

DOMESTIC GEOGRAPHIC NAME CHANGE

U.S. Board on Geographic Names

U.S. Geological Survey

Geographic Names Office

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PROPOSED NAME CHANGE: Bear Lodge

ACTION REQUESTED: Change an existing name

EXISTING NAME: Devils Tower

IS PROPOSED NAME IN LOCAL USE? Yes

NUMBER OF YEARS IN LOCAL USE: Original indigenous name

ANY LOCAL CONFLICT: Yes

EXPLAIN CONFLICT

The Antiquities Act of 1906 authorizes the President of the United States through executive order to proclaim "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest" as national monuments, in order to preserve public land without waiting for legislation to pass Congress. On September 24, 1906 President Theodore Roosevelt used his new authority to protect an igneous rock tower in Wyoming as the first national monument, formally designating the site through executive order as "Devil's Tower National Monument."

Executive Order in 2006 acknowledges that former monument designations and laws were "passed without consideration of the effect on traditional American Indian religions...resulting in an abridgment of the religious freedoms" that are afforded to all American citizens under the law.

The National Park Service currently acknowledges through its park website that the "Devils Tower" name was based on a faulty translation published in a single well-circulated source in 1875 and the error was then exacerbated through a clerical error. "It is believed that the Tower got its name when Colonel Dodge's translator misinterpreted the name to mean 'Bad God's Tower,' later shortened to Devil's Tower ... When the proclamation establishing Devils Tower was published, the apostrophe was unintentionally dropped from Devil's—and this clerical error was never officially corrected."

Indigenous people have for over a century repeatedly stated that the 1906 "Devils Tower" name is not the correct translation of the rock's name and that the Devils Tower name is offensive because it equates cultural and faith traditions practiced at this site to "devil worship," in essence equating indigenous people to "devils." The Devils Tower name is perceived by indigenous elders, leaders and individual tribal members as highly offensive, insulting, disparaging, disrespectful, derogatory, and repugnant and because this name serves as a constant irritant that causes displeasure, anger, and ongoing resentment in their community. Indigenous people have continued to use their traditional

names or the English term “Bear Lodge” when referring to the geological feature in their original traditional language rather than the official government name.

The Board of Geographic names “has a firm policy prohibiting the inclusion of a word in an official geographic name considered by the Board to be derogatory to any racial, ethnic, gender, or religious group,” and this policy has led to the approval of new proper names for other sites that were known to be considered “highly offensive and derogatory.” We ask the Board of Geographic Names to formally change the proper United States name because the case involves 1) a name originally authorized on the basis of incorrect information, 2) a name that is derogatory; 3) bringing Federal official usage into agreement with well-established historical usage. The monument meets the Federal criteria as a “sacred site” and is therefore subject to protection policies for preserving the physical integrity of this sacred site including the removal of the offensive, derogatory signage.

SUMMARY:

Bear Lodge is a correct translation of an indigenous name used for this feature and it is supported by tribal authorities.

Bear Lodge name is currently in regular usage, therefore this formal change would not cause confusion.

Bear Lodge is the well-documented historical name used by the U.S. military, cartographers, settlers.

Bear Lodge name will not negatively affect local tourism or the economy of Wyoming.

Bear Lodge name has garnered widespread national support and will re-brand the park in time for its anniversary.

"Bear Lodge National Monument" corrects the patently offensive name currently used for this federal managed land.

It is never too late to correct a mistake, especially an offensive name used at someone's sacred site.

DETAILS

The National Park Service website states that “Over twenty tribes have a cultural affiliation with Devils Tower. Many tribes have stories about how the Tower was created. Most of the stories talk about a bear using its claws to score the Tower's sides,” leading to use of the word ‘bear’ in their respective dialect or tribal languages (i.e. House of the Bear, Bear Lodge, Bear Tipi, Bear Peak). Early white explorers, commissioned cartographers, and United States military leaders consistently employed the name “Bear Lodge” when referring to the site because of its widespread written and oral use of this name by indigenous people as well as by the incoming federal military, pioneers, miners, and settlers. The labels “Bear Lodge” and “Mato Tipila” are the written inscriptions on the earliest photos of this rock feature and the label on the earliest non-indigenous maps drawn and published by the U.S. Army or commissioned for the United States Geological Service.

The “Bear Lodge Mountain Range,” remains the officially recognized name for the mountains located immediately east of this geological feature. Many well-established regional businesses include the words “Bear” or “Bear Lodge,” in their name or have logos and signage that include a bear, including the

commercial rock climbers who aligned under the name of "Bear Lodge Multiple Use Association." The name for the original path that became a paved road leading directly to this rock feature since the 1800's has been interchangeably identified as "Bear Lodge Road/Tower Road," and this dual name is used in all web-based mapping systems to currently assist way-finding to the Monument.

Recognizing that the 1906 United States' action to establish a national monument at an existing sacred site and to name it the "Devils Tower National Monument," is patently offensive, and recognizing that this name was based on a faulty translation, I hereby call upon the United States, through whatever legal process is required, to immediately acknowledge the historical identity of the sacred rock tower as "Bear Lodge" and to refer to the park site as "Bear Lodge National Monument."

Further, I request that the official name change and marketing theme be completed immediately to begin preparations for the centennial year of the National Park Service and the 110th anniversary celebration of the monument in September 2016.

AFFECT OF CHANGE

Nine of the eighteen national monuments established by President Theodore Roosevelt have either been abolished or no longer retain their original monument designation, and almost half of the current national parks have undergone a significant change in their name, agency or boundaries, showing historical precedent for enacting change to reflect the nation's values, and priorities. Even with these sweeping alterations to these other historic names and designations of geographic features, parks and National Monuments, there is not a single documented case where visitation to the area decreased after those changes, nor proof that those changes caused economic hardship to the local community or to its regional businesses; and

This proposed corrective name change would not alter or remove Wyoming's designation of being the home to the United States' first National Monument.

This proposal continues to garner extensive public support as demonstrated by the bi-partisan, interfaith petition that includes Wyoming residents and signatories from across the nation, as well as letters of support from human rights organizations, religious leaders, tribal authorities and indigenous elders. I recognize that with any name change there will be brush-back from local citizens who have a nostalgic connection to the current name; however I ask the same courtesy afforded to other ethnic/racial/religious groups that has led to the removal of patently offensive names. This mistake is well documented and acknowledged. Please correct this offense -- America will be better.

GNIS ID: 1604684, 1609083

FEATURE CLASS: Populated Area, Summit

DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

A geologic igneous rock feature protrudes out of the rolling prairie that surrounds the Black Hills. The site is considered Sacred to the Lakota and over 20 other tribes that have a connection to the area. It is the name used for the natural feature, the national monument and the populated place.

MEANING OR SIGNIFICANCE

Centuries before the creation of the United States of America, indigenous people have revered the mountains commonly referred to as the Black Hills as sacred, including several rock features located in present-day parks in South Dakota and Wyoming. Indigenous communities claim their origin in the Black Hills and archeological evidence has revealed inhabitation of some tribes in this area at least as far back as 1000 A.D.

These Black Hills sacred sites are intricately intertwined with traditional spirituality and culture as demonstrated by ongoing personal rituals (prayer offerings, sweat lodge ceremonies, vision quests), group ceremonies many of which are held in June, and sacred narratives including the origins of People, the origin of ceremonies, sacred objects, hero legends).

The monument meets the Executive Order in 1996 sacred site criteria that ensures federal protection of its physical integrity because it is a “specific, discrete, narrowly delineated location on Federal land that is identified by an Indian tribe, or Indian individual determined to be an appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion, as sacred by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion; provided that the tribe or appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion has informed the agency of the existence of such a site.”

This site is eligible for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places as a traditional cultural property and is eligible to be recognized as a United Nations (UNESCO) World Heritage Site because of its historical, cultural and natural significance.

Almost every faith tradition around the world honors at least one specific mountain as a holy, sacred place where their leaders and people have historically gone to communicate or commune with God. The religious freedom is an inherent right for all people, fundamental to the democratic structure of the United States, guaranteed by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and affirmed under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978. The United States ratified the 2007 United Nations “Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” which includes the rights to practice and revitalize indigenous customs, spiritual and religious traditions, as well as the rights to maintain, protect and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites. The United States Board on Geographic Names states that “geographic names derived from the language of Native Americans are an important and integral part of the cultural history of the United States and commits to consult with federally recognized tribes having a historic or cultural affiliation with the geographic location of the feature.”

On September 24, 1906 President Theodore Roosevelt used his new authority to protect an igneous rock tower in Wyoming as the first national monument. The upcoming 2016 centennial of the United States National Park Service and the 110th anniversary of this monument provides a timely opportunity to draw attention to all nationally preserved and managed treasures and specifically to the first National Monument. The monument has been visited by over four hundred thousand guests annually, demonstrating the broad national appeal of this site that is located on federal lands.

INTENDED TO COMMEMORATE AN INDIVIDUAL? No

DO YOU HAVE SUPPORTING MATERIALS? Yes

STATE: Wyoming

COUNTY: Crook

CODE: 011

STATE: Wyoming

STATE CODE: 56

COUNTRY: US

FEDERAL CODES

Census Code 19820

Census Class Code U6

GSA Code 0176

Class Code Description: Populated (Community) Place (except those associated with facilities). A populated place that is not a census designated or incorporated place having an official federally recognized name.

<u>Feature Name</u>	<u>ID</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>	<u>Ele(ft)</u>	<u>Map</u> ▲	<u>BGN Date</u>	<u>Entry Date</u>
Devils Tower	1604684	Populated Place	Crook	WY	443521N	1044148W	3868	Devils Tower	-	01-JUN-1991
Devils Tower	1609083	Summit	Crook	WY	443526N	1044255W	-	Devils Tower	-	05-JUN-1979

1 - 2

Coordinates (One point per USGS topographic map containing the feature, NAD83)

Sequence	Latitude(DEC)	Longitude(DEC)	Latitude(DMS)	Longitude(DMS)	Map Name
1	44.5891505	-104.6966319	443521N	1044148W	Devils Tower

MAPS AND DOCUMENTS

Source type

(digital file, document, map, photograph, web site, other).

- (1) * MAP, Hayden **Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers** (1869)
http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~1830~170052:Map-Of-The-Yellowstone-And-Missouri?sort=pub_list_no_initialsort%2Cpub_date%2Cpub_list_no%2Cseries_no&qvq=q:hayden%2B1869;sort:pub_list_no_initialsort%2Cpub_date%2Cpub_list_no%2Cseries_no;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=1&trs=2
- (2) * MAP, De Lacy **Montana Territory** (1872)
<http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~1779~180060:Map-Of-The-Territory-Of-Montana-wit>
- (3) * MAP, Gray, **Idaho, Montana, Wyoming** (1873)
http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~264536~5524880:Idaho,-Montana-and-Wyoming-?sort=pub_list_no_initialsort%2Cpub_date%2Cpub_list_no%2Cseries_no&qvq=q:gray%2Bmontana;sort:pub_list_no_initialsort%2Cpub_date%2Cpub_list_no%2Cseries_no;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=0&trs=8
- (4)
- (5) * MAP Jones, **Campaign Platte #3** (1873)
http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~222491~5505448?qvq=q:1874+jones;sort:pub_list_no_initialsort,pub_date,pub_list_no,series_no;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=2&trs=82
- (6) * MAP Lloyd H.H. **Nebraska, Dakota, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming** (1873)
http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~28742~1120965:Nebraska,-and-the-territories-of-Da?sort=Pub_List_No_InitialSort%2CPub_Date%2CPub_List_No%2Cseries_No&qvq=q:1873%2Byoung;sort:Pub_List_No_InitialSort%2CPub_Date%2CPub_List_No%2Cseries_No;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=15&trs=21
- (6) * MAP Asher and Adams **USGS United States** (1874)
http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~21097~600042:U-S--geological-map-?sort=pub_list_no_initialsort%2Cpub_date%2Cpub_list_no%2Cseries_no&qvq=q:1874%2Basher;sort:pub_list_no_initialsort%2Cpub_date%2Cpub_list_no%2Cseries_no;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=4

[6&trs=442](#)

- (7) * MAP Asher and Adams **USGS National Atlas, Montana** (1874)
http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~21091~600036:Montana-east-?sort=pub_list_no_initialsort%2Cpub_date%2Cpub_list_no%2Cseries_no&qvq=q:1874%2Badam_s;sort:pub_list_no_initialsort%2Cpub_date%2Cpub_list_no%2Cseries_no;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=40&trs=442
- (8) * MAP Asher and Adams **USGS National Atlas, Wyoming** (1874)
http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~21090~600035:Wyoming-?sort=pub_list_no_initialsort%2Cpub_date%2Cpub_list_no%2Cseries_no&qvq=q:1874%2Badam_s;sort:pub_list_no_initialsort%2Cpub_date%2Cpub_list_no%2Cseries_no;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=39&trs=442
- (9) * MAP Ludlow **Reconnaissance of the Black Hills, Lt. Custer 7th Cavalry** (1874)
http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~254931~5519538?qvq=q:1874+black+hills;sort:pub_list_no_initialsort,pub_date,pub_list_no,series_no;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=5&trs=11
- (10) * MAP Gray, Ormando Willis **World Atlas: Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming** (1874)
http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~207014~3003099:Colorado--Idaho,-Montana,-and-Wyomi?sort=Pub_List_No_InitialSort%2CPub_Date%2CPub_List_No%2CSeries_No&qvq=q:1873%2Bwyoming;sort:Pub_List_No_InitialSort%2CPub_Date%2CPub_List_No%2CSeries_No;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=19&trs=21
- (11) * MAP Jones **Department of the Platte, Composite Nebraska, Wyoming** (1874)
http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~222889~5505936?qvq=q:1874+black+hills;sort:pub_list_no_initialsort,pub_date,pub_list_no,series_no;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=10&trs=11
- (12) * MAP Jones **Military Department of the Platte Wyoming** (1874)
http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~222488~5505447:Map-Of-The-Military-Department-of-t?sort=pub_list_no_initialsort%2Cpub_date%2Cpub_list_no%2Cseries_no&qvq=q:1874%2Bjone_s;sort:pub_list_no_initialsort%2Cpub_date%2Cpub_list_no%2Cseries_no;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=0&trs=82

- (13) * MAP Ludlow **Army Corp, Recon July** (1874)
http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~254931~5519538?qvq=q:1874+black+hills;sort:pub_list_no_initialsort,pub_date,pub_list_no,series_no;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=5&trs=11
- (14) * MAP Jenney, Newton **Black Hills of Dakota** (1875)
<http://www.mappery.com/map-of/Black-Hills-Map>
- (15) * MAP Thayer **Black Hills and Big Horn County** (1877)
http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~237483~5511148?qvq=q:black+hills;sort:pub_list_no_initialsort,pub_date,pub_list_no,series_no;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=22&trs=50#
- (16) * MAP Grey **Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming** (1878)
http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~207822~3003485?qvq=q:1878+montana;sort:Pub_List_No_InitialSort,Pub_Date,Pub_List_No,Series_No;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=3&trs=12
- (17) MAP Jenney, Walter **Map of Black Hills** (1879)
- (18) *MAP Cram **Wyoming Unrived** (1887)
http://wyoshpo.state.wy.us/homestead/images/picts/wyo_map_1887.jpg
- (19) MAP Rand McNally **Wyoming** (1895)
- (20) * MAP Samuel Scott **Black Hills** (1897)

OTHER NAMES AND THEIR SOURCE

Source Type:

National Park Service. Lists, brochures, and handbooks. Devils Tower National Monument. 01-Jan-2014.

Source: Urbanek, Mae. Wyoming Place Names. 31-Dec-1979.

Variant Name

Aloft on a Rock	Citation
Bad Gods Tower	Citation
Bear Lodge Butte	Citation
Bear Peak	Citation
Bear's House	Citation
Bear's Lair	Citation
Bear's Lodge	Citation
Bear's Tipi	Citation
Ghost Mountain	Citation
Grey Horn Butte	Citation
Grizzly Bear Lodge	Citation
Mateo Tepee	Citation
Mythic-owl Mountain	Citation
Tree Rock	Citation

AUTHORITIES:

Last name: Looking Horse

First name: Arvol

Email address: NA

Physical address: NA

City

State

Zip

Phone NA

Occupation: Spiritual Leader (19th Generation Keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Bundle)

Number of years in occupation: 50+

SUBMITTER/PREPARER

Role in name proposal: Preparer of the Form

Last name: Canku Nunpa Wi

First name

Phone 612 306 6111

Company (only if proposing on behalf of) NA

Title: Neutral Mediator

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