

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**  
**DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE**  
Eight Hundred and Fifty-eighth Meeting  
October 12, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.  
(Virtual Meeting)

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Kenia Allen	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Marielle Black	Department of the Interior (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation)
Wendi-Starr Brown	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs)
Jessica Campbell	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
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)
Susan Lyon	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) (not voting)
Veronica Ranieri	Library of Congress
Melanie Riley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Mike Shelton	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
Patrick Mahoney	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management)
Jeremy Smith	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management)
Timothy St. Onge	Library of Congress (Chair)
Michael Tischler	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey) (Vice Chair)
Tara Wallace	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Marilyn Withers	Department of Defense (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency)

Ex-Officio

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

Staff

Josefa Baker, U.S. Geological Survey  
Shelby Bourquein, 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

Janet Agin, Smithsonian Institution  
Gina Anderson, U.S. Geological Survey Office of Communications and Publishing  
Lindsay Decker, U.S. Geological Survey

Tiffany Doyle, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency  
Jon Freel, Office of Coast Survey  
Deb Nordeen, National Park Service  
Trent Palmer, Department of State  
Brigitta Urban-Mathieux, U.S. Geological Survey  
Caroline Wilkinson, Office of Coast Survey  
National Geographic Society observers  
Foreign Names Committee observers

### 1. Opening

Chair St. Onge opened Meeting 858 of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) at 9:32 a.m. He noted that motions would pass by a simple majority of votes.

Staff conducted a roll call of members and staff.

Members were invited 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 857

The minutes of Meeting 857, held September 15, 2023, were approved as submitted.

### 3. Reports

#### 3.1 BGN Chairman (Tischler)

There was no written report.

Tischler reported that he will serve as the U.S. liaison to the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM).

The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) has requested a U.S. contact for the USA/Canada Division. When there is a permanent Executive Secretary for Domestic Names, they will fill this role. Until then, Ellerbe has offered to assist.

Bob Davis, USGS National Geospatial Program Cartographic Data Services Chief, is leading an effort with the UNGEGN USA/Canada Division to develop a cross-border map of indigenous place names.

BGN Full Board meeting 290 is scheduled to take place October 17, 2023.

Tischler asked members from agencies other than DOI to provide updates on the appointment letter process. Several reported on the status within their departments. Thus far, the only letter received is from the U.S. Postal Service. The DOI member and deputies have received their appointment letters.

### 3.2 Executive Secretary for Domestic Names (vacant)

There was no written report.

St. Onge asked Lyon to share details regarding her recently completed detail as Executive Secretary for Domestic Names (August 14 to September 30). Lyon reported that the Executive Committee met on September 5 to discuss the forthcoming Council of Geographic Names Authorities (CoGNA) annual conference, BGN leadership changes, and preparation for the Full Board meeting.

Lyon attended the CoGNA Executive Committee meeting (virtually) during the conference, where discussion focused on finances, conference fees, CoGNA governance and policy issues, revisions to the CoGNA bylaws, and extending membership to naming authorities from U.S. territories.

During the detail, Lyon focused on a revision of the DNC's *Principles, Policies, and Procedures* (PPP) document. She completed an initial draft and shared it with staff and interested DNC members for feedback. The goal is to make the document more usable, readable, and shorter, as well as to make the content less redundant. All DNC members will be invited to review and comment on the next draft. The Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication will be responsible for reviewing Policy X: Tribal Geographic Names.

### 3.3 Executive Secretary for Foreign Names (Hoffman)

There was no written report.

The FNC staff and BGN members from the Department of State will begin holding monthly meetings with their counterparts at the UK Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (PCGN). FNC will host a virtual conference of the BGN and the PCGN on November 7. Hoffman invited all DNC members to attend.

FNC meeting 416 will be held on December 12. The FNC is also revising their own *Principles, Policies, and Procedures* document.

### 3.4 Special Committee on Communications (Ellerbe)

See attached report.

The committee has not met since the last meeting. Members are invited to add presentation slides to the BGN collaboration site, in case members wish to use them in future briefings about the BGN.

### 3.5 Staff (Runyon)

See attached report.

Runyon thanked the members who attended the DNC meeting during the CoGNA conference, especially Tischler for chairing the meeting. She also thanked Gina Anderson and Rachel Pawlitz of the USGS Office of Communications and Publishing for handling the media requests during and after the meeting.

Staff has almost completed Quarterly Review List 453; it will be posted next week. The notice to Tribes, inviting them to comment, will be sent out shortly after.

BGN staff received a request from a Portland State University glaciologist to update glacier feature information in GNIS. He has co-authored a study comparing GNIS records to current imagery. According to the study, some GNIS features should be marked “historical” or have their coordinates updated. McCormick shared some information on how this could be addressed in GNIS and noted also that the glaciologist should coordinate with the USGS National Map and the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) because they maintain the spatial extents of glaciers.

The BGN has received numerous emails objecting to the proposed changes to the names of Mount Washington and the Baker River in New Hampshire. O’Donnell noted that some of the messages contain vulgar language. The New Hampshire Commission on Native American Affairs submitted a letter in support of the changes.

Members were asked to check their leave schedules in December 2023 and January 2024 so that staff can determine if one of the meetings might need to be canceled due to a lack of a quorum.

Runyon asked if any members would be interested in helping BGN staff organize records at the USGS office. BGN materials were recently moved from the basement to a second-floor room but are mostly still in boxes. It was noted that after June 2024, the National Archives will no longer accept paper records.

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

There was no written report. McCormick reported that bimonthly GNIS files have been updated and were recently posted.

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

There was no written report.

The committee did not meet last month but will do so following today's DNC meeting, primarily to review outcomes from CoGNA, including comments received from Tribal representatives who were in attendance.

#### 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 **Minneha Creek** (FID 387026) to **Minnehaha Creek** and change **South Fork Minneha Creek** (FID 390977) to **South Fork Minnehaha Creek**, Idaho (Boise National Forest) (Review List 450)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the changes.

Vote: 18 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Change **Amsterdam Slough Flowage** (FID 1792505) to **Black Brook Flowage**, Wisconsin (Amsterdam Sloughs State Wildlife Area) (Review List 452)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 18 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

##### II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

**Sanctuary Lake**, Idaho (Boise National Forest / proposed wilderness) (Review List 441)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing the Wilderness Area Geographic Names Policy.

Vote: 18 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Fleischl Basin**, New Jersey (Review List 451)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing the recommendation of the State Names Authority and a concern that the name could be commemorative.

Vote: 18 in favor  
 0 against  
 0 abstentions

**Bear Foot Lake**, Wisconsin (Review List 452) (FID 2831373)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Members discussed the report of a pre-existing name for the lake and whether the other landowner had expressed interest in proposing that to the BGN. Staff responded that this proposal came to the BGN from the Wisconsin Geographic Names Council (WGNC) as a complete package, and that although the WGNC had reached out to the other landowner for input, it is not known if they were informed that they could propose a different name. Evidence suggests that the pre-existing name likely commemorates a living person, so the BGN could not have accepted it.

Members also brought up the other landowner's statement that the lake dries up so they don't consider it a lake. The BGN routinely names seasonally ephemeral features and the feature is mapped on USGS maps and in the NHD.

Vote: 14 in favor  
 1 against  
 3 abstentions

The vote against the motion cited the possibility that a different name might be proposed in the future.

**Kylingstad Flowage**, Wisconsin (Crex Meadows Wildlife Area) (Review List 452) (FID 2831377)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 18 in favor  
 0 against  
 0 abstentions

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

**Esarey Creek**, Indiana (Hoosier National Forest) (Review List 450) (FID 2831365)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 18 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Jelliffe-Knight Bay**, New York (Review List 451) (FID 2831367)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 18 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Christenson Lake**, North Dakota (Review List 450) (FID 2831366)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 18 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Litchford Run** and **Pleasant Run**, Ohio (Review List 443) (FIDs 2831369, 2831368)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 17 in favor  
0 against  
1 abstention

**Ross Point**, Oregon (Rogue River National Forest) (Review List 449) (FID 2831370)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 18 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Change **Spring Lake** (FID 1574672) to **Lake Killian**, Wisconsin (Review List 452)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 18 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

#### IV. Revised Decisions

Change **Root River** (BGN 1965) (FID 1572588) to **Center Creek**, Wisconsin (Review List 452)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 18 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

One member left the meeting.

Change **Huu'na Waippe Naokwaide** (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 1603311) to **Huu'na Waippe Hunu'u**, Wyoming (Bridger-Teton National Forest) (not review listed)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 17 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Change **Two Ocean Basin** (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 1603298) to **Pia Tsiambe Basin**, Wyoming (Bridger-Teton National Forest) (not review listed)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 17 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

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

**Blue Heron Creek**, Oregon (Review List 452) (FID 2831371)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.



Vote: 17 in favor  
 0 against  
 0 abstentions

**Passage Through**, Washington (Naval Magazine Indian Island) (Review List 452) (FID 2831372)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 17 in favor  
 0 against  
 0 abstentions

**Five lake names in Burnett County, Wisconsin** (Review List 452)

A motion was made and seconded to consider these names as a group. After further discussion, it was noted that some of the names, specifically those that could be commemorative, appear to be lacking details, and so the motion was withdrawn.

**Beaver Lake**, Wisconsin (Review List 452) (FID 2831376)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 17 in favor  
 0 against  
 0 abstentions

One member left the meeting.

**Dilly Lake**, Wisconsin (Review List 452)

Members asked that the vote be deferred until staff can ask the WGNC to address the Commemorative Names Policy.

Members discussed how proposals such as this one differ from personal names that were added to GNIS during Phase I name collection (USGS topographic maps) and Phase II (other authoritative sources). During collection of those names, no effort was made to confirm that they satisfied the Commemorative Names Policy. If these Burnett County names had been discovered during Phase II on an authoritative source, such as a county or State map, they could have been submitted directly to the GNIS Manager and no BGN review would be required, nor would GNIS provide any details regarding the history of the name. In this case, however, the names came from the WGNC.

For several of these Wisconsin proposals, the WGNC did not contact all local jurisdictions, so BGN staff followed up to ensure that the docket would include information sufficient for the DNC to make an informed decision.

Vote: 16 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Duck Lake**, Wisconsin (Review List 452) (FID 2831379)

Members asked and staff confirmed that there were no other lakes in the county named "Duck."

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 16 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

One member left the meeting.

**Kufalk Lake**, Wisconsin (Review List 452)

A motion was made and seconded to defer a decision until staff can ask the WGNC to address the Commemorative Names Policy.

Vote: 15 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Paulson Lake**, Wisconsin (Review List 452)

A motion was made and seconded to defer a decision until staff can ask the WGNC to address the Commemorative Names Policy.

Vote: 15 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Big Hill Savanna**, Wisconsin (Review List 452) (FID 2831378)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Members discussed whether the generic “Savanna” was appropriate for a ridge. McCormick noted that GNIS contains numerous examples of “false generics” where the name does not match the feature type. O’Donnell added that the proponent appears to want to reference the oak savanna habitat being restored on the crest of the ridge and that there are in fact two features here: the relatively flat oak savanna at the crest of the ridge and the ridge itself, which was known in the past as “Big Hill.” He noted that the WGNC had discussed the matter with the proponent, who reiterated that he wished to include “Savanna” to reflect his permanent conservation easement on top of the ridge.

Members questioned whether a name such as “Big Savanna Hill” might make more sense, but were reminded that they can only consider the name that is submitted.

Vote: 13 in favor  
2 against  
0 abstentions

The votes against the motion cited the apparent mismatch between the name and the feature.

One member left the meeting.

**Corkscrew Creek**, Wisconsin (Review List 452) (FID 2831375)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Freedom Lake**, Wisconsin (Review List 452) (FID 2831374)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 13 in favor  
0 against  
1 abstention

**Tenmen Lake**, Wisconsin (Review List 452)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing a concern that without more information, the name could be in violation of the Commercial Names Policy.

One member expressed concerns that the name was too gender specific. She reported that she had contacted the company to request details regarding its use of the property but was unable to

obtain more information. According to the Illinois Secretary of State's office, the company does "construction, real property, mortgages, homes."

Vote: 10 in favor  
 1 against  
 2 abstentions

The vote against the motion cited the local and State support for the name.

#### 5. Other Business

The members and staff discussed the possibility of reformatting the docket, i.e., eliminating the current five categories and simply listing the proposals in the order received, i.e., oldest to newest within each review list. It was agreed that the idea is worth consideration.

Staff reported that the Department of the Interior is next in the rotation to serve as DNC vice chair.

The Chair reiterated his thanks to CoGNA, the BGN members, and staff for a successful meeting last month.

#### 6. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m. The next meeting of the DNC is scheduled to be held on November 9, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

(signed)

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[VACANT]  
 Executive Secretary)  
 Domestic Names Committee

APPROVED  
 (signed)

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Timothy St. Onge, Chair  
 Domestic Names Committee

### Special Committee on Communications

The Special Committee on Communications has not met since the last report.

I have begun compiling submission for Annual Reports. I will give a status update at the next Special Committee on Communications which should be held later this month, at a time yet to be determined.

We are also asking that anyone who has a slide deck for presentations regarding the BGN and is willing to share, please send them to me via email. I will upload them to the BGN Collaboration Site under Documents > Briefing Material. We have already gotten a couple of submissions.

Updates for web addresses and contacts should be on the Resources page soon. 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

[BGNEXEC@usgs.gov](mailto:BGNEXEC@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

3838 Vogel Road, Mail Stop L25

Arnold, Missouri 63010

[BGNEXEC@nga.mil](mailto:BGNEXEC@nga.mil)

## Staff Report

The **Domestic Names Committee** held **Meeting 857** on September 15; the hybrid meeting took place during the annual conference of the [Council of Geographic Names Authorities](#) (CoGNA) in Portland, Oregon. Members and staff also participated in a number of sessions during the conference: Wallace provided an overview of the DNC's Cultural Sensitivity Guidance for Native American Names and Policy X: Tribal Geographic Names, while the staff presented on the roles and responsibilities of the BGN and State geographic naming authorities. Unfortunately, the planned demonstration of the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) could not happen due to technical issues. The conference also included a State-Federal Roundtable, which provided an opportunity for attendees to discuss items of mutual interest and concern.

There was considerable focus at the conference on issues related to Tribal engagement in the naming and renaming process, both at the State and Federal level. A number of attendees expressed concerns that more needs to be done, including increased outreach to Tribal governments, but there were no specific suggestions on how this might be accomplished. It was agreed that more discussion is needed.

During Meeting 857, the DNC approved the proposed change from **Mount Evans** to [Mount Blue Sky](#), for a summit in Colorado. There was considerable interest in the matter, with many individuals, Tribal representatives, and media observing the meeting. Following the decision, the BGN received appreciation for the outcome, and many news articles reported on the name change.

On September 24, the Mestaa'éhehe Coalition hosted a Mount Blue Sky [naming celebration](#) in Denver, attended by many supporters of the change. The media has also reported on next steps, i.e., [ongoing efforts](#) to update signs, road names, etc.

At Meeting 857, the DNC also approved proposals from the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to change the name of [Jeff Davis Creek](#) to **Doyavinai Baa O'ogwaide** and from the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and The Wilderness Society to change [Jeff Davis Peak](#) to **Three Eagles Peak**. Both features are located in Beaverhead County, Montana.

Since the last meeting, the BGN has received six **new name and name change proposals**, each of which is undergoing initial review and new case briefs are in progress. [Quarterly Review List 453](#), comprising 48 new names and name changes, will be released the week of October 10. A notice will be sent to Federal partners and State Names Authorities, as well as to all federally recognized Tribes and approximately 200 Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs), inviting them to comment on any proposal in which they have an interest.

In 2012, the BGN rejected a proposal to change the name of [Brown Island](#) in the Town of Marblehead, Massachusetts to [Crowninshield Island](#), citing a lack of local support. In early 2023, the proponent contacted the BGN to request that it revisit the decision. At its March 2023 meeting, the DNC agreed it would consider reopening the case if local support could be

confirmed. The proponent has provided letters of support from the Town Select Board and the Harbormaster, both of which had previously opposed the change, so the proposal is being re-review listed.

A new proposal has been received to apply the name **Druid Hill** to a slope in DeKalb County, Georgia. (In 2019, the DNC rejected a proposal to apply this name to the adjacent summit, citing a lack of local and State support, as well as possible confusion with other features in the area with similar names.) This new proposal, submitted by a different proponent, will be added to Review List 454.

On October 4, Hammond provided a **briefing on the BGN**, Policy X, and the Secretary's Orders to the **USGS Tribal Community of Practice**. Runyon and O'Donnell also attended to answer questions. One of the attendees inquired about adding native names as variants to existing GNIS entries.

On October 5, O'Donnell attended a meeting of the Manhattan Community Board 11's Open Space & Parks Committee Meeting to speak briefly about the BGN's role in reviewing proposals and specifically the need for local input on the proposal to change Negro Point to Tenkenas Point.

The staff met with members of the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN) to review the **proposals submitted by the Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians** to change three names that the BGN approved on September 8, 2022 ("sq\_\_\_\_" changes). The replacement names were submitted to the Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force by a Chumash linguist but the Band is asking that they be changed to names that more accurately reflect the orthography of the area. The CACGN will contact the Band to review the matter.

The BGN received an inquiry regarding how the name of **Nazi Creek** in Alaska might be renamed. The staff replied with an overview of the process, and the Alaska Geographic Names Authority has since followed up with the inquirer. Research shows that **Nazi Creek** is one of dozens of names applied to features on Kiska Island and Little Kiska Island shortly after World War II. The *Dictionary of Alaska Place Names* (Orth, 1967) states that it is "An arbitrary name beginning with 'N' to correspond to [the] 'N' grid used by the U.S. Army for tactical purposes during World War II; published on a 1953 Army Map Service (AMS) map."

A geologist at Portland State University is inquiring about **glaciers recorded in GNIS**. He and his colleagues have completed a report that compares the existing GNIS entries with more recent imagery, and he is asking how the entries might be updated. Many of the names were added during Phase I of GNIS compilation, i.e., 1978-1982 from the most current USGS topographic maps available at the time, and as the condition of the glaciers has evolved, many of the entries are obsolete or their locations (primary coordinates) have changed. In other instances, a single large glacier has shrunk and is now comprised of many smaller pieces, so how should those be reflected in GNIS? (Should the BGN entertain proposals to name the individual pieces?) The report also notes that several of the entries are in fact "rock glaciers," or if they are no longer moving, they are "no longer considered glaciers" and should be reclassified as a "perennial

snowfield.” The author has been advised that both of these feature types are still classified in GNIS under the broad category of “glacier.” The author and staff are seeking guidance as to how to address the changes.

Staff participated in a meeting of the Hawaii Board on Geographic Names (September 20).

Staff met with the secretary of the **Washington Committee on Geographic Names** to review the status of pending proposals and to share the outcomes of the recent CoGNA conference.

Susan Lyon, Department of Defense member and chair of the DNC, completed her **detail as Executive Secretary for Domestic Names** on September 30. She focused her time in the position on a review and revision of the DNC’s *Principles, Policies, and Procedures* (PPP). Her initial draft has been shared with staff and a few DNC members, and it is hoped there will be an initial report at the November meeting.

The announcement for the permanent **Executive Secretary for Domestic Names** position was opened for applications in early August.

The **member appointment letters** for the 2023-2025 term were finalized by the Department of the Interior (DOI). The DOI members have been informed of their appointments, while the heads of the other departments have been asked to appoint members and deputies for the new term.

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (SBT) of the Fort Hall Reservation requested **orthographic corrections** to 50 of the names they submitted as “sq\_\_\_” changes to the Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force, established under Secretary’s Order 3404. Shoshone orthography includes an underlined ai that affects the pronunciation of the vowel sounds. The Task Force presented these names to the BGN without any orthography. The SBT agreed to have the ai represented by the Unicode “combining macron below” character that is included in Appendix G of the PPP. GNIS staff made the corrections to the 2022 Secretary’s Order decisions, including one on Tribal lands that the SBT requested under Policy X. The SBT also requested that their misspelling of the Shoshone word for “spring” be corrected in five names (these are also counted in the ai orthography changes). GNIS staff made these changes and marked them with a BGN decision. The SBT also requested changes to two names chosen by the Task Force because of typos in the SBT submissions; these will be voted on by the BGN but not added to a Review List. See the attached list.

The BGN member from NOAA has withdrawn the proposal to **change the names of [Free Negro Point](#) and [Free Negro Point Crevasse](#)** in West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana to Wilkinson Point and Wilkinson Point Crevasse, respectively (Review List 450). The Louisiana Geographic Names Committee continues to conduct local outreach, and NOAA is hoping that replacement names that have the support of the local community will be submitted.



**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES  
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE  
DOCKET  
October 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 **Minneha Creek** (FID 387026) to **Minnehaha Creek** and  
change **South Fork Minneha Creek** (FID 390977) to **South Fork Minnehaha Creek**, Idaho  
(Boise National Forest)  
(Review List 450)

Minneha Creek: <https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/387026>

South Fork Minneha Creek: <https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/390977>

Local government	Boise County Commissioners	No response
State Names Authority	Idaho Geographic Names Advisory Council	No opinion
Federal	U.S. Forest Service	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

This proposal is to change the names of Minneha Creek and South Fork Minneha Creek, in Boise County and Boise National Forest, to Minnehaha Creek and South Fork Minnehaha Creek, respectively. The proponent, a resident of the Boise area, believes the name should be corrected because:

. . . historically the name was Minnehaha, the word Minnehaha has meaning (Laughing Waters or Laughing Falls), cultural significance (Native American name), and literary significance (popularized by Song of Hiawatha), [and] there is no meaning to the word Minneha --- it is but a meaningless truncation of the original name.

“Minnehaha” originates in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s poem *The Song of Hiawatha* where it is the name of a character who becomes Hiawatha’s lover. In the poem, she was named after a

river with waterfalls. The word is poetically translated in the poem as “Laughing Water.” The Dakota word is more accurately spelled mnihaḥa or mnihaḥa and means “waterfall” or “rapids.”

Many places in the U.S. have names that include “Minnehaha” as a reference to the poem. The names of Hiawatha and Nokomis from Longfellow’s poem have also been widely applied in the U.S., although Nokomis is a figure in Ojibwe stories and Hiawatha was a historic Native American leader, known mostly through legends that he was an Onondaga or Mohawk chief credited with co-founding the Iroquois Confederacy. The historical Hiawatha has little to do with the character in Longfellow’s poem.

The primary stream was named Minnehaha Creek on USGS topographic maps from 1894 to 1962; however, on the 1955 edition of the 1:250,000-scale map and all editions of the 1:24,000-scale map since 1969, it has been labeled as Minneha Creek. It is not clear why the change occurred, and the BGN was not involved. U.S. Forest Service maps published in 1956 and 1966 also labeled the stream Minneha Creek, as did the 2018 Boise County highway map. Minneha Creek Road is in the vicinity of the stream.

Lalia Boone, in her 1987 volume *Idaho Place Names: A Geographical Dictionary*, reported “Name was once Minnehaha, but somehow the final syllable was dropped. The gulch [sic] was the site of the Minnehaha way station, operated by F. Cooper in 1863. Minnehaha is Siouan, ‘waterfall.’”

An Idaho State Historical Society account of the Boise - Idaho City Toll Road (1977) included references to “the bubbling, rippling waters of the Minnehaha,” “Minnehaha” station, and “Cooper’s Minnehaha Ranch.”

There is also a stream named Minnehaha Creek in Camas County, Idaho.

In Kansas, there is a small unincorporated community named Minneha, within the Township of Minneha. *Kansas Place-Names*, by John Rydjord (1972) noted “A community on the border of Sedgwick County was known as Minneha before its name changed to Midland, back to Minneha, then to Cloud or Cloud City, and finally to Andover. Minneha looks like Minnehaha and it evidently has the same Siouan meaning. The name in Kansas may well have come from Minnehaha in Minnesota.”

Change **Amsterdam Slough Flowage** (FID 1792505) to **Black Brook Flowage**, Wisconsin  
(Amsterdam Sloughs State Wildlife Area)  
(Review List 452)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/1792505>

Local government	Lincoln Town Supervisors	No response*
	Burnett County Supervisors [proponent]	Support*
State Names Authority	Wisconsin Geographic Names Council	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted	No response

	under Policy X	
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\* contacted by SNA

This proposal is to change the name of Amsterdam Slough Flowage in the Town of Lincoln in Burnett County to Black Brook Flowage. The reservoir is on Black Brook within the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources’ (WI DNR) Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area.

The proposed name is recorded in Burnett County data and shown on a 2016 WI DNR map. The name Amsterdam Slough Flowage has never appeared on USGS maps but was added to GNIS in 1998 from a 1980s U.S. Army Corps of Engineers inventory of dams and reservoirs. Despite the name of the wildlife area, there appear to be no features named “Amsterdam Slough” or “Amsterdam Sloughs,” nor are there any natural features in the county named “Amsterdam.”

“Flowage” is a commonly used generic term in Wisconsin; according to GNIS, the State has four channels, 22 lakes, and 276 reservoirs with the word in their names.

**II. Disagreement on Docketed Names**

**Sanctuary Lake, Idaho**  
 (Boise National Forest / proposed wilderness)  
 (Review List 441)

[44.27059, -115.28538](#)

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

This proposal is to apply the new name Sanctuary Lake to an unnamed 6.1-acre lake in Boise County and on the Boise National Forest. The proponent chose the name because “the lake seemed like a sanctuary to the wildlife.”

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) does not support the proposal because it is in a proposed wilderness area.

The BGN staff did not learn about the proposed wilderness status at the time of posting the Review List, and so the information was not initially provided to the county or the proponent. Staff subsequently asked the proponent to address the policy and provide a reason why the need is needed; he has not responded.

The USFS also reported that the Idaho Fish and Game Department, in its fish stocking database, refers to the lake as [Dead Man Creek Lake #1](#). The lake is within the drainage of [Dead Man Creek](#). There does not appear to be any interest in making this name official.

In late 2020 the Idaho Geographic Names Advisory Council (IGNAC) tabled a decision pending USFS input. IGNAC has not met since 2020.

**Fleischl Basin**, New Jersey  
(Review List 451)

[40.23229, -74.573501](#)

Local government	Robbinsville Township Council	No response
	Mercer County Commissioners	No response
State Names Authority	New Jersey Geographic Names Authority	Opposed
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

This proposal is to apply the name Fleischl Basin to an unnamed 235 ft. by 360 ft. reservoir in Robbinsville Township in Mercer County. The reservoir is within the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area, managed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife.

According to the proponent, the name has been used in the local neighborhood for 15 years and is "a combination of 'fly' and 'shill,' as the pond is known to attract many flies during warm summers." He originally submitted the name spelled as "Flieschl" but reported that "the spelling 'Fleischl' would be more accurate to what is being used locally." He reiterated that the name in local use has the generic term "Basin" rather than "Pond." In response to staff's questions about the significance of the name, he responded "the word 'shill' is local slang for a person advertising covertly, and many in the neighborhood have joked that someone must be advertising the pond for more flies to visit there." He linked to a "google location for the place, named 'Fleischl Basin.'" The name was not used as a label on the Google Maps basemap; it was a user-generated location marking it as a "Swimming basin." The location was removed sometime after May 2023.

The New Jersey State Names Authority does not recommend approval, citing a statement from the Division of Fish and Wildlife Regional Superintendent:

I don't see the need for naming the pond. We have had many issues with encroachment along this section of our WMA . . . . I would say this is a Wilderness study area and under the [BGN's] Wilderness policy features should remained unnamed . . . . Why wouldn't they [the proponent] name it "Fly Shill" like they talk about in the description but instead use the spelling Flieschl [*sic*]? They are also promoting it as a swimming basin on google maps, which swimming is not allowed on WMAs.

The GNIS feature class “basin” is defined as a “natural depression or relatively low area enclosed by higher land,” although the generic term “Basin” does appear in the names of features in a number of GNIS classes, including bays (those in New Jersey appear to be harbors, which were removed from GNIS in August 2021) and reservoirs. “Basin” is applied to only 46 lakes in the U.S.

**Bear Foot Lake**, Wisconsin  
(Review List 452)

[45.7374644, -91.1419193](#)

Local government	Radisson Town Supervisors	Support*
	Sawyer County Supervisors [proponent]	Support*
State Names Authority	Wisconsin Geographic Names Council	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Partial landowners	Opposed*

\* contacted by SNA

The new name Bear Foot Lake is proposed for an unnamed 19-acre reservoir in the Town of Radisson in Sawyer County. The proponent recently acquired property that includes half of the reservoir and states that bears are plentiful in the area. The reservoir was constructed sometime between 1947 and 1972.

The name was proposed to the Wisconsin Geographic Names Council (WGNC), which requested input from the other landowner; they object to the proposal for several reasons:

- the feature is not a lake because it is dry in years of drought, full of weeds in the summer, freezes in the winter, and does not support game fish or panfish populations;
- the name will likely increase property taxes because property on a named lake will put higher demand on the property and thus the appraisal value;
- a former landowner built a dam to make the lake and wanted it to “stay private and off the radar”;
- “[r]egardless of the decision that is made here, this body of water will always be known to us as ‘Joe’s Pond.’”

The local name “Joe’s Pond” may refer to Joseph Bugyie, who until 2022 owned the entire pond. The landowners who oppose the proposal now own part of the former Bugyie property.

**Kylingstad Flowage**, Wisconsin  
(Crex Meadows Wildlife Area)  
(Review List 452)

[45.84312, -92.5577226](#)

Local government	West Marshland Town Supervisors	Opposed*
	Burnett County Supervisors [proponent]	Support*
State Names Authority	Wisconsin Geographic Names Council	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

\* contacted by SNA

This proposal is to make official the name Kylingstad Flowage for a 10.5-acre reservoir in the Town of West Marshland in Burnett County.

The name is recorded in Burnett County GIS data. The origin is unknown, but may refer to Wingstad Kyllingstad (born ca.1886), who was listed as a farmer in the 1940 Federal Census of Burnett County. Kylingstad Road runs along the west side of the reservoir.

The Town of West Marshland informed the WGNC that they did not support the proposal but did not offer a reason.

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

**Esarey Creek**, Indiana  
(Hoosier National Forest)  
(Review List 450)

Mouth: [38.16056, -86.57928](#) / Source: [38.1537, -86.59913](#)

Local government	Perry County Commissioners	Support
State Names Authority	Indiana Geographic Names Authority	No objection
Federal	U.S. Forest Service	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

The new name Esarey Creek is proposed for an unnamed two-mile-long tributary of Oil Creek in Oil Township in Perry County. Approximately one-third of the stream is on the Hoosier National Forest. The name would commemorate several generations of the Esarey family, who were among the first settlers in Oil Township in the early 1800s, specifically Jonathan D. Esarey (1783-1858), Benjamin M. Esarey (1810-1876), Jesse C. Esarey (1817-1869), John C. Esarey (1841-1924), Jacob Esarey (1849-1916), and Felix E. Esarey (1851-1943). General Land Office records show that Jonathan and Benjamin Esarey each acquired 40 acres in the vicinity of the stream in 1841 and 1848, respectively. Two maps of Perry County, dated 1861 and 1894, show landowners named Esarey or Esary in the vicinity of the stream. They are listed in Census records as farmers and are buried in Walker Cemetery a short distance east of the stream.

The proponent reported that *The Indiana Home*, written by Logan Esarey in 1953, referred to the stream as Esaray Creek.

**Jelliffe-Knight Bay**, New York  
(Review List 451)

[43.651944, -73.4975](#)

Local government	Hague Town Supervisors [Warren Co.]	No opinion
	Dresden Town Supervisors [Washington Co.]	No response
	Warren County Supervisors	No response
	Washington County Supervisors	No response
State Names Authority	New York Geographic Names Committee	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Hague Town Historian	Support
	Washington County Deputy Historian	Support

This proposal is to apply the new name Jelliffe-Knight Bay to a 0.25-mile-wide bay located on the eastern shore of Lake George in the Town of Hague in Warren County (note: the water is in the Town of Hague, but the shoreline is in the Town of Dresden in Washington County).

The proponent is a local historical society archivist and media director for the Friends of Historic Huletts Landing; she is also the great-granddaughter of Dr. Smith Ely Jelliffe and Helena Dewey Leeming Jelliffe, who acquired the property in 1904. The site included an original Victorian home built in 1874, along with a boat house and cottage; the cottage collapsed in 2005 and was replaced with a modern home, which is now owned by the proponent. Beginning in the 1860s, seven generations of the family have spent summers on the bay. Emma Adele Ferguson Knight and Dr. George Winthrop Knight inherited property on the shore of the bay in 1919. A long-time local resident reported that the Knight Club operated in the area until it burned down many years ago.

The proponent is requesting that an official name be established for the bay as it is sometimes referred to erroneously as “Sheep Meadow Bay” or “Sheepmeadow.” According to a letter of support submitted by a local resident:

Several years ago the Adirondack Park Agency and the Lake George Park Commission proposed the use of chemicals to treat an invasion of Eurasian Mill-foil in our bay. Public notice was required to advance this procedure, but the lack of an official name made it impossible to accurately describe the area in question. In desperation the name “Sheep Meadow Bay” was randomly selected, which made matters even worse because the petitioners were unaware that not far south of us lies a bay with that exact same local name.”

There is no listing for "Sheep Meadow Bay" (or "Sheepmeadow") in GNIS. BGN staff asked the proponent to specify the location of the latter feature, to which she replied that the local confusion was with a *road* named "Sheep Meadow Way" along Cook Bay one mile to the southwest.

Over the years, a number of long-time local residents have provided detailed accounts of their memories of the area. Three of these, recorded in 2011-2013, referred to "Jelliffe Bay." A road named Knighten Way is located along the bay, but it is not known if it refers to the Knight family.

**Christenson Lake**, North Dakota  
(Review List 450)

[48.894722, -100.245556](#)

Local government	Bottineau County Commissioners	Support*
State Names Authority	North Dakota Geographic Names Authority	No opinion
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

This proposal is to apply the new commemorative name Christenson Lake to a 27-acre lake in Homen Township in Bottineau County. The proposal was submitted by a member of the Christenson family, who wishes to honor Marvin Christenson (1922-2003) and Alida Christenson (1927-2011) and "generations of the Christenson family who have been significant to this lake." Marvin and Alida acquired the property in the mid-1940s, where they ranched, farmed, and trapped bears. The proponent notes that the family "always respected, supported, and appreciated the wildlife, the land, water and their lifestyle." Many members of the family are buried in Nordland Cemetery, 5.7 mi. east-northeast of lake.

**Litchford Run and Pleasant Run**, Ohio  
(Review List 443)

Litchford Run: Mouth: [40.01165, -83.04373](#) / Source: [40.01193, -83.04585](#)

Pleasant Run: Mouth: [40.0147, -83.02464](#) / Source: [40.01374, -83.0475](#)

Local government	Columbus City Council	No response
	Franklin County Commissioners	No response
State Names Authority	Ohio Geographic Names Authority	No response
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	The Ohio State University	No objection

The new names Pleasant Run and Litchford Run are proposed for two unnamed streams in the City of Columbus in Franklin County. The streams are on land owned by The Ohio State



University. The proposals were submitted by a volunteer with the Friends of Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW).

The stream proposed as Pleasant Run is a tributary of Ackerman Run (BGN 2007); the proposed Litchford Run flows into the proposed Pleasant Run.

Both names would commemorate Pleasant Litchford (1789-1879), a former enslaved person who worked as a blacksmith and owned land near the source of the stream. Litchford purchased or was granted his freedom in Virginia and traveled with his family to settle in Perry Township, in what is now the City of Upper Arlington and adjacent to the Columbus city limits. He set aside some of his land for a school for his family and other Black residents, as well as land for a cemetery for Black families. An 1870 obituary reported that he owned 227 acres at time of his death, valued at \$23,000 and that “[h]e was a man of iron constitution; a devout Christian, the oldest member of the Second Baptist Church . . . and the last surviving person who helped to organize the colored Baptist church of this city.” He owned the fourth-largest amount of land in the area at the time. By the time he passed away, he had 11 children, 25 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.

The former Litchford Cemetery was located on land where the Upper Arlington High School was built. The bodies were reinterred at the nearby Union Cemetery in the 1950s. The Upper Arlington School District plans to incorporate Pleasant Litchford’s history into school curricula.

GNIS lists many features in Ohio with “Pleasant” in their names. There are fifteen townships named Township of Pleasant, including one in Franklin County 12 miles to the southwest. Historical and toponymic sources suggest that all of the existing names derive from their amenable landscapes, locations, or living conditions.

The Ohio State University Associate Director of Campus Planning reported that the streams flow through the Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Lab of the College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. They also reported:

We have reviewed the proposal and I am pleased to respond that we have no objections to the federal naming of the streams to honor Pleasant Litchford.

We understand that this naming would not preclude any philanthropic naming of land or features within the Waterman Lab and there are no additional requirements/regulations associated with the federal naming of these streams.

**Ross Point**, Oregon  
(Rogue River National Forest)  
(Review List 449)

[42.335278, -122.447778](https://www.fws.gov/oregon/ross-point)

Local government	Jackson County Commissioners	No response*
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State Names Authority	Oregon Geographic Names Board	Support
Federal	U.S. Forest Service	No objection
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

\* Contacted by SNA

The new commemorative name Ross Point is proposed for an unnamed “distinctive geologic outcrop located above Camp Latgawa and South Fork Little Butte Creek” in Jackson County and on the Rogue River National Forest. The name would honor Reverend Ross Knotts (1912-2010), who from 1937 to 1978 served as a pastor of United Methodist churches in Oregon; he was also involved in the management of nearby Camp Latgawa since 1953. According to the proponent, who is Ross Knotts’ daughter, her father was “known for his avid commitment to hiking and his desire to go to the highest point, a metaphor for his life and ethics.” She added that “‘Ross’ is a Scottish term for a promontory, a high point of land that juts out.”

An online history of the camp notes:

In 1953, the Oregon-Idaho Conference of The United Methodist Church took over the special use permit from the U.S. Forest Service to operate an organizational camp at the site. Since then, Camp Latgawa has served individuals, families, educational institutions, religiously affiliated groups, social service agencies, community service organizations, and other nonprofit organizations that enrich life in the world.

The proponent adds, “[The name would commemorate] the extraordinary contributions made by Ross and Marjorie Knotts to the people of the Rogue Valley; [their] leadership shaped a caring community in southern Oregon.”

In 2019 the same proponent submitted the name Knotts Bluff (Review List 439) for a different cliff two miles to the northwest, but that name was withdrawn in 2022 after the owner of the property voiced strong opposition to applying any name to the feature. This proponent also proposed Hole-in-the-Rock, Marjorie Falls (for the wife of Ross Knotts), and Latgawa Pinnacles, all approved by the BGN in 2020. She also submitted name changes for three features in the area that were named “Dead Indian” (a creek, a mountain, and springs); those also were approved by the BGN in 2020.

Change Spring Lake (FID 1574672) to Lake Killian, Wisconsin  
(Review List 452)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/1574672>

Local government	Ainsworth Town Supervisors	Support*
	Langlade County Supervisors	No opinion*
State Names Authority	Wisconsin Geographic Names Council	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted	No response

	under Policy X	
Other	Northeast Illinois Council BSA [proponent, landowner]	Support

\* contacted by SNA

This proposal is to change the name of Spring Lake, a 70-acre lake in the Town of Ainsworth in Langlade County, to Lake Killian. The lake is within the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation, owned by the Northeast Illinois Council, Boy Scouts of America. The name Lake Killian has been used by the Scout Reservation since the 1950s or 1960s and has appeared in camp publications since at least 1972.

The origin of the name Spring Lake is unknown but it has been shown on USGS maps since 1950. Camp Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan was also labeled on that map. The proponent states that a stream named “Spring Creek” flows out of the lake; this name is not recorded in GNIS.

The name Lake Killian would commemorate Victor (Vic) J. Killian (1896-1983). According to the proponent, Mr. Killian started a plumbing company in 1920 in Winnetka, Illinois. He supported the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation from its opening in 1929 “with his talents and business resources.” In the 1940s, Mr. Killian donated materials, funds, and expertise, as well as workers to upgrade the camp’s water and sewage systems. He continued assisting the camp into the 1970s and help start the Wilderness Engineering Society, the members of which donate their resources and time to maintain the camp.

The proponent notes that not only is the name in local use, but it would reduce duplication of the name Spring Lake, which is common throughout Wisconsin. GNIS lists 43 lakes, two reservoirs, and one populated place named Spring Lake, three of which are in Langlade County, including the one proposed to be renamed.

In its support of the proposal, the Wisconsin Geographic Names Council noted that “Longtime local usage superseded concerns of changing an established name . . . and the proposal eliminates a duplicate lake name in the county.”

#### IV. Revised Decisions

Change **Root River** (BGN 1965) (FID 1572588) to **Center Creek**, Wisconsin  
(Review List 452)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/1572588>

Local government	Bristol Village Trustees	Support*
	Kenosha City Common Council	Support
	Paris Town Supervisors	Support*
	Kenosha County Supervisors [proponent]	Support*
State Names Authority	Wisconsin Geographic Names Council	Support

Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
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\* contacted by SNA

This proposal is to change the name of the Root River (BGN 1965) to Center Creek. The stream is a tributary of the Des Plaines River and flows through the Village of Bristol, the City of Kenosha, and the Town of Paris in Kenosha County.

The Wisconsin Geographic Names Council submitted the name Root River to the BGN in 1962, apparently in an effort to make it official for State use since USGS maps had used the name since 1958. Local sources at the time were using the names Center Creek or Center Branch.

The government of Kenosha County proposed the current change, citing continued local and FEMA use of the name Center Creek. The county believes that the name Root River may have been an error because the upstream source of another feature named Root River is just 0.7 miles away, albeit in Racine County.

Change **Huu'na Waippe Naokwaide** (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 1603311)  
to **Huu'na Waippe Hunu'u**, Wyoming  
(Bridger-Teton National Forest)  
(not review listed)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/1603311>

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (SBT) of the Fort Hall Reservation submitted this proposal to change the generic term in the name Huu'na Waippe Hunu'u from Naokwaide to Hunu'u. The feature is a valley in Lincoln County and on the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

The SBT submitted the name to the Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force established by Secretary's Order 3404 as Huu'na Waippe Naokwaide, which the Task Force selected as a recommended change for the name Sq Fork Canyon. The BGN approved this name along with the other 642 Task Force recommendations on September 8, 2022.

In September 2023, the SBT informed the BGN that the correct name should be Huu'na Waippe Hunu'u because the generic term Hunu'u would match the feature type, a valley. The U.S. Forest Service recommends approval of the change.

Change **Two Ocean Basin** (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 1603298)  
to **Pia Tsiambe Basin**, Wyoming  
(Bridger-Teton National Forest)  
(not review listed)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/1603298>

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (SBT) of the Fort Hall Reservation submitted this proposal to change the name of a basin located in Teton County and on the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

In 2022, the Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force selected Two Ocean Basin as a replacement name for Sq Basin, presumably from the list of candidate names the Task Force published in January 2023. The Task Force did not receive any Tribal submissions or public suggestions for this feature’s replacement name.

In September 2023, the SBT realized that they had mistakenly submitted the replacement name Pia Tsiambe Basin for GNIS feature ID 1603299 rather than ID 1603298. They are requesting that their original intention be approved by the BGN. The U.S. Forest Service recommends approval of the change.

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

##### Blue Heron Creek, Oregon (Review List 452)

Mouth: [42.273808, -122.8128375](#) / Source: [42.271981, -122.81278](#)

Local government	City of Phoenix	No opinion
	Jackson County Commissioners	No response*
State Names Authority	Oregon Geographic Names Board	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Save the Phoenix Wetlands [proponent]	Support
	Rogue Riverkeeper	Support**
	Phoenix Urban Renewal Agency	No opinion
	Local private landowner	Support**
	Oregon State Representative Pam Marsh	Support**
	Oregon Department of Transportation Region 3 District 8 Manager	Support**
	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Assistant Rogue District Fish Biologist	Support**
	Rogue River Watershed Council	Support**
	Rogue Fly Fishers	Support**
	Freshwater Trust	Support**
	Southern Oregon Monarch Advocates	Support**
	Pollinator Place Rogue Valley	Support**
	Trout Unlimited	Support**
	Katalyst, Inc. former President and Principal Hydrogeologist	Support**
	Circle Culture	Support**
	Western Fishes	Support**
	Indigo Creek Outfitters	Support**
	Travel Phoenix	Support**

	Native Fish Society	Support**
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\* contacted by SNA

\*\* submitted by proponent

The new name Blue Heron Creek is proposed for an unnamed, approximately 0.2-mile long tributary of Bear Creek in the City of Phoenix in Jackson County. The name is proposed by members of a group called [Save the Phoenix Wetlands](#) and refers to both Blue Heron Park, a city park through which the stream flows, and the great blue herons (*Ardea herodias*) that nest there. The stream, which is fed by three springs, is not recorded in NHD nor shown on printed USGS topographic maps.

The proponents state that the stream:

is part of a unique system of several small, unnamed creeks emanating from a complex of nearby springs and seeps that provide cold clean water to Bear Creek in an area where summer water temperatures are high. This influx of cold water provides critical baseflow for Coho and other salmon during the hot summer months.

**Passage Through**, Washington  
(Naval Magazine Indian Island)  
(Review List 452)

[48.018246, -122.699516](#)

Local government	Jefferson County Commissioners	No response*
State Names Authority	Washington Committee on Geographic Names	Support
Federal	NOAA	Support
	DoD	No opinion
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	All federally recognized Tribes in Washington	No response*
Other	Many State and local groups	No response*

\* contacted by SNA

The new name Passage Through is proposed for a tidal waterway that connects Oak Bay in Puget Sound and Scow Bay in Kilisut Harbor. The passage divides Indian Island from Marrowstone Island. The name was proposed to the Washington Committee on Geographic Names (WCGN) by the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe.

The lands around the passage are managed by the Department of Defense (Naval Magazine Indian Island), Jefferson County, and private landowners.

By the 1940s the natural tidal passage had been blocked up by a roadbed, but in 2020 it was re-opened after a bridge was built. The restoration allowed for water exchange between Oak Bay and Kilisut Harbor, improved salmon habitat, and restored an area of traditional and current fishing and harvesting by S'Klallam people. According to the Tribe's proposal to the WGNC:

This feature is not identified by any other names or spellings. It has not ever been signed, posted, or publicized. . . .

sc̓t̓éq̓ is the traditional place name . . . [which] literally means “a passage through” [citing the 2012 *Klallam Dictionary* by Timothy Montler].

Port Gamble S'Klallam tribal members, Louis Butner and Cy Sparks, stated that “the reason why they called it this is that canoes used to wait till hightide and then go through” [citing a 1942 report in the papers of John Peabody Harrington in the National Anthropological Archives at the National Museum of Natural History].

This was the only place recorded by T. T. Waterman for Indian Island . . . . He defines the area as a narrow isthmus connecting Marrowstone Island with the mainland. “Plowing through with reference to a canoe.” The term refers to the fact that the Indians used to shove their canoes over this peninsula to avoid paddling them around the large body of land. Waterman's translation and identification of use of the site is consistent with the information recorded by Harrington [citing T. T. Waterman's 1920 *Puget Sound Geography*, Bureau of American Ethnology Manuscript Collection no. 1864].

The Tribe added:

For S'Klallam people, physical geographic landscapes provide historical and cultural significance. Places and landscapes are central to traditional knowledge, values, and cultural identity to S'Klallam lifeways. S'Klallam people's unique ontological relationship with landscapes and places shape collective historical knowledge, individual experiences, and Treaty right harvest practices.

This was a significant travel route for S'Klallam and Chemacum people during the 18th and 19th centuries and presumably much earlier until non-Indian development obstructed the tidal flow between Scow Bay and Oak Bay. Existing ethnographic and ethnohistoric intonation demonstrates that S'Klallam and Chemakum people made direct use of Indian Island as well as the adjacent lands and marine waters.

The S'Klallam tribes procured 2 million dollars toward the North Olympic Salmon Coalition's Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project that restored tidal connection between southern Kilisut Harbor (Scow Bay) and Oak Bay. The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe's Cultural Committee supports effort made for officially naming the restored waterway as its original place name sc̓t̓éq̓.

The Tribe had originally submitted the name sc̄łąq̄w, but the Washington Administrative Code requires that geographic names use only ASCII characters. The Tribe agreed to amend the proposal to the literal translation of the name.

**Five lake names in Burnett County, Wisconsin**  
(Review List 452)

Local government	Roosevelt Town Supervisors [Beaver Lake]	Support*
	Scott Town Supervisors [Kufalk Lake]	Support*
	Webb Lake Town Supervisors [Dilly Lake, Duck Lake, Paulson Lake]	No response*
	Burnett County Supervisors [proponent]	Support*
State Names Authority	Wisconsin Geographic Names Council	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

\* contacted by SNA

The following five proposals were submitted by the Burnett County Land Records Department to the Wisconsin Geographic Names Council (WGNC) in an effort to reconcile names used by the county with State and Federal names.

**Beaver Lake**

[45.644921, -92.03779](#)

The name Beaver Lake is proposed to be made official for a 15-acre lake in the Town of Roosevelt in Burnett County, and mostly within the Burnett County Forest. The name is recorded in county data and presumably refers to resident beavers.

**Dilly Lake**

[46.009795, -92.0600206](#)

This proposal is to make official the name Dilly Lake for a 45-acre lake in the Town of Webb in Burnett County and entirely within the Burnett County Forest.

The name is recorded in county data as Dilly's Lake. The WGNC approved the name as Dilly Lake. One of their policies states “newly acquired proper names for geographic features shall not be designated with “s’ or ‘s’, indicating possession, following the name.”

The name is in local use but of unknown origin. A 1915 Burnett County atlas shows that C. C. Delle owned the parcel where the lake is located, so the name “Dilly” may be a corruption of the name. General Land Office records show that Edward Dilley acquired 160 acres in the county in 1908, although his property was 10 miles west of the lake in question.



### **Duck Lake**

[46.000162, -92.0845735](#)

This proposal is to apply the name Duck Lake to the southern part of Lost Lake in the Town of Webb in Burnett County. The lake is mostly privately owned. The name presumably refers to ducks found on the lake.

The proposed name is recorded in county GIS data. Beginning in 1949 when the area was mapped, USGS maps labeled two lakes connected by a marshy area as Lost Lake. The National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) applies the latter name to just the northern of the two lakes.

### **Kufalk Lake**

[45.93507, -92.07173](#)

This proposal is to make official the name Kufalk Lake for a 21-acre lake in the Town of Scott in Burnett County.

The name is recorded in county GIS data. The origin is unknown but presumably commemorative. No landowners near the lake have the last name Kufalk. When asked, the WGNC provided an obituary for Marlene Kufalk (1931-2012), who lived in Webster, approximately 15 miles from the lake in question, but there is no evidence that she had any association with the lake.

### **Paulson Lake**

[46.0224854, -92.0639072](#)

This proposal is to make official the name Paulson Lake for a 13-acre lake in the Town of Webb, Burnett County.

The name is recorded in county data. The name is in local use and of unknown origin, although a 1915 county atlas shows that Emma Paulson owned a parcel near the lake.

### **Big Hill Savanna, Wisconsin (Review List 452)**

[42.90956, -89.82315](#)

Local government	Perry Town Supervisors [Dane Co.]	Support*
	Moscow Town Supervisors [Iowa Co.]	Support*
	Brigham Town Supervisors [Iowa Co.]	No response
	Dane County Supervisors	Support*
	Iowa County Supervisors	No response*
State Names Authority	Wisconsin Geographic Names Council	Support

Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
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\* contacted by SNA

The new name Big Hill Savanna is proposed for a ridge in the Town of Perry in Dane County and the Town of Moscow and the Town of Brigham in Iowa County. The ridge is approximately two miles long and 0.5 miles wide, with an elevation of 1,160 feet.

The proponent owns a 72-acre parcel along the ridge. In the material submitted to the WGNC, he states:

- Big Hill Savanna is the current name for a conservation easement that The Prairie Enthusiasts (TPE) hold on 72 acres at the ridge.
- The property will be maintained as a permanent conservatory under the terms of the conservation easement.
- The ridgetop that we currently call Big Hill Savanna is a large grassland tract that has been in existence since the 1985 Farm Bill and provides habitat for numerous imperiled migratory grassland bird species.
- According to the Perry Historical Center, the ridge was called Big Hill since at least the early part of the 20th Century: ‘The Clay Hill Road used to run up a very steep hill called Big Hill. Model T Fords would have to turn around and back up the hill so gas could flow to the engine.’

Although [The Prairie Enthusiasts’ \(TPE\) list of easements](#) notes that the property is called “Big Hill,” the proponent (or TPE) has installed signs at the property with the name Big Hill Savanna. The ridge is within the Southwest Savanna Ecological Landscape and in the Southwest Wisconsin Grassland and Stream Conservation Area. The proponent and TPE are restoring the oak savanna habitat, which is defined by open-growth oak trees with grassy or shrubby vegetation growing below the trees.

In a [2021 article](#) titled “Big Hill Savanna Today Brings Back the Look of the Past” in the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society’s *Mount Horeb Past Times*, the proponent and landowners wrote:

- A grassy ridgetop running about a mile west from Daleyville in Dane County’s Town of Perry into Iowa County once was known to local families as Big Hill.
- Big Hill reaches Gordon Creek and parallels today’s Clay Hill Road, which was re-routed in the mid 1950s.
- Following the 1985 Federal Farm Bill, much of Big Hill ridge was converted from cropland to grassland. Today the ridge more closely resembles the oak savanna habitat and ecological features that predated European settlement.
- Twenty-five years of conservation work on our portion of Big Hill, part of the old Grimstvedt farm on the uphill, south side of Clay Hill Road, has turned the former

cropland and shrub-choked oak savanna back into a haven for native grassland birds . . . . Butterflies, bees, and other insects critical to pollination and nature’s food chain are responding well. Many native plants that have clung to life here over the decades or been re-introduced are thriving.

- To recognize and capture Big Hill’s cultural history and ecological importance, we have proposed officially naming the site ‘Big Hill Savanna’ to the Wisconsin Geographic Names Council.
- This restored landscape is ushering Big Hill into a new chapter of history while still celebrating its past.

The proponent acknowledges that the ridge was historically called “Big Hill” but wishes to name it Big Hill Savanna to reflect the historical habitat and their current habitat restoration efforts. If approved, this would be the first occurrence in GNIS of an elevated feature to include the generic “Savanna” (or a spelling variation or version in another language, i.e., Savannah, Savanne, Savana, Sabana, Sabanno, or Sabaneta). The current distribution of non-historical, non-populated place features in the Continental United States recorded in GNIS with “Savanna” (or variant spelling) as a generic is:

GNIS feature class	Number of features
Swamp	10
Plain	6
Flat	4
Basin	1
Cape	1
Lake	1
Stream	1
Valley	1

The proponent also noted that the feature is approximately 350 acres, but this does not exactly match the description in the *Mount Horeb Past Times* that reported the ridge “reach[ing] Gordon Creek”; the extent described here includes approximately 650 acres along the natural boundary of the ridge.

**Corkscrew Creek**, Wisconsin  
(Review List 452)

Mouth: [42.88146, -89.54756](#) / Source: [42.94286, -89.56816](#)

Local government	Montrose Town Supervisors	No opinion*
	Dane County Supervisors	Support**
State Names Authority	Wisconsin Geographic Names Council	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

\* contacted by SNA

\*\* contacted by proponent

The new name Corkscrew Creek is proposed for an unnamed 5.9-mile-long tributary of the Sugar River in the Town of Montrose in Dane County.

The proponent, who owns land along approximately 0.5 miles of the stream near its mouth, states that it is locally called “the ditch” and wishes that it had a better name. The name refers to corkscrew willow trees (*Salix babylonica var. tortuosa*) that grow along the stream; the proponent planted many of these trees on his property. He believes the name is also fitting because the Sugar River is named for sugar maple trees.

**Freedom Lake, Wisconsin**  
(Review List 452)

[42.55522, -88.24022](#)

Local government	Wheatland Town Supervisors	Support*
	Randall Town Supervisors	Support
	Kenosha County Supervisors	No opinion*
State Names Authority	Wisconsin Geographic Names Council	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

\* contacted by SNA

The new name Freedom Lake is proposed for an unnamed 39-acre reservoir in the Town of Wheatland and the Town of Randall in Kenosha County, and also within Kenosha County Veterans Memorial Park.

The name is proposed by the Director of the Kenosha County Division of Parks, who states that the reservoir was once a gravel quarry. The park was renamed from KD Park in 2020. According to the proponent, the name “incorporates the essence of the park’s plan and vision to honor veterans.”

**Tenmen Lake, Wisconsin**  
(Review List 452)

[45.2938338, -91.4092677](#)

Local government	Big Bend Town Supervisors	Support*
	Rusk County Supervisors [proponent]	Support*
State Names Authority	Wisconsin Geographic Names Council	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Gapoten, Inc. [proponent, landowner]	Support

\* contacted by SNA

The new name Tenmen Lake is proposed for an 11.5-acre lake in the Town of Big Bend in Rusk County. It was submitted by the Treasurer of GAPOTEN, Inc., which owns the land around the lake. The proponent reports that “the corporation . . . originally started with ten men . . . and the current Board of Directors agreed to the name for nostalgic reasons.”

Neither the WGNC nor BGN staff could find any details regarding the business or product GAPOTEN Inc., which was registered in Illinois in 1974. The WGNC reported that the parcel owned by the company may be used for company retreats.