



U.S. Board on Geographic Names

U.S. Geological Survey
523 National Center
Reston, VA 20192

November 3, 2017

The Honorable Harold C. Frazier, Chairman
Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association
P.O. Box 988
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

Dear Chairman Frazier:

This acknowledges your letter to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names asking that the names of Mount Doane and Hayden Valley in Yellowstone National Park be changed to First People's Mountain and Buffalo Nations Valley, respectively. Thank you for providing a copy of the declaration signed by representatives of tribes in the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association and the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council. It will be added to the case file and shared with the Board.

As you know, the Board is responsible by law for standardizing geographic names for use by the Federal Government, and its members must approve any new name or name change before it can appear on Federal maps and products. We have begun to prepare case briefs for the proposed changes and will add them to the Board's next Quarterly Review List for consideration by all interested parties (it is the policy of the U.S. Board that the names of geographic features not include the possessive apostrophe, so the proposal will be considered as First Peoples Mountain).

Local acceptance of any name is important to the Board, so we will ask the government of Park County, the Wyoming Board of Geographic Names, and the National Park Service to review and comment on the matter. We will also ask any federally recognized tribes with an interest in the area if they wish to comment.

Once our research is complete and all interested parties have provided their opinions, the proposed changes will be presented to the U.S. Board for discussion and a final decision. The entire process is expected to take several months (the Wyoming Board meets just twice a year); however, as soon as the final decisions are rendered, you will be notified of the outcome. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lou Yost
Executive Secretary
U.S. Board on Geographic Names

cc: National Park Service
Wyoming Board of Geographic Names



GREAT PLAINS TRIBAL CHAIRMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.

Mailing Address: US Post Office Box 988, Rapid City, SD 57701

Physical Address: 628 ½ 6th Street #210, Rapid City, SD 57701

September 19, 2017

Attention: US Board of Geographic Names.

RE: Tribal Nations' petition to change the names of Mount Doane and Hayden Valley in Yellowstone National Park.

Please accept this notice as a formal submission to change the names of Mount Doane and Hayden Valley in Yellowstone National Park.

The Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association is in full accord with the signed declaration enclosed, a copy of which was furnished to Yellowstone National Park Superintendent, Dan Wenk, through Deputy Superintendent, Pat Kenney, on Saturday, September 16, 2017.

The Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association supported the resolution of the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council dated December 2014, that formalized longstanding opposition to these names, aptly described by Blackfeet Chairman, Harry Barnes, as "deplorable" in his petition to Interior Secretary Zinke.

It is, as many tribal leaders have protested, shameful, that Yellowstone National Park continues to honor a war criminal, Lieutenant Gustavus C. Doane, and a white supremacist who advocated for the genocide of indigenous people, Dr. Ferdinand V. Hayden, by retaining their names on major features of Yellowstone National Park. These categorizations are not opinion, but fact, based upon the written statements of both Doane and Hayden, some of which are documented in the signed declaration.

The Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association, Inc. (GPTCA) is a Federally Chartered Organization under the Indian Reorganization Act. GPTCA is comprised of Tribal Nations in South Dakota, North Dakota, and Nebraska – 16 sovereign Indian Nations, all of which have treaty rights and/or ancestral connections to Greater Yellowstone, which has resulted in the Department of the Interior recognizing the Tribal Nations of the GPTCA as being among the "Associated Tribes of Yellowstone

In closing, let me reiterate what the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council stated in its 2014 resolution: "Yellowstone was a homeland, a sacred cultural landscape to twenty-six tribes, before it was a National Park." For healing, reconciliation, and a new era of education and cross-cultural cooperation, Mount Doane should be changed to First People's Mountain, and Buffalo Nations Valley should replace Hayden's name.

If you have any comments, please contact the Executive Director of GPTCA, A. Gay Kingman, at Kingmanwapato@rushmore.com; Cell, 605-484-3036. Thank you for your thoughtful assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'HCF', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Harold C. Frazier, Chairman, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
Chairman, Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association



GREAT PLAINS TRIBAL CHAIRMAN'S ASSOCIATION

Mailing Address: US Post Office Box 988, Rapid City, SD 57701

Phone: (605) 721-6168

Physical Address: 321 Kansas City Street, Rapid City, SD 57701

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GREAT PLAINS TRIBAL CHAIRMAN'S ASSOCIATION (GPTCA)

RE: Petition to change the names of Mount Doane and Hayden Valley in Yellowstone National Park

The Declaration hereby furnished is signed by tribal presidents, chairpersons, chiefs, elected councilpersons and official representatives from the tribes listed below, including member tribes of the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association and the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council.

South Dakota

Chairman Harold Frazier - Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Chairman, GPTCA.
Chairman Brandon Sazue - Crow Creek Sioux Tribe.
Chairman Boyd Gourneau - Lower Brule Sioux Tribe.
President Scott Weston - Oglala Sioux Tribe.
Chairman Willie Kindle - Rosebud Sioux Tribe.
Chairman Bob Flying Hawk - Yankton Sioux Tribe.
Chairman Dave Flute - Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate.
President Tony Reider - Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe.

North Dakota

Chairman Mark Fox - Three Affiliated Tribes (Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara).
Chairwoman Myra Pearson - Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe.
Chairman David Archambault, II - Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.
Chairman Wayne Keplin, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa.

Nebraska

Chairman Mike Wolfe - Omaha Tribe.
Chairman Roger Trudell - Santee Sioux Nation.
Chairman Larry Wright - Ponca Tribe of Nebraska.
Chairman Frank White - Winnebago Tribe.

Minnesota

Chairman Charles Vig – Shakopee Mdewakanton Dakota.

Montana

Chairman Harry Barnes - Blackfeet Tribe.

Chairman Harlan Baker - Chippewa Cree Tribe of Rocky Boy's Reservation.

President Mark Azure - Fort Belknap Indian Community.

Chairman Floyd Azure - Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes.

President L. Jace Killsback/Acting, Conrad Fisher - Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

Chairman AJ Not Afraid, Jr. - Crow Tribe

Chairman Gerald Gray - Little Shell Tribe of Montana

Chairman Vernon Finley - Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Wyoming

Chairman Clint Wagon - Eastern Shoshone Tribal Council

Chairman Roy Brown - Northern Arapaho Tribal Council.

Idaho

Chairman Nathan Small - Shoshone Bannock Tribes of Ft. Hall.

Oklahoma

Governor Eddie Hamilton – Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes.

Contact:

Kingmanwapato@rushmore.com (GPTCA Executive Director A. Gay Kingman)

psf@180com.net (RMTLC Executive Director William Snell)

unitedindiantribes@gmail.com