

**UNITED STATES BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

This Quarterly Review List presents names proposed to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) for geographic features in the United States. The names are offered to (1) identify previously unnamed features; (2) provide official recognition to names in current local use; (3) resolve conflicts in name spellings, applications, and local usage; or (4) change existing names. Any organization, agency, or person may indicate to the BGN their support or opposition to any name proposed herein by submitting written evidence documenting their position.

The names herein are official for use in Federal publications and on maps upon approval by the BGN. Only one name is official per geographic feature. Variant names and spellings discovered in researching a name are listed under Decisions/Usage. These may include names and spellings that formerly were official, historical names known to have been previously associated with the feature, names that conflict with current policies of the BGN, misspellings, and names misapplied to the subject of the proposal.

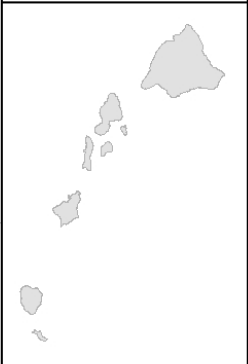
Populated places incorporated under the laws of its State and geographic features considered “administrative” (man-made or cultural) are not under the BGN’s purview. The names of unincorporated populated places are subject to review and approval by the BGN, as are those of reservoirs, canals, and channels.

The information following each proposed name indicates the submitting agency or person; the name of the most recent large-scale U.S. Geological Survey topographic map; the reason for the proposal; and other pertinent details to assist the BGN in its decision process. The location of the feature is indicated by its geographic coordinates, and for name changes, a link is provided to the existing entry in the Geographic Names Information System, available and searchable at [Geographic Names Information System \(nationalmap.gov\)](https://nationalmap.gov).

A copy of this Review List has also been posted to the BGN’s website at <https://www.usgs.gov/us-board-on-geographic-names/dnc-review-lists>.

Comments on the proposals on this Review List may be sent to: Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names/Domestic Names Committee, 523 National Center, Reston, VA 20192-0523; telephone (703) 648-4550; or by e-mail to BGNESEC@usgs.gov.

THE NAMES IN THIS REVIEW LIST MAY BE USED ONLY AFTER APPROVAL BY THE BGN



ALABAMA

Neathery Creek

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Neathery Creek
Proposal type	new commemorative name for unnamed feature
Current official name	n/a
GNIS ID	n/a
Proponent	Robert S. Fousek; Auburn, AL
Date proposed	3/27/23

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	32.531625, -86.209231
Secondary coordinates	32.517776, -86.175585
Feature class	stream
Feature size	3.7 miles long
Feature description	Heads 1.5 miles SE of Bald Knob, flows generally WNW into the Coosa River 0.9 miles WSW of Bald Knob
Name history	Named for Thornton L. "Tony" Neathery (1931-2015), a geologist who described the Wetumpka crater which is drained by the stream
USGS primary topo map	Wetumpka 1:24,000
State(s)	Alabama
County(s)	Elmore
Local jurisdiction(s)	City of Wetumpka
PLSS	T18N, Rgs18-19E, Saint Stephens Meridian
Land ownership	Poarch Creek Reservation / Gold Star Park / private

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names: None found

Case Summary

The new name Neathery Creek is proposed for a 3.7-mile-long unnamed tributary of the Coosa River in Elmore County and partly in the City of Wetumpka. The stream flows out of the Wetumpka crater, an approximately 85-million-year-old impact crater.

The name would commemorate Thornton L. "Tony" Neathery (1931-2015), an Alabama geologist who first described the Wetumpka crater in 1976. He worked with other

geologists to confirm that it was an impact crater in 2002. The proponent stated that “Tony’s groundbreaking research was instrumental in the recognition of the Wetumpka structure as an impact crater. Much of his research was centered near or on the banks of the unnamed stream that we propose be named [for him] in recognition of his pioneering work.”

Mr. Neathery served in the Navy during the Korean War and worked for the Geological Survey of Alabama from 1964 to 1986 as a Staff Geologist and then as Assistant State Geologist. He founded Thornton L. Neathery and Associates, a geology consulting business, and helped found the Alabama State Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists.

The stream flows along the boundary of a section of the Poarch Creek Indian Reservation.

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Wetumpka City Mayor Elmore County	Support
State Names Authority	Alabama	
Federal Agency	n/a	
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X Poarch Band of Creek Indians	
Other	Wetumpka Impact Crater Commission	Support
	Dr. David T King, Jr. (colleague of Mr. Neathery)	Support
	Auburn University Department of Geosciences Advisory Board	Support

ARIZONA

Change Agassiz Peak to Öo’mawki

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Öo’mawki
Proposal type	change name considered offensive
Current official name	Agassiz Peak
GNIS ID	25531
Proponent	Makaius Marks; Flagstaff, AZ
Date proposed	2/8/23

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	35.3258365, -111.6775417
Feature class	Summit
Feature size	Elevation 12,356 feet

Feature description	The second-highest summit in Arizona, one of the peaks of San Francisco Mountain
Name history	The name is Hopi for “place of the clouds”
USGS primary topo map	Humphreys Peak 1:24,000
State(s)	Arizona
County(s)	Coconino
PLSS	Sec 5, T22N, R7E and Sec 32, T23N, R7E, Gila-Salt River Meridian
Land ownership	Coconino National Forest / Kachina Peaks Wilderness

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: Öö’mawki (misc. reports)
- Published names: Agassiz Peak: USGS 1911, 1922, 1948, 1966, 1982, 2011, 2021; *Arizona’s Names (X Marks the Place)*, Granger 1983; Pavayoykyasi: *Hopi Dictionary* 1998)

Case Summary

This proposal is to change the name of Agassiz Peak, a 12,356-foot summit in Coconino County, to Öö’mawki. The summit is the second highest peak on San Francisco Mountain and is located within the Kachina Peaks Wilderness of the Coconino National Forest, nine miles north of Flagstaff. Looking north from the city, Agassiz Peak appears to be the highest peak on San Francisco Mountain.

The proposal, submitted by a resident of Flagstaff, states that Öö’mawki (“a name particular and specific for that summit”) is the Hopi name for Agassiz Peak and that it means “the home/ place of the clouds.”

The current name commemorates Jean Louis Rodolphe Agassiz (1807-1873), a Swiss-born American geologist who was recognized as the founder of glaciology and popularizer of earth science at the time. He founded Harvard’s Museum of Comparative Zoology, which presents a [comprehensive summary](#) of Agassiz’s support for racial segregation and white supremacy. The proponent states:

We, the Indigenous Youth/ Elders/ Supporters, highly and wholeheartedly advocate the renaming of Agassiz Peak. This name change is vital to protect sacred landmarks and correct this periodically inappropriate name due to its racist origin . . . [the proponent refers to Agassiz’s “white supremacy ideologies” and that he was “a prominent eugenicist”].

These peaks are sacred to thirteen Federally Recognized Indigenous nations, not including unrecognized tribes: Pueblo, Mohave, Havasupai, Yavapai, Hualapai, Navajo,

Hopi, Apache, Zuni, Salt, Gila, Paiute, and Ute. 13+ tribes hold histories, stories, and Cultural Narratives of ancestry within these peaks. 13+ nations have sacred ties and relationships with the land at these peaks. This land is holy and sacred, and the current name of the summit disrespects that and, in fact, directly opposes this.

We recognize the sovereignty of Indigenous peoples, and the reclamation of our sacred lands protects that sovereignty. Renaming the Peak is a step towards that.

He also reports that the City of Flagstaff has “renamed streets, places, and signage representing Louis Agassiz.”

The names of the peaks of San Francisco Mountain have had a complicated history. The peaks are the remnant of a larger volcano, and although the official name is San Francisco Mountain (BGN 1911, 1933), they are often referred to as the “San Francisco Peaks.” Many of the highest peaks have individual names, the three being:

- Humphreys Peak (BGN 1911, 1933; San Francisco Peak was a former 1911 decision)
- Agassiz Peak (BGN 1933)
- Fremont Peak (BGN 1933)

The name “Agassiz” was first applied to the entire mountain in 1869, when General William J. Palmer wrote in a Kansas Pacific Railway survey report that “[o]ur survey line crossed . . . south of a high extinct volcano, known as the San Francisco Mountain — but whose name, for distinction, we changed to ‘Mt. Agassiz.’” Agassiz reportedly studied the fossils for the expedition, although this has not been verified.

Between 1869 and the early 1900s, the name “Agassiz” was variously applied to the entire mountain, the highest peak, the second-highest peak, or another peak on the mountain. USGS topographic maps first labeled the summit in question as Agassiz Peak in 1911.

The U.S. Forest Service reports that at least ten Tribes have names for “the San Francisco Peaks.” The Hopi name is reported as Nuva’tukya’ovi. Other sources have published Hopi names for the mountain or individual peaks:

- [Hopi Dictionary](#) [of the Third Mesa Dialect], 1998
 - Nuvatukya’ovi for San Francisco Mountain
 - Aaloosaktukwi for Humphreys Peak
 - Pavayoykyasi for Agassiz Peak
 - Oomàwki for Fremont Peak
- [“Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Arizona Snowbowl Facilities Improvements,”](#) 2004, U.S. Forest Service document
 - Nuvatukyaovi for San Francisco Mountain
 - “The top of the Peaks is considered to be an oomawki, a cloud house”

- [“The Orayvi Split: A Hopi Transformation, Part I,”](#) 2008, *Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of Natural History*, Number 87
 - Nuvatukya’ovi for San Francisco Mountain
 - Aalosaqa for Humphreys Peak
 - Oomàwki for “a peak in the San Francisco Mountains”
- [“Nuvatukya’ovi, San Francisco Peaks: Balancing Western Economies with Native American Spiritualities,”](#) 2009, *Current Anthropology*, Vol. 50, No. 4
 - Nuvatukya’ovi for San Francisco Mountain
 - Aaloosaktukwi or Aaloosakvi for Humphreys Peak
 - Oomàwki for Fremont Peak
 - Pavayoykyasi for Agassiz Peak
- [Hopi Katsina Songs](#), 2015
 - Nuvatukya’ove for San Francisco Mountain
 - oomàwki for Humphreys Peak

In addition to the summit in question, GNIS lists 14 other geographic features and one township in the U.S. named “Agassiz.”

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Coconino County	
State Names Authority	Arizona	
Federal Agency	U.S. Forest Service	
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	
	Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission	Support*
Other	Flagstaff Mayor	Support*
	Agassiz descendants	Support*
	Basil Brave Heart	Support*
	City of Flagstaff Commission for Diversity Awareness	Support*
	Earth Guardians	Support*
	Fossil Free Arizona!	Support*
	Youth statements of support	Support*

* Provided by proponent

ARKANSAS

Wahzhazhe Summit

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Wahzhazhe Summit
Proposal type	new name for an unnamed feature
Current official name	n/a
GNIS ID	n/a
Proponent	Dr. Andrea Hunter; Pawhuska, OK
Date proposed	4/6/23
Submitter	Deseray Wrynn; Pawhuska, OK
Date submitted	same

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	35.863775, -93.493158
Feature class	summit
Feature size	Elevation 2,561 ft.
Feature description	Highest point in the Ozark Plateau, in the Boston Mountains, in Ozark National Forest, 13.4 mi. E of Pettigrew
Name history	The name is the Osage people's name for themselves in the Dhegiha Siouan language
USGS primary topo map	Fallsville 1:24,000
State(s)	Arkansas
County(s)	Newton
PLSS	Sec. 23, T14N, R24W, 5th Meridian
Land ownership	USFS

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names:
 - Buffalo Lookout (peakbagger.com; listsofjohn.com; Wikipedia)

Case Summary

The Osage Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Officer has proposed naming the highest point on the Ozark Plateau as Wahzhazhe Summit. The 2,561-foot summit is located in Newton County, 20 miles southwest of Jasper, and within the Boston Mountains and Ozark National Forest.

This proposal was submitted in response to an earlier proposal to make official the name Buffalo Lookout (Review List 450); this name is used by the hiking and highpointer communities and was proposed by a representative of the Institute for Historical Ecology in Los Altos, California. According to the National Historic Lookout Register, the Buffalo Lookout Tower was constructed by the U.S. Forest Service in the mid-1930s, and remained active until 1987.

The proponent of Wahzhazhe Summit states:

The Osage Nation requests naming the summit upon which the Buffalo Lookout Tower stands to the Wahzhazhe Summit to honor the indigenous people who lived on the Ozark Plateau for 1300 years before being removed by the United States Government.

The Osage are identified as a Dhegiha Siouan language speaking tribe along with the Omaha, Ponca, Kaw, and Quapaw. The word Wahzhazhe in the Dhegiha Siouan language is what the Osage call themselves. The word roughly translates to “Water People and Name Givers.” Naming this summit Wahzhazhe Summit would honor the Wahzhazhe people who resided in the area, currently known as the state of Arkansas, for almost 1000 years.

“Summit” is an infrequent generic for summit features in GNIS and, if approved, this would be the first occurrence in Arkansas. Most occurrences of this generic are in the western United States. There is a feature named Jeff Summit Mountain in Montgomery County, Alabama. The generic term “Lookout” is used for 23 summits throughout the U.S.; none are in Arkansas.

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Newton County
State Names Authority	Arkansas Geographic Names Authority
Federal Agency	USFS
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X

CALIFORNIA

Bickford Ranch

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Bickford Ranch
Proposal type	New name for an unnamed feature
Current official name	n/a
GNIS ID	n/a

Proponent	Alex Fisch; Auburn, CA
Date proposed	2/16/23

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	38.86909, -121.208721
Feature class	Populated place (unincorporated)
Feature size	1,928 acres
Feature description	Encompasses parts of the existing communities of Lincoln, Loomis, Newcastle, and Penryn, 20 mi. NE of Sacramento
Name history	The name derives from that of Bickford Ranch, established in the area in the late 19th century
USGS primary topo map	Rocklin 1:24,000 (central point)
State(s)	California
County(s)	Placer
PLSS	Secs 19-22,28,29&30, T12N, R7E, Mount Diablo Meridian
Land ownership	private

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names:
 - Bickford Ranch: Bickford Ranch Specific Plan Area 2001, 2015; Westpark Communities real estate planning 2022.

Case Summary

This proposal was submitted by a representative of the Placer County Planning Services Division to make official the name Bickford Ranch for an unincorporated community in Placer County, 20 miles northeast of Sacramento. The proponent describes the area as a newly developing community, comprising 1,928 acres, which will include “1,890 single-family residences (plus accessory dwelling units), an elementary school, fire station, and public and private parks over an estimated 20-year buildout.” According to the Bickford Ranch Specific Plan, approved in 2001 and modified in 2015, the first phase of community development (infrastructure for roads, sewer, water conveyance and storage, utilities, and storm drainage) is underway (spring 2023), with construction of 1,049 residences slated to commence in summer/fall 2023. The proponent adds that “it is currently split between four zip codes with corresponding community place names including Lincoln, Loomis, Newcastle and Penryn, which has the potential to cause several problems for this community.” A letter sent by one of the Placer County Supervisors to the U.S. Postal Service stated, “The master developer of Bickford [sic] has expressed several concerns about the effects of having four different community designations and zip codes for the Bickford community . . . This [new name] will ensure a cohesive community identity and prevent scenarios where persons living in the same neighborhood and on the same block would be

identified as living in differing geographic areas. Most concerning is the potential negative impacts to emergency services.”

A number of planning documents refer to the area as Bickford, but the proponent has confirmed that Bickford Ranch is preferred.

Regarding the origin of the name, one developer’s website states “Bickford Ranch was once a working cattle ranch owned by its namesake, John Herbert Bickford. A former sheep rancher and fruit orchard operator, Bickford went into the stock and dairy business in 1896. His descendants continued to own and manage the ranch until it was sold in the early 1980s. The property had a lengthy entitlement process that began in the late 1990s and lasted until the early 2000s. “

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Placer County [proponent]	Support
State Names Authority	California	
Federal Agency	n/a	
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	

Change Chinaman Creek to Chinese Miners Creek

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Chinese Miners Creek
Proposal type	change name considered offensive
Current official name	Chinaman Creek
GNIS ID	1655229
Proponent	Felicia Yu; Oakland, CA
Date proposed	3/21/23

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	38.2007507, -120.0821312
Secondary coordinates	38.2436111, -120.0916667
Feature class	stream
Feature size	3.7 miles long
Feature description	heads 2.2 mi. NE of Dry Meadow, flows generally S into the Middle Fork Stanislaus River
Name history	Honoring the Chinese workers who contributed to the agricultural and mining development in Tuolumne County
USGS primary topo map	Strawberry 1:24,000
State(s)	California
County(s)	Tuolumne
PLSS	Tps4&5N, R17E, Mount Diablo Meridian

Land ownership

Stanislaus National Forest / private

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names:
 - Chinaman Creek: USGS 1956, 1993, 2012, 2015, 2018; USFS documents 1972, 1997, 2020; Metsker's Tuolumne County maps, 1939, 1953, 1980; *The Union Democrat*, 1938

Case Summary

This proposal is to change the name of Chinaman Creek, a 3.7-mile-long tributary of the Middle Fork Stanislaus River in Tuolumne County, to Chinese Miners Creek. The stream is within Stanislaus National Forest and on U.S. Forest Service-managed land and private inholdings.

The proposal was initiated in response to two previous applications: one to change the name to James Wong Howe Creek (Review List 440) and the other for China Creek (Review List 443). The U.S. Forest Service is the proponent of the latter name. To date, the Tuolumne County government has not commented on either of the previous proposals.

The name Chinese Miners Creek is proposed by the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, Oakland Lodge. The [group's website](#) states that it "is a national non-profit organization dedicated to defend civil rights, fight racial discrimination, oppose anti-immigration efforts, and preserve American Chinese culture and history." The proponent states that the word "chinaman"

[i]s offensive to the Chinese and Asian American communities. The negative connotation of the term originated during the 19th century when there was a growth of Chinese laborers who immigrated to work in America and were seen as a threat to existing jobs. Since then and well into the 20th century, Chinese people were dehumanized, lacked basic human rights, and faced violence as a result of anti-Chinese sentiments and propaganda. Currently, the word "chinaman" is considered a racial slur and connected to historical pain. Therefore, this petition is submitted to rectify a discriminatory past by renaming the creek in honor of the Chinese workers who contributed to the agricultural and mining development in Tuolumne County.

Some evidence provided with the proposal documents the Chinese immigrants who worked in the Stanislaus County and Tuolumne County area and suggests that "[t]wo Chinese mining companies from Chinese Camp worked the Stanislaus River in the 1850s and this may have been the origin of the name 'Chinaman Creek.'" Chinese Camp is located about 30 miles southwest of Chinaman Creek.

Stanislaus National Forest manages the China Flat Day Use Area near the mouth of the stream; “China Flat” is not recorded in GNIS. The history of the name is unknown although presumably it also refers to Chinese immigrants who worked on railroad or mining projects in the area.

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Tuolumne County
State Names Authority	California
Federal Agency	U.S. Forest Service
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X

Change Kahus Flat to x̣anwa flat, S’ o" Kuku Creek to poš creek, Saputiwah Spring to xutaš spring

The following three proposals are to change the names of three features located in Ventura County and Los Padres National Forest/Sespe Wilderness. All three had previous official names that included “sq___” until they were changed by the BGN on September 8, 2022 in response to Secretary’s Order (SO) 3404. The changes submitted by the Derogatory Geographic Names were from:

- Sq___ Flat to Kahus Flat
- Sq___ Creek to S’ o" Kuku Creek
- Sq___ Spring to Saputiwah Spring

These names had been proposed to the Task Force in a letter addressed to Secretary Haaland by an individual who identified himself as a “Native Chumash Consultant.” He stated:

On behalf of the Barbareno, Ventureno, Band of Mission Indians [not federally recognized] I would like to thank the Department of the Interior (DOI) for giving me the opportunity to participate in the name changing of these areas. . . . Thank you for considering my suggestions. . . .

He reported that the suggested names Kahus Flat, S’ o" Kuku Creek, and Saputiwah Spring mean “Bear Flat,” “Devil’s Water Creek,” and “It Seeps Out Spring,” respectively.

These names were also submitted to the Task Force via public comment by Los Padres ForestWatch and another individual; both noted that the names were suggested to the Task Force “by the Barbareño Ventureño Band of Mission Indians.” These commenters presented slightly different versions of the stream name replacement: “S’ o'kuku Creek” and “So'kuku Creek,” respectively.

The California Governor’s office also shared names with the Task Force via public comment. These were shared with the State by State recognized native groups. The Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation suggested replacing “sq____” with Seǵǵe, the name of a Chumash village that was located in the area; the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians suggested renaming Sq____ Creek to Sumpase [Creek], the name of another village, and deferred to the “Ventureño Chumash Tribe” [sic] for the other features. Neither the Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation nor the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians are federally recognized.

Shortly after the BGN’s approval of the three changes, the Vice-Chairman of the Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians, who is also the group’s language program coordinator, contacted DOI to state that “[t]he Chumash placenames proposed and accepted, however, could use some refinement. I feel it’s important that the placenames reflect our culture by being written in our orthography.” He was advised that the names submitted to the BGN by the Task Force were proposed by the Native Chumash Consultant.

The present proposals were submitted by the Band to replace those chosen by the Task Force. The Vice-Chairman reported that “we held a presentation for our membership, sharing information about the area . . . and other ethnographic information. They voted on the options presented” The names were proposed all in lowercase.

Change Kahus Flat to ǵanwa flat

Proposal Information

Proposed name	ǵanwa flat
Proposal type	change name to preferred native name
Current official name	Kahus Flat
GNIS ID	273880
Proponent	Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians; Ojai, CA
Date proposed	3/10/23

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	34.5391575, -118.8973199
Feature class	flat
Feature size	Approx. 5 acres
Feature description	Flat area along proposed poš creek (q.v.), 1.4 miles W of Whiteacre Peak
Name history	The word is Chumash for “woman” and reportedly refers to a place where Chumash women temporarily camp while gathering food
USGS primary topo map	Devils Heart Peak 1:24,000
State(s)	California
County(s)	Ventura

PLSS
Land ownership

Sec 8, T5N R19W, San Bernardino Meridian
Los Padres National Forest / Sespe Wilderness

BGN decisions

- Kahus Flat (2022)

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names:
 - Kahus Flat: Secretary's Order 3404 name changes announcement and media coverage, 2022
 - Sq Flat: USGS 1903, 1943, 1981, 1991

Change S' o" Kuku Creek to poš creek

Proposal Information

Proposed name	poš creek
Proposal type	change name to preferred native name
Current official name	S' o" Kuku Creek
GNIS ID	254522
Proponent	Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians; Ojai, CA
Date proposed	3/10/23

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	34.5283245, -118.9078759
Secondary coordinates	34.5511111, -118.885
Feature class	stream
Feature size	2.8 miles long
Feature description	Heads 1 mile NW of Whiteacre Peak, flows SW into Redrock Creek
Name history	The word is Chumash for "pine nut"
USGS primary topo map	Devils Heart Peak 1:24,000
State(s)	California
County(s)	Ventura
PLSS	Secs 7-8&5, T5N R19W, San Bernardino Meridian
Land ownership	Los Padres National Forest / Sespe Wilderness

BGN decisions

- S' o" Kuku Creek (2022)

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names:

- S' o" Kuku Creek: Secretary's Order 3404 name changes announcement and media coverage, 2022
- Sq Creek: USGS Mapping Center Field Report, 1988; USGS 1991

Change Saputiwah Spring to xutaš spring

Proposal Information

Proposed name	xutaš spring
Proposal type	change name to preferred native name
Current official name	Saputiwah Spring
GNIS ID	273881
Proponent	Matthew Vestuto;
Date proposed	3/10/23

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	34.5369332, -118.8996584
Feature class	spring
Feature description	1.5 miles WSW of Whiteacre Peak
Name history	named for the Chumash deity known as "Mother Earth" in English and also an honorific for a very respected woman
USGS primary topo map	Devils Heart Peak 1:24,000
State(s)	California
County(s)	Ventura
PLSS	Sec 8, T5N R19W, San Bernardino Meridian
Land ownership	Los Padres National Forest / Sespe Wilderness

BGN decisions

- Saputiwah Spring (2022)

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names:
 - Saputiwah Spring: Secretary's Order #3404 name changes announcement and media coverage, 2022
 - Sq Spring: (USGS 1943, 1991)

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Ventura County	
State Names Authority	California	
Federal Agency	U.S. Forest Service	
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	
Other	Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians (proponent)	Support

COLORADO

Change Poison Lake to Golden Valley Lake

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Golden Valley Lake
Proposal type	change name considered inappropriate
Current official name	Poison Lake
GNIS ID	178048
Proponent	James S. Keith; Loveland, CO
Date proposed	3/9/23

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	40.3646909, -105.1758302
Feature class	lake
Feature size	6 acres
Feature description	1 mi. W of Lon Hagler Reservoir, 3 mi. WSW of Loveland
Name history	Named in association with nearby Golden Valley Rd
USGS primary topo map	Carter Lake Reservoir 1:24,000
State(s)	Colorado
County(s)	Larimer County
PLSS	Secs 25&36, T5N, R70W, Sixth Principal Meridian
Land ownership	private

BGN decisions: none

Other Names

- Published names:
 - Poison Lake: USGS 1962, 2010, 2022

Case Summary

This proposal is to change the name of Poison Lake, a six-acre lake in southeastern Larimer County, to Golden Valley Lake. The proponent, whose property includes the alkaline lake, reports that it is not poisonous and there are no health issues for livestock and wildlife. Poison Lake has been named on USGS topographic maps since 1962; the origin of the name has not been determined. It is shown but not named on the official Larimer County highway map. The proposed name refers to the lake's location near Golden Valley Road.

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Larimer County
State Names Authority	Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board

Federally Recognized Tribes All federally recognized Tribes
contacted under Policy X

FLORIDA

***** Note: The following proposal has been withdrawn**

Arachno Creek

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Arachno Creek
Proposal type	new name for unnamed feature
Current official name	n/a
GNIS ID	n/a
Proponent	Shea Dixon; Navarre, FL
Date proposed	3/31/23

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	30.43796, -86.85595
Secondary coordinates	30.46164, -86.85106
Feature class	Stream
Feature size	1.7 miles long
Feature description	Heads 1.9 miles N of Harper, flows S into the East Bay River
Name history	Named for spiders found along the stream
USGS primary topo map	Navarre 1:24,000
State(s)	Florida
County(s)	Santa Rosa
PLSS	Secs 9&4, T2S, R26W and Sec 33, T1S, R26W, Tallahassee Meridian
Land ownership	Eglin Air Force Base

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names:
 - Arachno Creek: Wikipedia page, started 2017
- Published names: None found

Case Summary

The new name Arachno Creek is proposed for a 1.7-mile-long tributary of the East Bay River in Santa Rosa County. The stream is entirely within Eglin Air Force Base.

The proponent reports that they found the name on a [Wikipedia page](#). They stated:

The proposed name, Arachno Creek, is based off the array of spiders (arachnids) that can be found along the creek and the low-lying trees above it, a fact I have confirmed by kayaking there myself.

I wish to clarify that I am not the origin of the name; however, in my attempts to find the original namer, I have come up empty. . . . I have found no evidence of wide local usage. However, there is a Wikipedia page regarding the creek indicating that Arachno Creek is the name of the creek. Given the publicly editable nature of Wikipedia and the relatively obscure nature of the waterbody, I personally find it likely that the article was created by a local individual or group. However, I have found no sources or evidence that would indicate who or what that is or the origin of the name beyond the speculation forwarded on this largely unreliable source. So far as I can tell, there is no evidence of local usage or recognition beyond the individual or group that created this page. . . .

The creek does have a noticeable population of spiders and the naming would fit well into the other named tributaries of the East Bay River also named after animals that are (or at least historically have been) common to the area and whose habitat would include the river basin and swamp (Alligator Creek and Panther Creek). . . .

Furthermore, given the fact that the creek in question for the proposal is within a recreational distance. . . away from a fairly commonly used boat launch, naming the creek would seem prudent for the sake of recreation and navigation.

The Wikipedia page states that the stream is named “Arachno Creek or Spider Creek” and that the “name comes from the commonality of arachnids and spiderwebs along its span. Though it is debated, it is currently believed to have been named by a local Boy Scout from Gulf Breeze.” The Wikipedia user who started the page posted in October 2017 on the page’s Talk tab that

I am as of yet, attempting to find additional references to the creek. I would like to note, that I did not name this creek myself. The references that I have added are to places which note the creeks location along the East Bay River. And in all honesty, I may have got the name wrong, I was reading one of these kayaking books at a book store once, looking over the East Bay River, which I've kayaked several times, and I am almost sure it said that its name was Arachno Creek, named by a Boy Scout from a local troop.

The Wikipedia author of the [Arachno Creek](#) page also started pages for [Gable Lake](#) (in March 2019) and [Liberty Pond](#) (in March 2023), both of which were proposals submitted to the BGN by the proponent of the name [Arachno Creek](#). The BGN approved those names in March 2021 and August 2022, respectively. Gable Lake is located in Navarre, Florida and Liberty Pond is located on the campus of the University of Florida. The [author](#) of the

Arachno Creek Wikipedia page states that they are an “editor knowledgeable in all things Navarre”; are “going to the University of Florida,” and plan to add “any and all notable bodies of water and landforms in Navarre, Florida” and “the residence hall areas of the University of Florida.”

The proponent is from Navarre and attends the University of Florida and will “attempt to contact the Arachno Creek page author.”

“Arachno” could be a reference to a video game hosted on Roblox or a video game enemy from the Xenoblade games. The proponent stated that “I can't be sure of the possible video game link.”

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Santa Rosa County
State Names Authority	Florida
Federal Agency	Department of Defense
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X

ILLINOIS

Change Cherry Hill Woods Slough to Zheshk Bitobig

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Zheshk Bitobig
Proposal type	Change a name to a native name
Current official name	Cherry Hill Woods Sloughs
GNIS ID	411847
Proponent	Minnesota Chippewa Tribe - Mille Lacs Band; Onamia, MN
Date proposed	4/17/23
Submitter	Kelly Applegate; Onamia, MN
Date submitted	same

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	41.6700322, -87.8611659
Feature class	Swamp
Feature size	Approximately 100 acres
Feature description	Four connected wetlands W of Palos Park, S of Swallow Cliffs
Name history	The name is Boodewaadamiimowin for “Muskrat Sloughs,” which refers to a local mammal significant in the Anishinaabe creation story
USGS primary topo map	Palos Park 1:24,000

State(s)	Illinois
County(s)	Cook
Local jurisdiction(s)	Palos Township
PLSS	Secs28&27, T37N, R12W, Third Principal Meridian
Land ownership	Swallow Cliff Woods Preserve (Forest Preserves of Cook County land)

BGN decisions

- Cherry Hill Woods Sloughs (2022) [name recommended by Secretary's Order 3404 Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force]

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names:
 - Cherry Hill Woods Sloughs: Secretary's Order 3404 Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force name changes announcement and media coverage, 2022
 - Laughing Sq Sloughs: USGS 1963, 1993, 1997; local hiking books and articles

Case Summary

This proposal is to change the name of Cherry Hill Woods Sloughs, located in Palos Township in Cook County, to Zheshk Bitobig. The feature is within the Forest Preserves of Cook County's Swallow Cliff Woods Preserve.

The name is proposed by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe - Mille Lacs Band, which states that it is Boodewaadamiimowin or Bodéwadmimwen (Potawatomi) for "Muskrat Sloughs." The proposal was submitted in response to a previous one from the Forest Preserves of Cook County (FPCC) to change the current name to Muskrat Slough. Note: the latter name has been withdrawn by the FPCC, which had reported that it had been chosen following conversations with the American Indian Center and the Chicago American Indian Community Collaborative (CAICC). The FPCC now endorses the name Zheshk Bitobig.

In April 2022, in response to [Secretary's Order 3404](#) (SO 3404), the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe - Mille Lacs Band submitted a number of replacements for names that contained "sq____," including replacing Laughing Sq Sloughs with Cherry Hill Woods [sic]. The latter name was the fourth-nearest geographic feature listed in the candidate list. The Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force (TF) submitted the name Cherry Hill Woods Sloughs to the BGN, which approved the change on September 8, 2022.

The current Mille Lacs Band proposal states:

Under Secretarial Order 3404, Laughing Sq Sloughs had its name changed. In [a] comment letter to BGN [sic] Mille Lacs Band proposed the name Cherry Hill Woods. BGN adopted the name Cherry Hill Woods Sloughs. After consulting with the local Native American community in Chicago, Forest Preserve of Cook County proposed the

name Muskrat Sloughs to BGN. BGN requested comments from Mille Lacs Band. Mille Lacs Band in a letter dated April 7, 2023, commented the Tribe does not object to the idea of having the name be changed to Muskrat Slough, but since the Swallow Cliff Woods Forest Preserve at one time was a Boodewaadamii [Potowattomi] reservation, the Boodewaadamii [word] for Muskrat Slough, Zheshk Bitobig, should be used in order to preserve the area's Boodewaadamii heritage.

The former “sq___” name had been labeled on USGS maps since 1963; no information regarding its origin could be found. A 1985 *Chicago Tribune* article reported that “[a] story, perhaps a legend, says the last Indian sq___ residing in the Palos area after the arrival of the white man refused to leave her wigwam on the top of Swallow Cliff where it overlooked the moraines, lakes and sloughs that had been carved out by the last glacier to move across the area ages before. . . . [S]ome of the best-named watercourses in the [Cook County] forest preserve system. . . include the sloughs--Long John, Horse Collar, Groundhog, Belly Deep and Laughing Sq___; the woods--Swallow Cliff and Paw Paw; and the lake--Bullfrog.” The legend may be the source of the name. Papoose Lake is located 0.3 miles south of the slough.

The 1963 volume *Indian Place Names in Illinois*, published by the Illinois State Historical Society, reported that there was a Laughing Sq___ Lake in the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. It is unclear if this refers to the slough feature or a different nearby lake. A 1979 U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Survey Report labeled a lake southwest of the slough as Laughing Sq___ Sloughs. This lake does not have an official name.

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Palos Township Cook County	
State Names Authority	Illinois	
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X Minnesota Chippewa Tribe - Mille Lacs Band (proponent)	Support
Other	Forest Preserves of Cook County	Support

KANSAS

Mount Mitchell

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Mount Mitchell
Proposal type	to make official a commemorative name in local use
Current official name	n/a
GNIS ID	n/a

Proponent	Owen O'Connell; Columbus, OH
Date proposed	4/4/2023

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	39.14538, -96.2979
Feature class	summit
Feature size	elevation 1,220 ft.
Feature description	Located just E of Antelope Creek, 14 mi. E of Manhattan
Name history	Named for Captain William E. Mitchell Jr. (1825-1903), a Scottish-born abolitionist who moved to Kansas as a part of the Connecticut-Kansas Colony and farmed the land until 1881
USGS primary topo map	Wamego 1:24,000
State(s)	Kansas
County(s)	Wabaunsee
PLSS	Sec 28, T10S, R10E, Sixth Principal Meridian
Land ownership	private

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: Mount Mitchell (local residents)
- Published names: Mount Mitchell (Mount Mitchell Heritage Prairie Park)

Case Summary

This proposal is to make official the name Mount Mitchell for a 1,220-foot summit in Wabaunsee County, 14 miles east of Manhattan. The proponent reports that the name has been used locally since 1953 and that it commemorates Captain William E. Mitchell Jr. (1825-1903), a native of Scotland who moved to Kansas as a part of the Connecticut-Kansas Colony, a group of Connecticut abolitionists who wished to ensure that Kansas Territory enter the Union as a free state. General Land Office records note Mitchell's acquisition of 160 acres at the location of the summit in 1860. He also served as a State legislator and continued to farm his land until 1881, when he operated a general store in Wabaunsee. The family returned to the farm in 1895.

According to the website of the Mount Mitchell Heritage Prairie Park, "Across the road to the north of the park, there is the log cabin farmstead of Captain Mitchell, who with his sister Agnes, sheltered freedom seekers on their perilous journey to freedom in Canada." Mount Mitchell Road, Mitchell Prairie Lane, and the Mount Mitchell Historic Trails are located nearby.

The proponent reports that in 1953, "the land containing the summit was willed to the Kansas State Historical Society by Captain Mitchell's son to be used as a park. He left a

stipulation that the park, and by extension the summit, be named ‘Mount Mitchell’ in honor of his father.” Capt. Mitchell is buried in Wabaunsee Cemetery.

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Wabaunsee County
State Names Authority	Kansas Geographic Names Authority
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X

KENTUCKY

Cheechako Ridge

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Cheechako Ridge
Proposal type	new name for unnamed feature
Current official name	n/a
GNIS ID	n/a
Proponent	David Marshall; Scottsville, KY
Date proposed	3/30/22

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	36.91194, -86.23111
Feature class	cliff
Feature size	0.5 mi. long, 80 ft. high
Feature description	Near Claypool, west of the confluence of Bays Fork and the Barren River
Name history	The name is the Chinook Jargon word meaning tenderfoot or newcomer, a reference to the landowner’s obstetrician practice
USGS primary topo map	Meador 1:24,000
State(s)	Kentucky
County(s)	Warren County
Land ownership	private

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names: None found

Case Summary

The new name Cheechako Ridge is proposed for a 0.5-mile-long, 80-foot-high cliff near Claypool in Warren County. The cliff is west of the confluence of Bays Fork and the Barren River.

“Cheechako” is a Chinook Jargon word meaning tenderfoot or newcomer. The proponent reports that “[the] history of the word . . . is Alaskan.” He also states that the owner of the property:

. . . is a well known and loved obstetrician in the Bowling Green, KY area [approximately 10 miles to the northwest]. He has been delivering babies here for almost 25 years. He estimates that he had delivered approximately 1,500 babies. I can’t think of a better newcomer, (Cheechako) than a new born baby!

[The obstetrician’s] parents moved to Southeast Alaska not many years after he was born. He spent most of his time in Ketchicak, Alaska, until he joined and served in the US Army, delivering babies [H]e and his wife [also raised in Alaska] . . . purchased the property several years ago and have built their retirement home on the ridge. They have unofficially named the home on the property as “Nine Oaks at Cheechako Ridge” because they have nine grandchildren who love to spend time there.

The proponent states that the name “does not specifically reference or commemorate [the obstetrician]. The idea is that he, as an obstetrician has delivered many “new comers” into this world.” The proponent reported later that his wife is the obstetrician’s cousin and that the obstetrician is aware of the proposals and supports it. He also stated that there is no commercial intent to the name.

A query of GNIS for “Cheechako” found Cheechako Gulch in Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska. It is not known how many place names in the U.S. derive from Chinook Jargon.

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Warren County
State Names Authority	Kentucky
Federal Agency	n/a
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X

Just Creek

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Just Creek
Proposal type	new commemorative name for unnamed feature
Current official name	n/a

GNIS ID	n/a
Proponent	Kris Hayden; Louisville, KY
Date proposed	3/31/2023

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	38.29201, -85.45491
Secondary coordinates	38.27861, -85.42008
Feature class	stream
Feature size	2.4 mi. long
Feature description	Flows NW along the S edge of Persimmon Ridge Golf Club, to enter Floyds Fork
Name history	Named for Elmore Anthony Just (1947-2001), founder of the Professional Golf Club Makers Society, member of the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame, and an Army veteran of the Vietnam War, who in the early 1980s acquired the property through which the stream flows
USGS primary topo map	Crestwood 1:24,000
State(s)	Kentucky
County(s)	Shelby
Land ownership	private

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names: None found

Case Summary

The new name Just Creek is proposed for a 2.4-mi-long tributary of Floyds Fork in Shelby County. The proponent reports that the name would honor his father, Elmore Anthony Just, Jr. (1947-2001), founder of the Professional Golf Club Makers Society and an Army veteran of the Vietnam War. In 1974, he founded Louisville Golf, one of the industry leaders in persimmon golf clubs, and on April 29, 2015 was inducted into the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame. In the early 1980s, Mr. Just purchased 765 acres of land in western Shelby County, through which this stream flows. The proponent has confirmed that there is no commercial intent in the naming.

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Shelby County
State Names Authority	Kentucky Geographic Names Committee
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X

MICHIGAN

Change Woods to Woods-of-Gilmore

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Woods-of-Gilmore
Proposal type	change name to recognize local preference
Current official name	Woods
GNIS ID	1617954
Proponent	James Graham; Farwell, MI
Date proposed	2/15/23

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	43.7555827, -84.8883549
Feature class	Populated place (unincorporated)
Feature description	In Gilmore Township, 7.5 mi. SW of Clare
Name history	named for the Woods family who operated Woods General Store 1872-1956, notably Jesse H. Wood (1838-1934), who settled in Gilmore after the Civil War and was first postmaster 1891-1906, and his son James E. Wood, and for Civil War Union General and engineer Quincy Adams Gilmore (1825-1888).
USGS primary topo map	Woods 1:24,000
State(s)	Michigan
County(s)	Isabella
Local jurisdiction(s)	Gilmore Township
PLSS	Secs 27,22,23&26, T16N, R5W, Michigan Meridian
Land ownership	private

BGN decisions: none

Other Names

- Published names:
 - Woods: USGS 1959, 1983, 2011, 2019; Michigan Ghost Towns
 - Woods of Gilmore: Michigan Ghost Towns

Case Summary

This proposal is to change the name of the small unincorporated community of Woods in Gilmore Township in Isabella County to Woods-of-Gilmore.

A local resident is proposing the change in an effort to apply “a more aesthetically sounding” name. The current name refers to the Woods family who operated Woods General Store from 1872 to 1956, specifically Jesse H. Wood (1838-1934) and his son James

E. Wood. Jesse Wood settled in Gilmore after the Civil War and served as its first postmaster from 1891 to 1906. Gilmore Township is named for Civil War Union General and engineer Quincy Adams Gilmore (1825-1888). The Michigan Ghost Towns website states “Not much is known about this curious non-village in Isabella County. It’s known by three names: Woods, Gilmore, and Woods of Gilmore,” adding that “only a couple of structures remain.” (Google Streetview shows a number of residences, farm buildings, and a church. The proponent states “The [proposed] name, Woods-of-Gilmore, is hyphenated because it is a compound modifier made up of two or more words that function as one adjective. The words work together as a unit of meaning with equality being important with a flowing quality ensued.”

An 1899 township plat labeled the area “Gilmore P.O.” The name Woods has been published on USGS topographic maps since 1959; it is not labeled on the current county highway map.

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Gilmore Township Isabella County
State Names Authority	Michigan Geographic Names Authority
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X

***** The following proposal has been withdrawn**

Change Middle Lake to Vasa Lake

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Vasa Lake
Proposal type	Change name to recognize local preference
Current official name	Middle Lake
GNIS ID	632263
Proponent	Ron Jacobson; Rochester Hills, MI
Date proposed	3/22/2023

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	43.0245086, -83.3535701
Secondary coordinates	n/a
Feature class	lake
Feature size	32 acres
Feature description	in Elba Township, adjacent to Vasa Country Club and Vasa Drive
Name history	The name is of Swedish heritage and means vessel

USGS primary topo map	Lapeer 1:24,000
State(s)	Michigan
County(s)	Lapeer
Local jurisdiction	Elba Township
PLSS	Sec 13, T7N, R9E, Michigan Meridian
Land ownership	private

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names: Middle Lake (USGS 1954, 1963, 1984, 2011, 2019; Michigan GIS roads layer 2022; Lapeer County Atlas 1921)

Case Summary

This proposal is to change the name of Middle Lake, a 32-acre lake in Elba Township in Lapeer County, to Vasa Lake. The proponent is the vice president of the Board of Directors of the Vasa Country Club Condominium Association. Although the name Middle Lake has appeared on USGS topographic maps since 1954 and was labeled on the 1921 Lapeer County Atlas, he claims “oldtimers recall use of the proposed name (as VASA Lake). The proposed name would reflect our Swedish heritage. The club is coming upon its 100th anniversary in 2025 and it would be nice if the name can be changed. Many of the houses are from 2nd, 3rd, and 4th generation individuals passing down their property to family members.”

He adds, “[The community of Vasa] was founded in 1925 by several Swedish families living in the Detroit Area who wanted a place in the country where they could get away from the City. The name VASA is Swedish (it actually means vessel) and goes back to Sweden around the 15th, 16th and 17th Century. The early Vasa era is a period, in Swedish history, lasting between 1523-1611 with the conquest of Stockholm, from the Danes by Gustav Vasa. It has been the name of Swedish kings, Swedish ships and the House of VASA.”

The North American Vasa is a celebration of winter sports held annually around Traverse City, which is 160 miles from the lake in question.

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Elba Township Lapeer County
State Names Authority	Michigan Geographic Names Authority
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X

MISSOURI

Frisco Creek

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Frisco Creek
Proposal type	new name for unnamed feature
Current official name	n/a
GNIS ID	n/a
Proponent	Tom Coots; Rolla, MO
Date proposed	4/7/2023

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	37.9476784, -91.75133
Secondary coordinates	37.9551543, -91.7665508
Feature class	stream
Feature size	1.12 mi. long
Feature description	In the City of Rolla, heads in Frisco Lake, flows SE then E, N of Rolla Middle School, to enter Burgher Branch
Name history	Named in association with Frisco Lake, which was constructed by the Frisco Railroad Company
USGS primary topo map	Rolla 1:24,000
State(s)	Missouri
County(s)	Phelps
Local jurisdiction	City of Rolla
PLSS	Secs 12,1&2, T37N, R8W, Fifth Principal Meridian
Land ownership	private

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names: Frisco Branch (City of Rolla Public Works Department)

Case Summary

The new name Frisco Creek is proposed for a 1.12-mi-long tributary of Burgher Branch in the City of Rolla in Phelps County. It flows in part through the property of Rolla Middle School. The name was proposed by a planner with the city's office of Community Development. The stream heads in Frisco Lake, which was built by the St. Louis–San Francisco Railway (commonly known as the “Frisco”) as a dependable water source for refilling its steam locomotive tenders during stops in Rolla. In 1955 the city acquired a

Frisco locomotive engine, which continues to be displayed at Schuman Park next to the lake. Although the proposal was submitted as a new name, further research by the proponent determined that the city's Public Works Department already uses the name Frisco Branch [sic] in its watershed mapping projects. He believes the generic term "Creek" is more appropriate when compared to other named streams in the area.

Stakeholder Input

Local government	City of Rolla Phelps County	
State Names Authority	Missouri Board on Geographic Names	
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	
Other	Rolla 31 School District	No objection

Sycamore Creek

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Sycamore Creek
Proposal type	new name for unnamed feature
Current official name	n/a
GNIS ID	n/a
Proponent	Gary Battocletti; New Florence, MO
Date proposed	4/5/23

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	38.824931, -91.506872
Secondary coordinates	38.851433, -91.48907
Feature class	stream
Feature size	2.3 miles long
Feature description	Heads in Danville Township, flows S to enter Clear Creek in Loutre Township
Name history	The stream is lined with many sycamore trees
USGS primary topo map	Americus (mouth) 1:24,000
State(s)	Missouri
County(s)	Montgomery
Local jurisdiction	Loutre Township, Danville Township
Land ownership	private

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names: None found

Case Summary

The new name Sycamore Creek is proposed for a 2.3-mile-long tributary of Clear Creek in Montgomery County. The proponent reports that he has lived on and farmed the property through which the stream flows for almost 60 years and that the stream is lined with “beautiful sycamore trees [that are] beneficial to many species.”

GNIS lists 22 features in Missouri named “Sycamore,” including nine streams. None are in Montgomery County and the closest is 62 miles away.

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Montgomery County
State Names Authority	Missouri Board on Geographic Names
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X

Waugh Creek

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Waugh Creek
Proposal type	new commemorative name for unnamed feature
Current official name	n/a
GNIS ID	n/a
Proponent	Cara Lawson; Marshfield, MO
Date proposed	2/23/2023

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	37.34579, -93.05194
Secondary coordinates	37.37935, -93.01057
Feature class	stream
Feature size	4.2 mi. long
Feature description	In Grant Township, flows into North Fork Pomme de Terre River
Name history	Named for Lee Ellison Waugh (1880-1969) and William Waugh (1916-2002), long time residents and farmers in the area
USGS primary topo map	Strafford 1:24,000 (mouth)
State(s)	Missouri
County(s)	Webster
Local jurisdiction	Grant Township
PLSS	Sec 5, T30N, R19W and Secs 32,28&27, T31N, R19W, Fifth Principal Meridian
Land ownership	private

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names: None found

Case Summary

This proposal is to apply the new name Waugh Creek to an unnamed 4.2-mile-long tributary of North Fork Pomme de Terre River in Webster County. The stream runs along the edge of property owned by the proponent and at its closest is approximately one mile from property owned by her ancestors Lee Ellison Waugh (1880-1969) and William Waugh (1916-2002). Of the original family farm on Minor Road, only the silo and ruins of a barn remain. There is no evidence that the honorees had any direct association with the stream in question, although the proponent notes, “It crosses across the old romping grounds of [the Waugh] family, Minor road and where I live.” She adds, “We have a hobby farm in the making, so I started to ask around if anyone knew the creek name . . . to try and come up with a creative name. As far as I have found, it’s un-named. I would like to name it after the original Waugh Family so that the name can live on.” Eleven members of the Waugh family are buried in a cemetery 2.7 mi. north of the source of the stream.

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Webster County
State Names Authority	Missouri Board on Geographic Names
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X

MONTANA

Change Jeff Davis Creek to Doyavinai Baa O’ogwaide

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Doyavinai Baa O’ogwaide
Proposal type	change name considered offensive
Current official name	Jeff Davis Creek
GNIS ID	785432
Proponent	Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation; Fort Hall, ID
Date proposed	3/1/23
Submitter	Nolan Brown; Fort Hall, ID
Date submitted	same

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	44.9027031, -113.275594
Secondary coordinates	44.8752011, -113.1283647
Feature class	stream
Feature size	8.5 miles long
Feature description	heads 1.1 mi. SE of Jeff Davis Peak (proposed Gai Mea Waith Go'l (q.v.)), flows WNW into Horse Prairie Creek 6.1 mi. N of Bannock Pass
Name history	Shoshone name meaning "water flowing from the mountain creek"
USGS primary topo map	Everson Creek 1:24,000 (mouth)
State(s)	Montana
County(s)	Beaverhead County
PLSS	T11S, Rgs14-13W, Principal Meridian
Land ownership	Bureau of Land Management land / Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest / private

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names:
 - Colorado Creek: AMS 1958, 1963; GLO 1880, 1949
 - Colorado Creek - in part: GLO 1918
 - Horse Prairie Creek - in part: GLO 1883
 - Jeff Davis Creek: USGS 1965, 1980, 1997; AMS 1955, 1968; many other sources
 - Jeff Davis Creek - in part: GLO 1918

Case Summary

This proposal is to change the name of Jeff Davis Creek, an 8.5-mile-long tributary of Horse Prairie Creek in Beaverhead County, to Doyavinai Baa O'ogwaide. The stream begins in Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and flows through Bureau of Land Management lands and private lands.

The proponent is a Historical Researcher in the Language and Cultural Preservation Department of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation. He states that Doyavinai Baa O'ogwaide means "water flowing from the mountain creek. Shoshone language speakers use this term in describing the creek."

The proposal was submitted in response to a previous proposal for Choos-wee Creek (Review List 444), a Salish name submitted by The Wilderness Society in conjunction with

the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation and several Montana organizations. Choos-wee is the Anglicized phonetic spelling of Čuswí, the Salish word for Chinese people, which itself is a reference to the long braid or queue hairstyle worn by many 19th century Chinese immigrants to the western United States. The proposed Salish name references a Chinese mining community along the stream.

The name Jeff Davis Creek has appeared on Army Map Service (AMS) maps since 1955 and on USGS maps since 1965. Two AMS maps from 1958 and 1963 labeled the stream Colorado Creek; all USGS maps show Colorado Creek as a tributary of Jeff Davis Creek. Since 1965, USGS maps have shown a community named Chinatown near the confluence of Colorado Creek with Jeff Davis Creek.

A mining location known as Jefferson Davis Gulch or Jeff Davis Gulch was located near the headwaters of the stream. The name Jeff Davis Gulch was used to refer to the valley from which the headwaters flow. The name of the stream later became Jeff Davis Creek. This mine was the source of William A. Clark's fortune; Clark was later a U.S. Senator.

The mine was named for Jefferson Davis, a fact supported by several sources:

- The 1865 *Idaho and Montana Gold Regions* noted:

Thirty miles south-west of Bannock is situated Jeff. Davis' gulch, or the Horse Creek mines. These mines were discovered in July, 1863. . . . Mr. Baugh, of Omaha, as also several others, made snug fortunes by mining in this gulch. . . .

- An August 22, 1912 *Billings Gazette* article titled "Pioneer-day records by Senator Clark found in Beaverhead County," reported:

[T]he record of Jefferson Davis Gulch, Idaho District, on the upper Grasshopper, which was kept by W. A. Clark, multi-millionaire and mining magnate, in the days of the prospector and is one of the earliest mining laws on record in Montana. . . .

"Laws of Jefferson Davis Gulch, Idaho District" is the heading written across the first leaves in the little ledger. The proceeding of the meeting are chronicled as follows: "At a meeting of the miners of Jeff Davis Gulch held June 22, 1864. . . . W. A. Clark was elected recorder. . . . The extent of the district shall be from the mouth of Jeff Davis Gulch, including all its tributaries and drainage, and the district is named Idaho. . . ."

- A "narrative from [William A. Clark's] own pen contributed to the pamphlet of the Pioneers' Society, published in 1917," published in the 1921 *Montana: Its Story and Biography*, stated:

The next morning we [Clark, John Hildebrand, and William V. Myers] drove to Bannack. . . . While we were eating our luncheon a rather old man by the name of Baugh came over from the town and told us a story about an important discovery of

gold which had been made about a day's drive from Bannack. . . . Our route lay back to Horse Prairie creek. . . and we did not get into the camp we started for until late in the afternoon, when we discovered that everything had been staked for miles up and down Colorado gulch. . . . Baugh, our benefactor, rode into camp just before we arrived. . . . Upon leaving camp we told Baugh that we were going out prospecting for several days and would then return. . . . [Baugh said] "If you boys find anything good stake me in and I will do the same thing with you. . . ." Upon our return, after several days in fruitless search, we found nearly all of the stampeders had gone, but Baugh was still there. Sure enough, only about a mile from the camp he had found a little dry gulch that gave encouraging prospects, and as he was an ex-rebel, he named it "Jeff Davis" gulch, and true to his promise, he had located us both in. . . .

- A June 14, 1918 article in the *Augusta [Montana] Times* titled "Jeff Davis Gulch, Where W. A. Clark Placer Mined and Cooked Own Meals," reported:

The gulch was named by a Confederate soldier, who had come to Montana when [Sterling] Price, the southern general has been defeated. His army was scattered to the four winds and some of the fugitives kept on retreating until they came to Montana. The southers [*sic*] were so numerous in the young territory that for a time there was doubt as to whether the unionists were in control.

As the above evidence shows, the mine, and thus the gulch and later creek were named for Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America from 1861 to 1865. The first published use was "Jeff. Davis' gulch," showing that "Jeff" was a shortened form of "Jefferson." Even though Davis himself did not like being called "Jeff" and never wrote his name that way, many articles at the time shortened his name to "Jeff." and spoken use undoubtedly followed.

Historical sources report that residents of Beaverhead County and southwestern Montana held Confederate sympathies during and after the Civil War:

- *The Vigilantes of Montana*, 1915:

The first white child born in Bannack was born in December, 1862, to the wife of B. B. Burchett. His father, being a southern sympathizer, named him Jefferson Davis; but as the fortunes of war were against Jeff he changed the boy's name two and one-half years later to Thomas Jefferson.

There came a day in Jeff Davis Gulch—to be exact, Sunday, July 4th, 1863, when the miners of Prospect District wished to hold a meeting, and make laws for its government. . . . [These miners] were to mine of the head-waters of Horse Prairie Creek [for years]. . . . [A.] Graham was elected President of that meeting. . . . On the 13th of July, a meeting was called at the request of certain parties (names not

recorded), for the purpose of having a portion of the District set off from this district, to be known as Jeff Davis Gulch, and its drainage.

- *Montana: Its Story and Biography*, 1921:

The first name given to the present capital of Montana was in honor of Jeff. Davis' wife, but, as stated, it was soon changed to Virginia. Dr. (Judge) G. G. Bissel was the first man that wrote it Virginia. Being asked to head a legal document Verona, he bluntly said he would see them d—d [sic] first, for that was the name of Jeff. Davis' wife; and, accordingly, as he wrote it, so it remained.

[This source also quoted a family history by Martha Edgerton Plassman, a resident of the Bannack area:] [D]runken horsemen galloping by at night often fired random shots at the red, white and blue target while hurraing lustily for Jeff Davis.

- "'Infernal' Collector," *The Montana Magazine of History*, Vol. 4, No. 2, 1954:

Nathaniel Pitt Langford was the first Collector of Internal Revenue for Montana Territory. . . . [He] became a leading public figure in the mining camps of Bannack, Virginia City and Last Chance Gulch.

[Langford wrote the following in a May 20, 1866 letter from Virginia City, all format and spelling in the original:]

I was in a Territory more disloyal as a whole, than Tennessee or Kentucky ever were. Four-fifths of our citizens were *openly declared* Secessionists. Virginia City was first called *Varina*, in honor of Mrs. Jeff Davis. Then we had Jeff Davis Gulch [possibly referring to Jeff Davis Creek], and Confederate Gulch [possibly referring to a feature in Broadwater County]. . . . At Bannock [sic, about 20 miles from Jeff Davis Creek], I had seen a Secesh flag flying, and men standing near by with revolvers, daring any bystander to say that he did'ent like to see that flag, or that he did'ent support Jeff Davis. . . . In our local matters, we were completely under the rebel rule:—the rule of what is familiarly known here as "the left wing of Prices Army:"—that is the wing that left his army.

- *Politics in the Rural States* (1981):

"One of the most important early mining districts [in Montana] was named Confederate Gulch" and that before being hanged, an outlaw named Boone Helm said "Every man for his principles—hurrah for Jeff Davis! Let her rip!"

- A Montana Department of Transportation historical marker for the historical mining town of Bannack:

“The Civil War divided the town into Jeff Davis Gulch and Yankee Flats.” [Bannack is located about 20 miles northeast of Jeff Davis Creek but there is evidence that miners from Bannack worked claims in the area around the stream.]

As noted above, the original mining claim around Jeff Davis Creek was named Jeff Davis Gulch, although some evidence suggests that an area closer to Bannack was also known by the latter name. (Both of these features are distinct from the Jeff Davis Gulch in Lewis and Clark County that the BGN renamed to In-qu-qu-leet Gulch in April 2023.)

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Beaverhead County
State Names Authority	Montana
Federal Agency	Bureau of Land Management U.S. Forest Service
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X

Change Jeff Davis Peak to Gai Mea Waith Go'i

Proposal Information

Proposed name	<u>Gai Mea Waith Go'i</u>
Proposal type	change name considered offensive
Current official name	Jeff Davis Peak
GNIS ID	785433
Proponent	Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation; Fort Hall, ID
Date proposed	3/1/23
Submitter	Nolan Brown; Fort Hall, ID
Date submitted	same

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	44.8905184, -113.139166
Feature class	summit
Feature size	elevation 9,599 feet
Feature description	8.4 mi. NE of Bannock Pass
Name history	The name commemorates the Shoshone leader Gai Mea Waith, whose name translated as Does Not Walk
USGS primary topo map	Jeff Davis Peak 1:24,000
State(s)	Montana
County(s)	Beaverhead
PLSS	Sec 12, T11S, R13W, Principal Meridian, Montana
Land ownership	Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names:
 - Jeff Davis Peak: USGS 1965, 1980, 1997; AMS 1955, 1958; many other sources

Case Summary

This proposal is to change the name of Jeff Davis Peak, a 9,599-foot summit in Beaverhead County and on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, to Gai Mea Waith Go'i.

The proposed name, submitted by a Historical Researcher in the Language and Cultural Preservation Department of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation, would commemorate the Shoshone leader Gai Mea Waith, whose name translated as Does Not Walk. Gai Mea Waith's name was recorded in the journals of Lewis and Clark as Ca-me-âh-wait or Cameawait. The proponent states that Gai Mea Waith "was closely related to Sacajawea, whom she identified in the Shoshone tradition as her brother."

The proponent also requested that the name be shown as Gai Mea Waith (with either underlining or combining diacritical marks below the "ai" in "Gai") under "the officially accepted orthography for the Shoshone and Bannock languages." He has been asked to clarify whether the letters should be underlined or are a combined Unicode character. GNIS may or may not be able to render the combining character; at present, there is no such character listed in Appendix G of the [Principles, Policies, and Procedures](#).

This proposal was submitted in response to a previous proposal for Three Eagles Peak (Review List 444), a name submitted by The Wilderness Society in conjunction with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation and several Montana organizations. The name would commemorate the Salish Chief Three Eagles, which is the translation of his name, Četl Sǵeýmí. Three Eagles became head chief of the Salish in the 1790s and met Lewis and Clark in 1805.

The name Jeff Davis Peak has appeared on Army Map Service maps since 1955 and on USGS maps since 1965. The name presumably references the nearby Jeff Davis Creek, a name which dates back to the 1860s. It is unknown when the name was first used for the summit.

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Beaverhead County
State Names Authority	Montana
Federal Agency	U.S. Forest Service
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X

Vigilante Pass

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Vigilante Pass
Proposal type	new name for unnamed feature
Current official name	n/a
GNIS ID	n/a
Proponent	Mayor of Virginia City, MT
Submitted by	Bill Lev; Virginia City, MT
Date submitted	3/28/2023

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	45.283707, -111.891739
Feature class	gap
Feature size	Approx. 1.5 mi. long
Feature description	Located along Montana State Hwy 287, between Virginia City and Ennis
Name history	Named for the Montana Vigilantes, established in 1863 to establish territorial law
USGS primary topo map	Virginia City 1:24,000
State(s)	Montana
County(s)	Madison
PLSS	T6S, R2W, Montana Prime Meridian
Land ownership	BLM / Montana State Trust Lands / private

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names: None found

Case Summary

This proposal is to apply the new name Vigilante Pass to an unnamed, approximately 1.5-mile-long gap located along Montana State Hwy 287, between Virginia City and Ennis, in Madison County. The gap traversed the Tobacco Roots Mountains, with a small portion on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management and another on Montana State Trust Lands.

The proposal was submitted on behalf of the town's mayor by a resident of Virginia City, who adds that he is active in the Virginia City Preservation Alliance. He reports that the gap is the highest elevation mountain pass located completely within Montana that is maintained year-round.

The name would recognize the [Montana Vigilantes](#), a group that began with the formation of a Vigilance Committee in December 1863 in Virginia City. According to the proponent:

The Vigilantes are an important part of Montana's early history and still a part of the local culture. During the Alder Gold Rush of 1863 [when the area was a remote part of eastern Idaho Territory], tens of thousands of miners [prospectors and fortune seekers] flocked to the Virginia City area and lawlessness including robberies and murders occurred. A Vigilance Committee was formed and a group of men known as the Vigilantes brought 23 so-called "Road Agents" to justice. The prosecutor, Wilbur Fisk Sanders later became the 1st US Senator from Montana.

Virginia City remains the best preserved western mining town in the USA, and has a significant number of tourists visiting every summer, the Vigilante history in story is told in many places in the town. Virginia City is also our county seat and where our courthouse and administrative offices are located.

Wikipedia provides an extensive account of the Vigilantes:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montana_Vigilantes, while <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/montana-vigilantes-hang-jack-slade> describes a particular incident in the group's history. The website of the Southwest Montana Vigilante Trail (<https://southwestmt.com/itineraries/vigilantetrail/3777/>) describes the longstanding use of 3-7-77 to refer to the vigilante group and the various theories regarding its origin. The motto of the Montana Air National Guard 120th Airlift Wing is "Vigilantes - Ready to Ride!"

At least one recent newspaper opinion article (<https://www.hcn.org/issues/51.11/history-montanans-vigilante-obsession-obscures-the-truth>) challenges the perpetuation of the vigilante story, stating "Every year for nearly a century, Helena, Montana, has celebrated our state's dark history of vigilante killings by closing schools and holding a parade. [However], It is time for Montana to give up its founding myth of vigilantism, which perpetuates an incomplete and racist version of our past. Montanans need to remove official references to the vigilantes from government institutions and discourage their use as a commercial trademark or community icon." The author adds that "according to writer Frederick Allen's authoritative history, *A Decent, Orderly Lynching: The Montana Vigilantes*, over a six-year period they killed a total of fifty men, many of whom were not guilty of capital crimes, some of whom were not guilty of crimes at all."

According to various online sources, the vigilante activities continued until the territory became the State of Montana in 1889.

GNIS lists two features named "Vigilante": [Vigilante Canal](#) also in Madison County, is located northwest of Virginia City, 17 miles from the gap, while [Vigilante Gulch](#) is in Lewis and Clark County, northeast of Helena.

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Madison County
State Names Authority	Montana Geographic Names Advisor
Federal Agency	BLM
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X
Other	Montana State Trust Lands

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Change Mount Washington to Agiocochook

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Agiocochook
Proposal type	change name to remove offensive commemoration and restore native name
Current official name	Mount Washington
GNIS ID	871352
Proponent	Kris Pastoriza; Easton, NH
Date proposed	2/7/23

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	44.2706, -71.3033
Feature class	summit
Feature size	Elevation 6,288 ft.
Feature description	the highest point in New Hampshire, in the Presidential Range in the White Mountains
Name history	Abenaki name for the summit reportedly meaning “the place of the Great Spirit” or “the place of the Concealed One”
USGS primary topo map	Mount Washington 1:24,000
State(s)	New Hampshire
County(s)	Coös County
Land ownership	Mount Washington State Park / White Mountain National Forest / Appalachian National Scenic Trail

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names:
 - Agiocochook: Indigenous New Hampshire Collaborative Collective website, 2018

- Agiocook: *Indian Place Names of New England*, 1962; *Place Names of the White Mountains, Revised Edition*, 1993
- Christall Hill: *Place Names of the White Mountains, Revised Edition*, 1993
- G8dagwjo: Indigenous New Hampshire Collaborative Collective website, 2018
- Kan Ran Vugarty: *Incidents in White Mountain History*, 1856; *Chronicles of the White Mountains*, 1916; *The Story of Mount Washington*, 1960
- Kawdahkwaj: Indigenous New Hampshire Collaborative Collective website, 2018
- Kodaak Wadjo: *Dictionary of American-Indian Place and Proper Names in New England*, 1909; *Indian Place Names of New England*, 1962; *Place Names of the White Mountains, Revised Edition*, 1993
- Kodaak-waja: *Let Me Show You New Hampshire*, 1938
- Kodaakwajo:
- Kôdaakwajo: *New Familiar Abenakis and English Dialogues*, 1884
- K8daakwaj: Indigenous New Hampshire Collaborative Collective website, 2018
- Mount Agiocook: *Place Names of the White Mountains, Revised Edition*, 1993
- Mount Washington: USGS 1893, 1896, 1935, 1938, 1982, 1986, 1988; USGS/USFS 1995; AMS 1950, 1956, 1961, 1962, 1969; *Place Names of the White Mountains, Revised Edition*, 1993, many other sources
- Mount Sugarloaf: *Place Names of the White Mountains, Revised Edition*, 1993
- Sugar-loaf: *A Gazetteer of the State of New Hampshire*, 1817
- Sugarloaf: *Place Names of the White Mountains, Revised Edition*, 1993
- Twinkling Mountain of Augosisco: *Let Me Show You New Hampshire*, 1938
- Waumbekket-methna: *Place Names of the White Mountains, Revised Edition*, 1993
- Waumbik: *Place Names of the White Mountains, Revised Edition*, 1993; Indigenous New Hampshire Collaborative Collective website, 2018
- White Hill: *Place Names of the White Mountains, Revised Edition*, 1993

Case Summary

This proposal is to change the name of Mount Washington, the highest point in New Hampshire, to Agiocook. The 6,288-foot summit is located in Coös County, within the Presidential Range of the White Mountains and Mount Washington State Park. The sides of the summit are within White Mountain National Forest, and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail passes along the summit's west side.

The proponent states:

Mt Washington requires a name change because it is inappropriate to name a geographical feature after a person, especially a white, male member of the ruling class, complicit in slavery and the theft of land from Native Americans. . . .

Mt. Washington requires a name change because George and Martha Washington engaged in slavery. Allowing the mountain to be named after George Washington indicates federal and cultural approval of the practice of slavery.

The proponent wishes to change the name to one of the summit’s recorded Indigenous names. Agiocochook is an Abenaki word that reportedly means “the place of the Great Spirit” or “the home of the concealed one.”

In 2020, a change.org petition was directed to the New Hampshire Governor, the State House and Senate, and New Hampshire State Parks, expressing support for a name change (“Agiocochook, Waumbik, and Kodaak Wadjo are three of the names that predated the current name. The mountain should be renamed to one of the original names that it has had throughout most of history. A number of people already refer to the mountain as Agiocochook so reverting back to this is probably the best alternative to the new name”: <https://www.change.org/p/new-hampshire-state-house-rename-mount-washington-to-original-indigenous-name>. As of June 2023, the petition included 325 signatures.

USGS maps have applied the name Mount Washington since 1893 and the name has appeared on countless Federal and non-Federal sources. The name was first used in print in 1792. Other Native names and spellings are recorded for the summit, including:

- Kan Van Vugarty in *Incidents in White Mountain History*, 1856, meaning “the continued likeness of a gull”
- Kodaak Wadjo in *Dictionary of American-Indian Place and Proper Names in New England*, 1909, meaning “the top is so hidden,” and *Indian Place Names of New England*, 1962, meaning “summit of the highest mountain.”
- Kôdaakwajo in *New Familiar Abenakis and English Dialogues*, 1884, meaning “the hidden mountain”
- Waumbekket-methna, reported in *Place Names of the White Mountains, Revised Edition*, 1993, meaning “snowy mountains” and referring to “the peak and its neighbors”

In some sources, these names reportedly referred to the White Mountains or to the Presidential Range rather than specifically to Mount Washington. The spelling Agiocchook seems to most often be used in reference to the Abenaki name for the White Mountains.

In 2011, the BGN approved the name Agiocochook Crag for a small summit 0.8 miles northeast of Mount Washington.

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Coös County
State Names Authority	New Hampshire Board on Geographic Names
Federal Agency	U.S. Forest Service National Park Service

Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X
Other	New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation

**Change Baker River to Asquamchumauke River,
change East Branch Baker River to East Branch Asquamchumauke River,
change South Branch Baker River to South Branch Asquamchumauke River,
and change South Branch Baker River Reservoir to South Branch
Asquamchumauke River Reservoir**

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Asquamchumauke River
Proposal type	change a name consider offensive and to recognize a native name
Current official name	Baker River
GNIS ID	871424
Proponent	Kris Pastoriza; Easton, NH
Date proposed	2/28/23

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	43.7636832, -71.6856338
Secondary coordinates	44.0247888, -71.8173059
Feature class	stream
Feature size	38 miles long
Feature description	Heads 0.6 miles ENE of Mount Moosilauke, flows SSW then ESE into the Pemigewasset River
Name history	Name is the Abenaki name for the river, reportedly meaning "crooked river from high places," "the place of the mountain waters," or "salmon-spawning place"
USGS primary topo map	Plymouth 1:24,000 (mouth)
State(s)	New Hampshire
County(s)	Grafton
Local jurisdiction(s)	Town of Plymouth, Town of Rumney, Town of Wentworth, Town of Warren, Town of Benton, Town of Woodstock
Land ownership	White Mountain National Forest / State lands / Dartmouth College land

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found

- Published names:
 - Abocadneticook (*Indian Place Names of New England*, 1962)
 - Asquam Chommeock (*Indian Place Names of New England*, 1962)
 - Asquam Chumakee (*Indian Place Names of New England*, 1962)
 - Asquam Chumauke (*Indian Place Names of New England*, 1962)
 - Asquamchumauke (*Dictionary of American-Indian place and proper names in New England*, 1909; *History of the Town of Wentworth, New Hampshire*, 1930; *Place Names of the White Mountains*, 1993)
 - Baker River (USGS 1928, 1931, 1932, 1973, 1980, 1986, 1995; AMS 1949, 1956, 1963; *The general gazetteer*, 1809; many later sources)
 - Bakers River (“A topographical map of the State of New Hampshire,” 1784; *History of Plymouth, New Hampshire*, 1906)
 - Baker’s River (*A Gazetteer of the State of New-Hampshire*, 1823; “Atlas Of The State Of New Hampshire,” 1877; *History of Plymouth, New Hampshire*, 1906; *History of the Town of Wentworth, New Hampshire*, 1930; many later sources)

Proposal Information

Proposed name	East Branch Asquamchumauke River
Proposal type	change a name consider offensive and to recognize a native name
Current official name	East Branch Baker River
GNIS ID	871825
Proponent	Kris Pastoriza; Easton, NH
Date proposed	2/28/23

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	43.9561789, -71.8336941
Secondary coordinates	43.9869444, -71.8055556
Feature class	stream
Feature size	3.1 miles long
Feature description	Heads 2.4 miles SSW of Mount Waternomee, flows SW into the Baker River (proposed Asquamchumauke River)
USGS primary topo map	Mount Kineo 1:24,000
State(s)	New Hampshire
County(s)	Grafton
Local jurisdiction(s)	Town of Warren, Town of Woodstock
Land ownership	White Mountain National Forest / Dartmouth College land

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names:

- East Branch Baker River: USGS 1973, 1986, 1995
- East Branch Baker's River: "Atlas Of The State Of New Hampshire," 1877

Proposal Information

Proposed name	South Branch Asquamchumauke River
Proposal type	change a name consider offensive and to recognize a native name
Current official name	South Branch Baker River
GNIS ID	872693
Proponent	Kris Pastoriza; Easton, NH
Date proposed	2/28/23

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	43.8361811, -71.8936941
Secondary coordinates	43.6814612, -71.9148048
Feature class	stream
Feature size	17.5 miles long
Feature description	Heads 1.2 miles E of Mount Tug, flows generally N into the Baker River (proposed Asquamchumauke River)
USGS primary topo map	Wentworth 1:24,000 (mouth)
State(s)	New Hampshire
County(s)	Grafton County
Local jurisdiction(s)	Town of Wentworth, Town of Dorchester, Town of Groton, Town of Orange
Land ownership	Foster & Colburn State Forest / Province Road State Forest / Cardigan Mountain State Forest

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names:
 - South Branch Baker River: USGS 1932, 1986, 1995
 - South Branch Baker's River: "Atlas Of The State Of New Hampshire," 1877

Proposal Information

Proposed name	South Branch Asquamchumauke River Reservoir
Proposal type	change a name consider offensive and to recognize a native name
Current official name	South Branch Baker River Reservoir
GNIS ID	1775079
Proponent	Kris Pastoriza; Easton, NH
Date proposed	2/28/23

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	43.7750712, -71.9145271
Feature class	reservoir
Feature size	40 acres
Feature description	On the South Branch Baker River (proposed South Branch Asquamchumauke River) 3.7 miles SW of West Rumney
USGS primary topo map	Wentworth 1:24,000
State(s)	New Hampshire
County(s)	Grafton
Local jurisdiction(s)	Town of Dorchester, Town of Groton
Land ownership	Foster & Colburn State Forest / Province Road State Forest / Cardigan Mountain State Forest

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names:
 - South Branch Asquamchumauke River Reservoir: USACE 1981

Case Summary

This proposal is to change the names of the Baker River, the East Branch Asquamchumauke River, the South Branch Asquamchumauke River, and South Branch Asquamchumauke River Reservoir in Grafton County.

The Baker River is a 38-mile-long tributary of the Pemigewasset River that heads on Dartmouth College lands, flows through the White Mountain National Forest, then through Plymouth State College lands; it flows through six towns (Benton, Woodstock, Warren, Wentworth, Rumney, and Plymouth).

The East Branch Baker River is a 3.1-mile-long tributary that heads on Dartmouth College lands and flows through the White Mountain National Forest and two towns (Woodstock and Warren).

The South Branch Baker River is a 17.5-mile-long tributary that flows through State forest lands and through six towns (Orange, Groton, Dorchester, Wentworth, Rumney, and Plymouth).

The South Branch Baker River Reservoir is a reservoir along the South Branch Baker River in two towns (Dorchester and Groton).

Baker River has been labeled on USGS maps since 1928; South Branch Baker River since 1932; and East Branch Baker River since 1973. The name South Branch Asquamchumauke River Reservoir originated from a 1981 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers list of dams and reservoirs and does not seem to have been used in any other source.

The name Baker River (or a possessive variant) dates back to at least 1784, while the names of the branches date back to at least 1877. Many maps of the area labeled the river with both the name Asquamchumauke (or a spelling variation) and Baker River (or a slight variation). The variant listing in GNIS for Asquamchumauke cites *The Dictionary of American-Indian place and proper names in New England* (Douglas-Lithgow, 1909), while other variants, all compiled from *Indian Place Names of New England* (Huden, 1962) are Abocadneticook, Asquam Chommeock, Asquam Chumakee, and Asquam Chumauke.

The proposal is to replace “Baker” with “Asquamchumauke,” which is one spelling of the Abenaki word for the river. The name reportedly means “crooked river from high places,” “the place of the mountain waters,” “salmon-spawning place,” or similar translations.

Baker River is named for Lieutenant Thomas Baker (1682–1753), who attacked a Pemigewasset village near the mouth of the river. At the age of 22 and during Queen Anne’s War, he was captured in Deerfield, Massachusetts, during a raid by French and Native American forces. He was taken to Montreal and escaped more than a year later, after which he reportedly joined the British army to lead raiding parties against Native Americans. One of two historical markers placed in 1940 near the mouth of the Baker River by the Asquamchumauke Chapter of the Daughters of The American Revolution reads:

Asquamchumauke was the name of the Baker River in the language of the Pemigewasset Indians meaning “crooked water from high places.” Here was the site of their Indian village on these meadows they cultivated corn in the sandy banks of the river they stored their furs. In March, 1712, Lieutenant Thomas Baker and thirty scouts destroyed the village and killed many Indians including the chief, Waternummus.

New Hampshire Historical Highway Marker #55, installed in 1968 and apparently now removed, added “Massachusetts rewarded the expedition with a scalp bounty of £40 and made Baker a captain.”

The proponent believes that geographic features “should not be named after people because this perpetuates a destructive cultural assumption of human centrality and rights over the rest of the planet.” She states that Baker’s actions constitute genocide, citing the United Nations’ “Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.”

In March 2021, a Warren Town Selectman proposed a non-binding Town article to change the name to Asquamchumaukee River; it failed on a tie vote. Local news reports stated that the Selectman “was inspired by seeing the name in connection with the local Asquamchumauke Valley Snowmobile Club” and that “he proposed the article to make

everyone aware of the heritage and that Abenaki lived on its shores for 11,000 years before European settlement.”

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Town of Plymouth (main river) Town of Rumney (main river) Town of Wentworth (main river, south branch) Town of Warren (main river, east branch) Town of Benton (main river) Town of Woodstock (east branch) Town of Dorchester (south branch, reservoir) Town of Groton (south branch, reservoir) Town of Orange (south branch) Grafton County
State Names Authority	New Hampshire Board on Geographic Names
Federal Agency	U.S. Forest Service
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X

Change Mount Clay to Mount Roosevelt

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Mount Roosevelt
Proposal type	change a name to a more relevant honoree
Current official name	Mount Clay
GNIS ID	871692
Proponent	Peter C. Gagne; Aurora, CO
Date proposed	3/13/23

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	44.2858888, -71.3159083
Feature class	summit
Feature size	Elevation 5,533 ft.
Feature description	In the Presidential Range, 1.25 mi. S of Mount Jefferson
Name history	Named for Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), 26th President of the United States
USGS primary topo map	Mount Washington 1:24,000

State(s)	New Hampshire
County(s)	Coös County
Local jurisdiction(s)	Thompson and Meserves Purchase
Land ownership	White Mountain National Forest / Great Gulf Wilderness / Appalachian National Scenic Trail

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names:
 - Mount Clay: USGS 1893, 1896, 1935, 1938, 1982, 1986, 1988; USGS/USFS 1995; many other sources
 - Mount Reagan: New Hampshire House Bill 82, 2003

Case Summary

This proposal is to change the name of Mount Clay, the fourth-highest summit in the Presidential Range in the White Mountains, to Mount Roosevelt. Mount Clay has an elevation of 5,535 feet and is located in the White Mountain National Forest in Coös County. It is a small rise in the col between Mount Washington and Mount Jefferson, and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail passes along one side of the summit.

The summit is in a subdivision of Coös County called Thompson and Meserves Purchase, which does not have an elected government.

The proposed name would commemorate Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), the 26th President of the United States. The current name Mount Clay commemorates Henry Clay (1777-1852), congressman, senator, and Secretary of State under John Quincy Adams.

The proponent states that there are two summits in the Presidential Range that are not named after Presidents of the United States, Mount Franklin (reportedly named for Benjamin Franklin) and Mount Clay (reportedly named for Henry Clay). The proponent believes that Theodore Roosevelt should be honored with a name in the Range due to his record of conservation including:

- establishing the U.S Forest Service in 1905
- signing the Antiquities Act
- strengthening the U.S. Navy
- forming the First U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment (the “Rough Riders”)
- winning the Nobel Peace Prize for his mediation efforts to end the Russo-Japanese War
- supporting the construction and control of the Panama Canal

- persuading Congress to pass the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act
- helping to end the coal strike by the United Mine Workers of America
- expanding the BGN's authority to include standardization of all geographic names for Federal use, including name changes and new names

In fact, there are several other major named summits in the Presidential Range that are not named after Presidents: Mount Abigail Adams, Mount Sam Adams, Mount Webster (for Daniel Webster), and Mount Jackson (reportedly for New Hampshire geologist Charles T. Jackson, but assumed by many to honor Andrew Jackson). The proponent later clarified that he was referring to the major summits within the core part of the range, of which Mount Franklin and Mount Pierce are not named for Presidents.

The major named summits in the core part of the Presidential Range, in order of currently measured elevation, along with the dates of their naming, are:

- Mount Washington (1792)
- Mount Adams (1820)
- Mount Jefferson (1820)
- Mount Clay (1848)
- Mount Monroe (1820)
- Mount Madison (1820)
- Mount Franklin (1820)
- Mount Eisenhower (BGN 1970); this was formerly known as Mount Pleasant (1820)
- Mount Pierce (BGN 1913); this was formerly known as Mount Clinton (unknown), named for New York Governor DeWitt Clinton

The name Mount Clay was reportedly given in 1848 by William Oakes, a White Mountains botanist. He is believed to have named Mount Jackson and Mount Webster at the same time. The name Presidential Range dates back to at least 1855.

Other named summits in the Range, either sub-peaks or outside the core range are:

- Mount Sam Adams (1876)
- Mount Quincy Adams (1857)
- Mount Abigail Adams (BGN 2010)
- Mount Jackson (1848)
- Mount Webster (1848)

The New Hampshire Legislature passed bills renaming Mount Clinton to Mount Pierce in 1913 (to honor Franklin Pierce, who was born in New Hampshire) and renaming Mount Pleasant to Mount Eisenhower (to honor Dwight D. Eisenhower) in 1969. Some hikers and mountaineers still use the old names.

The proponent states that he does not wish to “discredit or denigrate Henry Clay. He is considered one of the most influential and important political figures of his time, earning the moniker of the ‘Great Compromiser’. This appeal is meant only as a discourse to compare [Clay’s and Roosevelt’s] respective achievements in public service.”

In 2003, the New Hampshire Legislature passed House Bill 82, “An Act to change the name of ‘Mount Clay’ to Mount Reagan,” which named the summit after President Ronald Reagan. The Legislature informed the BGN of the bill, but the BGN could not consider the proposal because President Reagan was still living. In 2010, a former State Legislator proposed the change to the BGN to make the State recognized name official for Federal use. The BGN did not approve the proposal due to a reluctance to change a longstanding historical name and noting that the existing name was an honor, so changing it could be considered a “dishonor” to Clay. The BGN also noted in the minutes, “The rejection of the name change should not be seen in any way as a negative reflection on President Reagan’s legacy.” In 2011, the New Hampshire Legislature considered but did not pass “An Act renaming Mount Clay in honor of Wonalancet.”

The proponent states that if the BGN approves the change to Mount Roosevelt, he will “attempt to introduce a new bill to the New Hampshire legislature”.

A summary of the stakeholder input for the Mount Reagan proposal (2010):

Local government	Coös County Commissioners	Support
State Names Authority	New Hampshire Board on Geographic Names	No opinion
Federal agency	U.S. Forest Service	No opinion
Tribes	Pre-Policy X; no federally recognized Tribes with an interest in Coös County	n/a
Other	Town of Carroll Selectmen [Coös County]	Support
	Town of Randolph Selectmen [Coös County]	No response
	Town of Jefferson Selectmen [Carroll County]	Support
	State Senator Jeb Bradley	Support
	State Representative Warren Groen	Support
	State Representative Carol Vita	Support
	State Representative Fran Wendelboe	Support
	former State Representative Harriet E. Cady	Support
	10 area residents	Support
	1 area resident who was a NH House member when the 2003 bill was passed	Support
	Appalachian Mountain Club	Oppose
	Jefferson Conservation Commission	Oppose
	Society for the Protection of New Hampshire	Oppose

	Forests, Director of Education and Volunteer Services [personal opinion]	
	Mount Washington Auto Road of the Great Glen Trails Outdoor Center General Manager	Oppose
	Ammonosuc River Historical Society Conservation Commission	Oppose
	Co-editor of <i>Adirondack Peeks</i> (the magazine of the Adirondack Forty-Sixers, Inc.)	Oppose
	Randolph Mountain Club	Oppose
	Local resident with petition signed by 100+ Individuals	Oppose
	State Representative Evalyn Merrick	Oppose
	State Representative Philip Preston	Oppose
	State Representative Suzanne Smith	Oppose
	State Representative Susan Wiley	Oppose
	160 emails to the BGN	Oppose
	Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation	No opinion

Some of the support for Mount Reagan noted that Henry Clay was not a U.S. President, so the name does not fit within the Presidential Range. One also noted that “Clay had too great a role in expanding and continuing slavery. His name should be removed.”

Wikipedia includes entries entitled [List of things named for Henry Clay - Wikipedia](#) and [List of memorials to Theodore Roosevelt - Wikipedia](#).

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Coös County
State Names Authority	New Hampshire Board on Geographic Names
Federal Agency	U.S. Forest Service National Park Service
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X

NEW JERSEY

Fleischl Basin

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Fleischl Basin
Proposal type	New name for unnamed feature

Current official name	n/a
GNIS ID	n/a
Proponent	Kyle Hendrikson; Robbinsville, NJ
Date proposed	3/13/2023

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	40.23229, -74.573501
Feature class	reservoir
Feature size	235 ft x 360 ft
Feature description	in Assunpink Wildlife Management Area, in Robbinsville Township
Name history	The name is a combination of "fly" and "shill", as the pond is known to attract many flies during warm summers
USGS primary topo map	Allentown 1:24,000
State(s)	New Jersey
County(s)	Mercer
Local jurisdiction	Robbinsville Township
Land ownership	NJ Department of Environmental Protection / Division of Fish and Wildlife

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: Fleischl Basin (proponent)
- Published names: None found

Case Summary

This proposal is to apply the name Fleischl Basin to an unnamed 235 ft. by 360 ft. reservoir in Robbinsville Township in Mercer County. The reservoir is within the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area, managed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection / Division of Fish and Wildlife.

According to the proponent, the name has been used in the local neighborhood for 15 years and "is a combination of 'fly' and 'shill,' as the pond is known to attract many flies during warm summers."

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Robbinsville Township Mercer County
State Names Authority	New Jersey
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X

Other

NJ Department of Environmental
Protection

NEW YORK

Jelliffe-Knight Bay

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Jelliffe-Knight Bay
Proposal type	new commemorative name for unnamed feature
Current official name	n/a
GNIS ID	n/a
Proponent	Helena G. Rice; Tucson, AZ
Date proposed	2/28/2023

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	43.651944, -73.4975
Feature class	bay
Feature size	0.25 mi wide
Feature description	On E side of Lake George, in Town of Hague
Name history	Named for the Jelliffe and Knight families who have owned property on the shoreline of the bay for over 150 years
USGS primary topo map	Putnam 1:24,000
State(s)	New York
County(s)	Warren
Local jurisdiction	Town of Hague
Land ownership	private

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names: None found

Case Summary

This proposal is to apply the new name Jelliffe-Knight Bay to a 0.25-mile-wide bay located on the eastern shore of Lake George in the Town of Hague in Warren County (note: the water is in Hague, but the shoreline is in the Town of Dresden in Washington County).

The proponent is a local historical society archivist and media director for the Friends of Historic Huletts Landing; she is also the great-granddaughter of Dr. Smith Ely Jelliffe and Helena Dewey Leeming Jelliffe, who acquired the property in 1904. It included an original Victorian home built in 1874, along with a boat house and cottage; the cottage collapsed in 2005 and was replaced with a modern home, which is now owned by the proponent. Beginning in the 1860s, seven generations of the family have spent summers on the bay. Emma Adele Ferguson Knight and Dr. George Winthrop Knight inherited property on the shore of the bay in 1919. A long-time local resident reported that the Knight Club operated in the area until it burned down many years ago.

The proponent is requesting that an official name be established for the bay it is sometimes referred to erroneously as “Sheep Meadow Bay” or “Sheepmeadow.” According to a letter of support submitted by a local resident, “Several years ago the Adirondack Park Agency and the Lake George Park Commission proposed the use of chemicals to treat an invasion of Eurasian Mill-foil in our bay. Public notice was required to advance this procedure, but the lack of an official name made it impossible to accurately describe the area in question. In desperation the name “Sheep Meadow Bay” was randomly selected, which made matters even worse because the petitioners were unaware that not far south of us lies a bay with that exact same local name.” Note: there is no listing for "Sheep Meadow Bay" (or “Sheepmeadow”) in GNIS.

Over the years, a number of local residents have provided detailed accounts of their memories of the area. Three of these, recorded in 2011-2013, referred to “Jelliffe Bay.”

The proponent further adds, “Archeological evidence of use [of ‘Jelliffe-Knight Bay’] by indigenous people was found in abundance on its stream and beach areas in the form of arrow-heads collected by Dr. Jelliffe and his children. The Native American family most associated with Jelliffe-Knight Bay are the Peterson family. Three generations of the Peterson family worked and lived on the Jelliffe properties as caretakers and friends. Charles Peterson his son George and his grandson Donald were descended from the famous member of the Mohegan nation, Samson Occom, the first Native American known to write down his autobiography in English and who raised the initial money to fund Dartmouth College. There is no known Native American name for this bay.”

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Town of Hague
	Town of Dresden
	Warren County
	Washington County
State Names Authority	New York Geographic Names Committee
	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X

Winns Pond

***** Note: this proposal has been amended from the original application for Winns Falls.**

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Winns Pond
Proposal type	new commemorative name for unnamed feature
Current official name	n/a
GNIS ID	n/a
Proponent	Alton Digneau; Bernhards Bay, NY
Date proposed	2/22/2023
Submitter	Roy Reehil
Date submitted	6/29/2023 (updated)
BGN case number	6001
Quarterly Review List	451

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	43.24417, -75.92655
Feature class	lake
Feature size	0.25 acres
Feature description	Located on Crandell Creek, just N of the community of Bernhards Bay
Name history	Named for the Winn family, who settled in the area around 1829, specifically Courtney Clough Winn, Jr. (1921-2011), who served in World War II, operated a lumber company, and was Town Councilman for eight years.
USGS primary topo map	Cleveland
State(s)	New York
County(s)	Oswego
Local jurisdiction	Town of Constantia
Land ownership	private

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names: None found

Case Summary

This proposal is to apply the new name Winns Pond to a 0.25-acre pond located on Crandell Creek in the Town of Constantia in Oswego County.

The proposal was originally submitted to make official the name Winns Falls for a 12-foot-tall waterfall at the edge of the pond. However, after the BGN staff questioned whether the

"falls" was in fact a dam spillway (as shown on imagery), the proponent agreed to withdraw that name and is proposing to name the pond instead.

The proposal for Winns Falls (and subsequently, Winns Pond) was submitted by an Oswego County Legislator on behalf of a resident of Bernhards Bay, who reports that the Winn family “were early settlers of the North Shore of Oneida Lake having arrived about 1829.” A lifetime resident of the area, Courtney Clough “Corky” Winn, Jr. (1921-2011) served in the Army Air Corps from 1942 to 1945. Upon his return from France, he started concrete and lumber companies, and in 1955 acquired property along the shore of Oneida Lake including the location of the falls. Mr. Winn served as commander of American Legion Post 858 for two terms and as a councilman in the Town of Constantia for eight years. According to the proponent, “He was a beloved member of the community, and an avid amateur historian who shared his recollections and photographs in several books about Oneida Lake by author Jack Henke. At the site of the falls, Mr. Winn set up a water wheel that spins to this day. The name Winns Falls has been in use since the early 1970s.”

In 2011, the New York State Legislature issued a resolution, “Congratulating Courtney Clough Winn Jr. as a distinguished citizen of Oswego County, New York”; in addition to noting his military service and involvement in the town government, it stated, “[He] is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7325, American Legion Post 858, the Forty and Eight, Sportsman Club and the Lions Club; he received the 1993 Tug Hill Sage Award from the Tug Hill Commission.”

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Town of Constantia Oswego County
State Names Authority	New York
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X

NORTH CAROLINA

Bailey Creek

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Bailey Creek
Proposal type	new commemorative name for unnamed feature
Current official name	n/a
GNIS ID	n/a
Proponent	Tyler Bailey; Rutherfordton, NC
Date proposed	4/1/2023

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	35.25215, -81.94917
Secondary coordinates	35.26895, -81.93535
Feature class	stream
Feature size	1.52 mi. long
Feature description	Heads 7 mi. S of Rutherfordton, flows SW into Jarretts Creek
Name history	Named for Irene Dixon Bailey (1930-2015), an employee of the Pittsburg Plate Glass Company, and whose family has owned property along the creek since the 1960s
USGS primary topo map	Rutherfordton South 1:24,000
State(s)	North Carolina
County(s)	Rutherford
Land ownership	private

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names: None found

Case Summary

The new name Bailey Creek is proposed for a 1.52-mile-long tributary of Jarretts Creek in Rutherford County, approximately 7 miles south of Rutherfordton. The proposed name would commemorate the proponent's grandmother, Irene Dixon Bailey (1930-2015), a member of the family who have owned the majority of the property through which the stream flows since the 1960s, where they have raised cattle, pigs, and horses, and grown row crops, such as corn, soybeans, and other fruits and vegetables. Mrs. Bailey was employed by the Pittsburg Plate Glass Company, and participated in local community outreach programs and managed the farm property, which entailed "periodic logging to thin out trees, prescribed burns to reduce fire hazards and fence line installation/maintenance to keep livestock off the creek banks to help with erosion control."

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Rutherford County
State Names Authority	North Carolina Board on Geographic Names
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X

OHIO

OK Run

Proposal Information

Proposed name	OK Run
Proposal type	new associative name for unnamed feature
Current official name	n/a
GNIS ID	n/a
Proponent	Sarah Kreitzer; Belmont, OH
Date proposed	4/13/2023

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	40.01302, -80.92892
Secondary coordinates	40.01302, -80.92892
Feature class	stream
Feature size	1.85 mi. long
Feature description	In Smith Township, flows SE and NE into McMahon Creek
Name history	Named in association with OK Road, along which the stream flows
USGS primary topo map	Saint Clairsville 1:24,000
State(s)	Ohio
County(s)	Belmont
PLSS	Secs 11,17&23, T6N, R4W, Ohio River Base Meridian
Land ownership	private

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names: None found

Case Summary

The new name OK Run is proposed for a 1.85-mile-long tributary of McMahon Creek in Smith Township in Belmont County. The proponent, a member of the Friends of Hutchinson Run, notes that the name was chosen because the downstream section of the stream flows alongside OK Road, and a red brick school house that once stood nearby was called OK School. She adds that applying an official name is important “in the context of watershed restoration and clean-up efforts, especially for researchers, environmentalists, and other stakeholders who are interested in studying or working on restoration efforts in the area.” Furthermore, “Naming the tributary can also help engage the local community in watershed clean-up and restoration efforts . . . [and] a named tributary can also serve as a valuable educational tool for school and other organizations. By learning about the tributary, its aquatic life and unique characteristics, people can gain a better understanding of the importance of protecting our water resources.”

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Smith Township Belmont County
State Names Authority	Ohio Geographic Names Authority
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X

PENNSYLVANIA

Gamston Brook

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Gamston Brook
Proposal type	new associative and commemorative name for unnamed feature
Current official name	n/a
GNIS ID	n/a
Proponent	Dorcas & Geoffrey Gamble; Avondale, PA
Date proposed	3/21/2023

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	39.80988, -75.71029
Secondary coordinates	39.8022, -75.72254
Feature class	stream
Feature size	1 mi. long
Feature description	In Kennett Township, tributary of West Branch Red Clay Creek
Name history	The name derives from that of Gamston Farm, and from the Gamble family who have resided in the area since the late 19th century
USGS primary topo map	Kennett Square 1:24,000
State(s)	Pennsylvania
County(s)	Chester
Local jurisdiction	Kennett Township
Land ownership	private

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names: None found

Case Summary

This proposal is to apply the new name Gamston Brook to an unnamed one-mile-long tributary of West Branch Red Clay Creek in Kennett Township in Chester County. The stream flows through Gamston Farm, which has been owned by the proponents since 1985. Their surname is Gamble and they report that members of the Gamble family (no relation) “have lived nearby since the 1790s.” Online genealogy records list a number of individuals named Gamble in the township and elsewhere in Chester County back to the late 19th century, but there is no evidence that they had a direct association with the stream in question. The proponents add, “The property of Gamston Farm was first established in 1714 when it was sold by Letitia Penn, William Penn's daughter, to her surveyor, Thomas Hollingsworth. There was never any Lene Lenape *[sic]* name for the brook in question. The Tribe did have a name for the Red Clay Creek - 'Hwiak-koka-mensing', but this did not apply to the brook.”

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Kennett Township Chester County	No objection
State Names Authority	Pennsylvania Geographic Names Committee	
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	

Glacier Run

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Glacier Run
Proposal type	new name for unnamed feature
Current official name	n/a
GNIS ID	n/a
Proponent	Seraphina & Sebastien Payonk; Spring City, PA
Date proposed	4/3/23

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	40.15142, -75.67053
Secondary coordinates	40.14603, -75.66475
Feature class	Stream
Feature size	0.75 miles long
Feature description	Heads in West Vincent Township, flows N and NW to enter Beaver Run in South Coventry Township
Name history	Named for the reported periglacial formation of the stream
USGS primary topo map	Pottstown 1:24,000

State(s)	Pennsylvania
County(s)	Chester
Local jurisdiction(s)	West Vincent Township, South Coventry Township
Land ownership	private

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names: None found

Case Summary

The new name Glacier Run is proposed for an unnamed 0.75-mile-long tributary of Beaver Run in Chester County. The stream heads in West Vincent Township and flows into South Coventry Township.

The proponent states that the stream is “is a periglacial stream and so, ‘glacier’ was extracted to directly describe the unique historical features/formation of this stream.” It was chosen by a vote of students at Owen J. Roberts High School in South Coventry. The proponent had previously proposed the name Bala Sipu (bala means “small” in Welsh and sipu means “creek” in Lenape, a reference to both the indigenous history and Welsh settlement of the area), but withdrew that name after opposition from West Vincent Township, which preferred the name Annas Run (the latter name has not been proposed).

The proponent believes that naming the stream will help preserve it, maintain [its] water quality and help further protect the French Creek Watershed. She adds, “Without a name, it is at greater risk for development, annihilation, destruction, and contamination. . . .” She hopes “this brief project can lead to greater environmental awareness in the local school district & perhaps a grassroots coordinated educational effort to bring community together as a whole to help name the remaining 20+ South Coventry streams.”

Staff research was unable to determine if the stream is periglacial in origin, as it is located far south of the extent of glaciation in Pennsylvania. A 1999 Pennsylvania Geological Survey document titled “Pennsylvania and the Ice Age” states that periglacial processes refer to freeze and thaw weathering, including two major processes: frost riving (“the breaking apart of a rock by the repeated freezing and thawing of water”) and congelifluction (“an active process of debris movement during the summer months in the periglacial climate.”). Periglacial streams may also refer to streams that flow out of a glacier. When asked to explain the choice of name, the proponent responded that she had verified it with the Green Valleys Watershed Association, and “it certainly resembles a miniature version of what one would believe a glacier might have left behind many years ago. The stream itself is all rocks and small boulders, the water weaving its way under, over, and all around the rocks, even at a wide expanse at times.”

Stakeholder Input

Local government	South Coventry Township West Vincent Township Chester County
State Names Authority	Pennsylvania
Federal Agency	n/a
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X
Other	Owen J. Roberts High School principal Support

Heron Creek

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Heron Creek
Proposal type	new name for unnamed feature
Current official name	n/a
GNIS ID	n/a
Proponent	Jamie Wilson; East Greenville, PA
Date proposed	4/4/2023

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	40.410109, -75.489565
Secondary coordinates	40.428144, -75.46898
Feature class	stream
Feature size	1.75 mi. long
Feature description	Heads in Milford Township, 1.8 mi. SW of Spinnerstown, flows SW into Macoby Creek Branch in Upper Hanover Township, E of East Greenville
Name history	Named in association with Heron Creek Farm and for the many blue herons seen in the area
USGS primary topo map	Milford Square 1:24,000
State(s)	Pennsylvania
County(s)	Montgomery, Bucks
Land ownership	private

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names: None found

Case Summary

The new name Heron Creek is proposed for a 1.75-mile-long tributary of Macoby Creek Branch. The stream heads in Milford Township in Bucks County and flows into Upper Hanover Township in Montgomery County.

The name is proposed by one of the co-owners of Heron Creek Farm, an 11-acre property through which the stream flows. The proponent states that the farm's name refers to the many Blue Herons seen on the property. The farm's website blog has a [post about the naming of the stream](#) and the proponents sell merchandise with the name Heron Creek Farm. They add "The ultimate goal is to have a farmstand, cut your own Christmas trees and be able to host small events."

FEMA maps apply the labels "Tributary No. 1 to Macoby Branch Creek" and "Tributary No. 1a to Macoby Branch Creek" to sections of the stream. There are no other streams in Pennsylvania named "Heron."

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Upper Hanover Township Milford Township Montgomery County Bucks County
State Names Authority	Pennsylvania Geographic Names Committee
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X

Twin Top Peak

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Twin Top Peak
Proposal type	new name for an unnamed feature
Current official name	n/a
GNIS ID	n/a
Proponent	David Miller; Wellsboro, PA
Date proposed	2/16/23

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	41.582088, -77.810939
Feature class	summit
Feature size	2,101 feet elevation
Feature description	Between the heads of Green Hollow and Jordan Hollow
Name history	Named for the double summit
USGS primary topo map	Short Run 1:24,000
State(s)	Pennsylvania

County(s)	Potter
Local jurisdiction(s)	Abbott Township
Land ownership	Susquehannock State Forest

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names: Twin Top Peak (proponent's website)

Case Summary

The new name Twin Top Peak is proposed for a 2,101-foot summit in Susquehannock State Forest in Abbott Township in Potter County. The name refers to the summit's double peak.

The proponent originally proposed Stony Peak and Camel Hump Knob for two summits. In March 2023, the BGN approved the former name. The proponent hikes in the area and found the two summits that had been logged within the last five years and which "provide rare 360-degree views of Potter County's mountainous plateau" (<https://myhikes.org/trails/stony-peak-twin-top-peak>). He adds, "My hope is that by naming some currently-unnamed natural features in Potter and Tioga county, Pennsylvania, it might help drive some outdoor-related tourism like hiking and backpacking to these places."

The Pennsylvania Geographic Names Committee asked for input from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), which manages Susquehannock State Forest. The committee reported "DCNR does not think camel hump knob is really appropriate. They have suggested Twin Top Peak. We concur that of the four they suggested, this would be best." Neither DCNR nor the committee wished to formally propose the name, but the proponent agreed to amend his proposal.

Neither Abbott Township nor Potter County responded to requests for input on Camel Hump Knob.

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Abbott Township	No response
	Potter County	No response
State Names Authority	Pennsylvania	Support
Federal Agency	n/a	
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Susquehannock State Forest /	Support
Other	Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	

TEXAS

*** Note: The following case has been closed

Mount Sinep

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Mount Sinep
Proposal type	To make official a name in local use
Current official name	n/a
GNIS ID	n/a
Proponent	Blake Messick; Austin, TX
Date proposed	3/17/2023

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	30.56337, -98.644068
Feature class	summit
Feature size	elevation 1,590 ft.
Feature description	Just N of Sandy Creek, 13 miles S of the city of Llano
Name history	The name is derived from the Estonian word for mustard
USGS primary topo map	Oxford 1;24,000
State(s)	Texas
County(s)	Llano
Land ownership	private

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: Mount Sinep (local residents)
- Published names: None found

Case Summary

This proposal is to make official the name Mount Sinep for a 1,590-foot summit in Llano County, on the north side of Sandy Creek and 13 miles south of the city of Llano. According to the proponent, the name has been used locally for approximately 40 years and derives from the Estonian word for “mustard.” He adds, “To the best of my knowledge the [proposed] name is not in use anywhere else in the world,” and “The hill is rumored to grow wild Mustard, however this is unconfirmed. I believe the feature requires a name due to its location surrounded by named peaks, and to allow for easier communication not only by locals, but hikers and tourists entering the Texas Hill Country. Naming the hill will make navigation easier and safer for those utilizing the area.” Finally, “There is no commercial or promotional intent for the name.” Property records show that the summit is on land owned by Jessup Ranch Lands, LLC.

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Llano County
State Names Authority	Texas Geographic Names Committee
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X

UTAH

Keiths Arch

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Keiths Arch
Proposal type	new commemorative name for unnamed feature
Current official name	n/a
GNIS ID	n/a
Proponent	Wayne Barben; Payson, UT
Date proposed	10/18/22

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	38.449557, -112.063542
Feature class	Arch
Feature size	
Feature description	A hole in a rock outcropping northwest of Big Flat
Name history	Named for Keith Ogden (1911-2002), who had a line cabin nearby for tending sheep and cattle
USGS primary topo map	Marysvale Peak 1:24,000
State(s)	Utah
County(s)	Piute County
PLSS	Sec 44, T27S, R2W, Salt Lake Meridian
Land ownership	Fishlake National Forest

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names: None found

Case Summary

The new name Keiths Arch is proposed for a hole in a rock outcropping in Fishlake National Forest in Piute County, 9 miles east of Marysvale.

The proponent states that the arch “is very near a place where my mother’s uncle Keith Ogden [1911-2002] had a line cabin for tending sheep and cattle for many years. It is gone now, but his family still camps there every year and has hunted deer and elk there for many years The local people still refer to the nearby spot as Keith’s cabin.” He believes the name would be “a great way to honor [Mr. Ogden’s] contribution to the community and love for the land in this area,” adding that he was “admired for his work and was instrumental in making this area what it is today.” According to Mr. Ogden’s obituary, “Keith loved ranching, farming, and had a never-ending passion for a good horse and a good dog. He was one of the first men in Utah to own and raise registered Quarter horses.” He held a number of leadership positions in the LDS Church, was president of the Piute County Water Board, a Piute County Commissioner, and “loved to teach horsemanship to the 4H youth in Marysvale.”

The arch is described by the proponent as:

A rock feature, where it appears two rocks fell on each other or maybe all from one side and instead of crumbling to the ground a large boulder holds the other large pieces of rock together, forming an arch. It is really a great example of physics in motion and a one in a million rock fall. . . . A forest fire recently revealed this rock feature that has been mostly unseen for many year due to dense pine forest surrounding it.

Although there is some question as to whether the feature would be defined by the Natural Arch and Bridge Society (NABS) as an arch (“a rock exposure that has a hole completely through it formed by the natural, selective removal of rock, leaving a relatively intact frame”) or a bridge (“a natural arch formed by water”), a former member of the Utah Geographic Names Committee (UGNC) and member of NABS believes that it meets the general definition of an arch as defined in GNIS. It meets the five criteria provided by NABS: (1) a natural arch must be made of rock; (2) the rock must be exposed; (3) the hole through the rock must conform to the mathematical, or topological, definition of a hole; (4) the hole must have formed from natural, selective removal of rock; and (5) the frame of rock that remains to surround the hole must still be relatively intact. The UGNC agreed that the feature “seems to have formed the arch first (required) and then the blocks slid a bit.”

The U.S. Forest Service 2001 revision of the 1981 USGS topographic map labeled Ogden Cabin approximately 0.75 miles to the north-northwest of the arch. The USFS was unable to confirm that the former cabin is a known landmark today.

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Piute County
State Names Authority	Utah
Federal Agency	U.S. Forest Service
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X

VERMONT

Bumblebee Brook

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Bumblebee Brook
Proposal type	new name for unnamed feature
Current official name	n/a
GNIS ID	n/a
Proponent	Joplin Wistar; Shelburne, VT
Date proposed	1/5/21
Submitter	Vermont Board of Libraries
Date submitted	3/10/23

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	44.37192, -73.21542
Secondary coordinates	44.3805, -73.20418
Feature class	stream
Feature size	1 mile long
Feature description	flows into the La Platte River near Shelburne Falls
Name history	named for bumblebees that pollinate wildflowers along the stream
USGS primary topo map	Mount Philo 1:24,000 (mouth)
State(s)	Vermont
County(s)	Chittenden
Local jurisdiction(s)	Town of Shelburne
Land ownership	private/town land

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names: None found

Case Summary

The new name Bumblebee Brook is proposed for a one-mile-long tributary of the La Platte River in the Town of Shelburne in Chittenden County. The stream flows in part through land managed by the Town of Shelburne.

The Vermont Board of Libraries (BOL), which serves as the Vermont State Names Authority, submitted the proposal to the BGN with their support. Vermont law requires that proponents submit a name to the BOL with a petition of at least 25 supporters.

The proponent stated that “a new trail [that crosses the stream] now has frequent hikers. . . so it seems that it deserves a name despite its relatively small size.” The name was selected “to honor a local fauna, [and] since the alliterative sound Bumblebee Brook is as delightful as the brook itself.” The proponent noted that there are seventeen species of bumblebees found in Vermont.

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Town of Shelburne	Support
State Names Authority	Vermont	Support
Federal Agency	n/a	
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	

VIRGINIA

Augustine Run

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Augustine Run
Proposal type	new commemorative name for unnamed feature
Current official name	n/a
GNIS ID	n/a
Proponent	Steven Albertson; Stafford, VA
Date proposed	3/25/23

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	38.427104, -77.504093
Secondary coordinates	38.4554, -77.49542
Feature class	stream
Feature size	2.3 miles long
Feature description	Heads 0.5 miles NW of Moores Corner, flows SSW into Long Branch 1.5 miles WNW of Mountain View
Name history	Named for Augustine Washington (1694-1743), the father of George Washington, who operated the nearby Accokeek Iron Furnace
USGS primary topo map	Storck 1:24,000 (mouth)
State(s)	Virginia
County(s)	Stafford
Land ownership	private

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names:
 - Walnut Branch: Stafford County GIS viewer, 2023

Case Summary

The new name Augustine Run is proposed for a 2.3-mile-long unnamed tributary of Long Branch in Stafford County.

The name would commemorate Augustine Washington (1694-1743), the father of George Washington. The proponent states:

Augustine Washington was a major landowner in Stafford County, and the county was home to George Washington from age six to 20. His widowed mother, Mary Ball Washington, kept Stafford as her home until 1772, when son George bought her a house across the Rappahannock River in Fredericksburg.

The particular significance of the “Augustine” name to the feature is that the elder Washington part-owned and operated an iron foundry nearby, known as Accokeek Furnace. This historical feature inspired the naming of the adjacent Colonial Forge High School, and also inspired the names of nearby real estate developments, including the Augustine Golf Course.

The housing development through which the featured to be named flows is named “Augustine at the Glens.”

Augustine Washington owned the Bridges Creek Plantation and the Popes Creek Plantation in present-day Westmoreland County. The George Washington Foundation’s biography of him reports that in 1725, he “entered into an agreement with the Principio Company of England to start an iron works on Accokeek Creek in Stafford County. In 1728, Augustine made an agreement with the company to bear one sixth of the cost of running Accokeek Furnace.” The furnace site is located a few miles east of the stream. In 1735, he moved with his family and second wife to his Little Hunting Creek Plantation, later named Mount Vernon. In 1738, he moved his family to a plantation on the north side of the Rappahannock River in Stafford County, Fredericksburg (this plantation was later known as Ferry Farm). His biography also notes that “In addition to planting, Augustine was active in the church and in local politics, serving at various times as justice of the peace and as county sheriff.” Augustine Washington owned enslaved persons at each of his properties.

The proponent “expects there would be no objection or opposition to the proposed name” and states that it is “complementary to the name of the residential development through which it runs.” He also notes that he is “the largest single owner of land on both sides of the proposed Augustine Run.” The Stafford County online GIS viewer labels the stream Walnut Branch but that name is not recorded in GNIS.

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Stafford County
State Names Authority	Virginia
Federal Agency	n/a
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X

WASHINGTON

Mary-Pamela Falls

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Mary-Pamela Falls
Proposal type	new commemorative name for unnamed feature
Current official name	n/a
GNIS ID	n/a
Proponent	Ramsey Brown; Snohomish, WA
Date proposed	4/17/23

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	47.97854, -121.78781
Feature class	falls
Feature size	85 ft. tall
Feature description	located along an unnamed tributary of the Sultan River, 0.95 mi. S of Echo Lake
Name history	Named for Mary Pamela Awad (1945-1993), who visited the location in the late 1980s
USGS primary topo map	Lake Chaplain 1:24,000
State(s)	Washington
County(s)	Snohomish County
Land ownership	Washington Department of Natural Resources

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names: None found

Case Summary

The new name Mary-Pamela Falls is proposed for a 85-foot tall waterfall located along an unnamed tributary of the Sultan River on land managed by the Washington Department of Natural Resources, in Snohomish County. The surrounding land is managed by the U.S. Forest Service (Snoqualmie National Forest) and the Washington State Forest Board.

The name would commemorate the proponent's late mother Mary-Pamela Awad (1945-1993), who according to the proponent:

. . . [W]as an early discoverer of the falls located in a very remote and isolated part of the Cascade foothills. We believe the currently nameless waterfall is worthy of a name and feel our family is amongst the very few, if not only people to visit the area in the past thirty plus years.

As a child our mother . . . instilled a passion and reverence for the beauty of the outdoors and the Pacific Northwest. Being an avid hiker, mountaineer and skier, our family outings were filled with adventures in the Cascade Mountains. These trips were filled with lessons on safety, nature and being good stewards to the land. In the late 80's while on a short hike with our Boy Scout troop to Explorer Falls our mother spoke with an elder local who told her of an unknown and magnificent waterfall further east through the forest.

The proponent continued that after further research and exploration, they located the falls. Decades after his mother's death, he and his brother attempted to revisit the "mystery falls." With "the convenience of the internet and online mapping," they were to find it, but learned that their previous route was no longer accessible due to the City of Everett now owning the surrounding watershed. In December 2021, they managed to visit the location and "The falls were just as beautiful as I remembered them." He adds:

Surveying the surrounding area, we guessed that very few, if any humans have set sight on these falls since we were previously there. The Northwest Waterfall Survey lists the falls but labels them as 'Unnamed'. We feel that the most befitting name these unnamed falls could have would be one that paid tribute to our mother. Please consider the name Mary-Pamela Falls as we feel it would honor her legacy of adventure and exploration in the Pacific Northwest.

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Snohomish County
State Names Authority	Washington Committee on Geographic Names
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X

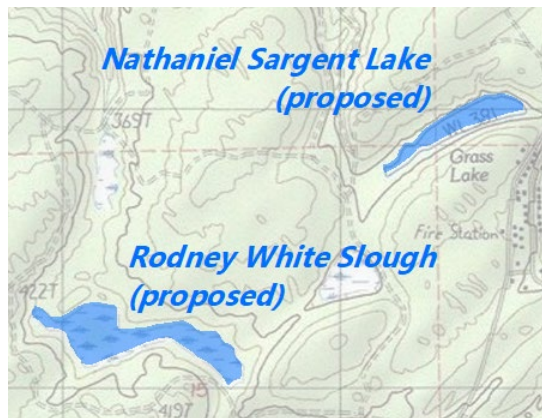
**Change Grass Lake to Nathaniel Sargent Lake,
and new name Rodney White Slough**

These proposals relate to a pair of waterbodies near Tahuya in Mason County: a lake with the current official name Grass Lake and a swamp with no official name.

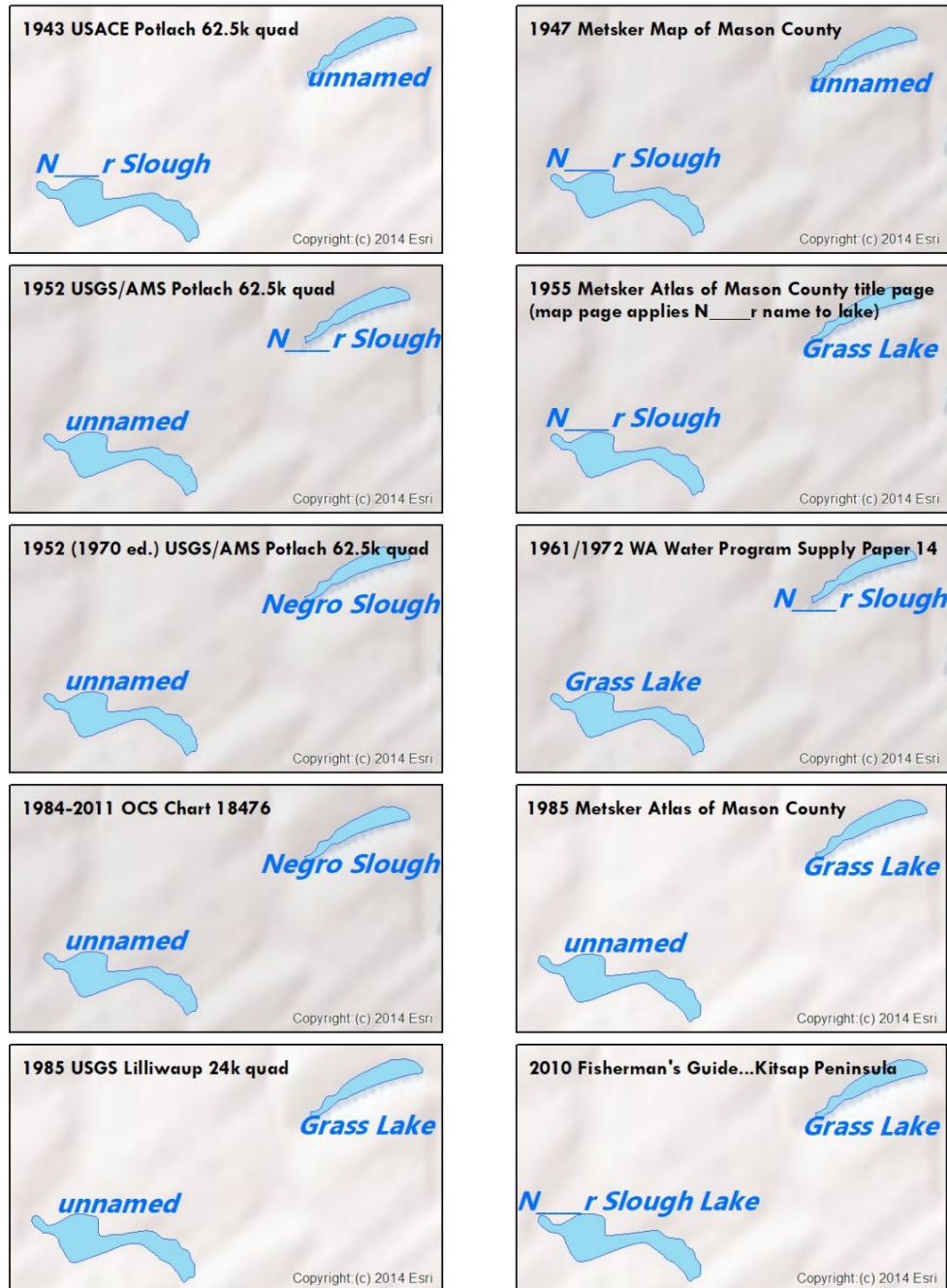
Federal maps labeled the swamp as N_____r Slough as early as 1943; however, on a 1952 map the name was transferred to the lake and the swamp was unnamed. In 1970, the name became Negro Slough, a result of the 1963 Secretary of the Interior directive to replace “n_____r” with “negro” when maps were reprinted. A 1985 USGS map labeled the lake as Grass Lake, presumably based on local use recorded during field work; the name was added to GNIS in 1992 citing this 1985 map. None of these names have been the subject of BGN review or a BGN decision.

State sources and commercial maps have variously labeled each waterbody with the names Grass Lake, N_____r Slough, and Negro Slough, resulting in much confusion.

The new proposals for Nathaniel Sargent Lake and Rodney White Slough were submitted to the Washington Committee on Geographic Names (WCGN) by the Living Arts Cultural Heritage Project, in an effort to reflect the Black history of the local community and of the larger Great Peninsula region (locally called Kitsap Peninsula), as well as to address the former official and unofficial names of these features.



Proposed names in blue; current official names are shown on the USGS basemap



Selected Federal sources (left) and local private and State sources (right) showing the various names applied to the two waterbodies

The proposals are to change the name of Grass Lake to Nathaniel Sargent Lake and to name the unnamed swamp as Rodney White Slough. Historical records show that Rodney White homesteaded on the land around the lake and swamp, while Nathaniel Sargent homesteaded about 15 miles away in Kitsap County.

The Chair of the WCGN reported that the full names of both individuals should be used in the feature names:

The case of Rodney White should be clear to BGN: naming something “White Slough” to commemorate a Black man would be nonsensical. In the case of Nathaniel Sargent Lake, the justification is . . . the need to make it clear who is being commemorated. I think if we were to shorten one of them, this would be the one, but given that the proponent wanted to advance the full name on Rodney White Slough, I think everyone [on the WCGN] felt it was useful to maintain the parallel construction.

An [August 4, 2022 Kitsap Sun article](#) erroneously reported that in 1992, the BGN had established Grass Lake as a new name for the slough, adding that “the entry in its database notes the area was known by the previous name of ‘Negro Slough.’” [Negro Slough is recorded as a variant name.]

Change Grass Lake to Nathaniel Sargent Lake

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Nathaniel Sargent Lake
Proposal type	change name in commemoration
Current official name	Grass Lake
GNIS ID	1523607
Proponent	Living Arts Cultural Heritage Project; Poulsbo, WA
Date proposed	9/7/22
Submitter	Washington Committee on Geographic Names
Date submitted	2/23/23

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	47.4046426, -123.0353175
Secondary coordinates	n/a
Feature class	lake
Feature size	10.5 acres
Feature description	Northwest of Maggie Lake, 2.5 miles northeast of Tahuya
Name history	Named for Nathaniel Sargent (1863-1954), who homesteaded and was Justice of the Peace near Seabeck in Kitsap County
USGS primary topo map	Lilliwaup 1:24,000
State(s)	Washington
County(s)	Mason
PLSS	Secs 11,10,15&14, T22N R3W, Willamette Meridian
Land ownership	private

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names:
 - Grass Lake: USGS 1985; Metsker map 1955, 1988; *Pacific Northwest Hunting and Fishing Guide*, 1952; *A Fisherman's guide to Selected Lakes of Washington's Kitsap Peninsula Area*, 2010
 - Negro Slough: USGS 1970; OCS 1984-2011
 - N _____ r Slough: USGS 1954; Washington State Water Program Supply Paper No. 14, 1961, 1973

Case Summary

This proposal is to change the name of Grass Lake, near Tahuya in Mason County, to Nathaniel Sargent Lake. The change would commemorate Nathaniel Sargent (1863-1954) who was a well-known and well-liked Black homesteader, writer, artist, and justice of the peace in the Seabeck-Crosby area, about 15 miles north-northeast of Grass Lake.

The proponents do not object to the existing name but wish to recognize the regional Black community because the lake had formerly been called Negro Slough and N _____ r Slough. They also reported that the change would be “corrective/restorative history to honor a black pioneer who didn’t receive the recognition he deserved during his lifetime.”

According to a [digital exhibit from the Kitsap History Museum](#) on Black Trailblazers of Kitsap County:

Nathaniel J. Sargent was known as “Nat” to his friends. He was born into slavery and after emancipation was adopted by a white family in the north. They sent him to the University of Illinois where he graduated, then came west with his family to Oregon.

Because Oregon laws forbade Negroes, he came to Kitsap County where he earned a living working in the woods as a logger. He homesteaded in Crosby [~15 miles north-northeast of Grass Lake] after his arrival in 1882, and as settlers started arriving, he worked as a handyman alongside the homesteaders, building their homes, starting their orchards, butchering, harvesting. He was their friend although he never “imposed” and was often an invited guest. . . .

He returned to his home in the East one year to seek a bride, but returned home empty-handed. He filled his lonely hours by writing poetry (which was published) and oil painting. Until four years before his death, he would walk over the hills to Bremerton [~22 miles northeast of Grass Lake] and back again in one day. In 1894, he was elected Justice of the Peace at Seabeck. He also donated land for a school in the Seabeck-Crosby area.

Nathaniel Sargent died in 1954. Everyone from Crosby showed up for his funeral. . . .

The former names of the lake (potentially a misapplication of the “slough” names) may have been a reference to Rodney White (q.v.), a Black man who homesteaded the land around the lake and the adjacent swamp.

Rodney White Slough

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Rodney White Slough
Proposal type	new commemorative name for unnamed feature
Current official name	n/a
GNIS ID	n/a
Proponent	Living Arts Cultural Heritage Project; Poulsbo, WA
Date proposed	9/7/22
Submitter	Washington Committee on Geographic Names
Date submitted	2/23/23

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	47.3981717, -123.052788
Feature class	swamp
Feature size	18 acres
Feature description	East of Wood Lake, 1.8 miles north of Tahuya
Name history	Named for Rodney White (1861-1913) who farmed and ranchd around the swamp
USGS primary topo map	Lilliwaup 1:24,000
State(s)	Washington
County(s)	Mason
PLSS	Sec 15, T22N R3W, Willamette Meridian
Land ownership	private

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names:
 - Grass Lake: Washington State Water Program Supply Paper No. 14, 1961, 1973
 - N_____r Slough: USGS 1943; Washington State Water Program Supply Paper No. 14, 1961, 1973; Metsker map 1947, 1955
 - N_____r Slough Lake: *A Fisherman's guide to Selected Lakes of Washington's Kitsap Peninsula Area*, 2010

Case Summary

This proposal is to apply the new name Rodney White Slough to an unnamed swamp in Mason County near Tahuya. The name would commemorate Rodney White (1861-1913), a Black farmer, rancher, and road builder whose homestead included the swamp. The proponents report that the name is proposed for “corrective history: reconciliation and healing of oppressive and harmful history that African Americans endured during that period [Rodney White’s lifetime].” The proposal included an [August 4, 2022 Kitsap Sun article](#) which reported:

Born into slavery in Missouri, White went on to develop his own ranch and farm in Mason County while cutting roads through the peninsula that remain in use today. . . .

White arrived in the area in 1890 on the steamer *Delta* and survived a capsizing skiff that ferried six Black men to the shore where they hoped to homestead. Two men died and White appears to be the only survivor that remained in the area.

Atop a high-wheeled wagon, White plowed and rode the hinterlands of the Tahuya River Valley, pushing a team of oxen to build the road to Dewatto [3.5 miles northwest of the swamp] and create a ranch and homestead out of the untamed wilderness from the time after the boat accident to his death in 1913.

With “a voice like a foghorn,” he’d command his livestock, especially his two leading donkeys. . . . After White’s death, the animals were transported to the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle to live out their days. . . .

White came to Tahuya seeking acreage under the federal Homestead Act, passed during the Civil War with the aim of distributing western lands. His “four forties,” the nickname for the total of 160 acres, were divided between the area west of Maggie Lake and the Tahuya River valley. . . .

White built a barn, cabin, root cellar and chicken coop out of logs and farmed an orchard of fruits that included apples, prunes, pears and peaches. . . .

There were great challenges to farming in the 19th and early 20th centuries on the timber-covered Tahuya River valley. Logged or not, the stumps made it next to impossible to plant fields. So sometimes farmers, like White, would empty ponds and small lakes with the aim of farming their basins.

[It is] believed that was how White shaped the land in the area that became known as the slur-named slough.”

Stakeholder Input

Local government

Mason County

Support

State Names Authority	Washington	Support
Federal Agency	n/a	
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	
Other	U.S. Representative Derek Kilmer	Support
	One individual	Support

WYOMING

Change Swastika Lake to Fortune Lake

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Fortune Lake
Proposal type	change name considered inappropriate
Current official name	Swastika Lake
GNIS ID	1595236
Proponent	Lindsay Sanders; Orinda, CA
Date proposed	4/19/23

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	41.3446814, -106.2298076
Feature class	lake
Feature size	12 acres
Feature description	In the Snowy Mountain Range, 33 mi. W of Laramie
Name history	Refers to the swastika being a symbol of fortune in many cultures
USGS primary topo map	Centennial 1:24,000
State(s)	Wyoming
County(s)	Albany
PLSS	Sec. 23, T16N, R79W, Sixth Principal Meridian
Land ownership	Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names: Swastika Lake: USGS 1961, 1992, 2012, 2021; *Publications in Science: Botany*, 1922; *Ecological Monographs*, Blake 1945

Case Summary

This proposal is to change the name of Swastika Lake to Fortune Lake. The 12-acre lake is located in the Snowy Mountain Range, 33 miles west of Laramie in Albany County, and within the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests.

The proponent believes the name should be changed due to its present-day negative connotation. She notes:

The swastika emerged as an ancient symbol used by cultures to connote well-being and fortune. Since its adoption as the symbol for the Nazi Party beginning in 1920, the swastika has become indelibly linked with the atrocities of the Nazi regime and is forever a symbol of hate, anti-Semitism and infamy in Western cultures. Today, antisemitic incidents throughout the United States are at the highest levels ever recorded. The swastika symbol is often present in these incidents as it is the most effective way to communicate hatred of Jews.

The proponent further reports that the local Forest Service office was unable to find any information regarding the origins of the current name, adding “While it could be argued that Swastika Lake was named before the Nazis came to power, this name must now be changed. This proposal is [to change the name] to Fortune Lake as a nod to the origins of the swastika as a symbol of fortune but without the undeniable hatred that this symbol represents today.”

Swastika Lake has been labeled on USGS maps since 1961. The earliest known reference to the name is the 1922 volume *Publications in Science: Botany, Volume 1, "Algae of the Medicine Bow Mountains, Wyoming, in the vicinity of the University of Wyoming Summer Camp,"* published by the University of Wyoming. The lake is adjacent to the camp, which was reportedly built in the 1920s. The name also appeared in a subsequent university publication in 1935 and in *An Ecological Reconnaissance in the Medicine Bow Mountains* (Ecological Monographs, Blake 1945). In 2011, the camp property was purchased by The WEST Institute, a Christian-based organization that operates out of Laramie Valley Chapel.

At its April 2023 meeting, the DNC approved a proposal to rename Swastika Mountain in Lane County, Oregon to Mount Halo. The new name honors Chief Halito (d.1892), leader of the Yoncalla Kalapuya native group. During the State and Federal review of the proposal, the Hindu American Foundation (HAF) expressed concerns that the change was presented as necessary “because the symbol is offensive.” They wished to emphasize that it has been a sacred symbol for Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and Zoroastrians for 4,000+ years and is also significant in many Native American cultures. They did not object to efforts to commemorate a native leader but noted that “renaming [the mountain] because of ignorance about a sacred symbol for more than a billion people in the world is not something we can support.”

A small community in Clinton County, New York is named Swastika and a post office of the same name operated there from 1913 until 1958. In September 2020, the town voted to retain its name.

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Albany County
State Names Authority	Wyoming Board of Geographic Names
Federal Agency	USFS
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X