

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

Eight Hundred and Fifty-ninth Meeting

November 9, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.

(Virtual Meeting)

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Kenia Allen	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Meghan Barrett	Department of Homeland Security
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)
Christopher 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)
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)
Alexander Stum	Department of Agriculture (NRCS)
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

Robert Glover, Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names / Domestic Names (Acting)  
Derek Hoffman, Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names / Foreign Names

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  
Alex Fries, National Park Service  
Jesse Nett, U.S. Forest Service  
Deb Nordeen, National Park Service  
Trent Palmer, Department of State  
Brigitta Urban-Mathieux, U.S. Geological Survey  
National Geographic Society observers  
Foreign Names Committee observers

### 1. Opening

Chair St. Onge opened Meeting 859 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.

Anderson reminded attendees of the USGS media policy and asked any attendees from the media to identify themselves for the record.

Glover introduced himself as the acting Executive Secretary for Domestic Names. He has joined the BGN on a 90-day detail and welcomes the opportunity to learn more about the DNC's activities. A long-time employee of the USGS, Glover has been a member of the BGN's Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names (ACAN) for many years.

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. Review and Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with one typographical correction (Monson, not Munson).

### 3. Minutes of Meeting 858

The minutes of Meeting 858, held October 12, 2023, were approved as submitted.

### 4. Reports

#### 4.1 BGN Chairman (Tischler)

There was no written report.

Full Board Quarterly Meeting 290 was held on October 17. Tischler (USGS) and Withers (NGA) were nominated and elected as chair and vice chair, respectively, for the October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2025 term.

The Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) on Reconciliation in Place Names will hold a three-day meeting in Hawaii November 14-16. Updates are posted at the FAC's website: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1892/advisory-committee-on-reconciliation-in-place-names.htm>.

On December 11, Tischler will provide a briefing on the roles and responsibilities of the BGN to the new Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the Department of the Interior (DOI).

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

Tischler asked members from departments 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.

#### 4.2 Executive Secretary for Domestic Names (Glover)

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 draft. The Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication will be responsible for reviewing *Policy X: Tribal Geographic Names*.

DNC members extended their appreciation to Lyon for all her work as acting Executive Secretary.

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

There was no written report.

FNC hosted a virtual conference of the BGN and the UK Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (PCGN) on November 7, during which the attendees discussed naming in disputed areas and reviewed a number of updated country policies. An in-person conference is planned for September 2024.

FNC meeting 416 will be held on December 12. The FNC continues to revise its own *Principles, Policies, and Procedures* document.

#### 4.4 Special Committee on Communications (Ellerbe)

See attached report.

Ellerbe met with Steve Westley of the Geographical Names Board of Canada to prepare for the December meeting of the USA/Canada Division of UNGEGN. They also discussed the aforementioned map of indigenous place names.

Runyon has been asked by the Pima County (Arizona) Genealogy Society to provide a presentation on geographic names and the naming process; this will take place sometime in 2024.

A number of slide decks from recent BGN briefings have been posted to the USGS collaboration site. Members are invited to use these for future presentations and to add their own.

#### 4.5 Staff (Runyon)

See attached report.

Quarterly Review List 453, comprising 45 new names and changes, was completed and posted online on October 18. The notice to federally recognized Tribes and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, inviting them to comment on the list, was distributed shortly after.

The BGN continues to receive emails regarding the proposed renaming of Mount Washington in New Hampshire. The BGN is awaiting input from the U.S. Forest Service and the Mount Washington Commission.

Following the DNC's September vote to rename Mount Evans in Colorado to Mount Blue Sky, there is interest in also changing the name of the Mount Evans Wilderness. Members were reminded that this is not the responsibility of the BGN and that the Congress is reviewing the matter.

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

There was no written report.

There are ongoing issues with the GNIS maintenance tools, including the importing of records with unknown coordinates, and a significant number of bibliographic citations are incorrect. Many GNIS entries that were mistakenly recorded as "Census" have been corrected and now show the feature class "Populated Place."

McCormick reported that as a result of changes in the USGS National Geospatial Technical Operations Center, this will be her last time attending DNC meetings, although she will continue to manage the GNIS Manager dropbox. Lindsay Decker will manage GNIS staff and will attend future meetings. The DNC members and staff extended their appreciation to McCormick for all her contributions to the DNC.

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

There was no written report.

The committee will meet following the DNC meeting and will be discussing the revision of Policy X. Kanalley will also share feedback from her recent participation in the annual meeting of the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM). Her presentation on Secretary's Orders 3404 and 3405 was well received. It was suggested that at next year's ATALM meeting there could be a pre-conference workshop, where Tribes could be invited to learn from BGN members and staff how to submit new name and name change proposals.

The mention of the PPP revision led to a discussion of how best to review all comments/edits received thus far and how files can be shared among members and staff. Each option has challenges and limitations. Members offered to investigate other opportunities for file sharing.

### 5. Docket

Please refer to the attached Docket for a description of each proposal.

Effective this month, the format of the docket has been changed, i.e., the previous five categories have been eliminated and proposals are listed instead in the order received, i.e., oldest to newest within each review list.

**Review List 443**

Change Tarbone Mountain (FID 1098755) (Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge) to Tah-bone-mah Mountain, Oklahoma

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 22 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Review List 450**

Candice Creek, Idaho (Boise National Forest)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing concerns that the proposal was submitted as a commemorative name and there was no association between the intended honoree and the location.

Vote: 21 in favor  
0 against  
1 abstention

One member left the meeting.

**Review List 452**

Wells Buck Branch, Florida (Eglin Air Force Base) (FID 2831389)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 21 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Change Long Pond (FID 615758) to Caboose Pond, Massachusetts

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

Vote: 21 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

One member left the meeting. The members voted to affirm the name Long Pond for Federal use.

Change Wolf Pond (FID 971570) to Big Wolf Lake, New York

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 18 in favor  
0 against  
2 abstentions

Change Munson Creek (FID 1256620) (Lake Traverse Reservation) to Monson Creek, South Dakota

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 20 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Change Mary Bird Branch (FID 1470144) (Prince William Forest Park) to Mary Byrd Branch, Virginia

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 20 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

## 6. Other Business

The BGN has a pending proposal to apply the new name Grays Creek to a small channel in Dare County, North Carolina. Because the intended honorees were employees of the Lighthouse Service (later the U.S. Coast Guard), the member from the Department of Homeland Security was asked if she wished to comment on the name. This led to a question from Barrett regarding DHS's role in the matter. Staff noted that it is customary to seek input from the member in case their department has its own internal naming guidelines.

The staff shared that the proponent of a name change from Browns Island to Crowninshield island (Massachusetts) has asked the DNC to revisit its 2012 decision not to approve the change. It was agreed that the change of opinion by a number of stakeholders warranted a second review.

Staff noted that the BGN has received a new proposal to apply the name Druid Hill to a geographic feature in DeKalb County, Georgia. More information will be shared at the next meeting.

## 7. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. The next meeting of the DNC is scheduled to be held on December 14, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

(signed)

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Robert Glover  
Executive Secretary (Acting)  
Domestic Names Committee

APPROVED  
(signed)

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Timothy St. Onge, Chair  
Domestic Names Committee

### **Special Committee on Communications Report**

The Chair (Thad Ellerbe) met with Steve Westley (Co-Chair of the United States Canada Division of UNGEGN) to discuss the upcoming UNGEGN Bureau and Divisional Meeting. That meeting is a briefing for divisional chairs and co-chairs and I will attend in place of the US co-chair which is vacant right now. I will brief the next co-chair about this meeting when that role is filled. We also agreed to meet in December to keep the division momentum going and start planning another divisional virtual summit. He would also like to discuss our collaboration for the divisional map of indigenous names.

Jennifer Runyon (research staff USGS) was contacted by the Pima County Genealogy Society to see if someone could give a presentation on geographic names at one of their meetings in 2024 via Zoom. They are looking for a 45 min to 1 hour presentation. If you are interested in this, please let me know. We have slides from a few presentations collected on the Collaboration Site that could be helpful with this.

Monthly reminders/ updates:

- The Special Committee on Communications has not met since the last report.
- I am still compiling submissions for Annual Reports. I will give a status update when I have rough drafts ready. This is taking longer than the time I have budgeted for it.
- We are 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.

### Staff Report

Since the DNC's last meeting on October 12, the BGN has received ten new name and name change proposals:

- Change [Kelseyville](#) (unincorporated community) to [Konocti](#), CA
- Change [Womans Hollow Creek](#) to [Woman Hollering Creek](#), TX
- New name [Elizabeth Brook](#), NH
- New name [Dowdy Creek](#), AL
- New name [Mount America](#), PA
- New name [Sassafras Creek](#), SC
- New name [Lake Winnie](#), TX
- Change [Eastman Cove](#) (BGN 2022) to [Senskwa Cove](#), NH
- Change [Mount Woodring](#) (BGN 1963) to [Raven Peak](#), WY
- Change [Kit Carson Mountain](#) to [Lawrence Peak](#), CO (counterproposal to [Frustum Peak](#), Review List 442)

Quarterly Review List 453, comprising 45 new names and name changes, was released on October 18. A notice was 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.

The BGN continues to receive input to the proposals to change the names of [Mount Washington](#) and the [Baker River](#) in New Hampshire. To date, there have been approximately 100 emails in opposition and two dozen in support (some for both changes, others just for the [Mount Washington](#) change). The Coös County Commissioners do not support renaming the summit, while input is still pending from the Grafton County government for the river name change. An article on the topic appeared in the local news: <https://www.nashuatelegraph.com/news/local-news/2023/10/12/nh-commissioners-oppose-name-changes-for-mount-washington-baker-river/>.

In 2020, in response to Secretary's Order 3404, the Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force submitted to the BGN the name [Aanikegamaa Lake](#) as a replacement name for [Sq Lake](#) in Genesee County, Michigan. In July 2023, the Charter Township of Fenton, on behalf of the PST Lake Association, submitted a proposal to change the name to [Swan Lake](#) (Review List 453), noting "the name is much more representative of our water feature." Representative Mike Mueller provided a letter in support of [Swan Lake](#), and last week, a staffer for Congressman Dan Kildee inquired regarding the status of the proposal.

At its October meeting the DNC approved the new name [Passage Through](#) for a waterway in Jefferson County, Washington. The chair of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, which proposed the name, extended the Tribal Council's appreciation to the BGN.

The BGN recently received a proposal to change the name of [Mount Whitney](#), California to [Tumanguya](#), in an effort to recognize one of the native names for the summit. The BGN staff met with representatives of the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN) to discuss next steps. A long-time member of the CACGN expressed a concern that the BGN should not accept and process the proposal because the proponent has not presented a compelling reason to change the name.

The BGN continues to receive input regarding the ongoing efforts to change the names of [Lower Negro Island](#), [Upper Negro Island](#), and [Negro Islands](#), in the Town of Castine in Hancock County, Maine. Two sets of proposals for replacement names are included on Review Lists 441 and 450, with one set submitted by the Town Selectboard. The staff recently received a call from a representative of Castine Friends, a group that is strongly opposed to any change. He will ask the selectboard to add the issue to a future town ballot so that more local residents can be heard, and he has also requested to present to the DNC to share his concerns. He indicated he may also contact the Federal Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names that was established in response to Secretary's Order 3405.

Following the September 15 approval of the change from [Mount Evans](#) to [Mount Blue Sky](#) for a summit in Colorado, efforts are underway to rename the associated Mount Evans Wilderness: [What's Mount Blue Sky doing in the middle of Mount Evans Wilderness? New legislation could change the name to match the 14er | Colorado Public Radio \(cpr.org\)](#).

Staff participated in meetings of the Arizona Board on Geographic and Historic Names (October 24), the CACGN (November 3), the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board (November 2), and the Wyoming Board of Geographic Names (November 2).

Staff participated in Full Board Quarterly Meeting 290, held on October 17, and in Meeting 410 of the Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names (ACAN), held on October 18.

Robert Glover began a detail as Executive Secretary for Domestic Names on October 23. A long-time employee of the National Civil Applications Center at the U.S. Geological Survey, Bob is also a member of ACAN and has traveled to Antarctica a half dozen times. In addition to meeting with BGN staff to review the role and responsibilities of the Executive Secretary, he has begun a review of the DNC's *Principles, Policies, and Procedures* (PPP), its FAQs and websites, and the BGN name proposal form.

Susan Lyon completed her detail as Executive Secretary for Domestic Names at the end of September, during which time she reviewed and edited the PPP. Her initial draft has been shared with staff and a few DNC members, and it is hoped there will be a report at the November meeting.

The Department of the Interior continues to await **member appointment letters** for the 2023-2025 term; to date, four responses have been received.

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

Note: The proposals listed on this Docket are approximately in the order received; that is, oldest to most recent Quarterly Review List.

**Review List 443**

**OKLAHOMA**

Change **Tarbone Mountain** (FID 1098755) to **Tah-bone-mah Mountain**  
(Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/1098755>

Local government	Comanche County Commissioners	No response*
State Names Authority	Oklahoma Board on Geographic Names	Support
Federal	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Delaware Nation	Support**
	Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma	Support**
	Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (Wichita, Keechi, Waco, & Tawakonie)	No objection**

\* contacted by SNA

\*\* contacted by FWS

This proposal is to change the name of Tarbone Mountain, a 2,395-foot summit in Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge in Comanche County, to Tah-bone-mah Mountain. The summit is located northwest of Lawton and Fort Sill.

The proponent believes the current name is misspelled and should be corrected so that it properly commemorates a Kiowa-American soldier and U.S. Army Indian Scout, who was stationed at nearby Fort Sill, and who was named Iseeo (or I-see-o) and also known as Tah-bone-mah (or Tabonemah) earlier in his life.

Around 1889, Tah-bone-mah enlisted in the 7th Calvary (under the name I-See-O); his Kiowa ethnographic knowledge, sign language fluency, and diplomacy skills were invaluable to future Army Chief of Staff Hugh L. Scott. I-See-O helped persuade Apaches and Kiowa not to go to war during the Ghost Dance movement. He enlisted in the United States Army Indian Scouts at Fort Sill and rose to the rank of sergeant. For his service to the United States, Scott ensured that I-See-O had the privilege of remaining an active duty sergeant for life, writing to the commanding officer at Fort Sill:

I have just enlisted, by order of the Secretary of War, as a sergeant of scouts, an old Kiowa Indian named Iseeo. . . as a reward for former services rendered during the Ghost Dance excitement in '90 and '91, when, as you will remember, all the southern plains were aflame. I was able, however, to keep peace among the 8 [sic] tribes down there and bring them through without firing a shot, and in this Iseeo assisted to a very large degree. I would like to have you let him live on the reservation or out among his people, as he elects, and see that he gets pay, clothing and rations from your Quartermaster, and that when his time expires he be re-enlisted as a sergeant until he dies. . . When the [G]overnment needed him, he was supremely loyal, against the wishes of his own people.

According to the 2015 volume *Through Indian Sign Language: The Fort Sill Ledgers of Hugh Lenox Scott and Iseeo, 1889-1897*:

Iseeo is the English pronunciation of the Kiowa name Áiséàuidè (Many Camp Smokes/Campfires). It is a distinguished name that was passed down through three known individuals in the nineteenth century. In 1849 a Kiowa boy was born in the vicinity of Fort Larned, Kansas, to Quo-haw-ty and his wife, Kau-nai-ty. In the nineteenth century many Kiowas did not name children until they were a few years old, often to ensure their survival. Iseeo, who was not formally named as a child, explained to Scott (n.d.a:II:78, chapter 5 in this volume) how he received his first name:

My name was first Tah-bone-moh—Sees Big Morning Star [Jábònmàui]. Kom-au-dy was my father's near brother and when I was little I was very sick and dying. I had no name then and was about four years old. Komau-dy said, 'That is my child, he is very sick. I will call him Tahbonemoh and maybe he will get well.' When I enlisted first for a soldier I took my brother's name Iseeo 'Plenty Of Round Fire Places' [Áiséàuidè]. Sees Big Morning Star was later enrolled as Tah-bone-mah, Family 328, on the Kiowa Tribal Roll (Kiowa Family Record 1901), which in time became Tahbonemah.

This same book noted that Iseeo and his wife were granted allotments near Mount Sheridan, which is 1.7 miles east of Tarbone Mountain.

An interview with a Comanche County resident recorded in *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Volume 32, No. 3, published in 1954, mentioned “I-See-O, generally known as Tah-Bone-Mah or Tarbone” as being well-known in the area around Fort Sill. The 2012 *Kiowa Military Societies: Ethnohistory and Ritual* gave his names as Iseeo and Tahbonemah. Tahbonemah is the last name of many people who have lived and still live in the Lawton and Fort Sill area.

The 1971 *The Wichita Mountains: Ancient Oasis of the Prairie* reported that the summit was known as Mount Tarbone and that that name was a “corruption of Tah-bone-mah, a Kiowa warrior, last surviving member of the Fort Sill detachment of Indian scouts, and who later rose in the social ranks within his tribe to become a keeper of one of the Ten Grandmother bundles. Better known as I-See-O. Mountain once known as Mount Tarno.” Other works, including the 2008 *Kiowa Ethnogeography*, cite this entry under the name Tarbone Mountain.

USGS topographic maps have labeled the summit as Tarbone Mountain since 1950. Two summits approximately four miles to the east-southeast are named Hunting Horse Hill, presumably for the Kiowa Chief Hunting Horse who died in 1953, and Quetone Point, reportedly named for the Kiowa Chief Quetone (or Quoetone).

In 1992, the BGN approved a correction of the name I-See-Q Tank to I-See-O Tank, located east of Fort Sill; this name also commemorates I-See-O.

In 2021, when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) was first asked to review the current proposal, the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge Manager responded that a long-time resident and Native American employee believed Tarbone Mountain had been named after an individual named Tahbone, a different individual than the one identified in the proposal. The FWS took a position of no opinion. Based on this report, the Oklahoma Board on Geographic Names (OKBGN) voted in December 2022 not to recommend approval of the change.

In February 2023, the BGN’s deputy member from FWS spoke with the refuge manager and the agency’s Oklahoma tribal liaison, who in turn contacted nine area Tribes for their input. The FWS received the following responses:

- From the Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma: “On behalf of the Kiowa Tribe, we would most definitely support a correction in the name of that mountain as it has been a sore spot among our tribe for decades. I believe it would be of great satisfaction for the family to finally realize, the significance of that designation with the correct spelling.”
- From the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (Wichita, Keechi, Waco, & Tawakonie): “no opinion and defer to the Kiowa Tribe’s recommendation.”

- From the Delaware Nation: “We support the proposed change to Tah-bone-mah Mountain.”

The FWS amended its recommendation to support the change. Based on this and the Tribal input, the OKBGN revisited its previous decision in October 2023 and voted to support the name change.

**Review List 450**

**IDAHO**

**Candice Creek**

(Boise National Forest)

Mouth: [44.85069, -115.51518](#) / Source: [44.8492, -115.53956](#)

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

The new name Candice Creek is proposed for an unnamed 1.38-mile-long stream in Valley County; the majority of the stream flows through the Boise National Forest, with a small section at the mouth flowing into a small pond on the proponent’s private property. The proponents stated: “[It is] a name that means pure and shining. A treat like candy for the wildlife that uses it year round. The aquifer queen of this side of the mountain feeding a pond with pure, shiny and sparkling water for a wildlife bath tub. #1 source of antimony in the U.S.” When asked to elaborate, he responded:

Antimony minerals have been part of the history in this area for 150 years. Credited for saving millions of lives during a forieng [sic] war in this country. The connection is antimony in the stream that feeds the pond on our property plus being a mineral that is needed for our future lowering the carbon footprint. Birth of the stream & pond most likely have been since 332BC here as long. It coincides with the name Candice and time of her realm of Queen, also Greek word meaning ‘glowing.’

Further research shows that “Candice” is an alternate spelling of Candace, a name that comes from the Bible and is derived from a Meroitic word that was the title for a line of Ethiopian queens rendered as “Kandake” in Greek. The reference to “332BC” in the proposal may refer to the era of the Ethiopian monarch Nikawla Kandake II (ruled 342-332 BCE); Garsemot Kandake VI is reportedly the Ethiopian queen mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles.

**Review List 452****FLORIDA****Wells Buck Branch**

(Eglin Air Force Base)

Mouth: [30.67042, -86.69024](#) / Source: [30.64344, -86.68415](#)

Local government	Okaloosa County Commissioners	No objection
State Names Authority	Florida Geographic Names Authority	No objection
Federal agency	Department of Defense	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

The new name Wells Buck Branch is proposed for an unnamed two-mile-long tributary of the Yellow River in Okaloosa County and within the boundaries of Eglin Air Force Base.

The proponent, a representative of the base's Civil Engineering Group, proposed the name to commemorate Henry Wells (b. 1827), who as assistant surveyor with the Florida District of the U.S. Land Grant Office in Tallahassee, resurveyed the township in 1851. The proponent notes that a map published two years later labeled the stream Buck Branch; however, because there is already an officially named Buck Creek approximately five miles to the west, he suggests that adding Wells' name would differentiate the two. He adds that the Wells family "is still fairly well known in Santa Rosa County."

**MASSACHUSETTS**Change **Long Pond** (FID [615758](#)) to **Caboose Pond**

Local government	Yarmouth Town Selectmen	Oppose
	Barnstable County Commissioners	Oppose
State Names Authority	Massachusetts Geographic Names Authority	Oppose
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Yarmouth Historical Commission	Oppose

This proposal is to change the name of Long Pond, a seven-acre lake in the Town of Yarmouth in Barnstable County, to Caboose Pond.

The proponent notes that many features in the Cape Cod area are named Long Pond and believes this one should be renamed "to represent the historical train presence that is characteristic of this area of Yarmouth." He references the former Yarmouth Station, a name preserved in that of an unincorporated community near the lake. He also states that trains are heard passing the area

and that “This new name references a part of a train to represent this railroaded past, rather than just calling the pond long.”

USGS topographic maps have labeled the lake Long Pond since 1888. GNIS lists eight features named Long Pond on Cape Cod in Barnstable County; two are in the Town of Yarmouth. Online references to Long Pond in Yarmouth overwhelmingly refer to the larger pond of that name 3.5 miles southeast of the lake in question.

All stakeholders are opposed to the proposed change. The Yarmouth Historical Commission cited possible historical significance to the name Long Pond; its recommendation is supported by the Yarmouth Board of Selectmen and the Barnstable County Commissioners. The Massachusetts Geographic Names Authority concurred with the apparent lack of evidence that the existence of multiple “Long Ponds” poses a risk to public safety and emergency response.

### **NEW YORK**

#### Change **Wolf Pond** (FID [971570](#)) to **Big Wolf Lake**

Local government	Tupper Lake Town Council	Support
	Tupper Lake Village Trustees	Support
	Franklin County Legislature	Support
State Names Authority	New York Geographic Names Committee	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Franklin County Historical and Museum Society	Support
	Adirondack Park Agency	Support

This proposal is to change the name of Wolf Pond, an approximately 2,000-acre lake in the Town of Tupper Lake in Franklin County and within Adirondack Park, to Big Wolf Lake. The lake is owned by the Big Wolf Lake Association, which was founded in the 1940 and which preserves about 4,000 acres of the surrounding land that is not otherwise privately owned. The lake is north of Little Wolf Pond, an approximately 150-acre lake.

The proponent is the most recent past president of the association. In 1916, a local lumber company owner named Ferris Meigs purchased the “Big Wolf Tract” to preserve as a game refuge. Meigs was co-owner of Dodge, Meigs & Company until 1898, the Santa Clara Lumber Company until 1927, and then the Big Wolf Corporation.

The proponent states that since the purchase of the tract “and very likely before, the lake has been called Big Wolf Lake by the residents who own property along the lake shore as well as by the local community of Tupper Lake.”



USGS topographic maps have labeled the pair of lakes as Wolf Pond and Little Wolf Pond since 1905; earlier publications labeled them Big Wolf Pond and Little Wolf Pond. The 1934 volume *A Biological Survey of the Raquette Watershed* by the State of New York Conservation Department variously used the names Wolf Pond, Big Wolf Pond, and Big Wolf Lake. The section dedicated to the lakes lists it as “Wolf Pond (Big Wolf Lake), a privately owned lake with fishing rights controlled by the Big Wolf Club.”

The proponent noted that other features named Wolf Lake are in the Adirondacks, which causes confusion. GNIS lists 54 features in New York with “Wolf” in their names, including three lakes named Wolf Lake and 15 named Wolf Pond.

The proponent also commented that “While there is apparently no universal definition of a lake, it is also quite clear from research that Big Wolf does not meet the accepted scientific parameters of a pond.”

The Town of Tupper Lake Supervisor and Village of Tupper Lake Mayor both stated in their support that the area around the lake is routinely referred to as Big Wolf.

### SOUTH DAKOTA

Change Munson Creek (FID [1256620](#)) to Monson Creek  
(Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation [partly])

Local government	Marshall County Commissioners	
	Roberts County Commissioners	No objection
State Names Authority	South Dakota Board on Geographic Names	No opinion
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation	No objection

This proposal is to change the name of Munson Creek, an 11-mile-long stream in Marshall County and Roberts County, to Monson Creek. Portions of the stream flow through lands under the jurisdiction of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribe.

Although the existing name has been labeled on USGS topographic maps since 1964, the proponent, a resident of Claire City and a member of the Monson family, states that the stream was named for his grandfather Orville James Monson (ca.1883-1963), whose parents “came to this area from Norway; they homesteaded in South Dakota and Minnesota. People started calling the stream in question Monson Creek because Orville was frequently seen watering his oxen in the stream.”

General Land Office records show that Orville Monson acquired 200 acres along the stream in Marshall County in 1914 and 1918. Monson is also listed in the Federal and State censuses for Marshall County and in draft registration records, and his gravestone, in Sisseton Cemetery, uses the Monson spelling. A number of other individuals named Monson, including siblings of Orville, settled in neighboring Roberts County. Other records spell the family name Munson or Monsen. A relative of the proponent stated “It's been the Monson homestead for a long time (it was a centennial homestead or something like that) so would mean a lot to the family to be spelled correctly.”

### VIRGINIA

Change **Mary Bird Branch** (FID [1470144](#)) to **Mary Byrd Branch**, Virginia  
(Prince William Forest Park [National Park Service])

Local government	Prince William County Supervisors	Support
State Names Authority	Virginia Board on Geographic Names	Support
Federal agency	National Park Service	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

This proposal is to correct the spelling of the name of **Mary Bird Branch**, a 2.3-mile-long tributary of South Fork Quantico Creek in Prince William County, to **Mary Byrd Branch**. The stream is in Prince William Forest Park (PRWI), a unit of the National Park Service (NPS).

The stream is named for Mary Madeline Byrd (1879-1951), who was a Black midwife and an important member of the integrated community of Hickory Ridge. She is mentioned often in oral histories from persons who lived in the community and is buried in Neabsco Baptist Church Cemetery. Her death certificate lists her name as Mary Madeline Byrd.

The proposal was submitted by an NPS employee at PRWI, who states, “[PRWI] has multiple references to the correct spelling. The park currently has signs in place showing the spelling BYRD. . . . To not properly spell her name is an affront to the local community with the knowledge of the area.” NPS webpages and documents report Mary Byrd’s prominence and importance in the Hickory Ridge Community; a webpage about the [Hickory Ridge, Joplin & Batestown](#) communities states, “Among the notable residents of Hickory Ridge was Mary Byrd, an African American midwife. People recognized Byrd throughout the Cabin Branch area for her skill and expertise. . . .” Further, “the Mary Byrd Branch Trail . . . heads down through the woods to **Mary Byrd Branch**, a tributary of Quantico Creek [*sic*]. The trail and stream are named for a highly respected, strong-willed woman who lived in this area in the 1800s.”

The proponent specifically referenced two NPS documents, “Prince William Forest Park: the African American Experience” (2000) and “Conserving Place: Prince William Forest Park, 1900-1945” (2008). These included recollections of several long-time residents of the area who

recalled Mary Byrd's generosity, whether "helping to raise other people's kids"; canning and donating food; "holding parties and dinners to raise a little money"; "If you got sick they [Mary and her sisters] would give you two or three dollars; and ". . . all of the people around Dumfries knew her good work habits."

In its support, the Virginia Board on Geographic Names also cited an interview documented in *Prince William Forest Park: An Administrative History* (1986), in which Mary Byrd was referenced.