

U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
Seven Hundred and Thirty-fourth Meeting
Council of Geographic Names Authority Annual Conference
Ala Moana Hotel, Honolulu, Hawaii
 October 27, 2011

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance (and by teleconference)

Eric Alvarez	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)
Douglas Caldwell	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Jon Campbell	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey) – teleconference
Chick Fagan	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
Michael Fournier	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census) – teleconference
Tony Gilbert	Government Printing Office – teleconference
Bruce Johnson	Library of Congress – teleconference
Elizabeth Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
William Logan	Department of Homeland Security (U.S. Coast Guard) (Chairman)
Curtis Loy	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Douglas Vandegraft	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management)
Meredith Westington	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)

Ex-Officio

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

Staff

John Fenniman, U.S. Geological Survey ((Denver) – teleconference
 Renee Hughes, U.S. Geological Survey ((Denver)
 Maria McCormick, U.S. Geological Survey (Denver)
 Jane Messenger, U.S. Geological Survey (Rolla)
 Roger Payne, U.S. Geological Survey & Secretary, Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names
 Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey (Reston) – teleconference
 Gregory Winters, U.S. Geological Survey (Reston) – teleconference

1. OPENING

1.1 Opening remarks by Chairman, Domestic Names Committee (Logan)

The meeting opened at 7:30 a.m. (the early start was to accommodate those participating by teleconference from the eastern time zone). Chairman Logan thanked the Hawaii Board on Geographic Names and the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (COGNA) for inviting the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to hold its monthly meeting at COGNA's annual conference.

Following the meeting, there will be an opportunity for interactive dialog between the committee members and the conference attendees regarding the DNC's decisions, or any other relevant questions or topics.

1.2 Introduction of committee members and staff

The Chairman then invited each committee member and the staff to introduce themselves. He also acknowledged a committee member and staff member of the Foreign Names Committee present at the conference.

The Chairman announced that he would be voting on all matters and actions before the committee including the docket.

1.3 Comments by Chairman, U.S. Board on Geographic Names (Logan)

The Chairman indicated that he had no report.

1.4 Minutes of the 733rd Meeting

The Minutes of the 733rd meeting of the Domestic Names Committee, held September 8, 2011, were approved as presented.

2. REPORTS

2.1 BGN Executive Secretary (Yost)

Yost announced the results of the recent election of officers of the BGN, which were William Logan (Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Coast Guard) as Chairman, and Douglas Caldwell (Department of Defense, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) as Vice Chairman.

Heather Ross, Executive Secretary of the Geographical Names Board of Canada (GNBC) has sent her regrets at not being able to attend the COGNA conference. It was also announced that Jocelyne Revie (former Executive Secretary of the GNBC) recently retired.

The annual geographical names course offered by the Pan American Institute of Geography & History (after a two-year break because of scheduling problems) will be offered in February 2012 in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The course is in the process of being made available online although the initial version will be only the outline without the accompanying detailed lectures, which will follow at some later date.

The next United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) Conference will be held for nine days beginning July 31, 2012 at United Nations Headquarters in New York City.

An article is being submitted to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence's newsletter regarding the joint effort between the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency to develop a Web Feature Services-Gazetteer (WFS-G) protocol. Specifically, the WFS-G will provide a common interface or "front end" for the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS - domestic names) and the GEOnet Names Server (GNS - foreign names).

2.2 DNC Executive Secretary (Yost)

Yost reiterated the committee's appreciation to the Hawaii Board on Geographic Names and COGNA for inviting the DNC to meet during the COGNA conference.

The Geographic Names Office at the U.S. Geological Survey has been awarded the Department of the Interior's Diversity Award for reaching out to and responding to diverse peoples, particularly indigenous Americans. The award was accepted by Winters and Fenniman on behalf of the office.

2.3 Special Committee on Communications (Westington)

Westington noted that the conference packet includes two trifold brochures, one stating the BGN's mission and functions, and the other describing how and where to obtain information and the resources available from the BGN. The packet also includes two factsheets, one describing the geographic names layer of The National Map, and the other from the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration on the recent project to scan and make available online NOAA's historical chart collection.

2.4 DNC Staff, Overview of Review Lists, and Monthly Dockets (Messenger)

Review List 408, comprising 34 new name proposals, was released on October 26th.

The proposal to name a feature Castle Cliffs in Montana (Review List 407) has been withdrawn by the proponent, citing considerable opposition and the discovery that the feature may already have a locally-used name. Two counter-proposals, for Bad Medicine (no generic term) and Bad Medicine Spires have been received and are included on Review List 408.

The U.S. Geological Survey geospatial liaison for Vermont recently made a presentation regarding the BGN and GNIS to the Vermont Department of Libraries, which serves as the State Names Authority for Vermont. The DNC staff provided some background material for the presentation.

In 2009, the DNC rejected two proposals to change the names of Coon Creek and Coon Lake in Washington. The proponent of one of the changes, to rename the features to Howard Creek and Howard Lake, recently inquired about the possibility of the DNC revisiting its decision. He claims that because the changes were approved by the Washington Board on Geographic Names, they now appear on State maps (or signs). Because the features are in the North Cascades National Park, the staff suggested the proponent contact the National Park Service.

There has been activity and responses from local jurisdictions in favor and against naming a barrier island along the east coast of Florida, Ponce de Leon Island. No proposal has been received, but an inquiry regarding the nature of making such a proposal has been received. There is now a proposal to name this island Ais Island, on Review List 408. Ais is the name of the indigenous peoples who inhabited the island prior to European settlement.

The Louisiana Board on Geographic Names has initiated efforts to work with the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL) on a mapping project to document the State's French place names. The State Board is supportive of efforts to have the French names and their histories incorporated into GNIS.

The DNC and GNIS staff are working with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, which serves as the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) steward, on an effort to add previously-unrecorded lake names to GNIS; the names are listed in County Water Atlases but not in GNIS.

The DNC staff continues to address and resolve the issue of duplicate and redundant names for dams and reservoirs in GNIS. GNIS includes many duplicate entries as a result of names being collected during Phase I from USGS topographic maps, while also ingesting a national file provided in the 1980s by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. As each discrepancy is uncovered, research is being conducted to determine the official name. Other names are retained in the GNIS entry as variants. As a reminder, proposals to name unnamed reservoirs or to change existing names must still be submitted to the BGN for consideration.

There was recently media and Texas legislature interest and inquiries regarding placenames in Texas containing the term "Negro" as well as the pejorative form of Negro. The pejorative form was changed universally in 1963 and on all Federal maps and publications as soon as possible upon reprint. The inquiry resulted from the reported use of the pejorative form of "Negrohead" on a rock at a hunting camp leased by the family of presidential candidate Rick Perry.

2.5 Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), Data Compilation Program, and Web Services (McCormick)

It was reported that 8,064 new entries have been added to GNIS since the last COGNA conference. In addition, there were 21,202 edits, and 6,004 variant names added. There were 1,791 inquiries received, analyzed, and answered through the GNIS website resulting in an additional 598 entries added to GNIS and 1,051 edits. Also, there were nine new entries added for the Antarctica component of GNIS, with an additional 20 edits.

There are active contracts for data enhancement in the States of Iowa, Illinois, Maine, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, and West Virginia. The Phase II data compilation contract for Alaska has been extended through April 2012.

Also, the USGS staff is involved with merging GNIS data and Vector data (both data themes in *The National Map*) using a coordinate location and name match. If the matching criteria are not achieved, a manual check will be made. The same effort for comparing GNIS data and Structure data (both themes of *The National Map*) continues. Additionally, the GNIS and NHD comparison of some categories of waterbodies has been completed, and now the same will be accomplished for streams, although the process needs further development before being started.

3. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS (Arranged in Advance)

There were no public presentations.

4. GEOGRAPHIC NAMES CASES (Messenger)

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.

4.1 Staff-Processed new names, and names and application changes agree to by all interested parties

Change **Squaw Peak** (FID 235319) to **Wünüpü Peak**, California (Review List 404)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 11 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

One of the teleconference members was temporarily unavailable.

Change **Negro Island** (FID 287575) to **Horseshoe Island**, Florida (Review List 390)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the change, citing the lack of local support and a belief that the existing name is not offensive.

Vote: 6 in favor
5 against
1 abstention

One of the teleconference participants left the meeting.

Change **Charlie Smith Reservoir** (FID (1133922) to **Pronghorn Reservoir**, Oregon (Review List 406)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 8 in favor
3 against
0 abstentions

The negative votes were cast in the belief that there was no compelling need to change a longstanding name.

4.2 Disagreement on Docketed Names

Reds Creek, Alaska (Review List 400)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this name, citing the negative recommendation of the State Names Authority and an apparent lack of association between the intended honoree and the feature.

Vote: 11 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change Black Mountain (FID 255362) to Alexander Mountain, California (Review List 401)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name change, citing the negative recommendation of the State Names Authority, as well as widespread local opposition and a reluctance to change a longstanding name.

Vote: 11 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

A motion was made and seconded to make the name Black Mountain a 2011 BGN decision.

Vote: 11 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change Squaw Creek (FID 1689990) to Two Moons Creek or Little Wolf Creek, Montana (Review Lists 401, 404)

A motion was made and seconded to approve Two Moons Creek, citing the recommendation of the State Names Authority which supported the proposal submitted by the Montana HB 412 “Squaw Name Change” Committee.

Vote: 8 in favor
3 against
0 abstentions

The negative votes were cast in the belief that the landowner’s support for Little Wolf Creek warranted approval of that name.

Yenne Peak, Montana (Glacier National Park) (Review List 405)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this name, citing the negative recommendations of the State Names Authority and the National Park Service, and in the belief that the proposal did not warrant an exception to the Wilderness Names Policy.

Vote: 11 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

A teleconference committee member left the meeting.

4.3 New Commemorative Names and Changes agreed to by all interested parties

Findley Butte, Harsin Butte, Méexsem Hépey Butte, Oregon (Review Lists 399, 407) (FIDs 2707579, 2707580, 2707581)

A motion was made and seconded to consider these three names as a group as they refer to related features.

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

A motion was made and seconded to approve the three names.

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

The remaining two teleconference committee members left the meeting.

Leschi Slough, Washington (Review List 404) (FID 2707582)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 8 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

4.4. Revised Decisions

Change **Negro Point** (FID 971929) (BGN 1982) to **Scylla Point**, New York (Review List 378)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the change, citing a reluctance to change a name in longstanding use and in the belief that changing it would create a navigation hazard. The committee also cited a lack of evidence that the name is offensive.

Vote: 8 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

4.5 New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Blue Heron Island, Minnesota (Review List 407) (FID 2707559)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 8 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

5. OTHER BUSINESS

The chair announced that at the November meeting, the new chair and vice chair will begin their two-year terms. There also will be no docket, to allow time to review the proposed edits to Policies VIII and IX. The Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Consultation hopes to have Policy X ready to present to the DNC at its December meeting.

6. CLOSING

6.1 Closing remarks by committee members

The committee once again thanked the Hawaii Board on Geographic Names and COGNA for inviting the DNC to hold its monthly meeting during the conference. The Chairman further indicated the importance of allowing the Board's processes to be viewed publicly.

The next Domestic Names Committee meeting will be held November 10th, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. at the Main Interior Building, Washington, D.C. in Room 7000B.

(signed) Louis A. Yost

Louis A. Yost, Executive Secretary

APPROVED

(signed) William G. Logan

William G. Logan, Chairman
Domestic Names Committee

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
DOCKET
October 2011**

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

Change Squaw Peak (FID 235319) to Wünüpü Peak, California
(Inyo National Forest/Inyo Mountains Wilderness)
(Review List 404)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=37.05295&p_longi=-118.017361&fid=235319

This proposal is to change the name of Squaw Peak, a 10,341 foot summit located in the Inyo National Forest/Inyo Mountains Wilderness/Whippoorwill Flat Research Natural Area, to Wünüpü Peak. The summit lies 4.1 miles southeast of Andrews Mountain in north-central Inyo County. The proposed change was submitted by the Big Pine Paiute Tribe in response to a previous proposal, which was to change the name to Clem Nelson Peak (Review List 402). As a result of the Big Pine Paiute Tribe's counter-proposal, the proposal for Clem Nelson Peak was withdrawn. A new proposal has just been received to apply the latter name to another summit, 25 miles away.

The proponent of the original proposal submitted a name change because he believes the name Squaw Peak is offensive. The name Clem Nelson Peak was intended to honor Clemens "Clem" Avid Nelson (1918-2004), professor emeritus of geology at UCLA, paleontologist, stratigrapher, and author of geologic maps. As part of its research, the BGN staff contacted the Big Pine Paiute Tribe for an opinion. The Heritage Resources/Tribal Relations Program Manager of the Inyo National Forest and the Forest Service Regional Geographic Names Coordinator also met with representatives of the Big Pine Paiute Tribe as well as the Bishop Paiute Tribe (Paiute-Shoshone Indians of the Bishop Community) to discuss the issue and to explain the Federal naming process. The Big Pine Tribe suggested the name Wünüpü Peak would be more appropriate because the summit is located within its area of historical and cultural interest; according to the Ntiiimti Yadoha Language Program, "wünüpü" means "tall pine" or "pine nut tree area" in the Paiute language. The Bishop Paiute Tribe indicated they might also have a name for the feature but did not submit a proposal and agreed to support Wünüpü Peak. The Inyo County Supervisors did not respond to a request for comment on Clem Nelson Peak. They also did not respond to a follow-up inquiry seeking input on the amendment to Wünüpü Peak.

In addition to the Big Pine Paiute Tribe and the Bishop Paiute Tribe, a copy of the original proposal for Clem Nelson Peak was forwarded to the Death Valley Timbi-sha Shoshone Band of California, the Fort Independence Indian Community of Paiute Indians of the Fort Independence Reservation, the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes of the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation, the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, the Las Vegas Tribe of Paiute Indians, the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians of the Moapa River Indian Reservation, the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, the Paiute-Shoshone Indians of the Lone Pine Community of the Lone Pine Reservation, the Paiute-Shoshone Tribe of the Fallon Reservation and Colony, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe of the Pyramid Lake Reservation, the

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada, the Walker River Paiute Tribe of the Walker River Reservation, and the Yerington Paiute Tribe of the Yerington Colony & Campbell Ranch, all of which are Federally recognized. Of these, only the Moapa Band responded, with a statement that they had no opinion on the issue.

After learning of the Big Pine Paiute's counter-proposal for Wünüpü Peak and after consulting the family and friends of Clem Nelson who had supported the original proposal, the proponent of Clem Nelson Peak withdrew his application and expressed support for the Paiute name (as noted previously, he has recently submitted a new proposal to apply the name Clem Nelson Peak to another summit. This proposal is on BGN Review List 408). The Big Pine Paiute Tribe also noted that they intend to submit additional proposals to change the names of other features in the area that contain the word "squaw", as well as possibly a change to Papoose Flat.

The U.S. Forest Service and the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names (CACGN) also support the proposal for Wünüpü Peak. Prior to its July 2011 meeting, the CACGN advised the other tribes with an interest in the area that the CACGN would be voting on Wünüpü Peak and invited them to provide any final comments. No further correspondence was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue.

Change **Negro Island** (FID 287575) to **Horseshoe Island**, Florida
(Review List 390)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=28.9488648&p_long=-82.713438&fid=287575

This proposal is to change the name of Negro Island in Citrus County, 8 miles northwest of the community of Crystal River, to Horseshoe Island. The proponent believes the existing name is offensive. The island in question is approximately 25 acres in size and is U-shaped, hence the choice of the proposed name.

The proposal was submitted by the Director of the Florida Department of Historical Resources, which was tasked in 2004 by the Florida State Legislature (Senate Bill 0444: "Relating to Abrogating Offensive Place Names") to "aid state agencies and local governments in identifying geographic sites having offensive or derogatory place-names [and] requires state and local governments to update maps and markers with new place names." The legislation did not identify which words it considered offensive, but left it to the local municipalities to provide a list. According to an article published in 2004 in the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, the legislation also "does [not] penalize locales for refusing to change a name." GNIS lists eleven other natural features in Florida with names containing the word "Negro." No proposals have been received to change these. One other name, Negro Lake in Washington County, was changed by the BGN in 2006.

Following passage of the legislation, the Department of Historical Resources contacted each city and county government asking that they select replacement names. Horseshoe Island was suggested by the Citrus County Department of Development Services and endorsed by the Citrus County Commissioners. According to an article published at the time in *The St. Petersburg Times*, none of the area's longtime residents were able to provide any information on the origin of the name Negro Island, with several expressing surprise that the "clump of offshore trees" even had a name; others

reported that they believed the name had appeared on local maps as early as 1950. The name has been labeled on Federal maps since 1952.

Another proposal, also submitted by the Florida Department of Historical Resources, to change the name of Jap Rock in Palm Beach County to Yamato Rock was approved by the BGN in 2006. A third request, to change Slave Canal in Jefferson County to Cotton Run Canal was denied, citing a belief that the word “slave” is not derogatory and a name with historical significance should not be changed.

At the 2006 BGN meeting, a decision on the proposal for Horseshoe Island was deferred citing concerns that the local black community had not been consulted regarding the renaming effort. The staff was instructed to contact the County Commissioners to determine whether the change to Horseshoe Island had local support. The staff informed the county of the deferral but no further correspondence was received. The County was recently contacted again, and this time responded, “The Board action in 2005 was initiated solely to address Florida Senate Bill 0444. At the time it was raised, no local opposition existed nor did the proposed change warrant any input from citizens. Public outreach was accomplished through our traditional public notice procedures. No special efforts were undertaken to seek input from any subsector of our community. The island in question is a small coastal island with no residents or development potential. In fact few people other than local fishing guides even know of its location or name. I expect that regardless of your Board’s action, most of these guides will still reference the traditional name. Since our action was initiated to comply with SB 0444, Citrus County has no concerns should the Board choose to retain the existing name. The described discussion of your Board was very similar to the discussion of our Board in 2005.”

The Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission responded in 2005 that it supported the change from Negro Island to Horseshoe Island, as did the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which manages the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge, located 12 miles south of the island. The Florida State Names Authority has no objection. The Seminole Tribe of Florida, which is Federally recognized, was contacted for an opinion. The tribe did not respond, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an objection.

Change Charlie Smith Reservoir (FID 1133922) to Pronghorn Reservoir, Oregon
(Review List 406)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=44.0429951&p_longi=-118.9313364&fid=1133922

This proposal is to change the name of Charlie Smith Reservoir in Grant County to Pronghorn Reservoir. According to the proponent, who is the business manager for Silvie's Ranch on which the reservoir is located, “We can’t find anyone linked to ‘Charlie Smith’ and despite contacting the family of the folks who built the ranch originally, the significance of ‘Charlie Smith’ has been lost to time.” She adds, “Because of the large herd of pronghorn that gather and have their babies around the reservoir, locals and visitors (who stop along the highway to view and photograph the deer) just call it ‘Pronghorn Reservoir’ and that name has stuck.” As the proponent notes, Charlie Smith Butte lies just south of the reservoir, so if the proposed change is approved, Mr. Smith’s name will continue to be recognized in the area.

The name Charlie Smith Reservoir was recorded during U.S. Geological Survey fieldwork in the 1980s and was first applied to USGS topographic maps in 1986. Although the land on which the reservoir is located is now privately held, it was at one time managed by the the Bureau of Land Management and the reservoir is still catalogued by the BLM.

The dam that forms Charlie Smith Reservoir is named Lake Pons Dam. In addition to the entry for the reservoir, GNIS until recently included a separate entry for Lake Pons for the same feature. The latter name was compiled from a 1981 inventory of dams and reservoirs provided to GNIS by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This duplicate GNIS entry has since been removed and Lake Pons is now recorded as a variant name for Charlie Smith Reservoir. A 2008 map of the Harney County Watershed (which includes a portion of Grant County) applies three labels to the single body of water: Charlie Smith Reservoir, Lake Pons Reservoir, and Pon's Lake Reservoir. The Oregon Water Resources Department's Dam Inventory records the name of the reservoir as Pons Lake Reservoir. These names have all been recorded as variants. According to the Oregon Historical Commission, Harry Pons was a previous owner of the ranch.

The Grant County Historical Society and the Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB) were unable to determine with certainty the origin of the name Charlie Smith Reservoir. One source indicated that Charles Smith was manager of the Oregon Railway & Navigation Company and that one of its railroad lines once ran through Silvies. Another source suggests the butte was named for a lost hunter who was found there.

The Grant County Court recommends approval of the change to Pronghorn Reservoir, as does the OGNB. The Bureau of Land Management is "neutral" on the name change. As part of its research, the OGNB forwarded the proposal to the Oregon Legislative Commission on Indian Services, which in turn shared it with all tribes with an interest in Oregon. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Reds Creek, Alaska

(Review List 400)

Mouth:http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=60.55111111111111&p_longi=-151.23111111111111

Source:http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=60.57944444444444&p_longi=-151.21638888888889

The new commemorative name Reds Creek is proposed for a 2.1-mile-long tributary of the Kenai River in Kenai Peninsula Borough. The proposed name is intended to honor Glen Rex "Red" McCollum Sr. (1917-2002), who is remembered as a neighborhood and city patriarch. A native of Montana, Red relocated to Alaska in 1959, working on one of the first oil wells to be drilled in the Swanson River field. Soon after, he established his own roustabout company, which he managed for the next 24 years (roustabouts work on oil drills and also provide support services, parts, and supplies to drilling companies). Following retirement in 2001, he became a commercial fisherman and was appointed to the Kenai Harbor Commission prior to his death in 2002 at the age of 84.

According to the proponent, the stream proposed to be named Reds Creek is labeled on the Kenai Watershed Forum map as “Maps Creek,” MAPS being the acronym for the neighborhood streets, Magic Avenue, Aliak Avenue, Princess Street, and Spur Highway. However, the Forum supports naming it officially Reds Creek, and the MAPS neighborhood is in favor as well. Further, “this stream is a coho salmon rearing habitat and is being threatened by commercial development, diversion areas, and bad culverts. “Red” is also a significant term for our largest salmon run (not the coho, but still salmon). Having an official name will help preserve the stream.”

The Alaska Historical Commission (AHC), which serves as the State Names Authority, contacted Kenai Peninsula Borough, the City of Kenai, the Kenai Historical Society, the Kenai Chamber of Commerce, the Kenai Watershed Forum, and Kenai Peninsula College for their opinions. In addition, they consulted Cook Inlet Region, Inc., the Kenaitze Indian Tribe IRA, Kenai Native Association, Ltd., and Salamatof Native Association, Inc. Of these, the City of Kenai, the Kenai Chamber of Commerce, Kenai Peninsula College, and the Kenaitze Indian Tribe responded. Only the Chamber of Commerce supports the proposed name.

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe responded that they do not support the proposal, and instead recommended the original Kenaitze Dena’ina name Shk’ituk’tnu, which means “we slide down place creek.” Citing the tribe’s objections, the City of Kenai does not support the proposal and wishes to preserve the historical name. The Alaska Historical Commission, citing a lack of a direct association between the individual and the stream, as well as a lack of evidence that red salmon are found along the stream, recommends disapproval of the name Reds Creek. The AHC encouraged the Kenaitze Indian Tribe to submit a proposal for Shk’ituk’tnu but none has been forthcoming.

There are no other streams in Alaska known to contain the word “Reds,” but there are 33 with names containing “Red,” including Red Creek and Red River in Kenai Peninsula Borough, 64 miles and 66 miles, respectively, from the stream in question.

Change **Black Mountain** (FID 255362) to **Alexander Mountain**, California
(Review List 401)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=38.7449077&p_longi=-122.8072155&fid=255362

This proposal is to change the name of Black Mountain in Sonoma County to Alexander Mountain. The proponent, a representative of one of the largest wineries in the area, believes the summit should be renamed to eliminate a name that is duplicated throughout the county and nationwide. The winery’s property comprises much of the summit’s eastern slope, although most of the area is comprised of individually-owned parcels. The proponent included with his application a list of 49 summits in California named Black Mountain, including four in Sonoma County, noting also that there are 271 throughout the U.S. (excluding variant names and others containing the words “Black Mountain,” as well as a few communities and other feature types). He points out that Alexander Mountain is a relatively uncommon name (only five in the nation), and furthermore it is the name “already used locally” to refer to this summit. At least three local wineries are already marketing their products under the Alexander Mountain Estate label. The proponent claims the name change would “eliminate confusion and perform a meaningful reference function.” He describes the feature as one of the more prominent peaks along the eastern side of Alexander Valley. A road that skirts

the flanks of Black Mountain and which is approximately three-fourths of a mile from its peak was recently renamed Alexander Mountain Road.

Although many of the other summits named Black Mountain are believed to have been named in honor of local families, initial research suggested this one may instead be descriptive of the color of the feature (Gudde, 2004). One online source states, “The entire south side of the mountain is covered in thick chaparral” (flickr.com, 2009). However, it has since been determined that there was at one time a family named Black that owned land in the area. According to an 1898 Sonoma County atlas, George H. Black and L.S. Black were the owners of 2,200 acres, although their land was closer to Geysers Peak, which lies just over two miles northwest of Black Mountain. A history of Pine Flat published in 2005 includes several historical references to Black Mountain.

Alexander Valley was named for Cyrus Alexander, a native of Pennsylvania who settled in the area and managed a Mexican land grant in the 1840s. As payment for his services, he received 9,000 acres on the eastern side of the valley, where he built a home, planted an orchard, constructed a tannery, and built the first grain mill in the area. There are numerous online references to “Black Mountain” as a longstanding name in Sonoma County, but without geographic references, it is unclear whether they refer to this summit or one of the others in the county. In addition to Alexander Valley, GNIS lists several other features in the area named “Alexander”: a school, a church, a historical post office, the Cyrus Alexander Family Cemetery, and the Alexander Valley Rancheria, the home of the Mishewal Wappo Tribe of Alexander Valley (this tribe is no longer Federally recognized).

In April 2005, the Sonoma County Supervisors passed a resolution “that proclaimed an area (also known as “Eastern Upland Area”) would be known locally and nationally as Alexander Mountain. The area in question contains the easterly face of Black Mountain but not the peak or any of the slopes or other faces of that mountain.” The purpose of the county’s action was “to define a grape growing appellation.”

The Healdsburg City Council does not support the name change, citing “testimony from property owners and neighbors of Black Mountain regarding the historical significance of the name Black Mountain dating back to 1895.” The Town of Windsor also submitted a letter opposing the change, citing “a strong historical basis for retaining the name of Black Mountain.” The BGN has received approximately 30 emails and letters from local residents, business owners, and longtime property owners who object to the name change. The majority cite long term usage and the historical significance of the existing name, as well as concerns that the proposal was motivated by a desire to promote a commercial venture. A petition with over 300 signatures opposing the proposal was also submitted. The petition stated, “The name ‘Alexander Mountain’ is a marketing phrase of Kendall-Jackson Enterprises used in promotion of their wines. To approve a name change of a well-known local monument for marketing purposes would set a dangerous precedent Nationwide.”

However, the Cloverdale City Council expressed support for the proposal, stating, “There was a feeling that the name Alexander has local significance and that the name change from Black Mountain to Alexander Mountain would have an impact on defining the region.” One local vintner,

quoted in an article published in the Santa Rosa Press-Democrat, stated he “probably would not be opposed to the change to Alexander Mountain and creating a new grape designation.”

Citing some confusion regarding the County’s position on the issue, the BGN staff asked the supervisors to clarify the situation. The County responded that it does not have an opinion on the proposal, but reaffirmed its support for the establishment of a grape appellation named “Alexander Mountain”; the county stated this has no bearing on the effort to rename Black Mountain.

The California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names recommends disapproval of the proposed change, citing widespread local opposition, a lack of direct association between the feature and the intended honoree, and commercial interest implications. The CACGN added, “The fact that there are multiple features named Black Mountain in Sonoma County does not cause confusion among public safety providers.”

The following Federally recognized tribes were contacted for an opinion: the Cloverdale Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California, the Dry Creek Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California, the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria, and the Lower Lake Rancheria. Only the Cloverdale Rancheria responded, indicating support for the proposal.

Change Squaw Creek (FID 1689990) to Two Moons Creek or Little Wolf Creek, Montana
(Review Lists 401, 404)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=45.7280548&p_longi=-105.6886034&fid=1689990

These two proposals were submitted as replacement names for Squaw Creek, a 3.2-mile-long stream in Powder River County. The name Squaw Creek does not appear on any USGS topographic maps but is listed in GNIS, having been compiled from a 1961 Montana State Engineer’s Office Water Resources Survey.

The first proposal, for Two Moons Creek, was submitted in response to efforts by the Montana House Bill 412 “Squaw Name Change” Committee to remove the word “Squaw” from Montana’s place names. The Committee submitted the name Two Moons Creek on behalf of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council. The name is intended to honor the nineteenth century Cheyenne leader Two Moons, who according to the Tribal Council’s Resolution, “was a major player in the shaping of the west and U.S. Indian Policy through battles of historic proportion” and “[who] managed to remain in our northern homeland while many of our Northern Cheyenne were sent to Oklahoma during the late 1870s.” The proposal has the support of the President of Chief Dull Knife College and the American Indian Caucus of the Montana State Legislature, as well as State Senator Sharon Stewart-Peregoy and State Representatives Shannon Augare, Carolyn Pease-Lopez, and Tony Belcourt. Former State Representatives David Roundstone and Frosty Calf Boss Ribs also supported the proposal.

As part of its research, the Montana State Names Authority contacted the Powder River County Commissioners for an opinion. The County responded that it would not be opposed to Two Moons

Creek provided the landowner had no objection. The SNA then contacted the landowner, who responded that he would prefer that the stream be named Little Wolf Creek.

Little Wolf (1820-1904) was a nineteenth century Cheyenne leader, who “led his people back to their homeland from Oklahoma.” The proponent believes his proposal should be considered “for all the reasons” that Two Moons Creek is considered. He noted also that Little Wolf was an ancestor of his wife, who is a member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. Citing the landowner’s preference, the County voted to endorse the counter-proposal for Little Wolf Creek.

The Montana State Names Authority contacted the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council, suggesting that rather than force the State and Federal naming authorities to have to choose between two proposals, and citing the landowner’s preference, perhaps the Tribal Council “might wish to select a more prominent feature to name after Two Moons.” The SNA offered to help the Tribe select an alternate location. No response was received so the SNA is presuming the Tribe does not wish to withdraw its application. Citing a requirement set forth in the Montana Code that State agencies use those names endorsed by the HB 412 Committee, and reluctance by that committee to revisit the issue unless the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council makes such a request, the Montana SNA recommends approval of the name Two Moons Creek.

In addition to the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, the BGN staff forwarded a copy of both proposals to the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Reservation, the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of the Crow Creek Reservation, the Crow Tribe of Montana, the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of the Lower Brule Reservation, the Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Reservation, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation, the Santee Sioux Nation, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North & South Dakota, and the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, all of which are Federally recognized. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue.

Yenne Peak, Montana
(Glacier National Park)
(Review List 405)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=48.821944444&p_longi=-113.752777777

The new name Yenne Peak is proposed for an 8,712-foot summit in Glacier National Park. The name is intended to honor William J. Yenne (1908-1994), who was employed for many years by the National Park Service as an outdoorsman, guide, and trails supervisor in the park.

Although Glacier National Park does not have official Federal wilderness status, the majority of land within its boundaries has been recommended to Congress for wilderness designation, and as such, it is managed by the National Park Service within wilderness guidelines. The proponent, who is the son of the intended honoree, believes the proposal warrants an exception to the BGN’s Wilderness Names Policy because of his father’s contributions to the park. He cites his long-term association with the park, where he spent months on the trails every year, many within sight of the unnamed peak. William Yenne’s grandfather also homesteaded within 30 miles of the peak in 1895, and the honoree was born at that homestead location. His biography is sold in the park’s bookstore. One local author referred to Mr. Yenne as “the man who best knows Glacier National Park’s one

thousand miles of trails.” Even after retirement, he returned to Glacier nearly every summer for two decades. Commenting further on the Wilderness Policy, the proponent believes there is “overriding need for landmarks to be given names,” especially in instances of search and rescue. With regard to the education factor, he contends that “the names of persons who are important to a place should be recalled in that place.” He adds, “William J. Yenne not only devoted most of his lifetime to [the] idea of renewal in the wilderness, he embodied it.” Further, he notes that numerous places in the park are named for individuals and institutions with far less connection to the area.

A letter of support for the name Yenne Peak has been received from Senator Max Baucus, who notes that “Mr. Yenne’s love and thorough knowledge of the Park enriched the experiences of thousands of its visitors.” Flathead Valley author and broadcaster George Ostrom also submitted a letter of support. Mr. Ostrom, who as legislative aide to Senator Lee Metcalf helped draft the 1964 Wilderness Act, believes “the naming of this peak is entirely consistent with the intentions of the Act.” He adds, “To the best of my knowledge, there were [sic] no consideration in [the Outdoor Resources and Review Committee] or in the resulting wilderness legislation regarding the future naming of geographic features. Those procedures were already established, so it was NOT something we were concerned with as part of a Wilderness Bill. I strongly implore you to honor a man who devoted his entire life to serving, preserving, and supporting America’s wildest places.”

The Glacier County Commissioners are opposed to the proposal, suggesting that if the summit is to be named, it should be given a Blackfeet name. They added, “To name it after someone who is not associated with the Blackfeet would continue an insult that has been a part of Glacier Park’s history in Blackfeet Country.” The Montana State Names Authority (SNA) also does not support the proposal, citing the county’s opposition. The SNA posted a public notice regarding the proposal, which prompted 39 responses in favor and 15 opposed. Favorable comments included, “Naming that crag of rock ‘Yenne Peak’ just seems like the right thing to do,” “This tireless, dedicated gentleman was a rare, one-of-a-kind worker for the Park Service,” and “Bill Yenne was an even bigger presence in the Park than his book portrays him to be.” Meanwhile, negative input ranged from “It would set an unworkable precedent that could not be applied objectively” to “There are countless other people who have contributed to Glacier as much or more as Yenne, who have nothing named after them. The credit to such people should be given through history books and naturalist programs, not on the physical features of Glacier, whose awe-striking beauty speaks for itself [sic].”

The National Park Service, citing the BGN’s Wilderness Policy, also does not support the proposal. After learning of the county and SNA’s opposition, the proponent commented that he had petitioned the county commissioners to change their position. He stated that he “respect[ed] the fact that mountain peaks have special meaning for the Blackfeet people... However, this particular peak has long been numerically designated and not named at all.” Further, his father when working in the park, “made a point of hiring tribal members for his crews. His personal associations with the Tribe were strong,” and finally, “[I]t was not the intent of the [Wilderness] Act to prevent a proposal such as this.”

A copy of the proposal was sent to the Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Crow Tribe of Montana, and the Fort Belknap Indian Community of the

Fort Belknap Reservation, all of which are Federally recognized. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue.

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

Findley Butte, Oregon
(Review List 399)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=45.569892&p_longi=-117.007484

This proposal is to make official a commemorative name reported to be in local use for a 5,194-foot summit in Wallowa County. The feature is the northernmost of three buttes that collectively comprise Findley Buttes, a name that is already listed in GNIS, having appeared on Federal maps since 1919. The proponent reports that each of the three buttes also has a locally-known name. The three names are Brumback Butte, Findley Butte, and Harsin Butte.

The proposal for Findley Butte is intended to honor Florence Mary Findley, who as a single 25-year old woman homesteaded just northeast of the butte in 1885. She built a home, married, had four children, and raised cows and horses until her death in the 1930s. Her daughter and son-in-law continued to ranch and farm the land until the late 1990s.

The Nature Conservancy, which manages the land on which the butte is located, supports this proposal. The Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB), as part of its research, contacted the Wallowa County government for an opinion. The county responded that it had no objection to the name. The OGNB also forwarded the proposal to the Oregon Legislative Commission on Indian Services, which in turn shared it with all tribes having an interest in Oregon. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation responded that they did not have a name for the feature and are in support of Findley Butte. Citing the lack of objection, the OGNB recommends approval of this proposal.

Harsin Butte, Oregon
(Review List 399)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=45.526555&p_longi=-116.964912

This is the second of the three proposals to make official names for the three summits that comprise Findley Buttes. The proponent reports that the name Harsin Butte has long been used to refer to the 5,529-foot summit that is the most southeasterly of the three features. This name would recognize the Harsin family who homesteaded in the area in the late 1880s, most notably Fred Harsin (d. 1943) and his wife Katie Murray Harsin (d. 1922). The Harsins had two children, raised cattle, farmed and sold dairy products. In addition, Fred was a clerk, board member, and custodian for the Harsin School, located approximately one-half mile from his home.

The area surrounding the Harsin family property has long been known as the Zumwalt Prairie. At 33,000 acres, the Zumwalt Prairie is the largest remaining grassland of its type, and recently became the largest acquisition for The Nature Conservancy in Oregon. Although not on National Forest lands, the name Harsin Butte appears on an undated (presumably 1930s) Wallowa-Whitman National Forest map and is a popular site for hiking enthusiasts. Maps provided by The Nature

Conservancy label a local trail Harsins Butte Scramble [sic]. A history of Wallowa County, published in 1983 by the Wallowa County Museum Board, also mentions Harsin Butte. Finally, a May 2008 article in the *Eugene Register-Guard* referred to a hike at Harsin Butte.

As part of its consultation with tribes with an interest in Oregon lands, the Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB) forwarded the proposal to the State's Legislative Commission on Indian Services. This resulted in a counter-proposal being submitted by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), who claim their ancestral name for the feature is Wiláatsaksa Butte. In a compromise between the original proponent and the CTUIR, the proposal was withdrawn in favor of Harsin Butte, with a request that the Umatilla name be recorded as a variant.

The Wallowa County Commissioners commended the parties involved for reaching a compromise and support the proposal for Harsin Butte. The Nature Conservancy and the OGNB also support the proposal, with Wiláatsaksa Butte being retained as a variant.

The third proposal, to name the third butte Méexsem Hépepy Butte, is not commemorative and is listed under category V below.

Leschi Slough, Washington
(Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge)
(Review List 404)

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=47.0989346&p_longi=-122.7165127

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=47.0794444&p_longi=-122.7147222

The new name Leschi Slough is proposed for a 2-mile-long stream in Thurston County and within the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. The proponent, an employee of the refuge, describes the feature as covering an area of 28 acres and being up to 10 feet deep. The lower 0.5 mile section flows through the Nisqually State Wildlife Recreation Area, which is administered by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The proponent adds, "The Nisqually [River] delta was used by native people for centuries prior to settlement by Europeans. [They] had villages along the Nisqually River, its tributaries, and the Sound... which provided their main food source. The Delta was also the site of the council grounds." In the early 1900s, an earthen dike was built, significantly impacting the environment of the salt marsh estuary by blocking tidal water from Puget Sound. In 1974, after years of farming came to an end, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service purchased the property and established the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. In 2009, the old dam was removed, "restoring 762 acres of tidal estuary and reconnecting 23 miles of historic slough channels. The longest of these is the proposed Leschi Slough. Ducks Unlimited and the Nisqually Indian Tribe were important partners in this project and instrumental in helping secure funding."

Leschi was the last Nisqually chief, who was born in 1808 and who spent his life camping, hunting, and fishing in the Nisqually River delta. According to one biography, "As Leschi grew into adulthood, he became known as a man of great intelligence possessing superb oratorical abilities. He developed the wisdom of a judge and was often called upon to settle disagreements among his

tribesmen.” In 1853, Governor Isaac Stevens established a treaty commission and Leschi was appointed chief of his tribe. He refused to sign the Medicine Creek Treaty, believing the proposed reservation was inadequate for his people. After years of “brutal killings and broken promises”, Leschi was found guilty of murder in the death of a soldier, and in February 1858 he was hanged. In 2004, Leschi was exonerated of the crime by the State of Washington, and shortly after, the Nisqually Tribe expressed an interest in having a geographic feature named in his honor. The proposed name Leschi Slough was presented to the public during “The Return of the Nisqually Estuary” ceremony held in October 2009. The naming effort was also announced in a recent Fish and Wildlife Service press release, and the new name is already being used by the Nisqually Delta Restoration.

The Thurston County Commissioners are in support of this proposal, as are the Nisqually River Council and the manager of the South Puget Sound Wildlife Area/Nisqually Unit. A copy of the proposal was sent to the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation and the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, both of which are Federally recognized. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The Nisqually Indian Tribe reaffirmed its support for the proposal. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service also supports the proposal.

The Washington Board on Geographic Names was abolished in March 2010, so a copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Governor’s Office instead. No response was received, which the Governor was told would indicate a lack of an opinion. The State Board was recently reinstated, but because it is not expected to meet until early 2012, its executive secretary has asked that the BGN proceed with its vote.

GNIS lists seven features in Washington with “Leschi” in their names, although none are in Thurston County. With the exception of Leschi Glacier (BGN 1967) in Skamania County, the remainder are administrative features.

IV. Revised Decisions

Change **Negro Point** (FID 971929) (BGN 1982) to **Scylla Point**, New York
(Review List 378)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=40.7809346&p_longi=-73.9276373&fid=971929

This proposal was submitted by the former City of New York Parks & Recreation Commissioner, in order to change a name he considers offensive. The name Negro Point applies to a cape located at the southern tip of Wards Island in the Borough of Manhattan and at the northern end of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Bridge as it crosses the East River from Queens County. Although the proponent indicated that area residents were not familiar with the current name and that it was apparently no longer in local use, he confirmed that it had appeared on park maps from the early 1900s, and therefore believes it should be changed officially to a “less offensive” name.

The name Negro Point was made official by the BGN in 1982, following a request by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to make official a name in local use.

The proposed name Scylla Point refers to a name in Greek mythology. The cape lies directly opposite Charybdis Playground in Astoria Park. In Greek mythology, the names Scylla and Charybdis were given to two sea monsters, and Scylla also refers to a dangerous rock on the Italian mainland side of the Straits of Messina, while Charybdis was a whirlpool on the Sicilian coast.

An article in *The New York Times* stated that historians were unable to determine the origin of the existing name Negro Point, although two dangerous rocks that were long ago removed from the water near the cape were known informally as “Negro Head” and “Little Negro Head”. Wards Island, the location of Negro Point, was reportedly a popular site for African-American anglers, as well as the location of a cotton mill. The name Negro Point does not appear on U.S. Geological Survey maps, nor does it appear on any available county or State maps, but is labeled on NOAA nautical charts and has reportedly appeared on other charts since 1851.

The current City of New York Parks & Recreation Commissioner was contacted regarding the proposal, and supports the name change. The Mayor of New York City, the Bronx City Council, the Borough of Manhattan, and the Borough of Queens were contacted for their opinions. The Mayor supports the proposed renaming. The other offices did not respond, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue.

Other offices which were asked to comment include the Sandy Hook Pilots Association, the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, the Manhattan Psychiatric Center (which operates a facility on Wards Island), the New York State Harbormaster & Bay Constable Association, the New York Harbor Operations Committee, and the Waterfront Commission of New York Harbor. The Sandy Hook Pilots Association does not support the proposal, citing longstanding use of the current name. Meanwhile, the Chairman of the New York Harbor Operations Committee stated, “Mariners would have no problem with a name change for the seldom-cited point.” The Manhattan Psychiatric Center responded that they had no opinion, while the Port Authority has no objection. The other offices did not respond.

NOAA does not support the proposed renaming, citing the potential confusion it would cause. The U.S. Coast Guard concurs with NOAA. The New York State Committee on Geographic Names has no objection to the proposal.

The following tribes, all of which are Federally recognized, were contacted regarding the proposal: the Cayuga Nation, the Oneida Indian Nation, the Onondaga Indian Nation, the Seneca Nation of Indians, and the Tonawanda Band of Seneca Indians. Only the Cayuga Nation responded, supporting the proposed change to Scylla Point.

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Blue Heron Island, Minnesota

(Review List 407)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=47.8413888888889&p_longi=-92.2183333333333

This proposal is to apply the new name Blue Heron Island to an unnamed island in Mattson Bay, along the southeastern shore of Lake Vermillion in Saint Louis County. This 7-acre island is described by the proponent as a “hump-shaped island composed of glacial till.” It is surrounded on three sides by Vermillion State Park. The proposed name was chosen in recognition of the Great Blue Heron birds that frequent the island. The proponent included a petition signed by 24 neighbors in support of the name.

After posting a public notice and hearing no objections, the Saint Louis County Commissioners passed a resolution in support of the proposal. The Minnesota State Names Authority notes, “There was a desire by the Saint Louis County Board to have an Anishanabe word for ‘Blue Heron’ as a variant name.” The SNA asked the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians whether the tribe’s elders had a different name for the island. The Tribe responded that they did not think it had a name but asked that “Zhashagi” be recorded as a variant. The Tribe has since corrected the variant to “Gashagi” since further research has determined that ‘zhashagi’ means crane whereas ‘gashagi’ means heron. The Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians and the Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians both stated they support the proposal for Blue Heron Island provided the Anishanabe translation is also recognized. Other Federally recognized tribes that were contacted include the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the Grand Portage Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Fond du Lac Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, and the White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Of these, only the Keweenaw Bay Community responded, stating they had “no properties of interest” in the area.

Méexsem Hépey Butte, Oregon

(Review List 407)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=45.5454323&p_longi=-116.9929338

This proposal is to make official the name Méexsem Hépey Butte for a 5,486-foot summit in Wallowa County, 16 miles northeast of Enterprise. It is the third of the three proposals to apply names to the three summits that comprise Findley Buttes. It was submitted by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) as a counterproposal to Brumback Butte (Review List 399), which was the third of the locally-used names submitted by a descendant of the family that has ranched in the area for over 100 years. However, after learning of the CTUIR counter-proposal, the proponent agreed to withdraw her proposal for Brumback Butte.

As part of its research, the OGNB forwarded the proposals for the individual summits to Oregon Legislative Commission on Indian Services, which in turn shared them with tribes that have an interest in Oregon. The CTUIR responded that the features lie within their traditional lands so

names from the Umatilla language would be more appropriate. The Program Manager for the CTUIR Cultural Resources Protection Program confirmed that “Méexsem héepey” is the Umatilla name for the central butte (and that the χ or “elongated X” is part of the Umatilla language). The CTUIR agreed to capitalize the word héepey as well as the adding the generic term “Butte.” After the BGN rejected the aforementioned spelling because the χ is not part of the Roman alphabet, the CTUIR agreed that amending the name to Méexsem Héepey Butte would be acceptable, as the dotted x is considered a Roman character and is interchangeable with the elongated X in the International Phonetic Alphabet.

The Wallowa County Commissioners, which had initially supported the proposal for Brumback Butte, did not respond to a request for comments on Méexsem Héepey Butte. The Nez Perce Tribe supports the proposal for Méexsem Héepey Butte, as does the Northeast Oregon Project Director of The Nature Conservancy. The Oregon Geographic Names Board supports the proposal, with a request that Brumback Butte be recorded as a variant.