

U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
Eight Hundred and Eighty Fourth Meeting
June 11, 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	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
Dr. Paulette Haiser	Library of Congress
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
Veronica Ranieri	Library of Congress
Alexander Stum	Natural Resources Conservation Service (Department of Agriculture)
Dr. Michael Tischler	U.S. Geological Survey (Department of the Interior)
Marilyn W.	National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (Department of War)
Rikki Wortham	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
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

Tiffany D., National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (Department of War)
Tenielle Gaither, U.S. Geological Survey (Department of the Interior)

Guests and Observers

Alex Fries, National Park Service (Department of the Interior)
Alma Ripps, National Park Service (Department of the Interior)
Simon Seidl, National Park Service (Department of the Interior)
MaryRose 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 884th 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. Twelve voting members across 6 member agencies were confirmed present, constituting a quorum.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed without objection.

3. Minutes of Meeting 883

The Chair asked if there were any comments or edits to the minutes of the 883rd meeting. Hearing none, a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes.

The minutes were approved without objection.

4. Reports

4.1 BGN Chair (Marilyn W.)

Marilyn W. reported that she had no specific items to share. She noted that the BGN is working through vacancy issues and possible changes to charters and policy to address those issues, and that additional updates will be provided at a future meeting.

4.2 Executive Secretary for Domestic Names (Dr. Zahniser)

See attached report.

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 briefly since the previous DNC meeting and had no significant updates or actions to report.

4.5 Staff (O'Donnell)

See attached report.

4.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (Decker)

Decker reported that GNIS staff had no unusual updates for the month and had been working steadily on updates from recent BGN decisions. She noted that GNIS staff had also reviewed several items sent by DNC Staff, as well as changes sent from the National Park Service. She reminded members that they may send changes directly to GNIS staff for review when appropriate before an item needs to go through the Board.

5. Docket

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

Review Lists 440 and 451

Change **Chinaman Creek** (FID [1655229](#)) to **James Wong Howe Creek** or **Chinese Miners Creek**, California

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal for the name Chinese Miners Creek.

Vote:	12 in favor
	0 against
	0 abstentions

James Wong Howe Creek was not approved citing the opposition from the Forest Service and the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names as well as a lack of local support.

Review List 449

New name **Mattingly Creek**, Kentucky

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the proposal citing the opposition from the Kentucky Geographic Names Committee.

Vote:	12 in favor
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0 against
0 abstentions

Review List 456

New name **Lake Louie**, Indiana

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Review List 458

Change **Longs Peak** (FID [204979](#)) to **Beaver Mountain** and change **Mount Meeker** (FID [178233](#)) to **Paddle Tail Mountain**, Colorado

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the proposals citing the opposition from Boulder County, the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board, and the National Park Service.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

It was noted that one voting member had departed the meeting and another voting member from the same agency had joined; the number of voting members remained 12.

Change **Handies Peak** (FID [187404](#)) to **Rainbow Peak** and new names **Diffraction Peak, Particle Peak, Photon Peak, Pot of Gold Peak, Quantum Mechanics Peak, Reflection Peak, Refraction Peak, ROYGBIV Peak, Sun Dog Peak, Wave Peak, White Light Peak, and Wildfire Peak**, Colorado

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the proposals citing the opposition from Hinsdale County and San Juan County, the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board, and the Bureau of Land Management as well as not finding an overriding need to apply new names to unnamed features in a federal wilderness study area under the [Wilderness Area Geographic Names Policy](#).

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Whitney Peak** (FID [179528](#)) to **Gluttony Peak** and new names **Envy Peak, Greed Peak, Lust Peak, Pride Peak, Sloth Peak,** and **Wrath Peak**, Colorado

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the proposals citing the opposition from Eagle County, the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board, and the U.S. Forest Service as well as not finding an overriding need to apply new names to unnamed features in a federal wilderness under the [Wilderness Area Geographic Names Policy](#).

Vote: 12 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

New names **Big Beaver Pond** and **Little Beaver Pond**, Texas

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposals.

Vote: 12 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Review List 459

New name **Nowell Creek**, Texas

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the proposal citing the opposition from the Texas Geographic Names Committee.

Vote: 12 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Review List 460

New name **Rogers Falls**, Tennessee

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote: 12 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Review List 461

Change **Benke Lake** (FID [1858025](#)) to **Kaye-Parker Lake**, Texas

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote: 12 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Review List 462

New name **Angel Falls**, Texas

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the proposal citing the opposition from the Texas Geographic Names Committee and the National Park Service as well as not finding an overriding need to apply new names to unnamed features in a federal wilderness under the [Wilderness Area Geographic Names Policy](#).

Vote: 12 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

New name **Schist Creek**, Pennsylvania

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote: 12 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

New name **Lake Wilkins**, Pennsylvania

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote: 8 in favor
 2 against
 2 abstentions

The votes against the motion cited that the support was not strong.

6. Other Business

6.1. Revisit request for consideration of new evidence to change **Iley Lake** (FID [1858023](#)) to **Kapavik Lake**, Texas (DNC not approved, 2024)

The Committee discussed a request to revisit the September 18, 2024 decision to not approve the proposal to change Iley Lake to Kapavik Lake. Staff noted that the proponent had submitted new evidence, including a county resolution and a petition signed by 56 people.

The Committee agreed through unanimous consent that the submitted materials constituted sufficient new evidence to revisit the proposal. Staff will request updated input from the Texas Geographic Names Committee.

7. Closing

The next Domestic Names Committee meeting will be held July 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, Chair
Domestic Names Committee

**Executive Secretary Report
Domestic Names Committee Meeting
June 11, 2026**

ACAN Project Support with New Zealand

New Zealand recently identified 62 Antarctic features missing from the GNIS between 2021 and 2026, including three caves and 59 harbors and has communicated these issues to ACAN. ACAN and DNC staff also found additional features present in GNIS but not officially recognized, such as four glaciers, 13 locales (camps and stations), and two harbors that are now considered bays. Caves were previously excluded under the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988; however, after consultation, the GNIS data manager confirmed that Antarctic caves are not subject to this policy due to the lack of Federal lands on the continent and they will be made publicly visible once their details are fully reviewed. Many harbor features disappeared during the 2021 merge of Antarctic and domestic GNIS data because “harbor” is not a domestic feature class; these have since been restored as “bay,” and ACAN is evaluating the appropriateness of this classification. Locales such as camps and stations, as well as iceports (previously classified as glaciers), were similarly affected by being treated as administrative features, rendering them invisible in the public system. ACAN is now reviewing all features and their attributes to determine how best to display them in GNIS. After review, the Executive Secretary will coordinate with the GNIS data manager to update the database with corrected information, and any unofficial entries will either be removed or forwarded by ACAN for BGN approval.

UNGEGN Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage

The Executive Secretary attended the Working Group meeting on 27 May. Agenda items included updates regarding the upcoming UNGEGN GeoNames Symposium 2026. This meeting will focus on "The heritage value of microtoponyms" and take place in Hermagor, Carinthia, Austria from October 12 to 16, 2026. The event is organized by the Dutch and German-Speaking Division of UNGEGN (DGSD) in conjunction with meetings for the Working Group on Exonyms and the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage and will focus on the heritage value of microtoponyms (small place names, like fields and local features).

Canada provided updates on the Focus Group on Indigenous Geographical Names and the Focus Group on Commemorative Naming provided updates on their 2026-2027 workplan. Both the United States and Canada expressed interest in joining this Focus Group as it pertains to our respective Principles, Policies, and Procedures.

The next Working Group meeting is scheduled for 26 August.

Executive Secretary Report
Domestic Names Committee Meeting
June 11, 2026



United States Board on Geographic Names

884th Domestic Names Committee Meeting

BGN Executive Secretary for Foreign Names Report

June 11, 2026

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN NAMES REPORT

June 11, 2026

1) MEETINGS

The Foreign Names Committee (FNC) met once since the last DNC meeting. Meeting 425 was held virtually (Microsoft Teams) on Tuesday, June 9, 2026. The next FNC meeting (Meeting 426) is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2026.

Critical issues:

The FNC approved a recommended update to procedures for the application of Name Rank for non-maritime international features.

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

- The country policy for **Mexico**;
- **Nepal**: addition of a new seat of a first-order administrative division (PPLA), and demotion of a current seat;
- **Norway**: termination of three first-order administrative divisions (ADM1s), reactivation of seven ADM1s, demotion of one current seat, addition of five new seats, and assignment of new ADM1 codes for two existing seats;
- **Vietnam**: termination of 29 ADM1s, adjustment to centroid coordinates for 23 current ADM1s, a name change for one existing ADM1, demotion of 26 current seats, and assignment of new ADM1 codes for six existing seats;
- **International**: addition of the Conventional name of Hispaniola and three associated Approved names, for Haiti and the Dominican Republic;
- **Oceans**: transfer of Bosphorus to the Oceans file.

The annual update concerning Anglicized names was presented for information.

2) OTHER BUSINESS

Another round of 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 now scheduled for June. Deployment of this update is expected to occur in July. 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 to save queries.

GNDB holdings are current with Edition 3, Update 24, of the Geopolitical Entities, Names, and Codes (GENC) Standard. However, due to various technical and resourcing issues, the NSG Standards Registry's GENC Entries

Register remains greatly out of date—being only current to Update 19, released in late June 2023. As a result, NGA’s Office of Geography and FNC senior staff leading GENC maintenance are considering alternatives for hosting up-to-date GENC content. The Board will be kept apprised of any developments. In the meantime, the latest GENC codes can still be found under the GENC/GEC crosswalk workbook on the GNS’ reference page. An updated crosswalk for Edition 3, Update 25, will be posted in early July.

Upcoming Meetings and Events (listed in chronological order)

- The 374th Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF) meeting is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. EDT on June 24, 2026.
- The 300th BGN full board meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. EDT on July 21, 2026.
- The 426th Foreign Names Committee meeting is planned for 1:00 p.m. EDT on September 8, 2026.

BGN/Domestic Names Committee Meeting 876
June 14, 2026
Staff Report

Reporting period: April 29, 2026 to May 27, 2026

Proposals received:

(Note that if a proposal's status states "accepted for consideration," this means that it meets the minimum requirements for consideration and inclusion on a Quarterly Review List. This does not imply approval by the DNC. DNC members and staff have not evaluated the justification and support for the proposals.)

Proposal type	Proposed name	GNIS feature type	State	Status
new name	new name Nuwu Ridge	Cliff or Ridge	UT	- not accepted for consideration, pending clarification of feature extent - named for the Southern Paiute people (Nuwu or Nuwuvi)
new name	new name Smith Run	stream	PA	- accepted for consideration - naming for 1700s landowners
new name	new name Edmund Lake	lake	ND	- accepted for consideration - naming for proponent's grandfather who lived there
new name	new name Saxon River	stream	MS	- accepted for consideration - naming for former Mayor of local Town
name change	change Stedman Pond to Hume Pond	reservoir	MA	- accepted for consideration - change name to eliminate confusion with nearby Steadman Pond after EMS sent to wrong feature

new name	new name Iselin Inlet	gut	NY	- accepted for consideration - naming for former adjacent landowner and America's Cup sailor
new name	new name Lively Pond	reservoir	TX	- accepted for consideration - naming for proponent's father who like to fish in the pond
name change	change Adcock-Morris Lake to Lake Tomberlin	reservoir	GA	- not accepted for consideration pending Commemorative Names Policy details - proponent says the name refers to his family and is not commemorative
name change	change Digger Creek to South Wintu Creek	stream	CA	- not accepted for consideration pending name clarification with proponent, the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians of California; name appears to be a reference to Wintu Creek (not related to the feature), a 2018 DNC approval proposed by the non federally recognized Wintu Tribe of Northern California - two related features with the same word in the current name not addressed
new name	new name Schaffner-Lavoie Peak	summit	ID	not accepted for consideration pending Commemorative

				Names Policy details named for the proponents' outdoorsman ancestors but no commemorative details provided
new name	new name Lake Elroy	reservoir	MO	- not accepted for consideration - resubmission of the same name by the same proponent; the original one violated the Commemorative Names Policy, naming for the proponents parents who own the land - new proposal makes no reference to proponent's parents
new name	new name Lake Doom	reservoir	WA	- not accepted for consideration pending proponent outreach to landowner which includes a Tribe (not lands under the jurisdiction of a Tribe) "The name is inspired by a fictional ocean in a literary universe that we have a shared memory of enjoying as kids. We bonded over a mutual love for the story, and the name itself is part of a larger story of hope and reconciliation that takes place with the ocean as a central character. The waterbody we're

				hoping to name is very similar in shape to the fictional ocean, and coupling that with our shared love for the story made it seem like the perfect name to suggest for consideration.”
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Revisit requests:

Proposal type	Proposed name	GNIS feature type	State	Status
name change	change Iley Lake to Kapavik Lake	reservoir	TX	- DNC not approved 9/18/2024 citing “a reluctance to change a longstanding name and a lack of local support.” Texas Geographic Names Committee recommendation noted “TGNC asked that the proponent provide supporting documentation for the name change from either local leadership (county judge, mayor, or city council representative) or demonstrate that the public is in support of the name change. . . . [TGNC] believes there is no support from the city, county, or the public to support the name change.” - Proponent provided a county resolution and a petition signed by 56 people as new evidence for the DNC’s

				consideration
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Status change to pending proposals:

Proposal type	Proposed name	GNIS feature type	State	Status
name change amended by proponent	change Quisling Cove to Chikicham Udaa	bay	AK	amended by proponent from Chikicha̱ (Unangam Tunuu for limpet) to Chikicham Udaa (Unangam Tunuu for cove of limpets)

Inquiries received:

Inquiry type	Proposed name	GNIS feature type	State	Status
proposal status inquiries	various	various		- many - staff provided updates
DNC minutes request	change Hartstene Island to Harstine Island (BGN 1996)	island	WA	staff provided minutes
Updated PPP Appendix G	n/a	n/a	n/a	staff shared updated list and connected SNA to GNIS staff for further updates
Approved name not showing on Google Maps	new name Sunset Stream (BGN 2025)	stream	MA	staff shared Is the federal government responsible for updating geographic names on non-federal map products?
proposal process inquiry	new name Steele Pond	resevoir	ID	staff provided instructions
proposal process inquiry	new name Shurter Mill Falls	falls	NY	staff provided instructions
proposal process inquiry	New name Babcock Ranch	populated place (unincorporated)	FL	- staff provided instructions - proposal will be for ZIP Code change request;

				USPS requires that a community name be in GNIS as a populated place to consider a ZIP Code change request
proposal process inquiry	unknown	bay	FL	staff provided instructions
proposal process inquiry	change Forester Pass to Foresters Pass			via TNM Help desk, who provided proposal instructions
name history	Mount Abbe (BGN 1937)	summit	AK	staff could not find decision details in records
name history	Denmark Peak (BGN 1977)	summit	AK	staff shared scanned case documents
name history	Hubbard Valley (Phase I name)	basin	CA	staff shared that there was no information in the records

Media requests received:

- *Wall Street Journal* reporter “working on pieces about populated placenames in the US” about any systematic efforts to record place name etymologies after the 1905 “[The origin of certain place names in the United States](#)” by Henry Gannett and for access to older DNC meeting minutes

State Name Authority/Advisor activity:

- DNC staff listened to the 5/7/26 [Washington Committee on Geographic Names](#) meeting
- DNC staff attended the 5/8/26 [Indiana Board of Geographic Names](#) meeting

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
DOCKET
June 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 Lists 440 and 451

Change Chinaman Creek (FID [1655229](#)) to **James Wong Howe Creek**
or **Chinese Miners Creek**, California
(Stanislaus National Forest)

Mouth: [38.2007507, -120.0821312](#) / Source: [38.2436111, -120.0916667](#)

James Wong Howe Creek:

Local government	Tuolumne County Supervisors	No response
State Names Authority	California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names	Opposed
Federal	U.S. Forest Service	Opposed
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

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

Chinese Miners Creek:

Local government	Tuolumne County Supervisors	No objection
State Names Authority	California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names	Support
Federal	U.S. Forest Service	Support
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

	Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California	No opinion*
	Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians of the Tuolumne Rancheria of California	No response*
Other	Local resident	Support**
	Nashville-Enterprise Miwok-Maidu-Nishinam Tribe (not federally recognized)	No response*

* contacted by the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names

** contacted by request of a Tuolumne County Supervisor

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

Two proposals were submitted to change the name of Chinaman Creek, a 3.7-mile-long tributary of the Middle Fork Stanislaus River in Tuolumne County:

- James Wong Howe Creek, submitted on June 15, 2020 by Leann Holman, an individual who did not provide their location
- Chinese Miners Creek, submitted on March 21, 2023 Felicia Yu, the President of the [Chinese American Citizens Alliance, Oakland Lodge](#)

The stream is within Stanislaus National Forest and on U.S. Forest Service-managed land and private inholdings.

Stanislaus National Forest manages the China Flat Day Use Area near the mouth of the stream; “China Flat” is not recorded in GNIS. The history of the name is unknown although presumably it also refers to Chinese immigrants who worked on railroad or mining projects in the area.

The name Chinaman Creek was labeled on small-scale USGS maps in 1956 and 1993, but was not shown on 1:24,000-scale maps until 2012. The name appeared in a 1938 article in *The Union Democrat* about logging railroad activities in the area. It was also used in U.S. Forest Service documents as early as 1972. No information about its origin could be found, but it presumably referred to Chinese immigrants who worked in the area.

A query of GNIS found no other features in California with “Chinaman” in their names. Two include the word in their variant names: China Garden and Chinese Cut. The variants were labeled on early USGS maps while the current names were confirmed during field mapping in the 1950s or later. GNIS lists many features in California that include “China” or “Chinese” in their names.

[James Wong Howe Creek proposal information](#)

The proponent wrote

It's a racist name. anyone with any common decency should be offended. especially when we have a vast history of Chinese-Americans who contributed greatly to their community and country that could be commemorated respectfully. One such individual is James Wong Howe. . . .

I recently was made aware of how many landmarks in this state alone have disgusting, downright racist names. It has become my personal goal to get all of those names changed, starting with this one. I cannot imagine anyone in this community thinks this is OK, because it isn't. This name is disrespectful and insulting. I'm not even Chinese and I'm offended. There is literally no good reason not to change it. . . .

It's a creek. It has a racist name. There's not a lot to describe. . . .

James Wong Howe is widely considered to be one of the best cinematographers to ever live, according to the International Cinematographers Guild. Born in 1899, James immigrated to the US at the age of 5 and in addition to becoming a professional boxer in his teenage years[sic], he became assistant to the legendary filmmaker Cecil B Demille [sic], kick-starting his career, James Wong Howe went on to be a pioneer of the wide angle lens, low key lighting and the use of the crab dolly. He was a major innovator in his field and his affect on the world of film-making is felt to this day. He earned 10 Academy Award nominations for his work, winning 2. Although a champion [sic] in his field, he faced discrimination his whole life due to his race.

DNC staff asked the proponent if Mr. Howe had any association with the stream or with Tuolumne County, and was also advised that the BGN prefers surnames only; she did not respond.

Chinese Miners Creek proposal information

The proponent wrote

This is a proposal to change the name of Chinaman Creek due to the derogatory term, "chinaman," which is offensive to the Chinese and Asian American communities. The negative connotation of the term, "chinaman," originated during the 19th century when there was a growth of Chinese laborers who immigrated to work in America and were seen as a threat to existing jobs. Since then and well into the 20th century, Chinese people were dehumanized, lacked basic human rights, and faced violence as a result of anti-Chinese sentiments and propaganda. Currently, the word "chinaman" is considered a racial slur and connected to historical pain.

Therefore, this petition is submitted to rectify a discriminatory past by renaming the creek in honor of the Chinese workers who contributed to the agricultural and mining development in Tuolumne County.

The proponent provided “a history of Chinaman Creek and the Chinese workers who built and mined in Tuolumne County, which was written by Sue Fawn Chung.” Some evidence provided with the proposal documents the Chinese immigrants who worked in the Stanislaus County and Tuolumne County area and suggests that “[t]wo Chinese mining companies from Chinese Camp worked the Stanislaus River in the 1850s and this may have been the origin of the name ‘Chinaman Creek.’” Chinese Camp is located about 30 miles southwest of Chinaman Creek. The history document reported on Chinese immigrant presence and activity in Tuolumne County.

Alternative Names Considered but not proposed or under consideration

The Forest Service supported changing the name but did not support the proposed change to James Wong Howe Creek due to a lack of direct association with the stream. The submitted a proposal to change the name to China Creek while they began facilitating discussions among Chinese-American organizations and historians including

- the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, Oakland Lodge (which proposed the Chinese Miners Creek name change upon consensus with these groups)
- the Chinese Historical Society of America
- the Chinese and Chinese-American community in the area
- CACGN’s California Assembly Asian and Pacific Islander Caucus Ex-Officio Member
- local historians including Fred Wong, USFS District Ranger and archeologist, and Andy Mattos, a historian with the county’s Carlo M. De Ferrari Archive

The China Creek proposal was added to a DNC Quarterly Review List and was processed by DNC staff. It was withdrawn by FS after the Chinese Miners Creek proposal was submitted.

Two other names were reportedly considered by this FS-facilitated group:

- **Ah Sow Creek**, to honor an individual associated with the region but this was not proposed due to resemblance to the phrase “ah so” which can be used to mock individuals from eastern Asia or those with eastern Asian ancestry
- **Celestial Creek**, in reference to an English word sometimes used for Chinese people during the 19th century but this was not proposed due to historically perjorative usage of “celestial” to refer to Chinese immigrants.

The FS regional geospatial liaison stated that the FS-facilitated group tried to find a single person to honor with a new name for the stream, but decided to go with a name “in honor of the Chinese workers who contributed

to the agricultural and mining development in Tuolumne County" as stated in the proposal. . . .

Our goal was to commemorate/honor the Chinese Miners' contributions to the area and not to recognize just one person. Naming the feature for one person with one name, often loses the whole idea to the casual visitor or map reader, whereas "Chinese Miners Creek" is unmistakable in its commemoration. We specifically thought recognizing the entire group was a greater idea - no one person seemed to be appropriate. (The original name may have attempted to do that.)

CACGN asked the FS to coordinate with local Chinese historical societies and invested parties who could best provide a replacement name. . . . [The FS regional geographic names liaison] spent a lot of time contacting & coordinating discussions amongst the various Chinese historical societies and they ultimately agreed that "Chinese Miners Creek" was the best name in that it commemorated and recognized the historical contributions of the Chinese community in that area. Some individual names were offered up, but the consensus amongst the stakeholders was that it was more appropriate to recognize the contributions made by the community of Chinese Miners rather than [sic] pick one obscure name out of many. [He] then helped one of the historical societies and provided guidance on the process to submit their proposal.

Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors outreach and comments

- **Supervisor Ryan Campbell:** Supported renaming; initially favored *China Creek*, later supportive of *Chinese Miners Creek*.
- **Supervisor Jaron Brandon:** Supported renaming; initially preferred honoring an individual and brought some local interested individuals into the conversation, one of whom suggested "Celestial Creek" or an individual's name, but later supported *Chinese Miners Creek* after DNC staff relayed the extensive efforts FS led that resulted in the proposal
- **Final County Position:** No formal county recommendation issued; County deferred to tribal input, which produced no opinions.

Tribal Governments outreach and comments

- All federally recognized Tribes were invited to comment on the James Wong Howe Creek, China Creek, and Chinese Miners Creek proposals through the DNC's Tribal Geographic Names Policy outreach process. The DNC did not receive any responses or comments.
- Beginning in 2023, CACGN directly contacted

- o the Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California, which stated that they had no opinion: “Our Tribal Council has reviewed the name change proposal and they have decided not to provide an opinion at this time.”
 - o the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians of the Tuolumne Rancheria of California, which did not provide any formal response after informing the Tuolumne County Tribal Liaison that they were going to consider providing a comment
- After 2023, CACGN continued to contact the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians of the Tuolumne Rancheria to learn if they were preparing to submit a counterproposal or not. No response was received.

Summary of recommendations

- Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors
 - o support for changing the name, no formal comment about either proposal
- California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN)
 - o support for Chinese Miners Creek citing that the name was “[p]roposed by the Chinese American Citizens Alliance; supported by several Chinese historical societies and the US Forest Service” and that “The county defers to tribal input; however, tribes with ancestral ties to the area have offered no opinion.”
 - o opposed to the James Wong Howe Creek proposal citing that the “name commemorates an individual with no ties to the feature or the region.”
- U.S. Forest Service
 - o support for Chinese Miners Creek
 - o opposed to the James Wong Howe Creek

Review List 449

New name **Mattingly Creek**, Kentucky

Mouth: [37.576152, -85.434079](#) / Source: [37.580686, -85.430305](#)

Local government	Marion County Executive and Fiscal Court	No response
State Names Authority	Kentucky Geographic Names Committee	Opposed
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

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

The new commemorative name Mattingly Creek was proposed for an officially unnamed 0.53-mile-long tributary of Slate Creek in Marion County. The proposal was submitted on September 30, 2022 by Chris Mattingly, a resident with a St. Francis Kentucky mailing address. The proponent owns land along the stream. The stream is not recorded in current USGS hydrography data.

The name would honor several members of the Mattingly family, specifically Henry Martin Mattingly (1834-1886). He and his descendants have owned and farmed the land since the early twentieth century. Brown Mattingly Road and Clell Mattingly Road are in the vicinity of the stream.

In the proposal form, the proponent only provided the following details about the reason for the proposal and the meaning of the name: “mattingly's [sic] have owned farm for many years.” DNC staff asked the proponent for a specific person to meet the [Commemorative Names Policy](#). The proponent replied

The Mattingly family who owned and operated the farm still has a living descendant living at the end of Brown Mattingly Rd. but no longer owns any of the creek. His name is Mr. Steve Mattingly. I believe that family has owned the property since coming to Kentucky from Maryland around the early 1800's by a Mr. Henry Martin Mattingly. My relation with this “group” of Mattingly’s [sic] splits here as my line from Ignatius and Henry Martin were brothers. Slowly over the years small parcels have been sold off of the original property leaving Mr. Steve Mattingly with around 100 acres he owns now. I believe Brown Mattingly Rd. was put in around 1910 when the new road was constructed. Clell Mattingly Rd. was the original road before that section of Highway 527 existed. Before Brown Mattingly road was built the family used to enter the property through Wimsatt Rd.

DNC staff noted that

[t]he proposed name can't honor, or be construed to honor, Mr. Steve Mattingly or any other living family members, but I found a reference to [Henry Martin Mattingly](#) [who was born and died in Marion County] so we'll go with him and any other deceased descendants who owned/farmed the property.

The proponent did not respond to this email.

The [Kentucky Geographic Names Committee](#) (KGNC) does not support the proposal stating [emphasis in original]

The Kentucky Geographic Names Committee debated carefully the merit of the proposal in accordance with existing Domestic Geographic Names Policies.

Our decision was based on extensive geographic and genealogy research done on the person and related land owners mentioned in the original proposal and all the ancillary information the USBGN provided.

The KGNC Chair shared that the Committee had concerns based on a lack of understanding about who was being commemorated with the name.

GNIS contains records for two features in Kentucky with names that include “Mattingly”:

- [Mattingly](#), an unincorporated populated place in Breckenridge County approximately 65 miles to the north-northwest
- [Mattingly Branch](#), a stream in Knox County approximately 100 miles to the southeast

Review List 456

New name **Lake Louie**, Indiana

[41.62346, -86.82818](#)

Local government	Coolspring Township Trustees	No response
	LaPorte County Commissioners	No response
State Names Authority	Indiana Board on Geographic Names	Support
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, Michigan and Indiana	No response*

* contacted by the Indiana 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 new commemorative name Lake Louie was proposed for an officially unnamed lake which is one lake within a group of lakes collectively named [Ryden Lakes](#). The proposal was submitted on May 8, 2024 by Michaela Broyer, an individual with a mailing address in Niles, Michigan on behalf of the proponent, who owns the land around the lake. Ms. Broyer wrote that “I am reaching out with a Geographic Name Proposal on behalf of a client we are building a home for above a lake in La Porte, Indiana they are requesting a name change for.”

The name would commemorate the proponent’s father, Louis “Louie” Caprile (1917-1991). The proposal provided the following details about the reason for the proposal and the meaning of the name:

[The name] is Lake Louie, dedicated to my father. He raised a family of six in Chicago's inner city. He owned a small store and worked seven days a week most of his life. . . .

I bought the land 34 years ago and am now building a family home that overlooks the lake to be enjoyed by future generations of my family. My father, an avid fisherman was very ill, but I took him to see the lake. He died before he could enjoy it. I promised myself I would name the lake after my father to honor him and continue his legacy.

The proposal initially was to change the name of [Ryden Lakes](#) to Lake Louie because “[t]he current GNIS name, Ryden Lakes, has no significance to the land.” DNC staff advised him that

- the name has been shown on USGS topographic maps since 1961
- a search of census, church, and property records showed numerous individuals named Ryden in LaPorte County since the 1870s, including in Coolspring Township
- *The Plat Book of LaPorte County*, published between 1925 and 1940, shows that A. Ryden owned the parcel containing Ryden Lakes
- a 1913 list of farmers in the county also included four named Ryden, and many members of the Ryden family are buried in Carmel Cemetery, 1.6 miles from the lake in question
- online directories continue to list individuals with that name in the area

Ms. Broyer responded

We would like to keep the collective name Ryden Lakes but request the larger northern [northeastern] lake that is within the property would be proposed for the name change to “Lake Louie.”

We are more than happy to follow up with the local surrounding Ryden residence. We appreciate BGN's interest in preserving a longstanding familial or heritage-based name- our aim is to provide that same further enriched local history as the property that accesses the specific lake will be one that is passed down through the Caprile family and maintained as a valuable family-owned property where Mr. Caprile intends to gather his family for years to come as they are now investing a significant amount of money into building a family estate.

One of the greatest joys of working with Mr. Caprile has been his strong desire for putting his family first and create[ing] a serene and memorable space where they can really enjoy being together. While this is of course all personal to the Caprile family's history and story we hope that this name request for that specific lake reflects a greater imprinting identity and story to the surrounding locals we will be reaching out to for approval. The name Lake Louie will stand as a testament to that narrative, inviting the surrounding community to witness a family's journey, to see their values reflected in the waters of a lake that's more than just a feature; it's a symbol. While Louie visited the lake[,] he drew his family to form a home there, to invest in the local area, and to take root over the last 34 years.

The intention to keep the property within the family strongly proposed a desire to establish a long-term family heritage associated with the lake and surrounding area. Renaming [*sic*] one of the two lakes to Lake Louie while maintaining the overarching Ryden Lake(s) identity would contribute to building this idea of family legacy, providing a sense of continuity for Ryden and identity for future descendants of Louie Caprile with immediate access to the lake. I think it is also worth noting as I'm sure you're already aware the

lake in question is on private property and is not accessible to the general public. The significance of a geographic name is greatly influenced by its public utility and recognition. In this case, we hope it is unlikely the name change to Lake Louie would affect overall public opinion, navigation or usage, as the feature is exclusively enjoyed by the surrounding private property owners and their families. The proposed name, Lake Louie, it's not just a whim. It's a deliberate choice that reflects the owner's connection to the land and their vision for investing in its future. It's about legacy, about creating something that will last, something that's meaningful to the family that walks its shores every day.

Neither the proponent nor Ms. Broyer provided any information about any local outreach they did.

The Indiana Board on Geographic Names supports the proposal, stating “we believe that giving a name to the larger lake would be beneficial for emergency response purposes.”

GNIS does not list any features in Indiana with names that contain “Louie.”

Review List 458

Change Longs Peak (FID [204979](#)) to **Beaver Mountain** and
change Mount Meeker (FID [178233](#)) to **Paddle Tail Mountain**, Colorado
(Rocky Mountain National Park)

Beaver Mountain: [40.25486, -105.61623](#)

Paddle Tail Mountain: [40.24849, -105.60499](#)

Local government	Boulder County Commissioners	Opposed
State Names Authority	Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board	Opposed
Federal	National Park Service	Opposed
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

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

Background information

97 proposals were submitted on September 8, 2024 by D'Arcy Winston Straub, a resident of Denver, Colorado. The proponent submitted proposals to change names and for new names in nine groups of summits in Colorado, with each group having a “theme” that relates all the names. The proponent explained his rationale with the following statement:

[T]he practice of associating peak names, if not all geographic names, with people. . . is shortsighted, perilous, and captures unsavory aspects of human nature. Instead, peak names should embrace aspects of nature enjoyable by all or themes that capture the human experience and can be appreciated by future generations.

The proponent also believes that groups of summits should all have names that are part of a “theme” and that “[t]he proposed names largely stand or fall together, as there's not much point in adopting one name if the others are not adopted by the Board.”

The nine groups and their themes are:

- “Longs Peak group”: two summit name changes with the theme of beavers, in reference to the shape of Longs Peak described in James Michener’s novel *Centennial*
- “Handies Peak group”: one summit name change and twelve new summit names for unnamed summits with the theme of light, in reference to the nearby Sunlight Peak and Redcloud Peak

- “Holy Cross [Ridge] group”: one summit name change and six new summit names with the theme of the seven deadly sins
- “Mount Blue Sky group”: seven summit name changes and two new summit names with the theme of Snowy Owl, “desirable human characteristics,” and properties of gold
- “Pikes Peak group”: five summit name changes and five new summit names with the theme of teeth and dentistry due to the fluorite found in area and because fluoride’s link to dental health first was first noted in Colorado Springs
- “Mount Antero group”: fourteen summit name changes with the theme of birthstones because aquamarine is found around Mount Antero
- “Challenger Point group”: five summit name changes and six new summit names with the theme of space flight
- “Grays Peak group”: six summit name changes and two new gap names with the theme of “the wonders and scientific discoveries involving genetics” because Grays Peak is named for botanist Asa Gray who was a friend and colleague of Charles Darwin
- “Mount Democrat group”: 23 summit name changes with the theme of “the political principles upon which the United States was founded”

64 of the proposals are to change names. 39 of the proposals are to change commemorative names. 25 fall under the [Wilderness Area Geographic Names Policy](#). 26 are named summits above 14,000 feet. 32 are named summits above 13,000 feet. Most of the others are summits over 13,000 feet that have no official name but do or may have unofficial names used by the submitting community.

DNC members instructed staff to start by processing only three of these groups (“Longs Peak group,” “Handies Peak group,” and “Holy Cross group”) due to the large number of proposals and the amount of work expected of DNC staff to process them.

The DNC instructed staff to process the following three groups (“Pikes Peak group,” “Challenger Point group,” and “Grays Peak group”) after they voted on the first three groups.

DNC members instructed staff to not process three of the groups (“Mount Blue Sky group,” “Mount Antero group,” and “Mount Democrat group”) because at least one of the proposals in the group would be considered a revisit and the proponent would need to present new evidence for the DNC to consider. The proposals presented no new evidence to revisit the decisions, and the DNC does not consider the proponent to be an interested party to any of those decisions.

Beaver Mountain and Paddle Tail Mountain proposal details

The proponent's "theme" for replacement names for Longs Peak and Mount Meeker in Boulder County in Rocky Mountain National Park is the American beaver (*Castor canadensis*). The proponent stated that

[i]n the novel "Centennial," [sic] James Michener described an expansive rock formation on the east slopes of Longs Peak that defines a beaver climbing to the summit.

Change Longs Peak to Beaver Mountain details

- Elevation 14,256 feet
- In Rocky Mountain National Park
- Named for Stephen Harriman Long (1784–1864), leader of an expedition into present-day Colorado in 1820 ([History Colorado biography](#))
- BGN officially named it Longs Peak in 1890
- It has been labeled on USGS topographic Maps since 1906
- It is the highest summit in Rocky Mountain National Park (ROMO) and the 15th highest in Colorado
- Proponent's justification:

Longs Peak, the 14,000' [sic] peak in Rocky Mountain National Park, is named after the explorer Stephen Long who helped to explore and settle—or conquer and oppress, depending upon one's perspective—the West. Although Stephen Long did not commit the atrocities associated with Governor Evans [a reference to the 2023 renaming of Mount Evans to Mount Blue Sky], Stephen Long does represent an aspect of American history that some may find controversial.

The name of the peak should reflect this astonishing rock formation [described above] as opposed to a historical figure that will have less significance with each passing generation and is associated with a controversial aspect of history. [The proponent provided a blog link ([archived](#)) that includes an image of the beaver-like formation.]

Change Mount Meeker to Paddle Tail Mountain details

- Elevation 13,911 feet
- In Rocky Mountain National Park
- Named for Nathan Cook Meeker (1817–1879), who was appointed as the Indian agent of the White River Agency in 1878 and was killed when Utes living there revolted against Meeker's treatment of them ([History Colorado biography](#))
- BGN officially named it in 1911, referencing local usage and other authorities
- It has been labeled on USGS topographic maps since 1915
- Proponent's justification:

Mount Meeker is named for Nathan Meeker who in 1878 became a U.S. Indian agent in Colorado. In 1879, Meeker lost his life during the Meeker Massacre, an attack by a band of Ute Indians that resulted in

the death of an additional 13 U.S. troops and the kidnapping of Meeker's wife and daughter. While the renaming of Mount Evans brought to light the Sand Creek Massacre, the Meeker Massacre represents the other side of side of man's inhumanity to man. Mount Meeker should be renamed because better avenues exist to memorialize the difficult aspects of human history. Renaming Mount Meeker to Paddle Tail Mountain is consistent with the renaming of Longs Peak to Beaver Mountain.

The Boulder County Commissioners do not support the proposed changes:

The Boulder County Commissioners appreciate being asked for input on the renaming of geographic features within the county. After careful consideration, we have decided this proposal is not a priority for our county at this time.

The National Park Service does not support the proposed changes:

Please be advised that the National Park Service (NPS) is opposed to the proposals to change the names of Longs Peak (FID #204979) to "Beaver Mountain" and Mount Meeker (FID #178233) to "Paddle Tail Mountain" within the legislated boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park. The existing names date to 1890 and 1911, respectively. The BGN's Principles, Policies, and Procedures (2016), in particular Policy II, section 1 (see p. 19) states:

Sec. 1 Existing names, especially personal commemorative names, which honor an individual, and those names in longstanding public usage, should not be changed unless the proponent presents a compelling reason to do so. Even when the historical basis for an existing name is unknown, the BGN will still treat it with deference. [Emphasis added. [in original]]

In this instance, the NPS could find no "compelling reason" to change the existing names.

The [Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board](#) (CGNAB) first considered the proposed changes on January 27, 2026 and voted to not support their approval, citing

- the opposition from the National Park Service and Boulder County
- the arbitrary nature of the proposed changes
- the lack of outreach by the proponent to gather support or input from federally recognized Tribes and to local communities (Note that the DNC does not require proponents to do this before or after submitting a proposal; the DNC asks for recommendations from federally recognized Tribes and from local elected governments representing the community's interest.)

Review List 458

Change Handies Peak (FID [187404](#)) to **Rainbow Peak** and
new names **Diffraction Peak, Particle Peak, Photon Peak, Pot of Gold Peak,**
Quantum Mechanics Peak, Reflection Peak, Refraction Peak, ROYGBIV Peak,
Sun Dog Peak, Wave Peak, White Light Peak, and Wildfire Peak, Colorado
(Bureau of Land Management land / Handies Peak Wilderness Study Area /
Red Cloud Peak Wilderness Study Area)

Rainbow Peak: [37.91296, -107.50444](#)

Diffraction Peak: [37.95459, -107.37822](#)

Particle Peak: [37.97461, -107.46047](#)

Photon Peak: [37.95504, -107.51524](#)

Pot of Gold Peak: [37.91812, -107.53231](#)

Quantum Mechanics Peak: [37.96162, -107.49574](#)

Reflection Peak: [37.96471, -107.41771](#)

Refraction Peak: [37.94714, -107.39827](#)

ROYGBIV Peak: [37.90876, -107.48087](#)

Sundog Peak: [37.93184, -107.43824](#)

Wave Peak: [37.96655, -107.47011](#)

White Light Peak: [37.90673, -107.46259](#)

Wildfire Peak: [37.97858, -107.42612](#)

Local government	Hinsdale County Commissioners	Opposed
	San Juan County Commissioners [Pot of Gold Peak only]	Opposed
State Names Authority	Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board	Opposed
Federal	Bureau of Land Management	Opposed
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

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

* applies only to the Rainbow Peak proposal

** applies only to eleven of the twelve new name proposals

The proponent's "theme" for a replacement names for Handies Peak and twelve associated new names is "the theme of light as established by the names of the nearby peaks Sunlight Peak and Redcloud Peak." Note the different spelling of Redcloud Peak used in the name of the Bureau of Land Management's Red Cloud Wilderness Study Area.

These features are located in Hinsdale County; one is also located in San Juan County. Eleven of the new names are for features in Bureau of Land Management wilderness study areas. The DNC's Wilderness Area Geographic Names Policy states that "The BGN will not approve proposed names for unnamed features within wilderness areas, including unpublished names in local use, unless an overriding need can be demonstrated by the proponent." This policy also applies to wilderness study areas and proposed wildernesses.

The proponent believes that the following statement demonstrates the "overriding need":

The BGN policy that disfavors naming features in wilderness areas or wilderness study areas is seemingly based upon the assumption that many proposals will feature the name of an individual. The Proponent agrees with this policy, but the proposed peak names in the Handies Peak group involve phenomena of light. Peak names that highlight fascinating aspects of nature are consistent with wilderness values and should be encouraged, not thwarted.

Note that the DNC's Wilderness Area Geographic Names Policy is not "based upon the assumption that many proposals will feature the name of an individual."

Change Handies Peak to Rainbow Peak details

- Elevation 14,049 feet
- On Bureau of Land Management Land
- Name origin is unknown, but possibly for someone who lived in the area at the time ([14ers.com entry](#))
- It has been labeled on USGS topographic Maps since 1897. The name appears in an 1882 Bulletin published by USGS and on the 1881 Hayden Survey Map.
- Proponent's justification:
An arced band of rock traverses across the peak's east face like a rainbow and provides the basis for the proposed name.

New name Diffraction Peak details

- Elevation 13,248 feet
- In the Bureau of Land Management's Red Cloud Peak Wilderness Study Area
- "UN 13820" on 14ers.com and climb13ers.com
- Proponent's justification:
Diffraction is the spreading out of light as it passes through a narrow aperture, another fascinating property of light.

New name Particle Peak details

- Elevation 13,566 feet
- In the Bureau of Land Management's Red Cloud Peak Wilderness Study Area
- "Gudy Peak" on 14ers.com and climb13ers.com
- Proponent's justification:

Under the theory of quantum mechanics, light behaves both as a particle and a wave, and this name reflects this duality.

New name Photon Peak details

- Elevation 13,427 feet
- On Bureau of Land Management Land
- “UN 13403” on 14ers.com and climb13ers.com
- Proponent’s justification:
Under the theory of quantum mechanics photons (or light) behave both as a particle and a wave, and the proposed peak name is consistent with the proposed names of Particle Peak and Wave Peak.

New name Pot of Gold Peak details

- Elevation 13,535 feet
- In the Bureau of Land Management’s Handies Peak Wilderness Study Area
- “UN 13549” on 14ers.com and climb13ers.com
- Proponent’s justification:
The proposed name captures the expression of finding a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow.

New name Quantum Mechanics Peak details

- Elevation 13,477 feet
- In the Bureau of Land Management’s Red Cloud Peak Wilderness Study Area
- “UN 13544” on 14ers.com and climb13ers.com
- Proponent’s justification:
Quantum mechanics is the branch of physics that describes the behavior of light and matter at atomic and subatomic levels. This name reflects that scientific wonder.

New name Reflection Peak details

- Elevation 13,688 feet
- In the Bureau of Land Management’s Red Cloud Peak Wilderness Study Area
- “Cooper Creek Peak” on 14ers.com and climb13ers.com
- Proponent’s justification:
Reflection is the bouncing of light off surfaces, such as mirrors, a fundamental phenomenon in optics.

New name Refraction Peak details

- Elevation 13,832 feet
- In the Bureau of Land Management’s Red Cloud Peak Wilderness Study Area
- “UN 13838” on 14ers.com and climb13ers.com
- Proponent’s justification:

Refraction is the bending of light as it passes from one medium to another, such as air to water.

New name ROYGBIV Peak details

- Elevation 13,795 feet
- In the Bureau of Land Management's Handies Peak Wilderness Study Area
- "UN 13801" on 14ers.com and climb13ers.com
- Proponent's justification:

The proposed name of ROYGBIV, which represents the fictitious name of Roy G. Biv, is an acronym for the colors of Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, and Violet, which represents the spectrum of white light and the colors of a rainbow.

New name Sundog Peak details

- Elevation 13,432 feet
- In the Bureau of Land Management's Red Cloud Peak Wilderness Study Area
- "Sundog" on 14ers.com and climb13ers.com
- Proponent's justification:

A sun dog [sic] is an atmospheric optical phenomenon where bright spots flank the sun, creating a halo-like effect. . . . The proposed name is informally used by at least climbers of high Colorado peaks.

New name Wave Peak details

- Elevation 13,312 feet
- In the Bureau of Land Management's Red Cloud Peak Wilderness Study Area
- "C.T. Peak" on 14ers.com and climb13ers.com
- Proponent's justification:

Under the theory of quantum mechanics, light behaves both as a particle and a wave, and the proposed peak name captures this intriguing aspect of nature.

New name White Light Peak details

- Elevation 13,454 feet
- In the Bureau of Land Management's Handies Peak Wilderness Study Area
- "Campbell Creek Peak" on 14ers.com and climb13ers.com
- Proponent's justification:

Given [the proposed names of Rainbow Peak for Handies and ROYGBIV of a neighboring peak], White Light is the combination of all the colors of the visible spectrum—red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet—and the source of the rainbow.

New name Wildfire Peak details

- Elevation 13,312 feet

- In the Bureau of Land Management’s Red Cloud Peak Wilderness Study Area
- “Every Mountain” on 14ers.com and climb13ers.com
- Proponent’s justification:

The name is inspired by the red clouds created when sunlight interacts with forest fire smoke, symbolizing the interplay of light and nature. This peak neighbors the peak with the proposed name of Reflection Peak, which primarily encompasses the phenomenon of light bouncing off of objects. The proposed names of Reflection Peak and Wildfire Peak also embrace the reflection humanity should undertake with respect to the fragility of planet Earth.

The Hinsdale County Commissioners do not support the proposed change and new names:

At their regular meeting on April 2, Hinsdale County Commissioners reviewed the information from the [BGN] regarding a proposal to name and re-name 13 peaks in Hinsdale County. This proposal included renaming 14,000-foot Handies Peak as well as naming 12 other peaks in the county, all located on Bureau of Land Management lands.

After thorough review, the commissioners are not in support for these proposals. The commissioners believe there is no desire of Hinsdale County residents for these namings, nor is there a need.

In March 2026, the Hinsdale County Commissioners replied to a request for a recommendation about an unrelated new name proposal and wrote that they “would like unnamed areas of Hinsdale County to stay unnamed.”

The San Juan County Commissioners do not support the proposed change and new names but did not provide any additional comments.

The Bureau of Land Management does not support the proposals but did not provide any additional comments.

The [Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board](#) (CGNAB) first considered the proposed change and new names on January 27, 2026 and voted to not support their approval, citing

- the opposition from the Bureau of Land Management, Hinsdale County, and San Juan County
- the arbitrary nature of the proposed changes
- the lack of outreach by the proponent to gather support or input from federally recognized Tribes and to local communities (Note that the DNC does not require proponents to do this before or after submitting a proposal; the DNC asks for recommendations from federally recognized Tribes and from local elected governments representing the community’s interest.)

Review List 458

Change Whitney Peak (FID [179528](#)) to **Gluttony Peak** and
new names **Envy Peak, Greed Peak, Lust Peak,**
Pride Peak, Sloth Peak, and Wrath Peak, Colorado
(White River National Forest / Holy Cross Wilderness)

Gluttony Peak: [39.43272, -106.47294](#)

Envy Peak: [39.41858, -106.50545](#)

Greed Peak: [39.45895, -106.48587](#)

Lust Peak: [39.39407, -106.5241](#)

Pride Peak: [39.44821, -106.48935](#)

Sloth Peak: [39.40263, -106.50634](#)

Wrath Peak: [39.46431, -106.46238](#)

Local government	Eagle County Commissioners	Opposed
State Names Authority	Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board	Opposed
Federal	U.S. Forest Service	Opposed
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

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

* applies only to the Gluttony Peak proposal

** applies only to the six new name proposals

The proponent's "theme" for a replacement name for Whitney Peak and six associated new names is "the seven deadly sins (or cardinal sins) of sloth, envy, wrath, lust, gluttony, pride, and greed." The summits are along or near the Holy Cross Ridge, named for the ridge's highest point, Mount of the Holy Cross (a 1947 BGN decision). The proponent explained the theme by the following statement:

In the opinion of the Proponent, Christianity is based upon Jesus dying on the cross for the sins of humanity. In contrast to the Ten Commandments, which are Biblically based, the cardinal sins are not Biblically based. Rather, Pope Gregory I enumerated the seven deadly sins around 600 A.D., and although a relationship exists between the papacy and Christianity, the seven deadly sins extend beyond Christianity and are applicable to humanity as a whole.

The seven proposed names are Sloth Peak, Envy Peak, Wrath Peak, Lust Peak, Gluttony Peak, Pride Peak, and Greed Peak. The names are chosen

based on the elevations of the associated peaks and the circumstances that a person may experience in association with the seven deadly sins.

The proponent chose names based on the summits' elevations and his own interpretation of the severity of the seven deadly sins. The names from shortest to tallest are:

- Lust Peak
- Sloth Peak
- Envy Peak
- Wrath Peak
- Gluttony Peak (change Whitney Peak)
- Pride Peak
- Greed Peak

These features are located in Eagle County and in the Holy Cross Wilderness in the White River National Forest. The DNC's Wilderness Area Geographic Names Policy states that "The BGN will not approve proposed names for unnamed features within wilderness areas, including unpublished names in local use, unless an overriding need can be demonstrated by the proponent." The proponent believes that the following statement demonstrates the "overriding need":

Naming a feature, which amounts to placing a name on a physical map or digital representation [sic] thereof, does not directly impact or damage the wilderness resource. Other factors lead to a far greater burden upon the wilderness resource than a name upon a map.

Naming features after people involves a hint of boastfulness, and the Proponent advances that such boastfulness is incongruous with wilderness values. Thus, the Wilderness Policy has an element of merit. However, the Proponent's proposed names involve human nature, and introspection to become a better person while traveling in the wilderness is harmonious with the values associated with seeking solitude in a wilderness area.

Finally, the Wilderness Policy for not naming wilderness features unwittingly speaks to a current failing of naming geographic features. If naming features in wilderness areas is inappropriate, then this prohibition calls into question the general practice of naming features in all circumstances. The Proponent suggests that naming features based on conceptual themes not only eliminates many of the pitfalls associated with naming features, but properly named features can enhance and promote wilderness values, whether such features reside in legally defined wilderness areas or not.

Change Whitney Peak to Gluttony Peak details

- Elevation 13,286 feet

- It has been labeled on USGS topographic Maps since 1889. The name appears as Whitney's Peak on the 1881 Hayden Survey Map.
- Proponent's justification:
The peak with the proposed name of Gluttony Peak is the third highest peak because the higher elevation correlates with over consumption. Perhaps Gluttony Peak could be the highest peak, but pride and greed injure others to a greater extent than gluttony, which primarily harms oneself.

New name Envy Peak details

- Elevation 13,786 feet
- "Fancy Peak" on 14ers.com and climb13ers.com
- Proponent's justification:
The peak with the proposed name of Envy Peak is the third lowest peak because envy follows sloth in the possible progression of human emotions. After sloth leads to possessing less than others, envy develops because others have more.

New name Greed Peak details

- Elevation 13,443 feet
- Proponent's justification:
Greed Peak possesses the highest elevation of the 'sinful group' to symbolize the selfish pursuit of material possessions without consideration to the needs of others. Assigning the highest elevation to Greed Peak is appropriate because greed is the most pernicious of the seven deadly sins, as it leads to the greatest amount of human suffering. . . . The Proponent suggests these peak names will always be relevant so long as humans populate the Earth.

New name Lust Peak details

- Elevation 13,002 feet
- Proponent's justification:
The peak with the proposed name of Lust Peak is the lowest peak. Although the common definition of lust is a sexual desire, a more generic definition of lust is an intense longing. Based upon the latter definition, Lust Peak is a suitable name because the lower peak lusts for more elevation.

New name Pride Peak details

- Elevation 13,768 feet
- "UN 13786" on 14ers.com and climb13ers.com
- Proponent's justification:

The peak with the proposed name of Pride Peak is the second highest peak that mirrors people's sense of pride when they have achieved more than others. Other aspects of pride that relate to arrogance are presented with the proposed name for Greed Peak.

New name Sloth Peak details

- Elevation 12,940 feet
- Proponent's justification:
The peak with the proposed name of Sloth Peak is the second lowest peak and follows a possible progression of human emotions. After developing a lust to obtain more, sloth leads one to ultimately possess less than others.

New name Wrath Peak details

- Elevation 13,248 feet
- "UN 13253" on 14ers.com and climb13ers.com
- Proponent's justification:
The peak with the proposed name of Wrath Peak is the fourth lowest peak because wrath follows sloth and envy in the possible progression of human emotions. After sloth leads to possessing less than others and envy follows, anger develops because others have more.

The Eagle County Commissioners do not support the proposed change and new names (bolding in original):

After careful consideration, the Eagle County BOCC **strongly opposes** this proposal and recommends that it **not be** considered by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. Our opposition is firmly rooted in the legal mandates of the Wilderness Act of 1964, guiding U.S. Forest Service policies for wilderness management, the principles established by the BGN itself, and the lack of historical or local connection for the proposed thematic names. These frameworks consistently prioritize the preservation of wilderness character, naturalness, and the minimization of human imprints on these protected landscapes.

The specific factors informing our recommendation include:

1. The Wilderness Act of 1964: The Act defines wilderness as an area "retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation...affected primarily by the forces of nature...where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." It emphasizes preserving areas "untrammeled by man." Imposing a novel, thematic naming scheme based on a specific human cultural/religious construct like the

"Seven Sins" fundamentally conflicts with this mandate. It is an unnecessary human imposition on the landscape, detracting from its natural, untrammelled state rather than respecting it. Such naming goes beyond simple identification and actively inscribes a specific, external human concept onto the wilderness.

2. U.S. Forest Service Wilderness Management Policy: Forest Service directives (e.g., Forest Service Manual 2320) consistently emphasize managing wilderness to maintain its natural conditions and minimize evidence of human activity.

- o **Preserving Natural Character:** Introducing a thematic set of names like the "Seven Sins," which lacks any inherent historical, cultural, or geographical connection to the Holy Cross Wilderness or Eagle County, detracts from the area's natural character and the sense of discovery valued by wilderness users. It imposes an artificial construct onto a natural setting.
- o **Minimizing Human Impact:** While naming itself is a human act, officializing a prominent, potentially provocative thematic group name could draw undue attention focused on the names themselves, rather than the natural environment. This may concentrate use or encourage behavior inconsistent with wilderness values (e.g., "peak bagging" the "sins"), potentially increasing physical impacts on sensitive alpine terrain.

3. U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) Principles: The BGN's own *Principles, Policies, and Procedures* state a conservative approach, particularly for natural features.

- o **Principle IV (Wilderness Areas):** This principle explicitly discourages the naming of features in federal wilderness areas unless necessary for administrative purposes (like safety or resource management) or if a name is strongly supported by documented local usage. This proposal does not appear necessary for management, nor does the "Seven Sins" theme reflect any known historical or established local usage within Eagle County or the surrounding communities connected to the Holy Cross Wilderness.
- o **Preference for Established Local Usage:** The BGN prioritizes names with documented historical or local usage. This proposal seeks to introduce entirely new names based on an external theme, lacking any organic connection to the place itself.

4. Lack of Local Connection and Appropriateness: The proposed "Seven Sins" theme appears arbitrary and lacks any demonstrable connection to the history, geography, or culture of the Holy Cross Wilderness or Eagle County. There is no evidence suggesting this theme arises from local tradition or

need. Furthermore, imposing a theme with specific religious and moral connotations onto public wilderness features seems inappropriate for a landscape intended for diverse public enjoyment and reflection on nature.

5. Precedent and Consistency: Approving this type of thematic, non-historical naming scheme within a designated Wilderness Area would set an undesirable precedent. It could encourage similar proposals lacking genuine connection to place, leading to a cumulative erosion of the natural and untrammelled character of wilderness landscapes nationwide and potentially creating confusion. Consistent application of naming principles is vital for long-term wilderness stewardship.

The Eagle County Board of Commissioners firmly believes that upholding the integrity and wild character of the Holy Cross Wilderness, as mandated by the Wilderness Act and supported by agency policy and BGN principles, must take precedence over proposals that introduce artificial, non-historical naming schemes.

We urge the U.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee to **deny** this proposal.

The Forest Service does not support the proposals but did not provide any additional comments.

The [Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board](#) (CGNAB) first considered the proposed change and new names on January 27, 2026 and voted to not support their approval, citing

- the opposition from the Forest Service and Eagle County
- the arbitrary nature of the proposed changes
- the lack of outreach by the proponent to gather support or input from federally recognized Tribes and to local communities (Note that the DNC does not require proponents to do this before or after submitting a proposal; the DNC asks for recommendations from federally recognized Tribes and from local elected governments representing the community's interest.)

Review List 458

New names **Big Beaver Pond** and **Little Beaver Pond**, Texas

Big Beaver Pond: [30.16522, -95.55036](#)

Little Beaver Pond: [30.1665, -95.54995](#)

Local government	Harris County Commissioners	No response
State Names Authority	Texas Geographic Names Committee	Support
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Bayou Land Conservancy	No objection
	The Woodlands Township Board of Directors [township is not incorporated as a local government]	No objection
	The Woodlands Township Parks and Recreation Department	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 names Big Beaver Pond and Little Beaver Pond are proposed for two officially unnamed lakes in Harris County. The proposal was submitted on November 24, 2024 by Ethan McClenahan, an individual with a mailing address in The Woodlands, Texas.

The lakes, 7 acres and 1 acre, respectively, are in the George Mitchell Nature Preserve, established in the late 2000s and managed by The Woodlands Township (an unincorporated community) and the Bayou Land Conservancy.

The proponent, a local resident, states:

Big Beaver Pond is named after the Beaver Pond Trail in the George Mitchell Nature Preserve. It is the larger of two adjacent ponds along the trail, with the other pond . . . to be named Little Beaver Pond for distinction. . . . The names reflect the beavers that inhabit the area.

The official George Mitchell Nature Preserve trails map labels the lake as “Wetlands.”

The Bayou Land Conservancy’s (BLC) Land Stewardship Manager wrote that BLC manages and maintains this section of the nature trail in conjunction with The Woodlands Township. Attached is the recommendation form that was provided to BLC. BLC does not object to naming these ponds Big and Little Beaver ponds as we have been using that name since 2019.

BLC is not a landowner of the land that these ponds reside in quote, nor does BLC hold a conservation easement on this land. As previously mentioned, we help manage and maintain the nature trail with The Woodlands Township on this portion of the trail, so we do have presence in the area with the community and an association with both ponds in that capacity.

The attached recommendation form had the following comment to support the response of “no objection”:

BLC helps manage and maintain the 14-mile long Spring Creek Nature trail. This trail runs next to the Beaver Ponds and has been a staple recreational trail system in the community since 2019. BLC staff, volunteers, members, and trail users have been calling these ponds “Beaver Pond” since opening the trail. BLC has no objection to the proposed names “Big Beaver Pond” and “Little Beaver Pond”. Currently, BLC does not expect these names to be needed for federal use.

DNC staff asked for a recommendation from the City of Houston and from Harris County. No replies were received.

The [Texas Geographic Names Committee](#) (TGNC) supports the proposal and wrote The TGNC determined that the proposal is fully consistent with the naming principles and practices of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (USBGN). The proposed names are descriptive, appropriate in form, and do not present any conflicts with established federal naming policies. . . .

Based on the proposal’s compliance with USBGN naming practices, documented local usage of the proposed names, and the informal approval or lack of objection from both managing entities [The Woodlands Township and the Bayou Land Conservancy], the TGNC determined that the criteria for approval have been satisfied.

According to GNIS, there are no other geographic features in Harris County named “Beaver”; there are five lakes and reservoirs elsewhere in Texas with “Beaver” in their names.

Review List 459

New name **Nowell Creek**, Texas

Mouth: [29.585159, -95.110536](#) / Source: [29.600347, -95.114827](#)

Local government	Houston City Council	No response
	Harris County Commissioners	No response
State Names Authority	Texas Geographic Names Committee	Opposed
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

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

The new commemorative name Nowell Creek is proposed for an unnamed 1.1-mile-long tributary of Horsepen Bayou in the City of Houston, Harris County. The proposal was submitted on January 14, 2025 by Christopher Nowell, an individual with a mailing address in Plainfield, New Jersey.

The name would commemorate Eugene Thomas Nowell (d. 2019), a World War II U.S. Navy veteran who lived near the stream in his later years.

The proponent wrote:

Proposed name comes from a colloquial term for the small stream as termed by a local micronation named Cycoldia [sic], as used in several signed agreements made by the local organization. Presently there is no official USBGN name for the creek despite it being vital to the local community as a dividing line across the center of the neighborhood. Documents showing local proof of adoption by the small micronational organisation [sic] will be provided. (I previously lived there but now have moved away, much of my family still lives there). . . .

While the original organization's decision to change [sic] the name was in honor of a now-deceased person, the person died 5 years, 49 days ago, and thus will not be included in this proposal. (the original person being Eugene Nowell)

DNC staff asked for commemorative details about Eugene Nowell; the proponent replied Apologies, please ignore that section of the application, noting that upon further review this will not be a commemorative name [sic] as it has been

more than five years since the death of the person. If you wish for information on them:

Eugene Thomas Nowell

Born 30 May 1927

Died 16 November 2019

As well I have realized I had forgotten to attach the evidence of the local organisation's [sic] use of it as a boundary [sic], here is a redacted document from that organisation [sic] displaying the use of the term for the geographic feature. . . .

DNC staff asked for further information about Eugene Thomas Nowell and for any information about use of the name by locals including how many use the name out of the many landowners along the stream. The proponent replied:

Eugene Thomas Nowell served in WWII and lived in Florida until eventually moving to live with his daughter, in Houston near the area which is the creek. The name is intended to honor his life and his service in the Second World War, as well that he passed in the home nearby the creek in 2019. His service was especially noted by the local JROTC of Clear Lake High School who had gone to his home for Memorial Day to honor his service in the US Navy.

The organization [sic] that was mentioned is a micronation [sic], and uses the name as their official [sic] term for the creek as a geographic feature, the document I had sent earlier is the organization [sic] using it on an agreement [sic] regarding the local area, and used the term for it as Nowell Creek.

I do not have the direct data for how many local landowners the organization [sic] speaks for, but I know that the organization [sic] has approximately 380-400 members in total, and that it's [sic] main location is in the local area to the lake [sic].

DNC staff asked for a recommendation from the City of Houston and from Harris County. No replies were received.

The [Texas Geographic Names Committee](#) (TGNC) supports the proposal and wrote

The proponent, identified as a citizen of a micronation referred to as the "Grand Republic of Cycoldia," submitted the proposal; however, no documentation was provided demonstrating broad local usage or recognition of the proposed name "Nowell Creek." Evidence of established local use is a key consideration in the evaluation of geographic name proposals, particularly when naming previously unnamed features.

Additionally, neither the TGNC nor the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (USBGN) office received any indication of support or endorsement from relevant local authorities, including the City of Houston or Harris County. The stream falls under the jurisdiction of the City of Houston, and the absence of support from the managing local authority weighed significantly against approval of the proposal.

Geographic naming decisions rely heavily on demonstrated local acceptance and jurisdictional support to ensure that official names reflect community usage and public interest. In this case, the committee determined that the proposal does not meet these criteria.

Based on the lack of evidence of local use, the absence of support from local government, and the jurisdictional interests of the City of Houston[, t]he TGNC does not recommend approving the request to name the unnamed stream “Nowell Creek” in Harris County, Texas.

GNIS does not contain records of any nearby features with names that include “Nowell.”

Review List 460

New name **Rogers Falls**, Tennessee

[35.8848754, -85.6328058](#)

Local government	White County Executive	Support*
	White County District 7 Commissioner	Support*
State Names Authority	Tennessee Committee on Geographic Names	Support
Federal	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Support*
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Tennessee State Representative Paul Sherrell	Support*
	White County Highway Superintendent	Support*
	White County Library Director	Support*
	White County Sheriff	Support*

* shared or asked for by proponent

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

The new commemorative name Rogers Falls is proposed for an unnamed waterfall on an unnamed tributary of Center Hill Lake, a reservoir on Caney Fork in White County. The falls drops into Center Hill Lake, a reservoir managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The proposal was submitted on June 12, 2025 by Cain Rogers, who is a White County Commissioner with a mailing address in Sparta, Tennessee.

The proponent reported that “[t]he length [height] of the falls depends on the lake level, which is managed by US Army Corps of Engineers. It is approximately 40' in length [height] and approximately 20' in width.

The proponent wrote that the falls

has been a feature on Center Hill Lake since the dam project was completed in 1948. However, the waterfall itself has been there for countless years. Center Hill Lake features more well-known falls. . . Outdoor enthusiasts have enjoyed this falls for decades, accessible by kayaks and boats. The feature is located near Pate's Ford Marina and known my countless boaters as simply the falls up by Pate's Ford. My family and I have enjoyed this spot for decades, and it is time to give this wonderful feature a proper name. My Grandfather, Herman Edward "Edd" Rogers hosted a well-known fishing

tournament for decades on the lake, called the "Edd Rogers Open." Edd loved the lake and was one of its biggest promoters since adulthood. Through his tournament and donations to youth fishing activities, Mr. Rogers has contributed much to Center Hill Lake through philanthropy.

A local newspaper obituary for Rogers stated that he “paved the road to success for many of his friends, family members and employees” and supported youth, education, sports, and outdoor recreation throughout White and Van Buren Counties. He provided free vehicles for high school driver’s ed, sponsored community athletics, and contributed to the Boy Scouts of America and the University of Tennessee athletics department.

The proponent obtained support from one of the White County District 7 Commissioners and from the White County Executive who wrote:

Naming this waterfall Rogers falls is a fitting tribute to a man whose legacy is intertwined with the lake and the people who enjoy it. The name reflects local sentiment, honors a respected community member, and provides a meaningful identifier for our natural feature that is increasingly recognized and visited.

The [Tennessee Committee on Geographic Names](#) supports the proposal and wrote

- This application meets all the criteria set by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.
- Some members on the committee grew up near Center Hill Lake and are familiar with the legacy of Edd Rogers.
- All members of the TNCoGN voted to approve the proposed name Rogers Falls.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers supports the proposal, citing the support from the Center Hill Lake Resource Manager.

The proponent obtained support from the following individuals:

- Tennessee State Representative Paul Sherrell (43rd Legislative District)
- White County Highway Superintendent
- White County Library Director
- White County Sheriff

GNIS contains a stream with the name [Rogers Creek](#), 22 miles to the east in White County and Cumberland County, and several other features in the state with names that contain “Rogers” or “Roger.”

Review List 461

Change Benke Lake (FID [1858025](#)) to **Kaye-Parker Lake**, Texas
[29.6016364, -97.5555055](#)

Local government	Gonzales County Commissioners	No objection
State Names Authority	Texas Geographic Names Committee	Support
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Local resident	Support

	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 [Benke Lake](#), an 8.4-acre reservoir in Gonzales County, to Kaye-Parker Lake. The proposal was submitted on July 8, 2025 by James L. Parker, an individual with a mailing address in Wrightsboro, Texas about 15 miles south of the reservoir. The reservoir is on land owned by the proponent who is a descendant of one of the people that the proposed name would commemorate.

The name Benke Lake was added to GNIS on April 11, 2000 from a 1979 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers “listing of impounded bodies of water and associated information.” No other information about the origin of the name is recorded in DNC records.

The proposed name would commemorate John W. Kaye (1895–1980), who built the reservoir in 1951, and his sister Ruth Kaye Parker (1904–1977), who owned and managed the property. The proponent wrote:

John W. Kaye built the lake in 1951 on land owned by his sister Mrs. L. M. Parker[,] Sr. Mrs. Parker's late husband. . . purchased the land in the 1930's [sic]. James L. Parker and his wife Kristin A. Parker are the current owners of the lake property. The property has been in the Parker family since the 1930s.

The Benke family and their descendants owned the property to the northwest of the lake property, going back for some time. The Benke family never owned the lake and had nothing to do with the construction.

Susan Wilkerson now owns the adjacent property and is related to the Benke Family name. Susan is aware of the history of the lake and prior ownership and does not know how the Benke name was placed on the lake.

Mr. Butch Jackson who grew up in the Ottine area around the lake is aware of the history will provide a written statement.

John W. Kaye was a WWI navy veteran. He was a businessman working for Jones-Laughlin steel company. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. Mr. Kaye was my Great Uncle and the son of English immigrant parents. Mr. Kaye and his wife Myrtle had no children but helped support many family members through the years. He retired on the land where the lake was built which was owned by his sister who was my paternal Grandmother. J.W. Kaye built the lake in 1951 and drilled a flowing well to maintain the water level.

Ruth Kaye Parker (01/10/1904 to 06/04/1977) owned the lake property and the sister of J.W. Kaye. Mrs. Parker was widow landowner and rancher. My uncle originally wanted to name [it] Lake Ruth, but it seems proper to have both the Kaye and Parker names.

The proponent provided a sworn affidavit from Mr. Butch Jackson which stated I remember fishing in the lake which we always called The Kaye Lake. I remember John W. K and his wife Myrtle being the nicest couple and always treating us kids really good when we would go to their lake to go fishing. . . Myrtle Kaye would always invite us in for cookies and a cold drink after a good day of fishing. My grandfather. . . told his kids that Mr. Kay had built the lake and kept it really nice.

The DNC has no rules about the use of hyphens in official geographic names. The current [Principles, Policies, and Procedures](#) states only that “[p]unctuation such as hyphens and apostrophes are occasionally used in domestic geographic names.” The proponent initially proposed the name as “Kaye / Parker Lake” but agreed to a hyphen rather than a forward slash during correspondence with DNC staff.

The Gonzales County Commissioners Court voted on December 8, 2025 that they did not object to the name change.

The [Texas Geographic Names Committee](#) (TGNC) supports the proposal and wrote The TGNC recognizes that the proposal complies with [BNG-DNC] policy governing commemorative names. The individuals being commemorated meet the applicable criteria, and the proposal does not conflict with existing federal naming principles.

The lake lies entirely within the proponent’s privately owned property, and there are no jurisdictional concerns associated with the requested name change. As part of the submission, the proponent provided an affidavit signed by local residents [*sic*, it was signed by one resident] stating that the

reservoir has long been known locally as “Kaye Lake.” This documentation demonstrates established local usage consistent with the proposed renaming.

Additionally, the affidavit included confirmation that there is no objection to the proposed name change from a descendant of the Benke family who currently owns adjacent property [sic, this was stated by the proponent, not the person signing the affidavit]. The acknowledgment and lack of opposition from a representative of the family associated with the existing name was noted as an important factor in the committee’s evaluation.

Based on the proposal’s compliance with USBGN commemorative naming policy, the supporting documentation demonstrating local recognition of the proposed name, the absence of objections from affected parties, and the fact that the feature is located entirely on private property, the TGNC determined that the request satisfies the criteria for approval.

GNIS does not contain records of any nearby features with names that include “Kaye.” GNIS contains a feature with the name [Parker Lake](#) 15 miles to the south-southeast.

Review List 462

New name **Angel Falls**, Texas

[29.2824504, -103.31143](#)

Local government	Brewster County Commissioners	No Opinion
State Names Authority	Texas Geographic Names Committee	Opposed
Federal	National Park Service	Opposed
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

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

The new name Angel Falls is proposed for an officially unnamed 250- to 300-foot high falls in Big Bend National Park, Brewster County. The proposal was submitted on July 15, 2025 by Tim Maxwell, an individual with a mailing address in Mansfield, Texas. The falls is in a part of Big Bend National Park that is a “Proposed or Recommended Wilderness Area.”

The proponent stated that

- the feature needs a name for federal use because “[n]aming this ephemeral waterfall aids navigation, interpretation, and documentation within Big Bend National Park. It enhances visitor experience and supports accurate federal records for a distinct, observable geographic feature lacking any official name.”
- the meaning and significance of the name is “Angel Falls reflects the waterfall’s sudden, ethereal appearance after storms—like an angelic visitation. The name also marks the proposer’s wedding anniversary, making it a tribute to love, memory, and nature’s fleeting grace.”
- the name is appropriate for the feature because “Angel falls captures the waterfalls rare, graceful descent and ghostlike appearance after rain. The name aligns with its ephemeral nature, visual beauty, and emotional meaning—marking a distinct, observable feature worthy of recognition.”
- their interest in the name of the features is “The name marks a profound personal moment—my wedding anniversary—and a rare natural event I witnessed and recorded. As both observer and advocate, I seek recognition for this ephemeral waterfall that reflects nature’s grace and the deep meaning it holds for me.”

The proponent provided coordinates for the falls that were approximately 0.3 miles away from the correct location, a fact noted by NPS staff during review of the proposal. The proponent did not initially address the [Wilderness Area Geographic Names Policy](#) which

“also applies to names in areas being considered for possible designation by Congress as wilderness.” When asked, he replied

The overriding need to name this waterfall within the proposed wilderness area is to ensure accurate geographic documentation and interpretive value for visitors and researchers. . . . Without a formal name, the feature risks being overlooked in wilderness management and public interpretation. Assigning the name “Angel Falls” ensures that this landmark is documented consistently and respectfully for future generations.

The Brewster County Judge wrote that the County has no opinion and “will defer comment to the NPS [National Park Service]. And will follow their final recommendation.”

The [Texas Geographic Names Committee](#) (TGNC) does not support the proposal and wrote

After careful review, the proposal was declined by the TGNC. The waterfall is a geographic feature located entirely within lands administered by the National Park Service (NPS). The NPS, as the federal agency with jurisdiction and management authority over Big Bend National Park, formally expressed opposition to the proposed name change. The managing agency’s position carries significant weight in the evaluation of geographic name proposals, particularly when a feature is wholly contained within federally protected lands.

In addition, no compelling evidence was provided to demonstrate widespread local, historical, or public support for formally naming this feature. [Note that proponents are not required to provide or demonstrate this in order for a proposal to be considered by the DNC.]

The committee also expressed concern regarding a potential conflict of interest associated with the proposal. Specifically, information presented during review indicated that the proponent of the name change could reasonably be expected to derive financial or commercial benefit if the proposed name were approved. [The proponent is a professional photographer who sells images of the falls on his website. The name of his business does not reference the proposed name of the falls.] Geographic name changes [*sic*] that appear to primarily serve private or commercial interests, rather than the public good, are generally discouraged and weighed unfavorably in the decision-making process.

Based on the stated opposition from the National Park Service, the absence of demonstrated public or local governmental backing, and concerns regarding possible financial benefit to the proponent, the committee determined that the proposal does not meet the criteria necessary for approval.

The National Park Service does not support the proposal, referencing the [Wilderness Area Geographic Names Policy](#) and wrote

The proposed feature is an unnamed waterfall located in recommended wilderness within the park. . . .

After consultation with the park and regional geographic names coordinator, we confirmed that (1) the geographic feature is located within recommended wilderness, and (2) no overriding need was identified to support this naming proposal. Based on BGN policies, the NPS does not support the naming of this feature in Big Bend National Park.

GNIS does not contain records of any nearby features with names that include “angel.”

Review List 462

New name **Schist Creek**, Pennsylvania

Mouth: [39.97637](#), [-75.78724](#) / Source: [39.9579](#), [-75.77995](#)

Local government	East Fallowfield Township Supervisors	Support*
	Chester County Water Resources Authority (on behalf of Chester County Commissioners)	Support*
State Names Authority	Pennsylvania Geographic Names Committee	No objection
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	East Fallowfield Environmental Advisory Council (appointed by Township Supervisors) [proponent]	Support*

* included in proposal

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

The new name Schist Creek is proposed for an officially unnamed approximately two-mile-long tributary of Shale Run (BGN 2023) in East Fallowfield Township, Chester County. The proposal was submitted on November 10, 2025 by Jeanne Berlin, an individual with a mailing address in Coatesville, Pennsylvania, on behalf of the proponent, the East Fallowfield Township Environmental Advisory Committee.

The proponent reported that the stream “is on private property but begins in HOA Open Space—much is in township easement space.”

The name refers to rocks over which the stream flows.

The proponent stated that

- the feature needs a name for federal use because “[t]his is an exceptional value stream (designated by DEP [PA Department of Environmental Protection] and found on CCWRA [Chester County Water Resources Authority] maps) in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Naming the stream will help with public interest in caring for this waterway. The health of our smaller streams is important to the health of our rivers.”
- the meaning and significance of the name is “[s]chist is descriptive of the local geology, referring to the makeup of the stream bed. It joins the newly named shale

run on its way to the West Branch of the Brandywine [West Branch Brandywine Creek].”

- the name is appropriate for the feature because “[i]n Sept[ember] 2023, East Fallowfield Township EAC [Environmental Advisory Committee] was successful in naming the adjoining creek ‘Shale Run.’ At that time it was pointed out that the geology was actually schist [schist and shale can be confused]. With this application we hope to continue with names referencing our local geology.”
- their interest in the name of the features is “Our EAC (Environmental Advisory Committee) is interested in naming our creeks to promote public awareness of the importance of caring for these important features.”

In 2023, the East Fallowfield Township Manager submitted a proposal to name a stream and two of its tributaries as Shale Creek. DNC staff worked with the proponent to resolve this conflict with Principle V, One Name for One Geographic Feature. The Township wished to have official names for the two tributaries, so the proposal was amended from Shale Run for the watershed to [Shale Run](#), [First Branch Shale Run](#), and [Second Branch Shale Run](#).

The proponent provided letters of support from the East Fallowfield Township Board of Supervisors and the Chester County Water Resources Authority (writing on behalf of Chester County Commissioners).

- The Township Supervisors wrote that the name
pays homage to the underlying geology that forms the creek beds in this area [and] complements the recently named Shale Run into which Schist Creek flows. . . . Together these names create an opportunity for public education and awareness about the townships unique geology and the importance of protecting our natural resources. We believe that officially naming this exceptional value stream will encourage stewardship, strengthen community identity, and help spark important conversations about the role of these waterways and the health of our environment.
- The Chester County Water Resources Authority wrote
On behalf of Chester County, the Chester County Water Resources Authority submits this perhaps-ill-advised-and-yet-fully-supportive letter regarding the proposed naming of a previously unnamed tributary of the West Branch Brandywine Creek, located within East Fallowfield Township, as “Schist Creek.”

Let’s be honest: it’s not every day that a humble stream has a chance to become a minor celebrity. But this one can, by embracing both its geological identity (our beloved schist bedrock runs deep) and a nod to a potential play on words.

But make no mistake – this name isn’t all whimsical. This particular stream is a state-designated Cold Water and Migratory Fish stream, a crucial part of our watershed network. It joins forces with the newly christened Shale Run – an Exceptional Value and Migratory Fish stream – before flowing into the West Branch. Naming this tributary “Schist Creek” will help bring visibility and stewardship to a stream that might otherwise remain anonymous.

At Chester County, we believe that stream naming is more than just a formality. It’s a powerful tool for public education, environmental awareness, and community connection. Giving this stream a name that resonates both scientifically and culturally enhances its chances of receiving long-term support and protection. Plus, it gives us a golden opportunity to say, with all sincerity, that we give a schist about our water resources.

We wholeheartedly support this request to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names and are proud to advocate for the naming of this stream as Schist Creek.

The Pennsylvania Geographic Names Committee stated that they had no objection to the proposed name with no further comments.

GNIS does not contain records of any nearby features with names that include “schist.” Two streams in Alaska have the official name Schist Creek.

Review List 462

New name **Lake Wilkins**, Pennsylvania

[41.7674388, -76.0420203](#)

Local government	Rush Township Supervisors	No objection
	Susquehanna County Commissioners	No opinion
State Names Authority	Pennsylvania Geographic Names Committee	No objection
Federally recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

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

The new commemorative name Lake Wilkins is proposed for an officially unnamed approximately 10-acre reservoir in Rush Township, Susquehanna County. The reservoir is at the head of Deer Lick Creek. The proposal was submitted on November 4, 2025 by Jonathan Robert Baltzley, an individual with a mailing address in Montrose, Pennsylvania. The land containing the reservoir is owned by the proponent's father.

The proponent stated that

- the feature needs a name for federal use “[t]o formally give honor to a very historic figure that is very unknown in this country. Except locally”
- the meaning and significance of the name is “to honor Sir George Hubert Wilkins who bought the property and built it. Wilkins was an Arctic Explorer who achieved many firsts in that realm. As well as an accomplished military photographer and Quartermaster for the US Army. He is literally the most interesting man in the world.”
- the name is appropriate for the feature because “Wilkins had the lake built on a former celery farm and it is believed that he used the lake in testing his cold weather gear for the Army Quartermaster.”
- their interest in the name of the features is “A birthday present for my father David E. Baltzely, and commemorating a true pioneer (Wilkins).”

The name would commemorate Sir George Hubert Wilkins (1888–1958). Addressing the [Commemorative Names Policy](#), the proponent noted that Sir Wilkins’

- direct or long-term association with the feature was that “Wilkins built the property and the lake”
- significant contribution to the community, area, or state around the feature was “[l]ocally, Wilkins was very reclusive and kept to himself”

- outstanding national or international recognition was “Sir George Hubert Wilkins was an accomplished war correspondent and photographer, polar explorer, naturalist, geographer, climatologist and aviator. First of many feats in the North and South Pole. Multiple features are also named after him in Antarctica.”

The proponent provided links to online biographic information about Sir Wilkins and documents from Sir Wilkin’s estate documenting ownership of the feature.

The Rush Township Secretary wrote that “[the] township sees no problem with changing the name [sic] as the lake is on private property.”

The Susquehanna County Commissioners reported that they had no opinion about the proposal.

The Pennsylvania Geographic Names Committee stated that they had no objection to the proposed name with no further comments.

According to GNIS records, [Wilkins Coast](#) and [Wilkins Mountains](#) were named for Sir Hubert Wilkins.

GNIS does not contain records of any nearby features with names that include “Wilkins.”