**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**  
**DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE**  
Eight Hundred and Fortieth Meeting  
February 10, 2022 – 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)
- **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)
- **Sean Killen**  
  Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
- **Susan Lyon**  
  Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) (Chair) (voting)
- **Patrick Mahoney**  
  Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management)
- **Veronica Ranieri**  
  Library of Congress
- **Mike Shelton**  
  Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
- **Jeremy Smith**  
  Department of the Interior (Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management)
- **Timothy St. Onge**  
  Library of Congress (Vice Chair)
- **Michael Tischler**  
  Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
- **Tara Wallace**  
  Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)

### Ex-Officio
- Trent Palmer, Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names / Foreign Names Committee

### Staff
- Julie-Ann Danfora, U.S. Geological Survey
- Sergio Rodriguez, U.S. Geological Survey
- Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey

### Guests
- Hollie Lockhart, U.S. Geological Survey
- Timothy Love, U.S. Forest Service
- Alesia Pierre-Louis, Department of the Interior
- Alexie Rogers, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
- Maria Wiseman, Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Foreign Names Committee staff
1. **Opening**

The chair opened Meeting 840 of the DNC at 9:40 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 839**

The minutes of Meeting 839, held December 9, 2021, were approved as submitted.

3. **Reports**

3.1 **BGN Chairman** (Allsup)

See attached report.

The next Foreign Names Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, March 8. The next Full Board quarterly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19.

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. The BGN Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report to the Secretary of the Interior is still being assembled. Forrest is expecting a few more submissions.

3.4 **Executive Secretary** (Guempel)

There was no written report.

3.5 **Staff** (Runyon)

See attached report. DNC members noted their appreciation that the report includes links to media coverage mentioning geographic names activity.
Some BGN documents may be unavailable on the website for a short period as a section 508 compliance review is being conducted. Staff can email any document not available.

3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (McCormick)

There was no written report.

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

See attached report.

Kanalley reported that the document shared with members is intended to provide guidance to a proponent of a name that refers to a Tribe, honors a person affiliated with a Tribe, or which includes a word from a native language. The DNC will be asked to discuss the document at the March meeting. With DNC approval, the Special Committee will investigate the next steps to implement the procedure, including how best to solicit Tribal input into the suggested procedure.

The Special Committee will meet following this meeting.

4. Docket

Please refer to the attached Docket for a description of each proposal.

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

Change Paradise Beach (FID 1193087) to Tunnelville Beach, Pennsylvania (Crooked Creek Lake – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) (Review List 443)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 18 in favor
   0 against
   0 abstentions

Change Martin Creek (FID 1292827) to Martins Creek, Tennessee and Virginia (not review listed)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 18 in favor
   0 against
   0 abstentions
Change **Wallen Creek** (FID 1488196) to **Wallens Creek**, Virginia (not review listed)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 18 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Wallen Ridge** (FID 1488170) to **Wallens Ridge**, Virginia and Tennessee (not review listed)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 18 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

II. **Disagreement on Docketed Names**

**Jade Lake**, Alaska (Review List 443)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing the negative recommendations of the State Names Authority and the Bristol Bay Native Corporation.

Vote: 18 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

**Howe Arch**, California (Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area legislated boundary) (Review List 439)

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

Vote: 18 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

**The Duke**, California (Stanislaus National Forest / Emigrant Wilderness) (Review List 443)

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

Vote: 18 in favor
0 against
Change **V H Pasture Reservoir** (FID 186139) to **Elk Springs Reservoir** and change **Vurl Reservoir** (FID 186140) to **Wapiti Reservoir**, Colorado (Uncompahgre National Forest --- proclaimed boundary) (Review List 435)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the changes, citing a reluctance to change longstanding commemorative names without a compelling reason, as well as the negative recommendation of the State Names Authority.

Vote: 16 in favor
1 against
1 abstention

**Albertson Creek**, Oregon (Review List 441)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing the negative recommendation of the State Names Authority.

Vote: 18 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

**Lawanda Hill**, Oregon (Review List 443)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing the negative recommendation of the State Names Authority.

Vote: 18 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

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

Change **Gasparni Creek** (FID 274939) to **Gasparini Creek**, California (Eldorado National Forest) (Review List 441)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 18 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions
**Hoskins Island**, Connecticut (Review List 443) (FID 2830257)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 17 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

**Otto Creek**, Oregon (Review List 442) (FID 2830258)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 18 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

**Telschows Branch**, Texas (Review List 439)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing the Commemorative Names Policy.

Vote: 9 in favor
9 against
0 abstentions

As a result of the tie vote, the proposal is deferred until the next meeting.

Change **Mogarts Beach** (FID 364943) to **Morgarts Beach**, Virginia (Review List 445)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 18 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Barney Coker Canyon** (FID 1503182) to **Barney Kolker Canyon**, Washington (Review List 437)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 18 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions
IV. Revised Decisions

Change **Idiot Creek** (BGN 1965) (FID 1163062) to **Kindness Creek**, Oregon (Oregon Department of Forestry) (Review List 437)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the change, citing the negative recommendation of the State Names Authority.

Vote: 14 in favor  
2 against  
2 abstentions

One member who voted against the motion stated that they wished to support changing an insensitive name even if the proposed name was not especially relevant to the feature.

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

**Jade Mountain**, Alaska (Toolik Lake Research Natural Area of Critical Environmental Concern --- Bureau of Land Management) (Review List 443) (FID 2830255)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 18 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

One member left the meeting.

**Oak Springs**, California (Review List 436) (FID 2830256)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 16 in favor  
1 against  
0 abstentions

The vote against the motion was cast due to concerns with the potential commercial use of the name.

One member left the meeting.
**Slate Cabin Run**, Pennsylvania (Review List 443) (FID 2830261)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

- Vote: 16 in favor
- 0 against
- 0 abstentions

**Fern Creek** and **South Fork Fern Creek**, Oregon (Review List 443)

Some members expressed concern that there would be confusion with the existing Fern Creek located 11 miles away in the same county.

A motion was made to defer a vote in order for staff to ask the State Names Authority to address the Duplicate Names Policy and to consult with the local emergency management department or other appropriate local or regional offices.

**Pronghorn Hot Springs**, Oregon (Malheur National Wildlife Refuge) (Review List 444) (FID 2830260)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

- Vote: 16 in favor
- 0 against
- 0 abstentions

**Roberts Mountain Pass**, Oregon (Review List 443) (FID 2830259)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

- Vote: 16 in favor
- 0 against
- 0 abstentions

5. **Other Business**

Ellerbe reported that there are three features in Ontario that are labeled on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) charts with “Sq_” names. They are not listed in the [Canadian Geographical Names Database](https://www.geonames.org) or [Ontario’s database of Official Geographic Names](http://www.ontariogis.ca), and so he inquired whether there might be something official to refer to in order that they can be removed from the charts. Guempel has been in communication with the Geographical Names Board of Canada and can bring up the issue if needed.
Members discussed what to do when Federal maps show features located in other countries that include words deemed derogatory. Suggestions included developing a new DNC policy or leaving it up to each agency.

6. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

The next Domestic Names Committee meeting is scheduled to be held virtually on March 10, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.

(signed)

______________________________
Glenn Guempel, Executive Secretary
Domestic Names Committee

APPROVED
(signed)

__________________________
Susan Lyon, Chair
Domestic Names Committee
BGN CHAIR REPORT
February 10, 2022

1) BGN FISCAL YEAR 2021 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
The Annual Report is in work. Please consider maps, photographs, or other items of visual interest for inclusion in the report. Forward your contributions for consideration to Ms. B.C. Forrest.

2) FOREIGN NAMES COMMITTEE
The Foreign Names Committee will hold their 409th meeting on Tuesday, March 8 at 1:00 pm Eastern Standard Time. The meeting will be held virtually via Webex. Contact FNC Staff Assistant Alex Boyd Alexander.Boyd.ctr@nga.mil to receive the Webex invitation and meeting documents should you wish to attend.

3) ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON UNDERSEA FEATURES
The Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF) met virtually on January 6. ACUF unanimously approved Meredith Westington of NOAA as the new ACUF Chair.

4) NEXT FULL BOARD MEETING
The next Full Board Meeting, BGN 285, is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19, 2022.

BGN/Domestic Names Committee Meeting 840
February 10, 2022
Staff Report

Meetings and Presentations

The DNC did not meet in January, so this report covers the period since the December 9 meeting.

Staff attended a meeting of the BGN’s Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication on January 13. Staff also participated in Meeting 359 of the Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (January 6) and the Full Board’s Quarterly Meeting 284, held virtually on January 18.

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 and reviewed, and Quarterly Review List 446, comprising 57 new names and name changes, was posted online on January 24. Tribal notification emails were sent on February 2 to 574 federally recognized Tribes and approximately 200 Tribal Historic Preservation Officers.
A number of State Names Authorities have reached out to BGN staff to ask how Secretarial Order 3404 (Declaring “Squaw” a Derogatory Term and Implementing Procedures to Remove the Term from Federal Usage) and Secretarial Order 3405 (Addressing Derogatory Geographic Names), announced on November 19, will impact their activities. They have been instructed to direct any questions and comments to the email address in the DOI press release or to the chair of the S.O. 3404 Task Force.

BGN staff have participated thus far in two meetings of the Task Force and a number of internal staff meetings, and were also instrumental in the efforts by the USGS National Geospatial Technical Operations Center to develop a list of candidate replacement names. The staff also conducted an in-depth analysis of the approximately 665 Sq__ names in GNIS and initiated a number of updates to the existing records.

Of the 57 proposals received this quarter, 32 were to change a name that the proponent considers offensive or derogatory. Of these, 21 are to change the word “Sq__” and these have been transferred to the S.O. 3404 Task Force for its consideration. The staff has ceased all research and outreach on these 21 proposals. An additional 38 Sq__ change proposals are pending on earlier review lists and have also been transferred to the Task Force. A brief statement outlining the change has been added to the introductory page of each of the 10 review lists that include Sq__ changes, and all proponents will be notified.

A proposal was received from a representative of the White Mountain Apache Game & Fish Department to change the name of Sq__ Creek, located on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (Arizona), to Aspen Creek. Because the stream is located entirely on the Tribe’s Trust lands, the proponent was informed that in accordance with Policy X: Tribal Geographic Names, no BGN formal action is needed and if a formal request is submitted by the Tribal Government, the name will be changed. To date, no such request has been received.

An Assistant Professor of Public Administration at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock requested a list of all offensive and derogatory names changed by the BGN; he was provided instructions on how to query GNIS.

One of the recently received “Sq__” change proposals is to rename the valley in Placer County, California to Olympic Valley. The valley was the site of the 1960 Winter Olympics; the associated ski resort changed its name last year to Palisades Tahoe.

Four of the pending proposals, to rename “Sq__” features in Plumas and Sierra counties, California to names from the Washoe language, have been on hold since 2014, pending possible input from the area’s Mountain Maidu community. In January 2022, four counterproposals were submitted by the Maidu Summit Consortium and were added to Review List 446.

The staff contacted the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation regarding a proposal that has been received to change the name of Pilot Knob, located partly on the Tribe’s reservation and partly on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, to Chesed Hills. The Tribal
Government expressed concerns that they had not been consulted directly, especially as the hills are considered sacred to their community. The THPO was assured that the BGN had not yet rendered a decision and that the Tribe’s input was very much appreciated. The Tribe indicated they would prefer that the name be changed to the traditional name Avi Kwalal; this name is included on Review List 446.

At its December meeting, the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN) reported that it would not be revisiting its decision (July 2017) to recommend approval of the name To Kalon Creek for a previously unnamed stream in Napa County (approved by the DNC in September 2017). Following receipt of a formal objection from attorneys representing Constellation Brands, Inc. (owners of the “To Kalon” trademark), the DNC indicated it would be willing to revisit its decision. The CACGN was asked if they wished to review their recommendation but have declined to do so. Both the original proponent and the attorneys have contacted the BGN staff to inquire about the next steps. The staff is compiling a summary of the case for the DNC’s reconsideration at an upcoming meeting.

The Mestaa’èhehe Coalition expressed its appreciation to the DNC for approving the change from Sq__ Mountain to Mestaa’èhehe Mountain at the December meeting.

The proposal to change the name of Chinaman Gulch in Chaffee County, Colorado (Review List 437) was withdrawn by the proponent after the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board (CGNAB) conducted additional outreach and initiated a new proposal to change the name to Yansing Gulch. This proposal is on Review List 446.

The Clear Creek County (Colorado) Board of Commissioners is expected to begin a series of meetings to review the proposals that have been submitted to change the name of Mount Evans. Each of the five proponents (for Mount Soule, Mount Rosalie, Mount Blue Sky, and Mount Cheyenne-Arapaho, and one to retain the current name but amend the honoree) will be given an opportunity to present their proposals, after which the county board will review the information and provide a recommendation to the CGNAB.

The proposal to change the name of Sq__ Mountain in Teller County, Colorado to Sunnyside Mountain (Review List 444) was withdrawn by the proponent after the Newmont Mining Company, whose Cripple Creek and Victor Mine is located adjacent to the mountain, submitted a counterproposal for Bristlecone Peak.

Staff attended a virtual meeting of the Johnson County (Kansas) Creek Committee, which was established to address the possible renaming of Negro Creek. The committee asked staff to provide an overview of the BGN’s policies and procedures, and also discussed the impacts of Secretarial Order 3405.

In December 2018, the DNC voted not to approve a proposal to change the name of Brazell Pond in Worcester County, Massachusetts, to Betty Pond, which would have recognized the name used by the property owner, the Town, and the State. The DNC determined that the proposed name was in
violation of its Commemorative Names Policy. The proponent expressed his displeasure at the
DNC’s decision and has since solicited and received additional support for the change from the
Massachusetts State Names Authority (which was previously neutral on the matter) and from local
emergency response departments. The proponent is asking the DNC to revisit its decision.

An individual contacted the BGN to inquire about renaming a peak on property he is preparing to
purchase in New York, in honor of his recently deceased granddaughter. Upon learning that a
proposal could not be accepted due to the Commemorative Names Policy, he expressed his extreme
displeasure at the “silly and hurtful reply” and questioned the BGN’s constitutional authority to
name features on private land. He indicated he would pursue the naming through the U.S. Congress.

A resident of Missouri contacted the BGN to state that “Devil's Tower National Monument needs to
be changed to the Kiowa Indian name, ‘Rock Tree,’ with the new name and the former name on a
plaque at the monument's visitor's center, with the history and information about the new name.”
The inquirer was informed that the BGN could not consider the matter as long as the name is the
subject of pending legislation and that the (re)naming of a National Monument is the responsibility
of the land managing agency and/or the U.S. Congress.

State Names Authority and State Partner Activities

Staff attended the monthly virtual meetings of the CGNAB on December 16 and January 20. Staff
also attended the virtual meetings of the Nevada Board on Geographic Names (NSBGN) (January
11) and the Utah Geographic Names Committee (February 5).

Dr. Christine Johnson, Executive Secretary of the NSBGN, has been appointed to serve as Executive
Secretary of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (CoGNA). CoGNA has begun to hold a
series of four virtual regional sessions; these will allow the State Names Authorities to meet each
other, share experiences, and to receive updates from the BGN. The first session was held on
February 7 and was well attended, with considerable discussion of items of mutual interest. There
were many questions and comments about the secretarial orders.

CoGNA is hoping to hold an in-person conference in September, likely in Maryland, with Oregon
and Missouri to host in 2023 and 2024, respectively.

News and Media Coverage

Staff was interviewed last September by The Atlantic (the reporter also attended the September DNC
meeting); the article appeared on January 27: The Little-Known Federal Body That Renames Racist
Places - The Atlantic.

The Fresno Bee contacted the staff to inquire about the proposal on Review List 446 to change the
name of the unincorporated community of Squaw Valley in Fresno County to Nuum Valley. The
reporter also asked about the recent Secretarial Orders, so the response was coordinated with the
Department of the Interior Office of Communication.
The Cape Cod Times published an article entitled “Cape Cod's Squaw Island prompts debate over cultural reclamation, interpretation of words”

The Berkshire Edge reported on efforts to rename a local road: Selectboard to consider name change for 'offensive' Squaw Peak Road - The Berkshire Edge; which led to a follow-up opinion piece on the meaning of the word: Is 'squaw' really an offensive name and to whom? - The Berkshire Edge

TCPalm, a news outlet in Florida, contacted BGN staff to inquire about any changes that were made by the DNC in response to State Legislation that was introduced in 2004 to change offensive names throughout the State. The staff provided an overview to the USGS Office of Communications for its review and response.

Other news coverage during this reporting period included:

US approves Indigenous name change for Colorado mountain (sfgate.com)

6 North Dakota sites using Indigenous slur to be renamed - InForum | Fargo, Moorhead and West Fargo news, weather and sports

Across the West, racist place names ‘tell us we don't really belong' | KUNC

The Washington Football Team isn’t the only thing getting a rename | Federal News Network

Offensive place names dot the American landscape. Efforts to change them are about to get a lot faster. - The Washington Post

Geographic naming board agrees to scrape offensive name from Chaffee County gulch – The Durango Herald

I was raised beside ‘Squaw Peak’ – it’s time to change America’s offensive place names | US news | The Guardian

S.D. board receives federal ‘squaw’ notice | KELOLAND.com

https://billingsgazette.com/opinion/columnists/guest-opinion-its-past-time-to-remove-jefferson-davis-name-from-montana-maps/article_0fede5fe-7263-5ae9-bc10-b098de3971af.html

Putting Indigenous Place-Names and Languages Back on Maps | ArcNews | Winter 2021 (esri.com)

Native Americans seek to change the name Squaw Valley - Los Angeles Times (latimes.com)

Derogatory names have no place on our natural national treasures (denverpost.com)
Offensive words are often used in the names of natural American landmarks. Efforts to change them are ramping up. – WAMU

**Misc. Staff Activities**

The staff continues to work with other National Geospatial Program offices to maintain an accurate and current Tribal contact list, which the staff relies on to send the quarterly review list notices. The Bureau of Indian Affairs office that manages the agency’s Tribal Leaders Directory informed NGP that they rely on the Tribal governments to provide updates. The recent Review List 446 notice resulted in approximately 75 undeliverable emails.

The staff provided content for the FY21 Annual Report to the Secretary of the Interior.

In response to inquiries, staff provided copies of various decision files and correspondence to the Secretary of the Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names.

The staff was also asked to provide copies of material related to several past BGN decisions; because all attachments were removed from GNIS following orders to do so by the USGS Privacy Officer, additional research must be done to locate and distribute these documents. A number of users have expressed concerns that this material is no longer publicly available.

The USGS staff continued to meet regularly with Esri developers to redesign the BGN’s online proposal form and to develop a more robust proposal tracking system. The contract has reached its conclusion with less than optimal results. The staff will explore other options to provide updates on pending proposals.
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 443 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 **Paradise Beach** (FID 1193087) to **Tunnelville Beach**, Pennsylvania
(Crooked Creek Lake--US Army Corps of Engineers)
(Review List 443)
40.7142312, -79.4989329

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This proposal is to change the name of Paradise Beach in Bethel Township in Armstrong County to Tunnelville Beach. The beach was formed when Crooked Creek Reservoir was created in 1940 and is within property managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

The proponent, a geographer with the USACE Pittsburgh District, reports that the proposed name is used by the agency and that it refers to the community of Tunnelville that once existed at the location but was inundated by the creation of Crooked Creek Reservoir. According to a 1987 USACE memorandum for the Crooked Creek Lake Project, the name derives from a gristmill “where the builders tunneled through rock to construct a special head race powered mill.”

A 2004 Bethel Township map published by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation showed a community named Tunnelville 0.9 miles southwest of where it was depicted on USGS maps in 1907 and 1909. Some online documents also refer to an existing community named Tunnelville.
The name Paradise Beach was first labeled on USGS maps in 1954 and is of unknown origin. The proponent speculates that it “may have been favored by the former State Park that existed at this lake.”

Change **Martin Creek** (FID 1292827) to **Martins Creek**, Tennessee and Virginia (not review listed)
Mouth: 36.5875868, -83.3335134 / Source: 36.6964759, -83.3260150

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This proposal is to correct the name of Martin Creek, a tributary of the Powell River in Hancock County, Tennessee and Lee County, Virginia, to Martins Creek to reflect the current and historical spelling.

The proponent reports that “[t]he Martins are among the original White settlers and have been present in the county [Lee County] for hundreds of years.”

USGS maps published in 1891 and 1897 labeled the stream as Martin’s Creek; all subsequent editions applied the name Martin Creek, presumably following BGN principles at the time to eliminate possessive forms of names. The GNIS record lists the variant name Martins Creek, citing an 1887 postal route map.

GNIS also records a community nearby in Hancock County named Martin Creek; this name was added in 1989 citing a Tennessee Department of Transportation map; the current edition of the county map does not label the community or the creek. Previous editions of the USGS maps labeled “Martin Creek School” and “Martin Creek Church” at this location. The church is currently called “Martin’s Creek Baptist Church”; the school may no longer exist. Martins Creek Road passes along the stream in Lee County.

Google Maps erroneously labels the stream as “Indian Creek,” with the label “Martin Creek” at its mouth. According to GNIS, there are no streams officially named Indian Creek in the vicinity.

Change **Wallen Creek** (FID 1488169) to **Wallens Creek**, Virginia and change **Wallen Ridge** (FID 1488170) to **Wallens Ridge**, Virginia and Tennessee (not review listed)

Wallens Creek
Mouth: 36.6331443, -83.1723961 / Source: 36.7453722, -82.8298846
Wallens Ridge
36.6667562, -83.0579467

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</table>

* Wallens Ridge only

These proposals are to correct the names of Wallen Creek, a tributary of the Powell River in Lee County, Virginia, and Wallen Ridge, a ridge in Lee County, Virginia and Claiborne, Union, and Hancock counties, Tennessee, to Wallens Creek and Wallens Ridge, respectively, to reflect the forms in current and historic use.

The proponent reports that “Wallens” has been used locally for more than 100 years and “perhaps since the early 1700s when the first parties of Whites pushed west.” He notes that “road signs, stores, and churches either bear the name [Wallens Creek]” or direct visitors to follow Wallens Creek and that there is “even a Federal penitentiary [Wallens Ridge State Prison].”

The Virginia Board on Geographic Names reported that Boyd’s *Southwest Virginia and Contiguous Territories* (1886) listed the names as Waldins Creek and Waldins Ridge.

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Jade Lake, Alaska
(Review List 443)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local government</th>
<th>Lake and Peninsula Borough Assembly</th>
<th>No response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Names Authority</td>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribes</td>
<td>No response to Review List notice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bristol Bay Native Corporation</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tanalian, Inc.</td>
<td>No response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kijik Corporation</td>
<td>No response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Alaska Department of Natural Resources</td>
<td>No response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The new name Jade Lake is proposed for an approximately 300-acre lake in Lake and Peninsula Borough south of the Mulchatna River. The proponent reports that he owns the only cabin on the
lake and that the name refers to the color of the lake’s water. He indicated that he had spoken with a State biologist in Fairbanks and a pilot from Port Alsworth “who both knew of no name for this lake.”

There are five natural features in Alaska with “Jade” in their names, but none are near the lake in question. Jade is Alaska’s official State gem.

The Alaska Board on Geographic Names (AKBGN) recommends disapproval of the name, citing opposition from the Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC) and members of the Dena’ina community. The BBNC informed the AKBGN that the longstanding Dena’ina name for the lake is Tl’useł Vena, which means “pants lake.” The AKBGN will consider this name at a future meeting.

**Howe Arch**, California
(Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area legislated boundary)
(Review List 439)
34.109065, -118.808926

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local government</th>
<th>Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribes</td>
<td></td>
<td>No response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This proposal is to make official the commemorative name **Howe Arch** for an approximately 30-foot-wide unnamed arch on the southwest facing slope of Ballard Mountain in Los Angeles County. It is located on private land within the legislated boundaries of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SAMO), managed by the National Park Service.

The name would commemorate Robert Howe (1918-1982), an outdoorsman, who according to the proponent, first described the arch in 1939. Online genealogy records show that Mr. Howe, who also used the name Robert Howe Roesch, was self-employed for 35 years as a house painter. The proponent reports that the name **Howe Arch** is used by local hikers and arch enthusiasts.

The National Park Service (NPS) does not support the proposal, citing “no evidence that Mr. Howe satisfies the criteria of the Commemorative Names Policy, i.e., ‘had either some direct or long-term association with the feature, or . . . made a significant contribution to the area, community, or State in which it is located.’” The NPS also reported that SAMO staff

“searched [their] archives and spoke to some people who have been involved with mapping and conservation in the mountains for more than 50 years. We were not able to turn up any information about this individual, hikes to the arch, etc.

It seems odd to name something after an individual with whom local historians and conservationists are unfamiliar. People here have long memories and certainly would have remembered a person and feature, even if the most recent activity was in the 1960s.”
The California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN) recommendation of disapproval cited “a lack of local support, and opposition by State Parks [sic].”

**The Duke**, California
(Stanislaus National Forest / Emigrant Wilderness)
(Review List 443)

38.291543, -119.7345

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<th>Local government</th>
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<td>Oppose</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tribes</td>
<td></td>
<td>No response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The new name **The Duke** is proposed for an unnamed 7,390-foot summit in Tuolumne County and within Stanislaus National Forest along the boundary of the Emigrant Wilderness.

The name is intended to commemorate John Wayne (1907-1979), born Marion Robert Morrison and nicknamed “Duke” or “The Duke.” The proponent reports

For the past quarter century, members of our international fraternal organization have been going to Kennedy Meadows; a working hunting and packing station in the High Sierras. ‘The Duke’ pays homage to one of our past members, John Wayne, and is a fitting tribute to all cowboys and guides who work at the station. . . . In addition to the 179 films he appeared in, John Wayne was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, fought to preserve wild lands, and raised millions of dollars for cancer research.

BGN staff asked for a justification to override the Wilderness Geographic Names Policy. The proponent responded:

You won’t find an area steeped in more history and tradition . . . for the good part of a century, the resort [the station in Kennedy Meadows] has served as a pack station offering guided trips to campers, fisherman and hunters, eager to experience some of the hardest to reach alpine lakes and valleys in the High Sierra. In addition, many hikers of the Pacific Crest Trail journey through Kennedy Meadows. The unnamed mountain in this proposal is the first major geographic feature that hikers and packers see once they leave the resort on the main trail to the high country. . . . The horsemen and horsewomen who guide these trips are a special breed of wilderness guide, using a hard earned combination of wilderness skills, backcountry knowledge and years of experience that allow safe travel to the heart of the Sierras. It is these amazing outdoorsmen who inspired the idea to name a unique mountain, at the head of Kennedy Meadow after a famous horseman, actor, director and philanthropist; John Wayne, whose nickname was “The Duke” . . . . The Bloom family has owned the Kennedy Meadows pack station for decades. . . . [and one family member] agreed that naming this peak “The Duke” would be a fitting tribute to the robust men and women who have spent the summer season here for the past 75 years.
guiding trips, taking care of the stock, finding lost hikers and taking families on day rides into
the mountains. Their presence at “Kennedy” is unique, and sets this place apart from any other
camp or resort in the High Sierra. There is not a single mountain or geologic feature in this area
that recognizes the longstanding tradition of Kennedy Meadows Pack Station or specifically the
invaluable contribution made by all their employees, both past and present. They uphold a
longstanding tradition that protects the wilderness, while at the same time enabling people to
enjoy it. These are the compelling reasons that these exceptional people deserve a fitting and
respectful tribute, and why an exception to the BGN’s policy should be made. I humbly ask you
to embrace the history and traditions of this unique area and move forward to prepare a case brief
for review and approval for next steps.

The proponent did not report the name of the international fraternal organization, but it presumed to
be a group of Masons; Wayne was a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason.

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) does not support the proposal, citing a lack of overriding need to
waive the Wilderness Names Policy.

The California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN) also does not recommend
approval, citing a “lack of overriding need for naming a feature with direct proximity to [sic] a
wilderness area, no compelling connection or positive influence of honoree on the area, and concerns
about [the] honoree’s negative views of non-European people.”

Change V H Pasture Reservoir (FID 186139) to Elk Springs Reservoir
and Change Vurl Reservoir (FID 186140) to Wapiti Reservoir, Colorado
(Uncompahgre National Forest --- proclaimed boundary)
(Review List 435)

Elk Springs Reservoir
38.1396338, -108.0776726

Wapiti Reservoir
38.1327506, -108.0742544

<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>State Names Authority</td>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Agency</td>
<td>USFS</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Tribes</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>San Miguel County Historical Commission</td>
<td>No opinion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>San Miguel County Historical Commission member (personal opinion)</td>
<td>Opposed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These proposals are to change the names of two small reservoirs in San Miguel County. The
reservoirs are located on a private inholding within the proclaimed boundaries of Uncompahgre

National Forest. **V H Pasture Reservoir**, a 1.3-acre reservoir, is proposed to be renamed to **Elk Springs Reservoir**, while 0.25-acre **Vurl Reservoir** would be changed to **Wapiti Reservoir**.

In 2014, the proponent acquired property around the reservoirs as part of a land trade with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). He reports that his company is placing the parcel in a conservation easement with Montezuma Land Conservancy in order to promote use of the land by elk and deer. He added that the area had been used for cattle grazing since 1865 and that the reservoirs’ current names refer to “old cattle herders,” although he was unable to provide more specifics. He is requesting that they be changed to reflect present-day land use.

“Wapiti” is a Shawnee word for elk, meaning “white rump” and referring to the coloration of elk. The word is also used in the Cree language, and is widely used in the western U.S. to refer to elk.

USGS maps have labeled the features as **V H Pasture Reservoir** and **Vurl Reservoir** since 1967, and the former name appeared in a 2013 environmental assessment of the land trade published by the USFS. **V H Camp** is located 1.4 miles to the northwest in Montrose County. There are no other features named “Vurl” in the area, although Vurl’s Farm Supply operated in Montrose, 25 miles to the northeast, from at least the 1970s to 2007.

In April 2019, BGN staff contacted the San Miguel County Board of Commissioners for its recommendation on the proposed changes. The county shared the request with the San Miguel County Historical Commission, which declined to offer a formal recommendation, although one of its members made the following statements:

I believe V.H. refers to Hans Von Hagen, a Ridgeway resident, who purchased the A.E. Walther property in Sec 21, containing 160 a., on March 26, 1906 . . . . The charge given the San Miguel County Historic Commission under the National Historic Preservation Act is to preserve our significant history. Hans Von Hagen and Vurl were significant citizens and settlers of the McKenzie Spring neighborhood on Horse Fly Mesa. Creating ranches and claiming and improving water resource is a very significant part of the history of San Miguel, Ouray and Montrose County. The dropping of historic pioneer names and replacement with generic meaningless words is inappropriate.

When I contacted the Division 4 Water office, they indicated that ‘regardless of U.S. Forest Service, State or County name changes, the 2 reservoirs will remain V.H. Pasture Reservoir and Vurl Reservoir on water rights records.

During the county board’s meeting, the following statements were made by other historical commission members:

can’t [the landowner] name the reservoirs anything he/she wants? I don’t understand the BGN’s involvement in this. Other than that I think the new names seem reasonable.
the small reservoirs are most likely named for whoever operated back in there in the old days, so there’s some historical significance to the names but no one knows what that history is - and now the reservoirs are on private property . . . . It’s difficult to be strongly opposed to the name changes since these folks own the reservoirs now.

The county reached a consensus not to comment on the proposals, and the historical commission indicated it did not have a formal position on the matter.

The USFS does not object to the changes but noted that “[we] usually don’t comment on proposals off the forest.”

The Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board (CGNAB) conducted additional research and outreach. The director of the Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs shared the proposals with the 48 tribes that have a current or historic interest in the State; a representative of the Southern Ute Tribe responded and questioned why a Shawnee word was chosen for “elk,” “being that they are an eastern Tribe.”

At its July 2021 meeting, the CGNAB heard testimony from the proponent, who explained he would “like to rename the reservoirs to reflect the land use of a conservation easement to revert back to the 1890 habitat.”

He noted that as part of the land acquisition, he was asked by History Colorado to prepare an archeological report of the property, which showed that “the Ute Indians were in this area long before the Ranchers came in 1890.” Further:

I am a Biologist by training and have become an Elk proponent. We have donated $66,000 to the Colorado State Biology department and over the last 2 years a Col. State Graduate student has been doing an Elk health study looking at the success of Elk calves and their movement on the Uncompahgre plateau. Only 3 out of 10 Elk calves seem to make it. They are trying to understand what are the chief causes of the calves death. One reason is they get caught in barbed wire and we have changed all of the wiring to have the lowest first string at 20 inches above the ground with no barbs so the babies can get under and not get caught.

On Jan 12 2020, we put all of the land (1345 Acres) into a Conservation Easement with the Montezuma Land Conservancy for the Elk and other animals and do not allow any cattle grazing any longer. . . . the land is overgrazed and very little is left for the Elk and Deer. We reduced the number of house sites by 20 on the 1345 acres put into conservancy. The San Miguel County Open Space committee reviewed and financially supported this process. The support was approved by the San Miguel County Board.

The Goal of the conservation easement was to Revert to the 1890 Habitat and Ecology of Elk, Deer, Bear and Mountain Lion before Cattle were introduced on the Uncompahgre plateau.
He also acknowledged that he could call the reservoirs “by any name he liked without an official name change,” but would like to avoid confusion and have all names match. He reported that the reservoirs have been used to fight forest fires, so accurate names used by all would be important.

In recommending against the changes, the CGNAB “expressed reluctance in changing the name of a geographic feature for the sake of changing it, consistent with USBGN practice, especially commemorative names.” They added that “stability in the use of geographic names is important to reduce confusion and to minimize costs associated with changing names, and thus changes in existing geographic names should only occur where a proponent provides substantial evidence of a compelling reason for the change.” The CGNAB noted also that “there did not appear to be enthusiastic support from the local community to change the name, this doesn’t change his conservation easement, and changing the names will complicate water right issues.”

After learning of the CGNAB’s rejection, the proponent contacted the BGN with a question: “By what statute do they have the right to say yes or no to a name change on Private Land?”

GNIS lists many features in Colorado with “Elk” in their names. The nearest is Elk Creek, 14 miles to the south-southeast. GNIS lists a stream named Wapiti Creek 60 miles to the northeast in Gunnison County.

Albertson Creek, Oregon  
(Review List 441)  
Mouth: 45.39656, -122.83712 / Source: 45.41247, -122.83107

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local government</th>
<th>Washington County Commissioners</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Names Authority</td>
<td>Oregon</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribes</td>
<td>Current landowners</td>
<td>No response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td>No response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This proposal is to apply the new commemorative name Alberston Creek to a 1.25-mile-long unnamed tributary of Tualatin River in Washington County.

The name would honor the Albertson family, specifically Harold Albertson (1916-2002), a lifetime resident of Pennsylvania who was a World War II veteran and employee of Magee Carpet Company in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania. He visited the family’s property in Oregon for two months every summer for 30 years, and according to the proponent, “He spent months on end tending to the land, and the creek area, keeping it maintained from invasive plant species.” The property is no longer owned by the Alberston family and is being developed into a new subdivision.

The Washington County Commissioners sent a letter to the Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB), stating:

Since the area’s indigenous people have long suffered from white colonization and settlement of this area, the Board of County Commissioners is opting to reserve its endorsement. . . . We are
glad to know that tribal communities have been notified . . . but would like to see more consultation with tribal communities. Further, the Commission strongly urges the OGNB and the Oregon Historical Society to support naming geographic features within the state of Oregon that recognize and honor the original indigenous inhabitants and to follow the guidance of the State of Oregon on tribal consultation.”

The OGNB does recommend approval, because “[t]he original proponent of the proposal has not had any subsequent contact with the OGNB and has sold the land where the feature is located.” The OGNB also felt that the honoree did not meet the Commemorative Names Policy because he never lived on the property and only visited it once a year for two months.

**Lawanda Hill**, Oregon
(Review List 443)

42.18129, -121.85661

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Local government</th>
<th>Klamath County Commissioners</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tribes</td>
<td></td>
<td>No response</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

This proposal is to apply the new name Lawanda Hill to an unnamed 4,734-foot summit in Klamath County. The name refers to the Lawanda Hills neighborhood, located less than one mile southeast of the feature. The proponent did not provide a meaning for the word “Lawanda,” and it is not known if it is from a local indigenous language; it is a popular girl’s name and often stated to be of German origin.

The Oregon Geographic Names Board does not recommend approval, noting that “the proponent did not respond to OGNB requests for more information by email, phone, and letter, and had provided a ‘phony telephone number’”. He also did not provide any support from other landowners along the stream.

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

Change **Gasparni Creek** (FID 274939) to **Gasparini Creek**, California
(El Dorado National Forest)
(Review List 441)
Mouth: 38.8187920, -120.6154828 / Source: 38.8269444, -120.5794444

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Local government</th>
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<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribes</td>
<td></td>
<td>No response</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
This proposal is to correct the name of Gasparni Creek, a 2.4-mile-long tributary of Brush Creek in El Dorado County and the Eldorado National Forest, to Gasparini Creek.

According to the proponent, the stream was named for Giuseppe (“Joe” or “Joseph”) Gasparini (1854-1937), a Swiss immigrant who homesteaded along the stream and who lived in the area until around 1934. When he was in his late 30s, he reportedly gained the nickname “Butcher Knife Joe” after saving himself from a mountain lion (or grizzly bear) attack using only a small four-inch knife. The proponent, Mr. Gasparini’s great-granddaughter, reports that Mr. Gasparini was “a well-known and colorful character throughout El Dorado County in the early days of its settlement.”

Mr. Gasparini’s land claim is shown on the 1895 Punnett Brothers Map of the County of El Dorado, California with the proposed spelling; the stream is not named.

The current name first appeared on a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) map in 1991 and was also labeled on USGS maps beginning in 2012. The USFS map is also the origin of the locale named Butcherknife Joe, which is located near Mr. Gasparini’s homestead.

Hoskins Island, Connecticut
(Review List 443)

41.858998, -71.797624

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Wright Investors’ Service Holdings (landowner)</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This proposal is to apply the new commemorative name Hoskins Island to a 0.3-acre unnamed island at the southern end of Killingly Pond in the Town of Killingly in Windham County. Killingly Pond State Park Reserve is located along the west and southwest banks of the pond. The property is owned by the Chestnut Hill Reservoir Company, under the management of Wright Investors’ Service Holdings.

The name would honor U.S. Army SPC Christopher Hoskins (1983-2005), who was killed in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom when his unit was attacked by enemy forces. SPC Hoskins had been an active member of the Killingly community. He graduated from Killingly High School where he competed on the wrestling team and was active in karate, soccer, and baseball.

The proposal was submitted by the Town of Killingly as a counterproposal to McCormack Island (Review List 441). After being asked to comment on that name, the Town Council found no evidence that the McCormack family had contributed to the community. The Town Historian searched historical documents, reached out to long-time residents, and published an article in the local paper seeking any information. They also reached out to the McCormack family for more
details but received no response. The proponent of McCormack Island was advised of the counterproposal and withdrew his application.

Regarding the name Hoskins Island, the Town Council added, “[We] felt it would be more appropriate to name the feature after one of our fallen soldiers. Christopher loved the outdoors and found peace in the quiet of nature. Naming the island in his honor would be most fitting.”

**Otto Creek**, Oregon
(Review List 442)
Mouth: 45.39612, -122.82846 / Source: 45.41628, -122.82773

<table>
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<td></td>
<td>Otto family members and neighbors</td>
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</table>

This proposal, forwarded by the Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB), is to apply the new commemorative name Otto Creek to a 1.5-mile-long unnamed tributary of the Tualatin River on Bull Mountain in Washington County.

The new name would commemorate Otto Meyer (1857-1937), who in 1880 traveled to the area by wagon and purchased 40 acres along the Tualatin River, where he raised cattle and other animals. Seven generations of the Meyer family have lived and farmed on the property, and 34 of the original 40 acres are still owned by the family.

According to the proponents, who are great-great-great-granddaughters of Otto Meyer, the family is well known as contributors to the growth of the Tigard community through the years, establishing businesses in the area and building a private airfield (Meyer Riverside Airpark) on their property.

The Washington County Commissioners sent a letter to the OGNB, stating:

Since the area’s indigenous people have long suffered from white colonization and settlement of this area, the Board of County Commissioners is opting to reserve its endorsement. . . We are glad to know that tribal communities have been notified . . . but would like to see more consultation with tribal communities. Further, the Commission strongly urges the OGNB and the Oregon Historical Society to support naming geographic features within the state of Oregon that recognize and honor the original indigenous inhabitants and to follow the guidance of the State of Oregon on tribal consultation.
**Telschows Branch**, Texas
(Review List 439)
Mouth: 31.860911, -94.653828 / Source: 31.863808, -94.640438

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local government</th>
<th>Rusk County Commissioners Court</th>
<th>Support</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Names Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tribes</td>
<td></td>
<td>No response</td>
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</table>

The new name **Telschows Branch** is proposed for a 0.9-mile-long unnamed tributary of Morrow Branch in Rusk County. The name would honor Merrel V. Telschow (1917-2008). The proponent, a second cousin of Mr. Telschow, reports that the stream marks the north boundary of a tract of land owned by Mr. Telschow (originally acquired by his uncle in 1918). Mr. Telschow served in Germany during World War II and lived most of his life in Houston.

This proposal was deferred by the DNC in September 2021 so that the staff could ask the proponent and the Texas Geographic Names Committee (TGNC) for more details to justify the commemorative name. DNC members questioned whether “merely owning the land adjacent to the stream and serving in WWII” warranted the commemoration.

The proponent had no additional information to add beyond what was included in the proposal. The TGNC believes the proposal should be approved based on the county’s acceptance along with the honoree’s land ownership and military service.

Change **Mogarts Beach** (FID 1495958) to **Morgarts Beach**, Virginia
(Review List 445)
37.0320925, -76.6007875

<table>
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<td>Tribes</td>
<td></td>
<td>No response</td>
</tr>
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</table>

This proposal is to correct the name of **Mogarts Beach**, an unincorporated community in Isle of Wight County, to **Morgarts Beach**. Research shows that the community was named for John Addison Morgart (1859-1918), who owned and operated the Day’s Point Hotel (also known as Morgart’s Hotel or Morgart’s Beach Hotel) at this location.

Mr. Morgart, a native of Pennsylvania, became an investor in the Day’s Point Land and Improvement Company. He moved to Isle of Wight County, built the hotel, and sold spring water from a well dug there. His obituary in a Fayette County, Pennsylvania, newspaper reported: “While instructing a young man how to swim, J. Addison Morgart of Smithfield, Va., former well known business man of Connellsville, was drowned recently. Of late years Mr. Mogart [sic] made a business of bottling medicinal spring water.” Other accounts stated that he drowned while
swimming back to shore after he and a neighbor moved his boat to deeper water on a stormy day. Mr. Morgart is buried in nearby Smithfield, Virginia. A road sign in the community reads “Morgarts Beach Rd.”

USGS recognizes a geologic formation named the Morgarts Beach member of the Yorktown Formation. It was formally described in 1980 in a USGS Bulletin: “The Morgarts Beach Member is herein named for beds exposed at Morgarts Beach. . . .” It was also published in a 1986 USGS Bulletin 1564, “Lexicon of New Formal Geologic Names of the United States 1976-1980.”

The spelling of the name has varied, but “Mogart” seems to have become more common after its appearance on USGS maps:

- a 1913 Virginia Geological Survey Bulletin mentioned a well at Day’s Point owned by J. A. Morgart
- the 1920 “Annual Report of the Secretary of the Commonwealth” listed “Morgarts Beach Hotel, Inc.”
- a 1945 Virginia Geological Survey Bulletin mentioned the well of “J.A. Morgart, at Morgarts Beach” and the “Morgarts Beach Hotel”
- a 1975 Navy Department environmental impact statement included what appears to be a Virginia Department of Transportation map with the label Morgarts Beach
- a 1976 Virginia Division of Mineral Resources Report referred to the location as both Mogarts Beach and Morgarts Beach
- a 1978 real estate advertisement in The Smithfield Times referred to Mogarts Beach
- a 1993 Virginia Division of Mineral Resources Report referred to the location as Mogarts Beach and the Morgarts Beach Member: “I find no published explanation for the extra ‘r’ in ‘Morgarts’, but that usage [sic] is consistent in [the 1980 definition of the member] and in all subsequent literature”
- a 2003 National Park Service Paleontological Resource Inventory and Monitoring referred to both the Morgarts Beach Member and the Mogarts Beach Member
- a 2007 Virginia Department of Historic Resources report referred to the “Morgart’s Beach Hotel”
- a 2009 article in a Geological Society of America Special Paper referred to “the Morgarts Beach Member (also spelled Mogarts Beach)”

Articles in The Daily Press [Hampton Roads] use the name Morgart’s Beach for both the community and the shoreline.

Change Barney Coker Canyon (FID 1503182) to Barney Kolker Canyon, Washington (Review List 437)
Mouth: 47.8096121, -117.5527246 / Source: 47.8269444, -117.5208333

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local government</th>
<th>Stevens County Commissioners</th>
<th>Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spokane City Council</td>
<td></td>
<td>No opinion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This proposal is to change the name of Barney Coker Canyon, a 2.1-mile-long valley in Stevens County and Spokane County, to Barney Kolker Canyon. The proponent reports that the current name is a misspelling of the Kolker family name.

The name honors Bernard “Barney” Kolker (1856-1935), a farmer who filed a land patent in 1894 and established a homestead at the mouth of the valley in 1895. A local history book, Welcome to Nine Mile Falls, provides a brief history of the Kolker family and also describes a feature named Barney Coker Hill, which was depicted on the 1986 USGS topographic map but not recorded in GNIS; research shows it is known locally as Barney Kolker Grade.

There is no evidence of any individuals named Coker in the area. USGS field notes did not provide a reason for the current spelling, but a folio notation from a map user stated “the spelling should be Kolker.”

IV. Revised Decisions

Change Idiot Creek (BGN 1965) (FID 1163062) to Kindness Creek, Oregon
(Oregon Department of Forestry land)
(Review List 437)
Mouth: 45.6159438, -123.4226163 / Source: 45.6614996, -123.4351176

This proposal is to change the name of Idiot Creek, a four-mile-long tributary of Devils Lake Fork in Tillamook County and Washington County, to Kindness Creek. The stream flows through Tillamook State Forest. The proponent states “the term ‘idiot’ was used in the past as a medical category for individuals with developmental disabilities as measured by IQ tests. This term is outdated and pejorative. Kindness Creek would send a positive message.”
The name Idiot Creek was approved by the BGN in 1965, in response to a proposal submitted by the Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB) on behalf of an individual who had stated that the name had long been in local use and was “missing from USGS maps.” The proponent at the time suggested that the name might refer to “a logging camp known as Idiotville. . . at the mouth of the creek,” and that both names [stream and camp] could be “a reference to the ‘idiot stick’ which is used to move heavy loads by hand.” The BGN initially [February 2, 1965] voted not to approve the name because it believed it was derogatory. However, the OGNB asked the BGN to revisit its decision based on local use and a belief that the name was not derogatory, and the BGN agreed [September 14, 1965] to make it official for Federal use.

According to a 1959 article in American Speech titled “More Logger Lingo of the Redwood Region,” an “idiot stick” is “a peeling bar.” Jonathon Green’s 1987 Dictionary of Jargon defines “idiot stick,” as a logging term, as “a peeling stick, used to remove bark.” However, McArthur’s Oregon Geographic Names (2011) notes:

The compiler pondered this name ever since it was officially applied in USBGN Decision List 6503. After some publicity in November 1977 by Jim Jordan in the Portland Daily Journal of Commerce, Calvin Clayton, who had worked the truck lines along Wilson River since World War II, called to confirm the suspected origin. About one half mile up Idiot Creek was the site of Ryan’s Camp, a logging operation in the Tillamook Burn. This was such an out-of-the-way spot that supposedly only an idiot would go there to work, and the camp was popularly known as Idiotville. The name was applied to the stream in due course.

The name Idiot Creek has been labeled on USGS maps since 1979. It also appeared on the 1972 North Coast Drainage Basin map of the Oregon Water Resources Department (this map is the source of the name Idiotville, now listed as a historical feature in GNIS). On a 1954 Tillamook County highway map, the name Idiot Creek is applied to an unnamed stream 0.5 miles upstream along Devils Lake Fork. Idiot Creek is shown on a Tillamook State Forest map, along with Idiot Creek Road and Idiot Creek Loop Road. The name is mentioned on many Oregon hiking websites.

The Washington County Commissioners sent a letter to the Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB), stating:

Since the area’s indigenous people have long suffered from white colonization and settlement of this area, the Board of County Commissioners is opting to reserve its endorsement. . . . We are glad to know that tribal communities have been notified . . . but would like to see more consultation with tribal communities. Further, the Commission strongly urges the OGNB and the Oregon Historical Society to support naming geographic features within the state of Oregon that recognize and honor the original indigenous inhabitants and to follow the guidance of the State of Oregon on tribal consultation.”

The Tillamook County Commissioners and the OGNB do not support the current proposal, citing the historical significance of the existing name. OGNB members also visited the stream and “found it to be a small roaring creek tumbling through a steep gorge . . . with nothing Kind about it.” The
OGNB also felt that the proposal was not well thought out, because it was submitted in response to the 2019 online GISH (Greatest Internet Scavenger Hunt) contest in which one task was for teams to submit a proposal to change “an offensive, derogatory, or otherwise unpleasant name.” The contest was inspired by an online video from the Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj Netflix series titled “What's With The Racist Names Of So Many American Places?” in which he encouraged viewers to submit proposals to the BGN to change names.

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

**Jade Mountain**, Alaska
(Toolik Lake Research Natural Area Area of Critical Environmental Concern
--- Bureau of Land Management)
(Review List 443)

68.618499, -149.675552

<table>
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<th>North Slope Borough Assembly</th>
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<td>Tribes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nunamiut Corporation</td>
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This proposal is to make official the name **Jade Mountain** for a 3,030-foot summit near Toolik Lake in North Slope Borough. The summit is in the Toolik Lake Research Natural Area of Critical Environmental Concern, managed by the Bureau of Land Management, and the James Dalton Highway Corridor, managed by the State of Alaska. The proponent reports that the name has been used for several years by seasonal researchers at the nearby Toolik Field Station, which is operated by the Institute of Arctic Biology. The summit is a popular hike for the researchers. The name refers to the color of the moss-covered tundra around the summit.

GNIS lists a range named Jade Mountains over 200 miles to the southwest. There are four other natural features in Alaska with “Jade” in their names, but none are near the proposed **Jade Mountain**.

**Oak Springs**, California
(Review List 436)

34.363177, -117.105929

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This proposal is to make official the name Oak Springs for a small unincorporated community in southwestern San Bernardino County, approximately ten miles south-southeast of Apple Valley, and at the site of a spring named Oak Spring. The proponent, a local resident and captain of the local volunteer fire department, reports that the proposed name has been used for 100 years to refer to the area, which comprises a small cluster of homes and businesses, including Oak Springs Ranch and Oak Springs Campground. He is hoping that by establishing an official name for the community, it will be more easily distinguished from the larger Town of Apple Valley to the northwest. A number of photos posted online show the name Oak Springs on handmade signs. The community lies just outside the boundaries of BLM and U.S. Forest Service managed land.

The San Bernardino County Planning Department was unable to locate any published use of the name Oak Springs in its records. Until 2021, GNIS listed a locale named Oak Springs Ranch 30 miles to the west of the community in question (and labeled on USGS topographic maps since 1956), but it appears that name is in limited use and the entry is no longer included in GNIS.

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**Slate Cabin Run, Pennsylvania**  
(Review List 443)  
Mouth: 40.679919, -77.8766 / Source: 40.673222, -77.889328

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</table>

The new name Slate Cabin Run is proposed for an unnamed 0.9-mile-long stream that flows into an unnamed tributary of Laurel Run in Huntingdon County. The stream heads in Barree Township and flows into Jackson Township. According to the county’s online tax parcel records, the stream is entirely on private property, with the majority owned by the Red Rose Rod & Gun Club and the Stone Valley Pet Lodge.

The proponent reports that the stream flows through his property that he calls “Slate Cabin.” He confirmed there is no commercial intent to the name and no local business called “Slate Cabin.” The cabin on his property near the mouth of the stream “was built in 1900 on an old slate quarry. We’ve done everything to preserve the health of the stream including working with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and installing stream discharge systems. We also are working with local environmentalists to bring back the ecological life to the tributary.”

A stream named Slab Cabin Run heads 4.1 miles to the northeast in Centre County.
Fern Creek and South Fork Fern Creek, Oregon
(Review List 443)

Fern Creek
Mouth: 45.493771, -123.033169 / Source: 45.464708, -123.090645
South Fork Fern Creek
Mouth: 45.480217, -123.050176 / Source: 45.459518, -123.083033

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<tr>
<td>Tribes</td>
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These names are proposed for a 4.4-mile-long tributary of the Tualatin River and a 2.4-mile-long tributary of the main stream, both in Washington County. Both streams flow in part through Forest Hills Golf Course, and the names are associated with Fern Hill, located at the head of the main stream. According to the proponent, who is the Vice President of Forest Hill Farms, Inc., the area is primarily agricultural, wetland, and forested property, which is host to many fern species. Parts of the main stream are enrolled in a conservation project with the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District.

The Washington County Commissioners sent a letter to the Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB) stating:

Since the area’s indigenous people have long suffered from white colonization and settlement of this area, the Board of County Commissioners is opting to reserve its endorsement . . . We are glad to know that tribal communities have been notified. . . but would like to see more consultation with tribal communities. Further, the Commission strongly urges the OGNB and the Oregon Historical Society to support naming geographic features within the state of Oregon that recognize and honor the original indigenous inhabitants and to follow the guidance of the State of Oregon on tribal consultation.

GNIS lists Fern Rock Creek and seven other streams in Oregon named Fern Creek. The closest Fern Creek, also in Washington County, 11 miles east-southeast of the streams in question, was a 2011 BGN decision and was supported by the County Commissioners at the time.

Pronghorn Hot Springs, Oregon
(Malheur National Wildlife Refuge)
(Review List 444)

43.18101, -119.057483

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<th>Harney County Court</th>
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<tr>
<td>State Names Authority</td>
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<td>Federal Agency</td>
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<td>No objection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tribes</td>
<td></td>
<td>No response</td>
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</table>
The new name **Pronghorn Hot Springs** is proposed for an unnamed hot spring in Harney County. The spring is on the southeast side of Harney Lake in Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. The name refers to the pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*), which is commonly found in this part of Oregon and uses the refuge for grazing and water.

The name is proposed by the Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB) in response to a 2018 proposal to make official the name **South Harney Lake Hot Spring**, which was used by refuge staff. Various trail and spring websites refer to the feature as **South Harney Lake Hot Spring** or **South Harney Lake Hot Springs**. A 1979 supplemental report on Federal Research Natural Areas referred to the spring as **Harney Hot Spring**. Even though the name would be associated with the adjacent Lake Harney, the OGNB learned of some local concerns about applying a new name that referred to William S. Harney, a controversial Army officer involved in the Battle of Ash Creek, also called “Harney’s Massacre,” in the Indian Wars.

The proponent of **South Harney Lake Hot Spring** withdrew his proposal after learning of the OGNB’s counterproposal.

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**Roberts Mountain Pass**, Oregon
(Review List 443)

43.11, -123.354722

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<tr>
<th>Local government</th>
<th>Douglas County Commissioners</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tribes</td>
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<td>No response</td>
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The name **Roberts Mountain Pass** is proposed to be made official for the gap where Interstate 5 passes over Roberts Mountain in Douglas County. The gap has an elevation of approximately 970 feet and is located one mile northeast of the Cow Creek Reservation. The Oregon Department of Transportation refers to the feature as a pass through Roberts Mountain, but does not use the proposed name, nor is the gap signed along the interstate.

Many other gaps in Oregon have official names in GNIS. Of the 14 gaps recorded in Douglas County, five have the generic “Pass.” Along Interstate 5, the following are named from south to north: Siskiyou Summit (not in GNIS, although the nearby Siskiyou Pass may refer to the same feature), Sexton Mountain Pass, Smith Hill Summit, Stage Road Pass, Canyon Creek Pass, and Coryell Pass.