

U.S. Board on Geographic Names
Domestic Names Committee

Six Hundred Sixty-Sixth Meeting
Department of the Interior, Room 3026
March 10, 2005 - 9:30 a.m.

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Eric Berman	Department of Homeland Security (Federal Emergency Management Agency)
Chick Fagan (Chairman)	Department of the Interior (National Park Service) - not voting
Mike Fournier	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Tony Gilbert	Government Printing Office
Ed Harne	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management)
Robert Hiatt	Library of Congress
William Logan	Department of Homeland Security (U.S. Coast Guard)
Barbara Ryan	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Douglas Vandegraft	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

Staff

Lesley Levi	BGN Administrative Assistant
Jennifer Runyon	

Guests

Scott Zillmer	National Geographic Society
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1. Opening

The Chairman noted that Payne, Loy, and Yost are on travel attending the biennial meeting between the Board and the British Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, in London, England.

2. Minutes of the 665th Meeting

The Minutes were approved as submitted.

3. Communications and Reports

3.1 BGN Chairman's Report (Loy)

No report.

3.2 BGN Executive Secretary's Report (Payne)

No report.

3.3 Report of the Publicity Committee (Wood)

No report.

3.4 Executive Secretary's Report (Payne)

No report.

3.5 BGN Staff Report

Runyon noted that Docket 388 has been completed and distributed via e-mail, and has also been posted at the Board's website.

3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (Yost)

No report.

4. Docket Review List

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

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

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Change Grabast Canyon to Grab Ass Canyon, California (Docket 375)

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve the name change, citing the lack of support by the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names, and in the belief that the proposed name could be construed to be controversial.

Vote: 8 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

The Board voted to reaffirm the existing names for Federal use.

Change Middle Fork Purgatoire River (A), North Fork Purgatoire River (B), Purgatoire Canyon (C), South Fork Purgatoire River (D), and West Fork North Fork Purgatoire River (E) to Middle Fork El Río de Las Animas Perdidas en Purgatorio, North Fork El Río de Las Animas Perdidas en Purgatorio, El Cañon del Purgatorio, South Fork El Río de Las Animas Perdidas en Purgatorio, and West Fork North Fork El Río de Las Animas Perdidas en Purgatorio, Colorado (Comanche National Grassland) (Docket 375)

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve the changes, citing the lack of universal local support, and in the belief that the proposed names are cumbersome.

Vote: 8 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

The Board voted to reaffirm the existing names- for Federal use.

Inkecabe Creek vs. Prairie Creek, Inkecabe Lake vs. Prairie Creek Lake, Nebraska

(Dockets 388, 384)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the names Prairie Creek and Prairie Creek Lake citing the support of the county government and State Names Authority.

Vote: 7 in favor
1 against
0 abstentions

The negative vote was cast in support of the recommendations by the Omaha Tribe.

Change Squaw Creek to Indian Woman Creek or Lott Creek, Montana (Beaverhead National Forest) (Dockets 383, 386)

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve the change to Indian Woman Creek.

Vote: 6 in favor
2 against
0 abstentions

The negative votes were cast in support of the Montana House Bill 412 Advisory Committee. A motion was then made and seconded to approve the name Lott Creek.

Vote: 6 in favor
2 against
0 abstentions

The negative votes were cast in support of the Montana House Bill 412 Advisory Committee.

Change Squaw Creek Spring to Indian Woman Spring or Moltich Spring, Montana (Beaverhead National Forest) Dockets 383, 386)

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve the change to Indian Woman Creek.

Vote: 6 in favor
2 against
0 abstentions

The negative votes were cast in support of the Montana House Bill 412 Advisory Committee. A motion was then made and seconded to approve the name Moltich Spring.

Vote: 6 in favor
2 against
0 abstentions

The negative votes were cast in support of the Montana House Bill 412 Advisory Committee.

Thea Lake, Washington (Wenatchee National Forest) (Docket 384)

A motion was made and seconded to **not** approve the proposed name, in the belief that the proposed name could be construed to commemorate a living person.

Vote: 7 in favor
 1 against
 0 abstentions

The negative vote was cast in support of the positions of the County and State Board.

Lake STS-107, Wyoming (Bridger-Teton National Forest/Bridger Wilderness) (Docket 386)

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve the new name, citing the negative recommendations of the County, State Board, and U.S. Forest Service.

Vote: 7 in favor
 0 against
 1 abstention

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

Lake Nicholas, Michigan (Docket 377)

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

Vote: 8 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Thomas Creek, Michigan (Docket 385)

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

Vote: 8 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Change **Long Lake** to **Collins Lake**, Minnesota (Docket 387)

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

Vote: 8 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Russells Run, North Carolina (Docket 387)

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

Vote: 8 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Joeys Run, Ohio (Docket 383)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 7 in favor
1 against
0 abstentions

The negative vote was cast in the belief that there are too many names proposed for the same individual.

Sobczak Lake, Ohio (Docket 383)

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

Vote: 8 in favor
1 against
0 abstentions

The negative vote was cast in the belief that there are too many names proposed for the same individual.

Stefans Run, Ohio (Docket 383)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the new name

Vote: 8 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

IV. Revised Decisions

Change **Purgatoire River** (BGN 1911) to **El Río de Las Animas Perdidas en Purgatorio**, Colorado (Docket 375)

A motion was made and seconded to **not** to approve the change, citing the lack of universal local support, and in the belief that the proposed names are cumbersome.

Vote: 8 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

The Board voted to reaffirm the existing name for Federal use.

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Pine Hill Stream, Michigan (Docket 380)

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

Vote: 8 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Exploration Peak, Nevada (Bureau of Land Management) (Docket 386)

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

Vote: 8 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Rhododendron Creek, North Carolina (Docket 386)

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

Vote: 8 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Obscure Arch, Utah (Bureau of Land Management) (Docket 386)

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

Vote: 8 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

5. Location and Time of Next Meeting

5.1 The next meeting of the Domestic Names Committee will be held April 14, 2005, at 9:30 a.m., at the Department of the Interior, Room 3004.

5.2 The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

(signed) *Roger L. Payne*

Roger L. Payne, Executive Secretary

APPROVED

(signed) *Chick Fagan*

Chick Fagan, Chairman
Domestic Names Committee

U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE

DOCKET REVIEW LIST
March 2005

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

Change **Grabast Canyon** to **Grab Ass Canyon**, California
(Docket 375)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=10&n=4005183.07057851%20&e=719099.671741933&u=6&datum=nad83>

This is one of fourteen proposals submitted by a resident of Santa Cruz, to make official names, or to modify existing names and applications, for various geographic features located throughout southwestern Fresno County in the area of Joaquin Ridge. The proponent reports that he has been conducting extensive historical research in the area and has discovered that many of these historical names are in local use but not widely known or published. At its February 2005 meeting, the BGN approved four of the names on the list.

This proposal is to change officially the name of **Grabast Canyon**, a 2.6 km (1.6 mi) long valley, to **Grab Ass Canyon**. Although the name **Grabast Canyon** has appeared on U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps since 1969, the proponent reports that that is a misspelling. He states the valley was “named “Grab Ass” Canyon by E.L. Xavier sometime in the 1950’s because of the difficulty he had getting out of the canyon while removing a buck he had hunted in the canyon. The canyon is particularly difficult to negotiate.” The proponent provided the names of four longtime residents, including two ranchers and a historian, who confirmed local usage of the name **Grab Ass Canyon**.

The County Supervisors of Fresno County were asked on two occasions to comment on the fourteen proposals, but no response was received. A copy was also sent to the Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians of the Santa Rosa Reservation, which is Federally-recognized, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue. The California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names has recommended this name change not be approved, stating “this name was considered inappropriate. The Committee also felt the story of the name is nonsensical.”

Change **Middle Fork Purgatoire River** (A), **North Fork Purgatoire River** (B), **Purgatoire Canyon** (C), **South Fork Purgatoire River** (D), and **West Fork North Fork Purgatoire River** (E) to

Middle Fork El Río de Las Animas Perdidas en Purgatorio, **North Fork El Río de Las Animas Perdidas en Purgatorio**, **El Cañon del Purgatorio**, **South Fork El Río de Las**

Animas Perdidas en Purgatorio, and West Fork North Fork El Río de Las Animas Perdidas en Purgatorio, Colorado

(Comanche National Grassland)

(Docket 375)

A, B: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=37.1572&lon=-104.9403>

C: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=13&n=4173680&e=630089&s=100&size=l&u=6&datum=nad83&layer=DRG25>

D: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=13&n=4109462.73507892%20&e=513816.361812598&u=6&datum=nad83>

E: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=13&n=4122524.37269796%20&e=490709.164205751&u=6&datum=nad83>

These proposals are the first five of six submitted by a resident of Trinidad, to change officially the names of five streams and one valley in Colorado that are currently named “Purgatoire.” (The sixth change is listed below under category IV, Revised Decisions.) The proponent wishes to change the name of the Purgatoire River and its associated tributaries and valley to El Río de Las Animas Perdidas en Purgatorio (“the river of lost souls in purgatory”), which was the original Spanish name for the stream. It is well documented that the feature was named during the sixteenth century, after several members of a Spanish expedition were massacred by local Indians along the stream without receiving the last rites of the Catholic Church. According to *1001 Colorado Place Names* (Benson, 1994), the explorer Zebulon Pike referred to this prominent tributary of the Arkansas River as “First Fork,” but in 1820, when Stephen Long traveled through the area, local guides reported that the stream was “known among the Spaniards of New Mexico as the river of the souls in purgatory.” Benson further states that the current name, Purgatoire River, was given to the stream by French trappers and traders, and research suggests that it is also known locally as Purgatory River, and more informally, as Picketwire River, a corruption of the word “purgatoire.” The volume *Colorado Mapology* (Ellis, 1983) indicates that the name Purgatory River appeared in an 1861 Indian treaty. Another volume on Colorado history written by Fossett in 1880 identified the stream as Las Animas River; the name Las Animas, as applied to numerous geographic features in the area, was derived from the name of the stream.

The BGN made official the name Purgatory River in 1896, but in 1911, amended that decision to recognize the form Purgatoire River, which was apparently in more widespread local and published usage. The stream is approximately 288 km (180 mi) long, and heads at the western edge of Las Animas County, on the eastern slopes of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The book *The Arkansas* (American River Series, 1940) named the stream Picketwire River, and stated that French voyageurs named it “purgatoire” because “the cañon to the south suggested purgatory to their fertile imaginations.” It flows eastward through Picketwire Valley and Lake Trinidad, then continues through the community of Trinidad. It then turns northeastward to flow through Purgatoire Canyon, which is proposed to be renamed El Cañon del Purgatorio. Elsewhere along its course, the Purgatoire River flows through two smaller valleys, each named Picketwire Valley, but the proponent has not indicated that these features should be renamed. He did propose that the names of the four tributaries of the Purgatoire River should also be changed, in association with the name of the primary stream. When asked whether the longer names might not prove cumbersome and therefore unlikely to be accepted into local use, the proponent

responded that the proposed names are historically correct, and that “in the Southwest, citizens pride themselves in making reference to history as it should be.”

A copy of these proposals was sent to Arapahoe Tribe of the Wind River Reservation and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, both of which are Federally-recognized, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue. The County Commissioners of Las Animas County passed a resolution supporting the restoration of the Spanish names for the features, and when asked by telephone to comment, the Otero County Commissioners also indicated support for the change. However, according to the proponent, the Trinidad City Council does not support the proposal (the Bent County Commissioners also do not support the renaming of the primary stream; none of the tributaries or valley are within Bent County).

The Colorado Board on Geographic Names does not recommend approval of the change to the former Spanish name, citing the BGN’s “reluctance to change names simply to restore or recognize historical accuracy,” and also because “the Spanish shortened the names by the end of the 16th century,” so the current names are essentially historical names. The State Board also cited the lack of unanimous support by the affected counties, as well as the fact that the proposed names are cumbersome and “the expense incurred to change documentation, mapping and signage would not be practical.” The U.S. Forest Service also suggested the changes would result in names that are “too cumbersome,” and in addition, “the proposed names are not in local use.”

**Inkecabe Creek vs. Prairie Creek,
Inkecabe Lake vs. Prairie Creek Lake, Nebraska
(Dockets 388, 384)**

Stream Mouth: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=40.77833333333333&lon=-96.53861111111111&u=2>

Source:<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=14&n=4518711&e=711482&s=50&size=1&u=2&layer=DRG25>

Reservoir:

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=14&n=4518478&e=710161&s=50&size=1&u=2&layer=DRG25>

The BGN has received two proposals to name two geographic features in Lancaster County. The first proposal was submitted by a resident of Bennet, who wishes to name a stream and a small reservoir on his property, Prairie Creek and Prairie Creek Lake (BGN Docket 384). These names refer to the native prairie land that exists near the stream.

The Commissioners of Lancaster County and the Nebraska State Historical Society, which serves as the State Geographic Names Authority, recommended approval of the proposed names. A copy was forwarded to the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, the Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Indians, the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, and the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska, all of which are Federally-recognized. Of these, three responses were received. The Pawnee Nation and the Sac and Fox Nation both indicated they were in support of the names Prairie Creek and Prairie Creek Lake, but the Executive

Director of the Omaha Tribe Environmental Protection Department responded that his Tribe would prefer that the features be named “InKecabe” instead (no English generic terms were included in the proposal, so in accordance with BGN policy, “Creek” and “Lake” were added). The Omaha Tribe reports that its proposed name means “Black Shoulder of a Buffalo,” which is the second highest of the seven clans of the Omaha. He states that the InKecabe’s role was to “perform law enforcement services, [make] sure every camp had fire wood, [be] in charge of the buffalo hunts, and [be] the carriers of the war staff. It would be such an honor to name these geographic locations after one of its first inhibitors societies [sic].” There are no other geographic features in the nation known to be named “InKecabe.”

After learning of the counter-proposals by the Omaha Tribe, several neighbors of the original proponent submitted letters and e-mails in support of Prairie Creek and Prairie Creek Lake. An e-mail of support was also submitted by Senator Carol Hudkins, and the County Commissioners and the State Names Authority Board both reaffirmed their earlier support for Prairie Creek and Prairie Creek Lake.

Change Squaw Creek to Indian Woman Creek or Lott Creek, Montana
(Beaverhead National Forest)
(Dockets 383, 386)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=12&n=4984513&e=424143&s=50&size=l&u=6&datum=nad83&layer=DRG25>

The Montana House Bill 412 Advisory Committee submitted two proposals to rename two features in Madison County named “Squaw”, a term considered by some to be derogatory. The first proposal is to change the name of Squaw Creek to Indian Woman Creek. The 2.4 km (1.5 mi) long tributary of the Ruby River lies within Beaverhead National Forest. No other streams in the county are named Indian Woman Creek. Another proposal was also submitted by the HB 412 Committee to change the name of Squaw Creek Spring, located at the head of Squaw Creek, to Indian Woman Spring (q.v.).

When asked to comment on the request to change “Squaw” to “Indian Woman,” the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Supervisor indicated he had found no local support for the proposed change and suggested area residents would prefer a name that would commemorate early pioneer families instead. The name Lott Creek was submitted and placed on Docket 386. This name would honor Mortimer Hewlett Lott (1827-1920) and John S. Lott (?-1910), members of a family that were prominent in the settlement of the Ruby Valley. Mortimer Lott was one of six men who formed the Vigilance Committee, also serving as Probate Judge for the Territory of Montana, Justice of the Peace, County Commissioner, first mayor of Twin Bridges, and President of the Montana Society of Pioneers. John Lott also served on the Vigilance Committee, as well as treasurer and the first auditor of the State of Montana. Mortimer Lott reportedly “sluiced the first gold in Montana in 1862,” and both men helped construct the toll bridges at Twin Bridges. The Lotts later ranched near Twin Bridges, grazing their cattle in the stream that is now proposed to be named in their honor.

The proposal for Lott Creek has the support of two local ranching families and the president of the Warm Springs Stock Association. The House Bill 412 Committee reviewed the counter-proposal but voted to reaffirm its support of Indian Woman Creek.

The Commissioners of Madison County initially rejected the proposal for Indian Woman Creek, stating that the name Squaw Creek was widely used by public land users, historians, and others. They added, “The name Squaw Creek references the drainage and the creeks. Nothing else.” When asked to comment on the subsequent proposal for Lott Creek, the County indicated it still did not wish to change the existing name, but added, “if the majority of input of views prefers Lott Creek and Moltich Spring as replacement names, I will not argue or deny that.” A copy of the proposals was forwarded to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation of Idaho, a Federally-recognized Tribe, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue. The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, which serves as the State Names Authority, determined that its Water Resources and Trust Land Management divisions either support or have no objection to the name Lott Creek, and so recommends approval of that name. The U.S. Forest Service also endorses the name Lott Creek.

Change Squaw Creek Spring to Indian Woman Spring or Moltich Spring, Montana
(Beaverhead National Forest)
Dockets 383, 386)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=12&n=4984303.00014804&e=426158.999999889&datum=nad83&u=6>

This is the second proposal submitted by the Montana HB 412 Advisory Committee, and a counter-proposal by an employee of the U.S. Forest Service, to change the name of Squaw Creek Spring in Madison County.

When asked to comment on the proposal for Indian Woman Spring, the National Forest Supervisor determined that local residents preferred to honor an early pioneer family instead. The name Moltich Spring would honor Matt Moltich (1878-1944) and his wife Veronica (1888-1963), who settled in Madison County in 1913, farming and raising livestock there for the rest of their lives. There are no other geographic features in Montana known to be named “Moltich”. The HB 412 Committee reviewed the counter-proposal for Moltich Spring, but declined to reverse its decision to support Indian Woman Spring.

A copy of the proposals was forwarded to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation of Idaho, a Federally-recognized Tribe, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue. The Commissioners of Madison County initially rejected the proposal for Indian Woman Spring, but asked to comment on the subsequent proposal for Moltich Creek, the County stated, “if the majority of input of views prefers Lott Creek and Moltich Spring as replacement names, I will not argue or deny that.” The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, which serves as the State Names Authority, determined that its Water Resources and Trust Land Management divisions either support or have no objection to the name Moltich Spring, and so recommends approval of that name. The U.S. Forest Service also endorses the name Moltich Spring.

Thea Lake, Washington
(Wenatchee National Forest)
(Docket 384)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=47.29&lon=-120.440277777778&u=2>

This proposal is to name a small unnamed alpine lake in southeastern Chelan County, Thea Lake. The proponent is a retired doctor living in East Wenatchee, who for the past 30 years has been a national ski patrol instructor and a member of the Chelan County Mountain Rescue Team. He suggests that a name is needed for the lake because of its significance as a point of reference on the annual 21-mile Nordic Trek from the Mission Ridge Ski Area to Swauk Pass. The lake is also used by the local National Nordic Ski Patrol for testing navigational skills in Winter Mountain Travel and Rescue courses, and throughout the year, it serves as a reference point in an area that is increasingly being used for recreational purposes.

The lake lies 0.5 km (0.3 mi) north of Mission Peak, 17 km (11 mi) south-southwest of Wenatchee, and within the Wenatchee National Forest. The proponent reported that the name Thea Lake (Greek for “God’s gift”) was chosen in recognition of the lake’s proximity to other lakes with girls’ names, specifically Clara Lake and Marion Lake, although the U.S. Forest Service later determined that the proponent’s wife is also named Thea.

The Chelan County Board of Commissioners expressed support for the name, as did the Washington Board on Geographic Names. The State Board indicated it was aware that the proponent’s wife was named Thea, but viewed it as a thematic not commemorative name. The Forest Service does not support the proposal, suggesting the name could be construed to be commemorative. A copy of the proposal was sent to the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, both of which are Federally-recognized, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue.

Lake STS-107, Wyoming
(Bridger-Teton National Forest/Bridger Wilderness)
(Docket 386)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?latd=42&latm=40&lats=11&lond=-109&lonm=07&lons=35&datum=NAD83&u=6>

This proposal is to name an unnamed lake in the Wind River Range, within the Bridger-Teton National Forest/Bridger Wilderness. The name Lake STS-107 was submitted by two members of the National Outdoors Leadership School (NOLS), who would like to recognize the association between the lake and the Space Shuttle Columbia (STS-107), lost in an accident February 1, 2003. For ten days in August 2001, the proponents accompanied the seven members of the Columbia crew on a wilderness expedition in the area, with some of the time spent in the vicinity of the unnamed lake in question. The Executive Director of NOLS, in describing the program reports, “For nearly 40 years NOLS has remained focused on its original goal --- to give people the skills to comfortably and responsibly lead others in the backcountry. As it turns out these skills are the same skills it takes to thrive when you step out of the wilderness.” Several

newspaper articles have covered the story of the astronauts' expedition to the Wind River Range, including <http://www.space.com/missionlaunches/astronaut_training_011104.html> and <<http://www.nols.edu/alumni/leader/03spring/sevenofbest.shtml>>. In April 2003, the U.S. Board approved the new name Columbia Point for a summit in Colorado, also in recognition of the shuttle and its mission.

The Sublette County Board of Commissioners voted not to support this proposal, suggesting that the lake should remain unnamed and that the name "STS-107" would be meaningless to anyone not familiar with the space program. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation of Idaho, the Crow Tribe of Montana, and the Arapahoe Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, all of which are Federally-recognized, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue. The Wyoming Board of Geographic Names concurred with the county, adding that "there is no long-term or significant connection between the lost shuttle and the lake." The Forest Service, citing a lack of evidence that an exception should be made to the wilderness policy, also does not support the proposal.

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

Lake Nicholas, Michigan (Docket 377)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=42.83638888888889&lon=-83.3975&u=2>

This new commemorative name is proposed for an unnamed 7 acre lake in Brandon Township in northern Oakland County. The name would honor Nicholas "Nick" Mozarowsky (1909-1986), who for many years, owned property surrounding the lake. The proponent, who is the daughter of the honoree, reports that her father developed and stocked this spring-fed lake for the enjoyment of his family and neighbors. The Supervisors of Brandon Township have confirmed that the lake is not currently named, and submitted a resolution in support of the name Lake Nicholas. Seven local residents signed a petition in favor of the proposal. The Oakland County Board of Commissioners also passed a resolution in support of the name, and the Michigan Board on Geographic Names is in favor as well. Letters seeking input on the proposal were sent to Huron Potawatomi, Incorporated of Michigan, the Match-e-be-nash-she-wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians of Michigan, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, all of which are Federally-recognized, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue.

Thomas Creek, Michigan (Docket 385)

Mouth:<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=43.41972222222222&lon=86.34277777777778&datum=nad83&u=6>

Source:<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=16&n=4808956&e=552228&s=50&size=1&u=6&datum=nad83&layer=DRG25>

This new commemorative name, Thomas Creek, was submitted by an attorney in Whitehall, on behalf of the Thomas family. The name is intended to honor Frances Henrietta VanFleet Thomas (1888-1968), who in 1963 purchased and moved to property located along the stream. Her descendants have resided there ever since. The proponent reports that Mrs. Thomas “maintained the gully within which the creek resides and delighted as she watched the children and grandchildren use a tire swing that hung from a big oak tree swinging out over the gully.” He further states, “[the family’s] constant diligence and maintenance of the creek has allowed in large part same to be cared for and kept in its pristine condition.”

The 1.7 km (1.2 mi) long stream heads just outside the corporate boundary of the City of Montague, then flows south through the northeast corner of the city before turning east-southeast to enter the White River just north of the head of White Lake and opposite the community of Whitehall. A letter of support for the proposal was submitted by a civil engineer in Montague, who suggests that “it is always more interesting and relevant to have names attached to natural features.” A copy of the proposal was sent to Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and to the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, both of which are Federally-recognized, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue. The Mayor of the City of Montague reports that the City Council has no objection to the proposal, while the Muskegon County Commissioners passed a resolution in support of the name. The Michigan Board on Geographic Names also supports the proposal. There is one other stream in Michigan known to be named “Thomas”; Thomas Road Creek is located in Benzie County, approximately 138 km (86 mi) north of the stream in Muskegon County.

Change Long Lake to Collins Lake, Minnesota
(Docket 387)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=15&n=4985526.14761033%20&e=399494.502123502&u=6&datum=nad83>

This proposal was submitted by the Minnesota Board on Geographic Names, on behalf of a resident of Dassel, who wishes to rename Long Lake in Meeker County to Collins Lake. There are currently four lakes in the county named Long Lake and another 109 elsewhere in the State, so the proponent suggests it would be appropriate to remove a duplicate name and to commemorate an early resident of the area. This proposal was deferred by the BGN at its February 2005 meeting, pending comments from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages a portion of Meeker County as a National Waterfowl Production Area.

The name Long Lake has appeared on U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) maps since 1958, as well as on the official Meeker County highway map and in two lake inventories compiled by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, in 1968 and 1985. The proposed replacement name, Collins Lake, would recognize the contributions of Ishma Collins, a native of Kentucky who moved to Meeker County in the 1880’s. Although his birth and death dates have not been determined, the county historical society reports that he was a Civil War veteran and that the property in Minnesota was given to him as payment for his military service. Mr. Collins donated some of his land to the local school district, which established the Collins District School that operated until 1968. The proponent included with her application a petition signed by 20 local residents who support the change.

After conducting a public hearing and receiving no objections, the Meeker County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution in support of the change from Long Lake to Collins Lake. The Minnesota Board on Geographic Names also recommends approval of the proposal. The Fish and Wildlife Service stated that as long as the county commissioners were in favor of the name, the Service was in support as well. With the exception of the school, there are no other geographic features in Meeker County known to be named “Collins,” and no lakes in the State with that name.

Collinwood Township, in which the lake is located, was named, although misspelled, by Canadian settlers in the mid-nineteenth century for their home port of Collingwood, Ontario (*Minnesota Geographic Names*; Upham, 1969). A copy of this proposal was sent to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota and to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, both of which are Federally-recognized, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue.

Russells Run, North Carolina

(Docket 387)

Mouth: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=36.0352777777778&lon=-79.8225&datum=nad83&u=6>

Source: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=17&n=3986831&e=602906&s=50&size=1&u=6&datum=nad83&layer=DRG25>

This proposal, to make official the name Russells Run for a stream in the City of Greensboro, was submitted by a representative of the city’s Stormwater Management Division. The city has introduced a program “to assist interested citizens in naming unnamed streams [in an effort to] encourage a sense of ownership and awareness of the value of streams in their community.” The stream in question is a 4.4 km (2.8 mi) long tributary of South Buffalo Creek.

The name Russells Run was put forth by the city because it had appeared on a historical map of Guilford County, but local citizens were also given the opportunity to propose alternative names. Of the three names suggested and the responses received, the majority voted for Russells Run. The map on which that name appeared was published in 1980 by a local historical society and showed the names of many of the area’s landowners in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The stream in question is labeled Russell’s Run, with James Russell owning property at the mouth of the stream in 1752. The City also submitted copies of several deeds from the period 1783 to 1796 that referred to the stream as Russells Run, Russels Run, or Ressels Run. The Guilford County Board of Commissioners has recommended approval of the proposal, as did the North Carolina Board on Geographic Names. There are no Federally-recognized Tribes having a current or historical interest in the area.

Joeys Run, Ohio

(Docket 383)

Mouth: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=17&n=4561818&e=457970&size=s&u=2&layer=DRG25>

Source: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=17&n=4561762&e=458428&size=s&u=2&layer=DRG25>

This proposal is the first of three submitted by a member of the Sobczak family who wishes to honor her late brother and grandfather. This new commemorative name would apply to an unnamed 0.6 km (0.4 mi) long tributary of Salt Run in the southeastern corner of Boston Township in Summit County. The proposal was submitted in association with another, which is to make official the name Sobczak Lake (q.v.); in the course of providing biographical and locative information on that name, the proponent requested that the new name Joeys Run should be applied to a nearby stream. The proponent reports that her brother, Joseph “Joey” Stefan Sobczak (1947-1968), used to play in the stream as a youngster, prior to his death at the age of 20 during the war in Vietnam.

Sobczak Lake, Ohio
(Docket 383)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=17&n=4561422&e=458784&size=s&u=2&layer=DRG25>

This is the second proposal submitted in honor of the Sobczak family. This new commemorative name would apply to an unnamed lake in the southeastern corner of Boston Township, approximately 4.8 km (3 mi) north of the City of Cuyahoga Falls. The name would honor the proponent’s brother, Sergeant Joseph Stefan Sobczak (1947-1968), who grew up on a farm located near the lake, but who died in Vietnam just prior to his 21st birthday. The proponent reports that the lake has been known locally as Sobczak’s Farm Lake ever since her grandfather settled there in the early part of the twentieth century. The stream along which the lake is located is proposed to be named Stefans Run (q.v.).

Stefans Run, Ohio
(Docket 383)

Mouth:

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=17&n=4561992&e=460446&size=s&u=2&layer=DRG25>

Source:

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=17&n=4560966&e=458582&s=50&size=l&u=2&layer=DRG25>

This proposal is the third of three submitted to honor members of the Sobczak family, longtime residents of Boston Township. The new commemorative name Stefans Run would apply to an unnamed 2.7 km (1.7 mi) long tributary of Mud Brook. The stream in question heads in the northeast corner of the City of Cuyahoga Falls, then flows north and northeast through Boston Township, then continues east into Hudson Township. The name is intended to honor the proponent’s grandfather, Stefan Sobczak (1895-1940), a native of Poland who emigrated to the U.S. and settled on property located along the stream.

The Boston Township Board of Trustees and the Summit County Council have both expressed support for the three proposals, as did the Ohio Board on Geographic Names. The governments of the City of Cuyahoga Falls and the City of Hudson were also asked to comment on the Stefan

Run proposal, but neither responded by the deadline, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue.

A copy of each of the proposals was sent to the following Federally-recognized Tribes: the Chippewa-Cree Indians of the Rocky Boy's Reservation, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the Delaware Nation, the Delaware Tribe of Indians, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the Match-e-be-nash-she-wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians of Michigan, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation, the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians of Minnesota, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, and the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma. A copy was also sent to the Great Lakes Intertribal Council and the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, which together represent twelve Tribal groups having a possible interest in the area. Of these, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe responded that they were in support of the names. The other Tribes were advised that if no response was received, it would be presumed that they did not have an interest in the issue.

IV. Revised Decisions

Change **Purgatoire River** (BGN 1911)
to **El Río de Las Animas Perdidas en Purgatorio**, Colorado
(Docket 375)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=13&n=4214597.00006187&e=659930.00001045&datum=nad83&u=6>

This proposal is to change officially the name of the Purgatoire River to El Río de Las Animas Perdidas en Purgatorio (“the river of lost souls in purgatory”), the original Spanish name for the stream. The BGN made official the name Purgatory River in 1896, but in 1911, amended that decision to recognize the form Purgatoire River, which was apparently in more widespread local and published usage. The stream is approximately 288 km (180 mi) long, and heads at the western edge of Las Animas County, on the eastern slopes of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

A copy of the proposal was sent to Arapahoe Tribe of the Wind River Reservation and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, both of which are Federally-recognized, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue. The County Commissioners of Las Animas County passed a resolution supporting the restoration of the Spanish name for the stream, and when asked by telephone to comment, the Otero County Commissioners also indicated support for the change. However, the governments of Bent County and the City of Trinidad do not support the proposal. The Colorado Board on Geographic Names and the U.S. Forest Service also do not recommend approval of the change.

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Pine Hill Stream, Michigan
(Docket 380)

Mouth: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=43.36055555555556&lon=-82.53611111111111&u=2>

Source:<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?latd=43&latm=21&lats=33&lond=82&lonm=35&lonns=47&datum=NAD27&u=2>

The new name Pine Hill Stream was submitted by a resident of Applegate. The stream in question is 5.4 km (3.4 mi) long and flows from west to east into Lake Huron in eastern Sanilac County. The proponent, who lives along the stream, reports that it has always been known simply as “the creek”, but because the area through which it flows has long been known as “Pine Hill”, the proposed name seems logical. According to the 1878 General Land Office map of the State of Michigan, a community named Pine Hill was once located near the mouth of the stream, although it is not known when or why it ceased to exist. The community was also the site of Pine Hill Post Office from 1866 until 1881. Pine Hill School still exists along the stream, approximately 1.1 km (0.7 mi) west of its mouth. There does not appear to be a physical feature named Pine Hill.

The proponent included with her application the signatures of six individuals who have lived along the stream for at least 25 years and who support the proposal. She also provided a letter from the Sanilac County Drain Commissioner confirming that the stream is not named in any county records. The Commissioner stated that “the stream flows past and/or near an old one-room school, a cemetery and a country store, which are all attached with the name Pine Hill.” He further indicated that the general area is referred to informally as “Pine Hill,” and stated that “it would seem appropriate to have said stream named officially as “Pine Hill Stream.” There are currently four other streams in Michigan in which the generic “Stream” occurs. The Sanilac Township Board was asked to comment on the proposal, but did not respond; the letter indicated that if no response was received, it would be presumed that they did not have an opinion on the issue. Letters seeking input on the proposal were sent to Huron Potawatomi, Incorporated of Michigan, the Match-e-be-nash-she-wish Band of Pottawatomis of Michigan, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, all of which are Federally-recognized, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue. The Michigan Board on Geographic Names is in support of the name.

Exploration Peak, Nevada
(Bureau of Land Management)
(Docket 386)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=36.017222222222&lon=-115.258611111111&datum=nad83&u=6>

This new name was submitted by a representative of the new community of Mountain’s Edge, located approximately 19 km (12 mi) southwest of Las Vegas. Construction of new homes in the planned development began in early 2004, and according to the developer, the community’s “Old World theme” will revolve around the Old Spanish Trail that once passed through the area. The 868 m (2,849 ft) high summit that overlooks the community has reportedly never been named, so the name Exploration Peak would tie in with the theme of exploring and pioneering. The surrounding land has been acquired by the developers but the summit itself still lies within the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management.

The Clark County Department of Parks and Community Services has assisted the developer in researching and compiling historical data for the area and is in support of the proposal for Exploration Peak. A copy of the proposal was sent to the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe of Arizona, a Federally-recognized Tribe, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue. Letters in support of this proposal have also been received from Senator Harry Reid, Senator Dennis Nolan, Congressman Jon Porter, and Congresswoman Shelley Berkley. The Clark County Board of Commissioners and the West Agate Homeowners Association also support the proposal, as do the Nevada Board on Geographic Names and the Bureau of Land Management.

Rhododendron Creek, North Carolina

(Docket 386)

Mouth: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=35.56333333333333&lon=-82.59833333333333&datum=nad83&u=6>

Source: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=35.57944444444444&lon=-82.605&datum=nad83&u=6>

The new name Rhododendron Creek is proposed for a 1.7 km (1.2 mi) long tributary of Hominy Creek in West Asheville. The proponent is the Director of the Asheville Department of Parks and Recreation, who reports that the stream forms part of a site that has been identified as a potential neighborhood greenway by the Asheville Greenway Commission. According to a resolution passed by the Asheville City Council, “in an effort to obtain community support for this greenway, the Greenway Commission sponsored a Name-the-Creek Contest,” which was won by a 12-year old local resident. The contest winner had ‘interviewed several long-time West Asheville residents who remember Rhododendron Park that was located near the confluence of this creek and Hominy Creek,” and selected the name Rhododendron Creek in recognition of this historical site.

The Asheville City Council has recommended approval of the proposed name. The Commissioners of Buncombe County indicated they did not wish to comment on the issue and would defer to the City for a statement. The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina, a Federally-recognized Tribe, was asked to comment on the proposal but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The North Carolina Board on Geographic Names recommends approval of the proposal. With the exception of the park, there are no other geographic features in North Carolina known to be named “Rhododendron”.

Obscure Arch, Utah

(Bureau of Land Management)

(Docket 386)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=12&n=4310038.00011603&e=520406&u=2>

This proposal was submitted by the director of SanRafaelSwell.org, an organization dedicated to providing information on the San Rafael Swell area, including its topography and its environment. The San Rafael Swell is described as a “kidney shaped geographical feature in southeastern Utah on the Colorado Plateau. [It] is about 50 miles in length and 30 miles in width”. While hiking in the area, the proponent discovered this hidden arch that was “obscured”

by mesas and cliffs. After speaking with “many very informed arch hunters, even one that published a book on arches in the “Swell”,” he determined that no one was aware of the existence of this arch. He describes it as having an opening of approximately 11 m (35 ft) by 8 m (25 ft). The proponent’s website, <http://www.sanrafaelswell.org/>, includes several photographs of the feature.

The Emery County Commissioners were asked on two occasions to comment on the proposal, but no response was received. The County was advised that a lack of input by March 8 would constitute a lack of an opinion on the issue. The Bureau of Land Management has stated it has no opinion on the issue, since the arch falls approximately 198 m (650 ft) beyond the boundary of its Wilderness Study Area. The Utah Geographic Names Committee has recommended approval of the name. The Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation, a Federally-recognized Tribe, was asked to comment on the proposal but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. There are no other geographic features in Utah known to be named “Obscure”.