

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

Eight Hundred and Sixty-second Meeting

March 14, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.

(Virtual Meeting)

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Marielle Black	Department of the Interior (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation)
Wendi-Starr Brown	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs)
Thad Ellerbe	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Andrew Flora	Department of Commerce (Census Bureau)
Brenda-Anne C. Forrest	Government Publishing Office
Andrew Griffin	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Christopher Hammond	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Elizabeth Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Daniel Konzek	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife 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)
Jeremy Smith	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management)
Timothy St. Onge	Library of Congress (Chair)
Alexander Stum	Department of Agriculture (Natural Resources Conservation Service)
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

BGN/GNIS Staff

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

Guests

Janet Agin, Smithsonian
Gina Anderson, U.S. Geological Survey
Apple Maps observers
Council of Geographic Names Authorities (CoGNA) observers
Foreign Names Committee observers

Alex Fries, National Park Service
Matthew McCready, Census Bureau
Jesse Nett, U.S. Forest Service
Deb Nordeen, National Park Service
Brigitta Urban-Mathieux, U.S. Geological Survey
Wendy Hawley, Census Bureau

1. Opening

Chair St. Onge opened Meeting 862 of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) at 9:35 a.m. He noted that motions would pass by a simple majority of votes. Staff conducted a roll call of members and staff.

Runyon reminded attendees of the USGS media policy and asked any attendees from the media to identify themselves and to email Gina Anderson, U.S. Geological Survey Office of Communications and Publishing.

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 as submitted.

3. Minutes of Meeting 861

The minutes of Meeting 861, held February 8, 2024, were approved as submitted with a correction to the date.

4. Reports

4.1 BGN Chairman (Tischler)

There was no written report.

Quarterly Meeting 292 of the Full Board will take place (virtually) on Tuesday, April 16, at 1:30 p.m.

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) has issued a concept document that would assign a global unique identifier for the world's cities. It was agreed that this is a topic of interest to the Census Bureau, and it was also noted that GNIS lists incorporated cities in the U.S.

In early March, the Chair provided a briefing, including the topic of geographic names and an update on Secretary's Orders 3404 and 3405, to the MAPPS 2024 Federal Programs Conference. On March 25, he will provide a similar briefing at the mid-year meeting of the National State Geographic Information Council (NSGIC).

BGN member appointment letters for the 2023-2025 term are still pending from two departments.

BGN Vice-chair Withers will schedule an Executive Committee meeting in April.

USGS is close to making a selection for the new permanent Executive Secretary for Domestic Names.

4.2 Executive Secretary for Domestic Names (vacant)

There was no report.

4.3 Executive Secretary for Foreign Names (Hoffman)

There was no written report.

The BGN's Foreign Names Committee Meeting 417 took place on March 12, with a light docket.

A meeting of the BGN with the UK Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (PCGN) is scheduled for November 4-8 at National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency headquarters in Springfield, VA. The FNC staff has put out a call for topics, with a due date of June 3. To participate or attend, please email Sladjana.Milicevic@nga.mil.

The Republic of Korea hosted a delegation of FNC staff.

4.4 Special Committee on Communications (Ellerbe)

See attached report.

Following the meeting in January with representatives of Natural Resources Canada, Ellerbe and Kanalley hope to meet again soon to discuss topics for a virtual BGN-Geographical Names Board of Canada (GNBC) forum in fall 2024.

4.5 Staff (Runyon)

See attached report; staff shared the following highlights:

The staff will continue to monitor the status of [H.R. 7303](#), "To abolish the Board on Geographic Names and repeal the provisions of the Act of July 25, 1947 establishing such Board."

The BGN informational factsheets have been updated and posted to the BGN website. Staff thanked Ellerbe for his work on these documents.

The DNC has received a proposal to apply the name Lab Cove to a small bay in Virginia. The proponent indicates the name would honor his dog who recently passed away and who liked to play in the water. The staff wished to know if they should process it. The conclusion was that the name is generic enough that it could be considered, although citing possible confusion with a scientific lab, perhaps “Labrador Cove” would be better?

New proposals are being received and processed, and the preparation of Quarterly Review List 455 is underway.

The members extended their congratulation to Josefa (Jo) Baker on her appointment to be the new National Geospatial Program liaison for Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

4.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (Decker)

There was no report.

As noted last month, the gnis_manager@usgs.gov email has been disabled and GNIS additions and updates should now be directed to tnm_help@usgs.gov. BGN and other USGS webpages are being updated to reflect the change.

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

There was no written report. The committee met following the February DNC meeting and discussed its role in the revision of the DNC’s *Principles, Policies, and Procedures* (PPP). They also reviewed the list of upcoming Tribal conferences, including Bridging a Gap in early April, where BGN informational postcards will be available for distribution.

The United, Southern and Eastern Tribes will be meeting in Arlington, VA at the end of this month; the program includes presentations on “Reclaiming our indigenous place names on maps.”

The committee is expected to meet following next month’s DNC meeting and will likely address its review of the PPP.

5. Docket

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

One member left the meeting.

Review List 446**Mount Elliott**, Alaska (Chugach State Park) (FID 2831494)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 18 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

One member returned to the meeting.

Review List 449Change **Buckley Draw** (FID [1439247](#)) to **Bulkley Draw** and **Buckley Mountain** (FID [1439249](#)) to **Bulkley Mountain**, Utah (Uinta National Forest)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the change, citing a lack of local support and the negative recommendations of the Utah Committee on Geographic Names and the U.S. Forest Service. The members also cited a reluctance to change longstanding names.

Vote: 17 in favor
 0 against
 2 abstentions

Caliche Peak, Utah (Ashley National Forest / Uintah and Ouray Reservation / Bureau of Land Management)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing the negative recommendation of the Utah Committee on Geographic Names.

Vote: 15 in favor
 1 against
 3 abstentions

Change **Iley Lake** (FID [1858023](#)) to **Kapavik Lake**, Texas

A motion was made and seconded to defer the change, citing the Texas Geographic Names Committee's desire to see specific local support rather than a lack of objection.

Vote: 19 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

One member left the meeting.

Review List 451

Heron Creek, Pennsylvania

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing concerns that the name would violate the Commercial Names Policy.

Vote: 13 in favor
3 against
2 abstentions

The votes against the motion cited the lack of objection from the Pennsylvania Geographic Names Committee.

Keiths Arch, Utah (Fishlake National Forest)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing the negative recommendations of the Utah Committee on Geographic Names and the U.S. Forest Service.

Vote: 18 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Three members left the meeting.

Review List 453

Old Bridge Creek, Alabama

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing the lack of support from local parties.

Vote: 9 in favor
6 against
0 abstentions

Kingfisher Creek, Pennsylvania (FID 2831495)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 15 in favor
0 against

0 abstentions

6. Other Business

Andrew Flora announced that this would be his last DNC meeting as he will be retiring shortly from Federal service. The chair, members, and staff expressed their congratulations and appreciation to Andy for his dedication and years of service to the BGN. Kanalley specifically wished to thank him for his development of the Cultural Sensitivity for Native American Names guidance.

7. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. The next meeting of the DNC is scheduled to be held on April 11, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

(signed)

Executive Secretary
[Vacant]

APPROVED
(signed)

Timothy St. Onge, Chair
Domestic Names Committee

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**Special Committee on Communications Report**

The Chair (Thad Ellerbe) and Betsy Kanalley (chair of Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication) will attend another meeting with Steve Westley and Nicole Halseth from Natural Resources Canada in April to keep communications going for the US/ Canada Division of UNGEGN. We will continue to plan for the virtual forum in the fall.

Monthly reminders/ updates:

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

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Staff Report

Since the DNC's last meeting on February 8, the BGN has received 27 new name and name change proposals:

- Change [Buck Lake](#) to [West Buck Lake](#), FL – change name to eliminate duplication
- Change [Perris Reservoir](#) to [Lake Moreno Valley](#), CA – change name to recognize reservoir's location
- [Skate Island](#), CA – new name for unnamed island
- [Liberty Creek](#), VA – new name for unnamed stream
- Six proposals from Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians to modify names approved through S.O. 3404 process:
 - Change [North Mino-kwe Creek](#) to [Giiwednong Mino-kwe Ziibiinhs](#), MI
 - Change [Mino-kwe Point](#) to [Mino-kwe Neyaashiing](#), MI
 - Change [Mino-kwe Ponds](#) to [Mino-kwe Zaagigaanhs](#), MI
 - Change [Nookomis Lake](#) to [Nookoomis Zaagigan](#), MI
 - Change [Shki-kwe Creek](#) to [Shki-kwe Ziibiinhs](#), MI
 - Change [South Mino-kwe Creek](#) to [Zhaawanog Mino-kwe Ziibiinhs](#), MI
- 7 City of Coppell, TX names:
 - Allen Road Lake, Basil Wood Channel, Fountain Lake, Laguna Lake, Spyglass Lake, Teal Lake, Trinity Springs Lake
- Change [Kayouche Coulee](#) to [Kayouche Bayou](#); [Coulee Hippolyte](#) to [Bayou Hippolyte](#), LA – to recognize generic term used locally
- [Midnight Creek](#), VA – new name for unnamed stream
- [Stone Butte](#), OR – new name for unnamed summit
- [Goodland](#), TX – make official new name for new community
- Change [Negro Point](#) to Mulzac Point, NY
- [Torrey Sentinel](#), UT – new name for unnamed summit
- [Bald Mountain](#), NC – make official name in published use
- [Mitchell Ridge](#), CA – new commemorative name for unnamed ridge
- [Chitch Creek](#), MI – make official name used by proponent's family, "chitch" = "channel" + "ditch"
- Change [Stanifird Mountain](#) to [Standifird Mountain](#)
- [Lake Hornwoggin](#), OH
- [Goosenecks Gorge](#), UT
- [Sheffield Creek](#), TX
- [Platte Spring Lake](#), NE

The preparation of new case briefs is underway and the staff hopes to complete and release Review List 455 in late March/early April.

Proposals requiring additional information/justification:

- Abbey Cove, VA – for proponent’s recently deceased dog; violates Animal Names Policy; would like to amend to Lab Cove, “for all the labs we have had the last 28 years.”
- Cobalt Creek, VA – for proponent’s recently deceased cat; violates Animal Names Policy
- Gladys and Rose Hill, ME – new commemorative name to honor matriarchs of the family that now owns a compound and barn on the hill; hold - no association between the intended honorees and the feature
- Snake OI Creek, WY – rename Negro Creek; requested more information on the meaning of the proposed name

Closed cases:

- Lake Ivan, MI – new commemorative name; no association between honoree and feature: WITHDRAWN
- Cyclops Lake, CA – proponent notified of Wilderness Names Policy, withdrawn
- Byrams Corner, VA – new name for corner of intersection, to commemorate Byram family, general area already named Mountain View, proposal withdrawn, will look into establishing a memorial instead
- Bobs Lake, UT – new commemorative name; intended to honor proponent, rejected

The staff also responded to inquiries/correspondence:

- Inquiry re: “sq___” renaming effort
 - Application of names for two glaciers in California
 - Forest Service Region 1 re: naming of several Montana summits
 - Possible naming of Georgia summit “Marine Mountain”
 - Wolkowsky Key, FL – inquiry re: possible proposal to rename Ballast Key
 - How to access old DVD of GNIS
 - Origin of name of Dink, WV -- WV State Names Authority (SNA) asked by S.O. 3405 Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names for any background on the community’s name
 - Adding 5 unrecorded names from NPS maps of Capitol Reek National Monument; added by GNIS staff
 - Northern Arizona University news magazine inquiry re: effort to rename Agassiz Peak to Öo'mawki, AZ (Review List 451); follow up with Arizona SNA, U.S. Forest Service
 - Bristol Bay Native Corporation, AK re: the status of proposals on the BGN’s review lists
 - Possible renaming of White City Falls, MI to a name that would honor Great Chief Buffalo
 - The status of various pending proposals
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- Cayette Bluff, Antarctica – new commemorative name
 - FOIA request for information on the naming (1977) of Kauffman Glacier, Antarctica; staff contacted the UK Antarctic Place-names Committee for assistance in locating the documentation

On February 7, [H.R. 7303](#) was introduced, “To abolish the Board on Geographic Names and repeal the provisions of the Act of July 25, 1947 establishing such Board.” The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Staff participated in the Feb. 8 meeting of the Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication.

The review of the DNC’s Principles, Policies, and Procedures (PPP) document has been on hold, in part due to other priorities and also awaiting the appointment of the new Executive Secretary for Domestic Names. The staff appreciates the input received thus far.

The Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) on Reconciliation in Place Names continues to post updates at its website, including the minutes of its November 2023 meeting: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1892/advisory-committee-on-reconciliation-in-place-names.htm>.

Regarding the proposal to change the name of the unincorporated community of [Kelseyville](#) in Lake County, California to [Konocti](#), the BGN has received to date approximately 62 emails in support and 174 opposed, along with a link to copies of 282 postcards from individuals opposed to the change. The Lake County Board of Supervisors has been asked to provide a recommendation. Several individuals have inquired as to whether the existing name could be retained but changed (“rebranded”) to honor a different individual named Kelsey. The BGN staff met with a representative of the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN) to review the process and to discuss why unincorporated communities are under the BGN’s purview. She provided a copy of a document that she believes states that the Census Bureau has the authority for all populated places, whether incorporated or unincorporated. The proponent of the change to [Konocti](#) requested information on the BGN’s previous renaming of populated places.

Staff met with a member of CACGN to review the status of the proposal to change the name of [Habematolel Valley](#), approved by the BGN in September 2022 to eliminate an “sq___” name, to [Kilkenny Valley](#) (Review List 452). The issue was on the agenda of the CACGN March 8 meeting. The CACGN recommended that the change to [Kilkenny Valley](#) not be approved.

The BGN staff attended the CACGN meeting, during which a number of interested parties gave presentations on their proposals. CACGN also voted at the meeting not to support the proposed change from [Mount Whitney](#) to [Tumanguya](#) (Review List 453); the National Park Service also does not recommend approval of the change.

The proponent of the name [Druid Hill](#) for a location in DeKalb County, Georgia was informed that the DNC determined there is no new evidence that warrants revisiting the 2019 decision not to approve the name. He responded with a request for further clarification and a response was sent. He has asked that the point of contact (“ownership”) for his proposal be reassigned to the proponent of the original 2017 proposal.

On February 9, staff met with the Ohio SNA to review his role in the process; the SNA has been inactive for some time, and it is still not clear whether he can dedicate time to the position.

On February 22, staff participated in a conversation with representatives of the Utah Geological Survey (UGS) who reported that they had received a grant from the USGS National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program (NGGDPP), “to identify problematic and derogatory place names in Utah and put together a guide for how to address/acknowledge them when they show up in UGS publications and maps.” UGS had also developed a list of “problematic place names.” The Utah Committee on Geographic Names (UCGN) determined that the project was outside their scope and referred to the UGS to the BGN. The BGN staff provided an overview of the BGN’s processes and shared a number of relevant web links, and suggested the UGS reach out to the FAC for more information and to compare lists.

On February 27, staff participated in a meeting with the Virginia Board on Geographic Names and the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors to review the proposal that has been received to apply the new name Hopkins Mountain to a ridge that is part of First Mountain, which in turn is part of the larger Massanutten Mountain. The peak atop the ridge in question also has a name, Hartman Knob, so it was beneficial to review the situation with interested parties and to discuss concerns as to whether adding another name might be confusing.

Staff attended the March 7 virtual meeting of the UCGN, during which two new proposals were introduced and the UCGN staff shared drafts of its policies, procedures, and bylaws. One of the proposals is to change the name of Elbow Fork in Salt Lake County to North Elbow Fork, to eliminate one of two duplicate names. Both the county government and the U.S. Forest Service are opposed to renaming the stream in question but would be willing to entertain a proposal to change the other Elbow Fork to South Elbow Fork; the BGN is coordinating with interested parties as to who will initiate that proposal.

Staff met with Flora to discuss the inclusion of military facilities in GNIS, as well as the maintenance of civil, census, and populated places in GNIS and the naming of Census Designated Places. It is presumed that updates to military facilities are being provided to the Protected Areas Database of the US (PAD-US) by the Department of Defense but not to GNIS; more discussion is needed.

Staff attended Meeting 417 of the BGN’s Foreign Names Committee, held on March 12.

The Department of the Interior continues to await member appointment letters for the 2023-2025 term; to date, 7 of 9 responses have been received.

As reported previously, the Department of the Interior (DOI) issued a press release that included references to the Department Manual, in which the name of the State of Hawaii was spelled Hawai’i, i.e., with the okina. This contradicts the official spelling that was established by Congress and which is recorded in GNIS as official for Federal use. Hammond and Runyon met with representatives of the DOI Office of Native Hawaiian Affairs to discuss the discrepancy;

Runyon also shared the information with the USGS Bureau Approving Official and the Hawaii Board on Geographic Names.

On February 16, staff attended a webinar conducted by CACGN to review the status of Assembly Bill and to present a best practices document. CACGN shared a list of 43 “sq____” names that are being reviewed: https://cacgn.ca.gov/media/knxfbw4q/2024-2-4_-posting-ab2022_derogatorynames_v5.pdf. The names apply to administrative (manmade/cultural) features throughout the State, and as such are outside the BGN’s purview to change. CACGN has contacted each impacted community with a request that a replacement be submitted by August 6, 2024. The bill requires that all “sq____” names in the State be changed by January 1, 2025.

As reported last month, the gnis_manager@usgs.gov email dropbox was disabled on February 15. All inquiries related to GNIS maintenance should now be directed to tnm_help@usgs.gov. BGN webpages and published material have been updated. The Gazweb server was also decommissioned.

The BGN’s factsheets have been updated and reposted to the BGN’s Resources Page. The staff extends its appreciation to Ellerbe for his work on this effort, which included coordination with the FNC staff.

Staff and some DNC members attended the ESRI Federal GIS Conference held in Washington, DC Feb. 13-14. Staff had an opportunity to meet with a Bureau of Indian Affairs employee from Oregon who is involved in developing improved outreach opportunities with Oregon’s Tribal governments.

Runyon and McCormick (GNIS staff) participated in calls with a representative of Apple Maps, who is interested in pursuing a closer relationship between Federal resources for names and its products.

Josefa (“Jo”) Baker, who has provided support to the BGN staff, including web page updates, has been hired by the USGS National Geospatial Program/User Engagement (UE) Office as the new liaison for Virginia and North Carolina. A complete list of UE liaisons is available at <https://www.usgs.gov/ngp-user-engagement-office/connect>. Many of these individuals participate in the meetings of their respective SNAs.

On February 23 and March 5, Runyon and Rodriguez participated in meetings with the chair, secretary and members of the BGN’s Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names (ACAN), to discuss a number of topics: the synchronization of data between GNIS and the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica (CGA); the management of administrative features in GNIS and the CGA; updates to the Antarctic Names Map Viewer/imagery; and membership of ACAN.

Media coverage/inquiries regarding BGN activities continues:

[Kelseyville was named for a man who slaughtered Native Americans. Should a town still be named for him? \(pressdemocrat.com\)](#)

[PD Editorial: Give residents a say in Kelseyville name change \(pressdemocrat.com\)](#)

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/final-candidate-forum-in-nice-is-a-one-person-affair/ar-BB1jjWyF>

[Rose by another name clears air if Kelseyville turns to Konocti \(msn.com\)](#)

[“Redskin Creek to be renamed Ute Creek”:](#)
https://www.theflume.com/news/article_c9997934-cab1-11ee-91ad-ff294ea16829.html

[Getting the 's-word' out of Colorado county road names | News | denvergazette.com](#)

[WIRED Magazine inquired about the BGN’s renaming \(2018\) of Marchant Glacier in Antarctica to Matataua Glacier.](#)

[“Emmorton Elementary students name Harford County tributary”:](#) <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/emmorton-elementary-students-name-harford-county-tributary/ar-BB1jnBGY>

The Epoch Times submitted a number of questions regarding the work of the FAC and the Task Force on Derogatory Geographic Names.

The Northern Arizona University student paper published an article about the proposal to rename [Agassiz Peak](#) to [Öo'mawki](#): https://www.jackcentral.org/news/indigenous-students-work-to-restore-san-francisco-peak-to-hopi-name/article_85e83716-d6be-11ee-9f2c-2b33b8d1905a.html

The staff is aware of interest in possibility renaming the unincorporated community of [Burke](#) in Fairfax County, Virginia:
<https://northernvirginiamag.com/culture/news/2024/03/04/burke-man-launches-campaign-to-rename-town/> and [Why a Fairfax Co. man is advocating to change the name of Burke - WTOP News](#)

<https://www.nationalparkstraveler.org/2024/02/appreciating-contributions-olelo-hawaii-volcanology>

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**DOCKET**  
**March 2024**

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

Please note that if an interested party’s recommendation is recorded as “no opinion,” it reflects the response of that party. If a party did not respond at all, the recommendation is recorded as “no response.”

**Review List 446**

**Mount Elliott**, Alaska  
(Chugach State Park)

[61.117873, -149.546257](#)

|                       |                                                                       |              |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Local government      | Anchorage Municipality Assembly                                       | No response* |
| State Names Authority | Alaska Board on Geographic Names                                      | Support      |
| Tribes                | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X              | No response  |
|                       | Eklutna Native Village                                                | No response* |
|                       | Knik Tribe                                                            | No response* |
| Other                 | Alaska DNR Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation Director          | Support*     |
|                       | Chugach Region Park Superintendent                                    | Support*     |
|                       | Chugach State Park Citizens Advisory Board                            | Support*     |
|                       | Mountaineering Club of Alaska (MCA)                                   | Oppose*      |
|                       | Cook Inlet Regional, Inc.                                             | No response* |
|                       | Cook Inlet Tribal Council                                             | No response* |
|                       | Chugach State Park                                                    | No response* |
|                       | D. Roy Mitchell, Alaska Native Language Preservation Advisory Council | No response* |

\* contacted by SNA

This proposal is to make official the name Mount Elliott for a 4,710-foot summit in Chugach State Park, in the Chugach Mountains and the Municipality of Anchorage. The proponent, a resident of Palmer, reports that the name has been used in the mountain climbing community since 1961. It honors Technical Sergeant Robert ‘Bob’ T. Elliott, Jr., “a military paramedic serving in the 71st Air Rescue Squadron and 5040th Operations Squadron at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Anchorage, Alaska, [who] in May 1960 died, along with pilot William A. Stevenson,

while attempting to assist 3 mountaineers in need of evacuation from Denali (then Mt. McKinley) when the Cessna 180 piloted by Stevenson crashed at 17,200 feet.”

An online biography of Elliott noted that he spent a year in Korea training airplane pilots and that he “in particular was well-suited to join the effort as a veteran of multiple rescue missions who himself had summited Denali in 1958.” It adds, “In 1962 [sic], two years after Mt. Elliott was named, the peak across the valley from it was named Mt. Williwaw after 3 Army soldiers who lost their lives in a williwaw windstorm while training in the area. Although it is complete coincidence, it is fitting that a mountain named for Robert Elliott wound up on the far end of a ridge stretching out from Anchorage towards a mountain named for people who needed rescue.” The name Mount Williwaw was approved by the BGN in September 1964.

The November and December 1968 editions of SCREE, the newsletter of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska (MCA), referred to the naming of Mount Elliott in honor of Robert Elliott, and the name also appeared in various editions between 1970 and 2004. The name has been listed at the peakbagger.com website since 2004. It also appears on maps of Chugach State Park published by Dave Imus in 2000 and by National Geographic in 2014.

The minutes of the Alaska Board on Geographic Names meeting state “The proposer noted that while there was probably a Dena’ina name for the peak, this name is currently unknown, making it likely that Mount Elliott is the oldest and only name known for the feature.”

The MCA, while recognizing local and published use of the name for 60 years, does not recommend approval, “due to [our] policy to not endorse geographic names for individuals.”

#### **Review List 449**

Change **Buckley Draw** (FID [1439247](#)) to **Bulkley Draw** and **Buckley Mountain** (FID [1439249](#)) to **Bulkley Mountain**, Utah (Uinta National Forest)

|                       |                                                          |             |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Provo City Council                                       | No response |
|                       | Utah County Commissioners                                | No response |
| State Names Authority | Utah Committee on Geographic Names                       | Opposed     |
| Federal               | U.S. Forest Service                                      | Opposed     |
| Tribes                | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response |
|                       | Local family                                             | Opposed     |

These proposals would correct the name “Buckley” to “Bulkley” in the names of a mountain and valley in Utah County southeast of Provo and northeast of Springville. According to the proponent, a member of the Bulkley family, the current names Buckley Draw and Buckley Mountain commemorate his great-great-great-grandfather Newman Summers Bulkley (1817-

1893), one of the first settlers of the Springville area in the early 1800s. A 1971 *Daily Herald* (Provo) article reported that the mountain “was named for Newman B-U-L-K-L-E-Y, which is the correct spelling, but he was as often called ‘Buckley’ which seemed the natural way to pronounce it.”

The proponent states that “Bulkley was misspelled [sic] Buckley when [the] Buckley Mountains name was recorded. This is an unfortunate spelling and miss pronunciation [sic] that our family still deals with some 200 years later.” He also notes that a Springville road is named “Buckley Avenue.” A street in Provo is named “Buckely Lane”; the BGN does not have purview over the names of streets.

The proponent reported the following about Newman Summers Bulkley’s life. A native of Tioga County, New York, his family joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1836 and proceeded westward with the church. Family and LDS records attest to the spelling “Bulkley,” as does *A Brief History Springville, Utah* (1900) which recorded:

Newman Bulkley, a member of the Mormon Battalion, came early to reside in this city and was a hard worker in producing material with which to build dwellings. He, in connection with Abram Noe, opened the ‘slide’—still bearing his name—north of town, from whence thousands of feet of lumber were procured that entered into the construction of the first houses. He was a mountain worker for years until he became broken down in health, owing to the extreme exposure to the mountain blasts and snow.

As additional evidence, the proponent provided copies of Bulkley’s marriage certificate; an 1846 muster record; the 1870 Federal Census of Springville, Utah; and a handwritten letter signed by Newman Bulkley. A U.S. Forest Service document, “*Place Names on the Uinta National Forest*,” reported “Bulkley’s name was pronounced ‘Buckley,’ so that spelling was given to the mountain. Bulkley ran a gypsum mine near his home on Hobble Creek until a better gypsum source was discovered in southern Utah. He then converted his mill to produce sorghum.”

Both “Buckley” names have been shown on USGS topographic maps since 1948.

The City of Provo Chief Administrative Officer contacted a member of the Buckley family with whom “[the City] has worked as property owners who share a common boundary with Provo city owned property in what we have known as the Buckley Draw area in Provo.” The individual responded that she believed the features were named for her ancestors who had arrived in Provo in the 1890s to work in the woolen mill (adding that they are not related to Newman Bulkley). Further, “They were a prominent family and popular for their musical talents. [They had] possibly the first organ in the valley that they loaded in a wagon and took around to weddings and musical events. They also did some mining.” She stated that the Buckley Mine in Slate Canyon was owned by the family. She concluded, “No need to rename all of it due to an unfortunate misspelling. Buckley is correct for our family going back to at least the 1700s.”



The City shared these findings with the proponent of the changes to “Bulkley”, adding “It sounds as though there is not a common understanding between Mr. Bulkley and the local Buckley family about the history associated with the properties in question. We thought it might be helpful for you to know that any decision will likely ignite some controversy, which I understand is often the case on requests like these.”

The proponent responded to the City that other than this one claim, he had found no evidence of any association between the Buckley family and the mountain, reiterating that “all local historic documents reference Newman Bulkley. [The Buckley family member] also stated her ancestors were musicians. Newman Bulkley owned a sawmill in Springville. The trees that built the first homes were cut off of the mountain.”

In recommending against the changes, the Utah Committee on Geographic Names cited the lack of formal recommendations from the City of Provo and Utah County and a lack of a convincing reason to correct the spelling.

The U.S. Forest Service reports that neither the Forest nor the Region saw a compelling need to change the names to ones that are “not consistent with current local use.”

#### **Caliche Peak, Utah**

(Ashley National Forest / Uintah and Ouray Reservation / Bureau of Land Management)

[39.8771, -110.77583](#)

|                       |                                                          |              |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Local government      | Duchesne County Commissioners                            | No response* |
| State Names Authority | Utah Committee on Geographic Names                       | Opposed      |
| Federal               | U.S. Forest Service                                      | No objection |
|                       | Bureau of Land Management                                | No opinion   |
| Tribes                | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response  |
|                       | Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation       | No response* |

\* contacted by SNA

The new name Caliche Peak is proposed for a 9,346-foot summit at the east end of Reservation Ridge in Duchesne County. A portion of the summit is in an area that is co-managed by the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation and the U.S. Forest Service (Ashley National Forest), while a small portion of the western slope is managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

The proponent states that the summit is “primarily composed of caliche limestone . . . . I believe it requires a name since the cabin owners in the area all call it by different casual names. It leads to much confusion when giving directions even among people who have lived here for years.”

Caliche is a rocky crust that forms on calcium carbonate-rich rocks and soil in semiarid and arid conditions. A Utah Geological Survey map shows that the bedrock on top of the summit is the Upper member of the Green River Formation (“beds of marlstone, limestone, mudstone, siltstone, sandstone, and sparse shale”) and the bedrock on the lower slopes is the Middle member of the Green River Formation (“beds of mudstone, siltstone, and sandstone, plus light-green to gray sandy marlstone with many intercalated light-gray beds of limestone, shale, siltstone, and lenticular sandstone”).

In recommending against the name, the Utah Committee on Geographic Names (UCGN) stated, “The feature is not made up of caliche, but rather limestone from the Green River Formation, which can be mistaken for caliche. [We] believe that the name would be geologically inappropriate.”

The U.S. Forest Service, in its statement of “no objection,” added the agency would have liked to have seen some Tribal input. UCGN members representing the Utah Division of Indian Affairs attempted to seek Tribal comments but were unsuccessful. The Bureau of Land Management declined to offer an opinion because very little of the feature is on BLM land.

Change **Iley Lake** (FID [1858023](#)) to **Kapavik Lake**, Texas

|                       |                                                          |               |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Local government      | Gonzales County Commissioners Court                      | No Objection* |
| State Names Authority | Texas Geographic Names Committee                         | Oppose        |
| Tribes                | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response   |
| Other                 | Friend of the Kapavik family                             | Support*      |

\* contacted by proponent

This proposal is to change the name of Iley Lake, a 10-acre reservoir located just outside the City of Gonzales in Gonzales County to Kapavik Lake. The proponent of the change is a member of the Kapavik family, who reports that the property was acquired in 1995 by Ernest Emil Kapavik (1927-2006) and Ruby Marie Kapavik (1931-2014).

The dam that created the reservoir was constructed in 1962; at the time, the property was owned by Glen Iley. Iley Lake has been labeled on USGS topographic maps since 2010, having been added to GNIS in 2000 from a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers inventory of dams and reservoirs. An individual whose parents were business colleagues of Mr. and Mrs. Kapavik submitted a letter of support, noting, “[they] represented a strong family and work ethic and [the family] have always been loyal and generous as well as supportive to our community.”

A search of online records notes a number of individuals named Iley still residing in Gonzales.

The Gonzales County Commissioners' Court informed the proponent that "the commissioners had no objection to the name change. This is why there was no action taken [at the July 24, 2023 Commissioners' Court meeting]."

The Texas Geographic Names Committee does not recommend approval of the change, citing the existence of the longstanding name Iley Lake and a lack of local support. The TGNC added "[the current] name appears in documentation, published and online maps, and may be part of the culture or referenced in the local community; [we] hope the proponent will resubmit evidence of public support for the request."

### **Review List 451**

#### **Heron Creek, Pennsylvania**

Mouth: [40.410109, -75.489565](#) / Source: [40.428144, -75.46898](#)

|                       |                                                          |              |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Local government      | Upper Hanover Township Supervisors [Montgomery Co.]      | No objection |
|                       | Milford Township Supervisors [Bucks Co.]                 | Support      |
|                       | Montgomery County Commissioners                          | No response  |
|                       | Bucks County Commissioners                               | No objection |
| State Names Authority | Pennsylvania Geographic Names Committee                  | No objection |
| Tribes                | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response  |

The new name Heron Creek is proposed for a 1.75-mile-long tributary of Macoby Creek Branch. The stream heads in Milford Township in Bucks County and flows into Upper Hanover Township in Montgomery County.

The name is proposed by one of the co-owners of Heron Creek Farm, an 11-acre property through which the stream flows. The proponent states that the farm's name refers to the many Blue Herons seen on the property. The farm's website blog has a [post about the naming of the stream](#) and the proponents sell merchandise with the name Heron Creek Farm. They add "The ultimate goal is to have a farmstand, cut your own Christmas trees and be able to host small events."

FEMA maps apply the labels "Tributary No. 1 to Macoby Branch Creek" and "Tributary No. 1a to Macoby Branch Creek" to sections of the stream. There are no other streams in Pennsylvania named "Heron."

In its recommendation of "no objection," the Pennsylvania Committee provided the following two comments from members relating to the Commercial Names Policy:

We believe the name Heron Creek can be construed to promote the proponent’s business, Heron Creek Farm, but we don’t believe it’s the primary purpose of the name.

The proposed name is appropriate as it refers to the blue herons seen on the property and along the creek. The proposed name also has local support. The BGN’s “Commercial Names Policy,” states that “The BGN may approve a name for a feature that has a longstanding association with a commercial enterprise.” This seems to be the case here as the merchandise sold by the proponent is for the Heron Creek Farm, which the proponent owns and through which the stream flows. There does not seem to be anything more that can be gained commercially by also naming the stream “Heron Creek.”

**Keiths Arch**, Utah  
(Fishlake National Forest)

[38.449557, -112.063542](https://www.blm.gov/locations/utah/fishlake-national-forest)

|                       |                                                          |             |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Piute County Commissioners                               | No response |
| State Names Authority | Utah Committee on Geographic Names                       | Opposed     |
| Federal               | U.S. Forest Service                                      | Opposed     |
| Tribes                | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response |

The new name Keiths Arch is proposed for a hole in a rock outcropping in Fishlake National Forest in Piute County, 9 miles east of Marysvale.

The proponent states that the arch “is very near a place where my mother’s uncle Keith Ogden [1911-2002] had a line cabin for tending sheep and cattle for many years. It is gone now, but his family still camps there every year and has hunted deer and elk there for many years . . . . The local people still refer to the nearby spot as Keith’s cabin.” He believes the name would be “a great way to honor [Mr. Ogden’s] contribution to the community and love for the land in this area,” adding that he was “admired for his work and was instrumental in making this area what it is today.” According to Mr. Ogden’s obituary, “Keith loved ranching, farming, and had a never-ending passion for a good horse and a good dog. He was one of the first men in Utah to own and raise registered Quarter horses.” He held a number of leadership positions in the LDS Church, was president of the Piute County Water Board, a Piute County Commissioner, and “loved to teach horsemanship to the 4H youth in Marysvale.”

The proposal also cited a second individual, the proponent’s father, who was also named Keith and also known for his contributions to the community. At the time of the application, this individual was still living but has since (2023) passed away.

The arch is described by the proponent as:

A rock feature . . . perhaps 30 feet to the top . . . where it appears two rocks fell on each other or maybe all from one side and instead of crumbling to the ground a large boulder holds the other large pieces of rock together, forming an arch. It is really a great example of physics in motion and a one in a million rock fall. . . . A forest fire recently revealed this rock feature that has been mostly unseen for many years due to dense pine forest surrounding it.

Although there is some question as to whether the feature would be defined by the Natural Arch and Bridge Society (NABS) as an arch (“a rock exposure that has a hole completely through it, formed by the natural, selective removal of rock, leaving a relatively intact frame”) or a bridge (“a natural arch formed by water”), a former member of the Utah Committee on Geographic Names (UCGN) and member of NABS believes that it meets the general definition of an arch as defined in GNIS. It meets the five criteria provided by NABS: (1) a natural arch must be made of rock; (2) the rock must be exposed; (3) the hole through the rock must conform to the mathematical, or topological, definition of a hole; (4) the hole must have formed from natural, selective removal of rock; and (5) the frame of rock that remains to surround the hole must still be relatively intact. The UCGN agreed that the feature “seems to have formed the arch first (required) and then the blocks slid a bit.”

In recommending against the proposed name, the UCGN stated, “The name could be construed to be honoring someone who has been deceased for less than five years as required by the Commemorative Names Policy.”

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) 2001 revision of the 1981 USGS topographic map labeled Ogden Cabin approximately 0.75 miles to the north-northwest of the arch. The USFS was unable to confirm that the former cabin is a known landmark, to which the proponent responded, “They removed Keith’s cabin about 25 years ago, the past forest service officers would have known it well, but the Marysvale locals would all know the spot, if I told them it was near Keith’s cabin.”

The USFS also expressed concerns that “the feature looks unstable and the district ranger does not want to draw public attention to it fearing for public safety. As such, even if approved, we would not be labeling it on Forest Service maps.” To this, the proponent added, “Hoping that a sign saying danger or to stay off the bridge and maybe even a small fence around it would keep people from harming the bridge or themselves. I understand not having it named on the Forest Service maps.”

The agency also noted that the proposal could be construed to honor an individual who has not been deceased five years.

### **Review List 453**

#### **Old Bridge Creek, Alabama**

Mouth: [31.006253, -86.469321](#) / Source: [31.01099, -86.43966](#)

|                       |                                                          |              |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Local government      | Covington County Commission                              | No objection |
| State Names Authority | Alabama Geographic Names Council                         | No objection |
| Tribes                | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response  |

The new name Old Bridge Creek is proposed for an unnamed two-mile-long tributary of Big Creek in Covington County. The proponent, who lives near the stream, states, “The creek should [be] referred to as Old Bridge Creek because when travelling to the creek you arrive at an old wooden bridge.” The bridge is located on an unnamed road which intersects the creek.

GNIS does not list any nearby features with “Old Bridge” in their names. There is a stream named “Natural Bridge Creek” 16 miles to the east in Covington County.

In issuing its opinion of “no objection,” the State Names Authority stated:

For local information, we spoke with people in the area including a landowner and an individual working for Conservation Southeast in Andalusia. They identified an older bridge on the stream (as the proposed name suggests), and neither of the individuals were aware of a stream name already in use. Although neither the conservationist nor the landowner were fond of the proposed name, the Alabama Geographic Names Council does not have information to suggest that the name cannot be accepted based on our current understanding of the BGN names rules.

**Kingfisher Creek**, Pennsylvania

Mouth: [41.182412, -76.167092](#) / Source: [41.217738, -76.168679](#)

|                       |                                                          |              |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Local government      | Union Township Supervisors                               | Support      |
|                       | Luzerne County Commissioners                             | No response  |
| State Names Authority | Pennsylvania Geographic Names Committee                  | No objection |
| Tribes                | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response  |

A resident of Shickshinny has proposed the name Kingfisher Creek for an unnamed 2.85-mile-long tributary of Shickshinny Creek in Union Township in Luzerne County. It is known locally as “the creek” (or “the crick”). The proponent reports that belted kingfisher are frequently seen along the stream. He seeks to give the stream an identity “to promote ecological stewardship and reduce the likelihood that it will be overlooked during land use planning.”

GNIS does not list any other geographic features in Pennsylvania named “Kingfisher.”