

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**  
**DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE**  
Eight Hundred and Fifty-second Meeting  
March 9, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.  
(Virtual Meeting)

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Meghan Barrett	Department of Homeland Security
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)
Andrew Flora	Department of Commerce (Census Bureau)
Brenda-Anne C. Forrest	Government Publishing Office
Andrew Griffin	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
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)
Veronica Rainieri	Library of Congress
Mike Shelton	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
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

Brigitta Urban-Mathieux, Executive Secretary (Acting), U.S. Board on Geographic Names / Domestic Names Committee

Staff

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

Guests

Alex Fries, National Park Service  
Deb Nordeen, National Park Service  
U.S. Forest Service observers  
National Geographic Society observers  
Guests

## 1. Opening

The Chair opened Meeting 852 of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) at 9:35 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 851

The minutes of Meeting 851, held January 12, 2023, were approved as submitted.

## 3. Reports

### 3.1 BGN Chairman (Tischler)

There was no written report.

The Foreign Names Committee will hold Meeting 413 on Tuesday, March 14. The Full Board on Geographic Names will hold Quarterly Meeting 289 on Tuesday, April 18.

The BGN is coordinating attendance for the upcoming Third Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), to be held in New York May 1-5. DNC members and staff who plan to attend should contact Tischler for details.

### 3.2 Executive Secretary for Domestic Names (Urban-Mathieux)

There was no written report.

Urban-Mathieux has begun the BGN member and deputy member appointment letter process for the Fiscal Years 2023-2025 term. She will contact the DOI members to confirm their continued participation with the BGN and to request the necessary biographical details to be sent to DOI for review.

The UNGEGN USA/Canada Division held a meeting on February 22 to share information on each country's efforts to address derogatory and offensive names. Tischler presented on the BGN and his role as the Chair of the Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force created by [Secretary's Order 3404](#). Joshua Winchell of the National Park Service presented in his role as the designated Federal officer for the Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names created by [Secretary's Order 3405](#).

Sergio Rodriguez of the USGS National Geospatial Program serves as the Pan American Institute on Geography and History (PAIGH) liaison to UNGEGN.

The Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names held Meeting 409 on Tuesday, March 7.

### 3.3 Executive Secretary for Foreign Names

There was no report.

### 3.4 Special Committee on Communications (Ellerbe)

See attached report.

### 3.5 Staff (Runyon)

See attached report.

In 2012, the BGN rejected a proposal to change the name of Brown Island in Massachusetts to Crowninshield Island, in part because the Town Selectboard did not support the change. The proponent recently contacted BGN staff to report that the Town now supports the change and so the proponent is asking the BGN to reconsider its previous decision. The DNC agreed it would consider reopening the case after local support can be confirmed.

### 3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (McCormick)

There was no written report. Many of the same issues with the database and development of the various database tools are ongoing.

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

There was no written report. The Special Committee met on February 15 to discuss the implementation process for the guidance document entitled "Cultural Sensitivity for Native American Names."

## 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 Mesa** (FID 185382) to **Clay Mesa**, Colorado (Bureau of Land Management) (Review List 439)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 15 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Middleton**, Florida (not review listed) (FID 2831028)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 15 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Change **Chums Corner** (FID 623278) to **Chums Corners**, Michigan (not review listed)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 15 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Change **Seabold Lake** (FID 651811) to **Boe Lake** and **Boe Lake** (FID 640321) to **Seebold Lake**, Minnesota (Review List 449)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the changes.

Vote: 15 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

## II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Change **Valle** (FID 24672) to **Grand Canyon Junction**, Arizona (Review List 443)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the change, in agreement with the opposition of the State Names Authority.

Vote: 9 in favor  
1 against  
5 abstentions

The vote against the motion cited the local use and county support.

Change **Mount Evans** (FID 204716) to **Mount Blue Sky**, **Mount Cheyenne-Arapaho**, **Mount Evans** [commemoration change], **Mount Rosalie**, **Mount Sisty**, or **Mount Soule**, Colorado (Roosevelt and Arapaho National Forest/Mount Evans Wilderness and Pike and San Isabel National Forests) (Review Lists 435, 441, 442, 443, 447)

At the opening of the meeting, the chair reported “On Wednesday March 8, the BGN received a request from a Tribal government for government-to-government consultation, and in accordance with the Department of the Interior Departmental Manual [512 DM 5](#), “Procedures for Consultation with Indian Tribes,” the decision was made to defer today’s vote. Section 5.5.A(6) of the manual states, ‘A Tribe may request that the Department initiate consultation when the Tribe believes that a Bureau/Office is considering a Departmental Action with Tribal Implications.’” The BGN was notified that no decision would be made today, nor would there be any discussion of the pending proposals.

Change **Gobblers Knob** (FID 1093229) to **Little Bear Mountain**, Oklahoma (Review List 443)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the change, citing the lack of local and State support.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
1 abstention

**Wishart Mine Run**, Pennsylvania (Review List 449) (FID 2831035)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 14 in favor  
1 against  
0 abstentions

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

**Lake Marie**, California (Tahoe National Forest) (Review List 445) (FID 2831026)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 15 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Johnson Creek**, Idaho and Oregon (Review List 448) (FID 2831030)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 15 in favor  
 0 against  
 0 abstentions

**Lyman Creek**, Pennsylvania (Review List 448) (FID 2831033)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 15 in favor  
 0 against  
 0 abstentions

Change **Negro Brook** (FID 1461200) to **Huzzy Brook**, Vermont (Review List 449)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 15 in favor  
 0 against  
 0 abstentions

#### IV. Revised Decisions

Change **Negro Creek** (BGN 1966) (FID 201768) to **Clay Creek**, Colorado (Bureau of Land Management) (Review List 439)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 15 in favor  
 0 against  
 0 abstentions

Change **Marsh Bay Lake** (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 1621751) to **Makwagamaa**, Michigan (Ottawa National Forest proclaimed boundary) (Review List 449)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 15 in favor  
 0 against  
 0 abstentions

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

**Doubtful Peak**, Arizona (Peloncillo Mountains Wilderness [Bureau of Land Management])  
(Review List 441) (FID 2831025)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 14 in favor  
1 against  
0 abstentions

The vote against the motion cited a belief that there was insufficient justification to waive the Wilderness Area Geographic Names Policy.

**mee muku creek**, California (Golden Gate National Recreation Area) (Review List 448) (FID 2831027)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
1 abstention

**Highland Creek**, Iowa (Review List 449) (FID 2831029)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 15 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Little Mission Creek**, Kansas and Nebraska (Review List 448) (FID 2831031)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 15 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Stony Peak**, Pennsylvania (Susquehannock State Forest) (Review List 448) (FID 2831034)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 15 in favor

0 against  
0 abstentions

**Rock Garden Hill**, Ohio (Great Seal State Park) (Review List 449) (FID 2831032)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 15 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Eagle Mountain**, Utah (State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration lands)  
(Review List 436) (FID 2831036)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 15 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**5. Other Business**

The Council of Geographic Names Authorities (CoGNA) has posted information about the [annual conference](#) to be held in Portland, Oregon September 12-16. Members asked if there would be a virtual meeting option for the DNC meeting. Staff indicated that has not yet been determined.

**6. Closing**

The meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m. The next Domestic Names Committee meeting is scheduled to be held on April 13, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

(signed)

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Brigitta Urban-Mathieux,  
Executive Secretary (Acting)  
Domestic Names Committee

APPROVED  
(signed)

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Susan Lyon, Chair  
Domestic Names Committee



## Special Committee on Communications Report

Annual reports for fiscal year 2022 are starting to come in. Please submit yours if you still need to.

The Special Committee on Communications helped coordinate the planning of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

Thaddeus Ellerbe (Chair of Special Committee on Communications) will meet with Brigitta Urban-Mathieux (acting Executive Secretary for Domestic Names Committee) after the Domestic Names Committee meeting, to define the role of that committee and figure out how our time can best be spent.

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### Staff Report

The DNC did not meet in February, so this report covers the period since the January 12 meeting.

Following the retirement at the end of December of Glenn Guempel, USGS and BGN Executive Secretary for Domestic Names, the USGS National Geospatial Program welcomed Brigitta (Gita) Urban-Mathieux into a 120-day detail into the position, effective January 15.

Following DNC Meeting 851, staff participated in a meeting of the Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication. A second meeting of the committee was held on February 15, during which the guidance document entitled “Cultural Sensitivity for Native American Names” was finalized. There was further discussion regarding the implementation of the guidance, which will be incorporated into a future revision of the PPP and into the name proposal form. It will also be added to the list of existing FAQs at the BGN’s [How Do I?](#) page.

Quarterly Review List 450, comprising 48 new name and name change proposals, was completed and posted online on February 6. Notices were sent via email to Federal partners, State Names Authorities, and all federally recognized Tribes and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs), inviting them to comment on any proposal in which they have an interest.

Staff attended the January 19 meeting of the Washington State Committee on Geographic Names (WCGN). There was discussion regarding a name that has been proposed to the WCGN by the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe: sc̓łəq̓. The WCGN noted that the spelling “does not fit” within existing State laws around geographic naming (Roman script must be used) but recognized that it is very significant to the S’Klallam peoples. The Tribe’s representatives at the meeting said that if sc̓łəq̓ could not be considered by the State, they would request that the literal English translation (“A Passage Through”) be considered. They would not want an alternate spelling to represent sc̓łəq̓. The BGN staff advised the WCGN that the BGN could likely accommodate

sc̣əq̣<sup>w</sup> if there are approved updates to Appendix G: Character Sets. The staff also confirmed that upon request the native name could be recorded in GNIS as a variant.

On January 24, staff attended a meeting of the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names. The ASBGHN continues to debate whether it will accept the recently approved “sq\_\_\_\_” changes for State use.

Following the BGN’s approval at its January meeting of name changes for the five unincorporated populated places (UPPLs) previously named “sq\_\_\_\_,” the relevant county governments and State Names Authorities were notified. The Department of the Interior also issued a [press release](#) and the list of all “sq\_\_\_\_” changes has been updated at the GNIS website. There has been some media coverage of the changes but to date no replies from the affected communities. For [Yokuts Valley](#) in Fresno County, California, there have been some inquiries as to whether the Sq\_\_\_\_ Valley Post Office is to be renamed. The U.S. Postal Service is reviewing the matter within its standard operating procedures for postal facility naming.

In September, the BGN approved changes to the names of a stream and valley in California that were formerly named “sq\_\_\_\_.” Tischler was contacted by a member of a local family that had submitted names for the Task Force’s consideration, but which were not selected as the replacements. The individual was advised how he could initiate new proposals for the BGN’s consideration.

One of the “sq\_\_\_\_” changes approved in September, Sq\_\_\_\_ Hill to [Múmawet](#), was featured in a recently published article: “Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians rename a local hill where native artifacts were discovered”: <https://kesq.com/news/2023/02/16/agua-caliente-band-of-cahuilla-indians-rename-a-local-hill-where-native-artifacts-were-discovered/> and <https://flipbook.pub/me-yah-whae/2022-fall-winter/?page=38>.

The USGS National Geospatial Program/User Engagement team is continuing its efforts to compile translations and pronunciations of the native names that were approved as a result of Secretary’s Order 3404. BGN staff are supporting the effort, which involved parsing the list of the new names submitted to the Task Force (TF) by or for a Tribal group, determining which were from or for Federally recognized Tribes, noting what information about translations and pronunciations were already included, and extracting the submitter contact information from the Task Force spreadsheet or from the individual submission letters or emails when needed. BGN staff noted any TF selection discrepancies or potential issues that might result in BGN proposals or inquiries from Tribes. The team plans to post a table, including links to audio pronunciations, at the BGN website.

The USGS National Geospatial Program alerted the staff to an inquiry from the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (University of Texas at Austin) regarding the use of “a deeply problematic name of ‘Dead Indian Mountain’” for a USGS topographic map. The individual was

informed of the process for renaming the associated [natural feature](#), which if approved, would likely lead to a renaming of the map. To date, no proposal has been received.

Discussions are taking place regarding efforts to change the names of several geographic features in Monroe County, Pennsylvania that contain the word “Sambo.” In addition to the proponent, who has been working with the community for several years to suggest replacement names, the staff of State Representative Tarah Probst and Congressman Matt Cartwright have offered their assistance.

On February 2, the staff met with the newly appointed chair of the Connecticut State Names Committee to provide an overview of BGN policies and procedures; the role of a State Names Authority; and to review proposals that are pending in Connecticut.

On February 2, the staff attended a meeting of the Utah Geographic Names Committee, at which a number of pending proposals were reviewed. The chair of the UGNC also asked if there is an orientation packet for new SNAs; it was agreed that this is needed and something that the BGN should coordinate with the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (CoGNA).

On February 2, Sen. Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) introduced [S.267](#). The purpose of the bill is to retain the name [Devils Tower](#) for both the geographic feature and the populated place. In accordance with BGN Policy I, this prevents the BGN from considering any name change proposal until April 3, 2025 at the soonest. The National Park Service [website](#) for Devils Tower National Monument provides an overview of the efforts to change the name.

On February 3, the staff met with the staff of the Alaska Board on Geographic Names, including a new researcher, to provide an overview of the BGN’s policies and procedures and to review proposals that are pending in Alaska.

On February 7 and March 7, staff attended two webinars hosted by the Maine Place Justice Advisory Council and Maine’s Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous, and Tribal Populations. These are two of eight “panel discussions and film screenings to engage the public in considering the often complex and contentious issues related to offensive place names and other problematic commemorative practices in the place now known as Maine.” At the March 7 session, Christine Johnson, Executive Secretary of CoGNA, provided an overview of existing State and Federal policies and procedures and the role of State Names Authorities in the process.

On February 22, BGN members and staff participated in a meeting with representatives of the Geographical Names Board of Canada and a number of Canadian provincial naming boards to share experiences regarding changes to derogatory names.

The California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN) held a special meeting on February 22 to provide an update on how it is implementing [Assembly Bill 2022](#), which “requires the term ‘sq\_\_\_’ to be removed from all geographic features and place names in the state.”

Although this word has been changed at the Federal level, there are a number of “administrative” (manmade/cultural) features in California that continue to include it. The CACGN outlined its processes and a timeline and noted that while the bill applies currently to “sq\_\_\_” named features, it may be expanded to other words considered derogatory. It was agreed that any proposals to rename natural features would continue to be directed to the BGN.

The CACGN also announced that the California Natural Resources Agency will be hiring a Manager of Geographic Names to assist with the implementation of AB 2022; see <https://www.calcareers.ca.gov/CalHrPublic/Jobs/JobPosting.aspx?JobControlId=358938>. The application closes on 3/13/2023.

Staff attended a meeting of the Hawaii Board on Geographic Names on March 1.

The chair of the Wyoming Board of Geographic Names requested some background information on the changes to all “n\_\_\_r” names in 1963 and “j\_p” names in 1974.

The USGS New York Water Science Center inquired about the name of [Unity Island](#) (formally [Sq\\_\\_\\_ Island](#)) near Buffalo, specifically why it was not included in the list of “sq\_\_\_” changes posted at the BGN webpage. They were informed that the BGN had already made the change in 2017. The science center noted that it is updating the names of any monitoring stations that include the “sq\_\_\_” word.

At its January meeting, the DNC discussed a proposal that had been submitted to name a small lake near Minneapolis. Because the State of Minnesota has a specific process for managing geographic names (requiring a petition signed by 15 local residents and a county hearing), the staff wished to know if it should proceed, noting that the proponent seems disinclined to follow the State’s guidelines (he commented “This proposal is for the USGS, not for the State of Minnesota.”). The DNC requested that the staff proceed, with the understanding that without local or State input, the likelihood of approval is slim. This also applies to several other cases that have been pending in Minnesota for some time.

The same proponent (of the lake name) also proposed new names for three bodies of water and a stream in Colorado, which were also processed by the staff (in one case, the local park authority stated it would not support a proposal to name the lake but the proponent wished to proceed). Since the January meeting, the same proponent submitted an additional 28 proposals: five name and application changes and 23 new names, for features located in Colorado, Idaho, Minnesota, Oregon, Texas, and Utah. The staff reviewed and acknowledged each one, with an outline of the next steps for each case. Immediately following receipt of the acknowledgments, the proponent responded with a request that “all my proposals be withdrawn” and “sorry to waste your time.” For the proposals that were already review listed, all parties will be notified that they do not need to proceed.

A proposal has been received from a representative of Indigenous Youths of Flagstaff to change the name of [Agassiz Peak](#), located on San Francisco Mountain in Arizona, to [Öo'mawki](#); it will be

added to the next review list. This follows a previous request to change the name to Oomawki. The latter proponent will be advised of the new proposal. The existing name commemorates the biologist and geologist Jean Louis Rodolphe Agassiz, whose theories, according to one online account, “have been criticized as implicitly supporting scientific racism.” The word “Öo'mawki” is reported to be from the Hopi language and so the proponent has been advised of the newly developed guidance on Cultural Sensitivity for Native American Names, and asked to solicit input from the Hopi Tribe, as well as from other Tribes with a traditional connection to the area.

The BGN has received a proposal to change the name of Mount Washington in New Hampshire to Agiocochook; it will be added to the next Review List. The proponent suggested that “State recognized Tribes [sic]” should be consulted for their opinions, to which she was advised that the Federal requirements for Tribal consultation, as outlined in Policy X: Tribal Geographic Names, apply only to federally recognized Tribes. She was encouraged to solicit input from any party that might have an interest. The New Hampshire Board on Geographic Names informed the BGN staff that they were also contacted by the proponent and that they too will solicit comments from appropriate stakeholders. The same proponent has also submitted a proposal to change the name of the Baker River in New Hampshire.

In 2012, the BGN rejected a proposal to change the name of Brown Island in Massachusetts to Crowninshield Island. Although the latter name began to be used by the Trustees of Reservations after Louise duPont Crowninshield donated the island to the organization in 1955, the BGN, in rejecting the change, cited the objections of the Town government. (The State Names Authority recommended approval.) The proponent of the 2012 change is asking the BGN to revisit its decision, noting that the local government now supports the change. He added that this change of opinion has to date been only verbal but that he will seek written support if the BGN agrees it will reopen the case.

A representative of the USGS Office of the Bureau Approving Official (BAO) (the office that reviews the content of scientific reports) contacted the staff to discuss discrepancies between the names of volcanoes used in the research and science communities vs. the names in GNIS. The BAO was reminded that all Federal documents must reflect the names established as official by the BGN and listed in GNIS, but that anyone can submit a proposal to add or change a name to recognize local and/or published use.

*Alta Magazine* inquired as to how many proposals the BGN has received “to change the name of a place that has been named after a settler/colonist who committed atrocities against Indigenous people.” The reporter was provided with a list of changes approved in the past two decades.

A Senior Cartographic Editor at Harper Collins reported that they are updating *The Times Comprehensive Atlas of the World* and wished to know the status of efforts to rename Mount Evans, Colorado; whether the former community of Sq Harbor in Alaska should continue to be labeled (it is now marked “historical” in GNIS); and why S.O. 3404 did not include a change to the name of the City of Sq Lake in Minnesota (she was advised that because it is incorporated it is outside the BGN’s purview).

*The Philadelphia Inquirer* asked about what defines a natural feature; whether named features have specific geographic boundaries; how long the naming process takes; what percentage of features are unnamed; and various other process and procedure questions.

An article published online by the NPR affiliate KUOW refers to a possible effort to change the name of [Hood Canal](#), in the belief that the feature is not a canal: [KUOW - Change the channel? New \(or very old\) name sought for Hood Canal](#). The chair of the Washington Committee on Geographic Names informed the staff that there are “active local discussions regarding this matter,” but that the WCGN “has not processed any name changes for this resource.”

In January, the BGN approved a name change from [Negro Ridge](#) to [Malvin Brown Ridge](#) (Oregon); a number of news articles focused on the decision and the proponent requested that several individuals affiliated with the Triple Nickles be notified of the decision.

The staff participated in discussions with the Census Bureau regarding a proposal that the BGN is expected to receive soon to change the name of the unincorporated community of [Hogansburg](#) in Franklin County, New York to [Akwesasne](#). There were concerns that GNIS contained entries for both names, whereas they apply to the same location (this has since been resolved and the duplicate entry has been deleted). The area that encompasses [Hogansburg](#) may soon be incorporated into the neighboring St. Regis Mohawk Reservation, which led to a discussion of the BGN’s Policy X regarding reservation lands vs. Tribal Trust lands. It was agreed that until the land is transferred, a name change proposal should be submitted to the BGN.

A columnist with *The Washington Post* Department of Data inquired regarding “the most common animal placenames in the U.S.,” as well as whether “the data-journalist-famous GNIS” reflects “the Interior Department’s [recent changes to a word that it] says has historically been used as an offensive ethnic, racial and sexist slur, particularly for Indigenous women,” and “which state has the most Native American placenames!?” The resulting [article](#) was published on February 23.

A reporter at *The New York Times* inquired as to the availability of past BGN Action Lists; he was informed that only the most current version is posted and that previous ones are not retained.

The Osage Nation inquired about submitting a counterproposal to [Buffalo Lookout](#) (Arkansas), a name that is on Review List 450. She indicated that there is an Osage name for the feature. No proposal has yet been received.

In anticipation of the item on today’s docket regarding a name change for [Mount Evans](#), Colorado, there have been a number of inquiries throughout the reporting period as to the status. On February 28, the BGN was informed that Governor Polis recommends approval of the change to [Mount Blue Sky](#). Several news articles appeared ahead of today’s meeting, including <https://www.cpr.org/2023/03/03/mount-evans-renaming-mount-blue-sky>, <https://www.cbsnews.com/colorado/news/gov-jared-polis-mount-evans-name-change-mount->

[blue-sky/](#), and <https://coloradosun.com/2023/03/03/mount-evans-name-change-colorado-mount-blue-sky/>.

The THPO for the Winnebago Tribe inquired regarding pending proposals in Nebraska and the Federal name change process.

A representative of Castine Friends contacted the BGN to express concerns regarding ongoing efforts to change the names of two islands in the Town of Castine that are currently named “Negro.” The Town Selectboard has submitted proposals to change the names (see Review List 450), but Castine Friends is questioning the history of the existing names, as well as the Town’s authority to submit replacements, in the belief that “the BGN makes changes only if the community associated with the name asks the USBGN to do so.” He also believes that changing names that have been charted since the late 18th century would cause confusion. He contends that the Town’s review process was inadequate and that there was no option for respondents to a survey to suggest “no change.” Discussions with the owner of one of the islands are also ongoing.

In May 2021, the BGN received proposals from The Wilderness Society, on behalf of a consortium that included the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, to change the names of three features (creek, peak, and gulch) that are currently named “Jeff Davis” (see Review List 444). Following extensive consultation by the Forest Service and BLM with other Tribes with a traditional connection to the area, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (SBT) have submitted counterproposals for two of the three names (creek, peak). These will be added to the next quarterly review list, and all interested parties will be asked once again for their opinions. The SBT has no objection to the proposal to rename the gulch.

A proposal was received to apply the new name to a small unnamed lake on the proponent’s property in Brown County, Indiana. The BGN’s proposal form includes the statement: “Please note that the BGN will only accept proposals for names that are intended to honor a person or persons deceased at least five years. The BGN will disapprove names that could be construed to honor living persons.” In response to the question “Is the name commemorative?”, the proponent checked “no,” followed by “This lake is on a newly acquired family property. We would like to name the lake after our family surname.”

Staff provided further technical assistance to the USGS Congressional Affairs Office and staffers of Rep. Greg Murphy (North Carolina) regarding efforts to apply new commemorative names to six tidal creeks (classified as “bay” in GNIS) in Carteret County and within Cape Lookout National Seashore. The individuals being honored died in a plane crash in February 2022, so the BGN could not consider the names until early 2027. Legislation has been drafted to establish the names.

At the January meeting, the BGN approved a proposal to apply the name Kitty Payne Creek to a previously unnamed stream in Adams County, Pennsylvania; an [article](#) appeared in the local paper.

A Freedom of Information Act request was received for “Any and all documents related to the naming of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal in Illinois.” The inquirer was informed that the name has never been the subject of review or decision by the BGN, and as such, there is no subject file on the naming. It was simply added to GNIS during Phase I of data collection (1978-81) because it has been labeled on USGS topographic maps since 1900.

On March 1, staff attended a demonstration given by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency of the revamped foreign names database and website. After a four-year modernization effort, the site provides greatly improved capabilities and allows for more robust queries and results. It also includes links to a revised Underseas Feature proposal form and to an application for submitting database additions and corrections; it is also capable of generating Foreign Names Committee reports.

Staff attended Meeting 409 of the BGN’s Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names (ACAN), at which a number of new proposals were considered. An updated Antarctica name proposal form has been posted to the BGN website and the Antarctic Names database is now available and searchable; see <https://www.usgs.gov/us-board-on-geographic-names/antarctic-names>.

The staff continues to work toward making BGN documents and the webpages Section 508 compliant.



**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES  
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE  
DOCKET  
March 2023**

Unless otherwise specified, in accordance with the BGN’s Policy X: Tribal Geographic Names, a link to the Quarterly Review List containing each proposal was sent to all federally recognized Tribes, and to Tribal Historic Preservation Officers for which an email address was available. The Tribal authorities were given 60 days to comment on any proposal. The Otoe-Missouria Tribal Historic Preservation Office responded to the Review List 443 notice, stating it has “no objection to the proposed name changes on Review List 443.” If no response(s) were received regarding a proposal, it is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion.

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

Change **Negro Mesa** (FID 185382) to **Clay Mesa**, Colorado  
(Bureau of Land Management)  
(Review List 439)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/185382>

|                       |                                                          |             |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Delta County Commissioners [proponent]                   | Support     |
| State Names Authority | Colorado                                                 | Support     |
| Federal agency        | Bureau of Land Management                                | Support     |
| Tribes                | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response |

This proposal is to change the name of **Negro Mesa**, a 1.5-mile by 0.2-mile mesa in Delta County and on Bureau of Land Management land, to **Clay Mesa**. It was submitted by the Delta County Commissioners in association with another proposal to change the name of nearby **Negro Creek** to **Clay Creek** (see Category IV). The name is derived from the abundant clay soil found in the area.

A previous proposal to rename the adjacent **Negro Creek** to **Hops Creek** was not supported by the County Commissioners. (That proponent did not submit a proposal to rename the mesa.) Their February 19, 2020 meeting minutes reported that “Hops is not an appropriate name since we have not grown Hops in the valley until the last few years and [the county board chair] was hoping for something more historical or fit closer [sic].” The chair spoke with the student council at Cedaredge High School and they offered to take it on as a class challenge. According to the minutes, “Commissioner Suppes said that he offered to provide a pizza party to the winning class so they took it upon themselves and came up with a process on their own and how they wanted to do it and each class came up with a potential name for the creek and mesa along with a description as to why they chose those names.”

The four names from each grade that were submitted to the Commissioners were:

- “Clay Creek and Clay Mesa because of the adobe clay that it sits on and fun that it is near the trap club and they shoot clay pigeons” (freshmen)
- “Mouth Creek and Mouth Mesa because of its proximity to Tongue Creek” (sophmores)
- “Kubeba Creek and Kubeba Mesa which is Swahili name meaning bear and they like that because it correlated with the mascot of Cedaredge High School which is a bruin and because of the wildlife in Delta County” (juniors)
- Colorful Creek and Colorful Mesa due to the sign at the border of the state that says “Welcome to Colorful Colorado” (seniors)

Negro Mesa has been labeled on USGS maps since 1962. No references to the pejorative form of the name have been found. There are no other features listed in GNIS for Colorado with the name Negro Mesa.

**Middleton**, Florida  
(not review listed)

28.747472, -82.009872

|                       |                             |              |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Local government      | Wildwood City Commission    | Support      |
|                       | Sumter County Commissioners | Support      |
| State Names Authority | Florida                     | No objection |

This proposal is to make official the name Middleton for a new development (unincorporated community) within the City of Wildwood in Sumter County. It was submitted by the Senior Manager of Land & Title for The Villages of Lake-Sumter, Inc., who describes it as “an all-new community that offers housing, shopping, dining and recreation experiences.”

The community is not yet inhabited, but several dozen new homes have been sold and residents are expected to move in in May 2023; see also [www.mymiddleton.com](http://www.mymiddleton.com). The proponent reports:

Middleton is being created by the same developer and family, the Morse family, which brought you The Villages. Throughout the development of The Villages, the Morse family has used its family history, the area’s history and local lore when naming different areas. Part of the Morse family, the Sebalds, owned a brewing company called ‘Middletown Brewery’ in Middletown, Ohio. [This does not appear to be correct, although the family did own a brewery in Middletown.] The family has chosen to pay homage to this piece of their family history for this new community, by utilizing a similar yet unique name in Middleton. Another integral aspect of where the name Middleton comes from, is the general location of this new town. Middleton lies within the central part of The Villages, and its name is a nod to that unique positioning.

The Sumter County Assistant County Administrator and County 911 Coordinator, in recommending approval of the name, stated “The creation of a new populated place name for Middleton enhances the safety of Sumter County citizens and visitors by accurate and rapid locating a home or business in any emergency requiring fire, life and/or safety services. Clear addressing also provides for efficient mail and parcel delivery to homes and businesses. The creation of the name Middleton positively enhances both addressing and safety in one of the fastest growing population centers in the State of Florida.”

An April 2022 news article noted “The Wildwood City Commission on Monday approved by a 4-0 vote the creation of the Middleton Community Development District A.”

Change **Chums Corner** (FID 623278) to **Chums Corners**, Michigan  
(not review listed)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/623278>

|                       |                                     |              |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Local government      | Blair Township Trustees             | Support      |
|                       | Grand Traverse County Commissioners | Support      |
| State Names Authority | Michigan                            | No objection |

This change would correct the name of the small unincorporated community of Chums Corner in Blair Township in Grand Traverse County to Chums Corners. The name Chums Corner has been labeled on USGS maps since 1956.

A local resident stated:

Somewhere along the way it got changed to Chums Corner. Old Newspapers have it as Corners. The Schumuckal [sic] Family (Traverse City Shell Products) have lived there forever and give the gas station's location as Chums Corners. I have lived in the neighborhood for 55 yrs and have only known it as Chums Corners. Does Corner even make sense if it describes a crossroads area? Fix it USGS.

GNIS lists four other crossroads communities in Grand Traverse County with “Corner” in their names. None have “Corners.” The Census Bureau records Chums Corner Census Designated Place.

Michigan’s Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs lists many businesses registered in the area with a variety of names (Chums/Chum’s and Corner/Corners). The Schmuckal Oil Company’s gas station is registered as “CHUMS CORNER SHELL” among other registered assumed names for the business entity.

Because this is an apparent difference between the official name in GNIS and reported local and historical use, BGN staff contacted the township and county governments for input. The County Clerk provided an original 1956 plat for “Chum’s Corners.”

Change **Seibold Lake** (FID 651811) to **Boe Lake**  
and change **Boe Lake** (FID 640321) to **Seibold Lake**, Minnesota  
(Review List 449)

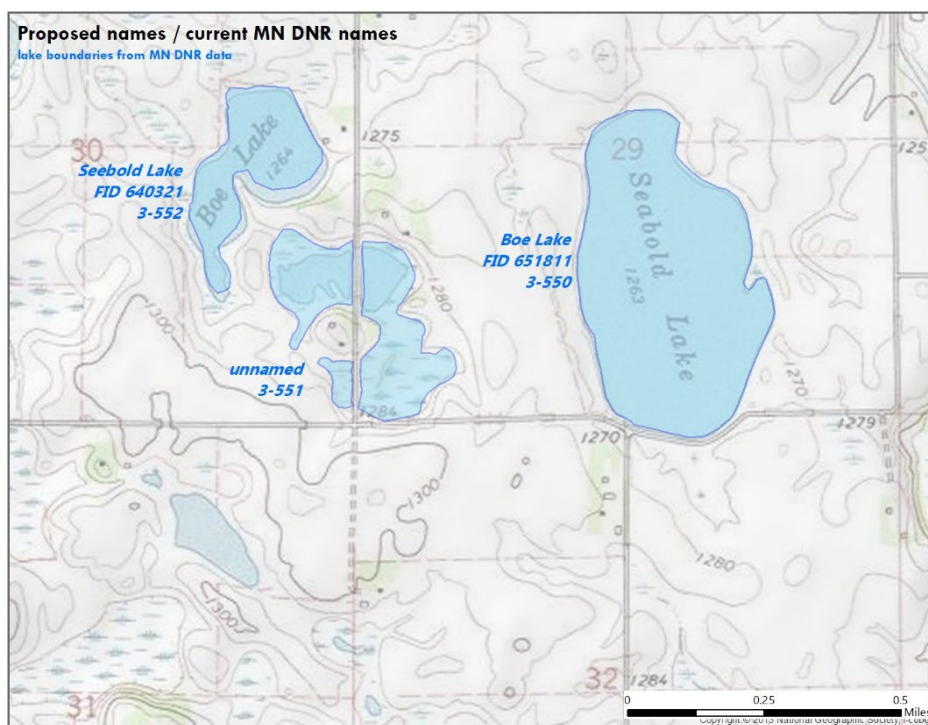
Boe Lake: <https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/651811>

Seibold Lake: <https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/640321>

|                       |                                                          |             |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Becker County Commissioners                              | Support     |
| State Names Authority | Minnesota                                                | Support     |
| Tribes                | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response |

These proposals are to correct the names of two lakes in Hamden Township in Becker County, to reflect historical and local use. The lake currently named **Boe Lake** would be changed to **Seibold Lake**, and **Seibold Lake** would be changed to **Boe Lake**.

USGS maps have shown the names in their current locations since 1966 when the first large-scale maps of the area were made.



The 1911 *Standard Atlas of Becker County, Minnesota* showed C.W. Seibold owning land at the location of the current **Boe Lake**; J.W.A. Boe owning land east of the current **Seibold Lake**; and Ole Boe owning land between the two lakes. The 1929 edition showed only J.W.A. Boe still owning land in the same location. The 1907 *A Pioneer History of Becker County, Minnesota* reported the same spelling of C.W. Seibold.

The 1925 *Gazetteer of Meandered Lakes of Minnesota* was the first to apply the current names. Boe Lake was noted as being dry and the name applied to the lake located between the current Boe Lake and Seabold Lake.

The proponent reports that the current Boe Lake did not form until 1953.

The 1968 *An Inventory of Minnesota Lakes* continued the use of these names. The name Boe Lake applied to basin 3-551, while basin 3-552 was unnamed. The 1987 Protected Waters Inventory for Becker County continued the use of these names.

The proponent reported that a 1971 Becker County plat map labeled basin 3-550 as Boe Lake and basin 3-551 as Seabold Lake but that later maps reverted to the official Minnesota names.

## II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Change Valle (FID 24672) to Grand Canyon Junction, Arizona  
(Review List 443)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/24672>

|                       |                                                          |             |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Coconino County Supervisors                              | Support     |
| State Names Authority | Arizona                                                  | Opposed     |
| Tribes                | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response |
| Other                 | City of Williams                                         | No response |
|                       | National Park Service                                    | No opinion  |
|                       | Census Bureau                                            | No opinion  |

This proposal is to change the name of the unincorporated community of Valle in Coconino County to Grand Canyon Junction. It was submitted by a member of the [Grand Canyon Junction Coalition](#), who suggests the change “would not only reduce confusion but is thought to facilitate economic development of the area” and “signifies the junction of Arizona State Route 64 and U.S. Hwy. 180 . . . the junction of two major arteries for vehicular traffic to and from Grand Canyon National Park. [GRCA]”

The proponent reports that the community “has at all times been referred by local residents as Grand Canyon Junction, or just ‘The Junction’ for short,” and that “the name Valle is often confused by the large number of non-residents visiting the Grand Canyon with ‘the Valley’ of ‘the Valley of the Sun,’ which is a colloquial term for the Phoenix metropolitan area approximately 200 miles to the South.” He notes that “the community known as Valle or Grand Canyon Junction is located in an unincorporated area of Coconino County, and is locally understood to encompass approximately 12 townships, or 430 square miles in Northern Arizona.”

The coalition’s website reports that it is “a group of residents and stakeholders interested in growing our community, living comfortably off-grid and crafting a vision for the area’s future. We value the people, businesses, wildlife and scenic vistas of our area, and want to ensure the future is one that we can all be proud of.” The coalition ran a survey in 2020; as of November 8, 86% of participants supported the change, 9% were opposed, and 5% were unsure. Approximately half of the participants were area residents, while the rest were non-residents who own property in the area.

The coalition also reports, “A fitting name for the region can facilitate the type of attitude, pride and vision that will bring meaningful change to our community and Northern Arizona . . . Renaming Valle to ‘Grand Canyon Junction’ would facilitate development, reduce confusion and protect scenic beauty. An attractive name can facilitate increased investment in the area. An appealing and geographically appropriate name permits the area to be marketed for what it is, an important Gateway Community to [GRCA]. The attractive name reminds the community of the unique topography and scenic beauty travelers experience on their way to and from [GRCA].”

The name Valle first appeared on USGS maps at this location in 1989. Earlier maps applied the name to a railroad siding just to the west; until 2021, when administrative features and locales were removed, this was recorded in GNIS as a locale named Valle Siding. Valle Airport, adjacent to the community, was first labeled on USGS maps in 1962. A small reservoir near the siding is named Valle Tank and provided the name for the 1:24,000-scale topographic map.

In 2020, the Coconino County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution supporting the change to Grand Canyon Junction. The Mayor of the Town of Tusayan, located at the southern entrance of GRCA, wrote a letter in support. (In 2014, the Town [considered changing its name](#) in part due to reported confusion with Tucson but ultimately did not change the name; one of the potential names was Town of Grand Canyon.)

A populated place named Grand Canyon (BGN 1988) is located within GRCA, with Grand Canyon Village recorded as a variant name (the Census Bureau also records Grand Canyon Village Census Designated Place.)

The Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names (ASBGHN) does not recommend approval of the proposal, stating, “Within the purview of the Board, the applicant has not met the threshold that this is a historically driven name change.” The ASBGHN has concerns about potential confusion with the populated place named Grand Canyon in GRCA 27 miles to the north and the local name “Grand Canyon Junction” for the Interstate 40/AZ 64 interchange in the City of Williams 27 miles to the south. The interchange name is signed on I-40.

ASBGHN also had concerns about the related Valle Census Designated Place, citing information provided by the Census Bureau, which noted that many “Valle” features are still nearby, not many places using the name “Grand Canyon Junction,” and that the U.S. Postal Service records Williams as the only allowed mailing address name. (The Grand Canyon Junction Coalition is not

currently requesting that “Grand Canyon Junction” be recognized as a mailing address, nor asking to establish a ZIP code.)

Change **Mount Evans** (FID 204716) to **Mount Blue Sky, Mount Cheyenne-Arapaho, Mount Evans** [commemoration change], **Mount Rosalie, Mount Sisty, or Mount Soule**, Colorado  
(Roosevelt and Arapaho National Forests/Mount Evans Wilderness and Pike and San Isabel National Forests)  
(Review Lists 435, 441, 442, 443, 447)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/204716>

These six proposals were submitted to the BGN between 2019 and 2022 to change the name of Mount Evans.

### Recommendations and comments

#### **Mount Blue Sky** (Review List 442):

|                       |                                                                              |             |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Clear Creek County Commissioners                                             | Support     |
| State Names Authority | CGNAB / Governor Jared Polis                                                 | Support     |
| Federal Agency        | U.S. Forest Service                                                          | Support     |
| Tribes                | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X                     | No response |
|                       | Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma [proponent]                            | Support     |
|                       | Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, Montana | Opposed     |
|                       | Northern Arapaho Tribe                                                       | Support     |
| Other                 | Denver Mountain Parks [local land manager]                                   | Support     |
|                       | Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action                                       | Support     |
|                       | American Whitewater                                                          | Support     |
|                       | Arkansas Valley Audubon Society [Colorado]                                   | Support     |
|                       | Audubon Rockies                                                              | Support     |
|                       | Boulder County Audubon Society                                               | Support     |
|                       | Colorado Call to Action and Catholic Network                                 | Support     |
|                       | Colorado Democratic Party, Energy & Environment Initiative                   | Support     |
|                       | Colorado Maryknoll Affiliates                                                | Support     |
|                       | Colorado Mountain Club                                                       | Support     |
|                       | Colorado Physicians for Social Responsibility                                | Support     |
|                       | Colorado Sierra Club                                                         | Support     |
|                       | Community for Sustainable Energy                                             | Support     |
|                       | Conservation Colorado                                                        | Support     |
|                       | CO Businesses for a Livable Climate                                          | Support     |
|                       | Defenders of Wildlife                                                        | Support     |

|  |                                                                                |         |
|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
|  | Denver Metro Ecosocialists                                                     | Support |
|  | EcoFlight                                                                      | Support |
|  | Elyria Swansea community leader                                                | Support |
|  | Elyria Swansea Green House Connection Center                                   | Support |
|  | Evergreen Audubon Society                                                      | Support |
|  | Fort Collins Friends Meeting                                                   | Support |
|  | Get Outdoors Leadville!                                                        | Support |
|  | Great Old Broads for Wilderness                                                | Support |
|  | Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Mile High Broad Band                          | Support |
|  | Great Old Broads for Wilderness Northern San Juan Broad Band                   | Support |
|  | High Country Conservation Advocates                                            | Support |
|  | Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting and the Outdoors (HECHO)                   | Support |
|  | Indivisible Ambassadors                                                        | Support |
|  | Information Network for Responsible Mining                                     | Support |
|  | I-70/Vasquez Blvd Citizens Advisory Committee                                  | Support |
|  | Latino Outdoors Colorado                                                       | Support |
|  | Lincoln Hills Cares                                                            | Support |
|  | Littleton Business Alliance                                                    | Support |
|  | Mental Health & Inclusion Ministries Founder and Community Chaplain            | Support |
|  | Mestaa'êhehe Coalition                                                         | Support |
|  | Moms Clean Air Force, Colorado Chapter                                         | Support |
|  | Montbello Neighborhood Improvement Association                                 | Support |
|  | Mothers Out Front                                                              | Support |
|  | National Audubon Society                                                       | Support |
|  | National Parks Conservation Association                                        | Support |
|  | NAACP members and former city council members and local Planning Commissioners | Support |
|  | Next 100 Colorado                                                              | Support |
|  | North Range Concerned Citizens                                                 | Support |
|  | Quiet Use Coalition                                                            | Support |
|  | RapidShift Network                                                             | Support |
|  | Rising Routes                                                                  | Support |
|  | Rocky Mountain Wild                                                            | Support |
|  | San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council                                              | Support |
|  | Sheep Mountain Alliance                                                        | Support |



|  |                                                                                                      |         |
|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
|  | Sisters of Loretto Earth Network                                                                     | Support |
|  | Small Business Alliance                                                                              | Support |
|  | Spirit of the Sun                                                                                    | Support |
|  | Southwest Organization for Sustainability                                                            | Support |
|  | System Change Not Climate Change                                                                     | Support |
|  | The Wilderness Society                                                                               | Support |
|  | Together Colorado, a 40+ year statewide interfaith organization/ part of the Faith In Action network | Support |
|  | Unite North Metro Denver                                                                             | Support |
|  | Wall of Women                                                                                        | Support |
|  | Western Colorado Alliance                                                                            | Support |
|  | Western Resource Advocates                                                                           | Support |
|  | Western Slope Conservation Center                                                                    | Support |
|  | Wild Connections                                                                                     | Support |
|  | Womxn from the Mountain                                                                              | Support |
|  | Working for Racial Equity                                                                            | Support |
|  | Several hundred individuals                                                                          | Support |

**Mount Cheyenne-Arapaho** (Review List 443):

|        |                                                                                          |             |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X                                 | No response |
|        | Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, Montana [proponent] | Support     |
|        | Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado                      | Opposed     |

**Mount Evans** [commemoration change] (Review List 443):

|        |                                                          |             |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response |
| Other  | Denver resident [proponent]                              | Support     |

**Mount Rosalie** (Review List 441):

|        |                                                          |             |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response |
| Other  | Englewood resident [proponent]                           | Support     |
|        | Univ. of Colorado Denver professor                       | Support     |

**Mount Sisty** (Review List 447):

|        |                                                          |             |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|

|       |                             |         |
|-------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Other | Denver resident [proponent] | Support |
|-------|-----------------------------|---------|

**Mount Soule** (Review List 435):

|        |                                                          |             |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response |
| Other  | Denver resident [proponent]                              | Support     |
|        | 1 individual                                             | Support     |

**Any change:**

|        |                                                                     |           |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Tribes | Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado | Support*  |
|        | Ute Mountain Ute Tribe                                              | Support*  |
| Other  | American Indian Movement of Colorado                                | Support** |
|        | Culture In Place                                                    | Support** |
|        | Approx. 25 individuals                                              | Opposed   |

\* with emphasis and public education of Ute ties to Clear Creek County prior to the arrival of the Cheyenne and Arapaho in the early 1800s

\*\* with Cheyenne and Arapaho translations included in name/English translation second in name

All six proposals state that the name should be changed because it honors John Evans (1814-1897), the second Territorial Governor of Colorado from 1862 to 1865. Evans was linked to the Sand Creek Massacre in 1864 in which U.S. Cavalry led by Colonel John Chivington attacked a village consisting of Cheyenne and Arapaho who had sought protection near Fort Lyon in present-day southeastern Colorado.

The six proposals, in the order received, are:

- Mount Soule (Review List 435), to honor Captain Silas Soule (1838-1865), who refused an order to participate in the Sand Creek Massacre
- Mount Rosalie (Review List 441), an earlier name that honored Rosalie Osborne Ludlow Bierstadt (1841-1893), after whom the artist Albert Bierstadt titled his 1866 painting of the summit (or a nearby summit) *A Storm in the Rocky Mountains, Mt. Rosalie*
- Mount Blue Sky (Review List 442), signifying the Arapaho, known as the Blue Sky People, and the Cheyenne's annual Blue Sky ceremony of renewal of life
- Mount Cheyenne-Arapaho (Review List 443), in honor of the Cheyenne and Arapaho killed in the Sand Creek Massacre
- Mount Evans (Review List 443), a commemoration change to honor Anne Evans (1871-1941), the daughter of Governor John Evans
- Mount Sisty (Review List 447), to honor Wilson Edward Sisty (1827-1889), who founded the Colorado Department of Wildlife and Fish

At various times during the review process, other names were suggested, including Mount Cheyenne Arapaho (no hyphen), Clear Creek Peak, Healing Way Peak, and retaining the name but honoring the Colorado golfer Chick Evans instead. Each of these were subsequently withdrawn.

## Location

Mount Evans is located in Clear Creek County and along the boundary of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and the Pike and San Isabel National Forests and in Mount Evans Wilderness. At an elevation of approximately 14,258 feet, the summit is the fourteenth highest peak in Colorado. Denver City and County Parks manages Summit Lake Park just below the summit, while Colorado Parks and Wildlife manages the Mount Evans State Wildlife Area approximately eight miles east of the summit.

According to the description at Wikipedia, “The peak is one of the characteristic Front Range peaks, dominating the western skyline of the Great Plains along with Pikes Peak, Longs Peak, and nearby Mount Bierstadt. Mount Evans can be seen from over 100 miles to the east, and many miles in other directions. Mount Evans dominates the Denver metropolitan area skyline, rising over 9,000 feet above the area. Mount Evans can be seen from points south of Castle Rock, up to (65 miles south) and as far north as Fort Collins (95 miles north), and from areas near Limon (105 miles east).”

The summit is located in an area that was granted to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes by the United States in the 1851 Fort Laramie Treaty. The subsequent 1861 Fort Wise Treaty excluded the summit from the Tribes’ lands. The Tribes’ present-day reservation is in western Oklahoma. The summit also appears to be in ancestral lands of the Ute Tribes, according to Robert W. Delaney’s 1974 *The Southern Ute People*. The Cheyenne and Arapaho formed an alliance in the early 1800s and they lived and hunted on the Great Plains.

## John Evans biography

The summit’s current name was given to commemorate John Evans (1814-1897), the second Territorial Governor of Colorado from 1862 to 1865. The proposals to change the name of Mount Evans cite his involvement in the Sand Creek Massacre, which occurred on November 29th, 1864, when U.S. Cavalry led by Colonel John Chivington attacked a village consisting of Cheyenne and Arapaho who had sought protection near Fort Lyon in present-day southeastern Colorado (for more details, see Mount Soule below, <https://www.nps.gov/sand/index.htm> and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sand\\_Creek\\_massacre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sand_Creek_massacre)).

Evans was one of the founders of Northwestern University and the University of Denver. As a result of his efforts to bring railroad service to Denver, he was responsible for the growth of Denver from a settlement to a city. Evans was forced to resign the governorship in 1865 for his role in instigating the Sand Creek Massacre.

In World War II, the United States liberty ship SS *John Evans* was named in his honor, and in 1963, he was inducted into the Hall of Great Westerners of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.

In May 2014 and November 2014, reports were issued by the [Northwestern University John Evans Study Committee](#) and by the [University of Denver John Evans Study Committee](#), respectively, both of which studied the role of Governor Evans in the Sand Creek Massacre. The DU report was described as “a summary of the outcome of a yearlong inquiry by [the Committee], a volunteer group of faculty, outside historians, descendant community representatives, and students and alumni representing the DU Native American community, into the role of the University of Denver’s founder in the Sand Creek Massacre of November 29, 1864.” The Northwestern study concluded, in part:

- [There was] no known evidence [that] indicates that Evans helped plan the Sand Creek Massacre or had any knowledge of it in advance. The extant evidence suggests that he did not consider the Indians at Sand Creek to be a threat and that he would have opposed the attack that took place.
- Evans nonetheless was one of several individuals who, in serving a flawed and poorly implemented federal Indian policy, helped create a situation that made the Sand Creek Massacre possible. In this regard, the most critical of his errors was his failure to fulfill his responsibility as superintendent of Indian Affairs to represent the best interests of Native people in Colorado.
- Evans’ conduct after the Sand Creek Massacre reveals a deep moral failure that warrants condemnation. While he denied any role in the massacre, he refused to acknowledge, let alone criticize, what had happened, even going so far as to defend and rationalize it. Regardless of Evans’ degree of culpability in failing to make every possible effort to protect the Cheyennes and Arapahos when they were most vulnerable, his response to the Sand Creek Massacre was reprehensibly obtuse and self-interested. His recollections of the event displayed complete indifference to the suffering inflicted on Cheyennes and Arapahos.

During the 21st century, Evans’s legacy came under renewed scrutiny for his beliefs regarding [Native Americans](#). Colorado State Historian David Halaas said, "When it came to Indians, Evans believed they didn’t have souls, that they were heathen savages, they were infernal—all words that he used to describe Indian people."

A letter signed by a number of organizations noted “Two Congressional committees and one military committee investigated the event, recognizing guilt on the part of the United States. Governor Evans was found culpable and was forced to resign in disgrace.”

See also

[https://www.historycolorado.org/sites/default/files/media/document/2019/Mss.00226\\_Governor or John Evans.pdf](https://www.historycolorado.org/sites/default/files/media/document/2019/Mss.00226_Governor%20John%20Evans.pdf) and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Evans\\_\(Colorado\\_governor\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Evans_(Colorado_governor)).

In November 2014, on the 150th anniversary of the Sand Creek Massacre, then-Governor of Colorado John Hickenlooper issued a formal apology on behalf of the State of Colorado to the descendants of the massacre. In August 2019, at a ceremony held outside the Colorado State

Capitol and attended by a number of representatives and leaders from the Northern Arapaho, Turtle Mountain Ojibwe, Lakota, Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute tribes, Governor Jared Polis signed executive orders reversing the two proclamations issued by Governor Evans that led to the massacre. Polis added, “This is an ongoing process to make amends with the sins of the past. But even though those proclamations were never legal, they have never, until this day, been officially rescinded.”

### **The naming of Mount Evans**

The name Mount Evans was first applied to the summit in the 1870s and first published on U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps in 1903. The earliest reported name is Mount Rosa; for additional details on this name, see below the proposal for Mount Rosalie. John Lathrop Jerome Hart, in his 1925 volume *Fourteen Thousand Feet*, reported that the name Mount Evans dates to 1870 when the name was given during a celebration in Greeley, Colorado. The name Evans Peak was used by the 1879 Wheeler Survey, while Mount Evans appeared on the 1881 maps of the Hayden Survey.

In early 1895, in response to a petition from the Denver Fortnightly Club (D.F.C.) and on the occasion of Evans’ upcoming 81st birthday, Colorado Senator James F. Drake introduced Senate Joint Resolution 15, which read:

Be It Resolved. By the Senate and House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Colorado, in view of the long and eminent services to the State of ex-Governor John Evans, and as a fitting recognition thereof, that the mountain situate in what is known as the ‘Platte Range’ in section twentyseven (27), township five (5) south, of range seventy-four (74) west, be, and the same hereby is named in honor of the ex-governor, and shall be hereafter known and designated as ‘Mount Evans.’

There is another summit also named Mount Evans [known in Colorado as “Mount Evans B”] in the Mosquito Range in Park County and Lake County, and at an elevation of 13,577 feet. The latter name reportedly dates to an 1886 USGS report and is associated with Evans Gulch, Little Evans Gulch, and South Evans Gulch. No proposals have been received to address any of these names.

GNIS lists 369 features nationwide named “Evans,” although it is unknown how many are named for Governor Evans. Colorado includes 14 locations, including the City of Evans in Weld County. Evans is the namesake for Evanston, Illinois; Evans Avenue in Denver; and possibly Evanston, Wyoming.

### **Previous names**

In 1914, Ellsworth Bethel, an expert on Colorado mountain naming and a member of the Colorado Mountain Club and the Colorado Academy of Sciences, wrote to the BGN about the history of names for Mount Evans. This letter is not available, but a 1956 BGN research card reported the information as “Bierstadt called Evans, Rosa, because he had nowhere else seen the

'alpenglow' in the Rockies." This letter may have been sent in response to a 1913 inquiry to the BGN about changing the name of the other Mount Evans (in Park County and Lake County). In 1925, Hart (*ibid.*) reported the same information in a letter to him from the BGN: "Bierstadt himself had named this peak (the present Mt. Bierstadt) Mount Rosalie [and] the peak a mile and half northeast of it (now Mt. Evans) Monte Rosa." This implies that the names Mount Rosa and Mount Rosalie were both in use for the two different summits (the present Mount Evans and Mount Bierstadt, respectively) for at least some time since 1866. For more details about the Mount Rosa and Mount Rosalie names, see the section below about the Mount Rosalie proposal.

## Details of Proposals

### Mount Soule (Review List 435)

*Proponent:* Denver resident

*Reason:* To commemorate Captain Silas Soule (1838-1865), who refused an order to participate in the Sand Creek Massacre. She reports that Cheyenne Traditionalists, other Cheyenne, other Native Americans and non-Native Americans with whom she has discussed the issue "have endorsed my suggestion and agreed it would be better to not reuse a name [Mount Cheyenne-Arapaho]." She claims she first discussed a name change in 1996 while visiting "Cheyenne Traditionalists leaders and other Cheyenne living in Oklahoma, who were descendants of the survivors of the Sand Creek Massacre."

*Biography of Silas Soule:*

Silas Soule was born in 1838 in Maine to an abolitionist family. In the 1850s, his family moved to Kansas, helped found the city of Lawrence, and were active in the Underground Railroad. He worked with John Brown in Kansas as he helped escaped enslaved African-Americans find freedom. In 1859, Soule gained local notoriety for helping an abolitionist escape from prison after being convicted in Missouri. Later that year, he joined a group of men who attempted to help John Brown escape from jail in Virginia (Brown refused the help). In 1860 he traveled to Colorado to try gold mining, but soon enlisted in the Union Army. He was stationed at Fort Lyon and worked with Major Edward Wynkoop to help maintain peace with local Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes in the area. He attended the meeting at Camp Weld between Governor John Evans, Colonel John Chivington (Commander of the Army in Colorado), and a group of Cheyenne and Arapaho under the leadership of Cheyenne Chief Black Kettle. In November 1864, Chivington led the 3rd Cavalry and some of the 1st Cavalry south towards Fort Lyon in order to conduct a campaign against hostile Tribes. He commandeered soldiers from Fort Lyon, including Soule.

At Fort Lyon, Chivington learned about a nearby encampment of Cheyenne and Arapaho at Sand Creek and planned to attack them before pursuing hostile warriors aligned with the Sioux. Despite protests from some officers at the fort who knew the Cheyenne and Arapaho at Sand Creek were peaceful, Chivington led an attack on the village at Sand Creek on November 29, 1864. Chivington's forces numbered 675 men (and included four 12-pound howitzers) whereas the village numbered about 750. The village at Sand Creek consisted of over thirty Cheyenne and Arapaho leaders as well as large numbers of women, children, and the elderly. Young men were

either hunting for buffalo before the winter or had refused to settle under the assumed protection of Fort Lyon. As the attack began early in the morning, Black Kettle raised a U.S. flag along with a white banner he had been told would indicate the village's peaceful intentions. During the attack, which lasted until the afternoon, U.S. soldiers indiscriminately slaughtered the Cheyenne and Arapaho, including those who did not fight back as well as fleeing women and children, mutilating their bodies. Mutilation of corpses by U.S. soldiers continued the following day. Between 150 and 200 Cheyenne and Arapaho were massacred, including over a dozen important tribal leaders, and an equal amount wounded. U.S. casualties numbered 24 killed and 52 wounded. Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Sioux warriors retaliated in response to the massacre.

During the massacre, Soule noticed the U.S. flag alongside the white banner, which indicated the protection promised by Fort Lyon. He, along with Lieutenant Joseph Cramer, ordered their men to hold their fire and not participate in the massacre.

Soule wrote to Wynkoop about the horrors of the massacre and testified against Chivington in a military investigation in Denver. Soule was appointed to the Denver Provost Guard and reportedly became the target of many murder attempts by Chivington's supporters. On April 23, 1865 (just three weeks after getting married), and after responding to reports of a drunken disturbance, Soule was shot and killed by Private Charles W. Squier of the Second Colorado Cavalry. After Squier escaped from jail, Soule's supporters began to claim that Chivington or his supporters directed the murder. However, there is no evidence that Squier knew Chivington, and Squier was not present at the Sand Creek Massacre.

Soule was buried with full military honors in Denver's City Cemetery and was later relocated to present-day Riverside Cemetery. The annual Sand Creek Massacre Spiritual Healing Run/Walk, which began in 1998, eventually included a ceremony at Soule's grave site, and a plaque honoring Soule is located near the site of his death. See also <https://www.nps.gov/sand/learn/historyculture/the-life-of-silas-soule.htm>.

A number of features in Maine are named "Soule," but none in Colorado.

### **Mount Rosalie (Review List 441)**

*Proponent:* Englewood resident

*Reason:* To restore one of the names that were applied to the summit in the 19th century and to honor Rosalie Osborne Ludlow Bierstadt (1841-1893), after whom the artist Albert Bierstadt titled his 1866 painting of the summit *A Storm in the Rocky Mountains, Mt. Rosalie*.

The proponent of this name states she "would like to see it go back to its original recorded name . . . There isn't a 14,000-foot peak named for a woman in Colorado and although Rosalie Bierstadt was not a mountaineer, her name for this Front Range Peak is tied to the history of the Colorado Territory when explorers and surveyors were first discovering this new land." She adds "There may have been Native American names for this peak, however they were not recorded and are lost."

The naming of the summit as Mount Rosa and later Mount Rosalie was described in 1890 by William Byers, a surveyor and Denver newspaper editor. In 1863, Byers led the artist Albert Bierstadt on a trek to the present-day Mount Evans area where he was inspired to paint *A Storm in the Rocky Mountains, Mt. Rosalie*. Byers reported that Bierstadt gave the highest summit the name Mount Rosa after Monte Rosa in the Alps. Other sources reported that the name was given because Bierstadt had not seen alpenglow anywhere else in the Rocky Mountains.

Fitz Hugh Ludlow, a friend and traveling companion of Bierstadt, reported the name of the summit as Monte Rosa, in characteristically flowery prose:

That glorious roseate mountain stood nameless among the peaks in its virgin vail of snow [sic]; so Bierstadt, by right of first portrayal, baptized it after one far away from our sides, but very near and dear to our hearts—a gentle nature who had followed us clear to the verge of our Overland wanderings at Atchison, and parted from us bravely lest she should make our purpose fainter by seeming moved. Henceforth, that shining peak is MONTE ROSA.

However, Hart, in his 1925 volume, stated that the name was actually given to commemorate Rosalie Osborne Ludlow, the wife of Fitz Hugh Ludlow. Bierstadt met Ms. Ludlow on his travels and fell in love with her. Some sources report that they were lovers, and many sources mistakenly report that they were married at the time. Bierstadt did later marry her after Rosalie and Fitz Hugh divorced. Despite Byers' claim that Bierstadt named the summit Mount Rosa, the name evolved to Mount Rosalie, even though art scholars and mountaineers debate exactly which peak is depicted in Bierstadt's painting. Other versions of this name have been recorded: Mount Rosalia on an 1868 Denver Pacific Railway map; and Monte Rosa in a letter sent to Hart from the USGS. Details of this letter are unknown but are reported in a 1956 BGN research card. (A 14,060-foot summit located 1.4 miles to the southwest is named Mount Bierstadt; a 13,575-foot summit three miles to the southeast is named Rosalie Peak.)

The present-day proponent of the change from Mount Evans to Mount Rosalie recently published a book titled *Colorado's Highest: The History of Naming the 14,000 Foot Peaks*. She reports that in late 1894, the D.F.C. "presented the matter of having the name 'Mount Evans' (sometimes improperly called Mount Rosalie) made legal by our next legislation and moved that the members of the D.F.C. sign a petition to that effect—motion was carried." The proponent suggests that, in addition to honoring Governor Evans, the name was intended to recognize his wife, the first president of the D.F.C.

Hart wrote of the confusion of the names of the three summits (the present Mount Evans, Rosalie Peak, and Mount Bierstadt):

As we have seen in the cases of other peaks, a new name may be given but the old one is hard to get rid of. The Evans group has two other high peaks, the present Mt. Rosalie [now Rosalie Peak] and Mt. Bierstadt. Until the end of the surveys, Rosa, Rosalia, and Rosalie wandered aimlessly on these two peaks. The present Bierstadt is designated by 'Rosalie' on



the Hayden preliminary map for 1873, and Hayden in 1876 speaks of the ‘lake that lies at the foot of Mount Rosalie and forms the source of Chicago Creek.’ After having already mentioned Evans, Stevenson, of the Wheeler Survey, does the same as Hayden, but uses ‘Rosalia’. The present Mt. Rosalie [Rosalie Peak] is designated as Mt. Rosa by both gentlemen. On the final maps of the Wheeler and Hayden Surveys, however, it is called Rosalie, and the present Bierstadt is nameless. This confusion made an error in the triangulation, so that the present Rosalie is given an elevation seven hundred feet too great in the Hayden Atlas. The present Bierstadt received its name in 1914. It was suggested by Mr. [Ellsworth] Bethel and confirmed by the Colorado Geographic Board and the United States Geographic Board.

Other than Rosalie Peak, there are no features known to be named for Rosalie Bierstadt.

### **Mount Blue Sky (Review List 442)**

*Proponent:* Director of Wilderness Policy at The Wilderness Society, on behalf of the Language & Culture Program, Arapaho Coordinator of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma

*Reason:* In a joint statement, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and The Wilderness Society stated, “Evans was roundly condemned, forced to resign in disgrace, and is not deserving of recognition” and “We propose to rename Mt. Evans as Mt. Blue Sky as it signifies the Arapaho as they were known as the Blue Sky People, and the Cheyenne who have an annual ceremony of renewal of life called Blue Sky.”

On January 11, 2020, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Legislature issued Resolution 8L-RS-2020-01-004, “A Resolution to Support the Renaming of Mt. Evans and the Mt. Evans wilderness area in Colorado to Mt. Blue Sky and Mt. Blue Sky Wilderness Area.” The resolution, which called on the U.S. Congress to change the names, states that “Mt. Evans and the Mt. Evans Wilderness Area stand within the traditional homeland of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. . . . The Tribal Council finds that there is no place in Cheyenne and Arapaho homeland or anywhere in Indian Country to honor the perpetrators of atrocities against Native Americans [including Evans].”

The proponent of Mount Soule is opposed to the proposal for Mount Blue Sky, citing concerns that the name refers to a religious ceremony, and also that it could violate the BGN’s Commercial Names Policy (referencing the Blue Sky Beverage Company, established in 1971 in New Mexico and now a subsidiary of the Coca-Cola Company). Regarding the proposal for Mount Cheyenne-Arapaho, she noted that other features in Colorado are already named for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. GNIS records 25 geographic and civil features in the State named “Cheyenne,” “Arapaho,” or “Arapahoe”, including Cheyenne County and Arapahoe County. Mount Evans is located along the boundary of Arapaho National Forest.

### Mount Cheyenne-Arapaho (Review List 443)

*Proponent:* Denver resident

*Reason:* This name was proposed by the Chair of the Sand Creek Committee of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe (NCT). He believes that “naming one of Colorado’s most visible peaks after the disgraced Governor . . . is a travesty that needs to be corrected. Since Cheyenne and Arapaho people were victims of the horrific massacre . . . it seems to us that it would be altogether fitting and proper to remove Evans’ name from the mountain and replace it with Mt. Cheyenne-Arapaho.” Further, the name “Mt. Blue Sky . . . regrettably excludes the Cheyenne who suffered the greatest loss in the Sand Creek Massacre and in the battles and attacks that followed.” The proponent adds “It is interesting to note that John Evans was removed as Colorado’s governor, and Colorado’s statehood was delayed as a result of the public outcry and mishandling of Indian affairs in the Territory. It is a shameful legacy that is only compounded by the naming of Mt. Evans.”

In a resolution issued July 11, 2022, the NCT stated:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Mount Evans, named after the individual most responsible for the conditions that led to the Sand Creek Massacre, be renamed Mount Cheyenne-Arapaho to honor the Cheyenne Nation and Arapaho Nation who were the original inhabitants of this land and the victims innocently murdered on their Treaty lands in Colorado and to acknowledge the crimes committed against these nations and their forced removal from their traditional lands.

The Cheyenne have a deep and profound respect for ceremonies and wish to maintain their sacredness by encouraging utmost respect for ceremonies from all, especially for the youth and future generations who must learn and carry-on traditional cultural values. To this end, the Cheyenne have ceremonies called Blue Sky in both the Northern Cheyenne of Montana and Southern Cheyenne of Oklahoma.

The proposed rename of ‘Blue Sky’ for ‘Mount Evans’ is not fully supported or authorized by the ceremonial people of the Cheyenne. Moreover, the ceremonial people of the Northern Cheyenne were not appropriately informed prior to the submittal of the application. As a result, the Northern Cheyenne cannot support the Blue Sky rename as it references our ceremonies which are not for public consumption and would be considered exploitation. Our Tribe wishes to discourage its use as it diminishes cultural values, trivializes, and encourages disrespect to the Cheyenne ceremonies.

Moreover, the term ‘Blue Sky’ does not recognize the Cheyenne and Arapaho people in a manner that would legitimize their absolute justification for renaming it Cheyenne and Arapaho Mountain or Mt Cheyenne and Arapaho. In other words, to others it would be difficult to link the Cheyenne and Arapaho people to ‘Mt. Blue Sky’ unless they were familiar with the cultural and spiritual aspect of that term. Plus, having ‘Cheyenne and Arapaho’

rather than 'Blue Sky' reinforces name recognition and would forever serve as a reminder of the tribes' connection to their traditional homelands.

**Mount Evans [commemoration change] (Review List 443)**

*Proponent:* Denver resident

*Reason:* To retain the current name but “rededicate [it] for Anne Evans. Most people who see [the mountain] and climb it do not know for whom it was named. It is likely they do not know who John Evans was. Changing the name will be costly and wouldn't the funds be better spent on educating the public about the Sand Creek Massacre? Instead, the name should be kept, but it should be rededicated for a person who is remembered for the good that she did for the state of Colorado.”

Anne Evans (1871-1941) was the youngest daughter of John Evans and his wife Margaret. The proposal reads:

She never married and lived with her brother and his family at the present-day Byers-Evans House (now the Center for Colorado Women's History). She built her own cabin on the Evans Ranch and spent her summers there. She was a philanthropist and patron of many cultural institutions in Colorado, but made her mark especially on the Denver Art Museum, the Central City Opera House, and the Denver Public Library. . . .

According to her biography from the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame, Anne Evans 'donated her extensive Native American Art collection [to the Denver Art Museum] which made it the first United States museum to collect Native American Art.' Although she was the daughter of John Evans, her actions and writings indicate that she had very different opinions of Native Americans than that of her father. She came to appreciate their way of life. She worked 'for the recognition of the art of Native Americans as art, not just colorful craftwork with which to decorate dens and recreation rooms.' Evans raised funds for the restoration of the Central City Opera House and helped establish the Central City Opera Summer Festival in 1932. The festival still takes place every summer season. Anne Evans was appointed to the Denver Public Library Commission in 1907 and served on the Commission until 1940, resigning shortly before her death. She was the first female president of the Commission (and the only woman to serve in that role until 1987). Eight branches were built during her tenure.

A summit register situated at the peak of Mount Evans shows that Anne Evans climbed the mountain in 1920, and she was a dues paying member of the Colorado Mountain Club.

Additional information on Anne Evans can be found in Barbara Edwards Sternberg's 2011 volume "Anne Evans—A Pioneer in Colorado's Cultural History: The Things That Last When Gold is Gone," and at the websites of the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame:

<https://www.cogreatwomen.org/project/anne-evans/> and the Center for Colorado Women's History: <https://www.historycolorado.org/center-colorado-womens-history>.

### **Mount Sisty (Review List 447)**

*Proponent:* Denver resident

*Reason:* To commemorate Wilson Edward Sisty (1827-1889), who founded the Colorado Department of Wildlife and Fish, and served three governors as State Fish Commissioner.

The proponent adds, “At the 1865 Constitutional Convention, he stood with Steck and others to admonish Chivington and Governor Evans, for the annihilation of the American Indians.”

He was also a guide for Edward Berthoud’s survey, as well as road superintendent, and the first marshal for the city of Denver’s new police department. The city’s first mayor described Sisty as “a man of excellent character and [he] enjoyed great popularity throughout the entire state”; in 2018, the Denver Police Museum erected a marker in his memory. According to the proponent, Sisty is considered “the father of roads and fish culture.” He also started hotels in Brookvale and Idaho Springs. One online biography reports:

In 1846 he enlisted in the Army and fought in the Mexican War until 1848. In 1860 he moved from Denver to Idaho Springs, Colorado about 34 miles west, where he was an agent for the Fulton Gold Mining Company of Idaho, Clear Creek County. In 1861, he was elected the first president of the Northern Mining District. He filed numerous claims in the area, and in 1876 he was named the first fish commissioner of Colorado. His name is on the Clear Creek Co. tax rolls through 1884.

There are no features in the U.S. named “Sisty.”

### **Summary of Input Received**

In accordance with the BGN’s Policy X: Tribal Geographic Names, all federally recognized Tribes received a copy of each Quarterly Review List, with an opportunity to provide comments.

In December 2018, the Denver American Indian Commission (DAIC) submitted a letter in support of renaming Mount Evans but added:

[We do not] necessarily support the application’s suggested name, ‘Mt. Cheyenne/Arapaho.’ Because the Denver metro area and surrounding mountains were the original homelands to many North American Tribes, including the Ute Tribes, the Lakota, the Kiowa, the Shoshone, the Diné, the Cheyenne, the Comanche, the Arapaho, and many others, DAIC supports an inclusive renaming process that will also involve input from many Tribes and local indigenous communities.

The July 8, 2019 edition of *The Southern Ute Drum* newsletter included the following:

A request was made by the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe to rename Mt. Evans. The 14,265 ft mountain sits east of Denver, in Clear Creek County. The Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR)

Departments supports a name change, although a previous request to change the name was made by a Denver school teacher, DPR informed the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in a letter from Dody Erickson, contact had been made with the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs and expressed the process should not be a decision made by (DPR) but by the Native American tribes in the area. A suggestion was brought forth that letters should come from the three Ute Tribes in support of the renaming of Mt. Evans. Michela Alire, with Ute Mountain Ute Environmental Programs, will be contacted on spelling and the letters of support from the Ute tribes, and support from the Lt. Governor Primavera will be submitted to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

Shortly thereafter, the Acting Tribal Relations Specialist for State and Private Forestry and Tribal Relations of the U.S. Forest Service was informed that the Southern Ute Tribe's cultural committee was opposed to Mount Cheyenne Arapaho.

In February 2022, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe submitted letters to the CGNAB stating that they do not oppose the renaming of Mount Evans but adding:

[We] request that additional information is provided to the public through educational outreach and/or signage to reflect the presence of Ute people in the area. While the Cheyenne and Arapaho were forced into Colorado, from their homelands in the Great Lakes region, due to westward expansion, Clear Creek County lies within the ancestral homelands of the Tabeguache Band of Utes and an area frequented by the Mouache Band of Utes. Unlike other Tribes, the Ute people do not have a migration story. We have been here since time immemorial. Therefore, while we support the renaming of Mount Evans, we want to ensure that the name change does not lead to a disregard of our ancestral ties to Clear Creek County, prior to the arrival of the Cheyenne and Arapaho in the early 1800s. We request equal representation and recognition so that our legacy is not overlooked or understated with respect to the name change.

Several members of the present-day Evans family have commented that they recognize the concerns regarding the existing name. One commented "The naming decision should rest solely with the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes, whose ancestors were massacred in 1864. All others should step aside on this matter." Another expressed opposition to the change, noting "Evans had no advance knowledge of, nor was he directly involved in the massacre. Governor Evans was responsible for numerous positive contributions to the country and state." Another descendant expressed

. . . support for whatever process and outcome the descendants of the Sand Creek Massacre desire for the renaming. I recognize there are three tribes with descendants. Please let them work out whichever name they would like collectively. My third great grandfather, John Evans was complicit in creating an environment that led to the massacre of the Cheyenne and Arapahoe people at Sand Creek. He used his politics and power to execute racist actions in an attempt to dehumanize and erase an entire people and their stories. Being silent or minimizing this part of history will only continue to protect, uphold and perpetuate the

systemic racism still present today. This is just one step towards reparations and accountability.

A letter signed by a number of area organizations stated:

Colorado's interest in promoting inclusivity is stronger than any prior interest in honoring a man who is known for politically targeting Tribes (Utes, Cheyenne, Arapaho and Lakota) with messages of hate and fear, of which directly resulted in a massacre of over 160 people, including mostly women and children. Evans' great-great grandson, Tom Hayden, also supported changing the name of Mt. Evans, as did his wife and sister.

The Mestaa'éhehe Coalition, which was established to support the renaming of Sq\_\_\_\_\_ Mountain, also in Clear Creek County, to Mestaa'éhehe Mountain (BGN approved December 9, 2021) has advocated for the change to Mount Blue Sky and promoted that name in a number of ways. The coalition has hosted a series of webinars, at which Tribal representatives shared their concerns and discussed ways to generate interest in the renaming effort. The BGN was recently included on an email invitation from the Governor of The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and the Mestaa'éhehe Coalition "to a ceremony [on March 17, 2023] in honor of our effort to rename Mount Evans as Mount Blue Sky."

A number of individuals have voiced opposition to any name change, noting the contributions made by Governor Evans to the State of Colorado and elsewhere. Some suggest the effort is "misguided and self serving," and "I hope you do not cave in to political pressure to rename this peak," "Quit changing history and coming up with names I can't even pronounce [sic]," and "No compelling reason has been asserted that would warrant changing the name."

One comment submitted to the CGNAB from the American Indian Movement of Colorado stated:

[We support] the removal of the names of all Indian killers, including John Evan, Kit Carson, William Byers and their ilk, from public places and geographic features. Although we would prefer the restoration of the original indigenous (Cheyenne, Arapaho, Ute) references/names to Mount Evans, we will respect some of their decision to refer to it as Mount Blue Sky. We must request that the State of Colorado and the USGS also refer to the mountain on maps and in official publications with the Cheyenne and Arapaho translations of "Blue Sky Mountain." To have the name change appear only in english is a continuation of the colonial project that named it after John Evans in the first place. We can also support Conrad Fisher's and the Northern Cheyenne suggestion of Cheyenne-Arapaho Mountain. Whatever the name ends up being in english, we must insist that an english-only change without an accompanying indigenous translation is fundamentally inadequate and unacceptable.

Another commenter stated:

Culture In Place supports the renaming of this mountain by the Arapaho and Cheyenne people. We also strongly support the public name being in both the Arapaho and Cheyenne

languages . . . if that can be done in some creative way. The translation accompaniment would be in English, not the other way around. The sounds and rhythm and space within the original languages are necessary for decolonizing everyone's brain cells so the whole continent can decolonize and re-structure something worth having on this land. 'Decolonizing minds' can't be done in the English language at this moment. And it must happen for the sake of everyone and our Beloved Earth.

A change.org petition, initiated in 2019 "to ask that Evans name be removed from the mountain and replaced with a more fitting name, ideally with input from the Cheyenne and Arapaho people," generated 4,072 signatures.

After considering each of the proposals and conducting a series of public meetings at which each proponent had an opportunity to present their case, the Clear Creek County Board of Commissioners voted on March 15, 2022 to recommend approval of the change to Mount Blue Sky.

At its November 17, 2022 meeting, the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board (CGNAB) reviewed the six pending proposals. After hearing from several of the proponents and considering comments from members of the public and Tribes, the CGNAB voted unanimously to recommend approval of the change to Mount Blue Sky. Many of the attendees expressed their appreciation to the county government and to the CGNAB for holding meaningful discussions, saying it had been an honor to be a part of the name change process.

In early December 2022, the President of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe (NCT) wrote to Governor Polis with a resolution that reiterated their concerns:

The Cheyenne have ceremonies called 'Blue Sky' and due to sacredness, [those words are] not commonly shared with others. It is inappropriate to even discuss with the general public. Arapahos are known as the 'Blue Sky People,' [so] only using their name only recognizes their tribe. Renaming this important peak Mt. Cheyenne-Arapaho would respectfully honor the memories for all the victims of the Sand Creek Massacre and not only provide a sense of healing but serve as a reminder for generations of Cheyenne and Arapaho people once called Colorado home.

On December 28, in accordance with its procedures, the CGNAB's recommendation to support Mount Blue Sky was forwarded to Governor Polis. On February 28, the BGN was informed that the Governor concurs with the CGNAB.

Google Maps continues to label the peak Mount Evans, but also shows "Mt Blue Sky (previously Mt Evans) Scenic Drive."

Change **Gobblers Knob** (FID 1093229) to **Little Bear Mountain**, Oklahoma  
(Review List 443)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/1093229>

|                       |                                                          |              |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Local government      | LeFlore County Commissioners                             | No response* |
| State Names Authority | Oklahoma                                                 | Opposed      |
| Tribes                | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response  |
| Other                 | Oklahoma State Representative Jim Grego                  | Opposed*     |
|                       | 20 local individuals                                     | Opposed*     |

\* contacted by SNA

This proposal is to change the name of **Gobblers Knob**, a 1,535-foot summit north of Talihina in Le Flore County, to **Little Bear Mountain**. The proponents, who own the land around the summit, state “The name now has negative/inappropriate connotations, i.e. ‘knob’ is not an accurate description. . . . The mountain is seasonally populated with many black bears that didn’t exist when it was named. There is no other ‘Little Bear Mountain’ named in Oklahoma as far as we can tell. The current name is offensive to some and duplicated several times in the area.”

“Knob” is a generic term describing a rounded hill or mountain. “Gobbler” presumably refers to wild turkeys. GNIS lists numerous examples of features named **Gobblers Knob** in the U.S.; six are in Oklahoma. One is located 19 miles to the southeast and also in Le Flore County, and another is 5.8 miles to the southwest in Latimer County. One of the more famous is located outside Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania and is the location of the annual Groundhog Day celebration and ceremonies. A community northwest of Talihina includes a street named Gobblers Knob Road, one of many named for nearby summits and ridges.

A summit named **Bear Mountain** is located in Latimer County, 4.5 miles west-northwest of the summit in question; its elevation is approximately 250 feet lower than the proposed **Little Bear Mountain**. **Bear Suck Knob** is located 11 miles to the west.

The **Oklahoma Board on Geographic Names** (OBGN) voted not to approve the proposal for the following reasons:

- Twenty-one emails from local citizens objecting to the change, some of which disagree with the proponents’ statements that the name is offensive and not used locally and that black bears are only infrequently found in the area (note: the proponents provided photos they took of black bears on their property)
- The proponents own and operate a store in nearby Talihina named Ursa Minor Curiosities; the OKBGN is “especially concerned that there appears to be a commercial reason to rename the feature.”



**Wishart Mine Run**, Pennsylvania

(Review List 449)

Mouth: 40.07616, -78.14926 / Source: 40.10958, -78.16872

|                       |                                                          |             |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Wells Township Supervisors [proponent]                   | Support     |
|                       | Fulton County Commissioners                              | Support     |
| State Names Authority | Pennsylvania                                             | Opposed     |
| Tribes                | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response |
| Other                 | Broad Top Area Coal Miners Historical Society            | Support     |
|                       | Fulton County Conservation District Manager              | Support     |

The new name Wishart Mine Run is proposed for an unnamed 2.8-mile-long tributary of Laurel Fork in Wells Township in Fulton County.

The name is proposed by the Wells Township Supervisors and refers to the former Wishart Mine located near the source of the stream. The Broad Top Area Coal Miners Historical Society reports that Wishart Mine operated during the first half of the 20th century “on the southeastern side of the coalfield (Broad Top Mountain/Wrays [sic] Hill). [This] stream of water originating around the mine makes its way from the mining area, down the mountain to the Wells Tannery area.” The mine and the nearby Wishart Swamp were reportedly named for a local 19th century farmer and cattle driver.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection legacy stream dataset applied the name “Trib 13105 To Laurel Fork” to this stream. PennDOT bridge data use the names “Sideling Hill Creek” and “Trib.Sideling Hill Creek”, although Sideling Hill Creek is the next tributary downstream.

The Pennsylvania Geographic Names Committee (PGNC) is “against adopting a new name” after they learned that the name Gibson Run was applied to the stream on an 1873 county map, as well as in the 1917 Pennsylvania Stream Gazetteer, and in a 1911 news article. This name refers to a family that lived along the stream. The PGNC could not find any reference to the name after 1917 and declined to submit a proposal to make it official. The local stakeholders continue to support the proposed name.

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

**Lake Marie, California**  
 (Tahoe National Forest)  
 (Review List 445)

39.283848, -120.50322

|                       |                                                          |             |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Placer County Supervisors                                | No response |
| State Names Authority | California                                               | Support     |
| Federal               | U.S. Forest Service                                      | Support     |
| Tribes                | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response |
|                       | United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria*  | Support     |

\* forwarded by proponent

The new name Lake Marie is proposed for an 11-acre lake reservoir in Tahoe National Forest; the lake is one of several small lakes that are named collectively Loch Leven Lakes.

The proposed name would commemorate the proponent’s late wife Marie Barry (1970-2016), who “worked tirelessly to protect the environment.” Marie grew up at the Ammon Cabin at the Big Bend on the Yuba River, just below Loch Leven Lake. “She loved the lakes and rivers” and “her contributions [have] kept the lands free of large-scale developments that would scar the lands forever.”

According to her obituary, “Marie worked for the Hoopa Tribe in northern California, and later for the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California where she earned numerous awards and received national recognition for her outstanding work. During her tenure . . . she wrote many grants to fund and develop the Environmental Protection Department that eventually employed 30 people. She developed and implemented programs for clean drinking water for the four communities of the tribe earning an award from the State of Nevada for the Best Drinking Water in the State of Nevada; created a recycling yard and cleaned the communities of hazardous waste; had allotment land markers posted; lead flood mitigation work to ensure the safety of the people; revegetated damaged landscapes; and established a yearly Earth Day event. She worked to reintroduce Lahonton cutthroat trout to Lake Tahoe where now a small population is making a comeback and is responsible for a road sign marking a summit by the Washoe name ‘simi dime’ on Highway 395. Marie spent countless hours and her own money where grant funds could not be sent to insure [sic] the program succeeded. Her priority was to keep the people, fish and wildlife, and environment safe.”

**Johnson Creek**, Idaho and Oregon  
(Review List 448)

Mouth: 43.59972, -117.01811 / Source: 43.608191, -117.027652

|                       |                                                          |              |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Local government      | Owyhee County Commissioners [ID]                         | No objection |
|                       | Malheur County Commission [OR]                           | Support      |
| State Names Authority | Idaho                                                    | No opinion   |
|                       | Oregon                                                   | No opinion   |
| Tribes                | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response  |

The new commemorative name Johnson Creek is proposed for a one-mile-long tributary of Succor Creek. The stream heads in a reservoir just inside Malheur County, Oregon, then flows generally south and east into Owyhee County, Idaho, to enter Succor Creek 4.5 mi. west-southwest of Homedale.

The proponent wishes to honor his father Ernest C. Johnson (1923-1999), who in 1952 acquired 100 acres along the stream, where he raised hay and livestock. He was also employed as a switchman-brakeman for the Union Pacific Railroad. The proponent now owns the property.

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

Mouth: 41.62509, -75.96745 / Source: 41.66022, -75.95504

|                       |                                                          |             |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Washington Township Supervisors [Wyoming Co.]            | No response |
|                       | Lemon Township Supervisors [Wyoming Co.]                 | No response |
|                       | Springville Township Supervisors [Susquehanna Co.]       | Support     |
|                       | Wyoming County Commissioners                             | No response |
|                       | Susquehanna County Commissioners                         | Support     |
| State Names Authority | Pennsylvania                                             | Support     |
| Tribes                | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response |
| Other                 | Susquehanna County Historical Society                    | Support     |

This proposal is to apply the new name Lyman Creek to an unnamed 2.87-mile-long stream that heads in Lymanville in Springville Township, east of Sheldon Hill. It then flows south parallel to Lyman Road, then south-southwest through Lemon Township, into Washington Township, to enter Meshoppen Creek. The community of Lymanville was named for Gideon and Dolly Lyman, who settled along the creek in 1803 and established Lymanstead Farm.

Change **Negro Brook** (FID 1461200) to **Huzzy Brook**, Vermont  
(Review List 449)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/1461200>

|                       |                                                            |             |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Townshend Town Selectboard                                 | Support     |
| State Names Authority | Vermont                                                    | Support     |
| Tribes                | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X   | No response |
| Other                 | Townshend Historical Society                               | Support     |
|                       | Windham County Branch of the NAACP                         | Support     |
|                       | Elnu Abenaki Tribe [non federally recognized native group] | Support     |

This proposal is to change the name of **Negro Brook**, a 2.1-mile-long tributary of the West River in the Town of Townshend in Windham County, to **Huzzy Brook**. The stream primarily flows through Townshend State Forest.

The Vermont Board of Libraries, which serves as the Vermont Board on Geographic Names, submitted the proposal to the BGN. A resident of Townshend proposed the name to the State as required by State law.

The name would commemorate James (1734-1822) and Susannah (1750-1854) Huzzy, early Black residents of the Townshend area. The proponent conducted extensive research on the life of the Huzzys (sometimes spelled Huzzey or Hussey in historical records). She stated:

To change the name of **Negro Brook** to [that of] an impactful local Black family from the early years of our country, is to acknowledge that every “negro” in Vermont has a name; and, that that identity matters. Furthermore, because of this history, and its related etymology to the slave trade, it is at times considered antiquated and offensive to many folks of color. This is not reflective of our evolving socio-cultural usage.

Susannah Toby (sometimes spelled Susanna Tobe) was born in Maine and married James Huzzy in Massachusetts in 1776. James twice served in the Continental Army as a substitute for his enslaver’s son and fought at Lexington and Bunker Hill. He served until the end of the Revolutionary War in order to gain his freedom. By 1810, James and Susanna had moved to Townshend, when the Census recorded eight members of the Huzzy household. James applied for a veteran’s pension in 1818. In 1820, the Census recorded five people in their household. After James’ death in 1822, Susannah received James’ pension, was listed on Census records as head of household, and was recorded as purchasing land in 1826. She died in Townshend at the age of 104.

The proponent stated that although “James and Susannah were not the only Black Americans residing in this area during this time period (the 1810 census recorded 15 Black individuals in Townshend), they are representative of individuals whose lives suggest hard work, service, and perseverance, as well as the challenges reflective of this period in American history.” It is not certain if the Huzzys lived along or near the stream, but the proponent believes that they should be honored for their significance in the Townshend area as some of the earliest Black residents.

The name Negro Brook was first shown on USGS maps in 1930. It was in local use as early as 1869, as recorded on Beer’s *Atlas of Windham Co. Vermont*. There is no record of why the name was applied, but there are local anecdotes of a Black-owned mill along the stream.

In 2020, the Vermont Board received a proposal to rename the stream to Susanna Toby Brook. This proposal was included on Review List 441 but was later withdrawn by the Vermont Board. The proponents of this name reportedly did not favor “Huzzy” because of the perceived negative connotation of the word. Citing local concerns with the proponents’ petition process and a lack of collaboration with the Town Selectboard and Historical Society, the Vermont Board voted not to accept the proposal for Susanna Toby Brook even though there was agreement that the existing name should be changed.

The current proponent reports that they consulted with the Townshend Historical Society, the Townshend Selectboard, “many Townshend residents,” “the local organization of the Elnu Abenaki tribe,” and the local NAACP chapter. No Abenaki name for the stream was found or reported by the Elnu Abenaki group.

#### IV. Revised Decisions

Change Negro Creek (BGN 1966) (FID 201768) to Clay Creek, Colorado  
(Bureau of Land Management)  
(Review List 439)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/201768>

|                       |                                                          |             |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Delta County Commissioners [proponent]                   | Support     |
| State Names Authority | Colorado                                                 | Support     |
| Federal agency        | Bureau of Land Management                                | Support     |
| Tribes                | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response |

This proposal is to change the name of Negro Creek, a 9-mile-long tributary of Tongue Creek in Delta County, to Clay Creek. A majority of the stream is located on Bureau of Land Management land. It flows east of Negro Mesa; a related proposal would change that name to Clay Mesa (see Category I). The name derives from the abundant clay soil found in the area.

The proposals for Clay Creek and Clay Mesa were submitted by the Delta County Commissioners in response to an earlier proposal to change the name of the stream to Hops Creek (Review List 437), a name that would reference Colorado’s beer brewing. The commissioners agreed that the name should be changed but preferred one that better reflected the geography of the area. They worked with the local Cedaredge High School to hold a naming contest. Each grade chose one name to submit to the commissioners, who then voted on which one to submit to the BGN. See the Clay Mesa entry for more details about the naming contest.

The name Negro Creek has been shown on USGS maps since 1962. Army Map Service maps published prior to 1972 showed the pejorative form, which dates to at least 1885 when it was mentioned in an article in *The Delta Chief*. This name was used locally and on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) maps until 1966, when the BGN voted to change it to Negro Creek “to conform with the Board’s policy on derogatory names” and also to correct the application of the name. (Although all occurrences of the “n\_\_r” word had been removed in 1963, it took some time for maps to be updated; it appears that the 1966 decision was made to address continued use of that word on USFS maps and to confirm the location for use on USGS maps.) The name Negro Creek is used by many Federal agencies, as well as the Colorado Water Court and the Western Slope Conservation Center.

GNIS lists another stream named Negro Creek 27 miles northeast in Mesa County and another stream named Clay Creek 45 miles to the southwest in Montrose County.

Change **Marsh Bay Lake** (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 1621751)  
to **Makwagamaa**, Michigan  
(Ottawa National Forest proclaimed boundary)  
(Review List 449)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/1621751>

|                       |                                                                                 |              |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Local government      | Stambaugh Township Board                                                        | Support      |
|                       | Iron County Commissioners                                                       | Support      |
| State Names Authority | Michigan                                                                        | No objection |
| Federal agency        | U.S. Forest Service [submitter]                                                 | Support      |
| Tribes                | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X                        | No response  |
|                       | Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Michigan [proponent] | Support      |

This proposal is to change the name of Marsh Bay Lake, a 10-acre lake in Stambaugh Township in Iron County, to Makwagamaa. The lake is on private land within the proclaimed boundary of Ottawa National Forest.

On September 8, 2022, the BGN approved a proposal from the Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force that was established in response to [Secretary’s Order 3404](#) to change the lake’s name

from Sq Lake to Marsh Bay Lake. The former name had been labeled on USGS maps since 1956; no information regarding its origin could be found. The new name was selected because Marsh Bay Creek is located approximately six miles to the northwest.

The Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians is proposing that the name Marsh Bay Lake be changed to Makwagamaa, an Ojibwemowin word meaning “Bear Lake.” The Tribe requests that the English generic “Lake” not be part of the official name. The lake is located 0.2 miles southwest of Bearpaw Lake.

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

**Doubtful Peak**, Arizona  
 (Peloncillo Mountains Wilderness [Bureau of Land Management])  
 (Review List 441)

32.374978, -109.056709

|                       |                                                          |             |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Cochise County Supervisors                               | Support*    |
| State Names Authority | Arizona                                                  | Support     |
| Federal agency        | Bureau of Land Management                                | Support     |
| Tribes                | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response |

\* contacted by SNA

The new name Doubtful Peak is proposed for an officially unnamed summit in the Peloncillo Mountains in Cochise County. The summit is within the Bureau of Land Management’s Peloncillo Mountains Wilderness and is the highest summit in the Arizona part of the Peloncillo Mountains (the highest point of the entire range is in New Mexico). The proposed name references both the benchmark named “Doubtful” on the summit and the adjacent Little Doubtful Canyon. The description of the “Doubtful” benchmark from 1907 stated that it was on the highest point of the Horseshoe Mountains, which was an incorrect reference to the Peloncillo Mountains.

Doubtful Canyon, Little Doubtful Canyon, and West Doubtful Canyon have been labeled on USGS maps since the area was first mapped in 1917. All or parts of these features are located in the Peloncillo Mountains Wilderness.

The proponent believes the BGN’s Wilderness Area Names Policy should be waived for this proposal because the benchmark predates the establishment of the wilderness; further, “I would even go so far as to suggest that in 1907 the peak was named/recognized as ‘Doubtful’. This gives my proposal to officially name it ‘Doubtful Peak’ a root in local history.”

The proponent shared an email thread from 2014 with the USGS Office of Communications & Publishing in which he inquired about a 1958 USGS benchmark on the summit labeled “C. E. Uncertain” with an elevation of 6,507 feet. USGS responded that “The names of USGS

benchmarks was pretty much at the whimsy of the person or group putting them in” and reported some information from “a retired colleague who served as chief of our geodetic division”:

The disc you're asking about was established close to a triangulation station named 'Doubtful.' Instead of a brass or aluminum disc, the triangulation station was marked with an 'X' that was etched into a rock. Then a lot of rocks were piled atop the 'X' to form a cairn. The distance and angle between the 'X' and the disc were precisely measured and the result is termed an 'eccentric' . . . . Both the disc and the 'X' were established by a surveying party in 1907. The disc DID NOT bear the stamping 'C E Uncertain'. Fast-forward to 1958 and now another survey team is working in the area. They found the disc, but the cairn had disappeared, and the triangulation station (the 'X') could not be found. In light of this development, the surveying team either stamped into the nearby disc '1958 C E Uncertain' or they replaced it with a new disc bearing this stamping. If true, this abbreviation stands for 'Cairn Eccentric Uncertain'."

The USGS representative cautioned the proponent: “It is important that you treat this as speculation and not as official information. It's entirely possible 'C E Uncertain' stands for something entirely different and unknown to us.” [It] could also mean 'Control Elevation.'” A nearby USGS benchmark, established by at least 1948, is called “Positive” but it is unknown what, if any, connection this has to the “Doubtful” benchmark.

The SummitPost.org website refers to the summit in question as Peloncillo Mountain, while Peakbagger.com uses the name North Peloncillo High Point. There is also some early usage of the name Peloncillo Peak. USGS Water-Supply Paper 442 (1918) referred to both “Steins Peak, near the State line [in New Mexico], about 7 miles north of the Southern Pacific Railroad” and “Peloncillo Peak, 17 miles south of the El Paso & Southwestern Railroad.” The latter location matches that of the highest point of the Peloncillo Mountains in Arizona.

In recommending approval of the name, both the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names and the BLM cite documented historical use, and a belief that “the feedback from the local BLM manager that the name is in current usage warrants an exception to the USBGN wilderness policy.”

**mee muku creek**, California  
(Golden Gate National Recreation Area)  
(Review List 448)

Mouth: 37.841931, -122.551821 / Source: 37.85899, -122.52283

|                       |                                        |             |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Marin County Supervisors               | No response |
| State Names Authority | California                             | Support     |
| Federal agency        | National Park Service                  | Support     |
|                       | National Oceanographic and Atmospheric | Support     |



|        |                                                          |             |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
|        | Administraton                                            |             |
| Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response |
|        | Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria [proponent]        | Support     |

This name was submitted by the Partnership Development Office at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, on behalf of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria. It was proposed as a counterproposal to Elk Creek (Review List 440), which was subsequently withdrawn.

The 2.4-mile-long stream flows from Wolf Ridge, through Tennessee Valley, and into Tennessee Cove. The valley was named Elk Valley on 1941 and 1954 USGS maps, hence the previous choice of Elk Creek. The BGN approved a change to Tennessee Valley in 1961.

The name “mee muku” means “green chert trail” or “green rock trail” in the Coastal Miwok language. The California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN) confirmed that the Tribe prefers that the name be rendered all in lowercase. In Miwok culture, capitalization is not used; “it is an Anglicized convention meant to emphasize certain things and in Miwok culture this is not necessary.”

The CACGN noted that some of its members expressed hesitation about recommending an all-lowercase name “since this goes against typical naming convention and may be perceived as an error. There is concern that not capitalizing the name will cause it to inappropriately stand out from other names on the map, not follow the written language standards and will probably lead to improper spelling.” They suggested that the proponent should submit an overriding need, other than personal preference, noting also that the Tribe’s website capitalizes their nouns. In recent years, the BGN has approved a number of names with non-standard capitalization, reflecting Tribal preferences.

The CACGN reports that Marin County expressed verbal support for the new name, but also “some dissatisfaction was expressed verbally.” No formal written opposition has been received.

**Highland Creek**, Iowa  
(Review List 449)

Mouth: 42.25728, -93.18343 / Source: 42.29792, -93.19218

|                       |                                                          |              |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Local government      | Pleasant Township Trustees [proponent]                   | Support      |
|                       | Hardin County Supervisors                                | Support      |
| State Names Authority | Iowa                                                     | No objection |
| Tribes                | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response  |

The new name Highland Creek is proposed for an approximately 3.75-mile-long tributary of Honey Creek in Hardin County. The stream heads in Pleasant Township and flows south into Providence Township. The proponent, a Pleasant Township Trustee, reports that the name refers to the historic Highland Cemetery located one mile west of the stream; in addition, Highland Quaker Meeting House stood nearby from 1870 to 1905, as did the Highland Country Schoolhouse until the 1930s.

**Little Mission Creek**, Kansas and Nebraska

(Review List 448)

Mouth: 39.9934, -96.51044 / Source: 40.03386, -96.46938

|                       |                                                          |              |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Local government      | Marshall County Commissioners [KS]                       | No response  |
|                       | Gage County Supervisors [NE]                             | No response  |
| State Names Authority | Kansas                                                   | No objection |
|                       | Nebraska                                                 | No objection |
| Tribes                | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response  |
| Other                 | Gage County Historical Society [NE]                      | Support      |

The proponent of this new name reports that the stream flows through land formerly owned and farmed by his family. The stream heads in Gage County, Nebraska and flows into Marshall County, Kansas. The proponent reports that in 1972 he installed hand-made signs along the stream naming it "Little Willow Creek" due to the abundance of willow trees along its bank. However, following more recent discussions with the historical societies of Gage County and Marshall County, he decided "the best name to propose for naming this creek would be 'Little Mission Creek,'" because it is a tributary of Mission Creek.

The stream flows through Mission Creek Reservoir 3-A, one of many flood control reservoirs in the Mission Creek watershed.

**Stony Peak**, Pennsylvania  
(Susquehannock State Forest)

(Review List 448)

41.586344, -77.8198

|                       |                                                          |             |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Abbott Township Supervisors                              | No response |
|                       | Potter County Commissioners                              | No response |
| State Names Authority | Pennsylvania                                             | Support     |
| Tribes                | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response |
| Other                 | PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources      | Support     |

This is one of two proposals submitted by a local resident who likes to hike in the area. The descriptive name Stony Peak is proposed for a 2,159-foot summit located in Abbott Township in Potter County and within Susquehannock State Forest.

**Rock Garden Hill, Ohio**  
(Great Seal State Park)  
(Review List 449)

39.37263, -82.93732

|                       |                                                          |             |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Springfield Township                                     | No response |
|                       | Ross County Commissioners                                | Support     |
| State Names Authority | Ohio                                                     | No response |
| Tribes                | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response |
| Other                 | Ohio Department of Natural Resources                     | Support     |

The new name Rock Garden Hill is proposed for a 1,279-ft. peak in Springfield Township in Ross County, and within Great Seal State Park. The proponent, a resident of Columbus, reports that the name “is in reference to the rock garden at the summit.” A trail that crosses the summit is named Rock Garden Loop.

**Eagle Mountain, Utah**  
(State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration lands)  
(Review List 436)

40.274992, -111.942547

|                       |                                                                   |             |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Utah County Commission                                            | Support     |
| State Names Authority | Utah                                                              | Support     |
| Tribes                | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X          | No response |
| Other                 | State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration | Support     |
|                       | City of Saratoga Springs                                          | Support     |
|                       | Bureau of Land Management                                         | Support     |

The new name Eagle Mountain is proposed for a 7,680-foot summit located approximately 500 feet to the west of the officially unnamed highest point in the Lake Mountains, a range west of Utah Lake in Utah County. The summit is located on land managed by the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) and between the City of Eagle Mountain City and the City of Saratoga Springs.

The name was proposed by the Senior Management Analyst and the Assistant City Administrator for the City of Eagle Mountain. He reports that the name of the city, chosen because of the common eagles in the area and the nearby Lake Mountain,

ultimately has led to some confusion due to the name implying there may be a mountain named Eagle Mountain nearby. Part of this request is to remedy this confusion by actually selecting a peak of the Lake Mountains range to be Eagle Mountain, bolstering the identity of our City. The other component of this request is to appreciate and support the strong outdoor recreation culture in our area. The City of Eagle Mountain, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Utah Department of Natural Resources, Utah State Institute Trust Lands Administration, Lake Mountain Trails Association, and other partners and contributors have made tremendous efforts to develop incredible outdoor recreation opportunities in the Lake Mountains. Various trails networks weave through the Lake Mountains, but there are very few destinations. The City of Eagle Mountain desires to name the peak in question also as a means of creating a recreation destination, establishing view points and so forth to add to the experience.

The proponent initially proposed naming the highest point in the range as Eagle Mountain. (Under BGN policies, a mountain range and the highest peak in the range are distinct features and each can be named separately.) He noted at the time that there might be some disagreement from the City of Saratoga Springs, located on the east side of the Lake Mountains, so BGN staff asked for their recommendation. Saratoga Springs was opposed to the proposal, first misunderstanding that Eagle Mountain City wanted to rename the Lake Mountains or to name a peak in the Lake Mountains that was visible from Saratoga Springs (they did not want the name to favor one city over the other). The two cities came to an agreement and Saratoga Springs now supports applying the name Eagle Mountain to the smaller peak that is approximately 500 feet west of and approximately 10 feet lower than the Lake Mountains highest point.

The high point will remain officially unnamed for Federal use. Hiking websites use the names Lake Mountains High Point and Lake Mountain Peak to refer to this feature, while Google Maps labels it Lake Mountains HP. There is a radio facility and tower at the highest point. Another hiker uses the unofficial name Eagle Mountain Peak to refer to a 5,981-foot summit on the west side of the Lake Mountains, and approximately 2.3 miles from the summit in question.

Although the summit proposed to be named Eagle Mountain is not on Bureau of Land Management lands, the surrounding areas are managed by BLM and so the agency was asked if it wished to comment. The BLM Salt Lake Field Office responded that the agency “works closely with SITLA and Utah County on planning efforts and signage to support the high demands on these public lands.”

In addition to the nearby City of Eagle Mountain, GNIS lists two summits in Utah named Bald Eagle Mountain: one 35 miles to the northeast on the boundary of Wasatch County and Summit County, and the other 130 miles to the northwest in Box Elder County.