape features; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe (Sicangu Oyate- Burnt Thigh Nation) having culturally investigated, associated and over time lived among or near specific significant distinguishing physiographic features located throughout the Great Plains; and

**WHEREAS**, the non-Native Nation, utilizing the Doctrine of Discovery and the ensuing principles associated with Manifest Destiny, imposed title upon land(s) of the Native peoples and in doing so arbitrarily assigned names to places deemed historically significant to Native peoples; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, having a long association with culturally defined physiographic features, and in instances their distinctive astronomic relationship to the movement of time and space, seasonality, other places of significance, migration(s) i.e. – the buffalo, geese, sand hill crane, etc.; and

**WHEREAS**, a significant and distinguished physiographic feature, designated and named in this instance – Harney Peak, a name associated with a military brevet brigadier general noted for having performed a massacre of 87 Lakota men, women and children at the Battle of the Blue Water aka Battle of Ash Hollow in present day Nebraska; and

**WHEREAS**, Lakota elders from multiple bands have discussed over the past four decades the imposition of the name upon this place within the Black Hills of spiritual, celestial, and geographic importance and perceiving that having this prominent feature distinguished for a military leader who committed an atrocity upon noncombatants is unwarranted and beneath the honor of America; and

**WHEREAS**, the prevalence of naming topographic features and places for historical figures who are infamous for their actions and perpetrations during their tenure in the military upon Native Nations must be rectified; and

**WHEREAS**, other bands of the Lakota are in support of this assertion that place names are important to not only Tribal groups, especially the children, but also to emphasize the roles of individuals having prominent places in history that clarity and truth must prevail concerning their exploits or actions before they become perceived as factual and irrevocable in historical text or depiction; and

**WHEREAS**, at present the change of the name would be in concordance with other Lakota bands to rename the promontory with an acceptable title reflecting either the character of the mountain or its spiritual, customary, normative, or celestial Lakota name that will be written in the English language and become an acceptable abridgment to address this momentous place and that each individual Tribe will retain their descriptive internal name for this locale; and

**ROSEBUD SIOUX TRIBE  
RESOLUTION NO. 2014-314**

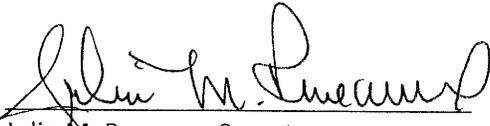
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Rosebud Sioux Tribe supports and encourages the change of the name of this place of significance to an appropriate title reflecting its pre-contact era name that will become known on maps, cartographic and geologic references, tourist pamphlets, signage, and any other printable sources whether electronic or written in origin; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council authorizes the Tribal President or his designated representative to sign any and all documents pertaining to the content of this resolution specifying the changing of the name of this significant place to a more appropriate title..

**CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that the above Resolution No. 2014-314 was duly approved by the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council in session on November 13, 2014, by a vote of thirteen (13) in favor, zero (0) opposed and zero (0) not voting. The said resolution was adopted pursuant to authority vested in the Tribal Council. A quorum was present.

ATTEST:



Julia M. Peneaux, Secretary  
Rosebud Sioux Tribe



Cyril Scott, President  
Rosebud Sioux Tribe



### 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:**

Or ~~any~~ another name supported by a W SD tribe or organization of Native People. I believe the names of prominent places in W SD should honor the Lakota people. We should absolutely change all names that honor ~~white men~~ white men who killed so many Native People

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:

I would like to see a discussion

Reason/Justification for Name:

of a name change for  
Custer State Park

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:

Karissa Loewen

Title (if representing organization or public entity):

Organization or Public Entity (if applicable):

Mailing Address:

3815 Brookside Drive

Telephone:

605-939-6892

Email Address:

karissa@meyerloewen.net

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](mailto:David.Reiss@state.sd.us)

FAX: 605-773-6592

Or access Public Comment Form: <http://www.sdbgn.sd.gov/>



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**Support naming the Feature:** Black Elk Peak \_\_\_\_\_ Harney Peak \_\_\_\_\_

**Reason/Justification of support to name the feature Harney Peak or Black Elk Peak:**

I know that Harney was not a nice man; however history tells us that the Sioux were not very nice either. Both parties committed horrible atrocities. All due respect to Mr. Brave Horse - there are problems on the Reservation that his energies could better be pointed at. Like keeping their children safe & sober & educated & employable. Pride in oneself will not come with re-naming a peak.

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: *Sally Nordstrom*

Title (if representing organization or public entity): *—*

Organization or Public Entity (if applicable): *—*

Mailing Address: *PO Box 115, Farburn, SD 57738*

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.*

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SEE BACK



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**Reason/Justification of support to name the feature Harney Peak or Black Elk Peak:**

*[Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]*

**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: *Hinhan Kaga*

Reason/Justification for Name:

*a name English speakers may be able to pronounce.*

Origin/Meaning of Name:

*rocks at dusk look like ovals*

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: *Carol Merwin*

Title (if representing organization or public entity):

Organization or Public Entity (if applicable):

Mailing Address: *2247 Cedar Dr - RC, SD 57702*

Telephone: *605-343-2786*

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.

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**Support naming the Feature:** Black Elk Peak  Harney Peak

**Reason/Justification of support to name the feature Harney Peak or Black Elk Peak:**

The peak should be changed because it is part of Treaty lands and one of our seven sacred sites. Black Elk was a peaceful man whom had many great visions for the people. Harney was a person whom did many horrific things to many people. It is also adjacent to Black Elk wilderness, so Black Elk peak would be more appropriate.

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:

~~Black Elk Peak~~ Black Elk Peak

Reason/Justification for Name:

See front.

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: Shilo Comeau  
Title (if representing organization or public entity): private citizen  
Organization or Public Entity (if applicable):  
Mailing Address: 29146 Bird Rd, Marton, SD  
Telephone: 605.741.3028  
Email Address: uncimaka@yahoo.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.

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**Reason/Justification of support to name the feature Harney Peak or Black Elk Peak:**

- 1] He-Han = Gaga - Peak
- 2] Owl Peak

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: He-han-gaga - Peak

Reason/Justification for Name: Owl - peak

Original Lakota name

**Origin/Meaning of Name:**

at night the whole mountain looks like  
a shadow of a Owl. Plus it was the  
original name.

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

=====

**Submitted by:**

Name:  
Title (if representing organization or public entity):  
Organization or Public Entity (if applicable):  
Mailing Address:  
Telephone:  
Email Address:

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