Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Kenia Allen  Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey) (not voting)
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)
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
Michael Tischler  Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Tara Wallace   Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)

Ex-Officio
Glenn Guempel, Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names / Domestic Names Committee

Staff
Josefa Baker, U.S. Geological Survey
Julie-Ann Danfora, U.S. Geological Survey
Maria McCormick, U.S. Geological Survey
Sergio Rodriguez, U.S. Geological Survey
Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey

Guests
Marielle Pedro Black, U.S. Forest Service
Doug Caldwell, BGN Chair Emeritus
Jessica Campbell, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
John Evans, U.S. Geological Survey
Angie Gobert, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
Raynette Lennix, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
1. Opening

The chair opened Meeting 841 of the DNC at 9:33 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 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 840

The minutes of Meeting 840, held February 10, 2022, were approved as amended.

3. Reports

3.1 BGN Chairman (Allsup)

See attached report.

GEOINT modernization efforts continue.

The Foreign Names Committee (FNC) held its 409th meeting on Tuesday, March 8.

The next Full Board Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19; it will be held virtually.

3.2 BGN Executive Secretary (Palmer and Guempel)

There was no written report.

Guempel reported that he and Palmer had met with representatives of the Geographical Names Board of Canada (GNBC). They discussed the status of the United States/Canada Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, compared policies and procedures, and
shared a desire to increase coordination between the BGN and GNBC. The GNBC invited the BGN to attend its 125th anniversary meeting this summer and expressed interest in attending BGN and DNC meetings.

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.

3.4 Executive Secretary (Guempel)

There was no written report.

Work continues in response to Secretary’s Order 3404 (“Declaring ‘Sq___’ a Derogatory Term and Implementing Procedures to Remove the Term from Federal Usage”), which is keeping the members of the Task Force and staff busy. Staff has been fielding many inquiries from the public and media.

Guempel is interested in working with the BGN Chair and DNC Chair about potential updates to the Principles, Policies, and Procedures: Domestic Geographic Names (PPP) document. Secretary’s Order 3404 has resulted in some needed updates to Policy V: Derogatory and Offensive Names, and other recent issues may necessitate revisiting some policies. Tischler is hoping to schedule an Executive Committee meeting before the next Full Board meeting to discuss these and similar issues.

Guempel, Tischler, and staff attended the four regional virtual meetings of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (CoGNA). These meetings were held to help revitalize CoGNA and in an effort to improve coordination between the State Names Authorities (SNAs) and the BGN. Approximately 37 SNAs were represented. Tischler presented on Secretary’s Order 3404. CoGNA plans to have an in-person meeting in September 2022.

3.5 Staff (Runyon)

See attached report.

Staff has been able to attend many SNA virtual meetings. Runyon has participated in the meetings of the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board (CGNAB), at which there have been discussions regarding Tribal outreach. The CGNAB is soliciting public and Tribal comments on Secretary’s Order 3404.

Assembly Bill 2022 was introduced into the California State Assembly. This bill would require that all names in California that contain the sq___ word be changed by 2024.
Clear Creek County (Colorado) hosted a meeting to hear presentations from the five proponents who have submitted proposals to change the name of Mount Evans. The county was informed that the BGN recently received three additional proposals; however, the commissioners cut off discussion of any more names. The CGNAB may be willing to discuss these additional names (note: one has since been withdrawn and another will not be processed due to a lack of a response from the proponent).

A proposal has been received to rename Pikes Peak in Colorado; it will be added to the upcoming Quarterly Review List.

3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (McCormick)

There was no written report.

Following last summer’s implementation of a new maintenance tool, and despite a number of ongoing technical issues, GNIS staff is once again able to edit GNIS records. The staff is working through the backlog of updates, and all BGN decisions from November 2021 to February 2022 have been entered.

McCormick has edited all existing GNIS history and description fields that contained references to the word sq__. USGS topographic map names that include the word are also being given new names.

Appendix G: Characters Approved for Use in Geographic Name Proposals has been updated to include the e with the combining dot above.

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

See attached report.

Kanalley reminded members that the purpose of the document shared in advance of this meeting (“Cultural Sensitivity for Native American Names”) is to provide additional guidance for proponents of names that refer to a Tribe, honor a historical person affiliated with a Tribe, or that include a word(s) from a Tribal language. With DNC approval, the Special Committee will investigate the next steps to implement the document, including seeking Tribal input into the suggested process, and possibly sharing with National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers for awareness. It would ideally be incorporated into the PPP and posted on the BGN page to be read by future proponents.

Flora reiterated that the document applies only to features not on Tribal Trust lands and does not in any way override Policy X. Proponents’ adherence to this document would not be required but would encourage them to be more engaged in the process and hopefully result in higher quality proposals. It should also reduce some of the burden on staff, who do not have the knowledge or ability to evaluate claims about Tribal words.
Tribes are stewards of their words and culture, and not simply on Trust lands. It is recognized that some Tribal governments might consider direct proponent outreach to be an additional burden, and they may not have the capacity to respond to requests for feedback.

The Special Committee requested support for the document content. There were no objections. Kanalley and Flora asked members to send them any comments or additions prior to the next meeting.

The Special Committee will meet following this meeting.

3.8 Secretarial Order 3404/Task Force Activities Update (Tischler)

Tischler noted that the Task Force has been busy over the last few weeks. Two Federal Register Notices were released on February 23, one to announce the public comment period and the other to announce the three Tribal listening sessions to be hosted March 21-23 by the Department of the Interior. A press release was distributed the previous day and there was considerable media activity.

All federally recognized Tribes received a letter, emailed to the Tribal leader and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, notifying them of the Federal Register Notice.

To date, the Task Force has received about 300 public comments. Most are broadly supportive of the order without any specific suggestions about replacement names. Some comments did include name suggestions that, where possible, will be prioritized ahead of proximity-based names.

The list of candidate names continues to be reviewed by Task Force working groups. The first draft review is for the group members to become familiar with names and come up with first choice recommendations based on the proximity-based names. Once the public and Tribal comment periods have ended (April 25), the groups will review all input. The Task Force will have 90 days to pass its recommendations to the DNC, which then has 60 days to vote on them as BGN decisions.

The list of names to be changed will be revised to note which features are outside the purview of the order (features with unknown locations, historical features, and Civil and Census entities). DOI and the Task Force will determine whether the Task Force has purview over the names of unincorporated populated places (i.e., those that are not determined by incorporation by a governing body).

Members questioned how an existing proposal would be evaluated against one or more public comments. Tischler responded that there is not a definite answer, and the Task Force will need to decide how to evaluate these cases.

Members questioned how the Task Force will deal with Policy X, i.e., a Tribe provides a name for a feature located entirely on their Trust Lands, or if a Tribe requests that the name not be changed. Tischler noted that any name proposed by a Tribe will be prioritized.
Members asked about a candidate name that duplicates that of a nearby feature. Such a name would not be selected as a replacement. It is agreed that the process is somewhat subjective, with no way to make it completely objective.

Tischler reiterated that the outcome of the BGN decisions does not signify “a closed door” and that anyone can propose a change to a name approved by the BGN after the process is over. He acknowledged that some Tribes might work on a “different pace” and that the Task Force process is intentionally accelerated to remove sq__ from the landscape.

Members noted that Federal and State land management agencies might be hesitant to update signs, etc. if there is a possibility that another name might be approved through the regular BGN review process.

Two members left the meeting.

4. Docket

Please refer to the attached Docket for a description of each proposal. Following the recent database updates, a small number of the decisions have not yet been added or updated in GNIS.

I. Staff-Processed New Names, and Name and Application Changes agreed to by all interested parties - none

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

**Sawyer Falls,** California (Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit—proclaimed boundary) (Review List 440)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing concerns that the name does not satisfy the Commemorative Names Policy and the negative recommendation of the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names.

Vote: 7 in favor
      7 against
      1 abstention

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

DNC members instructed staff to ask the CACGN if they wished to reconsider their recommendation in light of the proponent’s submission of additional biographical details.
III. New Commemorative Names and Changes agreed to by all interested parties

**Rickels Cove**, Alabama (Rickwood Caverns State Park) (Review List 445) (FID 2830282)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 15 in favor
     0 against
     0 abstentions

**Telschows Branch**, Texas (Review List 439) (FID 2830294)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name.

Vote: 5 in favor
     10 against
     0 abstentions

One member left the meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 10 in favor
     4 against
     0 abstentions

One member left the meeting.

IV. Revised Decisions - none

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

**Loma Coyote**, New Mexico (Review List 443) (FID 2830283)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 13 in favor
     0 against
     0 abstentions

**Fern Creek** and **South Fork Fern Creek**, Oregon (Review List 443) (FIDs 2830284, 2830287)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the names.

Vote: 10 in favor
     1 against
2 abstentions

**Lark Island**, Oregon (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spoil area) (Review List 444) (FID 2830289)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 13 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Ellerbe noted that NOAA will rechart the area to show the new island shoreline.

**Origin Creek**, Oregon (Tillamook State Forest) (Review List 445) (FID 2830291)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 13 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Hidden Creek**, Virginia (Review List 444) (FID 2830295)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 13 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

5. Other Business

Runyon provided a short overview of the request that the DNC revisit its 2018 decision not to approve a change from *Brazell Pond*, for a small pond in Massachusetts, to *Betty Pond*. Members requested more time to review the documentation and noted that the discussion next month would be strictly procedural; that is, to determine if there is sufficient new evidence to warrant revisiting the decision.

6. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

The next Domestic Names Committee meeting is scheduled to be held virtually on April 14, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.
1) **FOUNDATION GEOINT MODERNIZATION (FG MOD)**
   Foundation GEOINT Modernization efforts continue at NGA. This effort will replace the current production system for foreign geographic names, as well as replace the GEOnet Names Server (GNS). At this time initial delivery is expected in June of this year.

2) **FOREIGN NAMES COMMITTEE**
   The Foreign Names Committee (FNC) held their 409th meeting on Tuesday, March 8th at 1:00 pm Eastern Standard Time. The meeting was held virtually via Webex. Contact FNC Staff Assistant Alex Boyd [Alexander.Boyd.ctr@nga.mil](mailto:Alexander.Boyd.ctr@nga.mil) to receive the Webex invitation and meeting documents should you wish to attend future meetings. The next FNC Meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2022.

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

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**Meetings and Presentations**

Staff attended a meeting of the BGN’s Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication on February 10.
On March 3, the staff attended the monthly meeting of the Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs to discuss the BGN’s procedures for reaching out to Tribes on geographic name proposals, specifically why Tribal governments are not receiving the quarterly review list notices. There was also a brief review of the ongoing efforts to rename Mount Evans.

**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.

Following the release on February 22 of the two Federal Register Notices regarding Secretarial Order 3404 (*Declaring “Squaw” a Derogatory Term and Implementing Procedures to Remove the Term from Federal Usage*), a number of State Names Authorities have reached out to BGN staff to ask how this will impact their activities. As with the original November 19 announcement, they have been instructed to direct any questions and comments to the Task Force.

BGN staff continued to participate in meetings of the Task Force, and assisted in the analysis of and updates to the spreadsheet that lists the candidate replacement names, as well as any Sq__ change proposals that were already pending before the BGN. These proposals have been transferred to the Task Force for its consideration, and all proponents have been notified of the change in procedure.

The California State Assembly has introduced a bill to address the word Sq__ in the State’s place names: [Bill Text - AB-2022 State government. (ca.gov)](https://leginfo.ca.gov/billtext19/ab/ab2022/ab20222022text.cfm).

The Clear Creek County (Colorado) Board of Commissioners has held two meetings to review the proposals that have been submitted to change the name of Mount Evans. At the first meeting, 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) was given an opportunity to present their proposals. The second meeting provided an opportunity for public comment on the five names. As a result of the publicity surrounding these county meetings and posts on social media, the BGN has received three additional proposals: Mount Sisty to honor the founder of the Colorado Department of Wildlife and Fish; Clear Creek Peak, referring to the name of the county; and another proposal to retain the name Mount Evans but change the honoree to Chick Evans, a prominent golfer in the 1910s and 1920s.

The proposal for Knotts Bluff, Oregon (Review List 439) has been withdrawn by the proponent after the owners of the property indicated they would not support any new names on their lands.

The individual who has proposed a name change for Sq__ Valley, an unincorporated community in Fresno County, California, to Nuum Valley (Review List 446) contacted the BGN staff to request that the proposal be amended to Yokuts Valley. He was advised that his proposal has been transferred to the Task Force and he should contact them to discuss the issue.
A member of the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board (CGNAB) forwarded an inquiry regarding the possibility of renaming Mount Meeker, a prominent peak in Boulder County.

**State Names Authority and State Partner Activities**

Staff attended the monthly virtual meetings of the CGNAB on February 17. The CGNAB discussed two pending proposals, to change Negro Creek and Negro Mesa in Delta County to Clay Creek and Clay Mesa, respectively, and asked the proponent to consider whether there might be other replacement names that would honor significant Black residents of the county instead. Staff also attended a virtual community meeting, held by a member of the CGNAB, to discuss the names and efforts to change them.

The Council of Geographic Names Authorities (CoGNA) held a series of four virtual regional sessions; these allowed the State Names Authorities (SNAs) to meet each other, to share experiences, to compare how each State manages its names activities, and to discuss policies and procedures with the BGN staff. The sessions were well attended, with considerable discussion of items of mutual interest. During the sessions, Guempel and Tischler provided updates on the secretarial order regarding Sq__ name changes and how the SNAs can participate in the process.

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.

The staff met with the Texas Geographic Names Committee to review proposals that are pending in the State, and to review the impacts of Secretarial Order 3404 on the State’s activities.

**News and Media Coverage**

News coverage during this reporting period included:

- Proposal to scrub derogatory term 'squaw' targets hundreds of U.S. sites - Washington Times
- Proposal to change slurs affects hundreds of US sites - The Boston Globe
- Proposal to nix derogatory term targets hundreds of U.S. sites - Las Vegas Sun Newspaper
- List suggests new names for 43 Wyoming places that include derogatory term 'squaw' | Wyoming News | trib.com
- Secretary Haaland’s messaging on ‘squaw’ aims to purposely heighten attention (indigenouswire.com)
- Chart: Derogatory Place Names: Where Changes Are Planned | Statista
- Hundreds of US geographic sites to be renamed to eliminate offensive words | US news | The Guardian
U.S. Geological Survey task force releases replacements for squaw-named features | Legislature | coloradopolitics.com

U.S. Interior Survey of ‘Derogatory' Site Names Lists One in Berkshires / iBerkshires.com - The Berkshires online guide to events, news and Berkshire County community information.


Monument formation to be renamed under Haaland order | News | gisentinel.com

New names suggested for over 660 US sites to remove derogatory term (msn.com)

PNW sites will get new names to remove derogatory term (msn.com)

Feds seek comment on Fresno area derogatory name changes | The Fresno Bee

Interior's Haaland seeks to remove derogatory names, like Taunton hill (tauntongazette.com)

Oklahoma's missed chance to lead the way on changing offensive names (archive.ph)

Replacements for removing derogatory names on federal lands published - Iowa Capital Dispatch

Feds look to replace derogatory word in public place names | Local News | santafenewmexican.com

O'Hara, Fox Chapel residents can weigh in on name change for Squaw Run | TribLIVE.com

The USGS Communications Office is working with the Department of the Interior to develop a series of FAQs to assist with answering the steady stream of media inquiries.

**Misc. Staff Activities**

A number of Quarterly Review Lists and past DNC minutes have undergone a review to ensure 508 Compliance. Over time, additional documents will be removed from the webpage, corrected, and re-posted.

The staff met with the Census Bureau to discuss the naming and maintenance of Census Designated Places in GNIS, and how some might need to be renamed as a result of a BGN decision to rename the associated populated place.

The staff met with the Chair and Secretary of the Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names to plan for an upcoming ACAN meeting.
U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
DOCKET
March 2022

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.” The Catawba Indian Nation responded that it has no concerns with the proposals on Review List 446. 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 - none

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

**Sawyier Falls**, California
(Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit—proclaimed boundary)
(Review List 440)

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The new commemorative name Sawyier Falls is proposed for a 250-foot-long falls located along Glen Alpine Creek in El Dorado County and on private land within the U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. The name is intended to commemorate the proponent’s parents, Robert Lee Sawyier, Jr (1917-2008) and Alice Olson Sawyier (1921-2015), who in 1961 acquired two acres of land overlooking the falls, where they built an A-frame cabin still owned and used by the family. After serving as a pilot-instructor during World War II, Robert Sawyier had a 35-year career in senior management positions at Pacific Gas & Electric, where he advocated for the environment. The Sawyier family would visit the cabin as often as possible, and they assisted with restoration projects at the nearby Glen Alpine Springs resort. The falls are not accessible from public trails and are not easily seen from any local roads.

The California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN) does not support the proposal, citing “no compelling connection of [the] commemorative name to the region and lack of engagement from local agencies and tribes.” Further CACGN comments stated that “the property
was not [the] primary residence and the family did not have significant local engagement or [sic] lasting contributions to the area. No negative associations were found. Advisor noted that just ownership of property for approximately 60 years is not a compelling reason to name an unnamed feature.”

When informed of the CACGN recommendation, the proponent responded with additional evidence that his family had contributed to the community over the years; specifically, they trimmed back the overgrowth that encroached into the road up to Glen Alpine; they addressed the road washout damage from heavy winter runoffs on their property; and provided first aid and transported injured hikers to the hospital in South Tahoe.

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

**Rickels Cove**. Alabama
(Rickwood Caverns State Park)
(Review List 445)

33.8732, -86.859014

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The new name **Rickels Cove** is proposed for an approximately 140-acre karst basin in Blount County and mostly within Rickwood Caverns State Park. The name would commemorate Curtis “Eddie” Rickels (1926-2005), who in the early 1950s purchased the land around the basin and developed Rickwood Caverns as a tourist site. (The name “Rickwood” is a combination of the names of Rickels and his business partner Sonny Arwood.) Rickels managed the park until it was sold in 1974 to the State of Alabama when it became a State Park.

The proposal is submitted by an Alabama Department of Conservation employee who has worked as superintendent of Rickwood Caverns State Park. She states that having a formal name would be helpful in scientific studies of the karst ecosystem. Rickwood Caverns Road and Rickwood Park Road pass by and through the State Park.

The generic “Cove” is commonly used for karst basins or narrow valleys in Alabama and the southern Appalachian Mountains.
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.

At the February 2022 DNC meeting, the motion to disapprove the name resulted in a tied vote, and as such, the proposal was automatically deferred until the next meeting.

**IV. Revised Decisions** - none

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

**Loma Coyote**, New Mexico  
(Review List 443)

The new name **Loma Coyote** is proposed for an unnamed 5,611-foot summit in the City of Rio Rancho in Sandoval County. “Loma” is Spanish meaning “small hill” and is a common generic term in New Mexico. GNIS lists seven summits and a ridge in Sandoval County with names that contain the generic “Loma,” including four within four miles of the proposed **Loma Coyote**. The summit has approximately 30 feet of local relief.
The proponent states that the summit is

on undeveloped land with no plans for development, wildlife abounds among the arid hills and provides a central point or passage for the animals to travel to between arroyos and other features in the desert still undeveloped. As a point of conservation, this hill currently serves as an excellent habitat and feature to have named for the awareness of such. Especially as the region continues to experience drought conditions, having a well-balanced ecosystem, being that coyotes keep rodent populations in check and help prevent disease and overpopulation of rodentia or other vermin species. [The proposed] Loma Coyote is not a part of any reserve or study area but is central among the other features in the area and it would serve as another point of reference for the community as it grows while at the same time bringing significant awareness to environmental care and concerns in the area.

There are 33 features named “Loma” in New Mexico, with other clusters in southern Texas (50), coastal California (14), and Puerto Rico (6). Numerous features include “Coyote” in their names, including 79 in New Mexico. Two of these are in Sandoval County: Coyote Flats, 22 miles to the north of the summit in question, and Arroyo Coyote, 17 miles to the east. A community named Coyote once existed in the vicinity of the arroyo; it is recorded as “historical” in GNIS. There is one other feature in the State named Loma Coyote; it is located in Rio Arriba County, 58 miles to the north.

The BGN has recently approved three names that include “Coyote” (in 2011, 2019, and 2020), all for unnamed features in Ohio.

**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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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.

A decision on this proposal was deferred by the DNC at its February 2022 meeting, citing concerns that the name Fern Creek duplicates another in the same county. The OGNB was asked to clarify its support and noted that they “saw no conflict” as one stream is “urban” (the 2011 approved name) while this one is rural, and that “Fern” is a very common occurrence in the U.S.

Lark Island, Oregon
(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spoil area)
(Review List 444)

46.2085581, -123.4348185

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Names Authority</td>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Agency</td>
<td>USACE</td>
<td>No objection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOAA</td>
<td>Support</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>USFWS</td>
<td>Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tribes</td>
<td>No response</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Oregon Dept. of State Land</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birds of Oregon author</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia River Kayaking owner/guide</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Programs Director for the Columbia River Partnership</td>
<td>Support</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

This proposal is to make official the name Lark Island for a 113-acre uninhabited island in the Columbia River in Clatsop County and across from Puget Island, Washington. The island, which is managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, lies off the southeast end of Tenasillaha Island and is separated from the larger island by a navigable, unnamed slough.

The proposal was forwarded by the Oregon Geographic Names Board on behalf of a resident of Skamokawa, Washington, who believes an official name would reduce confusion because many
people assume the island is part of the larger Tenasillahe Island. (The latter is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a part of the Julia Butler Hansen National Wildlife Refuge for the Columbia White-tailed Deer, and camping is prohibited, whereas the smaller island in question is outside the refuge and camping is allowed.) Secondly, “The hope of those who support this name proposal is that highlighting the presence of this endangered bird will encourage people, especially visitors to the island, to appreciate and protect it for future generations.”

The 1941 USGS topographic map did not show any evidence of an island or sandbar at this location. By 1955 the sandbar began to appear on the map, and in 1985 it was labeled as partially marshy and partially sandy. The most recent (2020) USTopo depicts the area as a marshy island.

NOAA charts have depicted the surrounding sandbar and a small island since the 1970s, with its name being recorded in GNIS as Puget Bar (Oregon Geographic Names; McArthur, 1992). However, evidence shows that the USACE dredging efforts have resulted in a loss of the sandbar, with the island becoming more permanent. The majority of the island has a current elevation of 40 feet. The 2013 nautical chart shows the island, with a sandbar extending to the east and northeast. Wetlands and cottonwood forest are found along the slough that separates it from Tenasillahe Island.

The proponent reports that the island is one of the few remaining nesting areas for the Streaked Horned Lark, *Eremophila alpestris strigata*, the most colorful of the Horned Lark subspecies. He adds

They once occupied open country from southern British Columbia through the Rogue and Umpqua valleys in Oregon. They have now been extirpated from most of their former range and number somewhere between 1170-1610 individuals (Altman, 2011). Among the last strongholds of the larks are the dredge material islands of the Columbia River. Since the bird was listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 2013, [USACE] has managed the timing and
placement of dredge material to benefit the larks, which thrive in the sparse prairies which emerge two to three years after the deposit of sandy dredge material. Unlike some other endangered species, the presence of Streaked Horned Larks has not been controversial, since they thrive on this disturbance from the primary economic activity on the islands.

The proposed name has been used locally for over 20 years. The Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership’s map of the Lower Columbia River Water Trail depicts Lark Island as a designated camping area, and a 2005 Washington Department of Natural Resources publication on the Streaked Horned Lark’s nesting success also used the name. eBird, described as “the largest international database documenting bird distribution, abundance, habitat use, and trends,” lists Lark Island as “a hotspot - a public area that is a good place to find birds.” The proponent is not aware of any opposition to the name, although he notes that “a large number of local people simply call the island ‘Tenasillahe.’”

Included in the proposal packet was an additional letter of support from a couple who have lived on the western tip of Puget Island since 1979, directly across the shipping channel from “Lark Island,” and who visit the island regularly.

Although USACE has no objections to the name, a representative of the agency’s Portland District noted that “larks may not always be there,” and that “the name [could bring] attention to the endangered lark and potentially [harm to] its delicate ecosystem.” He added that these concerns were not “deal breakers.”

Origin Creek, Oregon (Tillamook State Forest) (Review List 445)
Mouth: 45.65015, -123.33623 / Source: 45.66131, -123.3346

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local government</th>
<th>Washington County Commissioners</th>
<th>No opinion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Names Authority</td>
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<td>Tribes</td>
<td>Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon</td>
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<td>Other</td>
<td>Oregon Department of Forestry</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stimson Lumber (landowner)</td>
<td>No response</td>
</tr>
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</table>

This proposal, forwarded to the BGN by the Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB), is to make official the name Origin Creek for a 0.85-mile-long tributary of Gales Creek in Washington County. The downstream section of the stream flows through Tillamook State Forest, managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF).

The proponent is the former Oregon State Forester and Director of ODF, and a current member of the OGNB. He reports that the proposed name has been in local use for approximately 15 years, adding
This unnamed creek is immediately adjacent to the point of origin of the 1933 Tillamook Fire, located west of Glenwood, Oregon and just east of the Gales Creek Campground in the Tillamook State Forest. During repeated forest and fire history research visits to this location over 20-plus years, we have referred to this area as “Origin Creek” as a convenient way to orient ourselves and describe the general vicinity, given its immediate proximity to the fire origin. The creek is less than two-tenths of a mile from the documented point of origin of the 1933 fire and runs north-south through the fire origin area.

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

Since Indigenous Peoples have long suffered from White colonization and settlement of this area, the Board of County Commissioners is opting to reserve its endorsement of the proposed name for this creek. We strongly urge 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. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to this process.

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon replied to the BGN’s Review List notice by saying that they “support the adoption of this name which is already in common use locally” for a feature “within our Ceded Lands or Usual and Accustomed Lands in Western Oregon.” GNIS does not list any features in Oregon with “Origin” in their names.

**Hidden Creek, Virginia**  
(Review List 444)

Mouth: 38.8514, -78.27057 / Source: 38.84224, -78.26096

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local government</th>
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<td>State Names Authority</td>
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<td>Other</td>
<td>Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Warren Heritage Society</td>
<td>No objection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The new name **Hidden Creek** is proposed for 0.9-mile-long tributary of Flint Run in Warren County. The name is associated with Hidden Creek Farm, alongside which the stream flows, and which has been in the proponent’s wife’s family since 1866. When asked to address the BGN’s Commercial Names Policy, the proponent responded that no products are sold under the name of “Hidden Creek.” He is also the Administrator of Hidden Springs Senior Living, LLC, located just to the north of the stream.

According to GNIS, there are no other geographic features in Virginia named “Hidden Creek.”