UNITED STATES BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

This Quarterly Review List presents names proposed for geographic features in the United States. The names are offered to (1) identify previously unnamed features, (2) provide official recognition to names in current local usage, (3) resolve conflicts in name spellings, applications, and local usage, or (4) change existing names. Any organization, agency, or person may indicate to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) their support or opposition to any name proposed herein by submitting written evidence documenting their position.

The names herein are official for use in Federal publications and on maps upon approval by the BGN. Only one name is official per geographic feature; however, a shortened version of an official name may be authorized, and these are identified by underlining. The use or omission of non-underlined words is optional.

Variant names and spellings discovered in researching a name are listed following the word “Not.” These may include names and spellings that formerly were official, historical names known to have been previously associated with the feature, names that conflict with current policies of the BGN, misspellings, and names misapplied to the subject of the proposal.

If a populated place is incorporated under the laws of its State, it is specified as such in parentheses after the feature designation. Populated places without such designations are not incorporated.

The information following each name indicates the submitting agency or person, the most recent base series map* for locating the feature, the reason for the proposal, and other pertinent background facts needed to assist the BGN in its decision process. Each paragraph also includes a link to available maps services showing the location of the feature. A copy of this Review List has also been posted to the BGN’s website at https://www.usgs.gov/us-board-on-geographic-names/domestic-names.

Comments on the name proposals may be sent to: Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names/Domestic Names Committee, 523 National Center, Reston, VA 20192-0523, or BGNEXEC@usgs.gov.

THE NAMES IN THIS REVIEW LIST MAY BE USED ONLY AFTER APPROVAL BY THE BGN

Notice regarding processing of name change proposals for features named Sq__.

Please note that this Quarterly Review List includes one or more proposals that have been submitted to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) to change a name that contains the word “Sq__”.

In response to the Department of the Interior Secretarial Order 3404 - *Declaring "S__" a Derogatory Term and Implementing Procedures to Remove the Term from Federal Usage*, the BGN’s consideration of these proposals has been suspended.

Effective January 24, 2022, all pending proposals to change an existing Sq__ name were transferred to a Task Force that was established in response to S.O. 3404. The BGN staff has ceased all research and will not conduct any additional outreach. In addition, and effective immediately, no new proposals to change Sq__ names will be accepted.

A public comment period was announced via a Federal Register Notice, whereby local governments, State Names Authorities, Federal land management agencies, and Tribal Governments were invited to submit comments on any pending Sq__ change proposal on this or any other Quarterly Review List to the Task Force. In addition, the Department of the Interior (DOI) conducted three listening sessions, which provided an opportunity for Tribes to comment on these proposals. The public and Tribal comment periods closed April 25, 2022.

Please direct any questions to DOI at Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov, or to the Chair of the Task Force at mtischler@usgs.gov.
**ALABAMA**

**Change Negro Bay to Lorde Bayou**: stream; 1.6 mi. long; heads 1.8 mi. NE of Grand Point at 30°22’43”N, 88°11’19”W, flows SW to enter Fowl River Bay 0.7 mi. ENE of Grand Point; named for Audre Lorde (1934-1992), African-American author and civil rights activist; Secs 4,30&8, T8S, R2W, St. Stephens Meridian; Mobile County, Alabama; 30°21’50”N, 88°11’52”W; USGS map - Heron Bay 1:24,000; Not: Negro Bay, Negro Bayou.  


Proposal: to change a name considered to be offensive  
Map: USGS Heron Bay 1:24,000  
Proponent: Miranda Patrick; Longmont, CO  
Administrative area: None  
Previous BGN Action: None  
Names associated with feature:  
GNIS: Negro Bay (FID 149424)  
Local Usage: None found  
Published: Negro Bay (Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 1895); Negro Bayou (USGS 1941, 1943, 1958, 1982, 2011, 2014, 2018; OCS 1856 to present; USACE 1921; Township and sectional map of Mobile County, 1895)  

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Negro Bayou, a 1.6-mile-long tributary of Fowl River Bay in Mobile County, to Lorde Bayou. The stream is partly within the Portersville Bay Wetlands Tract managed by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The proponent initially submitted the proposal to change a feature with the name Negro Bay to Lorde Bay. However, the BGN staff discovered that the GNIS entry for Negro Bay was added in 2003 during the Phase II collection from the 1895 Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. This is the only published source of the name and it was also a variant of the name Negro Bayou, which has appeared on Office of Coast Survey charts since at least 1856. The staff has determined that the two names likely refer to the same feature and so the entry for Negro Bay has been deleted from GNIS.

The proponent states “Negro is no longer a commonly used word in most of American society unless being used to talk about the past, mostly about times of slavery. It is now referred to as a more derogatory term. The name of ‘Negro Bay’ has become outdated. . . .” She states that Audre Lorde (1934-1992) was a “black female activist” and “a woman who fought for equality on many fronts.” Although Ms. Lorde had no known connection to Alabama or to the geographic feature in question, the proponent believes she deserves commemoration because “she fought for a change that, in my generation, has become one that we embraced. She fought for what America is known to stand for, everyone being equal and freedom to be that of whom they were born to be.” Audre Lorde was born in New York City and lived most of her life there. She described herself as “a black feminist lesbian mother poet” and wrote about social injustices and intersectional feminism.
The name **Negro Bayou** has been labeled on USGS maps since 1941; a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers map from 1921 also showed the name. It also appeared on the 1895 *Township and sectional map of Mobile County*.

**ALASKA**

**Change Chinaman Lagoon to Aurora Lagoon**: bay; approx. 550 acres; in the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge on the W shore of Pavlov Bay, 1.8 mi. W of Ivan Island; named for the northern lights (aurora borealis) which can be seen in Alaska; Tps54&53S, R18W, Seward Meridian; Aleutians East Borough, Alaska; 55°31’27”N, 161°41’45”W; USGS map - Port Moller C-6 1:63,360 (central point); Not: Chinaman Lagoon, Chinaman’s Lagoon. 

Proposal: to change a name considered to be offensive
Map: USGS Port Moller C-6 1:63,360 (central point)
Proponent: MaryAnn Colrud; Eagle River, AK
Administrative area: Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge / National Marine Fisheries
Service Steller Sea Lion Protection Areas / Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Marine Protected Area
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Chinaman Lagoon (FID 1418423)
Local Usage: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Chinaman Lagoon, a bay in Aleutians East Borough, to **Aurora Lagoon**. The proponent, a resident of the Anchorage area, states that the proposed name “signifies Alaska” and she “does not want a racist slur as a descriptive characteristic attached to [their] state.” The bay is on Pavlof Bay, west of Ivan Island and within the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge, the National Marine Fisheries Service Steller Sea Lion Protection Areas, and an Alaska Department of Fish and Game Marine Protected Area.

The origin of the current name is unknown. *The History and Ethnohistory of the Aleutians East Borough* (1999) reported on an account by area residents recorded in 1933 that Tom Williams, a local sea otter trapper who died in 1901 near Belkofski, “associated with a Chinese man, who had a camp near Chinaman’s Lagoon. When the man disappeared, Williams was seen wearing the man’s boots [and Williams] was shunned as a murderer. . .”
The name Chinaman Lagoon has been shown on USGS maps since 1953 and is listed in the Office of Coast Survey’s 1940 Geographic Names in the Coastal Areas of Alaska. According to Orth’s 1967 Dictionary of Alaska Place Names, the name was reported in local use by the USGS in 1929. The first published use of the name was in a 1929 National Geographic article, where it appears on a map and in a photo caption. Documents published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game since the 1970s refer to Chinaman Lagoon or Chinaman’s Lagoon.

Chinaman Lagoon is at a latitude that experiences auroras only during moderate to extreme geomagnetic storms, which have an average frequency of 600 to 1700 events per 11-year solar cycle.

Partition Peak: summit; elevation 5,195 ft.; in Tongass National Forest, on Baranof Island 4.5 mi. ESE of Cupola Peak; named because the range that contains the summit appears to partition Baranof Island; Sec 19, T56S, R66E, Copper River Meridian; City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska; 57°00’11”N, 134°59’15”W; USGS map - Sitka A-3 SW 1:24,000. https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=57.003131&p_longi=-134.987408

Proposal: new descriptive name for an unnamed feature
Map: USGS Sitka A-3 SW 1:24,000
Proponent: Ivan Reifenstuhl; Sitka, AK
Administrative area: Tongass National Forest
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: No record
Local Usage: None found
Published: None found

Case Summary: The new name Partition Peak is proposed for a 5,195-foot summit on Baranof Island in the City and Borough of Sitka. The summit is in Tongass National Forest and south of the highest point on Baranof Island, which does not have an official name.

The proponent recently climbed the summit with his father, which they believe was the first known ascent. They proposed the name because the summit is located in the highest part of Baranof Island which divides the island. Although the summit offers views to the east and west at a great distance, the proponent states that “to access one side of Baranof Island from the other you must cross the mighty massif partition.” He also wishes to name the summit because he believes it is the only one without a name in the highest part of the island, south of “Peak 5390” and “Mount Lacey.” These are both unofficial names (not in GNIS), the latter referring to a survey benchmark shown on USGS maps as “LACEY.” The National Geodetic Survey has no record of this benchmark. “Peak 5390” is also reportedly known as “Veniaminof Peak” and “Lacey Peak.”
ARIZONA

Change Chinde Point to Hózhó Point: cliff; approx. 200 ft. high; in Petrified Forest National Park 0.45 mi. NW of Kachina Point; the name means “beauty and harmony” in the Navajo language; Sec 33, T20N, R24E, Gila and Salt River Meridian; Apache County, Arizona; 35°05′15″N, 109°47′42″W; USGS map - Kachina Point 1:24,000; Not: Chinde Point. 

Proposal: to change a name considered inappropriate
Map: USGS Kachina Point 1:24,000
Proponent: Chris Mengel; Petrified Forest, AZ
Administrative area: Petrified Forest National Park
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Chinde Point (FID 2860)
Local Usage: Chinde Point (Petrified Forest National Park)

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Chinde Point, a cliff in Petrified Forest National Park (PEFO) in Apache County, to Hózhó Point. The cliff, located along the park road near the Painted Desert Visitor Center, has been the site of an overlook and picnic area since the 1960s.
The proponent, the Acting Superintendent of PEFO, states “The existing name of Chinde Point means ghost, poltergeist or evil spirit possession in the Dine Navajo language. Native American staff and the Navajo, Hopi, and Zuni Tribal Preservation Offices are in agreement that Chinde Point needs to be renamed.” (The word is spelled chindi in some Navajo sources. The Navajo Word of the Day website includes an entry for “chindi,” stating “It is widely held in Navajo tradition that ch’į́į́dii [chindi] leaves the body after death, taking all that was unbalanced and ‘bad’ from the individual.”) The proponent reports that “Hózhó means beauty all around, positive, well-being and harmony in the Dine Navajo language.”

The proponent further states that “NPS consulted with park staff and [Tribal representatives] for suggested new names. The park staff has determined that Hózhó Point is the recommended new name.” The proponent also reports that “chinde... may also be considered a swear word” and that PEFO staff “have received numerous comments and questions asking why the park has not changed the name.”

The name Chinde Point has appeared on USGS topographic maps since 1972 and on NPS maps and documents since at least 1967. The first published reference to the name was found in the 1962 hearings on the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations for 1963. It also appeared in a 1965 article in Desert magazine and in numerous geological and travel publications since the 1970s. In 1989, the Late Triassic dinosaur Chindesaurus bryansmalli was discovered from strata below Chinde Point and was named for the cliff.

The 1965 Desert magazine article, titled “Arizona’s Famous Spooks,” discussed the origin of the name of Chinde Mesa (BGN 1937), which lies 6.5 miles to the north and located within PEFO and the Navajo Indian Reservation. The article stated: “Visitors to the pleasant picnic area on Chinde Point should not be alarmed that chinde means ‘ghost’ in the Navajo tongue. The entire area got the name Chinde Mesa quite by accident. It seems that some years ago a geologist with a field-mapping expedition accidentally fell into some water nearby and went into a deserted hogan to change. Most hogans in Navajo country are abandoned after a death has occurred within, because they are feared to be haunted. But a party of Navajos who happened to ride up to the deserted hogan that particular day was totally unprepared for what it found. A naked geologist stepped from the darkened doorway to see who was coming. One glimpse of the pale white figure, and the Indians streaked away, shrieking, ‘Chinde! Chinde!’ The mapping crew figured it was a fitting name for the entire mesa, and Chinde Mesa it remains to this day.”

The 1960 edition of Will C. Barnes’ Arizona Place Names reports the same origin story, citing the PEFO superintendent at the time. However, prior to the 1937 BGN decision for Chinde Mesa (which was to establish that name and not Chin Lee Mesa), the postmaster at the nearby community of Chambers reported to the BGN that “at one time quite a few Indians died from an epidemic of some kind on this mesa, so it is named Chinde Mesa meaning devil and referring to the dead. A Navajo Indian today will not live or hardly go across this mesa... nearly everyone in these parts know Chinde means devil in the Navajo language.”

In a 2015 Global Advances in Health and Medicine article, a Navajo professor of nursing wrote “Hózhó is difficult to convey as it encompasses both a way of living and a state of being.
Wyman and Haile describe Hózhó as ‘everything that a Navajo thinks as good—that is good as opposed to evil, favorable to man as opposed to unfavorable or doubtful.’ It expresses for the Navajo such concepts as the words beauty, perfection, harmony, goodness, normality, success, wellbeing, blessedness, order, and ideal. Witherspoon also describes Hózhó as ‘everything that is positive, and it refers to an environment which is all inclusive.’ Hózhó reflects the process, the path, or journey by which an individual strives toward and attains this state of wellness. Thus, translating the complex meaning of Hózhó without reducing its expansive meaning is difficult.”

When asked about nearby Chinde Mesa (BGN 1937), the proponent replied that PFEO staff felt that because Chinde Mesa is mostly on the Navajo Indian Reservation, renaming it “would require significant additional consultations.”

Although some sources erroneously refer to the Upper Triassic Chinle Formation as the “Chinde Formation,” the words are unrelated. “Chinle” means “water outlet” and the formation is named for Chinle Valley located over 70 miles to the north.

The National Park Service recommends approval of the proposed change from Chinde Point to Hózhó Point.

**Change Squaw Tits to Isanaklesh Peaks**: summit; elevation 2,431 ft.; in the Bureau of Land Management’s Sonoran Desert National Monument, 9.6 mi. WNW of Lost Horse Peak; named for Isanaklesh, a female Apache deity whose name means Mother Earth; Secs 4&5, T7S, R2W, Gila and Salt River Meridian; Maricopa County, Arizona; 32°50’55”N, 112°28’34”W; USGS map - Big Horn 1:24,000; Not: Double Butte, Squaw Tits, Squaw Tits Peak, Twin Buttes.


Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
Map: USGS Big Horn 1:24,000
Proponent: Amanda Benton; Poughkeepsie, NY
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
  GNIS: Squaw Tits (FID 11758)
  Local Usage: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Squaw Tits, a 2,431-foot summit with two high points in Maricopa County, to Isanaklesh Peaks. The summit is located in Sonoran Desert National Monument, managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

The proponent objects to the name Squaw Tits as “offensive to both Native Americans and women.” The name Isanaklesh Peaks would refer to Isanaklesh, a powerful female Apache
deity whose name means Mother Earth ("Woman (isana) of Earth or Clay (klesh)"). According to Mescalero Apache tradition, the Sierra Blanca in southern New Mexico and east of the White Sands is the home of Isanaklesh. The proponent initially submitted the proposal as Isanaklesh but agreed to add the generic “Peaks.” She added that she would support any other replacement that would eliminate the offensive name.

The first recorded name for the summit is Double Butte, published in USGS Bulletin 730 in 1923 and in USGS Water-Supply Paper 499 in 1925. In 1940, the summit was called Twin Buttes in Arizona: A State Guide, part of the Writers Program series of the Work Projects Administration. Since 1951, the name Squaw Tits has been shown on USGS maps. USGS field notes from 1950 state that two residents confirmed the name Squaw Tit Peak on the Estrella 1:62,500 map, but this may refer to the nearby Squaw Tit (FID 11757), an approximately 3,900-foot summit that is the high point of the Sand Tank Mountains (see below). Notes from the 1970s reported that Squaw Tits was a “locally well known name with no known substitute.”

USGS Water-Supply Paper 499 published in 1925 referred to Squaw Tit Peak and Squawtit Peak, “which has an altitude of about 4,000 feet and is the highest point in the Sand Tank Mountains. . . On the north, east, and south it is bounded by precipitous cliffs. From the eastern face projects the peculiarly shaped pinnacle of rock to which the mountain owes its name.” This is Squaw Tit (FID 11757), not the summit in this proposal.

Granger’s 1983 Arizona Names reported the name of Squaw Tits (FID 11758) as Squaw Tits Peak (citing USGS Water-Supply Paper 499) and the name of Squaw Tit (FID 11757) as Squaw Tits. The name Squaw Tits is used in a 1980 Bureau of Land Management wilderness review, in a 1988 U.S. Department of Energy document, and in a 2004 Arizona Wilderness Coalition document. A 2013 East Valley Tribune [Phoenix area] article referred to “Squaw Breasts” as “peaks off Interstate 17. Listed on some maps by a more vulgar name.” It is unknown to which feature this referred.

CALIFORNIA

*** Note: the following proposal has been withdrawn in support of Risler Buttes (Review List 442)

Change Pickaninny Buttes to Alfalfa Buttes: summit; elevation 2,999 ft.; in the Lucerne Valley 4 mi. WSW of Cougar Buttes; named for early alfalfa farming in the area and in reference to Lucerne Valley, a name that derives from the French word for alfalfa; Sec 4, T4N, R1E, San Bernardino Meridian; San Bernardino County, California; 34°27'48"N, 116°53'00"W; USGS map - Lucerne Valley 1:24,000; Not: Hackletooth Buttes, Pickaninny Buttes.


Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
Map: USGS Lucerne Valley 1:24,000
Proponent: Christopher Nunn
Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Pickaninny Buttes in San Bernardino County to Alfalfa Buttes. The summit is located in the Lucerne Valley.

The proponent does not state in his application why he believes the name should be changed, although presumably, he objects to the term “pickaninny,” which is considered by many to be an offensive reference to a small child of African descent or a small child with dark skin.

The proposed name Alfalfa Buttes refers to the early history of alfalfa farming in the Lucerne Valley. In 1897, James Goulding and his family moved to the area, where he irrigated his land and successfully grew many crops, including abundant alfalfa. According to local history, it was suggested that Goulding should name the valley and he chose Lucerne Valley because “lucerne” is the French word for alfalfa. According to some accounts, the name Pickaninny Buttes may have derived from an attempt by African-Americans to settle in the Lucerne Valley around 1900.

The name Pickaninny Buttes has appeared on USGS maps since 1902. It appeared consistently in local publications since at least the early 1900s. In 1932, an article in The Atlantic Monthly used the name Hackletooth Buttes for the summit, along with Pickaninny Buttes. A 2012 article in the Victorville Daily Press reported that a former San Bernardino County Planning Commissioner and longtime Lucerne Valley resident stated that Pickaninny Buttes “hasn’t been so designated on any map since the 50s. . . What is now Cougar Buttes used to be Negro Buttes – maybe even worse before.” (Negro Butte is a separate summit east of Cougar Buttes that has appeared on USGS maps since 1902. Cougar Buttes was first labeled on USGS maps in 1971.)

Change To Kalon Creek to Doak Creek: stream; 4.1 mi. long; heads 0.2 mi. E of Mount Saint John at 38°26’11”N, 122°27’31”W, flows generally E to enter the Napa River 0.8 mi. SE of Oakville; named for David Perry Doak (1866-1921), a banker and industrialist who from 1917 to 1921 lived near the stream; Secs 19&30-28, T7N, R5W, Mount Diablo Meridian and Caymus Land Grant; Napa County, California; 38°25’59”N, 122°23’20”W; USGS map - Rutherford, 1:24,000; Not: Mt. St. John Creek, To Kalon Creek, To-Kalon Creek.


Proposal: to change a name to reflect local and historic use
Map: USGS Rutherford 1:24,000
Proponent: Constellation Brands, Inc.; Victor, NY
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: To Kalon Creek (BGN 2017)

Names associated with feature:
- GNIS: To Kalon Creek (FID 2787875)
- Local Usage: None found

Published:
- Doak Creek (California Department of Transportation, 1985, 2002; California Land Stewardship Institute, 2009; Napa County Resource Conservation District, 2011; Napa County GIS, 2016-2019; National Bridge Inventory, 2015; MS Thesis in Civil Engineering from California State University, Sacramento, 2018; Mt. St. John Creek (Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, 2003); To Kalon Creek (USGS 2018; Historic American Landscape Survey CA-139, 2018 [by proponent of To Kalon Creek]); To-Kalon Creek (Historic American Landscape Survey CA-139, 2018 [ibid.])

Case Summary:
This proposal is to change the name of To Kalon Creek, a 4.1-mile-long tributary of the Napa River in Napa County, to Doak Creek. The existing name was approved by the BGN in September 2017. The proposal to change the name was submitted by an attorney in Washington, DC on behalf of Constellation Brands, Inc., which objects to the use of “To Kalon,” a trademarked term that they own, in a geographic name, because they contend it infringes on their exclusive right to use the name. Constellation Brands has asked the BGN to revisit its 2017 decision and the BGN has agreed to do so. The request states in part that Constellation Brands, Inc. and Robert Mondavi Winery, which sells wine under the name “To Kalon,” did not consent to the name To Kalon Creek. They state also that the name in predominant local use for the stream is Doak Creek.

The name Doak Creek refers to David Perry Doak (1866-1921), a banker and industrialist who had a mansion built near the stream between 1917 to 1921. After some years of the property changing hands, it became the Carmelite House of Prayer for the Discalced Carmelite Friar Community in Oakville.

The name Doak Creek first appeared in a 1966 report by Thomas A. Price titled “Water Feature Place Names of Napa County --- creeks, rivers, reservoirs, etc.” This report, which was prepared for a geography class project, listed many place names in the Napa Valley area, including Doak Creek, but did not provide specific locations for the names, nor was any map included.

The stream has been labeled with other names in more recent documents. A 2003 map by the Napa County Stormwater Management Program labeled its watershed as “Mt. St. John Creek.” Two other publications by the Napa County Resource Conservation District use the name Doak Creek for two different streams; one is for the stream proposed here, and one for a stream to the south that other publications call “Yount Mill Creek.” Records of the California Route 29 bridge that crosses the stream used the name Doak Creek as early as 1985 and as recently as 2015, as did the California Land Stewardship Institute’s Fish Friendly Farming Environmental Certification Program in 2009. The watershed drained by the stream is referred to as “Doak Creek” by the Napa County GIS Department and by the Land Stewardship Institute (one map by the latter group uses “Doak Creek” to denote a larger watershed and it is unclear which stream would be named Doak Creek). Citing these conflicting names and applications, the
BGN staff determined that Doak Creek did not qualify as an official name for a specific stream, and as such, the stream was unnamed when To Kalon Creek was being considered.

In 2018, the proponent of the name To Kalon Creek authored a report for the Historic American Landscape Survey. The text of the report uses the name To-Kalon Creek for the stream, and the accompanying map labels it To Kalon Creek. This map applies the name Doak Creek to a different stream to the south. It also shows unofficial names for two other streams in the area: “Detert Creek” and “Stelling Creek,” both of which refer to local vineyards.

The proponents of the name Doak Creek do not recognize the name To Kalon Creek (BGN 2017) as valid because they believe it was proposed under false pretenses and that the BGN’s decision violated its principle of recognizing local use, as well as the Commercial Names Policy. They state “The stream in question has been referred to locally as ‘Doak Creek’ for more than fifty years (and likely far longer). . . In contrast, there is no evidence of anyone ever using the name ‘To Kalon Creek’ to refer to the subject stream.” (Since the 2017 BGN decision, the name To Kalon Creek has been applied to USGS topographic maps and is also in the 2018 Historic American Landscape Survey CA-139 [compiled by the To Kalon Creek proponent].) The proponents of Doak Creek point to Mr. Doak’s “significant impact on the local area,” including acquiring land around Oakville in 1911 “to create a massive agricultural manor.” Doak planted cherry orchards on some of this land, and “it is through that prime agricultural land that much of ‘Doak Creek’ presently flows.” The Doak Mansion is now the Carmelite House of Prayer.

The proponents also state that the name Doak Creek “would not promote or suggest a commercial use.” They state “There was a clear commercial motive behind the proposal to adopt ‘To Kalon Creek.’ With ‘Doak Creek,’ however, there is no commercial concern. Constellation is not aware of any commercial use of the name ‘Doak’ as a trademark, and a search of the records of the U.S. Trademark Office reveals that the only existing DOAK trademark registration is for use with clothing put out or sponsored by Florida State University, which plays college football at ‘Doak Campbell Stadium’ in Tallahassee, Florida, more than 2,500 miles away from Oakville.”

The proponent of To Kalon Creek has since submitted a new proposal to apply the name Doak Creek (q.v.) to a tributary of the main stream.

**Doak Creek**: stream; 1.6 mi. long; heads 0.5 mi. ESE of Campbell Flat at 38°25’25”N, 122°25’32”W, flows E then NE to enter To Kalon Creek 0.3 mi. S of Oakville; named for David Perry Doak (1866-1921), a banker and industrialist who had a mansion built near the stream between 1917 and 1921; Sec 28, T7N, R5W, Mount Diablo Meridian and Caymus Land Grant; Napa County, California; 38°25’57”N, 122°24’09”W; USGS map - Rutherford 1:24,000.


Proposal: to make official a name in local use
Map: USGS Rutherford 1:24,000
Proponent: Graeme MacDonald; Oakville, CA
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
  GNIS: No record
  Local Usage: Doak Creek (proponent and neighbors)
  Published: Doak Creek (Historic American Landscapes Survey CA-139, 2018 [by proponent])

Case Summary: The new name Doak Creek is proposed for a 1.6-mile-long tributary of To Kalon Creek near Oakville in Napa County. The name would commemorate David Perry Doak (1866-1921), a banker and industrialist who had a mansion built near the stream between 1917 and 1921. Mr. Doak moved into the mansion a few months before he died.

Constellation Brands, Inc. has submitted a proposal to change the name of To Kalon Creek (BGN 2017) to Doak Creek (q.v.), stating that this name was already in local use, and citing Napa County documents and other local evidence.

The proponent of this proposal states “The Doak Creek name was previously misapplied to multiple unnamed streams in the area including To Kalon Creek located approximately 0.5 miles to the north and an unnamed stream (locally known as Yount Mill Creek or Stelling Creek) located approximately 0.6 miles to the south.”

Lundbar Creek: stream; 1.7 mi. long; heads 2.5 mi. N of Clapp Gulch at 40°44’12”N, 124°09’23”W, flows NW into Martin Slough 1.8 mi. W of Bob Hill Gulch; the name honors two historical families of the area, specifically Fred Lundblade Sr. (1891-1969) and Charles R. Barnum (1900-1953); Humboldt County, California; T4N, R1W, Humboldt Meridian; 40°45’23”N, 124°10’19”W; USGS map - Eureka 1:24,000.


Proposal: new commemorative name for an unnamed feature
Map: USGS Eureka 1:24,000
Proponent: Miles Slattery, Eureka, CA
Administrative area:
  Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
  GNIS: None found
  Local Usage: None found
  Published: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to apply the new commemorative name Lundbar Creek to an approximately 1.7-mile-long tributary of Martin Slough in Humboldt County. The stream flows through Eureka Municipal Golf Course in the City of Eureka. This proposal was submitted by the City Community Services Director as a counterproposal for Dog Slobber.
Creek (Review List 435). The city government does not believe the latter name is appropriate for the stream.

The new name honors two historical families of the area, specifically Fred Lundblade Sr. (1891-1969) and Charles R. Barnum (1900-1953), who according to the proponent made significant contributions to the community. Mr. Lundblade began his career in Eureka in 1910 with a bicycle repair and sales shop. He expanded into selling motorcycles and then ownership of car and truck dealerships in the area. He later ventured into the timber business, and finally into real estate development. Mr. Barnum was also involved in the timber business, was a U.S. Navy veteran, a former chairman of the Humboldt County Republican Central Committee, and a member of the California Forest Practices committee and Humboldt State College Advisory Board. He spent some time working for the Humboldt Times newspaper and was also very interested in local history. He was active with the Humboldt County Historical Society, which is now located in the former home of Barnum’s widow, Helen Wells Barnum. The Charles R. Barnum Memorial Bridge was formally dedicated in Southern Humboldt County 1964.

Both families donated the property now occupied by the Eureka Municipal Golf Course to the City of Eureka in 1957. The adjacent residential community is named Lundbar Hills and includes Lundblade Drive and Lundbar Hills Park.

Change Squaw Tank to Paac Kūvūhū'k: reservoir; 0.1 acre; in Joshua Tree National Park at the W end of the Hexie Mountains, 1 mi. SE of Malapai Hill; the name reportedly is a Serrano word meaning “watering hole”; Sec 7, T3S, R9E, San Bernardino Meridian; Riverside County, California; 33°55’45”N, 116°04’31”W; USGS map - Malapai Hill 1:24,000; Not: Squaw Tank.  

Proposal: to change a name considered offensive  
Map: USGS Malapai Hill, 1:24,000  
Proponent: David Smith; Twentynine Palms, CA  
Administrative area: Joshua Tree National Park  
Previous BGN Action: None  
Names associated with feature:  
GNIS: Squaw Tank (FID 249845)  
Local Usage: Squaw Tank (Joshua Tree National Park)  
Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Squaw Tank, a small reservoir at the western end of the Hexie Mountains in Joshua Tree National Park (JOTR), to Paac Kūvįhį’k. The reservoir is formed by a small concrete dam at the entrance to a natural rock bowl.

The proponent, who serves as the Superintendent of JOTR, states that “squaw is an offensive and vulgar slur” and that the name Squaw Tank is “an out-dated and derogatory name which was given to the location by Western settlers. Renaming the feature would ‘accurately and respectfully reflect indigenous presence.’” He reports that the name Paac Kūvįhį’k is a Serrano word meaning “watering hole” and that the Serrano people were indigenous to the area. Furthermore, he has found no documentation of any indigenous name for the feature. “Paac” means “water” in Serrano, but the etymology of Kūvįhį’k was not provided by the proponent. The last native Serrano language speaker died in 2002, but groups have continued to teach the language. Serrano peoples are currently members of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, and the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians.

The proponent reports that the name Paac Kūvįhį’k was suggested by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians after park management consulted with the fifteen Native American communities traditionally associated with JOTR. He states that these communities “agreed that the historic name used for the location was vulgar, disrespectful, and inappropriate and warranted remediation.”

The name Squaw Tank has appeared on USGS topographic maps since 1944, but was not shown on the most recent edition of the USTopo map, nor is it recorded in the National Hydrography Dataset. The name was mentioned in a 1995 JOTR Backcountry Wilderness and Management Plan, and in a 1975 brochure accompanying the park’s self-guided geologic driving tour. Squaw Tank is a popular stop on the tour and is referenced on many California hiking and travel websites. A sign at the parking area for the stop reads “Squaw Tank Access” and the 4.2-mile-long Squaw Tank Trail heads northwest from the parking area.

The dam that forms Squaw Tank was likely built in the late 1800s or early 1900s by ranchers to catch runoff and rainwater to water cattle. Native Americans may have also used these sites as water sources. They also hollowed out mortars in the rocks around Squaw Tank for grinding seeds and other food.

**COLORADO**

**Cimarron Peak**: summit; elevation 7,655 ft.; located 0.7 mi. NW of Iowa Gulch, 2.3 mi. NE of Doublehead Mountain; the name refers to the Spanish word “cimarrón” meaning “wild” or “untamed”; Jefferson County, Colorado; Sec 28, T5S, R70W, Sixth Principal Meridian; 39°35’15”N, 105°13’59”W; USGS map - Indian Hills 1:24,000. [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=39.587447&p_longi=-105.232971](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=39.587447&p_longi=-105.232971)

Proposal: new name for unnamed feature

Map: USGS map - Indian Hills 1:24,000
Proponent: Damien Davis; Evergreen, CO
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
   GNIS: None found
   Local Usage: None found
Published: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to apply the new name Cimarron Peak to a 7,655-foot summit located southwest of Denver in Jefferson County. The feature is located partially on the proponent’s property. The new name refers to the Spanish word “cimarrón” meaning “wild” or “untamed”.

The Concise Dictionary of English Etymology, published in 1993, defines the word as “wild, unruly, lit. living in the mountain-tops” and also “was an everyday phrase for a fugitive slave hidden in the mountains, in Cuba, about 1846.” Volume 2 of the Encyclopedia of African American History, 1619-1895 states it was used by European colonists to describe runaway African slaves in the Caribbean. Cimarron is sometimes used synonymously with Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, or to describe wild, feral horses.

GNIS lists 38 features in Colorado with the word “Cimarron” in their names, none within Jefferson County.

*** Note: the following proposal has been withdrawn in support of the name Clay Creek (Review List 439)

Change to Negro Creek to Hops Creek: stream; 9 mi. long; heads on Bureau of Land Management land, 2.4 mi. NW of Bebee Mesa, flows SE to enter Tongue Creek 2.2 mi. SW of Orchard City; named for Colorado’s beer brewing industry; Tps14&13S, Rgs95&96W, Sixth Principal Meridian; Delta County, Colorado; 38°48’25”N, 108°00’08”W; USGS map - North Delta 1:24000 (mouth); Not: Negro Creek, Nigger Creek.

Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
Map: USGS North Delta 1:24000 (mouth)
Proponent: Amanda Cadorette; CO
Administrative area: Bureau of Land Management land
Previous BGN Action: Negro Creek (BGN 1966)
Names associated with feature:
   GNIS: Negro Creek (FID 201768)
   Local Usage: None found
Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Negro Creek, a nine-mile-long tributary of Tongue Creek in Delta County, to Hops Creek. The stream is located predominantly on Bureau of Land Management land. The stream flows east of Negro Mesa; no proposal to change the name of this summit has been received.

The proponent objects to the “racial slur” in the current name and proposes a name that refers to Colorado’s beer brewing industry.

The name Negro Creek has been shown on USGS maps since 1962. Army Map Service maps published prior to 1976 showed the pejorative form of the name. The pejorative form dates to at least 1885 when it was mentioned in an article in *The Delta Chief*. This name was used locally and on U.S. Forest Service maps until 1966, when the BGN voted to change it to Negro Creek “to conform with the Board’s policy on derogatory names” and also to correct the application of the name. The name Negro Creek is used by many Federal agencies, the Colorado Water Court, and the Western Slope Conservation Center.

GNIS lists another stream named Negro Creek 27 miles northeast in Mesa County.

The proponent of this change has also proposed that Negro Draw in Montezuma County be changed to Hops Draw (q.v.).

**Change to Negro Draw to Hops Draw:** valley; 0.8 mi. long; in San Juan National Forest, heads 3 mi. ESE of Drift Fence Spring at 37°35’16”N, 108°11’07”W, trends SSE to open onto the valley of the Delores River; named for Colorado’s beer brewing industry; Secs 9&4, T38N, R12W, New Mexico Meridian; Montezuma County, Colorado; 37°34’36”N, 108°10’54”W; USGS map - Wallace Ranch 1:24,000; Not: Negro Draw.

Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
Map: USGS Wallace Ranch 1:24,000
Proponent: Amanda Cadorette; CO
Administrative area: San Juan National Forest
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Negro Draw (FID 176969)
Local Usage: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Negro Draw, a 0.8-mile-long valley in Montezuma County, to Hops Draw. The valley is located in San Juan National Forest and opens onto the valley of the Delores River.

The proponent objects to the “racial slur” in the current name and proposes a name that refers to Colorado’s beer brewing industry.
The name **Negro Draw** has been labeled on USGS maps since 1963 and is mentioned in a 2018 Colorado State University Colorado Natural Heritage Program document. No information about the origin of the name could be found.

**Change Redskin Mountain to Mount Jerome:** summit; elevation 8,783 ft.; in Pike and San Isabel National Forests 3.4 mi. NNE of The Castle, 3.1 mi. WSW of Baldy Peak; named for Irene Jerome Hood (1858-1945), an artist and photographer who lived in nearby community of Buffalo Creek; Secs 17,18,7&8, T8S, R71W, Sixth Principal Meridian; Jefferson County, Colorado; 39°21′31″N, 105°21′49″W; USGS map - Green Mountain 1:24,000; Not: Redskin Mountain.


Proposal: to change a name considered offensive and in commemoration

Map: USGS Green Mountain 1:24,000

Proponent: Sarah Chandler; Littleton, CO

Administrative area: Pike and San Isabel National Forests

Previous BGN Action: None

Names associated with feature:

GNIS: Redskin Mountain (FID 183534)

Local Usage: None found


Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Redskin Mountain, an 8,783-foot summit in Pike and San Isabel National Forests in Jefferson County, to Mount Jerome. This proponent has also proposed changing the name of nearby Redskin Creek to Ute Creek (Review List 435). She states, “The name ‘Redskin’ is racist and offensive and should be removed from all geographic features.”

The proposed name would commemorate Irene Jerome Hood (1858-1945), an artist and photographer who lived in nearby community of Buffalo Creek. She published at least six books of her artwork under her maiden name; her watercolors and photographs highlighted the geographic features and wildflowers of Colorado. She also photographed the lives of families and women. In 1982, the Colorado Historical Society published a booklet titled *Irene Jerome Hood: A Victorian Woman and Her Art*. The proponent adds “Given the era she lived in, she was unable to achieve the level of recognition she deserved. Renaming the mountain ‘Mount Jerome,’ after the name she published under, would give her some recognition and would honor someone who lived in and loved the area.”

The name Redskin Mountain has been labeled on USGS topographic maps since 1954 and appears on a current Jefferson County map. Redskin Creek is located less than a mile south of the summit.
*** Note: the following proposal has been withdrawn in favor of Yansing Gulch (Review List 446)

**Change Chinaman Gulch to Trout Creek Gulch:** valley; 1.5 mi. long; on Bureau of Land Management land, heads 2 mi. NW of Bald Mountain at 38°47’56”N, 106°03’43”W, trends NW to open onto the valley of Trout Creek 1.3 mi. E of Johnson Village; the name is associated with nearby Trout Creek; Secs 26-25, T14S, R78W, Sixth Principal Meridian; Chaffee County, Colorado; 38°48’34”N, 106°04’56”W; USGS map - Buena Vista East 1:24,000; Not: Chinaman Gulch.


Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
Map: USGS Buena Vista East 1:24,000
Proponent: Kim Twombly
Administrative area: Bureau of Land Management
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Chinaman Gulch (FID 196664)
Local Usage: Chinaman Gulch, Chinamen’s Gulch, Chinamen Gulch, Chinamens Gulch (offroad and 4x4 internet forums)
Published: Chinaman Gulch (USGS 1982, 1994, 2011, 2013, 2016; Bureau of Land Management 2018; Chaffee County Times, 2018); Chinaman’s Gulch (Bureau of Land Management, 2018; Chaffee County Sheriff’s Office, 2016); Chinamen Gulch (Bureau of Land Management, 2018; Stay The Trail Education & Stewardship Alliance map, 2018; Chaffee County Times, 2018)

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Chinaman Gulch, a 1.5-mile-long valley in Chaffee County, to Trout Creek Gulch. The proponent states “the existing name is racially insensitive. . . and petition[s] to change name to same as the nearby river.” Trout Creek does not flow through Chinaman Gulch, but the valley opens onto the unnamed valley of Trout Creek.

The name Chinaman Gulch has appeared on USGS maps since 1982. The valley is the location of the popular Chinaman Gulch off-road vehicle (ORV) trail on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands. A 2018 BLM environmental assessment of the location used the names Chinaman Gulch, Chinaman’s Gulch, and Chinamen Gulch. A 2019 ORV map from the Stay The Trail Education & Stewardship Alliance uses the name Chinamen Gulch.

The origin of the name Chinaman Gulch has not been determined. A section of the Middle Fork South Platte River near Alma, 33 miles to the north, has been referred to as Chinaman’s Gulch or Chinamen’s Gulch because of the many Chinese miners living there in the 1800s. This feature is not recorded in GNIS. Chinamans Canyon is located 130 miles to the southeast in Las Animas County.
**CONNECTICUT**

**Change Negro Hill Brook to Freeman Hill Brook**: stream; 6 mi. long; heads in the Town of Burlington 1.1 mi. SSW of Johnnycake Mountain at 41°43’59”N, 72°59’33”W, flows generally SE through the City of Bristol into Copper Mine Brook; named for the Freeman family, specifically Jane (1761-1833) and Amos Freeman (?-1822), who owned land near the stream; Hartford County, Connecticut; 41°42’19”N, 72°55’07”W; USGS map - Bristol 1:24,000; Not: Falls Brook, Negro Hill Brook, Nigger Hill Brook, South Pond Brook.


Proposal: to change a name considered offensive

Map: USGS Bristol 1:24,000

Proponent: Thomas Rubino; Harwinton, CT

Administrative area: None

Previous BGN Action: None

Names associated with feature:

GNIS: Negro Hill Brook (FID 209205)

Local Usage: Falls Brook (local blogger and hiker 2014)


Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Negro Hill Brook, a six-mile-long tributary of Copper Mine Brook, to Freeman Hill Brook. The stream flows through the City of Bristol and the Town of Burlington in Hartford County.

The proponent states “the existing name is considered offensive” and that it appears to refer to a community of free African-Americans who lived in Burlington around a summit near the source of the stream. The proposed name would commemorate the Freeman family, who owned land and lived in the area for several generations. According to history compiled by the proponent, “‘Uncle’ Amos (?-1822) and ‘Aunt’ Jenny (Jane) Freeman (1761-1833) are the best attested African-Americans living in early Burlington. They are mentioned in the census and land records and they’re noted as being ‘Members of the Church’ and ‘of Good Character’ (Hart, 1871). Amos buys land on Negro Hill from Timothy Mix Junior in 1791, and stays on it for thirty years. While it is likely that Amos and Jenny are the namesake of the hill, and the brook, it’s also possible that some of their contemporaries are the source of the name.”

The proponent also refers to other members of the Freeman family in the area, including Cuff (1730?-1810?) and Phebe Freeman (1730?-1811); their son Peter Freeman (1754-1827), who along with his father enlisted in New Haven and served in the Battles of Ridgefield and Sag Harbor as well as the Yorktown Campaign.
In April 2019, the Bristol City Council and the Burlington Town Board of Selectmen voted to support a proposal to change the name of Negro Hill Brook to “Pigeon Hill Brook” and to submit the change to the BGN; however, this proposal was never received. “Pigeon Hill” is an unofficial name of a summit near the stream in the Harry C. Barnes Memorial Nature Center (managed by the Environment Learning Centers of Connecticut). This name refers to a historical roosting site for the now-extinct passenger pigeons. Several online sources and geocache descriptions refer to Pigeon Hill, but its exact location is unknown. After the proponent presented information about the Freeman family and the history of “Negro Hill,” the city council and town selectmen voted to endorse the name Freeman Hill Brook.

The name Negro Hill Brook has been shown on USGS maps since 1953; an earlier 1946 USGS map used the pejorative form of the name. The earliest published name for the stream is South Pond Brook from the 1855 Smith’s Map of Hartford Connecticut. Falls Brook appears to be another early name for the stream, as published in the 1922 and 1926 Biennial Report of the State Board of Fisheries and Game and mentioned in “Some Burlington, Connecticut Articles of the Past Gathered Together Volume 1” (Alderman, 1991), which annotated and expanded the Town of Burlington section from the 1976 volume Connecticut Place Names. In 2014, a local blogger and hiker reported that “the original (and longstanding) name of the stream here is Negro Hill Brook. The name is still retained here and there in Burlington, but it is being phased out. . . The name of the brook now is Falls Brook.” Falls Brook Road runs along the stream in the City of Bristol.

Connecticut Place Names [ibid. reported that Negro Hill Brook “flows SE into Mine Bk. . . named Nigger Brook on [the 1946 USGS map]” and that “Nigger Hill” or “Negro Hill” is “S of Johnsoncake Mtn. c. 1000”’’ and that Negro Hill Brook “flows from its slopes.”

The stream flows through the Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area, managed by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. A 2016 trail map for the area labels Negro Hill Brook as well as a tributary of it as East Negro Hill Brook (the latter name is not in GNIS or on any Federal maps). The stream in question also flows through Harry C. Barnes Memorial Nature Center, operated by the Environment Learning Centers of Connecticut. The trail map labels the stream as simply “Brook.”

In addition to the city and town, the proposal for Freeman Hill Brook is also supported by the Executive Director of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (includes City of Bristol); the Director of the Archaeology Laboratory for African and African Diaspora Studies at Central Connecticut State University; the Executive Director of the Environment Learning Centers of Connecticut; and the Whigville Preservation Group.

There is no proposal to name or rename “Negro Hill” or “Pigeon Hill.”
GEORGIA

**Coker Creek**: stream; 2.3 mi. long; heads 2.9 mi. SW of Garrison Pond at 34°21′31″N, 83°24′39″W, flows generally S to enter Carlan Creek 2.4 mi. ENE of Turk Lake; the name is associated with East Coker Road; Banks County, Georgia; 34°19′48″N, 83°24′21″W; USGS map - Homer 1:24,000.

Mouth: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=34.330061&p_longi=-83.40578

Source: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=34.358722&p_longi=-83.410877

Proposal: new associative name for unnamed feature

Map: USGS map - Homer 1:24,000

Proponent: Susan Solakian; Homer, GA

Administrative area:

Previous BGN Action: None

Names associated with feature:

GNIS: None found

Local Usage: None found

Published: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to apply the new associative name Coker Creek to a 2.3-mile-long unnamed tributary of Carlan Creek in Banks County. The name refers to nearby East Coker Road. The proponent, who lives along the road, states that her property was originally owned by a member of the Coker family. Tax and genealogy records show that members of the Coker family resided in the area as early as the 1860s, including John Coker, whose property was labeled on a 1929 Land Department map. Six individuals with the surname Coker are buried in Homer Presbyterian Church Cemetery, a short distance west of the stream.

GNIS lists two other natural features in Georgia with “Coker” in their names: Coker Branch, 70 miles to the southwest and Coker Lake 100 miles to the west. The origin of these names has not been determined.

**Webb Creek**: stream; 3.1 mi. long; heads on the E slope of Lookout Mountain at an unnamed reservoir 1.4 mi. NNW of Crow Gap at 34°43′23″N, 85°28′08″W, flows SE through Hise Gulf then generally NE to enter Mill Creek 0.4 mi. W of Cedar Grove; named for John. G Webb (1919-2010), chair and co-founder of the local McMurry Cove Preservation Society; Walker County, Georgia; 34°43′01″N, 85°26′03″W; USGS map - Cedar Grove 1:24,000.

Mouth: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=34.716808&p_longi=-85.434061

Source: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=34.723052&p_longi=-85.468865

Proposal: new commemorative name for an unnamed feature

Map: USGS Cedar Grove 1:24,000

Proponent: Daniel H. Webb, Jr.; Huntsville, AL

Administrative area: None

Previous BGN Action: None

Names associated with feature:
GNIS: No record
Local Usage: None found
Published: None found

Case Summary: The new commemorative name Webb Creek is proposed for a 3.1-mile tributary of Mill Creek in Walker County. The stream heads at an unnamed reservoir at the Dade County line and flows generally southeast through Hise Gulf.

The name would commemorate John G Webb (1919-2010), a World War II veteran who in the 1970s purchased a parcel of land in Hise Gulf and along the unnamed stream. The proponent, a grandson of Mr. Webb, reports that his family has lived on the property since then. Mr. Webb was the co-founder and long-time chair of the McLemore Cove Preservation Society; McLemore Cove is a valley east of the stream. The McLemore Cove Historic District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

IDAHO

No Name Peak: summit; elevation 7,712 ft.; in Kanisku National Forest, 2.4 mi. SE of Parker Lake, 3.6 mi. SW of Eneas Peak; Boundary County, Idaho; Sec 2, T63N, R2W, Boise Meridian; 48°50'45"N, 116°33'16"W; USGS map - Pyramid Peak 1:24,000.


Proposal: new name for unnamed feature
Map: USGS map -Pyramid Peak 1:24,000
Proponent: Olivia Drake
Administrative area:
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: None found
Local Usage: None found
Published: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to apply the new name No Name Peak to a 7,712-foot summit in Kanisku National Forest. The proponent reports that the name reflects the fact that the feature is currently unnamed. She believes it would be beneficial for reference purposes, while also historically significant since the feature “will continue to go unnamed.”

GNIS lists features named No Name Peak and No Name Lake 46 miles southwest of the summit, in Pend Oreille County, Washington.

ILLINOIS

Change Negro Lake to Woodson Lake: lake; 70 acres; an intermittent lake in a topographic depression 2 mi SE of Havana; named for Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950), historian, author, and founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, and considered the father of Black History Month; Secs 8,7,18&17, T21N, R8W, Third Principal Meridian; Mason County, Illinois; 40°16'37"N, 90°02'07"W; USGS map - Havana 1:24,000;
Not: Negro Lake, Nigger Lake, Sand Lake.
Proposal: to change a name considered offensive  
Map: USGS Havana 1:24,000  
Proponent: Ashley Yount; Toluca, IL  
Administrative area: None  
Previous BGN Action: None  
Names associated with feature:  
  GNIS: Negro Lake (FID 414341)  
  Local Usage: Sand Lake (Mason County, local geocachers)  

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Negro Lake, a 70-acre intermittent lake in a topographic depression in Mason County near Havana, to Woodson Lake.

The proponent states that the name Negro Lake contains “a racial slur.” The proposed name would commemorative Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950), a historian, author, and founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. He began the celebration of Black History Week in February 1926, which later became Black History Month. The proposed name change was initially submitted as Carter G Woodson Lake, but the proponent was informed that it would be shortened to Woodson Lake to avoid the use of a long name. There is no known association between Woodson and Negro Lake.

The name Negro Lake has appeared on USGS maps since 1947 and the lake has always been shown as intermittent. The lake periodically floods and was drained as early as 1883 when it was known by the pejorative form of the word, as reported in The Weekly Pantagraph of Bloomington. Local stories and interviews also attest to this original name. In the mid to late 1800s, an African-American man operated a grocery store near Negro Lake. Some stories suggest that he may have been a circus wagon driver who got stuck in the mud while trying to cross the lake. In a 1975 interview, a resident born in the area in 1895 reported that a man named “Nigger Ben” lived at the lake, but did not mention his occupation.

During the end of the Great Flood of 1993, Negro Lake flooded and overflowed into the nearby community of Havana. In the course of applying for Federal relief money, Mason County changed the name of the lake to Sand Lake. On July 6, 1994, The Mason County Democrat reported “[Since the 1993 flooding] ‘Sand’ Lake has been a constant question for local officials, whose first action was to give it a more acceptable name than the derogatory slang term it was commonly known by.” It is not clear why the name Sand Lake was chosen, but Mason County maps and documents have continued to use it. The Peoria Audubon Society, which reports on bird sightings whenever the lake is flooded, used the name Negro Lake prior to the 1993 flooding and Sand Lake thereafter.
IOWA

**Cardinal Creek**: stream; 9.1 mi. long; heads at the E edge of the City of Radcliffe at 42°18′54″N, 93°25′27″W, flows ESE to enter Honey Creek 1 mi. SW of Hubbard; the name recognizes the Radcliffe Cardinals, the mascot of a school that once operated near the source of the stream; Tps87&86N, Rgs21&22W, Fifth Principal Meridian; Hardin County, Iowa; 42°17′55″N, 93°19′11″W; USGS map -Hubbard 1:24,000.

Mouth: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.29849&p_longi=-93.3196

Source: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.31513&p_longi=-93.42425

Proposal: new name for unnamed feature

Map: USGS Hubbard 1:24,000

Proponent: Heath Stolee; Radcliffe, IA

Administrative area: None

Previous BGN Action: None

Names associated with feature:

- GNIS: No record
- Local Usage: None found
- Published: None found

Case Summary: The new name Cardinal Creek is proposed for an unnamed 9.1-mile-long tributary of Honey Creek in Hardin County. The proponent states “The headwaters of this creek start just outside Radcliffe, Iowa and the school before it was dissolved was the Radcliffe Cardinals.” The lower section of the stream flows through Drainage Ditch Number 55.

*** Note: the following proposal has been withdrawn; see new proposal for Norwood Branch. Review List 439

**Restoration Branch**: stream; 2.4 mi. long; heads 0.6 mi. NW of Norwoodville at 41°38′54″N, 93°34′17″W; flows SE into the City of Des Moines to enter Fourmile Creek 1.7 mi. SW of Capitol Heights; named to inspire the community to restore the stream to a more natural state; Secs 29,20,19&18, T79N, R23W, Fifth Principal Meridian; Polk County, Iowa; 41°37′27″N, 93°33′03″W; USGS map - Des Moines SE 1:24,000 (mouth).


Proposal: new name for unnamed feature

Map: USGS Des Moines SE 1:24,000 (mouth)

Proponent: Kyle Riley; Iowa

Administrative area: None

Previous BGN Action: None

Names associated with feature:

- GNIS: No record
- Local Usage: None found
- Published: None found
Case Summary: The new name Restoration Branch is proposed for a 2.4-mile-long unnamed tributary of Fourmile Creek in Polk County. A portion of the stream flows through the City of Des Moines.

The proponent states the name was chosen “to encourage the local community to clean up the stream more regularly, not place trash in or near the stream, and assist with restoring the stream back to a more natural state.”

A church located adjacent to the stream is listed in GNIS as Des Moines Northeast Branch Church; however, research shows that its official name is “Des Moines Northeast Restoration Branch Church of Jesus Christ.” The Restoration Branches is a Latter Day Saint sect that formed in the 1980s as a reaction against the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (now Community of Christ). There are over 125 Restoration Branch churches in the U.S., with a total of about 10,000 members; most are located in Independence, Missouri. It is unknown if the name proposed for the stream has any relation to the church denomination.

Change Squaw Creek to Story Creek: stream; 42 mi. long; heads in Webster Township 3.4 mi. NW of Stanhope at 42°18′25″N, 93°51′26″W, flows generally SE into the South Skunk River in the City of Ames; named in relation to Story County where the stream’s mouth is located; Tps83-87N, Rgs24-26W, Fifth Principal Meridian; Story County, Boone County, and Hamilton County, Iowa; 42°00′38″N, 93°35′45″W; USGS map - Ames East 1:24,000 (mouth); Not: Montgomery Creek, Squaw Creek, Squaw Fork, Squaw Fork Skunk River

Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
Map: USGS Ames East 1:24,000 (mouth)
Proponent: Jasmine Martin; Ames, IA
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Squaw Creek (FID 461933)
Local Usage: Squaw Creek (City of Ames, Story County, Boone County, Hamilton County)
Published: Montgomery Creek (Karte von Iowa, 1852; Colton’s Iowa, 1869; General Land Office, 1878); Squaw Creek (USGS 1912, 1914, 1916, 1965, 1975, 1978, 1985, 1993, 2010, 2013, 2015, 2018; AMS 1954, 1955; FEMA 2005, 2008; Iowa Department of Transportation; Map of Story County, 1875; Rand McNally maps, 1879, 1897; Story County map, 1883; Plat Book of Boone County, 1896, 1939; Souvenir Atlas of Story County, 1910; Standard Atlas of Hamilton County, 1918; City of Ames documents; Story County documents; Boone County documents; Hamilton County documents); Squaw Fork (Sectional Map of Iowa, 1875); Squaw Fork Skunk River (Atlas of Story County, 1902; Souvenir Atlas of Story County, 1910; Story County atlas, 1919)

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Squaw Creek, a 42-mile-long tributary of the South Skunk River, to Story Creek. The stream flows through Hamilton County, Boone County, Story County, and the City of Ames.
The proponent states “Individuals of Native American descent have protested the name of this stream beginning at least in the 1990s, and it is known that the current name has an offensive connotation.” She believes the proposed name is fitting because “Story County is the county of (by far) the highest population through which this stream flows.”

Story County was named for Joseph Story (1779-1845), a native of Massachusetts who was an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States from 1812 to 1845. He is best remembered for his majority opinion in the 1841 case United States v. Schooner Amistad, in which the Southern-dominated court ruled 8-1 that kidnapped Africans enslaved by the Spanish were not regarded as enslaved under the 1807 law that forbade the international slave trade. Although he was against slavery, Story also wrote the majority opinion in the 1842 case Prigg v. Pennsylvania, in which he argued that the Federal Fugitive Slave Act (1793) precluded a Pennsylvania law prohibiting African-Americans from being taken out of Pennsylvania into slavery in the South.

The name Squaw Creek has appeared on USGS maps since 1912. It is in widespread use by the City of Ames; by Story County, Boone County, and Hamilton County; and by the Iowa Department of Transportation. Other names for the stream have been published: Montgomery Creek in 1852, 1869, and on a General Land Office map in 1878; Squaw Fork in 1875; and Squaw Fork Skunk River in 1902, 1910, and 1919.

The stream is located within the project area of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge but is not on any lands managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

*** Note: the following proposal has been withdrawn; see Berlin Creek, Review List 443

Change Negro Creek to Wolverine Creek: stream; 8 mi. long; heads in Grant Township 2.1 mi. NNE of Bliedorn at 41°55′49″N, 90°40′03″W, flows generally S into Welton Township then E to enter Silver Creek 1.5 mi. S of Welton; named for the mascot of the now defunct Welton Independent School District; T82N, Rgs3&2E, Fifth Principal Meridian; Clinton County, Iowa; 41°53′10″N, 90°35′34″W; USGS map - Delmar South 1:24,000 (mouth); Not: Negro Creek, Nigger Creek.  

Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
Map: USGS Delmar South 1:24,000 (mouth)
Proponent: Sharon Clark
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Negro Creek (FID 459447)
Local Usage: Negro Creek (Clinton County)  
Published: Negro Creek (USGS 1980, 1984, 2010, 2013, 2015, 2018); Nigger Creek (The history of Clinton County Iowa, 1879; Wolfe’s History of Clinton County Iowa, 1911)
Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Negro Creek, an eight-mile-long tributary of Silver Creek in Clinton County, to Wolverine Creek.

The proponent states that “the name ‘Negro Creek’ is derogatory.” The proposed name Wolverine Creek refers to “the now defunct Welton Independent School District mascot.” The Central DeWitt Community School District has served the area since 1961 and its mascot is the Sabers (saber-toothed tigers or saber-toothed cats).

The name Negro Creek has appeared on USGS maps since 1980; earlier smaller-scale maps did not label the stream. Histories of Clinton County published in 1897 and 1911 recorded the name in the pejorative form. From the 1897 source, “In an early day, a negro had settled on a small stream tributary to Silver Creek, which has since been called ‘Nigger Creek.’ He remained but a short time and his name even could not be obtained.”

KENTUCKY

Kirtley Pond: reservoir; 1 acre; along an unnamed tributary of Sand Run on the S side of River Road; named for the Kirtley family, particularly Robert Edwards Kirtley (1820-1898), who owned land that included the pond; Boone County, Kentucky; 39°07′47″N, 84°45′12″W; USGS map - Hooven 1:24,000.
Proposal: new commemorative name for unnamed feature
Map: USGS Hooven 1:24,000
Proponent: Richard Crisler, Jr.; Hebron, KY
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
    GNIS: No record
    Local Usage: None found
    Published: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to apply the new name Kirtley Pond to a one-acre pond in Boone County. The name would commemorate the Kirtley family, particularly Reverend Robert Edwards Kirtley (1820-1898), a prominent Baptist minister who owned property in the area. According to the proponent, a descendant of the family and present-day owner of the land, “Rev. Kirtley developed the pond extensively, so that it became the watering place for a fine herd of short horned cattle.” He adds that the land, including the pond, has been placed under a conservation easement, by which all commercial and residential development is prohibited in perpetuity.

The Boone County Judge Executive recommends approval of the name Kirtley Pond.

The same proponent submitted a proposal in March 2019 to change the name of nearby Potato Creek to Kirtley Creek, but in September 2019 the change was not approved by the BGN, citing a reluctance to change a longstanding name.
LOUISIANA

**Change Dead Negro Branch to Alexander Branch:** stream; 1.3 mi. long; heads 2.4 mi. SW of Evelyn at 31°57’51”N, 93°28’28”W, flows generally SSE to enter Louies Brake 0.9 mi. W of Rambin; named for Reverend Avery C. Alexander (1910-1999), a prominent Civil Rights activist born and raised in Louisiana; Secs 11&2, T11N, R11W, Louisiana Meridian; DeSoto Parish, Louisiana; 31°57’06”N, 93°28’09”W; USGS map - Evelyn 1:24,000; Not: Dead Negro Bayou, Dead Negro Branch, Dead Nigger Branch.


Proposal: to change a name considered offensive

Map: USGS Evelyn 1:24,000

Proponent: Stephanie Hadley

Administrative area: None

Previous BGN Action: None

Names associated with feature:

GNIS: Dead Negro Branch (FID 534429)

Local Usage: None found


Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Dead Negro Branch, a 1.3-mile-long tributary of Louies Brake in DeSoto Parish, to Alexander Branch. The name would commemorate Reverend Avery C. Alexander (1910-1999), a prominent Civil Rights activist born and raised in Louisiana.

Rev. Alexander was born in Terrebonne Parish and moved to New Orleans in 1927. After working as a longshoreman, he became a minister in 1944 and traveled around Louisiana to participate in voter registration drives prior to the enactment of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He led boycotts in New Orleans to protest racist hiring practices, and participated in several marches with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., including from Selma to Montgomery and in Washington, D.C. During a sit-in at New Orleans City Hall, he was arrested and dragged up the steps of the building; film and pictures of his head hitting the steps helped spur more New Orleans citizens to support civil rights. He was a delegate to the 1972 Democratic National Convention and to the 1973 Louisiana Constitutional Convention, where he was elected vice president. He served as treasurer of the New Orleans chapter of the NAACP and was president of the local chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Rev. Alexander was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1975, holding the seat until his death. He has no known direct association with the stream in question or with DeSoto Parish.

The proponent submitted the proposal as Rev. Avery C. Alexander Branch but was informed by BGN staff that it would be shortened to Alexander Branch in accordance with the Long Names Policy.
The name Dead Negro Branch has been labeled on USGS maps since 1957 and on current highway maps of DeSoto Parish. The pejorative form appeared on USGS maps published in 1938 and 1947. A 1983 EPA Environmental Impact Statement for the Dolet Hills Lignite Mine referred to the stream as both Dead Negro Branch and Dead Negro Bayou.

Between 1989 and 1992, the hydrology of the stream was altered during the excavation and development of the lignite mine. The 1992 edition of the USGS map shows that the stream’s source had been altered and that several reservoirs had been constructed along its length. Possibly as a result of the modified hydrology, the National Hydrography Dataset applies the name Dead Negro Branch to a different upstream tributary.

A second proposal has been received to change the name of the stream to Equality Stream (q.v.).

Change Dead Negro Branch to Equality Stream: stream; 1.3 mi. long; heads 2.4 mi. SW of Evelyn at 31°57′51″N, 93°28′28″W, flows generally SSE to enter Louies Bayou 0.9 mi. W of Rambin; “named for the fact that all are created equal regardless of race, gender, or religion”; Secs 11&2, T11N, R11W, Louisiana Meridian; DeSoto Parish, Louisiana; 31°57′06″N, 93°28′09″W; USGS map - Evelyn 1:24,000; Not: Dead Negro Bayou, Dead Negro Branch, Dead Nigger Branch.

Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
Map: USGS Evelyn 1:24,000
Proponent: Sarah Boldt; Madison, WI
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Dead Negro Branch (FID 534429)
Local Usage: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Dead Negro Branch, a 1.3-mile-long tributary of Louies Brake in DeSoto County, to Equality Stream. The proponent states that “The name should be changed to reflect that all are created equal regardless of color, gender, religion, etc.”

Details about the stream and the history of the current name are included in the separate proposal to change the name to Alexander Branch (q.v.).

MAINE

Waterthrush Brook: stream; 1.2 mi. long; in the Town of Lovell, heads 0.3 mi. SE of Bryant Hill at 44°13′33″N, 70°52′48″W, flows SW into Kezar Lake 0.9 mi. SW of Whiting Hill; named for northern waterthrushes (Parkesia novoboracensis), which are found near the stream; Oxford County, Maine; 44°12′42″N, 70°53′24″W; USGS map - Center Lovell 1:24,000.  
Mouth: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=44.211667&p_longi=-70.889956  
Source: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=44.225723&p_longi=-70.880043

Proposal: new name for an unnamed feature
Map: USGS Center Lovell 1:24,000
Proponent: Peter Ross; Center Lovell, ME
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: No record
Local Usage: None found
Published: None found

Case Summary: The new name Waterthrush Brook is proposed for a 1.2-mile-long stream that flows into Kezar Lake in the Town of Lovell in Oxford County. The name refers to northern waterthrushes (Parkesia novoboracensis), which according to the proponent, are found near the stream. The stream heads in the Heald and Bradley Pond Reserve, managed by the Greater Lovell Land Trust.
MARYLAND

Change Negro Mountain to Malcolm Mountain - see Pennsylvania
Change Negro Mountain to Mount Nemisis – see Pennsylvania

MASSACHUSETTS

Black Cat Brook: stream; 0.45 mi. long; in the Town of Plymouth, heads 0.3 mi. SW of Trask Pond at 41°55’38”N, 70°41’23”W, flows generally NE through Trask Pond into the Billington Sea 0.3 mi. SE of Hathaway Point; named for the Town of Plymouth’s Black Cat Preserve through which the stream flows; Plymouth County, Massachusetts; 41°55’55”N, 70°41’08”W; USGS map - Plymouth 1:24,000.
Mouth: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=41.93196&p_longi=-70.68557
Source: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=41.92714&p_longi=-70.68979
Proposal: new name for unnamed feature
Map: USGS Plymouth 1:24,000
Proponent: Nathan Cristofori; Plymouth, MA
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: No record
Local Usage: None found
Published: None found
Case Summary: The new name Black Cat Brook is proposed for a 0.45-mile-long stream in the Town of Plymouth in Plymouth County. The stream flows through Trask Pond into the Billington Sea. It heads in and flows through cranberry bogs in the Black Cat Preserve, established in 2016 by the Town of Plymouth. It also crosses Black Cat Road. The proposed name is associated with the preserve and road, but the origin of the name is unknown. The stream is also within the Plymouth Refuge Acquisition Focus Area of the Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge acquisition boundary. The proponent, who is the Division of Natural Resources Warden of the Town of Plymouth, states the name is “in keeping with the nomenclature of the area.”

Rumrunner Rock: island; 200 ft. by 125 ft.; in the Town of Cohasset, just S of Brush Island; the name reflects Cohasset’s colorful seafaring history; during Prohibition, Cohasset seafarers made a profitable business smuggling alcohol; Norfolk County, Massachusetts; 42°15’23”N, 70°47’34”W; USGS map - Hull 1:24,000.
https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.256514&p_longi=-70.792865
Proposal: new name for an unnamed feature
Map: USGS map - Hull 1:24,000
Proponent: Ruthie Knapp; Cohasset, MA
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
Case Summary: This proposal is to apply the new name Rumrunner Rock to a small (200 ft. by 125 ft.) rock located just off the shore of the Town of Cohasset in Norfolk County, and just south of Brush Island. According to the proponent, who has lived in the area since the 1940s, “The name is pretty and reflects Cohasset’s colorful seafaring history.” She adds that other nearby rocks are smaller and less visible and yet have official names. Burtram Pratt’s 1956 volume *A Narrative History of Cohasset* states “During Prohibition, Cohasset seafarers made a profitable business smuggling alcohol. The rum runners carried the contraband to hiding places in Cohasset . . . and beaches along Atlantic Avenue.” An online blog entitled “Cohasset was a bootlegger haven,” states “These large vessels, averaging around 50 feet in length, carried contraband liquor from Canada and Mexico and were equipped with powerful engines to outrun the Coast Guard.”

An individual who reports that his home is less than one-quarter mile from the shoreline notes that the rock is both “a navigational aid and navigational hazard [and] must be avoided at all tides.” Furthermore, “[M]any a keel has been scrapped during the passage. In Cohasset, there are two groups of sailors; those who admit to hitting Rum Runner Rock [sic] and those who simply don’t admit it.” He recommends approval of the proposal.

The proponent initially suggested the name should be spelled “Rum-runner” but later amended it to “Rumrunner” to recognize the more commonly used form.

**Turtle Brook:** stream; 2.2 mi. long; heads in the Town of Mason 0.6 mi. SW of Hurricane Hill at 42°43’42”N, 71°44’30”W, flows S and SW into the Town of Townsend, to enter Mason Brook 1 mi. WNW of Barker Hill; named for turtles that live in the stream and for the turtle habitat improvement done by landowners; Middlesex County, Massachusetts and Hillsborough County, New Hampshire; 42°42’20”N, 71°45’05”W; USGS map - Ashby 1:24,000 (mouth). Mouth: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.705661&p_longi=-71.751408](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.705661&p_longi=-71.751408)


- **Proposal:** new name for unnamed feature
- **Map:** USGS Ashby 1:24,000 (mouth)
- **Proponent:** Ronald Dubé; Mason, NH
- **Administrative area:** None
- **Previous BGN Action:** None
- **Names associated with feature:**
  - **GNIS:** No record
  - **Local Usage:** None found
  - **Published:** None found

Case Summary: The new name Turtle Brook is proposed for a 2.2-mile-long tributary of Mason Brook; the stream heads in the Town of Mason in Hillsborough County, New Hampshire and then flows south and southwest into the Town of Townsend in Middlesex County in Massachusetts. The proponent states that the name refers to spotted turtles
Clemmys guttata) and Blanding’s turtles (Emydoidea blandingii) that live in the stream, and also that his family has cleared brush along the stream to help turtles move to nesting areas.

**Change Negro Ledge to Wampanoag Ledge:**

**Bar Information:**
- **Negro Ledge:**
  - Location:Buzzards Bay, Bristol County, Massachusetts
  - Coordinates: 41°32′45″N, 70°51′58″W
  - Depth: 14–30 ft. below sea level
  - Area: approximately 70 acres

**Proponent:** Darling Romulus, Brockton, MA

**Administrative Area:**
- **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service Marine Protected Area**

**Proposal:**
- To change the name of Negro Ledge to Wampanoag Ledge.

**Case Summary:**
- The name Negro Ledge has appeared on USGS maps since 1962 and on Office of Coast Survey charts since 1898. The name appears in numerous Federal and State listings of navigation lights and buoys, as well as in documents detailing environmental remediation and energy projects. The origin of the name is unknown.

- Wampanoag tribes inhabited the area between Narragansett Bay and Massachusetts Bay, including Cape Cod. Wampanoag peoples encountered the Pilgrims at Plymouth. Two federally recognized Wampanoag Tribes exist today: the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah).

The proponent states “The name Negro is racially insensitive and the name change to Wampanoag Ledge is in respect to the indigenous tribe of the region.”
MICHIGAN

Change Squaw Lake to Point Lake: lake; approx. 30 acres; in the Charter Township of Oxford 1.8 mi. SW of Oxford and adjacent to Clear Lake; the name refers to the general shape of an arrow formed by the lake as the point and the adjacent Clear Lake as the shaft; Secs 29&28, T5N, R10E, Michigan Meridian; Oakland County, Michigan; 42°48’58”N, 83°17’54”W; USGS map - Oxford 1:24,000; Not: Squaw Lake, Tan Lake.

Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
Map: USGS Oxford 1:24,000
Proponent: Christina West
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
  GNIS: Squaw Lake (FID 638677)
  Local Usage: Squaw Lake (Charter Township of Oxford)

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Squaw Lake, a 30-acre lake in the Charter Township of Oxford in Oakland County, to Point Lake. The lake, which is connected to Clear Lake, is part of a chain of lakes known unofficially as “Stringy Lakes” or “Stringy Lakes Chain.”

The proponent states “Squaw is an offensive and derogatory term for a Native American woman. The name should be changed to something not offensive.” She describes the shape of the lake as “like an arrow pointing, with Clear Lake as the bottom of the arrow.”

The name Squaw Lake has appeared on USGS maps since 1943. It was labeled as such on the 2011 USTopo map, but on the 2014 edition it appeared as Tan Lake. The 2017 edition labeled it as part of Tan Lake. This appears to be a result of a misapplication by the National Hydrography Dataset.

A 2017 Oakland County map collectively labels Squaw Lake, Clear Lake, Long Lake, and Cedar Lake as Squaw Lake.
**Rochester Lake:** reservoir; approx. 40 acres; in Duplain Township, 5 mi. NE of Saint Johns, just S of the community of Duplain; named in association with the historic Rochester Colony, located 0.3 mi. to the north; Clinton County, Michigan; Sec 32, T8N, R1W, Michigan Meridian; 43°02'31"N, 84°27'23"W; USGS map - Ovid West 1:24,000.

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=43.041852&p_longi=-84.456443

Proposal: new name for an unnamed feature
Map: USGS Ovid West 1:24,000
Proponent: Kari Dickenson; St. Johns, MI
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: No record
Local Usage: None found
Published: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to apply the new name Rochester Lake to an approximately 40-acre unnamed gravel pit lake in Duplain Township in Clinton County. The proponent reports that her family farmed the property for three generations, but in more recent years it was owned by a gravel company which constructed the reservoir to use as a gravel pit. She recently purchased the land from the company and is planning to develop the property and build homes around the reservoir. The proposed name refers to the historic Rochester Colony, which was located 0.3 miles to the north. According to the Michigan Historical Marker website, “In 1836 a Rochester, New York, association purchased land here and by winter several families were settled in newly built log homes. Methodist circuit riders in 1837 organized a class which became the center of the three-county Mapleton circuit. In 1841 the settlement was renamed Duplain and the colonists began working for better schools and roads. The Duplain Methodist church was built in the mid-1850s as a center for community worship.”

Other than the historical marker, there are no other features in Clinton County named “Rochester.” There are two cities in Oakland County, approximately 75 miles to the east, named Rochester and Rochester Hills; GNIS lists 34 features with “Rochester” in their names, all associated with these communities and many referring to administrative features.

**MINNESOTA**

**Change Redskin Lake to Ojibwe Lake:** lake; 44 acres; in Superior National Forest 2.3 mi. NE of Isabella; named for the Ojibwe people; Sec 35, T60N, R8W, Fourth Principal Meridian Extended; Lake County, Minnesota; 47°38'06"N, 91°18'48"W; USGS map - Sawbill Landing 1:24,000; Not: Byron Lake, Indian Lake, Redskin Lake.


Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
Map: USGS Sawbill Landing 1:24,000
Proponent: Christy Beal; Woodbury Heights, NJ
Administrative area: Superior National Forest
Previous BGN Action: Redskin Lake (BGN 1959)
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Redskin Lake (FID 658008)
Local Usage: None found
Published: Byron Lake (AMS 1958, 1964); Indian Lake (USGS 1955; USFS 1951),
AMS 1975; MN DNR documents, 1985, 2019; Minnesota Department of Transportation, 2016; State and regional fishing guidebooks)

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Redskin Lake, a 44-acre lake in Lake County and Superior National Forest, to Ojibwe Lake. The proponent states that “Redskin is pejorative, and it is critical that we remember and use the names of First Nations and Native American tribes when naming geological features and recalling our history. . . [The] new name would honor the native peoples of Minnesota rather than act as an old-fashioned slur.”

The Ojibwe (sometimes known as Chippewa) peoples inhabited present-day northern Minnesota, northern Wisconsin, and northern Michigan, as well as the general area north of the Great Lakes. Today, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe consists of six bands located in northern Minnesota; the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians are also located in Northern Minnesota, and other tribes with Ojibwe peoples are located in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Montana.

The lake was labeled Indian Lake on maps published by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and USGS in 1951 and 1955, respectively. In 1959, the BGN approved a proposal submitted by the USFS to change the name to Redskin Lake, a name that was “relative to the association of Indian.” The USFS noted at the time that there were several lakes named Indian Lake in Lake County and the BGN also renamed two others in the county from Indian Lake to Bine Lake and Source Lake. The Lake County Commissioners and the Minnesota Geographic Board endorsed these changes. As a result of the 1959 decisions, there were no features remaining in Lake County named Indian Lake (in 1941, the BGN had changed the name of another Indian Lake in the extreme northern part of the county to Dutton Lake). Another lake named Indian Lake is located 35 miles southwest of Redskin Lake in St. Louis County.

Following the 1959 change, Redskin Lake appeared on Federal maps, as well as in documents and on maps of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, and Lake County. The lake was also labeled Byron Lake on some Army Map Service maps in 1958 and as late as 1964; however, Byron Lake is a separate lake 0.5 miles to the northeast.

GNIS does not list any features in Minnesota with “Ojibwe” in their names. The State does include two lakes named Ojibway Lake; both were BGN decisions. Ojibwe Lake (BGN 1961) is located in Lake County 24 miles to the northwest, while Ojibwe Lake (BGN 1980) is in Hubbard County 175 miles to the southwest.
MISSOURI

*** Note: the following proposal has been closed and the geographic feature marked “historical.”

Change Negro Wool Hollow to Little Bat Hollow: valley; in Boone Township (inactive); the name refers to the several species of endangered bats that are found in the county; Crawford County, Missouri; 38°09’31”N, 91°11’11”W (center of Boone Township); USGS map - Sullivan, 1:24,000 (center of Boone Township); Not: Negro Wool Hollow, Nigger Wool Hollow.
Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
Map: USGS Sullivan, 1:24,000 (center of Boone Township)
Proponent: Sara Murphy
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Negro Wool Hollow (FID 737583)
Local Usage: None found
Published: Nigger Wool Hollow (“Place Names of Five Southeast Counties of Missouri,” 1944)
Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Negro Wool Hollow, a valley in Crawford County, to Little Bat Hollow. The proponent believes the current name is “racist and should be fixed.” She suggests the name Little Bat Hollow “to call attention to the several endangered bat species living in the area, which have sanctuary in [nearby] Mark Twain National Forest but need to be protected and encouraged elsewhere in the county.”

The location of the valley is unknown. The name Negro Wool Hollow was added to GNIS in 1991 during Phase II compilation, citing a 1944 Master’s thesis entitled “Place Names of Five Southeast Counties of Missouri.” The author of the thesis reported that the name had been provided by “a resident of Crawford County” and that the feature was “in Boone T[ownship]” and that “a negro was killed there.” This name is one of 32,000 recorded by Dr. Robert Ramsay, a professor of English at the University of Missouri and author of Our Storehouse of Missouri Place Names, who between 1928 and 1950 encouraged his students to research the origin of place names throughout the State. Some years later, Dr. Ramsay’s collection of index cards, comprising the results of the students’ research, was donated to the BGN. All names recorded on these cards were entered into GNIS during Phase II, including many for which the exact location of the feature had not been determined (they were located to the county, sometimes with approximate location details). Because the location is unknown, the valley has never been depicted on USGS maps. Although the name had been recorded in 1944 with the pejorative form of the name, it was added to GNIS as Negro Wool Hollow in accordance with BGN policies.

Prior to receiving this proposal, the GNIS record for Negro Wool Hollow listed “unknown location” and placed the coordinates at the center of the county. Staff has since edited the
record and updated the location to the center of Boone Township, the most accurate location known for the feature. The Missouri Board on Geographic Names has asked the Crawford County government if it can provide more specific details.

**Zentner Fork**: locale; in Morrisville, 5.8 mi. ESE of Turkey Knob, 5.4 mi. WSW of Graveyard Hill; the name honors Eric E. Zentner (1969-2014), former resident and steward of local creeks and floodplain; Polk County, Missouri; Sec 14, T32N, R23W, Fifth Principal Meridian; 37°30’15”N, 93°25’12”W; USGS map - Bolivar 1:24,000.  
  
Proposal: new commemorative name for an unnamed feature  
Map: USGS Bolivar 1:24,000  
Proponent: Dustin Osborn  
Administrative area:  
Previous BGN Action: None  
Names associated with feature:  
GNIS: None found  
Local Usage: None found  
Published: None found  
  
Case Summary: This proposal is to apply the new commemorative name Zentner Fork to an unnamed locale at the confluence of Tommie Creek and Slagle Creek, in Morrisville in Polk County.

The new name would honor Eric E. Zentner (1969-2014), a former resident of the area who was known locally for his stewardship of local creeks and the surrounding floodplain. According to the proponent, this property is still known as “the Zentner place” because of the many years Mr. Zentner resided there before moving to Joplin in 2007. He adds “He had great respect and appreciation for mother nature and what she had to offer. Eric Zenter took this dump and turned it into a beautiful Ozarks paradise. His name deserves to be remembered for that.” Mr. Zentner was co-owner and operator of Fraley Funeral Supply in Joplin, and a sales representative for publishing and chemical companies. Prior to his death, he and the proponent, who later purchased the property, would visit the area annually to hunt and fish.

**MONTANA**

**Change Mud Lake to Rost Lake**: lake; 143 acres; 1.7 mi. E of Deer Island, 3.7 mi. W of Crater Mountain; the name honors Conrad Rost (1854-1916), an early homesteader in the area; Flathead County, Montana; Sec10, T27N, R19W, Montana Principal Meridian; 48°06’44”N, 113°59’41”W; USGS map - Crater Lake 1:24,000; Not: Mud Lake.  
  
Proposal: to change name in commemoration and remove a duplicate  
Map: USGS Crater Lake 1:24,000  
Proponent: Arne Brosten; Bigfork, MT  
Administrative area:  
Previous BGN Action: None  
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Mud Lake (787798)  
Local Usage: None found  

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Mud Lake, a 143-acre lake in Flathead County, to Rost Lake, to recognize the name applied to the feature in the early part of the 20th century. According to the proponent, the name commemorates Conrad Rost (1854-1916), who homesteaded on the property in 1899. The proponent lives in the area and states that he grew up referring to the lake as Rost Lake. He cites Flathead County maps of 1902 and 1903, and a bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club published in 1920, all of which apply the name Rost Lake.

The proposal included a letter of support for the change signed by several descendants of the Rost family, specifically the four Rost brothers who settled in the Swan River area in the late 1880s, where they all eventually purchased land through the Land Act of 1820. The proponent does not know when or why the name was changed to Mud Lake but speculates that it refers to the lake’s low water level and its large amount of sediment or mud.

USGS topographic maps have labeled the feature Mud Lake since 1914. GNIS lists 25 lakes in Montana named Mud Lake, four of which are in Flathead County. The closest is 27 miles northwest of the lake in question.

NEVADA

Wolfram Peak: summit; elevation 7,593 ft.; on Bureau of Land Management land, the highest summit in the Eugene Mountains, 25 mi. WSW of Winnemucca; the name refers to the mining of wolfram (another name for the element tungsten) in the Eugene Mountains; Sec 8, T34N, R34E, Mount Diablo Meridian; Pershing County, Nevada; 40°50’09”N, 118°11’07”W; USGS map - Woody Canyon 1:24,000; Not: Eugene Mountains High Point, Eugene Mountains HP, Eugene Peak.


Proposal: new name for an unnamed feature  
Map: USGS Woody Canyon 1:24,000  
Proponent: Ron Moe; Carson City, NV  
Administrative area: Bureau of Land Management  
Previous BGN Action: None  
Names associated with feature:  
GNIS: No record  
Local Usage: Eugene Mountains High Point (hikers)  
Published: Eugene Mountains High Point (Summit post website, 2019; Peakbagger website, 2019); Eugene Mountains HP (Google maps, 2019); Eugene Peak (Bureau of Land Management 2013; Geological Exploration of the Fortieth Parallel, 1876; Gannett’s A Dictionary of Altitudes in the United States, 1884, 1893, 1899, 1906; “Table of Elevations within the Pacific Slope: Compiled for the Sierra Club,” 1895; McLane, Silent Cordilleras, 1978)
Case Summary: The new name Wolfram Peak is proposed for the officially unnamed highest point in the Eugene Mountains. The area is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The name refers to the extensive tungsten mining in the Eugene Mountains since the 1910s. Wolfram is the German name given to the element when it was first discovered, and it continues to be used in many languages. Tungsten mines in the Eugene Mountains produced the majority of U.S. tungsten between the 1920s and the 1950s.

The summit has no official name but has been referred to as Eugene Peak in a number of sources. This name first appeared on the 1876 map of the 1867 to 1872 War Department’s Geological Exploration of the Fortieth Parallel, led by A. A. Humphreys. The name was also listed in Henry Gannett’s 1884 A Dictionary of Altitudes in the United States and in an 1895 Sierra Club Bulletin of “Elevations within the Pacific Slope.” In his 1978 volume Silent Cordilleras, Alvin R. McLane wrote that the Eugene Mountains reach “an altitude of 7,580 feet in Eugene Peak.” BLM maps of the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area, published in 2010 and 2013, label the summit Eugene Peak. The second highest summit in the Eugene Mountains has a National Geodetic Survey marker stamped with the name “EUGENE.”

The name Nugget Peak was initially proposed to the Nevada Board on Geographic Names (NBGN), in reference to large gold nuggets discovered in the Eugene Mountains in the 1800s. However, that name was withdrawn and the NBGN now recommends approval of the name Wolfram Peak. As part of its review, the NBGN asked the Pershing County Commissioners for their opinion but received no response, which the NBGN presumess to indicate no objection. The NBGN also requested input from the Paiute-Shoshone Tribe of the Fallon Reservation and Colony; the Lovelock Paiute Tribe of the Lovelock Indian Colony; the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe of the Pyramid Lake Reservation; and the Winnemucca Indian Colony of Nevada; no replies were received, which the NBGN presumess to indicate no objection.

GNIS includes records of many features with “Tungsten” in their names, both in Nevada and throughout the western United States. A community named Tungsten is located five miles southeast of the summit in question and is the site of the Nevada Massachusetts Tungsten Mine. In 1962, both the town’s post office and the mine closed; mining operations have reportedly restarted in the past decade. A mine with the name Wolfram Lode is located in South Dakota and a summit named Wolframite Peak is located in Washington. Both of these presumably refer to tungsten mining (wolframite is the name of the tungsten ore mineral). The origin of the name Wolfram Arm for a canal in Indiana is unknown.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Change Wickwas Lake to Lake Wicwas: reservoir; 351 acres; in the Town of Meredith, 1.9 mi. E of Pemigewasset Lake, 1.3 mi. S of Forest Pond; named for the Abenaki word for “head of the bay” or “swan”; Belknap County, New Hampshire; 43°36’53”N, 71°33’08”W; USGS map - Winnisquam Lake 1:24,000; Not: Wickwas Lake, Wicwas Lake, Wickwas Pond. 
Proposal: to change a name to recognize local and historic use
Map: USGS Winnisquam Lake 1:24,000
Proponent: Scott Powell; Meredith, NH
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
  GNIS: Wickwas Lake (FID 870883)
  Local Usage: Wicwas Lake (proponent)
Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Wickwas Lake, a 351-acre reservoir in the Town of Meredith in Belknap County, to Lake Wicwas to recognize local and historic use. It was submitted by the vice president of the Lake Wicwas Association, who reports that the proposed spelling has been accepted by locals for the last century. In The Indian Heritage of New Hampshire and Northern New England (Piotrowski, 2002), “Wicwas” is defined as the Abenaki word for “head of the bay” or “a swan” and the author states that the lake was named for a Pequot chief. The name Wickwas Lake has appeared on USGS topographic maps since 1956; from 1925 to 1949, USGS maps labeled it Wickwas Pond. The reservoir has never been the subject of a BGN decision.

New Hampshire Senate Bill 132, to rename the feature Lake Wicwas, was passed in 2019. The bill clarified the spelling and affirmed that the specific and generic parts of the name should be reversed. The Town of Meredith Selectboard, the Lake Wicwas Association, and the Wicwas Grange recommend approval of the change, as does the New Hampshire Board on Geographic Names. Various trail, hiking, and lake recreation websites use the name Lake Wicwas.

GNIS lists one other feature in New Hampshire named “Wickwas”: Wickwas Lake Dam forms the reservoir in question. The proponent has been advised that if the dam is to be renamed, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services would need to inform the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which would then update its National Inventory of Dams.

Change Squaw Cove to Pocahontas Cove: bay; approx. 130 acres; in the Town of Sandwich on Squam Lake 1 mi. NNE of The Rattlesnakes; named for Pocahontas (Rebecca Rolfe, c. 1596-1617), who was associated with the first permanent English colonial settlement in what would become the United States; Carroll County, New Hampshire; 43°47’02”N, 71°30’44”W; USGS map - Squam Mountains 1:24,000; Not: Squaw Cove.

Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
Map: USGS Squam Mountains 1:24,000
Proponent: Rachel Kelly; Penacook, NH
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:

GNIS: Squaw Cove (FID 872724)
Local Usage: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Squaw Cove, a 130-acre bay on Squam Lake in the Town of Sandwich in Carroll County, to Pocahontas Cove. The proponent states “Squaw is now considered a derogatory term” and that the name Pocahontas Cove would “commemorate her contributions to the USA.” Pocahontas was a daughter of Chief Powhatan of the Powhatan alliance in present-day southeastern Virginia. She was associated with the first permanent English colonial settlement at Jamestown.

One of the earliest references to the name Squaw Cove is in an 1887 article in The Granite Monthly, titled “Asquam Lake and its Environs,” which reported that “Squaw Cove derives its name from the fact that formerly there stood upon one of the ledges of the cove a block of granite that bore a strong resemblance to the draped figure of a woman.” One local legend tells the story of a young woman named Amata who was married against her wishes to an old man named Mammon. Amata loved a young man named Moowis who came to rescue her. Mammon killed Moowis and Amita knelt to pray that her suffering be made an example for all to see, and she was turned to stone. A version of the legend included in the 1889 History of Carroll County, New Hampshire has the same story but different names: the young woman is “Princess Suneta,” the old man is Waunega, and the young man is Anonis. It is unknown if this legend comes from American Indian tradition or if it was developed by European settlers.

The name Squaw Cove has appeared on USGS maps since 1928, although it was no longer depicted on the first editions of USTopo maps. The name was used as early as 1901 in the Laws of the State of New Hampshire and appears in present-day town, county, and State documents.

Many places in the U.S. outside Virginia have been named for Pocahontas, including Pocahontas County in West Virginia; Pocahontas County and the City of Pocahontas in Iowa; Lake Pocahontas in New Jersey; the Village of Pocahontas in Illinois; the City of Pocahontas in Arkansas; Pocahontas, an unincorporated community in Mississippi; Pocahontas Creek in Maryland; Pocahontas Park in Minnesota; the Town of Pocahontas in Missouri; and Pocahontas, an unincorporated community in Tennessee. There is no evidence that Pocahontas had any association with what would become the State of New Hampshire.

Turtle Brook – see MASSACHUSETTS
NEW JERSEY

**Change Kikeout Mountain to All-Welcome Mountain:** summit; elevation 915 ft.; in the Borough of Kinnelon 0.3 mi. NW of Butler Reservoir; named “to give all a feeling of safety and inclusivity”; Morris County, New Jersey; 40°59'20"N, 74°22'36"W; USGS map - Boonton 1:24,000; Not: Kakeout Mountain, Kikeout Mountain, Kikirut Mountain.  

Proposal: to change a name considered offensive  
Map: USGS Boonton 1:24,000  
Proponent: Ellen Klowden  
Administrative area: None  
Previous BGN Action: None  
Names associated with feature:  
GNIS: Kikeout Mountain (FID 877559)  
Local Usage: None found  
Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Kikeout Mountain, a 915-foot summit in the Borough of Kinnelon in Morris County, to All-Welcome Mountain.

The proponent states that she finds the word “kike” offensive as “a derogatory slur against Jewish people and that ‘Kikeout Mountain’ sounds like ‘Kike Out’ like ‘Jews Go Away.’” She adds “there is rising anti-Semitism in the USA and globally, including hate crimes. . . It should be changed for the safety and dignity of Jews, of whom there are many in New Jersey. Changing it to All-Welcome Mountain gives a nice feeling of safety and inclusivity.”

“Kikeout” is a misspelling of the Dutch word “kykuyt” or “kijkuit” which means “lookout.” Several geographic features in the New York-New Jersey area have names that include some version of this word, including Kaikout Kill; Kykuit (a summit); Kykuit Hill (also spelled Kickeout, Kiokeout, Kaakeoot, Kaacoee, Kaakcoot, Kaakeoote, and Kijhuit); and Kijk-Uit Mountain (also spelled Keikout and KyKuit or Ky Kuit).

The name Kikeout Mountain has appeared on USGS maps since 1955. Earlier maps from 1894 to 1923 used the name Kakeout Mountain. These earlier maps also applied the name Kakeout Mountain collectively to both the 951-foot summit and the 1,046-foot summit 0.5 miles to the northeast. The name did not appear on the 1947 version, but in 1955, it was shown only on the western of the two summits.

The summit was labeled Kikirut Mountain on an 1853 map of Morris County and in an 1868 county atlas. The name Kikeout Mountain was recorded as early as 1955 during USGS field mapping. The name check card for the Boonton 1:24,000-scale map reported: “Both Mr. Curtis and Mr. Harrison know this spelling [Kikeout], and not Kakeout, which appears on the map.” However, the predominant spelling of the name of the summit has been “Kakeout” in
State, regional, and local documents including: the 1898 Final Report of the New Jersey State Geologist; the 1923 and 1951 editions of the *New York Walk Book*; a hiking schedule in the 1964 *New York Times*; a 1971 realty ad in *The Pocono Record*; the 2005 Borough of Kinnelon Open Space and Recreation Plan (a comment by the Kinnelon Town Historian refers to “the 1,020’ high Kakeout Mountain”); and a 2009 post on “The Trails of New Jersey & New York. . . in Pictures” website.

The 1951 edition of the *New York Walk Book* also reported a “Little Kakeout Mountain,” which may be the smaller of the two summits labeled as Kakeout Mountain on early USGS maps.
A 1986 article titled “Kakeout name change criticized” was published in 2011 on the North Jersey News website. It reported that Morris County stated “the area was originally named ‘Kikeout’ because ‘The Dutch word for lookout is “Kike.” Over the years, variations in the spelling have occurred; such as Kake Out Road and Kike Out Road.” A local historian is quoted as saying that the change occurred after World War II. A local resident’s letter to the editor is quoted at length:

“[he complained about] ‘the unfortunate manipulations to alter the historical names of the Kinnelon area by willfully misspelling the name 'Kikeout'… A direct descendent of the earliest settlers of the area…agrees about the neglectful spellings… [residents should] reflect upon the consequences of the clandestine attempts at altering the names, as well as a few other old and honorable names that make such a unique and outstanding local history, if only due respect were shown by those who manipulate or proclaim to write about History and ignore the necessity of accuracy in writing about history. . . [He mentions] ‘Kikeout Road’. . . ‘the Kikeout Reservoir’. . . ‘the Kikeout Brook’ . . . ‘Kikeout Mountain’. . . [and] ‘the Kikeout Meadows’. . . The most touted reason [for the change] appears to be the supposedly high sensitivity to ethnics by the persons who first began this taking of liberties with historical names. . . . There is however, another much more logical reason for the meddling with the truth in history. There are some persons who have moved into the area and having been endowed by fortune to be able to purchase a tract of land and to live on it for some time, have gradually begun thinking that they also own the history of the land since they have a deed to the land and feel that they are at liberty to alter names or even erase parts of history and add and substitute according to their fancy.’ [He] railed against what he perceived as landowners’ ‘puffery and self aggrandizement’ in their gall to change the historical names of places in the area."

The reservoir, brook, and meadow are not recorded in GNIS, but the use of these names dates from at least 1914 until the present. The reservoir is recorded in GNIS as Butler Reservoir, which is dammed by Kakeout Dam (added from the 1981 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) “Listing of Dams and Reservoirs in the United States”). Kakeout Reservoir and Lower Kakeout Dam were also added from this list and were located downstream from Butler Reservoir and Kakeout Dam. In 2011, the Borough of Butler removed Lower Kakeout Dam which presumably also removed Kakeout Reservoir as defined in GNIS. Further confusing the issue is that Butler Reservoir has been called Kikeout Reservoir or Kakeout Reservoir since its construction (see below). In addition, there is another Butler Reservoir three miles to the northwest in Passaic County; this name is in local use. The local name for Butler Reservoir appears to be “Kakeout Reservoir” in many sources. The current USACE National Inventory of Dams lists Kakeout Dam at its current location and “Kakeout Dike” on “Kakeout Brook” at the southeast corner of the reservoir. “Kakeout Brook” (or “Kikeout Brook”) seems to be a name in local use for all or part of Stone House Brook, which flows through Butler Reservoir.
Spellings of the names have varied over time. For the stream:

- Kikewit in a 1790 will
- Kakeout in the 1914 Annual Report of the New Jersey Board of Fish and Game Commissioners
- Kikeout in the 1919 Annual Report of the Department of Health of the State of New Jersey
- Kikeout in a 1936 *The Courier-News* (Bridgewater, New Jersey) article
- Kakeout in a 1960 *The Courier-News* (Bridgewater, New Jersey) article
- Kakeout in a 1969 *The Record* (Hackensack, New Jersey) article
- Kikeout in a 1973 EPA document
- Kakeout in the 2001 Congressional Record
• Kikeout and Kakeout (and “Stone House Brook (a.k.a.) Kikeout Brook,”) in a 2004 New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife document
• Kikeout in a 2007 New Jersey Department of Transportation document
• Kikeout in the 2011 New Jersey Administrative Code Surface Water Quality Standards
• Kikeout (“Butler's Kakeout Reservoir which is on Kikeout Brook / Stone House Brook at the base of Kikeout Mountain”) in a 2011 post on the Tri-Boro NJ Patch.com website (the article also states that “Butler and Kinnelon changed the spelling about 60 years ago but the US Geological Survey maintains the spelling given since colonial times.”)
• Kakeout in a 2014 New Jersey Water Monitoring Council document
• Kakeout in a 2017 North Jersey News website article
• Kikeout (and “Stone House Brook”) in the 2018 National Bridge Inventory
• Kikeout in a 2019 New Jersey Department of Transportation document

For the reservoir:
• Kikeout (or “Butler Kikeout”) in 1936 and 1937 Daily Record (Morris County) articles
• Kakeout and Kikeout in a 1981 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Inspection Report for Lower Kakeout Dam
• Kakeout (“Butler Reservoir, also called the Kakeout Reservoir”) in the 2005 Borough of Kinnelon Open Space and Recreation Plan
• Kakeout (and “Butler/Kakeout Reservoir”) in the 2007 Highlands Regional Master Plan
• Kakeout in a 2009 post on “The Trails of New Jersey & New York…in Pictures” website (including a sign on a fence at the reservoir reading “Butler Water Supply Kakeout Reservoir”)
• Kakeout in a 2011 post on the “NJ Urban Forests” website (including a sign on a fence at the reservoir reading “Butler Water Supply Kakeout Reservoir”)
• Kakeout (“Butler's Kakeout Reservoir which is on Kikeout Brook / Stone House Brook at the base of Kikeout Mountain”) in a 2011 post on the Tri-Boro NJ Patch.com website (the article also states that “Butler and Kinnelon changed the spelling about 60 years ago but the US Geological Survey maintains the spelling given since colonial times.”)
• Kakeout (and “Kakeout (Butler) Reservoir”) in the 2012 Borough of Kinnelon Open Space and Recreation Plan update
• Kakeout in current Borough of Butler webpages including for the Butler Museum

For the road:
• Kikeout in the 1922 Acts of the One Hundred and Forty-sixth Legislature of New Jersey
• Kakeout in a 1981 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Inspection Report for Lower Kakeout Dam
• Kakeout in the 2011 Borough of Butler Audit
• Kakeout on the 2016 Borough of Butler Tax Assessment map

The 1914 Corporations of New Jersey List of Certificates to December 31, 1911, Compiled by the Secretary of State listed a “Kamp Kykout” in “Pequannock, Morris County.”
NEW YORK

**Bottle Creek**: stream; 1.3 mi. long; in the Town of Ashland, heads 2.1 mi. W of Wellsburg at 42°01′02″N, 76°46′16″W, flows SW to enter South Creek; the name refers to the use of the stream as a bottle dump in the 1950s; Chemung County, New York; 42°00′21″N, 76°47′16″W; USGS map - Elmira 1:24,000.

Mouth: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.005731&p_longi=-76.787838](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.005731&p_longi=-76.787838)

Source: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.017274&p_longi=-76.771015](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.017274&p_longi=-76.771015)

Proposal: new name for an unnamed feature
Map: USGS map - Elmira 1:24,000
Proponent: Milo Miller; Wellsburg, NY
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: None found
Local Usage: None found
Published: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to apply the new name Bottle Creek to a 1.3-mile-long unnamed tributary of South Creek in the Town of Ashland in Chemung County. The name would refer to the reported historic use of the stream as a bottle dump in the 1950s. The Thatcher Glass Manufacturing Company was located in nearby Elmira from 1905-1985.

**Coombs Pond**: lake; 1 acre; in the Town of Greenwood, 2 mi. NE of Quig Hollow, 2.7 mi. NW of Dryden Hill; the name honors Van William Coombs (1900-1986), a local resident and farmer of the property that includes the pond; Steuben County, New York; 42°09′53″N, 77°43′38″W; USGS map - Greenwood 1:24,000.


Proposal: new commemorative name for an unnamed feature
Map: USGS map - Greenwood 1:24,000
Proponent: Milo Miller; Wellsburg, NY
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: None found
Local Usage: None found
Published: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to apply the new commemorative name Coombs Pond to a one-acre lake in the Town of Greenwood in Steuben County. The name would honor Van William Coombs (1900-1986) and his wife Mildred (1902-1992), who lived and farmed on the property in the 1920s and 1930s. A native of Allegany County, New York, Mr. Coombs and his wife inherited the property that includes the pond from her family, who had owned it for almost 100 years. Mildred was also employed as a teacher at a one-room schoolhouse that bordered the farm. Unable to maintain the farm during the Great Depression, the Coombs moved to Addison, where Van was employed by Dresser Rand.
Drake Creek: stream; 1.3 mi. long; in the Town of Ashland, heads 2 mi. NW of Doty Hill at 42°01′24″N, 76°46′36″W, flows SW to enter South Creek; the name commemorates Wendell Drake (d. 2011), who operated a small chicken farm in the area; Chemung County, New York; 42°00′46″N, 76°47′37″W; USGS map - Elmira 1:24,000.

Mouth: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.012808&p_longi=-76.793724

Source: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.023427&p_longi=-76.776734

Proposal: new commemorative name for unnamed feature
Map: USGS Elmira 1:24,000
Proponent: Milo Miller; Wellsburg, NY
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
   GNIS: No record
   Local Usage: None found
Published: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to apply the new commemorative name Drake Creek to a 1.3-mile-long unnamed tributary of South Creek in the Town of Ashland in Chemung County. The name is intended to commemorate Wendell Drake (d. 2011), who lived along Merriam Road and operated a small chicken farm in the area. The proponent adds “He was a caring elderly man whom [sic] enjoyed his religion, his chickens, and farming.”

The name Drake Creek was originally proposed (Review List 435) for a different stream that flowed into an unnamed stream proposed to be named Seaborg Creek (not approved by the BGN in August 2019). The proponent did not indicate why he wished to amend the location but added that the Drake farm was located near both streams.

Change Mohawk River to Kanien’kehá:ka River: stream; 150 mi. long; heads in the Town of Lee at the confluence of the East Branch Mohawk River and the West Branch Mohawk River, flows generally SE through or along the Town of Western, the City of Rome, the Town of Floyd, the Town of Marcy, the Town of Whitestown, the City of Utica, the Town of Schuyler, the Town of Frankfort, the Town of Herkimer, the Town of German Flatts, the Town of Little Falls, the City of Little Falls, the Town of Manheim, the Town of Danube, the Town of St. Johnsville, the Town of Minden, the Town of Palatine, the Town of Canajoharie, the Town of Root, the Town of Mohawk, the Town of Glen, the Town of Amsterdam, the Town of Florida, the City of Amsterdam, the Town of Glendale, the Town of Rotterdam, the City of Schenectady, the Town of Niskayuna, the Town of Clifton Park, the Town of Colonie, the Town of Halfmoon, and the Town of Waterford to flow into the Hudson River in the City of Cohoes and the Village of Green Island S of Van Schaick Island; named for the Kanien’kehá:ka (Mohawk) peoples; Saratoga County, Albany County, Schenectady County, Montgomery County, Herkimer County, and Oneida County, New York; 42°45′39″N, 73°41′13″W; USGS map -Troy North 1:24,000 (mouth); Not: Canneoganaka lonita'de, Con-ne-o-ga-ha-ka-lon-on-i-ta-de, Da-ya-hoo-wa-quat, Maquaas River, Magnas Kill, Maquaas Kill, Maquas Kill, Mohawk River, Mohocks River, Mohok River, O-i-o-gue, Ohionhiio:ke Stream, Riviere Mohock,
Shenectady River, Te-non-an-at-che, Te-uge-ga, Yenonanatche.  
Proposal: to change a name considered offensive  
Map: USGS Troy North 1:24,000 (mouth)  
Proponent: Stephen Burgay; Rochester, NY  
Administrative area: None  
Previous BGN Action: None  
Names associated with feature:  
GNIS: Mohawk River (FID 970360) (BGN 1931)  
Local Usage: Mohawk River  
Published:  
Canneoganaka lonita'de (Aboriginal Place Names of New York, 1907); Con-ne-o-ga-ha-ka-lon-on-i-ta-de (Aboriginal Place Names of New York, 1907); Da-ya-hoo-wa-quat – in part (Aboriginal Place Names of New York, 1907); Maaquas River (The Hudson: A Guidebook to the River, 1981; The Hudson River Guidebook, 1996); Magnas Kill (Bi-centennial History of Albany, 1886; Landmarks of Albany County, 1897); Maaquas Kill (Public Papers of Daniel D. Tompkins, Governor Of New York, 1902; The Cartography of North America: 1500 – 1800, 1987); Maaquas Kill (Aboriginal Place Names of New York, 1907); Mohawk River (USGS 1893, 1895, 1898, 1900, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1938, 1947, 1949, 1954, 1986, 1989, 2010, 2013, 2016; AMS 1948, 1956, 1957, 1959, 1962); Mohocks River (A Map of the British Empire in America, 1733); Mohok River (From Abbots to Zurich: New York State Placenames, 2004); O-i-o-gue (Aboriginal Place Names of New York, 1907); Ohionhiió:ke Stream (source unknown); Riviere Mohock (The Cartography of North America: 1500-1800, 1987); Shenectady River (A Map of the British Empire in America, 1733); Te-non-an-at-che (Aboriginal Place Names of New York, 1907); Te-uge-ga (History of Saratoga County, New York, 1878); Yenonanatche (Aboriginal Place Names of New York, 1907)  
Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of the Mohawk River, a 150-mile tributary of the Hudson River in Saratoga County, Albany County, Schenectady County, Montgomery County, Herkimer County, and Oneida County, to Kanien’kehá:ka River.  

From its source to its mouth, the stream flows through or borders the Town of Lee, the Town of Western, the City of Rome, the Town of Floyd, the Town of Marcy, the Town of Whitestown, the City of Utica, the Town of Schuyler, the Town of Frankfort, the Village of Frankfort, the Town of Herkimer, the Village of Ilion, the Village of Mohawk, the Village of Herkimer, the Town of German Flatts, the Town of Little Falls, the City of Little Falls, the Town of Manheim, the Town of Danube, the Town of St. Johnsville, the Town of Minden, the Village of St. Johnsville, the Town of Palatine, the Village of Nelliston, the Village of Fort Plain, the Town of Canajoharie, the Village of Palatine Bridge, the Village of Canajoharie, the Town of Root, the Town of Mohawk, the Town of Glen, the Village of Fonda, the Village of Fultonville, the Village of Tribes Hill, the Town of Amsterdam, the Town of Florida, the Village of Fort Johnson, the City of Amsterdam, the Town of Glenville, the Town of Rotterdam, the Village of Scotia, the City of Schenectady, the Village of East Glenville, the Town of Niskayuna, the Town of Clifton Park, the Town of Colonie, the Town of Halfmoon, the Town of Waterford, the City of Cohoes, and the Village of Green Island.
The proponent provided documents outlining the offensiveness of the term “Mohawk,” which was an Algonquian exonym applied by the Dutch to the Iroquoian-speaking peoples. “Mohawk” may derive from a Narragansett word meaning “they eat living things,” or possibly “man eaters.” The autonym for the Mohawk people is Kanien'kehá:ka, meaning “People of the Flint.” The proponent reports that the name “Kanien'kehá:ka” is frequently preferred by the Tribe and that “although the river is not often referred to with this name, it is nevertheless our responsibility to respect the languages and cultures of the people who were here before us.” He also states that other acceptable names for the stream could be “Ohionhiio:ke” (the original Kanien'kéha name for the river, according to GNIS) or “Tenonanatche” (another Kanien'kéha name for the river). He “encourage[s] consultation with the Kanien'kehá:ka community on which would be preferable.”

The stream flows through or along several tracts of State land, county land, and the U.S. Department of Energy Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory.

The name Mohawk River has been labeled on USGS maps since 1893. On early maps, the stream has had many names applied to it. The 1907 Aboriginal Place Names of New York reports several names: Canneoganaka lonita'de; Con-ne-o-ga-ha-ka-lon-on-i-ta-de; Da-yaa-hoo-wa'-quatt (for the section above Little Falls); Maquas Kill; O-i-o-gue; Te-non-an-at'-che; and Yenonanatche. Another native name is reported as Te-uge-ga. Other names on early maps include Maquas River, Magnas Kill, Maquaas Kill, Mohocks River, Mohok River, Riviere Mohock, and Shenectady River.

The GNIS record for the Mohawk River reports “The variant name, ‘Ohionhiio:ke Stream’, is a Mohawk name which translates to: ‘nice creek’. The source of this name and translation is unknown.

Change Mount Discovery to Mount Inez: summit; elevation 1,570 ft.; in the Town of Lewis in Adirondack Park, 0.5 mi. NE of Rattlesnake Mountain; named for Inez Milholland Boissevain (1886-1916), a noted suffragist and lawyer, who spent summers on family property near the summit; Essex County, New York; 44°15’20”N, 73°32’43”W; USGS map – Lewis 1:24,000; Not: Mount Discovery.


Proposal: to change name in commemoration and to recognize local preference
Map: USGS Lewis 1:24,000
Proponent: Nancy Duff Campbell; Washington, DC
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Mount Discovery (FID 948473)
Local Usage: Mount Discovery

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Mount Discovery, a 1,570-foot summit in the Town of Lewis in Essex County, to Mount Inez.

The name commemorates Inez Milholland Boissevain (1886-1916), a noted suffragist and lawyer who participated in many rallies for a Constitutional amendment to allow women to vote. Her father owned land on the slopes of Mount Discovery, and she spent summers at the property. After her death, the Town of Lewis reportedly renamed Mount Discovery to Mount Inez. The change was never proposed to the BGN, due possibly to a fire that destroyed the town’s records. Mrs. Boissevain is buried in the Lewis Cemetery at the foot of the summit.

News articles from 1916 and the following few years attest to the Town’s intention to rename the summit as Mount Inez: the December 7, 1916 Elizabethtown Post reported “the highest mountain on Meadowmount is ‘Old Discovery,’ from the summit of which is obtained a wonderful view of Lake Champlain, the Adirondacks, Green Mountains, and vast sweep towards Canada. It stands an outpost of the ranges like Mount Shasta in relation to the Sierra Nevadas. Hereafter its name will be ‘Mount Inez,’ a fitting monument of nature for her whose love for the mountains was only equaled by her love for the sea.” An editorial in the same issue stated “Inez Milholland-Boissevain will have a monument made by the hand of man but she has one already fashioned by God in Nature and in changing the name “Discovery” -- which means little to this generation whatever significance it ever possessed -- to “Mount Inez” something has been done in the right direction that we believe all out people will approve and unanimously carry out.” The December 14, 1916 edition of The Ticonderoga Sentinel reported “Mt. Discovery, in the town of Lewis, has been renamed Mt. Inez by John E. Milholland in honor of his brilliant daughter, whose grave is overlooked by the towering mountain. Mt. Inez is wholly within Mr. Millhollan’s Lewis ranch.” Other articles that referred to the renaming appeared in The New York Times and The Essex County Republican. In February 1917, the General Federation of Weimen’s Club Magazine published an editorial stating “A mountain peak has been named for Edith Cavell [in Alberta, formerly Mount Fitzhugh], and another mountain peak has been named for Inez Milholland! It certainly means something when women have mountain peaks named for them! Not waiting for one hundred years before saining them! Mount Inez! Mount Edith Cavell!” Finally, the 1920 book “Jailed for Freedom” reported an address given at a memorial for Ms. Milholland when her statue was added to Statuary Hall in the Capitol Building, which included “Inez Milholland is one around whom legends will grow up. Generations to come will point out Mount Inez and tell of the beautiful woman who sleeps her last sleep on its slopes.”

A Town of Lewis sign near the summit reads “The mountain behind the estate is known today as Mount Discovery, however, John E. Milholland named it Mount Inez after his well-known daughter passed away.”
The name Mount Inez appears in some later sources, but most use the name Mount Discovery maps. Notable sources using the proposed name include a 1971 article in *Adirondack Life*, which refers to “Mt. Discovery once known as Mt. Inez”; the 1981 book *Womanlist*; and the 1986 *Women remembered: a guide to landmarks of women's history in the United States*. The latter two sources state that the summit was formerly known as Mount Discovery.

The name Discovery Mountain was first published in 1813 in *A Gazetteer of the State of New York* and has been used in countless sources up to the present. It has been labeled on USGS maps since 1895. There are several theories regarding the origin of the name. One source (*Whispering Mountains: A History of Lewis, New York*, 2005) reported that the summit was used as a lookout during the American Revolution to watch for the British fleet on Lake Champlain. An article in *Adirondack Life* (1969) also reported that it was used as a lookout, but during the War of 1812.

The proponent does not wish to propose a name change for the nearby Little Discovery Mountain.

The proposal is supported by Bunting Family Forestry, owners of much of the summit, the Meadowmount School of Music, which is located on the former John E. Milholland property, and the Town of Lewis Historian. The Essex County Historical Society Board of Trustees and New York State Assemblyman Dan Stec also submitted letters of support.

**Sly Creek**: stream; 1.9 mi. long; in the Town of Ashland, heads 4.9 mi. SE of Elmira at 42°02′08″N, 76°46′35″W, flows SE to enter a swampy area 0.6 mi SW of Baldwin Island; the name honors John B. Sly (1832-1885), local resident and farmer on Dug Road; Chemung County, New York; 42°01′33″N, 76°44′39″W; USGS map - Wellsburg 1:24,000 (mouth).

Mouth: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.025775&p_longi=-76.744043](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.025775&p_longi=-76.744043)

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Proposal: new commemorative name for an unnamed feature

Map: USGS map -Wellsburg 1:24,000 (mouth)

Proponent: Milo Miller; Wellsburg, NY

Administrative area:

Previous BGN Action: None

Names associated with feature:

GNIS: None found

Local Usage: None found

Published: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to apply the new commemorative name Sly Creek to an unnamed 1.9-mile-long stream that terminates in a swampy area near an unnamed ephemeral tributary of Chemung River in the Town of Ashland. The name would honor John B. Sly (1832-1885), who moved to Ashland and started a farm on Dug Road in 1850.

An 1869 Beers map of Chemung County shows properties belonging to J.A Sly, V.M. Sly, and S.A. Sly in the area along Dug Road. Another John Sly is documented as one of the first
settlers of the Fifth Ward of Elmira in 1788, where he owned 600 acres of land northwest of
the source of the stream. There is also a Sly Street in Elmira.

GNIS lists three other natural features in New York with the word “Sly” in their names. All
are named Sly Pond and are located over 150 miles northeast in Hamilton County and
Washington County.

**Washburn Brook**: stream; 1.5 mi. long; in the Town of Ashland, heads 1.7 mi. SE of Comfort
Hill at 42°00’54”N, 76°45’35”, flows SE to enter an unnamed stream proposed to be named
White Hollow Run (q.v.), 0.8 mi. SW of Wellsburg; the name honors Harold T. Washburn
(1915-2013), local resident and electrician; Chemung County, New York; 42°00’12”N,
76°44’23”W; USGS map - Wellsburg 1:24,000 (mouth).

Mouth: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.003217&p_longi=-
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76.759721)

Proposal: new commemorative name for an unnamed feature

Map: USGS map - Wellsburg 1:24,000 (mouth)

Proponent: Milo Miller; Wellsburg, NY

Administrative area:

Previous BGN Action: None

Names associated with feature:

GNIS: None found

Local Usage: None found

Published: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to apply the new commemorative name Washburn Brook to a
1.5-mile-long unnamed tributary of an unnamed stream proposed to be named White Hollow
Run (q.v.) in the Town of Ashland in Chemung County. The new name would honor Harold
T. Washburn (1915-2013), a resident of Wellsburg, who was employed as an electrician in
nearby Elmira. Mr. Washburn’s property was located approximately 0.4 miles southwest of
the source of the stream but did not include the stream itself.

**White Hollow Run**: stream; 2.1 mi. long; in the Town of Ashland, heads 0.5 mi. N of Doty
Hill at 42°00’13”N, 76°45’33”W, flows SE into South Creek Township and Ridgebury
Township, then NE through White Hollow to enter Bentley Creek 0.5 mi. SE of Wellsburg; the
stream flows through White Hollow; Chemung County and Bradford County, New York and
Pennsylvania; 42°00’23”N, 76°43’38”W; USGS map - Wellsburg 1:24,000 (mouth); Not:
White Hollow Creek.

Mouth: [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.006502&p_longi=-
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Proposal: to make official a name in local use

Map: USGS map - Wellsburg 1:24,000 (mouth)

Proponent: Milo Miller; Wellsburg, NY

Administrative area:
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
  GNIS: None found
  Local Usage: White Hollow Creek (proponent)
  Published: White Hollow Run (Wellsburg Village Flood Mitigation Action Plan 1999)
Case Summary: This proposal is to make official the name White Hollow Run for a 2.1-mile-long tributary of Bentley Creek. The stream, which flows through White Hollow, heads in the Town of Ashland, flows for a short distance into South Creek Township and Ridgebury Township in Bradford County, Pennsylvania, before flowing back into Ashland. According to the proponent, the stream has been known locally as White Hollow Creek for several years, but after he was advised that a 1999 Wellsburg Village Flood Mitigation Action Plan referred to it as White Hollow Run, he amended his proposal accordingly.

NORTH CAROLINA

Richardson Creek: stream; 4.3 mi. long; heads at 35°33’41”N, 81°29’01”W, flows SE into Little Indian Creek; named for Carl Harold Richardson (1916-1997), who was employed by the North Carolina Department of Transportation as a motor grader operator, as well as a lifetime farmer on the property and pillar of the North Brook community; Lincoln County, North Carolina; 35°31’28”N, 81°26’26”W; USGS map - Banoak 1:24,000.
Mouth: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=35.5244079&p_longi=-81.4405363
  Proposal: new commemorative name for unnamed feature
  Map: USGS Banoak 1:24,000
  Proponent: Bobby Richardson; Vale, NC
  Administrative area: None
  Previous BGN Action: None
  Names associated with feature:
    GNIS: No record
    Local Usage: None found
    Published: None found
Case Summary: The new commemorative name Richardson Creek is proposed for a 4.3-mile-long tributary of Little Indian Creek in Lincoln County. The name would commemorate Carl Harold Richardson (1916-1997), who was employed by the North Carolina Department of Transportation as a motor grader operator for 40 years, and who farmed property along the stream throughout his life. The proponent, who is the son of the intended honoree, reports that his father was a pillar of the North Brook community, and a lifetime member and deacon of Hulls Grove Baptist Church.

Change Mulatto Mountain to Simone Mountain: summit; elevation 4,304 ft.; 1.6 mi. NW of Nettle Knob, 3.1 mi. W of Lake Ashe; the name honors Nina Simone (1933-2003), North Carolina native, soul musician, and civil rights activist; Ashe County, North Carolina; 36°20’51”N, 81°30’20”W; USGS map - Todd 1:24,000; Not: Mulatto Mountain.
Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
Map: USGS map - Todd 1:24,000
Proponent: Olivia Handley
Administrative area:
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
  GNIS: Mulatto Mountain (FID 990770)
  Local Usage: None found
Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Mulatto Mountain, a 4,304-foot summit in Ashe County, to Simone Mountain.

The proponent states “changing this name would embrace [the] history of North Carolina representing a person who achieved great heights in career and society.” The new name would honor Nina Simone (1933-2003), a North Carolina native who was a well-known soul musician and civil rights activist. She often performed and gave speeches at civil rights meetings and was a supporter of the black nationalist movement of the sixties and seventies. Simone was born and raised in Tryon, North Carolina, 90 miles southwest of the summit. She was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2018, and in 2019 her civil rights song “Mississippi Goddam” was selected by the Library of Congress for preservation in the National Recording Registry. The proposal was submitted as Nina Simone Mountain but the proponent was advised it would be shortened to Simone Mountain in accordance with its Long Names Policy.

Preston Arthur, author of Western North Carolina: A History (1730-1913), writes “the Mulatto mountain is said to have taken its name from the color of the soil.” In the book African Banjo Echoes in Appalachia: A Study of Folk Traditions, Cecilia Conway writes that this summit, along with Negro Mountain (now Mount Jefferson), was named for African-Americans because of the nearby underground railroad and that “this tradition reveals that at least some residents not only were unionist but also were working actively for the abolition of slavery.”

USGS topographic maps have labeled the feature Mulatto Mountain since 1893. Mulatto Mountain Road runs along the western side of the summit.

**NORTH DAKOTA**

**Alkali Lake**: lake; 675 acre; located 2.2 mi. S of Spiritwood Lake, 12 mi. NW of Fox Lake; the name refers to the high PH-level, alkaline-like water quality in the area; Stutsman County, North Dakota; Sec 7, T41N, R62W, Fifth Principal Meridian; 47°02’27”N, 98°35’01”W; USGS map - Spiritwood Lake 1:24,000.
Proposal: to make official a name used locally
Map: USGS map - Spiritwood Lake 1:24,000
Proponent: Matt Neilson; Gainesville, FL
Administrative area:
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
   GNIS: None found
   Local Usage: Alkali Lake (proponent)
   Published: Alkali Lake (National Audubon Society Edward M. Brigham III Alkali Lake Wildlife Sanctuary; North Dakota Game and Fish Department website)
Case Summary: This proposal is to make official the locally used name Alkali Lake for a 675-acre-lake in Stutsman County. The proponent, a fishery biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, reports that the name has been in local use for at least 15 years. The property is managed by the National Audubon Society as the Edward M. Brigham III Alkali Lake Wildlife Sanctuary and is referred to as Alkali Lake on the North Dakota Game and Fish Department’s online listing of fishing waters by county, including links to reports and maps of the feature using the name.

GNIS lists another Alkali Lake in Stutsman County, 32 miles to the west-northwest. A USGS topographic maps published in 1900 labels a different Alkali Lake 11 miles to the north, but this one is not listed in GNIS nor is it labeled on current maps.

**OHIO**

**Change Negro Creek to Freedom Creek:** stream; 2.5 mi. long; in Decatur Township, heads in Wayne National Forest 0.9 mi. N of Phillips Knob at 38°45’28"N, 82°35’50"W, flows SW then W into Pine Creek 0.2 mi. SE of Buckhorn; Secs 10, 11, 2&1, T3N, R18W, Ohio River Base; Lawrence County, Ohio; 38°44’38"N, 82°37’55"W; USGS map - Pedro 1:24,000 (mouth);
Not: Negro Creek, Nigger Creek.

Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
Map: USGS Pedro 1:24,000 (mouth)
Proponent: Sanjana Sharma
Administrative area: Wayne National Forest
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
   GNIS: Negro Creek (FID 1076502)
   Local Usage: None found
   Published: Negro Creek (USGS 1961, 2002, 2011, 2013, 2016; Ohio Department of Natural Resources 2016); Nigger Creek (USGS 1898, 1900; An atlas of Lawrence County, Ohio, 1887; Ohio Geological Survey Fourth Series Bulletins, 1916, 1931)
Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Negro Creek, a 2.5-mile-long tributary of Pine Creek in Decatur Township in Lawrence County, to Freedom Creek. The stream heads in Wayne National Forest.
The proponent objects to the “offensive racial slur” in the current name and states “the proposed name change eliminates this wording.” The name Negro Creek has been labeled on USGS maps since 1961. USGS maps published in 1898 and 1900 used the pejorative form of the name. The pejorative form also appeared as early as 1887 on a county atlas and in Ohio Geological Survey bulletins in 1916 and 1931. The 2015 online version of Ohio Administrative Code 3745-1-16 used the name Negro Creek, while the pejorative form appeared in the pdf version.

No information about the origin of the name could be found. Coal mining was widespread in Lawrence County and southern Ohio. In a 1916 Ohio Geological Survey publication on coal mining in southern Ohio, a “nigger head” was described as coal containing a large amount of shale that often overlies purer coal beds. Coal mining was described at the stream but there is no indication the name referred to the shaly coal beds in the area.

OREGON

**Change Chinaman Hat to Bath Hat:** summit; elevation 3,579 ft.; within a Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Area 1.7 mi. N of Black Rock at the S end of North Pole Ridge; the name is associated with the nearby Bath Canyon; Sec 3, T7S, R18E, Willamette Meridian; Wasco County, Oregon; 44°59’33”N, 120°32’59”W; USGS map - Hastings Peak 1:24,000; Not: Chinaman Hat.


Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
Map: USGS Hastings Peak 1:24,000
Proponent: Sara Wasserman; Eugene, OR
Administrative area: Bureau of Land Management
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Chinaman Hat (FID 1118917)
Local Usage: None found
Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Chinaman Hat, a 3,579-foot summit in Wasco County, to Bath Hat. The summit is located within the Bureau of Land Management’s Black Rock Grazing Allotment.

The proponent states “Chinaman is a derogatory slur. Historical usage does not excuse ongoing use of slurs derogatory towards entire populations.” The proposed name Bath Hat “keeps the historical ‘Hat’ portion of the name” and is associated with Bath Canyon which the summit overlooks. The name Chinaman Hat presumably refers to the shape of the summit which resembles a conical hat known as a dǒuli in Chinese, that was worn by Chinese laborers in the Pacific Northwest during the 1800s.

The current name has appeared on USGS maps since 1966. The name also appears on a Bureau of Land Management map of the John Day Wild & Scenic River.
A query of GNIS found five similarly-named summits in Oregon: Chinaman Hat (240 miles to the southwest in Josephine County); China Hat Peak (45 miles to the southeast in Wheeler County); China Cap (48 miles to the east in Grant County); China Hat (93 miles to the south-southwest in Deschutes County); and China Cap (150 miles to the east in Union County). A trail with the name Chinaman Trail is located in Grant County. Texas contains a summit named Chinaman Hat; Idaho contains summits named Chinamans Hat, China Cap, and China Hat; Montana contains a summit named Chinamans Hat; and California contains a summit named China Hat.

**Change Negro Creek to Freedom Creek:** stream; 5 mi. long; in Umpqua National Forest, heads 0.8 mi. W of Peter Paul Prairie at 43°10’20"N, 122°53’24"W, flows generally N to enter the Little River 3.2 mi E of Sugar Pine Flat; Secs 12,13,24,23,26,25&36, T27S, R2W, Willamette Meridian; Douglas County, Oregon 43°13’56”N, 122°52’26”W; USGS map - Taft Mountain 1:24,000 (mouth); Not: Negro Creek.


Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
Map: USGS Taft Mountain 1:24,000 (mouth)
Proponent: Danielle Davis; Bend, OR
Administrative area: Umpqua National Forest
Previous BGN Action: Negro Creek (BGN 1987)
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Negro Creek (FID 1146759)
Local Usage: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Negro Creek, a five-mile-long tributary of the Little River in Umpqua National Forest in Douglas County, to Freedom Creek.

The proponent believes the name Negro Creek “is a wrong that should be made right. . . I would love to find out who the creek was named for and use that name, but I don’t live in the area.” No justification for the name Freedom Creek was given in the proposal.

The name Negro Creek has appeared on USGS maps since 1955, and was on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) maps as early as 1918. It was also labeled on a 1974 Umpqua drainage basin map published by the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD). The name was the subject of a BGN decision in 1987, when members voted to clarify the source of the stream, which differed between USGS and some USFS maps. The pejorative form of the name has not appeared on any Federal maps, but was listed in the 1939 volume *Streams and Lakes in the State of Oregon* (Oregon State Engineer’s Office) and on various editions of Metsker’s map of Douglas County.
A ridge to the east of the stream is named Negro Ridge but this name was not mentioned in the current proposal. It was labeled on the 1974 OWRD map but not on USGS maps until 2011.

**Change Idiot Creek to Kindness Creek:** stream; 4 mi. long; heads W of Larch Mountain, 24 mi. NE of Tillamook at 45°39'41"N, 123°26'06"W, flows generally S through Tillamook State Forest to enter Devils Lake Fork; the name is a positive message in contrast to the former name Idiot Creek; Secs 34,33,28,21&16, T2N, R6W, Willamette Meridian; Tillamook County and Washington County, Oregon; 45°36'57"N, 123°25'21"W; USGS map - Woods Point 1:24,000 (mouth); Not: Idiot Creek.


Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
Map: USGS Woods Point 1:24,000 (mouth)
Proponent: Cathy Leogrande; Auburn, NY
Administrative area: Tillamook State Forest
Previous BGN Action: Idiot Creek (BGN 1965)
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Idiot Creek (FID 1163062)
Local Usage: None found
Published: Idiot Creek (1979, 2011, 2014, 2017; Oregon Water Resources Department Drainage Basin Map, 1972; Oregon Department of Forestry, 2019; Oregon Geographic Names, 2011; numerous Oregon hiking websites)

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Idiot Creek, a four-mile-long tributary of Devils Lake Fork in Tillamook County and Washington County, to Kindness Creek. The stream flows through Tillamook State Forest. The proponent states “the term ‘idiot’ was used in the past as a medical category for individuals with developmental disabilities as measured by IQ tests. This term is outdated and pejorative. Kindness Creek would send a positive message.”

The name Idiot Creek was approved by the BGN in 1965, in response to a proposal submitted by the Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB) on behalf of an individual who had stated that the name had long been in local use and was missing from USGS maps. The proponent suggested that the name might refer to “a logging camp known as Idiotville... at the mouth of the creek,” and that both names could be “a reference to the ‘idiot stick’ which is used to move heavy loads by hand.” The BGN initially voted not to approve the name because it believed it was derogatory. However, the OGNB asked the BGN to revisit its decision based on local use and a belief that the name was not derogatory, and the BGN agreed to make it official for Federal use.

According to a 1959 article in *American Speech* titled “More Logger Lingo of the Redwood Region,” an “idiot stick” is “a peeling bar.” Jonathon Green’s 1987 *Dictionary of Jargon* defines “idiot stick,” as a logging term, as “a peeling stick, used to remove bark.” However, McArthur’s *Oregon Geographic Names* (2011) notes: “The compiler pondered this name ever since it was officially applied in USBGN Decision List 6503. After some publicity in November 1977 by Jim Jordan in the *Portland Daily Journal of Commerce*, Calvin Clayton, who had worked the truck lines along Wilson River since World War II, called to confirm the
suspected origin. About one half mile up Idiot Creek was the site of Ryan's Camp, a logging operation in the Tillamook Burn. This was such an out-of-the-way spot that supposedly only an idiot would go there to work, and the camp was popularly known as Idiotville. The name was applied to the stream in due course."

The name Idiot Creek has been labeled on USGS maps since 1979. It also appeared on the 1972 North Coast Drainage Basin map of the Oregon Water Resources Department (this map is the source of the name Idiotville, now listed as a historical feature in GNIS). On a 1954 Tillamook County highway map, the name Idiot Creek is applied to an officially unnamed stream 0.5 miles upstream along Devils Lake Fork. Idiot Creek is shown on a Tillamook State Forest map, along with Idiot Creek Road and Idiot Creek Loop Road. The name is mentioned on many Oregon hiking websites.

**Change Big Squaw Mountain to Sacagawea Peak**: summit; elevation 4,849 ft.; in Umpqua National Forest 6.5 mi. SSE of Taft Mountain; named for Sacagawea (1788-1812), a Lemhi Shoshone woman who traveled with the Lewis and Clark Expedition from present-day North Dakota to Oregon and back, often serving as their translator; Secs 13&14, T28S, R1W, Willamette Meridian; Douglas County, Oregon; 43°08′25″N, 122°46′25″W; USGS map - Taft Mountain 1:24,000; Not: Big Squaw, Big Squaw Mountain.


Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
Map: USGS Taft Mountain 1:24,000
Proponent: Jennifer Kristiansen; Portland, OR
Administrative area: Umpqua National Forest
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Big Squaw Mountain (FID 1138084)
Local Usage: None found

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* Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Big Squaw Mountain, a 4,849-foot summit in Umpqua National Forest in Douglas County, to Sacagawea Peak. The proponent states ‘‘squaw’ is a sexist and racist term, derogatory to indigenous women, and it is well past time to eliminate its use in nomenclature.” She wishes to commemorate Sacagawea (1788-
1812), a Lemhi Shoshone woman who traveled with the Lewis and Clark Expedition from present-day North Dakota to Oregon and back, often serving as their translator. She further states “Without Sacagawea, the Lewis & Clark Expedition would have failed miserably. There are hundreds of landmarks, features, schools, etc. named after Meriwether Lewis & William Clark. It is long past time to have places named for the woman who saved them from certain death.”

Sacagawea was born into the Lemhi Shoshone, likely in present-day Lemhi County, Idaho. She was kidnapped by a group of Hidatsa (present-day members of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation in North Dakota). In 1804, the Lewis and Clark Expedition passed by the Hidatsa villages where she was living and enlisted her help as a translator. She returned to her home in the Hidatsa villages on the return of the Expedition. She is believed to have died in present-day North Dakota in 1812.

There is no evidence that Sacagawea had any association with Douglas County. The Lewis and Clark Expedition traveled along the Columbia River which forms the boundary between present-day Oregon and Washington, more than 175 miles north of the summit in question. GNIS lists 55 features with names that contain a version of the name “Sacagawea”: 20 natural features, ten locales, and 24 administrative features. Most of the natural features are along the route of the expedition or in the general vicinity.

The name Big Squaw Mountain has appeared on USGS maps since 1955. The name Big Squaw was applied to Army Map Service maps in 1958 and 1959, while a 1967 edition labeled the feature Big Squaw Mountain. Small-scale versions of Metsker’s maps of Douglas County label the summit as “Big Squaw L.O. [Lookout].”

The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians submitted a counterproposal for the name Dumont Butte; see Review List 444.

**PENNSYLVANIA**

The following four proposals were submitted by a historian and resident of Slatington, to apply new names to unnamed streams in North Whitehall Township in Lehigh County. The North Whitehall Township Board of Supervisors recommend approval of the names, and a letter of support from Pennsylvania State Representative Gary W. Day was included with the application.

**Echo Run**: stream; 0.4 mi. long; in North Whitehall Township, heads 2.3 mi. ENE of Frey Pond at 40°42’46”N, 75°33’43”W, flows N to enter Rockdale Creek 0.3 mi. NE of Boyer Pond; the name is associated with nearby Echo Road; Lehigh County, Pennsylvania; 40°43’08”N, 75°33’40”W; USGS map - Cementon 1:24,000.


Proposal: new name for unnamed feature
Map: USGS Cementon 1:24,000  
Proponent: James E. Morris; Slatington, PA  
Administrative area:  
Previous BGN Action: None  
Names associated with feature:  
GNIS: None found  
Local Usage: None found  
Published: None found  

Case Summary: The name Echo Run is proposed for a 0.4-mile-long tributary of Rockdale Creek that runs along Echo Road. The origin of the road name has not been determined.

**Echostwin Run**: stream; 0.5 mi. long; in North Whitehall Township, heads 1.9 mi. ENE of Frey Pond at 40°42’39”N, 75°34’06”W, flows NE to enter Rockdale Creek 0.02 mi. NE of Boyer Pond; the name is associated with nearby Echo Road and nearby Echo Run (q.v.); Lehigh County, Pennsylvania; 40°43’00”N, 75°33’59”W; USGS map - Cementon 1:24,000. 

Proposal: new name for unnamed feature  
Map: USGS Cementon 1:24,000  
Proponent: James E. Morris; Slatington, PA  
Administrative area:  
Previous BGN Action: None  
Names associated with feature:  
GNIS: None found  
Local Usage: None found  
Published: None found  

Case Summary: This proposal is to apply the new name Echostwin Run to a 0.5-mile-long unnamed tributary of Rockdale Creek. The proponent reports that the name would be associated with nearby Echo Road and an unnamed stream proposed to be named Echo Run (q.v.).

**Snake Run**: stream; 0.3 mi.; in North Whitehall Township, heads 1.6 mi. SE of Hungary Hill at 40°43’27”N, 75°34’44”W, flows E to enter an unnamed stream proposed to be named Wharf Creek (q.v.) 0.6 mi. NW of Boyer Pond; the name refers to snakes commonly found at the mouth of the stream; Lehigh County, Pennsylvania; 40°43’23”N, 75°34’22”W; USGS map - Cementon 1:24,000. 

Proposal: new name for unnamed feature  
Map: USGS Cementon 1:24,000  
Proponent: James E. Morris; Slatington, PA  
Administrative area:
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: None found
Local Usage: None found
Published: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to apply the new name **Snake Run** to a 0.3-mile-long unnamed tributary of another unnamed stream proposed to be named **Wharf Creek** (q.v.). The name was suggested by local residents and refers to the snakes commonly found at the mouth of the stream.

**Wharf Creek**: stream; 1.4 mi. long; in North Whitehall Township, heads 1.5 mi. SE of Hungary Hill at 40°43’10”N, 75°35’16”W, flows SE then NE to enter the Lehigh River 1.4 mi. S of Clover Hill; the name refers to a wharf that once existed near the mouth of the stream at the Lehigh River; Lehigh County, Pennsylvania; 40°43’35”N, 75°34’09”W; USGS map - Cementon 1:24,000.


Proposal: new name for unnamed feature
Map: USGS Cementon 1:24,000
Proponent: James E. Morris; Slatington, PA
Administrative area:
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: None found
Local Usage: None found
Published: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to apply the new name **Wharf Creek** to a 1.4-mile-long unnamed tributary of Lehigh River in North Whitehall Township. The name refers to a wharf that once existed near the mouth of the stream at the Lehigh River. The wharf was reported to have been a trading post for various goods including grain, potatoes, and iron ore.

**Change Negro Mountain to Malcolm Mountain**: range; 29 mi. long, 1 to 2 mi. wide, elevation 3,213 ft.; between Meadow Mountain and Winding Ridge, trends SW to NE from Deep Creek Lake through Addison Township, Summit Township, Black Township, and Brothersville Township to a point 4.3 mi. ESE of Rockwood, highest point at Mount Davis in Elk Lick Township; named for Malcolm X (1925-1965), an influential African-American civil rights activist; Garrett County, Pennsylvania and Somerset County, Maryland; 39°47’10”N, 79°10’36”W; USGS map - Markleton 1:24,000 (highest point); Not: Negro Mountain, Nigger Mountain.


Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
Map: USGS Markleton 1:24,000 (highest point)
Proponent: Josh Mayse; Urbana, OH
Case Summary: This proposal is the first of two to change the name of Negro Mountain (BGN 1994) in Somerset County, Pennsylvania and Garrett County, Maryland. **Negro Mountain** is a long, narrow range between Meadow Mountain and Winding Ridge that runs from Deep Creek Lake in the southwest to a few miles beyond the Casselman River near Rockwood. The highest point in the range is Mount Davis. The range is party in or adjacent to the Deep Creek Lake Natural Resource Management Area, Deep Creek Lake State Park, and Savage River State Forest in Maryland; and in Forbes State Forest and Mount Davis Natural Area in Pennsylvania.

The proponent states that “the current name uses a racial slur,” and because the name of the man for whom the range was named is “unknown” (see below), the replacement name should honor Malcolm X (1925-1965), “a known African-American hero that fought for the rights of all African Americans.”

Malcolm X was born Malcolm Little. While in prison for larceny and breaking and entering, he converted to the Nation of Islam. He became an influential leader of the Nation of Islam in New York City and promoted ideas of black supremacy. In 1964, he left the Nation of Islam and became a Sunni Muslim. He gave a speech advocating voting rights for African-Americans and stated that violence might be necessary if these rights continued to be suppressed. After his Hajj, Malcolm X reported that seeing Muslims of all races together led him to believe that Islam could solve racial problems. He was assassinated by Nation of Islam members in New York. There is no evidence that he had any direct association with the range in western Pennsylvania and Maryland, but the proponent believes his contributions were of national significance.
In 1992, the BGN received a proposal from a resident of Pittsburgh to change the name of Negro Mountain to Black Hero Mountain to honor not only the man for whom the range was named, but also the 13 African-American Medal of Honor recipients from Pennsylvania and Maryland. In 1994, the BGN voted not to change the name and also voted to affirm the name Negro Mountain as a BGN decision. This decision cited opposition from the governments of Garrett County and Somerset County, the Pennsylvania State Names Authority (there was no active Maryland State Names Authority at the time), the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Maryland State Archives, the Deep Creek Lake Recreation Area, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources.

Since 1994, the BGN has received a number of inquiries about the name Negro Mountain and the decision to retain the name. There have also been a number of efforts to change the name in the State legislatures of both Pennsylvania and Maryland.

In 2005, a reporter asked about an erroneous report in a recent book about the Mason-Dixon Line, *Walkin’ the Line* by William Ecenbarger, that “some African-Americans objected to the mountain’s name in 1995 & petitioned the U.S. Board on Geographic Names for a change.”

In or around 2006, a Maryland Historic National Road marker was installed where U.S. Alternate Route 40 crosses Negro Mountain, which reads in part: “Nemesis, a black frontiersman was killed here while fighting Indians with Maryland frontiersman Thomas Cresap in the 1750s. Legend tells us that he had a premonition of his death. In his honor, they named this mountain after him.”

In 2007 and 2009, Pennsylvania State Representative Rosita C. Youngblood introduced House Resolution 378 and House Resolution 77, respectively, “Urging the Governor to form a commission or take other action to study the naming of Negro Mountain and Mount Davis, adopt names that accurately reflect the history of the region and update related governmental agency brochures, plaques and signs.” These resolutions were apparently never voted on.

In 2011, Maryland State Senators and Delegates introduced Senate Joint Resolution 3 and House Joint Resolution 8 “For the purpose of establishing a commission to rename Negro Mountain and Polish Mountain; providing for the membership of the commission; requiring the commission to provide certain information to the Governor, General Assembly, Maryland State Archives, Maryland Geological Survey, and Department of Natural Resources on or before a certain date; and generally relating to establishing a commission to rename mountains in the State.” These resolutions were not approved, reportedly due to opposition from State legislators representing areas in Western Maryland.

In 2013 and again in 2015, a Maryland resident contacted the BGN about changing the name to honor “Mr. Nemmitts” [sic] and he stated he wished to submit a proposal. The individual was advised that because all interested parties had in 1994 supported retaining the Negro Mountain, the BGN would require new evidence and/or an indication that one or more parties had changed its opinion since the time of the original decision.
In 2015, Pennsylvania State Representative Youngblood introduced House Resolution 103 “Urging the United States Geological Survey within the Department of the Interior, to rename Negro Mountain in Somerset County to accurately reflect the history of the region and to update related governmental maps, brochures, plaques and signs.” She and 29 other Pennsylvania State Representatives sent a letter to the BGN asking that the name of Negro Mountain be changed to honor “the fallen hero Nemesis.” The letter also stated “We have requested our state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to submit an application to your agency to rename Negro Mountain.” Once again, the BGN responded that new evidence would be required in order to revisit the decision. No proposal was received from the DCNR. U.S. Representative Robert A. Brady wrote to the USGS in support of the resolution and was informed that no proposal had been received.

In 2018, the mapping team manager with the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) asked the BGN if the name of Negro Mountain had been changed to “Nemesis Mountain” and questioned reports that President Obama had changed the name. The BGN staff responded that there had been no change. (This individual may have been confused by a 2015 parody and online satire article.)

In 2019, Maryland Delegate Nick Mosby introduced House Joint Resolution 10, echoing much of the wording from House Resolution 103 (2015), adding “It is believed that Negro Mountain is named in honor of an African-American man named Nemesis, who gave his life on the mountain in the 1700s... More study is needed to verify the history behind the naming of Negro Mountain and if the mountain is found to be named for Nemesis then the name of the mountain should be changed to Nemesis Mountain in his honor.” This Resolution did not pass.

In April 2019, the Maryland SHA removed signs showing the name and elevation of Negro Mountain from Interstate 68 and U.S. Alternate Route 40. (There are apparently no road signs designating Negro Mountain in Pennsylvania.) A statement from the agency’s office of communications stated, “We continue to work with the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History (ASAALH) and the local community to better understand the interests of all stakeholders.” News of the removal of the signs was widely reported in September 2019.

A May 19, 2019 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article first reported the sign removal when the Pittsburgh chapter of the ASAALH noticed their absence. The chapter had adopted the stretch of the highway that crossed the range “in order to honor a black frontiersman named Nemesis who died to save the lives of the rest of his party.” A spokesperson for the SHA was quoted in the article and said they “made the determination that the sign was not necessary for the safe function of the roadway” and “the signs in question are categorized as general information signs and are not mandated or required to be in place.” The article concludes: “[the President of the Pittsburgh chapter of the ASAALH] said the naming was an honor long ago, and his group wants to honor Nemesis and the place where he died. ‘We want to honor the positive aspect of it,’ he said... ‘It is our hope that the Negro Mountain sign will be returned... as a fitting tribute on the highest point atop the National Road... As African-Americans commemorate 400 years of perseverance (1619-2019), we are not easily discouraged. We will make a joint decision on which course of action we shall proceed with next.’”
According to local history, Negro Mountain was named for an African-American man who died on the range in the 18th century. The name of the man and circumstances of his death vary among sources, but the most accepted story is that a large “Negro” accompanying Colonel Thomas Cresap on a scouting expedition during the French and Indian War was killed in a skirmish with American Indians allied with the French. The most widely accepted name of the man is Nemesis, but this name is not reported until 1882 in an account that is highly embellished with quoted dialog between Nemesis and Cresap.

An abridged account of the history of the Negro Mountain name follows (relevant details bolded here, other punctuation or italics in original sources):

- The June 10, 1756 edition of *The Maryland Gazette* reported
  “A free Negro who was with the *English* [i.e. Colonel Cresap and his men],
  *was killed in that Thicket* where the wounded *Indian* retired when Mr. *Thomas Cresap* was killed…” [This article summarized a letter sent by Cresap about his May 1756 scouting expedition.]
- The June 17, 1756 edition of *The Pennsylvania Gazette* printed the entire letter from Cresap which reported
  “an old Negroe presented his Gun at [the Indians]; two of the Indians fired,
  and shot the Negroe…”
- The 1859 *Forty-Four Years of the Life of a Hunter; Being Reminiscences of Meshach Browning, a Maryland Hunter; Roughly Written Down by Himself* reported
  “The Negro Mountain is so called because, after Braddock's defeat on the
  Monongahela, a scouting party, traveling Braddock's Road, came in contact
  with a *like party of Indians*, when a skirmish ensued, in which one Indian
  was killed, and a *very large negro mortally wounded*. The negro was laid
  under a rock until the party should return from their expedition ; and I
  have been told by one of them that *when they returned the following night,
  the negro was still groaning under the rock ; but their fear of the Indians
  was so great, that, not daring to go to his assistance, they left him to die
  in the woods on the mountain.*”
- The 1866 *A Biographical Sketch of the Life of the Late Captain Michael Cresap* by John Jeremiah Jacob reported
  “Colonel Cresap, however, soon got together another company of volunteers,
  and with his two surviving sons—Daniel and Michael—and a *negro of gigantic
  stature*, marched again, taking the same route on Braddock's road. They
  advanced this time as far as Negro mountain, where they met a party of Indians.
  A running fight took place; Cresap's party killed an Indian and the *Indians
  killed the negro; and it was this circumstance—the death of the negro on
  the mountain—that has immortalized his name by fixing it on this ridge
  forever.”
- The 1882 *History of Western Maryland* by J. Thomas Scharf quotes Jacob’s 1866 account and went on to report
  “In the morning, when the colonel came out of the fort, he found his *body-
  servant, Nemesis, a large athletic negro*, cleaning his rifle to be ready for the
  fray. He said to him, ‘Well, Nemesis, are you ready for the fight?’ Nemesis
replied, ‘Yes, massa; but I don't come back.’ Col. Cresap jestingly said, ‘Well, Nemesis, if you are afraid of being killed, you can stay here with the women, and I will go without you.’ Nemesis hesitated a moment, and then replied, as he continued to clean his rifle, ‘Massa, you knows I's not afraid; where you go, I will go; where you fight, Nemesis will fight; but Nemesis will not come back.’ The colonel, feeling that he had wronged Nemesis,—for he was as brave a man as ever drew a trigger,—and touched also by the devotion of his servant to his person, said, ‘Nemesis, I did but joke; I know you are not afraid. You and I will keep together today; I will defend you with my life; and if I get into danger or difficulty, you will be by my side to aid me.’ With the morning light Cresap and his band of avengers were upon the Indians’ trail. They pursued them over the Savage Mountain, and as far west as the next mountain, where they overtook them and had a severe battle, killing several of the Indians. **Fighting bravely at his master's side. Nemesis was slain, and that mountain was named by his companions ‘Negro Mountain,’ and it is still known by that name.”** and later in the text “Negro Mountain…takes its name from the negro man who accompanied Col. Cresap on an expedition against the Indians, and who fell in an encounter between Cresap's force and the savages on the mountain, being the only one of the party slain,” while the Indians lost two killed.”

- The 1884 History of Bedford, Somerset, and Fulton Counties reported
  “**John Hyatt,** one of the early settlers, was a native of Maryland. He came with several others, accompanied by a number of slaves, to Turkey-Foot soon after-the settlement began. **While crossing the Negro mountain, a party of Indians fired upon them and mortally wounded one of the negroes, the strongest man in the company. A piece of a hollow log was found and placed over the negro to shelter him. Throwing it off, he said, "Save yourselves and never mind me; I shall die soon." It is said that the Negro Mountain took its name from this circumstance.”**

- An article on hunting in Garrett County in the November 23, 1889 *The Baltimore Sun* reported
  “The destination of the party was Lake Cleveland, eight miles southwest of Oakland, where is situated Mr. Delawder’s fishing and hunting lodge…Mr. Delawder…began to tell his companion that the mountain opposite was called Nigger mountain because a legend ran to effect that a negro and an Indian had fought a hand-to-hand battle until both were killed.”

- The 1894 *The Old Pike: A History of the National Road* reported
  “There are several versions of the origin of the name of this mountain. Probably the one most worthy of acceptance is that in the early collisions between the whites and the Indians, **a negro appeared as an ally of the Indians in a conflict on this mountain, and was among the slain.”**

- A 1901 presentation by Mary Louise Cresap Stevenson about Colonel Cresap read at the “Eluathan Scofield Reunion held at the residence of Mr. Frank Tallmadge, Columbus, Ohio” and published in the *Ohio Archaeological and Historical Quarterly* stated
  “June 30th, 1756, Col. Cresap and his party, had another skirmish with the savages. He had not forgotten the lamented sleeper on Savage Mountain
[Cresap’s son Thomas Cresap Jr. who was killed earlier that month]: he enlisted another company of volunteers, taking with him his two surviving sons Daniel and Michael and a gigantic negro servant, belonging to him. This time they advanced into the wilderness as far as a mountain, a mile west of Grantsville. There, they met the Indians; a fight took place and the negro Goliath was slain, and the mountain has been "Negro Mountain" ever since.”

- The 1906 History of Bedford and Somerset Counties reported
  “On one of these excursions, which it is said was largely made for the purpose of exploring and viewing the country, occurred an incident which has given the Negro mountain the name by which it is now known. At the head of quite a party of hunters, Andrew Friend started on this trip into the western wilderness, its purpose carrying them much farther into the wilderness than usual… With the party was a Negro, who most likely was a servant of Captain Friend, as he certainly had come from a slave-holding community. This negro, by all accounts, must have been a powerful man and of gigantic stature. Like all of the party, he was armed, and displayed great bravery in aiding to repel the attacks of the Indians. Exposing himself somewhat recklessly late in the evening, he received what was found to be a mortal wound. This was some distance up the mountain. His comrades would not carry him off with them, and this he himself saw, and, believing that he would die at any rate, he urged them to leave him where he was and continue their retreat. This Friend was unwilling to do, as he did not wish to abandon him in this manner. So he determined to remain with him. One other man, whose life Friend had on a former occasion saved, volunteered to remain also. During the last halt that had been made Friend and this man got the dying negro off the trail, and concealed themselves in the dense underbrush, while the remainder of the party, still pursued by the Indians continued their retreat.

The negro was in great pain, and just before daylight death came to him. In the bottom of the a hole left by the roots of a fallen tree a grave was hastily dug by the help of sticks, knives and hatchets, and he had a reverent burial, uncoffined save by the hull of a rotten chestnut log that had been used to shelter him from the rain that had fallen during the night… The names of the comrade and the colored man have not come down to our time, but it is greatly to the credit of these two white men, one of them of a slave-holding family, that they promptly recognized the manhood and bravery of their humble follower, and did not leave him to die alone, but rather than seek safety in immediate flight, chose to remain, at great risk to themselves, with this dying man of another, then as now, looked on by most of people, as an inferior race. But Friend and his companion had learned that the blood of all brave men is of one color. From the earliest period of the settlement of those parts of Somerset county this mountain has always been known and spoken of as the “Nigger” or Negro mountain, and it has well been written that it is a great and grand monument to those three brave and heroic men of our earlier days, that their story shall live while it endures.”
• The 1906 *History of Bedford and Somerset Counties* also reported:

> “According to the traditions connected with this locality, a hunter named Jacob Castleman had his camp somewhere along the river on one of the Sayler farms... It is also a part of this tradition that he had a negro servant. This servant was almost as expert a woodsman as was his master. On one occasion, with a neighboring hunter, he was sent on an errand to the Turkeyfoot settlement. The hunter returned and reported that while on their return home they fell in with a small band of Indians, who pursued them; that to baffle the pursuit they had separated the negro taking up the mountain and the white man toward the river. The negro was never heard of—whether he was killed, captured or ran away, and that it was this circumstance from which Negro mountain takes its name. That it does take it name from some adventure on it in which a negro had a part would seem certain, but there are four or five traditions relating to the origin of this name, all of which assign a different owner to this negro...”

• A 1914 article titled “The Story of Thomas Cresap, a Maryland Pioneer” in *Maryland Historical Magazine* reported:

> “In one of the encounters between Cresap and the Indian foe, his eldest son Thomas was killed, and in another and later one a negro in his company met a similar fate near the foot of the mountain which from this circumstance has been known to the present day as Negro Mountain.”

• The 1919 notes from The Cresap Society Meeting at Cumberland, Md., June 24th, 1919 by historian M. Louise Cresap Stevenson reported:

> “Again Colonel Thomas Cresap was sent out with another company of volunteer riflemen, his two remaining sons, Daniel and Michael among them. Colonel Thomas owned a negro of giant stature called Nemesis. In mustering his company the Colonel said ‘Nemesis, wont you go with us this time, you are a good shot, and help us conquer these Indians who are murdering and scalping women and children and burning their cabins.’ Nemesis considered for a few minutes and then said ‘Yes, Massa. I go, but I wont come back.’ ‘Why, Nemesis, why say that, you are a sure shot and fearless.’ ‘Massa Tommie [Cresap’s sone] sure shot and afraid of nothing and he not come back. I say I go but I not come back.’ His premonition, second sight, was correct. Among the first to fall was the brave slave, and now and forever the mountain where he died is called Negro Mountain.”

• The 1940 Writers' Program *Pennsylvania; A Guide to the Keystone State* reported:

> “It is said that Negro Mountain was named by a Maryland hunting party to honor a Negro member who was killed after a brave fight against attacking Indians.”

• A 1941 article titled “Negro Mountain,” in *The Glades Star* Volume 1 (a publication of the Garrett County Historical Society) essentially reprinted the 1886 Scharf account and describing the man as “[Cresap’s] body-servant, Nemesis, a big negro...”

• A 1949 article titled “The Story of Negro Mountain” in *The Negro History Bulletin* reported that:

> “[Somerset County Commissioners Ernest C. Johnson] wrote that ‘the name, as I have heard from some person or perhaps read in some historical account, but
which I have not been able to locate today came from a Negro slave of some Virginian who was traveling west over what is now the National Highway (U.S. Route No. 40) in the early days when it was Braddock’s road over the mountain. On the top of this mountain range, they were surprised by a band of Indians. The Negro, at a risk which cost him his own life, held off the Indians until the others could get in position to defend themselves and repulse the attack. He was buried on the spot where he fell and the mountain was afterwards called ‘The Negro Mountain’ or later ‘Negro Mountain.’”

- The 1984 *The Placenames of Maryland, Their Origin and Meaning* reported “NEGRO MOUNTAIN... On Bradford’s map, 1838, it is spelled Negro Mt. The name is for Goliah, the “gigantic” Negro “body servant” of Colonel Thomas Cresap. Local historians relate that it was here, near Grantsville, on June 30, 1756, that Goliah, along with Colonel Cresap and his sons Daniel and Michael, attacked a band of Indians in an attempt to avenge the death of Thomas Cresap, Jr.”

The name “Nemesis” was also used in 1919 by a descendant of Cresap in an article that draws heavily from the 1882 source. In 1901, another descendant of Cresap stated that the man’s name was “Goliath.” *The Placenames of Maryland, Their Origin and Meaning* [ibid.] reported that the man’s name was “Goliah.” These are the only independent reports of the man’s name that could be found. It is not known where the spelling “Nemisis” originated, but it is recorded as the only spelling on the Wikipedia page for Negro Mountain.

Unsubstantiated reports on the origin of the name Negro Mountain state that lynchings took place at a nearby site named “Nigger Hollow” in Pennsylvania, or that the range was a location on the Underground Railroad.

The name Negro Mountain has been used consistently for this range from at least 1841 to today. The first use of the pejorative form of the name is in the 1884 “Report of Thomas Brown, Inspector of Mines for Allegheny and Garrett County.” This version of the name was also used in an 1886 *Cumberland Daily Times* article; an 1889 *The Baltimore Sun* article; in contemporary letters from locals published in the 1894 *The Old Pike: A History of the National Road* (the text itself used the name Negro Mountain); the 1906 *History of Bedford and Somerset Counties* (which reports both names); the 1912 *Descendants of Jacob Hochstetler, the immigrant of 1736* (which also lists the names Negro Mountain and “Negro Mountains” for the range); and a 1927 *Cumberland Daily Times* article.

**Change Negro Mountain to Mount Nemisis**: range; 29 mi. long, 1 to 2 mi. wide, elevation 3,213 ft.; between Meadow Mountain and Winding Ridge, trends SW to NE from Deep Creek Lake through Addison Township, Summit Township, Black Township, and Brotherville Township to a point 4.3 mi. ESE of Rockwood, highest point at Mount Davis in Elk Lick Township; named for “a brave servant of Colonel Thomas Cresap, a pre-Revolutionary frontiersman whose party fought a group of Indians in a territorial battle; the servant died in battle”; Garrett County, Pennsylvania and Somerset County, Maryland; 39°47’10”N, 79°10’36”W; USGS map – Markleton 1:24,000 (highest point); Not: Negro Mountain, Nigger
Mountain.

Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
Map: USGS Markleton 1:24,000 (highest point)
Proponent: Heather Kirk; Bethlehem, PA
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: Negro Mountain (BGN 1994)

Names associated with feature:
  GNIS: Negro Mountain (FID 595199)

Case Summary: This is the second proposal to change the name of Negro Mountain (BGN 1994), in this case to Mount Nemisis. This proponent quoted details from the GNIS record for Negro Mountain but did not provide a source for the proposed name. Negro Mountain was reportedly named in the 18th century for an African-American named “Nemesis” who died on the range (see details in the Malcolm Mountain proposal (q.v.)); a few sources spell the name “Nemisis.” The proponent was asked why she is proposing the less frequently used spelling, but no response was received.

RHODE ISLAND

Change Negro Sawmill Brook to Sawmill Brook: stream; 0.8 mi. long; in the Town of Coventry, heads 0.3 mi. NW of Bowen Hill at 41°43′16″N, 71°42′05″W, flows E to enter the Flat River; the name is presumed to refer to a mill that once operated along the stream; Kent County, Rhode Island; 41°43′16″N, 71°42′05″W; USGS map - Coventry Center 1:24,000; Not: Negro Sawmill Brook, Nigger Sawmill Brook.

Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
Map: USGS Coventry Center 1:24,000
Proponent: Sophia Brooks-Randall; Providence, RI
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: Nigger Sawmill Brook (BGN 1930); Negro Sawmill Brook (BGN 1972)

Names associated with feature:
  GNIS: Negro Sawmill Brook (FID 1218280)
  Local Usage: Sawmill Brook - in part (Town of Coventry)
  Published: Negro Sawmill Brook (USGS 1955, 2012, 2015, 2018; FEMA 2010); Negro Sawmill Brook - in part (Town of Coventry maps, 1988); Nigger Sawmill Brook (USGS 1943, 1950; Rhode Island Geographic Board Gazetteer, 1932; Rhode Island Gazetteer compiled by the Providence Journal-Bulletin, 1964); Sawmill Brook - in part (Town of Coventry maps, 2017)

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Negro Sawmill Brook, a 0.8-mile-long tributary of the Flat River in the Town of Coventry in Kent County, to Sawmill Brook.

The proponent states that the proposal maintains the history of the name “by retaining the ‘Sawmill’ name while simultaneously eliminating the racist term ‘Negro.’” She also states that
the name itself “honors the area’s history of industrialization.” No details about the origin of the current name could be found.

In 1930, the BGN approved the name Nigger Sawmill Brook, apparently to clarify that the stream was not the upper part of Flat River. In 1972, the BGN revised the 1930 decision and approved the name Negro Sawmill Brook “to bring [the] old decision to conform with present BGN policy.”

The pejorative form of Negro Sawmill Brook was shown on USGS maps between 1943 and 1950. The current name was first labeled in 1955, 17 years before the BGN revised the name. Current town maps label the stream Sawmill Brook but also extend the name to include the section of the Flat River to its confluence with Pine Swamp Brook. A 1988 town plat map labeled this section Negro Sawmill Brook.

**TENNESSEE**

**Change Injun Creek to Atali Creek:** stream; 3.7 mi. long; in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, heads E of Grapeyard Ridge, N of Lookout Rock at 35°41’47”N, 83°25’40”W, flows NE to enter the Little Pigeon River 1 mi. SSE of Pinnacle; the name refers to the Atali Tsalagi band of Cherokees that lived in the Great Smoky Mountains; Sevier County, Tennessee; 35°44’00”N, 83°24’31”W; USGS map - Mount Le Conte 1:24,000; Not: Indian Creek, Injun Creek.


Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
Map: USGS Mount Le Conte 1:24,000
Proponent: Nichole Johnson
Administrative area: Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Previous BGN Action: Injun Creek (BGN 1932)
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Injun Creek (FID 1289015)
Local Usage: Injun Creek, Injun Creek, In-June Creek (local hikers)

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Injun Creek, a 3.7-mile long tributary of the Little Pigeon River in Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Sevier County, to Atali Creek. The proponent wishes to “remove a racial slur and replace with a term honoring the Native American people who habitated in that area. Atali Tsalagi refers to the Cherokee that lived in the mountains of Tennessee.”

In 1932, the Tennessee Nomenclature Committee submitted a request to the BGN to change the name of Indian Creek to Injun Creek. No details about the reason for the change are recorded.
Several online sources about hiking in the Great Smoky Mountains and visiting National Parks report that the name “Injun” is a misspelling or misinterpretation of “engine.” The “engine” is the wreck of a steam traction engine which could be driven around to use as a source of power for lumber saws. One source states that “the creek name is not slang for Indian, but a result of an uneducated surveyor trying to spell Engine.”

Another local source (a blog post on the Go Smokies website, “A social network for fans of the Great Smoky Mountains”) lays out the possible origins of the name. “Injun” may refer to a rumored Cherokee burial site along the stream, the steam engine wreck, or a misspelling of “In-June” which was the name given by a couple who got married “in June” and moved to live along the stream. This source also states that the name Indian Creek was established on maps as early as 1926 “all before the National Park nomenclature committee eliminated duplicate names by assigning new names to these features. . . one can imagine some committee member coming up with ‘Injun’ because of the steam engine and thinking himself rather clever.” (There is no evidence that the name was changed to eliminate duplication; in fact, Great Smoky Mountains National Park contains two streams with the name Indian Creek, two streams with the name Indian Camp Branch, one stream with the name Indian Camp Creek, and one stream with the name Indian Flats Prong.) The stream is variously called “In-June Creek” or “Injune Creek” by some of the site’s commenters.

Change Dead Negro Hollow to Bonham Hollow: valley; 1 mi. long; heads on the E side of Walden Ridge, 0.9 mi. SW of Bonham at 35°42'53"N, 84°54'34"W, trends SE to open onto the Piney River 2.2 mi. WNW of Spring City; named for the nearby unincorporated community of Bonham; Rhea County, Tennessee; 35°42'15"N, 84°53'53"W; USGS map - Pennine 1:24,000; Not: Dead Negro Hollow, Dead Nigger Hollow.  

Proposal: to change a name considered offensive  
Map: USGS Pennine 1:24,000  
Proponent: Kara Gilliam; Spring City, TN  
Administrative area: None  
Previous BGN Action: None  
Names associated with feature:  
GNIS: Dead Negro Hollow (FID 1282252)  
Local Usage: None found  
Published: Dead Negro Hollow (USGS 1949, 1973, 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019; The Silver Madonna and Other Tales of America’s Greatest Lost Treasures, 2013; Swift’s Silver Mines and Related Appalachian Treasures, 1995); Dead Nigger Hollow (USGS 1935)  
Case Summary: This is the first of five proposals to change the name of Dead Negro Hollow, a valley in Rhea County. The valley opens onto the Piney River gorge and is located on private land between the Justin P. Wilson Cumberland Trail State Park (on the opposite bank of the Piney River) and the Stinging Fork Falls State Natural Area.  
The author W. C. Jameson has reported the history of the valley’s current name, first in the 1991 volume Buried Treasures of the Appalachians and most recently in the 2013 The Silver Madonna and Other Tales of America’s Greatest Lost Treasures. According to Jameson, the
name dates to the 1870s and refers to the discovery of the body of a young African-American man in the Piney River near the valley. A farmer named Leffew had discovered a silver mine in the Piney Creek gorge but kept the location a secret. He hired the African-American man to help him, but the body of the man was found a few weeks later. Local residents were reportedly convinced that Leffew killed the man to keep the location of the mine a secret. Leffew was found dead about a year later, possibly killed by a group of counterfeiters to whom he may have been selling silver. This story was also recorded in Michael S. Steely’s 1995 *Swift’s Silver Mines and Related Appalachian Treasures*.

The proponent of the change to Bonham Hollow provided comments from the Manager of the Justin P. Wilson Cumberland Trail State Park, who noted uncertainty about the origin of the name and its inclusion in “a nonacademic publication”: “It is not known to me if the background was developed from numerous oral histories or a single source . . . There are many documented tales of silver mines in Tennessee, but no documented silver ore has been found in the Cumberland Plateau region -- the geology does not support this element. This tale is connected to a large body of lore and hopefulness. No proven historic value is connected with the place name. We have no history to justify the preservation of the place name, and the uncertainty of its origin leaves speculation concerning a racist backstory.”

The proponent was asked to explain her choice of the name “Bonham,” but no reply was received. It is presumed to be associated with the nearby unincorporated community of Bonham.

The name Dead Negro Hollow has appeared on USGS topographic maps since 1949. A 1935 edition labeled it with the pejorative form of the name.

Four other proposals have been received to change the name of the valley: Faith Hollow (q.v.), Pine Needle Hollow, and Piney Creek Hollow (q.v.) (two proposals from different individuals). The proponents of each of these names were advised of the counterproposals and were asked if they wished to continue with their proposals; no replies were received, and so the BGN is proceeding with the five proposals.

**Change Dead Negro Hollow to Faith Hollow**: valley; 1 mi. long; heads on the E side of Walden Ridge, 0.9 mi. SW of Bonham at 35°42’53”N, 84°54’34”W, heads SE to open onto the Piney River 2.2 mi. WNW of Spring City; named for the trust and confidence that replacing a name some find offensive can help future racial collaboration; Rhea County, Tennessee; 35°42’15”N, 84°53’53”W; USGS map - Pennine 1:24,000; Not: Dead Negro Hollow, Dead Nigger Hollow.


- Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
- Map: USGS Pennine 1:24,000
- Proponent: Tabitha Craig
- Administrative area: None
- Previous BGN Action: None
- Names associated with feature:
Case Summary: This proposal is the second to change the name of Dead Negro Hollow, a valley in Rhea County. For additional details regarding the current name of the feature, see Bonham Hollow, listed above.

The proponent of the name Faith Hollow states “Faith is defined as a complete trust and confidence in someone or something. In today’s society, trust and confidence in anything can be a challenge. With the visible reminder of this (Faith Hollow) replacing an insensitive blemish of a time past, I hope that we can move beyond the hate of our differences and continue in the future of our collaboration.”

Change Dead Negro Hollow to Pine Needle Hollow: valley; 1 mi. long; heads on the E side of Walden Ridge, 0.9 mi. SW of Bonham at 35°42’53”N, 84°54’34”W, heads SE to open onto the Piney River 2.2 mi. WNW of Spring City; named for pine trees found in the valley; Rhea County, Tennessee; 35°42’15”N, 84°53’53”W; USGS map - Pennine 1:24,000; Not: Dead Negro Hollow, Dead Nigger Hollow.

Proposal: to change a name considered offensive

Map: USGS Pennine 1:24,000

Proponent: Jacqueline Diehl; Reston, VA

Administrative area: None

Previous BGN Action: None

Names associated with feature:

GNIS: Dead Negro Hollow (FID 1282252)

Local Usage: None found

Published: Dead Negro Hollow (USGS 1949, 1973, 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019; The Silver Madonna and Other Tales of America’s Greatest Lost Treasures, 2013; Swift’s Silver Mines and Related Appalachian Treasures, 1995); Dead Nigger Hollow (USGS 1935)

Case Summary: This proposal would change the name of Dead Negro Hollow, a valley in Rhea County, to Pine Needle Hollow. For additional details regarding the current name of the feature, see Bonham Hollow, listed above.

The proponent states that the name Dead Negro Hollow is “racially insensitive and offensive. . . Rather than celebrate the heinous murder of a man, I propose we highlight the natural beauty of the area and its pine trees. . .”

Change Dead Negro Hollow to Piney Creek Hollow: valley; 1 mi. long; heads on the E side of Walden Ridge, 0.9 mi. SW of Bonham at 35°42’53”N, 84°54’34”W, heads SE to open onto the Piney River 2.2 mi. WNW of Spring City; named for the nearby Piney Creek and the natural beauty of the area; Rhea County, Tennessee; 35°42’15”N, 84°53’53”W; USGS map - Pennine 1:24,000; Not: Dead Negro Hollow, Dead Nigger Hollow.
Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
Map: USGS Pennine 24,000
Proponent: Mary O'Brien
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
  GNIS: Dead Negro Hollow (FID 1282252)
  Local Usage: None found
Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Dead Negro Hollow, a valley in Rhea County, to Piney Creek Hollow. For additional details regarding the current name of the feature, see Bonham Hollow, listed above.

The proponent states “The current name, Dead Negro Hollow, is a derogatory name which was given to celebrate the murder of an African American man in the area. Instead we should be celebrating the beauty of this area and highlighting pride in the locale. The hollow is located just off of Piney Creek [sic], which makes for a much better inspiration for a name. Piney Creek Hollow provokes images of beauty and nature rather than violence and racism.”

Dead Negro Hollow opens into the Piney River gorge. Piney River is formed at the confluence of Piney Creek and Duskin Creek. The names Piney River and Piney Creek are variously applied to the entire stream in local sources. A stream named Pine Branch is located less than a mile west of Dead Negro Hollow.
A second proposal was received from a different proponent to also change the name of Dead Negro Hollow to Piney Creek Hollow. This proponent states that the current name “is offensive, inappropriate, and highly disturbing... Had the murdered man’s name been recorded for posterity, it would make sense to perhaps name the hollow after him. But using a generic and racially charged term like “Dead Negro Hollow” is unnecessarily provocative and serves to continually highlight a painful piece of history that could be ameliorated in a small way by a simple name change. Frankly, the language is outdated and offensive according to today’s standards. To keep such an outdated name is to project the appearance of a collective mindset of the same nature; such a choice will do no favors for the general perception of Southerners in general, or for the potential tourism to the Cumberland Trail State Park more specifically.”

The proponent notes also that the valley opens onto Piney Creek (it is actually the Piney River at this location) and she refers to many features that have names relating to the Piney River or pines. Further, she believes that changing the name to Piney Creek Hollow “would provide it a more neutral and non-controversial title, as well as put it on a more consistent footing with other named geographical features in the area... Most other nearby geographical features are not associated with or named after people from the area--so why keep this one?”

**Change Negro Island to Silver Lake Island**: island; 17.5 acre; in the City of Church Hill, 2.2 mi. N of Canebrake Mountain; the name refers to the local community; Hawkins County, Tennessee; 36°31’09”N, 82°40’55”W; USGS map - Church Hill 1:24,000; Not: Negro Island. [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=36.5192657&p_long=-82.6818239](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=36.5192657&p_long=-82.6818239)

Proposal:  to change a name considered offensive
Map:  USGS map - Church Hill 1:24,000
Proponent:  Jerry Woods
Administrative area:
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
  GNIS:  Negro Island (FID 1295346)
  Local Usage: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Negro Island, a 17.5-acre island located in the Holston River in the City of Church Hill in Hawkins County, to Silver Lake Island. The proponent considers the current name to be “racially offensive” and suggests the new name Silver Lake Island would be “consistent with the surrounding community.” The local community includes the Landings at Silver Lake rental complex, Silver Lake Road, Silver Lake (a reservoir), and Silver Lake Spring all within 0.5 miles of the feature. The current name has been on USGS topographic maps since 1959.
TEXAS

**Change Fosdic Lake to Fosdick Lake:** reservoir; 6.6 acres; in Oakland Lake Park, 0.4 mi. S of White Lake; the name honors Edwin E. Fosdick (1849-1915), Fort Worth resident and businessman, who dammed the creek in 1909 to build the reservoir for his country club; Tarrant County, Texas; 32°45′19″N, 97°15′31″W; USGS map - Haltom City 1:24,000; Not: Fosdic Lake.  

- Proposal: to change spelling to recognize family name
- Map: USGS map - Haltom City 1:24,000
- Proponent: Daniel Haase; Fort Worth, TX
- Administrative area:
- Previous BGN Action: None
- Names associated with feature:
  - GNIS: Fosdic Lake (FID 1336073)
  - Local Usage: None found

**Case Summary:** This proposal is to change the spelling of the name of Fosdic Lake, a 6.6-acre reservoir in Oakland Lake Park in the City of Fort Worth in Tarrant County, to Fosdick Lake. According to the city government, the reservoir was created between 1909 and 1912 and the name honors Edwin E. Fosdick (1849-1915), an early Fort Worth resident and businessman. Along with other individuals, he contributed funds to secure the first cotton mill in Fort Worth in 1890. He is reported to have been the first to dam the creek in 1909, thus creating the reservoir so he could establish a new private country club on the property. Fosdic Lake Dam is listed in GNIS.

USGS topographic maps have labeled the feature Fosdic Lake since 1955. The City of Fort Worth’s website also uses that spelling. However, the 1919 Annual Report of the Commissioner of Fisheries lists the name as Fosdick Lake. A local newspaper, *The Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, published two articles referring to the feature as Fosdick Lake in 1927 and 1929.

**Change Dead Negro Draw to McCrary Draw:** valley; 3 mi. long; heads 16 mi. SE of Tahoka at 33°02′44″N, 101°33′26″W, trends N to enter the valley of Double Mountain Fork Brazos River 12 mi SW of Post; named for Giles McCrary (1919-2011), Mayor of the nearby city of Post from 1969 to 1991; Garza County and Lynn County, Texas; 33°04′56″N, 101°33′15″W; USGS map - Grassland SE 1:24,000; Not: Dead Negro Draw.  

- Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
- Map: USGS Grassland SE, 1:24,000
Proponent: Amber Hennessy; Greenbelt, MD
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
  GNIS: Dead Negro Draw (FID 1334143)
  Local Usage: None found
Case Summary: This proposal is the first of two to change the name of Dead Negro Draw, a valley that runs along the boundary of Garza County and Lynn County.

The proposed name McCrary Draw would commemorate Giles McCrary (1919-2011), who served as mayor of the City of Post from 1969 to 1991. Post is located in Giles County, 12 miles to the northeast of the stream. The proponent states that “allowing [the existing] name to continue as-is is at best outdated and allows hate speech to live on” and she wishes to change the name to honor “a respected local leader.”

While serving as the Mayor of Post, the city’s citizens honored him as Citizen of the Year in 1985. He founded the OS Ranch Museum and Fine Art Gallery in Post and received the Founders Award from the National Ranching Heritage Center. He was an Elder in the Presbyterian Church and a member of the local Masonic Lodge, Rotary Club, and VFW.

The name Dead Negro Draw has appeared on USGS topographic maps since the first large-scale map was published in 1969. The Handbook of Texas Online entry for Dead Negro Draw states that it was formerly known as Dead Nigger Creek, a name that is also listed in the 1919 USGS Water-Supply Paper 448, “Gazetteer of Streams of Texas.” There appears to be no published evidence that the valley was ever named “Dead Nigger Draw,” although some online sources have reported this. A 2011 Newsweek article by Martin Amis refers to a Texas location known as “Dead Nigger Draw,” but the location of this feature is not given.

An Associated Press article from 2012 suggested that the name Dead Negro Draw might refer to an expedition of Buffalo Soldiers in the 10th U.S. Calvary who got lost in the Llano Estacado while pursuing members of the Comanche Tribes during the Texas–Indian wars. Four Buffalo Soldiers perished during the expedition, but it is unknown where they died. In 2005, the BGN approved the name Buffalo Soldier Hill to replace Dead Negro Hill in Roosevelt County, New Mexico, 100 miles to the northwest.

A second proposal has been received to change the name of the valley to Shootout Valley (q.v.). Both proponents were advised of the other proposal and asked if they wished to continue with their proposal; no replies were received so the BGN is proceeding with both proposals.

Change Dead Negro Draw to Shootout Valley: valley; 3 mi. long; heads 16 mi. SE of Tahoka at 33°02’44”N, 101°33’26”W, trends N to enter the valley of Double Mountain Fork Brazos River 12 mi SW of Post; the name refers to a presumed shooting that resulted in the naming of Dead Negro Draw; Garza County and Lynn County, Texas; 33°04’56”N, 101°33’15”W; USGS map - Grassland SE 1:24,000; Not: Dead Negro Draw.
Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
Map: USGS Grassland SE 1:24,000
Proponent: D Brittany
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
  GNIS: Dead Negro Draw (FID 1334143)
  Local Usage: None found
Case Summary: This is the second proposal to change the name of Dead Negro Draw, a valley that runs along the boundary of Garza County and Lynn County. The proponent of Shootout Valley states that “the old name [sic] is offensive and racist” and that “the new name conveys similar meaning but is not racist.” She did not comment on the change of generic from “Draw” to “Valley.”

A second proposal, listed above, was submitted to change the name of the valley to McCracy Draw.

VIRGINIA

Change Negro Point to Freedom Point: cape; located at the mouth of Monroe Creek, 0.4 mi. NE of Hog Point, 0.4 mi. NW of Winkedoodle Point; the name refers to the spirit of today’s citizens of Virginia and the USA; Westmoreland County, Virginia; 38°14’51”N, 76°58’15”W; USGS map - Colonial Beach South 1:24,000; Not: Negro Point, Nigger Point.
Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
Map: USGS map - Colonial Beach South 1:24,000
Proponent: Kathleen Hunt; Manassas, VA
Administrative area:
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
  GNIS: Negro Point (1478042)
  Local Usage: None found
Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Negro Point in Westmoreland County, to Freedom Point. The small cape is located along the Potomac River, at the mouth of Monroe Creek, and near the community of Colonial Beach. The proponent believes the current name is “an unnecessary holdover of a slave-holding history. These names are disrespectful to the diverse population of today’s Virginia.”
The name Negro Point has been shown on USGS maps since 2011 and NOAA charts since 1964. A 1930 USGS advance copy map, NOAA charts in 1902 and 1962, and AMS maps published in 1943 and 1953, all used the pejorative form of the name.

No information regarding the origin of the name could be found. Westmoreland County, along with much of the Northern Neck, was a prominent location for the import of African slaves into the Virginia colony beginning in the 17th century. There is another cape named Negro Point a few miles to the southeast and also along the Potomac River and in Westmoreland County; no proposal has been received to change this name.

WASHINGTON

Change Barney Coker Canyon to Barney Kolker Canyon: valley; 2.1 mi. long; heads 1.7 mi. W of McKay Hill at 47°49′37″N, 117°31′15″W, trends SW to join Sandy Canyon; named for Bernard “Barney” Kolker (1856-1935), farmer and homesteader in the area in the late 1800s; Stevens County and Spokane County, Washington; Secs 20,29,&30, T27N, R42E, Willamette Meridian; 47°48′35″N, 117°33′10″W; USGS map - Nine Mile Falls 1:24,000; Not: Barney Coker Canyon.

Proposal: to change a name to correct spelling
Map: USGS map - Nine Mile Falls 1:24,000
Proponent: Iain Ashley; Spokane, WA
Administrative area:
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Barney Coker Canyon (1503182)
Local Usage: None found
Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Barney Coker Canyon, a 2.1-mile-long valley in Stevens County and Spokane County, to Barney Kolker Canyon. The proponent reports that the current name is a misspelling of the Kolker family name.

The name honors Bernard “Barney” Kolker (1856-1935), a farmer who filed a land patent in 1894 and established a homestead at the mouth of the valley in 1895. A local history book, Welcome to Nine Mile Falls, provides a brief history of the Kolker family and also describes a feature named Barney Coker Hill on USGS maps and known locally as Barney Kolker Grade.

There is no evidence of an individual named Coker in the area. USGS field notes did not provide a reason for the current spelling, but a folio notation from a map user stated the spelling should be “Kolker.”

LeCuyer Creek: stream; 0.65 mi. long; heads in North Kitsap Heritage Park at 47°46′07″N, 122°32′44″W, flows SW into the Port Madison Reservation to enter Miller Bay 1.7 mi. NW of Indianola; named for Jim LeCuyer (1953-2012), a hydrologist and water resource manager at the Kitsap Public Utility District, who developed a system of monitoring levels of
precipitation, surface water, and groundwater; Secs 9&4, T26N, R2E, Willamette Meridian; Kitsap County, Washington; 47°45’41”N, 122°33’13”W; USGS map - Port Gamble 1:24,000. Mouth: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=47.761499&p_longi=-122.55371
Source: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=47.768681&p_longi=-122.545492
Proposal: new commemorative name for unnamed feature
Map: USGS Port Gamble 1:24,000
Proponent: Mark Morgan; Poulsbo, WA
Administrative area: Port Madison Reservation - in part
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: No record
Local Usage: None found
Published: None found
Case Summary: The new commemorative name LeCuyer Creek is proposed for a 0.65-mile-long tributary of Miller Bay in Kitsap County. Approximately 120 feet of the stream at its mouth flows through the Port Madison Reservation (the reservation of the Suquamish Indian Tribe of the Port Madison Reservation).

The proposal was submitted by the Washington State Board on Geographic Names (WSBGN) on behalf of the Superintendent of Water Resources for the Kitsap Public Utility District (PUD). It would commemorate James R. “Jim” LeCuyer (1953-2012), who was a hydrologist and water resource manager at the Kitsap PUD for 28 years. He oversaw Kitsap County’s Hydrologic Monitoring Network, which consists of precipitation, streamflow and groundwater monitoring stations. This network was one of the most comprehensive and longest-running data collection efforts in the state and is still used to make water resource management decisions. Mr. LeCuyer lived most of his life in the Kitsap County area.

The WSBGN recommends approval of the name. As part of its review process, the WSBGN requested input from the Kitsap County Commissioners, who replied that they have no objection to the proposal. The WSBGN reports additional support from the Kitsap PUD; a retired fisheries biologist who worked with Mr. LeCuyer; and two individuals who live near the stream. No responses were received from the Kitsap County Emergency Management Department; the Washington State Historical Society; the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe; the Squaxin Island Tribe of the Squaxin Island Reservation; the Suquamish Indian Tribe of the Port Madison Reservation; the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe; and the Skokomish Indian Tribe, which is presumed to indicate no opinion.

Change Squaw Saddle to Saddle Rock: summit; elevation 2,010 ft; on an unnamed ridge 1.1 mi. NW of Rooster Comb; the name is descriptive of the feature, which resembles a horse saddle; Sec 16, T22N, R20E, Willamette Meridian; Chelan County, Washington; 47°23’58”N, 120°20’16”W; USGS map - Wenatchee 1:24,000; Not: kliyntwáxʷtn, Saddle Rock Mountain, Saddlerock, Squaw Saddle, Squaw Saddle Mountain.
https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=47.399384&p_longi=120.337726&fid=1526460
Proposal: to change a name to eliminate an offensive word and to recognize local use

Map: USGS Wenatchee 1:24,000

Proponent: William Layman; Wenatchee, WA

Administrative area: None

Previous BGN Action: None

Names associated with feature:

GNIS: Squaw Saddle (FID 1526460)

Local Usage: Saddle Rock (City of Wenatchee), kliyntwáxʷtn (Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation)


Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Squaw Saddle, a 2,010-foot summit near Wenatchee in Chelan County, to Saddle Rock. The summit is a pair of high elevations that form the shape of a horse saddle. The summit is located in the City of Wenatchee’s Saddle Rock Natural Area. The proposal was submitted by the Washington State Board on Geographic Names (WSBGN), on behalf of a resident of Wenatchee. The proponent, in his 2002 book Native River: Columbia Remembered, reports that the local Wenatchie people “identified the feature as two bears fighting, turned into stone by coyote.” He adds, “Squaw Saddle is an archaic name no longer in use. Native American tribes in the region regard [the] name as derogatory in nature.”
Squaw Saddle locations on USGS maps, in GNIS, and actual feature shown on aerial imagery (left) and 2015 Lidar data from Washington DNR (right)

Squaw Saddle has been labeled on USGS maps since 1913. The feature was recorded in GNIS as a gap based on the generic term “Saddle,” with the geographic coordinates located at a low point between the two higher elevations. However, as a result of this proposal and after verifying longstanding local usage, it has been corrected to a summit and the coordinates
moved to the highest point. It appears that the names Squaw Saddle and Saddle Rock are used interchangeably to refer to the pair of summits.

The feature is first given a name in a May 17, 1909 article in the Wenatchee Daily World: “[The Mayor] suggested the advisability of the city’s acquiring Squaw Saddle or Saddle Rock as a future park.” Over the years, the summit has been known as Squaw Saddle, Squaw Saddle Mountain, Saddle Rock, Saddle Rock Mountain, and Saddlerock. The names Squaw Saddle and Saddle Rock were both in use until the 1930s when Squaw Saddle became the predominant name in publications. Saddlerock was used intermittently in the 1960s to 1980s. The name Saddle Rock appears to have become the name in local use some time before the 2010s.

The 1917 A Geographic Dictionary of Washington described Squaw Saddle as “Peaks on the mountain side, 2 miles southwest of Wenatchee, in southeastern Chelan County; elevation, 2,010 feet.” Publications since then have always used the names Squaw Saddle, Saddle Rock, or a similar name to refer to the saddle-like formation formed by the pair of summits. Geology publications describe this feature as similar to the nearby summits Castle Rock, Old Butte, and Rooster Comb.

The WSBGN recommends approval of the name change. As part of its review process, the WSBGN received support from the Wenatchee City Council and the Chelan County Commissioners. The WSBGN also reports support from the City of Wenatchee Parks Department, the Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center, the Cashmere Museum & Pioneer Village / Chelan County Historical Society, the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, a local historian, and two Wenatchee residents.

The WSBGN received support for the proposal from the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. The Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, of which the Wenatchi Tribe is one of the constituent tribes, adds “The traditional Salish name is kliyntwâx̱tn. There is an associated Indian legend that tells of Black Bear and Grizzly Bear constantly arguing until Coyote, tired of the bickering, turned them to stone. The name in common use today is Saddle Rock [which] is preferable to Squaw Rock [sic].” The WSBGN also requested an opinion from the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

**Change Traitors Inlet to Traitors Islet**: island; 85 acres; in Grays Harbor at the mouth of Johns River; named by the Wilkes Expedition in 1841 because local American Indians hired by Wilkes refused to work and threatened violence; Secs 36&35, T17N, R11W and Sec 2, T16N, R11W, Willamette Meridian; Grays Harbor County, Washington; 46°54’38”N, 124°00’17”W; USGS map - Westport 1:24,000; Not: Traitors Inlet. [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=46.910428&p_longi=--124.0046091](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=46.910428&p_longi=--124.0046091)

Proposal: to change a name to correct feature type and change application
Map: USGS Westport 1:24,000
Proponent: Richard W. Blumenthal; Bellevue, WA
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
   GNIS:  Traitors Inlet (FID 1514727)
   Local Usage:  None found
   Published:  Traitors Inlet (Place Names of Washington, 1985); Traitors Islet (Wilkes Expedition 1841)
Case Summary:  This proposal is to change the name of Traitors Inlet to Traitors Islet and to change the application of the name.

The name Traitors Inlet was added to GNIS in 1993, citing Robert Hitchman’s 1985 volume Place Names of Washington, which described the feature as “a south channel inlet of Grays Harbor, at the mouth of Johns River, southwest Grays Harbor County. It was named by the Wilkes Expedition when Indians who were hired to help survey parties refused to work and threatened violence in July and August, 1841.”

The proponent of the change states “Hitchman not only mischaracterized this feature but he also misnamed it Traitors Inlet rather than Islet as Wilkes intended. . . . The name is clearly marked islet on the [Wilkes] chart and there is really no inlet in the neighborhood. It is not named on current charts. To the extent that the current name is not supported by local use, I recommend correcting Hitchman’s error and changing the name to Traitors Islet.”
The name Traitors Islet appeared on an 1841 map of “Grays Harbour, Oregon Territory” from the 1838 to 1842 United States Exploring Expedition led by United States Navy Lieutenant Charles Wilkes (Wilkes Expedition). In the Narrative of the United States Exploring Expedition published in 1845, Wilkes reports on the exploration of Grays Harbor by a group led by Midshipman Henry Eld, which is quoted at length here (the actions of the American Indians are hard to interpret as traitorous from this full description, however Wilkes and Eld might have interpreted them):

“The party under command of Mr. Eld, consisted of Passed Midshipman Colvocoressis, Mr. Brackenridge, Sergeant Stearns, privates Rodgers and Dinsman, John Brooks (seaman), Thomas Ford and Henry Waltham (ordinary seamen), with a half-breed boy, named Joe, who was to act as their interpreter. [Features on the Grays Harbour chart from the Wilkes Expedition are named for all of these men except for Mr. Brooks.]

They left Nisqually on the 19th of July…in two canoes, that had been purchased. They were sorry craft, but better could not be procured, and Mr. Eld was not disposed to delay on account of imaginary difficulties… On the same evening, he arrived within a short distance of the portage; and the next morning Mr. Colvocoressis went, with the sergeant and boy, to an old squaw chief, who had promised, at Nisqually, to be their guide to the Sachal river, and to furnish horses and men to cross the portage. They returned at an early hour, without either horses or Indians, but with a promise that they were to be furnished the next day. The next morning they found that the chief had arrived, with five horses and a number of Indians, and was ready to transport the baggage. Some time, however, elapsed before an arrangement could be made for the large canoe, which was thought to be too heavy to transport; but this was finally settled by the same personage offering another in lieu of it, which, though of smaller dimensions, was accepted. Ten Indians were furnished to transport it and the rest of the articles, and they were soon in a condition to move. This despatch was principally owing to the directions and management of the squaw chief, who seemed to exercise more authority than any that had been met with; indeed, her whole
character and conduct placed her much above those around her. Her horses were remarkably fine animals; her dress was neat, and her whole establishment bore the indications of Indian opulence. Although her husband was present, he seemed under such good discipline, as to warrant the belief that the wife was the ruling power, or, to express it in more homely language, ‘wore the breeches.’

In the afternoon [of July 26th] they encamped at the mouth of the Sachap, and Mr. Eld made preparations to set out early the next morning, to explore it, having obtained a guide from among the Indians they met with at a fishing station in the vicinity...

At an early hour on the 27th, Mr. Eld, Sergeant Stearns, and two men, set out on their jaunt up the Sachap, in a small canoe...[to]...the Sachap and Tarqucorau... Neither of the two rivers is penetrable by a canoe, so overgrown and choked up are they with bushes and bogs. Just at sunset they passed a party of Suquamish Indians, who were very anxious that Mr. Eld should encamp with them; but this he declined doing, and preferred passing some distance beyond. On the morning of the 28th, they again started at an early hour, and passed through a very rough and apparently little frequented country. The guide had much difficulty in finding his way through a forest which the fire had partly consumed...the country grew so rough that it was impossible to proceed farther with the horses, and the guide told Mr. Eld that he would be obliged to leave them. As no notice of this difficulty in the route had been previously given, it was natural for Mr. Eld to suspect that his guide was forming some scheme to deceive him, and go off with his property. Deeming it proper to come to a right understanding, and to make the guide aware that he was on the look-out to punish any attempt at fraud, he led the chief aside, and told him that he intended to hold him responsible in case of the loss of any of his things, or of his being deceived. He then ordered him to leave one of his slaves in charge of the horses and effects until their return...

On the 31st [of July], after passing two elbows in the river, the cape on the south of the entrance to Gray's Harbour was seen... [Strong tides and winds forced them to put to shore to dry their supplies.] From this awkward situation they were relieved by the old squaw chief, who had preceded them from Nisqually. She came over in her large canoe, with ten Indians, and offered to carry the party over to the weather shore, where they could encamp in a less exposed place. The offer was gladly accepted, and they were taken over to the village.

Mr. Eld here endeavoured to treat for the purchase of a large canoe, in which attempt his patience was soon exhausted, for when the bargain was all but closed, difficulties of a trivial nature were brought up which entirely broke off the negotiation. The Indians of this village proved themselves to be in all respects like the tribes in the interior, who will never adhere to a bargain if they can avoid it.

Mr. Eld and his party had now a great many difficulties to contend with in carrying forward a survey of the harbour. These arose as well from the weather as the want of means. The Indians for some days continued unwilling to lend them any aid in the management of their canoes, and none of them could be induced to venture out in what they deemed stormy
weather; another reason for not engaging in the service was, they did not wish to leave their wives behind. It being at last agreed that their wives should accompany them, Mr. Colvocoressis embarked in order to join Mr. Eld; but to do this it was necessary to encounter both the wind and sea, in consequence of which the Indians refused to proceed unless they had an extra allowance of powder and tobacco.

This being refused, they quietly steered the canoe back to the encampment. On arriving there, it soon became evident to Mr. Colvocoressis that their intention was to take away their canoe, for they at once began to put in her the few things they possessed. He therefore took two of their guns, and concealed them in one of the tents. An Indian, the moment Mr. Colvocoressis's back was turned to the tents, drew his knife, rushed into them, and brought forth the guns, one of which he handed to a woman. The musket which the squaw had was again taken, upon which the Indians said that they would complete their bargain, and induced Mr. Colvocoressis to believe they would do so. He therefore embarked, and they proceeded with apparent willingness, until they came opposite their own village, where they landed, and refused to go any further. They, however, offered him a small canoe, to take him across the river, and the Indian to whom the musket they had taken belonged, ferried him across. In the evening, the Indians returned to ask for the musket, but it was refused until they should return the axe that had been left in the canoe, and agree to abide by the bargain they had made to render them assistance. The next day the axe was restored, and the musket given up. After this, a more friendly disposition was evinced, as Mr. Eld supposes from the fact of their having learnt from Nisqually who they were.

From the 1st to the 6th of August, the party effected little, and their supply of provisions was becoming very low. On the latter day they shifted their camp, about five miles towards the capes, to a small patch of meadow-land, near one of the small streams which empty into the harbour.

After remaining here a few days, they selected another spot, at the South Head; and on the 10th, the Indians failing to perform their engagements, they moved their articles themselves to their new encampment.”

The island has never been named on any map other than the one from the United States Exploring Expedition. A Coast and Geodetic Survey marker, named “Markham” after the nearby community, is located on the island; the marker datasheet does not provide a name for the island. The name Traitors Inlet has never been shown on any USGS maps and could not be found on any other maps. No local use of either name could be found.

The island is located within the Olympic-Willapa Hills-South Puget Sound Wildlife Area Complex, managed by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, and a Washington Department of Natural Resources State Resource Management Area. The Washington State Board on Geographic Names (WSBGN) recommends that the name and application change be approved. As part of its review process, the WSBGN asked for input from the Grays Harbor County Commissioners, who replied that they had no objection. A
member of the Westport Lighthouse Writers Retreat questioned why the issue was “an islet being mischaracterized as an ‘inlet’” and not “that the Indigenous people who refused to work for Wilkes are being mischaracterized as ‘traitors’?”

The WSBGN also requested input from the Grays Harbor South Beach Historical Society, the Grays Harbor Historical Seaport, the Grays Harbor County Emergency Management Department, the Washington State Historical Society, the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, the Squaxin Island Tribe of the Squaxin Island Reservation, the Skokomish Indian Tribe, and the Quinault Indian Nation; no replies were received, which is presumed to indicate no opinion.