

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

Seven Hundred and Seventy First Meeting
Captain Cook Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska
April 30, 2015 – 10:30 a.m.

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Douglas Caldwell	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Elizabeth Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Timothy Smith	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Douglas Vandegraft	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management) (Chairman)

Ex-Officio

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

Staff

Maria McCormick, U.S. Geological Survey
Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey

1. Opening

Chairman Vandegraft opened the meeting at 10:30 am. He thanked the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (COGNA) and the Alaska Historical Commission for inviting the BGN to hold its meeting during the annual COGNA conference. He asked the BGN members and staff to introduce themselves. He also invited the members of the Alaska Board on Geographic Names to introduce themselves.

Vandegraft also thanked Lt. Smith, NOAA Navigation Manager of the Alaska Region, for representing the Department of Commerce in Loy's absence.

2. Minutes of the 770th Meeting

The minutes of the 770th meeting of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC), held April 9th, were approved as submitted.

3. Reports

3.1 BGN Chairman (Caldwell)

At the April 21st meeting of the full BGN, 65 underseas feature names were approved. The BGN is seeing an increase in the number of proposals for these types of names as a result of increased underseas research.

The BGN's revised bylaws are with the Assistant Secretary of the Interior awaiting approval. Once the bylaws are approved, the BGN will submit the updated domestic *Principles, Policies, and Procedures* for Secretarial approval. The next full BGN meeting will be held at the FEMA building in Crystal City, Virginia on July 21st (it was subsequently noted that the date conflicts with the Esri International Conference and so the meeting may be rescheduled).

3.2 BGN Executive Secretary (Yost)

Yost also thanked the Alaska Historical Commission for hosting the COGNA meeting. Roger Payne, BGN Executive Secretary Emeritus, and Don Orth, DNC Executive Secretary Emeritus, sent their regrets at being unable to attend.

The 29th session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) will take place April 25th to 29th, 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand. Yost explained that UNGEGN consists of representatives from all national names authorities who meet to discuss names policies and databases.

The Geographical Names Board of Canada will hold its annual meeting October 29th to 30th in Ottawa. Heather Ross, GNBC Executive Secretary, also sent her regrets at being unable to attend this conference. Yost explained that it is customary for representatives from the United States and Canada attend each other's conferences.

A paper that Caldwell wrote in 2008 discussing name duplication in the South Korea and North Korea was featured in a recent *Wall Street Journal* article.

The BGN will hold a 125th Anniversary celebration on September 18th at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. All are invited to attend. More information is available at <http://geonames.usgs.gov/anniversary/index.html>.

3.3 Executive Secretary (Yost)

Yost reported on an article on a South Dakota news station Web site that states that there is an organization claiming to be “the only official and authorized” source for the proposed change from Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. The South Dakota Attorney General, in conjunction with the South Dakota Board on Geographic Names, is cautioning people that the organization is not official and is attempting to solicit money to support the effort.

A recent article in *The Washington Post* about Blood Falls in Antarctica reported that scientists studying the source of red iron oxide that seeps out of the end of Taylor Glacier and gives the feature its name have discovered evidence of a massive network of salty ground that may connect surrounding lakes and probably hosts microbial life. The BGN approved the name Blood Falls in April 2014.

3.4 Special Committee on Communications (Caldwell for Westington)

Caldwell thanked Ms. Westington for her work on the Special Communications Committee (SCC), and in particular her contributions to the upcoming 125th Anniversary celebration. He wished her well in her new assignment in Boulder, Colorado. The DNC will be looking for a replacement as chair of the SCC.

Invitations to the 125th Anniversary celebration have been sent to the Secretary of the Interior and the Librarian of Congress; the BGN is hoping their schedules will allow them to attend. The program is divided into two parts: *Traditions* and *Transitions*. The first will feature presentations by noted author Dr. Mark Monmonier, former UNGEGN Chair Helen Kerfoot, and others. The second part will focus on modernization and will include presentations relating to crowd-sourcing of geographic names data, multilingual names, and the Open Geospatial Consortium's influence on technology. There will also be an exhibit by the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress.

3.5 Staff Report (Runyon)

Review List 420, comprising 36 new names and name change proposals, was released on April 26th.

Regarding the proposal that the DNC has received to change the names of the summit and populated place in Wyoming from Devils Tower to Bear Lodge (Review List 419), the Crook County Commissioners have advised the DNC staff that they anticipate a vote in the fall, prior to the Wyoming Board of Geographic Names' November meeting. Staff has received the first written objection to the change from a local campground operator. All interested parties are being reminded that the name of Devils Tower National Monument was established by Congress and therefore only an act of Congress or Executive Order can change it. The National Park Service has prepared a statement outlining the BGN's procedures on the monument's Web page. The staff has also been coordinating with the U.S. Postal Service member to the Board on the proposed change for the community name and how it might impact the name of Devils Tower Post Office.

Runyon attended the April 28th meeting of the Hawaii Board on Geographic Names via teleconference. The HBGN is continuing to review all names in the State to determine where writing marks should be added. Updates will be submitted to the BGN in the near future. The proposal to change the name of Seven Pools to Pools of 'O'heo (Review List 372), which has been pending for almost 20 years, was approved by the HBGN and should be ready for a DNC vote soon.

3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Report (McCormick)

Changes requested by the SCC, relating to the 125th Anniversary celebration, have been posted at the BGN Web site.

Improvements have been made to the Geographic Names Information System landform tool and are being tested. The base map was updated to use the Esri service; the paging issue has been resolved so that editors can view and search for more than 100 polygons; and the authentication mechanism has been changed and updated. Editors are still experiencing a time-out after approximately 30 minutes; if the polygon is not completed in that time, it will not be saved. There has been a high turnover of developers as two contractors have left for other jobs. Replacements have been hired and are awaiting training.

Caldwell suggested that for the benefit of the audience, further explanation of the landforms tool might be appropriate. McCormick provided an overview, noting that for the feature types summit, ridge, and range, the highest point within the polygon is being collected. It should be noted that the elevation derived from the National Elevation Dataset (and in the future from the 3D Elevation Program) is likely to differ from the figure displayed on the topographic map. Furthermore, the National Geodetic Survey is in the process of updating the datums that mapping services rely on. For all areal and linear features, the State(s), county(ies), and USGS topographic map(s) will be automatically derived.

Work continues on the redevelopment of the GNIS public and maintenance forms. McCormick gave a short explanation on the current and remaining development work involving the forms redesign, the cells editing tool, and the processes of derivation and conflation.

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 – none

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Cora Lake, Alaska (Review List 419) (FID 2771421)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 4 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Change **Chandalar River** (FID 1400141) and **North Fork Chandalar River** (FID 1407162) to **Teedriinjik River**, Alaska (Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge/Bureau of Land Management) (Review List 417)

Change **Middle Fork Chandalar River** (FID 1406290) to **Ch'idriinjik River**, Alaska (Arctic National Wildlife Refuge) (Review List 417)

Change **Birch Creek** (FID 1399058) and **Lower Mouth Birch Creek** (FID 1405768) to **K'iidootinjik River**, Alaska (Steese National Conservation Area (BLM)/Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge/Birch Creek National Wild & Scenic River) (Review List 417)

Change **Beaver Creek** (FID 1398795) to **Tseenjik River**, Alaska (White Mountains National Recreation Area (BLM)/Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge/Beaver Creek National Wild & Scenic River) (Review List 417)

The members discussed the possibility of considering these proposals as a group; however, it was agreed that they should be considered separately. Following a review of the evidence, it was suggested that there was a need for additional input and more evidence of local support for the changes. Given that the streams are located within areas managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, neither of which is represented at this meeting, a motion was made and seconded to defer these proposals to a future meeting.

Vote: 4 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

The members also wish to discuss with federal agencies the issue of name changes for streams that are designated as Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Godhead Mountain, California (Chuckwalla Mountains Wilderness (BLM)) (Review List 415)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this name, citing the negative recommendations of the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names and the Bureau of Land Management, and in the belief that the name does not warrant an exception to the Wilderness Names Policy.

Vote: 4 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Mount Bellamar, Colorado (White River National Forest/Mount Massive Wilderness) (Review List 418)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this name, citing the negative recommendations of the Colorado Board on Geographic Names and the U.S. Forest Service, and in the belief that the name does not warrant an exception to the Wilderness Names Policy.

Vote: 4 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Cortez Basin, Illinois (Review List 415) (FID 2771422)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 4 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Swan Hill, Maine (Review List 419)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this name, citing the negative recommendation of the Town government.

Vote: 4 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Efrain Creek, Texas (Review List 413)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this name, citing a lack of local support and the negative recommendation of the Texas Geographic Names Committee.

Vote: 4 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

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

Change **Brawley Peaks** (FID 219790) to **Braly Peaks**, Nevada and California (Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest/Bureau of Land Management) (Review List 415)

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

Vote: 4 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Gray Brook, New York (Docket 419) (FID 2771423)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 4 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Barker Creek, **East Branch Barker Creek**, **South Branch Barker Creek**, and **West Branch Barker Creek**, North Carolina (Review List 418) (FIDs 2771424, 2771425, 2771426, 2771427)

A motion was made and seconded to consider these names as a group.

Vote: 4 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

A motion was made and seconded to approve the four names.

Vote: 4 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Change **Kuplie Lake** (FID 1567663) to **Kuplic Lake**, Wisconsin (Review List 408)

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

Vote: 4 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Change **Mehles Springs** (FID 1569320) to **Muehl Springs**, Wisconsin (Review List 405)

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

Vote: 4 in favor

0 against
0 abstentions

IV. Revised Decisions – none

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Horseshoe Lake, Illinois (Review List 419) (FID 2771428)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 4 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Mount Scorpion, Nevada (Bureau of Land Management) (Review List 417) (FID 2771429)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 4 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Penland Creek, North Carolina (Review List 419) (FID 2771430)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 4 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Twelve Stones Creek, Tennessee (Review List 419) (FID 2771431)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 4 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Freepport Ridge, Texas (Review List 420) (FID 2771581)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 4 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Padre Island Ridges, Texas (Review List 420) (FID 2771582)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote:	4 in favor
	0 against
	0 abstentions

5. Other Business

Chairman Vandegraft invited the audience to submit comments or questions to the BGN.

Roberta Conner of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation asked under what circumstances does a proposed name that is not approved by the BGN become a variant in GNIS. She was advised that the decision as to whether a name is a valid variant is made by the BGN staff in accordance with its standard procedures for evaluating such names.

Ed Alexander, proponent of the changes listed under the docket above, thanked the BGN for its approval in April 2014 of the change from Black River to Draanjik River. Susan Paskvan of the Yukon-Koyukuk School District noted that the members of the Tanana Chiefs Conference are elected to represent approximately 14,000 individuals residing in Interior Alaska. Dan White, U.S. Forest Service, inquired whether the BGN's Wilderness Policy would be a factor in the decision as to whether the stream names should be changed; he was informed that the policy does not apply in the case of a name change as the feature is already named and so no further "trammeling" would occur.

Gary Holton, Alaska Native Language Center, apologized for the lack of input from the ANLC on these issues. He had presumed that their positive response on the Black River-Draanjik River name change applied to these also. The ANLC did provide assistance in the linguistic aspects of the proposed names, which he hopes will be noted in the record. Furthermore, the features in question are "hundreds of miles" from any populated settlements and so it is difficult to obtain "local support." Dr. Holton inquired whether the North Slope Borough was consulted; Ms. Antonson replied that the Mayor was asked for input, although none was received.

At this point, Mr. Alexander presented the DNC with a copy of a resolution passed by the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments Board of Directors, expressing their support for the proposals. A second letter, from the Tanana Chiefs Conference, affirmed their previously stated support. Mr. Alexander requested additional time to consult with the National Wildlife Refuge managers and the Bureau of Land Management to address their concerns. He regretted that he had been unable to call in for the Alaska Board on Geographic Names meeting at which the proposals were discussed. He also will reach out to his congressional delegation regarding the Wild and Scenic River designation.

Ms. Paskvan inquired whether the proponent of a name is provided a copy of the communication with the Native groups. Yost noted that these proposals were processed by the Alaska Board on Geographic Names, and as such, that office did the consultation. Ms. Antonson added that the State Board also does not inform proponents of who was contacted. Yost said the BGN would take Ms. Paskvan's comment under advisement.

A question was raised as to whether the hydrographic community was involved in the name change proposals. Yost responded it was not, as the flow of a stream has no bearing on which name should be applied.

James Kari noted that his recent proposals, to change the names of several features to “Kacaagh,” another Ahtna word, were approved by the Alaska Board despite a lack of evidence of widespread local support. He reaffirmed his belief that the ANLC should be permitted to review proposals submitted to the Alaska Board.

Terrance Cole, a member of the Alaska Board, noted that geographic names rarely generate much interest or publicity. Last year, Fairbanks City Hall was renamed in his honor of his brother but there was very little interest outside the family. He noted that the four streams under discussion today are significant features, unlike the much smaller Draanjik River. The name “Chandalar” goes back many years. The manager of the National Wildlife Refuge pointed out that changing a name of a river, especially one with Wild and Scenic River designation, would very likely lead to confusion. It would appear that the notions of “local support” vs. “longstanding usage” are incompatible in this situation. The issue didn’t receive much attention in Fairbanks so perhaps additional outreach is needed. Mr. Alexander responded that the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) resolution was signed in Fairbanks and that there was a public process. Furthermore, 150 years of usage of “Chandalar” is “nothing to the Gwich’in people.” Dr. Holton added that most people are more accepting of change than we give them credit for, and that the TCC should be allowed to speak for the Native people of the region. Eliza Jones added that the names should be those used by the Gwich’in people.

6. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

The next Domestic Names Committee meeting will be held June 11th, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. at the Department of the Interior, Kiowa Room.

(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
April 30, 2015**

I. Staff-Processed New Names, and Name and Application Changes agreed to by all interested parties - none

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Cora Lake, Alaska

(Review List 419)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=62.4141666&p_longi=-149.7683333

This proposal is to make official the name Cora Lake for a 40-acre lake located approximately 12 miles northeast of the community of Talkeetna and one mile west of the Talkeetna River. The proponent's family owns the only cabin on the lake, which is accessible only by float plane, river boat, or snow machine. The proponent reports that her mother began to refer to the lake as Cora Lake when she acquired the property in the 1970s, and although the name of her mother's mother was Cora, it is not intended to be a commemorative name proposal. Her mother claimed she "simply loved that the meaning of the name is 'Maiden,' and that she believed her maiden voyage was complete once she had staked her claim at the lake."

Four other individuals who own property around the lake were contacted; two support the name and one objects (she disputes the proponent's claim that hers was the first cabin at the lake and believes names should honor individuals who made a contribution to the area), and one did not respond.

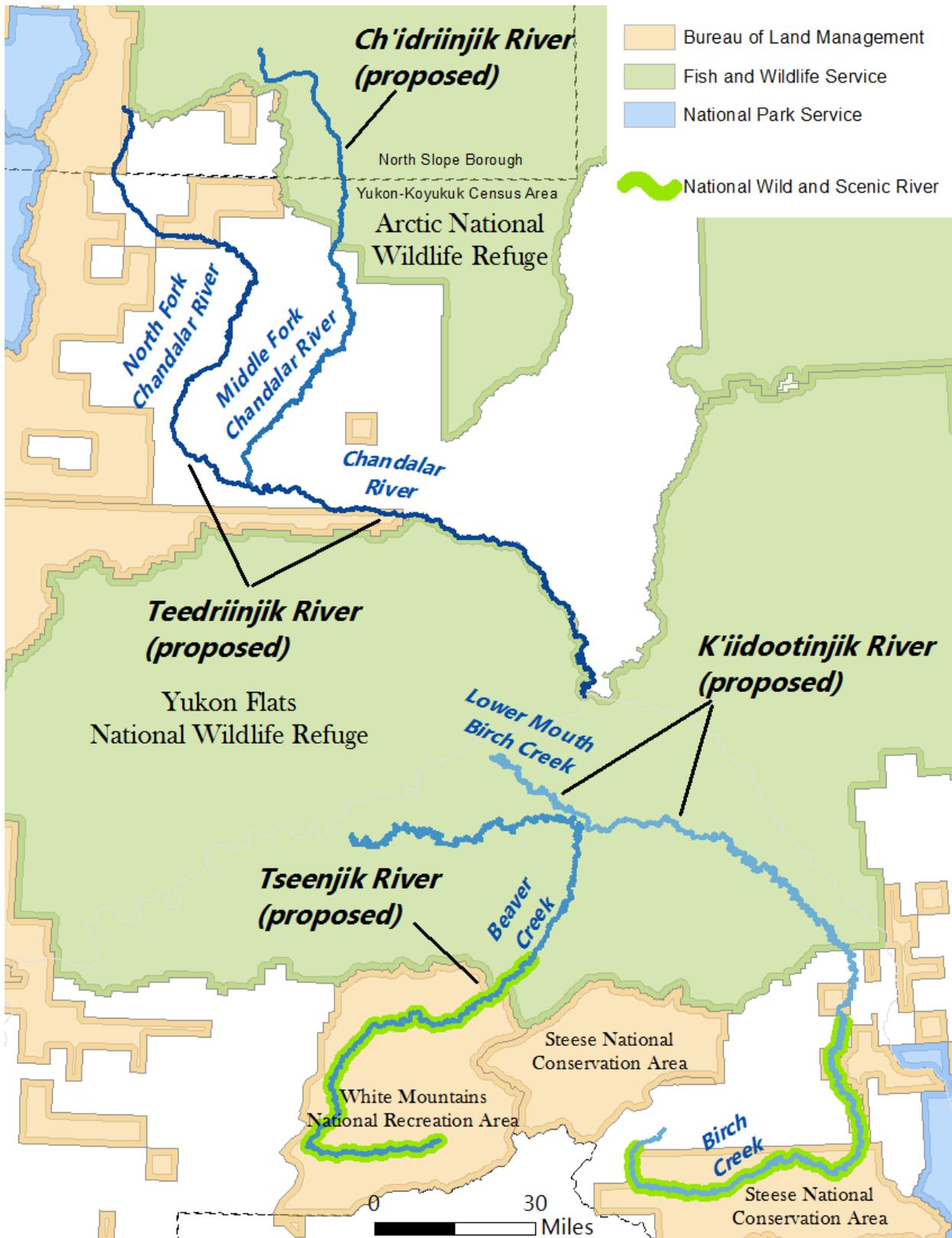
The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Council passed a resolution in support of the proposal, noting that giving the lake an official name "would be helpful in the event of an accident" and "would also assist as a reference when giving directions." The Alaska Board on Geographic Names asked the Talkeetna Chamber of Commerce, Talkeetna Community Council, Inc., and Cook Inlet Region, Inc. for input, but no responses were received. The State Board recommends approval of the name.

Changes to four river names, Alaska

(Review List 417)

The following four proposals were submitted by the Second Chief of the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government in an attempt to recognize names that he states have been used for over 1,000 years by the Gwich'in people. He believes that the renaming of these streams and other features with Gwich'in names "will help revitalize Gwich'in culture and language," and notes that the Lieutenant Governor of Alaska has encouraged proposals with Gwich'in names in an effort to keep the endangered language alive. He notes also that many of the forks of the Chandalar River have Gwich'in names. He believes that renaming these streams will lessen confusion during search and rescue operations.

The Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors, which represents 37 federally recognized tribal governments, passed a resolution supporting the four changes. The resolution states: “The Gwich’in homeland includes the numerous rivers which are referred to on USGS maps by English names, and we would like our local, regional, and Native American usage of our name for the rivers in our area to be consistent and recognized with official maps, as the majority of people who utilize the rivers, and inhabit this area, refer to the rivers by their traditional Gwich’in names.” The resolution referred to ten changes from English to Gwich’in names, as well as one spelling correction; of these, four have been proposed at this time.



The Alaska Board on Geographic Names asked the following Alaska Native groups to comment on the proposal: the Native Village of Venetie, the Village of Venetie, the Native Village of Fort Yukon, the

Gwitchyan Zhee Corporation, and Doyon, Limited. The Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments and the Alaska Native Language Center-University of Fairbanks were also asked to comment. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

Change **Chandalar River** (FID 1400141) and **North Fork Chandalar River** (FID 1407162)
to **Teedriinjik River**, Alaska
(Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge/Bureau of Land Management)
(Review List 417)

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=66.6080555&p_longi=-146.0069444

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=68.1830556&p_longi=-149.2686111

This proposal is to rename collectively the Chandalar River and the North Fork Chandalar River to Teedriinjik River. It also would change the source coordinate of the stream currently named Chandalar River to that of the currently named North Fork Chandalar River. The proponent reports that in the Gwich'in language, "Teedriinjik" translates as "Luminous River," "Shimmering River," or "Light Amid the Waters River," and that it is a name that has been used by the Gwich'in people for more than 1,000 years.

The main stream and its northern tributary have been labeled Chandalar River and North Fork Chandalar River, respectively, on U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps since 1952. Other names and spellings have appeared in various Federal publications over the last 125 years, including Achenchik River, Chandlar River, Chandler River, and Chandelar River. Names applied to the forks include Gens de Large (*Dictionary of Alaska Place Names*, 1967), Tadrandike River (General Land Office 1898), and Tatreenjik (*Voyages on the Yukon and Its Tributaries*, 1917). *The Dictionary of Alaska* (Orth, 1967) states that Chandalar is "[a] local name derived from the name given to the Kutchin Indians along this stream by the French employees of the Hudson's Bay Company located at Fort Yukon. The French name was "Gens de Large" or "nomadic people," which when written in English from its local pronunciation evolved into its present form. Early USGS field notes spelled the name Chand-da-larg."

The Alaska Board does not recommend approval of the proposed change to Teedriinjik River, noting that it "did not see evidence of broad general support for the proposals from individuals, groups, and communities throughout the eastern Interior Alaska area." The State Board also noted that the name Chandalar "is well known and widely used and the proposal did not show the same for the proposed names." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not have an opinion regarding the proposal.

Change **Middle Fork Chandalar River** (FID 1406290) to **Ch'idriinjik River**, Alaska
(Arctic National Wildlife Refuge)
(Review List 417)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=67.1725&p_longi=-148.3&fid=1406290

This proposal is to change the name of the Middle Fork Chandalar River to Ch'idriinjik River. In the Gwich'in language, "Ch'idriinjik" means "heart river" and is associated with a nearby mountain that the proponent claims is known locally as Ch'idrii (this name is not listed in the Geographic Names

Information System). The stream has been labeled Middle Fork Chandalar River on USGS topographic maps since 1952, and also appeared on a General Land Office map in 1909.

The Alaska Board does not recommend approval of the change, noting that it “did not see evidence of broad general support for the proposals from individuals, groups, and communities throughout the eastern Interior Alaska area.” The State Board also noted that the name Chandalar “is well known and widely used and the proposal did not show the same for the proposed names.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not have an opinion regarding the proposal.

Change **Birch Creek** (FID 1399058) and **Lower Mouth Birch Creek** (FID 1405768)
to **K’iidootinjik River**, Alaska
(Steese National Conservation Area (BLM)/
Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge/Birch Creek National Wild & Scenic River)
(Review List 417)

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=66.4452777&p_longi=-146.64

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=65.4386111&p_longi=-145.5266667

This proposal is to rename Birch Creek and Lower Mouth Birch Creek collectively to K’iidootinjik River. It also would amend the mouth coordinates of the stream currently named Birch Creek so that they apply to what is currently the mouth of Lower Mouth Birch Creek. The existing names and applications have appeared on USGS maps and publications since 1906, as well as on recent Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maps. General Land Office, U.S. War Department, and U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey maps published between 1890 and 1909 also labeled Birch Creek. The proponent reports that in the Gwich’in language, “K’iidootinjik” translates as “Birch that is Cached Up High River” or “Birch Cache River.”

The Alaska Board does not recommend approval of the change, noting that it “did not see evidence of broad general support for the proposals from individuals, groups, and communities throughout the eastern Interior Alaska area.”

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management both recommend disapproval of the change, citing the fact that Birch Creek is designated “Wild and Scenic” under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-542). The FWS adds, “These streams are recognized both nationally and internationally by people who have used them recreationally.” Furthermore, there was no proposal to change the name of Birch Creek Slough, so if approved, the names would be inconsistent. In addition, “Multiple names [are] listed through different reference documents. It may be challenging to determine the most appropriate traditional name. In general, the proposed name changes could lead to confusion among the public and public land user groups. The Refuge supports, if possible, that native names be included in parentheses with the current name on new maps or other references.”

GNIS does not list any other features in Alaska with the word “K’iidootinjik” in their names. There are, however, eleven other streams in the State named Birch Creek.

Change **Beaver Creek** (FID 1398795) to **Tseenjik River**, Alaska

(White Mountains National Recreation Area (BLM)/
Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge/Beaver Creek National Wild & Scenic River)
(Review List 417)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=66.2386111&p_longi=-147.5327778&fid=1398795

This proposal is to change the name of Beaver Creek to Tseenjik River. In Gwich'in, Tseenjik means "beaver creek" or "beaver river." The stream has been labeled as Beaver Creek on USGS maps since 1952, on recent Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maps, and on U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, General Land Office, and U.S. War Department maps between 1890 and 1909. The stream was listed as Tseenjik in a volume of Gwich'in Athabaskan Place Names published in 1982. Many streams in Alaska are named Beaver Creek, and so the proposed change would make the name of this stream unique.

The Alaska Board does not recommend approval of the change, noting that it "did not see evidence of broad general support for the proposals from individuals, groups, and communities throughout the eastern Interior Alaska area."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management both recommend disapproval of the change, citing the fact that Beaver Creek is designated "Wild and Scenic" under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-542). The FWS adds, "These streams are recognized both nationally and internationally by people who have used them recreationally." Furthermore, there was no proposal to change the name of Beaver Creek Slough, so if approved, the names would be inconsistent. In addition, "Multiple names [are] listed through different reference documents. It may be challenging to determine the most appropriate traditional name. In general, the proposed name changes could lead to confusion among the public and public land user groups."

Godhead Mountain, California
(Chuckwalla Mountains Wilderness (Bureau of Land Management))
(Review List 415)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic.getesricoor?p_lat=33.6371095&p_longi=-115.3168919

This 2,906-foot unnamed summit, proposed to be named Godhead Mountain, is the highest point between Corn Spring Campground and Interstate 10. It lies within the Chuckwalla Mountains Wilderness, which is managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The proponent reports, "There is a rock formation at the top of the ridge just northwest of the campground that in the afternoon appears as a large head and face staring seriously toward the campground and oasis. One can only wonder how the native people who lived here and left petroglyphs on the rocks east of the campground regarded this face." When asked to provide a reason why he believes the proposal warrants an exception to the BGN's Wilderness Policy, he responded that he believes the summit needs an official name for safety purposes as it is next to Corn Spring Campground and "a likely quest for hikers." He added, "Naming the mountain would encourage more people to hike it, since there is no trail and it is rather foreboding looking from the bottom."

The Riverside County Board of Supervisors was asked to comment on the proposed name, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the following federally recognized tribes: the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians of the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation, the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, the Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians of the Cahuilla Reservation, the Colorado River Indian Tribes of the Colorado River Indian Reservation, the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, the Ione Band of Miwok Indians of California, the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians of the Pechanga Reservation, the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation, the Ramona Band of Cahuilla Indians, the Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians, the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, and the Yavapai-Apache Nation of the Camp Verde Indian Reservation.

The Director of the Cultural Resources Management Department of the San Manuel Band responded that he believes “Godhead Mountain is not a suitable name” and that he “would recommend that a Native American name would be much more appropriate.” No counter proposal was submitted. The Director of the Agua Caliente Band also objects to the proposal, stating, “It is inappropriate to me that this mountain is going to be named by a non-native person.” The director shared the proposal with other tribes in the area, including some not identified in the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database as having an interest in Riverside County. Of these, one tribe submitted a comment. An email was received from the Cultural Director of the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, stating that he is “opposed to the name, based on the significance of the site to the Chemehuevi tribe and the circumstances of the process for choosing it.” The lack of responses from the remaining tribes is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

The California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names and the Bureau of Land Management both do not support the proposal, citing the lack of local support and a belief that the name does not warrant an exception to the Wilderness Names Policy. GNIS lists no other features in California with the word “Godhead” in their names.

Mount Bellamar, Colorado

(White River National Forest/Mount Massive Wilderness)

(Review List 418)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=39.1242927&p_longi=-106.5580507

This 13,493-foot unnamed summit, located in the White River National Forest/Mount Massive Wilderness, is proposed to be named Mount Bellamar. The proponent reports that the summit has become known by hikers and climbers as “Montbellamar” because “[they] look up the mountain into the Colorado sea-colored blue sky” (Spanish *bella* = beauty, *mar* = sea). He also believes “it resembles a rocky cliff falling into the sea when viewed against the sky.” Furthermore, he noted that Blue Lake is located 0.8 miles north of the summit in question.

The proponent feels an exception to the Wilderness Policy is justified because the summit is frequented by locals and other hikers, climbers, snowshoers, and photographers, and so the name would be “of benefit to the citizens of Colorado [and] visitors to the Mount Massive Wilderness Area.” He also believes that for general safety reasons, “it is always useful to be able to reference named landmarks (i.e.

mountains) as opposed to coordinates or nearby peaks.” Finally, “[there are] other potential benefits of naming the mountain include potentially attracting more tourists to the mountain and area for recreation and wilderness education.”

The Lake County Board of Commissioners was asked to comment on the proposed name, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The Pitkin County Commissioners responded that they had no opinion on the issue (a news article found online noted that “the commissioners were not too receptive to the name). Pitkin County shared the proposal with the Independence Pass Foundation, which submitted the comment that it had “no real objection to the name, but felt that renaming the peak [sic] might eliminate confusion because it’s sometimes called Blue Peak” (a name that does appear on a few hiking Web sites). The foundation also believes the justification provided by the proponent was not compelling to override the BGN’s Wilderness Names Policy.

The Colorado Board on Geographic Names and the U.S. Forest Service both recommend disapproval of the proposal, citing the lack of local support and a belief that the name does not warrant an exception to the Wilderness Names Policy. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, both of which are federally recognized. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

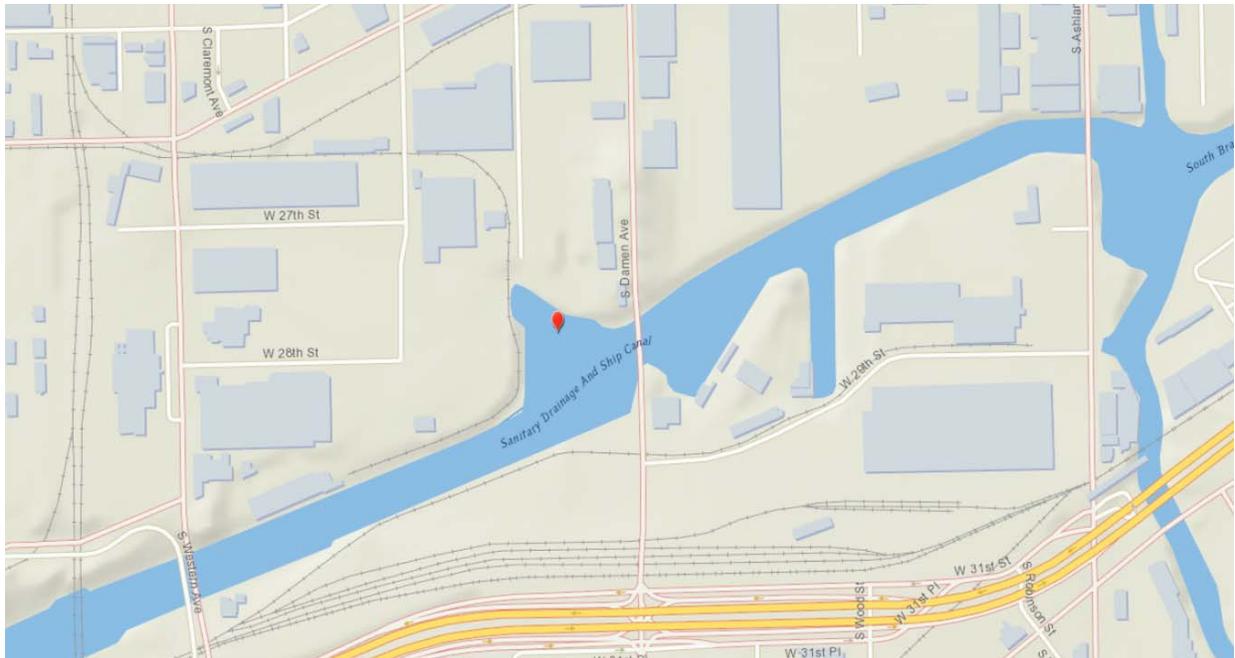
A query of GNIS found no other features in Colorado using the word “bellamar” in their names.

Cortez Basin, Illinois

(Review List 415)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=41.8416666&p_longi=-87.6772222

This 4.8-acre bay is described as “the remnant of the confluence of the historical Ogden Ditch and the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal.” Development has eradicated the Ogden Ditch/South Branch Chicago River, leaving behind only a small bay on the north side of the present-day canal.



The name Cortez Basin is proposed in honor of Carlos Cortez (1923-2005), who according to the proponent did significant work in the Pilsen neighborhood just to the north of the canal. Mr. Cortez was an influential artist and poet and helped found the Mexican Fine Arts Museum in Chicago. He painted numerous murals throughout the City of Chicago.

This proposal is one of approximately 70 submitted by a professor and students in a geography class at the College of DuPage in DuPage County. A class assignment asked the students to review the Federal geographic naming policies and procedures, and to identify unnamed geographic features in the area for which they could propose new names. The professor indicated that his goals are to “contribute to the area’s cultural and historical geographies,” “name places we are documenting,” and “honor worthy individuals when appropriate.” The Cook County government was asked to comment on the name and to share the information with other county agencies, as well as local landowners and municipalities that might have an interest. The Forest Preserve District of Cook County, speaking on behalf of the county commissioners, recommends approval of the name.

However, the Illinois State Board on Geographic Names (ISBGN) does not support any of the 70 names submitted as a result of the class assignment, citing several reasons: “The Illinois Board views this activity as unacceptable as well as abusive; a legitimate request or proposal should come from the heart with forethought and reverence. The fulfillment of academic requirements is not part of the function or mission of the ISBGN; for a student to be required to submit a geographic names proposal to fulfill an academic requirement is completely counter to the spirit and desires of the Illinois Geographic Names program.” The ISBGN also objects to the quantity of names being proposed without involving the local municipalities in the process. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has no objection to the proposed name.

The proposal was forwarded to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the Forest County Potawatomi Community, the Hannahville Indian Community, and the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation, all of which are federally recognized. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

Swan Hill, Maine

(Review List 419)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=44.541667&p_longi=-70.429167

The new name Swan Hill is proposed for an unnamed 1,329-foot summit in the Town of Dixfield in Oxford County. The name would honor Stanley Stuart (“Sonny”) Swan, Jr. (1930-1975), a town official for at least two years in the 1960s. He held the office of First Selectman, and according to the proponent, was also “Road Agent” and “Overseer-of-Poor.” (Recent town meeting minutes refer to the selectmen and “Overseers of the Poor” as joint office titles.) The proponent is the son of the intended honoree. Members of the Swan family are associated with an address on Swan Avenue, which is located on the southwest slope of the summit.

Esri base maps and Google Earth (but not Google Maps) label the summit Pauls Bluff; however, GNIS lists this name as a distinct promontory on the southeast edge of the unnamed summit. The confusion may have arisen as a result of early USGS topographic maps (1926 and 1929) labeling Pauls Bluff closer to the summit’s highest point.

The Town of Dixfield does not support the proposal, citing a concern expressed by the owner of the property that he was not consulted on the matter. The Oxford County Commissioners were asked to comment, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The Maine State Names Authority has no objection to the proposed name. According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in Oxford County.

GNIS lists 38 features in Maine with the word “Swan” or “Swans” in their names. These include seven in Oxford County, including another summit named Swan Hill, 17 miles to the southwest.

Efrain Creek, Texas

(Review List 413)

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=32.7843312&p_longi=-97.3354742

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=32.8370704&p_longi=-97.3433382

This 4.6-mile-long stream heads 1.6 miles northeast of the Fort Worth Meacham International Airport and flows generally southward through a highly urbanized area, then through Trail Drivers Park, to enter the Trinity River. The proposed new name is intended to honor Efrain Guerrero (1931-1995), who according to the proponent, “was dedicated to keeping the stream clean, free of litter, and safe for the little wildlife that lives there.” The proponent adds, “This wildlife includes four different types of turtles, five different types of snakes, iguanas, cranes, falcons, crawfish, and other species. His effort to inform transients about the need to keep the stream clean is evidenced by the fact that wildlife keeps coming back to the area.” Mr. Guerrero was a semi-professional baseball player who donated his time and money to support the high school baseball team. He was employed by a local drywall company.

The Fort Worth City Council and the Tarrant County Commissioners Court were asked to comment on the proposal, but neither responded, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The Texas State Names Committee does not recommend approval of the name, stating “there isn’t sufficient information indicating support by the local community” and the fact that “very little is known about [Mr. Guerrero’s] true association with this area.” A decision on this name was deferred by the BGN at its April 2014 meeting, citing a request from the State Names Committee that it be given more time to contact the proponent regarding local opinions. Since then, the committee has attempted to solicit more input from the proponent but no information has been forthcoming. The committee has affirmed its non-support of the name. According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in Tarrant County.

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

Change **Brawley Peaks** (FID 219790) to **Braly Peaks**, Nevada and California
(Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest / Bureau of Land Management)
(Review List 415)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=38.2516667&p_longi=-118.9211111&fid=219790

This group of summits, currently named **Brawley Peaks**, is located approximately 12.5 miles northeast of Mono Lake on the Nevada-California boundary. The feature also lies in Toiyabe National Forest on the Nevada side and on BLM land on the California side. Although the name **Brawley Peaks** has appeared on USGS topographic maps since 1909, the proponent, who serves as the assistant director of the Mineral County Museum, states that the correct spelling of the honoree’s last name is Braly; as evidence, she cites biographical sources, news articles, and early maps of the area.

James Madison Braly (1826-1911) arrived in the Sierra Nevada area in the late 1850s and began prospecting and mining. In 1860, he found profitable gold and silver lodes near Aurora with James M. Cory and P. R. Hicks. These precious metal sources caused a boom in mining on the scale of that at the Comstock Lode. Braly was elected to the position of recorder in the mining town of Aurora. Two primary sources state that the nearby mountain was named for him. *The Esmerelda Herald*, in an 1880 premature obituary, stated: “J. M. Braly, after whom the mountain near this place was named...” James Miller Guinn, in his 1905 *History of the state of California and biographical record of the San Joaquin Valley, California*, writes of the still-living Braly who had moved to Fresno: “His friends named the mountain south of the town, **Mount Braly**, in His honor, and as such it is on all the maps.” All primary biographical sources and genealogical sources record his last name as Braly, and his gravestone in San Jose is inscribed “James Madison Braly.” As early as 1863, the spelling of his last name was already variable. Mining companies named for either him or for the nearby mountain are variously spelled “Braly” and “Brale,” even between different issues of the *Sacramento Daily Union*. However, there are no published references to his name spelled as “Brawley” other than maps of the summit.

Confusion over the spelling of the name of the summit began as early as 1862 when the *San Francisco Bulletin* referred to “Mount Brawley.” Other local newspapers such as the *Sacramento Daily Union* and the *Reno Evening Gazette* consistently referred to the peak as “Mount Braly.”

Published names on maps have varied among “Braly”, “Braley”, “Brally”, “Brady”, and “Brawley,” with the latter becoming standard in the early 20th century. Initially, the name referred to a single summit on the Nevada-California boundary; the 1909 USGS topographic map applied the name Brawley Peaks to a range of three peaks: two in Nevada and a slightly lower one in California. Google Maps labels the two Nevada peaks Brawley Peaks East and Brawley Peaks West, but GNIS does not list names for the individual features.

As part of its research, the Nevada Board on Geographic Names (NVBGN) contacted the Mineral County Board of Commissioners for its opinion; no response was received which the NVBGN presumes to indicate consent for the change. The Mono County (California) Board of Supervisors recommends approval of the change. The NVBGN and the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names also support the proposal, as do the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes of the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation, the Paiute-Shoshone Tribe of the Fallon Reservation and Colony, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe of the Pyramid Lake Reservation, the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, the Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe of the Benton Paiute Reservation, the Walker River Paiute Tribe of the Walker River Reservation, and the Yerington Paiute Tribe of the Yerington Colony and Campbell Ranch, all of which are federally recognized. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

Gray Brook, New York
(Docket 419)

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=41.85818&p_longi=-74.28016

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=41.86398&p_longi=-74.29778

The new commemorative name Gray Brook is proposed for a 1.5-mile-long tributary of Mettakahonts Creek in the Town of Rochester in Ulster County. The name is intended to honor Stephen Gray (born c.1797), who settled on the property through which the stream flows in the early nineteenth century, and his descendants Jacob Gray (c.1832-) and Charles Gray (c.1875-). The majority of the land has remained in the Gray family since then.

The proposal included letters of support for the name from the Town of Rochester Town Board, the Ulster County Planning Department, and the Friends of Rochester, Inc. The New York State Names Committee has no objection to the proposal. According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in Ulster County.

Barker Creek, East Branch Barker Creek, South Branch Barker Creek,
and **West Branch Barker Creek**, North Carolina
(Review List 418)

Barker Creek:

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=36.3799246&p_longi=-78.5053887

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=36.351512&p_longi=-78.5074057

East Branch Barker Creek:

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=36.3744145&p_longi=-78.5053282

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=36.3562273&p_longi=-78.4976497

South Branch Barker Creek:

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=36.3570366&p_longi=-78.5083121

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=36.3534264&p_longi=-78.4994373

West Branch Barker Creek:

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=36.3715794&p_longi=-78.5087901

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=36.3594932&p_longi=-78.5279561

These four names are proposed to be applied to a 2.1-mile-long tributary of Flat Creek and three of its tributaries (1.4 miles, 0.6 miles, and 1.8 miles long, respectively). The main stream and its eastern and southern branches are located wholly within Vance County, while the western branch heads inside Granville County and flows east into Vance County.

The proposed names are intended to honor Dr. Ambrose Barker (1750-1816), one of the earliest settlers in colonial Granville County (from which Vance County was formed). In the late 1760s, Dr. Barker inherited property along the stream, where he and his wife resided in a timber-framed farmhouse. The house still stands today. The road that follows the old buggy route east of the farmhouse is named Barker Road. In 1786, Dr. Barker was appointed Justice of the Peace. According to the proponent, who is a descendant of the family, Dr. Barker was well known and respected as a civic leader and was granted a license to utilize his farmhouse as an ordinary (inn) in the late eighteenth century. Barker's Ordinary operated for many years and hosted many prominent individuals of the time.

The governments of Vance County and Granville County both submitted letters of support for the proposed names, and the North Carolina Board on Geographic Names recommends approval as well. According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in Vance County or Granville County.

GNIS lists 21 features in North Carolina with "Barker" in their names, including ten streams with Barker Creek, Barkers Creek, or Barkers Branch in their names. None of the features are in Granville County or Vance County. The closest is Barkers Creek in Forsyth County, 90 miles west of the streams in question.

Change **Kuplie Lake** (FID 1567663) to **Kuplic Lake**, Wisconsin
(Review List 408)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=44.931017&p_longi=-88.1811956&fid=1567663

This proposal is to change the name of Kuplie Lake, a 13-acre lake in the Town of Oconto Falls in Oconto County, to Kuplic Lake. The proponent, a member of the Kuplic family who now lives in Indiana, noticed that the name shown on USGS topographic maps differs from that of her family's name and is asking that the error be corrected. She reports that her grandparents, Joseph Kuplic (1855-1939) and his wife Mary (1860-1930), homesteaded in the vicinity of the lake in the early twentieth century and says she was told by her family that a nearby lake bears their name. A 1912 map of Oconto Falls Township shows that the property around the lake was owned by "Mary Kuplik" [sic], while a map of adjacent Spruce Township shows Joe Kuplik's name on the adjoining section of land. The 1930 Federal Census of Spruce Township lists Joseph and Mary Kuplic and their three sons. Several members of the Kuplic family are buried in nearby Pine Hill Cemetery.

Although there is no evidence of a family named Kuplie in the area, the name Kuplie Lake has appeared on USGS topographic maps since 1956. In 1974, the USGS field man verified the spelling as "Kuplie," citing the 1973 Oconto County map and a 1968 Wisconsin lake inventory. A later county highway map, published in 2000, also labels the lake Kuplie Lake and cites USGS as the source of the base map. The proponent provided a copy of a *Welcome to Oconto* brochure that labels the lake Kuplic Lake.

The governments of the Town of Oconto Falls and Oconto County were asked by the Wisconsin Geographic Names Council (WGNC) and by the BGN staff to comment on the proposal. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. Citing the historical evidence that suggests the family's name was spelled Kuplic, the WGNC recommends approval of the proposed change.

A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the following federally recognized tribes: the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the Bois Forte Band (Nett Lake) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Fond du Lac Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Forest County Potawatomi Community, the Grand Portage Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the Leech Lake Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, 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 Sokaogon Chippewa Community, the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, and the White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

Change Mehles Springs (FID 1569320) to Muehl Springs, Wisconsin
(Review List 405)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.8652712&p_longi=-88.0164841&fid=1569320

This proposal is to change the name of Mehles Springs in Sheboygan County to Muehl Springs. It was submitted by the USGS Geospatial Liaison for Wisconsin as a result of an inquiry from a wildlife biologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), who noted that the name on Federal maps differs from that of the family for which the feature was presumably named.

Although the name Mehles Springs has appeared on USGS topographic maps since 1964, the Wisconsin DNR determined that the name of the owner of the land on which the springs are located was Muehl. The

DNR noted that it is in the process of dedicating the land parcel and the feature as a State Natural Area (SNA), but the name discrepancy is a hindrance to naming the SNA. The Nature Conservancy, which has managed the land for the past 20 years, already refers to the spring as Muehl Springs and that name is now being used in the transfer deed from the Conservancy to the State Natural Areas program. The transfer document also refers to Muehl Creek, but that name is not listed in GNIS and therefore is not considered official for Federal use.

Fieldwork conducted by the USGS in 1974 determined that the springs were known locally as Mehles Springs, a name that was verified at that time by the Wisconsin DNR.

After receiving the recent proposal, the Sheboygan County Land Information Officer determined that “Plat books and county atlases published in 1875, 1889, 1902, 1916, 1930, 1941, 1951, 1959, 1979, 1984, and 1986 all have the name spelled ‘Muehl.’” The Wisconsin State Cartographer noted that in the late 1980s the land was transferred by the Muehl family to the Nature Conservancy and that the only source he could find that showed “Mehle” was the USGS map. The numerous online references to Mehles Springs appear to derive from the GNIS entry.

The Town of Rhine was asked by the Wisconsin Geographic Names Council (WGNC) and by the BGN staff to comment on the proposal but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The Sheboygan County Board of Supervisors and the WGNC recommend approval of the change.

A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the Forest County Potawatomi Community, the Hannahville Indian Community, and the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation, all of which are federally recognized. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

IV. Revised Decisions - none

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Horseshoe Lake, Illinois (Review List 419)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=41.9899356&p_longi=-88.4202653

The name Horseshoe Lake is proposed to be made official for a 2.6-acre reservoir on property owned by the proponent. The feature was built sometime after 1964 by the proponent’s late husband, who she claims always referred to it as Horseshoe Lake because of its shape.

The Kane County Board of Commissioners was asked to comment on the name, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The Illinois State Board on Geographic Names recommends approval of the name.

A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the Forest County Potawatomi Community, the Hannahville Indian Community, and the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation, all of which are federally recognized. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

Mount Scorpion, Nevada
(Bureau of Land Management)
(Review List 417)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=35.958681&p_longi=-114.9432133

This 4,090-foot unnamed summit is proposed to be named Mount Scorpion. It is the northeasternmost of four prominent summits on Black Hill. According to the proponents, who are the Vice President of Community Engagement and the Executive Assistant of Nevada State College, students and faculty of the college began hiking to the peak in 2008. This challenging activity has developed into a tradition, “which has become incorporated into the student-led traditions and spirit of Nevada State College.” The students began referring to the peak as Mount Scorpion, in reference to the school’s mascot. The proponents state, “Climbing to the peak symbolizes our upward progress and mobility as we climb toward success as individuals, as an institution and as a community.”

The President of Nevada State College has submitted a letter of support for the name, noting that the name has no commercial implications and that there are no trademark or copyright issues related to the use of the name. As part of its research, the Nevada Board on Geographic Names (NVBGN) contacted the Clark County Board of Commissioners for its opinion; no response was received which the NVBGN presumes to indicate consent for the new name. Additional letters of support were received from U.S. Congressman Joe Heck and from an attorney who represents the college’s interests in Washington, D.C. The NVBGN and the Bureau of Land Management recommend approval of the name.

A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Colorado River Indian Tribes of the Colorado River Indian Reservation, Arizona and California, the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe of Arizona, California and Nevada; the Hualapai Indian Tribe of the Hualapai Indian Reservation; the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians of the Kaibab Indian Reservation; the Las Vegas Tribe of Paiute Indians of the Las Vegas Indian Colony; the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians of the Moapa River Indian Reservation; and the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, all of which are federally recognized. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

Penland Creek, North Carolina
(Review List 419)

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=35.58732&p_longi=-82.57066

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=35.57791&p_longi=-82.57794

The new name Penland Creek is proposed for a 0.8-mile long tributary of the French Broad River in West Asheville. The stream flows through the site of the former Penland Auction House, which opened in the late 1950s. According to the proponent, “Penland Auction House was a legend in the Asheville area,” hosting weekly auctions until 2013, when it moved to a new location. The site was also the former location of the Western North Carolina Livestock Market. In late 2015, the New Belgium Brewing Company will open a new brewery at the site and plans to improve the quality of the currently unnamed stream.

RiverLink, an Asheville-based non-profit focused on conserving the French Broad River drainage basin, sponsored a contest to name the stream. Final candidate names also included “Brewer’s Creek” after the brewery currently under construction at the site and “Trippel Creek” after one of the brewery’s notable beers. Support from the Asheville City Council for the name Penland Creek was provided with the proposal. The Buncombe County Board of Commissioners also submitted a letter of support for the name, and the North Carolina Board on Geographic Names recommends approval as well. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina, which is federally recognized. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

GNIS lists nine features in North Carolina that contain “Penland” in their official names; none are in Buncombe County. A stream, Penland Branch, is located approximately 80 miles to the southwest.

Twelve Stones Creek, Tennessee

(Review List 419)

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=36.094941&p_longi=-86.793938

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=36.090937&p_longi=-86.80359

The new name Twelve Stones Creek is proposed for an unnamed 0.6-mile-long stream in southern Nashville. According to the proponent, the stream begins on the grounds of the Lipscomb Academy elementary school. Students from the school chose the name as part of their work with Lipscomb University and the Academy’s S.T.R.E.A.M. project (Students Taking Responsible Environmentally Active Measures), “an environmental restoration and education project.” The name is a reference to a practice in ancient Israel of erecting twelve stones (one for each of the twelve tribes) to mark locations of spectacular religious events or locations. The name has no specific significance to the feature; the proponent reports that it was selected as a “generic reference.”

The Director of the Nashville Division of Water Services and the Mayor of the City of Nashville and Davidson County both recommend approval of the name Twelve Stones Creek. The Tennessee Geographic Names Committee also supports the proposal. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina, which is federally recognized. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

Freeport Ridge and Padre Island Ridges, Texas

(Review List 420)

These are two of 135 names proposed for undersea features in the Gulf of Mexico by a professor emeritus at Texas A&M University. The proposals were submitted to the BGN’s Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF). Two of the features, proposed as Freeport Ridge and Padre Island Ridges, are located within the 12 nautical mile territorial sea of the United States, and as such, are also subject to review by the Domestic Names Committee (DNC).

Sixty-five of the names, specifically those which are not intended to be commemorative and which includes Freeport Ridge and Padre Island Ridges, were recommended for approval by ACUF. Sixty-three of those names are for features beyond the limit of the territorial sea and were recently approved by the BGN. (The remaining 70 commemorative names are undergoing further analysis and will be presented to

the BGN at a later date. None of these 70 names are within the jurisdiction of the Domestic Names Committee).

In addition to lying within the 12 nautical mile limit, significant portions of the ridges proposed to be named Freeport Ridge and Padre Island Ridges lie within 9 nautical miles and so are also within the jurisdiction of the State of Texas. The Texas State Names Committee concurs with ACUF and recommends approval of the names. The proposals also have the support of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, both of which have representatives on ACUF.

Freeport Ridge, Texas

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=28.66667&p_longi=-95.38333

The new name Freeport Ridge is proposed for a small offshore ridge south of the City of Freeport. The ridge was discovered and measured in 1980. It trends northeast to southwest, has a length of approximately 12 miles, a width of approximately 5 miles, and a depth below sea level of 53 to 79 feet.

Padre Island Ridges, Texas

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=26.33333&p_longi=-97.11667

The new name Padre Island Ridges is proposed for a series of small offshore ridges east of the southern section of Padre Island. They were discovered and measured in 1939. They trend north to south, have lengths between nine and 17 miles, and a depth below sea level of 43 to 98 feet.