

-WOHEHIV-

The Morning Star

NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE

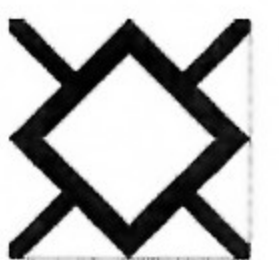
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February 23, 2021

Jennifer Runyon, Research Staff
U.S. Board on Geographic Names
U.S. Geologic Survey
Reston, Virginia, 20192

Dear Ms. Runyon,

It has recently come to our attention that federal and state agencies are considering the renaming of Mount Evans, one of the most prominent peaks in the Front Range of the Rockies.

We understand that public input has been solicited and that suggestions for new names are now being reviewed. Northern Cheyenne descendants of the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre are especially interested in supporting this effort.

We believe that naming one of Colorado's most visible peaks after the disgraced Governor John Evans, complicit in the crimes of Sand Creek, is a travesty that needs to be corrected. Since Cheyenne and Arapaho people were the victims of the horrific massacre of nearly two hundred Cheyenne and Arapaho men, women, and children, it seems to us that it would be altogether fitting and proper to remove Evans' name from the mountain and replace it with Mt. Cheyenne-Arapaho.


We understand that other names have been advanced by interested citizens as well as by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe of Oklahoma. The latter has proposed Mt. Blue Sky in honor of the Arapaho who have been traditionally known as the "Blue Sky People." Among other reasons, it regrettably excludes the Cheyenne who suffered the greatest loss in the Sand Creek Massacre and in the battles and attacks that followed.

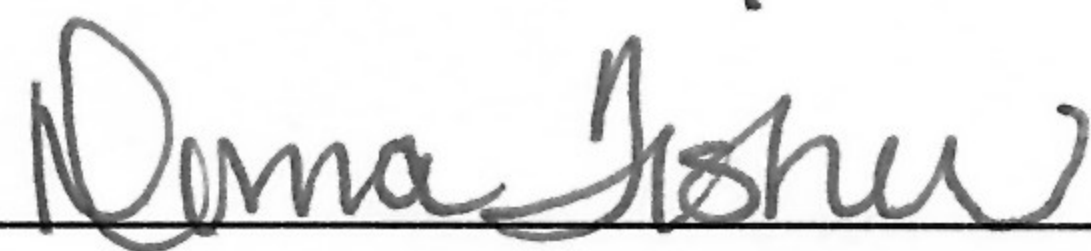
It is interesting to note that John Evans was removed as Colorado's governor and Colorado's statehood was delayed as a result of the public outcry and mishandling of Indian affairs in the Territory. It is a shameful legacy that is only compounded by the naming of Mt. Evans.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require a more formal petition for the name change.

In any event, we sincerely request you advance our appeal to rename the peak Mt. Cheyenne-Arapaho.

Respectfully,


Otto Braided Hair, Chmn.,
NC Sand Creek Comm.,

Concur: 
Donna Fisher, President, NCT

CC: Serena Wetherelt, Vice-President, NCT
Silver Littleeagle, Council Rep., NCT
Teanna Limpy, THPO, NCT
Members, Sand Creek Comm., NCT
File

LITTLE WOLF AND MORNING STAR – Out of defeat and exile they led us back to Montana and won our Cheyenne homeland that we will keep forever.