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

This Quarterly Review List presents names proposed to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) 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 use; (3) resolve conflicts in name spellings, applications, and local usage; or (4) change existing names. Any organization, agency, or person may indicate to the 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. 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.

Populated places incorporated under the laws of its State and geographic features considered “administrative” (man-made or cultural) are not under the BGN’s purview. The names of unincorporated populated places are subject to review and approval by the BGN, as are those of reservoirs, canals, and channels.

The information following each proposed name indicates the submitting agency or person; the name of the most recent large-scale U.S. Geological Survey topographic map; the reason for the proposal; and other pertinent details to assist the BGN in its decision process. The location of the feature is indicated by its geographic coordinates, and for name changes, a link is provided to the existing entry in the Geographic Names Information System, available and searchable at Geographic Names Information System (nationalmap.gov).

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/dnc-review-lists.

Comments on the proposals on this Review List may be sent to: Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names/Domestic Names Committee, 523 National Center, Reston, VA 20192-0523; telephone (703) 648-4550; or by e-mail to BGNEXEC@usgs.gov.

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

**Tl’useɬ Vena**: lake; approx. 300 acres; S of the Mulchatna River, 3.6 mi. NE of Half Cabin Lake, 7.6 mi. SE of Whitefish Lake; name is Dena’ina and translates as “Pants Lake”; Secs 28,29,&21, T9N, R31W, Seward Meridian; Lake and Peninsula Borough, Alaska; 60.84578, -154.794271; USGS map – Lake Clark D-5 SW 1:25,000.

- Proposal: to make official a native name in local use
- Map: USGS Lake Clark D-5 SW 1:25,000
- Proponent: Bristol Bay Native Corporation; Anchorage AK
- Administrative area: None
- Previous BGN Action: None
- Names associated with feature:
  - GNIS: No record
  - Local Usage: Tl’useɬ Vena (Dena’ina residents, a long time)
  - Published: Tl’useɬ Vena (“Lake Clark Sociocultural Study: Phase I”, 1986 [NPS])

Case Summary: This proposal is to make official the Dena’ina name Tl’useɬ Vena for an approximately 300-acre lake in Lake and Peninsula Borough south of the Mulchatna River. The name is Dena’ina for “pants lake” and describes the shape of the lake.

The Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC) Land Manager submitted this proposal to the Alaska Board on Geographic Names in response to a previous proposal from a resident on the lake who wished to name it Jade Lake. Citing the feedback from the BBNC, the AK BGN and U.S. BGN did not approve the latter name. From the minutes of the AK BGN meeting:

... [She] said that the BBNC had submitted a proposal to name the lake its traditional Dena’ina name, Tl’useɬ Vena (pronounced Tluu-seth veh-nah). Mishcha Elanna commented that the Dena’ina name might be very old. His mother was cultural anthropologist Linda Elanna, who documented the indigenous name in the 1970s. Mishcha opposed the proposal of the name Jade Lake and supported the indigenous name.

The name was published in a 1983 document titled “Lake Clark Sociocultural Study: Phase I,” published by Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.

The AK BGN notes that the lake lies on State land and that they asked the Alaska Native Language Center to confirm the spelling. The AK BGN sent requests for comments to:

- Lake and Peninsula Borough Assembly
- Alaska Native Language Center
- Tanalian Incorporated
- Lime Village Company
- Nondalton Village
- Village of Iliamna
- Alaska Peninsula Corporation
- Newhalen Village
- Igiugig Village
- Pedro Bay Corporation
- Kokhanok Village
Unhghenesditnu: stream; 4.3 mi. long; heads 0.5 mi. NW of Reflection Lake at 60.398112, -151.204518, flows WNW to enter Cook Inlet at the site of Kalifornsky at 60.416932, -151.292237; Dena’ina name meaning “the furthest creek over”; T4N, Rgs12&11W, Seward Meridian; Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska; USGS map – Kenai B-4 NE 1:25,000.

Proposal: to make official a native name in published use
Map: USGS Kenai B-4 NE 1:25,000
Proponent: James Kari; Fairbanks, AK
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: No record
Local Usage: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to make official the name Unhghenesditnu for a 4.3-mile-long tributary of Cook Inlet in Kenai Peninsula Borough. The name is Dena’ina for “the furthest creek over” and was published in a 1983 article by the proponent, titled “Kalifornsky, The Californian from Cook Inlet” in Alaska in Perspective, Vol. V, No. 1. The article described the life of Nikolai Kalifornsky, an Outer Inlet Dena’ina who established a village at the mouth of the stream. He was given the name “Kalifornsky” because he worked for Russians as a sea otter hunter at Fort Ross in California. The article reported:

During Kalifornsky’s absence his father, who had been chief, had died. Upon his return Kalifornsky declined to succeed his father as chief and left Shk’ituk’t [near modern Kenai] to establish his own village at the small creek known as Unhghenesditnu that means ‘the furthest creek over.’ The Russians called the village Kalifornsky for its founder.

In his application to the Alaska Board on Geographic Names (AK BGN), the proponent notes “[the] Kenaitze Indian Tribe owns many parcels in the area around this creek. Literally [the] name is unh ‘farther’ ghenes ‘ahead, in front’ di ‘the one that’ tnu ‘stream.’ . . . [A] search of GNIS shows Unhghenesditnu as the Dena’ina name for the area but [it] is not associated with the creek.” The name is recorded in GNIS as a variant for Kalifornsky, citing the proponent’s Dena’ina Topical Dictionary, and is listed as the name of the village, with the translation of “furthest creek over,” in:

- a list of Dena’ina Placenames on the Dena’ina Qenaga website, [http://qenaga.org/placenames.html](http://qenaga.org/placenames.html)
- “Major Native Place Names in Southcentral Alaska” a 1985 Alaska Native Language Center document, [https://uafanlc.alaska.edu/Online/G977K1985a/G977K1985a_02.PDF](https://uafanlc.alaska.edu/Online/G977K1985a/G977K1985a_02.PDF)

Unhghenesditnu is recorded as the name of the stream in a list of Dena’ina Territory and Place Names on the Dena’ina Language Home Page (Kahtnuht’ana Qenaga, [http://web.kpc.alaska.edu/denaina/pages/territory_pages/territory_and_placenames.html](http://web.kpc.alaska.edu/denaina/pages/territory_pages/territory_and_placenames.html)), with a
translation of “farthest down river” and with the English name “Kalifornsky Village and Creek.” It is also applied to the stream in:

- *Shem Pete’s Alaska*, 2016 by James Kari and James Fall, translated as “farthest ahead stream”
- a 2012 *Native Times* article, translated as “farthest over river”

The AK BGN has sent requests for comments to:

- Cook Inlet Tribal Council
- Kenai Peninsula Borough
- Kenaitze Indian Tribe
- Cook Inlet Regional, Inc.
- Alaska Department of Natural Resources

**ARIZONA**

**Hamilili Point**: summit; elevation 5,713 ft.; in Petrified Forest National Park, extending SW from the W side of The Flattops; “hamilili” is a Zuni word for “petrified wood”; Sec 31, T17N, R24E, Gila-Salt River Meridian; Apache County, Arizona; 34.829395 -109.827569; USGS map – Agate House 1:24,000.

Proposal: new name for unnamed feature
Map: USGS Agate House 1:24,000
Proponent: Jeannine McElveen; Petrified Forest, AZ
Administrative area: Petrified Forest National Park
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: No record
Local Usage: None found
Published: None found

Case Summary: The new name Hamilili Point is proposed for a summit with an approximate elevation of 5,713 feet in the southern part of Petrified Forest National Park (PEFO) in Apache County. Hamilili is a Zuni word for “petrified wood.” The name was proposed by the PEFO Superintendent and submitted by the PEFO Program Manager.

The summit is the highest point on a short ridge that extends southwest from the west side of The Flattops. It is located next to a paved pulloff on the park road. This pulloff is a popular photography spot for visitors and has been referred to as “South No Name Point” (according to the proponent) or “South No Name Pullout” (according to the National Park Service website). This name refers to the overlook site rather than any geographic feature.

According to the proponent, the name was “specifically recommended by the Pueblo of Zuni for this spot as it is close to the large petrified wood deposits that the park was established to protect. This area is within the ancestral homelands of the Zuni Tribe.” She also stated:
In 2019 Petrified Forest National Park sought to change the long time, official name of a park overlook called Chinde Point as the name Chinde is culturally insensitive to local Native American tribes. The park contacted the Zuni, Navajo, and Hopi tribes to suggest a name replacement. The three suggested names were then voted on by park staff with the Navajo name (Hózhó) getting the most votes. The initial name change request was rejected by this board because the park had neglected to do proper follow-up on the name results with all three tribes [the name change was not approved by the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names (ASBGHN); the BGN has not yet voted on the proposal]. The Hopi tribe was against the change using the Navajo name because they felt the voting was unfair because many of the park employees who voted are Navajo. After formal consultation the park and tribes agreed that two additional, unnamed points would be named using the Hopi and Zuni names so each tribe would have a named point in the park. . . .

In addition [to] soliciting names from the Hopi, Zuni, and Navajo tribes, all of which support the renaming effort and supplied names, we also reached out to 34 additional tribes with cultural ties to the area. We received three responses, all positive. We have had no negative responses other than the initial Hopi Tribe concerns that lead to the initial rejection of the name change of Chinde Point by this board [sic]. . . .

Regarding the positive responses noted above, the proponent provided the following:

- an email from the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona stating “I don’t know that we’ll have anything to say about the overlook naming, other than that it’s probably a good idea to go forward with the name change [sic]”; presumably this refers to renaming Chinde Point to Hózhó Point.
- an email from the THPO of the Pueblo of San Ildefonso, New Mexico stating “I doubt that San Ildefonso will have much to say about the name changes and will likely defer to tribes with the closest ties to the area and will support their recommendations for names if they make any during the consultation.”
- a letter from the THPO of the White Mountain Apache Tribe of the Fort Apache Reservation, Arizona stating “we’ve determined the proposed name changes will ‘Not have an Adverse Effect’ on the tribe’s cultural heritage resources and/or historic properties.”

Tatàypi Point: cliff; approx. 150 ft high; in Petrified Forest National Park between Tawa Point and Tiponi Point; tatàypi is a Hopi word for “Place with a Great View”; Sec 3, T19N, R24E, Gila-Salt River Meridian; Apache County, Arizona; 35.077222, -109.782222; USGS map – Kachina Point 1:24,000.

Proposal: new name for unnamed feature
Map: USGS Kachina Point 1:24,000
Proponent: Jeannine McElveen; Petrified Forest, AZ
Administrative area: Petrified Forest National Park
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
Case Summary: The new name Tatàypi Point is proposed for an approximately 150-foot-high cliff in the northern part of Petrified Forest National Park (PEFO) in Apache County. Tatàypi is a Hopi word for “Place with a Great View.” The name was proposed by the PEFO Superintendent and submitted by the PEFO Program Manager.

The cliff is located on the edge of a small unnamed mesa which has several named cliffs around the edge. Each of these named cliffs has a named overlook. The proposed Tatàypi Point is located between Tawa Point and Tiponi Point; tawa and tiponi are also Hopi words. The mesa also includes Kachina Point; Chinde Point (proposed as Hózhó Point, Review List 437); Pintado Point, Nizhoni Point, Whipple Point, and Lacey Point; kachina derives from a Hopi word, whereas chinde (as well as hózhó) and nizhoni are Navajo words.

The overlook above the proposed Tatàypi Point cliff is a popular photography spot for visitors and has been referred to as “No Name Point” (according to the proponent) or “North No Name Point” (according to the National Park Service website). It is unclear if this name refers to the cliff itself or to the overlook site.

According to the proponent, the name “was specifically recommended by the Hopi Tribe for this spot. This area is within the ancestral homelands of the Hopi Tribe.” In submitting this name, the proponent provided the same justification and Tribal responses as noted in the Hamilili Point case summary above.

**COLORADO**

**Change Dead Mexican Gulch to Jose Belardi Gulch:** valley; 1.6 mi. long; in Flat Tops Wilderness in Routt National Forest, heads 4 mi. E of Lost Lakes Peaks, 1.6 mi. NE of Devils Causeway at 40.0559183, -107.1401555, trends WNW to 40.0625119, -107.1654912; named for Jose Belardi (ca. 1892-1921), who died in the gulch when struck by lightning; Secs 9,10,16,&15, T1N, R87W, Sixth Principal Meridian; Garfield County, Colorado; USGS map – Devils Causeway 1:24,000; Not: Dead Horse Gulch, Dead Mexican Gulch.


Proposal: change name considered offensive
Map: USGS Devils Causeway 1:24,000
Proponent: Logan McDaneld; Grand Junction, CO
Administrative area: Flat Tops Wilderness / Routt National Forest
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:

- GNIS: Dead Mexican Gulch (FID 173527)
- Local Usage: None found
- Published: Dead Horse Gulch (The Routt County Sentinel, 1921); Dead Mexican Gulch (USGS 1977, 1979; USGS/USFS 2000; USFS maps; Steamboat Today [Steamboat Springs], 1996)
Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Dead Mexican Gulch, a 1.6-mile-long valley in Garfield County, to Jose Belardi Gulch. The gulch is located in the Flat Tops Wilderness in Routt National Forest.

The proponent states “The name is both vague and pejorative. A grave is noted on the USGS map and indeed is still there. This grave provides the name of the individual buried there and it makes sense to name after him, rather than ‘Dead Mexican Gulch.’” The grave is covered with a pile of rocks, at the head of which is a wooden cross and a sign that reads: “JOSE VELARDE / Killed by Lightning / SUMMER 1922.” It is unknown when the marker was put in place. The application originally spelled the name Velarde, but after a review of contemporaneous news accounts of the individual’s death, the proponent determined that Belardi was likely more accurate and so the spelling was amended.

Further research into historical and more recent accounts reveals considerable confusion as to the identity of Jose Belardi and often confuses this location with that of another, Dead Mexican Park, a flat located 60 miles to the north. Both are located with Routt National Forest, but the flat lies in Routt County.

A Routt National Forest archeologist uncovered primary sources about Jose Belardi/Velarde in Colorado newspapers, where his name is also reported as “Balarde,” “Belarde,” or “Belarde.” (The Royal Spanish Academy [Real Academia Española] states “There is no difference in Spanish in the pronunciation of the letters b and v.”)

The incident noted on the grave marker was reported in the August 12, 1921 (not 1922) edition of The Routt County Sentinel, in an article titled “DEAD MAN’S BODY FALLS INTO FIRE—Lightning Strikes Down Employee of Tom Tynan at Lonely Sheep Camp in Mountains”:

Struck down by a bolt of lightning, Joe Belardi [sic] fell across the fire over which he had prepared his evening meal at his lonely sheep camp high up on the Flattops, close to the Devil’s Causeway, west of Yampa. . . . It is supposed that Belardi met his death during a violent storm last Thursday evening, but it was not until Saturday that he was found by his partner, another sheep herder. This man made haste to the headquarters ranch of Tom Tynan, by whom both men were employed [and] who is warden at the state penitentiary at Canon City. A group of individuals from the county coroner’s office, the county sheriff’s department, and the Forest Service made a trip Sunday over the difficult trail from the Stillwaters, above Yampa, to the sheep camp, which is in what is known as Dead Horse gulch, near the Causeway . . . .

Belardi was a Spaniard, 29 years old, and very intelligent, speaking excellent English. He had been for several years with Mr. Tynan, who considered him one of his best men. He was highly respected by residents of the Yampa section, with, whom he had become quite well acquainted. He leaves a brother and sister, residing at Albert, N.M.

Note: there is no listing in GNIS for a “Dead Horse Gulch” at or in the vicinity of Dead Mexican Gulch.
Some secondary sources published since the 1970s have suggested that “Joe Belardi” may have been the same individual involved in an incident that led to the naming of Dead Mexican Park. No primary sources connect the two events.

An August 27, 1915 *Routt County Sentinel* article was titled “Two Mexican Sheep Herders Killed In Cold Blood by Fellow Employee—Jose Balarde, Entrusted with Companion’s Pay Check, Squanders the Proceeds and Seeks to Cover the Theft by Murder—Body of One Victim is Partially Cremated by Burning in His Bed.” It reported:

Jose Balarde, a Mexican, deliberately shot and killed two other Mexicans, Cerilo Velasquez and Marquez Quita, the herders at the camp where he himself was employed as camp mover. Balarde is now in the county jail having been captured while he was awaiting a chance to kill two other men before fleeing the country.

The killing is the outcome of a previous crime committed by Balarde some six weeks ago, when he was entrusted by Velasquez with a pay check which Balarde took to Columbine to cash for Velasquez but which he proceeded to spend for liquor before returning to the camp. Velasquez had been insistent that his money should be restored to him, and on Monday had threatened Balarde with prosecution, whereupon Balarde went again to Columbine and procured a 25-35 Winchester rifle, with which he evidently intended to silence his accuser.

Balarde left Columbine with the gun about midnight Monday night, and according to his own story, proceeded directly to the camp, where the two herders were asleep in their bed, on the ground in the open, close to their camp fire. Here he walked up to the bed and opened fire on Velasquez . . . . Quinta [sic] evidently arose from the bed and attempted to overpower the murderer. Being unarmed, he siezed [sic] a lard bucket and hurled it at Balarde, but it flew wide of the mark and fell a considerable distance from the scene of the battle. In fear of his own life, Quinta then fled without clothing or shoes, but was shot as he ran and fell dead about 65 feet away . . . .

Balarde then sought to complete his crime by setting fire to the bed occupied by the dead body of Velasquez . . . .

The murderer hid in the timber during the day, but that night went to another sheep camp, some 10 miles north of the scene of his crime, and there instructed another Mexican, known as “John,” to go to Columbine and procure a new supply of ammunition, stating that he proposed to kill two other men, J. C. Espy, the boss of the sheep outfit for which he had been working, and another Mexican known as “Alec,” stating that after he had disposed of these two he intended to get out of the country . . . . He told John of the two killings he had already committed . . . . John told at Columbine what had happened, and word was sent to Sheriff Chivington of the murder.

Undersheriff E. E. Clark and Coroner Bashor found the partially burned body of Velasquez, but the body of Quita was not found until the next day. Acting upon
information furnished by the Mexican [John, they] went Wednesday night to the camp where Belarde was awaiting the return of his messenger, and captur[ed] him . . . .

The remains of the victims were buried side by side at the camp where they were killed, the graves being marked by boards bearing their names . . . .

Subsequent articles reported that “Joe Belarde”/“Joe Belardi” murdered his companions as soon as he returned to camp after spending Velasquez’s paycheck and pleaded not guilty at his District court hearing, claiming self-defense.

In addition to the grave depicted on USGS topographic maps at the head of Dead Mexican Gulch, maps also label a grave at Dead Mexican Flat.

A February 4, 1916 Routt County Sentinel article, reporting on recent District court proceedings, noted: “Joe Belarde [sic], sentenced to the penitentiary for from 12 to 16 years, for the killing of two other Mexicans in Red park . . . ”

The following secondary sources either describe the history of Dead Mexican Park, conflate the two events that led to the naming of Dead Mexican Park and Dead Mexican Gulch, or both:

July 13, 1972 “Mountain Paths” column in The Steamboat Pilot about Dead Mexican Park:

The least gruesome of these [stories] names Mexican Grave Park for Apallino [sic] Barros, who was killed in that area by lightening [sic] in “1910 or 11. . . .”

A second account says that in 1913 a sheepcamp mover gambles away his own wages as well as those of two sheep herders. At midnight when this drunken loser returned to home camp from the Columbine poker game, he killed both Mexican herders in their beds. He then made a huge fire of everything in camp, dead herders included . . . . The murderer was brought to trial and sentenced to Canon City for 5 years.

Probably what actually happened was documented by the late Harry Temple, Snake River rancher, for The History of the Routt National Forest. From ‘Case No. 437 in the Routt District Court records of 1916,’ Harry produced evidence that the incident happened in 1915 after Supervisor Ratliff and Ranger Brock had resigned. ‘The two herders who are buried in the Park were M.G. Quintana and C. Velasque’ who were Carbon Sheep Company employees.

The camp tender, Joe Belardi [sic], murdered them on Aug. 23, 1915 in about the same manner suggested in the earlier story. Temple’s account differed in that only one Mexican was burned in the campfire, the other body was ‘some distance from camp . . .’

Belardi . . . was tried in the courts at Steamboat Springs in the winter of 1916 and ‘sentenced to 12-16 years for second degree murder.’ Belardi soon was released for good behavior to Warden Tom Tynan “who ran sheep near Yampa.”
There are other colorful versions regarding the incident. Without exception, these stories end with Belardi meeting death by being burned in two after falling upon his own campfire. Harry Temple stated that the herder’s death took place in Oak Creek at Dr Morrow’s hospital where Harry and his father visited him the night before he died. Belardi told Mr. Temple, Sr., that he had “suffered a paralytic stroke,” had fallen into his own campfire where he lay “about two hours before help came.”

This account also appeared in a 1976 BLM draft of a report titled “An Isolated Empire: A History of Northwest Colorado,” and in an August 13, 1992 “Lest We Forget” column in The Steamboat Pilot about Dead Mexican Park, written by members of the National Cemetery Restoration Fund, Inc., a nonprofit organization researching cemeteries and gravesites in Routt County. Other online sources include:


  A grave is found 0.4 miles to the west [of the head of Dead Mexican Gulch]. Apparently an exsheep [sic] herder died on the spot in 1921, after committing two murders north of Steamboat Springs.”

- An undated Colorado Fishing Network website post:

  The story related by a [USFS] ranger [about the history of Dead Mexican Gulch] told of two shepherders arguing more than a half-century ago. Words led to blows and one murdered the other, whose body is buried in a poorly marked wilderness grave.

- A 2010 Geocaching website post stated:

  The story goes like this: In 1913 three shepherders were camped here. One man went into Columbine to get their payroll, and proceeded to lose it all gambling. He came back to camp and shot his two Mexican partners in their beds. He then ate supper, and set the camp on fire. The fenced area marks the spot where the bodies were found and memorialized. This area is called Dead Mexican Park. The cache is NOT inside the fence. The murderer was apprehended, spent 5 years in prison in Canyon City. When he got out, he returned to sheep herding, only to be found dead laying in his campfire years later.

Finally, a 2020 article in *The Durango Herald*, reporting on efforts to change offensive names, commented:

What do we do with place names that crystallize an historical event, such as in Routt County on the White River National Forest [sic] where Murdered Mexican Flat [sic] is a mnemonic device that forces us to recall an Hispano shepherder lucky at cards? The herder gambled his wages and won, but on the way back to his sheep camp his luck ran out. The cowboys he played poker with surreptitiously followed him in the dark and killed him. The herder’s name is forgotten. Marking the place of his death with a small
cross on a U.S. Forest Service map and giving it a place name is all the remembrance that he has.

The proponent was asked to address the various accounts, but responded he was unable to find any additional information, other than to note that the description of death by lightning is the only one to have come from a contemporaneous account. The others, including those referring to the murder, “are either many decades later or a few years before. Given that it is . . . a good factual match, as well as the fact that the coroner came out to examine the body and confirmed lightening [sic] not murder, this seems to be the best source to believe.”

**Change Mount Evans to Mount Sisty:** summit; elevation 14,264 ft.; on the boundary of Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pike and San Isabel National Forests / Mount Evans Wilderness, 1.4 mi. NE of Mount Bierstadt; named for Wilson Edward Sisty (1827-1889), who founded the Colorado Department of Wildlife and Fish, served as Fish Commissioner and the first marshall for the City of Denver, and was considered “the father of roads and fish culture”; Sec 26, T5S, R74W, Sixth Principal Meridian; Clear Creek County, Colorado; 39.5881224, -105.6437272; USGS map – Mount Evans 1:24,000; Not: Evans Peak, Monte Rosa, Mount Evans, Mount Rosa, Mount Rosalia, Rosa Mountain.  

Proposal: to change a name considered offensive  
Map: USGS Mount Evans 1:24,000  
Proponent: Paul N. Fiorino; Denver, CO  
Administrative area: Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests / Pike and San Isabel National Forests / Mount Evans Wilderness / Denver City and County Parks  
Previous BGN Action: None  
Names associated with feature:  
GNIS: Mount Evans (FID 204716)  
Local Usage: Mount Evans (many sources)  
Published: Evans Peak (Topographical Atlas, Wheeler, 1879); Monte Rosa (“Reminiscences of an Overlander: Part II” in The Golden Age, Ludlow, 1864; Fourteen Thousand Feet, Hart, 1925); Mount Evans (USGS 1903, 1905, 1957, 1983; AMS 1953, 1957, 1958, 1960, 2011, 2013, 2016; USFS 1970, 1974, 1997, 2012, 2018; Rand McNally, 1879 and later; Colorado map, Thayer, 1880; Geological and Geographical Survey, Hayden, 1881; Colorado map, Adams and Son, 1887; Gannett, 1906; many other local, state, and national sources, both historical and current); Mount Rosa (“Bierstadt’s Visit to Colorado” in Magazine of Western History, Byers, 1890; Fourteen Thousand Feet, Hart, 1925; Denver Post, 2017); Mount Rosalia (Denver Pacific Railway map, 1868); Mount Rosalie (Fourteen Thousand Feet, Hart, 1925; Colorado Place Names, Bright, 1993; Denver Post, 1987, 2017); Rosa Mountain (USGS)  
Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Mount Evans in Clear Creek County to Mount Sisty. It was submitted as a counterproposal to five earlier proposals that are pending on various review lists: to change the name to Mount Soule (Review List 435), Mount Rosalie (Review List 441), Mount Blue Sky (Review List 442), or Mount Cheyenne-Arapaho (Review List 443), and one to retain the name but change the honoree to Anne Evans (1871-1941), the daughter of Governor John Evans (Review List 443).
The summit is the fourteenth highest peak in Colorado and located in the Mount Evans Wilderness on the boundary of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and the Pike and San Isabel National Forests. Denver City and County Parks manages Summit Lake Park just below the summit. Colorado Parks and Wildlife manages the Mount Evans State Wildlife Area approximately eight miles east of the summit.

The summit’s current name was given to commemorate John Evans (1814-1897), the second Territorial Governor of Colorado from 1862 to 1865. The proposals to change the name Mount Evans cite Evans’ involvement in the Sand Creek Massacre, which occurred on November 29th, 1864, when U.S. Cavalry led by Colonel John Chivington attacked a village consisting of Cheyenne and Arapaho who had sought protection near Fort Lyon in present-day southeastern Colorado. (For more information, see the previous proposals.)

The name Mount Evans was first applied to the summit in the 1870s and was first published on U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps in 1903.

The proposed replacement name Mount Sisty would commemorate Wilson Edward Sisty (1827-1889), who founded the Colorado Department of Wildlife and Fish, and served three governors as State Fish Commissioner. He was also a guide for Edward Berthoud’s survey, as well as road superintendent, and the first marshall for the city of Denver’s new police department. The city’s first mayor described Sisty as “a man of excellent character and [he] enjoyed great popularity throughout the entire state”; in 2018, the Denver Police Museum erected a marker in his memory. According to the proponent, Sisty is considered “the father of roads and fish culture.” He also started hotels in Brookvale and Idaho Springs. One online biography reports “In 1846 he enlisted in the Army and fought in the Mexican War until 1848. In 1860 he moved from Denver to Idaho Springs, Colorado about 34 miles west, where he was an agent for the Fulton Gold Mining Company of Idaho, Clear Creek County. In 1861, he was elected the first president of the Northern Mining District. He filed numerous claims in the area, and in 1876 he was named the first fish commissioner of Colorado. His name is on the Clear Creek Co. tax rolls through 1884.” The proponent adds, “At the 1865 Constitutional Convention, he stood with Steck and others to admonish Chivington and Governor Evans, for the annihilation of the American Indians.”

After considering the five original proposals, the Clear Creek County Board of Commissioners voted to recommend approval of the change to Mount Blue Sky.

**Change Pikes Peak to Tavá Mountain:** summit; elevation 14,115 ft.; in Pike National Forest 12 mi. W of Colorado Springs; Tavá is the Ute word for “sun” and part of the Ute name for the summit, Tavá-kaavi meaning “sun mountain”; T14S, Rgs68&69W, Sixth Principal Meridian; El Paso County, Colorado; 38.8405839, -105.0449035; USGS map – Pikes Peak 1:24,000; Not: Blue Mountain, El Capitan, El Capitán, Grand Peak, Heey-otoyoo, heey-otoyoo’, Highest Peak, James Peak, James’ Peak, James’s Peak; J. Haines Peak, Long Mountain, Long Peak, Montaña del Sol, Montana del Sol, Pike’s Grand Peak, Pike’s Highest Peak, Pikes Peak, Pike’s Peak, Pikes’ Peak, Sun Mountain Sitting Big, Tava, Tavá, Tava-kaavi, Tavá Kaa-vi, Tavá Mountain, Tavakiev, Ta-Wa-Ah-Gath.

Proposal: change name to indigenous name
Map: USGS Pikes Peak 1:24,000
Proponent: Derwood James Willhite, Divide, CO
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
  GNIS: Pikes Peak (FID 204770)
  Local Usage: Pikes Peak
  Published:
  **Blue Mountain** (Semi-centennial History of the State of Colorado, Volume 1, 1913)
  **El Capítan** (Pikes Peak Backcountry, 1999; The Gazette [Colorado Springs] article, 2021; KRCC article, 2021)
  **El Capitán** (History Colorado website, 2018)
  **El Capitán** (The Gazette [Colorado Springs], 2022)
  **Grand Peak** (Pike journals, 1810; Semi-centennial History of the State of Colorado, Volume 1, 1913; Heey-otoyoo (History Colorado website, 2018); heey-otoyoo’ (UC Boulder Center for the Study of Indigenous Languages website, 2022)
  **Highest Peak** (Pike expedition map, 1810; Coues, The Expeditions of Zebulon Montgomery Pike, 1895 [annotated Pike journals]; Semi-centennial History of the State of Colorado, Volume 1, 1913; Fourteen Thousand Feet, 1925; History Colorado website, 2018; The Gazette [Colorado Springs] article, 2022)
  **James Peak** (Vandermaelen map, 1827; Barber and Willard map, 1835; Mitchell map, 1846; Fourteen Thousand Feet, 1925; Pikes Peak Backcountry, 1999; History Colorado website, 2018; Pikes Peak – America’s Mountain website, 2022; The Gazette [Colorado Springs] article, 2022; Fox 21 News, 2022)
  **James’ Peak** (Mitchell map, 1831; Gregg map, 1844; Reports of Explorations and Surveys for a Railroad from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean, 1855; Coues, The Expeditions of Zebulon Montgomery Pike, 1895 [annotated Pike journals]; Semi-centennial History of the State of Colorado, Volume 1, 1913)
  **James’s Peak** (Mitchell map, 1831)
  **J. Haines Peak** (Anonymous Map of the United States, 1836)
  **Long Mountain** (“Report of Oliver Toll on Visit of Arapaho Indians to Estes Park,” Trail and Timberline, 1914; “Fourteen Thousand Feet,” Trail and Timberline, 1925)
  **Long Peak** (KRCC article, 2021)
  **Montaña del Sol** (History Colorado website, 2018; The Gazette [Colorado Springs] article, 2021)
  **Montana del Sol** (KRCC article, 2021; Pike’s Grand Peak (Pikes Peak – America’s Mountain website, 2022)
  **Pike’s Highest Peak** (History Colorado website, 2018)
  **Pikes Peak** (USGS 1894, 1901, 1951, 1983; USGS/USFS 1994; AMS since 1954; Bonneville expedition map, 1849; Colton maps, 1855, 1871; Gunnison expedition maps, 1855, 1861; Beckwith report, 1855; Warren’s Military Map of Nebraska and Dakota, 1859; Johnson map, 1860; Monk map, 1862; Gilpin map, 1865; Mitchell map, 1865; GLO map 1866, 1879; US Bureau of Topographical Engineers map, 1867; War Department map, 1867; Hayden survey maps, 1881; Ruffner survey, 1873; Gunnison survey maps, 1861; countless published and online sources)
Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Pikes Peak, a 14,115-foot summit in El Paso County and Pike National Forest to Tavá Mountain. The current name commemorates Zebulon Pike (1779-1813), who described but did not climb the summit on an 1807-1809 expedition to the area.

In his original application, the proponent stated only that “The current name Pikes Peak conflicts with the original name given by the Ute natives.” He listed the name as “Tava Mountain” and stated that he was “the Co-Founder of “Tava Mountain LLC.”

BGN staff requested more information from the proponent about “Tava Mountain LLC” and whether there was local support for the change, given the longstanding and widespread use of the name Pikes Peak. The proponent was also asked to address the spelling, i.e., “Tavá” vs. “Tava.” He responded that he had contacted the Colorado Naming Advisory Board and local and regional U.S. Forest Service officials, and would be contacting Ute Tribe(s) in the area. He clarified “... the correct spelling and annunciation [sic] is Tavá Mountain.”

Regarding the use of the name for any commercial enterprise he added, “We only registered our LLC and trade names as a holding company to ensure the name was not registered and misused by someone else with the wrong intentions, due to the recent growth in the media and did not intend to profit. As we have been in the process of structuring and forming into a non-profit 501c, which will include Native American board members, with the intention to promote and advocate the original native history and name of America’s Mountain. Any products or services would not profit from the Tavá Mountain name and [it] would only be used to raise awareness for the history and cause and to help give back to the native communities. Our goal is to change the name, not earn a profit from the name. If our non-profit named Tavá Mountain was still of concern to the BGN board, then our new non-profit we are forming can always choose a new name to ensure it does not conflict with this process, if necessary.”
The proponent’s Tavá Mountain LLC website (https://www.tavamountain.org/):

- promotes the hashtag “#TakeBackTava”
- includes a way to “Signup for Tava Mountain News--Be the first to know about news and updates about the native history of the region and progress towards renaming America’s Mountain!”
- contains PayPal and Venmo logos at the bottom of the page (no links)
- is built on Shopify (“The platform commerce is built on”)
- has an empty “Support the Cause” link under “Resources”
- has an About Us page that reads:

  “In February 2022, our organization mailed the first official request to the US Board of Geographic Names to formally propose for Pikes Peak to be renamed to Tavá Mountain, known originally by the Ute Natives in the region as Tavá Mountain or ‘Tava-Kaavi,’ which means Sun Mountain and is correctly pronounced Tuh-VAH, not Ta-vaan.

- has blank pages for “Tava Mountain Music,” “Tava Mountain Heritage Museum,” “El Paso County – Lodging,” “El Paso County – Trail Maps and Guides”

A search of the United States Patent and Trademark Office did not find any results for Tava Mountain LLC. However, a number of entities nationwide include the Word Mark “Tava” in their names.

Different versions of the name Tavá Mountain have been reported. Generally, all sources note that “Tavá” means sun, but there are many variations:

- Tava
  - “The original inhabitants of the area were the Colorado Mountain Ute people, who’ve inhabited the Front Range region since time immemorial. They saw that, due to its height, the peak was the first to be illuminated by the dawn; for that reason they named it Tava, meaning ‘Sun Mountain’ [sic].” (“The Mountain of the Sun: The Many Names of Pikes Peak” by Devin Flores, Digital Content Specialist, History Colorado, 2018)

- “The Southern Ute Indian Tribe have stated they want acknowledgment in order to hold their legacy, and released the following statement:

  ‘Our Ute Creation Story tells us that we came from the mountains. The traditional Ute territory included the entire state of Colorado and parts of New Mexico, Utah, Arizona, Wyoming, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. Our people had names for these places prior to the arrival of settlers, and many of these names were adopted and can be seen throughout the State of Colorado. The Tribe supports the discussion of renaming Pikes Peak to the Ute word for mountain – Tava [sic].’ Renaming the mountain will continue the Ute people’s legacy as Colorado’s oldest continuous residents. and serve as a reminder of cultural acknowledgment.” — Chairman Melvin J. Baker of Southern Ute Indian Tribe” (“Conversations pick up to rename Pikes Peak to its Ute name,” Fox 21 News, 2022)
• **Tavá**
  - “Tavá remains a sacred mountain to the Utes,” [John] Harner [teacher of geology and environmental studies at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs], adding “Sun Mountain seems a more appropriate reference.”

  “Tavá speaks of the beauty of the natural landscape and the mountain itself, [Colorado College professor Sarah] Hautzinger argues . . . The Tabeguache Ute were the Ute of Tavá, she said, or the People of Sun Mountain.” (“Call for Pikes Peak to be renamed to its Ute name gains steam”, *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 2022)

• **Tava-kaavi**
  - “The Mouache and Kapuuta [two of the twelve historic bands within the Nuuchiu Nation] refer to Pikes Peak as Tava-kaavi (Tah-va-kaav). In the Mouache and Kapuuta vernacular of Colorado River Numic, a dialect of the Uto-Aztecan language family, Tava-kaavi translates as “Sun Mountain.” Pikes Peak was named Sun Mountain because it is the first landform on the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains to greet Grandfather Sun each morning.” (“Tava-Kaavi / Sun Mountain” by Garret Briggs, NAGPRA Coordinator, Southern Ute Cultural Department, with Cassandra Atencio, NAGPRA Coordinator, Southern Ute Cultural Department, *History Colorado*, 2010)

• **Tavá Kaa-vi**
  - “Austin Box, a Southern Ute tribal elder, knows the story well.

  ‘When they were camped here, rather than the sun coming down on the lower area, it went up to Pikes Peak first and showed the sunlight there,’…

  ‘When the tribe looked up, they saw the sunlight. The sun wasn’t shining on the lower area. That’s why they named it Sun Mountain. Tavá Kaa-ki.’” (“Call for Pikes Peak to be renamed to its Ute name gains steam”, *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 2022)

  - “Tavá Kaa-ki, meaning ‘Sun Mountain’” (“Campaign to rename Pikes Peak reemerges,” *The Scribe* [UCCS student newspaper], 2022)

• **Tavá Mountain**
  - “Before Pikes Peak was Pikes Peak, Ute Indians called it Tavá Mountain, which means Sun Mountain…” (*Colorado Springs Gazette*, ibid.)

  “Tavá Mountain [is] the name the Ute people gave [Pikes Peak]…According to Ilaheva Tua’one, assistant professor of Indigenous and Native American studies in the [UCCS] Women’s and Ethnic Studies Program, “[Tavá Mountain] is the first of all of the Rocky
Mountain peaks that the sun’s rays hit when the sunrises in the morning.” (“Campaign to rename Pikes Peak reemerges,” The Scribe [UCCS student newspaper], 2022)

- **Tavakiev**

“Long before there was a documented ‘discovery’ of Pikes Peak, it was a sacred ceremonial site for the Ute and was called Tavakiev, meaning ‘sun mountain.’ [sic] The Tabeguache Band of Ute people or ‘Sun Mountain people’ once called this area home.” (“The Mountain People: Part 2”, The Pueblo Chieftain, 2020)

In a 2022 article, the Colorado Springs Gazette [ibid.] reported

“Austin Box [a Southern Ute tribal elder] says he’s neutral on the issue — the name Pikes Peak doesn’t bother him. Both camps of thought possibly could be satisfied with an idea from Karen Box Anderson, one of Box’s daughters who is an artist in the Pikes Peak region. As the product of a Northern Ute mother and a Southern Ute father, she’s grown up in two worlds — the white and the Indian. ‘To me, this is just people that are wanting to change the name because they feel guilty of the past,’ Anderson said. She doesn’t agree with dropping the name Pikes Peak and completely switching to Tavá Mountain. ‘If they’re thinking of it as being an honor to the Ute people, I’m sure it is, but no one’s going to be able to pronounce it correctly,’ she said. It’s pronounced Tuh-VAH, not Ta-vaa, as most people say it. Why not leave Pikes Peak and add Tavá Mountain afterward — along the lines of companies having a main name and a ‘doing business as’ name. ‘I think it would be good to have both names, the English word, where you know the origination, and then the Ute word of the mountain,’ Anderson said. ‘Then, you’re appeasing both sides of the issue.’…

Adjacent to Armstrong Hall, Colorado College's main quad was informally called Armstrong Quad until 2019, when as part of an anti-racist initiative, officials renamed it Tavá Quad in a ceremony that included a Ute blessing and dance performance.”

The proponent makes no objection to the commemoration of Zebulon Pike himself but two local residents quoted in recent articles (Colorado Springs Gazette [ibid.] and Fox 21 News [ibid.]) claim that naming the summit for Pike is not appropriate:

“While ‘Pikes Peak’ in itself does not denote racism, the fact that Colorado Springs’ most recognized attraction was named after a white Army officer, Zebulon Montgomery Pike, who neither reached the top nor knew it would bear his name, is enough for supporters to call for change.

‘There is no real compelling reason the mountain should be named after Zebulon Pike,’ says John Harner, who teaches geology and environmental studies at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

‘He never summited the mountain, he grossly overestimated its height, and he spent no real time in the region or made any lasting impacts here,’ Harner said.
Alternatively, he said, the Utes lived in the region for a long time and actively used resources on the mountain…

Another point, Harner said, is that Pike’s mission to the region remains ‘somewhat controversial.’

Pike was ordered to lead two exploratory expeditions into the unchartered West, the first to the Mississippi River, the second to the Arkansas River, when Pike became among the first European-Americans to set eyes on Pikes Peak.

He did what no other 19th-century adventurer before him had: Pike kept a detailed journal of his trips.

He and his men, whom he referred to as ‘damned rascals,’ being long on courage and short on character, attempted to climb what became known as Pikes Peak in November 1806 but were unprepared.

The group wore thin cotton uniforms and encountered waist-deep snow and frostbite. Near starvation, they turned around.

‘No man can scale its summit, and no man ever will,’ Pike wrote in his journal [sic—this quote is not in Pike’s journals].

Pike appeared to be somewhat of a dullard, Harner said.

“He was unsure of exactly where he was, misidentifying rivers and other features, and ended up captured by Spanish forces in the San Luis Valley,” he said.

Spaniards released Pike and his men to American territory in July 1807.”

• “[Pike] really had nothing to do with the mountain. It’s not like he discovered it or anything. It’s kind of funny it was named after him in the first place,” John Harner, geography and environmental studies professor at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs said.

Nobody climbed the mountain for the next 14 years until a man named James climbed to the top. As a result, many started referring to the mountain as ‘James Peak.’ Finally, in the late 1850s when gold was discovered in Colorado, people started calling the mountain after Pike.

‘Do we really want to honor this explorer Zebulon Pike who somewhat cluelessly declared that Pikes Peak could “never be climbed by a man” [sic—this quote is not in Pike’s journals], as opposed to a name that isn’t about any one person but about what that mountain does like it calls the morning sun,” Sarah Hautzinger, ethnographer and political anthropologist Colorado College said.”
Pike himself labeled the summit as **Highest Peak** on a map accompanying his report and referred to it in his journals as **Grand Peak** and “blue mountain.” He attempted to climb the mountain with others in his group but was unable to:

“*Nov 26th* . . . Expecting to return to our camp the same evening, we left all our blankets and provisions at the foot of the [Cheyenne] mountain . . . . We commenced ascending; found it very difficult, being obliged to climb up rocks, sometimes almost perpendicular; and after marching all day we encamped in a cave, without blankets, victuals, or water . . .

*Nov 27th* . . . The summit of the Grand Peak, which was entirely bare of vegetation and covered with snow, now appeared at the distance of 15 or 16 miles from us. It was as high again as what we had ascended, and it would have taken a whole day’s march to arrive at its base, when I believe no human being could have ascended to its pinical. This, with the condition of my soldiers, who had only light overalls on, no stockings, and were in every way ill provided to endure the inclemency of the region; the bad prospect of killing anything to subsist on, with the further detention of two or three days which it must occasion, determined us to return.”

The 1999 *Pikes Peak: Legends of America’s Mountain* noted:

Some historians have written that Pike claimed the mountain was unclimbable. But, reading the journal closely, it is clear he says that no one could have climbed the mountain *given his conditions* of time, inadequate clothes, waist deep snow, and lack of food. Indeed, why would he write about “the further detention of 2 or 3 days which it [climbing the mountain] must occasion” if he thought the summit unattainable? Pike wasn’t interested in mountain climbing. He wanted to see the geography of the country from its highest point. When it proved impractical to get there, he turned back.

The recent news articles that suggest that Pike wrote or said “No man can scale [Pikes Peak’s] summit, and no man ever will” or that Pikes Peak could “never be climbed by a man” are not found in his writings.

Dr. Edwin James, the botanist and geologist on the 1820 expedition led by Major S. H. Long, climbed the summit with some other members of the party. Long named the summit **James Peak**. Until about the 1850s, different sources reported the name as either **Pikes Peak** or **James Peak**, with various forms of possessives. The earliest publication of the name **Pikes Peak** (as **Pike’s Peak**) seems to be on a map from the 1836 Dodge expedition.

Below is a list of names applied to the summit on 19th century maps and documents:

- **Grand Peak**
  - Pike, 1810 [journals]
- **Highest Peak**
  - Pike, 1810 [map]
- **James Peak**
  - Vandermaelen, 1827 [map]
  - Barber and Willard, 1835 [map]
Some additional names have been reported:

- **Blue Mountain**
  - Semi-centennial History of the State of Colorado, Volume 1, 1913 (taking Pike’s description as a proper name)

- **El Capitan**
  - *Pikes Peak Backcountry*, 1999 (reporting that the summit was “[c]alled ‘El Capitan’ by the Ute people [sic]…Pikes Peak was named ‘El Capitan’ by the Utes [sic] and Spanish…El Capitan, the great peak, was later to be re-named for…Pike”)

- **El Capitán**
  - “The Mountain of the Sun: The Many Names of Pikes Peak”, History Colorado website, 2018 (“In time, [the Spanish] gave it their own name: El Capitán, meaning ‘the Captain’ or ‘the Leader,’ emphasizing its nature as the most prominent peak of all the Front Range.”)

- **Heey-otoyoo**
“The Mountain of the Sun: The Many Names of Pikes Peak”, History Colorado website, 2018 (“When they arrived in the early 1800s, the Arapaho people named the mountain Heey-otoyoo, meaning ‘the Long Mountain.’”)

• Heey-otoyoo
  “Arapaho Place Names”, UC Boulder Center for the Study of Indigenous Languages website, 2022 (“Heey-otoyoo’ long mountain Pikes Peak”)

• Long Mountain
  Fourteen Thousand Feet: A History of the Naming and Early Ascents of the High Colorado Peaks, 1925 (citing “The Indian name for this peak was ‘Long Mountain’, according to the “Report of Oliver W. Toll, on the visit of Arapahoe Indians to Estes Park, 1913” [sic])

• Long Peak
  “Peak Past: Colorado’s 58 – Or Is It 54 – Fourteeners?,” KRCC, 2021 (“the Arapaho called our Pikes Peak ‘the Long Peak.’”)

• Montaña del Sol
  “The Mountain of the Sun: The Many Names of Pikes Peak”, History Colorado website, 2018 (“In the 1700s Spanish explorers…were the first Europeans to see the mountain. Early on they borrowed a name for it from the indigenous population and called it Montaña del Sol, the Mountain of the Sun.”)

• Pike’s Grand Peak
  “History of Pikes Peak Timeline”, Pikes Peak – America’s Mountain website, 2022 (“Dr. Edwin James…a naturalist with the expedition who had been personally selected by Major Long, convinces him to wait a couple days at this location, so James could climb Pike’s Grand Peak.”)

• Pike’s Highest Peak
  “The Mountain of the Sun: The Many Names of Pikes Peak”, History Colorado website, 2018 (“The latter name [Highest Peak] became popular with Anglo-American explorers, trappers, and settlers. Many of them began to refer to it as ‘Pike’s Highest Peak.’”)

• Sun Mountain Sitting Big
  “History of Pikes Peak Timeline”, Pikes Peak – America’s Mountain website, 2022 (“The Ute Indians, also known as the Blue Sky People, referred to the mountain as the Sun Mountain Sitting Big.”)

• Ta-Wa-Ah-Gath
  Colorado’s Highest: The History of Naming the 14,000-Foot Peaks, 2021 (meaning “Grandfather Mountain”)

In 2014, Colorado College geologists published a study on sandstone intrusions into igneous rocks near Colorado Springs and called the formation the “Tava Sandstone” after the Ute name for Pikes Peak. The USGS GeoLex does not record this official formation name.
**Change Chinamans Canyon to Toisan Canyon:** valley; 2.2 mi. long; heads 1 mi. SE of Bald Knobs at 37.2405582, -104.7325215, trends SE to open into Reilly Canyon at 37.2283282, -104.6981198; named for the Chinese province which was the home of the majority of Chinese immigrants to the United States in the 1800s, many of whom mined and worked in Colorado; T32S, Rgs65&66W, Sixth Principal Meridian; Las Animas County, Colorado; USGS map – Madrid 1:24,000; Not: Chinamans Canyon.


Proposal: change name considered offensive
Map: USGS Madrid 1:24,000
Proponent: Peggy Lore; Denver, CO
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:

- GNIS: Chinamans Canyon (FID 194666)
- Local Usage: None found
- Published: Chinaman Canyon (*The Pueblo Chieftain*, 1992; *The Chronicle-News* [Trinidad, CO], 2017); Chinamans Canyon (USGS 1951, 1982); Chinaman’s Canyon (*The Pueblo Chieftain*, 1993)

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Chinamans Canyon, a 2.2-mile-long valley in Las Animas County northwest of Trinidad, to Toisan Canyon. The valley appears to be entirely on private land.

The proposal was submitted by an individual representing Colorado Asian Pacific United (CAPU), “a coalition of Asian American and Pacific Islander leaders, creatives, and allies in Denver.” The proponent states that the proposed name is intended to:

“recognize the Chinese who were an integral part of the history of Colorado, but who, with few exceptions, have remained faceless and nameless. . . . The Chinese who were the early pioneers and the first to come [to the United States] were primarily, if not exclusively, from the Guangdong (Canton as it was known then) region, and from a specific province, Toisan. They were Toisan men, and this renaming of Chinamans Canyon to Toisan Canyon would move one step closer to acknowledging them and their contributions.”

The proponent also mentions Chinese immigrant work on railroads throughout the western United States and contemporaneous anti-Chinese views and policies:

“These men were not recorded or credited by name for their work. . . . As animosity toward the Chinese grew, hostility was fueled by the Rocky Mountain newspaper carrying on the Hearst message, the Chinese were driven out of these places. . . . Even though many did not welcome the Chinese, it appears that their presence was noted in Colorado. Names of geographic areas like China Creek, Chinamans Gulch, and Chinaman Canyon continued the use of derogatory terms. Chinese who lived, worked, and died in these parts of Colorado remained nameless. Records were not kept of most of these people. They were not buried in town cemeteries, were not allowed to become
citizens, not allowed judicial rights, but had a distinction of being the only Asian nationality to be named with the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1848.”

USGS topographic maps first labeled Chinamans Canyon in 1951. Local news articles from 1992, 1993, and 2017 referred to Chinaman Canyon and Chinaman’s Canyon. USGS Water-Supply Paper 2288, published in 1989, mentioned “Chinaman [Spring]” and “Chinaman Canyon Spring,” but neither of these are listed in GNIS. Local real estate listings use the name “Chinaman Canyon Road” for a few properties along the road that Las Animas County labels as “County Road 32.8.”

The Foreign Names Committee recognizes the name Taicheng as the official name of the fourth-order administrative division also known as “Toisan.” “Toisan” is not recognized as a variant name, but “Taishan,” “Toishan,” and “Toyshan” are. Many online sources refer to the region as Toisan and note the high emigration of Toisan residents to the United States.

**FLORIDA**

**Liberty Pond:** lake; 0.3 acres, on the University of Florida campus in the City of Gainesville, 0.85 mi. ENE of Lake Alice; name given by the University of Florida to honor military veterans; Sec 6, T10S, R20E, Tallahassee Meridian; Alachua County, Florida; 29.6458033, -82.3471212; USGS map – Gainesville East 1:24,000; Not: Green Pond, Reitz Union Pond.

Proposal: to make official a name in recent local use
Map: USGS Gainesville East 1:24,000
Proponent: Shea Noah Dixon; Gainesville, FL
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: No record
Local Usage: Liberty Pond (University of Florida, since 2013)
Published: Green Pond (“University of Florida Campus Master Plan, 2005-2015”, 2006; Google Maps, 2022); Liberty Pond (University of Florida campus map, 2022; The Independent Florida Alligator [UF student newspaper], 2021); Reitz Union Pond (“University of Florida Campus Master Plan, 2005-2015”, 2006)

Case Summary: This proposal is to make official the name Liberty Pond for a 0.3-acre pond in a sinkhole on the University of Florida (UF) campus in Gainesville in Alachua County. The pond is located within the UF Veteran’s Memorial, which according to the UF Army ROTC website, “was erected to honor fallen UF veterans and Gators of the five Armed Services who served their country.” That site also reports that the pond is 100 years old. The memorial was dedicated in 2009 and at the time had a fountain, flags, and five granite pillars representing the five military branches. (The UF Student Senate recently passed a resolution advocating that the memorial also honors the U.S. Space Force.) The memorial fell into disrepair and the area was renovated around 2019. The memorial was not reconstructed and UF is currently holding a fundraiser to rebuild it.
The proponent states that the name Liberty Pond “is in honor of allied military veterans in general, with a particular focus on veterans with connections to the University of Florida, its staff, faculty, and/or students.”

The pond is currently labeled Green Pond on Google Maps; this was the locally used name for many years and was recorded in the “University of Florida Campus Master Plan, 2005-2015,” which noted that it was also known as Reitz Union Pond because of its location next to the Reitz Union Building. In 2013, the UF Board of Trustees passed a resolution renaming the pond from its unofficial name of Green Pond, a generic reference to the algae growing in the water, to Liberty Pond “to accurately reflect the [veteran] memorial site.”

**Southern Red Maple Lake**: reservoir; 17 acres; located 5.5 mi. SW of Lake Pickett; named in association with the adjacent Southern Red Maple Drive; Secs 32&31, T22W, R32E, Tallahassee Meridian; Orange County, Florida; 28.52642, -81.14307; USGS map – Oviedo SW 1:24,000.

- Proposal: new associative name for unnamed feature
- Map: USGS Oviedo SW 1:24,000
- Proponent: Jake White; Orlando, FL
- 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 Southern Red Maple Lake is proposed for an unnamed 17-acre spring-fed reservoir located near Alafaya in Orange County. The name references the adjacent Southern Red Maple Drive.

The Orange County Environmental Protection Division Assistant Manager reported that the “Orange County Government has no objection [to the name Southern Red Maple Lake] but defers to Orange County Public Schools as they are the property owner.”

**GEORGIA**

**Lake Lejeune**: reservoir; 3 acres; 3.8 mi. WSW of Cleveland; named for Susan Lejeune Tamburino (1954-2016), who owned the property since 1992 and operated it as a gold mine with public access; White County, Georgia; 34.58327, -83.82794; USGS map – Cleveland 1:24,000.

- Proposal: new commemorative name for unnamed feature
- Map: USGS Cleveland 1:24,000
- Proponent: Joseph Tamburino; Cleveland, GA
- 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 Lake Lejeune is proposed for a 3-acre reservoir in White County. The reservoir is located on land owned by the Gold 'N Gem Grubbin' Historic Gold Mine, owned by the proponent and his family.

The name would commemorate Susan Lejeune Tamburino (1954-2016), the proponent’s mother. Ms. Tamburino purchased the property in 1992, and according to the proponent, was “one of the only women to obtain a commercial gold mining license in the state of Georgia. . . . She opened the gold mine to the public, allowing people the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of gold panning and gem screening while also learning about the history of gold mining in North Georgia.”

The proponent believes his mother should be honored with the name “because of her outstanding accomplishments on this property and for her community,” adding that she “opened a non-profit animal rescue located on the property” to help alleviate the overcrowded county animal control center, taught “families and individuals how to do their own mining and treasure hunting”, and “was an amazing mother, grandmother, best friend, and animal lover that made the world a better place!”

IDAHO

Stearns Spring North, Stearns Spring South

The following two proposals were submitted by an Idaho Department of Water Resources employee to apply the new names North Stearns Spring and South Stearns Spring to two springs in Gooding County, south of Thousand Springs and within Thousand Springs State Park.

The names would commemorate geologist Harold T. Stearns (1900-1986), who according to the proponent, “was the first to accurately describe the hydrogeology of this specific spring. Harold was a heavy weight geologist for the early years of discovery in this area of Idaho and this would honor his civic contribution.” Dr. Stearns mentioned the unnamed springs in a 1936 Journal of Geology paper.

Dr. Stearns was born in Connecticut, studied geology at Wesleyan College, and earned a doctorate at George Washington University. He worked for the U.S. Geological Survey from 1923 to sometime in the 1940s, when he retired and worked as a private geologic consultant in Idaho. During his USGS career, he worked on hydrologic studies in the western U.S. (including a report recommending that the National Park Service protect the Craters of the Moon National Monument) and studied volcanoes and groundwater throughout the Pacific islands, especially in Hawaii. During World War II, he was made Geologist-in-Charge of Pacific Investigations for USGS and “was awarded the Medal for Merit in commendation for his work for the Armed Forces under enemy fire in the Pacific” (Memoirs of a Geologist, Stearns, 1983).

The springs are located on the right bank (relative to water flow) of the Snake River at the head of some channels flowing to the river. The proponent states that names will be needed for flow monitoring stations that are planned for the springs.
Prior to receiving these proposals, GNIS incorrectly applied the name Sand Springs to the spring proposed as South Stearns Spring; the entry derived from the 1988 volume Idaho Place Names. The error has been corrected in GNIS but will continue to appear in the National Hydrography Dataset until that file is updated. This spring was only labeled as “spring” on all USGS maps. Current and historical sources, including USGS reports, all use the name Sand Springs for the collection of springs higher up on the plateau above the Snake River at the source of Sand Springs Creek.

Proposal: new commemorative names for unnamed features
Map: USGS Thousand Springs 1:24,000
Proponent: Neal Farmer; Boise, ID
Administrative area: Thousand Springs State Park
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: No record
Local Usage: None found
Published: None found

North Stearns Spring: spring; in Thousand Springs State Park 1.1 mi. NE of the mouth of Falls Creek; named for Harold T. Stearns (1900-1986), a geologist who was one of the first to document the hydrogeology of the area; Sec 17, T8S, R14E, Boise Meridian; Gooding County, Idaho; 42.729755, -114.841069; USGS map – Thousand Springs 1:24,000.
**South Stearns Spring:** spring; in Thousand Springs State Park 1 mi. NE of the mouth of Falls Creek; named for Harold T. Stearns (1900-1986), a geologist who was one of the first to document the hydrogeology of the area; Sec 17, T8S, R14E, Boise Meridian; Gooding County, Idaho; 42.727365, -114.841583; USGS map – Thousand Springs 1:24,000.

**INDIANA**

**Change Negro Creek to Scout Creek:** stream; 4 mi. long; in Salt Creek Township, heads in Hoosier National Forest at 38.99113, -86.30401, flows generally NE through the Maumee Scout Reservation to enter South Fork Salt Creek within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Monroe Lake Recreation Area at 39.0169949, -86.2547095; named for the Maumee Scout Reservation; Secs 25, 36-33, T7N, R2E, Second Principal Meridian; Jackson County, Indiana; USGS map – Elkinsville 1:24,000 (mouth); Not: Negro Creek.


Proposal: change name considered offensive
Map: USGS Elkinsville 1:24,000 (mouth)
Proponent: Edward W. Laehle; Norman, IN
Administrative area: Hoosier National Forest / Monroe Lake Recreation Area (USACE)
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
   GNIS: Negro Creek (FID 451271)
   Local Usage: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Negro Creek, a four-mile-long tributary of South Fork Salt Creek in Salt Creek Township in Jackson County, to Scout Creek. The stream flows through Lake Tarzian in the Maumee Scout Reservation, owned by the Hoosier Trails Council, Boy Scouts of America. (The reservoir was named after Sarkes Tarzian, an engineer and broadcaster in Indiana who was the camp’s general capital campaign chairman.)

The name change is proposed by the Council’s Properties Manager, and the replacement name references the Maumee Scout Reservation. The proponent also states, “The current name of the creek, Negro Creek, is left over from previous generations and older maps depict the name to be Ni**er Creek. The current name does not depict current times nor is it a proper name in today’s environment.” BGN staff could not locate any maps showing the more pejorative form of the name. USGS topographic maps first labeled Negro Creek in 1947.

The proponent provided a letter from the Project Manager of Monroe Lake, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers stating that they “concur with the United States Forest Service in having no objection to the renaming of Negro Creek to Scout Creek. The renaming will have no impact on the Congressionally authorized missions of Monroe Lake which include Flood Risk Management, Recreation, and Environmental Stewardship.” These statements have not yet been corroborated by the BGN members from those agencies.
NEW JERSEY

**Burrowes Brook, Burrowes Pond, Oldis Pond, Smith Pond**

The following four proposals were submitted by the Hopewell Township Mayor and Committee to name three small reservoirs and the stream along which the reservoirs are located. The features are all in Hopewell Township in Mercer County.

The Hopewell Valley Historical Society suggested the names to the Hopewell Township Historic Preservation Commission in an effort to commemorate families who owned and farmed the land since the 1700s.

The names were proposed in response to a request for input on previously proposed names, listed on Review List 446: Dublin Creek, Sun Lake, and Peanut Pond (the Township notes that the latter is actually two small reservoirs, despite being recorded in the National Hydrography Dataset as a single waterbody). The historical society and historic preservation commission concur that the features should be named but prefer names that honor historically significant families. The commission’s resolution states:

Hopewell Township is a place with a rich historic heritage, particularly in the location of the three bodies of water, which lie on land that, according to the Historic American Buildings Survey of the Oldis Farm, prepared by architectural historian Stacey Spies in 1999, was originally settled by the Burrowes family in 1699. Spies notes that the Burrowes family “maintained a presence in the area for 270 years.” Further, she notes that the Smith family resided at the farm in the mid 19th century, and that the Oldis family moved to the farm in 1912 and owned it until 1998. . . .

The proponent of the prior names, Dublin Creek, Sun Lake, and Peanut Pond, was informed of the new proposals but still wishes to have her names considered. She reports that the pond she proposed as Peanut Pond is a single waterbody, not two. She is concerned that some people may wrongly associate the name Burrowes with Major John Burrowes who lived in Matawan in Monmouth County and who was known to have owned enslaved persons (the two locations are 30 miles apart). She is also concerned that some people may wrongly associate the name Oldis, specifically the “Oldis Farm,” with what she claims to be the first Google search result which appears to be the name of a Russian drugstore company.

She had previously requested that names be applied “in light of the numerous construction projects that have been planned and are ongoing surrounding them. My end goal is to have these water bodies formally acknowledged on our U.S. maps. . . .” She would like her names to be considered by the BGN in case the Township-proposed names are not approved so that the features may still be named.

Proposal: new commemorative names for unnamed features
Map: USGS Pennington 1:24,000
Proponent: Hopewell Valley Historical Society; Pennington, NJ
Administrative area: None
Burrowes Brook: stream; 1.1 mi. long; in Hopewell Township, heads at 40.3089, -74.80659, flows WSW to enter Woolsey Brook at 40.30746, -74.82642; named for Thomas Burrowes, Sr. (1676-1756) and four subsequent generations who farmed and lived on the property around the stream; Mercer County, New Jersey; USGS map – Pennington 1:24,000.

Case Summary: The new name Burrowes Brook is proposed for a 1.1-mile-long tributary of Woolsey Brook. Three small unnamed reservoirs along the stream are proposed to be named Burrowes Pond, Oldis Pond, and Smith Pond.

The name commemorates Thomas Burrowes, Sr. (1676-1756) and four subsequent generations of the family who farmed and lived on the property around the stream. A local journalist provided the following summary of the family’s local association:

(“Burrowes” was the spelling used in 1700’s; later “Burroughs” became more common.) Hopewell Valley was settled mainly by families from Jamaica, NY in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. Edward Burrowes (1655-1705), who seems to have never left Jamaica, purchased the property on November 17, 1699, and immediately conveyed it to his son Thomas (1676-1756). Thomas soon thereafter built and occupied the house that still stands and is thought to be the oldest surviving house in the Hopewell Valley.

Records from 1722 indicate the homestead comprised 297 acres of Hopewell Valley land. At least five generations of the Burrowes family owned and lived at this homestead.
Thomas Burrowes, Sr. (1676-1764) passed the property to his son Stephen Burrowes, Sr. (ca.1712-1792), and he passed it to his son, Major Stephen Burrowes, Jr. (1755-1805). Stephen Jr. was a Revolutionary War officer and a scout during General Washington’s attack on Trenton Christmas Day, 1776. Stephen’s wife was Sarah Hart Temple Burrowes, a sister of John Hart who signed the Declaration of Independence representing New Jersey. Stephen was also a well-known saddle-maker and inventor; late in his life, he gifted a saddle to President Thomas Jefferson who, in a return letter, insisted on paying for it.

Hopewell town records from 1726/27 listed Thomas Burrowes as an “ overseer of poore” [sic].

**Burrowes Pond**: reservoir; 0.3 acre; in Hopewell Township along an unnamed stream proposed to be named Burrowes Brook [q.v.]; named for Thomas Burrowes, Sr. (1676-1756) and four subsequent generations who farmed and lived on the property around the stream; Mercer County, New Jersey; 40.307863, -74.819975; USGS map – Pennington 1:24,000.

Case Summary: The new name Burrowes Pond is proposed for a 0.3-acre reservoir along the proposed Burrowes Brook (q.v.) and just below the proposed Smith Pond (q.v.). Like Burrowes Brook, it would be named for the five generations of the Burrowes family, who lived and farmed on the property.

**Oldis Pond**: reservoir; 1.25 acre; in Hopewell Township along an unnamed stream proposed to be named Burrowes Brook [q.v.], upstream from an unnamed reservoir proposed to be named Smith Pond [q.v.]; named for Frank Oldis (1868-1956) and Ida Van Wagoner Oldis (1865-1937), who purchased and restored the property around the reservoir in 1912; Mercer County, New Jersey; 40.30839, -74.81542; USGS map – Pennington 1:24,000.

Case Summary: The new name Oldis Pond is proposed for a 1.25-acre reservoir on the proposed Burrowes Brook (q.v.). The name would commemorate Frank Oldis (1868-1956) and Ida Van Wagoner Oldis (1865-1937), who purchased and restored the property around the reservoir in 1912. A local journalist provided the following summary of the Oldis family’s local association:

Frank Oldis (1868-1956) purchased the property in 1912 from the heirs of James Bergen. In the years that Bergen owned the property, it was likely rented out and was reported to be in a ‘sad state of repair’ when purchased by Oldis. Frank and Ida (Van Wagoner is another old Hopewell family whose homestead still stands around the corner from the property) saved the historical nature of the house, and the family fully participated in the Hopewell community, with their children attending the Hopewell Valley schools including the Hart’s Corner school house. Their daughter Maude (1903-1999) taught at the Marshall’s Corner School House and the Hopewell Township High School. Oldis family members are buried at the First Presbyterian Church of Ewing Cemetery.

**Smith Pond**: reservoir; 0.3 acre; in Hopewell Township along an unnamed stream proposed to be named Burrowes Brook [q.v.]; named for Harriet Burrowes Smith (1787-1840), Major Ralph Hart Smith (1792-1822), and their son Stephen B. Smith (1813-1883), who owned the property around the reservoir between 1811 and the mid-1800s; Mercer County, New Jersey; 40.308059, -
Case Summary: The new name Smith Pond is proposed for a 0.3-acre reservoir along the proposed Burrowes Brook (q.v.).

The name would commemorate Harriet Burrowes Smith (1787-1840), Major Ralph Hart Smith (1792-1822), and their son Stephen B. Smith (1813-1883), who owned the property around the reservoir between 1811 and the mid-1800s. A local journalist provided the following summary of the Oldis family’s local association:

Stephen Burrowes passed the homestead to his daughter Harriet Burrowes Smith (1787-1840) after his death in 1805. She married Revolutionary War officer Major Ralph Hart Smith (1792-1822) in 1811; their son Stephen B. Smith (1813-1883) inherited the property from her.

Change Eddy Pond to Jeddys Pond: reservoir; 5.5 acres; in the City of Bridgeton at the mouth of Muddy Run; named for Jedediah Davis (1765-1829), a surveyor who constructed the nearby Tumbling Dam and Raceway which forms the pond; Cumberland County, New Jersey; 39.4331545, -75.2397116; USGS map – Bridgeton 1:24,000; Not: Crystal Lake, Eddy Pond, Eddy’s Pond, Jeds Pond, Jedy Pond, Jedy’s Pond. Jetty’s Pond, Silver Lake. https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/876091

Proposal: change name to recognize longstanding local use
Map: USGS Bridgeton 1:24,000
Proponent: Robert Brewer; Bridgeton, NJ
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Eddy Pond (FID 876091)
Local Usage: Jedy’s Pond (City of Bridgeton; Cumberland County)
Published: Crystal Lake (A Souvenir of Bridgeton, N.J., 1895; Bridgeton, New Jersey: City on the Cohanse, 2012; historical postcards; NJ.com, 2014); Eddy Pond (USGS 1953 [and subsequent revisions]); Eddy’s Pond (USACE Sunset Lake Raceway Dam Phase 1 Inspection Report, 1981); Jeds Pond (Map of Cumberland Co., New Jersey, 1862); Jedy Pond (“Feasibility Study for Various Rails to Trails Projects Within The County of Cumberland”, 2010); Jeddys Pond (National Water Quality Monitoring Council [USGS/EPA], 2022; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1923); Jedy’s Pond (Bridgeton City tax map, 2021; Cumberland County GIS, 2022; “City of Bridgeton Municipal Stormwater Management Plan”, 2009; Cumberland County Wastewater Management Plan, 2011; NJ DEP Water Monitoring and Standards report, 2011; NJ DEP Division of Water Resources Special Report No 34, 1971 [prepared in cooperation with USGS]; History of the Early Settlement and Progress of Cumberland County, New Jersey, 1869; Cumberland County atlas, 1876; History of the counties of Gloucester, Salem, and Cumberland New Jersey, 1883; City of Bridgeton oblique plan map, 1886; The city of Bridgeton, New Jersey, 1889; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1896, 1915; Cumberland County Old Names & Places, ca. 1915; South Jersey: A History, 1664-1924, 1924; Engineering News-Record, 1934; New Jersey: A Guide to the State, 1998;
Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Eddy Pond in the City of Bridgeton in Cumberland County to Jeddys Pond to recognize longstanding local use.

The reservoir is located at the mouth of Muddy Run and was formed in the 1800s by the construction of a canal (locally called “the Raceway” or “the Race” and labeled on USGS maps as “Raceway”), between what is now called Sunset Lake and the Cohansey River. The banks of the canal partially dammed the flow of Muddy Run.

Although USGS maps have applied the name Eddy Pond since 1953, local and historical use of the name has overwhelmingly been Jeddy’s Pond. The proponent proposed the name as Jeddys Pond. He states “All historical maps and documents refer to this pond as Jeds (earliest spelling) or Jeddys [sic] Pond except the USGS quad maps and its derivatives which appear to erroneously show it as Eddys [sic] Pond.”

The name Jeds Pond appeared on the 1862 Map of Cumberland Co., New Jersey. The name Jeddy’s Pond was soon used, appearing in the 1869 History of the Early Settlement and Progress of Cumberland County, New Jersey and also in most other historical publications, including Sanborn fire insurance maps and an 1889 booklet advertising the city. For a short time, the name was Crystal Lake, according to the 1895 revision of this booklet. Around this time, the Cumberland Nail & Iron Works, which owned the surrounding land, allowed public access to the reservoir and mill raceway for recreation.

A 2020 volume of the Cumberland County Historical Society newsletter reported that covenant leases for the use of the land as a park in 1893 referred to “. . . care, maintenance, management and control of the Raceway, Jeddy’s Pond or Silver Lake and the Tumbling Dam Pond or Sunset Lake and the lands adjacent . . . .” A different lake, not on park property and a short distance to the north, has been named Silver Lake on USGS maps since 1942.

The current spelling of the name as used by the City of Bridgeton and Cumberland County is overwhelmingly Jeddy’s Pond. Other variants include:

- Eddy’s Pond in a 1981 USACE inspection report for Sunset Lake Raceway Dam
- Jeddy Pond in a 2010 Cumberland County rails to trails project feasibility study
- Jeddys Pond on a 1923 Sanborn fire insurance map and a current page on the joint USGS/EPA National Water Quality Monitoring Council

Old postcards from Bridgeton variously report the name as Jeddy’s Pond, Jeddy’s Lake, or Crystal Lake.

The origin of the name was reported in an anonymous work titled Cumberland County Old Names & Places written around 1915.
Jeddy’s Pond: The small pond north of West Commerce St and in Tumbling Dam Park. So called for Jedediah Davis, a prominent surveyor who laid out the Tumbling Dam and raceway, which latter crosses Muddy Branch [sic] and so makes this pond.

However, the 2012 volume *Bridgeton, New Jersey: City on the Cohansey* reported:

In the early 1800s, Ebenezer Seely, James Lee and Smith Bowen had built Tumbling Dam on the Cohansey River for their mill north of town, and in the process, they formed Sunset Lake. The Reeves brothers, owners of the Nail Works, purchased the water power of that dam and built their own dam and raceway, thus creating Crystal Lake (Jeddy’s Pond or Muddy Run).

The only source linking Jedediah Davis to the pond (through laying out the dam and raceway that formed it) is the circa 1915 place name list. He may have laid out the project, which was then worked on by Ebenezer Seely, James Lee and Smith Bowen and the unknown team of a father and his two sons. Davis is buried in a cemetery four miles from the reservoir.

**NORTH CAROLINA**

*Cathys Creek* – see SOUTH CAROLINA

**Change Eagle Island to Eagles Island**: island; approx. 3,110 acres; between the Cape Fear River and the Brunswick River, W of the City of Wilmington, partly within the Town of Leland and the Town of Belville and partly on State land; named for Richard Eagles (1699-1755), an English merchant and planter who moved to the area, was granted the island, and operated a plantation there; Brunswick County and New Hanover County, North Carolina; 34.2157258, -77.9677667; USGS map – Wilmington 1:24,000 (central point); Not: Buzzard Island, Buzzards Island, Cranes Island - in part, Eagle Island, Eagles Island - in part, Eagle’s Island, Eagles’ Island, Great Island, Longs Island - in part.


Proposal: change name to recognize spelling of family name
Map: USGS Wilmington 1:24,000 (central point)
Proponent: BGN staff
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: Eagle Island (BGN 1968)
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Eagle Island (FID 984468)
Local Usage: Eagle Island (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District; local kayaking websites); Eagles Island (county sources, local tourism websites); Eagle’s Island (local tourism websites; Town of Navassa website)
Published:
Buzzard Island (Down the Wild Cape Fear, 2013)
Eagles Island - in part (AMS 1942, 1948)
Eagle’s Island (OCS 1856, 1933; The Vestry Act of 1754; Laws of North Carolina, 1765; “Plan of the Town of Willmington [sic] in New Hanover County”, 1769; Supreme Court of North Carolina, 1859; USACE map, 1862; Gilmer Civil War Maps, 1863, 1864; “The Cape Fear — Northeast Cape Fear Rivers Comprehensive Study”, 1996; NC DNR blog, 2016)
Eagles’ Island (Office of Coast Survey Report to Congress, 1854; Moss, Map of New Hanover County, ca 1886; Sprunt, Chronicles of the Cape Fear River 1660-1916, 1916); Great Island (“The Cape Fear — Northeast Cape Fear Rivers Comprehensive Study”, 1996)
Longs Island (in part) (Ogilby A New Discription of Carolina [map], 1672; Gascoyne, A New Map of the Country of Carolina, 1682; Lea, A New Map of Carolina, 1695; Lawson, A Map for the Lords Proprietors of Carolina in America, 1709)

Case Summary: This proposal is to correct the name of Eagle Island (BGN 1968) to the locally used name Eagles Island. The island is located between the Cape Fear River and the Brunswick River, west of Wilmington in Brunswick County and New Hanover County. Parts of the island are within the Town of Leland and the Town of Belville, and the land is owned by many parties including the North Carolina State Ports Authority, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, and the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) manages part of the island as a dredge spoil deposit.

A National Geographic Society cartographer notified BGN staff about the discrepancy between the official name and the locally used name, and BGN staff initiated the proposal. In addition to recognizing local use, the proposal also clarifies that the island was named for an individual with the surname Eagles rather than the bird.

Research has confirmed that the island was named for Richard Eagles, a British plantation owner, who in 1737 was granted land on a large part of the island. A history of Eagles and his descendants is given in the work by Claude V. Jackson, III, “The Cape Fear — Northeast Cape Fear Rivers Comprehensive Study,” published by the North Carolina Division of Archives and History and USACE:

The Forks [a plantation on Eagles Island] was first owned by Richard Eagles Sr., one of the first settlers to come to the Wilmington vicinity about 1725. [He] was originally from Bristol in England but had come to the lower Cape Fear from Charles Town (Charleston), where he had been a merchant and planter. On February 17, 1737, King George II granted Richard Eagles the major portion of a ‘big island’ across the Cape Fear River from the small village of Newton (later called Wilmington). On January 12, 1738, John
Watson of Newton deeded 540 acres at The Forks to Richard Eagles, adding more acreage to his original grant...

At his death by about 1758, Richard Eagles Sr. left all of his ‘lands, cattle, horses, and slaves . . .’ to Richard Eagles Jr. To Thomas Eagleson, Richard Sr. left £100 and a plantation called ‘Cowans.’ To his son Richard Eagles Jr., he bequeathed his Wilmington lots and unspecified plantation lands, along with seventy-three slaves and a large quantity of plantation implements and household furnishings . . .

Office of Coast Survey charts published in 1856 and 1933 applied the name Eagle’s Island. Beginning in 1938, they showed Eagle Island. Army Map Service (AMS) maps from 1942 to 1965 used the name Eagles Island, as did a 1932 Brunswick County soils map, the 1939 North Carolina Writers’ Guide, and the 1965 Brunswick County highway map.

In 1960, the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (CGS) submitted a proposal to the BGN to make official the name used on its charts (Eagle Island). They noted that although most other publications used the plural form, and “it is not clear whether this is a family name or descriptive . . . a CGS field party in 1933, after discussing the existing conflict in spelling, recommended continued use of Eagle Island on the charts.” The summary prepared by BGN staff at the time stated “Unless it can be shown that this is a family name, the singular form would seem more correct.” The BGN approved Eagle Island in 1968.

The first USGS map of the area was published after the decision, so the name has always appeared as Eagle Island. Following the BGN decision, AMS maps also used the name Eagle Island.

Current USACE documents from the Wilmington District use Eagle Island, as does the current North Carolina Department of Transportation map of Brunswick County. Most online use is for Eagles Island, with some instances of Eagle’s Island (sometimes in the same source) or Eagle Island.

An organization called Renaissance Wilmington Foundation refers to Eagles Island on its website, with Eagle Island shown on the accompanying map; the Audubon Society uses the name Eagles Island; and an article posted by WHQR in January 2022 noted “We know that Eagles Island was developed for industrial use by the second quarter of the 19th century . . .” Other local organizations that use Eagles Island include Preserve Eagles Island and the Eagles Island Coalition, as well as a number of local kayaking and adventure tour operators. In 2011, the New Hanover County Soil and Water Conservation District published a report “Eagles Island: History of a Landscape.”

The name Eagle Island is used by a local fruit and seafood company and a riverboat tour company. A 2008 report on the dredging of Wilmington Harbor, under contract to USACE, referenced the Eagle Island Confined Disposal Facility.

The following is an incomplete list of names and spellings used historically:

- Cranes Island - in part and Longs Island - in part
The North Carolina Gazetteer (Powell, 1982) reported that Eagles Island is “a group of swampy islands in W New Hanover County between Cape Fear and Brunswick Rivers opposite Wilmington. Named for Joseph and Richard Eagle [sic], eighteenth-century settlers in the vicinity . . . .” Powell also noted that Ogilby’s 1671 map had labeled the two parts of the island as Cranes Island and Longs Island.

Change Chesquaw Branch to Tsi-squa-hi Branch: stream; 1 mi. long; in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, heads near Walker Gap on Welch Ridge at 35.458524, -83.680716, flows generally S to enter Fontana Lake on the Little Tennessee River at 35.445414, -83.682604; the name is Cherokee, reportedly meaning “bird place”; Swain County, North Carolina; USGS map – Tuskeegee 1:24,000; Not: Chesquaw Branch.


Proposal: change name to recognize indigenous origin
Map: USGS Tuskeegee 1:24,000
Proponent: Michael M. Shelton; Washington, DC
Administrative area: Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Chesquaw Branch (FID 983094)
Local Usage: None found
Published: Chesquaw Branch (USGS 1940, 1941, 1961)

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Chesquaw Branch, a one-mile-long stream that flows into Fontana Lake in Swain County, to Tsi-squa-hi Branch. The stream flows entirely within Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The BGN deputy member from the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, submitted the proposal, citing information presented on Chenocetah’s Weblog post titled “Cherokee Place Names, Part 8” (https://chenocetah.wordpress.com/2010/12/20/cherokee-place-names-in-the-southeastern-us-part-8/), which reports “. . . Chesquaw is from the Cherokee Tsi-squa-yi or Tsi-squa-hi [‘bird place’]. These days, it would be called Birdtown, but it is not the same as the Birdtown on the Eastern Cherokee Reservation.” The Cherokee word for bird is ᏥᏍᏆ.[170x612]

The name Chesquaw Branch was first shown on USGS topographic maps in 1940.

A number of variant spellings of the name and the Cherokee word meaning “bird” have been found (listed chronologically by source):

- Mooney, “Myths of the Cherokee”, 1900
  [https://books.google.com/books?id=1NiAAAAMAAJ](https://books.google.com/books?id=1NiAAAAMAAJ)
  - Tsi’skwa, meaning “bird”
  - Tsiskwa’hi, meaning the town “Bird place”

  - Tsiskwahi, meaning the town “Bird place”

- “One of the 5 districts or ‘towns’ which William H. Thomas, in his capacity of agent for the Eastern Cherokee, laid off on the East Cherokee res., in Swain co., N. C., after the removal of the rest of the tribe to Indian Ter. in 1838.”

- Smithsonian Institution Bureau of American Ethnology, “Circular of information regarding Indian popular names”, 1915 [https://library.si.edu/digital-library/book/circularofinform00smith](https://library.si.edu/digital-library/book/circularofinform00smith)
  - Tsiskwáhi, meaning the town “Bird place”

- Jarret, Occoneechee, The Maid of the Mystic Lake, 1916,
  [https://archive.org/details/occoneecheemaaid00jarr](https://archive.org/details/occoneecheemaaid00jarr) (includes “Glossary of Cherokee Words”)
  - Tsi‘skwa, meaning “bird”
  - Tsiskwa’hi, meaning the town “bird place”

- “Chisca—mentioned in the De Soto narratives as a mining region in the Cherokee country. The name may have a connection with Tsi’skwa, ‘bird,’ possibly Tsiskwa’hi, ‘Bird place.’”

- “Tsiskwa’hui—‘Bird place,’ from tsi’skwa, bird, and hi, locative. Birdtown settlement on the East Cherokee reservation, in Swain county, N. C.” (this location is not near the stream; other entries in this source give the locative as “yi”)

- **Tsísquá**, meaning “bird”
  - Walker, Cherokee Primer, 1965 (included in “First and Second Sessions on the Study of the Education of Indian Children, Ninetieth Congress”)
    https://books.google.com/books?id=eSb_st3tLO0C
  - **Jísgwá’,** meaning “bird”
    - **Tsískwái**, meaning the town “Bird Place”
    https://books.google.com/books?id=Jjfu4rAAyU8C
    - **Tsísquá**, from “Ani-tsísquá”
      - “One of the seven Cherokee clans: the Bird Clan”
  - Western Carolina University Cherokee 101 webpage, 2007
    https://paws.wcu.edu/cherokeelanguage/Cherokee_ts_consonants.html
    - **Tsísgwá**, meaning “bird”
  - Cherokee Nation Language Department word list, https://language.cherokee.org/word-list/
    - **Tsísquá**, meaning “bird”
      - phonetic spelling “tsí-s-quá”
  - Cherokee-English Dictionary Online Database, https://www.cherokeedictionary.net/
    - **Jísgwá’,** meaning “bird”
    - from the “Cherokee English Dictionary”
    - **Thisquá,** from “dodo thisquá”, meaning “dodo bird”
      - from the “Consortium Word List”
    - **Tsísgwá,** meaning “bird”
      - from the “Raven Rock Dictionary”
    - **Tsísquá,** from “hilvsgi tsísquá”, meaning “birds”
      - from the “Noquisis Word List”

**OHIO**

**Pup Creek**: stream; 1.1 mi. long; in Mad River Township, heads at 39.83855, -83.86751, flows NW to enter Coyote Run 0.4 mi. SE of Oakgrove at 39.84821, -83.88184; named for the presence of coyote adults and pups in the area and the smaller size compared to Coyote Run; Secs 23,17&16, T4E, R8N, Between the Miami Rivers Survey; Clark County, Ohio; USGS map – Yellow Springs 1:24,000 (mouth).
  - Proposal: new name for unnamed feature
  - Map: USGS Yellow Springs 1:24,000 (mouth)
  - Proponent: Kathleen Mathews; Springfield, OH
  - Administrative area: None
  - Previous BGN Action: None
  - Names associated with feature:
    - GNIS: No record
    - Local Usage: **Pup Creek** (Mad River Conservancy, <1 year)
  - Published: None found
Case Summary: The new name Pup Creek is proposed for a 1.1-mile-long tributary of Coyote Run (BGN 2020) in Mad River Township in Clark County.

In 2021, the Mud Run Conservancy (MRC) held a “Tag the Trib” contest in the same manner as the “Name that Creek” contest that chose the name Coyote Run, approved by the BGN in 2020. From the names suggested by the community, five met the requirements of the BGN’s principles and policies. MRC and the local school district asked kindergarten through sixth grade students to vote on the names, and Pup Creek received the most votes. The winning name was widely announced in the community and the proponent reported there was no opposition. The name refers to both the increasing frequency of coyote adult and pup sightings around the stream, and the smaller size compared to Coyote Run.

The proponent provided resolutions of support from the Mad River Township Trustees and the Clark County Commissioners. GNIS does not list any other features in Ohio with names that include “Pup.”

**Pennsylvania**

**Blackberry Spring Run**: stream; 0.5 mi. long; in the Borough of Camp Hill in Christian L. Siebert Memorial Park, heads at 40.2488, -76.9271, flows NNW to enter Conodoguinet Creek at 40.2557, -76.9297; the name references Blackberry Spring shown on a 1764 survey map; Cumberland County, Pennsylvania; USGS map – Harrisburg West 1:24,000; Not: Blackberry Spring.

Proposal: to make official a name derived from a historical name
Map: USGS Harrisburg West 1:24,000
Proponent: Nick Decker; Camp Hill, PA
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 name Blackberry Spring Run to a 0.5-mile-long tributary of Conodoguinet Creek in the Borough of Camp Hill in Cumberland County. The stream flows completely within Christian L. Siebert Memorial Park.

The proponent, a member of the Camp Hill Borough Recreation Commission, states that the stream is “an iconic feature within the natural area of a municipal park and provides the community many benefits,” including an adjacent public bike and walking path, a place for children and families to explore, and natural habitat. He believes the name would improve “community recognition of its existence and the need for related conservation and protection” and would be “helpful in casual communication, or in case there is ever a need to direct emergency services.”

The proponent further states “the name was developed as a thoughtful meld of associated local history, natural life, topographic form, and colloquial reference.” He included a copy of a 1764
survey map by John Armstrong, “in pursuance of ‘the Honorable the Proprietaries’ warrant of resurvey for ‘a Draught of land known by the name of the Manor of Lowther Situate,’” that depicts “Blackberry Spring.” It is not clear if this name refers to the stream or a spring. Another nearby stream is labeled “Cedar Spring” (recorded in GNIS as Cedar Run; locally the stream is also known as Cedar Spring Run). Two other names are shown nearby which seem to be labeling the source of small streams and are not recorded in GNIS in any form: “Littles Spring” and “Shavers Spring.” Other labels of “Spring” and “Sinking Spring” are applied to the sources of small streams in the area.

The proponent also reports that

- “Blackberry” references “[t]he immediately surrounding habitat currently incorporates several species in the Rubus genus that includes blackberry”
- “Spring” references the topographic form from which the stream originates. Springs like this one are prevalent across the surrounding landscape . . . . [The name] emphasize[s] this important aspect of area water resources
- “Run” “aligns the name with comparable official and conversational stream names in the area and surrounding greater watershed”

The stream is not shown on USGS topographic maps, nor is it recorded in NHD, but local maps and images note the presence of a stream. GNIS does not list any nearby features with names that contain “Blackberry.”

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

*Cathys Creek*: stream; 1.3 mi. long; heads 1.5 mi. S of Green Creek (unincorporated community) at 35.1996, -82.0524, flows SSW to enter the North Pacolet River 1.9 mi. NE of North Pacolet at 35.18204, -82.059; named for Cathy Cash (1952-2009), who grew up on property that contains part of the stream; Spartanburg County, South Carolina and Polk County, North Carolina; USGS map – Fingerville West 1:24,000.

Proposal: new commemorative name for unnamed feature
Map: USGS Fingerville West 1:24,000
Proponent: Grayson Cash; Columbus, NC
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: No record
Local Usage: *Cathy’s Creek* (proponent)
Published: None found

Case Summary: The new name *Cathys Creek* is proposed for a 1.3-mile-long tributary of the North Pacolet River. The stream heads in Polk County, North Carolina and flows south into Spartanburg County, South Carolina.

The proponent wishes to name the stream after his mother Cathy Cash (1952-2009) and states:
The land that contains part of this stream has been in my family since the early/mid 1700s. My mother, Cathy Cash, grew up on this property, and lived in a home overlooking this stream valley for the majority of her life . . . .

I have been calling this “Cathy’s Creek” since I obtained ownership of the property that has the stream flowing through it in 2013. Since the stream is small, and doesn’t flow through many properties, I do not think that any of the neighbors have a name for it . . . .

My mother, Cathy Cash, was born in Spartanburg, South Carolina and grew up in Green Creek, NC on the property where this creek is located. She was able to attend Wofford College in Spartanburg as the first woman to graduate with a degree in biology. Wofford had traditionally been a men’s school, and she was an early “coed” in the early 1970s.

Cathy taught at the middle school in Columbus, NC. After raising 3 children, she began working for Avon, INC as a district manager, and worked for them until the early 2000s.

Her main achievement in life was the simple act of being an excellent and devoted mother.

According to the counties’ parcel data, the stream flows through approximately 20 parcels, all privately owned. The proponent is registered as the owner of one parcel in each State; he has operated a small agricultural business on the in North Carolina property since 2013.

GNIS does not list any features in either North Carolina or South Carolina with names that include “Cathy.”

**Stewart Branch**: stream; 1 mi. long; heads at 35.04339, -82.30305, 4 mi. SE of Tigerville, flows SE to enter Thompson Branch 1.2 mi. WNW of Berrys Millpond at 35.03242, -82.2919; named for several generations of the Stewart family who have lived in the Greenville County area since the 1780s, especially James Landrum Stewart (1918-1998), who purchased the property at the head of the stream in 1951; Greenville County, South Carolina; USGS map – Tigerville 1:24,000.

Proposal: new commemorative name for unnamed feature
Map: USGS Tigerville 1:24,000
Proponent: William H.T. and Elaine Stewart; Greer, SC
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 **Stewart Branch** is proposed for a one-mile-long tributary of Thompson Branch, located between Greer and Tigerville in Greenville County.

The proponent, whose last name is Stewart, owns and farms the property at the head of the stream and wishes to commemorate several generations of his family. He reports:
Edward Stewart (1765-1842) moved from Amelia County, Virginia to this area [Upper Greenville County SC] in the late 1780s. His descendants also lived and are buried within approximately five miles of the farm and branch. Those descendants are: Burrell Stewart, Esq. (1807-1879), buried at Glassy Mountain Church; Alfred A. Stewart (1827-1906) and John G. L. Stewart (1854-1890), both buried at Cross Plains Church; James Luther Stewart (1886-1933), buried at Mountain View Cemetery; and James Landrum Stewart (1918-1998), my Father, buried at Camp Creek Church.

The proponent also reports that “the present farm, springs and branch were purchased in 1951 by my father. It has been used as the Stewart Residence and farm since that time. I presently reside there and continue using the property for agriculture” and that “by naming the branch after my Stewart Ancestors, and especially my father (who died in 1998), the surname of Stewart will be honoring their love and devotion to the Blue Ridge Community. Also by giving the branch a name, it will help in the identification of a specific location on Fews Chapel Road in case of emergencies.”

The stream flows though several other privately-owned parcels of land below the Stewart farm. The proponent reports that he “talked with numerous local people and none have any problem with the proposed naming” and noted support from a local Fire Department Captain, a Greenville County Council Member, and a Greenville County School Board member.