

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

Eight Hundred and Thirty-fifth Meeting

June 10, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

(Virtual Meeting)

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Kenia Allen	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Marcus Allsup	Department of Defense (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency)
Wendi-Starr Brown	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs)
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
Debbie Fugate	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
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) (Voting)
Patrick Mahoney	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management)
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) (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Timothy St. Onge	Library of Congress
Michael Tischler	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Tara Wallace	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)

Ex-Officio

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

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

Staff

Julie-Ann Danfora, U.S. Geological Survey

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
 Jessica Campbell, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Commissioner Rodney Ellis, Harris County, Texas
 Silvia Foster-Frau, The Washington Post
 Janae Ladet, Lead Policy Advisor for Commissioner Rodney Ellis
 Deb Nordeen, National Park Service
 Sergio Rodriguez, U.S. Geological Survey
 Foreign Names Committee staff
 National Geographic Society staff
 Observers

1. Opening

The vice chair opened Meeting 835 of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) at 9:35 a.m. and requested a roll call of the members. The vice chair announced that she would be voting.

The meeting was held virtually, due to ongoing concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The vice 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 834

The minutes of Meeting 834, held May 13, 2021, were approved as amended with minor edits.

3. Reports

3.1 BGN Chairman (Wallace)

See attached report. Wallace noted that the Southern Ocean has been in the news after the National Geographic Society recognized the name for use on its products. The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency received media requests regarding the name. Note: the BGN approved the name for Federal use in 1999.

3.2 BGN Executive Secretary (Palmer and Guempel)

There was no written report.

3.3 Special Committee on Communications (Lyon)

There was no written report. Lyon continues to work with VanLandingham on the revised text for the BGN brochures, and with the Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication.

Forrest asked members to send her any updated membership information for the BGN Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report to the Secretary of the Interior.

3.4 Executive Secretary (Guempel)

There was no written report. Guempel thanked members for their support for and input during the strategic plan development meetings. He looks forward to meeting again to work on the priorities and action items from the discussions.

3.5 Staff (Runyon)

See attached report. Runyon highlighted that the BGN has received its first Policy X: Tribal Geographic Names submission. The names Toto Creek and Toto's Meadow, submitted by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, commemorate a member of the Tribe who died in 2018. In accordance with the policy, the BGN defers to Tribes to establish names on Tribal Trust lands, and as such, the names have been added to the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), and no further BGN review or action is needed.

3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (McCormick)

McCormick will meet soon with developers to discuss the final GNIS cutover from Oracle to PostgreSQL. It is expected that the GNIS webpages will be unavailable for some time during the transition and while testing is ongoing. Text files of all GNIS data will be created in advance of the cutover and will be available for download.

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

See attached report. The Special Committee will meet following this meeting.

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 **Millsaps Mountain** (FID 65384) to **Millsap Mountain**, Arkansas (Review List 441)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 21 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Inerarity Point** (FID 284547) to **Innerarity Point**, Florida (Review List 443)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 21 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Masseyburg** (FID 1180535) to **Masseysburg**, Pennsylvania (Review List 443)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 21 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Negro Branch** (FID 1363652) to **Ada Simond Creek** (Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge); change **Negrohead** (FID 1363662) to **Bill Pickett Hill**; change **Negro Creek** (FID 1342406) to **Buffalo Soldier Creek**; change **Negro Hollow** (FID 1363658) to **Freedom Hollow**; change **Negro Bend** (FID 1363651) to **George Ruby Bend**; change **Negrohead Bluff** (FID 1342413) to **Hendrick Arnold Bluff**; change **Negro Head** (FID 1375107) to **Henry Flipper Hill**; change **Negro Creek** (FID 1363653) to **Jack Johnson Creek**; change **Negro Hollow** (FID 1375108) to **John Horse Hollow**; change **Negro Creek** (FID 1383138) to **Kiamata Creek** (Sam Houston National Forest); change **Negrohead Lake** (FID 1380989) to **Lake Henry Doyle**; change **Negro Lake** (FID 1363659) to **Lake William Goyens**; change **Negro Hollow** (FID 1342409) to **Leonard Harmon Hollow**; change **Negro Tank** (FID 1363660) to **Matthew Hooks Reservoir**; change

Negro Creek (FID 1342407) to **Milton Holland Creek**; and change **Negro Gully** (FID 1342408) to **Norris Cuney Gully**, Texas (Review List 443)

A motion was made and seconded to consider these 16 name changes as a group. The motion passed by affirmation. A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposals.

One member questioned the procedure whereby the DNC was reconsidering its 1998 decision not to approve the changes and whether the members had been given sufficient opportunity to consider any new evidence. It was noted that in addition to last month's presentation by Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis, DNC members were given several opportunities to review the proposals, additional comments, and additional support from the Texas Legislature.

It was also noted that although there is no evidence of direct association between the intended honorees and the geographic features, the names were chosen (by the Texas Legislature in 1991) because the individuals were important in Texas history. Although the DNC generally prefers shorter names, typically surnames only, these names would identify the specific individuals being honored and would eliminate any ambiguity.

Vote: 21 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

The DNC members and staff thanked Harris County Commissioner Ellis and his staff for attending this meeting.

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Ahu'ailā'au, Hawaii (Review List 443) (FID 2830037)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 21 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Negro Ledge** (FID 614852) to **Wampanoag Ledge**, Massachusetts (Review List 437)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Members discussed the Massachusetts State Names Authority's objection to the change, citing the lack of input from any of the Wampanoag tribal groups (two of which, the Mashpee Wampanoag

Tribe and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), are federally recognized). Efforts by NOAA to obtain input from Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe were unsuccessful.

Staff noted that Policy X provides an opportunity for any federally recognized Tribe to comment on any proposal on the Quarterly Review List in which they have an interest. A lack of response is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion. The Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication is considering ways to increase Tribal awareness and input.

Vote: 16 in favor
1 against
4 abstentions

The vote against the motion cited the State Names Authority opposition and concerns that the Wampanoag Tribes did not comment on the name.

Jones Canyon, Utah (Manti-La Sal National Forest) (Review List 442)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing the negative recommendations of the county government, the State Names Authority, and the U.S. Forest Service, all of which noted the lack of direct or long-term association between the intended honorees and the feature.

Vote: 21 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

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

Leonard Creek, California (Tahoe National Forest) (Review List 434) (FID 2830035)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 21 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Docs Pond, Georgia (Review List 441) (FID 2830036)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 21 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Bandy Creek, Missouri (Review List 442) (FID 2830039)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 20 in favor
1 against
0 abstentions

The vote against the motion cited a lack of long-term association between the honorees and the feature and a belief that death at a feature does not necessarily warrant commemorative naming.

IV. Revised Decisions - none

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Sweetwater Creek, Arkansas (Review List 440) (FID 2830034)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 21 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Talking Brook, Maine (Review List 443) (FID 2830038)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 21 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Outpost Creek, Mississippi (Review List 441) (FID 2830040)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 21 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

5. Other Business

Wallace announced that NOAA will soon cease production of its paper and raster nautical charts and encourages users to refer to the agency's Electronic Navigational Charts.

Tischler announced that he and staff participated in recent discussions with Department of the Interior leadership about the issue of changing names considered to be offensive. The DNC is awaiting further guidance.

Kanalley reported that U.S. Forest Service leadership has also been briefed on the topic of offensive names. The agency's Southern Region has established a team to address the issue with stakeholders, and it is hoped that the regional geographic names liaison will be able to address the BGN at an upcoming meeting.

6. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

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

(signed)

Glenn Guempel, Executive Secretary [Acting]
Domestic Names Committee

APPROVED

(signed) Meghan Barrett

Meghan Barrett, Chair
Domestic Names Committee

BGN Chair Report

1. The Foreign Names Committee 406th meeting on June 8, 2021 at 1:00 pm.
2. The next meeting of the Advisory Committee on Undersea Features is being scheduled.
3. The next Full Board meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2021.
4. 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.

Staff Report

Meetings and Presentations

Staff participated in the June 8 virtual meeting of the BGN's Foreign Names Committee.

Items of Current Interest

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.

The Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, the USGS Director's Office, and the National Geospatial Program Director continue to be involved in discussions with interested parties on the subject of offensive name changes. The BGN staff continues to provide background material for various briefings. Discussions are ongoing as to whether an advisory board/committee, as identified in [H.R. 8455 - Reconciliation in Place Names Act](#) (116th Congress), should be external to the BGN or an advisory committee within the BGN. The Federal Geographic Data Committee provided guidance to the BGN staff on the establishment of a committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

The BGN has received its first request from a Tribal government to make official two names for geographic features located entirely within its reservation. The names Toto Creek and Toto's Meadow, submitted by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, commemorate a member of the Tribe who died in 2018. In accordance with the BGN's Policy X: Tribal Geographic Names, which defers to Tribes to establish names on Tribal Trust lands, the names have been added to GNIS and are now official for Federal use.

A proposal has been received to apply the new name Ais Island to a 37-mile-long unnamed barrier island in Brevard County, Florida. The proponent was advised that in 2012 the BGN rejected a previous proposal for that name (along with counterproposals for Ponce de Leon Island and Coacoochee Island), as well as a proposal in 2017 for Brooks Island. As such, and in order for the BGN to revisit the issue, new evidence would need to be submitted. It was noted that there was little evidence of local support for the previous proposals and it would be helpful if the proponent could ascertain if any local governments now endorse the name.

On May 26, the Mestaa'êhehe Coalition held a listening session to hear the perspectives of several Tribal members regarding efforts to rename Squaw Mountain in Clear Creek County, Colorado to Mestaa'êhehe Mountain (Review List 442). During the session, attendees were invited to submit comments to the county government, the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board (CGNAB), the Colorado Governor, and the U.S. BGN; within the next 30 minutes, close to 30 emails were received by BGN staff. Staff also attended the June 1 virtual meeting of the Clear Creek County

Board of Commissioners, at which the proposal was discussed. After hearing comments from members of the public and a number of Tribal representatives, the board voted to approve the change. Their recommendation has been forwarded to the CGNAB.

State Names Authority and State Partner Activities

BGN staff participated in a meeting of interested State Names Authorities (SNAs) to discuss the future of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (CoGNA). It was agreed that CoGNA serves a valuable role, both to the member States and to the BGN, and that it provides a useful network for sharing issues of common interest and for managing expectations. It was suggested that virtual workshop sessions would be very useful, and that the SNAs should be made aware of the increasing efforts to address offensive names. It is hoped that the SNAs with more experience in dealing with these issues might be able to advise those who are “single-person” authorities and who have not yet been involved in these efforts. A statement regarding the need to address the issue has been drafted by the BGN staff. The CoGNA group will also take a look at the organization’s constitution and bylaws and will attempt to better define the organization’s mission.

Staff participated in the June 1 virtual meeting of the Hawai’i Board on Geographic Names.

At its May meeting, the Wyoming Board of Geographic Names discussed the proposal to change the name of Squaw Teats; see <https://www.powelltribune.com/stories/state-board-considers-name-change-for-the-squaw-teats,32095>.

News and Media Coverage

The Washington Post published an [article](#) on the effort to change 16 names in Texas that include the word “Negro”; these are on the DNC’s June 10 Docket. Other articles appeared in the [Texas Tribune](#) and the [Washington Examiner](#).

A June 6 article in Axios is titled [Hundreds of places with racist names dot the U.S.](#) It mistakenly reported that the Secretary of the Interior was responsible for the 1974 universal change from “Jap” to “Japanese.” It also reported that Squaw Valley Ski Resort in California has changed its name; thus far, the resort has only agreed to change its name, with no replacement having yet been chosen.

The residents of the Town of Jackson, New Hampshire recently voted to rededicate the town’s name; according to the [Conway Daily Sun](#), “It no longer commemorates the memory of Andrew Jackson. It now celebrates the legacy of Charles Jackson, a onetime state geologist.”

Misc. Staff Activities

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 staff is also updating the hardcopy version of the application form for Antarctic name proposals.

A notice has been posted to the [GNIS webpage](#) regarding the upcoming database and website changes, specifically, that there will be a new user interface and the downloadable data files will be distributed through ScienceBase. In addition, administrative feature names that are no longer being maintained by the GNIS and BGN staff will be removed from the public search page and made available only through an archived "legacy" file.

Regarding the removal of administrative names, closer analysis of existing GNIS data shows that many features are misclassified; that is, natural features are categorized in one of the administrative feature classes, and vice versa. The staff is correcting the entries as they are found but it requires significant effort and can only be done as other priorities allow.

Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication Report

1. The Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication held its 9th meeting on May 13, 2021
2. The next meeting will take place today, June 10, following the DNC Meeting.
3. The special committee is continuing to review and refine a comprehensive list of conferences, meetings and other Tribal gatherings in which to participate in order to do formal and informal outreach on behalf of the BGN and to encourage Tribal government participation in the BGN process. Monique VanLandingham, on detail to the BGN staff has prepared a spreadsheet of conferences for special committee members to review. Today we will be selecting 2 or 3 opportunities for FY22.
4. The special committee is continuing to develop a story map on geographic names. Thad Ellerbe is leading this effort, along with Matt O'Donnell from the BGN staff.
5. Susan Lyon, Chair of the Special Committee on Communications reported on the committee's plan to develop a BGN brochure focused on items of interest to Tribes.

All BGN members are welcome to join the special committee.

DOCKET
June 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. The Otoe-Missouria Tribal Historic Preservation Office responded to the Review List notice, stating it has "no objection to the proposed name changes on Review List 443." 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 **Millsaps Mountain** (FID 65384) to **Millsap Mountain**, Arkansas
(Review List 441)

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=36.0628577&p_longi=-94.2071501&fid=65384

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Fayetteville City Council	X				
	Washington County Judge					X
State Names Authority	Arkansas	X				
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes						X

This proposal is to change the name of **Millsaps Mountain**, a 1,506-foot summit in the City of Fayetteville in Washington County, to **Millsap Mountain** to recognize local preference. The proponent is the GIS Manager for the City of Fayetteville; he notes that the city purchased the mountain and is currently constructing a park named Centennial Park at Millsap Mountain. The City is requesting a name change for the mountain to align with that of the park. The proponent reports it was named for the Millsap family, who owned the mountain in the past; "J.L. & B. Millsap" are shown as landowners on a 1908 county plat.

The name **Millsaps Mountain** was recorded from an 1888 Geological Survey of Arkansas map and has been labeled on USGS topographic maps since 2011. Millsap Road is located five miles northeast of the summit.

Change **Inerarity Point** (FID 284547) to **Innerarity Point**, Florida
(Review List 443)

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=30.3146453&p_longi=-87.4991469&fid=284547

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

This proposal is to correct the spelling of Inerarity Point, a cape along the Perdido River in Escambia County, to Innerarity Point. The proposal was submitted by the BGN member representing the Department of Commerce/National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration after receiving an inquiry from a local resident.

The cape is named for John Innerarity (1783-1854), a Scottish-born merchant who arrived in Pensacola in 1802. In 1815, he was granted land that includes the cape by the Spanish Government. GNIS records the grant as Juan Inerarity Grant [sic], citing a county map that could not be found at the time of this research. It is possible the name was recorded as “Juan” due to the documents being in Spanish. John Innerarity is buried in Saint Michael’s Cemetery in Pensacola.

The Florida State Names Authority provided a copy of the original sales plat for the surveyed township and range that includes the point. The point is labeled as “Inerarity P[unreadable]” with “Juan” handwritten above the label.

USGS maps have shown the cape as Inerarity Point since 1941, and it was labeled as such on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maps as early as 1921, and on NOAA/Office of Coast Survey charts since at least 1897. A National Geodetic Survey marker near the cape is named “INERARITY WEST 2 1911” and includes a reference to “Inerarity Peninsula.”

All instances of the name in local sources spell it “Innerarity.” The island, of which the cape is the western point, is locally known as “Innerarity Island” (not in GNIS), the main road is Innerarity Point Road, and a local park is Innerarity Point Park. Several neighborhoods east of the cape are named Innerarity.

Change **Masseyburg** (FID 1180535) to **Masseysburg**, Pennsylvania
(Review List 443)

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=40.6595104&p_longi=-77.9272239&fid=1180535

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Barree Township Board of Supervisors	X				
	Huntingdon County Commissioners	X				
State Names Authority	Pennsylvania			X		
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes						X
Other	Lifetime area resident	X				

This proposal is to change the name of **Masseyburg**, an unincorporated community in Barree Township in Huntingdon County, to **Masseysburg**. The community's name refers to the Massey family, early settlers and long-time residents of Shavers Creek Valley.

The proponent, as president of the Petersburg Community Development Association, Inc. ["a non-profit organization serving the four-municipality Shavers Creek Valley region of northern Huntingdon County"], reports that the name in present-day use is **Masseysburg**. He cites road signs installed by the township government, along with sources published in 1856, 1883, 1903, and 1909, and Post Office records dated 1882, 1892, and 1917.

The spelling **Masseyburg** has been applied to USGS and other Federal maps since 1935. A 2010 Barree Township map published by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) also used that name, as does a "Village of Masseyburg" sign installed by PennDOT in the community.

Change 16 names that include the word "Negro", Texas
(Review List 443)

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
State Names Authority	Texas	X		X		
Federal Agency	USACE*				X	
	USFS**	X				
	USFWS***	X				
Tribes						X

* For Hendrick Arnold Bluff

** For Kiamata Creek

*** For Ada Simond Creek

The following 16 proposals are to change the names of features throughout Texas with names that include the word “Negro.” They were submitted to the BGN by the Texas Geographic Names Committee (TGNC), which is asking the BGN to revisit its 1998 decision not to approve the changes.

In 1989, a lawyer with the Austin branch of the NAACP questioned the BGN about the continued use of the pejorative form of the name on local maps. The BGN Executive Secretary replied that in 1962, the Secretary of the Interior had

established a policy that the word shall not be used on any new Federal maps or other publications as part of a geographic name, and when such a word is encountered as being in local usage, it will be modified to remove any derogatory implication. [Furthermore], all such names already appearing on Federal maps will be reviewed by the publishing agencies, and as the maps are revised or reprinted, the names will be modified to remove any derogatory implications. To our knowledge, this policy has been faithfully carried out and Federal maps published or reprinted since 1962 do not use the word in any geographic names. We do not have authority to provide similar instructions to State and private mapmakers, and of course, can do nothing with regard to Federal maps published before 1962. In a few cases, we were able to replace some of the “n_____” names with names of the individuals for whom the features were originally named. In most cases, however, the Federal mapmakers substituted the word ‘negro,’ a term that is not wholly satisfactory to many. For this reason, we welcome any naming suggestions you may have. We strongly suggest that you work with the Texas State Geographic Names Authority before submitting proposals to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

In 1994, the BGN received a copy of Texas State Legislation, [H.B. 1756](#) (1991), “Relating to the elimination of certain racially offensive names given to geographical features.” The effort was initiated by the then-president of the Austin chapter of the NAACP. The bill directed the Director of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) “to submit an application to the USBGN to change the name of 19 sites with the word ‘Negro’ included in its name, as well as other sites not explicitly listed that still contained the word ‘Negro.’” It also directed TxDOT to correct all maps and other documents that included the word. The bill listed the 19 features, along with replacement names that would “commemorate African-Americans who made a significant contribution to Texas.”

The legislation did not provide any biographical details, nor any evidence that the intended honorees had any association with the geographic features in question.

One name on the list referred to a community ([Negros Liberty Settlement](#) in Liberty County), which at the time was not considered by the BGN to be under its purview; as such, it was not included in the list to be reviewed by the BGN. Subsequent research has determined that the

community no longer exists, so it has been marked “historical” in GNIS and is not under consideration for a name change.

In 1993, the BGN determined that the 18 changes should be considered case-by-case and they were added to Quarterly Docket 370 (now the “Quarterly Review List”). The BGN staff then contacted the governments of a number of the counties to ascertain local opinion. It was determined that none were aware of the legislation, nor had they been consulted regarding the replacement names.

The then-Texas State Geographic Names Authority (SNA) advised the BGN staff that because the changes had been approved by the State Legislature, he presumed he was required to accept them as official for State use.

At its December 10, 1998 meeting, the DNC reviewed and rejected the 18 proposals. The minutes read: “By a vote of 3-1, these name changes were not approved because the Board did not observe any evidence that there was any local involvement in the renaming process; and there was no evidence of local objection to the current names or local acceptance of the proposed names. Research concerning the location of the names also indicates that some of these names may be of Spanish origin, and therefore descriptive of the feature. The one member who voted to change the names believed that there was enough evidence to warrant the change, and that the names selected, for the most part, honored Americans who made significant contributions and were of regional notoriety.”

The SNA and the author of the 1991 legislation were informed in January 1999 of the BGN’s decision. No further communication was received.

(Since 1998, one other name on the list, Negro Pond in Montgomery County, has been changed by the BGN (2018) to Emancipation Pond. Another name referred to a small reservoir, Negro Tank in Cameron County, which no longer exists and has also been made “historical.”)

In 2011, the BGN staff received an inquiry from a research associate at the Texas Senate Research Center regarding the renaming process, and specifically, the 1991 effort to change the 18 names. The inquirer was provided with a summary of the 1998 discussion and advised of the Commemorative Names Policy and the need for local input. Once again, no further communication was received.

In November 2020, the TGNC forwarded to the BGN a copy of a letter from Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis and State Representative Ron Reynolds. The letter, which was addressed to the Executive Director of TxDOT and the chair of the TGNC, “express[es] our serious concerns with the numerous racially offensive names of creeks, rivers, cliffs and other geographic features in Texas. Given the current moment in our history and our collective efforts to reconcile a racist past, now is the time to change these names and I [*sic*] hope that we can work with both

of your offices to do so.” The letter noted that Commissioner Ellis had been a co-sponsor of H.B. 1756; however, “despite these legislative efforts, over 700 derogatory geographic names with the word ‘Negro’ remain in place across the United States.” Finally, “the [TxDOT and TGNC] should consider contacting jurisdictions to prompt name applications as well as submitting name change applications on behalf of the agencies themselves. There are also [F]ederal efforts to change this process. This year [2020], U.S. House Representative Debra Haaland introduced H.R. 8455 that would create a more accountable and transparent process by which the USBGN would review and revise offensive names of [F]ederal land.” The authors of the letter requested a meeting with TxDOT and TGNC to discuss the matter.

The chair of the TGNC contacted the BGN staff for guidance, noting that because the names were changed by State legislation, the TGNC was required to consider them official for State use. Research by the TGNC and BGN staff found no evidence that the names had been changed on county or State maps or signs, although the geographic features are all minor and the existing names also do not appear on these products.

An additional 11 “Negro” names in Texas were not mentioned in the 1991 legislation, and to date, have not been addressed. Commissioner Ellis has indicated he will coordinate with the appropriate county governments to initiate changes to those names.

Biographical details for the intended honorees have been quoted directly from the Texas State Historical Association’s [Handbook of Texas Online](#), when available. For some of the individuals, additional sources have been quoted.

Change **Negro Branch** (FID 1363652) to **Ada Simond Creek**
(Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge)

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=30.5340826&p_longi=-98.0469614&fid=1363652

This proposal is to change the name of Negro Branch, a tributary of Cow Creek in Travis County and Burnet County, to Ada Simond Creek. A small section of the stream flows through Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge.

The Texas State Historical Association’s *Handbook of Texas Online* provides a biography of Ada Simond (1903-1989): <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/simond-ada-marie-deblanc>). It notes in part that “During her lifetime, Ada DeBlanc Simond was considered a living legend by many of the residents of Austin and was the recipient of countless local, state, and national awards. For her literary work, she was recognized by the Texas Legislature’s Black Caucus, the Texas Association for the Study of Afro-American Life, and the Texas Historical Commission; for her commitment to human rights, she was recognized by the NAACP with the Arthur B. DeWitty Award; and her contributions as an educator were recognized by the Austin Independent School District and Huston-Tillotson College, which endowed a scholarship in her

name. In 1980 she received a distinguished service award from Austin Mayor Carole McClellan. The Austin City Council declared November 16, 1983, as “Ada Simond Day.” She was inducted into the Texas Women’s Hall of Fame in 1986.”

The pejorative form of the name was shown on USGS maps published in 1903 and 1909, and in the 1919 *Gazetteer of Streams of Texas*, also published by USGS. Since 1966, all USGS maps have shown the name Negro Branch. A 2020 FEMA map labels the stream Negro Creek. Local real estate listings use both Negro Branch Creek and Negro Creek Branch.

In 1989, the Travis County Public Improvements Transportation Office submitted a proposal to the BGN to change the name of the stream to Warbler Branch, in reference to the endangered golden-cheeked warbler (*Setophaga chrysoparia*) which is found in the area. The proposal was withdrawn in 1993, presumably in deference to the change included in H.B. 1756.

H.B. 1756 did not address the summit in Travis County that is named Negrohead and which is adjacent to Negro Branch. (The aforementioned county office also proposed renaming this feature to Warbler Peak, but it too was withdrawn.)

Change Negrohead (FID 1363662) to **Bill Pickett Hill**

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=30.7801803&p_longi=-98.3791961&fid=1363662

This proposal is to change the name of Negrohead, a 1,280-foot summit in Burnet County, to Bill Pickett Hill. William “Bill” Pickett (1870-1932) was a cowboy, rodeo and Wild West show performer, and actor; see also the Texas State Historical Association’s *Handbook of Texas Online*: <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/pickett-william>.

Pejorative forms of the current name appeared on USGS maps published between 1887 and 1932. Since 1967, all USGS maps have shown the name Negrohead. Other pejorative forms of the current name also appear in older almanacs and gazetteers.”

All Federal maps published after 1962 labeled the feature Negrohead. In 1989, the aforementioned NAACP lawyer “encourage[d] the Board to take immediate action to rename ‘N[] Head Hill’ either after Mickey Leland, the late Texas Congressman, or Hendrick Arnold, a famous Afro-Texan fighter in the Texas Revolution.” [The name Hendrick Arnold Bluff is proposed as a replacement for Negrohead Bluff in Bosque County and Johnson County (q.v.)].

A 2011 *Washington Post* article about offensive place names in Texas noted that after the BGN’s action in 1962 [sic] to change all instances of “N_____” on subsequent Federal maps and publications to “Negro”, “Lady Bird Johnson, the former first lady, lobbied to change the name of a mountain in Burnet, Tex., that had the same name as [Rick] Perry’s hunting spot [N_____head].

In 1968, it became ‘Colored Mountain.’” The BGN staff was unable to find any independent confirmation of this statement.

Change **Negro Creek** (FID 1342406) to **Buffalo Soldier Creek**

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=30.0418498&p_longi=-103.0471124&fid=1342406

This proposal is to change the name of Negro Creek, a tributary of San Francisco Creek in Brewster County, to Buffalo Soldier Creek. The pejorative form of the name was shown on USGS maps published in 1921 and 1909. Since 1968, all USGS maps have shown the name Negro Creek.

The Handbook of Texas Online provides a history of the Buffalo Soldiers

<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/buffalo-soldiers>), noting in part that the term “was given by the Plains Indians to the four regiments of African Americans, and more particularly to the two cavalry regiments, that served on the frontier in the post-Civil War army. From 1866 to the early 1890s the buffalo soldiers served at a variety of posts in Texas, the Southwest and the Great Plains. They overcame prejudice from within the army and from the frontier communities they were stationed in, to compile an outstanding service record. Often divided into small company and troop-sized detachments stationed at isolated posts, the buffalo soldiers performed routine garrison chores, patrolled the frontier, built roads, escorted mail parties, and handled a variety of difficult civil and military tasks. They also participated in most of the major frontier campaigns of the period and distinguished themselves in action against the Cheyenne, Kiowa, Comanche, Apache, Sioux, and Arapaho Indians.” Buffalo Soldiers patrolled Yosemite and Yellowstone National Parks for decades prior to creation of the National Park Service in 1916; see, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/buffalosoldiers/index.htm>. In addition, because of their superb horsemanship, Buffalo Soldiers taught equestrian skills to white cadets at West Point from 1907 to 1947; see, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/history/2021/05/27/buffalo-soldier-statue-west-point/>.

Change **Negro Hollow** (FID 1363658) to **Freedom Hollow**

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=29.7604462&p_longi=-99.4468079&fid=1363658

This proposal is to change the name of Negro Hollow, a valley in Bandera County, to Freedom Hollow. The 1991 legislation did not provide a specific reason for choosing this name for this feature. USGS maps first labeled the valley in 1964 as Negro Hollow. There is no evidence that any Federal map or publication used the more pejorative form of the name.

Change **Negro Bend** (FID 1363651) to **George Ruby Bend**

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=29.9666066&p_longi=-94.8063114&fid=1363651

This proposal is to change the name of Negro Bend, a bend along the Trinity River in Liberty County, to George Ruby Bend. The bend is on private land within the Approved or Proclamation Boundary of Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge. USGS maps first labeled the feature in 1964 as Negro Bend.

The Handbook of Texas Online contains a biography of George Thompson Ruby (1841-1882), [TSHA | Ruby, George Thompson \(tshaonline.org\)](https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/ruby-george-thompson). It notes in part that Ruby, a native of New York and free-born Black (or mulatto), arrived in Texas in 1866, where he joined the Freedmen's Bureau at Galveston. While there, he managed the bureau's schools, served as a correspondent for *The New Orleans Tribune*, and taught school at the Methodist Episcopal Church. He also published the short-lived *Galveston Standard*. After leaving Galveston, he became a traveling agent for the bureau, visiting Washington, Austin, Bastrop, Fort Bend, and other counties with the purpose of establishing chapters of the Union League, as well as temperance societies.

H.B. 1756 included changes for two other features in Liberty County: Negro Gully to Norris Cuney Gully (q.v.) and Negros Liberty Settlement. The latter, an unincorporated community, was legislated to be changed to George Ruby Settlement, but after the BGN staff determined that it no longer exists, the GNIS entry was updated to "historical."

Change **Negrohead Bluff** (FID 1342413) to **Hendrick Arnold Bluff**
(Whitney Lake Recreation Management Area, USACE)

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=32.1512591&p_longi=-97.5700215&fid=1342413

This proposal is to change the name of Negrohead Bluff, a cliff in Bosque County along the Brazos River, to Hendrick Arnold Bluff. The pejorative form of the name was shown on USGS maps published in 1924 and 1931. Since 1968, all USGS maps have shown the name Negrohead Bluff.

The Handbook of Texas Online includes a biography of Hendrick Arnold (?-1849), <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/arnold-hendrick>. It notes in part that Arnold, having arrived in Texas with his family in 1826, settled in Stephen F. Austin's colony on the Brazos River. He took part in the Battle of Concepción and was cited for his "important service" during the 1835 siege of Bexar. He would later become a guide and spy during the Texas Revolution. In 1827, a woman he kept enslaved bore Arnold a daughter, whom he also kept enslaved; it should be remembered, however, that many free Blacks kept family members enslaved as a means of keeping the family unit together until such time as individuals could be safely freed. See, <https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/african-american-odyssey/free-blacks-in-the-antebellum-period.html> After the revolution, Arnold was compensated for his service with land a few miles northwest of the site of present-day Bandera, a relatively unexplored area, where he operated a gristmill. This property is approximately 230 miles from the bluff now proposed to be named in his honor.

Regarding the existing name, *A History of Johnson County and Surrounding Areas* by Viola Block (<http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~piercescga/genealogy/index.html>) reports, “The bottomland [along the river] was cleared for crops by Negro Slaves. A huge bluff on the river was walled up by the Negroes for their abode. . . . [The] Negroes continued to live under the bluff long after the Civil War, and it was no trouble to see where their cooking fires were built. Floods on the river finally undermined the bluff so completely that it caved off, and now there is no evidence left of the early home of the Negroes. Many of them are buried in the Cemetery”

Change **Negro Head** (FID 1375107) to **Henry Flipper Hill**
https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=30.8348737&p_longi=-103.5554546&fid=1375107

This proposal is to change the name of Negro Head, a 4,210-foot summit in the Barrilla Mountains in Reeves County, to Henry Flipper Hill. USGS maps first labeled the feature in 1980 as Negro Head. There is no evidence that any Federal map or publication used the more pejorative form of the name.

The Handbook of Texas Online and *The New Georgia Encyclopedia* include extensive biographies of Henry Ossian Flipper, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/flipper-henry-ossian> and [Henry O. Flipper \(1856-1940\) | New Georgia Encyclopedia](#). They note in part that Flipper, born enslaved in Georgia, went on to become an engineer and the first Black graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point. In 1878, he described his struggle against ostracism and prejudice in *The Colored Cadet at West Point*. He was commissioned into the U.S. Army, where he served until being dismissed in 1882, despite having been acquitted of embezzlement charges. He would wage a lifelong battle for reinstatement into the Army. He subsequently worked as a surveyor in the U.S. and in Mexico; special agent for the United States Court of Private Land Claims; editor of the Nogales *Sunday Herald*; and member of the Association of Arizona Civil Engineers, the National Geographic Society, and the Southwest Society of the Archaeological Institute of America. He was employed with the Balvanera Mining Company. In 1916, Flipper wrote a memoir of his life in the Southwest, which was published posthumously as *Negro Frontiersman: The Western Memoirs of Henry O. Flipper* (1963).

In 1919 Senator Albert B. Fall brought Flipper to Washington, DC to serve as translator and interpreter for his subcommittee on Mexican internal affairs, and two years later, Flipper was appointed assistant to the Secretary of the Interior, where he was involved with the Alaskan Engineering Commission. In the latter part of the 1920s he was employed by a petroleum company in Venezuela. Throughout his career, he published and translated many reports on mining laws, land claims, and mineral and hydrocarbons exploration.

In December 1976, a bust of Flipper was unveiled at West Point, and the Department of the Army granted him an honorable discharge, dated June 30, 1982. President Bill Clinton officially pardoned Flipper on February 19, 1999. An annual West Point award in honor of Flipper is

presented to the graduate who best exemplifies “the highest qualities of leadership, self-discipline, and perseverance in the face of unusual difficulties while a cadet.”

Change **Negro Creek** (FID 1363653) to **Jack Johnson Creek**

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=30.5340826&p_longi=-98.0469614&fid=1363652

This proposal is to change the name of Negro Creek, a tributary of Upper Keechi Creek in Freestone County, to Jack Johnson Creek. (H.B. 1756 mistakenly lists the stream as also being in Limestone County). USGS maps first labeled the feature as Negro Creek in 1965. A 1956 edition of a 1919 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers map also showed the name as Negro Creek. There is no evidence that any Federal map or publication used the more pejorative form of the name.

The Handbook of Texas Online includes a biography of Jack Johnson (1878-1946), a professional prizefighter and the first Black to win the world heavyweight boxing championship, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/johnson-jack>.

Change **Negro Hollow** (FID 1375108) to **John Horse Hollow**

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=29.4967323&p_longi=-100.1223477&fid=1375108

This proposal is to change the name of Negro Hollow, a valley in Kinney County and Uvalde County, to John Horse Hollow. The pejorative form of the name was shown on USGS maps between 1938 and 1944. Since 1973, all USGS maps have shown the name Negro Branch.

The Handbook of Texas Online, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/caballo-juan>, and the Oklahoma Historical Society’s *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture* include biographies of John Horse (ca.1812–1882), a subchief during the Second Seminole War (1835–42), army guide, and interpreter. . He relocated to the Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma) in 1842 and received his freedom in 1843, later becoming a captain in the Mexican army. For 40 years, he led the African allies of Seminole Indians on a quest from Florida to Mexico to secure a free homeland and is regarded by some as the most successful black freedom fighter in U.S. history. See also <https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=HO033>.

Change **Negro Creek** (FID 1383138) to **Kiamata Creek**

(Sam Houston National Forest)

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=30.6138085&p_longi=-95.2127168&fid=1383138

This proposal is to change the name of Negro Creek, a tributary of East Fork San Jacinto River in San Jacinto County, to Kiamata Creek. The stream is on private land within the proclaimed

boundary of Sam Houston National Forest. USGS maps first labeled the feature in 1962 as Negro Creek.

The Handbook of Texas Online includes a biography of Kian (also known as Ki, Kiamatia, and in some sources, Kiamata), <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/kian>. It notes that Kiamata (or Kian) was an enslaved girl who cared for her owner on Galveston Island in the winter of 1821–22 and later moved to the mainland of Texas, where she raised her own family.

Change **Negrohead Lake** (FID 1380989) to **Lake Henry Doyle**
https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=29.6935601&p_longi=-94.9235365&fid=1380989

This proposal is to change the name of Negrohead Lake, a lake along Cedar Bayou in Harris County, to Lake Henry Doyle. The lake was originally a small body of water within a bend in the bayou but dredging and coastline changes have resulted in it being simply a wider part of the bayou. USGS maps since 1916 have labeled the feature as Negro Lake, while a 1943 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers map labeled it Negrohead Lake. There is no evidence that any Federal map or publication used the more pejorative form of the name, although the word was mentioned in a 1976 *Baytown Sun* article.

The replacement name would honor Henry Doyle (1910-1985), the first African-American to graduate from a Texas law school and the first to serve on a Texas appellate court. *The Handbook of Texas Online* does not include an entry for Mr. Doyle, but a brief biography can be found in Volume 77, No. 2 of the Texas Bar Journal, https://www.texasbar.com/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Past_Issues&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=25092.

The City of Baytown and the Harris County Board of Commissioners passed resolutions in support of the change to Lake Henry Doyle.

Change **Negro Lake** (FID 1363659) to **Lake William Goyens**
https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=31.0970127&p_longi=-95.735437&fid=1363659

This proposal is to change the name of Negro Lake, a small lake in Houston County, to Lake William Goyens. The name would honor William Goyens (1794-1856), early Nacogdoches settler, businessman, property owner, and negotiator with Indian Tribes. USGS maps first labeled the feature in 1964 as Negro Lake. There is no evidence that any Federal map or publication used the more pejorative form of the name. H.B. 1756 did not include a change for the stream in Houston County named Negro Creek and located 7.5 miles to the southeast.

The Texas State Historical Association's *Handbook of Texas Online* includes a biography of William Goyens, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/goyens-william>. It notes in part, "During the Mexican Texas era, Goyens often served as conciliator in the settlement of lawsuits under the Mexican laws. He was appointed as agent to deal with the Cherokees, and on numerous occasions he negotiated treaties with the Comanches and other Indians, for he was trusted not only by them but also by the Mexicans and Anglo-Americans in East Texas. He also operated an inn in connection with his home near the site of what is now the courthouse in Nacogdoches. . . . During the Texas Revolution, Goyens was given the important task of keeping the Cherokees friendly with the Texans, and he was interpreter with Gen. Sam Houston and his party in negotiating a treaty. After the revolution he purchased what was afterwards known as Goyens' Hill, four miles west of Nacogdoches. By 1841 his property included 4,160 acres of farmland, several town lots, and nine enslaved persons."

Change **Negro Hollow** (FID 1342409) to **Leonard Harmon Hollow**
https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=29.661102&p_longi=-99.8637283&fid=1342409

This proposal is to change the name of Negro Hollow, a valley in Real County, to Leonard Harmon Hollow. The name would honor Leonard Roy Harmon (1917-1942), posthumous recipient of the Navy Cross and the first person of African-American descent after whom a Navy ship was named. USGS maps first labeled the feature in 1971 as Negro Hollow. A 1957 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers map labeled it with the more pejorative form of the name.

The Texas State Historical Association's *Handbook of Texas Online* includes a biography of Leonard Harmon, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/harmon-leonard-roy>.

Change **Negro Tank** (FID 1363660) to **Matthew Hooks Reservoir**
https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=33.4551483&p_longi=-100.3732234&fid=1363660

This proposal is to change the name of Negro Tank, a small reservoir in King County, to Matthew Hooks Reservoir. The name would honor Mathew (Bones) Hooks (1867–1951), cowboy and horse breaker. USGS maps first labeled the feature in 1958 as Negro Tank. There is no evidence that any Federal map or publication used the more pejorative form of the name.

The Texas State Historical Association's *Handbook of Texas Online* includes a biography of Mathew Hooks, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/hooks-mathew>. His name is most often recorded as "Mathew," although his headstone shows "Matthew." A biography of his life ("Bones Hooks: Pioneer Negro Cowboy" by Bruce G. Todd, 2005) used the spelling "Mathew." Bones Hooks Park in Amarillo is named for Mat(t)hew Hooks.

Change **Negro Creek** (FID 1342407) to **Milton Holland Creek**

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=32.7495715&p_longi=-96.0105239&fid=1342407

This proposal is to change the name of Negro Creek, a tributary of McBee Creek in Van Zandt County, to Milton Holland Creek. USGS maps first labeled the feature in 1956 as Negro Creek. There is no evidence that any Federal map or publication used the more pejorative form of the name.

The 1969 *Place Names of Northeast Texas* by Fred Tarpley reported: “Faint recollections of a Negro lynching along the creek north of Wills Point are mentioned by oldtimers, who are unable to supply details. Although the map designation is Negro Creek, the local name among white citizens is N[] Creek.”

The Texas State Historical Association’s *Handbook of Texas Online* includes a biography of Milton Holland (1844-1910), <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/holland-milton-m>. It notes that Holland served during the Civil War with the Fifth United States Colored Troops, and was one of sixteen Black soldiers to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. After the war, Holland moved to Washington, D.C., where he was employed in the Auditor Office of the U.S. Government; he also became chief of collections for the Sixth District and established the Alpha Insurance Company, one of the first African-American owned insurance companies. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Change **Negro Gully** (FID 1342408) to **Norris Cuney Gully**

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=30.0468755&p_longi=-94.4735186&fid=1342408

This proposal is to change the name of Negro Gully, a valley in Liberty County, to Norris Cuney Gully. USGS maps first labeled the feature in 1955 as Negro Gully. There is no evidence that any Federal map or publication used the more pejorative form of the name.

The name would honor Norris Wright Cuney (1846–1898), politician, Galveston City Council alderman and customs collector, Republican party delegate, and founder of the Screwmen’s Benevolent Association. The Texas State Historical Association’s *Handbook of Texas Online* includes a biography of Norris Cuney, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/cuney-norris-wright>.

H.B. 1756 also included name changes for two other features in Liberty County: Negro Bend (q.v.) and Negros Liberty Settlement. The latter, a small unincorporated community, was legislated to be renamed to George Ruby Settlement, but research shows that it no longer exists and the GNIS entry was marked “historical.”

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Ahu'ailā'au, Hawaii

(Review List 443)

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=19.46137&p_longi=-154.90913

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Hawaii County	X				
State Names Authority	Hawaii	X				
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes						X
Other	Kahu of Ahu'ena Heiau		X			

The new name Ahu'ailā'au is proposed for a previously unnamed fissure (summit) that formed following the 2018 eruption of Kīlauea in Hawaii County. The proposal was submitted by the Hawaii Board on Geographic Names (HBGN) on behalf of a professor in the Hawaiian department at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, who in turn represented three residents of the community of Puna.

One of the many fissures that opened during 2018 eruption, it was the most active in the community of Leilani Estates, “spewing an estimated 26,000 gallons of lava per second and creating fountains over 200 feet high” (*Hawaii News Now*, March 4, 2021). The eruption lasted over five months, traveled four miles to the ocean, destroyed over 700 homes and businesses, and caused nearly \$800 million in property damage.

In an effort to apply an appropriate name that would encompass the traditional, cultural and family ties to the area, the HBGN established a Permitted Interaction Group, which was responsible for considering 18 proposals submitted by community members; the group also traveled to the area to meet with concerned citizens. The HBGN commented, “We actually joined the community, saw how to make it a meaningful process for the community, and heard from the community about how to proceed with this naming. Many of Hawaii’s features are named because they are ways to remember stories, traditions, and customs associated with different places.”

Prior to the HBGN’s final decision, many local sources and media coverage referred to the feature as “Fissure 8”; that name was also used widely by the U.S. Geological Survey in its study of the eruption. The USGS definition of a fissure is “a fracture or crack in rock along which there is a distinct separation; fissures are often filled with mineral-bearing materials. On volcanoes, a fissure is an elongate fracture or crack at the surface from which lava erupts. Fissure eruptions typically dwindle to a central vent after a period of hours or days. Occasionally, lava will flow back into the ground by pouring into a crack or an open eruptive fissure, a process called drainback; sometimes lava will flow back into the same fissure from which it erupted.”

In March 2021, following a series of meetings at which members of the public were invited to share their opinions, the HBGN approved the name Ahu'ailā'au. The word *Ahu* refers to a mound or shrine, and *'Ailā'au* is a Hawai'i deity for the volcano and lava. According to the HBGN, "*Ai* means 'to eat,' and *Lā'au* can also mean 'to heal or medicine, so the idea of *Ahu'ailā'au* referring to this ancestral guardian and deity for Puna, but also this idea it can be a healing element for the community."

The Kahu (keeper or guardian) of the Ahu'ena Heiau objected to the HBGN's decision process at several meetings. She repeatedly asked that the HBGN consider other names and sent a letter to Hawaii State legislators reporting her objections and desire for continued dialogue. Transcripts of her concerns and the HBGN discussions are available in the HBGN's minutes of January to March 2021: [Office of Planning | HBGN Meeting Minutes \(hawaii.gov\)](https://www.hawaii.gov/planning/2021/01/21/hbgn-meeting-minutes/). The HBGN believes there was sufficient outreach and that the necessary research was conducted through its multi-year review process.

Change **Negro Ledge** (FID 614852) to **Wampanoag Ledge**, Massachusetts
(Review List 437)

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=41.5459393&p_long=-70.8661462&fid=614852

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	New Bedford City Council					X
	Bristol County Commissioners			X		
State Names Authority	Massachusetts		X			
Federal Agency	NOAA	X				
Tribes						X
Other	City Council member's personal opinion		X			
	Wampanoag Mashpee Tribe*					X

* contacted by NOAA

This proposal is to change the name of **Negro Ledge**, a bar in Buzzards Bay in Bristol County, to **Wampanoag Ledge**. The bar lies offshore of New Bedford, approximately 14 to 30 feet below sea level, with an area of about 70 acres. It lies within several National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service Marine Protected Areas, as well as within a Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Marine Protected Area.

The proponent, a local resident, states, "The name Negro is racially insensitive and the name change to **Wampanoag Ledge** is in respect to the indigenous tribe of the region."

The name Negro Ledge has appeared on USGS maps since 1962 and on Office of Coast Survey charts since 1898. It also appears in numerous Federal and State listings of navigation lights and buoys, as well as in documents detailing environmental remediation and energy projects. The origin of the name is unknown.

The Wampanoag Tribes inhabited the area between Narragansett Bay and Massachusetts Bay, including Cape Cod, and are known to have encountered the Pilgrims at Plymouth. Two federally recognized Wampanoag Tribes exist today: the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah). (Massachusetts recognizes three additional Wampanoag Tribes.)

The New Bedford City Council reportedly considered the proposal but did not provide an official recommendation. However, one council member provided their personal opinion (“on behalf of myself and no other person, group, institution, legislative body, etc.”) that the proposal not be approved because they do not consider the word “Negro” to be offensive, referencing the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas. The member added they would not oppose a change “based on sound principals [*sic*] and some other reason [than because the word ‘Negro’ is considered offensive.]”

The Massachusetts State Names Authority does not support the proposal, citing a lack of “consent from the Wampanoag Tribe” and in the belief that “a lack of response to a [BGN] Quarterly Review List is necessarily commensurate with a lack of interest.”

The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration’s Navigation Manager and Tribal Liaison contacted the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe for input but did not receive any response.

Jones Canyon, Utah
(Manti La Sal National Forest)
(Review List 442)

Mouth: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=39.7792425&p_longi=-111.2123049

Source: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=39.7856405&p_longi=-111.2182272

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Carbon County Commissioners		X			
State Names Authority	Utah		X			
Federal Agency	U.S. Forest Service		X			
Tribes						X

The new name Jones Canyon is proposed for a 0.5-mile-long, 0.4-mile-wide canyon in Manti-La Sal National Forest in Carbon County. The feature is located west of Scofield Reservoir and trends southeast from Fish Creek Ridge to Fish Creek.

The proponent wishes to honor her great-grandfather Vern Emil Jones (1917-1971) and great-uncle David K. Jones (1944-2011), who often hunted in the valley and shared the joy of hunting there with five generations of the Jones family. The proponent (whose last name is not Jones) reports that the family recently acquired property in the valley while in the past they would frequently camp and hunt there.

The Carbon County Commissioners do not support the proposal because “the family only visited the site and did not own the property [this was prior to the family’s recent property purchase]; we feel there could be many requests like this which we feel is unwise.” The Utah Geographic Names Committee and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) also recommend disapproval, citing a lack of a direct or long-term association between the feature and the intended honorees. The USFS also reported, “In consultations with the local residents, the Manti-La Sal National Forest personnel found no support for naming the feature.”

GNIS does not list any other features in Carbon County with “Jones” in their names. However, Jones Ridge in Utah County, also located in Manti-La Sal National Forest, is located 9.5 miles to the northwest. Two valleys named Jones Hollow are located in Duchesne County, 23 miles and 33 miles to the northwest, respectively. There is no evidence these features are named for the Jones family in question.

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

Leonard Creek, California
(Tahoe National Forest)
(Review List 434)

Mouth: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=39.632955&p_longi=-120.550489

Source: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=39.658581&p_longi=-120.547185

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Sierra County Board of Supervisors	X				
State Names Authority	California	X				
Federal Agency	USFS				X	
Tribes						X

Other	Sierra Nevada Field Campus, San Francisco State University	X				
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The new name Leonard Creek is proposed for a 2.1-mile-long tributary of the North Yuba River in Sierra County and Tahoe National Forest. The name would commemorate Dr. J. Paul Leonard (1901-1995), former president of San Francisco State University, who developed the university's Sierra Nevada Field Campus located approximately 1.5 miles southwest of the mouth of the stream.

Dr. Leonard became the President of San Francisco State University (then called San Francisco State College) in 1945. During his 12-year tenure, he expanded the size and scope of the school beyond its original teacher training curriculum. Upon his death in 1995, the then-President of the University called him the school's "first modern president" who "set his stamp on this university to a degree that would be difficult, even impossible, today. What he accomplished in his 12-year tenure was, frankly, amazing." After leaving San Francisco State University, Dr. Leonard became President of the American University in Beirut and later led Columbia University's program in India.

In 1949, Dr. Leonard negotiated a lease with the U.S. Forest Service to develop a camp for training students in San Francisco State's Recreation Program. The 9.2-acre camp became known as "Camp Leonard" and the first Camp Leadership Program for Recreation Leaders, School Teachers, and Camp Counselors was offered in 1950. The camp was one of the first outdoor education programs in the country. The camp's course offerings expanded over the years to include other University departments: Education, Psychology, Biology, Geology, and Art. A children's camp was added to the program in 1951. Later camp directors developed an outdoor laboratory to offer winter courses, a Peace Corps training program, and camps for disadvantaged youth. In 1970, the camp became San Francisco State University's field campus.

A query of GNIS found no nearby features that include "Leonard" in their names, but there is a J. Paul Leonard Library on the campus of San Francisco State University.

Docs Pond, Georgia
(Review List 441)

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=33.580344&p_longi=-83.420171

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

This proposal is to apply the new commemorative name Docs Pond to an unnamed 2.6-acre lake on the proponent's family property, 0.8 miles south-southwest of Strange Lake in Morgan County. The family home sits atop a hill overlooking the lake. The property was first acquired in 1989 and is still owned by the family today.

The proposed name would honor the proponent's grandfather, Dr. Miguel A. Cossio (1925-2006), a psychiatrist in Havana, Cuba, who moved to the U.S. in 1969, where he practiced in a mental hospital in Florida until he retired in 1996. He spent his final years in the family home in Morgan County, and according to proponent, spent his afternoons in his wheelchair gazing over the lake. Dr. Cossio had four sons who all became medical doctors.

Bandy Creek, Missouri

(Review List 442)

Mouth: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=38.35625&p_longi=-91.21858

Source: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=38.32917&p_longi=-91.2147

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Franklin County Commission	X				
State Names Authority	Missouri	X				
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes						X

* *contacted by Missouri State Names Authority*

This proposal is to apply the new commemorative name Bandy Creek to a 2.5-mile-long tributary of the Bourbeuse River in Boone Township in Franklin County. The name would commemorate seven members of the Bandy family who died when their vehicle was swept away in a flash flood near their home along this stream on June 15, 1957. They were returning to the family farm when they became stranded on a small knoll between rising floodwaters, while attempting to wait out the storm. The deceased were Mrs. Alice Bandy, age 52; her daughter-in-law Andrea Bandy, 18; Andrea's one-year-old baby Phyllis; Alice Bandy's daughter Winifred, 16; and her sons Ben, Herbert, and Howard, aged 18, 15, and 13, respectively.

The proponent provided copies of newspaper accounts of the incident, along with the coroner's inquest notes provided by one of the surviving family members. All seven family members are buried at Evergreen Baptist Church Cemetery, approximately 1.5 miles from the stream.

IV. Revised Decisions - none

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Sweetwater Creek, Arkansas

(Review List 440)

Mouth: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=34.575961&p_longi=-94.287741

Source: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=34.589614&p_longi=-94.27502

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

This proposal is to apply the new name Sweetwater Creek to unnamed 1.35-mile-long tributary of Merren Creek, 1.5 miles west of the City of Mena in Polk County. A short section of the stream flows through the proponent's farm, and according to the application, "Our horses prefer to drink from this creek. We tell our children, the water tastes sweeter. So it seems to be a fitting name."

GNIS lists three streams in Arkansas named Sweetwater Creek; the closest is in neighboring Montgomery County, 25 miles to the east-northeast of the stream in question.

Talking Brook, Maine

(Review List 443)

Mouth: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=43.97521&p_longi=-70.24009

Source: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=44.0017&p_longi=-70.24825

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	New Gloucester Board of Selectmen	X				
	Auburn City Council				X	
	Cumberland County Commissioners	X				
	Androscoggin County Commissioners	X				
State Names Authority	Maine	X				
Federal Agency	N/A					
Tribes						X

This proposal is to make official the name Talking Brook for a 2.2.-mile-long unnamed tributary of Meadow Brook. The stream heads in the City of Auburn in Androscoggin County and flows into the Town of New Gloucester in Cumberland County.

The proposal was submitted by the Royal River Conservation Trust (RRCT) on behalf of the owner of the land that borders the stream within the Town of New Gloucester. The proponent's family recently allowed public access to their land along the stream and adjacent to a parcel recently donated to the RRCT.

The proponent states that the name refers to the sound of the stream. While camping on the land before building a house, he recalled, "I could hear someone laughing and talking during the night only to realize that it was only the brook babbling as it played over its rocky bed. It was then that we gave the stream the name Talking Brook." He comments that the name "reminds us that our stewardship of these woods is our legacy that will carry on long after we are gone and the voice of the brook falls on other ears." He also added, "If there is a traditional Native stream name that we are not aware of, we would like to defer to the Native name."

Outpost Creek, Mississippi
(Review List 441)

Mouth: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=32.76689&p_longi=-88.83929

Source: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=32.7959&p_longi=-88.81254

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

This proposal is to apply the new name Outpost Creek to a 3.5-mile-long unnamed tributary of Land Creek in Kemper County. The stream flows in part through property owned by the proponent under the name J S Farms; the specific property is known as J S Outpost. J and S represent the initials of the proponent and his wife. The proposal was amended from J S Outpost Creek after the proponent was informed of the Commemorative Names Policy. He states that no products are sold under the "Outpost" or "J S Farms" names.