

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**  
**DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE**  
Seven Hundred and Sixtieth Meeting  
Council of Geographic Names Authority Annual Conference  
 Holiday Inn-Town Lake, Austin, Texas  
 April 30, 2014 – 10:30 a.m.

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Douglas Caldwell	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Jon Campbell	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Michael Fournier	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Tony Gilbert	Government Printing Office
Elizabeth Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Jacqueline Nolan	Library of Congress
Douglas Vandegrift	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management) (Chairman)
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

Maria McCormick, U.S. Geological Survey

Jane Messenger, U.S. Geological Survey

Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey

1. Opening

The Chairman opened the meeting at 10:48 a.m. and thanked the Texas Board on Geographic Names and the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (COGNA) for inviting the Domestic Names Committee to hold its meeting during the COGNA Annual Conference. The members and staff introduced themselves. The Chairman announced that at the conclusion of the meeting, there would be an opportunity for dialog between the committee members and the conference attendees regarding the DNC's decisions, or any other relevant questions or topics. During the presentation of the docket, members were free to ask questions of the appropriate State names authority.

2. Minutes of the 759<sup>th</sup> Meeting

The Minutes of the 759<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Domestic Names Committee, held April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014, were approved as submitted.

3. Reports

3.1 BGN Chairman (Caldwell)

The BGN's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2013 has been forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior. The report includes a summary of domestic, foreign, Antarctic, and undersea feature names activities. It will be available online shortly.

Caldwell provided a status report on the USGS National Geospatial Program (NGP) Policy Directive as it pertains to the maintenance of the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS). Representatives of

the DNC met recently with Mark DeMulder in an attempt to reach a resolution on the matter. Four major points were agreed upon: the BGN has purview over all names and GNIS is recognized as the official source of all names; all newly entered data must be checked against existing data; citing the ongoing lack of resources there will no longer be active collection of all feature types; however, the GNIS staff will continue to maintain small lists of data as needed by Federal partners.

In a further effort to address the concerns of both the BGN and the NGP, the BGN has proposed a Geographic Names Improvement Program (GNIP). Because of the way GNIS data has been collected over the past 30-plus years, there are inconsistencies. The GNIP lays out a four-year, interagency effort that focuses on both existing and incoming data and makes the entire process more efficient. It encourages the development of software tools that can be used to evaluate the existing GNIS data, as well as to standardize feature classes, abbreviations, punctuation, etc. These tools should be developed in line with other ongoing needs of the USGS National Geospatial Technology Operations Center. The USGS has agreed to explore means of obtaining joint funding, hopefully with input from the Department of the Interior (DOI). Caldwell reminded the committee that the BGN is unfunded (there is no line item in the budgets of either the U.S. Geological Survey or the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency to support the BGN's mission), and so the ongoing maintenance of GNIS and the GEOnet Names Server (GNS) is at the mercy of the BGN member agencies. There is clearly a need for increased staff support, especially as the maintenance of a national authoritative names dataset can never be fully automated. On behalf of the DNC and the GNIS staff, Vandegraft thanked Caldwell for his efforts regarding this issue.

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

The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) is meeting in New York this week.

The American Name Society recently announced the addition of a new link at its web site that provides a list of upcoming onomastic events.

The reappointment letters for members and deputy members from DOI are expected to be mailed out from the Secretary of the Interior's office next week.

Following the full BGN's meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup>, articles were published in the national media regarding the approval of the name Gogineni Subglacial Trench for a trench in Antarctica, and the name TAMU Massif for an undersea feature.

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

For the benefit of the audience, Yost provided an overview of the contents of the folder that was distributed prior to the meeting. It contained the agenda, the minutes of the last DNC meeting, the docket for this meeting, and a copy of the aforementioned Annual Report. Also included were the three trifold brochures that the Special Committee on Communications prepared. These documents are also available on the BGN's web site.

Yost reported that he received from a call from an individual in Oregon who is working on a book on the history of logging in the State. The inquirer noted that there were very few named features on USGS topographic maps from the 1930s and 1940s and wondered if the features were actually named at that time, or just not labeled on the maps. Yost contacted Mary McArthur who put Lew McArthur in contact with the inquirer.

The DNC has received a letter submitted by Senator Heidi Heitkamp (North Dakota) to the Director of the USGS regarding correspondence the Senator received from a resident of the State asking that the USGS “review the use of derogatory names used to describe three geographical features on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation.” The three names include the word “Squaw,” which the individual claims is offensive. The USGS will respond that there is a process to change names and that the proponent must propose replacement names to the BGN. One of the names refers to an administrative feature, and so the Senator will be advised that it is not under the purview of the BGN.

### 3.4 Communications Committee (Westington)

After a four-year hiatus, the Special Committee on Communications now meets quarterly, typically on the morning of the full BGN meetings. As a result of reduced travel budgets, which has led to less frequent attendance at conferences, the committee is exploring other means to promulgate information about the BGN. The aforementioned trifold brochures are one method; the committee is also updating its business cards and has developed a QR Code that links to the BGN web site. There are new factsheets at the web site. The committee recognizes the need to promote awareness of the BGN, GNIS, and GNS within the member agencies. There has also been discussion regarding the addition of a “Names in the News” blog.

In response to the numerous proposals that have been submitted by students in an Illinois geography class, the committee has discussed whether the DNC should be more proactive within the educational community. Eric Berman, the DNC member from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has reached out to the Indiana Geography Educators Network, which has developed a lesson plan on geographic names. The Communication Committee members have reviewed the plan, but after concerns were expressed that this falls outside the BGN’s core mission, the committee’s involvement is unlikely to continue.

Westington addressed the issue of data promulgation, specifically as it pertains to Federal agencies adding non-approved names to third-party databases. One example of this is an agency within NOAA that is providing names to the International Hydrographic Organization’s web site. It is important to stress to these agencies the need for better interaction with the BGN.

Fournier is leading an effort to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the BGN, which will occur in September 2015. Discussions are ongoing with the Library of Congress. The event is in need of sponsors.

Nolan announced that the Library of Congress is hosting the Philip Lee Phillips Map Society Annual Conference on May 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> on the topic of “From Terra to Terabytes: The History of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Cartography and Beyond.” The event is free to all, but registration is recommended.

### 3.5 Staff Report (Runyon)

Prior to the March meeting, Runyon reported that a proposal to change the name of East Dix in New York to Grace Peak would be on the March 13<sup>th</sup> docket. However, just prior to the meeting, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), which manages Adirondack Park, announced that it did not support the name change. Since then, the proponent has corresponded with the NYSDEC and the agency now supports the name. The New York Geographic Names Committee is reviewing the matter.

The South Dakota Board on Geographic Names recently submitted its final “Squaw” name change. The case will be presented to the DNC shortly. The SDBGN will now focus on other pending toponymic issues in the State.

The DNC received an inquiry regarding the name Mulatto Run, which applies to a stream in western Virginia. The individual, who represents a State-recognized tribe in Virginia, inquired about having the name removed from Federal maps. He was advised that the BGN would entertain a proposal to change the name (it cannot simply be removed). The BGN staff, with the assistance of the Virginia State Names Authority, located the name Pass Creek on an old map of the area. It is not clear if this name is descriptive or commemorative.

Runyon extended her thanks to Bill Logan, who in retirement, is volunteering to organize the BGN's files and research materials.

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

The processing of Phase II data for several States, including Maine, Michigan, North Dakota, and West Virginia, is complete. Updates to geographic coordinates for features in Hawaii, which were in error because of a datum shift, have also been completed. With the conclusion of Phase II compilation and the inability to award new contracts, there is an increased focus on updates from the National Hydrography Dataset data stewards. Efforts are ongoing to conflate data compiled in the National Structures Dataset with features that are already listed in GNIS.

The GNIS staff is also working on a new web-based landforms tool that will provide very generalized outlines of physical features, primarily for mapping purposes.

In September, the GNIS map link was migrated from the Google Maps API to the Esri map server.

Many issues related to the server migration in January have been resolved, although the few that remain may take some time to fix. The GNIS web-based maintenance forms were out of commission for six weeks during the migration. Any forms user who has not logged in in several months should contact McCormick for a new login/password.

### 3.7 Special Committee on Native Names and Tribal Consultation (Kanalley)

This committee was formed to address the BGN's Policy X: *Tribal Geographic Names* and to emphasize the need for nation-to-nation consultation. An interim draft of Policy X has been approved by the Department of the Interior Solicitor's Office. It is now being incorporated into the revised *Principles, Policies, and Procedures* (PPP) document before being transmitted to the Secretary of the Interior (SOI).

At 12:05, the meeting adjourned for a lunch break. At 1:45, the meeting reconvened. Campbell joined the meeting.

#### 4. Docket

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 (FID) has been noted following the name.

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

Change **Brier Ditch** (FID 597127) to **Briers Mill Run**, Maryland (Review List 411)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote:               8 in favor  
                      0 against  
                      0 abstentions

Change **Squaw Gulch** (FID 1150277) to **Imnáha Gulch**, Oregon (Wallowa National Forest) (Review List 405)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote:               8 in favor  
                      0 against  
                      0 abstentions

Change **Joseph Smyth Pond** (FID 1194466) to **Lake Francis**, Pennsylvania (Review List 406)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote:               8 in favor  
                      0 against  
                      0 abstentions

Change **Negro Pond** (FID 1458689) to **Mud Pond**, Vermont (Review List 413)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote:               8 in favor  
                      0 against  
                      0 abstentions

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

**Benson Creek**, Montana (Review List 414)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this change, citing the lack of support from the Montana State Names Authority.

Vote:               8 in favor  
                      0 against

0 abstentions

**Keas Corner**, Oregon (Review List 416) (FID 2761482)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote:           7 in favor  
                  0 against  
                  1 abstention

**Efrain Creek**, Texas (Review List 413)

A motion was made and seconded to defer a decision on this proposal, citing a request from the Texas State Names Authority to allow more time to contact the proponent. The SNA felt it was important to stress to the proponent the need for additional biographical information and more local support.

Vote:           8 in favor  
                  0 against  
                  0 abstentions

**Myrrh Knolls**, Utah (Dixie National Forest) (Review List 415)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this name, citing the negative recommendations of the Utah Geographic Names Committee and the U.S. Forest Service, and in the belief that the proposed name did not satisfy the requirements of the Board's Commemorative Names Policy, which states that the intended honoree must have had a direct or long term association with the geographic feature.

Vote:           7 in favor  
                  0 against  
                  1 abstention

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

**Wallin Creek**, Ohio (Cuyahoga National Park) (Review List 416) (FID 2761483)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote:           8 in favor  
                  0 against  
                  0 abstentions

Change **Negro Brown Canyon** (FID 1153164) to **John Brown Canyon**, Oregon (Review List 415)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote:           8 in favor  
                  0 against  
                  0 abstentions

Change Yaunt Mountain (FID 1596667) to Yount Mountain, Wyoming (Bureau of Land Management) (Review List 411)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote:                   8 in favor  
                              0 against  
                              0 abstentions

#### IV. Revised Decisions

Change Black River (BGN 1959) (FID 1399160) to Draanjik River, Alaska (Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge and Bureau of Land Management) (Review List 414)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote:                   8 in favor  
                              0 against  
                              0 abstentions

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

Globemaster Peak, Alaska (Bureau of Land Management) (Review List 415) (FID 2761497)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote:                   8 in favor  
                              0 against  
                              0 abstentions

5. Other Business - none

6. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

The next Domestic Names Committee meeting will take place on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. at the Department of the Interior, Room 1352.

(signed) Louis A. Yost

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Louis A. Yost, Executive Secretary

APPROVED  
(signed) Douglas Vandegraft

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Douglas Vandegraft, Chairman  
Domestic Names Committee

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

DOCKET  
April 30, 2014

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

Change **Brier Ditch** (FID 597127) to **Briers Mill Run**, Maryland  
(Review List 411)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p\\_lat=38.9708707&p\\_longi=-76.9175577&fid=597127](http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=38.9708707&p_longi=-76.9175577&fid=597127)

This proposal is to change the name of Brier Ditch, a 3.4-mile-long stream in the New Carrollton area of Prince George's County, to Briers Mill Run. The current name has appeared on USGS topographic maps since 1957. The proponent, a member of the Anacostia Watershed Society, reports that his organization is involved in extensive clean-up efforts of the stream and believes a name change to Briers Mill Run would enhance those efforts. He adds, "The ecological condition of macroinvertebrate populations in both the Brier Ditch main stem and tributary network is poor. Surprisingly, the Brier Ditch downstream of Auburn Avenue supports a modest fish community (i.e., approximately 20 species). In addition to the current name having a degree of negativity to it, there is a historical tie to the proposed name change as well. At one point there was a mill near the southern end of the creek, [and] the significance of the name change is therefore both historic and perception-based." Additionally, the proponent notes that an organization called Friends of Brier's Mill Run is collaborating with the Society in its stream restoration and heritage preservation efforts.

A decision on this proposal was deferred by the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) at its April 2013 meeting, citing a need for the proponent to provide more evidence of local support.

The DNC has since received letters of support for the name change from the Town of Riverdale Park, the City of New Carrollton, and the Prince George's County Council. In addition, the Riverdale Hills/Riverdale Heights/Crestwood Association and the Chesapeake Program Organizer for Clean Water Action have expressed support. Several of the respondents noted that the "overburdened stream" is the focus of community-wide clean-up efforts and that the word "Ditch" carries a negative connotation.

The web site of the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership refers to the "Brier Ditch watershed, also known as Briers Mill Run." Other organizations that reference the proposed name online include the Anacostia Watershed Society and the Trash Free Potomac Network. A local landscape architect refers to recent efforts to improve community access to the "Briers Mill Run Greenway" and "the Briers Mill Run Subwatershed."

The Maryland State Names Authority has no opinion on the proposal. According to the NAGRPA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in Prince George's County.

Change **Squaw Gulch** (FID 1150277) to **Imnáha Gulch**, Oregon  
(Wallowa National Forest)  
(Review List 405)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=45.5426561&p\\_longi=-116.8534853&fid=1150277](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=45.5426561&p_longi=-116.8534853&fid=1150277)

This proposed name change is one of a number of proposals that were submitted to the BGN by the Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB) on behalf of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), which believes the word “squaw” is offensive and should be changed.

The feature in question, currently named Squaw Gulch and proposed to be changed to Imnáha Gulch, is a 1.9-mile-long valley in Wallowa County. It trends eastward into Wallowa National Forest 22 miles northeast of Joseph. It also trends into the valley through which Big Sheep Creek flows; Big Sheep Creek is in turn a tributary of the Imnaha River. The community of Imnaha is located 1.6 miles northeast of the mouth of the valley. There are a dozen other features in Wallowa County with names that include the word “Imnaha.” The proposed replacement name derives from that of Imna, a sub-chief who ruled over the area (*Oregon Geographic Names*, McArthur, 1991).

The Wallowa County Commissioners have no objection to the name change, while the OGNB and U.S. Forest Service recommend approval. As part of its research, the OGNB forwarded the proposal to all federally recognized tribes with an interest in Oregon. The Burns Paiute Tribe responded that it had no objection to the name Imnáha Gulch. The BGN staff also contacted the Nez Perce Tribe, which responded it did not have a current or historical interest in this feature.

Change **Joseph Smyth Pond** (FID 1194466) to **Lake Francis**, Pennsylvania  
(Review List 406)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=39.9924104&p\\_longi=-78.6661005](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=39.9924104&p_longi=-78.6661005)

This proposal is to change the name of Joseph Smyth Pond, an 11-acre reservoir in Bedford County, to Lake Francis. It was submitted by Joseph Smyth, for whom the reservoir is currently named. In submitting the name change, Mr. Smyth stated he was unaware that the body of water bore his name until he saw it on Google Maps. The name Joseph Smyth Pond does not appear on USGS topographic maps, but is listed in GNIS, having been compiled in 1981 from a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers inventory of dams and reservoirs. Mr. Smyth reports that he and his partner were “the planners, designers and developers of Glade Spring Community. [We] acquired the 100 year old farm in 1970 & 1971 and it was then that we decided to create a small lake as part of the community’s parklands and commonly owned property.” The community is described as “a planned rural community.” Mr. Smyth has since relocated to Arizona, although his company is still involved in the development and management of the community in Pennsylvania. The only references online to the name Joseph Smyth Pond are at web sites that obtain their information from the GNIS entry.

The proposed replacement name is intended to commemorate Francis Hillegass (1904-1988), a member of the family that had farmed the area for several generations and who assisted greatly in the development of the Glade Spring community. A road located a short distance north of the reservoir is named Hillegass Road. A number of individuals named Hillegass still reside in the area but they no longer farm the property.

Attempts were made to contact members of the Hillegass family for comment, but no response was received. The Harrison Township Board of Supervisors responded in favor of the proposed change to Lake Francis, while the Bedford County Commissioners said they had no opinion. The Pennsylvania

State Names Authority has no objection. According to the NAGRPA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in Bedford County.

The dam that forms Joseph Smyth Pond is named Joseph Smyth Dam. This is an administrative feature and not subject to the BGN's Commemorative Names Policy, and so the proponent has asked that it not be renamed. The dam is managed by the Glade Spring Property Owners Association.

Change Negro Pond (FID 1458689) to Mud Pond, Vermont  
(Review List 413)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p\\_lat=44.7492006&p\\_longi=-72.0242635&fid=1458689](http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=44.7492006&p_longi=-72.0242635&fid=1458689)

This proposal is to change the name of Negro Pond, a 17-acre lake in the Town of Westmore in Orleans County, to Mud Pond. The lake was labeled Nigger Lake on U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps between 1919 and 1951. Later maps did not apply any name to the feature, until the new USTopo map was published in 2010; on this map, the name Negro Pond was shown. This is the name listed currently in GNIS.

The proposal to change the name from Negro Pond was initiated after the BGN staff received an inquiry from a representative of the Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VCGI). This individual had been asked by a local resident to determine the lake's official name because she had submitted a proposal to the State to change the name several years ago and yet it still appeared as Negro Pond on Federal maps. The resident stated that she believed the existing name is offensive.

After further research, it was determined that in 1994 the Vermont Legislature had passed a bill to name the lake Taylor Pond. All references in the bill referred to the lake only as "Unknown Pond" (presumably because it was unnamed on existing maps). Several years later, the BGN staff received a copy of the bill from the Vermont State Names Authority, along with a notice that the State supported the name Taylor Pond. BGN staff requested additional information, specifically who had initiated the proposal, who "Taylor" was, and whether the local municipalities had been consulted. The State responded that in 2003 the Legislature had passed a second bill that voided the 1994 decision, apparently at the request of the property owners. The Legislature did not designate a new name for the lake. This was the last communication on the matter until the recent inquiry from the VCGI.

Subsequent research conducted by the Westmore Town Historian uncovered an 1800 survey map of Westmore, on which the lake was named Mud Pond. The current property owners also knew the lake as Mud Pond and suggested that that name should be made official. The State Names Authority (SNA) concurred with this recommendation and voted to support the proposed change. The SNA reported also that a notice was sent to the Town of Westmore Selectmen regarding the matter, and no objection was received.

A decision on this proposal was deferred by the BGN at its May 2013 meeting, citing concerns that there are 28 other lakes in Vermont named Mud Pond, of which ten are in Orleans County. The staff was asked to confirm that this duplication of names would not cause confusion. The SNA contacted the Town Selectmen who responded that they would "like to keep the name Mud Pond." The SNA affirmed its support for the change.

According to the NAGRPA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in Orleans County.

## II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

### Benson Creek, Montana

(Review List 414)

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=45.249371&p\\_longi=-112.586423](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=45.249371&p_longi=-112.586423)

Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=45.1200664&p\\_longi=-112.4671247](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=45.1200664&p_longi=-112.4671247)

This 13-mile-long unnamed stream is proposed to be named Benson Creek in association with Benson Peak (BGN 2008) and nearby Benson Ranch. The ranch has been labeled on USGS topographic maps since 1961. Benson Peak was named in honor of Arnold G. Benson (1907-1990), a longtime area rancher, teacher, and active member of the community. The proponent of Benson Peak is also proposing this new stream name.

The stream in question heads on the western slope of Benson Peak, then flows north and northwest through Hoffman Gulch, to end at Dillon Canal approximately three miles northeast of the community of Dillon. The proponent describes the stream as being dry most of the time, and photographs that she submitted clearly show a dry streambed, although she adds, “When there are flash-flood summer storms the excessive rainfall has flowed all the way to Stodden Slough [sic].” (Stodden Slough is the next drainage to the west. Dillon Canal intersects and diverts the stream before it meets the slough.)

The name Hoffman Gulch, which applies to the valley (hypsographic feature) through which the unnamed stream (hydrographic feature) flows, has been labeled on USGS topographic maps since 1962.

In addition to the unnamed stream in question, there is another stream nearby named Hoffman Creek. It heads 5.3 miles to the northeast of the source of the stream proposed to be named Benson Creek, in Beaverhead County, then flows generally parallel to the unnamed stream, past Hoffman Place (populated place) and Hoffman Place Mine before entering Madison County. Its mouth is 3.5 miles due east of the mouth of Hoffman Gulch. Hoffman Creek does not flow through Hoffman Gulch. The valley through which Hoffman Creek flows does not have an official name.

When asked about the Hoffman names, the proponent stated, “The Hoffman Homestead is in Madison County close to Section 32 7S7W. They had a dairy there at the turn of the century and shipped the milk & butter to the Butte mines. The Hoffmans did not live on the Benson Ranch or even on any part of Hoffman Gulch; however, the gulch must have been so named because of these early settlers in the vicinity.” A search of online genealogical records reveals numerous Hoffman family members in both the Dillon area of Beaverhead County and in Madison County.

The Beaverhead County Commissioners recommend approval of the name Benson Creek. However, the Montana State Names Authority (SNA) does not support it. In researching the proposal, two State agencies with potential interest in the name were contacted by the SNA. Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks has no fisheries records for this stream and they have no objection to the proposal. However, the Montana Water Rights Bureau opposes the proposal, citing the following language from Title 85, Chapter 2, Section 131 of the Montana Code Annotated: “All applications for the change of name of any watercourse or natural source of water supply, including natural streams, dry coulees, springs, lakes, rivers, or creeks which lie wholly within the limits of one county must be made to the district court of the county where the watercourse or other natural source of water supply, the name of which is proposed to be changed, or some part thereof is situated.” Further, “the Water Rights Bureau views Hoffman Gulch as the name of the watercourse, including the stream, and they view the proposal as a change to the watercourse name.” The SNA notes, “The proponents have not asked the district court to change the name because they view Hoffman Gulch as the name of a topographic feature, not a watercourse.

Hoffman Gulch is listed as a water source in various water rights records and [the State Names Authority believes] that this and the inclusion of the term ‘dry coulees’ in the law make the law apply to this name proposal. Even if it is conceded that the name of the stream is not Hoffman Gulch, it is still reasonable to argue that the law applies when an unnamed stream is given a name.” The SNA concludes by stating he agrees with the Water Rights Bureau that “State law requires him to recommend that the DNC [State Names Authority] deny the proposal.”

When advised of the SNA’s recommendation, the proponent responded that she believes the State watercourse law does not apply in this situation. The SNA also informed the county of his findings, and the commissioners decided not to dispute the finding or reconsider their recommendation.

A copy of this proposal was forwarded to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation, the Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation of Idaho, all of which are federally recognized. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

**Keas Corner**, Oregon  
(Review List 416)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=44.70812&p\\_longi=-123.382749](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=44.70812&p_longi=-123.382749)

This proposal would apply the new name Keas Corner to “a prominent sweeping curve of Maxfield Creek County Road” in the Kings Valley area of Benton County. The small unincorporated populated place is located approximately 11 miles northwest of Corvallis and 24 miles southwest of Salem. Several homes are located around this curve in the road, and according to the proponent, an official name “would facilitate 911 emergency responses,” and would also eliminate confusion that reportedly results from having the community’s mail service provided out of neighboring Polk County. He notes that “a few local residents now refer to the area as Keas Corner.”

The name would commemorate Elias D. Keas (1809-1870) and Mary Ann “Polly” Keas (1816-1898), pioneers in the Kings Valley area. The Keas family arrived in Benton County in 1847, and according to historical records were granted a 641-acre Donation Land Claim by the U.S. Government in 1851. The Keases’ name appears on General Land Office maps and surveys as early as 1854. The location proposed to be named Keas Corner lies entirely within the area originally granted to the Keas family.

Several local residents have expressed support for the name, as has a forestry company which owns property in the vicinity of the community. However, one resident is strongly opposed, believing that the proposal only applies to a portion of her property. She also does not wish to see the name of the community posted on a sign in front of her property.

Although the County Commissioners did not offer an official opinion on the name, the OGNB voted to recommend approval of the proposal. State Senator Brian Boquist has submitted a letter objecting to the proposal because of the one neighbor’s concerns. The OGNB forwarded the proposal to all federally recognized tribes with an interest in Oregon. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

**Efrain Creek**, Texas

(Review List 413)

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=32.7843312&p\\_longi=-97.3354742](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=32.7843312&p_longi=-97.3354742)Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=32.8370704&p\\_longi=-97.3433382](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=32.8370704&p_longi=-97.3433382)

This 4.6-mile-long stream heads 1.6 miles northeast of the Fort Worth Meacham International Airport and flows generally southward through a highly urbanized area, then through Trail Drivers Park, to enter the Trinity River. The proposed new name is intended to honor Efrain Guerrero (1931-1995), who according to the proponent, “was dedicated to keeping the stream clean, free of litter, and safe for the little wildlife that lives there.” The proponent adds, “This wildlife includes four different types of turtles, five different types of snakes, iguanas, cranes, falcons, crawfish, and other species. His effort to inform transients about the need to keep the stream clean is evidenced by the fact that wildlife keeps coming back to the area.” Mr. Guerrero was a semi-professional baseball player who donated his time and money to support the high school baseball team. He was employed by a local drywall company.

The Fort Worth City Council and the Tarrant County Commissioners Court were asked to comment on the proposal, but neither responded, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The Texas State Names Authority does not recommend approval, stating “there isn’t sufficient information indicating support by the local community” and the fact that “very little is known about [Mr. Guerrero’s] true association with this area.” According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in Tarrant County.

**Myrrh Knolls**, Utah

(Dixie National Forest)

(Review List 415)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=37.5611969&p\\_longi=-112.7352747](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=37.5611969&p_longi=-112.7352747)

This 9,732-foot summit in Dixie National Forest in Iron County is proposed to be named Myrrh Knolls. The name is intended to honor El Myrrh Cox (1924-1965), a lifetime resident and dentist in Saint George, who was killed when the plane he was piloting crashed while returning from a search for another crashed plane. Dr. Cox served as a U.S. Navy pilot during World War II and was a volunteer for the Saint George Civil Air Patrol. He also served as president of the Southern Utah Dental Association and was active in community affairs. The plane crash that resulted in Dr. Cox’s death occurred near the summit that is proposed to be named in his honor. The summit is 55 miles northeast of Saint George.

The Iron County Commission supports the proposal. However, the Utah Geographic Names Committee and the U.S. Forest Service do not recommend approval, citing the proponent’s lack of a long-term association with the feature and a belief that his death near the feature does not satisfy the requirements of the Commemorative Names Policy.

A copy of this proposal was forwarded to the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians of the Kaibab Indian Reservation, the Las Vegas Tribe of Paiute Indians of the Las Vegas Indian Colony, the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians of the Moapa River Indian Reservation, and the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, all of which are federally recognized. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

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

**Wallin Creek**, Ohio  
(Cuyahoga National Park)  
(Review List 416)

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=41.3191666&p\\_longi=-81.605](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=41.3191666&p_longi=-81.605)  
Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=41.315&p\\_longi=-81.6352777](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=41.315&p_longi=-81.6352777)

This proposal is to apply the new commemorative name Wallin Creek to a two-mile-long stream that flows east from just southwest of Brecksville into Chippewa Creek. The stream flows through Brecksville Reservation, which is located within Cuyahoga National Park. The reservation is managed by Cleveland Metroparks through a partnership with the National Park Service. The proposed name is intended to honor Harold E. Wallin (1911-1996), who served as the first naturalist at the Brecksville Nature Center, located just uphill from the stream under consideration.

In the 1950s, Wallin served as the first Chief Naturalist of Cleveland Metroparks and was instrumental in expanding the park system's environmental outreach and education activities. Many naturalists and nature enthusiasts in Cuyahoga County recall Mr. Wallin's inspiration and dedication to Cleveland Metroparks. In addition to park duties, in the 1940s Mr. Wallin began a census of breeding bird territories in the Brecksville Reservation near Brecksville Nature Center. He also organized the first Buzzard Sunday in 1957, a celebration of the yearly return of turkey vultures to a ridge in nearby Hinkley Township. The proponent is hoping that the proposed name can be approved in time to make the announcement during the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Brecksville Nature Center in early June 2014.

The City Council of the City of Brecksville and the Cuyahoga County Executive responded in favor of the proposal, as did the Natural Resources Division of Cleveland Metroparks. The National Park Service recommends approval of the name Wallin Creek, while the Ohio Geographic Names Authority has "no issues." A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Delaware Nation, the Forest County Potawatomi Community, the Hannahville Indian Community, the Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Wyandotte Nation, all of which are federally recognized. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

Change **Negro Brown Canyon** (FID 1153164) to **John Brown Canyon**, Oregon  
(Review List 415)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p\\_lat=44.7095636&p\\_longi=-121.2336596&fid=1153164](http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=44.7095636&p_longi=-121.2336596&fid=1153164)

This five-mile-long valley is located within an area known as Agency Plains in north-central Jefferson County. Although the existing name Negro Brown Canyon was not labeled on USGS topographic maps until the 2011 edition, it is listed in the Geographic Names Information System, having been compiled from an Oregon Water Resources Department drainage basin map published in 1973. The stream that flows through the valley and into the Deschutes River is named Campbell Creek; this name is not impacted by this proposal.

The proponent, who serves as president of the Jefferson County Historical Society, believes the current name is offensive and should be changed so that it properly commemorates the individual for whom it was named (he also notes that older maps and verbal accounts refer to the valley with the pejorative form of "Negro"). John A. Brown (ca.1830-1903) was an African-American who came from Polk County in 1878 to homestead 160 acres along Campbell Creek. Mr. Brown is remembered as a hardworking and industrious man, who was able to read and write and who voted every year during the time he was

proving his claim. The proponent believes Brown was likely the first homesteader in this locale, as well as the first African-American in central Oregon. He used water from the stream, grew fruit trees and vegetables, and raised stock, all of which he sold in Prineville 32 miles to the southeast.

John Brown's gravesite was recently located in a cemetery in Prineville in Crook County. In 2007, a county historical society monument was erected; on the inscription, John A. Brown Canyon [sic] is listed as one of the local features named for John Brown. It notes also that Brown Creek and Brown Mountain are named for him (these features are located in Deschutes County, approximately 75 miles to the south of the valley in question). A Jefferson County Historical Society brochure includes the text: "When John A. Brown left Dallas in Polk County to cross the Cascades to the tiny, isolated village of Prineville in Wasco County [present-day Crook County], he could not have known what an impression he would leave on the vast area of Central Oregon known as the Ochoco Country."

The Oregon Geographic Names Board recommends approval of the proposed change from Negro Brown Canyon to John Brown Canyon, as do the Jefferson County Historical Society, the Crook County Historical Society, the Assistant Director of the Bowman Museum, and the Campbell family who acquired some of the original 160 acres (and for whom the stream is named). The present-day property owners also support the change. The Jefferson County Board of Commissioners was asked to comment on the proposal, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

As part of its research, the OGNB forwarded the proposal to all federally recognized tribes with an interest in Oregon. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

Change Yaunt Mountain (FID 1596667) to Yount Mountain, Wyoming  
(Bureau of Land Management)  
(Review List 411)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=41.8644161&p\\_longi=-105.3191498](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=41.8644161&p_longi=-105.3191498)

This proposal is to change the name of Yaunt Mountain, a 6,220-foot summit located on Bureau of Land Management public domain land in Albany County, to Yount Mountain, in order to reflect the correct spelling of the honoree's name. The summit has been labeled as Yaunt Mountain on USGS topographic maps since 1955. The origin of this name has not been determined but the proponent believes the summit was very likely named for Henry ("Harry") Yount, and so he suggests the spelling should be corrected. General Land Office records confirm that Henry Yount was granted a land patent within one mile of the summit in 1902. Numerous publications refer to quarries and mines operated by Yount in this area around the same time period.

According to Mae Urbanek's book *Wyoming Place Names*, Younts Creek and Younts Peak "were named for Harry S. Younts [sic], a packer for the Hayden Survey in 1878; he climbed the west spur of Grand Teton that year. In 1880 he was appointed gamekeeper of the Yellowstone National Park, thus becoming the first ranger." The stream and summit (above?) are located over 300 miles from the summit in question and are in Yellowstone National Park, where Yount served as gamekeeper from 1880 to 1882. Interviews with Yount conducted in the early 1920s, as well as subsequent pension records, confirm that he settled near Wheatland, Wyoming, after 1882 and that he developed mining claims in the immediate area until his death in 1924.

His 1880 and 1881 communications entitled "Report of Gamekeeper" highlighted the need for additional resource protection and the establishment of a professional workforce for park management, which is credited with the future plans for the establishment of the National Park Service (NPS). Each year, the NPS awards the Harry Yount Award to individual employees whose "overall impacts, record of

accomplishments, and excellence in traditional ranger duties have created an appreciation for the park ranger profession on the part of the public and other members of the profession.”

At part of its research, the Wyoming Board of Geographic Names contacted the Albany County Commissioners for an opinion. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The WYBGN recommends approval of the proposal, as does the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The NPS notes that Yount is an iconic figure within the agency, but that it will defer to the BLM regarding the proposed name change since the feature is not on land administered by the NPS. The Arapahoe Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, all of which are federally recognized, were asked to comment on the proposal. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

GNIS lists 38 features in the U.S. with “Yount” in their names. It is not known if any are named for Henry Yount; however, the City of Yountville in Napa County, California, is named for his uncle George C. Yount. The only feature listed in GNIS with “Yaunt” in its name is the summit in question.

#### IV. Revised Decisions

Change **Black River** (BGN 1959) (FID 1399160) to **Draanjik River**, Alaska  
(Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge and Bureau of Land Management)  
(Review List 414)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p\\_lat=66.6641667&p\\_longi=-144.7277778&fid=1399160](http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=66.6641667&p_longi=-144.7277778&fid=1399160)

This proposal is to change the name of the Black River to Draanjik River. It was submitted by the Second Chief and Gwich'in Language Coordinator of the Fort Yukon Native Village, who reports that Draanjik is the traditional Gwich'in name for the river and has been used “since time immemorial.” He adds, “The Gwich'in are still the only inhabitants along this river.” Further, “It is distinct, it is in local use, it is supported by local people, and it's appropriate to name this river its traditional Native American name. The local Gwich'in people are called the Draanjik Gwich'in, it is that central to our identity.” Draanjik translates as “caches along the river.” A 1983 report on Gwich'in Athabascan place names of the Upper Yukon-Porcupine Region (Alaska Department of Fish and Game / Division of Subsistence) refers to the Draanjik Gwich'in as “people of the Black River.”

Draanjik is already listed in GNIS as a variant name for the Black River. The proponent agreed to add the generic “River” to the name.

The Black River is approximately 160 miles long. It heads on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, then flows north-northwest into the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge, where it turns west to join the Black River Slough 16 miles northeast of the community of Fort Yukon. The existing name was a BGN decision in 1959, although the primary issue was the location of the stream's source. The 1959 case file described the Black River as a tributary of the Porcupine River; however, subsequent research determined that it actually flows into the Black River Slough which in turn flows into the Porcupine River.

In addition to the Black River, there are two tributaries named Grayling Fork Black River and Salmon Fork Black River and an associated stream named Little Black River; the proponent was asked whether his proposal applies to these names as well to which he responded that the change applies to the main stream only.

As part of its research, the Alaska Board on Geographic Names provided a copy of the proposal to the Chalkyitsik Native Corporation, the Chalkyitsik Village Tribal Council, the City of Fort Yukon, the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribe, the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments, Inc., the Gwithchyaa Zhee Corporation, Doyon Ltd., the Tanana Chiefs Conference, and the Alaska Native Language Center. Of these, the Chalkyitsik Village Tribal Council and the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in tribal government responded in support of the proposal. The lack of responses from the other organizations is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The State Board recommends approval of the proposal. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management also support the proposed change to Draanjik River.

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

**Globemaster Peak**, Alaska  
(Bureau of Land Management)  
(Review List 415)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=61.214735&p\\_longi=-148.202486](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=61.214735&p_longi=-148.202486)

This proposal is to apply the new name Globemaster Peak to an unnamed 8,983-foot summit near Anchorage. The summit is located on a ridge extending south and west from Mount Gannett, and on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

On November 22, 1952, a C-124 Globemaster transport aircraft bound for Elmendorf Air Force Base from Washington State crashed into the southeast slopes of Mount Gannett. All 52 airmen on board were killed, including the proponent's grandfather. An avalanche carried the wreckage downslope and buried it under snow and ice. Although a search party was dispatched and a portion of the aircraft's tail was spotted, recovery efforts in 1952 and again in 1953 were halted due to harsh weather, terrain, and the unpredictable movements of the Colony Glacier. In 2012, Alaska National Guard members spotted debris which an Air Force team soon recovered. Based on analysis, the recovered debris was consistent with the 1952 incident. The Air Force News reported that "vintage artifacts recovered from the glacier - including a celestial navigation chart, Morse code card, and survival equipment such as rations, cooking pot and M1950 stove, fishing and desalination kits - as well as personal items such as a boot heel, uniform button, and a hockey puck [were uncovered]." The proponent would like the peak to be named "in remembrance" of the service men who died in the crash; she states that she speaks for "other family members [she has] formed a bond with over the years."

The Alaska Board on Geographic Names forwarded a copy of the proposal to the Chugach Alaska Corporation, which responded in favor of the name. Chugachmuit, Inc. was also asked to comment, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The Mountaineering Club of Alaska (MCA) has no objection, noting that the name continues the theme of names in the area that begin with the letter "G." The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recommends approval of the name. The Alaska Board on Geographic Names expressed some concern that they did not want to set a precedent for naming plane crash sites and that the proposal continues the trend toward naming individual peaks on ridges. However, noting the BLM's support and the MCA's lack of an objection, the State Board voted to recommend approval of the name.