

U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
Eight Hundred and Fifty-fourth Meeting
May 11, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.
(Virtual Meeting)

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Meghan Barrett	Department of Homeland Security
Wendi-Starr Brown	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs)
Jessica Campbell	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
David de Hosson	Department of Defense (not voting)
Thad Ellerbe	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Andrew Flora	Department of Commerce (Census Bureau)
Brenda-Anne C. Forrest	Government Publishing Office
Andrew Griffin	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Chris Hammond	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Elizabeth Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Susan Lyon	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) (Chair)
Alesha Perdomo	U.S. Postal Service (not voting)
Melanie Riley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Timothy St. Onge	Library of Congress (Vice Chair)
Alexander Stum	Department of Agriculture (NRCS) (not voting)
Michael Tischler	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey) (not voting)
Tara Wallace	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)

Ex-Officio

Derek Hoffman, Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names / Foreign Names Committee

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

Lindsey Braden, U.S. Coast Guard
Alex Fries, National Park Service
Jesse Nett, U.S. Forest Service
Marielle Pedro Black, Bureau of Reclamation
Foreign Names Committee staff

Apple Maps observers

1. Opening

The Chair opened Meeting 854 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. Kanalley announced that Riley and Stum have been appointed to serve as new deputy members from the Department of Agriculture. The Chair and members welcomed them to the meeting.

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 853

The minutes of Meeting 853, held April 13, 2023, were approved as submitted.

3. Reports

3.1 BGN Chairman (Tischler)

There was no written report. The Full Board Quarterly Meeting 289 was held on Tuesday, April 18.

The Department of the Interior (DOI) has scheduled a Tribal consultation session regarding the proposed changes to the name of Mount Evans in Colorado. DOI has invited interested Tribes to attend and is asking that any DNC members who plan to vote on the proposals also attend to hear the discussion.

Urban-Mathieux continues to coordinate the BGN member appointment letters; Tischler reminded members to respond to her requests for the required biographical information.

3.2 Executive Secretary for Domestic Names (Urban-Mathieux)

See attached report.

Urban-Mathieux reported that the DOI member and deputy appointments have been vetted.

The Third Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) was held in New York, May 1-5. Bob Davis, chief of the USGS National Geospatial Program (NGP) Cartographic Data Services team, attended as the liaison for the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), and Kanalley represented the BGN and DNC. UNGEGN will

establish an indigenous names working group and the BGN will be asked to participate; more details will be provided in the coming months.

Kanalley shared her experiences from the UNGEGN session and noted that she discussed with the Geographical Names Board of Canada (GNBC) the need to strengthen the relationship between the two nations, with a particular focus on indigenous names and transboundary names. A representative of the GNBC is hoping to attend the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (CoGNA) meeting in September.

3.3 Executive Secretary for Foreign Names (Hoffman)

There was no written report. The FNC will host a delegation from the Republic of South Korea to discuss romanization systems.

FNC staff is developing guidelines for the use of conventional names and generic terms.

A meeting with the United Kingdom Permanent Committee on Geographical Names has been scheduled for July.

FNC Meeting 414 will be held virtually on Tuesday, June 13.

3.4 Special Committee on Communications (Ellerbe)

See attached report.

Ellerbe has been meeting with DNC staff to update the contact information that appears on various BGN material and web pages.

The SCC will develop individual web pages to summarize the principles, policies, and procedures.

3.5 Staff (Runyon)

See attached report.

Review List 451 was completed and posted online on May 1. Runyon asked the BGN members and deputy members from the Federal land management agencies to review the new proposals and direct any questions to staff.

Runyon has continued to attend virtual State Names Authority meetings to hear their discussions and to provide BGN context and information if asked.

DNC staff is continuing to receive and process a small number of proposals to change the names that were made official in September 2022 and January 2023 as a result of Secretary's Order 3404.

Staff provided guidance to a USGS geologist regarding efforts to apply a new name to a geologic formation in Nevada. It led to a briefing on the BGN's process for naming (and renaming) geographic features, and the fact that geologic units are typically named in association with those geographic features.

3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (McCormick)

See attached report.

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

There was no written report. The Special Committee will meet following this meeting to discuss ongoing implementation of the "Cultural Sensitivity for Native American Names" guidance. There is a link to the document on the BGN website; see also <https://www.usgs.gov/us-board-on-geographic-names/cultural-sensitivity-native-american-names>. The staff is seeking additional guidance on when it is appropriate to contact Tribes on an individual basis.

The Special Committee will also review potential conference participation.

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 **Falls River Ridge** (FID 393829) to **Fall River Ridge**, Idaho (Caribou-Targhee National Forest) (Review List 448)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 13 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

East Crow Woman Butte and **West Crow Woman Butte**, Wyoming (Bureau of Land Management land) (Review List 440) (FIDs 2831227, 2831228)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the names.

Vote: 10 in favor

0 against
3 abstentions

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

Change the application of **Barrow Mountain** (FID 205283) and change the name to **Barlow Mountain**, Connecticut (Review List 450) (FID 2831229)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 13 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

It was noted that the approved change results in the former Barrow Mountain being unnamed and that the latter name would not be a variant name for the new location.

Lackhove Creek, Delaware (Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation) (Review List 449) (FID 2831215)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 13 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Becks Run, Pennsylvania (Review List 449) (FID 2831216)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 13 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

McGinnis Run, Pennsylvania (Review List 449) (FID 2831220)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 13 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

New name **Stockers Island** and change **Stocker Island** (FID 1188694) to **Sibert Island**, Pennsylvania (Pymatuning State Park) (Review List 449) (FID 2831225)

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

Vote: 13 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

IV. Revised Decisions

Change **Falls River Basin** (BGN 1930, 1937) to **Fall River Basin**, Wyoming (Yellowstone National Park / Caribou-Targhee National Forest) (Review List 448)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 13 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Besheret Pond, Connecticut (Review List 449)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 4 in favor
5 against
4 abstentions

The motion failed. Members who voted against the motion cited concerns regarding the commercial intent of the name and the lack of direct local support.

Gunsmith Run, Jenny Run, Limerick Run, Salamander Run, Toad Hollow Run, Witch-Hazel Run, Pennsylvania (Review List 449) (FIDs 2831217, 2831218, 2831219, 2831222, 2831223, 2831224)

By assent, members voted to consider these proposals as a group.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the names.

Vote: 13 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Mushpekat Run, Pennsylvania (Review List 450) (FID 2831226)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

5. Other Business

Lyon requested volunteers to assist with a review of the DNC's Principles, Policies and Procedures.

She also reported that the Department of Defense has renamed a number of military facilities that were named for Confederate military leaders.

Members discussed the feasibility of an in-person meeting later this year.

Urban-Mathieux recognized the attendance of two guests from Apple Maps; it was agreed that the DNC would welcome an opportunity to hear from them about their use of geographic names in Apple's products. That will be arranged for a future date.

6. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next Domestic Names Committee meeting is scheduled to be held on June 8, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

(signed)

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

APPROVED
(signed)

Susan Lyon, Chair
Domestic Names Committee

Executive Secretary, DNC Report: Meeting 854, May 11, 2023

- **BGN Appointment Letters**
 - Process is ongoing for 2023-25 appointments
 - Completed - DOI vetted the DOI appointments
 - Almost complete – confirmation of old and new members
 - Next step will be completion of the package with transmittal letters from DOI Secretary
- **UNGEGN update**
 - May 1-5 meeting in New York
 - Bob Davis, USGS attended as the PAIGH Liaison
 - Betsy Kanalley attended
 - Canada is standing up Indigenous Names Working Group
- **Hosted a meeting with members of Southern Ute Tribe**
 - Answered questions from the Tribe
- **Meetings Attended**
 - BGN Full Board meeting – April 18th

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**BGN/Domestic Names Committee Meeting 854  
May 11, 2023  
Special Committee on Communications Report**

Thaddeus Ellerbe (Chair of Special Committee on Communications) met with Brigitta Urban-Mathieux (acting Executive Secretary for Domestic Names Committee), Jennifer Runyon (BGN staff) and Matt O'Donnell (BGN staff). The Special Committee on Communications will begin creating content for a new set of individual webpages that will explain the BGN's policies and procedures.

Updates for web addresses and contacts should be on the Resources page soon. We need to get approval from the Foreign Names Committee.

For your awareness, the contacts will be changed to the following:

**Domestic Names:**

Executive Secretary, Domestic Names  
U.S. Geological Survey  
523 National Center  
Reston, Virginia 20192-0523  
[BGNEXEC@usgs.gov](mailto:BGNEXEC@usgs.gov)



**Antarctic Names:**

Secretary, Antarctic Names  
 U.S. Geological Survey  
 523 National Center  
 Reston, Virginia 20192-0523  
[BGNESEC@usgs.gov](mailto:BGNESEC@usgs.gov)

**Undersea Features:**

Executive Secretary, Foreign Names  
 National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency  
 7500 GEOINT Drive, Mail Stop N62  
 Springfield, Virginia 22150-7500  
[underseafeatures@nga.mil](mailto:underseafeatures@nga.mil)

**Foreign Names:**

Executive Secretary, Foreign Names  
 National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency  
 7500 GEOINT Drive, Mail Stop N62  
 Springfield, Virginia 22150-7500  
[BGNESEC@nga.mil](mailto:BGNESEC@nga.mil)

Please submit your Annual Report for fiscal year 2022 if you still need to.

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BGN/Domestic Names Committee Meeting 854

May 11, 2023

Staff Report

Quarterly Review List 451, comprising 45 new name and name change proposals, was completed and posted online on May 1. Notices will be 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.

The new Review List includes following proposals:

A proposal to change the name of [Cherry Hill Woods Sloughs](#) in Cook County, Illinois to **Zheshk Bitobig**. The current name was changed by the BGN on September 9, 2022 from [Laughing Sq Sloughs](#); it had been submitted by the Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force, which had received the suggestion from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's Commissioner of Natural Resources during consultation. Following the BGN's decision, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County submitted a proposal to change the name to [Muskrat Slough](#) (Review List 449). The Mille Lacs Band was asked to comment on the proposal and responded with a counterproposal for [Zheshk Bitobig](#); this is a Boodewaadamiimowin word for "Muskrat Slough."

Three **proposals from the Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians**, to change three names also approved by the BGN on September 9, 2022 for three features on the Los Padres National Forest in Ventura County, California: change Kahus Flat to ʰanwa flat; S' o" Kuku Creek to poš creek, and Saputiwah Spring to xutaš spring.

The BGN has had a proposal pending since 2020 to change the name of **Chinaman Creek** on the Stanislaus National Forest in Tuolumne County, California, to James Wong Howe Creek (Review List 440). In 2021, the Forest Service submitted a counterproposal for China Creek (Review List 443). Following further outreach, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, Oakland Lodge has submitted a counterproposal for Chinese Miners Creek.

On September 8, 2022, the BGN approved a proposal to change the name of Big Sq ____ Valley on the Mendocino National Forest in Lake County, California to **Habematolel Valley**. This name was submitted by the Task Force in connection to another change, to rename Sq ____ Valley Creek to Habematolel Creek. The latter name was submitted to the Task Force by the Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake; in doing so, the Tribe did not specifically mention the valley. The Kilkenny family has submitted a proposal to change the BGN-approved name to Kilkenny Valley, in recognition of their long-time association with the area.

Proposals to change the names of Jeff Davis Creek to Doyavinai Baa O'ogwaide and Jeff Davis Peak to Gai Mea Waith Go'i. Both features are on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest in Beaverhead County, Montana; the creek is also within Bureau of Land Management land. The names are **counterproposals, submitted by the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes**, to previous proposals submitted by The Wilderness Society, on behalf of a consortium that includes the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, to change the names to Choos-wee Creek and Three Eagles Peak, respectively (Review List 444). At its April 2023 meeting, the DNC approved a third change, from Jeff Davis Gulch to In-qu-qu-leet Gulch.

A proposal to rename **Mount Washington** to Agiocochook, and another to rename **Mount Clay** in to Mount Roosevelt. Both are on the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire.

Review List 450 included a proposal to change the application of the name Baldy Mountain, as applied to a summit on the Gallatin National Forest in Gallatin County, Montana. The proposal would move the name 0.9 miles to the southwest of its current location. In the course of soliciting support for his proposal, the proponent confirmed that the name in predominant local use is **Mount Baldy** rather than Baldy Mountain, so the review list has been updated.

At its April 2023 meeting, the DNC approved a change from Swastika Mountain to Mount Halo (Oregon). A new proposal has been received and review listed, to rename **Swastika Lake** in Wyoming to Fortune Lake. Following the April decision, a number of media outlets reported on the Oregon change, e.g., [Oregon's Swastika Mountain is officially renamed after Indigenous chief \(msn.com\)](#) and

[Swastika Mountain near Eugene renamed Mount Halo: 3 things to know about the new name \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/usa/swastika-mountain-near-eugene-renamed-mount-halo-3-things-to-know-about-the-new-name). This article appeared in August 2022, at the time of the Oregon Geographic Names Board's discussion: <https://doublesidedmedia.com/2022/08/31/i-told-you-they-could-change-the-name-of-swastika-mountain-and-more-ridiculous-oregon-place-names/>.

The proposals to change the name of **Mount Evans** in Colorado continue to be deferred, pending Tribal consultations. The Department of the Interior is taking the lead on the consultations.

The guidance document entitled "**Cultural Sensitivity for Native American Names**" was finalized and has been posted at the BGN's How Do I? page, under Q3: *How does the BGN address geographic names of interest to American Indian Tribes?*; see <https://www.usgs.gov/us-board-on-geographic-names/how-do-i>. The guidance will be incorporated into a future revision of the PPP and a note and a link will be added to the name proposal form.

On May 3 and 4, staff attended meetings of the **Subcommittees on Federal Land Units and Geographic Names**, respectively. These are two of the three subcommittees established within the Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) on Reconciliation in Place Names ([Secretary's Order 3405](#)). The staff provided an overview of the BGN's existing processes, with a focus on changing derogatory and offensive names, and also shared how GNIS was queried to find geographic names that could be considered derogatory. The staff also met with the newly appointed manager of the FAC. Following the meetings, the staff shared that since 2000 BGN has changed 416 names considered derogatory or offensive, not including the "sq____" changes approved in 2022 and early 2023.

On April 26, staff attended a meeting of the **Federal Lands Working Group**, at which the issue of derogatory names on Federal maps and in datasets was discussed. The group reviewed ongoing actions to replace names that were changed as a result of [Secretary's Order 3404](#) and to provide guidance to base map providers. The group was also advised that S.O. 3405 has begun its review of other derogatory words and that it is important to establish a regular refresh cycle, not just for these changes, but for routine BGN decisions and other updates to GNIS. The working group's focus is on Federal Land Units, which are being reviewed by the Federal Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names but which are outside the BGN's purview to rename.

Staff attended the **Full Board Quarterly Meeting 288** held on April 18. The BGN approved a name change of Loihi Seamount to Kama'ehuakanaloa, which had been recommended by the Advisory Committee on Undersea Features. This change was initiated by the Hawaii Board on Geographic Names.

The staff and chair of the BGN's **Special Committee on Communications** continue to meet to address needed updates to the BGN's webpages, factsheets, and the USGS FAQs. There is agreement that there needs to be more useful and easily accessible guidance for proponents.

The Johnson County (Kansas) decided recently not to pursue a **name change for Negro Creek**:

[Johnson County shouldn't rename 'Negro Creek,' committee concludes after years of research | KCUR - Kansas City news and NPR. The BGN received an inquiry regarding a possible name change several months ago and Runyon attended a county meeting to outline the process. The staff was asked to defer to the community to suggest an appropriate replacement.](#)

Following the DNC's April meeting, at which the name [Black John Slough](#) was changed to [Pinkston Slough](#), there was media coverage, e.g., [Editorial: Pinkston Slough honors important figure in Marin history the right way – Marin Independent Journal \(marinij.com\)](#)

The media continues to report on efforts by the **Fresno County Board of Supervisors** to sue the State of California over the change from [Sq_____Valley](#) to [Yokuts Valley](#), e.g., [Fresno County sues over Yokuts Valley name-change. Critics slam 'anti-woke' politics \(aol.com\)](#)

The Adirondack Explorer published a **commentary on changing "sq____" names**: [Commentary: It's time to rethink place names - Adirondack Explorer](#)

A reporter with the San Diego Union-Tribune inquired about the ongoing proposals to change features in San Diego County that currently include the word "**Stonewall**."

A proposal was received to make official the name **Lake Jowett** for a lake in Lake County, Florida. The proponent stated that the name was applied to the lake when they acquired the property and "Jowett is one of the names carried to England in the great wave of migration from Normandy following the Norman Conquest in 1066. Alternatively, the name could have been derived from the French 'jouet' which means 'play, sport, fun.'" However, further staff research determined that the property is the site of a recreational sports company owned by an individual with the surname Jowett. The proponent was informed that the BGN would not be considering the proposal.

During the reporting period, staff participated in **meetings of various State Names Authorities**: the Wyoming Board of Geographic Names (April 19), the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names (April 25), the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board (April 27), and the Washington Committee on Geographic Names (WCGN) (May 1).

Staff provided guidance to a USGS geologist regarding efforts to apply a new name to a geologic formation in Nevada. It led to a discussion of the BGN's process for naming (and renaming) geographic features, and the fact that geologic units are typically named in association with those geographic features.

O'Donnell continues to support efforts to compile translations and pronunciations of native names submitted by the Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force to the BGN. The USGS National Geospatial Program (NGP) User Engagement team, which is overseeing the project, has suggested that a link to the results be posted at the BGN website. Staff met on May 10 with a

representative of the Geographical Names Board of Canada to hear how Canada is researching and recording indigenous names and pronunciations.

The staff continues to receive requests for copies of documents related to past BGN decisions; these are not available online due to concerns regarding the sharing of personally identifiable information (PII). Discussions have begun as to whether this situation can be better addressed.

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**BGN/DNC Meeting 854 May 11, 2023**  
**GNIS Manager Report**

The new downloadable products were released in early May and may be accessed through the BGN website. The data contains updates related to CT county assignments. Developers are continuing to work on the AllNames file.

Updates are also being done to refine the synchronization processes between GNIS application database and the Gazetteer geodatabase. Updates to the GNIS internal application are also being worked as issues are discovered.

Maria McCormick, Jennifer Runyon, and Gita Urban-Mathiex attended a meeting with GSA and OPM to discuss the current Memorandum of Understanding related to update processes between the three agencies.

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**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
DOCKET
May 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. 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 Falls River Ridge (FID 393829) to Fall River Ridge, Idaho
(Caribou-Targhee National Forest)
(Review List 448)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/393829>

Local government	Fremont County Commissioners	No objection
State Names Authority	Idaho	No opinion
Federal agency	U.S. Forest Service	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

This proposal is to change the name of Falls River Ridge, a three-mile-long ridge in Fremont County and on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, to Fall River Ridge. It was initiated in association with the proposal to rename Falls River Basin in Teton County, Wyoming to Fall River Basin (q.v.). Both changes would bring the names of the basin and ridge into agreement with that of Fall River, which was approved by the BGN in 1997.

Falls River Ridge was labeled on the 1989 USGS topographic map. The name did not appear on later editions of the USGS topographic map, although they do show Falls River Ridge Road.

Fall River is approximately 60 miles long, heads on the southern edge of Pitchstone Plateau, and flows in a generally westward direction to join Henrys Fork just northeast of the City of Saint Anthony. The BGN’s 1997 decision to approve the change from Falls River to Fall River highlighted longstanding differences of usage and opinions between the two States. The BGN’s research showed that Fall River was in predominant local use in Idaho, while Wyoming favored the plural form.

The BGN had made official the name Falls River in 1930, although descriptions and maps from as early as 1872 used both the singular and plural form. The earliest reference to the stream was by

trappers and hunters, who mentioned the “falling fork” of the Snake River in the 1830s. Ferdinand Hayden’s survey of 1872 mentioned Falls River and stated that it had been named for the large number of falls along its course, although in the same year, Gustavus Bechler’s survey of the Snake River applied the name Fall River. Henry Gannett’s 1878 map and report on Yellowstone National Park used the name Falls River and described the feature as “a brawling, turbulent stream, broken by cataracts and falls, from which it has received its name.” The singular form was shown on a map of Idaho published by Asher & Adams in 1874 and was mentioned in *The Century Atlas of Idaho* (1898), *A History of Teton Valley, Idaho* (1926), and *The Idaho Encyclopedia* (1938).

Fieldwork conducted by USGS in 1966 determined that Idaho highway signs and maps still used Fall River, as did long-time residents of the river valley, many of whom were descendants of the original settlers.

In 1997, citing widespread and continued use of the name Fall River in Idaho, a representative of that State’s Department of Land asked the BGN to revisit its 1930 decision. He noted that several associated features located entirely within Idaho used the singular form, such as the Fall River Canal and the Fall River Access Area, although *Idaho Place Names* (Boone, 1988) and recent Idaho real estate listings referred to Falls River. The Idaho Geographic Names Advisory Council (IGNAC) recommended approval of the change to Fall River.

Meanwhile, the Wyoming Board of Geographic Names (WYBGN) recommended in 1997 that Falls River be retained, confirming the speculation that the name likely originated from the numerous falls and rapids along the river. A long-time archivist at Yellowstone National Park and author of *Yellowstone Place Names* (1988) agreed, stating that he had heard the plural form of the name since as early as 1969. A member of the WYBGN cited topographic maps from 1908, a 1916 USGS map of the surface waters of Wyoming, and General Land Office (GLO) maps published between 1888 and 1947 as evidence that Falls River should be retained. A 1901 survey of the southern boundary of Yellowstone National Park mentioned the name Falls River, yet an 1873 survey of its western boundary had shown Fall River.

Also in 1997, the U.S. Forest Service recommended that Falls River be retained. At its November 1997 meeting, the BGN voted 2-1 to change the name to Fall River.

Other than noting at the time that there were other features in the area that were still using the name “Falls River,” the BGN did not render decisions on any of them. Published use of a name for the ridge is minimal.

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

East Crow Woman Butte and West Crow Woman Butte, Wyoming
(Bureau of Land Management land)
(Review List 440)

East Crow Woman Butte: 44.107411, -108.572297

West Crow Woman Butte: 44.10947, -108.57647

Local government	Park County Commissioners	Oppose
State Names Authority	Wyoming	No opinion
Federal Agency	Bureau of Land Management	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

The new names East Crow Woman Butte and West Crow Woman Butte are proposed for the two unnamed summits that make up Crow Woman Buttes.

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 name of Sq___ Teats to Crow Woman Buttes. That name had been proposed to the BGN in June 2020 but had not been voted on before the Task Force assumed purview over all names that contained the word "sq___." The names East Crow Woman Butte and West Crow Woman Butte were proposed at the same time, but because they were not proposed to replace "sq___ names," were not addressed by the Task Force.

A 1944 Geological Society of America report referred to the western summit as the "West Butte of Sq___ Buttes." There is unofficial use online of the names East Sq___ Teat and West Sq___ Teat for the summits. The Bureau of Land Management also reports local use of these names and recommends approval of the proposed names to align with that of the larger feature.

Park County opposed the "Crow Woman" names because the Commissioners felt that "the history and heritage of Park County is important and must remain the same today and tomorrow."

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

Change the application of **Barrow Mountain** (FID 205283)
and change **Barrow Mountain** to **Barlow Mountain**, Connecticut
(Review List 450)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/205283>

Local government	Ridgefield Town Selectmen	No objection*
State Names Authority	Connecticut	Support

Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Local historian	Support**

* provided by SNA

** provided by proponent

This proposal is to change the name of Barrow Mountain in the Town of Ridgefield in Fairfield County to Barlow Mountain and to correct its location to recognize local and historic use.

USGS maps have labeled a ridge south of the Seth Low Pierrepont State Park Reserve as Barrow Mountain since 1951. However, the proponent, a resident of Ridgefield, reports that the name should be Barlow Mountain and that it applies instead to a 970-foot summit within the reserve and 0.75 miles north-northeast of its current position.

Research shows that the name commemorates John Barlow (1744-?), a blacksmith who resided in the town from 1769 to 1802 and who operated a forge on the north side of the mountain. He was known for shoeing horses along an early stagecoach road and for producing andirons. This information has been confirmed by an employee of the USGS National Geospatial Program whose surname is Barlow. A plaque on the summit cites the history of John Barlow and his smithy shop.

Park trail maps refer to the summit in question as Barlow Mountain. Barlow Mountain Road, Old Barlow Mountain Road, and Barlow Mountain Elementary School are in the vicinity. A map published in 1935 on the occasion of the Connecticut Tercentenary shows the name Barlow Mountain.

The existing GNIS entry for Barrow Mountain was obtained from the volume *Connecticut Place Names* (Hughes, 1976); this source also states “the name could be Barlow Mountain.” Another volume, *Ridgefield in Review* (Bedini, 1958), refers to “Asproom Mountain (now Barlow Mountain)” and includes a short biography of John Barlow.

The summit in question has been known by many names, most of which have been cataloged by a local historian. These include Aspetuck Mountain, Asproom Loaf, Loaf Mountain, and Sugar Loaf Mountain. The historian added, “there was never any place in Ridgefield called ‘Barrow’ anything. It was clearly some sloppy cartographer’s error.”

If this proposal is approved, the ridge currently labeled as Barrow Mountain will be unnamed. The name in local use appears to be Stonecrest Mountain or Copps Mountain, but the proponent of the change to Barlow Mountain has declined at this time to initiate a proposal for either of those names.

Lackhove Creek, Delaware
(Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation)
(Review List 449)

Mouth: 38.781791, -75.1731 / Source: 38.78006, -75.15862

Local government	Lewes City Council	Support
	Sussex County Council	Support
State Names Authority	Delaware	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control	Support

The new name Lackhove Creek is proposed for a 0.95-mile-long tidal tributary of Canary Creek in the City of Lewes. The stream lies entirely within the Great Marsh Preserve, managed by the Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation.

The name would commemorate Harry Funk Lackhove (1925-2014), who lived for many years near the upper end of the tidal stream. Lackhove was well-known in Lewes as “Captain Speed.” A native of Pennsylvania, he moved to Delaware in 1951 after serving in the Army Air Corps. His obituary noted that he was “most known for . . . his love for his family and friends,” in addition to fishing, leading sightseeing boat tours, and operating local businesses including a motel and apartment complex, storage properties, and a marina. On his 80th birthday, he rode a motorcycle through a wall of fire and was known in Lewes “as the official ‘consultant’ and ‘fun coordinator.’” The proponent met Lackhove in the 1980s and they lived on the same street since 1999. The proponent states that “one key reason for this request was [Lackhove’s] love of Hoornkill Avenue which he referred to as the ‘best street in Lewes’.”

The proponent reports that “[r]ecent flooding events and construction proposals in the tidal area refer to the waterway as ‘un-named creek’” and he believes it should have a name.

Two streams in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
(Review List 449)

The following proposals were submitted by the Hollow Oak Land Trust, Inc., to name unnamed streams in Moon Township in Allegheny County. Six other names proposed at the same time are included under Category V: New Names.

There are no nearby features with names similar to these proposed names.

Local government	Moon Township Supervisors	Support*
	Allegheny County Council	Support*
State Names Authority	Pennsylvania	Support

Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Moon Township Historical Society	Support*
	Moon Township Environmental Advisory Council	Support*
	Montour Run Watershed Association	Support*

* obtained by proponent

Becks Run

Mouth: 40.528532, -80.240776 / Source: 40.515076, -80.247878

This proposal would make official the local name Becks Run for a 1.3-mile-long tributary of Flaugherty Run in Moon Township.

The proponent reports that the name is in local use, but the origin of the name is unknown. Becks Run Road runs along the lower part of the stream. Online genealogy records show a number of individuals in Allegheny County since the late 19th century with the surname Beck or Becks, although none specifically in Moon Township.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection legacy stream dataset applied the names “Trib 36649 To Flaugherty Run” to the lower part of this stream and “Trib 36650 Of Flaugherty Run” to the upper part.

McGinnis Run

Mouth: 40.489755, -80.160154 / Source: 40.485414, -80.166506

The new name McGinnis Run is proposed for an unnamed 0.5-mile-long tributary of Meeks Run in Moon Township in Allegheny County. The stream flows partly through Hollow Oak Land Trust’s Montour Woods Conservation Area.

The proponent reports that the McGinnis family were the original landowners along the stream and that the name was suggested by a McGinnis family descendant who owned the land before donating it to the Land Trust.

This stream is not shown in the National Hydrography Dataset, nor in the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection legacy stream dataset, but is shown in Allegheny County GIS data.

New name **Stockers Island**
and change **Stocker Island** (FID 1188694) to **Sibert Island**, Pennsylvania
(Pymatuning State Park)
(Review List 449)

Local government	Crawford 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*

* proponent

This pair of proposals would affect the names of two islands located in Pymatuning Reservoir in Pymatuning State Park and within West Shenango Township in Crawford County. The proposals were submitted by the Pymatuning State Park Assistant Manager so that Federal maps would align with the names used by the Park.

The first proposal is to change the name of 15-acre Stocker Island to Sibert Island. The second would move the name Stocker Island to a smaller island 1.1 miles to the north.

The proponent states, “The island that is labeled as Stockers [*sic*] is actually Sibert Island, named for the landowners of the plot prior to the lake being constructed. Stockers was in reference to the Ohio boat concession that was located at the Ohio Campground which the correct island is just off of. . . . It is a safety concern when getting incorrect location information for emergency calls on the lake.” She also provided copies of a postcard and a boat sales brochure, both undated, showing Stockers Boat Landing and Stocker’s Boat Landing, respectively, on the shoreline close to the larger island. An 1876 land ownership map of Crawford County showed that H. Siebert [*sic*] owned property in the vicinity of the present-day reservoir. The origin of the name Stockers Island has not been determined, although genealogy records show many individuals with the surname Stocker in Crawford County since the mid-nineteenth century.

IV. Revised Decisions

Change **Falls River Basin** (BGN 1930, 1937) to **Fall River Basin**, Wyoming
(Yellowstone National Park / Caribou-Targhee National Forest)
(Review List 448)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/1588382>

Local government	Teton County Commissioners	No objection
State Names Authority	Wyoming	Support
Federal agency	National Park Service	No opinion
	U.S. Forest Service	Support

Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
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This proposal is to change the name of Falls River Basin, an approximately 30-square-mile basin in Teton County, to Fall River Basin. The basin is divided between the Caribou-Targhee National Forest and Yellowstone National Park. The existing name has appeared on USGS topographic maps since 1886.

A second proposal would rename Falls River Ridge in Fremont County, Idaho, also on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, to Fall River Ridge (q.v.). Both changes would bring the names of the basin and ridge into agreement with that of Fall River, which was approved by the BGN in 1997.

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Besheret Pond, Connecticut (Review List 449)

41.37301, -72.500446

Local government	Deep River Town Selectmen	No objection*
State Names Authority	Connecticut	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Deep River Historical Society	No response*
	CT Deep River Historical Society, Inland Wetlands and Watercourses	No objection*

* reported by SNA

The new name Besheret Pond is proposed for two small interconnected waterbodies in the Town of Deep River in Lower Connecticut River Valley Planning Region. The ponds cover approximately four acres and are located entirely on the proponent's property.

Regarding the proposed name, the proponent provided a modified version of [an account of the definition from Wikipedia](#):

Besheret means "destiny." The etymology of the word is somewhat unknown, with some arguing that it comes from the German beschert (meaning "bestowed" or "given"). Others insist that it comes from the Yiddish words meaning "inevitable" or "preordained." It can apply to any happening or physical feature which is beautiful to behold - like the interconnected ponds and the surrounding landscape.

In 2019, the proponent proposed changing the name of Dutton Pond in Hancock County, Maine to Besherets Pond. He had recently purchased the property that contained that pond and stated at the time that "'Besheret' means 'inevitable' or 'preordained' and is used to express the

seeming destiny of an auspicious or important event, friendship, or happening. Our love and appreciation, since purchase, of the lands surrounding Dutton Pond, and of the Pond itself, have inspired us to suggest a name more apropos of the beauty, feeling and intensity of area.” The BGN did not approve that proposal, citing the objections of the Town Selectmen, the County Commissioners, and the Maine State Names Authority.

Most online sources spell the name as “bashert” or “bashert.” Many sources online report that the word is used to refer to one’s soulmate or a preordained spouse. “Beshert” is the name of an online “introduction service for Jewish single professionals.”

The proponent’s email displayed the name “Besheret LLC.” BGN staff asked the proponent to address the Commercial Names Policy; he responded that the name is for legal protection, not for any commercial purposes or to promote a business or product.

Six stream names in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
(Review List 449)

Local government	Moon Township Supervisors [Allegheny Co.]	Support*
	Robinson Township Commissioners [Allegheny Co.] [Witch-Hazel Run only]	Support*
	Hopewell Township Commissioners [Beaver Co.] [Limerick Run only]	Support*
	Allegheny County Council	Support*
	Beaver County Commissioners [Limerick Run only]	Support*
State Names Authority	Pennsylvania	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Moon Township Historical Society	Support*
	Moon Township Environmental Advisory Council	Support*
	Montour Run Watershed Association	Support*

* obtained by proponent

The following six proposals were submitted by the Hollow Oak Land Trust, Inc., to name unnamed streams in Moon Township in Allegheny County. Two other names proposed at the same time are included under Category III: Commemorative Names. There are no nearby features with names similar to these proposed names.

Gunsmith Run

Mouth: 40.528068, -80.244209 / Source: 40.531134, -80.268542

The new name Gunsmith Run is proposed for an unnamed 1.5-mile-long tributary of Flaugherty Run in Moon Township in Allegheny County. The stream flows partly through Moon Township's Olsen Park.

The proponent reports that the area along the stream was "farmed by the Olson family. Mr. Olson was a farmer, miner, and gunsmith. Gunsmithing was an important local skill in early days." He also states that the valley along the stream was originally inhabited by Native Americans and that "Native American projectile points were found in the valley by the Olson family."

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection legacy stream dataset applied the names "Trib 36651 To Flaugherty Run" to the lower part of this stream and "Trib 36653 Of Flaugherty Run" to the upper part.

Jenny Run

Mouth: 40.531101, -80.231785 / Source: 40.516829, -80.225777

The new name Jenny Run is proposed for an unnamed 1.1-mile-long tributary of Flaugherty Run in Moon Township in Allegheny County.

The proponent states that the name refers to the steam jenny, a steam-powered equipment cleaner invented in 1927 by Frank Ofeldt who lived near the source of this stream. The proponent states, "Frank Ofeldt took his ideas and services to the Homestead Valve Manufacturing Company here in Moon. Later the rights for the jenny were bought by a firm in Somerset, PA. You can still buy a jenny today." The name would be "in honor of the steam jenny born here 95 years ago at the head of the stream." "Jenny" is a registered trademark of Jenny Products, Incorporated. The proponent confirmed that the name is not intended to "promote a commercial product or enterprise," and he obtained permission from the trademark holder to use it in a place name.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection legacy stream dataset applied the name "Trib 36648 To Flaugherty Run" to this stream.

Limerick Run

Mouth: 40.542329, -80.249701 / Source: 40.558487, -80.257405

The new name Limerick Run is proposed for an unnamed 1.3-mile-long tributary of Boggs Run in Moon Township in Allegheny County and Hopewell Township in Beaver County.

The proponent reports that in 1784, "Revolutionary War veteran James Carson bought a 400-acre tract [near this stream] on the mouth of Flaugherty Run, which he named Limerick." A deep pool

at the mouth of Flaugherty Run was “a favorable place for boats to land” and “became the site of an important boat building operation” using Moon Township timber. The location at the mouth of Flaugherty Run became known as Limerick Landing.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection legacy stream dataset applied the name “Trib 36644 To Boggs Run” to this stream.

Salamander Run

Mouth: 40.480038, -80.154487 / Source: 40.481018, -80.173584

The new name Salamander Run is proposed for an unnamed 1.1-mile-long tributary of Montour Run in Moon Township in Allegheny County. The stream flows partly through Hollow Oak Land Trust’s Trout Run Conservation Area.

The name refers to the nearby Salamander Trail or Salamander Loop in the Trout Run Conservation Area. This name refers not only to salamanders that can be found along the stream, but also to a name shown on Google Maps, “Stream of Salamander’s Head.” The origin of this name is unknown and there is no record of who added it to Google maps.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection legacy stream dataset applied the name “Trib 36693 To Montour Run” to this stream.

Toad Hollow Run

Mouth: 40.490821, -80.172853 / Source: 40.489238, -80.190555

The new name Toad Hollow Run is proposed for an unnamed 1.2-mile-long tributary of Meeks Run in Moon Township in Allegheny County. The stream flows partly through Moon Township Park.

The proponent reports that “Toad Hollow was the name of an early residential area of Moon Township. In 1819, Toad Hollow Road ran [nearby] By 1937, Moon Schoolhouse #2, Toad Hollow School was opened. As our township grew the name was mostly dropped from usage. Colorful and historic, we proposed the name live on for this stream.”

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection legacy stream dataset applied the name “Trib 36687 To Meeks Run” to this stream.

Witch-Hazel Run

Mouth: 40.465977, -80.156662 / Source: 40.470156, -80.169794

The new name Witch-Hazel Run is proposed for an unnamed 0.9-mile-long tributary of Montour Run in Allegheny County. The stream flows from Moon Township into Robinson Township and partly through Hollow Oak Land Trust’s Trout Run Conservation Area.

The name refers to witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), a shrub or small tree that the proponents report is prevalent along the stream. The name of the plant is also spelled without the hyphen, but the hyphenated form is commonly used.

This stream is not shown in NHD or in the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection legacy stream dataset but is shown in Allegheny County GIS data.

There are no nearby features with similar names. GNIS lists three features with names that include “Witch Hazel”: Witch Hazel Millpond in Connecticut, Witch Hazel Pond in Ohio, and Witch Hazel, an unincorporated populated place in Oregon.

Mushpekat Run, Pennsylvania
(Review List 450)

Mouth: 40.10081, -75.54334 / Source: 40.07686, -75.57018

Local government	Charlestown Township Supervisors	Support*
	Chester County Water Resources Authority on behalf of Chester County Commissioners	Support*
State Names Authority	Pennsylvania	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Chester County Conservation District	Support*
	Valley Forge Chapter, Trout Unlimited	Support*

* obtained by proponent

The new name Mushpekat Run is proposed for an unnamed 2.4-mile-long tributary of Pickering Creek in Charlestown Township in Chester County. The current owner of the property is the Great Valley Nature Center.

In 2014, a local middle school student service group, the Kids Leadership Academy, asked the Charlestown Township Board of Supervisors for permission to name the stream. According to the [April 7, 2014 Charlestown Township Board of Supervisors Business Meeting Minutes](#), the Supervisors encouraged the students to choose a name. “Mushpekat was chosen because the Lenape name translates to Clear Water Run.”

A member of the Charlestown Township Environmental Advisory Committee recently submitted this proposal to the BGN, noting:

Since becoming aware of the proposed naming of the stream [in 2014] I wondered if the process for officially naming the stream had ever been undertaken. I contacted the original adult leader of the Kids Leadership Academy to inquire what the status of the naming was and was informed that she had looked at the process and it seemed daunting and never followed up with requesting the formal naming. . . .

The proponent adds:

We believe that all streams should be named because without a name they are not recognized, they are overlooked. Many are not mapped. How can we protect something that doesn't appear on a map or have a name? Head water streams such as this one are extremely important. They are the very sources of clean cold water. This stream is a wild trout nursery and a source for drinking water. If it is not named how can it be regulated and protected. People must know of its existence and its special attributes.

Some Lenape sources online spell the word as mushpekàt or mushpèkàt.