

**U. S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**  
**DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE**  
Seven Hundred and Twentieth Meeting  
Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., Room 7000B  
July 8, 2010 – 9:30 a.m.

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Douglas Caldwell	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Jon Campbell	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Lee Fleming	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs)
Andrew Flora	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Tony Gilbert	Government Printing Office
Robert Hiatt	Library of Congress (Chairman) (not voting)
Elizabeth Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Sean Killen	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
William Logan	Department of Homeland Security (U.S. Coast Guard)
Michael Shelton	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
Douglas Vandegrift	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement)

Staff

Jennifer Runyon, U. S. Geological Survey

1. Opening

The Chairman opened the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

2. Minutes of the 719<sup>th</sup> Meeting

The minutes of the 719<sup>th</sup> meeting, held June 10<sup>th</sup>, were approved with three editorial corrections. The last line of the first paragraph of Item 3.2 was missing the word “for.” Under Item 3.4, at the end of the third paragraph, the title of the committee was amended to read “House Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands.” Commas were added around the word “typically” in the first line of the second paragraph of Item 3.5.

3. Communications and Reports

3.1 Chairman’s Report (Logan for Hébert)

Logan reported that Yost was absent from this meeting as he is attending the annual meeting between the BGN and the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names for British Official Use (PCGN), being held in London. During the previous week, Yost attended a conference in Edinburgh, Scotland, entitled “Trends in Toponymy.”

The next meeting of the full BGN will take place Tuesday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at the U.S. Geological Survey in Reston, at 1 p.m. in Room 2A405. An item on the agenda will

be a discussion of the proposed transition from FIPS 10-4 as the Standard for Country Codes to ISO 3166.

### 3.2 BGN Executive Secretary's Report

No report.

### 3.3 Communications Committee Report

No report.

### 3.4 Executive Secretary's Report

No report.

### 3.5 Staff Report (Runyon)

On July 15<sup>th</sup>, a celebration of the recent naming of the Salish Sea will take place on the coast of Washington. Dignitaries representing the State of Washington and the Province of British Columbia are invited, as is the BGN Executive Secretary, who is unable to attend.

In 2009, the BGN received a proposal to apply the Salish name mt' mt' o' lmkhw (meaning “place of beginning”) to an area of wetlands just outside the City of Saint Maries, Idaho. As part of its consultation process, the staff contacted the Coeur d’Alene Tribe for an opinion. The Director of the Coeur d’Alene Language Center responded with a statement that the form of the name as submitted might not be accepted by the local community, and so the proponent has reportedly agreed to amend the proposal to Metmetolek Wetland. The Language Center Director believes the amended form retains the intent and pronunciation of the original name while making it more “user-friendly.” This cooperation among interested parties represents an example of how indigenous names might be handled in the future.

The BGN has received a proposal from the now-abolished Washington Board on Geographic Names, on behalf of the Suquamish Indian Tribe, to change the name of Squamish Harbor (BGN 1983) to Suquamish Harbor. The staff will prepare a new case brief and solicit local opinion. Meanwhile, the State Board has already received and forwarded letters objecting to the change from three other area tribes. These groups claim that the existing name is used in numerous legal documents and also that there was no long term association between the Suquamish Tribe and the harbor, and therefore the name change should not be approved.

The registration form for this year’s meeting of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (COGNA) has been posted online (<http://cogna50usa.org>). An optional luncheon has been arranged for Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, with a limited number of seats, so if members are interested in attending they should consult the COGNA website for details. The hosts of the COGNA meeting have asked that any topics for the State-Federal Roundtable be submitted to Jane Messenger or Wayne Furr.

Runyon distributed copies of a newly-released USGS Technical Announcement entitled “25,000 Maps...and Counting: Map production is recognized by the USGS.” The announcement states that through its new US Topo program, “The USGS is on track to meet its goal of producing all new maps for the nation in three years.”

In an effort to promote its community, the City of Ely (Minnesota) Chamber of Commerce recently released a new website inviting individuals to submit new names for many of its unnamed lakes. The website shows that numerous names have already been posted, and many are presumed to be for living people, including nicknames. While the naming campaign is presumed to be short-lived and none of the names are considered official, the Minnesota State Names Authority contacted the city to remind them that Minnesota has an official naming process and that it should not be viewed as a frivolous issue.

### 3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program

No report.

### 4. Docket Review (Runyon)

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. Immediately following the meeting, Fleming provided staff with some corrections to the titles of various tribes’ names as recorded in the docket.

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

### **II. Disagreement on Docketed Names**

**Slope Mountain**, Alaska (Review List 400) (FID 2633191)

A motion was made to defer a decision pending a need to consult the North Slope Borough government, but the motion was not seconded. A motion was then made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 8 in favor  
0 against  
2 abstentions

Change application of **Indian Creek**, Florida (FID 284496)

A motion was made and seconded to defer a decision on this proposal pending a desire to see evidence that supports the application change. Some members also questioned whether the stream currently named Indian Creek might have another name, citing a concern that if the proposal is approved, the stream would then become unnamed.

Vote: 10 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

The staff will contact the proponent to inquire as to whether more evidence to support the proposal might be available.

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

**Garten Creek, Garten Meadow**, Idaho (Review List 400) (FIDs 2633189, 2633190)

A motion was made and seconded to approve these new names.

Vote: 12 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Change **Squaw Butte** (FID 791367) to **Brindle Calf Woman Butte**, Montana (Review List 400)

A motion was made and seconded to defer a decision on this proposal, citing a need to determine the death date of the intended honoree, thus assuring that she satisfies the requirements of the Commemorative Names Policy.

Vote: 10 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

The staff will contact the proponent and the Montana State Names Authority to seek additional biographical details on Melvina Horn, “Brindle Calf Woman.”

**Bush Horner Branch**, Pennsylvania (Review List 403) (FID 2633910)

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

Vote: 8 in favor  
2 against  
0 abstentions

The negative votes were cast in the belief that the proposed name violates the Long Names Policy.

**IV. Revised Decisions – none.**

**V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties – none.**

5. Other Business

Kanalley provided an update to the DNC members on the work of the Tribal Subcommittee, which has been meeting following the past two DNC meetings and will meet again following this one. At the June meeting, Tracie Stevens, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, recommended that the subcommittee defer any final decisions on a DNC policy on tribal consultation until after the Department of the Interior has established its own policy. She noted that the tribes are already being inundated with requests for input on policy development and that there will be confusion if the BGN approaches them with another request, which may or may not mirror the Department's efforts. The subcommittee should continue to hold discussions regarding the technical aspects of the issue. The Census Bureau has prepared a white paper outlining its definition of "tribal lands"; this will be reviewed at this afternoon's meeting. The paper suggests that the Census Bureau's boundary files should be accepted as the authoritative source.

One of the members inquired as to the status of the proposal from the Arctic Village Tribal Council to make official 227 locally used names for geographic features in the Village's traditional lands. Runyon reported that she had spoken with Dr. James Kari, noted Athabaskan linguist and advisor to the Alaska Geographic Names Board, at the Association of American Geographers meeting in April. Following that meeting, Dr. Kari contacted the staff of the State Board, which has asked the Village Council to provide more precise locations for each of the features. Dr. Kari suggests that the names should be submitted in smaller batches and he has offered to work with the Village Council on the process.

#### 6. Location and Time of Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m. The next meeting of the Domestic Names Committee will take place August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at the Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., at 9:30 a.m., Room 7000B.

(signed) *Louis A. Yost*

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Louis A. Yost, Executive Secretary

APPROVED

(signed) *Robert Hiatt*

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Robert Hiatt, Chairman  
Domestic Names Committee

U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES  
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE  
DOCKET  
July 2010

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

II. **Disagreement on Docketed Names**

Slope Mountain, Alaska

(Review List 400)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=68.7422&p\\_longi=-149.0661](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=68.7422&p_longi=-149.0661)

This proposal is to make official a name reported to be in local usage for over 30 years. The summit in question has an elevation of 1,222 m (4,010 ft), and is located in the Brooks Range in North Slope Borough, 13 km (8 mi) southwest of the confluence of the Ribdon River with the Sagavanirktok River, and 14 km (8 mi) east of Imnavait Mountain. Until recently, the land was administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The proponent, a publications technician with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, states that the name Slope Mountain, which is descriptive of the summit's steep slopes, has been published in numerous reports, including those of her department, as well as the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys), the University of Alaska-Fairbanks Water & Environmental Research Center, the National Energy Technology Laboratory, and the National Center for Atmospheric Research. Federal agencies that have applied the name to maps and reports include the U.S. Geological Survey, the BLM, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the NASA National Snow and Ice Data Center. The Alaska Department of Transportation's Scenic Byways website invites visitors to "Look for Dall Sheep on Slope Mountain, gateway to the treeless coastal plain." An article published in the February 1988 issue of *Arctic and Alpine Research* is entitled "Frost Mounds Formed by Degradation at Slope Mountain." The proponent notes also that the name is used by local pilots.

The Alaska Board on Geographic Names recommends approval of the name Slope Mountain for Federal use. Neither the North Slope Borough government nor any of the Alaska Native groups and organizations that it contacted responded to the State Board's request for comments. The aforementioned groups included the Village of Anaktuvuk Pass, the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, and the Nunamiut Village Corporation. The State Board did receive one e-mail from a local resident who operates a traveler's lodge in Wiseman Village and who is "opposed to any further official naming of locations along the Dalton unless [the] request is for native or original reference." She claims the "unknown & unexplored, un-named quality of features... is the very aspect that intrigues most visitors to the [Dalton] road."

A subsequent e-mail from the Borough's GIS Office to the BLM noted that there was no name for the summit in the Borough's "Traditional Land Use Inventory" database. The BLM field office confirmed widespread local and published usage of the name Slope Mountain and recommends approval. However, the BLM also notes that the land was recently transferred to the State so it will defer to State agencies for an official position.

After submitting its letter of support, the BLM received an e-mail from an individual who works with the North Slope Borough's Inupiat History Language and Culture Commission (IHLC) and who reports that the summit is known locally by the Native name Imnavaitch, which reportedly means "having many high steep cliffs." However, no formal counter-proposal was submitted. The Alaska State Board confirmed that it had contacted the IHLC before voting on the proposal for Slope Mountain and that no response had been received.

A decision on this proposal was deferred by the BGN at its May 2009 meeting, pending a request for further information and comment regarding the native name. A letter was sent to the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope asking whether they wished to propose the name Imnavaitch or if they had any other comments regarding the issue. The letter indicated that if no response was received by July 1<sup>st</sup>, the BGN would proceed with a vote on Slope Mountain. The original proponent was also contacted. No further correspondence has been received.

There is one other summit in Alaska named Slope Mountain; it is located in Kenai Peninsula Borough, approximately 976 km (610 mi) from the summit in question.

Change application of Indian Creek, Florida  
(Review List 403)

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=30.6491353851&p\\_longitude=-86.0862360874](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=30.6491353851&p_longitude=-86.0862360874)

Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=30.6874647565&p\\_longitude=-86.0739238910](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=30.6874647565&p_longitude=-86.0739238910)

This proposal is to change the application of the name Indian Creek, relocating it from its current location east of Florida Highway 280 to the west side of the highway. Although USGS maps have applied the name to its current location since 1935 and as recently as 2009, a local resident states this is incorrect. He contacted his State Representative, who in turn obtained a resolution in support of the change from the Walton County Board of Commissioners. The resolution states that local residents know the currently unnamed stream to be Indian Creek and that the current application is in error. The resolution was forwarded to the BGN by the Florida State Names Authority, who also supports the proposal.

The current Walton County GIS file, as well as the county highway map and DeLorme's Florida Atlas & Gazetteer, all concur with the application as shown in GNIS and on USGS maps. The stream proposed to become Indian Creek is 5.1 km (3.2 mi) long, and heads just approximately 1.6 km (1 mi) northeast of Indian Creek Church. It then flows south-southwest to enter Bruce Creek. A search of the Internet has not revealed any published sources that apply the name Indian Creek as proposed. USGS field work

conducted in the 1970s confirmed that Indian Creek was east of Highway 280. The 1964 Walton County map prepared by the Florida State Road Department also showed Indian Creek at the same location.

A copy of this proposal was forwarded to the following federally recognized Indian tribes: the Seminole Tribe of Florida (Dania, Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood & Tampa Reservations), the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Of these, only the Seminole Tribe of Florida responded, with an objection to the proposal. They stated, "Based on the presented facts, including the historic creek location being previously identified in its current location, we do not recommend changing the name or location of Indian Creek." No responses were received from the other Tribes which are presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on this issue.

The County Commissioners were advised of the Seminole Tribe's objection but did not have any further comments for the file other than to reaffirm their support. However, they were able to solicit eleven letters of support from longtime area residents. One stated, "There was once a public school on the east side of the small creek, near the intersection of what is now County Road 280A and Indian Creek Ranch Road. The ranch, from which the road got its name, was originally called the Lazy B, but was changed to Indian Creek Ranch after the old school was long gone."

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

#### **Garten Creek, Garten Meadow, Idaho (Review List 400)**

Mouth:[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=48.3632197489&p\\_longitude=-116.8565352135](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=48.3632197489&p_longitude=-116.8565352135)

Source:[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=48.3722182850&p\\_longitude=-116.8494448007](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=48.3722182850&p_longitude=-116.8494448007)

Meadow:[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=48.3667130997&p\\_longitude=%20-116.8521710386](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=48.3667130997&p_longitude=%20-116.8521710386)

The name Garten Creek is proposed for a 1.2 km (0.8 mi) long stream located 1.2 km (0.8 mi) northwest of the confluence of the East River with the Priest River in Bonner County. The unnamed meadow proposed to be named Garten Meadow is approximately 5 acres in size and is located along the stream. The features are both on private property and just outside the boundaries of the Kaniksu National Forest. The proposed names are intended to honor Spencer C. Garten (1863-1942), who was a trapper for the Hudson Bay Company and who ran cattle on the 80 acres he owned along the stream. His cabin was built over the stream from which he pumped water into his kitchen.

The Bonner County Commissioners have no objection to the proposed names, while the Idaho Geographic Names Board recommends approval. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the following federally recognized Indian tribes: the Coeur D'Alene Tribe of the Coeur D'Alene Reservation, the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Kalispel Indian Community of the Kalispel Reservation, and the Spokane Tribe of

the Spokane Reservation. No response was received which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on this issue.

Change Squaw Butte to Brindle Calf Woman Butte, Montana  
(Review List 400)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p\\_lat=48.410289&p\\_longi=-109.558153&fid=791367](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=48.410289&p_longi=-109.558153&fid=791367)

This is one of several proposals submitted by the Montana House Bill 412 “Squaw Name Change” Committee, in an effort to remove “Squaw” names from the State. The name Squaw Butte applies currently to a 1,183 m (3,881 ft) high summit in Hill County, 13 km (8 mi) southeast of Saddle Butte and 48 km (30 mi) from the western edge of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. The proposed name, Brindle Calf Woman Butte, was suggested by the Fort Belknap Community Council and is intended to recognize the Indian name for Melvina Horn, the last Assiniboine Medicine Woman. This proposal also has the support of the American Indian Caucus and the Montana Democratic Women’s Legislative Caucus of the Montana State Legislature.

The Hill County Commissioners have no objection to the proposed change to Brindle Calf Woman Butte. The Montana State Names Authority forwarded the proposal to the Montana Water Resources Division, the Montana Trust Lands Division, and the Indian Country Economic Development Program of the Montana Department of Commerce. These offices are in support of the change. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and the Montana State Historic Preservation Office responded that they are not opposed.

A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the following federally recognized Indian tribes: the Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana and the Chippewa-Cree Indians of the Rocky Boy's Reservation. In July 2009 the BGN staff received a telephone call from the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Chippewa-Cree Tribe, expressing an objection to the change and stating that there is already a Cree name for the feature. He indicated a counter-proposal would be forthcoming. After receiving no further communication, the BGN staff asked the Montana House Bill 412 Committee and the Montana State Names Authority to follow up. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Chippewa-Cree Tribe, asking whether the BGN might expect another proposal, but that if no response was received, the BGN would proceed with its vote on the existing proposal. The Chippewa-Cree Tribe has not responded. The Montana State Names Authority recommends approval of Brindle Calf Woman Butte. No response was received from the Blackfeet Tribe which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on this issue.

**Bush Horner Branch**, Pennsylvania

(Review List 403)

Mouth:[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=39.724386&p\\_longi=-77.251825](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=39.724386&p_longi=-77.251825)

Source:[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=39.739336&p\\_longi=-77.250710](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=39.739336&p_longi=-77.250710)

This proposal is to apply the new name Bush Horner Branch to a 1.6 km (1 mi) long tributary of Marsh Creek in Cumberland Township in Adams County. The proponent reports that the property through which the stream flows has been in the Horner family since 1802 when Alexander Horner purchased 440 acres. The sixth generation of the family now farms the remaining 121 acres, which are recognized as a Bicentennial Farm and have been accepted into the Agricultural Preservation Program of the State and County, protecting it from development. The 1819 manor house and 1840 barn were recently added to the National Register of Historic Places. The proponent specifically wishes to honor his father, John Bush Horner, Jr. (1884-1959), who assumed the property in 1917, and who for many years was an active member of the community. He was an officer in the local farm cooperative, served on various church committees, was Cumberland School District director, and a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge.

This proposal was deferred by the BGN at its June 2010 meeting, citing a concern that the name could be construed to honor a living person, since the proponent's middle and last name is Bush Horner. The BGN staff was asked to contact the proponent to ask whether he would be willing to amend the proposed name to simply Horner Branch. The proponent responded that that is what he had initially proposed, but when he was asked to identify a specific individual who satisfied the criteria of the Commemorative Names Policy, he amended the application to Bush Horner Branch. He stated that he would prefer the name Bush Horner Branch, but if it would preclude approval of the proposal, he would be willing to accept Horner Branch.

The Cumberland Township Board and the Adams County Commissioners have both expressed support for the name Horner Branch, as has the Adams County Historical Society. The Pennsylvania Board on Geographic Names has no objection. There are no federally recognized Indian tribes that appear on the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database.

**IV. Revised Decisions** – none.

**V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties** – none.