U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE

Eight Hundred and Sixty-eighth Meeting
September 18, 2024 – 10:15 a.m. CDT
Columbia, Missouri
(Hybrid Meeting)

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Kenia Allen	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Meghan Barrett	Department of Homeland Security
Liz Flake	United States Postal Service
Wendi-Starr Brown	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs)
Thad Ellerbe	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Brenda-Anne (B.C.) Forrest	Government Publishing Office
Andrew Griffin	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Elizabeth Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Daniel Konzek	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
Patrick Mahoney	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management)
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)
Alex Stum	Department of Agriculture (Natural Resources Conservation Service)
Michael Tischler	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Tara Wallace	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Marilyn Withers	Department of Defense (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency) (BGN Vice Chair)
Rikki Wortham	Department of Commerce (Census Bureau)

Ex-Officio

Derek Hoffman, Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names / Foreign Names
Shellie Zahniser, Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names / Domestic Names

BGN/GNIS Staff

Shelby Bourquein, U.S. Geological Survey
Lindsay Decker, U.S. Geological Survey
Matthew O'Donnell, U.S. Geological Survey
Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey
Sergio Rodriguez, U.S. Geological Survey
Julie-Ann Danfora, U.S. Geological Survey

Guests
Janet Agin, Smithsonian Institution
Gina Anderson, USGS Office of Communications and Publishing
Council of Geographic Names Authorities attendees
Wendy Hawley, Bureau of the Census
Deb Nordeen, National Park Service
Brigitta Urban-Mathieux, U.S. Geological Survey
Apple Maps observer
Foreign Names Committee observers
National Geographic Society observers

1. Opening

Chair St. Onge opened Meeting 868 of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) at 10:22 a.m. EDT / 9:22 a.m. (CDT). He noted that motions would pass by a simple majority of votes. Staff conducted a roll call of members and staff.

The Chair thanked the Missouri Board on Geographic Names and the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (CoGNA) for hosting the DNC during the annual CoGNA conference.

Anderson reminded attendees of the USGS media policy and asked any attendees from the media to identify themselves and to direct any questions to the U.S. Geological Survey Office of Communications and Publishing. She also emphasized that meetings should not be recorded, and that still or video photography are not permitted.

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 867

The minutes of Meeting 867, held 8 August 2024, were approved as submitted.

4. Reports

4.1 BGN Chairman (Tischler)

The Chair welcomed the audience and explained that discussions might reference the Full Board as well as various committees, including the Domestic Names Committee, the Foreign

Names Committee, the Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names, and the Advisory Committee on Undersea Features.

The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) has been working hard to prepare for the joint meeting between the BGN and the United Kingdom Permanent Committee on Geographic Names, which will be held at NGA-Springfield from 4-8 November. Special thanks were extended to Sladjana Kitsos for her significant efforts in organizing the event.

The Chair also provided an update on his participation in a joint working group between the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) and the United Nations Group of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). The group is focused on capturing best practices from State naming authorities in collaboration with national mapping organizations. A survey on these practices was presented during the UN-GGIM meeting in August, and the Chair has been working with experts from Indonesia, France, and Germany to refine the questions. The survey will be shared with BGN staff for input, and BGN members may be asked to contribute best practices. The next UN session is scheduled to take place in New York City, 28 April to 2 May 2025.

The BGN chair and vice chair are discussing options for a new chair for the Special Committee on Communications.

There will be a BGN Executive Committee meeting on 8 October, and Full Board meeting 294 is scheduled for 15 October.

4.2 Executive Secretary for Domestic Names (Zahniser)

Zahniser, serving as co-chair of the U.S.-Canada Division of UNGEGN, reported that there will be a virtual forum, hosted by the BGN and the Geographical Names Board of Canada, on 26 November [note: the event has since been rescheduled for 12 February 2025]. The objectives are to provide an introduction to how naming authorities in the U.S. and Canada approach place naming and to discuss their methods for updating policies and procedures. The forum will also address shared challenges in managing geographical naming databases and explore key topics for the future of geographical naming in both countries.

Zahniser and Chris Hammond of the USGS Office of Tribal Relations attended the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO) conference, held in August in Wisconsin, where discussions focused on how best to support Tribal communications and engagement around geographic naming.

4.3 Executive Secretary for Foreign Names (Hoffman)

Foreign Names Committee (FNC) Meeting 419 was held on 10 September. During the meeting, country naming policies for Iran and Ireland were reviewed. Several names were approved, as were adjustments to a number of conventional names.

One topic of discussion was the transliteration of names for the political entities of North Korea and South Korea (PCLI). It was discovered that the previous transliteration was incorrect, requiring further adjustments.

Preparations are ongoing for the upcoming BGN-PCGN conference.

4.4 Special Committee on Communications (Vacant)

There was no written report.

St. Onge reminded members that the committee chair position is currently vacant and encouraged anyone interested to reach out to him or the BGN staff.

4.5 Staff (Runyon)

See attached report; staff shared the following highlights:

A number of new proposals were received during the past month, and Quarterly Review List 457 is being compiled, with publication expected in early October.

Regarding the proposal to change the name of the unincorporated community of Kelseyville (Lake County, California), questions have been raised regarding the BGN's authority to name or rename unincorporated communities, particularly in cases where the community has a significant population. BGN members and staff met with the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN) to discuss a request from the Lake County Attorney for a briefing to county residents on BGN policies and procedures.

The BGN received a letter from the Vice President of the Anti-Negro Defamation League expressing concerns regarding the removal of the term “Negro” from geographic names. He inquired as to how to ensure that the term is preserved and was advised to pursue action through an Executive order or Congress.

4.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (Decker)

Decker reported that the GNIS application is currently down due to a network outage in Rolla, but operations are proceeding as normal. Decisions from the last BGN meeting have been entered, and there is a major Census project underway focusing on Justice of the Peace locations within Arkansas.

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

Kanalley reported that the committee has held two meetings since the last BGN meeting. The first focused on finalizing and submitting the paper for the upcoming BGN-PCGN meeting. The second was dedicated to preparations for the NATHPO conference.

The committee will meet next following the DNC meeting on 10 October.

5. Docket

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

Not Review Listed

Change **Bells Lake** (FID 377337) to **Bels Lake**, Idaho

A motion was made and seconded to approve.

Although the Idaho Geographic Names Advisory Council (IGNAC) is inactive, a representative of that group reported verbally that the State supports the change.

Vote: 19 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Review Lists 437, 448, and 452

Change **Negro Creek** (BGN 1987) (FID 1146759) to **Freedom Creek** or **Triple Nickles Creek**, Oregon (Umpqua National Forest)

A motion was made and seconded to approve Triple Nickles Creek.

Vote: 19 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

New name **Smokejumper Falls**, Oregon (Umpqua National Forest)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this name, citing the concerns expressed by local smokejumpers and the U.S. Forest Service.

Vote: 17 in favor
0 against
2 abstentions

Review Lists 437 and 455

Change **Chinaman Hat** (FID 1118917) to **Bath Hat** or **China Hat**, Oregon

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name China Hat.

Vote: 19 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Review List 440

Change **Dago Frank Creek** (FID 1894043) to **Frank Creek**, Alaska (Alaska Peninsula NWR approved acquisition boundary)

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

Vote: 13 in favor
4 against
2 abstentions

Review List 445

New name **Little Creek**, Texas

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

Vote: 19 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Review List 450

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

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

Vote: 19 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Review List 452

Change **Sacramento Mountain** (FID 265708) to **Yohala-mi**, California (Shasta National Forest proclaimed boundary)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 19 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Review List 453

New name **Spirit Creek**, Oregon (FID 2832384)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing the opposition of the Oregon Geographic Names Board.

Vote: 4 in favor
13 against
2 abstentions

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 16 in favor
1 against
2 abstentions

An additional member joined the meeting.

Citing time constraints, staff requested that the DNC proceed to the proposal to change the name of Clingmans Dome to Kuwohi.

Change **Clingmans Dome** (BGN 1932) (FID 1326387) to **Kuwohi**, North Carolina and Tennessee (Great Smoky Mountains National Park)

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

Vote: 20 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Mount Whitney** (BGN 1891) (FID 269051) to **Tumanguya**, California (Sequoia National Park / Inyo National Forest)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the change, citing longstanding use of the current name, the objections from the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names and the Federal land management agencies, and a lack of input from Tribes.

Vote: 20 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Dead Injun Creek** (FID 1140704) to **Neme Creek**, Oregon (Malheur National Forest)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 20 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Review List 454

New name **Tëmakwehane**, Maryland (FID 2832383)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 20 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Review List 455

Change **Cherry Hill Woods Sloughs** (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 411847) to **Shïshko Mbishke**, Illinois (Forest Preserves of Cook County land)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 20 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **The Peak** (FID 996001) to **Mount Douglass**, North Carolina

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change, noting that Frederick Douglass's

significant national contributions satisfied the requirements of the Commemorative Names Policy.

Vote: 12 in favor
7 against
1 abstention

Those who opposed the motion cited the objections of the county and the State Names Authority.

Change **Negro Jack Creek** (FID 1124631) to **Jack Creek**, Oregon (Bureau of Land Management [partly])

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 20 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

6. Other Business

The next DNC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 10 October, 9:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

(signed)

_____
Shellie Zahniser, Executive Secretary
Domestic Names Committee

APPROVED
(signed)

_____
Timothy St. Onge, Chair
Domestic Names Committee

BGN/Domestic Names Committee Meeting 868
September 18, 2024
Staff Report

Since the DNC's last meeting on August 8, the BGN has received 19 new name and name change proposals:

- Change Castle Mountain to Renegade Hill, TX – to honor the "Renegade" Battalion
- Change Grand Glaize Creek to Wah-Zha-Zhi Creek, MO – to apply a native name
- Mule Shoe Bluff, MO -- new name for unnamed cliff
- Maple Run, PA -- new name for unnamed stream (originally proposed as Sawmill Run but amended after proponent was informed there are two streams in the same county already named Sawmill Run)
- Pine Peak Spring, TX --- amend location
- Change Mink Creek (reservoir) to Scottsville Lake, VA – to recognize local use
- Howl Creek, MO -- new name for unnamed stream
- Sunny Lake, MN -- new name for unnamed lake
- Lake Caroline, NC -- new commemorative name for unnamed reservoir
- Borges Butte, Deardorff Butte, Pleasant Butte, OR – two new commemorative and one descriptive name for unnamed summits
- Cleveland Creek, Comfortable Beavers Run, Hooses Cove, Kellers Gorge Run, Maynard Run, NY – four commemorative names and one descriptive name for four unnamed streams and a bay
- Change Negro Hill to Murry Hill, NY – change a name considered derogatory
- Boyles Creek, AL -- new commemorative name for unnamed stream

Quarterly Review List 457 is being compiled and will be posted online in late September/early October.

The following new proposals are pending:

- Change Bear Creek to Champion Creek, CA – asked proponent to resubmit complete proposal form
- Sugar Pine Woodlands, CA – proponent amended location, asked for explanation and complete proposal form
- Poplar Creek, TN --- make official a name for stream; advised proponent of existing Poplar Creek eight miles away in the same county
- Goins Indian Community, SC --- make official a locally used name; pending determination whether this location is under the BGN's purview
- Honer Lake, WY (Grand Tetons National Park) – asked proponent to address Wilderness Policy

The following proposals were not accepted for consideration:

- Change name of Passaic Falls, NJ -- to honor Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr., died 8/24/24; proponent was advised of five-year waiting period for commemorative names
- New name Spanjer Lake, NY -- new commemorative name for unnamed lake; honoree died 1/18/22; proponent was advised of five-year waiting period for commemorative names
- Change Baird Inlet to Champion Lake, AK – feature already named; proponent did not provide reason to change it

The following proposal was withdrawn:

Willow Creek, ID – asked proponent to address wilderness policy

The staff received an inquiry regarding the name of the Galena River, a 52-mile-long stream in Illinois and Wisconsin. In 1991, the Wisconsin State Legislature passed a bill changing the name of the section in Wisconsin to Fever River, one of the stream's other recorded names. In 1994, citing objections from the Illinois and Wisconsin geographic naming authorities and other interested parties, the BGN voted not to approve the change, in part because the change only applied to the section in Wisconsin and per Principle I, the BGN recognizes one official name for an entire feature. The inquirer wished to know why the BGN had not approved the change, specifically "can [the BGN]] override State Legislatures?" After being told that State laws are not binding to the Federal government, he asked if he could initiate a new proposal for the BGN's consideration. The staff explained that the BGN will only revisit a previous decision if there is new evidence.

The Lake County (California) Board of Commissioners has announced that it intends to add the Kelseyville to Konocti name change proposal (Review List 454) to the November 2024 ballot. The BGN continues to receive emails for and against the change. Opponents of the name change object to the issue being presented as a county-wide issue rather than limited to residents of the Kelseyville United School District. Local media inquired as to how much weight the BGN places on majority votes of community residents. Staff will meet with representatives of the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN) to respond to a request for a briefing to the county on State and Federal policies and procedures. The staff is following developments in the local media, including:

A town's name recalls the massacre of Indigenous people. Will changing it bring healing?
A town's name recalls the massacre of Indigenous people. Will changing it bring healing? (msn.com)

Review List 455 includes a proposal to change the name of Sutter Buttes in Sutter County, California to Sacred Buttes. The proponent notes that the feature was "named for John Sutter, a European immigrant known for enslaving, whipping, starving, executing, and stealing the babies of Native Americans. It feels especially harmful for a landmass that is sacred to multiple Native American tribes to retain the name of someone who is infamous for his horrific treatment of

Native Americans. Because the Buttes are spiritually significant to multiple tribes, it does not seem appropriate to name them in the language of one tribe." The BGN continues to receive emails for and against the change; the latter includes State Assemblymember James Gallagher and the Sutter County Board of Supervisors. CACGN is expected to review the matter at its November meeting.

The BGN staff continues to respond to inquiries regarding the geographic naming and renaming process and the status of various pending proposals. The staff is also managing outreach to and from interested parties regarding current proposals.

The Vice President of the Anti-Negro Defamation League dba ANDL contacted the BGN to express concerns regarding the removal of the word "Negro" from geographic names. He asked to be "directed to the proper channels to engage with to ensure the term 'Negro' is continually preserved." He was advised that the BGN is a reactive body and that it is obligated to consider proposals from any interested party to change any name that the party considers to be derogatory or offensive. Further, the BGN is not responsible for ensuring the preservation of "Negro" and any effort to preserve a word in perpetuity in geographic names would need to be addressed through Executive or Congressional action.

Staff attended meetings of the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board (August 26), the Hawaii Board on Geographic Names (September 3), the Utah Geographic Names Committee (September 5), and the Texas Geographic Names Committee (September 9).

In early October, the staff will give a presentation to the Alaska Historical Commission (State Names Authority) on the renaming process and BGN procedures. Staff met with AHC staff to coordinate and discuss expectations for the presentation.

A meeting was held with USGS Bureau Approving Officials regarding the use of variant names, specifically native names that are recorded in GNIS, in official publications.

In addition to the news coverage of the Kelseyville and Sutter Buttes changes, there have been miscellaneous articles covering other toponymic activities, including some pending proposals:

Change from Clingmans Dome to Kuwohi (on September docket):

https://www.wbir.com/article/news/great-smoky-mountains-national-park-tn/us-board-on-geographic-names-to-soon-consider-kuwohi-name-restoration/51-cc8113fb-34ca-4219-959d-f4ba17038de0

BGN to review Kuwohi name restoration application in September meeting - The Cherokee One Feather (theonefeather.com)

In September 2022, in response to S.O. 3404, the BGN approved a name change from Sq Lake in Genesee, Michigan to Aanikegamaa Lake. In July 2023, the BGN received a proposal from the

government of Fenton Township on behalf of the Ponemah-Sq___-Tupper (PST) Lake Association to change the latter name to Swan Lake, to reflect the preference of the local community; that request was denied by the BGN in January 2024. A recent news article reports that efforts by the Township to appeal the decision with "the Ojibwa tribe" have been unsuccessful:

Efforts to change lake name end | News for Fenton, Linden, Holly MI | tctimes.com

Staff assisted in the preparation of papers for the BGN's meeting (Nov. 4-9) with the UK Permanent Committee on Geographical Names. Topics include Antarctic Names; BGN involvement in the Pan-American Institute for Geography and History; the activities of the Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication and addressing derogatory names; and the top 10 BGN Challenges.

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.

Staff is involved in discussions regarding the preparation of Annual Reports to the Secretary of the Interior. These have not been prepared for the past couple of years, but staff will assist in getting caught up. B.C. Forrest, member from the Government Publishing Office, is to be commended for her longstanding assistance and patience.

The BGN appreciates the contributions by Thad Ellerbe, BGN deputy member from the Department of Commerce/NOAA, who chaired the BGN's Special Committee on Communications over the past couple of years. The DNC Chair has requested a volunteer to assume the role of chair.

Staff continues to meet with the USGS Records Management Office to review records disposition and retention requirements.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication (SCNANTC) Report

The Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication (SCNANTC) held two meetings in August 2024. The first took place on August 8, 2024, at which attendees finalized preparations for the BGN table/booth and reviewed the plenary session presentation for the National Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO) Conference. The conference report follows.

REPORT ON NATHPO CONFERENCE: The conference was hosted by the Ho-Chunk Nation and was held at the Tribe's Casino/Resort in Baraboo, WI, from August 12-16, 2024. Chris Hammond, Head of the U.S. Geological Survey's Office of Tribal Relations and DOI Deputy Member to the BGN, and Dr. Shellie Zahniser, BGN Executive Secretary for Domestic Names, represented the BGN at NATHPO. Hammond provided a presentation during the plenary
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

session, and both Hammond and Zahniser staffed a USGS/BGN Booth during the conference where they provided information on the BGN proposal process and talked with Tribal conference attendees about how they could engage in the BGN process to have their place names accepted for Federal Government use.

In his presentation, Hammond provided an overview of BGN policy and procedures, including the DNC Guidance to Proponents on Cultural Sensitivity for Native American Names. Feedback from Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOS) was supportive of this guidance which is aimed at non-tribal proponents who submit geographic names proposals that are about a Tribe's history and culture and/or are in a native language. At the conference, an attendee from the Ho-Chunk Nation expressed the Tribe's distaste for the current name, Devils Lake, for a lake in a Wisconsin State Park. The attendee went on to explain that the term "devil" is a religious reference with no connection to Native Americans, and that they prefer their native language name for the lake. At the plenary, when Hammond made reference to the comment and received applause when he suggested that the Tribe's preferred name could be immediately entered into the Geographic Names Information System as a variant name. BGN staff is following up with the Ho-Chunk to get their preferred name into GNIS. The THPOS that Zahniser and Hammond spoke with reported receiving the DNC Quarterly Review Lists sent to them by BGN staff. Dr. Zahniser suggested that the SCNANTC plan for a BGN workshop at the 2025 NATHPO conference, which will be held in Reno, Nevada. This would involve advance preparation with Tribes so that they come to the conference with tribal geographic names and related information for developing a DNC proposal package for a particular geographic feature or features.

Zahniser and Hammond reported that while Tribes are interested in restoring indigenous place names, they are incredibly busy, often understaffed, and their focus is on Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) related work, such as repatriation of human remains and artifacts. The conference included field trips to sacred sites and a former U.S. Army munitions site recently acquired by the Ho-Chunk Nation. The Tribe is cleaning up the area, and reestablishing flora and fauna. The Ho-Chunk also shared ongoing efforts to preserve and honor what remains of Man Mound, a rare and ancient man-shaped effigy mound in Wisconsin that was partially destroyed in the early 20th century.

The conference included tribal ceremonies, games, and traditional foods, as well as one-on-one conversations. These experiences provided an excellent opportunity to develop new relationships with Tribes and deepen existing relationships.

SCNANTC ACTIVITES REPORT for the BGN/PCGN Conference: The SCNANTC also met on August 29, 2024, to review the conference paper on SCNANTC activities to be presented at the BGN/Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (PCGN) Conference that will take place at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) in Springfield, VA, from November 4-8, 2024. The BGN/PCGN Conference Paper is available at the BGN Collaboration Site.

BGN ANNUAL REPORT: A brief overview of plans to finalize the BGN annual reports to the Secretary of the Interior was presented by B.C. Forrest, BGN Member from the Government Publishing Office. The SCNANTC prepares a fiscal year review of the SCNANTC's activities for each BGN annual report. More information will be forthcoming.
The next SCNANTC meeting will be held on October 10, 2024. The agenda includes review of FY24 activities for the BGN annual report and developing focused talking points from the SCNANTC Activities Report at the BGN/PCGN Conference in November.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

DOCKET
September 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 regarding a proposal, it is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion.

Please note that if an interested party's recommendation is recorded as "no opinion," that reflects the response of the interested party. If an interested party did not respond at all, the recommendation is recorded as "no response."

Not Review Listed

Change **Bells Lake** (FID 377337) to **Bels Lake**, Idaho

Local government	Benewah County Commissioners	Support
State Names Authority	Idaho	No response/inactive
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	Not contacted

	Established by Congress/President		Derogatory and Offensive		Long
x	Name Change		Diacritics		Tribal
x	Commemorative		Duplicate or Similar		Commercial
	Wilderness Area		Variant		Animal

This proposal is to correct the spelling of Bells Lake in Benewah County to Bels Lake. The proposed change was submitted by the Surface Water Manager of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (ID DEQ) who "noticed the misspelling while responding to a water quality complaint."
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

According to the proponent, the name honors Henre (Ernie) Bel (1887-1966), "who protected this land as the 'Bels Lake Wildlife Refuge Trust' to protect wildlife and prevent development." He added:

> [Mr.] Bel immigrated from Payerne, Switzerland with his grandmother in 1905. A 22-acre homestead was established by Ernie's parents east of a ravine in Benewah County, Idaho, which included a waterbody that eventually became known as Bel's Lake [sic]. Ernie owned a private mine along the St. Joe River near Street Creek and enjoyed mining for hard rock and silver galena. In the 1950s Ernie Bel sold the homestead and Bels Lake to his nephew, Walter Patterson. In 2012 Walter Patterson designated Bels Lake as a wildlife refuge. The 22 acres and lake were eventually willed to Walter Stuter. Currently, Walter Stuter and his sister, Margaret Bradbury, are trustees to Bels Lake. The lake has been owned by the same family and passed down for generations. Margaret recounts that the lake has been used by the community since the 1960s for ice skating and fishing.

Review Lists 437, 448, and 452

Change **Negro Creek** (BGN 1987) (FID 1146759)
to **Freedom Creek** or **Triple Nickles Creek**, Oregon
(Umpqua National Forest)

Freedom Creek:

Local government	Douglas County Commissioners	No objection*
State Names Authority	Oregon Geographic Names Committee	Opposed
Federal	U.S. Forest Service	Opposed
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Oregon Black Pioneers	Opposed*

* SNA contacted

Triple Nickles Creek:

Local government	Douglas County Commissioners	No objection*
State Names Authority	Oregon Geographic Names Committee	Support
Federal	U.S. Forest Service	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	National Smokejumpers Association	Support**
	Oregon Black Pioneers	Support*

* SNA contacted
** proponent provided

	Established by Congress/President	x	Derogatory and Offensive		Long
x	Name Change		Diacritics		Tribal

	Commemorative		Duplicate or Similar		Commercial
	Wilderness Area		Variant		Animal

These proposals are to change the name of Negro Creek, a five-mile-long tributary of the Little River in Umpqua National Forest in Douglas County, to either Freedom Creek or Triple Nickles Creek.

In June 2019, a resident of Bend, Oregon submitted a proposal to rename the stream to Freedom Creek, stating that the current name "is a wrong that should be made right . . . . I would love to find out who the creek was named for and use that name, but I don't live in the area." No justification for the name Freedom Creek was given in the proposal.

(The BGN has received seven other proposals since 2015 to replace the word "Negro" with "Freedom" in a feature's name. One was withdrawn in favor of another name, and one was closed because a local renaming committee decided not to change the name after two years of research and discussions with community members including the county chapter of the NAACP.)

In June 2022, in response to the Freedom Creek proposal, a local historian and advisor to the Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB), submitted the replacement name Triple Nickles Creek. OGNB voted not to approve Freedom Creek in August 2022.

The name Triple Nickles Creek refers to the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, nicknamed the "Triple Nickles" (using the English spelling of 'nickel'), an African American unit of the U.S. Army that was stationed in Pendleton in 1945. According to a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) account:

> The 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion was a pioneering paratrooper unit of the United States Army. Instated in 1943 during World War II, the unit was given the unprecedented and undeniably dangerous job of jumping into forests that were set on fire by the nation's enemy at war. The unit was nicknamed the Triple Nickles because of its numerical designation and because 17 of the original 20-member 'colored test platoon' came from the 92nd Infantry Division, or Buffalo Division. Hence, the nickname Buffalo Nickles, symbolized by three buffalo nickels joined in a triangle. The unit's 75-year legacy intersects with USDA Forest Service history in a very special way.

Further details are available in an Oregon Historical Society article about the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion. PFC Malvin L. Brown (1920-1945), an African American medic and a member of the Division, was the first casualty in the USFS Smokejumper Program in Oregon. In January 2023, the BGN approved a proposal to change the name of the adjacent Negro Ridge to Malvin Brown Ridge.

The proponent of Freedom Creek was notified of the counterproposal for Triple Nickles Creek and asked if she wished to comment but no response was received.

The name Negro Creek has appeared on USGS maps since 1955, USFS maps as early as 1918, and on a 1974 Umpqua drainage basin map published by the Oregon Water Resources Department. The name was the subject of a BGN decision in 1987, following a request to clarify the source of the stream, which differed between USGS and some USFS maps. The pejorative form of the name has not appeared on any Federal maps but was listed in *Streams and Lakes in the State of Oregon* (Oregon State Engineer's Office, 1939) and on various editions of Metsker's map of Douglas County.

New name **Smokejumper Falls**, Oregon
(Umpqua National Forest)

43.21583, -122.887778

Local government	Douglas County Commissioners	No response
State Names Authority	Oregon Geographic Names Committee	Support
Federal	U.S. Forest Service	Opposed
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	National Smokejumpers Association	Support**

* SNA contacted
** proponent provided

	Established by Congress/President		Derogatory and Offensive		Long
	Name Change		Diacritics		Tribal
	Commemorative		Duplicate or Similar		Commercial
	Wilderness Area		Variant		Animal

The new name Smokejumper Falls is proposed for an officially unnamed waterfall along Negro Creek (q.v.) in Douglas County and on the Umpqua National Forest.

As with the proposal for Triple Nickles Creek above, the name would commemorate the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, nicknamed the "Triple Nickles", an African American unit of the U.S. Army that was stationed in Pendleton in 1945.

The waterfall was reportedly recorded as "Negro Creek Falls" in the World Waterfall Database, but both it and the Northwest Waterfall Survey now list is as "Unnamed Waterfall."

In opposing the name, the Forest Service expressed concerns regarding the reference to a smokejumper "falls," especially given the circumstances of Malvin Brown's death, "as the name seems insensitive in light of his tragic fall to his death on his first parachute jump. Feedback from smokejumpers has not been supportive of the name." The agency noted that currently there is no official name for the feature and they prefer to leave it unnamed, "rather than applying a new official name that is not fully supported and perceived as insensitive."

Review Lists 437 and 455

Change **Chinaman Hat** (FID 1118917) to
Bath Hat or **China Hat**, Oregon

Bath Hat:

Local government	Wasco County Commissioners	Opposed*
State Names Authority	Oregon Geographic Names Committee	Opposed
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Bureau of Land Management	Opposed

China Hat:

Local government	Wasco County Commissioners	Support*
State Names Authority	Oregon Geographic Names Committee	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Bureau of Land Management	Support

* SNA contacted
** proponent provided

	Established by Congress/President	x	Derogatory and Offensive		Long
x	Name Change		Diacritics		Tribal
	Commemorative		Duplicate or Similar		Commercial
	Wilderness Area		Variant		Animal

These proposals are to change the name of Chinaman Hat, a 3,579-foot summit in Wasco County, to either Bath Hat or China Hat. The summit is located on private land within the Bureau of Land Management's Black Rock Grazing Allotment.

The name Chinaman Hat presumably refers to the shape of the summit which resembles a conical hat known as a dǒulì in Chinese, that was worn by Chinese laborers in the Pacific Northwest during the 1800s.

In June 2019, a resident of Eugene, Oregon submitted a proposal to rename the summit to Bath Hat, stating "The current name of the feature . . . is a derogatory slur. Historical usage does not excuse ongoing use of slurs derogatory towards entire populations. The proposed name . . . keeps the historical 'Hat' portion of the name while changing the slur to the name of the nearby canyon the summit overlooks."

The Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB) voted not to approve the Bath Hat proposal in September 2023 and encouraged the Black Rock Grazing Cooperative to submit a different name. The Cooperative is a group of eight ranchers who have acquired grazing rights on the feature

from the Bureau of Land Management. In January 2024, they submitted a proposal to rename the summit to China Hat. They agreed that the word "Chinaman" should be removed but noted that the name Bath Canyon is rarely used locally and that locals call it Long Hollow. Despite encouragement from both DNC staff and the OGNB, no proposal to change the name of Bath Canyon has been submitted.

The current name has been shown on USGS topographic maps since 1966.

There are three features elsewhere in Oregon, a stream, a summit, and a spring, with names that include "China Hat," but none named simply China Hat.

Review List 440

Change **Dago Frank Creek** (FID 1894043) to **Frank Creek**, Alaska
(Alaska Peninsula NWR approved acquisition boundary)

Local government	Lake and Peninsula Borough Assembly	No opinion*
State Names Authority	Alaska Historical Commission	Oppose
Federal	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	No opinion
	NOAA	No opinion
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Chignik Bay Tribal Council	Oppose**
	Chignik Lake Village	No response**
	Native Village of Chignik Lagoon	No response**
Other	Mountaineering Club of Alaska	Opposed*
	Alaska Marine Pilots	No objection**

* contacted by SNA
** contacted by NOAA

	Established by Congress/President	x	Derogatory and Offensive		Long
x	Name Change		Diacritics	x	Tribal
x	Commemorative		Duplicate or Similar		Commercial
	Wilderness Area		Variant		Animal

This proposal is to change the name of Dago Frank Creek, a 4.8-mile-long stream in Lake and Peninsula Borough, to Frank Creek. The stream flows through private land within the approved acquisition boundary of the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge and into Chignik Bay. The proponent states that the current name includes "a racial slur."

The current name was added to GNIS from the *Dictionary of Alaska Place Names* (Orth, 1967), which stated that it was "derived from the nickname 'of a local Italian,' reported in 1923 by R[ufus] H[enry] Sargent, USGS." This 1923 report has not been located. The name appeared in

USGS Bulletins in 1929 and 1959, while Alaska State documents have used the name to the present.

The name was recorded as Dago Frank's Creek in a 2007 National Park Service (NPS) report titled "Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve: Traditional Use and User Groups Study" and in a 1992 memorandum on claims from the Exxon Valdez oil spill by the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Liability Fund.

Research suggests the name likely referred to Frank Sanguinetti (1874-c.1923), a fisherman who worked in the Chignik Bay community. A 1986 Minerals Management Service report titled "A Sociocultural Description of Small Communities in the Kodiak-Shumagin Region" stated that "nearly all the fishermen [at the Chignik Lagoon canneries] were foreigners and were placed in two classes: the 'north countrymen' or 'white crew' and the 'dagoes' who were Italians and Greeks." The same report described the community of Chignik Lagoon, which formed around the canneries, and noted that local resident Emma Grunert (1922-2014) had married "Frank Sangoriti" (also spelled Sanguinetti), whose father, also named Frank, had died at Chignik Lagoon. (There is some evidence that residents were given nicknames based on their nationalities; a Coast and Geodetic Survey (C&GS) marker nearby named "RED" was described in 1924 as being located at the corner of a house "owned by Mauritz Petersen, also known as Danish Pete, a trapper.")

Some features around Chignik Lagoon have unofficial names related to the name of the stream. The aforementioned NPS report referred to a "Dago Point . . . east of Columbia Wards Fisheries cannery"; this name is not listed in GNIS. An Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation oil spill report (undated) also referred to a cannery in the area, describing it as "SW of Dago Point"; also, "Parallel (Dago) creek is to the north of the cannery" (Parallel Creek, about 5 miles south of Dago Frank Creek, is recorded in GNIS but does not include any variant names). A C&GS marker named "BEACON" was described in 1924 as "a tripod on the inshore end of the fish trap Dago of the Alaska Packers Association, on the west shore of Chignik Lagoon."

GNIS lists one other feature in Alaska with "Dago" in its name: Dago Creek is located 90 miles to the northeast and also within Lake and Peninsula Borough; this name reportedly dates to 1900 and is also listed in Orth [ibid.].

GNIS lists 18 other natural features, primarily in the western U.S., with "Dago" in their names. Seven additional features include the word in their variant names but are now named "Italian"; three of these were BGN decisions in 1967 and 1970.

The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration was asked to provide a recommendation on the proposed change because the stream was shown but not named on their charts. During review, the local Navigation Manager asked for input from the Alaska Marine Pilots and three nearby Alaska Native Villages: Chignik Bay Tribal Council, Chignik Lake Village, and the Native Village of Chignik Lagoon. The pilots replied "No issue whatsoever. With a name like that, it is probably past time for a change." Chignik Lake Village and the Native Village of Chignik Lagoon did not reply, but the Chignik Bay Tribal Council replied:

> We don't believe the name should be changed because Dago was not meant to be a racial slur in the name of this creek, but to commemorate the country of origin for Frank Sanguinetti. He is a relative to many of us and the name has never offended us. Many of the places in and around the Chignik region are named after the ancestral people who lived there. Changing the name at this point will confuse people in this region who have always identified this creek as Dago Frank Creek and changing it to Frank is taking away that identity which has always been known.

The feature is within the approved acquisition boundary of the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge but not on land managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The agency has no opinion on this proposed name change.

The Alaska Historical Commission (AHC), which serves as the Alaska Board on Geographic Names, does not recommend approval of the change, citing the objections of the Chignik Bay Tribal Council. They were advised that the government of Lake and Peninsula Borough would defer to "local residents, stakeholders, and entities." The Mountaineering Club of Alaska acknowledged that "Dago" is considered offensive but could not endorse the replacement name "due to its association with a person since it does not support geographic names intended to honor individuals, whether living or dead."

In its discussion, AHC members "weighed the derogatory nature of the name against not only the wishes of the local community and Tribe but also if changing the name erases the importance of the historical figure for whom the creek is named." One member voiced support for the Chignik people in their opposition to changing the name, and another member agreed, stating it would be disrespectful to the local Tribe if they want to keep it.

Review List 445

New name **Little Creek**, Texas
Mouth: 32.34045, -96.30798 / Source: 32.33517, -96.31334

Local government	Henderson County Commissioners' Court	No response
State Names Authority	Texas Geographic Names Committee	Opposed
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

	Established by Congress/President		Derogatory and Offensive		Long
	Name Change		Diacritics		Tribal
	Commemorative		Duplicate or Similar		Commercial
	Wilderness Area		Variant		Animal

This proposal is to make official the name Little Creek for a 0.7-mile-long tributary of Caney Creek in Henderson County. The proponent, whose family owns some land along the stream, states that the stream is small and that "my parents and grandparents always called this the Little creek, as compared to the other two that are on our property; my 96-year-old great-grandmother has even mentioned this creek by the name little, and says she has since her father bought this property when she was a little girl."

A query of GNIS shows that the nearest stream named Little Creek is approximately 30 miles to the northwest in Ellis County.

When asked for input, the Henderson County Judge asked only for confirmation of the location. Despite another request, no recommendation was received.

The Texas Geographic Names Committee does not recommend approval of the name, stating:

> The Texas Geographic Information Office (TxGIO) conducted a land parcel search and determined that the feature crosses six properties and the proponent's name does not appear on any of them. [It is possible that the proponent does not share the last name of their relative whose name is on the property record.] In addition, there has not been any support from the Henderson County Judge even after letters have been written to request his support. The TGNC would like to see support from the owners of the properties where the feature is located before approving this request.

DNC staff informed the proponent and asked them to obtain support from all landowners along the stream. No response was received.

Review List 450

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

Local government	Gonzales County Commissioners Court	No objection
State Names Authority	Texas Geographic Names Committee	Opposed
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	City of Gonzales	Opposed*

* Contacted by proponent

	Established by Congress/President		Derogatory and Offensive		Long
x	Name Change		Diacritics		Tribal
x	Commemorative		Duplicate or Similar		Commercial
	Wilderness Area		Variant		Animal

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 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 that "[they] represented a strong family and work ethnic 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 Texas Geographic Names Committee (TGNC) does not recommend approval of the change, noting that the current name "appears in documentation, published and online maps, and may be part of the culture or referenced in the local community." They added that they would "like to see more effort from the proponent to gain public support from the local community for this request. . . ."

The DNC deferred a vote on this proposal at its March 2024 meeting and requested that the staff ask the proponent to respond to the TGNC's concerns.

The proponent contacted the Gonzales County Commissioners' Court, which stated that it had reviewed the matter in July 2023. "There was no action taken on this item, but there was no objections to the name change."

In May 2024, TGNC reported that a Councilwoman with the City of Gonzales [note: the stream lies outside the city] "called our office at the request of the proponent. After a brief conversation, the Councilwoman could not support the change because she believed that the feature was already named to commemorate the previous owners of the property and should not be changed without cause." TGNC once again reviewed the proposal "and again believes there is no support from the city, county, or the public to support the name change. TGNC upholds its original decision to deny the request."

DNC staff informed the proponent that without any local support, the TGNC would not support the proposal. The proponent was asked if he intended to pursue efforts to solicit support; he was given a deadline, but no response was received.

Review List 452

Change **Sacramento Mountain** (FID 265708) to **Yohala-mi**, California
(Shasta National Forest proclaimed boundary)

Local government	Shasta County Supervisors	No objection
State Names Authority	California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Redding Rancheria	Support*
Federal Agency	U.S. Forest Service	No objection
Other	Wintu Tribe of Northern California	Support*
	Lakehead Lions Club	Support*
	City of Redding Vice-Mayor	Support*
	Pacific Forest Trust	Support*
	Local individual	Support*

* proponent provided

	Established by Congress/President		Derogatory and Offensive		Long
x	Name Change		Diacritics	x	Tribal
	Commemorative		Duplicate or Similar		Commercial
	Wilderness Area		Variant		Animal

This proposal is to change the name of Sacramento Mountain, a 3,354-foot summit in Shasta County, to Yohala-mi. The summit is on private land within the proclaimed boundary of the Shasta National Forest, east of Shasta Lake, a reservoir on the Sacramento River.

The proponent owns most of the summit in their property named "Lightning Canyon Ranch" and wishes to make official the Wintu name for the summit, Yohala-mi. He notes that the name appears in *The Wintun Indians of California and their Neighbors* by Peter M. Knudtson.

He further states that the summit and the surrounding land is the ancestral home to the Winnemem Wintu peoples. He provided a letter of support from the Wintu Tribe of Northern California, a non-federally recognized group; the group wrote that Yohala-mi means "frog" in the Wintu (Penutian) Language, adding, "You are most welcome to use 'Yohala-mi' (Frog) or 'Yohala-mi Puyuk' (Frog Mountain). Either name honors the Wintu People and we appreciate you coming to us."

The proponent also provided a letter of support from an individual who stated:

> My grandmother published a book containing a collection of Wintu legends and religious stories. She called the book 'A Bag of Bones.' The title is a translation of the name given by

> the Wintus to a striking rock formation located on the southern slopes of Sacramento Mountain. [It] would be highly appropriate that such an important landmark for the Wintu tribe bear the name given to it by the Wintu. For the mountain to bear this ancient name would be a powerful reminder that the lands to the south of this mountain boundary zone were once the home of the Wintu and would be a warm gesture of healing of past wounds.

In response to the BGN's Cultural Sensitivity for Native American Names guidance, the proponent contacted the Redding Rancheria. They responded in support of the change, adding:

> Thank you for reaching out to the Redding Rancheria regarding your request to change Sacramento Mountain back to its original Wintu name as Yohala-mi, Frog Mountain.
>
> The Redding Rancheria's Cultural Resource Manager has reviewed your proposal and fully supports your decision in restoring this mountain back to its identity, as it was once known by the Indigenous people of its land. The tribe would like to thank you for your acknowledgement of the Wintu tribe's history, which exists on your private property.

The Shasta County Board of Supervisors initially did not support the change but asked the proponent to seek input from "the citizens of the nearest town, Lakehead." Lakehead is an unincorporated community, so the proponent contacted the Lakehead Lions Club Board, which had no objections to the proposed change. The County Supervisors then stated they had no objection.

The California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names recommends approval, citing widespread local support, including from Tribes with ancestral ties to the area. The CACGN noted also that the current name is "duplicated among many other features in area," and discussed "the lack of local recognition for the current name and . . . the change might bring more attention and respect to the Indigenous history and significance of the area. Members highlighted that the proposal aligns with the goal of bringing official Federal usage into agreement with local support, emphasizing the positive impact and broad backing from the community and various stakeholders."

Review List 453

New name **Spirit Creek**, Oregon
Mouth: 45.423176, -122.68883 / Source: 45.425692, -122.690374

Local government	Clackamas County Commissioners	No opinion
State Names Authority	Oregon Geographic Names Board	Opposed
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon	No opinion

Other	Friends of Tryon Creek	Support**
	Eloheh Center for Indigenous Earth Justice	Support**
	Tryon Creek Watershed Council	Support**
	Spirit Creek Property Owners	Support**

* SNA contacted
** proponent provided

	Established by Congress/President		Derogatory and Offensive		Long
	Name Change		Diacritics		Tribal
	Commemorative		Duplicate or Similar		Commercial
	Wilderness Area		Variant		Animal

This proposal is to apply the new name Spirit Creek to an unnamed 0.2-mile-long stream in the City of Lake Oswego in Clackamas County. The stream flows into an unnamed tributary of Tryon Creek. It is not recorded in the National Hydrography Dataset nor shown on USGS maps. The stream flows primarily through the property of Lake Oswego United Church of Christ (LOUCC). The proponent, who represents LOUCC, states:

> We intend to honor a variety of spirits, [including] the spirits of the indigenous inhabitants who undoubtedly knew this creek and perhaps had a name for it. We intend to honor the spirit of the creek itself, which has been engineered and diverted in a variety of ways but continues to flow gently through a small wooded patch. And because it flows primarily through the property of a church, we intend also to honor the Creator spirit who brought all of this into being.

The owners of the three properties along the stream endorse the name. When asked to address the BGN's Cultural Sensitivity for Native American Names guidance, the proponent wrote:

> I have had informal discussions with [a couple that runs] the Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice in Yamhill, Oregon. [LOUCC] has had an ongoing relationship with the Center. They have spoken at our church. I have also attempted to contact the Chachalu Museum and Cultural Center in Grande Ronde, Oregon, but I have not had any response.

GNIS lists six features in Oregon with "Spirit" in their names. The closest, Spirit Mountain, is 50 miles southwest of the stream in question. Since 2010, the BGN has approved four names nationwide that include the word "Spirit."

The Oregon Geographic Names Board recommended that the name not be approved "due to non-appearance in [the Oregon] State Water Resources database." The BGN does not require that a hydrographic feature be mapped in order to be named.

Change **Mount Whitney** (BGN 1891) (FID 269051) to **Tumanguya**, California
(Sequoia National Park / Inyo National Forest)

Local government	Tulare County Supervisors	Opposed
	Inyo County Supervisors	No opinion
State Names Authority	California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names	Opposed
Federal	National Park Service	Opposed
	U.S. Forest Service	Opposed
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Independent proponent	Support

	Established by Congress/President		Derogatory and Offensive		Long
x	Name Change		Diacritics	x	Tribal
x	Commemorative		Duplicate or Similar		Commercial
	Wilderness Area		Variant		Animal

This proposal is to change the name of Mount Whitney, located along the boundary of Tulare County and Inyo County in the Sierra Nevada, to Tumanguya. The summit has an elevation of 14,505 feet and straddles the boundary of Sequoia National Park/Sequoia-Kings National Wilderness (National Park Service) and Inyo National Forest/John Muir Wilderness (U.S. Forest Service).

The proponent of the change is an author and assistant professor of English at the University of Nevada; he believes the summit should be renamed to recognize its native name.

Mount Whitney was named for geologist Josiah Dwight Whitney, who while conducting surveys in the area in 1864, reported that he had discovered the peak. The name has been in use since that time, as evidenced by an article in the *Inyo Independent* in 1873. The BGN approved the name for Federal use in 1891. In 1965, the BGN rejected a proposal to change the summit's name to Mount Churchill. Variant names recorded in GNIS include Fishermans Peak and Whitney's Peak.

In subsequent correspondence, the proponent added that the name should be changed because Whitney never visited the mountain; had an unfavorable opinion of John Muir; and did not accept contemporary evidence that disproved his hypotheses and conclusions regarding the formation of Yosemite Valley, the Calaveras Skull, oil deposits in California, and his other "fringe geological theories."

A mountaineer wrote in the 1901 *Mt. Whitney Club Journal* that he was accompanied during his trip to the summit by two local residents who informed him of the Paiute name of Mount Whitney. He wrote:

> The [Paiute] Indians called Mt. Whitney 'Too-man-i-goo-yah,' which means 'the very old man.' They believe that the Great Spirit who presides over the destiny of their people once had his home in that mountain, and from that great height smiled upon the efforts of the good Indian, or, with a frown on his mighty brow, dealt swift vengeance upon the unfortunate [person] who transgressed the [Paiute] code of ethics.

The objective of the Mount Whitney Club at the time was to promote hiking and tourism.

A 1903 article published in the *Inyo Independent* newspaper mentioned, "To the Indians living on the eastern side of the range, this colossal dome was known as Tu-man-i-gu-ya." The author did not provide a source but may have been citing the aforementioned 1901 journal. The variation Too-man-go-yah appeared in *Climbing California's Fourteeners: The Route Guide to the Fifteen Highest Peaks* (Porcella and Burns, 1998).

The first occurrence of Tumanguya may be a 2015 article published by the lifestyle magazine *Bustle*, also cited at the Wikipedia page. Other recent references to Tumanguya include published blogs from TheTrek.co and Medium.com.

Tazbah Rose Chavez, a Bishop Paiute Tribe citizen from the Nüümü, Diné and San Carlos Apache Tribes, wrote an article published as Nüümü Poyo: A Story of Reclamation on a Well-Loved Trail. She writes: "In 2018, seven Indigenous women hiked across California's Sierra Nevada along the route known as the John Muir Trail in an act of cultural reclamation. Despite its namesake, the trail predates the U.S. conservation movement." She elaborates:

> [The women are] with a grassroots organization known as Indigenous Women Hike, reclaiming their ancestral trade routes. Our Nüümü (Paiute) elders have called the [John Muir Trail] the Nüümü Poyo -- the People's Trail -- for as long as I can remember, as it's part of a network of routes in the Sierra that have been used by tribes for hundreds of years. At the end of the journey, they'll summit Tumanguya, the Newe (Shoshone) name for Mount Whitney.

In August 2024, the BGN received a second proposal to change the name to Tumanguya. That proponent stated that Whitney was "the worst kind of person," who "no doubt browbeated [sic] his committee into naming the mountain for him . . . [and] was that kind of person: arrogant, mean, beyond admitting he could be wrong (which he often was), and demeaning of anyone who disagreed with him." The proponent also cited Whitney's inaccurate hypothesis of how Yosemite Valley was formed, as well as his disparagement of John Muir's alternate hypothesis because Muir was not college educated; his opposition to evidence that California was rich in gold and oil; his faulty, and according to the proponent, possibly deceitful analysis of the Calaveras Skull; his inaccurate presentations to Congress about the California landscape which the proponent claims were intended to get more money for building railroads and specifically to cater to Leland Stanford. The proponent stated:

> This is not a man whose name belongs on such a landmark as the highest point in the continental U.S. . . . . [N]ot only was Whitney arrogantly foolish, completely wrong on huge issues, and demeaning of a true American and California legend such as John Muir, he was outright corrupt. Such a man does not deserve to be remembered, nonetheless celebrated.

The Tulare County Supervisors oppose the name change, citing the long-standing and well-known name; the popularity of the feature for mountaineering; the BGN's preference for "a high degree of stability in the written form of a name"; and a lack of a compelling reason to change the name. They also noted that the change does not satisfy the BGN's requirements to either "bring official Federal usage into agreement with well-established local usage and/or with present-day local support" or "to eliminate particular name problems as in proposals involving names asserted to be derogatory or offensive, duplicate names, or names originally established on the basis of incorrect information." The Supervisors also cited the recommendations provided by the National Park Service (NPS) and the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN).

The Inyo County Administrator responded:

> While I will not be taking this to my Board for action, if we were asked, I think that we would support the name change. However, given that there is the AKA [the variant name Tumanguya recorded in GNIS] I think it is better left as is.

CACGN does not recommend approval of the change; according to their minutes:

> [A] lack of compelling reasons to change [a] well-established name with high visibility present-day use; [the] proponent failed to consult with California Native American tribes regarding the proposed Indigenous name; [the] National Park Service does not support the change; the word is not derogatory or offensive; the name is not duplicated on a nearby mountain; the name was not originally established on the basis of incorrect information; no misspellings or confusion regarding Mr. Whitney; there is no clear evidence that this is the [specific] feature that indigenous [people] referred to as Tumanguya; the proposal is not sufficient to move forward or support a name change of this proportion.
>
> Whitney was not a colonizer and there is no evidence that he committed atrocities against any minority group.
>
> The proposed name is already a recorded variant in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) entry for the feature. There appear to be some instances of historical and current usage of this name, such as a 1901 journal entry by a mountaineer and a 1903 article in the Independent newspaper, which claimed the name meant "Old Man" and was used by indigenous Paiute people. However, it is uncertain as to whether usage of the proposed name refers to this specific feature, or the range overall.

> Additionally, Alfred Kroeber, a notable University of California anthropology professor who published extensively in the early 1900s about Native place names, did not mention an Indigenous name for Mount Whitney, suggesting that if such a name existed, he would likely have recorded it. Chester Versteeg, a Sierra Club lawyer who researched Sierra place names and consulted with Native speakers, also found no distinct Native name for the peak.
>
> BGN policy is that name changes should align with well-established local usage or rectify offensive or incorrect names; the current name, which is inoffensive and already deeply ingrained in public and historical consciousness, does not meet these criteria.

A public commenter at the CACGN meeting stated:

> Recent scholarship has questioned Josiah Whitney's scientific credentials and his role in the suppression of Frederick Law Olmsted's 1865 Yosemite Park plan. This suppression was politically motivated to prevent funding diversion from the Geological Survey to Yosemite Valley improvements, which would have affected Whitney's work in California. So while Whitney's actions might not include major atrocities, there are significant criticisms and controversies. However, changing the name of such a renowned landmark would require solid backing and a significant, well-established Indigenous name, given the potential backlash.

The NPS does not support the change and notes that "the proposed new name, 'Tumanguya' is a recorded variant in GNIS, and can be used now in conjunction with the official name."

The U.S. Forest Service also does not support the change, citing the lack of input from Tribes: "The FS cannot support a name in a Tribal language, submditted by a nontribal proponent, without input from the Tribes with cultural/ancestral/treaty ties to this very prominent feature."

Change **Dead Injun Creek** (FID 1140704) to **Neme Creek**, Oregon
(Malheur National Forest)

Local government	Grant County Commissioners	No Objection*
State Names Authority	Oregon Geographic Names Board	Support
Federal	U.S. Forest Service	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Burns Paiute Tribe	Support**
	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	No opinion/ Support***
	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	Support****
	Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon	No response****

* SNA contacted
** proponent and USFS contacted
*** proponent contacted
**** USFS contacted

	Established by Congress/President		Derogatory and Offensive		Long
x	Name Change		Diacritics	x	Tribal
	Commemorative		Duplicate or Similar		Commercial
	Wilderness Area		Variant		Animal

The name Neme Creek is proposed as a replacement for Dead Injun Creek, a 2.4-mile-long tributary of North Fork Deer Creek in Grant County and on the Malheur National Forest, 23 miles southwest of John Day. The existing name was labeled on USGS topographic maps between 1961 and 2020, although on one edition published in 1981, it was labeled as Dead Indian Creek.

The proposal was originally submitted as Numu Creek by the Girl Scout Troop of Oregon and SW Washington, whose goal is "to remove the offensive slur from this creek's official name" and "to better commemorate the warriors that fought for their land and for their people's right to be there." According to the Northern Paiute Language Project, developed by linguists at the University of California Santa Cruz, "Numu" is the word that the Paiute people call themselves.

The troop's research indicates that the stream was named "to commemorate a Native American who was killed in battle near the stream's bank," likely during the 1878 Bannock War that took place between settlers backed by the military and the Northern Paiute and Bannock Tribes. They assert that a commemoration should connote respect, "however, [the current] name is not a term of respect." The troop reviewed the BGN's cultural sensitivity guidance prior to submitting the proposal and chose the name "under the premise of showing cultural sensitivity to indigenous people of the area."

The troop leader elaborates:

> They researched the region's history to better understand where the current name may have derived from and which tribe(s) were most relevant to the area. From their research, they determined the region was an ancestral hunting area for the Northern Paiute people and a site of conflict with white/Caucasian settlers. The troop believes that the proposed name better represents the tribe's ancestral connection of this physical feature and area where they hunted and gathered for many generations."

The troop's leader later contacted the Burns Paiute Tribe (BPT) for suggestions and feedback on their proposal; the Tribe stated that their preferred spelling is Neme, pronounced "NuhWuh."

In addition to the BPT, the troop also approached the Cowlitz Tribe with whom they have an established relationship, adding, "While the Cowlitz Tribal Council did not feel it was their place

to offer feedback or suggestions on names for a feature on ancestral Paiutes lands, they did offer verbal support and encouragement to the troop. The girls took the information they learned from engaging with the Cowlitz and applied it to their considerations in choosing a proposed name change."

GNIS lists four features with names that contain the word "Injun." There are three additional names that include it as a variant name, including Engine Creek, Tennessee, which was approved as a name change by the BGN in 2020.

The U.S. Forest Service also contacted the BPT, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWSR). The CTUIR support the change; the CTWSR did not respond.

Review List 454

New name **Tëmakwehane**, Maryland
Mouth: 39.496111, -76.870278 / Source: 39.53928, -76.8364

Local government	Baltimore County Council	No response
	Carroll County Commissioners	No response
State Names Authority	Maryland Geographic Names Authority	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Baltimore American Indian Center	Support*

* obtained by proponent

	Established by Congress/President		Derogatory and Offensive		Long
	Name Change	x	Diacritics	x	Tribal
	Commemorative		Duplicate or Similar		Commercial
	Wilderness Area		Variant		Animal

The new name Tëmakwehane is proposed for an unnamed 4.6-mile-long tributary of the North Branch Patapsco River. The stream heads in Baltimore County and flows into Carroll County. The proposal was submitted by the Director of Stewardship for an organization named Adamah, who reports:

> In Fall 2022, representatives from Pearlstone and the Baltimore American Indian Center gathered to celebrate the restoration of a previously unnamed branch of the Patapsco River. This beautiful stream valley was given the name Tëmakwehane (pronounced tuh-MAH-kway-HAH-nay), which means Beaver Creek in the Lenape (Piscataway) language.

According to the website of Adamah, which manages the Pearlstone Retreat Center along the stream, "The [restoration] project was supported by the Chesapeake Bay Trust and Maryland

Department of Natural Resources. The Natural Channel Design realigned the stream structure by re-directing, re-grading, and re-planting a 1,300-foot stretch of stream to reduce runoff and improve ecological function. The Pearlstone website adds, "Tëmakwehane – Beaver Creek – runs through the Pearlstone campus and connects us to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed." The proponent adds:

> This Lenape name honors the Piscataway lineage. Beaver are keystone species to healthy stream valleys – they thrived alongside the Piscataway for generations. The living Chief of the Piscataway Indian Nation is from the Beaver clan. They have always been the Piscataway leaders. It would be meaningful to honor them in this way. The name uplifts the Piscataway people and the Beaver as wisdom-holders in our community. They are leaders in our ongoing journey towards ecological and cultural health.

GNIS lists five streams in Maryland with "Beaver" in their names, including Beaver Run in Carroll County, which enters the North Branch Patapsco River 2.7 miles downstream of the stream in question. Beaver Ridge is the name of a subdivision located midway along Beaver Run.

Review List 455

Change **Cherry Hill Woods Sloughs** (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 411847)
to **Shïshko Mbishke**, Illinois
(Forest Preserves of Cook County land)

Local government	Palos Township Board	No objection
	Cook County Commissioners	Support
State Names Authority	Illinois State Board on Geographic Names	No response
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation	Support*
	Minnesota Chippewa Tribe-- Mille Lacs Band	Support
Other	Forest Preserves of Cook County [proponent]	Support
	Trickster Cultural Center	Support*

* Contacted by proponent

	Established by Congress/President		Derogatory and Offensive		Long
x	Name Change		Diacritics	x	Tribal
	Commemorative		Duplicate or Similar		Commercial
	Wilderness Area		Variant		Animal

This proposal is to change the name of Cherry Hill Woods Sloughs, an area of wetlands in Palos Township in Cook County, to Shïshko Mbishke. The feature is on land managed by the Forest Preserves of Cook County (FPCC), which proposed the name change after they sought input from the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

In April 2022, in response to Secretary's Order 3404 (S.O. 3404), the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe - Mille Lacs Band submitted a number of replacements for names that contained "sq___," including replacing Laughing Sq___ Sloughs with Cherry Hill Woods [*sic*]. The latter name was the fourth-nearest geographic feature listed in the candidate list.

Also in April 2022, the FPCC submitted a proposal to the BGN to change the name of Laughing Sq___ Sloughs to Muskrat Slough. BGN staff informed the FPCC that the S.O. 3404 TF process had suspended any review of proposals to change names that contained "sq___." FPCC then submitted the name to the S.O. 3404 Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force, adding:

> In 2016, the Forest Preserves of Cook County (FPCC) conducted a review of its 284 preserve names and, together with community partners including the American Indian Center, The Field Museum, and the Illinois State Archaeology Service, determined that the site name "Laughing Sq___ Sloughs" should immediately be retired as it is a derogatory and sexist slur that has no place representing a natural feature in a public preserve. After conversations with representatives of the American Indian Center and the Chicago American Indian Community Collaborative it was decided to rename the four-hydrologically connected wetlands complex "Muskrat Slough".
>
> The name "Laughing Sq___ Sloughs" was never officially adopted by the FPCC, was only minimally used internally, and was not promoted internally or externally. The slough complex is not a destination site, nor is it easily accessible. However, it is a natural feature that is included on maps and as such should not reflect an offensive and derogatory name that perpetuates racism. . . .
>
> While the Forest Preserves immediately removed the offensive name from all Forest Preserve maps and the website, we have learned that the offensive name continues to appear on Google maps, as Google will only make the name change once it has been approved by [the BGN]. . . .
>
> Muskrat Slough is an appropriate name for the site since the name reflects and celebrates a native animal species. Muskrats also play an important role in the creation traditions of this region's indigenous communities.
>
> The FPCC is deeply committed to ensuring that all people feel welcome in the preserves and to exploring nature. Site names play an important role serving not only as navigational and locational tools, but also as place markers through symbolism, association, and remembrance and may have powerful positive meanings for people and provide opportunities to promote community harmony. Eliminating harmful and offensive names is an important step to overcoming the legacy of colonial oppression and racism.

On September 8, 2022, the BGN approved the change to Cherry Hill Woods Sloughs.

In October 2022, the BGN received a proposal from FPCC to change the latter name to Muskrat Slough (Review List 449). When asked to comment on this name, the Mille Lacs Band - Minnesota Chippewa Tribe responded in April 2023 with a counterproposal for the name Zheshk Bitobig:

> [T]he Tribe does not object to the idea of having the name be changed to Muskrat Slough, but since the Swallow Cliff Woods Forest Preserve at one time was a Boodewaadamii [Potowattomi] reservation, the Boodewaadamii [word] for Muskrat Slough, Zheshk Bitobig (pronounced "ZHUSHK BEE-too-beeg) should be used in order to preserve the area's Boodewaadamii heritage.

FPCC had questions about the preferred version of the Boodewaadamiimowin words and contacted the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation for input. In March 2024, based on information from the Prairie Band, FPCC counterproposed the name Shïshko Mbishke, pronounced "SHISK-ko BEESH-keh" (Review List 455):

> We have decided to honor the local regional dialect and determined that shïshko mbishke (literal - muskrat swamp) is the most localized spelling of Muskrat Slough, reflecting the regional dialect of Boodewaadamiimowin (Potawatomi) from the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. [The Prairie Band later confirmed that the name should be capitalized as Shïshko Mbishke.]

FPCC reported that they had also received a different spelling from the Trickster Cultural Center in the Chicago area, specifically Zheshko mbishke' from a member of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians. The Center's Executive Director later told the FPCC that they "would lean towards the Prairie Band spelling for this area. It would be the most accurate for the space that you are looking at."

FPCC and Cook County formally adopted the name Shïshko Mbishke in June 2024 and notified the BGN in August 2024.

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe - Mille Lacs Band then withdrew their Zheshk Bitobig proposal in favor of Shïshko Mbishke. A language expert wrote:

> Honing in to a better and more appropriate name is commendable. . . .
>
> With the Bodéwadmi, Daawaa, and Ojibwe in the area, with the Bodéwadmi having a larger presence of the three, the name honors the Three Fire Confederacy and the Neshnabé peoples.
>
> We support the formally adopted name of Shïshko Mbishke (which I recognize easily the Bodéwadmimwen, which if it were in Ojibwemowin, as Wazhashko-Nibiishkiki: Muskrat Wetlands).

> We are very pleased that FPCC had reached out to various Bodéwadmi communities, consulted, and then weighed their options. Their reasoning for selecting the name suggested the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation is sound, and we support that decision based on sound Tribal consultation.

The former "sq___" name had been labeled on USGS maps since 1963; no information regarding its origin could be found. A 1985 *Chicago Tribune* article reported that "[a] story, perhaps a legend, says the last Indian sq___ residing in the Palos area after the arrival of the white man refused to leave her wigwam on the top of Swallow Cliff where it overlooked the moraines, lakes and sloughs that had been carved out by the last glacier to move across the area ages before. . . . Some of the best-named watercourses in the [Cook County] forest preserve system . . . include the sloughs--Long John, Horse Collar, Groundhog, Belly Deep and Laughing Sq___; the woods--Swallow Cliff and Paw Paw; and the lake--Bullfrog." The legend may be the source of the name. Papoose Lake is located 0.3 miles south of the slough.

The 1963 volume *Indian Place Names in Illinois*, published by the Illinois State Historical Society, reported that there was a Laughing Sq___ Lake in the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. It is unclear if this refers to the slough feature or a different nearby lake. A 1979 U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Survey Report labeled a lake southwest of the slough as Laughing Sq___ Sloughs. This lake does not have an official name.

Change **Clingmans Dome** (BGN 1932) (FID 1326387) to **Kuwohi**, North Carolina and Tennessee (Great Smoky Mountains National Park)

Local government	Swain County Board of Commissioners [NC]	Support*
	Sevier County Mayor's Office [TN]	No response
State Names Authority	North Carolina Board on Geographic Names	Support
	Tennessee Geographic Names Committee	Support
Federal Agency	National Park Service	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Museum of the Cherokee Indian	Support
	Southwestern Commission Council of Governments [representing the seven westernmost counties of North Carolina, 17 municipalities and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians]	Support*
	The North Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club	Support*
	Harvey Broome Group Sierra Club	Support*
	Smoky Mountains Hiking Club	Support*
	The Carolina Mountain Club	Support*
	Town of Andrews [Cherokee Co., NC]	Support*
	Town of Murphy [Cherokee Co., NC]	Support*

	City of Asheville [Buncombe Co., NC]	Support*
	Buncombe County [NC]	Support*
	NC Attorney General [through a 2022 Dogwood Award]	Support*
	Campbell County [TN]	Support*
	Knox County [TN]	Support*
	Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina	Support*
	Tennessee House Joint Resolution No. 452	Support*

* Provided by proponent

	Established by Congress/President	x	Derogatory and Offensive		Long
x	Name Change		Diacritics	x	Tribal
x	Commemorative		Duplicate or Similar		Commercial
	Wilderness Area		Variant		Animal

This proposal would change the official name of Clingmans Dome, located along the boundary of Swain County, North Carolina, and Sevier County, Tennessee, to Kuwohi, the Cherokee name for the mountain that translates to "mulberry place." In Cherokee, the name is ᒍᏋᏯ.

The summit is in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. It is the highest point in Tennessee, and according to the National Park Service, the third-highest point east of the Mississippi River after Mount Mitchell and Mount Craig in North Carolina.

The proposal was submitted by the Principal Chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) following an effort started in 2022 by two EBCI members to rename the summit. The proposal, which comprises 156 pages of supporting material, states:

> 'Kuwohi' is well documented in Cherokee history. It is the mulberry place, and the highest point in traditional Cherokee territory. Today, it is located within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and can be viewed from the Qualla Boundary, the home of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, a federally recognized Indian Tribe.
>
> A version of Kuwohi has been recognized by the US Government as a variant for Clingmans Dome [Ku-wa-hi, Kuwa'hi, and Kuwahi at the time of the proposal; Kuwohi was added after the proposal was submitted]. The summit is identified as Kuwahi in many historical sources. The EBCI Speaker's Council has given the Tribe guidance that Kuwohi is the most culturally appropriate term. The submission of Kuwohi also recognizes the US BGN policy that diacritics are not used in formal namings [sic]. [Note: the Diacritics Policy states "The BGN may approve a geographic name that includes diacritics."]
>
> Kuwohi is a place rooted in the stories and teachings of the Cherokee people. It can be seen from our Mother Town, Kituwah, in Swain County, North Carolina, and was a place to gather

> fruit and for our medicine men. More recently, Kuwohi provided refuge to Cherokee people who the United States Government sought to remove in 1838.
>
> The mountain was always known as Kuwohi to the Cherokee people until it was renamed Clingmans Dome right before the Civil War. Clingman did not have any substantial ties to the area. Members of the Clingman family today support restoring the rightful Cherokee name, Kuwohi.
>
> We are attaching local letters of support. Every local government in western North Carolina, and governments in eastern Tennessee, have endorsed this submission. Many local groups with an interest in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park have also supported the submission.
>
> The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is aware of no formal opposition to restoring the name Kuwohi. . . . The proposed name restoration has been widely broadcast throughout local, regional and national media with no formal or sustained opposition materializing.

In July 2022, the EBCI Tribal Council formally passed a resolution in support of studying the restoration of the name Kuwohi. In January 2024, a second resolution gave the Principal Chief authority to submit a proposal for this name.

The 2022 ECBI Tribal Council resolution stated the reasons for evaluating a name change, including:

- the documented history of the Cherokee name
- the importance of the summit to the Cherokee people in general and the ECBI in particular
- Thomas Clingman's lack of association with western North Carolina, his argument in Congress that enslavement be preserved, and that he was a Confederate General
- Arnold Guyot, an advocate of "scientific racism," applied the name Clingmans Dome that "recently, the United States Department of the Interior and Secretary Deb Haaland have shown a willingness to engage with tribes to correct the naming of sacred and reverent places back to their historically appropriate names" as well as Secretary's Order 3404 and examples of renaming Mount Doane to First Peoples Mountain; Mount McKinley to Denali; and Ayers Rock in Australia to Uluru
- "the history of the re-naming of Kuwahi JᏩᏏ [*sic*] to 'Clingman's Dome' shows that the name of Clingman was designated by a proponent of scientific racism (Guyot) on behalf of an avowed racist (Clingman), in an action that was disrespectful to Cherokee people, culture, history, and tradition . . . . The name Clingman is not derogatory in and of itself, but the history shows the action of changing the name of Kuwahi JᏩᏏ [*sic*] to 'Clingman's Dome' was racist and that the racist action should be acknowledged and corrected . . . . There is no valid reason today by which Kuwahi JᏩᏏ

> [*sic*] should continue to be known as 'Clingman's Dome,' particularly given Clingman's and Guyot's racist histories and their lack of ties to our lands"

Clingmans Dome was named for Thomas Lanier Clingman (1812-1897), lawyer, U.S. Representative and Senator from North Carolina, and Confederate Brigadier General. The mountain became known as Clingmans Dome following an 1859 survey by Swiss-born geographer Arnold Guyot. In 1911, the BGN made the name Clingmans Dome official for Federal use; various Federal maps prior to 1911 had used either Clingmans Dome or Clingman Dome. In 1932, the BGN affirmed the name Clingmans Dome after receiving requests about the use of Clingman Dome and Clingmans Peak.

The 2024 ECBI Tribal Council resolution also stated that "one of the most important factors in deciding whether to approve a name restoration is local community support" and reported the following:

- Community support for the restoration of the Kuwohi name has been overwhelming, including formal support from multiple local governments, including the counties of: Buncombe, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain, Graham, Clay, and Cherokee, and the towns of Asheville, Andrews, Murphy, Hayesville, Fontana Dam, Lake Santeetlah, Robbinsville, Canton, Clyde, Maggie Valley, Waynesville, Dillsboro, Sylva, Webster, the Village of Forrest Hills, Franklin, Highlands, and Bryson City in western North Carolina, and the counties of Knox and Campbell in eastern Tennessee
- In April 2023, the Tennessee General Assembly passed H.J.R. 452, which reads, '[W]e honor and commend Mary Crowe and Lavita Hill on their efforts to restore the traditional Cherokee name of Kuwohi to Clingman's Dome in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and wish them all the best in their future endeavors'; and Governor Bill Lee thereafter signed H.J.R. 452 into Tennessee law.
- In May 2023, world famous musician Yo-Yo Ma performed a concert on Kuwohi with Hill, Jarrett Wildcatt, and Bo Taylor, with the help and support of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, where Ma performed a work of music meant to honor the cultural importance of Kuwohi to the Cherokee people.
- Many non-profit community organizations in both North Carolina and Tennessee have signaled their support for the Kuwohi name restoration efforts.
- With the cooperation of many EBCI tribal members, the Great Smoky Mountain National Park instituted Kuwohi Days, during which the Park Service closes down Clingmans Dome Road for a number of afternoons each year so school children can learn about the history of Kuwohi and the Cherokee people.

The EBCI proposal included published evidence of Kuwohi (or a variant spelling) from the following sources:

- James Mooney, 1900, *Cherokee History, Myths and Sacred Formulas*
- Robert L. Mason, 1927, The Lure of the Great Smokies

- Paul M. Fink, 1956, *That's Why They Call It . . . The Names and Lore of the Great Smokies*
- Christopher Camuto, 1907, *Another Country: Journeying Toward the Cherokee Mountains*
- Margaret Lynn Brown, 2000, *The Wild East: A Biography of the Great Smoky Mountains*
- Marci Spencer, 2013, *Clingmans Dome: Highest Mountain in the Great Smokies*
- Bradley Saum, *Clingmans Dome Revealed: A Natural, Historical and Cultural Gem in the Smoky Mountains*
- George Masa, 1930, "Cherokee Glossary"
- Frank G. Speck and Leonard Broom, 1993 *Cherokee Dance and Drama*

The ECBI proposal included many online news articles about the renaming effort and local support. It also included letters and resolutions of support from:

- Swain County Commissioners: "Swain County hereby declares and lends its full support to our friends and neighbors, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, as the tribe continues efforts to petition the United States Board of Geographic Names to restore the name Kuwohi in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park."
- Buncombe County Commissioners: "this Board hereby declares its Support of any and all efforts of the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to restore the name Kuwohi to the mountain presently known as 'Clingmans Dome.'"
- Asheville City Council (Buncombe County, North Carolina): "support for the efforts of the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to restore the name Kuwohi to the mountain presently known as Clingmans Dome."
- Andrews Town Aldermen (Cherokee County, North Carolina): "the Town of Andrews hereby declares and lends its full support to our friends and neighbors, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, as they continue efforts to petition the United States Board of Geographic Names to restore the name Kuwohi in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park."
- Murphy Town Council (Cherokee County, North Carolina): "the Town of Murphy hereby declares and lends its full support to our friends and neighbors, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, as they continue efforts federally to petition to restore the name Kuwohi."
- The Southwestern Commission Council of Governments: "representing the seven westernmost counties of North Carolina, 17 municipalities and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, hereby declares and lends its full support to our friends and neighbors, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, as the Tribe petitions the United States Board on Geographic Names to restore the name Kuwohi ᎫᏬᎯ in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park." [the resolution notes that "The full membership of the Council of Governments is as follows: Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, and Swain counties; the Towns of Andrews, Murphy, Hayesville, Fontana Dam, Lake Santeetlah, Robbinsville, Canton, Clyde, Maggie Valley, Waynesville, Dillsboro, Sylva, Webster, the Village of Forrest Hills, Franklin, Highlands, and Bryson City; and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. In total, the Council of Governments represents seven

counties, 17 municipalities, and one federally recognized Indian Tribe. These 25 governments serve well over 200,000 people of western North Carolina."]

- In January 2023, House Joint Resolution 59 was introduced in the Tennessee House of Representatives to "support the efforts by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tribal Council to restore the name 'Kuwohi' to the mountain presently known as Clingmans Dome in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park." [The Resolution was taken off its subcommittee's calendar in February 2023.]
- The Museum of the Cherokee Indian: "We are honored and pleased to support Lavita Hill and Mary Crowe's efforts to restore the name Kuwohi to the mountain within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park currently known as Clingman's Dome. . . . We support using the spelling, Kuwohi, as brought forth by our Speaker's Council."
- The North Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club: "We further support the Council's unanimous resolution of July 14, 2022, to rename this landmark."
- The Harvey Broome Group Sierra Club (Knoxville, TN): "full support to our friends and neighbors, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, as the tribe continues efforts to petition the United States Board of Geographic Names to restore the name Kuwohi to the highest mountain in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park."
- Carolina Mountain Club [unsigned resolution]: "full support to our friends and neighbors, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, in their petition to the United States Board of Geographic Names to restore the name Kuwohi in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park."
- The Smoky Mountains Hiking Club [unsigned resolution]: "full support to our friends and neighbors, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, in their petition to the United States Board of Geographic Names to restore the name Kuwohi in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. We strongly believe the name of Clingmans Dome should be changed to Kuwohi."
- The Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina: "support of any and all efforts of the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to restore the name Kuwohi to the mountain presently known as Clingmans Dome."
- North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein's Dogwood Award for Lavita Hill and Mary Crowe: "[they] are working to make sure that their tribe's history is recognized and honored. . . . They are advocating to restore the name Kuwohi, which means Mulberry Place, from Clingman's Dome, which was named for a confederate general. In doing so, their efforts will help to commemorate the long history of the Eastern Band of Cherokee in North Carolina."

Change **The Peak** (FID 996001) to **Mount Douglass**, North Carolina
(New River State Park)

Local government	Ashe County Board of Commissioners	No response
State Names Authority	North Carolina Board on Geographic Names	Opposed
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

Other	North Carolina State Senator Natasha Marcus	Support
	North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation	No response*

* contacted by SNA

	Established by Congress/President		Derogatory and Offensive		Long
x	Name Change		Diacritics		Tribal
x	Commemorative	x	Duplicate or Similar		Commercial
	Wilderness Area		Variant		Animal

Mount Douglass is proposed as a replacement name for a 3,865-foot summit in Ashe County, one of two summits in the county currently named The Peak. It is located along the boundary of New River State Park and visible from the Blue Ridge Parkway and the New River. The other summit named The Peak is 16 miles to the west. Both summits have been named The Peak on USGS topographic maps since the 1890s (in 1893, the other summit was labeled simply "Peak").

The proponent of the name change is one of the former owners who recently conveyed the property to the State of North Carolina to expand the New River State Park and provide public access to the mountain. The proposed name would honor abolitionist and social reformer Frederick Douglass (1818-1895). The proponent states:

> First, the existing name . . . aside from being a failure of imagination, conflicts with another mountain in western Ashe County also called The Peak. Second and more important the peak overlooks a large part of the New River in Ashe County. The New River uniquely flows North. The New River was historically a part of the Underground Railway, by which an enslaved person could follow the river to Ohio, a free state. After leaving NC, the river flows northwesterly though Virginia and becomes the Kanawha River at the confluence of the Gauley River near Charleston, WV eventually flowing into the Ohio River. The most other prominent mountain in Ashe County is Mount Jefferson, which was noted in earlier times for its caves where slaves shelter on their way to freedom following the New River. However, there is no public land that recognizes the significance of the New River as part of the Underground Railway in Ashe County. By changing the name of The Peak . . . to Mount Douglass the significance would be recognized and honored. Frederick Douglass, of course, was the foremost former enslaved person in the nineteenth century speaking out on behalf of abolition and support for those fleeing slavery on the Underground Railway.

Regarding the association between Douglass and the area, the proponent adds:

> Although he did not have direct connections with North Carolina, in his travels in the United Kingdom when he was speaking and raising money for the abolitionist cause, he was most warmly welcomed by the Scots whose warmth he found endearing. He loved Robbie Burns poetry, and though Burns had died earlier, Douglass spent an enjoyable time with his sister while in Scotland. North Carolina was settled in large part initially by Scots and Scots Irish.

North Carolina State Senator Natasha Marcus, in her support for the change, describes the current name as being "unmemorable and overused" and Mount Douglass as "meaningful and emblematic." She adds, "By naming this mountain for Frederick Douglass, the state would be recognizing the historic efforts of enslaved people journeying through North Carolina to find freedom" and "His name is synonymous with the quest for freedom that the Underground Railroad represents." Further, "This is public land and should have a name that honors our state's history and stands as a testament to our commitment to freedom for all. North Carolina has always championed its declaration of freedom that preceded the Declaration of Independence."

The North Carolina Board on Geographic Names (NCBGN) does not recommend approval of the change, stating:

> We recommend developing a different name change proposal that has at a minimum a North Carolina connection and prefers a well-documented local connection. SMAC [the Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee, which validates NCBGN recommendations] does not recommend renaming The Peak to Mount Douglass due to a lack of local or NC connection of the proposed name.

Change **Negro Jack Creek** (FID 1124631) to **Jack Creek**, Oregon
(Bureau of Land Management lands [partly])

Local government	Tillamook County Commissioners	Support*
State Names Authority	Oregon Geographic Names Committee	Support
Federal	Bureau of Land Management	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Oregon Department of Forestry	Support*
	Tillamook County Pioneer Museum	Support*
	Independent proponent	Support
	Oregon Black Pioneers	Support*

* SNA contacted

	Established by Congress/President	x	Derogatory and Offensive		Long
x	Name Change		Diacritics		Tribal
x	Commemorative		Duplicate or Similar		Commercial
	Wilderness Area		Variant		Animal

This proposal is to change the name of Negro Jack Creek, a 1.1-mile-long tributary of the Wilson River in Tillamook County, to Jack Creek. The stream heads on Bureau of Land Management land and flows through Tillamook State Forest and private lands.

The proponent states that removing the first word of the name "is pretty self explanatory" and that he didn't "find any historical record for why it's named the way it is."

Research by the Oregon Geographic Names Board found a reference to the stream and a man named Jack in a 2006 Tillamook County Historical Society tour of the Wilson River:

> N____R JACK CREEK, Negro Jack or N___r [spelled with one "g" in the account here and in the next instance] as he was called lived in this general area. N___r Jack was a lonely person. Jack took ill. No one knew the cause. He lay in his cabin suffering alone. Those going by could hear the agony of his breathing. There is no record of anyone going to help. He eventually died in his cabin.
>
> The neighbors buried him in back of his cabin. No one seemed to know his last name. Some thought he was a runaway slave. He came to the area a stranger and died a stranger.

No other information about Jack has been found.

The stream was first shown on USGS maps in 1942 with the more pejorative form of the name. The name was changed on USGS maps to its current form in 1955, prior to the 1963 Secretary of the Interior directive to replace all instances of the more pejorative form to "Negro" on all future map revisions.

By the mid-1980s, Tillamook County was referring to the stream as Jack Creek for the purposes of a small water district that no longer operates.

The Oregon Department of Forestry's Tillamook District Forester reports that they "fully support the proposed name change" and:

> Over the years, we have made efforts to solely use Jack Creek on our public maps and databases but there are other mapping services that have not made the change. Our office reviewed historic maps and records and could not find any details or history of the gentleman known as Jack . . . . I hope this name change will honor a man that seems to have traveled great distances to homestead along the Wilson River and maybe it will provide some peace to a tragic story of the end of his life in Oregon.