

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**  
**DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE**  
Eight Hundred and Forty-eighth Meeting  
October 13, 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)
Marielle Pedro Black	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Thad Ellerbe	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Andrew Flora	Department of Commerce (Census Bureau)
Brenda-Anne C. Forrest	Government Publishing Office
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)
Patrick Mahoney	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management)
Mike Shelton	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
Timothy St. Onge	Library of Congress (Vice Chair)
Tara Wallace	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)

Ex-Officio

Staff

Julie-Ann Danfora, U.S. Geological Survey  
Matthew O'Donnell, U.S. Geological Survey  
Maria McCormick, U.S. Geological Survey  
Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey

Guests

Alex Fries, National Park Service  
Wendy Hawley, U.S. Census Bureau  
Deb Nordeen, National Park Service  
Thomas Powell, U.S. Forest Service  
Monique VanLandingham, National Park Service  
Foreign Names Committee staff  
National Geographic Society representatives  
Becki Maddock, UK Permanent Committee on Geographical Names  
Lindsey Braden, U.S. Coast Guard

## 1. Opening

The Chair opened Meeting 848 of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) at 9:34 a.m. and requested a roll call of the members. She 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 846 and 847

The minutes of Meetings 846 and 847, held September 8, 2022 and September 15, 2022, respectively, were approved as submitted.

## 3. Reports

### 3.1 BGN Chairman (Allsup)

See attached report.

At Foreign Names Committee Meeting 411, following the announcement that Allsup will be retiring soon, Brooke Marston, BGN Member for the Department of State, was elected Chair of the Foreign Names Committee.

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

Palmer and Guempel were absent, and there was no written report.

### 3.3 Special Committee on Communications (Lyon)

There was no written report. Production of the FY21 Annual Report to the Secretary of the Interior is still ongoing, with one report still outstanding. Lyon will share the template for the FY22 report soon.

### 3.4 Executive Secretary (Guempel)

There was no written report.

### 3.5 Staff (Runyon)

See attached report.

The recent annual meeting of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities was well attended, and many attendees provided positive feedback on the DNC meeting and the participation by DNC members.

There have been recent discussions within USGS about how the names of administrative features that contain the word “sq\_\_\_” will be handled. These are not under BGN purview and would be changed by the appropriate management agency. Runyon has asked the U.S. Postal Service whether it is considering changes to the names of its postal facilities.

Wallace reported that several sq\_\_\_ names remain on various U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Aids to Navigation. Discussions with the USCG regarding the matter are ongoing.

California Assembly Bill 2022 was signed into law in September and is intended to change all sq\_\_\_ names in the State by January 2025. This bill will focus on administrative names (such as parks, buildings, and streets) because all natural geographic feature names under BGN purview have already been changed. It is unclear if the bill applies to the names of unincorporated populated places, and staff will seek further clarification from the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names.

BGN staff continues to receive inquiries about the name changes that resulted from [Secretary's Order 3404](#), including why a particular name was chosen, who submitted it, what does the name mean, and how is it pronounced.

Flora noted that one of the recently changed names, [Rose Creek \(FID 843957\)](#), duplicates that of a nearby stream already named [Rose Creek \(FID 843355\)](#). O'Donnell shared a list of approximately 18 other duplicated names. Members discussed applying directional or size modifiers and agreed that these minor spelling changes, or modifications to diacritics, could be staff-processed; as such, the more formal review list process is not needed. For more significant changes, or any proposal to change the new name to a different name, the conventional BGN review process will apply. It is expected that there will be some required “clean up” over the coming year.

The Department of the Interior has asked that the BGN vote in January on the proposals to rename the five unincorporated populated places that include the word “sq\_\_\_.” The S.O. 3404 Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force submitted proposals to the BGN in July to change these names and they were added to Review List 448. Local governments and State Names Authorities (SNAs) have been given an opportunity to comment on the names. To date, counterproposals have been received for two of the features; these will be added to Review List 449, and the appropriate Task Force working group leads have been asked to comment. Three county governments responded that the names should not be changed and expressed concerns regarding the process. Kanalley asked if there was an expectation that the Task Force would withdraw its proposals in light of the counterproposals, which led to a question as to whether the Task Force has been formally disbanded. If the Task Force, as the proponent, is unable to

withdraw its proposal, it will be added to the docket. It was noted that the goal of S.O. 3404 was to remove sq\_\_\_ from all names under BGN purview and the pending proposals do just that.

Staff is seeking guidance on how to manage any counterproposal that might be received after the new Review List is released. Policy X requires that Tribes be given 60 days to comment on any proposals through a review list notice, so it would not be feasible for the BGN to vote in January.

The staff has suggested that the December DNC meeting be canceled to focus on procedural and administrative issues.

The staff asked the DNC whether it should accept a new proposal for the name Turners Run. It was agreed that although the name is used for a local business, it is also commemorative and so the staff was instructed to proceed.

Runyon reported on three new proposals to name small reservoirs within local parks in Colorado. The staff asked the proponent to solicit input from park management. In one instance, the park manager responded that it had no interest in applying a name at this time and so the proponent asked staff if that would prevent the BGN from considering his proposal. After some discussion, the members agreed the names can be considered but the proponent should be advised that they will not be added to a docket for a vote until there is input from the park managers.

In the case of proposals submitted to the BGN for features in States that have very active SNAs, particularly those that prefer to interact with the proponents and manage all the local outreach, staff inquired whether they should simply be redirected to the SNA without any BGN staff action. The members noted that the names are submitted for use on Federal products and so the BGN has an obligation to consider them. The SNA's outreach and communication will be part of the record when the BGN reviews the proposal. If an SNA declines to conduct the necessary outreach, the BGN staff should do so.

### 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)

There was no written report. The Special Committee will meet following the November DNC meeting.

One member left the 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 **Negro Creek** (FID 1076502) to **Freedom Creek**, Ohio (Wayne National Forest) (Review List 437)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 12 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Change **Negro Creek** (FID 1146758) to **Jack Carson Creek**, Oregon (Bureau of Land Management land) (Review List 448)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change. Members asked about the apparent trend toward approving full names when they are discouraged by the Commemorative and Long Names policies. Section 2 of the former states, "The BGN discourages the use of an individual's full name in a feature name. Exceptions are occasionally made to avoid ambiguity."

It was noted that former enslaved people might have been given the last names of their enslavers, so it would be appropriate to use their full name to clarify the commemoration.

Vote: 12 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Change **Helen Lake** (FID 2762361) to **Helena Lake**, Wisconsin (Lower Wisconsin State Riverway) (Review List 448)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 12 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Change **Fag Lake** (FID 656188) to **Anokii Lake**, **Flag Lake**, or **Standing in the Northern Lights Lake**, Minnesota (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources land / Superior National Forest proclaimed boundary) (Review List 446)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change to Flag Lake, citing the SNA recommendation. Kanalley clarified that the Forest Service supported the Ojibwe name (Anokii Lake) but for consistency would defer to the one already used in Minnesota records (Flag Lake).

Vote: 12 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Kona Inlet or Shipp's Bay Inlet**, Virginia (Review Lists 446, 448)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name Shipp's Bay Inlet.

Ellerbe suggested that this feature would be better classified as a “harbor” rather than a “bay,” and noted that the former were removed from GNIS in 2021 along with all other administrative names not under BGN purview. McCormick added that there is no GNIS feature class to assign to this feature, so even if approved it cannot be added to the database.

The motion to approve Shipp's Bay Inlet was withdrawn. A motion was made and seconded to remove the names from the docket for consideration. The motion passed by assent.

**Moonlight Creek**, Washington (Review List 445) (FID 2830976)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing the objections of the SNA. It was noted that the SNA had declined to seek local government input. The DNC deferred a vote on this proposal in June 2022 and asked the staff to conduct local outreach. The county responded in support of the name. The SNA declined to reconsider the matter.

The motion to reject the name was withdrawn. A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 10 in favor  
1 against  
1 abstention

The vote against the motion cited the SNA recommendation.

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

**Wynn Lake**, Florida (Review List 448) (FID 2830979)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 12 in favor  
0 against

0 abstentions

**Gibboney Creek**, Ohio (Review List 441)

Following a discussion regarding the county's concerns over applying a name to a feature that it considers to be a ditch, the members deferred a decision until staff can discuss the issue with the USGS National Geospatial Program and the National Hydrography Dataset.

One member temporarily left the meeting.

Change **Larmond** (FID 1494748) to **Larmand**, Virginia (Review List 448)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 11 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Holland Marsh**, Washington (Review List 448) (FID 2830977)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 11 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Change **Bergen Creek** (FID 1561588) to **Bergin Creek**, Wisconsin (Review List 448)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 11 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

The member rejoined the meeting.

IV. **Revised Decisions**

Change **Suicide Peaks** (BGN 1981) (FID 1412420) to **Yuyang' Ch'ex**; change **North Suicide Peak** (FID 2830667) to **North Yuyang' Ch'ex**, and change **South Suicide Peak** (FID 2830668) to **South Yuyang' Ch'ex**, Alaska (Chugach State Park) (Review List 448)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the changes.

Vote: 12 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Change **Hogala Lake** (BGN 1958) (FID 1620221) to **Waagaagamaa Lake**, Michigan (Ottawa National Forest proclaimed boundary) (Review List 448)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 12 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

**Chickadee Creek**, Minnesota (Review List 448) (FID 2830972)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 12 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Pup Creek**, Ohio (Review List 447) (FID 2830973)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 12 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Sleepy Creek**, Pennsylvania (Review List 448) (FID 2830975)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 12 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Warbler Run**, Pennsylvania (Review List 448) (FID 2830974)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 12 in favor



0 against  
0 abstentions

5. Other Business

As was reported last month, Jessica Campbell has joined the DNC as the new deputy member for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The DNC expressed its appreciation to Killen for his years of service on the BGN. This will be his last meeting as a voting member, although he will be available to fill in in Campbell's absence.

It was suggested that efforts should be made to invite the USCG and the Environmental Protection Agency to become members of the BGN. Wallace offered to pursue the matter of USCG membership with the member from the Department of Homeland Security.

6. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

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

(signed)

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Glenn Guempel, Executive Secretary  
Domestic Names Committee

APPROVED  
(signed)

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Susan Lyon, Chair  
Domestic Names Committee



Kama'ehuakanaloa. Dr. John Smith, a member of the BGN's Advisory Committee on Undersea Features, presented ACUF's concerns regarding the name change.

The Vermont Board of Libraries voted at its meeting to recommend approval of a proposal to change the name of Negro Brook in the Town of Townsend, Windham County, to Huzzy Brook. This proposal is in place of a previous proposal to change the name to Susanna Toby Brook, which was listed on Review List 441 but subsequently withdrawn. (Both names would honor the same individual; Huzzy was Ms. Toby's married name.)

On October 6, the staff met with representatives of the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names to review the three proposals pending in Petrified Forest National Park.

Staff had a conversation with Jessica Campbell, the new U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service chief cartographer and the agency's newly appointed deputy member on the BGN.

42 new proposals (new names and name changes) have been received and are being reviewed by staff; these will be added to Quarterly Review List 449, which is expected to be released and posted [online](#) in the next week.

On October 3, Guempel and Runyon participated in a meeting with the USGS National Geospatial Technical Operations Center regarding the impacts of Secretary's Order 3404 to the names of features that are outside the BGN's purview, i.e., administrative names. The BGN's members from the U.S. Postal Service were asked to comment on any ongoing efforts to rename postal facilities that are named "sq\_\_\_."

The superintendent and staff of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve informed the GNIS staff that they are creating a new park brochure and map and would like to include Inupiat place names; approximately two dozen variant names were added to existing entries in GNIS.

[California Assembly Bill 2022](#), which would "require the term 'sq\_\_\_' to be removed from all geographic features and place names in the state," effective January 1, 2025, was signed by Governor Newsom on September 23. The bill appears to focus on administrative names that fall outside the BGN's purview and may also be extended to include other words considered derogatory. The BGN staff was asked to prepare a white paper for the Department of the Interior summarizing the impacts to the BGN.

Staff attended the annual meeting of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (CoGNA), held September 13-16 in Frederick, Maryland, and hosted by the Maryland State Names Authority. The meeting included a presentation of State reports, a State-Federal Roundtable, an overview of BGN policies, a demonstration of the updated GNIS search tools, and a presentation on the historical naming of Negro Mountain, located along the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. The DNC held Meeting 847 during the week. CoGNA plans to hold meetings in 2023 in Portland, OR; 2024 in Columbia, MO, and 2025 in Colorado. The Utah Geographic Names Committee also expressed an interest in hosting.

Staff attended Meeting 411 of the BGN's Foreign Names Committee (September 20) and Meeting 362 of ACUF (October 4). In addition, the staff participated in a meeting between the BGN and the British Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (PCGN), held September 27 and 29 and October 5; Kanalley provided an overview of the recent and ongoing efforts to address derogatory names.

The agreement between the BGN and the United Kingdom Antarctic Place-Names Committee, approved by the BGN at Meeting 286, has been signed.

The Domestic Names Committee section of the BGN's FY21 Annual Report to the Secretary of the Interior was submitted to B.C. Forrest.

Following the September 8 approval of the 643 "sq\_\_\_\_" changes, the staff has been informed by various interested parties of a number of "problems" with the replacement names.

As noted last month, there are five unincorporated populated places (UPPLs) that include the word "sq\_\_\_\_." The BGN staff is processing the five proposals that were submitted by the Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force to change these names:

Sq\_\_\_\_ Hill (Tehama Co., CA) Woodson Bridge  
Sq\_\_\_\_ Valley (Fresno Co., CA) to Yokuts Valley  
Sq\_\_\_\_ Gap (McKenzie Co., ND) to Sun Dance  
Sq\_\_\_\_berry (Carter Co., TN) to Partridgeberry  
Sq\_\_\_\_ Mountain (Jack Co., TX) to Lynncreek Mountain

Case briefs were added to Quarterly Review List 448. The relevant county governments and State Names Authorities have been contacted for recommendations, and the 574 federally recognized Tribes were notified of the Review List, with 60 days to provide input. The Department of the Interior is requesting that these UPPL names be changed within six months. A counterproposal have been received from the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians of California to change Sq\_\_\_\_ Hill to Loybas Hill, while the McKenzie County (ND) Board of Commissioners has proposed Homesteaders Gap to replace Sq\_\_\_\_ Gap ([Locals advance new name for North Dakota community with Native slur in name \(bismarcktribune.com\)](#)). The new proposals will be added to Review List 449.

The Paskenta Band also initiated a proposal to replace the name Table Hollow that was approved by the BGN for Sq\_\_\_\_ Hollow; the Band is asking that the name be changed to Loybas Hollow.

On October 11, the staff observed a meeting of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, at which the Sq\_\_\_\_ Valley issue was discussed. The county reported that they had conducted a poll of residents of the community and that 87% of respondents have asked that the name not be changed. During the meeting, many public comments were heard, with many adamantly opposed to a change, while others strongly support a change. The county supervisor has

prepared a resolution addressed to the BGN outlining the county's findings and recommendations; see [Fresno County defies Biden and Newsom administrations on move to rename Squaw Valley \(msn.com\)](#). The BGN has also received by mail a letter from a local resident offering a number of suggested replacement names (it is not clear if she also submitted the list to the county). The *Fresno Bee* continues to cover the story, including [Squaw Valley, CA meeting about name change angers residents | The Fresno Bee](#); [Name of Fresno County, CA town, Squaw Valley, could change | The Fresno Bee](#), and another on how AB 2022 might impact the naming of the community: <https://www.fresnobee.com/news/local/article266270086.html>. [Another article appeared in the local PBS news: A derogatory word is being removed from public spaces. Some in this California town see it differently | PBS NewsHour](#)

On September 28, *The Washington Post* published an Op Ed by Secretary of the Interior Haaland on the recent "sq\_\_\_\_" changes: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2022/09/28/remove-racial-slur-federal-land-native-american/>.

The government of Powell Township, Marquette County, Michigan contacted the BGN regarding the decision to change the name of Sq\_\_\_\_\_ Beach to Mino-kwe jiiibbiik. The township has requested that a different name be considered; they were provided with a link to the BGN's online proposal form.

The Vice-Chairman of the Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians contacted the Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names regarding the recent changes to the names of three "sq\_\_\_\_" features in Ventura County, California. The email was forwarded to the BGN for response. The Band noted that the orthography used in the new names "could use some refinement." They were informed that the names approved by the BGN were submitted to the Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force via the public comment period and that were submitted by a Native Chumash Consultant who indicated he was doing so on behalf of the Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians.

An inquiry was received from a resident of Colorado regarding the process whereby existing Spanish place names could be corrected, specifically those that are "grammatically incorrect or are missing diacritical marks."

The proposal to change the name of Hogala Lake in Gogebic County, Michigan to Mi Lake (Review List 446) was withdrawn by the proponent after they were made aware of a counterproposal from a representative of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission to change the name to Waagaagamaa Lake. The latter name is on today's docket for DNC review.

A proposal has been received to apply the new name Turners Run to an unnamed stream in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. The name would recognize the stream's proximity to Turners Dairy Farms bottling plant and would specifically honor Charlie Turner (ca.1905-1990), who managed the property for 60 years. The plant continues to operate today ("one of the more

prominent dairy farms in the Pittsburgh region”), so the staff is asking the DNC if the name should be processed or is it in violation of the Commercial Names Policy?

The BGN has received three proposals from a resident of Greeley, Colorado, to apply new names to small unnamed, man-made lakes; two are in a park managed by Denver Parks and Recreation, and one managed by the City of Greeley Parks Department. The staff has informed the proponent that because local acceptance is important, the proposals will not be processed until he has sought input from the parks’ management. In the case of the latter, the Greeley Parks Department responded to the proponent that they have an established policy for the naming of new or existing properties, including ponds, which includes extensive public engagement, and that the pond in question “is not currently a priority naming item, so we likely won’t be moving that one forward in the near future.” The proponent is asking for clarification as to whether “the USGS [sic] will not consider a name proposal without support of the City of Greeley? The name proposal was submitted for formal name recognition on a federal level only. Is there an appeal process?” The staff welcomes the DNC’s guidance on what to tell the proponent.

The CGNAB forwarded an inquiry from the Mile High Flood District (Colorado) regarding the naming a number of streams, whether new names for unnamed features, changes to existing names, or to make official names in local datasets that are not in GNIS. The BGN staff responded with an overview of the Federal (re)naming process and a link to the proposal form.

A proposal was received to make official the name Stump Creek for a stream in Snohomish County, Washington. The name appears on a local sign and reflects the area’s “legacy of logging.” The BGN staff reached out to the Washington Committee on Geographic Names (WCGN) to ask if they would be willing to contact the proponent to explain the State’s naming procedures and if they would prefer to manage the proposal at the State level. The WCGN indicated it would. On October 11, the proponent notified the BGN that, “After some consideration and discussion with my neighbors,” he was withdrawing his proposal. Nonetheless, the BGN staff is seeking guidance from the DNC as to when it is appropriate to forward proposals to State Names Authorities to be processed (this would likely only apply to the more active SNAs, i.e., those that have established procedures and who typically conduct local outreach. It has been noted that a significant number of proposals submitted to the BGN get “hung up” because the proponent has failed to comply with the SNA’s “more stringent” procedures).

The USGS Congressional Affairs Office asked the staff for assistance in developing wording to be used in legislation that is being written to name six tidal streams in North Carolina (Cape Lookout National Seashore). The intended honorees died in a plane crash in February 2022, and Rep. Gregory Murphy (NC) plans to introduce legislation to name the features. The representative’s staffer was advised to share the information with the BGN’s members from the National Park Service and NOAA.

A Freedom of Information Act request was received for a copy of all material related to the BGN’s approval of the name Hebert Lake, Michigan in 1985.



This proposal is to change the name of Negro Creek, a 2.5-mile-long tributary of Pine Creek in Decatur Township in Lawrence County, to Freedom Creek. The stream heads in Wayne National Forest.

The proponent objects to the “offensive racial slur” in the current name and states “the proposed name change eliminates this wording.” USGS maps published in 1898 and 1900 used the pejorative form of the name, but since 1961, the stream has been labeled Negro Creek. The pejorative form also appeared as early as 1887 on a county atlas and in Ohio Geological Survey bulletins in 1916 and 1931. The 2015 online version of Ohio Administrative Code 3745-1-16 used the name Negro Creek, while the pejorative form appeared in the pdf version.

No information about the origin of the name could be found. Coal mining was widespread in Lawrence County and southern Ohio. In a 1916 Ohio Geological Survey publication on coal mining in southern Ohio, a “n\_\_\_\_\_ head” was described as coal containing a large amount of shale that often overlies purer coal beds. Coal mining was described at the stream but there is no indication the name referred to the shaly coal beds in the area.

The Ohio State Names Authority did not respond to several emails and phone calls asking for a recommendation on this proposal.

Change **Negro Creek** (FID 1146758) to **Jack Carson Creek**, Oregon  
 (Bureau of Land Management land)  
 (Review List 448)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/1146758>

Local government	Douglas County Commissioners*	No opinion
State Names Authority	Oregon	Support
Federal Agency	Bureau of Land Management	Support
Tribes		No response

\* Contacted by State Names Authority

This proposal, forwarded by the Oregon Geographic Names Board, is to change the name of Negro Creek, a two-mile-long tributary of Cow Creek, 11 miles SE of Canyonville in Douglas County and on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. From 1904 to 1948, the stream was labeled on USGS topographic maps with the pejorative form of the word, but since 1954 it has had the name Negro Creek.

The proponent of the change, who serves as an advisor to Oregon Black Pioneers, reports that the replacement name would honor Adam Andrew Jackson “Jack” Carson (1849-1922), “who lived and worked near Canyonville. He farmed and trained horses. He is buried near Myrtle Creek, Oregon alongside his mother.” (Note: his father was Irish, his mother Black, and Jack was listed as “mulatto” in the 1850 Federal Census. Letitia Creek (GNIS FID 1144956), located 14 miles to the north and also in Douglas County, is named for his mother and has been labeled on



topographic maps since 1897.) Canyonville is 10 miles northwest of the stream, Myrtle Creek is 15 miles northwest, and there is no evidence that Jack Carson was associated with this particular stream.

Change **Helen Lake** (FID 2762361) to **Helena Lake**, Wisconsin  
 (Lower Wisconsin State Riverway)  
 (Review List 448)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/2762361>

Local government	Arena Town Supervisors*	No response
	Iowa County Board*	No response
State Names Authority	Wisconsin	Support
Tribes		No response

\* Contacted by State Names Authority

The name Helen Lake was entered into GNIS in 2014 citing a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) web page. The proponent of the change to Helena Lake is a WI DNR employee who reported that it is the name in local use, and that it is associated with the nearby unincorporated community of Helena, as well as the Old Helena Cemetery and Helena Road.

The names Goofy Slough and Goofy's Slough have been used for the lake in WI DNR publications and local news reports, respectively. These origin of these names is unknown.

## II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Change **Fag Lake** (FID 656188) to **Anokii Lake**, **Flag Lake**, or **Standing in the Northern Lights Lake**,  
 Minnesota  
 (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources land / Superior National Forest proclaimed  
 boundary)  
 (Review List 446)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/656188>

### Anokii Lake:

Local government	Cook County Commissioners	Not contacted
State Names Authority	Minnesota	Oppose
Federal Agency	U.S. Forest Service	Support
Tribes		No response

### Flag Lake:

Local government	Cook County Commissioners	Not contacted
State Names Authority	Minnesota [proponent]	Support
Federal Agency	U.S. Forest Service	No opinion
Tribes		No response

Standing in the Northern Lights Lake:

Local government	Cook County Commissioners	Not contacted
State Names Authority	Minnesota	Oppose
Federal Agency	U.S. Forest Service	Oppose
Tribes		No response

Three proposals were submitted to change the name of Fag Lake, an 8.5-acre lake in Cook County on Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) land and within the proclaimed boundary of Superior National Forest. Flag Lake is the name used by MN DNR and has been official for State use since at least 1985.

USGS maps have applied the name Fag Lake since 1959. The Minnesota State Names Authority (SNA) has not been able to determine why State usage differs from the official Federal name, but suspects it was a result of a widespread revision of lake names within the State in the 1980s during which counties could provide names for unnamed lakes.

In August 2019, a proposal was submitted to change the name to Standing in the Northern Lights Lake. This is the Ojibwe name of George Morrison (1919-2000), a Cook County artist and member of the Grand Portage Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, who was born in Chippewa City, approximately 20 miles southeast of the lake.

According to Minnesota law, a proponent of a name change for a feature in that State must submit to the county government a petition signed by at least 15 registered voters who are county residents. A county hearing is required, after which the DNR will consider the proposal. The SNA contacted the proponent and provided information about the required process, but the proponent did not pursue the matter. The SNA will not consider proposals that are not processed according to State law.

In November 2021, a second proposal was submitted, to change the name to Anokii Lake. The proponent reports this is an Ojibwe word meaning “work,” which he notes is a more archaic definition of the word “fag” (toil, drudgery, or an exhausting task). The proponent of this name also chose not to submit the proposal to the county or SNA.

In May 2022, the MN DNR submitted a proposal to change the official Federal name to Flag Lake to recognize the name used in State records. The SNA has suggested that the BGN should proceed with its vote and does not anticipate any further communication from the other two proponents.

**Kona Inlet or Shipps Bay Inlet, Virginia**  
(Review Lists 446, 448)

36.70437, -75.9317

**Kona Inlet:**

Local government	Virginia Beach City Council*	Oppose
State Names Authority	Virginia	Oppose
Federal	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Oppose
Tribes		No response
Other	Virginia Beach Genealogical Society*	Oppose
	Princess Anne County/Virginia Beach Historical Society*	No response

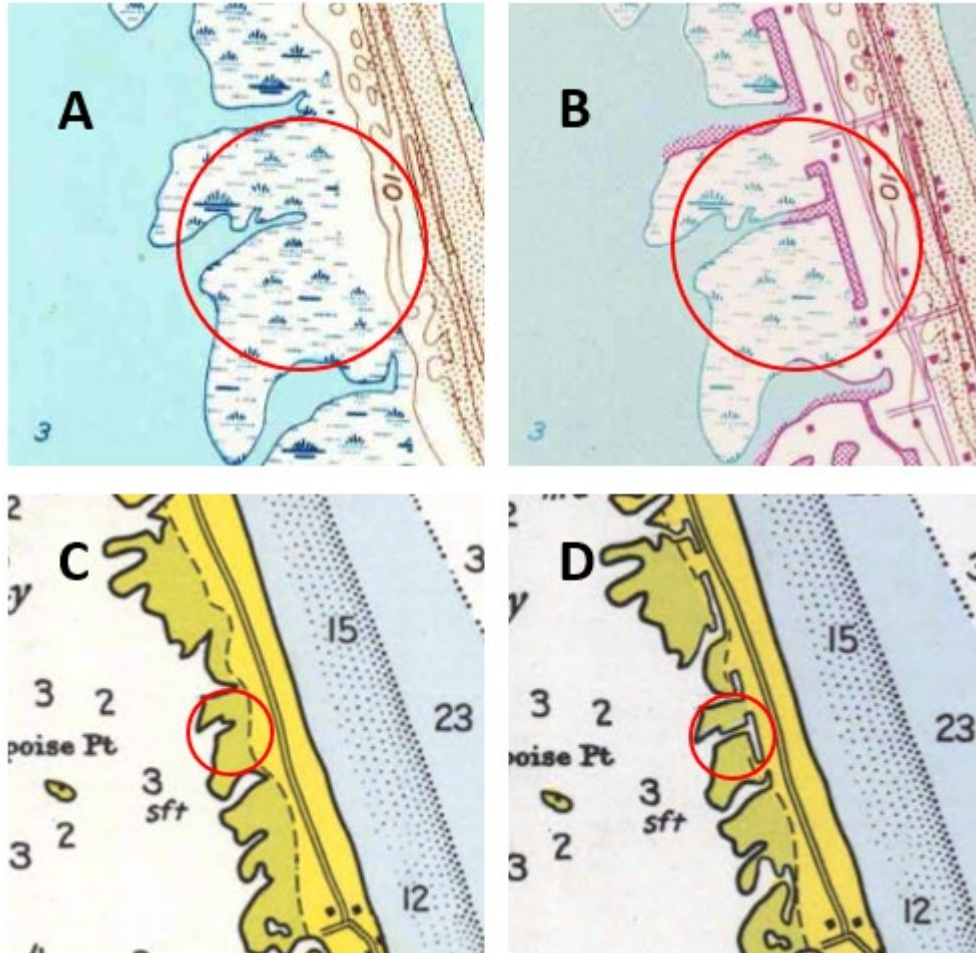
\* Contacted by State Names Authority

**Shipps Bay Inlet:**

Local government	Virginia Beach City Council*	Support
State Names Authority	Virginia	Support
Federal	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Support
Tribes		No response
Other	Virginia Beach Genealogical Society*	No response
	Princess Anne County/Virginia Beach Historical Society*	No response

\* Contacted by State Names Authority

Two proposals were submitted to apply a new name to a small, dredged, T-shaped body of water on the eastern shore of Shipps Bay in the City of Virginia Beach. The inlet extends approximately 0.2 miles inland and is 0.2 miles long at the head of the "T." A review of USGS maps and NOAA charts shows that a small natural cove was expanded and dredged into its current form around 1972. Historical maps and charts show numerous small inlets along the shoreline but none were well-defined until the area became developed.



*USGS topographic maps and NOAA charts showing the feature extent before and after modification. A-B, 1953 (1965 edition) and 1953 (1972 edition), respectively, of the USGS 1:24,000-scale North Bay quadrangle; C-D, 1972 and 1974 editions of NOAA 1:80,000-scale Cape Henry to Currituck Beach Light chart, #1227*

The name Kona Inlet was proposed by an individual who owns a property on the inlet; she states:

This is an inlet that is located on the leeward side of a large group of trees . . . . “[K]ona” is a synonym for leeward and we would like to use the term in recognition of the history of the beautiful habitat. This area is extremely popular and frequented by the public because of the beautiful nature that can be seen in the inlet. The wind-worn group of trees that allowed for the land to develop are deeply angled and iconic.

Because the area is a tourist destination for people seeking a beach vacation and rent beach homes, we chose “Kona Inlet” in order to appeal to the “beach” aesthetic that is popular in the area. We feel it will contribute to the bustling beach destination's aesthetic (i.e., palm trees, tropical things, surfing, etc.), while nodding to the rich natural history of the area.

We believe the feature requires a name because it is an incredibly popular spot for locals, tourists, and the local public. This specific inlet is highlighted on websites as one of the most beautiful places to photograph in Virginia Beach--especially the breathtaking sunsets. For the sunsets alone, the inlet sees multiple groups of people arrive via land and water everyday in the spring and summer.

Additionally, this inlet has some of the best fishing in the city and it is an extremely popular spot for kayakers, boaters, and fishers on land as well. The inlet is also used year round by all of the residents/renters. The majority of homeowners in the inlet have at least one boat and keep them in the water nearly year-round and the inlet is the main route of travel in for both tourists and residents.

Because of this inlet's popularity, having a name to distinguish and refer to the inlet is needed. Naming this popular spot "Kona Inlet" will represent both the nature-lovers and enthusiasts who love this inlet, and it will simultaneously add value and contribute to our "beachy" tourist community.

No evidence was provided or could be found online to corroborate the statements about this specific inlet.

The Virginia Board on Geographic Names, as part of its outreach, requested input from the City of Virginia Beach City Council, the Virginia Beach Genealogical Society (VBGS), and the Princess Anne County/Virginia Beach Historical Society. The VBGS responded that it does not support the Kona Inlet proposal, noting "This is not a naturally occurring inlet. It's a dredged cove which would likely silt in without being dredged" and "We are an East Coast community. Kona is not relevant to our locale. Other names related to our history, lore, or native wildlife would be more appropriate." They did not offer an alternative name.

The City Council conducted a local campaign to find a name with "more historical significance," and with community support, passed a resolution that proposed the name Shipp's Bay Inlet in reference to the adjacent Shipp's Bay. Online genealogy records show that individuals named Shipp have resided in Princess Anne County (present-day City of Virginia Beach) for over two centuries, including Jonathan Shipp, who died in 1788. The nearby community of Shipp's Corner (BGN 2006) was "named for the Shipp family that had a land grant in the area in the 19th century." There are many small tidal inlets along the eastern shore of Shipp's Bay; none of the others have official names.

**Moonlight Creek**, Washington  
(Review List 445)

Mouth: 46.95275, -123.03997 / Source: 46.964172, -123.05119

Local government	Thurston County	Support
State Names Authority	Washington	Oppose
Tribes		No response

This proposal is to make official the name Moonlight Creek for a 1.25-mile-long tributary of Darlin Creek in Thurston County. The proponent, who lives along the stream, states “During the day the creek lies under foliage and is almost invisible. At night the moon reflects off the creek. [It] has been known locally and by the neighborhood’s kids as ‘Moonlight Creek’ [for at least the last two and half years].”

GNIS does not list any nearby features with “Moonlight” or “Moon” in their names.

The Washington State Committee on Geographic Names (WSCGN) rejected this proposal for initial consideration (which means they conduct no local or Tribal outreach and do not recommend approval) for the following reasons:

- the stream was “only 1.2 miles long”
- confusion over how the stream could reflect moonlight at night yet be almost invisible under foliage during the day
- a lack of community support
- the name is “too generic”
- the stream flows in and out of Lake Lucinda, which to the WSCGN members “suggests two separate features”
- the feature does not appear to be a creek for much of its length, especially below Lake Lucinda where it is “in an open area,” and as such, the feature may not exist as mapped.

The DNC deferred a decision on this proposal in June 2022 and instructed staff to request input from Thurston County; the county responded in support of the name. Staff asked the WSCGN if they wished to revisit the issue but was told the lack of local support was just one of the reasons for rejecting the name for further consideration. The WSCGN Chair added that there is no historical use of the name in the community other than by the proponent; further, “I do not see any documentation of tribal consultation, and there’s no indication that anyone has worked with community heritage groups or other local stakeholders to achieve any broad support for these proposals. While we could reconsider these names at the State level, I don’t think they are likely to be successful on a second application.”

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

**Wynn Lake**, Florida  
(Review List 448)

28.358806, -82.605694

Local government	Pasco County Commissioners	No objection
State Names Authority	Florida	No objection
Tribes		No response

The new commemorative name Wynn Lake is proposed for an approximately 24-acre lake on property that has been in the Wynn family since 1953. According to the proponent, “This land with our lake nestled in the middle of the parcel has been a symbol and a memory producer for so many families and community events since I have been a very small child.” The lake would be named specifically for his grandparents, Oscar Earnest Wynn (1918-1989) and Evelyn R. Wynn (d. 2008), his father Dr. Richard E. Wynn (1945-2008), and his uncle Russell L. Wynn (d. 2008). His grandmother had a greenhouse and grew flowers, and his father and uncle planted 100,000 pine trees.

According to an email shared with the BGN staff, the County Administration Department’s administrative assistant informed the chair of the County Board of Commissioners that “no steps needed to be taken at the county to have the name approved and that the county GIS office would update their data if the BGN approves the name.” The Chair’s office informed the proponent that “It seems you are all set and have submitted everything properly.”

**Gibboney Creek, Ohio**  
(Review List 441)

Mouth: 39.83804, -83.05078 / Source: 39.83653, -83.11266

Local government	Grove City Council	Support
	Jackson Township Trustees	No response
	Franklin County Commissioners	No objection / Oppose
State Names Authority	Ohio	No objection
Tribes		No response

This proposal is to apply the new commemorative name Gibboney Creek to a 3.8-mile-long unnamed tributary of Grant Run in Jackson Township in Franklin County. The stream flows east through Grove City and into Indian Trails Park.

Allen Vance Gibboney (1932-1996) was a lifelong resident of Jackson Township, who owned property near the stream from 1967 until his death. He is buried at Concord Cemetery in Grove City and the property is held in the family trust.

The Franklin County Commissioners reported that this feature is “only a natural stream along about half its length,” adding:

We have no objection to the proposal east of 6120 S. Meadows Drive, but we do object to renaming any portion included on 6120 S. Meadows Drive and to the west. That section is man-made Haughn & Linebaugh Ditch constructed through a county ditch petition. The reason for the objection is because in April of 2020, the rules defining “Waters of the United States” were finally clarified. Waters of the United States do not include manmade ditches. This is important because we do not want to be going through the federal permitting process and paying for mitigation on man-made ditches as is required when

you impact natural waterways. These requirements involve significant costs for mitigation but also significant design and project management costs and a significant difficulty keeping projects on schedule when dealing with the federal permitting process.

There is reason to believe that even changing the name would prevent us from demonstrating it was a manmade ditch. We and at least one private project we've encountered are having trouble getting the US Army Corps of Engineers to implement the April 2020 Rule Clarification.

In conclusion, we've determined that portions of this request are already named. Furthermore, renaming a man-made ditch to a creek, could cause challenges to the work our office does in the future. Our preference would be that the portion of this ditch currently known as Haughn & Linebaugh Ditch (identified in my first paragraph) remain Haughn and Linebaugh Ditch.

There is no hydrographic junction at the point indicated by the county, so the BGN would consider the entire water flow of the ditch and stream to be a single feature. A ditch would be classified in GNIS as a canal ("Waterway, primarily manmade, used by watercraft or for drainage, irrigation, mining, or waterpower"). Traditionally, canals have been considered hypsographic features, distinct from hydrographic features such as streams. The name of a canal refers to the feature that carries waterflow, not to the water itself. A named stream could flow through a named canal with a different name. This distinction is often not known or applied locally, where a single name is applied collectively to the ditch and the water.

In this case, the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) depicts the entire water flow as a single, unbroken perennial stream for most of its length. NHD applies the perennial attribute upstream from where the change from intermittent to perennial was shown on conventional USGS topographic maps. If the name is approved, NHD would apply it to the entire length, including the part that the county objects to being named. NHD's data model does not permit a single flowline to be split into two parts with different names.

Franklin County GIS data distinguish between streams and canals, but classify the nearby Plum Run, Plum Run North, and Grant Run as canals and Francis Ditch and Martino and Neff Ditch as streams.

The former Ohio State Names Authority, who responded prior to the BGN's receipt of the county's input, stated "I have no issues with [the] proposal."

Change **Larmond** (FID 1494748) to **Larmand**, Virginia  
(Review List 448)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/1494748>

Local government	Orange County Supervisors*	Support
State Names Authority	Virginia	Support



Tribes		No response
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\* Contacted by State Names Authority

This small unincorporated community in Orange County has been labeled Larmond on USGS topographic maps since 1961 and was listed as such in *The Official Railway Guide* (1909); *Railway Signal Engineer* (1917); and *Railway Age Gazette* (1917). However, the proponent reports it was named for the Larmand family, including Francis Larmand (1856-1917), “train engineer for the Southern Railway who was killed in a train wreck on October 21, 1917 near Orange, VA. Engineer Larmand was President Theodore Roosevelt’s requested engineer anytime the President traveled by train. [The] Larmand, Virginia name was in use prior to 1917.”

An account of Mr. Larmand’s death, published in the October 22, 1917 edition of *The Baltimore Sun*, noted “Strangely enough, the accident occurred near Larmand, a station named after the engineer, and within sight of his farm.”

Family history records, including Mr. Larmand’s death record, spell the name Larmand. Francis Larmand was listed as a fireman in the 1880 Federal Census of Alexandria, Virginia, and as an engineer in the 1910 City Directory of Alexandria. The proponent provided a photo of a sign recently erected by the county highway department for Larmand Drive. The Library of Virginia found no name for the community on county, railroad, or postal route maps prior to 1910.

**Holland Marsh**, Washington  
(Review List 448)

48.039435, -121.913618

Local government	Snohomish County Council*	No response
State Names Authority	Washington	Support
Tribes		No response
Other	Everett Community College Executive Director for Community and Government Relations*	Support
	Upper Puget Sound Chapter Washington Farm Forestry Association*	Support
	Granite Falls Historical Society*	Support
	Snohomish County Public Works*	No response
	Snohomish County Emergency Management*	No response
	Snohomish County Historic Preservation Commission*	No response
	Washington State Historical Society*	No response
	Two former students of Mr. Holland*	Support
	One relative of Mr. Holland*	Support
	One other individual*	Support

\* Contacted by, or input submitted to, State Names Authority

The new name Holland Marsh is proposed for a small marsh near Granite Falls in Snohomish County. The area is not accessible by trails or visible from nearby roads. The proponent manages the surrounding property as part of his company Skogen LLC, which he describes as owning “forest land [here which is] . . . approved American Tree Farm System forest land.”

The name would commemorate the proponent’s uncle, Andy Holland (1910-2008). Mr. Holland was an Everett Community College professor of forestry and mathematics. He spent many summers working in a state forestry service fire lookout and wrote a book about his experiences. He is remembered as a community leader; after he and his wife retired to Lopez Island, he helped fund the Lopez Center for Community and the Arts. The couple are honored annually through the island’s Community Spirit Award and the baseball field adjacent to Lopez High School is named in memory of Mr. Holland.

The proponent inherited some of the land around the marsh from Mr. Holland. He reports that the land is vital to the Pilchuck River watershed and is part of the Department of Natural Resources forest riparian easement program.

Change **Bergen Creek** (FID 1561588) to **Bergin Creek**, Wisconsin  
(Review List 448)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/1561588>

Local government	Minong Town Supervisors [Washburn Co.]*	No response
	Wascott Town Supervisors [Douglas Co.]*	Support
	Washburn County Commissioners*	No response
	Douglas County Commissioners*	Support
State Names Authority	Wisconsin	Support
Tribes		No response

\* Contacted by State Names Authority

The Town of Wascott Board of Supervisors has proposed to change the spelling of Bergen Creek to Bergin Creek; they report:

- the Bergin family were the original homesteaders near the source of the creek
- the Bergin family name was misspelled in the 1900 Census
- the living Bergin family members wish to honor their ancestors by restoring the correct spelling of the name

The Town of Wascott passed a resolution in June 2019 approving a change submitted by “the Gordon-Wascott Historical Society and descendants of John P. Bergin (1837-1905).” The resolution also supported renaming nearby Bergen Springs Road. Another nearby road is named Bergen Road.

In March 2020, the Town amended its resolution to include a name change for the associated springs, from Bergen Springs to Bergin Springs. As of this Review List, the BGN has not received a proposal to rename the springs and the Wisconsin Geographic Names Council has not been asked to consider the matter.

Staff research found that there have been many individuals named “Bergin” or “Bergen” in Douglas County since the 1820s.

#### IV. Revised Decisions

Change **Suicide Peaks** (BGN 1981) (FID 1412420) to **Yuyang’ Ch’ex**; change **North Suicide Peak** (FID 2830667) to **North Yuyang’ Ch’ex**, and change **South Suicide Peak** (FID 2830668) to **South Yuyang’ Ch’ex**, Alaska  
(Chugach State Park)  
(Review List 448)

Yuyang’ Ch’ex:

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/1412420>

North Yuyang’ Ch’ex:

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/2830667>

South Yuyang’ Ch’ex:

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/2830668>

Local government	Municipality of Anchorage Assembly*	Support
State Names Authority	Alaska	Oppose
Tribes	Eklutna Traditional Council [Eklutna Native Village]*	Support
	Seldovia Village Tribe	Support
	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	James Kari, Alaska Native Language expert*	Support
	Dr. James Fall, Alaska Native Language expert*	Support
	Ahtna, Inc. [Alaska Native Corporation]	Support
	Bering Straits Native Corporation [Alaska Native Corporation]	Support
	Cook Inlet Region, Inc. [Alaska Native Corporation]*	Support
	Doyon Limited [Alaska Native Corporation]**	Support
	Cook Inlet Tribal Council [tribal nonprofit organization]**	
	Mountaineering Club of Alaska*	Oppose
	Mountaineering Club of Alaska member’s personal opinion*	Support
	Director of the Alaska State Parks Division of	Support

	State Park and Outdoor Recreation*	
	Chugach State Park Citizen Advisory Board*	Support
	Friends of Chugach State Park**	Support
	Anchorage Fire Department Peer Support Team**	Support
	Anchorage Fire Department Fire Chief**	Support
	Anchorage School District Superintendent**	Support
	Glen Alps Community Council**	Support
	Hillside Community Council**	Support
	Rabbit Creek Community Council	Support
	Assistant Professor for Indigenous Studies at the Center for Cross-Cultural Studies at University of Alaska - Fairbanks**	Support
	University of Alaska - Anchorage Chancellor**	Support
	Alaska State Representative James Kaufman**	Support
	Alaska State Representative Laddie Shaw**	Support
	Alaska State Representative Cathy Tilton**	Support
	Alaska State Representative Sarah Vance**	Support
	American Foundation for Suicide Prevention – Alaska Chapter**	Support
	Youth Alliance for a Healthier Alaska**	Support
	Set Free Alaska**	Support
	Southcentral Foundation**	Support
	Missionary Aviation Repair Center**	Support
	Tebughna Foundation, Executive Director**	Support
	City of Palmer Mayor	Support
	Author of the book <i>Sacred Breath</i> **	Support
	1,400+ online petition signers**	Support
	31 signed petition names**	Support
	10 local residents**	Support
	2 individuals with no residence provided**	Support
	Board of Directors member, Alaska Mountain Runners**	Support
	5 Anchorage or former Alaska residents	Oppose

\*\* Contacted by/support submitted to proponent

The President of Carry the Cure (an Alaskan “non-profit organization that utilizes clinical tools, cultural traditions, and faith-based methods to offer communities comprehensive suicide & abuse prevention and healthy life-choice skills”) submitted this proposal to rename Suicide Peaks in Chugach State Park in the Municipality of Anchorage. The proposed name is Yuyang’ Ch’ex (pronounced “you-yonk cheh”). The change would also apply to North Suicide Peak and South Suicide Peak, names that were shown on the 1994 edition of the USGS 1:63,360-scale topographic map but only recently entered into GNIS.

The proponent initially proposed the change to the Alaska Historical Commission (AHC), which serves as the Alaska Board on Geographic Names, writing:

Suicide Peak is a derogatory, disrespectful and culturally inappropriate name for this beautiful mountain. Suicide Peaks were given their names by non-Alaskan railroad workers in 1951. This name was disrespectful to the First Alaskans of this region, the Dena'ina (Athabascan); as well as all Alaskans. It is dishonoring to them, due to the fact that Alaska has up to 4x the National suicide rate in our rural communities. All communities and all races in Alaska are impacted by the tragedy of suicide. This name reminds Alaskans of hurt, pain and tragedy. Traditionally, a name that describes the geological feature and inspires hope would be most appropriate. After many discussions with traditional native leaders, governmental leaders and community members we propose Yuyanq' Ch'ex, which means Heaven's Breath, which is appropriate because while viewing the beautiful twin peaks from Rabbit Lake you can feel a breeze from the windy gap between the mountains as you gaze at the heavenly peaks. Yuyanq' Ch'ex is an Athabascan phrase, recommended by Athabascans. This is appropriate because these mountains are on Athabascan land traditionally.

The proponent drafted a petition to be signed and supported by Alaska Native groups and other Alaska organizations. The main supporting points are:

- It accurately describes the geographical features or conditions (which is traditionally how the Dena'ina name their places) . . . . Yuyanq' Ch'ex [is] an accurate and traditionally appropriate name.
- The new name is compassionate and considerate toward all who have lost loved ones to suicide (suicide-loss survivors) . . . . According to a national study conducted by American Association of Suicidology . . . . "In 2013, it was estimated that one in every 63 Americans became a suicide-loss survivor." This rate is exponentially higher in rural Alaska because almost everyone in a small isolated village is impacted by a suicide. In addition, according to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services website, "The economic and human cost of suicidal behavior to individuals, families, communities, and society makes suicide a serious public health problem. Alaska had the second highest age-adjusted suicide rate in the nation in 2016, the most recent year for which national data is currently available."
- The proposed name is culturally honoring to the First People of Alaska.
- Yuyanq' Ch'ex (Heaven's Breath) is a hope-filled name that can inspire many to live and to not commit suicide. Recently, one *Anchorage Daily News* headline reported, "Alaska suicide rate jumped 13 percent over 5 years, according to a State study" (<https://www.adn.com/alaskanews/2019/01/07/alaska-suicide-rate-jumped-13-percent-over-5-years-according-to-state-study/>). There are more and more who need

encouraging reasons to live. If the people of Alaska, represented by the petitions signed, are able to change this name, it will make a powerful statement of hope to all Alaskans. The QPR Institute ([www.qprinstitute.org](http://www.qprinstitute.org)) states that “Instilling hope prevents suicide.” We believe that this name change will contribute to a lower suicide rate in Alaska.

*The Dictionary of Alaska Place Names* (Orth, 1967) reports only that Suicide Peak was a “[l]ocal name reported in 1951 by USGS.” In 1981 the BGN approved the name Suicide Peaks for the feature at the request of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska; sources differed between “Peak” and “Peaks.” The AHC reported that “It is believed that during the influx of new arrivals to the Anchorage area during and after World War II, Alaska Railroad or military personnel named the peaks, implying that it would be ‘suicide’ to try to climb them . . . . While the name of the two peaks has historical longevity, approximately 76 years, there is no known connection to any historical event.”

As a result of their outreach and the efforts of the proponent, the AHC received many comments, with the majority in support of the change.

However, the Mountaineering Club of Alaska opposes the change, citing State and Federal guidelines. The AHC’s guidelines (<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/designations/geonamesguidelines15.pdf>) identify the types of proposals that will be accepted, including names in local use, descriptive names, and Alaska Native names. The MCA noted:

- most of the petitions were signed by residents outside Anchorage, so local support was not demonstrated.
- the “Suicide” names have been in widespread local and published use since at least 1951 (and possibly since 1916 when railroad construction began in the area).
- the proposed names are not in local use and would likely not be adopted due to the difficult pronunciation.
- the proposed name might be descriptive of the peaks, but so is “Suicide Peaks” in a figurative sense. “There have been no known cases of suicides or attempted suicides related to the Suicide Peaks and the existing names certainly do not encourage, celebrate, or glorify suicide or self-harm. In fact, the implied warning of the existing name might actually cause some ill-prepared adventurers to have second thoughts before rushing off to attempt to climb the peaks. While well-intended, the proposed names do nothing to prevent accidents or injuries. The proposed names seek to solve a problem that is wholly unrelated to the feature.”
- the proposed name is an Alaska Native name, but it “does not meet the criteria set forth in the naming guidelines of the [BGN] and [AHC]. The first criterion is that the proposed names must have documented common local use. The proposed names have no documented local use, much less any documentation of common use. Rather the names are recent inventions intended to supplant names that have been in use for 70 years.”

- “The proponent has not provided a compelling reason to change the existing names. While suicide is certainly a problem in Alaska, changing the name of the Suicide Peaks does nothing to prevent this problem and does little to salve the wounds of those whose loved ones have attempted or committed suicide. Furthermore, the existing names are not derogatory, but rather descriptive and cautionary. The existing names are not duplicative because there are no other peaks or mountains named Suicide within Alaska.
- The BGN does not list “suicide” as a derogatory word under Policy V and dictionary definitions provide “greater connotation than the act . . . . For example, the terms ‘political suicide’ and ‘financial suicide’ are common in current American cultural lexicon without being deemed derogatory, inappropriate, or relating to physical death.”
- “The proposed name has no association with other names in the state. The existing names are associated with nearby Homicide Peak (a 4660-foot summit northeast of the Suicide Peaks in the Indian Creek drainage). While the name Homicide Peak remains unofficial, it has been in widespread local use for decades and has been published in magazines and on commercial maps dating back more than 30 years.”
- Emergency responses to accidents at the peaks might be delayed if the names were changed. “A delay in response time might result if SAR [search and rescue] personnel and the subjects of those SAR operations have difficulty in relaying locations due to one party using a name that is not in common use and the other party using the long-standing commonly-used name. A delayed rescue response could well be a life-or-death matter. Thus, the proposal, if approved, could cause confusion and have the very possible unintended consequence of resulting in deaths.”

The Chugach State Park Citizen Advisory Board (CSPCAB) initially opposed the change, citing many of the same issues as the MCA, but a year later voted to support it.

Dr. Jim Kari and Dr. James A. Fall, Alaska Native language experts, support the proposal. Dr. Fall wrote:

The current name “Suicide Peaks,” as far as I know, has no known connection to any historical event. The origin of the name is unknown [*sic*] . . . . The proposed name, Yuyaq’ Ch’ex, is consistent with Dena’ina traditions that define certain mountains as places of mourning, remembrance, and respect for elders . . . . I agree that the proposed name would honor the original people of Upper Cook Inlet. It is noteworthy that you consulted with Dena’ina language experts in developing the proposed name.

In June 2022, the AHC voted 3-4 not to approve the changes, with some members citing:

- The proposal did not meet the criteria for a name change.
- Letters of support did not contain enough local support.
- 70 years of use of the current name for a popular climbing location.

- Potential confusion and cost related to the change.
- The proposed name has never been used for the features.
- The suggestion that the letters of support were supporting “a specific social agenda.”
- The current name may be insensitive, but it is not derogatory.

Other members noted that suicide is a major crisis in Alaska and that there was in fact overwhelming local support, including from the Mayor of the Municipality of Anchorage, many local community groups, and several Alaska Native groups.

There are two other geographic features in Alaska named “Suicide”: Suicide Cove and Suicide Falls are both located in the City and Borough of Juneau.

The preceding information was included in Review List 448. After reading the review list summary, the proponent asked that the following information be added for the BGN’s review. He has contacted the AHC to appeal their decision, referring to some of the comments made by the MCA. The AHC has declined to revisit the issue. In a letter the proponent signed from himself and “concerned Alaskans,” he noted:

- Definitions from printed and online dictionaries for the word “derogatory”:
  - “Showing a critical and disrespectful attitude” (The Oxford Dictionary).
  - “Expressive of a low opinion; detracting from the character or standing of something” (Merriam Webster Dictionary).
  - “Expressing criticism or insult” (The Cambridge Dictionary).
  - “Tending to lessen the merit or reputation of a person or thing; disparaging; depreciatory; a derogatory remark” (dictionary.com).
  - Synonyms include: “... belittling, diminishing, detracting, deflating, dishonoring, critical, negative, unfavorable insulting, offensive defamatory unflattering, personal, abusive, hurtful, damaging, injurious (The Oxford Dictionary).
- That the proposal did meet the following guidelines of the AHC:
  - “A proposal must identify the type of proposed name from the categories below.” [none of the comments seemed to cite this as lacking]
  - “The Alaska Historical Commission asks the proposer to establish, as appropriate, that: the current official name is derogatory to a racial, ethnic, gender, or religious group.”
  - “The AHC asks the proposer to establish, as appropriate, that: there is extensive local support by local authorities and residents for the name proposed and the name change as evidenced by letters, local petitions, and resolutions from local government entities and organizations and the property owners of the feature and adjacent to it have been notified of the proposed name and given a chance to comment.”
- Providing the following responses to those guidelines:



- “In our proposal we chose “NAME CHANGE” from among those categories and identified it.” [again, none of the comments against the proposal seemed to cite this as lacking]
- “We have [shown that the word “suicide” is derogatory] proving widespread agreement in the matter among and including all of the diverse groups listed in the guide, as well as many not listed in it. . . . [T]he name Suicide Peaks truly IS ‘derogatory’ and ‘offensive’ to the vast majority of the following stakeholders interested parties, constituents, residents local government entities and organizations, as well as property owners of the feature and adjacent to it, who wrote letters to agree that it is derogatory to them. See the list below, and please read the reasons given in the 36+ letters attached.”
- “In our proposal, we met every suggested type of support listed above, some multiple times. We proved an extensive amount of Local Support including from the property owners of the feature and adjacent to it. . . . [W]e have proved extensive local support by providing every suggested type of support and endorsement in excessive quantities, from the following stakeholders, interested parties, constituents, residents local government entities and organizations, as well as property owners of the feature and adjacent to it. See the list below, as well as the 36+ letters of support attached.
- That “public awareness requirements have been met. In addition to the above mentioned sources, public awareness has been increased through a newscast (and published online article) by KTUU, many online videos, social media posts, and online survey speeches at many events and meetings, a radio interview with KNBA, at least a dozen radio podcasts, and a DVD.”
- Responses to the following concerns brought up during AHC public meetings:
  - “According to the U.S. Board of [sic] Geographical [sic] Names, Executive Order #3405 [sic]”. The proponent cites Policy V and says that “[T]his order [sic] is not concerned with how long the derogatory name has been in use; they want [sic] the name changed regardless.”
  - “The safety issues brought up in the 6-7-22 AHC meeting refer to possible confusion during future rescues on or near this mountain and the expense of an untimely name change (if the mountain’s name is changed) . . . . [A]ccording to Fred Kilheffer, who is an Anchorage Fire Fighter, Alaska Fire Fighter Peer Support member, and Anchorage Fire Fighters Union member (phone conversation 6/17/22) name changes do not hinder their rescue efforts because the mapping software that is used by the Anchorage Fire Department in rescue efforts is GPS based and does not use local place names for identification.”
  - “Another concern was how to notate ‘Yuyanq’ Ch’ex’ on a map. Precedence establishes that it would be correctly notated, ‘Yuyanq’ Ch’ex (Breath from Above)’ or ‘Yuyanq’ Ch’ex (Heaven’s Breath)’ [this precedence is from Alaska state mapping conventions where for State products they may put the translation of Alaska Native names in parentheses]. The pronunciation will take work, but the same arguments weight this as in the case of changing Mt.

McKinley to Denali and Barrow to Utqiagvik. In fact, this change might be considered even weightier than those examples, because life and death can hang in the balance when addressing how the name Suicide Peaks may be affecting suicide rates in Alaska.”

- “Opposition from the Mountaineering Club of Alaska (MCA) Committee was mentioned, and we have concerns that the AHC is exhibiting unfair favor toward this club. . . . [including accepting] a public opinion call from the President of MCA (Gerrit Verbeek) after the ‘public comment period’ was closed and board discussion had begun. At least one other call was turned away (one that would have corrected some wrong information being conveyed during the meeting). How many letters of support toward keeping the name the same did the MCA Committee gather? How diverse was their support for not changing the name? The Mountaineering Club of Alaska Committee’s opinion may very well be considered biased; if a mountain has a scary name, it brings the mountaineer glory to say they climbed it. Therefore, their judgement in naming mountains may be skewed. Case in point, the MCA is the entity which named one of the other mountains near Anchorage ‘Homicide Peak’. One wonders why.”
- “There were nine powerful phone calls which came in during the ‘legal’ call-in time during the 6-7-22 meeting, which strongly supported the name change. There were NO calls against it. We have concerns that these calls may have been undervalued. In addition, it came to our attention that many more people tried to get their names put on the call list in order to support the name change but were told that the list was full.”
- “At the 6-7-22 meeting there was an unexplained comment by a AHC member who said, ‘All of the comments in favor support the name change because it supports a specific social agenda. I don’t see that in any of our criteria for name changes.’ This comment should have been explained so that it could have been considered and possibly opposed. It distorted, and we believe negatively influenced, the outcome of the vote with no clear definition or proof, and with no proper discussion or clarity. ‘Social agenda’ is an emotionally-charged, loaded buzzword in current culture, with many possible meanings and insinuations.”
- “Local support was overwhelmingly demonstrated according to the name change requirements. At the 6-7-22 meeting, a member wrongly stated that we didn’t show local support. He stated, ‘. . . the petition they submitted had over 1300 signatures, but I went through and counted and only about 200 of those were Anchorage residents.’ He disregarded the 36+ letters of support that we provided to the board. Anchorage is massive, so to show local support from Anchorage we focused on reaching out to groups, organizations, representatives, government and tribal leaders, coalitions and other entities that, in total, represent thousands, most in the Anchorage area. Each of those groups that wrote letters of support had to consult with their constituents, tribal members, board leaders and/or fellow community members. Like the

Alaska Historical Commission and the Alaska Government, they are supposed to represent the majority of the people that they serve. In addition, although it is true that many of the personal signatures on the petition were from the Mat-Su Valley, the Chugach State Park (home to Suicide Peaks) actually ranges from the Turnagain Arm and extends north into the Mat-Su Valley. Therefore, support from the Mat-Su Community and other related communities is perfectly appropriate and acceptable because they share the use and enjoyment of the Chugach State Park.”

- “It is our understanding that the Alaska Historical Commission is an advisory board that has a public duty to follow the guidelines and to represent the people of Alaska. Due to the overwhelming public outcry in support of changing the name of Suicide Peaks, we hope the AHC board will reconsider these points and change the name.” (The AHC declined to do so.)
- “Suicide is at epidemic proportions in Alaska. To suicide survivors and the thousands impacted by the name Suicide Peaks, the current name is derogatory. To them, it’s like laughing in their faces, because some of those opposed to changing the name may be doing it for their own glory, not realizing that they are elevating and honoring the concept of suicide.”
- “According to Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics:
  - Alaska has the highest suicide rate per capita in the US
  - Alaskan Males 16-24 death by suicide is 3x the national average
  - Alaskan Natives in Rural Communities have up to 4x the national average”

In an email, the proponent also wrote that

- “The MCA states that these mountains are in frequent use; however, it only sees about a dozen summits every year.”
- “I gathered all the support towards this name change. I had supporters write letters to the Alaska Historic Commission. Does it matter if I conducted all of the outreach?”
- “I am proposing that this “offensive” name change fits into the Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland’s Secretarial Order # 3404 [*sic*]”
- “70 years of the ‘current’ name doesn’t make it right. Derogatory and Offensive names are Derogatory and Offensive no matter how long they have existed.”
- “I sent information about two other geographical names with “suicide” that were changed for similar reasons.”

Staff is not aware of any changes to other geographic names that included the word “suicide.” GNIS records three features with BGN decisions that have a variant name that includes the word “suicide”:

- [Chalk Creek](#) (FID 1400127), Copper River Census Area, Alaska (BGN 1939)
  - The GNIS entry notes cites Orth’s *Dictionary of Alaska Placenames* (“Locally named, because a prospector named Chalk (complete name not available) committed suicide here in the 1930’s”) but there is no evidence that the name was changed because the word “suicide” was considered derogatory,

offensive, insensitive, or otherwise in any negative sense that would have led to its renaming. Both names were likely known for the stream, and the BGN chose the one that seemed to have more published use.

- [Little Muley Creek](#) (FID 1133753) and [Muns Creek](#) (FID 1124542), Douglas County, Oregon (BGN 1989)
  - These decisions were to approve local use and did not address the nature of any variant name that might have been shown for these streams; they converge to form [Suicide Creek](#) (FID 1133755).

Change **Hogala Lake** (FID 1620221) (BGN 1958) to **Waagaagamaa Lake**, Michigan  
 (Ottawa National Forest proclaimed boundary)  
 (Review List 448)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/1620221>

Waagaagamaa Lake:

Local government	Watersmeet Township Trustees	No response
	Gogebic County Commissioners	No objection
State Names Authority	Michigan	No objection
Federal	U.S. Forest Service	Support
Tribes	Lac Vieux Desert Band of Chippewa Indians [proponent]	Support
	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission [submitter]	Support
	Landowner	Support

The Traditional Ecological Knowledge Specialist with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission submitted this name change on behalf of the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Chippewa Indians. It was initiated in response to a request for comments on a previous proposal, to change the existing name [Hogala Lake](#) to [Mi Lake](#) (Review List 446). The name [Mi Lake](#) was proposed by the owner of the property that includes the lake. Because the lake is on a private inholding within Ottawa National Forest, BGN staff asked for a recommendation from the U.S. Forest Service. The agency’s regional office reached out to local Tribal partners for feedback.

The name [Hogala Lake](#) has been labeled on USGS topographic maps since 1956. The origin of the name has not been confirmed, although online genealogy records note there were families named Hokala and Hakala in Gogebic County. The proponent of the change from [Hogala Lake](#) to [Mi Lake](#) claimed the existing name has “no local meaning” and that the latter name has come into recent local use. The Lac Vieux Desert Band does not have any specific objections to “Hogala” but asked that the lake be given an Anishinaabe name instead of the proposed [Mi Lake](#). Waagaagamaa means “crescent lake,” a reference to the shape of the lake. The proponent has confirmed that it is not a traditional Ojibwe or Anishinaabe name for the lake.

When informed about the counterproposal, the proponents of Mi Lake withdrew their proposal and now support changing the name to Waagaagamaa Lake.

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

**Chickadee Creek, Minnesota**  
(Review List 448)

Mouth: 46.76172, -93.82732 / Source: 46.766702, -93.798215

Local government	Little Pine Township Supervisors*	Support
	Crow Wing County Commissioners*	Support
State Names Authority	Minnesota	Support
Tribes		No response

\* Contacted by State Names Authority

The proponents of this new name own land along the stream and recently started calling it Chickadee Creek, presumably in reference to black-capped chickadees that can be found throughout Minnesota. The stream is a 1.6-mile-long tributary of the Little Pine River in Crow Wing County. According to the Minnesota State Names Authority, the proponents said it was a “pleasing name” and that “it would be a benefit to the neighborhood” when they petitioned the county for a hearing, as required by Minnesota law to name features. The proponents have installed a sign along the stream on their property that shows the name.

**Pup Creek, Ohio**  
(Review List 447)

Mouth: 39.84821, -83.88184 / Source: 39.83855, -83.86751

Local government	Mad River Township Trustees*	Support
	Clark County Commissioners*	Support
State Names Authority	Ohio	No response
Tribes		No response
Other	Mud Run Conservancy [proponent]	Support

\* Contacted by proponent

The new name Pup Creek is proposed for a 1.1-mile-long tributary of Coyote Run (BGN 2020) in Mad River Township in Clark County.

In 2021, the Mud Run Conservancy (MRC) held a “Tag the Trib” contest in the same manner as the “Name that Creek” contest that chose the name Coyote Run, approved by the BGN in 2020. From the names suggested by the community, five met the requirements of the BGN’s principles and policies. MRC and the local school district asked kindergarten through sixth grade students to vote on the names and Pup Creek received the most votes. The winning name was widely

announced in the community and the proponent reported there was no opposition. The name refers to both the increasing frequency of coyote adult and pup sightings around the stream, and the smaller size compared to Coyote Run.

GNIS does not list any other features in Ohio with names that include “Pup.”

The Ohio State Names Authority did not respond to numerous emails and phone calls asking for a recommendation on this proposal.

**Sleepy Creek**, Pennsylvania  
(Review List 448)

Mouth: 40.791644, -77.699231 / Source: 40.781831, -77.695883

Local government	Potter Township Supervisors*	Support
	Centre County Commissioners*	Support
State Names Authority	Pennsylvania	No objection
Tribes		No response

\* Contacted by proponent

Landowners in Potter Township in Centre County are proposing the new name Sleepy Creek for a stream near their property. The stream flows into a sinkhole known locally as the “Tusseyville Sinkhole” or the “Tussey Sink.”

The proponent notes the distinct hydrology of the stream and its proximity to a wetlands landscape conservation area identified by Centre County. She adds: “The name Sleepy Creek was chosen primarily a.) to reflect the small size of the stream, and b.) to replace the existing, generic label UNT23069 per Pennsylvania Chapter 93, Drainage List L (West Branch Susquehanna River). Local citizens began the process of petitioning for a name designation for Sleepy Creek as part of the process of the citizen oversight for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, State College Area Connector project. (<https://www.penndot.pa.gov/RegionalOffices/district-2/ConstructionsProjectsAndRoadwork/SCAC/Pages/default.aspx>)

In addition to the support from the township and county, the proponent reported support from other local citizens.

The National Hydrography Dataset shows water flowing from this stream into some ditches which connect to an unnamed tributary of Cedar Run. Topographic map contours show the presence of a sinkhole at the mouth of this stream. No stream connection was mapped on topographic maps between the sinkhole and the unnamed tributary. FEMA maps show a discontinuous flowline.

**Warbler Run, Pennsylvania**  
(Review List 448)

Mouth: 40.129967, -76.197424 / Source: 40.152341, -76.203554

Local government	West Earl Township Supervisors*	Support
	Akron City Mayor and Council*	Support
	Lancaster County Commissioners	Support
State Names Authority	Pennsylvania	No objection
Tribes		No response
Other	Nearby resident*	Support

\* Contacted by proponent

The proponent owns 3.5 acres along the stream, and notes “The area is known as a hotspot for observing a wide variety of warblers (and other birds) during the spring and fall migration. We are also in the process of removing invasive plant species from this property and replacing them with native tree, shrub, and plant communities through partnerships with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Lancaster County Conservation District, the Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership, and Land Studies.”