

U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
Seven Hundred and Eighty-first Meeting
Department of the Interior, Kiowa Room
April 14, 2016 – 9:30 a.m.

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Eric Berman	Department of Homeland Security (Federal Emergency Management Agency)
Douglas Caldwell	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) (not voting)
Jon Campbell	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Laurie Campbell	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Monique Fordham	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey) (by teleconference)
Brenda-Anne C. Forrest	Government Publishing Office
Tony Gilbert	Government Publishing Office
Paul Holeva	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Elizabeth Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service) (Chair) (not voting)
Sean Killen	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service) (by teleconference)
Jacquie Nolan	Library of Congress
Mike Shelton	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
Michael Tischler	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Douglas Vandegraft	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management) (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)
Matthew O'Donnell, U.S. Geological Survey
Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey

Guests

Robert Lewald, U.S. Coast Guard
Franklin Parker, U.S. Coast Guard
Angela Pittman, U.S. Forest Service
Lance Roddy, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Ted Sickley, National Geographic Society

1. Opening

Chairwoman Kanalley opened the meeting at 9:34 a.m. and asked the members, guests, and Secretariat to introduce themselves.

2. Minutes of the 780th Meeting

The minutes of the 780th meeting of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC), held March 10th, were approved with two minor corrections.

3. Reports

3.1 BGN Chairman (Gilbert)

The full BGN will hold its next Quarterly Meeting on Tuesday, April 19th, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 1548 of the Department of the Interior building.

The DNC's revised *Principles, Policies, and Procedures* are being reviewed by the Solicitor's Office.

3.2 BGN Executive Secretary (Yost)

Letters of appointment and reappointment for all BGN members are still being reviewed by the USGS. The text of the letters refers to terms beginning on October 1, 2015; questions have been raised as to whether this is still accurate given the lateness in getting the letters finalized.

China's civil affairs ministry has outlawed the use of foreign names in the names of residential complexes in China; such names include Manhattan, Venice, and Yosemite. All names must be changed to more traditional Chinese names by June 2017.

3.3 Special Committee on Communication (Holeva)

The Special Committee on Communication (SCC) has not met since its meeting on January 19th. The next meeting will take place at 9:30 a.m. on April 19th prior to the next full BGN meeting. A social lunch will follow for all those who supported the 125th anniversary symposium last September.

3.4 Executive Secretary (Yost)

The next meeting of the DNC has been rescheduled from May 12th to May 5th and will be held during the annual meeting of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (COGNA) in Reno.

Department of Justice grants for Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) have begun again this year. Applications must include the GNIS feature ID of the populated place, locale, or civil feature (town, city, county, etc.). Instructions are on the GNIS Web site to help users, although BGN staff will likely receive questions, especially near the deadline.

A Washington State Senator has requested that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) (which houses the Washington State Committee on Geographic Names (WSCGN)) change all place names which contain offensive words. These words include "Chinaman," "Jim Crow," "Negro," "Redman," and "Squaw." The DNC has already received an inquiry about changing the names of the three features in Washington that include "Jim Crow" in their names. Media coverage of the announcement indicates that the Senator is expecting that the changes will be completed by the end of 2016. Shelton asked when the BGN might receive the proposals so that he can alert his National Park Service contacts. The WSCGN is expected to discuss the issue at its May meeting so presumably more information will be forthcoming following that meeting. Tischler inquired whether the Senator or the WSCGN would consult with federally recognized tribes with an interest in the matter; Runyon responded that the WSCGN is very thorough regarding tribal contacts.

3.5 Staff (Runyon)

A resident of Oregon, who has been designated by the Grant County Court to represent it in the ongoing effort to change “Squaw” names in the State, has submitted 25 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests; he is seeking copies of documents pertaining to the BGN’s recent decisions and other proposals that are still pending. Runyon has compiled the material and provided it to the USGS FOIA Office. Many documents refer to multiple cases.

The proponent of Dana Creek (a new name approved at the February BGN meeting for a previously unnamed stream in Mississippi) has sent a thank you card to the committee, along with an invitation to a ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 28th marking the official naming of the stream.

Runyon participated in a telephone conference with the Alaska Board on Geographic Names and a representative of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Council, which is considering proposing 50 to 100 stream and lake names.

In late January, the South Dakota State Legislature introduced a bill to eliminate the South Dakota Board on Geographic Names (SDBGN). The SDBGN was established in the mid-2000s to address only changing offensive names, although subsequent legislation added the authority to process and consider all proposals. The recent bill did not pass, but an amended version was put forward that limits the SDBGN’s authority so that it can only act on a proposed change to a name that has been identified by the State Legislature as being offensive or insulting. The SDBGN can also continue to conduct public hearings to determine local opinion.

Wayne Furr, Executive Secretary of COGNA, is seeking topics for discussion during the State-Federal Roundtable at this year’s annual COGNA meeting. This session provides an opportunity for the BGN members to interact directly with the State Names Authorities on issues of mutual interest and concern.

Following the DNC meeting and a lunch break, Lewald, Parker, and Roddy will join interested DNC members and staff for a group discussion on waterway and channel names and locations. Discussion will include details about GNIS, point and vector data, and the current limitation of GNIS to delineate the boundaries of features. Berman mentioned that FEMA is also interested, as many of its Flood Insurance Rate Maps include channel names and cross-sectional data. He noted that the DHS’s Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data (HIFLD) Subcommittee might also be interested in the topic.

3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (McCormick)

A power outage is scheduled this weekend for the USGS building in Denver that contains the GNIS servers.

As reported last month, the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) has begun a pilot test project to add “provisional names” to hydrographic features in California and Idaho. A presentation on the project will be made by the USGS Geospatial Liaison for California during the upcoming COGNA meeting.

McCormick is hoping to hire two new student contractors and a Pathways intern.

A pilot project is underway between USGS and the National Park Service to produce 28 USTopo maps of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, which will contain features other than those shown on the standard USTopo maps. The categories of data include campsites, ranger stations, lookout towers, and

visitor centers. These features will be added to the USGS vector datasets and conflated with GNIS.

The GNIS staff has received additional updates to names in Hawaii from the Hawaii Board on Geographic Names; these primarily include the addition of writing marks to existing names in GNIS.

McCormick will give a presentation at the COGNA meeting on the use of the landforms collection tool.

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.

Before proceeding with its review of the docket, which contains a number of proposals to replace names containing the word “Squaw” with names from native languages or names submitted by the Grant County Court and local residents, Runyon clarified some details regarding the proposals. In cases for which there are counter-proposals and if the English-language name should be approved, the proponents of the native names have asked that their names be recorded in GNIS as variant names. Following some discussion, the members were reminded that once named, features cannot be unnamed. A map editor is permitted to omit the label from a cartographic product but the name remains official and listed in GNIS. Furthermore, changes are permitted to names of features in wilderness areas.

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

Change **Squaw Creek** (FID 1127482) to **Goose Creek**, Oregon (Bureau of Land Management) (Review List 412)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 13 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Change **Little Squaw Spring** (FID 1145267) to **Myrtle Spring**, Oregon (Wallowa-Whitman National Forest) (Review List 412)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 13 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Change **Squaw Meadow** (FID 1150282) to **Shootingstar Meadow**, Oregon (Malheur National Forest) (Review List 411)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 13 in favor

0 against
0 abstentions

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Asgard Peak, Colorado (White River National Forest) (Review List 420)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this new name, citing a lack of local and Federal land management agency support.

Vote: 13 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Lake Shira, Colorado (Roosevelt National Forest / Indian Peaks Wilderness) (Review List 421)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this new name, citing the BGN's Wilderness Policy.

Vote: 13 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Wind Song Mountain, Colorado (Roosevelt National Forest) (Review List 422)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this new name, citing a lack of local and Federal land management agency support.

Vote: 13 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

The Committee took a five-minute recess.

The procedure for counter-proposals was clarified: a motion will be made for a particular name in preference to the other. If the motion passes, there is no need to then disapprove the other name. The BGN also has the option to not approve either proposed name, thus leaving the current name unchanged.

Change **Squaw Creek** (FID 1150239) to **Škáypiya Creek** or **Elder Creek**, Oregon (Bureau of Land Management) (Review Lists 405, 417)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name **Škáypiya Creek**. The motion was amended to approve **Škáypiya Creek** in preference to **Elder Creek** and was seconded.

Discussion followed on the definition of local support and the question of the use of the Umatilla language names in a predominantly oral traditional culture. There was also discussion regarding Section 3 of Public Law 80-242, which re-established the BGN in 1947, and which states that the BGN's principles, policies, and procedures "shall be designed to serve the interests of the Federal Government and the general public, to enlist the effective cooperation of the Federal departments and agencies most concerned, and to give full

consideration to the specific interests of particular Federal and State agencies.” There was some debate over the interpretation of whether the phrase “specific interests of particular Federal and State agencies” refers specifically to the land management agencies at the exclusion of other Federal and State agencies. The question was also raised as to which opinion should take precedence as representing local use and acceptance: the land management agency or the county.

Vote: 12 in favor
 1 against
 0 abstentions

The negative vote was cast in support of the recommendation of the Grant County Court.

Change **Little Squaw Creek** (FID 1150239) to **Little Škáypiya Creek** or **Little Elder Creek**, Oregon (Bureau of Land Management) (Review Lists 405, 417)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name Little Škáypiya Creek in preference to Little Elder Creek.

Vote: 12 in favor
 1 against
 0 abstentions

The negative vote was cast in support of the recommendation of the Grant County Court.

A discussion took place regarding the related nature of the three proposals on the docket that include the word “Wiwaanaytt.” A motion was made and seconded to consider the proposed change to Squaw Meadow (FID 1150283) in Section II; then to consider Squaw Creek (BGN 1975) (FID 1150254) in section IV; and finally Little Squaw Meadow (FID 1145266) in section II (which has two counter-proposals).

Vote: 13 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Change **Squaw Meadow** (FID 1150283) to **Wiwaanaytt Meadow**, Oregon (Whitman National Forest) (Review List 405)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 13 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Change **Squaw Creek** (BGN 1975) (FID 1150254) to **Wiwaanaytt Creek**, Oregon (Wallowa-Whitman National Forest) (Review List 405)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 13 in favor

0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Little Squaw Meadow** (FID 1145266) to **Little Wíwaanaytt Meadow** or **Frosty Meadow**, Oregon (Wallowa-Whitman National Forest) (Review Lists 405, 412)

A motion was made to approve the name Frosty Meadow; the motion was amended to approve Frosty Meadow in preference to Little Wíwaanaytt Meadow and was seconded. The reason for the motion cited the geographic proximity of this feature to Frosty Gulch and the fact that it is located some distance from Wíwaanaytt Meadow (q.v.) and in a different watershed.

Vote: 9 in favor
 3 against
 1 abstentions

The negative votes, that is, in support of Little Wíwaanaytt Meadow, were cast in support of the recommendation of the Oregon Geographic Names Board, and in recognition of the State legislation that states that “the public body shall consider as the replacement name a term or phrase in the language of an Indian tribe.”

Change **Squaw Creek** (FID 1150238) to **Kúckuc Creek** or **Hawthorn Creek**, Oregon (Umatilla National Forest / North Fork John Day Wilderness) (Review Lists 405, 412)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name Kúckuc Creek in preference to Hawthorn Creek.

Vote: 9 in favor
 2 against
 2 abstentions

The negative votes, that is, in support of Hawthorn Creek, were cast in support of the recommendation of the Grant County Court.

Change **Squaw Creek** (FID 1150244) to **Nikémexš Creek** or **Sharp Creek**, Oregon (Malheur National Forest / Strawberry Mountain Wilderness) (Review Lists 405, 411)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name Sharp Creek in preference to Nikémexš Creek, citing historical records and county government support.

Vote: 8 in favor
 3 against
 2 abstentions

The negative votes, that is, for Little Wíwaanaytt Meadow, were cast in support of the recommendation of the Oregon Geographic Names Board, and in recognition of the State legislation that states that “the public body shall consider as the replacement name a term or phrase in the language of an Indian tribe.”

Tiger Paw Falls, South Carolina (Clemson Experimental Forest / U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) (Review List 417)

A motion was made and seconded to defer a decision until the Public Relations Office of Clemson University could be contacted for input.

Vote: 9 in favor
 4 against
 0 abstentions

The negative votes were cast in the belief that enough evidence existed to proceed with a decision.

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

Change **Squaw Rock** (FID 1150294) to **Donaldson Rock**, Oregon (Umatilla National Forest) (Review List 410)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 13 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Change **Squaw Creek** (FID 1150251) to **Mona Creek**, Oregon (Malheur National Forest) (Review List 411)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 13 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Change **Squaw Creek** (FID 1150255) to **Wewa Creek**, Oregon (Bureau of Land Management) (Review List 419)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 13 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Sids Falls, South Carolina (Sumter National Forest) (Review List 420) (FID 2783827)

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

Vote: 13 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

IV. Revised Decisions

Change **Harney Peak** (BGN 1906) (FID 1261770) to **Black Elk Peak** or **Thunder Peak**, South Dakota (Black Hills National Forest / Black Elk Wilderness) (Review Lists 419, 422)

After extensive discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the name Black Elk Peak in preference to Thunder Peak, because the name Black Elk Peak appears to have more support than Thunder Peak. It was also noted that the Forest Service, while remaining neutral on which name is chosen, recommends that the existing name be changed.

During subsequent discussion, a member noted that it was very difficult to select one name over another when there are clearly divided opinions. The motion was withdrawn.

A member questioned the need for a consensus in this case, noting that the BGN often deals with differences in opinions and renders a decision regardless.

The members stated that they wished to continue discussing the various aspects of the case; however, several of them indicated they had to leave for another meeting and that this meeting was running long. As such, a motion was made and seconded to defer a decision.

Vote:	13 in favor
	0 against
	0 abstentions

Chairwoman Kanalley invited Ms. Pittman, a Policy Analyst for the U.S. Forest Service's Office of Tribal Relations, if she wished to comment on the matter. Pittman responded that she found the dialogue very interesting. She suggested that the large number of responses from Minnesota to the online survey reflects the opinions of an urban American Indian community in the Twin Cities. She also suggested that because many reservations are not as connected to the rest of the Nation by high speed internet, it could be difficult for many individuals to voice their opinions. To achieve a Tribal consensus, Tribes can be asked to hold emergency sessions for resolutions, although personal contacts are typically preferred over form letters. The BGN staff noted that it does not have the resources to conduct more personal outreach.

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties - none

5. Other Business

Six members present at this meeting and the Secretariat will be attending the COGNA meeting in May.

Kanalley thanked all members for today's discussions during several challenging cases.

6. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

The next Domestic Names Committee meeting will be held May 5th, 2016, at 8:30 a.m., during the annual meeting of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities in Reno, Nevada.

(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
April 2016**

“Squaw” changes in Grant County, Oregon
(Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service)
(Review Lists 405, 410, 411, 412, 417, 419)

This docket includes 18 proposals to change the names of 13 geographic features in Grant County which currently contain the word “Squaw.” The proposals were submitted in response to Oregon House Bill 488, Chapter 652 Oregon Laws 2001, which stated, “Except as required by federal law, a public body may not use the term ‘squaw’ in the name of a public property.” An Oregon Senate Joint Memorial, passed later in 2001, stated, “We call upon the United States Secretary of the Interior, United States Secretary of Agriculture, United States Board on Geographic Names and Oregon Geographic Names Board to remove the term ‘squaw’ from names of geographic places in the State of Oregon.” In 2005, Senate Bill 362, Chapter 165 Oregon Laws, stated, “Relating to names for public properties; amending ORS 271.600; and repealing section 2, chapter 652, Oregon Laws 2001: When a public body changes a name that contains the term ‘squaw,’ the public body shall consider as the replacement name a term or phrase in the language of an Indian tribe.”

In 2005, the Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB) advised the affected county governments of the legislation and invited them to propose replacement names. No responses were received.

In 2010, after at least one news outlet implied that the OGNB was not fulfilling its responsibility (“Changing names at Speed of Gov’t”, *Bend Bulletin*, 2010), the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) submitted 44 proposals to change names throughout eastern Oregon. The CTUIR believes the word “squaw” is offensive. Sixteen of the CTUIR’s original proposals applied to features in Grant County, with five of the streams extending into neighboring counties. The CTUIR Cultural Resources Protection Program notes that the features are located within the ceded lands boundaries and traditional use areas of the *Weyiiletpuu* (Cayuse), *Imatalamláma* (Umatilla), and *Walúulapam* (Walla Walla).

An article in the *Baker City Herald* in July 2010, entitled “Tribes to propose name changes to eliminate ‘squaw,’” outlined the proposal process and included several examples of the CTUIR names. The article

encouraged its readers to submit comments to the CTUIR by early September. Another article, entitled “Tribes, panel work to remove ‘squaw’ from Oregon place names” appeared at the OregonLive.com Web site.

In August 2010, the 44 CTUIR proposals were submitted to the OGNB, which then asked the appropriate county governments for input. Baker County responded initially that it had no opinion on the features in its jurisdiction (although a more recently appointed county commissioner contacted the U.S. BGN staff in 2015, noting that “[he was] unaware of the proposals and that he had concerns regarding emergency response where names are unpronounceable by the local community and request[ed] more public dialogue.”

The Grant County Court stated it was opposed to the all of the CTUIR names, citing a lack of opportunity for locals to provide input; “a lack of local heritage”; and confusion that would result from the spelling and pronunciation of native names. The county established a Geographic Names Committee to review the CTUIR proposals; its spokesperson argues that the Umatilla names are “manufactured,” “lack credibility,” and “have no local citizen or local government support” because they are of Nez Perce origin and “the Nez Perce Indians did not live, fish, hunt, or gather in this region.” The committee submitted a petition with 462 signatures of individuals who are opposed to the CTUIR names and support the Grant County proposals.

The BGN also received letters from the City of John Day, the City of Prairie City, the City of Mount Vernon, and the Town of Dayville, all objecting to the CTUIR names (none of the features lie within the corporate boundaries of these communities). The Wheeler County Court did not respond to the OGNB’s request for comment. The Wheeler County Historical Society stated it had no objection to the proposed names. State Representative Cliff Bentz submitted a letter to express his concerns regarding the usability of the proposed names. The BLM Field Manager submitted a letter to the CTUIR expressing support for ‘squaw’ changes submitted by the CTUIR “or other names arrived at by a consensus decision between tribes if additional tribes choose to suggest names.” The U.S. Forest Service also expressed support for changing the word “squaw,” but suggested that it would wait to comment on specific proposals “until all parties have weighed in.”

As part of its research, the OGNB also forwarded each of the proposals to the Oregon Legislative Commission on Indian Services, which in turn shared them with all federally recognized tribes with an interest in Oregon. Other than the Tribes already involved in the proposals, no responses were received, which was presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

In November 2010, the Burns Paiute Tribe wrote to the CTUIR, commending the CTUIR for leading the name change effort and asking for recognition of Paiute names in areas where Paiute have an historical affiliation. At its December 2010 meeting, the OGNB deferred a decision on all the CTUIR proposals citing the Burns Paiute’s announcement that they would be submitting counter-proposals; several counties indicated they would also. The CTUIR commented that they had tried to solicit Burns Paiute input but that none had been received until issue was raised at the OGNB meeting.

In February 2011, an article in *The Blue Mountain Eagle* noted that the public was invited to submit other names to the Grant County Surveyor by September 2011. During late 2011 and 2012, eighteen counter-proposals were received: ten from the Grant County Court, six from individuals residing in the county, one from the Burns Paiute Tribe, and three from a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation.

During a number of meetings between 2011 and 2013, the OGNB reviewed the proposals and counter-proposals, along with the numerous opinions that it had received. Several county, Federal, and Tribal representatives participated in the meetings. A representative of the Grant County Historical Museum noted that there were concerns in the community as to why history should be changed, and that the proposed names are “unpronounceable,” and so locals would continue to use the former names.

Representatives of the CTUIR and the Burns Paiute Tribe who attended the OGNB meetings indicated they would be willing to withdraw a number of their proposals and would endorse a counter-proposed name, provided the withdrawn name was recorded in GNIS as a variant name. The various compromises and withdrawals resulted in 20 active proposals for 15 features located wholly or partially within Grant County. Two of the 20 are still pending, awaiting confirmation that all parties were given an opportunity to provide input. Two of the seven active CTUIR proposals are opposed by the Grant County Court, but do not have counter-proposals.

Twelve of the 18 proposals on this docket refer to nine features on land administered by the U.S. Forest Service, while six refer to four features on Bureau of Land Management land. An additional proposal from the CTUIR, to change the name of Indian Rock, was withdrawn following discussions at the OGNB meetings as to whether “Indian” is an offensive word. Additionally, a proposed change to a trail name has been forwarded to the U.S. Forest Service for processing.

The U.S. Forest Service has stated that it supports the removal of the offensive names for features on National Forest lands in Region 6. The agency adds, “In Grant County, where there are two or more replacement names, [we] will take a neutral stance on the proposals and counter-proposals brought before the BGN. Where there is only one proposal, the Forest Service recommends approval [of that name].”

This docket includes three proposals under Category I, Staff-Processed New Names, and Name and Application Changes agreed to by all interested parties; eleven under Category II, Disagreement on Docketed Names, three under Category III, New Commemorative Names and Changes agreed to by all interested parties; and one under Category IV, Revised Decisions.

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

Change Squaw Creek (FID 1127482) to Goose Creek, Oregon
(Bureau of Land Management)
(Review List 412)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=44.5890322&p_longi=-119.6430423&fid=1127482

This proposal was submitted by the OGNB on behalf of a resident of Kimberly, to change the name of Squaw Creek to Goose Creek. It was submitted in response to a previous proposal by the CTUIR, to change the name of the stream to Ákakpa Creek (Review List 405). The latter name, which reportedly means “at the goose,” has since been withdrawn. A third proposal, from the same local resident, for Munro Creek (Review List 410), a name that was intended to honor long-time owners of property at the mouth of the stream, was also withdrawn.

The stream heads in Wheeler County, on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, then flows generally east and east-southeast before entering the John Day River in Grant County. It is also located

near Goose Rock and Goose Rock Bridge. Although the stream lies outside the boundaries of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, it is shown and labeled as Squaw Creek on the National Park Service brochure.

The Grant County Court originally supported the proposal for Munro Creek, but amended its recommendation to support Goose Creek instead. The OGNB initially recommended approval of the Umatilla name Ákakpa Creek, but now supports the proposal for Goose Creek, as does the Bureau of Land Management.

Change **Little Squaw Spring** (FID 1145267) to **Myrtle Spring**, Oregon
(Wallowa-Whitman National Forest)
(Review List 412)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=44.6523763&p_longi=-118.4713338&fid=1145267

This proposal is to change the name of Little Squaw Spring to Myrtle Spring. It was submitted by the Grant County Court in response to a previous proposal by the CTUIR to change the name to Little Táwn Spring, which reportedly means “to make stone tools out of a hard rock.” The latter name was later withdrawn.

The spring is located in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, 4.8 miles northeast of Bates and 15 miles southwest of Sumpter. The proposed name Myrtle Spring refers to the Myrtle boxwood plant which is found in the area (there is a Myrtle Creek already in Grant County). The County Court reports that the spring is located along an old wagon road where in the mid-1800s travelers are believed to have rested and watered their livestock. Regarding the existing name, the county suggests it likely refers to “a Native American woman who was observed drawing water or picking berries or digging roots near the spring.”

The OGNB recommends approval of the change to Myrtle Spring, with a request that Little Táwn Spring be recorded as a variant in GNIS. The U.S. Forest Service also recommends approval of Myrtle Spring.

Change **Squaw Meadow** (FID 1150282) to **Shootingstar Meadow**, Oregon
(Malheur National Forest)
(Review List 411)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=44.1329347&p_longi=-118.6774389&fid=1150282

This proposal is to change the name of Squaw Meadow to Shootingstar Meadow. The 9.7-acre flat is located in Malheur National Forest, 23 miles south of Prairie City. The name Shootingstar Meadow was submitted by a former resident of Grant County in response to an earlier proposal by the CTUIR, to change the name to Sáykiptatpa Meadow. The latter name reportedly means “at the medicine.” After the local community became aware of the CTUIR proposal and learned that the OGNB had endorsed the Umatilla name, an informal committee was formed to solicit alternate names. The name Shootingstar Meadow refers to the *dodecatheon meadia*, a perennial wildflower whose common name is the “shootingstar.” The proponent provided photographs showing the existence of the flowers in the meadow.

The Grant County Court supports the proposal for Shootingstar Meadow. The proposal for Sáykiptatpa Meadow was subsequently withdrawn by the CTUIR in support of Shootingstar Meadow, provided the Umatilla name is recorded in GNIS as a variant name. The OGNB recommends approval of Shootingstar Meadow, as does the U.S. Forest Service.

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Asgard Peak, Colorado
(White River National Forest)
(Review List 420)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=39.39938&p_longi=-106.13816

This 13,902-foot summit is located within White River National Forest and is one of the unnamed peaks of the Tenmile Range. The proposed name Asgard Peak refers to one of the Nine Worlds of the Norse religion. This world is home to the Æsir tribe of gods and is surrounded by an incomplete wall attributed to Hrimthurs riding a stallion. Odin and his wife, Frigg, are the rulers of Asgard.

The proponent believes the name Asgard Peak is appropriate for this unnamed summit because each year since 1962 the nearby community of Breckenridge has hosted Ullr Fest, a week-long festival intended “to win the favor of Ullr in an effort to bring snow to the historic ski town” (Wikipedia). According to the Breckenridge Web site, “Ullr loved the cold and delighted in traveling over the country on his skis or skates. He also delighted in the chase and pursued his game through the Northern Forests.”

The Town of Breckenridge and the Summit County Board of Commissioners were asked to comment on the proposal; however, no responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) does not support the proposal, indicating that local climbers refer to the summit as Drift Peak, a name also used by the mountaineering Web site 13ers.com. The USFS declined to submit a proposal for this name.

The Colorado Board of Geographic Names also recommends disapproval of the name, citing “a lack of documentation of strong local support, opposition from the National [sic] Forest Service, and [it is] a name in search of a feature because there is no definable connection between the feature and the proposal.”

A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the following federally recognized tribes: the Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation. The Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) of the Tribe of the Wind River Reservation responded that “The name of Asgard does not memorialize who are the indigenous people of this land they once called home [and the name] is not ‘special or unique’, just because it makes the local town rich in their festival...in a way it is a total act of disrespect.” She added, “The proposed name we have for this area we once migrated through and called home was called ‘Eagle Watching,’ in Arapaho ‘Nee-ai_he, Not-Naw-Ai.’ This was the indigenous name of the mountain you call [sic] Asgard. By honoring the indigenous names of the Arapaho would rightfully put a perspective in these areas...we do understand that it is not our place to say what it should be called; however [the name “Eagle Watching” would] honor the first people and the indigenous people of this continent...the peak should not be named after a religion/ tribe NOT of this continent.” The BGN staff corresponded with the THPO about submission of a counter-proposal, but none was received. No responses were received from the other tribes, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion.

Lake Shira, Colorado
(Roosevelt National Forest / Indian Peaks Wilderness)
(Review List 421)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=39.944248&p_longi=-105.6861889

This 1.2-acre lake is located in the Indian Peaks Wilderness within Roosevelt National Forest. The proponents have proposed the name Lake Shira in an effort to honor their stillborn daughter, Shira Rose Harrell (1983). Although the proponents admit the name is personal to them, they also hope the lake will become a place of solace for other parents who have gone through the process of grieving for a lost child. When asked to address the BGN's Wilderness Policy, they stated that they believe the lake provides "a place of calm and serene stillness, as well as a place to reflect, with outstanding opportunities for solitude" in a wilderness area. They also hope it represents a place for families to know they are not alone in their loss. They say the name Shira means "song and melody of poetic beauty."

The Boulder County Board of Commissioners was asked to comment on the proposal; no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion. The U.S. Forest Service, while offering condolences and sympathy to the Harrell family loss, does not support the proposal, citing the Wilderness Policy. The Colorado Board of Geographic Names also "offers its heartfelt sympathy to the Harrell Family," but recommends disapproval of the name citing the Wilderness Policy and the lack of support from the U.S. Forest Service.

A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the following federally recognized tribes: the Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion.

Wind Song Mountain, Colorado
(Roosevelt National Forest)
(Review List 422)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=40.36041&p_longi=-105.44528

The new name Wind Song Mountain is proposed for an 8,849-foot summit in Roosevelt National Forest, 3 miles southeast of Estes Park. The proponent states that the name refers to the whispering sound made by wind gusts as they rise up the northern slope of the mountain. He claims the sound is noticed by many who live in or frequent the area.

The Larimer County Manager and Board of Commissioners were asked to comment on the proposal; the county's Natural Resources Manager replied that the county had no strong opinion on the proposed name but would defer to U.S. Forest Service and/or the Town of Estes Park. The Natural Resources Manager contacted a local historian of the Town of Estes Park who reported that in his opinion that "the naming convention preferred would be to use names of local significance/connotation."

The U.S. Forest Service is opposed to the proposal, noting that although "the proposed 'Wind Song Mountain' name is based on wind gusts coming up the northern slope which causes a distinct whispering sound, the proposed name does not describe the topographic form or suggest local history, folklore, incident, or distinctive phenomena". The Colorado Board of Geographic Names also recommends disapproval of the name citing a lack of local and U.S. Forest Service support, as well as a lack of a "compelling need to name [the] feature."

A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the following federally recognized tribes: the Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion.

Change **Squaw Creek** (FID 1150239) to **Škáypiya Creek** or **Elder Creek**, Oregon
(Bureau of Land Management)
(Review Lists 405, 417)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=44.962372&p_longi=-119.2972126&fid=1150239

These proposals are to change the name of Squaw Creek, a 2.5-mile-long tributary of the John Day River in Grant County.

The proposal for Škáypiya Creek was submitted by the CTUIR. The word “Škáypiya” reportedly means “spirit.”

The proposal for Elder Creek was submitted by the Geographic Names Coordinator for the Grant County Court, in response to the CTUIR proposal. The County Court initially proposed that the stream name be changed to Slickear Creek (Review List 412), but after learning that there was little local support for that name, it was withdrawn (“slickear” refers to “a range animal lacking an earmark,” and Slickear Canyon and Slickear Mountain are located approximately five miles south of the stream in question).

The name Elder Creek is intended to honor James (1880-1924) and Margaret Elder (1882-1957), who homesteaded on property through which the stream flows. General Land Office records confirm that the Elders acquired 320 acres in 1922, and three years later, Margaret, by then widowed, acquired an additional 320 acres.

The OGNB and the Bureau of Land Management both recommend approval of the name Škáypiya Creek.

Change **Little Squaw Creek** (FID 1145264) to **Little Škáypiya Creek** or **Little Elder Creek**, Oregon
(Bureau of Land Management)
(Review Lists 405, 417)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=44.9632052&p_longi=-119.3005461&fid=1145264

These proposals were submitted to change the name of Little Squaw Creek in Grant County. The 1.3-mile long stream is a tributary of Squaw Creek, the name of which is proposed to be changed to either Škáypiya Creek or Elder Creek (q.v.).

The OGNB and the Bureau of Land Management both recommend approval of the name Little Škáypiya Creek.

Change **Little Squaw Meadow** (FID 1145266)
to **Little Wíwaanaytt Meadow** or **Frosty Meadow**, Oregon
(Wallowa-Whitman National Forest)
(Review Lists 405, 412)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getgooglemap?p_lat=44.5007151&p_longi=-118.4560525&fid=1145266

These proposals are to change the name of Little Squaw Meadow in Grant County. This 92-acre flat is located in Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, 6.9 miles southeast of Bates.

The proposal for Little Wíwaanaytt Meadow was submitted by the CTUIR. The word “Wíwaanaytt” reportedly means “scattered,” a reference to the streams flowing into this place.

The proposal for Frosty Meadow was submitted by the Grant County Court in response to the CTUIR proposal. The name Frosty Meadow refers to the meadow’s location at the head of Frosty Gulch. The County Court disputes the CTUIR’s claim that “scattered” is an appropriate description of the place.

The OGNB recommends approval of the name Little Wíwaanaytt Meadow. The U.S. Forest Service supports the removal of the name Little Squaw Meadow, but remains neutral regarding the proposal and counter-proposal.

Change **Squaw Creek** (FID 1150238) to **Kúckuc Creek** or **Hawthorn Creek**, Oregon
(Umatilla National Forest / North Fork John Day Wilderness)
(Review Lists 405, 412)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=44.8390334&p_longi=-118.4818932&fid=1150238

These proposals are to change the name of Squaw Creek, a 2.7-mile-long stream in Umatilla National Forest, 3.7 mi northwest of Granite.

The proposal for Kúckuc Creek was submitted by the CTUIR. The word “Kúckuc” reportedly means “little.”

The proposal for Hawthorn Creek was submitted by the Grant County Court, which contends that the Umatilla name is “made-up, random and [does] not reflect any aspect of the creek.” The proposed name Hawthorn Creek refers to “the colorful hawthorn shrub... known by the common name black hawthorn, [which] is abundant along the course of the creek.” The County Court claims the name was suggested by “knowledgeable local citizens who have visited the site.”

The OGNB recommends approval of the name Kúckuc Creek. The U.S. Forest Service supports the removal of the name Squaw Creek, but remains neutral regarding the proposal and counter-proposal.

Change **Squaw Creek** (FID 1150244) to **Nikéemexš Creek** or **Sharp Creek**, Oregon
(Malheur National Forest / Strawberry Mountain Wilderness)
(Review Lists 405, 411)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=44.3909919&p_longi=-118.6782784&fid=1150244

These proposals are to change the name of Squaw Creek, a 4.7-mile-long stream located partly within Malheur National Forest/Strawberry Mountain Wilderness, 5.2 mi southeast of Prairie City. The stream also flows across private land to enter an unnamed tributary of the John Day River.

The proposal for Nikéemexš Creek was submitted by the CTUIR; the word “Nikéemexš” reportedly means “rough interiors.”

The counter-proposal, for Sharp Creek, was submitted by a former resident of Grant County, who contends the Umatilla name is “fabricated” and has no historic merit; “furthermore, if the stream is to be renamed, the replacement name should reflect the history of the area and have local support.” Finally, “since the Nez Perce Tribe did not reside in what would become Grant County; there are no ‘rough interiors’ in the area; and local people have never referred to the stream as ‘Nikéemexš.’”

According to General Land Office records, in 1872 Phillip T. Sharp homesteaded on 160 acres near the mouth of the stream. Two longtime area surveyors report that they and other local residents have always referred to the stream as Sharps Creek [sic] and question why USGS “changed the name.” To support his claim that the proposed name has longstanding usage, the proponent provided a copy of two State Engineer’s water rights reports from 1927, one of which was accompanied by a map that labeled the stream Sharps Cr. Branch of Strawberry Cr. (there is some confusion as to whether the stream in question is or was a tributary of Strawberry Creek; however, the present-day National Hydrography Dataset makes a clear distinction between the two). A Water Rights Certificate dated 1959 also refers to Sharps Creek, while a hand-drawn map attached to a 1986 State of Oregon Public Waters Permit labeled it Sharp Creek Branch. An additional map, attached to a 1998 Water Rights Certificate, also applied the name Sharp Creek Branch. There is no evidence that the name Squaw Creek is in local or published use beyond the USGS topographic map (the proponent has suggested that “Squaw” may be a corruption of “Sharp”).

The Grant County Court supports the proposal for Sharp Creek. However, the OGNB recommends approval of the name Nikéemexš Creek. The U.S. Forest Service supports the removal of the name Squaw Creek, but remains neutral regarding the proposal and counter-proposal.

Change **Squaw Meadow** (FID 1150283) to **Wiwaanaytt Meadow**, Oregon
(Whitman National Forest)
(Review List 405)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=44.5212703&p_longi=-118.4091073&fid=1150283

This proposal is to change the name of Squaw Meadow in Grant County to Wiwaanaytt Meadow. This 95-acre flat is located in Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, 7 miles southeast of Bates and 19 miles southwest of Sumpter. The proposed replacement name, submitted by the CTUIR, means “scattered”, a reference to the streams flowing into this place.

During the OGNB's deliberations, a counter-proposal to change the name of the stream to Wewa Meadow was submitted by a descendant of the Northern Paiute Chief We-You-We-Wa (also spelled "Wewa" and "Weyawewa"). However, after further review, this proposal was withdrawn, and the name Wewa Creek proposed for a different Squaw Creek in the county. The proponent of Wewa Meadow now endorses the proposal for Wíwaanaytt Meadow.

The Grant County Court does not support the Umatilla name and is asking that the name Squaw Meadow be retained because the site and the name are of historical significance to the community. The OGNB and the U.S. Forest Service both recommend approval of Wíwaanaytt Meadow.

Tiger Paw Falls, South Carolina
(Clemson Experimental Forest / U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
(Review List 417)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=34.7091666&p_longi=-82.8666667

This proposal would apply the new name Tiger Paw Falls to an unnamed falls near Clemson. The proponent has suggested the name because "during light rains the falls has three or four smaller falls that look like fingers... that make up a paw." He also believes "more students would visit the falls if it were called Tiger Paw Falls especially when it is announced on the Campus that a falls has been named in honor of the famous Tiger Paw." Introduced in 1970, the Tiger Paw logo has been, according to Clemson University, "one of the strongest college symbols in the country." Although the image of the Tiger Paw is a registered trademark, the words "Tiger Paw" do not seem to be trademarked in relation to Clemson University.

This falls is located in the Clemson Experimental Forest and is most easily accessible by boat from Hartwell Lake, a large reservoir on Seneca River. An undated student presentation in a Clemson undergraduate course referred to the falls as Horsehead Point Falls, apparently because of the nearby Horse Head Point Road which traverses a small unnamed peninsula that resembles a horse's head. Although it is not known how prevalent the use of this name is in the area, a Clemson graduate student's blog referred to a visit to Horsehead Point Falls in May 2011.

The Oconee County Government supports the proposal for Tiger Paw Falls. However, the South Carolina State Names Authority does not support it, citing the apparent local usage of the name Horsehead Point Falls, which "has the benefit of referring to the land feature, created by the impoundment of Lake Hartwell.... [Tiger Paw Falls] appears arbitrary and only refers to the mascot of nearby Clemson University." The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which administers Hartwell Lake, has no opinion on the proposal. Repeated attempts were made to contact the management of Clemson Experimental Forest for comment. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion.

A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina; no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion.

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

Change **Squaw Rock** (FID 1150294) to **Donaldson Rock**, Oregon
(Umatilla National Forest)
(Review List 410)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=44.7570993&p_longi=-118.676899&fid=1150294

This proposal is to change the name of Squaw Rock to Donaldson Rock. The 7,269-foot summit is located in Umatilla National Forest, 14 miles northwest of Bates. The proposal was submitted by a resident of Prairie City in response to a previous proposal by the CTUIR, to change the name to Ha'áyatom Píswe Rock. The latter name reportedly means “woman’s rock.” It was withdrawn in support of Donaldson Rock, provided the Umatilla name is recorded in GNIS as a variant name.

The proponent of Donaldson Rock believes a name that honors a longtime area resident would be appropriate. The name is intended to honor George W. Donaldson (1901-1992), “who spent his life as an avid outdoorsman. He logged with horses and loaded logs on the narrow gauge railroad. During the Depression, he worked with the Civilian Conservation Corps crews. Later he worked for the U.S. Forest Service working with mining and surveying crews.” George and his brother established the Donaldson Mine and later built a cabin on the mining claim.

The Grant County Court, the OGNB, and the U.S. Forest Service all recommend approval of Donaldson Rock.

Change **Squaw Creek** (FID 1150251) to **Mona Creek**, Oregon
(Malheur National Forest)
(Review List 411)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=44.2201619&p_longi=-118.239097&fid=1150251

This proposal is to change the name of Squaw Creek to Mona Creek. This 5.7-mile-long stream is located in Malheur National Forest, heading just east of Waqíima Butte, and 15 miles south-southwest of Unity; it heads in Baker County, then flows south-southwest through a corner of Malheur County, before entering Grant County, where it enters Little Malheur River. The name Waqíima Butte was made official by the BGN in February 2015, having been proposed to be changed from Squaw Butte by the CTUIR. The word “Waqíima” reportedly means “ancient peoples.” The CTUIR withdrew its proposal for Waqíima Creek, with a request that the name be recorded in GNIS as a variant name.

The proposal for Mona Creek was submitted by the Browning family of Seneca, in response to an earlier proposal, submitted by the CTUIR, to change the name to Waqíima Creek (Review List 405). According to the proponents, Mona Cammann Browning and her husband, both members of pioneer Oregon families, homesteaded 600 acres along the stream in the 1930s. They add, “[We] think it would be a great way of honoring a colorful woman with a pioneering spirit that invested a great deal to the history of the property and creek that runs through it.” Several other members of the family submitted letters of support, some noting that their ancestors were “the only people living in that remote area during this time,” “the young family survived through great challenges,” and “[being 1/8th Native American] suggests her name [would be] an appropriate replacement.” (Mona’s husband was employed by the State Highway Department and was away from the homestead for lengthy periods, leaving Mona to raise the children alone.)

The Grant County Court recommends approval of the name Mona Creek. When asked to comment on the name, the Baker County Commissioners responded, “We agree that the use of “Squaw” in geographical names can have negative connotations and we support changing the various geographical places that have this usage.” They continue, “We believe that Mona Creek would fit within the historical significance of the area. Mona Browning homesteaded the property in the 1930s with her husband and the family has strong ties to the area.” The Malheur County Court objects to all “squaw” changes, but stated that if the name must be changed (that is, if it is determined that too many “squaw” names is causing confusion), then the county “strongly supports” Mona Creek. The OGNB and the U.S. Forest Service recommend approval of Mona Creek.

Because of its interest in Baker County, according to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, the Nez Perce Tribe was asked to comment on the proposal for Mona Creek. The Tribe responded that it did not have an opinion on this issue.

Change Squaw Creek (FID 1150255) to Wewa Creek, Oregon
(Bureau of Land Management)
(Review List 419)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=44.616042&p_longi=-119.376025&fid=1150255

This proposal is to change the name of Squaw Creek, a 6.3-mile-long stream in west-central Grant County, to Wewa Creek. The current name has appeared on USGS topographic maps since 1951. The proposed replacement name is intended to honor Northern Paiute Chief We-You-We-Wa (also spelled “Wewa” and “Weyawewa”). It was submitted by Wewa’s great-great-grandson, who describes himself as a chief of the Paiute people. He states, “Prior to reservations, the Northern Paiute bands were very mobile and followed the traditional seasonal round of the foods and utilized both temporary and permanent camps and villages along their travel routes. I have no doubt that my great, great grandfather and his family visited Squaw Creek and used the stream for fishing. In those days resources were plentiful and water was clear, cold, and clean. The adjacent areas would have been used to gather other types of traditional foods, medicines, and raw materials.”

The Grant County Court recommends approval of the change from Squaw Creek to Wewa Creek, as do the OGNB and the Bureau of Land Management.

Sids Falls, South Carolina
(Sumter National Forest)
(Review List 420)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=34.7561111&p_longi=-83.3077777

The name Sids Falls is proposed to be made official for a 55-foot-high tiered falls in Sumter National Forest in western Oconee County. The falls lie along Shoulder Bone Branch east of the Chattooga River.

Sidney Holmes Ballenger, Jr. (1918-1991) was born in Walhalla, served in World War II, and taught high school math and science. He spent much of his free time searching for and documenting waterfalls in Oconee County. With two friends, he published the book *Some Shoals, Cascades, and Waterfalls in Oconee County, SC*. This volume is well-regarded and used by the State Wildlife Magazine, as well as

Oconee residents and visitors who hike the trails in search of waterfalls. After his death, Ballenger's friends attempted to locate an unnamed falls in the county that might be named in his memory.

A proposal to name the feature Sids Falls was submitted to the BGN in 1993 by the Supervisor of Sumter National Forest (prior to 1995, the Board's Commemorative Names Policy required just a one-year waiting period following an individual's death). However, despite having the support of the Oconee County Board of Supervisors, the South Carolina State Names Authority, the U.S. Forest Service, members of the local community, and the Ballenger family, it was not approved by the BGN, citing Mr. Ballenger's lack of direct association with the feature. Although he documented many falls in the county, it appears he never visited this particular one.

According to one of Mr. Ballenger's friends who helped document many of the local waterfalls, a sign marked "Sid's Falls" was placed at the site following the BGN's decision. The name has since been published in the volume *Waterfalls Near Our Home in Keowee Key, SC*. It also appears in many online sources, including hiking guides and waterfall lists. Citing 20 years of local use, the proponent is asking that the name now be made official.

The Oconee County government was once again asked to comment on the proposal; no reply was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion. The South Carolina State Names Authority supports the proposal, as does the U.S. Forest Service.

A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina; no response was received which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion.

IV. Revised Decisions

Change Squaw Creek (BGN 1975) (FID 1150254) to Wiwaanaytt Creek, Oregon
(Wallowa-Whitman National Forest)
(Review List 405)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=44.5846011&p_longi=-118.4299425&fid=1150254

This proposal is to change the name of Squaw Creek in Grant County to Wiwaanaytt Creek. This 9.7-mile-long stream is located in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest 16 miles northeast of Prairie City and 15 miles south of Granite. The name Squaw Creek was the subject of a 1975 BGN decision, after the USGS requested clarification of the extent of the stream relative to Middle Fork John Day River.

The proposed name Wiwaanaytt Creek was submitted by the CTUIR; the word "Wiwaanaytt" reportedly means "scattered", a reference to the streams flowing into this place.

During the OGNB's deliberations, a counter-proposal to change the name of the stream to Wewa Creek was submitted by a descendant of the Northern Paiute Chief We-You-We-Wa (also spelled "Wewa" and "Weyawewa"). However, after further review, this proposal was withdrawn. The proponent of Wewa Creek now endorses the proposal for Wiwaanaytt Creek.

The Grant County Court does not support the Umatilla name and is asking that the name Squaw Creek be retained because the site and the name are of historical significance to the community. The OGNB and the U.S. Forest Service recommend approval of Wiwaanaytt Creek.

Change **Harney Peak** (BGN 1906) (FID 1261770) to **Black Elk Peak** or **Thunder Peak**, South Dakota
(Black Hills National Forest / Black Elk Wilderness)
(Review Lists 419, 422)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=43.866&p_longi=-103.53132&fid=1261770

Two proposals have been submitted to change the name of Harney Peak, located in the Black Elk Wilderness of Black Hills National Forest in Pennington County in southwestern South Dakota. Harney Peak is the highest point not only in the State, but also east of the Rocky Mountains in North America. The summit has been labeled Harney Peak on Federal maps since 1896. The name was reportedly first applied to the summit in 1864 or 1865.

A proposal to change the name of the summit to Black Elk Peak was submitted in October 2014 by Basil Brave Heart, an Oglala Lakota elder. Black Elk or Nicholas Black Elk (1863-1950) was a revered Oglala Lakota holy man. His life's story became widely known after the publication of *Black Elk Speaks* by John G. Neihardt. This book contains Neihardt's English translations of Black Elk's autobiographical stories. In this book, Black Elk says that when he was nine years old, he was sick for twelve days, during which time he had a great vision. Part of this vision included travelling to the top of this summit which he described as the center of the world and about which he said: "round about beneath me was the whole hoop of the world. And while I stood there I saw more than I can tell and I understood more than I saw." Later in life, he hiked to the top of the mountain with Neihardt. Black Elk also described many Lakota rituals to Joseph Epes Brown, who published these teachings and descriptions in *The Sacred Pipe*. According to essays in *The Black Elk Reader*, edited by Clyde Holler, Black Elk's teachings on sacred rituals, as recorded by Neihardt and Brown, have inspired many Lakota and non-Lakota to take up traditional ceremonies and study Native spirituality. Black Elk revived the Sun Dance rituals and his version is now celebrated by Lakota traditionalists, often at Devils Tower National Monument at the feature known to them as "Bear Lodge." Black Elk became a Catholic and stressed the concordance between the Lakota and Christian religions.

The summit is one of the most holy sites of the Lakota. Early each spring at the summit, the Lakota hold ceremonies known as Yate Iwakicipi, or "welcoming back the thunders," in which they pray for rain, help, and strength.

The proponent of the name change believes the summit is desecrated by the name of General William S. Harney, who fought American Indians early in his military career. Particular objection is raised about his role in the Battle of Ash Hollow in September 1855. A year earlier, a small contingent of soldiers led by Lieutenant John Lawrence Grattan was killed by a group of Lakota after an escalated negotiation over a slaughtered cow. Harney's attack was sent in retaliation for this so-called "Grattan Massacre." Harney and his men were reportedly brutal in their attack, killing women and children. The Lakota later called him "Squaw Killer," "Woman Killer," or "The Butcher."

In a review of George Rollie Adams's 2001 biography of Harney titled *General William S. Harney: Prince of Dragoons*, the historian William P. MacKinnon describes him as "the veritable Forrest Gump of the mid-century frontier." Harney was involved in many frontier conflicts between 1818 and 1863, including wars with the Black Hawk, the Sauk, the Seminoles, the Lakota Sioux, and tribes in Texas. He served with distinction in the Mexican War in battles at Veracruz, Cerro Gordo, and Mexico City. While in command of the Army's Department of Oregon, he sent forces led by Captain (later General) George Pickett to San Juan Island after an American settler killed a British settler's pig. The resulting standoff with British warships was quickly de-escalated and Harney was recalled to Missouri. There he was soon embroiled in

the violence of “Bleeding Kansas” as well as secessionist militia activities after the start of the American Civil War. For not dealing with the rebels harshly enough, President Lincoln recalled Harney to Washington, where he served as an administrator after being captured in Virginia enroute and being offered a command by Robert E. Lee. After the Civil War, Harney worked as a peace negotiator with Plains American Indian Tribes, many of whom were the same ones he fought against in the Sioux Wars. He urged the U.S. Government to improve the treatment of native Tribes and to honor past treaties. He retired to Florida and died in Orlando. After his death, the Lakota conferred on him the name “Man-who-always-kept-his-word.”

A BGN decision in 1906 approved the singular form Harney Peak. In 1970, a proposal was submitted to the BGN by two residents of California to change the name to Black Elk Peak. The proponents stated, “The American Indian culture, displaced by the Anglo-American, needs reassertion for the health and depth of American culture as a whole. New impulses of ethnic self-awareness are quickening our American consciousness. Re-naming of Harney Peak for Black Elk would be an act both of restitution and of creative imagination, for the future.” The Acting Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs submitted a letter in support of the change, stating, “[Black Elk’s] story sweeps the whole gamut of human experience, from humor to pathos, from wit to profound mystic insight, from lonely everyday living to high heroism and tragedy. In his youth Black Elk hunted bison, rounded up wild horses, and wandered over half a continent. Later he traveled all over Europe with Buffalo Bill and met Queen Victoria. Always he watched the Wasichu (white man) taking over the land that belonged to his fathers.” However, the BGN decided to take no action, stating, “Since Harney Peak is a name of historical significance and is a former Board decision, the Committee expressed the need for compelling reasons to warrant consideration of the proposal. No formal action was taken.” The proponent was advised that there would likely be more support if an unnamed feature was selected instead to honor Black Elk.

A second proposal to change the name was submitted in 1973 by a different proponent; again, the BGN declined to take any action, citing a reluctance to change a “well-established name” and a belief that there would not be local or State support for the change.

An online search for references to Harney Peak shows that in 2011 the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe passed a resolution requesting the name Harney Peak “revert to its Lakota name, Hinhan Kaga Paha, or such other name acceptable to the affected communities in the Black Hills region.” This resolution was never forwarded to the BGN.

A few independent petitions have been set up to request a name change. A 2010 causes.org petition requested the name be changed to Hinhan Kaga Paha. A September 2014 change.org petition, submitted by the Lakota Way Healing Center to President Obama, asks that the name be formally changed to Hinhan Kaga or Hinhan Kaga Paha, which is translated as “Great Owls Nest.” In addition, in 2009, a group known as Defenders of the Black Hills endorsed the formation of the “Okawita Paha National Monument” from a large part of Black Hills National Forest; in the press release, the group referred to the summit as both “Okawita Paha” and “Opahata I.”

In addition to Black Elk Wilderness, GNIS includes records for several other features with “Black Elk” in their names. Black Elk - Neihardt Park in Nebraska is named for Black Elk and John Neihardt. Black Elk Elementary School in Douglas, Nebraska is also named for Black Elk. It is unclear if Black Elk Creek, on the Rosebud Indian Reservation east of Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, is named for Black Elk.

Many features in GNIS have names that contain “Harney.” A number are named for General Harney or associated with Harney Peak, including Harney, a small community in the Black Hills. (The nearby Harney Ranger Station appears to no longer exist.) Verendrye Hill near Pierre was initially named Harney Hill after the peak (*South Dakota Geographic Names*; Sneve, 1973). Several features in areas where Harney served in the U.S. Army have names honoring him. These include features in Florida such as Harney Point (in Fort Myers, the site of an attack on Harney and his men) (*Florida Place Names*; Morris, 1995), Harney Lake (near Orlando) (seminolewateratlas.usf.edu, undated), and Harney River and North Harney River (in the Everglades) (Morris, *ibid.*); Harney County, Oregon, which contains Harney Lake and many other associated features (the name origins of Harney Holes and Harney Well, outside Harney County, are unknown); and Harney Channel, in Washington’s San Juan Islands (*Origin of Washington Geographic Names*; Meany, 1923). Others include Harney, Maryland (*The Placenames of Maryland*; Kenny, 1984); and Harney Creek in Albany County, Wyoming (*Wyoming Place Names*; Urbanek, 1998).

The unofficial name “Harney Range” has been used to refer to the mountainous area around Harney Peak. The name is found on an 1891 photograph of the area; in a Department of Agriculture publication from 1896; in a 1919 State law adding “Harney Range and Harney Peak” to Custer State Park; in a 1973 U.S. Forest Service publication; in a 2010 U.S. Forest Service newsletter; on a 2013 Custer State Park trail map; and in several online hiking sources. The name is not listed in the Geographic Names Information System.

Upon receipt of the proposal for Black Elk Peak, the South Dakota Board on Geographic Names (SDBGN) was asked for a recommendation. The SDBGN conducted a series of public hearings and received input from many interested parties, including the Pennington County Commissioners, which recommended that the name Harney Peak be retained. The SDBGN also contacted Custer County and the City of Custer, locations from which most visitors to Harney Peak begin their trips (the main trail to the summit begins in Custer County). Both the county and city governments also recommended that the name Harney Peak be retained. The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks and the South Dakota Department of Tourism are opposed to the name change. During the public hearings, a number of other names were suggested, including Harmony Peak, Ponderosa Peak, Hinhan Kaga, and Thunder Peak, but none were formally proposed to the SDBGN or U.S. BGN.

Copies of the proposals were sent by the SDBGN to the following federally recognized tribes: 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 Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of the Lower Brule Reservation, the Oglala Sioux Tribe, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation, the Santee Sioux Nation, and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North and South Dakota.

The Crow Creek Sioux Tribe passed a resolution in support of Black Elk Peak. The Land Office Director of the Oglala Sioux Tribe supports any appropriate name change. The Rosebud Sioux Tribe initially passed a resolution in support of Black Elk Peak to “change of the name of this place of significance to an appropriate title reflecting its pre-contact era name,” but later amended this to support the name Hinhan Kaga Paha. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North and South Dakota supports any appropriate name change and “all efforts to re-name ‘Harney Peak’ to something more appropriate reflecting the positive and original history of the Black Hills area.” The Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation responded that it would prefer the Arapahoe name of “White Ferret Mountains” but did not make a formal proposal, while the Tribal Education Director of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation replied in support of Black Elk Peak.

In June 2015, the SDBGN voted to retain the name Harney Peak. It wrote, “After reviewing the entire record, the SDBGN determined that weight of public sentiment favors retaining the current name for this feature of Harney Peak. There is undeniably, a very strong desire among almost all Native American commenters as well as some non-Natives that the name of this peak should be changed - that due to Harney’s very troubling record of involvement with Native peoples and shared comments stated that it is inappropriate that the highest peak in the Black Hills (sacred to Native American people) bear his name. However, the SDBGN found no public consensus as to any single replacement name. In particular, our decision was informed by a communication from [the BGN staff] on June 26, 2015, directing our attention to the issue of the specific name, ‘Black Elk Peak,’ as submitted to your office by Mr. Braveheart. While that proposal had some support, other testimony from Native people at our public input meetings indicated that such an individual commemoration was really not consistent with Native American traditions. Therefore, while there was some support for Black Elk Peak as a replacement name, this proposal was ultimately rejected by the SDBGN.”

A counter-proposal to change the name of Harney Peak to Thunder Peak was submitted to the BGN in August 2015 by a resident of Rapid City. She describes her co-proponent as “a full blood Oglala Lakota who is also known as a spiritual advisor.” The name Thunder Peak is derived from the annual spring equinox ceremony held by Lakota spiritual leaders at the summit; the ceremony is called the “Welcome Back the Wakiya Oyate (Thunders) Ceremony” or “Welcome Back the Thunder Beings.” According to the proponent, “A medicine man leads a procession of the people to the top...to welcome back the Thunder Beings... ‘Harney Peak’ has had an ongoing, traditional use by the medicine people to welcome back the Thunder Beings for years.” According to online sources, the ceremony was revived about 30 years ago by several Lakota spiritual leaders. Many schoolchildren now attend the ceremony, which celebrates “the rejuvenation of Unci Maka (Grandmother Earth).” Prayers are made to the Wakinyan Oyate (Thunder Beings) as bringers of life for good rain and weather.

The proponent believes that the name Thunder Peak “could be a good choice to all who disagreed with previously suggested names. Many Lakota know what these ceremonies signify and the importance of them.” The proponent also believes “even non-Natives would not be averse to such a title as this because it is simple, yet appropriate.”

GNIS contains records for two other natural features in the Black Hills that contain the word “Thunder” in their names: Thunderhead Mountain, 5 miles west-southwest of Harney Peak, and Thunderhead Falls, 14.5 miles northeast.

Other than Black Elk Peak, the only other name officially proposed to the BGN is Thunder Peak. When asked to comment on the counter-proposal, the SDBGN responded that it would not revisit the case.

Letters of support for the name Black Elk Peak were received from a great-great grandson of Black Elk, and from a first cousin seven times removed of General Harney. Both individuals made presentations to the BGN requesting that the name Harney Peak be changed.

Letters supporting the name Black Elk Peak were received from the Director and Executive Director of the John G. Neihardt Historic Site. Other letters and emails supporting Black Elk Peak were also received from approximately 150 individuals; a number were from tribal members, while many others were from non-South Dakota residents. A petition signed by 101 individuals from around the world was sent to the BGN. A petition from 65 Lincoln, Nebraska residents was also received.

Emails from three individuals opposed to the name change were sent to the BGN. Eight emails were received that supported a name change but did not identify any specific name. Twenty emails were received in support of the name Hinhan Kaga but the name was never formally submitted.

The Office of Native Ministries of the Diocese of Rapid City, speaking for Bishop Robert Gruss, stated that they would “support this cause and name change [but] it is outside [the bishop’s] purview to become the spokesperson in dealing with this issue. Ultimately it is our government officials, who have the authority to implement this type of change.”

Shawn Bordeaux, South Dakota State Representative for District 26A (located 120 miles to the southeast of Harney Peak) and an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, sent a letter to the BGN supporting the name Hehan Kaga [sic]. He was advised that this name had not been proposed, that the SDBGN had voted to support retaining the name Harney Peak, and of the Thunder Peak counter-proposal. Jeff Partridge, South Dakota State Representative for District 34 (located 18 miles to the northeast), supports retaining Harney Peak for consistency and “lack of confusion for tourists.” Galen Niederwerder, a Commissioner of Meade County (adjacent to Pennington County to the north), also supports retaining Harney Peak, but “would support Harmony Peak if a change were necessary.” He states that the latter name would “promote true reconciliation; changing it to Hinhan Kaga or some other name that honors only one group of people will only cause more division and feelings of resentment.... Harney Peak belongs to all the people.”

The Great Plains Regional Office of the BIA wrote in support of the name Hinhan Kaga, stating that “the bulk of comments on the proposed name change [to the SDBGN] were positive and in support of the Lakota name.”

The Friends of the Norbeck, a collection of groups and individuals who work to protect the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve, wrote a letter stating that they would prefer the name Opahata’I, with a second choice of Hehaka Sapa (“Black Elk” in Lakota), and a third choice of Black Elk Peak. The Norbeck Wildlife Preserve was created by congressional action and Presidential proclamation in 1920. Today it encompasses parts of the Black Hills National Forest (including the Black Elk Wilderness), Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Custer State Park, and private lands. The Prairie Hills Audubon Society (in western South Dakota) sent a letter nearly identical to the Friends of the Norbeck letter.

The U.S. Forest Service is in favor of changing the name Harney Peak. The agency also recognizes that any replacement name should come from a federally recognized tribe with an interest in the feature. The FS stated, “We defer to the Area Tribal Council on the final selection of one Native American Name for this peak, and will therefore take a neutral stance on the proposals and counter-proposals brought before the BGN individually.”

After the BGN received the second proposal, for Thunder Peak, the BGN staff re-contacted a number of interested parties. The Pennington County Commissioners affirmed their opinion that the name Harney Peak should be retained. The great-great grandson of Black Elk affirmed his support for Black Elk Peak, while the first cousin seven times removed of General Harney stated that he did not have a preference as to which name should be applied and “would consider any name so long as Harney Peak is removed.” The Forest Service has affirmed its support for a name change but has no preference regarding a replacement name.

The BGN staff also contacted the following federally recognized tribes that are listed in the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database as having an interest in Pennington County: 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 Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of the Lower Brule Reservation, the Oglala Sioux Tribe, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation, the Santee Sioux Nation, and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North and South Dakota. No replies were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

The proponent for Thunder Peak added that in her opinion, “If the descendant of General Harney doesn’t want his grandfather’s name [sic] used anymore to designate a geographical feature, it shouldn’t matter what the Pennington County Commissioners or the SD BGN wishes - he has revoked his permission to use his family’s name. [Furthermore], a name is like a trademark.” With regard to Black Elk Peak, she notes, “There is already the ‘Black Elk Wilderness’ that has been named after Black Elk. Black Elk was a spiritual man. Truly spiritual Lakota do not seek to have their names label great creations of God, (or as the Lakota say, ‘Wakan Tanka’), because they know that they are only human, and are not above sacred beings such as the Thunder-Beings whose spirits who inhabit the present-day Harney Peak. If Black Elk were present today, it is our belief that he would not have wanted this.”

A moveon.org petition started by the proponent of Black Elk Peak had 452 signatures as of April 11, 2016. The petition asks the BGN to change the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. Seventeen of the respondents were from Pennington County. Other locations with ten or more respondents were Omaha, Nebraska; Coatesville, Indiana; and locations outside the U.S. An online poll started by the first cousin seven times removed of General Harney had 1,026 votes for Thunder Peak, 213 for Black Elk Peak, and five for Harney Peak. Most votes came from Internet addresses located in the Twin Cities, Minnesota area; north-central Colorado; and southern California.

Thirty-one freshmen from the Little Wound High School on the Pine Ridge Reservation wrote to the BGN in support of changing the name of Harney Peak. Some of these letters suggested that Black Elk Peak would be a more fitting name.

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties - none