

U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
 Seven Hundred and Fifty-ninth Meeting
 Department of the Interior, Room 1352
 April 10, 2014 – 9:30 a.m.

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Douglas Caldwell	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Andrew Flora	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Michael Fournier	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Tony Gilbert	Government Printing Office
Bruce Johnson	Library of Congress
Elizabeth Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Sean Killen	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) (by teleconference)
Curt Loy	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Deborah Nordeen	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
John St. Louis	Department of Homeland Security (by teleconference)
Douglas Vandegraft	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management) (Chairman)
Meredith Westington	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)

Ex-Officio

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

Staff

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

Guests

Jacqueline Nolan, Library of Congress
 Christina Sabol, Library of Congress
 Patrick Woodward, Bureau of the Census

1. Opening

The Chairman opened the meeting at 9:36 a.m. and welcomed the guests.

2. Minutes of the 758th Meeting

The Minutes of the 758th meeting of the Domestic Names Committee, held March 13th, 2014, were approved as submitted.

3. Reports

3.1 BGN Chairman (Caldwell)

The full BGN met on April 8th at the U.S. Geological Survey. The BGN Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2013 was approved as submitted and will be forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior. Also at the meeting, it was agreed that records pertaining to geographic features located north of 60° South would be transferred

from the Antarctic Names file (managed by USGS) to the Foreign Names file (managed by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency). Fourteen Antarctic name proposals and three Underseas Feature name proposals were presented and approved.

The BGN was asked by a local Korean-American news station if it could be interviewed regarding the recent legislation passed by the Commonwealth of Virginia mandating that new textbooks refer to the body of water between Japan and Korea as East Sea as well as Sea of Japan. The reporter was informed that this was a matter for the Commonwealth and so the interview was declined. The reporter was advised of the BGN policy regarding country and high seas names (to recognize the most common name in general use and to not permit the use of variant names).

Caldwell asked that the discussion regarding the National Geospatial Program (NGP) Policy Directive be moved to Other Business.

3.2 BGN Executive Secretary's Report (Yost)

Yost summarized an interview that *Air and Space Magazine* conducted on April 9th. The reporter wished to know the BGN's policies on naming geographic features in the U.S., noting that a private company is selling unofficial naming rights to features on Mars.

Yost provided an update on upcoming names conferences. For the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) conference, to be held in New York at the end of April, he has provided input to the U.S.-Canada division report. Trent Palmer, BGN Secretary for Foreign Names, and Iain Crawford, Foreign Names Committee staff, will attend the conference.

There will be a quorum of DNC members attending the Council of Geographic Names Authorities meeting; the deadline for conference rate rooms at the hotel has been extended to April 15th.

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

3.3 Communications Committee (Westington)

The Special Committee on Communications met on April 8th at the USGS prior to the full BGN meeting. BGN trifold brochures were distributed. BGN business cards are being revised.

Fournier reported on initial plans for the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the BGN, which will occur in September 2015. Further discussions will take place at the next meeting in July.

3.4 Executive Secretary's Report (Yost)

The Grant County (Oregon) Geographic Names Advisor has informed the DNC that two of the previously submitted proposals to change names that include the word "Squaw" are likely to be withdrawn in favor of other names that have more local support.

In accordance with legislation that prohibits the publication of locations of archeological sites and caves, a number of features are blocked from public view at the GNIS web site. Individual agencies may also choose not to label a feature on their maps even if the location is available in GNIS. Yost reminded the

committee that if an agency wants additional features blocked from public view, they should coordinate such requests through their representative on the DNC.

An interview was given to the *Northern Lights* newspaper regarding the possible name change of the community of Blaine in Washington to Blaine Harbor.

The House Natural Resources Committee approved the bill to name one of the peaks on Frenchman Mountain in Nevada, Mount Reagan. The bill now moves to the U.S. House of Representatives.

3.5 Staff Report (Runyon)

Fifteen new proposals have been received in the past week, including four Alaska Native names and six proposals to name unnamed streams in the Monocacy Watershed in Frederick County and Carroll County, Maryland.

Quarterly Review List 416, comprising 89 new name proposals, has been released and posted online.

3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (McCormick)

Many issues related to the server migration in January have been resolved, although the few that remain may take some time to fix.

McCormick is addressing how to update and where to host the BGN and GNIS FAQ pages.

GNIS training was provided to an employee of The Nature Conservancy, who is conducting field work to verify names and locations in Hawaii.

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

The Interim Draft of Policy X: *Tribal Geographic Names* has been approved by the Department of the Interior Solicitor's Office. It will now need to be incorporated into the revised *Principles, Policies, and Procedures* (PPP) document before being transmitted to the Secretary of the Interior (SOI). The question was raised as to who will present the PPP to the SOI. Vandegraft indicated he will confer with Shelton and Bill Logan, BGN Chair Emeritus, on the next steps.

Kanalley asked to add another item to the agenda; because it relates to Native names and to the first name on today's docket, it was decided to discuss it at this time. The issue pertains to recent geographic naming in Alaska, specifically the apparent effort to promote commemorative names that honor political figures and aviators who have contributed to the development of Alaska over the past several decades. The Federal land management agencies have expressed their concerns that some of these proposals may conflict with the DNC's Commemorative Names and Wilderness Areas policies. It also appears there is some frustration at the State level regarding the Federal naming policies.

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**

Mount Petersen, Alaska (Katmai National Park/Katmai Wilderness) (Review List 414)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this name, citing the BGN's wilderness areas policy and the objections of the Federal land management agency.

Vote: 11 in favor
 0 against
 1 abstention

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

Gilbert Creek, New York (Review List 414) (FID 2761377)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 12 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Ev Henry Point, Washington (Review List 415) (FID 2761378)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 12 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

IV. **Revised Decisions - none**

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

Silky Woods, Alabama (Review List 414) (FID 2761379)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 12 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Canyon Creek, Canyon Creek Cascade, Canyon Creek Falls, East Branch Canyon Creek, West Branch Canyon Creek, Illinois (Review List 414)

A motion was made to consider these five names as a group.

Vote: 12 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

A motion was made and seconded to approve the new names **Canyon Creek, Canyon Creek Cascade, Canyon Creek Falls, East Branch Canyon Creek**, and **West Branch Canyon Creek** (FIDs 2761380-2761384)

Vote: 12 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Elliman Run, Ohio (Review List 414) (FID 2761385)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 12 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

5. **Other Business**

COGNA Conference Preparations

Vandegraft reviewed the ground rules for the upcoming DNC meeting at the COGNA conference. It was agreed that questions and discussion of the docket should be reserved until the end of the meeting. The DNC may choose to seek clarification on a detail related to a case from the representative(s) from that State Names Authority. If issues arise or if new information is presented, it is likely the DNC will vote to defer the proposal to a future meeting. Questions about general BGN policies and procedures should be raised during the State-Federal Roundtable.

National Geospatial Program (NGP) Policy Directive Regarding Geographic Names Maintenance

Caldwell then introduced the discussion of the revised NGP Policy Directive. He summarized the developments of the past two years and then presented the revised directive. The consensus is that the original directive is unfairly focused on USGS specific requirements, to the detriment of the role of the DNC and BGN.

Caldwell, Vandegraft, and Yost recently met with DeMulder to discuss the DNC's concerns. There was agreement on several high level points although it is clear some compromise is necessary. The major points of agreement are: 1) NGP recognizes the legislated authority of the BGN over all names; 2) conflation of names among various data sources and layers is important, even if it involves some additional cost; 3) the BGN and GNIS staff can continue to add or edit small numbers of records as needed by Federal agencies; and 4) the BGN will limit the number of feature types that it maintains in the near term to conform with the NGP's policy on administrative names.

DeMulder requested that the DNC submit suggested revisions to the directive to reflect its needs. It was further agreed that the development of improved data integration tools should be a top priority. A discussion is scheduled for April 11th with the chief of the NGP Cartographic Data Services program to address joint funding issues.

Caldwell asked if there were any comments before he responds to NGP. After some discussion, several additional points were agreed upon. The letter to NGP should specify that 1) GNIS will continue to be the one official source of names for Federal use (the original directive made no mention of GNIS); 2) the new policy will take effect next fiscal year; 3) all names must be conflated and must conform to BGN writing guidelines; and 4) the BGN will continue to preserve variant names and historical features. There was a brief discussion on the definitions of “authoritative sources” vs. “trusted data.”

Kanalley questioned how the State Names Authorities and State agencies will react to the amended policy. It was suggested that a statement be placed at the BGN web site. It is important to emphasize that GNIS will continue to serve as the Nation’s gazetteer; even if it must focus on fewer features, the quality should be greatly improved. BGN agencies need to be more proactive in data maintenance, i.e. any lists of updates should be reviewed before being submitted to the GNIS staff.

With these additions, a motion was made and seconded to approve the letter and send it forward to DeMulder. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

The next Domestic Names Committee meeting will take place on April 30th, 2014, during the COGNA annual meeting in Austin, Texas.

The following meeting will be on June 12th, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. at the Department of the Interior, Room 1352.

(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
April 2014**

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

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Mount Petersen, Alaska
(Katmai National Park/Katmai Wilderness)
(Review List 414)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=58.667696&p_longi=-155.0120302

This 4,698-foot summit, proposed to be named Mount Petersen, is located in the Katmai Wilderness in Katmai National Park. The name is intended to honor Ray Petersen (1912-2008), an Alaskan aviation pioneer and founder of the first sport-fishing lodges in Alaska in 1950. A native of Nebraska, Mr. Petersen arrived in Alaska in 1934. Operating as a commercial pilot from the towns of Bethel and Anchorage, in 1949 he merged his business with other pilots to form Northern Consolidated Airlines (NCA). He later obtained a contract with the National Park Service to operate facilities in Katmai National Monument, which later became Katmai National Park. According to the proponent, who is Mr. Petersen's son, Ray Petersen's efforts brought some of the first tourism to Alaska. He reports that the name first came into use in 1982 when his father, while standing on the beach at Grosvenor Lodge, pointed at the mountain and said "That's Mount Ray Petersen!" (In accordance with the BGN's Long Names Policy, the proponent agreed to shorten the name to the surname only). The proponent further states that those affiliated with the lodges have referred to the summit by that name ever since.

In 1999, the Alaska State Legislature issued a proclamation that recognized Ray Petersen as "The Father of Alaska's Sportsfishing Lodges." He was the second person inducted into the Alaska Aviation Hall of Fame and is also in the OX5 Aviation Hall of Fame. He was inducted into the Alaska Business Hall of Fame in its second year of existence.

The proponent believes an exception to the BGN's Wilderness Policy is warranted for educational reasons because Mr. Petersen "did so much to promote wilderness and sport-fishing conservation not only in Katmai but in Alaska in general." He also states, "No one... has had more influence on the renown of Katmai than Ray Petersen." He noted also that "several others who helped Katmai National Park are recognized with geographic features named for them", citing Mount Griggs (BGN 1962) and the Walatka Mountains (BGN 1973).

In the course of researching the proposal for Mount Petersen, the Alaska Geographic Names Board contacted the Lake and Peninsula Borough Council and several Alaska Native groups. The Borough did not respond, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The Bristol Bay Native Corporation recommends approval of the name. The Council of Katmai Descendants does not support the proposal, stating, "We would prefer a native name or a name that honors someone with a direct association with the area" (no counter proposal was submitted). The South Naknek Village Council stated "Mr. Petersen was a commercial provider on behalf of the National Park Service. To name a peak in [his] honor dishonors all of our people who were born and raised in that area and all of their ancestors." The King Salmon Tribe, the Levelock Village Council, and the Naknek Native Village did not respond, which is presumed to indicate a

lack of an opinion. The Mountaineering Club of Alaska does not support the proposal, citing an objection to applying commemorative names to any feature in the State.

The National Park Service is opposed to the name Mount Petersen, asserting that there is no overriding need to make an exception to the Wilderness Policy, and that “naming a peak after [Petersen] is not useful for wilderness education.” The Alaska Names Board recommends approval of the name, noting in its minutes that “there is value to naming places for pioneers who opened up new areas of Alaska.” The State Board added also that while it favors native names wherever possible, there was no evidence of an existing native name for this summit, and “the state is big enough to name features for all groups of people.”

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

Gilbert Creek, New York

(Review List 414)

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.341261&p_longi=-78.132966

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.282298&p_longi=-78.184209

This 6.5-mile-long stream, located in Orleans County, is proposed to be named Gilbert Creek to honor Elizabeth Gilbert. According to the proponent, Mrs. Gilbert “took an Article of Land from the Holland Land Company in 1807” and had the article recorded in her name. Having arrived from Ontario, Canada, she and her family were the first to settle in Orleans County, establishing their family cabin on Ridge Road in the Town of Gaines. After Elizabeth’s husband (name unknown) died around 1808, she helped build other pioneer cabins in the vicinity. There is an historic marker at the site of the cabin that reads “Pioneer Settler: March 3, 1807, This land was chosen by the first in the Town of Gaines.. Mrs. Elizabeth Gilbert.” The land is currently owned by the Carlton Gaines Community Church. Elizabeth Gilbert, along with her three children and a niece, left the area in 1812, fleeing the advancing British troops.

The Town of Gaines Board of Supervisors and the Orleans County Legislature submitted letters in support of the name Gilbert Creek. The Town of Carlton was asked to comment but did not respond which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The Pastor of Carlton Gaines Community Church is in favor of the name. The New York Geographic Names Committee has no objection. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Seneca Nation of Indians and the Tonawanda Band of Seneca, both of which are federally recognized. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue.

Ev Henry Point, Washington

(Review List 415)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=48.746973&p_longi=-122.896364

This proposal, to make official the commemorative name Ev Henry Point, was submitted by the Washington Committee on Geographic Names (WCGN) on behalf of the Rainier Yacht Club. The cape is located at the southeast end of an approximately 40-acre peninsula, which trends from northwest to southeast at the southern edge of Sucia Island. There is a monument on the cape stamped “Point Ev Henry Dedicated May 1973.” This proponent reports that the name honors Everett (Ev) Henry (1905-1983), a yachtsman and the first Commodore of the Rainier Yacht Club. Upon learning that Sucia Island was to be developed by private interests, Commodore Henry formed the Puget Sound Interclub Council. The council was able to collect enough funds to purchase and donate land to the Washington State Parks Department, which then established Sucia Island State Park. The Parks Department was later able to purchase the remaining privately owned land on the island, and today the state park comprises the entire island.

The name Ev Henry Finger Point is also found to be in use by the Washington Trails Association. Sucia Island has been described as loosely resembling a hand with the fingers pointing to the southeast. When asked by the WCGN why the intended honoree's first name is included, the proponent responded that the name has already been signed as such.

The proposal to make official the name Ev Henry Point is supported by the Washington State Parks Department, the Parks Design and Land Use Planner, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Trails Coordinator, the Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society, and two area residents. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages the San Juan Island National Wildlife Refuge a short distance off the island, is in support of the name. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Coast Guard have no objection. As part of its research, the WCGN contacted the San Juan County Board of Commissioners, the San Juan County Emergency Management Office, and the Lummi Tribe of the Lummi Reservation, which is federally recognized. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The WCGN recommends approval of the proposal.

IV. Revised Decisions - none

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Silky Woods, Alabama

(Review List 414)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=33.5263888&p_longi=-86.7072222

The name Silky Woods is proposed to be made official for an area of woods approximately 130 acres in size. The woods lie along the northwest slope of Shades Mountain and southeast of Shades Creek. The woods are also just south of the community of Irondale and within the eastern suburbs of Birmingham. According to the proponent, who grew up in the area in the mid-1980s, local children have always called the area Silky Woods; a wooden sign that was placed at the entrance to the woods remains there to this day. As he describes it, “[A]ll of the neighborhood children spent most of their summers playing in and around the woods. According to some of the older individuals who lived in the neighborhood in the 1980s, the sign has been nailed to the tree since the development of the neighborhood in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The name has personal significance to the neighborhood children who play around the area.”

The Jefferson County Commission recommends approval of this proposal. The City of Irondale Council and the Birmingham City Council did not respond to a request for comments, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The Alabama State Names Authority has no objection to the name. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, both of which are federally recognized. The Muscogee Nation responded in support of the name. No response was received from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

Canyon Creek, Canyon Creek Cascade, Canyon Creek Falls, East Branch Canyon Creek, West Branch Canyon Creek, Illinois

(Review List 414)

The following five proposals were submitted by a resident of Naperville, in an effort to make official locally used names for a stream, two tributaries, and two waterfalls along the Cook County-DuPage County boundary. The two tributaries and two waterfalls are located within the Waterfall Glen County Forest Preserve (which was named for Seymore “Bud” Waterfall), while the primary stream is just outside the preserve's boundaries. The DuPage County GIS Office responded in favor of the proposals. The DuPage

County Commission, the Cook County Board, and the City of Darien were asked to comment on the proposals but no responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. A copy of the proposals was forwarded to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the Forest County Potawatomi Community, the Hannahville Indian Community, and the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation, all of which are federally recognized. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The Illinois Geographic Names Board recommends approval of the names.

Canyon Creek

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=41.68339&p_longi=-88.01415

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=41.6857305&p_longi=-88.0046974

The proponent reports that the name Canyon Creek is already in local use and that it is descriptive because the stream's upper portions flow through a small steep-sided valley. The stream is 0.5 miles long and flows into Goose Lake. Online maps of the Forest Preserve do not show a name for the stream, but the name does appear on one untitled preserve map provided by the proponent. The Director of the Office of Public Affairs for the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County has confirmed local usage of the name.

Canyon Creek Cascade

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=41.6957328&p_longi=-88.0004499

This waterfall lies along the unnamed stream proposed to be named East Branch Canyon Creek (q.v.). It has a height of approximately three feet and is located approximately 150 feet downstream from the second falls, proposed to be named Canyon Creek Falls (q.v.). Maps of the Forest Preserve do not depict the falls.

Canyon Creek Falls

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=41.6951726&p_longi=-88.0002685

The new name Canyon Creek Falls is proposed for a naturally occurring, approximately eight-foot high waterfall located along an unnamed stream proposed to be named East Branch Canyon Creek (q.v.).

East Branch Canyon Creek

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=41.6857305&p_longi=-88.0046974

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=41.6995045&p_longi=-87.9951345

The name East Branch Canyon Creek is proposed for a 1.3-mile-long stream that flows through Waterfall Glen County Forest Preserve to join another unnamed stream (proposed West Branch Canyon Creek) to form a third unnamed stream (proposed Canyon Creek).

West Branch Canyon Creek

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=41.6857305&p_longi=-88.0046974

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=41.6943025&p_longi=-88.0055704

The name West Branch Canyon Creek is proposed for a 0.6-mile-long stream that flows through Waterfall Glen County Forest Preserve to join another unnamed stream (proposed East Branch Canyon Creek) to form a third unnamed stream (proposed Canyon Creek).

Elliman Run, Ohio

(Review List 414)

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=41.2429816&p_longi=-81.2946906Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=41.2780445&p_longi=-81.3202578

This 3.4-mile-long unnamed stream, proposed to be named Elliman Run, heads in the City of Streetsboro and flows into Shalersville Township, where it enters the Cuyahoga River. The stream is crossed by Elliman Road three times. According to the proponent, the origin of the road name is not known. However, a search of the Internet found that Thomas Elliman (d. 1891) owned 157 acres of land in what was at the time Streetsboro Township.

The Shalersville Township Board of Trustees was asked to comment, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The Portage County Board of Commissioners responded in favor of the name. The Ohio State Names Authority has no objection. The NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database does not list any federally recognized tribes with a current or historical interest in Portage County.