

**UNITED STATES BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES  
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

This Quarterly Review List presents names proposed to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) for geographic features in the United States. The names are offered to (1) identify previously unnamed features; (2) provide official recognition to names in current local use; (3) resolve conflicts in name spellings, applications, and local usage; or (4) change existing names. Any organization, agency, or person may indicate to the BGN their support or opposition to any name proposed herein by submitting written evidence documenting their position.

The names herein are official for use in Federal publications and on maps upon approval by the BGN. Only one name is official per geographic feature. Variant names and spellings discovered in researching a name are listed under Other Names. These may include names and spellings that formerly were official, historical names known to have been previously associated with the feature, names that conflict with current policies of the BGN, misspellings, and names misapplied to the subject of the proposal.

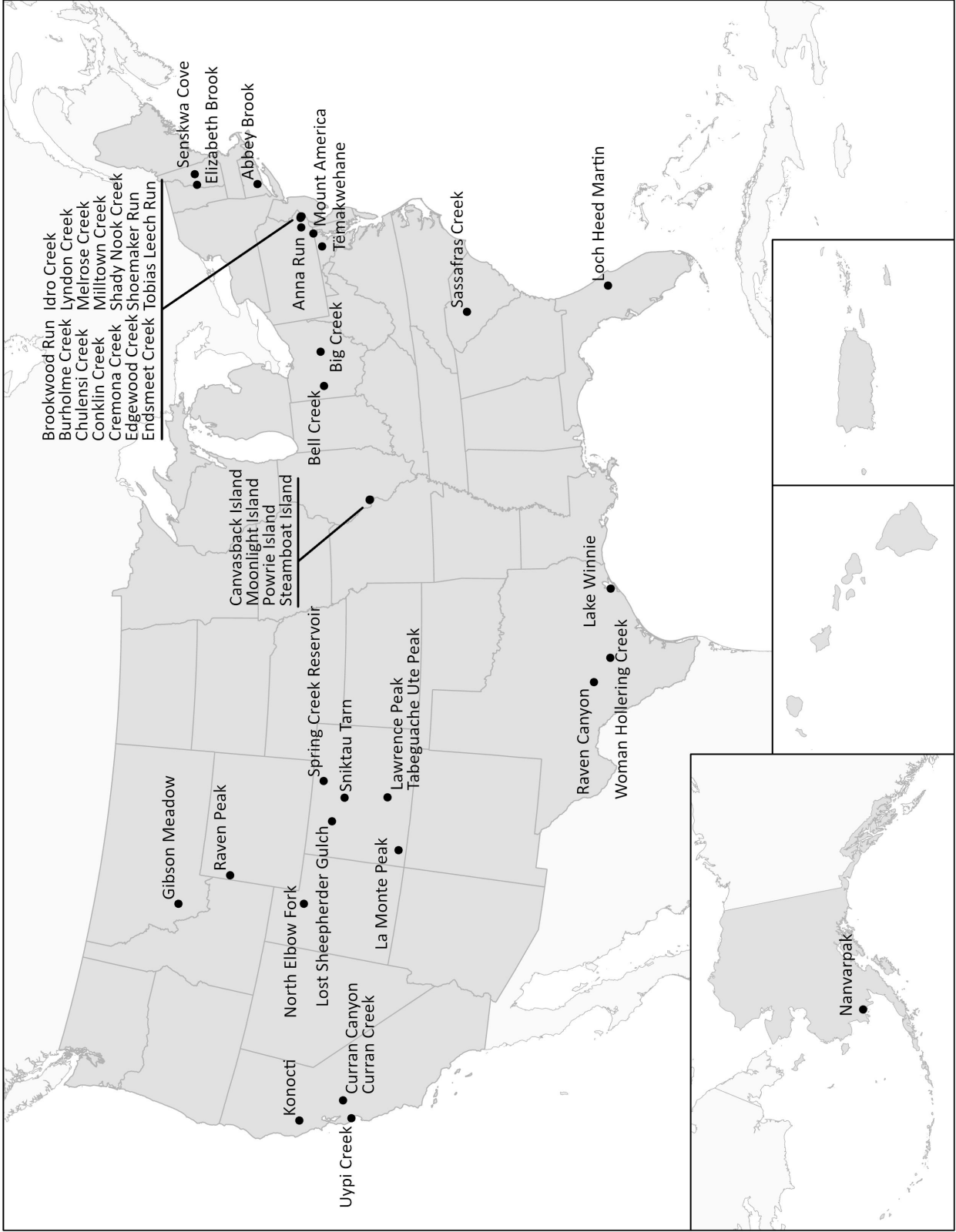
Populated places incorporated under the laws of its State and geographic features considered “administrative” (man-made or cultural) are not under the BGN’s purview. The names of unincorporated populated places are subject to review and approval by the BGN, as are those of reservoirs, canals, and channels.

The information following each proposed name indicates the submitting agency or person; the name of the most recent large-scale U.S. Geological Survey topographic map; the reason for the proposal; and other pertinent details to assist the BGN in its decision process. The location of the feature is indicated by its geographic coordinates, and for name changes, a link is provided to the existing entry in the Geographic Names Information System, available and searchable at [Geographic Names Information System \(nationalmap.gov\)](https://nationalmap.gov).

A copy of this Review List has also been posted to the BGN’s website at <https://www.usgs.gov/us-board-on-geographic-names/dnc-review-lists>.

Comments on the proposals on this Review List may be sent to: Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names/Domestic Names Committee, 523 National Center, Reston, VA 20192-0523; telephone (703) 648-4550; or by e-mail to [BGNESEC@usgs.gov](mailto:BGNESEC@usgs.gov).

THE NAMES IN THIS REVIEW LIST MAY BE USED ONLY AFTER APPROVAL BY THE BGN



## ALASKA

### Nanvarpak

#### Proposal Information

|                       |                                      |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Proposed name         | <b>Nanvarpak</b>                     |
| Proposal type         | to make official a name in local use |
| Proponent             | Bristol Bay Native Corporation       |
| Date proposed         | 4/19/2023                            |
| Submitter             | Alaska Board on Geographic Names     |
| Date submitted        | 12/5/2023                            |
| BGN case number       | 6163                                 |
| Quarterly Review List | 454                                  |

#### Feature Details

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Primary coordinates   | 59.134827, -160.084624   |
| Feature class         | lake   |
| Feature size          | Approx. 100 acres  |
| Feature description   | Along the Negukthlik River, 10 mi. W of Buchia Ridge             |
| Name history          | Nanvarpak means “large lake” in the Yup’ik language              |
| USGS primary topo map | Goodnews A-3 1:25,000  |
| State(s)              | Alaska   |
| County(s)             | Dillingham Census Area   |
| PLSS                  | Secs 8,9,16,17,20&21, T12S, R64W, Seward Meridian                |
| Land ownership        | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service / Togiak National Wildlife Refuge |

**BGN decisions:** None

#### Other Names

Unpublished names:

- Nanvarpak (local Yup’ik community)

Published names: None found

#### Case Summary

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This proposal is to make official the name Nanvarpak for a 1.8-square-mile (approximately 100 acre) lake located within Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and the Dillingham Census Area, and northeast of the communities of Togiak and Twin Hills.

According to the proposal, which was submitted by the Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC) to the Alaska Historical Commission (the State’s Geographic Names Authority), “The lake has a traditional Yup’ik name that locals refer to it by and has been used by the local inhabitants for centuries.” According to the BBNC, Nanvarpak means “large lake” in the

Yup'ik language, and “We would like to raise awareness to the importance of Native place names that often exist even though a geographic location may appear to be unnamed. “

Nanvarpak is recorded in GNIS as a variant name for [Iliamna Lake](#), located 150 miles away in Lake and Peninsula Borough. The name was collected from a Yup'ik Dictionary compiled by the Alaska Native Language Center.

### Stakeholder Input

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|                             |   |         |
|-----------------------------|---|---------|
| Local government            | N/A   |         |
| State Names Authority       | Alaska Board on Geographic Names                                  | Support |
| Federal Agency              | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service                                      |         |
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X          |         |
| Other                       | Alaska Native Language Center at University of Alaska - Fairbanks | Support |
|                             | Mountaineering Club of Alaska                                     | Support |

## CALIFORNIA

### Change Kern Canyon to Curran Canyon and Kern Creek to Curran Creek

#### Proposal Information

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|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Proposed name         | <b>Curran Canyon</b>                                    |
| Proposal type         | change name to correct spelling and reflect family name |
| Current official name | Kern Canyon   |
| GNIS ID               | <a href="#">226531</a>                                  |
| Proponent             | James Burke Gildea; San Francisco, CA                   |
| Date proposed         | 11/24/2023  |
| BGN case number       | 6166  |
| Quarterly Review List | 454   |

#### Feature Details

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|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Primary coordinates            | 37.5154676, -121.2414514  |
| Secondary coordinates          | 37.4931928, -121.2960187  |
| Feature class                  | valley  |
| Feature size                   | 3.8 mi. long  |
| Feature description            | E of Blind Mans Gulch, S of Ingram Canyon, N of Central Valley                    |
| Name history                   | Named for Michael Curran (ca. 1821-1880), who owned a ranch nestled in the canyon |
| USGS primary topo map State(s) | Westley 1:24,000<br>California  |

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| County(s)      | Stanislaus County                                |
| PLSS           | Secs 7,12,14&15, T5S, R7E, Mount Diablo Meridian |
| Land ownership | private  |

**BGN decisions:** None

### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names:

- Currans: *Daily Evening News* (Modesto CA), March 26, 1898
- Curran Canyon: *History of Stanislaus County California* (George Henry Tinkham, 1921); various 1890s and early twentieth century newspapers
- Kern Canyon: USGS 1915, 1952, 1969, 1989, 1991; USACE 1941, 1962, 1966

### Proposal Information

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|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Proposed name         | <b>Curran Creek</b>                                     |
| Proposal type         | change name to correct spelling and reflect family name |
| Current official name | Kern Creek  |
| GNIS ID               | <a href="#">2831455</a>                                 |
| Proponent             | James Burke Gildea; San Francisco, CA                   |
| Date proposed         | 11/24/2023  |
| BGN case number       | 6170  |
| Quarterly Review List | 454   |

### Feature Details

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|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Primary coordinates   | 37.51611, -121.23944  |
| Secondary coordinates | 37.50993, -121.29856  |
| Feature class         | stream  |
| Feature size          | 5.1 mi. long  |
| Feature description   | Flows through Kern Canyon (proposed Curran Canyon)  |
| Name history          | Named in honor of Michael Curran (ca. 1821-1880), who owned a ranch nestled in the canyon |
| USGS primary topo map | Westley 1:24,000  |
| State(s)              | California  |
| County(s)             | Stanislaus County   |
| PLSS                  | Sec 7, T5S, R7E and Secs 12-10, T5S, R6E, Mount Diablo Meridian                           |
| Land ownership        | private   |

**BGN decisions:** None

### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names:

- Kern Creek: USGS 1915; USACE 1941, 1962, 1966

## Case Summary

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These proposals are to change the names of Kern Canyon and Kern Creek in Stanislaus County to Curran Canyon and Curran Creek, respectively. The changes are intended to recognize the correct spelling of a family name.

The proponent reports that the features were named for his great-great-grandfather Michael Curran (ca. 1821-1880), who owned a 480-acre ranch in the valley. According to *A History of Stanislaus County California* (Tinkham, 1921), Michael Curran was an early settler of Stanislaus County and an established sheep doctor, described as “a progressive man in the field of developing science,” evidenced by a bill he proposed “to prohibit sheep herders from driving scabby, diseased sheep through the ranges.” An account prepared by Mr. Curran’s daughter stated that the valley came to be named for Mr. Curran, although it was often mispronounced “Kern.”

The name Curran Canyon was further referenced in 1893 and 1896 editions of *Stanislaus County Weekly News*, *The Los Angeles Times* (1895), and other newspapers from San Francisco, Oakland, and Modesto (1938). An 1898 edition of *Daily Evening News* (Modesto CA) titled Derivation of West Side Names and Places described “a small gulch named Currans [where] there is a large spring of good water near [its] head. This place was occupied many times before a permanent settlement was made by Michael Curran in the ‘60s and it retains his name. . .” It also appeared in publications in 1913 and 1938. The proponent provided an 1880 census documenting the name Curran.

The names Kern Canyon and Kern Creek have been labeled on USGS topographic maps since 1915. Kern Creek Road runs through the valley. Prior to receipt of this proposal, Kern Creek was not recorded in GNIS; however, citing a number of USGS and USACE maps, it has been added.

Research by the USGS Mapping Center uncovered a field report from January 1954:

The field completion engineer on the Westley [topographic map] submitted evidence that the name Kern Canyon should be changed to Curran Canyon, and a request to BGN is being submitted, based on his evidence. If this evidence was in error, please submit full information promptly so that we can withdraw our BGN request.

A memorandum dated three days later reads:

Mr. W.W. Cox – N. Hwy 35, Westley, Calif. – a resident . . . for 80 years told me that the original name for that canyon was CURRAN, having been named after the Curran family. For one reason or another the name was corrupted to KERN and that this name has

been accepted and used for the past 50 years or more, and now he, Cox, is about the only one who knows of the name CURRAN.

. . . an engineer in the county surveyor's office in Modesto was quite familiar with the area around Patterson about 1908 and thereafter and he says that the name KERN [had] been used sometime prior to that date. All of the county records show it as KERN and nowhere is it shown as CURRAN. In view of this, I see no reason for not using KERN. The name is accepted by everyone in the area.

In March 1954:

The field engineer states on the name cards that Curran Creek and [Curran] Canyon are correct; not Kern as on the old map. However, later field information, strongly supported, reveals that Kern is correct.

### Stakeholder Input

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|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Local government            | Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors                   |
| State Names Authority       | California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names        |
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X |

### Change Kelseyville to Konocti

### Proposal Information

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|                       |                                  |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Proposed name         | <b>Konocti</b>                   |
| Proposal type         | change name considered offensive |
| Current official name | Kelseyville                      |
| GNIS ID               | <a href="#">277532</a>           |
| Proponent             | Lorna Sue Sides; Kelseyville, CA |
| Date proposed         | 10/18/2023                       |
| BGN case number       | 6147                             |
| Quarterly Review List | 454                              |

### Feature Details

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|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Primary coordinates | 38.9779531, -122.8394375  |
| Feature class       | Populated place (unincorporated)  |
| Feature size        | Approx. 2.9 sq. mi.   |
| Feature description | Located along State Highway 29, S of Clear Lake, 6 mi. SE of Lakeport   |
| Name history        | Named in association with Mount Konocti, a name derived from the Pomo words 'kno' (mountain) and 'htai' (woman) |

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| USGS primary topo map | Kelseyville 1:24,000                               |
| State(s)              | California   |
| County(s)             | Lake County  |
| PLSS                  | Secs 14,15,10&23, T13N, R9W, Mount Diablo Meridian |
| Land ownership        | Private  |

**BGN decisions:** none

### **Other Names**

Unpublished names: None found

Published names:

- Kelseyville: USGS 1921-2021; Lake County government website, highway map, county departments; Colton's *General Atlas of The World* 1855; General Land Office 1878; Rand McNally and Company 1903, 1912; California State Earthquake Investigation Commission 1908; John Bartholomew & Co. 1922; California Division of Highways 1974; numerous other sources
- Kelsey, Kelsey Creek, Kelsey Town, Peartown, Uncle Sam (Wikipedia)

### **Case Summary**

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This proposal is to change the name of Kelseyville, an unincorporated community in Lake County, to Konocti. The proponent represents a group called Citizens for Healing, which reports:

The name Kelsey is offensive to the local tribes and to many residents throughout the County. [Andrew] Kelsey and partner Charles Stone enslaved, starved, abused, raped, tortured and murdered the Pomos living under their control. In 1849, the Pomo held a tribal court and decided to execute Kelsey and Stone. In revenge for their deaths, brothers Ben and Sam Kelsey, and their posse stormed Napa and Sonoma Counties indiscriminately killing Pomos. The Pomos have not forgotten the Kelseys or the repercussions which continue to affect them.

She adds: "Out of respect for the local tribes and to promote healing in the community, we propose that the BGN changes the town's name to Konocti. Changing the name to 'Konocti' is a gesture to acknowledge the wrongs done to the original inhabitants of Lake County."

The community acquired the name Kelseyville in the late 1840s and was named for Andrew Kelsey, reported to be the first European-American settler in the area that in 1861 would become Lake County. According to Wikipedia, it has also been known as Kelsey, Kelsey Creek, Kelsey Town, Peartown, and Uncle Sam; the latter being an alternate name for Mount Konocti. The murder of Pomo Indians ended with the Bloody Island Massacre ("a mass killing of indigenous Californians by the U.S. Military that occurred on an island in Clear Lake, California, on May 15, 1850"). The Uncle Sam post office opened in 1858 and changed its name to Kelseyville in 1882. Kelsey is buried at the site of the Stone & Kelsey



home, “a house built by the Pomo, who were forced to do so by these two.” One historical account states:

In the centuries before Europeans arrived, the Eastern Pomo and Clear Lake Wappo people lived along the shores of Clear Lake. In addition to the plentiful fish caught in the lake and streams, they hunted waterfowl and gathered berries, seeds, clover and acorn. The Pomo and Wappo built homes and canoes of tule reeds found at the lakeshore. Charles Stone and Andrew Kelsey were reportedly the first Anglo-American colonists in the region arriving in the fall of 1847 to graze cattle and horses purchased from Mexican landholder Salvador Vallejo. This was known as Big Valley Ranch. Stone and Kelsey enslaved the Pomo and Wappo people, forcing them to work under threat of torture and death. Many native people died of starvation and neglect. Stone and Kelsey were also known to rape native women and girls. Kelseyville became the first white settlement in Lake County.

The community was first named Kelseyville on USGS and Army Map Service maps in 1921 and has been labeled on numerous historical maps and other publications since as early as 1855. As of the 2020 Federal Census, the population was 3,382 and the community comprised a total area of 2.9 square miles.

The proposed replacement name refers to Mount Konocti (BGN 1961) (Konokti Mountain was a 1917 BGN decision), an active volcano that rises 3,000 feet above Big Valley, 3.5 miles east of the community. Online accounts report that the summit was named by the East Lake Tribe of Elem and that it is derived from “the Pomo ‘kno’, mountain, and ‘htai,’ woman.” The proponent reports that the Elem are “our oldest existing tribe. The Elem people have lived in the area for over 14,000 years. The widespread use of the name Konocti by local business, art, and education communities evokes images of nature, art, music and recreation.”

She notes in her application that “Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) discussed the proposed name change at their meetings, and all approved the use of the name Konocti.”

She also noted that there is local opposition to the change:

[The] Kelseyville Business Association (KBA) is very active. When their board held a vote regarding the name change, the members voted against it. The Kelseyville area does not have any mechanism for a town wide discussion.

A few people spoke against the name change during our meetings. The main objections to the name change are: sentimentality, erasing history, loss of branding, and too expensive.

Further, “Door to door canvassing identified both opponents and proponents of the name change. News articles, radio call-in shows, and comments on social media identified people on both sides of the issue.”

A change.org petition started in 2012 and addressed to Lake County, “propos[ed] a COUNTY-WIDE ballot initiative to change the name of ‘Kelseyville, CA’ to ‘Konocti, CA.’ It is proposed to be a county-wide initiative because the town name (be it ‘Kelseyville,’ ‘Konocti,’ or something else entirely) affects the entire county, and we are all invested in the health and morale of this county.” The petition was subsequently closed, but at the time had 104 supporters.

A group named Save the Name of Kelseyville (“Save the Name, Tell the Story”) is adamantly opposed to the name change. The chairman of the group notes:

[In this] farming community there are still many descendants of pioneer families. To this day, we are a diverse rural, agricultural community.

Andrew Kelsey and his associate, Charles Stone, were horrific, abusive men to the local Native Americans of our area. Andrew and his associate were murdered by the local Native Americans in 1849. No one from our community condones the abuse of those men. The people of our community know this painful story and acknowledge it. It is part of our history.

[However] I have come to the conclusion that it was named Kelseyville, not to honor Kelsey, but because he was the first person to build a cabin in an unnamed area, a process which was happening in towns across our nation.

Changing the name of this town would create great financial and emotional pain to this small, rural agricultural/tourism community. None of the members of Citizens for Healing own businesses in this town. . . . To date, this group has still not reached out, personally, to anyone in our community or to any county officials for support. . . . There is no support for this group from the merchants of our Main Street.

In addition to the community of Kelseyville, GNIS lists nearby Kelsey Creek and Old Kelsey Creek; these names are not included in proposal. Kelseyville is also the name of a Census Designated Place.

In the vicinity of the community are Konocti County Park, and two private facilities named Konocti Harbor Resort and Konocti Vista Casino Resort.

### **Stakeholder Input**

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Local government

Lake County Board of Supervisors

State Names Authority

California Advisory Committee on  
Geographic Names

|                             |   |         |
|-----------------------------|---|---------|
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X    |         |
|                             | Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians of the Big Valley Rancheria | Support |
|                             | Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake, California                  | Support |
|                             | Robinson Rancheria  | Support |
| Other                       | Save the Name of Kelseyville                                | Opposed |
|                             | 3 local residents   | Support |

## Yypi Creek

### Proposal Information

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Proposed name         | <b>Yypi Creek</b>  |
| Proposal type         | new name for unnamed feature   |
| Proponent             | Monica V. Arellano, Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area (not federally recognized); Castro Valley, CA |
| Date proposed         | 11/14/2023   |
| BGN case number       | 6158   |
| Quarterly Review List | 454  |

### Feature Details

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Primary coordinates   | 37.011378, -122.012261   |
| Secondary coordinates | 37.04217, -122.00547   |
| Feature class         | stream   |
| Feature size          | 2.3 mi. long   |
| Feature description   | flows SSW into an unnamed tributary of Branciforte Creek 0.9 mi. NW of La Corona |
| Name history          | Named in honor of the aboriginal group of the greater Santa Cruz region          |
| USGS primary topo map | Felton 1:24,000  |
| State(s)              | California   |
| County(s)             | Santa Cruz County  |
| PLSS                  | Secs 31&30, T10S, R1W, Mount Diablo Meridian                                     |
| Land ownership        | private  |

**BGN decisions:** None

### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names:

- Boomer Creek: current Santa Cruz County GIS data; Santa Cruz County parcel maps
- Redwood Creek: older Santa Cruz County GIS data; FEMA maps

## Case Summary

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This proposal was submitted as a counterproposal to Boomer Creek (Review List 452). It would apply the new name Uypi Creek to a 2.3-mile-long tributary of an unnamed tributary of Branciforte Creek in Santa Cruz County. The counterproposal was submitted by a group known as **the** "[Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area](#)," a band of the lower San Lorenzo River and Soquel Creek.

The group's archaeologist and ethnohistorian wrote that the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, which was once federally recognized, with aboriginal territory in Santa Cruz, aims to "counter colonial adverse impacts and politics of erasure by renaming and reclaiming aboriginal spaces, places, geographic features, and placenames, thereby reclaiming and reclaiming their heritage."

The proponent believes the name Uypi Creek would honor the aboriginal tribe of the Santa Cruz region "who never ceded their lands and resources . . . [to] the Spanish Empire, Mexican/Californios, or American colonial invaders." Also, "If the name is accepted, the tribe and supporters will celebrate another reclamation of their history and heritage."

The Spanish presence in California led to a rapid decline in the Awaswas people, who were relocated to Mission Santa Cruz, which was founded in the territory of the Uypi (Costanoan Language) local tribe (or mobile band) of the lower San Lorenzo River and Soquel Creek. The mission's population was decimated by disease, violence, and malnutrition, with most remaining inhabitants living on abandoned mission lands dominated by Mexican and American peoples. This forced displacement of indigenous people from their land and culture resulted in fewer tribal bands and languages spoken in California continues to impact the region.

The proponent states that Federal Census records indicate that George and Harvey Boomer did not maintain a sawmill in boomer gulch. Instead, based on the census records, in 1870, Harvey J. Boomer, then 22 years old, was employed as a logger for the Soquel River Lumber Company in the Soquel Township and lived in a logging camp; in 1880, he was 35 years old and employed as a farmer in the "Branciforte Sup. District."

A 1915 eulogy in the *Santa Cruz Evening News* for Harvey Boomer described him as "a pioneer settler of Santa Cruz County, and one of the best known and most highly respected men in this end of the county." The article stated that 50 years ago, he settled in Boomer Gulch, "which was named after him." Also, that he engaged in ranching there until about three years ago when he moved to town. An 1897 statement from the Santa Cruz Recorder's Office recorded that he sold 18 acres in Boomer Gulch for \$5.

The proposal for Boomer Creek has the support of residents and the County Board of Supervisors, who point out that the name dates back to the 1950s and 1970s, highlighting its “enduring significance in the region’s collective memory.” They also wrote that the name Boomer Creek “aligns with historical usage, legal documentation, and community sentiment, preserving the rich history and identity of the local communities that have cherished this area for generations.”

### Stakeholder Input

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|                             |  |         |
|-----------------------------|--|---------|
| Local government            | Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors                         |         |
| State Names Authority       | California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names              |         |
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X       |         |
| Other                       | Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area (proponent) | Support |

## COLORADO

### La Monte Peak

### Proposal Information

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|                       |                                       |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Proposed name         | <b>La Monte Peak</b>                  |
| Proposal type         | make official a name in published use |
| Proponent             | Randall Buxton; Hesperus, CO          |
| Date proposed         | 9/28/2023                             |
| BGN case number       | 6144                                  |
| Quarterly Review List | 454                                   |

### Feature Details

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Primary coordinates   | 37.29839, -108.213578                                    |
| Feature class         | summit   |
| Feature size          | elevation 8,485 ft.                                      |
| Feature description   | 7 mi. NE of Lewis Mesa; 5.75 mi. NE of Caviness Mountain |
| Name history          | unknown  |
| USGS primary topo map | Thompson Park 1:24,000                                   |
| State(s)              | Colorado   |
| County(s)             | La Plata County, Montezuma County                        |
| PLSS                  | Sect 18, T35N, R12W, New Mexico Meridian                 |
| Land ownership        | Bureau of Land Management / Tres Rios Field Office       |

**BGN decisions:** None

## Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names:

- [La Monte Peak](#) (Federal Communications Commission Universal Licensing System; listsofjohn.com)

## Case Summary

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This proposal, submitted by a local resident, is to make official the name [La Monte Peak](#) for an 8,485-foot summit in Montezuma County and La Plata County, and on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The proponent reports that the name is used in a Federal Communications Commission license for a radio tower on top of the summit and that the name is recognized by county government. The meaning of the name is unknown.

The summit is also referred to as "[La Monte Peak](#)" on [listsofjohn.com](#). The site reports 10 user-reported ascents of the peak. The [peakbagger.com](#) website records the summit as "Unnamed Peak" but includes a link to the [listsofjohn.com](#) entry.

## Stakeholder Input

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|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Local government            | La Plata County Board of Commissioners<br>Montezuma County Board of Commissioners |
| State Names Authority       | Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board   |
| Federal Agency              | Bureau of Land Management   |
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X                          |
| Other                       | Federal Communications Commission   |

**\*\*\* Note: the following proposal has been withdrawn**

### **Change [Kit Carson Mountain](#) to [Lawrence Peak](#)**

## Proposal Information

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|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Proposed name         | <b>Lawrence Peak</b>                                  |
| Proposal type         | change name considered offensive and in commemoration |
| Current official name | Kit Carson Mountain                                   |
| GNIS ID               | 204778  |
| Proponent             | Richard L. Trotter; Saguache, CO                      |
| Date proposed         | 11/3/2023   |
| BGN case number       | 6157  |
| Quarterly Review List | 454   |

## Feature Details

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Primary coordinates   | 37.9796989, -105.6026169   |
| Feature class         | ridge  |
| Feature size          | elevation 14,187 ft.   |
| Feature description   | In Rio Grande National Forest, in the Sangre de Cristo Range, 5 mi. E of the community of Crestone.  |
| Name history          | Named for John Lawrence (1835-1908), the primary founder of the Town of Saguache and Saguache County |
| USGS primary topo map | Crestone Peak 1:24,000   |
| State(s)              | Colorado   |
| County(s)             | Saguache   |
| PLSS                  | Luis Maria Baca Grant No. 4  |
| Land ownership        | Rio Grande National Forest   |

## BGN decisions

- [Kit Carson Peak](#) (BGN 1906); [Kit Carson Mountain](#) (BGN 1970, 2011)

## Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names:

- [Kit Carson Mountain](#) (USGS 1967, 2001, 2022)

## Case Summary

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This proposal, to change the name of [Kit Carson Mountain](#) to [Lawrence Peak](#), was submitted as a counterproposal to the proposal to change the name to [Frustum Peak](#) (Review List 442). A third proposal, to change the name to [Tabeguache Ute Peak](#), is listed below.

The feature in question is an approximately one-mile-long ridge in the Sangre de Cristo Range and within the Rio Grande National Forest in Saguache County, five miles east of the community of Crestone.

The proponent of the change, a resident of Saguache, believes the name should be changed to honor John Lawrence (1835-1908), specifically:

I would suggest renaming the mountain after one of the founders of the Town and County of Saguache where the mountain lies. Mr. Lawrence . . . was an advocate for both Hispanic and Native American people, primarily the Ute Nation which resided in the northern San Luis Valley at that time. Whereas Kit Carson was know [sic] for his fighting the Navajo and Apache people, John Lawrence was one of the early white settlers in the region who embraced the Hispanic and Native American cultures and taught himself Spanish and Ute in order to help understanding. He often represented all of the people of Saguache County with the legislature in Denver. His home was a safe haven for Hispanic, Ute, and White settlers near what is today the Town of Saguache

and the gateway to Cochetopa Pass, a main part of the northern route of the Spanish Trail to California from Santa Fe.

John Lawrence was the primary founder of not only the Town of Saguache, but also the founder of Saguache County. [He] could read and write in both the Spanish and Ute Indian languages and was avid supporter of those people in the Colorado Territorial Legislature prior to becoming a state. He translated for the Hispanic representatives [sic] in Denver when other individuals didn't give them time to understand the English written laws being passed. He was also an advocate for the Ute Indians when their primary reservation was just west of Cochetopa Pass in the early days of Saguache County. When other white people started immigrating to Colorado in those days, John Lawrence was advocating for all the people already here in this area of the San Luis Valley near what is today Kit Carson Mountain.

From his diary, Chief Ouray would often stay at the Lawrence household when traveling through Saguache. According to sources, he was the candidate recommended to take over as Indian Agent at the Ute Agency near Cochetopa Pass, but was not chosen as a political appointee which those positions warranted [sic] at that time. Perhaps the Ute Nation has some input on those times in the Saguache area.

The proponent adds, "To my knowledge he has nothing named after him in the area and it would be worthwhile to research his contribution to all of the people here in the Northern San Luis Valley." Note: Lawrence Ditch, also in Saguache County, and 32 miles west-northwest of Kit Carson Mountain, has been labeled on USGS topographic maps since 1967. Although the origin of this name has not been determined, research shows that John Lawrence acquired 160 acres adjacent to the ditch.

The feature in question was named Kit Carson Peak by a 1906 decision of the BGN. In 1970, the BGN, citing evidence of local use, voted to change the name to Kit Carson Mountain, making clear that the name applied to the entire one-mile-long ridge and not just to one of its peaks. Two of the three most prominent peaks atop Kit Carson Mountain have been the subject of more recent BGN decisions: Challenger Point was named in 1985 and Columbia Point in 2003 (both for the space shuttle accidents). The highest peak does not have an official name in GNIS but is locally known as "Kit Carson Peak" or "Crestone Peak."

In 2008, a proposal was submitted to the BGN to change the name of Kit Carson Mountain to Mount Crestone, stating that most locals in Crestone referred to the peak [sic] by that name, or as Crestone Peak, and that the name Kit Carson Mountain applied to a different mountain to the east. He stated at the time, "the U.S. Geological Survey got this all wrong years ago and never reversed the mistake." Further, "The people of this town are not happy with the wrong names being used and refuse to call them what they officially are today."



The proponent of the 2008 change to Mount Crestone also proposed that the highest unnamed summit on the ridge be named Tranquility Peak. In 2010, a separate proposal was submitted to apply the name Kit Carson Peak to the same unnamed summit. Despite receiving the Town of Crestone's support for Tranquility Peak and the Saguache County Commissioners' support for Mount Crestone, the BGN voted in February 2011 not to approve any of these proposals and reaffirmed the previous (1970) Kit Carson Mountain decision. As noted above, this decision meant that the highest peak remained officially unnamed.

None of the current proponents mentioned the previous decisions, nor did they express any concerns regarding the application of the name(s). However, in subsequent discussions between the Frustum Peak proponent, the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board (CGNAB), the Forest Service, and BGN staff, it is agreed that the name Kit Carson Mountain applies to the ridge and not the individual (highest) peak; the proponents have been asked to consider changing the generic term from "Peak" to "Mountain." The feature class in GNIS will be corrected from "summit" to "ridge."

After the CGNAB discussed the proposal at its November 2023 meeting (and during which BGN staff noted that the various names in the area "are confusing"), the name change was covered in a news article:

[https://www.coloradopolitics.com/news/a-new-name-for-colorados-crestone-peak/article\\_3267bb18-79c4-11ee-b19a-132adcc6a826.html](https://www.coloradopolitics.com/news/a-new-name-for-colorados-crestone-peak/article_3267bb18-79c4-11ee-b19a-132adcc6a826.html). It is presumed that the proposals for Lawrence Peak and Tabeguacha Ute Peak resulted from this article.

In response to the article, specifically the effort to apply the name Lawrence Peak, a local resident and member of the Saguache County Museum Board has expressed concerns that it is not appropriate to name a geographic feature for an individual whose reputation is "so objectionable"; she adds:

I am not aware that he had any direct connection with the settlement of the eastern side of the San Luis Valley, particularly the Crestone area. That alone should be enough not to choose to name the peak after him. In addition, you would need to look into his involvement with both indigenous peoples and Hispanics in the Saguache area. In my opinion, he exploited both groups and is someone who should not be honored by having a peak named after him.

Furthermore, she and several other local residents claim that the feature is already known locally as Crestone Peak "because it is visible from the town of Crestone," adding, "Yes, confusion was added when the Crestone Needles were simultaneously renamed Crestone Peak, but the fact remains the original name continues to be used by many in the area. Please note that what I call Crestone Peak towers over the small town of Crestone; the Crestone Needles do not." They have been advised that the proposal is to rename Kit Carson Mountain, the ridge, and not its highest peak, and that there are already features names Crestone Peak, Crestone Needle, and Crestone Peaks in close proximity.

A follow-up article, <https://alamosanews.com/article/submitting-comments-to-geographic-renaming-process-is-valued-and-confusing>, reported that the Saguache County Commissioners had voted in favor of a name change, adding, “Kit Carson was noted for his bravery in settling the West, however, he was involved in the massacres of indigenous peoples and suppression of the Apache and Dine among others. This genocide should not be celebrated.” Further, “It turns out two lower peaks of Kit Carson Mountain have already been renamed [sic]; Challenger and Columbia. I would be in favor of a rename of the highest peak, while consulting the community of Crestone and the Ute and Dine people.” The article noted that the commissioners “did not suggest a new name.”

### Stakeholder Input

---

|                             |  |         |
|-----------------------------|--|---------|
| Local government            | Saguache County Board of Commissioners                   |         |
| State Names Authority       | Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board                |         |
| Federal Agency              | U.S. Forest Service                                      |         |
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X |         |
| Other                       | 3 local residents  | Opposed |

### **Change Dead Mexican Gulch to Lost Sheepherder Gulch**

### Proposal Information

---

|                       |                                |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Proposed name         | <b>Lost Sheepherder Gulch</b>  |
| Proposal type         | valley                         |
| Current official name | Dead Mexican Gulch             |
| GNIS ID               | <a href="#">173527</a>         |
| Proponent             | Garfield County Commission     |
| Date proposed         | 8/14/23                        |
| Submitter             | Fred A. Jarman, County Manager |
| Date submitted        | 1/3/24                         |
| BGN case number       | 6191                           |
| Quarterly Review List | 454                            |

### Feature Details

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Primary coordinates   | 40.0625119, -107.1654912   |
| Secondary coordinates | 40.0559183, -107.1401555   |
| Feature class         | valley   |
| Feature size          | 1.6 mi. long   |
| Feature description   | heads 4 mi. E of Lost Lakes Peaks, 1.6 mi. NE of Devils Causeway |

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Name history          | The name likely refers to José (Joe) Belardi, a shepherd who is believed to have died at the site ca. 1921-22. |
| USGS primary topo map | Devils Causeway 1:24,000   |
| State(s)              | Colorado   |
| County(s)             | Garfield County  |
| PLSS                  | Secs 9,10,16,&15, T1N, R87W, Sixth Principal Meridian  |
| Land ownership        | Routt National Forest/Flat Tops Wilderness   |

**BGN decisions:** None

### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names:

- Dead Horse Gulch (*The Routt County Sentinel*, 1921)
- Dead Mexican Gulch (USGS 1977, 1979; USGS/USFS 2000; USFS maps; *Steamboat Today* [Steamboat Springs], 1996)

### Case Summary

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This proposal is to change the name of Dead Mexican Gulch, a 1.6-mile-long valley in Garfield County and on the Routt National Forest/Flat Tops Wilderness, to Lost Shepherd Gulch. It was submitted by the Garfield County Board of Commissioners in response to a previous proposal for Jose Belardi Gulch (Review List 447).

The proponent of the original replacement name believes the existing name is “both vague and pejorative.” He adds, “A grave is noted on the USGS map and indeed is still there.” (The grave was depicted on USGS maps until 2000; with the newer USTopo series, beginning in 2011, it was no longer labeled.) Further, “This grave provides the name of the individual buried there and it makes sense to name after him, rather than ‘Dead Mexican Gulch.’ [It] is covered with a pile of rocks, at the head of which is a wooden cross and a sign that reads: ‘JOSE VELARDE / Killed by Lightning / SUMMER 1922.’

It is not known when the marker was put in place or by whom. The original submission spelled the name Velarde, but after a review of contemporaneous news accounts of the individual’s death, the proponent determined that Belardi was likely more accurate and so the spelling was amended.

Extensive research by the BGN staff and History Colorado, including a review of contemporaneous newspaper accounts, confirms that Jose Belardi is likely the source of the existing name, but his biographical details are contradictory. Evidence suggests he very likely murdered two fellow herders and that he died after being struck down by lightning, causing him to fall across the campfire “over which he had prepared his evening meal at his lonely sheep camp high up on the Flattops, close to the Devil’s Causeway.” (See Review List 447 entry for Jose Belardi Gulch for additional details.)

The Garfield County government was asked to comment on the proposal, with a caveat that the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board would be unlikely to support a name that referred to a murderer. The U.S. Forest Service agrees the name should be changed but also does not endorse Jose Belardi Gulch.

The County Commission agreed the existing name should be changed but offered a counterproposal for Lost Sheepherder Gulch. Their application refers to the 1922 incident and the BGN’s previous case summary, adding, “It is unknown who exactly is buried at Dead Mexican Gulch but, according to reports, a grave exists there marked with Belardi’s name and the year 1922. Commissioner Tom Jankovsky called Belardi ‘a scoundrel and a murderer’ and said he wasn’t the kind of person whose name should be on a landmark. Based on the above, the Commissioners recommended ‘Lost Sheepherder Gulch.’ The proponent of Jose Belardi Gulch agreed to withdraw his application and supports the new proposal.

### Stakeholder Input

---

|                             |   |              |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------|
| Local government            | Garfield County Commission<br>(proponent)                   | Support      |
|                             | City of Glenwood Springs                                    | Support      |
|                             | City of Rifle City  | No objection |
| State Names Authority       | Colorado Geographic Naming<br>Advisory Board                |              |
| Federal Agency              | U.S. Forest Service   |              |
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes<br>contacted under Policy X |              |

### Sniktau Tarn

### Proposal Information

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Proposed name         | <b>Sniktau Tarn</b>  |
| Proposal type         | new commemorative and associative name for unnamed feature |
| Proponent             | Kevin Selle; Canyon, TX                                    |
| Date proposed         | 9/26/2023  |
| BGN case number       | 6143   |
| Quarterly Review List | 454  |

### Feature Details

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|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Primary coordinates | 39.67392, -105.85321                     |
| Feature class       | lake                                     |
| Feature size        | 1.5 acres                                |
| Feature description | Alpine lake on SE slope of Mount Sniktau |

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Name history          | Named in association with Mount Sniktau; “Sniktau” is the nom de plume of Edwin Patterson (1828-1880) |
| USGS primary topo map | Grays Peak 1:24,000   |
| State(s)              | Colorado  |
| County(s)             | Clear Creek County  |
| PLSS                  | Sec 25, T4S, R76W, 6th Meridian   |
| Land ownership        | U.S. Forest Service   |

**BGN decisions:** None

### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names:

- [Sniktau Tarn](#) (YouTube)

### Case Summary

---

The new name [Sniktau Tarn](#) is proposed for a 1.5-acre alpine lake on the southeast slope of Mount Sniktau (BGN 1926) and on the Arapaho National Forest in Clear Creek County.

The proponent, a resident of Texas, reports that his motive for officially naming the feature is to “reference its beauty, allow for reference by hikers and other users in the area, and formalize the existing use.” He adds, “Research continues on the origin/history of the word ‘sniktau.’ Correspondence with the University of California, Berkley linguistics department suggests difficulty given the numerous dialetics [sic] and the translation difficulty of the time period.”

The 1926 BGN decision card for [Mount Sniktau](#), along with subsequent correspondence with the Secretary of the Interior between 1926 and 1950, reported that the name was:

[p]roposed by the Colorado Mtn. Club, the Colorado Geog. Bd., and the State Hist. Society, through Ellsworth Bethel, June 24, 1925, in honor of E[dwin] H[amilton] N[orton] Patterson 1828-1880, a pioneer of this region, publisher of a mining journal and famous as a correspondent, under the nom de plume ‘Sniktau’, a name given him by California Indians and said to mean ‘ready for any emergency.’

Following the BGN’s approval of the name in 1926, questions arose regarding the spelling and origin of “Sniktau.” Some reports stated that the spelling should in fact be “Sniktaw,” a reversal of the name “Watkins.”

The volume *Colorado Place Names* (William Bright, 1993), in its entry for [Mount Sniktau](#), affirmed the report that the name was the “nom de plume” of E. H. N. Patterson, who “claimed it was an Indian word meaning ‘equal to any emergency.’” Bright added, “The similarity to the name of Sniktaw, California, may or may not be coincidental: the

Californian name [q.v.] is supposed to represent the pseudonym of another pioneer journalist, W. F. Watkins who obtained it by spelling his name backwards.”

E. H. N. “Sniktau” Patterson was a close friend of Edgar Allan Poe; [a biography of Patterson on the Edgar Allan Poe Society of Baltimore website](#) reported, “As a journalist, Patterson sometimes used the pen name ‘Sniktau,’ which also became a nickname, sometimes shortened as ‘Snik.’ He claimed that it was a name given to him by Indians, but it seems more likely that he adopted it from a fellow journalist named W. F. Watkins, who created the pen name ‘Sniktaw’ by reversing the order of the letters in his last name.

Two features in Siskiyou County, California are named Sniktaw Creek and Sniktaw Meadow. A Report of the State Mineralogist (California Mining Bureau, 1892) also referred to the Sniktaw Mines along Sniktaw Creek. The mines are also referenced as “Sniktav Gold Mines.”

The entry for Sniktaw Creek and Sniktaw Meadow in *California Place Names* (Gudde, 1998) states:

Years ago a man by the name of Watkins resided in this small tributary of Scott River. When his neighbors decided to name it for him, he objected, saying he would not have such a “snick” of a creek named for him. Thereupon the stream was call Sniktaw, Watkins’ name in reverse. . . . Mr. Watkins was very likely William F. Watkins, assemblyman from Siskiyou County in 1859, who wrote for *The Golden Era* and *The Sacramento Union* under the pseudonym Sniktaw.

An 1858 *Shasta Courier* article reported, “Mr. Watkins, Assemblyman elect from Siskiyou, well known to newspaper readers by his humorous writings over the nom de plume of ‘Sniktaw,” passed through town this week. . . .”

Regarding the name of the summit in Colorado, the Bureau of Mining Supervising Engineer wrote to the U.S. Geological Survey Chief Topographic Engineer in 1937, stating,

From time to time, I have mentioned to you that changing of the name ‘Big Professor Mountain’ on the Montezuma sheet to ‘Sniktau’ was considered a huge joke in Colorado, to which you have always replied that the National Geographic Board made this change at the request of the Colorado Geographic Board. Last summer, a W.P.A. [Works Projects Administration] historic project worker was told by former Governor Ed. C. Johnson, now senator, that there never had been authority in the State of Colorado for a geographic board.

[A 1989 compilation by the BGN of the history of the nation’s State geographic naming authorities shows that the Colorado Geographic Names Board operated from 1914 to 1926.]

The supervising engineer continued:

I understand that Mr. Jerome L. Hart, a member of the Colorado Mountain Club, now an attorney with the R.F.C. [Reconstruction Finance Corporation] in Washington D.C., has filed a brief with the National Geographic Board against the use of the name of 'Sniktau.'

While perhaps not considered of importance by the National Geographic Board, the local residents of Clear Creek County, in the vicinity of this mountain, still call it 'Big Professor,' and refuse to use the name 'Sniktau.' The principal hotel keeper displays photos and postcards of 'Big Professor,' and with each sale volunteers the criticism of the name Sniktau. He always ends up by saying that Sniktau is Watkins spelled backwards. This may be a case where truth is stranger than fiction.

The Chief Topographic Engineer forwarded the above letter to the BGN recommending that they "thoroughly consider the decision of the old Geographic Board, it may be possible that the new board will have new grounds for reconsidering the matter." It appears the BGN did not revisit its 1926 decision.

The origin of "Sniktau" is not in question in this specific proposal; it is intended to apply a new name that would be associated with the current official name Mount Sniktau.

GNIS lists four lakes in Colorado with the generic "Tarn" in their names. There are seven additional lakes elsewhere in the U.S., including three named simply The Tarn.

### **Stakeholder Input**

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Local government            | Clear Creek County Board of Commissioners                |
| State Names Authority       | Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board                |
| Federal Agency              | U.S. Forest Service                                      |
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X |
| Other                       | American Alpine Club                                     |

### **Spring Creek Reservoir**

### **Proposal Information**

---

|                 |                                   |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Proposed name   | <b>Spring Creek Reservoir</b>     |
| Proposal type   | new name for unnamed feature      |
| Proponent       | Edgar Peyronnin; Fort Collins, CO |
| Date proposed   | 11/16/2023                        |
| BGN case number | 6159                              |

## Feature Details

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|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Primary coordinates   | 40.5628398, -105.0878934  |
| Feature class         | reservoir   |
| Feature size          | 3.4 acres   |
| Feature description   | along Spring Creek, W of Sherwood Lateral                                 |
| Name history          | Named in association with Spring Creek which flows through the reservoir. |
| USGS primary topo map | Fort Collins 1:24,000   |
| State(s)              | Colorado  |
| County(s)             | Larimer County  |
| Local jurisdiction(s) | City of Fort Collins  |
| PLSS                  | Sec 23, T7N, R69W, 6th Principal Meridian                                 |
| Land ownership        | Private (Arthur Ditch Company)  |

**BGN decisions:** None

### Other Names

Unpublished names:

- Hill Pond (local use)

Published names:

- Privy Pond (Open Street Map)

## Case Summary

---

The new name Spring Creek Reservoir is proposed for a 3.4-acre reservoir located along Spring Creek and within a residential area in the City of Fort Collins in Larimer County. The proponent, a local resident, states:

[The] name would resolve confusion for the feature's identity. Some in the area call it 'Hill Pond' which is actually the pond further to the west. The two [Homeowner Associations] (north and south side of the reservoir) own the land, with water rights owned by the Arthur Ditch company. Spring Creek Reservoir is a neutral name that succinctly identifies the feature.

The reservoir is labeled as Privy Pond on OpenStreetMap, which also labels the pond to the west as Hill Pond; neither of these names are recorded in GNIS.

## Stakeholder Input

---

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Local government      | City of Fort Collins<br>Larimer County       |
| State Names Authority | Colorado Geographic Naming<br>Advisory Board |



|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X |
| Other                       | Arthur Ditch Company                                     |

## **Change Kit Carson Mountain to Tabeguache Ute Peak**

### **Proposal Information**

---

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Proposed name         | <b>Tabeguache Ute Peak</b>                            |
| Proposal type         | change name considered offensive and in commemoration |
| Current official name | Kit Carson Mountain                                   |
| GNIS ID               | <a href="#">204778</a>                                |
| Proponent             | Orlando Gallardo; Antonito, CO                        |
| Date proposed         | 11/18/2023  |
| BGN case number       | 6161  |
| Quarterly Review List | 454   |

### **Feature Details**

---

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Primary coordinates   | 37.9796989, -105.6026169  |
| Feature class         | ridge   |
| Feature size          | elevation 14,187 ft.  |
| Feature description   | In Rio Grande National Forest, in the Sangre de Cristo Range, 5 mi. E of the community of Crestone. |
| Name history          | The name is the Ute word for "The People"   |
| USGS primary topo map | Crestone Peak 1:24,000  |
| State(s)              | Colorado  |
| County(s)             | Saguache  |
| PLSS                  | Luis Maria Baca Grant No. 4   |
| Land ownership        | Rio Grande National Forest  |

### **BGN decisions**

- [Kit Carson Peak](#) (BGN 1906); [Kit Carson Mountain](#) (BGN 1970, 2011)

### **Other Names**

Unpublished names: None found

Published names:

- [Kit Carson Mountain](#) (USGS 1967, 2001, 2022)

### **Case Summary**

---

This proposal, to change the name of [Kit Carson Mountain](#) to [Tabeguache Ute Peak](#), was submitted as a counterproposal to the proposals to change the name to [Frustum Peak](#) (Review List 442) or [Lawrence Peak](#) (q.v.). See [Lawrence Peak](#) summary above for more details.

The proponent of this change, a resident of Antonito, states, “The Utes have inhabited the area for centuries . . . and used it for hunting and Summer camps . . . and deserve acknowledgment by naming [sic] the Mountain peak after ‘The People.’”

According to the website of the [Southern Ute Tribe](#):

The Weenuchiu occupied the valley of the San Juan River and its north tributaries in Colorado and Northwestern New Mexico. The Uncompahgre (Tabeguache) were located near the Uncompahgre and Gunnison, and Elk Rivers near Montrose and Grand Junction, Colorado.

The Tabeguache, Grand, Yampa and Uintah bands comprise the Northern Ute Tribe located on the Uintah-Ouray reservation next to Fort Duchesne, Utah.

The Brunot agreement of 1873 was negotiated with the Confederated Utes and the U.S. government, represented by Felix R. Brunot, at the Los Pinos Agency on September 13, 1873. Ute chiefs, headmen and other members of the Tabeguache, Mouache, Caputa, Weenuchiu, Yampa, Grand River and Uintah bands of Ute Indians were present when the Agreement was signed.

The [Colorado Encyclopedia](#) adds:

The Ute Treaty of 1868, also known as the ‘Kit Carson Treaty,’ was negotiated between agents of the US government, including Kit Carson, and leaders of seven bands of Nuche (Ute people) living in Colorado and Utah. The treaty created for the Utes a massive reservation on Colorado’s Western Slope in exchange for ceding the Central Rockies to the United States.

The treaty proved immensely important to the white population of Colorado, as it opened a huge portion of the mineral-rich Rocky Mountains to development. For the Utes, however, it proved to be a major step toward their eventual expulsion from the state. The US government failed to fulfill the treaty’s obligations, and its coercive attempts to assimilate the Utes led to the bloody Meeker Incident of 1879 and the removal of most of Colorado’s Utes in the early 1880s.

[Chief] Ouray (1833–80) . . . was a leader of the Tabeguache (Uncompahgre) band of Ute Indians.

The proposal was submitted with the spelling “[Tabeguacha](#)” but after the proponent was advised that most online sources spell the word “[Tabeguache](#),” he agreed to amend the name.

## Stakeholder Input

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|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Local government            | Saguache County   |
| State Names Authority       | Colorado Geographic Naming<br>Advisory Board                |
| Federal Agency              | U.S. Forest Service   |
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes<br>contacted under Policy X |

## CONNECTICUT

### Abbey Brook

## Proposal Information

---

|                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Proposed name         | <b>Abbey Brook</b>           |
| Proposal type         | new name for unnamed feature |
| Proponent             | Blake Antrim; Cheshire, CT   |
| Date proposed         | 11/28/2023                   |
| BGN case number       | 6164                         |
| Quarterly Review List | 454                          |

## Feature Details

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|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Primary coordinates   | 41.4548695, -72.8999305   |
| Secondary coordinates | 41.4622507, -72.858367  |
| Feature class         | stream  |
| Feature size          | 3.1 mi. long  |
| Feature description   | Heads in the Town of Wallingford in Fresh Meadows, flows<br>generally NW then SW into Mill River in the Town of<br>Cheshire |
| Name history          | Associated with Abbey Brook in Essex, Vermont   |
| USGS primary topo map | Mount Carmel 1:24,000   |
| State(s)              | Connecticut   |
| County(s)             | Naugatuck Valley Planning Region, South Central<br>Connecticut Planning Region  |
| Local jurisdiction(s) | Town of Cheshire<br>Town of Wallingford   |
| Land ownership        | Private   |

**BGN decisions:** None

### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names: None found

## Case Summary

---

The new name Abbey Brook is proposed for an unnamed 3.1-mile-long tributary of Mill River in the Town of Cheshire (Naugatuck Valley Planning Region) and Town of Wallingford (South Central Connecticut Planning Region). The proponent is a local area resident, who states:

When I was young my first ever Brook Trout was caught in a small stream up outside Essex VT called Abbey Brook. I've come to be an avid fisherman and it's been my life's passion ever since. Once we moved to Cheshire I discovered this unmapped and unnamed stream and caught a gorgeous native Brook Trout. The first in my new hometown. Since it had no name, I thought it fitting to come full circle with Abbey Brook. . .

Approximately 40 miles northeast and within the Capitol Planning Region is a stream named Abbey Brook.

## Stakeholder Input

---

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Local government            | Town of Cheshire<br>Town of Wallingford                  |
| State Names Authority       | Connecticut Geographic Names Authority                   |
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X |

## FLORIDA

**\*\*\* Note: the following proposal has been withdrawn by the proponent**

### Loch Heed Martin

## Proposal Information

---

|                       |                                      |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Proposed name         | <b>Loch Heed Martin</b>              |
| Proposal type         | to make official a name in local use |
| Proponent             | Jennifer Lia Starling; Orlando, FL   |
| Date proposed         | 11/24/2023                           |
| BGN case number       | 6162                                 |
| Quarterly Review List | 454                                  |

## Feature Details

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|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Primary coordinates | 28.539657, -81.214526                           |
| Feature class       | reservoir                                       |
| Feature size        | 2.13 acres                                      |
| Feature description | 1 mi. S of Lake Kehoe, 5.5 mi. E of Lake Azalea |

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Name history          | Named in association with Lockheed Martin East Orlando facility |
| USGS primary topo map | Oviedo SW 1:24,000  |
| State(s)              | Florida   |
| County(s)             | Orange County   |
| PLSS                  | Secs 28&33, T22S, R31E, Tallahassee Meridian                    |
| Land ownership        | Private (Lockheed Martin)                                       |

**BGN decisions:** None

### Other Names

Unpublished names:

- Loch Heed Martin (Lockheed Martin employees)

Published names:

- Lockheed Martin Lake #5 (Loch Heed Martin) (Google Maps)

### Case Summary

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The name Loch Heed Martin is proposed to be made official for a 2.13-acre pond located on Lockheed Martin's East Orlando facility in Orange County.

The proponent, an employee of Lockheed Martin, writes that Loch Heed Martin is a play on words derived from its location and that it was named by one of the engineers. She adds, "The feature should be named as a method to boost employee morale. The cafeteria on campus has a porch that backs up to the lake, and it is a popular place on-site to take breaks outdoors."

When asked to address the Commercial Names Policy, the proponent responded, "The naming of this lake is not intended to promote Lockheed Martin in any way. It is located in the center of its already established Lockheed Martin campus in Orlando and adding it to federal maps would simply solidify its name." Also, "Loch Heed Martin is an informal name for the lake used at this campus, and this is the only process I know of by which we might make it formal."

The lake is labeled as Lockheed Martin Lake #5 (Loch Heed Martin) on Google Maps.

GNIS lists two features in Florida with "Loch" in the name: Loch Low and Loch Leven in Seminole County and Lake County, respectively. "Loch" has Gaelic origins and is often borrowed in English to denote a Lake.

### Stakeholder Input

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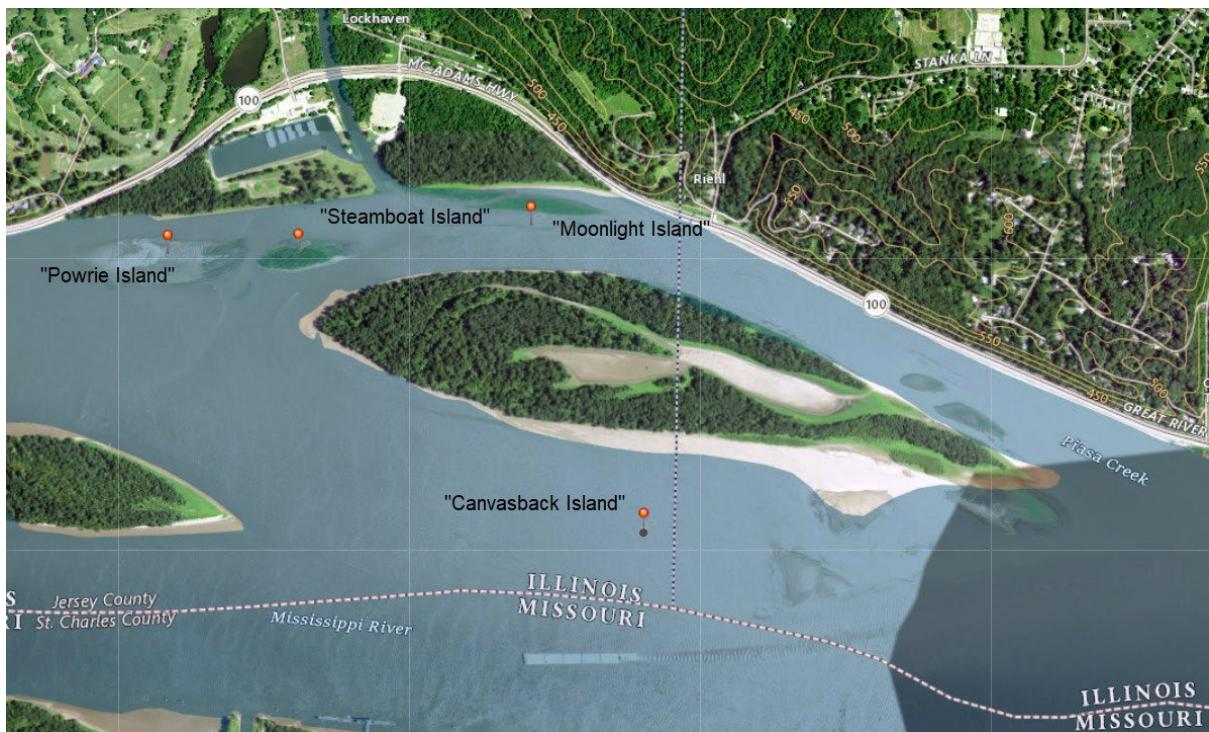
|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Local government      | Orange County Commissioners             |
| State Names Authority | Florida State Board on Geographic Names |

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X |
| Other                       | Lockheed Martin Corporation                              |

## ILLINOIS

### Canvasback Island, Moonlight Island, Powrie Island, Steamboat Island

These four proposals were submitted by the St. Louis District Office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), to make official new names for four newly created islands in the Mississippi River. The proponent, a USACE project manager, reports that the islands are part of the Piasa and Eagle's Nest Islands Habitat and Enhancement Project and were created by USACE as part of the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program (UMRR). Three of the names were chosen by local fifth- and sixth-grade students, and according to a report published in the USACE Mississippi Valley Division Summer 2023 newsletter, "were selected from a pool of 100 suggested for these islands."



The article continued:

UMRR was authorized through the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 and was the first environmental restoration and monitoring program undertaken on a large river system in the United States. The program works in partnership with other agencies and organizations to construct habitat restoration and rehabilitation projects to lessen the

impacts of the 29 locks and dams on the Upper Mississippi River, in place to ensure the river can sustain year-round commercial traffic key to the national and global economy.

To construct these islands . . . teams consulted historic maps and aerial photographs. They consulted hydrologists to best place islands given the current river flows, then constructed new islands by placing rock rings and are filling them with sediment dredged from the river. That ground will seed naturally, and vegetation and forests will emerge.

The education component came as staff from the Corps Natural Great Rivers Museum visited schools and offered a naming challenge as ‘homework.’ Selections were headed by [the] project sponsor, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. And winners were announced at a recreation-focused bash at the museum.

### **Proposal Information**

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|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Proposed names        | <b>Canvasback Island, Moonlight Island, Powrie Island, Steamboat Island</b> |
| Proposal type         | new names for unnamed features  |
| Proponent             | Ryan Swearingin; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers                               |
| Date proposed         | 12/28/2023  |
| Submitter             | Amy Skrabacz; St. Louis, MO   |
| Date submitted        | 12/28/2023  |
| BGN case numbers      | 6169, 6174, 6175, 6176  |
| Quarterly Review List | 454   |

### **Canvasback Island**

### **Feature Details**

---

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Primary coordinates   | 38.925713, -90.276822   |
| Feature class         | island  |
| Feature size          | Approx. 48 acres  |
| Feature description   | 0.8 mi. SW of the mouth of Piasa Creek, S of Piasa Island                                 |
| Name history          | Named for the canvasback, a species of diving duck that are seen on the Mississippi River |
| USGS primary topo map | Elsah 1:24,000  |
| State(s)              | Illinois  |
| County(s)             | Jersey County, Madison County   |
| Local jurisdiction(s) | Township of Elsah, Village of Godfrey   |
| PLSS                  | Secs 25&36, T6N, R11W and Sec 31, T6N, R10W, Third Principal Meridian                     |
| Land ownership        | Illinois Department of Natural Resources  |

**BGN decisions:** None

## Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names:

- Canvasback Island (various media publications)

## Case Summary

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The new name Canvasback Island is proposed for a newly constructed 48-acre island in the Mississippi River; the island is split between Elsah Township in Jersey County and the Village of Godfrey in Madison County.

The name was chosen by a sixth-grade student at Jerseyville Middle School. The student noted that canvasback ducks, which make up 75% of the world's duck population, were crucial for the survival of early pioneers and Native Americans. The ducks were heavily hunted for the market landing them on the Endangered Species list; this was ameliorated by The Migratory Birds Treaty Act. The student concluded, "to honor the long living bird and its importance to our region, Canvasback would be a great name for an island in our Mississippi River."

## Stakeholder Input

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|                             |  |         |
|-----------------------------|--|---------|
| Local government            | Village of Godfrey                                       |         |
| State Names Authority       | Illinois Geographic Names Authority                      |         |
| Federal Agency              | Department of Defense                                    | Support |
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X |         |
| Other                       | Illinois Department of Natural Resources                 | Support |

## Moonlight Island

### Feature Details

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Primary coordinates   | 38.934659, -90.280617  |
| Feature class         | island   |
| Feature size          | Approx. 3.9 acres  |
| Feature description   | 0.35 mi. SWW of the mouth of Piasa Creek, N of Piasa Island, E of Canvasback Island (proposed) and Steamboat Island (proposed) |
| Name history          | The name refers to the moonlight seen over the island  |
| USGS primary topo map | Elsah 1:24,000   |
| State(s)              | Illinois   |
| County(s)             | Jersey County  |
| Local jurisdiction(s) | Village of Godfrey   |
| PLSS                  | Sec 25, T6N, R11W, Third Principal Meridian  |
| Land ownership        | Illinois Department of Natural Resources   |



**BGN decisions:** None

### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names:

- Moonlight Island (various media publications)

### Case Summary

---

The new name Moonlight Island is proposed for a newly constructed 3.9-acre island in the Mississippi River in Jersey County.

The name was chosen by fifth grader at North Elementary in Alton, IL, who provided the following explanation: "The name of my island should be considered because when I think of moonlight, I think of wild animals coming out at night."

### Stakeholder Input

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|                             |   |         |
|-----------------------------|---|---------|
| Local government            | Village of Godfrey<br>Jersey County                         |         |
| State Names Authority       | Illinois Geographic Names Authority                         |         |
| Federal Agency              | Department of Defense                                       | Support |
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes<br>contacted under Policy X |         |
| Other                       | Illinois Department of Natural<br>Resources                 | Support |

### Powrie Island

### Feature Details

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|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Primary coordinates   | 38.933807, -90.295068   |
| Feature class         | Island  |
| Feature size          | Approx. 10 acres  |
| Feature description   | 0.5 mi. SSW of the mouth of Piasa Creek, W of Steamboat Island (proposed) and Moonlight Island (proposed) |
| Name history          | Named in honor of Jessie Powrie (1875-1949), a steward and light tender of the island.                    |
| USGS primary topo map | Elsah 1:24,000  |
| State(s)              | Illinois  |
| County(s)             | Jersey County   |
| Local jurisdiction(s) | Village of Godfrey  |
| PLSS                  | Secs 26 & 25, T6N, R11W, Third Principal Meridian   |
| Land ownership        | Illinois Department of Natural Resources  |

**BGN decisions:** None

## Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names:

- Powrie Island (various media publications)

## Case Summary

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The new name Powrie Island is proposed for a newly constructed 10-acre island in the Mississippi river within the Village of Godfrey in Jersey County, and just west of Piasa Island.

The proponent states:

This name proposal formalizes a family name significant to the local community. Jessie Powrie (1875-1949) was born on a 300-acre island [Piasa Island] in the Mississippi River. Her father was a Civil War veteran who became a light tender for the U.S. government, helping boats safely navigate the river. Jessie and her sisters attended a one-room school off island, and rowed a boat every day to get there. The family loved the island and its oaks, sycamores, and cottonwoods. After the death of her father, Jessie inherited the island and married Louis Young. The Powrie family lived on the island for generations and were dedicated to the island, its trees, the river, and those who navigated it.

According to an account by the Jerseyville Historical Society:

Jessie shared her father's conservation ethic, but her new husband began to cut the massive trees for profit. When Jessie ordered Louis to stop harvesting timber, he left her and their two adopted boys. The event made headlines as people learned that it was Jessie, not Louis, who had been rowing five miles each day to fill the floating lights at the head and foot of the island.

Jessie feared for her life on several occasions. In April 1905, high winds drove her skiff onto a sandbar. She and the boys huddled together in the bottom of the boat while icy waves crashed over them until Louis and another man rescued them four hours later. In an article published in September 1906, Jessie shared why she persisted. 'The water fascinates me,' she said. 'I will go back to the lights and the island my father, dear old Scotch Jimmy, left me. I will live there alone with the trees, the free air, the water, the lights and the children. And some night, when the four Mississippi lights show no glow, the twins may inherit the island and the government's perilously earned pay envelope.'

A 1906 article, quoted in a 2019 *Jersey County Journal* article titled *The unsinkable Jessie Powrie*, stated, "Jessie was a small woman . . . not physically strong looking, but her mouth and her chin tell you she does what she wills."

## Stakeholder Input

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|                             |   |         |
|-----------------------------|---|---------|
| Local government            | Village of Godfrey<br>Jersey County                         |         |
| State Names Authority       | Illinois Geographic Names Authority                         |         |
| Federal Agency              | Department of Defense                                       | Support |
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes<br>contacted under Policy X |         |
| Other                       | Illinois Department of Natural<br>Resources                 | Support |

## Steamboat Island

### Feature Details

---

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Primary coordinates   | 38.933835, -90.289797  |
| Feature class         | Island   |
| Feature size          | 8.8 acres  |
| Feature description   | 0.2 mi. SW of the mouth of Piasa Creek, W of Powrie Island (proposed), E of Moonlight Island (proposed)    |
| Name history          | Named for the steamboats that played a major role in the 19th century development of the Mississippi River |
| USGS primary topo map | Elsah 1:24,000   |
| State(s)              | Illinois   |
| County(s)             | Jersey County  |
| Local jurisdiction(s) | Elsah Township   |
| PLSS                  | Sec 25, T6N, R11W, Third Principal Meridian  |
| Land ownership        | Illinois Department of Natural Resources   |

**BGN decisions:** None

### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names:

- Steamboat Island (various media publications)

### Case Summary

---

The new name Steamboat Island is proposed for a newly constructed 8.8-acre island in the Mississippi River in Elsah Township in Jersey County.

The name Steamboat Island was suggested by a fifth-grade student at Alton North Elementary School because “steamboats play a major role in the 19th century development of the Mississippi River. Steamboats allowed transportation of goods and passengers. Steamboats can navigate the shallow waters and strong currents. I think steamboats helped us in our environment and played a big role in the history of the Mississippi River.”

### Stakeholder Input

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|                             |   |         |
|-----------------------------|---|---------|
| Local government            | Elsah Township<br>Jersey County                             |         |
| State Names Authority       | Illinois Geographic Names Authority                         |         |
| Federal Agency              | Department of Defense                                       | Support |
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes<br>contacted under Policy X |         |
| Other                       | Illinois Department of Natural<br>Resources                 | Support |

## MARYLAND

### Tëmakwehane

#### Proposal Information

---

|                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Proposed name         | <b>Tëmakwehane</b>           |
| Proposal type         | new name for unnamed feature |
| Proponent             | Greg Strella; Pikesville, MD |
| Date proposed         | 12/11/2023                   |
| BGN case number       | 6192                         |
| Quarterly Review List | 454                          |

#### Feature Details

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|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Primary coordinates   | 39.496111, -76.870278   |
| Secondary coordinates | 39.53928, -76.8364  |
| Feature class         | stream  |
| Feature size          | 4.6 mi. long  |
| Feature description   | heads just E of MD Highway 30 and flows SSW into the<br>North Branch Patapsco River at Liberty Lake |
| Name history          | the name is Lenape (Piscataway) and means “beaver creek”  |
| USGS primary topo map | Reisterstown 1:24,000   |
| State(s)              | Maryland  |
| County(s)             | Carroll County, Baltimore County  |
| Land ownership        | Private   |

**BGN decisions:** None

#### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names:

- Tëmakwehane (Adamah website 2022; Pearlstone campus website)

#### Case Summary

---

The new name Tëmakwehane is proposed for an unnamed 4.6-mile-long tributary of the North Branch Patapsco River. The stream heads in Baltimore County and flows into Carroll

County. The proposal was submitted by the Director of Stewardship for an organization named Adamah, who reports:

In Fall 2022, representatives from Pearlstone and the Baltimore American Indian Center gathered to celebrate the restoration of a previously unnamed branch of the Patapsco River. This beautiful stream valley was given the name Tëmakwehane (pronounced tuh-MAH-kway-HAH-nay) which means Beaver Creek in the Lenape (Piscataway) language.

According to the website of [Adamah](#), which manages the [Pearlstone Retreat Center](#), along the stream, “The [restoration] project was supported by the Chesapeake Bay Trust and Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The Natural Channel Design realigned the stream structure by re-directing, re-grading, and re-planting a 1,300-foot stretch of stream to reduce runoff and improve ecological function”; see <https://youtu.be/dNpuk-ZVCFk>. The Pearlstone website adds, “Tëmakwehane – Beaver Creek – runs through the Pearlstone campus and connects us to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.” The proponent further adds:

This Lenape name honors the Piscataway lineage. Beaver are keystone species to healthy stream valleys – they thrived alongside the Piscataway for generations. The living Chief of the Piscataway Indian Nation is from the Beaver clan. They have always been the Piscataway leaders. It would be meaningful to honor them in this way. The name uplifts the Piscataway people and the Beaver as wisdom-holders in our community. They are leaders in our ongoing journey towards ecological and cultural health.

GNIS lists five streams in Maryland with “Beaver” in their names, including Beaver Run in Carroll County, which enters the North Branch Patapsco River 2.7 miles downstream of the stream in question. Beaver Ridge is the name of a subdivision located midway along Beaver Run.

### **Stakeholder Input**

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|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Local government            | Carroll County Board of Commissioners<br>Baltimore County Council |
| State Names Authority       | Maryland Geographic Names Authority                               |
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X          |

## MONTANA

### Gibson Meadow

#### Proposal Information

---

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Proposed name         | <b>Gibson Meadow</b>                       |
| Proposal type         | new commemorative name for unnamed feature |
| Proponent             | Joshua Romain; El Cerrito, CA              |
| Date proposed         | 12/6/2023                                  |
| BGN case number       | 6167                                       |
| Quarterly Review List | 454  |

#### Feature Details

---

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Primary coordinates   | 45.646354, -112.86474   |
| Feature class         | flat  |
| Feature size          | approx. 70 acres  |
| Feature description   | Along Trapper Creek S of Ore Camp Hill and NE of Yanks Pasture  |
| Name history          | named for Robert "Bob" Gibson (1933-2018), former supervisor of Helena National Forest and Gallatin National Forest, who grew up fishing here with his family |
| USGS primary topo map | Cattle Gulch 1:24,000   |
| State(s)              | Montana   |
| County(s)             | Beaverhead County   |
| PLSS                  | Secs 20&21, T2S, R10W, Principal Meridian (Montana)   |
| Land ownership        | Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest  |

**BGN decisions:** None

#### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names: None found

#### Case Summary

---

The new name Gibson Meadow is proposed for a sparsely treed area along Trapper Creek near Ore Camp Hill in Beaverhead County. The location is on the Beaverhead National Forest directly northeast of an area named Yanks Meadow.

The proponent wishes to name a feature after his grandfather, Robert Gibson (1933-2018). He states, "This is a meadow where Robert 'Bob' Gibson grew up fishing with his father and later with his sons and grandsons. . . . He was especially fond of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge

National Forest, where he spent much of his time growing up, fishing on Trapper Creek.”  
He adds:

[Bob] began working for the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) during his summer school breaks and continued with the USFS until he retired in 1990. After first assignments in Dillon and Lima, Bob was promoted to Bozeman District Forest Ranger in June 1963. He became National Forest Supervisor for both Helena and Gallatin forests. Montana Society of Forests elected him ‘Forester of the Year’ and the National Society of Foresters elected him ‘Fellow.’ During the 1988 Yellowstone fires, much of the winter elk range burned, putting 20,000 elk in risk. He brought in the fledgling private Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) to spearhead a response by coordinating resources amongst the MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks, USFS, and Yellowstone Park. Through their cooperation RMEF was able to acquire a vast track of critical winter elk range. After retirement Bob served two terms on the RMEF board of directors and was an avid volunteer for that group.

### Stakeholder Input

---

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Local government            | Beaverhead County Board of Commissioners                 |
| State Names Authority       | Montana Geographic Names Advisor                         |
| Federal Agency              | U.S. Forest Service                                      |
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X |

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

### Elizabeth Brook

### Proposal Information

---

|                       |                                    |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Proposed name         | <b>Elizabeth Brook</b>             |
| Proposal type         | Make official a commemorative name |
| Proponent             | Dr. Peter Kilmarx; Bethesda, MD    |
| Date proposed         | 10/22/2023                         |
| BGN case number       | 6149                               |
| Quarterly Review List | 454                                |

### Feature Details

---

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Primary coordinates   | 43.798461, -72.117654  |
| Secondary coordinates | 43.778033, -72.106879  |
| Feature class         | stream   |
| Feature size          | 1.6 mi. long   |
| Feature description   | In the Town of Lyme, heads on Holts Ledge and flows generally N into Grant Brook |

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Name history          | Named in honor of Elizabeth Kilmarx (1964-2018), an active community member, forester, cartographer, and producer of maple sugar |
| USGS primary topo map | Smarts Mountain 1:24,000   |
| State(s)              | New Hampshire  |
| County(s)             | Grafton County   |
| Local jurisdiction(s) | Town of Lyme   |
| Land ownership        | U.S. Forest Service / White Mountain National Forest<br>National Park Service / Appalachian National Scenic Trail                |

**BGN decisions:** None

### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names:

- Elizabeth Brook (Town of Lyme property maps)

### Case Summary

---

The commemorative name Elizabeth Brook is proposed to be made official for a 1.6-mile-long tributary of Grant Brook in the Town of Lyme in Grafton County. The stream heads on Holts Ledge within the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (National Park Service) and flows generally north through White Mountain National Forest, emptying into Grant Brook, a tributary of the Connecticut River.

The name would honor Elizabeth Kilmarx (1964-2018), a resident of Lyme since 2006. According to the proposal, Ms. Kilmarx was a forester, cartographer, and producer of maple sugar, who lent her skills to the community; she was also involved with local organizations, including the Prouty, the Upper Valley Land Trust, and the Lyme Historians.

Following a unanimous vote by the Town of Lyme Select Board in 2020, the stream was given the proposed name and it was labeled on property maps published in 2022.

According to GNIS, there are no geographic features in New Hampshire with “Elizabeth” in their names.

### Stakeholder Input

---

|                       |  |          |
|-----------------------|--|----------|
| Local government      | Town of Lyme Select Board<br>Grafton County Board of Commissioners | *Support |
| State Names Authority | New Hampshire Board on Geographic Names                            |          |
| Federal Agency        | U.S. Forest Service<br>National Park Service                       |          |



|                             |  |          |
|-----------------------------|--|----------|
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X |          |
| Other                       | Upper Valley Land Trust                                  | *Support |

\* Provided by proponent

## **Change Eastman Cove to Senskwa Cove**

### **Proposal Information**

---

|                       |                                |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Proposed name         | <b>Senskwa Cove</b>            |
| Proposal type         | change name to a native name   |
| Current official name | Eastman Cove                   |
| GNIS ID               | <a href="#">872724</a>         |
| Proponent             | Philip Bennett; Holderness, NH |
| Date proposed         | 10/28/23                       |
| BGN case number       | 6154                           |
| Quarterly Review List | 454                            |

### **Feature Details**

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|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Primary coordinates   | 43.7839616, -71.5122972                               |
| Feature class         | bay   |
| Feature size          | 130 acres   |
| Feature description   | on Squam Lake 1 mi. NNE of The Rattlesnakes           |
| Name history          | The name means “stone maiden” in the Abenaki language |
| USGS primary topo map | Squam Mountains 1:24,000                              |
| State(s)              | New Hampshire   |
| County(s)             | Carroll County  |
| Local jurisdiction(s) | Town of Sandwich                                      |
| Land ownership        | private   |

### **BGN decisions**

- Eastman Cove (BGN/Secretary’s Order 3404, 2022)

### **Other Names**

Unpublished names: None found

Published names:

- Eastman Cove (USGS 2023)
- Sq \_\_\_ Cove (USGS 1928, 1931, 1980, 1986, 1995; Laws of the State of New Hampshire 1901; New Hampshire Department of Safety 2010; Town of Sandwich Master Plan 2011; Oliverian Canal Route map, 1830; *The Granite Monthly*, 1887; *History of Carroll County, New Hampshire*, 1889; *Indians of New Hampshire*, 1965; Squam Lakes Association 2000, 2019; Sandwich Historical Society 2019; numerous online real estate listings)

### **Case Summary**

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This proposal is to change the name of Eastman Cove, a 130-acre bay on Squam Lake in the Town of Sandwich in Carroll County, to Senskwa Cove.

The cove was formerly named Sq \_\_\_\_\_ Cove until it was changed in September 2022 as a result of [Secretary's Order 3404](#). The name Eastman Cove was presumably chosen by the [Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force](#) based on the first name on the list of candidate replacement names; Eastman Brook flows into the cove.

The proponent of Senskwa Cove, who lives on property adjacent to the cove, worked with the Town of Sandwich, the Sandwich Conservation Commission, landowners, and other local interested groups to develop the proposal. He notes that "senskwa" means "stone maiden" in the Abenaki language and that the name refers to a boulder formerly located by the cove that resembled the "head profile of a young woman" and that the boulder "inspired the Legend of Sq \_\_\_\_\_ Cove about the young Indian maiden who turned to stone due to her grief." He added:

The change to Eastman Cove in 2022 caused a great deal of disappointment around the cove and the lake more broadly as there was no consultation and it specifically did not reflect the long connection to Abenaki folklore. I am a land owner on the cove and have taken on the mission to restore that connection. . . .

The name Senskwa would reclaim and retain the proper usage of "skwa". It is consistent with broader Abenaki linguistic aspects. It would memorialize the core legend and maintain the original, magical connection of the cove to the indigenous people. Finally, all of us wanted a name that would be pronounceable to English speakers in order to facilitate its broad acceptance.

'Skwa' is not a stand-alone word but is a commonly used suffix in the Abenaki language which feminizes a proper noun. It is integral to the language and should not be confused with the derogatory usage of Sq\_\_\_\_. The local representatives of the Abenaki people . . . researched the name and the legend in order to propose an appropriate name that is true to their language and conveyed the connection to the traditions, history and folklore of the cove.

The name Sq \_\_\_\_\_ Cove was mentioned as early as 1830 on a map of a proposed canal in the area; it was also noted in the 1901 Laws of the State of New Hampshire and appears in present-day town, county, and State documents. Another early reference to the name was in an 1887 article in *The Granite Monthly*, titled "Asquam Lake and its Environs," which reported that "Sq \_\_\_\_\_ Cove derives its name from the fact that formerly there stood upon one of the ledges of the cove a block of granite that bore a strong resemblance to the draped figure of a woman." One local legend tells the story of a young woman named Amata who was married against her wishes to an old man named Mamon. Amata loved a young man named Moowis who came to rescue her. Mamon killed Moowis and Amita knelt to pray that her suffering be made an example for all to see, and she was turned to stone. A

version of the legend included in the 1889 *History of Carroll County, New Hampshire* has the same story but different names: the young woman is “Princess Suneta,” the old man is Waunega, and the young man is Anonis. It is unknown if this legend comes from American Indian tradition or if it was developed by European settlers.

Sq \_\_\_ Cove was first labeled on USGS maps in 1928, although the name ceased to appear on USTopo maps published after 2012. The 2023 edition of the USTopo shows the newly approved name Eastman Cove.

The Task Force received two public suggestions for potential replacement names. One was for the name “Suneta Cove,” based on the name of a woman in one legend about the boulder. The other, comprising two options, was submitted by the New Hampshire Board on Geographic Names. Following conversations with members of the Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook -Abenaki, those names were Olebatak Cove, meaning “It is Good Smooth Water,” or Nokemesek Cove, meaning “My Grandmother's Cove”; the first a description of the cove and the second a reference to the ancestors of the original inhabitants of the area.

In its letter of support for the name, the Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook-Abenaki People wrote:

The name of Sq \_\_\_ Cove on Squam Lake goes back hundreds of years, including colonial citations dating to the early 1800s. The original reference to Sq \_\_\_ Cove was based on a legend related to a rock formation that resembled a crouching Indigenous woman that was located on the cove narrows. In the late 1880s the legend about an Abenaki woman named Suneta was documented for the first time. The legend about the rock may well have been romanticized in later years, however the name suggests the legend did indeed exist long before the early years of colonial presence in the Squam Lake region.

In 2022 when Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland put forth the mandate to remove the name ‘sq\_\_\_’ from all geographical names across the country, our tribal Band supported that effort and put forth a proposal that was supported by the State of New Hampshire and the New Hampshire Commission on Native American Affairs to rename the location to ‘Nokemesek’ or ‘Our Grandmother’s Place.’ The ‘Nokemesek’ name proposal was rejected without explanation, and without community consultation the name of “Eastman Cove” was assigned to the location.

In response to the federal government’s rejection to utilize a new Indigenous place name, a collaboration seeking historical and cultural justice formed with local Squam Lake land owners, conservation organizations, area officials, and other interested stakeholders to reclaim the cove name back to it’s [sic] Indigenous cultural roots, honoring and uplifting Indigenous women.

Utilizing traditional language practices in combination with the documented historical connection we now propose utilizing the Abenaki word for ‘Stone Woman’ – ‘Senskwa’ (with the accent on the first syllable) to highlight the rock formation and corresponding historical lore as a replacement for Eastman Cove. . . .

The proposed name ‘Senskwa’ would retain the proper usage of the suffix ‘-skwa,’ which maintains consistency with broader Pennacook-Abenaki linguistic and cultural aspects of a matriarchal society. It would memorialize the regional core legend and it would maintain the original historical connection of the cove to the Pennacook-Abenaki and other regional Indigenous people. To reinstall an Indigenous place name is an act of historical and cultural justice, and supports Indigenous language reclamation.

The Sandwich Town Selectmen discussed the proposed change in November 2023 but did not take a position and prefer to let the BGN review process go forward.

### Stakeholder Input

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|                             |  |            |
|-----------------------------|--|------------|
| Local government            | Town of Sandwich Selectmen<br>Carroll County             | No opinion |
| State Names Authority       | New Hampshire Board on Geographic Names                  |            |
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X |            |
| Other                       | Sandwich Conservation Commission                         | Support    |
|                             | New Hampshire Commission on Native American Affairs      | Support    |
|                             | Squam Lakes Association                                  | Support    |
|                             | Squam Lakes Conservation Society                         | Support    |
|                             | Webster Land Corporation                                 | Support    |
|                             | Cowasuck Band of Pennacook - Abenaki People              | Support    |
|                             | U.S. Representative Ann McLane Kuster                    | Support    |

## OHIO

### Bell Creek

### Proposal Information

---

|                 |                              |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Proposed name   | <b>Bell Creek</b>            |
| Proposal type   | new name for unnamed feature |
| Proponent       | Russell Bell; Sidney, OH     |
| Date proposed   | 11/13/2023                   |
| BGN case number | 6160                         |

### Feature Details

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Primary coordinates   | 40.3204875, -84.1315198                                  |
| Secondary coordinates | 40.35462, -84.11474                                      |
| Feature class         | stream   |
| Feature size          | 3.8 mi. long   |
| Feature description   | flows generally SSW into Plum Creek                      |
| Name history          | The name refers to a school bell found in the creek.     |
| USGS primary topo map | Sidney 1:24,000  |
| State(s)              | Ohio   |
| County(s)             | Shelby County  |
| Local jurisdiction(s) | Township of Salem<br>Township of Franklin                |
| PLSS                  | Secs 5,8,7&17 T1N, R7E, West of the Great Miami Meridian |
| Land ownership        | Private  |

**BGN decisions:** None

### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names: None found

### Case Summary

---

The new name Bell Creek is proposed for a 3.8-mile-long tributary of Plum Creek in the townships of Salem and Franklin in Shelby County.

The proponent, whose last name is Bell, as well as the vice president of Bell Industrial Service, confirmed that the name is not intended to be commemorative or commercial. He states, “the stream runs through my property and has gotten bigger over the years. I believe it deserves the name Bell Creek as I found an old school bell in it.” He added that the bell is dated 1979 and “doesn’t seem to have any historical significance” and he is in the process of “restoring the bell to be placed back beside the creek.”

GNIS lists a Bell Ditch 45 miles away in Van Wert County and a Bell Pond 20 miles away in Logan County.

### Stakeholder Input

---

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Local government            | Shelby County<br>Township of Salem<br>Township of Franklin  |
| State Names Authority       | Ohio Geographic Names Authority                             |
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes<br>contacted under Policy X |

\*\*\* Note: the following proposal has been withdrawn

## Big Creek

### Proposal Information

---

|                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Proposed name         | <b>Big Creek</b>             |
| Proposal type         | new name for unnamed feature |
| Proponent             | David Hull; Martinsburg, OH  |
| Date proposed         | 12/26/2023                   |
| BGN case number       | 6172                         |
| Quarterly Review List | 454                          |

### Feature Details

---

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Primary coordinates   | 40.280537, -82.30581   |
| Secondary coordinates | 40.275, -82.32   |
| Feature class         | stream   |
| Feature size          | 0.87 mi. long  |
| Feature description   | In Clay Township, flows NE to enter Tomaky Branch 1.1 mi. WSW of Bladensburg |
| Name history          | Descriptive name   |
| USGS primary topo map | Martinsburg 1:24,000   |
| State(s)              | Ohio   |
| County(s)             | Knox County  |
| PLSS                  | Secs 12&NE, T5N, R11W, United States Military District                       |
| Land ownership        | Private  |

**BGN decisions:** None

### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names: None found

### Case Summary

---

This proposal is to apply the new name Big Creek to a 0.87-mile-long tributary of Tomaky Branch in Clay Township in Knox County. The proponent reported only that the stream crosses his property and that he has resided there for 57+ years.

GNIS lists four other streams in Ohio named Big Creek; the closest is approximately 80 miles away.

### Stakeholder Input

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|                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| Local government | Clay Township |
|------------------|---------------|

State Names Authority                      Knox County  
Federally Recognized Tribes              Ohio Geographic Names Authority  
    All federally recognized Tribes  
    contacted under Policy X

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Anna Run

#### Proposal Information

---

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Proposed name         | <b>Anna Run</b>                           |
| Proposal type         | new name for unnamed feature              |
| Proponent             | Isabelle Travaglini; Chester Springs, PA  |
| Date proposed         | 12/4/23                                   |
| Submitter             | West Vincent Historic Resources Committee |
| Date submitted        | same                                      |
| BGN case number       | 6165                                      |
| Quarterly Review List | 454                                       |

#### Feature Details

---

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Primary coordinates   | 40.15142, -75.67053   |
| Secondary coordinates | 40.14603, -75.66475   |
| Feature class         | Stream  |
| Feature size          | 0.75 miles long   |
| Feature description   | Heads in West Vincent Township, flows N and NW to enter<br>Beaver Run in South Coventry Township    |
| Name history          | Named for Anna McFarland Rickard (ca.1832-1863), who<br>lived on the land at the head of the stream |
| USGS primary topo map | Pottstown 1:24,000  |
| State(s)              | Pennsylvania  |
| County(s)             | Chester   |
| Local jurisdiction(s) | West Vincent Township, South Coventry Township  |
| Land ownership        | private   |

**BGN decisions:** None

#### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names: None found

#### Case Summary

---

The new name Anna Run is proposed for an unnamed 0.75-mile-long tributary of Beaver Run in Chester County. The stream heads in West Vincent Township and flows into South Coventry Township.

The proposal was submitted in response to one that would name the stream Glacier Run (Review List 451). The name Anna Run is proposed by the current owner of the property at the head of the stream, who coordinated the submission with the West Vincent Historic Resource Committee. The committee reported that, at the suggestion of the Chester County Water Resources Department [sic], the Township has been working on naming unnamed streams for several years. In responding to the Glacier Run proposal, the committee noted, “That name is opposed by West Vincent because we are not located in a glacier area and it is misleading. A map which shows glaciation at its peak in Pennsylvania shows it going as far south as Lehigh County but not into Chester County.”

The name Anna Run would commemorate Anna McFarland Rickard (ca.1832-1863). The proposal reports that the stream heads on property where Samuel and Anna Rickard lived, and that Anna’s grandfather settled there prior to the American Revolution. Descendants of Samuel and Anna owned the land until recently, when it was purchased by the proponent. Samuel and Anna’s descendants still live next door.

Letters of support for the name Glacier Run were submitted by the proponent of that name from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; the Chester County Water Resources Authority; the Conservation Director of the French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust; the Chester County Conservation District; and the Principal of Owen J. Roberts High School. These organizations will be asked to comment on the counterproposal.

### **Stakeholder Input**

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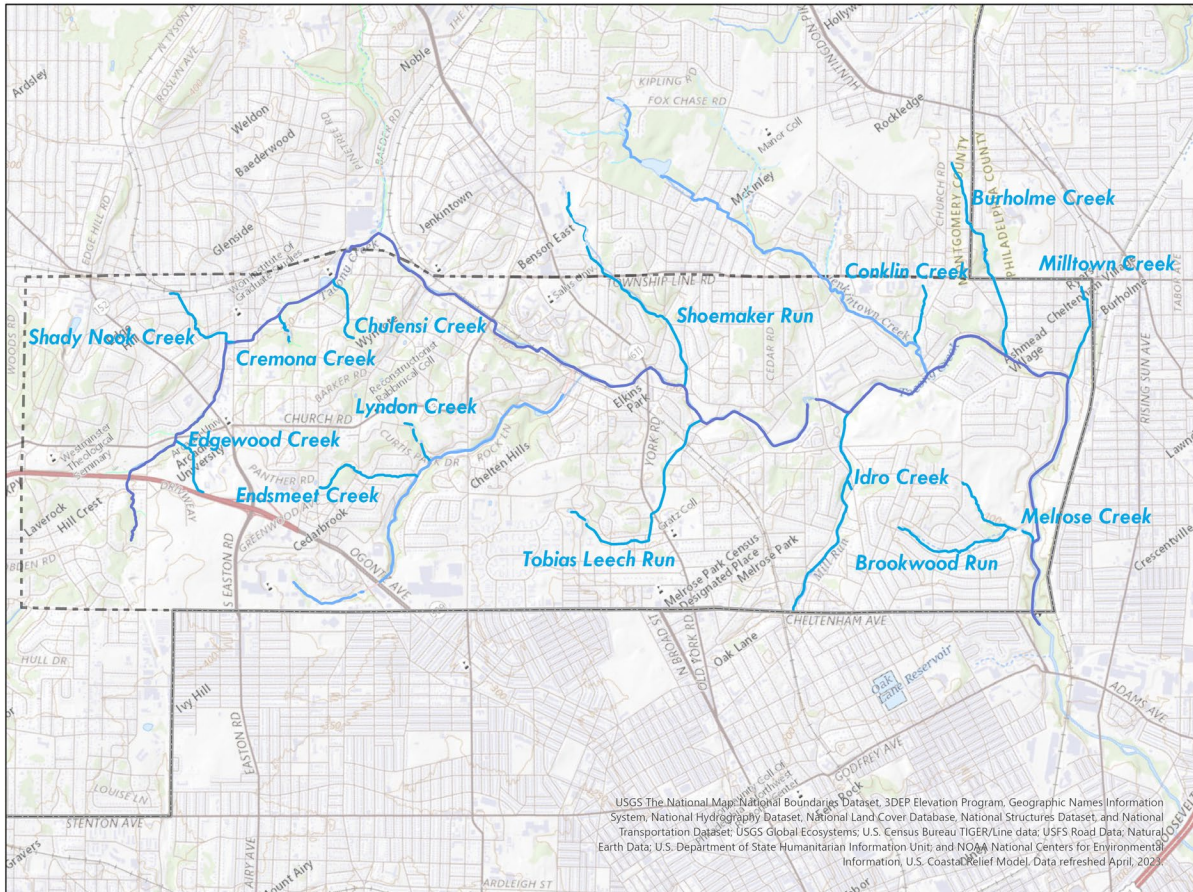
|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Local government            | South Coventry Township<br>West Vincent Township<br>Chester County Board of Commissioners |
| State Names Authority       | Pennsylvania Geographic Names Committee   |
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X                                  |

**Brookwood Run, Burholme Creek, Chulensi Creek, Conklin Creek, Cremona Creek, Edgewood Creek, Endsmeet Creek, Idro Creek, Leechs Run, Lyndon Creek, Melrose Creek, Milltown Creek, Shady Nook Creek, and Shoemaker Run**

These 14 proposals are to apply official names to streams in Cheltenham Township in Montgomery County; they were submitted by the township’s Administrative Coordinator.



Eight of the names are new names for unnamed features: Edgewood Creek, Cremona Creek, Chulensi Creek, Endsmeet Creek, Lyndon Creek, Idro Creek, Melrose Creek, and Conklin Creek. The remaining six have been in local use for at least sixteen years: Shady Nook Creek, Leechs Run, Shoemaker Run, Brookwood Run, Burholme Creek, and Milltown Creek. The streams were proposed in this order; the Township ordered the streams within the two groups moving downstream along the Tacony Creek watershed.



Note: Cheltenham Township uses the spelling “Tookany Creek” for Tacony Creek within its boundaries. The change from “Tookany” to “Tacony” at the boundary between the township and the City of Philadelphia is widely recognized and used by local governments and environmental groups. GNIS only records the spelling Tacony Creek, with Tookany Creek as a variant name.

The proposed names were selected by a Township Creek Naming Task Force, the members of which came from the Township’s staff and Board, the Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), the Township Historical Commission, and the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford (TTF) Watershed Partnership. They selected names from suggestions made by community members.

The Township began an effort to name the unnamed tributaries in August 2008. The selected names were never submitted to the BGN, but many of them entered local use.

After a Township resident submitted a proposal to the BGN to name an unnamed tributary of Tacony Creek as Gray Rock Creek (Review List 441), the Township realized they had never submitted their 2008 names to the BGN. The July 18, 2022 minutes of the EAC [reported that](#) the Historical Commission would “lead the charge to renew discussion on stream naming in the Township,” and “establish steps to ensure public participation and the completion of the naming project.” A member of TTF stated names “have to be historic or descriptive of the area . . . cannot be named for someone who is still alive . . . and the naming process is an exciting opportunity to educate people about the creeks,” adding, “While the old list of names can be used, additional community feedback should be sought because things may have changed in the past decade.” A member of the EAC suggested the names should represent the diversity and the breadth of history in the Township, including its abolitionist history and indigenous roots, not just the land ownership in 1800s. The Township added that it would prepare a policy on naming.

The Township Historical Commission’s publication *The Wall Paper* [reported in 2022](#) that it had worked with the EAC to identify seven streams and to conduct additional research on the history of the properties traversed by the streams. As a result, seven historical names were proposed. An update was posted in 2023 in the Township’s newsletter, including a link to an online survey inviting residents to suggest names. “Valid names will be considered by the Township and brought up in a public forum before formal submission of all names to the US Geological Survey.”

A 2015 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers document (part of the Philadelphia District’s “[Tookany Creek Flood Risk Reduction Study](#)” used many different names for some of these streams; these are noted below.

## Edgewood Creek

### **Proposal Information**

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Proposed name         | <b>Edgewood Creek</b>                            |
| Proposal type         | new name for unnamed feature                     |
| Date proposed         | 12/20/2023                                       |
| Submitter             | Sara Vargo; Cheltenham Township, Elkins Park, PA |
| BGN case number       | 6177   |
| Quarterly Review List | 454  |

### **Feature Details**

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|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Primary coordinates   | 40.094435, -75.166551 |
| Secondary coordinates | 40.090213, -75.167361 |
| Feature class         | stream                |

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Feature size          | 0.33 mi. long  |
| Feature description   | tributary of Tacony Creek  |
| Name history          | named for the nearby historical Edgewood farm of Bradley Redfield, a 19th century resident |
| USGS primary topo map | Germantown 1:24,000  |
| State(s)              | Pennsylvania   |
| County(s)             | Montgomery County  |
| Local jurisdiction(s) | Cheltenham Township  |
| Land ownership        | Arcadia University / private   |

**BGN decisions:** None

### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names: None found

### Case Summary

---

The new name Edgewood Creek is proposed for a 0.33-mile-long tributary of Tacony Creek in Cheltenham Township. It mostly flows through the property of Arcadia University. The stream is not depicted in the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD).

The name refers to a farm that was once located nearby called “Edgewood.” It was founded in the late 19th century by Bradley Redfield, a local land developer. His son Edward was “a celebrated artist and founder of the artist colony in New Hope.” In 2009, the farm was acquired by Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

## Cremona Creek

### Proposal Information

---

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Proposed name         | <b>Cremona Creek</b>                             |
| Proposal type         | new name for unnamed feature                     |
| Date proposed         | 12/20/2023                                       |
| Submitter             | Sara Vargo; Cheltenham Township, Elkins Park, PA |
| BGN case number       | 6178   |
| Quarterly Review List | 454  |

### Feature Details

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|                       |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Primary coordinates   | 40.097246, -75.151403     |
| Secondary coordinates | 40.094357, -75.151519     |
| Feature class         | stream                    |
| Feature size          | 0.2 mi. long              |
| Feature description   | tributary of Tacony Creek |

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Name history          | named for Cremona Satterthwaite (1710-1770), the first African American woman to own property in Cheltenham Township |
| USGS primary topo map | Germantown 1:24,000  |
| State(s)              | Pennsylvania   |
| County(s)             | Montgomery County  |
| Local jurisdiction(s) | Cheltenham Township  |
| Land ownership        | private / township land  |

**BGN decisions:** None

### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names: None found

### Case Summary

---

The new name Cremona Creek is proposed for a 0.2-mile-long tributary of Tacony Creek in Cheltenham Township. It flows partly through the Township’s Renninger Park. The stream is not in NHD.

The Township states that “Cremona Satterthwaite was the first African American woman to own property in Cheltenham Township. . . . [She] is an important, little known part of Cheltenham history.” According to a [WHYY documentary](#):

Cremona Satterthwaite was a servant in the [Humphrey] Morrey household. [Morrey was the first Mayor of Philadelphia and one of the founders of Cheltenham Township. The family were Quakers but held enslaved people.] After Morrey’s death, his son Richard inherited his property. Not long after, Richard freed the family’s enslaved people and Cremona remained a servant in the household. Richard fell in love with Cremona and they had 5 children between 1735–1745. Although they couldn’t legally marry, they did live together as man and wife, and were known and accepted as such throughout their community.

Richard Morrey died in 1753 and left Cremona 198 acres of land in the Edgehill section of Glenside, Cheltenham Township. At that time, it was unheard-of for an African-American woman to own land. The original 2-story barn structure built by Richard and Cremona’s youngest daughter, known as Cremona, Jr. and her husband, John Montier, still stands on part of the original property on Limekiln Pike. They also built a more prominent home that still stands in front of the barn structure. Both homes were built in the late 1700’s, an unprecedented occurrence: African Americans owning homes in that time period.

Richard and Cremona’s later descendants, Elizabeth and Hiram Montier, lived very comfortably. Hiram was a boot maker with a successful business in Center City

Philadelphia. Many other family members went on to make notable accomplishments. Elizabeth Montier married Cyrus Bustill, an original member of The Free African Society, who also helped found St. Thomas African Episcopal Church. Later descendants include Paul Robeson, the famous singer, actor and civil rights activist.

## Chulensi Creek

### Proposal Information

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Proposed name         | <b>Chulensi Creek</b>                            |
| Proposal type         | new name for unnamed feature                     |
| Date proposed         | 12/20/2023                                       |
| Submitter             | Sara Vargo; Cheltenham Township, Elkins Park, PA |
| BGN case number       | 6179   |
| Quarterly Review List | 454  |

### Feature Details

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Primary coordinates   | 40.096882, -75.145229  |
| Secondary coordinates | 40.092591, -75.147086  |
| Feature class         | stream   |
| Feature size          | 0.35 mi. long  |
| Feature description   | tributary of Tacony Creek  |
| Name history          | name is Lenape for "bird," referring to a Township bird sanctuary at the mouth of the stream |
| USGS primary topo map | Germantown 1:24,000  |
| State(s)              | Pennsylvania   |
| County(s)             | Montgomery County  |
| Local jurisdiction(s) | Cheltenham Township  |
| Land ownership        | private / township land  |

**BGN decisions:** None

### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names: None found

### Case Summary

---

The new name Chulensi Creek is proposed for a 0.35-mile-long tributary of Tacony Creek in Cheltenham Township. It partly flows through the George Perley Bird Sanctuary. The stream is not in NHD.

The Township reports that it "consulted with Lenape language experts for confirmation of spelling/meaning." The Township asked Adam DePaul, a member of the non-federally recognized Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania, and Christine Applegate, Director of Education at the Museum of Indian Culture in Allentown, "to ensure that our spelling and intent is

correct.” DePaul replied that “bird” in Lenape is chulens and asked Clan Mother Shelley DePaul for confirmation. Ms. DePaul replied that “‘Chulensi’ is correct. (The final ‘l’ makes the noun an adjective).”

## **Endsmeet Creek**

### **Proposal Information**

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Proposed name         | <b>Endsmeet Creek</b>                            |
| Proposal type         | new name for unnamed feature                     |
| Date proposed         | 12/20/2023                                       |
| Submitter             | Sara Vargo; Cheltenham Township, Elkins Park, PA |
| BGN case number       | 6180   |
| Quarterly Review List | 454  |

### **Feature Details**

---

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Primary coordinates   | 40.08174, -75.150194  |
| Secondary coordinates | 40.085365, -75.158243   |
| Feature class         | stream  |
| Feature size          | 0.6 mi. long  |
| Feature description   | tributary of an officially unnamed stream with the local name of Rock Creek                 |
| Name history          | named for the nearby historical Endsmeet Farm of Anna Wharton Morris and Harrison S. Morris |
| USGS primary topo map | Germantown 1:24,000   |
| State(s)              | Pennsylvania  |
| County(s)             | Montgomery County   |
| Local jurisdiction(s) | Cheltenham Township   |
| Land ownership        | private   |

**BGN decisions:** None

### **Other Names**

Unpublished names: None found

Published names: None found

### **Case Summary**

---

The new name Endsmeet Creek is proposed for a 0.6-mile-long tributary of Rock Creek in Cheltenham Township, Montgomery County. The stream is not in NHD.

The Township reports that the name refers to the former Endsmeet Farm of Anna Wharton Morris and Harrison S. Morris. The site of the farm is now the Cheltenham High School, located adjacent to the source of the stream. The Township wrote “Anna was the daughter of industrialist and Wharton School founder Joseph Wharton. Harrison was the director of

the Museum of Fine Art, art editor of Ladies Home Journal, and executor of Joseph Wharton's will, among other prestigious occupations."

## Lyndon Creek

### Proposal Information

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Proposed name         | <b>Lyndon Creek</b>                              |
| Proposal type         | new name for unnamed feature                     |
| Date proposed         | 12/20/2023                                       |
| Submitter             | Sara Vargo; Cheltenham Township, Elkins Park, PA |
| BGN case number       | 6181   |
| Quarterly Review List | 454  |

### Feature Details

---

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Primary coordinates   | 40.082001, -75.148359  |
| Secondary coordinates | 40.085369, -75.148096  |
| Feature class         | stream   |
| Feature size          | 0.2 mi. long   |
| Feature description   | tributary of Rock Creek  |
| Name history          | named for the historic Lyndon estate of Abraham Barker which became the present-day Curtis Arboretum |
| USGS primary topo map | Germantown 1:24,000  |
| State(s)              | Pennsylvania   |
| County(s)             | Montgomery County  |
| Local jurisdiction(s) | Cheltenham Township  |
| Land ownership        | township land  |

**BGN decisions:** None

### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names: None found

### Case Summary

---

The new name Lyndon Creek is proposed for a 0.2-mile-long tributary of Rock Creek in Cheltenham Township. It flows entirely through the Township's Curtis Arboretum. The stream is not in NHD.

The Township reports that the name comes from Abraham Barker's estate "Lyndon" which became the present-day Curtis Arboretum.

## Idro Creek

## Proposal Information

---

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Proposed name         | <b>Idro Creek</b>                                |
| Proposal type         | new name for unnamed feature                     |
| Date proposed         | 12/20/2023                                       |
| Submitter             | Sara Vargo; Cheltenham Township, Elkins Park, PA |
| BGN case number       | 6182   |
| Quarterly Review List | 454  |

## Feature Details

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|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Primary coordinates   | 40.062601, -75.117696   |
| Secondary coordinates | 40.061929, -75.117827   |
| Feature class         | stream  |
| Feature size          | 300 ft. long  |
| Feature description   | tributary of Mill Run   |
| Name history          | named for the former historic Idro estate and farm of John B. Stetson |
| USGS primary topo map | Frankford 1:24,000  |
| State(s)              | Pennsylvania  |
| County(s)             | Montgomery County   |
| Local jurisdiction(s) | Cheltenham Township   |
| Land ownership        | township land   |

**BGN decisions:** None

### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names: None found

## Case Summary

---

The new name Idro Creek is proposed for a 300-foot-long tributary of Mill Run in Cheltenham Township. It flows entirely through the Township's Coventry Park. The stream is not in NHD.

The Township reports that the name comes from John B. Stetson's "elegant Cheltenham Hills estate" and farm named "Idro."

## Melrose Creek

## Proposal Information

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|               |                              |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| Proposed name | <b>Melrose Creek</b>         |
| Proposal type | new name for unnamed feature |
| Date proposed | 12/20/2023                   |



|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Submitter             | Sara Vargo; Cheltenham Township, Elkins Park, PA |
| BGN case number       | 6183   |
| Quarterly Review List | 454  |

## Feature Details

---

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Primary coordinates   | 40.0507976, -75.1070804   |
| Secondary coordinates | 40.0576255, -75.1162117   |
| Feature class         | stream  |
| Feature size          | 0.4 mi. long  |
| Feature description   | tributary of Rock Creek   |
| Name history          | named for the nearby community of Melrose Park in Cheltenham Township |
| USGS primary topo map | Frankford 1:24,000  |
| State(s)              | Pennsylvania  |
| County(s)             | Montgomery County   |
| Local jurisdiction(s) | Cheltenham Township   |
| Land ownership        | private / township land   |

**BGN decisions:** None

## Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names: None found

## Case Summary

---

The new name Melrose Creek is proposed for a 0.4-mile-long tributary of the proposed Brookwood Run (q.v.) in Cheltenham Township. It mostly flows through the property of the Melrose Country Club. The stream is not in NHD.

The Township reports that a former branch of the stream, since developed, began in Melrose Park and that the name refers to the community of Melrose Park, which reportedly derives from that of a 19th century school named Melrose Academy of the Gray Nuns, now Gratz College.

One Township Commissioner objected to the name due to its direct association with the Melrose Country Club. The Township minutes note that the naming committee “did go back to the drawing board on this, but it was still recommended to move forward with this name.”

## Conklin Creek

## Proposal Information

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|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| Proposed name | Conklin Creek |
|---------------|---------------|

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Proposal type         | new name for unnamed feature                     |
| Date proposed         | 12/20/2023                                       |
| Submitter             | Sara Vargo; Cheltenham Township, Elkins Park, PA |
| BGN case number       | 6184   |
| Quarterly Review List | 454  |

### Feature Details

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Primary coordinates   | 40.0675538, -75.1045995  |
| Secondary coordinates | 40.0706502, -75.100707   |
| Feature class         | stream   |
| Feature size          | 0.3 mi. long   |
| Feature description   | tributary of Jenkintown Creek  |
| Name history          | named for the Conklin family and because it flows through the property of the Cheltenham Township's Charles D. Conklin, Jr. Pool |
| USGS primary topo map | Frankford 1:24,000   |
| State(s)              | Pennsylvania   |
| County(s)             | Montgomery County  |
| Local jurisdiction(s) | Cheltenham Township  |
| Land ownership        | private / township land  |

**BGN decisions:** None

### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found  
Published names: None found

### Case Summary

---

The new name Conklin Creek is proposed for a 0.3-mile-long tributary of Jenkintown Creek in Cheltenham Township. It partly flows through the property of the Township's Charles D. Conklin, Jr. Pool. The stream is not in NHD.

The name refers to "the Conklin family after which the pool and recreation area have been named." The township's website reports that the pool was "formerly the 'Cheltenham Swim Club' [and] it was purchased by the township in 1967 to provide swimming to residents. The area was dedicated to Mr. Charles D. Conklin in July 1972, in honor of his service to the residents of the Township as Commissioner from 1926 to 1973." Mr. Conklin passed away in 1984, and many of his descendants still live in the township.

### Shady Nook Creek

### Proposal Information

---

|               |                                   |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Proposed name | <b>Shady Nook Creek</b>           |
| Proposal type | make official a name in local use |

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Date proposed         | 12/20/2023                                       |
| Submitter             | Sara Vargo; Cheltenham Township, Elkins Park, PA |
| BGN case number       | 6185   |
| Quarterly Review List | 454  |

### Feature Details

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Primary coordinates   | 40.0975613, -75.156369   |
| Secondary coordinates | 40.1032562, -75.1585213  |
| Feature class         | stream   |
| Feature size          | 0.5 mi. long   |
| Feature description   | tributary of Tacony Creek  |
| Name history          | named for Shady Nook Farm, a former farm in the area of the stream |
| USGS primary topo map | Germantown 1:24,000  |
| State(s)              | Pennsylvania   |
| County(s)             | Montgomery County  |
| Local jurisdiction(s) | Cheltenham Township  |
| Land ownership        | private / township land  |

**BGN decisions:** None

### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names:

- East Branch Tookany Creek: USACE Tookany Creek Flood Risk Reduction Study document, 2015
- Shady Nook Creek: Cheltenham Township website and documents; Montgomery County website, documents, and GIS data

### Case Summary

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This proposal is to make official the local name Shady Nook Creek for a 0.5-mile-long tributary of Tacony Creek in Cheltenham Township. It partly flows through the Township's Grove Park. The stream is not in NHD.

The name is currently used in Cheltenham Township and Montgomery County documents and in the county's GIS data. Online references to the local name date from 2013.

The Township reports that the name comes from the "Shady Nook Farm . . . the estate of George D. Heist, . . . an influential 19th century resident." The stream flows through the former location of the farm.

### Leechs Run

### Proposal Information

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Proposed name         | <b>Leechs Run</b>                                |
| Proposal type         | make official a name in local use                |
| Date proposed         | 12/20/2023                                       |
| Submitter             | Sara Vargo; Cheltenham Township, Elkins Park, PA |
| BGN case number       | 6186   |
| Quarterly Review List | 454  |

### Feature Details

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|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Primary coordinates   | 40.072519, -75.12533  |
| Secondary coordinates | 40.074157, -75.142226   |
| Feature class         | stream  |
| Feature size          | 1.2 mi. long  |
| Feature description   | tributary of Tacony Creek   |
| Name history          | named for Tobias Leech (1651- 1726), one of the founders of Cheltenham Township |
| USGS primary topo map | Germantown 1:24,000   |
| State(s)              | Pennsylvania  |
| County(s)             | Montgomery County   |
| Local jurisdiction(s) | Cheltenham Township   |
| Land ownership        | private   |

**BGN decisions:** None

### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names:

- Leeches Run: Tookany/Tacony Frankford Watershed Partnership website; Cheltenham Township documents
- Leechs Run: Cheltenham Township website and documents
- Leech's Run: Montgomery County website, documents, and GIS data
- School Branch: USACE Tookany Creek Flood Risk Reduction Study document, 2015

### Case Summary

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This proposal is to make official the local name Leechs Run for a 1.2-mile-long tributary of Tacony Creek in Cheltenham Township. It entirely flows through private land. The stream is not in NHD.

The name is currently used in Cheltenham Township and Montgomery County documents and in the county's GIS data, although in various forms: Leechs Run, Leeches Run, and Leech's Run. The Township reports that the stream was named for Tobias Leech (1651-1726), one of the community's founders, and that it was identified by that name in a 1912 newspaper article. They also wrote:

One of the original purchasers of the Cheltenham Township land was Tobias (“Toby”) Leech, who sailed up the Delaware in 1682 on the ship, ‘The Bristol Factor.’ It accompanied the ship ‘Welcome,’ which carried William Penn. Leech named the Township ‘Cheltenham’ after his hometown in England. In the new Cheltenham, he built several structures, one of which is still standing in the community. Toby Leech was a successful businessman and was involved in many enterprises upon his arrival in Cheltenham. He established a corn and fulling mill along the Tookany [Tacony] Creek, which gave Mill Road its name. One of the structures built by Leech across from his tannery and bake ovens was used to house his enslaved workers. It still stands today on Church Road. Another house Leech built for his grandson Abraham remains at Old Soldiers Road and Ryers Avenue. In addition to the tannery and bakery in Cheltenham, Toby Leech was involved in land transactions in Philadelphia, Delaware, and Chester Counties.

Leech was also a friend of Richard Wall. They both came from the same Quaker Meeting, ‘Stokes Orchard’ near Cheltenham, England. Tobias Leech, along with George Shoemaker and others, laid out York Road in 1711 to improve transportation of their farm goods to the city.

## Shoemaker Run

### Proposal Information

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Proposed name         | <b>Shoemaker Run</b>                             |
| Proposal type         | make official a name in local use                |
| Date proposed         | 12/20/2023                                       |
| Submitter             | Sara Vargo; Cheltenham Township, Elkins Park, PA |
| BGN case number       | 6187   |
| Quarterly Review List | 454  |

### Feature Details

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Primary coordinates   | 40.075232, -75.124685  |
| Secondary coordinates | 40.092806, -75.122436  |
| Feature class         | stream   |
| Feature size          | 1.2 mi. long   |
| Feature description   | tributary of Tacony Creek  |
| Name history          | named for George Shoemaker (1663-1740), Sarah Wall Shoemaker (d. 1711), and the family who operated a grist mill and were prominent members of the early Cheltenham Township community |
| USGS primary topo map | Frankford 1:24,000   |
| State(s)              | Pennsylvania   |
| County(s)             | Montgomery County  |
| Local jurisdiction(s) | Cheltenham Township, Abington Township   |

Land ownership                      private

**BGN decisions:** None

### **Other Names**

Unpublished names: None found

Published names:

- Brookside Creek: USACE Tookany Creek Flood Risk Reduction Study document, 2015
- Shoemaker Run: Cheltenham Township website and documents; Montgomery County website, documents, and GIS data

### **Case Summary**

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This proposal is to make official the local name Shoemaker Run for a 1.2-mile-long tributary of Tacony Creek in Cheltenham Township and Abington Township. It flows entirely through privately owned land.

The name is currently used in Cheltenham Township and Montgomery County documents and in the county's GIS data. The Township reports that the stream was named for George Shoemaker (1663-1740), Sarah Wall Shoemaker (d. 1711), and the family who operated a grist mill and were prominent members of the community. They also wrote:

The Shoemaker name is another name mentioned quite frequently in association with early development in the Township. The [Shoemakers] developed the Shoemaker Mill on the Tookany [Tacony] Creek, and Shoemakertown (now part of Elkins Park) developed around it. Areas of what is now Elkins Park developed around early mill establishments. Shoemakertown, later known as Ogontz, grew around a mill developed by Dorothy Shoemaker and her brother-in-law, Richard Mather, in 1746. At its peak productivity, the mill was known as Charles Bosler, Flour and Feed.

### **Brookwood Run**

### **Proposal Information**

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Proposed name         | <b>Brookwood Run</b>                             |
| Proposal type         | make official a name in local use                |
| Date proposed         | 12/20/2023                                       |
| Submitter             | Sara Vargo; Cheltenham Township, Elkins Park, PA |
| BGN case number       | 6188   |
| Quarterly Review List | 454  |

### **Feature Details**

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|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Primary coordinates   | 40.050802, -75.107086 |
| Secondary coordinates | 40.057618, -75.1162   |
| Feature class         | stream                |
| Feature size          | 0.8 mi. long          |

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Feature description   | tributary of Tacony Creek  |
| Name history          | named for the historic Brookwood Estate of L. H. Fisher, which included the stream |
| USGS primary topo map | Frankford 1:24,000   |
| State(s)              | Pennsylvania   |
| County(s)             | Montgomery County  |
| Local jurisdiction(s) | Cheltenham Township  |
| Land ownership        | private / township land  |

**BGN decisions:** None

### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names:

- Brookwood Run: Cheltenham Township website and documents; Montgomery County website, documents, and GIS data
- Melrose Creek - in part: USACE Tookany Creek Flood Risk Reduction Study document, 2015

### Case Summary

---

This proposal is to make official the local name Brookwood Run for a 0.8-mile-long tributary of Tacony Creek in Cheltenham Township. It flows partly through the Township's Parkview Park and the Melrose Country Club.

The name is currently used in Cheltenham Township and Montgomery County documents and in the county's GIS data. The Township reports that the stream was named for the former Brookwood estate of L. H. Fisher.

## Burholme Creek

### Proposal Information

---

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Proposed name         | <b>Burholme Creek</b>                            |
| Proposal type         | make official a name in local use                |
| Date proposed         | 12/20/2023                                       |
| Submitter             | Sara Vargo; Cheltenham Township, Elkins Park, PA |
| BGN case number       | 6189   |
| Quarterly Review List | 454  |

### Feature Details

---

|                       |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Primary coordinates   | 40.063163, -75.098393     |
| Secondary coordinates | 40.074927, -75.091811     |
| Feature class         | stream                    |
| Feature size          | 1 mi. long                |
| Feature description   | tributary of Tacony Creek |

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Name history          | named for the Burholme neighborhood of Philadelphia, through which the stream flows |
| USGS primary topo map | Frankford 1:24,000  |
| State(s)              | Pennsylvania  |
| County(s)             | Montgomery County, City of Philadelphia   |
| Local jurisdiction(s) | Cheltenham Township, Abington Township  |
| Land ownership        | private / township land / city land   |

**BGN decisions:** None

### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names:

- Burholme Creek: Cheltenham Township website and documents; Montgomery County website, documents, and GIS data; City of Philadelphia website, documents, and GIS data
- Laurel Run: USACE Tookany Creek Flood Risk Reduction Study document, 2015

### Case Summary

---

This proposal is to make official the local name Burholme Creek for a one-mile-long tributary of Tacony Creek in Cheltenham Township, Abington Township, and the City of Philadelphia. It flows partly through Cheltenham Township's Tookany Creek Park and Philadelphia's Burholme Park.

The name is currently used in Cheltenham Township, Montgomery County, and Philadelphia documents and in the county's GIS data. The name comes from Philadelphia's Burholme neighborhood of Philadelphia, through which the stream flows.

### Milltown Creek

### Proposal Information

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Proposed name         | <b>Milltown Creek</b>                            |
| Proposal type         | make official a name in local use                |
| Date proposed         | 12/20/2023                                       |
| Submitter             | Sara Vargo; Cheltenham Township, Elkins Park, PA |
| BGN case number       | 6190   |
| Quarterly Review List | 454  |

### Feature Details

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|                       |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Primary coordinates   | 40.058787, -75.094806     |
| Secondary coordinates | 40.061291, -75.088143     |
| Feature class         | stream                    |
| Feature size          | 0.5 mi. long              |
| Feature description   | tributary of Tacony Creek |



|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Name history          | named for the mill built nearby in 1690 and the community of Milltown around it, now known as Cheltenham Village |
| USGS primary topo map | Frankford 1:24,000   |
| State(s)              | Pennsylvania   |
| County(s)             | Montgomery County  |
| Local jurisdiction(s) | Cheltenham Township  |
| Land ownership        | private  |

**BGN decisions:** None

### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names:

- Milltown Creek: Cheltenham Township website and documents; Montgomery County website, documents, and GIS data; City of Philadelphia website, documents, and GIS data

### Case Summary

---

This proposal is to make official the local name Milltown Creek for a 0.5-mile-long tributary of Tacony Creek in Cheltenham Township. It flows entirely through privately owned land.

The name is currently used in Cheltenham Township, Montgomery County, and Philadelphia documents and in the county's GIS data. The name refers to Milltown, the original name of the present-day Cheltenham Village community. The Township wrote:

Richard Dungworth constructed the first mill on the Tookany [Tacony] in Cheltenham in 1690 in the southeast corner of the plantation. After a series of interim owners, the mill was purchased by the Rowland family in 1796 and through several generations was expanded to produce famous shovels and 'forks.' The village of workers that grew up around the mill was originally known as Milltown, before becoming known as Cheltenham Village at the end of the 19th century.

## Mount America

### Proposal Information

---

|                       |                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Proposed name         | <b>Mount America</b>            |
| Proposal type         | make official name in local use |
| Proponent             | George J Turak; Nottingham, PA  |
| Date proposed         | 10/23/2023                      |
| BGN case number       | 6151                            |
| Quarterly Review List | 454                             |

### Feature Details

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|                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Primary coordinates | 39.732965, -76.115091 |
|---------------------|-----------------------|

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Feature class         | summit   |
| Feature size          | elevation 396 ft.                                      |
| Feature description   | In a curve of the Octorora River, 8.2 mi. SW of Oxford |
| Name history          | Named in association with the Mount America Foundation |
| USGS primary topo map | Kirkwood 1:24,000                                      |
| State(s)              | Pennsylvania   |
| County(s)             | Chester County   |
| Local jurisdiction(s) | West Nottingham Township                               |
| Land ownership        | Private (proponent)                                    |

**BGN decisions:** None

### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names: Mount America (Mount America Foundation)

### Case Summary

---

This proposal is to make official a name Mount America for a 396-foot summit in West Nottingham Township in Chester County. The proponent reports that the name is used by the [Mount America Foundation](#), a non-profit charitable organization that he has operated since approximately 2009 in remembrance of servicemen who have sacrificed for their country. Every Memorial Day, a ceremony is held on the hill, which is also the site of bronze Soldiers Crosses depicting the boots, helmet and weapons of the fallen.

In their letter of support for the name, the West Nottingham Township Supervisors stated, "Through their foundation, [the proponent and his wife] do much to help veterans, active-duty military, and military families."

There is one other summit in the U.S. named "America: America Hill is a -foot hill in Saint John in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

### Stakeholder Input

---

|                             |   |          |
|-----------------------------|---|----------|
| Local government            | West Nottingham Township<br>Chester County Board of Commissioners | *Support |
| State Names Authority       | Pennsylvania Geographic Names Authority                           |          |
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X          |          |
| Other                       | Two local residents   |          |

\* Contacted by proponent

## SOUTH CAROLINA

### Sassafras Creek

#### Proposal Information

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|                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Proposed name         | <b>Sassafras Creek</b>       |
| Proposal type         | new name for unnamed feature |
| Proponent             | Allen Powell; Clemson, SC    |
| Date proposed         | 10/23/2023                   |
| BGN case number       | 6152                         |
| Quarterly Review List | 454                          |

#### Feature Details

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Primary coordinates   | 34.285866, -81.415894  |
| Secondary coordinates | 34.31224, -81.42413  |
| Feature class         | stream   |
| Feature size          | 2 mi. long   |
| Feature description   | Heads 11.5 miles ENE of the City of Newberry, flows generally S into Mud Creek |
| Name history          | Name refers to numerous Sassafras trees bordering the creek                    |
| USGS primary topo map | Pomaria 1:24,000   |
| State(s)              | South Carolina   |
| County(s)             | Newberry County  |
| Land ownership        | private  |

**BGN decisions:** None

#### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names: None found

#### Case Summary

---

The new name Sassafras Creek is proposed for a two-mile-long tributary of Mud Creek in Newberry County and approximately one mile north of the community of Pomaria. According to the proponent, the name refers to numerous Sassafras trees bordering the creek. Sassafras, a deciduous genus of tree, is native throughout the eastern U.S.

GNIS lists a summit named Sassafras Hill approximately 130 miles to the south, while Sassafras Mountain 95 miles to the northwest is the highest point in the State of South Carolina.

## Stakeholder Input

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|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Local government            | Newberry County Council                                  |
| State Names Authority       | South Carolina Geographic Names Authority                |
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X |

## TEXAS

### Lake Winnie

## Proposal Information

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|                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Proposed name         | <b>Lake Winnie</b>           |
| Proposal type         | new name for unnamed feature |
| Proponent             | Brett Walker; Houston, TX    |
| Date proposed         | 10/24/2023                   |
| BGN case number       | 6153                         |
| Quarterly Review List | 454                          |

## Feature Details

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Primary coordinates   | 29.4417895, -95.024624   |
| Feature class         | reservoir  |
| Feature size          | Approximately 22 acres   |
| Feature description   | In the City of Texas City, 3 mi. W of Galveston County Industrial Water Reservoir, 6 mi. NW of Willow Pond |
| Name history          | Named in association with Lake Winnibigoshish, aka Lake Winnie & Little Lake Winnie of Minnesota           |
| USGS primary topo map | Dickinson 1:24,000   |
| State(s)              | Texas  |
| County(s)             | Galveston County   |
| Local jurisdiction(s) | City of Texas City   |
| Land ownership        | Private (proponent)  |

**BGN decisions:** None

## Other Names

Unpublished names:

- Lake Winnie (proponent and family)

Published names: None found

## Case Summary

---

The new name Lake Winnie is proposed for an approximately 22-acre reservoir in the City of Texas City and east of State Hwy 3. The proponent, whose family acquired the property in 2022, states:

The water source is an underground spring with virtually no watershed and no run-off. It is surrounded by undeveloped land used for grazing cattle and a tree farm. It is used by the owner and our extended family and friends for recreation (swimming, fishing and diving). The name origination is from Lake Winnibigoshish, aka Lake Winnie & Little Lake Winnie. Lake Winnibigoshish is in Minnesota where the extended family comes from and has many years of fond memories. This name is to keep continuity with our family's history and experience.

Lake Winnibigoshish is a body of water in north central Minnesota in the Chippewa National Forest. Its name comes from the Ojibwe language.

Approximately 46 miles from the reservoir in question and in neighboring Chambers County is an unincorporated community named Winnie. It was established in the 1890s and named for the engineer who built the railroad through the area.

## Stakeholder Input

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|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Local government            | City of Texas City City Commission<br>Galveston County Commissioners<br>Court |
| State Names Authority       | Texas Geographic Names Committee  |
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes<br>contacted under Policy X                   |

## Raven Canyon

## Proposal Information

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|                       |                                   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Proposed name         | <b>Raven Canyon</b>               |
| Proposal type         | make official a name in local use |
| Proponent             | William Bill L. Nash; Hunt, TX    |
| Date proposed         | 1/5/2024                          |
| BGN case number       | 6193                              |
| Quarterly Review List | 454                               |

## Feature Details

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|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Primary coordinates   | 30.07414, -99.33092   |
| Secondary coordinates | 30.080465, -99.329833   |
| Feature class         | valley  |
| Feature size          | 0.5 mi. long  |
| Feature description   | in the upper valley of the Guadalupe River, 1.5 mi. N of Willis Lake; 11 mi. W of Kerrville |
| Name history          | The name refers to ravens which frequent the valley   |
| USGS primary topo map | Hunt 1:24,000   |
| State(s)              | Texas   |
| County(s)             | Kerr County   |
| Land ownership        | Private (partially by proponent)  |

**BGN decisions:** None

### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names:

- Raven Canyon (Texas Water Development Board Texas Rain Catcher Award, 2022)

### Case Summary

---

This proposal is to make official the name Raven Canyon for a 0.5-mile long, steep-sided valley in the upper valley of the Guadalupe River in Ke.

The proponent owns land within and adjacent to the valley under the name Raven Canyon, LLC. When asked to address the BGN’s Commercial Names Policy, he responded that the LLC designation is intended for “liability protection of the exempt property” rather than a business enterprise. The Texas Water Development Board’s 2022 Texas Rain Catcher Award in the agriculture category was awarded to the LLC / proponent in recognition of “Raven Canyon.” The [award page](#) states that the entire canyon is managed for rainwater collection, storing and redistributing water for better fruit production. The collection system is comprised of 5,000 feet of drip lines, three pressurized UV-filtered systems, a 10,000-gallon concrete reservoir, three 2,500-gallon accessory storage tanks, and nine rock dams and two stock tanks. It concludes that habitat restoration within the valley has allowed more efficient absorption and filtration.

In his proposal, the proponent stated that the canyon is “usually dry but does move or hold water when it rains.” And, “Due to the updrafts of the prevailing Southwest/South wind, the canyon is frequently used by ravens. The name was applied as a description about 15 years ago and is used by people in the area. There is also a small spring in the bottom that has been used by the ravens and other birds for hydration.”

GNIS lists five features in Texas with “Raven” in their names: Lake Raven, Raven Bluff, Raven Cliff, two Raven Creeks, and Raven Roost Hollow. The latter feature is the closest, approximately 23 miles southwest of the proposed Raven Canyon.

## Stakeholder Input

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|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Local government            | Kerr County Commissioners Court                          |
| State Names Authority       | Texas Geographic Names Committee                         |
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X |

## Change Womans Hollow Creek to Woman Hollering Creek

### Proposal Information

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|                       |                                    |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Proposed name         | <b>Woman Hollering Creek</b>       |
| Proposal type         | change name to reflect local usage |
| Current official name | Womans Hollow Creek                |
| GNIS ID               | <a href="#">1384164</a>            |
| Proponent             | Juan M. Ochoa; San Antonio, TX     |
| Date proposed         | 10/16/2023                         |
| BGN case number       | 6148                               |
| Quarterly Review List | 454                                |

### Feature Details

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|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Primary coordinates   | 29.4482889, -98.1886208   |
| Secondary coordinates | 29.5205081, -98.2786231   |
| Feature class         | stream  |
| Feature size          | 11 mi. long   |
| Feature description   | Flows SE to Martinez Creek, 2.5 mi N of the City of Saint Hedwig. |
| Name history          | Name references La Llorona, a locally referenced urban legend     |
| USGS primary topo map | Saint Hedwig 1:24000  |
| State(s)              | Texas   |
| County(s)             | Bexar County  |
| Local jurisdiction(s) | City of Schertz<br>City of Saint Hedwig<br>City of San Antonio    |
| Land ownership        | Department of Defense / Randolph Air Force Base                   |

### BGN decisions

- Womans Hollow Creek (BGN 1993)

### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names:

- Woman Hollering Creek (USGS 1958; Texas General Land Office; Texas Dept. of Transportation; Google Maps; OpenStreetMap; various online texts; *Woman Hollering Creek*, Sandra Cisneros, 1991)
- Women Hollow Creek (USGS 1967, 1985)
- Womans Hollow Creek (USGS 1985, 1992, 2010)
- La Gritona (*Woman Hollering Creek*, Sandra Cisneros, 1991)

## **Case Summary**

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This proposal is to change the name of Womans Hollow Creek (BGN 1993) to Woman Hollering Creek. The stream is an 11-mile-long tributary of Martinez Creek; it heads on Randolph Air Force Base and flows through the City of Schertz, the City of San Antonio, and the City of Saint Hedwig, all within Bexar County.

The proponent, a local resident, submitted the proposal to give official recognition to the name reported to be in well-established local usage. He states:

The creek is named in relation to different versions of a La Llorona story, in these cases which a woman whose children or other loved ones were drowned or killed somehow near the creek — whether at her hand or by someone else. La Llorona is an enormously famous folklore of a woman who has either lost her children, whose children have died, who she herself has died, or who is wandering (usually [in] areas of water or in some cases along cliffs) to drag anyone who comes near her to their death. These stories usually continue to describe how the woman walks up and down the banks crying or wailing, and how many claim that her spirit still returns to the area mourning or looking for the souls of her lost loved ones.

The proposed name is displayed on a TX Department of Transportation (TxDOT) road sign.

An 1897 General Land Office map showed Woman Hollering Creek Road. Woman Hollering Creek was labeled on a USGS 1958 map and a TXDoT 1995 county map. USGS maps published in 1967 and 1985 labeled the creek as Women Hollow Creek, and from 1985 onward, Womans Hollow Creek. The later name was a 1993 BGN decision, and the [current GNIS entry](#) states, “The name is reportedly derived from a legend about a woman who was scalped by Indians; her cries of pain from the attack along the stream were heard miles away; the word ‘hollow’ seems to be a derivation of ‘holler.’”

[Google Maps](#) provides reviews of Woman Hollering Creek; one states, “You can definitely hear her wailing. Kids just came in the house and heard her wailing. Very true.” Another says, “Me and my aunt saw La Llorona at night and we accidentally moved a little and she turned, and her face was a skull, and she was floating.”

The locally used name is referenced in the story *Woman Hollering Creek*, by Sandra Cisneros, a well-known Chicana writer. The story is set in Seguin, Texas, 20 miles from the stream, and references an arroyo with names of La Gritona (The Screamer) and Woman



Hollering Creek. The story is a reimagining of the La Llorona tale and has themes of domestic violence akin to many of the myths surrounding the La Llorona tale.

The article [Woman Hollering Creek and Other Histories of Texas Women and the Land](#), published on Medium.com by the Texas General Land Office, describes possible origins of the name. One backstory attributes it to “the wildcats, panthers, or cougars whose screeching call sounds like a woman screaming, and thus ‘hollering.’” Other stories dating back to the 19th century, the article reports, are more closely related to the La Llorona legend. Further, “. . . in different adaptations, the woman is Spanish, American Indian, or a member of a local European or American settler community.”

### **Stakeholder Input**

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|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Local government            | Bexar County Commissioners Court<br>City of Schertz<br>City of Saint Hedwig<br>City of San Antonio |
| State Names Authority       | Texas Geographic Names Committee   |
| Federal Agency              | Department of Defense  |
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X   |

## **UTAH**

### **Change Elbow Fork to North Elbow Fork**

#### **Proposal Information**

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|                       |                                       |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Proposed name         | <b>North Elbow Fork</b>               |
| Proposal type         | Change name to eliminate duplication  |
| Current official name | Elbow Fork                            |
| GNIS ID               | 1440879                               |
| Proponent             | Lucas Tetrick; Cottonwood Heights, UT |
| Date proposed         | 12/24/2023                            |
| BGN case number       | 6171                                  |
| Quarterly Review List | 454                                   |

#### **Feature Details**

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|                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Primary coordinates   | 40.7066144, -111.6904842 |
| Secondary coordinates | 40.7158333, -111.6969444 |
| Feature class         | stream                   |
| Feature size          | 0.86 mi. long            |
| Feature description   | Flows S into Mill Creek  |
| Name history          | Descriptive name         |
| USGS primary topo map | Mount Aire 1:24,000      |

|                |                                      |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| State(s)       | Utah                                 |
| County(s)      | Salt Lake County                     |
| PLSS           | Sec 26, T1S, R2E, Salt Lake Meridian |
| Land ownership | Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest  |

**BGN decisions:** None

### Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names:

- Elbow Fork (USGS 1955, 1998, 2011, 2023)

### Case Summary

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This proposal is to change the name of one of two streams in Salt Lake County that are both named Elbow Fork, to eliminate duplication. The streams are 3.75 miles apart, both are on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, and both labeled on the same USGS topographic map since 1955. The proponent suggests “one should be changed in the best interest of public safety.” He indicated he would submit a second proposal to change the other stream to South Elbow Fork, but to date has not done so.

### Stakeholder Input

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|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Local government            | Salt Lake County Commissioners                           |
| State Names Authority       | Utah Geographic Names Committee                          |
| Federal Agency              | U.S. Forest Service                                      |
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X |

## WYOMING

### Change Mount Woodring to Raven Peak

### Proposal Information

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Proposed name         | <b>Raven Peak</b>                                |
| Proposal type         | change a commemorative name considered offensive |
| Current official name | Mount Woodring                                   |
| GNIS ID               | <a href="#">1609175</a>                          |
| Proponent             | Bruce Noble; Grand Junction, CO                  |
| Date proposed         | 10/31/23   |
| BGN case number       | 6156   |
| Quarterly Review List | 454  |

## Feature Details

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Primary coordinates   | 43.8023147, -110.7944033   |
| Feature class         | summit   |
| Feature size          | elevation 11,590 ft.   |
| Feature description   | between Leigh Canyon and Paintbrush Canyon, 4.3 mi. N of Grand Teton |
| Name history          | named for common ravens that live in the Teton Range                 |
| USGS primary topo map | Mount Moran 1:24,000   |
| State(s)              | Wyoming  |
| County(s)             | Teton County   |
| PLSS                  | Sec 5, T44N, R116W, Sixth Principal Meridian                         |
| Land ownership        | Grand Teton National Park  |

## BGN decisions

- Mount Woodring (BGN 1963)

## Other Names

Unpublished names: None found

Published names:

- Mount Woodring (USGS 1968, 1981; current NPS maps and website; Grand Teton National Park publications since at least 1930; *The Teton Peaks and Their Ascents*, 1932; many climbing guides)

## Case Summary

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This proposal is to change the name of Mount Woodring in Grand Teton National Park (GRTE) and Teton County to Raven Peak. Several sources record the summit as among the 15 highest within the Teton Range.

The BGN approved the name Mount Woodring in 1963. The National Park Service proposed the name to the BGN to honor Samuel T. Woodring (1878-1939), the first superintendent of GRTE, where he served from May 15, 1929 to June 30, 1934.

The change to Raven Peak was proposed by a historian and former superintendent of Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. He believes the name should be changed because it is offensive, due to allegations of child sexual abuse committed by Woodring while he was superintendent. Woodring was charged on July 7, 1934 and the charges were dropped on September 17, 1935.

The following are from the BGN's records for the 1963 approval:

On December 22, 1962, Horace Albright, a former director of the National Park Service, wrote to the BGN inquiring about naming the summit for Woodring. He wrote:

When I was superintendent of Yellowstone National Park in the 1920's I had a fine chief ranger by the name of Samuel Tilden Woodring, a retired Army packmaster. . . . When Grand Teton Park was established in 1929, I was Director of the National Park Service and I appointed Sam Woodring the first superintendent . . . . He served until 1935 as I remember the year. . . . His name was proposed for an unnamed peak in the Teton Range in the Park. . . . is there a record on this name and if it was not formally proposed, what steps should I take. . . ?

On December 24, 1962, Albright wrote to Dr. Thomas B. Nolan, the USGS Director:

In October, you did me the favor of making an inquiry about "Mt. Woodring" in the Teton Mountains of Wyoming, and you found out that while there are some papers on file, they do not propose the name for a mountain, nor is there anything against the name. This is all the information I needed then and I was very grateful for it. Now I think I'll aggressively work to have the name officially recognized on the maps and in the records.

On March 1, 1963, NPS Director Conrad L. Wirth wrote to Albright:

In a recent letter to me, you stated that you favor restoring [*sic*] Sam Woodring's name to a peak in Grand Teton and requested us to search the files for any official reason for not seeking such a name change. A review of the files reveals no official reason for not proceeding with a name change proposal. We checked informally with the Board on Geographic Names and learned that they would welcome the submittal of a formal proposal to restore [*sic*] Sam Woodring's name to a peak in Grand Teton National Park. Accordingly, we are asking the Superintendent of Grand Teton to prepare such a name change proposal for submittal.

On July 8, 1963, the NPS submitted the proposal to the BGN. On July 22, 1963, the Executive Secretary for Domestic Geographic Names shared the proposal with Orrin H. Bonney, who had apparently submitted a proposal to name the summit after Dr. Fritiof Fryxell, the still-living author of *The Teton Peaks and Their Ascents*. Mr. Bonney responded:

The use of this name on this peak is quite acceptable to us. It is a name which has been generally applied to the mountain since first suggested by Dr. Fryxell in his book *The Teton Peaks and Their Ascents* some 30 years ago. . . . we have made the changes in our guide book references accordingly.

On October 8, 1963, the BGN approved the name. The proponent of Raven Peak wrote:

This peak was first climbed in 1930 by Dr. Fritiof Fryxell, first park naturalist at Grand Teton National Park . . . . Shortly thereafter, Fryxell proposed that the peak be named Mount Woodring in honor of Samuel T. Woodring, the first superintendent of Grand

Teton National Park. This proposal was never acted upon, perhaps because Woodring was still living at the time. On July 7, 1934, Woodring was charged with assault with intent to commit rape in the District Court in Teton County, WY. The alleged victim was an eleven year old girl. On September 17, 1935, the charges against Woodring were dismissed because the parents of the girl did not want to put their daughter through the trauma of testifying. Woodring died on October 13, 1939 in Butte, MT.

In the early 1960s, a small group of men launched an effort to name Mount Woodring. The group went forward with full knowledge of the allegations against Woodring. The Board approved the name on January 1, 1963 [sic].

This name change is being proposed because the name Mount Woodring is offensive. Although not found guilty in a court of law, there is evidence to suggest that Woodring committed the acts of child sexual abuse. Supporting information to prove Woodring's egregious misdeeds will be provided in the form of records from the Teton County District Court in Wyoming dating to 1934 and 1935 and also a letter written by Grand Teton National Park clerk [sic] Howard M. Sherman on July 3, 1934. These documents should demonstrate the offensive nature of the name Mount Woodring and the need to adopt a new name at the earliest possible opportunity.

As for the new name, Raven Peak is being proposed because ravens are commonly found in the Tetons, they are considered intelligent birds, and the raven is considered significant in most Native American cultures. The name Raven Peak is also being specifically recommended because it is the name of an animal, not a person. The reputation of a person can change with the passage of time, whereas the status of a raven is not likely to change as years pass. The hope is that Raven Peak will have staying power that helps to make it a fitting name.

It is unclear whether the proponents of the name in the early 1960s “went forward with full knowledge of the allegations against Woodring” as the proponent stated. Colleagues of the proponent report finding correspondence in the National Archives between Horace Albright and Woodring that references the allegations. According to a November 8, 2023 *The Wyoming Truth* article:

A part-time Jackson resident and former University of Wyoming professor [found]. . . a manilla folder in the National Archives [containing]. . . several confidential letters in which Albright angrily chastised Woodring for fondling a young girl. . . .

In correspondence with Albright, he pleaded to keep his Park Service position. But Albright, who was no longer with the agency, “was very angry at seeing what he thought was his friend. . . do this,” [the former University of Wyoming professor] said.

Early GRTE brochures, found at [npshistory.com](http://npshistory.com), began to use the name Mount Woodring in 1930; see [1930 brochure](#), [1931 brochure](#), and [1932 brochure](#) under the “SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT ASCENTS IN THE GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK” section:

MOUNT WOODRING, 11,500 feet. (Two known ascents.)

1. Unknown builders of cairn on summit.
2. F. M. Fryxell and four students. July 21, 1929. [with a note at the bottom of the list that the name along with others was “as yet unofficial”; all the other names eventually became official names by some means]

Some sources report that Dr. Fryxell named the summit Mount Woodring in 1929.

The [1934 brochure](#) first shows the name on the park map and lists Mount Woodring in the initial section: “Eleven peaks are of such boldness and prominence that they receive rank as major peaks. . . . Mount Woodring, 11,500 [feet; it is listed ninth in the list].” The [1935 brochure](#), [1936 brochure](#), and [1937 brochure](#) include the same information with an updated elevation of 11,585 feet.

The [1938 brochure](#) includes the same text (“Eleven peaks are of such boldness and prominence. . .”) but only ten names are listed; Mount Woodring is excluded. The name is not shown on the park map. The [1939 brochure](#) introduction includes “Ten peaks are of such boldness and prominence. . .”

The proponent of Raven Peak provided redacted copies of two documents: [a July 3, 1934 letter](#) from the then-acting GRTE Superintendent H. M. Sherman to the NPS Director about Sherman’s knowledge of Woodring’s actions and allegations against him; and [1934 and 1935 court records](#) from the case *The State of Wyoming vs. Sam T. Woodring*, in which Woodring was charged with “assault with intent to commit rape.”

Sherman’s letter also recounts information he had heard about Woodring sexually assaulting a nine-year-old girl. Sherman recounts that he, Dr. Fryxell, and several Park staff either heard the accusations independently or were “convinced of their truth.”

GNIS lists three other features in Wyoming with “Raven” in their names: two streams and a reservoir. The closest, Raven Creek in Park County, is 60 miles from the summit in question.

## Stakeholder Input

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|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Local government            | Teton County Board of Commissioners                      |
| State Names Authority       | Wyoming Board of Geographic Names                        |
| Federal Agency              | National Park Service                                    |
| Federally Recognized Tribes | All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X |