

March 19, 2015

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

RECEIVED

MAR 23 2015

I see in the Rapid City Journal you are soliciting comments on the name change of Harney Peak. I am against changing the name. Stop trying to whitewash history. White and native relations aren't going to change by removing Harney's name. Harney was sent by the president to "punish" the Indians for the Glatton affair in Wyoming. Perhaps we should remove Martin van Buren from downtown Rapid City for sending Harney to Nebraska. Natives and whites were at war during the nineteenth century and both sides committed atrocities. If you change Harney Peak then you need to change; Custer Peak, Crooks Tower, Camp Crook, Terry Peak, Silford, Sturgis and Custer to name a few. All of these men were members of the U.S. Armed Forces who was at war with the Lakotas. Maybe if people read history books, this might remind them not to let this happen again instead of changing the name and try to forget it happened.

I really cannot see what the big deal is; Crazy Horse would certainly be apposed to his image tearing up the sacred hills, especially by a family of whites. How many people was he responsible for killing?

Platte River Bridge, Letterman, Custer, ?? to name a few.

Maybe the special interest group promoting this should foot the bill for all the changes that need to happen.

You feel guilty over taking the Black Hills and
this is supposed to make up for it?

If a name change is necessary I suggest something
neutral. Lets stop trying to one up each other
and get along for a change.
Thank you for taking comments.

Sincerely,

Jeff Gulleransen

24385 Pughouse Rd,
Keystone, SD 57751

RECEIVED

MAR 23 2015

3-20-15

Dear Person in Charge -

I am definitely against changing the name of Harney Peak. It has been Harney Peak Forever.

I'm also against the changing of the name of Shannon County. But lost on that one.

What's with these folks wanting to change names? Enough already!

Lethyn Chase

821 Fox Run Dr. # 213

Rapid City S.D. 57701

I lived on the reservation most of my wedded life at Batesland, S.D. My husband's name was Hal

Reiss, David

From: Linda <jandl9ers@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 11:04 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Proposal to change Harney Peak's name

To whom it may concern:

Why on earth would you want to change the name? Makes no sense. My mother, who has passed, would probably be on the phone right now! Her family grew up in the Keystone area, Mt Rushmore carvers, etc. Who or what is Black Elk?

Please leave the name as is!

Would appreciate a reply.

Jim and Linda Humes

Sent from my iPad

Reiss, David

m: Dwight Moose <dmoose@rap.midco.net>
sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 3:38 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

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

Dear Sir:

The Purpose of this memo is to protest the renaming of Harney Peak located in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The peak has had its current identify for well over 150 years. There is no report that the US Army military leader for whom the peak was named has been found to be an unsavory citizen. The US Army did not bring charges against this individual. The fact that the name has not been protested for a period approaching two centuries is indicative that the name Harney Peak has not been offensive to the citizens of the United States.

Leave well enough alone. Save the cost of changing likely thousands of documents, website references, maps, and legal filings. There is no compelling reason to change the name.

Thank you for your consideration.

/s/ Dwight F. Moose
3426 Kyle St.
Rapid City, SD 57701
605-343-5289

Dwight & Kathy Moose
SD/WY
dmoose@rap.midco.net

Reiss, David

m: Byron and Joyce Sutter <bjsutter@rushmore.com>
sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 11:01 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Renaming Harney Peak

Mr. Reiss,

I strongly support the proposal to rename Harney Peak. So many of the geographic place names in South Dakota are to commemorate people who did so much to destroy the culture(s) of the First Americans. If we are serious about reconciliation what better place to start than by renaming these locations to honor the people who were here before european immigrants and their descendants invaded and wreaked such havoc.

I think the name Black Elk Peak is fine but The Lakota people might wish to have more say in that decision.

I fully realize that before the Lakota migrated into the area there were numerous other peoples who had lived here at different times, but I don't know how far back we should go to find another place name.

The process should begin now.

Sincerely,

Byron Sutter
15 Minnewasta Road
Rapid City SD 57702

Reiss, David

m: Laura Mounce <laurarmounce@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 5:07 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak name change comment

Mr. Reiss,

I am writing to voice support for the proposed name change from Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak.

As a native South Dakotan, I know that we haven't always acknowledged or embraced all of our historic leaders. Specifically, Native American leaders were under-represented both in our history books and in our geographic names when I was a child in the 1970s.

This is an opportunity to recognize Black Elk's role bridging Native and Euro-American populations, and to acknowledge his special association with Harney Peak, where he received his "great vision" as described in John Neihardt's "Black Elk Speaks."

I am proud of my state and ALL of its leaders, and encourage the Board on Geographic Names.

Sincerely,

Laura R. Mounce
Rapid City

March 24, 2015

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

Regard changing the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak:

I think the name should remain Harney Peak. So many people have memories of climbing Harney Peak on their own spiritual journey which would altered those memories if the name was changed. Maps, travel guides, books, pictures, the Internet and many documents would have to deal with the name change which could be very costly to change the name.

If the name has to be changed, then use **diversity** in the name change.

So many places in South Dakota are name after the Lakota Sioux. We do nothing to honor the Arikara, Kiowa, Apache, Shoshone, Crow and Cheyenne that were here since the 1500 and 1600 before the Sioux migrated from Minnesota and Iowa in 1794 to eastern South Dakota. The first residents were the Paleo Indians that migrated across the Bering Land Bridge from Asia followed by the Llano People, the Plano people, the Archaic Hunters and Gathers and the Woodland Villagers along the Missouri River.

In 1679, Daniel Greysolon (Duluth) a Frenchman from Minnesota was first white man in South Dakota.

In 1700, Charles Pierre LaSueur , was a Frenchman that reached South Dakota.

In 1743, French explorers-brothers LaVerendrye explored the Black Hills and claimed the area for France - a lead tablet left by LaVerendrye brothers was found by Fort Pierre claiming the land for France proving their claim.

In 1762, there were Spanish expeditions to South Dakota to trade horses with the Indians.

In 1794, the Sioux Indians began migrating into Eastern South Dakota

In 1804, Lewis and Clark explored the newly purchased land from France called the Louisiana Purchase which compromised a 14 state area including all of South Dakota.

In 1805, the fur trade brought many trappers to the Black Hills area. The Sioux Indians then migrated to the west the same time as the fur traders and settlers. The plains Indians lived mainly on the plains where the buffalo herds were and rarely came to the Black Hills. There were many battles and massacres between the Indians and white people that killed people on both sides.

The name change to Black Elk Peak will lead to wanting more name changes for cities, counties and landmarks and has the potential of violent confrontation between opposing groups. In 1973, AIM led Indian supporters to a meeting at the Custer, South Dakota courthouse, where they expected to discuss civil rights issues and wanted charges against a suspect raised to murder from second-degree manslaughter. The confrontation became violent, during which protesters burned down the chamber of commerce building, damaged the courthouse and destroyed two police cars, and vandalized other buildings. This is still fresh in the minds of Custer residents.

We are all immigrants that migrated to South Dakota. Everyone that played a part in the history of South Dakota should be recognized. Chief Black Elk was just a small part of the history of this area and we already honor him with the Black Elk Wilderness area. If there has to be a name change, let one of the other history makers have the honor.

I choose not to sign my name for the fear of retaliation of opposing viewpoints.

Custer, SD Resident



The John G. Neihardt Foundation

P.O. Box 344 • Bancroft, NE 68004 • 402-648-3388 • 888-777-HOOP
neihardt@gpcom.net • www.neihardtcenter.org

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

Dear Mr. David Reiss and S.D. Board on Geographic Names:

On behalf of the Board of Directors at the John G. Neihardt Foundation, I write in strong support for the renaming of South Dakota's tallest mountain "Harney Peak" to "Black Elk Peak" as a way to commemorate the memory of the Oglala Lakota holy man known as Black Elk and to rectify the misguided decree, which resulted in naming the structure in honor of a man who committed grievous crimes against Native American people. We hope that you will lend your strong support to the movement to rename this sacred place in a way that will honor the Lakota people by memorializing an important figure in Lakota and American history.

Army lieutenant Gouveneur K. Warren named the peak after General William S. Harney while Warren was on a surveying expedition in 1857. Our grievance against naming this prominent location after Harney is due to his well-documented involvement in the 1855 Battle of Ash Hollow, also known as the Battle of Blue Water Creek, in present-day Nebraska during the First Sioux War. Under Harney's command, a force of 600 soldiers attacked 250 Lakota. Eighty-six died as a result of this massacre, including women and children.

At 7,242 ft., the peak is the highest point east of the Rocky Mountains in the United States and has been a popular hiking destination in the Black Hills. Like many, we feel that renaming this well-known site would be a just and noble way to rectify a great wrong and that failing to take such an action would be a continued offense to the memory of those who died at the Battle of Ash Hollow and to those who visit the Black Hills and this peak. In addition, we believe Black Elk, a Lakota spiritual leader who reported having a vision on the peak in the 1870s, to be a fitting change, since the peak resides within a federally designated wilderness called the Black Elk Wilderness.

The Neihardt Foundation manages the John G. Neihardt State Historic Site, a branch museum of the Nebraska State Historical Society, in Bancroft, Nebraska. Our mission is to preserve the heritage of the Great Plains, and its great voices, those of pioneer and Native American; and to inspire all people to lead lives of strong moral conviction and purpose in light of their noble heritages. John Neihardt was a close friend with Black Elk and wrote *Black Elk Speaks* to keep the memory and story of his friend alive. Neihardt visited Harney Peak with Black Elk, a place sacred to both men. Neihardt was sympathetic to the harsh realities of reservation life for many Native Americans and wrote with great esteem about the traditions and culture of various Great Plains tribes.

To honor John Neihardt and Black Elk, and the culture and history of Native Americans, the Neihardt Foundation Board hopes to lend credence and support to this movement. Please accept this letter as the Neihardt Foundation's written comment and our respectful appeal to you to change the name of "Harney Peak" to "Black Elk Peak." Thank you for seeking public comment on this issue.

Sincerely yours,
Linley Hadden
Executive Director
Neihardt State Historic Site
Neihardt Center for Vision and Learning



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:

I write in strong support for the renaming of South Dakota's geographic feature known as "Harney Peak" to "Black Elk Peak." The Neihardt Foundation Board of Directors believes this would be a fine way to commemorate the memory of the Oglala Lakota holy man known as Black Elk and to rectify the misguided decree, which resulted in naming the structure in honor of a man who committed grievous crimes against Native American people. From our research, we learned that Army Lieutenant Gouverneur K. Warren named the peak after General William S. Harney, who was involved in the 1855 Battle of Ash Hollow. Under Harney's command, a force of 600 soldiers attacked 250 Lakota. As a result of the massacre, 86 died including women and children. Through newspaper editorials and research, we have also read that Black Elk experienced a vision, a spiritual experience, at that sacred site. At our museum, we have a poster of Black Elk reciting a prayer near the top of "Harney Peak," which is further evidence of his relationship to this important and spiritually significant physical location. The Neihardt Foundation is dedicated to preserving the heritage of John Neihardt and the heritage of the Great Plains. John Neihardt was a dear friend of Black Elk, and we devote our space to educating our patrons about Black Elk and exhibiting a collection of artifacts that he owned. As an organization that values Native American culture and history, we believe naming and labeling to be an important way to remember our history and give symbolic credence to Native American heroes and prominent figures. The name of "Black Elk Peak" would convey a message to visitors and the public of support, memorial, and honor for an important figure in Lakota culture and also a step toward recognizing and amending the suffering of Native people who were victims of General Harney and the American government's aggressive and often violent relationship with Native American people. I have included a letter of support for the name change, as requested by the Neihardt Foundation's Board of Directors at our biannual board meeting in February.

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: *Neihardt Foundation, Kinley Hadden*
Title (if representing organization or public entity): *Executive Director*
Organization or Public Entity (if applicable): *Neihardt Foundation*
Mailing Address: *PO Box 344*
Telephone: *402-648-3388*
Email Address: *neihardt@gpcom.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
FAX: 605-773-6592

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