

DO NOT PROCEED UNTIL COMPLETED

This document is for those interested in proposing:

1. A new name for a currently unnamed geographic feature, or
2. A change in name, spelling, or location of an existing name

The Domestic Names Committee (DNC) of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) reviews proposals and makes decisions about geographic names for official Federal use.

I affirm the following:

- I have read through the DNC's [Guidance on Name Proposals](#) and the USGS [What is the Geographic Names Information System \(GNIS\)?](#) webpages **before** filling out this form.
- I have read the DNC's [Principles, Policies, and Procedures](#) **before** filling out this form.
- I have read through the **entire** proposal form to determine the necessary information needed for the proposal to meet the minimum requirements for review.
- I agree to work with BGN staff to answer any follow-up questions about my proposal.
- If the geographic name appears in a published source (e.g., book, journal, website):* I have contacted the staff of The National Map staff (tnm_help@usgs.gov) to request that the name be added to the Geographic Names Information System, and The National Map staff has indicated that I need to submit a proposal to the DNC.

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Preliminary Questions

Is your proposal for a kind of feature outside the scope of the DNC's review?

Yes No

See the list of [GNIS Domestic Names Feature Classes](#). The DNC reviews proposals affecting the names of natural geographic feature (land or water), reservoirs, canals, channels, or unincorporated populated places (communities). The DNC does not review proposals for the following feature classes in GNIS: Census, Civil, Military, and Populated Places that are incorporated.

Is your proposal for a feature entirely outside the United States and its territories?

Yes No

Is your proposal for a feature that is defined by private or public property boundaries?

Yes No

Is your proposal only to name part of a larger complete geographic feature?

Yes No

Is your proposal for a feature **entirely** within the exterior bounds of a federally recognized Tribe's reservation or trust lands?

Yes No

Use the [USGS The National Map viewer](#), the [USGS Protected Areas Database of the United States \(PAD-US\) viewer](#), the [2020 Census Tribal Tract Reference Map](#), and the [Bureau of Indian Affairs Tract Viewer](#) to determine this.

Exception: In the case of features entirely within the exterior bounds of a federally recognized Tribe's reservation or trust lands, the BGN will defer to the Tribe's government to determine the appropriate name for Federal use. A Tribe does not need to use this form but instead may make a request in writing on the Tribe's letterhead to the BGN either by email or regular mail (see addresses below).

If the feature is already named, was the name established by congressional legislation, Executive order, Presidential proclamation, or directly by the Secretary of the Interior?

Yes No

Is the U.S. Congress currently considering naming or renaming the feature?

Yes No

Use [Congress.gov](#) to determine if any legislation is pending.

Does your proposed name contain one of the words considered derogatory by the Department of the Interior and the BGN?

Yes No

See *Policy V of the BGN's Principles, Policies, and Procedures*.

Does the proposed name refer to anyone who either is still living or has been deceased for fewer than five years?

Yes No

If you have answered "Yes" to any of the questions above, do not complete this application. The BGN will not consider your proposal.

Domestic Geographic Name Proposal Form

The U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) is responsible for standardizing the names of geographic features within the 50 States and in other areas under the sovereignty of the United States. The BGN retains the legal authority to promulgate all official names and locations of natural features (e.g. mountains, rivers, valleys), as well as canals, channels, reservoirs, and other select feature types.

This form is to propose a new name or name, spelling, or application change for a geographic feature for Federal use. A proponent should carefully review the proposal prior to submission to ensure that it is consistent with the BGN policies and accurate to the best of your knowledge. Please note all fields with a red asterisk are required prior to submitting this form.

The proponent should also be aware that the entire proposal – including personal identifying information and any associated correspondence – is in the public domain and may be made publicly available at any time.

Please refer to the instruction manual in order to complete this proposal form. Failure to complete this form properly will result in the proposal not being considered until corrections have been made.

The completed proposal can be submitted in two ways:

1. Download and email this form and supporting to: BGNExec@usgs.gov
 - a. Save PDF with a file name that includes the proposed name.
 - b. Email the PDF as an attachment with a Subject line that includes the proposed name and State in which the feature is located.
2. Send by mail to:
U.S. BGN Executive Secretary, Domestic Names
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS-523
Reston, VA 20192

Please note that materials submitted via US Mail will result in longer processing times.

Please direct all questions and communication to BGNExec@usgs.gov.

Name Details

What is the proposed name?

What type of proposal is this?

- to name a feature that has no official name in GNIS (complete Section A below)
- to change or correct an official name recorded in GNIS (complete Section B below)
- to change or correct the location of an official name in GNIS (complete Section C below)
- to change or correct an official name and the location of that name in GNIS (complete Sections B and C below)

Section A: New names

I have checked GNIS to ensure that there is no official name.

Yes No

Why does the officially unnamed geographic feature need an official name for Federal use? (300 characters max.)

What is the meaning and significance of this name? (300 characters)

Why is the name you are proposing appropriate for this officially unnamed feature? (300 characters)

Is the proposed name in published use?

Yes No

If yes:

- Have you emailed tnm_help@usgs.gov to request that the name be added directly to GNIS and been told that the name must be a BGN proposal because the publication is NOT an authoritative source? Yes No
- Provide evidence of published use. List sources and send as email attachments. (500 characters)

Is the proposed name in current local unpublished use?

Yes No

If yes:

- Provide evidence of local use. List sources and send as email attachments. (500 characters)

Is there any local disagreement about the proposed name?

Yes No

If yes:

- Explain any local disagreement. (500 characters)

Section B: Name changes

What is the current GNIS name?

What is the current GNIS Feature ID?
(7 characters)

Why should the name be changed for Federal use? (300 characters)

What is the meaning and significance of this name? (300 characters)

Why is the name you are proposing appropriate as a name change for this officially named feature?
(300 characters)

Is the proposed name in published use?

Yes No

If yes:

- Have you emailed tnm_help@usgs.gov to request that the correction or change be made directly in GNIS and been told that the correction or change must be a BGN proposal because the GNIS name was NOT an error from the original authoritative source?
- Provide evidence of published use. List sources and send as email attachments. (500 characters)

Yes No

Is the proposed name in current local unpublished use?

Yes No

If yes:

- Provide evidence of local use. List sources and send as email attachments. (500 characters)

Is there any local disagreement about the proposed name change?

Yes No

If yes:

- Explain any local disagreement. (300 characters)

Section C: Location changes

What is the current GNIS Feature ID? (7 characters)

What are the current coordinates in GNIS?

Why should the location be changed for Federal use? (300 characters)

Is the proposed location in published use? Yes No

If yes:

- Have you emailed tnm_help@usgs.gov to request that the correction or change be made directly in GNIS and been told that the correction or change must be a BGN proposal because the GNIS location was NOT an error from the original authoritative source? Yes No
- Provide evidence of published use. List sources and send as email attachments. (500 characters)

Is the proposed location in current local unpublished use? Yes No

If yes:

- Provide evidence of local use. List sources and send as email attachments. (500 characters)

Is there any local disagreement about the proposed location change? Yes No

If yes:

- Explain any local disagreement. (500 characters)

Location Details

What GNIS feature type best fits the feature? (20 characters)

Review the [list of GNIS feature classes and their definitions](#). Please note that the DNC does not review proposals to name or rename Census, Civil, or Military features. The DNC does not review proposals to name or rename incorporated populated places.

Provide information about the feature's location:

- If the feature is elevated (GNIS classes Pillar, Range, Ridge, Summit), what are the coordinates of the highest point? (50 characters)
- If the feature is linear (GNIS classes Arroyo, Stream, Valley), what are the coordinates of the mouth/lower end and the source/upper end? (50 characters)

- If the feature is not elevated or linear (all other GNIS classes), what are the coordinates of the approximate center? (50 characters)
- In what State or States is the feature located?
- In what county/counties or equivalent(s) is the feature located?
- In what incorporated city/town/township/borough is the feature located? *Use the USGS The National Map viewer to determine if the feature is within an incorporated place.*(50 characters)

Describe the full shape and extent of the feature (length, width, height/elevation, shape, and general extent as applicable) (300 characters)

Who owns or manages the land containing the feature? *Use the USGS [Protected Areas Database of the United States \(PAD-US\)](#) viewer to determine the land manager.*

What is the name of the landowner(s) or manager(s)? (300 characters)

If private landowners or managers are involved, provide evidence by email that they are aware you are submitting a proposal to the BGN. (500 characters)

What is your interest in the name of this feature? (300 characters)

Policy Information

[Names Considered or Established by Congress or the President](#)

Was the feature's name established by Executive order or Presidential proclamation? Yes No

Was the feature's name established by congressional legislation? Yes No

Is the feature currently being considered for naming or renaming by Congress? Yes No

Use [Congress.gov](#) to determine if any legislation is pending to name or rename the feature.

Name Changes

Is the proposal to change an existing name in GNIS?

Yes No

If yes:

- Why should the name be changed? (300 characters)

- Is the proposed change to bring official Federal usage into agreement with well-established local usage and/or with present-day local support? Yes No
If yes, provide evidence of this by email attachments.

- Is the proposed change to eliminate a name that is duplicative, confusing, or was established on the basis of incorrect information? Yes No
If yes, provide evidence of this by email attachments.

- Is the official name in GNIS the name of a person or family? Yes No

If yes, why should this name be changed? (300 characters)

Commemorative Names

Is the proposed name the name of a person or family?

Yes No

If yes:

- Has the person or persons been deceased for more than five (5) years? Yes No
- Could the proposed name be construed to refer to a living person? Yes No

If yes, who? (300 characters)

- Provide a brief biography of the person(s) including birth and death dates. (350 characters)

Provide a death certificate, link to an official obituary in a local newspaper, and/or other evidence of the date of death in supporting documentation by email.

- What was the person's direct or long-term association with the feature? (350 characters)

- If applicable, what was the person's significant contribution to the community, area, or state around the feature? (350 characters, next page)

- If applicable, what was the person's outstanding national or international recognition? (350 characters)

- Is the proposed name the full name of a person? Yes No
- If yes, why should their full name be used? (350 characters)

Wilderness Area Geographic Names

Is the feature in a Federal wilderness, wilderness study area, or proposed wilderness? (for new names only) Yes No

Use the USGS [Protected Areas Database of the United States \(PAD-US\)](#) viewer to determine if the feature is located in a wilderness or wilderness study area; note that proposed wildernesses in National Park Service lands are not included in PAD-US.

If yes, what is the overriding need to name the feature? (300 characters)

Derogatory and Offensive Names

Does the proposed name contain one of the words considered derogatory by the Department of the Interior and the BGN? Yes No

Does the proposed name include a word that is derogatory or offensive to a particular racial or ethnic group, gender, or religious group? Yes No

For name changes only: The BGN does not determine if a word is derogatory or offensive. Does the current official name contain a word considered derogatory or offensive? Yes No

If yes, why do you think the word is derogatory or offensive? (300 characters)

How does the proposed name relate to the current official name? (300 characters)

Duplicate and Similar Names

Is the proposed name the same as a nearby official name recorded in GNIS or an unofficial name in local use? Yes No

If yes, how far away is the duplicate name? (50 characters)

Is the proposed name similar to a nearby official name recorded in GNIS or an unofficial name in local use? Yes No

If yes, how far away is the similar name? (50 characters)

Variant Names

For name changes only: Is the proposed name more suitable as a variant recorded in GNIS rather than for consideration as an official name change? Yes No

Diacritics

Does the proposed name contain diacritics? Yes No

If yes, Are the diacritics listed in [Appendix G](#) or could they be formed by characters in Appendix G? (Please note that additional characters have been approved for use)

Yes No

Long Names

Is the proposed name overly long? Yes No

If yes, why is the long name appropriate? (300 characters)

Tribal Geographic Names

Is the feature entirely on lands under the jurisdiction of a Tribe? Yes No

Use the USGS [The National Map viewer](#), the USGS [Protected Areas Database of the United States \(PAD-US\) viewer](#), the [2020 Census Tribal Tract Reference Map](#), and the [Bureau of Indian Affairs Tract Viewer](#) to determine if the feature falls on Tribal lands.

Is the feature partially on lands under the jurisdiction of a Tribe? Yes No

If yes, which Tribe?

Are you a member of a federally recognized Tribe? Yes No

If yes, which Tribe?

Are you submitting this proposal on behalf of a Tribal government or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer? Yes No

If yes, provide their name and contact information, and attach evidence they endorse this proposal.

Does the proposed name honor or refer to Native Americans, their language, or culture? Yes No

If yes, review, follow, and respond to the [Cultural Sensitivity for Native American Names](#).

Commercial Names

Is the proposed name related in any way to a business, product, or enterprise (including schools and non-profits)? Yes No

If yes, is the primary purpose of the proposal to promote or publicize a business, product, or enterprise? Yes No

How long has the business or enterprise been associated with the feature? (20 characters)

If no, what is the evidence that the name is not being used for this purpose? (500 characters)

Could the proposed name be construed to be associated with, promote, or publicize a business, product, or enterprise? Yes No

If yes, explain how and why. (300 characters)

Is the name or any part of it trademarked? Yes No

If yes, does the trademark owner give permission to allow the name to be applied to a geographic feature? Yes No

If yes, provide evidence of this by email attachments.

Animal Names

Is the proposed name the name of a pet, service animal, or work animal? Yes No

If yes:

- Has the animal been deceased for more than five (5) years? Yes No
- Could the proposed name be construed to refer to a living person? Yes No

If yes, who? (100 characters)

- Provide a brief biography of the animal including a death date. (500 characters)

Provide evidence of the date of death in supporting documentation by email.

- What was the animal's direct or long-term association with the feature? (300 characters)

- If applicable, what was the animal's significant contribution to the community, area, or region around the feature? (300 characters)

Proponent Details

Provide your contact information.

Name

Email address

Mailing address

Phone number

Are you representing any group, organization, elected body, or any other entity and submitting the proposal on behalf of them with their knowledge and support? Yes No

If yes, send written communication (email, letter) showing that the group knows about this and supports the proposal by email.

Are you a member of any group that is or could be an interested party in the name of this feature? Yes No

If yes, send written communication (email, letter) showing that the group knows about this and supports the proposal by email.

Are you completing this form for someone else? If so, that person will be recorded Yes No as the proponent.

If yes, provide their contact information

Name

Email address

Mailing address

Phone number