

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

Seven Hundred and Seventy Fifth Meeting
Department of the Interior, Kiowa Room
September 10, 2015 – 9:30 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)
Laurie Campbell	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Lee Fleming	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs)
Monique Fordham	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey) (by teleconference)
Brenda-Anne C. Forrest	Government Publishing Office
Tony Gilbert	Government Publishing Office
Bruce Johnson	Library of Congress
Curtis Loy	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Jacqueline Nolan	Library of Congress
Ron Salz	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)
Mike Shelton	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
Michael Tischler	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Douglas Vandegraft	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management) (Chairman)
Tara Wallace	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 (by teleconference)
Jane Messenger, U.S. Geological Survey (by teleconference)
Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey

Guests

Lola Ajilore, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Wendi-Starr Brown, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bob Davis, U.S. Geological Survey
Suzan Harjo, Morning Star Institute
Paul Holeva, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Sean Killen, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (by teleconference)
Gregory Korte, USA Today
Karen Little Thunder
Deb Nordeen, National Park Service
Paul Soderman
Steven Wyant

1. Opening

Chairman Vandegraft opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

2. Minutes of the 774th Meeting

The minutes of the 774th meeting of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC), held August 13th, 2015, were approved as submitted.

3. Reports

3.1 BGN Chairman (Caldwell)

The U.S. Geological Survey's historical topographic map Web site uses base maps provided by Esri. Caldwell noted that a derogatory name that was previously changed by the BGN continued to appear on the Esri map. When asked to do so, Esri replaced the name with the BGN approved name. A list of the most significant BGN approved names, both domestic and foreign, will be compiled and provided to Esri and other third-party mapping services.

The next full BGN meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 20th at the Department of the Interior in Washington D.C. New officer elections for the 2015-2017 term will be held.

3.2 BGN Executive Secretary (Yost)

Yost presented a commemorative plaque to Fleming on the occasion of his final DNC meeting. He thanked Fleming for his assistance with the issue of tribal consultation. Fleming then introduced Wendi-Starr Brown who will be the new deputy member from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and who will represent the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. He also noted that many individuals in Indian Country appreciate the work that the BGN does.

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.

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee on Undersea Features will take place on Friday, September 11th at 1:30 p.m. at the U.S. Geological Survey in Reston, Virginia.

Stanley D. Brunn, a retired professor, wishes to include a chapter on the BGN in a book he is editing titled The Changing World Language Map. Yost will re-send the email request to all BGN members to see if there is any interest in writing the chapter.

A joint meeting of the BGN and the United Kingdom's Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (PCGN) will take place September 21-25, 2015 in London.

The American Name Society is meeting in Washington, D.C., January 7-10, 2016 in conjunction with the Linguistic Society of America.

The 29th session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) will take place April 25-29, 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand. It was noted that the United States was once viewed as a leader within this group, but other countries have improved their technology to deal with geographic names. Over the years, there has been less support for geographic names within the U.S. Federal Government.

3.3 Special Committee on Communications (Caldwell for Westington)

The BGN's 125th anniversary celebration will take place Friday, September 18th at the Library of Congress. Caldwell thanked Nolan and the Library staff for all their work to prepare for the event. The talks will present much interesting information about geographic names and the BGN. The symposium will be a good opportunity to interact with members of the Foreign Names Committee (FNC) and with former BGN members.

Caldwell thanked all those members who donated agency tote bags for the symposium attendees. The commemorative polo shirts have been delivered. He thanked Forrest for her work with the designing and ordering of the commemorative pins.

3.4 Executive Secretary (Yost)

The Secretary of the Interior recently changed the name of Mount McKinley to Denali. She instructed the BGN to promulgate the change. The entry in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) has been updated and notification letters are ready to be sent to interested parties. Yost thanked Jon Campbell for writing the news as the top story on the USGS's Web site and thanked O'Donnell for locating the 1897 Coast Survey chart that showed the first published instance of the name Mount McKinley. It was noted that despite some reports to the contrary, the approved name is not Mount Denali.

There was some media coverage of the recent name changes of reservoirs in Lexington, Kentucky.

An article was also published about the proposed name change of the Cocheco River in New Hampshire to Cochecho River.

Soderman, Harjo, Little Thunder, and Wyant joined the meeting. Vandegraft welcomed the guests, asked them to introduce themselves, and asked all members and other guests to introduce themselves.

3.5 Staff (Runyon)

Many comments have been received regarding the proposal to rename Harney Peak in South Dakota to Black Elk Peak. A counter proposal has since been received to change the name to Thunder Peak instead. The new proposal has been shared with the South Dakota Board on Geographic Names, which will coordinate with the BGN as to who will re-contact interested parties.

The proposal to change the name of O'Sullivan Peak in Utah to Sunrise Peak (Review List 419) has been withdrawn after the proponent learned that the U.S. Forest Service would not endorse the change.

The proposal to change the name of Īao Stream in Hawaii to Wailuku River has been amended; if approved, the existing name would be retained for the upstream portion that flows through Īao Valley, while the name Wailuku River would apply to the downstream portion below the confluence with Kīnihapai Stream. In relation to the proposal, the BGN staff has been working with the Hawaii Board on Geographic Names to confirm the names and applications of various tributaries within the valley.

The proposal for Hawksbill Bay in the U.S. Virgin Islands has been amended by the proponent to Hawksbill Cove, citing a recommendation by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric

Administration (NOAA) that the feature's geometry and size do not fit NOAA's classification of a bay. The BGN staff is in process of re-contacting all interested parties regarding the amendment.

The Grant County (Oregon) Court has submitted a letter to the BGN stating that efforts to meet with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation regarding the ongoing "Squaw" name change proposals have been unsuccessful. As such, the County is asking the BGN to proceed and make a decision on the pending proposals.

The Regional Office of the Bureau of Land Management in Utah has indicated that it now supports efforts to change the name of Negro Bill Canyon. The BGN has stated that it will not revisit its previous decision not to approve the name change unless one or more of the interested parties changes its recommendation. The BGN member from the BLM has been asked to review the regional office's findings.

Rep. Robert Brady (Pennsylvania) contacted the USGS to express his support for changing the name of Negro Mountain, located along the Pennsylvania-Maryland boundary. He indicates in his letter that the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has submitted a "petition" to change the name "to a more fitting title." Rep. Brady was advised that no new proposal has been received and also that the BGN voted in 1994 not to change the name, citing a lack of local or State support. The BGN has stated it will not revisit the issue unless one or more interested parties changes its recommendation.

The Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB) received an inquiry regarding the naming of a watershed for an individual and contacted the BGN staff for guidance. The OGNB was informed that watersheds are essentially "administrative features" and that the BGN does not make decisions on their names. Watersheds are typically named for the predominant hydrologic feature located within its boundary.

The administration of the College of DuPage, Illinois, has expressed concerns regarding the decision by the BGN to approve name for two features on the college campus. These names were two of several dozen submitted to the BGN as part of a geography class project, but are the only ones that apply to features on the campus. The college may ask the BGN to revisit the matter.

3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (McCormick)

The names of the digital topographic maps ("cells") related to the Denali name change will be updated. The updates will be published as each new map in the 1:24,000-scale coverage of Alaska continues. The newly surveyed elevation for Denali has been recorded in the description field in GNIS.

A new decision type category for Secretarial Order will be added as an option to GNIS.

McCormick conducted a Need-To-Know session for the USGS National Geospatial Technology Operations Center on the landforms collection tool. To date, polygons have been collected for valleys and arroyos in five States.

The GNIS Office expects to announce a new job vacancy through the Pathways hiring program.

3.7 Harney Peak, South Dakota name change (Soderman)

Soderman thanked Yost and the BGN for their important work on geographic names. He shared handouts that he had prepared. Soderman's great-great-grandmother was Frances Harney and he is a seventh-generation first cousin of General William Harney. He has been searching for other descendants and believes that John H. Harney, who died in 2014, was the last living relative with the surname Harney.

Soderman described how U.S. Army Lieutenant Gouverneur Warren named the summit Harney Peak in 1857, two years after the military company arrived in the Black Hills area. There is no evidence that General Harney climbed or even saw the summit. Harney, in Soderman's words, was "very intimidating, very aggressive, and brutal...he massacred and burned villages."

Approximately 30 years ago, Soderman traveled to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, where he was adopted as family by the Lakota Tribe. He later discovered his relationship to General Harney. Soderman has climbed Harney Peak four times to participate in the Thunder Ceremony, which is held each year on March 21st and which is attended by 500 to 700 Lakota children. Offerings for water and a good spring are given.

Soderman recognizes that there is strong opposition to changing a longstanding name. The change will be inconvenient and expensive due to all the signs and maps that will need to be replaced. He also recognizes that all potentially offensive names cannot be changed, citing the example of many features named for Custer in the Black Hills area.

Soderman introduced Karen Little Thunder, a direct descendant of Chief Little Thunder, who was a Lakota leader at the time of Harney's attack. She finds the name very offensive and even difficult to say.

Little Thunder described the ethno-astronomy and stellar theology that is a major part of the Lakota religion as early as 1600 B.C. Harney Peak is very sacred to the Lakota as the center of both the terrestrial world and the celestial reflection of the world. In 1903 Red Cloud gave a speech and referred to the great pilgrimage path around the Black Hills from spring camps to summer ceremony sites. According to Little Thunder, Harney Peak is the doorway to Lakota divinity. It is "more than just a hill." She also noted that the Lakota name for the peak is Hinhan Kaga Paha.

Little Thunder would be happy with any of the suggested names including Black Elk Peak, Thunder Peak, or Harmony Peak. (The first two have been officially proposed to the BGN.) She would prefer that the Lakota people be able to make the choice. She hopes that healing can begin once this "marginalizing and demeaning" name is changed.

Soderman then introduced Ms. Harjo, who is descended from a Cheyenne Indian family who helped lead Cheyenne resistance. She noted that the Lakota and Cheyenne peoples were allies and friendly.

According to Harjo, names that contain "Devil" or "Hell," or those that commemorate "woman killers" and presidents, are reminders of shameful times. These names reflect an era of terrible times for native peoples. She mentioned that some of the treatment of native peoples was "hideous" and akin to genocide, and that tribal practices were suppressed and outlawed by the government. Many names on the landscape today are reminders of those shameful times.

Although many people say that the Black Hills are outside the Lakota reservations, according to Harjo, the entire area was given to the Lakota in treaties from 1851 to 1868. The Black Hills are sacred to many tribes and few sacred places remain in the Great Plains area. Harjo is grateful to the Lakota for their renaming efforts and would be happy with any alternative name. According to her, the name Harney Peak is “despicable, shameful, and disrespectful.” Harjo thanked the BGN for considering this name change and for acting on other important native name changes.

Soderman concluded by once again thanking the BGN members for their time and attention. He added that it was ironic that General Harney had signed the treaty promising land to native peoples and yet his name is on this geographic feature. He also noted that although this issue is very important to the Lakota, there are many other pressing issues on reservations today and so it is difficult for them to focus on this. However, 2018 will be the 150th anniversary of the signing of the treaty and so the time is right to address the name change.

Vandegraft thanked Soderman, Little Thunder, and Harjo for taking the time to address the DNC.

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 Mud Lake (FID 632948) to Lake Hope, Michigan (Review List 419)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote:	15 in favor
	0 against
	0 abstentions

Three Sisters Creek, Oregon (Review List 421) (FID 2772303)

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

Vote:	15 in favor
	0 against
	0 abstentions

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Changes to four river names, Alaska (Review List 417)

A motion was made and seconded to consider the four names as a group.

Vote:	2 in favor
	13 against

0 abstentions

Change **Chandalar River** (FID 1400141) and **North Fork Chandalar River** (FID 1407162) to **Teedriinjik River**, Alaska (Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge/Bureau of Land Management) (Review List 417)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 14 in favor
 1 against
 0 abstentions

The negative vote was cast in support of the positions of the State Names Authority. Salz described the challenges involved in gathering opinions from all interested parties, while noting that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service generally supports the application of Alaska Native names.

Change **Middle Fork Chandalar River** (FID 1406290) to **Ch'idriinjik River**, Alaska (Arctic National Wildlife Refuge) (Review List 417)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 13 in favor
 1 against
 1 abstention

Change **Birch Creek** (FID 1399058) and **Lower Mouth Birch Creek** (FID 1405768) to **K'iidootinjik River**, Alaska (Steese National Conservation Area (BLM)/Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge/Birch Creek National Wild & Scenic River) (Review List 417)

A motion was made and seconded to not approve this name change. After further discussion regarding the use of geographic names in legislation designating Wild and Scenic Rivers and the possible consequences of this name change, the motion was withdrawn. Shelton suggested that although the Wild and Scenic River designation is made by Congress, it appears that it does not preclude Federal land management agencies from changing the name of the river. It was agreed that further discussion is needed, and Salz offered to coordinate a meeting of interested parties. A motion was then made and seconded to defer a decision on this name change.

Vote: 14 in favor
 1 against
 0 abstentions

Change **Beaver Creek** (FID 1398795) to **Tseenjik River**, Alaska (White Mountains National Recreation Area (BLM)/ Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge/Beaver Creek National Wild & Scenic River) (Review List 417)

A motion was made and seconded to defer a decision on this name change, citing the reasons outlined above.

Vote: 14 in favor
 1 against
 0 abstentions

Mardi Gras Pass, Louisiana (Review List 418) (FID 2772304)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 15 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Change **Squaw Creek** (FID 777127) to **Kills At Night Creek** or **Williams Creek**, Montana (Review Lists 415,419) (Bureau of Land Management)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal for **Kills At Night Creek**.

Vote: 13 in favor
 2 against
 0 abstentions

The negative votes were cast in support of Phillips County's endorsement of the **Williams Creek** proposal.

One member left the meeting.

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

Helen Gwin Peak and **Old Buzzard Ridge**, Alaska (Chugach National Forest) (Review List 420) (FIDs 2772305, 2772306)

A motion was made and seconded to consider these two names together

Vote: 12 in favor
 1 against
 1 abstention

A motion was made and seconded to approve these new names.

Vote: 13 in favor
 0 against
 1 abstention

Klinefelter Creek, Kansas (Review List 420) (FID 2772323)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 13 in favor

0 against
1 abstention

Change **Gravel Lake** (FID 627244) to **Lake Lahring**, Michigan (Review List 419)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 13 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

IV. Revised Decisions - none

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Orchard Path Creek, Ohio (Review List 420) (FID 2772324)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 13 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

Change **Mud Lake** (FID 648304) to **Lake Cuyuna**, Minnesota (Review List 420)

Vote: 13 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

Change **Mud Lake** (FID 1569961) to **Black Bear Lake**, Wisconsin (Review List 420)

Vote: 14 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Baker Lake** (FID 1561105) to **Bosak Lake**, Wisconsin (Review List 420)

Vote: 14 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Birch Creek, Wisconsin (Review List 420) (FID 2772325)

Vote: 14 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

5. **Other Business** - none

6. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m. The next Domestic Names Committee meeting will be held October 8th, 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
September 2015**

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

Change Mud Lake (FID 632948) to Lake Hope, Michigan
(Review List 419)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=42.8502749&p_longi=-83.603242&fid=632948

This proposal, to change the name of Mud Lake, a 23-acre lake in Holly Township to Lake Hope, is the first of two submitted by the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Rose Hill Center, a psychiatric residential rehabilitation center. The lake is located on the Center's property. According to the proponent, the facility and staff "provide residents with the HOPE of recovery to the point where they can reach their highest level of independence and return to their communities." Although the name Mud Lake has appeared on USGS topographic maps since 1920, the staff began referring to the lake as Lake Hope in 1992, the date of the Center's opening.

The proposal included letters of support from the governments of Holly Township and Oakland County, as well as from several surrounding property owners. The Michigan State Names Authority recommends approval of the change. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the following federally recognized tribes: the Forest County Potawatomi Community, the Hannahville Indian Community, and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion.

A query of GNIS found 231 lakes in Michigan named Mud Lake, including nine in Oakland County. The word "Hope" appears in the names of 202 features in the State, including two churches and a cemetery in Oakland County.

Three Sisters Creek, Oregon
(Review List 421)

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=45.4145779&p_longi=-122.715588](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic.getesricoor?p_lat=45.4145779&p_longi=-122.715588)
Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=45.4230555&p_longi=-122.7152777](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic.getesricoor?p_lat=45.4230555&p_longi=-122.7152777)

This 0.8-mile-long tributary of Spring Branch heads in the northwest part of the City of Lake Oswego in Clackamas County. The proposal to make official the name Three Sisters Creek was originally submitted to the Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB) in 1993 but was denied "because field investigation could not substantiate the existence of the feature." The proposal was resubmitted to the OGNB in 2014.

The stream provided water for the Carman farm, which was established in the mid-1850s. Walter Carman had three daughters, Mary (b. 1856), Henrietta (b. 1858), and Helen Adelia (b. 1860). In 1856-57, Walter Carman built a two-storey farmhouse that still stands today and is recognized as one of just 43 existing properties designated as significant to Lake Oswego's history. According to an article in *The Portland Tribune*, the Carman farm was one of the first homes in the region to have running water after an 800-

foot-long lead pipe was laid to the stream, which even then was known as “Three Sisters Stream.” Large portions of the original Carman land claim are now the sites of dozens of housing and commercial developments. The proponent of the name states, “The creek needs a name so people can identify it with the region’s history and habitat. Without a name, it could just be a storm drain.”

An online search indicated that development plans, prepared by the City of Oswego Planning Commission in 2007 and 2010, referred to efforts to restore “Three Sisters Creek.” One of the reports also referred to the stream as “Three Sisters Tributary.”

The Carman Ridge Homeowners Association, the City of Lake Oswego, and the Clackamas County Commissioners all recommend approval of the name Three Sisters Creek, as does the OGNB. The Clackamas County Historical Society has no objection. As part of its research, the OGNB forwarded the proposal to the Oregon State Legislative Commission on Indian Services, which in turn shared it with all tribes with an interest in the area (the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, all of which are federally recognized). No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

GNIS lists nine features in Oregon with the words “Three Sisters” in their names: a building, a canal, a dam, a park, a range, a reserve, and three summits. None are in Clackamas County.

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Changes to four river names, Alaska

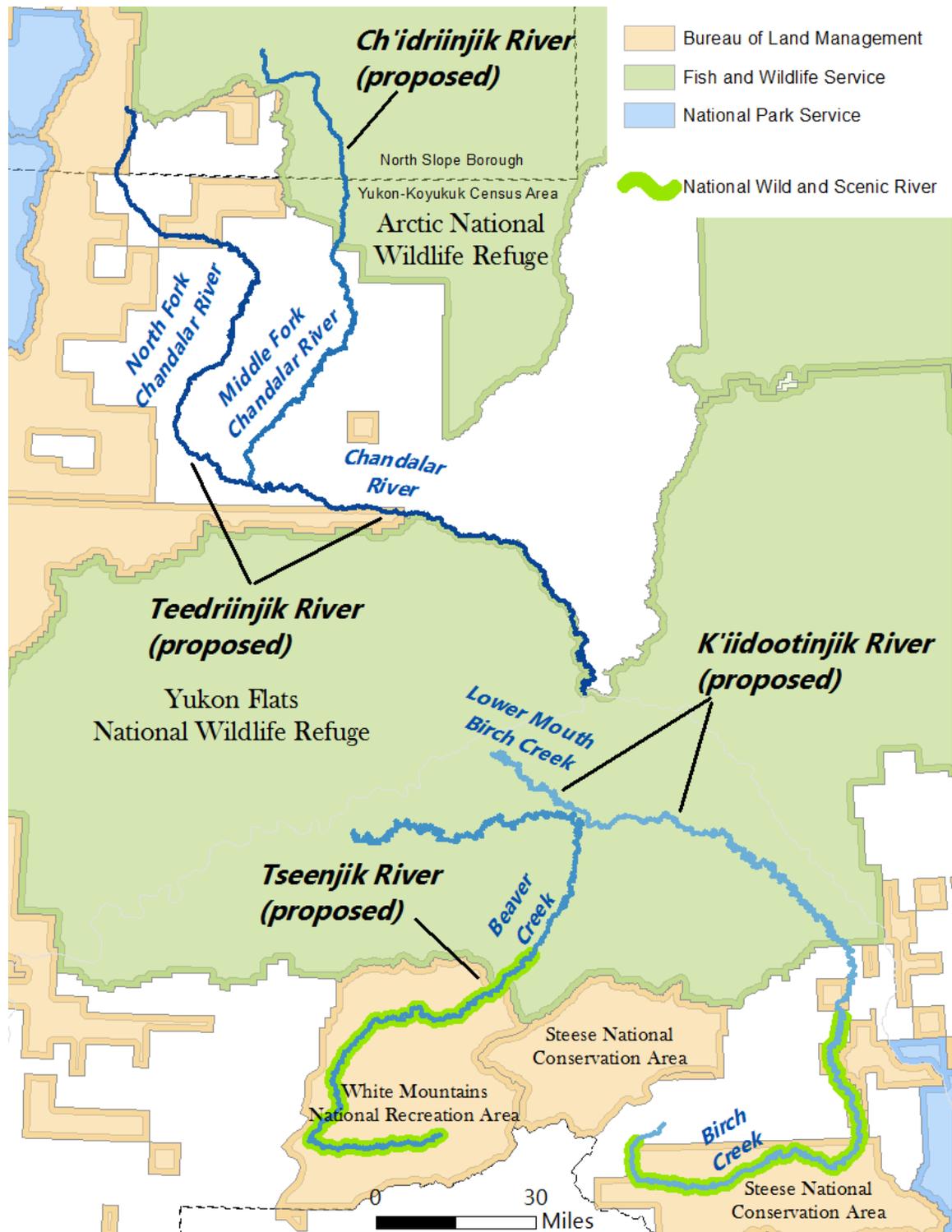
(Review List 417)

The following four proposals were submitted by the Second Chief of the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich’in Tribal Government in an attempt to recognize names that he states have been used for over 1,000 years by the Gwich’in people. He believes that the renaming of these streams and other features with Gwich’in names “will help revitalize Gwich’in culture and language,” and notes that the Lieutenant Governor of Alaska has encouraged proposals with Gwich’in names in an effort to keep the endangered language alive. He notes also that many of the forks of the Chandalar River have Gwich’in names. He believes that renaming these streams will lessen confusion during search and rescue operations.

The Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors, which represents 37 federally recognized tribal governments, passed a resolution supporting the four changes. The resolution states: “The Gwich’in homeland includes the numerous rivers which are referred to on USGS maps by English names, and we would like our local, regional, and Native American usage of our name for the rivers in our area to be consistent and recognized with official maps, as the majority of people who utilize the rivers, and inhabit this area, refer to the rivers by their traditional Gwich’in names.” The resolution referred to ten changes from English to Gwich’in names, as well as one spelling correction; of these, four have been proposed at this time.

The Alaska Board on Geographic Names asked the following Alaska Native groups to comment on the proposals: the Native Village of Venetie, the Village of Venetie, the Native Village of Fort Yukon, the Gwitchyan Zhee Corporation, and Doyon, Limited. The Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments and the Alaska Native Language Center-University of Fairbanks were also asked to comment. No responses

were received by the Alaska Board prior to its decision, which was presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.



The Alaska Board does not recommend approval of any of the proposed changes, noting that it “did not see evidence of broad general support for the proposals from individuals, groups, and communities throughout the eastern Interior Alaska area.”

A decision on these four proposals was deferred by the DNC at its April 2015 meeting, citing a desire by the proponent, who was present at the meeting, to contact the land management agencies regarding their opposition to the changes. There is no indication that any further contact was made. The proponent also responded to the concerns expressed by the Alaska Board regarding the apparent lack of widespread support for the proposals, noting that the Tanana Chiefs Conference represents a significant percentage of the Native population of interior Alaska. He also presented the BGN with an additional letter of support from the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG) Board of Directors.

At the BGN’s June 2015 meeting, it was noted that one of the reasons for the deferral in April was that two of the changes would affect features designated in part as National Wild and Scenic Rivers, a designation that is made by Congress. The land management agencies had expressed concerns that changing the names of the streams, which are advertised globally for recreation and tourism, would result in inconsistency and confusion. Some members voiced the opinion that having different names “adds a layer of complexity and confusion.” It was suggested that further discussion was needed and also that each of the four proposals should have been voted on individually rather than as a group as only two of the proposed changes affected Wild and Scenic Rivers.

The Alaska Board was asked whether the new CATG letter would have any impact on its recommendation; the State responded that it did not and that there was no compelling reason to revisit its decision.

Change **Chandalar River** (FID 1400141) and **North Fork Chandalar River** (FID 1407162)
to **Teedriinjik River**, Alaska
(Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge/Bureau of Land Management)
(Review List 417)

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=66.6080555&p_longi=-146.0069444
Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=68.1830556&p_longi=-149.2686111

This proposal is to rename collectively the Chandalar River and the North Fork Chandalar River to Teedriinjik River. It also would change the source coordinate of the stream currently named Chandalar River to that of the currently named North Fork Chandalar River. The proponent reports that in the Gwich’in language, “Teedriinjik” translates as “Luminous River,” “Shimmering River,” or “Light Amid the Waters River,” and that it is a name that has been used by the Gwich’in people for more than 1,000 years.

The main stream and its northern tributary have been labeled Chandalar River and North Fork Chandalar River, respectively, on U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps since 1952. Other names and spellings have appeared in various Federal publications over the last 125 years, including Achenchik River, Chandler River, Chandler River, and Chandelar River. Names applied to the forks include Gens de Large (*Dictionary of Alaska Place Names*, 1967), Tadrandike River (General Land Office 1898), and Tatreenjik (*Voyages on the Yukon and Its Tributaries*, 1917). *The Dictionary of Alaska* (Orth, 1967) states that Chandalar is “[a] local name derived from the name given to the Kutchin Indians along this stream by the French employees of the Hudson’s Bay Company located at Fort Yukon. The French name was “Gens de

Large” or “nomadic people,” which when written in English from its local pronunciation evolved into its present form. Early USGS field notes spelled the name Chand-da-larg.”

In addition to stating that the proposal did not demonstrate “broad general support,” the State Board noted that the name Chandalar “is well known and widely used and the proposal did not show the same for the proposed names.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not have an opinion regarding the proposal.

Change **Middle Fork Chandalar River** (FID 1406290) to **Ch’idriinjik River**, Alaska
(Arctic National Wildlife Refuge)
(Review List 417)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=67.1725&p_longi=-148.3&fid=1406290

This proposal is to change the name of the Middle Fork Chandalar River to Ch’idriinjik River. In the Gwich’in language, “Ch’idriinjik” means “heart river” and is associated with a nearby mountain that the proponent claims is known locally as Ch’idrii (this name is not listed in the Geographic Names Information System). The stream has been labeled Middle Fork Chandalar River on USGS topographic maps since 1952, and also appeared on a General Land Office map in 1909.

In addition to stating that the proposal did not demonstrate “broad general support,” the State Board noted that the name Chandalar “is well known and widely used and the proposal did not show the same for the proposed names.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not have an opinion regarding the proposal.

Change **Birch Creek** (FID 1399058) and **Lower Mouth Birch Creek** (FID 1405768)
to **K’iidootinjik River**, Alaska
(Steese National Conservation Area (BLM)/
Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge/Birch Creek National Wild & Scenic River)
(Review List 417)

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic.getesricoor?p_lat=66.4452777&p_longi=-146.64

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic.getesricoor?p_lat=65.4386111&p_longi=-145.5266667

This proposal is to rename Birch Creek and Lower Mouth Birch Creek collectively to K’iidootinjik River. It also would amend the mouth coordinates of the stream currently named Birch Creek so that they apply to what is currently the mouth of Lower Mouth Birch Creek. The existing names and applications have appeared on USGS maps and publications since 1906, as well as on recent Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maps. General Land Office, U.S. War Department, and U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey maps published between 1890 and 1909 also labeled Birch Creek. The proponent reports that in the Gwich’in language, “K’iidootinjik” translates as “Birch that is Cached Up High River” or “Birch Cache River.”

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management both recommend disapproval of the change, citing the fact that Birch Creek is designated “Wild and Scenic” under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-542; see specifically, [16 U.S.C. §1274\(a\)\(46\)](#)). The FWS adds, “These streams are recognized both nationally and internationally by people who have used them recreationally.” Furthermore, there was no proposal to change the name of Birch Creek Slough, so if approved, the names would be inconsistent. In addition, “Multiple names [are] listed through different reference documents. It may be challenging to determine the most appropriate traditional name. In general, the proposed name changes could lead to confusion among the public and public land user groups. The Refuge supports, if

possible, that native names be included in parentheses with the current name on new maps or other references.”

GNIS does not list any other features in Alaska with the word “K’iidootinjik” in their names. There are, however, eleven other streams in the State named Birch Creek.

Change Beaver Creek (FID 1398795) to Tseenjik River, Alaska
(White Mountains National Recreation Area (BLM)/
Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge/Beaver Creek National Wild & Scenic River)
(Review List 417)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=66.2386111&p_longi=-147.5327778&fid=1398795

This proposal is to change the name of Beaver Creek to Tseenjik River. In Gwich’in, Tseenjik means “beaver creek” or “beaver river.” The stream has been labeled as Beaver Creek on USGS maps since 1952, on recent Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maps, and on U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, General Land Office, and U.S. War Department maps between 1890 and 1909. The stream was listed as Tseenjik in a volume of Gwich’in Athabaskan Place Names published in 1982. Many streams in Alaska are named Beaver Creek, and so the proposed change would make the name of this stream unique.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management both recommend disapproval of the change, citing the fact that Beaver Creek is designated “Wild and Scenic” under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-542; see specifically, [16 U.S.C. §1274\(a\)\(45\)](#)). The FWS adds, “These streams are recognized both nationally and internationally by people who have used them recreationally.” Furthermore, there was no proposal to change the name of Beaver Creek Slough, so if approved, the names would be inconsistent. In addition, “Multiple names [are] listed through different reference documents. It may be challenging to determine the most appropriate traditional name. In general, the proposed name changes could lead to confusion among the public and public land user groups.”

Mardi Gras Pass, Louisiana
(Review List 418)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic.getesricoor?p_lat=29.5317809&p_longi=-89.724534

The name Mardi Gras Pass is proposed to be made official for a 0.7-mile-long channel that connects the Mississippi River and the Back Levee Canal in Plaquemines Parish. The proposal was submitted by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD), which serves as the State Names Authority, and which reports that the channel began to develop in May 2011, following a significant flood of the Mississippi River. As the floodwaters receded, the new channel cut across the crest of the river’s natural levee, resulting in a connection between two small pre-existing but previously separate conveyance canals.

According to a report published by the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation entitled *Evolution of Mardi Gras Pass within the Bohemia Spillway of the Mississippi Delta in Southeast Louisiana: March 2012 through December 2013*, during a period of high water in 2012, the headward erosion was reinitiated at the channel’s upstream terminus and it finally breached completely to the river in 2012.

Prior to 2014, no navigation or flow existed through the channel, but during the past year the U.S. Coast Guard has determined that it is now a navigable waterway. The proposed name is derived from the day the channel breached through to the Mississippi River, Mardi Gras Day, February 21, 2012. The DOTD has prepared a story map to describe the proposal:

<http://gis.dotd.la.gov/agostorymaps/mardigraspass/index.html>.

The DOTD reports that this is “the first Mississippi River distributary to be formed by natural processes in nearly a century. It is commonly used by locals for navigation between the Mississippi River and the Breton Sound of the Gulf of Mexico, and also discharges fresh water, nutrients, and sediments that provide nourishment to the local marsh. It is viewed as augmenting the coastal wetlands restoration efforts in the Louisiana Coastal Restoration Plan. The channel is also a nexus of fish migration including fresh and saltwater species.” As of early 2013, the channel was estimated to be 24 feet deep and 80 feet wide.

The name Mardi Gras Pass is supported by the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation (LPBF). Other organizations have begun to refer to the feature as Mardi Gras Pass, including the Environmental Defense Fund, the National Wildlife Federation, and the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF). Several news releases published by the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act use the proposed name. The LPBF has made several presentations to local and State organizations in which they refer to Mardi Gras Pass. A position paper prepared for a December 2012 workshop on the response of Louisiana marsh soils and vegetation to diversions (“Final Report to the State of Louisiana and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through the Louisiana Coastal Area Science and Technology Program”), coordinated by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), referred to the feature as Mardi Gras Pass. In February 2013, the LWF issued a “Declaration of Mardi Gras Pass as a Navigable Waterway.”

Louisiana’s 2012 Master Plan for Coastal Restoration and Protection published a list of nineteen ecosystem restoration projects, including the Lower Breton Diversion, which described Mississippi River water and sediment flowing through the control structure, “ideally utilizing [the] existing newly-formed Mardi Gras Pass...” The plan suggested that “it is possible that the distributary channel can serve to divert some of the flow required at a fraction of the cost of constructing a new one.”

However, two local residents have expressed opposition to the name, citing a belief that applying the generic term “Pass” to the feature implies that it is naturally formed. As one stated, “This waterflow was not simply the result of nature but rather was the flow of water through dilapidated canals and structures that had been excavated and constructed pursuant to ACT 54 of the 1969 La. Legislature. If it should be named anything it should be the Bohemia Salination Control Structure Canals as set forth in the statute.” She describes the feature as “an engineered, uncontrolled, unmanaged flow of water that is getting bigger and bigger.” Furthermore, “The future of this waterflow is anything but certain: The landowners want it closed or controlled.” She questions what will be the impacts to the land south of the channel, especially if another significant hurricane passes through the area. There is also some controversy as to whether the road that once crossed over what is now the channel should be repaired, which would involve the installation of new culverts and result in the channel being detoured around the Salination Control Structure. The Executive Director of the Big River Coalition also does not support the name, saying that the channel already has the name of “Bohemia Salinity Control Structure Canal.”

The Louisiana State Names Authority responded to the opposition: “I agree that much of what we call ‘Mardi Gras Pass’ is comprised of man-made efforts. Nevertheless, the development of an unimpeded

flow out of the Mississippi River has occurred in spite of the best efforts of man to control the Mississippi River. The flow pattern and navigation route represents an important new geographic future.”

The Plaquemines Parish Council did not respond directly to requests for an opinion on the new name; the council did pass a resolution opposing efforts to keep the channel open because it is neither a permanent or natural feature. The resolution uses the name “Mardi Gras Pass” repeatedly. NOAA recommends approval of the name, while the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers “currently uses this name in its operations.” The Department of Homeland Security (U.S. Coast Guard) supports the name “as long as use of the name does not mean we have a role in maintaining the waterway.” The Federal Emergency and Management Administration did not provide an opinion, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion. According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in Plaquemines Parish.

According to GNIS, the only other features in Louisiana with the words “Mardi Gras” in their names are three buildings, all of which are museums. None are in Plaquemines Parish.

Change Squaw Creek (FID 777127)
to Kills At Night Creek or Williams Creek, Montana
(Review Lists 415,419)
(Bureau of Land Management)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=47.8547095&p_longi=-108.9529436&fid=777127

Two names have been proposed as replacements for Squaw Creek, a 17-mile-long tributary of Cow Creek in Blaine County and Phillips County. The existing name has appeared on USGS topographic maps since 1954; the reason for the name has not been determined. A proposal to rename Squaw Creek to Kills At Night Creek was submitted by the Montana House Bill 412 “Squaw Name Change” Committee on behalf of the Fort Belknap Community Council, which believes the existing name is offensive. In response to the proposal by the Community Council, owners of property along the stream submitted a counter proposal for Williams Creek. The downstream portion of the stream flows through the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, which is administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The stream flows entirely outside the Fort Belknap Reservation although at one point it passes within feet of the boundary.

The proposed name Kills At Night Creek is intended to honor Theresa Elizabeth (Chandler) White Weasel Walker “Kills At Night” Lamebull (1896-2007), who at the time of her death was the oldest living member of the Gros Ventre Tribe. One online biography states, “Lamebull was a fluent speaker of the Gros Ventre language, spoken by only a handful of other people. She taught the language at Fort Belknap College, and helped develop a dictionary when she was 109.” The Hays Education Resource Center on the Fort Belknap Reservation was named the Kills At Night Center in her honor. She was survived by five children, 32 grandchildren, 78 great-grandchildren, and 62 great-great-grandchildren. This proposal was originally submitted in 2008 but could not be accepted by the BGN at the time because of the required five-year waiting period for commemorative names.

The second proposal, for Williams Creek, is intended to honor Francis Wysoski Williams (1894-1990). Francis was born on her parents’ ranch in the area, and in 1920 she homesteaded on nearby property with her husband Edgar. Francis, in addition to raising her own five children, became the “midwife of the area,” because the nearest doctor was in Malta, 65 miles away. According to the proponents, “she

delivered over 50 infants for mothers in the surrounding areas, never losing a single baby. She would stay with the new mother as needed and provided her service free of monetary charge.”

Both proponents believe the name Squaw Creek is offensive and should be changed. However, the proponents of Williams Creek believe a name that honors an individual with direct association with the stream would be more appropriate.

Letters of support for the Kills At Night Creek proposal were received from four locals, one of whom is Theresa Lamabull’s son. The Williams Creek proposal is supported by a petition signed by 32 local residents. The Blaine County Commissioners support the name Kills At Night Creek, while the Phillips County Commissioners support Williams Creek.

The Montana Geographic Names Advisor recommends approval of the name Kills At Night Creek, stating “Montana law, MCA 2-15-149, requires state agencies to use the name selected by the HB 412 Advisory Committee.” The Bureau of Land Management has no opinion about either proposal.

Both proposals were forwarded to the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation and the Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana, both of which are federally recognized. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation, which is also federally recognized, is the proponent of the original proposal.

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

Helen Gwin Peak, Alaska
(Chugach National Forest)
(Review List 420)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=60.457173&p_longi=-149.914132

This 3,608-foot summit is located in the Chugach National Forest, 3.5 miles southwest of Cooper Landing. The summit is the highest point on a ridge proposed to be named Old Buzzard Ridge (q.v.). The proposed name is intended to honor Helen Oleta Griffin Gwin (1914-2007), who with her husband Patrick settled in 1946 in the sparsely settled area that would later develop into the community of Cooper Landing. They constructed a log lodge and obtained a roadhouse license. Mrs. Gwin was an original signer for the 1949 establishment of the Cooper Landing Community Club, for which she served as vice president. She was an active member of the Cooper Landing Chamber of Commerce, the Cooper Landing and Kenai Peninsula historical societies, and the Cooper Landing Senior Citizens Corporation. She also served on the club’s Cemetery Committee and as treasurer for the Dall Homemakers for many years. She was a member of the Top of the Mountain Club, a founder and volunteer of the Cooper Landing Library, and member of the Issak Walton League. Helen Gwin and her husband are remembered for the holiday dinners they hosted for the entire community.

When asked about the inclusion of the honoree’s given name, the proponent noted that nearby Helen Rhode Mountain (BGN 2000) includes it, and because Helen Rhode, Helen Harris, and Helen Gwin were friends and pioneers in the area.

Support for the name was received from State Senator Gary Stevens, State Representative Paul Seaton, and State Representative Mike Chenault. The name is also supported by the Cooper Landing Chamber of

Commerce & Visitors Bureau, Inc., the Cooper Landing Community Club, Inc.; the Kenai Peninsula Historical Association; the Cooper Landing Historical Society and Museum; the Cooper Landing Senior Citizen Corporation, Inc.; the Cooper Landing School; and two local residents. The Kenai Peninsula Borough did not reply to requests for opinion from the Alaska Board on Geographic Names (AK BGN). The AK BGN recommends approval of the name, while the U.S. Forest Service has no objection. The AK BGN forwarded a copy of the proposal to the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, which is federally recognized. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion.

GNIS includes an entry for Gwins Lodge, which is the lodge that was operated by Helen and Patrick Gwin.

Old Buzzard Ridge, Alaska
(Chugach National Forest)
(Review List 420)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=60.457173&p_longi=-149.914132

This approximately 1.5-mile-long ridge is located in the Chugach National Forest, 3.5 miles southwest of Cooper Landing. The ridge, with an elevation of 3,608 feet, is proposed to be named Old Buzzard Ridge. The name is a nickname for Patrick Gwin (1906-1986), who along with his wife Helen settled in the area in 1949, where they constructed a log lodge and operated a roadhouse. Mrs. Gwin was known to refer to her husband as “the Old Buzzard when she was exasperated with him.” The highest point of the ridge is proposed to be named Helen Gwin Ridge (q.v.).

According to an article in the October 1982 edition of *The Peninsula Clarion*, Patrick Gwin chose to settle in Cooper Landing “because it was the end of the road and it was about the prettiest damn sight he’d ever seen.” He was employed by the Bureau of Public Roads for a while. Gwins Lodge opened for business in 1952 as a “beer joint” with the kitchen being added in 1953. The lodge offered accommodation, beer, and food and is still in operation under different ownership.

Support for the name was received from State Senator Gary Stevens, State Representative Paul Seaton, and State Representative Mike Chenault. The name is also supported by the Cooper Landing Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau, Inc., the Cooper Landing Community Club, Inc.; the Kenai Peninsula Historical Association; the Cooper Landing Historical Society and Museum; the Cooper Landing Senior Citizen Corporation, Inc.; the Cooper Landing School; and two local residents. The Kenai Peninsula Borough did not reply to requests for opinion from the Alaska Board on Geographic Names (AK BGN). The AK BGN recommends approval of the name, while the U.S. Forest Service has no objection. The AK BGN forwarded a copy of the proposal to the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, which is federally recognized. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion.

Klinefelter Creek, Kansas
(Review List 420)

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=39.8336111&p_longi=-95.4761111
Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=39.873&p_longi=-95.47045

This 3.4-mile-long unnamed tributary of Norton Creek in Brown County is proposed to be named Klinefelter Creek. The stream flows along the edge of the Klinefelter Farm, which is now owned by the Highland Community College (HCC). The Klinefelter family owned the 480-acre farm for nearly 130 years until John M. Klinefelter (1916-1994) donated it to the college “to help students at HCC who

choose to pursue a career in farming.” He also stipulated in his will that a portion of the property may be devoted to experimental or other farm purposes. The proponent, who serves as the Klinefelter Farm Projects Manager, “With our many activities here at the farm drawing several thousand visitors each year, it would be practical to have a name for this creek as a reference point for other features of the farm.” HCC hosts numerous events and activities, “which benefit not only the HCC students but also the extended community in northeast Kansas.”

Mr. Klinefelter served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, and was a member of many local civic organizations, including the Hiawatha Cemetery Society, the Elks Lodge, the Brown County Historical Society, the American Legion, and the Masonic Lodge. He continued the family tradition of raising and breeding Aberdeen-Angus cattle on the farm.

The proposal included letters of support from the Hiawatha Township Commission, the administration of Highland Community College, and from two owners of property through which part of the stream flows.

The proponent supplied letters of support from the Wolf River Watershed Joint District No. 66, a neighbor of the property, and a person who grew up in the area. The Hiawatha Township Commissioners and the Brown County Commissioners support the proposal, while the Kansas State Name Authority has no objection.

A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska and the Kickapoo Tribe of Indians of the Kickapoo Reservation in Kansas, both of which are federally recognized. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion.

Change **Gravel Lake** (FID 627244) to **Lake Lahring**, Michigan
(Review List 419)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=42.8428409&p_longi=-83.6074332&fid=627244

This proposal, to change the name of Gravel Lake, a 39-acre lake in Holly Township, to Lake Lahring, is the second of two submitted by the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Rose Hill Center. The name would honor John Henry and Agatha Lahring, who in 1838 settled in Holly Township, where they built a log cabin and established a homestead on the shore of the lake. The Lahring family eventually acquired 160 acres and continued to farm the property for several more generations. The lake is co-owned today by Rose Hill Center and Roy Lahring. According to the proponent, changing the name of the lake from Gravel Lake to Lake Lahring would recognize the family’s long-term service to the community. A nearby road is named Lahring Road.

The proposal included letters of support from the governments of Holly Township and Oakland County, as well as from several surrounding property owners. The Michigan State Names Authority recommends approval of the name.

A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the following federally recognized tribes: the Forest County Potawatomi Community, the Hannahville Indian Community, and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan. No responses were received which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion. A query of GNIS for “Gravel Lake” found five lakes in Michigan with that name.

IV. Revised Decisions - none

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Orchard Path Creek, Ohio

(Review List 420)

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=41.1348799&p_longi=-81.8565388

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=41.1239109&p_longi=-81.8675078

This one-mile long tributary of Champion Creek in the City of Medina is proposed to be named Orchard Path Creek. According to the proponent, the stream flows alongside a street that was once a path to an apple orchard; he feels the proposed name “would convey the significance of the land.”

The Mayor of the City of Medina has no objection to the name. The Medina County Board of Commissioners did not reply to a request for an opinion, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The Ohio State Names Authority recommends approval of the name.

A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the following federally recognized tribes: the Delaware Nation, Oklahoma; the Forest County Potawatomi Community; the Hannahville Indian Community; the Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma; and the Wyandotte Nation. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion.

A query of GNIS found 117 features in Ohio with the word “Orchard” in their names. Two of these are orchards (locales) in Medina County, the closest being 5.5 miles north of the source of the stream in question.

Change **Mud Lake** (FID 648304) to **Lake Cuyuna**, Minnesota

(Review List 420)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=46.5180737&p_longi=-93.9383139&fid=648304

This proposal is to change officially the name of Mud Lake, located at the western edge of the City of Cuyuna in Crow Wing County, to Lake Cuyuna. The lake also lies partially in Wolford Township, Rabbit Lake Township, and Crow Wing State Forest. The replacement name was proposed by the Rabbit, Clinker, Carlson, and Cuyuna (RCCC) Lake Association, which reports that “the name Lake Cuyuna has been in common use by area residents when referring to Mud Lake.”

The name Mud Lake has appeared on USGS topographic maps since 1913, and also appears on maps and in GIS datasets published by Crow Wing County and by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The name has also been used since at least 1980 on maps published by Farm and Home Publishers.

The name Lake Cuyuna came into use when the RCCC Lake Association was formed 30 years ago, although the petition to rename the lake states that the name has been used “for approximately 15 years.” The petition signed by 17 local residents also states that locals call the lake “Lake Cuyuna or Cuyuna Lake.” According to the City of Cuyuna’s Web site, the name Cuyuna comes from a combination of the names of Cuyler Adams (1866-1929) and his Saint Bernard dog, Una. Adams was the first to discover magnetic ore in the area; his wife coined the name.

After holding a public hearing at which no objections were raised, the Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution supporting the change to Lake Cuyuna. The Minnesota State Names Authority also recommends approval.

A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the following federally recognized tribes: the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians of the Bad River Reservation, the Bois Forte Band (Nett Lake) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Fond du Lac Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Grand Portage Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the Leech Lake Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Mille Lacs Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, the Sokaogon Chippewa Community, the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, and the White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

Of these, only the Fond du Lac Band responded, stating that it “does not oppose the name change necessarily, but request[s] that anywhere [the lake is] labeled (i.e. Signage, maps, etc.) the Anishinaabe name Nabane-Manoominaganzhikaans-Zaaga’igan [which means “Lake with the Small Wild Rice Stalks on One Side”] also be used in conjunction or in parenthesis [sic] to acknowledge and honor the history of the lakes.” The lack of response from the other tribes is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

GNIS lists 194 other features in Minnesota that are named Mud Lake, of which 16 are in Crow Wing County. Another lake in the county, formerly named Mud Lake, was renamed to Hole-in-the-Day Lake in 1961. In addition to the community and corresponding incorporated city, GNIS lists nine other features in Crow Wing County with “Cuyuna” in their names. These are all administrative features associated with the city, with the exception of Cuyuna Range.

Change Mud Lake (FID 1569961) to Black Bear Lake, Wisconsin
(Review List 420)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=45.5961458&p_longi=-92.1770829&fid=1569961

This proposal is to change the name of Mud Lake, located in the Town of McKinley in Polk County, to Black Bear Lake. The lake lies entirely on property owned by the proponents. They state that the current name is “not fitting for this beautiful, relatively clear, [and] clean lake.” They propose the name Black Bear Lake because of the “numerous sightings of black bears” near the lake.

The name Mud Lake has appeared on USGS topographic maps since 1951, and is also shown on maps and in GIS datasets published by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. It was also labeled on the 1956 highway map of Polk County. Meanwhile, the name Grouse Lake is shown on many maps published by private mapping companies, such as Farm and Home Publishers and Rockford Map Publishers. However, since 1953 USGS maps have applied the name Grouse Lake to a different lake, located one mile to the southwest of the lake in question.

The Polk County GIS department has recently begun to use the name Black Bear Lake. The Polk County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution in support of the name change. After receiving no response from the Town of McKinley, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion, the Wisconsin Geographic Names Council recommends approval.

A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the following federally recognized tribes: the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians of the Bad River Reservation, the Bois Forte Band (Nett Lake) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota, the Fond du Lac Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Grand Portage Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of the Lac du Flambeau Reservation of Wisconsin, the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the Leech Lake Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota, the Mille Lacs Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Prairie Island Indian Community in the State of Minnesota, the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, the Santee Sioux Nation, the Sokaogon Chippewa Community, the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, the Upper Sioux Community, and the White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

Of these, only the Fond du Lac Band responded, stating that it “does not oppose the name change necessarily, but request[s] that anywhere [the lake is] labeled (i.e. Signage, maps, etc.), the Anishinaabe name Aagasko-Zaaga’jgan [which means “Grouse lake”] also be used in conjunction or in parenthesis [sic] to acknowledge and honor the history of the lakes.” The lack of response from the other tribes is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

According to GNIS, there are ten lakes in Polk County named Mud Lake, one of which is on the same USGS 1:24,000-scale topographic map as the lake in question. GNIS lists a total of 122 features in Wisconsin that are named Mud Lake. One feature in the State includes “Black Bear” in its name: a school over 200 miles to the southeast.

Change **Baker Lake** (FID 1561105) to **Bosak Lake**, Wisconsin
(Review List 420)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=45.6432476&p_longi=-92.3382576&fid=1561105

This proposal is to change the name of Baker Lake, located near Frederic in the Town of Clam Falls in Polk County, to Bosak Lake. Although USGS maps have labeled the lake Baker Lake since 1951, the proponents believe it should be changed to honor William Bosak, Sr. (1905-1996), who acquired land surrounding the lake in 1949. The land is now owned by his son (the proponent) and daughter.

The first occurrence of the name Baker Lake on non-Federal maps was on a Wisconsin Highway Commission map from 1956. Polk County atlases published by private mapping companies between 1887 and 1930 did not show the lake but did label the landowner as “J. S. Baker.”

According to the proponents, the lake was the “pet project” of Bosak, Sr., on which he spent “a considerable amount of money and effort in its improvement,” including planting many trees and diverting water to keep the lake level constant. They claim the previous landowner “only dropped trees into the lake which we were forced to pull out and [he] never made any improvements.”

In 1985, Bosak, Sr. attempted to have the name of the lake changed from Baker Lake to Bosak Lake. He employed a lawyer who contacted Rockford Map Publishers, Inc. to ask why the name “had been changed to Baker Lake”; it is unclear if earlier maps from this publisher had labeled the lake Bosak Lake. Rockford did proceed to change its maps to Bosak’s Lake [sic] in 1996, but reverted back to Baker Lake with the 2000 edition.

Bosak, Sr.'s lawyer also contacted the Wisconsin Geographic Names Council (WGNC) in 1985. In response, the WGNC wrote that county plat maps had apparently applied the name Bosaks Lake [sic] since 1966, but that Federal and State maps continued to label it Baker Lake. The proponent was advised that the WGNC would usually favor the earlier name but that the existence of another Baker Lake in the same town might influence its decision (J.S. Baker owned property on both lakes, which are six miles apart). He was told also that "an alternative lake name which avoided the use of surnames altogether would make the most appealing request. Descriptive names are less vulnerable to change than surnames when property changes hands in the future." Bosak, Sr. did submit an official application to the WGNC, but it appears it was misplaced and never processed (it was mentioned briefly in the WGNC's meeting minutes). No proposal was submitted to the BGN.

With this new proposal, the proponents would like to "fulfill [our] father's wishes and have the lake name stay 'Bosak Lake' permanently for the work and money he put into it."

The proponents note that in his earlier proposal to the WGNC, their father also requested that the stream that flows through the lake be renamed from Somers Creek to Bosak Creek. The existing name has been labeled on USGS maps since 1953. The aforementioned 1996 Rockford plat map labeled the stream Bosak Creek but in 2000 reverted to Somers Creek. The WGNC apparently never received nor considered a proposal to rename the stream.

The proposed change from Baker Lake to Bosak Lake has the support of the Polk County Board of Supervisors, while the Clam Falls Town Board "declined to take any action on the issue." The Wisconsin Geographic Names Council recommends approval of the change to Bosak Lake.

A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the following federally recognized tribes: the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians of the Bad River Reservation, the Bois Forte Band (Nett Lake) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota, the Fond du Lac Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Grand Portage Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of the Lac du Flambeau Reservation of Wisconsin, the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the Leech Lake Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota, the Mille Lacs Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Prairie Island Indian Community in the State of Minnesota, the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, the Santee Sioux Nation, the Sokaogon Chippewa Community, the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, the Upper Sioux Community, and the White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

Of these, only the Fond du Lac Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe responded, stating that they have no objection to the name change. The lack of response from the other tribes is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

Birch Creek, Wisconsin

(Review List 420)

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=46.622838&p_longi=-92.030648Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=46.586676&p_longi=-91.943551

The new name Birch Creek is proposed for an approximately six-mile-long stream south of Superior in Douglas County. According to the proponent, who owns land along the stream, the name is appropriate because “the creek is currently unnamed and is an area of abundant birch trees.” In addition, he points out that two nearby stream names also begin with “b”: Bear Creek and Bluff Creek, and so the proposed name “would follow the naming pattern.”

The Parkland Town Board passed a resolution in support of the proposal. After receiving no response from Douglas County, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion, the Wisconsin Geographic Names Council also recommends approval.

A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the following federally recognized tribes: the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians of the Bad River Reservation, the Bois Forte Band (Nett Lake) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Fond du Lac Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Grand Portage Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of the Lac du Flambeau Reservation of Wisconsin, the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the Leech Lake Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Mille Lacs Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, the Sokaogon Chippewa Community, the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, and the White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

Of these, only the Fond du Lac Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe responded, stating that they have no objection to the name. The lack of response from the other tribes is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

GNIS lists many features in Wisconsin with “Birch” in their names; however, only one is a stream. It is located approximately 100 miles to the south-southeast.