

Reiss, David

From: Jeanne Grimm <jibcagrimm@mygait.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 7:51 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak Name Change

Dear Mr. Reiss,

I suggest that Harney Peak should not be named for any person; a better idea would be "Sylvan Peak," using a word that according to my dictionary "carries the sense of unspoiled beauty".

Thank you to the Board of Geographic Names for considering my suggestion and I wish them well with their final decision.

Carl A. Grimm
Rapid City, SD
jibcagrimm@mygait.com

Reiss, David

From: Erin & Kari Bertram <bertrams@siouxvalley.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 10:46 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: renaming HarneyPeak

Mr. Reiss

I am against renaming Harney Peak. The idea of renaming a known landmark because someone or a group of people have decided to fabricate an opinion of someone is not credible. Harney Peak is named after a person of history, as are a lot of things in this country. Because someone has the opinion that they think he is not deserving of this honor is just that an opinion.

Your board was assembled to look at names that had language that where and or are offensive and or derogatory. Which I would agree there are some that could be offensive, but I think you and most South Dakotans would agree, we can not rename things based on opinion of weather the actions of a man many years ago are satisfying to someone now.

I urge the board to look at the facts. The name Harney Peak is not offensive, derogatory or emotionally scaring as some would have it. It is an important piece of South Dakota history.

Leave the name Harney Peak.

Erin Bertram

Corsica SD



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www.avast.com

Re: Reiss, David

From: Jessica K <blackjaguararts@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 10:42 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Change Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak

Good day,

I have no Native blood, but I don't need it to see that naming a peak after a man responsible for the slaughter of innocent children, women and men is a point of national shame.

Please heed Basil Brave Heart's letter and change the name to Black Elk Peak.

Thank you,

Jessica Kraskian

680 S. Lashley Ln apt 202

Boulder, CO 80305

Reiss, David

From: Carol Sebert <lcsebert@mitchelltelecom.net>
Sent: Friday, April 03, 2015 3:59 PM
To: Reiss, David

April 3, 2015

Dear David,

I don't believe the name of Harney Peak should be changed. I have hiked up the back side of Harney Peak with Boy Scouts several times, years ago. To change the name would mean a loss of what took place in the memories of the Scouts and myself. There is a lot of history and memory by lots of folks regarding the name "Harney Peak", and to take that away is just not right. Not just Scouts, but the 1,000 of hikers that hike the area.

Should the Board decide there needs to be a change, it should be a name related to the Black Hills and what is there. A name such as Pine Peak, relating to the Black Hills Pine or Boulder Peak, relating to the rock formation on the mountain and surrounding area could be acceptable. Renaming the mountain after a person now does not fit the great land mark. Therefore, I would like it to remain Harney Peak.

Thank You for your consideration,

Louis Sebert

13 Charles Street
Mitchell, SD 57301

Reiss, David

From: Nancy Hilding <nihilshat@rapidnet.com>
Sent: Friday, April 03, 2015 4:36 PM
To: David.Reiss@state.sd.us.
Cc: brademey@dishmail.net
Subject: Support Traditional Lakota Name Harney Peak

Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society
P.O. Box 788
Black Hawk, SD 57718
April 3, 2015

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

Please re-name of Harney Peak,

Dear Mr Reiss,

Prairie Hills Audubon is a SD non-profit corporation whose mission is to "Educate about, protect and restore our environment and natural heritage" We have a web site www.phas-wsd.org and are a chapter of the National Audubon Society whose territory is much of West River SD..

We are writing in support of renaming Harney Peak. We support the efforts of Friends of the Norbeck and others to seek a Lakota name for the Peak. We request consultation with tribes on this matter, especially their historic preservation offices.

The sacred highest peak, *Opahata'I*, now known as Harney Peak, is considered to be the "center of all that is" to many Native American nations. The surrounding *Okawita Paha* area, literally "Gathering Place", is considered a sacred landscape that was used for thousands of years in traditional Native American spiritual and cultural practices. We believe this would be an important recognition of Native American spiritual and cultural values. It would help with cultural education, help makes us a more multi-racial, and sensitive society and it will actually in fact help with tourism. I grew up in Connecticut, and am aware that contrary to illusion of many South Dakotans, the first time little American children hear about SD, it is in reference to tribes vs army, cowboys and/or settlers not a reference to Mt Rushmore. The tribes of the northern plains are an important cultural icon of America.

We support the names of *Opahata'I*, *Hehaka Sapa*, and *Black Elk Peak* but prefer using a name originating from Lakota language or the language of another historic tribe from the area.

Thanks,

Nancy Hilding
President
Prairie Hills Audubon Society

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HILDING CONTACT INFO

SNAIL MAIL - Nancy Hilding, 6300 West Elm, Black Hawk, SD 57718 and/or

Nancy Hilding, President, Prairie Hills Audubon Society, P.O. Box 788, Black Hawk, SD 57718

PHONES - Please leave time sensitive voice messages on land lines.

605-787-6779 phone (land line) , 605-787-6466 phone (land line) w/ call waiting, also fax, please call before faxing, 787-1248, skype phone, Skype name nancy.hilding,

E-MAIL ADDRESSES - nhilshat@rapidnet.com (preferred e-mail address), nhilding@rapidnet.com, phas.wsd@rapidnet.com

Reiss, David

From: Webster, Kim
Sent: Saturday, April 04, 2015 1:43 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: HARNEY PEAK

I read in the Rapid City Journal about the state taking Harney Peak comments about a name change.

I am writing to request that you LEAVE the HARNEY PEAK name - the way it was named in the first place ----- HARNEY PEAK. Please don't mess up history.

Thanks you, Kim Webster

Kim Webster

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Reiss, David

From: ltmranch@gwtc.net
Sent: Sunday, April 05, 2015 7:28 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Proposal to Change Harney Peak Name
Attachments: Harney Peak Name Change.docx

Dear Mr. Reiss;

Please see the attachment commenting on our opposition to the name change for Harney Peak. If you have any problems opening the attachment, please advise us accordingly. Thank you. Gary & Judy Dold,
11958 Hay Creek Road, Custer, SD 57730

Re: Proposal to Change Name of Harney Peak

As Custer County, South Dakota landowners, we strongly oppose changing the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. Harney Peak is a historical landmark for the Black Hills and is not only recognized as such for the State of South Dakota but also as a national and international destination site. Harney Peak may be located in southern Pennington County in the area called Black Elk Wilderness area however, most local residents and tourists associate it more with Custer State Park as that is where the hiking trails begin.

The history of who Harney Peak was named after should not be even considered for this name change. The United States Government was at war with the Lakota Indians at the time. There were casualties of the war on both sides. The Lakota nation was not successful in their war efforts. The officer for whom this landmark is named for may not be recognized by the Lakota people, however the name Harney Peak is recognized by the people who visit it and who reside in the area for what it actually is and that is the landmark or the highest point east of the Rocky Mountains and not the officer for whom it was named for.

We are not saying that the Lakota Elders who have petitioned for this name change should forget about their beliefs and traditions. They were a conquered nation back in the 1800's. We are living in the 21st century. Instead of clinging to the "old ways" that is not advancing the success of their culture as a whole, perhaps the Elders need to put more thought and effort into the actual problems that are constantly present with their people. The poverty, high unemployment rates, alcoholism and preventing youth suicide should be addressed before changing the name of this historical landmark. Our opposition to the name change is not being disrespectful to the Lakota Indians but nor should it be considered an entitlement to make up for what happened during a war with the United States Government.

The bigger question is, "who or what benefit would come about from changing the name?" It would definitely be very costly to make these changes as needed accordingly, not to mention a lot of confusion from the many tourists who visit our state. There certainly is not a majority of Lakota Indians who live in Pennington or Custer County if this issue needs a public vote. Yes, the Lakota people have their special individuals that they feel should be honored. Renaming this historical landmark is not the answer.

Gary & Judy Dold

Reiss, David

From: Laurie Gehner <gehnergold@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 3:19 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak Name Change

Dear Mr. Reiss:

My preference would be to retain the Harney Peak name. I understand why some would want it changed, but after all I've read I don't see a compelling reason to change it. "Harney" is not a derogatory word, as in the instances of the names of some creeks that were appropriately re-named. When does this stop? Will Custer Peak be next?

If it is determined that the name be changed, my preference would be to not name it after another human. Who's to say that in another 50-75 years, someone will discover some very negative things about Mr. Black Elk.

I'm sorry I don't have another idea for a re-name (hoping that it will stay as Harney), but I'm sure some of the more creative and imaginative folks in the state could come up with a name better associated with the natural life or other phenomena of the beautiful Black Hills.

Thank you,
Laurie Gehner
Rapid City SD

Reiss, David

From: Tari Muth <tarideemuth@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 4:15 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Renaming Harney Peak

Let's not. That's my thought.

Reiss, David

From: Jan's Gmail <janmeverson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 5:28 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Name change for Harney Peak

I am against the name change for Harney Peak. In doing some of my own research, I quickly found that Major General William S. Harney was recognized for his long and distinguished service in the U.S. army. Harney Peak was not named after him because of the Sioux incident in Nebraska, but rather for his loyalty and service to the United States and the US army! As noted below, which is information from the South Dakota Historical Society, General Harney also served on the Indian Peace Commission and was active in establishing peace!

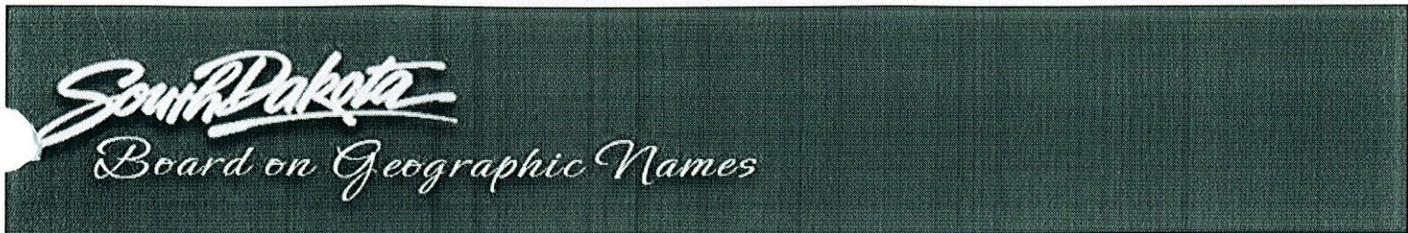
"In order to end fighting throughout the Great Plains, Congress established the Indian Peace Commission of 1867. Harney served on this commission. American Indians he had fought now saw him come to make peace. During the councils, Harney became the defender of American Indians. He stressed their need for food and clothing. He was later placed in charge of the administrative district known as the Great Sioux Reservation. This included all the land west of the Missouri River in present-day South Dakota.

Overseeing the Great Sioux Reservation was Harney's last government job. He died in Orlando, Fla., on May 9, 1889. His name lives on in South Dakota. The peak he might have observed in the distance as he and his troops skirted the Black Hills in 1855 was named Harney Peak in his honor by Lt. G.K. Warren while on a survey expedition in 1857."(SD Historical Society)

I ask that it remain known as Harney Peak. It is not up to us to change, delete, or influence history but to preserve it!

Janet M. Everson

Sent from my iPad



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 APR 06 2015
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:

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: Thunder Mountain

Reason/Justification for Name: I have read the letter from Basil Brave Heart. I respect and admire his viewpoint on the renaming of this geographic feature in the Black Hills. I agree that renaming this feature is appropriate. I strongly feel that renaming the mountain after a non-existent perhaps mythological animal is not in our best interest. Naming geographical sites in more realistic terms might aid all people in the memory the site evokes. The native Americans from generations past marveled at the lightning, thunder and fires the storms brought to the center of the hills, commenting on the "wars" among the "gods" or ancient ones, making many fearful of going deep into the hills. I urge the committee to seriously consider the renaming of this, our highest peak, to have

Origin/Meaning of Name: meaning to all that live and/or visit our beautiful hills. A name that promotes visions of the impactful realities of living in the world's smallest independent mountain range.



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: Bruce G. Stinson
Title (if representing organization or public entity):
Organization or Public Entity (if applicable):
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 787 Hill City, S.D. 57745
Telephone: 605-574-2754
Email Address: JBStinson@Goldenwest.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/>

RECEIVED
APR 06 2015

Jamela Pettit
375 Bluebell Lane #1
Custer, SD 57730

April 3, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed change of the name of Harney Peak.

I was born in Rapid City and raised in a home on Harney Street in Custer, SD. As a young person I hiked to Harney Peak, rode horses to Harney Peak, and rode in jeeps to Harney Peak. I also had the adventure of spending a night in the observatory with the fire lookouts, enjoying a beautiful summer storm. When we woke in the morning sun, we were thrilled to watch mountain

The depressions in the rock.
Wonderful memories!

With the creation of the wilderness area surrounding the peak, the Native American influence and history was recognized when named "Black Elk Wilderness". To me, this represents a balance - Native American and pioneer.

Our nation has always been a blend of many people, each with a unique culture and history. I feel the current names, "Black Elk Wilderness" and "Harney Peak", the diversified culture of our area can be seen and felt by locals and visitors.

We cannot change our past,
we can only strive to make
life better for all Americans.
We all need to recognize
and respect our differences
without anger and resent-
ment, going forward not
back.

With the current racial
tensions in our area as
well as our country, I feel
it is best to keep the names,
"Black Elk Wilderness" and
"Harney Peak" as they are.
This represents a blend of
cultures.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Annula Pettit

Reiss, David

From: Stacee Farmer <Stacee.Farmer@sintegleska.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 2:04 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Changing Harney Peak's Name:

Good Afternoon sir, I am emailing you on the recent discussion of the name change. I would totally agree on changing the name because of Mr. Harney's reputation. We are all aware of the accounts of the past and the disgraceful way he treated the Native Americans. Not to mention that usually when people name something after someone it is because they are worthy of remembrance. In my opinion Mr. Harney has no honor, therefor is not worthy to have the honor of having the sacred landmark named after him. I also have to issue with naming the peak after Black Elk

Respectfully,

Stacee Farmer

VIOP Tech
SGU Mis department
Ext #8578



Please consider the environment before printing this email

Reiss, David

From: Richard Berg <REBerg48@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 8:29 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Renaming Harney Peak
Attachments: Harney Peak Rename.docx

Dear Mr. Reiss,

I have attached my comments concerning the renaming of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. I also sent my comments to you via the US Mail.

Sincerely,
Richard E. Berg
Rapid City, SD

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

April 7, 2015

Subject: Renaming Harney Peak

Dear Mr. Reiss,

I have enclosed my comments for the Board to consider concerning renaming Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak, or some other name. I sent a shorter 200 word version to the Rapid City Journal for possible publication on its editorial page. I would recommend changing the name to Antelope Peak, but please read my comments.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Berg
1032 Alma Street
Rapid City, South Dakota
57701

Home Telephone: 605-791-2335

Renaming Harney Peak

If Harney's name is to be removed from Harney Peak because he killed Indians, then Black Elk should not be considered either, because he killed U.S. Army soldiers. Consider changing the name to Antelope Peak.

In this era of Political Correctness it seems that Harney has too much baggage when he lead his soldiers in the killing of 86 Sioux Indians at Blue Water Creek in Nebraska Territory. Did Harney kill any of the Sioux at Blue Water Creek, or was it just the men under his command? It probably doesn't matter to whoever wants to change the name of the peak. If the blood on Harney's hands now disqualifies his having a peak named after him in South Dakota, then Black Elk should also be disqualified.

Black Elk himself stated the following about his actions during the June 1876 Battle of the Little Bighorn as he related his involvement to John Neihardt, and subsequently published in Neihardt's book, *Black Elk Speaks* (2004),

"Soon the soldiers were all crowded into the river, and many Lakotas too; and I was in the water awhile. men and horses were all mixed up and fighting in the water, and it was like hail falling in the river. Then we were out of the river, and people were stripping the dead soldiers and putting the clothes on themselves. There was a soldier on the ground and he was still kicking. A Lakota rode up and said to me: "Boy, get off and scalp him." I got off and started to do it. He had short hair and my knife wasn't very sharp. He ground his teeth. Then I shot him in the forehead and got his scalp (p.85).

Black Elk went to show his mother the scalp before returning to the battle (p. 95).

"Before we got there, the Wasichus (whites) were all down, and most of them were dead, but some of them were still alive and kicking. Many other boys had come up by this time, and we rode around shooting arrows into the Wasichus. There was one who was squirming around with arrows sticking in him, and I started to take his coat, but a man pushed me away and took the coat for himself. Then I saw something bright hanging on this soldier's belt, and I pulled it out. It was round and bright and yellow and very beautiful and I put it on me for a necklace. At first it ticked inside, and then it did not any more. I wore it around my neck for a long time before I found out what it was and how to make it tick again (p. 95).

While still on the hill Black Elk continued,

"There was a soldier who was raising his arms and groaning. I shot an arrow into his forehead, and his arms and legs quivered (p. 96).

"There was a little boy, younger than I was, who asked me to scalp a soldier for him. I did, and he ran to show the scalp to his mother (p. 96).

Black Elk's final action at the Little Bighorn was the next day,

"Beneath the hill (where Reno and Benteen were dug in?), right on the west side of the Greasy Grass, were some bullberry bushes, and there was a big boy by the name of Round Fool who was running around the bushes. We boys asked him what he was doing that for, and he said: "There is a Wasichu in the bush." And there he was. He had hidden there when the other soldiers ran to the hill-top and he had been there all night. We boys began shooting at him with arrows, and it was like chasing a rabbit. He would crawl from one side to the other while were running around the bush shooting at him with our bows. Once he yelled "Ow." After awhile we set fire to the grass around the bushes, and he came out running. Some of our warriors killed him (p. 97).

So, Black Elk killed the wounded and mutilated and stole from the dead, and contributed to the death of another soldier in the U.S. Army. Recent "In Brief" (Board seeks input on proposed name, March 19, 2015), "Commentary", and "Opinion" pages in the *Rapid City Journal* ("Harney's violent history", March 28, 2015; 160 years later, Harney under fire, March 29, 2015) did not provide the public with any more detail than to show how truly bad Harney was, or that Black Elk was at the Battle of the Little Big Horn. They omitted (maybe due to space) writing anything negative about Black Elk. If we're going to air one persons dirty laundry, then also let us see the negative side of the other person involved in this discussion.

In today's politically correct and highly partisan world, it will be hard to find anyone in our past, or present for that matter, that wasn't directly or indirectly associated with what would today be categorized as crimes against humanity, or even sympathized with such an action. Federal policies and the dominant society views were far different in the past. Our ancestors would be shocked by the behaviors and views of their descendents just as some portion of our contemporaries scorn the behaviors and views of our ancestor. If the name Harney Peak is changed, I would suggest naming the peak after an animal such as: Pronghorn or Antelope Peak (my choice), Eagle Peak, Bighorn Peak, or call it Granite Peak (if that is what it is made of) or Veterans Peak-if you can handle what they must have experienced serving in uniform in whatever capacity for our country. Consider Ponderosa Peak after the pine forests of the Black Hills; or one of the tribes (Comanche, Crow, Kiowa, Kiowa-Apache, and Ponca) that lived here before the Sioux took possession of the hills followed by the Wasichus. Finally, what about La Verendrye, the first European to probably have seen the Black Hills. Did he kill anyone, or have someone killed?

Richard E. Berg