



UNITED STATES BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

In reply please use this address:
U. S. Geological Survey
523 National Center
Reston, Virginia 20192-0523

February 6, 2015

Mr. Kelly B. Dennis, Chairman
Crook County Commissioners
309 Cleveland Street
Sundance, WY 82729

Dear Chairman Dennis:

As you may know, the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) is responsible by law for standardizing geographic names for use by the departments and agencies of the Federal government. As you may also know, the Board has received a proposal to change the name of the summit and populated place known as Devils Tower to Bear Lodge. Because local opinion is important to the Board, we would like the opinion of Crook County concerning this name issue. We also ask that you share this request with the appropriate offices or others who might have an interest in this proposal.

This proposal was submitted by a neutral mediator on behalf of a spiritual leader of the Lakota, Dakota and Nakota people. They present the case that the name Devils Tower is perceived as offensive to many tribal members. The feature is a sacred site to not only the Lakota tribes but also to several other tribes in the Plains area. Although the feature has been known by many native names, most refer to a bear's dwelling and the name Bear Lodge has been proposed. Several early maps of the area label the feature as Bear Lodge.

Please refer to the enclosed documents which include two versions of the proposal submitted to the BGN by the neutral mediator and the case brief prepared by BGN staff. Also enclosed is a Geographic Name Proposal Recommendation form to facilitate a response from your office.

If you have any questions or to submit your recommendation, we may be contacted by mail at the address below; by telephone at (703) 648-4552; by fax at (703) 648-4549; or by e-mail at BGNESEC@usgs.gov.

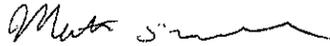
Sincerely,

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

enclosures

Deadline?

NB: Although the included proposal requests that the name of Devils Tower National Monument also be changed, this name was designated by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 under the Antiquities Act. Renaming a national monument would require an Act of Congress or Executive Order and cannot be done by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.



Matt O'Donnell, research staff
For Lou Yost, Executive Secretary
U.S. Board on Geographic Names
U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
MS 523
Reston VA 20192-0523



U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

GEOGRAPHIC NAME PROPOSAL RECOMMENDATION

Proposed Geographic Name Bear Lodge [summit]

This is to notify the U.S. Board on Geographic Names that:

Crook County Commissioners
(Name of government entity, organization, or individual)

Recommends that the U. S. Board on Geographic Names:

- Approve the Proposed Name**
- Reject the Proposed Name**
- Take Action as Specified Below**
- Render a Decision Without Our Recommendation**

Comments (the following factors contributed to this recommendation; attach supporting documentation if appropriate):

<hr/>	<hr/>
(Name)	(Title)
<hr/>	<hr/>
(Address)	(Telephone)
<hr/>	<hr/>
(City, State, ZIP Code)	(E-mail)
<hr/>	<hr/>
(Signature)	(Date)

Return to: U.S. Board on Geographic Names
U.S. Geological Survey
523 National Center
Reston VA 20192-0523
Telephone: (703) 648-4552
Fax: (703) 648-4549
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U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

GEOGRAPHIC NAME PROPOSAL RECOMMENDATION

Proposed Geographic Name Bear Lodge [populated place]

This is to notify the U.S. Board on Geographic Names that:

Crook County Commissioners
(Name of government entity, organization, or individual)

Recommends that the U. S. Board on Geographic Names:

- Approve the Proposed Name**
- Reject the Proposed Name**
- Take Action as Specified Below**
- Render a Decision Without Our Recommendation**

Comments (the following factors contributed to this recommendation; attach supporting documentation if appropriate):

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E-mail: BGNEEXEC@usgs.gov

Approved

Promulgation authorized
Executive Secretary
Domestic Geographic Names

UNITED STATES
BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

CASE BRIEF (Domestic)

Bear Lodge: summit; elevation 5,125 ft.; located in Devils Tower National Monument, 8.4 mi. SW of Hulett, 44 mi. NE of Gillette; the name is the English translation of a native name for the feature; Sec. 7, T53N, R65W, Sixth Principal Meridian; Crook County, Wyoming; 44°35'26"N, 104°42'55"W; USGS map - Devils Tower 1:24,000; Not: (*see below*)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=44.590564&p_longi=-104.715155&fid=1609083

Proposal: to restore a native name and remove a name considered by some to be offensive

Map: USGS Devils Tower 1:24,000

Proponent: Arvol Looking Horse

Administrative area: Devils Tower National Monument

Previous BGN Action: Devils Tower (BGN 1904)

Names associated with feature:

GNIS: Devils Tower (FID 1609083)

Local Usage: Bear Lodge (local writers' group, 2015), Devils Tower (many local tourism books and web sites)

Published: (*see below*)

Case Summary: The new name Bear Lodge is proposed for the summit currently named Devils Tower. This prominent geologic feature is located in Devils Tower National Monument in northeast Wyoming on the edge of the Black Hills. It rises over 1,000 feet above the surrounding landscape and is an important geologic example of columnar jointing, a sacred site for the Lakota and other American Indian tribes, and a popular tourist and rock climbing destination.

The proponent, a "neutral mediator" speaking on behalf of a Spiritual Leader of the Lakota Nation, objects to the name Devils Tower for such a holy site. She wishes to have the name changed to Bear Lodge, a native name with current and historical usage, stating, "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...and [it] serves as a constant irritant that causes...ongoing resentment in their community." A related proposal is to change the name of the populated place named Devils Tower to Bear Lodge.

About 40 million years ago, a phonolitic magma (with a composition between that of granites and basalts) intruded into sedimentary rocks and cooled. Geologists debate the shape of this intrusion and whether any of it reached the surface as lava or ash, but this intrusion resisted weathering as the overlying and surrounding sediments eroded away. The feature is composed of long columns of rock which formed as the magma cooled similar to the way that cracks form in drying mud.

The summit is a crucial part of many American Indian tribes' spirituality, rituals, and cosmology. Many tribes have similar stories about how it was formed. Most involve a group of people being chased by a bear onto a rock. This rock is then raised high out of the reach of the bear which left long claw marks in the side as it tried to climb. The summit is known by numerous names in many native languages, but many are variations on "Bear Lodge" or "Bear Tipi."

A study commissioned by the National Park Service in 1997 found evidence that six tribes likely have historic cultural connections to the summit: Eastern Shoshone (though evidence is inconclusive), Crow, Kiowa, Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Lakota (with the strongest evidence). The area around the summit within the National Monument had been used as a sacred Lakota ceremonial site; modern celebrations have been held there since 1983. It is the fourth stop in the annual "Journey Seeking Sacred Goodness" that holds ceremonies at major sacred features in the Black Hills. Around the summer solstice, Lakota hold the Sun Dance, "a ceremony of fasting and sacrifice that leads to the renewal of the individual and the group as a whole," according to an NPS document. The Lakota refer to the summit as Mato Tipila, or Bear Lodge.

The first American explorers to refer to the feature in their records were part of an 1859 expedition led by Captain William F. Reynolds. In an 1857 report, he called the summit Mato Teepee and the official 1859 map from the expedition labels it as "Mato Teepee or Bear's Lodge." Variations on the name Bear Lodge appear on many expeditionary, survey, and commercial atlas maps until the 1880s. An 1875 expedition under Lieutenant Colonel Richard I. Dodge was sent after gold and other mineral resources were discovered in the Black Hills. Surveyors from his crew reported the summit's name as Bear Lodge, but a popular 1876 book by Dodge stated that "the Indians call this shaft 'The Bad God's Tower,' a name adopted, with proper modification by our surveyors." The phrase evolved into Devils Tower and the memorable and evocative, if inappropriate to American Indians, name stuck. Scholars believe that poor translation by someone in Dodge's party caused the name change. In Lakota, devil or "bad god" is wakansica (pronounced wah-KON-she-cha) whereas black bear is wahanksica (pronounced wah-ON-ksee-cha).

The area around the summit was designated Devils Tower National Monument by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 and was the Nation's first National Monument. The proponent has also asked the Monument be renamed but has been advised that this would require an Act of Congress or Executive Order.

With the exception of the 113th, a bill has been introduced into each Congress since the 106th to retain the name Devils Tower for the summit.

The monument and the summit are part of an ongoing controversy between tourist and climbing use and sacred Lakota use. The monument's management asked for a voluntary ban on climbing during the month of June. This ban was challenged based on the First Amendment, with the argument that the NPS was endorsing one religion over others. A judge dismissed the case in 1998, writing that the ban was "in the nature of accommodation, not promotion, and consequently is a legitimate secular purpose."

Shoshone names for the summit include Goo /see/ werr/ ed (Grey Rock Standing Up), we'shaBeNar (Gourd-its-Butte), or Aguay Za-Quid-Ipe (Bear Scratchings). Crow names include variations on Dabicha Aso which can be translated as Bear House or Bear Lodge. The preferred spelling, according to the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office is Daxpitchee Awaasuuu. Cheyenne names for the summit include variations on Nakoeve, which can be translated as Bear Lodge or Bear Tipi. The preferred spelling, according to the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office is Na'koo! Vee!. Arapahoe names include variations on Woox-niii-non and Deh bee nés which can be translated as Bear Lodge and Broken Horn respectively. The Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office also lists Na Kovea (Bears' Lodge or similar) as an Arapahoe name, but this name is similar to Cheyenne names. Kiowa names are variations on Tso-i-e, which can be translated as Tree Rock, Standing on a Rock, or Aloft on a Rock. Lakota names are many and include variations on Mato-

Tipi, Mato Tipila, or Mato Tipi Paha; and He Hota Paha or Pte He Gi, which can be translated as Grey Horn Butte.

According to an NPS document, “over twenty tribes” [sic] have potential cultural affiliation with Devils Tower National Monument. Eight of these are currently listed in the Native American Consultation Database as having an interest in Crook County, along with a ninth not included on the NPS list.

According to the proponent, the name Bear Lodge has widespread national support from members of many tribes and from “Americans of Caucasian descent.”

The proponent believes the name should be changed because (1) the name Devils Tower was applied based on a faulty translation; (2) the name is offensive to the religious practices of the Lakota; and (3) the Board 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.” She contends the name Bear Lodge is apt because it is a correct translation of several of the native names for the tower, it is “currently in regular usage, therefore this formal change would not cause confusion,” the name is historically well-documented, has widespread national support, and “it corrects the patently offensive name.” The proposal references “a bipartisan, 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.” The proponent requests that the name change be considered and decided before “the centennial year of the National Park Service and the 110th anniversary celebration of the monument in September 2016.”

According to GNIS, the only landform feature in Wyoming that includes the name “Bear Lodge” is Bear Lodge Mountains located between ten and twenty miles to the east. Within these mountains are five administrative features with names that include “Bear Lodge”: two mines, a ranch, a National Forest campground, and a National Forest lookout tower (known either as Bear Lodge Mountain Lookout Tower or Warren Mountain Lookout Tower). Many maps from the 1800s as well as many online sources, including Google Earth and Google Maps, label the highest point in the Bear Lodge Mountains as “Bear Lodge Mountain.” That name is not official for federal use. The name Bear Lodge Mountains was the subject of a 1904 BGN decision. The question at the time was whether the name was one word or two.

The Bearlodge Ranger District of the Black Hills National Forest encompasses most of the Bear Lodge Mountains; GNIS records the name of the ranger station as Sundance District Ranger Station.

Not known as:

Aguay Za-Quid-Ipe, Aloft on a Rock, Bad Gods Tower, Bad God’s Tower, Bear Claw Markings, Bear-Dwelling, Bear Lodge Butte, Bear Lodge Hill, Bear Mountain, Bear Peak, Bear Rock, Bear Scratchings, Bear Tipi, Bear’s Home, Bears House, Bear’s House, Bear’s Lair, Bears Lodge, Bear’s Lodge, Bears Tipi, Bear’s Tipi Bear’s Tower, Broken Horn, Brown Buffalo Horn, Chan-hoo-tah-ah, Che Paha, Crying Hill, Dabicha Asow, Dabiche Asow, Daxpichee Awaasuuu, Daxpiche’e Awaasuuu, Deh bee nés, Devils Tower, Devil’s Tower, Four Sisters (in part), Ghost Mountain, Goo /see/ wert/ ed, Gourd-its-Butte, Gray Buffalo Horn, Gray Sacred Horned Pipe, Great Gray Horn, Grey Buffalo Horn Grey Horn Butte, Grey Rock Standing Up, Grizzly Bear Lodge, Grizzly Bear’s Lodge, Grizzly Bears’ Lodge, He Hota Paha, Hill of the Bear Lodge, Home of the Bear, Mahdo Wakupe, Mathoothi, Mathoothipi, Mathoothipila, Mathó Thípila, Mateo Teepee, Mato Teepee, Mato

Tepee, Mato Tipi, Mato-Tipi, Mato Tipila, Mato Tipila Paha, Mato Tipi Paha, Mythic-owl Mountain, Náhkohevee'e, Nakoeve, Nakoe vet, Na'koo! Vee!, Na Kovea, No Kovehe, Penis Mountain, Ptehé Ğí, Pte He Gi, Ptehé Hóta, Pté Hé Hóta, Rock Standing, Rock Tree, Standing on a Rock, Standing Rock, Sundance Mound, The Bear Scratched His Way up There, Tower, Tree Rock, Tree Stump, Tso-aa, Tsoai, Tso-ai, Tso-i-e, T'sotsedle, Tso-sedle, T'sou'a'e, T,sou'a'e, Wanaghipaha, Wax nee nun, we'shaBeNar, Wiwayang Wachipi Paha, Woox-niii-non, Wox Niinon.

Published names:

Aguay Za-Quid-Ipe (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Aloft on a Rock (NPS reports and Web site 1994, 1997; Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001; Nabokov, *Where the Lightning Strikes: The Lives of American Indian Sacred Places* 2007); Bad God's Tower (Richard I. Dodge, 1876; Newton-Jenny Report 1880); Bear Claw Markings (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Bear-Dwelling (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Bear Lodge (NPS brochures, reports, and Web site 1994, 1997, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2015; U.S. War Department 1868, 1869, 1876; U.S. Army 1874; USACE 1874; Newton-Jenny Report, 1876, 1880; USGGS 1879; G.W. & C.B. Colton & Co. 1872; Stedman, Brown & Lyon 1873, 1874, 1878; Asher & Adams 1874, 1875; Stedman & Brown 1884; Major General H. L. Scott, letter 1920; NPS reports and Web site 1994, 1997; Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001; Place and Native Voice Project intern presentation 2012); Bear Lodge Butte (NPS Web site 1994; Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001; Nabokov 2007); Bear Lodge Hill (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Bear Mountain (Manataka American Indian Council, undated Web site); Bear Peak (NPS Web site 1994; Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001, 2006); Bear Rock (Manataka American Indian Council, undated web site); Bear Scratchings (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Bear Tipi (NPS report 1997; Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001; Place and Native Voice Project intern presentation 2012), Bear's Hat (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Bear's Home (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001; Molyneaux, "Topographical Scale as Ideological and Practical Affordance: The Case of Devils Tower" 2006); Bears House (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001; Place and Native Voice Project intern presentation 2012); Bear's House (NPS Web site 1994; Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Bear's Lair (NPS Web site 1994; Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Bears Lodge (Lloyd & Co. 1873; Stedman, Brown & Lyon 1873; Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001; Place and Native Voice Project intern presentation 2012); Bear's Lodge (U. S. War Department, 1859; NPS reports and Web site 1994, 1997; Molyneaux 2006); Bears Tipi (Manataka American Indian Council, undated web site); Bear's Tipi (NPS reports and Web site 1994, 1997, 2015; Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001, 2006; Molyneaux 2006; Manataka American Indian Council, undated web site); Bear's Tower (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Broken Horn (Place and Native Voice Project intern presentation 2012); Brown Buffalo Horn (online Lakota language forum, 2012); Chan-hoo-tah-ah (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Che Paha (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Crying Hill (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Dabicha Asow (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001; Molyneaux 2006); Dabiche Asow (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Daxpitchee Awaasuuu (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Daxpitche'e Awaasuuu (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2006); Deh bee nés (Place and Native Voice Project intern presentation 2012); Devils Tower (USGS 1905, 1954, 1955, 1958, 1962, 1979, 1984, 2012; NPS brochures, reports, and Web site 1949, 1967, 1994;

1997, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2015; USFS 1988, 2014; U.S. War Department, 1876; U.S. General Land Office 1879, 1900; Surveyor General's Office 1883; Wm. M. Bradley & Bro. 1884, 1890; G.L. Holt 1885; D. Appleton & Co. 1891; W. & A.K. Johnston Limited [London] 1906; Clason Map Company 1917; Frederick A. Stokes Company [Picture Map Geography of the US] 1931; Harper & Brothers Publishers [Picture Book of the States] 1932; USDA Soil Conservation Service 1983; Kennedy, *American Indian Places: A Historical Guidebook* 2008; Black Hills Badlands & Lakes Association 2011); Devil's Tower (Newton-Jenny Report 1880; E.P. Noll 1897; Prairie Pub. Co. [Paint-Brush Map of Wyoming] 1938, 1953; Black Hills-Badlands Association, 1940); Four Sisters (in part) (Rogers, *Standing Witness: Devils Tower National Monument, a History* [NPS publication] 2007); Ghost Mountain (NPS Web site 1994; Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Goo /see/ werr/ ed (Place and Native Voice Project intern presentation 2012); Gourd-its-Butte (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Gray Buffalo Horn (Kennedy 2008); Gray Sacred Horned Pipe (Rogers [NPS publication] 2007); Great Gray Horn (NPS Web site 2015); Grey Buffalo Horn (online Lakota language forum, 2012); Grey Horn Butte (NPS Web site 1994; Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001; Manataka American Indian Council, undated web site); Grey Rock Standing Up (Place and Native Voice Project intern presentation 2012); Grizzly Bear's Lodge (NPS Web site 1994; Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Grizzly Bears' Lodge (NPS brochure 1949); He Hota Paha (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001; Manataka American Indian Council, undated Web site); Hill of the Bear Lodge (Kennedy 2008); Home of the Bear (NPS Web site 2015); Mahdo Wakupe (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Mathoothi (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Mathoothipi (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Mathoothipila (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Mathó Thípila (online Lakota language forum, 2012); Mateo Teepee (NPS brochure 1949); Mato Teepee (G. K. Warren 1857; U. S. War Department 1859; Newton-Jenny Report 1880); Mato Teepee (Simmons *Black Hills: A Novel* 2010); Mato Tipi (NPS report 1997; Molyneaux 2006); Mato-Tipi (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Mato Tipila (NPS report and Web site 1997, 2015; Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001, 2006; Molyneaux 2006; Brown, *Who Owns Native Culture?* 2009; Place and Native Voice Project intern presentation 2012) Mato Tipila Paha (Kennedy 2008); Mato Tipi Paha (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Mythic-owl Mountain (NPS Web site 1994); Náhkohevee'e (Place and Native Voice Project intern presentation 2012); Nakoeve (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Nakoe vet (Place and Native Voice Project intern presentation 2012); Na'koo! Vee! (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Na Kovea (NPS report 1997; Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001; Molyneaux 2006; Brown 2009); No Kovehe (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2006); Penis Mountain (NPS website 1994 [archived versions]); Ptehé Ĝí (online Lakota language forum, 2012); Pte He Gi (Kennedy 2008); Ptehé Ĥóta (online Lakota language forum, 2012); Pté Hé Ĥóta (online Lakota language forum, 2012); Rock Standing (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Rock Tree (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Standing on a Rock (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2006; Place and Native Voice Project intern presentation 2012); Standing Rock (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Sundance Mound (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); The Bear Scratched His Way up There (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Tower (Rogers [NPS publication] 2007); Tree Rock (NPS web site 1994; Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001; Molyneaux 2006; Place and Native Voice Project intern presentation 2012; NPS 2015); Tree Stump (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Tso-aa (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001; Molyneaux 2006); Tsoai (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Tso-ai (Wyoming State

Historic Preservation Office 2001); Tso-i-e (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001, 2006; Place and Native Voice Project intern presentation 2012); T'sotsedle (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Tso-sedle (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); T'sou'a'e (Nabokov 2007; Brown 2009; Simmons, 2010); T,sou'a'e (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Wanaghipaha (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Wax'nee nun (Place and Native Voice Project intern presentation 2012); we'shaBeNar (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Wiwayang Wachipi Paha (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001); Woox-niii-non (NPS report 1997; Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office 2001; Molyneaux 2006); Wox Niinon (Berkeley Arapahoe online dictionary 2006)

Approved

Promulgation authorized
Executive Secretary
Domestic Geographic Names

UNITED STATES
BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

CASE BRIEF (Domestic)

Bear Lodge: populated place (unincorporated); located 8 mi. SW of Hulett; Sec. 8, T53N, R65W, Sixth Principal Meridian; Crook County, Wyoming; 44°35'21"N, 104°41'48"W; USGS map -- Devils Tower, 1:24,000; Not: Devil's Tower, Tower.

http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=44.5891505&p_longi=-104.6966319&fid=1604684

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

Map: USGS Devils Tower 1:24,000

Proponent: Arvol Looking Horse

Administrative area: None

Previous BGN Action: None

Names associated with feature:

GNIS: Devils Tower (FID 1604684)

Local Usage: Devils Tower (U.S. Post Office; local businesses: restaurant/gift shops, KOA campground; Crook County GIS 2015)

Published: Devils Tower (USGS 1954, 1955, 1958, 1962, 1979, 1984, 2012; NPS brochure 1949; Rand McNally 1937, 1939, 1940; *Hammond's New World Atlas*, 1948; Shell Oil Company, 1951, 1956; *The Times Atlas of the World*, 1957), Tower (Rand McNally 1924; National Map Company 1927)

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of the small unincorporated community of Devils Tower to Bear Lodge. It was submitted in connection to the proposal to change the name of Devils Tower (q.v.), the prominent landmark within Devils Tower National Monument. The community lies just outside the entrance to the monument, and comprises Devils Tower Post Office, the monument visitor center, a campground, and a few shops. The community was first labeled on National Park Service brochures in 1949. A Rand McNally map of 1924 labeled it simply Tower.

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>
<u>Devils Tower</u>	1604684	Populated Place	Crook	WY	443521N	1044148W	3868	Devils Tower	-	01-JUN-1991
<u>Devils Tower</u>	1609083	Summit	Crook	WY	443526N	1044255W-		Devils Tower	-	05-JUN-1979

1 - 2

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

<u>Sequence</u>	<u>Latitude(DEC)</u>	<u>Longitude(DEC)</u>	<u>Latitude(DMS)</u>	<u>Longitude(DMS)</u>	<u>Map Name</u>
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](http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~1830~170052:Map-Of-The-Yellowstone-And-Missouri?sort=pub%20list%20no%20initialsort%20pub%20date%20pub%20list%20no%20series%20no&qvq=q:hayden%2B1869;sort:pub%20list%20no%20initialsort%20pub%20date%20pub%20list%20no%20series%20no;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](http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~264536~5524880:Idaho,-Montana-and-Wyoming-?sort=pub%20list%20no%20initialsort%20pub%20date%20pub%20list%20no%20series%20no&qvq=q:gray%2Bmontana;sort:pub%20list%20no%20initialsort%20pub%20date%20pub%20list%20no%20series%20no;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](http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~222491~5505448?qvq=q:1874+jones;sort:pub%20list%20no%20initialsort%20pub%20date%20pub%20list%20no%20series%20no;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%2Bwyoming;sort:Pub List No InitialSort%2CPub Date%2CPub List No%2CSeries No;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=15&trs=21](http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~28742~1120965:Nebraska,-and-the-territories-of-Da?sort=Pub%20List%20No%20InitialSort%20Pub%20Date%20Pub%20List%20No%20Series%20No&qvq=q:1873%2Bwyoming;sort:Pub%20List%20No%20InitialSort%20Pub%20Date%20Pub%20List%20No%20Series%20No;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%2Badam s;sort:pub list no initialsort%2Cpub date%2Cpub list no%2Cseries no;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=46&trs=442](http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~21097~600042:U-S--geological-map-?sort=pub%20list%20no%20initialsort%20pub%20date%20pub%20list%20no%20series%20no&qvq=q:1874%2Badam s;sort:pub%20list%20no%20initialsort%20pub%20date%20pub%20list%20no%20series%20no;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=46&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 initials&sort%20pub date%20pub list no%20series no&qvq=q:1874%2Badam;s;sort:pub list no initials&sort%20pub date%20pub list no%20series no;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=40&trs=442](http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~21091~600036:Montana-east-?sort=pub%20list%20no%20initials&sort%20pub%20date%20pub%20list%20no%20series%20no&qvq=q:1874%2Badam;s;sort:pub%20list%20no%20initials&sort%20pub%20date%20pub%20list%20no%20series%20no;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 initials&sort%20pub date%20pub list no%20series no&qvq=q:1874%2Badam;s;sort:pub list no initials&sort%20pub date%20pub list no%20series no;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=39&trs=442](http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~21090~600035:Wyoming-?sort=pub%20list%20no%20initials&sort%20pub%20date%20pub%20list%20no%20series%20no&qvq=q:1874%2Badam;s;sort:pub%20list%20no%20initials&sort%20pub%20date%20pub%20list%20no%20series%20no;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 initials&sort, pub date, pub list no, series no;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=5&trs=11](http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~254931~5519538?qvq=q:1874+black+hills;sort:pub%20list%20no%20initials&sort%20pub%20date%20pub%20list%20no%20series%20no;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%20Pub Date%20Pub List No%20Series No&qvq=q:1873%2Bwyoming;sort:Pub List No InitialSort%20Pub Date%20Pub List No%20Series No;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=19&trs=21](http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~207014~3003099:Colorado--Idaho,-Montana,-and-Wyomi?sort=Pub%20List%20No%20InitialSort%20Pub%20Date%20Pub%20List%20No%20Series%20No&qvq=q:1873%2Bwyoming;sort:Pub%20List%20No%20InitialSort%20Pub%20Date%20Pub%20List%20No%20Series%20No;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 initials&sort, pub date, pub list no, series no;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=10&trs=11](http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~222889~5505936?qvq=q:1874+black+hills;sort:pub%20list%20no%20initials&sort%20pub%20date%20pub%20list%20no%20series%20no;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 initials&sort%20pub date%20pub list no%20series no&qvq=q:1874%2Bjones;sort:pub list no initials&sort%20pub date%20pub list no%20series no;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=0&trs=82](http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~222488~5505447:Map-Of-The-Military-Department-of-t?sort=pub%20list%20no%20initials&sort%20pub%20date%20pub%20list%20no%20series%20no&qvq=q:1874%2Bjones;sort:pub%20list%20no%20initials&sort%20pub%20date%20pub%20list%20no%20series%20no;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 initials&sort, pub date, pub list no, series no;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=5&trs=11](http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~254931~5519538?qvq=q:1874+black+hills;sort:pub%20list%20no%20initials&sort%20pub%20date%20pub%20list%20no%20series%20no;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

Email address: hopefulpeacemaker@gmail.com

Physical address: PO Box 20725

City: Bloomington

State: MN

Zip: 55420

DOMESTIC NAME CHANGE PROPOSAL
CORRECT THE NAME OF A NATIONAL MONUMENT:
BEAR LODGE NATIONAL MONUMENT (Currently "DEVILS TOWER")

SACRED THEN AND NOW

WHEREAS: 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; and

WHEREAS: 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 1978¹**;" and

WHEREAS: The United States ratified the 2007 **United Nations "Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples²"** 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; and

WHEREAS the United States Board on Geographic Names³ 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;" and

WHEREAS: 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; and

WHEREAS: 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."⁴; and

WHEREAS: 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); and

WHEREAS: The monument meets the **Executive Order in 1996⁵** 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;" and

WHEREAS: 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)⁶ World Heritage Site because of its historical, cultural and natural significance;

¹ American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) Public Law No. 95-341, 92 Stat. 469 (Aug. 11, 1978) www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-92/pdf/STATUTE-92-Pg469.pdf

² United Nations www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf (Article 10, 11)

³ USGS Principals, Policies and Procedures: Domestic Geographic Name (Policy X): http://geonames.usgs.gov/docs/pro_pol_pro.pdf

⁴ Bear Lodge Multiple Use vs Babbitt www.justice.gov/osg/briefs/1999/Oresponses/99-1045.resp.pdf

⁵ Executive Order 13007 by President Bill Clinton (1996) www.achp.gov/EO13007.html

⁶ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization <http://en.unesco.org/>
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/criteria/>

HISTORICAL NAME

WHEREAS: The National Park Service website⁷ 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 languages⁸ (i.e. House of the Bear, Bear Lodge, Bear Tipi, Bear Peak); and

WHEREAS: 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; and

WHEREAS: The labels “Bear Lodge” and “Mato Tipila” are the written inscriptions on the earliest photos⁹ of this rock feature and the label on the earliest non-indigenous maps¹⁰ drawn and published by the U.S. Army or commissioned for the United States Geological Service¹¹; and

WHEREAS: The “Bear Lodge Mountain Range,” remains the officially recognized name for the mountains located immediately east of this geological feature; and

WHEREAS: 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,” and

WHEREAS: 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; and

MONUMENT NAME OFFENSIVE MISTAKE

WHEREAS: The Antiquities Act of 1906¹² 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; and

WHEREAS: 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 order¹³ as “Devil’s Tower National Monument;” and

⁷ www.nps.gov/deto/historyculture/stories.htm

⁸ Mato Tipila in Lakota (pronounced *Mat’ó Thípila*) literally means “Bear Tipi” or “Bear House” or “Bear Lodge”

⁹ Library of Congress (1887) John Grabill photo <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/grabill/item/99613924/> with the words “Bear Lodge (Mato Tepee) of the Indians” inscribed by Grabill on the photograph.

¹⁰ USGS Geographic Names Information System GNIS ID #1609083, Crook County WY (DMS: 443525N, 1044255W) (DEC: 44.5905640, -104.7151550) www.geonames.usgs.gov

¹¹ MAPS Sources include: Hayden 1869 (US War Department Harvey Expedition); 1872 Delacy; 1873 Gray; 1873 Jones; 1873 Lloyd; 1874 Asher & Adams (US Geological Survey and USGS National Atlas); 1874 Ludlow (US Army 7th Cavalry Reconnaissance under Custer); 1877 Black Hill Map; 1878 Grey; 1879 Jenney (Black Hills Map).

¹² (Pub.L. 59–209, 34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. § 431–433), Passed by the US Congress and signed into law by Theodore Roosevelt on June 8, 1906. http://cr.nps.gov/local-law/FHPL_AntiAct.pdf

¹³ Devils Tower National Monument Proclamation and map (13b), September 24, 1906.

WHEREAS: **Executive Order in 2006**¹⁴ 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”¹⁵ that are afforded to all American citizens under the law; and

WHEREAS: The National Park Service currently acknowledges through its park website¹⁶ 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”¹⁷... When the proclamation establishing Devils Tower was published, the apostrophe was unintentionally dropped from Devil’s—and this clerical error was never officially corrected;” and

WHEREAS: 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;” and

WHEREAS: 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; and

WHEREAS: 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; and

WHEREAS: The Board of Geographic names “has a firm policy¹⁸ 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”; and

WHEREAS: When requested by any individual or agency, the Board of Geographic Names is authorized to formally change the proper name of a place, feature, or area in the United States when 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; and

WHEREAS: The monument meets the Federal criteria¹⁹ 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; and

¹⁴ Executive Order 13007 by President Bill Clinton (1996) www.achp.gov/EO13007.html

¹⁵ American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) Public Law No. 95-341, 92 Stat. 469 (Aug. 11, 1978) www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-92/pdf/STATUTE-92-Pg469.pdf

¹⁶ www.nps.gov/deto/historyculture/sacredsites.htm

¹⁷ National Park Website. Lieutenant Colonel Richard Irving Dodge’s “Black Hills Journals” (1879).

¹⁸ USGS Principals, Policies and Procedures: Domestic Geographic Name (Policy V: Derogatory Names) http://geonames.usgs.gov/docs/pro_pol_pro.pdf

¹⁹ Executive Order 13007 by President Bill Clinton (1996) www.achp.gov/EO13007.html

PRECEDENT AND AFFECT OF CHANGE

WHEREAS: Nine of the eighteen national monuments established by President Theodore Roosevelt²⁰ 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,²¹ showing historical precedent for enacting change to reflect the nation's values, and priorities; and

WHEREAS: Even with these sweeping alterations to 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

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

WHEREAS: 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; and

WHEREAS: The monument has been visited by over four hundred thousand guests annually,²² demonstrating the broad national appeal of this site that is located on federal lands; and

WHEREAS: 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, state and tribal authorities and indigenous elders that will be presented during the consultation process;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

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.

²⁰ Current Names: Petrified Forest NP; Cinder Cone (gone); Chaco Culture NHP; Lassen Volcanic NP; Grand Canyon NP; Pinnacles NP; Lewis and Clark NHP; Tumacacori NHP; Wheeler (gone); Olympic National Park

²¹ National Monuments & the Antiquities Act, Carol Hardy Vincent (2010) www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41330.pdf (Sier de Monts National Monument established 1916, changed its name to Lafayette National Park in 1919 and then changed its name again to Acadia National Park in 1929).

²² National Park Service Visitor Use Statistics <https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/Reports/Park>