

U.S. Board on Geographic Names

Domestic Names Committee

Six Hundred Seventy-Fifth Meeting
 Department of the Interior, Room 3004
 January 12, 2006 - 9:30 a.m.

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Chick Fagan	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
Michael Fournier	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
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)
Karen Siderelis	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Douglas Vandegraft	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
Meredith Westington	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)

Ex Officio

Roger L. Payne	Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names
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Staff

Lesley Levi	BGN Administrative Assistant
Jennifer Runyon	
Lou Yost	

Guest

Scott Zillmer	National Geographic Society
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1. Opening

Chairwoman Kanalley welcomed everyone to the 675th meeting of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC). She introduced and welcomed Karen Siderelis, who has been appointed to the Board as the new member representing the Department of the Interior.

Payne and Runyon requested that four additional items be added to the agenda. The new items read as follows:

- 3.7 Citing the Votes of Specific Member Agencies in Board Notification Letters
- 3.8 Aspect of Commemorative Names Policy
- 3.9 Oregon “Squaw” names changes (Undocketed)
- 3.10 Request to revisit decision on changing Peterson Lake in Washington to Griffin Lake

2. Minutes of the 674th Meeting

The minutes were approved with some minor corrections.

3. Communications and Reports

3.1 BGN Chairman’s Report (Kanalley)

No report.

3.2 BGN Executive Secretary’s Report (Payne)

The next meeting of the Full Board will take place Tuesday, January 17, at 1:30 p.m., in Conference Room 2A-405 of the U.S. Geological Survey.

All the required reappointment letters have been received with the exception of the Library of Congress.

The next meeting of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) is scheduled to take place March 28 to April 4, 2006, in Vienna, Austria. It was noted that Payne, Yost, Palmer, Flynn, Loy, and Dillon would be attending as part of the official delegation. It was noted that if a Board member would like to submit an issue paper, it must be submitted to Payne no later than February 3.

Payne noted that he was unable to attend the meeting of the General Council of the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) that took place in November. He was able to report, however, that approval has been secured for this year’s geographic names training course, which will take place sometime between June and September.

The Board’s website is being revised and upgraded to provide more functionality and a more unified look. Users will be able to link more efficiently to the webpages for domestic and foreign names, as well as those for Antarctic and Underseas names. A demonstration might be possible at next week’s Full Board meeting.

As has been noted previously, the Annual Conference of the Council on Geographic Names Authorities, held in Portland, Oregon last October, was a complete success. The next COGNA conference will take place in Boulder, Colorado, October 16-23, 2006, with Lexington, Kentucky scheduled to host in 2007 and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in 2008.

3.3 Report of the Publicity Committee (Payne for Wood)

The Docket for this meeting includes a request to change various names in Florida that are considered to be offensive. Runyon distributed an article from the *Tampa Tribune* regarding the issue.

Payne is pleased to report that the Utah State Geographic Names Committee has been reestablished by order of the State Governor, and is scheduled to meet again on February 2nd. The BGN staff has apprised the State Committee of the status of the various Utah cases that are still pending. One of the proposals, to change Chinamans Arch to Chinese Arch has the support already of the Governor and was scheduled to be included on the DNC's February docket; however, with the reestablishment of the State Committee, it is appropriate to allow that body an opportunity to vote on the name change.

Mr. James Anderson of the Florida State Board on Geographic Names will be visiting the USGS on Friday, January 13. He plans to meet with the Geographic Names Office staff regarding the ongoing partnership between the State's geographic data files and GNIS, as well as with representatives to discuss *The National Map*.

Payne has been approached by a spokesperson for "The Infinite Mind," a radio show on National Public Radio. They expressed interest in doing a one-hour program on the topic of names including geographic names. Payne will keep the Board informed.

3.4 Executive Secretary's Report (Payne)

The Board has received a proposal to apply the new name Rangers Peak to an unnamed summit in California. The name is intended to honor all State park rangers who have worked diligently to preserve the area. The Board members were asked whether they would consider the name to be commemorative. The consensus was that the name does not honor a specific individual or individuals so it is not commemorative. The staff will proceed with the case.

The Board has also been asked to consider making official approximately one dozen names for unnamed geographic features in the Popo Agie Wilderness in Wyoming. The proponent reports that he intends to publish the names in a forthcoming book. The Board members instructed the staff to process the names.

Payne noted that he has received and reviewed the edits to the latest version of the *Principles, Policies and Procedures* (PPP) that were provided by Gilbert, and has incorporated the majority of the corrections. Payne will distribute the document to the Board for a final review, after which it will be sent to the Office of the Secretary for review. On behalf of the Board, Payne expressed his thanks to Gilbert for taking time from his busy schedule to review and edit the PPP.

The Board has submitted a request to be included on the agenda of the forthcoming Mid-Year conference of the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC). It was

agreed this would provide an ideal forum to present an overview of the Board and GNIS and the importance of partnerships with and between Federal and State agencies.

3.5 BGN Staff Report (Yost)

The following is a statistical report of the BGN/DNC staff activities since the December meeting:

- 22 cases written
- 142 inquiries received and answered
- 163 letters written (answered and initiated)
- 198 e-mail messages

Runyon reported that she has been involved with The Coeur D'Alene Names-Place Project, an ongoing effort to recognize and make official several dozen geographic names of historical significance to the Coeur D'Alene Tribe. The project entails gathering names from tribal elders and recording video and audio to preserve the local history. One-hundred and seventeen names were submitted to the staff for consideration; of these, approximately half are considered variant names for features with existing names and these have been added to the GNIS records. The remaining names are for features that are not currently named on Federal and State products, and where appropriate, these were added to GNIS as new entries. Approximately one dozen require further review and Runyon will continue to work with the Tribe's GIS Coordinator to resolve the discrepancies.

Runyon reported that the proponent of the change from Ward Creek to Gold Creek for a stream in Montana (BGN Review List 389) has amended her proposal to name instead the three tributaries Middle Fork Gold Creek, North Fork Gold Creek, and South Fork Gold Creek. This will address the concerns of the county and State that the formerly-named Ward Creek would have been left unnamed. The changes will be reflected on the Board's next Review List.

Payne noted that the Board has received a proposal to make official the name Ford Run for a stream in Pennsylvania, ostensibly because there are numerous fords across it. However, the proponent's surname is also Ford. He has modified his proposal so that the name would be intended to honor a member of the family who has been deceased for at least five years. This name will be processed.

3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (Yost)

Yost noted that next week there will be a teleconference to address the ongoing concerns regarding National Elevation Data. Elevations from NED are being displayed in all GNIS entries, but a few significant errors continue to be displayed especially in Alaska. Many users have expressed concerns that inaccurate data are being made available.

The Geographic Names Office has developed a link between GNIS and Geospatial One Stop (GOS II) and as a result, Geographic Names has been established as a new Special Interest group at the GOS II site.

Yost added that GNIS is featured on the homepage of the USGS website with an announcement regarding how to retrieve names of geographic features associated with the holiday season.

The contract for Phase II data compilation for the State of New York will be advertised at the FedBizOpps site in approximately one week.

3.7 DNC's Review of the Report of the 22nd Biennial BGN/PCGN Conference (Yost)

Prior to this meeting, the members were provided with a copy of the Report of the 22nd Biennial BGN/PCGN Conference. Yost noted that the report includes two sections pertaining to domestic names, and so DNC review and support is necessary. A motion was made and seconded to approve the report.

Vote: 11 approve
 0 against
 0 abstentions

3.8 Citations of Voting Member Agencies in Notification Letters (Payne)

Following each decision of the Board, the staff notifies all interested parties regarding the outcome of the vote. Currently, the letters indicate that the decisions were made “in agreement with the findings and recommendations” of the appropriate local and County governments, the State Names Authorities, and Federal land management agencies. The staff asked the members if it was appropriate to cite these Federal land management agencies particularly if it might be construed that the opinion of the one member representing the Federal agency was the deciding factor? One member commented that the Board’s decisions are made after a review of the Federal policies and that to cite any other organization’s position is not relevant. Payne asked the Board to consider the issue and to let the staff know their preference at the next meeting.

3.9 Clarification of Aspects of The Commemorative Names Policy (Payne)

Payne requested that when the Board renders a decision on a commemorative name, they should bear in mind all aspects of the Commemorative Naming Policy. Specifically, if such a name is denied, the Board cannot state simply that the intended honoree had no direct or long-term association with the feature, but must also consider whether he or she was of local notoriety or made significant contributions to the community. It is requested that State Names Authorities should also evaluate all relevant criteria if they are citing the Federal policy. Staff will request that this be considered as a topic for discussion at the State/Federal Roundtable at this year’s COGNA Conference.

3.10 Request to Revisit Decision on “Griffin Lake,” Washington (Runyon)

The Board has received a second request to revisit its decision of last April **not** to approve a proposed change from Peterson Lake to Griffin Lake. A representative of the King County Council, which submitted the proposal, has expressed concern that the Board was not aware that the name does not honor a living person (the intended honoree passed away in 1993), and also that the Peterson family has agreed that the name change is appropriate. After some discussion, the Board members asked that the staff inquire as to whether the Peterson family would be willing to express their consent in writing. If such support is received, the Board might be willing to revisit the case.

3.11 Oregon “Squaw” Names Changes (Undocketed) (Runyon)

At its December meeting, the Board approved a proposal from the U.S. Forest Service to rename 16 geographic features in Oregon, the names of which included the word “Squaw.” Two additional names were deferred at that meeting, pending an official recommendation from the Forest Service Chief because the names would honor a Forest Service employee.

Change Squaw Creek (FID 1150252) to Congleton Creek

Change Squaw Creek Reservoir (FID 1150266) to Congleton Creek Reservoir, Oregon (Ochoco National Forest)

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
1 abstentions

4. Docket Review (Runyon)

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

Please refer to the attached Docket for a description of each proposal. At the request of the DNC members, the existing or new GNIS Feature ID number (FID) has been noted alongside the name.

Change Negro Island (FID 287575) to Horseshoe Island, Florida (Review List 390)

A motion was made and seconded to defer a decision to allow the staff to seek further clarification on whether the existing name is considered derogatory to the population of Citrus County, specifically its black community. The members disputed claims that the word “Negro” is offensive and noted that it could refer to the Spanish settlement of the area.

Vote: 11 approve
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Japanese Rock** (FID 284729) to **Yamato Rock**, Florida (Review List 390)

A motion was made and seconded to defer a decision to allow the Board's staff an opportunity to confirm that the Highland Beach Town government, the proponents of this change, was aware that the current official name for the feature is **Japanese Rock**, **not Jap Rock**. It was suggested that the Town and State might have been operating under the misconception that the derogatory term still applied to the feature. The Board expressed a belief that the term "Japanese" is not offensive.

Vote: 11 approve
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Hammond Ridge** (FID 567549) to **Hammatt Ridge**, Maine (Review List 387)

A motion was made and seconded to defer a decision until one additional American Indian tribe having an interest within fifty miles of the feature could be contacted.

Vote: 11 approve
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Negroskull Creek** (FID 1988108) to **Cedar Valley Creek**; change **Negroskull Mountain** (FID 1988107) to **Cedar Valley Knob**; change **Negro Spring** (FID 1988110) to **Cedar Valley Spring**; change **Negro Head** (FID 1988106) to **Clay Knob**; and change **Little Negrohead** (FID 1021222) to **Little Clay Knob**, North Carolina (Review List 388)

A motion was made to consider these names as a group. Seeing a lack of a second, the motion was withdrawn. A motion was then made to vote on the first three names as one group and the last two as a separate group.

Vote: 11 approve
0 against
0 abstentions

A motion was made and seconded to approve the first three names.

Vote: 9 approve
2 against
0 abstentions

The negative votes were cast in the belief that there is no evidence that the term "Negro" is offensive to a large segment of the population. The members suggested that the State

Legislature, in submitting these names, was operating under the misconception that the official names were still in the pejorative form when in fact all Federal products were directed to be corrected in 1963. If the pejorative form still exists on State or county products, it is incumbent upon the State to correct those, not necessarily to seek a change at the Federal level.

Change **Negro Head** to **Clay Knob** and change **Little Negrohead** to **Little Clay Knob**, North Carolina (Review List 388)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name changes.

Vote: 7 approve
4 against
0 abstentions

The negative votes were cast in the belief that there is no evidence that the term “Negro” is universally offensive and that the proposed names were unimaginative. The members also expressed concern that there was a lack of input from the county government.

Change **Negro Bay** (FID 1002415) to **Currituck Bay**, North Carolina (Currituck Bay National Wildlife Refuge) (Review List 388)

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

Vote: 8 approve
3 against
0 abstentions

The negative votes were cast in the belief that there is no evidence that the term “Negro” is universally offensive and that there was a lack of a consensus from the county government.

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Kirby Creek, Alaska (Tongass National Forest) (Review List 388)

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve the new name, citing a belief that the proposal does not satisfy the criteria of the Board’s Commemorative Naming Policy.

Vote: 10 approve
0 against
1 abstention

Reid Falls, Alaska (Tongass National Forest) (Review List 388)

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve the new name, citing a belief that the proposal does not satisfy the criteria of the Board’s Commemorative Naming Policy.

Vote: 10 approve
 0 against
 1 abstention

Change **Slave Canal** (FID 2081604) to **Cotton Run Canal**, Florida (Review List 390)

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve the name change.

Vote: 11 approve
 0 against
 0 abstentions

The votes were cast against the proposed change in agreement with the negative recommendations of the Jefferson County government and in the belief that the term “Slave” is not derogatory.

Change **Negro Creek Bay** (FID 1008301) to **Carteret Bay**, North Carolina (Cape Lookout National Seashore)
 (Review List 388)

A motion was made and seconded to defer a decision until a more thorough investigation can be made regarding the nature of the feature. Although the name Negro Creek was applied to a small cove on the latest U.S. Geological Survey topographic map, published in 1949, the geomorphology of the area has undergone significant change in recent years and it appears the feature has been subsumed by the creation of a new inlet. The Board discussed the reasons for changing what is presumably now a historical name. The staff was asked to investigate further and if it is determined the change is warranted, the Board will be asked to revisit the issue.

Vote: 11 approve
 0 against
 0 abstentions

One voting member left the room for a few minutes.

Beaver Bay, North Dakota (Devils Lake Wetland Management District) (Review List 388)

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve this new name citing the lack of support from the County and Township governments.

Vote: 9 approve
 1 against
 0 abstentions

The negative vote was cast in the belief that the new name was warranted.

Explorer Arch, Utah (Canyonlands National Park) (Review List 389)

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve the new name, citing the feature's location within a proposed wilderness area and a lack of evidence that the proposal warrants an exception to the Wilderness Naming Policy.

Vote: 11 approve
0 against
0 abstentions

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

Gilchrist Island, Alabama (Review List 388) (FID 2083226)

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

Vote: 10 approve
1 against
0 abstentions

The negative vote was cast citing a concern that the application did not offer sufficient details on the honoree's contributions to the feature or the community.

IV. Revised Decisions - none

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties - none

5. Closing

5.1 Location and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Domestic Names Committee will be held February 9, 2006, at 9:30 a.m., at the Main Interior Building, Conference Room 3004.

6. The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

(signed) *Roger L. Payne*

Roger L. Payne, Executive Secretary

Approved:
(signed) (*Elizabeth Kanalley*)

Elizabeth Kanalley, Chairwoman
Domestic Names Committee

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

DOCKET
January 2006

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

Change **Negro Island** to **Horseshoe Island**, Florida
(Review List 390)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=17&n=3203529.06961%20&e=333015.858765607&u=6&datum=nad83>

This is one of three proposals submitted by the Director of the Florida Department of Historical Resources, which has been tasked by the Florida State Legislature to rename geographic features throughout the State that have names that are considered “offensive or derogatory.” The island that is named currently Negro Island is located at the western edge of Citrus County, just west of the mouth of Tony Creek and 13 km (8 mi) northwest of the community of Crystal River.

According to an article on this renaming effort that was published in *The St. Petersburg Times*, none of the area’s longtime residents were able to provide any information on the origin of the name Negro Island, with several expressing surprise that the “clump of offshore trees” even had a name; others reported that they believed the name appeared on local maps as early as 1950. The name has appeared on Federal maps since 1952. The proposed replacement name, Horseshoe Island, was suggested by the Citrus County Department of Development Services and endorsed by the Citrus County Commissioners; the name recognizes the fact that the island is horseshoe-shaped. The Florida State Names Authority has no objection to the name change. A copy of the proposal was sent to the Seminole Indian Tribe of Florida a Federally-recognized Tribe, but no response was received, indicating a lack of an opinion on the issue.

Change **Japanese Rock** to **Yamato Rock**, Florida
(Review List 390)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=17&n=2919391&e=593189&s=50&size=x&u=6&datum=nad83&layer=DRG25>

This is the third proposal submitted on behalf of the Florida State Legislature to rename geographic features in the State that have names that are considered offensive or derogatory. This proposal would change the name of Japanese Rock, located in the Town of Highland Beach in Palm Beach County, to Yamato Rock. The replacement name was offered by the Highland Beach Commissioners, who note that it honors the Japanese farmers who settled in the area in the early years of the twentieth century. There is a small community named Yamato just inland from the coastline and 3.2 km (2 mi) northwest of the rock in question.

According to a Japanese glossary posted online by the Library of Congress, the word *Yamato* refers to “the country of Japan or things Japanese.... and to the ancient court from which the imperial family arose.” The community of Yamato has been named on U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps since 1950, while the rock itself has been named Jap Rock on USGS maps since 1962 (despite the BGN’s ruling in 1974 that all references to the derogatory form of “Japanese” should be changed, the rock continued to be labeled Jap Rock on the 1983 revision). The rock is shown but not named on nautical charts.

Representatives of the nearby Morikami Museum and the Japanese American Citizens League both expressed surprise and pleasure in hearing of the town’s decision to rename the feature; they indicated that previous efforts to change the name locally had been unsuccessful. There are at least two references to the new name on the Internet; the Reef Environmental Education Foundation and a marine archaeological research group both refer to the feature as Yamato Rock. The Florida State Names Authority has no objection to the name change. A copy of the proposal was sent to the Seminole Indian Tribe of Florida, a Federally-recognized Tribe, but no response was received, indicating a lack of an opinion on the issue.

Change Hammond Ridge to Hammatt Ridge, Maine
(Review List 387)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=19&n=5062706.00015521&e=515749&datum=nad83&u=6>

This proposal, to change officially the name of Hammond Ridge to Hammatt Ridge, was submitted by a resident of Skowhegan. Although the name Hammond Ridge has appeared on U.S. Geological Survey maps since 1951, the proponent reports that the feature was named for William Hammatt, who purchased property in the area in 1832. The ridge lies within an unorganized township in west-central Penobscot County, just south of Millinocket Lake.

The volume *Maine Place Names* (Rutherford, 1970) contains a listing for Hammond Ridge, stating it was “named for Joseph Hammond, an early settler.” A search of the web indicates that 1,450 acres of land on and around Hammond Ridge is being considered for development as an outdoor recreation resort and also that the land may be annexed by the Town of Millinocket. None of these references indicate the name of the feature is in dispute.

The Penobscot County Commissioners submitted a letter of support for the proposal, and confirmed that William Hammatt owned the property in question in the 1830’s. The Maine State Names Authority also expressed support for the name change. A copy of the proposal was sent to the Penobscot Indian Nation, a Federally-recognized Tribe, but no response was received, indicating a lack of an opinion on the issue.

Change Negroskull Creek to Cedar Valley Creek,

Mouth:<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=17&n=3902950&e=309634&s=50&size=l&u=2&layer=DRG25>

Source:<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=17&n=3905120&e=312129&s=50&size=l&u=2&layer=DRG25>

Change **Negroskull Mountain** to **Cedar Valley Knob**,
<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=35.2538888888889&lon=-83.065&u=2>

Change **Negro Spring** to **Cedar Valley Spring**
<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=17&n=3905120&e=312129&s=50&size=l&u=2&layer=DRG25>

Change **Negro Head** to **Clay Knob**
<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=17&n=3893652&e=252729&s=50&size=l&u=6&datum=nad83&layer=DRG25>

Change **Little Negrohead** to **Little Clay Knob**, North Carolina
<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=17&n=3890118&e=255767&s=50&size=l&u=6&datum=nad83&layer=DRG25>

(Nantahala National Forest)
 (Review List 388)

These proposed changes constitute five of seven proposals submitted by the Chair of the North Carolina Geographic Information Coordinating Council (NCGICC), which has been tasked by the North State Legislature with replacing all geographic names in the State that are considered “offensive or insulting.” The legislation specifically targeted the pejorative form of “Negro,” several occurrences of which are still found on State products (the names were changed at the Federal level in 1963). The NCGICC, in consultation with the North Carolina State Geographic Names Board, contacted the governments of the appropriate counties and asked that replacement names be submitted. The counties were advised that if no suggestions were forthcoming within 90 days, the NCGICC would select new names. The State recognizes that the names are already shown as “Negro” on Federal maps and in GNIS, but because of the legacy of the pejorative form on State maps and placename literature, the desire is to remove all references to any form of the name and select “more appropriate” names instead.

Two of the names on the list, Negroskull Creek and Negro Spring, do not appear on any available Federal or State maps, but are listed in William Powell’s *North Carolina Gazetteer: A Dictionary of Tar Heel Places* (1982) as Niggerskull Creek and Nigger Spring. The summit named Negroskull Mountain is listed in GNIS; on earlier Federal maps, it was named Niggerskull Mountain. These features lie on private land within the boundaries of Nantahala National Forest, so the U.S. Forest Service was asked if it wished to propose replacement names, but it did not. The proposed names were suggested by Jackson County officials and are intended to be associated with other features in the area named “Cedar Valley,” including Cedar Valley Road. The State Board has indicated there is no interest at this time by the Legislature or the State Board in making official the name Cedar Valley for the valley itself.

The remaining names in this group apply to two summits in the Tusquitee Mountains, along the boundary between Clay County and Macon County, and on private land within the

boundaries of the Nantahala National Forest. Once again, the U.S. Forest Service declined to offer replacement names but elected to defer to the local governments instead. The counties also declined to offer any suggestions, so the NCGICC selected names that recognize one of the counties in which the features are located. The origin of the current name is not known, but the larger of the two summits was labeled Niggerhead or Nigger Head on early USGS topographic maps.

The North Carolina Board on Geographic Names recommends approval of the proposed changes. A copy of the proposal and the State legislation was forwarded to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina, a Federally-recognized Tribe, but no response was received, indicating a lack of an opinion on the issue.

Change Negro Bay to Currituck Bay, North Carolina
(Currituck National Wildlife Refuge)
(Review List 388)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=18&n=4036247.00009837&e=420642.999999931&datum=nad83&u=6>

This proposal is to change officially the name of a bay, located along the Outer Banks in Currituck County and within the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge, from Negro Bay to Currituck Bay. When asked by the North Carolina Geographic Information Coordinating Council (NCGICC) to suggest a replacement for the current name, the government of Currituck County offered a name that would have honored a living person. When advised that this would not be permissible according to Federal naming policies, the County declined to suggest a replacement and indicated it would defer to the State to select a name. The suggested replacement name recognizes the bay's location within Currituck County. The North Carolina Geographic Names Board recommends approval of this change. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has no objection to the proposal.

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Kirby Creek, Alaska
(Tongass National Forest)
(Review List 388)

Mouth: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=8&n=6338091&e=472511&s=63.360&size=1&u=2&layer=DRG50>

Source: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=57.2008333333333&lon=-135.4433333333333&u=2>

This proposal is one of two submitted by the Alaska Historical Commission, the State's Names Authority, on behalf of a resident of Sitka. The new name Kirby Creek is proposed for a 1.8 km (1.3 mi) long stream on the southwest tip of Halleck Island, approximately 19 km (12 mi) northwest of the center of Sitka. The proposal would make official a name that has come into recent local usage, following the death in 1998 of Kirby Gordon Reid, a 17-year old high school student who was killed in a boating accident near the stream. A gravel beach at the

mouth of the stream is a popular site for camping and school picnickers, and former classmates of Kirby Reid have begun to refer to the stream as Kirby Creek. The proponent has also suggested that the falls at the head of the stream be named Reid Falls (q.v.).

The Alaska Historical Commission, contacted several local native groups for input, but only the Sealaska Corporation responded, indicating a lack of an objection to the proposal. The government of the City and Borough of Sitka and the Sitka Historical Society also did not respond. The Historical Commission determined that “the proposal did not show a long or direct association of the young man with the feature proposed to be named,” and recommended disapproval. The U.S. Forest Service also does not support the proposal, citing the same reason as the State.

Reid Falls, Alaska
(Tongass National Forest)
(Review List 388)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=8&n=6338760&e=472511&s=63.360&size=l&u=2&layer=DRG50>

This proposal was also submitted by the Alaska Historical Commission on behalf of a resident of Sitka. The name Reid Falls is proposed for a waterfall located along an unnamed stream (proposed Kirby Creek (q.v.)) at the southwest end of Halleck Island, approximately 19 km (12 mi) northwest of the center of Sitka. The proposal would honor Kirby Gordon Reid, a 17-year old high school student who was killed in a boating accident near the stream. The Alaska Historical Commission contacted several area native groups for input, but only the Sealaska Corporation responded, indicating a lack of objection to the proposal. The government of the City and Borough of Sitka and the Sitka Historical Society also did not respond. The Historical Commission determined that “the proposal did not show a long or direct association of the young man with the feature proposed to be named,” and recommended disapproval. The U.S. Forest Service also does not support the proposal, citing the same reason as the State.

Change **Slave Canal** to **Cotton Run Canal**, Florida
(Review List 390)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=17&n=3340826&e=214099&s=50&size=x&u=6&datum=nad83&layer=DRG25>

This is one of three proposals submitted by the Director of the Florida Department of Historical Resources, which has been tasked by the Florida State Legislature to locate and rename geographic features throughout the State with names that are considered “offensive or derogatory.” The legislation did not define which terms it considered derogatory, but asked that each municipality, county, and/or State agency identify those that it deemed worthy of being changed. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission determined that Slave Canal in Jefferson County should be renamed and has proposed the replacement name Cotton Run Canal instead. The 4.3 km (2.7 mi) long canal is located 38 km (24 mi) southeast of Tallahassee and within the boundaries of the State-managed Aucilla Wildlife Management Area.

According to the website of the Tallahassee Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, the feature is “a man-made extension of the Wacissa River, built during the 1830’s and ‘40s. [It was] named for the fact that slaves were used in its construction.” No specific reason for selecting the name Cotton Run Canal was included in the application, but an online description of the feature suggests it was built so that cotton barges could be floated downstream to the Gulf of Mexico. Despite the heavy labor involved, including “manhandling limestone boulders out of the muck,” the canal proved to be too shallow, and after the Civil War, the cotton farmers abandoned the venture. The canal has since been allowed to return to its natural environment, and it now serves as a popular site for canoeing, kayaking, fishing, and viewing wildlife. Although the name Slave Canal was not listed previously in GNIS (it has since been added), it appears at the websites of various State agencies and local canoeing and sportsman groups, and is also listed in the EPA’s Water Quality Standards Database.

The County Commissioners of Jefferson County have recommended unanimously that the feature not be renamed, citing a lack of evidence that the term “Slave” is derogatory and a belief that the current name should be retained to preserve the area’s history. When advised of the County’s opposition, the Florida Department of Historical Resources conceded that the proposal was probably “an over-reaction by the Wildlife Commission to the State Legislation.” However, he did not wish to see the proposal withdrawn and has asked that the BGN vote on it. The Florida State Names Authority concurs with the recommendation of the County. A copy of this proposal was sent to the Seminole Indian Tribe of Florida and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, both of which are Federally-recognized, but no response was received, indicating a lack of an opinion on the issue.

Change Negro Creek Bay to Carteret Bay, North Carolina
(Cape Lookout National Seashore)
(Review List 388)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=18&n=3857288.00008027&e=379303.999998961&datum=nad83&u=6>

This proposal, one of the seven submitted by the North Carolina Geographic Information Coordinating Council (NCGICC), is to change officially the name of a small bay in Carteret County from Negro Creek Bay to Carteret Bay. The bay lies within Cape Lookout National Seashore, so the National Park Service was asked if it wished to propose an alternate name, but it did not. The proposed replacement name was suggested by Carteret County officials. Although the name Negro Creek Bay is listed in GNIS, the feature is shown on U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps as simply Negro Creek. The origin of the existing name is not known.

The North Carolina Geographic Names Board recommends approval of this change. However, the National Park Service does not support it, citing a lack of evidence that the term “Negro” is offensive, but more specifically, because the wording in the Legislature addresses only the pejorative form of the name and does not mandate that “Negro” be changed. The State Board has responded that the NPS observation is correct, but because of the existence of the pejorative form on some State products, it would prefer not to retain either form.

Beaver Bay, North Dakota
(Devils Lake Wetland Management District)
(Review List 388)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=14&n=5343037&e=457520&s=50&size=l&u=6&datum=nad83&layer=DRG25>

This proposal is to apply the new name Beaver Bay to an unnamed bay located at the northern end of Mud Lake in Benson County. It was submitted by the owner of the property that surrounds the bay. The proposal would recognize the feature's location within Beaver Township. In July 2004, the BGN voted to deny a proposal by the same proponent to change the name of Mud Lake to Beaver Lake (Quarterly Review List 379), citing the negative recommendations of the Benson County Commissioners and the North Dakota Geographic Names Authority. The County did not see a need to change a long-standing name, while the North Dakota State Names Authority disputed the proponent's original claim that the lake should be named for beavers since they are not known to frequent the area (he suggested that Beaver Township was in fact named for the community in Pennsylvania from where several of its settlers came). The Benson County Board of Commissioners submitted a letter of opposition to the proposal, stating that, "the costs involved in the name change [*sic*] would be too high". The County has been advised that this second proposal does not constitute a name change, but it still does not support the proposal.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that the feature lies within the Devils Lake Wetland Management District; however, it manages very little land at Mud Lake and therefore is "neutral on the issue." A copy of this proposal was forwarded to the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and the Spirit Lake Tribe, both of which are Federally-recognized, but no response was received, indicating a lack of an opinion on the issue.

The North Dakota State Names Authority was given two opportunities to comment on this second proposal, along with a copy of the County's letter, but no response was received. The second letter indicated that if the State did not comment by early January 2006, the BGN would vote on the proposal without State input.

Explorer Arch, Utah
(Canyonlands National Park)
(Review List 389)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?latd=38&latm=05&lats=13&lond=-109&lonm=49&lons=14&datum=NAD83&u=6>

This proposal is to make official the name Explorer Arch for an arch located in Canyonlands National Park, 1 km (0.6 mi) east of Druid Arch, and within the area known as The Needles. The proponent, a resident of Salt Lake City, reports that in January 2001, he and his colleagues located and photographed the arch, which is approximately 49 m (160 ft) high and 43 m (140 ft) wide, and has an archway hole 9 m (30 ft) high and 18 m (60 ft) wide. He had originally visited the feature in the 1960's, but did not realize at the time that it was unnamed.

Following his 2001 visit to the arch, the proponent contacted the National Park's district office, the Utah Geological Survey, and the Natural Arch and Bridge Society, all of which confirmed it was unnamed. He then submitted his findings to the editor of *The Journal of Natural Arch Discoveries*, which is published in connection with the World Arch Data Base. A subsequent edition of the journal included a description of the arch, referring to it as Three Sentinels Arch (there are three sandstone columns that stand in front of the arch). The latter name was then submitted to the BGN by this proponent and placed on BGN Review List 385. However, after learning that the National Park Service (NPS) and the Utah State Geographic Names Committee did not endorse the name, he withdrew his proposal. Both the NPS and State Committee indicated there was evidence that the feature was already known locally as Explorer Arch, so the proponent submitted that name instead. The Park Superintendent did not provide any evidence that the latter name appears on any official Park documents, nor is there any reference to that name on the Internet. The NPS has since stated it does not support the proposal for Explorer Arch, because that area of the Park is designated as proposed wilderness.

The San Juan County Board of Commissioners was asked on two occasions to comment on the proposal but did not respond, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue. The Natural Arch and Bridge Society noted that it had no objection to either Three Sentinels Arch or Explorer Arch, but "wishes to remain neutral on the issue." The Utah Geographic Names Committee has been temporarily suspended, so the Governor of Utah was asked to comment instead. The Governor's office responded with a letter of support for the name Explorer Arch. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Navajo Nation and the Ute Mountain Tribe, both of which are Federally-recognized, but neither responded, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue.

This proposal was deferred at the November 2005 DNC meeting, which a request that the NPS member attempt to determine whether the proposed name had been published on any NPS maps or documents. No evidence to support this claim has been uncovered and Park management has reaffirmed its desire to leave the feature unnamed.

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

Gilchrist Island, Alabama

(Review List 388)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=16&n=3349849.00005379&e=446345.999999997&u=2>

This proposal is to make official the name Gilchrist Island for a five-acre island located in southern Baldwin County, just inside Perdido Pass at Cotton Bayou. The proponent, a resident of New Orleans, reports that the proposed name has come into recent local use following its approval in 1998 by a resolution of the Baldwin County Commissioners. (The County resolution indicated it was approving "a change to the name Rabbit Island," but further research has confirmed that the latter name applies to another island a short distance to the east. The locative description of the island, as stated in the resolution, is accurate and the BGN staff has since verified that the County supports the proposal as submitted; that is, to make official the name for an unnamed island). The proponent's original request was to

honor a member of the Gilchrist family who is still living, but it was later amended to recognize the contributions to the area of William G. Gilchrist (1908-1996).

The name Gilchrist Island was shown on a map published in an article in the August 3, 2004 edition of the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*. Two websites dedicated to nature tours and dining in the Gulf Shores area also refer to the island as Gilchrist Island. A road leading to the shoreline opposite the island is named Gilchrist Lane. There is one other island in Alabama named Gilchrist Island; it is located in Coosa County, approximately 305 km (189 mi) north-northeast of the feature in Baldwin County. The Alabama State Geographic Names Authority, the Office of Coast Survey, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have all indicated they have no objection to the name.

IV. Revised Decisions - none

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties - none