

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

Eight Hundred and Fifty-third Meeting

April 13, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.

(Virtual Meeting)

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Kenia Allen	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Meghan Barrett	Department of Homeland Security
Marielle Pedro Black	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Jessica Campbell	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
Thad Ellerbe	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Andrew Flora	Department of Commerce (Census Bureau)
Brenda-Anne C. Forrest	Government Publishing Office
Andrew Griffin	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Chris Hammond	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Richard Ilvarsson	Department of Defense (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency)
Elizabeth Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Susan Lyon	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) (Chair)
Veronica Rainieri	Library of Congress
Mike Shelton	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
Timothy St. Onge	Library of Congress (Vice Chair)
Michael Tischler	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Tara Wallace	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Marilyn Withers	Department of Defense (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency)

Ex-Officio

Brigitta Urban-Mathieux, Executive Secretary (Acting), U.S. Board on Geographic Names /
Domestic Names Committee

Staff

Josefa Baker, U.S. Geological Survey
Julie-Ann Danfora, U.S. Geological Survey
Matthew O'Donnell, U.S. Geological Survey
Sergio Rodriguez, U.S. Geological Survey
Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey

Guests

Deb Nordeen, National Park Service
Jesse Nett, U.S. Forest Service
Foreign Names Committee staff
National Geographic Society observer
CoGNA observer
Guests

1. Opening

The Chair opened Meeting 853 of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) at 9:36 a.m. and requested a roll call of the members. She noted that motions would pass by a simple majority of votes.

The Chair invited members to review the reports that were distributed previously and to email any questions or comments to the staff. (Please note the reports appended hereto may have been edited for length and/or clarity.)

2. Minutes of Meeting 852

The minutes of Meeting 852, held March 9, 2023, were approved as submitted.

3. Reports

3.1 BGN Chairman (Tischler)

There was no written report.

The Full Board Quarterly Meeting 289 is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18 at 1 p.m.; it will be held virtually.

The Third Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) will be held in New York, May 1-5. Kanalley will attend to represent the DNC, and Bob Davis, Chief of the USGS National Geospatial Program/Cartographic Data Services, will attend as liaison for the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH).

Effective March 27, Derek Hoffman is the BGN Executive Secretary for Foreign Names.

Tischler asked BGN members and deputy members to review details about the BGN on their agencies' internal and public-facing websites to ensure that names and contact information are current.

U.S. Representative Al Green may wish to address the DNC at an upcoming meeting. Congressman Green was a co-sponsor of [H.R. 8455](#) (116th Congress) with then-U.S. Representative Deb Haaland, and of [H.R. 4454](#) (117th Congress); both were entitled The Reconciliation in Place Names Act and both "direct[ed] the Department of the Interior (DOI) to establish an Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names to advise the Board on Geographic Names with regard to renaming geographic features with offensive place names."

The 13th Annual National Tribal GIS Conference will be held in Albuquerque, April 24-28. A request was received for DOI to report on the issue of derogatory names, specifically

Secretary's Orders 3404 and 3405. Tischler indicated he was willing to record a presentation similar to those given at previous venues. The USGS National Map liaison for Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming will attend and be available to answer questions.

3.2 Executive Secretary for Domestic Names (Urban-Mathieux)

See attached report.

DOI is taking the lead on consulting with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe regarding the pending proposals to rename [Mount Evans](#), Colorado (just prior to the scheduled March 9 vote, the DNC received a request from the Tribe for government-to-government consultation).

Urban-Mathieux also met recently with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe to understand their request for signage and/or educational materials that would note the Ute peoples' presence in the area around [Mount Evans](#). It was a productive conversation, in which she explained that this is not the role of the BGN, and that the U.S. Forest Service would be responsible for such efforts.

The USGS National Map User Engagement team will prepare a table of translations and pronunciations for names submitted by Tribes to replace "sq____" names through the S.O. 3404 process. The table will be hosted on the BGN website.

3.3 Executive Secretary for Foreign Names

In Hoffman's absence, there was no report.

3.4 Special Committee on Communications (Ellerbe)

See attached report.

Ellerbe met twice with Urban-Mathieux and DNC staff to discuss potential updates to BGN fact sheets, resource pages, and other material. Ellerbe drafted updates for the fact sheets and has begun a full review of information on the BGN website.

3.5 Staff (Runyon)

See attached report.

Staff received a number of inquiries from the media and interested parties following the March 9 deferral of a decision on the [Mount Evans](#) name change proposals.

The California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN) requested DNC staff input on a draft procedures document written in response to California Assembly Bill 2022, which

“requires the term ‘sq___’ to be removed from all geographic features and place names in the state.”

The BGN has received a proposal to rename Mount Clay in the Presidential Range in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. The proposed replacement name is Mount Roosevelt because the proponent believes that Theodore Roosevelt should be honored with a name in the Presidential Range. In 2003, the New Hampshire Legislature passed a bill to rename for State use Mount Clay to Mount Reagan after President Ronald Reagan, who was still living at the time. In 2010, the BGN voted to reject the change, and as such there is a difference between the Federal and State names for the summit.

The BGN has received a proposal to name a stream in Virginia Augustine Run to honor Augustine Washington, who was the father of George Washington and is known to have owned enslaved persons.

The government of Kennett Township (Chester County, Pennsylvania) asked for assistance from the DNC staff in drafting guidelines for “Naming of Naturally Running Streams of Water.” These guidelines would be stricter than the DNC’s policies. The Township was directed to refer to the DNC’s policy document and to contact the Pennsylvania Geographic Names Committee.

3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (McCormick)

There was no written report. The new GNIS downloads, including geodatabase, geopackage, and text formats, will be posted soon.

GNIS has been updated to reflect the change of Connecticut counties to Planning Regions.

3.7 Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication (Kanalley)

See attached report. The committee will meet following this meeting.

Kanalley described the recent implementation of the “Cultural Sensitivity for Native American Names” guidance document and thanked everyone involved in the effort. It was agreed that the guidance will be applied to future proposals.

4. Docket

Please refer to the attached Docket for a description of each proposal.

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

Change McGee Lake (FID 1663712) to Middle Ranch Reservoir, California (Review List 448)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 18 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Change **Jeff Davis Gulch** (FID 800988) to **In-qu-qu-leet Gulch**, Montana (Bureau of Land Management) (Review List 444)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 18 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Swastika Mountain** (FID 1150767) to **Mount Halo**, Oregon (Umpqua National Forest) (Review List 448)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 17 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

Kanalley indicated the Forest Service would be willing to place interpretive material at the mountain. A question was raised as to whether the Oregon Geographic Names Board is continuing to consult with Tribal governments; staff noted that they do not and that they defer to the BGN to manage outreach.

Change **Lake Pelham** (FID 1472179) to **Lake Culpeper**, Virginia (Review List 450)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 18 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

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

Georgia Falls, Alabama (Tennessee Valley Authority) (Review List 449) (FID 2831195)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 15 in favor
0 against
3 abstentions

Change **Black John Slough** (FID 219372) to **Pinkston Slough**, California (Review List 448)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 18 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Lake Sandefur, Louisiana (Review List 445) (FID 2831197)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 18 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Negro Brook** (FID 970398) to **John Thomas Brook**, New York (Review List 450)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 18 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Scarlat Lake** (FID 1187061) to **Sgarlat Lake**, Pennsylvania (not review listed)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 18 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Lake Simms, Virginia (Review List 449) (FID 2831199)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 18 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Reads Bay** (FID 1507745) to **Reeds Bay**, Washington (Review List 450)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 18 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Rizeor Lake, Washington (Review List 450) (FID 2831200)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 17 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

IV. Revised Decisions

Change **Table Hollow** (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 235317) to **Loybas Hollow**, California (Review List 449)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 18 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Gathering Creek** (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 1526452) to **Noskeliikuu**, Washington (Olympic National Park) (Review List 450)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 18 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Menifee Hills, California (Review List 440) (FID 2831196)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 18 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Twins Creek, Virginia (Review List 448) (FID 2831198)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 17 in favor
1 against
0 abstentions

The vote against the motion cited a concern that the name was being applied to the branch of the stream that the proponent did not indicate with their description.

5. Other Business

There was no other business.

6. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m. The next Domestic Names Committee meeting is scheduled to be held on May 11, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

(signed)

Brigitta Urban-Mathieux,
Executive Secretary (Acting)
Domestic Names Committee

APPROVED
(signed)

Susan Lyon, Chair
Domestic Names Committee

Executive Secretary, DNC Report

- **BGN Appointment Letters**
 - Process is ongoing for 2023-25 appointments
 - DOI vetting the DOI appointments only
 - Expect to complete sometime in May
 - Reaching out to old and new members for biographical info
 - Basic info current position, some work history, educational background
 - This will go with the transmittal letter to the Secretary of Interior
- **Letters from Tribes to BGN-Exec mailbox regarding Mt Evans name change**
 - Northern Cheyenne
 - Southern Ute
- **UNGEGN update**
 - Gita attended UNGEGN Division virtual meeting on March 30
 - May 1-5 meeting in New York
 - Bob Davis, USGS attending as the PAIGH Liaison
 - Betsy Kanalley attending
- **Cultural Sensitivity for Native American Names Guidance**
 - The approved document was posted on the BGN website
 - <https://www.usgs.gov/us-board-on-geographic-names/cultural-sensitivity-native-american-names>
- **Tribal Replacement Names Project**
 - Compiling a translation/pronunciation table for the native name that replaced sq___ names
 - Developing a process for the work
 - Outreach to the tribes will be done by the USGS National Geospatial Program
 - Information will be posted on the BGN website
- **GSA-OPM-USGS Memorandum of Understanding**
 - Update in work
- **Other Meetings Attended**
 - Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names (ACAN) - March 7th
 - Special Committee for Communications – March 9th
 - Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF) – March 14th
 - BGN Executives Committee meeting – March 27th

~~~~~

### Special Committee on Communications Report

Thaddeus Ellerbe (Chair of Special Committee on Communications) met with Brigitta Urban-Mathieux (acting Executive Secretary for Domestic Names Committee), Jennifer Runyon (BGN staff) and Matt O'Donnell (BGN staff) after the last Domestic Names Committee meeting, to define the role of that committee and figure out how our time can best be spent.

We have begun to edit and update documents on the U.S. Board on Geographic Names Resources page and discussed whether it is worthwhile to add more documents to the Resources page.

Brigitta Urban-Mathieux and I will also take a look at the How Do I? page.

Please submit your Annual Report for fiscal year 2022 if you still need to.

~~~~~

Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication

The BGN/DNC Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication did not meet in March. The committee last met on February 15, 2023. The meeting was focused on finalizing the *Cultural Sensitivity for Native American Names Guidance* and discussing the best way to make it available on the BGN website. The guidance has been approved by the Domestic Names Committee and shared with federally recognized Tribes. The special committee voted unanimously to turn the document over to BGN staff for posting to the BGN website. See the BGN staff report for more details.

The special committee will meet today, directly following the DNC meeting. The meeting is open to all interested BGN members.

~~~~~

### Domestic Names Committee Staff Report

Quarterly Review List 451, comprising approximately 44 new name and name change proposals, is underway and will be posted online shortly. Notices will be sent via email to Federal partners, State Names Authorities, and all federally recognized Tribes and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs), inviting them to comment on any proposal in which they have an interest.

In response to the DNC's decision in January to rename the unincorporated community of [Sq Valley](#) in Fresno County to [Yokuts Valley](#), the Fresno County Board of Supervisors initiated [legal action](#) against the State of California. The ACLU Foundation of Northern California responded to the county, expressing support for the DNC's action and noting that California [Assembly Bill 2022](#) "prohibit[s] the use of the word 'sq—' for geographic features and

place names within the State of California.” They also requested that the county supervisors “abandon the threat of litigation” and asked that the county remove the “Welcome to Squaw Valley” sign that had been removed and subsequently re-installed.

The guidance document entitled “Cultural Sensitivity for Native American Names” was finalized and has been posted at the BGN’s How Do I? page, under Q3: ***How does the BGN address geographic names of interest to American Indian Tribes?***; see <https://www.usgs.gov/us-board-on-geographic-names/how-do-i>. The guidance will be incorporated into a future revision of the PPP and a link will be added to the name proposal form.

On March 13, staff attended a meeting of the Subcommittee on Processes and Principles, one of the three subcommittees established within the Federal Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names ([Secretary’s Order 3405](#)). The staff responded to a request for feedback on the subcommittee’s guidance document.

The staff attended Foreign Names Committee Meeting 413 on March 14, and Meeting 363 of the Advisory Committee on Undersea Features on March 16. At the latter meeting, the members heard a presentation from a member of the Hawaii Board on Geographic Names regarding its endorsement of a proposal to change the name of Loihi Seamount to Kama’ehuakanaloa. The HBGN approved the change in 2021, but ACUF has concerns relating to the longstanding use of the existing name, most notably in the scientific community. The feature lies outside the DNC’s jurisdiction.

Staff participated in the March 27 meeting of the BGN’s Executive Committee.

Following the March 9 deferral of a decision on the proposals to change the name of Mount Evans in Colorado, there were a number of inquiries as to the status and next steps. Several news articles appeared, including <https://www.cbsnews.com/colorado/news/native-tribe-believes-theyre-not-heard-renaming-mount-evans/>; <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/changing-name-of-mount-evans-to-mount-blue-sky-is-sacrilegious-northern-cheyenne-leader-says/ar-AA18M0a5>; and <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/vote-to-rename-colorados-mount-evans-is-delayed-180981789/>. The Department of the Interior will be responding the Northern Cheyenne Tribe’s request for government-to-government consultation. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe also asked for a meeting to review the placement of interpretive signage at the site of the mountain. On March 20, an individual contacted the BGN to suggest that the existing name be retained but rededicated to honor instead Charles “Chick” Evans Jr. (1890-1979), a golfer and humanitarian (the same individual proposed this in March 2022 but failed to complete and submit the BGN’s proposal form). He was informed that all activity related to Mount Evans has been suspended, pending the outcome of the Tribal consultation.

A letter addressed to the Secretary of the Interior regarding ongoing efforts to rename Clingmans Dome (along the North Carolina-Tennessee boundary) was shared with the BGN staff. It indicated that a petition had been submitted to DOI by the Eastern Band of Cherokee

Indians. The BGN has not received a proposal. An online search shows that a change.org petition has been initiated: [Petition · Restore "Kuwohi" to mountain presently known as Clingmans Dome · Change.org](#).

Staff participated in meetings of the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN) (March 10) and the Utah Geographic Names Committee (March 30).

The CACGN drafted a procedures document in response to Assembly Bill 2022 (q.v.), which “requires the term ‘sq\_\_\_’ to be removed from all geographic features and place names in the state.” The CACGN sought the BGN staff’s input on the document.

Runyon met with the new Virginia State Archivist to discuss the role of a State Names Authority and to review cases currently pending in Virginia.

O’Donnell continues to support efforts to compile translations and pronunciations of native names submitted by the Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force to the BGN. The USGS National Geospatial Program (NGP) User Engagement team, which is overseeing the project, has suggested that a link to the results be posted at the BGN website.

Discussions continue regarding efforts to rename several geographic features in Monroe County, Pennsylvania that contain the word “Sambo.” The individual who initiated the effort a dozen years ago has corresponded with local jurisdictions, who have agreed to research the history of the names and to propose replacements that will have community support.

One of the new proposals to be included on Review List 451 is to rename Mount Clay in New Hampshire (White Mountain National Forest) to Mount Roosevelt. The proponent believes Theodore Roosevelt should be honored with a peak in the Presidential Range (along with the existing Mount Washington (proposed Agiocochook), Mount Jefferson, Mount Quincy Adams, Mount Eisenhower, and others). Note: in 2003, the New Hampshire State Legislature voted to change the name of Mount Clay to Mount Reagan for State use; in 2010, the BGN rejected a proposal to change it for Federal use. The current proponent indicated that if the BGN approves the change to Mount Roosevelt, he would seek an amendment to the State legislation. He may also pursue a proposal to reapply the name Mount Clay to a lesser peak.

In September 2022, at the request of the Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force, the BGN approved changes to the names of three geographic features in Ventura County, California, that had previously contained the “sq\_\_\_” word. These were submitted to the Task Force by a native linguist who claimed to be representing the Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians. The Vice President of the Band contacted the BGN to express concerns with the choice of names, and after consulting with his membership, he submitted three new proposals; these will be added to Review List 451.

In 2020, the BGN received a proposal to change the name of Chinaman Creek in Tuolumne County, California (Stanislaus National Forest) to James Wong Howe Creek (Review List 440). In

2021, the U.S. Forest Service suggested that the replacement name China Creek would be more appropriate; that name was added to Review List 443. The USFS conducted additional outreach with the Chinese-American community, and two weeks ago a proposal was received from the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, Oakland Lodge, for Chinese Miners Creek. This name will be added to Review List 451.

A proposal has been received to apply the new name Augustine Run to an unnamed stream in Stafford County, Virginia. The name would commemorate Augustine Washington, the father of George Washington, and a major landowner in Stafford County. He is known to have owned enslaved persons.

In November 2022, the BGN received a proposal to make official the name Buffalo Lookout for an officially unnamed peak in Newton County, Arkansas (Ozark National Forest). It was added to Review List 450. Following receipt of the review list notice, the Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office responded that they would prefer that a name with significance to the Osage Nation be considered instead. They submitted a counterproposal for Wahzhazhe Summit.

The staff responded to an inquiry from a student at the University of British Columbia regarding the BGN's "policies and practices related to the renaming of rivers and other bodies of water to their original Indigenous names." She was particularly interested in efforts to change the name of the Saint John River, located along the boundary of Maine and New Brunswick to Wolastog (or Wolastog River). She was advised that both the U.S. and Canadian naming boards are aware of interest in this matter but that to date no proposal has been submitted. She was advised that there is a Trans-Boundary Agreement between the two nations and that if a proposal is received, the U.S. and Canada will work together. She was also provided with information on how to query GNIS, including the list of the recent "sq\_\_\_\_" changes, but also that there is no definitive list of proposals that restore "original Indigenous names."

The BGN received a proposal to name a cove in York County, Virginia, for the proponent's recently deceased dog. The proponent was advised of the BGN's Animal Names Policy and that the BGN could not consider the proposal at this time.

A resident of West Virginia inquired as to whether Governor Jim Justice had applied to the BGN to have a waterfall in Babcock State Park named "Babydog Falls"; see <https://www.wowktv.com/news/west-virginia/west-virginia-waterfall-in-fayette-county-renamed-babydog-falls/amp/>. He was informed that no proposal has been received and that because "Babydog" is still living, the BGN would be unable to consider one.

The staff continues to receive requests for copies of documents related to past BGN decisions; these are not available online due to concerns regarding the sharing of personally identifiable information (PII).

The staff and chair of the BGN’s Special Committee on Communications have been meeting to address needed updates to the BGN’s webpages. There is agreement that there needs to be more useful and easily accessible guidance for proponents. The BGN is continuing to receive proposals that clearly violate one or more policies and it is clear that proponents are not reading the *Principles, Policies, and Procedures* document.

Urban-Mathieux and Runyon provided a briefing on the BGN and GNIS to the NGP User Engagement group on March 28, and on April 11, Runyon briefed the USGS Natural Science Information Team.

The Cumberland County (New Jersey) Historical Society published an article about the DNC’s July 2022 approval of a change from Eddy Pond to Jeddys Pond: <https://cchistsoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Cumberland-Patriot-2022-Winter.pdf>.

~~~~~

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
DOCKET
April 2023**

Unless otherwise specified, in accordance with the BGN’s Policy X: Tribal Geographic Names, a link to the Quarterly Review List containing each proposal was sent to all federally recognized Tribes, and to Tribal Historic Preservation Officers for which an email address was available. The Tribal authorities were given 60 days to comment on any proposal. If no response(s) were received regarding a proposal, it is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion.

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

Change McGee Lake (FID 1663712) to Middle Ranch Reservoir, California
(Review List 448)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/1663712>

Local government	Los Angeles County Supervisors	No opinion*
State Names Authority	California	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Southern California Edison (owner)	Support**
	Catalina Island Conservancy	Support**

* reported to SNA

** obtained by proponent

A member of the Los Angeles County Fire Department is proposing that the name of the largest reservoir on Santa Catalina Island in Los Angeles County be changed from McGee Lake to Middle Ranch Reservoir to reflect local use. The reservoir is owned by Southern California Edison and is the main water source for the City of Avalon. The proponent reports that the reservoir is located on "Middle Creek," a name not recorded in GNIS.

The proponent reports that the reservoir was originally constructed between 1923 and 1925 by landowner William Wrigley Jr. and that the plans listed the name as "Thompson Dam (Middle Ranch Reservoir)." Shortly after acquiring the water supply system on the island in the mid-1960s, the present owner Southern California Edison (SCE) raised the dam. A topographic map prepared by a contractor for SCE at that time continued to label "Thompson Dam (Middle Ranch Reservoir)." The application notes:

The reservoir is known locally as either Thompson Reservoir or Middle Ranch Reservoir, but has never been called McGee Lake to Island Stakeholders knowledge. McGee Lake started to appear on online resources such as Google earth, but the Island population has always just known that McGee Lake is not correct and do not refer to it as that name. Since the island is so small and locals know where everything is, there has not been a local urgency to fix an obscure map name that everyone already knows what and where it is without use of a map. However, as these online resources continue to be more widely used, it is becoming apparent that the incorrect name now causes confusion. For example, Middle Ranch Reservoir is a key interior water resource for firefighting as a helicopter dipping site. Helicopter pilots for these efforts will most certainly not be from Catalina and will not readily know the local name. If they use their phone or similar tool to look up the reservoir on a map, they will be unable to find the reservoir because it is incorrectly listed.

The Area 7 Engineer of Division of Safety of Dams searched their records and found the historical name of Middle Ranch Reservoir but that the database presently lists the name as McGee Lake [presumably taken from the National Hydrography Dataset].

After speaking with several entities on the Island such as SCE, the City of Avalon, the Catalina Island Conservancy (land manager where the reservoir sits), the consensus is that the reservoir should be correctly labeled to avoid confusion.

The name McGee Lake was entered into GNIS from a 1981 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) inventory of dams and reservoirs. This list is known to be the source of many names that conflict with local use. The current USACE National Inventory of Dams lists the dam as "Thompson" with "Mcgee Lake" [sic] as another name. Prior to the removal of administrative features from GNIS in 2021, the dam was listed as "Thompson Dam," citing USGS topographic maps; the variant names "McGee Lake Dam" and "Thompson 104-027 Dam" cited the USACE list. The USACE has been unable to uncover any information regarding the origin of McGee/Mcgee, and online genealogy records do not list any individuals on the island with that name.

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Change **Jeff Davis Gulch** (FID 800988) to **In-qu-qu-leet Gulch**, Montana
(Bureau of Land Management)
(Review List 444)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/800988>

Local government	Lewis and Clark County Commissioners	No objection
State Names Authority	Montana	N/A - inactive
Federal agency	Bureau of Land Management	No opinion
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (co-proponent)	Support
	Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation	No objection
Other	The Montana Racial Equity Project (co-proponent)	Support
	Forward Montana Foundation (co-proponent)	Support
	Montana Wilderness Association (co-proponent)	Support
	Montana Human Rights Network (co-proponent)	Support
	Mai Wah Society (co-proponent)	Support
	The Wilderness Society (co-proponent)	Support
	The Extreme History Project Director	Support
	Greater Yellowstone Coalition Executive Director	Support
	Montana State Representative Mary Ann Dunwell	Support
	National Wildlife Federation Regional Executive Director	Support
	Dillon, Montana resident	Opposed
	ACLU of Montana	Support
	Montana resident	Support
	400+ form emails from The Wilderness Society email campaign	Support
	2 individuals	Opposed

This proposal is to change the name of Jeff Davis Gulch, a 1.9-mile-long valley in southern Lewis and Clark County, to In-qu-qu-leet Gulch. It was submitted by The Wilderness Society's Director of Wilderness Policy, on behalf of a coalition of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes,

The Montana Racial Equity Project, Forward Montana Foundation, Montana Wilderness Association, Montana Human Rights Network, the Mai Wah Society, and The Wilderness Society, and “on behalf of our members and supporters, and all Montanans who reject place names that honor white supremacists.”

The petition “seeks to rename three Montana geographic features: Jeff Davis Peak, Jeff Davis Creek, and Jeff Davis Gulch. All three were named after a white supremacist slave-owner and defender of slavery who declared war against the United States resulting in the deaths of three-quarters of a million Americans. Montana deserves better. Rather than recognizing a white supremacist who attempted to tear this country apart, the proposed names will honor the people who helped bring us together and lift us up, as a state and as a people.” Further, “Jefferson Davis . . . is most well-known as President of the Confederacy—the states who declared war against the United States of America to defend slavery.”

The valley passes through Bureau of Land Management lands. The name Jeff Davis Gulch has appeared on USGS maps since 1950 and was also on a 1920 General Land Office. An 1871 mineral survey recorded the name as Davis Gulch, while a 1957 Montana State Engineer's Office document referenced Jeff Davis Gulch Creek. Although the origin of the name has not been definitively determined, virtually all available evidence suggests it very likely refers to Jefferson Davis.

Historical sources report that during and after the Civil War residents of southwestern Montana held Confederate sympathies. In an 1866 letter, Nathaniel Pitt Langford, the first Collector of Internal Revenue for Montana Territory, wrote: “I was in a Territory more disloyal as a whole, than Tennessee or Kentucky ever were. Four-fifths of our citizens were openly declared Secessionists.” An article in the *Omaha Bee* in 1898 referred to the news of Robert E. Lee's surrender being received in 1865, and noted that Union supporters were in the minority. When a Union flag was raised in Helena, “many extreme southern sympathizers, of which the country was full at the time, had sworn sulphurous oaths that the flag would not remain till morning.”

The replacement name “In-qu-qu-leet” is the Anglicized phonetic spelling of “Nq wq wliʔt,” the Salish word meaning “Place of Lodgepole Pine.” It refers to the importance of the lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) as a source of food, rope, medicine, and tipi poles to the Séliš (Salish or Flathead) and Qlispé (Kalispel or Pend d'Oreille) peoples. The proposal references Salish use of the area, which has always been well-known for the abundance of lodgepole pines. It notes also that a nearby location is named Snčʔqeyqeymtn, meaning “Place Where Tipi Poles Are Harvested.”

Most published references to “Jeff Davis Gulch” in Montana refer to Jeff Davis Creek in Beaverhead County (see the Choos-wee Creek proposal (Review List 444) for details). A mining district report on the Montana Department of Environmental Quality's Abandoned Mine Lands webpage refers to this Jeff Davis Gulch in Lewis and Clark County. Reports in the March 6th, 1906 *The Financial Bulletin* and the November 30th, 1912 *Mining and Engineering World* also refer to this Jeff Davis Gulch.

The two additional proposals, to rename Jeff Davis Creek and Jeff Davis Peak in Beaverhead County to Choos-wee Creek and Three Eagles Peak, respectively, are pending further review. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribe has submitted counterproposals for those names.

Change **Swastika Mountain** (FID 1150767) to **Mount Halo**, Oregon
(Umpqua National Forest)
(Review List 448)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/1150767>

Local government	Lane County Commissioners	Support*
State Names Authority	Oregon	Support
Federal agency	U.S. Forest Service	No objection
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Hindu American Foundation	Opposed
	Oregon resident	Opposed
	1 individual	Opposed

* contacted by SNA

The name Swastika Mountain has been labeled on USGS topographic maps since 1930. The proponent of the change to Mount Halo states that the word is “considered offensive for many Oregonians.” He is an ethnohistorian and anthropologist at Oregon State University, who describes himself as “Takelma, Chinook, Molalla, [and] Santiam Kalapuya.”

The origin of the current name has not been verified, but it may have referred to a local cattle brand with a swastika symbol. A National Geodetic Survey station mark, stamped SWASTIKA 1953, is located atop the summit.

A post office near the former locale of Deadwood in Jackson County (100 miles south of Swastika Mountain) received the name Swastika in 1909. A post office named Deadwood already existed in Oregon, so it was named Swastika, reportedly from the cattle brand of the first postmaster. The post office was discontinued in 1912.

This proposal and many news reports on the origin of the name of Swastika Mountain in Lane County mistakenly reference the Jackson County post office, citing a Medford *Mail Tribune* article that conflated the two locations.

The swastika is an historic sacred symbol and means “good luck” or “conducive to well-being.” It was widely used prior to its appropriation by the Nazis. According to Wikipedia, “It continues to be used as a symbol of divinity and spirituality in Indian religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism. In Native American culture, particularly among the Pima people of Arizona, the swastika is a symbol of the four winds.”

The proposed replacement name would commemorate Chief Halito (?-1892), a leader of the Yoncalla Kalapuya tribe (his more commonly used name “Halo” means having little or needing little, while “Halo Tish” means “no teeth”). His Tribal village, named Halotish Village, was located 20 miles west of the mountain. According to the proposal:

[Halo] remained on the Applegate family donation land claim in the Umpqua Valley after removal of other tribes to reservations. Despite the dangers of the Rogue River war south of the Umpqua Valley, the death of so many Native people, and the acts of racism and efforts to exterminate the tribes by volunteer militia, Halo chose to remain in his traditional lands. Halo and his family were prominent people in the community of Yoncalla and for generations were friends with the Applegate family.

Chief Halo’s allotment was noted in the General Land Office survey field notes of 1854. His family later adopted the anglicized surname Fearn. The account continues:

Halo and his family remained about the area, likely travelling back and forth between Yoncalla and Cottage Grove. It is unclear if the original village site was abandoned by the tribe because of settler land claims, but Halo appears to have returned and lived for long periods along the Row River, likely near the place he was born, just downriver from his childhood village site. While living on the Row River, Halo made an agreement with one of the homesteaders, a man named Walker homesteaded along the Row River, and they established a business arrangement fishing the river with a Native weir. “They constructed a crude fish trap on Row River. Mr. Walker took the catch one day, Halo Tish the next. Eels were a favorite food of the Indians, so Halo Tish took all of them. If Mr. Walker was too busy to go to the trap on his day, Halo Tish brought his fish to him.” In this manner, Chief Halotish proved to be a man who made friends with the settlers and by doing so was allowed to remain in the area. Indians were not allowed to have donation land claims as they were not American citizens and those tribal people who escaped from the reservations to return home were normally gathered up and returned to the reservations at Siletz or Grand Ronde, after the local folks tired of their presence. Later, Halo’s sons did go to Grand Ronde to visit relatives, perhaps to stay a while, but there is no record that they were ever officially allotted there.”

This proposal for Mount Halo was submitted in response to an earlier one, to change the name to Umpqua Mountain; that name would have recognized the summit’s location within Umpqua National Forest. The proponent has since withdrawn her proposal and now endorses Mount Halo.

An online petition includes approximately 550 signers asking that the “inappropriate” name be changed but no replacement was offered. The petition states “This mountain’s namesake was created pre-WWII, as many are aware, and this symbol has been around for a long, long time before being co-opted by the German Nazi Party. However, the swastika, since the early-mid

20th century, now stands for something else; something we will not stand for. The name of this mountain needs to go into the history books.”

A small community in Clinton County, New York is named Swastika and a post office of the same name operated there from 1913 until 1958. In September 2020, the town voted to retain its name.

The Hindu American Foundation (HAF) sent a letter to the BGN, which they wrote in representation of “3 million+ Hindu-Americans, including 20,000+ in Oregon” and which stated:

We are writing to express our concern for the Oregon Geographic Names Board’s December 6 recommendation that the US Board on Geographic Names rename Swastika Mountain in Lane County, OR on the grounds that it is “considered offensive.”

The word swastika – translated literally as “good existence” in Sanskrit – has been a sacred symbol for Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and Zoroastrians for 4,000+ years. It is used in cultural and religious contexts to invoke peace and prosperity. It is used in daily religious practice, special rites, and displayed in temples, places of business, jewelry, clothing, and art by more than one billion people worldwide. Similar symbols, such as the whirling log, also have positive significance for many Native American cultures.

The Nazi party adopted the hooked cross (*hakenkreuz* in German) as its emblem in 1920. Nazism is the hateful ideology that is responsible for the killing of millions of Jewish people, alongside other minority groups. When translating hateful Nazi propaganda from German to English, the word *hakenkreuz* was translated as *swastika*, despite the fact that the Nazis never used the term *swastika* themselves. This erroneous, careless translation has resulted in the Nazi emblem being mistakenly misappropriated as the “Nazi swastika” ever since.

The meaning of our sacred *swastika* and the hateful *hakenkreuz* could not be more different.

As such, the proposed renaming of Swastika Mountain is rooted in ignorance about the sacred meaning of the swastika to Hindu, Buddhist, Jain and Zoroastrian Americans.

Historically, Swastika Mountain was named before World War II, so any association with Naziism is misplaced.

As Oregon Historical Society executive secretary Kerry Tymchuk told NPR, “What we name things, our features, reflects history, but also reflects values. And as history changes, so do values.” Other states have begun to take steps to correct the historical translation error and distinguish the *hakenkreuz* from the *swastika*, including the California State legislature, which in September amended their penal code to state, in part “*the ancient swastika symbols that are associated with Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism, and are symbols of peace.*”

We support the recognition of Native American groups in place names and geographic features, wherever appropriate. And if local Kalapuya representatives ask that the mountain be renamed to better reflect and honor their heritage, that is something which we would support. However, renaming it because of ignorance about a sacred symbol for more than a billion people in the world is not something we can support.

The HAF shared its concerns with the OGNB prior to the OGNB meeting and a representative of the foundation addressed the OGNB at the meeting. The OGNB minutes report that the representative “asked the [OGNB] to leave the Swastika Mountain name in place, and to find another feature to name after Chief Halo.”

The OGNB stated in the official record of their vote that “the vote was supportive of a name that more closely honored the history of the area, and in no way a sign of disapproval of Hinduism.”

Two individuals, one of whom lives in Oregon and said they were speaking in support of the views of the HAF, cited the spiritual significance of the swastika and are opposed to the change.

Change **Lake Pelham** (FID 1472179) to **Lake Culpeper**, Virginia
(Review List 450)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/1472179>

Local government	Culpeper Town Council	Support*
	Culpeper County Supervisors	No opinion
State Names Authority	Virginia	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources	No opinion**
	Some local residents	Opposed

* proponent and reservoir owner

** contacted by SNA

This proposal is to change the name of **Lake Pelham**, an approximately 250-acre reservoir in Culpeper County and just outside the corporate boundary of the Town of Culpeper, to **Lake Culpeper**. The reservoir was constructed in 1972 and is owned by the Town of Culpeper and used as its water source.

The proposal was submitted by the Town of Culpeper Department of Community Development. The change was approved by the Town Council on October 11, 2022 by a vote of 5-4. The proposal states “The existing name of **Lake Pelham** stems from an Alabama-native Confederate soldier, Major John Pelham. The Town would prefer that the name of the reservoir not stem

from a divisive individual. The name 'Lake Culpeper' is felt to be more representative of the entire community."

A number of news articles cited comments from council members and the public, both for and against the change. They also referenced a 1975 *Culpeper Star-Exponent* article which stated that the name Lake Pelham had been selected through a contest sponsored by the Town and the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation Service.

John Pelham (1838-1863) was an artillery officer under J.E.B. Stuart who was mortally injured in the 1863 Battle of Kelly's Ford and died from his injuries at the Culpeper courthouse. Several historic markers in the area note Pelham's life and participation in nearby battles.

The USACE National Inventory of Dams lists the reservoir's dam name as "Mountain Run Dam #50" with an alternate name of Lake Pelham.

The Town of Culpeper owns and operates a boat rental business near the dam, which will have new signs in the 2023 season showing the name "Lake Culpeper Adventures" in place of the existing "Lake Pelham Adventures." The Town plans to spend \$9,000 to change reservoir signs. The Town has no plans to rename or remove any other reference to Major Pelham.

A neighborhood north of Culpeper is named Pelham Manor and is recorded in GNIS as a populated place. The streets of the neighborhood are named after Confederate generals.

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources uses the name Pelham Reservoir. The USGS National Water Information System refers to a water monitoring station at the reservoir as Pelham Lake.

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

Georgia Falls, Alabama
(Tennessee Valley Authority)
(Review List 449)

34.794066, -87.626457

Local government	Colbert County Commissioners	No opinion
State Names Authority	Alabama	Support
Federal Agency	Tennessee Valley Authority	No objection
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	U.S. Representative Robert Aderholt	Support

The new name Georgia Falls is proposed for an unnamed waterfall located on the south bank of the Tennessee River below Wilson Dam in Colbert County. The falls is known locally as Wilson

Dam Waterfall, but the proponent wishes to commemorate her niece Georgia Myrick, who at the age of 12 in 2017 drowned at the base of the falls. Following the young girl's death, a memorial bench was placed along the walkway near the base of the falls.

The falls is located on land managed by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), referred to online as the Rockpile Recreation Area. The falls is a destination along the Waterfall Walk trail within the Muscle Shoals National Recreational Trail complex. The TVA website states, "the trail provides breathtaking views of historic Wilson Dam, the Tennessee River and a series of waterfalls." These falls are the most prominent along the trail.

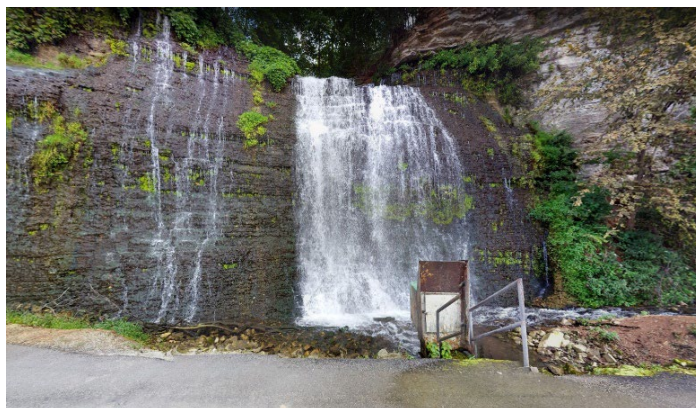
Regional tourism websites describe the falls as being "on a small tributary creek as it tumbles down into the Tennessee River" or "on a high rock wall adjacent to Wilson Dam on the south bank. Small feeder creeks run through the natural area and create this waterfall on an adjacent cliff wall."

However, the actual source of the falls' water is Wilson Lake above Wilson Dam. A 2010 *TimesDaily* (Florence, Alabama) article reported that "a waterfall that plummets from a bluff downstream of Wilson Dam at the Rockpile Recreation Area is actually a leak from Wilson Lake that begins in Fleet Harbor." Water seeps through the surrounding porous limestone rock layers and exits along the cliffs below the dam not only at this falls but also in several openings in the limestone cliffs. The groundwater flow from the lake does not threaten the structure of the dam.

According to the Alabama State Names Authority, the cliff that the water flows down may have been formed from excavation for a railroad along the Tennessee River used to bring materials for the construction of Wilson Dam. Dye placed in the cove south of Wilson Dam was observed in water flowing over and out of the cliffs below the dam.



Approximate route of underground water flow from Wilson Lake to falls



The TVA’s Vice President of River and Recourses Stewardship sent a letter to the proponent’s U.S. Representative in response to a request from the proponent to name the falls. In the letter, he reported, “TVA does not have jurisdiction for the naming of geological [natural geographic] features. It is TVA’s understanding that this jurisdiction belongs to the United States Geological Survey [sic] Board of [sic] Geographic Names. The BGN is aware of the request and has coordinated with The Geologic Survey of Alabama and their Alabama Names Committee. Should the BGN and the state of Alabama decide to name the waterfall, TVA would have no objection. . . . There is currently a bench at the falls area in Ms. Myrick’s memory, which is consistent with other memorials on the Muscle Shoals Dam Reservation.”

Change **Black John Slough** (FID 219372) to **Pinkston Slough**, California
(California Department of Fish and Wildlife)
(Review List 448)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/219372>

Local government	Marin County Supervisors	Support*
State Names Authority	California	Support
Federal agency	NOAA	No opinion
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria	No opinion*
Other	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Support*

* reported to SNA

A former Marin County resident and county park ranger is proposing that **Black John Slough**, a three-mile-long tributary of the Petaluma River near Novato in Marin County, be renamed to **Pinkston Slough**. He is submitting the proposal as a private citizen. The slough is located within the Petaluma Marsh Wildlife Area, managed by California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The proponent notes that the current name refers to a local pioneer and land grantee named John Henry Pinkston (1827-1872), adding:

This change is not necessarily to rename the slough to honor someone or something else, but more to clean up the map to properly honor the same name sake [sic]

John Henry Pinkston and his family were granted 20 acres along the shore of the slough by his father-in-law and friend Camillo Ynitia, headman of the Olompali People and owner of Rancho Olompali. The Pinkstons stayed there from 1853 until at least 1872.

The property and the slough itself changed hands multiple times with different owners including the Clark, Peters, Atherton, Burdells, and Taylor families. By 1892 the slough was called Taylor’s Slough, after Joseph Taylor who exported cobblestone and dimensional

stone from the side of Burdell Mountain. He shipped the rock from his ranch to San Francisco via the slough between 1885 and 1895. The name Black John Slough didn't come into common place until about 1953, when it first appeared on the USGS 7.5' Topographic Map - Petaluma River [*sic*, see below].

An 1883 article [*sic*, appears to be 1887] in the *Marin Journal* explained a nickname that Burdell Mountain carried until the late 1950s, N____r Mountain. The article explained that a black man, Pinkston [not named in the article] had originally settled in the Black Point area, but was “compelled” to leave and move closer to Burdell Mountain, hence the locals began calling it N____r Mountain.

John Pinkston was a pioneer of Marin County, and in his time was widely renowned, and exercised immense political capital that many African Americans of the time could not. Though his story is not widely known currently, his lasting legacy is to be tied to the color of his skin. Being a former slave, Pinkston did not have a last name given to him at birth. Pinkston was the name he most likely chose for himself, once he was freed. It would be better served to commemorate his memory with the name he chose, not the one that others gave him.

The details of John Henry Pinkston’s life are not well known before he settled in Marin County. He was initially known as Samuel John Pinkston and was born in the Caribbean. He may have arrived as early as 1844. He was brought to Marin County as an enslaved person and later freed. He is recorded as “John Pinkston (a colored man)” on a list of the five first applicants for business licenses in Marin County on August 14, 1850. The proponent reports:

Pinkston was a trusted advisor of Camillo Ynitia, the last “Headman” or chief of the Olompali people, a local band of the Coast Miwok. Ynitia was granted Rancho Olompali by the Mexican Government in 1843, a roughly 8,800 acre property in northern Marin County. Pinkston was known by many locals as a trusted mediator between the Native American, Alta Californians, and US Citizens. Pinkston also began a relationship with Ynitia’s step daughter Maria Antonia. Ynitia granted their first born child Juan Jose 20 acres of land on the southern portion of Rancho Olompali, at what is now the head waters of Black John Slough. . . . An 1860 census report showed Pinkston living with his future wife, Maria Antonia Pinkston, in Novato with two children.

Pinkston was mentioned in several articles in the *Marin Journal*:

- 4 June 1864: “Olompali [*sic*] Rancho, near Novato, was the scene of a grand jubilee on Monday last, gotten up and enjoyed hugely by ‘our fellow-citizens of African descent.’ John Henry Pinkston, an old pioneer of California, formerly of Jersey and known far and near as ‘Black John,’ . . . presided over the affair. . . .”
- 10 February 1866: “John Henry Pinkston, an old pioneer of California, and known to the old residents under the sobriquet of “Black John,” was united in holy bands of matrimony on Saturday last. . . .”

- 8 June 1867: “At Novato, May 28th, the wife of John Henry Pinkston.”

The name Black John Slough first appeared on USGS maps in 1954 and on Office of Coast Survey charts in 1966. Prior to those, both sources labeled the feature as Rush Creek. Rush Creek is now considered to flow into Black John Slough. The name dates to at least 1917 when a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers report about improving the slough was conducted and sent by the Secretary of War to Congress. The report noted that “Black John Slough enters Petaluma Creek [sic] from the west about 3 miles above its mouth at Petaluma Point. Black John Slough is about 3 miles long from its mouth to a point near Novato. . . . Taylor Slough [also called Taylor Creek elsewhere in the letter] is a small tributary from the north.”

The March 13, 1902 edition of *Field and Stream* referred to twelve striped bass caught in Black John Slough in the San Francisco Bay area; this is likely the same feature.

A 1942 Coast and Geodetic Survey station located west of the source of Black John Slough reported that it was “at the beginning of Rush Creek.”

A 1979 U.S. Coast Guard memo about navigable waters in the area listed “Black John Slough” and “Rush Slough (see Black John Slough)”; a 1991 USCG listed “Black John Slough” and “Rush Slough” as separate features.

A 2007 California Department of Transportation/Federal Highway Administration report noted that “Basalt Creek and Rush Creek flow east through Black John Slough before draining to Petaluma River.”

An August 18, 1887 *Marin Journal* article expressed the following opinion:

The name of the postoffice at this place ought to be changed from Black Point to Novato, to avoid confusion and delay in the receipt of mail matter. Black Point took its name from a negro who once resided here and claimed a large amount of the public domain. The next place in which he took up his residence on being compelled to leave the Point was called after him, “N_____r Hill [now Burdell Mountain, also formerly known as Mount Olompali or by similar names].”

However, Gudde and Bright’s 1998 *California Place Names* suggests that nearby Black Point was not named for John Pinkston:

Black Point [Marin Co.] was probably named for the same pioneer [James Black, a Scottish sailor and land grantee in the county for whom Black Mountain in Marin County was named]. A surveyor’s plot (1859) of Rancho Novato shows Black’s Store in Novato Valley. Hoffman’s map of the Bay region (1873) has a settlement [sic] called Black John 2 miles north of the point, and J. Black 4 miles north. The three names are on the Rancho San Jose, whose owner, the widow of Ignacio Pacheco, became James Black’s wife in 1865. The post office, named after the point, was established on Jan. 11, 1865. In 1905, real estate

promoters succeeded in having the name changed to Grandview Terrace; on Apr. 1, 1944, the old pioneer name was restored.”

In December 2021, the City of Novato changed the name of nearby Black John Road to Pinkston Road with reportedly no opposition. In 2021, the proponent started a change.org petition to solicit support for changing the name of the slough; as of this summary, it had 466 signers.

Lake Sandefur, Louisiana
(Review List 445)

31.506571, -92.757023

Local government	Natchitoches Parish Council	No response
State Names Authority	Louisiana	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Natchitoches Parish Historical Foundation	No response*
	Senator Louie Bernard	Support*

* contacted by proponent and SNA

The new commemorative name Lake Sandefur is proposed for a 7.5-acre reservoir, located 2.5 miles west of the community of Colfax in Natchitoches Parish. The name would commemorate Marshall Nugent Sandefur (1909-1992). According to the proponent, “The lake was created by the construction of the Cane River/Red Bayou diversion canal spoil bank but would have drained into the canal naturally except for the effort of Mr. Sandefur to construct a control structure in the natural drain which prevented the lake from drying up. Without a control structure it is expected that there would be no lake today.” He adds, “Mr. Sandefur did not reside in Natchitoches Parish (he had a brother who did), but his son [the proponent] has owned the property on which the lake is contained since 1977. The lake sits entirely on the Sandefur property, and no portion of the lake is on property owned by any other person or entity.” Marshall Sandefur’s obituary added, “He was a native of Gold Dust (in Avoyelles Parish, 70 miles from the lake in question) and co-owner of Central Radio Supply Company. He was a member of First United Methodist Church, Alexandria Lions Club, and the Central Louisiana Amateur Radio Club.”

The Louisiana State Names Authority initially did not provide a formal recommendation, but in informal discussions noted “our initial response to what was presented was to leave the lake unnamed as we did not find the historic significance nor did we find appropriate the claim that the lake was being named for someone deceased, as in the proposal for the change was made by the child of the deceased to a lake on property that the child of the deceased owns but the deceased did not own.” The SNA later recommended that the name be approved.

Change **Negro Brook** (FID 970398) to **John Thomas Brook**, New York
 (New York State Department of Conservation)
 (Review List 450)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/970398>

Local government	Franklin Town Supervisors	Support*
	Franklin County Manager	Support*
State Names Authority	New York	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Paul Smith's College President and student body	Support*
	Six Nations Iroquois Cultural Center	Support*
	Historic Saranac Lake	Support*
	Adirondack Diversity Initiative	Support*
	Franklin Town Historian	Support*

* included with proposal

This proposal is to change the name of Negro Brook, a 15.3-mile-long tributary of Twobridge Brook in the Town of Franklin in Franklin County, to John Thomas Brook. The stream flows through property owned by Paul Smith's College.

The proponent, a Paul Smith's College professor, states "the name is still considered by residents of the area to be derogatory and is frequently described as such This offensive name has also been a chronic source of inconvenience and embarrassment to Paul Smith's College, which owns headwaters of the brook in Onchiota and whose faculty have often expressed discomfort in having to explain the label to students and visitors."

The proposed name would honor John Thomas (1810-1894), one of the first African Americans to settle in the area around the stream. He was born enslaved in Maryland and escaped to New York in 1840. He accepted a plot of land from abolitionist and philanthropist Gerrit Smith who gave 120,000 acres of his land in the Adirondacks to Black pioneers in the area. Mr. Thomas later purchased a farm near the mouth of the stream, where he and his wife Mary raised two daughters. He died there and is buried in a local cemetery. An obituary at the time stated that "Mr. Thomas was an honest, upright and fair dealing man, a good citizen and much respected in the community where he lived so long."

The proponent also reported the following:

In 1872, Mr. Thomas sent a letter to Gerrit Smith "I have breasted the storm of prejudice and opposition," he wrote, "until I begin to be regarded as an American citizen." In the diary of Rainbow Lake hotelier James Wardner . . . the writer told pathetically racist anecdotes about a "Negro Thomas" who lived nearby. In contrast, local lore has it that

when Mr. Thomas' former enslaver Ezekiel Merrick sent bounty-hunters to recapture him Adirondack residents helped drive the intruders away. James Wardner's diary also described the community of Black farmers in Vermontville, some of whom tended onion gardens beside a stream that thereby became known as "N_____ Brook."

USGS first labeled the stream as N_____ Brook in 1902 and began showing the name Negro Brook in 1955. An 1840 Franklin County map used the name Black Brook. Commercial maps from the Late 1800s used the name N_____ Brook. An 1876 Franklin County atlas does not label the stream but shows the residence of "J. Thomas" nearby.

A summit named Negro Mountain is located near the mouth of the stream; the proponent is working with the local groups to develop a proposal to change its name.

Change Scarlat Lake (FID 1187061) to Sgarlat Lake, Pennsylvania
(not review listed)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/1187061>

Local government	Harveys Lake Borough Council	Support
	Dallas Township Supervisors	Support
	Luzerne County Council	No response
State Names Authority	Pennsylvania	No response

This proposal is to correct the spelling of Scarlat Lake in Luzerne County to Sgarlat Lake. The lake is located on the boundary of Dallas Township and Harveys Lake Borough.

The local spelling "Sgarlat" was confirmed by the Borough and the Township. Sgarlat Road is nearby and a sign near the reservoir shows the spelling "Sgarlat." USGS maps have shown "Scarlat" since 1946.

The name refers to the local Sgarlat family which has lived near the reservoir since at least the 1910s. The current name is an apparent typographic error, having been misspelled when the name was first recorded from field mapping inquiries.

Lake Simms, Virginia
(Review List 449)

36.948838, -79.941725

Local government	Franklin County Supervisors	No response*
State Names Authority	Virginia	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Franklin County Historical Society	No objection*

* contacted by SNA

The new commemorative name Lake Simms is proposed for a 1.3-acre reservoir on private property in Franklin County southwest of Rocky Mount. The proponent wishes to honor his father Clifford Harold Simms (1914-2010), who in the late 1950s bought the land and constructed the reservoir. Mr. Simms was a deacon at the nearby Story Creek Baptist Church, served on the Ferrum Rescue Squad, and worked for Hub Oil Company.

Change Reads Bay (FID 1507745) to Reeds Bay, Washington
(Review List 450)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/1507745>

Local government	San Juan County Council	No response*
State Names Authority	Washington	Support
Federal agency	NOAA	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Washington Committee on Geographic Names federally recognized Tribe contacts	No response*
Other	Washington Committee on Geographic Names contacts	No response*

* reported by SNA

This proposal is to change the spelling of the name of Reads Bay, located on the southwestern side of Decatur Island in San Juan County, to Reeds Bay. According to the proponent, a local resident, the latter spelling is in local use and refers to the Reed family that has lived along the shore of the bay since the 1860s.

Mary Tacee (1846-1918) and John P. Reed (1831-1895) moved to Decatur Island and built a cabin there. They were reportedly the first settlers on the island. (Their daughter Mary married Henry Cayou, for whom Cayou Channel (BGN 2022) is named.) Online sources list Mrs. Reed as Mary Tacee “Little Bird” Weldon Gustoff Reed and report that:

- Tacee means ‘Little Bird.’
- Mary was the niece of Chief Shaksh ‘Chief Seattle’ of the Wrangell, Alaska Tlingit tribe, and a slave of the Tlingits [who] escaped to Victoria.
- Tlingit Indians attempted to take Mrs. Reed back but her husband holed up in the cabin [where they lived] and scared them off with his rifle. The cabin is now Decatur Island Community Centre, restored in 1970.
- On Decatur, no one spoke of Mrs. John P. Reed or Mary Reed or Tacee Reed, but of ‘Grandmother Reed.’ By this, she was always lovingly referred to by all of the island residents.

Much of this information came from *Native American Wives of San Juan Settlers*, written by a relative of the proponent.

USGS maps have labeled the bay as Reads Bay since 1943. Office of Coast Survey charts first labeled the bay in 1979 and also used the name Reads Bay. Two roads near the bay are named Reeds Bay Road and Reeds Shipyard Road.

Rizeor Lake, Washington
(Review List 450)

48.5058, -120.22651

Local government	Okanogan County Commissioners	No response*
State Names Authority	Washington	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Washington Committee on Geographic Names federally recognized Tribe contacts	No response*
Other	Shafer Historical Museum	Support*
	Washington Committee on Geographic Names contacts	No response*

* reported by SNA

This proposal was submitted by the Washington Committee on Geographic Names (WCGN) on behalf of a resident of Twisp to apply the commemorative name Rizeor Lake to an unnamed 7.1-acre lake in Okanogan County. The lake lies within the Rendezvous Wildlife Area Unit, part of the Methow Wildlife Area, 2.7 miles northwest of the community of Winthrop.

The proposal was originally submitted to the WCGN to correct the spelling from Riser Lake to Rizeor Lake, noting that the former name was listed in Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife records; however, the lake is not listed in GNIS, so the BGN is considering Rizeor Lake as a new name for an unnamed feature. If approved, Riser Lake will be added to GNIS as a variant name.

The lake would be named for Henry Jackson Rizeor (1849-?), described as “a ne’er do well, who in 1898 homesteaded a quarter section of land surrounding the lake.” General Land Office records confirm Rizeor’s land patent in 1898, and he was listed as a farmer in the 1900 Federal Census of Okanogan County. By 1910, he had relocated to Douglas County, Oregon, where his occupation was recorded as “odd jobs.” A 1904 volume entitled *History of North Washington* included a reference to Mr. Rizeor:

[Born in Illinois] the family crossed the plains in 1853 with ox teams and located in Benton county, Oregon, where our subject grew to manhood. He was there educated in the public schools and continued assisting his father on the farm After his majority, Mr. Rizeor

went from Oregon to Idaho, and settled near Eagle Rock, where two years were spent in prospecting and trapping. From that place, Mr. Rizeor went to Juneau, Alaska, and there prospected for one year. Later he went to Ashcroft, British Columbia, where he prospected and did trapping until 1889, when he came to Okanogan county. He located a squatter's right on the land he now owns and afterward took it as a homestead. He does general farming and raises good fruit and melons, having a lake from which he irrigates a portion of his land. Mr. Rizeor is also greatly interested in mining. He owns stock in various gold mines in eastern Oregon and also has properties in different localities. He owns a portion of the Ninety-nine on Slate creek and other properties in this county. Mr. Rizeor has given names to several creeks in this county, among which is Cub creek, which flows into the north branch of the Methow river. The incident that named the creek was the slaying of two cubs by Mr. Rizeor when out hunting.

The renaming effort was covered in an April 2022 article in the *Methow Valley News*: <https://methowvalleynews.com/2022/04/06/riser-lake-or-is-it-rizeor-may-get-a-rename/>. The Executive Director of the Methow Field Institute suggested to the proponent that perhaps the lake could be given a native name instead but did not submit one.

IV. Revised Decisions

Change **Table Hollow** (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022) (FID 235317)
to **Loybas Hollow**, California
(Review List 449)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/235317>

Local government	Tehama County Supervisors	Support*
State Names Authority	California	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians of California	Support**

* obtained by SNA

** proponent

This proposal is to change the name of Table Hollow, a 5.2-mile-long valley in Tehama County west of Corning, to Loybas Hollow.

In April 2022, the California Natural Resources Agency solicited input from Tribes and other interested parties in response to [Secretary's Order #3404](#) (SO 3404). The Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians submitted the name Loybas Hollow, which in turn was forwarded to the Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force during the public comment period.

The Task Force chose to recommend the name Table Hollow and this name was accepted by the BGN in September 2022. Table Mountain is located six miles to the northwest across the valley of Thomes Creek.

In proposing that the name Table Hollow be changed to Loybas Hollow, the chair of the Paskenta Band notes “Loybas” is a Wintuan word that means “young lady” and that the valley is located “in our aboriginal territory of Tehama County.” He adds, “We would still like [the name] to be considered as it is very important to us as a nation and would be a great honor to the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki people.” The Tribe also proposed that the unincorporated populated place of Sq Hill be renamed to Loybas Hill; this change was approved by the BGN in January 2023 when it considered all proposals to change the names of the unincorporated places that contained the word “sq___.”

The origin of the previous name Sq Hollow is unknown. It was mentioned in an 1893 California State Mineralogist report and had been shown on USGS maps since 1944.

Change **Gathering Creek** (FID 1526452) (BGN/Secretarial Decision 2022)
to **Noskeliikuu**, Washington
(Olympic National Park)
(Review List 450)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/1526452>

Local government	Jefferson County Commissioners	No response*
State Names Authority	Washington	Support
Federal agency	National Park Service	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
	Quinault Indian Nation	Support**
	Washington Committee on Geographic Names federally recognized Tribe contacts	No response*
Other	Washington Committee on Geographic Names contacts	No response*

* contacted by SNA

** proponent

This proposal is to change the name of Gathering Creek, a 0.75-mile-long tributary of the North Fork Quinault River in Jefferson County, to Noskeliikuu. The stream is located in the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness in Olympic National Park.

In April 2022, in response to Secretary’s Order 3404, the Washington Committee on Geographic Names (WCGN) solicited input from Tribes and other interested parties. In June 2022, the Quinault Indian Nation submitted the name Noskeliikuu to the WCGN and it was approved by the Washington Board of Natural Resources in January 2023.

The Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force received the name Gathering Creek through public comment, and it was approved by the BGN in September 2022. (The Task Force also recommended that another “sq_____” feature, in Oregon, be changed to Gathering Creek; this name was recommended by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon. The two streams are 240 miles apart.)

The name Noskeliikuu was proposed by the Quinault Indian Nation’s Historic Preservation Technician, who reported that the name “has been used in oral histories for at least four generations by Quinault Tribal members. It has been vetted through the Quinault Cultural Advisory Committee, the Natural Resources and Community Development subcommittee, [and] advised by appropriate cultural leaders. . . .” The Tribe surmises that the prior official name refers to the medicinal plants “that might be found at this elevation and only collected during the summer months. It is possible that early settlers may have seen a Native American gathering [at the location].” They added: “Noskeliikuu basically means ‘the place where the whale dropped’ . . . an event witnessed by Quinault ancestors in the area and was named for the actual event. ‘nos’ roughly translates to ‘place’ in Quinault so that signifies that [they] were talking about a place.”

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Menifee Hills, California
(Review List 440)

33.710019, -117.166272

Local government	Menifee City Council	Support
	Riverside County Supervisors	No response
State Names Authority	California	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response

The new name Menifee Hills is proposed for an unnamed ridge in the City of Menifee in Riverside County. The irregularly shaped ridge is approximately two miles long and 1.5 miles wide and has a high point of 2,141 feet. It is located south of Perris Valley and north of Menifee Valley.

The name refers to the City of Menifee, which was named for Luther Menifee Wilson (1845-1899), one of the first settlers of the area, who in 1883 discovered a significant local quartz lode. The proponent reports that one of the summits on the ridge is locally called “Menifee Cross Hill” due to the presence of a white cross at its peak. A subdivision named Menifee Hills was recently built on the east side of the ridge.

Twins Creek, Virginia
(Review List 448)

Mouth: 37.97526, -79.37965 / Source: 37.983073, -79.394584

Local government	Rockbridge County Supervisors	No response*
State Names Authority	Virginia	Support
Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	No response
Other	Rockbridge County Historical Society	No response*
	Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources	No objection*
	Virginia Outdoors Foundation	No opinion*

* contacted by SNA

The owner of property along this unnamed stream in Rockbridge County is proposing that it be named Twins Creek. The stream flows partly through private lands and partly through the Goshen and Little North Mountain Wildlife Management Area, managed by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources.

The proponent states that the stream is joined by another similar stream on his property and that “they are like twins when they are running strong in the spring, fall and winter.” The proposal is to name “the stronger and longer one.” There are no other streams in Virginia known to be named “Twins,” while six include “Twin” in their names.