

U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
Eight Hundred and Seventy Fourth Meeting
May 8, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.
(Virtual Meeting)

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Jessica Campbell	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
Dr. 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
Christopher Hammond	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Susan Lyon	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Patrick Mahoney	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management)
Veronica Ranieri	Library of Congress
Melanie Riley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Timothy St. Onge	Library of Congress (Chair)
Mike Shelton	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
Jeremy Smith	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management)
Alex Stum	Department of Agriculture (Natural Resources Conservation Service)
Dr. Michael Tischler	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Marilyn W.	Department of Defense (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency) (BGN Vice Chair)
Rikki Wortham	Department of Commerce (Census Bureau)

Ex-Officio

David D., Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names / Foreign Names
Dr. Shellie Zahniser, Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names / Domestic Names

BGN/GNIS Staff

Shelby Bourquein, U.S. Geological Survey
Matthew O'Donnell, U.S. Geological Survey
Mackenzie Chriscoe, U.S. Geological Survey
Lindsay Decker, U.S. Geological Survey

Guests

Jason Burton, U.S. Geological Survey
Jennifer Runyon, former BGN staff
Deb Nordeen, National Park Service
Lisa Kolakowsky, National Park Service
Sally Roberts, U.S. Geological Survey
Jennifer Runyon, former BGN staff

Apple Maps observer
Foreign Names Committee observers
State Names Authority representatives

1. Opening

Acting Chair Tischler opened the hybrid Meeting 874 of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) at 9:34 ET. He noted that motions would pass by a simple majority of votes, and abstentions would not count either for or against. Executive Secretary Zahniser conducted a roll call of members and staff.

On behalf of the USGS Office of Communications and Publishing (OCAP), Zahniser reminded attendees of the USGS media policy and asked any attendees from the media to identify themselves and to direct any questions to OCAP.

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 874

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 874 meeting

4. Reports

4.1 BGN Chairman (Tischler, Acting Chair)

In recognition of Public Service Recognition Week, Acting Chair Tischler expressed appreciation to the DNC members for their dedication and professionalism. He shared that it has been a privilege to be involved in geographic names for over ten years and emphasized the important behind-the-scenes contributions made by public servants at all levels. Tischler also noted that he would be serving as acting Chair following a request from the Library of Congress for Tim St. Onge to step down from his leadership role while remaining a DNC member. He anticipated potential elections for a new Chair in the fall and thanked members in advance for their support.

Tischler reported on his attendance at the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) meeting in New York, where he delivered a status report on a joint expert group initiative between UN-GGIM and UNGEGN. He noted he was the only U.S. federal participant due to travel restrictions and described discussions with the U.S. Division and the

presentation of a graphic summarizing regional response rates. He highlighted structural differences between GGIM regions and UNGEGN divisions and shared plans to extend the survey deadline to boost participation, especially from African nations.

He reported that the event received strong support from PCGN and other attendees, and noted opening remarks from UN leadership emphasizing the uniqueness and success of the GGIM-UNGEgn collaboration. He shared the report with Deirdre Bishop, the U.S. GGIM delegation lead. Tischler also mentioned a forthcoming vote in Congress on Representative Taylor Greene's bill to officially rename the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America, following the previous Executive Order.

Tischler further briefed the Committee on his participation in the Committee on the Marine Transportation System meeting and a recent congressional update regarding the Guinn Peak proposal on the docket under item 5. He concluded with an update on efforts to standardize meeting schedules for the full BGN.

4.2 Executive Secretary for Domestic Names (Zahniser)

See attached report. Executive Secretary Zahniser noted that the notes presented were inclusive of April, following the cancellation of the previous DNC meeting. She reported that she and staff had completed several FOIA requests and had finalized the revised proposal form introduced at Meeting 873. The form had incorporated feedback and would be subject to a vote during the current meeting.

She announced that the FY 2024 annual report had been approved by the full BGN and was awaiting signature by the BGN Chair. Once signed, it would be submitted to the Secretary of the Interior. Zahniser also reported that the BGN is in the middle of the 2025-2027 appointment season. Department of the Interior members are being vetted, and once the new USGS Director is confirmed, remaining appointments would move forward across other agencies.

Zahniser noted she would be reaching out to all members and deputies to confirm details. She also outlined efforts to support staff conducting outreach to states and counties on complex or unique cases and highlighted ongoing coordination with State Naming Authorities and Tribal governments. Discussions are also underway with FEMA regarding tributary naming in Hays County, Texas.

Finally, she shared that work was actively underway to populate the Special Committee on Communications, with two individuals expressing interest in participating.

4.3 Executive Secretary for Foreign Names (David D.)

David D. reported that the Foreign Names Committee (FNC) is monitoring the potential renaming of the Persian Gulf to either the Arabian Gulf or Gulf of Arabia. He stated that any required actions will be taken promptly as appropriate. The next FNC meeting (FNC 422) is

scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, with agenda items including information papers on Armenia, Belarus, and Georgia; and staff recommendations for administrative division changes in India, Iraq, Romania, Russia, Timor-Leste, and Turkmenistan. Conventional name proposals for Jordan and the UAE will also be reviewed, along with updates on anglicized names.

The committee will consider new country policy documents for Fiji and Mauritania. David also reported that development of the Vector and Cartographic Production System (VCPS) for GNDB production and GNS dissemination is ongoing. Updates expected by late June or early July will improve the GNS user interface, allowing users to add data layers, adjust basemaps, and save queries. He noted these enhancements are long-awaited and align with other NGA systems.

Plans continue for the September 15–19 toponymic exchange in London, during which two FNC staff members will be hosted by UK colleagues. David concluded by affirming the essential nature of the BGN's work and expressed appreciation to all public servants in attendance.

4.4 Special Committee on Communications (Vacant)

There was no written report. Tischler 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 (O'Donnell)

See attached report.

4.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (Decker)

Decker reported that day-to-day operations remain consistent, with ongoing cleanup of GNIS records through the landform collection process. This includes reviewing and updating older records, ensuring proper source citations, and verifying feature classification.

She noted that longstanding citation issues, stemming from the transition from Oracle to Postgres, are being corrected, with updates expected to go live in GNIS within the month. Decker also reported staffing changes following deferred resignations, including the retirement of GNIS subject matter expert Maria McCormick. New personnel are now engaged in learning the GNIS processes.

Mackenzie Chriscoe will be taking over data editing responsibilities moving forward.

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

There was no written report. Kanalley is absent. As noted in previous DNC minutes, The committee is evaluating its scope and future direction, especially regarding outreach and increasing Tribal participation.

5. Docket

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

Not Review Listed

Change **Bocco Mountain** (FID [175877](#)) to **Booco Mountain**, Colorado

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

Vote: 16 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

A representative from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) explained that the proposal had previously been deferred to allow time for an active Tribal consultation. Although no feedback regarding the spelling change was received during the consultation, BLM participants had been made aware of the proposed correction.

Change **Mendi Gore** (FID [2832450](#)) to **Mendi Gorri**, change **Mendi Gori Posue** (FID [1163955](#)) to **Mendi Gorri Putzua**, and change **Mendi Suri** (FID [1157788](#)) to **Mendi Zuri**, Oregon

A motion was made and seconded to approve the changes.

Vote: 16 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Discussion highlighted the Oregon Geographic Names Board's findings that the original names were not aligned verified Basque usage during their broader review of GNIS entries. Further research revealed all three names required correction, and Christine Johnson of COGNA facilitated outreach to a Basque language expert at the University of Nevada, Reno, who confirmed the appropriate spellings, pronunciations, and translations.

Review Lists 441 and 450

Change **Lower Negro Island** (FID [570524](#)) to **Lower Bagaduce Island** or **Emanuel Island** and change **Upper Negro Island** (FID [577637](#)) to **Upper Bagaduce Island** or **Esther Island**, Maine

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

Vote: 16 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Prior to the vote, staff noted that while there are also proposals pending to change the collective name of the island group, staff felt it was appropriate to proceed with these individual renaming actions now, given the proposals had been under review since 2020. It was acknowledged that some local residents had expressed a desire to wait and consider all related proposals together, but others supported moving forward immediately.

Questions were raised about opposition from a group called the Friends of Castine; however, this group was not affiliated with the official town government or the committee formed by the Select Board to review place names. O'Donnell explained that the Penobscot Nation had been involved in proposing an alternate collective name (Taganok), and that other proposed names, including Maguntek Islands, had drawn criticism for linguistic inaccuracies.

Ranieri inquired whether it would be better to delay the individual name changes until the collective name could be considered simultaneously, but the Chair opted to proceed with the vote due to potential quorum concerns in upcoming meetings.

Review List 450

New name **Salamander Creek**, California

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the proposed name citing deference to California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names.

Vote: 14 in favor
1 against
1 abstention

Review List 453

New name **Anne des Cadeaux Bayou**, Louisiana

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

Vote: 15 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

Prior to the vote, O'Donnell provided context regarding the sensitivity surrounding names associated with the Adai Caddo people, a group recognized by the State of Louisiana but not by the federal government.

He explained that while the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma's Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) had objected to two other names proposed by Adai Caddo (included on Review List 458),

but had not made any comments on Anne Des Cadeaux Bayou and Brevelle Branch (next item in the docket). Because these two names were to commemorate Caddo people, BGN staff asked THPO again if they wished to comment on these two names. The THPO did not respond.

New name **Brevelle Branch**, Louisiana

Deferred for the same reason with same result

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

Vote: 15 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

Review List 454

New name **Mount America**, Pennsylvania

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

Vote: 12 in favor
1 against
3 abstentions

During the discussion prior to the vote, concerns were raised about whether the name might inadvertently promote a nonprofit organization, potentially conflicting with BGN policy on commercial naming.

Chair Tischler clarified that while BGN generally avoids approving names that appear to promote commercial enterprises, the term “America” can be construed as a national reference and not necessarily linked to a specific entity.

The discussion also touched on the veterans associated with the proposal and the local support it had received, which some members felt met the bar for approval.

Review List 455

New names **Rockfellow Gulch** and **Rockfellow Ridge**, Oregon

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 15 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

Prior to the vote, O'Donnell noted that concerns had been raised regarding the name due to the Rockfellow family's association with the "river wars." The State Tribal Liaison had reached out to multiple Tribes for input but did not receive any responses.

Review Lists 455 and 456

New name Chitch Creek or Newcosta Creek, Michigan

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove both proposals.

Vote: 15 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

The DNC discussed these two competing proposals to name a stream in Michigan. Although there was initially a motion to approve the name Newcosta Creek, it was withdrawn before the vote.

During the discussion, Bourquein and O'Donnell clarified the respective positions of the local governments and their relation to the stream and each municipality involved. Statements from the municipalities were quoted to help the DNC evaluate the level and nature of support for each name. Concerns were raised regarding the strength of local preference and whether either name had garnered sufficient endorsement.

Review List 456

New name Salamander Pond, Utah

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 16 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Review List 457

Change Cutler Channel (FID [1989332](#)) to Deering Bay Channel, Florida

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

Vote: 13 in favor
0 against
3 abstentions

Prior to the vote, O'Donnell explained that the feature had historically been known as Cutler Channel, but following the establishment of the Deering Bay Marina and local usage shifting over time, the Coast Guard eventually updated its listings to reflect the name Deering Bay Channel. However, GNIS and NOAA had not previously updated their records, leading to the current discrepancy. One member abstained from voting due to a personal connection to the area.

New name **Takolo Fala Upi Creek**, Mississippi

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 15 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

New name **Guinn Peak**, Nevada

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 14 in favor
0 against
1 abstentions

New name **Morden Run**, Tennessee

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 15 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

New name **Arch Nemesis**, Utah

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 14 in favor
1 against
0 abstentions

Change **Browns Point** (FID [1463930](#)) to **Norton Point**, Virginia

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 13 in favor

1 against
1 abstention

6. Other Business

BGN staff presented the revised proposal form which had been sent out prior to the meeting for review and comment. The Committee voted in favor of the form and BGN staff will publish it in time for the next quarter.

The DNC discussed rescheduling future meeting occurrences to 2:00 p.m. ET to better accommodate attendees. There was general agreement to proceed with this adjustment.

7. Closing

The next DNC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 12, 2025, 2:00 p.m. ET.

(signed)

Shellie Zahniser, Executive Secretary
Domestic Names Committee

APPROVED
(signed)

Michael Tischler, Vice-Chair
Domestic Names Committee

Domestic Names Committee
Executive Secretary Report
Meeting 874
8 May, 2025

FOIAs:

Completed recent FOIA request(s)

Proposal Form Revision:

Staff has received input on the proposal form introduced at the 873 meeting and incorporated all revisions into the form that will be voted on today.

FY24 Annual Report:

Full Board approved the report during the April meeting. Awaiting signature from BGN Chair.

FY25-27 Appointments:

Process has begun for DOI members. A list of DOI members has been shared for vetting. Once the USGS Director has been confirmed, we can move forward with the remaining members and deputies. I will be reaching out on occasion if any information is needed.

External Coordination Efforts

Supporting Staff in outreach to States/Counties for recommendation on more unique cases in an effort to increase efficiencies. (reference Staff report)

Engaging with SNAs on a one on one basis to further develop relationships, discuss case nuances, and coordinate outreach to Counties and Tribes. (reference Staff report)

Seeking to engage with FEMA regarding Hays County, TX and naming tributaries for the Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) process. (reference Staff report)

BGN/Domestic Names Committee Meeting 874
May 8, 2025
Staff Report

Between February 28, 2025 and April 25, 2025, the BGN has received 10 new name and name change proposals that appear to meet the minimum requirements for review:

- new name Bryant Creek, CO
 - for Greg Ernest Bryant (1957-2011), a Colorado hydrologist who helped develop the USGS National Hydrography Dataset)
 - originally proposed as Greg Bryant Creek, proponent amended name when asked why the full name should be used per the [Commemorative Names Policy](#) and the [Long Names Policy](#))
- new name Ruffner Mountain, AL
 - To make official a name in local use for a section of a ridge named [Red Mountain](#)
- change [Heavy Liquor Pond](#) to Effluent Equalization Basin, GA
 - to bring federal use in agreement with paper plant use
- new names Overlook Knob and Siltstone Knob, KY
 - named for the rocks that make up the summits
 - proponent has several other pending proposals, so these will not be processed at this time
- new name Loch Psywrn, WV
 - “Loch” due to Scottish and Irish settlement of Appalachia and presence of features named “Loch” in 21 states; “Psywrn” from a combination of “Poseidon” and “Rune” all together meaning “powerful water of magical significance”
- new name Ramsey Reservoir, OR
 - to name a feature used for fire fighting water and diving training operated as Ramsey Reservoir, LLC
- new name War Creek, KY
 - More details to follow.
- new name Riggs Ridge, NV

- change [Baken Creek](#) to Baker Run, PA
 - to restore correct spelling and historical form of name; proponent is more interested in the spelling change than the feature generic change
- change [Negro Islands](#) to Wewətanagok, ME
 - from the Penobscot Nation's Director of Cultural and Historic Preservation
 - Penobscot meaning “at the place where they come together, converge,” a reference to the two islands’ connection at low tide
 - counterproposal to Bagaduce Islands (Review List 441) and Meguntic Islands (Review List 450); proposed changes to each of the individual islands not yet voted on
- new names Eagle Island and Little Loon Island, MI
 - named for local wildlife and to name the only unnamed islands in Grand Lake
- new name Walnut Hill Pond, NY
 - named for an adjacent road
- new name Bertoch Peak, UT
 - named for local homesteader James Bertoch (1838-1924)
- new name Ticotin Pond, NY
 - named for landowner Abraham Ticotin (1931-2020)
- new name Wolfman Island, OR
 - named for local legend of howling heard here and a person sometimes seen on the island
- new name Lossing Spring, MO
 - named for nearby resident Audrey Nadine Lossing (1922-2010)
- change [Trune Lake](#) to Lake Taube, MI
 - named for landowner Gustave Arvid Taube (1915-1978)
- new name Mount Casella, VT

- a local name for a landfill summit named in reference for the Casella company that operates it
- new name Dilly Creek, IA
 - named for landowner Maxine Lucille Dilly (1930-2003)
- change [Mount Woodring](#) to Mount Liberty, WY
 - counterproposal to Raven Peak and Equality Peak (both still pending)
 - WY SNA declined to review this proposal and recommended Equality Peak

The following proposals on a review list or pending for an upcoming review list were amended:

- Morden Creek (Review List 457) to Morden Run after SNA feedback
- Takolo Fala Upi Creek (Review List 457) to Takolo Fala Upi Creek after BGN member research

The following proposals were withdrawn by the proponent:

- new name Little Bear Mountain, CO (not on a review list)
- new name Ramsey Reservoir, OR (not on a review list)

The following proposals were received but not accepted for consideration:

- change the name of the United States of America to Western Russian Union
- new name Roughen Ridge, CO
 - named for rough land and for the current landowner; [Commemorative Names Policy](#)

The following proposals were received but require more information to determine if they are complete proposals that appear to meet the minimum requirements for review:

- new name La Madre Foothills, NV
 - the [Nevada State Board on Geographic Names](#) recommends that the BGN approve the name once BGN staff works with the proponent to define a natural feature that is not a bounded administrative area and the proponent provides an overriding need to name an officially unnamed feature that is party in a federal wilderness; [Domestic Geographic Names Principles](#), [Wilderness Area Geographic Names Policy](#)

- change Wabash River to Indiana River, IL, IN, OH
 - to be consistent with the kind of naming done by [Executive Order 14172](#)
- new name Shaw Creek, TX
 - named for Shaw family but no individual noted for the [Commemorative Names Policy](#)
- new name Redfords Cove, FL; no meaning or significance provided for name and it appears to be a name under the [Commemorative Names Policy](#)
- new name Robbins Creek, NC
 - named for Robbins family but no individual noted for the [Commemorative Names Policy](#)
- change [Opal Hill](#) to Nixon Ranch, CA
 - landowners would like to change the name to eliminate trespassing
- new name Fenneltown, PA
 - historical settlement, unclear if it still exists
- new name Stanton Creek, SC
 - named for Stanton family but no individual noted for the [Commemorative Names Policy](#)

The following public inquiries were received:

- From the proponent of the change from Hindman Creek to [Heeb Creek](#), MO, asking which DNC members opposed or abstained from voting on the change; the proponent was “disturbed that some members of the Domestic Names Committee turned the meeting into a referendum on whether my family surname was offensive and appropriate for public usage, because a homonym is an antiquated slur.”
 - Zahniser replied to clarify the due diligence BGN aims for with respect to the Policies and the way votes are recorded without noting which members voted in which way
- From an individual “trying to find information on naming a pond on a property that is unnamed owned by a family member.”
 - O’Donnell shared details about the proposal process
- From a Florida resident objecting to the official name [Jewfish Basin](#), a bay in the Florida

Keys in Monroe County Florida

- O'Donnell shared details about the proposal process
- From a proponent of a change to the name of Gulf of America asking when, if ever, the BGN would decide to review proposals to change names established by Executive Order.
- One individual asking for the proposal form.
- One individual asking for a mountain to name after themselves.
- An archeologist asking for benchmark details from a 24k quad to help research the location of a cemetery.
 - O'Donnell referred them to tnm_help.
- The proponent of the change from [Suicide Peaks](#) to Yuyanq' Ch'ex (BGN 2022) asking when Chugach State Park would update their maps.
 - O'Donnell referred them to the AK SNA.
- One individual asking about the official process to change the name of the Gulf of America.
- A follow-up on a prior submission to name a high point on Interstate 8 in San Diego County as Carpenter Summit. This was not review listed due to confusion about the feature type.
- Lake County responses on the Kilkenny Valley proposal (still pending) and the Benny Hill proposal (BGN did not approve), from a Kelseyville resident opposed to the Konocti proposal (still pending)
 - Zahniser shared the county recommendations.
- One individual asking about renaming part of a stream in TN
- One individual asking for the BGN minutes for the meeting where Rincon Valley was changed to Hatch Valley, NM.
- Two inquiries from HR Systems Support - Administrative Resource Center (ARC), Bureau of the Fiscal Service, U.S. Department of the Treasury to update GNIS Populated Place entries to add a county to the record
 - Requests related to ZIP codes that have the same name as a populated place, but extending into neighboring counties
 - Referred to GNIS and tnm_help
- An inquiry from the WA SNA staff about BGN purview over named of bounded managed forest areas.
- From a National Speleological Society member and author asking if a cave passage name in Mammoth Cave should include a possessive apostrophe or not.
- From the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, asking for information about proposals that were submitted to the AK SNA but not approved by them; BGN does not vote on proposals submitted only to AK SNA that they do not approve.
- One individual asking how to change the name of Hall Lake, MI to honor their dog who recently died.
- A graduate student asking for all DNC minutes from 2019 and 2020 for research for a

thesis on the history of place name changes in the US and California.

The following media inquiries were received:

- From an *E&E News* reporter asking for information on Section 2 of [Executive Order 14172](#)
- From the same *E&E News* reporter asking to attend the March DNC meeting
- From a University of Southern Mississippi School of Media and Communication student asking for information on any proposed changes to the name of the Mississippi River
 - O'Donnell provided information to the USGS Office of Communications and Publishing that there have been no proposals received to do this
- From an *Adirondack Explorer* reporter asking why GNIS was not available on Monday March 17, 2025
 - Rolla services were offline due to a tornado a few days before; O'Donnell forwarded the request from USGS Office of Communications and Publishing to Decker for a GNIS response
- From a Washington, D.C.-based journalist asking for follow up on some emails received through a FOIA request about [Executive Order 14172](#)
 - The USGS Director's office is tracking the request
- From a *Cowboy State Daily* reporter "writing a story about Yellowstone place names and was wondering if someone at the USBGN would be available to answer some questions about the process of naming features in Yellowstone National Park. I'd also like to know the "newest" name in Yellowstone, according to the USBGN's records."
 - O'Donnell provided information to the USGS Office of Communications and Publishing
 - Published article: [There Hasn't Been A New Name In Yellowstone In 25 Years \(And May Never Happen Again\)](#)

The BGN hosted State Names Authority (SNA) Office Hours on March 24. Six states attended (Alaska, California, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Washington).

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.

BGN staff received public comments and inquiries about [Executive Order 14172](#).

DNC Quarterly Review List 459 was posted on April 16 with 35 proposals.

The Idaho Geospatial Committee Executive Council invited O'Donnell to their 20 March meeting to present information about the BGN proposal process.

BGN staff met with the new Indiana names contact on 26 March to provide an introduction to the process and expectations from the state names advisor.

Hays County, Texas, sent an email to BGN staff asking if the process to officially name tributaries could be expedited to meet the reported needs of the Federal Emergency Response Agency (FEMA) Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) process:

In the past few years we have been told that FEMA would like all tributaries to be named when they are reviewing LOMR applications. They no longer will accept Tributary 1.1, Tributary 1-A, etc. etc. . . .

We receive a lot of pushback from engineers that are submitting LOMR applications to FEMA that their application to FEMA will become VOID based on the time periods to get new streams and tributaries named. Hays County is fine with any proposed names as long as they are not numerical or alphabetical and there are no duplicate names of geographic features within the boundary of this county. To our knowledge, there are no locally recognized Indian Tribes within the county. How can we expedite the approval of new names and have BGN content with these changes? Any assistance or additional explanations that you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
DOCKET
May 2025**

Unless otherwise specified, in accordance with the BGN's Policy 10: Tribal Geographic Names, a link to the Quarterly Review List containing each proposal was sent to all federally recognized Tribes, and to Tribal Historic Preservation Officers for which an email address was available. The Tribal authorities were given 60 days to comment on any proposal. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the Quapaw Nation Historic Preservation Office responded to the notice for Review List 456, stating that they had no opinion on any of the proposals. 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 **Bocco Mountain** (FID [175877](#)) to **Booco Mountain**, Colorado
(Bureau of Land Management land)

[39.7207145, -106.7023533](#)

Local government	Eagle County Commissioners	Support*
State Names Authority	Colorado Geographic Names Advisory Board	Support
Federal Agency	Bureau of Land Management	Support
Other	Eagle County Historical Society	Support*

* Provided 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

A member of the Booco family requested that the spelling of **Bocco Mountain** be corrected to **Booco Mountain**. Evidence has confirmed that the summit was named for the Booco family, who settled in the area in the 1870s. The proponent provided a photo from the catalog of the Eagle County Historical Society captioned "Billy Booco and sons 1960" and with the accompanying text:

The Booco family certainly was a pioneer family of Colorado; they settled on the Western Slope in 1878 The family settled on the Eagle River and a small town sprang up around them which residents were soon calling Booco, the name later changed to Minturn. [The]

Boocos sold their holdings in 1887 to the Rio Grande Railroad who needed the land for a division point.

A 2018 Vail Daily article reported on the local history of the Booco family, who lived in Minturn and later in Wolcott, near Bocco Mountain it included an editor's note: "'Booco' is the correct name for the wildfire recently north of Wolcott. Some years ago, somebody changed the spelling on a USGS map, hence the 'Bocco' misspelling. If you look in property records, the 'Booco' subdivision in Minturn is spelled correctly."

A search of online genealogy records confirms that many individuals named Booco have resided in Eagle County since the late 19th century, including Ettie Belle Booco (married in Eagle County in 1888); Benjamin Booco (d. 1923), and Isaac Booco, who acquired 160 acres in 1930. Several records list Bocco as an alternate spelling (along with Bucko, Bucks, and Bosco), while a General Land Office record for Jack Bocco (0.41 acres granted in 1957) appears to be a transcription error for Booco.

Bocco Mountain has been labeled on USGS topographic maps since 1962. Field notes did not provide any information about why that spelling was recorded.

When initially asked to provide a recommendation on the proposal, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) asked for more time until they held an already-planned consultation with a Tribe that has an interest in the area. After the consultation, they reported "BLM's consultation with the Ute tribe did not result in any feedback on the name change. As a result, BLM supports correcting the error and changing the name of Bocco Mountain to Booco Mountain."

The Eagle County Commissioners support the correction and reported that they "reviewed several sources of information and verified our sources with the Eagle County Historical Society. Our research confirms Booco is the correct spelling."

Change **Mendi Gore** (FID [2832450](#)) to **Mendi Gorri**,
change **Mendi Gori Posue** (FID [1163955](#)) to **Mendi Gorri Putzua**, and
change **Mendi Suri** (FID [1157788](#)) to **Mendi Zuri**, Oregon
(Bureau of Land Management land)

Mendi Gorri: [42.4156, -117.83086](#)

Mendi Gorri Putzua: [42.4262716, -117.8107009](#)

Mendi Zuri: [42.0980575, -117.8772152](#)

Local government	Malheur County Court	
State Names Authority	Oregon Geographic Names Board	Support
Federal agency	Bureau of Land Management	No objection
Other	Director of Center for Basque Studies, University of Nevada, Reno	Support

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

The President of the Oregon Geographic Names Board submitted a proposal to correct the spelling of three Basque-language place names in Malheur County. The correction was based on an entry in Lewis A. McArthur's *Oregon Geographic Names* which reported the correct spelling according to a local Basque speaker.

DNC staff asked for input from the Director of the Center for Basque Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno who confirmed the correct spellings now proposed by the proponent. The Director reported that

- mendi means "mountain"
- gorri means "red"
- putzua means "well"
- zuri means "white"

Mendi Gorri Putzua is labeled on USGS maps as a natural feature, not a well. Other sources suggest the name refers to an area of intermittent standing water.

The Malheur County Court reported that they "conferred with our local Basque community regarding the proposed revisions and confirmed that they are correct and should be revised."

Review Lists 441 and 450

Change **Lower Negro Island** (FID [570524](#)) to **Lower Bagaduce Island** or **Emanuel Island** and change **Upper Negro Island** (FID [577637](#)) to **Upper Bagaduce Island** or **Esther Island**, Maine
Lower Bagaduce Island or **Emanuel Island**: [44.4053545, -68.7714183](#)
Upper Bagaduce Island or **Esther Island**: [44.4081322, -68.770585](#)

Lower Bagaduce Island and Upper Bagaduce Island (Review List 441):

Local government	Castine Town Selectboard	Opposed
	Hancock County Commissioners	No opinion
State Names Authority	Maine State Names Advisor	Opposed
Federal	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration	No opinion
	USCG Sector Northern New England	No objection*
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Castine Friends	Opposed
	Owner of upper island	Opposed

	Penobscot Bay and River Pilots Association	No objection*
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* contacted by NOAA

Emanuel Island and Esther Island (Review List 450):

Local government	Castine Town Selectboard [proponent]	Support
	Hancock County Commissioners	No opinion
State Names Authority	Maine State Names Advisor	Support
Federal	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration	No opinion
	USCG Sector Northern New England	No objection*
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Castine Friends	Opposed
	Owner of upper island	Support
	Penobscot Bay and River Pilots Association	No objection*

* contacted by NOAA

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

These proposals are to change the official names of two islands in the Bagaduce River in the Town of Castine, Hancock County. (The pair of islands has a collective name, Negro Islands, that is official for Federal use; there are two related proposals to change this name on a DNC Quarterly Review List and one that will be posted on the April 2025 Quarterly Review List.)

Lower Negro Island is a public preserve owned by Maine Coast Heritage Trust and is listed on the Maine Island Trail. Upper Negro Island is privately owned.

In July 2020, a Town of Penobscot, Hancock County resident, submitted a proposal to replace the word “negro” in the three related names with “Bagaduce” based on their location in the Bagaduce River:

- Lower Negro Island to Lower Bagaduce Island
- Upper Negro Island to Upper Bagaduce Island
- Negro Islands to Bagaduce Islands

In November 2022, the Town of Castine submitted names selected by the Town’s Island Name Change Committee and voted on by Town residents:

- Lower Negro Island to Emanuel Island
- Upper Negro Island to Esther Island
- Negro Islands to Meguntic Islands

Emanuel and Esther are the names of two of the earliest known individuals of African descent recorded in Castine. Meguntic is an Abenaki word that reportedly means a smooth area of water within rougher water, or a “smooth area in choppy waters” and reflects the river at this location and the Native history of the area.

In March 2025, the Penobscot Nation’s Director of Cultural and Historic Preservation proposed:

- Negro Islands to Wewətanagok

Wewətanagok is Penobscot meaning “at the place where they come together, converge,” a reference to the islands’ connection at low tide. This name was proposed after local interested parties had concerns that “Meguntic” was not an authentic Penobscot word and that the Town of Castine proposed that name without any input from the Penobscot Nation or other federally recognized Tribes. This proposed change will be included on the DNC’s April 2025 Quarterly Review List.

History of current official names

USGS maps applied the name Negro Islands between 1902 and 1943; the islands were labeled individually beginning in 1973. The collective name first appeared on Office of Coast Survey (OCS) charts in 1881. It was incorrectly entered into GNIS as Negro Island; this name appeared on OCS charts after 2000 and on USGS maps after 2011. The Maine Coastal Island Registry lists both islands.

The volume *History of Castine, Penobscot, and Brooksville, Maine* (Wheeler, 1875) used the more pejorative form of the name without applying names to the individual islands. The author wrote in a footnote: “Is it not possible that the name of these islands is derived from the ‘Negew,’ over which Edward Naylor had command, in 1662? There is no satisfactory tradition to account for the name of these islands.” In 1970, Phillip Rutherford repeated this supposition as fact in *The Dictionary of Maine Place-Names* by reporting the name as Nego Island, explaining “For the ‘Negew,’ ship commanded by Edward Naylor, 1662.” No connection could be found between the islands and the ship, which operated primarily in the nearby Penobscot River.

Lower Bagaduce Island and Upper Negro Island proposal details

The proponent stated that the names contained “racial slur[s]” “[o]n Google Maps and Town of Castine tax maps” and that “all other islands in the Bagaduce River drainage have existing names that do not contain the word ‘Bagaduce.’ Therefore, the recommended name will not have a local conflict.”

When asked about the Town of Castine’s proposed changes, the proponent said that they had only wished to start the process of changing the name, would be fine with any appropriate change, and did not want to withdraw their proposals from BGN consideration in case the BGN did not approve the Town’s names.

Emanuel Island and Esther Island proposal details

The proposed names were the result of a binding survey issued to voters in November 2022; the Town had engaged in a lengthy process to determine if the existing names should be changed, and then what the replacements should be.

Emanuel and Esther are the names of two of the earliest known individuals of African descent recorded in Castine. They were likely enslaved. Their names were recorded in an account book kept by Colonel Gabriel Johonnot from 1785 to 1790, “showing names, occupations, and places of residence of those with whom he had business” (printed in *The Bangor [Maine] Historical Magazine*, Volume I, No. IV, October 1885 as “Castine and Penobscot Names, Etc.”):

- “Matthias Rich, merchant, wife and ‘girl Esther.’”
- “Richard Hunnewell, trader, and negro man Emanuel.”

When asked to comment on the original proposal, which was to replace the word “Negro” with “Bagaduce,” in reference to the river where the islands are located, the Town decided to add the question to the May 2021 Town Warrant. By a vote of 44 to 33, the matter of changing the existing names was approved. The Town then established an Island Name Change Committee (INCC) “to conduct exhaustive research and community outreach.” The INCC’s voting members included a representative of the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, which owns Lower Negro Island, and the owner of Upper Negro Island. The Director of the Castine Historical Society served as the historical advisor. The committee was charged with the task of generating new suggested names to be considered by the Selectboard and, pending their approval, placed on the Town ballot at the November 2021 election.

A request by a town resident to delay the decision resulted in a deferral until August 2022. The community was asked to vote on the matter in November 2022, with one of the options being “none of the above,” which if selected by a majority of voters, would mean that the Town would officially take no opinion. The Town Manager commented that the INCC “met for over 15 months, held over 30 public mtgs, etc. which were open to the public for anyone to participate, give input and present additional options.”

In proposing the names Emanuel Island and Esther Island, the INCC noted “Historians have found no conclusive origin for the name. But [we] didn’t want to erase the islands’ connection with African Americans, no matter how hazy the association.” The local historian confirmed that “the local lore that it was part of the Underground Railroad is a myth. The name predated and had no connection to the network of secret routes and safe havens used to get enslaved African-Americans to free states and Canada. Castine also wasn’t a hotbed for abolition and the town had ties with the Southern slave economy and cotton trade — something that was typical of many Maine coastal towns with industries on the ocean.”

Other comments

One local resident, who represents a group called Castine Friends, has expressed concerns regarding the Town's actions. He noted the low turnout, primarily because the vote was conducted when most property owners were away. He believes the change would "hide local history," adding

There is historical reference to the island being used by British Loyalists to shelter Negro Loyalists during the winter of 1783-84 when they were bound from New York City to Nova Scotia. They were on one of the last vessels to evacuate British forces and civilian Loyalists from NYC in November 1783. They were either British Army civilian workers or members of the British military unit called the Black Pioneers.

His own survey showed that "most Castine residents do not want to change the name." He also cited recorded deeds with the name Negro Island dating back to 1785 and suggests a change would lead to confusion.

An individual who owned Lower Negro Island for 50 years reports that he was always told "the island was a dropoff point for escaped Negro slaves, who would be hidden in the cellar of the house and by stealth picked up and transported to Canada. If nothing else, long periods of customary use should be sufficient to preserve the name."

Lower Negro Island was donated to the Maine Coast Heritage Trust in 2014, and according to its land steward, "conversations about the name started pretty much right out of the gate . . . throughout this whole process, we've been actively listening and seeking feedback."

Another local resident noted that the BGN had changed all occurrences of the N___ word to "Negro" in 1967 [sic] and therefore "there is nothing wrong with it."

The vice chair of the INCC reported that he had spoken with a Penobscot Nation elder who commended Castine for going through the process of making the change, but they "did not want to be involved or have the task of putting suggestions for changes onto them."

Review List 450

New name **Salamander Creek**, California

Mouth: [40.931489, -124.081118](#) / Source: [40.919459, -124.064596](#)

Local government	Humboldt County Board of Supervisors	Support
State Names Authority	California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names	Opposed
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy 10	No response

Other	Environmental Protection Information Center*	Support
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* likely obtained by proponent

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

The new name Salamander Creek is proposed for an unnamed 1.25-mile-long tributary of Mill Creek near McKinleyville in Humboldt County.

The proponent owns property through which the stream flows, and states that he wishes to “pay homage to the Pacific Coastal Giant Salamander . . . [which are] native to the region [and] are often found in the cool clear waters of the creek.”

In researching the proposal, it was discovered that in the fall of 2022, California Water Boards sent the proponent two Notices of Violation for “recent tree and stump clearing and grading, without permits, and in a manner that threatens water quality,” including deterioration of amphibian habitat along the stream. The first notice noted that a large mound on the property “was recently constructed reportedly to build a largescale mound feature in the shape of a salamander.”

When asked to address the issue, the proponent clarified that he assumed he was in compliance with the State’s new (effective January 1, 2023) fire suppression regulations, which require that superfluous flammable material and debris be removed from around homes. He believed that clearing the property would be an appropriate way to address that need. With regard to the use of the disposed material, he referred to:

The individual spiritual significance of the Salamander effigy mound and other land art features at Salamander Ranch.

[We are] descendants of people indigenous to North America, [whose] culture has emphasized harmony with nature, endurance of suffering, respect, and non-interference toward others. During the Summer of 2022, [we] experienced a spiritual moment during deep meditative prayer at the site of the Salamander effigy mound. During this religious experience, a Salamander Spirit Guide came to [the proponent] and presented a vision of a mound rising from the Earth in the shape of a Salamander, emerging from the creek. The Salamander is a native species to the parcel.

The Spirit Guide presented a vision that this [mound] would one day be a place where spiritual rituals such as prayer circles, rites of passage such as celebrations of birth,

funeral ceremonies, celebrations of harvest and unions of holy matrimony and other spiritual ceremonies would take place there.

The proponent proceeded to create the effigy mound, adding:

On several occurrences during site visits, investigators from county, state, and federal agencies have openly verbally mocked, belittled, and openly disregarded any religious and spiritual significance when explaining to investigators the creation of the Salamander effigy mound.

The First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States outlines clear protections to freedom of religion. We hold a deep reverence for this land and have to this date complied with full transparency and communication all deadlines for the development, implementation, and completion of all plans related to the stabilization and remediation of the land.

He indicated he is hoping to develop the site into a park, with a sculpture garden and walking paths. He stated that there was no commercial enterprise related to “Salamander Ranch.”

The Klamath River Advocate with the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC), which “works to protect and restore ancient forests, watersheds, coastal estuaries, and native species in Northern California,” submitted a letter of support, “provided that any tribes with ancestral ties to the land are consulted and are not in opposition.”

The California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names recommends that the name not be approved citing “[n]o compelling reason to adopt the name” as well as a lack of input from “potentially affected California Native American tribes” and from other landowners along the stream.

At its December 12, 2024 meeting, the DNC deferred a vote on the proposal and instructed DNC staff to ask CACGN to clarify their recommendation to not change the name. DNC staff asked the following questions based on DNC member discussion; CACGN answers are indicated:

- Does the state of California have any concerns and/or evidence about the proposal being related to a commercial name?

This is related to the proponent's mention of calling the property "Salamander Ranch" and plans to develop the site into a park, with a sculpture garden and walking paths. Please see the Commercial Names Policy which states that "The BGN will usually reject a proposed name when the primary purpose of the name is construed to promote a commercial product or enterprise.

- CACGN's Response: "The decision to recommend disapproval of 'Salamander Creek' to the BGN was not influenced by concerns regarding any commercial relation of the proposed name."

- Was the state's rejection influenced by the Notices of Violation sent by the California Water Boards to the proponent?
 - CACGN's Response: "CACGN's recommendation to disapprove the proposed name was not influenced by the Notices of Violation sent by the California Water Boards to the proponent."
- Had the individual simply said, "I like salamanders that live in the creek" would the state have any compelling reason not to approve the name?

Members wondered what "No compelling reason to adopt the name" meant specifically given that the Humboldt County Commissioners supported the name.

- CACGN's Response: "CACGN closely considers local input including that of Boards of Supervisors/County Commissioners as well as the general public. In this instance, though the Humboldt County Commissioners supported the name, all input received from neighbors (6 in total) was in opposition to the proposed name. In addition, any salamander habitat that previously existed had been destroyed, as is CACGN's understanding, in part by the owner who had conducted clear cutting which caused damage to the water system. Hence, there was no compelling reason to recommend approval of the proposed name."

Review List 453

New name **Anne des Cadeaux Bayou**, Louisiana

Mouth: [31.71697, -93.30397](#) / Source: [31.71225, -93.28014](#)

Local government	Natchitoches Parish Council	No response
State Names Authority	Louisiana Names Committee	No objection
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Caddo Nation of Oklahoma	No response
	The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma	No objection
Other	Dr. Mark Hyoung Choi, Secretary, Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society	Support*
	direct lineal descendant of Anne-Marie Breville des Cadeaux (Anne des Cadeaux)" and "member of the Adai Caddo Indian Nation [not federally recognized]"	Support*
	Louisiana resident	Support*

* obtained by proponent

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

This is the first of three proposals submitted by the [Brevelle Conservation Trust](#) to make official names for streams in Natchitoches Parish and Sabine Parish.

The name Anne des Cadeaux Bayou is proposed for a 2.2-mile-long tributary of Winn Creek in Natchitoches Parish. The stream is entirely on private lands with multiple landowners. The proponent reports that the stream has been “locally known as Anne des Cadeaux Bayou . . . for generations,” and that it commemorates Anne-Marie Brevelle des Cadeaux (ca.1720-ca.1754), who was “the most well-documented Caddo Indian woman in Louisiana history.” He adds:

Anne was born in the Adai Caddo village [now part of [Los Adaes State Historic Site](#)] located on the banks of the stream. . . .

Unlike many other ‘marriages’ between the founding French settlers and Native American women, Anne was baptised [sic] and married in the Catholic Church. In 1736, the Catholic Registry of Natchitoches, the oldest registry and the oldest town in Louisiana, records her baptism and marriage to French soldier, Jean Baptiste Brevelle. Brevelle was one of the original soldiers and settlers of Ft. St. Jean de Baptiste (Natchitoches).

Anne earned the respect of the French settlement. Her godparents came from the prestigious St. Denis household (Founder of Natchitoches). She became a prominent member of the community. So much so that her children, although being halfbreeds [sic], were recognized as citizens. Her children were some of the very first documented Creole, metis [sic], and half Native Americans in Louisiana history.

Her son [Jean Baptiste Brevelle II] married into the wealthiest family in the colony, an incredible feat for a halfbreed [sic] that easily could have been categorized as a slave. He would later go on to serve as a translator and arbitrator on behalf of the French and Spanish governments and local tribes thanks to his mother Anne teaching him the Caddo language and customs. Anne forever has shaped the history of Louisiana and the United States.

The proponent provided a scan of the 1736 baptismal records of Anne and her son, and a letter of support from Robert Brevelle (who proposed the name [Brevelle Lake](#) in Red River County, Texas, to honor Jean Baptiste Brevelle; the BGN approved this name in August 2023). Robert Brevelle wrote:

I am a direct lineal descendant of Anne-Marie Brevelle des Cadeaux (Anne des Cadeaux).
I am a member of the Adai Caddo Indian Nation, which is the tribe Anne belonged to.

I affirm that the unnamed stream feature on the attached USGS map is locally known as Anne des Cadeaux Bayou and has been in local use for many generations. . . .

Our extended family has met on a hilltop near the bank of Anne des Cadeaux Bayou off Highway 485 on an annual basis (Mother's Day) to commemorate her and our other ancestors. We follow this with a visit and maintenance of St. Anne's Cemetery located a few miles north on Lake Cemetery Road This private cemetery contains the gravesites of generations of Adai Caddo Indians, many of whom are Anne's descendants. My father and grandfather regularly spoke of these events during the "horse and carriage days," which goes back over 100 years.

Just a few hundred feet from Anne des Cadeaux Bayou is the Los Adeas State Historic Site marking the location of the Adai Caddo Indian village, where Anne was born. It later became a fort and the capital of Texas

I pray that you update the USGS maps to reflect the local use of the name Anne des Cadeaux Bayou. Native American women have received very little recognition for their vast contributions to the founding and development of our country. Anne's story is one of honor, education, family, and community.

The other two proposals from the same applicant are to make official the names Brevelle Branch and Carman Branch for streams in Sabine Parish.

BGN staff received a letter from Dr. Mark Hyoung Choi, Pharm. D., Secretary, Board of Directors of the Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society (LGHS) supporting the proposal and stating:
 Anne des Cadeaux Bayou is a stream located in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana. Based on the information reviewed including documents from local residents and the Adai Caddo Indian Nation of Louisiana, the stream has been locally known and well-documented as Anne des Cadeaux Bayou for many years (at least since the 1940's). Anne des Caddo Bayou is located in the U.S. Census Bureau's Adai Caddo State Designated Tribal Statistical Area (SDTSA).

The proponent provided an email sent by a local Brevelle family member to the Brevelle Conservation Trust stating:

My name is Herman Brevelle. I am 82 years old and have been a resident of the State of Louisiana my entire life. I verify that the bayou that cuts across Highway 485 and runs along the north side of Highway 6 by Robeline is known as Anne des Cadeaux Bayou. It's been known by that name my entire life and then some. Your Natchitoches Parish maps should be fixed.

A Research Coordinator / GIS Specialist with The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Historic Preservation Department initially proposed the name Haiyowvni Okla Bayuk, which translates to "Cutworm People Bayou," on behalf of The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. After sharing

further details about the Anne des Cadeaux Bayou, the Research Coordinator / GIS Specialist withdrew the proposal, stating:

After review I think the proposed name is a wonderful addition to commemorating Anne-Marie Brevelle des Cadeaux. . . .

While ancestors of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma people did have a presence in this area of Louisiana, the Choctaw Nation recognizes this to be the ancestral lands of the Caddo people. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma will defer the naming of this bayou to that of the Caddo Nation and its descendant communities.

The proponent also proposed the names Brevelle Branch and Carman Branch in Sabine Parish; the BGN approved the name Carman Branch at its March 13, 2025 meeting.

At its March 13, 2025 meeting, the DNC deferred a decision on the proposal to name Anne de Cadeaux Bayou (and the related proposal below to name Brevelle Bayou) after learning that the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) emailed a letter objecting to two proposals on Review List 458 that had been submitted by the non-federally recognized Adai Caddo Indian Nation. Because Anne de Cadeaux and Jean Baptiste Brevelle II were Caddo, the BGN deputy member from the USGS Office of Tribal Relations advised DNC staff to ask the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma THPO if they wished to comment on the proposal. The THPO did not reply.

New name **Brevelle Branch**, Louisiana

Mouth: [31.31789, -93.50736](#) / Source: [31.31536, -93.47792](#)

Local government	Sabine Parish Police Jury	No response
State Names Authority	Louisiana Names Committee	No objection
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Caddo Nation of Oklahoma	No response
Other	Dr. Mark Hyoung Choi, Secretary, Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society	Support*
	Emma Lamoc, Director, TCB Farm and Timber LLC	Support*
	Coontrail Properties LLC	Support*
	Adai Caddo Indian Nation (not federally recognized)	Support*

* obtained by proponent

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

Wilderness Area	Variant	Animal
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This proposal is to make official the name Brevelle Branch, reported to be in local use for a 2.8-mile-long tributary of Bayou Toro in Sabine Parish. The stream is entirely on private lands with multiple landowners.

The proponent, associated with [Brevelle Conservation Trust](#), reports that the stream has been “locally known as Brevelle Branch . . . for as long as anyone can remember. The local hunters refer to this stream, the nearby ATV trail, and the old hunting blind that overlooks the stream all by the same name (Brevelle).”

The proposal included the following details (minor misspellings corrected):

Jean Baptiste Brevelle II [was] a half-French and half-Native American early explorer of the Louisiana and Texas colonies. Brevelle [was] the son of Jean Baptiste Brevelle of France (one of the original settlers of Natchitoches and Louisiana) and Marie Anne des Cadeaux (Adai Caddo Indian). He was born in a Caddo Indian village on the frontier outside of present-day Natchitoches near this feature’s location.

Brevelle is one of the first settlers [and] one of the first half Native Americans born in the colony, and played a significant role in the establishment of the French and Spanish colonies. Brevelle’s baptism is recorded as the 9th entry in the Catholic registry of Natchitoches, the first and oldest registry in the State. He served as a soldier at Fort St. Jean de Baptiste. He was hired by the French and later the Spanish governments to explore portions of Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. Brevelle, being half Caddo Indian, served as a translator and a Spanish representative charged with settling disputes with Native Americans. [He] regularly led French and Spanish expeditions along the nearby Camino Real in the 1700s.

Brevelle is also one of two local explorers interviewed by the [U.S. Government] after its purchase of Louisiana in 1803. President Jefferson commissioned the interviews and its report to Congress. His travels, expeditions throughout the Spanish territories, maps, and interview are recorded in the Library of Congress (American State Papers, 1808) . . .

Brevelle explored, hunted, trapped, traded with local tribes in this area and along the Sabine River and Toro Bayou, which this feature feeds. . . . He was a commissioned hunter and trapper supplying wild game and other products to the Natchitoches settlement.

The feature should be named after Brevelle for multiple reasons to include the aforementioned importance of this Native American and his impact on this portion of Louisiana.

The proponent provided a letter of support from the Director of TCB Farm & Timber LLC, who wrote:

This letter is to confirm that the stream in Sabine Parish near the town of Florian, Louisiana is locally known as Brevelle Branch. TCB Farm & Timber LLC (TCB) owns approximately 100 acres located along Brevelle Branch and Bayou Toro. Brevelle Branch is situated south of the Viddfer Branch and north of the Carman Branch (North of Highway 473). . . . According to USGS maps, Viddfer Branch is named. However, Brevelle Branch and Carman Branch are not named.

The stream has been known as Brevelle Branch for as long as anyone locally can remember. There is an old trail and hunting structure that follows Brevelle Branch. The local hunters including the hunting club that leases TCB's property all refer to the stream and trail as Brevelle Branch. The term Brevelle Branch is also used in TCB and other local lease agreements and documents to identify this stream.

Sabine Parish's publicly available parcel data shows that the parcel owned by TCB Farm & Timber LLC contains an unnamed tributary of the proposed Brevelle Branch. The proponent initially requested that the entire watershed be named Brevelle Branch, but he was informed that the name would be applied to just the longest branch.

[Isle Brevelle](#) and [Bayou Brevelle](#) in Natchitoches Parish (36 miles northeast of the stream proposed as Brevelle Branch) are also named for Jean Baptiste Brevelle II, who was granted the land that became Isle Brevelle (see [The Forgotten People: Cane River's Creoles of Color](#); Gary B. Mills, 1977).

BGN staff received a letter from Dr. Mark Hyoung Choi, Pharm. D., Secretary, Board of Directors of the Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society (LGHS) stating:

Brevelle Branch is a waterway and tributary of Bayou Toro in Sabine Parish, Louisiana. Based on the information reviewed including legal documents (e.g. timber agreements, hunting and property leases) between local area residents and commercial property owners, the waterway has been locally known and well-documented as Brevelle Branch for many years (at least since the 1960's).

The proponent provided a letter of support from the Adai Caddo Indian Nation (not federally recognized), signed by Mr. Robert Brevelle as "Registered Agent and Advisor to the Tribal Council." The letter states:

We, the Adai Caddo Indian Nation, are in receipt of your request for comment and Tribal consultation regarding the BGN proposal for Brevelle Branch in Sabine Parish, Louisiana.

Jean Baptiste Brevelle II was an Adai Caddo Indian born in 1736 near present-day Robeline, Louisiana.

We have reviewed the proposal and the USGS guidance entitled "Cultural Sensitivity for Native American Names".

We are in support of and agree to the proposal for Breville Branch.

At its March 13, 2025 meeting, the DNC deferred a decision on this proposal; see the Anne de Cadeaux Bayou proposal summary for details.

Review List 454

New name **Mount America**, Pennsylvania

[39.732965, -76.115091](#)

Local government	West Nottingham Township Supervisors	Support*
	Chester County Commissioners [response delegated to Chester County Water Authority]	No opinion
State Names Authority	Pennsylvania Geographic Names Committee	No objection
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Three colleagues of proponent	Support*

* obtained by proponent

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 a name **Mount America** for a 396-foot summit in West Nottingham Township in Chester County. The proponent reports that the name is used by the [Mount America Foundation](#), a non-profit charitable organization that he has operated since approximately 2009 in remembrance of servicemen who have sacrificed for their country. Every Memorial Day, a ceremony is held on the hill, which is also the site of bronze Soldiers Crosses depicting the boots, helmet and weapons of the fallen.

In their letter of support for the name, the West Nottingham Township Supervisors stated, "Through their foundation, [the proponent and his wife] do much to help veterans, active-duty military, and military families."

The Chester County Water Authority replied on behalf of the Chester County Commissioners and stated that the Commissioners wished to defer to the Township.

The Pennsylvania Geographic Names Committee reported that is "has no objections to the proposed name Mount America. We feel it complies with the guidelines specified in the US BGN Principles, Policies, and Procedures. We did not find any historical names associated with the feature in the various maps, surveys, and documents reviewed in our collection."

There is one other summit in the U.S. named “America”: America Hill is a 480-foot hill in Saint John in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Review List 455

New names **Rockfellow Gulch** and **Rockfellow Ridge**, Oregon

(Private / Bureau of Land Management land)

Rockfellow Gulch: Mouth: [42.22763, -122.75698](#) / Source: [42.21034, -122.76762](#)

Rockfellow Ridge: [42.20435, -122.76306](#)

Local government	Jackson County Commissioners	No response*
State Names Authority	Oregon Geographic Names Committee	Support
Federal	Bureau of Land Management	No objection
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Talent Historical Society Board of Directors	Support*
	Southern Oregon Historical Society	Support*
	3 local individuals	Support**

* SNA contacted

** proponent provided

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

The new commemorative names **Rockfellow Gulch** and **Rockfellow Ridge** are proposed for a valley and ridge in Jackson County, between the communities of Talent and Ashland. The proposals were forwarded to the BGN by the Oregon Geographic Names Board on behalf of a former Forest Service employee, who is proposing that the features be named for Albert G. Rockfellow (1825-1915), “an early-day settler who successfully mined for gold at the bottom of the gulch.”

The proponent reports that Rockfellow was among the first White settlers in the Wagner Creek valley; he and his brother established adjacent land claims under terms of the Oregon Donation Land Act of 1850, and the Rockfellow Diggings operation became one of Bear Creek valley’s largest and longest-lasting hydraulic gold mines. Rockfellow was active in Ashland’s Methodist Church and the Pioneer Society of Southern Oregon; his poems and other writings were published in the *Ashland Tidings*.

A small part of the ridge is on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land.

The proposed names were on the November 14, 2024 and December 12, 2024 DNC dockets. The BLM requested deferral in November because more outreach was being done with Tribes with an interest in the area as well as the local BLM office. The BLM requested deferral in December to allow more time for BLM regional Tribal staff to consult with local Tribes, particularly given concerns regarding Rockfellow’s reported involvement in the Rogue River Wars. The BLM regional Tribal staff “reached out to relevant local tribal contacts and did not receive any replies” and the BLM officially has no objection to the proposals.g

Review Lists 455 and 456

New name **Chitch Creek** or **Newcosta Creek**, Michigan

Mouth: [43.39089, -85.53043](#) / Source: [43.32504, -85.58951](#)

Chitch Creek (Review List 455):

Local government	Pierson Township Supervisors (Montcalm County)	No opinion
	Ensley Township Supervisors (Newaygo County)	Support
	Montcalm County Commissioners	No response
	Newaygo County Commissioners	Oppose
State Names Authority	Michigan	No opinion
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

Newcosta Creek (Review List 456):

Local government	Pierson Township Supervisors (Montcalm County)	No opinion
	Ensley Township Supervisors (Newaygo County)	Oppose
	Montcalm County Commissioners	No response
	Newaygo County Commissioners [proponent]	Support
State Names Authority	Michigan	No opinion
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

These two proposals, **Chitch Creek** and **Newcosta Creek**, concern the naming of a 9.2-mile-long stream that flows from the northwest side of Engelwright Lake in Ensley Township, Newaygo

County, through Whitefish Lake and Little Whitefish Lake in Pierson Township, Montcalm County, before entering Tamarack Creek.

The name Chitch Creek was proposed first. According to the proponent, whose family purchased a home along the stream, the name originated from a playful family debate:

Some family members stood firmly behind the claim that the body of water was a 'channel' while others argued that it was a 'ditch.' The argument persisted for weeks. Finally, a settlement was made and the body of water would be formally referred to as the 'Chitch.' The name has informally been used to describe the body of water ever since.

He added,

We believe this body of water deserves a name because it is large enough to be used as a geographic marker for the community. It will help facilitate navigation and communication among the local community.

Newcosta Creek was later submitted as a counterproposal by a Newaygo County Commissioner. The name references Newcosta Avenue, which runs adjacent to the stream. The proponent previously owned property along the feature, during which time she made it "a forest management property to preserve as much as possible the aesthetics of this piece of land (wildlife, nature, trees)."

Stakeholder responses were mixed. Ensley Township supported the original proposal, stating: The first name we received was 'Chitch' [I'm] all for that. I don't understand why the Newaygo County Commissioner would want to change it. . . .

Pierson Township offered no opinion regarding either name, while Montcalm County favored Newcosta Creek. According to the County Administrator:

The only discussion was a tongue and cheek banter about the implied meaning of name [Chitch Creek]. I assume that implied meaning meant Shits Creek, but nothing was verbally said. Therefore, they made a motion and voted on Newcosta Creek. Although, one Commissioner did ask why Newcosta, why not Newcalm or Montwaygo? [. . .]

The Michigan State Names Authority offered no preference for either name, citing a lack of strong consensus among local stakeholders. However, they did not object to the stream being named and noted that Newcosta Creek would be "the more mature option, as opposed to Chitch Creek," adding that they "have seen more ironic name suggestions."

Review List 456

New name Salamander Pond, Utah
(Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest)

[41.7090325, -111.6829281](#)

Local government	Cache County Council	No Objection
State Names Authority	Utah Geographic Names Committee	Support
Federal	U.S. Forest Service	Support
Federally recognized 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

The new name Salamander Pond is proposed for a half-acre pond located in the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Cache County, and approximately 1.15 miles east of Providence Lake and 6.5 miles east of Logan.

The proponent, a resident of Logan County, writes:

The pond is full year round & varies in depth depending on time of year. Pond is home to hundreds of salamanders. My husband & I drove to this location about 3 years ago & saw tons of salamanders swimming in the pond. Ever since then, my family & friends have referred to this pond as 'Salamander Pond.' This pond holds a special place in our hearts & we would be honored to be apart [sic] of naming it.

GNIS lists two features in Utah named Lake Salamander and one named Salamander Lake. The closest is 70 miles to the south.

The Cache County Council Chairman stated that "[the council has no problems] with the new name of Salamander Pond."

The Utah Geographic Names Committee approved the name during their meeting. Of note, one member voted in opposition and noted that "the proposal did not rise to the importance of being on federal maps."

The US Forest Service supports the naming proposal and noted that the unit indicated that the feature is referred to as Adams Corral Pond by permittees.

Review List 457

Change **Cutler Channel** (FID [1989332](#)) to **Deering Bay Channel**, Florida
[25.6276044, -80.2853294](#)

Local government	City of Coral Gables	No response
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	Miami-Dade County Commissioners	Oppose
State Names Authority	Florida State Names Authority	No objection
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Federal agency	NOAA [proponent]	Support
Other	Deering Bay Marina	Support*
	Florida Department of Environmental Protection	Support**

* obtained by NOAA

** contacted by State Names Authority

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

This proposal is to change the name of Cutler Channel in Biscayne Bay in Miami-Dade County to Deering Bay Channel. The feature is a private channel, approximately 1.3 miles in length. NOAA is proposing the change to reflect the name used by the adjacent Deering Bay Marina, the Royal Harbor Yacht Club, and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Part of the channel passes through the City of Coral Gables, and it also lies entirely within Florida's Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve, managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Cutler Channel has been labeled on NOAA charts since 1968 and was added to GNIS in 2003. The name was not shown on USGS topographic maps prior to the first USTopo map in 2012. The name presumably refers to the nearby unincorporated community of Cutler. The Town of Cutler Bay, incorporated in 2005, is southwest of the channel.

In 1993, at the request of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), the BGN approved the name Deering Bay for the newly developed 220-acre unincorporated community northwest of the channel. NOAA has charted a water feature in this location as "Deering Bay" since 1995.

The name Deering Bay Channel has been used by the USCG since at least 2006 in its Notice to Mariners and is currently included in the USCG Light List. NOAA charts the lights along the channel as "Deering Bay Channel Daybeacon[s]"; these are maintained by the marina. NOAA reports that the Deering Bay Marina was established after 1993.

NOAA currently charts two water features as "Deering Bay": a river and a sea area. The latter is a harbor that serves the Deering Bay Marina and the Royal Harbor Yacht Club and has been labeled on NOAA charts since 1995. The name was recently added to GNIS: [Deering Bay](#).

A channel 9 miles to the north-northeast in the City of Miami has been labeled as Deering Channel on USGS maps since 1947 and on NOAA charts since 1938.

The Florida State Names Authority (SNA) initially asked what would happen to the name of Deering Channel (9 miles to the north-northeast): “I know it is technically ok to have multiple features with the same name, but given the nearness of the ‘other’ Deering Bay Channel [sic], is there a new name for it in the making?” DNC staff replied that there was no proposal to change the name of Deering Channel. The SNA later replied that there was “no issue with changing Cutler Channel to Deering Bay Channel [and that] Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve. . . agree[s] to changing the name to what they agree is used locally.”

The Miami-Dade County Historic Preservation Chief reported that the County opposes the change and that the recommendation was made after internal discussions between the County Mayor’s office, the Miami-Dade County, Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces department, and the Historic Preservation office:

We confirm that the consensus of Miami-Dade County is that Cutler Channel should be retained as the official channel name. This is based on the historic and community context of the surrounding area, which has historically been known as Cutler. In 1991 the Deering Bay Yacht Club and Marina opened, and gradually since that time some people have come to refer to that channel as the Deering Bay Channel. However, Cutler is more fitting from a historical perspective, and a community geography perspective as the area itself (the Town of Cutler Bay) still retains the Cutler name and is known locally as Cutler.

New name **Takolo Fala Upi Creek**, Mississippi

Mouth: [34.15704, -89.4417](#) / Source: [34.13891, -89.45321](#)

Local government	Calhoun County Board of Supervisors	Support
State Names Authority	Mississippi Geographic Names Authority	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy 10	No response

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

The new name Takolo Fala Upi Creek is proposed for a 1.67-mile-long tributary of Otoucalofa Creek in Lafayette County. The proponent, a local resident, seeks to honor the Chickasaw heritage, while reflecting the natural vegetation along the stream’s banks. He states that the name:

is Chickasaw for paw paw. Many native paw paw trees are found along its banks. I'd love to get a Chickasaw expert to make sure the spelling and enunciation are correct and that it does mean paw paw. The whole point is to honor that legacy and get it right. It might come to light that the translation that I have proposed is not correct and at the end of the day, getting it right is the most important thing for me.

The proponent initially proposed the name as "Takola Fala Upi Creek" based on a [blog post](#) from a series on indigenous agriculture which reports that "Takola Fala Upi" is Chickasaw for pawpaw, and notes the historical importance of pawpaw trees among Southeastern Native American tribes, including the Chickasaw:

Ancestors of the Uchee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creeks, and Catawba selectively cultivated pawpaw orchards (aka patches) near their towns. Many other tribes protected wild patches in the woods by clearing away encroaching vegetation.

The pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) was one of the favorite fruits of indigenous peoples in Eastern North America. Its natural range extended from southern Ontario to northern Florida.

The blog does not cite a source showing that "Takola Fala Upi" is Chickasaw for "pawpaw." The Chickasaw Nation's [A Chickasaw Dictionary](#) contains an entry for [takolo fala upi](#) meaning pawpaw. GNIS cannot record italicized characters, but Chickasaw orthography also uses o to represent this sound. Based on advice from the BGN deputy member representing the Office of Tribal Relations, staff asked the proponent if they would agree with the official Chickasaw spelling of the name. The proponent confirmed that they would like the name to be considered by the BGN as Takolo Fala Upi Creek, with a macron below the first "o" in "Takolo."

GNIS does not list any features in the U.S. with "Takolo Fala Upi" in the name.

New name **Guinn Peak**, Nevada
(Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest)

[39.36699, -119.78995](#)

Local government	Washoe County Commissioners	No response*
State Names Authority	Nevada Board on Geographic Names	Support
Federal agency	U.S. Forest Service	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy 10	No response
	Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Nevada	No opinion*
	Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California	No objection*

* contacted by SNA

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

The new commemorative name Guinn Peak is proposed for an officially unnamed 6,178-foot summit in the Steamboat Hills in Washoe County. The summit is the highest point of the Steamboat Hills and the location of a National Geodetic Survey mark called "[Maguire](#)." (National Geodetic Survey marks are not official geographic feature names.)

The Nevada Department of Transportation proposed the name to the Nevada Board on Geographic Names (NBGN) in June, 2024. The NBGN voted to recommend federal approval of the name in November 2024.

The name would commemorate Kenneth Carroll Guinn (1936-2010), the 27th Governor of Nevada. Governor Guinn served from 1999-2007. The proposal reported "[t]he Nevada Department of Transportation believes the naming of the summit would be a fitting tribute to one of Nevada's most effective and popular governors."

The Nevada Department of Transportation wrote a nine-page biography of Governor Guinn highlighting his popularity and achievements:

We have outlined a number of Governor Guinn's accomplishments that in our estimation more than adequately justify the naming of a prominent geographic feature in his honor.

An educator himself, Governor Guinn is well known for his lasting impact on Nevada's education system. However, he also left an important legacy in other areas including transportation, health care, governmental reform, and the environment.

In a letter to the NBGN, U.S. Representative Mark Amodei wrote:

It is my privilege to recommend the naming of a geographic feature in Nevada in honor of a public servant who gave so much to the State and its residents.

I remember working with Governor Guinn on many of the key issues facing Nevadans: from prescription medication costs to transportation improvements. Governor Guinn developed a reputation as an executive who moved mountains to get important reforms passed and worked with members of all political parties. He always put the best interest of Nevadans ahead of politics.

I recently met with the Nevada State Transportation Board, which Governor Guinn once chaired, to encourage support for designating "Kenny C. Guinn Summit," for the high point on the new 580 between Reno and Washoe Valley.

Of course, I quickly found support for this idea within the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), as Governor Guinn's bipartisan legacy is well-known.

Thanks to Governor Guinn, thousands of Nevadans achieve a higher education through the Kenny C. Guinn Millenium Scholarship. Governor Guinn also made the tough decisions to keep Nevada fiscally solvent and cut taxes, returning the money to the people when the economy prospered. Additionally, his work lives on through the Guinn Center - a nonprofit dedicated to bipartisan problem solving.

I encourage you to memorialize a man once named one of the nation's best governors by Time, but more importantly, a friend who cared deeply for Nevadans.

In a letter to the NBGN, the President of the University of Nevada, Reno wrote:
Governor Guinn was a mentor and a dear friend of mine who embodied the best qualities of our state and positively impacted thousands of Nevadans.

Governor Guinn's lifelong career of public service has been felt for generations throughout our great state, notably within the education system and throughout our transportation infrastructure. Kenny saw the importance of these areas and knew that, for Nevada to reach it's potential, substantial investments needed to be made. He was always one to have honest and open conversations about these decisions and included stakeholders from across the state.

I have often said that Governor Guinn belongs "on the Mt. Rushmore of Nevada." This is the next best thing! I fully support this application.

At its November 19, 2024 meeting, the NBGN reported that the Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California did not object to the name and that the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony deferred to the Washoe Tribe.

New name **Morden Run**, Tennessee

Mouth: [35.99344, -84.90115](#) / Source: [35.99972, -84.88931](#)

Local government	Cumberland County Mayor	No opinion
State Names Authority	Tennessee Committee on Geographic Names	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy 10	No response

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

Wilderness Area	Variant	Animal
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The new name Morden Run is proposed for a 0.9-mile-long stream that flows through Fairfield Glade Resort and into the north end of Saint George Lake in Cumberland County. The name was initially proposed as Morden Creek, but the proponent amended the name after feedback from the Tennessee Committee on Geographic Names about the appropriate feature type generic.

The proponent, who owns property along the stream, states:

'Morden' is a combination of the words mór and dūn (derivative of Old English). Mór meaning 'moor' which is a boggy area and dūn meaning hills. The name is meant to describe the area that the feature lies in. 'Creek' is to describe the actual feature as a natural stream of water normally smaller than a river. It is a year-round water source that can perhaps be more specific and accurately telling of the area.

When asked to clarify the spelling (den vs. dun), the proponent explained that she felt "'dun' was less appropriate due to potential negative connotations in slang," adding "'Morden' presents a synonymous and more phonetically accurate spelling based on the language from which the word is derived." She also confirmed that the name is not intended to be commemorative or commercial in nature.

The Cumberland County Mayor in his recommendation stated:

I would only provide support for something such as this if it were for a veteran or someone that has made a substantial contribution to our county in some way. Since this does not appear to be the case, I have no opinion on the naming. I would suggest that you reach out to Fairfield Glade Resort.

The proponent did not reach out to Fairfield Glade Resort for their comment.

The Tennessee Committee on Geographic Names in their formal recommendation preferred an alternative generic. After discussion and a vote, the committee reached a consensus recommendation, which is quoted below:

- Members of the TNCogN approves of the proposed name Morden, but do not agree that the feature should be designated a "creek."
- As shown on historical Dorton Quadrangle 7.5-minute topographic maps (see e.g., Figure 1), prior to the construction of the man-made St. George Lake (formerly Brown Creek Lake), the unnamed stream segment flowed into Polebridge Branch; Polebridge Branch then merged with Bagwell Branch, which flowed into Brown Creek.
- Although St. George Lake interrupts the above-described hydrologic relationships, the committee prefers either of the terms "branch" or "run" for the proposed unnamed stream instead of "creek" for the following reasons:
 - The short 0.9-mile length of the unnamed stream (proposed Morden Creek).

- The historic stream terminology on topographic maps in the region depicts branches as tributaries to creeks and not vice versa.
- According to the DEM currently available on the USGS National Map (see Figure 2), a small drop in the level of St. George Lake would have Morden “creek” flow into Polebridge Branch.
- If in the future St. George Lake was removed completely, then a creek (Morden creek) would flow into a branch (Polebridge Branch), which merges with another branch (Bagwell Branch) that finally has a confluence with a creek (Brown Creek).
- Some TNCoGN members preferred the name Morden Branch and others Morden Run, so a vote was taken in which all 15 members participated.
- The result was: 10 votes for Morden Run and 5 votes for Morden Branch.
- In conclusion the current TNCoGN recommendation regarding Case #6316 is to not support the proposed name Morden Creek and prefers the name Morden Run.

New name **Arch Nemesis**, Utah

(Ashley National Forest /Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, U.S. Forest Service)

[40.90591, -109.53516](#)

Local government	Daggett County Commissioners	Support
State Names Authority	Utah Geographic Names Committee	Support
Federal	U.S. Forest Service	No objection
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Natural Arch and Bridge Society	No objection*

* contacted by Utah Geographic Names Committee

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

The new name Arch Nemesis is proposed for an unnamed arch located in the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area in Daggett County.

The proponent, a resident of Salt Lake City, states “I think Arch Nemesis is a great name considering the indicators of the difficulty one would endure to get anywhere near it.” He added, “Reaching the arch requires either climbing up from the lake’s shoreline or hiking, biking, or riding horseback through the protected Bighorn Sheep Breeding Grounds, which have had limited access since the early 1980s due to vehicle restrictions.”

The Utah Geographic Names Committee recommended approval of the name. However, two members voted against the proposal. Two committee members voted against the proposal

stating that the proposal didn't rise to the importance of being on federal maps. One member expressed concerns that naming the feature officially might increase traffic to the area.

In response to outreach by the Utah Geographic Names Committee, the President of the Natural Arch and Bridge Society confirmed that the arch was undocumented by the Society and stated:

We don't think the proposed name suggests what the applicant states. Rather than implying difficult access, it implies something that opposes arches. Still, [. . .] we respect the tradition of allowing the first person to document an arch to name it, so long as the name is not offensive.

Change **Browns Point** (FID 1463930) to **Norton Point**, Virginia

[37.8454152, -76.7649597](#)

Local government	Essex County Supervisors	No Opinion*
State Names Authority	Virginia Board on Geographic Names	Support
Federal	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration	No opinion
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Essex County Museum and Historical Society	Support*

* 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 **Browns Point**, a cape located along the west shore of the Rappahannock River in Essex County, to **Norton Point**.

The name **Browns Point** has appeared on USGS topographic maps since 1968; although the origin of the name has not been determined, an online search shows many individuals with the surname Brown in the Tappahannock area. The proponent of the change to **Norton Point**, whose family has owned the property since 1950, reports that John Norton (1928-2012) acquired 18 acres (later to become 29 acres), and that the point of land became known locally as **Norton Point**. A nearby road was renamed to Norton Point Road. According to Norton's obituary, he served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and was employed at Washington National Airport as an aircraft mechanic and fuel handler. After relocating to the property in Essex County, he was supervisor of the maintenance department at Tidewater Community Hospital, where he received the Employee of the Year Award in 1986.

The Essex County Administrator stated that while the county would not be issuing a formal recommendation and had no opinion regarding the change, they did not object to the proponent filing a proposal with the BGN.

The Virginia Board on Geographic Names recommends that the BGN approve the name change, stating:

The Virginia Board on Geographic Names has reviewed several charts and maps and other relevant information regarding the Norton Point proposal. The proponent contacted the Essex County Board of Supervisors for their opinion. The Board did not make a recommendation and did not oppose the proposal. The Essex County Museum and Historical Society supports the name change stating that since “this property has been in the Norton family for many years, we support their proposal to change the name.” The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources department and the Virginia Department of Transportation Virginia have no opinion on this matter (the VDWR didn't respond to the VABGN's request for an opinion). Research by Library of Virginia's Senior Map Archivist Cassandra Farrell indicates that by 1968 the feature was known by the name of Browns Point. This name doesn't appear on earlier maps and charts of the area.

The VABGN recommends the USBGN change the name of Browns Point to Norton Point. There is already a local road with this name, the Essex County Board of Supervisors has no opinion, and it is supported by the Essex County Museum and Historical Society. Norton Point appears to be in local use, and it makes sense for maps to be updated with the name that's recognized and used locally.

The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration stated that the agency has no opinion about the name change based on a lack of concern from local stakeholders.