U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
Eight Hundred and Forty-second Meeting
April 14, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.
(Virtual Meeting)

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)
David DeHosson        Department of Defense (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency) (not voting)
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)
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) (voting)
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
Jessica Campbell, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Alex Fries, National Park Service
Hollie Lockhart, U.S. Geological Survey
Deb Nordeen, National Park Service
1. **Opening**

The vice chair opened Meeting 842 of the DNC at 9:32 a.m. and requested a roll call of the members. He noted that motions would pass by a simple majority of votes.

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 841**

The minutes of Meeting 841, held March 10, 2022, were approved as submitted.

3. **Reports**

3.1 **BGN Chairman (Allsup)**

See attached report.

Allsup reminded members that Full Board Quarterly Meeting 285 is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19; it will be held virtually. The Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names will have proposals for a vote at the meeting.

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

There was no written report.

Discussions continue with representatives of the Geographical Names Board of Canada (GNBC) regarding the United States/Canada Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

Tischler is expected to schedule a meeting of the BGN Executive Committee soon.
3.3  **Special Committee on Communications** (Lyon)

There was no report.

3.4  **Executive Secretary** (Guempel)

There was no written report.

Senator Lisa Murkowski’s staff asked USGS to provide a list of the largest unnamed lakes and the highest unnamed summits in Alaska.

3.5  **Staff** (Runyon)

See attached report.

Review List 447, including 25 newly received proposals (new names and name changes), was completed and posted on the BGN website. Per Policy X: Tribal Geographic Names, a notice was sent by email to the leaders of all federally recognized Tribes and to approximately 200 Tribal Historic Preservation Officers. The email invites Tribes to comment on any proposal in which they have an interest. There are ongoing issues with finding a reliable email contact list and a considerable number were undeliverable.

BGN staff has kept busy with activities related to Secretary’s Order 3404.

The BGN received a proposal from a USGS geologist to change the name of Hatch Valley, New Mexico to Rincon Valley, to recognize local use. Because the existing name was approved by the BGN in March 2021, citing extensive research, local support, and State support, the staff informed the proponent that the BGN would not be revisiting its decision unless there was a compelling reason to do so.

An inquiry was received about renaming Devils Tower in Wyoming. Because legislation is pending in Congress to preserve the current name, the BGN is prevented from considering any proposal to change the name at the present time.

The Council of Geographic Names Authorities (CoGNA) held a fifth virtual meeting to provide an opportunity for States who could not participate previously to meet the new CoGNA leadership and discuss issues of mutual interest. The CoGNA website has been updated to include a page dedicated to Federal activities. The staff extended its appreciation to Christine Johnson, Executive Secretary of CoGNA, and to the four regional leads for initiating the sessions and for reinvigorating CoGNA activities. The sessions were especially helpful for the many new State Names Authorities.
Runyon attended a recent virtual meeting of the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board (CGNAB), at which they heard comments and made recommendations to the Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force (Task Force) on proposed changes to sq___ names.

3.6  GNIS and Data Compilation Program (McCormick)

See attached report.

Using GNIS, the National Hydrography Dataset, and topographic maps, McCormick compiled the aforementioned list of unnamed lakes and summits in Alaska.

McCormick and Guempel continue to discuss the most efficient way to enter the sq___ name changes into GNIS once the BGN votes on the names recommended by the Task Force. There is no batch upload option in GNIS and so each update will need to be made one-by-one. The process could take weeks or months to complete, after which it will take time for datasets that use GNIS to reflect the changes.

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

See attached report. The committee has begun discussions on how to implement the recently approved guidance document intended for prospective proponents who would like to honor Native Americans through the application of a new feature name or feature name change.

3.8  Secretary’s Order 3404/Task Force Update (Tischler)

Tischler reported that there has been much activity related to Secretary’s Order 3404, with approximately one week remaining in the public comment and Tribal consultation periods. Three virtual listening sessions were held by the Department of the Interior, during which Tribes were invited to share comments and suggest replacement names. As of this meeting, over 700 public comments have been posted in response to the Federal Register notice, and formal consultation was requested by two Tribal Governments. During the 90 days following the end of the comment period, the Task Force will review the comments and categorize those that propose replacement names. The Task Force will also discuss if and how they will address changes to the names of unincorporated populated places. There has been a number of media inquiries regarding the Secretary’s Order and Task Force activities, many of them addressed to BGN staff.

Wallace inquired as to how the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration could provide input, noting that the agency’s leadership has expressed interest in the issue. Tischler noted that the Task Force has been discussing how to incorporate feedback from Federal agencies not actively engaged in the Task Force. At present, members are advised to send input to Guempel, who will compile details and share them with the Task Force.
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 - none

Change **Jernigan Island** (FID 1144257) to **Goat Island**, Oregon (Review List 446)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 17 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Change **Pilot Knob** (FID 247467) to **Chesed Hills**, California (Fort Yuma Indian Reservation / Bureau of Land Management) (Review List 443)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the change, citing the objection of the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation and the negative recommendations of the Bureau of Land Management and the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names.

Vote: 17 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Staff noted that the Quechan Tribe has proposed a change from Pilot Knob to Avi Kwalal (Review List 446) and that this name will presented to the BGN for review at a future meeting.

**Sawyer Falls**, California (Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit - proclaimed boundary) (Review List 440) (FID 2830596)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing the objection of the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN).

Members discussed the relevance of land ownership, the content of the Commemorative Names Policy, and the wording of the CACGN recommendation.

Vote: 5 in favor
12 against
0 abstentions
The motion failed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 12 in favor
      5 against
      0 abstentions

The votes against the motion were cast in agreement with the CACGN and citing concerns that the name does not satisfy the Commemorative Names Policy.

**Shiprock Shelter**, Connecticut (Review List 442)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing the objections of the Connecticut State Names Authority and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

Members discussed whether a “glacially transported boulder that was not attached to the ground” is subject to the purview of the BGN. It was noted that the BGN has very rarely considered a feature to be too insignificant to be named. There was also some concern that the generic term “Shelter” might encourage visitors to the area to dig illegally for artifacts, despite the lack of evidence that the boulder was used as a rock shelter.

Vote: 17 in favor
      0 against
      0 abstentions

Change **Trout Brook** (FID 967868) to **Stone Bridge Creek**, New York (Review List 444)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing the lack of local support and the objection of the New York State Names Committee.

Vote: 17 in favor
      0 against
      0 abstentions

By affirmation, members decided to make Trout Brook a BGN decision.

One member left the meeting.

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

**Beaulieu Hill**, Maine (Review List 446) (FID 2830597)

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

Change **Negro Hill** (FID 958339) to **Fitch Hill**, New York (Review List 446)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote:  15 in favor  
       0 against  
       0 abstentions

**Kimmel Run**, Pennsylvania (Review List 446) (FID 2830598)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote:  15 in favor  
       0 against  
       0 abstentions

**Rice Run**, Pennsylvania (Review List 446) (FID 2830599)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote:  15 in favor  
       0 against  
       0 abstentions

**Whitehead Draft**, Pennsylvania (Review List 446) (FID 2830600)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote:  15 in favor  
       0 against  
       0 abstentions

IV. Revised Decisions

Change **Jeff Davis Creek** (BGN 1979) (FID 261916) to **Da-ek Dow Go-et Wa Tah**, California (Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest / Mokelumne Wilderness) (Review List 440)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.
Vote: 15 in favor
    0 against
    0 abstentions

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

**Granite Face Lake**, California (Tahoe National Forest - proclaimed boundary) (Review List 443) (FID 2830594)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 15 in favor
    0 against
    0 abstentions

5. Other Business

Tischler reported that he and Guempel met with the Department of the Interior Solicitor’s Office regarding the BGN’s 2017 approval of the name To Kalon Creek for a previously unnamed stream in California. The Solicitor’s Office offered to meet with the BGN to discuss the matter. Runyon reminded the committee that the proponent of the name has asked to make a presentation to the BGN.

Members discussed the request by the proponent to revisit the 2018 decision not to approve the change from Brazell Pond to Betty Pond for a pond in Worcester County, Massachusetts.

A motion was made and seconded to revisit the 2018 BGN Decision.

Vote: 6 in favor
    8 against
    1 abstention

6. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

The next Domestic Names Committee meeting is scheduled to be held virtually on May 12, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.

(signed)

Glenn Guempel, Executive Secretary
Domestic Names Committee

APPROVED
(signed)

_______________________
Susan Lyon, Chair
Domestic Names Committee

U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
DOCKET
April 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 Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, California Director of Cultural Resources responded to the Review List 446 notice, stating that “the Cultural Resources Department has reviewed the project and concluded that it is not within the aboriginal territories of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. Therefore, we respectively decline any comment on this project. However, based on the information provided, please defer correspondence to the . . . Mishewal Wappo Tribe of Alexander Valley [not federally recognized] . . . [and the] Middletown Rancheria.”

If no response(s) were received from Tribal Governments regarding a proposal on this docket, 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 Jernigan Island (FID 1144257) to Goat Island, Oregon (Review List 446)

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This proposal is to change the name of Jernigan Island, a seven-acre island in Siltcoos Lake in Lane County, to Goat Island. The proponents, who own the island, note “A Jernigan family owned the island in the late 1940s to early 50s, then sold it. The name ‘Goat Island’ has been in usage by locals since approx. 1900 and [it] has never been referred to by the name ‘Jernigan Island.’” All maps that are handed out by local tourist operators indicate the name ‘Goat Island.’”

The proposal included four recreation and fishing maps that label the island Goat Island, and the name was referenced in two online fishing reports. A memoir written in 2016 by a longtime resident, entitled Westlake Girl: My Oregon Frontier Childhood, noted “Goat Island lay half a mile from shore. I don’t know why it was called that. I always kept a lookout for goats but never saw any sign of one.” A petition signed by 73 area residents supporting the restoration of “the historical name of Goat Island” was also included with the proposal. A number of real estate listings from 2011 to 2016 referred to the location as Jernigan Island. A search of online genealogy records shows a number of individuals named Jernigan in Lane County in the first half of the 20th century, and present-day phone directories continue to show the name throughout Oregon.

The name Jernigan Island been labeled on USGS topographic maps since 1956. The island is shown but not named on the State’s official county map. There are no other features in Oregon named “Jernigan” but 18 named “Goat,” including three islands named Goat Island, in Clackamas, Columbia, and Curry counties. The closest is approximately 120 miles away.

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Change Pilot Knob (FID 247467) to Chesed Hills, California (Fort Yuma Indian Reservation / Bureau of Land Management) (Review List 443)


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This proposal is to change the name of Pilot Knob, a small range in Imperial County, to Chesed Hills. Pilot Knob is 1.75 miles long and 1.4 miles wide, with an elevation of 891 feet, located in the southeastern corner of California. The eastern third of the range is located on the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation, and the western two-thirds is within the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) Pilot Knob Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The southeastern part is cut by the All-American Canal, which is managed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The approximately 15-mile-long mesa that extends northwest from the range is named Pilot Knob Mesa.
The proponent wishes to name the range with the Hebrew word that represents the “loving kindness of God towards humanity.” He states that his “Judeo-Christian church community . . . prays for our nation and especially, our great state of California. We have prayed for our beautiful state, on the ground in physical locations, all throughout the state of California. We have all also prayed for our state on every corner tip. One day, while praying at the south-easternmost part of the state, we noticed that the hill we were gathered on had no name. I thought of proposing a name to those hills to always commemorate the year 2020 and serve as a reminder to always be praying for the ‘Chesed,’ or ‘loving kindness’ of God.”

In the proposal, the proponent quoted the beginning of the Wikipedia entry for the word and concept of “chesed”: “Chesed (Hebrew: חֶסֶד, also Romanized ḥesed) is a Hebrew word. In its positive sense, the word is used of kindness or love between people, of the devotional piety of people towards God as well as of love or mercy of God towards humanity.” The concept of chesed is a primary virtue in Jewish ethics, and in Modern Hebrew the word can refer to charitable organizations. It is also a sephirot in Kabbalah.

Although current USGS maps and GNIS place the name Pilot Knob on the second-highest peak in the range at the location of the “West Pilot” survey marker, further research has determined that both the BLM and the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation apply the name Pilot Knob to the entire range. The proposal was submitted as a new name for an unnamed feature, but after the application of the name was amended to refer to the entire range, the proponent was informed that it would be processed as a change to an existing name.

The Quechan Tribe is “adamantly opposed” to the proposal. They add “The mountain is revered as a sacred location in the Quechan culture and is deeply tied to the larger traditional cultural landscape. The Quechan people have a traditional name for this feature – Avi Kwalal. It has been known by this name to the Quechan since time immemorial and is still a part of our cultural patrimony.”

A report prepared for the BLM in 2002 titled “An Assessment of the Imperial Sand Dunes as a Native American Cultural Landscape” reported:

A few miles north of Xuksil [a Quechan settlement], about 2 miles east of the Sand Dunes, on the west side of the Colorado River, is the small mountain formation known as Pilot Knob (Avi kwala'). The small mountain just south of the main mass of Pilot Knob is called Avi kwimu'. Pilot Knob is a striking physical feature in the visual landscape of the eastern side of the Dunes. A number of tribes of the Lower Colorado region are associated with Pilot Knob in the ethnohistoric record, including the Quechan, Kamia, Halchidhoma, Kaveltcadom, Cocopah, Paipai, and Mohave. It has been identified as a seasonal campground for Cocopah, Quechan, Halchidhoma, and Kamia (Desert Planning Staff Field Notes, 1979). Quechan and Cocopah consultants identified Pilot Knob as a boundary between joint Quechan/Kamia holdings and Cocopah land (Woods Field Notes [WFN] 1978-1980).

Pilot Knob is sacred to the Quechan and other Lower Colorado tribes. It is the point of departure and return for the all-important Keruk (mourning) ceremony, a place where dreams and visions
were received, and figures importantly in the creation myths of the Yuman Tribes of the Lower Colorado region. The mountain contains evidence of habitation sites, rock art, rock rings, trails, and numerous lithic and sherd scatters.

The Xam Kwatchan Trail or trail network (Baksh 1997; Johnson 2001; Bee 1982; Forbes 1965) was a major travel corridor that connected Avikwame (Newberry Mountain near modern-day Needles, California) and Avikwalal (Pilot Knob near Yuma). This trail has major cultural and religious significance to Yuman groups, as well as serving to facilitate secular travel. The name is translated from Quechan as “another coming down” (Forbes 1965) and refers to the origin story of the Quechan and other Yuman groups. All peoples were first created at Avikwame, and the Xam Kwatchan was the route they took as they migrated to the south. Subsequently, religious practitioners returned to Avikwame for spiritual guidance, traveling along the Xam Kwatchan, physically or in a dream state. In the beginning, when the Creator died and was cremated at Avikwalal, the first Keruk ceremony was held, including a pilgrimage along the Xam Kwatchan. Subsequently, pilgrimages along this trail were part of the Keruk. It was said that the pilgrimage took four days to accomplish.

A report prepared for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in 2002 titled “Imperial Irrigation District Water Conservation and Transfer Project Final EIR/EIS” reported:

The AAC [All-American Canal], from Pilot Knob to Drop 4, traverses through land that contains the remains of cultural activity from prehistoric times until recent historic periods. The Pilot Knob area, which is adjacent to the AAC near Yuma, is one of the most significant and sensitive cultural resource areas in the Colorado Desert. Pilot Knob, which contains abundant and diverse archaeological remains, was the focus of traditional ceremonies and symbolism for the Quechan, Cocopah, Kamia, and possibly other Indian groups. Pilot Knob and parts of the gravel terraces on its south side are sacred in the religious practices of the Quechan Indian Tribe, on whose behalf the BLM has restricted public access. Pilot Knob has been established as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern along the AAC to protect archaeological and Native American cultural resources (Reclamation 1994).

As stated above, current USGS maps and GNIS place the name Pilot Knob on the second-highest peak in the range. Earlier maps appear to apply it to the highest peak. Historical use of the name clearly referred to the entire range. Erwin Gudde’s 1969 California Place Names reported: “Pilot Knob [Imperial]. This black rock was called San Pablo in WU Anza’s diary entry of February 10, 1774. The present name was used as early as 1846 by soldiers, surveyors, and immigrants, and seldom has a name been applied more appropriately. The Indian name for the knob was Ha-bee-co-la-la (Whipple, 1849), or Avie Quah-la-Altwa (Emory, Report, p. 104). Avi or habi is the Yuman word for ‘mountain.’”

GNIS includes an entry for Camp Pilot Knob (historical). The military camp was built in April 1943, and according to a historical marker erected at the site in 1990, “was a unit of the Desert Training Center, established by General George S. Patton Jr., to prepare American troops for battle
during World War II. It was the largest military training ground ever to exist.” The camp closed in June 1944.

The “West Pilot” survey mark datasheet, provided by the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, contains several references to the name Pilot Knob:

- the 1934 station description: “station is on the highest point of the SW end of the main ridge of Pilot Knob, 3/8 mile SW of the aviation beacon site which is on the highest point of the mountain.”
- a 1964 station recovery report: “the station is located about 7 miles west of Yuma, 2 miles north of U.S. Highway 80, 1/4 mile southwest of an aviation beacon, at the southwest end of the main ridge of Pilot Ridge [sic].”
- another 1964 station recovery report: “the station is located on the western end of a prominent ridge known as Pilot Knob, that has a beacon on it.”
- a 1974 station recovery report: “the station is located 7 miles west of Yuma, 3/4 mile south of I-8, 1/2 mile north of the All American Canal and on the highest [sic] and most westerly peak of Pilot Knob. To reach the station . . . bear left and go southeast for 1.15 miles to the base of Pilot Knob and a trail leading southwest. Pack southwest to the top of the ridge for about 1 hour and the station on the most westerly peak.”

Historical references to the name Pilot Knob generally apply the name to the entire range:

- The 1851 Report of the Secretary of War [Whipple Report]: “we came to the foot of ‘Pilot knob,’ . . . an isolated mountain, [that] rises above us to the height of about fifteen hundred feet [sic] [this report gives the Yuma word for Pilot Knob as Ha-bee-co-là-là and the Yuma word for Pilot Range as Que-you-so-wiu-a; it is unknown to what feature “Pilot Range” refers.]
- William H. Emory’s 1857 Report on the United States and Mexican Boundary Survey: “Seven and a half miles below the post [Fort Yuma] is another high, prominent, and isolated hill, called Pilot Knob [Part I, page 103] . . . In passing up the river on the right bank to the junction of the Gila, we encounter a rocky ridge abutting directly on the river bank; thence rising inland into high rugged peaks, it forms the “Pilot Knob range [Part I, page 128; this seems to refer to a separate feature upstream from the unnamed range that includes the present-day Pilot Knob]. . . Eight miles below Fort Yuma another trace of the action of earthquakes is exhibited on the eastern foot of the Sierra Culaya, or Pilot Knob, as it is styled by the Americans. [Part II, page 98].”
- George Wharton James’ 1906 The Wonders of the Colorado Desert (Southern California): “Pilot Knob is a well-known landmark that has guided many a weary traveler over the desert . . . It rises, solitary, from the Colorado River plain, a few miles southeast [sic] of Yuma. [page 81]”
In recommending disapproval of the change from Pilot Knob to Chesed Hills, the BLM cited the Quechan Tribe’s opposition and longstanding use of a native name for the feature. The California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN) cited “[A] lack of local support, and opposition by BLM and local tribe.” Further, “[The] name has no relationship to landscape, area, or local communities.” The Quechan Tribe’s proposal to change the name to Avi Kwalal is included on BGN Review List 446 and will be considered by the CACGN at its Summer 2022 meeting. The proponent of Chesed Hills was advised of the CACGN, BLM, and Tribal opposition but did not respond.

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

38.877444, -120.091063

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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 in-laws, 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 that is 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 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.”

After he was 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.
At the March 2022 DNC meeting, a motion to disapprove the name resulted in a tied vote, which means it was automatically deferred to the following meeting. No new information was received, and the CACGN declined to revisit the proposal in light of the proponent’s additional evidence of the Sawyier family’s contributions to the community.

**Shiprock Shelter**, Connecticut

(Review List 442)

41.864936, -73.101662

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The new name **Shiprock Shelter** is proposed for a 15-foot-high glacial boulder located in the Town of Torrington in Burr Pond State Park. According to the proponent, an employee with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)/Ecological Services, the name refers to the rock’s similarity to a well-known glacial boulder in Massachusetts known locally as “Ship Rock,” and the supposition that the rock was used as shelter by local indigenous inhabitants, evidence for which is weak.

The name was suggested as part of a local contest led by the proponent to name the boulder. The most popular response, and the name that is currently in widespread local use, was “Boulder Over Burr,” referring to the rock’s placement on a high slope over Burr Pond. Local reports state that it was also known as Indian Rock and Big Rock Cave Lookout, which was used on a 2004 map of the State Park.

A 2020 State Park map labels the rock as Boulder Over Burr (BOB), and many other sources also use the acronym. A 2019 DEEP press release for a “first-day” hike referred to Boulder Over Burr. The name “Boulder Over Burr (BOB)” or “Boulder Over Burr (B.O.B.)” is in use among local hiking and bouldering groups. A previous park map labeled the rock as “Geologic Erratic,” but the rock is not an erratic because it is the same kind of rock as the bedrock in the area.

GNIS lists a pillar, a summit, and a cliff named “Deer Shelter Rock,” “Shelter Rock,” and “Shelter Rocks,” respectively. In addition, there are a number of cave features with the generic “Rock Shelter” and three archeological locales with the generic “Shelter(s) Archaeological Site,” all of which are blocked from public retrieval.

The Connecticut States Names Authority (SNA) recommends disapproval of the proposed name, noting that the Director of Research and Collections at the Institute of American Indian Studies (Washington, CT) and the Office of the State Archaeologist could find “no indication that the
boulder was used as a shelter by native peoples . . . or any special archaeological significance.” A representative of the Torrington Historical Society noted use of the name “Big Rock Cave Lookout” on the park map and added that “early white settlers [also] used rock shelters.” (As evidence, he cited an account of Torrington’s first white settler, who in the 1750s had been hunting in the area and who took shelter for the night under a large rock (possibly the one proposed to be named), a piece of which fell on him, eventually leading to his death.) Furthermore, “Burr Pond is an inland water body [and] ‘shiprock’ seemed a curious choice of name.” The SNA “felt that the purpose and justification of the name was insufficient. DEEP park and trail maps are informal, and there was no endorsement of the name by the Parks Division management of DEEP.”

The proponent was asked to address the concerns expressed by his own agency’s leadership but did not respond.

Change Trout Brook (FID 967868) to Stone Bridge Creek, New York (Review List 444)


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local government</th>
<th>Schroon Town Board (Essex County)</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minerva Town Board (Essex County)</td>
<td></td>
<td>No response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chester Town Board (Warren County)</td>
<td></td>
<td>No opinion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essex County Supervisors</td>
<td></td>
<td>No response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren County Supervisors</td>
<td></td>
<td>No response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Names Authority</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Agency</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribes</td>
<td></td>
<td>No response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Stone Bridge and Caves Park owner</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This proposal is to change the name of Trout Brook, a 16-mile-long tributary of the Schroon River, to Stone Bridge Creek. The stream flows through the Town of Schroon and the Town of Minerva, both in Essex County, into the Town of Chester in Warren County.

The stream was formerly known as Stone Bridge Creek because it flows through a natural bridge about 3.5 miles upstream from its mouth. The proponent states “The original name of the creek going back to the 1795 edition of Morse’s Geography was Stone Bridge Creek. This was the only Stone Bridge Creek in New York. I am not clear on when or why the name was changed to Trout Brook, but there are 20 more Trout Brooks [GNIS records 21 in New York, not counting named branches or forks], not to mention Trout Creeks, Streams, etc.” Further, “I am a cave historian. In researching Natural Stone Bridge and Caves (NSB) I was surprised to find such an early reference to it (1795). The caver ethic in naming caves is to try and use the earliest known name, but [I] will defer to the landowner’s preference.”

Staff could not locate the aforementioned 1795 volume; however, other editions published between 1793 and 1805 did not name the stream and simply reported that “a small, rapid stream . . . [forms] a most curious and beautiful arch in the rock, as white as snow.”
The name **Stone-Bridge Creek** was recorded in Spafford’s 1813 and 1826 editions of *A Gazetteer of the State of New-York*, and was reprinted in many commercial gazetteers at the time. In the 1860 and 1872 editions, published by J. H. French and F. B. Baugh, respectively, and in the 1904 *Encyclopedia Americana*, the name was **Stone Bridge Creek**.

However, as early as 1858, the “Essex County 1858 Wall Map” (published by J. H. French) labeled the same stream as **Trout Brook**, as did an 1876 Warren County map. No information could be found as to why or when the name was changed from **Stone Bridge Creek** to **Trout Brook**.

Since the first USGS topographic map of the area, published in 1895, the stream has always been labeled **Trout Brook**.

The stream has three upper named tributaries, **East Branch Trout Brook**, **North Branch Trout Brook**, and **West Branch Trout Brook**. The proposal did not address these feature names and the proponent did not respond when asked if these names should be included.

The natural bridge is recorded in GNIS as **Adirondack Natural Stone Bridge**, a name derived from R. H. Vreeland’s *Nature’s Bridges and Arches* series, and classified as an arch. It was labeled on USGS maps as **Natural Bridge** from 1895 to 1958, and as **Natural Stone Bridge** from 1960 to 1989. The longer name seems to be used mostly by the Natural Arch and Bridge Society (NABS). The natural bridge is within the grounds of the private Natural Stone Bridge and Caves Park, which refers to the bridge as “Stone Bridge” and uses the name Trout Brook for the stream that formed it. NABS also lists a natural bridge with the unofficial name “**Trout Brook Natural Bridge**,” also located within the park.

Stone Bridge Road leads to the park within Warren County; Trout Brook Road follows the stream for much of its length in Essex County.

The Schroon Town Board opposes the proposed change, stating:

- “The **Trout Brook** name goes back over 100 years which is evident and visible on area maps hanging in our town hall. Changing this historical name would require all deeds along that water way be updated, area maps re-done and 911 updating.”
- “**Trout Brook Road**, running near **Trout Brook**, runs South from Hoffman Road in Schroon Lake, all the way to Olmsteadville, NY. Local residents and visitors alike have identified Trout Brook and Trout Brook Road by these names for many, many years.”
- “Having an out of the area citizen recommend a name change to a local brook that does not live in any of the towns affected by this name change request seems inappropriate at the least. We do not believe the name change is appropriate for all of these reasons.”

The Chester Town Board discussed the proposal and was initially in support. They spoke to the owner of the Natural Stone Bridge and Caves Park who supported the change. However, the Town Supervisor reported that:
There was concern about what the other towns along the waterway would say about the name change so no action was taken. [The Town of] Schroon has the West, East and North Branch of Trout Brook, along with Trout Brook Road, which also goes through [the Town of Minerva]. The majority of Trout Brook is in those two towns. I can see why they would not be in favor of changing the name of the stream. There is [sic] too much cultural, geographic, and physical address connections to Trout Brook. To change at this point in time it would be too disruptive, I would think.

If this is something to be pursued with more energy, the thing to do is to convene the three towns at the same time and place to discuss and decide what to do. Otherwise there are separate conversations going on and no unified conversation about it.

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

#### Beaulieu Hill, Maine

(Review List 446)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>44.73689</td>
<td>-69.68204</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The new name Beaulieu Hill is proposed for an unnamed 588-foot summit in the Town of Skowhegan in Somerset County. The proposal was submitted by the Town of Skowhegan Board of Selectmen on behalf of a local resident, who reports that the name would commemorate six generations of the Beaulieu family who have owned the property. The proponent reports that they continue to own the property today. A search of online genealogy records shows numerous individuals named Beaulieu in the township as early as 1850, employed variously as farmers, mill workers, shoe manufacturers, masons, and in road construction. Some 38 members of the Beaulieu family are buried in Calvary Cemetery in Skowhegan.

#### Change Negro Hill (FID 958339) to Fitch Hill, New York

(Review List 446)


<table>
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<th>Latitude</th>
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(Review List 446)


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local government</th>
<th>Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Skowhegan Town Selectmen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somerset County Commissioners</td>
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<td>State Names Authority</td>
<td>Maine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Agency</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribes</td>
<td>No response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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(Review List 446)


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local government</th>
<th>Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corinth Town Board</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saratoga County Supervisors</td>
<td>Support</td>
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<td>State Names Authority</td>
<td>New York</td>
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<td>Federal Agency</td>
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<td>Tribes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Corinth Town Historian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
This proposal is to change the name of Negro Hill in the Town of Corinth in Saratoga County to Fitch Hill. The hill has an elevation of 1,890 feet and is located in Wilcox Lake Wild Forest, which is administered by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

The proponents wish to change what they refer to as “a derogatory, pejorative name” and to honor the Fitch family who operated a cabin on the hill that they used to help enslaved people escaping along the Underground Railroad to freedom in Canada. The proposal included a detailed history of the Fitch family in Saratoga County, pieced together from many sources. The proposed name would specifically commemorate Henry (ca.1800-1866) and Laura (ca.1812-ca.1880) Fitch, but also their children.

The more pejorative form of the name appeared on USGS maps published in 1942, 1949, and 1963. The name Negro Hill was first shown on a 1955 map that included the northern slope of the hill.

The proponent obtained letters of support for the proposal from the Corinth Town Board, the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors, the Corinth Town Historian, the Saratoga County Historian, the New York State Historian, Camp Mesacosa, LLC (landowners on the north side of the hill), the Camp Gahada, Inc. Board of Directors (owners of 25 Jenny Lake properties about 1.5 miles north of the hill), the Efner Lake Association (a community 1.3 miles north of the hill), the North Country Underground Railroad Historical Association, and the Adirondack Diversity Initiative. As of this writing, a change.org petition had 242 signers in support of the change.

The county supervisors’ letter stated “Henry Fitch is one in a long list of Saratoga County residents who have stood up for their beliefs in the face of danger to help others. By adding the Fitch name to this hill, we acknowledge the Fitch family’s contribution to the Underground Railroad, the fight to end slavery, and the family’s willingness to selflessly assist others. Renaming this location to ‘Fitch Hill’ is not only a fitting tribute to Henry Fitch and his family, but also helps to engage current residents in learning about our local history and encourages pride in our community's heritage.”

### Kimmel Run, Pennsylvania

(Review List 446)

Mouth: 41.328149, -78.372128 / Source: 41.327295, -78.366056

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local government</th>
<th>Benezette Township Supervisors</th>
<th>Support</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elk County Commissioners</td>
<td>Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Names Authority</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>No objection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The new name **Kimmel Run** is proposed for an unnamed 0.3-mile-long tributary of an unnamed stream in Benezette Township in Elk County. The stream is partly located in Elk State Forest and on land operated and managed by the Keystone Elk Country Alliance (KECA). The KECA visitor center is located south of the stream.

The proposal was submitted by the KECA Education Specialist and CEO/President, and would commemorate Randy Kimmel (1954-2016), founding treasurer, life member, and active volunteer of KECA.

**Rice Run**, Pennsylvania
(Review List 446)
Mouth: 41.06571, -78.63741 / Source: 41.08343, -78.62111

This proposal is to make official the name **Rice Run** for a 1.6-mile-long tributary of Anderson Creek in Union Township in Clearfield County. The stream flows through Moshannon State Forest.

The name is proposed by the president of the Clearfield County Historical Society, who reports that it was provided to him by a longtime resident of the property that includes the stream. The origin and meaning of the name are unknown. A search of online genealogy records shows a number of individuals named Rice in Clearfield County in the second half of the 19th century although none in Union Township. A query of GNIS found no nearby features with “Rice” in their names.

**Whitehead Draft**, Pennsylvania
(Review List 446)
Mouth: 41.07235, -78.62695 / Source: 41.077742, -78.615248
Clearfield County Historical Society [proponent]  Support

The new name **Whitehead Draft** is proposed for a 0.8-mile-long stream in Union Township in Clearfield County. The stream flows through Moshannon State Forest and into an unnamed stream proposed to be named **Rice Run** (q.v.).

The name is proposed by the president of the Clearfield County Historical Society, who reports that “the property containing the headwater springs was settled by the Whitehead family as listed in Aldrich’s *History of Clearfield County* [1887] and Caldwell’s *Atlas of Clearfield County* (1878).”

The 1887 volume noted that “Henry Whitehead was a native of England and came to this country nearly a half century ago. He took lands on the turnpike leading from Clearfield to Luthersburg, on the east side of Anderson Creek . . . [the] farm contains some two hundred acres.”

135 features in GNIS contain “Draft” as a generic term. 127 are valleys (mostly in Pennsylvania (including five in Clearfield County), Virginia, and West Virginia; and one in Missouri); five are streams (in Virginia and West Virginia, although three are shown on topographic maps in a landform font rather than as hydrographic features); and one is an incorporated community in Virginia.

GNIS lists a stream named **Whitehead Run** 37 miles to the northeast in Cameron County.

**IV. Revised Decisions**

Change **Jeff Davis Creek** (BGN 1979) (FID 261916) to **Da-ek Dow Go-et Wa Tah**, California (Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest / Mokelumne Wilderness) (Review List 440)


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local government</th>
<th>Alpine County Supervisors</th>
<th>Support</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Names Authority</td>
<td>California</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Agency</td>
<td>USFS</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribes</td>
<td>Washoe Tribe of Nevada &amp; California [proponent]</td>
<td>No response to Review List notice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>California Governor Gavin Newsom</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This proposal is to change the name of Jeff Davis Creek, a 2.8-mile-long tributary of Pleasant Valley Creek in Alpine County, to **Da-ek Dow Go-et Wa Tah**. The stream is located in Mokelumne Wilderness in Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

The proponent is the chair of a constituent band of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California listed in Federal records as Woodfords Community (also known as the Hung A Lel Ti Community).
name is associated with a 2018 proposal initiated by the Woodfords Community and the Alpine County Supervisors to change the name of Jeff Davis Peak to Da-ek Dow Go-et Mountain (approved by the BGN, July 9, 2020). “Da-ek Dow Go-et” is translated as “saddle between points” and describes the topography of the highest part of the mountain. The generic “Wa Tah” is from the Washoe language and means “water.”

The stream was first labeled as Jeff Davis Creek on a 1959 USGS map. A 1956 BGN decision placed the source of Pleasant Valley Creek at the current source of Jeff Davis Creek; this was corrected by the BGN in 1979.

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Granite Face Lake, California
(Tahoe National Forest—proclaimed boundary)
(Review List 443)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local government</th>
<th>Nevada County Supervisors</th>
<th>Support</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Names Authority</td>
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<td>Federal Agency</td>
<td>USFS</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribes</td>
<td></td>
<td>No response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The new name Granite Face Lake is proposed for an approximately five-acre unnamed reservoir located along North Creek in Nevada County and within a private inholding in Tahoe National Forest. The name refers to the steep granite slope adjacent to the northeast side of the reservoir. The proponents own the property.

GNIS does not list any nearby lakes or reservoirs with “Granite” in their names. There is a stream named Granite Creek that flows into Fordyce Creek nine miles to the southwest.