

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**  
**DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE**  
Eight Hundred and Thirty-fourth Meeting  
May 13, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.  
(Virtual Meeting)

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Marcus Allsup	Department of Defense (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency)
Meghan Barrett	Department of Homeland Security (Chair)
Sandy Day	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Thad Ellerbe	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Andrew Flora	Department of Commerce (Census Bureau)
Brenda-Anne C. Forrest	Government Publishing Office
Andrew Griffin	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
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)
Ron Salz	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
Mike Shelton	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
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  
Commissioner Rodney Ellis, Harris County, Texas  
Deb Nordeen, National Park Service  
Sergio Rodriguez, U.S. Geological Survey  
Foreign Names Committee staff  
National Geographic Society  
Observers

### 1. Opening

The chair opened Meeting 834 of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) at 9:30 a.m. and requested a roll call of the members.

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. (Please note the reports appended hereto may have been edited for length and/or clarity.)

### 2. Minutes of Meeting 833

The minutes of Meeting 833, held March 11, 2021, were approved.

### 3. Public Presentation: Offensive Names in Texas (Commissioner Rodney Ellis, Harris Co., Texas)

The chair asked that this item be postponed until Commissioner Ellis and his staff could join the meeting.

Following an overview of the reports under Agenda Item 4, Commissioner Ellis joined the meeting and thanked the members for the opportunity to address them.

Commissioner Ellis introduced himself and explained his role as the State Senator who in 1991 sponsored legislation to change the names of 19 geographic features in Texas that contained the word “Negro.” He noted that even though the legislation passed unanimously (or near unanimously) in both the Texas Senate and House and was signed into law by the Governor, “the process to get the names changed failed.”

Commissioner Ellis encouraged the BGN to approve the 17 [sic] changes included in the 1991 legislation. [In 2017, one of the changes was approved by the BGN following receipt of a proposal from a property developer. BGN staff also determined that two unincorporated populated places and one reservoir no longer exist, so the GNIS records were classified as “historical.” As such, these features are no longer on the list for consideration and will not be labeled on future Federal maps. The BGN will be asked at its June 2021 meeting to vote on the remaining 16 changes.]

Commissioner Ellis reminded the BGN that it was asked to approve the changes in the 1991 legislation, but in 1998 the BGN voted to retain the existing names citing evidence that local communities were not consulted. The commissioner stated that he presumed support from the Governor and State Senate and House would have been sufficient evidence of local support. He encouraged the BGN to look at the bigger picture of changing “names that marginalize oppressed communities” rather than focusing on the details of why a specific replacement was chosen or

whether the name was spelled correctly. He acknowledged that the BGN would find the historical record and facts to be important.

Commissioner Ellis asked the BGN to replace all names that include the word “Negro” when the existing name is determined to have been given with pejorative intent. He recommended that the BGN proactively contact local communities and encourage name changes. He believes change will not happen without bold Federal leadership and pointed to the Federal leadership that led to integration and civil rights legislation.

Commissioner Ellis characterized the BGN process as cumbersome, and said that, while local input is valuable, the BGN should reevaluate the process “to see how it holds up in the present day.”

Ellis stated that it only took the stroke of a pen in the 1960s for the Secretary of the Interior (DOI) to replace all instances of the “N-word” with “Negro.”

Barrett thanked Commissioner Ellis for his presentation and said that his insight and comments were very much appreciated.

Shelton also thanked the Commissioner for addressing the BGN, and stated his opinion that the overwhelming majority of the intended honorees are clearly worthy of commemoration. He noted, however, that the BGN’s Commemorative Names Policy requires that “[t]he person being honored should have had either some direct or long-term association with the feature, or have made a significant contribution to the area, community, or State in which it is located.” He asked Commissioner Ellis to confirm that the 1991 legislation constituted an official finding by the Texas Legislature that each of the individuals made contributions to the wider community or to the State. Commissioner Ellis agreed, and recounted the life of Henry Doyle, noting that Mr. Doyle had a connection to Harris County where the proposed Lake Henry Doyle is located. In particular, Shelton drew the Commissioner’s attention to the stream in San Jacinto County that is proposed to be renamed Kiamata Creek in honor of Kian (also known as Ki, Kiamatia, or Kiamata), an enslaved girl owned by one of the first English-speaking women to give birth to a child in Texas. Although she was not associated directly with San Jacinto County, Shelton said the legislation has deemed her an important figure in the history of Texas. Commissioner Ellis restated that he was not too concerned about the specific names or why they were selected, focusing instead on the fact that the names need to be changed.

Flora stated that the BGN’s thoughts and actions regarding offensive names have evolved since 1998. He believes the BGN has a more open-minded approach and may consider changing a name despite local reluctance. He asked Commissioner Ellis how he or other Texans might feel if the BGN or DOI, both of which are located outside Texas, were to suggest replacement names. Ellis described his efforts to rename Robert E. Lee Street in Austin and how different communities offered their opinions on what the new name should be. These communities didn’t always agree, but they all agreed the name should be changed. He believes that if a name is offensive to a

certain group, then the replacement should in some way be connected to that group. Further, he wondered why there is “such a complicated and slow process to honor someone from a marginalized group when the original name didn’t go through the same kind of review process.”

Wallace thanked Commissioner Ellis for his presentation and comments. She noted that the recently-held United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) session included a discussion on “Creating an Equal Society through Geographical Names,” so the issue of offensive names is not limited to the United States. She hopes that the BGN will move forward and vote on the pending proposals as quickly as possible.

Kanalley also thanked Commissioner Ellis and reiterated that the BGN takes this issue seriously. It has struggled with the conflicts between local input and national leadership, and she believes the time has come for stronger national leadership.

BGN members from Federal land management agencies expressed interest in sharing Commissioner Ellis’ comments with their agency leadership, who are also dealing with issues about names that include words generally considered to be offensive.

Commissioner Ellis concluded his remarks by thanking the BGN for the opportunity to address them and offered to provide a written statement for the record.

#### 4. Reports

[The following reports were distributed by email prior to the meeting. The reports appended hereto may have been edited for length or clarity.]

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

##### 4.1 BGN Chairman (Wallace)

See attached report.

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

There was no written report.

Palmer reported that the Second Session of the reorganized United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), held virtually May 3-7, 2021, went well, culminating in the presentation of a Strategic Plan and Program of Work, 2021 to 2029.

Several BGN members have expressed interest in the Foreign Names Committee's geographic names overview training course. Palmer will explore options for offering the course in the final quarter of FY21.

The next Foreign Names Committee meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, June 8.

#### 4.3 Special Committee on Communications (Lyon)

See attached report.

#### 4.4 Executive Secretary (Guempel)

See attached report.

#### 4.5 Staff (Runyon)

See attached report.

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

See attached report. McCormick invited members to contact her with any questions related to the upcoming migration of GNIS off the Oracle platform.

Wallace noted that some of the features classified in GNIS as "harbor" are natural features, and as such, should remain after the administrative names are removed from GNIS in the coming months ("harbor" is one of the categories slated to be removed). In order for the names to be shown on charts, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) requires that they be in GNIS. Wallace reported that she will pursue efforts to determine which harbor features could be reclassified as "bay" or "channel."

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

There was no report. The Special Committee has not met since the last DNC meeting, but will do so following this meeting.

### 5. 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 **Wolf Reservoir** (FID 60069) to **Bull-Galloway Reservoir**, Arkansas (Review List 442)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Change **Woodbridge Lake** (FID 212237) to **Woodridge Lake**, Connecticut (not review listed)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Change **Pikeville Branch** (FID 500621) to **Pikesville Branch**, Kentucky (Review List 440)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Change **Johnson Lake** (FID 629344) to **Lake Pork Chop**, Michigan (Review List 441)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Change **Sambo Island** (FID 1186891) to **Turtle Island**, Pennsylvania (Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area) (Review List 397)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

## II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

### **Groves Mountain**, Maine (Review List 442)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing the State Names Authority recommendation and a belief that the name does not satisfy the requirements of the Commemorative Names Policy.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

### **Alexander Run**, North Carolina (Review List 442)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing the lack of local support and a belief that the name does not satisfy the requirements of the Commemorative Names Policy.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

### **Feeder Creek**, Ohio (Review List 442)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing the lack of local support.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

### **Governor Snell Ridge**, Oregon (Fremont National Forest) (Review List 438)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing the negative recommendations of the State Names Authority and the U.S. Forest Service.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

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

**Marshalls Pond**, New Hampshire (Review List 441) (FID 2829919)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Bacoate Branch**, **Haith Branch**, and **Masters Branch**, North Carolina (Review List 442) (FIDs 2829915-2829917)

A motion was made and seconded to consider these as a group. The motion passed by affirmation. A motion was made and seconded to approve the names.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

IV. Revised Decisions

Change **Howey In The Hills** (BGN 1970) (FID 295002) to **Howey-in-the-Hills**, Florida (not review listed)

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

**Lake Heron**, Alabama (Review List 442) (FID 2829912)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions



**Defiance Rock**, Michigan (Review List 442) (FID 2829913)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Members discussed the characteristics of the feature and whether “Rock” is a suitable generic term. NOAA charts depict an underwater rise composed of rocky materials, which may have been formed by glacial activity. Ellerbe noted that local NOAA cartographers believe “Rock” is appropriate.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Bladderwort Bog, No-See-Um Brook, Skeeter Brook, Stonefly Bog, Stonefly Brook, Water Mite Brook**, New Hampshire (Review List 441) (FIDs 2829918, 2829920-2829924)

A motion was made and seconded to consider these as a group. The motion passed by affirmation. A motion was made and seconded to approve the names.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

One member left the meeting.

**Crystal Falls**, North Carolina (Review List 440) (FID 2829914)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 13 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Imperial Run**, Pennsylvania (Review List 442) (FID 2829925)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 13 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Arikara Creek**, South Dakota (Review List 442) (FID 2829926)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 13 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Tse Niz'oni-Stellar Arch**, Utah (Review List 442) (FID 2829927)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 13 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

6. Other Business

Guempel reported that efforts are ongoing to redesign the BGN website and he is hopeful it will conform to the BGN's expectations and requirements. He welcomes any input.

Barrett thanked the members for their participation in the recent strategic planning sessions.

7. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m. The chair thanked members for attending and contributing to the discussions.

The next Domestic Names Committee meeting is scheduled to be held virtually June 10, 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. The 2020 Annual Report is complete and was approved by the Full Board at the 281<sup>st</sup> meeting on April 20, 2021. The report will be provided to the Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland.
2. Last month, the DNC members met to have strategic discussions over several topics to prepare the DNC for the future and move the DNC forward.
3. The Foreign Names Committee held the 405<sup>th</sup> meeting on March 9, 2021 at 1:00 pm. I appreciate the effort of Mr. Palmer in presenting the updates on critical issues and policy discussions. Also, for the Staff's continued effort on presenting information reports and recommendations. The next meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2021 at 1:00 pm.
4. The 356<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Undersea Features met on April 8, 2021 at 1:00 pm. The Full Board approved their proposed names.
5. The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names meeting met last week: May 3 – 7, 2021.
  - a. Brooke Marston and Trent Palmer were the lead delegates. As Chair, I was invited as a delegate. Thanks to any of the members who tuned in virtually.
  - b. As BGN Chair, I participated in a side event "Creating an Equal Society through Geographical Names" and discussed derogatory geographical names as part of a panel discussion.
6. BGN/PCGN Meeting – plans for an informal virtual meeting in September 2021.

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

### **Special Committee on Communications Report**

- The 2020 Annual Report is complete and has been distributed to BGN members. It was approved by the BGN full board at its meeting on 20 April 2021. The SCC acknowledges the hard work of BC Forrest in production of the 2020 Annual Report, and thanks committee chairs and staff for their contributions.
- Chair Lyon and Monique VanLandingham, currently detailed to BGN Staff, continue to work on revisions to the BGN informational brochures.
- SCC is still seeking additional members, and will require a new chair for FY2022. Please contact Chair Lyon if interested.

### **Executive Secretary Report**

1. Thank you everyone for their participation in the strategic planning meetings. I look forward to continuing to work with the Chair(s) to further flush out tasks and priorities.

2. Update on the Geographic Names Information System's focus this FY to get off the Oracle platform. This affects things like the public search interface and the internal tool interfaces that GNIS staff use to do their daily work. The new look and feel is scheduled to be complete around the end of the FY.
3. Revamping the DNC online proposal form and proposal management workflow contract began in April. We are meeting with the contractor now to verify requirements and reviewed an early proposal prototype. Work is scheduled to complete in December.
4. Creating a new Antarctica proposal form, working with the Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names. A draft form is complete and going through a round of review and edits by the ACAN members.
5. Moving our website files onto a USGS FGDC server environment in preparation for the new BGN.gov domain. Will be asking for your thoughts and requirements on the design of a new website.
6. On the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (COGNA) front, we are continuing meetings with several State Names Authorities to discuss reorganizing and reenergizing this valuable group.

### **Staff Report**

This report covers the period since Meeting 833 (March 11).

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.

Quarterly Review List 443, comprising 77 new proposals (new names and changes) was released on April 5. Email notices to interested parties and Tribal governments were sent on April 9. For each name on the list, the proposal and the results of staff research have been forwarded to local governments, State Names Authorities, and Federal agencies having an interest, with a request for their recommendations.

The Department of the Interior Office of Communications is aware of increased media interest in the BGN's activities, most notably the issue of changing offensive names. The BGN is hopeful that a representative from the USGS Office of Communications can become involved in DNC meetings.

The BGN FY20 Annual Report has been posted at the [BGN website](#).

## **Meetings and Presentations**

Staff attended Meeting 356 of the BGN Advisory Committee on Undersea Features, held virtually on April 8.

Presentations on the BGN and its policies and procedures were given by the staff to the March 11 meeting of the California Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (CalTHPO), and on March 19 to the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN). On March 30, Kanalley and Runyon presented on the BGN and Policy X: Tribal Geographic Names at the Forest Service-Tribal To Bridge a Gap conference.

Staff participated in two Strategic Planning (“offsite”) meetings, hosted by the DNC chair on April 8 and April 22.

Staff attended the BGN Full Board Quarterly Meeting 281, held virtually on April 20.

Staff observed a virtual presentation on Mapping Indigenous Names on April 13. One of the attendees noted in the meeting chat that the BGN will accept native names to be added to GNIS, either as official or variant names.

Staff observed the Second Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, held virtually May 3-7. The importance of collecting names from native cultures was a focus throughout the session.

Staff attended the USGS-Census Bureau Management Oversight Group meeting held virtually May 6. The agenda included an update on the approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two agencies regarding the maintenance of geographic entities in GNIS.

## **Items of Current Interest**

An article, [Racist Slurs in Place-Names Have to Go, Say Geoscientists - Eos](#), was published on March 19, with the subtitle “An open letter from geoscientists supports a bill to remove racist slurs from federally recognized lakes, creeks, canyons, and other small landforms.” The article generated interest within the USGS Director’s Office, which resulted in the National Geospatial Director being asked to provide a short briefing on the BGN to the new Assistant Secretary for Water and Science. The staff provided background material for the briefing.

The Director of Wilderness Policy at The Wilderness Society contacted the BGN staff, National Geospatial Program leadership, and the Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Water and Science to discuss offensive names on Federal maps and how to address the issue in an efficient and timely manner. He inquired about the possibility of “universal changes” to specific

words. He also indicated he would contact the Secretary of the Interior to discuss her interest and to encourage her to work with the BGN to establish a committee to address the matter.

Staff received an inquiry from NOAA's Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center regarding the process for "changing place names for water bodies in our forecast region that are derogatory and offensive." The inquirer asked if there is a statewide group that is working specifically on this issue in Alaska; NOAA's deputy member on the BGN responded that there is not but that anyone is welcome to submit a proposal to the BGN.

A member of the Navajo (Diné) Nation inquired about the status of seven "Squaw" name changes that have been pending since 2014. The features are in Maricopa County and Yavapai County, Arizona. The original proposals were to change the names to "Maiden," but after it was learned that local Tribes would prefer names from their languages, those proposals were withdrawn. Counterproposals were submitted with names from the Yavapai Apache language, but other Tribes did not support those names (no other names were submitted). The U.S. Forest Service Regional Office has been attempting to coordinate between conflicting Tribal recommendations in an effort to reach a solution that is satisfactory to all parties. The Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names (ASBGHN) recommends disapproval of all the names until "agreement" can be found. The inquirer asked how long the BGN is willing to wait before making a decision. She recommends that the BGN approve the names that have been submitted, noting that they "would bring honor to Native Americans and awareness of the ancestral Native tribes that have occupied the lands historically."

Staff responded to an inquiry from a non-profit organization that is working with Tribal communities to change multiple names in the Organ Mountains Monument (Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico). The inquiry noted "[The names] are offensive to Native Americans and we are already in the process of consulting them in the renaming of places."

### **State Names Authority and State Partner Activities**

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska and a number of individuals have requested background information on past BGN decisions. Because the material (PDF documents) is no longer available at the public GNIS page, due to privacy concerns, the staff must download them from the GNIS maintenance page and provide them to the inquirer.

After being on hiatus since the end of 2020, the ASBGHN was re-established through legislation signed by the Governor, effective April 7, 2021. The number of public appointee members has been increased from two to three, and at least one must be an "enrolled member of a recognized Tribe or Indian community located in Arizona." The ASBGHN has not yet scheduled its next meeting.

Staff attended the May 7 meeting of the CACGN, at which the list of pending proposals was reviewed. For the benefit of the new members and advisors, the chair of the CACGN provided an overview of the proposal process, and a decision was made on one name on the list. The rest were deferred pending a need for more outreach, primarily within the State's Black and Tribal communities. Each of the more recent proposals was assigned to a specific CACGN member for review.

One of the issues pending before the CACGN involves changes to several "Squaw" names in Plumas County and Sierra County. Proposals to change the names to words from the Washoe language were submitted in 2014 but are still pending, citing evidence that another Tribe in the area has an interest in the matter. A few days prior to the CACGN meeting, a letter was received from the Greenville Indian Rancheria, requesting that Maidu names be considered, in some cases instead of the previously proposed names, and in others, in addition to the Washoe names. The Forest Service regional geographic names coordinator is hoping to obtain additional clarification before the BGN responds to the request.

An attorney for the City of Port Hueneme, California inquired about the process for renaming the city to City of Hueneme Beach; he was advised that the names of incorporated communities, as well as those of related administrative features, fall outside the purview of the BGN.

On April 6, Runyon met with the staff of the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board (CGNAB) to review the list of pending (22) Colorado cases and to discuss a strategy for addressing the backlog. On April 19, Runyon attended the virtual meeting of the CGNAB, at which they reviewed two of the pending names; it was determined that more outreach is needed.

On April 18, a group calling itself the Mestaa'éhehe Coalition held a listening session to hear the perspectives of several Tribal members regarding efforts to rename Mount Evans, specifically why they believe the current name is offensive to Tribal people.

The new quarterly review list includes a proposal to change the "designation" of the name Mount Evans, which several individuals and organizations believe should be renamed. This proposal would retain the existing name but would have it honor instead Anne Evans, the daughter of Governor John Evans.

On April 15, the DeKalb County (GA) Board of Ethics held a hearing to address the county's input to the proposal to apply the name Druid Hill to a feature (the proposal was not approved by the BGN in 2019). Staff provided background material from the case file.

Runyon attended the virtual meeting of the Hawaii Board on Geographic Names on April 6. The members reviewed a number of place names on the island of Hawai'i, primarily for the addition of Hawaiian writing marks to existing names in GNIS.

[S. 567](#) has been introduced into the 117th Congress, designating the name Maude Frazier Mountain for the highest peak on Frenchman Mountain in Clark County, Nevada.

A resident of Jefferson County, New York, inquired about the possibility of applying the new name R Goldens Isle to a privately owned island in the Thousand Islands area of the Saint Lawrence River. The name would recognize her golden retriever dogs who like to swim in the waters off the island. She was informed that the proposal would not satisfy the criteria of the BGN's Animal Names Policy.

The proposal to rename Jim Crow Sands, a sand bar in the Columbia River in Clatsop County, Oregon, to Pillar Rock Sands (Review List 439) has been closed after it was determined by staff and NOAA that the feature no longer exists. The GNIS entry has been updated to indicate the feature is "historical." As such, the BGN does not need to render a decision on a name change, and the feature will no longer be mapped or charted.

The proposal for South Harney Lake Hot Spring (Review List 433) was withdrawn by the proponent after a local Tribe expressed concerns that adding a new "Harney" name would likely not be supported (South Harney Lake and Harney County are named for General William Harney). After the Tribe failed to submit an alternate name, the Oregon Geographic Names Board initiated a new proposal for Pronghorn Hot Springs, which will be added to the next Quarterly Review List.

Staff was contacted by the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians (Coos Bay, Oregon) regarding the addition of native names to GNIS and how local roads might be renamed.

The proposal for Smelter Hill (Review List 442), a new name for a hill on the campus of South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, has been withdrawn. The proponent will defer to the school administration to develop its own proposal.

At the February DNC meeting, the staff provided an overview of the effort to change the names of 16 geographic features in Texas that include the word "Negro." These proposals are included on the most recent Quarterly Review List and will be presented to the DNC for a vote at its June 10 meeting. Commissioner Rodney Ellis (Harris County, Texas) will speak to the DNC at its May 13 meeting, to share his concerns with the existing names and to discuss ongoing efforts to change other names considered offensive.

On April 20, 2021, the Texas State Senate passed [Senate Concurrent Resolution 29](#), "[urging] the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to approve requests to change racially offensive place names in accordance with Texas H.B. 1756."

Runyon and O'Donnell attended the virtual meeting of the Utah Geographic Names Committee on May 6. A number of proposals were addressed and decisions were made on two names. There has



been limited progress on the effort to rename four geographic features in Duchesne County that include the word “Squaw,” or on the Statewide effort to address names considered offensive.

### **News and Media Coverage**

Following the DNC’s approval in March of the change from Squaw Tits to Isanaklesh Peaks, for a feature in Maricopa County, Arizona, an [article](#) appeared in The Navajo Times.

An article appeared in Colorado Politics on April 20, entitled [Geographic naming board finds out renaming isn't as easy as it looks](#).

On March 26, SkyHiNews (Colorado) published an [article](#), “Summit locals discuss the idea of changing Gore Range’s name as state board begins processing backlog: End of year would be soonest board will decide on proposed Nuchu Range name change.”

An article noted that the name of the State of Hawaii is the subject of a television show: ['NCIS: Hawaii' Just Changed Its Name \(popculture.com\)](#).

On March 29, the Associated Press published an article, [Kansas county mulls changing creek’s racially loaded name \(nbcnews.com\)](#).

Runyon was interviewed, and on May 4, an article appeared in the Ellsworth American /MD Islander (Hancock County, Maine): [Castine to consider Negro Island name change - The Ellsworth American](#). On May 8, the Town Board met and a [motion was passed](#) to form a committee to address the issue and to vote on replacement names in November.

In Minnesota, an article appeared in the Brainerd Dispatch reporting [Breezy residents cite negative association in request to rename Rat Lake](#).

A reporter with the Houston branch of the news agency AFP (Agence France Presse) contacted the staff to discuss the (re)naming process, focusing specifically on the geographic feature in Harris County, Texas that is currently named Negrohead Lake. The [article](#) was published on May 7.

There is increased interest in the State of Washington regarding efforts to change the name of Mount Rainier. Media coverage includes [KIRO-TV News](#) and the [Tacoma Daily Index](#). Local Tribal groups maintain that the mountain is known in the Native language Twulshootseed as təqʷuʔməʔ, pronounced “Taquoma.”

### **Misc. Staff Activities**

Monique Vanlandingham, on a 120-day detail from the National Park Service to the BGN, continues to work with the staff to review and improve the BGN’s outreach and communication efforts. She

has compiled a list of events that might be appropriate for BGN participation and is focusing currently on a possible revision of the informational “tri-fold” brochures.

Runyon and McCormick participated in a phone meeting with a representative of the Polar Geospatial Center (University of Minnesota) regarding the improvement of geographic coordinates for Antarctic features in the GNIS. PGC has approximately 11,000 corrections ready to be submitted and the discussion focused on the technical aspects of the data transfer, as well as how the updates should be submitted to the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica.

The USGS staff continues to meet with Esri developers to redesign the BGN’s online proposal form and to develop a more robust proposal tracking system.

The BGN’s archived material (case files, decision cards, place name books, maps, etc.) will be relocated from the basement of the USGS building to the 2nd floor, in part to be closer to the offices of the BGN staff. This will involve the preparation of an inventory of the collection. The move is expected to take place in early FY22.

### **GNIS Report**

As the BGN is aware, GNIS will be undergoing some major updates. The new GNIS will consist of updated Domestic and Antarctic public and internal applications and a public Cells application. The public application will give users the option to search the Domestic, Antarctica, or Cells data and will appear to be map-centric where the user will search and see the location on the map. Many of the same functions will continue to be available but with an updated interface.

The tentative database implementation date is June 30. The database will be moved to PostgreSQL from Oracle and at that point, the current GNIS Oracle Apex forms will no longer work because the current forms are incompatible with the new database. Testing and documentation is ongoing, and we hope to minimize any down time, but we expect there will be some. We just don’t know the exact date of the move and how much down time we will experience. We may be able to adjust the date beyond June 30 and we will provide more information when we know more.

GNIS staff has also been doing data cleanup ahead of the planned move in removing interchanges and exits from Crossing as well as assigning proper codes to Archaeological Sites/Ruins in the Locale category. We have also removed corrupted data from user queues. We are working with database developers to include Antarctica into the main database model. Administrative features will also be archived and provided as a text file containing all information about the records being removed. We are keeping the Civil, Census, and Military categories based on the agreements we have with Census, GSA, and OPM. GNIS staff and landform collection staff will be testing and documenting the new application at the expense of production so we will be reducing landform collection and GNIS maintenance.

The website will also undergo some minor changes related to the Minutes and Review List pages because Oracle Apex is used to format the lists. The proposal applications for the Domestic and Antarctic will be removed before August 30 and will eventually be replaced by an updated system for proposal submission and tracking. As an interim solution BGN staff is creating updated forms that can be used if the Apex applications need to be removed prior to the new proposal and tracking application goes live.

The process for creating the text files for bi-monthly delivery is also being updated. We will continue to deliver the text files and we will also be delivering new files in geodatabase format for GIS users. Users will obtain the files from ScienceBase rather than the BGN's website.

### **DOCKET May 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 **Wolf Reservoir** (FID 60069) to **Bull-Galloway Reservoir**, Arkansas  
(Review List 442)

[https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p\\_lat=34.5851386&p\\_longi=-91.5283831&fid=60069](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=34.5851386&p_longi=-91.5283831&fid=60069)

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Prairie County Judge	X				
State Names Authority	Arkansas			X		
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes						X
Other	State Representative David Hillman	X				
	2 neighboring landowners	X				

This proposal is to change the name of **Wolf Reservoir**, a 325-acre reservoir in Prairie County, to **Bull-Galloway Reservoir** to recognize long-term local use and the names of early property owners. The new name would honor Herbert Bull (1909-1957), who purchased the property in 1942 and built the reservoir; his daughter Mary Carolyn Bull (1934-2015); and her husband Robert (Bob)

Galloway (1926-2014). Mr. Bull farmed rice on the property, which is still owned by the Galloway family. The Arkansas State GIS office shows the parcel owner as Bull-Galloway Farms, LLC, established in 2016. The proponent reports that no products are sold under that name.

The reservoir was first labeled, although unnamed, on USGS topographic maps in 2011. The entry in GNIS for Wolf Reservoir was compiled from a 1981 county map and was possibly named for the Wolf family listed in the Stuttgart area from the early 20th century. H. Wolf was recorded in the 1900 Federal Census as a renter in the county. The proponent provided a list of property tax payers from 1900 to 1919, which did not include any mentions of a Wolf family.

Change Woodbridge Lake (FID 212237) to Woodridge Lake, Connecticut  
(not review listed)

[https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p\\_lat=41.8051388&p\\_longi=-73.2506672&fid=212237](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=41.8051388&p_longi=-73.2506672&fid=212237)

This proposal is to change the name of Woodbridge Lake, a 378-acre reservoir in the Town of Goshen in Litchfield County to Woodridge Lake. An individual who lives near the reservoir proposed the change based on local use of the name Woodridge Lake “without exception.”

The reservoir was first mapped on the 1969 edition of the 1956 USGS topographic map and labeled as Woodbridge Lake. This is presumed to have been a typographic error.

Because the change is considered a typographical error (staff processed correction), the case was not review listed. The Goshen Town Clerk confirmed by phone that the name should be “Woodridge,” while the Connecticut State Names Authority was given two opportunities to object; no response was received.

Change Pikeville Branch (FID 500621) to Pikesville Branch, Kentucky  
(Review List 440)

[https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p\\_lat=36.7234066&p\\_longi=-85.889225&fid=500621](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=36.7234066&p_longi=-85.889225&fid=500621)

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Prairie County Judge					X
State Names Authority	Kentucky	X				
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes						X

This proposal is to change the name of Pikeville Branch, a 2.4-mile-long tributary of Indian Creek in Monroe County, to Pikesville Branch. The proponent reports that the stream was named in association with the nearby community of Pikesville, which was incorporated in 1818 but which over time ceased to exist, with just a few scattered buildings remaining.

The stream was labeled Pikesville Branch on USGS topographic maps in 1931 and 1945; however, when the first large-scale map was published in 1955, the name was changed to Pikeville Branch. No reason has been found for the change, nor is there any evidence that the BGN was involved. The 1992 Monroe County highway map labeled the stream Pikesville Branch, while the most recent Kentucky Transportation Cabinet GIS dataset labels it Pikeville Branch.

An 1865 map of the county posted at the proponent's website labeled the community Pikeville, and Old Pikeville Road runs nearby. Collins' *History of Kentucky* (1874) recorded PikeV[ille] as a place name in Monroe County, and an 1889 account entitled *Historical Sketches of Monroe County* refers to the former community of Pikeville.

In 2014, the proponent published a book titled "Old Pikesville days, 1818-2018 : a companion miscellanea to a forgotten town remembered: Pikesville of Monroe County, Kentucky." He notes that two schools operated under the name Pikesville School from 1855 until 1951; the school is labeled as such on the 1931 topographic map and on the 1962 county highway map. Old Pikesville Cemetery is also located in the vicinity of the stream.

Change **Johnson Lake** (FID 629344) to **Lake Pork Chop**, Michigan  
(Review List 441)

[https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p\\_lat=46.3151759&p\\_longi=-87.7846024&fid=629344](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=46.3151759&p_longi=-87.7846024&fid=629344)

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Ely Township Board of Trustees	X				
	Marquette County Board of Commissioners	X				
State Names Authority	Michigan				X	
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes						X
Other	Michigan North Woods Club <sup>2</sup>	X				
	2 neighboring landowners*	X				

\* Reported by proponent

This proposal is to change the name of Johnson Lake, a 20-acre lake in Ely Township and Escanaba River State Forest in Marquette County, to Lake Pork Chop. The proponent presumes the current name refers to a previous property owner but states that no locals use the name today. The proposed name refers to a local road intersection that resembles the shape of a pork chop and is known as Pork Chop Junction. Changing the name of the lake would also reduce duplication since there are currently three lakes in the county named Johnson Lake and ten others throughout Michigan. The two in the same county are 5 miles and 17 miles from the lake in question.

The land surrounding the lake is owned by the proponent, two other individuals, and the Michigan North Woods Club. All parties reportedly agree on the change to Lake Pork Chop.

Change **Sambo Island** (FID 1186891) to **Turtle Island**, Pennsylvania  
(Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area)  
(Review List 397)

[https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p\\_lat=41.0870403&p\\_longi=-74.9701725&fid=1186891](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=41.0870403&p_longi=-74.9701725&fid=1186891)

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Middle Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors	X				
	Monroe County Commissioners	X				
State Names Authority	Pennsylvania				X	
Federal Agency	NPS*	X				
Tribes	N/A**					

\* *Proponent*

\*\* *No Tribes had a listed interest in Monroe County in database used under prior Policy X*

This proposal is to change the name of Sambo Island, a small island located along the Delaware River in Monroe County, to Turtle Island. The island is within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA), and the proposal was submitted by a former DEWA superintendent in response to a request for comments on another proposal that the BGN had received to rename Sambo Creek, Lower Dam Sambo Creek, and Sambo Creek Lower Reservoir, all located to the southwest and outside the recreation area. The proponent of the latter three changes believes the word “Sambo” is derogatory. She suggested the island’s name should also be changed, but wished to defer to the National Park Service (NPS) to propose a replacement. The name Turtle Island was chosen in recognition of DEWA’s efforts to preserve the environment of several species of turtle found in the vicinity of the island (according to the proponent, “we moved a beach location in order to protect one population”).

An article published in 2015 in *The Pocono Record* erroneously stated, “In 2008, at the request of the U.S. Board of Geographic Names, Sambo Creek was renamed Reservoir Run and Sambo Island was renamed Turtle Island.” The article also reported that the name Sambo Creek first appeared in a land sale in 1806 and “the creek took its name from Chief Sambo, who along with his small, friendly band of wandering Indians camped on the nearby meadow, accepting food from the local families.” Referring to the island, the article continues, “In nearby Walpack, New Jersey, about 24 miles from Stroudsburg, was an estate where a slave named Sambo lived.”

Several websites that aggregate campsite information refer to a facility in DEWA “downstream of Turtle Island, formerly called ‘Sambo Island.’” This statement appeared for some time on a recreation.gov website but has since been removed.

An NPS river and campsite map labels “Sambo Island (PA) & Rapids (Class I).” Other online sources refer to the rapids here as “Sambo Rift”, “Sambo and Mary Rift” (a name that dates back to at least 1885), or “Mary and Sambo Rift.” These sources suggest the names are used by canoers and kayakers on the Delaware River.

The proposals to change the aforementioned stream names are still pending, after the proponent requested more time to select appropriate replacements (there was a lack of local support for the original proposals). A local historian also contacted the BGN to suggest that the features may have been named for an American Indian named Chief Sambo; he indicated he would conduct more research and solicit local opinion.

The NPS has asked that the BGN proceed with the proposal to rename Sambo Island. In 2008, a Monroe County Commissioner responded that the proposed changes were “carrying political correctness a bit too far” and did not support the proposals. At the time, the Middle Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors supported the changes. The Pennsylvania Geographic Names Committee (PGNC) did not provide a formal recommendation when the proposals were first received, or over the subsequent years, but now states it has no objection to renaming the island. The BGN staff informed the Monroe County Commissioners that the BGN would vote on the proposal based on their 2008 input unless they responded otherwise. The commissioners now support the change.

There are two additional features, a stream and a lake, on the opposite side of the Delaware River and within Warren County, New Jersey, named Sambo Island Brook and Sambo Island Lake, respectively. The staff at DEWA are reviewing historical records and will submit proposals to change those names in the near future.

## II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

### Groves Mountain, Maine

(Review List 442)

[https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=45.45172&p\\_longi=-70.22132](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=45.45172&p_longi=-70.22132)

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

The new name Groves Mountain is proposed for a 2,151-foot summit in Upper Enchanted Township (unincorporated) in the Unorganized Territory of Northwest Somerset in Somerset County.

The name would commemorate the proponent's grandfather, Linwood Groves (1901-1966), who the proponent describes as "an accomplished photographer of professional caliber. . . . He and some fellow outdoorsmen made the trek into the Enchanted Pond region several times in the middle of the 20th century. They would have camped at the foot of the proposed Groves Mountain." The proponent reports that Mr. Groves was a resident of Bath, Maine, and that he worked as "security detail at the renown [sic] shipbuilder of naval warships, Bath Iron Works in Bath, Maine in the 1950s and 1960s [sic]." Bath is located approximately 145 miles from the summit in question. Census records show that in 1930 Mr. Groves was employed as a cook in North Andover, in 1934 as a salesman in Lawrence, and 1940 as a chef in Lexington. All of these locations are in Massachusetts.

The Maine State Names Authority does not recommend approval of the name, citing a lack of direct or long-term association between the honoree and the feature.

**Alexander Run**, North Carolina  
(Review List 442)

Mouth: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=35.77018&p\\_longi=-78.72837](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=35.77018&p_longi=-78.72837)

Source: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=35.78673&p\\_longi=-78.73929](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=35.78673&p_longi=-78.73929)

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Raleigh City Council		X			
	Wake County Board of Commissioners		X			
State Names Authority	North Carolina		X*			
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes						X

\* *Citing the city and county recommendations*

The new name Alexander Run is proposed for a 1.4-mile-long tributary of Walnut Creek in the City of Raleigh in Wake County. A portion of the stream also flows through parcels of Wake County open space.

The proposed name would commemorate Nathaniel Alexander (1756-1808), Governor of North Carolina, 1803-1805, who was noted for being a champion of children's education and creator of better inland navigation. The proponent states, "My family and I live nearby and cross the stream



daily, like to sight-see along it and go fishing in the adjoining Walnut Creek.” He adds that his decision to propose the name was inspired by the loss of his son Alexander (d. 2015), and that “People in our neighborhood and local church will vouch for him [his son] and welcome the naming. He could symbolically run free forever with the stream name of ‘Alexander Run.’” When asked for additional biographical details, the proponent indicated that designating Governor Alexander as the honoree “would befit the Governor’s legacy, the children he valued as a proponent of education, as well as our late son who unfortunately didn’t have the chance to receive an education.”

Neither the Raleigh City Council nor the Wake County Board of Commissioners support the proposal. The response from the Raleigh City Council stated (the Wake County response was similar):

- “The proposal does not include supporting information that demonstrates that either individual proposed as being commemorated by the stream naming has had either some direct or long-term association with the feature, or has made a significant contribution to the area, community, or State in which it is located; therefore, the proposal is inconsistent with BGN policy guidance to support this type of request.”
- “The proposal does not include supporting information that demonstrates that there is significant local support for the naming, either in the form of a petition, supporting letters, or other evidence; therefore, the proposal is inconsistent with BGN policy guidance to support this type of request.”
- “Governor Nathaniel Alexander, who is proposed as one honoree of the proposed stream name, has been found to have had associations and a history (a slave-owner and a soldier with possible interactions with local Cherokees during a period of land-takings) that may be offensive to some residents; therefore the City of Raleigh has concerns with the impacts that such a renaming could have on our community.”

GNIS does not list any nearby features named “Alexander.” There are no streams in the immediate area with “Run” as the generic, but there are many elsewhere in North Carolina.

**Feeder Creek, Ohio**  
(Review List 442)

Mouth: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=41.223534&p\\_longi=-81.303169](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=41.223534&p_longi=-81.303169)

Source: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=41.226269&p\\_longi=-81.295191](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=41.226269&p_longi=-81.295191)

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Streetsboro City Council		X			
	Shalersville Township Trustees		X			

	Portage County Board of Commissioners				X	
State Names Authority	Ohio		X			
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes						X
Other	Akron Watershed Division		X			
	Ohio Scenic Rivers Program					X

The new name Feeder Creek is proposed for a 0.6-mile-long tributary of the Cuyahoga River in Portage County. The stream heads in Shalersville Township and flows into the City of Streetsboro. The lower part of the stream is within land around Lake Rockwell owned by the City of Akron as part of its water supply.

The name refers to a former feeder canal or ditch that supplied water to the Pennsylvania and Ohio Canal (P&O Canal) to the south. Feeder canals were frequently used to supply water to larger canals. The hydrology of the area has been significantly altered by the construction of several newer canals and by recent gravel mining, and the stream is not shown on USGS maps or recorded in the National Hydrography Dataset. The stream heads along the former P&O Canal (feeder canal). This 10-mile-long canal was known as Feederdam Canal or Feeder Dam Canal and started at a historical community named Feederdam, where a dam was constructed across the Cuyahoga River. (GNIS records the name of the unincorporated community as Freedom Dam, citing Dr. H.F. Raup's Ohio Place Names Research File.)

The proponent reports that locals have installed a sign near the head of the stream that reads "Feederdam Canal 1840-69." She owns land on the north side of the stream near its source.

A 1906 USGS map shows a stream flowing into the Cuyahoga River at the location of the stream, with no canals in the immediate area. Later maps only show a wetland area to the west of a mapped canal, the remnants of the aforementioned P&O Canal feeder canal. The 1915 *Archeological Atlas of Ohio* also shows part of the stream. Portage County aerial imagery shows that water flowed in the stream after the construction of a reservoir near the head of the stream.

GNIS lists a canal in Portage County named Feeder Canal, although it is unclear if this name is in local use as a proper feature name or just a descriptive name. The canal seems to have also supplied water to the P&O Canal and connects Sandy Lake, 7.5 miles south of the stream, with Potter Creek about 12 miles south of the stream. Many features are recorded in GNIS throughout the country with a generic term of "Feeder Canal," "Feeder Ditch," or "Feeder Drain."

The Akron Watershed Division replied "We do not agree with the name Feeder Creek for this waterway. Feeder Creek is a generic/descriptive term that was historically used when the canal

system was in operation in this area for any unnamed creek or stream that fed into the canal. In our opinion, it would be like calling an unnamed road way ‘County Road’. While we would like to see this creek named, as named waterways help with promoting local watershed stewardship, we do not want to see this creek named something so generic.”

The Streetsboro City Council agrees with the Akron Watershed Division and noted that the proposed name was “ambiguous” and that “a feeder creek or feeder river was a very common thing . . . the name could become very confusing because most creeks [flowing into the former canal] were feeder creeks.” The Council is opposed to the proposed name, not to officially naming the stream. The Shalersville Township Trustees did not explain their opposition. The Ohio State Names Authority concurs with the local authorities.

**Governor Snell Ridge**, Oregon  
(Fremont National Forest)  
(Review List 438)

[https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=42.06877&p\\_longi=-120.778322](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.06877&p_longi=-120.778322)

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Lake County Board of Commissioners	X				
State Names Authority	Oregon		X			
Federal Agency	U.S. Forest Service		X			
Tribes						X
Other	Honoree’s relatives	X				

This proposal is to apply the new name Governor Snell Ridge to a 0.5-mile-long ridge with an elevation of 5,977 feet in Fremont National Forest in Lake County.

According to the proposal, “On October 28th, 1947, [Governor Earl W. Snell](#) and his party, including the Secretary of State, Robert Farrell, and the President of the Oregon Senate, Marshall Cornett, as well as the pilot Cliff Hogue, [died](#) when their plane, a 1945-built Beechcraft Bonanza, struck this ridge. They were out for a one-day goose-hunting trip at the Warner Valley ranch of Snell’s friend Oscar Kittredge. Bad weather and a low cloud ceiling apparently caused Hogue, an experienced pilot, to misjudge safe altitude, and the plane smashed into a remote mountain on the Fremont National Forest.”

From an online biography, “Earl Wilcox Snell was born in Olex, Oregon on July 11, 1895 and completed his education at Oregon Institute of Technology in Portland. He served in WWI and entered state politics as a Republican in 1927. After tenures as speaker of the Oregon House and as Secretary of State between 1933 and 1942, Snell was elected governor.”

In 2018, the Governor Earl W. Snell Aircraft Crash Site was added to the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination form described the site as “located in dense timber, not visible from the nearby road, but the location is known to the local community. In 1995 the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) installed a commemorative metal plaque at the site.” It was determined that the site had Statewide significance, “in part because the shock of the dramatic loss of Oregon’s top political leaders – a loss stemming from the personal desire and decision of the three individuals to enjoy a day of goose hunting – led to prohibition of such figures from traveling in the same airplane in the future. Of more substance, the site is significant as a tangible reminder of the loss of these three political leaders at a critical time in Oregon history.”

Snell Lake, Cornett Lake, and Farrell Lake in Klamath County and within the Deschutes National Forest, were named by the BGN in 1966 for three of the four crash victims; these names were proposed by the Oregon State Game Commission and supported by the Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB) and the USFS. These small lakes are located approximately 118 miles from the unnamed summit. Earl Snell Memorial Park is located in the City of Arlington in Gilliam County, and his birthplace in the same county is designated a historical monument.

Although the name Governor’s Ridge has been in local use for some time, including by the USFS, and that is the name originally proposed and supported by the USFS, the Snell family later requested that it be amended to Governor Snell Ridge.

The OGNB does not recommend approval, citing several points:

- that the BGN’s *Principles, Policies, and Procedures* states that “A person’s death on or at a feature, such as in a mountaineering accident or automobile or plane crash, does not necessarily meet the ‘direct association’ criterion” of the Commemorative Names Policy.
- that “several people died in the aircraft accident, not just Governor Snell, and attaching just one person’s name to the ridge tells an incomplete story”.
- “In reviewing Governor Snell’s history, the [OGNB] discussed his controversial record as an avid supporter of the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II and his sponsorship of State law, which would have restricted the rights of both Japanese American citizens and Japanese nationals. Given the history and current climate of race relations in the United States, the [OGNB] reasoned that a commemorative geographic name containing the surname ‘Snell’ and honoring Governor Snell would be inappropriate. The aircraft crash site near the subject ridge has been added to the National Register of Historic Places with the official title ‘Governor’s Ridge Crash Site.’ The name ‘Snell’ is not included, which is consistent with the view of the [OGNB].”

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) also does not support the amended proposal, citing the OGNB’s recommendation.

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

#### **Marshall's Pond**, New Hampshire

(Review List 441)

[https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=42.7238562&p\\_longi=-71.7381042](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.7238562&p_longi=-71.7381042)

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Town of Mason Board of Selectmen	X				
	Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners					X
State Names Authority	New Hampshire				X	
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes						X

This proposal is to make official the name Marshall's Pond for a 12-acre beaver pond on Black Fly Brook in the Town of Mason in Hillsborough County. The name would commemorate Robert G. (1924-2008) and Edith (1924-1980) Marshall. Mr. Marshall was a long-time resident of Mason, who served as selectman and highway safety commissioner. He was also a World War II veteran, ambulance driver in Mason, and local real estate agent. It is not known when the lake became known as Marshall's Pond.

This proposal, in addition to six others listed under Category V below (see also map below), is proposed by a resident of Mason. He also proposed the name Black Fly Brook, approved by the BGN in July 2020.

Marshall State Forest is located in the adjacent Town of New Ipswich, but it was named for Edward O. Marshall, the landowner who granted the land to the state.

#### **Three names in Buncombe County, North Carolina**

(Review List 442)

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Asheville City Council	X				
	Buncombe County Commissioners	X				
State Names Authority	North Carolina	X				
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes						X

The following three proposals were submitted by the Watershed Resources Manager for RiverLink, a non-profit organization promoting the environmental and economic vitality of the French Broad

River and its watershed. As part of a “name-that-creek” project, RiverLink worked with city staff and neighborhood residents to select appropriate names for the unnamed streams, all of which are located within the City of Asheville in Buncombe County. In all three cases, the proposed name received the most votes in an online poll.

#### **Bacoate Branch**

Mouth: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=35.584621&p\\_longi=-82.567643](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=35.584621&p_longi=-82.567643)

Source: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=35.594184&p\\_longi=-82.556485](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=35.594184&p_longi=-82.556485)

The new name Bacoate Branch is proposed for a one-mile-long tributary of the French Broad River. The name would commemorate Osie W. Bacoate (1906-1989), who was a well-loved member of the West End/Clingman Avenue Neighborhood (WECAN) neighborhood and who worked as a cosmetologist and taught cosmetology in Asheville. The proposal also notes that she was the mother of Matthew Bacoate, Jr., a civil rights activist and owner of AFRAM, the largest African-American owned business in Asheville’s history.

#### **Haith Branch**

Mouth: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=35.57136&p\\_longi=-82.56361](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=35.57136&p_longi=-82.56361)

Source: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=35.57179&p\\_longi=-82.55613](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=35.57179&p_longi=-82.55613)

The new name Haith Branch is proposed for a 0.56-mile-long tributary of the French Broad River. The name would commemorate Reverend Lacy T. Haith (1909-1994), an educator and civil rights leader who worked in the Asheville school system from 1937 to 1972. He taught carpentry and other vocational skills at Stephens Lee High School, a segregated school, until its closing in 1965, and went on to teach at Asheville High School, which is located near the stream. After he retired, Mr. Haith was ordained as an African Methodist Episcopal minister and began a second career in religious work. Reverend Haith was also involved in the development of the Young Men’s Institute (YMI) Cultural Center and the YWCA in Asheville and received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award in 1994. The stream heads near Haith Drive and flows under West Haith Drive.

#### **Masters Branch**

Mouth: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=35.61226&p\\_longi=-82.49891](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=35.61226&p_longi=-82.49891)

Source: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=35.61332&p\\_longi=-82.49432](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=35.61332&p_longi=-82.49432)

The new name Masters Branch is proposed for a 0.7-mile-long tributary of Haw Creek. The name would commemorate Rory Masters (1905-1998) and Hazel Masters (1906-1993), who are

remembered for their commitment to the Haw Creek community. Rory donated property to the Haw Creek Volunteer Fire Department and served as their chief. He also helped neighbors with repairs when needed, without charging for his services. He and his wife helped raise money for the materials needed to build the fire department building. The Masters lived within the stream's watershed.

In 2009, the Asheville City Council named a new park in the Haw Creek community as Masters Park for Rory and Hazel Masters. The park is located between the stream and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

#### IV. Revised Decisions

Change Howey In The Hills (FID 295002) (BGN 1970) to Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida  
(not review listed)

[https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p\\_lat=28.7169384&p\\_longi=-81.7734106&fid=295002](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=28.7169384&p_longi=-81.7734106&fid=295002)

This request was initiated by the BGN staff in response to an inquiry from a former BGN deputy member from the Census Bureau.

In 1970, the BGN approved the name of the populated place in Lake County as Howey In The Hills, but the official name of the incorporated entity is Town of Howey-in-the Hills (FID 2405870). (A "populated place" is defined in GNIS as a place with no legal boundaries and includes both incorporated and unincorporated places. Incorporated places have a corresponding "civil" record based on legal names and boundaries as determined by the Census Bureau.)

According to the Town's webpage, "Howey-in-the-Hills was founded by William John Howey and incorporated as 'Howey' on May 8, 1925. In 1927, the name was officially changed to Howey-in-the-Hills to reflect the beautiful rolling hills and sparkling lakes, which he dubbed 'The Florida Alps.'" Usage within the community is inconsistent, particularly for the various administrative features (town hall, library, post office, police station, churches, etc.), but the name in the official town charter is Howey-in-the-Hills.

A 1969 USGS cartographic technician recommended that the BGN make official the name as Howey-In-The-Hills. No reason was given for the removal of the hyphens in the 1970 BGN decision, nor for the use of the uppercase "In" and "The.". The GNIS record was incorrectly entered as Howie In The Hills, contradicting the 1970 BGN decision, although the topographic map name reflected the correct spelling.

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

### Lake Heron, Alabama

(Review List 442)

[https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=33.404906&p\\_longi=-86.730374](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=33.404906&p_longi=-86.730374)

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Shelby County Commissioner					X
State Names Authority	Alabama	X				
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes						X

This proposal is to apply the new name Lake Heron to an unnamed one-acre reservoir in the unincorporated area of Shelby County south of Birmingham. The proponent, who lives east of the lake, reports “The lake is populated with several blue herons. The herons are a prominent feature of the lake, as they can be seen or heard most of the time.”

There are five natural features in Alabama with “Heron” in their names, but none are in Shelby County and none are lakes or reservoirs.

### Defiance Rock, Michigan

(Review List 442)

[https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=45.9106561&p\\_longi=-85.4118086](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=45.9106561&p_longi=-85.4118086)

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Mackinac County Board of Commissioners				X	
State Names Authority	Michigan				X	
Federal Agency	NOAA	X				
Tribes						X

The new name Defiance Rock is proposed for an approximately 0.5-mile-long, 0.1-mile-wide sand bar in Lake Michigan with an approximate depth of 25 to 68 feet below water level. The bar is located in Mackinac County outside any township jurisdiction.

The proponent reports that he first noted an unmarked shoal at this location in 2015 while captain of the ITB [Integrated Tug-Barge] *Defiance/Ashtabula*. The name is both a reference to the vessel and “recognizing its defiant nature by being a potential navigation hazard in an area of deep water.”

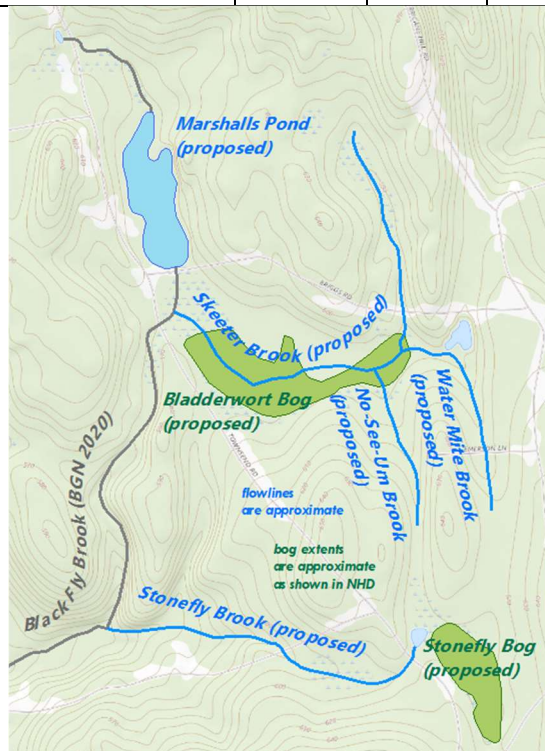


Since 2016, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) charts have shown a “reported position assumed obstruction” based on the proponent’s report. In 2019, NOAA conducted a survey of the area, and after processing and analyzing bathymetry readings, determined that there was a “a geomorphic ridge or benthic mound . . . in an east-west direction.” The reported single point object obstruction was not confirmed, but the survey does show a high point on the bar about 25 feet below the surface of the water.

When notified of NOAA’s survey findings, the proponent wished to proceed with the name as Defiance Rock.

**Six names in Hillsborough County, New Hampshire**  
(Review List 441)

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Town of Mason Board of Selectmen	X				
	Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners					X
State Names Authority	New Hampshire				X	
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes						X



The following six names (in addition to Marshall's Pond, in Category III above) are proposed by a resident of the Town of Mason in Hillsborough County. All six features are within the town. The name Black Fly Brook, submitted by the same proponent, was approved by the BGN in July 2020.

#### **Bladderwort Bog**

[https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=42.719437&p\\_longi=-71.734654](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.719437&p_longi=-71.734654)

The new name Bladderwort Bog is proposed for an unnamed 40-acre bog. It refers to carnivorous bladderwort plants (*Utricularia* sp.) that grow in the bog. The stream proposed as Skeeter Brook (q.v.) flows through the bog. There are no features in GNIS with "Bladderwort" in their names, nor "wort" when it refers to a plant.

#### **No-See-Um Brook**

Mouth: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=42.718992&p\\_longi=-71.729883](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.718992&p_longi=-71.729883)

Source: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=42.714703&p\\_longi=-71.728081](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.714703&p_longi=-71.728081)

The new name No-See-Um Brook is proposed for an unnamed 0.3-mile-long tributary of an unnamed stream proposed to be named Skeeter Brook (q.v.). It refers to the abundant "no-see-ums," the colloquial name for small biting midges (family Ceratopogonidae) found along the stream. The midges are also known as "sandflies." The stream flows into the proposed Skeeter Brook in the proposed Bladderwort Bog (q.v.).

A query of GNIS found no nearby features with "No-See-Um" or a similar word in their names, but there are several with various spellings throughout the conterminous U.S. Near Lake Superior, two features have "No-see-um" and two have "Noseeum" in their names. In northern Idaho and western Montana, there are four features with "No-see-um" (all associated), two with "Noseeum," and one "No-see-em." One feature each in Oregon and California are named "No-See-Em," the only instances of capitalization of each part of the name. "No-see-um" or "noseeum" seem to be the most common spelling. These insects are notable where they occur; clusters of features named "Sandfly" are found in Florida and Georgia, but this is also a colloquial name for horse flies.

#### **Skeeter Brook**

Mouth: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=42.72112&p\\_longi=-71.73742](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.72112&p_longi=-71.73742)

Source: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=42.725601&p\\_longi=-71.730531](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.725601&p_longi=-71.730531)

The new name Skeeter Brook is proposed for an unnamed one-mile-long tributary of Black Fly Brook. It refers to the abundant mosquitoes (family Culicidae) found along the stream. The stream

flows through the proposed Bladderwort Bog (q.v.). The proposed No-See-Um Brook (q.v.) and Water Mite Brook (q.v.) flow into this stream.

A query of GNIS found no nearby features with “Skeeter” in their names. The only nearby “Mosquito”-named feature is Mosquito Brook 35 miles to the east in Essex County, Massachusetts. GNIS lists 341 natural features that contain “Mosquito” in their names, with clusters in New England, the southeast U.S., the Upper Midwest, the Rocky Mountains, the Sierra Nevada, and the Cascade Mountains. By contrast, only 18 features contain “Skeeter” and are widely scattered throughout the conterminous U.S.

### **Stonefly Bog**

[https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=42.710194&p\\_longi=-71.725592](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.710194&p_longi=-71.725592)

The new name Stonefly Bog is proposed for an unnamed 12-acre bog, located near the source of the proposed Stonefly Brook (q.v.). The bog is proposed to be named for the stoneflies (order Plecoptera) that live within the bog as larvae and around the bog as adults. The presence of stoneflies is an indicator of good water quality. GNIS does not list any features with “Stonefly” in their names.

### **Stonefly Brook**

Mouth: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=42.711763&p\\_longi=-71.740076](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.711763&p_longi=-71.740076)

Source: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=42.711266&p\\_longi=-71.728242](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.711266&p_longi=-71.728242)

The new name Stonefly Brook is proposed for an unnamed 0.7-mile-long tributary of Black Fly Brook. The source of the stream is near the proposed Stonefly Bog (q.v.). Like the bog, the brook would also be named for stoneflies (order Plecoptera) that live in and around the stream.

### **Water Mite Brook**

Mouth: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=42.719528&p\\_longi=-71.728853](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.719528&p_longi=-71.728853)

Source: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=42.719528&p\\_longi=-71.728853](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.719528&p_longi=-71.728853)

The new name Water Mite Brook is proposed for an unnamed 0.4-mile-long tributary of a stream proposed to be named Skeeter Brook (q.v.). It refers to the abundant water mites (Hydrachnidia) found in the stream. The larvae of the mites are parasitic on mosquitoes. The stream flows into the proposed Skeeter Brook in the proposed Bladderwort Bog (q.v.).

GNIS lists three features that may be named for some type of mite: a lake in Minnesota, and a bay and island in Alaska.

**Crystal Falls, North Carolina**

(Review List 440)

[https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=35.89156&p\\_longi=-82.08424](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=35.89156&p_longi=-82.08424)

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Mitchell County Commissioners					X
State Names Authority	North Carolina	X				
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes						X

This proposal is to make official the locally used name Crystal Falls for an unnamed, approximately 20-foot-tall, falls along Graveyard Creek in Mitchell County. The stream is also proposed to be renamed to Crystal Falls Creek, but there appears to be some local opposition to the change so it will be included on a future BGN docket. The proponent reports that the name refers to the abundance of crystals that are found in the area.

**Imperial Run, Pennsylvania**

(Review List 442)

Mouth: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=39.91999&p\\_longi=-76.73293](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=39.91999&p_longi=-76.73293)

Source: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=39.92306&p\\_longi=-76.73068](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=39.92306&p_longi=-76.73068)

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

The new name Imperial Run is proposed for a 0.25-mile-long stream in York Township in York County. The stream flows under Imperial Drive into an unnamed tributary of Codorus Creek.

**Arikara Creek, South Dakota**

(Review List 442)

Mouth: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=44.33263&p\\_longi=-100.20235](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=44.33263&p_longi=-100.20235)

Source: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=44.34797&p\\_longi=-100.19566](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=44.34797&p_longi=-100.19566)

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Hughes County Commissioners					X
State Names Authority	South Dakota	X				
Federal Agency	USACE			X		
Tribes						X
Other						X

The new name Arikara Creek is proposed for a 1.25-mile-long tributary of Lake Sharpe, a reservoir on the Missouri River in Hughes County. The lowest part of the stream flows through the Arikara Game Production Area, managed by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks. The mouth of the stream is within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Lake Sharpe Recreation Area.

The name refers to the Arikara people who inhabited the area, now members of the federally recognized Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation (the Tribe refers to itself as the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation). The name was proposed to and recommended for approval by the South Dakota Board on Geographic Names (SDBGN). The proponent wishes to recognize the historical presence of the Arikara people in the area before they were reduced by smallpox and forced out by the Dakota and Lakota Tribes.

The USGS 1934 1:48,000-scale advance sheet (topographic map) labeled "Fort Arikara" near the location of the stream, which refers to the Arzberger Site, a National Historic Landmark and important Arikara archaeological site.

The proposal for Arikara Creek was submitted to the SDBGN in response to a proposal to apply the name Crone Creek, which had been submitted by a landowner along the stream. That name referred to the "small, bent, and crooked nature" of the stream. Several public comments pointed out the negative connotation of the word "crone" and the SDBGN concurred. The proponent of Crone Creek does not object to the name Arikara Creek but stated that they believe "the Arikara Peoples deserve a more vibrant, flowing and strong representation" in a geographic name, stating, "This creek, dry for three seasons out of four, does not capture these peoples. In fact, it seems like an ironic, inadequate tribute, tributary. . . . It very well may be that this is the only chance to attach the rightful name to this area. If that is the rationale, I truly approve. But you may want to think twice when attaching the Arikara name to a dribbling, weak and faltering creek."

GNIS lists Lake Arikara, formed by Arikara Dam on Dry Run in Hughes County, 4.5 miles to the northeast (and not connected to the proposed Arikara Creek).

Several other names are related to the Arikara people, spelled either "Arikara", "Arickaree", or "Arikaree," in South Dakota, North Dakota, Colorado, and Nebraska. According to *North Dakota Place Names* (1988), the other spellings were prevalent in the late 1890s. Arikaree River in Nebraska, Kansas, and Colorado was an 1896 BGN decision to establish the spelling (vs. Arickaree

River); a 1977 BGN decision resolved an application discrepancy but did not address the spelling. Arikaree Peak in Colorado was a 1914 BGN decision; the decision card notes that Arikara was the spelling in the Smithsonian's *Handbook of North American Indians*.

As part of its outreach, the SDBGN contacted many interested parties, including 11 federally recognized Tribes. No responses were received.

**Tse Niz'oni-Stellar Arch**, Utah

(Review List 442)

[https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p\\_lat=37.998912&p\\_longi=-109.843165](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=37.998912&p_longi=-109.843165)

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	San Juan County Commission	X				
State Names Authority	Utah	X				
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes						X
Other	Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration*				X	

\* *Contacted by SNA*

The new name Tse Nizh'oni-Stellar Arch is proposed for an approximately 40-foot-high, 25-foot wide arch on Utah Trust Lands Administration lands in San Juan County. The proponent, who reports that he discovered the arch in 1993, has been using the name "Stellar Arch" since then. He knows of no other record of the arch and reports that the National Association of Arches and Bridges has no record of it.

The proponent originally proposed the name Stellar Arch (Review List 439). He stated "The arch is a perfect crescent (horseshoe) shape standing on the edge of a colorful sandstone ledge. . . . The views from the arch are spectacular looking Northwest towards the Needles district of Canyonlands National Park. . . . The arch was simply named for its stunning beauty and magical presence. . . . It is perfectly formed in an unlikely spot on the Colorado Plateau and I thought the name Stellar Arch was appropriate."

When asked to comment on that name, the San Juan County Commissioners replied that they wished to include the Navajo translation of the name. According to the County's Chief Administrative Officer, "[b]oth Native American Commissioners agreed that the closest translation to Navajo would be 'Tse Nizh'oni'" and the county supports naming the arch Tse Nizh'oni-Stellar Arch. The proponent of Stellar Arch agrees to the amendment.

The Utah Geographic Names Committee asked for input from the Natural Arch and Bridge Society (NABS). The manager of the World Arch Database (not directly associated with NABS) responded that the arch “may have been documented in the 1980s by Fran Barnes as Ridge Arch” but was unable to provide a specific location or images.

The section in which the arch is located is surrounded by the Butler Wash Wilderness Study Area (WSA), managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); the BLM confirmed that this section was outside the WSA.