

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

Eight Hundred and Fiftieth Meeting

December 8, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.

(Virtual Meeting)

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Marielle Pedro Black	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Wendi-Starr Brown	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs)
Thad Ellerbe	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
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)
Susan Lyon	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) (Chair)
Patrick Mahoney	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management)
Veronica Rainieri	Library of Congress
Mike Shelton	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
Jeremy Smith	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management)
Timothy St. Onge	Library of Congress (Vice Chair)
Michael Tischler	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Tara Wallace	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)

Ex-Officio

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

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

Staff

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

Guests

Alex Fries, National Park Service
Kara Lewis, National Museum of the American Indian
Deb Nordeen, National Park Service
Thomas Powell, U.S. Forest Service
Melanie Riley, U.S. Forest Service

Foreign Names Committee staff
National Geographic Society representatives
National Museum of the American Indian representatives

1. Opening

The Chair opened Meeting 850 of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) at 9:31 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 849

The minutes of Meeting 849, held November 10, 2022, were approved as submitted.

3. Reports

3.1 BGN Chairman (Tischler)

There was no written report.

Guempel announced that he will retire from Federal service at the end of December 2022. Members and staff thanked him for serving in the role of Executive Secretary during a challenging time. Tischler noted that the USGS National Geospatial Program is working on assigning a detailee into the position.

Tischler has been asked to present on the issue of derogatory name changes at the May 2023 Third Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN).

3.2 Executive Secretary for Domestic Names (Guempel)

There was no written report.

Guempel participated in a meeting of the UNGEGN US-Canada Division and will attend another following the DNC meeting. A joint division session is scheduled for February 2023, at which derogatory names will be a focus.

The Executive Committee is expected to issue a call soon for input into BGN committee charters. A question has been raised regarding the procedure to change the chair of a special committee. The BGN by-laws outline a process for standing committees and subcommittees, but special committees can set their own procedures. Establishing charters would help address the details.

3.3 Executive Secretary for Foreign Names (Palmer)

There was no written report. Palmer offered to share the details regarding the aforementioned UNGEGN session.

The Federal Geographic Data Committee has approved the GEOnet Names Server (GNS) as a National Geospatial Data Asset dataset within its Cultural Resources theme.

The next Foreign Names Committee meeting will be held Tuesday December 13, 2022.

3.4 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.

Ellerbe will become the Chair of the Special Committee on Communications in January 2023.

3.5 Staff (Runyon)

See attached report. Highlights included the staff's participation in a number of State Names Authority virtual meetings; the upcoming (January) votes on renaming UPPLs named "sq____"; and the CGNAB's approval of the change from Mount Evans to Mount Blue Sky. It was also reported that following the November approval of the change from Indian Garden (Grand Canyon National Park) to Havasupai Gardens, there was considerable media coverage.

3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (McCormick)

There was no written report.

During the month, McCormick responded to questions from the General Services Administration, the Census Bureau, and NOAA regarding GNIS updates.

The effort to provide staged products is ongoing, but once complete, additional datasets will be made available. There will always be issues with features that have primary points outside U.S.

Counties in Connecticut have been replaced with planning regions, which will impact how data is recorded in GNIS. The Census Bureau has provided an updated list for inclusion in GNIS; however, until the vector data can be processed, the former counties will be retained. Once the

changes are incorporated, the former counties will be marked historical. There was discussion regarding the impacts of the changes, e.g., to BGN case work.

There are issues with citations that are appended to a number of GNIS entries, with many being assigned the wrong citation.

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

There was no written report. Kanalley provided a brief overview of her attendance at the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums conference, and shared her appreciation to the representatives from the National Museum of the American Indian for their interest in the BGN's activities.

Implementation of the guidance document entitled Cultural Sensitivity for Native American Names was discussed. The document was shared with the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, which did not generate much response.

The Special Committee will meet following the December DNC 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 **Pickaninny Buttes** (FID 272949) to **Risler Buttes**, California (Review List 442)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 15 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change the application of **Pilot Knob** (FID 247467) and change **Pilot Knob** to **Avi Kwalal**, California (Fort Yuma Indian Reservation / Pilot Knob Area of Critical Environmental Concern [Bureau of Land Management]) (Review List 446)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the application and name change.

Vote: 15 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Hunters Run** (FID 1202649) to **Schollard Run**, Pennsylvania (Review List 448)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 15 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Prescott Peak, Idaho (Salmon-Challis National Forest / Caribou-Targhee National Forest) (Review List 446)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, in the belief that the name did not satisfy the requirements of the Commemorative Names Policy.

Vote: 15 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

III. New Commemorative Names and Changes agreed to by all interested parties - none

North Stearns Spring and **South Stearns Spring**, Idaho (Thousand Springs State Park) (Review List 447)

A decision was deferred pending clarification of the recommendation of Idaho State Parks.

Gramont Peak, New Mexico (Box Canyon Special Recreation Management Area [Bureau of Land Management]) (Review List 448) (FID 2830996)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 15 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

IV. Revised Decisions

Change **Puntilla Creek** (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 1410084) to **Lower Puntilla Creek**, Alaska (not review listed)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 15 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Change **Patricks Point** (BGN 1967) (FID 253743) to **Sue-meg Point**, California (Sue-meg State Park) (Review List 448)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 15 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

A motion was made and seconded to consider the remaining non-review listed changes as a group. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn, and a new motion was made and seconded to consider as a group the changes for features located off Tribal lands:

Change **Mohave Peak** (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 249846) to **Mojave Peak**, California (Mojave National Preserve) (not review listed)

Change **Priest Stream** (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 391282) to **Priest Creek** and change **Priest Creek** (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 374206) to **North Fork Priest Creek**, Idaho (Priest Lake State Park / Idaho state lands) (not review listed)

Change **Tepee Creek** (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 1032267) to **North Tepee Creek**, North Dakota (not review listed)

Change **Aspen Butte** (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 1150221) to **South Aspen Butte**, Oregon (Bureau of Land Management) (not review listed)

Change **Nixon Creek** (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 1369064) to **Big Nixon Creek**, Texas (not review listed)

Vote: 15 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

A motion was made and seconded to approve the changes.

Vote: 15 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Change **Quapaw Creek** (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 1098468) to **Little Quapaw Creek**, Oklahoma (Sac and Fox Tribal Statistical Area/Reservation) (not review listed)

The committee deferred a vote, noting that the stream is located within a Tribal Statistical Area. Tischler and the Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication will determine how to process this change and how to obtain Tribal input.

Change **Marys Lake** (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 1594950) to **South Marys Lake**, Wyoming (Wind River Reservation) (not review listed)

The committee deferred a vote, noting that the stream is located within a Tribal Statistical Area. Tischler and the Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication will determine how to process this change and how to obtain Tribal input.

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties - none

5. Other Business

Regarding the proposals to modify names on Tribal lands, there was discussion as to how to engage Tribal governments. Policy X does not allow for BGN staff to communicate with Tribes on a case-by-case basis, primarily because to do so would raise expectations that it should be done for every issue. Members noted that Federal land management agencies already have relationships with Tribes and so direct contact through that mechanism should be encouraged.

The committee reiterated its appreciation to Marcus Allsup and Glenn Guempel as they retire from Federal service.

6. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

The next Domestic Names Committee meeting is scheduled to be held on January 12, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

(signed)

Glenn Guempel, Executive Secretary
Domestic Names Committee

APPROVED
(signed)

Susan Lyon, Chair
Domestic Names Committee

BGN/Domestic Names Committee Meeting 850
December 8, 2022
Staff Report

Staff attended virtual meetings of the Alaska Board on Geographic Names (November 17); the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN) (November 18); the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board (CGNAB) (November 17); the Hawaii Board on Geographic Names (HBGN) (December 2); the Wisconsin Geographic Names Council (Nov. 18); and the Wyoming Board of Geographic Names (Nov. 16).

The CACGN, at its meeting on November 18, reviewed the two proposals to change the names two unincorporated populated places (UPPLs) in the State. The CACGN also discussed the requirements set forth in California Assembly Bill 2022, which “requires the term ‘sq___’ to be removed from all geographic features and place names in the state.” For Sq___ Valley in Fresno County, they reviewed the proposals for Yokuts Valley, Wootona, and Bear Mountain, and voted to recommend approval of Yokuts Valley. For Sq___ Hill in Tehama County, they reviewed Woodson Bridge, Loybas Hill, and Mi'tenek Hill, and recommended Loybas Hill. Both sets of proposals will be on the DNC’s January 12 docket for the final decision. The CACGN also noted the additional workload that will result from AB 2022.

The CGNAB, at its meeting on November 17, heard presentations from four of the six proponents who have submitted proposals to rename Mount Evans. They voted to [recommend approval](#) of Mount Blue Sky, and the U.S. Forest Service has expressed its support for that name. Once the BGN has the recommendation of Governor Polis (a requirement under the CGNAB’s bylaws), the six pending proposals will be placed on the DNC’s docket for the final decision.

With regard to the name changes for the five UPPLs named “sq___,” the relevant county governments and State Names Authorities were asked for input, and federally recognized Tribes were notified of the Review List, with 60 days to comment. The Department of the Interior has requested that these UPPL names be changed within six months; as such, they are expected to be added to the January 12 docket.

The staff will notify the Carter County (TN) Mayor and Board of Commissioners that the BGN will be voting on a name change to the UPPL of Sq___ berry. The county and Tennessee State Senate both expressed opposition to any change, stating that the community “does not find the current name offensive” and cites “the lack of public involvement.” The county will be given a second opportunity to comment on the name that has been proposed by the Task Force.

A representative of the Duchesne County (Utah) government submitted the following question: “It appears that the federal agencies have moved forward to change geographic names with no input from local counties. Is that correct?” He was advised that the four names in question were changed by the BGN on September 8; there has been no further communication.

In addition to the five “sq___” named UPPLs, there was another, Sq___ Harbor, Alaska, that is listed in GNIS but later made “historical” after it was determined that there is no longer a permanent population. The *Unga Tribal Council (Native Village of Unga)* inquired whether the name needed to be changed, noting that the Village “had residents who were born in Sq___ Harbor, with a valid birth certificate saying birthplace Sq___ Harbor, . . . and [who] indicate they do not want the name changed.” She was informed of the change in GNIS and that the BGN does not rename places that no longer exist. There has been no further communication.

Following the DNC’s approval at the November 10 meeting of the change from Indian Garden to Havasupai Gardens for a feature in Grand Canyon National Park, there was extensive media coverage; see for example, <https://www.nhnews.com/news/2022/nov/29/grand-canyons-indian-garden-be-called-havasupai-ga/>.

Staff met with the State Names Authorities (SNAs) of Kansas and Nebraska (both recently appointed) to review BGN procedures and the pending proposal for Little Mission Creek.

The Executive Secretary of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (CoGNA) is pursuing efforts to (re)establish SNAs in Montana and North Dakota.

The Oklahoma Board on Geographic Names inquired about a longstanding and pending proposal to change the names of Sarge Creek and Sarge Creek Cove in Osage County and within the Osage Indian Reservation to LaSarge Creek and LaSarge Creek Cove, respectively (Review List 416). At the time of submission, these proposals were processed in accordance with existing guidelines; however, following the revision to Policy X: Tribal Geographic Names, i.e., deference to Tribal governments for features on Tribal lands, these should have been removed from BGN consideration. The staff will contact the proponent to suggest she coordinate the changes with the Tribal government.

A proposal was received to name a small pond on private property. The proponent inquired whether labeling a feature on Federal maps (and third-party mapping companies) results in increased trespassing at the location. After being informed that such issues are not for the BGN to address, he spoke to the county government about potential liability issues and decided to withdraw his proposal.

The first meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names will take place on December 7-8: <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-host-first-meeting-advisory-committee-reconciliation-place-names>. The BGN has been asked to provide a briefing on its existing policies and procedures. The draft agenda and Federal Register Notice are available at <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1892/advisory-committee-on-reconciliation-in-place-names.htm>.

The USGS National Geospatial Program is continuing its effort to collect the translations and pronunciations of the native names that were submitted and approved as a result of Secretary’s Order 3404. This involves seeking input from the Tribal governments that proposed the names to

the Task Force. BGN staff has provided a list to the National Geospatial Program User Engagement team that is managing the effort.

The BGN staff continues to hear via news coverage that the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians will submit a proposal to rename Clingmans Dome, located along the boundary of Tennessee and North Carolina and the highest point within Great Smoky Mountains National Park. An email was received from a Yuchi Ethnohistorian, stating that “the Cherokee claim to be the First People of the region [is] absurd and fallacious.” He was advised that any interested party is welcome to submit a proposal or counterproposal.

Three proposals to change the names of features named “Jeff Davis” in Montana have been pending since May 2021. The proponent, as well as a Tribal historian with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, have expressed concerns regarding the delay, but input is still pending from other Tribal entities and Federal land management agencies, and the Montana SNA position is currently inactive.

On November 14, in honor of Native American Heritage Month, the USGS Office of Science, Quality, and Integrity hosted a webinar entitled “What’s in a Name? Choctaw Mapping & Place Names.” The presenter, a Choctaw tribal member and Archaeological Technician with the Choctaw Historic Preservation Department, offered examples of how he uses GIS and traditional knowledge in identifying and mapping places of significance to the Choctaw Nation, and how this work assists his community in recording cultural and historic knowledge to maintain and revitalize traditional Choctaw culture. He added that the Geographic Names Information System “has been invaluable in helping to fill in gaps in history and offer a better understanding of mapped features,” while the Director of USGS and BGN deputy member Hammond, in their opening remarks, extended their appreciation to the BGN for the recent “sq__” changes. There were over 500 attendees in the session.

On November 29, staff met with Wallace, Ellerbee, Braden (U.S. Coast Guard), and others from NOAA and USCG to learn about an ongoing USCG Waterways Harmonization effort that could impact names recorded in GNIS.

The staff met with the chair and secretary of the BGN’s Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names to discuss staffing; to prepare for an upcoming meeting with the UK Antarctic Place-Names Committee; and to share concerns regarding the ongoing lack of an online Antarctic Names database and proposal form.

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
DOCKET
December 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. If no response(s) were received regarding a proposal, it is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion.

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

Change Pickaninny Buttes (FID 272949) to Risler Buttes, California
(Review List 442)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/272949>

Local government	San Bernardino County Supervisors	No opinion
State Names Authority	California	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association (proponent)	Support
	Lucerne Valley Museum and History Association	No response

This proposal is to change the name of Pickaninny Buttes in the Lucerne Valley in San Bernardino County to Risler Buttes. It was submitted by the President of the Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association (LVEDA) in response to an earlier proposal to change the name to Alfalfa Buttes (Review List 437), which was withdrawn by the proponent in support of the name Risler Buttes.

The name would commemorate Lee William Risler (1891-1962) and Agnes Jean Jackley Risler (1893-1968), who according to the proponent arrived in the area in 1909 to camp, mine, and hunt near Big Bear Lake to the south. They homesteaded in Lucerne Valley in 1925; General Land Office records show that they acquired an additional 156 acres in 1928. The proponent states that the Risler family were “our early settlers and definitely pioneers. . . . Family members still reside in Lucerne Valley – adjacent to the buttes which they still own. They are probably our only pioneering family that still lives on the original property.” The proponent’s family also owns property adjacent to that of the Rislers.

The name Alfalfa Buttes was proposed as a reference to the early history of alfalfa farming in the Lucerne Valley. In 1897, James Goulding and his family moved to the area. He irrigated his land and successfully grew many crops including abundant alfalfa. According to local history, someone suggested that Goulding name the valley and he chose Lucerne Valley because “lucerne” is the French word for alfalfa.

When staff asked the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors to comment on the Alfalfa Buttes proposal, they consulted with the LVEDA. The LVEDA recommended that the name not be changed “because it is revisionist history” and that such names should remain “to help us not repeat the ugly part” of our history. However, “If the County deems it necessary (or politically correct) to acquiesce to a name change – we don’t support ‘Alfalfa Buttes’ because it doesn’t fit those geographical features.” They instead suggested “Risler Rocks” or “Risler Buttes.” One local resident informed staff that “a new name is needed . . . most likely not ‘Alfalfa Buttes,’ but one that reflects the rich heritage of the area.”

According to some accounts, the name Pickaninny Buttes may have derived from a settlement (or attempted settlement) of African Americans in the Lucerne Valley around 1900. The name has appeared on USGS maps since 1902 and was used consistently in local publications since that time. In 1932, an article in *The Atlantic Monthly* used both Hackletooth Buttes and Pickaninny Buttes to refer to the summit. A 2012 article in the Victorville *Daily Press* reported that a former county planning commissioner and longtime Lucerne Valley resident stated that Pickaninny Buttes “hasn’t been so designated on any map since the 50’s. . . . What is now Cougar Buttes used to be Negro Buttes – maybe even worse before.” (Negro Butte is in fact a separate summit east of Cougar Buttes that has appeared on USGS maps since 1902. Cougar Buttes was first labeled on USGS maps in 1971.) GNIS does not list any other features with “Risler” in their names.

Change the application of Pilot Knob (FID 247467)
and change Pilot Knob to Avi Kwalal, California
(Fort Yuma Indian Reservation /

Pilot Knob Area of Critical Environmental Concern [Bureau of Land Management])
(Review List 446)

32.732305, -114.746755

Local government	Imperial County Supervisors	No response
State Names Authority	California	Support
Federal	Bureau of Land Management	Support
Tribes	Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation, California & Arizona (proponent)	Support
	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

This proposal is to change the application of the name of Pilot Knob in Imperial County and to change its name to Avi Kwalal. The changes are proposed by the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation, which includes the eastern third of the feature. The Bureau of Land Management's Pilot Knob Area of Critical Environmental Concern includes the western two-thirds. The name Pilot Knob currently applies to the second-highest summit in the larger officially unnamed area of elevation. The Quechan Tribe and the Bureau of Land Management both report that the name is used locally to refer to the entire area of elevation which is 1.75 miles long and 1.4 mi. wide, with the highest point of elevation of 891 feet.

The name Avi Kwalal is the Quechan name for the range; it was submitted in "adamant opposition" to an earlier proposal to name the range Chesed Hills (Review List 443), a reference to "the Hebrew word for loving kindness of God towards humanity." The latter name was rejected by the BGN in April 2022.

The Quechan Tribal President wrote that "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 Bureau of Land Management 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 kwalal*). The small mountain just south of the main mass of Pilot Knob is called *Avi kwinuur*. 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).

Various spellings of Avi Kwalal have been published, such as Avikwala, Avi kwalal, Avikwalal, and Avikwalali, although the first and last appear to be errors in a Department of Energy document.

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, 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.’”

The “West Pilot” survey mark datasheet, provided by the 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 not clear 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”
- William P. Blake’s 1858 *Report of a Geological Reconnaissance in California*: “Another object made its appearance . . . Pilot Knob, an isolated elevation on the banks of the Colorado River [page 110]”
- An 1858 *New York Times* article about the first Overland Mail delivery from San Francisco to Saint Louis reported that a stage station west of Fort Yuma was called “Pilot Knob,” presumably after the nearby range of hills.
- 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.”

Camp Pilot Knob was part of the U.S. Army’s Desert Training Center located north of the hills. According to California Registered Historical Landmark No. 985, placed on site in 1990 by the [California] State Department of Parks and Recreation “in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management and Squibob Chapter, E Clampus Vitus,” the camp was “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 [presumably this refers to the entire Desert Training Center]. At the peak of activity here at [Camp] Pilot Knob, June - December 1943, the 85th Infantry Division, and the 36th And 44th Reconnaissance Squadrons of the 11th (Mechanized) Cavalry trained for roles in the

liberation of Europe, 1944-1945.” The camp operated between January 1943 and June 1944.

This proposal does not affect the name of Pilot Knob Mesa, a flat area that lies east of the Algodones Dunes and runs northwest from Pilot Knob. It is a separate feature, with Pilot Knob as its highest point.

Change Hunters Run (FID 1202649) to Schollard Run, Pennsylvania
(Review List 448)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/1202649>

Local government	Springfield Township Supervisors [Mercer Co.]	Support
	Washington Township Supervisors [Lawrence Co.]	No response
	Mercer County Commissioners	No response
	Lawrence County Commissioners	No response
State Names Authority	Pennsylvania	No objection
Other	Mercer County Conservation District	Support
Tribes		No response

This proposal is to change the name of Hunters Run, a four-mile-long tributary of Neshannock Creek, to Schollard Run. The stream flows from Washington Township in Lawrence County into Springfield Township in Mercer County.

Schollard Run is one of several names in local and published use and refers to the community of Schollard, located along the stream in Springfield Township. Both features were named for William Schollard (sometimes recorded as “Scollard,” which appears to be the original spelling of the family name), who from 1837 to 1862 was the ironmaster of the Springfield Furnace, which was located along the stream in question and was the first to operate in Mercer County.

The name Hunters Run has never been labeled on USGS topographic maps but was added to GNIS in 1990 citing a 1985 Pennsylvania Game Commission map. The name has been used by PennDOT since at least 1971, although the origin has not been determined. PennDOT bridge data use three different names for this stream: Hunters Run, Neshannock Branch, and Johnston Run (the latter refers to Johnston’s Tavern, built nearby in 1831).

The stream heads in a wetland area known locally as “Schollard Marsh” or “Schollard’s Run Wetlands,” which is also known as “Pensy Swamp” in Mercer County and “Black Swamp” in Lawrence County. The swamp is not recorded in GNIS.

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Prescott Peak, Idaho

(Salmon-Challis National Forest / Caribou-Targhee National Forest)

(Review List 446)

44.3012, -113.2449

Local government	Lemhi County Commissioners	No response
State Names Authority	Idaho	No response
Federal	U.S. Forest Service	Opposed
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

This proposal is to make official the name Prescott Peak for a 10,693-foot summit in the Lemhi Range in Lemhi County. The summit is on the boundary of Salmon-Challis National Forest and Caribou-Targhee National Forest.

The name has been in widespread use since 2016 by the Idaho hiking and mountain climbing community. It would commemorate Larry Prescott (1960-2016), who the proponent describes as a “life-long Idaho resident” and “an avid hiker and popular blogger in the Idaho hiking community. According to the “Idaho: A Climbing Guide” website, Mr. Prescott “died from a heart attack just short of the peak’s summit.” Shortly after his death, other climbers began using the name in his honor. At the time of his death, Mr. Prescott lived and taught high school in Madison County, 80 miles southeast of the summit.

The summit was first known unofficially as “Mount Perspiration,” a name applied by the individual who made the first recorded ascent of the summit in 1991. The name references “Mount Inspiration,” the unofficial name of a summit 0.75 miles to the northwest.

The majority of online references to the summit since 2016 use the name Prescott Peak. The “Idaho: A Climbing Guide” website lists it as “Peak 10693.”

The U.S. Forest Service does not support the proposal stating that they found “no relevant long-time association to meet the direct and long-term association part of the section.”

The Idaho Geographic Names Advisory Council has not met since the fall of 2020 and indicated that the BGN could proceed without their input.

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

North Stearns Spring and South Stearns Spring, Idaho
(Thousand Springs State Park)
(Review List 447)

North Stearns Spring: 42.729755, -114.841069

South Stearns Spring: 42.727365, -114.841583

Local government	Gooding County Commissioners	Support
State Names Authority	Idaho	No response
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Idaho State Parks	No objection

These proposals were submitted by an Idaho Department of Water Resources employee to apply the new names North Stearns Spring and South Stearns Spring to two springs in Gooding County south of Thousand Springs and within Thousand Springs State Park.

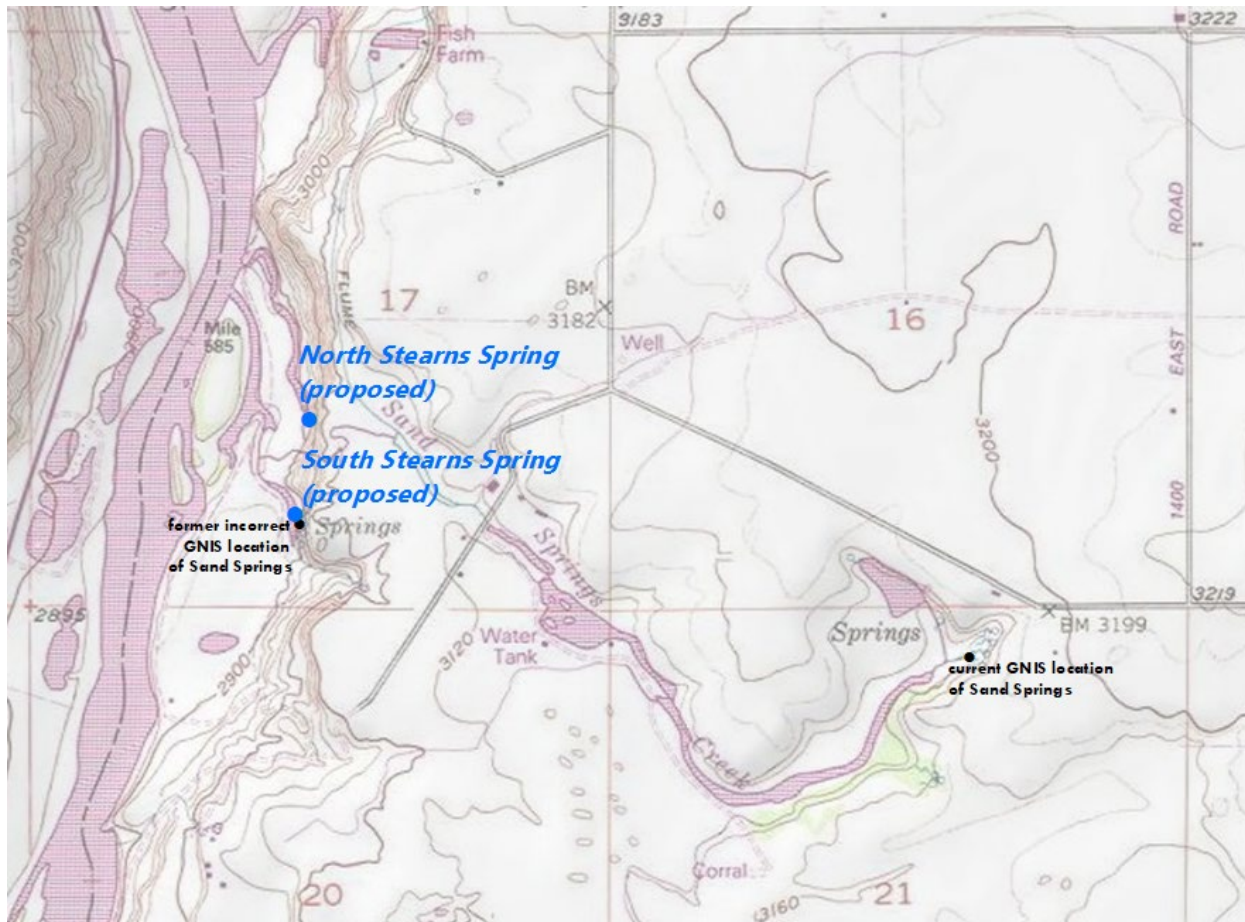
The names would commemorate Harold T. Stearns (1900-1986), a geologist, who according to the proponent, “was the first to accurately describe the hydrogeology of this specific spring. Harold was a heavy weight geologist for the early years of discovery in this area of Idaho and this would honor his civic contribution.” Dr. Stearns mentioned the unnamed springs in a 1936 *Journal of Geology* paper.

Dr. Stearns was born in Connecticut, studied geology at Wesleyan College, and earned a doctorate at George Washington University. He worked for the U.S. Geological Survey from 1923 to some time in the 1940s, when he retired and worked as a private geologic consultant in Idaho. During his USGS career, he worked on hydrologic studies in the western U.S. (including a report recommending that the National Park Service protect the Craters of the Moon National Monument) and studied volcanoes and groundwater throughout the Pacific islands, especially in Hawaii. During World War II, he was made Geologist-in-Charge of Pacific Investigations for the U.S. Geological Survey and “was awarded the Medal for Merit in commendation for his work for the Armed Forces under enemy fire in the Pacific” (*Memoirs of a Geologist*, Stearns, 1983).

The springs are located on the right bank (relative to water flow) of the Snake River at the head of some channels flowing to the river. The proponent states that names will be needed for flow monitoring stations that are planned for the springs.

Prior to receiving these proposals, GNIS incorrectly applied the name Sand Springs to the spring proposed as South Stearns Spring; the entry derived from the 1988 volume *Idaho Place Names*. The error has been corrected in GNIS but will continue to appear in the National Hydrography Dataset until that file is updated. This spring was only labeled as “spring” on all USGS maps.

Current and historical sources, including USGS reports, all use the name Sand Springs for the set of springs higher up on the plateau above the Snake River at the source of Sand Springs Creek.



The Idaho Geographic Names Advisory Council has not met since the fall of 2020 and indicated that the BGN could proceed without their input.

Gramont Peak, New Mexico

(Box Canyon Special Recreation Management Area [Bureau of Land Management])

(Review List 448)

33.98761, -106.98829

Local government	Socorro County Commissioners	No response
State Names Authority	New Mexico	Support
Federal	Bureau of Land Management	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology Recreation and Wellness Department	Support

	New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources	Support
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The new name Gramont Peak is proposed for a 6,042-foot unnamed summit in the Box Canyon Special Recreation Management Area, managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Socorro County. The name would commemorate Bertrand Gramont (?-ca. 1996-98), a French citizen who according to a 1989 New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (New Mexico Tech or NMT) geology alumni newsletter, earned a master’s degree in geology in 1987. The name is proposed by a rock-climbing instructor at NMT. He reports that while attending NMT, Gramont was a major figure in the NMT, Socorro, and New Mexico climbing communities. He was reportedly one of the original climbing route developers in The Box area.

The proponent states that “Bertrand Gramont was a French National who attended NMT in the 80s and 90s. Specific dates of his birth and death are unknown. The information of his death is anecdotal, but is referred to in some of the links attached above [sic]. As far as we know, he died in a car crash in New Caledonia in 1996.” He adds that the proposal has the support of the rock-climbing community. No details regarding Gramont’s death could be found online. One climbing website states, “In 1983, the late Bertrand Gramont, ‘a climbing fanatic’ famous for his strength and colorful spandex leggings, arrived from France. He started setting climbs by drilling permanent metal bolts into the rock, adding safety. By the mid-1980s, Box Canyon had dozens of established climbing routes, and climbers were exploring surrounding areas.” The proponent notes that the BLM has begun construction of a new trail to the summit.

IV. Revised Decisions

Change Puntilla Creek (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 1410084)
to Lower Puntilla Creek, Alaska
(not review listed)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/1410084>

The name Puntilla Creek, approved by the BGN on September 8, 2022, duplicates that of Puntilla Creek (FID 1408376), which has its source two miles to the northwest. “Lower” was suggested as a modifier by the Mountaineering Club of Alaska and is supported by a staff support geologist at the USGS Alaska Science Center.

Two other names that include “Puntilla” are found nearby including Puntilla Mountain and Puntilla Lake, through which the recently approved Puntilla Creek flows.

Change Patricks Point (BGN 1967) (FID 253743) to Sue-meg Point, California
(Sue-meg State Park)
(Review List 448)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/253743>

Local government	Humboldt County Supervisors	Support
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State Names Authority	California	Support
Federal	NOAA	Support
	Bureau of Land Management	No objection
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	California State Parks (proponent)	Support

California State Parks is proposing that the name of Patricks Point, a cape in Humboldt County, be changed to Sue-meg Point. The cape lies along the coast of the Pacific Ocean and within Sue-meg State Park (named Patrick’s Point State Park until 2021; see https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=417). The Bureau of Land Management’s California Coastal National Monument includes rocks connected to and just offshore from the point.

The current name commemorates Patrick Beegan, who homesteaded nearby in 1851 and who was implicated in the massacre of many Native Americans in Trinidad (California) in 1854. Ten years later, he would lead a militia unit in the massacre of a Native American village at a place that later became known as Christmas Prairie, near Eureka. Yurok and other Native people in the area remember him as a mass murderer of their relatives and believe the name should be changed.

In 1967, the BGN approved a change to the extent of Patricks Point; the origin and significance of the name was not in question at the time and was not part of the decision.

As early as 1884, the name was applied to what is now Rocky Point by the California Office of State Engineer, while the Coast Pilot (1889) and Office of Coast Survey charts (1929) placed the name on a small cape on the southwestern side of the larger promontory. However, as reported in the 1967 decision, “as most of this headland lies within Patricks Point State Park, it is recommended that application of the name be in accord with established State park usage.” The Park noted that the smaller cape was named Palmers Point. The Office of Coast Survey continues to label Patricks Point at the former location.

In proposing a change from Patricks Point to Sue-meg Point, California State Parks reports:

On September 30, 2021, the California State Park and Recreation Commission voted unanimously to change the name of Patrick’s Point State Park to Sue-meg State Park. The name “Sue-meg” has been used by Yurok people to describe the area where the park is now located since time immemorial. In 1851, Irish homesteader Patrick Beegan recorded a preemption claim on the westernmost promontory of the peninsula and built a small cabin there. Beegan was implicated in the murder of a Native American boy in 1854, then escaped to the Bald Hills, east of present-day Orick. In 1864, he led a militia to a Native American village where numerous Indigenous people were massacred. Although Beegan lived in the Sue-meg area for less than three years, other homesteaders came to call the area “Patrick’s Ranch” or “Patrick’s Point.”

When the State of California purchased the site in 1930 and brought it into the State Parks system, they adopted the name already widely in use at the time, Patrick’s Point. In spite of that, Yurok people continued to call the area by its original place name, Sue-meg. In 1990, the Yurok community worked with California State Parks to build a recreated Yurok village within the park and gave the village the name “Sumêg” to honor the ancient name associated with the place.

In January 2021, the Yurok Tribe formally requested that the park be renamed Sue-meg State Park. The proponent continues:

The changing of the name of Patrick’s Point State Park to Sue-meg State Park is the first park to have its name changed as part of the Reexamining Our Past Initiative. This larger project within California state government is working to identify and redress discriminatory names of features attached to the state parks and transportation systems.

The 1920 volume *Yurok Geography* by T.T. Waterman reported the name as ‘sū’mig’ (the ‘ character presumably represents a syllable break), ‘a point called by the whites Patrick’s Point. This promontory and the region back of it are celebrated in Yurok song and story.’ ‘Sue-meg’ is the current Yurok orthographic representation of the name.

An unincorporated community near the cape and park is named Patricks Point. This community was first labeled on USGS maps in 1966, while Patricks Point School was shown on earlier maps. A stream 10 miles south-southeast of Patricks Point is named Patrick Creek and is reportedly also named after Patrick Beegan. The BGN staff is not aware of any efforts to rename the community or the stream.

Change **Mohave Peak** (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 249846)
to **Mojave Peak**, California
(Mojave National Preserve)
(not review listed)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/249846>

The name Mohave Peak, approved by the BGN on September 8, 2022, has a different spelling than the related feature of the Mojave Desert and Mojave National Preserve in which it is located. The spelling correction Mojave Peak is proposed by BGN staff.

Change **Priest Stream** (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 391282) to **Priest Creek** and change **Priest Creek** (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 374206) to **North Fork Priest Creek**, Idaho
(Priest Lake State Park / Idaho state lands)
(not review listed)

Priest Creek: <https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/391282>

North Fork Priest Creek: <https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/374206>

This proposal would affect two names that the BGN approved on September 8, 2022, Priest Stream and Priest Creek (which is a tributary of Priest Stream). BGN staff suggests amending the official names to match the format of the former names, “Sq___ Creek” and “North Fork Sq___ Creek,” respectively; the current Priest Stream would become Priest Creek and the current Priest Creek would become North Fork Priest Creek.

Change **Tepee Creek** (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 1032267)
to **North Tepee Creek**, North Dakota
(not review listed)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/1032267>

The name Tepee Creek, approved by the BGN on September 8, 2022, duplicates that of Tepee Creek (FID 1032456) which has its source 0.75 miles to the west. “North” was suggested as a modifier by BGN staff. One other name that includes “Tepee” is found nearby: both of the streams in question flow from Tepee Buttes.

Change **Quapaw Creek** (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 1098468)
to **Little Quapaw Creek**, Oklahoma
(Sac and Fox Tribal Statistical Area/Reservation)
(not review listed)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/1098468>

The name Quapaw Creek, approved by the BGN on September 8, 2022, duplicates that of Quapaw Creek (FID 1096983), which is located less than 5 miles away. The name Quapaw Creek was suggested to the Derogatory Names Task Force by a member of the public.

The original Quapaw Creek has a tributary named South Quapaw Creek as well as 38 reservoirs named “Quapaw Creek Site ## Reservoir” where “##” is a number between 1 and 44 (names compiled from a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers list of dams and reservoirs from the 1980s that is often incomplete). “Little” was suggested as a modifier by BGN staff.

The federally recognized Quapaw Nation is currently based in Ottawa County, Oklahoma, about 150 miles to the northeast.

Change **Aspen Butte** (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 1150221)
to **South Aspen Butte**, Oregon
(Bureau of Land Management)
(not review listed)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/1150221>

The name Aspen Butte, approved by the BGN on September 8, 2022, duplicates that of Aspen Butte (FID 1158109), which is located 1.5 miles to the northwest. “South” was suggested as a modifier by the Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB) and agreed to by the Bureau of Land Management. The OGNB plans to ask the Burns Paiute Tribe if they might be interested in renaming the feature to something other than South Aspen Butte.

One other name that includes “Aspen” is found nearby: Aspen Flat is located between both summits.

Change Nixon Creek (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 1369064)
to Big Nixon Creek, Texas
(not review listed)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/1369064>

The name Nixon Creek, approved by the BGN on September 8, 2022, duplicates that of Nixon Creek (FID 1363922), which is located 0.5 miles to the south. The original Nixon Creek flows into Flores Creek which joins with Indian Creek to form the Task Force-approved Nixon Creek, formerly Sq___ Creek.

The name Nixon Creek was suggested to the Derogatory Names Task Force by a member of the public “Big” is suggested as a modifier by BGN staff.

One other name that includes “Nixon” is found nearby: Nixon Mountain is located five miles to the west.

Change Marys Lake (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 1594950)
to South Marys Lake, Wyoming
(Wind River Reservation)
(not review listed)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/1594950>

The name Marys Lake, approved by the BGN on September 8, 2022, duplicates that of Marys Lake (FID 1591251), which is located 1.25 miles to the north. Both lakes are on East Fork Marys Creek. “North” was suggested as a modifier by BGN staff.

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties - none