

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

Seven Hundred and Eighty-sixth Meeting
Library of Congress, Madison Building
Geography and Map Division, Room LM-B02
September 8, 2016 – 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)
Brenda-Anne C. Forrest	Government Publishing Office
Ralph Ehrenberg	Library of Congress
Tony Gilbert	Government Publishing Office
Bruce Johnson	Library of Congress
Curt Loy	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Elizabeth Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service) (Chair) (not voting)
Jacque Nolan	Library of Congress
Ron Salz	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service) (by teleconference)
Michael Tischler	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Douglas Vandegraft	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management) (by teleconference)
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)
Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey

Guests

Daniel Brandt, Bundeswehr Geoinformation Service
Ole Fraehmke, Bundeswehr Geoinformation Service
Jackie Hunke, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Alex Tait, National Geographic
Juliana Wilhoit, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Scott Zillmer, National Geographic

1. Opening

Chair Kanalley opened the meeting at 9:47 a.m. and thanked the Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division for hosting the meeting. She asked the members, staff, and guests to introduce themselves.

2. Minutes of the 785th Meeting

The minutes of the 785th DNC meeting, held August 11th, were approved as submitted.

3. Reports

3.1 BGN Chairman (Gilbert)

The BGN's Executive Committee met on August 25th. Leo Dillon, committee chair, will provide a report at the next full Board meeting.

On behalf of the BGN, Gilbert expressed appreciation to Ehrenberg for his dedication to the BGN, most notably his contributions to both the 100th and 125th anniversary celebrations, as well as his involvement in the BGN's pronunciation subcommittee and the development of a field manual. He then presented Ehrenberg with a plaque, noting his contributions to the field of Geographic Names and his chairmanship of the BGN from 1989 to 1991.

Ehrenberg then thanked the attendees, noting that he has enjoyed his time on the BGN and is glad that he can leave the Library of Congress membership in good hands.

A photographer was available at 11 a.m. to take a group photograph.

3.2 BGN Executive Secretary (Yost)

Appointment letters for the 2015-17 term have now been received by Members/Deputy Members from the Government Publishing Office and the Department of Commerce.

The next full Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 18th at 1:30 p.m. at the Department of the Interior, Kiowa Room.

The BGN will be holding its 31st meeting with the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names for British Official Use from October 31st to November 4th at the Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division. Dillon will be coordinating the event and has previously distributed a draft agenda. All members, staff, and guests are invited to attend.

3.3 Special Committee on Communication (SCC) (Holeva)

In Holeva's absence, Caldwell provided the SCC report. The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency has developed a prototype of the BGN website for posting the video of the 125th Anniversary event. A few minor corrections are needed, but the link should be made available soon.

The preparation of the DNC Diary for the 1990-2015 era is progressing well. The documents are now undergoing fact-checking and reconciliation of dates, after which the review committee will hold one more meeting, and then the document will be sent to GPO for its editorial review.

The Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2016 is being prepared, and as soon as the content is finalized, it will be distributed.

Minor edits are being made to the BGN's factsheets and trifolds.

Caldwell discussed the possibility of a field trip to the National Archives to review the BGN's materials. The Archives staff has indicated they do not offer tours, but they did provide an inventory of their holdings.

The SCC will meet in the morning prior to the full Board meeting, with specific details to be finalized.

3.4 Executive Secretary (Yost)

Yost noted that today's docket is particularly short, primarily because a number of State Names Authorities that met over the summer have not yet provided their meeting minutes.

Following the DNC's approval last month of the proposal to change the name of Harney Peak in South Dakota to Black Elk Peak, the BGN Secretariat fielded a number of media inquiries. The publication of a press release by the USGS was very helpful. The Secretariat was also contacted by the Congressional Research Service with questions regarding the BGN, its bylaws, and procedures.

Kanalley added that the U.S. Forest Service has received emails regarding an effort to change the name of Custer National Forest in Montana. This led to some discussion within the agency as to how such features are named and who has the authority to rename them. Kanalley stated that if a forest name is proclaimed by Congress, only Congress can change it; however, any unit established under the Weeks Act of 1911 can be renamed by the Forest Service Chief.

Yost was informed that a "thank you ceremony" will be conducted by the Black Elk Peak proponent Basil Brave Heart this Saturday, September 10th.

On September 9th, the BGN and GNIS staff will participate in a teleconference by the USGS National Geospatial Technical Operations Center (NGTOC) on the updated database schema that will identify "legacy data" in GNIS; specifically, those records in GNIS that are no longer being maintained in accordance with the USGS National Geospatial Program Policy Directive signed in 2014. Yost reminded the DNC that several months ago, it was agreed that a short-term solution would be to add explanatory wording to the GNIS metadata, with the intention that eventually, individual records would be identified. An initial review of the data suggests that 80-85% of the entries can likely be identified by an analysis of name or feature class, but the remaining 15-20% will be challenging and time-consuming because each record must be individually scrutinized.

Yost reminded the members that input could still be submitted to Forrest on the proposals from Grant County to change the recently approved names Wíwaanaytt Creek and Wíwaanaytt Meadow to Sullens Creek and Sullens Meadow.

The USGS is also preparing responses to Grant County, Malheur County, and Baker County regarding their concerns that the BGN did not comply with its principles, policies, and procedures in considering and approving the "Squaw" name changes.

The Secretariat has been contacted by two reporters regarding the status of efforts to change the name of Devils Tower. There is nothing new to report, since there is legislation to retain the name pending before Congress.

3.5 Staff (Runyon)

The DNC staff continues to receive and process a number of new proposals. Quarterly Review List 425 should be ready for release in the next couple of weeks. Runyon noted that there seems to be an increase in the number of commemorative name proposals in which the first name and sometimes middle initial are included along with the surname. In most instances, the staff is informing the proponent that the proposal will be processed with simply the surname unless there is a compelling reason that warrants an exception.

3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (McCormick)

As a result of the decision last month to change the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak, the USGS will be updating and reissuing the Custer 7.5-minute topographic map.

The landforms polygon tool continues to perform intermittently. Alaska is proving to be a challenge, given the limitations of good imagery over the State. In addition, a number of existing GNIS entries for valleys in Alaska had only a single point, so secondary points are being compiled.

GNIS data will soon be made available in a geodatabase format. If needed, the staff is willing to conduct a question-and-answer session for any interested users.

In addition to the aforementioned discussions of “legacy data” in GNIS, the USGS NGTOC is reviewing data systems to determine which should also be considered “legacy.” GNIS has been identified as a legacy system; however, until a new fully-functional system has been designed, tested, and fully implemented, the existing system cannot be eliminated.

A representative of the National Park Service recently requested a copy of all material related to the name Mount Rainier. There are currently over 1,000 individual files attached as PDFs to the GNIS entry; however, because of display limitations, only the first 500 attachments are viewable. The BGN staff was able to locate the complete files and provide them to the NPS. This is an issue that needs further evaluation.

McCormick reported that the Colorado Board on Geographic Names (CBGN) continues to be in limbo, following the retirement in June of its last State employee (the remaining members are either Federal employees or State agency retirees, or from the academic community). The State Archives, which formerly provided support to the CBGN, has declined to do so in the future. It was suggested that it may be necessary to send active and future proposals to the Governor, in the hope that this will prompt his office to recognize the need for a State Names Authority. Tischler also offered to pursue the issue within the State geospatial community.

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 - none

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Change **Bog Pond** (FID 871552) to **Rowbartwood Pond**, New Hampshire (White Mountain National Forest) (Review List 420)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this name change, citing a lack of local support and a reluctance to change a longstanding name.

Vote: 9 in favor
 1 against
 1 abstention

The negative vote was cast in support of the New Hampshire State Names Committee, which recommended approval of the change.

III. New Commemorative Names and Changes agreed to by all interested parties - none

IV. Revised Decisions - none

V. New Names Agreed to by all interested parties

Mount Mesara and **Mesara Spring**, Arkansas (Review List 424) (FIDs 2785167, 2785168)

A motion was made and seconded to vote on these two names together.

Vote: 11 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

One member joined the meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the names.

Vote: 12 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Red Rut Creek, Kansas (Review List 424) (FID 2785169)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 12 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

5. Other Business

Caldwell expressed interest in future discussions of the geodatabase. He noted also that it would be very useful if the existing download files could also include BGN decision dates, along with a separate downloadable file listing just decisions. McCormick agreed this would be valuable and could be done.

Ehrenberg distributed an informational flyer on a special event to be held at the Library of Congress. On October 6-7, the Geography and Map Division will host a Cartography Conference celebrating Waldseemüller's 1516 Carta Marina, with a focus on "Mysterious Maps." All are invited to attend.

Salz informed the committee that the Washington Map Society will be holding its next meeting on the evening of September 8th. The topic of the presentation is the mapping of the Underground Railroad.

6. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m. The members and staff assembled in the lobby of the Geography and Map Division for a group photograph. Ehrenberg and several library staff members then conducted a tour of the globes and maps in the Geography and Map Division's "vault" and its collection of Mesoamerican artifacts.

The next Domestic Names Committee meeting will be held October 13th, 2016, at 9:30 a.m. at the Department of the Interior, Kiowa Room.

(signed) Louis A. Yost

Louis A. Yost, Executive Secretary

APPROVED
(signed) Betsy Kanalley

Betsy Kanalley, Chair
Domestic Names Committee

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
DOCKET
September 2016**

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

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Change **Bog Pond** (FID 871552) to **Rowbartwood Pond**, New Hampshire
(White Mountain National Forest)
(Review List 420)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=43.8129844&p_longi=-71.7105058&fid=871552

This feature, located in the Town of Campton and the Town of Rumney, was originally a natural lake named Bog Pond; the name has been labeled on U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps since 1931. In 1923, the lake was impounded by the construction of Campton Bog Pond Dam. An inventory of dams and reservoirs compiled in 1981 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recorded the name of the body of water as Campton Bog Pond; that name is listed in GNIS as a variant. The current version of the USACE Inventory of Dams notes that the dam is managed by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and that Rowbartwood Dam is an alternate name.

The body of water lies within the Rowbartwood Marsh Wildlife Management Area, and drains into Bog Brook. It also lies within the proclaimed boundary of White Mountain National Forest, but outside its administrative boundary.

According to the proponent, who serves as Fisheries Program Supervisor for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, the name Rowbartwood Pond has been used for more than 25 years and refers to three individuals who once owned land around the feature: Mr. Rowe, Mr. Bartlett, and Mr. Woodman. As early as 1906, the lake was referred to as Rowbartwood Lake in a New Hampshire Fish and Game Commission report. In 1927, the Laws of the State of New Hampshire established “An Act Designating Rowbartwood Lake in the Town of Campton.” In 1998, a report on biking in the White Mountains instructed riders to “park near Rowbartwood Pond.”

No information concerning the individuals has been located, although citing the 1906 reference it is presumed they have all been deceased at least five years. A search of online genealogical records shows that there were families named Rowe, Bartlett, and Woodman all residing in the area in the late 19th and 20th centuries; most were listed as farmers.

Neither the Town of Campton Board of Selectmen nor the Town of Rumney Board of Selectmen support the proposed change from Bog Pond to Rowbartwood Pond, stating that local residents use the name Bog Pond. The Grafton County Board of Commissioners and the Campton Historical Society did not respond to requests for comment, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion.

The U.S. Forest Service also does not support the change, stating that the feature has long been known as Bog Pond and noting, “People in the area would continue referring to the site as ‘Bog Pond’ and as a result, [the change] could cause confusion for visitors who use the new name.”

However, the New Hampshire Board on Geographic Names recommends approval of the change, stating, “It has an historical connection to the property and there are enough Bog Ponds [in New Hampshire] already.” The NHBGN has been made aware of the local opposition. GNIS lists eight lakes or reservoirs in the State with “Bog Pond” in their names, of which four are Bog Pond.

According to NAGPRA, there are no federally recognized Tribes with an interest in Grafton County.

III. New Commemorative Names and Changes agreed to by all interested parties - none

IV. Revised Decisions - none

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Mount Mesara, Arkansas

(Review List 424)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=36.355247&p_longi=-91.591581

This 603-foot summit, proposed to be named officially Mount Mesara, is located in the Ozark Mountains on property owned by the Chickasaw Council of the Boy Scouts of America. It is part of the Kia Kima Scout Reservation. The online history of the reservation states, “The Mountain was originally called ‘Six Acres’ as it was the 6 acres that camp did not own.”

The proponent, who serves as the Program Director for the Kia Kima Reservation, reports that shortly after nearby property was purchased by the Boy Scouts in the late 1960s, the name “Mesara” came into local use because the area was known as “the Mesara Tract.” An online history states, “Over the years the Reservation has expanded including the purchase of Mount Mesara and Mesara Spring in the fall of 1983.” No information on the origin of the word “Mesara” has been found, although a search of genealogical records shows a number of families with that surname in neighboring Oregon County, Missouri, in the 1930s and 1940s. The proponent is not aware of any individuals with that name in Fulton County.

The Fulton County Judge supports the proposal, while the Arkansas State Names Authority has no objection. According to NAGPRA, there are no federally recognized Tribes with an interest in Fulton County.

A query of GNIS found no other features in Arkansas with the word “Mesara” in their names.

Mesara Spring, Arkansas

(Review List 424)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=36.356076&p_longi=-91.589525

This proposal is to make official the name Mesara Spring for a natural spring located in the Ozark Mountains on property owned by the Boy Scouts of America/Chickasaw Council. The spring is located on the northeast slope of an unnamed summit that is proposed to be named Mount Mesara (q.v.).

The Fulton County Judge supports the proposal, while the Arkansas State Names Authority has no objection. According to NAGPRA, there are no federally recognized Tribes with an interest in Fulton County.

Red Rut Creek, Kansas
(Review List 424)

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=37.636667&p_longi=-98.060833

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=37.6675&p_longi=-98.070556

The new name Red Rut Creek is proposed for an unnamed tributary of the South Fork Ninnescah River in Kingman County. The proponent has lived along the stream for 22 years and reports that locals use the nickname “red rut road” for the road to his property. Many red dirt roads in the area become muddy and deeply rutted after rainstorms. The proponent also states that he and locals sometimes informally refer to his property as the “red rut ranch” but this is not an official name of the property. The proponent and his family initially considered the name “Bluff Creek” after the name of the road on which they live, but felt that Red Rut Creek was more descriptive of the stream and agreed with colloquial local usage of its name.

According to the proponent, residents to the north along the stream have no objection to the name.

Elected officials of White Township, Ninnescah Township, and Kingman County all responded in support of the proposal. The Kansas State Names Authority also recommends approval. According to NAGPRA, there are no federally recognized Tribes with an interest in Kingman County.

According to GNIS, no features in Kansas contain “Red Rut” in their names. Red Creek has its source 9.4 miles to the southwest in Kingman County. Red Rock Creek lies 16 miles to the northeast in Reno County. No features contain “Rut” in their names.