

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

Eight Hundred and Thirty-third Meeting

March 11, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

(Virtual Meeting)

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Marcus Allsup	Department of Defense (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency)
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)
Susan Lyon	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) (Vice-Chair)
Alesha Perdomo	U.S. Postal Service
Veronica Ranieri	Library of Congress
Ron Salz	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
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
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  
Maria McCormick, U.S. Geological Survey  
Matthew O'Donnell, U.S. Geological Survey  
Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey  
Monique Vanlandingham, U.S. Geological Survey

Guests

Josefa Baker, U.S. Geological Survey  
Sam Guilford, National Geographic Society  
Deb Nordeen, National Park Service  
Sergio Rodriguez, U.S. Geological Survey  
Scott Zillmer, National Geographic Society  
Foreign Names Committee staff  
Becki Maddock, U.K. Permanent Committee on Geographical Names

Catherine Cheetham, U.K. Permanent Committee on Geographical Names

### 1. Opening

The vice-chair opened Meeting 833 of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) at 9:32 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.

Guempel introduced Monique Vanlandingham, who is on a detail from the National Park Service to assist the BGN and staff. She will focus on BGN communications and outreach, primarily with the Special Committee on Communications and the Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication.

### 2. Minutes of Meeting 832

The minutes of Meeting 832, held February 11, 2021, were approved.

### 3. Reports

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

Lyon requested that the members review the reports and submit any comments or questions to the staff.

#### 3.1 BGN Chairman (Wallace)

See attached report.

Wallace also added that the Advisory Committee on Undersea Features will meet virtually on Tuesday, April 6.

#### 3.2 BGN Executive Secretary (Palmer and Guempel)

There was no prepared report. Guempel noted that he will call for a BGN Executive Committee meeting soon. One item that needs attention is the revision of the BGN by-laws. Work continues on preparation for a possible briefing on the BGN to the Secretary of the Interior.

Palmer noted that the Foreign Names Committee met on Tuesday, March 9. He had distributed details about the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) session

scheduled for May 3-7, 2021 and reminded members that the deadline for reports is approaching. DNC members should contact Palmer with any questions.

### 3.3 Special Committee on Communications (Lyon)

There was no prepared report. Lyon announced that the BGN Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report to the Secretary of the Interior is undergoing its final review. Lyon also noted that the Special Committee on Communications is still looking for new members.

### 3.4 Executive Secretary (Guempel)

There was no prepared report. Guempel, with help from Ellerbe and O'Donnell, is working with the Federal Geographic Data Committee's GeoPathways program on the development of story maps to highlight successful BGN-Tribal engagement on name proposals. Other story maps, including ones that describe the BGN and Domestic Names Committee processes may be planned for the future.

### 3.5 Staff (Runyon)

See attached report.

### 3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (McCormick)

There was no prepared report.

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

See attached report.

## 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 **Rincon Valley** (FID 893957) to **Hatch Valley**, New Mexico (Bureau of Land Management / U.S. Bureau of Reclamation) (Review List 438)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 7 in favor  
4 against  
3 abstentions

The votes against the motion noted that Rincon Valley is a longstanding name and concerns that the primary reason for the proposal was to promote a commercial product.

## II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Change **Dead Negro Branch** (FID 1282252) to **Alexander Branch**, **Equality Stream**, or **Lignite Branch**, Louisiana (Review Lists 437, 442)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change to Alexander Branch.

Vote: 8 in favor  
6 against  
0 abstentions

Members voting against the motion expressed support for the recommendation of the State Names Authority.

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

Change **Squaw Creek** (FID 461934) to **Wanatee Creek**, Iowa (Review List 442)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Swart Creek**, Kansas (Review List 441) (FID 2829555)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Stevens Creek**, Tennessee (Review List 441) (FID 2829558)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

IV. **Revised Decisions**

Change **Paquet Lake** (BGN 1966, 1971) (FID 657742) to **Poquet Lake**, Minnesota (Review List 442)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

V. **New Names agreed to by all interested parties**

**Gable Lake**, Florida (Review List 441) (FID 2829552)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Crayfish Creek**, Georgia (Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area) (Review List 442) (FID 2829553)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Fiddlers Creek**, Iowa (Review List 441) (FID 2829554)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 14 in favor

0 against  
0 abstentions

**Manomet Brook**, Massachusetts (Review List 442) (FID 28295526)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Black Walnut Creek**, Pennsylvania (Review List 441) (FID 2829557)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

5. Other Business

There was no other business.

6. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The vice-chair thanked members for attending and contributing to the discussions.

The next Domestic Names Committee meeting is scheduled to be held virtually April 8, 2021, at 9:30 a.m.

(signed)

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Glenn Guempel, Executive Secretary [Acting]  
Domestic Names Committee

APPROVED  
(signed) Meghan Barrett

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Meghan Barrett, Chair  
Domestic Names Committee

### **BGN Chair Report**

1. Welcome letters were sent to our latest new members: Alesha Perdomo (U.S. Postal Service) and Kenia Allen (NOAA) after the February meeting.
2. The 2020 Annual Report is still a work in progress.
3. The Foreign Names Committee is scheduled for March 9, 2021 at 1:00 pm
4. The Full Board meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2021.
5. The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names meeting is scheduled for May 3 – 7, 2021.

Thanks everyone for their continued effort and support of the Domestic Names Committee meetings. Stay safe and healthy.

### **Staff Report**

Staff continues to receive inquiries from the general public and the media regarding the process and procedures for naming and renaming features, including changes to offensive names. A number of new proposals have been received.

Preparation of Quarterly Review List 443 is underway and should be available online on or around March 31.

The staff continues to develop a replacement for the online name proposal form.

Staff participated in the February 17 meeting of the DNC's Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication, which included ongoing discussions regarding Tribal outreach and engagement.

Staff has been invited to give presentations on the BGN and its policies and procedures at upcoming meetings and conferences. This includes a meeting on March 11 of the California Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (CalTHPO) and another on March 19 of the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN). The THPO for the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians contacted the DNC staff to inquire about adding more indigenous names to the landscape. On March 30, Kanalley and Runyon will present at a To Bridge a Gap meeting; this annual event provides an opportunity to strengthen relationships and share traditional knowledge between the Forest Service and federally recognized Tribal governments. The National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers has also expressed an interest in learning more about the BGN. The briefings to Tribal groups will focus on Policy X: Tribal Geographic Names, and the need for increased participation by Tribes in the BGN's review process.

The Council of Geographic Names Authorities (CoGNA) Executive Committee met on February 25 to discuss a number of topics, including the status of conferences (in-person, virtual);

restructuring for the future; IRS requirements; updates to the Constitution and Bylaws; and the development of CoGNA guidelines, with a focus on State Names Authority expectations.

A representative of the Alaska Board on Geographic Names inquired about the process for recording Tlingit language variant names to the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS).

Following the deferral last month of the proposal to change the name of Chinde Point in Petrified Forest National Park to Hózhó Point, staff contacted the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names (ASBGHN) to request that they consult with the Hopi Tribe. The staff was advised that the legislation that would enable the ASBGHN to resume business is progressing through the review process. Until it is approved, no work can be done, nor can interested parties be contacted. The Executive Secretary of the ASBGHN was reluctant to speculate on the outcome of any future ASBGHN discussions of this proposal.

The CACGN, which has not met since February 2020, will meet on March 19. Governor Newsom has requested that CACGN revise its charter, “to identify and redress racist names of features within the state,” and “to expand its representation and increase transparency.” The upcoming meeting will provide the newly appointed members with an overview of the history of the CACGN and its relationship with the BGN. There are a number of new name and name change proposals that are awaiting recommendations from the CACGN.

The staff was interviewed by *The Fresno Bee* regarding the BGN process and efforts to rename the small unincorporated community of Squaw Valley in Fresno County (California). The resulting [article](#) was published on February 12.

It was reported last month that the proposal for Mount Cheyenne Arapaho (Review List 432), submitted as a replacement for Mount Evans, had been withdrawn by the proponent, who now endorses the new proposal for Mount Blue Sky (Review List 442). The latter name was submitted by The Wilderness Society on behalf of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma. On February 26, the Northern Cheyenne Tribe informed the BGN staff that it does not support the name Mount Blue Sky and asked that the summit be renamed instead to Mount Cheyenne-Arapaho. This name will be added to the upcoming Quarterly Review List, which will allow all parties with an opportunity to comment. The staff is in the process of notifying the proponents of the other pending proposals (Mount Soule, Mount Rosalie, and Mount Blue Sky) of the Northern Cheyenne’s recommendation. The proponent of Mount Soule has also expressed concerns that the name Mount Blue Sky is not an appropriate choice. A number of emails have been received from individuals expressing support for changing the existing name.

The staff attended the virtual meeting of the Hawaii Board on Geographic Names on March 2. The HBGN approved a proposal to apply the new name Ahu’ailā’au to a volcanic vent that was formed following the 2018 eruption of *Kīlauea*. *The feature has been known informally since the eruption as “Fissure 8.”* The proposed name is a reference to Ahu (mound/shrine/altar or cairn)



and 'Ailā'au (Hawai'i deity for the volcano and lava). The proposal is expected to be forwarded shortly to the BGN for its review.

Proposals are pending (Review List 441) to change the names of Upper Negro Island, Lower Negro Island, and Negro Islands in Hancock County, Maine. Local governments were asked to provide recommendations. The Town Manager responded, "Assuming the Town votes (May 2021) in favor of changing the names, a committee will be formed and we can put the issue on the ballot in November (2021) to vote up or down on the new proposed name."

*The Cape Cod Times* published an [article](#) and a [follow up](#) (subscription required) on a local effort to name a small pond in the Town of South Truro and within Cape Cod National Seashore (National Park Service). Readers were invited to suggest names for the author's consideration and several dozen responses were received. The author indicates he will submit a proposal to the BGN.

A proposal has been received to apply the new name Bgoji-ziibiinhs to an unnamed stream in Michigan. The proponent noted that the name is of Ojibway origin but did not provide further details. Research by the staff suggests the name likely means "at the inlet [of the] river" but also raised a question to the correct orthography of the name, which appears to contradict online Ojibway/Ojibwe dictionaries.

A proposal has been received to change the name of Ross R Barnett Reservoir in Mississippi to Madison-Rankin Reservoir. The current name commemorates Ross R. Barnett (1898-1987), 53rd governor of Mississippi, who was a member of the Dixiecrat party and supported racial segregation. The proposed name refers to the location on the boundary of Madison County and Rankin County. The 33,000-acre body of water serves as the State's largest drinking water resource. Following a conversation with the Mississippi State Names Authority and an email with the manager of the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District, which administers the reservoir, it was agreed that the proponent should make an effort to determine if there is local and State support for the change before the BGN will proceed with the proposal. The manager of the water supply district contacted the proponent to outline the local review process.

The proposal for Dark Mountain, North Carolina (Review List 442) has been withdrawn by the proponent, citing objections from a neighboring property owner. The neighbor commented "We all know that the world is full of darkness and negativity already, we don't need to add up [sic] to that."

Runyon met with the Executive Secretary of the Nevada Board on Geographic Names and State Assemblyman Howard Watts to discuss efforts to change names in Nevada that are considered offensive and to provide guidance on the State and Federal renaming processes. [Assembly Bill 88](#), introduced February 2, 2021, requires, in part, "the Nevada State Board on Geographic

Names to recommend changes to the names of geographic features or places that are racially discriminatory or named after certain persons.”

Runyon and O'Donnell met with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) deputy member to the BGN and with the BLM's Oregon regional staff to discuss an extensive list of name, spelling, and feature class changes, i.e. discrepancies between GNIS and published products and/or local use. These have been forwarded to the staff, who will determine which will require formal BGN review.

At the February DNC meeting, the staff provided an overview of the effort to change the names of 17 geographic features in Texas that include the word “Negro.” These proposals will be added to the upcoming Quarterly Review List and presented to the DNC for a vote at its June 10 meeting. In the course of conducting additional review of the names, the staff has uncovered several potential issues regarding the intended honorees. For example, one was determined to have owned a slave. Two others involve the correct spelling of the proposed names, and one involves the choice of generic terms. One of the features was found to no longer exist so it will be made “historical” in GNIS and removed from the pending list.

A proposal was received to change the name of Devils Tower in Wyoming to Great Tree of Bear Lodge. The proponent was informed that in accordance with Policy I, the BGN will not render a decision on a name or its application if the matter is also being considered by the United States Congress. Legislation to retain the name Devils Tower was once again introduced at the beginning of the 117th Congress. The staff responded to an inquiry from *The Casper Tribune* regarding the reintroduced legislation.

Monique Vanlandingham, on a 120-day detail from the National Park Service to the BGN (through the Department of the Interior Career Connection program), has participated in a number of meetings with members and staff to discuss outreach and communication with tribal governments and with the Secretary of the Interior; to review the online and hardcopy name proposal forms; to compile an inventory of upcoming meetings and conferences in which the members and staff might participate; and to provide feedback on a number of the BGN's policies and procedures.

*E&E News* inquired about the BGN's policies and procedures and the status of efforts to change names. The reporter also asked about naming trends and “what type of proposals present the greatest challenge.” A follow-up interview will take place shortly.

The staff attended Quarterly Meeting 405 of the Foreign Names Committee held on March 9.

Runyon participated in a zoom meeting of the Standing Committee on Antarctic Geographic Information Working Group, during which the latest version of the International Principles and

Procedures for Antarctic Place Names was reviewed. A number of comments have been received from other countries and those were analyzed by the working group.

The staff was made aware of a recent effort by the USGS Astrogeology Science Center (Flagstaff, Arizona) to apply words from the Navajo language to features on the surface of Mars, following the recent perseverance rover landing. NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) engineers have reached out to the President of the Navajo Nation to suggest appropriate names. The USGS Office of Communications was reminded that the BGN has an Advisory Committee on Extra-Terrestrial Names (albeit inactive for many years), also staffed at the USGS center in Flagstaff.

### **Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication Report**

The BGN Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication met on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 from 1-3PM.

The special committee firmed up plans for briefings to Tribal audiences that have been arranged to date. Jenny Runyon, BGN staff will provide briefings on BGN processes to the following groups: the California Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (March 11), and the Forest Service-Tribal “To Bridge a Gap” Conference (March 30).

Betsy Kanalley, USDA FS with FS Regional Tribal Liaison has submitted an abstract to present at the Association of Tribal Archives, Librarians and Museums (Nov. 29-Dec. 1, 2021).

The special committee selected several BGN geographic names cases that highlight interaction with Tribes for use in Esri StoryMaps. The StoryMaps are being developed by GeoPathways students. Thad Ellerbe, NOAA, and Matt O’Donnell, BGN staff, are providing oversight and coordinator for this effort.

Kanalley submitted the Special Committee write-up for inclusion in the BGN Annual Report. The special committee is planning to meet again before the next BGN/DNC meeting.

Thank you to Thad Ellerbe and Matt O’Donnell for the work on the StoryMaps and to Jenny Runyon for her work on the BGN presentations to Tribal groups.

**DOCKET**  
**March 2021**

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 **Rincon Valley** (FID 893957) to **Hatch Valley**, New Mexico  
(Bureau of Land Management / U.S. Bureau of Reclamation)  
(Review List 438)

[https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p\\_lat=32.4984206&p\\_longi=-106.9291777&fid=893957](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=32.4984206&p_longi=-106.9291777&fid=893957)

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Doña Ana County Board of Commissioners*	X				
	Sierra County Board of Commissioners*	X				
State Names Authority	New Mexico	X				
Federal Agency	BLM	X				
	USBR					X
Tribes						X

\* Contacted by New Mexico State Names Committee

This proposal is to change the name of Rincon Valley, an approximately 40-mile-long valley in Doña Ana County and Sierra County, to Hatch Valley. The current name refers to the unincorporated community of Rincon located near the middle of the valley. The proposed name refers to the Village of Hatch, five miles west of Rincon.

The proponent is a Board Member of the Hatch Chile Association and co-founder of The Hatch Chile Store. He states that "The Hatch Valley is a term used to describe the area around the town of Hatch, NM in which Hatch Chile is grown." The association is a group of local farmers who are attempting to certify the Hatch name and limit its use to products grown in the area they call Hatch Valley. The proponent's store website describes the association as "a non-profit formed to combat the prevalence of chile sold as 'Hatch' that isn't grown here in the Hatch Valley."

The proponent defines the Hatch Valley as “the section of the Rio Grande Valley stretching from Caballo Dam in the north to Tonuco Mountain in the South, inclusive of the Las Uvas flat [sic] (officially Uvas Valley) just to the west of the town of Hatch.” However, a 2016 *Las Cruces Sun-News* article reported that the Hatch Chile Association defines it “as stretching from the Caballo Dam roughly 35 miles down the valley, ending just north of the Leasburg Dam, also encompassing the Uvas Valley.” And in 2018, the proponent gave the definition as the valley area “about 14 miles around the village of Hatch. . . .”

The specific definition of the Rincon Valley extent has varied since the early 1900s. According to GNIS, Rincon Valley is the area along the Rio Grande between Caballo Dam and Leasburg Dam; Uvas Valley is a separate feature. (See below for more discussion about the use of the names Rincon Valley and Hatch Valley.)

A 2016 U.S. Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling stated “The Hatch Valley may be to chiles what the Napa Valley is to grapes.” This ruling came from a trademark dispute over the use of “HATCH” between Hatch Chile Company, Inc. and El Encanto, Inc. The ruling written by then Tenth Circuit Court Judge Neil Gorsuch, stated:

One thing we know about life and the law is that where value lurks litigation will soon follow — and the Hatch Valley chile pepper supplies no exception. After the Hatch Chile Company sought to trademark the term “Hatch” for its exclusive use, a chile producing rival, El Encanto, objected. Before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB), a division of the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO), El Encanto argued that “Hatch” can’t be trademarked both because it refers to a place and because Hatch Chile has used the term in a misleading manner. To prove its case of deception, El Encanto sought to show that Hatch Chile’s products regularly include chiles that aren’t even from the Hatch Valley.

The ruling itself concerned subpoenas that El Encanto, Inc. requested of Hatch Chile Company, Inc. to show the provenance of their chiles, not the use of the brand “HATCH” by any company. In a 2016 *Las Cruces Sun-News* article, the proponent reported that the Hatch Chile Association and Hatch Chile Company were in settlement talks and that “the association’s goal was simply to get the Hatch certification on those products that could be traced back to the Hatch valley. The certification is moving forward and should be seen on shelves and restaurants this year, he said.” According to that article, “To gain certification as authentic Hatch Valley-grown chile, producers, processors and manufacturers would pay a fee, Mitchell [the proponent] said. The ultimate goal is from field to store to restaurant, consumers will have assurance that chile being sold as coming from the Hatch Valley will carry the mark. Large companies with multiple products would have the option of labeling any of those products that hail from the valley after certification.”

In response to the court ruling, the Hatch Chile Company stated “Our trademark dispute with another competitor is about the Hatch Chile Company protecting its branding and intellectual property rights dating back to 1987. Hatch Chile Company has never tried to prohibit others from simply using the word ‘Hatch’ when selling green chile products.”

In 2017 the New Mexico Senate and the New Mexico House of Representatives passed memorials “Recognizing the Hatch Chile Association for Its Contributions to the Culture and Economy of New Mexico Through the Promotion of Hatch Farm-Grown Chile” which stated that “chile grown in the Hatch valley region has become known and famous as chile of the highest quality” and that “in 2012, the United States senate [*sic*] recognized the Hatch valley region of New Mexico as the ‘chile capital of the world.’ [U.S. Senate Resolution 585 “Recognizing the extraordinary history and heritage of the State of New Mexico” on the State’s centennial].” The memorials cited the Hatch Chile Association certification process to ensure that only chiles grown in the Hatch Valley may be labeled and sold as such.

In 2018, the proponent was recorded as stating: “Our certification mark is for fresh, pod-type long green chile grown in the Hatch Valley of southern New Mexico, which extends for about 14 miles around the village of Hatch. . . . So if you see fresh chile on a shelf and above it it says ‘Hatch’ and below it it says ‘product of Mexico,’ or ‘product of Arizona,’ or if it was grown in New Mexico but 75 miles away from Hatch — that’s what we’re looking to combat.”

The Hatch Chile Association apparently has not yet received permission to use their certification mark, and the status of the settlements with Hatch Chile Company is unknown.

The proponent was asked to address the Commercial Names Policy; he replied that he does not foresee any promotional or financial benefits for the Hatch Chile Association and that the area has long been known locally as the Hatch Valley. It is unknown if this geographic name proposal is intended to prove that “Hatch” refers to a place or region and thus cannot be trademarked.

Heated debate about Hatch chiles occurs online and in publications. Some writers claim that the Hatch Chile Association is attempting to market Hatch chiles as if they are a single variety only grown in one region. Multiple chile varieties are grown in the Hatch area. These writers also point to USGS maps that show Rincon Valley, not Hatch Valley, so “no chiles can be designated as Hatch Valley chiles.” Critics worry that the certification mark would prevent farmers just outside the potentially arbitrary “Hatch Valley” delineation, but who grow the same chiles in the same soil, would be excluded from the lucrative branding that could come from the Hatch certification.

Parts of Rincon Valley fall within lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Caballo Lake State Park, Percha Dam State Park, and Leasburg Dam State Park are also located within or adjacent to the valley. The Village of Hatch is the only incorporated jurisdiction within the valley.

Current local use is predominantly Hatch Valley, although references to Rincon Valley can be found. The proposed name has been popularized through the annual Hatch Chile Festival which promotes chiles grown around Hatch.

Regarding the application of the name Rincon Valley, Robert Julyan's 1996 *The Place Names of New Mexico* limits it to "the floodplain of the Rio Grande SE of Hatch and SW of Rincon." Some older sources limit the Rincon Valley to the area north of Selden Canyon, with the canyon separating Rincon Valley from Mesilla Valley.

A 1917 *Las Cruces Sun-News* article stated that "the Hatch Valley is part of the Rincon Valley. . . ." The 2015 volume *Hatch Valley: Images of America* reported that

Before the designation of the area as Hatch Valley, territorial newspapers documented the history of this particular section of southwestern New Mexico as the Rincon Valley. In the December 13, 1923, edition of the *Rio Grande Farmer*, the US Reclamation Service designated the Rincon Valley as the "irrigable land north of the Leasburg diversion dam and extending up the river to the head of the local irrigation system, the Percha diversion dam." At the suggestion of local historians, the communities as far north as Garfield and as far south as Rincon have been designated as the Hatch Valley for the purposes of this historical perspective. . . Rincon Valley, of which the Hatch Valley was a part. . . .

A letter sent in 2016 by the Hatch Chile Festival to potential sponsors referred to it as the "Hatch Valley Chile Festival" but stated in the text that "The Festival produces an important boost to the economy of the Rincon Valley. . . ."

The earliest published use of the name Hatch Valley is in the 1918 *Seventeenth Annual Report of the Reclamation Service*, but it is unclear if Hatch Valley is the same as or just part of the Rincon Valley, a name also used in the text. A Hatch Valley arroyos watershed project was referred to in a 1955 hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry. Widespread references to the larger Hatch Valley do not appear until the 1990s.

A query of GNIS found several records for features in the Rincon Valley area that include "Hatch Valley" in their names: six dams from the aforementioned arroyos project and three schools in the Hatch Valley School District. Aside from Rincon Valley, GNIS does not list any features in New Mexico with "Rincon Valley" in their names.

## II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Change **Dead Negro Branch** (FID 1282252) to **Alexander Branch**,  
**Equality Stream**, or **Lignite Branch**, Louisiana  
 (Review Lists 437, 442)

[https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p\\_lat=31.9515522&p\\_longi=-93.469065&fid=534429](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=31.9515522&p_longi=-93.469065&fid=534429)

### Alexander Branch and Equality Stream:

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	DeSoto Parish Police Jury					X
State Names Authority	Louisiana		X			
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes						X

### Lignite Branch:

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	DeSoto Parish Police Jury					X
State Names Authority	Louisiana*	X				
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes						X

\*Proponent

These three proposals were received to change the name of **Dead Negro Branch**, a 1.3-mile-long tributary of Louies Brake in De Soto Parish.

Two proposals were received independently around the same time for the names **Alexander Branch** and **Equality Stream**. The proponent of the name **Alexander Branch** wished to commemorate Reverend Avery C. Alexander (1910-1999), a prominent Civil Rights activist born and raised in Louisiana. (The proponent submitted the proposal as **Rev. Avery C. Alexander Branch** but was informed by BGN staff that it would be shortened to **Alexander Branch** in accordance with the Long Names Policy. The proponent did not comment.)

Rev. Alexander was born in Terrebonne Parish and moved to New Orleans in 1927. After working as a longshoreman, he became a minister in 1944 and traveled around Louisiana to participate in voter registration drives prior to the enactment of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He led boycotts in New Orleans to protest racist hiring practices, and participated in several marches with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., including from Selma to Montgomery and in Washington, D.C. During a sit-in at New Orleans City Hall, he was arrested and dragged up the steps of the building; film and pictures of his head hitting the steps helped spur more New Orleans citizens to support civil rights. He was



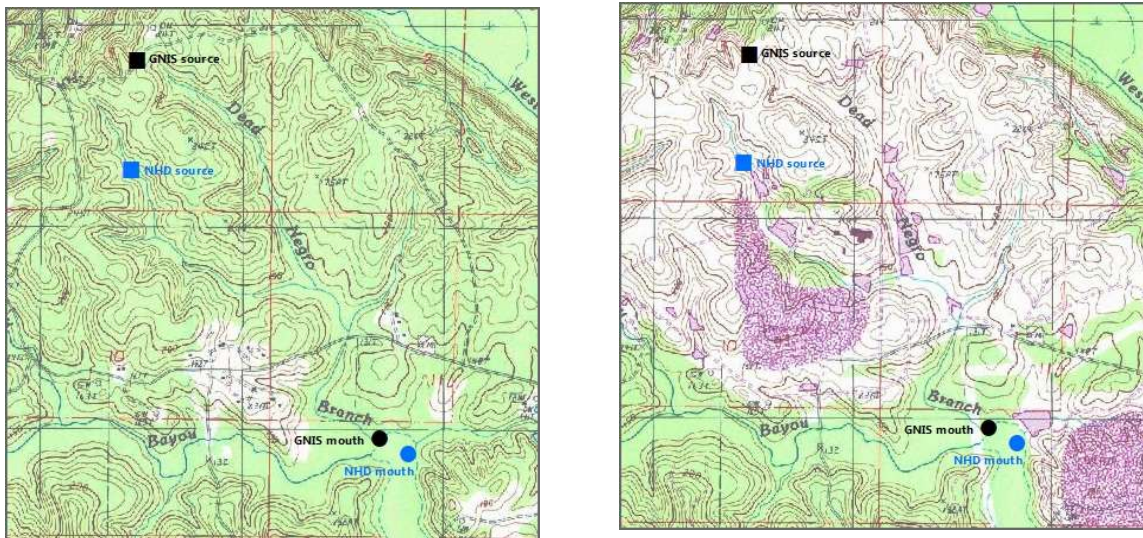
a delegate to the 1972 Democratic National Convention and to the 1973 Louisiana Constitutional Convention, where he was elected vice president. He served as treasurer of the New Orleans chapter of the NAACP and was president of the local chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Rev. Alexander was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1975, holding the seat until his death. He has no known direct association with the stream in question or with DeSoto Parish.

The proponent of the name Equality Stream stated that “[t]he name should be changed to reflect that all are created equal regardless of color, gender, religion, etc.”

The proponents of these two names were notified about the other’s proposal, but neither commented. In response to both proposals, the Louisiana State Names Authority submitted a counterproposal to change the name of the stream to Lignite Branch, in reference to the adjacent Dolet Hills Lignite Mine. The proponents were notified of the counterproposal, but neither commented.

The name Dead Negro Branch has been shown on USGS maps since 1957 and on current parish highway maps. The pejorative form of the name appeared on USGS maps in 1938 and 1947. A 1983 EPA Environmental Impact Statement for the aforementioned mine refers to the stream as both Dead Negro Branch and Dead Negro Bayou.

Between 1989 and 1992, the hydrology of the stream was altered during the excavation and development of the mine. The 1992 USGS map reflects the changes and shows that several reservoirs had been constructed along the stream. Possibly as a result of the modified hydrology, the National Hydrography Dataset applies the name Dead Negro Branch to a different upstream tributary.



1989 and 1992 editions of the USGS EVELYN quadrangle, showing modification from the Dolet Hills Lignite Mine

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

Change Squaw Creek (FID 461934) to Wanatee Creek, Iowa  
(Review List 442)

[https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p\\_lat=41.9733352&p\\_longi=-91.5787886&fid=461934](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=41.9733352&p_longi=-91.5787886&fid=461934)

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Marion City Council	X				
	Linn County Board of Supervisors	X*				
State Names Authority	Iowa	X				
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes						X
Other	Iowa State Archaeologist	X				
	State Historical Society of Iowa Director of Special Collections	X				

\*Proponent

This proposal is to change the name of Squaw Creek, a 10-mile-long tributary of Indian Creek in Linn County, to Wanatee Creek. The stream heads in Marion Township, flows through the City of Marion, and into Bertram Township. The proposal was submitted by the Linn County Board of Supervisors “to replace the derogatory and offensive term ‘Squaw’ and instead commemorate the life of a noted Meskwaki woman.”

The proposed name would commemorate Jean “Adeline” Morgan Wanatee (1910-1996), an elder and leader of the Meskwaki Nation (federally recognized as the Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa). Ms. Wanatee (according to local news reports, pronounced “Whon'-uh-tee”) was inducted into the Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame in 1993. According to her biography, she was born on the Meskwaki Indian Settlement, and following her marriage raised seven children there. She became a role model and advocate at the State and National level for the rights of women, as well as a Meskwaki language specialist and resource for the Smithsonian Institute; a member of the Governor’s Advisory Committee and the Iowa Arts Council’s “artist-in-the-schools” program; chair of the local Meskwaki School Board; and the first woman representative on the local Pow Wow Association. Wanatee was the first woman elected to the Meskwaki Tribal Council.

The stream was labeled Squaw Creek on county and State atlases published in 1869, 1895, 1907, and 1921. The name first appeared on USGS maps in 1968. The origin of the name is unknown, but it may refer, along with nearby Indian Creek, to the Meskwaki inhabitants of the area.

A 2010 Federal Emergency Management Agency map labeled the upper part of Squaw Creek as West Fork Squaw Creek and incorrectly extended Squaw Creek along a shorter eastern tributary. A City of Marion document from May 2020 used both of these names. This use of names dates to at least 1981 when they were recorded in the *Federal Register* in a proposed rule for base flood elevations.

In September 2020, the Linn County Conservation Board changed the name of Squaw Creek Park, through which the stream flows, to Wanatee Creek Park. The County is planning to hold hearings on renaming local streets that include “Squaw” in their names.

The Marion City Council passed a resolution in support of the proposed change. The Linn County Supervisors provided a letter of support from the Iowa State Archeologist, along with one from the chair of the Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi, who stated: “The term squaw has long been offensive to us and most Native Americans due to its use for hundreds of years in a derogatory context and for other reasons. The Meskwaki Nation applauds your willingness to make changes that honor people through the use of their name, and not diminish them as human beings through the use of derogatory terms. Especially, we thank all who have championed this name change to honor one of our own.”

The Special Collections Coordinator of the State Historical Society of Iowa submitted a letter to the county supervisors thanking them for their efforts to change the name of the stream and park.

### **Swart Creek, Kansas**

(Review List 441)

Mouth: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=39.77336&p\\_longi=-95.95994](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=39.77336&p_longi=-95.95994)

Source: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=39.76234&p\\_longi=-95.92896](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=39.76234&p_longi=-95.92896)

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Nemaha County Board of Commissioners	X				
State Names Authority	Kansas				X	
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes						X

The new name Swart Creek is proposed for a 2.3-mile-long tributary of Tennessee Creek in Adams Township in Nemaha County. The name would commemorate several generations of the Swart family, who have farmed in Adams Township for 125 years. John Martin Swart (1860-1940) acquired property along the stream in 1895 and helped establish a one-room schoolhouse in the area. His son Henry Swart (1890-1982) served as a justice of the peace and on the Adams Township

Board. His son, Lawrence Swart (1917-1996), who was the father of the proponent, was a trustee and chairman of the Adams Township Board and president of the local school board. The proponent described the changes over the years: “John started farming with horses on that land, then we moved to an 8N Ford tractor and now we have 4-wheel drive tractors and GPS sprayers.”

**Stevens Creek**, Tennessee

(Review List 441)

Mouth: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=35.88266&p\\_longi=-87.01461](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=35.88266&p_longi=-87.01461)

Source: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=35.85543&p\\_longi=-87.02014](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=35.85543&p_longi=-87.02014)

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Williamson County Board of Commissioners				X*	
State Names Authority	Tennessee	X				
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes						X

\*Commissioners responded individually, most with no objection and some with support

This proposal is to apply the new commemorative name Stevens Creek to a two-mile-long unnamed tributary of Leipers Fork in Williamson County. The stream flows in part through the proponent’s family property and along Sweeney Hollow Road.

The name would honor the proponent’s father, Richard Frank Stevens (1922-1983), a U.S. Air Force master sergeant who served in World War II, and the Vietnam and Korea wars. In 1966 Mr. Stevens purchased 105 acres along Sweeney Hollow Road and was employed as a shipping and receiving superintendent at Kusan Manufacturing. Mr. Stevens is buried at the Nashville National Cemetery in Madison, Tennessee.

#### IV. Revised Decisions

Change **Paquet Lake** (FID 657742) (BGN 1966, 1971) to **Poquet Lake**, Minnesota

(Review List 442)

[https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p\\_lat=46.9179552&p\\_longi=-94.5060166&fid=657742](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=46.9179552&p_longi=-94.5060166&fid=657742)

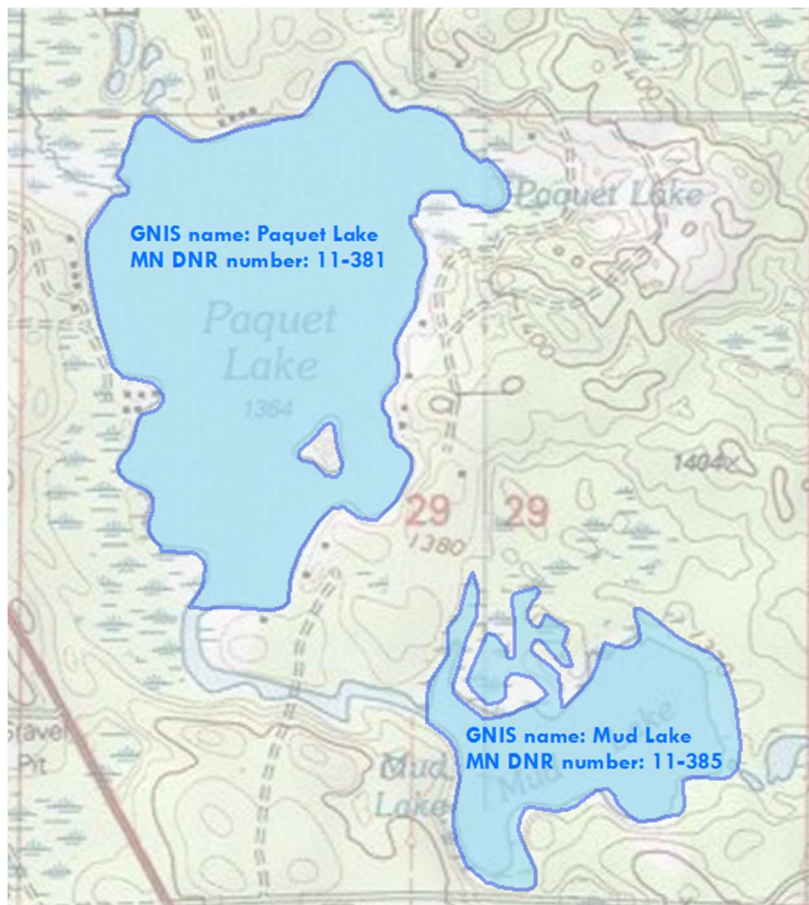
		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Cass County Commissioners	X				
State Names Authority	Minnesota	X				
Federal Agency	N/A					

Tribes							X
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This proposal is to change the name of Paquet Lake (BGN 1966, 1971), a 145-acre lake in Birch Lake Township in Cass County, to Poquet Lake. The proposal was submitted by the Minnesota State Names Authority (MN SNA) and is supported by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR).

The spelling and application of the name of the lake has been confusing for at least 100 years. The proposal is to change the name to recognize long-term local use of Poquet Lake, despite one MN SNA decision in 1940 and two BGN decisions in 1966 and 1971.

According to documents associated with the BGN decisions, the name derives from that of Joseph Paquette, the original homesteader near the lake. Online genealogy records list an individual with that name, a native of Canada (born 1839), who emigrated to Minnesota in 1883; in the 1900 Census, he was listed as a farmer in the same township as the lake. His surname is clearly spelled "Paquette." A few individuals named "Poquet" were recorded in Minnesota but none in Cass County.





In 1966, a memo to the Chippewa National Forest Supervisor reported that the Cass County Register of Deeds showed a payment receipt for a lot in the same section as the lake from Joseph Paquette, dated July 16, 1903. The same memo reported that a retired county registrar had stated that the “Pa” was changed to “Po,” due either to a transcription error or to local pronunciation.

Two lakes are close together in Section 29; they are listed in GNIS as Paquet Lake and Mud Lake. The MN DNR numbers these lakes 11-381 and 11-385, respectively; these designations date back to at least 1968.

A brief, incomplete timeline of these lake names follows. The lakes are referred to by their DNR numbers for clarity.

- 1919 and 1920: *Fins, Feathers, and Fur* (the Minnesota Game and Fish Department bulletin) used the spelling Poquet in a few articles for a lake in Cass County, but did not specify which lake the name referred to. The same articles also referred to a lake named Little Whitefish which was listed in 1968 as a variant for lake 11-381, which suggests that Poquet referred to lake 11-385.
- 1928: The *Gazetteer of Meandered Lakes*, published by the Minnesota Department of Drainage and Waters, used the name Paquet for lake 11-318 and Padgett for lake 11-385.
- 1940: The MN SNA approved the name One Lake for lake 11-381.
- 1966: The BGN approved the name Paquet Lake over One Lake, but mistakenly applied the decision to lake 11-385. The proposal was initially for Poquet Lake but was changed to Paquet Lake on the recommendation of the U.S. Forest Service. BGN decision documents report that the USFS used the name One Lake for lake 11-381 and Paquet Lake for lake 11-385.
- 1968: *An Inventory of Minnesota Lakes*, Bulletin 25 of the Division of Waters, Soils, and Minerals, Minnesota Conservation Department, used the name One for lake 11-381 and Paquet for lake 11-385. It also listed Little Whitefish, Padgett, Paquet, and Pequet as variants for lake 11-381 and Padgett as a variant for lake 11-385.
- 1971: The BGN revised the decision for Paquet Lake to refer to lake 11-381 and approved the name Mud Lake in local use for lake 11-385. A statement from a USGS field mapper reported that:

I talked with approximately 20 persons about the name of this lake. Not a one of these persons had ever heard of the name of One Lake. All of the same persons were certain of the name and spelling of Poquet Lake. The name of Poquet came from an early settler in this area. He owned property along the West shore of this lake and his name was applied to the lake then and is extremely well known to this day. Poquet is the recommended name for this lake even though the Minn. Geographic Board has made a decision of One Lake, dated Dec. 2, 1940.

The spelling Paquet Lake was reaffirmed by the BGN despite this report, again based on input from the U.S. Forest Service.

- 1977: The Cass County, Minnesota Rural Resident Directory used the name One Lake for lake 11-381 and Paquet Lake for lake 11-385.
- 1985: The MN DNR Protected Waters Inventory (PWI) for Cass County used the name Paquet Lake for lake 11-381 and Mud Lake for lake 11-385.
- 1987: The Cass County, Minnesota Farm & Home Directory (and subsequent editions) used the name Paquet Lake for lake 11-381 and Mud Lake for lake 11-385.
- 2006: A MN DNR report titled “Aquatic Vegetation of Birch Lake (DOW 11-0412-00) Cass County, Minnesota” used the name Poquet Lake for lake 11-381.

All large-scale USGS maps of the area were published after the 1971 decisions. Most small-scale Army Map Service maps used the name One Lake for what is currently Paquet Lake; one revised edition showed the name Paquet Lake.

The MN DNR’s current recommendation to change Paquet Lake to Poquet Lake reports:

[i]t is unclear whether the Minnesota Board of Geographic Names ever formally renamed Public Water No. 11-381 “Paquet Lake.” Nonetheless, the name Paquet Lake was used by the DNR to refer to Public Water 11-381 when it adopted the PWI for Cass County in August, 1985. . . . Despite the decision of the USBGN, the local residents of Cass County continue to this day to refer to the Public Water No. 11-381 as “Poquet.””

Residents living near the lake petitioned the Cass County Board of Commissioners, and included a list of 20 local signatures, to change the name, because:

The name Poquet Lake has been in wide general usage by area residents for many years, so much so that road signage on the subject lake bears the names Poquet Drive NW and Poquet Trail NW. There is one remaining vacation resort on the lake dba [Doing Business As] Sievers Resort, which website lists the lake as Poquet Lake. . . . A related family-owned business on the same property goes by the name of Poquet Auto Sales, which sells golf carts. A family relation to that resort owner, in fact, named his Golden Valley, MN car dealership Poquet Auto, reportedly [*sic*] due to his favorable childhood memories of this lake.”

The MN DNR document also states that while Minnesota Statutes regarding geographic names preclude a county from changing the name of a waterbody that has been named for over 40 years, the DNR Commissioner can overrule the county and “determine the ‘correct and most appropriate name of lakes, and . . . give names for which no single, generally accepted name has been in use.’”

The Cass County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing and voted to support the proposed change. The MN DNR took this vote as evidence that “the County Board has determined that the renaming of Public Water No. 27-31 to Poquet Lake is in the public interest” even if the county does not have the legal authority to change the name.

GNIS does not include any features in Minnesota with “Poquet” in their names and no others named “Paquet.” In other areas of the U.S. with a history of French settlement or exploration, there are several features named “Paquette,” “Paquet,” and “Poquette.”

#### V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

##### Gable Lake, Florida (Review List 441)

[https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=30.43571&p\\_longi=-86.91826](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=30.43571&p_longi=-86.91826)

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Santa Rosa County Commissioners				X	
State Names Authority	Florida				X	
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes						X

This proposal is to make official the name Gable Lake for a 2.8-acre unnamed body of water on private property in Santa Rosa County. The proponent reports that the name is in local use and that it was applied sometime before 1994. The road leading to the lake is named Gable Lake Road. USGS maps first showed the feature on the 1970 1:24,000-scale topographic map. The reservoir is referred to as Gable Lake in various real estate listings online. A Wikipedia page for Gable Lake was created in 2019.

Santa Rosa County property records include deeds granting the property to Katherine Gabel (1909-1990) in 1984 and 1989 and to John Everett Gabel in 1993. The proponent was asked to address the inconsistency in the spelling, but did not offer any explanation, suggesting that perhaps the name “refer[red] to a local building built with gable style roofing.” The county government recognized that the name more likely referred to the Gabel family but stated that they would prefer that it be consistent with the existing road name.

##### Crayfish Creek, Georgia (Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area) (Review List 442)

Mouth: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=34.12399&p\\_longi=-84.09455](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=34.12399&p_longi=-84.09455)



Source: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=34.11763&p\\_longi=-84.08189](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=34.11763&p_longi=-84.08189)

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Gwinnett County Commissioners	X				
		X				
State Names Authority	Georgia	X				
Federal Agency	NPS	X				
Tribes						X

This proposal is to make official the name Crayfish Creek for a 1.2-mile-long tributary of the Chattahoochee River in Gwinnett County. Most of the stream is located in the City of Sugar Hill, and it also flows through private property within the authorized boundary of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (CHAT), administered by the National Park Service.

The proponent, a park ranger and hydrologist at CHAT, reports “the name has been regularly used by the NPS and partners for a restoration effort of a reach of the stream within the park.” The name has been used since 2017 and was applied during a survey of wadeable streams to determine their suitability for long-term monitoring. According to the proponent, the name Crayfish Creek refers to “the presence of a Chattahoochee Crayfish [*Cambarus howardi*] found during the survey. This species is uncommon in Georgia as it has a restricted range near the large and rapidly growing city of Atlanta.” A 2019 NPS report stated that the stream was “nicknamed ‘Crayfish Creek’ because of a large crayfish that was encountered during the [2017] survey.”

The Georgia State Names Authority has no objection to the proposed name, but notes that the colloquial local spelling and pronunciation of the name is “crawfish”.

### **Fiddlers Creek, Iowa**

(Review List 441)

Mouth: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=42.277412&p\\_longi=-95.122275](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.277412&p_longi=-95.122275)

Source: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=42.339458&p\\_longi=-95.209393](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.339458&p_longi=-95.209393)

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Sac County Board of Supervisors					X
State Names Authority	Iowa	X				
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes						X

The new name Fiddlers Creek is proposed for an eight-mile-long tributary of the Boyer River in Sac County. The stream heads in Richland Township, flows through Clinton Township, and into Levey Township.

The proponent reports that his grandfather Chauncey Fox (1870-1959) was a fiddler who would meet neighbors along the banks of the stream to play music. In a 1978 oral history recorded by the Iowa State Historical Society, the proponent's father reported that the stream was locally known as Fiddlers Creek and that it had been named for Mr. Fox.

A query of GNIS found one feature in Iowa with "Fiddler" in its name: a stream named Fiddler Creek 120 miles to the southeast.

**Manomet Brook, Massachusetts**

(Review List 442)

Mouth: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=41.916555&p\\_longi=-70.568222](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=41.916555&p_longi=-70.568222)

Source: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=41.917722&p\\_longi=-70.578833](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=41.917722&p_longi=-70.578833)

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Town of Plymouth Select Board	X				
	Plymouth County Commissioners	X				
State Names Authority	Massachusetts	X				
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes						X

The new name Manomet Brook is proposed for an unnamed 0.85-mile-long tributary of Beaver Dam Brook in the Town of Plymouth in Plymouth County. The stream is within the Town of Plymouth's Foothills Preserve and on land owned by the Massachusetts Audubon Society. The name is proposed by the Town of Plymouth's Natural Resources Warden.

The name refers to the nearby community of Manomet, which itself was the name of a Wampanoag village in the area. The name is also a reference to the "former Manomet River that was excavated to create the Cape Cod Canal." The canal was dug in the channels and connecting rivers that are recorded in GNIS as the Scusset River, flowing into Cape Cod Bay, and the Monument River flowing into Buzzards Bay. (The name Monument River was approved by the BGN in 1892; Manomet River is listed as one of its variant names.)

The proponent reports that a river and cranberry bog restoration project is currently underway to restore natural flow to the stream: "[T]he project, slated to be completed in late 2020, will result

in the Brook becoming more serpentine and naturally flowing, eliminating the arrow straight irrigation channels of its former layout.” A 2011 report from the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Office used the name West Beaver Dam Brook for the stream.

GNIS lists several other nearby features named “Manomet,” including the natural features Manomet Hill and Manomet Point and the communities of Manomet, Manomet Beach, Manomet Bluffs, and Manomet Heights.

**Black Walnut Creek**, Pennsylvania

(Review List 441)

Mouth: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=39.79898&p\\_longi=-75.94255](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=39.79898&p_longi=-75.94255)

Source: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=39.78978&p\\_longi=-75.96963](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=39.78978&p_longi=-75.96963)

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Oxford Borough	X				
	Lower Oxford Township Board of Supervisors	X				
	Chester County Commissioners	X				
State Names Authority	Pennsylvania				X	
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes						X

The new name Black Walnut Creek is proposed for an unnamed 1.9-mile-long tributary of West Fork Big Elk Creek in Lower Oxford Township and the Borough of Oxford in Chester County. The proponent owns land along the middle section of the stream. The name refers to the numerous black walnut trees (*Juglans nigra*) found along the stream.

A 2017 FEMA map used the name Tributary of Tributary 3 of West Fork Big Elk Creek for this stream and for a tributary of this stream, even though the stream flows directly into West Fork Big Elk Creek.

GNIS lists eight streams in Pennsylvania with “Walnut” in their names, including one in Chester County named Walnut Creek, approximately ten miles east of the stream in question. Black Walnut Creek in Wyoming County is located 125 miles to the north.