

U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
Eight Hundred and Seventy-Eighth Meeting
September 11, 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)
Thaddeus (Thad) Ellerbe	Department of Commerce (NOAA)
Brenda-Anne “B.C.” Forrest	Government Publishing Office
Andrew Griffin	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Christopher Hammond	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Elizabeth (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)
Jeremy Smith	Department of Interior (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management)
Paul Stackhouse	Department of Homeland Security
Alexander Stum	Department of Agriculture (Natural Resources Conservation Service)
Timothy St. Onge	Library of Congress
Dr. Michael Tischler	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Marilyn W.	Department of Defense (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency)
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
Jason Burton, U.S. Geological Survey
Lindsay Decker, U.S. Geological Survey
Matthew O’Donnell, U.S. Geological Survey
Stephanie Sparkman, U.S. Geological Survey

Special Committees

Tenielle Gaither, Department of the Interior

Guests and Observers

Becci Anderson, Department of the Interior
Clark Ashton, Druid Hill Reporter
Amos Desjardins, Department of Homeland Security
Michael Doyle, E&E News
Alex Fries, National Park Service
Deb Nordeen, National Park Service
Jennifer Runyon, former BGN staff
MaryRose Sheldon, Department of Commerce (NOAA)

1. Opening and Roll Call

Chair Tischler opened the 878th meeting of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) at 2:00 p.m. EDT. The meeting was held in hybrid format. The Chair confirmed that the DNC would proceed under its customary informal rules, with motions to be decided by a simple majority of votes cast; abstentions would not be counted for or against. Members were asked to notify the DNC if they left the meeting to maintain an accurate vote count. The Chair reminded attendees that there would be no public comment period and that inquiries from the public or media should be submitted in writing to staff. Jason Burton posted his contact information in the chat for media-related questions.

Executive Secretary Zahniser conducted the roll call. Eighteen voting members were confirmed present, constituting a quorum.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

Chair Tischler introduced the agenda and invited a motion for approval. A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

3. Minutes of the 877th Meeting

The Chair invited comments on the minutes of Meeting 877. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as submitted.

4. Communications and Reports

4.1 BGN Chair (Tischler)

Chair Tischler reported on attendance at the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (CoGNA) Conference in Golden, Colorado, and noted that the Colorado Geographic Names Advisory Board organized the event. He stated that attendance was somewhat limited due to Federal travel restrictions but that the conference provided opportunities for discussion with State Names Authorities. The Chair also reported that the United Nations Group of Experts on

Geographical Names (UNGEGN) and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) are preparing to resume meetings on collaborative work, with webinars anticipated. He informed members that the BGN will hold elections for officers at the next quarterly meeting. The Chair further reported that the U.S. National Section of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History requested updates on membership and that the BGN may wish to consider representation.

4.2 Executive Secretary for Domestic Names (Zahniser)

Executive Secretary Zahniser reported on the CoGNA Conference, including the presentation of the revised *Domestic Geographic Name Proposal Form* and requests for State feedback. She noted that invitations for BGN Office Hours had been distributed, and agendas are forthcoming. She announced that the Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names (ACAN) will meet in October. Secretary Zahniser reported that the UNGEGN Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage convened in August and anticipates an in-person meeting in Austria in 2026 to review progress. She stated that the call for sections for the FY 2025 Annual Report will be issued on October 1, and that the report will include a section on Executive Order 14172 name changes and an In Memoriam section honoring Doug Caldwell. She added that the FY 2024 Annual Report remains under review at the Department of the Interior.

4.3 Executive Secretary for Foreign Names (David D.)

See attached report.

Executive Secretary David D. reported on recent actions of the Foreign Names Committee, including updates to conventional names policies and administrative divisions in several countries, as well as changes to GNS production systems. He also reported on U.S.–UK collaboration, noting that NGA staff are scheduled to meet with their UK counterparts in London as part of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names exchange.

It was noted that a non-voting member departed the meeting.

4.4 Special Committee on Communications (Gaither)

Gaither reported progress on a training video to guide the public through the name proposal process. Draft scripts are being refined with support from USGS User Engagement staff, and production is expected to continue through FY 2026.

4.5 Staff (O'Donnell)

See attached report.

O'Donnell reported that three recent proposals from Texas communities sought to name streams for FEMA flood mapping purposes. Following discussions with FEMA Region 6, it was clarified that FEMA does not require stream names for Conditional Letter of Map Revisions. He stated that staff will continue coordination to ensure BGN processes do not create unnecessary burdens for communities.

4.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (Decker)

Decker reported on recent updates to GNIS, including ingestion of new census data and military records. She also noted outreach at the CoGNA Conference, which provided an opportunity to demonstrate GIS applications for new State representatives.

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

Kanalley reported the next meeting is scheduled for September 26.

5. Docket

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

Review Lists 452 and 454

New names **Boomer Creek** or **Uypi Creek**, California

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name Uypi Creek, citing the recommendation of the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names.

Vote: 12 in favor
4 against
2 abstentions

The votes opposing the motion cited evidence of local support for the name Boomer Creek.

Review List 456

Change **Halfbreed Creek** (FID [1029279](#)) to **Camp Cherith Creek**, North Dakota

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name. The votes opposing the motion cited a lack of local support.

Vote: 10 in favor
3 against
5 abstentions

New names **Bickel Run, Eckers Creek, and Kenilworth Creek**, Pennsylvania

A motion was made and seconded to bundle the names. A motion was made and seconded to approve the names.

Vote: 17 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

Review List 457

New names **Cleveland Creek** and **Maynard Run**, New York

A motion was made and seconded to bundle the names. A motion was made and seconded to approve the names.

Vote: 17 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

Review List 458

New name **Marions Brook**, Maine

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 17 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

New names **Blencoe Round Top, Bliss Creek, Bliss Round Top, Clarke Falls, Gaylor Hill, Hade Hill, Hogs Back, Mount Vision, Natty Bumppos Cave, Prospect Rock, Rathbun Creek, Star Field, and The Triangle**, New York

A motion was made and seconded to bundle the names. A motion was made and seconded to approve the names.

Vote: 17 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

Review List 459

New names **Beebe Cove** and **Weaver Cove**, Florida

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the proposals citing a lack of documented evidence of local use and support.

Vote: 15 in favor
2 against
1 abstention

One member voting against the motion to disapprove noted that the proponent claimed the names were in local use.

Change name and correct location of **Heavy Liquor Pond** (FID [337043](#)) to **Effluent Equalization Basin**, Georgia

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name change and to correct the location in GNIS.

Vote: 17 in favor
1 against
0 abstentions

The member opposed to the motion believed that the existing name should not be removed from maps merely because the function of the feature had changed.

New name **Riggs Ridge**, Nevada

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 17 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

6. Other Business

The DNC considered a request to revisit the 2019 decision on a proposal to apply the new name Druid Hill to a topographic feature in DeKalb County, Georgia.

Executive Secretary Zahniser summarized that in October 2024, the proponent submitted *DeKalb County Plat Book 320, page 139*, as new evidence; in November 2024 the DNC determined that this did not constitute sufficient new evidence. At that time, the DNC specified

that reconsideration would require (1) a letter of support from the County Commissioner of the district in which the feature is located, (2) the letter issued on official DeKalb County Commissioner letterhead, and (3) the letter transmitted directly to the BGN Executive Secretary with the proponent carbon copied

On September 2, 2025, the Chief of Staff for DeKalb County Commission District 6 submitted a letter of support, which was determined to meet the requirements. A motion was made and seconded to reconsider the DNC's 2024 action and to approve the request to revisit the 2019 proposal.

Vote: 16 in favor
0 against
2 abstentions

The DNC will vote on a final decision regarding Druid Hill at its next meeting on October 9, 2025.

There was no other business.

7. Closing

The next Domestic Names Committee meeting will be held October 9, 2025, 2:00 p.m. ET at Department of the Interior, North Penthouse Room and accessible via Teams. Chair Tischler thanked all participants for their time and adjourned the meeting.

(signed)

Shellie Zahniser, Executive Secretary
Domestic Names Committee

APPROVED
(signed)

Michael Tischler, Acting Chair
Domestic Names Committee

**Executive Secretary Report
Domestic Names Committee Meeting
September 11, 2025**

CoGNA:

CoGNA conference occurred 18-21 Aug in Golden, CO. Chair Tischler, Chris Hammond, and Exec Sec provided presentations to the SNAs on BGN activities. The new proposal form was presented to the States and feedback was requested to make improvements. Office hours were also discussed, and a new set of calendar invites will be distributed prior to the Sep 22 meeting (Aug was cancelled due to the conference).

ACAN:

The next meeting for ACAN is scheduled for 8 October to allow time to prepare for the Oct 21 Full Board meeting. Intent is to resolve deferred cases from May and provide a list of recommendations for the BGN's approval.

UNGEKN:

On Aug 20, the working group for Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage met in the first of a series of meetings. Exec Sec was unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts with CoGNA. Topics of discussion included updates from the Co-Convenors, Focus Group Leaders, and the Secretariat. There were also discussions on UNGEKN publicity strategies, and scoping potential interest in an in-person meeting of the working group scheduled for Autumn 2026 in Austria. The objective of the in-person meeting is to review the working group's progress ahead of the 2027 Session of UNGEKN. A Teams site will be established in the coming weeks for the working group. Please notify DNC Executive Secretary if there is any interest in accessing this site.



United States Board on Geographic Names

878th Domestic Names Committee Meeting

BGN Executive Secretary for Foreign Names Report

September 11, 2025

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN NAMES REPORT

September 11, 2025

1) MEETINGS

The Foreign Names Committee (FNC) met once since the last DNC meeting. Meeting 423 was held virtually (Microsoft Teams) on Tuesday, September 9, 2025. The next FNC meeting (Meeting 424) is scheduled for Tuesday, December 9, 2025.

The FNC approved a recommended update to the Conventional name policy.

Staff recommendations: The Committee considered and approved the following recommendations:

- The country policy for **Fiji**;
- **Angola:** addition of four new first-order administrative divisions and three seats; termination of one administrative division; updates to two existing administrative divisions and one seat;
- **Azerbaijan:** addition of Anglicized names for 70 first-order administrative divisions; addition of Conventional names for three seats;
- **Burundi:** addition of three new first-order administrative divisions; termination of 17 administrative divisions; updates to two existing or reactivated administrative divisions and three seats; demotion of 13 seats; retirement of the conventional name, addition of Approved names, and other updates, for the country; update to the capital;
- **Congo:** addition of three new first-order administrative divisions and seats; updates to six other administrative divisions and one seat;
- **Jordan:** retirement of a Conventional name for a canal feature; and
- **Netherlands:** addition of Approved name for the capital.

The annual update concerning Conventional names was presented for information.

2) OTHER BUSINESS

During the past two months, FNC staff user-testing of the latest production and dissemination builds as part of Vector and Cartographic Production System (VCPS) development identified significant issues. Work to address these, requiring a partnership of various internal stakeholders at NGA and developers at Esri, has pushed deployment dates further to the right. An update to production systems is slated to be deployed in late September, while the timeframe for deployment of GNS updates, which require extensive rework, has yet to be determined. This committee and the wider BGN will be kept apprised of any further changes.

Following June's appointments to the BGN of the Member and Deputy Members for the Department of Defense, the Executive Secretariat has also evaluated its own needs and has chosen to phase out the long-established FNC Assistant support by the conclusion of fiscal year 2025. The Secretariat wishes to acknowledge and express its heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Sladjana (Milicevic) Katsos for her exceptional contributions in this position.

An annual update on the FNC's Principles, Policies, and Procedures (PPP) will once again be provided at the committee's December meeting. Senior FNC Staff will also provide what will be annual updates on BGN

romanization systems, both those undergoing maintenance and in development, and on ongoing maintenance of the Geopolitical Entities, Names, and Codes (GENC) Standard.

Two FNC Staff members will soon be travelling to London to join their UK colleagues on the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (PCGN) for this year's week-long Toponymic Exchange, scheduled for September 15-19, 2025. Thanks to the gracious offer by PCGN to host NGA toponymists at their Royal Geographical Society offices, Staff will once again have the opportunity to collaborate on a variety of geographic names and romanization policies, working as always towards a joint US/UK perspective on political geography issues.

Upcoming Meetings and Events (listed in chronological order)

- The 373rd Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF) meeting is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. EDT on September 16, 2025.
- The 298th BGN full board meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. EDT on October 21, 2025.
- The 424th Foreign Names Committee meeting is planned for 1:00 p.m. EST on December 9, 2025.

BGN/Domestic Names Committee Meeting 877
September 11, 2025
Staff Report

Reporting period: July 31, 2025 to August 27, 2025

Proposals received

Proposal	Name	Feature type	State	Status
New name	Mt. Marcel Barel	summit	NV	need to ask proponent to justify full name; local name Lee Peak
Name change	Mount Woodring to Ferguson Peak	summit	WY	not accepted for consideration; no more proposals to change this name
Name change	Low Gap Point to Tate Point	ridge	TN	accepted for consideration after clarifying extent
Name change	Change Wenzel Mound to Bataneant Mound	summit	IL	submitted on old form, asked for new form submission
New name	A. B. Fisher Creek	stream	NC	submitted on old form, asked for new form submission
New name	Gnébêk Stream	stream	MI	accepted for consideration after clarifying extent
New name	Patriot Bend	bend	TN	accepted for consideration
New name	Sunrise Lake	lake	MN	accepted for consideration; done through MN state process
New name	Whittell Peak	summit	NV	accepted for consideration
New name	Collins Meadows	flat	CA	Added by GNIS from authoritative source

Status change of pending proposals

Proposal	Name	Feature type	State	Status
none				

Inquiries received

Type	Name	Feature type	State	Status
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Restoring names	Konrad Lake, Konrad Dam	reservoir, dam	MO	Follow up request asking for correction/restoration to show original names; or add details to GNIS to reflect original builder of lake/dam; or which agency could preserve the name. Similar response as prior.
Name and mapping process	none	stream	PA	If a stream is named, will it automatically show up on digital maps? Staff shared details about proposal and how hydro applies names
National Park/geologic sites with native names				shared with NPS for response
Authoritative source for country names				shared with FNC for response
History of waterbody name changes in WI			WI	Referred to Wisconsin Geographic Names Council and explained how to find this information in GNIS
History of naming efforts or decisions	Ulysses S. Grant Peak and Mount Rhoda	summits	CO	Sent documents on file
Location of feature	Seefar Glacier	glacier	AK	Sent to GNIS to process
Preserving features as veterans' monuments	Roberts Lake, Cochran Lake	lakes	MI	Names approved by BGN in 1958. Explained BGN role and referred to their representative's office
General process				Staff shared information

Media requests received:

- Hearst Newspapers about the proposals to rename Mount Woodring in Grand Teton National Park
- Chicago Sun-Times about renaming process re: local efforts to rename the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal
- Jackson Hole News & Guide about the proposals to rename Mount Woodring in Grand Teton National Park
- E&E News about the To Kalon Creek revisit decision
- Wine Spectator about the To Kalon Creek revisit decision

State Name Authority/Advisor activity:

- CoGNA meeting August 18-21

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
DOCKET
September 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."

Review Lists 452 and 454

New name **Boomer Creek** or **Uypi Creek**, California

Mouth: [37.011378, -122.012261](#) / Source: [37.04217, -122.00547](#)

Boomer Creek (Review List 452):

Local government	Santa Cruz County Supervisors	Support
State Names Authority	California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names	Oppose
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Five neighbors of the proponent	Support*

* obtained by the proponent

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

Uypi Creek (Review List 454):

Local government	Santa Cruz County Supervisors	No opinion*
State Names Authority	California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names	Support
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco	Support*

	Bay Area [proponent]	
	Amah Mutun Tribal Band Vice Chairperson/Tribal Historian [personal opinion]	Support*

* contacted by SNA

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

Two names are proposed for this officially unnamed tributary of an unnamed tributary of Branciforte Creek in Santa Cruz County

- Boomer Creek, a proposal to make a long-standing local name official for Federal use
- Uypi Creek, proposed in response to the first proposal in reference of and to honor the Uypi people who lived in the area prior to and at the time of Spanish colonization

These proposals were on the August 14, 2025 DNC docket but were deferred to allow clarification from the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names about their outreach procedure to federally recognized Tribes and non-federally recognized native groups.

A resident of the community where the stream is located submitted a proposal in April 2023 to make the name Boomer Creek official for Federal use. The proponent had noticed that Google Maps labeled the stream as “Redwood Creek,” a name that was also used in Santa Cruz County GIS data. Redwood Drive runs along the stream, and the county’s GIS data used several names derived from nearby roads for officially unnamed streams in the area. The proponent shared evidence that the name Boomer Creek had been used locally for at least 50 years and the county GIS office updated their data.

The Boomer Creek proponent wrote:

A creek long known as Boomer Creek in Santa Cruz County, California is being misidentified as “Redwood Creek.” Everyone who has lived along this creek for the last half century knows the correct name, but apparently, its proper name, Boomer Creek, did not get into the USGS database of names. We hope you can correct this oversight and get us back on track. . . .

Residents of Redwood Drive who have lived here from 30 to 50 years know the Creek as Boomer Creek. We all agree that it is Boomer Creek. Since the name Boomer Creek goes back at least 50 years or 60 years at least, we would like that name to be official. . . .

Google maps shows the name as Redwood Creek, and newer residents are confused and assume the name change was official. To our knowledge, there’s

no evidence that anyone made a conscious decision to change the name. We were definitely not consulted or alerted to anything like that. I think if the UCSC librarian said it was Boomer Creek in 1986 [referring to the 1986 *Santa Cruz County Place Names: A Geographical Dictionary* by Donald Thomas Clark], it's Boomer Creek in 2023. . . .

[The name is k]ind of commemorative, but from 100+ years ago. Please, see [the entry from *Santa Cruz County Place Names: A Geographical Dictionary*] regarding George and Harvey Boomer who arrived in Santa Cruz County about 1868. That's all we know.

The Boomer Creek entry from *Santa Cruz County Place Names: A Geographical Dictionary* stated:

A creek that flows through sections 19, 30 & 31, T10S, R1W, and is a tributary to West Branch Branciforte Creek [not a name recorded in GNIS]. Named for George and Harvey Boomer, natives of Nova Scotia who settled in the county around 1868. They operated a saw mill [sic] along the creek, starting some time before 1875. This feature is shown on current USGS topographical maps as Blackburn Gulch [sic, this feature is labeled on a different drainage to the northeast].

Map: WRI (1881, Sheet #25) shows creek flowing through lands of Harvey Boomer; HAT (1889) shows creek running through lands of H. Boomer; PUN (1906) as Browns Creek through lands of Bommer [sic]; ASR:68-01, -11, -12, & -27, STA (1948, Sheet #21) as Boomer Gulch; SAS (1935), ORR (1965) as Boomer Creek; USGS 9 as Blackburn Gulch [sic, see above.]

A 2012 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood map labeled the stream as Redwood Creek; FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) data also records the name as Redwood Creek. Santa Cruz County GIS data and FEMA maps show the name "Glen Canyon" for the stream the one proposed as Boomer Creek flows into, a name that matches the paralleling Glen Canyon Road.

During standard outreach on the Boomer Creek proposal, the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN) member assigned to the proposal received a counterproposal in November 2023 to name the stream Uypi Creek from the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area, a non-federally recognized group.

The Muwekma Ohlone Tribal Archaeologist and Ethnohistorian (who is also an emeritus faculty member in the San Jose State University Department of Anthropology) submitted the proposal to the BGN in November 2023. The proposal was co-submitted by the Muwekma Ohlone Tribal Vice-Chairwoman. The DNC staff did not ask the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe to comment on the Boomer Creek proposal. The proposal included the following information:

Thank you for the opportunity to review, comment, and offer alternatives to the proposed name "Boomer Creek" for the unnamed creek within the greater City

of Santa Cruz that flows into Branciforte Creek [sic, the stream flows into an officially unnamed stream which itself flows into Branciforte Creek].

Randal Milliken, Laurence H, Shoup and Beverly Ortiz (2009) offered the following about the Uypi and Mission Santa Cruz in their publication titled *Ohlone/Costanoan Indians of the San Francisco Peninsula and their Neighbors, Yesterday and Today* for the National Park Service Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco, California

"Mission Santa Cruz was founded in the territory of the Uypi local tribe (or mobile band) of the lower San Lorenzo River and Soquel Creek. The first new neophyte baptized at Mission Santa Cruz was an eight-year-old girl who was not from Uypi. She was brought down to Santa Cruz by her parents from Achistaca, somewhere up the coast or up the San Lorenzo River. Four days later, on October 13, 1791, Uypi headman Suquer (probable namesake of Soquel) and his wife Rosuem became the second and third people baptized at Mission Santa Cruz (SCR-B 2, 3). Their children had already been baptized at Santa Clara in early 1791 (SCL-B 1894,1907)" (Milliken et al. 2009:144).
https://digitalcommons.csumb.edu/hornbeck_ind_1/6/

As a result, although George and Harvey Boomer were indeed mid-19th Century immigrants to the Santa Cruz region, they apparently did not maintain a sawmill (as far as we can ascertain from the Federal Censuses). Furthermore, although there are place names within the greater Santa Cruz/Monterey Bay region such as Aptos and Soquel, it is the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe's recommendation that the unnamed creek under discussion be formally named Uypi Creek in honor of the aboriginal tribe of the greater Santa Cruz region, who never ceded their lands and natural resources to the Spanish Empire, Mexican/Californios, or American colonial invaders. . . .

Renown anthropologist Randall Milliken in his published doctoral dissertation titled *A Time of Little Choice: The Disintegration of Tribe Culture in the San Francisco Bay Area 1769-1810* wrote the following about the Uypi Tribe of the Santa Cruz area and the adjacent Aptos Tribe located to the east of the Uypi:

Uypi (Costanoan Language). The Uypi people held the mouth of the San Lorenzo River, the site of the present city of Santa Cruz. Two children of their captain, Suquel, were baptized at Mission Santa Clara in 1791 under the designation "San Carlos" (SCL-B 1894, 1907). Suquel and his wife were the second and third people baptized at Mission Santa Cruz (SCR-B 2, 3). All in all 103 Uypi people were baptized at Mission Santa Cruz between 1781 and 1795. They were the first group to go in large numbers to Mission Santa Cruz for baptism and the first group completely absorbed into that mission population. Uypi people were called "Soquel" people in post-1810 Mission Santa Cruz death records and

padrons [*sic*]. The present town of Soquel, just east of Santa Cruz, certainly derives its name from that of captain Suquel (the Spanish rendering of the man's name, which was also spelled Sugert and Suquer in various Spanish manuscripts (1995:259). . . .

[W]e are submitting this recommendation to name this unnamed creek in Santa Cruz County after the aboriginal tribe of this area. The Muwekma Ohlone Tribe is a previously federally recognized tribe.

In a follow-up email to DNC staff and CACGN staff, the proponent wrote:

As a previously federally recognized tribe whose aboriginal territory overlapped with the City of Santa Cruz, the Tribe felt it incumbent to be engaged in the process that counters the historic colonial adverse impacts to aboriginal tribal groups and the politics of erasure by renaming, thereby, reclaiming and renaming aboriginal spaces, places, geographic features, and placenames.

[Although Clark's *Santa Cruz County Place Names* reported that George and Harvey Boomer operated a sawmill along the creek before 1875] our research discovered, based upon the federal censuses, that: On the 1870 Federal Census Harvey J. Boomer, age 22, was living in a logging camp and working for the Soquel River Lumber Company as a logger in the Soquel Township, and on the 1880 Federal Census, Harvey Boomer age 35, was living in the Branciforte Sup. District working as a farmer. . . .

Furthermore, we would like to submit the following additional information about the Uypi Tribe and people who were missionized into Mission Santa Cruz:

The root of the tribal name Uypi may be related to the word *luspín* the Santa Cruz/Awaswas dialect word for "tree" which was published by John Wesley Powell in 1877 in Volume III Contributions to North American Ethnology [Tribes of California].

In the Santa Cruz baptismal records the tribe is identified as Uypi/Uypin/Vypin and/or Rancheria San Daniel. Captain Soquel was the 2nd person baptized at the Santa Cruz Mission (SCr Bapt. # 2 identified as Suquex on 10-13-1791)

Numerous Uypi other family members were baptized at Mission Santa Cruz (SCr) between October 13, 1791 (SCr-B # 2) through at least February 8, 1795 (SCr-B # 392). Those later family members were identified as being from the Uypi and Rancheria de San Daniel. . . .

Lastly, if the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, and the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names decides to go with the name Boomer Creek as the name for this unnamed creek, then the Muwekma Tribal leadership will

accept their decision, however if the name Uypi Creek is accepted, then both the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, as well as the many supporters throughout the greater San Francisco and Monterey Bay regions will be most happy to celebrate another reclamation of the Tribe's history and heritage. . . .

DNC staff shared Santa Cruz area newspaper articles that mentioned the Boomer's sawmill published between 1873 and 1949 to the Uypi Creek proponent and to CACGN staff and members.

Santa Cruz County First District Supervisor Manu Koenig sent a letter in August 2023 to the BGN supporting the name Boomer Creek:

This change [sic, the stream is official unnamed for Federal use] not only holds historical and cultural significance for the surrounding communities but also aligns with community sentiment and provides an accurate geographical representation.

It is clear that the name "Boomer Creek" carries a deep historical connection with the local communities. Accounts from numerous residents date the usage of the name back to the 1950s and 1970s. This historical continuity highlights the enduring significance of the name "Boomer Creek" within the collective memory of the region. The stream's designation as "Boomer Creek" on the County of Santa Cruz's parcel maps further validates its long-standing usage by local inhabitants.

The County's inadvertent misnaming of the creek in the GIS database as "Redwood Creek" should not overshadow the authenticity and historical resonance of the name "Boomer Creek." The timely correction by County staff to rectify this misnomer reinforces the creek's true identity. Furthermore, real property legal descriptions identify the creek as "Boomer Creek," underscoring its legal and practical significance and providing a robust basis for the proposed change. The alignment of the assessor's parcel maps and the swift and proactive correction by County staff to revert the name back to "Boomer Creek" provides a strong basis for the proposed name change and demonstrates our commitment to ensuring this region is accurately represented.

It is clear that the proposed name change aligns with historical usage, legal documentation, and community sentiment. It also preserves the rich history and identity of the local communities that have cherished this area for generations. Therefore, I strongly urge the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to support the renaming of Redwood Creek [sic, see above] to Boomer Creek.

In May 2024, DNC staff corresponded with a member of Supervisor Manu Koenig's staff about the County's recommendation about the Uypi Creek proposal. No response was received.

CACGN staff contacted the county in April 2025 and learned that Supervisor Koenig “[n]either supports nor objects to” the Uypi Creek proposal.

At its May 30, 2025 meeting, CACGN voted to recommend that the BGN approve the name Uypi Creek and not approve the name Boomer Creek with the following explanation:

[opposing Boomer Creek with a 5-4 vote] Basis: The Committee considered local use of a name as well as the naming of a federally-unnamed geographic feature after an individual who has exhibited historic offensive and abusive behaviors. . .

[supporting Uypi Creek with a 5-4 vote] Basis: CACGN considered the opinions of the tribes with ancestral ties to the feature and the 12,000+ year historic use of the term “Uypi” by the tribal peoples of what is today called Santa Cruz County.

Review List 456

Change **Halfbreed Creek** (FID [1029279](#)) to **Camp Cherith Creek**, North Dakota
Mouth: [48.0694675, -103.2618547](#) / Source: [48.095767, -103.386412](#)

Local government	Williams County Commissioners	No opinion
State Names Authority	North Dakota geographic names advisor	No opinion
Federal	USACE	No response
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Crow Tribe of Montana	No response*
	Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation (Three Affiliated Tribes / MHA Nation)	No response*
	Lower Sioux Indian Community (MN)	No response*
	Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation (SD)	No response*
	Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation (MT)	No response*
	Fort Belknap Indian Community (MT)	No response*
	Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe (SD)	No response*
	Northern Cheyenne Tribe (MT)	No response*
	Spirit Lake Tribe (ND)	No response*
	Oglala Sioux Tribe (SD)	No response*

	Upper Sioux Community (MN)	No response*
	Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (SD)	No response*
Other	Two landowners	Opposed**

* contacted by proponent

** asked by county

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

This proposal, to change the name of Halfbreed Creek in Williams County to Camp Cherith Creek, was submitted by a resident of Bismarck, who believes the existing name is offensive. In an inquiry to the USGS National Map helpdesk, she stated:

I thought more places would have had their names changed by now. I was looking at a location on Google Maps that I need to visit and there is a Creek in Williams County with the name of Halfbreed. I find it embarrassing that this hasn't been rectified yet. Please look into changing the name of the Creek to something that isn't offensive.

She was advised that the BGN is reactive and that she would need to propose a replacement name to the BGN.

Halfbreed Creek has been labeled on USGS topographic maps since 1979; its origin has not been determined. The stream flows east through land managed by the North Dakota State Land Board and into Lake Sakakawea. The lake is managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as the Sakakawea Recreation Area. USACE has an agreement with the North Dakota National Guard allowing it to utilize the area for training purposes.

Regarding the replacement name, the proponent states:

Camp Cherith (also known as Dakota Hills Christian Camp) is [sic] located adjacent to the creek and is [sic] an example of a post 1960-church camp. The architectural site is recorded with the ND State Historical Society. While Camp Cherith is no longer active as a camp, the origins of the name are Biblical.

The camp was one of several that were originally (1939) established as Pioneer Girls camps, later renamed as Camp Cherith, and in 1981 as Pioneer Ministries camps. There are six locations in operation today in the U.S. and Canada.

When advised by the BGN staff that the BGN has developed cultural sensitivity guidance to address names of interest to Tribes, she responded:

As a private citizen, I think it would be more appropriate for the federal agency or agencies to seek THPO comment on the name change. USACE has a PA with many Tribes

along the Missouri River that would likely need to be consulted in this process, which to me seems like a rather cumbersome undertaking for a private citizen.

In a follow-up email to a number of representatives of federally recognized Tribes, the proponent stated that in preparing to visit the area:

I noted that the name of the Creek running through the property had a name that made me cringe. I decided to take it upon myself to look into changing the name, as I knew Secretary Deb Haaland had organized a committee for this purpose. Since USGS doesn't have the ability to consult on name changes, I am contacting you all about the name change proposal. . . . It really is a beautiful location, and but the creek needs a better name. Please take a look through the email chain and decide amongst yourselves.

No responses were received.

Note: The list of place names compiled by the Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names, established in response to Secretary's Order 3405 (now terminated as of late February 2025), did not include *Halfbreed Creek* but does list Half Breed Coulee, located 10 miles to the northeast.

New names **Bickel Run**, **Eckers Creek**, and **Kenilworth Creek**, Pennsylvania

Bickel Run: Mouth: [40.20081, -75.6192](#) / Source: [40.2141, -75.66089](#)

Eckers Creek: Mouth: [40.23858, -75.68145](#) / Source: [40.22512, -75.69517](#)

Kenilworth Creek: Mouth: [40.23073, -75.62335](#) / Source: [40.22636, -75.65668](#)

Local government	North Coventry Township Supervisors (Chester County)	Support*
	East Coventry Township Supervisors (Chester County) [Bickel Run only]	Support*
	Chester County Commissioners [response delegated to Chester County Water Authority]	Support*
State Names Authority	Pennsylvania Geographic Names Committee	No objection
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

* obtained by proponent

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

This proposal is to make official three locally-used names in North Coventry Township in Chester County. They were submitted by the North Coventry Environmental Advisory Council (NCEAC), which "has led the effort to document unnamed streams within the Township and

identify appropriate names based upon local use and historic context.” The NCEAC notes that although these names have been in local use for some time, they are not recorded in GNIS.

The stream proposed as Bickel Run is a 0.6-mile-long tributary of Pigeon Creek that heads in North Coventry Township and flows into East Coventry Township.

- NCEAC reported that the stream has been known locally as Bickel Run “for several decades” and that it was first identified in township open space reports in 2002
- A township park at the headwaters is called Bickel Run Park
- NCEAC presumes the name refers to the Bickel family, who settled along the stream in the mid-to-late 1800s. George Bickel was the first property owner from that family and his name was noted in the 1883 *Breou’s Farm Atlas of Chester County*. Online genealogy records list many individuals with the surname Bickel in North Coventry Township.

The stream proposed as Eckers Creek is a 2.2-mile-long tributary of the Schuylkill River.

- NCEAC reported that the name has been in local use “for several decades” and that it derives from that of the Ecker Family, who settled along the headwaters of the stream in the 1830s. Maps from 1860 and 1883 show Christian Ecker (1793-1862) and Samuel Ecker as landowners at the confluence of the two branches of the stream. Since 2021, Eckers Creek has been identified by two PennDOT signs at bridges on State Route 724.

The stream proposed as Kenilworth Creek is a 2.1-mile-long tributary of the Schuylkill River.

- NCEAC reported that the proposed name has been in local use “for decades”
- The stream flows through the unincorporated community of Kenilworth, which was named in 1882 in reference to a village in Warwickshire, England, adjacent to the city of Coventry
- The stream flows through the township’s Kenilworth Park
- The name Kenilworth Creek appears on a PennDOT bridge sign (PennDOT bridge data has also referred to the stream as “Small Run” and “Unnamed Trib Schuylkill.”)

The Chester County Water Resources Authority, in supporting the proposals, states
We believe that named streams which have been designated as High Quality, a Special Protection waterway, are more likely to receive recognition, public support, and protection than unnamed streams. We also feel that stream naming an impaired High Quality stream is a worthwhile effort to improve the water quality of the stream, better educate the public, and achieve our County-wide water resource goals

The Pennsylvania Geographic Names Committee has no objection to the proposals but stated that they found the name “Jones Run” on 1847 and 1856 maps of Chester County for the stream proposed as Kenilworth Creek and would like the DNC to consider the name in the review process, but did not wish to propose the name formally.

Review List 457

New names **Cleveland Creek** and **Maynard Run**, New York

Cleveland Creek: Mouth: [42.025819, -76.802743](#) / Source: [42.030704, -76.793542](#)

Maynard Run: Mouth: [42.018416, -76.797876](#) / Source: [42.025983, -76.785908](#)

Local government	Ashland Town Board	No objection
	Town of Southport [Cleveland Creek only]	Support
	Chemung County Executive	No objection
State Names Authority	New York State Committee 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 following two names are proposed to be made official for streams in the Town of Ashland in Chemung County. They were submitted by a local resident who has submitted a number of previous proposals and who states that the Ashland community is interested in naming “all of its unnamed streams.” These are two of five submitted; the others are pending additional details.

The new name **Cleveland Creek** is proposed for a 0.6-mile-long tributary of an unnamed tributary in Chemung County. The stream heads on the slope of Comfort Hill in the Town of Ashland, then flows along Comfort Hill Road before entering South Creek in the Town of Southport.

The name would commemorate William Cleveland (1800-1864), who settled in Southport around 1840, with his first residence likely being located near the creek. The proponent refers to Cleveland as “a pioneer of the area.” He is listed as a farmer in the Federal Census of Southport from 1840 to 1860.

The new name **Maynard Run** is proposed for a one-mile-long stream in the Town of Ashland in Chemung County. The stream heads on the southwest slope of Comfort Hill and flows southwest then northwest to enter South Creek.

The name would honor Harold “Web” Maynard (1934–2013), whose old home bordered the creek. According to the proposal,

Harold ‘Webb’ Maynard moved from Elmira to Ashland when a young man and owned the property on NY Route 14 along the stream. He resided there for many years, and was well known. His family grew to occupy surrounding areas as well. Though he moved

to Florida before passing, he was associated with the property and had lived there for quite some time. The proposed name has general support as evidenced by the local Wellsburg, NY community Facebook Group. Many have fond memories of Harold Maynard, whose old home borders the creek And most community members attribute the area to him.

Maynard's obituary states that he served in the U.S. Army from 1955 to 1961, followed by 27 years with the Elmira Fire Department. He also owned and operated an auto sales and service company for eight years.

Review List 458

New name **Marions Brook**, Maine

Mouth: [43.22372, -70.70409](#) / Source: [43.22906, -70.6868](#)

Local government	Town of York Selectboard	Support*
	York County Board of Commissioners	Support*
State Names Authority	Maine Geographic Names Advisor	Support
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	York River Stewardship Committee	Support*
	Angus King US Senator	Support*
	Friends of Mount Agamenticus	Support*
	Maine Coast Heritage Trust	Support*
	One member of the public	Support*
	Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	Support*
	Maine State Representative	Support*
	Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge	Support*
	Maine House Representative	Support*
	Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve	Support*
	York Conservation Commission Chair	Support*
	York Land Trust	Support*
	York Water District	Support*
	Park and Recreation Board	Support*

* 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

The new name Marions Brook is proposed for a 1.56-mile-long unnamed stream in the vicinity of Mount Agamenticus in the Town of York, York County. The stream originates between Mount Agamenticus and Second Hill, flows northwest, then curves southwest, passing through the Mount Agamenticus Wildlife Management Area before joining Hoopers Brook, a tributary of the York River. This proposal was submitted by Friends of Mount Agamenticus.

The proposed name honors Marion Fuller Brown (1917–2011), a lifelong conservationist, civic leader, and former Maine state representative. According to the proposal and the included letters of support, Brown was instrumental in spearheading the movement to protect the Greater Mount Agamenticus Conservation Region. Her legacy includes significant contributions to environmental legislation, including Maine’s landmark billboard ban and returnable bottle law. She also served on numerous local and State boards, advocating for land preservation and scenic conservation.

The proposal has received strong support from various stakeholders, including the Town of York Selectboard, York County Board of Commissioners, Maine Geographic Names Advisor, Maine House of Representatives and multiple organizations and individuals committed to conservation

New names Blencoe Round Top, Bliss Creek, Bliss Round Top, Clarke Falls, Gaylor Hill, Hade Hill, Hogs Back, Mount Vision, Natty Bumppos Cave, Prospect Rock, Rathbun Creek, Star Field, and The Triangle, New York

Local government	Middlefield Town Supervisors [proponent]	Support
	Otsego County Representatives	Support*
State Names Authority	New York State Committee on Geographic Names	Support
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Five county residents	Support*

* provided by proponent

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

These thirteen names were submitted by the Senior Planner for the Otsego County Planning Department to apply new names and make official locally used names for features in the Town of Middlefield. In 2011, the Town Historian prepared a map identifying approximately three dozen local landmarks. A number of these landmarks are not geographic features under the BGN's purview to name, but the town and county are asking the BGN to consider some of the locations. Seven of the names are commemorative.

Blencoe Round Top is named for Adelbert "Bill" Blencoe (1906-1987), former town supervisor. Several generations of Blencoe farmers owned the property.

Bliss Creek and Bliss Round Top are named for the Bliss family, who have owned the property since 1872. Bliss family members were former town board members, farmers, and school trustees.

Clarke Falls is a long-standing local name, presumably for George Hyde Clarke (1768-1835), whose nearby Hyde Hall is now part of Glimmerglass State Park.

Gaylor Hill is named for the Gaylor brothers who owned the farm and built the schoolhouse in Middlefield.

Hade Hill is named in association with the nearby Hade Hollow Road, which was named for a family who has lived in the area since the 1870s.

Hogs Back is a descriptive name for a ridge.

Mount Vision is named in association with the hamlet of Mount Vision, within the town of Laurens.

Natty Bumppos Cave references the protagonist in James Fenimore Cooper's *Leatherstocking Tales* published between 1823 and 1841. The books call the cave "Leatherstocking Cave."

Prospect Rock is named in association with a nearby farm.

Rathbun Creek is named for Warren Rathbun (d. 1988), who acquired property along the stream in 1972

Star Field is named for its shape and would be classified as an "Area" in GNIS.

The Triangle is named for the shape of the summit.

The December 13, 2011 Middlefield Town Board minutes reported

The United States Geologic Service would like a copy of the resolution of the Board accepting the landmark naming map that Les Rathburn has done for the

Town. Resolution #9 The Town Board endorses the effort and results of Les Rathbun in updating the Town of Middlefield Landmark Naming Map.

BGN staff has no record of any USGS or BGN request to the Town for this map or resolution.

An Otsego County Board of Representatives resolution in support of the names noted that the names should be approved for these “several natural features in the Town of Middlefield. . . which have no official name used by federal offices” and that they were reviewed by the Otsego County Planning Department and the Solid Waste and Environmental Concerns Committee.

The New York State Committee on Geographic Names supports the names “given the strong local support.”

Review List 459

New names **Beebe Cove** and **Weaver Cove**, Florida

Beebe Cove: [28.51863, -81.7654](#)

Weaver Cove: [28.5217, -81.75453](#)

Local government	Lake County Commissioners	No response
State Names Authority	Florida State Names Advisor	No opinion
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

This proposal is to make official the names **Beebe Cove** and **Weaver Cove** for two bays at the south end of Lake Minnehaha in Lake County.

The proponent reports that both of “[t]he namesakes lived near these geographic features from the mid-1960s to the mid-1980s.”

The name **Beebe Cove** is proposed for a 5-acre bay in a cypress swampy shoreline along Lake Minnehaha, Lake County.

The proponent states:

The first house built on this cove, built in the 1960s, was occupied by Dale Beebe [(1925—2018)] and his family. Local fishermen then referred to the cove as “Beebe’s Cove” and as of 2023 some local people still use that designation. I have never heard any other name for the cove.

GNIS lists no features within Florida with “Beebe” in the name.

The name Weaver Cove is proposed for a 4.2-acre bay along a swampy shoreline of Lake Minnehaha in Lake County.

The proponent states:

The house and boathouse nearest to this cove was owned by Dr. Thomas Weaver [(1927—1984)] who lived there with his family in the 1960s. Local fishermen then referred to the cove as “Weaver’s Cove” and as of 2023 some local people still use that designation. I have never heard any other name for the cove.

Dr. Thomas Weaver is interred in Clermont, Lake County, Florida. An inscription on his grave reads “US NAVY WW II.”

GNIS lists six features in Florida with “Weaver” in the name. The closest is Weaver Hole Slough in Pasco County approximately 40 miles west of the bay.

Change and correct location of **Heavy Liquor Pond** (FID [337043](#))
to **Effluent Equalization Basin**, Georgia

[34.2471, -85.3274](#)

Local government	Floyd County Commissioners	No response
State Names Authority	Georgia State Names Advisor	No opinion
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	International Paper Rome Mill (proponent/landowner)	Support

	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 Heavy Liquor Pond in Floyd County, Georgia to Effluent Equalization Basin and to change the location of the name. The proposal was submitted by the Environmental Manager of International Paper’s Rome Mill.

The proposal reported:

International Paper purchased this property in 2012. Unsure of the naming nomenclature that was previously used prior to International Paper ownership, but it is incorrect based on our wastewater treatment system. The current label “Heavy Liquor Pond” is in on [sic] a smaller pond that is part of our wastewater

treatment system, southwest of the “Effluent Equalization Basin”. The smaller pond should not have a label/name, but the larger pond should be labeled Effluent Equalization Basin.

This proposal was the result of an Information Quality - Information Correction Request under the Information Quality Act. That request stated:

We are requesting a name change for a pond at our facility which is labeled incorrectly. In the USGS database, a smaller pond in the system is labeled as the Heavy Liquor Pond which is inaccurate. This smaller pond should not have a label, but the larger pond next to it should be labeled Effluent Equalization Basin (EEB).

In 1967, USGS maps first showed only the small reservoir to the west with the label “Industrial Waste Pond.” The name Heavy Liquor Pond was added to GNIS in 1992 from a 1979 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) list of dams and reservoirs with coordinates that fell within the feature labeled “Industrial Waste Pond” on USGS maps. The USGS National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) applies the name Heavy Liquor Pond to the smaller feature (a reservoir in NHD) and no name to the larger feature (a Lake/Pond in NHD).

The proponent clarified the need for the name change:

Prior to International Paper purchasing the Rome Mill in 2012, the facility was owned by Temple Inland. Historically pulp and paper mills utilized black liquor ponds in their liquor cycle. However, the pulp and paper industry has gone away from liquor ponds for environmental protection and gone to liquor tank farms therefore the name is misleading and outdated.

Currently, the pond in question is an imperative part of our wastewater treatment system. It is utilized to allow influent from multiple areas of the mill to equalize prior to entering the biological portion of the system. The equalization of multiple influent streams is critical to maintain a healthy biomass for proper treatment of wastewater required by our NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit to ensure compliance of the effluent and protection of the environment.

The State Names Advisor provided their standard list of maps and sources, noting which ones showed the feature and which ones labeled the feature, and wrote:

As the Georgia names advisor to the US BGN, the Georgia Archives takes no position on this request and will defer to local authorities.

GNIS contains records for many reservoirs that are used for industrial purposes. None contain “Liquor,” but three (all added from versions of the USACE list of dams and reservoirs) contain “Effluent” in their names:

- [Final Mill Effluent Treatment Pon](#) [sic]
- [Round Hill Effluent Reservoir](#)

- [Effluent Treatment Pond Number Four](#)

Until 2021, when administrative features were removed from GNIS, there were four other records that contained “Liquor Pond” that were added from versions of the USACE list of dams and reservoirs:

- Heavy Liquor Pond Dam in Floyd County, Georgia
- Spent Caustic Liquor Pond Dam, Spent Leaching Liquor Pond Number 3 Dam, and Spent Leaching Liquor Pond Number 4 Dam in Clark County, Nevada (located where “Tailings Ponds” were labeled on USGS maps from 1952 to 1987)

Three dams contained “Effluent,” two of which were associated with reservoir names noted above:

- Simplot Effluent Irrigation Dam
- Round Hill Effluent Dam
- Effluent Treatment Pond Number Four Dam

New name **Riggs Ridge**, Nevada

[39.117512, -119.67922](#)

Local government	Carson City Supervisors	No response*
State Names Authority	Nevada Board on Geographic Names	Support
Federal	Bureau of Land Management	No opinion
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California	No response*

* 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 **Riggs Ridge**, submitted by the Nevada State Board on Geographic Names, is proposed for an unnamed ridge located in Carson City. The approximately four-mile ridge lies on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and trends approximately north-northwest to south-southeast. It is bounded in part by the Carson River to the west and north, and by Brunswick and Sand Canyons to the east. The Southern end of the ridge begins near the Bunker Hill Mine, just northwest of McTarnahan Hill.

The proposal was submitted by a resident of Reno to honor his friend John Arthur Riggs (1946–2016), a decorated Vietnam veteran and prominent public servant in Nevada. He received numerous military awards, including the Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, and the Combat Infantry Badge. As noted in the proposal, “he worked and helped better conditions for both

the male and female inmates” of the Nevada State Prison complexes. He also taught high school level courses to incarcerated individuals and was “appointed Supervisor of Education at the Maximum Security Prison,” where he later became Assistant Director. His efforts in prison education earned him widespread respect, especially among Native American inmates.

According to the proposal, Riggs also contributed significantly to historical research in Nevada, notably providing much of the research for Nevada Place Names by Helen Carlson. Beyond his work in corrections and history, Riggs was deeply involved in civic life, including serving as president of the Nevada Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees) and holding leadership roles in the Young Democrats of Nevada. He organized a Jaycees chapter within the prison and was named Outstanding Young Educator by the Prison Jaycees in 1974.

Artifacts from his life and career have been donated to the Nevada Historical Society, further commemorating his contributions to the state. The proposed name, located near the Nevada State Prison, was chosen specifically “in coordination with its proximity to the prison in Carson City.”

GNIS lists two existing features in Nevada with “Riggs” in the name, Upper Riggs Spring and Lower Riggs Spring, both located approximately 190 miles southeast of the proposed ridge.

The proposal was supported by the Nevada State Board on Geographic Names (NSBGN) at its November 2024 meeting. Relevant comments from the NSBGN minutes included:

- “[The proponent presented and said that this ridge] was chosen in coordination with its proximity to the prison in Carson City.”
- “Outreach to the Washoe Tribe was done in July 2024 by the Chair and Executive Secretary as well as efforts to collect comments digitally in outreach to the THPO. Clifford Banuelos ([Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada] ITCN) noted that John Riggs was highly respected by Native Americans due to his efforts in education in the prison system, where many incarcerated Native Americans appreciated his hard work.”