

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**  
**DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE**  
Seven Hundred and Fifty-fourth Meeting  
Department of the Interior, Room 7000B  
August 8, 2013 – 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 (Chairman) (not voting)
Bruce Johnson	Library of Congress
Elizabeth Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Patrick Mahoney	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management)
Michael Shelton	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
Douglas Vandegraft	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management)

Ex-Officio

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

Staff

Maria McCormick, U.S. Geological Survey (by teleconference)

Jane Messenger, U.S. Geological Survey (by teleconference)

Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey

1. Opening

The meeting opened at 9:30 a.m. The Chair announced he would not be voting, except in the case of a tie. Runyon requested that an additional item Name change of Ninety-Six Lake to Star Fort Pond, South Carolina (Undocketed) be added to the agenda.

2. Minutes of the 753<sup>rd</sup> Meeting

The Minutes of the 753<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Domestic Names Committee, held June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013, were approved as submitted. The Chairman reminded the Committee that the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting did not take place due to a lack of a quorum of the membership. The members who did attend participated in an informal discussion regarding the ongoing issue of “Squaw” name changes in Oregon and the matter of combined names. The discussion was continued to this meeting.

3. Reports

3.1 BGN Chairman (Caldwell for Logan)

No report.

3.2 BGN Executive Secretary’s Report (Yost)

The reappointment letters for the next two-year term (Oct. 1, 2013 to Sept. 30, 2015) have been forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior. Yost will notify the members when the letters leave the Department.

### 3.3 Communications Committee (Fournier for Westington)

In Westington's absence, Fournier reported that the Committee met on the morning of July 16<sup>th</sup> at the Census Bureau. A complete report will be provided next month. The BGN's new factsheet entitled "Getting the Facts Straight" was approved by the Committee at the July meeting.

### 3.4 Executive Secretary's Report (Yost)

A reporter from Boston has inquired whether he could speak with one or more members of the DNC regarding the issue of offensive names and how they evaluate proposals to change them. Fournier indicated he would be willing to be interviewed. It was suggested that the reporter might find the aforementioned factsheet useful, as well as Mark Monmonier's 2006 book *From Squaw Tit to Whorehouse Meadow: How Maps Name, Claim, and Inflame*.

### 3.5 Staff Report (Runyon)

McCormick and Messenger, of the GNIS and BGN staff in Denver and Rolla, respectively, will be visiting the BGN offices in Reston in September. They will attend the September 12<sup>th</sup> Domestic Names Committee meeting.

Quarterly Review List 414, comprising 73 new proposals (new names and name and application changes) was released and posted online on July 15<sup>th</sup>.

### 3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (McCormick)

Physical features for Montana are being updated.

Following the June 12<sup>th</sup> conference call with representatives of the Maine GIS Office, updated township and cemetery data have been received and are being processed.

McCormick conducted online training on the maintenance of Oregon GNIS data for National Hydrography Dataset and Forest Service data stewards. She also gave a presentation to a visitor from GeoAustralia on GNIS data collection and maintenance.

The GNIS staff continues to test the new web-based landforms tool, which will allow users to develop fuzzy polygons for physical features.

Both Renee Hughes and John Fenniman of the GNIS staff in Denver have announced that they will be retiring from Federal service by the end of 2013.

Fournier reported that the Census Bureau expects to submit a large number of updates (10,000+) to GNIS in the near future. These will comprise both name and coordinate enhancements. New TIGER/Line shapefiles are expected to be released by the Census Bureau in October.

### 3.7 USGS National Geospatial Program Data Life Cycle Management Plan (Yost)

There was discussion regarding which agency will be responsible for maintaining certain categories of data in GNIS. Caldwell noted that his agency could likely provide a file of existing data but does not have the resources to maintain it, nor can he assure that the data will meet BGN standards in regards to gazetteer format. Kanalley affirmed that the Forest Service also does not have the resources to maintain data on a regular basis and in the gazetteer format.

It was suggested that this topic should be the subject of a more in-depth discussion next month when McCormick will be in attendance. After further discussion, the staff offered to host an information and training session for any Federal agencies and their geospatial staff interested in GNIS maintenance. The tentative date for this session is September 9<sup>th</sup>. More details will follow.

### 3.8 Special Committee on Native Names and Tribal Consultation (Kanalley)

Kanalley reported that she continues to coordinate with Fordham on the development of a briefing paper for the Interim Draft Policy X: Tribal Geographic Names.

### 3.9 Update on Oregon “Squaw” Name Changes and Proposed Combined Names (Yost/Runyon)

Even though last month’s meeting was not held, there was some informal discussion on the suggestion by the Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB) that a possible compromise to the “stalemate” would be to combine the proposed names. It is clear there is a range of opinion on the matter. Several members expressed hope that the local population will settle on a single name for a feature and that “blended” names should only be considered if there is an impasse. It was noted that there is no requirement that a name approved by the BGN must be used locally and that “local citizens can use any name they want,” although after further discussion there was general consensus that this does not promote the BGN’s mission of standardization. The use of different names for one feature can also present challenges during search and rescue efforts. Several members also suggested that it is the role of the BGN to offer guidance during the process, although doing so should not infer approval of any specific name. The Committee also referred to its policy regarding long names.

### 3.10 Name change of **Ninety-Six Lake** (FID 1239041) to **Star Fort Pond**, South Carolina (Undocketed) (Runyon)

Runyon distributed a written summary of this proposed name change, which was submitted by a cartographer at the National Park Service (NPS) Harpers Ferry Mapping Center. In the course of updating its brochure for the Ninety Six National Historic Site, the NPS learned of a discrepancy between the name listed in GNIS and the name in widespread local and published use. The proposal is undocketed because the new brochure is about to go to press. The BGN staff contacted the South Carolina State Names Authority, which confirmed local and State usage of the name Star Fort Pond and recommended approval of the change.

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote:	8 in favor
	0 against
	0 abstentions

## 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

**Eichner Mountain**, Alaska (Tongass National Forest) (Review List 413)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this name, citing the negative recommendations of the Federal land management agency and the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Tribes.

Vote:           7 in favor  
                  1 against  
                  0 abstentions

The negative vote was cast in the belief that there was sufficient local support for the name and because one other Alaska Native group was in favor of the name.

**High Lakes Pass**, Oregon (Winema National Forest) (Review List 411) (FID 2749454)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote:           8 in favor  
                  0 against  
                  0 abstentions

**Iraivan Arch, Parvati Arch, Vamana Arch**, Utah (Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument) (Review Lists 408, 409)

A motion was made and seconded to consider these proposals as a group.

Vote:           8 in favor  
                  0 against  
                  0 abstentions

A motion was then made and seconded not to approve the names, citing the lack of local, State, or Federal agency support, and in the belief that the names do not warrant an exception to the Wilderness Names Policy.

Vote:           8 in favor  
                  0 against  
                  0 abstentions

Change **Martin Creek** (FID 1542811) to **Thomas Branch, Upper Falls Bottom, Upper Falls Sandbar**, West Virginia (Review List 410)

A motion was made and seconded to consider these proposals as a group.

Vote:           8 in favor  
                  0 against  
                  0 abstentions

One member left the room.

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the names, citing the lack of local and State support

Vote:           7 in favor  
                   0 against  
                   0 abstentions

A motion was made and seconded to affirm the name Martin Creek as a 2013 decision.

Vote:           7 in favor  
                   0 against  
                   0 abstentions

The member returned to the meeting.

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

**Clarke Creek**, Alaska (Review List 414) (FID 2749455)

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

Vote:           8 in favor  
                   0 against  
                   0 abstentions

**Phillips Pholly**, Alaska (Review List 414) (FID 2749456)

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

Vote:           7 in favor  
                   0 against  
                   1 abstention

**Reno Mountain**, Idaho (Kaniksu National Forest) (Review List 411) (FID 2749457)

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

Vote:           7 in favor  
                   0 against  
                   1 abstention

**Burlap Pass**, Washington (Olympic National Forest) (Review List 410) (FID 2749458)

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

Vote:           8 in favor  
                   0 against  
                   0 abstentions

**Griggs Creek**, Washington (Review List 414) (FID 2749459)

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

Vote:           8 in favor  
                   0 against  
                   0 abstentions

#### **IV. Revised Decisions**

Change the application of **Johnson River** (BGN 1965) (FID 1404198) and **Crooked Creek** (FID 1400833), Alaska (Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge) (Review List 413)

A motion was made and seconded to approve these application changes.

Vote:           8 in favor  
                   0 against  
                   0 abstentions

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

**Lake Avocet**, North Carolina (Review List 412) (FID 2749460)

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

Vote:           8 in favor  
                   0 against  
                   0 abstentions

#### 5. Other Business

#### 6. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

The next Domestic Names Committee meeting will be held September 12, 2013, at 9:30 a.m. at the Department of the Interior, Room 7000B.

(signed) Louis A. Yost

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 Louis A. Yost, Executive Secretary

APPROVED  
 (signed) Tony Gilbert

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 Tony Gilbert, Chairman  
 Domestic Names Committee

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES  
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE  
DOCKET  
August 2013**

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

**II. Disagreement on Docketed Names**

**Eichner Mountain**, Alaska  
(Tongass National Forest)  
(Review List 413)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=55.733638&p\\_longi=-132.928183](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=55.733638&p_longi=-132.928183)

This 2,803-foot summit is located in the Tongass National Forest, 16 miles west of the community of Thorne Bay. The proposed name Eichner Mountain would honor Kenneth Charles Eichner (1918-2007), a pioneer aviator and founder of the Ketchikan Volunteer Rescue Squad (KVRS). Mr. Eichner was also a business owner, prospector, outdoorsman, and highly-respected humanitarian/rescue pilot. Representatives of the KVRS submitted this proposal.

A native of the State of Washington, Eichner moved to Ketchikan in 1938. In the 1940s he and five partners founded TEMSCO Helicopters. As an aviator, he serviced the Ketchikan Pulp Company, which had a radio repeater site on the mountain now proposed to be named for him. He made many flights to the site for construction and maintenance support. Mr. Eichner also served in the Alaska Territorial Guard during World War II. He served as president of KVRS in the 1950s and remained active in the organization until his death. He also wrote a book entitled *Nine Lives of an Alaska Bush Pilot* in which he described many of his experiences. Eichner received many awards, including the Robert E. Trimble Memorial Award, for which he was recognized as “a pioneering pilot who spent his career navigating through the high altitude and mountainous terrain of Southeast Alaska, as well as for his bravery, commitment and personal sacrifices for countless rescues.”

The proposed name is supported by the City of Ketchikan, Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Shaan-Seet, Inc., Alaska State Representative Kyle Johansen, and the Alaska Historical Commission, which serves as the State Names Authority. The City of Thorne Bay has no objection.

However, the Central Council Tlingit and Haida Tribes of Alaska, as well as the Mountaineering Club of Alaska and two local residents, all recommend disapproval, stating that although they believe that Mr. Eichner is deserving of being honored, they “respectfully suggest that a feature for which he is more closely associated be named for him” and that the summit in question be “reserved for Prince of Wales [Island] heroes.” The U.S. Forest Service, citing the objections of the aforementioned tribes, does not support the proposal.

**High Lakes Pass**, Oregon  
(Winema National Forest)  
(Review List 411)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=42.390833&p\\_longi=-122.268611](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=42.390833&p_longi=-122.268611)

This proposal, to apply the new name High Lakes Pass to an unnamed mountain pass in Klamath County, was submitted by the Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB) on behalf of a resident of Klamath Falls. The gap in question is located along State Route 140, within the Winema National Forest, and

approximately 30 miles east of Medford. The proposed name refers to the gap's location between Lake of the Woods and Fish Lake, both of which are popular recreation sites. The proponent reports that a road sign at the gap simply provides the elevation, and that the coordinator of the Lake of the Woods Historical Society was unable to find any existing name for the feature. She adds, "Not having a historic history [sic] attached to the pass, I felt High Lakes was the best descriptive name and one that has a little use already with the High Lakes trail."

The Klamath County Commissioners recommend approval of the name, as does the operator of the nearby Lake of the Woods Resort. Six individuals who own cabins at the resort also submitted emails in support. However, according to an article in the *Klamath Falls Herald and News*, the Klamath County Historical Society has concerns with the proposed name: "We feel that the proposed name, High Lakes Pass, may be misconstrued by travelers and hikers. From the perspective of Klamath Falls at 4,300 feet, neither the summit pass at 5,105 feet nor the two nearby lakes are very high in elevation. Also, the Summit Trail and Summit Trailhead Sno-Park that connect to the Pacific Crest Trail through the Sky Lakes Wilderness are derived from the present sign on the pass, 'Summit, 5,105 feet.'"

However, citing the support of the county, the majority of the community, and the Winema National Forest Supervisor, the OGNB recommends approval of the name. The U.S. Forest Service supports the name. As part of its research, the OGNB forwarded the proposal to the Oregon Legislative Commission on Indian Services, which in turn provided a copy to each of the Indian tribes with an interest in Oregon. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

### **Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Arches, Utah**

(Bureau of Land Management)

(Review Lists 408, 409)

The following three names are proposed for unnamed arches in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Garfield County and Kane County. The proponent, a resident of Escalante and a frequent visitor and hiker in the area, reports that he discovered the arches in October 2011. He consulted with the local Bureau of Land Management office and with the USGS, and "In all cases there was no knowledge, records, or documentation on these particular arches. Due to the absence of information for this geological feature [sic] I have decided to claim the discovery of these new arches and name them." He reports that he has inventoried hundreds of other arches and bridges and believes they should be named. Many of the features are in very remote areas of the monument.

The governments of Garfield County and Kane County do not support the proposals, citing a belief that the names do not reflect the history or geography of the area. The Natural Arch and Bridge Society (NABS) also does not support the names, noting that "although there is no record of the arches being previously documented, there are hundreds of this type and size in this area" and questions the need to name them all. The Utah Geographic Names Committee and the BLM also recommend disapproval, citing the lack of local support and a belief that the names are not needed. The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument is managed by the BLM as a wilderness study area; however, when asked, the proponent did not provide an overriding need to name the features.

In June 2012, the DNC rejected a previous proposal from the same proponent, to name another arch Lemurian Arch. The decision cited the lack of local or land management agency support.

The Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians of the Kaibab Indian Reservation, the Las Vegas Tribe of Paiute Indians of the Las Vegas Colony, the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians of the Moapa River Indian Reservation, and the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, all of which are federally recognized, were contacted regarding the three arch names. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

### **Iraivan Arch**

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=37.7177777777778&p\\_longi=-111.655555555556](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=37.7177777777778&p_longi=-111.655555555556)

This unnamed arch is described by the proponent as “an arch in a side canyon of Coal Bed Canyon, approximate height 12’, width 40’.” He states “Iraivan” is a Tamil word meaning “divine.”

### **Parvati Arch**

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=37.4280555555556&p\\_longi=-111.232222222222](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=37.4280555555556&p_longi=-111.232222222222)

This arch is described as “an arch located at the end point of a mesa on a lower shelf, approximate height 16’, width 42’.” The proponent claims “the light at the time of day once again was key in revealing this geographic feature.” He states “Parvati” is a Sanskrit word meaning “mountain’s daughter.”

### **Vamana Arch**

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=37.7180555555556&p\\_longi=-111.631111111111](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=37.7180555555556&p_longi=-111.631111111111)

“Vamana” is a Sanskrit word meaning “dwarf” and would apply to a feature described by the proponent as “an arch on [a] ridge above Star Seep, approximate width 24’, height 6’.”

## **Kanawha County, West Virginia Names**

(Review List 410)

The following three names are the last of fourteen proposals to make official named for features in Kanawha County. The proponent reports that the names are used locally, some for up to 200 years. He cites county property records as evidence that area residents refer to these features by the proposed names.

When asked to comment on the fourteen names, the Kanawha County Commission responded, “The Commission is reluctant to take a position due to the fact that no public interest has been expressed to our office. However, we do informally acknowledge that many of the designations listed are recognized by the community when referring to areas along the Coal River.” Representatives of Metro 911 do not support the proposals, stating that they are not familiar with either Upper Falls Bottom or Upper Falls Sandbar. They further believe that changing the name of Martin Creek would lead to confusion. Two local residents also submitted comments opposing the names. Citing the lack of local support and a lack of evidence that the names are needed, the West Virginia State Names Authority does not support the proposals. The previous eleven proposals were rejected by the BGN at its May 2013 meeting.

Change **Martin Creek** (FID 1542811) to **Thomas Branch**

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p\\_lat=38.3389833&p\\_longi=-81.8259619&fid=1542811](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=38.3389833&p_longi=-81.8259619&fid=1542811)

This proposal is to change the name of Martin Creek, a 1.4-mile-long tributary of Smith Creek, to Thomas Branch. According to the proponent, who serves as chair of the Upper Falls Community Association, the community of Thomas Branch derives its name from that of the stream along which it is located. He further states that the stream has been known as Thomas Branch for 60 years and that the name is found in the Kanawha County Public Records Map Book (a copy was not provided). Although the name Martin Creek has appeared on USGS topographic maps since 1909, the origin of the name has not been determined. The stream is labeled Martin Branch on the 1978 county highway map.

There is another stream named Thomas Branch that flows into the Coal River 11 miles away in neighboring Boone County, and another 26 miles away in Lincoln County. There is also a stream named Toms Branch in Kanawha County.

#### **Upper Falls Bottom**

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=38.342222&p\\_longi=-81.8491666](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.342222&p_longi=-81.8491666)

According to the proponent, the name Upper Falls Bottom has been used for 200 years to refer to the low-lying basin that lies at the confluence of Falls Creek with the Coal River. Although he states that all agencies of the Kanawha County government use the name, no web sites could be located to confirm this claim.

#### **Upper Falls Sandbar**

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=38.34293&p\\_longi=-81.84146](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.34293&p_longi=-81.84146)

The name Upper Falls Sandbar is proposed to be made official for a roughly triangular-shaped 285-foot long non-vegetated sandbar in the Coal River. It is located just downstream from the mouth of Falls Creek and at the base of the approximately six-foot tall Upper Falls. According to the proponent, the naturally occurring sandbar is the “most prominent geographic feature in the area” and the name has been in local use for more than 200 years. No published evidence has been found to confirm local usage of the name.

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

#### **Clarke Creek, Alaska**

(Review List 414)

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=64.08672&p\\_longi=-148.50413](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=64.08672&p_longi=-148.50413)

Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=64.06916&p\\_longi=-148.5782433](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=64.06916&p_longi=-148.5782433)

The new name Clarke Creek is proposed for a 2.7-mile-long tributary of the Totatlanika River in Denali Borough. The name is intended to honor Henry Clarke Billings (1948-2004), a native of Massachusetts and U.S. Army veteran, who relocated to Alaska in the 1970s, and who along with his three brothers purchased mining claims on the stream in 1981. Billings, who always went by the name Clarke, was the only one of the four to continue to mine the area over the next 21 summers. In the winter, he was employed as an accountant and handyman. He and his wife built a house in the area, where they raised two children; his son is the proponent of the name Clarke Creek. The son reports that Clarke instilled a sense of independence in his family as well as a love of the Alaska wilderness. The son continues to mine on the property along the stream today.

The Denali Borough Planning Commission has no objection to the name. The Alaska State Names Authority (SNA) contacted the Nenana Native Association and the Toghothele Corporation for their input. The Nenana Association did not respond, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The Toghothele Corporation responded that it had no objection. The SNA recommends approval of the name.

#### **Phillips Pholly, Alaska**

(Review List 414)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=61.5263888&p\\_longi=-149.8936111](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=61.5263888&p_longi=-149.8936111)

This proposal is to make official the name Phillips Pholly for a nine-acre lake located just to the east of Big Lake in Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 15 miles west of Wasilla. The name would honor Douglas Phillips (1918-1986) and Elizabeth Phillips (1919-2006), who homesteaded 80 acres by the lake in 1957. The proponent, who is the son of the intended honorees, reports that after his parents acquired the property they

built a tent house where they lived for the first winter. Over the years, the tent was replaced with a log cabin that still stands today and remains the only house on the lake with a permanent foundation. The proponent states that the lake has sometimes been known informally as Fish Lake (a survey marker on a nearby unnamed summit is labeled “Fishlake”) but there is no evidence it is named as such in any official records (furthermore, GNIS lists Fish Lake as a variant name of the aforementioned nearby Big Lake). The proponent reports that those who knew Douglas and Elizabeth Phillips came to know the lake as Phillips Pholly.

A petition signed by 98 area residents was included with the application. Several letters of support were also submitted, from individuals who recalled the Phillips’ generosity and their accounts of their early struggles to settle the rugged terrain. Everything needed to build the cabin had to be brought by plywood barge across Big Lake. Despite the challenges, Douglas Phillips was determined to raise his family in the Alaska wilderness. As one neighbor recalled, “Doug must have questioned his intentions from time to time [hence the name Phillips Pholly].” After conducting a public hearing and receiving no objections, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission passed a resolution in support of the name. The Mayor of the City of Wasilla also endorses the name. The Alaska State Names Authority also recommends approval. According to the SNA, there are no Alaska Native groups with an interest in the area.

Other geographic features listed in GNIS with “Folly” as a generic include the populated places of Hollands Folly, Georgia; Johns Folly, Virgin Islands; Knocks Folly, Maryland; Louis Folly, Maryland; and Shooks Folly, Florida, and the islands of Popes Folly and The Folly, both in Maine..

**Reno Mountain**, Idaho  
(Kaniksu National Forest)  
(Review List 411)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=48.7730766&p\\_longi=-116.0528541](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=48.7730766&p_longi=-116.0528541)

This proposal is to apply the new commemorative name Reno Mountain to an unnamed 6,779-foot summit in Kaniksu National Forest in Boundary County. The proposed name would honor Clinton Reno (1926-2007), a World War II U.S. Navy veteran and local landowner. According to Mr. Reno’s widow, who submitted the proposal, “Clinton E. Reno was born May 15, 1926 in Colorado. As a young boy, Clinton enjoyed and had a deep appreciation for the outdoors. He moved along with his parents to Idaho in 1937 and for the remainder of his life felt that Idaho was home. His appreciation for scenic and pristine places was an important part of this life until his death. Immediately after graduating from high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Clinton served and fought honorably in the South Pacific.” The 60-acre property at the base of the summit was purchased by Mr. Reno in 1970, after which he and his wife worked to clear the property and build their retirement home. Regarding civic contributions, the proponent states the honoree was “a true steward of the property and the surrounding land until his death. As a neighbor, Clinton was respected as an honest and hard-working man. He often volunteered to help others in the small Curley Creek community.”

The proponent claims the summit is already known locally as Reno Mountain, noting, “After Clinton E. Reno’s death, several neighbors hiked up to the un-named peak and dedicated the hike to Clinton. Soon afterward neighbors in the community started referring to the un-named peak as ‘Reno Mountain.’”

The Boundary County Commissioners indicated they would support the proposal provided the Kootenai Tribe was in agreement. The Idaho Geographic Names Advisory Council recommends approval of the name, while the U.S. Forest Service has no opinion. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation, the Kalispel Indian Community of the Kalispel Reservation, and the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, all of which are federally recognized. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

**Burlap Pass**, Washington  
(Olympic National Forest)  
(Review List 410)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=47.4561111&p\\_longi=-123.649849](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=47.4561111&p_longi=-123.649849)

This unnamed gap, located near the junction of two U.S. Forest Service roads, is proposed to be named Burlap Pass to honor David L. “Burlap” Rabey (1938-2002). Mr. Rabey was the manager of the Pat Rabey Trucking Company, long known for its log-trucking efficiency. In his free time, he was an avid elk hunter, and for more than 30 years the organizer and “central figure” of an elk camp located in the Olympics. According to the proponent, Mr. Rabey’s nickname was “given to him when he was a teenager growing up in Hoquiam, [WA], Burlap meaning associated with the word haywire as being out of order or control.” Mr. Rabey’s ashes were scattered on the hillside overlooking the gap. The proponent reports that the gap is sometimes known informally as “Windy Pass” but there does not appear to be any interest in making that name official.

A petition with 38 signatures supporting Burlap Pass was included with the proposal, and two other individuals submitted letters in favor of the name. The Washington Committee on Geographic Names (WCGN) contacted the Grays Harbor County government for comment; the County Commissioners did not respond, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion, but the Grays Harbor County Public Works Department did respond in support of the name. The Grays Harbor County GIS Office also responded, stating it had no objection. The U.S. Forest Service also has no objection. The WCGN recommends approval of the proposal. As part of its research, the WCGN contacted the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation and the Quinault Tribe of the Quinault Reservation, both of which are federally recognized. No response was received which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

**Griggs Creek**, Washington  
(Review List 414)

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=47.0696541&p\\_longi=-123.0597711](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=47.0696541&p_longi=-123.0597711)  
Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=47.0572007&p\\_longi=-123.0586338](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=47.0572007&p_longi=-123.0586338)

This one-mile-long stream heads in Thurston County one mile southeast of Summit Lake. The proposed name, Griggs Creek, is intended to honor George (1892-1961) and Edna (1900-1977) Griggs, homesteaders who maintained a residence near the creek.

The proponent, who is the granddaughter of George and Edna Griggs, reports “The Griggs family were early settlers of the Kamilche area, and have been in the community for over 100 years. Beside the creek stood the original home that was used by the Griggs family. It was once a stage coach stop in the 1800s. In the late 1950s, the land was purchased by the state for the construction of Highway 101. All of the family and neighbors in the area at the time referred to the creek as Griggs Creek. Most used it as a form of direction...” She says she was asked by her uncle a few days before his death in 2012 to investigate whether the name could be made official. Water rights applications from the 1950s refer to the feature as “unnamed stream” or “unnamed tributary of Oyster Bay.”

The Thurston County Commissioners have no objection to the proposal, while the Thurston County Historical Commission supports it. Nine public comments in support of the name were received by the Washington Committee on Geographic Names (WCGN). The WCGN recommends approval. As part of its research, the WCGN contacted the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation and the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, both of which are federally recognized. No response was received which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

## V. Revised Decisions

Change application of Johnson River (BGN 1965) (FID 1404198) Crooked Creek (FID 1400833), Alaska  
(Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge)  
(Review List 413)

Johnson River:

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=60.6536111&p\\_longi=-162.1088889](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=60.6536111&p_longi=-162.1088889)

Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=61.5941667&p\\_longi=-160.4538888](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=61.5941667&p_longi=-160.4538888)

Crooked Creek:

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=61.5465859&p\\_longi=-160.680542](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=61.5465859&p_longi=-160.680542)

Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=61.6522222&p\\_longi=-160.653](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=61.6522222&p_longi=-160.653)

This proposal is to change the application of the names Johnson River and Crooked Creek to recognize local usage. Both streams are located entirely within the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, which is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The proponent, a biologist assigned to the refuge, submitted the proposal on behalf of the Village of Lower Kalskag, an Alaska Native village that lies four miles south of the current source of Crooked Creek. The proposal states, “The names for Crooked Creek and the upper portion of Johnson River were erroneously switched.” The proposal would place the source for Crooked Creek at the southern edge of an unnamed lake immediately south of Kulik Lake, while the source for Johnson River would shift to Arhymot Lake.

The proposal further states, “The local use of the name ‘Crooked Creek’ refers to the creek running from the confluence of these two streams, N-S along the portage route to the Yukon. It is called ‘Crooked Creek’ because it is so extremely crooked. The traditional Yupik name for the Johnson River [Guichahak] applies to the River from the lake labeled Arhymot.” A local village elder, “from the north side of that portage” confirmed to the proponent that the names are reversed on Federal maps and do not reflect local usage. At a village meeting held specifically to address the issue, it was noted that “federal and state agencies target that [the portage route] as one of the ‘hotspots’ for local movement of unpermitted game.” Although there are traditional Yupik names for both streams (Crooked Creek is Qakerluat), the present names are reportedly the only ones used for the features.

When asked why the proposed change is important to the Native Village, the proponent commented, “[T]he E-W creek is used as a boundary line between a hunting area with very liberal hunting allowed to the north, and very strict hunting to the south -- so because it is well within the area regularly used by Lower Kalskag subsistence hunters, it is a HUGE issue, with some really bad legal ramifications for those who make a mistake about which creek is which. (Subsistence hunting and fishing provides the majority of food for many of the villages here, so it’s not like a recreational hunting situation -- people really do go cold or hungry if they can’t hunt or fish enough.)”

The name Johnson River was the subject of a 1965 BGN decision, although it seems it pertained only to the name at its downstream end. There is no indication that the source location was addressed.

As noted, the Village of Lower Kalskag is the proponent of the change. As part of its research, the Alaska State Names Authority (SNA) also contacted the governments of the City of Upper Kalskag and the City of Lower Kalskag; Upper Kalskag did not respond which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion, while Lower Kalskag indicated “we do not know of any other name for the creek [sic].” The SNA also contacted two local Alaska Native corporations. The Kuskokwim Corporation responded that it would defer to the recommendations of the Upper and Lower Kalskag [sic], while the Calista Corporation said it had no

objection to the changes. The SNA and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service both recommend approval of the proposed changes.

#### **VI. New Names agreed to by all interested parties**

**Lake Avocet**, North Carolina  
(Review List 412)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=35.60234&p\\_longi=-78.87187](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=35.60234&p_longi=-78.87187)

This 6.4-acre newly constructed body of water is proposed to be named Lake Avocet for the community in which it is located. Avocet is a recently built suburb of Holly Springs in Wake County. According to the proponent, who lives in the community, there is support within the neighborhood for the reservoir to be given an official name. After polling the residents, it was agreed that Lake Avocet would be the most suitable name.

The Wake County Commissioners have no objection to the name, while the North Carolina Geographic Names Board recommends approval. According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in Wake County.