

U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
Seven Hundred and Sixty-Fourth Meeting
Department of the Interior, Room 1352
September 11, 2014 – 9:30 a.m.

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Eric Berman	Department of Homeland Security (Federal Emergency Management Agency)
Mark DeMulder	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Tony Gilbert	Government Printing Office
Paul Holeva	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Betsy Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Michael Shelton	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
Douglas Vandegrift	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management) (Chairman)
Meredith Westington	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Patrick Woodward	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)

Ex-Officio

Lou Yost, Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names/Domestic Names Committee

Staff

Maria McCormick, U.S. Geological Survey
Matthew O'Donnell, U.S. Geological Survey
Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey

Guests

Mike Brown, U.S. Forest Service
Jordan Davis, AmeriCorps NCCC/FEMA Corps
Brenda-Anne C. Forrest, Government Printing Office
Rachelle Garrett, AmeriCorps NCCC/FEMA Corps
Melissa Jensen, AmeriCorps NCCC/FEMA Corps
Miriam Jones, AmeriCorps NCCC/FEMA Corps
Kailee Kruse, AmeriCorps NCCC/FEMA Corps
Alex Martin, AmeriCorps NCCC/FEMA Corps
Jaron Raab, AmeriCorps NCCC/FEMA Corps
Jamie Richards, National Park Service
Tyler Ryan, AmeriCorps NCCC/FEMA Corps

1. Opening

The Chairman opened the meeting at 9:45 a.m. He welcomed the guests, including those from the FEMA Corps, part of Americorps' National Civilian Community Corps, and invited all members and guests to introduce themselves.

2. Minutes of the 763rd Meeting

The Minutes of the 763rd meeting of the Domestic Names Committee, held August 14th, 2014, were approved as submitted.

3. Reports

3.1 BGN Chairman (Gilbert for Caldwell)

Gilbert announced that following last month's meeting between representatives of the BGN and the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science, Bill Lukas has been asked to serve as the BGN's liaison within the Department of the Interior. He will assist the BGN in its submission of the revised bylaws, the Domestic Names Committee's revised *Principles, Policies, and Procedures* document, and other material to the department.

The next full BGN meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 21st and will take place at the U.S. Forest Service in Washington, DC.

3.2 BGN Executive Secretary's Report (Yost)

There will be no U.S. representation at the upcoming annual meeting of the Geographical Names Board of Canada. It had been hoped that during this meeting there would have been an opportunity to hold a divisional meeting with GNBC members in advance of the next meeting of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN).

3.3 Special Committee on Communication (Westington)

There were no updates from the committee, which is scheduled to meet in the afternoon following this meeting. The primary focus will continue to be planning for the 125th anniversary of the BGN, which is planned for September 2015.

3.4 Executive Secretary's Report (Yost)

Yost announced that the revised National Geospatial Program (NGP) Policy Directive was signed by NGP Director Mark DeMulder on August 29th. DeMulder spoke briefly about the process to get the directive signed and stated that the two years it took to work out the details was time well spent. He expressed a hope that the directive will serve the BGN and the U.S. Geological Survey well for years to come. Yost added the directive will be official on October 1st and offered to send a copy of the signed document to the DNC members. The BGN staff is preparing a statement that will be posted to the BGN and GNIS Web pages announcing the policy and summarizing the impacts on GNIS maintenance in the future. McCormick added that she is anticipating a considerable number of inquiries as a result of the policy change.

DeMulder also thanked the BGN members for their recognition and the BGN plaque that he received at his recent retirement celebration. He announced also that although he has retired from federal service, he will continue to serve as the DOI member on the BGN until his

replacement is hired and acclimated. He also plans to volunteer with the Cartography Commission of the U.S. National Section of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History. On behalf of the DNC, the Chairman thanked DeMulder for his service to the BGN.

3.5 Staff Report (Runyon)

The DNC has received thank you notes from the proponents of Bruce Point and Split Rock Cascade, both in New York. Runyon also passed around the program of a dedication ceremony that took place last month following the DNC's approval of the new name Ferris Peak for a summit in Montana.

Three proposals to name features in federal wilderness areas have been received in the past three weeks. The proponents have been advised that until they address the requirements of the BGN's Wilderness Names Policy, their proposals will not be processed.

The staff received a telephone call asking about a 2012 decision to approve the name Raccoon Hollow Branch for a stream in Florida. Although the county government had no objection to the proposal and even visited the stream during the review process, a longtime local resident has questioned the decision. She claims the stream is known locally as "Crooked Creek." She is expected to submit a proposal, requesting that the DNC revisit the issue.

3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (McCormick)

McCormick reported that the GNIS landforms polygon development tool will be released in beta form by the end of September. One benefit will be the ability to place text on topographic maps; a USGS science center has also expressed some interest in the results. A second new tool, to help update topographic cell names, will be completed in the early 2015.

The batch data load tool is still being tested. This is particularly essential, as the Census Bureau has recently submitted a file of 50,000 GNIS updates. McCormick offered to host a webinar to demonstrate the various tools. A student will be hired to assist with GNIS tasks in Denver.

4. Docket

Please refer to the attached Docket for a description of each proposal. For new names approved at this meeting, the newly assigned GNIS Feature ID (FID) has been noted following the name.

I. Staff-Processed New Names, and Name and Application Changes agreed to by all interested parties

Change Sewer Branch (FID 726222) to Pearl River, and change Sewer Branch - in part to North Branch Pearl River, Missouri (Review List 417) (FID 2764677)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name and application change and the new name.

Vote: 9 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Change **Squaw Creek** (FID 1258308) to **Isanti Creek**, South Dakota (Review List 417)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 9 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

DeMulder invited Runyon to provide some background on the Derogatory Names Policy for the benefit of the guests at the meeting.

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Tuckerman Alpine Meadow Spring, New Hampshire (White Mountain National Forest/Pinkham Notch Scenic Area) (Review List 415)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this name, citing the lack of local support.

Vote: 9 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Change **Walnut Grove** (FID 1304349) to **Walnut Grove Heights**, Tennessee (Review List 417)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this change, citing the lack of local support.

Vote: 9 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

III. New Commemorative Names and Changes agreed to by all interested parties

Change **Hembre Mountain** (FID 1512289) to **Kisūmxi Mountain**, Washington (Yakama Indian Reservation) (Review List 414)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 9 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

IV. Revised Decisions - none

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Riverkeeper Creek, Georgia (Review List 416) (FID 2764678)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this new name.

Vote: 9 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Sugar Shack Slue, Indiana (Review List 417) (FID 2764679)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this new name.

Vote: 9 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Two Sisters Creek, Michigan (Review List 415) (2764680)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this new name.

Vote: 7 in favor
 0 against
 2 abstentions

Rockstack Falls, Tennessee (Review List 417) (FID 2764681)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this new name.

Vote: 7 in favor
 0 against
 2 abstentions

5. Other Business

The Chairman invited any questions or comments from the guests. A brief discussion of the BGN's policies followed.

On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the passage of the Wilderness Act, Kanalley distributed commemorative pins.

6. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

The next Domestic Names Committee meeting will be held October 9th, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. at the Department of the Interior, Room 1352.

(signed) Louis A. Yost

Louis A. Yost, Executive Secretary

APPROVED

(signed) Douglas Vandegraft

Douglas Vandegraft, Chairman
Domestic Names Committee

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
DOCKET
September 2014**

I. Staff-Processed New Names, and Name and Application Changes agreed to by all interested parties

Change Sewer Branch (FID 726222) to Pearl River,
and change Sewer Branch - in part to North Branch Pearl River, Missouri
(Review List 417)

Pearl River:

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=38.7799195&p_longi=-93.2376179

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=38.7084998&p_longi=-93.2266816

North Branch Pearl River:

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=38.7204672&p_longi=-93.2353608

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=38.7127943&p_longi=-93.2115941

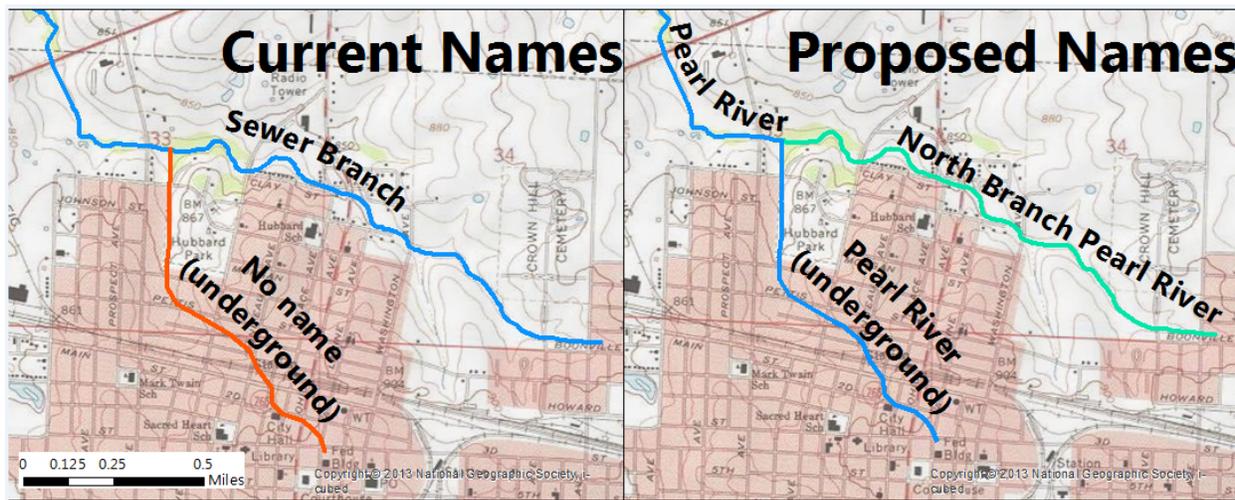
These proposals were submitted by the City Attorney for the City of Sedalia. The first would change the name of Sewer Branch to Pearl River and would also modify the application of the name. The second proposal is make official the name North Branch Pearl River for a portion of the stream that is currently named Sewer Branch. The proponent believes a change is needed to establish “a much more pleasant sounding name” and to restore the stream’s historical name and application. Prior to 1860, the primary stream was known as Pearl River (*History of Pettis County, Missouri, Including an Authentic History of Sedalia, Other Towns and Townships*; Demuth, 1882). According to *A History of Sedalia, Missouri* (McVey, 1985), the Pearl River began at a spring north of 5th Street. It was so named because of the large number of mussel shells found in its bed. By 1875, the stream had become an open sewer, with many local residents referring to it as “Stink Creek.” Over the years, and as efforts continued to force the stream into an underground drain, it became known as Sewer Branch.

Today the stream flows through downtown Sedalia via the storm water system that runs under 3rd Street. Just north of Hubbard Park, the stream leaves its underground drain and re-enters the natural streambed. The Environmental Science Service Learning Project is attempting to restore the stream to its original state and clean it of toxic wastes and pollutants.

Until recently, GNIS included a second and presumably duplicate entry for the stream in question, with the name recorded as Pearl River. Although the coordinates in that entry were listed as unknown, the name was recorded in Robert Ramsay’s *Missouri Place Names* file (compiled 1920s-1940s); the description read “A small run or rivulet running through Sedalia between Second and Third Streets. Named for the mussel shells found in sandy places along the small stream.”

Citing the historical descriptions, the proponent is also requesting that in addition to the name change, the application of the name be modified. Although the tributary (proposed North Branch Pearl River) has been labeled and considered part of Sewer Branch on USGS topographic maps since 1906, the latter name was applied only to the downstream portion. USGS field work conducted in 1973 confirmed the name but did not indicate the source of the stream. The current source of Sewer Branch was established in accordance with the BGN’s “longest, straightest tributary” criteria. However, rather than applying the name to the stream that flows from the east into Sedalia, the proponent is asking that the source be relocated to the south, closer to the center of the city. If the change in application is approved, the

upstream portion would become unnamed; the second proposal would apply the name North Branch Pearl River to this portion.



The governments of the City of Sedalia and Pettis County both recommend approval of the name and application changes. In November 2012, *The Sedalia Democrat* polled its readers on the name change to Pearl River. 93.6 % of respondents favored the change from Sewer Branch to Pearl River. The Missouri Board on Geographic Names also recommends approval. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Osage Nation, which is federally recognized. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

Change Squaw Creek (FID 1258308) to Isanti Creek, South Dakota
(Review List 417)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=43.9852495&p_longi=-96.6636592&fid=1258308

This proposal is one of several that have been submitted in recent years to change the names of features in South Dakota that contain the word “Squaw.” The stream in question is a 20-mile-long tributary of the Big Sioux River in Moody County. The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe is proposing to change the name from Squaw Creek to Isanti Creek.

The effort to change “Squaw” names was initiated in 2001 when the South Dakota State Legislature changed the names of 35 features throughout the State that had names containing the words “Negro” and “Squaw.” The stream in question was renamed by the State Legislature to Jack Moore Creek. However, the proposal was never processed by the BGN because the State was unable to provide any details regarding the origin of the name “Jack Moore.” In 2013, the newly re-established South Dakota Board on Geographic Names (SDBGN) contacted all interested parties and conducted a public hearing in Flandreau in an effort to resolve the issue. The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe responded that they wished to propose the name Isanti Creek. “Isanti” is the tribe’s word for the Santee people. An article in *The Argus Leader* in August 2013 stated that the name Squaw Creek was believed to refer to “a Native American woman [who] fell into the flooding creek when trying to cross it and drowned.”

Although the BGN did not process the original proposal for Jack Moore Creek, an online search for that name indicates that it is being used by a number of Federal, State, and local agencies, presumably in response to the 2001 State Legislation. These include the Environmental Protection Agency in a 2010 Lower Big Sioux Watershed Assessment Summary; the South Dakota Legislative Research Council

(2009); the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources/Watershed Protection Program (2004); and the Moody County Conservation District. The name also appears in a 2009 Moody County drainage ordinance and on a 2009 hydrology map of Egan Township.

The Moody County Commissioners expressed “no opinion” regarding the proposal. In researching the proposed change to Isanti Creek, the SDBGN also contacted the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation, which responded that it concurs with the change. Additional letters were sent by the BGN staff to the Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota, the Prairie Island Indian Community in the State of Minnesota, the Santee Sioux Nation, the Spirit Lake Tribe, the Upper Sioux Community, and the Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota, all of which are federally recognized. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The SDBGN recommends approval of the name change.

A query of GNIS for South Dakota found no other features in the State using the word “Isanti.”

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Tuckerman Alpine Meadow Spring, New Hampshire
(White Mountain National Forest/Pinkham Notch Scenic Area)
(Review List 415)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=44.26278&p_longi=-71.302769

This small alpine spring, located in the Pinkham Notch Scenic Area of the White Mountain National Forest, is proposed to be named Tuckerman Alpine Meadow Spring. The proponent reports that “the spring flows from the Bigelow Lawn area at the base of Mount Washington and drains into Tuckerman Ravine, a short distance off the Tuckerman Ravine Trail.” He believes it is the source of the waterfall that flows through the ravine, then off Mount Washington, and eventually into the Cutler River. When asked if the spring is perennial, he responded that he visits it regularly and has always found it flowing; furthermore, “It is a special spot perfect for quiet meditation.” He adds that he has assisted in maintaining the nearby trail for twelve years. Wikipedia states that Tuckerman Ravine Trail is “the most popular trail in [Pinkham] Notch, ascending to the summit [of Mount Washington] via the headwall of Tuckerman Ravine.”

The spring in question is not easily identifiable on imagery, so in order to confirm the location, the Chair of the New Hampshire Geographic Names Board hiked to the area and “found [the spring] directly next to the Lawn Cutoff trail, about 100 yards south of its junction with the Tuckerman Ravine Trail.” The State Board recommends approval of the name, although some members expressed concerns regarding the length of the name and that it was “somewhat at odds with local names.” [The proponent offered to shorten the name to T.A.M. Spring but that name is not under consideration.]

The manager of Mount Washington State Park, which is located at the peak of the summit, approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the spring, noted that there are numerous unnamed springs in the area, and while they “don’t all need to be named,” he has no objections to this proposal. The Coos County Commissioners also have no objection.

A representative of the Appalachian Mountain Club, who works at the Pinkham Notch Visitor Center, opposes the name, stating that to his knowledge, “there has been no established, historical, or local usage [of the term ‘Alpine Meadow Spring,’] nor are [we] familiar with any other name for the feature.” He added that while the spring “may hold some interest as a distinctive and perhaps unusual feature, particularly to those who are interested in surface hydrology or alpine ecology, the AMC is most concerned with the potential impacts that could be derived from recreational use in this highly used and

highly sensitive area. The spring is off trail [and so] hikers drawn to the spring will eventually create a beaten path to it. This area... is indeed within the alpine zone of the White Mountains, a particularly unique ecosystem that is rare in the northeastern U.S. This immediate area is known to support NH State-listed endangered and threatened plant species, so any additional human influence creates an additional threat to this unusual ecosystem. If the spring is named, and therefore identifiable, it will most likely be rendered on recreational maps....” The AMC also stated, “As the proposed name refers [to] this feature as a spring, identifying it as such will likely draw hikers to it as a source of water. Although some may choose to drink from this source, AMC does not recommend that ground water – from any source in the White Mountains – be consumed without proper treatment for pathogens.”

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is also opposed to the proposal, citing concerns similar to those of the AMC, and “because officially naming the spring conflicts with the management philosophy of the Forest. Drawing attention to the spring by giving it this unique name is likely to encourage off-trail foot traffic, as hikers go looking for the spring, and this will harm the very fragile plants, lichens, and other microbial life forms trying to maintain a foothold in the alpine environment.”

When asked to comment on the AMC’s statement, the proponent stated that the spring is just off the trail “and flows directly across the Lawn Cutoff. The water pools directly next to the trail and there are ample rocks on which to stand to gather water thus avoiding damage to the nearby vegetation.” He continues to believe the name would serve as a useful landmark for hikers in the area. The State Board was also asked to comment on the opposition, to which they responded that they continue to support the proposal and believe the spring is close enough to the trail that the name would not cause problems.

According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in Coos County.

Change **Walnut Grove** (FID 1304349) to **Walnut Grove Heights**, Tennessee
(Review List 417)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=35.0400842&p_longi=-88.051145&fid=1304349

The name Walnut Grove applies to a small unincorporated community (population 396) in southeastern Hardin County along State Highway 69. The community has been labeled Walnut Grove on USGS topographic maps since 1949. However, the proponent of the change to Walnut Grove Heights believes the existing name is causing confusion, because of the significant number of other communities named Walnut Grove in Tennessee. GNIS lists 14 populated places in the State currently named Walnut Grove. There was also at one time a community named Walnut Grove 7.5 miles to the southwest of the community in question and also in Hardin County; it is now listed in GNIS as “historical.” The proponent states, “Walnut Grove is who we are. That won’t change,” adding, “The additional word is pleasant with out [sic] taking away our identity. It gives both [sic] Walnut Groves the right respect in the State of Tennessee.”

GNIS lists 88 features throughout Tennessee with names that include the words “Walnut Grove,” of which nine are in Hardin County. In addition to the two communities (one historical), these include a cemetery, two churches, a post office (also historical), two schools (one of which is historical), and the Walnut Grove Census Designated Place. There is one community in the State named Walnut Grove Heights, a subdivision in Memphis. It is approximately 100 miles from the community in question.

The Hardin County Mayor does not recommend approval of the name change, noting that “no county legislative body action has been taken to change [the] name.” The U.S. Postal Service also does not support the change, “given the request is from a single individual as opposed to a joint commitment by

the residents/businesses of the area requesting a change.” The Tennessee Geographic Names Committee concurs with the USPS. Both the committee and the USPS commented that if there was evidence of widespread community support for the change, they would be willing to revisit the issue. The proponent was informed of the negative recommendations of the county, the State, and the USPS and was asked if he intended to solicit additional support. No response was received. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, which is federally recognized. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

III. New Commemorative Names and Changes agreed to by all interested parties

Change Hembre Mountain (FID 1512289) to Kisūmxi Mountain, Washington
(Yakama Indian Reservation)
(Review List 414)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=46.2986111&p_longi=-120.2963889&fid=1512289

This proposal is to change the name of Hembre Mountain to Kisūmxi Mountain. This 1,975-foot summit is located on the Yakama Indian Reservation, on Toppenish Ridge, five miles south of the community of Toppenish in Yakima County. The proposal was submitted by one of the elders of the Yakama Nation who has since passed away. He believed the name should be changed to one that honors a member of the Yakama Nation, noting also that the existing name is not known or used by the Yakama people and that the only knowledge of the name is because it appears on maps. Following the death of the elder, a chief of the one of the Yakama bands has since assumed responsibility for the proposal.

The original proponent stated that he was unsure of the origin of the name Hembre Mountain, although after speaking with researchers at the Yakama Nation Library, he determined it likely referred to “a soldier from Fort Dalles, Oregon, who was helping his brother, a commander at Fort Simcoe.” Further research suggests the summit was named for Captain Absalom J. Hembree. Born in Tennessee in 1813, Hembree traveled west on the Oregon Trail in 1843. In 1846, he was elected to the Oregon Territorial Legislature, becoming director of the Portland and Valley Plank Land Company, and was the founder and president of the Pacific Telegraph Company. He supplied the local militia during the Cayuse and Rogue River Indian Wars, and in 1855 was elected captain of a company of mounted volunteers, which traveled north into Washington State when the Yakama Indian War erupted. After spending a harsh winter in the mountains with few supplies, he was killed in battle on April 10th, 1856, the lone American casualty. His body was returned to Oregon, and after the largest funeral to date in Yamhill County, he was buried in the Hembree Family Cemetery. In 1920, the Washington State Historical Society erected a plaque in Hembree’s memory at the site of his death, and there is also a monument to him in a park in the community of Toppenish.

The summit was mapped by USGS in 1910, and again in 1950, but was not labeled Hembre Mountain until the first 1:24,000-scale map was published in 1958. The name has been applied to all USGS maps since then. The topographic map on which the summit is located is also named Hembre Mountain. The name was also applied in 1940 to a National Geodetic Survey control station. USGS geologic reports refer to “Hembre soils” in some areas of the Pacific Northwest, although not specifically including central Washington.

The proponent states that the name Kisūmxi Mountain would honor one of the most important elders of the Yakama Nation. Kisūmxi, known also as Mary Kiona, was born in either 1853 or 1855, and was reportedly present at the signing of the Yakama Indian Treaty of 1855. Kisūmxi is remembered as a self-educated medicine woman, healer, and “good prophet,” who was unable to speak English but who could “communicate with everyone” in a mixture of Cowlitz and Yakima dialects. She made a living off the

land, picking berries and fishing, and making grass baskets. The proponent reported that approximately one-half of the present-day members of the Yakama Nation are descended from her bloodline. The June 17, 1970 edition of the *Spokane Spokesman-Review* noted the death of Mary Kiona at the age of 115, adding that she was survived by six generations of descendants. An anthropological study of the Yakama Tribe, published in 2003 by the University of Washington, included numerous references provided by Mary Kiona to places of cultural and historical significance to the tribe, including its traditional resource harvest sites. The proponent reported that Kisūmxi is buried 2.5 miles east of the summit.

The Confederated Bands and Tribes of the Yakama Nation Tribal Council passed a resolution stating that the existing name “is not culturally appropriate or significant to the Yakama Nation... and supports changing the name of Hembre Mountain to Kisumxi Mountain [sic].” The proponent has clarified that the spelling should be “Kisūmxi” in accordance with the Sahaptin dialect.

The Yakima County Commissioners responded that they are “neutral on the issue.” The Washington State Committee on Geographic Names declined to render a decision on the matter, because the feature is wholly on tribal land. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages the Toppenish National Wildlife Refuge adjacent to the reservation, has no objection to the name change.

IV. Revised Decisions – none

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Riverkeeper Creek, Georgia (Review List 416)

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=33.8661596&p_longi=-84.3806448
Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=33.849047&p_longi=-84.370046

This 1.6-mile-long unnamed stream, located in the City of Atlanta, is proposed to be named Riverkeeper Creek. The stream heads just to the west of State Highway 400 in the Buckhead area of northeast Atlanta, then flows to the north and northwest to enter Nancy Creek. The proponent, who is the Water Resources Manager for the City of Roswell Public Works/Environmental Department, reports that over the past 20 years the stream has undergone tremendous change due to urban growth in the area. The city wishes to acknowledge the efforts undertaken to protect the watershed “by naming this tributary, which is symbolic of a River Basin that has been impacted by development, storm runoff and trash from industries, roads, and construction sites, and discharges from sewage treatment plants.”

The name Riverkeeper Creek would honor the Chattahoochee Riverkeeper organization, which has worked for more than two decades to advocate and secure the protection and stewardship of the Chattahoochee River, its tributaries, and watershed. In doing so, “the ecological health of people and wildlife that depend on the river system has been restored.” The organization has “protect[ed] Atlanta’s drinking water source for over 4 million Georgians through advocacy, education, research, communication, cooperation, monitoring and legal actions.” The proponent continues, “The naming of this small, unnamed tributary, Riverkeeper Creek in the heart of Atlanta will be a small, but meaningful, tribute to the accomplishments of the past 20 years.” This proposal has the support of the former mayor of Atlanta. The current city manager and the Fulton County Commissioners were asked to comment on the proposal, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The Commissioner of the City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management and the Chattahoochee Riverkeepers recommend approval of the name. The Georgia State Names Authority confirmed that the stream is not named on any local, county, or State maps or land records, and as such, has no objections to the proposed name. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians,

which is federally recognized. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

GNIS lists no other geographic features in Georgia with the word “Riverkeeper” in their name.

Sugar Shack Slue, Indiana

(Review List 417)

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=40.00427&p_longi=-84.966727

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=40.0054787&p_longi=-84.9446555

This 1.7-mile-long unnamed stream is proposed to be named Sugar Shack Slue. The stream heads in Washington Township in Randolph County, then flows to the west-northwest and then west-southwest into Green Township in Wayne County, where it flows into Greens Fork. From its source, a short section of the stream flows underground. The proposed name refers to an old cabin (“sugar shack”) located in the woods through which the stream flows. Maple trees are tapped for their sap to make maple sugar, and the shack, which was built in the early twentieth century, continues to be used today. A ninety-year-old neighbor of the proponent’s recalls that her father and grandfather used the cabin to process the sap that they collected. The generic term “Slue” is an Old English/German word for a ditch. When asked about the proposed name, the proponent responded, “My intention was to choose a name that was creative, phonetically pleasing as well as descriptively accurate. It seemed a more dignified and creative choice than ‘ditch,’ which is probably the most accurate alternative description for the geographic feature under discussion.” Regarding the use of “Slue” rather than “Slough,” which is typically used in Indiana, he added, “‘Slough’ looks like it should be pronounced ‘sluff’ rather than the correct ‘slew’ when one is talking about bodies of water.” When he was informed that the term “Slue” occurs only in North Carolina and Louisiana, he responded that the word was appropriate because the early Quaker settlers of Indiana had originated in North Carolina (*Quaker Migrants To Carolina And The Midwest; Eastern Philanthropists*; Barbour and Frost, 1988).

The proponent, whose father owns land along the stream, solicited and received support for the name from all the other property owners. Only one expressed a concern that applying an official name might result in additional environmental regulations being imposed, but he did not object to the choice of name. The county surveyors for both Wayne County and Randolph County are listed on the application as authorities for the name. The Wayne County Board of Commissioners and Randolph County Board of Commissioners both responded in support of the name, as did the Indiana State Names Authority. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the following Tribes, all of which are federally recognized: the Delaware Nation, Oklahoma; the Forest County Potawatomi Community, the Hannahville Indian Community, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, the Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, and the Wyandotte Nation. Of these, the Peoria Tribe responded in support of the name. The lack of response from the remaining groups is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

Two Sisters Creek, Michigan

(Review List 415)

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=46.457994&p_longi=-87.240125

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=46.444842&p_longi=-87.239691

This proposal is to apply the new name Two Sisters Creek to an unnamed stream in Marquette County. The proponent suggests this name because of similarities in both source and shape between the unnamed stream and nearby Dorow Creek into which it flows. He also states that GPS devices and mapping services misplace addresses along a road which crosses the stream and he believes that “a recognizable landmark as a point of reference” would facilitate directions and emergency response.

The Chocolay Township Planning and Zoning Department is in support of the proposal. The application included a petition signed by 27 local residents who are in favor of the name. The Marquette County Board of Commissioners did not respond to a request for comments, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The Michigan State Names Authority recommends approval of the name. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the following Tribes, all of which are federally recognized: the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians of the Bad River Reservation, the Bay Mills Indian Community, the Bois Forte Band (Nett Lake) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Fond du Lac Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Grand Portage Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the Leech Lake Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, the Mille Lacs Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Michigan, the Sokaogon Chippewa Community, the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, and the White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Of these, the Fond du Lac Band responded that it had no opinion on the matter, while the Little Traverse Bay Bands stated they had no objection to the name. The lack of response from the remaining groups is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

According to GNIS, there are no nearby features with names that include the phrase “Two Sisters.”

Rockstack Falls, Tennessee

(Review List 417)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=35.194068&p_longi=-85.298378

This approximately 40-foot tall waterfall is located along Falling Water Creek in Hamilton County, nine miles north of Chattanooga. The proponent reports that the name Rockstack Falls has been used for approximately 30 years to refer to the feature after he and a group of hikers discovered it while exploring the area for waterfalls. The gorge below the falls is a “box canyon” with “no way to hike past the falls from below due to the height and steepness of the cliffs.” To continue hiking upstream, the hikers needed to “stack rocks up about 5 feet tall so that we could climb up onto a ledge that allowed us to rock climb past the falls.”

The Hamilton County Commission and the Tennessee Geographic Names Committee both recommend approval of the proposed name. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, which is federally recognized. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

GNIS lists one summit in Tennessee named Rockstack, 75 miles from the falls in question.