

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE**
Eight Hundred and Eighty First Meeting
March 12, 2026– 2:00 p.m.
(Hybrid Meeting)

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Dr. Wendi-Starr Brown	Bureau of Indian Affairs (Department of the Interior)
Jessica Campbell (<i>not voting</i>)	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Department of the Interior)
Tiffany Doyle (<i>not voting</i>)	National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (Department of War)
Thaddeus “Thad” Ellerbe	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Department of Commerce)
Brenda-Anne “B.C.” Forrest	Government Publishing Office (GPO)
Christopher Hammond	U.S. Geological Survey (Department of the Interior)
Patrick Mahoney (Pat)	Bureau of Land Management (Department of the Interior)
Jeremy Smith	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (Department of the Interior)
Alexander Stum	Natural Resources Conservation Service (Department of Agriculture)
Timothy St. Onge	Library of Congress
Rikki Wortham	U.S. Census Bureau (Department of Commerce)

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, U.S. Geological Survey

Guests and Observers

Alex Fries, National Park Service
Daniel Spring, U.S. Forest Service (Department of Agriculture)

1. Opening and Roll Call

Vice Chair Ellerbe opened the 881st meeting of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) at 2:01 p.m. ET. The meeting was held in hybrid format. The Vice 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 Vice 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.

During opening remarks, a member referenced that public comments had been acknowledged during the previous meeting. The Vice Chair clarified that such instances were atypical and that, going forward, public comment would be handled according to standard practice, with written submissions directed to staff.

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

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda.

During review, a minor discrepancy in the agenda was noted. Staff acknowledged the issue and clarified the correct listing.

The motion to approve the agenda, as corrected, passed without objection.

3. Minutes of Meeting 880th

The Chair asked if there were any comments or edits to the minutes of the 880th meeting. Hearing none, a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes.

The minutes were approved without objection.

4. Communications and Reports

4.1 DNC Chair (Tischler)

Acting Chair Ellerbe reported that he had no items to present.

4.2 Executive Secretary for Domestic Names (Dr. Zahniser)

See attached report.

During the report, Dr. Zahniser invited Christine Johnson to provide an update on the upcoming Council on Geographic Naming Authorities (COGNA) Conference. Johnson provided information on conference planning, including dates and anticipated programming.

4.3 Executive Secretary for Foreign Names (David D.)

See attached report.

4.4 Special Committee on Communications (Gaither)

Gaither reported that the Special Committee on Communications met once since the previous DNC meeting. The Committee has been working on revisions to the prospective proponent training video, including updates to the script and storyboard.

4.5 Staff (O'Donnell)

See attached report.

4.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (Decker)

She highlighted ongoing coordination with the 3D Hydrography Program (3DHP) to improve alignment between GNIS feature names and hydrographic data.

5. Docket

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

Review List 435

Change **Redskin Creek** ([FID 183513](#)) to **Ute Creek**, Colorado

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Dissenting votes cited concerns regarding potential duplication with similarly named nearby features.

Vote: 7 in favor
2 against
0 abstentions

Review List 437

Change **Redskin Mountain** ([FID 183534](#)) to **Mount Jerome**, Colorado

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Review List 442

New name **Square Top Creek**, Colorado

A motion was made and seconded approve the proposal.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Review List 443

Change **Negro Draw** ([FID 176969](#)) to **Robison Draw**, Colorado

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Review List 442

New names **Plunge Mesa** and **Plunge Point**, Colorado

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Review List 450

New name **Banes Draw**, Colorado

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote: 8 in favor

0 against
1 abstention

New name **Mount Hughes**, Colorado

A motion was made and seconded approve the proposal.

Vote: 8 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

Review List 451

Change **Poison Lake** ([FID 178048](#)) to **Golden Valley Lake**, Colorado

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Dissenting vote cited concerns regarding the removal of a longstanding name without sufficient justification, including uncertainty about the origin and descriptive relevance of the name "Poison Lake."

Vote: 8 in favor
1 against
0 abstentions

Review List 452

New name **Lake Reed**, Colorado

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the proposal.

The decision was made citing a lack of local support, the recommendation for denial from the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Committee, and a lack of a compelling need to apply a name to the feature for Federal use.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

It was noted that one voting member departed the meeting after the vote.

Review List 453

New name **Dylan Lake**, Colorado

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the proposal.

The decision was made citing opposition from the Summit County Board of Commissioners and the recommendation for denial from the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Committee. The County Commissioners noted that the name has no local significance and could add confusion in the area with the nearby Dillon Reservoir (commonly referred to as Dillon Lake).

Vote: 8 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

New name **Miller Pond**, Colorado

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the proposal.

The decision was made citing objections from the Eagle County Commissioners and the U.S. Forest Service, as well as the recommendation for denial from the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Committee. The Board also did not determine that the proposal demonstrated an overriding need to apply a new name in a Federal wilderness under the Wilderness Area Geographic Names Policy. The U.S. Forest Service and the County Commissioners objections cited the Wilderness Area Geographic Names Policy; the County Commissioners objection also cited the Commemorative Names Policy, stating that the honoree did not meet the criteria.

Vote: 8 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Pingree Park** ([FID 177312](#)) to **Soule Park** and change **Pingree Hill** (FID [177132](#)) to **Soule Hill**, Colorado

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposals.

Vote: 8 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Review List 454

New name **La Monte Peak**, Colorado

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote: 8 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Dead Mexican Gulch** ([FID 173527](#)) to **Lost Sheepherder Gulch**, Colorado

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote: 8 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Review List 459

New name **Lake Shelton**, Kentucky

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote: 6 in favor
0 against
2 abstentions

New name **Bennett Creek**, West Virginia

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote: 6 in favor
0 against
2 abstentions

Review List 460

New name **Lossing Spring**, Missouri

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote: 6 in favor
0 against
2 abstentions

Review List 461

New name **Dodier Knoll**, New Hampshire

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the proposal.

The decision was made citing a lack of local and state support.

Vote: 7 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

6. Other Business

6.1 Revisit of Pine Meadows Park Pond Proposal (2019 Case)

Change **Pine Meadows Park Pond** to **Pine Meadows Lake**

A motion was made and seconded to overturn the 2019 decision and approve the name Pine Meadows Lake.

Vote: 8 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

7. Closing

The next Domestic Names Committee meeting will be held April 9, 2026, 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
March 12, 2026

Office Hours

On 23 February, the DNC Exec Sec hosted the monthly office hours with the State Naming Authorities and Advisors. Ten States including AK, AZ, MO, MN, CO, WA, IN, MD, PA, and VA attended, and the group discussion was focused multiple topics. These topics included stakeholder recommendations and how the practices vary by State, States who receive proposals first, and instances where State and Federal Decisions diverge. Attendance has increased this year and it appears we are maintaining participation at each meeting around 10 or so States. We are eager for States to provide any recommended topics of interest to them and gaining more feedback from the Federal BGN members on how they approach their decision-making process when it comes to voting.

UNGEEN

On 23 February, the UNGEEN Working Group for Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage hosted the third meeting of the series in the lead up to the UNGEEN 2027 session. The Working Group provided updates on the relationships between it and the Focus Groups supporting it, and also presented highlights for the upcoming GeoNames Symposium 2026 meeting in Austria. Canada presented updates on their Focus Group on Geographical Names (FGGN) and Zambia/Australia presented on updates from their Focus Group on Commemorative Naming (FGCN). Canada has also scheduled an FGGN meeting for 10 March at 3pm eastern. Anyone interested in attending, please contact Exec Sec Zahniser.

CoGNA

The Council on Geographic Naming Authorities Conference will take place 22-25 September in Sacramento, CA. CACGN has expressed interest in having BGN provide a booth. Those interested, please contact me so I can coordinate with CACGN. Additionally, I need to know the following to assist CACGN with their agenda 1) who will be able to attend in person this year 2) any presentations that you would like to provide. Please coordinate with me in the next couple of weeks. Lastly, is the DNC going to be conducting their September meeting during the conference?



United States Board on Geographic Names

881st Domestic Names Committee Meeting

BGN Executive Secretary for Foreign Names Report

March 12, 2026

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN NAMES REPORT

March 12, 2026

1) MEETINGS

The Foreign Names Committee (FNC) met once since the last DNC meeting. Meeting 424 was held virtually (Microsoft Teams) on Tuesday, March 10, 2026. The next FNC meeting (Meeting 425) is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2026.

Critical issues:

Nothing significant to report.

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

- **Burkina Faso:** change the names of the thirteen existing first-order administrative divisions (ADM1s) and one seat, add four new ADM1s and their seats, and update coordinates for three ADM1s;
- **Equatorial Guinea:** change the name of one seat;
- **Iceland:** recognize consolidation of four ADM1s into two;
- **Israel:** approve two new Conventional names and vacate a third Conventional name;
- **Kyrgyzstan:** change the name of one seat;
- **Montserrat:** recognize the designation of a new capital for the dependency (PPLCD); and
- **United Arab Emirates:** approve one new Conventional name.

The committee did not approve one recommendation for **Israel**, to add a new Conventional Name, Hula Valley. Papers on Algerian administrative changes and Equatorial Guinea's capital, and annual updates for FNC Principles, Policies, and Procedures and BGN Romanization Systems, were submitted to the committee for information. The country policy for **Mexico** was submitted for review.

2) OTHER BUSINESS

FNC staff user-testing of the latest dissemination system build, as part of ongoing Vector and Cartographic Production System (VCPS) development, concluded in early March. The deployment of this GNS update is now tentatively planned for May. The GNS Geographic Names Search Application will have a new look with the overall user interface remaining much the same. Added enhancements include the ability to add data layers and save database queries.

Upcoming Meetings and Events (listed in chronological order)

- The 374th Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF) meeting is being planned for the April timeframe.
- The 299th BGN full board meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. EDT on April 21, 2026.
- The 35th BGN/PCGN Conference is planned for November 2-6, 2026, and will be held at the Department of Interior.

BGN/Domestic Names Committee Meeting 881
 March 12, 2026
 Staff Report

Reporting period: January 28, 2026 to February 24, 2026

Proposals received

Proposal type	Proposed name	GNIS Feature type	State	Status
Name change	Krekder Lake to Weso Lake	Reservoir	MO	Not processed; submitted on old form and staff asked proponent to complete new form
New name	Corn Hill Creek	Stream	NY	Will be on QRL 463; name of historic farm no longer in operation
New name	Pamperin Creek	Stream	WI	Will be on QRL 463; named for landowner from 1924-1951; proponent shares the name; staff informed proponent that the WI SNA was only recently reactivated and that they might not consider naming this stream that is less than 5 miles long .
Name change	Oknoname 131013 Reservoir to Moore Lake	Reservoir	OK	Not processed; this is within the Cherokee Tribal Statistical Area, which under current guidance is to be considered land under the jurisdiction of the Tribe under Policy 10; proponent informed to work with the Cherokee Nation
New name	Duvall Springs Creek	Stream	TN	Will be on QRL 463; submitted by DOI Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement employee—staff will clarify if this is

				proposed in an official capacity or not; name refers to French “Duvall” Duvall “of the valley”, many springs in the area, and French Broad River which it flows into
Spelling correction	Pool Slough to Poole Slough	Gut	IA	Will be a staff processed spelling correction
Spelling correction	Lake Katherine to Lake Katharine	Reservoir	SC	Will be a staff processed spelling correction

Status change to pending proposals

Proposal type	Proposed name	GNIS Feature type	State	Status
New name	Vigilante Pass	Gap	MT	Withdrawal from 451 by proponent: “I have contacted the local governmental authorities and the consensus is to leave it unnamed and to continue to call it the VC hill.”

Inquiries received

Inquiry type	Name	GNIS Feature type	State	Status
New name	Red Dirt Creek	Stream	OK	Name refers to team name, Red Dirt Designs, of University of Oklahoma civil engineering students working on a project over the stream; this is within the Seminole Tribal Statistical Area, which under current guidance is to be considered land under the jurisdiction of the Tribe under Policy 10; proponent informed to

				work with The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
New name process	Not provided	Summit	NY	Asked for proposal form, staff replied with link
New name process	Browning Brook or Browning Brook Tributary of Trout Creek	Stream	PA	Township inquiry about local group wanting to name an unnamed stream; staff provided information and clarification about name—Township Engineer is interested in having the name of the watershed in the official name of the tributary
Proposal status	Moon Creek	Stream	WY, MT	Staff shared that USFS recommendation still pending
Proposal status	Benke Lake to Kaye-Parker Lake	Reservoir	TX	Staff shared that TX SNA recommendation still pending
General query	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	Request to send information to DNC staff; likely related to 2021 inquiry about the origin of name Ward Brook in York County, ME
Proposal status	Stevies Brook	Stream	MA	Staff shared that local outreach was still pending and asked about clarifying the preferred form of the name, Stevies Brook or Stevies Stream
New name process	Pasadena Hills	Populated Place	FL	Inquiry from two parties about making this name official in GNIS so it can be used for mailing addresses; USPS requires that any name in a mailing address is in GNIS as a “Populated Place”- or “Civil”-class

staff asked for more details about the information

				feature; only Pasadena Hills Census Designated Place which was added by Census in 2010. Proposal likely needed.
Adding name to map	Menifee / City of Menifee	Populated Place / Civil	CA	Inquiry about why Menifee did not appear on a USGS earthquake web map; both names in GNIS, so staff referred inquirer to TNM Help staff
Naming historical and currently underground streams		stream	PA	UpstreamPgh interested in having these names included in GNIS and the underground lines shown on TNM; staff referred inquirer to TNM Help staff
Proposal status	Adai Burial Bayou and Chief Quemsey Branch	Stream	LA	Staff shared that LA SNA recommendation still pending; since received and will be on April docket
Proposal history and status	Hopkins Mountain	ridge	VA	From U.S. Representative Ben Cline (VA-06) (via USGS OCAP) about status of a possible revisit
Proposal status	Kelseyville to Konocti	Populated Place	CA	From several individuals commenting on the status

State Name Authority/Advisor activity

- Briefing to new ID SNA contact, 1/30/26
- Briefing to new SNAs for Indiana, Iowa, and Nebraska, 2/9/26
- BGN Office Hours with SNAs, 2/23/26

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
DOCKET
March 2026**

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. 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 List 435

Change **Redskin Creek** (FID [183513](#)) to **Ute Creek**, Colorado
(Pike and San Isabel National Forest)

Mouth: [39.3408229, -105.33777](#) / Source: [39.3408229, -105.4030536](#)

Local government	Park County Commissioners	No response
	Jefferson County Commissioners	Support
State Names Authority	Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board	Support
Federal	U.S. Forest Service	No objection
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado*	No response
	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe*	Support

* contacted by Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board

	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 is to change the name of Redskin Creek, a four-mile-long tributary of Buffalo Creek in Jefferson County and Park County, to Ute Creek. It was received on March 5, 2019 from Sarah Weed, a resident of Buffalo Creek, Colorado. The proponent also proposed changing the nearby Redskin Mountain to Mount Jerome (see below).

The stream is located in Pike and San Isabel National Forests.

The proponent wrote:

"Redskin" is an established racist term for native [sic] Americans. The name of the creek must be changed. The local native people were of the Ute tribe, making this an acceptable new name.

The name Redskin Creek has been labeled on USGS maps since 1954 and appears on a 2019 Jefferson County map. The 1985 edition of the USGS map shows Redskin Group Campground in the vicinity; on the 1994 edition, the campground was labeled Meadows Group [Campground]. This change was presumably made by the U.S. Forest Service and neither name is recorded in GNIS. Redskin Mountain, proposed to be changed to Mount Jerome, is located less than a mile north of the stream.

GNIS lists a stream named Ute Creek 14 miles to the southwest in Park County.

When this change was proposed, the DNC had not yet approved the [Cultural Sensitivity for Native American Names](#) guidance.

The Jefferson County Commissioners passed Resolution CC19-218 on June 18, 2019 unanimously supporting the change without comments.

The [Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board](#) (CGNAB) voted on January 24, 2024 to recommend approval of the change after first considering the proposal on August 18, 2022. On January 30, 2025, CGNAB shared Governor Polis' concurrence with their recommendation per their bylaws. CGNAB contacted the Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe shared support for the proposal to the CGNAB. CGNAB reported that they received verbal support for the change from the Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado.

Review List 437

Change **Redskin Mountain** (FID [183534](#)) to **Mount Jerome**, Colorado
(Pike and San Isabel National Forests)

[39.3586564, -105.363575](#)

Local government	Jefferson County Commissioners	Support
State Names Authority	Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board	Support
Federal	U.S. Forest Service	No objection
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado*	No response
	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe*	Support

Other	Taos, New Mexico resident**	Support
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* contacted by Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board

** received by Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board

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

This proposal is to change the name of Redskin Mountain, an 8,783-foot summit in Pike and San Isabel National Forests in Jefferson County, to Mount Jerome. It was received on August 1, 2019 from Sarah Weed, a resident of Littleton, Colorado. The proponent also proposed changing the nearby Redskin Creek to Ute Creek (see above).

The proponent wrote:

The name "Redskin" is racist and offensive and should be removed from all geographic features.

The proponent intends to honor Irene Jerome Hood (1858-1945), an artist and photographer who lived in nearby community of Buffalo Creek and also in Denver. The proponent reported that the honoree is her great aunt and wrote:

The Jeromes are some of the early residents, and contributed greatly to the development of the Buffalo Creek community. Mrs. Hood had no children, but many of her nieces and nephews still live in the area. She was a published artist, under her maiden name, of at least 6 books. She left countless works of art, painted directly on the walls of area cabins, in framed Victorian art, and in sketchbooks. She specialized in local geographic features and Colorado's wildflowers. Additionally, she is heralded as the leading female photographer of her era. While other photographers, mostly male, captured images of trains and mining, Mrs. Hood recorded "parlor life", the lives of families and women, of building interiors, in early Colorado. In 1982, the Colorado Historical Society published the booklet "Irene Jerome Hood: A Victorian woman and her art" about this exceptional woman. Given the era she lived in, she was unable to achieve the level of recognition she deserved. Renaming the mountain "Mount Jerome", after the name she published under, would give her some recognition and would honor someone who lived in and loved the area.

The name Redskin Mountain has been labeled on USGS topographic maps since 1954 and appears on a 2019 Jefferson County map.

When this change was proposed, the DNC had not yet approved the [Cultural Sensitivity for Native American Names](#) guidance.

The Jefferson County Commissioners passed Resolution CC19-385 on November 12, 2019 unanimously supporting the change without comments.

The [Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board](#) (CGNAB) voted on January 24, 2024 to recommend approval of the change after first considering the proposal on October 21, 2022. On January 30, 2025, CGNAB shared Governor Polis' concurrence with their recommendation per their bylaws. CGNAB contacted the Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe shared support for the proposal to the CGNAB. CGNAB reported that they received verbal support for the change from the Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado.

Review List 442

New name **Square Top Creek**, Colorado
(Pike and San Isabel National Forests)

Mouth: [39.583433, -105.724113](#) / Source: [39.59097, -105.74497](#)

Local government	Clear Creek County Commissioners	No response
State Names Authority	Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board	Support
Federal	U.S. Forest Service	Support
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado*	No response
	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe*	No response

* contacted by Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board

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

This proposal is to apply the new associative name **Square Top Creek** to a 1.4-mile-long unnamed tributary of Duck Creek in Clear Creek County. The proposal was received on November 13, 2020 from Mikele Painter, a resident of Colorado. The proponent was a U.S. Forest Service employee at the time of the proposal but was submitting this as an individual and not on behalf of the U.S. Forest Service.

The stream flows out of Square Top Lakes, down the slope of Square Top Mountain, and into Duck Lake within Pike and San Isabel National Forests.

The name **Square Top Mountain** was made official by the BGN in 1933, citing the shape of the mountain and evidence of existing local use. At the time, USGS maps had shown the name

Lewis Mountain and U.S. Forest Service maps had shown Square Top Mountain. The proposal to make Square Top Mountain official was submitted to the BGN on February 1, 1933 by the Colorado Mountain Club. USGS topographic maps have labeled Square Top Mountain since 1924 and Square Top Lakes since 1957. [Square Top Lakes](#) was not a BGN decision.

The [Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board](#) (CGNAB) voted on August 26, 2024 to recommend approval of the name after first considering the proposal on March 25, 2024. On January 30, 2025, CGNAB shared Governor Polis' concurrence with their recommendation per their bylaws. CGNAB contacted the Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, but did not receive any responses.

Review List 443

Change **Negro Draw** (FID [176969](#)) to **Robison Draw**, Colorado
(San Juan National Forest)

Mouth: [37.5767131, -108.18159](#) / Source: [37.5877339, -108.1851994](#)

Local government	Montezuma County Commissioners	No response
State Names Authority	Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board	Support
Federal	U.S. Forest Service	No objection
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado*	No objection
	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe*	No response

* contacted by Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board

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

This proposal is to change the name of Negro Draw, a 0.8-mile-long valley in Montezuma County, to Robison Draw. It was received on March 5, 2021 from the U.S. Forest Service on behalf of Amanda Cadorette, a resident of Boulder, Colorado.

The valley is located in the San Juan National Forest and opens onto the valley of the Delores River.

The name Negro Draw has been labeled on USGS maps since 1963 and was mentioned in a 2018 Colorado State University Colorado Natural Heritage Program document. No information about the origin of the name could be found.

The proposal was originally submitted with the spelling "Robinson." After the USFS determined that the original name proposed (Hops Draw on Review List 437 which was intended to refer to Colorado's hops growing industry) had no significance in the area, the proponent agreed to amend her proposal.

The proposal reported:

Replacement name for "Hops Draw" proposal as submitted by Amanda Cadorette on 9/16/2019. Based on outreach by the Forest Service, "Hops Draw" lacked historical significance or connection to place. Research provided by the San Juan National Forest provided some history to support "Robinson Draw" to replace the name "Negro Draw" on the landscape while retaining the history of the San Juan Mountains region.

On Feb 23, 2021, Amanda Cadorette stated she would "support the replacement name of 'Robinson Draw' instead of Hops Draw". The replacement name retains the connection to place, despite the inability to confirm whether the existing name refers to the color "black" in the [S]panish language or the original homesteader. . . .

The original proponent was less tied to the replacement name, "Hops Draw" but simply wanted the racial slur changed as it is offensive to black and African American populations. "Robinson Draw" ties back to one of the original landowners and retains local black history.

An excerpt from a San Juan Forest history volume compiled from 1932-1971 reported:

During the season of 1879, "Uncle Jimmie," took up what was later known as the Robinson Ranch, which name still clings to it, at the mouth of Bear Creek 12 miles below Rico, he had a few head of cattle and horses which he grazed on the nearby hills during the summer months but which he took lower down on the Dolores River and winter ranged them for several years later. A short time after "Uncle Jimmie" moved onto his ranch H. R. Snyder took up a ranch at the mouth of Wildcat Creek and W. A. King settled on what is now known as the King ranch about 8 miles below Rico. These men also grazed the few head of cattle and horses that they owned in the same manner as Mr. Robinson did.

Further research by the USFS and History Colorado determined that the honoree of the name was likely James Franklin Robison (1825-1915), a native of New York, who served in the 67th Pennsylvania Infantry during the Civil War, and according to online genealogy records

[a]fter the war he moved to Colorado, first to mine, later to homestead, joined there by his wife and family who took train to Denver, and then trekked by wagon to Durango, Colorado, and mule train over the Divide to Rico. His homestead in the Dolores river valley was filed on 3 March, 1875.

The 1889 General Land Office patent recorded the name as "Robinson" but with the "n" crossed out. His Civil War pension file spelled the name Robison, as does his gravestone in Rico

Cemetery (10 miles northeast of the valley). The 1885 Colorado State Census and his obituary, published in a New York newspaper, spelled it “Robinson.” History Colorado reported

The public notice of his application submitted to the July 15, 1897 issue of the *Star Journal* in Montezuma County lists his name as ‘James F. Robison.’ [We] also hold a manuscript collection from Montezuma County (1916-1944) and two letters to then-state historian Leroy Hafen from Anna Robison, who might be a descendant of James F. Robison. . . . [A] colleague at the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation located a Cultural Resource Survey on the Lost Canyon Stock Driveway which intersects with the property identified as “Negro Draw.” This document confirms the association with the Robison name, but she believes that the term “Negro” (as indicated in the proposal) may simply be the Spanish word for “black,” perhaps describing the soil at the site, rather than the association with any family who lived or worked near the area.

The [Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board](#) (CGNAB) voted on March 24, 2024 to recommend approval of the change after first considering the proposal on August 18, 2022. On January 30, 2025, CGNAB shared Governor Polis’ concurrence with their recommendation per their bylaws. CGNAB contacted the Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado replied that they did not object to the name change.

Review List 442

New names **Plunge Mesa** and **Plunge Point**, Colorado
(Bureau of Land Management land)

Plunge Mesa: [39.113202, -108.282461](#)

Plunge Point: [39.116637, -108.287614](#)

Local government	Mesa County Commissioners	No response / Support*
State Names Authority	Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board	Support
Federal	Bureau of Land Management	No objection
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado**	No response
	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe**	No response

* reported by Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board

** contacted by Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board

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

Wilderness Area	Variant	Animal
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The new names Plunge Mesa and Plunge Point are proposed for an officially unnamed ridge and a high point on its northwestern end, respectively, in Mesa County near Palisade. The proposal was received on May 29, 2021 from Glenn D. Hayes, a resident of Palisade, Colorado.

The ridge is a thin extension off the northwestern slope of Grand Mesa and is on Bureau of Land Management land.

The proponent wrote

The name PLUNGE will be forever associated with Palisade as the already named Plunge Trail is opening this day [May 29, 2021]. The Mesa to be named, which steeply plunges down three sides, is about one mile East of the bottom of the Plunge trailhead. PLUNGE POINT is most prominent to the town and area of Palisade.

Construction of the mountain bike and hiking Palisade Trail started in 2018 and was done jointly with the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. A USFS document (https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/108517_FSPLT3_4276659.pdf) lists “Plunge Point Overlook – informational interpretive wayside sign (MP 26.47)” as a potential site for long-term signage on the trail below the summit.

The proponent is also the owner of Plunge Photo, LLC, a business in Palisade that appears to have been started in December 2020. His business card shows an image of the point at the end of the ridge. Staff asked the proponent about the [Commercial Names Policy](#) and if the names’ “primary purpose” could be “construed to promote” Plunge Photo, LLC or if the names were “being used for publicizing” Plunge Photo, LLC. The proponent replied

Scores of businesses and organizations in this valley use prefixes in their titles like Mt. Garfield or Grand Mesa and I do not see that it extends their commercial appeal from their competitors. Yet, there are already some, and there will be more businesses and organizations around Palisade who will adopt the word "Plunge" as a prefix in their name. This is because of the interest in the trail and its lure of its' adventure. My proposal for the name Plunge Mesa is quite applicable in this situation and is a somewhat objective description of this little mesa and its' most prominent point, also in search of a name.

As for my start-up enterprise of Plunge Photo, I have considered making it a non-profit organization and will do so now, at your request, to validate my intentions.

The proponent reports that the Palisade Town Council and Mayor supported the name in May 2021. The features are not within Town lands.

The Mesa County Commissioners did not formally make a recommendation to DNC staff, but wrote “We believe this should receive community input before we act, if we take a position at all. What is your plan for public input?” Staff replied that any public input beyond asking for

recommendations from local governments is left to those governments or the proponent. The [Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board](#) (CGNAB) Chair reported that the Commissioners support the names but took no formal action.

CGNAB voted on August 26, 2024 to recommend approval of the names after first considering the proposal on March 25, 2022. On January 30, 2025, CGNAB shared Governor Polis’ concurrence with their recommendation per their bylaws. CGNAB contacted the Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, but did not receive any responses.

Review List 450

New name **Banes Draw**, Colorado
(Bureau of Land Management land)

Mouth: [37.54189, -108.794](#) / Source: [37.56432, -108.72757](#)

Local government	Montezuma County Commissioners	No response
State Names Authority	Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board	Support
Federal	Bureau of Land Management	No objection
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado*	No response
	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe*	No response
Other	Montezuma County Historical Society**	Support

* contacted by Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board

** copied on DNC staff county outreach

	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 commemorative name Banes Draw for a 4.2-mile-long valley in Montezuma County. The proposal was received on January 31, 2023 from George M. Bane, a resident of Dove Creek, Colorado.

The valley trends west-southwest to join Sandstone Canyon on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

The proponent wrote that the name has been “known since 1919 as Bane’s Draw or Bane’s Canyon to locals” and that there are “[o]riginal homesteading patetents [sic] from Eugene and Roland Bane.” The name would commemorate Eugene Bane (1869-1933) and Roland Bane

(1885-?), who homesteaded in the area between 1919 and 1926. Eugene Bane is buried in Sunnyside Cemetery in Lewis, 5.5 miles southwest of the source of the stream.

Staff informed the proponent that “the BGN discourages the use of possessive apostrophes in the names of natural features, so the name will be considered as ‘Banes’ rather than ‘Bane’s’ (if you would prefer simply Bane Draw, please let us know).” The proponent did not reply.

One Mesa County Commissioner reported that “I didn’t know we had any in named [sic] draws. I have no real opinion so will leave to my other two Commissioners.” The other Commissioners were copied on this email but did not respond. Staff received a recommendation form in the mail stating that the Mesa County Commissioners supported the proposal, signed by Kipp Bane with a mailing address in Mesa, Arizona. Staff asked the Mesa County Commissioners about this, and the same Commissioner replied that “[n]o one from Mesa Az. is representing the BOCC in Montezuma County. Again I’m not against Banes draw and didn’t know we had any unnamed draws. confirmed that they did not send this form.”

The Montezuma Heritage Museum Director of Museum Development wrote

Certainly the Montezuma County Historical Society can support the Banes Draw naming you [the DNC] are considering. According to our research, there were multiple Bane family members in the Lewis/Yellow Jacket/Ackman area for decades, but yes the earliest family members to homestead here were Roland and Eugene. . .

[T]he original Bane brothers and their families were significant homesteaders and ongoing residents and ranchers/farmers in the area of the draw you mention. I've only lived here a decade or so, but in my role as site steward for Yellowjacket Pueblo, I have heard old timers mention Banes Draw.

The [Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board](#) (CGNAB) voted on October 25, 2024 to recommend approval of the name after first considering the proposal on May 16, 2024. On January 30, 2025, CGNAB shared Governor Polis’ concurrence with their recommendation per their bylaws. CGNAB contacted the Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, but did not receive any responses.

The Bureau of Land Management “has no official opinion on the Banes Draw proposal, but has no objection given the thorough process that the state of Colorado follows. We would also like to note that 80% of the short drainage is on private land and the area receives little public visitation.”

New name **Mount Hughes**, Colorado
(Roosevelt National Forest)

[40.743906, -105.68274](#)

Local government	Larimer County Commissioners*	Support
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State Names Authority	Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board	Support
Federal	U.S. Forest Service	No objection
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado**	No response
	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe**	No response
Other	Red Feather Historical Society*	Support

* contacted by proponent

** contacted by Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board

	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 Mount Hughes is proposed for an unnamed 10,884-ft. summit in Larimer County and Roosevelt National Forest, approximately 35 miles west-northwest of Fort Collins. The proposal was received on December 30, 2022 from John Hafnor, a resident of Fort Collins, Colorado and a representative of the Red Feather Historical Society.

The name would honor Colonel John C. Hughes (1922-2002), who is described by the proponent as

a longtime and illustrious resident of Red Feather Lakes Village. Col. Hughes is recognized as one of the fifty most-decorated veterans in American military history. Hughes fought in three wars -- WWII, Korea and Vietnam. He received 79 medals and citations, including two Distinguished Service Medals, five Purple Hearts, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, and the Medal of Saint Maurice, the patron saint of infantry (his was medal #9. Bob Dole and Colin Powell received #7 and #8 respectively). He was also nominated for the Congressional Medal of Honor, but reportedly turned it down.

Hughes was the most decorated serviceman in the 100-year history of the 29th Infantry Regiment, which in 2000 made Hughes an honorary "colonel commander for life."

In 1954, Hughes bought a vacation cabin in Red Feather Lakes Village, "in the shadows of the summits," to which he moved upon retirement after 33 years of military service.

He quickly became a volunteer community leader, serving on the board of nearly every community organization. This included terms as President and Vice President of the Mountain Lion's Club, the Red Feather Property Owners Association, and the Red Feather Historical Society. He loved taking his sons hiking and fishing in the vicinity of the summit which we propose be named in his honor.

The proponent notes that three of the four summits that comprise “the Baldies” (North Bald Mountain, Middle Bald Mountain, and South Bald Mountain) are named, but this summit is not and so the community believes it should be named. Col. Hughes’ family still lives in Red Feather Lakes Village, which is also the location of Colonel Hughes Veterans Park.

The proponent asked the Larimer County Commissioners to support the proposal, which they did, citing Mr. Hughes’ military service and honors; and his role in the community. The proponent submitted a letter from the Red Feather Historical Society supporting the name, which cited the same reasons and that it “is in full support of naming the last mountain in the Baldy range in Red Feather Lakes, CO after John C. Hughes.

The [Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board](#) (CGNAB) voted on June 9, 2025 to recommend approval of the name after first considering the proposal on May 16, 2024. On January 30, 2025, CGNAB shared Governor Polis’ concurrence with their recommendation per their bylaws. CGNAB contacted the Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, but did not receive any responses.

Review List 451

Change **Poison Lake** (FID [178048](#)) to **Golden Valley Lake**, Colorado
[40.3646909, -105.1758302](#)

Local government	Larimer County Commissioners	No objection
State Names Authority	Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board	Support
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado*	No response
	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe*	No response

* contacted by Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board

	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 Poison Lake, a six-acre lake in southeastern Larimer County, to Golden Valley Lake. The proposal was received on March 9, 2023 from James S. Keith, a partial landowner. The proponent reported that the other two landowners support the proposal and that the feature is an alkaline lake.

The proponent wrote that “[t]he lake is not poisonous. Grazing livestock and wildlife including birds have no health issues w[ith] the lake” and that he and his neighbors chose the name because “[t]he physical access to the owners’ homes is via Golden Valley Road.”

The proponent followed up with more information after submitting the proposal:

In 1962 and prior Golden Valley Rd did not exist. The lake was on one large property. This property consisted of an automobile junkyard and the second-largest tire dump in the State of Colorado. Approximately five years ago the federal government paid to have the tires removed. The automobile junkyard has mostly been removed partially due to a large fire.

I am guessing the original rancher named the lake Poison Lake to discourage the public from accessing the property. It is true this is an alkaline lake, but it is certainly not poisonous. The alkaline is noticeable when the water level is low although from the attached photograph you can see that the water is quite clear.

The reason we would like the name changed is that our real estate values are greatly diminished as no family wants to live next to a poisonous lake. Further, home appraisers and mortgage brokers shy away, and insurance companies are hesitant to insure homes here as their liability is too great if there is poison on the property.

I am happy to supply a water test from the State of Colorado laboratory showing the water is merely alkaline.

Poison Lake has been named on USGS topographic maps since 1962. It is shown but not named on the official Larimer County highway map.

The [Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board](#) (CGNAB) voted on October 25, 2024 to recommend approval of the change after first considering the proposal on May 16, 2024. On January 30, 2025, CGNAB shared Governor Polis' concurrence with their recommendation per their bylaws. CGNAB contacted the Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, but did not receive any responses.

Review List 452

New name Lake Reed, Colorado

[39.78048, -104.79307](#)

Local government	Denver City and County Council	No response
State Names Authority	Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board	Oppose
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado*	No response
	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe*	No response

* contacted by Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board

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

The new name Lake Reed is proposed for an unnamed 1.5-acre reservoir in the City of Denver/Denver County. The proposal was received on June 17, 2023 from Alexander Mendieta, a Denver resident.

The proponent wrote

Lake Reed sits across the street (Airport Way) from the Frontier Airlines Headquarters. . . . The couple hundred of employees here at the HQ refer to this lake as Lake Reed. It does grow in size sometimes tripling [sic] when it rains. It has a new cement walking path going right next to it and I feel this is a landmark to that trail. It also i[s] a nice senic [sic] area for the drivers on Pena [sic] [Boulevard]. The shape of this lake is similar to a bear, kinda neat. It ranges from 500 feet long and upwards of 1500 feet when it rains. There is a small Island in the middle that is home to a few trees and wildlife.

This lake has been the view from the Frontier building for years, Once the path was built through the field next to the lake it has been an area for walkers, bikers and kids on scooters to come and relax. The name Lake Reed is not tied to anything special, there are no amazing stories around it. The name just came up and has stuck over the years. It is sad to not see it on the Google Maps or known by the state. Its [sic] a solid little lake that brings joy to the people. Thank you for your time.

DNC staff asked the proponent to explain more about the origin and meaning of the name and if it referred to a person. He replied “Lake Reed is based on the reeds that are at the lake. The plants themselves. There are alot [sic] of reeds along the lake that have been slowly growing over the years. The names [sic] been in use for about 3 years now.”

Google Maps currently shows a place marker for “Lake Reed.” Place markers can be added or modified by any Google Maps users and are different from basemap labels.

The [Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board](#) (CGNAB) voted on November 18, 2024 to recommend disapproval of the name. On January 30, 2025, CGNAB shared Governor Polis’ concurrence with their recommendation per their bylaws. CGNAB voted to not move the proposal forward for their formal consideration and because of this did not contact any Tribes.

CGNAB’s recommendation was based on the following comments from their minutes:

- That the feature was a stormwater retention pond connected to “an irrigation type ditch” and “could disappear anytime.”
- A concern about naming “small man made potentially impermanent features.”

- A lack of a compelling reason to name the feature “from a search and rescue or navigational standpoint or. . . significance to this name beyond the adjacent business.”
- A desire to not set a precedent by “naming a storm water retention pond” because it could lead to a lot of similar proposals.

Permanence or functional characteristics of a feature are not decision-making factors for the DNC unless they are raised as concerns by an interested party.

Review List 453

New name **Dylan Lake**, Colorado
(White River National Forest)

[39.4250252, -106.109494](#)

Local government	Summit County Commissioners	Oppose
State Names Authority	Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board	Oppose
Federal	U.S. Forest Service	Oppose
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado*	No response
	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe*	No response

* contacted by Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board

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

This proposal is to apply the locally used name Dylan Lake to a 9.6-acre lake on the White River National Forest below Pacific Peak and at the head of an unnamed tributary to Spruce Creek. It was received on July 8, 2023 from Jack Roper who did not provide his location, but has a Denver-region area code and who hikes to the lake.

The proponent wrote

[The name] Dylan Lake is used by alpine hikers colloquially to refer to this lake. I’m not sure where the name came from. Me and my hiking friends often use the name in contrast to the nearby "Lake Dillon" [officially named [Dillon Reservoir](#) with Lake Dillon as a variant name that is used locally], which is much larger. For example: "Do you want to hike to Dylan Lake or Lake Dillon?"

I think this lake needs a name in order to encourage hikers to attempt to reach it. Registering a formal name to the lake would encourage hiking to the lake. I have personally hiked to this lake, and I recommend it to others, but I often have trouble sending someone directions to the lake, because they can't find it on Google/Apple Maps. Instead, I have to point them to the nearby Upper Mohawk lake and assure them that there is, indeed, another lake beyond it.

I also hope that giving the lake a name and increasing its popularity will encourage local investment into a formal trail to get to the lake. As of now, a small creek has to be crossed on foot, and there is no trail once having crossed the river. This, combined with the fact that the lake is unnamed on any publicly available maps, makes people skeptical of its existence. I think that naming the lake would encourage a more formal footpath and perhaps a bridge to be developed across the nearby creek.

The proponent reported that he had no supporting documentation.

DNC staff asked the proponent if the name referred to a person and about the name Upper Mohawk Lake which is not recorded in GNIS. He replied

I don't think Dylan Lake refers to a real person, but I'm not entirely certain, because I don't know where it came from. I always thought it was a play on the name of the Dillon Reservoir.

Naming Upper Mohawk lake would be nice, too, but I'm less concerned about it, as it appears on Google Maps so people can find it already.

The lake is at the end of the [USFS Spruce Creek \(Mohawk Lakes\) #58 Trail](#).

The Summit County Commissioners stated that they oppose the proposal because [t]he name proposed, "Dylan Lake", has no historical, cultural, geographical, or natural significance to this area of Summit County that is south of the Town of Breckenridge in the Upper Blue Basin. "Dylan Lake" is also very close in name and proximity to Dillon Reservoir, which already exists in Summit County – and is often referred to as Dillon Lake.

The County's Director of Open Space stated

this is a highly trafficked zone (USFS staff stated on a site visit this week that they think the Spruce Creek TH is the most visited TH in the Dillon Ranger District) so I am also wary of promoting additional use. The trail system in the Mohawk Lakes area is highly braided, heavily trafficked, and in need of significant repair to prevent additional resource damage to vegetation and water quality. Secondly, I think the chain of lakes in this zone are all commonly referred to as "Mohawk Lakes" and I question the need to add confusion with a new name. Another important factor to consider is that naming a

lake with such a similar name to the Dillon Reservoir (Lake Dillon) doesn't conform with County standards for road or subdivision naming that call for names to be distinct.

The [Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board](#) (CGNAB) voted on October 25, 2024 to recommend disapproval of the name. On January 30, 2025, CGNAB shared Governor Polis' concurrence with their recommendation per their bylaws. CGNAB voted to not move the proposal forward for their formal consideration and because of this did not contact any Tribes.

CGNAB's recommendation was based on the duplicative name and the opposition from the county and land manager. One CGNAB member stated in the minutes:

We do not need to be naming features to encourage trails or human disturbance to occur simply because it is there. It should be done thoughtfully by our land managers and subject matter experts in wildlife management.

The U.S. Forest Service opposes the proposal "citing BGN Duplicate Names policy. The name is too similar to nearby Dillon Reservoir and would likely create confusion. The unit also found no evidence that this name is in local use, as stated by the proponent."

New name **Miller Pond**, Colorado
(White River National Forest / Holy Cross Wilderness)

[39.4649926, -106.6141568](#)

Local government	Eagle County Commissioners	Oppose
State Names Authority	Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board	Oppose
Federal	U.S. Forest Service	Oppose
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado*	No response
	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe*	No response

* contacted by Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board

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

The new name Miller Pond is proposed for a 3-acre beaver pond located within White River National Forest/Holy Cross Wilderness in Eagle County. The proposal was received on July 5, 2023 from John Miller, a resident of Denver, Colorado.

The name would commemorate the proponent's father, Kenneth Miller (1948–2004). The proponent wrote:

This pond is unnamed, and I believe my father’s name would be a perfect complement to this geologic feature. His ashes were spread there in 2005 per his request as it was his favorite place, and he had been visiting this location since 1975 when he and my uncle first discovered it. . . . Since 1975 my family and close friends have ventured to the secluded pond yearly as it is spectacularly beautiful. . . . I believe this would be a compliment to this wilderness area period as my father uttered this site with much reverence and appreciation.

When asked to address the Wilderness Names Policy further to provide a specific “overriding need” (per the [Wilderness Area Geographic Names Policy](#)) to name this unnamed feature in a Federal wilderness, the proponent responded:

[m]y father and my family/close friends are stewards of this area. We will continue to be caretakers for many generations as we have passed the tradition of respecting and maintaining the [H]oly [C]ross [W]ilderness area on to the younger generations as we always have. Also, since I'm my father's only son and I don't have children this will be a wonderful way to continue the Miller name in Colorado. There is also no current Miller Pond in Colorado that I'm aware of.

The proponent also stated that “my father was a Colorado native born at Saint Joseph's in Denver. He also built many custom homes in the front range of Colorado as well in the mountains.”

The Eagle County Commissioners do not support the proposal and cited both the [Commemorative Names Policy](#) and the [Wilderness Area Geographic Names Policy](#):

The BGN's commemorative names policy states that the person being honored should have had either some direct or long-term association with the feature, or have made a significant contribution to the area, community, or State in which it is located. Mr. Miller does not hold significant historical contributions to the area or feature. . . .

The County Commissioners do not recommend naming the unnamed feature in the Holy Cross Wilderness as there is not a demonstrated reason that warrants overriding [the Wilderness Area Geographic Names] policy of the USGS [sic]. We do recognize that this location may have had a significant impact on the life of Mr. Miller and his family. We want the Wilderness Area and these special areas to be discovered by others as well. These lands do not belong to one person but to all. Many people recognize loved one’s through helping support Wilderness designations, funding, and volunteering on behalf of a special person.

The [Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board](#) (CGNAB) voted on October 25, 2024 to recommend disapproval of the name. On January 30, 2025, CGNAB shared Governor Polis’ concurrence with their recommendation per their bylaws. CGNAB voted to not move the proposal forward for their formal consideration and because of this did not contact any Tribes.

CGNAB’s recommendation was based on the following comments from their minutes:

- “Typically this first step is an introduction and we would identify any additional research or outreach but due to the opposition on this one and it is in a wilderness area I do not find a compelling reason to move this proposal forward.”
- One member stated that “[t]he proponent did highlight the work and the care that this individual had done and visited the pond a lot and cared for it. It’s worthy of the work that has been done by the individual.”
- “[W]e are not bound by the USBGN policy I do take local input quite seriously and the Commissioners opposition is sufficient to give me pause.

The U.S. Forest Service opposes the proposal citing the Wilderness Area Geographic Names Policy.

Change **Pingree Park** (FID [177312](#)) to **Soule Park** and change **Pingree Hill** (FID [177132](#)) to **Soule Hill**, Colorado

Soule Park (a “Flat”-class feature in GNIS, not land managed by a group as a formal bounded park): [40.5610936, -105.5977777](#)

Soule Hill: [40.7269885, -105.5712677](#)

Local government	Larimer County Commissioners*	Support
State Names Authority	Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board	Support
Federal	U.S. Forest Service	No objection
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado*	No response
	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe*	No response
Other	Colorado State University Dean Emeritus	Support
	One Colorado resident	Support

* contacted by proponent

** contacted by Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board

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

These proposals are to change the names of Pingree Hill, an 8,764-foot summit, and Pingree Park, a flat located along the South Fork Cache La Poudre River; both are located in Larimer County. The proposal would replace “Pingree” with “Soule.”

Pingree Park is not a recreational park but is a natural feature.

The features are 11.5 miles apart. Most of the hill is on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests; the rest is on private land. Most of the park is on private land; some of it is within Colorado State University's Mountain Campus, which in 2015 was renamed from Pingree Park Mountain Campus.

The proposals were received on August 16, 2023 from two members of a group calling itself the "No Pingree Task Force"; Janet Duvall, a resident of LaPorte, Colorado and Bear Jack Gebhardt, a resident of Fort Collins, Colorado. The Facebook page for the group stated "The No-Pingree Task Force is a community effort to remove George Pingree's name from local landmarks."

The proposed names would commemorate Captain Silas Soule (1838 – 1865), who refused orders to participate in the Sand Creek Massacre of 1864. The proponents wrote:

We propose to change the name of Pingree Park to Soule Park in order to erase the dishonorable name of Pingree and replace it with the integrity of Soule. Captain Silas Soule went against Colonel John Chivington's [sic] orders and refused to allow his troops to participate in the Sand Creek Massacre. Scout George Washington Pingree, however, not only participated but joked about it later. Captain Soule testified against Colonel Chivington in a military investigation of the massacre and revealed the atrocities that took place. Soule's testimony was key in the decision of the Congress of the United States to refuse the U.S. Army's request for thousands of men to exterminate the Native American population. We want to honor Soule for his courage on the battlefield and for daring to speak the truth during the military investigation. . . .

Pingree had established a tie camp in the valley by 1868. Pingree spent only three years bossing work crews cutting ties for the Union Pacific railroad. When the track moved on, so did Pingree, but his name remains -- an affront to those who object to this reminder of a dark day in the history of Colorado. . . .

Evadene Burris Swanson reports on the Pingree's [sic] involvement with the massacre in her book, *Fort Collins Yesterdays* (1957), *Pingree: Indian Fighter and Tie Hack*. According to Swanson, Pingree was interviewed in 1911 by a reporter from the *Denver Post*. He is quoted as follows:

"Then Chivington got me out in a blessed hurry. A little time after that I came to Denver. I didn't [sic] see what use I had for those thirteen scalps, so I traded them to a barber, who promised to cut my hair and shave me whenever I was in town for the next two years."

Pingree said he went with an investigating committee to the battlefield and was ordered to bury the Indian bones. 'Bury your ancestors!' we says, getting mad. And all we did was to take up some stout sticks and play shinny with the Indian's skulls as long as the committee hung around." . . .

Our effort to remove the name of Pingree is supported locally. Recently (March 23, 2022), the Coloradoan, a Fort Collins newspaper, reported, Colorado State University officially renamed its Pingree Park Mountain Campus to Colorado State University Mountain Campus in 2015. At the time, CSU said it "acknowledges Pingree's self-proclaimed role in the Sand Creek Massacre" and felt it appropriate to remove his name from the title. John Gascoyne, a leader of the No Pingree Task Force, referenced local support in the Coloradoan Newspaper (March 23, 2022). . . . Gascoyne said the Pingree name change has received support from Larimer County Commissioner Kristin Stephens and Fort Collins Mayor Jeni Arndt, who both confirmed their support of the name change.

Through recent conversations at the LaPorte Festival (, Commission Chair John Kefalas and Commissioner Jody Shaddock-McNally have voiced their support of the name change. Thus, we have the support of all three county commissioners and the mayor of Fort Collins.

The proponents provided the following biography of Soule:

Born in Maine in July of 1838, Silas Soule was raised in an abolitionist family. He moved to Kansas late in the 1850s and on to Colorado in May of 1860. He joined the First Regiment of Colorado Volunteers and was promoted by Colonel John Chivington to Captain by 1864. This promotion put him in charge of Company D of the First Colorado Cavalry.

Colonel Chivington placed Soule in charge of Fort Lyon with Major Edward Wynkoop. Captain Soule and Major Wynkoop wanted to make sure the Native American tribes of Colorado were treated fairly. However, many Coloradans - including Colonel Chivington and territorial Governor John Evans - believed that Native tribes would kill all settlers unless they were killed first.

Soule and Wynkoop helped negotiate two important treaties with Colorado's native Cheyenne and Arapaho populations. The first was the Smoky Hill Council, where the United States promised peace to the Cheyenne Chief Black Kettle in exchange for the return of four white children who had been kidnapped. The second was the Camp Weld Council in late September 1864. The Cheyenne and Arapaho left the Camp Weld Council believing they had made peace and were under the protection of the United States government. Captain Soule thought peace had been made as well. Thus, his horror when Chivington ordered an attack on friendly Indians camped on Sand Creek.

Captain Soule wrote to his friend Major Wynkoop on December 14, 1864: "Two days after you left here the 3rd Reg't with a Battalion of the 1st arrived here, having moved so secretly that we were not aware of their approach until they had Pickets around the Post, allowing no one to pass out! They arrested Capt. Bent and John Vogle and placed guards around their houses. They then declared their intention to

massacre the friendly Indians camped on Sand Creek. . . Major Anthony then rushed up with Co s [sic] D K & G [sic] to within one hundred yards and commenced firing. I refused to fire and swore that none but a coward would for by this time hundreds of women and children were coming toward us and getting on their knees for mercy. Anthony shouted, "kill the sons of bitches." Smith and Louderbeck came to our command, although I am confident there were 200 shots fired at them, for I heard an officer say that Old Smith and anyone who sympathized with the Indians, ought to be killed and now was a good time to do it. The Battery then came up in our rear and opened on them. I took my Comp y across the Creek, and by this time the whole of the 3rd and the Batteries were firing into them, and you can form some idea of the slaughter. When the Indians found there was no hope for them, they went for the Creek and got under the banks and some of the bucks got their Bows and a few rifles and defended themselves as well as they could. By this time there was no organization among our troops, they were a perfect mob every man on his own hook. My Co. was the only one that kept their formation, and we did not fire a shot.

Pingree Hill and Pingree Park were first labeled on USGS topographic maps in 1916. A 1906 article in the Larimer Independent suggested the name was already in local use prior to the USGS map.

The proponent provided links to Soule’s testimony of February 1865, as well as a detailed description of the Sand Creek Massacre by the National Park Service.

The Larimer County Board of Supervisors, in their support for renaming both Pingree Hill and Pingree Park, stated “We agree that the names of geographic features . . . are a valuable reflection of the history of our nation Further, the actions committed by George Pingree, Col. John Chivington and those soldiers who followed orders during the Sand Creek Massacre . . . are a tragedy and no longer have present-day local acceptance.” The chair of the board referred to a 1911 Denver Post article in which George Pingree described the incident as “the most thrilling event of his life.”

According to GNIS, there are no geographic features in Colorado currently named “Soule.” In September 2023, the BGN considered the name Mount Soule as one of the possible replacement names for Mount Evans, but approved the name Mount Blue Sky instead.

The Larimer County Supervisors wrote a letter supporting the proposals, which the proponent shared with DNC staff. The letter stated

As local officials agree that the names of geographic features in the United States are a valuable reflection of the history of our nation as noted [in the DNC’s Principles, Policies, and Procedutres]. Further the actions committed by George Pingree, Col. John Chivington and those soldiers who followed orders during the Sand Creek Massacre on November 29, 1864 are a tragedy and no longer have present-day local acceptance. . . .

According to a Denver Post article from March 4, 1911, in which George Pingree, then in his mid-80's, was interviewed, he acknowledged that he was a scout under Colonel Chivington, who led the attack. Pingree described the event as "the most thrilling event of his life". . . . Following the attack, Pingree was placed in the guard house when he returned to Fort Lyon. Pingree had scalped thirteen Cheyenne or Arapaho people which was then against the law. Pingree defended the actions of Chivington; even when the War Department in Washington utterly repudiated his act and stripped him of all military honors. Pingree defended Col. Chivington until his death.

In 2015, Colorado State University renamed the Pingree Park Mountain Campus to Colorado State University Mountain Campus to, in part, remove association with the person of George Pingree, who played a self-proclaimed role in the Sand Creek Massacre. The Larimer County Board of Commissioners agree with the actions taken by Colorado State University and desire to have any other "Pingree" names removed in our county.

A Colorado State University Dean Emeritus supported the proposal, though initially suggested that Pingree Park was named for John Pingree, who was associated with the railroad and worked in the region, as believed by some local residents. Members of the "No Pingree Task Force" and the Dean Emeritus shared information and could not definitively show that John Pingree worked near the features, but that George Pingree did. The Dean Emeritus wrote "[a]s there is no definitive evidence indicating Pingree Park is not named for George, I am supportive of the renaming effort."

CGNAB voted on November 18, 2025 to recommend approval of the changes after first considering the proposal on October 24, 2024. On January 30, 2025, CGNAB shared Governor Polis' concurrence with their recommendation per their bylaws. CGNAB contacted the Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, but did not receive any responses.

Review List 454

New name **La Monte Peak**, Colorado
(Bureau of Land Management land)

[37.29839, -108.213578](#)

Local government	La Plata County Commissioners	No opinion
	Montezuma County Commissioners	No objection
State Names Authority	Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board	Support
Federal	Bureau of Land Management	No objection
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

	Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado*	No response
	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe*	No response

* contacted by Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board

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

This proposal is to make official the name La Monte Peak for an 8,485-foot summit in Montezuma County and La Plata County on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The proposal was received on September 28, 2023 from Randall Buxton, a resident of nearby Hesperus, Colorado.

The proponent reports that the name is used in a Federal Communications Commission license for a radio tower on top of the summit and that the name is recognized by county government. The meaning of the name is unknown.

The summit is also referred to as “La Monte Peak” on listsofjohn.com. The peakbagger.com website records the summit as “Unnamed Peak.” These lists of names are not considered authoritative for Federal use by the DNC or GNIS.

The La Plata County Historical Society did not make a recommendation about the name, but suggested that

[w]e think the counties created the name since it is on the border -- La (Plata) and Monte(zuma). It seems appropriate because of its proximity to the Old Spanish Trail which was used by Spanish explorers in the 18th century.

CGNAB voted on November 18, 2025 to recommend approval of the name after first considering the proposal on June 9, 2025. On January 30, 2025, CGNAB shared Governor Polis’ concurrence with their recommendation per their bylaws. CGNAB contacted the Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, but did not receive any responses.

Bureau of Land Management has no objection because it “was unable to find any other names in use for the feature.”

Change **Dead Mexican Gulch** (FID [173527](#)) to **Lost Sheepherder Gulch**, Colorado
(Routt National Forest)

Mouth: [40.0625119, -107.1654912](#) / Source: [40.0559183, -107.1401555](#)

Local government	Garfield County Commissioners	Support
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State Names Authority	Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board	Support
Federal	U.S. Forest Service	No objection
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado*	No objection
	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe*	No response
Other	City of Glenwood Springs*	Support
	City of Rifle City*	No objection
	One Colorado resident	No opinion

* contacted by Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board

	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 Dead Mexican Gulch, a 1.6-mile-long valley in Garfield County and on the Routt National Forest, to Lost Sheepherder Gulch. The proposal was received on January 3, 2024 from Fred A. Jarman, the Garfield County Manager on behalf of the Garfield County Commissioners. The proposal was in response to a previous proposal for Jose Belardi Gulch (Review List 447, proposed without an accent), received on February 23, 2022 from Logan McDanel, a resident of Grand Junction, Colorado. He later withdrew this proposal in favor of Lost Sheepherder Gulch.

The County's proposal stated

Garfield County Commissioners (BOCC) took a look at a 100-year-old Colorado murder case. It all has to do with a requested name change for a place called Dead Mexican Gulch, near the Devil's Causeway in the Flat Tops Wilderness Area in northern Garfield County.

The Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board (CGNAB), which was formed in 2020 to consider places in the state whose names may need to be changed [sic, CGNAB is advisory to the DNC and neither group determines which place names may need to be changed, but are reactive to proposals that may be submitted by anyone], approached the BOCC with the idea of changing "Dead Mexican Gulch" to "José Belardi Gulch," [sic, the name was proposed as Jose Belardi Gulch] in honor of the man who is supposedly buried there [sic, CGNAB asked for Garfield County's comments about the earlier Jose Belardi Gulch proposal].

According to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names [sic, this was based on DNC staff research, informed by CGNAB and History Colorado research], José (Joe) Belardi was a sheep herder who murdered two of his colleagues over money in 1921 or '22.

Legend has it that Belardi gambled away paychecks entrusted to him by his hapless friends. So, Belardi killed them both and attempted to burn one of the bodies. He got 12-16 years in the Cañon City state penitentiary for that, but Tom Tynan, a sheep rancher and the prison warden, set Belardi free after five years to work on the Tynan ranch.

As the story goes, one night, Belardi was either struck by lightning or suffered an epileptic seizure and fell into his campfire. It is unknown who exactly is buried at Dead Mexican Gulch but, according to reports, a grave exists there marked with Belardi's name and the year 1922.

Commissioner Tom Jankovsky called Belardi "a scoundrel and a murderer" and said he wasn't the kind of person whose name should be on a landmark. Jankovsky suggested "Karma Gulch" because Belardi got what was coming to him. Commission Chair John Martin suggested "Lost Shepherder Gulch."

The Jose Belardi Gulch [sic] proponent had reported that

The name is both vague and pejorative. A grave is noted on the USGS map and indeed is still there. This grave provides the name of the individual burried [sic] there and it makes sense to name after him, rather than "Dead Mexican Gulch." . . .

A grave is noted on the USGS map and indeed is still there [The grave was depicted on USGS maps until 2000; with the newer USTopo series, beginning in 2011, it was no longer labeled.]. . . .

This grave provides the name of the individual buried there and it makes sense to name after him, rather than 'Dead Mexican Gulch.' [It] is covered with a pile of rocks, at the head of which is a wooden cross and a sign that reads: 'JOSE VELARDE / Killed by Lightning / SUMMER 1922.' [It is not known when the marker was put in place or by whom.]

Extensive research by the BGN staff and History Colorado, including a review of contemporaneous newspaper accounts, confirms that José Belardi is likely the source of the existing name, but his biographical details are contradictory. Evidence suggests he very likely murdered two fellow herders and that he died after being struck down by lightning, causing him to fall across the campfire "over which he had prepared his evening meal at his lonely sheep camp high up on the Flattops, close to the Devil's Causeway." Some accounts confuse this location with that of another, Dead Mexican Park, a flat located 60 miles to the north. Both are located with Routt National Forest, but the flat is in Routt County.

CGNAB voted on May 16, 2024 to recommend approval of the name after first considering the proposal on January 24, 2024 (and first considering the Jose Belardi Gulch [sic] proposal on August 18, 2022). On January 30, 2025, CGNAB shared Governor Polis' concurrence with their recommendation per their bylaws. CGNAB contacted the Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the

Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado reported that they had no objection to the change.

Review List 459

New name **Lake Shelton**, Kentucky

[38.159589, -85.5498709](#)

Local government	Louisville Metro Council	Support
State Names Authority	Kentucky Geographic Names Committee	Support
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

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

The new name **Lake Shelton** is proposed for an officially unnamed 1.75-acre reservoir in Jefferson County. The proposal was received on February 5, 2025 from Sarah Reisser, a resident of Louisville, Kentucky. The reservoir is on land owned by the proponent's family.

The name would commemorate Winston Laverne Shelton (1922-2019), an inventor and engineer who built his home on the property that contains the reservoir. The proponent is Mr. Shelton's granddaughter. The proponent included links to a Wikipedia article, "[Winston L. Shelton](#)," and a West Virginia Public Broadcasting obituary titled "[American Inventor Winston Shelton Passes Away](#)." Mr. Shelton was born in West Virginia and worked at General Electric between 1948 and 1968, then founded a company with his brother that was renamed Winston Industries in 1984. He is known for inventions improving home washing machines and food preparation, many of which are still used today.

The proponent wrote:

We want to name it after Winston Laverne Shelton who owned and cared [for] and loved his property. Winston was an American inventor, and engineer, who held 76 patents. His patents had impacts relating to washing machines and long story short after enlisting he was called in to do research at Princeton. I don't have time to write it all so we attached corresponding evidence [the articles linked above]. Winston. . . was a wonderful husband a great dad and an even better grandfather!

Just Google Winston Laverne Shelton, please!

Winston bought the property and built his home with his own two hands. The property can never be developed and is being overseen by his eldest daughter. . . my mother. Her birthday is coming in July [2025] so I'd like to surprise her and the family.

The proponent initially proposed the name as “Lake Laverne” and then “Lake Winston Laverne.” BGN staff asked the proponent to explain the unusual commemorative name forms of just the middle name and the first and middle names. Staff explained that a name didn’t need to include only a person’s last name. The proponent confirmed the name as Lake Shelton.

One Louisville Metro Councilman wrote in support of the proposal on behalf of the Louisville Metro Council’s general consensus:

While no formal request was made from the Shelton family to our office for assistance with formally naming their lake, we do not have any issues with the family choosing to have it officially named in honor of their father as a testament to all the reported wonderful accomplishments outlined in the application. We are in support of the of their request to formally name the reservoir, Lake Shelton.

New name **Bennett Creek**, West Virginia
(Monongahela National Forest)

Mouth: [38.34965, -80.21493](#) / Source: [38.34364, -80.19718](#)

Local government	Pocahontas County Commission	No response
State Names Authority	West Virginia State names advisor	No objection
Federal	U.S. Forest Service	Support
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

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

This proposal is to make official the name Bennett Creek for a 1.17-mile-long spring-fed tributary of Tea Creek, located in the Monongahela National Forest in Pocahontas County. The proposal was received on January 7, 2025 from Andrew Davis, a resident of Mount Hope, West Virginia.

The proponent wrote:

For the past 23 years I have hunted, hiked, camped, and fished in this area in the National Forest. The gentlemen who introduced me to the area have been doing the same for over 60 years, and their father and uncle were doing it for 50+ years before that. . . . There were no hiking trails or maps, so the men had to travel by memory

and distinguishing features. One of those features was always referred to as "Bennett Creek". When giving directions in the area, we often refer to "Bennett Creek" as an official landmark and have written it on our personal maps and marked it by waypoint on our GPS. On the National Forest maps and also GPS digital maps you will find this creek as a feature, but it has no name. I do not believe anyone else to have such a personal connection to this landmark in the area as us and I would like to petition for an official name to be given. . . .

The stream would be named in honor of Don [1929–1999] and Dale Bennett [1927–2016]. These brothers who grew up in the area hunting and have since left a legacy to the Bennett family. . . . Although I never met them, I have heard countless stories of their legacy and their love for this area in the National Forest. I would like to dedicate it in honor of them and present it to the Bennett family.

The West Virginia State names advisor stated that they didn't "see any issue from our standpoint here regarding the naming of 'Bennett Creek' and defer to the landowner (US Forest Service) and the Pocahontas County Commission."

The U.S. Forest service reported that it "concur[s] with the proposal. The forest has reached out to their corresponding tribes and have found no concerns." They did not report which Tribes were contacted.

Review List 460

New name **Lossing Spring**, Missouri

[36.65297, -94.00378](#)

Local government	Barry County Commission*	Support
State Names Authority	Missouri Board on Geographic Names	Support
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

* contacted by Missouri Board on Geographic Names

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

The name **Lossing Spring** is proposed for a spring located on private land near Exeter in Barry County, Missouri. The spring flows from a limestone bluff into a manmade basin and a small pond before flowing into Little Sugar Creek. The feature lies just west of the city of Exeter. The proposal was received on April 10, 2025 from Lauren Mack, a Missouri Department of Natural

Resources (MO DNR) employee on behalf of John D. Lossing, the landowner and resident of Exeter, Missouri.

The name would commemorate Audrey Nadine Lossing (1922–2010), the proponent's mother. The proponent wrote:

[M]y mother. . . lived on the farm for four years from 2000-2004. She loved the spring, using it for drinking water, wading, and fishing with the grandkids. . . . We have lots of good memories watering [sic] her entertain the grandkids there. . . . [She became ill and moved] to a rehabilitation facility at Cassville, MO, about eight miles away. She still would visit and sit by the spring pond watching and playing with her grandchildren. She enjoyed seeing the spring and pond. We have lots of good memories of her at the spring.

The MO DNR employee who submitted the proposal for the landowner wrote
If the board takes issue with the spring sharing the name of the current owner, may I suggest the alternate name of "Audrey Lossing Spring" or simply "Audrey Spring" with the same justification given by Mr. Lossing above.

DNC staff informed the proponent that DNC review required one name to be submitted for consideration and that the DNC would not choose among several names.

The Missouri Board on Geographic Names (MO BGN) asked for comments from the Barry County Commission, which supported the name. The MO BGN recommends that the name be approved.

Review List 461

New name **Dodier Knoll**, New Hampshire

[43.87525, -71.11476](#)

Local government	Madison Town Selectmen	No opinion
	Carroll County Commissioners	No response
State Names Authority	New Hampshire State Geographic Names Authority	No opinion
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

* contacted by Missouri Board on Geographic Names

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

The name Dodier Knoll is proposed for a 940-foot-elevation unnamed hill on private property in the Town of Madison, Carroll County. The proposal was received on July 24, 2025 from Jesse Eric Dodier, the landowner and resident of Madison, New Hampshire.

This proposal was submitted on the revised DNC proposal form first used in July 2025.

Information written by the proponent:

- The need for the name:
 - All other prominent features in the immediate area have designations, the location is unique & should also have a designation like the other hills & mountains surrounding it. It will help with locals.
- The meaning of the name:
 - It honors Raymond Ralph Dodier Sr. 1947-2011, his remaining family live on the land here.
- Why the name is appropriate for this feature:
 - It is referred to by the locals as a knoll, but has no official name.
- Interest in naming the feature:
 - To honor our deceased loved one with a permanent [sic] piece of the community.
- Biography of the honoree:
 - Raymond R. Dodier Sr. was well known in Carroll [sic] county. He had one of the largest towing & repair companies at one time. He was a stark [sic] member of our community & did a lot for people.
- The direct or long-term association between the honoree and the feature:
 - It is where his family settled, a short drive north from our hometown.
- The honoree's significant contribution to the community, area, or state around the feature:
 - Volunteer fire fighter, towing & repair operations for many [sic] years in the Greater Ossipee Area. [The Town of Ossipee borders the Town of Madison on the southwest.]
- Could the name be construed to honor a living person:
 - Yes, the proponent's son Raymond Ralph Dodier, Jr.

The proponent provided an obituary which stated that Mr. Dodier "was a lifelong resident of Sanbornville. Raymond was self employed, having owned and operated the former Sanbornville Construction and Ray's Service Center. . . . For over 20 years, Ray was a member of the Wakefield Volunteer Fire Department." Sanbornville, an unincorporated populated place and Census Designated Place in the Town of Wakefield, is 22 miles to the south of the feature.

On December 10, 2025, the Madison Town Selectmen voted unanimously to support the proposal, stating that they had no opinion:

[The Chair] noted that the Board was being asked to either object to the name, approve it, or express no opinion. He pointed out that the person being honored has

not lived in Madison or had a significant impact on our community, though the family does own the property.

After discussion, the Board learned that the son of Mr. Dodier built a new house on the property, and the grandson making the application is an abutter. The Board members expressed varying opinions on the matter, with some having no objection given that the family owns the property, and others questioning the connection to Madison.

The New Hampshire State Geographic Names Authority reported that they have no opinion about the proposal:

[The New Hampshire State Geographic Names Authority point of contact] polled the members of our Council on Resources and Development (directors and commissioners of state agencies) and have found that a large majority had no opinion on the name. One agency approved, one had no objection, and one stated they would approve if there was local awareness of the name, but otherwise the agency's responses were "no opinion".