

stream was piped underground, but efforts are now underway to redevelop the blighted area, which will include “daylighting” the stream and developing a linear park. A system of trails within the new artificial riparian zone will connect Cleveland Academy, a local elementary school, to a nearby farmers’ market. The name Butterfly Creek was proposed by students at Cleveland Academy.

Prior to receipt of this proposal, no name was recorded for the stream in GNIS. However, numerous sources have been uncovered that refer to the stream as Greenville Branch, including an 1849 deed of conveyance; a 1912 Sanborn fire insurance map; Census enumeration records from 1930; a 1940s U.S. Bureau of Soils map; and a 1944 *Spartanburg Herald* article. More recently, the name has appeared in news articles and blogs from the late 1980s through 2008, as well as in a 2014 environmental report published by Wofford College and another, also from 2014, published jointly by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. As a result of this evidence, the name Greenville Branch has been added to GNIS and the proposal for Butterfly Creek is now being processed as a name change.

The proponent notes that the stream is also occasionally referred to as Nasty Branch or Nasty Creek, because it was believed to have been used as a disposal area for human waste and other trash. The former name appeared in a 2006 *Kudzu Telegraph* news update and is mentioned on a Trees Coalition page on Facebook. In 2013-14, the proponent, a professor of biology at University of South Carolina Upstate received a grant from the college for his project entitled “Renaming Nasty Creek.” The City of Spartanburg’s Northside Initiative Master Plan (2014) refers to “the creek, known locally as the ‘Nasty Branch’ but soon to be renamed as Butterfly Creek” as “a significant new environmental asset for the entire City.”

The Manager of the City of Spartanburg Streets and Stormwater Department recommends approval of the proposed name.

A query of GNIS found no geographic features in South Carolina using the word “Butterfly” in their names.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Black Elk Peak: summit; elevation 7,211 ft.; in Black Hills National Forest/Black Elk Wilderness, 5 mi. NE of Thunderhead Mountain, 1.6 mi. SW of Elkhorn Mountain; the name honors Black Elk (1863-1950), a Lakota spiritual leader who reported having a vision on the summit; Sec. 21, T2S, R5E, Black Hills Meridian; Pennington County, South Dakota; 43°51’58”N, 103°31’53”W; USGS map – Custer, 1:24,000; Not: Great Owls Nest, Harney Peak, Harneys Peak, Harney’s Peak, Hinhan Kaga, Hinhan Kaga Paha, Mount Harney, Okawita Paha, Opahata I, Saint Elmo Peak.
http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=43.866&p_longi=-103.53132&fid=1261770

Proposal: to change a name considered by some to be offensive

Map: USGS Custer 1:24,000

Proponent: Basil Brave Heart; Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, SD

Administrative area: Black Hills National Forest/Black Elk Wilderness

Previous BGN Action: Harney Peak (BGN 1906)

Names associated with feature:

GNIS: Harney Peak (FID 1261770)

Local Usage: Hinhan Kaga Paha (Lakota Indians), Harney Peak (local civic and tourism boards, books, web sites)

Published Usage: Black Elk’s Peak (Goble, *The Woman Who Lived with Wolves: And Other Stories from the Tipi*, 2010); Great Owls Nest (change.org petition 2014); Harney Peak

(USGS 1896, 1901, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1977, 2012; USFS maps and Web sites 1988, 2014, 2015; Federal Writer's Project 1938; *Vereinigte Staaten Von Nord-Amerika* 1875; E.P. Noll & Co 1897; National Map Company 1927; Rand McNally & Company 1939; Black Hills - Badlands Association 1940; Sneve, *South Dakota Geographic Names*, 1973; *South Dakota State Atlas*, 1980; Black Hills Badlands & Lakes Association 2004; Rogers, *Standing Witness: Devils Tower National Monument, a History* 2007; South Dakota Public Broadcasting 2011; Saum, *Harney Peak Revealed* 2013); Harneys Peak (A. J. Johnson 1865; Rufus Blanchard 1868; S.A. Mitchell Jr. 1868; USACE 1874, 1875; H.L. Thayer 1887); Harney's Peak (U.S. War Department, 1858, 1859, 1869; Rand McNally & Company 1873, 1889; USACE 1874; U. S. Army 1874; St. Paul Lithog & Eng. Co. 1878; U.S. General Land Office 1878, 1879; USGS 1879; Sneve, *South Dakota Geographic Names*, 1973; Van Balen, *Dakota Place Names*, 1998); Hinhan Kaga (Howe et al., *He Sapa Woihanble: Black Hills Dream* 2011); Hinhan Kaga Paha (USFS Web site 2015; Domek, *Images of America: Custer State Park* 2004; Kennedy, *American Indian Places: A Historical Guidebook* 2008; *Lakota Country Times* 2011; South Dakota Public Broadcasting *Dakota Digest* 2011; Howe et al., *He Sapa Woihanble: Black Hills Dream* 2011; Knife Chief Buffalo Nation Organization, 2013; Saum, *Harney Peak Revealed* 2013; Sydney [NE] *Sun-Telegraph*, 2014; *Rapid City Journal* 2014; change.org petition 2014; theblackhills.com [tourism site] 2014); Imitates Owl Mountain (Knife Chief Buffalo Nation Organization, 2013); Mount Harney (Sneve, *South Dakota Geographic Names*, 1973); Okawita Paha (Defenders of the Black Hills 2009); Opahata I (Defenders of the Black Hills 2009)

Case Summary: The new name Black Elk Peak is proposed for the summit currently named Harney Peak. This summit is located in the Black Elk Wilderness of Black Hills National Forest in Pennington County in southwestern South Dakota. It is the highest point not only in the State but also east of the Rocky Mountains in North America. The summit has been labeled Harney Peak on U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps since 1896 and on U.S. Forest Service maps since 1988. It was reportedly first applied to the summit in 1864 or 1865.

Black Elk or Nicholas Black Elk (1863-1950) was a revered Oglala Lakota holy man. His life's story became widely known after the publication of *Black Elk Speaks* by John G. Neihardt. This book contains Neihardt's English translations of Black Elk's autobiographical stories. In this book, Black Elk says that when he was nine years old, he was sick for twelve days, during which time he had a great vision. Part of this vision included travelling to the top of this summit which he described as the center of the world and about which he said: "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." Later in life, he hiked to the top of the mountain with Neihardt. Black Elk's teachings on sacred rituals have inspired many Lakota and non-Lakota to take up traditional ceremonies and study Native spirituality. He revived the Sun Dance rituals and his version is now celebrated by Lakota traditionalists, often at Devils Tower National Monument at the feature known to them as "Bear Lodge." Black Elk became a Catholic and stressed the concordance between Lakota and Christian religions.

The summit is one of the most holy sites of the Lakota. Early each spring at the summit, the Lakota hold ceremonies known as Yate Iwakicipi or "welcoming back the thunders," in which they pray for rain, help, and strength.

The proponent believes that the summit is desecrated by the name of General William S. Harney, who participated in atrocious attacks on American Indians early in his military career. Particular objection is raised about his role in the Battle of Ash Hollow in September 1855. A year earlier, a small contingent of soldiers led by Lieutenant John Lawrence Grattan was killed by a group of Lakota after an escalated negotiation over a slaughtered cow. Harney's attack was sent in

retaliation for this so-called “Grattan Massacre.” Harney and his men were reportedly brutal in their attack, killing women and children. The Lakota later called him “Squaw Killer,” “Woman Killer,” or “The Butcher.”

A review of a 2001 biography of Harney describes him as “the veritable Forrest Gump of the mid-century frontier.” Harney was involved in many frontier conflicts between 1818 and 1863, including wars with Black Hawk the Sauk, the Seminoles, the Lakota Sioux, and tribes in Texas. He served with distinction in the Mexican War in battles at Veracruz, Cerro Gordo, and Mexico City. While in command of the Army’s Department of Oregon, he sent forces led by Captain (later General) George Pickett to San Juan Island after an American settler killed a British settler’s pig. The resulting standoff with British warships was quickly de-escalated and Harney was recalled to Missouri. There he was soon embroiled in the violence of “Bleeding Kansas” as well as secessionist militia activities after the start of the American Civil War. For not dealing with the rebels harshly enough, President Lincoln recalled Harney to Washington where he served as an administrator after being captured in Virginia enroute and being offered a command by Robert E. Lee. After the Civil War, Harney worked as a peace negotiator with Plains American Indian Tribes, many of whom were the same ones he fought against in the Sioux Wars. He urged the U.S. Government to improve the treatment of native tribes and to honor past treaties. He retired to Florida and died in Orlando. After his death, the Lakota conferred to him the name “Man-who-always-kept-his-word.”

A BGN decision in 1906 approved the singular form Harney Peak. In 1970, a proposal was submitted by two residents of California to change the name to Black Elk Peak. The proponents stated, “The American Indian culture, displaced by the Anglo-American, needs reassertion for the health and depth of American culture as a whole. New impulses of ethnic self-awareness are quickening our American consciousness. Re-naming of Harney Peak for Black Elk would be an act both of restitution and of creative imagination, for the future.” The Acting Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs submitted a letter in support of the change, stating, “[Black Elk’s] story sweeps the whole gamut of human experience, from humor to pathos, from wit to profound mystic insight, from lonely everyday living to high heroism and tragedy. In his youth Black Elk hunted bison, rounded up wild horses, and wandered over half a continent. Later he traveled all over Europe with Buffalo Bill and met Queen Victoria. Always he watched the Wasichu (white man) taking over the land that belonged to his fathers.” However, the BGN decided to take no action, stating, “Since Harney Peak is a name of historical significance and is a former Board decision, the Committee expressed the need for compelling reasons to warrant consideration of the proposal. No formal action was taken.” The proponent was advised that there would likely be more support if an unnamed feature was selected instead to honor Black Elk.

The change was proposed again by a different proponent in 1973; again, the BGN declined to take any action, citing a reluctance to change “well-established” names and a belief that there would not be local or State support for the change. An online search for references to Harney Peak shows that in 2011 the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe passed a resolution requesting the name Harney Peak “revert to its Lakota name, Hinhan Kaga Paha, or such other name acceptable to the affected communities in the Black Hills region.” However, this resolution was never forwarded to the BGN.

A few independent petitions have been set up to request a name change. A 2010 causes.org petition requested the name be changed to Hinhan Kaga Paha. A September 2014 change.org petition, submitted by the Lakota Way Healing Center to President Obama, asks that the name be formally changed to Hinhan Kaga or Hinhan Kaga Paha, which is translated as “Great Owls Nest.” In 2009, a group known as Defenders of the Black Hills asked the National Park Service to designate

“Okawita Paha National Monument”; the group refers to the summit as both “Okawita Paha” and “Opahata I.”

A letter of support for the change from Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak has been submitted to the South Dakota Board on Geographic Names (SDBGN) by a first cousin, seven times removed of General Harney. Two additional letters of support have been received from South Dakota residents.

In addition to Black Elk Wilderness, GNIS includes records for a few other features with “Black Elk” in their names. Black Elk - Neihardt Park in Nebraska is named for Black Elk and John Neihardt. Black Elk Elementary School in Douglas, Nebraska is also named for Black Elk. It is unclear if Black Elk Creek, on the Rosebud Indian Reservation east of Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, is named for Black Elk.

Many features in GNIS have names that contain “Harney.” A number are named for General Harney or associated with Harney Peak, including Harney, a small community in the Black Hills. (The nearby Harney Ranger Station appears to no longer exist.) Verendrye Hill, near Pierre, was initially named Harney Hill after the peak. Several features in areas where Harney served in the U.S. Army have names honoring him. These include features in Florida such as Harney Point (in Fort Myers, the site of an attack on Harney and his men), Harney Lake (near Orlando), and Harney River and North Harney River (in the Everglades); Harney County, Oregon, which contains Harney Lake and many other associated features (the name origins of Harney Holes and Harney Well, outside Harney County, are unknown); and Harney Channel, in Washington’s San Juan Islands. Others include Harney, Nevada (an abandoned railroad siding); Harney, Maryland; and Harney Creek in Albany County Wyoming.

Dells Island: island; 1.9 sq. mi.; located along the Big Sioux River, just to the SW of the City of Dells Rapids; Minnehaha County, South Dakota; Secs 16,17,20&21, T104N, R49W, Fifth Principal Meridian; 43°48’24”N, 98°43’46”W; USGS map – Dell Rapids 1:24,000.

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.8065446&p_longi=-96.7267173

Proposal: new associative name for an unnamed feature

Map: USGS Dell Rapids 1:24,000

Proponent: City of Dell Rapids Board of Aldermen

Administrative area: None

Previous BGN Action: None

Names associated with feature:

GNIS: None found

Local Usage: None found

Published: None found

Case Summary: The new name Dells Island is proposed for a 1.9-square-mile island located along the Big Sioux River in Minnehaha County. Just south of the City of Dells Rapids, the Big Sioux River divides into two distinct branches, reuniting again approximately three miles downstream. The name Dells Island would apply to the area between the two branches, which is believed to be the largest island in South Dakota. The more easterly branch flows through cliffs of red quartzite known as the Dells of the Sioux.

The proposal for Dells Island was submitted by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Dell Rapids in response to a previous proposal to name the feature Quarry Island. The latter name refers to the fact that a large quarry exists at the north end of the island; Quarry Road also crosses the island in this area. However, the City government indicated that it would prefer the name Dells Island. After holding a public hearing and learning that the Minnehaha County Commission would defer to