

# **U.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee**

Six Hundred Eighty-First Meeting  
Department of the Interior, Room 3004  
August 10, 2006 – 9:30 a.m.

## Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Robin Bellmard	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs)
Michael Fournier	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Bonnie Gallahan	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Tony Gilbert	Government Printing Office
Robert Hiatt	Library of Congress
Elizabeth Kanalley (Chairwoman)	Department of Agriculture (Forest Service)
William Logan	Department of Homeland Security (U.S. Coast Guard)
Curtis Loy	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Joseph Marinucci	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Meredith Westington	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Karen Wood (via telecon)	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)

## Ex-Officio

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

## Staff

Eve Edwards  
Jennifer Runyon

### 1. Opening

The meeting opened at 9:35 a.m. Chairwoman Kanalley welcomed everyone to the 681<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) and asked that each member of the Committee and staff announced their presence for the benefit of Ms. Wood who was participating via telecon.

### 2. Minutes of the 680<sup>th</sup> Meeting

The minutes of the July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as submitted, with one correction.

### 3. Communications and Reports

#### 3.1 Chairman's Report (Kanalley for Boughton)

Chairwoman Kanalley was pleased to announced that there was very good attendance at the U.S. Board on Geographic Names quarterly meeting, held July 18<sup>th</sup> at the U.S. Geological Survey in Reston. She noted also that an ad hoc meeting of the Board's Executive Committee took place recently, with the primary topics of discussion being the by-laws and the issue of how a new Executive Secretary should be selected. It was noted that the last change to the by-laws occurred in 2001 when the DNC and FNC were given the option to grant deputy members the authority to vote. Kanalley indicated that Chairman Boughton would like the Board members to have a better understanding of their duties and responsibilities, and to be more familiar with the by-laws. It was also suggested that the members need to clarify further the roles of the members of the Executive Committee. Members need to be more engaged in the process. Lou Yost has been appointed to serve as Acting Executive Secretary of the Board until such time as the by-laws can be reviewed and until the position can be filled permanently. Yost was asked to provide the members with a copy of the by-laws for their review and discussion at a future meeting.

Kanalley reported that she was contacted recently by a staff assistant to Congressman Jim Costa of California, who had asked for assistance in locating an unnamed summit (within a wilderness area) that might be suitable for a new name proposal. She has asked the U.S. Forest Service's Legislative Affairs office to work with Region 5 geographic names coordinator Joan Steber. Together they will work to educate the Congressman's office about the Board's Wilderness policy and to assist them in selecting an appropriate geographic feature.

Mark Flannery, the USFS geographic names coordinator for Region 6, was quoted in a recent article in *The Columbian* regarding the correct elevation of Mount Saint Helens. It was noted that although all features in GNIS now have an elevation, the National Elevation Dataset, from which that data is derived, continues to generate questions. The NED elevations frequently differs from those which are shown on USGS topographic maps, which leads to questions from GNIS users and partners.

Kanalley noted that Dave Wolf, formerly with the USFS (Region 2), has been appointed to the Colorado Board on Geographic Names and is assisting in the preparations for the forthcoming Council of Geographic Names Authorities (COGNA) conference to be held in Boulder, Colorado, in October. Wolf and Bob Malcolm, the current USFS Region 2 geographic names coordinator, are developing a panel discussion to compare and analyze how Federal land management agencies process geographic names proposals.

### 3.2 BGN Executive Secretary's Report (Yost)

Yost reported that it has been confirmed that a representative of Google Earth will make a presentation at the upcoming COGNA conference on Thursday October 19<sup>th</sup>. The presentation will focus on the processing of geographic names by Google Earth.

Yost announced that the Board voted against the proposal to rename the Gulf of Mexico to Gulf of America at its July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Yost reminded the DNC members that they chose not to address the proposal, and that they determined it was a matter to be decided by the full Board. A notification letter has been sent to the proponent.

Yost reported that the annual geographic names training course, conducted under the auspices of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), will take place August 26<sup>th</sup> to September 10<sup>th</sup> in Santiago, Chile. Roger Payne, along with George Troup from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), will serve as instructors and will conduct demonstrations and provide classroom training. Yost noted that this is an excellent example of educational outreach for the USGS and NGA. Randy Flynn, who has participated in the training course in the past, continues to assist the Afghan government in establishing policies and a national geographic names database for that nation.

The next United Nations Geographical Names Conference, held every five years, will take place in late August and early September 2007, in New York City.

### 3.3 Report of the Publicity Committee (Wood)

Wood reported that following discussions at the July Board meeting, some changes have been made to the Board's website. In particular, the membership directory is now offered as a link from the homepage. She also indicated that a link to the British Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (PCGN) has been added to the website. It was noted that there are links to several State Board websites, but that there may be others that could be added.

Wood noted that *The New York Times* inquired about whether or not the Board would vote on a name that is before Congress. She assured the reporter that the Board would not vote on any names that were pending before Congress. The article also included comments provided by author Mark Monmonier and ACAN member Mark Rockmore on the issue of derogatory names.

### 3.4 Executive Secretary's Report (Yost)

Yost announced that Dr. Bright has stepped down as Chair of the 2006 COGNA conference due to health reasons. He has turned over the chairmanship duties to Dr. Andrew Cowell, a fellow linguist at the University of Colorado, who had already been heavily involved with the planning of the toponymic tour. Wayne Furr, Executive Secretary of COGNA, has become even more involved in the planning and development of the conference, and is seeking increased participation by the other members of the Colorado Board on Geographic Names. Yost requested that any suggestions for State-Federal Roundtable topics be forwarded to Tim Norton ([AZWHIRLWIND@aol.com](mailto:AZWHIRLWIND@aol.com)) at the Arizona Board on Geographic and Historic Names.

Yost reported on the recent teleconference he and Runyon had with the new State Names Authority for Kansas. Ivan Weichert, State GIS Director for Kansas, will serve as the new SNA, while Ingrid Landgraf, the USGS Geospatial Liaison for Kansas, has agreed to serve as a Federal advisor. During the teleconference, Yost and Runyon provided an overview of the Board and its policies, and outlined the duties and responsibilities of an SNA.

Following further investigation, the Utah State Geographic Names Committee reported to the DNC staff that two populated places listed in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)

as Bonnie and Clyde were determined not to be legitimate place names. As a result, these two entries in the database will be given the parenthetical term *not official*.

### 3.5 Staff Report (Runyon)

The staff of the USGS Geographic Names Office will be visiting the National Park Service Mapping Center in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, on August 11<sup>th</sup>, to demonstrate the GNIS web-based edit and entry forms and to discuss BGN policies, particularly as they relate to data maintenance.

### 3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (Yost)

The Phase II contract for GNIS data compilation for the State of Michigan has been awarded to Dennis Lutz of Minot, North Dakota, who has successfully completed names compilation for several States. The State of Alaska and the western portion of Kentucky are the only areas remaining in need of Phase II compilation.

Dwight Hughes, GNIS Senior Software Engineer, and Lou Yost recently conducted a web-based presentation on the development and maintenance of GNIS to the USGS Central Region liaisons. The session was hosted by Claire DeVaughan of the USGS office in Texas (and formerly of the USGS Geographic Names Office), and was well received.

Yost mentioned that partnership monies from the FY07 budget will likely be awarded to States in an effort to foster and encourage data exchange with the Geographic Names Office. Financing is available, but it is unclear at this time how the process for distributing funds will take place. Yost will report on any developments in this area at the COGNA conference in October.

During the aforementioned teleconference with the new Kansas SNA, it was noted that there is an increased effort to update the names and locations of Kansas schools and churches “for new USGS topographic maps.” Since it has long been presumed that the USGS will no longer be producing hardcopy maps, Yost has offered to investigate this further.

As a result of a project completed by the USGS National Geospatial Technology Center (NGTOC) II, to compile hospitals within a 50-mile coastal buffer in the hurricane States from Texas to Delaware for the Best Practices National Structures Dataset, 119 new hospitals were added to GNIS. Of the existing records in GNIS for that area, 411 were updated to reflect more precise coordinates, name changes, and added descriptions. All of the names were verified for compliance to BGN standards. The GNIS Feature ID number was returned to the Structures Dataset to synchronize the systems, thus facilitating future maintenance. NGTOC II plans to continue this compilation and verification process with other features such as schools, fire stations, and police stations.

The USGS Geographic Names Office continues to tackle the issue of displaying writing marks in GNIS. Because Oracle does not yet use Unicode, there are still some characters that cannot be displayed correctly.

### 3.7 Cape Lookout National Seashore Names (Undocketed) (Runyon)

#### **New Drum Inlet, Ophelia Inlet, Middle Core Inlet, Ophelia Banks**, North Carolina

A motion was made and seconded to approve the four names as submitted and shown on the map handout, with the understanding that the DNC staff would work with their National Park Service contacts to research and verify all names and applications shown on the NPS brochure. The members from the Coast Survey were also asked to solicit local opinion on the names shown on the map.

Vote: 11 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

### 4. Docket Review (Runyon)

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

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

##### Change **Gotheis Canyon** (FID 224260) to **Goethals Canyon**, California

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

Vote: 10 in favor  
1 against  
0 abstentions

The negative vote was cast because no local support was submitted and in the belief that there was no overwhelming reason to change a name that has appeared on Federal maps for over 50 years.

##### Change **Wilson Peak** (FID 237981) to **Willson Peak**, California

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

Vote: 11 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

##### Change **Parrot Creek** (FID 388234) to **Parrott Creek** and **Parrot Lake** (FID 388235) to **Parrott Lake**, Idaho (Undocketed)

A motion was made and seconded to approve these changes.

Vote: 10 in favor  
1 against  
0 abstentions

The negative vote was cast in the belief that the proposed names had no long term usage.

## **II. Disagreement on Docketed Names**

### **Elkington Creek vs. Adeh Wuweh Creek, California**

A motion was made and seconded to defer a decision on these names in order for the member from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to contact local Tribal authorities. It was suggested that it would be appropriate to determine whether the name Adeh Wuweh Creek is already in local use or whether it was submitted as a new name for a previously-unnamed feature.

Vote: 10 in favor  
1 against  
0 abstentions

The negative vote was cast in the belief that there was sufficient information to proceed with a vote.

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

### **Raynes Island, Maine**

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

Vote: 10 in favor  
0 against  
1 abstention

## **IV. Revised Decisions - none**

## **V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties**

### **Black Bear Creek, Georgia**

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

Vote: 11 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Beaver Pond**, Tennessee

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

Vote: 11 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

5. Location and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Domestic Names Committee will be held September 14, 2006, at 9:30 a.m., at the Department of the Interior, Room 3004.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**  
**DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE**  
**DOCKET**  
**August 2006**

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

Change Goetheis Canyon (FID 224260) to Goethals Canyon, California  
(Review List 390)

Mouth:<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=10&n=4197480&e=597101&s=50&size=1&u=2&layer=DRG25>

Source:<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=10&n=4197638&e=598828&s=50&size=1&u=2&layer=DRG25>

This proposal was submitted by a resident of Clayton, to change officially the name of Goetheis Canyon, a 1.4 km (0.9 mi) long valley in Contra Costa County, to Goethals Canyon. The feature in question lies just south of Irish Canyon, on the south side of Keller Ridge, and 4.8 km (3 mi) north-northeast of Mount Diablo. The name Goethals Canyon has appeared on U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps since 1953, yet the feature is listed in GNIS as Goetheis Canyon; presumably this is a typographical error. The Contra Costa County highway map labels the feature Goethals Canyon.

The proponent reports that the valley was named for Gustone L. “Gus” Goethals, a native of France who moved to California in 1874. For thirty years, until his death in 1925, Mr. Goethals lived in Clayton, where he was employed as a newspaper writer and correspondent, justice of the peace, notary public, and historian. He was also a carpenter, an insurance and real estate salesman, and was regarded in the community as a “walking encyclopedia.” There are a few references on the Internet to Gus Goethals and his association with the Clayton area. The County Supervisors of Contra Costa County have asked that a decision on this proposal be rendered without their input. The California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names recommends approval of the change. There are no Federally-recognized Tribes with a current or historical interest within fifty miles of this feature.

Change Wilson Peak (FID 237981) to Willson Peak, California  
(Review List 390)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=10&n=4106578.00008172%20&e=639069.000003549&u=6&datum=nad83>

This proposal is to change officially the name of Wilson Peak, an 808 m (2,651 ft) high summit in the Diablo Range in Santa Clara County, to Willson Peak. The current spelling has appeared on Federal maps since 1918, but the proponent reports that the summit was in fact named for Horace Willson, a native of New Hampshire who migrated to California in 1853, settling a short time later on property near this summit. Over the next few years, he accumulated 20,000 acres of land, and continued to acquire property in the period 1882 to 1902. The Willson house, constructed in 1859, is still standing.



The proponent of the change from Wilson Peak to Willson Peak is a volunteer with the Henry W. Coe State Park; he notes that park management has recently applied the proposed spelling to its maps. After the park's historian provided census and homestead records to support the proposal, the District Superintendent for the California Department of Parks and Recreation expressed support for the change. The Santa Clara County Supervisors also support the change, as does the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names. There are no Federally-recognized Tribes with a current or historical interest within fifty miles of this feature.

Change **Parrot Creek** (FID 388234) to **Parrott Creek**  
and **Parrot Lake** (FID 388235) to **Parrott Lake**, Idaho  
(Salmon-Challis National Forest/ Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness)  
(Undocketed)

Stream Mouth: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=45.20936&lon=-114.68398&datum=nad83&u=5>

Source: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=45.17694&lon=-114.62083&datum=nad83&u=6>

Lake: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=11&n=5005863&e=687094&size=l&u=6&datum=nad83>

These changes were submitted by the Regional Geographic Names Coordinator for U.S. Forest Service Region 4. The region is in the process of revising the Forest Visitor Map for the Salmon-Challis National Forest, and has discovered a discrepancy between the names on that map (and also on USGS maps and in GNIS) and the names shown on the soon to be printed Middle Fork River Guide. Further research by the region determined that the stream and lake (and a nearby campground) were in fact named for Earl K. Parrott (1869-1945). Mr. Parrott is remembered in the area as "The Hermit of Impassable Canyon." In 2001, the Forest Service published a users' guide to the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, which included the following: "Another picturesque pioneer was Earl Parrott. When Parrot returned from the Klondike gold rush, he found his intended married to another. Parrott not only disappointed in love, but lost faith in men and the world of commerce when the bank that held all his savings failed. In 1908, he filed [a] homestead on Rock Creek (later known as Rushton Place - Parrot sold to Rushton in 1916) a tributary of the South Fork of the Salmon. Later Parrot settled in an area of the Middle Fork know as Impassable Canyon where he built his cabin on a high bench reached only by a trail that involved several cliff-scaling ladders. He would mine a little placer gold for his necessities: salt, tea, matches, and bullets. He raised an extraordinary garden, and lived off the land. He remained there in hermit status for about 30 years. He died at the Silbaugh nursing home August 15, 1945. Parrot Creek is named after him."

The Lemhi County Board of Commissioners and the Idaho Geographic Names Advisory Council (IGNAC) both support the Forest Service's efforts to change the spelling to "Parrott." A member of IGNAC wrote a book entitled Idaho Loners: Hermits, Solitaries, and Individualists (1994), in which Mr. Parrott is mentioned. A copy of the Forest Service's request was e-mailed to the Nez Perce Tribe for comment, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue.

## II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

### Elkington Creek vs. Adeh Wuweh Creek, California

(Review Lists 389, 390)

Mouth: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=10&n=4248927&e=550482&s=50&size=1&u=6&datum=nad83&layer=DRG25>

Source: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=10&n=4247885.00010837&e=549024.000000003&datum=nad83&u=6>

These proposals have both been submitted in an effort to provide an official name for a 1.7 km (1.2 mi) long stream in Napa County, approximately 16 km (10 mi) northwest of the community of Napa.

The first proposal, for Elkington Creek, was submitted by a resident of Napa, who reports that the stream became known informally as Elkington Creek during the latter half of the nineteenth century after her great-grandfather James Edward Elkington (1829-1898) settled there in 1866 and homesteaded on 160 acres in 1874. The family eventually acquired 220 acres along the eastern slopes of Mount Veeder, where they ran a sawmill and also operated the Mount Veeder Summer Resort. Mr. Elkington served as a trustee for the local school. The proponent included with her application an excerpt from the 1879 *Napa Reporter*, in which was included a reference to a recently-held county board of supervisors' meeting; the report included a description of local road district boundaries, one of which ran along "Elkington Creek."

A copy of the proposal for Elkington Creek was forwarded to the Middletown Rancheria, the Dry Creek Rancheria, the Rumsey Rancheria, and the Stewarts Point Rancheria, all Federally-recognized Tribes located within fifty miles of the stream. Of these, only the Middletown Rancheria Tribal Council responded, with a request that the indigenous name Adeh Wuweh ("Big Creek") be considered instead (the generic term "Creek" was added to the name by the BGN staff in compliance with the policy regarding the inclusion of generics in indigenous names; the Tribe was asked if it had any objection to this policy but no response was received).

The Napa County Board of Supervisors and the Napa County Historical Society both submitted letters endorsing this proposal for Elkington Creek, citing evidence that that name has historical significance within the community. The California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names also supports the name Elkington Creek.

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

### Raynes Island, Maine

(Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge)

(Review List 390)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=19&n=4771866&e=364040&s=50&size=1&u=6&datum=nad83&layer=DRG25>

The new commemorative name Raynes Island is proposed for a 15-acre tidal marsh island located at the southwest end of Cutts Island in the Town of Kittery. It was proposed by a

longtime resident of the area who recently donated fifteen acres of her family's property to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for inclusion in the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge. The application was submitted by a representative of the refuge who says he is "attempting to seek local, State, and Federal support for the naming effort." The name would honor the proponent's father, William F. Raynes (1892-1989), who in 1995 sold an additional 126 acres of the family's property on Cutts Island to the Refuge.

A cape, just a short distance along the coast northeast of the island and also within the boundaries of the refuge, is already named Raynes Neck; according to Rutherford's *Dictionary of Maine Place Names* (1970), the cape was named for Captain Francis Raynes, who in 1665 was appointed royal justice by King Charles II. The connection between this individual and the intended honoree of Raynes Island has not been determined, although a search of the Internet suggests a long association between the Raynes family and the Kittery area. The Kittery Town Council, the York County Commissioners, and the Kittery Land Trust have all submitted letters in support of this proposal. The Maine State Geographic Names Authority and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also support the name. There are no Federally-recognized Tribes with a current or historical interest within fifty miles of this feature.

#### **IV. Revised Decisions - none**

#### **V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties**

**Black Bear Creek**, Georgia  
(Chattahoochee National Forest)  
(Review List 391)

Mouth:<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=17&n=3845975.99955717&e=264041.999891227&datum=nad83&u=6>

Source:<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=17&n=3846540&e=264809&s=50&size=1&u=6&datum=nad83&layer=DRG25>

The new name Black Bear Creek is proposed for a 1.1 km (0.7 mi) long tributary of Oakey Creek in northern Habersham County, within Chattahoochee National Forest. The proponent reports that he owns property along the stream and that black bears are frequently seen in the vicinity. There are no other geographic features in Habersham County named "Black Bear," and just one, a gap on the boundary with Rabun County, named "Bear Gap." The Habersham County Commissioners, the Georgia State Geographic Names Authority, and the U.S. Forest Service have all expressed support for this proposal. A copy of the proposal was sent to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue.

**Beaver Pond**, Tennessee  
(Review List 391)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=16&n=3911887.99998441&e=318539.999981391&datum=nad83&u=6>

The new name Beaver Pond is proposed for an eight acre lake located alongside the Hatchie River in north-central Hardeman County, approximately 8 km (5 mi) north of Bolivar. The proponent, who owns property that includes the body of water, suggests a name is needed “to provide a landmark and reference point for the many outdoorsmen and nature lovers boating on the Hatchie River.” The name Beaver Pond was chosen because “the pond has several beaver dams and is home to numerous beavers.” The Hardeman County Board of Commissioners has expressed support for the proposal. The Tennessee State Names Authority was sent a copy of the proposal when it was submitted and two follow-up e-mails have been sent and a telephone call made. The SNA was advised that if no response was received prior to the August meeting that the BGN would proceed with a vote. A copy of the proposal was sent to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue.