

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES  
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE**

Eight Hundred and Eighty Fifth Meeting

July 9th, 2026 – 2:00 p.m.

(Hybrid Meeting)

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

|                       |                                                                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Marielle Black        | U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Department of the Interior)            |
| Dr. Wendi-Starr Brown | Bureau of Indian Affairs (Department of the Interior)              |
| Jessica Campbell      | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Department of the Interior)        |
| Brenda-Anne Forrest   | Government Publishing Office                                       |
| 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)        |

Ex-Officio

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

BGN/GNIS Staff

Shelby Bourquein, U.S. Geological Survey (Department of the Interior)  
Mackenzie Chriscoe, U.S. Geological Survey (Department of the Interior)  
Lindsay Decker, U.S. Geological Survey (Department of the Interior)  
Tiffany D., National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (Department of War)  
Matthew O'Donnell, U.S. Geological Survey (Department of the Interior)  
Bryan Purtell, U.S. Geological Survey (Department of the Interior)  
Stephanie Sparkman, U.S. Geological Survey (Department of the Interior)

Guests and Observers

Jason Burton (Department of the Interior)  
Alex Fries, National Park Service (Department of the Interior)  
Daniel Spring, U.S. Forest Service (Department of Agriculture)  
Berenice Garcia, Texas Tribune

**1. Opening and Roll Call**

Chair Tischler opened the 885th meeting of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) at 2:00 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. Eleven voting members across five member agencies were confirmed present, constituting a quorum.

## **2. Review and Approval of Agenda**

The Chair moved to amend the agenda by advancing the docket item currently listed under Agenda Item 5, Review List 462, Change Boca Chica Beach (FID 1330976) to Cyber Beach, Texas, for consideration immediately following the roll call. The motion was seconded, and the agenda was approved as amended without objection.

## **3. Minutes of Meeting 884**

The Chair asked if there were any comments or edits to the minutes of the 884th 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 the Board is addressing current, anticipated, and longstanding leadership vacancies. She noted that potential revisions to committee charters and organizational policies are also being reviewed to provide the flexibility needed to maintain continuity across BGN activities.

### **4.2 Executive Secretary for Domestic Names (Dr. Zahniser)**

See attached report.

### **4.3 Executive Secretary for Foreign Names (Marilyn W.)**

See attached report.

Marilyn W. presented the Executive Secretary for Foreign Names report on behalf of David D., who was unable to attend.

### **4.4 Special Committee on Communications (Marielle)**

Black presented the Special Committee on Communications report on behalf of Gaither. The Committee had not met since the previous DNC meeting. Work is focused on scripts for tutorial videos intended to assist the public with submitting geographic name proposals, and the Committee was awaiting outstanding comments on those materials.

#### **4.5 Staff (O'Donnell)**

See attached report.

O'Donnell highlighted a proposal arising from New Hampshire legislation to change the name of Little Haystack Mountain to Mount Kosciuszko, commemorating the Polish-born Revolutionary War officer Tadeusz Kosciuszko.

He also noted that several proposals remained pending because staff were awaiting recommendations from various State Names Authorities and Federal agencies. Staff were continuing outreach, including reengaging with authorities that had experienced staffing changes, to explain the review process and the importance of their recommendations to the DNC's decisions.

#### **4.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (Decker)**

Decker demonstrated several additions to the GNIS's public map interface, including a USGS shaded-relief layer, the 3D Hydrography Program service, Protected Areas Database of the United States (PAD-US) 4, and the new Cells layer that will replace the quadrangle index once fully functional.

Decker also demonstrated updates to the Antarctic Names Search application. Three Antarctic cave features are now publicly visible after it was determined that restrictions under the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act do not apply in Antarctica. She noted that New Zealand is expected to provide additional cave names for consideration.

Decker announced that she had been selected as the Cartographic Applied Research Section Chief within the National Geospatial Technical Operations Center. Her future role in GNIS had not yet been determined, but she expected to remain involved in GNIS research and modernization activities. Mackenzie Criscoe would continue supporting GNIS data maintenance.

### **5. Docket**

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

#### **Review List 455**

New name **Platte Spring Lake**, Nebraska

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote:        11 in favor  
               0 against  
               0 abstentions

**Review List 456**

New name **Tibbets Creek**, Nebraska

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote:        11 in favor  
               0 against  
               0 abstentions

**Review List 457**

New name **Eiseley Creek**, Nebraska

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote:        11 in favor  
               0 against  
               0 abstentions

**Review List 458**

New name **Moon Creek**, Wyoming and Montana

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the proposal citing a belief that there was no overriding need to apply a new name in a Federal wilderness, and the opposition from the Forest Service.

Vote:        11 in favor  
               0 against  
               0 abstentions

**Review List 461**

Change Spring Lake (FID [1447661](#)) to **Foy Lake**, Utah

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote:        11 in favor  
               0 against  
               0 abstentions

#### **Review List 462**

New name **Two Rivers**, Florida

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote:        10 in favor  
               0 against  
               1 abstention

Change Boca Chica Beach (FID [1330976](#)) to **Cyber Beach**, Texas

The chair invited staff to summarize recent developments concerning the proposal. Staff reported that several online campaigns have begun encouraging members of the public to submit comments opposing the proposal. As of the start of the meeting, the BGN Executive inbox had received approximately 2,780 comments in opposition and one comment in support. Staff noted that one campaign was associated with the South Texas Environmental Justice Network.

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the proposal citing the opposition from the Starbase City Council and Mayor; the Cameron County Commission; the Texas Geographic Names Committee; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; several State Representatives; and overwhelming local opposition; and citing the lack of a need to change a long standing name.

Vote:        11 in favor  
               0 against  
               0 abstentions

#### **Review List 463**

Change Coon Point (FID [1119242](#)) to **Raccoon Point**, Oregon

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote:        11 in favor

0 against  
0 abstentions

## 6. Other Business

Tischler announced a UNGEGN-UN-GGIM webinar scheduled for July 30 at 8:00 a.m. ET. The webinar will present the joint project's compendium of best practices for coordinating the work of national mapping agencies and national geographic names authorities, including examples of successful practices and perspectives from developing countries.

Zahniser proposed cancelling the August DNC meeting to allow staff to prepare presentation materials and other arrangements for the COGNA meeting. A motion was made to approve the cancellation, and the Committee agreed without objection.

## 7. Closing

The next Domestic Names Committee meeting will be held September 22, 2026, 2:00 p.m. ET at the Council on Geographic Naming Authorities Conference in Sacramento, CA and accessible via Teams. Chair Tischler thanked all participants for their time and adjourned the meeting.

(signed)

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Dr. Shellie Zahniser, Executive Secretary  
Domestic Names Committee

APPROVED  
(signed)

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Dr. Michael Tischler, Chair  
Domestic Names Committee

**Executive Secretary Report**  
**Domestic Names Committee Meeting**  
**July 9, 2026**

**Board Membership:**

Appointment package for vetting of the DOI members for the 2025-2027 term has been submitted. Once Assistant Secretary for Water and Science approves all nominations from Bureaus, full appointment package can be submitted for final approval by the Secretary of the Interior.

**Office Hours**

On 22 June, the DNC Executive Secretary hosted the monthly office hours with the State Naming Authorities and Advisors. Three States including AK, AZ, and NY attended, and the group discussion was focused on unique cases.

**BGN Volunteer Agreement**

Secretary Zahniser has been working with ACAN Secretary Payne to renew his volunteer agreement for the year.

**Introductory Meeting with Apple Maps**

On 18 June, the DNC Executive Secretary met with David Fogel from Apple Maps. The purpose of the meeting was a general introduction, and to discuss data inconsistencies with specific types of geographic features (collective features) in GNIS. Mr. Fogel summarized use case scenarios where a collective name of two summits is labeled only on one of the features, and causes confusion. Secretary Zahniser will be following up with GNIS data manager to discuss how these types of collective features might be represented more clearly in the database.

**UNGEGN Focus Group on Commercial and Commemorative Naming**

On 11 June, Secretary Zahniser attended the Focus Group meeting as a new member. The purpose of this meeting is to plan and develop recommendations to the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage on the specific topics of Commercial and Commemorative Names. Ten nations participated and discussed topics such as developing a definition for commemorative naming, commemorative naming conventions, and to provide comments on a draft UNGEGN policy for commemorative naming that will be presented to the Working Group at a later time. Various nations shared their requirements for commemorative naming and the group was asked to share good news highlights for commemorative name examples and note if any of them are connected to Sustainable Development Goals. It is interesting to note that many nations are looking at commemorative names that honor groups of individuals rather than a specific individual. The next meeting is scheduled for 18 August, 2026.



**United States Board on Geographic Names**

**885<sup>th</sup> Domestic Names Committee Meeting**

**BGN Executive Secretary for Foreign Names Report**

**July 9, 2026**

## **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN NAMES REPORT**

July 9, 2026

### **1) MEETINGS**

The next Foreign Names Committee (FNC) meeting (Meeting 426) is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2026. On the agenda thus far are a recommendation paper for Iceland, country policies for South Korea and Tunisia, and the annual update on Conventional names.

#### *Critical issues:*

Nothing significant to report.

### **2) OTHER BUSINESS**

The recent round of user-testing by FNC Staff, of the latest GNS dissemination system build in development, conducted in late June, unfortunately identified significant issues which will require redress as part of additional development. The timeline for deployment of such a reworked WebApp build will be determined at a future date.

As of July 2, 2026, GNDB holdings are now current with Edition 3, Update 25, of the Geopolitical Entities, Names, and Codes (GENC) Standard. As the Board is aware, due to various technical and resourcing issues, the NSG Standards Registry's GENC Entries Register remains out of date—still only current to Update 19, released in late June 2023. NGA's Office of Geography is now moving forward with a study on a potential alternative for hosting up-to-date GENC content. In the meantime, the latest GENC codes, as part of Edition 3, Update 25, can be found under the GENC/GEC crosswalk workbook on the GNS' reference page.

FNC Staff are looking forward to being hosted once again by UK colleagues from the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (PCGN) at their London office for the week-long Toponymic Exchange, scheduled for the week of September 14-18, 2026. This is a unique opportunity for collaboration with UK counterparts on a variety of geographic names standardization and romanization issues, allowing FNC Staff to bring to bear their expertise and further contribute to this critical partnership.

#### **Upcoming Meetings and Events** (listed in chronological order)

- The 300<sup>th</sup> BGN full board meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. EDT on July 21, 2026.
- The 426<sup>th</sup> Foreign Names Committee meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. EDT on September 8, 2026.

BGN/Domestic Names Committee Meeting 885  
July 9, 2026  
Staff Report

Reporting period: May 28, 2026 to June 26, 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      | Six State Meteor Crater | area              | Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>not accepted for consideration, because any crater structure here would be a subsurface geologic feature, not a surface topographic feature under the purview of the BGN</li></ul>                                                |
| new name      | Mount Faithful          | summit            | Colorado                                                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>not accepted for consideration, pending the proponent's statement of what they believe to be an "overriding need" to apply a new name in a wilderness under the <a href="#">Wilderness Area Geographic Names Policy</a></li></ul> |
| new name      | Mark Mountain           | summit            | Colorado                                                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>not accepted for consideration, pending the proponent's statement of what they believe to be an "overriding need" to apply a new name in a wilderness under the <a href="#">Wilderness Area Geographic Names Policy</a></li></ul> |
| new name      | Heron Lake              | reservoir         | Washington                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>accepted for consideration</li><li>naming for the bird seen at the lake</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                 |
| new name      | Patina Shan             | summit            | California                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>not accepted for consideration, pending the</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                             |

|             |                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                               |                                              | proponent's clarification of the feature's name and extent                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| name change | replace "Jewfish" with Goliath Grouper in nine feature names        | bar (1 feature), bay (3 features); cape (1 feature); channel (1 feature); gut (1 feature); island (1 feature); populated place [not incorporated] (1 feature) | Florida (8 features); California (1 feature) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>not accepted for consideration, pending clarification of reported local use and suitability of the proposed name for the California feature</li> <li>replacing "Jewfish" in the current names with the officially accepted name of the fish species due to the proponents statement that Jewfish is offensive</li> <li>in 2003, the DNC did not approve a proposal to change the name of <a href="#">Jewfish Creek</a> in the Florida Keys to Goliath Grouper Creek based on the opposition from the county government that cited a lack of support as well as overwhelming opposition to the change including from local Jewish community members and leaders</li> </ul> |
| new name    | Rivers Lake                                                         | reservoir                                                                                                                                                     | California                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>not accepted for consideration because the proponent previously proposed the name in reference to a living person, Philip Rivers who was an LA Chargers quarterback</li> <li>naming for Joan Rivers</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| name change | change <a href="#">Little Haystack Mountain</a> to Mount Kosciuszko | summit                                                                                                                                                        | New Hampshire                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>accepted for consideration</li> <li>see New Hampshire <a href="#">House Resolution 24</a> (2026)</li> <li>naming for Tadeusz Kosciuszko who served as a colonel in the Continental</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

|  |  |  |  |                                                                                                                                                      |
|--|--|--|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  | Army during the American Revolutionary War; and for consistency with other summits on Franconia Ridge named for the Marquis de Lafayette and Lincoln |
|--|--|--|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Revisit requests:

- none

Status change to pending proposals:

| Proposal type | Proposed name | GNIS feature type | State      | Status                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| new name      | Lake Doom     | reservoir         | Washington | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• withdrawn by proponent, it had not been added to a Quarterly Review List; they submitted Heron Lake instead</li> </ul> |

Inquiries received:

| Inquiry type             | Feature name                          | GNIS feature type | State         | Status                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| name history             | Upper Baker Pond and Lower Baker Pond | lake              | New Hampshire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TNM Help staff responded; no BGN-DNC records on the names</li> </ul> |
| proposal process inquiry | Red Island                            | island            | Texas         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• staff provided instructions</li> </ul>                               |
| proposal process inquiry | unknown                               | summit            | Alaska        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• staff provided instructions</li> </ul>                               |

Media requests received:

- none

State Name Authority/Advisor activity:

- DNC staff attended the following meetings
  - o 6/12/26 [Indiana Board of Geographic Names](#)
  - o 6/12/26 [Hawaii Board on Geographic Names](#)

- o 6/26/26 [California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names](#)
- o 6/26/26 [Oregon Geographic Names Board](#)

Other items:

- The DNC has not voted on a large number of proposals that have been on Quarterly Review Lists for over a year. These cases are still pending recommendations from Federal agencies and State Names Authorities/Advisors (and in some cases, local interested parties). DNC staff has been working with the interested parties to see when they would be able to share their recommendations. In some cases, a State Names Authority/Advisor is temporarily not operating and cannot make a recommendation. In some cases, there has been turnover in the local, State, or regional Federal agency offices so the DNC member has not been able to get input to make the official recommendation on behalf of the agency.
- The Executive Secretary spoke with David Fogel at Apple Maps.

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

Unless otherwise specified, in accordance with the BGN’s Policy 10: Tribal Geographic Names, a link to the Quarterly Review List containing each proposal was sent to all federally recognized Tribes, and to Tribal Historic Preservation Officers for which an email address was available. The Tribal authorities were given 60 days to comment on any proposal. If no response(s) were received regarding a proposal, it is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion.

Please note that if an interested party’s recommendation is recorded as “no opinion,” that reflects the response of the interested party. If an interested party did not respond at all, the recommendation is recorded as “no response.”

**Review List 455**

New name **Platte Spring Lake**, Nebraska

[41.173071, -96.316039](#)

|                             |                                                          |              |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Local government            | Sarpy County Commissioners                               | No objection |
| State Names Authority       | Nebraska State Names Authority                           | Support      |
| Federally recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response  |

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

The new name *Platte Spring Lake* is proposed for a one-acre lake in northwestern Sarpy County. The proposal was submitted on March 10, 2024 by Cole Potthoff, who has an Omaha, Nebraska mailing address and stated that his grandparents own the land that contains the feature. The lake is one of a cluster of six small lakes located west of the Platte River and east of the Elkhorn River. None of the other lakes have official names.

The proponent stated:

It is spring fed from the Platte River. It’s on my grandparents cabin property. We have been calling it that for around 2-3 years now ever since I came up with it.

The feature is currently labeled as “Platte Spring Lake” with a place marker on Google Maps and as a map label on some other online basemaps.

The Sarpy County Commissioners passed a resolution that stated “Sarpy County has no objection to the proposed name”.

The Nebraska State Names Authority (the Nebraska State Historical Society) supports the proposal, “applying U.S. Board on Geographic Names Principles, Policies, and Procedures,” stating:

This name has been in local use for several years, and while many other geographic features in Nebraska reflect an association by name with the Platte River, to date no lakes have used the name "Platte" in the state and the requested name is congruent with the use of the term "Platte" in the local area.

The local use of this name appears to be primarily the proponent’s use based on the proposal.

GNIS lists 32 features in Nebraska named “Platte,” primarily civil entities and features associated with the Platte River; none are lakes.

## Review List 456

New name **Tibbets Creek**, Nebraska

Mouth: [40.95261, -99.50013](#) / Source: [40.95231, -99.53852](#)

|                             |                                                          |             |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Local government            | Sumner Village Board                                     | Support     |
|                             | Dawson County Commissioners                              | Support     |
| State Names Authority       | Nebraska State Names Authority                           | Support     |
| Federally recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response |

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

The new name *Tibbets Creek* is proposed for a 3.2-mile-long stream in Dawson County. It flows through the Village of Sumner into the Wood River. The proposal was submitted on June 6, 2024 by Patricia Stevens, who lives nearby and has a Sumner, Nebraska mailing address.

The proponent reports that name commemorates Nathaniel Tibbets (b. ca. 1845), who established a 160-acre homestead along the stream in 1880. The proponent wrote:

This creek has been called Tibbets Creek by the townspeople forever. Passed down from generation to generation. I would just like a sign on our bridge [over the stream.]

The Sumner Village Board and the Dawson County Commissioners support the proposal without comment.

The Nebraska State Names Authority (the Nebraska State Historical Society) supports the proposal, “applying U.S. Board on Geographic Names Principles, Policies, and Procedures,” stating:

On June 30, 1880, Nathaniel Tibbets was granted a 160-acre land patent in Section 4, T11N R19W by the U.S. General Land Office under the 1862 Homestead Act. These 160 acres are located at the east end of the approximately 3.2-mile-long tributary, at its confluence with the Wood River. The Tibbets homestead predates the founding of the Village of Sumner by 10 years, and according to the proposal applicant, the name "Tibbets Creek" has been used locally since Tibbets lived there. A review of early Dawson County plat maps indicates that Nathaniel Tibbets no longer owned the land in Section 4 by 1904. However, the legacy of Tibbets' tenure in the area has persisted for nearly 150 years since he initially homesteaded the land.

GNIS does not list any geographic features in Nebraska that include “Tibbet” or “Tibbets.”

## Review List 457

New name **Eiseley Creek**, Nebraska

Mouth: [40.792932](#), [-96.723984](#) / Source: [40.783589](#), [-96.691313](#)

|                             |                                                          |             |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Local government            | City of Lincoln Mayor                                    | Support     |
|                             | Lancaster County Commissioners                           | Support     |
| State Names Authority       | Nebraska State Names Authority                           | Support     |
| Federally recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response |
| Other                       | Nebraska State Historical Society                        | Support*    |
|                             | Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department                  | Support*    |
|                             | Country Club Neighborhood Association                    | Support*    |
|                             | Indian Village Neighborhood Association                  | Support*    |
|                             | Irvingdale Neighborhood Association                      |             |
|                             | Loren Eiseley Society                                    |             |

\* provided by proponent

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

The new name *Eiseley Creek* is proposed for a 2.1-mile-long stream in the City of Lincoln in Lancaster County. It was submitted on September 24, 2024 by Tom Lynch, a member of the Loren Eiseley Society located in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The proponent wrote:

We are seeking to name it because it played an important role in the life of the nature writer Loren Eiseley [1907-1977], who grew up nearby and played along its banks as a young boy, developing his love of nature there. In Irvingdale Park, where the creek is most prominent, there is currently a commemorative bench, placed by the Irvingdale Neighborhood Association and Lincoln Parks and Recreation. Soon, there will also be a historical marker along the creek in this park, placed by the Nebraska Historical Society and sponsored and funded by the Loren Eiseley Society. Eiseley writes about this creek and the surrounding area in a number of his books, including “All the Strange Hours,” “The Night Country,” and “The Lost Notebooks of Loren Eiseley.”

In a brief biographical sketch, the proponent noted that Eiseley attended the University of Nebraska, where he majored in both English and Anthropology. During this time he wrote for and helped edit the then new literary journal “Prairie Schooner.” He moved on to the University of Pennsylvania, where he got his Ph.D. in Anthropology in 1937. He became a professor of Anthropology, spending most of his career at Penn. In addition to his professional writing, Eiseley also published 20 books of history of science, creative nonfiction, and poetry. He is widely acknowledged and globally recognized as an important contributor to the nature writing genre. Though he spent his adult life in Philadelphia, this stream from his childhood appears often in his writing. . . .

The Mayor of Lincoln and the Dawson County Commissioners support the proposal without comment.

The Nebraska State Names Authority (the Nebraska State Historical Society) supports the proposal, “applying U.S. Board on Geographic Names Principles, Policies, and Procedures,” stating:

Loren Eiseley's work in anthropology, education, philosophy, and, notably, natural sciences had a profound influence stemming from his youth spent in

the rural outskirts of Lincoln near the Irvingdale, Indian Village, and Country Club neighborhoods wandering creek banks and local caves. While the neighborhood Eiseley grew up in is now centrally located in urban Lincoln, the unnamed creek where he spent his childhood—the same creek that influenced pieces of his writing, still remains. The legacy of Eiseley is reflected throughout Lincoln, and beyond, in the form of a City of Lincoln library named after him, local educational curriculum to educate K-12 about Eiseley's legacy, a digital project charting Eiseley's experiences across Nebraska (<https://cdrhsites.unl.edu/eiseley/>), and more. Along this currently unnamed tributary in his former neighborhood, a commemorative bench and plaque, as well as a Nebraska State Historical Society historical marker, have also been placed in Eiseley's honor. Naming this tributary "Eiseley Creek" would further solidify the connection Eiseley had to this part of Lincoln, and the lifelong impact this area had on Eiseley.

The proponent submitted letters and emails (which noted the details provided above justifying the proposal) from:

- Nebraska State Historical Society
- Lincoln Parks and Recreation
- Country Club Neighborhood Association
- Indian Village Neighborhood Association
- Irvingdale Neighborhood Association
- The Loren Eiseley Society

GNIS does not list any geographic features that include “Eiseley.”

## Review List 458

New name **Moon Creek**, Wyoming and Montana  
(Custer-Gallatin National Forest / Shoshone National Forest / Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness)

Mouth: [45.00272, -109.51512](#) / Source: [45.03412, -109.53752](#)

|                             |                                                                           |             |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Local government            | Park County Commissioners [Wyoming]                                       | Opposed     |
|                             | Carbon County Commissioners [Montana]                                     | Opposed     |
| State Names Authority       | Wyoming Board on Geographic Names                                         | Support     |
|                             | Montana Geographic Names Advisor                                          | vacant      |
| Federal                     | U.S. Forest Service                                                       | Opposed     |
| Federally recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X                  | No response |
|                             | Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana [DNC staff | Opposed     |

|       |                                                                                  |               |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
|       | contacted as part of follow-up from Tribal outreach done by the Forest Service ] |               |
|       | Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation                           | No opinion*   |
|       | Other Tribes associated with Custer-Gallatin National Forest                     | No response*  |
| Other | Red Lodge Search and Rescue                                                      | Support**     |
|       | Beartooth Trails                                                                 | Support**     |
|       | Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Foundation (ABWF)                                  | No opinion*** |

\* shared by Forest Service

\*\* shared by proponent

\*\*\*reported by proponent

|   |                                   |                          |            |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
|   | 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 Moon Creek is proposed for an officially unnamed 3-mile-long tributary of Rock Creek that originates in Moon Lake in Carbon County, Montana and flows into Park County, Wyoming. The stream flows from Custer-Gallatin National Forest in Montana into Shoshone National Forest in Wyoming. Most of the stream lies within the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness in Montana. The proposal was initially submitted on July 26, 2024 by Glenn Borkenhagen, an individual with a mailing address in Cody, Wyoming.

The name *Moon Creek* in reported local use is proposed for an officially unnamed 3-mile-long stream that flows out of Moon Lake in the Custer-Gallatin National Forest and Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness in Carbon County, Montana, then flows southeast into Rock Creek in Shoshone National Forest in Park County, Wyoming. It was initially submitted on July 26, 2024 by Glenn Borkenhagen, an individual with a mailing address in Cody, Wyoming. He submitted the complete information for the proposal on November 26, 2024.

The proponent wrote:

This stream is called Moon Creek because it flows out of Moon Lake. . . .

Glacier Lake Trail, a popular hiking trail, more-or-less follows this stream for a ways at its start and a very nice timber bridge crosses this stream. Many hikers take advantage of this bridge to take photos or just look at the considerable amount of water flowing in the stream.

A common mistake is to believe this stream is Rock Creek, which is farther south. . . .

On 13 July 2024 I became aware that the proposed name does appear on Gaia GPS, a popular hiking app. Later I learned that Gaia GPS takes feature names from OpenStreetMap.org so possibly that is how they got the name.

The Moon Creek stream apparently was first entered to OpenStreetMap.org during January 2014. It has been updated once since, believed to have been during August 2020.

The proponent originally stated the following in response to the “overriding need” to name the feature in a Federal Wilderness under the [Wilderness Area Geographic Names Policy](#) (this Policy applies to features partially in a Federal Wilderness and also to names in local use):

This stream rises in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness but flows out of the wilderness area for its last half mile or so. As stated above, this stream is crossed by a significant bridge on the Glacier Lake Trail (outside the wilderness area), which gets quite a bit of use. This stream is a tributary of Rock Creek, and on 13 July 2024 it appeared to be flowing more water than Rock Creek above the confluence. [The DNC does not have any rules about stream names in relation to water flow and which tributary carries more water.]

As stated above, it is a common mistake to believe this stream is Rock Creek.

BGN-DNC staff noted that this did not provide a specific “overriding need” why the new name should be approved for this feature and asked the proponent to address the Policy again. The proponent followed up by saying that “having an official name for the stream will aid accurate and effective communication with and among emergency responders serving a popular recreational area.”

The proponent later wrote that he would like the DNC to consider the fact that the stream is currently named "Moon Creek" on the three leading outdoor apps for mobile phones (All Trails, Gaia, and OnX) and that all three of those apps draw information from OpenStreetMap.org, where the stream has been named Moon Creek since at least 2014.

The Chair of the Park County Commissioners wrote that they are “not in favor of the name change [sic].” The Carbon County Commissioner for District 3 (where the stream is located) wrote

I object to the change in name.

With everything happening, changing the name will only add to unnecessary confusion.

Please consider leaving it as is.

Staff replied, noting that the proposal was to make a local name official for Federal use, and asked if they would like to provide any additional comments supporting their recommendations. No responses were received.

The proponent provided letters supporting the proposal from [Beartooth Trails](#) and [Red Lodge Fire Rescue](#), and wrote:

Both of these letters agree with what I believe is justification for an exception to the BGN's wilderness policy - specifically, having an official name for the stream will aid accurate and effective communication with and among emergency responders serving a popular recreational area.

The proponent reported that he had corresponded with Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Foundation (ABWF) Board Secretary who stated that they would defer to Beartooth Trails.

The [Beartooth Trails](#) letter stated

It was recently brought to our attention that an effort is being made to recognize an unnamed creek in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness (ABW) in the Beartooth Mountains . . . Beartooth Trails believes the unnamed creek, which intersects the popular and heavily used Glacier Lake Trail. . . should be recognized as Moon Creek because of its headwaters at Moon Lake. Additionally, we believe that an exception to the Wilderness Names Policy is warranted due to the fact the Creek is crossed by such a well used trail, is near the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness boundary and because of safety concerns.

Our organization believes that assigning a name to the creek will help increase safety without compromising the wilderness ethic. Two members of our organization, Executive Director, Nick Gaddy, and Board Member, Jacob Cote, are volunteers with Red Lodge Search and Rescue. On August 1st, 2024 Red Lodge Search and Rescue was paged for a rescue of an injured hiker, “just past the bridge” on the Glacier Lake Trail, near the location of the unnamed Creek. The bridge of reference is the bridge that crosses the proposed Moon Creek. Luckily the injury was non life threatening, and the rescue was successful. The point is that establishing the name Moon Creek helps with communication of location, and helps hikers and trail users with orientation during recreation and emergencies.

The Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness is the sixth largest wilderness area in the contiguous United States. It is a wild area where untouched wilderness is easily sought. Naming this creek, which is so close to the edge of the wilderness boundary, and visited by so many, will not change that wildness.

Please consider this letter a letter supporting the exception of the Wilderness Names Policy, and the support of the naming of Moon Creek.

The DNC does not make exceptions to the [Wilderness Area Geographic Names Policy](#) based on nearness to a wilderness boundary or number of visitors to the part of a wilderness a feature is in.

The [Red Lodge Fire Rescue](#) letter included some of the same information as the Beartooth Trails letter and also stated:

The Glacier Lake Trail, Moon Lake Trail and Glacier Lake Road is frequented by many recreationalists both from the area and from all parts of the world. Trail users employ a wide variety of maps and apps to help them plan their trips and hikes. A quick search of the popular apps Gaia, OnX, and AllTrails shows that this creek already bears this name on their maps. We believe that designating this creek as Moon Creek [for official federal use] and therefore having a consistent name on all maps and software, including those used by recreationalist [sic] and rescuers, can help with public safety and the communication of important landmarks used in search and rescue operations. A creek with no official name will often be mistaken for other features, in this case Rock Creek which actually empties out of Glacier Lake, or will take on something more colloquially given. In either case, communication of empties location and orientation during recreation and emergencies can become confusing.

In this situation [the August 1, 2024 incident mentioned above], a hiker confidently directing rescuers to “the bridge over Moon Creek” would have helped with communication of location.

The [Montana Geographic Names Advisor](#) is not currently operating.

The [Wyoming Board on Geographic Names](#) (WBGN) supports the proposal and wrote “[t]he WBGN Reviewed the proposal and its justification for naming the feature and alertness area. The WBGN voted to recommend approval the name moon Creek and the vote was approved with one abstention.”

The U.S. Forest Service does not support the proposal:

The Forest consulted with our associated tribes on a proposal to name an unnamed creek “Moon Creek” in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area.

The proponent is seeking to name the unnamed creek “Moon Creek” citing the need to reduce confusion for recreationalists and first responders in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area. However, based on the information provided by our consulted Tribes and forest staff on the Custer Gallatin and

Shoshone National Forest, there is no support to name the unnamed creek at this time.

Additionally, per U.S. Board of Geographic Names Principles, Policies, and Procedures Domestic Geographic Names (Dec. 2016 ver. 2.3) policy wilderness designations are a modern invention, a fundamental characteristic of elemental wilderness is that the cultural overlay of civilization is absent. Placenames in a wilderness area might diminish the sense of discovery that those who visit ought to be able to experience. No wilderness area today is totally free of placenames and cultural artifacts, but a goal of Federal wilderness area administration is to minimize the impacts and traces of people. Congressionally designated wilderness areas are managed to preserve their unique natural, scenic, educational, scientific, and primitive values. Therefore the proposal does not meet the criteria and does not warrant an exception to Policy IV. Wilderness Area Geographic Names.

DNC staff asked if the need for the name cited by Beartooth Trails and Red Lodge Fire Rescue factored into the Forest Service's recommendation. The Regional geographic names liaison replied: "Per records from SAR [search and rescue] and first responders calls, the Forests find there is not enough concern for public safety to name the unnamed creek."

As a result of Forest Service outreach, the Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana's Tribal Historic Preservation Office had expressed interest in proposing a name for the stream because the name "Moon Creek" did not reflect the Blackfeet culture. Staff corresponded directly with the Tribe's Tribal Historic Preservation Office's Co-Director and Deputy THPO of Compliance and explained that the DNC would welcome a proposal from the Tribe to name this officially unnamed stream if they felt there was an overriding need to apply a name to the feature in a Federal Wilderness. The Deputy THPO replied:

Thank you for your thorough explanation of the Domestic Names Committee process and for outlining the relevant policies. We appreciate you, Shellie Zahniser, and Chris Hammond taking the time to provide such detailed guidance regarding the proposal and the considerations involved.

After reviewing the information and considering the current process requirements particularly the standards related to naming unnamed features within a federal wilderness area, the Blackfeet THPO will not be pursuing the naming of the stream flowing from Moon Lake at this time. Given the complexities and the threshold for demonstrating an overriding need, we believe it is appropriate to leave the creek unnamed for now.

We remain grateful for the opportunity to better understand the DNC process and appreciate your willingness to engage in meaningful dialogue regarding Indigenous place naming. We look forward to continued collaboration in the future where appropriate.

The Forest Service asked for input from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Their DNR CRPP Program Manager for the Tribe’s Department of Natural Resources Cultural Resources Protection Program replied that the Tribe “defers to the local tribes of Wyoming regarding the proposed name.”

## Review List 461

Change Spring Lake (FID [1447661](#)) to **Foy Lake**, Utah  
(Manti-La Sal National Forest)

[37.901786, -109.5100558](#)

|                             |                                                          |             |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Local government            | San Juan County Supervisors                              | No response |
| State Names Authority       | Utah Committee on Geographic Names                       | Support     |
| Federal                     | U.S. Forest Service [proponent]                          | Support     |
| Federally recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response |

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

This proposal is to change the name Spring Lake, in San Juan County in Manti-La Sal National Forest to *Foy Lake*. It was submitted on September 8, 2025 by Elizabeth Kanalley, the then-member of the DNC representing the Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service. She submitted it on behalf of Orlando Cortez who worked for the Manti-La Sal National Forest in the Monticello Ranger District.

The proponent provided the following answers:

- Why should the name be changed for Federal use?
  - o “This proposal seeks to change the name of Spring Lake, which locals do not use, to the one that is currently in widespread local usage, Foy Lake. The name Foy Lake is also in widespread use across a variety of state and various non-government fishing and recreation websites (Listed below) and maps.”
- What is the meaning and significance of this name?
  - o “The name ‘Foy’ is believed to honor Claude Foy [1914–1993], a former resident of nearby Monticello, Utah who had a hand in the construction of

the dam. More information below. No one in the Foy family initiated this name change proposal.”

- Why is the name you are proposing appropriate as a name change for this officially named feature?
  - o “The name, ‘Foy’ is used in association with this feature on several National databases dating as far back as the construction of the dam in 1960. GNIS lists Foy Reservoir as a variant of Spring Lake. The US Army Corps of Engineers’ National Dam Inventory lists the dam [as Foy Dam].”

The proponent’s stated interest in the name of this feature is “[t]o change the name of the reservoir to the one that is in local use.”

In response to the Name Changes Policy, the proponent stated that the name should be changed “[t]o align with a name in local use and by other government entities.”

In response to the Commemorative Names Policy, the proponent wrote that “there may be other people named Foy in the area, [but] the FS is submitting the proposal, not a member of the family.” They reiterated the information about Mr. Foy, presented above, to document his direct or long-term association with the feature and provided an [online obituary](#).

The proponent provided online references to Foy Lake:

- [San Juan Economic Development Visitor Services](#) (“This lake is also listed as Spring Lake on some maps, but the locals know it as Foy Lake, named in honor of Claude Foy, a local Monticello resident who used a Caterpillar D4 bulldozer to turn a beaver pond into the beauty you see today. He may have also used that same D4 to create Monticello Lake.”)
- [Fish Utah](#):
- [Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Fish Stocking Report](#) (listed as “Foy L”)
- [USACE National Dam Inventory](#) (“Foy [Dam]”)
- [Utah’s Canyon Country](#)

Published sources also record several variant names:

- Spring Lake (USGS maps since 1985)
- Fishpond Lake (Salem Westside Recreation Map, 1979/1996)
- Foy Reservoir (USACE list of dams and reservoirs, 1981)
- Lakes Fishpond (Manti–La Sal National Forest map, 1965)

The [Utah Committee on Geographic Names](#) supports the proposal:

The seven voting committee members unanimously voted in favor of this proposal. . . . [T]he U.S. Forest Service [proposed and] supports the proposal. . . initiated the name change to reconcile the official name with the

long-standing local and agency use. The proposal corrects what may have been a historical mapping discrepancy.

Pete Martinez [the Forest Service’s geospatial liaison for the Region] has regularly worked out of the Monticello office since around 2004, and he has only heard the lake referred to as Foy Lake. He also referenced an old sign that has “Foy Lake” on it as well.

## Review List 462

New name **Two Rivers**, Florida

[28.19, -82.224](#)

|                             |                                                          |              |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Local government            | Pasco County Commissioners                               | No objection |
|                             | Hillsborough County Commissioners                        | No response  |
| State Names Authority       | Florida State Names Advisor                              | No objection |
| Federally recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response  |

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

This proposal is to apply the new name *Two Rivers* to an unincorporated populated place located in Pasco County and Hillsborough County, Florida. It was submitted on October 28, 2025 by Kathryn Hopkinson a lawyer with Straley Robin Vericker, Attorneys at Law, of Tampa, Florida. She submitted it on behalf of Two Rivers North Community Development District, Two Rivers South Community Development District, Two Rivers East Community Development District, and Two Rivers West Community Development District (the Districts).

She stated that the firm represents the Districts as District Counsel and that the “Board of Supervisors for each of the Districts approved and authorized District Counsel to file the Proposal by Resolution.”

The feature consists of a single, contiguous, privately owned and managed master-planned development of about 6,000 acres and lies within areas currently in two ZIP Codes: 33541, with Zephyrhills designated by USPS as the “Recommended City Name”; and 33592, with Thonotosassa as the USPS name.

The proponent provided the following answers:

- Why does the officially unnamed geographic feature need an official name for Federal use??
  - o “For purposes of naming a Development Two Rivers, Florida.”
- What is the meaning and significance of this name?
  - o “Two Rivers is a development that is an economic anchor in the region.”
- Why is the name you are proposing appropriate for this officially unnamed geographic feature?
  - o “The name is appropriate due to it being one development.”

In follow-up correspondence with staff, the proponent explained that the name Two Rivers derives from the historically named Two Rivers Ranch, a privately held ranch that existed on the property since approximately 1932. The proponent stated that the ranch was named for “the two rivers converging on the property, the Hillsborough River and the Blackwater Creek.”

The proponent shared a letter from the U. S. Postal Service (USPS) responding to a request for a “ZIP Code Boundary Review.” The USPS District Manager wrote:

This is in response to your Request for ZIP Code Boundary Review [to consider] changing our ZIP Code boundary for [the Districts] served by Zephyrhills, 33541 and Thonotosassa, 33592 and/or changing municipal name from “Zephyrhills” and “Thonotosassa” to “Two Rivers” . . .

The Postal Service attempts to recognize county or municipal boundaries in the establishment of ZIP Codes but cannot adjust these boundaries with every annexation of unincorporated territory, nor based solely on customer preference. . . .

Unfortunately, “Two Rivers” is NOT recognized as a city on the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) as a “civil” or “populated place” in Florida and therefore consideration for a ZIP Code or changing of the city name from “Zephyrhills, Florida and Thonotosassa, Florida” to “Two Rivers, Florida” is not possible at this time.

When the city [sic] receives confirmation that “Two Rivers” has been added to the registry of Geographic Names, you can re-submit your request to add “Two Rivers” as an acceptable city name under Zephyrhills, 33541 and Thonotosassa, 33592.

The proponent explained that

This [ZIP Code] division causes confusion for residents and businesses, disrupts emergency response and government services, creates insurance classification inconsistencies, and results in addressing and navigation errors.

Compounding this issue is the physical design of the community: Two Rivers has limited access points, and certain areas will be gated. This controlled-access layout means that mail carriers and delivery personnel cannot freely navigate between sections of the development as they would in an open-grid neighborhood. When multiple ZIP Codes are overlaid on a single, gated master-planned community, the result is often inefficiency, mis-delivery, and unnecessary delays in mail and package delivery. A unified ZIP Code would help streamline postal routing and ensure consistency of service across the entire community footprint. . . .

A unified ZIP Code and official place name designation will support the operational needs of USPS, improve service reliability, and reflect the true identity of this master-planned community. In order to obtain a unified ZIP Code, [we] must obtain the name designation from the BGN of Two Rivers, Florida.

The Pasco County Commissioners have no objection to the proposal. The Hillsborough County Commissioners did not respond to a request for a recommendation.

The Florida State Names Advisor has no objection to the proposal.

The U.S. Postal Service will not comment on the proposal because they will later consider any request from the proponent to permit the name Two Rivers to be used as a “Alternate Last Line Name” for the two ZIP Codes or designate a new unified ZIP Code with the “Recommended City Name” Two Rivers.

Change Boca Chica Beach (FID [1330976](#)) to **Cyber Beach**, Texas  
(Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge [partly])

[25.97097](#), [-97.14733](#)

|                             |                                                          |             |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Local government            | Starbase City Council and Mayor                          | Opposed     |
|                             | Cameron County Commission                                | Opposed     |
| State Names Authority       | Texas Geographic Names Committee                         | Opposed     |
| Federal                     | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service                           | Opposed     |
|                             | National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration    | No opinion  |
| Federally recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response |

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

This proposal is to change the name of *Boca Chica Beach* in Cameron County to *Cyber Beach*. The proposal was submitted on November 25, 2024 by Josh Hazel who has a mailing address in Hattiesburg, Mississippi and who is part of a group called “Starship Enthusiasts” who gather at the beach in CyberTrucks to watch launches from the nearby SpaceX facility. The beach lies partly within the City of Starbase and on private land, Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge, and Boca Chica State Park.

The proponent wrote:

There is a group of enthusiasts who come down for the SpaceX launches and refer to the beach area where we all meet as *Cyber Beach*. While it is commonly referred to this by enthusiasts, we would love to have a formal declaration of this name as it is representative of the Rocket and Starship which launch just a few hundred yards away. . . . We are proposing [that Boca Chica Beach] be renamed “Cyber Beach” to commemorate the location where inter-planetary travel was started.

USGS topographic maps have shown the name Boca Chica Beach since 1936. The name applies to a stretch of beach running north from the Rio Grande to near the north end of Boca Chica Bay. The beach north of Boca Chica Bay has been labeled as Del Mar Beach on USGS maps since 1955. Local use of the names Boca Chica Beach and Del Mar Beach is ambiguous, and some sources apply the name Boca Chica Beach to the entire stretch of beach between the Rio Grande and Brazos Santiago Pass (the Brownsville Ship Channel).

The proponent initially wanted to rename only the part of Boca Chica Beach south of Texas State Route 4 where the group meets to watch SpaceX launches and leave the part north of Route 4 named as Boca Chica Beach. However, because there is no distinct geographic separation between the beach north and south of Texas State Route 4, the BGN DNC’s Principles do not allow renaming only part of Boca Chica Beach. After corresponding with staff and staff attempts to resolve the local use of Boca Chica Beach versus Del Mar Beach, the proponent agreed to proceed with a proposal to rename the entire Boca Chica Beach to Cyber Beach.

Staff asked the proponent to explain the significance of “Cyber” in the proposed name and he responded:

[“Cyber” is] a hat tip to the CyberTruck which is made from the same material as the SpaceX Starship. It's often likened to a “vehicle from Mars” which is the ultimate destination for the SpaceX Starship and the Starship is the dominating feature and activity for that area. Many references around Starship and the CyberTruck use the Cyber moniker just to infer the reference of out-of-this-world exploration or experiences and such. A large group of folks gather up on this section of the beach with CyberTrucks for the launches and other major Starship activities/announcements. . . .

Based on this response, staff asked the proponent to address the Commercial Names Policy. The proponent stated:

I have reviewed the Commercial Names Policy and can confirm the proposed name does not promote a commercial product or enterprise. The proposed name is related to the community around common interests. Additionally, the “Cyber” name is a generic term used in many enterprises and is not trademarked. Tesla uses the term in the name of their truck but as a single word (Cybertruck). Most of the common uses of Cyber are as a prefix to other terms (CyberGear, Cybersecurity, etc). The stand-alone term Cyber is not used by Tesla or SpaceX.

If this proposal is approved, the northern section of beach would continue to have the official Federal name Del Mar Beach, and the southern section would have the official Federal name Cyber Beach. No portion of the beach would have the official Federal name Boca Chica Beach.

The City Administrator of the City of Starbase wrote: “The City of Starbase does not support the name change from ‘Boca Chica Beach.’ We think that the current beach name is appropriate.”

The Cameron County Commissioners’ Court opposes the change. The County Judge wrote a letter stating:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input regarding the proposal to rename Boca Chica Beach. Based on local usage and historical context, Cameron County Commissioners’ Court recommends maintaining the long-standing name of Boca Chica Beach and not pursuing the proposed name of “Cyber Beach.” The name Boca Chica Beach has been used for generations and remains the term most commonly used by residents, and it is also the preferred naming choice of the City of Starbase.

In everyday conversation, residents frequently refer to the area known as Del Mar Beach, located just north of Boca Chica Beach and the Highway 4 exit, as Boca Chica Beach. As a result, relatively few residents use the official designation of Del Mar Beach. To promote clarity and consistency, we recommend considering renaming Del Mar Beach to Boca Chica Beach as well, reflecting the terminology most commonly used by the community.

Maintaining these established names helps preserve local heritage, reflects how residents have identified the area for generations, and provides consistency for the community and visitors alike.

The [Texas Geographic Names Committee](#) recommends that the change not be approved, writing:

The TGNC determined that the proposed name raises significant policy concerns, particularly with respect to the use of the term “Cyber.” The term is widely associated with enterprises, including the nearby SpaceX launch site and Tesla’s Cybertruck branding. The use of a term that is closely tied to identifiable corporate branding or potentially trademarked commercial interests is inconsistent with the policies and principles of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (USBGN). Geographic names that function as brand identifiers or promote private commercial interests are discouraged and generally considered inappropriate for official recognition.

Additionally, the committee noted the absence of local support for the proposed name change. No evidence was presented demonstrating support from local residents, community organizations, or elected officials within Cameron County. Of particular importance, the City Administrator for the City of Starbase, Texas, formally indicated that the city does not support changing the name of the feature from Boca Chica Beach. The lack of endorsement from local governmental authorities weighs heavily against approval of the proposal.

Boca Chica Beach is a well-established and historically recognized name that has longstanding usage in maps, governmental records, and public discourse. The committee found no compelling justification to replace the existing name, especially given the policy issues associated with the proposed alternative and the absence of demonstrated public benefit.

Based on the concerns regarding the use of a commercially associated or potentially trademarked term, the lack of support from local government, and the absence of broader community backing, the TGNC determined that the proposal does not meet the criteria required for approval.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “is taking an agency position of ‘no support’ for this renaming proposal.”

The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration reported no opinion about the proposal:

From the stakeholders our navigation manager spoke with, there was indifference to a name change to that feature and no operational concerns if a name change did happen.

## **Review List 463**

Change Coon Point (FID [1119242](#)) to **Raccoon Point**, Oregon  
[45.7065042, -122.7981566](#)

|                             |                                                          |              |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Local government            | Multnomah County                                         | No objection |
| State Names Authority       | Oregon Geographic Names Board                            | No objection |
| Federal                     | National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration    | Support      |
| Federally recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X | No response  |
| Other                       | ODFW                                                     | Support      |

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

This proposal is to change the name of Coon Point in Multnomah County to *Raccoon Point*. It was submitted on March 14, 2026 by Bruce Fisher, the [Oregon Geographic Names Board](#) (OGNB) President. The OGNB is based in Portland, Oregon.

The point is fully within the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). ODFW internally changed the name to Raccoon Point in 2017.

The proponent provided the following answers:

- Why should the name be changed for Federal use?
  - o “Because the word “Coon” is considered a derogatory term.” [note, the BGN Domestic Names Committee does not consider this term derogatory but recognizes that many people may find the term offensive or derogatory]
- What is the meaning and significance of this name?
  - o “Raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) are found in abundance on Sauvie Island where this feature is located.” [italics added]
- Why is the name you are proposing appropriate as a name change for this officially named feature?
  - o “The word Coon is also a contraction of the word Raccoon.”

The proponent’s stated interest in the name of this feature is because “[t]he State agency has already changed the offensive name internally.”

In response to the Name Changes Policy, the proponent gave the following reason for why the name should be changed:

“Oregon Bill 3532 was passed in June, 2025 to remove all offensive or derogatory names in Oregon.”

Oregon House Bill 3532 (HB3532) Section 1(2) reads:

The executive secretary of the Oregon Geographic Names Board shall:

- (a) Compile a list of geographic features including, but not limited to, mountains, buttes, gulleys, gulches, rivers and creeks in Oregon that bear offensive names; and
- (b) Begin a process of determining new names for the geographic features.

The bill defines “offensive” as “insulting and derogatory to any of Oregon’s nine federally recognized Indian tribes or to any race, nationality or ethnicity.” The bill states that the OGNB Executive Secretary

shall submit proposals to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names recommending names that are not offensive for all geographic features on the list compiled under subsection (2)(a) of this section no later than the date that is three years following the effective date of this 2025 Act.

The name was shown on USGS maps published in 1961 and 1990. The origin of the name is unknown and was likely a name found in local use at the time. The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) charts but does not label the feature.

The proponent reported that “[i]n 2017 the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife internally renamed the feature Raccoon Point and erected signs that identified the feature as Raccoon Point.” The proponent provided a letter from Mark Nebeker, the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area Manager, to the OGNB stating that “[t]he Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Sauvie Island Wildlife Area would like to inform you that the location name ‘Coon Point’ was renamed ‘Raccoon Point’ in February 2018.”

The OGNB is removing this name from their HB3532 list and will not be voting on the proposal given that ODFW has been using the proposed name since 2017.

NOAA “support[s] this proposal to bring federal use in line with established state use.”

GNIS does not record any features in Oregon that include “Raccoon” in their names. GNIS records 34 other features in Oregon that include “Coon” in their names as a single word; all of these are on the OGNB’s HB3532 list.