

## 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

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**Proposed Name(s):** Black Elk Peak

APR 20 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:**

Changing the name from "Harney" to "Black Elk" only substitutes one ARGUE-ABLE historic figure for another. If the name must be changed, I suggest a NON-CONTROVERSIAL name, such as "Lightning Peak" or "Thunder Peak" or "First to Greet the Sun", which would note a geographic feature instead of an historical one.

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supporting documentation such as resolutions from governing boards or organizations; newspaper articles; petitions or historical references.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supporting documentation such as resolutions from governing boards or organizations; newspaper articles; petitions or historical references.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

JEAN STINSON

4/15/15

Title (if representing organization or public entity):

Organization or Public Entity (if applicable):

Mailing Address:

PO BOX 787, Hill City, SD 57745

Telephone:

(605) 574-2754

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](mailto: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:** Carl Meyer <carl@meyerloewen.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2015 1:17 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** in favor of changing the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak  
**Attachments:** signature.asc

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to the South Dakota Board of Geographic Names to register my support, as a resident of South Dakota and the Black Hills, for changing the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak.

William Harney led the massacre of Little Thunder's Brule band near Ash Hollow, about which historian Doane Robinson later wrote "the battle of Ash Hollow was a shameful affair, unworthy of American arms and a disgrace to the officer who planned and executed it... the opportunity was not given (to surrender) and the massacre which ensued was as needless and barbarous as any..."

The symbolism of the name Harney Peak is clear: it represents conquest, violence, and domination by white America against Native people. Keeping such names on prominent landmarks cannot lead to a better future of mutual respect between our peoples.

In contrast, Black Elk was a peaceful spiritual leader. His life work presents a far better picture of what South Dakota is and could be.

I am the owner of a small business in the technology sector in Rapid City, and this name change would make it easier for me to present South Dakota to out-of-state business associates as a forward-looking place for people of goodwill to do business.

Please approve this name change!

Thank you for considering my letter.

Carl Meyer  
Founder and Partner, OddBird LLC  
3815 Brookside Dr  
Rapid City, SD 57702  
574-238-5335  
[carl@meyerloewen.net](mailto:carl@meyerloewen.net)

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Callum Kerr <clv3rly@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2015 2:07 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Change the name of Harney Peak

I'm another voice in favor of changing the name of Harney Peak, to Black Elk Peak or otherwise. I don't want to honor the horrific acts perpetrated by Gen Harney.

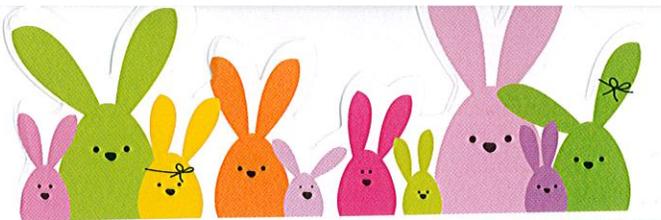
Gen William S Harney led the killing of men, women, and children in Little Thunder's band in 1855, a massacre about which historian Doane Robinson later wrote, "Though hailed as a great victory and an additional plume in Harney's crest of fame, the battle of Ash Hollow was a shameful affair, unworthy of American arms and a disgrace to the officer who planned and executed it... the opportunity was not given (to surrender) and the massacre which ensued was as needless and barbarous as any...".

The proposed name honors Black Elk, a Lakota spiritual leader. More information about his life and perspective is available in the book Black Elk Speaks.

**Callum Kerr**

[me.clv3r.io](http://me.clv3r.io)  
605.484.9461

15871 Hammerquist Road,  
57725 Caputa, SD



If all you have to do is dig up skuttlebutt perhaps - Cut the Office Staff in half & save us all some money

Clara Braun

 Clara Braun  
1932 Stampede Dr.  
Spearfish, SD 57783



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APR 20 2015

  
St. Jude Children's  
Research Hospital  
ALSAC • Danny Thomas, Founder



Dear Sirs -  
Leave well enough alone -  
If you have nothing better to do - Come take my lawn.  
Clara Braun



Clara Braun  
1932 Stampede Dr.  
Spearfish, SD 57783



1-800-231-3441 • [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org)

  
St. Jude Children's  
Research Hospital  
ALSAC • Danny Thomas, Founder  
*Finding cures. Saving children.*

[stjude.org](http://stjude.org)

NO  
NO  
NO  
NO  
Brody

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Paul Stover Soderman <paul.stover.soderman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2015 7:38 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Harney Name Change

Hello David,

I am related to Gen Wm Selby Harney and will be at the public forums in Martin, Custer and Rapid City SD., next week I hope to share my thoughts on this issue at those forums. I am in support of the name change but remain neutral as to what the new name should be. I believe that is up to the L/N/Dakota people.

I am actually writing to commend you and your Board members for doing such a respectful and thorough job concerning this issue. Your website is very informative and helpful and I just wanted to thank you all,

Best

Paul Stover Soderman  
720 454 3797



## PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

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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:

Harney Peak was named over 100 years ago. No living person knows it by any other name. The name defines a point on a map. The name has no good or bad connotations for me and it defines what could be said for most people. Originally the Peak was named for a military person but today it is just a name of a Peak. I am sure very few people know (before this name change issue came up) that it was named after a military man.

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: *Ponderosa Peak*

Reason/Justification for Name:

*If there is a name change it should be a name that is offensive to no one such as Ponderosa Peak. Ponderosa Trees are one of the most common types of trees found in the Black Hills.*

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: *Gary Korzen*  
Title (if representing organization or public entity):  
Organization or Public Entity (if applicable):  
Mailing Address: *501 East 13th Ave, Mitchell SD 57301*  
Telephone: *605-296-6330*  
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](mailto:David.Reiss@state.sd.us)  
FAX: 605-773-6592

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

Northern Cheyenne Tribe  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office

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APR 21 2015

P.O. Box 128

Lame Deer, Montana 59043

Phone: (406) 477-4838/4839 Fax: (406) 477-6210

Native American Consultation Request Form

Site Name/Project South Dakota / Harney Peak name change  
to Black Elk Peak

TCNS Notification ID Number \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person David Reiss

Email Address David.Reiss@state.sd.us

Request Additional Info

what the process in  
name change state gov't  
or Native American  
No Adverse Effect

Adverse Effect

No Comment

No Interest

Defer to

consult with Sioux  
tribes in So. Dak.

Exceptions: If archaeological materials or human remains are encountered during construction the state historic preservation office and applicable Native American will be notified.

James Walks Along  
Signature

03-31-15  
Date

James Walks Along, T.H.P.O. Director  
Printed Name (Signing Official)

Date Received: 3/19/15

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The South Dakota Board on Geographic Names (SDBGN) seeks public comment on a proposed new name for a geographic feature:

### Harney Peak in Pennington County



**One name has been proposed: Black Elk Peak. The Board is seeking public comment regarding the recommended name change or if there are any additional proposed new names for the feature.**

The above feature is currently named Harney Peak and the SDBGN requests public input on a name for the geographic feature. Based on the U.S. Board on Geographic Names guidelines, the following principles apply:

- Names descriptive of topographic form, suggested by local history, folklore, or incident, or by associated natural life or other phenomena are preferred including American Indian or other ethnic names appropriate to the area.
- A proposed name should not duplicate another name in the state or nearby in an adjoining state.
- If a personal name is proposed, it must be determined in the public interest to honor the person or family for historical or commemorative reasons.
- If a personal name is proposed, the person or persons must be deceased for at least five years.
- If a personal name is proposed, it should just include the surname.

This process is intended to seek public comment on proposed names for unnamed features or new names of existing features. No name should imply discrimination or be derogatory to a particular racial or ethnic group, gender, or religious group. This also includes names considered obscene in a present-day cultural context.

The board is taking written comments until May 1, 2015. SDBGN is also holding meetings across the state for the purpose of taking public comment on the name for the feature. The meetings will be held as follows:

April 28, 2015 (Tuesday)      Martin, SD      5:00pm – 7:00pm (MDT)  
Library/Community Room  
101 Main Street

April 29, 2015 (Wednesday)      Custer, SD      10:00am – 12:00pm (MDT)  
Custer County Annex/Library  
447 Crook Street, Suite #1

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APR 21 2015

Dear PR Person -

I am very much against changing the name of Harney Peak. Leave History alone.

I was also against changing the name of Shannon County but couldn't vote because I am no longer a resident there.

What's with these people wanting to change names and why are you allowing it?

Sincerely

Kathryn Chase

821 Fox Run Dr # 213

Rapid City S.D. 57701

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APR 21 2015

11693' W. Paradise Dr.  
Hill City, SD 57745  
April 6, 2015

D. Board on Geographic Names  
David Reiss

I am writing in regard to the Harney  
proposed name change. My husband and I  
strongly that the name of such an  
landmark should NOT be changed  
several reasons.

We work in the tourism industry and  
feel a name change would certainly cause  
confusion with out-of-area visitors.  
many times we are asked questions on  
pronunciation, difficulty, length and time to hike  
Harney Peak. Having to explain the name  
change would surely generate some difficult  
questions that we believe would not help  
in the course of building strong Native/White

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of course, signage and maps would  
need to be changed leading to yet  
more unnecessary government spending.

There is already a Black Elk  
wilderness area which we believe  
would only cause yet more confusion.

Someone feels a mountain should  
be named for Black Elk as well, is  
there an unnamed peak which could  
bear his name?

Perhaps Harney Peak was not the  
best choice for the name initially, but  
it was decades ago and for all  
practical purposes does not affect  
anyone living today. Can we not just  
keep Harney Peak's name as is and  
let everyone be proud of the fact that  
the highest point east of the Rockies  
longs to all South Dakotans?

Respectfully,

Robert + Claudia Krumm

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**Current Name:** Harney Peak

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**Proposed Name(s):** Black Elk Peak

APR 21 2015

**Location/Identification:** Pennington County: Located in the Black Hills National Forest

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

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

My wife and I both strongly urge the members of the board to not change the name of Harney Peak. We feel the name is not offensive and is one of the oldest historical landmark names in the Black Hills. For many generations it has been known the world over as Harney Peak. It is a piece of history that has stood for many years and represents how events actually happened in those times whether you now agree with them or not. My ancestors first came to Dakota Territory in 1867 and our family still lives near Hermosa. I never tire of looking at Harney Peak several times

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

daily and are in constant awe of its beauty. Please, do not change the name of Harney Peak.

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: John + Cathy Allan  
Title (if representing organization or public entity):  
Organization or Public Entity (if applicable):  
Mailing Address: 24679 SD Hwy 79 Hermosa, SD 57744  
Telephone: 605-255-5768  
Email Address: jallan@mt-rushmore.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/>

## Reiss, David

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**From:** Rod Anderson <mohawker68@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 21, 2015 5:13 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Harney Peak name change

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

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Karen Pettigrew <pettigrewk246@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 22, 2015 9:08 AM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** rename Harney Peak

I would like to register my vote: of the choices offered, I prefer: Opahat'l

Karen Pettigrew  
1203 Saint Cloud St.  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
605-721-3940