

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE**

Eight Hundred and Thirtieth Meeting

November 12, 2020 – 9:30 a.m.

(Virtual Meeting)

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Meghan Barrett	Department of Homeland Security
Thad Ellerbe	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Andrew Flora	Department of Commerce (Census Bureau)
Brenda-Anne C. Forrest	Government Publishing Office
Chris Hammond	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Elizabeth Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Sean Killen	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
Susan Lyon	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) (Vice- Chair)
Veronica Ranieri	Library of Congress
Ron Salz	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey detail) (not voting)
Mike Shelton	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
Jeremy Smith	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management)
Timothy St. Onge	Library of Congress
Michael Tischler	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Tara Wallace	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)

Ex-Officio

Glenn Guempel, Acting Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names / Domestic Names Committee

Trent Palmer, Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names / Foreign Names Committee

Staff

Julie-Ann Danfora, U.S. Geological Survey

Matthew O'Donnell, U.S. Geological Survey

Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey

Guests

Josefa Baker, U.S. Geological Survey

Ryan Nichols, Department of the Interior

Teran Robshaw, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1. Opening

Vice-Chair Lyon opened Meeting 830 of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) at 9:45 a.m. and requested a roll call of the attendees.

The meeting was held virtually, due to ongoing concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The chair invited the members to review the reports that were distributed previously and to email any questions or comments to the staff.

2. Minutes of Meeting 829

The minutes of Meeting 829, held October 8, 2020, were approved.

3. Reports

[The following reports were distributed by email prior to the meeting.]

3.1 BGN Chairman (Wallace)

The BGN Executive Committee met virtually on October 13. Topics included the ongoing review of the bylaws; updates to the BGN website and possible migration to a new BGN.gov domain; harmonization of BGN committee agendas, minutes, and reports; the status of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (CoGNA) and its annual meetings; and BGN representation in the Pan American Institute of Geography and History.

The Quarterly Full Board meeting was held virtually on October 20. Lyon was approved to serve as chair of the Special Committee on Communications. The BGN approved names recommended by the Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF); ACUF is searching for a new chair. Leo Dillon, BGN State Department member, announced that he will retire at the end of the year after 25 years of service. The Library of Congress will host a webinar on “Mapping the Pandemic” on GIS Day, Wednesday, November 18.

The Foreign Names Committee will meet virtually on Tuesday, December 8.

The next quarterly meeting will be held held virtually on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names meeting is scheduled for May 3-7, 2021.

Wallace gave a presentation on the BGN process to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration’s Marine Chart Division at a virtual town hall. She also presented on the BGN to an Introduction to Cartography virtual class for Montgomery College. She has reached out to the Coast Survey Office of Communications about including a piece on the BGN in the National Ocean Service newsletter.

Wallace thanked everyone for their continued efforts and support of the DNC meetings, and also extended her appreciation to those BGN members who are Veterans.

3.2 BGN Executive Secretary (Palmer and Guempel)

There were no written reports. Palmer noted that a political geography community of interest has been initiated among the Five Eyes alliance (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States). Interested members have expressed an interest in toponymic training.

3.3 Special Committee on Communications (Lyon)

There was no written report. All items for the BGN Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report to the Secretary of the Interior are due to Forrest by November 16.

Lyon asked anyone interested in joining the SCC to contact her. She also noted that the SCC will need a new chair and vice-chair beginning in FY21. The SCC hopes to meet before the end of the year.

3.4 Executive Secretary (Guempel)

There was no written report.

Guempel reported on recent developments regarding the inclusion of personally identifiable information (PII) in the DNC records. As reported last month, the DNC has been asked by the USGS Information Collections Officer to complete a privacy threat analysis to address PII that might be collected during the proposal review process. The analysis is expected to take nine months and will address the types of information that are captured, stored, shared, and reported throughout the proposal process and made available in GNIS. While the review is ongoing, public access to the documents previously made available at the GNIS page has been blocked. These documents include original proposal forms; supporting documents; and communications with and official recommendations from local interested parties, State Names Authorities, and Federal land management or mapping agencies. Staff can still access the documents internally. Older BGN decision cards (pre-2000) are still publicly accessible as they are unlikely to include any PII. The new version of the hard copy proposal form will limit the amount of information that is collected; this form should be ready for use soon. The research forms attached to the Antarctica section of GNIS were also removed. The members noted that these GNIS attachments have proven to be very useful and look forward to a positive solution.

Guempel plans to discuss how to get the members of CoGNA to be more active, better promote the organization, and increase coordination with the DNC. All DNC members are invited to participate in these discussions.

3.5 Staff (Runyon)

The January 2021 DNC meeting has been cancelled.

Staff continues to receive inquiries from the general public, State Names Authorities (SNAs), and the media regarding the policies and procedures for naming and renaming features, including how to propose changes to offensive names. A number of new proposals have been received.

Runyon participated in the second meeting (virtual) of the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board (CGNAB) on October 28. The focus was on the development of the CGNAB bylaws, and as such, it will likely be another couple of months before the CGNAB is prepared to address the backlog of existing proposals, which now number 18. It was agreed that the BGN staff will continue to conduct outreach to county governments until the CGNAB is ready to take on those duties.

The proposal to change the name of Squaw Mountain in Clear Creek County, Colorado to Mount Mistanta was withdrawn by the proponent following receipt of a new proposal for Mestaa'êhehe Mountain.

Legislation was recently passed in Utah “to streamline the Federal process for changing geographic names Statewide that contain language derogatory to Native Americans”; see <https://le.utah.gov/interim/2020/pdf/00004025.pdf>.

On November 3, voters in Rhode Island approved the removal of the words “and Providence Plantations” from the name of the State; see <https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/05/politics/rhode-island-name-change-plantationstrnd/index.html>.

Runyon and O'Donnell reviewed a file of Tribal Government contacts provided by the Census Bureau; the list included only those Tribes with reservations rather than all 574 federally recognized Tribes. The Census Bureau is working on providing a more complete list.

Runyon and Guempel participated in a Forest Service-USGS Management Oversight Group meeting on November 4-5, which included a short session on geographic names, including the landforms collection effort; updates to names in the National Hydrography Dataset; and concerns regarding the inclusion of names considered to be offensive.

[P.L. 116-167](#), to apply the new name B-47 Ridge to a previously unnamed feature in Montana, was signed by the President. The name has been added to GNIS with a “US 2020” decision.

A number of SNAs have responded to a request for an annual update on their naming activities. Several have expressed an interest in a “virtual CoGNA meeting/workshop”.

On October 24, Runyon participated in the fall meeting (virtual) of the Oregon Geographic Names Board. Discussions included ongoing efforts to change names considered to be offensive and whether the OGNB might be willing to host a CoGNA meeting in 2022.

O'Donnell participated by phone in a meeting of the Hancock County (Maine) Board of Commissioners, at which they discussed the proposals to rename Lower Negro Island and Upper

Negro Island. He also spoke with a representative of the Maine Coast Heritage Trust regarding these proposals and the Federal renaming process.

There is an opening for a temporary position in the USGS Geographic Names Office: <https://openopps.usajobs.gov/tasks/1985?fromSearch>. The primary duty will be to support the BGN Executive Secretariat in its communication efforts.

3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (McCormick)

There was no report.

3.7 Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication (Kanalley)

The committee met on October 8 and is scheduled to meet again after the November DNC meeting. The members continue to focus on developing a communication strategy; specifically, how better to engage Tribal governments, both formally and informally, in the BGN's activities.

4. Docket

Please refer to the attached Docket for a description of each proposal. For new names approved at this meeting, the newly assigned GNIS Feature ID (FID) has been noted following the name.

I. Staff-Processed New Names, and Name and Application Changes agreed to by all interested parties

Change **Broadway Creek** (FID 1058861) to **Bradway Creek**, Ohio (Not Review Listed)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Boys Island, Kentucky (Lake Cumberland, U.S Army Corps of Engineers) (Review List 438)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing the negative recommendation of the Kentucky Geographic Names Committee.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

One member left the meeting.

III. New Commemorative Names and Changes agreed to by all interested parties

Marjorie Falls, Oregon (Rogue River National Forest) (Review List 439) (FID 2813887)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 11 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

IV. Revised Decisions - none

Change **Negro Ben Mountain** (BGN 1964) to **Ben Johnson Mountain**, Oregon (Bureau of Land Management) (Review List 439)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 11 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Bottle Creek, New York (Review List 437) (FID 2813885)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 11 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Hole-in-the-Rock, Oregon (Bureau of Land Management) (Review List 439) (FID 2813888)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 11 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

One member joined the meeting.

Latgawa Pinnacles, Oregon (Rogue River National Forest) (Review List 439) (FID 2813886)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

One member joined the meeting.

Sohmer Creek, Oregon (Review List 434) (FID 2813889)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name. Members discussed the unconventional spelling of the name as a variation on “summer” and whether the name could unknowingly refer to an individual or family.

Vote: 6 in favor
4 against
3 abstentions

The votes against the motion cited concerns about the spelling of the name.

Wirick Run, Pennsylvania (Review List 439) (FID 2813890)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 13 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

7. **Other Business**

Barrett reported that Michael Karau, DNC Chair, has retired from Federal service. She will contact the BGN Secretariat regarding the status of the Department of Homeland Security membership. Lyon will assume the role of acting chair for the foreseeable future.

The members and staff discussed proposals that do not directly violate the DNC’s policies, but which nonetheless seem to skirt the edge of the policies. A motion was made and seconded to add an agenda item to future DNC meetings, during which staff could ask members for guidance, and the members could advise the staff as to whether and how to proceed. There was also discussion as to whether the Principles, Policies, and Procedures document, including the Commemorative Names Policy, should be amended. It was noted that any significant changes would likely require review and approval by the Secretary of the Interior, which is typically a long process. The policies should not be rewritten to account for every possible scenario. One member noted that

this pre-decisional review of some proposals, but not others, could be seen as unfairly offering assistance to some proponents as to how to amend their proposal, thus making them more likely to be accepted for consideration.

Runyon reminded the members of the process used by the Washington State Committee on Geographic Names (WSCGN), which involves a two-stage review system. Under “Initial Consideration,” a new proposal is considered and the members determine if it has enough merit to move forward. If a proposal does not pass this initial step, the proponent is instructed on the deficiencies of the application and how it might be enhanced in order for the WSCGN staff to proceed. The BGN staff is not trying to limit the number of active cases but instead hopes to streamline the process so that unnecessary time isn’t being spent on proposals that are lacking in merit. It is estimated that more than 95% of proposals received can be adequately addressed by the staff to determine if they violate any policies and those that do are not considered. It was agreed that the issue does not require a vote but that the next few agendas would include the topic and it will be reevaluated in a few months.

8. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

The next Domestic Names Committee meeting is scheduled to be held virtually December 10, 2020, at 9:30 a.m.

(signed)

Glenn Guempel, Executive Secretary [Acting]
Domestic Names Committee

APPROVED
(signed) Susan Lyon

Susan Lyon, Vice Chair
Domestic Names Committee

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
DOCKET
November 2020**

Unless otherwise specified, in accordance with the BGN's Policy X: Tribal Geographic Names, a link to the Quarterly Review List containing each proposal was sent to all federally recognized Tribes, and to Tribal Historic Preservation Officers for which an email address was available. The Tribal authorities were given 60 days to comment on any proposal. If no response(s) were received regarding a proposal, it is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion.

I. Staff-Processed New Names, and Name and Application Changes agreed to by all interested Parties

Change **Broadway Creek** (FID 1058861) to **Bradway Creek**, Ohio
(Not Review Listed)

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=41.159221&p_longi=-81.8401349&fid=1058861

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Medina City Council					X
	Medina Township Board of Trustees					X
	Medina County Commissioners					X
State Names Authority	Ohio					X
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes	N/A					
Other	Medina County Soil and Water Conservation District	X				
	Greater Medina Chamber of Commerce				X	

This proposal is to change the name of Broadway Creek, located in the City of Medina and Medina Township in Medina County, to Bradway Creek. The change is being initiated by the BGN staff in response to an inquiry from a Watershed Education Specialist with the Medina County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), who questioned the correct spelling.

The name Broadway Creek was collected and added to GNIS in 1990, during Phase II of data collection, citing a 1989 Medina Chamber of Commerce map. The inquirer noted that the name Bradway Creek has been in local use for at least 30 years and is used today by the SWCD, the City of Medina, and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. The name is associated with Bradway Road in Medina, and the stream flows through land known as the "D.C. Bradway Property" in the 1800s. Bradway Creek also appeared on a 1990 Census Bureau map. The 1989 chamber of

commerce map cited in GNIS could not be located, so it is unclear if that source labeled the stream Broadway Creek or if it was recorded in error.

The Greater Medina Chamber of Commerce reported that they have no objection to the change. Because the correction was initiated by a county office, and because current and historical evidence suggests “Bradway” is likely correct, the proposal is not being review listed. The Ohio State Names Authority was notified but did not comment on the matter.

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Boys Island, Kentucky

(Lake Cumberland, U.S Army Corps of Engineers)

(Review List 438)

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=36.948309&p_longi=-85.060413

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Russell County Judge			X		
State Names Authority	Kentucky		X			
Federal Agency	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers				X	
Tribes						X
Other	N/A					

This proposal is to apply the new name Boys Island to a small unnamed island in Greasy Creek near its confluence with the Cumberland River, and within Russell County. The island is located within the Cumberland Recreation Area, managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The proposal was initially submitted in an effort to recognize the proponent’s family’s 30 years of camping, fishing, and boating on Lake Cumberland. Citing the BGN’s Commemorative Names Policy, which does not allow names that could be construed to honor living persons, the staff informed the proponent that the proposal could not be accepted. She amended the meaning of the proposal to recognize that the community of Burnside is considered “the Birthplace of Boy Scouts in America.” Burnside is located 25 miles to the east, in Pulaski County. A historical marker in the town records the location of “the First Boy Scout Troop,” which was formed in 1908, two years prior to the establishment of the Boy Scouts of America organization.

The Kentucky Geographic Names Committee does not support the proposal, citing the following reasons:

- “The proposal does not include local historical research other than the general area that is attributed to the establishment of The Boy Scouts of America.”
- “The island was not created until 1950s through the creation of Lake Cumberland, long after the creation of The Boy Scouts of America (1910)”

- “The proposed island is in Cumberland State Resort Park [*sic*] which is over 20 miles away from General Burnside State Park which is the Birthplace of Boy Scouts of America [*sic*].”
- “The name of the proposed island has no direct historical or geographic significance based on location.”

III. New Commemorative Names and Changes agreed to by all interested parties

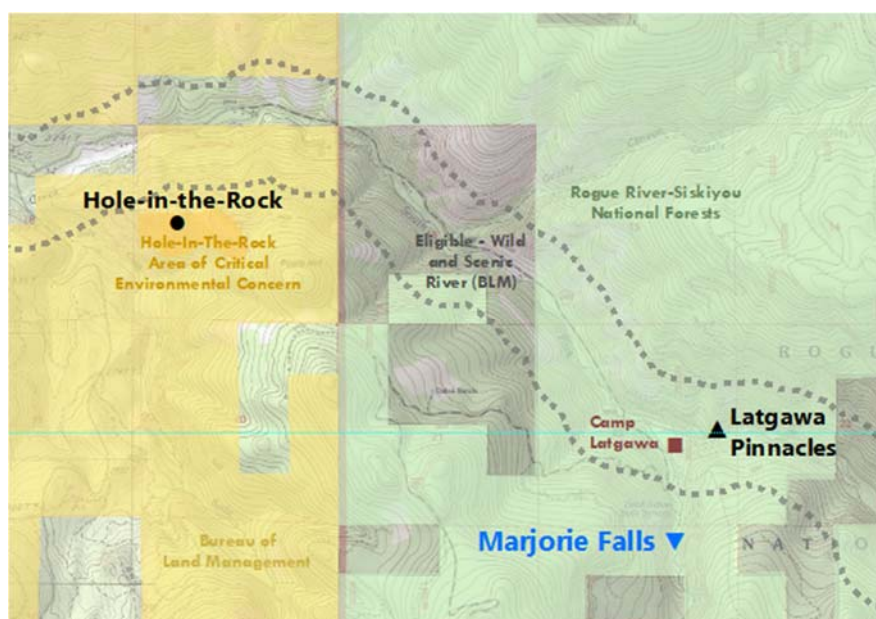
Marjorie Falls, Oregon
(Rogue River National Forest)
(Review List 439)

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.338042&p_longi=-122.446126

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Jackson County Commissioners*			X		
State Names Authority	Oregon	X				
Federal Agency	U.S. Forest Service				X	
Tribes						X
Other	Southern Oregon Historical Society*	X				
	CEO, Rogue Valley Manor**	X				
	Historian, First United Methodist Church (Medford, OR)**					
	former CEO, Camp and Retreat Ministries of the Oregon-Idaho Conference of The United Methodist Church**					

* Contacted by or submitted to SNA

**Submitted by proponent from groups associated with honoree



The name Marjorie Falls is proposed to be made official for a 12-foot-high waterfall located along Dead Indian Creek in Jackson County and on the Rogue River National Forest.

The proposal was submitted by the Oregon Board on Geographic Names (OGBN) on behalf of a resident of San Diego, who was a long-time resident of the Rogue Valley and Methodist pastor at nearby Camp Latgawa. The name, which is reported to have been in local use “for decades,” would commemorate the proponent’s mother Marjorie Cooley Knotts (1919-2014), who according to the application, “helped organize camp programming at Camp Latgawa for fifty years.” Also, “the name is a play on words because, due to foot and ear injuries and poor balance, Marjorie often fell while hiking. It is a metaphor for her life that she continued to hike. The name has a lilting sound like the falling water.” The proponent adds, “Each spring the pool below the falls is cleared so that people can climb rocks to the top of the falls, sit in the creek, and slide over the falls.”

Online records note that Marjorie was a teacher and counselor at Ebbert Memorial Methodist Church in Springfield. Her obituary stated “[She was] a skilled organizer and educator, she led church youth groups, women’s retreats, and Shakespeare camps.” A letter of support from a family friend referred to Marjorie as “highly respected for [her] contributions that built not only [a] faith community but a broader caring community across the Rogue Valley. [She was a] leader in helping to start the Rogue Valley Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. . . and many, many lives were touched by her tireless and compassionate outreach.” She was also responsible for suggesting the name Camp Latgawa as a replacement for Dead Indian Soda Springs Camp; this change was enacted in 1983.

An additional proposal has been submitted to apply the name Knotts Bluff to an unnamed cliff 2.2 miles north-northwest of the falls; this name would commemorate Marjorie’s husband Ross Knotts. It is still be reviewed by the Oregon Geographic Names Board. The names Hole-in-the Rock and Latgawa Pinnacles, listed under Category V below, were submitted by the same proponent.

IV. Revised Decisions

Change Negro Ben Mountain (BGN 1964) to Ben Johnson Mountain, Oregon
(Bureau of Land Management)
(Review List 439)

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=42.2044906&p_longi=-123.0933797&fid=1146832

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Jackson County Commissioners*			X		
State Names Authority	Oregon	X				
Federal Agency	Bureau of Land Management	X				
Tribes						X
Other	Southern Oregon Historical Society*	X				

*Contacted by or submitted to SNA

This proposal is to change the name of Negro Ben Mountain, located on Bureau of Land Management land in Jackson County, to Ben Johnson Mountain. The proponent states that the summit was named for Ben Johnson, a local blacksmith: “We know his last name, it’s appropriate and respectful, in 2019, to call it Ben Johnson Mountain and not ‘Negro Ben.’”

The summit was first labeled on USGS topographic maps in 1921 with the pejorative form of the name. On the 1956 edition, the name was changed to Negro Ben Mountain but was changed back to the pejorative form on the 1960 edition. In 1964, the BGN established the name Negro Ben Mountain “to conform with the BGN’s policy.”

Until the 2000s, the last name of “Ben” was unknown. Lewis McArthur, in his volume *Oregon Geographic Names*, wrote “The name was very old and appears to have been derived from a man named Ben who operated a small blacksmith shop near the [Applegate] river and accommodated miners by sharpening picks and other tools . . . Ben’s last name appears to have been lost to posterity.” However, *Ruch and the Upper Applegate Valley* (Black, 1990) reported that “Ben” was a blacksmith in the small town of Uniontown, which no longer exists but which was located at the base of the mountain.

In 2003, a historian for the Southern Oregon Historical Society (SOHS) discovered that a man named Benjamin Johnson was listed as “colored” in the 1868 and 1869 assessment rolls for Jackson County, and living in Uniontown. In the 1870 and 1880 censuses of Albany in Linn County, Johnson and his wife were listed as “mulatto.” The details were published in a 2003 *Medford Mail Tribune* article and two years later in *Southern Oregon History Today*. *The Applegate*, a local community news magazine, has published pictures of Benjamin Johnson’s cabin at the base of the mountain. A road that circles the mountain is named Negro Ben Road.

In its support for the proposal, the Oregon Geographic Names Board stated that “The Board agrees that the term “Negro” is considered outdated and unnecessary, and the appropriate manner to identify the individual is to use the surname of the individual.”

In a letter of support for the proposal, the SOHS stated: “Our mission does not preclude supporting change; in fact, part of preservation’s intent is to remind current and future Americans about our past in order to create a better future. . . . We find that the name ‘Ben Johnson Mountain’ honors the dignity and humanity of the mountain’s namesake while also preserving Mr. Johnson’s association with the landmark and providing the public with more information about his genealogy - arguably a benefit to public history. . . . We feel confident that we can preserve information about the mountain’s former names, and the social era in which these names took root, while also supporting the name change. . . . Should the name change proposal be accepted, SOHS believes it will be imperative to document Ben Johnson’s Black heritage through interpretive signage, or other forms of publicly accessible interpretation. It is remarkable that this mountain in Oregon’s Applegate Valley is named for a Black man, and this specific history should be emphasized, not hidden. As such, we are committed to partnering with local and state-level Black history and culture organizations to create interpretative educational content related to Ben Johnson’s life to ensure that the story being told about this person honors his identity in-full.”

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Bottle Creek, New York (Review List 437)

Mouth: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.005731&p_longi=-76.787838

Source: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.017274&p_longi=-76.771015

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Ashland Town Board				X	
	Chemung County Legislature					X
State Names Authority	New York	X				
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes						X
Other	N/A					

This proposal is to apply the new name Bottle Creek to a 1.3-mile-long unnamed tributary of South Creek in the Town of Ashland in Chemung County. The name would refer to the reported historic use of the stream as a bottle dump in the 1950s. The Thatcher Glass Manufacturing Company was located in nearby Elmira from 1905-1985.

Hole-in-the-Rock, Oregon (Bureau of Land Management) (Review List 439)

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.353041&p_longi=-122.498897

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Jackson County Commissioners*				X	
State Names Authority	Oregon	X				
Federal Agency	Bureau of Land Management	X				
Tribes						X
Other	Southern Oregon Historical Society*	X				

*Contacted by or submitted to SNA

The name Hole-in-the-Rock is proposed to be made official for a feature that the proponent describes as “[a] 70-foot-long rock formation that is in the form of an arch. [It is] located on a hill overlooking the South Fork Little Butte Creek.” It is on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, in Jackson County. The name is referenced in a 2015 BLM Environmental Assessment report entitled *South Fork Little Butte Forest Management Project*; the report states “The Hole-in-the-Rock Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) was established for its scenic and geological values. The 63-acre ACEC encompasses natural arches spanning over 35 feet. The arches occupy an area of about 50 by 200 feet (about 0.25 acre). The Hole-in-the-Rock

arches are the only documented geomorphic feature of this type in southern Oregon and northern California within the Cascade Range.”

The proposal was submitted by the Oregon Board on Geographic Names (OGBN) on behalf of a resident of San Diego, who was a long-time resident of the Rogue Valley and Methodist pastor at Camp Latgawa, located 2.75 miles southeast of the feature. She adds “For decades, if not centuries, people have taken cross country paths to reach this rock, take in the views, and the more adventurous climb over the top of the arch. It is sometimes referred to as ‘the needles’ eye,’ ‘Arch Rock,’ or simply ‘the arch.’”

Latgawa Pinnacles, Oregon
(Rogue River National Forest)
(Review List 439)

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.338042&p_longi=-122.446126

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Jackson County Commissioners*			X		
State Names Authority	Oregon	X				
Federal Agency	U.S. Forest Service				X	
Tribes						X
Other	Southern Oregon Historical Society*	X				

*Contacted by or submitted to SNA

The new name Latgawa Pinnacles is proposed for a cluster of five cone-shaped rock pinnacles located on the north side of South Fork Little Butte Creek and opposite Camp Latgawa, and within Rogue River National Forest. According to the application, “[These] rocks top out about as high as the tall trees around them. [They] can be climbed and are one adventure destination for campers.”

The proposal for Latgawa Pinnacles was submitted by the Oregon Board on Geographic Names (OGBN) on behalf of a resident of San Diego, who was a long-time resident of the Rogue Valley and Methodist pastor at Camp Latgawa.

The site of the camp was originally settled around 1900, following the discovery in 1871 of soda springs that are believed to have been familiar to the area’s Takelma, Shasta, and Klamath Tribes. According to a history of the camp, in 1953 the Oregon-Idaho Conference of the United Methodist Church acquired a special use permit from the U.S. Forest Service to operate an organizational camp at the site. Originally named Dead Indian Soda Springs Resort and Forest Camp, the camp was later renamed for a group of Shasta Indians who spoke the Latgawa language. The original resort guesthouse, a few outbuildings, and a gazebo built by the Civilian Conservation Corps are protected by the State Historical Interpretation and Preservation Organization.

Three features in the vicinity of the pinnacles are named Dead Indian Creek, Dead Indian Mountain, and Dead Indian Soda Springs. The OGNB is working with the same proponent to initiate changes to these names. In 2019, the BGN received proposals to change the three “racist, outdated and offensive” names to “Chiloquin,” a word that would have recognized the Chiloquin and Klamath people who have long inhabited southern Oregon. However, upon learning that the OGNB was already considering the aforementioned proposals, the proponent withdrew the “Chiloquin” names.

The only feature currently listed in GNIS with the name “Latgawa” is Latgawa Cove Recreation Site, also located in Jackson County and 40 miles southwest of the pinnacles. There is no evidence that the associated body of water is named Latgawa Cove.

Sohmer Creek, Oregon

(Review List 434)

Mouth: https://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=44.970893&p_longi=-118.086897

Source: https://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=44.965124&p_longi=-118.094894

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Baker County Commissioners*			X		
State Names Authority	Oregon	X				
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes						X
Other	2 landowners*	X				

*Contacted by SNA

This proposal is to apply the new name Sohmer Creek to a 0.6-mile-long unnamed tributary of North Powder River in Baker County. The proponent states that the name has “no particular significance that I’m aware of. I just like it as a variant of the word “summer” as it’s a happy little brook that reminds me of a pleasant summer day.”

Wirick Run, Pennsylvania

(Review List 439)

Mouth: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=40.31253&p_longi=-79.53997

Source: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=40.31944&p_longi=-79.54079

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Greensburg City Council	X				
	Westmoreland County Commissioners					X

State Names Authority	Pennsylvania				X	
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes						X
Other	N/A					

This proposal is to apply the new commemorative name Wirick Run to an unnamed 0.5-mile-long stream in the City of Greensburg in Westmoreland County. The stream flows between two neighborhood streets, but according to the National Hydrography Dataset does not connect to a main stream. The proposed name would honor Fred Wirick (1878-1950), who lived on a small farm in Greensburg and became a machinist; during later employment with the West Penn Power Company, he trimmed trees and bushes along the unnamed stream.