

Reiss, David

From: Renee Albright <reenealbright@yahoo.com.sg>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2015 9:20 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Renaming Harney Peak
Attachments: PenningtonCounty-HarneyPeak-SDBGN_PRESSRELEASE_031715.pdf; ATT00001.txt

I do not want Harney Peak renamed as it is part of history. Please stop trying to change what is and all of us move on. This will open up more problems for other names from the past. Let's utilize our resources for other more important items. Thanks

MAY 15 2015



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:

Action Requested:

- Name an unnamed feature
 Change name of existing feature

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

Harney Peak is the highest geographical point east of the Rockies. Eagles are sighted west from Pierre to Wyoming and are often seen in the Black Hills. Eagles are a significant part of Lakota culture, history, and ceremonies. This name is also easy for anyone to pronounce rather than a Lokota name. The Owl idea in the RC Journal article is totally disingenuous and does not speak to the grandeur of Harney Peak. Thanks, Don Rausch, 615 Quincy St. Rapid City, S.D. 57701 Phone 718-5215

Type of Geographic Feature:

Location of Feature (County/Geographic Coordinates):

Descriptive Information of the geographic feature:

Meaning or Significance of the proposed name:

Name points to grandeur of location, ties in the geographical location of the Lakota people, ties in the culture of the Lakota people and would be very acceptable to anyone .

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.

I represent only myself, a registered voter of South Dakota

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:

This proposed name is my idea, I have not presented this proposed name to any organization or entities for discussion , acceptance or promotion

Submitted by:

Name: Donald P. Rausch

Title (if representing organization or public entity):

Organization or Public Entity (if applicable):

Mailing Address: 615 Quincy St. Apt. C Rapid City, S.D. 57701

Telephone: (605) 718-5215

Email Address: willsiedon4life@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.

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/>

May 11, 2015

MAY 15 2015

Greetings,

I notice that the South Dakota Board on Geographic Names is recommending the remaining of Harney Peak.

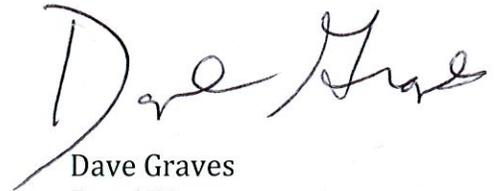
I ask that the peak remain with its current name. That has been its name for longer than any of us have been alive. When I think of Harney Peak, I think "the highest peak east of the Rocky Mountains." I had never heard of Army Gen. William Harney and his role in the killing of Sioux Indians before this renaming effort came to the forefront.

I am sure that 99 percent of South Dakotans think the same way. The deeds of this man from 160 years have been obscured by time. Harney is associated with a peak, not an army general.

The word "Harney" is not offensive in itself, like squaw or niger. We're not talking about defending what a man did 160 years ago. We're talking about maintaining the familiar association the public has with one of South Dakota's most famous landmarks. Will Custer be the next to be targeted for renaming?

"Hinhan Kaga?????" How many people can even pronounce that? Why take a famous landmark and give it a new name that is unpronounceable? This makes no sense.

If the board decides it must change the name of Harney Peak to be political correct, at least settle on a name that the majority of South Dakota citizens can pronounce and better reflects the mountain than "Making of Owls." How does that describe Harney Peak? Please think this over again.



Dave Graves
Box 474
Volga SD 57071
627-5718

Reiss, David

From: Verl and Philly <bikers2@q.com>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2015 9:48 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

Since I was born and raised in SD I consider myself a native American. My first hike up Harney Peak was in 1955. When I moved to Rapid City in 1960 and Hill City in 1981 I became a avid hiker especially in the Harney Peak area. I recorded 272 hikes to the top from the north, west and east sides and several from Sylvan Lake. I usually hiked cross country and often climbed the rocks north of the peak. In all those trips, winter and summer the only wildlife I ever saw anywhere near the peak were mountain goats and one deer, certainly no owls.

Harney Peak meets your criteria of being historic as it has been known by that name for well over a century by people all over the world. We can't change history and shouldn't attempt to. The American Indian name that is proposed certainly does not make sense. Any name change would affect historical sites such as the Harney Peak Hotel in Hill City which is a historic building. All mapping, GPS and global landmarks would be negatively affected.

Do NOT change the name, it will always be known as Harney Peak no matter what you want to call it.

Thank you for listening,
Verlin Schultz
12560 Old Hill City Rd,
Hill City SD 57745
605-574-2025

Reiss, David

From: Paul Seamans <jacknife@goldenwest.net>
Sent: Sunday, May 17, 2015 4:35 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney name change

I favor the name change to Hinhan Kaga. I do not like naming major geographical features after people.

Paul Seamans
27893 244th Street
Draper, SD. 57531

Sent from my iPad

Reiss, David

From: amber corey mascio <peace.pops@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2015 10:38 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Change the name of Harney Peak

I am addressing the issue of changing the name of Harney Peak.

I am a peace consultant and historian, and I feel a name change is a very good idea. The history of General Harney's attack on the Blue Water Creek camp in 1850 was nothing less than a racist massacre. The chief of the village, Little Thunder was a man of peace, who had received public protection and a US flag for his service to our country. The camp was well within treaty authorized "Indian safe-zones". Harney denied a peace negotiation and attacked a sleeping camp of many, many woman and children.

To promote healing in South Dakota and the USA, we should remove the name of Harney from Harney Peak, and restore the original Lakota name of Hinhan Kaga.

Thank you for reviving and considering my comments. With respect,
Corey Mascio

Reiss, David

From: Brad Lee Jones <bradljones@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 12:38 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

Now that you have bowed down to the political correctness of naming things after Natives who killed white people, Are you going to change all the counties that are named after Custer County and the City of Custer, Pennington, Meade, Hayes, Jones, Charles Mix, Clay, Grant, Sully, Ziebach counties since they were oppressors of the Native Americans and since "Sioux" is derogatory for "snake", are we going to rename everything in the state that has the word "Sioux"?

When does the nonsense end?

Brad L Jones

Reiss, David

From: Johanna Denker <jojoyd@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2015 10:23 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

What are you thinking - Hinhan Kaga is a strange name - this is crazy. I don't want you to rename Harney Peak. I am sure you will anyway, since this is your project (to rename every location in South Dakota). At least you could make it a name that everyone will identify with. "Paha Sapa" or "Black Elk" or something else more sensible. These people are not victims. They also killed many white people.

**Sincerely,
Johanna Denker**

Reiss, David

From: Vogt, Jay
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2015 1:22 PM
To: Reiss, David; Hansen, June
Subject: FW: Harney

A comment from Lonis Wendt for the record. jdv

From: lonis lois [mailto:lowendt@gwtc.net]
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2015 12:42 PM
To: Vogt, Jay
Subject: Harney

Mr. Jay: We hope this is an acceptable presentation and that you can find time to look it over. Do not know if you get to read each comment concerning the renaming of Harney peak, so I am taking the liberty of forwarding this piece to you. Thanks again. Lonis

I offer the following opinion about renaming Harney Peak in the Black Hills of Dakota with no intention of being contentious or negative toward any of our citizens.

Historical facts relative to Gen. Harney reveal that he had an imposing presence in Dakota, as extolled by first-rate historians in innumerable volumes of Dakota history. Gen. Harney and his Command were among the earliest, official expeditions to cross what is now South Dakota. He, along with Lt. G.K. Warren, (Army Topographer/explorer) and their soldiers braved unrelenting hardships and dangers to bring their knowledge and expertise to this land, and the detailed reports of their experiences, including observations, summations and mapping were vitally important to the eventual settlement of western Dakota. From these and other explorations of the frontier, history demonstrates that the government of the United States consistently promoted westward expansion, offering nearly free land, partnering with corporations to build railroads, improve bridges and roads and, provided protection to the thousands of settlers populating the frontier.

It has been mentioned that there are very few geographical places in our state specifically named for Native Americans. Actually there are several, however, we must consider that the Sioux had scored the biggest coup of all when they were honored to the max by the original naming of "Dakota" Territory. From "Resolutions" presented by their Legislatures, the two new states kept the name "Dakota" in their official title. Captivatingly, chosen over the name "Pembina" for what is now North Dakota, "Lincoln" for the Black Hills area, and "Southern Dakota," for the remainder of what is now South Dakota. The Native American heritage of the Sioux is preserved continually in our two states. Since many other tribes had roamed the Dakota prairies long before the Sioux, it is imperative that those tribes be given consideration *in the* implementation of naming future landmarks. As to the naming or renaming of a geographical point known as "Harney's Peak," I would like the board and all contributors to contemplate this circumstance: If, we are to apply the same criteria (killing of innocent humans, now called "collateral damage") for naming geographical places, which certain folks are applying to Gen. Wm. Harney, there is a probability that there should be no Sully County, Sully Buttes, Sully Lake, Ft. Sully, all named for Gen. Alfred Sully, likewise, there should be no Sheridan Lake (Gen. Sheridan), Stanley Co. (Gen. David Stanley), Miner County, (Nelson Miner, who led the Dakota Cavalry on the Sully expedition of 1863, '64, and '65), Custer County, city of Custer, Custer Peak, Custer State Park, (Gen. Custer), Terry peak, Meade County, Ft. Meade,(Gen. Meade), Hansen County(John Hansen), Grant County, (U.S.Grant), Todd County (James Blair Smith Todd, Army Capt. at Ft. Randall and Dakota

Territories first delegate to the US Congress), Sibley lakes, creeks, towns,(Gen. Henry Sibley), Eisenhower Highway, Brule County, and no Crazy Horse Memorial.

We, who are involved in this crusade have either read, researched or been told about Lt. Grattan and his quest to "do his duty" by recovering a Mormon settlers cow, the annihilation that followed, and the later encounter at Ash Hollow. In essence, this was the prelude to the "Civil War of the Northwest." We cannot judge military encounters of the 1850's by employing the mindset and availability of today's instant communications. Reality was that in 1854, the United States Government ordered Gen. Harney, a career officer, to leave Ft. Leavenworth for Nebraska Territory, with instructions to; protect the Union Pacific railroad workers and the settlers trekking toward the gold fields or further west to Oregon, from the nearly daily attacks by roving bands of Natives. These bands, representing several different tribes, were understandably irritated by the intrusion of the white settlers and the iron horse onto their hunting grounds and waters, much of which by then was, ceded land. Gen. Harney and other commanders were given orders to "seek and destroy" these roving bands that were anonymously responsible for the deaths and unspeakable mutilations of panic-stricken settlers. His encounters with these *various bands sometimes ended in warfare, with devastating results. That is the meaning of "war,"....death and destruction.* Exploiting their stealth, Indian bands flauntingly, utilized their advantages of mobility and knowledge of the terrain to regularly outmaneuver the soldiers. These actions brought frustration and the urge for vengeance to nearly every member of the military serving in Dakota and Minnesota. Eerily, Indian warriors were rewarded for scalps taken, and in the early 1860's, financial rewards of \$20.00, to as much as \$200.00 were offered for Indian scalps. That is the reality of the times which, cannot be measured unless....we were there!

To individually indict Gen. Harney for "doing his duty," we are inferring that all military commanders are guilty of being criminal or barbaric when they, in actuality, are just "following orders." Thusly, no Commanding officers would be worthy of any great honors whether they be red or white.

Harney recognized that the treaties between the government and the Indian nations were being ignored or violated and did his best to "*mend fences*" with the tribes and was a man who stood tall in the eyes of the Sioux as recorded in the following paragraph taken from the Military History of Gen. William Harney: ***"William S. Harney retired from service 1 August 1863, and he was made Brevet Major General, 13 March 1865, for long and faithful service. He died 9 May 1889, in Orlando, Florida. He was well-liked by many Indian Nations for he tried, although in vain, to have the Indians treated fairly, and consistently urged Congress to honor past treaties with the Indians. After his retirement, he was recalled to service of his country to work on various Indian Commissions. After his death the Sioux changed his name from Man-who-runs-like-the-Deer to one of which he would have been very proud, "Man-who-kept-his-word".***

Having personally served in the Signal Corps of the U.S. Army, I fully understand the "chain of command" and, its importance to the discipline and implementation of military tactics, which was as true in 1855, as it is in today's military.

There was practically no call for name changes and "political correctness" during the previous 150 yrs., to now begin a provocative process of renaming remarkable places in South Dakota, sets a very bad precedent for the overall recorded history of our state. It also constitutes a step backward for the late Gov. Mikkelson's "reconciliation" proclamation.

I believe the tallest peak in South Dakota properly honors its namesake, Gen. Wm. S. Harney, and should be retained.

* Name changes of this caliber should probably be put to a vote of the population.

A larger question concerning this type of name change emerges.....who will pay for all the map updates, and change all that is written in hundreds of history books?

MAY 20 2015

Kelsey Piper
North Middle School
Rapid City, SD 57701

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

May 5, 2015

Dear Ms. Hansen:

I think the name of Harney Peak should be changed to Black Elk Peak. I only think so because Black Elk is a Lakota man who had an experience on the peak. The Black Hills belong to the Lakota and they are sacred to the people. Also, renaming the peak would not be just renaming it. Many Native American youth are suffering from identity crises and renaming the peak would be giving the youth back there identity.

Black Elk was a holy Lakota man who had a vision quest on the peak and therefore should reflect on him because he is a Lakota man. William Harney was a military colonel and killed many Lakota people in the Battle of Ash Hollow. The Battle of Ash Hollow is also known as Battle of Blue Water Creek. The Black Hills are sacred to the Lakota because this is where they are from.

The Black Hills are a big part in the Lakota's history. Young Native American youth are suffering from identity crises. Renaming Harney Peak in a way that is related to the Lakota people would be giving the youth back there identity. Native Americans are proud and respectful of their culture and history and therefore should have their own land reflect their background and history. We could do that by starting with Black Elk and the peak.

In conclusion, Harney Peak should be changed to Black Elk Peak because of Black Elk's experience on the peak. Also he deserves it because he is a Lakota Native American. The Black Hills are sacred to the Lakota and they belong to the Lakota people. Renaming the peak would be giving the youth back there identity from the identity crises they are suffering from. Therefore Harney Peak should be changed to Black Elk Peak because of the experiences he had.

Sincerely,

Kelsey
Kelsey Piper

MAY 20 2015

Alejandria Pacheco
North Middle School
Rapid City, SD 57701

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

May 6, 2015

Dear Ms. Hansen:

I think the name of Harney Peak should be changed to Black Elk Peak because Black Elk had a vision on the mountain. The Black Hills are sacred to all ages of Native Americans.

Harney Peak was the site where a Lakota holy man had a "great vision" when he was 9 years old. Later Black Elk returned as an old man. *"I was standing on the highest mountain of them all, and round about beneath me was the whole hoop of the world. And while I stood there I saw more than I can tell and I understood more than I saw; for I was seeing in a sacred manner the shapes of all things in the spirit, and the shape of all shapes as they must live together like one being."* said Black Elk.

The Black Hills are very sacred to the Native Americans because they have a long history with the Black Hills. In 1776 the Europeans took over the territory of the Black Hills which became where the Native Americans grew up and learned new things. Unlike non-natives, they don't believe that the world belongs to them, but rather they belong to the world. Native Americans are only a part of creation, not the rulers of it. The earth feeds them, and therefore they have a responsibility to it. They believe you don't take without asking, and take only what you need, and what is taken must be repaid. This leads to living in balance and harmony with the world, which is how it should be. The world needs this lesson if we're going to survive.

In conclusion, the name should be changed to Black Elk Peak for the great Lakota leader, Black Elk, I feel strongly that the mountain is sacred and the name should reflect the sacredness.

With respect,



Alejandria Pacheco

MAY 20 2015

Hunter Newman
North Middle School
Rapid City, SD 57701

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

May 5, 2015

Dear Ms. Hansen

I think the name of Harney Peak should not be changed because William Harney was a more deserving person of the name Harney Peak. I don't think we should go back and change history.

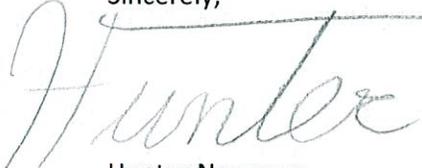
Harney was an army general. He had his life on the line for a bunch of people. Harney has killed a lot of Native Americans but that is the point of war. You either die fighting or you die with pride. Which one would you choose? I would rather die with pride than die doing nothing with my life. Harney was more deserving person because he fought for his country. Also, he was a much honored person. If he had a peak named after him he should be able to keep that name of the peak.

In the future, how are kids going to do a report if they don't know the real name or the history behind Harney Peak kids should know the real name to the historical monuments? What's next they change the name of Mount Rushmore or Crazy Horse or any historical monument.

So what it is war those men and women go and risk their lives on the line every time they pickup that gun or shoot that gun. You don't know if you're going to wake up every day and live to see another day. But Harney live another day. And they named the peek based off of his duty and honor in the Army. Harney Peak should keep its name. William Harney is more deserving of the name.

In conclusion, William Harney is worthy of the name. Harney Peak is named after William Harney and it should stay that way. Nobody wants to change history. History should stay the same forever. What if a little kid wants to do a report about Harney Peak. And he does not know the real background of Harney Peak. I have never been to Harney Peak but if I do ever go. I think it would be an awesome sight and I could look at the mountain and see the history before my eyes. Are they going to start changing the names of lakes or even oceans or better yet states or laws? They could change the name of anything. Why not keep historical things the way they are. Everybody should know the real history behind a historical monument.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hunter".

Hunter Newman

MAY 20 2015

Kaylyn Asbjeld

North Middle School

Rapid City, SD

57701

June Hansen, chair

South Dakota board of geographic names

South Dakota Department of tribal relation

302 East Dakota Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Ms. Hansen:

I believe that the name of Harney Peak should be changed to Black Elk Peak. Three reasons I think this are because the name should reflect the people who live here. Also, Black Elk reflects more positively on South Dakota. And finally, Harney Peak lies in Black Elk Wilderness.

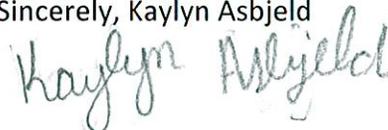
I believe the name should change because Black Elk represents the largest minority in South Dakota. 8.8 % of the South Dakota population is Native American. Many people believe that Black Elk is a more deserving man than Harney. Many Lakota deaths are contributed to him or his troops in the Indians wars.

Black Elk reflects more positively on South Dakota because he helped his people. I think future generations should know the positive side of Harney Peak other than the negative side. Harney was a murderer of Lakota people. Black Elk helped his people to all live in harmony. Black Elk came from a long line of medicine men.

Finally, my last reason is that Harney Peak is in Black Elk Wilderness. I think that it is not fair because no one really knows about Black Elk Wilderness. I think people should know more about Black Elk than about General Harney.

In conclusion, I feel strongly about the name change from Harney to Black Elk Peak. My reasons for it are; the name should reflect the people who live here in South Dakota. Secondly, Black Elk reflects more positively on South Dakota than Harney. And finally, the place where Harney Peak lies, is in Black Elk wilderness.

Sincerely, Kaylyn Asbjeld



MAY 20 2015

June Hanson, chair
South Dakota board on geographic names,
South Dakota Department of tribal Redactions,
302East Dakota, Pierre SD 57701

Miracle Fiegen,
north middle school
Rapid City, SD 57701

May 6, 2015

Dear June Hanson,

I think Harney Peak should not be changed to Black Elk Peak. I think this because it's a great place for our freedom. Secondly, white people have been killed by Indians in the old days. Last but not least, most Americans have been in the wars and/ or they have lost family in the wars. So why should we name it after Black Elk who killed people when Americans were in a war with the Indians?

First, why should we give the mountain's name to a man who tried to take away our freedom and our life? If we did not get to the war with the Indians and if we did not win then what would we be like today? If we did not have our freedom, then the mountain would not even be named Harney Peak or any other name. That is really important in our lives. It is like a freedom card that we put away forever so we always be free to do what we want. Without freedom people would not even have a say about what the mountain should be named or a name changed to anything.

Next thing is the people who were there when we first got to this land and who made friends with the Indians. The people who made a peace with the Indians was a hard peace because we had to made a hard peace because we went on their land and they tried to kill us when we were making a land to live on. The peace was hard because they would not come near us to make the peace until one day that Squanto came to the Indians and told them that we come in peace and so on the peace between both our people came together.

Last but not least, our people that are in the war or the family's that lost people in the war to everything. I know to a fact that a lot of people have lost their loved ones to the wars and who might lose their loved ones because they are in the army or military. People who have been in the wars are great heroes and people love them because they keep us free. The people in the wars are great people because they know that it is dangerous but they go in any way to make a peace with other people so that there will not be a world war three. So that is really a thing to think about because Harney was in the war and we should respect that.

In conclusion, we should not change the name to Black Elk Peak because of our freedom and our war with the Indians. Then these are the people who risked their lives to save our lives. So do you think that we should still make the name change after all that Harney has done to keep us free and alive and to make us have a good country? These are my thoughts but if you still want to make the name change then to me I would never forget that Harney risked his life for us.

In respect,

Miracle Fiegen

Miracle Fiegen

MAY 20 2015

Eugene little
North Middle School
Rapid City, SD 57701

June Hansen, Chair
South Dakota Board on geographic names
South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations
302 East Dakota
Pierre, SD 57501

May 5, 2015

Dear Ms. Hansen:

I think the name of Harney Peak should be changed to Black Elk Peak because Black Elk was in the great Battle of the Little Bighorn and also he traveled to Canada where Sitting Bull had decided to make home for his followers. Also Black Elk was a wholly man native's treated him with respect and so did other people.

When Black Elk had a vision he was about 9 years old the vision was visited by Thunder Beings and taken to the Grandfathers-spiritual representatives of the six scared directions: West, east, north, above, and below. And he learned many things in his vision to help and heal his people and he had come from a long line of being a medicine man. Black Elk had many visions throughout his life which reinforced what he had experienced as a boy.

Sincerely,

Eugene little

MAY 20 2015

MAY 20 2015

Lyle Cottier
North Middle School
Rapid City, SD 57701

June Hansen, Chair
South Dakota Board on Geographic Names
South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations
302 East Dakota
Pierre, SD 57501
May 5, 2015

Dear Ms. Hansen

I think the name of Harney Peak should be changed to Black Elk Peak because William Harney does not deserve a mountain named after him. William slatered many native Americans including woman and children. The mountain Harney Peak is the highest point in South Dakota.

Harney Peak represent the values that that we have Native Americans. The mountain is a part of the secrete black hills. Black elk had a vison at the top of the mountain he was Native American. Native Americans deserve the name.

From

Lyle Cottier

MAY 20 2015

Jayden James Tuttle
North Middle School
Rapid City, SD 57701

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

May 5, 2015

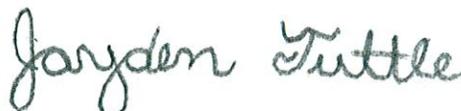
Dear Ms. Hansen:

I think the name of Harney Peak should be changed to Black Elk because the name Harney was a murder of Lakota people no one wants to remember him. Secondly, a native by the name of Black Elk had a vision on top of Harney Peak. Finally, if you changed the name to something that had Lakota in it, it will give them respect.

First, is that the name Harney just brings back horrible memory sure the natives killed 30 soldiers but they killed 86 natives and some of those 86 weren't soldiers they were women and children. The natives didn't bring any of the innocent involved. Secondly, is that a native by the name Black Elk had a vision on top of Harney Peak. I think they should name it Black Elk peak after a spiritual event happened there. Finally, is that changing the name would show the Native Americans that whites and any other race respect and honor them.

In conclusion, I think they should change the name to Black Elk peak because the name Harney Peak brings back horrible memories. And that Black Elk had a vision on top of Harney Peak. Also it would show the Native Americans that Americans respect them and honor them.

Sincerely,



Jayden Tuttle

MAY 20 2015

Brayden Davis
North Middle School
Rapid city, SD 57701

June Hansen, Chair
South Dakota Board on Geographic Names
South Dakota of Tribal Relations
302 East Dakota
Pierre, SD 57501

May 5, 2015

Dear Ms. Hansen:

I think that you should name Harney Peak Black Elk. Because Black Elk is more deserving than William Harney because he slaughtered women and children while the warriors were gone in the battle of Ash Hollow. Also they should rename Harney Peak to Black Elk because the peak is sacred to the Native Americans.

So my conclusion is that they should rename the peak to Black Elk because William Harney slaughtered all those women and children and the peak is sacred.

Sincerely:

Brayden Davis.

MAY 20 2015
MAY 20 2015

Abby Harmon
North Middle School
Rapid City, SD 57701

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

May 5, 2015

Dear Ms. Hanson:

I think that Harney Peak's name should be changed to Black Elk Peak because Black Elk is important to the Lakota people and a more deserving person. Also, the new name could make a new and better future for South Dakota.

Black Elk is important to the Lakota people. "Black Elk supposedly had a vision quest up there. What better place to have a spiritual experience than on top of that mountain, not named after a military leader, but named after a spiritual leader." stated in Rapid City's Adoba Hotel hearing by David Melmer. I strongly agree with this position because Black Elk had a better experience with the mountain than Harney.

Black Elk is a more deserving person because he arrived at Wounded Knee in 1890 after Spotted Elk's band of people had been shot. Black Elk helped rescue Spotted Elk's people that were wounded, even though he had been grazed by a bullet in his hip. He deserves to have his name on that mountain because even if he was hurt he still found a way to help people and put other people's needs before his.

The new name could make a better future because it would improve the way that Native American's feel about their country. It would show that the Native Americans are a part of their country and a part of American History.

In conclusion, I think that Harney Peak's name should be changed to Black Elk Peak. As I have told you in this letter that it wouldn't be a bad change that it would be a good change for our American History.

Sincerely,

Abby Harmon

Abigail Harmon

Reiss, David

From: Bill Schreier <bschreier@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 5:38 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Name change

I fully support the renaming of Harney Peak.
Bill Schreier
246 N 8th Streer
Custer, SD 57730

Sent from Samsung tablet



DEPARTMENT of GAME, FISH, AND PARKS

Foss Building
523 East Capitol
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182

May 18, 2015

MAY 21 2015

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DEPT. OF TRIBAL RELATIONS
302 EAST DAKOTA
PIERRE, SD 57501

Dear Chairwoman Hansen and fellow Board Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your recent recommendation to rename Harney Peak to the Lakota name "Hinhan Kaga" meaning the "Making of Owls".

While we can appreciate that some may desire change, Harney Peak has been referred to by this name since the late 1850's. Millions of people from around the world have visited Harney Peak and have come to know it as such. Changing the name of a prominent natural landmark such as Harney Peak will be confusing to the thousands of people coming to the Black Hills and very difficult to explain to visitors looking for Harney Peak. How does one refer to a landmark by a certain name for almost one hundred sixty years, then change it with the stroke of a pen and avoid causing widespread, unnecessary confusion?

Not only does the name change lead to confusion, it will also require significant costs associated with the changing of all the signs and publications to accurately reflect the name change. Just within the Black Hills Area, there are dozens of signs and print material that would need to be changed adding a significant burden to tight budgets.

The third issue is taking a name that is easy to remember and pronounce (Harney Peak) and change to a name using words from another language that most visitors will not be able to pronounce or understand what it means.

From the standpoint of directing visitors to this prominent peak that thousands hike to every year, we encourage the Board to retain the name of Harney Peak. We believe this would avoid confusion and difficulty directing visitor traffic. After the public comment period closes, if the Board still feels that Harney Peak should be renamed, we encourage the Board to consider selecting a name that everyone can pronounce and able to understand its meaning.

Sincerely,

Kelly Hepler
Secretary Game, Fish, and Parks

cc: Doug Hofer, Hunter Roberts, Nathan Sanderson

Reiss, David

From: Roger Niederwerder <mrduster73@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 7:33 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak rename

I do not think the name for Harney Peak should be changed. I have visited with many people in the Black Hills area and there is not any support for the change.

Thank you.
Roger Niederwerder

Reiss, David

From: dennis graves <dgraves7777@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 7:37 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Renaming Harney Peak

David,

I believe renaming Harney Peak to (Making of Owls) would be a mistake. Where do we stop with which could be offensive to one race or another. My origins are from England does that mean that we should rename the Battlefields from the American Revolution because I feel they are offensive because of what happened to my fellow countrymen?

I believe that doing such an action as renaming landmarks incites more racial prejudice instead of removing it. I have lived and worked with the Native American race my entire life and believe it is not important to the majority of these individuals.

When the U.S. government created the Indian Reservations did it bring us together as a nation or segregate the Native Americans into separate entities.

Please keep the name as it is.

Thanks,
Dennis Graves

Reiss, David

From: flyguy@rangeweb.net
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 7:55 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney peak

Let's stop this ridiculous waste of public funds renaming mountains and monuments. Leave Harney Peak as is, and save us some tax dollars. It is not offensive to the great majority of us that live in the Black Hills (?paha sapa?) shall we change that too?

Guy Taylor
307-283-1957

Sent from Windows Mail

Reiss, David

From: Jim & Kathy Benson <jkbenson1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 8:00 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

Dear Mr. Reiss:

Please leave the Harney Peak name as is. Changing the name to the proposed name is an extremely unpopular idea to everyone that I have talked with. Thank you.

Jim Benson
Spearfish, SD

Reiss, David

From: Ray Ruff <raytrak@rushmore.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 8:06 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

It is ridiculous that every time a small group does not like something we have to spend mountains of time and money changing it. The current name has been in place for ages and we think it should remain rather than changing it to something most people do not understand or can even pronounce . We certainly must have better ways to spend our time and money. Please leave it alone. We like Harney Peak as Harney Peak.

Ray and Kris Ruff
Life long South Dakota Residents
Spearfish, South Dakota

Sent from my iPad

Reiss, David

From: Scott Triggs <triggs_8@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 9:08 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

Sir,

I am opposed to the name change. If you want to be consistent, there are several other South Dakota geographic landmarks also named for General Harney. The original intent of this Board wasn't about political correctness or redress of past injustices.

Scott Triggs
6953 Aldren Road
Rapid City, SD
57702