

U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
Eight Hundred and Seventy-Ninth Meeting
December 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 (Jess) Campbell	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
Thaddeus (Thad) Ellerbe	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Christopher (Chris) Hammond	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Elizabeth (Betsy) Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Patrick (Pat) Mahoney	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management)
Veronica Ranieri	Library of Congress
Timothy St. Onge	Library of Congress
Dr. Michael Tischler	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Marilyn W.	Department of War (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
Mackenzie Chriscoe, U.S. Geological Survey
Lindsay Decker, U.S. Geological Survey
Matthew O'Donnell, U.S. Geological Survey
Stephanie Sparkman, U.S. Geological Survey

Guests and Observers

Simon Seidel, Department of the Interior
Mary Rose Sheldon, Department of Commerce (NOAA)

1. Opening

Chair Tischler opened the 879th meeting of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) at 2:01 p.m. EST. The meeting was held in hybrid format. The Chair confirmed that the DNC would proceed under its customary informal rules, with motions decided by a simple majority of votes cast; abstentions would not be counted for or against. Members were asked to announce 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 questions from the public or media should be submitted in writing to staff. When the Chair asked members of the media to identify themselves, a freelance journalist introduced herself.

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

Prior to the roll call, Chair Tischler introduced the Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior, who offered brief remarks thanking the Committee and expressing support for its work before departing the meeting.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to advance the Foreign Names Committee briefing (David D.) to the top of the reports section to accommodate his early departure. The motion passed without objection.

3. Minutes of Meeting 878

The Chair asked if there were any comments or edits to the minutes of the 878th meeting. Hearing none, a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes.

The minutes were approved without objection.

4. Reports

4.1 Executive Secretary for Foreign Names (David D.)

Executive Secretary David D. reported that the Foreign Names Committee meeting originally scheduled for December 9 was postponed due to shutdown impacts and rescheduled for March 10, 2026. He stated that updates to the Geographic Names Database (GNDB) were deployed in October and that GNS dissemination updates are now expected in April–June 2026 due to additional ESRI refinement requirements. He noted that the FNC will resume annual updates to its Principles, Policies, and Procedures, including Romanization systems and maintenance of the U.S. profile of ISO 3166. David D. also reported on recent U.S.–UK collaboration, including a week-long toponymic exchange in London with the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (PCGN), in which U.S. analysts participated in both policy discussions and operational naming work.

4.2 BGN Chairman (Tischler, Acting Chair)

Chair Tischler reported on recent activities related to the joint United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names–United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial

Information Management (UNGEGN–UN-GGIM) collaborative project. He stated that he and his co-chair presented an update and preliminary recommendations at a divisional meeting held earlier in the week, and that additional feedback is anticipated in January.

4.3 Executive Secretary for Domestic Names (Zahniser)

See attached report.

Executive Secretary Zahniser reported that the call for sections of the FY 2025 Annual Report was released shortly after the shutdown. She stated that the report will include two special sections: a summary of Executive Order 14172 naming actions and an In Memoriam section honoring former BGN Chair Douglas Caldwell.

She noted that the FY 2024 Annual Report is currently under review by the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, and that it is anticipated the report will be transmitted to the Secretary soon.

Zahniser also reported that appointments for the 2025–2027 term are continuing to be vetted, and that elections will take place at the next scheduled Full Board meeting, followed by the naming of the DNC Chair and Vice Chair at a subsequent DNC meeting.

4.4 Special Committee on Communications (Black)

In Gaither’s absence, Black reported that the Committee was reconstituted in late FY 2025 and is coordinating with Zahniser and DNC Staff to support responses to public and media inquiries. She stated that the Committee is also assisting in updating and improving BGN website content.

4.5 Staff (O’Donnell)

See attached report.

4.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (Decker)

Decker reported on recent Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) enhancements, including the ingestion of more than 13,000 “unknown coordinate” features to support accurate cartographic display and the correction of approximately 148,000 GNIS citations, with 6,000 remaining for manual review. She also stated that GNIS modernization efforts continue in collaboration with DNC Staff, National Geospatial Technical Operations Center, and the National Map Help Desk, and that additional updates are planned for FY 2026.

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

Kanalley reported that the Committee has not met since the previous session. She announced her retirement and stated that the Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication (SCNANTC) Chair position will become vacant. She noted that the continuation of SCNANTC will be evaluated based on need and that all materials and notes have been transferred to staff.

5. Docket

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

Not Review Listed

Change **Norreigo Point** ([FID 287773](#)) to **Norriego Point** and change the application of **Norriego Point**, Florida

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name Norriego Point and to correct the feature's location in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS).

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Review Lists 441, 450, 459

Change **Negro Islands** (FID [580743](#)) to **Bagaduce Islands**, **Meguntic Islands**, or **Wewətanagok**, Maine

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

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

During discussion, it was noted that the proposals for Bagaduce Islands and Meguntic Islands lacked sufficient support. Concerns were also raised regarding whether "meguntic," when used independently, reflects a documented Penobscot-language term.

Review List 453

New name **Whiskey Point**, Minnesota

A motion was made and seconded approve the name.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Review List 454

Change **Kern Canyon** (FID [226531](#)) to **Curran Canyon** and change **Kern Creek** (FID [2831455](#)) to **Curran Creek**, California

A motion was made and seconded to approve the bundled name changes.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Review List 455

New name **Peninsula Quarry Lake**, Ohio

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the name, citing a lack of local support.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

New name **Sylvan Run**, Ohio

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the name, citing a lack of local support.

Vote: 11 in favor
1 against
0 abstentions

New name **Yesberger Pond**, Ohio

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the name. During discussion, it was noted that the National Park Service opposed the proposal.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Review List 458

New name **Tabaccy Branch**, Tennessee

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Review List 459

Change **Stonewall Peak** to **Cush-pii** (FID [273917](#)), change **Stonewall Creek** to **Kwettap Cush-pii** (FID [273614](#)), change **Little Stonewall Peak** to **Cush-pii 'Estik** (FID [272128](#)), and change **Little Stonewall Creek** to **Kwettap 'Ekwii Emak** (FID [272127](#)), California

A motion was made and seconded to bundle the proposals. A motion was then made and seconded to approve the bundled name changes.

New names **R.E. Wynn, DVM Pond** and **Shiner Pond**, Florida

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove R.E. Wynn, DVM Pond. During discussion, it was noted that the Florida State Names Authority opposed the proposal.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

A motion was made and seconded to approve Shiner Pond.

Vote: 11 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

It was noted that one voting member departed the after the vote; eleven voting members remained present.

Review List 460

New name **Cygnat Brook**, Maryland

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 11 in favor

0 against
0 abstentions

New name **Sunset Stream**, Massachusetts

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name

Vote: 11 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

6. Other Business

6.1 Revisit of the 2019 Druid Hill Decision (Georgia)

The DNC considered a request to revisit its 2019 decision on a proposal to apply the name Druid Hill to a geographic feature in DeKalb County, Georgia. Executive Secretary Zahniser provided a briefing on the request. It was noted that new evidence of local support had been submitted since the prior determination. A question was raised regarding the feature's classification.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name Druid Hill.

Vote: 8 in favor
0 against
3 abstentions

It was noted that a voting member departed the meeting after the vote; however, a quorum remained, with ten voting members present.

6.2 Revisit Request of the 2019 Pine Meadows Park Pond Decision

O'Donnell presented a request to revisit the 2019 disapproval of a proposal to change the name Pine Meadows Park Pond to Pine Meadows Lake. It was reported that the proponent had since obtained a letter of support from the Colchester Select Board, constituting new information.

A motion was made and seconded to grant the revisit request.

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

A vote on the name change will occur at a future meeting.

6.3 Other Items

Members briefly discussed the scheduling of the 2026 Council of Geographic Names Authorities (CoGNA) Conference in Sacramento. Dates will be confirmed and shared with the Committee.

Before adjournment, Chair Tischler recognized Betsy Kanalley on the occasion of her retirement and expressed appreciation for her many years of service to the BGN.

8. Closing

The next Domestic Names Committee meeting will be held January 8, 2025, 2:00 p.m. ET at Department of the Interior, Kiowa 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
December 11, 2025**

UNGEEN:

Divisional meeting on 7 Nov was cancelled, and the 9 Dec did not take place as of the writing of this report. A paper on the “Revitalizing Divisions of UNGEEN” was scheduled to be discussed to raise awareness of the responsibilities of the Divisional Chairs and guidelines for Division creation and dissolution. Please reach out to me if you have interest in these topics. Information will be provided at the next DNC meeting.

The Focus Group on Indigenous Geographical Names is seeking to meet in early 2026. The group will be seeking feedback on the activities and priorities of the group in the lead up to the UNGEEN session in 2027.

The Report from Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage was included in the 69th issue of the UNGEEN Bulletin, and summarizes the outcomes from the 2025 session related to the Working Group and Focus Group. The working group also met on 20 November, covering agenda logistics and a review of global survey responses, highlighting low African participation and varied recognition of indigenous-language place names. Key discussions focused on indigenous names as cultural heritage, ethical recording methods, standardization challenges, limited crowdsourcing uptake, and action items including follow-ups, policy sharing, and preparations for upcoming publications and events.

Annual Report:

The call for sections of the FY25 Annual Report was released shortly after the shutdown. This year, we will have two special sections to include a summary of the Executive Order 14172 name changes, as well as an In Memoriam section honoring Doug Caldwell. Jenny Runyon has volunteered to take that on in collaboration with BGN members. Those who have not responded, please do so soonest so that we can make up for lost time. The FY24 report is with the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science and we anticipate Sec. Burgum to receive the report soon.

Board Membership:

Appointments for the 2025-2027 term continue to be vetted. Elections will be taking place at the next scheduled Full Board meeting, followed by the naming of the DNC Chair and Vice Chair. Please stand by for further information.

BGN/Domestic Names Committee Meeting 879
December 11, 2025
Staff Report

Reporting period: August 28, 2025 to November 25, 2025

Proposals received

Proposal type	Proposed name	GNIS Feature type	State	Status
Name change	Digger Creek to Stanley Creek	Stream	CA	Accepted for processing, posted on Review List 461
Name change	Dodds Lake to Bear Springs Lake	Reservoir	TX	Accepted for processing, posted on Review List 461; initially submitted as “Bear Point Springs” but proponent amended to clarify name and match the feature
New name	Winn-McLain Pond	Reservoir	NC	Not accepted for processing; names refer to the families that still own the land without noting specific individuals meeting the Commemorative Names Policy
New name	Kari’s Bog	Swamp	WA	Accepted for processing, posted on Review List 461; processed, supported (including justification for the possessive apostrophe), and submitted by the Washington Committee on Geographic Names
New name	Trillium Creek	Stream	WA	Accepted for processing, posted on Review List 461; processed, supported, and submitted by the Washington Committee on Geographic Names
Name change	Spartman	Stream	FL	Accepted for expedited

	Branch to Sparkman Branch			spelling correction
New names	Stream DC-3B and Stream DC-3C	Stream	TX	Not accepted for processing; submitted as part of a FEMA Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) process; FEMA confirmed that having an official name for streams is not required for the CLOMR process
New name	Edward Stewart Holcomb Stream	Stream	NY	Not accepted for processing, could be on a future Review List once details clarified about the long name and generic term
Name change	Spring Lake to Foy Lake	Reservoir	UT	Accepted for processing, posted on Review List 461; USFS request to have name match local use
New name	Wright Pass	Gap	AK	Accepted for processing, posted on Review List 461; NTSB request for new name in a wilderness for safety and charting on FAA maps
New name	Mount Augason	Summit	UT	Not accepted for processing; name refers to current landowner so does not meet the Commemorative Names Policy
New name	Mount Podraza	Summit	ID	Not accepted for processing, could be on a future Review List after commemorative details provided
New name	Owl Island	Island	IN	Accepted for processing, will be posted on Review List 462

New name	Pepper Pond	Lake	NY	Accepted for processing, will be posted on Review List 462
New name	Gunnison Sentinel Peak	Summit	CO	Not accepted for processing, could be on a future Review List after clarification of location, current name, and wilderness justification
New name	Crabtree Creek	Stream	OH	Not accepted for processing, could be on a future Review List after commemorative details provided
New name	Two Rivers	Populated place (unincorporated)	FL	Accepted for processing, will be posted on Review List 462
New name	Lake Wilkins		PA	Accepted for processing, will be posted on Review List 462
New name	Rivers Lake	Reservoir	CA	Not accepted for review; same name submitted before for this feature referencing a living NFL player
Revisit request	Pine Meadows Park Pond to Pine Meadows Lake	Lake	CT	DNC did not approve change in 2019 citing a statement of no opinion from the Town and a reluctance to change a long standing name. Town support submitted as new evidence, which will be presented to DNC for review
New name	Schist Creek	Stream	PA	Tentatively accepted for processing once new form is submitted

Status change to pending proposals

Proposal type	Proposed name	GNIS Feature type	State	Status

Inquiries received

Inquiry type	GNIS feature	GNIS Feature type	State	Status
Name origin	Ediza Lake	Lake	CA	<p>Asked for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • earliest recorded USGS use • documents showing who named it this, when, and why • any variant or historical names <p>Staff replied that the origin and timing was unknown but shared a DNC work card and a 1977 inquiry the origin of the name which uncovered no information</p>
Name origin	Jameson Mountain	Summit	GA	<p>Shared by GA SNA after they were asked; no records, staff shared lack of details</p>
Add name to GNIS	Druid Hill	Summit	GA	<p>Proponent requested that the name be added to GNIS through the “Submitting nonrecorded names” procedure in the PPP stating that because the name is used on a DeKalb County product (North Druid Hills Corridor Scoping Study map), this showed county use of the name. GNIS staff declined to add it because the map uses Google maps as a</p>

				basemap which is not considered an authoritative source for Federal use.
Authoritative list of countries (from the Department of Veterans Affairs)				Referred to FNC
Topographical resurvey	“Bald Hill” (not in GNIS)	Summit	WA	Quarry has removed summit, user wants NOAA and USGS contour lines to reflect that; staff shared with NOAA and NGTOC for their action
GNS name change date (from LoC)	Populated Place in Romania			“looking for the date a change was made to the authorized form of a name”; referred to FNC for action
Official elevations		Summits	NC	Asked how to get all elevations in a state above a certain height; referred to TNM Help for answering
Add feature to GNIS	Kearsarge Lakes	Lake	CA	Name shown on USGS topos since 1907 but not in GNIS; referred to GNIS for addition
Decision details	Lonesome Hills	Range	AK	Sent decision documents
Name origin	Bangkok			Referred to FNC
Info about older review lists not posted on website				Staff shared Review List
Status inquiries from proponents	many	many	many	Staff shared the current status and what recommendations were still pending before a DNC vote

Media requests received:

- Meeting invitation request from a D.C.-based magazine journalist who writes for *Politico Magazine*, *Washingtonian*, and others; staff sent meeting invitation.

State Name Authority/Advisor activity

- The Delaware State names advisor (the State Geologist) retired in July
- DNC staff plans to meet with and provide an overview of the proposal review process with the following States that have recently had new contacts take over the role:
 - Delaware
 - Indiana
 - Idaho

Other items

- A Chicago author shared an update about efforts to rename the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal; no proposal has been submitted yet. The author asked to be notified when the DNC receives a proposal.
- Proponent asked if a stream was too small to name and if it needed to appear on USGS maps to be named.
- Proponent asked for clarification about the new proposal form question asking if the proposed name is published anywhere and if they had already submitted the name to GNIS through TNM Help.
 - The proposal is to change an official name, so this cannot be handled by GNIS through TNM Help.
- SNA member shared a comment on the new proposal form question “Is your proposal for a feature that is defined by private or public property boundaries?:
 - “My concern with this question is that all features can be defined by either private or public property boundaries. Therefore, the answer to this question will always be "yes", which means that no application will ever be forthcoming. I am sure that I am misunderstanding the intent of the question. On page three of the proposed form, there is a reference to an instruction manual. However, there is no link or other information on how to obtain an instruction manual. Perhaps an example of such a feature defined by private or public property boundaries would clarify the intent of the question.”
 - This question is intended to ask if the feature is itself a parcel of land defined by some legal boundary rather than a geographic feature.

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
DOCKET
December 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 **Norreigo Point** (FID [287773](#)) to **Norriego Point**
and change the application of **Norriego Point** Florida

[30.391032, -86.510226](#)

Local government	Destin City Council	Support
	Okaloosa County Commissioners	No response
State Names Authority	Florida State Names Advisor	No objection
Federal	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

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

This proposal is to correct the spelling of **Norriego Point** in the City of Destin, Okaloosa County, to **Norreigo Point** and to amend the location of the name.

A user of the USGS [The National Map](#) inquired about a discrepancy between local use and federal labeling of the name "Norriego Point" after reading [a January 2025 column in The Destin Log](#):

- federal maps show the name **Norreigo Point** (spelled with an "ei") at the east end of Destin Harbor at [30.3888116, -86.4880055](#)

- local use is presumably **Norriego Point** (spelled with an "ie") at the western end of Destin Harbor at [30.391032, -86.510226](#), based on the location of [Norriego Point Park](#)

The point is reportedly named for Jose Noriega, Jr. (1788-1827), who was on the Florida Territorial Council and in the local government in 1825 and 1827. Staff found no information about why or when the spelling was changed from Noriega to Norriego, nor why USGS maps and NOAA charts have always shown Norreigo (USGS since 1935; NOAA since 1944).

Federal maps have always shown the name at the east end of Destin Harbor, but local use is for a spit at the west end of Destin Harbor.

On September 15, 2025, the Destin City Council approved without discussion their consent agenda which included [a resolution supporting the spelling correction and location change](#).

Review Lists 441, 450, and 459

Change **Negro Islands** (FID [580743](#)) to **Bagaduce Islands, Meguntic Islands, or Wewətanagok**, Maine [44.407021, -68.7714183](#)

Bagaduce Islands:

Local government	Castine Town Selectboard	Opposed
	Hancock County Commissioners	No opinion
State Names Authority	Maine Geographic Names Advisor	Opposed
Federal Agency	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration	No opinion
	U.S. Coast Guard Sector Northern New England	No objection*
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy 10	No response
Other	Penobscot Bay and River Pilots Association	No objection*
	Maine Coast Heritage Trust (land manager of one of the islands)	Opposed
	Esther Island owner	Opposed

* contacted by NOAA

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

Meguntic Islands:

Local government	Castine Town Selectboard (proponent)	Support
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	Hancock County Commissioners	No opinion
State Names Authority	Maine Geographic Names Advisor	Opposed
Federal Agency	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration	No opinion
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy 10	No response
Other	Maine Coast Heritage Trust (land manager of one of the islands)	Opposed
	Esther Island owner	Opposed
	Castine Friends	Opposed
	Esther Island former owner	Opposed
	Castine resident	Opposed

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

Wewətanagok:

Local government	Castine Town Selectboard (proponent)	Opposed
	Hancock County Commissioners	No opinion
State Names Authority	Maine Geographic Names Advisor	Support
Federal Agency	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration	No opinion
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy 10	No response
	Penobscot Nation (proponent)	Support
Other	Maine Coast Heritage Trust (land manager of one of the islands)	Support
	Esther Island owner	Support

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

Three proposals have been received to change the name of Negro Islands in the Town of Castine, Hancock County. In May 2025, the individual island names were changed from Upper Negro Island to [Esther Island](#) and Lower Negro Island to [Emanuel Island](#). The islands are in the Bagaduce River.

Emanuel Island is a public preserve owned by Maine Coast Heritage Trust. Esther Island is privately owned.

Bagaduce Islands proposal summary

In July 2020, a Town of Penobscot, Hancock County resident, submitted a proposal to replace the word “negro” in the three related names with “Bagaduce” based on their location in the Bagaduce River (the proposals for Lower Bagaduce Island and Upper Bagaduce Islands were not approved by the DNC in May 2025).

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

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

The Hancock County Commissioners reviewed the proposal and took no action at the time to allow the local discussion to continue.

Meguntic Islands proposal summary

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

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

The vice chair of the INCC reported that he had spoken with a Penobscot Nation elder about any Penobscot names to consider. The vice chair reported that the Penobscot Nation commended

Castine for going through the process of making the change, but they “did not want to be involved or have the task of putting suggestions for changes onto them.”

The votes recorded in the November 2022 binding survey were

- 171 votes for Meguntic Islands (“translated from Algonquin/Penobscot language origins as ‘smooth [area in] choppy waters’”)
- 88 votes for Sikkwenahk Islands (“translated from Algonquin/Penobscot language origins to identify the horseshoe crabs appearing abundantly around the islands”)
- 80 votes for None of the Above

A 2021 *Bangor Daily News* article reported that “meguntic” means “great swell of seas.”

After the November 2022 Town vote, the Town of Castine submitted the names to the DNC and wrote that “[t]his action will end Castine’s involvement in this process and future inquiries or concerns should be made to the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.” The INCC was disbanded and did not meet again.

Wewatanagok proposal summary

In March 2025, the Penobscot Nation’s Director of Cultural and Historic Preservation proposed changing the collective name to Wewatanagok, which in Penobscot means “at the place where they come together, converge,” a reference to the islands’ connection at low tide. This name was proposed after local interested parties had concerns that “meguntic” was not an authentic Penobscot word and that the Town of Castine proposed that name without any input from the Penobscot Nation or other federally recognized Tribes. These interested parties shared their concerns with the DNC beginning in March 2023 and began their own local research and outreach.

The owner of Esther Island wrote the following about “megntic”:

[It] does not seem to be a real word, but rather an anglicized abbreviation. . . .

[I]t seems this name was introduced very late in the process, and was said to mean choppy seas or swelling seas. I was told the committee very much liked this name and quickly adopted it. As I remember, either days before or after the committee's names were presented to the town, committee member, Georgia Zildjian, sent an email to the group worried that she could not find evidence of the word Meguntic. She feared it was not an actual Native American word, but a possible abbreviation for Megunticook. I also tried researching Meguntic, and found no information.

The owner of Esther Island shared an email between INCC members that contained the following statements:

I have done a few hours of research and while “Mooselookmeguntic,” “Meguntacook,” and “Megantic” (with an A) are words with indigenous etymologies, I cannot currently trace the word Meguntic to any reputable source... or indeed any source at all. . . .

I vaguely remember a discussion about the meaning of the Algonquin word Meguntic (smooth and choppy seas, swelling seas) and the fact that sometime along the way the word Meguntic became a shortened version of the word Megunticook.

DNC staff asked the Castine Town Selectboard, the Hancock County Commissioners, and the Chair of the INCC (which disbanded in November 2022) to comment on the Wewətanagok proposal.

The INCC Chair stated that they believe that the INCC would have put forward the name Wewətanagok if it had been suggested during their review process and personally supports that name now.

The Castine Town Manager replied:

I talked to the Selectboard [at their meeting on Monday September 16], and they said that the name [Meguntic Islands] was submitted by the Town. That was our recommendation. If the BGN chooses another name, then so [be]it. I think Ms. Mason makes a good point also. So as for the Town of Castine, we will accept whatever the BGN chooses, and move on.

The Hancock County Manager replied that, of the two current Commissioners who were on the County Board in 2020, one of the Commissioners said they should take no action now and one said they supported the position made then about the proposed change (“to take no action and allow local discussion to continue”). The third Commissioner was elected in 2024 and is not as familiar with the issue.

History of current official name

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

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

Other comments

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

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

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

An individual who owned [Emanuel Island](#) for 50 years reports that he was always told "the island was a dropoff point for escaped Negro slaves, who would be hidden in the cellar of the house and by stealth picked up and transported to Canada. If nothing else, long periods of customary use should be sufficient to preserve the name." (The INCC reported that "Historians have found no conclusive origin for the name. But [we] didn't want to erase the islands' connection with African Americans, no matter how hazy the association." A local historian confirmed that "the local lore that it was part of the Underground Railroad is a myth. The name predated and had no connection to the network of secret routes and safe havens used to get enslaved African-Americans to free states and Canada. Castine also wasn't a hotbed for abolition and the town had ties with the Southern slave economy and cotton trade — something that was typical of many Maine coastal towns with industries on the ocean.")

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

Review List 453

New name **Whiskey Point**, Minnesota

Local government	Saint Louis County Commissioners	Support*
State Names Authority	Minnesota Names Authority	Support
Federal	National Park Service	No objection
	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration	No opinion
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

* contacted by proponent according to State legislated process

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

This proposal is to make official the local name Whiskey Point for a 23-acre point of land on Namakan Lake. The point is on privately owned parcels within the proclaimed boundary of Voyageurs National Park.

The proponent stated that the name “has been posted on signage and in use locally since the late 1960's, named by [my family and the neighboring landowner's family] who have owned the property since 1932.”

To justify the need for the name, the proponent stated:

Whiskey Point is on a common navigation path between Voyager's [*sic*] National Park entry points on Crane Lake and Kabetogamcomon [*sic*] tourist attractions such as Kettle Falls and commonly-used fishing grounds. As such it is a common landmark referred to when directing people to various locations in the Park.

Having the name appear on official maps would aid in this usage and provide a reference point for visitors to the area.

The proponent provided documentation that the name was already used

- in the 1986 *Voyaguers National Park: Water Routes, Foot Paths & Ski Trails* by Jim Dufresne
- in a 2022 Voyageurs Wolf Project report, “Greater Voyageurs Ecosystem Wolf Pack and Population Size Report” (a local wolf pack is named after the point in the report)
- in a 2024 self-published book, *Whiskey Point Memories*, by a member of one of the families that owns land on the point
- by Saint Louis County for 911 addressing

The DNC received the proposal and the proponent was directed to [Minnesota's legislated process for local and State review of geographic name proposals](#). The proponent followed the process, which includes submitting a petition to the county government signed by at least fifteen residents who are registered voters. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reviewed the petition, approved the name for State use, and recommends that the DNC approve the name for Federal use.

Review List 454

Change **Kern Canyon** (FID 226531) to **Curran Canyon**
and change **Kern Creek** (FID 2831455) to **Curran Creek**, California

Curran Canyon: Mouth: [37.5154676, -121.2414514](#) / Source: [37.4931928, -121.2960187](#)

Curran Creek: Mouth: [37.51611, -121.23944](#) / Source: [37.50993, -121.29856](#)

Local government	Stanislaus County Supervisors	No objection
State Names Authority	California Advisory 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
x	Name Change	Diacritics	Tribal
x	Commemorative	x Duplicate or Similar	Commercial
	Wilderness Area	Variant	Animal

These proposals are to correct the spelling of Kern Canyon and Kern Creek in Stanislaus County to Curran Canyon and Curran Creek, respectively. The changes are to recognize the correct spelling of a family name.

The proponent originally proposed a change to Kern Canyon. During initial case research, the name Kern Creek was found on a 1915 USGS map, GNIS staff added the name as official, and the proponent requested a correction to this name as well.

The proponent reports that the features were named for his great-great-grandfather Michael Curran (ca. 1821-1880), who owned a 480-acre ranch in the valley. According to *A History of Stanislaus County California* (Tinkham, 1921), Michael Curran was an early settler of Stanislaus County and an established sheep doctor, described as “a progressive man in the field of developing science,” evidenced by a bill he proposed “to prohibit sheep herders from driving scabby, diseased sheep through the ranges.” An account prepared by Mr. Curran’s daughter stated that the valley came to be named for Mr. Curran, although it was often mispronounced “Kern.”

The name Curran Canyon was further referenced in 1893 and 1896 editions of the *Stanislaus County Weekly News*, the *Los Angeles Times* (1895), and other newspapers from San Francisco, Oakland, and Modesto (1938). An 1898 edition of the *Daily Evening News* (Modesto, CA) titled “Derivation of West Side Names and Places” described “a small gulch named Currans [where] there is a large spring of good water near [its] head. This place was occupied many times before a permanent settlement was made by Michael Curran in the ‘60s and it retains his name. . .” It also appeared in publications in 1913 and 1938. The proponent provided an 1880 census documenting the name Curran.

The names Kern Canyon and Kern Creek have been labeled on USGS topographic maps since 1915.

A 1954 USGS memo noted:

The field completion engineer on the Westley [topographic map] submitted evidence that the name Kern Canyon should be changed to Curran Canyon, and a request to BGN is being submitted, based on his evidence. If this evidence was in error, please submit full information promptly so that we can withdraw our BGN request.

A memorandum dated three days after the field report read:

[A] resident . . . for 80 years told me that the original name for that canyon was CURRAN [sic], having been named after the Curran family. For one reason or another the name was corrupted to KERN [sic] and that this name has been accepted and used for the past 50 years or more, and now he. . . is about the only one who knows of the name CURRAN [sic]. . . .

[A]n engineer in the county surveyor's office in Modesto, was quite familiar with the area around PATTERSON [sic] about 1908 and thereafter and he says that the name KERN has been used sometime prior to that date.

All of the county records show it as KERN [sic] and nowhere is it shown as CURRAN [sic].

In view of this, I see no reason for not using KERN [sic]. The name is accepted by everyone in the area.

A March 1954 document for the Westley quadrangle edits read:

The field engineer states on the name cards that Curran Creek and [Curran] Canyon are correct; not Kern as on the old map. However, later field information, strongly supported, reveals that Kern is correct.

The California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names recommends that the changes be approved, stating that they "considered the documentation submitted by the proponent that provided the historical accuracy of the name."

Review List 455

New name **Peninsula Quarry Lake**, Ohio

[41.241527, -81.56382](#)

Local government	Village of Peninsula Council	No response
	Summit County Executive and Council	Opposed
State Names Authority	Ohio state names advisor	No response
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Landowner	Opposed*

* contacted by Village

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

The name Peninsula Quarry Lake is proposed for a one-acre reservoir in the Village of Peninsula, Summit County.

This name and the next two names on the docket were proposed by the President of O’Flanagan All-Purpose Services, LLC (Oapsie Inc.), which is “dedicated to leveraging technology for knowledge sharing, community building, and advocating for the environment.” The proponent reports that the names are in local use and believes that making them official would “enhance [their] visibility and significance in hydrologic studies, conservation efforts, and community awareness.”

This reservoir is in a former limestone quarry that until 2024 was a private swimming location (<https://peninsulaquarry.com/>) The proponent stated that the reservoir is “in a region known for its natural beauty and conservation efforts, and ‘The Peninsula Quarry’ has been a recognized place-name on Google Maps for many years” and that an official name for the reservoir would “preserve its historical significance, enhance its identity, and ensure its legacy for future generations.”

The Summit County Executive’s Chief of Staff reported that the landowner is opposed to the proposal and that Summit County’s position is to not recommend approval.

New name **Sylvan Run**, Ohio

Mouth: [41.22618, -81.55232](https://www.google.com/maps/place/41.22618,-81.55232) / Source: [41.22019, -81.57594](https://www.google.com/maps/place/41.22019,-81.57594)

Local government	Village of Peninsula Council	No response
	Boston Township Trustees	No response
	Summit County Executive and Council	No opinion
State Names Authority	Ohio state names advisor	No response
Federal	National Park Service	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
Commemorative (one name)	Duplicate or Similar	Commercial
Wilderness Area	Variant	Animal

The name Sylvan Run is proposed for a 1.5-mile-long tributary of the Cuyahoga River in Summit County and within Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CUVA). The stream flows through both the Village of Peninsula and Boston Township.

The proponent wishes to name the stream after the local name Sylvan Pond on the stream and stated:

The stream’s serene environment and scenic beauty make it a cherished natural feature among the local community. It is a site for educational field trips, conservation projects, and recreational activities such as bird watching and photography. . . . The naming of “Sylvan Run” recognizes its role as a vital water source and natural component within the broader Cuyahoga Valley watershed.

The pond near the head of the stream is labeled Sylvan Pond on a CUVA map of Oak Hill and Plateau Trails but is not recorded in GNIS.

New name **Yesberger Pond**, Ohio

[41.23417, -81.54577](#)

Local government	Village of Peninsula Council	No response
	Summit County Executive and Council	No opinion
State Names Authority	Ohio state names advisor	No response
Federal	National Park Service	Opposed
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 (one name)	Duplicate or Similar	Commercial
	Wilderness Area	Variant	Animal

The new commemorative name Yesberger Pond is proposed for a 0.7-acre reservoir located along Ritchie Run close to its confluence with Haskell Run in Summit County and within Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CUVA). The location was part of Brandywine Golf Course prior to its acquisition by the National Park Service.

The name would honor three generations of the Yesberger family: Earl Yesberger (d. 1988), who designed the golf course in the 1960s, his son Brett Yesberger (1962-2009), and grandson Ryan Yesberger (1993-2018). The proponent reports that the golf course was a fixture in the valley for many years, and “as a testament to the Yesberger family’s legacy, [the reservoir] was created as part of the golf course infrastructure, enhancing the local landscape and serving as a focal point for conservation and recreation.”

The National Park Service is opposed to the name because CUVA’s “plans for this property involve removing the man-made pond and restoring the hydrological conditions that existed before the development of the golf course.”

Review List 458

New name **Tabaccy Branch**, Tennessee

Mouth: [36.10193](#), [-83.039824](#) / Source: [36.10871](#), [-83.04002](#)

Local government	Greene County Commissioners	No response
State Names Authority	Tennessee 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
Commemorative	Duplicate or Similar	Commercial
Wilderness Area	Variant	Animal

The new name *Tabaccy Branch* is proposed for a 0.5-mile-long unnamed tributary of an unnamed tributary of the Nolichucky River in Greene County. The proponent initially proposed Tabaccy Crick, explaining that they had purchased an old tobacco and cattle farm and that the stream runs entirely on their property, which they refer to as “Tabaccy Crick Farm.” They added that “‘Crick’ is the local pronunciation and is why I’d like it named as such.”

DNC staff requested clarification regarding the Commercial Names Policy and the spelling “Crick.” The proponent confirmed that the property is not operated as a business and emphasized that “‘Crick’ represents the way folks really talk.”

The Tennessee Committee on Geographic Names (TNCogn) did not support the name Tabaccy Crick, and recommended that the stream be named Tabaccy Branch.

After learning of TNCogn’s recommendation, the proponent ultimately agreed to the committee’s recommendation.

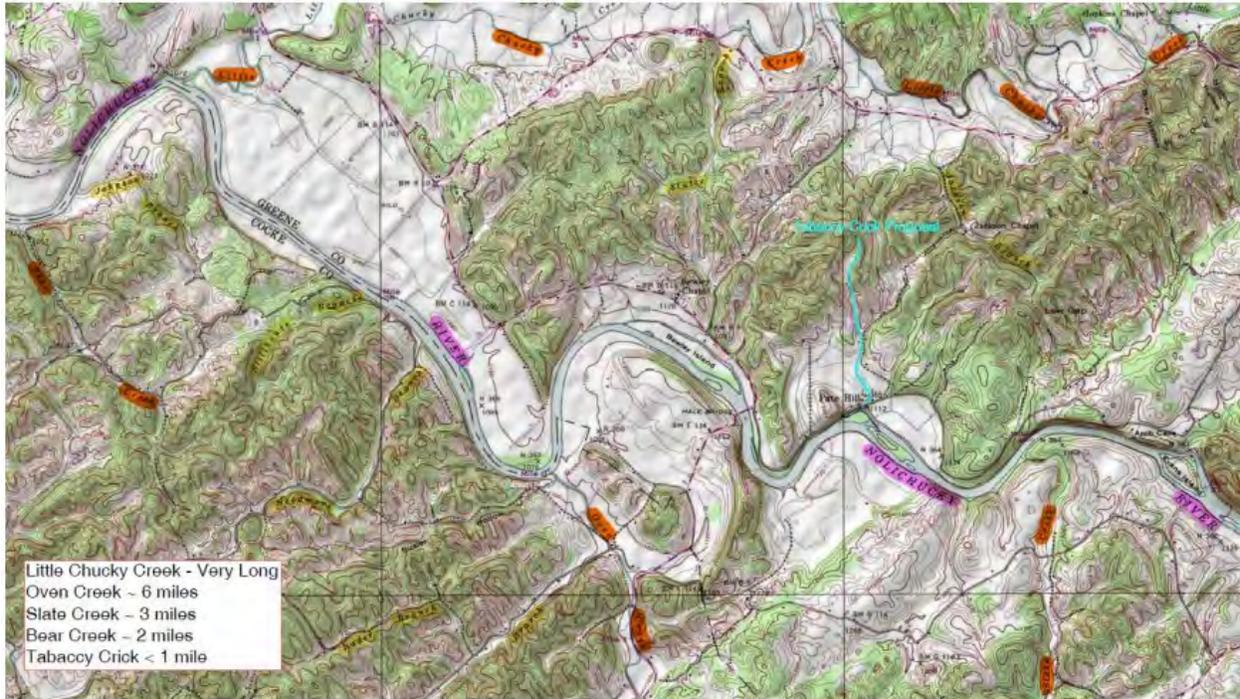


Figure 1. The length of the stream segment for the proposed name Tabaccy Crick is similar to streams in the area that are named branch (highlighted yellow on map).

The GNIS database contains no official geographic features in the U.S with the word “Tabaccy” or the generic term “Crick” in their official names. Five streams, one in South Carolina and four in West Virginia, include “Crick” as a variant name.

Review List 459

Change **Stonewall Peak** to **Cush-pii** (FID [273917](#)),
 change **Stonewall Creek** to **Kwettap Cush-pii** (FID [273614](#)),
 change **Little Stonewall Peak** to **Cush-pii 'Estik** (FID [272128](#)),
 and change **Little Stonewall Creek** to **Kwettap 'Ekwii Emak** (FID [272127](#)), California
 (Cuyamaca Rancho State Park / Anza-Borrego Desert State Park)

Cush-pii: [32.9610022, -116.5719108](#)

Kwettap Cush-pii: Mouth: [32.9331277, -116.5535259](#) / Source: [32.9672672, -116.554234](#)

Cush-pii 'Estik: [32.9655443, -116.5647098](#)

Kwettap 'Ekwii Emak: Mouth: [32.9816186, -116.577462](#) / Source: [32.9822081, -116.5419388](#)

Local government	San Diego County Supervisors	No response
State Names Authority	California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names	Support
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

	Campo Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of the Campo Indian Reservation, California	Support*
	Viejas (Baron Long) Group of Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians of the Viejas Reservation, California	Support*
	Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians, California	Support*
	lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel, California	Support*
	Jamul Indian Village of California	Support*
	La Posta Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of the La Posta Indian Reservation, California	Support*
	Manzanita Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of the Manzanita Reservation, California	Support*
	Mesa Grande Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of the Mesa Grande Reservation, California	Support*
	San Pasqual Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of California	Support*
	Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation	Support*
Other	California State Parks	Support*
	Kumeyaay Diegueno Land Conservancy (proponent)	Support

* represented by the Kumeyaay Diegueno Land Conservancy

** contacted by CACGN

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

The Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy (KDLC) proposed the following changes to four features in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park:

- Stonewall Peak to Cush-pii (“sharp point,” the traditional Kumeyaay name for the summit)
- Stonewall Creek to Kwetap Cush-pii (“sharp point creek”)
- Little Stonewall Peak to Cush-pii ’Estik (“little sharp point”)
- and Little Stonewall Creek to Kwetap ’Ekwii Emak (“behind the clouds creek,” a reference to nearby Kumeyaay village site)

The proposed names are names in lipai Aa, the Kumeyaay language (also spelled ’lipay Aa or Ipai). See below for details about each proposed name.

The proposal notes that the Kumeyaay Diegueño Land Conservancy (KDLC) was formed in 2005 to act in a unified, organized, and traditional relevant manner to identify, protect, and preserve sacred sites and ecosystems throughout the traditional Kumeyaay Homelands. The Kumeyaay Homelands stretch over 75 miles north and south of the Southern California International Border. . . .

The KDLC Board of Directors is composed of delegates, appointed by resolution through their Tribal Councils, from the following ten (10) federally-recognized tribal governments: Campo Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians, Jamul Indian Village, Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, La Posta Band of Mission Indians, Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians, Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel (INSY), San Pasqual Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, and the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians.

In July 2021, Elizabeth Schalo, a professional engineer and former Kumeyaay Community College (KCC) student, informed KDLC of four geographic features within Kumeyaay Homelands using names based on the Confederate General Stonewall Jackson and three geographic features with the derogatory term sq____. In response, KDLC formed a Working Group with technical support from Ms. Schalo to identify ethnographic names and determine new names for these places with intention of submitting a name change request through the U.S. Board of Geographic Names (BGN). The KDLC Working Group meetings occurred in-person at the Kumeyaay Community College Classroom on the Sycuan Reservation with the option of virtual participation. Participants included KDLC delegates whom all are respected Tribal Chairmen and Chairwomen, Tribal Councilmembers, elders, language speakers, historians/researchers, educators, community members, and more. In April 2022, KDLC submitted a comment letter to the Department of Interior Secretary's Order 3404 Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force with proposed names for the three sq____-named features. In September 2022, as a part of Order 3404, the BGN voted on the three names proposed by KDLC final replacement names. Today, KDLC submits this letter to you for proposed names for the four geographic features named for the Confederate General Stonewall Jackson.

KDLC interviewed Elders, collaborated with fluent language speakers, reviewed multiple Kumeyaay dictionaries written and published by elders with support of linguists, and researched other historical documents and archives. . . .

[The proposed names] would add to Kumeyaay place names within Ancestral Kumeyaay Homelands such as Aapaal'omar (Palomar), Powaii (Poway), Inaja, 'Ekwii 'Aamuc (Cuyamaca), Hamaachaa (Jamacha), Jamul, Otaay, Tijuana, etc. [The] proposed name change[s] within the boundaries of what is now Cuyamaca Rancho State Park would add to Kumeyaay place names throughout our Ancestral Homelands and support representation by uplifting traditional Kumeyaay language. We all know the words we use on a daily basis have power behind them, so let's put our voices together and speak the traditional Kumeyaay language on a daily basis by using the proposed names. . . .

In October and November 2021, a San Diego County resident submitted proposals to change the names based on an objection to the names referencing Confederate General Stonewall Jackson:

- Stonewall Peak to Cush-Pii (“sharp peak,” a name the proponent discussed with the KDLC)
- Little Stonewall Peak to Ipuk Spiruk (“broken neck,” a name the proponent reported learning from a Kumeyaay tribal member)
- Stonewall Creek to Cush-Pii Creek
- Little Stonewall Creek to Ipuk Spiruk Creek

The names proposed were lipai Aa (Kumeyaay) names based on research by Elizabeth Schalo (also reference by KDLC; see above). The proponent stated that

Once my Black family learned of the name of the peak and its association with Stonewall Jackson, we no longer feel welcome at this State Park or desire to hike the trail. Mountains maintain names like this as a method of intimidating Blacks in an effort to continue to oppress them post-slavery. Mountains whose names are maintained by the federal government should consider ALL people and allow for ALL people to feel welcome visiting and hiking them. This proposed name change is long overdue.

After submitting the proposal, the proponent contacted several local groups to get their input about the proposed changes: the KDLC; the California State Parks Tribal Affairs Program; California Department of Parks and Recreation; California State Assembly members; and the San Diego County Supervisors. The proponent later withdrew the original proposals in favor of the KDLC proposals.

Beginning in 2022, the California Department of Park and Recreation worked with a researcher and the KDLC to determine the most accurate lipai Aa (Kumeyaay) names for the features.

Historians report that the San Diego County gold rush started when a formerly enslaved person from Kentucky discovered placer gold in 1869 a few miles north of Stonewall Peak. Many Confederate sympathizers moved to the San Diego County area during the gold rush. Historians differ on the details of the origins of the Stonewall Mine, crediting the discovery of a gold vein there to either a Tennessee Confederate sympathizer named William Skidmore or to a miner from England named Charles Hensley. The two men staked a claim, naming it the Stonewall Jackson Mine. “Jackson” may have been dropped from the name due to anti-Confederate views of immigrating miners or because the mine was soon owned by pro-Union Republicans Almon Frary Sr., from Illinois, and Joseph Farley, from Ohio. The mine ceased operations in 1895.

The KDLC proposal reported

Cush-pii is *lipai Aa* for the traditional Kumeyaay term of what we now know as Stonewall Peak. *Cush-pii*, which means “Sharp Point,” is referring to not just the geological attributes of the mountain but the cultural significance as well. This return to traditional

knowledge would be a restoration of Kumeyaay place name and support active Kumeyaay language revitalization. The language was identified with the support from an elder language speaker of the Lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel. . . .

Cush-pii Kwettap [later revised to Kwettap Cush-pii for the preferred word order] is the proposed name for Stonewall Creek. *Kwettap* means “creek” in Kumeyaay. Together, *Cush-pii Kwettap* means “Sharp Point Creek.” The word and spelling for *Kwettap* were determined with references from multiple Kumeyaay dictionaries including the *Barona Inter-Tribal Dictionary* and the *Mesa Grande Dictionary*. As well as input from KDLC Board Members and Kumeyaay historians/researchers. . . .

Cush-pii ‘Estik [later revised to Cush-pii ‘Estik for the preferred glottal stop character] is the proposed name for Little Stonewall Peak. *‘Estik* means “little” in Kumeyaay. Together, *Cush-pii ‘Estik* means “Little Sharp Point.” The word and spelling for *‘Estik* were determined with references from multiple Kumeyaay dictionaries including the *Barona Inter-Tribal Dictionary* and the *Mesa Grande Dictionary*. As well as input from KDLC Board Members and Kumeyaay historians/researchers. . . .

Kwettap ‘Ekwii Emak [later revised to Kwettap ‘Ekwii Emak for the preferred glottal stop character] is the proposed name for Little Stonewall Creek. *‘Ekwii Emak* means “Behind the Clouds” in Kumeyaay. Together, *Kwettap ‘Ekwii Emak* means “Behind the Clouds Creek.” It is referring to the adjacent Kumeyaay village site, *Ah-ha Kwe-ah-mac’*. The words and spellings for *‘Ekwii Emak* were determined with references from multiple Kumeyaay dictionaries including the *Barona Inter-Tribal Dictionary* and the *Mesa Grande Dictionary*. As well as input from KDLC Board Members and Kumeyaay historians/researchers.

The California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names recommends that the changes be approved, stating that they

considered the history behind the name Stonewall Jackson and how the name is attached to historically offensive behaviors towards particular racial or ethnic groups. The Committee also considered the importance of reflecting Kumeyaay language on the landscape which supports language revitalization efforts and conveys the cultural significance in the feature’s name.

New names **R.E. Wynn, DVM Pond** and **Shiner Pond**, Florida

R.E. Wynn, DVM Pond: [28.3563065, -82.6016772](https://www.google.com/maps/place/28.3563065,-82.6016772)

Local government	Pasco County Commissioners	No response
State Names Authority	Florida State Names Advisor	Opposed
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	MI Homes (landowner)	Support*

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

Shiner Pond: [28.357401, -82.60105](#)

Local government	Pasco County Commissioners	No response?
State Names Authority	Florida State Names Advisor	Support
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	MI Homes (landowner)	Support*

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

This proposal is to apply the new names *R.E. Wynn, DVM Pond* and *Shiner Pond* to two unnamed waterbodies in Pasco County, Florida. R.E. Wynn, DVM Pond is approximately 0.25 acres in size, while Shiner Pond is approximately 2.5 acres. The features are located on land formerly part of the Wynn family's Fairwinds Ranch and now owned by M/I Homes of Tampa, LLC. They are approximately one-third of a mile from Wynn Lake, which the BGN approved in 2022.

The proponent, who reports being the fourth generation to live on the property, wrote:

My grandparents O.E. and Evelyn Wynn, along with my great-grandmother Mary Ann 'Mollie' Tuten, purchased the land in the 1950s. My father, Dr. Richard E. Wynn (1945–2008), later acquired additional land in the 1980s. I am compiling a history and property legacy for my daughter to preserve our family's connection to this land.

The proponent initially suggested the names "Dr. Richard E. Wynn, DVM Cypress Head Preserve" and "Ole Shiner Pond." DNC staff noted that "Preserve" was not applicable for a waterbody and that educational titles are discouraged in official names. When asked why the name should be considered as "Ole Shiner Pond" rather than "Shiner Pond," the proponent amended the proposals to *R.E. Wynn, DVM Pond* and *Shiner Pond*. In response to staff's concern that the inclusion of "DVM" might be rejected as too long, the proponent replied that "the animal care giver is important in his legacy."

The proponent explained that the smaller pond was a natural cypress area where his father planted trees in the 1950s and enlarged the waterbody in the 1980s "to hold water for pasture animals." Regarding the larger feature, he wrote that the name *Shiner Pond* has been used locally for decades for a pond where bait fish were caught for use in Wynn Lake.

The Florida Geographic Names Authority supported Shiner Pond but did not support R.E. Wynn, DVM Pond, stating “The Florida State Board of Geographic Names support the name Shiner Pond but will not support R.E. Wynn, DVM Pond. The decline in support is due to the DVM being included.” M/I Homes, the current landowner, indicated it was amenable to the naming requests provided that the proponent manages the process, that M/I Homes incur no costs, and that the names not be required on plats, deeds, or marketing materials. A site plan shows that a portion of Shiner Pond may be affected by development.

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New name **Cygnets Brook**, Maryland

Mouth: [39.512881, -76.166239](#) / Source: [39.517188, -76.168784](#)

Local government	Harford County Executive [on behalf of the Harford County Council]	Support*
State Names Authority	Maryland State Names Advisor	No objection
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other		

* 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 name *Cygnets Brook* is proposed for a 0.4-mile-long unnamed stream that flows into an unnamed tributary of Swan Creek on the campus of Swan Creek School in Aberdeen, Harford County, Maryland.

The name was developed by students as part of a Chesapeake Bay watershed education project, which included mapping, water testing, and cleanup activities. The school hopes to restore the stream area as an outdoor classroom.

The proposal was submitted by an employee of the school who wrote:

A cygnet, the baby of a swan, represents hope, renewal, and the promise of a brighter future. This name connects to our school, Swan Creek School, and the larger stream, Swan Creek, that this Brook flows into. . . .

When we give a name to a natural feature, it becomes a part of our community and reminds us of the importance of protecting our environment.

The proposal is supported by Harford County Executive Bob Cassilly, who called the name “appropriate” and stated:

Naming this stream will recognize the environmental stewardship of the students at your school and call attention to the county government’s dedication to restoring this stream and its surrounding habitat.

New name **Sunset Stream**, Massachusetts

Mouth: [42.19757, -71.01159](#) / Source: [42.20148, -71.01573](#)

Local government	Town of Braintree Mayor	Support*
	Norfolk County Commissioners	Support
State Names Authority	Massachusetts State Names Advisor [inactive]	No response
Federally recognized 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
Commemorative	Duplicate or Similar	Commercial
Wilderness Area	Variant	Animal

The name *Sunset Stream* is proposed for an unnamed stream located in Braintree, Norfolk County, Massachusetts. The stream flows out of Sunset Lake 0.4 miles south-southeast into Manatiquot River in the Braintree Municipal Golf Course.

The name has been used informally by residents in reference to Sunset Pond. The proponent stated that use began following recent ecological restoration efforts. After the removal of dams on the Manatiquot River, river herring have returned to this stream—reaching Sunset Lake for the first time in over 200 years.

The proposal is supported by the Mayor of the Town of Braintree, who submitted a letter describing the stream as “an essential part of our local ecosystem” and emphasizing the naming’s importance for public awareness and emergency response.

The Norfolk County Commissioners sent a letter stating their “enthusiastic support” for the name.

There is no active State Names Advisor in Massachusetts.

New name **Druid Hill**, Georgia (revisit of the 2019 decision to not approve the name)

Local government	DeKalb County Super District Six Commissioner	Support*
	DeKalb County Chief Executive Officer	Support
State Names Authority	Georgia State Names Advisor	No opinion
Other	13 local residents	Support
	Druid Hill Civic Association	No opinion

* new evidence provided by proponent that the BGN considered to be sufficient to consider revisiting the 2019 decision

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

On September 2, 2025, the Dekalb County Super District 6 Commissioner’s Chief of Staff sent a letter signed by the Commissioner to the DNC Executive Secretary stating:

As a Super District Commissioner for DeKalb County, Druid Hills and 3162 N. Druid Hills Road are in the commission district 2 and within my super district 6. I have personally toured this location and an honored to write a letter in strong support of Clark Ashton’s application for the federal recognition of the topographical feature named “Druid Hill” represented in the attached survey.

On September 11, 2025, the DNC considered this letter and voted to accept it as sufficient new evidence to consider revisiting the 2019 decision to not approve the proposal. The letter fulfilled what the DNC had outlined to be new evidence for this proposal:

- Request a letter of support from the County Commissioner of the District in which the geographic feature is located.
- The letter of support must be written on an official DeKalb County Commissioner letterhead.
- The County Commissioner will send the letter of support directly to the Board on Geographic Names at BGNExec@usgs.gov with the proponent included on the carbon copy line.

DNC staff followed the “Revisiting a decision” procedure on page 49 of the DNC [Principles, Policies, and Procedures](#) and asked the parties involved in the 2019 decision to comment on the new evidence. At that time, the interested parties other than private citizens and the Dekalb County Government were the Georgia Archives (acting as the geographic names advisor for the State, which made recommendations to the DNC from a State perspective) and the Druid Hills Civic Association (which had commented on the original proposal).

The DeKalb County Chief Executive Officer sent a letter to the DNC Executive Secretary stating:

As DeKalb County's Chief Executive Officer, I write this letter in strong support of Clark Ashton's Proposal #6155 "Druid Hill", which seeks federal recognition of the topographical feature known as "Druid Hill". Druid Hill has served as a significant landmark in DeKalb County for over 30 years. I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of Proposal #6155.

Thirteen local residents emailed the DNC Executive Secretary in support of the name. The comments read:

- "I support proposal #6155 Druid Hill."
- "I support the designation of Druid Hill as a topographic feature." (six individuals)
- "I support the designation of the topographic feature Druid Hill."
- "I would like to offer my support of Druid Hill as a designated feature for topographical maps."
- "I am writing regarding Druid Hill's designation as a topographical feature. Druid Hill is a treasure and would benefit the area with that designation."
- "I support the designation of Druid Hill as a topographic feature. I was born right around the corner from Druid Hill, and it has long been a distinct landmark for us. Making it official would be a great thing!"
- "I support the designation of Druid Hill as a topological feature... I have commuted by his Hill for over 3 decades and then finally was told to go have a look anytime. It was an amazing historical and artistic experience that makes me smile even bigger as I drive by each day! What a gem for Decatur!"
- "I am a long time resident of Atlanta, in Dekalb County Georgia. I support the recognition and naming of Druid Hill as a topographical feature by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. It is an established and active property on North Druid Hills Road in Dekalb County and is a recognizable feature of the landscape. This historic hill should be preserved by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as Druid Hill for future generations."

The Druid Hills Civic Association did not comment on the new evidence.

On October 4, 2025, the Georgia Archives (acting as the geographic names advisor for the State) responded to DNC staff's request to comment on the new evidence. The reply was:

As the State Names Authority to the Board of Geographic Names, the Georgia Archives has received the request to review the proposed feature Druid Hill. We have searched our holdings of original records. We do not locate any additional state agency records that would support or oppose this proposed feature deposited with the Archives since Archives staff researched this proposed feature in 2019. As such, the Georgia Archives defers to the 2019 report, to local authorities, and to the Board of Geographic Names.

On November 14, 2025, the DNC Executive Secretary responded:

Thank you for your reply deferring to the 2019 Georgia Archives recommendation, to local authorities, and to the Board of Geographic Names about the pending revisit of the 2019 decision to not approve the name Druid Hill to a geographic feature in DeKalb County.

I'm confused by your response. The DNC has agreed to revisit the 2019 decision on the basis of new evidence. The new evidence considered is the letter I shared with you on September 12, 2025. This letter was from DeKalb County Super District 6 Commissioner Ted Terry. We are asking you to comment on the new evidence and what recommendation you would make on the request to revisit the 2019 decision in light of this new evidence. It is not clear how any additional state agency records deposited with the Archives would be relevant to the new evidence.

Attached is a zipped folder with additional support for the proposal submitted or received since the DNC agreed to revisit the 2019 decision [the County CEO's letter and the thirteen local resident emails].

The DNC will plan to vote on the revisit at the December 11, 2025 meeting. The DNC will decide to (1) uphold their 2019 decision (keeping the feature unnamed); or (2) to reverse their decision (approving the proposal to name the feature as Druid Hill).

On November 25, 2025, the Georgia Archives wrote:

After a thorough review of Georgia's statutes and administrative authorities, we have determined that there is no statutory basis for the Georgia Archives to serve as a commenting or recommending body for submissions to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN). Accordingly, the Georgia Archives will no longer provide formal recommendations on BGN filings.

While we cannot act in an official review capacity, we remain committed to supporting accurate historical and geographic understanding. We are available to provide limited research assistance upon request and will gladly share any relevant historical information from our holdings to support your decision-making process.

Please feel free to contact us should you need background materials or clarification on Georgia-related geographic name history.