

U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
Eight Hundred and Eighty Second Meeting
April 9, 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)
Marielle Black	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Department of the Interior)
Jessica Campbell	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Department of the Interior)
Thaddeus Ellerbe	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Department of Commerce)
Brenda-Anne Forrest	Government Publishing Office
Christopher Hammond	U.S. Geological Survey (Department of the Interior)
Susan Lyon	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Department of War)
Patrick Mahoney	Bureau of Land Management (Department of the Interior)
Timothy St. Onge	Library of Congress
Jeremy Smith	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (Department of the Interior)
Veronica Ranieri	Library of Congress
Alexander Stum	Natural Resources Conservation Service (Department of Agriculture)
Michael Tischler	U.S. Geological Survey (Department of the Interior)
Marilyn W.	National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (Department of War)

Ex-Officio

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

BGN/GNIS Staff

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

Special Committees

Tenielle Gaither, U.S. Geological Survey (Department of the Interior)

Guests and Observers

Alex Fries, National Park Service (Department of Interior)
Alma Ripps, National Park Service (Department of the Interior)

Mary Rose Sheldon, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Department of Commerce)
Daniel Spring, U.S. Forest Service (Department of Agriculture)

1. Opening and Roll Call

Chair Tischler opened the 882nd meeting of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) at 2:02 p.m. ET. The meeting was held in hybrid format. The Chair confirmed that the DNC would proceed under its customary informal rules, with motions decided by a simple majority of votes cast; abstentions would not be counted for or against. Members were asked to announce if they left the meeting to maintain an accurate vote count. The Chair reminded attendees that there would be no public comment period and that questions from the public or media should be submitted in writing to staff.

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

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Chair noted a modification to the agenda, indicating that item 4.1 would be reported by Marilyn W.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda, as modified.

The motion passed without objection.

3. Minutes of Meeting 881st

The Chair asked if there were any comments or edits to the minutes of the 881st 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 BGN Chair (Marilyn W.)

Marilyn W. thanked members and deputies for their consistent support and active participation, as well as staff for their work in preparing for the meeting. She noted that the Vice Chair position for the Full Board remains vacant.

4.2 Executive Secretary for Domestic Names (Dr. Zahniser)

Secretary Zahniser reported that the previous months activities have focused on administrative duties. Nothing significant to report.

4.3 Executive Secretary for Foreign Names (David D.)

See attached report.

4.4 Special Committee on Communications (Gaither)

Gaither reported that there are no significant updates since the last report given in May.

4.5 Staff (O'Donnell)

See attached report.

O'Donnell provided several updates to the staff report. He noted that the "June Crater" proposal would be processed, as the proponent clarified that the name does not commemorate a person.

He reported that the Racoon Point proposal was received in time for inclusion on the upcoming quarterly review list.

O'Donnell also noted ongoing coordination with a Pennsylvania borough regarding two proposals, including clarification of feature scope and naming intent.

4.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (Decker)

Decker reported that GNIS operations have continued as business as usual. She noted that staff have been focused on preparing a briefing book for the Secretary of the Interior, and that non-essential GNIS work has been limited during that effort.

5. Docket

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

Not Review Listed

Correct the spelling of **Spartman Branch** (BGN 1975) (FID [291488](#)) to **Sparkman Branch**, Florida

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote: 14 in favor
0 against

0 abstentions

Review List 458

New name **Adai Burial Bayou**, Louisiana

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the proposal, citing the opposition from the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma.

During discussion, members noted strong opposition from the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma, which stated that approval of the name would be offensive to the tribe. Members emphasized the Federal Government’s responsibility to consider Tribal input and consultation, particularly when a federally recognized Tribe expresses clear opposition.

Some discussion also acknowledged the presence of local support and differing perspectives regarding the proposal; however, members noted that there was no compelling Federal need to name the feature.

Vote: 8 in favor
3 against
3 abstentions

Votes against the motion cited local support and the proposed name’s reflection of the community’s history.

New name **Chief Quemsey Branch**, Louisiana

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the proposal citing the opposition from the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma.

Vote: 8 in favor
3 against
3 abstentions

Votes against the motion cited local support and the proposed name’s reflection of the community’s history.

New name **Milkmere Pond**, North Carolina

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the proposal citing the neutral stance from the North Carolina Board on Geographic Names and the lack of response from the county government.

Vote: 13 in favor
0 against
1 abstentions

Review List 459

New name **Lead Shot Run**, Pennsylvania

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the proposal citing opposition from the Chester County Water Resources Authority (on behalf of Chester County Commissioners), the Pennsylvania Geographic Names Committee, and the Waynesborough Country Club.

Vote: 14 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

It was noted that one voting member departed the meeting.

Review List 460

New name **Dilly Creek**, Iowa

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

Review List 461

Change **Digger Creek** (FID [222375](#)) to **Stanley Creek**, California

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote: 13 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

New name **Whittell Peak**, Nevada

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote: 12 in favor

0 against
1 abstention

Change **Jew Valley** (FID [1160486](#)) to **Jewish Valley**, Oregon

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote: 13 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

New name **Patriot Bend**, Tennessee

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote: 13 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Low Gap Point** (FID [1292187](#)) to **Tate Point**, Tennessee

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

Review List 461

New name **Owl Island**, Indiana

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote: 13 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

6. Other Business

Staff raised a policy clarification question regarding whether a proposed name such as “Four Sisters Stream” would fall under Policy III. Commemorative Names if it implicitly refers to living individuals without naming them directly. After discussion, the Committee determined that such a name would violate the commemorative naming policy.

7. Closing

The next Domestic Names Committee meeting will be held May 14, 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



United States Board on Geographic Names
882nd Domestic Names Committee Meeting
BGN Executive Secretary for Foreign Names Report

April 9, 2026

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN NAMES REPORT

April 9, 2026

1) MEETINGS

The next FNC meeting (Meeting 425) is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2026. On the agenda thus far are recommendation papers pertaining to Norway and Turkey, a policy update on Name Ranks, and annual updates on Anglicized names and maintenance of the GENC Standard.

Critical issues:

Nothing significant to report.

2) OTHER BUSINESS

Follow-on user-testing by FNC Staff of the latest GNS dissemination system build, part of NGA's ongoing Vector and Cartographic Production System (VCPS) development, is scheduled to commence in late May and conclude in early June. This additional assessment of the GNS build in development will ensure that all needed refinements, identified following testing which took place in March, are in place. Deployment of this update is now expected to occur during the mid-June to early July timeframe. The GNS Geographic Names Search Application will have a new look while the overall user interface will remain much the same. Added enhancements include the ability to add data layers and save database queries.

The 35th BGN/PCGN Conference is planned for November 2-6, 2026, and will be held at the Department of Interior. A formal call for conference submissions is forthcoming from the FNC.

Upcoming Meetings and Events (listed in chronological order)

- The 374th Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF) meeting is planned for the third week of April.
- The 299th BGN full board meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. EDT on April 21, 2026.
- The 425th Foreign Names Committee meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. EDT on June 9, 2026.
- The 35th BGN/PCGN Conference is scheduled for November 2-6, 2026, to be held at the Department of Interior.

BGN/Domestic Names Committee Meeting 882
 April 9, 2026
 Staff Report

Reporting period: February 25, 2026 to March 24, 2026

Proposals received

Proposal type	Proposed name	GNIS Feature type	State	Status
New name	Lake Deutschler	Reservoir	GA	Will be on QRL 463; named for person who built the reservoir
New name	Rhodes Pond	Reservoir	FL	Not processed, need details for the Commemorative Names Policy ; can be on next QRL after details received
Name change	Part of Sambo Creek to Johanna Boston Creek	Stream	PA	Not processed, Borough is proposing changing only the section within their boundaries, which is not in line with DNC Principles. Staff is working with proponent on details; Johanna Boston Creek is only for the part of Sambo Creek within a borough boundary; Paemasing Creek is being proposed for a stream not officially named and that had been proposed by the borough as Johanna Boston Creek
New name	Paemasing Creek	Stream	PA	Will be on QRL 463; superseded previous Borough proposal to name this stream Johanna Boston Creek
New name	Lake Mesedahll	Lake	MN	Not processed, need details for the Commemorative Names Policy ; ; can be on next QRL after details received;

				proponent will also need to follow the Minnesota DNR naming process
Name change	Sun Valley Creek to Kew Creek	Stream	IA	Will be on QRL 463; named for a former local railroad station
New name	Gale Mountain	Summit	CO	Not processed, staff is clarifying details about potential reference to a person or animal; name references how windy the peak is; can be on next QRL after details confirmed Will be on QRL 463; named for how windy the peak is
Name change	Saint Ann Highlands to St. Anton Highlands	Populated Place	CO	Not processed, no form submitted, will be a staff processed spelling correction; locally established name not recorded by GNIS or Census; inquiry about changing Saint Ann Highlands Census Designated Place will be processed by Census Bureau
New name	Kogertown	Populated Place	AL	Submitted without proposal form; staff shared instructions; can be on next QRL after proposal received
New name	June Crater	Crater	AZ	Will be on QRL 463; name refers to season/month; staff asked proponent about potential reference to a person but proponent clarified it was not
Name change	Coon Point to Raccoon Point	Cape	OR	Will be on QRL 463; name change to recognize State-used name

New name	Wenner Run	Stream	PA	Will be on QRL 464; named for family who owned land
New name	Browning Brook	Stream	PA	Will be on QRL 464; named for family who donated land for an arboretum
New name	Stillhouse Branch	Stream	GA	Submitted on old form; can be on next QRL after new form received

Status change to pending proposals

Proposal type	Proposed name	GNIS Feature type	State	Status
New name	Gnébêk Creek	Stream	MI	Amended from Gnébêk Stream on QRL 461

Inquiries received

Inquiry type	Name	GNIS Feature type	State	Status
Process inquiries				Sent proposal instructions
Name origin inquiry	Seversons Bay	Bay	WA	Citation in GNIS doesn't include name, asked GNIS staff to check
Support for proposal	Berky Dell Brook	Stream	PA	Sent by local museum; no proposal received
Make local name official	Upper Coal Branch	Stream	IN, IL	Sent proposal instructions
Federal sign update	LaSarge Creek	Stream	OK	Shared local USACE contact
Naming process for nuclear station cooling plants				Sent proposal instructions
Proposal status update	Muzzies Rock	Island	MA	Proposal from 2025 needed more details about the commemorative policy; honoree only owned land, staff asked for

				evidence of further details to meet policy
Esri map name change	OK Creek	Stream	OH	Staff replied with USGS FAQ “Is the federal government responsible for updating geographic names on non-federal map products?”
Proposal status request	Change name of Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal	Canal	IL	Staff replied that no proposal has been submitted and to check the QRL to learn when one was

State Name Authority/Advisor activity

- BGN Office Hours with SNAs, 3/23/26

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
DOCKET
April 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.”

Not Review Listed

Change **Spartman Branch** (BGN 1975) (FID 291488) to **Sparkman Branch**, Florida
Mouth: [28.0289091, -82.1898106](#) / Source: [27.9897446, -82.145921](#)

Local government	Plant City City Commission	Support*
	Hillsborough County Commissioners	Support*
State Names Authority	Florida State Names Authority	Support
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	Not contacted
Other	Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County	Support*

* submitted by proponent

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

This spelling correction proposal was submitted on November 13, 2025 by the City Manager of the City of Plant City, Florida. The stream begins in the City of Plant City and flows through Hillsborough County into Pemberton Creek.

The proposal justified the correction with the following statements:

Correcting this error and standardization of this name is important to avoid any confusion that may impact stormwater management, emergency response, infrastructure planning and development. Otherwise, the error will keep occurring.

The name “Sparkman” represents and refers to a very prominent and historic family that has lived in the Tampa Bay area for almost two centuries. Their settlement location was around the Sparkman Branch area, including the confluence with Pemberton Creek.

Multiple historic maps show the area referred to as “Sparkman,” per family that has lived in the Tampa Bay area for almost two centuries. USGS’ water quality monitoring report refers to the stream as “Sparkman Branch.” The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report and an article in 1962 in the Flagler Tribune both do the same. The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) website refers to the subwatershed as “Sparkman Branch.”

Local residents and staff have referred to this accurately in everyday use. Local sources have not repeated the erroneous use of “Spartman” for this waterway. . .

[T]he correction and standardization. . . is especially crucial in our digital age and to avoid propagation of incorrect information.

In 1975, the DNC approved a change in the source of Spartman Branch, correcting what had been shown on an earlier edition of the USGS 1:24,000-scale Antioch quadrangle. Authorities for the name correction in 1975 listed on a DNC form were the City Engineer and City Planning Commissioner of the City of Plant City and the County Engineer of Hillsborough County.

Review List 458

New name **Adai Burial Bayou**, Louisiana

Mouth: [31.82189, -93.28175](#) / Source: [31.81549, -93.29571](#)

Local government	Natchitoches Parish Council	No response
State Names Authority	Louisiana State Names Authority	Support
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Caddo Nation of Oklahoma	Opposed
Other	Adai Caddo Indian Nation of Louisiana	Support*
	Village of Robeline	Support*
	Louisiana Genealogical and Historic Society	Support*
	Local resident and Adai Caddo Indian Nation of Louisiana member	Support*

* submitted by proponent

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

This proposal is to make official the local name Adai Burial Bayou for a 1.3-mile-long tributary of Tapalcat Bayou in Natchitoches Parish. It was submitted on November 4, 2024 by John Avery, a resident of Robeline, Louisiana, who is a member of the Adai Caddo Indian Nation of Louisiana. This group is recognized by the State of Louisiana but is not a federally recognized Tribe. The proponent clarified his affiliation with the group, saying he is “a volunteer helping with social media, communications, and administrative tasks.” The stream is located within the Census Bureau’s Adai Caddo State Designated Tribal Statistical Area. The proponent submitted a second proposal for the name Chief Quemsy Branch (see below), for another stream 2.4 miles to the southeast.

The proposal for Adai Burial Bayou states:

[t]he proposed name has been in current use for as long as anyone can remember as evidenced by the letters of support. . . .

The name’s origin is for the Adai people (Native Americans inhabiting the local area since time immemorial). The Adai people have been buried and laid to rest along this bayou for generations. The Catholic cemetery (St. Anne Cemetery) at the headwaters of this bayou is where many of the Adai people have been buried for over 120 years. Over 90% of the gravesites are those of Native American Adai ancestry. Former Chief Rufus Davis Jr. and many of his extended family are laid to rest there.

The tribe holds an annual ceremony on Mother’s Day at the burial site honoring their ancestors interred there. This Native American tradition has been maintained for over 100 years at this location.

The proposal included letters of support from

- John Mark Davis, the Chief of the Adai Caddo Indian Nation of Louisiana
- Dr. Mark Hyoung Choi, Secretary, Board of Directors of the Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society (LGHS)
- Gordon O’Con, the Mayor of the Village of Robeline located about nine miles south of the stream (The stream is not within the incorporated Village of Robeline.)
- A local resident and member of the Adai Caddo Indian Nation of Louisiana, who lives about 1.6 miles southwest of the stream.

Chief Davis wrote:

The Tribal Council of the Adai Caddo Indian Nation of Louisiana unanimously support the proposal to name the subject stream Adai Burial Bayou.

The stream is located approximately 2.5 miles north of our museum and cultural center in Robeline, Louisiana. The stream is located within the boundaries of our historic native range and the current U.S. Census Bureau's Adai Caddo State Designated Tribal Statistical Area.

The stream has been locally known as Adai Burial Bayou as it runs through our ancestral lands and ancient burial grounds. The stream runs near St. Anne Cemetery, where generations of our people are interred. Today, this rural area consists mostly of farm, ranch and timberland. A large portion of the local population, property owners, members of St. Anne Catholic Church and those interred at St. Anne Cemetery are Adai. St. Anne is the official patron saint of our tribe per the registry at the Roman Catholic Diocese of Alexandria.

The proposal complies with the U.S. Geological Survey's [*sic*] guidance entitled "Cultural Sensitivity for Native American Names."

LGHS Secretary Choi added:

After reviewing records of the Roman Catholic Church (Natchitoches Parish and Diocese of Alexandria) and public records including parish and state records, newspapers, genealogical records, military service records, and other archives, the LGHS supports the proposal to name the subject stream after the state-recognized Native American tribe (Adai Caddo Indian Nation of Louisiana) and their nearby burial area (Saint Anne's Cemetery). . . .

Based on the information reviewed including documents from local residents, property owners and the Adai Caddo Indian Nation of Louisiana, the stream has been locally known as Adai Burial Bayou for many years. . . .

Robeline Mayor O'Con wrote:

The Adai people have a long, rich history in the Robeline area. They are the indigenous people of this area, and their contributions have shaped the history of Louisiana. Today, the Adai continue to be outstanding citizens of the local community. Their tribal headquarters and ceremonial grounds are located in Robeline. Many attend Saint Anne's Catholic Church and their ancestors are buried at the Saint Anne Cemetery along the banks of the Adai Burial Bayou.

The local resident wrote:

I am a local property owner, and I support the BGN proposal to name the bayou by the cemetery to Adai Burial Bayou.

Since the early 1980's, I have owned approximately 10 acres . . . in Robeline near the St. Anne Cemetery.

I am Adai Indian. My Adai Indian family members are buried in that cemetery. For my entire life, I have participated in our tribe's ceremony honoring our ancestors at the cemetery along the bayou. I will be laid to rest in that same cemetery.

The Caddo Nation of Oklahoma's Tribal Historic Preservation Officer emailed a letter to the staff in response to the Policy 10 Quarterly Review List Notice email:

On behalf of the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma I am submitting this letter as a formal comment to the recently posted Quarterly Review List 458 by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN). This list contains two new commemorative name proposals by the "Adai Caddo Indian Nation of Louisiana." Specifically, the proposal is that two unnamed tributaries of the Tapalcat Bayou in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana be officially named "Adai Burial Bayou," and "Chief Quemsy Branch."

Plainly stated, the "Adai" are not a federally recognized tribe. This fact was clearly pointed out by the BGN in the case summary portion of each name proposal, which our Nation greatly appreciates. Not only are the "Adai" not federally recognized, they are also not Caddo and will never be Caddo.

The "Adai" have state recognition by the state of Louisiana due to the successful lobbying of Louisiana state representatives by former "chief" Rufus Davis many years ago. The "Adai" are unable to produce any evidence whatsoever that could demonstrate a link or any verifiable connection of any kind to or our ancestors who inhabited the four-state area of east Texas, northwest Louisiana, western Arkansas, and eastern Oklahoma for thousands of years.

The Caddo Nation unequivocally opposes the application of the proposed geographic names within our traditional homelands, either officially, commemoratively, or otherwise. To do so would provide credence to the "Adai" claims of affiliation with the Caddo people and would represent an affront to the sacrifice and resilience of our ancestors and their true descendants who are legitimately enrolled Tribal citizens of the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma.

In the email, the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer wrote:

To be as clear as possible, the Caddo Nation **strongly opposes** the application within our traditional homelands of the proposed geographic names by the "Adai." We hope that you will make the right decision. [bolding and underlining in original]

Staff informed the proponent that “The Caddo Nation of Oklahoma replied that they strongly oppose the application of the names Adai Burial Bayou and Chief Quemsey Branch within their traditional homelands.” The proponent responded:

These two features are not in the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma's current or traditional homelands. The Treaty of 1835 defines their lands. Attached is a map of their lands as agreed to by their ancestral chiefs, the U.S. Government, and the State of Louisiana. This is the only official U.S. legal document that defines their traditional homelands.

These two features are many miles south of their traditional lands as defined by the treaty. I assume the USGS can confirm this. If you need a copy of the signed treaty, I can provide that and a copy is available through the Library of Congress.

I can also provide the 1763 Treaty of Paris map (as agreed to by the British, Spanish, French, Portuguese, and their colonies in the new world) showing these lands are part of the Adai Indian Nation, which has provided a letter of support for both features.

The Louisiana State Names Advisor recommends that the proposal be approved, and provided comments addressing the opposition of the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma:

There is no claim by the proposer that the Adai or Adai Caddo Indian Nation of Louisiana are Federally recognized; the objection [from the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma] is rather to the use of Caddo. . . .

[T]he Adai Caddo Indian Nation of Louisiana are not making any such claim [for federal recognition or a demonstrated connection to the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma] but rather to their history and presence in a region of Louisiana where these two waterbodies are located, which according to the US Census American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Areas web service and the USGS National Hydrography Dataset web service, these to [sic] features are in the stated area. . . .

While the Adai Caddo Indian Nation of Louisiana are not a Federally recognized tribe as the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma are; there is a level of Federal recognition by way of the US Census Bureau’s State Designated Tribal Statistical Area.

[Federal Register Notice [2026-01899 \(91 FR 4102\)](#), “Indian Entities Recognized by and Eligible To Receive Services From the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs “ does not include the Adai Caddo Indian Nation of Louisiana]. Interestingly, there are not many of these designations[,] 35 in total according to the US Census American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Areas web service found here: <https://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/arcgis/rest/services/TIGERweb/AIANNHA/MapServer>.

These statement[s] from the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma] also do not provide contextual relevance to the objection other than to discard the existence of the Adai Caddo Indian Nation of Louisiana, and the comments or objections do not address the nature of the proposal; i.e. the objection does not contain proof the proposal is incorrect to the historic presence of the Adai Caddo Indian Nation in the region.

On the contrary, the Adai Caddo Indian Nation of Louisiana have provided relevant documentation to the regional and historical significance of the Adai Burial Bayou and Chief Quemsey Branch proposed names. Additional resources available through the Adai Caddo Indian Nation of Louisiana website, shows a considerable amount of documentation in reference to their history and presence in the region. Another resource can be found on the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma website in the form of a map which clearly shows the Adai were to be found in the region they claim to be located. . . . Reference URL: <https://mycaddonation.com/history-1>. . . .

Other references from the Adai Caddo Indian Nation of Louisiana website:
<https://adaicaddo.com/about/history/>
<https://adaicaddo.com/about/maps/>
<https://adaicaddo.com/about/recognition/>
<https://adaicaddo.com/about/el-camino-real/>. . . .

They (Adai Caddo Indian Nation of Louisiana) have cited many published works as well, assuming those have been correctly cited.

New name **Chief Quemsey Branch**, Louisiana

Mouth: [31.79856, -93.25131](#) / Source: [31.80639, -93.27847](#)

Local government	Natchitoches Parish Council	No response
State Names Authority	Louisiana State Names Authority	Support
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Caddo Nation of Oklahoma	Opposed
Other	Adai Caddo Indian Nation of Louisiana	Support*
	Village of Robeline	Support*
	Louisiana Genealogical and Historic Society	Support*
	Local resident and Adai Caddo Indian Nation of Louisiana member	Support*

* submitted by proponent

Established by Congress/President	Derogatory and Offensive	Long
Name Change	Diacritics	x Tribal

x	Commemorative	Duplicate or Similar	Commercial
	Wilderness Area	Variant	Animal

This proposal was submitted on November 4, 2024 by John Avery, a resident of Robeline, Louisiana, an employee of the Adai Caddo Indian Nation of Louisiana. This group is recognized by the State of Louisiana but is not a federally recognized Tribe.

This proposal is to apply the new name Chief Quemsey Branch to an officially unnamed 3.72-mile-long tributary of Tapalcat Bayou in Natchitoches Parish. It was submitted with the previous proposal, Adai Burial Bayou, on November 4, 2024 by John Avery, a resident of Robeline, Louisiana, an employee of the Adai Caddo Indian Nation of Louisiana. This group is recognized by the State of Louisiana but is not a federally recognized Tribe. The stream is located within the Census Bureau’s Adai Caddo State Designated Tribal Statistical Area.

The proposal states:

[t]he origin of the name is the 18th century chief of the Adai Indians (Native Americans): Chief Quemsey. [He] was an official ‘medal chief’ of the Louisiana colonial government, meaning he was recognized as the main chief of the Adai Nation (allies of the French and then Spanish colonial governments). Spain bestowed upon Chief Quemsey a medal giving him the authority to negotiate on behalf of the Adai with Spain. During his reign, the Adai were great allies of the Louisiana colony aiding its citizens and the commandant of Fort St. Jean Baptiste des Natchitoches. He provided warriors (up to 15 at a time) to the colonial government to support their activities and missions.

During this time, the Adai had villages in present-day Louisiana primarily in Natchitoches and Sabine Parishes. The main village was located on historic El Camino Real (LA HWY 6) between the Sabine River and the town/fort of Natchitoches. . . .

Chief Quemsey is documented in many colonial records of that period. . . .

Chief Quemsey’s exact birth year is unknown as he was born on the Louisiana colony frontier, presumably in an Adai village. Native Americans born during this period outside of colonial towns were rarely documented. . . .

As was common in the French then Spanish then Anglicized spelling of names, Quemsey has also been spelled as Quensy. However, the more common and recognized spelling of the name that is consistent with the Adai language is Quemsey.

The proposal included letters of support from

- John Mark Davis, the Chief of the Adai Caddo Indian Nation of Louisiana

- Dr. Mark Hyung Choi, Secretary, Board of Directors of the Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society
- Gordon O’Con, the Mayor of the Village of Robeline located about nine miles south of the stream (The stream is not within the incorporated Village of Robeline.)
- A local resident and member of the Adai Caddo Indian Nation of Louisiana who lives about 2.5 miles south of the stream.

Chief Davis wrote:

The Tribal Council of the Adai Caddo Indian Nation of Louisiana unanimously support the proposal to name the subject stream Chief Quemsey Branch.

Chief Quemsey Branch is located approximately 1.5 miles northeast of our tribal museum and cultural center in Robeline, Louisiana. The stream is located within the boundaries of our historic native range and the current U.S. Census Bureau’s Adai Caddo State Designated Tribal Statistical Area.

The proposal complies with the U.S. Geological Survey’s [sic] guidance entitled “Cultural Sensitivity for Native American Names”.

LGHS Secretary Choi added:

After reviewing historical texts and public records including parish and state records, newspapers, genealogical records, military service records, and other archives, the LGHS supports the proposal to name the subject stream after Chief Quemsey.

Robeline Mayor O’Con wrote:

While I have been long familiar with the Adai people and the Adai Caddo Indian Nation of Louisiana, I only recently learned the history of Chief Quemsey. As a great medal Chief of the Adai and staunch ally of the Louisiana Colony, he helped ensure the security of the colonists and colony that later became the state of Louisiana. His contributions to the formation and history of Natchitoches Parish have more than earned him this honor.

The local resident wrote:

I am a local property owner. I own approximately 10 acres . . . in Robeline . . . near this stream. I support the BGN proposal to name the stream to Chief Quemsey Branch.

Chief Quemsey was one of the most famous chiefs who ruled over this land. He was a medal chief and recognized as an important ally by the French and Spanish governments of Louisiana during that time. Many of us in Robeline and the greater Natchitoches Parish area are familiar with his story. We are proud of his contributions to our local area and to the state of Louisiana.

For the objection from the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma, the comments from the proponent, and

the recommendation from the Louisiana State Names Advisor, see the Adai Bural Bayou summary above.

New name **Milkmere Pond**, North Carolina

[35.67953, -80.96031](#)

Local government	Iredell County Commissioners	No response
State Names Authority	North Carolina Board on Geographic Names	No opinion
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

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

The new name Milkmere Pond is proposed for a natural spring-fed one-acre pond located in an area surrounded by white oak trees in Iredell County. It was submitted on November 21, 2024 by Brian Milch, a resident of Statesville, North Carolina, who owns the property where the feature is located.

According to the proponent, the name “Milkmere” is intended to “evoke the milky, pale quality of the water, as well as the serene, nurturing environment created by the white oaks.” The term “mere” is “an old term for a pond or lake,” thus tying the name to historical linguistic roots and reflecting the feature’s “tranquil nature.”

The proponent, whose surname is Milch, previously submitted a proposal to name this lake as “Milch Pond,” but it was not accepted because it could be construed to honor himself.

The Chair of the North Carolina Board on Geographic Names (NCBGN) stated that the NCBGN and the North Carolina Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee (which reviews and confirms the NCBGN recommendation) “are neutral” about the proposal.

Review List 459

New name **Lead Shot Run**, Pennsylvania

Mouth: [40.02687, -75.47153](#) / Source: [40.02868, -75.46818](#)

Local government	Easttown Township Supervisors	No response
	Chester County Water Resources Authority (on behalf of Chester County Commissioners)	Opposed
State Names Authority	Pennsylvania Geographic Names Committee	Opposed

Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Waynesborough Country Club	Opposed*
	Easttown Township resident	Opposed

* sent by Duane Morris LLP, a law firm

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

This proposal is to make official the name **Lead Shot Run** for a 0.25-mile-long tributary of Waynesborough Run, located in Easttown Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. It was submitted on October 1, 2024 by Francis Ford, a resident of Fort Washington, PA and representing Protecting Our Streams & Environment, Inc. (POSE). The stream flows through the Waynesborough Country Club.

The stream is not recorded in the U.S. Geological Survey’s National Hydrography Dataset or mapped on USGS topographic maps; 3D Hydrography Program data for this area has not yet been released.

The proponent initially stated:

The stream is colloquially referred to as Lead Shot Run which signifies the connection to its location at the heart of the [Waynesborough Country] Club and as an homage to the lead shot during a golf tournament. . . .

Staff asked the proponent to clarify the “lead shot” on golf, and he stated:

In the game of golf, a “lead shot” can metaphorically symbolize a decisive, well-placed stroke that positions a player or team ahead in the competition. In the context of a golf scramble, where teamwork and strategy are crucial, a “lead shot” might refer to the best shot of the group—the one that sets the pace for the rest of the play. This makes the name fitting for a stream that winds its way through the course, much like a well-placed golf shot cutting a strategic path through the landscape.

Much like a well-executed shot in golf, a stream follows a natural and often unpredictable course. This is ultimately the meaning of the term “Lead Shot.”

Staff found documents related to POSE about a pending lawsuit about lead-shot trapshooting on the Waynesborough Country Club that referred to the stream as “Lead Shot Run.” Staff asked the proponent to comment on this use of the name, and he confirmed that the reference was to the trapshooting and not to golf but wished to proceed.

Although the Township Supervisors did not provide a formal recommendation, one Supervisor wrote “In conjunction with the stated purpose of the proposed naming convention to relate to golf, it would seem to make sense to rephrase. . . Lead shot run does not appear to relate to golf.”

An attorney at Duane Morris, LLP wrote a letter opposing the name on behalf of the Waynesborough Country Club, stating:

This law firm represents Waynesborough Country Club of Chester County (“Waynesborough”). Waynesborough hereby objects to the renaming of a portion of the Crum Creek and/or Waynesborough Run stream on Waynesborough’s property as “Lead Shot Run” as set forth in a proposal submitted by Francis Ford (the “Proponent’s Representative”) on behalf of Protecting Our Streams & Environment, Inc. (the “Proponent”) on October 1, 2024 (the “Proposal”). Waynesborough first became aware of the Proposal on February 16, 2026. While the Proponent was requested to coordinate with Waynesborough, no such coordination ever took place.

The Board on Geographic Names (“BGN”) should reject the proposed renaming and take no further action on the Proposal for two primary reasons: (1) the proposed name is derogatory; and (2) the proposed name is not actually in local use or accepted. Additionally, the Proposal contains false and misleading information in violation of the BGN’s, Policies, and Procedures for Domestic Geographic Names. . . .

From approximately 2009 until 2024, Waynesborough. . . conducted trap shooting during limited hours in the winter months. In March 2023, certain of Waynesborough’s neighbors filed a lawsuit concerning Waynesborough’s trapshooting program. The Proponent filed amicus briefs in that case supporting the neighbors’ claims against Waynesborough. Those claims have since been dismissed.

The stream in question is located entirely on Waynesborough’s property. It is on the outer perimeter of Waynesborough’s range which has been utilized for golf practice and trapshooting. The Proposal claims that the stream “is colloquially referred to as Lead Shot Run which signifies the connection to its location at the heart of the Club and as an homage to the lead shot during a golf tournament.” That statement is unequivocally false. “Lead shot” has no connection to golf whatsoever. Waynesborough’s Director of Golf, Adam Brigham, who has over thirty years of golf industry experience, also confirmed the phrase is not a golf term. Additionally, during BGN’s initial investigation, the Proponent’s Representative openly admitted the misleading nature of the Proponent’s Proposal when questioned by BGN. The Proponent’s Representative has therefore acknowledged that the proposed name is actually a derogatory

reference to trapshooting, which uses lead (Pb) shot. Trapshooting has not taken place on the property since 2024.

More importantly, the proposed name is not a common or localized use or accepted in Chester County. To our knowledge, none of the members, staff, or guests at Waynesborough, or any local residents, refer to the stream by that name and Waynesborough has never utilized that name for the stream. The only time Waynesborough became aware of that reference was in litigation documents filed by the Proponent. We also note that the Proposal is devoid of any opinions from residents of Easttown Township or neighboring Willistown, local organizations, historical and genealogical societies, or from the appropriate local, township and/or county government. In fact, the Proponent's office address is listed as Philadelphia County, the Proponent's Representative is a resident of another county almost 20 miles from Waynesborough, and Waynesborough has not seen any evidence that any representative of the Proponent even resides in Chester County. We also note that the Proposal was submitted in October 2024 when the neighbors' lawsuit against Waynesborough was still active, and the parties were preparing for trial. That lawsuit has since been discontinued.

Waynesborough believes that the Proposal was submitted in bad faith, contains false and misleading information, and was intended to impact the litigation that was ongoing at the time. The Proposal does not pay homage to historical accuracy or local use because the proposed name is derogatory and is not a common or localized use or accepted in Chester County.

In sum, Waynesborough objects to the Proposal and strongly requests that the proposed name be rejected as derogatory and not in local use or accepted in the community. We request that the BGN take no further action on the Proposal.

The Township is aware of the Waynesborough Country Club opposition.

An Easttown Township resident and member of the Waynesborough Country Club wrote and email opposing the new name, stating:

The application explains the name change will pay homage to the "lead shot" in a golf game or golf match. This term "lead shot" is NOT a golf term and the explanation in the proposal is disingenuous. The BGN staff questioned this term with a request for specific evidence that "lead shot" is a golf term and no explanation was provided by the applicant.

The proponent eventually explained that the term "Lead Shot Run" referred to trap shooting at Waynesborough Country Club, yet all trap shooting activities have ceased at Waynesborough Country Club. To name a stream after an event

which no longer occurs (but is not an event of historical interest) is confusing to current and future residents.

The proponent of the name change is affiliated with the organization Protecting Our Streams & Environments (POSE), who filed an amicus brief on May 6, 2024 to halt all trap shooting activities at Waynesborough Country Club. In that 13-page brief, with extensive detail, there is no reference to a local stream section named “Lead Shot Run”. If this nomenclature was common in local usage, the brief would have referred to “Lead Shot Run”. It did not. As a 15+ year resident of Easttown Township and member of Waynesborough Country Club, I have never heard this term.

Waynesborough Country Club should have ability to preserve naming rights within its property to honor who they choose or leave it unnamed. The proponent’s connection to the proposed stream is tenuous and it should not be forced upon Waynesborough Country Club to accept a name. This naming request is frivolous and not a good use of government and community resources.

I recommend this proposed name change be denied.

The Pennsylvania Geographic Names Committee does not support the proposal “based on stakeholder objections.”

Review List 460

New name **Dilly Creek**, Iowa

Mouth: [42.7388722, -92.6875074](#) / Source: [42.7536369, -92.7304958](#)

Local government	Butler County Supervisors	Support
State Names Authority	Iowa State Names Advisor	Support
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Clarksville City Council	Support

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

The name Dilly Creek is proposed for a 2.87-mile-long unnamed tributary of Moulfon Creek in City of Clarksville, Butler County, Iowa. It was submitted on April 14, 2025 by Barbara J Dilly, a

resident of Shell Rock, Iowa, and submitted to the DNC by a local Natural Resources Conservation Service office employee.

The proposal is to commemorate the proponent's mother, Maxine Lucille Dilly (1930–2003) for her stewardship and the lasting impact she made on her family's relationship with the land. The stream flows through land formerly owned by Maxine Lucille Dilly and her husband, Robert Dilly, who maintained it as farmland and conservation space. It also passes through the Leeper Prairie Preserve, a 40-acre native vegetation and wetland area acquired by Butler County in 1994 as a donation in memory of Lester Leeper. According to newspaper accounts, Leeper was a local farmer who lived along the stream, served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, and took part in both invasions of France.

The proponent wrote

Maxine Dilly, along with her husband Robert Dilly, owned eighty acres of farmland surrounding [the stream] while she was raising their five children. While she and her husband worked together to sustainably care for the creek for the sake of wildlife preservation and soil conservation, her influence regarding the creek extended beyond that of her husband's. Our mother saw the creek and the back forty wildlife preserve area surrounding it as a major source of enjoyment for her five children. After we finished our chores, she sent us down to play in the water and the mud, where we sloshed and giggled for hours, coming home only when we were covered in leeches in failed attempts to frighten her. She also saw it as great classroom for learning about nature. During our entire childhood in the 1950s and 1960s, "The Creek" was our favorite destination. She would pack lunches for us and gave us jars and buckets for the collection of biological specimens we learned to name. We also learned to study and appreciate their habits, spending hours observing them. She often came with us, but she knew we enjoyed out [sic] time alone, away from the homestead, in a wild place. Our mother was a full partner in all the conservation programs in which she and our father participated that helped to maintain the natural environment in and around "The Creek". Our father, Robert Dilly, received the Butler County Legacy for Conservation Award for 75 years of stewardship by the Butler County Soil and Water Conservation District just before he passed away at the age of 97 in 2024. Our family was the only family associated with the ownership of the [stream] whose mother took such an active interest in its value as a destination for childhood adventure and learning. She deserves to be honored for her commitment to this important contribution to the natural history of this area.

The Butler County Board of Supervisors voted to support the name. The County noted that the County Conservation Executive Director "reviewed this proposal as it runs through Butler County Conservation Leeper's Prairie Preserve and stated they have no issues with naming the creek Dilly Creek."

The Iowa State Names Advisor recommends that the name be approved based on the local support.

Review List 461

Change **Digger Creek** (FID [222375](#)) to **Stanley Creek**, California

Mouth: [39.4087805, -123.8155713](#) / Source: [39.3894444, -123.775](#)

Local government	Mendocino County Supervisors	No response
State Names Authority	California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names	Support
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Sherwood Valley Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California	Support*
Other	Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens	Support
	Jackson Demonstration State Forest	Support**
	Mendocino Coast Recreation Park District	

* presented at California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names meeting

** contacted by California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names

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

This proposal is to change the name *Digger Creek*, a 3-mile stream approximately 2 miles south of Fort Bragg, California, that flows west into the Pacific Ocean, to *Stanley Creek*. The creek flows through the Jackson Demonstration State Forest and the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens. It was submitted on August 28, 2025 by Clancy De Smet, an employee of the California Department of Transportation. The current name has been shown on USGS topographic maps since 1981.

The proponent reported:

The name is offensive to natives [sic] peoples and is derogatory and pejorative.

"Digger" is a stereotype for indigenous peoples in California. It is derisive and offensive to indigenous peoples from coast to coast.

The California Department of Transportation District 1 Native American Liaison reported that the proposal was made "on behalf of Caltrans with support from the Sherwood Band of Pomo Indians since its happening with the context of a Caltrans project."

Staff research found the use of the name “digger” cited as a derogatory in the *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* by Allan Lonner, “The Digger Indian Stereotype in California”.

The proponent stated the association for the proposed name:

Clyde Stanley was born April 25, 1923 on Noyo Beach in Fort Bragg, CA. He lived in the area his entire life. He served in the US Army during WWII in the Pacific Theater. He raised 4 children with his wife, Harriet, in Fort Bragg. He was the first Chairman of the Sherwood Valley Tribe. He died June 13, 1986. Mr. Stanley taught the Northern Pomo language and learning how to live off the land and ocean. Gathering, basket making, and fishing were just some of the traditional skills taught.

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

The Committee considered the history behind the name Digger Creek and how the name is attached to historically offensive behaviors towards particular racial or ethnic groups. The Committee also considered the documentation provided and determined the name change meets the criteria for commemorative names, specifically Mr. Stanley’s long-term residence in the County of Mendocino and his contribution in protecting the land for public benefit through his teachings and education of the land and water.

The Mendocino Coast Botanical Garden Corporation wrote that “[t]he Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens supports the name change because of the derogatory nature of the current name. All Staff, and Board approve of the change.”

The Mendocino Unit of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE, which manages the Jackson Demonstration State Forest) wrote “Mendocino Unit leadership has spoken with the local Tribes and Most Likely Descendants (MLDs) in the area, and they agree with the name change.”

New name **Whittell Peak**, Nevada
(Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park / Toiyabe National Forest)

[39.125278, -119.923333](https://www.nv.gov/39.125278,-119.923333)

Local government	Carson City Supervisors	No response*
State Names Authority	Nevada Board on Geographic Names	Support
Federal	U.S. Forest Service	Support
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California	No response*
Other	Nevada State Parks, Tahoe Region Manager	Support**

	Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society	Support**
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* contacted by Nevada Board on Geographic Names

** submitted by proponent

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

This proposal was received on June 23, 2025 from the Nevada Board on Geographic Names (NBGN) and proposed to them by Will Whitney, a resident of South Lake Tahoe, California.

The new name *Whittell Peak* is proposed for an unnamed ~7,800-foot elevation summit northwest of Spooner Lake in Carson City, Nevada. The summit is mostly in the Spooner Lake unit of the Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, and the north slope is in Toiyabe National Forest. The proposal was received on June 23, 2025 from the Nevada Board on Geographic Names (NBGN) and proposed to them by Will Whitney, a resident of South Lake Tahoe, California.

The name would commemorate George Whittell Jr. (1881–1969), who owned more than 40,000 acres in Nevada’s Tahoe Basin and “is credited for the natural unspoiled beauty of Lake Tahoe’s eastern shoreline,” much of which was eventually conveyed to Toiyabe National Forest and Nevada State Parks.

Nevada State Parks submitted a letter supporting the proposed name, stating:

Nevada State Parks is in support of the naming of the mountain ... ‘*Whittell Peak*.’ Without Mr. George Whittell and his conservation of the Lake Tahoe East Shore, there would not be two of the most well-known Lake Tahoe areas, Sand Harbor and Spooner Lake and Backcountry.

The Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society also submitted a letter of support noting Whittell’s contributions to preserving the Lake Tahoe region’s open spaces, preventing subdivision of the East Shore, assisting the Washoe Tribe’s access to ancestral lands, and donating equipment for search-and-rescue and public safety operations.

The proponent noted that a local high school is named George Whittell High School in Douglas County.

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) supports the proposal, stating “The Intermountain Region supports this new name in alignment with the State of Nevada’s proposal.” At this time, with the lack of a DNC member representing the USFS, the agency’s recommendations are being provided by USFS Regions.

Change **Jew Valley** (FID [1160486](#)) to **Jewish Valley**, Oregon

(Bureau of Land Management land)

[45.59512, -121.64547](#)

Local government	Lake County Board of Commissioners*	No objection
State Names Authority	Oregon Geographic Names Board	Support
Federal	Bureau of Land Management	Support
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education*	Support
	Willamette University professor of American Jewish history*	Support
	Landowner (private ranching corporation based in Crook County)*	No response
	Lake County History Museum Curator*	Support

* Contacted by Oregon Geographic Names Board

	Established by Congress/President	x	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 *Jew Valley* to *Jewish Valley* for a 3-mile-long valley located in Lake County, Oregon. It was received on March 20, 2025 from the Oregon Geographic Names Board and proposed to them by Jack Swisher, a resident of Rogue River, Oregon.

The proponent wrote that “Jewish Valley was the first name used by a principal figure in the settlement of this area. The name Jewish Valley has documented historical priority, and therefore is the most appropriate toponym for this place.”

The name Jewish Valley first appeared in a 1914 article in the Morning Oregonian, which described a newly formed Jewish homesteading colony: “The families that constitute the colony in the ‘Jewish Valley’ as it is now known, are satisfied with what they have done for the first year. . . .” Subsequent newspaper references in The Bend Bulletin later that year used Jew Valley.

The name Jewish Valley is listed as a variant in GNIS for this feature. There are no other names in GNIS that include “Jewish.”

The Oregon Geographic Names Board voted to recommend the change on June 27, 2025 after receiving it on March 14, 2025 from the proponent. Their minutes noted “support from Lake County and the Oregon Jewish Museum and Holocaust Education Center.”

New name **Patriot Bend**, Tennessee[35.63328, -87.82325](#)

Local government	Perry County Commissioners	No response
State Names Authority	Tennessee Committee on Geographic Names	Support
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Five petitioners	Support*

* submitted by proponent

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

This proposal was submitted on August 12, 2025 by David Talley, a resident of Franklin, Tennessee who owns the land where the feature is located.

This proposal is to apply the new name *Patriot Bend* to land encompassed by a prominent bend in the Buffalo River ~1.7 miles northeast of the Town of Linden in Perry County. It was submitted on August 12, 2025 by David Talley, a resident of Franklin, Tennessee who owns the land where the feature is located. The proponent stated that the land was the homestead and final resting place of his ancestor, John Talley (1750–1843), who served in the American Revolutionary War.

The proponent wrote the name *Patriot Bend* signifies:

- “Patriot identified soldiers of the Continental Line... Eventually the term included anyone who opposed British rule.”
- “Naming this geographic feature Patriot Bend commemorates the spirit of those Revolutionary War Patriots who settled Perry County.”
- “The proposal is particularly significant in that July 4, 2026, marks the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.”

The proponent also wrote that “By 1819, four known Patriots had settled in Perry County, Tennessee beside the Buffalo River and its tributaries. In 1820, three more arrived. This included John Talley, who settled on a bend in the Buffalo River. He was the first and only Patriot to settle there,” which he cited as the significance of the proposed location.

The proponent included a personal website, which is a petitioner page created to promote support for the proposed name. In addition, the proponent submitted the following documents:

- A template letter used to solicit statements of support

- A spreadsheet listing local residents and their responses to the support request

A historic name for the bluff located within the bend, ‘Graveyard Bluff,’ appears in a 2022 Perry County Historical Society article documenting the discovery of remains believed to be those of John Talley. The area is now part of the Buffalo Heights Subdivision.

The Tennessee Committee on Geographic Names (TNCoGN) recommends that the name be approved, stating

This application meets all the criteria set by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

All 14 members of the TNCoGN voted to approve the proposed name Patriot Bend.

Change **Low Gap Point** (FID [1292187](#)) to **Tate Point**, Tennessee
[35.63328, -87.82325](#)

Local government	Marion County Commissioners	No response
State Names Authority	Tennessee Committee on Geographic Names	Support
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Copperhead Two LLC	Support*
	Appalachian Conservation Institute	Support**
	Town of Tracy City	Support**
	Beersheba Springs Historical Society	Support**

* reported by Appalachian Conservation Institute

** submitted by proponent

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

This proposal is to change the name of Low Gap Point in Marion County to Tate Point. The point is on land managed by the Appalachian Conservation Institute (ACI). It was submitted on August 14, 2025 by Hannah Shadrick Hummel, an employee of on behalf of Rick Huffines, the Executive Director of the ACI.

The ACI Executive Director reported that the land is owned by “co-chairs of our Board of Directors and are the landowners of Low Gap Point, identified as Copperhead Two LLC in state property records.”

The proposal includes the following statements:

- “The proposed name honors Leonard Tate (1912–1989), WWII veteran and beloved Beersheba Springs poet. His work captured the spirit, history, and beauty of the Cumberland Plateau and reflected his deep connection to the land.”
- “Leonard Tate was known as the region's unofficial poet laureate and his work was published in several national journals. His poems celebrate Appalachian life and land, offering future generations a window into the Cumberland Plateau of his day.”
- “Tate spent his life observing and chronicling the beauty of the Cumberland Plateau and its people. Tate's lifelong bond with the land in this region makes ‘Tate Point’ a particularly appropriate name for this breathtaking, natural overlook near to his hometown.”
- “The current name ‘Low Gap Point’ is descriptive and unremarkable. Renaming this feature to “Tate Point” honors a local celebrated artist who dedicated his life to capturing the beauty of the Cumberland Plateau and its people in his poetry.”

The proposal included letters of support from

- the Beersheba Springs Historical Society (located about eighteen miles northwest of the point)
- the Mayor of the Town of Tracy City (located about eight miles northwest of the point)
- the Executive Director of the Appalachian Conservation Institute

The letters note that the name Low Gap Point “lacks historical or cultural significance.”

The proponent also provided 1999 biography of Tate published in *Border States: Journal of the Kentucky-Tennessee American Studies Association*.

The name Low Gap Point has been shown on USGS maps since 1946 and the origin of the name is unknown. A feature named Low Gap is located about eight miles to the northwest but the features are not topographically related.

The Tennessee Committee on Geographic Names (TNCogN) recommends that the name be approved, stating

This application meets all the criteria set by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

The TNCogN recognizes that Leonard Tate was a lifelong resident of Beersheba Springs in adjacent Grundy County and not Marion County where Tate Point is located.

Although there was a lack of input from the Marion County Commission regarding the proposed name change, Leonard Tate’s poetry hits at the heart of living in the southern Cumberland Plateau region and is sure to reach a wider audience as time goes by.

All 14 members of the TNCogN voted to approve the proposed name Patriot Bend.

Review List 462

New name **Owl Island**, Indiana

[39.573139, -87.398583](#)

Local government	Fayette Township Trustees	No response
	Vigo County Commissioners	Support*
State Names Authority	Indiana Board on Geographic Names	Support
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

* submitted by proponent

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

This proposal is to apply the new name Owl Island to an unnamed island in the Wabash River in Fayette Township, Vigo County. It was submitted on October 8, 2025 by Zachary Brock, a resident of Farmersburg, Indiana, located 22 miles south of the island.

The proponent wrote that

[The feature needs a name for Federal use for s]afety and emergency services: Consistent names for natural features are critical for search and rescue operations disaster response and other emergency services.

Owl Island represents the owls that have lived on the Island.

I would like to have a landmark that is known for safety reasons and a landmark that is used for navigational purposes for kayaker, boaters, and others on the Wabash River.

The Indiana Board on Geographic Names (IBGN) recommends that the proposal be approved. In their support, they noted that

The island is named on Google Maps as "Owl Island". [IBGN] reached out to. . . Google and was informed the name was provided by a Google Maps user in October 2025. User-provided suggestions are anonymized and thus the name of the user could not be determined. . . .

IBGN reported that the Vigo County 911 Director was aware of the naming request but had no other information. An IBGN member asked for input from the Vigo County Planning

Department, an employee of which sent the case packet to a Vigo County Commissioner, who replied with a recommendation of support.