

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

Six Hundred Ninety-Eighth Meeting
Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., Room 7000A
May 8, 2008 – 9:30 a.m.

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Douglas Caldwell	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Chick Fagan	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
Michael Fournier	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Bonnie Gallahan	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Tony Gilbert	Government Printing Office
Robert Hiatt	Library of Congress
Elizabeth Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (Forest Service)
William Logan	Department of Homeland Security (U.S. Coast Guard)
Curtis Loy	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey) (Chairman; not voting)
Joseph Marinucci	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Peter Roudik	Library of Congress
Michael Shelton	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
Douglas Vandegraft	Department of the Interior (Fish and Wildlife Service)
Meredith Westington	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)

Ex-Officio

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

Staff

Penelope Leeth, U.S. Geological Survey
Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey

1. Opening

The meeting opened at 9:35 a.m. The chairman will not be voting unless there is a tie vote.

2. Minutes of the 697th Meeting

The minutes of the 697th meeting, held April 10th, were approved with three corrections. Under Item 3.2, the location of the annual meeting of the Geographical Names Board of Canada should read “Montreal, Quebec.” Under Item 3.2, Douglas Vandegraft’s name should be removed from the list of panelists who participated at the American Association of Geographers’ (AAG) meeting in April. Instead, the name of Douglas Batson of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency should be included. Under 3.5, the wording referring to a possible proposal for the new name, “Point Reno” should read “to make this name official.”

3. Communications and Reports

3.1 Chairman's Report (Kanalley)

Kanalley reported that she participated recently in the annual meeting of the Cartographic Users Advisory Council in Washington, D.C. Representatives from both the domestic and foreign names committees were in attendance.

Kanalley will be on a detail in Albuquerque, New Mexico for a six week period beginning May 27, where she will serve as the Geospatial Program Manager. During that period, Cynthia Geuss of the Albuquerque office and Geographic Names Liaison for Forest Service Region 3 will be in the Washington office. One of Ms. Geuss's responsibilities will be to serve as the Forest Service member to the Board on Geographic Names. She will attend the DNC's June 12th meeting.

The Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management have collaborated for several years in hosting a geospatial conference. Kanalley noted she would like to coordinate with Westington and others regarding the possibility of holding a geographic names panel discussion at the next conference, scheduled for April 27 - May 1, 2009 at the Snowbird Resort in Salt Lake City, Utah.

3.2 BGN Executive Secretary's Report (Yost)

The BGN's panel discussion at the recent AAG meeting was successful, despite low attendance at the early morning session. Yost thanked Westington for her assistance in preparing the PowerPoint presentation for the panel.

Fournier noted that he has the schedule of this year's geospatial events (conferences, meetings, etc.), which he will share with Westington and other members of the BGN's Communications Committee. Westington suggested it might be appropriate for that committee to meet again, possibly in late May.

Yost attended the annual meeting of the BGN and the British Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (PCGN) in London the week of April 28. Peeter Päll from the Place Names Board of Estonia participated as an observer. The next BGN/PCGN meeting is tentatively scheduled for the second week of May 2009 in Washington, D.C. For the 2010 meeting, it is hoped that the BGN/PCGN meeting can be scheduled to coincide with the annual meeting of the AAG, which is to take place in Washington.

3.3 Executive Secretary's Report (Yost)

No additional reappointment letters have been received from the various departments. To date, only those of the Department of Agriculture, the Library of Congress, Central Intelligence Agency, the Department of Defense, and the U.S. Postal Service have arrived in the USGS Geographic Names Office. For those departments and agencies still missing, BGN staff will provide members and deputies with copies of the letters that were sent by the Secretary of the Interior so that they can follow up with the appropriate offices.

Yost reported that the approval of the change of Squaw Creek in Phoenix to Piestewa Peak, voted on at the April 2008 meeting, has generated many media inquiries. An article that appeared in *USA Today*, 'Pressure mounts to drop "squaw" from place names' generated more interest in the topic. Runyon was interviewed by the New York affiliate of National Public Radio (WNYC). The BGN staff also received inquiries from news reporters in Utah and Pittsburgh, as well as from a French television reporter interested in featuring "squaw name changes" on an upcoming show about Americana.

Yost and Runyon introduced Peter Roudik as the newly appointed member from the Library of Congress. Roudik attended the full BGN meeting in April.

Yost reminded the attendees that they should have received by now the announcement and registration form for this year's Annual Conference of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (COGNA). The conference will take place September 2-5, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. All members and deputies are encouraged to attend, and any topics for the State-Federal Roundtable should be forwarded to the COGNA planning committee.

Due to various scheduling conflicts, the DNC will not be meeting in July. The DNC will meet at its regularly-scheduled time on August 14th, at which there will be a docket for review, along with a draft agenda for the COGNA conference.

3.4 Staff Report (Runyon)

Following the DNC's approval of the Piestewa Peak proposal, Yost spoke with the individual who had proposed the name Veterans Peak as an alternative to Squaw Peak. Although this proposal had been received just prior to the April 10th meeting, the DNC determined it was not appropriate to defer the vote on Piestewa Peak (and Swilling Peak, a second proposal) to allow time to review Veterans Peak and any subsequent proposals. The proponent of Veterans Peak has asked the DNC to proceed with his proposal, so the staff will now process it as a request to rename Piestewa Peak. Runyon reported that she has just learned that this same proponent recently approached the Arizona Board on Geographic and Historic Names with a request to apply the name Veterans Peak to a different summit. He will be informed that he cannot propose the same name for multiple features simultaneously. The other proposals, to change the summit's name to either Phoenix Peak or Heroes Peak, have since been withdrawn. It is not clear whether the Gila River Indian Community intends to pursue its proposal to change the name to Vainom Do'ag. Representatives of the Inter-Council Tribal Council of Arizona and the Piestewa Memorial Committee have offered to contact the Gila River Community to discuss their concerns.

The individual who in 1996 submitted an unsuccessful proposal to rename Mobile Bay in Alabama to Bay of the Holy Spirit has indicated in an e-mail that he wishes to resubmit his case. He claims the Alabama Historical Association recently placed a plaque on a bridge over the bay; this plaque reportedly provides some historical information on the naming of the bay, indicating that it was once named "Bahia del Espiritu Santo," which translates as "Bay of the Holy Spirit." He will also be hosting in early June an event to be known as the "Blessing of the Bay," at which he claims he and many of the participants will refer to the bay as "the Bay of the Holy Spirit." Runyon asked the committee whether they considered this sufficient evidence to warrant revisiting its previous

decision. Several members remarked that to be historically accurate, the proposal would have to be for the Spanish rendition of the name, not the English translation. The Committee members indicated that the plaque referring to historical usage of the name did not constitute new evidence to revisit the case.

At the April meeting, Runyon distributed for the members' review a letter from the Fond du Lac Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, in which the Tribe asked that the proposal for Rock Dam Creek should reflect the ojibwemowin (Chippewa) name for the feature. It was not clear whether the Tribe was submitting the name Assin Zibiins as a counter-proposal, or simply noting that this is the Chippewa translation of "rock dam." At the committee's suggestion, the staff has contacted the Fond du Lac Tribe to ask that they clarify their request and indicate whether they wish to submit the Chippewa name for the DNC's consideration or whether the name can simply be recorded in GNIS as a variant. Thus far, no response has been received.

As reported in April, the proposal to change the names of the Upper Salt Fork Drainage Ditch and West Salt Fork Drainage Ditch to Upper Salt Fork and West Salt Fork, respectively, and also to change the feature type from canal to stream, continues to be a very controversial issue. The DNC has received several letters, both for and against the change, with both sides stating strong opinions. The staff has also had several conversations with the staff of Congressman Tim Johnson, who has received numerous calls from his constituents on the issue. To date, the Illinois State Geographic Names Authority continues to endorse the proposed changes. The USGS Geospatial Liaison for Illinois has met and spoken on several occasions with both the State Board and the proponents, and has provided invaluable guidance to the DNC staff regarding local opinion.

3.5 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (Yost)

Yost reported that it has come to the staff's attention that GNIS includes two entries for a body of water in Alaska (Lake Eyak), one recorded as a lake (BGN 1910 decision) and the other designated a reservoir, with the latter having been compiled from a 1981 listing of dams and reservoirs provided to the USGS by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. One of these duplicate entries needs to be removed from the database, but it is not clear whether the feature should be classified as a lake, or since it now has a small dam at one end, is it by definition a reservoir? As there was no definitive recommendation from the committee, Caldwell offered to consult with his sources and to let the DNC know the Corps' opinion.

Yost discussed the ongoing plans to integrate all geospatial data layers within *The National Map*. He commented once again on the apparent need to compile polygons ("spatial geometry") for all geographic features. It was noted that this will prove challenging, noting for example the difference between where the primary coordinates are compiled for a lake (center) versus a reservoir (at the dam). Another example is the application by the BGN of the name of a stream to its longest, straightest drain. Yost said that in the future, the representation of some names is likely to change. Marinucci replied that the BGN should continue to have input regarding the representation of features that are under its purview.

Runyon noted that TopoZone, which was formerly used for the vast majority of BGN and GNIS research, has been sold. The new company now charges a user fee to access topographic map

images, so it is no longer feasible as a database tool. For the short term, the staff is now using another website called ACME Mapper, which provides some of the same functionality as TopoZone. TopoZone has been removed as an active link from GNIS, and new links to ACME Mapper are included in this month's docket. It is hoped that the GNIS development team in the USGS Geographic Names Office can work toward providing other options in the future.

Runyon and the USGS Geospatial Liaison from Illinois participated in a WebEx session with the GIS Manager for DuPage County on the topic of updating and maintaining GNIS. If successful, it is hoped that DuPage County will share its experience and expertise with other counties in Illinois.

At this point, Fagan joined the meeting, and Shelton left.

4. Docket Review (Runyon)

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

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

Change Squaw Hill (FID 806220) to Chewh-toowh-too-peh Hill, Montana (Review List 396)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

This proposal, the first of several on the docket to change "Squaw" names, generated much discussion amongst the committee members. Fagan announced that he is considering writing a proposal to change unilaterally all names containing the word "Squaw" to "Indian Woman," but first wanted to know if there would be any support for this from the other committee members. He said that scholars who have studied the origins of the word have concluded that it was not intended to be pejorative, but nevertheless it is now widely perceived as an objectionable word. Although he would prefer to leave the "squaw" names intact, it has become a foregone conclusion that the committee will be inclined to approve requests to change the name. If the committee continues to approach each case one-by-one, it will require a long and laborious effort and impose a considerable burden on the DNC staff. It will also result in proposed substitute names that are difficult to pronounce and/or have no relationship to the original meaning. Substituting "Indian Woman" would avoid both these problems, and anyone who did not like "Indian Woman" would still be free to propose a name change in the usual manner. He noted that the BGN, if it should approve his proposal and enact such a universal change, should post a notice of its intent to do so in the Federal Register, and be prepared to receive extensive public comment. Since tribes with languages of Algonquian origin apparently do not find the word offensive, the BGN protocol should give staff the authority to return the name to "squaw" whenever requested by tribal authorities. The BGN protocol, if approved, would not extend to the names of "administrative" (cultural) features, the renaming of which would be under the purview of the agency that administers them. Several of the members shared their views both for and against such a proposal, but all agreed that it should be considered and that much more investigation and analysis is needed.

Fagan agreed that it would be prudent to discuss the issue with the Secretary of the Interior's office and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Loy asked Fagan to prepare a written proposal for the BGN's consideration over the next few months. He also recommended the topic be discussed at the COGNA conference in September, so Yost will ask the COGNA Executive Secretary to schedule a session on the agenda (not as part of the DNC meeting or the State-Federal Roundtable).

The aforementioned motion was reaffirmed and the Chairman called for the vote.

Vote: 11 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Squaw Creek** (FID 791374) to **In-pa-ah Creek**, Montana (Review List 396)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Squaws Tit** (FID 777136) to **Moolsh Hill**, Montana (Review List 396)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 11 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

Change **Gum Corner** (FID 1020577) to **Corner Gum**, North Carolina (Review List 395)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Negro Creek** (FID 1256652) to **Franklin Creek**, South Dakota

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change. Several members expressed concern that the word "Negro" has not been shown to be derogatory to a large number of people, and that the proposed changes to geographic names containing that word did not satisfy the original intent of the State Legislation. In many cases, the newly-proposed names do not provide any reference to the African-American history of the area, if indeed that was the purpose of the original name.

Vote: 10 in favor
1 against

0 abstentions

The one dissenting vote was cast in the belief that the original name better reflected the culture and history associated with the feature.

Change **Grahamville** (FID 1457594) to **Grahamsville**, Vermont (Review List 395)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Change **Squaw Teat** (FID 791398) to **Mil-mil-teh Hill** or **Aspen Hill**, Montana (Review Lists 396, 397)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change to **Mil-mil-teh Hill**.

Vote: 11 in favor
1 against
0 abstentions

The one dissenting vote cited the County's lack of support for the indigenous name.

Change **Squaws Grave Butte** (FID 777135) to **In-matl-qe Butte** or **Indian Graves Butte**, Montana (Review Lists 396, 397)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change to **Indian Graves Butte**.

Vote: 11 in favor
1 against
0 abstentions

The one dissenting vote was cast in support of the recommendation of the State Names Authority.

Change **Squaw Coulee** (FID 777119) to **In-poo-poo-neh Coulee** or **Big Sagebrush Coulee**, Montana (Review Lists 396, 397)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change to **Big Sagebrush Coulee**.

Vote: 8 in favor
3 against
0 abstentions

The negative votes were cast in support of the recommendation of the State Names Authority.

Change **Negro Gulch** (FID 1262113) to **Last Chance Gulch**, South Dakota (Black Hills National Forest) (Review List 390)

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve this change, citing evidence that the Last Chance Mine was located some distance from the feature in question, as well as a belief that the current name is not offensive.

Vote: 11 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Big Negro Draw** (FID 1253921) to **Marvis Hogen Draw**, and change **Little Negro Creek** (FID 1256173) to **Tom Berry Creek**, South Dakota (Review List 390)

A motion was made and seconded to consider these two proposals together.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve the two changes citing a lack of support from the Jackson County Commissioners.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Negro Hill** (FID 1262114) to **African Hill**, South Dakota and Wyoming (Black Hills National Forest) (Review List 390)

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve this name change in the belief that the original name is not generally considered to be offensive and better reflects the culture and history associated with the feature.

Vote: 11 in favor
1 against
0 abstentions

The negative vote was cast in the belief that the change was warranted because of the negative implications of the pejorative variant name.

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

Drinkwater Peak, Arizona (Review List 397) (FID 2434929)

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

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Hoels Wash, Arizona (Coconino National Forest) (Review List 397) (FID 2434629)

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

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Ochoa Wash, Arizona (Review List 397) (FID 2434930)

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

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Benson Peak, Montana (Review List 397) (FID 2434931)

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

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Dancing Turtles Lake, Texas (Review List 392)

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

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

At this point, it was suggested that the meeting be adjourned and the remaining names on the docket be deferred to the next meeting.

5. Location and Time of Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Domestic Names Committee will be held June 12, 2008 at the Department of the Interior, Room 7000A, at 9:30 a.m.

(signed) *Louis A. Yost*

Louis A. Yost, Executive Secretary

APPROVED
(signed) *Curtis Loy*

Curtis Loy, Chairman
Domestic Names Committee

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
DOCKET
May 2008**

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

Change **Squaw Hill** (FID 806220) to **Chewh-toowh-too-peh Hill**, Montana
(Review List 396)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=46.0663173&p_longi=-111.5658046&fid=806220

This is the first of 25 proposals submitted by the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes (CSKT), to change officially the names of geographic features in Montana named “Squaw,” a term that the CSKT finds “offensive and derogatory.” Six of these proposed changes are included on this docket.

The name Squaw Hill applies currently to a 1,347 m (4,419 ft) summit in southern Broadwater County, approximately 28 km (18 mi) south of Townsend. The origin of the name has not been determined; the earliest map on which it has been located is the 1986 USGS topographic map. The proposed replacement name, Chewh-toowh-too-peh Hill, is of Salish origin, and according to the proponent means “confluence of several rivers.” He adds, “The area was the traditional home of one of the five principal Salish bands.”

This proposed change has the support of the Montana House Bill 412 “Squaw Name Change” Advisory Committee and the American Indian Caucus of the Montana State Legislature. The Broadwater County Commissioners have no objection, while the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Montana State Names Authority are in support. A copy of this proposal was sent to the Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Reservation of Montana; the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation; the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community; the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians; and the Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho, all of which are Federally-recognized Tribes, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion to the name change.

Change **Squaw Creek** (FID 791374) to **In-pa-ah Creek**, Montana
(Review List 396)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=47.8041101&p_longi=-113.8375987&fid=791374

The name Squaw Creek applies currently to a 7 km (4 mi) long stream in eastern Lake County and Swan Lake State Forest. The origin of the name has not been determined; the earliest map on which it has been located is the 1965 USGS topographic map. The proposed replacement name, In-pa-ah Creek, was also submitted by the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes and is of Salish origin; according to the proponents it means “Burned-Over Ground” (an earlier proposal for Burned-Over Ground Creek (BGN Review List 389) was later withdrawn in favor of the Salish

name). The proponents add this is a “reference to traditional tribal use of fire to maintain the meadows in the area.”

This proposed change has the support of the Montana House Bill 412 “Squaw Name Change” Advisory Committee and the American Indian Caucus of the Montana State Legislature. The Lake County Commissioners are “not opposed” to the proposed change, while the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Montana State Names Authority are in support. The Manager of the Swan River National Wildlife Refuge suggests the change is “a good idea.” A copy of this proposal was sent to the Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Reservation of Montana; the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation; the Crow Tribe of the Crow Reservation of Montana; the Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation; and the Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho, all of which are Federally-recognized Tribes, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion to the name change.

Change **Squaws Tit** (FID 777136) to **Moolsh Hill**, Montana
(Review List 396)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=45.9035462&p_longi=-110.5607612&fid=777136

The name **Squaws Tit** applies to a 1,621 m (5,318 ft) high summit located on the south side of Cottonwood Creek in north-central Park County. The origin of name has not been determined; the earliest map on which it has been located is the 1951 USGS topographic map. The proposed replacement name, **Moolsh Hill**, is the Anglicization of the Salish word meaning cottonwood. This proposed change has the support of the Montana House Bill 412 “Squaw Name Change” Advisory Committee and the American Indian Caucus of the Montana State Legislature. When asked by the State Names Authority to comment on the proposal, the Park County Commissioners indicated they were not opposed to the change, but were somewhat concerned that the proposal had been submitted by a Tribe that is not local to the area; they did not offer a counter-proposal. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Montana State Names Authority are in support of the change to **Moolsh Hill**.

A copy of this proposal was sent to the Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Reservation of Montana; the Crow Tribe of the Crow Reservation of Montana; the Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation; the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community; the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians; and the Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho, all of which are Federally-recognized Tribes, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion to the name change.

Change **Gum Corner** (FID 1020577) to **Corner Gum**, North Carolina
(Review List 395)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=36.4312661&p_longi=-76.092152&fid=1020577

This proposal is to change officially the name of **Gum Corner**, a small unincorporated community in Currituck County, to **Corner Gum**. The community comprises just a few buildings at the intersection of State Route 34 and County Road 1210, midway between Sligo and Shawboro.

Although the name Gum Corner has appeared on USGS maps since 1948, the proponent, a local resident, reports that the historical name was Corner Gum. She cites county deeds dating from 1897 that record that name. Corner Gum was also the name of a post office that operated from 1849 to 1853 (Baldwin's 1854 *Gazetteer of the United States*). The 1920 Federal Census of Currituck County described the boundaries of District 24 as extending "to Sligo and Corner Gum." The community of Corner Gum was also shown on a 1921 map of Currituck County, and an online genealogy referred to a farm located at Corner Gum in 1943. The origin of the community's name has not been determined, although it is likely to have referred to a gum tree that served as a survey marker.

Two articles published in local newspapers, one in 1996 and the other in March 2007, both discussed efforts by the Currituck County Board of Education to construct a new school "at Gum Corner." A document posted at the County's website offered a list of names that were suggested for the new school; two respondents offered "Corner Gum Elementary School," stating that was the historical name for the area.

The Currituck County Historical Society submitted a letter of support for the change from Gum Corner to Corner Gum, and the Currituck County Commissioners and the North Carolina Geographic Names Board recommend approval as well. There are no Federally-recognized Tribes having a current or historical interest within 50 miles of the community.

Change **Negro Creek** (FID 1256652) to **Franklin Creek**, South Dakota
http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=43.9166404&p_longi=-96.9972804&fid=1256652

This change was submitted by the South Dakota State Legislature, as one of the 34 proposals to eliminate the words "Squaw" and "Negro" from South Dakota's placenames. Thirteen of the proposed changes were considered and approved by the Domestic Names Committee at its April 2008 meeting.

The name Franklin Creek is proposed by the South Dakota State Legislature as a replacement name for Negro Creek, a 12 km (7.5 mi) long tributary of North Buffalo Creek in Lake County. The replacement name was chosen because a small community named Franklin is located nearby; the stream also flows through Franklin Township. Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, in her 1973 volume *South Dakota Geographic Names*, listed the stream as Nigger Creek, adding that it "bears a name of unknown origin, although it had this name as early as 1882."

The Lake County Commissioners did not respond to a request for comments (the BGN's letter noted that if no response was received, it would be presumed that the county did not object to the State Legislature's actions). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which administers the area as part of the Madison Wetland Management District, agrees the change to Franklin Creek is "appropriate." The District Manager noted, "Very few landowners along this creek even know that it has a name..."

Change **Grahamville** (FID 1457594) to **Grahamsville**, Vermont
(Review List 395)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=43.419794&p_longi=-72.7067633&fid=1457594

This proposal would change officially the name of the small unincorporated community of **Grahamville** to **Grahamsville**. Although the existing name has appeared on USGS topographic maps since 1928, the proponent, an Associate Professor at Vermont Technical College and longtime resident of the area, reports that local residents have always called it Grahamsville. The current form of the name is believed to have originated with the Beers Atlas of 1869. However, the first reference to the community in the reports of the Town of Ludlow was in 1874, in which the name was spelled Grahamsville. Records published over the subsequent 30 years seemed to use both names interchangeably, although the 1894 obituary of Captain William Graham stated the village was named **Grahamsville** in his honor. *A Gazetteer of Vermont Places: Real and Imagined* (University of Vermont's Center for Rural Studies, 2005) includes an entry for "**Grahamsville**, place in Ludlow, Windsor County." Esther Swift, in her 1977 volume entitled *Vermont Place-Names*, reports, "**Grahamville** takes its name from its townspeople." A petition signed by 25 Ludlow residents who support the proposed change was included with the application. These included the assistant director of the Black River Academy Museum; the Ludlow Zoning Administrative Officer; the Ludlow Town Clerk; the Town's Chief of Police; and the Chair of the Town Board of Selectmen.

The Vermont Board of Libraries, which serves as the State Names Authority, conducted a public hearing in the Town of Ludlow, and confirmed that there is widespread agreement that the name should be changed. After the Town Selectmen passed a resolution supporting the proposal, the State voted to recommend approval. There are no Federally-recognized Tribes having a current or historical interest within 50 miles of the community.

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Change **Squaw Teat** (FID 791398) to **Mil-mil-teh Hill** or **Aspen Hill**, Montana
(Review Lists 396, 397)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=46.8991105&p_longi=-111.5288577&fid=791398

The name **Squaw Teat** applies currently to a 2,079 m (6,821 ft) pillar located 16 km (10 mi) south-southeast of Adel in northwest Meagher County. The origin of the pillar's current name has not been determined; the earliest map on which the name appears is the USGS topographic map published in 1962. The first proposal, to change the name to **Mil-mil-teh Hill**, was submitted by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes; the name is the Anglicization of the Salish and Pend d'Oreille word meaning quaking aspen tree.

Although the Montana House Bill 412 "Squaw Name Change" Advisory Committee and the American Indian Caucus of the Montana State Legislature support the change to **Mil-mil-teh Hill**, the Meagher County Commissioners do not, believing the Salish name would be too difficult to pronounce and remember. The County submitted the counter-proposal for **Aspen Hill**. The

Montana State Names Authority recommends approval of Mil-mil-teh Hill. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the Chair of the House Bill 412 Committee have been advised of the counter-proposal, but declined to offer any further comment.

Change Squaws Grave Butte (FID 777135)
to In-matl-qe Butte or Indian Graves Butte, Montana
(Review Lists 396, 397)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=47.2705328&p_longi=-109.6304663&fid=777135

The name Squaws Grave Butte applies currently to a 1,194 m (3,916 ft) summit in west-central Fergus County, approximately 1.7 km (1.1 mi) east of the confluence of Alkali Creek and Warm Spring Creek, and 6.6 km (4.1 mi) south-southeast of Seventytwo Hills. The origin of the summit's current name has not been determined; the earliest map on which the name has been located is the 1978 USGS topographic map. At the peak of the feature is a National Geodetic Survey reference mark designated "Squaw 1961."

The first proposal, to change the name to In-matl-qe Butte, was submitted by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes; the name is of the Salish and Pend d'Oreille origin and means "place of warm water." The second proposal, for Indian Graves Butte, was submitted by the Fergus County Commissioners in response to a request for comments on the Salish name (the county has confirmed they prefer the singular form for "Indian" and the plural form for "Graves"). The proposal for In-matl-qe Butte has the support of the Montana House Bill 412 "Squaw Name Change" Advisory Committee and the American Indian Caucus of the Montana State Legislature. The Montana State Names Authority recommends approval of In-matl-qe Butte. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the Chair of the House Bill 412 Committee were advised of the counter-proposal, but declined to offer any further comment.

Change Squaw Coulee (FID 777119)
to In-poo-poo-neh Coulee or Big Sagebrush Coulee, Montana
(Review Lists 396, 397)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=47.2022222&p_longi=-109.8713889&fid=777119

The name Squaw Coulee applies currently to a 17 km (11 mi) long valley in eastern Judith Basin County and western Fergus County, approximately 17 km (10 mi) north-northeast of Moccasin. The origin of the name has not been determined; the earliest map on which it has been located is the 1970 USGS topographic map.

The first proposal, for In-poo-poo-neh Coulee, was submitted by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes; the name is of the Salish and Pend d'Oreille origin and means "place of big sagebrush." The second proposal was submitted by the Judith Basin County Commissioners in response to a request for comments on the Salish name. The County Commissioners state they are not opposed to renaming the valley, but suggest In-poo-poo-neh Coulee "would not be appropriate for this area." The Montana State Names Authority recommends approval of In-poo-poo-neh

Coulee. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the Chair of the House Bill 412 Committee were advised of the counter-proposal, but declined to offer any further comment.

According to GNIS, there are 12 other features in Montana named “Sagebrush,” including another valley named Sagebrush Coulee in Liberty County, approximately 158 km (98 mi) from the valley in question. There is a dam in Fergus County, 97 km (60 mi) from the valley in question, named Sagebrush Number 3 Dam.

Change Five Names in South Dakota Containing the Word “Negro”

The following four changes, along with one other listed under Category IV, were submitted by the South Dakota State Legislature, as part of a group of 34 proposals to eliminate the words “Squaw” and “Negro” from South Dakota’s placenames.

A copy of each proposal was forwarded to the following Federally-recognized Tribes, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue: the Fort Belknap Indian Community, the Northern Arapaho Tribe, the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, the Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, the Prairie Island Indian Community, the Santee Sioux Nation, the Three Affiliated Tribes Business Council, the Upper Sioux Community, and the Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota.

Repeated efforts by the former South Dakota State Names Advisor to find an individual or agency to assume the role of State Names Authority (SNA) have yielded no results. The retired State Names Advisor has met with the Governor and with representatives of the State GIS Council, but there is no indication that a new SNA will be established in the foreseeable future.

Change **Negro Gulch** (FID 1262113) to **Last Chance Gulch**, South Dakota
(Black Hills National Forest)
(Review List 390)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=44.3810951&p_longi=-104.0365996&fid=1262113

The name Last Chance Gulch is proposed by the South Dakota State Legislature as a replacement name for Negro Gulch, a 0.8 km (0.5 mi) long valley in western Lawrence County. When asked about the origin of the proposed name, the proponent indicated it was obtained from that of a historic mine once located nearby. Further research has confirmed there was a goldmine located four miles southwest of Lead named Last Chance Mine (Sneve, 1973), although this is approximately 21 km (13 mi) from the valley in question.

When asked to comment on this proposal, the Lawrence County Commissioners replied that they had no problems with the proposed change, although they did question whether the Bureau of Land Management would also be changing the names of related mining claims, three of which are active and four inactive (the County’s letter referred to all of the mines using the pejorative form of Negro). The U.S. Forest Service does not support efforts to change the name of Negro Gulch, citing a belief that the word “Negro” “is generally not understood to be offensive, and features that are named with the word are well known locally.”

Change **Big Negro Draw** (FID 1253921) to **Marvis Hogen Draw**, South Dakota
(Review List 390)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=43.9697118&p_longi=-101.3812528&fid=1253921

The new name Marvis Hogen Draw is proposed by the South Dakota State Legislature as a replacement name for Big Negro Draw, an 8 km (5 mi) long valley in Jackson County. The new name is intended to honor Marvis T. Hogen (1923-1997), who served in the South Dakota State Legislature from 1973 to 1982 and also as State Director of the Farmers Home Administration and Secretary of the State Department of Agriculture. In 1997, Mr. Hogen was elected to the South Dakota Hall of Fame.

When asked to comment on this proposal, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners responded that they did not support the State's efforts to change Big Negro Draw to Marvis Hogen Draw. They suggested to the State Legislature that the name Jackson Draw would be more appropriate, but the State elected not to accept the County's recommendation.

Change **Little Negro Creek** (FID 1256173) to **Tom Berry Creek**, South Dakota
(Review List 390)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=43.9691563&p_longi=-101.3804195&fid=1256173

The name Tom Berry Creek is proposed by the South Dakota State Legislature as a replacement name for Little Negro Creek, a 4.2 km (2.6 mi) long tributary of Indian Creek in northern Jackson County. The new name would honor Thomas "Tom" M. Berry (1879-1951), who represented Jackson County in the State House of Representatives from 1925 to 1930 and as South Dakota Governor from 1933 to 1937.

When asked to comment on this proposal, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners responded that they did not support the State's efforts to change Little Negro Creek to Tom Berry Creek. They suggested to the State Legislature that the name Jackson Creek would be more appropriate, but the State elected not to accept the County's recommendation.

Change **Negro Hill** (FID 1262114) to **African Hill**, South Dakota and Wyoming
(Black Hills National Forest)
(Review List 390)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=44.38&p_longi=-104.0513889&fid=1262114

The name African Hill was submitted by the South Dakota State Legislature as part of its effort to rename all features in the State that contain the word "Negro" or "Squaw." The summit in question is named currently Negro Hill and has an elevation of 1,819 m (5,970 ft). It lies at the western edge of Lawrence County and extends west into Crook County, Wyoming. Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve's 1973 volume *South Dakota Geographic Names* (a revision of Dr. Edward Ehrensperger's 1941 volume of the same name undertaken as part of the Work Projects

Administration) lists the feature as Nigger Hill and reports that the name first came into use in 1875 after a group of black Americans struck gold there.

The Lawrence County (South Dakota) Commissioners have no objection to the proposed change, while the Crook County (Wyoming) Commissioners are in support. However, the U.S. Forest Service does not support efforts to rename Negro Hill, citing a belief that the word “Negro” “is generally not understood to be offensive, and features that are named with the word are well known locally.” They add, “Changing the term to “African” as proposed by South Dakota would change the historical and cultural reference to these features.” The Wyoming Board of Geographic Names also does not support the change, stating, “[we believe] Negro is not considered derogatory at this time and that the term African would not be uniquely representative of the people who the feature was named for, reportedly Negro Miners in 1876.”

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

Drinkwater Peak, Arizona (Review List 397)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=33.66&p_longi=-111.8238889

This proposal, submitted by the City of Scottsdale, would apply the new commemorative name Drinkwater Peak to an unnamed 1,193 m (3,914 ft) summit in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, just west of McDowell Peak. The name is intended to honor Herb Drinkwater (1936-1997), who served for four terms as Mayor of Scottsdale, from 1980 to 1996. Previously, he was also a city councilman and served on the Scottsdale Development Review Board. He was involved in numerous local and national civic organizations, including the Arizona Heart Institute and the Scottsdale Boys Club, and was president of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns; he was also appointed to the BLM’s Phoenix Advisory Council. Known as “Mr. Scottsdale,” Mayor Drinkwater was long associated with efforts to protect the McDowell Mountains from development and he supported the City’s plans to establish the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. During his tenure, Scottsdale was awarded the honor in 1993 of “Most Livable City.” The proponent reports that following the City Council’s approval of the name Drinkwater Peak in 2004, it has come into local use.

This proposal has the support of the Mayor of Scottsdale, the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission, the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, the Arizona Mountaineering Club, and the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors. The Arizona Board on Geographic and Historic Names (AZBGHN) also recommends approval of the name. In the course of its research, the AZBGHN forwarded the proposal to the following five Tribes, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue: the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, the Gila River Indian Community, the Ak-Chin Indian Community, and the Tohono O’odham Nation.

Hoels Wash, Arizona
(Coconino National Forest)
(Review List 397)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=34.9783333&p_longi=-111.7469444

This new commemorative name, Hoels Wash, is proposed for a 0.6 km (0.4 mi) long tributary of Oak Creek in southwestern Coconino County. The stream also lies within the Coconino National Forest and approximately 11 km (7 mi) north of Sedona. The new name is intended to honor Don Hoel (1913-1983) and his wife Juanita “Nita” Hoel (1913-1998), who in 1945 “purchased land south of the stream that contained a cabin. Mr. Hoel built additional cabins on the property and also ran a grocery store, “Hoel’s Indian Shop” featuring Native American crafts, and a cabin rental business.” The site was long remembered for being “the last store and stop on Highway 89A before climbing north out of [Oak Creek] Canyon towards Flagstaff,” and for many families, it became a popular place for fishing vacations. The Indian crafts and jewelry sold in the Hoel’s shop were well known for their quality and Don Hoel became a recognized authority on Indian art. According to the proponent, the new owners of the Hoel property plan to tear down the remaining structures and create new home sites, “leaving nothing to preserve the memory of this landmark and family.” The intention of this proposal is to “do something to memorialize the location...and leave some landmark that recognizes and remembers Don and Nita and the little cabins that provided great canyon memories for countless visitors over a span of 60 years.”

The Coconino County Board of Supervisors, the Sedona Chamber of Commerce, and an organization called Keep Sedona Beautiful all recommend approval of the name Hoels Wash, as does the Arizona Board on Geographic and Historic Names (AZBGHN). The current owners of Hoel’s Indian Shop, who are the grandchildren of Don and Nita Hoel, also support the naming effort, as does the owner of nearby Oak Creek Lodge.

A decision on this proposal was deferred by the DNC at its April 2008 meeting, after the Forest Service (USFS) expressed some concern that the stream might be known already as Rocky Wash (this information had come to light just prior to the meeting. Earlier attempts to determine whether the feature had another name had been unsuccessful). The USFS has found no evidence of local use or support for the name Rocky Wash and therefore has no objection to the proposal for Hoels Wash. As part of its research, the AZBGHN forwarded the proposal to the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, the Yavapai-Apache Nation, and the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe, all of which are Federally-recognized, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue.

Ochoa Wash, Arizona

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=33.6972222&p_longi=-111.8297222

This proposal is to make official the new name Ochoa Wash for a 2.4 km (1.5 mi) long arroyo in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, at the north end of the McDowell Mountains. Although the name has not been published on any sources, the proponent reports that the name Ochoa has historical significance in the area, ever since Miguel Ochoa acquired a land patent along the arroyo in 1924. The Ochoa family ran cattle in the area for many years; an early township map shows “Refugio Ochoa” at the head of the arroyo. GNIS lists three other geographic features in Arizona

named “Ochoa,” including a summit named Mount Ochoa, approximately 32 km (20 mi) from the arroyo in question. This proposal has the support of the Mayor of Scottsdale, the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission, the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, the Arizona Mountaineering Club, and the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors. The Arizona Board on Geographic and Historic Names (AZBGHN) also recommends approval of the name. In the course of its research, the AZBGHN forwarded the proposal to the following five Tribes, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue: the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, the Gila River Indian Community, the Ak-Chin Indian Community, and the Tohono O’odham Nation.

Benson Peak, Montana

(Review List 397)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=45.12&p_longi=-112.465

The new commemorative name Benson Peak is proposed for a 2,584 m (8,478 ft) summit in Beaverhead County. The new name, submitted by members of the Benson family, would honor Arnold G. Benson (1907-1990), a longtime area rancher, teacher, and active member of the community. According to the application, “Arnold founded Parkview Acres Rest Home; he began the Youth Fair (now the county fair), founded the original stockyards in Beaverhead County, and instigated the Rancher’s Roundtable. He was honored as the Outstanding Stockman of Southwest Montana and also served on the county weed board. He was a teacher until he left that profession to ranch and farm. During the peak of his ranching profession he owned five ranches scattered throughout Beaverhead County, including a purebred Hereford operation known as Benson Ranches.” Although Benson Ranches was dissolved following Arnold Benson’s retirement in 1986, the proponent reports that she and her family continue to own the property and to use it for grazing.

The USGS topographic map shows a triangulation station named *Gordon* at the peak of the unnamed summit; however, the proponent, who has conducted extensive research into the history of the area, says she has no knowledge of any individual or family named Gordon having ever lived or ranched in the area. She speculates that the station name may refer to that of one of the crew members who surveyed the area in 1961. She reports that no one living in the area has ever known the summit to be named “Gordon Peak” or anything similar.

Letters of support for Benson Peak have been received from the Beaverhead County Weed Board, the Southwestern Montana Stockmen’s Association, the Director of Development and Alumni Affairs for the University of Montana Western Foundation, and Mr. Benson’s granddaughter. Senator Max Baucus and Congressman Denny Rehberg also submitted letters of support. The Beaverhead County Board of Commissioners also recommends approval of the name Benson Peak, as does the Montana State Geographic Names Authority. A copy of this proposal was sent to the Death Valley Timbisha Shoshone Band of California; the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community; the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians; and the Eastern Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, all of which are Federally-recognized Tribes, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion to the name change.

Pomp Peak, Montana
(Gallatin National Forest)
(Review List 395)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=45.905&p_longi=-110.9766667

The new name Pomp Peak is proposed for a 2,915 m (9,562 ft) summit located in the Bridger Range in Gallatin County, and also within Gallatin National Forest. The proponent believes the name would be an appropriate way to honor Jean Baptiste “Pomp” Charbonneau (1805-1866), the son of Sacagawea, the Shoshone Indian woman who accompanied Lewis and Clark on their 1803-1806 expedition. The summit lies 1.3 km (0.8 mi) north-northwest of Sacagawea Peak (BGN 1979). Elsewhere in Montana, Pompeys Pillar and its associated features (a community, a park, and two streams) in Yellowstone County, approximately 253 km (146 mi) to the east, were also named in honor of Jean Baptiste Charbonneau.

The Gallatin County Commissioners and the U.S. Forest Service are not opposed to the proposal for Pomp Peak, while the Montana Department of Commerce and the Montana State Names Authority are in support. A copy of this proposal was sent to the Blackfoot Tribe of the Blackfoot Reservation of Montana; the Crow Tribe of the Crow Reservation of Montana; the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community; the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians; and the Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho, all of which are Federally-recognized Tribes. The Keweenaw Bay Community responded it did not have an opinion on the issue, while the Nez Perce Tribe stated it supported the proposal. The lack of response from the other Tribes is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

Hickman Creek, North Carolina
(Review List 394)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=34.9655556&p_longi=-79.0361111

This proposal, to apply the new name Hickman Creek to an unnamed tributary of Stewarts Creek in Hoke County, was submitted by a resident of Hope Mills who wishes to honor his father, William V. Hickman Sr. (d.1985). As an engineer with the local water and sewer department, the intended honoree was responsible for the development of the nearby Twelve Oaks subdivision and for the construction of a dam located on the largest of the three small bodies of water through which the stream flows. The Hoke County Commissioners did not respond to two requests for comment on this proposal. The North Carolina Board on Geographic Names recommends approval of the new name. There are five other geographic features in North Carolina named “Hickman”, including two streams in Brunswick County named Hickman Branch and Hickmans Branch. These streams lie 130 km (81 mi) and 120 km (75 mi) from the stream in question.

Change Seven Names in South Dakota Containing the Words “Negro” or “Squaw”

The following seven name changes were submitted by the South Dakota State Legislature, as part of a group of 34 proposals to eliminate the words “Squaw” and “Negro” from South Dakota’s placenames.

A copy of each proposal was forwarded to the appropriate county government. Unless noted otherwise, no response was received (the BGN's letter noted that if no response was received, it would be presumed that the County did not object to the State Legislature's actions). The proposals were also sent to the following Federally-recognized Tribes, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue: the Fort Belknap Indian Community, the Northern Arapaho Tribe, the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, the Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, the Prairie Island Indian Community, the Santee Sioux Nation, the Three Affiliated Tribes Business Council, the Upper Sioux Community, and the Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota.

Repeated efforts by the former South Dakota State Names Advisor to find an individual or agency to assume the role of State Names Authority (SNA) have yielded no results. The retired State Names Advisor has met with the Governor and with representatives of the State GIS Council, but there is no indication that a new SNA will be established in the foreseeable future.

Change **Little Squaw Creek** (FID 1261977) to **Badger Clark Creek**, South Dakota
(Review List 390)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=43.7785995&p_longi=-103.4026924&fid=1261977

The name **Badger Clark Creek** is proposed by the South Dakota State Legislature as a replacement name for **Little Squaw Creek**. The stream in question is 10 km (6 mi) long and flows from west to east through Custer State Park in Custer County before entering Grace Coolidge Creek. The replacement name is intended to honor Charles Badger Clark, Jr. (1883-1957), the first Poet Laureate of South Dakota and a long-time resident of Custer County. The State Legislature has requested that the intended honoree's full name be used to differentiate it from the numerous features in the State that are named for Lewis and Clark.

Change **Negroedge Canyon** (FID 1256702) to **Ballard Canyon**, South Dakota
(Review List 390)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=44.3174816&p_longi=-100.5093032&fid=1256702

The name **Ballard Canyon** is proposed by the South Dakota State Legislature as a replacement name for **Negroedge Canyon**, a 4.2 km (2.6 mi) long valley in Stanley County, 16 km (10 mi) southwest of Pierre. Although the pejorative form of the name was disallowed in 1963, it continued to be published on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic map of 1984. The origin of the name has not been determined. The State Legislature reports that the proposed replacement name was selected because an individual named Ballard once resided in the valley; the State was asked to provide additional biographical details, but no further details have been forthcoming. The Manager of the Lakecreek National Wildlife Refuge was unable to provide any information on the current or proposed name, but noted, "I can't imagine why the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service] would be opposed to changing names that most would find offensive."

Change **Squaw Creek** (FID 833746) to **Oscar Micheaux Creek**, Nebraska and South Dakota
(Review List 390)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=43.0055541&p_longi=-99.064539&fid=833746

The name Oscar Micheaux Creek is proposed by the South Dakota State Legislature as a replacement name for Squaw Creek. This stream is approximately 11 km (7 mi) long, and heads in Boyd County, Nebraska, before flowing generally north and east into Gregory County, South Dakota, where it enters Ponca Creek. The name Oscar Micheaux Creek is intended to honor an individual who is regarded as “the most prolific black -- if not most prolific independent -- filmmaker in American cinema” (Producers’ Guild of America website). Between 1919 and 1948, Oscar Micheaux wrote, produced, and directed 44 feature-length films. His biography states, “In his early twenties, he was self-confident to the point that he invested his savings in farmland in an all-white community in faraway South Dakota. Within nine years, he had expanded his holdings to 500 acres whilst writing, publishing and distributing his first semi-autobiographical novel, *The Conquest* (1913). He popularized it by selling it door to door to the farmers of South Dakota” (*ibid.*). When a local film company declined to produce one of his earliest films on the scale that he desired, Micheaux responded by founding the Micheaux Book and Film Company. He went on to have a successful although controversial film career, producing many films that attempted to destroy the stereotypical image of blacks that were being portrayed in many productions of the time. The Oscar Micheaux Festival is held every year in Gregory. In Hollywood, the Oscar Micheaux Award is presented annually by the Producers Guild of America, and he has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The Nebraska State Names Authority supports the proposal. A second proposal was submitted to rename Squaw Creek Reservoir, which is located along this stream.

Change **Squaw Creek Reservoir** (FID 1259218) to **Oscar Micheaux Reservoir**, South Dakota
(Review List 390)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=43.0183322&p_longi=-99.1270409&fid=1259218

The name Oscar Micheaux Reservoir is proposed by the South Dakota State Legislature as a replacement name for Squaw Creek Reservoir. The reservoir does not appear on U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps nor on the Gregory County highway map, but is listed in GNIS, having been compiled from a listing of reservoirs and dams that was provided to the Geographic Names Office in 1981 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The reservoir lies along Squaw Creek, proposed to be renamed to Oscar Micheaux Creek (q.v.). The proposed new name would honor the acclaimed black film producer of the early twentieth century.

Change **Negro Wool Ridge** (FID 1262115) to **Robert Bailey Ridge**, South Dakota
http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=43.5535943&p_longi=-103.4232509&fid=1262115

The name Robert Bailey Ridge is proposed by the South Dakota State Legislature as a replacement name for Negro Wool Ridge. The ridge is 1.6 km (1 mi) long and lies just outside the boundary of Wind Cave National Park in Custer County. The origin of the current name has not been

determined. Robert Bailey (d. 1948) and his family were early black homesteaders in southwestern South Dakota. The son of slaves, he served in the 10th U.S. Cavalry during the Spanish-American War; following his discharge near Cheyenne, he and his wife were encouraged to homestead in the area. Bailey worked in the railroad switch yards and on his homestead in his spare time.

Change **Squaw Creek** (FID 1266911) to **Sarah Larabee Creek**, South Dakota
(Review List 390)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=44.056099&p_longi=-101.3245857&fid=1266911

The name **Sarah Larabee Creek** is proposed by the South Dakota State Legislature as a replacement name for **Squaw Creek**. The stream is a 17 km (11 mi) long tributary of the Bad River in Haakon County. The proposed new name would honor Sarah Larabee, the wife of James (“Scotty”) Philip, an early cattle rancher who migrated from Scotland and established what would become the largest cattle herd in the region. Scotty Philip and a partner established a post office, which would serve as the beginning of the new community of Philip, named in his honor. Although very little is known about the life of Sarah Larabee, an online biography of her husband states, “At this time, the area was part of an Indian reservation and white men could not run cattle on the reservation unless they had a Native American wife. Because his wife Sarah was part Native American he was able to ranch here without having to worry about people encroaching upon him until 1898 when the land was opened up to the settlers.”

Change **Squaw Buttes** (FID 1266306) to **Vig Buttes**, South Dakota
(Review List 390)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=44.902211&p_longi=-102.7326665&fid=1266306

The name **Vig Buttes** is proposed by the South Dakota State Legislature as a replacement name for **Squaw Buttes**, an 833 m (2,732 ft) summit in northwestern Meade County. According to *South Dakota Geographic Names* (Sneve, 1973), the story behind the naming of **Squaw Butte** [sic] dated from an incident prior to European settlement of the area, having been given to the feature after a young Indian woman was taken ill there and was left behind by her group as they traveled west. The group assumed she had died, but upon returning to the site the following spring, they were surprised to find her still alive, reportedly having been sustained with the help of coyotes and eagles. The woman continued to live in a cave on the summit for the remainder of her life.

The State Legislature reports that the replacement name **Vig Buttes** was chosen in recognition of a family that has resided in this part of Meade County for many years. Although the State did not identify a specific individual(s) who would satisfy the criteria of the Commemorative Naming Policy, a search of the Internet shows that the Vig family was ranching in the area as early as 1915. A survey benchmark at the peak of the summit is also labeled “VIG.” The Meade County Commissioners, having confirmed that the descendants of the original ranching family are in support of the proposal, recommend approval of the change to **Vig Buttes**.

Minor Lake, Wisconsin
(Review List 395)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=46.5075&p_longi=-91.4052778

The new commemorative name Minor Lake is proposed for a nine acre lake in the Town of Iron River in west-central Bayfield County, 0.5 km (0.3 mi) outside the boundary of the Chequamegon National Forest. The name would honor the proponent's grandfather, T. Frederick Minor (1901-1971), who served for 35 years a game warden for the State of Wisconsin. (This proposal was submitted as T. F. Minor Lake and subsequently review listed as T F Minor Lake, but after the BGN staff questioned the Wisconsin State Names Authority regarding the use of the writing marks and the initials, the proponent amended his application to simply Minor Lake.) In 1940, Minor received the Haskell Noyes Wisconsin Conservation Award, the highest award given each year to a game warden, and in 1966 he was voted "Sportsman of the Year" by the Fish and Game League. Letters of support for this proposal were submitted by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources/Bureau of Law Enforcement, the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors, and State Representative Gary Sherman. The Wisconsin Geographic Names Council also recommends approval of the name.

A copy of this proposal was forwarded to the Bay Mills Indian Community; the Chippewa-Cree Indians of the Rocky Boy's Reservation; the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians; the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community; the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians; the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan; the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Michigan; the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians of North Dakota; the White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe; the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council; and the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, all of which are Federally-recognized, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue.

IV. Revised Decisions

Change **Negro Creek** (FID 1262112) (BGN 1964) to **Medicine Mountain Creek**, South Dakota
(Black Hills National Forest)
(Review List 390)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=43.8922046&p_longi=-103.6907514&fid=1262112

The name Medicine Mountain Creek is proposed by the South Dakota State Legislature as a replacement name for Negro Creek, a 6.4 km (4 mi) long stream in western Pennington County. The current name was a BGN decision in 1964, having been changed to comply with the Federal policy that all names containing the pejorative form of "Negro" be changed. Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, in her 1973 volume *South Dakota Geographic Names*, records the name as Nigger Creek and suggests it was "named for Jackson, a negro prospector who worked a claim along this creek and is buried on its banks beside his cabin." The replacement name Medicine Mountain Creek was chosen because the stream flows to the north and east of Medicine Mountain.

The Pennington County Commissioners did not respond to a request for comments (the letter from the BGN noted that if no response was received, the BGN would presume the county did not object to the State Legislature's actions). The U.S. Forest Service does not support efforts to

change the name of Negro Creek, citing a belief that the word “Negro” “is generally not understood to be offensive, and features that are named with the word are well known locally.”

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

The following eight proposals were submitted by the Arizona Board on Geographic and Historic Names (AZBGHN), on behalf of the City of Scottsdale. The City, which manages the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, has asked that the eight names, most of which are already used locally, be made official for State and Federal use. Also included in the list are the aforementioned Drinkwater Peak and Ochoa Wash.

The eight proposals have the support of the Mayor of Scottsdale, the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission, the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, the Arizona Mountaineering Club, and the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors. The AZBGHN also recommends approval of all nine names. In the course of its research, the AZBGHN forwarded the proposals to the following five Tribes, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue: the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, the Gila River Indian Community, the Ak-Chin Indian Community, and the Tohono O’odham Nation.

Bell Pass, Arizona

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=33.6555556&p_longi=-111.8136111

The Bell Pass would apply to a prominent gap located within the McDowell Mountains, between McDowell Peak and Thompson Peak. The name refers to the fact that the gap is clearly visible from the terminus of Bell Road. The City of Scottsdale began to use the name Bell Pass in 2004 and since then it has also been applied to Bell Pass Trail.

Gardeners Wall, Arizona

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=33.6813889&p_longi=-111.8077778

This proposal is to make official the name Gardeners Wall for a rock formation that is described as being 500 ft wide by 300 ft high. According to the Preservation Planner for the City of Scottsdale, who submitted the proposal, the name has been in local use for approximately 25 years and is published at various rock climbing websites. All evidence suggests the feature was named originally for Ray Garner (d. 1989), a pilot and cinematographer who taught rock climbing classes in the Phoenix area during World War II. He was one of the founders of the Kachinas, an early rock climbing group in the Phoenix area. The proponent reports, “At some point the feature name “Garner” was changed to “Gardener”.” During its discussions, one member of the Arizona Board on Geographic and Historic Names expressed concern that the proposed name did not accurately reflect the name of the honoree, but the proponent, who was in attendance at the meeting, noted that the intent was not to honor an individual or family, but to make official a name that already had historic use.

Horseshoe Ridge, Arizona

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=33.66417&p_longi=-111.84028

This proposal is to make official the descriptive name Horseshoe Ridge for a 750 m (2,459 ft) summit in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, 2.4 km (1.5 mi) west of McDowell Peak. GNIS lists 53 other geographic features in the State named “Horseshoe”, including five in Maricopa County (a mobile home park, a dam, a reservoir, a park, and a heliport). Two other summits in the State, both in Coconino County, are named Horseshoe Hill and Horseshoe Mesa.

Mesquite Canyon, Arizona

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=33.69028&p_longi=-111.79917

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=33.68663&p_longi=-111.79628

This proposal is to make official the name Mesquite Canyon for a 0.6 km (0.4 mi) long valley in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, 1.3 km (0.8 mi) southwest of Rock Knob. The proponent reports that the feature was given the name Mesquite Canyon “before 1995 by an archaeologist working in the area. The name is for the mesquite trees in the valley and also for Hohokam mortars found in the area that were used for grinding mesquite beans.” GNIS lists 43 other geographic features in the State named “Mesquite,” including twelve in Maricopa County; none of these are valleys. There is a valley in Pima County, approximately 212 km (131 mi) from the valley in question, which is also named Mesquite Canyon.

Morrells Wall, Arizona

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=33.6855556&p_longi=-111.8019444

This proposal is to make official the name Morrells Wall for a 61 m (200 ft) high, 122 m (400 ft) wide cliff in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, at the north end of East End. Although the name is reported to have been in local use for at least 26 years, the proponent was unable to provide any information on the origin of the name. A search of the Internet confirms that area rock climbers use the name, and the proponent also states it was published in *A Climber’s Guide to Central Arizona* (1981); *Phoenix Rock: A Guide to Central Arizona Crags* (1987); and *Phoenix Rock II: Central Arizona Granite* (1996). According to GNIS, there are no other geographic features in the State named “Morrell.”

Sven Slab, Arizona

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=33.6916667&p_longi=-111.795

This proposal is to make official the name Sven Slab for a 91 m (300 ft) wide, 61 m (200 ft) high cliff wall in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, at the north end of the McDowell Mountains. According to the proponent, the name is widely used within the hiking and rock climbing community; the name came into use because Sven power saws were used to cut a trail to the base of the wall. A search of the Internet yielded numerous references to the name on rock climbing websites, and it is also used by the Arizona Mountaineering Club. According to GNIS, there are

no other geographic features in Arizona named “Sven.” During the AZBGHN’s discussions, one member questioned whether the State should be endorsing a name that appears to be commercial. Citing the proponent’s claim that the name was already in widespread use, the AZBGHN voted 5-2 to approve the name.

Toms Thumb, Arizona

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=33.68194&p_longi=-111.81167

This proposal is to make official the name Toms Thumb for a 43 m (140 ft) high pillar in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, at the north end of the McDowell Mountains. A description at the Mountain Project’s website reads: “Tom’s Thumb [sic] is a prominent 140-foot plug of desert granite that perches atop the McDowell Mountains ridgeline. It is visible from miles in all directions. Originally called “The Dork” by the old time Phoenix climbers, it was rechristened Tom’s Thumb in honor of climber Tom Kreuser back in the day.” Although further research has confirmed that Mr. Kreuser is still living, the proponent and the Arizona Board on Geographic and Historic Names both insist the name is not commemorative and that it should be made official to recognize longtime local usage.

Windgate Pass, Arizona

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=33.6813889&p_longi=-111.8077778

This proposal is to make official the name Windgate Pass for a gap in the McDowell Mountains, within the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. According to the proponent, a local equestrian was riding through the gap approximately 20 years ago when he reached a cattle fence and gate in the pass. Hearing the wind blow the gate against its post, he is said to have remarked “that sounds like a wind gate.” According to GNIS, there are no other geographic features in Arizona named “Windgate” or “Wind Gate.”

Big Branch, North Carolina

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Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=35.70556&p_longi=-82.49028

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=35.72417&p_longi=-82.49611

This proposal is to make official the name Big Branch for a 2.4 km (1.5 mi) long stream in Buncombe County. The stream heads on the south side of North Knob and flows southwest then southeast through Barrett Cove (a valley) and the Hawk Landing neighborhood to join Reems Creek 1.9 km (1.2 mi) northwest of Ray Knob. The name was chosen in a community “creek-naming contest” involving local residents. According to the proponent, the proposed name was found on a State of North Carolina deed dated 1820, which deeded the [Barrett] Cove to a Revolutionary War veteran as “Big Branch of Reems Creek.” She claims the name has been in local use for 188 years. This proposal has the support of the Hawks Landing neighborhood, the Buncombe County Commissioners, the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and RiverLink. The North Carolina Board on Geographic Names also recommends approval of the proposal. There are 78 streams in North Carolina named Big Branch, including one in Buncombe County; the two streams are 17 km (10 mi) apart.

Buttermilk Creek, North Carolina

(Review List 396)

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=35.56750&p_longi=-82.60389

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=35.57702&p_longi=-82.6103

This proposal would apply the new name Buttermilk Creek to an unnamed 1.3 km (0.8 mi) long tributary of Hominy Creek in the City of West Asheville. The proponent is a representative of Riverlink, “a regional non-profit spearheading the economic and environmental revitalization of the French Broad River and its tributaries.” He suggests the new name, which was selected in a community wide vote, is an appropriate way to remember the stream’s past association with a local milk company that used to wash out its trucks in the area, turning the stream milky white. He adds, “Calling it Buttermilk Creek reminds the community of the damage that was done from these types of practices and reminds everyone to protect the creek in the future.”

The Buncombe County Commissioners have stated they have no objection to the name. The proposal also has the support of the West Asheville Malvern Hills neighborhood, the Asheville City Council, the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the North Carolina Board on Geographic Names. There is one other stream in North Carolina named Buttermilk Creek. It is located in Alamance County, approximately 296 km (184 mi) from the stream in question. Buttermilk Mountain in Henderson County is 23 km (14 mi) away.

Lake Overlook, North Carolina

(Review List 396)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=36.04056&p_longi=-79.05750

This proposal was submitted by a resident of Hillsborough, to make official a name that is reported to have been in local use for 31 years. The manmade lake is located in Orange County, 5 km (3 mi) southeast of Hillsborough; it is approximately 10.5 acres in size, 1,200 ft long and 550 ft wide, with a maximum depth of 12 to 14 ft. The proponent reports that the reservoir was created when the Strayhorn Hills subdivision was constructed in 1976, and that it was given the name Lake Overlook when Orange County published its plat of the subdivision in 1974. He adds that the Lake Overlook Resorts Homeowners Association supports the proposal. The Orange County Commissioners did not respond to two requests for comment on this proposal. The North Carolina Board on Geographic Names recommends approval of the new name.

Dancing Turtles Lake, Texas

(Review List 392)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=30.0825&p_longi=-97.1891667

The new name Dancing Turtles Lake is proposed for a six-acre body of water in east-central Bastrop County, 8 km (5 mi) north-northwest of Smithville and approximately 56 km (35 mi) east-southeast of Austin. The proponent reports that he owns the property on which the newly created reservoir is located and that the name comes from that of the name of his property. The Bastrop County Commissioners Court was asked on two occasions to comment on this proposal, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The Texas State Board

recommends approval of the name. GNIS lists 27 geographic features in Texas named “Turtle,” although none are named “Dancing Turtles” and none are in Bastrop County.

A decision on this proposal was deferred at the April 2008 BGN meeting, citing some concern that the name could be construed to be commercial or that the proponent might be using the name for future property development. A representative of the Texas State Names Authority visited the property and determined that there are no plans to develop the area, and that the property sits between Buescher State Park and Bastrop State Park; it also is protected as part of the unique Lost Pines ecosystem. The Texas SNA also contacted the proponent to discuss the BGN’s concerns; he stated he had no intentions of developing the property and “hopes that it remains in his family for many years.” When asked about the possibility of future development, he suggested that “getting approval for something like a subdivision would probably prove difficult for anyone, due to the fact that the area is the primary habitat of the endangered Houston Toad.”