

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

Seven Hundred and Seventy Fourth Meeting
Department of the Interior, Kiowa Room
August 13, 2015 – 9:30 a.m.

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Eric Berman	Department of Homeland Security (Federal Emergency Management Agency)
Douglas Caldwell	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Jon Campbell	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Laurie Campbell	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Mark DeMulder	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Lee Fleming	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs)
Andrew Flora	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Monique Fordham	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey) (by teleconference)
Michael Fournier	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Tony Gilbert	Government Publishing Office
Bruce Johnson	Library of Congress
Sean Killen	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) (by teleconference)
Curtis Loy	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Jacqueline Nolan	Library of Congress
Victor Pattarozzi	Department of Homeland Security
Michael Shelton	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
Douglas Vandegraft	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management) (Chairman)

Ex-Officio

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

Staff

Maria McCormick, U.S. Geological Survey (by teleconference)
Jane Messenger, U.S. Geological Survey (by teleconference)
Matthew O'Donnell, U.S. Geological Survey
Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey

Guests

Lola Ajilore, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Estelle Bowman, U.S. Forest Service
Paul Holeva, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Myron Pourier, Black Elk Development
Timothy St. Onge, Library of Congress

1. Opening

Chairman Vandegraft opened the meeting at 9:29 a.m. He welcomed visitors and asked all BGN members, staff, and visitors to introduce themselves.

2. Minutes of the 773rd Meeting

The minutes of the 773rd meeting of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC), held July 9th, were approved as submitted.

3. Reports

3.1 BGN Chairman (Caldwell)

The next full BGN meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 20th at the Department of the Interior in Washington D.C.

The revised BGN bylaws and the revised DNC *Principles, Policies, and Procedures* are still in review by the Department of the Interior.

The U.S. Geological Survey's historical topographic map Web site uses base maps provided by Esri. Caldwell noted that the map displays a derogatory name that the BGN had previously changed. He contacted Esri, which will amend the name. Caldwell mentioned the general issue of Government agency use of third-party mapping services. There is no guarantee that they will use BGN-approved names even though Government agencies are required to use such names in all their products, applications, and reports. A list of the most significant approved BGN names, both domestic and foreign, will be compiled and sent to Esri and other third-party mapping services. It is hoped that any name discrepancies will be corrected.

3.2 BGN Executive Secretary (Yost)

Some members and prospective members have not yet submitted their biographies for review and vetting by the White House. These are needed for the reappointment process. Although the new term ends September 30th, the BGN bylaws state that all members continue to serve until reappointed or replaced by another representative. Runyon is compiling all biographies.

Yost asked if any attendees had access to a 5.25-inch disk drive which could be used to read an old disk that contains BGN member photos. These photos were intended to be included in the "Diary of Actions, Policies, Policies and Events: 1890-1990" (a.k.a. "The 100 Year History").

Ralph Ehrenberg, Library of Congress member, and Roger Payne, BGN Executive Secretary Emeritus, each received a request from Stanley D. Brunn, a retired professor who is editing a book titled The Changing World Language Map, which will include "chapters on important, interesting and cutting-edge topics related to language use, culture, policy, representation and mapping." He is requesting chapter submissions. Yost will forward the email to the entire BGN as well as to a few national naming authorities in other countries.

3.3 Special Committee on Communication (Caldwell for Westington)

The BGN's 125th anniversary celebration will take place Friday, September 18th at the Library of Congress. Caldwell thanked the Library staff for all their work to prepare for the event. All speakers have been approved, although opening speakers from the Department of the Interior and the Library of Congress have not been confirmed. Yost mentioned that the Secretary of the Interior and the Assistant

Secretary of the Interior have conflicts and will not be available, but that the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey may be able to provide the Department of the Interior “Welcome”.

The commemorative pins have arrived. Caldwell passed around a sample for members to view and noted that they be distributed at the next meeting. He thanked Forrest for her work in designing and ordering the pins. Donations to cover the cost are still being accepted. Orders have also been placed for commemorative shirts.

Caldwell reminded the committee that the SCC would meet at 1 p.m., also in the Kiowa Room, and invited all to attend.

Upon the entrance of Myron Pourier, Vandegraft asked him to introduce himself. Vandegraft also asked all members and guests to introduce themselves again for the benefit of Mr. Pourier.

Two members joined the meeting.

3.4 Executive Secretary (Yost)

The decision to rename a populated place and related administrative features in Kansas from Saint John to St. John was reported in several newspapers.

3.5 Staff (Runyon)

Review List 421, comprising 35 new names and name change proposals, was released on August 10th.

Staff has received correspondence regarding several high profile cases to rename features including Devils Tower, Harney Peak, and Mount McKinley. In addition, a number of new proposals have been submitted.

Yost thanked Runyon, J. Campbell, Shelton, Vandegraft, and Caldwell for their input and edits to the Mount McKinley/Denali background information recently submitted to the Secretary of the Interior. Members briefly discussed some issues surrounding the name controversy and the recent resurveying of the summit’s elevation, the results of which will soon be released.

3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (McCormick)

There are still issues with developers working on GNIS web tools. Several have left for other positions so progress has been slow.

The landforms tool relies on The National Map (TNM) services, which have been unreliable in recent weeks. The issues have been documented and reported to the TNM help desk.

As part of a Web re-engineering project, the USGS will be moving all its Web pages to a new Google-based format. The GNIS pages are being re-inventoried, but as part of the project, the USGS will require that its banner be displayed at the top of every page. A few years ago, the BGN received permission to waive this requirement so as to remove the perception that the BGN works directly for USGS. The BGN will need to discuss how to handle this request.

New GNIS download files were posted on August 11th.

McCormick provided the Antarctic dataset to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), which will extract features that are to be maintained instead in the GEOnet Names Server. Once this has been completed, these features will be removed from GNIS.

On August 27th, McCormick will present a Need-To-Know session on the landforms tool to employees of the USGS National Geospatial Technology Operations Center (NGTOC).

McCormick and Messenger will be in Reston in mid-September and will attend the 125th anniversary symposium.

Yost mentioned that planning for FY16 includes the Geographic Names Improvement Program. The GNIS staff provided a list of checks and improvements to existing data to NGTOC, which based on developer availability, should be worked on in the coming year.

3.7 Harney Peak, South Dakota name change (Pourier)

Mr. Pourier thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak. He distributed bundles containing brochures and copies of the book *Black Elk Speaks*. He began his presentation by explaining his connection to the movement to rename Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. He described the movement as “peaceful, prayerful, and apolitical.” He alluded to the various names that have been suggested throughout the process besides Black Elk Peak, one of which is Hinhan Kaga.

According to Pourier, in the Sioux language “hinhan” means “owl” and “kaga” mean “imitating” or “mocking”. This descriptive name given by Sioux ancestors comes from the sound of wind blowing through large granite spires that form groups within parts of the Black Hills. They would refer to this portion of the Black Hills as Hinhan Kaga.

Pourier mentioned another original name for the mountain, Wicinjala Sakowin, which means “seven girls” or “seven stars” and refers to a group of seven stars near the constellation Taurus known as the Pleiades. In the Lakota Sioux star knowledge, the Pleiades or Wicinjala Sakowin is the name of the original celestial mountain that corresponds to the highest point in the Black Hills. This is the center of the world according to the Sioux. Pourier explained that the names Hinhan Kaga and Wicinjala Sakowin are used within various Sioux tribes and by the younger and older generations, respectively.

Pourier described how Black Elk, his great-great grandfather, traveled alone to the top of the highest point in the Black Hills, set up an altar, and prayed for four days. Black Elk had a vision which he later related to John G. Neihardt, author of *Black Elk Speaks*. In the vision, Black Elk saw the connectedness of the whole world and all peoples. The name Black Elk Peak would be “synonymous with the beauty and sacredness of the Black Hills” and would be “respectful toward all walks of life and a neutral name.”

A brief discussion ensued about the South Dakota Board of Geographic Names review process and public hearings. Runyon asked Pourier about the general perception that naming features after people is not a tradition among American Indian tribes. Pourier mentioned Crazy Horse Mountain (officially known as Thunderhead Mountain) in the Black Hills and Piestewa Peak in Arizona (named for a Hopi woman who was killed in action during the Iraq War). Although the practice is not widespread, features can be named

for individuals when appropriate. There are many tribes and many opinions. Vandegrift thanked Pourier for his presentation to the Committee.

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 application of **Ninety Percent Spring** (FID 394954), Idaho (Review List 418)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change. Members briefly discussed the origin of the name “Ninety Percent.”

Vote:	17 in favor
	0 against
	0 abstentions

Change **Reservoir Number 2** (FID 517270) to **Lake Fontaine**, Kentucky (Review List 419)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change. Members briefly discussed an earlier commemorative proposal for the same name for this feature which was subsequently withdrawn.

Vote:	17 in favor
	0 against
	0 abstentions

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Fenway Pond, Connecticut (Review List 418)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this name, citing the lack of local support from both the Town of Glastonbury and the Connecticut State Names Authority. Members questioned the Town of Glastonbury’s requirements for naming features and whether or not the five-year waiting period for commemorative names applies in the case of pets.

Vote:	16 in favor
	1 against
	0 abstentions

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

Lee Island, Washington (Review List 418) (FID 2772203)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 16 in favor
 0 against
 1 abstention

IV. Revised Decisions

Change **Cedar Creek Reservoir** (BGN 1988) (FID 1377461) to **Lake Fayette**, Texas (Review List 405)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 17 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Little Smelt Creek, Michigan (Review List 420) (FID 2772204)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name. One member pointed out that the name is redundant because all smelts are little. Staff suggested the word “little” might refer to the stream’s length.

Vote: 16 in favor
 0 against
 1 abstention

Rain Dance Pond, New York (Review List 420) (FID 2772205)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 15 in favor
 1 against
 1 abstention

The negative vote was cast in the belief that the name represents a former business and is “disingenuous.”

Lamprey Creek, Oregon (Review List 420) (FID 2772206)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 17 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Freudenberg Falls, Tennessee (Review List 419) (FID 2772207)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 17 in favor
 0 against

0 abstentions

Mount El Shaddai, Texas (Review List 416) (FID 2772208)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 10 in favor
 5 against
 2 abstentions

The negative votes were cast in the opinion that this is a commemorative name and that there is a lack of association between the Deity and the feature.

5. Other Business

Fournier announced that this would be his last DNC meeting and that he will retire from the Census Bureau at the end of November. At present, no replacement member has been selected and Flora will be the sole Census Bureau member. The Foreign Names Committee (FNC) will temporarily lack a Census Bureau representative.

Fleming also announced that the next DNC meeting will be his last. He will be replaced by Dr. Wendi-Starr Brown, who plans to attend the September meeting.

Vandegraft thanked Fournier and Fleming for their service to the DNC and BGN, as well as their comments and wisdom over the years. Members gave them a round of applause.

Yost announced that next month's meeting would feature a presentation on the Black Elk Peak proposal by a relative of General Harney.

6. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m. The next Domestic Names Committee meeting will be held September 10th, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. at the Department of the Interior, Kiowa Room.

(signed) Louis A. Yost

Louis A. Yost, Executive Secretary

APPROVED
(signed) Douglas Vandegraft

Douglas Vandegraft, Chairman
Domestic Names Committee

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
DOCKET
August 2015**

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

Change application of **Ninety Percent Spring** (FID 394954), Idaho
(Review List 418)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=42.677476&p_longi=-111.627072

This proposal is to change the application of the name Ninety Percent Spring in Caribou County from its current location to another spring approximately half a mile to the southeast. The spring at the proposed location has not been labeled on any USGS topographic maps; its current location has been shown and labeled Ninety Percent Spring since 1982.

According to the proponent, the proposed location is the site of the former Natural Mineral Water Company bottling plant where the spring's water was marketed under the brand name "Idanha" or "Idan-ha." Mixed with carbon dioxide pumped in from the nearby spring, the water was sold around the world and won prizes at national and international fairs. Numerous contemporary sources from the 1890s to the 1910s link the Idanha water with Ninety Percent Spring; the name of the spring was often given as both "Ninety Percent" and "Idanha." The plant shut down during the 1930s and all remains of the bottling plant were removed in the 1950s. The proponent states that the Caribou County Historical Society, of which he is the president, has an easement to the site of the bottling plant.



Several Idaho tourism guidebooks provide directions to the spring and historic bottling plant site. Two volumes, *The Ultimate Idaho Atlas and Travel Encyclopedia* and *Travel the Oregon Trail in Caribou County*, both undated, direct tourists to a site at the proposed location. A map in the latter document places the spring at a spot south-southeast of the proposed location.

USGS field notes provide no information as to why the name has been applied to its current location since 1982; it is presumed the name was found to be in local use.

The Caribou 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. The Idaho Geographic Names Board recommends approval of the application change. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation, both

of which are federally recognized. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

Change **Reservoir Number 2** (FID 517270) to **Lake Fontaine**, Kentucky
(Review List 419)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=38.0066456&p_longi=-84.4653292&fid=517270

The name Lake Fontaine is proposed to be applied to a reservoir in the City of Lexington that is currently named Reservoir Number 2. The reservoir is the middle of a series of three reservoirs along West Hickman Creek. According to the proponent and historical maps, dams were built by the Lexington Hydraulic & Manufacturing Company in 1893, thus creating Reservoir Number 1, Reservoir Number 2, and Reservoir Number 3. The latter name was changed by the BGN to Lake Hickman at its June 2015 meeting.

According to the proponent of the name change, Reservoir Number 2 was sold in 1963 to a development company. The proponent serves as secretary of the Lakeview Estates Lake Association, Inc., which now owns the reservoir. He states that many local residents mistakenly believe it is owned by Kentucky American Water and that it is still a drinking water source. The new name will “dispel this myth and enhance the value of the lake.” The name is proposed in association with nearby Fontaine Road.

The Mayor of Lexington and Fayette County and the Councilmember who represents this area of Lexington submitted letters in support of this proposal, as did the Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation. The Kentucky Geographic Names Committee also recommends approval of the change.

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

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Fenway Pond, Connecticut
(Review List 418)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic.getesricoor?p_lat=41.732962&p_longi=-72.519927

This 2.6-acre reservoir, proposed to be named Fenway Pond, is located near the 8th green of the Minnechaug Golf Course in the Town of Glastonbury. According to the proponent, the 8th green is considered “the signature hole of the course” and the reservoir is a central feature of the neighborhood. Although the reservoir has been shown on topographic maps since 1964 and is mentioned prominently at the Minnechaug Golf Course Web site, it has remained unnamed since it was constructed sometime between 1953 and 1964.

According to the proponent, his Labrador retriever, named Fenway of Minnechaug, was beloved in the golfing community. Each day for his 13 years, he greeted grade school children at the bus stop near the reservoir. He was “a kids’ favorite and everyone in the golfing community knew Fenway.” He was seen almost every day in the community “visiting most neighbors’ homes (and kitchens), chasing geese away from the 8th tee, and making himself available to children to stroke and play. He served as a sort of mascot and was an icon for the Village at Minnechaug.” The proponent states that Fenway was often referred to as “The Mayor of Minnechaug” or “The Ambassador” because he was “an extremely gentle and outgoing soul.” Fenway acted as a “big brother” to many other dogs in the community, teaching patience and

tolerance in a way that according to the proponent “you’d have to see to believe.” When Fenway passed away in 2014, the neighbors decided to honor him with the planting of a tree. These neighbors also helped pay for his final medical expenses. The proponent says he knows of no one (person or animal) in this golfing community of nearly 140 homes who has ever received such an honor.

The proponent further states that the community supports the proposal for Fenway Pond. He provided ten letters from locals in support of the name. However, the Town of Glastonbury, which owns the golf course, wrote that they do not support the proposal, stating “the proposed name [does not meet our] requirements for a name.” The Connecticut State Names Authority also recommends disapproval, citing the Town’s opposition. According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in Hartford County.

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

Lee Island, Washington
(Review List 418)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=48.4781261&p_longi=-123.0685121

This approximately 0.5-acre unnamed island, located off the southern shore of San Juan Island at the mouth of False Bay, is proposed to be named Lee Island in honor of Emelia “Lee” Bave (1910-2008). In 1958, Ms. Bave and her husband moved to San Juan Island, where they operated the Mar Vista Resort, located opposite the unnamed island. In addition to running the resort until her death in 2008, Ms. Bave often did paintings of the island. She was also active in the local community, where she founded a performance and children’s theater and established a teen club. She wrote a book and a play on the Pig War of 1859, which took place on San Juan Island; she also established the local Pig War Museum, for which she donated the building. A representative of the San Juan Historical Museum reports that Lee worked tirelessly, earning her the nicknames “Mad Woman of Mar Vista” and “Looney Lee.” Another individual stated, “Lee was a visionary. She rallied many people for support and for that we in the community are so grateful. She took action to preserve our Island History. She is a real TOWN HERO.”

Although the island is small and uninhabited, the proponent believes it needs a name to distinguish it from others at the mouth of False Bay.

The San Juan County Council recommends approval of the proposal, as does the Washington State Committee on Geographic Names (WSCGN). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has no opinion on the matter, the Department of Homeland Security has no objection, and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration supports the name. As part of its investigation, the WSCGN contacted the Lummi Tribe of the Lummi Reservation, a federally recognized tribe. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

IV. Revised Decisions

Change Cedar Creek Reservoir (BGN 1988) (FID 1377461) to Lake Fayette, Texas
(Review List 405)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=29.9301113&p_longi=-96.7343255&fid=1377461

This proposal is to change the official name of Cedar Creek Reservoir in Fayette County to Lake Fayette. The request was submitted by a map editor at Yahoo! Maps, who reports that one of its users claimed the proposed name is in local use.

The name Cedar Creek Reservoir was made official for Federal use by the BGN in 1988, following an inquiry from the Texas office of the U.S. Geological Survey Water Resources Division. Although USGS maps published in the early 1980s had applied the name Lake Fayette, as did the 1988 State Highway map, the official name endorsed by the State of Texas was Cedar Creek Reservoir. When the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) obtained a permit for construction of the dam and reservoir in 1978, the Texas Water Rights Commission referred to it as Cedar Creek Reservoir.

Prior to the 1988 BGN decision, the LCRA was asked by the Texas State Names Authority to confirm the name, and they responded that although they had no objection if local residents wished to continue to use Lake Fayette, they recommended that the name on Federal maps should agree with the name on the permit.

Cedar Creek Reservoir is named on the latest edition of the USGS topographic maps and also on the Texas Department of Transportation Fayette County highway map, published in 1982 and revised in 1996. In addition to Lake Fayette, the GNIS entry for Cedar Creek Reservoir lists the name FPP Cooling Pond as a variant. Other names found online include Fayette Power Plant Lake, Fayette County Reservoir, and Fayette Lake.

According to a Web site dedicated to local fishing sites, "Fayette County Lake [sic] was constructed by the Lower Colorado River Authority and the City of Austin [as] a 2,400-acre cooling pond for the Fayette Power Project." The LCRA's own Web site uses the names Lake Fayette and Fayette Lake interchangeably, but does not appear to use the name Cedar Creek Reservoir. The La Grange Area Chamber of Commerce and Google Maps also label the feature Lake Fayette. As of December 2014, Yahoo! Maps had already changed the name to Lake Fayette.

There is another reservoir in Texas named Cedar Creek Reservoir. It was created in 1965 and is located in Henderson County, approximately 160 miles from the one in Fayette County. It is also a popular recreation site because of its proximity to the Dallas metropolitan area.

The Fayette County Judge was asked to comment on the proposed name change; however, no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has no opinion on the proposal. The Texas Geographic Names Committee contacted the LCRA and the Texas Water Development Board; neither has "any issues with the name change because most critical documents have already been revised to reflect the name change." The Texas *Commission on Environmental Quality* was also asked to comment, but did not respond to the State Names Committee by the deadline provided to them. The State Names Committee recommends approval of the change. According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in Fayette County.

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Little Smelt Creek, Michigan

(Review List 420)

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=45.93861&p_longi=-86.28172

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=45.9385&p_longi=-86.28538

The new name Little Smelt Creek is proposed for a 0.23-mile-long stream that flows into Lake Michigan south of Manistique in Thompson Township in Schoolcraft County.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources identifies the smelt as *Osmerus mordax*, a small fish native to the northern Atlantic Coast of North America. It was introduced into Lake Michigan in the 1930s and residents of Michigan have caught them for decades. Smelt populations have declined since the 1970s for unknown reasons. According to the proponent, the land through which the stream flows was purchased by Schoolcraft County in 2002, “with the intention of preserving the creek for the sake of remembering its past significance as a valued smelt resource.” The county sold the land to the proponent earlier this year. The proponent wishes to name the stream Little Smelt Creek “in keeping with the tradition that goes with the property.”

The Thompson Township Board and the Schoolcraft County Board of Commissioners both support the proposal. The Michigan State Names Authority also recommends approval. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the following federally recognized tribes: the Bay Mills Indian Community, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

According to GNIS, the only features that include the word “Smelt” in their names are located in New England or Alaska.

Rain Dance Pond, New York

(Review List 420)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.089703&p_longi=-74.656431

This approximately three-acre pond is proposed to be named Rain Dance Pond, a name that according to the proponent describes the way rain “dances” across the surface of the pond during a storm. The name was originally proposed to the BGN in 2003, but despite having the support of the Town of Oppenheim and Fulton County and no objection from the New York State Names Committee, it was not approved citing concerns that the name could be construed to be commercial in nature. At the time, the proponent owned an alpaca farm called Rain Dance Pond, LLC. The BGN also expressed a concern that the words “Rain Dance” could have spiritual significance to the American Indian community.

The proponent asked again in 2008 if the BGN would revisit its decision, but the request was denied citing a lack of any new evidence to warrant reopening the case. The proponent has since dissolved the business (he still owns the property), and so he believes the potential commercial implications should no longer be a concern.

The Town of Oppenheim and Fulton County were once again contacted for their opinions; the letters reminded them that they had endorsed the name in 2003 but that the BGN staff was requesting an updated

opinion. The Town and County were told that no response would indicate a lack of an opinion on the matter. No responses were received. The New York State Names Committee has affirmed that it has no objection to the name, although does have a concern that the feature is too small to receive an official name. According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in Fulton County.

Lamprey Creek, Oregon
(Review List 420)

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=44.57181&p_longi=-123.31108
Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=44.5995&p_longi=-123.31623

This 2.3-mile-long stream heads one mile south of Dimple Hill and flows south to enter Oak Creek west of Corvallis. The Mary River Watershed Council is proposing the name Lamprey Creek because the stream provides habitat to Pacific and brook lampreys. The council believes that naming the stream will assist emergency responders and ensure citizen awareness of the stream through the use of signage.

The name Lamprey Creek was selected because lamprey, commonly called “eels,” have a special meaning to the native people that have lived in the area for thousands of years. Lamprey are a dietary staple for the Kalapuyan people. In addition, the name will acknowledge the globally recognized lamprey research conducted at the Oregon State University. The proponent believes that naming this stream for “a special fish that predates the dinosaurs and all other fish in the Pacific Northwest will provide an opportunity for both inspiration and challenge to protect and restore this tributary to improve the chances of more lamprey returning to this special place.”

The proposed name is supported by Oregon State University, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Freshwaters Illustrated, the Marys Peak Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Skyline West Neighborhood Association, and the Native Fish Society. The Benton County Commissioners and the Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB) also recommend approval of the new name.

As part of its investigation, the OGNB forwarded the proposal to the State Legislative Commission on *Indian Services*, which in turn shared it with the following federally recognized tribes: the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

According to GNIS, Lampa Creek in Coos County, approximately 110 miles south-southwest of the stream in question, has a variant name of Lamprey Creek.

Freudenberg Falls, Tennessee
(Review List 419)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=35.1938007&p_longi=-85.2858258

This proposal is to make official the name Freudenberg Falls for two waterfalls in Falling Water Falls Natural Area in Hamilton County. According to the proponent, “The upper portion of the falls are approximately 30 feet high, and the lower falls drop 10 feet more from the ledge that separates the upper and lower falls.” The proponent reports that he first heard the name as a child 42 years ago. His mother told him the name refers to Freudenberg, Germany, the home town of many of the area’s early settlers. The name has not been found on any published sources.

The Mayor of Hamilton County and the Tennessee Division of Natural Areas (Tennessee Tower) both recommend approval of the name, as does the Tennessee State Names Committee. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina, which is a federally recognized tribe. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

Mount El Shaddai, Texas
(Review List 416)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=29.514722&p_longi=-100.145278

This proposal is to apply the new name Mount El Shaddai to an unnamed 1,913-foot summit in Kinney County. According to the proponent, who owns the property on which the summit is located, “the name means Almighty.” “El Shaddai” is one of the many names applied to God in the Hebrew scriptures. Some scholars have suggested that “Shaddai” refers to mountains, although this translation is not widely accepted.

The Kinney County Judge supports the new name, as does the Texas Geographic Names Committee. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Mescalero Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation, New Mexico, which is a federally recognized tribe. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

According to GNIS, there are no other physical features in Texas with names that contain the word “Shaddai.” Four churches in Texas are named “El Shaddai,” but the closest is 100 miles to the east in San Antonio.