



## Propose New Name or Name Change of Geographic Feature

The South Dakota Board on Geographic Names (SDBGN) is a state commission created in 2009 by SDCL Chapter 1-19C. 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>. Any proposed name changes for municipalities, counties or other political subdivisions of the State of South Dakota should be sent directly to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names for consideration.

Proposed Name: Highway Kaşa (Making of Owls)

Action Requested:

Name an unnamed feature

Change name of existing feature Harney Peak

RECEIVED

APR 09 2015

Reason for requesting name change or proposing a name for unnamed feature:

Col. William Harney was not a good leader, he led the massacre at Blue Water Creek. Harney also killed innocent Native American women and children.

Type of Geographic Feature: Peak, Mountain Top

Location of Feature (County/Geographic Coordinates):

Pennington County

Descriptive Information of the geographic feature:

Highest land formation between Rocky Mts. and Atlantic Ocean; rock formations resemble owls.

Meaning or Significance of the proposed name:

Many Native peoples recognized this Peak because of its owl-shaped formations. This is also a very sacred lands for the Native Americans.

Intended to Commemorate/Honor an Individual  Y  N  X

If yes, who?

Are you representing an organization/public entity or acting as an individual? If representing an organization or public entity, please identify the organization and your role.

Individual

Please provide any letters of support for the new name and list any public entities or organizations that have indicated support for the new name below:

Rosebud Sioux Tribe have or will submit a resolution calling for the name change to Highay Kaga.

Submitted by:

Name: Ebony Tiger  
Title (if representing organization or public entity): \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization or Public Entity (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 164  
Telephone: 605-469-5414  
Email Address: ebonytiger@gmail.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.*

Submit form 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

Website: <http://www.sdbgn.sd.gov/>



**Propose New Name  
or Name Change of  
Geographic Feature**

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Proposed Name: Hinhan Kaja (Making of Owls)

Action Requested:

- Name an unnamed feature
- Change name of existing feature Harney Peak

RECEIVED

APR 09 2015

Reason for requesting name change or proposing a name for unnamed feature:

Col. William Harney led the massacre at Blue Water Creek. He should not be honored for terrible actions done to the Native people. Hinhan Kaja is far more important because the rock formations look like owls. Tribes have recognized this peak because of the formations.

Type of Geographic Feature: peak, mountain top

Location of Feature (County/Geographic Coordinates):

Pennington County

Descriptive Information of the geographic feature:

Highest land formations between Atlantic Ocean + Rocky Mountains; rock formations resemble owls.

Meaning or Significance of the proposed name:

This land formation has a number of Owl shapes. Mang Tribes recognized this & called it Hinhan Kaja.

Intended to Commemorate/Honor an Individual Y  N

If yes, who?

Are you representing an organization/public entity or acting as an individual? If representing an organization or public entity, please identify the organization and your role.

Acting as an individual.

Please provide any letters of support for the new name and list any public entities or organizations that have indicated support for the new name below:

Rosebud Sioux Tribe have or will submit a resolution for calling it Hinhan Kaja

Submitted by:

Name: Parris Humphrey  
Title (if representing organization or public entity): \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization or Public Entity (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: PO Box 932, Wagner, South Dakota  
Telephone: 605-384-5304  
Email Address: parris.humphrey@outlook.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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Proposed Name: Hinhan Kaga (Making of Owls)

Action Requested:

- Name an unnamed feature
- Change name of existing feature *Harney Peak*

RECEIVED

APR 09 2015

Reason for requesting name change or proposing a name for unnamed feature:

Col. William Harney led the massacre at Blue Water Creek. He should not be honored for committing what in today's military courts would be classified as war crimes. Hinhan Kaga would be more appropriate as it focuses on the rock formations which look like owls. Many tribes recognized this peak according to those formations.

Type of Geographic Feature: peak, mountain top

Location of Feature (County/Geographic Coordinates):

Pennington County

Descriptive Information of the geographic feature:

highest land formation between Atlantic Ocean and Rocky Mountains; rock formations resemble owl shapes

**Meaning or Significance of the proposed name:**

Hinhan Kaga (Making of Owls) has a number of owl-shaped rock formations. Numerous tribes recognized this and called it by this name.

Intended to Commemorate/Honor an Individual Y  N

If yes, who?

Are you representing an organization/public entity or acting as an individual? If representing an organization or public entity, please identify the organization and your role.

INDIVIDUAL

Please provide any letters of support for the new name and list any public entities or organizations that have indicated support for the new name below:

Rosebud Sioux Tribe have/will submit a resolution calling for the name change to Hinhan Kaga.

**Submitted by:**

Name: Deanna Stands  
Title (if representing organization or public entity): \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization or Public Entity (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: 40075 SD HWY 46, Wagner, SD 57380  
Telephone: (605) 384-5783  
Email Address: deannastands@gmail.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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Dept. of Tribal Relations  
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Proposed Name: Hinhan Kaga (Making of Owls)

Action Requested:

- Name an unnamed feature
- Change name of existing feature *Harney Peak*

RECEIVED  
APR 09 2015

Reason for requesting name change or proposing a name for unnamed feature:

Col. William S. Harney led a massacre against an innocent Lakota village at Blue Water Creek. He should not be continued to be honored for committing war crimes against the innocent.

Hinhan Kaga (Making of Owls) should be the new name. This Lakota name reflects the name used before the white man came. The Rosebud Sioux Tribe has passed a resolution expressing this name to be used in place of Harney Peak.

Type of Geographic Feature: Mountain Peak

Location of Feature (County/Geographic Coordinates):

Pennington County

Descriptive Information of the geographic feature:

Highest land formation between Atlantic Ocean and Rocky Mountains. Rock formation resemble owl shapes.

**Meaning or Significance of the proposed name:**

Hinhan Kaga (Making of Owls) has a number od owl-shaped rock formations. Numerous tribes, not just the Lakota, recognized this and called it by this time.

Intended to Commemorate/Honor an Individual  N  Y

If yes, who?

Are you representing an organization/public entity or acting as an individual? If representing an organization or public entity, please identify the organization and your role.

Individual

Please provide any letters of support for the new name and list any public entities or organizations that have indicated support for the new name below:

Rosebud Sioux Tribe resolution has been/will be submitted.

**Submitted by:**

Name: Trajan Holiday  
Title (if representing organization or public entity): \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization or Public Entity (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: 814 Spruce Avenue PO Box 998 Wagner, SD 57380  
Telephone: (605) 491-4164  
Email Address: holiday.trajan@gmail.com

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Proposed Name: Hinhan Kaga (Making of Owls)

Action Requested:

- Name an unnamed feature
- Change name of existing feature *Harney Peak*

RECEIVED

APR 09 2015

Reason for requesting name change or proposing a name for unnamed feature:

Col. William S. Harney shouldn't be honored for committing war crimes against the innocent indigenous women and children of the lakota. Also, shouldn't be named after any one person.

I believe Harney Peak should be named to Hinhan Kaga, because it would be appropriate as the rock formations resemble owls and was previously named by the Rosebud tribe before the white man.

Type of Geographic Feature: mountain peak

Location of Feature (County/Geographic Coordinates):

Pennington County

Descriptive Information of the geographic feature:

Highest land formation between Atlantic Ocean and Rocky Mountains.  
Rock Formations resemble owl shapes.

**Meaning or Significance of the proposed name:**

Hinhan Kaga (Making of Owls) has a number of owl-shaped rock formations. Numerous Tribes, not just the lakota, recognized this and called it by this name.

Intended to Commemorate/Honor an Individual Y  N

If yes, who?

Are you representing an organization/public entity or acting as an individual? If representing an organization or public entity, please identify the organization and your role.

INDIVIDUAL

Please provide any letters of support for the new name and list any public entities or organizations that have indicated support for the new name below:

Rosebud Sioux Tribe Resolution has been/will be submitted.

**Submitted by:**

Name: Janessa Picotte-Turner

Title (if representing organization or public entity): \_\_\_\_\_

Organization or Public Entity (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: 29728 400th Ave, Wagner, SD 57380

Telephone: (605) 491-4112

Email Address: janessaturner@hotmail.com

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Proposed Name: Hinhan Kaga (Making of Owls)

Action Requested:

- Name an unnamed feature
- Change name of existing feature *Harney Peak*

RECEIVED  
APR 09 2015

Reason for requesting name change or proposing a name for unnamed feature:

As you may know, Columbus "discovered" what is to day the United States, in 1492. Although I ask, how can you "discover" land that is already occupied? Exactly, you can't.

So technically Columbus didn't "discover" this land, but stole it. Since then, the Europeans took so much from the Native Americans...Therefore, I do not believe it should be named after the inhonorable Col. William S. Harney, who took many innocent Native American lives near Harney Peak. It should be changed to the original name, Hinhan Kaga (Making of Owls), which it was called before the white men came.

Type of Geographic Feature: mountain peak

Location of Feature (County/Geographic Coordinates):

Pennington County

Descriptive Information of the geographic feature:

Highest land formation between Atlantic Ocean and Rocky Mountains.  
Rock formations resemble owl shapes.

**Meaning or Significance of the proposed name:**

Hinhan Kaga (Making of Owls) has a number of owl-shaped rock formations. Numerous tribes, not just the Lakota, recognized this and called it by this name.

Intended to Commemorate/Honor an Individual Y  N

If yes, who?

Are you representing an organization/public entity or acting as an individual? If representing an organization or public entity, please identify the organization and your role.

Individual

Please provide any letters of support for the new name and list any public entities or organizations that have indicated support for the new name below:

Rosebud Sioux Tribe Resolution has been/will be submitted.

**Submitted by:**

Name: Chloe Tiger

Title (if representing organization or public entity): \_\_\_\_\_

Organization or Public Entity (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: 828 Pine Ave, P.O. Box 995

Telephone: (605) 491-4458

Email Address: chloewaetermans@hotmail.com

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Proposed Name: Hinhan Kaga (Making of Owls)

Action Requested:

- Name an unnamed feature
- Change name of existing feature *Harney Peak*

RECEIVED

APR 09 2015

Reason for requesting name change or proposing a name for unnamed feature:

Why should we have a landmark named after a man who led a massacre?  
In Today's world, there is no place for honoring a murderer.

Type of Geographic Feature: mountain peak

Location of Feature (County/Geographic Coordinates):

Pennington County

Descriptive Information of the geographic feature:

the formations resemble the outlines of owls.

Meaning or Significance of the proposed name:

Hinhan Kaga (Making of Owls) resembles the outline of owls. In

Intended to Commemorate/Honor an Individual Y  N

If yes, who?

Are you representing an organization/public entity or acting as an individual? If representing an organization or public entity, please identify the organization and your role.

Individual

Please provide any letters of support for the new name and list any public entities or organizations that have indicated support for the new name below:

Rosebud Sioux Tribe Resolution has been/will be submitted.

**Submitted by:**

Name: Chaz Stricker

Title (if representing organization or public entity): \_\_\_\_\_

Organization or Public Entity (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: mylinstricker@yahoo.com

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**Submit form 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

**Website:** <http://www.sdbgn.sd.gov/>

**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Sharon Harmon <sharonharmon48@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 09, 2015 6:17 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Harney Peak name change

Yes, yes, yes!! It should be changed.

Although the Lakota people were not the first people to call the Black Hills their home, I think it is best to reflect the Lakota history. I cringe whenever I hear the name Harney because of his legacy.

I read somewhere some years ago that the Lakota people called it Thunder Mountain (in their tongue, of course) because they thought that's where all the thunder storms originated. Our cabin north of Hill City actually has a view of it and that's what we call it.

However, I would welcome a change from the current name and one that would reflect the Lakota history.

Sincerely, Sharon



**CUSTER COUNTY**  
*Custer County Commissioners*

*420 Mt. Rushmore Rd.*

*Custer, SD. 57730*

*Phone: 605-673-8100*

*Fax: 605-673-8150*

April 7, 2015

South Dakota Board of Geographic Names

Attn: David Reiss

Dept. Of Tribal Relations

302 East Dakota Ave

Pierre, SD 57501

RECEIVED

APR 10 2015

Dear Mr Reiss,

Consideration has been given to the proposed name change of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak at the March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Commissioners' meeting.

The Commissioners would like to comment that they are not in favor of the name change. "Harney Peak" has a historical nature, dating back to 1870, and the Commissioners feel that to change the name would impact the very important lesson learned from its history.

In and for the Custer County Commissioners:

Phil Lampert

Chairman,  
Custer County Commissioners

## Reiss, David

---

**From:** Karen McGregor <karenmcgregor924@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2015 9:13 AM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** Comments on Harney Peak Name change

Harney Peak was named in 1857 according to information I found on the internet, and after 158 years, I think the name should not be changed. There seems to be no end to attempting to rewrite history in the Black Hills and as a lifelong South Dakotan, I'm tired of it.

There is already a Black Elk Wilderness so I do not think we need to honor Black Elk again.

If there is an insistence on renaming the peak, how about Reconciliation Peak since that seems to be what is desired. Or offer naming rights for a price. Like T. Denny Sanford Peak.

Karen McGregor  
PO Box 8156  
Rapid City, SD 57709

605-721-6178

**Reiss, David**

---

**From:** gayleknopik@aol.com  
**Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2015 12:40 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** in support of changing the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak

Dear Mr. Reiss,

I am writing to let you know that I fully support changing the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak.

We need to honor the indigenous people.

Thank you for your consideration,

Gayle Knopik

## Reiss, David

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**From:** Tallbear, Kimberly M <kim.tallbear@austin.utexas.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 12, 2015 9:33 AM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** proposed barney peak name change

Dear David Reiss,

I write to echo a suggestion Lakota friends and colleagues have made for a name change of Harney Peak to Hinhan Kaga, translated to English as "the making of owls." This is the place name that preceded U.S. colonization and refers to rock formations shaped like owls.

I agree with other comments i have read that our ancestors did not tend to name land formations after humans. This is why i do not suggest a name change to Black Elk Peak. That still speaks to a non-L/D/Nakota naming practice.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Kim TallBear  
Associate Professor of Anthropology and  
Native American & Indigenous Studies  
University of Texas, Austin  
(member of Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate)

## Reiss, David

---

**From:** Gary Price <docgary@mail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 12, 2015 12:43 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David; Madonna Wright  
**Subject:** Harney Peak name change

4.12.15

Dear Sir,

Ref: Harney Peak

I feel this name should be changed to Black Elk's peak because of his vision quest there in the Black Hills, which legally belongs to the Lakota people.

Although some think that Black Elk's participation in the Little Big Horn involves inexcusable crimes, they are no worse than Harney, who is in the same category as Chivington.

I rust this input helps.

Gary Price 605 415 0364  
Rapid City, SD  
ICQ 672830364

## Reiss, David

---

**From:** Sherry Johnson <SherryJ@SWO-NSN.GOV>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 12, 2015 1:57 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Cc:** Tribal Executives  
**Subject:** Name Change

Mr. Reiss, I request that Harney Peak be renamed to "Hinhan Kaga" the original name as it has much traditional significance for Native American culture and history. Proudly our state should celebrate the Native American heritage. Nina Pidamayaye. Thank you.

*Dr. Sherry Johnson*

*Tawacin Waste Win*

Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Education Director

Box 509

Agency Village, SD 57262

Phone 605-698-8298

Work Cell 605-268-9057

Personal Cell 605-760-2804

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**Reiss, David**

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**From:** Lawrence <actup@swiftel.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 12, 2015 7:42 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Subject:** renaming of Harney Peak

To the SD Board of Geographical Names,

I am endorsing the wishes of my American Indian friends to rename Harney Peak to Hinhan Kaga which translates to the "Making of Owls".

The American Indian tribes view Hinhan Kaga as an ancient sacred site and want to have the peak identified by its original American Indian name.

Various Native Americans are supplying you with the background material for the origin and meaning of Hinhan Kaga so I will not repeat it here.

I encourage the Board of Geographical Names to take this name change under serious consideration.

Lawrence Novotny  
Brookings SD  
[actup@brookings.net](mailto:actup@brookings.net)

**Reiss, David**

---

**From:** RITA GUILD Owner <rguild@centurylink.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 12, 2015 8:48 PM  
**To:** Reiss, David  
**Cc:** highs777@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Re-naming of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak

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