

U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
Eight Hundred and Seventy Fifth Meeting
June 12, 2025 – 2:00 p.m.
(Hybrid Meeting)

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Marielle Black	Department of the Interior (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation)
Dr. Wendi Starr Brown	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs)
Jessica Campbell	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
Tiffany D. (<i>voting in place of Marilyn W.</i>)	Department of Defense (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency)
Thad Ellerbe	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Brenda-Anne (B.C.) Forrest	Government Publishing Office
Andrew G.	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Christopher Hammond	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Elizabeth (Betsy) Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Susan Lyon (<i>not voting</i>)	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)
Paul Stackhouse (<i>not voting</i>)	Department of Homeland Security
Timothy St. Onge	Library of Congress
Alex Stum	Department of Agriculture (Natural Resources Conservation Service)
Dr. Michael Tischler	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
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
Alex Fries, National Park Service
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

Chair Tischler opened the hybrid Meeting 875 of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) at 2:02 p.m. ET. He noted that due to road closures in Washington, DC, related to an upcoming parade, many participants who would typically attend in person at Main Interior were working remotely. He was joined in the Kiowa Room by Patrick Mahoney and Matthew O'Donnell.

Chair Tischler confirmed that the meeting would proceed under the Committee's customary informal meeting rules. All BGN members and deputy members present were invited to vote. Motions would be passed by a simple majority of votes cast by voting members, and abstentions would not be counted for or against. He asked members to speak up if they left the meeting, to ensure an accurate vote count.

Chair Tischler welcomed guests in attendance and reminded all that no public comment period would be held during the meeting. Any questions or comments from non-members should be directed in writing to the DNC staff. For voting members, he encouraged them to raise their hands if they had comments or questions and noted he would recognize speakers in the order hands were raised.

Executive Secretary Zahniser proceeded with the roll call of voting members and deputies. She also reminded attendees that any members of the media should direct questions to the USGS Office of Communications and Publishing, specifically to representative Jason Burton, whose contact information would be shared via the meeting chat.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

Chair Tischler introduced the agenda and proposed one revision. He noted that under "Other Business," the Committee had initially planned to revisit the case regarding To Kalon Creek in Northern California. Due to the high visibility of the case and requests from both interested parties to present remarks to the BGN, the Chair exercised his authority to postpone the discussion until a later meeting, at which time presentations from both parties would be scheduled.

A second revisit originally slated for "Other Business" will remain on today's agenda.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda with the Chair's suggested revision.

3. Minutes of Meeting 874

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

4. Reports

4.1 BGN Chairman (Tischler, Acting Chair)

Acting Chair Tischler reported that he continues to serve as co-chair of a joint expert working group established by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN). The working group recently closed a global questionnaire, issued in January and held open through mid-May, to collect best practices regarding collaboration between national mapping agencies and naming authorities. The response period was extended by two weeks to accommodate additional input, ultimately yielding responses from 74 UN member states.

The working group, which includes representatives from the United States and Indonesia, is currently synthesizing those responses into a report to be presented at the upcoming UN-GGIM meeting in August. Tischler acknowledged the contributions of U.S. agencies, including the U.S. Geological Survey, in preparing the U.S. response, and expressed appreciation for the support received from colleagues involved in the process. He noted that significant differences exist in how countries manage and map geographic names, which presents challenges in identifying universal trends or practices. Nevertheless, the working group aims to deliver a comprehensive draft report in the coming weeks.

Acting Chair Tischler also welcomed two newly appointed representatives from the Department of Homeland Security. Paul Stackhouse will serve as the primary member to the Domestic Names Committee (DNC), while Chris Pratt will serve as the deputy member and focus primarily on the Foreign Names Committee (FNC). Stackhouse briefly introduced himself, noting his background in the private sector and his current role as Senior Advisor in the Office of the Under Secretary of Management at DHS. He expressed interest in learning more about the DNC's work and contributing where possible.

Chair Tischler concluded his remarks by thanking Mr. Stackhouse and reiterating his appreciation for DHS's participation.

4.2 Executive Secretary for Domestic Names (Zahniser)

Executive Secretary Zahniser provided several administrative updates. She began by noting that the FY 2025–2027 appointment process for BGN members and deputies is ongoing. Department of the Interior (DOI) appointments are still under internal vetting, and outreach has begun to confirm non-DOI member designations. The compiled information will be submitted to the Secretary of the Interior as part of the formal appointment package.

Zahniser reviewed recent membership changes and current vacancies. The principal member position for the Department of Commerce remains vacant, though Deputy Members Ellerbe and Wortham are expected to continue in their roles. She reiterated The Department of Homeland Security recently appointed Paul Stackhouse and Chris Pratt as its new primary and deputy members, respectively. Staff will assist with onboarding both representatives.

Following the retirement of Mike Shelton, the DOI now has a deputy vacancy for the National Park Service. A replacement is being identified and will be onboarded once approved. Additionally, the Department of Agriculture is expected to have an upcoming deputy vacancy. There are also preliminary discussions regarding a potential new agency joining the Board, the Department of Transportation, but this remains tentative.

Zahniser reported on progress within DNC sub-working groups. The Sub Committee on Principles (SCOP3), with Bourquein as team lead, is scheduling its first meeting in early July and will begin reviewing the Committee's mission and vision statements. That work will be followed by an assessment of the current principles outlined in the BGN's Principles, Policies, and Procedures (PPP) document. The Policies and Procedures Sub Committees (SCOP1 and SCOP2, respectively) will also begin convening shortly, with scheduling polls forthcoming. Participation from DNC members is strongly encouraged, given the significant effort required for the PPP revision.

Finally, Zahniser reported on the case involving Starbase, Texas. On May 3, 2025, the State of Texas formally approved the incorporation of the City of Starbase, formerly known as Kopernik Shores. On May 22, the U.S. Census Bureau transmitted associated data to the GNIS team, and the populated place record has since been added to the system. As of May 29, the geographic name input has been finalized, and the case is now considered closed, as it no longer falls under the DNC's purview.

Zahniser concluded her report and invited questions from the Committee.

4.3 Executive Secretary for Foreign Names (David D.)

David D. reported that the Foreign Names Committee (FNC) held its 422 meeting virtually on June 10. The Committee approved several updates, including changes to administrative divisions in India, Iraq, Romania, Russia, Timor-Leste, and Turkmenistan. A proposed new conventional name for King Abdullah Canal in Jordan was not approved.

The FNC also reviewed information papers on administrative division updates in Armenia, Belarus, and Georgia. The next meeting (FNC 423) is scheduled for September 9, 2025, with a country policy for Fiji expected to be presented.

David shared that the Geographic Names Database (GNDB) is undergoing production and dissemination system updates. User testing is ongoing, with deployment of both systems

expected in July. The updated interface will be more user-friendly and aligned with other NGA tools. “How-to” videos are available upon request.

GNDB data are current through GENC Standard Edition 3, Update 18, with updates through Update 22 expected soon.

FNC staff virtually attended the 2025 UNGEGN session in New York and continue coordinating with international partners. Two staff will attend a U.S.–U.K. toponymic exchange hosted by the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names in London in September.

Finally, the Department of Defense BGN appointments are nearly finalized, pending NGA Director approval. David welcomed Paul Stackhouse and Chris Pratt (Department of Homeland Security) to the Committee and expressed appreciation for their engagement.

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.

O’Donnell provided brief updates on two pending proposals. The proposal for Xeedo Mountain, commemorating a deceased dog, meets the minimum requirement for commemorative names under current BGN policies, as the honoree has been deceased for more than five years.

O’Donnell also reported that the proponent of Steve Rebello Brook has requested to amend the name to Stevie’s Brook. He noted that the use of apostrophes in geographic names is generally discouraged under BGN policies unless there is a compelling reason.

Both proposals are considered valid under the current Principles, Policies, and Procedures (PPP) and will be placed on a future review list.

4.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (Decker)

Decker reported that updates to GNIS for the newly incorporated Starbase, Texas, have been completed. This effort has prompted internal discussions about reevaluating GNIS feature types and F-codes, particularly for populated places. Currently, all populated places in GNIS default to the “unincorporated” F-code, which does not accurately reflect municipal status. A broader review of F-codes is being planned as part of the FY 2026 GNIS modernization initiative, which will assess whether unused codes can be removed, new ones added, and overall accuracy improved.

Decker also noted ongoing collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). BLM has provided tens of thousands of validated records for Oregon and Washington, which GNIS staff are now ingesting into the system. The effort represents significant time savings and improved data accuracy, and Decker expressed appreciation to the BLM team for their contributions.

She reminded all Federal agencies that concerns about GNIS data can be sent directly to the GNIS team either through the National Map Help Desk or by contacting her directly. For issues that do not require a formal DNC vote, updates can often be made administratively.

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

There was no written report.

Kanalley reported that the committee has not met in several months and is currently working to identify a new meeting schedule, as the previous recurring meeting time now conflicts with the revised Domestic Names Committee calendar. She plans to reach out to past participants to coordinate a new time.

The committee's primary focus moving forward will be exploring ways to improve engagement and input from Federally recognized Tribes, acknowledging challenges such as limited resources and budgets. Additionally, the committee intends to submit a response to the current UNGEGN survey on Indigenous naming practices, which is due by July 11.

5. Docket

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

Not Review Listed

Change **Keka'a Point** (FID [361084](#)) to **Keka'a**, Hawaii

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

Vote: 15 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Pu'uhapapa** (FID [363692](#)) to **Hāpapa**, Hawaii

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

Vote: 15 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Baken Creek** (FID [1198034](#)) to **Baker Run**, Pennsylvania

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

Vote: 15 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change the location/application of **Pine Peak Spring** (FID [1365303](#)), Texas

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed application and location change.

Before the vote, O'Donnell noted that the feature's correct location had been consistently shown on USGS maps and the GNIS entry would be updated accordingly should the proposal be approved.

Vote: 15 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Review Lists 451

New name **Bailey Creek**, North Carolina

O'Donnell clarified in response to a member's query that the proposal honors the proponent's grandmother, Irene Dixon Bailey, and pertains to a previously unnamed stream in Rutherford County.

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

Vote: 14 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

Review List 454

New names **Chulensi Creek**, **Conklin Creek**, **Cremona Creek**, **Edgewood Creek**, **Endsmeet Creek**, **Idro Creek**, **Lyndon Creek**, **Melrose Creek**, Pennsylvania

O'Donnell explained these names originated from a long-standing township project involving local outreach. A motion was made to bundle the names.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the bundled proposed names.

Vote: 14 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

Discussion prior to the vote included a question about minimum length for naming (none required), and a staff clarification that Melrose Country Club closed in December 2024.

Review List 455

New name **Liberty Creek**, Virginia

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

Vote: 15 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

New name **Lubich Run**, Pennsylvania

Bourquein reported no responses were received from local jurisdictions despite multiple outreach attempts made by herself and the proponent.

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the name citing lack of support from the State Names Authority and local officials.

Vote: 14 against
0 in favor
1 abstention

Review List 456

New name **Sni-a-Bar Point**, Missouri

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the proposed name citing lack of support from the State Names Authority and local officials.

Vote: 0 against
14 in favor
1 abstention

Change **Kerrville Ponding Lake** (FID [1863364](#)) to **Nimitz Lake**, Texas

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

Vote: 14 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

Black noted that Admiral Nimitz had a local connection, having attended high school in the area.

Review List 457

New name **Owens Creek**, North Carolina

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

Vote: 14 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

New name **Shady Falls**, North Carolina

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

Vote: 15 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

New name **Meadow Run Knob**, Pennsylvania

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the proposed name citing lack of support from the State Names Authority, Township, and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation of Natural Resources.

Vote: 0 against
14 in favor
0 abstentions

Change **Castle Mountain** (FID [1353940](#)) to **Renegade Hill**, Texas

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

Vote: 14 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

Review List 458

New name **Mount Carola**, Alaska

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the proposed name citing conflict with Policy IV.
Wilderness Area Geographic Names

Vote: 0 against
13 in favor
2 abstentions

New name **Elisabeth Creek**, Arizona

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

Vote: 14 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

New name **Respite Branch**, North Carolina

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

Vote: 15 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Tiltens Run** (BGN 1963) (FID [1058076](#)) to **Tildens Run**, Ohio

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

Vote: 15 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

6. Other Business

The Committee revisited the October 2023 decision to rename Spring Lake to Lake Killian (Review List 452). O'Donnell explained that while the proposal was originally supported by the Northeast Illinois Council of the Boy Scouts of America, it has since come to light that the individual who provided that support lacked the authority to speak on behalf of the Council's Board of Directors. As a result, the Council formally requested that the decision be reversed, restoring the name Spring Lake.

O'Donnell noted that local stakeholders, including the township and county, were not aware of the Council's internal limitations and had supported the original proposal based on the assumption of full organizational endorsement. Since the previous DNC vote to consider revisiting the case, no objections to restoring the name Spring Lake have been received. The Wisconsin State Names Authority remains inactive and is therefore unable to provide input.

In response to a procedural question from Ranieri, O'Donnell clarified that this was the second step in the revisit process and is a formal vote to act on the earlier decision. O'Donnell and Tischler further confirmed that if the change were approved, Lake Killian would be retained in GNIS as a variant name.

Following discussion, a motion was made and seconded to rename Lake Killian back to Spring Lake.

Vote: 14 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

The name of the feature is therefore officially changed to Spring Lake.

7. Closing

The next DNC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 10, 2025, 2:00 p.m. ET.

(signed)

Shellie Zahniser, Executive Secretary
Domestic Names Committee

APPROVED
(signed)

Michael Tischler, Acting Chair
Domestic Names Committee

Domestic Names Committee
Executive Secretary Report
Meeting 875
12 June, 2025

FY25-27 Appointments:

Vetting of DOI members continues. Outreach to non-DOI members is in progress. Please send bio updates to the Exec Secretary as soon as possible. With recent activities involving retirements, deferred resignation, etc. we are working to fill vacancies as quickly as possible but those actions require approval by the Secretary of Interior.

DNC Membership Changes:

Current Vacancies

Department of Commerce Member/Deputy

Department of Homeland Security Member/Deputy – Working on alternate appointment

Department of Interior Deputy (NPS) – Working on alternate appointment

Opening Vacancies (2025-2027 term)

Department of Agriculture Deputy

New Agencies/ (2025-2027 term)

Department of Transportation (tentative)

Sub-Working Groups:

The Principles group is scheduling their first meeting that will start to review the Mission and Vision statements of the DNC as well as reviewing the current Principles as written in the PPP. The Policies and Procedures groups will be scheduling their group meetings soon, so please be on the lookout. It is very important that DNC members are participating to the maximum extent they can as the revision will be an arduous lift.

Starbase, TX:

On 3 May, the State of Texas approved incorporation of the City of Starbase, TX, formerly known as Kopernik Shores. Census provided the feature information to GNIS on 22 May and the civil feature is now included as FID 2832560. GNIS is continuing to work with Census on representation of the associated populated place as of 29 May. At this time, the DNC will close case #6279 Starbase on Review List 456 now that it no longer falls under BGN purview.

BGN/Domestic Names Committee Meeting 874
June 12, 2025
Staff Report

Reporting period: April 26, 2025 to May 28, 2025

Proposals received

3 complete proposals and appear to meet the minimum requirements for review:

New name **Big Ear Arch**, Grand County, Utah
 (Bureau of Land Management)

- an approximately 3-by-3-foot rock hole that is 50 inches deep, named for its appearance to proponent and family

New name **Johnson Lake**, Klamath County, Oregon
 (Sky Lakes Wilderness, Rogue River National Forest)

- named for proponent's great-grandfather, Melvin Arnold Johnson (1919-1973) who began a family tradition of visiting the lake
 - The proponent provided a justification as required by the [Wilderness Area Geographic Names Policy](#)

New name **Midas Pond**, Seminole County, Florida
 (private)

- named for the golden appearance of the pond at sunset

6 proposals that cannot be reviewed:

Change [Mount McKinley](#) to **Mount Denali McKinley**, Denali Borough, Alaska
 (Denali National Park)

- does not meet [Principle IV: Names Established by Other Authorities](#) and [Policy on Names Considered or Established by Congress or the President](#) Section 1
- proponent submitted this same proposal in January 2025; no new information submitted

New name **Griffin Creek**, Sharp County, Arkansas
 (private)

- for proponent's living grandparents who own the land; does not meet [Commemorative Names Policy](#) Section 1

New name **Brandenburg Valley**, Lake County, California
 (private)

- named for proponent's living husband; does not meet [Commemorative Names Policy](#) Section 1

New name **Acton Lake**, Shelby County Tennessee
(private)

- named for proponent and current landowners; does not meet [Commemorative Names Policy](#) Section 1

Change [Table Mountain](#) to **Mount Dusty**, Union County, Oregon
(private)

- for proponent's living son; does not meet [Commemorative Names Policy](#) Section 1

New name **Black Pug Pond**, Currituck County, North Carolina
(private)

- for proponent's living pet; does not meet [Animal Names Policy](#) Section 1

13 proposals that require more information to be complete proposals that appear to meet the minimum requirements for review:

new name **Centennial Spring**, Catron County, New Mexico
(Gila Wilderness, Gila National Forest)

- named in reference to Gila National Forest's 100th anniversary in 2024
- The proponent provided a justification as required by the [Wilderness Area Geographic Names Policy](#) Staff needs to:
 - confirm if proponent is proposing as a FS employee or not

new name **Monick Hill**, Pinal County, Arizona
(Arizona State Trust Land)

- named for Frank Monick (c.1839-1901) a French Canadian–American Indigenous pioneer who homesteaded in the area
- Staff needs to:
 - confirm feature extent, and why just the small ridge

Change [Wrights View](#) to **Fiester's View**, Sullivan County, Pennsylvania
(Pennsylvania Department of Transportation? / private)

- GNIS staff corrected feature type from Populated Place to Cliff; this name on 24k topos labels a road overlook
- named for the Fiesters, a prominent local family who lived nearby since at least 1844;
- Staff needs to
 - ask proponent to justify the reason to change the name; [Name Changes Policy](#) Section 1
 - inform proponent that any living Fiester family members cannot be officially commemorated by the name; [Commemorative Names Policy](#) Section 1

new name **Sail Peak**, Davis County and Morgan County, Utah
(Wasatch National Forest / private)

- Based on a recent local name for the summit, “Sailor’s Peak,” in reference to bay-like appearance of adjacent landscape
- Staff needs to:
 - ask proponent to provide evidence that locals call it “Sailor’s Peak” and why they are not proposing that name
 - ask proponent to confirm they want this name; the BGN process is not to gather “consensus” among interested parties on the best name

New name **Yellaroot Mountain**, Hinsdale County, Colorado
(Weminuche Wilderness, San Juan National Forest)

- In reference to the color of ponderosa pine sapwood
- The proponent provided a justification as required by the [Wilderness Area Geographic Names Policy](#) Staff needs to
 - ask for more details about “yellaroot”—is this a term the proponent came up with or widely used; web searches for “yellaroot” + “Ponderosa” return no results
- proponent also submitted **Xeedo Mountain**, which meets minimum requirements

New name **Xeedo Mountain**, Utah County, Utah
(Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration / Bureau of Land Management)

- for the proponent’s deceased dog, Tuxedo
- Staff needs to
 - ask proponent to confirm that their dog has been deceased for more than five years; [Animal Names Policy](#) Section 2
- proponent also submitted **Yellaroot Mountain**, which needs more information

New name **Robbins Creek**, Rutherford County, North Carolina
(private)

- named for Robbins family that has lived there for three generations
- proponent submitted this in March 2025 to name it after the current Robbins family landowners
- Staff needs to
 - ask proponent to identify a specific Robbins honoree to proceed, as required by the [Commemorative Names Policy](#)

New name **Hooten**, Searcy County, Arkansas
(private)

- name used by proponent’s family in reference to owls heard there
- Staff needs to
 - confirm inclusion of a generic term like “Hollow”

New name **Timberlee Creek**, Leelanau County, Michigan
(private)

- named in reference to the adjacent Timberlee Road and nearby Timberlee Hills snow tubing park and event location
- Staff needs to
 - ask proponent to provide “additional evidence that the name is not being used for publicizing a particular commercial product or business firm” per the [Commercial Names Policy](#)

New name **Onskat Stream**, Baltimore County, Maryland
(private / local lands)

- named for Susquehannock word onskat meaning ‘one’ and chosen through a local county naming initiative
- Staff needs to
 - confirm source coordinates that don’t match NHD flowline
 - confirm that proponent understands that the name would apply to a single flowline, not all flowlines in the stream’s watershed

New name **Gilbert Creek** [unincorporated populated place] Garrard County, Kentucky
(private)

- to make official the name that dates to at least 1781
- Staff needs to
 - ask GNIS staff if the name can be added from an authoritative source; if not, ask proponent to fill out proposal form

New name **Paige Pond**, Palm Beach County, Florida
(private)

- no stated meaning to name
- Staff needs to
 - confirm that the proponent is not naming it for themselves; their last name is Paige; [Commemorative Names Policy](#) Section 1
 - ask why this retention pond needs a name for Federal use out of the many in the area

new name **Steve Rebello Brook**, Bristol County, Massachusetts
(private / local lands)

- named for proponent’s late husband, Steven Rebello (1965-2019) who grew up and lived near the stream, was well loved by the community, and passed away suddenly from glioblastoma
- Staff needs to:
 - ask proponent why his full name should be included; [Commemorative Names Policy](#) Section 5 / [Long Names Policy](#) Section 2

1 proposal corrected by GNIS staff without DNC review:

Change [Yolo By-Pass](#) to **Yolo Bypass**, Yolo County, California

(Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area / Natural Resources Conservation Service lands / other State, local, and private lands)

- older maps showed By-Pass; 24k maps used in Phase I showed both Bypass and By-Pass; current use is Bypass
- submitted by USGS author so that they could comply with USGS publishing rules to only use names in GNIS

Proposals amended:

None

Proposals withdrawn:

None

Inquiries received:

- An Aretaon Consulting employee and a partner at Holland & Knight requested the agenda for the May 8 DNC meeting which had not been posted yet
- Congressman Ryan Zinke's office asked if [Sčilíp](#) (changed from Dixon in November 2024 upon request from the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation) is under the jurisdiction of the Tribe or the County. May be under Sanders County?
- A Sacramento State Masters of Public History student requested DNC meeting minutes between February to September 2021; they had previously requested DNC minutes from 2019 and 2020; they are working on a writing a thesis about the history of place name changes in the US and California.
- 3 requests from the Mountaineering Club of Alaska about the correct form of names, decisions, and other details.
- 2 individuals asking about the process and for the proposal form/information packet
- An individual supporting changing the name of [Sambo Creek](#) in Monroe County, Pennsylvania; no proposal to change the name has been received; an older proposal on Review List 397 was withdrawn in 2023 to allow locals to propose a name.
- The proponent of the change from Aysees Peak to Milky Way Peak, which the DNC did not approve on March 13, 2025, asked to have their name and the proposal removed from Review List 457 posted on the BGN website. Staff decided that their name could be removed but not the proposal. Their name will be replaced with "resident of the United Kingdom."
- About the history of [Benke Lake](#) in Gonzales County, Texas and stating that the name should be "Kaye/ Parker Lake"
- The proponent of Bear Foot Lake in Sawyer County, Wisconsin (approved October 12, 2023) asked how long it would take for the name to appear on Google Maps and Google Earth.

- Seven emails of support for changing the name of [Mount Woodring](#) to Equality Peak in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming. Some of these individuals had proposed the name Liberty Peak but this was withdrawn by the proponent before being added to a Review List.
- A local resident asked to have the label for [Brooks Creek](#) in San Mateo County, California be corrected. It was added to GNIS in 1998 incorrectly from the source, a park map. GNIS staff made the correction in GNIS.
- The proponent of Salamander Creek in Humboldt County, California (not approved on May 8) asked for all records pertaining to the proposal including public comments by neighbors, government agencies who submitted input, and any meeting notes regarding the proposal and any voting that may have occurred.
- The proponent of the change from [Sutter Buttes](#) to Sacred Buttes on Review List 455 asked for details about the proposal to change the name to Middle Mountain on Review List 459 and how to best work with that proponent.
- A member of the [Hawaii Board on Geographic Names](#) asked about the status of names for features in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park that were approved on December 9, 2021 and the possibility of changing the name of Kaluapele (a 2021 decision to change the name of Kīlauea Crater) to Kaluapele o Kīlauea.
- 2 proponents asking about the status of their proposals.
- About correcting the spelling of [Dunavant](#) in Shelby County, Alabama to Dunnavant. This spelling correction will not be put on a Review List and will be on the July DNC docket.

Media requests received:

None

FOIAs received:

None

State Name Authority/Advisor activity:

- The BGN hosted State Names Authority (SNA) Office Hours on April 28
- BGN staff attended
 - [Oklahoma Board on Geographic Names](#) meeting on May 13
 - [Washington State Committee on Geographic Names](#) meeting on May 15

Other items:

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](#) and about the pending proposal to change the name of the unincorporated Populated Place Kelseyville to Konocti.

Staff sent emails to individuals who had asked the DNC to not approve changing the name of the unincorporated community of Dixon within the Flathead Reservation to [Sčilíp](#) because they believed the community was not under the jurisdiction of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation. The Tribes had submitted the change in November 2024 and it was made in GNIS under the [Tribal Geographic Names Policy](#). The response read:

- “The request for the change by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation was accepted by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN). The BGN sought guidance from the Department of the Interior’s Office of the Solicitor over whether the community was under the jurisdiction of the Tribes, solely for purposes of interpreting that term with respect to the BGN’s Tribal Geographic Names Policy. Following that guidance, the BGN followed its established procedure as directed in the Policy.”
- Staff received a reply from Congressman Ryan Zinke’s office stating that they thought the community was under the jurisdiction of Sanders County; staff replied to clarify. Staff received a reply from one local individual who said that the Solicitor's Office is incorrect.

Staff worked with GNIS staff and the member from the Census Bureau to outline the steps and timing of making the name Starbase official in GNIS for Federal use, changing [Kopernik Shores](#) in Cameron County, Texas. On May 3, residents of the community voted 218-6 to incorporate under Texas law. Once Cameron County certifies the results and the Census Bureau confirms a valid incorporation, Census will inform GNIS to add a Civil feature named “City of Starbase” and change the name of the Populated Place feature [Kopernik Shores](#) to Starbase. The proposal to change the name of the Populated Place feature [Kopernik Shores](#) to Starbase submitted by Cameron County in May 2024 and on Review List 456 will be closed.

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
DOCKET
June 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 **Keka'a Point** (FID [361084](#)) to **Keka'a**, Hawaii
(Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam)

[21.3484329, -157.9824221](#)

State Names Authority	Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names	Support
Federal agency	Department of Defense	No objection

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

The Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names (HBGN) recommends that the English descriptor (generic) "Point" be removed from the official name of **Keka'a Point** on O'ahu. This change would be consistent with traditional Hawai'ian naming.

Change **Pu'uhapapa** (FID [363692](#)) to **Hāpapa**, Hawaii
(Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam / Schofield Barracks)

[21.4676068, -158.1041408](#)

State Names Authority	Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names	Support
Federal agency	Department of Defense	No objection

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

The Hawai‘i Board on Geographic Names (HBGN) recommends that the Hawai‘ian descriptor (generic) “Pu‘u” be removed from the official name of Pu‘uhapapa on O‘ahu and that a kahakō be added over the first “a.” These changes would be consistent with traditional Hawai‘ian naming and authoritative sources on Hawai‘ian place names.

Change **Baken Creek** (FID [1198034](#)) to **Baker Run**, Pennsylvania
Mouth: [40.3292515, -77.2838733](#) / Source: [40.3697222, -77.2738889](#)

Local government	Spring Township Supervisors	Support*
	Perry County Commissioners	No response
State Names Authority	Pennsylvania Geographic Names Committee	No objection

* 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

This proposal is to change the name of Baken Creek, a 3.5-mile-long tributary of Shermans Creek in Spring Township, Perry County, to Baker Run.

The proponent lives along the stream and is the President of the Perry County Historical Society. He is proposing two corrections to the official name: first, that the spelling be corrected to “Baker” to reflect both the name of the family that lived along the stream in the 1800s and the original spelling shown on the 1:62,500-scale USGS Loysville quadrangle; and second, that the generic be changed to “Run” to match historical use of the name. The proponent justified the changes by stating

The name Baker Run comes from the Baker family which lived on this particular stream prior to 1863. . . . Though the name [of the stream] is not indicated on either the 1863 or 1877 maps [county atlases which show names of landowners], the stream has long been and is still known locally as "Baker Run." . . .

The term “Run” is used colloquially throughout central Pennsylvania as reference to most any named stream smaller than a creek. This can be corroborated by examination of other Perry County, Pennsylvania stream names such as “McCabe Run, Pisgah Run, Perry Furnace Run.”

The rationale for changing to the proposed name is to reflect the correct historical placename of “Baker Run” which is indicated in many earlier writings

and publications of the county. Had this physical resource not supported a wide variety of grist, saw, sumac, planing and other mills, “known locally as Milltown,” and been widely written about [*Perry County Grist Mills*, 1978]. . . the error in name change could perhaps be accepted. However, for future historical research and reference, the change from “Baker” to “Baken” is confusing at best.

Baken Creek is shown on 1:24,000-scale USGS Landisville quadrangles which were produced starting in 1952. GNIS staff could not find any notes that indicated why the spelling was changed from “Baker” to “Baken” when these larger-scale maps were made. PennDOT county and township maps have consistently used the name Baker Creek since 1941. PennDOT bridge data has both Baker Creek and Baken Creek.

The proponent provided a letter of support from the Spring Township Board of Supervisors which stated that the proponent

appeared before our monthly board meeting. . . to request support for the reversion of the [name of] Baken Creek. . . to its historical and more commonly used name of Baker run. Please let this letter serve to inform you that the spring Township supervisors voiced their unanimous support for the name reversion to Baker Run.

The Pennsylvania Geographic Names Committee has no objections to the proposed changes:

The name “Baker Creek” or “Baker’s Creek” was found in several older documents, and “Baken” is likely a spelling error. We did not find any documents in our collection referring to the stream as “Baker Run.” However, if the use of the name “Baker Run” is well-established locally and has the support of the local stakeholders, we would not object to the proposed name Baker Run.

Change the location/application of **Pine Peak Spring** (FID [1365303](#)), Texas
(Davis Mountain Preserve, Nature Conservancy in Texas)

[30.66052, -104.1116](#)

Local government	Jeff Davis County Commissioners Court	No response
State Names Authority	Texas Geographic Names Committee	No response
Other	The Nature Conservancy in Texas	Support

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 correct the location of Pine Peak Spring in Jeff Davis County. The spring is within the Davis Mountain Preserve managed by The Nature Conservancy in Texas.

The spring has been marked on USGS maps in its current location since 1978. The proponent, a researcher who works in the Davis Mountain Preserve, reported that the spring is actually located 400 feet away. Because the current GNIS coordinates match the mapped location on the USGS quadrangle, BGN action is needed to correct the coordinates in GNIS.

Review List 451

New name **Bailey Creek**, North Carolina

Mouth: [35.25215, -81.94917](#) / Source: [35.26895, -81.93535](#)

Local government	Rutherford County Commissioners	Support
State Names Authority	North Carolina Board on Geographic Names	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
x	Commemorative	Duplicate or Similar	Commercial
	Wilderness Area	Variant	Animal

The new name **Bailey Creek** is proposed for a 1.52-mile-long tributary of Jarretts Creek in Rutherford County, approximately 7 miles south of Rutherfordton. The proposed name would commemorate the proponent's grandmother, Irene Dixon Bailey (1930-2015), a member of the family who have owned the majority of the property through which the stream flows since the 1960s, where they have raised cattle, pigs, and horses, and grown row crops, such as corn, soybeans, and other fruits and vegetables. Mrs. Bailey was employed by the Pittsburg Plate Glass Company, and participated in local community outreach programs and managed the farm property, which entailed "periodic logging to thin out trees, prescribed burns to reduce fire hazards and fence line installation/maintenance to keep livestock off the creek banks to help with erosion control."

In response to BGN staff's request for a recommendation from the Rutherford County Commissioners, the County Manager asked "Are there other property owners situated contiguous to this tributary? Have they agreed to/consented to the naming of this tributary as proposed?" BGN staff asked the proponent to work with the county. The proponent obtained signatures from neighbors on a county petition form that is used for naming a private drive. The County then supported the name.

The North Carolina Board on Geographic Names recommended approval. They discussed whether or not the name could be construed to honor the proponent or any Bailey family member still living or not deceased for more than five years. However, they supported the proposal given the lack of objections from neighbors and other landowners and the support from the Rutherford County Commissioners.

Review List 454

New names **Chulensi Creek**, **Conklin Creek**, **Cremona Creek**, **Edgewood Creek**, **Endsmeet Creek**, **Idro Creek**, **Lyndon Creek**, **Melrose Creek**, Pennsylvania

Local government	Cheltenham Township Supervisors [proponent]	Support
	Montgomery County Commissioners	Support
State Names Authority	Pennsylvania Geographic Names Committee	No objection
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
x	Commemorative [some]	Duplicate or Similar	x Commercial [one]
	Wilderness Area	Variant	Animal

These eight proposals are to officially name streams in Cheltenham Township, in Montgomery County, and were submitted by the Township's Administrative Coordinator.

The proposed names, in order moving downstream along the Tacony Creek watershed are: Edgewood Creek, Cremona Creek, Chulensi Creek, Endsmeet Creek, Lyndon Creek, Idro Creek, Melrose Creek, and Conklin Creek.

(Cheltenham Township uses the spelling "Tookany Creek" for Tacony Creek within its boundaries. The change from "Tookany" to "Tacony" at the boundary between the township and the City of Philadelphia is widely recognized and used by local governments and environmental groups. GNIS only records the spelling Tacony Creek, with Tookany Creek as a variant name.)

The proposed names were selected by a Township Creek Naming Task Force, the members of which came from the Township's staff and Board, the Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), the Township Historical Commission, and the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford (TTF) Watershed Partnership. They selected names from suggestions made by community members.

The Township began an effort to name the unnamed tributaries in August 2008. The selected names were never submitted to the BGN, but many of them entered local use, and some have been added directly to GNIS based on local documented use.

After a Township resident submitted a proposal to the BGN to name an unnamed tributary of Tacony Creek as Gray Rock Creek (Review List 441), the Township realized they had never submitted their 2008 names to the BGN. The July 18, 2022 minutes of the EAC [reported that](#)

the Historical Commission would “lead the charge to renew discussion on stream naming in the Township,” and “establish steps to ensure public participation and the completion of the naming project.” A member of TTF stated names “have to be historic or descriptive of the area . . . cannot be named for someone who is still alive . . . and the naming process is an exciting opportunity to educate people about the creeks,” adding, “While the old list of names can be used, additional community feedback should be sought because things may have changed in the past decade.” A member of the EAC suggested the names should represent the diversity and the breadth of history in the Township, including its abolitionist history and indigenous roots, not just the land ownership in 1800s. The Township added that it would prepare a policy on naming.

The Township Historical Commission’s publication *The Wall Paper* [reported in 2022](#) that it had worked with the EAC to identify seven streams and to conduct additional research on the history of the properties traversed by the streams. As a result, seven historical names were proposed. An update was posted in 2023 in the Township’s newsletter, including a link to an online survey inviting residents to suggest names. “Valid names will be considered by the Township and brought up in a public forum before formal submission of all names to the US Geological Survey.”

None of the streams are depicted in the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD).

The Montgomery County Commissioners support the names:

Montgomery County has carefully reviewed both the proposed names and the process undertaken by Cheltenham Township. We have no objections to the names submitted and acknowledge the value of formally naming these water bodies, as doing so fosters a sense of connection and stewardship among community members.

We understand that Cheltenham Township originally developed these names in 2008; however, they were not formally submitted to the U.S. Geological Survey at that time. Recognizing this, the Township renewed its efforts in 2023 by convening a dedicated task force. This process included a public survey, a period of review and comment, and two public meetings prior to finalizing the proposed names.

We appreciate the Township’s diligence in facilitating this important work and respectfully offer Montgomery County’s full support of the proposal.

The Pennsylvania Geographic Names Committee has no objection to the names, stating that We feel it complies with the guidelines specified in the US BGN Principles, Policies, and Procedures, and it has the support of the local municipality. We did not find any other historical names associated with the streams in the various maps, surveys, and documents reviewed in our collection.

Chulensi Creek:

- 0.35-mile-long tributary of Tacony Creek
- partly flows through the George Perley Bird Sanctuary
- The Township reports that it “consulted with Lenape language experts for confirmation of spelling/meaning.” The Township asked Adam DePaul, a member of the non-federally recognized Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania, and Christine Applegate, Director of Education at the Museum of Indian Culture in Allentown, “to ensure that our spelling and intent is correct.” DePaul replied that “bird” in Lenape is chulens and asked Clan Mother Shelley DePaul for confirmation. Ms. DePaul replied that “‘Chulensi’ is correct. (The final ‘l’ makes the noun an adjective).”

Conklin Creek:

- a 0.3-mile-long tributary of Jenkintown Creek
- partly flows through the property of the Township’s Charles D. Conklin, Jr. Pool
- The name refers to “the Conklin family after which the pool and recreation area have been named.” The township’s website reports that the pool was “formerly the ‘Cheltenham Swim Club’ [and] it was purchased by the township in 1967 to provide swimming to residents. The area was dedicated to Mr. Charles D. Conklin in July 1972, in honor of his service to the residents of the Township as Commissioner from 1926 to 1973.” Mr. Conklin passed away in 1984, and many of his descendants still live in the township.

Cremona Creek:

- a 0.2-mile-long tributary of Tacony Creek
- flows partly through the Township’s Renninger Park
- The Township states that “Cremona Satterthwaite was the first African American woman to own property in Cheltenham Township. . . . [She] is an important, little known part of Cheltenham history.” According to a [WHYY documentary](#):

Cremona Satterthwaite was a servant in the [Humphrey] Morrey household. [Morrey was the first Mayor of Philadelphia and one of the founders of Cheltenham Township. The family were Quakers but held enslaved people.] After Morrey’s death, his son Richard inherited his property. Not long after, Richard freed the family’s enslaved people and Cremona remained a servant in the household. Richard fell in love with Cremona and they had 5 children between 1735–1745. Although they couldn’t legally marry, they did live together as man and wife, and were known and accepted as such throughout their community.

Richard Morrey died in 1753 and left Cremona 198 acres of land in the Edgehill section of Glenside, Cheltenham Township. At that time, it was unheard-of for an African-American woman to own land. The original 2-story barn structure built by Richard and Cremona’s youngest daughter, known as Cremona, Jr. and her husband, John Montier, still stands on

part of the original property on Limekiln Pike. They also built a more prominent home that still stands in front of the barn structure. Both homes were built in the late 1700's, an unprecedented occurrence: African Americans owning homes in that time period.

Richard and Cremona's later descendants, Elizabeth and Hiram Montier, lived very comfortably. Hiram was a boot maker with a successful business in Center City Philadelphia. Many other family members went on to make notable accomplishments. Elizabeth Montier married Cyrus Bustill, an original member of The Free African Society, who also helped found St. Thomas African Episcopal Church. Later descendants include Paul Robeson, the famous singer, actor and civil rights activist.

Edgewood Creek:

- a 0.33-mile-long tributary of Tacony Creek
- mostly flows through the property of Arcadia University
- The name refers to a farm that was once located nearby called "Edgewood." It was founded in the late 19th century by Bradley Redfield, a local land developer. His son Edward was "a celebrated artist and founder of the artist colony in New Hope." In 2009, the farm was acquired by Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Endsmeet Creek:

- a 0.6-mile-long tributary of Rock Creek
- The Township reports that the name refers to the former Endsmeet Farm of Anna Wharton Morris and Harrison S. Morris. The site of the farm is now the Cheltenham High School, located adjacent to the source of the stream. The Township wrote "Anna was the daughter of industrialist and Wharton School founder Joseph Wharton. Harrison was the director of the Museum of Fine Art, art editor of Ladies Home Journal, and executor of Joseph Wharton's will, among other prestigious occupations."

Idro Creek:

- a 300-foot-long tributary of Mill Run
- flows entirely through the Township's Coventry Park
- The Township reports that the name comes from John B. Stetson's "elegant Cheltenham Hills estate" and farm named "Idro."

Lyndon Creek:

- 0.2-mile-long tributary of Rock Creek
- flows entirely through the Township's Curtis Arboretum
- The Township reports that the name comes from Abraham Barker's estate "Lyndon" which became the present-day Curtis Arboretum.

Melrose Creek:

- a 0.4-mile-long tributary of Brookwood Run
- mostly flows through the property of the Melrose Country Club
- The Township reports that a former branch of the stream, since developed, began in Melrose Park and that the name refers to the community of Melrose Park, which reportedly derives from that of a 19th century school named Melrose Academy of the Gray Nuns, now Gratz College.

One Township Commissioner objected to the name due to its direct association with the Melrose Country Club. The Township minutes note that the naming committee “did go back to the drawing board on this, but it was still recommended to move forward with this name.”

Review List 455

New name **Lubich Run**, Pennsylvania

Mouth: [39.884541, -80.039636](#) / Source: [39.907874, -80.028771](#)

Local government	Cumberland Township Trustees	No response
	Jefferson Township Trustees	No response
	Greene County Commissioners	No response
State Names Authority	Pennsylvania Geographic Names Committee	Oppose
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

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

The new name **Lubich Run** is proposed for a 1.7-mile-long tributary of Muddy Creek. The stream flows adjacent to Kovalchecks Road and along the boundary of Cumberland Township and Jefferson Township in Greene County.

The proponent, a member of the Lubich family, initially submitted the name to broadly honor his family, noting that they “have owned [the] homestead for years that [the stream] runs through.” When asked to identify an individual who would meet the requirements of the Commemorative Names Policy, he modified the proposal to honor his grandmother Mary Lubich (1923-2018). He writes:

Purchasing the property with my grandfather John in 1947, [Mary] enjoyed fishing and catching crayfish in the stream. Mary was instrumental in establishing the first kindergartens in the county at Our Lady of Consolation and St. Marcellus Catholic churches. She served as a costume designer and seamstress for theatrical productions at Waynesburg University and Moschetta’s Dance Studio.

Mary Lubich's obituary also notes that she began her employment during World War II, constructing Landing Ship Tank troop transport ships in Ambridge and later with the Department of Defense in Washington, D.C.

GNIS lists no features in Pennsylvania named "Lubich."

Despite repeated requests for recommendations from BGN staff and the proponent, no local government responded.

The Pennsylvania Geographic Names Committee stated "We did not find any other historical names associated with the stream in the various maps, surveys, and documents reviewed in our collection. Our only objection to the proposed name is its lack of local support. If the proposed name receives the support of the local government, we have no objection to the name Lubich Run."

New name **Liberty Creek**, Virginia

Mouth: [37.80347, -77.51351](#) / Source: [37.7754, -77.53406](#)

Local government	Hanover County Board of Supervisors	Support*
State Names Authority	Virginia Board on Geographic Names	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

* Contacted by SNA

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

The new name **Liberty Creek** is proposed for a 2.9-mile-long stream which heads near Poor Farm Park, 3.25 mi. northwest of Ashland, and flows generally east-northeast into the South Anna River in Hanover County. The proponent, a local resident, states,

Liberty Creek is the proposed name based on Hanover County boasting as the home of Patrick Henry and the theme of his speech being liberty. Liberty Middle School is the nearest public school to the creek and Patrick Henry High School is also nearby indicating the influence of the natural, human desire for liberty and is a fundamental and founding principal of the United States of America. The currently unnamed feature requires a name as it is a substantial geographic feature to the residents along Yankeetown [Road] to the west and Eagle Point Farm which sits along the eastern border of the creek.

GNIS lists 15 geographic features in Virginia named "Liberty," including three streams, although none are in Hanover County. The only one named **Liberty Creek** is in Tazewell County, 230 miles

from the stream in question. The closest features are two small communities in neighboring Caroline County, named Liberty and Liberty Fork.

The Virginia Board on Geographic names stated in their letter of support,

The Virginia Board on Geographic Names has reviewed several manuscript maps and other relevant information regarding the Liberty Creek proposal. The VABGN contacted by email the Hanover County Historical Society, the Hanover County Board of Supervisors, the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (VDWR) and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). The historical society did not respond to our email and VDWR and VDOT responded with no opinion since they have no jurisdiction over the area. The Hanover County Board of Supervisors voted to approve the name. Research by Library of Virginia's Senior Map Archivist Cassandra Farrell indicates that the creek has not been previously named.

The VABGN recommends the USBGN approve the Liberty Creek proposal.

Review List 456

New name **Sni-a-Bar Point**, Missouri

[39.011594, -94.180893](#)

Local government	Jackson County Board of Commissioners / Office of Parks and Recreation	Oppose*
State Names Authority	Missouri Board on Geographic Names	Oppose
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

* Contacted by the SNA

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

This proposal is to make official the name **Sni-A-Bar Point** for a 940-foot summit in Jackson County. The summit is located at the north end of Monkey Mountain, in Monkey Mountain County Park in Sni-A-Bar Township.

The proponent, a resident of Illinois who has submitted a number of other proposals for features in various States, reports that the name refers to Sni-A-Bar Creek that runs along the western edge of the feature, as well as the Sni-A-Bar Farm, on which it was once located. He is not sure how long the name has been in local use but notes that it is [listed on Peakbagger.com](#) (an individual with the same surname as the proponent appears to have added it).

According to Wikipedia, “Sni-A-Bar is possibly a corruption of *chenail Hubert* (French pronunciation . . . meaning ‘Hubert channel/slough.’ Alternatively, the name may have come from a French frontiersman named Abar who was charting a course on the Missouri River in the early 1800s. Alexander Majors, one of the founders of the Pony Express, called the creek Big Snye Bear River in his book *Seventy Years on the Frontier*.”

Wallace’s Farmer, published 1926, stated that Sni-A-Bar Farm had recently won a cattle championship. A portion of the former farmland, located north of the summit, has been designated by the Missouri Department of Conservation as the Sni-A-Bar Conservation Area.

In addition to Sni-A-Bar Creek and the Township of Sni-A-Bar, GNIS lists East Fork Sni-A-Bar Creek, Little Sni-A-Bar Creek, and West Fork Sni-A-Bar Creek.

The Missouri Board on Geographic Names voted to deny recommending the name “Sni-A-Bar Point” for a summit in Jackson County. The proposal had been tabled at a previous meeting pending input from the county. Since then, Jackson County Parks and Recreation indicated they do not support the proposal. The board unanimously approved a motion to deny, citing the lack of county support.

Change **Kerrville Ponding Lake** (FID [1863364](#)) to **Nimitz Lake**, Texas
[30.0617732, -99.1737333](#)

Local government	Kerrville City Council (proponent)	Support
	Kerr County Board of Supervisors	Support*
State Names Authority	Texas Geographic Names Committee	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

* provided by proponent

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

This proposal is to change the name of Kerrville Ponding Lake in the City of Kerrville in Kerr County to Nimitz Lake. The 105-acre reservoir, located along the Guadalupe River, was constructed in 1980 by the Upper Guadalupe River Authority. The associated dam is named Kerrville Ponding Dam.

The current name has been shown on USGS topographic maps since 2010; the GNIS entry was collected from the 1981 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Dams and Reservoirs inventory. In 1998, ownership of the dam, water treatment plant, and associated flood easements and deeds was transferred from the Upper Guadalupe River Authority to the City of Kerrville.

In 2011, the Kerrville City Council discussed renaming the reservoir. The original suggestion was “Sunset Lake,” but a local resident offered the name Nimitz Lake “after a distinguished military officer.” After debating the importance of historical significance in naming, the Council voted unanimously to approve the change to “Nimitz Lake.”

The name is intended to honor Admiral Chester William Nimitz (1885-1966), who served as Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas during World War II. Born in Fredericksburg in neighboring Gillespie County, Admiral Nimitz attended Tivy High School in Kerrville.

A 2015 Texas Water Development Board [report](#) referred to Nimitz Lake and Nimitz Lake Dam. The name Nimitz Lake is also used by the Kerrville Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Upper Guadalupe River Center Foundation. It is referenced in a City of Kerrville Nimitz Lake Boating Center Study (2019), on the Texas Fishing Forum website, in real estate listings, and in a number of news articles.

The Texas Geographic Names Committee (TGNC) in its recommendation letter of support stated,

The TGNC has carefully reviewed the request and recommends approving the proposal to rename a 1.5-mile-long body of water in Kerr County, Texas to Nimitz Lake in commemoration of Admiral Chester William Nimitz. The TGNC recommends the approval of this proposed name change as the criteria is in adherence with the U.S. Board on Geographic Names commemorative names policy, has broad local support and has been in use for several years without issue.

Review List 457

New name **Owens Creek**, North Carolina

Mouth: [35.236733, -81.084046](#) / Source: [35.230812, -81.106185](#)

Local government	Cramerton Town Commissioners [via Town Planner]	Support
	Gaston County Commissioners [via Director of Planning and Zoning]	Support
State Names Authority	North Carolina Board on Geographic Names	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy 10	No response
Other	Owner of Cramer Mountain Club (golf and country club)	No objection*

* provided 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

The new name Owens Creek is proposed for a 2.35-mile-long tributary of Duharts Creek in Gaston County. The stream flows from a pond on the property of City Church Gastonia to the property of the Cramer Mountain Club (golf course).

The name would honor Dr. Milum Oswell “M.O.” Owens Jr. (1913-2019), the founding pastor of nearby Parkwood Baptist Church and the Gaston Christian School; the latter is located on the same road that the creek intersects with. The proponent elaborates: “[Owens] also has a chair dedicated in his honor at the Southeastern Seminary at Wake Forest University.”

Owens passed away at 105 years old, after many years of service to Christian education and ministry. He was recognized for his contributions to Christian education, including receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Owens was honored with a namesake building at Gaston Christian School, where a life-sized bronze statue was unveiled in his honor. He was described as a “humble servant” and a leader in the Conservative Resurgence of the Southern Baptist Convention.

As of this writing, 16 individuals had signed an online petition supporting the proposal.

GNIS lists six geographic features in North Carolina associated with the name “Owens,” all at least 80 miles away. These are Owens (a populated place) in Cumberland County, Owens Lake in Guilford County, Owens Bay in Carteret County, and two streams named Owens Creek in Alamance County (approximately 80 miles northeast) and Warren County (about 130 miles northeast).

The North Carolina Board on Geographic Names recommended approval without comment.

New name **Shady Falls**, North Carolina

[35.2203, -82.67484](#)

Local government	Transylvania County Commissioners	No opinion
State Names Authority	North Carolina Board 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

The new name Shady Falls is proposed for a waterfall measuring 25 feet wide and 10 feet tall, located on private residential property in Transylvania County. The waterfall is situated along Shady Lane. The proponent, a resident of the property, states, “Since our county is known as the land of waterfalls we just want to document and name the one on our property using the street name and since it is under the trees it is a shaded area as well.”

GNIS lists seven features in North Carolina with “Shady” in their names, including communities named Shady Banks, Shady Brook, Shady Forest, and two named Shady Grove, in Beaufort County, Cabarrus County, Brunswick County, Yadkin County, and Jones County, respectively, as well as the Township of Shady Grove in Davie County. The closest feature to the waterfall in question is Shady Branch, a stream located approximately 84.6 miles away.

The Transylvania County Commissioners replied that they

Consider this proposal during a regular meeting on January 13, 2025, but did not wish to provide input on naming features located on private property.

The North Carolina Board on Geographic Names recommended approval without comment.

New name **Meadow Run Knob**, Pennsylvania

[39.852159, -79.49233](#)

Local government	Stewart Township Trustees	Oppose
	Fayette County Supervisor	No objection
State Names Authority	Pennsylvania Geographic Names Committee	Oppose
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy 10	No response
Other	Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks	No opinion

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

The new name Meadow Run Knob is proposed for a 1,662-foot summit in Stewart Township and Ohiopyle State Park in Fayette County.

The proponent, a resident of Ohio, explains: “The name is a reference to the shape of the feature as well as its location on a peninsula surrounded by Meadow Run. There is also the Meadow Run trail system that transverses its slopes.”

According to GNIS, there are three geographic features in Fayette County that include “Meadow Run” in their names. Great Meadow Run is a tributary of Meadow Run, while another

stream named Meadow Run is located approximately 25 miles northwest of the feature in question.

The Bureau of State Parks stated that they are “neutral on this naming proposal, neither supporting nor opposing” and elaborated that:

- The knob is not as prominent as others in the park, either by elevation or view-shed
- The Bureau has not done any due diligence on the appropriateness of the name, nor engagement with stakeholders (including indigenous peoples) on other names for the area.
- Inclusion of the proposed name on signage, maps, wayfinding, or other materials would remain at the discretion of the Bureau [if the name is approved].

The Pennsylvania State Names Authority does not support the proposed name Meadow Run Knob, citing the lack of support from the Stewart Township Supervisors. Fayette County deferred the matter to the Township, which formally objected to the proposal but did not provide additional comments.

Change **Castle Mountain** (FID [1353940](#)) to **Renegade Hill**, Texas
[31.1497528, -97.7143441](#)

Local government	Bell County Commissioners Court	No objection
State Names Authority	Texas Geographic Names Committee	Support
Federal	Department of Defense	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy 10	No response

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

This proposal is to change the name of Castle Mountain, a 1,001-foot summit located on Fort Cavazos in Bell County, to Renegade Hill. The proponent represents the 4th Battalion (known as the “Renegade Battalion”) of the 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment; he reports that the proposed name is used locally and that it honors the battalion and specifically commemorates its seven soldiers who have lost their lives in combat. He adds:

The designation ‘Renegade’ was bestowed upon the 4-5 Air Defense Artillery Battalion upon its creation in 1988. The unit served with distinction under First Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, TX (now Fort Cavazos, TX) in Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

‘Castle Mountain’ has been used by the Soldiers of the ‘Renegade Battalion’ for training and events dating back to 1988. The unit of 600 Soldiers has referred to the area as ‘Renegade Hill’ since the late 1980s when conducting training there. We believe it is appropriate to rename ‘Castle Mountain’ to ‘Renegade Hill’ as it is referred to by the unit.

Although not a commemorative name, this would also allow for the memorialization of the Soldiers from the ‘Renegade Battalion’ that died in service to this country under the name ‘Renegade’ [Staff Sergeant Haws, Sergeant Rosenbaum, and Specialists Davis, Ebert, Price, Regnier, and Yoemans].

The proponent provided an [article](#) which details the battalion’s training. They conduct exercises to validate their combat skills to prepare for real combat situations. The name Castle Mountain has appeared on USGS topographic maps since 1947 and was recorded in a USGS Bulletin in 1902. A 1894 smaller-scale USGS map applied the name Castle Hill to a summit in general vicinity, but it is not clear if this refers to the same feature as present-day Castle Mountain.

GNIS lists no features in Texas with “Renegade” in the name.

Bell County stated no objections to the proposed name change without further comment. The Texas Geographic Names Authority gave deference to the Department of Defense, which stated:

[. . .] since the proponent is in a position of accountability for the tenant command, and he says he obtained permission from the installation, we feel comfortable with DoD supporting the change. I’d wanted to get concurrence from someone at the installation independently, but since they didn’t get back to us either time we tried to contact them, please proceed with the proposal and consider DoD as support.

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New name **Mount Carola**, Alaska
(Denali National Park & Preserve / Denali Wilderness)

[62.656891, -150.676375](#)

Local government	Matanuska-Susitna Borough (via Borough Planning Committee)	Support*
State Names Authority	Alaska Board on Geographic Names	Support
Federal	National Park Service	Opposed
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Talkeetna Historical Society and Museum	Support**
	Alaska Miners Association	Support**
	One Alaska resident	Support**

	Mountaineering Club of Alaska	Opposed*
	Matanuska Susitna Borough Historical Preservation Commission	Support*

* contacted by SNA

**included with proposal

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

The new name Mount Carola is proposed for a 4,254 peak between Ruth Glacier and Tokositna Glacier in Denali National Park and Preserve.

The proposed name commemorates Carola "Carol" J. Young (1936–2018), described in the proposal as a miner and pioneer in Alaska. Carola Young served as President of the Yentna Mining District for 23 years and was an active member of the Alaska Miners Association for over 40 years. The proposal states that she was instrumental in advocating against the construction of a visitor center in the Petersville area as part of her role on the South Denali Development Steering Committee.

The proposal notes that Carola Young and her mother restored the Fairview Inn in Talkeetna after a fire and operated it from 1971 to 1978. During this time, the inn became a community hub for miners, mountain climbers, and locals. Portraits of Talkeetna pioneers commissioned by Young remain displayed in the inn. Additionally, the proponent states that Young helped establish the VFW Post 3836 in Talkeetna and supported the implementation of SNOWtrac, a program providing groomed winter trails in Alaska.

The proposal also describes Young's work at a mining camp near Cache Creek, where she lived without electricity or running water, highlighting her efforts to improve living conditions at the camp, including installing gravity-fed plumbing and constructing a shower house.

The Talkeetna Historical Society and Museum emphasized Young's contributions to Talkeetna and her role in preserving the cultural and natural heritage of the area.

The Alaska Miners Association highlighted her service to the mining community, including her advocacy for miners and her public service on state committees.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Historical Preservation Commission and a private citizen also expressed support, citing Young's legacy as a pioneer and community leader.

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska stated its opposition, citing the club's longstanding policy against endorsing commemorative names for geographic features. In their statement, they

noted: "The Mountaineering Club of Alaska has a longstanding policy that prohibits the endorsement of commemorative names intended to honor people, whether living or dead, for geographic features."

The National Park Service (NPS) has expressed opposition to the proposal to name the peak "Mount Carola." The NPS notes that the feature is located within eligible wilderness, and their policy, as outlined in Staff Directive 80-4, states that naming such features is not supported "absent an overriding need identified for purposes of safety, education, area administration, or other management purposes." The NPS further references Policy IV, sections 1 and 2, of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names' Principles, Policies, and Procedures (2016), which align with their position. They conclude that no overriding need has been identified in this case.

At its October 3, 2024 meeting, the Alaska Historical Commission (acting as the Alaska Board on Geographic Names) approved the name for State use.

New name **Elisabeth Creek**, Arizona

Mouth: [34.613306, -112.41694](#) / Source: [34.593611, -112.384722](#)

Local government	Prescott City Council	Support*
	Yavapai County Supervisors	Support*
State Names Authority	Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names	Support
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Tohono O'odham Nation of Arizona	No objection
	Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe	Support*
Other	Prescott College	Support**
	Sharlot Hall Museum	Support**
	Granite Dells Preservation Foundation	Support**
	Save the Dells	Support**
	Daughters, grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter of honoree	Support**

* contacted by SNA

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

The new name **Elisabeth Creek** is proposed for a 2.8-mile-long intermittent stream within the protected Watson Lake/Granite Dells city-owned park preserve in Yavapai County. The stream heads in the Town of Prescott Valley on the northwest slope of Glassford Hill, then flows

northwest through a State Resource Management Area and the City of Prescott and Granite Dells (a valley) into Granite Creek.

The proponent, who serves as Vice President of the Granite Dells Preservation Foundation, states that the name would honor Elisabeth Ruffner (1919-2019), who

was instrumental in obtaining and preserving the Granite Dells with its creeks. Elisabeth Ruffner saved and assured the preservation of numerous historical and natural landmarks throughout Arizona. In her 99 years, she was unrelenting in efforts in leading causes that improved the lives of the people of Prescott and the State. The creation of a park in the Granite Dells is one of her successes. It has become the jewel in Prescott all cherish and enjoy. Naming this previously unnamed creek to commemorate Elisabeth Ruffner would honor her memory and permanently secure her place in the annals of Arizona history. Those who cross the creek along the rails-to-trails Peavine Trail and Iron King Trail will learn of Elisabeth Ruffner in the signage and maps.

She was also inducted into the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame.

GNIS does not list any streams in Arizona named "Elizabeth" or "Elisabeth."

The August 27, 2024 minutes of the [Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names](#) (ASBGHN) reported that the proponent made a presentation with a "binder with materials including local letters of support, maps, the geology of the area, wildlife, flora, fauna, the History of the Granite Dells, and achievements of Elisabeth Ruffner with a biography section." The ASBGHN used a new form "that applicants or any member of the public can use to submit feedback on a proposal." ASBGHN received 39 responses, only one of which was opposed to the name because "someone would not know which Elisabeth the name Elisabeth Creek was referring to. The opposition was not the name itself, but that it's too vague. That person would prefer to see the full name Elisabeth Ruffner Creek." The proponent reported that the City of Prescott has allowed signs to be put up along trails at two prominent locations along the stream that will have an engraved picture of Elisabeth Ruffner as well as a description of her accomplishments.

The President of the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe sent a letter to the ASBGHN stating that the Tribe

strongly supports the Granite Dells Preservation Foundation's application to Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names to name a presently unnamed creek in the Granite Dells after a prominent Prescott citizen, Elisabeth Ruffner. The designation "Elisabeth Creek" would be a representative acknowledgment, honoring Ms. Ruffner's lifetime of dedicated service to improving the quality of life for residents of the Prescott area and throughout the state of Arizona.

Ms. Ruffner was a stout supporter of the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe, and naming a local geologic feature in her honor aligns with the Tribe's values regarding the

importance of the land and the particular significance on our relationship with water. In our estimation, naming the creek for Ms. Ruffner is a fitting act to bestow honor on one of Arizona's finest.

The Tohono O'odham Nation of Arizona's Tribal Historic Preservation Officer informed the ASBGNH that the "Tohono O'odham Nation has no objections" to the name.

Elisabeth Ruffner served on the Granite Dells Preservation Foundation's Board of Directors and helped establish Prescott College.

New name **Respite Branch**, North Carolina

Mouth: [36.15768, -81.29441](#) / Source: [36.17616, -81.31859](#)

Local government	Wilkes County Commissioners	Support*
State Names Authority	North Carolina Board on Geographic Names	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy 10	No response

* provided 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 Respite Branch is proposed for a 2.26-mile-long tributary of North Prong Lewis Fork in Wilkes County.

The proponent, a resident of Wilkesboro, reports that the name reflects the stream's historical role as a place of rest and refreshment for weary travelers and their animals. It served as a key resting point for travelers with horses and wagons journeying from Wilkesboro to Boone in the late 1800s. Mrs. Ginney Church, who lived at the site in a lean-to shed made of sawmill slabs, recounted that the branch "was the only stream between Wilkesboro and Deep Gap . . . that the horses and wagons did not have to ford various bodies of water." She described the spring at the headwaters as a crucial source of fresh water for both people and animals. Travelers appreciated this natural resting place, where they could recover before facing the challenging task of crossing the Blue Ridge into Boone. Mrs. Church also recalled the site as "a happy place where children played, people could rest, interact, share experiences, trading items, and looked to a better time of life that the Boone Trail would lead to."

GNIS lists no geographic features within North Carolina with "Respite" in the name.

The North Carolina Board on Geographic Names recommended approval without comment.

Change **Tiltens Run** (BGN 1963) (FID [1058076](#)) to **Tildens Run**, Ohio
(Appalachian Hills Wildlife Area—Ohio DNR)

Mouth: [39.7586834, -81.6704066](#) / Source: [39.7911111, -81.7163889](#)

Local government	Brookfield Township Trustees [Noble County]	Support*
	Meigs Township [Muskingum County]	No response
	Noble County	No opinion*
	Muskingum County	Support*
State Names Authority	Ohio State Names Advisor	No response
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy 10	No response
Other	Ohio State Senator Brian Chavez (30th district, where stream is located)	Support*
	Noble County Historical Society	Support*
	Muskingum County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical 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

This proposal is to change the name of Tiltens Run to Tildens Run. The stream is 3.5 miles long and heads in Meigs Township in Noble County, then flows southeast into Brookfield Township in Muskingum County where it enters Dyes Fork. The stream flows through several reservoirs that have official names that include “Ohio Power Company Pond.” (GNIS contains 55 records for reservoirs like this, all added to GNIS in 1991 from a 1980 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers list of reservoirs and dams. The area around the stream is within the Ohio Department of Natural Resources’ Appalachian Hills Wildlife Area.)

The name Tiltens Run was officially adopted by the BGN in 1963, replacing the former name Jewett Run. This decision was based on input gathered from local residents by a USGS field engineer, as well as a highway sign that referenced the stream as Tiltens Run. Tiltens Run was labeled on USGS topographic maps between 1961 and 2010.

The proponent, a resident of Cody, Wyoming, reports that the current name is a misspelling and seeks to restore the name that would reflect the Tilden family’s historical connection to the area.

In the early 1830s, Jason Tilden (1805-1883) sold his land in northwest Brookfield Township and purchased property along the stream, which was then known as Jewett Run. The

Tilden family remained the last private landowners in the area before the Ohio Power Company acquired the land near Renrock, prompting the relocation of all residents.

Research conducted by the proponent, along with a review of land ownership maps and cemetery records, supports the claim that the Tilden family were prominent early settlers in Renrock. Records indicate that no individuals or families named Tilton lived in the area.

GNIS lists a small unincorporated community named Tilton Crossroads, in Licking County and approximately 50 miles northwest of the stream in question.

The proponent contacted local governments and other interested parties and asked them to submit support for the correction.

The Brookfield Township Trustees wrote:

The trustees received a letter regarding the incorrect spelling of a creek in Brookfield Township. Apparently, the family that owned the land surrounding most of the creeks' run through Brookfield Township in Noble County was owned by the Tiltan [sic] Family. The Tiltens [sic] were early settlers of the Renrock area and this land was owned for over 130 years, until it was purchased by the Ohio Power Company in the early 1960's. Apparently that's when the creek's name was changed to the incorrect spelling of Tilton.

All trustees voted to urge the USGS to give full and fair consideration to the Tilden's [sic] Run name change application. Correcting this misspelling will serve to accurately reflect the history of the Renrock region and to honor the Ohio branch of the Tilden Family.

The Muskingum County Commissioners wrote:

[We] support the Tilden family's request to have the USGS correct the spelling of Ohio's "Tiltans Run" creek.

It has been brought to our attention that the family that owned the land surrounding most of the creek's run through Noble County was the Tilden family. The Tildens were early settlers of the Renrock area and owned this land for over 130 years, until it was purchased by the Ohio Power Company in 1962. Apparently, that is when the creek's name was changed to the incorrect spelling of "Tilton". . . .

[W]e urge the USGS to give full and fair consideration to the Tilden's Run name change application. Correcting this misspelling will serve to accurately reflect the history of the Renrock region and to honor the Ohio branch of the Tilden family.

Ohio State Senator Brian Chavez wrote:

My office supports their efforts to restore the correct spelling of [the Tilden] family's name to a creek flowing through Muskingum and Noble Counties in Ohio.

In 1963, a stream running through these counties was renamed "Tilton's Run." However, it has been proven through extensive research by the family and the local Historical Society, that the early settlers and longtime owners of the land surrounding the creek were the Tilden's, not the Tilton's.

We believe that the 1963 renaming of the stream resulted in the misspelling of the early settler's name. . . .

I urge full and fair consideration be given to the Tilden's Run name change application. Your support of this project will enable the creek in Ohio to be correctly named.

The Noble County Historical Society wrote:

In 1963 a stream running through this community was renamed. The original name was "Jewett Run" and was renamed "Tiltons Run."

Through our extensive research, we have discovered the early settlers of Renrock were the Tildens, not the Tiltons. . . .

We believe that the renaming of the stream resulted in the misspelling of the original settlers – The Tilden Family.

We are supporting the Tilden Family's request to correct the misspelling of the name of the stream.

The Muskingum County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society wrote:

Early deeds in the area clearly show that the name was Tilden.

Jason Tilden purchased the land in the late 1820s. The Muskingum County Tax Assessment shows Jason Tilden paying taxes on the land in 1825, 1826, and 1827.

The stream. . . was formerly known as Jewett Run. In 1962, the stream's name was changed. . . to Tilton's Run. . . . This is evidently a misspelling of Tilden. The *Domestic Geographic Name Proposal* submitted in 1962 [by a USGS engineer to the BGN to correct a map label] cites "Tilder" as one of the authorities for the name [a farmer named E. R. Tilder who confirmed the name Tiltons Run in 1962].

Because of all of this evidence, the Muskingum County Genealogy Society supports Ross Gorman's request to change the name on all official maps to Tilden's Run.