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

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

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

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

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

Effective immediately, the horizontal datum used for geographic coordinates in all Domestic Geographic Names publications is the North American Datum of 1983. The datum of some geographic coordinates from historical maps may still be the NAD27.

Comments on the name proposals may be sent to: Mr. Lou Yost, Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names/Domestic Names Committee, 523 National Center, Reston, VA 20192-0523; telephone (703) 648-4552; fax (703) 648-4549; e-mail BGNEXEC@usgs.gov.

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

ALASKA

Lake Ahkivgak: lake; 472 acres; located 22 miles SE of Deadhorse, between the Shaviovik River and the Kadleroshik River; the name honors Jennie Ahkivgak (1935-2012), the grandmother of one of 12 owners of the only Native allotment bordering the feature; North Slope Borough, Alaska; Sec 21, T8N, R18E, Umiat Meridian; 70°01’37”N, 147°39’16”W; USGS map – Beechey Point A-2 1:63,360.


Proposal: new commemorative name for an unnamed feature
Map: USGS Beechey Point A-2 1:63,360
Proponent: Elizabeth Ahkivgak; Anchorage, AK
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
  GNIS: No record
  Local Usage: None found
  Published: None found

Case Summary: This proposal, submitted to the BGN by the Alaska Board on Geographic Names (AKBGN), is to apply the new commemorative name Lake Ahkivgak to an unnamed 472-acre lake west of the Shaviovik River, in the North Slope Borough. The name would commemorate Jennie Ahkivgak (1935-2012), the proponent’s grandmother. The proponent is one of twelve Alaska Natives who own allotments that border the lake. The remainder of the property the lake is owned by the State of Alaska. According to the proponent, her grandmother “grew up there and lived a subsistence lifestyle.” The AKBGN requested additional biographical details but none was received and the proponent responded that she did not wish for the proposal to be considered as a commemorative name. After receiving no comments from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources/Division of Mining, Land, and Water, the North Slope Borough government, the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, the Alaska Native Language Center, or The Alaska Dispatch News, the AK BGN voted to recommend approval of the name.

CALIFORNIA

Breadloaf Peak: summit; elevation 6,902 ft.; in Sequoia National Forest, 4 mi. ENE of Sugarloaf Peak, 1.6 mi. E of Bull Run Peak; named for the shape of the mountain; Secs 20&17, T24S, R32E, Mount Diablo Meridian; Tulare County, California; 35°49’51”N, 118°32’54”W; USGS map – Tobias Peak 1:24,000.


Proposal: new descriptive name for an unnamed feature
Map: USGS Tobias Peak 1:24,000
Proponent: Emma Pauly-Hubbard; Madison, WI
Administrative area: Sequoia National Forest
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
  GNIS: No record
  Local Usage: None found
  Published: None found

Case Summary: The new name Breadloaf Peak is proposed for a 6,902-foot unnamed summit in Sequoia National Forest in southern Tulare County. The proponent states that the summit is somewhat loaf-shaped. She notes that she worked as a seasonal employee for the U.S. Forest Service in 2016 and 2017 and that the nearby Sugarloaf Peak (four miles to the west) inspired the
proposed name for the unnamed summit. There are a few communities and administrative features near Sugarloaf Peak that are named in association with it. GNIS does not list any geographic features in California that include “Bread” in their names.

*** Note: the following proposal was amended from **Da-ek Dow Go-et Peak** to **Da-ek Dow Go-et Mountain**

**Change Jeff Davis Peak to Da-ek Dow Go-et Mountain:** summit; elevation 9,025 ft.; in Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest/Mokelumne Wilderness, 1 mi. NW of Border Ruffian Flat, 1.7 mi. S of Markleeville Peak; the name is Washoe for “saddle between points”; Sec 16, T9N, R19E, Mount Diablo Meridian; Alpine County, California; 38°38’12”N, 119°53’48”W; USGS map – Carson Pass 1:24,000; Not: Jeff Davis Peak, Sentinel Rock.


Proposal: to change name considered offensive and to recognize a native name
Map: USGS Carson Pass 1:24,000
Proponent: Hung-A-Lel-Ti Woodfords Washo Community; Woodfords, CA
Administrative area: Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest/Mokelumne Wilderness
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Jeff Davis Peak (FID 261917)
Local Usage: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Jeff Davis Peak, located in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and Mokelumne Wilderness in Alpine County, to Da-ek Dow Go-et Mountain. The name reportedly means “saddle between points” in Washo and describes the overall shape of the area around the summit.

Section of the 1992 USGS Carson Pass 1:24,000 quadrangle
A proposal to change the name of the summit to Fred Bee Peak was submitted previously and included on Review List 429. When asked to comment on the proposal, the Alpine County Board of Commissioners consulted with the Hung-A-Lel-Ti Woodfords Washo Community (listed with the Bureau of Indian Affairs as the Woodfords Community Ranch, a constituent band of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California). The community informed the county commissioners that a respected tribal elder had provided the name Da-ek Dow Go-et and asked for the name to be changed to the Washoe name (the Woodfords Washo Community agreed later to add the generic “Peak”); after additional research, it was further amended to “Mountain”. The name Sentinel Rock is proposed for the highest point atop the summit; see Review List 435). The county commissioners submitted the proposal to the BGN on behalf of the Hung-A-Lel-Ti Woodfords Washo Community.

When informed of the counterproposal, the proponent of Fred Bee Peak withdrew his proposal.

The name Jeff Davis Peak first appeared on USGS topographic maps in 1889. A map published in 1883 in Wheeler’s Topographical Atlas applied the name Sentinel Rock to the summit.

Erwin G. Gudde’s 1998 edition of California Place Names reported that although the name Jeff Davis Peak was unrecorded until the USGS map of 1889, “[it] may have been in use locally [before then], as many of the inhabitants of nearby Summit City (now abandoned) were Confederate sympathizers during the Civil War.”

In addition to the summit, a stream that flows on the east side of the summit is named Jeff Davis Creek; this name was the subject of a 1979 BGN decision. A dam and a mine that have names including “Jeff Davis” are approximately 40 miles to the southwest of the summit. The only proposal that the BGN has received is to change the name of the summit.

Change Confederate Corners to Springtown: populated place (unincorporated); located 2.4 miles SSW of Salinas; the name was given to the site in the 1850s or 1860s; Nacional Land Grant; Monterey County, California; 36°38′41″N, 121°39′52″W; USGS map – Salinas 1:24,000; Not: Confederate Corners, Spring Town.

Proposal: to change a name considered to be inappropriate
Map: USGS Salinas 1:24,000
Proponent: Monterey County Board of Supervisors; Salinas, CA
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Confederate Corners (FID 221451)
Local Usage: None found
Published: Confederate Corners (USGS 1910, 1912, 1940, 1947, 1983, 2012, 2015; Official Map of Monterey County California, Hare, 1898; Monterey County Place Names, Clark, 1991; San Francisco Chronicle, 2017); Spring Town (Monterey County Place Names, Clark, 1991; California’s Geographic Names Durham, 1998); Springtown (Hand-Book and Directory of the Pacific Coast, 3rd issue, Paulsen, 1975; Monterey County Place Names, Clark, 1991; California’s Geographic Names, Durham, 1998)
Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Confederate Corners, a small unincorporated community located southwest of Salinas in Monterey County, to Springtown. It is a counter-proposal submitted by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors in response to the earlier Campesino Corners proposal (BGN Review List 429).
The name Confederate Corners was first used in the 1860s after Southerners and Confederate sympathizers settled in the area. According to Monterey County Place Names (Clark, 1991) and California’s Geographic Names (Durham, 1998), the community was also known as Spring Town or Springtown, in honor of early settlers from San Francisco named Francis S. and John H. Spring. It is not clear whether either of the latter names were used before the 1860s; the name Springtown first appears in The Hand-Book and Directory of the Pacific Coast (Paulsen, 1875). The adjacent Spring School appeared on USGS topographic maps beginning in 1910. Confederate Corners was first labeled on USGS maps in 1910.

Articles published in August 2017 in The Mercury News and the San Francisco Chronicle entitled, respectively, “Confederate Corners in Salinas embattled again amid Trump’s preservation call” and “Residents of Confederate Corners near Salinas say the name is history,” note that many local residents, including a Salinas City Council member, were unaware that the community was named Confederate Corners. The articles also note that it was the inspiration for the fictional town of “Rebel Corners” in John Steinbeck’s novel The Wayward Bus. Because of the Steinbeck connection, one resident stated, “Out-of-towners know better about this place than the people who live here.” Another added, “I heard the name used many years ago, maybe sometime in the ’50s. As time goes by, you forget stuff.” The name does appear on Google Maps.

The proposal to change the name to Campesino Corners was submitted by a resident of Stanford, in an effort to “reflect the backbone of the multi-billion agricultural industry of the Salinas Valley: the ‘campesinos,’ or ‘farmworkers’; [it] symbolizes the hardworking people of Salinas.” After some discussion, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors agreed that the current name should be changed but recommended that the historic name be applied instead. The proponent of Campesino Corners does not wish to withdraw his proposal. GNIS does not list any other features in California named “Springtown.”

**Change Digger Bay to Wintu Bay:** bay; in Shasta-Trinity National Forest, 1.3 mi. SW of Bass Mountain; the name refers to the Wintu people; Shasta County, California; Secs 12&13, T33N, R5W, Mount Diablo Meridian; 40°43′33″N, 122°23′25″W; USGS map – Shasta Dam 1:24,000; Not: Digger Bay
  Proposal: to change a name considered offensive and to recognize a native name
  Map: USGS Shasta Dam 1:24,000
  Proponent: Wade McMaster; Shasta Lake, CA
  Administrative area: Shasta-Trinity National Forest
  Previous BGN Action: None
  Names associated with feature:
  GNIS: Digger Bay (FID 222371)
  Local Usage: Wintu Bay (proponent, 70 years)
  Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Digger Bay, located in Shasta-Trinity National Forest and Shasta County, to Wintu Bay. A second proposal would change the name of Digger Creek, which flows into the bay.

The proponent, who is chair of the Wintu Tribe of Northern California (not federally recognized but recognized by the State of California), states that the existing name is offensive to the Wintu people and “since the word ‘digger’ was originally used to refer to them, it seems only fitting that the more appropriate word ‘Wintu’ be used in its place.” He notes also that the bay lies within the Wintu
Tribe’s ancestral territory and that the Wintu People have referred to it as Wintu Bay for the last 70 years. Digger Bay was first labeled on USGS topographic maps in 1956.

According to the proponent, the word “digger” was used to refer to the Wintu people who “often used digging tools and dug for roots, bulbs & insects.” Furthermore, “Tribal belief is that it was used because it cleverly rhymed with another derogatory term that was used during this time.”

Early American settlers in the west encountered Paiute tribes in the harsh Great Basin who depended on roots for much of their food. The term “digger” was applied derisively to these tribes but later became most associated with a number of distinct tribes in eastern and northern California (including the Wintu) who also included roots in their diet. One anthropologist argues that the “digger” stereotype and the associated violence against California Indians originated with unsuccessful prospectors who took out their frustrations on the native population.

GNIS also lists Digger Bay Marina, a locale adjacent to Digger Bay.

Change Digger Creek to Wintu Creek: stream; approx. 1 mi. long; heads in Shasta-Trinity National Forest at 40°43’48”N, 122°22’13”W, flows WSW to enter Digger Bay (proposed to be changed to Wintu Bay) 1 mi. SW of Bass Mountain; the name refers to the Wintu people; Shasta County, California; Sec 12, T33N, R5W & Sec 7, T33N, R4W, Mount Diablo Meridian; 40°43’32”N, 122°23’08”W; USGS map – Shasta Dam 1:24,000 (mouth); Not: Digger Creek https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=40.7254275&p_longi=-122.3855651&fid=222380
Proposal: to change a name considered offensive and to recognize a native name
Map: USGS Shasta Dam 1:24,000 (mouth)
Proponent: Wade McMaster; Shasta Lake, CA
Administrative area: Shasta-Trinity National Forest
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Digger Creek (FID 222380)
Local Usage: Wintu Creek (proponent)
Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Digger Creek in Shasta-Trinity National Forest and Shasta County to Wintu Creek. The stream is one mile long and flows into Digger Bay (proposed Wintu Bay). Like the bay, the stream lies within the ancestral territory the Wintu Tribe of Northern California. Digger Creek was first labeled on USGS maps in 1944.

FLORIDA

Emmas Pond: lake; 1.5 acres; 0.4 mi. W of Lake Steer, 0.5 mi. SW of Lake Rose; named for Emma Katherina Frederika Wilkening (1872-1955), who resided in the area for several decades; Sec. 33, T22S, R28E, Tallahassee Meridian; Orange County, Florida; 28°31’46”N, 81°30’34”W; USGS map – Winter Garden 1:24,000.
Proposal: new commemorative name for an unnamed feature
Map: USGS Winter Garden 1:24,000
Proponent: Kathleen Emma Klare; Windermere, FL
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: No record
Local Usage: None found
Published: None found

Case Summary: This proposal would apply the new name Emmas Pond to a small lake west of Orlando near Gotha. The name would commemorate Emma Katherina Frederika Wilkening (1872-1955), the proponent’s grandmother. According to the proponent, her grandparents Emma and Henry moved to Gotha in 1911. Henry helped construct the town’s first sidewalks and water system. They purchased the property which contains the lake around 1920. The proponent states that her grandfather is well-recognized in the history of Gotha and wishes to recognize her grandmother’s role as well.

GNIS lists two lakes with the name Lake Emma within 25 miles of the proposed Emmas Pond, although neither is in Orange County; it is unclear for whom these lakes were named.

GEORGIA

Wolfpack Creek: stream; 1 mi. long; heads in the City of Decatur 1.8 mi. SE of Candler Lake at 33°46’31”N, 84°18’12”W, flows NW, W, and SW into Peavine Creek 1.3 mi E of the Druid Hills neighborhood; named for the wolf mascot of a nearby elementary school and the idea of working as a team; DeKalb County, Georgia; 33°46’55”N, 84°18’43”W; USGS map – Northeast Atlanta 1:24,000 Not: Peavine Creek Tributary.
Proposal: new name for an unnamed feature
Map: USGS Northeast Atlanta 1:24,000
Proponent: Steven Blackburn; Decatur, GA
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: No record
Local Usage: None found
Published: Peavine Creek Tributary (FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map 2013; DeKalb County GIS, 2017)

Case Summary: This proposal would apply the new name Wolfpack Creek to a one-mile-long tributary of Peavine Creek in Decatur in DeKalb County. The name refers to the wolf mascot of Westchester Elementary School, which is located along the stream, and the idea of working together as a team or “pack.” The name was chosen by third grade students who study the stream, conduct trash clean-ups in the stream valley, and monitor the stream’s water quality.

The proponent provided letters of support from the school principal, the superintendent of Decatur’s schools, the “Third Grade Westchester Wolves,” and one student.

The stream is labeled Peavine Creek Tributary by the DeKalb County GIS department. This name comes from a 2013 FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map of the area.

A query of GNIS found three streams within 25 miles of the proposed Wolfpack Creek that have the name Wolf Creek. There are no nearby features with names that include “pack.”

IOWA

Lake Lavon: reservoir; 1 acre; located 2.3 mi. ESE of the community of Cou Falls, 2.7 mi. SE of
Shueyville; named for Lavon Lake (locally called Lake Lavon) in Collin County, Texas; Sec 23, T81N, R7W, Fifth Principal Meridian; Johnson County, Iowa; 41°48′48″N, 91°37′41″W; USGS map – Swisher 1:24,000.


Proposal: new name for an unnamed feature
Map: USGS Swisher 1:24,000
Proponent: Ken Kuhlman; Solon, IA
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: No record
Local Usage: None found
Published: None found

Case Summary: The new name Lake Lavon is proposed for a one-acre reservoir in the Twin Valley Lakes subdivision in Johnson County. The proponent states that the name comes from “Lake Lavon,” a noted fishing location northeast of Dallas, Texas. This reservoir is recorded in GNIS as Lavon Lake, which was a 1971 BGN decision. Lavon Lake is locally known as Lake Lavon, and is named for the nearby town of Lavon.

A query of GNIS found no nearby features with names including “Lavon.”

MARYLAND

Baynes Cove: bay; 450 ft. by 120 ft.; located at the head of Seneca Creek, 1 mi. S of the community of Bowleys Quarters; the name commemorates Robert Baynes (-2012), a lifetime resident whose family owned property at the cove; Baltimore County, Maryland; 39°19′02″N, 76°23′12″W; USGS map – Middle River 1:24,000.


Proposal: to make official a commemorative name in local use
Map: USGS Middle River 1:24,000
Proponent: Stephanie Baynes; Middle River, MD
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: No record
Local Usage: Baynes Cove (proponent and family)
Published: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to make official name Baynes Cove for a small bay at the head of Seneca Creek in Baltimore County. The proponent reports that the name would commemorate her grandfather Robert Baynes (1928-2012), a lifetime resident of Baltimore County who a local florist business and whose family owned property at the cove. She adds that the cove contains a pier and boat ramp that the owners have dredged and kept open for public use for 59 years.

Bear Town: area; approx. 0.25 acres; on the SW side of Upper Ford Hill 1.2 mi. NE of Hoyes Run; the name is descriptive of suitable bear hibernation habitat; Garrett County, Maryland; 39°32′40″N, 79°24′16″W; USGS map – Sang Run 1:24,000.


Proposal: new name for an unnamed feature
Map: USGS Sang Run 1:24,000
Proponent: Toby Turpin; Silver Spring, MD
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: No record
Local Usage: None found
Published: None found
Case Summary: This is the first of eight proposals submitted by an individual who owns property in the vicinity of Sang Run in Garrett County. The new name Bear Town is proposed for a 0.25-acre area of boulders on the southwest side of Upper Ford Hill in Garrett. He states the name describes the suitable habitat among the boulders for hibernating bears. The area contains at least two talus caves, which are spaces formed by large collapsed or leaning boulders.

A query of GNIS found several nearby features with “Bear” in their names, including Bear Creek 8.6 miles to the north, Bear Pen Run 17 miles to the east, and Bear Hill 20 miles to the northeast. A pillar with the name Bear Rocks is located 33 miles to the south-southwest in Grant County, West Virginia.

Change application of Emmord Branch: stream; 1.8 mi. long; heads 1 mi. W of Edgewood, 1.3 mi. SSW of McComas at 39°25’09”N, 76°18’44”W, flows SW through Aberdeen Proving Ground into Reardon Inlet; named for past landowners and farmers; Harford County, Maryland; 39°23’59”N, 76°19’42”W; USGS map – Edgewood 1:24,000; Not: Reardon Inlet.
Proposal: to change the application of a name
Map: USGS Edgewood 1:24,000
Proponent: BGN staff
Administrative area: Aberdeen Proving Ground
Previous BGN Action: Emmord Branch (BGN 1987)
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Emmord Branch (FID 588407)
Local Usage: None found
Published: Emmord Branch (USGS 2011); Reardon Inlet (USGS 2014, 2016; FEMA 2016)
Case Summary: This proposal would amend the application of the name Emmord Branch for a stream in Harford County. The name was approved by the BGN in 1987, but it is currently applied to the stream that flows through Reardon Inlet (a tidal bay) and into the Gunpowder River. The proposed change, which was initiated by the BGN staff as a result of an inquiry from the Harford County Department of Public Works, would move the mouth coordinates upstream to where it enters the north end of Reardon Inlet. Part of the stream flows through Aberdeen Proving Ground.

The 1987 proposal was submitted by the Chief Geographer of the National Ocean Service, who stated that the name Emmord Branch was in local use. It reportedly refers to a family that owned a farm adjacent to the stream.

The name Emmord Branch is labeled on a 2011 USTopo quadrangle; however, updated editions from 2014 and 2016 apply the name Reardon Inlet to the entire stream (based on an erroneous National Hydrography Dataset application), as does a 2016 FEMA map.

Ginseng Rock Shelter: pillar; approx. 15 ft. high, 25 ft. wide; N of Steep Run on the S slope of Ginseng Hill 1.2 mi. SE of Sang Run; name is associated with Ginseng Hill; Garrett County, Maryland; 39°33’28”N, 79°24’16”W; USGS map – Sang Run 1:24,000.
Proposal: new name for an unnamed feature
Case Summary: The new name **Ginseng Rock Shelter** is proposal for a pillar on the south slopes of Ginseng Hill.

A query of GNIS found four features with “rock shelter” as a generic. These are classified as locales based on archaeological evidence documenting historic or prehistoric human use. There is no evidence that the proposed **Ginseng Rock Shelter** was used by humans.

**Ginseng Spring**  
A spring; located N of Steep Run on the S slope of Ginseng Hill, 1.1 mi. SE of Sang Run; the name is associated with Ginseng Hill; Garrett County, Maryland; 39°33’27” N, 79°24’21” W; USGS map – Sang Run 1:24,000.


Proposal: new name for an unnamed feature  
Map: USGS Sang Run 1:24,000  
Proponent: Toby Turpin; Silver Spring, MD  
Administrative area: None  
Previous BGN Action: None  
Names associated with feature:  
GNIS: No record  
Local Usage: None found  
Published: None found

Case Summary: The new name **Ginseng Spring** is proposed for a spring on the south slopes of Ginseng Hill. Water from the spring flows over the proposed Sinking Falls (q.v.). The proponent calls the spring **Wayne’s Spring** after a former local resident but does not know if the individual is still alive. When informed of the Commemorative Names Policy, he offered the name **Ginseng Spring**. A short road located less than a mile to the northeast and on the north side of Ginseng Hill and along an unnamed tributary of Ginseng Run is called Ginseng Springs Road.

**Lower Steep Run Cave**  
A cave; 25 ft. long, 10 ft. vertical extent; near the confluence of Steep Run and the Youghiogheny River; so named because it is connected to Steep Run Cave; Garrett County, Maryland; 39°33’24” N, 79°24’26” W; USGS map – Sang Run 1:24,000.


Proposal: new name for unnamed feature  
Map: USGS Sang Run 1:24,000  
Proponent: Toby Turpin; Silver Spring, MD  
Administrative area: Youghiogheny Scenic & Wild River (Maryland DNR)  
Previous BGN Action: None  
Names associated with feature:  
GNIS: No record  
Local Usage: None found  
Published: Lower Steep Run Cave (Maryland Geological Survey website, 2017)

Case Summary: This proposal would apply the new name **Lower Steep Run Cave** to a cave near the confluence of Steep Run and the Youghiogheny River in Garrett County. The proponent owns the land on which the cave is located. The cave is 25 feet long and has 10 feet of vertical extent.
In 2006, members of Baltimore Grotto (a caving club) discovered the cave while surveying the nearby Steep Run Cave. The proponent reports that while cavers were in each cave, they could hear each other but not find any visible connections.

**Sandstone Natural Bridge:** arch; approx. 15 ft. high; on the W side of Upper Ford Hill 1.3 mi. NE of Hoyes Run; the name is descriptive of the rock forming the arch; Garrett County, Maryland; 39°32'46"N, 79°24'15"W; USGS map – Sang Run 1:24,000.  
Proposal: new name for an unnamed feature  
Map: USGS Sang Run 1:24,000  
Proponent: Toby Turpin; Silver Spring, MD  
Administrative area: None  
Previous BGN Action: None  
Names associated with feature:  
GNIS: No record  
Local Usage: None found  
Published: None found  
Case Summary: The new name Sandstone Natural Bridge is proposed for a 15-foot-high arch on the west side of Upper Ford Hill. The arch is formed in sandstone of the Pottsville Formation which was deposited in the Pennsylvania Period.

**Sheep Rock:** pillar; approx. 30 ft. high; on the E side of Upper Ford Hill 1.5 mi. NEE of Hoyes Run; Garrett County, Maryland; 39°32'49"N, 79°23'57"W; USGS map – Sang Run 1:24,000.  
Proposal: to make official a name in local use  
Map: USGS Sang Run 1:24,000  
Proponent: Toby Turpin; Silver Spring, MD  
Administrative area: None  
Previous BGN Action: None  
Names associated with feature:  
GNIS: No record  
Local Usage: Sheep Rock (80 years, according to proponent)  
Published: None found  
Case Summary: This proposal is to make official the name Sheep Rock for a 30-foot-high pillar on the east side of Upper Ford Hill. The proponent owns the land on which the pillar is located. He reports that local residents claim the name Sheep Rock has been in use for about 80 years and that “apparently it reminded [them] of good goat habitat, hence the name.” A query of GNIS found no nearby features with “Sheep” in their names.

**Sinking Falls:** falls; approx. 10 ft. high; on the N side of Steep Run, 1.1 mi. SE of Sang Run; the name is descriptive of the falls where water sinks underground; Garrett County, Maryland; 39°33'25"N, 79°24'25"W; USGS map – Sang Run 1:24,000.  
Proposal: new name for an unnamed feature  
Map: USGS Sang Run 1:24,000  
Proponent: Toby Turpin; Silver Spring, MD  
Administrative area: None  
Previous BGN Action: None  
Names associated with feature:  
GNIS: No record
Local Usage: None found
Published: None found

Case Summary: The new name Sinking Falls is proposed for a 10-foot-high falls north of Steep Run and east of its mouth at the Youghiogheny River. Water that flows over the falls sinks underground at its base. According to the proponent, water from the proposed Steep Run Spring (q.v.) does not flow over the falls. The falls is on an unnamed stream that flows out of a spring proposed as Ginseng Spring (q.v.).

Steep Run Spring: spring; on the N side of Steep Run, 1.1 mi. SE of Sang Run; the name is associated with Steep Run; Garrett County, Maryland; 39°33′24″N, 79°24′27″W; USGS map – Sang Run 1:24,000.
Proposal: new name for an unnamed feature
Map: USGS Sang Run 1:24,000
Proponent: Toby Turpin; Silver Spring, MD
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: No record
Local Usage: None found
Published: None found

Case Summary: The new name Steep Run Spring is proposed for a spring north of Steep Run and east of its mouth at the Youghiogheny River. According to the proponent, water that flows over the proposed Sinking Falls (q.v.) does not come from this spring.

Massachusetts

Marys Brook: stream; approx. 0.9 mi. long; in the Town of Acton, heads at 42°28′57″N, 71°26′06″W, flows generally S to enter Coles Brook 0.9 mi. E of Kelly Corner; the name commemorates Mary S. Michelman (1960-2010), environmental activist and founder of the Acton Stream Teams; Middlesex County, Massachusetts; 42°28′21″N, 71°26′11″W; USGS map – Maynard 1:24,000; Not: Mary’s Brook.
Mouth: https://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=42.47243&p_longi=-71.4364
Source: https://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=42.48256&p_longi=-71.4349
Proposal: to make official a new commemorative name for an unnamed feature
Map: USGS Maynard 1:24,000
Proponent: Bettina Abe; Acton, MA
Administrative area: Acton Arboretum
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: No record
Local Usage: Mary’s Brook (proponent and locals)
Published: Mary’s Brook (Acton Arboretum website, 2017; Acton GIS Viewer Map, 2011; road sign; The Beacon, 2012)

Case Summary: This proposal is to make official the commemorative name Marys Brook for an approximately 0.9-mile-long unnamed tributary of Coles Brook in the Town of Acton. The stream flows through the Acton Arboretum public conservation land.

The name would commemorate Mary S. Michelman (1960-2010), environmental activist and founder of the Acton Stream Teams. The proponent states that Ms. Michelman “assiduously worked to keep Acton’s drinking water clean and raise awareness of our streams and rivers and to keep them
free from pollution”. She received a posthumous Environmental Merit Lifetime Achievement Award from the EPA, and was praised as “a pioneer of environmental force in the Town of Acton” by the chair of the Town’s Board of Selectmen. In 2012, the selectmen voted in favor of naming the stream Mary’s Brook. A bronze plaque was placed on the handrail of the bridge spanning the stream in the arboretum, and metal signs were placed along Minot Avenue identifying the stream’s location. Local maps were also updated to reflect the new name. The proponent contacted the BGN in 2011 about making the name official but was advised of the five-year waiting period for commemorative names.

**MONTANA**

**Shirley Mountain**: summit; elevation 4,649 ft.; located 6.9 mi. WSW of Lincoln, 0.85 mi. WSW of Long Point; the name honors Shirley Jo (Lewis) Feeback (1928-2010), who spent her summers at the summit; Powell County, Montana; Sec 25, T14N, R10W, Montana Principal Meridian; 46°56’33”N, 112°48’21”W; USGS map – Moose Creek 1:24,000.


Proposal: to make official a commemorative name in local use

Map: USGS Moose Creek 1:24,000

Proponent: Derek Feeback; Libby, MT

Administrative area: None

Previous BGN Action: None

Names associated with feature:

GNIS: No record

Local Usage: Shirley Mountain (proponent)

Published: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to make official the name Shirley Mountain for a 4,649-foot unnamed summit located west-southwest of Lincoln in Powell County. The name would commemorate Shirley Jo (Lewis) Feeback (1928-2010), the proponent’s late mother. The proponent describes Mrs. Feeback as a life-long educator and “the foundation of our family with her strong will and passion” and also “a positive influence for her many friends and students.” He also states that she spent her summers at the summit, where she picked flowers and berries while enjoying the view of Blackfoot River valley, and that the family has referred to the summit as Shirley Mountain for 60 years. In 2010, Mrs. Feeback’s ashes were scattered at the feature and a memorial headstone honoring her life is now located at the summit. Mrs. Feeback was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and lived in Missouri and Texas for much of her life. The land is currently owned by the husband of the late Mrs. Feeback.

GNIS lists another summit named Shirley Mountain in Ravalli County, approximately 90 miles to the southwest.

**NEVADA**

**Engeler Peak**: summit; elevation 8,485 ft.; located 12 mi. SE of Denio, 1.2 mi. SSE of Trident Peak; the name commemorates Otto (1924-1978) and Elizabeth (1927-1994) Engeler who settled in the area in the 1950s; Humboldt County, Nevada; Sec 8, T46N, R32E, Mount Diablo Meridian; 41°53’11”N, 118°24’36”W; USGS map – Trident Peak 1:24,000; Not: Bilk Creek Mountains High Point, Bilk Creek Mountains HP.


Proposal: new commemorative name for an unnamed feature

Map: USGS Trident Peak 1:24,000

Proponent: Connie Marie Engeler; Glenwood Springs, CO
Previous BGN Action: None
Administrative area: Bureau of Land Management
Names associated with feature:
  GNIS: No record
  Local Usage: None found
Published: Bilk Creek Mountains High Point (peakbagger website, 2017); Bilk Creek Mountains HP (summitpost website, 2017)

Case Summary: This proposal is to apply the new name Engeler Peak to an 8,485-foot unnamed summit in the Bilk Creek Mountains southeast of Denio in Humboldt County. The area is managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

The name is intended to commemorate Otto (1924-1978) and Elizabeth (1927-1994) Engeler, Swiss immigrants who in the late 1950s settled in the Kings River Valley, approximately 28 miles southeast of the summit, where they cultivated land for a farming operation. The Engelers drilled wells, designed and utilized efficient farming equipment, and implemented dry-crop farming techniques and an irrigation system that turned the desert land into arable crop land. The proponent, who is the daughter of the Engelers, states that Mrs. Engeler also established the first Literary Club in the valley and that she was “instrumental in inspiring our family outings.” The proposal also included a letter that the Governor of Nevada had presented to the Engelers praising them for their work.

The summit is officially unnamed although it is referred to as Bilk Creek Mountains High Point and Bilk Creek Mountains HP on the peakbagger and summitpost websites.

The NSBGN forwarded the proposal to the Humboldt County Commissioners, but no response was received, which is presumed to imply a lack of opinion. The NBGN recommends approval of the name.

George Ridge: ridge; elevation 4,893 ft.; 0.6 mi. long; on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, in the Bunejug Mountains, extending S from an unnamed peak proposed to be named Wheat Peak (q.v.), 1.8 mi. NW of Simpson Pass; the name commemorates Wuzzie George (c.1880-1983), a Stillwater Paiute woman who preserved Paiute customs through her work with Nevada anthropologist Margaret Wheat; Secs 27&28,33&34, T17N, R30E, Mount Diablo Meridian; Churchill County, Nevada; 39°18′04″N, 118°36′41″W; USGS map – Bunejug Mountains 1:24,000.

Proposal: new commemorative name for unnamed feature
Map: Bunejug Mountains, 1:24,000
Proponent: David S. Johnson; Carson City, NV
Administrative area: Bureau of Land Management
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
  GNIS: No record
  Local Usage: None found
Published: None found

Case Summary: This proposal would apply the new commemorative name George Ridge to an unnamed 0.6-mile-long ridge on Bureau of Land Management land in the Bunejug Mountains in Churchill County. The proposal was submitted in conjunction with another for Wheat Peak (q.v.).

The new name would commemorate Wuzzie George (c.1880-1983), a Stillwater Paiute woman who helped preserve and teach Paiute traditional customs and worked closely with Nevada anthropologist Margaret “Peg” Wheat. Wuzzie George (her first name is an anglicization of her Paiute name,
which means “small animal”) grew up near Fallon, approximately 15 miles northwest of the ridge. She learned traditional Paiute ways from her grandparents and married Jimmy George, a craftsman and shaman. Beginning in the 1950s, the Georges worked with Margaret Wheat to document Paiute culture and traditions. Wuzzy demonstrated pine nut harvesting and fur blanket and plant fiber weaving, and the use of willows and reeds to construct houses, boats, duck decoys, and cradleboards. She also taught her knowledge and skills to her children and grandchildren. Many of the items she made are in the Nevada State Museum in Carson City and the Churchill County Museum in Fallon.

The Nevada State Board on Geographic Names (NSBGN) minutes indicate that the proponent served with Peg Wheat and Wuzzy George on a survey team led by Don and Kay Fowler. The proponent stated that the Fowlers were in support of the proposal, but when contacted by the NBGN, the Fowlers stated that the proponent had not contacted them and that they were unfamiliar with the proponent. Furthermore, the Fowlers raised concerns about commemorating George with a placename, stating that they have never encountered a native placename that referenced a person.

During its deliberations, some NSBGN members expressed concerns about the summit being named for Wheat (Wheat Peak, q.v.), with the descending ridge being named for George. They also echoed the Fowlers’ concerns that it is not customary for local tribes to name features after individuals and that a person’s name is put to rest when they die. However, the granddaughter of Wuzzy George attended the NSBGN meeting and provided family support for the name. The Fowlers then stated they would have no objection.

The summit does not have an official name but is referenced as Bunejug Mountains High Point on the Peakbagger website and as Bunejug Mountains HP on Google Earth. The name Bunejug Mountains comes from a mispronunciation of “junebug” by one of Wheat’s daughters in the 1960s.

The NSBGN recommends that the proposal be approved. As part of its review process, the NBGN contacted the Churchill County Commissioners for an opinion; no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion. The NSBGN also contacted the following federally recognized tribes with an interest in Churchill County: the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes of the Fallon Reservation and Colony; the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe of the Pyramid Lake Reservation; the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony; the Walker River Paiute Tribe of the Walker River Reservation; and the Yerington Paiute Tribe of the Yerington Colony and Campbell Ranch. The Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes replied with no objection to the proposal; the Walker River Paiute Tribe replied in support of the proposal. A query of GNIS found no nearby features with names that include “George.”

**Wheat Peak**: summit; elevation 4,896 ft.; on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management; the high point of the Bunejug Mountains 1.8 mi. NW of Simpson Pass, 3 mi. NE of Bass Flat; the name commemorates Margaret “Peg” Wheat (1908-1988), ethnographer, geologist, and anthropologist who recorded the traditional arts and sacred beliefs of the northern Nevada Paiute tribes; Secs 27&28,33&34, T17N, R30E, Mount Diablo Meridian; Churchill County, Nevada; 39°18’04”N, 118°36’41”W; USGS map – Bunejug Mountains 1:24,000; Not: Bunejug Mountains High Point. https://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=39.301028&p_longi=-118.611515

Proposal: new commemorative name for an unnamed feature
Map: USGS Bunejug Mountains 1:24,000
Proponent: David S. Johnson; Carson City, NV
Administrative area: Bureau of Land Management
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: No record  
Local Usage: None found  
Published: Bunejug Mountains High Point (Peakbagger website); Bunejug Mountains HP (Google Earth)

Case Summary: This proposal would apply the new commemorative name Wheat Peak to the unnamed highest point of the Bunejug Mountains in Churchill County, and on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The name would commemorate Margaret “Peg” Wheat (1908-1988), an ethnographer, geologist, and anthropologist who spent her career documenting traditional arts and sacred beliefs of the northern Nevada Paiute tribes. Largely self-taught, Wheat began conducting independent ethnographic studies with Northern Paiute peoples near Stillwater and Fallon. She first worked with Alice Steve, a Paiute woman who was knowledgeable about traditional practices and ways of life. During this time, Wheat collected Paiute place-names.

Beginning in the 1950s, Wheat and graduate students that she mentored began working with Alice Steve’s friend Wuzzie George, who also had knowledge of traditional Paiute ways of life. After Steve’s death in the 1960s, Wheat intensified her documentation of George’s traditional knowledge. (The name George Ridge (q.v.) is proposed for the ridge that descends from the proposed Wheat Peak.)

Wheat’s notes, photographs, recordings, and films became the basis for her 1967 work Survival Arts of the Primitive Paiutes, which is still a well-respected text on the traditions of the Northern Paiute. The 1981 Smithsonian Folklife film Tule Technology: Northern Paiute Uses of Marsh Resources in Western Nevada used some of Wheats footage along with newer footage of members of the George family. Wheat received an honorary Ph.D. from the University of Nevada in 1980.

While renting Wheat’s Carson City home, the proponent came to know her, noting that in addition to her outstanding ethnographic and archaeologic work, she was also a mentor to other women in the sciences.

During its deliberations, some members of the Nevada Board on Geographic Names (NSBGN) expressed concerns about the summit being named for Wheat, with the descending ridge being named for George. However, the NSBGN voted to recommend approval of the name. As part of its review process, the NSBGN contacted the Churchill County Commissioners for an opinion; no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion. The NSBGN contacted the following federally recognized tribes with an interest in Churchill County: 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 Walker River Paiute Tribe of the Walker River Reservation; and the Yerington Paiute Tribe of the Yerington Colony and Campbell Ranch. No replies were received which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion. (The Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes replied with no objection to the George Ridge proposal; the Walker River Paiute Tribe replied in support of the George Ridge proposal.) A query of GNIS found no nearby features with names that include “Wheat.” A query of GNIS found no nearby features with names that include “Wheat.”

**NEW YORK**

Change application of Bog River: stream; 26 mi. long; heads in the Town of Long Lake 0.8 mi. E of Sabattis at 44°05’13”N, 74°34’57”W, flows SW then NW through Lows Lake then generally ENE then NE through the Town of Clifton, the Town of Colton, and the Town of Piercefield into Tupper Lake W of South Bay; the name presumably refers to boggy areas along the stream; St. Lawrence County and Hamilton County, New York; 44°06’30”N, 74°33’11”W; USGS map – Piercefield
Change application of Round Lake Outlet: stream; 2.5 mi.; heads in the Town of Long Lake at Round Lake at 44°05'13"N, 74°34'57"W, flows NE through the Town of Piercefield into the Bog River 1.5 mi. SW of South Bay on Tupper Lake; named because it flows out of Round Lake; St. Lawrence County and Hamilton County, New York; 44°06'30"N, 74°33'11"W; USGS map – Little Tupper Lake (mouth), 1:24,000; Not: Round Lake Stream.

Mouth: https://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=44.1083333&p_longi=-74.5530556
Source: https://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=44.0869444&p_longi=-74.5825

Proposal: to change applications to reflect local use
Map: USGS Piercefield (mouth) 1:24,000
Proponent: BGN staff
Administrative area: Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest / Round Lake Wilderness / Five Ponds Wilderness (NY State Department of Environmental Conservation)

Previous BGN Action: Bog River (BGN 1987) - in part; Round Lake Outlet (BGN 1987) - in part

Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Bog River (FID 944392) - in part; Round Lake Outlet (FID 975810) - in part
Local Usage: Bog River (Northern New York Waterfalls website, 2017; whitewater websites); Round Lake Outlet (whitewater websites)


Case Summary: These proposals, initiated by the BGN staff while researching the proposal for Bog River Falls (q.v.), are to change the application of the name Bog River and to change the name of a part of Round Lake Outlet to Bog River to agree with local use. Both Bog River and Round Lake Outlet were 1987 BGN decisions.

The streams in question flow through the Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest, the Round Lake Wilderness, and the Five Ponds Wilderness, all managed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). The proposals only affect the lowest portion of the stream which is located in the town of Piercefield.

The name Bog River was applied to the entire length of the primary stream on USGS and other Federal maps published between 1907 and 1985; this agrees with the proposal submitted here. A workcard prepared by the BGN staff in 1955 also placed the mouth of Bog River at Tupper Lake. However, in 1987, an employee of the USGS Water Resources Division in New York wrote a memo to the USGS Eastern Mapping Center recommending that the new name Round Lake Outlet be applied from Round Lake to Lake Tupper and that the mouth of Bog River be amended so that it would become a tributary of Round Lake Outlet. No maps or documentation were provided to support the changes. Despite the BGN’s approval, USGS topographic maps published in 1990 and 1999 continued to label the main stream Bog River (with the portion upstream of the confluence labeled Round Lake Stream) rather than Round Lake Outlet.
In an 1872 guide to the area, the name Little Tupper Lake Stream is used for the stream flowing into Bog River. Several documents from the late 1800s and early 1900s (“Report of a Survey for a Railroad Route from Schenectady to Ogdensburgh,” 1868; “Report of the Topographical Society of the Adirondack Wilderness of New York,” 1874; “Report of the New York State Water Storage Commission,” 1902) describe the stream as “Little Tupper’s lake stream,” “Little Tupper lake stream, or outlet,” or “Little Tupper lake stream.” Most of these refer to Bog River as a separate stream that flows into Tupper Lake. The Beers 1865 Topographical Atlas of St. Lawrence County shows the name Little Tupper Lake Stream for both the stream proposed as Round Lake Outlet and the lowest part of the proposed Bog River that flows into Tupper Lake.

The names approved by the BGN, including the correct name Round Lake Outlet, did not appear on USGS maps until the USTopo was published in 2011. The NYSDEC uses both Bog River and Round Lake Outlet (the latter name is presumed to come from geospatial data from the National Hydrography Dataset). A 2009 Adirondack Park map labels the day use area near the falls as “Bog River.”

Several whitewater webpages describe a route along “Round Lake Outlet” from “Round Lake to Bog River. . . [ending at] Bog River Falls.” It is unclear if this use of Round Lake Outlet refers to the entire stream to Lake Tupper or if the lower part of the stream is referred to as Bog River.

**Bog River Falls**: falls; 30 ft. high; in Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest in the Town of Piercefield at the mouth of the Bog River (q.v.), 3.8 mi. E of Horseshoe Lake; the name is associated with that of the
stream on which the falls is located; St. Lawrence County, New York; 44°07′43″N, 74°32′42″W;
USGS map – Piercefield 1:25,000.
Proposal: to make official a name in local use
Map: USGS Piercefield 1:25,000
Proponent: David Schryver; Dexter, NY
Administrative area: Horseshoe Pond Wild Forest (NYS Department of Environmental Conservation)
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: No record
Local Usage: Bog River Falls (proponent, Town of Piercefield, NY State Department of Environmental Conservation, many years)
Published: Bog River Falls (Northern New York Waterfalls website, 2017 [by the proponent]; Tupper Lake tourism website, 2017; Dig the Falls website, 2017; Waterfalls of the Northeastern United States website, 2017; Adirondack North Country Scenic Byways website, 2011; “St. Lawrence County A Map for all Seasons,” 2002; St. Lawrence County Highway Map, 1997; Wallace, 1872, “Guide to the Adirondacks” [in Smith, The Modern Babes in the Woods])

Case Summary: This proposal is to make official the name Bog River Falls for an unnamed 30-foot falls at the mouth of the Bog River (q.v.) in the Town of Pitcairn. The falls empty into Lake Tupper. The proponent reports that the name is in long term local use and that it is associated with that of the stream on which the falls is located. The location is also within the Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest, managed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and within Adirondack Park.

The name Bog River Falls appears at a local tourism website and on several waterfall websites. The falls are annotated as “rapids” on USGS topographic maps published in 1990 and 1999. The name Bog River Falls is used in the earliest published reference found, an 1872 guide to the area.

While researching this proposal, the BGN staff discovered that in 1987 the BGN approved the name Round Lake Outlet (q.v.) for the stream that flows from Round Lake to Lake Tupper; thus, the proposed Bog River Falls is located on Round Lake Outlet, not on Bog River as the proponent states. When advised of the discrepancy, the proponent noted that local usage has always been Bog River and so related proposals were initiated by the BGN staff to amend the applications of Bog River and Round Lake Outlet.

The Supervisor of the Town of Piercefield and the St. Lawrence County Administrator support the proposal for Bog River Falls, as does the regional natural resource supervisor of the NYSDEC. The proponent provided letters of support from New York State Senator Joseph A. Griffo and New York State Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush.

**Muskrat Pond Outlet**: stream; 0.7 mi. long; heads in the Town of Otsego at Muskrat Pond 2.9 mi. W of Otsego Lake at 42°46′19″N, 74°57′26″W, flows NW then SW to enter Fly Creek; named in association with Muskrat Pond; Otsego County, New York; 42°46′25″N, 74°58′01″W; USGS map – Richfield Springs 1:24,000.
Mouth: https://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=42.77358&p_longi=-74.96694
Source: https://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=42.77184&p_longi=-74.95725
Proposal: new name for an unnamed feature
Map: USGS Richfield Springs 1:24,000
Proponent: Alex Kleban; Fly Creek, NY
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
   GNIS: No record
   Local Usage: None found
   Published: None found
Case Summary: This proposal is to apply the new name Muskrat Pond Outlet to a 0.7-mile-long stream that drains from Muskrat Pond into Fly Creek in Otsego County. The feature is located west of Otsego Lake in the Town of Otsego. The proponent states that the feature “drains Muskrat Pond which is a named pond and converges with Fly Creek so it should be named.”

A query of GNIS found no nearby features with the word “Muskrat” in their names besides Muskrat Pond, the source of the stream.

**Singing Waters Falls**: falls; 12 ft. high; on Fish Creek in Singing Waters Park in the Town of Greig, 2.4 mi. SW of Brantingham; the name is associated with that of the county park in which the falls are located; Lewis County, New York; 43°39′46″N, 75°19′22″W; USGS map – Brantingham 1:24,000; Not: Singing Waters, Singing Waters Park Falls

https://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.66291&p_longi=-75.32274

Proposal: to make official a name in local use
Map: USGS Brantingham 1:24,000
Proponent: David Schryver; Dexter, NY
Administrative area: Singing Waters Park [Lewis County]
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
   GNIS: No record
   Local Usage: Singing Waters Falls (proponent)
   Published: Singing Waters (Adirondacks Tug Hill Region brochure, undated); Singing Waters Falls (Northern New York Waterfalls website, 2017 [by the proponent]); Singing Waters Park Falls (Bobbie’s Waterfall website, 2015)
Case Summary: This proposal is to make official the name Singing Waters Falls for a 12-foot high falls on Fish Creek in the Town of Greig. The falls is located in Singing Waters Park which is owned by Lewis County. The proponent states that the name of the falls comes from the name of the park, which is presumably a poetic description of the sound of the falls. He has documented the falls on his Northern New York Waterfall website.

The falls are named Singing Waters Park Falls on a New York waterfall website not run by the proponent. An undated tourism brochure for the Tug Hill region of the Adirondack Mountains uses the name Singing Waters for the falls.

The Town Board of the Town of Greig and the Lewis County Board of Legislators support the proposal, as do New York Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush and New York Senator Joseph Griffo.

**Change Sixmile Creek to Six Mile Creek**: stream; 20 mi. long; heads in the Town of Dryden 0.7 mi. ENE of Yellow Barn Hill, 2.9 mi. WNW of Dryden Lake at 42°28′03″N, 76°19′44″W, flows S, W, and NW through Yellow Barn State Forest, Hammond Hill State Forest, the Town of Caroline, the Town of Ithaca, and the City of Ithaca to enter Cayuga Inlet 1 mi. S of the mouth of Fall Creek; the name comes from a trail used by Native Americans which crossed the stream six miles from the Cascadilla Creek crossing in Ithaca; Tompkins County, New York; 42°26′47″N, 76°30′43″W; USGS map – Ithaca West 1:24,000 (mouth); Not: Notantakto Creek, Sixmile Creek, Six-Mile Creek, Teegastowees Creek.
Proposal: to change spelling to recognize local use
Map: USGS Ithaca West 1:24,000 (mouth)
Proponent: Tim Larkin; Brooktondale, NY
Administrative area: Yellow Barn State Forest / Hammond Hill State Forest
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:

GNIS: Sixmile Creek (FID 965323)
Local Usage: Six Mile Creek (175 years according to proponent)

Published: Notantakto Creek (Beauchamp, 1907, Aboriginal Place Names of New York);
Ruth's Waterfalls website, 2005; Sixmile Creek Partners report, 2007; Ithaca Trails webpage,
2017); Six Mile Creek (FEMA 1985; An Atlas Of The State of New York, Burr, 1840;
Gazetteer of the State of New York, French, 1860; New topographical atlas of Tompkins
County, New York, Stone and Stewart, 1866; Landmarks of Tompkins County, New York,
Selkreg, 1894; Atlas of the State of New York, Bein, 1895; Ithaca, Abt, 1926; A History of the
Town of Caroline, Konr, 1994; City Code of the City of Ithaca, 2017; Town Code of the Town
of Ithaca, 2017; City of Ithaca website, 2017; Finger Lakes Land Trust website, 2017; Friends
of Six Mile Creek website, 2017; Six Mile Creek Watershed website, 2017 [by the
proponent]); Six-Mile Creek (History of Tioga, Chemung, Tompkins and Schuyler counties,
New York, 1879; Finger Lakes Land Trust website, 2017); Teegastowes Creek (“Map of
Ulysses Township”, de Witt, 1790)

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the spelling of the name of Sixmile Creek, a 20-mile-
long stream in Tompkins County, to Six Mile Creek. The stream flows though the Town of Dryden,
the Town of Caroline, the Town of Ithaca, and the City of Ithaca. The proponent states that the
name Six Mile Creek has been used locally for at least 175 years and provided evidence of its usage
until USGS maps labeled it Sixmile Creek in 1900. A historic marker in the Town of Caroline gives
the origin of the name: “The ancient Indians ‘Warrior’s Trail’ to Owego crossed the creek nearby ---
6 miles from the Cascadilla Creek crossing in Ithaca.”

The first published name of the stream was Teegastowes Creek, which appeared on a 1790 map of
Ulysses Township (the township was later subdivided). Throughout the 1800s, the name of the
stream was consistently Six Mile Creek except for one instance of Six-Mile Creek in 1879. FEMA
maps from 1981 and 1985 use the name Sixmile Creek although one 1985 map uses Six Mile Creek.
Recent local sources have continued to use Six Mile Creek, although there are some instances of
Sixmile Creek and Six-Mile Creek. A locale with the name Six Mile Creek Vineyard is located
along the stream.

The City Code of the City of Ithaca includes numerous references to Six Mile Creek when referring
to the stream and the watershed; it also mentions the Six Mile Creek Natural Area and Six Mile
Creek Gorge, neither of which are in GNIS, as well as the Six Mile Creek Advisory Committee,
which was established in 1993 by the city council. The city’s website uses Six Mile Creek, although
a page links to a report of the Sixmile Creek Partners which uses Sixmile Creek. The Town Code of
the Town of Ithaca consistently uses the name Six Mile Creek.

The Caroline Town Historian, who published the 1994 A History of the Town of Caroline, supports
the proposed change (the 1994 publication used both Sixmile Creek and Six Mile Creek).
Of the 26 streams in New York recorded in GNIS with names such as Sixmile Creek (e.g. Twomile Creek, Threemile Creek, etc.), only two are in the same format as the proposed name: Three Mile Creek in Jefferson County, and Quartermile Creek in Schuyler County.

**Taylor Creek**: stream; 1 mi. long; heads in the Town of Otsego 2 mi. SE of Canadarago Lake at 42°46'00"N, 74°59'34"W, flows generally E through Taylortown and a Natural Resources Conservation Easement to enter Fly Creek 1.2 mi. SE of Panther Mountain; the name commemorates the Taylor family who settled in the area around 1800, especially Erastus Taylor (1771-1856); Otsego County, New York; 42°45'56"N, 74°58'33"W; USGS map – Richfield Springs 1:24,000. Mouth: https://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=42.76561&p_longi=-74.97578 Source: https://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=42.766683&p_longi=-74.992852 Proposal: to make official a commemorative name in local use Map: USGS Richfield Springs 1:24,000 Proponent: Alex Kleban; Fly Creek, NY Administrative area: None Previous BGN Action: None Names associated with feature: GNIS: No record Local Usage: Taylor Creek (proponent) Published: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to make official the commemorative name Taylor Creek for a one-mile-long unnamed tributary of Fly Creek. The stream, which flows through Taylortown and through a Natural Resources Conservation Easement, is located southeast of Canadarago Lake in the Town of Otsego.

The proposed name would commemorate the Taylor family who settled on a 500-acre-portion of the Town of Otsego. It would especially commemorate Erastus Taylor (1771-1856) who was the first of the family to settle in the area. The Taylor children all settled on different parts of the plot of land that is now known as Taylortown.

**Tripp Creek**: stream; 1.9 mi. long; heads in the Town of Otsego 2.8 mi. W of Otsego Lake at 42°45'09"N, 74°57'35"W, flows S then SW to enter Fly Creek; named in association with Tripp Hill Road; Otsego County, New York; 42°43'57"N, 74°58'33"W; USGS map – Cooperstown 1:24,000 (mouth). Mouth: https://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=42.73249&p_longi=-74.97583 Source: https://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=42.75257&p_longi=-74.95959 Proposal: new name for an unnamed feature Map: USGS Cooperstown 1:24,000 (mouth) Proponent: Alex Kleban; Fly Creek, NY Administrative area: None Previous BGN Action: None Names associated with feature: GNIS: No record Local Usage: None found Published: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to apply the new name Tripp Creek to a 1.9-mile-long unnamed tributary of Fly Creek. The feature is located west of Otsego Lake in the Town of Otsego. The proposed name is in association with Tripp Hill Road, along which a portion of the stream flows. The proponent reports that a nearby summit is known as “Tripp Hill,” although no published evidence has been found to support that claim.
**West Branch Fly Creek**: stream; 4.3 mi. long; heads in the Town of Otsego 1 mi. E of Canadarago Lake at 42°48'07"N, 74°58'50"W, flows generally SSE through a Natural Resources Conservation Easement to enter Fly Creek 1.5 mi. E of Panther Mountain; named in association with Fly Creek; Otsego County, New York; 42°45’31”N, 74°58’23”W; USGS map – Richfield Springs 1:24,000.

Mouth: https://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=42.75861&p_longi=-74.97302

Source: https://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=42.80204&p_longi=-74.98059

Proposal: new name for an unnamed feature
Map: USGS Richfield Springs 1:24,000
Proponent: Alex Kleban; Fly Creek, NY
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: No record
Local Usage: None found
Published: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to apply the new associative name **West Branch Fly Creek** to a 4.3-mile-long stream that flows south through a Natural Resources Conservation Easement and into Fly Creek in Otsego County. The feature is located east of Canadarago Lake in the Town of Otsego.

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**NORTH CAROLINA**

*** Note: the following proposal has been amended from **Jincys Spring** at the request of the proponent

**Jincy Creek**: stream; 0.9 mi. long; in the City of Winston-Salem, heads 1.3 mi. SSW of Frontis at 36°02’49”N, 80°18’45”W, flows SSW into an unnamed stream 1 mi. SE of Atwood; the name commemorates Jincy Alspaugh Griffith (1825-1855), who lived near the stream; Forsyth County, North Carolina; 36°02’14”N, 80°18’55”W; USGS map – Winston-Salem West 1:24,000.


Proposal: new commemorative name for an unnamed feature
Map: USGS Winston-Salem West 1:24,000
Proponent: David Tilley; Winston Salem, NC
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: No record
Local Usage: None found
Published: None found

Case Summary: The new commemorative name **Jincy Creek** is proposed for a 0.9-mile-long stream in the City of Winston-Salem in southern Forsyth County. The name would commemorate Jincy Alspaugh Griffith (1825-1855), who lived near the source of the stream with her husband Alexander in the 1840s. Mrs. Griffith’s grandfather founded the nearby Bethel Methodist Church where she is buried. The Griffith family and its descendants have owned land near the source of the stream since 1846, and the intended honoree’s great-granddaughter resides there currently.

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**Regency Lake**: reservoir; approx. 9 acres; named for the development in which the feature is located; Iredell County, North Carolina; 35°34’19”N, 80°53’05”W; USGS map – Lake Norman North 1:24,000; Not: Auto Storage Lake Number One.

Proposal: change name to recognize local and documented use
Case Summary: This proposal would change the name of Auto Storage Lake Number One, a nine-acre reservoir near Mooresville in Iredell County, to Regency Lake. The proponent, who serves as vice-president of the Regency Lake Village/Lakeside Farm Dam and Lake Maintenance Association, states that the current name is not in local use and does not reflect the association’s legal documents. The association actively maintains the lake and dam. A number of real estate websites list properties “on Regency Lake.”

The body of water is not formally named in the association’s articles of incorporation, nor in the declaration of covenants, conditions and restrictions (1998), or on the 1970 plat map of Regency Lake Village. Auto Storage Company was a co-signer to the 1998 declaration; it appears that at that time the company owned property abutting the lake. It is unclear what this company was or how its name came to be applied to the geographic feature. (Another reservoir with the name Auto Storage Lake Number Two is located less than half a mile to the northeast. No proposal has been received to address that name.)

The entry in GNIS for Auto Storage Lake Number One was collected from the 1981 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers inventory of dams and reservoirs. The current National Inventory of Dams (NID) lists the dam as Regency Lake Dam. (NID lists the dam of Auto Storage Lake Number Two as Farmstead Lake Dam; GNIS lists the dam as Auto Storage Dam Number Two.)

A query of GNIS found no other nearby features with names that include “Regency.”

OREGON

Change Constance Creek to Constants Creek: stream; 8.6 mi. long; heads on Bureau of Land Management land 1.9 mi. E of Cinnabar Mountain at 42°34′34″N, 122°53′57″W, flows generally SE to enter the Rogue River 1.2 mi. SW of Rattlesnake Rapids; named for Isaac Constant (1809-1890), founder of the nearby city of Central Point; Tps35&34S, Rgs1&2W, Willamette Meridian; Jackson County, Oregon; 42°29′02″N, 122°51′41″W; USGS map - Eagle Point 1:24,000 (mouth); Not: Constance Creek.

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=42.4840138&p_longi=-122.8614311&fid=1135440

Proposal: to change a name to recognize local and historical use
Map: USGS Eagle Point 1:24,000 (mouth)
Proponent: Kevin Biersdorff; Eugene, OR
Administrative area: Bureau of Land Management
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Constance Creek (FID 1135440)
Local Usage: Constants Creek (since the 1850s, according to the proponent)
Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Constance Creek, an 8.6-mile-long tributary of the Rogue River in Jackson County and partially on Bureau of Land Management land, to Constants Creek. The proponent states that the stream was named for Isaac Constant (1809-1890), who owned land along the stream and who founded the nearby city of Central Point. The proponent, a descendant of the honoree, reports that according to a history told by his daughter, Constant and his family traveled from Springfield, Illinois on the Oregon Trail, and in 1852 settled in the Rogue River valley. The Constants took a donation land claim near the future city of Central Point. They grew potatoes and other crops, and during the harsh winter of 1852-1853, Isaac Constant noticed that nearby tribes were starving and informed a tribal chief that his people could have as many potatoes as they needed. During the Rogue River Wars in 1855 and 1856, the chief forbade any harm or violence towards the Constant family.

The name Constance Creek has only appeared on USGS maps since 1983. The proponent states that the name Constants Creek has been in use since the 1850s. A transcription of a Jefferson Public Radio story about Constant and the Rogue River Indians used Constants Creek for the name of the stream.

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners has no objection to the proposed change, while the Oregon Geographic Names Board recommends approval.

Change Kuenzi Reservoir to Hunegs Reservoir: reservoir; 1 acre; located 3.2 mi. SW of Silverton, 3.3 mi. ENE of Pratum; named for Harry Hunegs (1917-2012), who built the reservoir and owned the land around it; Sec 16, T7S, R1W, Willamette Meridian; Marion County, Oregon; 44°57’49”N, 122°48’43”W; USGS map – Stayton NE 1:24,000; Not: Kuenzi Reservoir.


Proposal: to change a name to recognize local use and in commemoration
Map: USGS Stayton NE 1:24,000
Proponent: Gordon Hunegs; Oswego, NY
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
   GNIS: Kuenzi Reservoir (FID 1122858)
   Local Usage: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Kuenzi Reservoir in Marion County to Hunegs Reservoir. Although the reservoir has been labeled Kuenzi Reservoir on USGS maps since 1969, the proponent believes it should be renamed to recognize the fact that his father, Harry Hunegs (1917-2012), was granted a permit to build it in the 1960s. The reservoir lies in the SW ¼, NE ¼ of Section 16.

Both Harry Hunegs and members of the Kuenzi family received permits to build reservoirs in Sections 16 and 17. In addition to the 1969 USGS map, Kuenzi Reservoir was labeled on a 1977 Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) drainage basin map. A 1964 OWRD map (with limited revisions in 1989) labeled a different reservoir, in the SW ¼ NW ¼ of Section 16, as Kuenzi Reservoir.
Records show that George Kuenzi built this reservoir; however, it is listed in GNIS as Urban Reservoir (no proposal has been submitted to change the latter name). The proponent states that no member of the Kuenzi family has owned the land around Kuenzi Reservoir in the last 100 years. Members of the Kuenzi family still live nearby. There are no features listed in GNIS with names that include “Huengs.”

**Change Malone Peak to Maloney Peak:** summit; elevation 3,022 ft.; located on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, 4.2 mi. S of Glendale, 1 mi. W of London Peak; the name commemorates Michael Maloney, who homesteaded in the area in the late 1800s; Secs 29&28, T33S, R6W, Willamette Meridian; Josephine County, Oregon; 42°40’34”N, 123°25’39”W; USGS map – Glendale 1:24,000; Not: Malone Peak.

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=42.67625&p_longi=-123.4274537&fid=1123722

- Proposal: to change a name to recognize family name
- Map: USGS Glendale 1:24,000
- Proponent: Danny Schilberg; Wolf Creek, OR
- Administrative area: Bureau of Land Management
- Previous BGN Action: None
- Names associated with feature:
  - GNIS: Malone Peak (FID 1123722)
  - Local Usage: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Malone Peak, a 3,022-foot summit on Bureau of Land Management land and State lands in Josephine County, to Maloney Peak. The proponent wishes to correct the spelling of the name to reflect the name of Michael Maloney, a homesteader after whom the summit is reportedly named. The name Malone Peak has appeared on USGS maps since 1954.

In the 1995 book *First there was Twogood: A pictorial history of northern Josephine County*, Larry McLane wrote about Maloney’s 160-acre homestead claim in 1889, which borders the north slope of
the summit. Water rights certificates from 1949 record nearby land ownership by the Maloney family. The Oregon Geographic Names Board recommends approval of the name change.

**Rattlesnake Rock**: pillar; 50 ft. relief; 1.4 mi. SW of Biggs Junction; the name refers to rattlesnakes which can be found at the location; Sec 18, T2N, R16E, Willamette Meridian; Sherman County, Oregon; 45°39′21″N, 120°51′15″W; USGS map - Biggs Junction 1:24,000. [https://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=45.655732&p_longi=-120.854254](https://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=45.655732&p_longi=-120.854254)

Proposal: to make official a name in local use
Map: USGS Biggs Junction 1:24,000
Proponent: Sherry Kaseberg; Moro, OR
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: No record
Local Usage: Rattlesnake Rock (local residents)
Published: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to make official the name Rattlesnake Rock for a small pillar on private land in Sherman County. The proponent states that previous landowners, who grew wheat and raised cattle, referred to the feature as Rattlesnake Rock because of the rattlesnakes that could be found there.

The current landowner of the feature supports the proposal. The Maryhill Museum of Art, located across the Columbia River and opposite the pillar, has a sculpture that points at it; the Executive Director of the museum wrote in support of the proposal. The Sherman County Historical Museum and the Oregon Geographic Names Board also recommend approval.

**PENNSYLVANIA**

**Frost Pocket Run**: stream; approx. 2.6 mi.; heads in the Township of Roaring Creek at 40°55′57″N, 76°23′35″W, flows generally SW to enter Roaring Creek 0.4 mi. E of Queen City; the name refers to the colder temperatures in this area which cause earlier and later than normal frost in the seasons; Columbia, Pennsylvania; 40°54′54″N, 76°25′42″W; USGS map – Catawissa 1:24,000.


Proposal: new name for unnamed feature
Map: Catawissa 1:24,000
Proponent: Dennis Kreischer; PA
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: No record
Local Usage: None found
Published: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to apply a new name to 2.6-mile-long unnamed tributary of Roaring Creek. The feature heads in Roaring Creek Township, then flows generally southwest through Catawissa Township, before entering Roaring Creek in Locust Township. According to
the proponent, the name refers to the fact that “colder temperatures are normal in this hollow. Earlier and later frost occur in seasons.” The proponent owns and operates Frost Pocket Farms in the vicinity of the stream. When asked to address the BGN’s Commercial Names Policy, he responded that the farm “does not sell any products under the name ‘Frost Pocket’ and the proposed name is in no way intended to publicize a business or commercial product.”

VIRGINIA

*** Note: the following proposal has been withdrawn and resubmitted as Fishback Run, Review List 432

Change Negro Run to Clevenger Creek: stream; 3.9 mi. long; heads 2.4 mi. NNE of Amissville, 2.6 mi. SW of Waterloo at 38°40′43″N, 77°57′07″W, flows generally SSE into the Rappahannock River 1.9 mi. S of Waterloo, 2.2 mi. NE of Jeffersonton; the name refers to a nearby locale named Clevengers Corners; Culpeper County, Virginia; 38°40′05″N, 77°54′09″W; USGS map – Jeffersonton 1:24,000; Not: Negro Run, Nigger Run.


Proposal: to change a name considered to be derogatory
Map: USGS Jeffersonton, 1:24,000
Proponent: Craig Anderson; Warrenton, VA
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Negro Run (FID 1497882)
Local Usage: None found
Published: Negro Run (USGS 2010, 2013, 2016; FEMA 2007; Survey of Culpeper and a part of Madison counties, Virginia, 1863); Nigger Run (USGS 1927, 1930)

Case Summary: This proposal would change the name of Negro Creek, a 3.9-mile-long stream in northern Culpeper County, to Clevenger Creek. The proposed name comes from a nearby locale (not recorded in GNIS) of “Clevengers Corner.” Although there is no information on the origin of the name of the locale, research shows that Charles A. Clevenger (1896-1960) was a resident of the nearby community of Amissville in the 1940s. (The name was initially proposed as Clevenger’s Creek, but was amended to Clevenger by the proponent after being informed that possessive apostrophes are discouraged in geographic names.) The pejorative form of the name appeared on USGS topographic maps in 1927 and 1930. The stream was not labeled on USGS maps between 1930 and 2010. An 1863 map made by the Chief Engineer’s Office of the Confederate States Army, Department of Northern Virginia, labeled the stream as Negro Run. The stream flows through the South Wales Golf Course.

GNIS lists a crossing with the name Clevengers Ford about 40 miles to the north-northwest, in Frederick County.

WASHINGTON

Houle Creek: stream; 1 mi. long; in Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, heads on the NW slope of Amabillis Mountain at 47°18′23″N, 121°17′04″W, flows WSW under Interstate 90 to enter the Yakima River 1 mi. S of Swamp Lake; the name is French meaning “a swell of water”; Secs 23,24&13, T21N, R12E, Willamette Meridian; Kittitas County, Washington; 47°17′46″N, 121°17′55″W; USGS map – Stampede Pass 1:24,000; Not: Telephone Creek.
Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=47.296&p_longi=-121.29848
Source: https://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=47.306304&p_longi=-121.284583

Proposal: new name for an unnamed feature
Map: USGS Stampede Pass 1:24,000
Proponent: Luke Assink; Union Gap, WA
Administrative area: Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: No record
Local Usage: None found
Published: Telephone Creek (USGS 1901)

Case Summary: The new name Houle Creek is proposed for an unnamed one-mile-long stream in Kittitas County. The stream flows off the northwest slope of Amabillis Mountain, under Interstate 90, and into the Yakima River; it is also within Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. The proponent, an employee of the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), reports that his agency is involved in construction projects in the area, part of which will involve replacing the culvert through which the stream flows, allowing it to return to a more natural state. Current WSDOT reports refer to the stream only as “Unnamed Stream (MP 63.7)” and the proponent believes it would be helpful to give it an official name. “Houle” is a French word meaning “swell,” or as the proponent describes it, “a ridge or wave that moves across a body of water.” He states that the stream flows year-round and provides habitat for local fish and amphibians.

The stream in question was labeled Telephone Creek on a 1901 U.S. Geological Survey map; however, a decision by the BGN in 1964 determined that the name was mislabeled and that it should be applied to a different stream 1.5 miles to the south. As such, the stream in question is unnamed.

The WA BGN recommends approval of the name Houle Creek. As part of its research, the WA BGN asked the Kittitas County Commissioners, the Confederate Tribes of the Colville reservation, the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, and the Yakama Nation for their opinions, but no responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion.

Libby Creek: stream; 1.2 mi. long; heads 1.5 mi. SE of Boston Harbor at 47°07'51"N, 122°52'14"W, flows E then NNE into Chapman Bay; the name commemorates the Libby family, specifically George A. Libby (1833-1898), who homesteaded along the trail that is now Libby Road; Sec 18, T19N, R1W & Sec 13, T19N, R2W, Willamette Meridian; Thurston County, Washington; 47°08'19"N, 122°51'23"W; USGS map – Longbranch 1:24,000; Not: Libbey Creek, Sleepy Creek.

Mouth: https://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=47.1385908&p_longi=-122.8562515
Source: https://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=47.1308543&p_longi=-122.8704565

Proposal: to make official a commemorative name in local use
Map: USGS Longbranch 1:24,000
Proponent: Alan Wald; Olympia, WA
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: No record
Local Usage: Honey’s Creek (proponent); Libbey Creek (proponent); Libby Creek (proponent); Sleepy Creek (proponent)

Case Summary: This proposal is to make official the name Libby Creek for a 1.2-mile-long stream that flows into Chapman Bay north of Olympia in Thurston County. The name would commemorate the Libby family, specifically George A. Libby (1833-1898), who homesteaded along the trail that is now Libby Road. Mr. Libby was a lumber worker and miner.

The proposal would also eliminate some of the confusion caused by having multiple unofficial names applied to the stream. The proponent, a retired employee of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, lives near the stream and monitors its water quality and salmon occurrence. He states that the name Libby Creek is the oldest known name dating back to the 1930s and is in use by government agencies and locals. He adds that the stream is sometimes known as Honey’s Creek, Libbey Creek, and Sleepy Creek.

The earliest published name found by BGN staff was Libbey Creek in a 1975 Washington Department of Fisheries report under the heading “Unnamed (Libbey Creek)” although the spelling of the road is given as “Libby Road.” The 1992 volume Thurston County Place Names gives the name of the stream as Sleepy Creek and states that the origin of the name is unknown. A 2002 Washington State Department of Natural Resources report also used the name Sleepy Creek. A 2005 county drainage basin plan used the name Libby Creek. Washington State Department of Ecology reports from 2006 and 2017 referred to the stream as “Sleepy Creek (Libby Creek).” A 2009 Washington State Conservation Commission report referred to the stream as “Sleepy Creek (Libby Creek).” A road with the name “Sleepy Creek Lane” is located near the stream.

The Washington Board on Geographic Names (WA BGN) received one comment from a resident of Bellevue who stated that the name Sleepy Creek is “pleasant” and that the Libby family was already honored with the name of the road. The WA BGN recommends approval of Libby Creek. As part of its research, the WA BGN contacted the Thurston County Commissioners, but no reply was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion.

GNIS lists Libby Point and an associated lighthouse 7.6 miles to the northwest, in Mason County; it is unclear for whom this feature is named.

Change application of Riley Slough: stream; 4.5 mi. long; heads at the confluence of High Rock Creek and Steffen Creek (q.v.) at 47°50′01″N, 121°58′06″W, flows generally WSW to the Skykomish River 3 mi. SW of Monroe; Secs 15,14,13&24, T27N R6E & Sec 18 T27N R7E, Willamette Meridian; Snohomish County, Washington; 47°49′26″N, 122°00′47″W; USGS map – Maltby 1:24,000 (mouth).
Mouth: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=47.823988&p_longi=-122.0131805
Source: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=47.817701&p_longi=-121.968362
Proposal: application change to recognize local use
Map: USGS Maltby 1:24,000 (mouth)
Proponent: Wayne D. Steffen; Antioch, California
Administrative area: None
Case Summary: This application change to Riley Slough, a tributary of the Skykomish River, is proposed in conjunction with a proposal to apply the new name Steffen Creek (q.v.) to an unnamed stream and also to a part of the currently-named Riley Slough (see the Steffen Creek proposal for maps and more details).

Steffen Creek: stream; 4.5 mi. long; heads 0.5 mi. NE of King Lake, 1.7 mi. W of Lake Fontal at 47°49’04”N, 121°55’20”W, flows generally NW, W, and SW to enter Riley Slough (q.v.) at the confluence with High Rock Creek; the name commemorates Herman Steffen (1870-1957), who raised cattle near the stream in the early 1900s; Secs 18,7,8,16&21, T27N, R7E, Willamette Meridian; Snohomish County, Washington; 47°50’01”N, 121°58’06”W; USGS map – Monroe 1:24,000; Not: Riley Slough (in part).

Mouth: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=47.833649&p_longi=-121.968362

Source: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=47.817701&p_longi=-121.922206

Proposal: to change the application of an existing name and to apply a new commemorative name

Map: USGS Monroe 1:24,000

Proponent: Wayne D. Steffen; Antioch, California

Administrative area: None

Previous BGN Action: None

Names associated with feature:

GNIS: Riley Slough - in part (FID 1525054)
Local Usage: None found

Case Summary: The new name Steffen Creek is proposed to be applied to an unnamed stream in Snohomish County and also to a portion of a stream that is currently named Riley Slough (q.v.). By shortening the extent of Riley Slough, the proposed Steffen Creek would flow into Riley Slough at the confluence with High Rock Creek. The proponent states that the stream proposed as Steffen Creek is not a slough and that the term is only appropriate for the downstream section that would remain as Riley Slough.

The proposed name would commemorate Herman Steffen (1870-1957), the proponent’s grandfather. A native of Germany, Herman and Lena Steffen purchased a cattle farm near the stream in 1900. The family still operates Steffen Farms and owns water rights to the stream. The Steffen family has been recognized as a Pioneer family in the Tualco Valley, while the farm has been recognized by the county as a Centennial Farm, one that has been in operation for over 100 years.

The Washington Board on Geographic Names (WA BGN) recommends that the proposal be approved. As part of its research, the WA BGN asked the Snohomish County Council for its opinion but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion. Support for the name was received from the Tualco Grange, the Monroe Historical Society, a member of the Snohomish County Historical Preservation Society, and neighbors of the Steffens currently living in the area.
GNIS lists another stream with the name Steffen Creek approximately 100 miles to the south-southwest, in Lewis County. The latter name was the subject of a BGN decision in 1959 but the issue under discussion was whether it should be changed from Uden Creek; the decision file states only that the name referred to “a family who settled one of the first homesteads along the stream.” A search of online genealogy records show that individuals named Steffen from Switzerland lived in the area.

**Change Squaw Creek to Swaram Creek:** stream; 6.8 mi. long; heads in Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest E of Douglas Ingram Ridge at 48°04’40”N, 120°08’34”W, flows NE and E to enter the Methow River 2.2 mi. SE of Hunter Mountain; the name is of native origin and refers to “torch light fishing at night”; T30N, Rgs22&21E, Willamette Meridian; Okanogan County, Washington; 48°05’25”N, 120°01’03”W; USGS map – Cooper Mountain 1:24,000 (mouth); Not: Squaw Creek. [https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=48.0901416&p_longi=-120.017574&fid=1526453](https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=48.0901416&p_longi=-120.017574&fid=1526453)

Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
Map: USGS Cooper Mountain 1:24,000 (mouth)
Proponent: Joanna Bastian; Carlton, WA
Administrative area: Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
  GNIS: Squaw Creek (FID 1526453)
  Local Usage: Squaw Creek (local residents)

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Squaw Creek, a 6.8-mile-long stream in Okanogan County, to Swaram Creek. According to the proponent, “the native Methow people called the feature ‘Swaratat’ which can be represented as ‘Swaram Creek.’” She learned of the name from a linguist and elder of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, who stated that it refers to “torch light fishing at night,” a practice used by the Methow people along the stream. The Methow name for the stream is “swaR’a-tátk’” in the International Phonetic Alphabet. “swaR’a” refers to the fishing activity and “tátk’” means a body of water. The linguist stated that “swara” does not stand alone as a word but “swaram” does.

The name Squaw Creek seems to have originated with a mining camp along the stream in the late 1800s and first appeared on USGS topographic maps in 1899. The proponent believes the word “squaw” is derogatory and that the proposed name would honor the Methow people who continue to live in the area. She states that during the 2015 Squaw Creek Fire, some fire crews refused to use the name “Squaw” which led to confusion among locals.

In response to a column about the proposed name change by the proponent in a local newspaper, four letters were received in support of the change, and one in opposition. The proponent provided signatures of 90 local residents in support of the proposal. The Washington State Board on Geographic Names (WA BGN) received 29 letters or emails in support of the change and 34 in opposition. One of the residents along the stream gathered 363 signatures on an online petition against the proposed change and 144 signatures on a paper petition (some may be from the same individuals). This resident protested that local residents were not contacted before the WA BGN began its consideration of the proposal. The resident states that they are Native American and do not object to the word “squaw.”

The WA BGN recommends approval of the change to Swaram Creek. As part of its research, the WA BGN asked the Okanogan County Commissioners for their opinion, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion. The Okanogan County Historical Society supports the proposal, as do the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe. A recent news story reports that the name of Squaw Creek Road has already been changed by the county to Hunter Mountain Road.

WISCONSIN

Change Pine Spring Creek to Wheeler Wilcox Creek: stream; 4.6 mi. long; heads in the Town of Vienna, 1 mi. SE of Norway Grove at 43°14’11”N, 89°23’31”W, flows SW then SE and E through the Town of Westport and the Village of Windsor to enter the Yahara River 0.8 mi. SW of Windsor; the name commemorates Ella Wheeler Wilcox (1850-1919), author and poet who grew up in the area; Secs 23, 26, 35&36, T9N, R9E and Sec 1, T8N, R9E and Secs 31&30, T9N, R10E, Fourth Principal Meridian; Dane County, Wisconsin; 43°12’32”N, 89°21’11”W; USGS map - De Forest
Proposal: to change a name to a commemorative name
Map: USGS De Forest 1:24,000 (mouth)
Proponent: Hans Hilbert; Madison, WI
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: Pine Spring Creek (BGN 2017)
Names associated with feature:
   GNIS: Pine Spring Creek (FID 2786895)
   Local Usage: Pine Spring Creek (local residents)
   Published: Ella Wheeler Wilcox Creek (North Yahara Future Urban Development Area Planning report, 2012; Dane County Water Body Classification Study, 2007; Village of DeForest Comprehensive Plan, 2006; The Romance of Wisconsin Place Names, 2015; Dane County Place-Names, 1968); Pine Spring Creek (Village of DeForest ordinance, 2013; Dane County Board of Adjustment Minutes 2009; Rock River Coalition project proposal 2015)
Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Pine Spring Creek (BGN 2017), a 4.6-mile-long stream in the Town of Vienna, the Town of Westport, and the Village of Windsor in Dane County, to Wheeler Wilcox Creek.

In early 2017 the BGN received a proposal from the Wisconsin Geographic Names Council, on behalf of the Dane County Planning Department, to make official the name Pine Spring Creek, citing use by a local conservation group and publication in village and county ordinances. The name was approved by the BGN in June 2017. However, after being informed of the BGN’s decision, the proponent contacted the BGN to report that he had since learned that the stream was already documented with the name Ella Wheeler Wilcox Creek; this name commemorates the author and poet Ella Wheeler Wilcox (1850-1919) and the stream flows past her childhood home. The name was published in local planning reports and was also listed in The Romance of Wisconsin Place Names (Gard, 1968) and Dane County Place-Names (Cassidy, 1968). The Dane County Planning Department is asking that the BGN revisit its decision and to approve the name Ella Wheeler Wilcox Creek instead (when informed of the BGN’s Long Names Policy, he agreed to shorten it to Wheeler Wilcox Creek). He suggests the published name is preferred “rather than the uninspiring and generic ‘Pine Spring Creek.’”

While living in Wisconsin and before marrying Robert Wilcox, Ella Wheeler wrote her most famous poem “Solitude,” which is known for the line “Laugh, and the world laughs with you; Weep, and you weep alone.” Her book Poems of Passion was published in 1883. Following her marriage, she moved to Connecticut where she and her husband became interested in spiritualism. She later wrote about spiritualism and reincarnation.

The proponent contacted the three local jurisdictions, all of which had previously recommended approval of Pine Spring Creek. The Westport Town Board and the Village of Windsor have responded that they support the change to Wheeler Wilcox Creek.

WYOMING

Change Hayden Valley to Buffalo Nations Valley: valley; approx. 19,000 acres; heads in Yellowstone National Park 5 mi. NNW of Beach Lake, E of Central Plateau, trends NE, ends 2.3 mi. WSW of Wrangler Lake; the name refers to the Buffalo Nations, a term for the tribes of the Great Plains; Unsurveyed Area; Park County, Wyoming; 44°40’45”N, 110°28’56”W; USGS map – Canyon Village 1:24,000 (mouth).
Proposal: to change a name considered to be offensive
Map: USGS Canyon Village 1:24,000 (mouth)
Proponent: Brandon Sazue; Fort Thompson, SD
Administrative area: Yellowstone National Park
Previous BGN Action: Hayden Valley (BGN 1930)
Names associated with feature:
  GNIS: Hayden Valley (FID 1589419)
  Local Usage: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Hayden Valley, a large valley in north-central Yellowstone National Park (YNP), to Buffalo Nations Valley. It is submitted with a second proposal to change the name of Mount Doane, also in Yellowstone National Park, to First Peoples Mountain (q.v.). The proposal was submitted by the Great Plains Tribal Chairman’s Association (GPTCA), as well as by a number of individual tribes, all of whom state that the proposed name would be “in honor of all Tribal Nations that have treaty rights and interests to Greater Yellowstone, and those with an ancestral connection to this sacred landscape and our relatives, the Buffalo Nation.”

The name Hayden Valley has been labeled on USGS topographic maps since 1886. It was a BGN decision in 1930, one of over 500 names approved for features in the park. The valley was named in honor of Ferdinand Vandeveer Hayden (1829-1887), who led many scientific and mapping expeditions in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains and was also one of the first geologists of the U.S. Geological Survey.

Charles A. White’s 1894 memoir of Hayden provides a brief summary of Hayden’s life. After college and medical school, Hayden became interested in geology and paleontology. He joined a paleontological expedition for James Hall, the New York state geologist, and became fascinated with the topography and geology of the Great Plains and the American West. He spent a few years travelling with the American Fur Company during which he made many important geological observations and paleontological collections. His notes helped inform the first formal descriptions of geological formations in the region and were used by subsequent Government explorations. In the late 1850s, Hayden was invited on U.S. Topographical Engineers expeditions along the Yellowstone River and to the Black Hills. He joined the Union army as a physician during the Civil War and was brevetted lieutenant colonel for his services.

In 1867, Hayden was put in charge of the United States Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories and between 1867 and 1878 led explorations of areas of Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Idaho. In 1871, he led an exploration of the Yellowstone area as part of the Hayden Geological Survey of 1871. This survey (which followed two previous explorations of the area by European Americans) brought wide attention to the future YNP area. Hayden advocated for “setting aside the area as a pleasure ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people” and stated that if Congress did not pass an act “the vandals who are now waiting to enter into this wonder-land, will in a single season despoil, beyond recovery, these remarkable curiosities, which have required all the cunning skill of nature thousands of years to prepare.” Hayden’s descriptions and advocacy, along with that of many others, helped convince the United States Congress to pass the “Act of Dedication” setting aside the area as a public park. When several independent geological and geographical surveys were combined into the U.S. Geological Survey, Hayden accepted a position as one of its first geologists, retiring in 1886.
Letters asking for the proposed change (as well as the proposed change of Mount Doane to First Peoples Mountain (q.v.)) were submitted by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation; the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of the Crow Creek Reservation; the Northern Cheyenne Tribe; and the Piikani Nation of the Blackfoot Confederacy (a tribe in Canada). The Great Plains Tribal Chairmen’s Association (GPTCA) also sent a letter to the BGN asking for the change. Each letter referenced a resolution signed by the tribal leaders of all tribes in the GPTCA and the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council (RMTLC). This resolution, which was presented to the Superintendent of YNP in September, 2017, states:

“The Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council and the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association are comprised of every Tribal Nation in Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska. In respect to the Blackfoot Confederacy, this alliance extends to the province of Alberta. The majority of the sovereign Tribal Nations recognized by the Department of the Interior as ‘Associated Tribes of Yellowstone’ are member tribes of the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council and the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association.

Pursuant to the resolution passed by the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council in December, 2014, which was duly supported by the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen’s Association, we, the undersigned leaders of representative Tribal Nations from and with interests to both bodies, urge the Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park and the Park's administration, and the Director of the National Park Service, to move, expeditiously, to advance the process of changing the names of Hayden Valley and Mount Doane, and to work cooperatively with the individual Associated Tribes of Yellowstone, the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council, and the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen’s Association to that end…

We request that Yellowstone National Park, through the National Park Service, both recommend and advocate for these name changes, to expedite the process with the US Board of Geographic Names under the purview of the US Geological Service. In the spirit of cooperation and conciliation, we ask the Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park to approve a public statement to that effect and begin this process with us in earnest.”

The 2014 resolution mentioned above mainly concerned the delisting and trophy hunting of the grizzly bear in the Yellowstone area, but states in part:

“The manner in which this process [the proposed delisting of grizzly bears from the Endangered Species Act] has so far been conducted without the consultation and input of the affected Tribal Nations is representative of the recent history of Yellowstone (post-1872). It must be remembered that Yellowstone was a homeland, a sacred cultural landscape to twenty-six tribes, before it was a National Park. However, a visitor to Yellowstone today would not know that, due to the lack of cultural interpretation. A change in that respect is long overdue. America’s first national park should no longer have features named after the proponents and exponents of genocide, as is the case with Hayden Valley and Mount Doane.

Seven months before Lieutenant Gustavus Cheyney Doane, 2nd Cavalry, guided the 1870 Yellowstone Expedition, he had led the massacre of Chief Heavy Runner’s Piegan Blackfeet village on the Marias River. On his subsequent application to become Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park, he boasted, ‘Greatest slaughter of Indians ever made by U.S. Troops.’ Of the 173 victims killed on January 23, 1870, only 15 were men of fighting age.
Where Doane participated in genocide, Dr. Ferdinand V. Hayden advocated it. ‘Unless they are localized and made to enter upon agricultural and pastoral pursuits they must ultimately be exterminated,’ Hayden said of our ancestors who were about to be dispossessed by the establishment of Yellowstone National Park. ‘If extermination is the result of non-compliance, then compulsion is an act of mercy,’ he concluded.

These names must be changed with the input of the affected Tribal Nations, just as any move to delist the sacred grizzly bear on this ancestral landscape must involve consultation with the affected Tribal Nations.”

The 2017 resolution submitted by the GPTCA states the case for the proposed change:

“Dr. Ferdinand V. Hayden advocated the ‘extermination’ of tribal people in an official government document (US Geological Survey of Wyoming) published in 1872. ‘Unless they are localized and made to enter upon agricultural and pastoral pursuits they must ultimately be exterminated. If extermination is the result of non-compliance, then compulsion is an act of mercy,’” he wrote. That is advocacy for genocide with no plausible deniability. That Hayden was a white supremacist cannot be denied, he stated it himself in his book, North America: ‘Equally incontestable is the pre-eminence, both intellectual and moral, of the white race which thus forms a natural aristocracy in the truest sense, of the word.’

‘The lower race’ is how Hayden categorized tribal people, and in his words, ‘mixed bloods were ‘tainted by the negro element’ and ‘half breeds’ by ‘vices’ from ‘the indolence and wantonness of their Indian mothers.’ Eighteen-years after General Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox, Dr. Hayden defended slave-holding Confederate plantation owners as ‘chivalrous and hospitable,’ and insisted, ‘The treatment of the negro was not barbarous, and many seemingly cruel laws were greatly needed as measures of self-protection on the part of the whites.’ If Hayden’s name is retained, when, at the very least, is there disquiet that a family’s album of smiles and selfies was made in a valley named after somebody who proposed the ‘extermination’ of another race, and vindicated slave owners because, after all, he believed ‘the pre-eminence, both intellectual and moral, of the white race’ was ‘incontestable?’

To deny genocide is complicity in its future enablement. . . . Any attempt to rationalize the retention of Hayden’s name by arguing that he deserves this honor because he was a great geologist is a slippery slope to denying genocide. In the last eighty years, it is not difficult to find notorious ‘doctors’ who have been exponents of genocide but whom, at some point, made contributions in their respective fields of expertise that some viewed as creditable. Hayden’s words and incitement . . . overrides anything [he] did in respect to Yellowstone.”

The 1872 “official government document” referred to in the 2017 proclamation is the second annual Preliminary Report of the United States Geological Survey of Wyoming presented by Hayden to then-Secretary of the Interior Columbus Delano. The report consisted of several parts. Part I and Part II are part of the “Report of F.V. Hayden.” Part III is the “Report of Professor Cyrus Thomas.” Part IV contains “Special Reports” by several authors. Part V is of “Catalogues” of natural history collections by several authors. The first section of Part III, titled “Agriculture” and written by Cyrus Thomas, contains the quote in which Hayden is said to have “advocated the ‘extermination’ of tribal people.” This report was submitted by Thomas to Hayden. The report mostly contains Thomas’s observations on the suitability of the Great Plains of Wyoming for agriculture. In the last part of the
section on “Agriculture,” Thomas wrote some “General Remarks,” one of which was on “Indians.”

The entire section is as follows:

“The present Indian policy, which doubtless looks forward to the localizing and settlement of these roving tribes, is intimately connected with the agricultural development of the West. **Unless they are localized and made to enter upon agricultural and pastoral pursuits they must ultimately be exterminated.** There is no middle ground between these extremes—one or the other must be the final result. If this be so—and I think it will be conceded by all who have given the subject any serious reflection—then it is very important that the agricultural capacity of the Territories, where they are to be found, should be ascertained as soon as possible, and the extent and locality of the arable district adapted to such settlement determined. But these roving sons of the Plains know nothing of agriculture, they know nothing of the principles of irrigation, and hence they must be taught, and to do this the locality for each tribe must be fixed, and the experiment tried. Some of the Indian agents, I believe, have entered upon this work, which, if properly managed, will in all probability result in more good than any other that has been tried. But if persuasion, after a thorough trial, fails to bring a tribe to terms, then compel them to it; for one restless, roving band may destroy all the good that might be effected with half a dozen others. **Lend a helping, fostering hand to all that are willing to enter upon permanent settlements, but make no treaties and grant no annuities to those that refuse to come to these terms. If extermination is the result of non-compliance, then compulsion is an act of mercy.** The how, I leave to others to decide. But looking at it from the agricultural side of the question, I certainly conceive it to be a necessity.” [bold added to show parts quoted in the 2017 resolution]

The book *North America* referenced in the 2017 resolution is the 1883 *North America* volume of Stanford’s *Compendium of Geography and Travel Based on Hellwald’s ‘Die Erde und ihre Völker’* [Earth and its people] published by Edward Stanford, a British publisher of books and maps. Friedrich Heller von Hellwald was an Austrian writer of popular works on geography and the history of civilization. Augustus Henry Keane, an Irish linguist and ethnologist, translated Heller von Hellwald’s work into English. Stanford then took this translation and had regional experts edit and in some case “expand” the works. In the case of North America, the section on the United States was “Edited and Enlarged by Professor F.V. Hayden, Late Chief of the United States Geological Survey.” (Note that the USGS did not and does not have “Chiefs” and that Hayden was never Director of the USGS. He was in charge of part of the U.S. Geological Survey of the Territories which was abolished and subsumed into the USGS when it was formed in 1879 along with the surveys of Powell and Wheeler.) Both Heller von Hellwald and Keane were known for their Victorian views on race. It is unknown whether the initial English translation was ever published or if it was just provided in manuscript form to the editors; the original German text of Heller von Hellwald contains the wording attributed to Hayden by the 2017 resolution.

The text published by Stanford does contain the phrases quoted in the 2017 resolution. However, the text contains a variety of statements and ideas. The section on “The Civil War—Its Causes and Results” in the chapter “Historical Survey” does state:

“unprejudiced historical inquiry, as contrasting with such passionate representations as those of Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, has shown that in general the treatment of the negro was not barbarous, and that many seemingly cruel laws were urgently needed as measures of self protection on the part of the whites. . . . [bolded sections here and below are added to show quotes from the 2017 resolution.]”
Miscegenation resulted in every variety of half breeds, who inherited not only the physical beauty of their parents, but many of the higher qualities of their fathers. All those of mixed blood, however little they might be tainted by the negro element, were held as slaves [although a deplorable view, this does not refer to views on native peoples as asserted by the 2017 resolution]. Indeed, many men held their own children in this degraded condition, nay, even sold their own daughters, knowing what fate might be in store for them. The sharply-drawn lines of aristocracy of blood rigorously excluded those in the least tainted with negro blood from society. . . .

Equally incontestable is the pre-eminence, both intellectual and moral, of the white race, which thus forms a natural aristocracy in the truest sense of the word. But in the Southern Slave States this natural aristocracy was soon, converted into an actual one, which, in the possession of slaves and in the produce of slave labour, found the means of acquiring vast wealth. But this was again counterbalanced by the defect inherent in all aristocracies, here enhanced by the demoralizing influences produced by slavery itself on the slaveholder. The cotton-planters, sprung most of them from the best blood of England, developed into a chivalrous and hospitable race, enjoying the higher culture of the European universities, but having solely in view the maintenance and defence of their own exclusive rights. As, on the other hand, influence never fails to follow in the wake of wealth, the South inevitably gained the ascendancy over the North, and became the leading power in the body politic. . . .

In the same section, however, the text reads:

“[In the North] society stood, fortunately, in no need of slavery, and here consequently arose no aristocracy of colour. . . all were equal, every man could work, and prosperity became universally diffused throughout all classes. . . .

In the contest raised by this burning question of the abolition of slavery [the Civil War], all the civilised world was naturally arrayed on the side of the North. . . . Thus the South, in their vain attempt to protect their ‘peculiar institution,’ afforded its opponents the opportunity and the power to free the country from this foul stain.”

In the chapter on “The Indians” in the section on “Are the Indians dying out?,” the text reads: “[I]n the struggle for existence on this continent, barbarism is giving way, not so much by the advance of culture as by want of vitality of the lower race. . . .”

In the section “Half-Breeds,” the text states, when referring to descendants of Spanish and native people:

“In the consciousness of being neither white nor red, and of having no place in the Indian tribes, they despise the race of their mother as profoundly as they hate and detest that of the father. In them are intensified the vices of both races—the pride and cruelty of their Spanish fathers, the indolence and wantonness of their Indian mothers.

The northern half-breeds differ very much among themselves in their characteristics, depending upon the nationalities of their parents. The French half-breeds are indolent, gay, and careless, resembling in many respects the Spanish half-breeds just referred to, and, like them, though in less degree, showing a want of vitality. The English and Scotch half-breeds are, on the contrary, hardworking and industrious, of good disposition, and show a vitality which predicts for them a perpetuation of the race.”
The section on Canada, “edited and expanded” by “Professor A.R.C. Selwyn, F.R.S., Director of the Geological Survey of Canada,” contains similar views on native peoples and those descendants of European colonists and native tribes. A fuller analysis would be needed to determine which statements were original to Heller von Hellwald, Keane, or the editors of Stanford’s volume, Hayden and Selwyn.

The letter sent by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes states, “To honor . . . Dr. Ferdinand Hayden, an avowed white supremacist who called for the extinction of Indian people, is unacceptable.” The letter sent by the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe restated the 2017 declaration. The letter sent by the Northern Cheyenne Tribe states, “There is no question that . . . Hayden was a white supremacist who openly advocated for the ‘extermination’ of our people, an incitement to genocide published in a government document, the 1872 USGS Survey of Wyoming.” The letter sent by the Piikani Nation directly quoted the 2017 declaration. The GPTCA letter states “It is, as many tribal leaders have protested, shameful, that Yellowstone National Park continues to honor . . . Lieutenant Gustavus C. Doane, and a white supremacist who advocated for the genocide of indigenous people, Dr. Ferdinand V. Hayden, by retaining their names on major features of Yellowstone National Park. These categorizations are not opinion, but fact, based upon the written statements of both Doane and Hayden, some of which are documented in the signed declaration.” All of the letters strongly emphasize the tribes’ historical connections to the YNP area.

Many features have been named for Hayden, including Hayden Glacier, Alaska; Hayden Peak, Hayden Pass, Hayden Fork, and Hayden Lake, Utah; and the populated place Hayden, Colorado. Many other features may have been named for Hayden in the American West. GNIS also lists Hayden Creek, 37 miles to the northeast in Montana in YNP.

Change Mount Doane to First Peoples Mountain: summit; elevation 10,649 ft.; in Yellowstone National Park 1 mi. NE of Mount Stevenson, 3.7 mi. NE of Brimstone Basin; the name refers to the long history of Native peoples in the Yellowstone area, as well as those killed in conflicts with settlers and the military during the 1800s; Unsurveyed Area; Park County, Wyoming; 44°24′48″N, 110°08′50″W; USGS map – Sylvan Lake 1:24,000; Not: Mount Doane.


Proposal: to change a name considered to be offensive
Map: USGS Sylvan Lake 1:24,000
Proponent: Brandon Sazue; Fort Thompson, SD
Administrative area: Yellowstone National Park
Previous BGN Action: Mount Doane (BGN 1930)
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Mount Doane (FID 1599277)
Local Usage: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Mount Doane, a 10,649-foot summit in eastern Yellowstone National Park (YNP), to First Peoples Mountain. It was submitted with the proposal to change the name of Hayden Valley, also in Yellowstone National Park, to Buffalo Nations Valley (q.v.). The proposed changes were submitted by the Great Plains Tribal Chairman’s Association (GPTCA), as well as by a number of individual tribes, all of whom believe the existing names are offensive and need to be changed. The name First Peoples Mountain would be “in honor
of all Tribal Nations that have treaty rights and interests to Greater Yellowstone, and those with an ancestral connection to this sacred landscape and our relatives, the Buffalo Nation.” See the Buffalo Nations Valley proposal for more details.

The name Mount Doane has been labeled on USGS topographic maps since 1885. It was applied to the feature by Ferdinand V. Hayden, the leader of the 1871 U.S. Geological Survey of the Territories exploration of the Yellowstone area. The name was a BGN decision in 1930, one of over 500 names approved for features in the park. The summit was named for Gustavus Cheyney Doane (1840-1892), who participated in the 1870 “Washburn-Langford-Doane Expedition” into the Yellowstone area. Doane served as the leader of the military escort of the survey.

Doane served in the Civil War and was given a commission in the U.S. Army 2nd Cavalry Regiment as a Second Lieutenant. In 1869, he was assigned to Fort Ellis near Bozeman, Montana. In early 1870, he was involved in the Marias (or Piegan) Massacre, which was an attack on a Piegan camp along the Marias River in response to reports of a murder of a white trader and rancher by a Piegan man. Major Eugene M. Baker had been ordered to attack the hostile Piegan band harboring the man, but instead attacked a non-hostile Piegan band which had been promised protection by the local U.S. military. Reports of those killed varied, but as many as 217 Piegan, mostly women and children, were slaughtered. At the time, most of the young men were away hunting bison; many of the band were also suffering from smallpox. Doane later wrote about his participation in the massacre. He was also involved in the Little Bighorn campaign, gaining the allegiance of the Crow Indians and recovering the remains of Custer, and in the Nez Perce wars, helping to capturing Chief Joseph.

In 1870, Doane was assigned as a military escort for an expedition into the Yellowstone area. He wrote detailed descriptions of the findings of what would be called the “Washburn-Langford-Doane Expedition.” His contribution to the exploration of the area and his notable descriptions led Hayden to honor him by naming Mount Doane. Doane also assisted the Hayden survey in 1871, although he also resented Hayden for getting most of the credit for the formation of YNP. In an effort to gain recognition for being an explorer, he attempted several explorations of the Snake River Valley and the Arctic, although these were unsuccessful. In the years before his death, Doane campaigned extensively to be given the position of the first Superintendent of YNP, but his applications were denied. He did receive some recognition for his role in exploring the Yellowstone area.

A 2014 Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council (RMTLC) declaration that was referenced in the letters sent by three federally recognized tribes and by the Great Plains Tribal Chairman’s Association (GPTCA) states:

“Seven months before Lieutenant Gustavus Cheyney Doane, 2nd Cavalry, guided the 1870 Yellowstone Expedition, he had led the massacre of Chief Heavy Runner’s Piegan Blackfeet village on the Marias River. On his subsequent application to become Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park, he boasted, ‘Greatest slaughter of Indians ever made by U.S. Troops.’ Of the 173 victims killed on January 23, 1870, only 15 were men of fighting age.”

The 2017 resolution submitted by the GPTCA states the case for the proposed change:

“To quote Mr. Paul Wylie, author of Blood on the Marias [published in 2016], ‘Clearly, Gustavus Cheney Doane was not worthy of having a mountain named for him, then or now.’ Lieutenant Gustavus C. Doane 2nd Cavalry, was responsible for one of the worst war crimes in US history, an act of genocide committed on this soil, that he bragged about throughout his life. Doane showed no remorse for this atrocity; on the contrary, he was proud of it. In his application to become superintendent of Yellowstone he wrote, ‘I was the first and last
man in [the] Piegan [Piikani] camp January 23, 1870. Greatest slaughter of Indians ever made by U.S. Troops.’ Of the government's record of 173 victims authorities admitted that only 15 were men of fighting age, the rest were elders, women and children, ‘None older than twelve years and many of them in their mother's arms,’ reported Indian Agent W. A. Pease. Doane subsequently ordered several of the Piikani he took prisoner to be executed with axes.

‘I remember the day when we slaughtered the Piegans, and how it occurred to me, as I sat down on the bank of the Marias & watched the stream of their blood, which ran down on the surface of the frozen river over half a mile, that the work we were then doing would be rewarded, as it has been,’ Doane wrote in a letter to Wilbur F. Sanders on January 7, 1891, by which time he was already being celebrated as ‘the man who discovered Wonderland’ for his role in the 1870 expedition that was instrumental in ‘Yellowstone’ becoming a national park. Doane didn’t discover anything, this land was never lost, for it had nurtured our ancestors since the close of the Pleistocene epoch. Doane was a war criminal…

We propose that Mount Doane be renamed ‘First People’s Mountain,’ not only to honor the memories of the Piikani victims of the Marias Massacre, but also in remembrance of those who suffered the same barbarity at the hands of those like Doane. The Cheyenne and Arapaho at Sand Creek. The Shoshone-Bannock at Bear River. The Lakota at Wounded Knee. ‘First People’s Mountain’ also recognizes the 10,000-year plus connection Native peoples have to this sacred place.”

A snippet of news published after the massacre, attributed to either the New North West or the Rocky Mountain Gazette, reported a conversation between a settler and Doane:

“‘Will the Indians remain quiet now, do you think?’ asked an anxious settler of Lieutenant Doane, of the cavalry, when the expedition was returning from the Marias. ‘Well, I can’t say,’ returned the Lieutenant, ‘but there are certainly one hundred and seventy-three very good arguments in favor of their remaining quiet, lying out in the Marias.’”

A reference to Doane as “the man who discovered Wonderland” could only be found in news reports and blog posts about the proposals as well as in one line in Empire of Shadows: The Epic Story of Yellowstone written by George Black in 2012, about Doane’s possible reaction to skepticism about his reports: “What way was that to talk of the man who discovered Wonderland?” However, General William E. Strong, who was guided through the area in 1875, wrote that Doane “is spoken of and pointed out as the man who ‘invented Wonderland.’” (“Wonderland” is a nickname given to the area as early as 1871.)

A fuller quote of Doane’s 1891 letter to Senator W. F. Sanders of Montana, when his application to be Superintendent of YNP was denied, Doane wrote:

“I want command of the Yellowstone National Park. If I have not deserved it, justice is a mockery, merit a scandal, gratitude a farce and liberty a lie. I remember the day when we slaughtered the Piegans, how it occurred to me, as I sat down on the bank of the Marias & watched the stream of their blood, which ran down on the surface of the frozen river over half a mile, that the work we were then doing would be rewarded, as it has been. It has always been to me a question which is the more acceptable in the long run, a suitable & just reward for services rendered or the conscientiousness of unmerited neglect & the sustaining elements engendered therefrom of undying hatred & supreme contempt…’”
The letter sent by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes states, “To honor Lieutenant Doane, a man who proudly recalled leading the Marias massacre. . . is unacceptable.” The letter sent by the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe states, “Lieutenant Gustavus C. Doane is the dictionary-definition of a war criminal.” The letter sent by the Northern Cheyenne Tribe states, “There is no question that Doane was a war criminal. . . . Doane’s slaughter of defenseless Piikani Blackfoot women and children at first light on January 23, 1870 evokes the Sand Creek Massacre, a heinous act of inhuman barbarity committed upon our people. There is not, never was, nor ever will be, any justification or place for the names of killers like Doane. . . to be memorialized.” The letter sent by the Piikani Nation directly quoted the 2017 declaration. The GPTCA letter states “It is, as many tribal leaders have protested, shameful, that Yellowstone National Park continues to honor a war criminal, Lieutenant Gustavus C. Doane, and. . . Dr. Ferdinand V. Hayden, by retaining their names on major features of Yellowstone National Park. These categorizations are not opinion, but fact, based upon the written statements of both Doane and Hayden, some of which are documented in the signed declaration.”

All of the letters strongly emphasize the tribes’ historical connections to the YNP area.

A query of GNIS found one other feature in the area with “Doane” in its name: Doane Peak (BGN 1938) is also named for Doane; it is located in Grand Teton National Park, approximately 50 miles to the southwest. Doane Creek and Doane Peak are located approximately 275 miles to the southwest in Wyoming, but it is not known for whom these features are named.