

Re: [EXTERNAL] Renaming

From Grahn, Christopher E <christopher_grahn@nps.gov>
on behalf of
DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Date Mon 1/20/2025 1:39 PM
To Stephen Luxenberg (b) (6)@icloud.com>

Hello Stephen,

Thanks for contacting us at Denali National Park & Preserve!

The NPS does not control the naming of mountains or other natural feature place names on its lands. The US Board on Geographic Names, which serves under the Secretary of the Interior, is charged with these decisions.

The proposed change refers to the name of the mountain, Denali, and not the name of Denali National Park & Preserve.

Sincerely,

Ranger Chris
Denali National Park and Preserve
907-683-9532
9 am - 4 pm Alaska Time

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From: Stephen Luxenberg (b) (6)@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2025 1:30 PM
To: DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Renaming

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Will the entire park be renamed as McKinley or just the mountain?

Sent from my iPad

1/21 9:14 AM

Do you have time for a quick teams call re social media and mountain name?

Karnes, Katherine L 1/21 9:15 AM



Sure

1/21 9:22 AM

emails all look like usual trip planning and JR Ranger badge requests, whew



Friday



Alex offered to help and will reach out to you directly. I think website name change edits are our top priority right now so please do take advantage of his offer of time.



RE: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Alaska's News Source Inquiry

From Smigiel, Amber L <amber_smigiel@nps.gov>
Date Tue 1/21/2025 3:01 PM
To DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>

Hi, John! I've forwarded your request on to the NPS communications team in Washington.

Amber Smigiel
Public Affairs Officer
Denali National Park & Preserve
907 202-0156
she/her/hers

From: no-reply@nps.gov <no-reply@nps.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 1:02 PM
To: DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Alaska's News Source Inquiry

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Email submitted from: jthompson@ktuu.com at /dena/contacts.htm

Use jthompson@ktuu.com to reply to this message

Category: Information

My name is John Thompson and I'm a reporter/anchor with Alaska's News Source (Channel 2 and Channel 5). I'm reaching out to see if the National Park Service at Denali has any comment on the executive order signed by President Trump, that would rename the mountain to McKinley. I'd love to chat with you if you have a moment today. I'm working on this story for the evening newscasts. Thank you very much,
John (b) (6)

Re: [EXTERNAL] Denali name

From Jack Thorne (b) (6)@gmail.com>
Date Wed 1/22/2025 6:56 PM
To DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>

Thank you "Ranger Rachel" !
Among my many duties for many years was supervising and supporting frontliners like you who have to deal with old codgers like me.
Well done! Of course, the NPS use of the term "Ranger" differs a bit from the USFS, so you may not be a true "frontliner"... but it's obvious that you are in touch.

I will spare you predictions of doom and gloom... I will just wish you and the NPS the best of luck in navigating the next 4 years. It will be challenging.
Jack Thorne

On Tue, Jan 21, 2025 at 4:18 PM DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov> wrote:

Hi Jack,

Thanks for reaching out to Denali National Park and Preserve. Thank you for your extensive civil service and congratulations on your retirement!

As you mentioned, the NPS doesn't control the naming of mountains or other natural feature place names on its land. The US Board on Geographic Names, which serves under the Secretary of the Interior, is charged with these decisions. I would encourage you to voice your concerns to your representatives.

Your passion and support of your public lands is much appreciated.

My warmest regards,
Ranger Rachel

Denali National Park and Preserve
907-683-9532
9 am - 4 pm Alaska Time

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YouTube: www.youtube.com/DenaliNPS

From: Jack Thorne (b) (6)@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 2:59 PM
To: DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Denali name

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I am a retiree from 50 years with the USDA Forest Service, the great majority of which were spent in recreation and public service management in the Pacific Northwest. I know you can't lobby or otherwise attempt to significantly "influence" actions and decisions made by the President of the United States and Congress.

But please, DON'T LET TRUMP RENAME DENALI 'MT. McKINLEY' .

Please provide as much internal support as you can to retain the Denali name, and assist those outside the Government in their efforts to continue to recognize and honor the history and culture of indigenous peoples.

Don't let him do it.

Thank you.
Jack Thorne

Re: [EXTERNAL] Junior Ranger Badge

From Reed, Rachel M <rachel_reed@nps.gov>
on behalf of
DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Date Tue 1/21/2025 10:03 AM
To (b) (6)

Sheryl,

Thanks for reaching out to Denali National Park and Preserve. Congratulations on completing the online Junior Ranger activity! A Denali Junior Ranger badge is on its way! Please keep in mind that mail coming from rural Alaska may take a few weeks to arrive. The proposed name change refers to the name of the mountain, Denali, and not the name of Denali National Park and Preserve. There would be no change to the badge! Hope this helps.

Warm regards,
Ranger Rachel

Denali National Park and Preserve
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From: (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 6:40 AM
To: DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Junior Ranger Badge

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Hi,
Will you please send a junior ranger badge to:

Sheryl Lasota

(b) (6)

Thank you for all you do for the parks!

P.S. If the name of Denali gets changed to Mount McKinley will there be a new Junior Ranger badge and Program?

Thank you!

Re: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Mt McKinley

From Reed, Rachel M <rachel_reed@nps.gov>
on behalf of
DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Date Tue 1/21/2025 11:48 AM
To (b) (6) @gmail.com (b) (6) @gmail.com>

Hi Jeff,

Thanks for reaching out to Denali National Park and Preserve. The proposed name change refers to the name of the mountain, Denali, and not the name of Denali National Park and Preserve. The NPS does not control the naming of mountains or other natural feature place names on its lands. The US Board on Geographic Names, which serves under the Secretary of the Interior, is charged with these decisions. The park has not yet received guidance from the US Board on Geographic Names to make any changes at this time.

You can read about the steps in this process here: [The White House](#).
If you're interested in learning about the history of this park and the names tied to it, you can read about it here: [Denali or Mount McKinley?](#)

Hope this helps!

Ranger Rachel

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YouTube: www.youtube.com/DenaliNPS

From: no-reply@nps.gov <no-reply@nps.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 11:29 AM
To: DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Mt McKinley

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Email submitted from (b) (6) @gmail.com at /dena/contacts.htm

Us (b) (6) @gmail.com to reply to this message

Category: Information

Why haven't you updated the name of Mt McKinley per President Trump's Executive Order?

Re: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Purchases

From Miller, Emily K <emily_miller@nps.gov>
on behalf of
DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Date Fri 1/24/2025 9:32 AM
To (b) (6)@gmail.com <(b) (6)@gmail.com>

Hello there,

As far as making purchases, you are able to use our nonprofit partner Alaska Geographic's online webpage to purchase anything we might have had in store during your visit.

I am not sure if there is a ball cap exactly to your liking there, but that would be where you would make an online purchase. I have provided the link below.

[Alaska Geographic](#)

Warmly,
Ranger Emily

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From: no-reply@nps.gov <no-reply@nps.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 10:03 AM
To: DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Purchases

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Email submitted from (b) (6)@gmail.com at https://www.nps.gov/dena/planyourvisit/muriecenter.htm

Use (b) (6)@gmail.com to reply to this message

Category: Other

Mailing Address:
Mary Lou Reed

(b) (6)

We were at Denali in August and my husband did not buy a ball cap denoting the tallest peak as Denali. Now that the new inhabitant of the White House is changing the name back to McKinley I want to know how I can get him a cap to proudly wear thar signifies he recognizes Mt Denali by its rightful Native name not the spiteful name of a predecessor in the White House that it will now be called. My husband wants to wear the cap in solidarity with the Native Peoples who are once again being disrespected and in protest of the false actions of 47. How can I buy him an official Mt Denali ball cap where the proceeds will also help the National Park. Weird request, I know. Some protests are small and personal. Thanks for any help you can render.

Re: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Denali Re-Naming

From Drain, Jessica D <jessica_drain@nps.gov>
on behalf of
DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Date Fri 1/24/2025 3:00 PM
To (b) (6)@gmail.com (b) (6)@gmail.com>

Hi Samantha,

Thanks for reaching out to us at Denali National Park and Preserve! The National Park Service does not control the naming of mountains or other natural feature place names on its lands. The US Board on Geographic Names, which serves under the Secretary of the Interior, is charged with these decisions. If you are hoping to make your voice heard on this subject or any other subject that matters to you, you could consider reaching out to your representatives and letting them know of your concerns.

If you're interested in learning about the history of this park and the names tied to it, you can read about it here: [Denali or Mount McKinley?](#)

All the best,

Ranger Jessica

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From: no-reply@nps.gov <no-reply@nps.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 11:47 AM
To: DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Denali Re-Naming

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Category: Other

Good afternoon, I am very concerned with the recent order of the President to name Denali back to McKinley. As I understand, the people of Alaska had asked for Mt. Denali to be named as such because the indigenous people had once called it Mt. Denali. Is there anything we the people can do to support the mission of keeping the name Mt. Denali? Thank you, Samantha Ortega

Re: [EXTERNAL] Information

From Drain, Jessica D <jessica_drain@nps.gov>
on behalf of
DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Date Fri 1/24/2025 2:27 PM
To Matthew Wilson (b) (6) @yahoo.com>

Hi Matt,
Your Denali brochures are in the mail! Please keep in mind that mail coming from rural Alaska may take a few weeks to arrive at its destination.

All the best,

Ranger Jessica

Denali National Park and Preserve
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From: Matthew Wilson (b) (6) @yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 2:14 PM
To: DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Information

Thank you so much!

My address is:

(b) (6)

I appreciate it.

Matt Wilson

On Jan 24, 2025, at 5:00 PM, DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov> wrote:

Hello Matt,
Thank you for your interest in Denali National Park. Glad to hear that you have such fond memories of the park! We can certainly mail you some current park brochures. Just reply with your address and we can send them out to you - don't worry about postage, we mail brochures free of charge.

All the best,
Ranger Jessica

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From: Matthew Wilson (b) (6)@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2025 11:47 AM
To: DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Information

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Good Afternoon,

I will be traveling to Alaska with my family this summer. Denali NP was where my wife and I had our honeymoon, but I no longer have any papers from there, including a map and brochures. We are a national park family; my children have been to the other 55 and Alaska is their 50th state.

In light of the name change to Mt. McKinley, I would appreciate having the Denali National Park and Preserve map and brochures with the Denali name on it now. I am willing to pay shipping to get them at my home prior to the paper products being disallowed with the name change.

Would that be possible? If so, please let me know.

Thank you for your time.

Matt Wilson

Fw: [EXTERNAL] APTN News - Denali Name Change

From Miller, Emily K <emily_miller@nps.gov>
on behalf of
DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Date Fri 1/24/2025 12:40 PM
To Smigiel, Amber L <amber_smigiel@nps.gov>

Here is another one for you.

Warmly,
Emily Miller

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From: Sara Connors <sconnors@aptn.ca>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 12:19 PM
To: DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] APTN News - Denali Name Change

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Hi there,

I’m a reporter with the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network in the Yukon.

I’m interested in doing a story on President Trump changing the name of Denali to Mt. McKinley. I’ve reached out to a few Alaskan Native groups including the Tanana Chiefs Council, Gwich’in Council International and the Alaska Native Heritage Centre, but haven’t had much luck in finding anyone willing to speak about this issue.

I just thought I’d reach out to Denali National Park in hopes that someone there might know of any Alaskan Native folks in the nearby area who might be interested in sharing their views on this issue.

Thank you for any help you may be able to provide,
Sara



Sara Connors
Reporter Correspondent
(she/her)

E: sconnors@aptn.ca
C: (b) (6)
[Call me on Teams](#)

aptn.ca



*We Are Here. Ancestral and unceded territories of all who call Turtle Island home.
Nous sommes ici. Les territoires ancestraux et non cédés de toutes les personnes qui considèrent l’Île de la Tortue comme leur chez-soi.*

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Re: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Name change

From Popovic, Damian <damian_popovic@nps.gov>
on behalf of
DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Date Sun 1/26/2025 9:10 AM
To (b) (6)@live.com (b) (6)@live.com>

Howdy Philip,

Thanks for reaching out to us at Denali National Park and Preserve, we greatly appreciate the influx of passion and support folks like you have shown the park over the past few days. Note that the National Park Service does not control the naming of mountains or other natural feature place names on its lands. The U.S. Board on Geographic Names, which serves under the Secretary of the Interior, is charged with these decisions. If you're hoping to make your voice heard on this subject or any other subject that matters to you, you could consider reaching out to your representatives and letting them know of your concerns.

If you're interested in learning about the history of this park and the names tied to it, you can read about it here: [Denali or Mount McKinley?](#) Know that no matter where our nation lands on the topic of Native place names from generation to generation, there will always be space for the name Denali in Denali National Park and Preserve.

Warm Regards,
Ranger Damian

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907-683-9532
9 am - 4 pm Alaska Time

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YouTube: www.youtube.com/DenaliNPS

From: no-reply@nps.gov <no-reply@nps.gov>
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2025 7:06 AM
To: DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Name change

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Category: Other

Mailing Address:
Philip Brown

(b) (6)

I oppose the name change from Denali back to Mt. McKinley. The executive proclamation was declared out of spite.

Re: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: kimyearsley1@gmail.com

From Drain, Jessica D <jessica_drain@nps.gov>
on behalf of
DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Date Tue 1/28/2025 9:28 AM
To Kim Yearsley (b) (6) @gmail.com>

Hello Kim,
The proposed name change is only for the mountain and not the name of the park. The park will remain Denali National Park and Preserve. The naming procedures for geographic features vs for parks themselves are separate processes.

Have fun trip planning, and see you in Denali in August!

All the best,
Ranger Jessica

Denali National Park and Preserve
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YouTube: www.youtube.com/DenaliNPS

From: Kim Yearsley (b) (6) @gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 3:32 AM
To: DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: kimyearsley1@gmail.com

Thanks so much Ranger Chris!!! But my understanding was they were changing the name of the national park back to McKinley. Is that just for the mountain? In other words are they changing the mountain back but keeping the name of the park?

On Mon, Jan 27, 2025 at 6:55 PM DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov> wrote:
Hello Kim,

Thanks for reaching out to us here at Denali National Park & Preserve!

Your Denali brochures are on their way. Please keep in mind that mail coming from rural Alaska may take a few weeks to arrive at its destination.

Our NPS passport stamps won't be changing as the park's official name is still Denali National Park & Preserve.

Below are some websites that may also be useful for planning time in Denali.

[Denali National Park and Preserve: Current Conditions](#)
National Park Service information on planning a trip to Denali

[Reserve Denali](#)
Reservations for the campgrounds and bus trips

[Denali Chamber of Commerce: Discover Denali](#)
Community information about accommodations and local activities

All the best,

Ranger Chris
Denali National Park and Preserve
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YouTube: www.youtube.com/DenaliNPS

From: no-reply@nps.gov <no-reply@nps.gov>
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2025 9:18 AM
To: DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov (b) (6) @gmail.com

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Category: Other

Mailing Address:

Kim Yearsley

(b) (6)

Please can you send me a unigrid/brochures and info that still say Denali? We are heading there in August (our 44th NP) and I want it to say Denali, not McKinley. And is there any chance you can also send me a stamp for my book that says Denali?? We will be there August 20, 2025. THANK YOU!!!!!!

Re: [EXTERNAL] Change name!

From Millman, Jess M <jess_millman@nps.gov>
on behalf of
DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Date Mon 1/27/2025 3:34 PM
To Stephen Borth (b) (6) @icloud.com>

Greetings,

The NPS does not control the naming of mountains or other natural feature place names on its lands. The US Board on Geographic Names, which serves under the Secretary of the Interior, is charged with these decisions. The proposed change refers to the name of the mountain, Denali, and not the name of Denali National Park and Preserve. We are awaiting further guidance and resources on how to appropriately integrate the new administrations executive order regarding the renaming of Denali to Mount McKinley.

If you have further questions on this process, please reach out to our Public Information Officer, Amber Smigiel at amber_smigiel@nps.gov.

Kindly,
Ranger Jess

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YouTube: www.youtube.com/DenaliNPS

From: Stephen Borth (b) (6) @icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2025 5:00 PM
To: DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Change name!

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Put Mt McKinley in your information as directed.
SBorth

Re: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov (b) (6) @gmail.com

From Drain, Jessica D <jessica_drain@nps.gov>
on behalf of
DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Date Fri 1/31/2025 3:55 PM
To (b) (6) @gmail.com (b) (6) @gmail.com>

Hello Melinda and John,

Thanks for reaching out to us at Denali National Park and Preserve, we greatly appreciate the influx of passion that people like you have shown the park over the past few days. Note that the National Park Service does not control the naming of mountains or other natural feature place names on its lands. The U.S. Board on Geographic Names, which serves under the Secretary of the Interior, is charged with these decisions. We've been letting people know that if they're hoping to make their voices heard on this subject or any other subject that matters to them, they could consider reaching out to their representatives and letting them know of their concerns. It sounds like you have already done this, so thank you for being civically engaged and caring about the national parks!

All the best,
Ranger Jessica

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From: no-reply@nps.gov <no-reply@nps.gov>
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2025 10:38 PM
To: DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: (b) (6) @gmail.com

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Category: Other

Mailing Address:
JOHN and Melinda Russell

(b) (6)

We have sent the letter below to all of the politicians we can. Please tell us where we can send our letter to stop Trump's name change of Denali. Dear friends, I do not like the idea of Trump changing the name of Mount Denali to McKinley. We go to Alaska fairly often since our middle child and family (two grandchildren) live there. Everyone refers to Mt. McKinley (this was before it was changed back to Denali by President Obama) as Denali. The native’s name, Denali, means “the Great One.” I believe we should keep and restore this beautiful name—a name so expressive of the mountains themselves, and so symbolic of the Indians who bestowed them. The Alaskans (my daughter in love is one of them) want the name, “Denali” to stay. McKinley has nothing to do with Alaska to begin with, he was a presidential candidate who later was assassinated and some people thought they should name the tallest peak in North America after him...why? At least the park is now called Denali National Park. Athabascan groups live in close proximity to the mountain. The Athabascan words for the mountain translate to “the tall one” or “mountain-big”. “McKinley” was incompatible with the Athabascan worldview because they rarely name places after people. When we visited the park and saw the tall peaks first-hand everyone referred to it as Denali. So, that won’t change. I truly believe that Donald Trump just wants control and wants to undo what Obama fixed. This isn’t right. Donald Trump is not respecting the Indians and the culture in Alaska. Please do not let Donald Trump change the name. Thank you, Melinda and John Russell (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Tuesday 4:46 PM

Ok, no problem. I talked to Paul about the name work and sounds like we should get someone set up tomorrow with your tablet to find the mountain references. I can tell you more about what's needed, if he did not, but we do need to assemble a list this week.

Happy to short teams call if that help

Mikulla, Katie Tuesday 4:48 PM



We were planning to discuss at our media team meeting tomorrow afternoon, but maybe I'll look at the tablet to see what the process will look like since I haven't had time to actually build the map yet

We don't need to know waysides from out west yet--or do we need all of them?

I wasn't able to enter all the west ones yet since the tablet didn't work properly when I was out west

Tuesday 4:49 PM

Sure, just didn't want you to be caught off guard with the timeline. Lists and cost estimates of all physical updates by Friday.

Amber is going to need it to turn into a one page briefing statement.

I can pull all VC data together.

Mikulla, Katie Tuesday 4:50 PM



thanks for the heads up

Tuesday 4:50 PM

Matt says maintenance install estimate should be 1 hour per sign or exhibit and \$65 per hour. Just typing it here so I don't forget.

Mikulla, Katie Tuesday 4:51 PM



how are we supposed to get cost estimates by Friday? I doubt Split Rock can

Mikulla, Katie Tuesday 4:51 PM



how are we supposed to get cost estimates by Friday? I doubt Split Rock can give us an estimate that quickly on the exhibits

Tuesday 4:52 PM

Class G kind of estimate, major ballpark. We should just use cost of 'similar' items as a point of reference. For VCs I was just going to take the 2015 estimate, find out inflation since 2015 and multiple it by that %

Park Guide labor can help go through tablet if useful to you and totally fine for that to be Thursday, just trying to find ways to help with this request so it is a lighter lift.

Wednesday

Wednesday 9:05 AM

there was actually a waysides tab on our 2016 planning, it lists 5 waysides

I don't know how accurate it remains, from reading the content on that tab

Mikulla, Katie Wednesday 10:16 AM



are you just going to use the escalation percentage per year from PMIS to estimate costs from old invoices?

Wednesday 10:25 AM

No, I planned to look up national inflation rate



Mikulla, Katie Wednesday 11:05 AM



Hey Elizabeth, I didn't get around to inventorying any of the waysides around the DVC Campus/Morino trail. Is that something someone would be able to help check the text for mountain refs?

Yes

Mikulla, Katie 1/29/2025 10:16 AM

are you just going to use the escalation percentage per year from PMIS to estimate costs from old invoices?

It's looking like 3% per year since 2016 so that is similar to PMIS escalation of 4% annually so we could use 4% per year since whatever past price estimates you look at



So a \$10,000 cost in 2016 would be \$13600 in today's dollars

I think it would not be unreasonable to also add 10% admin overhead



Mikulla, Katie Wednesday 11:25 AM



Beavers, Elizabeth K 1/29/2025 9:05 AM

there was actually a waysides tab on our 2016 planning, it lists 5 waysides

can you remind me the location that document?

Wednesday 11:26 AM

it is in the inventory list under waysides, but i can grab it too in a sec

T:\Interp\Division Management\Planning\Denali to McKinley Name Change 2025

Mikulla, Katie Wednesday 11:27 AM



thank you!

Wednesday 1:55 PM

I've asked WHTRS staff to send us pictures of the items they listed under facilities, just FYI.

Mikulla, Katie Wednesday 2:47 PM



the bronze wayside receipt I have doesn't have any shipping cost...should I try to estimate that? I'm not sure why it didn't cost anything to ship it in 2018

Wednesday 3:02 PM

yeah, i'd add some estimate to the total cost



shipping

Mikulla, Katie Wednesday 4:19 PM



Just checking as I run through the list: do we need to estimate any time/materials for the WHTRS captions and/or the "Large printed Beran map"?

Wednesday 4:55 PM

Until they send the pic of the map, that seems unclear. I'd say no for the in house captions



I kind of think same for the kiosks, something in house we do routine doesn't seem like a special effort to cost estimate

Mikulla, Katie Wednesday 4:57 PM



yeah, I noted kiosks in the word doc as part of routine edits



Thursday

Mikulla, Katie Thursday 8:26 AM



Mikulla, Katie 1/29/2025 11:05 AM

Hey Elizabeth, I didn't get around to inventorying any of the waysides around the DVC Campus/Morino trail. Is that something someone...

I know we are checking in later, but to help me plan my day--did our team end up having capacity to do this? I'm teleworking for a class this morning, but I would try to do it this afternoon if needed. Just trying to balance the work for all these 1/31 deadlines!

Thursday 8:28 AM

Yes, they did. I have notes in my bag from them but haven't transferred anywhere yet.

Friday

Mikulla, Katie Friday 10:05 AM



Thank you for being so diligent with the cost estimates! **Sorry for the confusion with the West waysides.** I had been primarily working in the Word doc and referencing what is in the Excel spreadsheet, but I see that made it confusing as you did a sweep to make sure we captured it all. I have updated the Excel now as well to match what we know.

Re: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Keep it Denali!

From Drain, Jessica D <jessica_drain@nps.gov>
on behalf of
DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Date Tue 1/28/2025 9:40 AM
To (b) (6)@gmail.com (b) (6)@gmail.com>

Hello,

Thanks for reaching out to us at Denali National Park and Preserve, we greatly appreciate the influx of passion that people like you have shown the park over the past few days. Note that the National Park Service does not control the naming of mountains or other natural feature place names on its lands. The U.S. Board on Geographic Names, which serves under the Secretary of the Interior, is charged with these decisions. If you're hoping to make your voice heard on this subject or any other subject that matters to you, you could consider reaching out to your representatives and letting them know of your concerns.

If you're interested in learning about the history of this park and the names tied to it, you can read about it here: [Denali or Mount McKinley?](#)

All the best,
Ranger Jessica

Denali National Park and Preserve
907-683-9532
9 am - 4 pm Alaska Time

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/DenaliNPS
Instagram: www.instagram.com/DenaliNPS
Twitter: www.twitter.com/DenaliNPS
Flickr: www.flickr.com/DenaliNPS
YouTube: www.youtube.com/DenaliNPS

From: no-reply@nps.gov <no-reply@nps.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 5:52 AM
To: DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Keep it Denali!

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Email submitted from: (b) (6)@gmail.com at /dena/contacts.htm

Use (b) (6)@gmail.com to reply to this message

Category: Other

Please resist! Stand tall like the bears and moose! Keep it Denali!

Re: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Requesting Two Junior Ranger Packets

From Drain, Jessica D <jessica_drain@nps.gov>
on behalf of
DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Date Tue 1/28/2025 9:50 AM
To (b) (6) @gmail.com (b) (6) @gmail.com>

Hello Eric,

Thanks for reaching out to Denali National Park and Preserve! Because the Denali Junior Ranger booklet is designed to be completed in the park, we unfortunately do not mail these out. However, we have created an online Denali Junior Ranger activity that can be completed from home! You can find this activity [here on our website](#). Once completed, a photo of the activity can be sent to this email address and a Denali Junior Ranger badge will be mailed to you.

And rest assured that the name of the park is not changing, so there is no rush to complete this activity. The proposed name change is only for the mountain and not the name of the park. The park will remain Denali National Park and Preserve. The naming procedures for geographic features vs for parks themselves are separate processes.

Enjoy learning about Denali!

Ranger Jessica

Denali National Park and Preserve
907-683-9532
9 am - 4 pm Alaska Time

Find us on:
Facebook: www.facebook.com/DenaliNPS
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YouTube: www.youtube.com/DenaliNPS

From: no-reply@nps.gov <no-reply@nps.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 5:54 AM
To: DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Requesting Two Junior Ranger Packets

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Email submitted from (b) (6) @gmail.com at /dena/contacts.htm

Use eric (b) (6) @gmail.com to reply to this message

Category: Information

Mailing Address:
Eric Kim

(b) (6)

Hello, I would like to request two junior ranger books and badges if possible. My partner and I collect junior ranger badges but haven't started the collection for Alaska parks. My hope is to obtain the badges before the possibility of changing the name from Denali to McKinley. Cheers, Eric Kim (b) (6)

Tuesday

Tuesday 8:14 AM

For DMT today, will you be talking about the name change? I'd like to know if Amber is tasked with drafting staff talking points (or could be) or if I need to take a stab. I'd also like to know about timeline for the website. There was a DOI memo Friday on it that was linked in an ADN article that feels faster than EO.

Ollig, Paul J Tuesday 8:26 AM



I'll make sure we talk about it. I think having Amber write up some talking points is a good idea

Tuesday 8:30 AM

We've only had 10-12 emails, I wanted to look up the phone log to look at that rate, but I know a common thing is asking why our website isn't changed yet.



Ollig, Paul J Tuesday 12:06 PM



Let me know when you're free for a quick check-in

Tuesday 12:36 PM

Just before 1pm? 12:50 ok. (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Ollig, Paul J Tuesday 12:36 PM



yeah, that sounds good to me

should only take a few minutes. Just wanted to update you on what brooke needs for the name change



Inventory document started [Name Change Inventory 2025.docx](#)

McKinley-Denali Name Change Inventory

Website

[Website Inventory for Name Change.xlsx](#)

480 DENA webpages + 687 DENA "shared content" pages = 1167 pages total. Estimate 5 minutes per page, 97 hours of GS-9 time for total cost of **\$1,935**

- Park Guides and Quinn assisting with review.
- Online Jr Ranger program contains activities specific to the mountain – Dawn already analyzed this, and has a document with suggestions available.

Uploaded PDFs and other website documents spreadsheet forthcoming. Approximately 250 documents to review. Estimate 10 minutes per file, 42 hours of GS-9 time for **\$1,050**

Additional web/digital tasks:

- App (negligible, no additional cost)
- NPM/aps (estimate 4 hours GS-9 time, **\$198**)



Name Change Inventory 202...



DenaliInterp > General

Briefing Statement FY 2025

Bureau: National Park Service

Issue: Implementing Mount McKinley Name Change

Members: Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Rep. Nicholas Begich III (R-AK)

Park: Denali National Park and Preserve

Key Points:

- On January 20, 2025, President Donald J. Trump signed executive order [Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness \(90 FR 8629\)](#) that included direction for to rename Mount McKinley.
- On January 24, 2025, the Department of the Interior (DOI) announced that the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, under the purview of DOI, is working expeditiously to update the official federal nomenclature in the Geographic Names Information System to reflect these changes, effective immediately for federal use ([Interior Department Advances Restoration of Historic Names Honoring American Greatness](#)).

Background:

- In 1917, Congress established Mount McKinley National Park and named North America's highest peak as Mount McKinley.
- The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 renamed the park to Denali National Park and Preserve (Denali).
- In 2015, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewel, endorsed by President Barack Obama, issued a Secretarial Order that officially changed the mountain's name from Mount McKinley to Denali.

Current Status:

- Denali staff is preparing a plan to implement the name change.
- Changes will be implemented on facilities, wayfinding signs within the park, on displays inside of visitor centers, kiosks, publications, films, programming, and other messaging.
- NPS is kicking off the effort by changing the name online with existing Denali staff. Approximately 1200 pages and 250 documents are being reviewed and edited.
- Some print material replacements cannot be produced in time for the 2025 summer season, and staff will continue to distribute those materials with the Denali name.
- Denali staff is preparing talking points to respond to questions from visitors.
- Based on the duration of the 2015 name change effort, completion of this plan will take 4-5 years.
- An early cost estimate of \$90,000 includes:
 - The production, fabrication, and shipping of maps, exhibits and waysides.
 - Labor costs for reviewing and editing publications, installing exhibits, etc.

Contact Person: Brooke Merrell, Superintendent, Denali National Park and Preserve (907) 683-9581

Last Updated: February 2, 2022

Cultural Interpretation Working Group Agenda

Goal: Increase collaboration and understanding between I&E, Cultural Resources & Subsistence and complete project work by deadline.

Structure: At the start of FY25, the group will meet weekly, to prepare for the December 2025 GOV to GOV meeting. After early December, the meeting frequency may drop to once per pay period to keep key projects moving forward and could drop again to once per month during summer (or to an 'as needed' basis).

Shared Files: [Cultural Interpretation Working Group](#)

Attendees:

- Interpretation: Katie Mikulla (Media), Elizabeth Beavers (Interpretation), Paul Ollig (optional for management); if Education/MSLC projects come up Hannah Ragland would be asked to join.
- Cultural Resources: Liz Gonzalez Negrete (Archaeology & 106); back-up coverage Susannah Lemke (Acting CR Manager as of 12/4, Historian) and/or Kim Arthur (Collections), Dave Schirokauer (optional for management).
- Subsistence: Amy Craver
- Tribal Liaison: Danielle Stickman
- SMEs or project managers: Lisa Fink (Mellon Fellow, DVC exhibit project), occasionally Britta Schroeder (GIS, trailhead panel), occasionally Carrie Wittmer (DVC exhibit project grant management support)

All members can add agenda topics below

Agenda 1/30/2025

- Check in on projects: DVC and Tsenesdghaas Na'
- Denali – Mt. McKinley name change discussion, is there an opportunity here for exhibits?

Notes:

- DVC exhibits:
 - Lisa working on first rough draft text after initial brainstorm with Amy and Danielle.
 - Amy, Danielle, Lisa meeting Friday, then next draft coming together for Feb 10th review by the group.
 - Concept with draft language target prep for TCC meeting.
 - If possible, put it into panel layout to show space constraints.
 - During meeting we want feedback specifically on the panels, perhaps we plan some questions to display on screen after the overview.
 - Solicit input (help, quotes, photos) from attendees at TCC meeting (at end of 30 min segment).
 - Paul to check with Brooke on presenters and attendees (Brooke, Paul, Dave, Lisa, Amy, Danielle??); Amy suggests using the time for relationship building, the informal time around the presentation may be helpful for connections.
- Vern Carlson suggestion on a panel on 5 different names of the mountain. Link in the EVC kiosk or bring it over to DVC? Consider linking language for Denali within land acknowledgement panel for DVC?
- Elizabeth to pull together visuals on DVC panel name change to bring to this group for opportunity to improve.
- Tsenesdghaas Na' draft text circulating between Amy, Dave, Danielle and Lisa.
 - Ready to circulate through this group after the 1/31 meeting of Lisa, Danielle and Amy.
 - Katie will check-in with Britta on map elements when Britta returns from leave.
 - Panel fabrication due by June (and frames)

Friday 8:42 AM

Thanks, I'm ok, just time pressed for AM. For lead of the day - Park Guides and Quinn should prioritize website help for Katie K with name change today and through weekend as they are able. I put it above any other project work until website updates are complete.



Friday



I thought one you may have mentioned Trevor gave a unigrid estimate for edits, but maybe that was just timeline? If estimate, please pop in the inventory doc this AM

Ollig, Paul J Friday 8:05 AM



just a timeline so far, no cost estimate

Friday 8:06 AM

ok thanks

Friday 8:12 AM

I believe we are down to MSLC exhibits, website + articles and ungird for estimates needed. I'm working on MSLC exhibits right now so closing in



Friday 8:37 AM

Ok MSLC exhibit estimate entered. Down to unigrid and articles. Katie M and I have a chat going with Amber so KM can give Amber a heads up when its ready for her to pull from



Karnes, Katherine L Friday 8:40 AM



I'll finish the articles estimate asap. We don't have a recent quote from Trevor but I can also put in a rough estimate for unigrids based on average cost of \$0.20 each.



Ollig, Paul J Friday 8:41 AM



thank you all!

Karnes, Katherine L Friday 8:50 AM



Those last two are entered

Mikulla, Katie Friday 9:45 AM Edited



I noticed Elizabeth added some waysides back into the spreadsheet that I didn't think we were including:

Waysides along park road: 1 at Mountain Vista loop, 1 at Toklat Rest Area and 1 at Wonder Lake. Cost estimate: GS-11 edits, production files, ordering \$360 for 6 hours; fabrication and shipping \$3538; B&U staff installation time, 3 hours \$65/hr \$195. **\$4453 total**

Excel in T:\Interp\Division Management\Planning\Denali to McKinley Name Change 2025

oops, standby...I hit enter too soon!

Mikulla, Katie Friday 9:55 AM



Those signs all still say Mount McKinley: Mountain Vista sign (along the loop trail), Toklat is a bronze plaque honoring Karstens and Wonder Lake is an old fiberglass wayside that is basically unreadable. I imagine we don't include these and maybe EB just pulled from the old spreadsheet list?...but asking in case that changed. Should we keep or remove?



Ollig, Paul J Friday 9:55 AM



yeah, let's not include these



Mikulla, Katie Friday 9:57 AM



Removed. I'll let Amber know the spreadsheet is ready to go



Mikulla, Katie Friday 10:09 AM



I see this was my bad for not updating the Excel spreadsheet (only the word doc), so I'm making sure it is up to date now! Just want to own the confusion I caused. 😬

Friday

Lindeman, Alex Q Friday 7:28 AM



i left a chat for katie karnes, but i am going through all your photo galleries to update the name

i am afraid i uploaded a ton of mountain photos all those years ago ...



Thanks! I wondered if there might be a search function to more easily find and update any phrases like "formerly Mt. McKinley" or just searching McKinley to see results? Her spreadsheet didn't indicate that that approach might have been thought of, rather that she just pulled together all pages that said "Denali"

Lindeman, Alex Q Friday 7:32 AM



the name of the park being denali makes that approach really difficult, but it's how i'll be double-checking my work in the photos via <https://www.nps.gov/media/multimedia-search.htm#sort=score+desc&q=denali>

you can also google "site:nps.gov/dena" "former mount mckinley" and derivations of that to search the site repeatedly but you really should just keep proceeding through katie's inventory spreadsheet

Friday 7:35 AM

Actually, doing that reminded me that that isn't really an effective search either since there are so many former Mt. McKinleys in reference to the park name too!



Lindeman, Alex Q Friday 7:36 AM



yeah the thorough approach you already planned on is best, albeit time consuming

Friday 7:36 AM

Thank you for helping! I'm still working on physical exhibit/wayside cost estimates with KM so I'll leave KK to her strategy and thanks for helping her





Beavers, Elizabeth K added Smigiel, Amber L and Mikulla, Katie to the chat.



Hey Amber and Katie - I just spoke with Paul and he let me know Amber has access to our name change inventory doc and will pull from it directly. Smigiel, Amber L it is still pretty messy and not final numbers, Katie and I need a little time to finish estimates and tidy up. Let us know what timeline you are working on. We're aiming for done with our estimating by tomorrow midday, if we need to accelerate, just let us know how fast.



I'll be away from my computer for a remit from ~1-3p today and then will catch up on messages

Friday

Friday 8:36 AM

My contributions and tidying up are all done. Two more media estimates going in there and then Katie M can give the 'all clear'. I'll be back at my computer at 2pm if there are questions. Amber, we know this is messier because it is a dual duty list - what you need to pull for briefing statement and our own internal task list for I&E



Mikulla, Katie Friday 9:41 AM



I just reviewed the list and have one question for something I think EB added...I'll highlight it in yellow. You can start pulling numbers, but if possible, can you hold off on the yellow highlighted part and I will ask Elizabeth once she is back at 2pm? Does that work for you, Amber? Or do you need it before then?

Mikulla, Katie Friday 9:57 AM



Okay, Paul confirmed to remove those so I did. Spreadsheet is ready for you Smigiel, Amber L



[EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov (b) (6) @yahoo.com

From no-reply@nps.gov <no-reply@nps.gov>
Date Tue 2/4/2025 5:21 PM
To DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>

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Use (b) (6) @yahoo.com to reply to this message

(b) (6)

ee the mountain name change on your maps as ordered by president trump (Mount McKinley)

[EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov: Incorrect Infomation on a Webpage

From no-reply@nps.gov <no-reply@nps.gov>
Date Thu 2/6/2025 3:26 PM
To DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>

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Use (b) (6)@protonmail.com to reply to this message

Category: Information

Hello, I noticed on your page for Denali National Park it notes that "Mount McKinley" being the tallest mountain in North America. I have no idea what mountain that is but the tallest mountain in North America is actually Denali! I would have thought the national park named after Denali would get that fact right. Hopefully you can get that fixed right away.

Re: Apologies sign for exhibits and kiosks

From Mikulla, Katie A <Katie_Mikulla@nps.gov>
Date Wed 2/5/2025 3:30 PM
To Beavers, Elizabeth K <Elizabeth_Beavers@nps.gov>; Ragland, Hannah B <hannah_ragland@nps.gov>

Hi Elizabeth,

If WVC team can print, laminate, and install in the MSLC region, that would be a big help! Katie and I will tackle the other kiosks next week.

Thanks,
Katie

From: Beavers, Elizabeth K <Elizabeth_Beavers@nps.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 4:33 PM
To: Mikulla, Katie A <Katie_Mikulla@nps.gov>; Ragland, Hannah B <hannah_ragland@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: Apologies sign for exhibits and kiosks

Hi Katie,

This looks good to me. No edits requested from me. If it helps media workload, I can have WVC team members print and laminate. They can definitely install in MSLC region and can be tagged to go to entrance sign and any other location you need. I'd task out at WVC meeting Thursday morning, if that helps you.

Elizabeth Beavers
Deputy Director of Interpretation and Education | Denali National Park and Preserve
Core hours: Monday to Thursday, e/o Friday 9am to 3pm
pronouns: she/her/hers

desk: 907-683-6224
cell: 907-229-5743
elizabeth_beavers@nps.gov

From: Mikulla, Katie A <Katie_Mikulla@nps.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 4:25 PM
To: Beavers, Elizabeth K <Elizabeth_Beavers@nps.gov>; Ragland, Hannah B <hannah_ragland@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: Apologies sign for exhibits and kiosks

Hey Elizabeth (and Hannah to keep in the loop),

Here's a draft for the bulletin kiosks and exhibits. I can edit the word "materials" to be more specific if needed. Designed to print on 8.5" x 11" as a sheet of 6.

Snapshot of one:



If these look good, we can work on printing (and laminating if needed) and getting them in place where needed.

Thanks,
Katie

From: Mikulla, Katie A <Katie_Mikulla@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 11:06 AM

To: Beavers, Elizabeth K <Elizabeth_Beavers@nps.gov>; Ragland, Hannah B <hannah_ragland@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: Apologies sign for exhibits and kiosks

Thanks for the example and wording. I'll work on putting something together this week.

COVID sticker templates are here if you need them: *T:\Interp\Ops Interp & VCs by District\Information Assistant\Summer 2020 Covid labels*
I just checked the Overthere and there is what seems to be a nearly full box of Avery 5161 labels (1"x4", 20 labels/sheet) in case you need them.

From: Beavers, Elizabeth K <Elizabeth_Beavers@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 9:51 AM
To: Ragland, Hannah B <hannah_ragland@nps.gov>; Mikulla, Katie A <Katie_Mikulla@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: Apologies sign for exhibits and kiosks

Thanks for sharing example. Definitely a powerful example but for a very different situation.

Let's skip any link at all at this time and go for streamlined, when Katie has time this week.

Stickers for publications may be something we can develop within WVC team without burdening Media team at this time. We should have old template from COVID times when we stickered summer guides. First step might be assigning someone from Ed/WVC team to round up boxes of sticker labels from MSLC, Overthere and DVC. We have to format from the type of sticker paper.

E

Elizabeth Beavers
Deputy Director of Interpretation and Education | Denali National Park and Preserve
Core hours: Monday to Thursday, e/o Friday 9am to 3pm
pronouns: she/her/hers

desk: 907-683-6224
cell: 907-229-5743
elizabeth_beavers@nps.gov

From: Ragland, Hannah B <hannah_ragland@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 9:38 AM
To: Beavers, Elizabeth K <Elizabeth_Beavers@nps.gov>; Mikulla, Katie A <Katie_Mikulla@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: Apologies sign for exhibits and kiosks

Attached is the photo from Cassie's training slides (I took a picture of her laptop screen during the presentation).

I think the language you used E is simple and straight, looks good to me. Perhaps the link could go to the mountain name article on our website (once updated?).

I would love it if we could put stickers on Jr Ranger booklets rather than reprinting, if we can.
Hannah

From: Beavers, Elizabeth K <Elizabeth_Beavers@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 9:05 AM
To: Ragland, Hannah B <hannah_ragland@nps.gov>; Mikulla, Katie A <Katie_Mikulla@nps.gov>
Subject: Apologies sign for exhibits and kiosks

Hi Hannah and Katie,

Hannah, could you share the image of Cassie Anderson's exhibit notice from the fall training? We'll develop something similar for Denali to address instances where using a label maker or sticker isn't the right fit for a correction.

Katie, I was thinking of something a little bigger than a business card, but with a layout that would allow us to print 4-6 on 8.5x11 and be legible. How does that sound?

Draft text to be as universal as possible in application. Feel free to suggest edits: "This panel is under revision to update the mountain's name to Mount McKinley. Thank you for your patience."

Elizabeth

Elizabeth Beavers
Deputy Director of Interpretation and Education | Denali National Park and Preserve
Core hours: Monday to Thursday, e/o Friday 9am to 3pm
pronouns: she/her/hers

desk: 907-683-6224
cell: 907-229-5743
elizabeth_beavers@nps.gov



Beavers, Elizabeth 1/21 9:14 AM

Do you have time for a quick teams call re social media and mountain name?

1/21 9:15 AM

Sure

Mikulla, Katie 1/27 3:50 PM



Hey Katie, would you invite Paul to our Wednesday media meeting? I just talked to him and I think it would be good for us all to touch base before he is gone

We'll plan to talk strategy for updating the mountain name, so any info you can bring (especially about the anticipated workload involved with the website) could be helpful.



1/27 4:02 PM

Will do!



Mikulla, Katie 1/29 2:24 PM

Is there anything we'd need to update in the App? I think it mostly pulls from our web data, but I just wanted to check in case there is anything app specific

1/29 2:33 PM

It does mostly pull from the web content, but there's one category of locations in there I think called "places to see Denali" or something like that, so that's a good thought. I'll add it to the list





Conroy, Dawn A Wednesday 2:12 PM

I have a collection of pdfs with suggestions made on the document itself. It seemed like EB thought you might want to have access to those...? Here's the path: T:\Interp\MSLC\Education Programs_Administration\Mountain Name Changes

Sorry...these are regarding the name change. I recognize you're not sitting next to me in my addled brain right now. 😄

Wednesday 2:50 PM

Thanks Dawn! It may be a bit until we get to the PDFs since we're starting with high visibility webpages first, but these will definitely be helpful as we work through everything.





Miller, Emily K Thursday 11:01 AM

Hi just a little clarification. Would you like us to be editing the website to wording like climbing "the mountain" or Climbing "Mt. McKinley"

Thursday 11:06 AM

Generally if it's an instance where the wording is currently Denali, then it should be changed to Mount McKinley. If it already says "the mountain" that's fine to stay.



Taylor, Russell B Thursday 11:45 AM



I just finished page 302 Clean Mountain Cans. I changed the body of the page, but at the bottom there are a couple of links to other pages that need changes. Do I change on this page, or will those titles change when changed on a upper tier page, if that makes sense.



And do I mark changes as major, or does it make much difference if I uncheck that box?

Furthermore, in some places I did not change Denali to McKinley, I simply took the word off entirely. For example instead of Denali mountaineering rangers, I changed it to mountaineering rangers (this way we won't have to change it back in four years, or whenever) Thoughts on that?

(i guess technically they are still Denali mountaineering rangers)

Thursday 11:55 AM

Those titles and links will update automatically when the pages themselves are updated, so no need to do anything about them. Good question! And it makes no difference whatsoever if we mark the changes as major or not, either is fine.

That example looks great to leave it as mountaineering rangers. But generally and in most cases, if it's an instance where the name Denali is currently being used specifically to refer to the mountain, then we should change it to Mount McKinley. But again in that particular example, what you did is fine so you can definitely use your judgement if there are other situations like that. Stay tuned for a follow up email to everyone shortly, I'm in the process of confirming whether it should be written as "Mount McKinley" or "Mt. McKinley", but it should not be shortened to just McKinley.



Taylor, Russell B Thursday 12:04 PM



oh! Good catch, I'll await word on that.

Pearson, Quinn E Thursday 11:35 AM

QP
ⓧ

Hey! Just to clarify- are we styling it as Mount McKinley or Mt. McKinley?

Thursday 11:49 AM

Hey, thanks for the good question, I should have specified that! I believe it should be Mount McKinley, but I'm double checking with supervisors on that. I'll send out an update to everyone shortly.



Pearson, Quinn E Thursday 12:04 PM

QP
ⓧ

I'm done with my assigned section and still have a good amount of prep time. Would it be helpful for me to start going through the pages after 350?

Thursday 12:08 PM

You're awesome!!! Thanks so much. You can absolutely work on more pages if you have the time. I'm coordinating with Maureen in Talkeetna on some of the mountaineering pages (there's a chunk of them from 357-365), but any others past 350 are fair game.



Pearson, Quinn E Thursday 12:12 PM

QP
ⓧ

Sounds good!

Reed, Patricia L Thursday 12:24 PM

PR

If we find webpages that need a name change that aren't on the list, should I send them to you or add them to the inventory spreadsheet?

Thursday 12:27 PM

You can send it to me for now and I'll add it. I know the articles are missing and am working on adding those, but if it's something else would be helpful to know what else I might need to check on!

Reed, Patricia L Thursday 12:28 PM

PR

[Alaska \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)



Alaska (U.S. National Park Service)

Alaska

www.nps.gov



I'm not sure if this in our bucket or not

Thursday 12:29 PM

Oh yeah, we won't be able to update that one ourselves, I'll reach out to the regional web folks. There are likely some other regionally-managed pages like that too. Thanks for mentioning it



Reed, Patricia L Thursday 12:30 PM

PR

I figured that might be the case. Thanks!

Thursday

Thursday 1:38 PM

Quick question related to the mountain name change website work... Is there any way to have forwarding set up for a page on nps.gov? Like a URL redirect? We have a webpage that needs to be deactivated for now, but our PAO was wondering if we could have it redirect to our homepage rather than displaying the page-in-progress note.

Zaragoza, Guadalupe Thursday 1:40 PM



yes, go ahead and put in a tech assist. Please cc me. [NPS Technical Assistance](#)

Edited

They can do web URL redirects but it's resource heavy so I think they do some and don't do others.



Thursday 1:41 PM

Awesome, thanks

Zaragoza, Guadalupe Thursday 1:42 PM



Regarding the DENA name change. EDS can and has created custom queries to locate pages containing specific elements (e.g. NPMMap elements) or terms within fields and provided them to Regional Web Coordinators, et alia upon request by support tickets. **We'd be happy to do so for you now, of course.**

I don't know if that would help you.

Thursday 1:47 PM

Okay, that's good to know. I'm not sure we need something like that right now, but will definitely keep it in mind as we complete the first round of updates and start digging deeper into things.



Grahn, Christopher E Thursday 2:16 PM



Hiya Katie, Just poking through my designated DENA webpages and so far no changes needed to be made. I did have one question regarding your most recent email out to the team. For the old "Mt. McKinley" text that is on certain pages already, do we also have to change those too. For example, "waypoints along the former Mt. McKinley NP boundary". I'm leaning towards no because that's the original name of the old park.

Thursday 2:19 PM

Yeah, it's fine to leave any old text like that, no problem. Thanks for checking, and for your help looking through all these pages!

Grahn, Christopher E Thursday 2:20 PM



Sounds good. One page at a time, more eyes the better too.



Smigiel, Amber L Thursday 12:53 PM



is that name page down because you are working on it or are we waiting for guidance when to make it live?

Thursday 1:19 PM

I talked to Paul about that one yesterday and we decided to deactivate it until we're ready to make updates and republish it. Because the whole focus of the page is the history of the name, there was no quick way to just update the name. It will need larger edits and more guidance on how the park is talking about that going forward

Smigiel, Amber L Thursday 1:51 PM



Redirect is good!



Thursday 1:52 PM

Will submit the ticket now!



Thursday 11:45 AM

Do you have any styling thoughts on how to write Mount McKinley vs Mt. McKinley for formal/published use? The park guides are asking and I hadn't thought about it yet. I lean towards spelling it out as "Mount" and it looks like that's what we used consistently on the now-deactivated page about the name history, but just wanted to check and make sure we're on the same page.

Mikulla, Katie Thursday 12:08 PM



yes, I agree let's go with what was in the old style guide: "Mount McKinley" should be spelled out rather than abbreviated "Mt. McKinley," except when following established cartographic conventions on maps



Thursday 12:10 PM

Perfect, I hadn't checked the old style guide. Thanks!



Thursday

Thursday 1:38 PM

Quick question related to the mountain name change website work... Is there any way to have forwarding set up for a page on nps.gov? Like a URL redirect? We have a webpage that needs to be deactivated for now, but our PAO was wondering if we could have it redirect to our homepage rather than displaying the page-in-progress note.

Zaragoza, Guadalupe Thursday 1:40 PM



yes, go ahead and put in a tech assist. Please cc me. [NPS Technical Assistance](#)

Edited

They can do web URL redirects but it's resource heavy so I think they do some and don't do others.



Thursday 1:41 PM

Awesome, thanks

Zaragoza, Guadalupe Thursday 1:42 PM



Regarding the DENA name change. EDS can and has created custom queries to locate pages containing specific elements (e.g. NPMMap elements) or terms within fields and provided them to Regional Web Coordinators, et alia upon request by support tickets. **We'd be happy to do so for you now, of course.**

I don't know if that would help you.

Thursday 1:47 PM

Okay, that's good to know. I'm not sure we need something like that right now, but will definitely keep it in mind as we complete the first round of updates and start digging deeper into things.



Popovic, Damian Friday 10:31 AM



Hey Katie, quick question! I found a feature grid on the "Understanding Denali" subsite that features the "Denali or Mount McKinley" subsite you're still working on. Did you want me to simplify the feature grid by removing that link and leaving the remaining one about the mountain's geology?

This is the link to the subsite in question:

<https://www.nps.gov/dena/meanings.htm>



Understanding Denali - Denali National Park & ...

Home to North America's tallest peak, Denali has been a mecca for mountaineering and adventuring for more than...

www.nps.gov

Friday 10:33 AM

Yeah, that "Denali or McKinley" page is gonna be down for a while it's looking like, so let's go ahead and remove the link and just keep the geology one. Thanks!

Popovic, Damian Friday 10:33 AM



Sounds good, will do! Thanks for the quick response!

The audio-visual feature on that page includes mention of the mountain's name. I don't know how to edit the description on audio-visual elements (at least not quite yet), so I just made note of it on the excel sheet.



Friday 10:36 AM

That's totally fine, I'll go back through the notes to take care of stuff like that



Popovic, Damian Friday 10:47 AM



I'll probably get back to this another time though given I can't seem to make any meaningful progress due to the CMS hiccups this morning. 🤪



Popovic, Damian Friday 2:46 PM



Afternoon Katie! Just dropping in to discuss a more debatable use of Denali. On the following page, it's hard for me to decipher whether or not Denali is being used specifically regarding the mountain or the park entire. What are your thoughts?

<https://www.nps.gov/dena/planyourvisit/books.htm>



Recommended Reading List - Denali National P...

www.nps.gov

Edited

I've decided to rephrase the first sentence to read:

"Whether you are preparing for an expedition, or simply wish to learn more about Denali National Park's mountaineering history, there is no shortage of good books on the topic."

The two lists below use titles that include a more ambiguous reading of the name Denali.

Friday 3:59 PM

Hey Damian, sorry for the delay! That looks good for the intro. The only spot that I would change on that page is the first subheader below the intro, "Mountaineering Guide Books Specific to Mount McKinley and the Alaska Range", that one does read to me like it's specifically referring to the mountain.

Popovic, Damian Friday 4:00 PM



Perfect! Thanks for putting eyes on it, appreciate the notes.

Popovic, Damian Friday 4:05 PM



Final time I'll be reaching out to you today - promise! Any ideas what may be happening to this link? I had access to it yesterday, but it's completely incapable of opening today. Not sure if it has to do with the ongoing CMS issues.

<https://www.nps.gov/dena/planyourvisit/annual-mountaineering-summaries-2020s.htm>

Friday 4:07 PM

Hmm yeah I'm getting a 503 error there, looks related to the CMS issues. Leave a note and I can go back to that one next week!

Popovic, Damian Friday 4:07 PM



Cool deal. I'll just keep my initials and notes blank on that one for now.



It had many MANY instances of the name Denali, so definitely worth double checking once it's working again.



Drain, Jessica D Friday 1:17 PM



Hi Katie, do references to Denali in this patrol report from 2017 need to be changed? A patrol report seems like it might be a similar situation to a news release or blog, but if not I can change it: [Kahiltna Patrol Report - Denali National Park & Preserve \(U.S. National Park Service\) - Denali Dispatches](#)

Friday 1:21 PM

Yeah, I don't think that needs to be changed, but I'm checking with Paul on a few other similar situations. You can just leave a note and I'll go back to it if needed. Thanks!



Drain, Jessica D Friday 4:59 PM



Hi Katie, on [The First Ascent of Denali: Digital Exhibits - Denali National Park & Preserve \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#) page, there are some references to Denali that I'm not sure about. I'm assuming we don't change Denali in the quote by Hudson Stuck, but what about in the Legend of Denali? That feels like a cultural reference. There's also a link to a UAF "Denali Mountaineering" page. Should that change? Thanks for your help!

I also had the same question about the Legend of Denali in [Educational Resources - Denali National Park & Preserve \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#). And what about the Denali: the High One handout - do we change the name of the link before we change the handout itself?

Thanks again!

Friday 5:12 PM

Yep I agree, the quote and legend can stay as is. The UAF link can also stay since that's the title of their project/page. For the Ed Resources, let's not change the link yet until we have a new title, but please leave a note in the spreadsheet so I remember to go back to it later after the handout is updated. Thank you!



Beavers, Elizabeth Friday 7:10 AM Edited



Alex offered to help and will reach out to you directly. I think website name change edits are our top priority *right now* so please do take advantage of his offer of time.



Lindeman, Alex Q Friday 6:35 AM



i am feeling bad just how many references you have to change, so i took the liberty of going into NPGallery to start updating photo descriptions. yell at me if you want me to stop! i also bugged the NPMMap team about ensuring the NPMMap basemaps are updated, I'll tag you on that ticket if that's how they want to handle it (waiting on a response from Christie, she leads that team and is organized here in NISC with me)

Lindeman, Alex Q Friday 8:10 AM



also fyi, i generated a list of shared content pages that are tagged DENA and added them to the inventory sheet you're using (elizabeth just shared with me). i can help look through those after i get out of your photo galleries if you'd like. i imagine most don't name the mountain but i bet a few do

Friday 9:02 AM

You're awesome, thank you!!! If you have time after the photo galleries I'd be glad to have any help with the shared content! Park guides are also helping with the webpages so I'll let them know about the shared content and they will hopefully be able to help tackle that too.



Lindeman, Alex Q Friday 9:02 AM



will do. fyi there are suddenly a bunch of 504 errors across all environments right now

EDS is looking into it but it's intermittent, so if you hit a 504 error, usually a refresh or two gets rid of it ... but it's very annoying

Friday 9:03 AM

convenient lol, thanks for the heads up

Lindeman, Alex Q Friday 9:04 AM



no kidding 😄



Lindeman, Alex Q Friday 1:36 PM

i'm guessing you already went through all of structured data? or would you like me to comb through that?

Friday 1:43 PM

I've been through all of it except for the A/V library I believe. Obviously the actual videos will be a separate project but I think there are some descriptions that might need updating. But I can get to those if you don't, I appreciate all the time you've already spent on this!



Lindeman, Alex Q Friday 1:44 PM

for sure! i think the photo galleries are all good to go now, i was cursing myself for uploading so many photos of that mountain over the years ...



Friday 1:45 PM

It's too bad it's just so photogenic!



Today



Lindeman, Alex Q 7:23 AM

just FYI, although photogallery assets have been updated, there is still a caching issue we're working through, where some users see McKinley and others see the pre-edited text, e.g.,



i'm working with the developers to find a fix

Re: DVC Campus Mountain Report

From Beavers, Elizabeth K <Elizabeth_Beavers@nps.gov>
Date Wed 1/29/2025 3:12 PM
To Popovic, Damian <damian_popovic@nps.gov>
Cc Taylor, Russell B <Russell_Taylor@nps.gov>

Wonderful, thank you for taking the time!

Pretty funny about the "Two great destinations" panel, we've clearly been dragging our feet on that one forever 😊

Elizabeth Beavers
Deputy Director of Interpretation and Education | Denali National Park and Preserve
Core hours: Monday to Thursday, e/o Friday 9am to 3pm
pronouns: she/her/hers

desk: 907-683-6224
cell: 907-229-5743
elizabeth_beavers@nps.gov

From: Popovic, Damian <damian_popovic@nps.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 3:08 PM
To: Beavers, Elizabeth K <Elizabeth_Beavers@nps.gov>
Cc: Taylor, Russell B <Russell_Taylor@nps.gov>
Subject: DVC Campus Mountain Report

Howdy Elizabeth,

As requested, Russ and I completed a comprehensive review of all the auxiliary info panels around the DVC campus beyond those you've already noted. These were the only two instances of the name Denali (in reference to the mountain) that were discovered during this review:

- Outdoor Trailhead Info Panel "Selecting A Trail" (behind DVC): The description for the Mount Healy Overlook trail mentions a chance to view Denali.
- Indoor Atrium Island Panel "Plan A Hike": Under the list of suggestions for folks planning a hike that's under one hour, the panel lists Mountain Vista as an option with potential views of Denali.

Curiously, the gazebo panel titled "Two Great Destinations" uses the name Mt. McKinley! However, not sure if we plan on keeping that panel up while Eielson Visitor Center remains closed (but we've already gone three years, so what's another three or four years going to do!). Hope the levity helps!

Cheers!
Damian

Damian Popovic
Park Guide | Denali National Park and Preserve
Pronouns: He/Him/His | [Why Pronouns Matter](#)



Re: Help Needed: Name Change Webpage Updates

From Karnes, Katherine L <katherine_karnes@nps.gov>

Date Fri 1/31/2025 10:15 AM

To Drain, Jessica D <jessica_drain@nps.gov>; Grahn, Christopher E <christopher_grahn@nps.gov>; Miller, Emily K <emily_miller@nps.gov>; Pearson, Quinn E <quinn_pearson@partner.nps.gov>; Popovic, Damian <damian_popovic@nps.gov>; Taylor, Russell B <Russell_Taylor@nps.gov>

Cc Beavers, Elizabeth K <Elizabeth_Beavers@nps.gov>; Ragland, Hannah B <hannah_ragland@nps.gov>; Mikulla, Katie A <Katie_Mikulla@nps.gov>

Good morning all,

Thanks for the amazing start on reviewing webpages yesterday! Two updates:

1 - The CMS is experiencing issues across nps.gov this morning, with intermittent 503 and 504 errors that are making it very slow, sometimes impossible to edit webpages. The issue is being worked on, I'll let you know when it seems to be working normally again.

2 - We've finished inventorying all of the relevant "shared content" pages (e.g. Articles, Things to Do pages, etc.) that also fall under our purview even though the URL doesn't include "dena". I added them to the bottom of the spreadsheet and unfortunately... there are another 600+ pages in this batch. If you finish your assigned 50 pages and have additional time, I would welcome any help starting at row 480 and working down.

Katie

--

Katie Karnes (she/her)

Digital Media Specialist

Denali National Park and Preserve

Office: 907-683-6392

From: Karnes, Katherine L <katherine_karnes@nps.gov>

Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2025 12:12 PM

To: Drain, Jessica D <jessica_drain@nps.gov>; Grahn, Christopher E <christopher_grahn@nps.gov>; Miller, Emily K <emily_miller@nps.gov>; Pearson, Quinn E <quinn_pearson@partner.nps.gov>; Popovic, Damian <damian_popovic@nps.gov>; Taylor, Russell B <Russell_Taylor@nps.gov>

Cc: Beavers, Elizabeth K <Elizabeth_Beavers@nps.gov>; Ragland, Hannah B <hannah_ragland@nps.gov>; Mikulla, Katie A <Katie_Mikulla@nps.gov>

Subject: Re: Help Needed: Name Change Webpage Updates

One clarification: Please spell out the full name of the mountain as "Mount McKinley".

Thanks for the good questions, keep them coming!

--

Katie Karnes (she/her)

From: Karnes, Katherine L

Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2025 9:55 AM

To: Drain, Jessica D <jessica_drain@nps.gov>; Grahn, Christopher E <christopher_grahn@nps.gov>; Miller, Emily K <emily_miller@nps.gov>; Pearson, Quinn E <quinn_pearson@partner.nps.gov>; Popovic, Damian <damian_popovic@nps.gov>; Taylor, Russell B <Russell_Taylor@nps.gov>

Cc: Beavers, Elizabeth K <Elizabeth_Beavers@nps.gov>; Ragland, Hannah B <hannah_ragland@nps.gov>; Mikulla, Katie A <Katie_Mikulla@nps.gov>

Subject: Help Needed: Name Change Webpage Updates

Park Guides and Quinn,

With so many newly minted web authors (hooray!), I'd like to ask for your help making name change updates online. Updating the website is one of our highest priorities for the name change because of how visible and far-reaching it is.


In short, there are about 480 webpages that need to be reviewed (excluding old news releases, blog posts, etc. that we don't need to retroactively update). I've divided the list into chunks of 50 pages per person so that folks aren't overlapping work with each other.

Some pages will be quick reads with no edits needed, while others will require more time, but on average I'm hoping it won't take more than 5–10 minutes per page. There's no hard deadline on this, but any progress you can make during your prep time is appreciated. Check with your supervisor if you have questions about prioritizing prep time and projects.

For each page, please:

1. Read the page, looking for any instances of Denali that refer to the mountain and not the park. If edits are needed, publish them.

In addition to the main text on each page, don't forget to also check things like photo captions and "content promos" (the four square images with text and links that are in the footer of some pages). You do *not* need to review any PDFs or other files that may be linked on your pages. (I'll be working through uploaded files separately, but webpages are the first priority to address.) Interactive maps will also be addressed separately. If there are any images, such as static maps, on the page with Denali labeled, please make a note in the spreadsheet so we can return to those later.

2. In the  [Webpage Inventory for Name Change.xlsx](#) spreadsheet, initial the first column to mark that you've read and reviewed the page, and then mark Yes or N/A in the second column to indicate whether or not any edits needed to be made, along with any other notes if needed.

Rows 51-100 – Drain

Rows 101-150 – Chris

Rows 151-200 – Quinn

Rows 201-250 – Emily

Rows 251-300 – Damian

Rows 301-350 – Russ

If you encounter any situations that you're not sure how to handle, feel free to skip the page and leave a note in the spreadsheet for me. I'm bouncing around the list to start updating the highest priority/most visited pages immediately, so you may notice that I've already taken care of some pages in your section as well.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!! And please reach out with any questions.

Katie

--

Katie Karnes (she/her)

Digital Media Specialist

Denali National Park and Preserve

Office: 907-683-6392

DENA Requires HFC Cart Team Make Update to Denali / Mount McKinley

From Lindeman, Alex Q <Alex_Lindeman@nps.gov>

Date Fri 1/31/2025 9:04 AM

To HFC Cartography, NPS <HFC_Cartography@nps.gov>

Cc Karnes, Katherine L <katherine_karnes@nps.gov>

Hi HFC carto team –

Can you please let Katie and I know how to request that HFC update the map that is being ingested on www.nps.gov/dena/planyourvisit/maps.htm? The administration requires the name of North America's tallest mountain "Denali" be changed to "Mount McKinley," and I do believe we need you all to tackle the update for that map. Nothing about the park name will change of course, just the label of the mountain on the map.

Thanks!

Best –

Alex Lindeman
IT Specialist / Section 508 Program Coordinator

Business/Customer Relationship Management (BCRM) Branch
National Information Services Center (NISC)
Information Resources Management Directorate (IRMD)
WASO

Re: Name change stickers

From: Ragland, Hannah B hannah_ragland@nps.gov

To: Mikulla, Katie A Katie_Mikulla@nps.gov

Date: Tue, Feb 4, 2025, 11:29 AM



Screenshot 2025-02-04 112629.png 15 KB

Katie,

These are stickers we are looking at using for print materials (specifically the kid info sheets), while we wait for guidance on print materials. Can you take a look and let me know if you think this is adequate, or if we should simplify it further?

Thanks!

Hannah Ragland

MSLC & Education Program Manager

Denali National Park and Preserve

pronouns: she/her/hers

desk: 907-683-6436

hannah_ragland@nps.gov

I am honored and privileged to live in and assist in the stewardship of the traditional homelands of the Benhti Kenaga', Denaakk'e, Dena'ina, Dichinane' Hwt'ana, and Hwtsaay Hwt'aene.

From: Mikulla, Katie A Katie_Mikulla@nps.gov

To: Ragland, Hannah B hannah_ragland@nps.gov

Date: Tue, Feb 4, 2025, 12:04 PM

Hi Hannah,

Thank you for drafting this! My two cents: I would consider wordsmithing it for more clarity. The way it is currently written, it sounds like references to "Mount McKinley" are being updated, but really, it's references to the mountain Denali are being updated to Mount McKinley. It also says "some" printed references are being

updated, but I imagine we are working to get all of them updated—is this because we also talk about the Koyukon Athabaskan name of the mountain being "Denali"?

So, maybe rephrase it to something like this:

Updates in Progress

These materials are currently under revision to update the mountain's official name from Denali to Mount McKinley.

Thank you for your patience.

Feel free to continue to wordsmith, too!

Hope that helps. I'm available to chat through it more if needed.

Let me know what you end up using.

-Katie

2 Emails



Mt. McKinley updates

From LeBel, Jim P <Jim_LeBel@nps.gov>

Date Wed 1/29/2025 9:21 AM

To Ollig, Paul J <Paul_Ollig@nps.gov>

Hi Paul,

Can you please where Interpretation is at with beginning to make any name changes on digital media (ie. the website)?

Thanks,
Jim

Jim LeBel
Commercial Services Team Lead
Denali National Park and Preserve
Office: 907-683-6390



Re: DENA Unigrid: Denali mountain name changing back to Mt. McKinley

From Bentz, Trevor <Trevor_Bentz@nps.gov>

Date Tue 1/28/2025 12:06 PM

To Mikulla, Katie <Katie_Mikulla@nps.gov>

Cc Karnes, Katherine L <katherine_karnes@nps.gov>; Ollig, Paul J <Paul_Ollig@nps.gov>

Hi Katie and team,

We are very short-staffed, and changes are taking us on average six to seven months (plus probably an extra month for transit to DENA), but if this is the only change we could likely expedite this order. I'll check with my boss and our reprint committee tomorrow.

Best,

Trevor

Trevor Bentz (she/her)

Reprint Program Manager, Publications Office

Harpers Ferry Center for Media Services

67 Mather Place or PO Box 50

Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

(office-forwarded to cell) 304-535-6414

<http://www.nps.gov/hfc>

Find Unigrid processes, FAQs, and accessible alternatives; park-produced publication resources; and more on the [HFC Publications SharePoint site](#) (NPS access only)

2025 Funding Changes for the Unigrid Brochure Program – In 2023 Associate Director for IEV, Tom Medema, sent a Field Memo about changes in the cost-sharing model for printed copies of Unigrid brochures. Due to the ongoing decline in available funding for printing and shipping, HFC will require parks to pay for printing and shipping costs for all copies of Unigrid brochures beginning in FY2025.

HFC will continue to cover the cost of GPO contract management, planning, design, development, and production including writing, editing, cartography, use-rights fees, project management, and archiving.

From: Mikulla, Katie <Katie_Mikulla@nps.gov>

Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 8:21 PM

To: Bentz, Trevor <Trevor_Bentz@nps.gov>

Cc: Karnes, Katherine L <katherine_karnes@nps.gov>; Ollig, Paul J <Paul_Ollig@nps.gov>

Subject: DENA Unigrid: Denali mountain name changing back to Mt. McKinley

Hi Trevor,

As you may have heard, there was an [executive order](#) issued last week that says in Section 3 part (b):

Within 30 days of the date of this order, the Secretary of the Interior shall, consistent with 43 U.S.C. 364 through 364f, reinstate the name "Mount McKinley." The Secretary shall subsequently update the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) to reflect the renaming and reinstatement of Mount McKinley. The national park area surrounding Mount McKinley shall retain the name Denali National Park and Preserve.

We know that DENA will need to make a Unigrid order this spring to have enough copies for the summer. I know edits typically take months--how likely is it that the mountain name would be able to be updated for the publication to hand out this summer? If not this summer, what is the estimated time for the edit?

Right now, we are just trying to gather information to come up with a plan either way.

Thank you for looking into it as we work to navigate this change.

Katie Mikulla
Visual Information Specialist - Interpretive Media
Denali National Park & Preserve
pronouns: she/her/hers

office: 907-683-6385
email: Katie_Mikulla@nps.gov

Denali National Park & Preserve is located in the homelands of the Benhti Kenaga', Denaakk'e, Dena'ina, Dichinane' Hwt'ana, and Hwtsaay Hwt'aene.



Re: Briefing on Denali name change

From Schirokauer, Dave W <Dave_Schirokauer@nps.gov>

Date Wed 1/29/2025 2:22 PM

To Ollig, Paul J <Paul_Ollig@nps.gov>; Smigiel, Amber L <amber_smigiel@nps.gov>

Cc Craver, Amy J <Amy_Craver@nps.gov>

While this is one level of briefing - we should not lose track of our obligation to share the deeper history. I suspect we have adequate web content on this topic, but I haven't checked lately.

Dave Schirokauer

Science and Resources Team Leader
Denali National Park and Preserve
907-612-0272 M

Denali National Park & Preserve is located in the homelands of the Benhti Kenaga', Denaakk'e, Dena'ina, Dichinanek' Hwt'ana, and Hwtsaay Hwt'aene

Every inward breath of mine was first breathed out by plants. In this material sense, in terms of what they've contributed to my physical being, they are as much my relatives as any family member I know.

– Zoë Schlanger from The Light Eaters



From: Ollig, Paul J <Paul_Ollig@nps.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 2:07 PM

To: Schirokauer, Dave W <Dave_Schirokauer@nps.gov>; Smigiel, Amber L <amber_smigiel@nps.gov>

Cc: Craver, Amy J <Amy_Craver@nps.gov>

Subject: Re: Briefing on Denali name change

I think the intent of this brief is pretty much only to illustrate the scope, scale, and cost of the name change, not to get into the context of it.

Paul Ollig

Director of Interpretation & Education | Denali National Park & Preserve
Office: 907-683-9531
Pronouns: he, him, his

"Climb the mountains and get their good tidings." -John Muir

From: Schirokauer, Dave W <Dave_Schirokauer@nps.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 2:03 PM

To: Smigielski, Amber L <amber_smigielski@nps.gov>; Ollig, Paul J <Paul_Ollig@nps.gov>

Cc: Craver, Amy J <Amy_Craver@nps.gov>

Subject: Briefing on Denali name change

Amber and Paul:

Amy shared some facts (thread below) about the different (but similar) Alaska Native Place Names for the mountain. Please consider this content when crafting the briefing mentioned in the DMT notes.

Thanks for considering,

Dave Schirokauer

Science and Resources Team Leader
Denali National Park and Preserve
907-612-0272 M

Denali National Park & Preserve is located in the homelands of the Benhti Kenaga', Denaakk'e, Dena'ina, Dichinane' Hwt'ana, and Hwtsaay Hwt'aene

Every inward breath of mine was first breathed out by plants. In this material sense, in terms of what they've contributed to my physical being, they are as much my relatives as any family member I know.

— Zoë Schlanger from The Light Eaters



From: Craver, Amy J <Amy_Craver@nps.gov>

Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2025 2:41 PM

To: Ollig, Paul J <Paul_Ollig@nps.gov>; Beavers, Elizabeth <Elizabeth_Beavers@nps.gov>; Mikulla, Katie <Katie_Mikulla@nps.gov>; Fink, Lisa A <lisa_fink@partner.nps.gov>; Schirokauer, Dave W <Dave_Schirokauer@nps.gov>

Cc: Gonzalez Negrete, Liz <elizabeth_gonzaleznegrete@nps.gov>; Arthur, Kimberly (Kim) <Kimberly_Arthur@nps.gov>; Cody, Vernon E <Vernon_Cody@nps.gov>; Merrell, Brooke <brooke_merrell@nps.gov>

Subject: Re: Denali Panel to Include at the DVC?

All:

Today I talked to Vern Carlson from Cantwell. Vern used to be on the Denali Subsistence Resource Commission, Vern has participated in some of our govt to govt meetings. I called him because I'm trying to set up a meeting between him and Cody and Brooke. We got to talking about the name of Denali and he mentioned that Denali is the Koyukon name for the mountain but in fact there are four other similar names/pronunciations for the mountain. After talking with Vern, I thought it would be cool, if possible, our interp/education/CR/subsistence team develop a panel for the DVC devoted to the 5 Athabaskan perspectives of the mountain that would include the 5 Native Names for the mountain - below are the five names that Vern passed on to me from the book, Shem Pete's Alaska. The third column is how to pronounce the name; however, not all the letters are correct because of the English font. Then I thought maybe we could include photos of the various vantage points of the mountain from Nikolai, Minchumina, Cantwell, the park, and Talkeetna (along with the appropriate native name/pronunciation). We could complete the panel with the Legend of Denali as told by the late first Chief of Nenana Mitch Demientieff --see below link to the legend (this kiosk/recording is located at the Eielson Visitor Center). This panel could serve an important message to visitors about the strong connection that AK Native people have to the mountain. Maybe there could be a mention to how it got named McKinley. It seems like this topic has now become of national interest and as a park it seems important for us to provide the Indigenous perspectives on the name of the mountain out of respect to the local tribes as well as to educate our visitors.

Koyukon	Deenaalee	/Di'naeli
Lower Tanana	Dinadhi	/Di'naedi
Ahtna	Dghelaay	/Dye/lcy 'ke?e
Dena'ina	Dghelay Ka'a	/Dye'lcy 'ke?e
Upper Kuskokwim	di'naezi?	/di'naezi

The Legend of Denali

<https://www.nps.gov/dena/learn/historyculture/legend-of-denali.htm>



The Legend of Denali - U.S. National Park Service

The late Chief Mitch Demientieff of Nenana, Alaska, reads an Athabascan legend about the origins of Denali, the Great One.

www.nps.gov

Amy Craver

Subsistence Coordinator/Cultural Anthropologist

Denali National Park and Preserve

907-342-2877; amy_craver@nps.gov

RE: [EXTERNAL] Mt McKinley question IMGD

From Lichneckert, Krista G <krista_lichneckert@nps.gov>

Date Fri 1/24/2025 8:27 AM

To Eric Simonson (b) (6) LeBel, Jim <Jim_LeBel@nps.gov>

Hi Eric,

Thanks for the question. I don't have much to share at this point. The mountain's name is currently Denali; the EO was issued ordering the name change but the change has not been finalized with the Secretary or the US Board on Geographic Names yet. I will share any information I can as soon as possible.

Thanks,

Krista Lichneckert
Concession Management Specialist
Denali National Park and Preserve
907-683-5752

From: Eric Simonson (b) (6)

Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 8:20 AM

To: Lichneckert, Krista G <krista_lichneckert@nps.gov>; LeBel, Jim <Jim_LeBel@nps.gov>

Cc: Eric Simonson <eric@MountainGuides.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mt McKinley question IMGD

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Hi Krista and Jim,

Eric here at IMG Denali with a question. Since the President's EO about name of Denali changing back to McKinley, we have already had a couple clients write us asking about it. Can you please provide some clarification for us. I understand that the name of the National Park is Denali, but is the name of the mountain Denali or McKinley?

Thanks, we appreciate your assistance.

Eric

Eric Simonson

(b) (6)

Fw: Mt. McKinley

From LeBel, Jim P <Jim_LeBel@nps.gov>
Date Wed 1/29/2025 9:16 AM
To Lichneckert, Krista G <krista_lichneckert@nps.gov>

From: Seay, Joni K <Joni_Seay@nps.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 9:13 AM
To: LeBel, Jim P <Jim_LeBel@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: Mt. McKinley

(b) (5)

Joni Seay
Commercial Services Program Lead
Interior Region 11 (Alaska)
907-644-3363

From: LeBel, Jim P <Jim_LeBel@nps.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 8:45 AM
To: Seay, Joni K <Joni_Seay@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: Mt. McKinley

Thank you!

(b) (5)

From: Seay, Joni K <Joni_Seay@nps.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 8:42 AM
To: LeBel, Jim P <Jim_LeBel@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: Mt. McKinley

(b) (5)

Joni Seay
Commercial Services Program Lead
Interior Region 11 (Alaska)
907-644-3363

From: LeBel, Jim <Jim_LeBel@nps.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 7:36 AM

To: Seay, Joni K <Joni_Seay@nps.gov>

Subject: Mt. McKinley

Hi Joni,

(b) (5)

Thanks,
Jim

Jim LeBel
Commercial Services Team Lead
Denali National Park and Preserve
Office: 907-683-6390

McKinley-Denali Name Change Inventory

Website

[Webpage Inventory for Name Change.xlsx](#)

480 DENA webpages + 687 DENA “shared content” pages = 1167 pages total. Estimate 5 minutes per page, 97 hours of GS-9 time for total cost of **\$4,631.**

- Park Guides and Quinn assisting with review.
- Online Jr Ranger program contains activities specific to the mountain – Dawn already analyzed this, and has a document with suggestions available.

Uploaded PDFs and other website documents: spreadsheet forthcoming. Approximately 250 documents to review. Estimate 10 minutes per file, 42 hours of GS-9 time for **\$1990.**

Additional web/digital tasks:

- App (negligible, no additional cost)
- NPMaps (estimate 4 hours GS-9 time, **\$191**)

Facilities

See notes under each facility for exhibit costs that can not be covered by in-house printing.

Materials for printing in-house exhibits: 1 roll sticker paper: **\$589** Plotter full set toner: **\$1580**

Denali Visitor Center

10 exhibit elements estimated at \$21,131.68 for design, fabrication and shipping. GS-11 Media Specialist file production work \$600. B&U installation \$650. Total cost **\$22,381.68**

Company: Split Rock

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Murie Science and Learning Center, Indoor Picnic Area

2 double sided exhibit elements estimated at \$538 for fabrication and shipping. \$130 for B&U installation. GS-11 Media Specialist file production work \$480. Total cost **\$1148**

Company: GraphicWorks

Full update list (I&E internal ref)

- Big map on the wall by the MSLC front desk
- “Where can I see Denali?” binder at MSLC front desk

- “Weather Report” tall rolling display in MSLC
- Park Films sign mentions “while climbing Denali” in MSLC
- A.I.R. art descriptions on MSLC classroom wall (two of them)
- IPA tall rolling display “Where to see Denali?” on highway
- EB notes, produced WVC panels with Graphicworks in 2018 bill on Sierra’s credit card

Kennels

Sled Room content does not need corrections. (KM) No cost

Eielson Visitor Center

17 Exhibit elements estimated at \$29,151.60 for design, fabrication and shipping. However, EVC is closed to the public and will be addressed through several projects for reroofing, exhibit repair and updates to exterior panels included in this estimate. Probably do not need to submit this cost as a separate item just for the name change, rather use the roof update and related projects to cover this change (including Media Specialist and Maintenance install labor).

Company: ColorAd

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Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station

In-house printing: Large printed Beran map and Photo captions for Washburn photos in great room

6 panel display in great room (18” x 27” will send images to Katie M.) \$100 materials; \$120.42 for 4 hours of GS11 time for edits and production = \$220.42 total

Waysides and wayfinding signs

Main trailhead panel, within Mt. Healy description. 7 panels = \$4,875 for panels; \$120.42 for 2 hours of GS11 time for edits, production files, ordering, B&U staff installation time: 7 hours, \$65/hr= \$455.

\$5445.42 total

Two tactile panels, Mile 11 and Mile 89. For two + shipping: \$7,250, plus B&U staff installation time: 2 hours, \$65/hr= \$130. \$7,380 total

Kiosks

Katie Mikulla made list for winter, summer here: Y:\Kiosks “Name Change edits List - 2025.docx” No estimates needed since part of normal ops to edit and print.

Publications

Unigrid

- Eventual decision on whether we use our current stock up or not. Consider using sticker labels.
- We currently have ~48,000 copies on hand (estimated based on late November 2024 inventory). Average cost of \$0.20 each for reprints, for a total cost to replace of \$9,600.
- I don't believe HFC charges for edits.

Junior Ranger Book – would need to order 17500, so approximately \$12000

- Eventual decision on whether we use our current stock up or not
- Option to put a sticker on each to mention name change and use up our current supply rather than immediately reprint.
- (last purchase: 9/4/24: \$8107.50 for 12000)
- Activity 7, Junior Mountaineer and Activity 12, Measuring Up.

Mountaineering Jr Ranger booklet (around 1,000 per order \$1500.)

- Used at Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station

Kid Info Sheets – Would need to order 2050 sheets, so approximately \$350

- (last purchase: 8/28/24: \$594.96 for 4000 sheets)
- Denali Overview for Students – two instances
- Denali The High One – multiple instances
 - Pull from mailing for now, until we evaluate language use
- Denali Wildlife – one change (perhaps unnecessary)

Discovery Packs - Would need to order 1400, so approximately \$1400

- (last purchase: 8/4/23: \$979.50 for 1000).
- Discovery Pack Booklet – one edit
- Giant Gliding Glaciers – two instances. Document was published in 2014. - in-house printing. Could serve as an example of how things were done prior to 2015 with both names in use.

Films

Most feature films were created prior to 2015. Park Guide staff to evaluate, but we are not cost estimating changes. We'll put needed changes on the Videographer's task list if any films need updates.

- True Heart of Winter: No mention of mountain (PR)

Reviewer instructions: watch films and record the time stamp of potential corrections needed. List film when you watch it and whether or not it needs to be updated. Initial your review.

Programming

Distance Learning: no cost

- Lessons from the Land
- Denali Q&A
- Science of Sled Dogs

Learning Labs no cost

- Birds of Denali – one instance

Messaging Needs

Talking points document – Paul start draft, Elizabeth support and Paul link with Tucker & Mary

Template email responses

Future: Review template programs on Tdrive

Future: Address best practices for topic of names in programs, including Alaska Native Placenames.

Future: The Manual (index might be able to help identify Denali the mountain instances by page number) and seasonal training.

Cost Estimates: Labor

- GS-9 / 2: \$3,820 per PP, or \$47.75 per hour (including KK benefits)
 - GS-9 / 3: \$3,944 per PP, or \$49.30 per hour (starts in June 2025)
- GS-11/3: \$4,817 per PP, or \$60.21 per hour (including KM benefits)
 - GS-11/4: \$4,966 per PP, or \$62.08 per hour (starts Jan 2026)
- B&U staff for physical sign and exhibit install, \$65/hr and one hour per sign

Smigiel, Amber L

From: Smigiel, Amber L
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 1:54 PM
To: Jayme Moyer
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Interview for Outside magazine

Hi, Jayme! I'm forwarding your request to the NPS communications office in DC.

From: Jayme Moyer (b) (6) @gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 1:47 PM
To: Smigiel, Amber L <amber_smigiel@nps.gov>
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Interview for Outside magazine

Hi Amber,
Please see below. Thank you!
Jayme Moyer | Adventure Journalist (b) (6) .com | (b) (6)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Chenoweth, Tucker <Tucker_Chenoweth@nps.gov>
Date: Tue, Jan 21, 2025 at 2:29 PM
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Interview for Outside magazine
To: Jayme Moyer (b) (6) @gmail.com>

Good afternoon Jayme. Please reach out to our public information officer, Amber Smigiel for comment.
amber_smigiel@nps.gov

Thank you,

Tucker Chenoweth | South District Ranger
Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station | PO Box 588 Talkeetna, AK 99676
Denali National Park and Preserve
Office: 907-733-9109 | **Fax:** 907-733-1465

From: Jayme Moyer (b) (6) @gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 11:10 AM
To: Chenoweth, Tucker <Tucker_Chenoweth@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Interview for Outside magazine

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Hi Tucker,

I'm the news columnist for Outside magazine. We're running a story online about Denali's name being changed back to McKinley. I understand it's not the name of the National Park that's changing, just the peak. What I'm wondering is how climbers/mountaineers/guides/staff over in Alaska are reacting to the mountain's name being changed again.

Can you share some insights with me for the story? Or recommend someone who can?

I'm looking to set up 10-minute phone interviews this afternoon and tomorrow.

Thank you for any assistance you can provide!

All the best,
Jayme

Jayme Moye | Adventure Journalist (b) (6) [.com](#) | (b) (6)

Smigiel, Amber L

From: Smigiel, Amber L
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 3:34 PM
To: Merrell, Brooke; Ollig, Paul J
Subject: FYI : [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov (b) (6) @gmail.com

I assume there is no guidance for this and that we shouldn't respond with anything?

From: Millman, Jess M <jess_millman@nps.gov> **On Behalf Of** DENA Info, NPS
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 3:30 PM
To: Smigiel, Amber L <amber_smigiel@nps.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov (b) (6) @gmail.com

Hi Amber,

We have received a few correspondences like this. How would you like to proceed with inquiries like this? How can we validate their concern and give them specific information and resources to pursue what they are looking to do?

Thank you!
Millman

Denali National Park and Preserve
907-683-9532
9 am - 4 pm Alaska Time

Find us on:
Facebook: www.facebook.com/DenaliNPS
Instagram: www.instagram.com/DenaliNPS
Twitter: www.twitter.com/DenaliNPS
Flickr: www.flickr.com/DenaliNPS
YouTube: www.youtube.com/DenaliNPS

From: no-reply@nps.gov <no-reply@nps.gov>
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2025 10:38 PM
To: DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] From NPS.gov (b) (6) @gmail.com

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Email submitted from: (b) (6) @gmail.com at /dena/contacts.htm

Use (b) (6) @gmail.com to reply to this message

Category: Other

Mailing Address:

(b) (6)

United States

We have sent the letter below to all of the politicians we can. Please tell us where we can send our letter to stop Trump's name change of Denali. Dear friends, I do not like the idea of Trump changing the name of Mount Denali to McKinley. We go to Alaska fairly often since our middle child and family (two grandchildren) live there. Everyone refers to Mt. McKinley (this was before it was changed back to Denali by President Obama) as Denali. The native's name, Denali, means "the Great One." I believe we should keep and restore this beautiful name—a name so expressive of the mountains themselves, and so symbolic of the Indians who bestowed them. The Alaskans (my daughter in love is one of them) want the name, "Denali" to stay. McKinley has nothing to do with Alaska to begin with, he was a presidential candidate who later was assassinated and some people thought they should name the tallest peak in North America after him...why? At least the park is now called Denali National Park. Athabascan groups live in close proximity to the mountain. The Athabascan words for the mountain translate to "the tall one" or "mountain-big". "McKinley" was incompatible with the Athabascan worldview because they rarely name places after people. When we visited the park and saw the tall peaks first-hand everyone referred to it as Denali. So, that won't change. I truly believe that Donald Trump just wants control and wants to undo what Obama fixed. This isn't right. Donald Trump is not respecting the Indians and the culture in Alaska. Please do not let Donald Trump change the name. Thank you, (b) (6)

Smigiel, Amber L


From: Merrell, Brooke
Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2025 11:17 AM
To: Smigiel, Amber L; Beekman, Dani M
Subject: briefing statement- McKinley name change
Attachments: 01.30.25 McKinley Name Change Briefing Statement.pdf

Hey- As far as I can tell there are now three versions going. The word version of this pdf is what I want out there. Can you help in getting rid of the other two so we aren't distributing drafts? The best way to tell is the final bullet statements. Thanks again for all your help on this.

Brooke Merrell
Superintendent, Denali National Park and Preserve
(907) 683-9581

Smigiel, Amber L

From: Smigiel, Amber L
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 2:36 PM
To: Merrell, Brooke
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] washington post reporter

Here's some talking points that's a mix of what was in the briefing statement and the draft talking points that Paul sent:  [McKinley Name Change Talking Points 020325 DRAFT.docx](#)

From: Merrell, Brooke <brooke_merrell@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 1:56 PM
To: Smigiel, Amber L <amber_smigiel@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] washington post reporter

Not if they didn't reach out. Want to prepare 4-5 talking pints for me, though?

Brooke Merrell
Superintendent, Denali National Park and Preserve
(907) 683-9581

From: Smigiel, Amber L <amber_smigiel@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 1:53 PM
To: Merrell, Brooke <brooke_merrell@nps.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] washington post reporter

No. Should I forward on to WASO to FYI?

From: Merrell, Brooke <brooke_merrell@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 1:53 PM
To: Smigiel, Amber L <amber_smigiel@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] washington post reporter

Did she reach out to you?

Brooke Merrell
Superintendent, Denali National Park and Preserve
(907) 683-9581

From: Smigiel, Amber L <amber_smigiel@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 1:33 PM
To: Merrell, Brooke <brooke_merrell@nps.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] washington post reporter

Let me know if you would like to discuss.

From: Kris Capps (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 1:29 PM
To: Smigiel, Amber L <amber_smigiel@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] washington post reporter

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Hey Amber,

Do you know about this Washington Post reporter who is coming to Denali this week Wed/Thurs? Surely she has contacted DNP? She's writing a story about the name change of the mountain. I'm meeting her on Wed. (I'm in Fbks today)

So heads up, she'll probably head your way. Let Brooke know so she can prepare and decide whether she wants to talk to her.

kris

Smigiel, Amber L

From: Smigiel, Amber L
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 12:47 PM
To: Sara Connors
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] APTN News - Denali Name Change

Sure! You can find photos here: [NPGallery Search Results](#) and videos here: [Photos & Multimedia - Denali National Park & Preserve \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)

From: Sara Connors <sconnors@aptn.ca>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 12:25 PM
To: Smigiel, Amber L <amber_smigiel@nps.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] APTN News - Denali Name Change

Hi Amber,

Thanks for this.

PS – Does the park have any video/photos we could use of Denali for our story? We can credit accordingly.

Thanks!

From: Smigiel, Amber L <amber_smigiel@nps.gov>
Sent: January 24, 2025 4:26 PM
To: Sara Connors <sconnors@aptn.ca>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] APTN News - Denali Name Change

Hi, Sara! Thanks for reaching out. We don't have any suggestions but most of the tribes in Alaska have website that list good contacts for that. This site might also help! <https://www.bia.gov/regional-offices/alaska/tribes-served>

Amber Smigiel
Public Affairs Officer
Denali National Park & Preserve
907 202-0156
she/her/hers

From: Sara Connors <sconnors@aptn.ca>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 12:19 PM

To: DENA Info, NPS <Denali_Info@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] APTN News - Denali Name Change

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Hi there,

I'm a reporter with the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network in the Yukon.

I'm interested in doing a story on President Trump changing the name of Denali to Mt. McKinley. I've reached out to a few Alaskan Native groups including the Tanana Chiefs Council, Gwich'in Council International and the Alaska Native Heritage Centre, but haven't had much luck in finding anyone willing to speak about this issue.

I just thought I'd reach out to Denali National Park in hopes that someone there might know of any Alaskan Native folks in the nearby area who might be interested in sharing their views on this issue.

Thank you for any help you may be able to provide,
Sara



Sara Connors
Reporter Correspondent
(she/her)
E: sconnors@aptn.ca
C: (b) (6)
Call me on Teams

aptn.ca



We Are Here. Ancestral and unceded territories of all who call Turtle Island home.

Nous sommes ici. Les territoires ancestraux et non cédés de toutes les personnes qui considèrent l'Île de la Tortue comme leur chez-soi.

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Smigiel, Amber L

From: JR Nichols <JNichols@ktuu.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 2:12 PM
To: Smigiel, Amber L; DENA Press Release, NPS
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Media Request from Ch. 2 News

Thank you.
-JR

From: Smigiel, Amber L <amber_smigiel@nps.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 1:57 PM
To: JR Nichols <JNichols@ktuu.com>; DENA Press Release, NPS <dena_press@nps.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Media Request from Ch. 2 News

Hi, JR! Thanks for reaching out. I've forwarded your email to our Communications office in DC.

From: JR Nichols <JNichols@ktuu.com>
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2025 3:09 PM
To: DENA Press Release, NPS <dena_press@nps.gov>
Cc: Smigiel, Amber L <amber_smigiel@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Media Request from Ch. 2 News

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Good Monday from Channel 2.

Hope all is well Team NPS.

Question, if President Trump changes Denali back to McKinley, how does that work?

Is the change for the entire Park / Mountain?

When would that take effect?

We are wondering what this looks like for Alaska.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Regards,

J.R. Nichols
KTUU Managing Editor

(b) (6)

CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL This message originated from outside Gray Media and may contain malicious content. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Smigiel, Amber L

From: Smigiel, Amber L
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 11:33 AM
To: Chenoweth, Tucker; Cody, Vernon E; Merrell, Brooke
Cc: Olson, David C
Subject: RE: Renaming of Denali

We are waiting on guidance from WASO. It will probably be a while before that is finalized. If you get any press requests, please send them to me.

From: Chenoweth, Tucker <Tucker_Chenoweth@nps.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 11:24 AM
To: Cody, Vernon E <Vernon_Cody@nps.gov>; Merrell, Brooke <brooke_merrell@nps.gov>; Smigiel, Amber L <amber_smigiel@nps.gov>
Cc: Olson, David C <David_Olson@nps.gov>
Subject: Renaming of Denali

Good morning. Can I request that we draft a standard park statement for addressing the executive order for returning to the name Mount McKinley. We are getting inquiries from various news outlets.

Thank you,

Tucker Chenoweth | South District Ranger
Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station | PO Box 588 Talkeetna, AK 99676
Denali National Park and Preserve
Office: 907-733-9109 | **Fax:** 907-733-1465

RE: Mt McKinley Name Change

From Lichneckert, Krista G <krista_lichneckert@nps.gov>
Date Wed 1/29/2025 2:17 PM
To Chenoweth, Tucker T <Tucker_Chenoweth@nps.gov>
Cc LeBel, Jim P <Jim_LeBel@nps.gov>

(b) (5)

Krista Lichneckert
Concession Management Specialist
Denali National Park and Preserve
907-683-5752

From: Chenoweth, Tucker T <Tucker_Chenoweth@nps.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 2:13 PM
To: Lichneckert, Krista G <krista_lichneckert@nps.gov>
Cc: LeBel, Jim P <Jim_LeBel@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: Mt McKinley Name Change

Krista,

I am open tomorrow if a brainstorm would be helpful.

Tucker Chenoweth | South District Ranger
Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station | PO Box 588 Talkeetna, AK 99676
Denali National Park and Preserve
Office: 907-733-9109 | **Fax:** 907-733-1465

From: Lichneckert, Krista G <krista_lichneckert@nps.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 7:40 AM
To: Chenoweth, Tucker <Tucker_Chenoweth@nps.gov>
Cc: LeBel, Jim <Jim_LeBel@nps.gov>
Subject: Mt McKinley Name Change

Hi Tucker,

(b) (5)

Thanks,

Krista Lichneckert
Concession Management Specialist
Denali National Park and Preserve
907-683-5752

RE: [EXTERNAL] Retail Items & Tour Books

From Lichneckert, Krista G <krista_lichneckert@nps.gov>

Date Wed 1/22/2025 7:24 AM

To Hill-Jason_contact <Hill-Jason@aramark.com>

Cc LeBel, Jim <Jim_LeBel@nps.gov>; Burton, Shawn <Shawn_R_Burton@nps.gov>; MANTLER-RANDALL_contact (b) (6) @ARAMARK.COM>

Hi Jason,

I'm not going to be able to provide much advice for you yet. Denali's name has not yet been officially changed, the Secretary of the Interior needs to make that order, and we have guidance to not take any action until finalized.

I put this on my topic list for today's 9:30 discussion.

Thanks,

Krista Lichneckert
Concession Management Specialist
Denali National Park and Preserve
907-683-5752

From: Hill, Jason (b) (6) @aramark.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 10:27 AM

To: Lichneckert, Krista G <krista_lichneckert@nps.gov>

Cc: LeBel, Jim <Jim_LeBel@nps.gov>; Burton, Shawn <Shawn_R_Burton@nps.gov>; MANTLER-RANDALL_contact (b) (6) @ARAMARK.COM>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Retail Items & Tour Books

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Hi Krista,

With the name change of the mountain back to Mt. McKinley, I checked with Chris, our retail buyer, about items ordered for the upcoming season. Chris does not believe anything was ordered new for 2025 which reference the mountain as "Denali". However, there are a couple of items that do:

- There may be interpretative text on all the Impact souvenirs, postcards, magnets, etc. Chris will check with them to ensure nothing new is coming in with that language.

- The JV does have inventoried items from past orders which do state “Denali” with the elevation in apparel and souvenirs.

I wanted to get out in front of this to ask permission to continue selling those items which refer to the mountain as “Denali” since they were ordered during a time when that was the official name.

I’m sure everyone is quickly trying to adjust to the new administration!

On another note, we expect the JV to order 60,000 tour books for the upcoming season. I don’t have a copy of the tour booklet in front of me but I’m guessing the mountain is referenced as “Denali” in the existing and to-be-ordered books.

Jason F. Hill | Aramark Destinations
District Manager - Alaska

(b) (6)

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ICONIC DESTINATIONS. UNFORGETTABLE ADVENTURES. MEMORABLE MOMENTS.



Outlook

Spring Meeting and Mt McKinley Name Change Update

From Lichneckert, Krista G <krista_lichneckert@nps.gov>

Date Thu 1/30/2025 1:04 PM

To Lichneckert, Krista G <krista_lichneckert@nps.gov>

Cc LeBel, Jim P <Jim_LeBel@nps.gov>; Morimoto, Madeleine R <madeleine_morimoto@nps.gov>; Chenoweth, Tucker T <Tucker_Chenoweth@nps.gov>; Vukson, Mary E <mary_vukson@nps.gov>; McBrayer, Joseph W <joseph_mcbrayer@nps.gov>

Greetings Guides,

You should have just received an invite to this year's annual spring meeting, scheduled for April 16th, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. We'll be at the Ranger Station with a Teams call in option like normal. Let me know if you need a phone call in option or if you'd like to see something specific on the agenda. Please forward this over to anyone else on your team you'd like to have join us. We hope we'll see you there!

Additionally, I know you are probably wondering about the recent change in name of the mountain; at this time, we know the [change back to Mt McKinley](#) was finalized but otherwise have no guidance to share. We will be in touch as soon as we can with any updates. In the meantime, please feel free to give one of us a call if you have specific questions; I'll be OOO next week but here the rest of the day today and back in on February 10th.

Thanks,

Krista Lichneckert
Concession Management Specialist
Denali National Park and Preserve
907-683-5752



Beavers, Elizabeth



Beavers, Elizabeth we are listed on the chart from 2022 at 25 beds i&e and 1 bed akgeo (though i know ak geo would prefer we kept us at 23 and them at ... 11/29/2022 ...

Tuesday, January 28

Beavers, Elizabeth 1/28 8:14 AM



For DMT today, will you be talking about the name change? I'd like to know if Amber is tasked with drafting staff talking points (or could be) or if I need to take a stab. I'd also like to know about timeline for the website. There was a DOI memo Friday on it that was linked in an ADN article that feels faster than EO.

1/28 8:26 AM

I'll make sure we talk about it. I think having Amber write up some talking points is a good idea

Beavers, Elizabeth 1/28 8:30 AM



We've only had 10-12 emails, I wanted to look up the phone log to look at that rate, but I know a common thing is asking why our website isn't changed yet.



Type a message

**Chenoweth, Tucker**

1/29 2:10 PM

Hey Tucker, will you have time tomorrow to chat with me and Krista L about the name change issue as it pertains to the mountaineering operation and the WHRS?

Chenoweth, Tucker 1/29 2:11 PM



I do and can be pretty flexible before 3pm



1/29 2:11 PM

Awesome, thanks. I'll find a time that works for all three of us and send a calendar invite



Type a message



1/21 2:34 PM

[Trump Renames Denali To Mount McKinley: Here's What To Know](#)



Trump Renames Denali To Mount McKinle... ✕

The tallest peak in North America has been named Denali since 2015 when its name was officially changed under...

www.forbes.com

1/24 1:20 PM

[AP says it will use Trump's name change of 'Mount McKinley' but not 'Gulf of Mexico'](#)



The Hill

Lauren Irwin

The Associated Press said in updated guidance that it will use President Trump's name change for Denali but not the Gulf of Mexico. In an...



The Hill

1/27 4:52 PM

Google said it will change the name of the Gulf of Mexico to "Gulf of America" and change Denali to "Mount McKinley." [Google Maps to show Gulf of America after government updates](#)

Tuesday, January 28

1/28 11:53 AM

[Alaska House members urge Trump to keep the name of North America's tallest peak as Denali - ABC News](#)



Alaska House members urge Trump to kee... ✕

The Alaska House has voted to urge President Donald Trump to reverse course and retain the name of North...

abcnews.go.com

With a bipartisan 28-10 vote on Monday, the House approved [House Joint Resolution 4](#), which requests that Trump and the federal government continue labeling the mountain as Denali. . .

The Alaska resolution, after a reconsideration vote that will take place as soon as Wednesday, is expected to advance to the Senate, where lawmakers say they are likely to approve it.

10:46 AM

"The 19-0 vote in the state Senate came just over a week after the House passed the measure 31-8." [Alaska lawmakers ask Trump to retain Denali's name, not change it to Mount McKinley](#)

Saturday, January 25

1/25 1:29 PM

[Interior Department Advances Restoration of Historic Names Honoring American Greatness | U.S. Department of the Interior](#)



In accordance with President Donald J. Trump's recent executive order, the Department of the Interior is proud t...

www.doi.gov

[Don't Expect These Climbers to Call Denali "Mount McKinley"](#)



Jon Krakauer and Other Prominent Climbe... ✕

Conrad Anker, Jon Krakauer, Melissa Arnot Reid, and other prominent climbers and guides share their thoughts on th...

www.outsideonline.com

Monday, January 27

1/27 10:53 AM

"This past week, two resolutions were introduced in the Alaska Legislature to keep the name Denali." <-- did we know this?

[Alaskans say Trump can change the name of Denali but can't make people call it Mount McKinley | MPR News](#)



Alaskans say Trump can change the name ... ✕

President Donald Trump has changed the name of Alaska's Denali back to Mount McKinley. It's a nod to President...

www.mprnews.org

Tuesday, January 21

1/21 12:55 PM

Hi! I just wanted to check in. We are getting a lot of questions from visitors about the name change. Is there anyway we could get something approved sooner for that?

Schafer, Katie M 1/21 12:58 PM



We're working with department leadership. I'll keep you in the loop with updates.



8:38



Jordan >



Tue, Sep 17 at 3:33 PM

I'm free now if you want to chat.

Copy, I'll be calling from another number.

Mon, Jan 20 at 12:11 PM

Wow, the Denali name change announcement was unexpected. Probably not a distraction you and your staff were hoping for.

He's been talking about it for awhile. Hopefully it doesn't happen. No one in the state is supportive of it.



I wouldn't think it would be supported there. Seems like the fight to change it to Denali started in the 80's. Would hate to see it become a needless political fight every administration.

Where are you stationed.

Between 2nd and 4th on Madison



iMessage



From: [O'Donnell, Matthew J](#)
To: [NGP NGTOC TNM Help, GS-N-HQ](#); [BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC](#); [Pawlit, Rachel J](#); [Tischler, Michael A](#); [Zahniser, Shellie R](#); [St. Onge, Tim](#); [Anderson, Gina R](#)
Cc: [Rufe, Philip P](#); bgnexec@nga.mil
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] BBC News - Media Request
Date: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 10:47:44 AM

Hi all,

I'm ccing the Foreign Names Committee Executive Secretary on here. My initial answer was correct, but given that the United States, Mexico, and Cuba all have shorelines on the Gulf of Mexico, the answer may be more complicated.

(b) (6), (b) (3) (B) can you provide any information on how the President or Congress renaming the Gulf of Mexico might work from an international/Foreign Names Committee perspective?

Mtt

Matt O'Donnell
BGN research staff
Phone: 703-648-4553 (work) / 571-562-3504 (cell)
Email: mjodonnell@usgs.gov

From: O'Donnell, Matthew J <mjodonnell@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 1:09 PM
To: NGP NGTOC TNM Help, GS-N-HQ <tnm_help@usgs.gov>; BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>; Pawlit, Rachel J <rpawlit@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; St. Onge, Tim <tong@loc.gov>; Anderson, Gina R <granderson@usgs.gov>
Cc: Rufe, Philip P <prufe@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] BBC News - Media Request

I've provided some basic talking points to OCAP already. We'd prefer that OCAP handle this.

- The Policy on Names Considered or Established by Congress or the President notes that "Geographic names and their applications specifically established by an act of Congress or Executive order are legally official, and therefore, are not bound by BGN principles, policies, and procedures." This includes name changes.
- For any names established by an act of Congress or Executive order (or proclamation), the name is entered into/changed in GNIS once official. Federal data sources are updated from GNIS on their own data refresh cycles.

The other request had some other details but this is the basic information people should know.

The BGN has nothing to do with any naming by Congress or the President.

Matt

From: NGP NGTOC TNM Help, GS-N-HQ <tnm_help@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 1:07 PM
To: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>; Pawlitz, Rachel J <rpawlitz@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; St. Onge, Tim <tong@loc.gov>; Anderson, Gina R <granderson@usgs.gov>
Cc: Rufe, Philip P <prufe@usgs.gov>; O'Donnell, Matthew J <mjodonnell@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] BBC News - Media Request

Uhoh... sounds like this one may eat our lunch this week. If any more similar requests come in, I'll sit on them but keep in touch with Matt on what we get...

Please keep me in the loop with what y'all come up with.

Andy

From: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 12:02 PM
To: Pawlitz, Rachel J <rpawlitz@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; St. Onge, Tim <tong@loc.gov>; Anderson, Gina R <granderson@usgs.gov>
Cc: NGP NGTOC TNM Help, GS-N-HQ <tnm_help@usgs.gov>; Rufe, Philip P <prufe@usgs.gov>; O'Donnell, Matthew J <mjodonnell@usgs.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] BBC News - Media Request

And another one. Gina, should we coordinate a statement we can share/adapt with every request about this?

Matt

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Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 12:56 PM
To: Anderson, Gina R <granderson@usgs.gov>; BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Cc: Rufe, Philip P <prufe@usgs.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] BBC News - Media Request

Hi Gina & Matt -

See the below request for a press data call. I would like for y'all to draft a statement. Let me know if you want to provide the info directly or if you want me to provide the information.

Andy

From: Brandon Drenon <brandon.k.drenon@bbc.co.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 11:51 AM
To: NGP NGTOC TNM Help, GS-N-HQ <tnm_help@usgs.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BBC News - Media Request

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Good afternoon,

The BBC is reporting on what the process is to change the names of bodies of water after Donald Trump made remarks on Tuesday suggesting he would like to change the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America.

We'd like to understand the process, whether this is possible, and how it might work.

Can someone please contact me at your earliest convenience.

My number is (b) (6)

Cheers,

Brandon Drenon

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From: [Anderson, Rebecca \(Becci\)](#)
To: [GS-CSS NGP SLT](#)
Subject: Fw: BGN Response to Media Inquiry (Gulf of America)
Date: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 5:02:48 PM

Hi NGP SLT,

Sharing for general awareness -

Please note the emails below regarding OCAP's guidance related to media queries related changing the name of the Gulf of Mexico.

I am going to inform UE to send any inquiries to me for awareness but will follow OCAP guidance to hold off on responding.

Becci Anderson

Chief, User Engagement Office
USGS National Geospatial Program
rdanderson@usgs.gov | 907 201 9124
[NGP User Engagement Office](#)



From: NGP NGTOC TNM Help, GS-N-HQ <tnm_help@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 12:24 PM
To: Altheide, Phyllis S <paltheide@usgs.gov>; Postolovski, Ray <rpostolovski@usgs.gov>; Nimetz, Joshua D <jnimetz@usgs.gov>; Rufe, Philip P <prufe@usgs.gov>; Boggs, Hannah K <hboggs@usgs.gov>
Cc: Mantey, Kimberly S <kmantey@usgs.gov>; Anderson, Rebecca (Becci) <rdanderson@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: BGN Response to Media Inquiry (Gulf of America)

FYI - Here is the guidance provided by OCAP:

I appreciate the time you put into this for context. However, Gina and I (Rachel Pawlitz) discussed this and we both feel there's a benefit to avoid commenting at all right now. While this is purely political at this stage, in a few days the Trump administration will come in and we cannot speculate as to whether they will initiate some type of EO. So if this continues to be in the news, this could always be revisited later but for now it's purely hypothetical so don't want to give speculative answers.

Thanks for understanding!

Andy

From: NGP NGTOC TNM Help, GS-N-HQ <tnm_help@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 12:25 PM
To: Altheide, Phyllis S <paltheide@usgs.gov>; Postolovski, Ray <rpostolovski@usgs.gov>; Nimetz,

Joshua D <jnimetz@usgs.gov>; Rufe, Philip P <prufe@usgs.gov>; Boggs, Hannah K <hboggs@usgs.gov>

Cc: Mantey, Kimberly S <kmantey@usgs.gov>; Anderson, Rebecca (Becci) <rdanderson@usgs.gov>

Subject: BGN Response to Media Inquiry (Gulf of America)

Hi all,

Looks like the media has picked up on President-Elect Trump's recent statement about renaming the Gulf of Mexico to Gulf of America. NGP Leadership appears to be aware and is working with the Office of Communications and Publishing.

BGN has indicated that a [name established by Congress or the President](#) can sidestep BGN processes. They have requested that communication be coordinated with OCAP.

So far TNM_HELP has received a single media request.

I wanted to forward for NGTOC Sr Staff awareness.

Andy

From: O'Donnell, Matthew J <mjodonnell@usgs.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 12:09 PM

To: NGP NGTOC TNM Help, GS-N-HQ <tnm_help@usgs.gov>; BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>; Pawlitz, Rachel J <rpawlitz@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; St. Onge, Tim <tong@loc.gov>; Anderson, Gina R <granderson@usgs.gov>

Cc: Rufe, Philip P <prufe@usgs.gov>

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Good afternoon,

The BBC is reporting on what the process is to change the names of bodies of water after Donald Trump made remarks on Tuesday suggesting he would like to change the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America.

We'd like to understand the process, whether this is possible, and how it might work.

Can someone please contact me at your earliest convenience.

My number is (b) (6).

Cheers,

Brandon Drenon

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From: [Tischler, Michael A](#)
To: (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) [NGA-SFGG USA CIV](#); (b) (6)
Cc: [Zahniser, Shellie R](#); [St. Onge, Tim](#); (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) [NGA-SFGGW USA CIV](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: [Non-DoD Source] Gulf of Mexico renaming
Date: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 5:09:24 PM

Hi (b) (3) (B), (b) (6), (b) (3) (B), (b) (6),

Yes, indeed...lots of churn from Denali to the Gulf of Mexico.

We have received inquiries today from both CBS and the BBC and our communications office has instructed us to not respond. I don't mean "...has no comment at this time...", I mean do not respond at all. Perhaps that will change at a later date, but that's the guidance we have now.

It is speculation at this point, but were legislation to pass that renamed The Gulf, would that put us in a "Sea of Japan" scenario with a disputed name?

Thanks,
m

From: (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) [NGA-SFGG USA CIV](#) <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 5:02 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)> @state.gov; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; St. Onge, Tim <tong@loc.gov>; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) [NGA-SFGGW USA CIV](#) <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: [Non-DoD Source] Gulf of Mexico renaming

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Where's that "it has begun" meme from Lord of the Rings...?

From: "(b) (6)" <(b) (6) @state.gov>
Date: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 4:01:48 PM
To: "Tischler, Michael [I-Net]" <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Cc: "(b) (3) (B), (b) (6) [NGA-SFGG USA CIV](#)" <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>, "Zahniser, Shellie R" <srzahniser@usgs.gov>, "St. Onge, Tim" <tong@loc.gov>, "(b) (3) (B), (b) (6) [NGA-SFGGW USA CIV](#)" <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Gulf of Mexico renaming

Hi Mike,

I hope you had a relaxing break and a Happy New Year. (b) (5) DPP

(b) (5) DPP

Cheers,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

U.S. Department of State

(b) (6)

From: [Tischler, Michael A](#)
To: (b) (6)
Cc: [GeoNames](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: GOA EO
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 5:02:37 PM

Hi (b) (6)

Thanks for the follow-up. I have asked for further guidance from DOI regarding implementation, but have yet to receive anything. I will be in touch with you when I hear more, though.

Thanks,
Mike

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 4:59 PM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Cc: GeoNames <GeoNames@state.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: GOA EO

Hi Mike,

(b) (5) ACP / DPP

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

U.S. Department of State

(b) (6)

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 2:33 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>

Cc: GeoNames <GeoNames@state.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: GOA EO

Thanks, (b) (6) - appreciate the clarification, and we'll wait to hear more.

thanks,
mike

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 2:32 PM

To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>

Cc: GeoNames <GeoNames@state.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: GOA EO

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Mike,

(b) (5) DPP

Thanks,
(b) (6)

(b) (6)

U.S. Department of State

(b) (6)

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 1:40 PM

To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>

Subject: GOA EO

Hi (b) (6)

I have a question for you regarding the renaming of Gulf of America. We are awaiting DOI guidance before reflecting the change in GNIS. But, we are wondering how the feature will be reflected in GNS. The EO states that

"...The Secretary of the Interior shall...rename as the "Gulf of America" the U.S. Continental Shelf area bounded on the northeast, north, and northwest by the States of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida and extending to the seaward boundary with Mexico and Cuba in the area formerly named as the Gulf of Mexico. "

Does this definition constitute the entire Gulf? Or are we going to splitting the feature into two - Gulf of Mexico in the southern portion and Gulf of America in the northern portion?

Thanks,
Mike

Mike Tischler, Ph.D
Director, National Geospatial Program
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of Interior
o: 703-648-4725
c: 703-344-4348
mtischler@usgs.gov

From: [St Onge, Timothy](#)
To: [Tischler, Michael A](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: DOI BGN appointments
Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 9:15:36 AM

Yea I think that seems like the best way to spread the word. No additional thoughts on this at the moment.

Thanks,
Tim

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 9:00 AM
To: St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: DOI BGN appointments

CAUTION: This email message has been received from an external source. Please use caution when opening attachments, or clicking on links.

Thanks, Tim. I guess I'll email the principal members this morning...seems like the best way to get the word out? Any additional thoughts?

From: St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 8:57 AM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: DOI BGN appointments

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Hi Mike,

Yes this makes sense to me. This seems like a proper way to start meeting Section 2 of the EO. While I'm not sure how other departments will handle the specifics, it seems like we should try to be uniform in how we respond to this across the departments as best we can, especially if this is the course of action deemed appropriate at DOS and DOI.

Thanks,
Tim

Tim St. Onge

Cartographer

Geography & Map Division
LM-B02
202-707-9044
tong@loc.gov



From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 5:54 PM
To: St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>
Subject: Fw: DOI BGN appointments

CAUTION: This email message has been received from an external source. Please use caution when opening attachments, or clicking on links.

Hi Tim,

I spoke this afternoon with (b) (6) at the DOS. (b) (5) ACP / DPP

A large black rectangular redaction box covering several lines of text in the email body.

What do you think? Would it make sense to email the other members and ask them to submit short information memos to their secretary offices?

Thanks,
m

From: Tischler, Michael A
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 5:49 PM
To: Brown, Wendi-Starr <Wendi-Starr.Brown@bia.gov>; Hammond, Chris W <chammond@usgs.gov>; Mahoney, Patrick M <pmmahone@blm.gov>; Shelton, Michael <Michael_Shelton@nps.gov>; Smith, Jeremy C <Jeremy.Smith@boem.gov>; Campbell, Jessica L <jessica_campbell@fws.gov>
Subject: DOI BGN appointments

Good evening!

At this point I am assuming you are all aware of the recent EO "[RESTORING NAMES THAT HONOR AMERICAN GREATNESS](#)" that was signed yesterday. We are

waiting for additional DOI guidance and confirmation for the renaming of both Denali->Mount McKinley and Gulf of Mexico-> Gulf of America.

You will also notice the following section in the EO:

Sec. 2. Appointments to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. (a) Within seven days of the date of this order, each agency head with authority to appoint members to the Board on Geographic Names (Board) pursuant to 43 U.S.C. 364a, shall review their respective appointees and consider replacing those appointees in accordance with applicable law.

I will be pulling together a short informational memo for the Secretary to review to be responsive to this request. As current DOI deputy members, this memo will contain each of your names and biographical information that you provided to the BGN staff during the most recent appointment letter request in June 2023.

Please let me know if you have any concerns or questions. We'll be moving quickly to meet the deadline.

Thanks,
mike

Mike Tischler, Ph.D
Director, National Geospatial Program
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of Interior
o: 703-648-4725
c: 703-344-4348
mtischler@usgs.gov

From: [Tischler, Michael A](#)
To: [Zahniser, Shellie R](#)
Subject: Fw: DOI BGN appointments
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 6:20:33 PM

fyi

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 5:53 PM
To: Tim St. Onge <tong@loc.gov>
Subject: Fw: DOI BGN appointments

Hi Tim,

I spoke this afternoon with (b) (6) at the DOS. (b) (5) ACP / DPP

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

What do you think? Would it make sense to email the other members and ask them to submit short information memos to their secretary offices?

Thanks,
m

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Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 5:49 PM
To: Brown, Wendi-Starr <Wendi-Starr.Brown@bia.gov>; Hammond, Chris W <chammond@usgs.gov>; Mahoney, Patrick M <pmmahone@blm.gov>; Shelton, Michael <Michael_Shelton@nps.gov>; Smith, Jeremy C <Jeremy.Smith@boem.gov>; Campbell, Jessica L <jessica_campbell@fws.gov>
Subject: DOI BGN appointments

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mike

Mike Tischler, Ph.D
Director, National Geospatial Program
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of Interior
o: 703-648-4725
c: 703-344-4348
mtischler@usgs.gov

From: [Tischler, Michael A](#)
To: [O'Donnell, Matthew J](#)
Cc: [Zahniser, Shellie R](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] BBC News - Media Request
Date: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 10:49:04 AM

Yeah, I was wondering if this might put us in a 'Sea of Japan' type of situation...

From: O'Donnell, Matthew J <mjodonnell@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 1:44 PM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] BBC News - Media Request

I also appreciate your support for my diligence on this kind of issue. I do take it seriously and want to help as I can and is appropriate for my expertise and job level as a GS-11.

That's a shame about Rachel. I think Gina has learned a lot and has been helping with most of the recent BGN inquiries.

(b) (6) who works in communications, said just that—we can never prevent a reporter from emailing us or TNM directly.

One thing that Shellie and I will work on in the post-Jenny era is more delineation of duties around the BGN mission and communication. Jenny and I would just jump on anything to get it moving the fastest and I think that has a lot to do with a lack of Executive Secretary for some of the time between 2019 and 2024. Shellie and I plan to hash out who is responsible for what and when.

Part of my stress around this job is not having any confidence or familiarity with best practices for dealing with media requests, especially how to best work with OCAP on tight deadlines. I have been learning and practicing (honest!) on providing shorter more relevant answers rather than providing too many details.

Of course, I'm just now realizing that because the Gulf of Mexico is a trans-boundary name, the answer that "the President and Congress can act on the name however they choose" isn't quite correct. I'll loop in (b) (3) (E), (b) (6) to see FNC's take. The gulf borders Mexico and Cuba.

Matt

Matt O'Donnell
BGN research staff

Phone: 703-648-4553 (work) / 571-562-3504 (cell)
Email: mjdodonnell@usgs.gov

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 1:29 PM
To: O'Donnell, Matthew J <mjdodonnell@usgs.gov>
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] BBC News - Media Request

Thanks, Matt - appreciate the follow up.

Unfortunately, it may get worse before it gets better. I learned today that Rachael P will be leaving for a position with the NPS. Rachael was very familiar with our work, and had pretty positive relationships with us. Like all other positions, it will take time to backfill.

However, that shouldn't stop us from making sure we have a process in place that is most effective. I can't stop a reporter from emailing bgnexec or tnm_help...but perhaps we can put notices for media inquiries on the websites, and ensure that the media are directed to ocap correctly.

I'll raise the issue with Gina, to start.

Thanks,
m

From: O'Donnell, Matthew J <mjdodonnell@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 1:23 PM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] BBC News - Media Request

Apoligies, that came off with the wrong tone.

I understand that this is part of my job, but the inefficient process of media inquiries coming to bgnexec, OCAP, and tnm_help independently, and then needing to have OCAP review them all and send them out, given unreasonable reporter timelines is stressful. How can we improve this?

I would like to develop a sharepoint resource for UE, OCAP, and tnm_help where they have the basic answers for high level process questions. Then they can handle most inquiries quickly and accurately without media inquiry crises interrupting my main BGN mission work. For

complicated questions, I would absolutely provide talking points for OCAP to use.

Matt

From: O'Donnell, Matthew J <mjodonnell@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 1:12 PM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] BBC News - Media Request

I can't stay on top of this AND do my day job.

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 1:11 PM
To: O'Donnell, Matthew J <mjodonnell@usgs.gov>
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] BBC News - Media Request

Thanks for staying on top of this, Matt - never a dull moment.

From: O'Donnell, Matthew J <mjodonnell@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 1:09 PM
To: NGP NGTOC TNM Help, GS-N-HQ <tnm_help@usgs.gov>; BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>; Pawlitz, Rachel J <rpawlitz@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; St. Onge, Tim <tong@loc.gov>; Anderson, Gina R <granderson@usgs.gov>
Cc: Rufe, Philip P <prufe@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] BBC News - Media Request

I've provided some basic talking points to OCAP already. We'd prefer that OCAP handle this.

- The Policy on Names Considered or Established by Congress or the President notes that "Geographic names and their applications specifically established by an act of Congress or Executive order are legally official, and therefore, are not bound by BGN principles, policies, and procedures." This includes name changes.
- For any names established by an act of Congress or Executive order (or proclamation), the name is entered into/changed in GNIS once official. Federal data sources are updated from GNIS on their own data refresh cycles.

The other request had some other details but this is the basic information people should know.

The BGN has nothing to do with any naming by Congress or the President.

Matt

From: NGP NGTOC TNM Help, GS-N-HQ <tnm_help@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 1:07 PM
To: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>; Pawlitz, Rachel J <rpawlitz@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; St. Onge, Tim <tong@loc.gov>; Anderson, Gina R <granderson@usgs.gov>
Cc: Rufe, Philip P <prufe@usgs.gov>; O'Donnell, Matthew J <mjodonnell@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] BBC News - Media Request

Uhoh... sounds like this one may eat our lunch this week. If any more similar requests come in, I'll sit on them but keep in touch with Matt on what we get...

Please keep me in the loop with what y'all come up with.

Andy

From: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 12:02 PM
To: Pawlitz, Rachel J <rpawlitz@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; St. Onge, Tim <tong@loc.gov>; Anderson, Gina R <granderson@usgs.gov>
Cc: NGP NGTOC TNM Help, GS-N-HQ <tnm_help@usgs.gov>; Rufe, Philip P <prufe@usgs.gov>; O'Donnell, Matthew J <mjodonnell@usgs.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] BBC News - Media Request

And another one. Gina, should we coordinate a statement we can share/adapt with every request about this?

Matt

From: NGP NGTOC TNM Help, GS-N-HQ <tnm_help@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 12:56 PM
To: Anderson, Gina R <granderson@usgs.gov>; BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Cc: Rufe, Philip P <prufe@usgs.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] BBC News - Media Request

Hi Gina & Matt -

See the below request for a press data call. I would like for y'all to draft a statement. Let me know if you want to provide the info directly or if you want me to provide the

information.

Andy

From: Brandon Drenon <brandon.k.drenon@bbc.co.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 11:51 AM
To: NGP NGTOC TNM Help, GS-N-HQ <tnm_help@usgs.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BBC News - Media Request

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Good afternoon,

The BBC is reporting on what the process is to change the names of bodies of water after Donald Trump made remarks on Tuesday suggesting he would like to change the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America.

We'd like to understand the process, whether this is possible, and how it might work.

Can someone please contact me at your earliest convenience.

My number is (b) (6).

Cheers,

Brandon Drenon

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From: [Zahniser, Shellie R](#)
To: [O'Donnell, Matthew J](#); [Runyon, Jennifer E](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Gulf of America?
Date: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 1:40:00 PM

I can do it.

Shellie Zahniser, Ph.D.
BGN Executive Secretary
Domestic Names Committee
Honolulu, HI

From: O'Donnell, Matthew J <mjodonnell@usgs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 9:51 AM
To: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; Runyon, Jennifer E <jrunyon@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Gulf of America?

Shellie,

Would you like us to email Roger or will you?

Matt

From: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 2:05 PM
To: O'Donnell, Matthew J <mjodonnell@usgs.gov>; Runyon, Jennifer E <jrunyon@usgs.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Gulf of America?

I explained this to Gina. We just need to tell Roger what is up. I sent the email exchange to Gina but she does not intend to respond.

Shellie Zahniser, Ph.D.
BGN Executive Secretary
Domestic Names Committee
Honolulu, HI

From: O'Donnell, Matthew J <mjodonnell@usgs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 8:17 AM
To: Runyon, Jennifer E <jrunyon@usgs.gov>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Gulf of America?

I honestly have no idea what to do with this. Anything "newsletter"-ish should probably be considered media.

But we don't want Roger providing inaccurate information even to such a minor outlet.

Matt

Matt O'Donnell
BGN research staff

Phone: 703-648-4553 (work) / 571-562-3504 (cell)

Email: mjodonnell@usgs.gov

From: Runyon, Jennifer E <jrunyon@usgs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 12:04 PM
To: O'Donnell, Matthew J <mjodonnell@usgs.gov>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Re: Gulf of America?

Good grief, I'd prefer not to respond to this, but if you want to provide a short statement to Ralph, feel free.

Then again, I'm not familiar with the FedSmith newsletter (maybe I should be. It looks like it has useful info for retirees!), and perhaps they'd be considered media so we can't comment anyway?

Of course, Roger has misspoken re: the BGN's involvement and what the President can do, but I don't feel like explaining it all. If I'm lucky, Ralph won't follow up for a couple days and he'll get my "I've retired" message. I'm glad Roger's traveling, otherwise, I know he'd have called me already.

Or I could just respond to them both and tell Ralph to contact OCAP? Suggestions?

Jenny

From: RRSFLA <(b) (6) Ralph Smith [@gmail.com](mailto:(b) (6) @gmail.com)>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 10:55 AM
To: Roger Payne (b) (6) [@gmail.com](mailto:(b) (6) @gmail.com)>; Runyon, Jennifer E <jrunyon@usgs.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Gulf of America?

Enjoy the cruises, Roger!

Numerous articles on changing the name of the Gulf of Mexico but this is one of them.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/amp/news/trump-change-gulf-of-mexico-to-gulf-of-america/>

On Wed, Jan 8, 2025 at 9:49 AM Roger Payne <(b) (6)@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello Ralph,

I hope you had a nice holiday.

This is a first for me as I've never heard of that before now. Can you forward that article to me and please copy Jenny Runyon whom I have copied on this response.

I would do more on this but we are presently in Fort Lauderdale and will be doing two back-to-back cruises in the Caribbean for the next three weeks and so I have zero resources and limited email.

Jenny Runyon is the best at almost everything and would deal with this straight away, but unfortunately for the realm of applied toponymy and the world she is retiring as of January 15. Anyway, I am sure she will respond as to whom will be taking over her duties, but as far as I know no one has been chosen nor has it even been advertised. Her assistant is Matt (sorry, don't recall his last name) and might be able to assist.

Of course, there would have to be a formal proposal to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (Domestic Names Committee) and the Foreign Names Committee would be involved I'm sure. Anyway, this would take quite a long time and probably never happen.

Anyway, it is interesting. We'll stay in touch.

Roger

On Wed, Jan 8, 2025 at 09:19 Ralph Smith <(b) (6)@gmail.com> wrote:

Good morning, Roger

I thought of you reading an article about changing the name of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America. How does that work? It does not seem that one country can pass a law changing the name of a large body of water by itself.

It might make a good article for the FedSmith newsletter. What is the process for changing the name to the Gulf of America? I assume Geographic Names gets involved in that somehow?

Ralph

From: [Zahniser, Shellie R](#)
To: [O'Donnell, Matthew J](#); [Runyon, Jennifer E](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Gulf of America?
Date: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 2:19:00 PM

Mike T is going to send an email out to EXCOM and then we will each notify our respective groups. I will notify ACAN when that email comes out.

Shellie Zahniser, Ph.D.
BGN Executive Secretary
Domestic Names Committee
Honolulu, HI

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Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Re: Gulf of America?

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Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 10:55 AM
To: Roger Payne <(b) (6) [\(b\) \(6\)@gmail.com](mailto:(b) (6)@gmail.com)>; Runyon, Jennifer E <jrunyon@usgs.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Gulf of America?

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I hope you had a nice holiday.

This is a first for me as I've never heard of that before now. Can you forward that article to me and please copy Jenny Runyon whom I have copied on this response.

I would do more on this but we are presently in Fort Lauderdale and will be doing two back-to-back cruises in the Caribbean for the next three weeks and so I have zero resources and limited email.

Jenny Runyon is the best at almost everything and would deal with this straight away, but unfortunately for the realm of applied toponymy and the world she is retiring as of January 15. Anyway, I am sure she will respond as to whom will be taking over her duties, but as far as I know no one has been chosen nor has it even been advertised. Her assistant is Matt (sorry, don't recall his last name) and might be able to assist.

Of course, there would have to be a formal proposal to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (Domestic Names Committee) and the Foreign Names Committee would be involved I'm sure. Anyway, this would take quite a long time and probably never happen.

Anyway, it is interesting. We'll stay in touch.

Roger

On Wed, Jan 8, 2025 at 09:19 Ralph Smith <(b) (6)@gmail.com> wrote:

Good morning, Roger

I thought of you reading an article about changing the name of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America. How does that work? It does not seem that one country can pass a law changing the name of a large body of water by itself.

It might make a good article for the FedSmith newsletter. What is the process for changing the name to the Gulf of America? I assume Geographic Names gets involved in that somehow?

Ralph

From: [Zahniser, Shellie R](#)
To: [Anderson, Gina R](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Gulf of America?
Date: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 9:37:00 AM

Gina,

Please see email chain below. I can also follow up with Roger and inform him of the guidance you and Rachel laid out for us.

Shellie Zahniser, Ph.D.
BGN Executive Secretary
Domestic Names Committee
Honolulu, HI

From: RRSFLA <(b) (6) Ralph Smith@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 10:55 AM
To: Roger Payne <(b) (6)@gmail.com>; Runyon, Jennifer E <jrunyon@usgs.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Gulf of America?

Enjoy the cruises, Roger!

Numerous articles on changing the name of the Gulf of Mexico but this is one of them.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/amp/news/trump-change-gulf-of-mexico-to-gulf-of-america/>

On Wed, Jan 8, 2025 at 9:49 AM Roger Payne <(b) (6)@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello Ralph,

I hope you had a nice holiday.

This is a first for me as I've never heard of that before now. Can you forward that article to me and please copy Jenny Runyon whom I have copied on this response.

I would do more on this but we are presently in Fort Lauderdale and will be doing two back-to-back cruises in the Caribbean for the next three weeks and so I have zero resources and limited email.

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Of course, there would have to be a formal proposal to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (Domestic Names Committee) and the Foreign Names Committee would be involved I'm sure. Anyway, this would take quite a long time and probably never happen.

Anyway, it is interesting. We'll stay in touch.

Roger

On Wed, Jan 8, 2025 at 09:19 Ralph Smith <(b) (6)@gmail.com> wrote:

Good morning, Roger

I thought of you reading an article about changing the name of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America. How does that work? It does not seem that one country can pass a law changing the name of a large body of water by itself.

It might make a good article for the FedSmith newsletter. What is the process for changing the name to the Gulf of America? I assume Geographic Names gets involved in that somehow?

Ralph

From: [Anderson, Gina R](#)
To: [Elms, Thomas \(Tommy\)](#); [Pawlitz, Rachel J](#); [Tischler, Michael A](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Washington Post question for Board of Geographic Names re Gulf of Mexico
Date: Friday, January 10, 2025 11:47:48 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

All,

I am about to be out for the day at 11 AM CST but can check my emails for any guidance that is decided. (b) (6)

Thanks,

Gina Anderson

Public Affairs Specialist | Core Science Systems Mission Area
U.S. Geological Survey
Office of Communications and Publishing
405-509-3524 | granderson@usgs.gov

From: Elms, Thomas (Tommy) <telms@usgs.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2025 10:45 AM
To: Pawlitz, Rachel J <rpawlitz@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Cc: Anderson, Gina R <granderson@usgs.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Washington Post question for Board of Geographic Names re Gulf of Mexico

Hi team,

I have limited availability today and will be on a work trip to Denver next week. I could potentially meet around 4pm?

Tommy Elms (he/him)
Congressional Liaison
Office of Communications and Publishing
U.S. Geological Survey
Reston, VA
mobile: 571-334-7969
telms@usgs.gov

From: Pawlitz, Rachel J <rpawlitz@usgs.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2025 10:45 AM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Cc: Anderson, Gina R <granderson@usgs.gov>; Elms, Thomas (Tommy) <telms@usgs.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Washington Post question for Board of Geographic Names re Gulf of Mexico

Hi Mike,

I'm bringing in Tommy – it doesn't change my general advice to avoid commenting... but having no comment whatsoever (not even a holding statement) is probably not a great long-term strategy, so perhaps we at least need a simple holding statement to use for the press. Do all of you want to try and meet quickly today?

Adding to the challenge, (b) (6)

So I will quickly be switching gears next week – I don't want to leave you without any suggestions on how to handle this.

-Rachel

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>

Sent: Friday, January 10, 2025 8:21 AM

To: Pawlitz, Rachel J <rpawlitz@usgs.gov>

Cc: Anderson, Gina R <granderson@usgs.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Washington Post question for Board of Geographic Names re Gulf of Mexico

Gina, Rachael,

Rep. Taylor-Greene introduced HR 256 yesterday, and released the attached text (I think on social media). This specifies DOI and my position (Chair of the BGN) as the implementing officials, and sets a deadline of 180 days to update **all** federal mapping products.

I don't know if this changes your stance on responding to media, and/or if we need to develop prepared statements.

The U.N. Group of Experts on Geographic Names has also been receiving questions from media and asked my perspective. I've let them know we are not responding to media and provided my technical input. I do not know if they intend to release any comment or not.

Thanks,
m

From: Pawlitz, Rachel J <rpawlitz@usgs.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 3:30 PM

To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>

Cc: Anderson, Gina R <granderson@usgs.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Washington Post question for Board of Geographic Names re Gulf of

Mexico

Hi Mike, I know this is not a typical recommendation, but this is not a circumstance where I would even respond at all. If the situation evolves, we may later want to say something but there's nothing good that would even come out of a "no comment" email response at this point. -Rachel

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 3:15 PM
To: Pawlitz, Rachel J <rpawlitz@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Washington Post question for Board of Geographic Names re Gulf of Mexico

Hi Rachael,

Does that mean we should just not respond? Or is there a canned 'we have no comment on this topic' statement?

thanks,
m

From: Pawlitz, Rachel J <rpawlitz@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 3:07 PM
To: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>; Anderson, Gina R <granderson@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; St. Onge, Tim <tong@loc.gov>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; bgnexec@nga.mil <bgnexec@nga.mil>
Cc: O'Donnell, Matthew J <mjodonnell@usgs.gov>; NGP NGTOC TNM Help, GS-N-HQ <tnm_help@usgs.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Washington Post question for Board of Geographic Names re Gulf of Mexico

Hi everyone,

I appreciate the time you put into this for context. However, Gina and I discussed this and we both feel there's a benefit to avoid commenting at all right now. While this is purely political at this stage, in a few days the Trump administration will come in and we cannot speculate as to whether they will initiate some type of EO. So if this continues to be in the news, this could always be revisited later but for now it's purely hypothetical so don't want to give speculative answers.

Thanks for understanding!

--

Rachel Pawlitz (she/her)
Chief Public Affairs Officer & Lead Spokesperson
U.S. Geological Survey
Phone: 571-455-6586



From: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 2:43 PM
To: Anderson, Gina R <granderson@usgs.gov>; Pawlitz, Rachel J <rpawlitz@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; St. Onge, Tim <tong@loc.gov>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; bgnexec@nga.mil
Cc: O'Donnell, Matthew J <mjodonnell@usgs.gov>; NGP NGTOC TNM Help, GS-N-HQ <tnm_help@usgs.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Washington Post question for Board of Geographic Names re Gulf of Mexico

See below.

Additional answers for these kinds of questions:

What's the process for renaming a foreign name or international name like the Gulf of Mexico? Is it solely under the jurisdiction of the BGN and/or can a name change be made through an act of Congress or an executive action?

The [Principles, Policies, and Procedures](#) says that "A name proposal for a feature that crosses the international boundary with Canada or Mexico is likely to require additional processing time because the BGN must coordinate such proposals with the appropriate foreign names authority." But this is not a proposal to the BGN, but a statement by the President-Elect that he would change the name.

Once a name change is made by the BGN how is it applied? What changes?

BGN would not make the change if done by Executive action or Congress. GNIS would be updated and other federal data sources that use GNIS would be updated on their own refresh cycles.

Are BGN appointees serving at the discretion of the head of each agency/the president? Are they appointed by the head of each agency/the president?

The [BGN bylaws](#) Article II Section 2 states "The Board is comprised of principal members and deputy members. The head of each department and agency represented on the Board shall appoint one principal member and also may designate one or more deputy members."

Matt

From: Vazquez, Maegan <Maegan.Vazquez@washpost.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 2:14 PM
To: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>; Pawlitz, Rachel J <rpawlitz@usgs.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Washington Post question for Board of Geographic Names re Gulf of Mexico

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi USGS –

I'm working on a story for The Washington Post today regarding president-elect Donald Trump's recent comments saying he wants to change the name of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America.

Is there someone within the USGS/U.S. Board on Geographic Names who would be able to answer these questions for me? It would really go a long way in helping our readers understand how/if the president-elect could do this.

- What's the process for renaming a foreign name or international name like the Gulf of Mexico? Is it solely under the jurisdiction of the BGN and/or can a name change be made through an act of Congress or an executive action?
- Once a name change is made by the BGN how is it applied? What changes?
- Are BGN appointees serving at the discretion of the head of each agency/the president? Are they appointed by the head of each agency/the president?

I know it's a little bit late, but I'm hoping to wrap this up by the end of the day today. Written answers are totally okay. I apologize for the short notice.

Thank you --

--

Maegan Vazquez, Reporter at The Washington Post

+1 (956) 740-8844

maegan.vazquez@washpost.com

From: [Anderson, Gina R](#)
To: [Zahniser, Shellie R](#); [BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Gulf of Mexico
Date: Friday, January 10, 2025 7:50:58 AM

Hi Matt and Shellie,

Yes, let's continue not responding until we receive other guidance.

Thanks,

Gina Anderson

Public Affairs Specialist | Core Science Systems Mission Area
U.S. Geological Survey
Office of Communications and Publishing
405-509-3524 | granderson@usgs.gov

From: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 6:40 PM
To: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>; Anderson, Gina R <granderson@usgs.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Gulf of Mexico

Gina,

WILCO
Thanks

Shellie Zahniser, Ph.D.
BGN Executive Secretary
Domestic Names Committee
Honolulu, HI

From: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 2:36 PM
To: Anderson, Gina R <granderson@usgs.gov>
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Gulf of Mexico

FYI. If we get a lot of emails from the public either for or against changing the name, we will not respond unless instructed otherwise.

Matt

From: Susan Gordon <(b) (6)>

Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 4:48 PM

To: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Gulf of Mexico

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Good afternoon.

Please do not tamper with the historical name Gulf of Mexico.

Thanks,

Susan Gordon

(b) (6)

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Zahniser, Shellie R](#)
To: (b) (6); [Tischler, Michael A](#); (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) [NGA-SF USA CIV](#); (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) [NGA-SFGGW USA CIV](#); [Tim St. Onge](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming
Date: Friday, January 10, 2025 10:11:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)

Mike,

I also notice that you have HR 256 in your text, but Congress.gov is listing it as HR 276. Concur with distinguishing the 2 databases in a concise manner, and also agree that we shouldn't get too far ahead of ourselves. We don't know if the bill is going to pass so I would caution against any speculations in the text.

Shellie Zahniser, Ph.D.
BGN Executive Secretary
Domestic Names Committee
Honolulu, HI

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2025 5:13 AM
To: [Tischler, Michael A](#) <mtischler@usgs.gov>; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) [NGA-SF USA CIV](#) <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) [NGA-SFGGW USA CIV](#) <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>; [Zahniser, Shellie R](#) <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; [Tim St. Onge](#) <tong@loc.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

It would be updated in the GNS. I'm not certain what the feature in the GNIS is – perhaps this referring to the area of U.S. claimed waters within the larger gulf? I suspect it would be updated there as well. As a shared international feature, it falls under FNC purview. Changing the name of the feature was proposed once before (2011 maybe?), which the FNC did not approve. An executive proclamation or congressional action would, of course, supersede FNC procedure. I caution we not get ahead of ourselves.

From: [Tischler, Michael A](#) <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2025 9:40 AM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) [NGA-SF USA CIV](#) <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) [NGA-SFGGW USA CIV](#) <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>; [Zahniser, Shellie R](#) <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; [Tim St. Onge](#)

<tong@loc.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

Hi (b) (6)

Thanks for the clarification. Should this occur by exec or congressional action, the renamed feature would just be updated as official in GNS as well as GNIS, then?

Thanks,
m

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>

Sent: Friday, January 10, 2025 9:04 AM

To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SF USA CIV

(b) (3) (B), (b) (6) >; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SFGGW USA CIV

<(b) (3) (B), (b) (6) >; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; Tim St. Onge <tong@loc.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

Hi Mike,

Happy to discuss further at the EXCOM. I don't think it's too in-the-weeds. It's an important distinction. Going forward, the response could just add "...databases (GNIS and GNS)". Additionally, and I don't think that it changes anything in the end, but the Policy I is only in the DNC PPP (not FNC).

(b) (6)

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>

Sent: Friday, January 10, 2025 8:46 AM

To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SF USA CIV

<(b) (3) (B), (b) (6) >; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SFGGW USA CIV

<(b) (3) (B), (b) (6) >; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; Tim St. Onge <tong@loc.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

Hi (b) (6),

Perhaps this might be good discussion for the upcoming excom? The media question(s) were more about the process and global recognition by other countries...would your comments be a little too in-the-weeds for UNGEGN?

Should I continue to receive more questions I'll do my best to better coordinate. I was already a day behind since we were closed yesterday for the day of mourning, and wanted to get a response to UNGEGN quickly.

I'll take comments as you have them, though.

Thanks,
m

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2025 8:40 AM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SF USA CIV <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SFGGW USA CIV <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; Tim St. Onge <tong@loc.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

Hi Mike,

Thank you for looping us in and providing us an opportunity to review. When do you need comments by?

Not sure how others feel, but I'm of the mind we need to distinguish between/identify both the GNS and GNIS. Gulf of Mexico is in both databases, but in the GNIS it's contained to Louisiana whereas in the GNS, it's an international body of water.

(b) (6)

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2025 8:24 AM
To: (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SF USA CIV <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SFGGW USA CIV <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; Tim St. Onge <tong@loc.gov>; (b) (6)

<(b) (6) @state.gov>

Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Re: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

EXCOM,

I wanted to share the inquiry received by UNGEGN and my response. Please let me know if any revisions/edits are needed.

Thanks,

m

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>

Sent: Friday, January 10, 2025 8:13 AM

To: Sungjae Choo <sjchoo@khu.ac.kr>; Cecille Blake <blake1@un.org>; Wendy Shaw <wshaw@linz.govt.nz>; Ana Cristina da Rocha Berenger Resende <ana.resende@ibge.gov.br>; Adam Greenland <agreenland@linz.govt.nz>

Cc: Pierre Jaillard [JAILLARD] <pierre@jaillard.net>; Charlotte Jones <CJones@linz.govt.nz>; Mark Iliffe <mark.iliffe@un.org>; Stefan Schweinfest <schweinfest@un.org>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

Good morning,

My apologies for the delay - Federal offices in the US were closed yesterday as a day of mourning for former President Carter.

There are a few things I'd like to mention from the perspective of the US BGN.

1 - My home agency (USGS) has provided guidance that BGN staff (including me) are not to respond at this time to media inquiries. As you might guess, we have received a few questions from high-profile media outlets. But, we are currently not providing a response of any kind.

2 - The process by which the name would be changed in the US depends on the type of action taken to make the renaming official. Of course, by far the most common method to name or rename a geographic feature is a proposal to the BGN, and allow the deliberative process to run its course. However, The BGN [Policy on Names Considered or Established by Congress or the President](#) notes that "Geographic names and their applications specifically established by an act of Congress or Executive order are legally official, and therefore, are not bound by BGN principles, policies, and procedures." This includes name changes. For any names established by an act of Congress or Executive order (or proclamation), the name is entered into/changed in GNIS once official. Federal data sources are updated from GNIS on their own data refresh cycles.

3 - As of this morning, there is draft legislation to rename the Gulf of Mexico offered in the US House of Representatives ([HR 256](#)). I have attached the text which has been released (I believe on social media) by the sponsor, Rep. Taylor-Greene. If this were to pass into law the name would become official. The BGN would not be involved in the decision-making process and our authoritative database (GNIS) would be updated to reflect the new official name. The draft bill also dictates a schedule for update of Federal mapping products.

4 - As others have stated, I am also unable to offer any additional information on how other national naming authorities would recognize this name change.

Thank you,

Mike

Mike Tischler, Ph.D

Director, National Geospatial Program

Chair, U.S. Board on Geographic Names

U.S. Geological Survey

Department of Interior

o: 703-648-4725

c: 703-344-4348

mtischler@usgs.gov

From: Sungjae Choo <sjchoo@khu.ac.kr>
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2025 7:12 PM
To: Cecille Blake <blake1@un.org>; Wendy Shaw <wshaw@linz.govt.nz>; Ana Cristina da Rocha Berenger Resende <ana.resende@ibge.gov.br>; Adam Greenland <agreenland@linz.govt.nz>
Cc: Pierre Jaillard [JAILLARD] <pierre@jaillard.net>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Charlotte Jones <CJones@linz.govt.nz>; Mark Iliffe <mark.iliffe@un.org>; Stefan Schweinfest <schweinfest@un.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Dear all,

I agree with Ana that UNGEGN has to reply and do it as simply as possible. This is especially so, considering the political inclination of this media house, the Washington Times.

I am suggesting the following points be included:

- UNGEGN does not deal with individual geographical names.
- Naming authorities of each Member State have their own principles and procedures of geographical naming.
- Naming of water bodies outside of territorial waters is a subject of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), which has liaison with UNGEGN.

With best regards,

Sungjae

2025년 1월 10일 (금) 오전 7:55, Adam Greenland <agreenland@linz.govt.nz>님이 작성:

UNCLASSIFIED

Kia ora,

The IHO does not adjudicate on the names of oceans and seas in international waters.

What is managed by the IHO on behalf of Member States (MS) is the Naming Standard and the Publication of the names of oceans and seas in international waters.

I agree with Ana email comments. In my opinion, this is a topic that is/has been highly contentious with IHO MS and best to leave well alone.

Ngā mihi

Adam Greenland
National Hydrographer

Location Information

agreenland@linz.govt.nz | **DDI** 04 460 0136 | **MOB** +64 (0)21 243 1577



Wellington Office, Level 7, Radio New Zealand House,
155 The Terrace
PO Box 5501, Wellington 6145, New Zealand

www.linz.govt.nz | data.linz.govt.nz



UNCLASSIFIED

From: Ana Cristina da Rocha Berenger Resende <ana.resende@ibge.gov.br>
Sent: Friday, 10 January 2025 10:58 am
To: Cecille Blake <blake1@un.org>; Wendy Shaw <wshaw@linz.govt.nz>; Pierre Jaillard [JAILLARD] <pierre@jaillard.net>; Sungjae Choo [KHU AC] <sjchoo@khu.ac.kr>; mtischler@usgs.gov
Cc: Charlotte Jones <CJones@linz.govt.nz>; Adam Greenland <agreenland@linz.govt.nz>; Mark Iliffe <mark.iliffe@un.org>; Stefan Schweinfest <schweinfest@un.org>
Subject: Re: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

Hi, everyone!

I think it would be important to answer right away that this is not UNGEGN's role to deal with such things.

I wouldn't know how to answer what they call their "general question": "What would have to happen for the rest of the world to accept the change?". There are issues that are never solved, such as The East Sea/Sea of Japan, and I really don't think this kind of dispute ever has a "solution". And, sincerely, I think the less we say, the better, to avoid further inquiries. So, I would keep our response to the first part of Wendy's suggested response.

Best regards,

Ana

Ana Cristina da Rocha Bérenger Resende

ana.resende@ibge.gov.br

Gerente de Nomes Geográficos

Diretoria de Geociências - IBGE

+55 21 2431-0123 r. 5020

+55 21 99614-2453

De: Cecille Blake <blake1@un.org>

Enviado: Thursday, January 9, 2025 6:35:15 PM

Para: Wendy Shaw <wshaw@linz.govt.nz>; Pierre Jaillard [JAILLARD] <pierre@jaillard.net>; Sungjae Choo [KHU AC] <sjchoo@khu.ac.kr>; Ana Cristina da Rocha Berenger Resende <ana.resende@ibge.gov.br>; mtischler@usgs.gov <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Cc: Charlotte Jones <CJones@linz.govt.nz>; Adam Greenland <agreenland@linz.govt.nz>; Mark Iliffe <mark.iliffe@un.org>; Stefan Schweinfest <schweinfest@un.org>
Assunto: RE: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

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Dear Wendy

Thank you for your prompt response.

Looking forward to receiving the input from other Bureau Members.

Kind regards

Cecille

Cecille Blake (Ms.)

Global Geospatial Information Management

Environment Statistics and Geospatial Information Branch

Statistics Division| Department of Economic and Social Affairs

United Nations | 2 UN Plaza |Room DC2-1634

e-mail: blake1@un.org

Web: <http://ggim.un.org> and [UNSD — United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names](#)



UN-GGIM

UNEGN

From: Wendy Shaw <wshaw@linz.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 09 January, 2025 4:15 PM
To: Cecille Blake <blake1@un.org>; Pierre Jaillard [JAILLARD] <pierre@jaillard.net>; Sungjae Choo [KHU AC] <sjchoo@khu.ac.kr>; Ana Cristina da Rocha Berenger Resende <ana.resende@ibge.gov.br>; mtischler@usgs.gov
Cc: Charlotte Jones <CJones@linz.govt.nz>; Adam Greenland <agreenland@linz.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

UNCLASSIFIED

Thanks Cecille – UNEG N should not respond. Only the US Board on Geographical Names, Mexico's INEGA and/or IHO should respond.

However, if UNEG N must respond, we could say something like this:

'The role of UNEG N is to provide guidance to Member States on good toponymic practice. UNEG N does not adjudicate on geographical name proposals. Rather, national naming authorities have the responsibility for processing and deciding on geographical name proposals:

- United States Board on Geographical Names. Contact the USBGN member: Michael Tischler mtischler@usgs.gov . [Also maybe Betsy Kanalley bkanalley@fs.fed.us who is an UNEG N member, as well as on the USBGN Board.]
- INEGA for Mexico. Contact Mr Francisco Javier Medina Parra, Deputy Director General for Basic Geographic Information, National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) <https://www.inegi.org.mx/>
- Cuba – not sure. Are they a Member State?

Typically the names of oceans and seas in international waters are managed by the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO), who have stringent processes and standards that must be followed before names of this scale, which border multiple countries, are agreed to be changed. International maritime navigation relies on authoritative names to eliminate ambiguity and confusion, and ultimately avoid loss of life.

Should the US President proceed without following a proper consultative process through the USBGN, Mexico and/or the IHO, then the international community would likely continue using Gulf of Mexico.

Bit of a tricky one. I have cc'd our Comms person, Charlotte Jones, and our National Hydrographer, Adam Greenland, who may wish to offer some further insights/advice. I know you will have a deadline, so hopefully we can respond in a timely manner.

Kia ora

Wendy Shaw

Hēkeretari/Secretary

Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa New Zealand Geographic Board

Office of the Surveyor-General

wshaw@linz.govt.nz or wshaw@toitutewhenua.govt.nz | DDI 04 460 0581 | MOB 027 480 7082

Wellington Office,

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PO Box 5501, Wellington 6145, New Zealand

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UNCLASSIFIED

From: Cecille Blake <blake1@un.org>
Sent: Friday, 10 January 2025 9:01 a.m.
To: Pierre Jaillard [JAILLARD] <pierre@jaillard.net>; Wendy Shaw <wshaw@linz.govt.nz>; Sungjae Choo [KHU AC] <sjchoo@khu.ac.kr>; Ana Cristina da Rocha Berenger Resende <ana.resende@ibge.gov.br>; mtischler@usgs.gov
Subject: FW: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

Dear Bureau and Michael

Please see below inquiry from the Washington Times.

I would be grateful for your opinion on possible responses.

Kind regards

Cecille

Cecille Blake (Ms.)

Global Geospatial Information Management

Environment Statistics and Geospatial Information Branch

Statistics Division | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

United Nations | 2 UN Plaza | Room DC2-1634

e-mail: blake1@un.org

Web: <http://ggim.un.org> and [UNSD — United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names](#)



UN-GGIM UNGEGN

From: UNGEGN <geoinfo_unsd@un.org>
Sent: Thursday, 09 January, 2025 2:58 PM
To: Cecille Blake <blake1@un.org>
Subject: FW: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

Dear Cecille,

Please see the below email.

Thanks.

Vilma

From: Seth McLaughlin <smclaughlin@washingtontimes.com>
Sent: Thursday, 09 January, 2025 9:58 AM
To: UNGEGN <geoinfo_unsd@un.org>
Subject: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

You don't often get email from smclaughlin@washingtontimes.com. [Learn why this is important](#)
Hello,

Reaching out to get information on what the process would be for the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names if the incoming Trump administration renamed the Gulf of Mexico the Gulf of America- either through federal legislation or federal agencies.

My general question is: What would have to happen for the rest of the world to accept the change?

Please let me know who best to reach out to for a response.

Thanks,

--

Seth McLaughlin

The Washington Times

202 340-4048 (cell)

smclaughlin@washingtontimes.com

Twitter @sethmclaughlin1

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From: [Tischler, Michael A](#)
To: [Cecille Blake](#); [Sungjae Choo \[KHU AC\]](#); [Wendy Shaw](#); [Ana Cristina da Rocha Berenger Resende](#); [Adam Greenland](#)
Cc: [Pierre Jaillard \[JAILLARD\]](#); [Charlotte Jones](#); [Mark Iliffe](#); [Stefan Schweinfest](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming
Date: Friday, January 10, 2025 12:29:05 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)

Hi Cecille,

Thank you!

I should mention for the record that the US BGN has two standing committees...the Domestic Names Committee which maintains official domestic names records in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), and the Foreign Names Committee which maintains the Geographic Names Server. The Geographic Names Server (GNS) is the official repository of standard spellings of all foreign geographic names, sanctioned by the United States Board on Geographic Names (BGN).

A name change for a trans-boundary feature would require updating both GNIS and GNS. Of course, that is only the official US name and does not reflect any wider recognition by other countries.

Thanks,
Mike

From: Cecille Blake <blake1@un.org>
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2025 12:21 PM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Sungjae Choo [KHU AC] <sjchoo@khu.ac.kr>; Wendy Shaw <wshaw@linz.govt.nz>; Ana Cristina da Rocha Berenger Resende <ana.resende@ibge.gov.br>; Adam Greenland <agreenland@linz.govt.nz>
Cc: Pierre Jaillard [JAILLARD] <pierre@jaillard.net>; Charlotte Jones <CJones@linz.govt.nz>; Mark Iliffe <mark.iliffe@un.org>; Stefan Schweinfest <schweinfest@un.org>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

Dear Michael

Thank you for your detailed and timely response.

The UNGEGN Bureau will be meeting later today and am sure will decide on the approach to be adopted to the inquiry and others that we may received.

I will let you know the outcome.

Best regards

Cecille

Cecille Blake (Ms.)

Global Geospatial Information Management

Environment Statistics and Geospatial Information Branch

Statistics Division | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

United Nations | 2 UN Plaza | Room DC2-1634

e-mail: blake1@un.org

Web: <http://ggim.un.org> and [UNSD — United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names](http://un.org/unsgn/)



UN-GGIM



UNEGN

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>

Sent: Friday, 10 January, 2025 8:14 AM

To: Sungjae Choo [KHU AC] <sjchoo@khu.ac.kr>; Cecille Blake <blake1@un.org>; Wendy Shaw <wshaw@linz.govt.nz>; Ana Cristina da Rocha Berenger Resende <ana.resende@ibge.gov.br>; Adam Greenland <agreenland@linz.govt.nz>

Cc: Pierre Jaillard [JAILLARD] <pierre@jaillard.net>; Charlotte Jones <CJones@linz.govt.nz>; Mark Iliffe <mark.iliffe@un.org>; Stefan Schweinfest <schweinfest@un.org>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

Good morning,

My apologies for the delay - Federal offices in the US were closed yesterday as a day of mourning for former President Carter.

There are a few things I'd like to mention from the perspective of the US BGN.

1 - My home agency (USGS) has provided guidance that BGN staff (including me) are not to respond at this time to media inquiries. As you might guess, we have received a few questions from high-profile media outlets. But, we are currently not providing a response of any kind.

2 - The process by which the name would be changed in the US depends on the type of action taken to make the renaming official. Of course, by far the most common method to name or rename a geographic feature is a proposal to the BGN, and allow

the deliberative process to run its course. However, The BGN [Policy on Names Considered or Established by Congress or the President](#) notes that "Geographic names and their applications specifically established by an act of Congress or Executive order are legally official, and therefore, are not bound by BGN principles, policies, and procedures." This includes name changes. For any names established by an act of Congress or Executive order (or proclamation), the name is entered into/changed in GNIS once official. Federal data sources are updated from GNIS on their own data refresh cycles.

3 - As of this morning, there is draft legislation to rename the Gulf of Mexico offered in the US House of Representatives ([HR 256](#)). I have attached the text which has been released (I believe on social media) by the sponsor, Rep. Taylor-Greene. If this were to pass into law the name would become official. The BGN would not be involved in the decision-making process and our authoritative database (GNIS) would be updated to reflect the new official name. The draft bill also dictates a schedule for update of Federal mapping products.

4 - As others have stated, I am also unable to offer any additional information on how other national naming authorities would recognize this name change.

Thank you,

Mike

Mike Tischler, Ph.D
Director, National Geospatial Program
Chair, U.S. Board on Geographic Names
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of Interior
o: 703-648-4725
c: 703-344-4348
mtischler@usgs.gov

From: Sungjae Choo <sjchoo@khu.ac.kr>

Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2025 7:12 PM

To: Cecille Blake <blake1@un.org>; Wendy Shaw <wshaw@linz.govt.nz>; Ana Cristina da Rocha Berenger Resende <ana.resende@ibge.gov.br>; Adam Greenland <agreenland@linz.govt.nz>

Cc: Pierre Jaillard [JAILLARD] <pierre@jaillard.net>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Charlotte Jones <CJones@linz.govt.nz>; Mark Iliffe <mark.iliffe@un.org>; Stefan Schweinfest <schweinfest@un.org>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Dear all,

I agree with Ana that UNGEGN has to reply and do it as simply as possible. This is especially so, considering the political inclination of this media house, the Washington Times.

I am suggesting the following points be included:

- UNGEGN does not deal with individual geographical names.
- Naming authorities of each Member State have their own principles and procedures of geographical naming.
- Naming of water bodies outside of territorial waters is a subject of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), which has liaison with UNGEGN.

With best regards,
Sungjae

2025년 1월 10일 (금) 오전 7:55, Adam Greenland <agreenland@linz.govt.nz>님이 작성:

UNCLASSIFIED

Kia ora,

The IHO does not adjudicate on the names of oceans and seas in international waters. What is managed by the IHO on behalf of Member States (MS) is the Naming Standard and the Publication of the names of oceans and seas in international waters.

I agree with Ana email comments. In my opinion, this is a topic that is/has been highly contentious with IHO MS and best to leave well alone.

Ngā mihi

Adam Greenland
National Hydrographer

Location Information

agreenland@linz.govt.nz | **DDI** 04 460 0136 | **MOB** +64 (0)21 243 1577



Wellington Office, Level 7, Radio New Zealand House, 155 The Terrace

PO Box 5501, Wellington 6145, New Zealand

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UNCLASSIFIED

From: Ana Cristina da Rocha Berenger Resende <ana.resende@ibge.gov.br>
Sent: Friday, 10 January 2025 10:58 am
To: Cecille Blake <blake1@un.org>; Wendy Shaw <wshaw@linz.govt.nz>; Pierre Jaillard [JAILLARD] <pierre@jaillard.net>; Sungjae Choo [KHU AC] <sjchoo@khu.ac.kr>; mtischler@usgs.gov
Cc: Charlotte Jones <CJones@linz.govt.nz>; Adam Greenland <agreenland@linz.govt.nz>; Mark Iliffe <mark.iliffe@un.org>; Stefan Schweinfest <schweinfest@un.org>
Subject: Re: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

Hi, everyone!

I think it would be important to answer right away that this is not UNGEGN's role to deal with such things.

I wouldn't know how to answer what they call their "general question": "What would have to happen for the rest of the world to accept the change?". There are issues that are never solved, such as The East Sea/Sea of Japan, and I really don't think this kind of dispute ever has a "solution". And, sincerely, I think the less we say, the better, to avoid further inquiries. So, I would keep our response to the first part of Wendy's suggested response.

Best regards,

Ana

Ana Cristina da Rocha Bérenger Resende

ana.resende@ibge.gov.br

Gerente de Nomes Geográficos

Diretoria de Geociências - IBGE

+55 21 2431-0123 r. 5020

+55 21 99614-2453

De: Cecille Blake <blake1@un.org>
Enviado: Thursday, January 9, 2025 6:35:15 PM
Para: Wendy Shaw <wshaw@linz.govt.nz>; Pierre Jaillard [JAILLARD] <pierre@jaillard.net>; Sungjae Choo [KHU AC] <sjchoo@khu.ac.kr>; Ana Cristina da Rocha Berenger Resende <ana.resende@ibge.gov.br>; mtischler@usgs.gov <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Cc: Charlotte Jones <CJones@linz.govt.nz>; Adam Greenland <agreenland@linz.govt.nz>; Mark Iliffe <mark.iliffe@un.org>; Stefan Schweinfest <schweinfest@un.org>
Assunto: RE: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

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Dear Wendy

Thank you for your prompt response.
Looking forward to receiving the input from other Bureau Members.

Kind regards

Cecille

Cecille Blake (Ms.)
Global Geospatial Information Management
Environment Statistics and Geospatial Information Branch
Statistics Division | Department of Economic and Social Affairs
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UN-GGIM



UNGEKN

From: Wendy Shaw <wshaw@linz.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 09 January, 2025 4:15 PM
To: Cecille Blake <blake1@un.org>; Pierre Jaillard [JAILLARD] <pierre@jaillard.net>; Sungjae Choo [KHU AC] <sichoo@khu.ac.kr>; Ana Cristina da Rocha Berenger Resende <ana.resende@ibge.gov.br>; mtischler@usgs.gov
Cc: Charlotte Jones <CJones@linz.govt.nz>; Adam Greenland <agreenland@linz.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

UNCLASSIFIED

Thanks Cecille – UNGEKN should not respond. Only the US Board on Geographical Names, Mexico's INEGA and/or IHO should respond.

However, if UNGEKN must respond, we could say something like this:

'The role of UNGEKN is to provide guidance to Member States on good toponymic practice. UNGEKN does not adjudicate on geographical name proposals. Rather, national naming authorities have the responsibility for processing and deciding on geographical name proposals:

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Michael Tischler mtischler@usgs.gov . [Also maybe Betsy Kanalley bkanalley@fs.fed.us who is an UNGEGN member, as well as on the USBGN Board.]

- INEGA for Mexico. Contact Mr Francisco Javier Medina Parra, Deputy Director General for Basic Geographic Information, National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) <https://www.inegi.org.mx/>
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Bit of a tricky one. I have cc'd our Comms person, Charlotte Jones, and our National Hydrographer, Adam Greenland, who may wish to offer some further insights/advice. I know you will have a deadline, so hopefully we can respond in a timely manner.

Kia ora

Wendy Shaw

Hēkeretari/Secretary

Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa New Zealand Geographic Board

Office of the Surveyor-General

wshaw@linz.govt.nz or wshaw@toitutewhenua.govt.nz | DDI 04 460 0581 | MOB 027 480 7082

Wellington Office,

Level 7, 155 The Terrace,

PO Box 5501, Wellington 6145, New Zealand

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UNCLASSIFIED

From: Cecille Blake <blake1@un.org>

Sent: Friday, 10 January 2025 9:01 a.m.

To: Pierre Jaillard [JAILLARD] <pierre@jaillard.net>; Wendy Shaw <wshaw@linz.govt.nz>; Sungjae

Choo [KHU AC] <sjchoo@khu.ac.kr>; Ana Cristina da Rocha Berenger Resende <ana.resende@ibge.gov.br>; mtischler@usgs.gov

Subject: FW: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

Dear Bureau and Michael

Please see below inquiry from the Washington Times.
I would be grateful for your opinion on possible responses.

Kind regards

Cecille

Cecille Blake (Ms.)

Global Geospatial Information Management

Environment Statistics and Geospatial Information Branch

Statistics Division | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

United Nations | 2 UN Plaza | Room DC2-1634

e-mail: blake1@un.org

Web: <http://ggim.un.org> and [UNSD — United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names](http://un.org/geonames)



UN-GGIM



UNEGN

From: UNEG N <geoinfo_unsd@un.org>

Sent: Thursday, 09 January, 2025 2:58 PM

To: Cecille Blake <blake1@un.org>

Subject: FW: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

Dear Cecille,

Please see the below email.

Thanks.

Vilma

From: Seth McLaughlin <smclaughlin@washingtontimes.com>

Sent: Thursday, 09 January, 2025 9:58 AM

To: UNEG N <geoinfo_unsd@un.org>

Subject: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

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Hello,

Reaching out to get information on what the process would be for the United Nations Group

of Experts on Geographical Names if the incoming Trump administration renamed the Gulf of Mexico the Gulf of America- either through federal legislation or federal agencies.

My general question is: What would have to happen for the rest of the world to accept the change?

Please let me know who best to reach out to for a response.

Thanks,

--

Seth McLaughlin
The Washington Times
202 340-4048 (cell)
smclaughlin@washingtontimes.com
Twitter @sethmclaughlin1

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From: (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) [NGA-SFGGW USA CIV](#)
To: (b) (6) [Tischler, Michael A](#); (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) [NGA-SFGG USA CIV](#); [Zahniser, Shellie R](#); [Tim St. Onge](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming
Date: Friday, January 10, 2025 8:48:02 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
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[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
=====

Good morning Mike (+ team) ,

Thank you for the opportunity to review. I will do so shortly and respond quickly should I have any suggestions. I do agree with (b) (6); we need to clearly distinguish between the GNS and GNIS. While both databases include the Gulf of Mexico, it is limited to Louisiana in the GNIS, whereas the GNS categorizes it as an international body of water. This distinction does/could delineate a different course of action for the way the name(s) are reflected in the GNS, specifically if this gets into 'disputed territory' issues. Clarifying this distinction in advance may help prevent future issues or questions.

Just my initial – very under caffeinated – thoughts.

V/r,

(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)

(b) (6)

National Geospatial Intelligence Agency

(U) (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) Office
(U) (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) Telework

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2025 7:40 AM
To: Tischler, Michael [I-Net] <mtischler@usgs.gov>; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SFGG USA CIV
<(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SFGGW USA CIV
<(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; Tim St. Onge
<tong@loc.gov>

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico

renaming

Hi Mike,

Thank you for looping us in and providing us an opportunity to review. When do you need comments by?

Not sure how others feel, but I'm of the mind we need to distinguish between/identify both the GNS and GNIS. Gulf of Mexico is in both databases, but in the GNIS it's contained to Louisiana whereas in the GNS, it's an international body of water.

(b) (6)

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>

Sent: Friday, January 10, 2025 8:24 AM

To: (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SF USA CIV <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SFSGGW USA CIV <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; Tim St. Onge <tong@loc.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>

Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Re: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

EXCOM,

I wanted to share the inquiry received by UNGEGN and my response. Please let me know if any revisions/edits are needed.

Thanks,
m

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>

Sent: Friday, January 10, 2025 8:13 AM

To: Sungjae Choo <sjchoo@khu.ac.kr>; Cecille Blake <blake1@un.org>; Wendy Shaw <wshaw@linz.govt.nz>; Ana Cristina da Rocha Berenger Resende <ana.resende@ibge.gov.br>; Adam Greenland <agreenland@linz.govt.nz>

Cc: Pierre Jaillard [JAILLARD] <pierre@jaillard.net>; Charlotte Jones <CJones@linz.govt.nz>; Mark Illiffe <mark.illiffe@un.org>; Stefan Schweinfest <schweinfest@un.org>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

Good morning,

My apologies for the delay - Federal offices in the US were closed yesterday as a day of mourning for former President Carter.

There are a few things I'd like to mention from the perspective of the US BGN.

1 - My home agency (USGS) has provided guidance that BGN staff (including me) are not to respond at this time to media inquiries. As you might guess, we have

received a few questions from high-profile media outlets. But, we are currently not providing a response of any kind.

2 - The process by which the name would be changed in the US depends on the type of action taken to make the renaming official. Of course, by far the most common method to name or rename a geographic feature is a proposal to the BGN, and allow the deliberative process to run its course. However, The BGN [Policy on Names Considered or Established by Congress or the President](#) notes that "Geographic names and their applications specifically established by an act of Congress or Executive order are legally official, and therefore, are not bound by BGN principles, policies, and procedures." This includes name changes. For any names established by an act of Congress or Executive order (or proclamation), the name is entered into/changed in GNIS once official. Federal data sources are updated from GNIS on their own data refresh cycles.

3 - As of this morning, there is draft legislation to rename the Gulf of Mexico offered in the US House of Representatives ([HR 256](#)). I have attached the text which has been released (I believe on social media) by the sponsor, Rep. Taylor-Greene. If this were to pass into law the name would become official. The BGN would not be involved in the decision-making process and our authoritative database (GNIS) would be updated to reflect the new official name. The draft bill also dictates a schedule for update of Federal mapping products.

4 - As others have stated, I am also unable to offer any additional information on how other national naming authorities would recognize this name change.

Thank you,

Mike

Mike Tischler, Ph.D
Director, National Geospatial Program
Chair, U.S. Board on Geographic Names
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of Interior
o: 703-648-4725
c: 703-344-4348
mtischler@usgs.gov

From: Sungjae Choo <sjchoo@khu.ac.kr>

Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2025 7:12 PM

To: Cecille Blake <blake1@un.org>; Wendy Shaw <wshaw@linz.govt.nz>; Ana Cristina da Rocha Berenger Resende <ana.resende@ibge.gov.br>; Adam Greenland <agreenland@linz.govt.nz>

Cc: Pierre Jaillard [JAILLARD] <pierre@jaillard.net>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Charlotte Jones <CJones@linz.govt.nz>; Mark Iliffe <mark.iliffe@un.org>; Stefan Schweinfest

<schweinfest@un.org>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

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Dear all,

I agree with Ana that UNGEGN has to reply and do it as simply as possible. This is especially so, considering the political inclination of this media house, the Washington Times.

I am suggesting the following points be included:

- UNGEGN does not deal with individual geographical names.
- Naming authorities of each Member State have their own principles and procedures of geographical naming.
- Naming of water bodies outside of territorial waters is a subject of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), which has liaison with UNGEGN.

With best regards,
Sungjae

2025년 1월 10일 (금) 오전 7:55, Adam Greenland <agreenland@linz.govt.nz>님이 작성:

UNCLASSIFIED

Kia ora,

The IHO does not adjudicate on the names of oceans and seas in international waters.

What is managed by the IHO on behalf of Member States (MS) is the Naming Standard and the Publication of the names of oceans and seas in international waters.

I agree with Ana email comments. In my opinion, this is a topic that is/has been highly contentious with IHO MS and best to leave well alone.

Ngā mihi

Adam Greenland
National Hydrographer

Location Information

agreenland@linz.govt.nz | **DDI** 04 460 0136 | **MOB** +64 (0)21 243 1577



Wellington Office, Level 7, Radio New Zealand House, 155 The
Terrace
PO Box 5501, Wellington 6145, New Zealand

www.linz.govt.nz | data.linz.govt.nz



UNCLASSIFIED

From: Ana Cristina da Rocha Berenger Resende <ana.resende@ibge.gov.br>

Sent: Friday, 10 January 2025 10:58 am

To: Cecille Blake <blake1@un.org>; Wendy Shaw <wshaw@linz.govt.nz>; Pierre Jaillard [JAILLARD]
<pierre@jaillard.net>; Sungjae Choo [KHU AC] <sjchoo@khu.ac.kr>; mtischler@usgs.gov

Cc: Charlotte Jones <CJones@linz.govt.nz>; Adam Greenland <agreenland@linz.govt.nz>; Mark
Iliffe <mark.iliffe@un.org>; Stefan Schweinfest <schweinfest@un.org>

Subject: Re: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

Hi, everyone!

I think it would be important to answer right away that this is not UNGEGN's role to deal with such things.

I wouldn't know how to answer what they call their "general question": "What would have to happen for the rest of the world to accept the change?". There are issues that are never solved, such as The East Sea/Sea of Japan, and I really don't think this kind of dispute ever has a "solution". And, sincerely, I think the less we say, the better, to avoid further inquiries. So, I would keep our response to the first part of Wendy's suggested response.

Best regards,

Ana

Ana Cristina da Rocha Bérenger Resende

ana.resende@ibge.gov.br

Gerente de Nomes Geográficos

Diretoria de Geociências - IBGE

+55 21 2431-0123 r. 5020

+55 21 99614-2453

De: Cecille Blake <blake1@un.org>

Enviado: Thursday, January 9, 2025 6:35:15 PM

Para: Wendy Shaw <wshaw@linz.govt.nz>; Pierre Jaillard [JAILLARD] <pierre@jaillard.net>; Sungjae Choo [KHU AC] <sjchoo@khu.ac.kr>; Ana Cristina da Rocha Berenger Resende <ana.resende@ibge.gov.br>; mtischler@usgs.gov <mtischler@usgs.gov>

Cc: Charlotte Jones <CJones@linz.govt.nz>; Adam Greenland <agreenland@linz.govt.nz>; Mark Iliffe <mark.iliffe@un.org>; Stefan Schweinfest <schweinfest@un.org>

Assunto: RE: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

[CUIDADO] Este e-mail foi recebido de fora da organização. Por favor, verifique cuidadosamente o remetente antes de abrir anexos ou clicar em links. Caso tenha dúvidas sobre a confiabilidade da mensagem, não interaja e encaminhe o e-mail para a caixa postal abuse@ibge.gov.br. Sua atenção e colaboração são essenciais para garantir a segurança dos dados do IBGE.

Dear Wendy

Thank you for your prompt response.

Looking forward to receiving the input from other Bureau Members.

Kind regards

Cecille

Cecille Blake (Ms.)

Global Geospatial Information Management

Environment Statistics and Geospatial Information Branch

Statistics Division | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

United Nations | 2 UN Plaza | Room DC2-1634

e-mail: blake1@un.org

Web: <http://ggim.un.org> and [UNSD — United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names](http://un.org/geonames)



UN-GGIM



UNGEEN

From: Wendy Shaw <wshaw@linz.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 09 January, 2025 4:15 PM

To: Cecille Blake <blake1@un.org>; Pierre Jaillard [JAILLARD] <pierre@jaillard.net>; Sungjae Choo

[KHU AC] <sjchoo@khu.ac.kr>; Ana Cristina da Rocha Berenger Resende

<ana.resende@ibge.gov.br>; mtischler@usgs.gov

Cc: Charlotte Jones <CJones@linz.govt.nz>; Adam Greenland <agreenland@linz.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

UNCLASSIFIED

Thanks Cecille – UNGEGN should not respond. Only the US Board on Geographical Names, Mexico's INEGA and/or IHO should respond.

However, if UNGEGN must respond, we could say something like this:

'The role of UNGEGN is to provide guidance to Member States on good toponymic practice. UNGEGN does not adjudicate on geographical name proposals. Rather, national naming authorities have the responsibility for processing and deciding on geographical name proposals:

- United States Board on Geographical Names. Contact the USBGN member: Michael Tischler mtischler@usgs.gov . [Also maybe Betsy Kanalley bkanalley@fs.fed.us who is an UNGEGN member, as well as on the USBGN Board.]
- INEGA for Mexico. Contact Mr Francisco Javier Medina Parra, Deputy Director General for Basic Geographic Information, National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) <https://www.inegi.org.mx/>
- Cuba – not sure. Are they a Member State?

Typically the names of oceans and seas in international waters are managed by the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO), who have stringent processes and standards that must be followed before names of this scale, which border multiple countries, are agreed to be changed. International maritime navigation relies on authoritative names to eliminate ambiguity and confusion, and ultimately avoid loss of life.

Should the US President proceed without following a proper consultative process through the USBGN, Mexico and/or the IHO, then the international community would likely continue using Gulf of Mexico.

Bit of a tricky one. I have cc'd our Comms person, Charlotte Jones, and our National Hydrographer, Adam Greenland, who may wish to offer some further insights/advice. I know you will have a deadline, so hopefully we can respond in a timely manner.

Kia ora

Wendy Shaw

Hēkeretari/Secretary

Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa New Zealand Geographic Board

Office of the Surveyor-General

wshaw@linz.govt.nz or wshaw@toitutewhenua.govt.nz | **DDI** 04 460 0581 | **MOB** 027 480 7082

Wellington Office,

Level 7, 155 The Terrace,

PO Box 5501, Wellington 6145, New Zealand

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UNCLASSIFIED

From: Cecille Blake <blake1@un.org>

Sent: Friday, 10 January 2025 9:01 a.m.

To: Pierre Jaillard [JAILLARD] <pierre@jaillard.net>; Wendy Shaw <wshaw@linz.govt.nz>; Sungjae Choo [KHU AC] <sjchoo@khu.ac.kr>; Ana Cristina da Rocha Berenger Resende <ana.resende@ibge.gov.br>; mtischler@usgs.gov

Subject: FW: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

Dear Bureau and Michael

Please see below inquiry from the Washington Times.

I would be grateful for your opinion on possible responses.

Kind regards

Cecille

Cecille Blake (Ms.)

Global Geospatial Information Management

Environment Statistics and Geospatial Information Branch

Statistics Division | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

United Nations | 2 UN Plaza | Room DC2-1634

e-mail: blake1@un.org

Web: <http://ggim.un.org> and [UNSD — United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names](http://un.org/unsgn/)



UN-GGIM



UNGEKN

From: UNGEGN <geoinfo_unsd@un.org>

Sent: Thursday, 09 January, 2025 2:58 PM

To: Cecille Blake <blake1@un.org>

Subject: FW: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

Dear Cecille,

Please see the below email.

Thanks.

Vilma

From: Seth McLaughlin <smclaughlin@washingtontimes.com>
Sent: Thursday, 09 January, 2025 9:58 AM
To: UNGEGN <geoinfo_unsd@un.org>
Subject: Washington Times reporter inquiry: Gulf of Mexico renaming

You don't often get email from smclaughlin@washingtontimes.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

Reaching out to get information on what the process would be for the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names if the incoming Trump administration renamed the Gulf of Mexico the Gulf of America- either through federal legislation or federal agencies.

My general question is: What would have to happen for the rest of the world to accept the change?

Please let me know who best to reach out to for a response.

Thanks,

--

Seth McLaughlin

The Washington Times

202 340-4048 (cell)

smclaughlin@washingtontimes.com

Twitter @sethmclaughlin1

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=====
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

From: [Anderson, Gina R](#)
To: [BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC](#)
Cc: [Zahniser, Shellie R](#); [Tischler, Michael A](#); [St. Onge, Tim](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Gulf of AMERICA
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 6:56:14 AM

Thanks, Matt.

Gina Anderson

Public Affairs Specialist | Core Science Systems Mission Area
U.S. Geological Survey
Office of Communications and Publishing
405-509-3524 | granderson@usgs.gov

From: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 8:45 AM
To: Anderson, Gina R <granderson@usgs.gov>
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; St. Onge, Tim <tong@loc.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Gulf of AMERICA

Hi Gina,

FYI, another public comment on the Gulf of Mexico name.

As before, we will not respond.

Matt

From: Harith <(b) (6) @gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 7:17 PM
To: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Gulf of AMERICA

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I think you should call the Gulf of “Mexico” to Gulf of America because unlike “Mexico” America can apply both to the US and Mexico making it much more fair.

From: (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) [NGA-SFGGW USA CIV](#)
To: [Tischler, Michael A](#); [Zahniser, Shellie R](#); (b) (6) [@state.gov](#); (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) [NGA-SFGG USA CIV](#); ["tong@loc.gov"](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] January EXCOM [Minutes Enclosed]
Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 12:02:30 PM
Attachments: [EXTERNAL January EXCOM Minutes Enclosed.msg](#)

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U.S. Board on Geographic Names
Executive Committee Meeting
Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 10:30 a.m. EST

Attendees

(b) (6), Department of State
Timothy ST. ONGE, Library of Congress
Michael TISCHLER, Department of the Interior/U.S. Geological Survey (BGN Chair)
(b) (3) (B), (b) (6), Department of Defense (Chair)
Shellie ZAHNISER, Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names for Domestic Names

1. Opening

(b) (3) (B), (b) (6) opened EXCOM Meeting of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) at 10:30 a.m. EST.

2. Communications

2.1 BGN Chairman's Report (TISCHLER)

TISCHLER expressed his gratitude for the prompt response and understanding regarding H.R. 276, which involves the renaming of the Gulf of Mexico.

TISCHLER inquired about the status of the BGN Communications Chair and the response received. The Executive Committee discussed the status of nominating a new member for the position of BGN Communications Chair. (b) (5) DPP

(b) (5) DPP

The Executive Committee discussed RUNYON's departure and the resulting significant gap in the workforce. (b) (5) DPP

2.2 BGN Vice-Chair's Report (b) (3) (B), (b) (6))

(b) (5) DPP

(b) (3) (B), (b) (6) gave an update to the current FNC staffing situation following changes that occurred prior to the BGN/PCGN Conference in November. (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) has been selected to fulfill

the role of FNC Assistant. TBD on the final date and tempo/capability assessment as things transition.

3. Executive Discussions

Domestic Names Committee (ZAHNISER)

BGN Annual Report

ZAHNISER provided a status update on the BGN Annual Reports, which have not been produced since FY2021. She emphasized the need for (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) to contribute input on the UNGEGN US/CAN Division. ZAHNISER also mentioned that the 24 wrap-up will serve as the US country report for UNGEGN.

(b) (3) (B), (b) (6) offered to notify (b) (3) (B), (b) (6).

Solicitor Guidance Discussion

(b) (5) ACP

Agency Appointment Letters

(b) (5) DPP

(b) (5) DPP

Congressional Bill H.R. 276 Status

The Executive Committee discussed the status of Congressional Bill H.R. 276, noting that Representative Greene officially submitted the document. ZAHNISER reiterated previous guidance to refrain from responding to any inquiries. TISCHLER raised concerns about the need for consistency and awareness among agencies, emphasizing the importance of collaborating on a unified response message should the need arise. He noted documentation stating the BGN Chair would be held responsible, with a 180-day deadline for completion.

4. Other Business

4.1 Advisory Committees

4.1.i. Advisory Committee on Extra- Terrestrial Features

(b) (5) DPP

5. Other Business

(b) (6) noted a potential conflict for the January quarterly full board meeting of the US Board on Geographic Names, as it follows the US Presidential inauguration. The Executive Committee agreed to postpone the meeting due to the anticipated impacts.

TISCHLER offered to update the status of Advisory Committee 3405.

ZAHNISER raised the issue of scheduling a planning meeting for the upcoming review sessions of the DNC Principles, Policies, and Procedures working group. The Executive Committee agreed to set the meeting for February 4, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. EST.

6. Closing

(b) (3), (b) (5), (b) (6) adjourned the meeting at 12:32 a.m. EST.

7. Next Meeting

The next Executive Committee Meeting is expected to take place 2-3 weeks prior to the next Full Board quarterly meeting, scheduled for April 2025.

From: [Zahniser, Shellie R](#)
To: [Tischler, Michael A](#)
Subject: RE: BGN issue paper needed for transition
Date: Friday, January 17, 2025 2:04:00 PM
Attachments: [Guidance_Issue Paper BGN.docx](#)

Mike,

Attached is the first of 2 issue papers. This one is a general BGN paper. My intent is to get a second paper to you that lays out Presidential and Congressional name designations.

Shellie Zahniser, Ph.D.
BGN Executive Secretary
Domestic Names Committee
Honolulu, HI

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 9:18 AM
To: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: Fw: BGN issue paper needed for transition

Hi Shellie,

Can you please take the first shot at a draft? This should be pretty straightforward I would think...just borrowing language from our PPP.

Thanks,
m

From: Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 2:13 PM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Cc: Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>
Subject: BGN issue paper needed for transition

Hi Mike,

Given the Gulf of Mexico and the Mt. Denali name changes being proposed by the new administration, we think it would be helpful to have an issue paper for our transition library that describes the BGN, its role, what is covered and what is not, and the process for renaming geographic features. I believe that if these proposed changes are done via an EO, SO, or legislation, that the BGN is not likely to be involved.

I've attached the template, and I am assuming you have materials that can be copy/pasted into this format.

Thanks very much,

Leslie

Leslie W. Jones (she/her)

Chief of Staff

U.S. Geological Survey

12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS101

Reston, VA 20192

703-969-4158 (cell) ljones@usgs.gov

ISSUE: [U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES]

I. KEY POINTS

The BGN, conjointly with the Secretary of the Interior, is directed to establish and maintain uniform geographic name usage throughout the Federal Government, including solving name discrepancies, approving new names, validating and recording existing names, and promulgating all official names.

The BGN comprises representatives of Federal agencies concerned with geographic information, population, ecology, and management of public lands.

The U.S. Board on Geographic Names follows a set of principles, policies, and procedures approved by the Secretary of the Interior with reference to both domestic and foreign geographic names; and to decide the standard names, orthographies, applications, and their promulgation for official use.

The Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) was established and is maintained by the U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. It represents the Federal Government's only official repository for identifying official placenames. Its purpose is to have a single efficient source of official placenames for use by all federal agencies so they don't need to maintain their own data sources.

II. OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The BGN is integral in strengthening and maintaining Tribal relations and developing collaborative opportunities that preserve the history and diverse cultures of Tribes. These activities include Tribal consultation, pronunciation of Tribal geographic names for the public, engaging and requesting input on geographic naming proposals, and attending Tribal Historic Preservation Officer meetings.

The BGN offers the public a way to participate in the Federal geographic naming process. With respect to the Domestic Naming Committee, there are currently no limitations on who can participate in proposing new names, and name changes in the U.S.; something that can be both an opportunity, and a challenge and will require additional considerations as policies and procedures are updated. However, the Foreign Names Committee follows much stricter guidelines.

With the accessibility to the BGN via the internet comes greater visibility to a larger audience. Recently, the BGN has been involved with many high-profile cases that has increased the number of media inquiries, Congressional requests, and Freedom of Information Act requests, and inquiries from the public. With minimal staff and greater visibility, the ability to maintain operational tempo has been degraded.

The current design of GNIS does not meet the needs of agencies for a single efficient source of official placenames, requiring agencies to maintain their own data sources.

In addition to GNIS, the Geographic Names Server (GNS) is the central database for foreign geographic names approved for use on Federal products.

The BGN DNC mission is funded through Congressional appropriations allocated to the USGS, which is primarily used maintain GNIS. The annual appropriation is roughly \$900K; this funding supports the Executive Secretary of the Domestic Names Committee, 2 Federal staff, 1 contracted staff, and multiple technical personnel who maintain the GNIS database. Board members are not funded for their service to the BGN.

III. BACKGROUND

The U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) is a Federal body created in 1890 and established in its present form by Public Law in 1947 to maintain uniform geographic name usage throughout the Federal Government.

By law, the BGN is responsible for promulgating all geographic names except those applying to offices or establishments of Federal agencies (Pub. L. 80–242, sec. 1 and 7; 43 U.S.C. 364 and 364f).

Geographic names and their applications specifically established by an act of Congress, Executive order, Treaty, or Federal proclamation are official by law. This does not apply to geographic names used incidentally in the language of documents intended for other purposes.

If not named by an act of Congress or Executive order, federal land units are named by the administering agency under the authority of an act of Congress.

All proposals are evaluated in cooperation with State geographic names authorities and advisors; Federal, State, and Tribal agencies; local governments; other authoritative bodies; and the public. BGN policies, published usage, and State, Tribal, and local governmental needs, will also be taken into consideration.

Policies include: Policy I. Names Considered or Established by Congress or the President Policy II. Name Changes Policy III. Commemorative Names Policy IV. Wilderness Area Geographic Names Policy V. Derogatory and Offensive Names Policy VI. Diacritics Policy VII. Duplicate and Similar Names Policy VIII. Variant Names Policy IX. Long Names Policy X. Tribal Geographic Names Policy XI. Commercial Names Policy XII. Animal Names

IV. PREPARED BY: Shellie Zahniser, United States Geological Survey, BGN Executive Secretary, 808-260-6150

DATE

10 January, 2025

From: [BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC](#)
To: [Tischler, Michael A](#); [Zahniser, Shellie R](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] ST_GeographicName
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 12:57:13 PM
Attachments: [S tate _GeographicNameProposed 1.pdf](#)
[S tate _GeographicNameProposed.pdf](#)

Our question about BGN purview over Executive or Congressional naming is a reality.

Two proposals, only one of which is relevant to the question:

change [Denali](#) to "Denali McKinley"

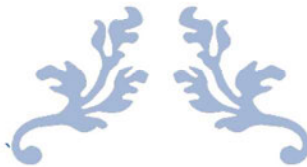
change [Flattop](#) (no feature in GNIS and FID in proposal is for [Chugach Mountains](#) , perhaps [Flattop Mountain](#), which is in the Chugach Mountains?) to "Mount McKinley"

Matt

From: Shane Carlson [\(b\) \(6\)](#) @myyahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 3:42 PM
To: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ST_GeographicName

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Petition to change the name of two mountains in Alaska.



THE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE PROPOSAL FORM

This document is for those interested in proposing:

1. **A new name for a currently unnamed geographic feature, or**
2. **A change to an existing name, spelling, or where a name is applied.**

By submitting this form, the proponent acknowledges the [BGN Policies](#) and agrees to work with BGN staff regarding their 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](#). Please note all fields with a red outline 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.

Submit Proposal:

1. Download and email this form and supporting documentation to:
BGNEXEC@usgs.gov

OR 2. Send by mail to:
U.S. BGN Executive Secretary, Domestic Names
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS-523
Reston, VA 20192

Contact Us:

BGNEXEC@usgs.gov

- i. Save PDF using this format:
'State_GeographicNameProposed'
- ii. Email Subject: *ST_GeographicName*

Please note that anything submitted by mail will be delayed.

Naming Basics

Proposed Name:

Mount McKinley

Is this to change an existing name? ☒ Y ☐ N

If yes, please provide the official name and Feature ID as it appears in [the Geographic Names Information System \(GNIS\)](#).

Is this name in current local use? ☒ Y ☐ N

What is the Feature Type?

Please Select One

GNIS Name: Flattop

GNIS ID: 1412401

Location Basics

Where is the feature?

Latitude: 61.0895166 (38.94741)

Longitude: -149.6680014 (-77.36839)

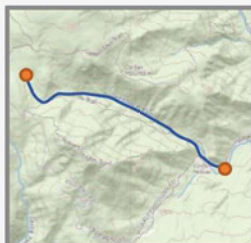


For Linear Features (e.g. stream or valley):

Mouth/Confluence

Latitude: (38.94741)

Longitude: (-77.36839)



Source/Headwater

Latitude: (38.94741)

Longitude: (-77.36839)

General Location:

State: Alaska

County:

City/Town/

Township/

Borough:

Public Land Survey System:

Section(s), Township, Range, Meridian

Anchorage Alaska and Chugach State Park

Feature Description

Physical shape, length, width, etc. (Maps can be submitted separately by email)

It is flat on the top but still looks like a mountain. Offers great views of the city and of surrounding areas.

Name Details

Name information:

Please provide relevant information about the proposed name, such as origin, meaning, how long it has been in current use, as well as current or historical significance. Also include why you believe the feature requires a name or name change and why the proposed name is appropriate. Describe any documents that you will be submitting (separately by email) to support your proposal.

Mount McKinley honors former President William McKinley who was our 25th President and honors his legacy. The nearby Mount Daneli was renamed to Daneli in 2015 to reflect the Alaska natives and culture. FlatTop Mountain has no meaning and does not appeal to our younger Generation. Renaming FlatTop to Mount McKinley would most certainly represent our 25th President William McKinley and allow the younger generation to stand on Mount McKinley.

Please provide a list of supporting documentation, including any web links:

Examples: Published sources showing the proposed name or letters of support (local government, historical society, etc.).

As of writing I have none at this time.

Is the name [commemorative](#)? Does the name honor or refer to a person or persons? ☒ Y ☐ N

Please note that the BGN will only accept proposals for names that are intended to honor a person or persons deceased at least five years. The BGN will disapprove names that could be construed to honor living persons. The person being honored should have had either (1) some direct or long-term association with the feature, or (2) have made a significant contribution to the area, community, or State in which it is located; or (3) have outstanding national or international recognition. The BGN discourages the use of an individual's full name except to avoid ambiguity.

If yes, please provide the following:

Honoree's Date of Birth: 1/29/1843 Honoree's Date of Death: 9/18/1901

Short biography and significance or association with the geographic feature: *(list any additional honorees here)*

President William McKinley may have at one point visited Anchorage and had the opportunity to step foot on flattop but President William McKinley never did step foot on Mount Denali. Not many but few presidents have had the opportunity to step onto flattop. Thus the reason Flattop should be renamed to Mount McKinley.

Is the feature in a Wilderness Area or Wilderness Study Area? ☒ Y ☐ N ☐ Unknown

If yes, please provide your justification for making an exception to [the Wilderness Policy](#):

Please note that the BGN will not approve new names for unnamed features within wilderness areas or wilderness study areas, unless an overriding need can be demonstrated by the proponent.

The Proposed mountain is located in Anchorage Alaska and Chugach State Park.

Is the name you are proposing intended to honor Native Americans, their language, or culture? ☒ Y ☐ N

If yes, to ensure that the proposed name is appropriate, the BGN strongly advises proponents to work with Tribal Leaders, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, and/or Native American linguists or other expert(s) associated with the Tribe to determine the acceptability of the proposed name and application. Please review [the BGN's Cultural Sensitivity for Native American Names guidance](#).

Proponents should also seek letters of endorsement from the governments (e.g., Tribal Councils) of any affected Tribes. Please indicate below, or in documentation submitted separately (with this proposal or any time after the proposal is submitted), any efforts to solicit Tribal input.

Additional Information +

Is there any local opposition or conflict with the proposed name? ☐ Y ☒ N

If yes, please explain and describe any opposition:

Additional notes, including any Tribal input details

All parties are currently in agreement and wish to see FlatTop Renamed to Mount McKinley as soon as possibal.


Proponent Information


Please provide one form of contact (email preferred):


 Proponent's Name: Shane Carlson

Agency or Organization, if applicable:

 Email: (b) (6) @myyahoo.com

 Mailing Address:

 Phone:

 Are you completing this form for someone else? ☐ Y ☒ N

If yes, please fill out the following:

Completed by:

Full Name:

Email:

Mailing Address:

Phone:



THE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE PROPOSAL FORM

This document is for those interested in proposing:

1. **A new name for a currently unnamed geographic feature, or**
2. **A change to an existing name, spelling, or where a name is applied.**

By submitting this form, the proponent acknowledges the [BGN Policies](#) and agrees to work with BGN staff regarding their 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](#). Please note all fields with a red outline 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.

Submit Proposal: 1. Download and email this form and supporting documentation to: BGNEXEC@usgs.gov
OR 2. Send by mail to:
U.S. BGN Executive Secretary, Domestic Names
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS-523
Reston, VA 20192

Contact Us: i. Save PDF using this format: 'State_GeographicNameProposed'
BGNEXEC@usgs.gov ii. Email Subject: ST_GeographicName

Please note that anything submitted by mail will be delayed.

Naming Basics

Proposed Name:

Denali McKinley

Is this to change an existing name? ☒ Y ☐ N

If yes, please provide the official name and Feature ID as it appears in [the Geographic Names Information System \(GNIS\)](#).

Is this name in current local use? ☒ Y ☐ N

What is the Feature Type?

Please Select One

GNIS Name: Denali

GNIS ID: 1414314

Location Basics



Where is the feature?

Latitude: 63.0691018, 63.081 (38.94741)

Longitude: -151.0062617, -150.981 (-77.36839)



For Linear Features (e.g. stream or valley):

Mouth/Confluence

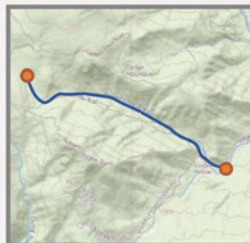
Latitude: (38.94741)

Longitude: (-77.36839)

Source/Headwater

Latitude: (38.94741)

Longitude: (-77.36839)



General Location:

State: Alaska

County:

City/Town/
Township/
Borough: Denali Borough

Public Land Survey System:

Section(s), Township, Range, Meridian

Denali Borough

Feature Description

Physical shape, length, width, etc. (Maps can be submitted separately by email)

Has an Elevation 20,310 ft. and is the highest point in North America.

Name Details

Name information:

Please provide relevant information about the proposed name, such as origin, meaning, how long it has been in current use, as well as current or historical significance. Also include why you believe the feature requires a name or name change and why the proposed name is appropriate. Describe any documents that you will be submitting (separately by email) to support your proposal.

The name Denali McKinley would honor both the Koyukon people and William McKinley. Denali McKinley has been called and known as Mount McKinley by many and by the many Alaskans, Alaska Natives and The Alaska Board of Geographic Names it has been know as Mount Denali. The Koyukon people who inhabit the area around the mountain have referred to the peak as "Denali" for centuries. In 1896, a gold prospector named it "Mount McKinley" in support of then-presidential candidate William McKinley.

Please provide a list of supporting documentation, including any web links:

Examples: Published sources showing the proposed name or letters of support (local government, historical society, etc.).

<https://www.murkowski.senate.gov/press/release/senator-murkowski-opposes-denali-name-change>

Is the name [commemorative](#)? Does the name honor or refer to a person or persons? ☒ Y ☐ N

Please note that the BGN will only accept proposals for names that are intended to honor a person or persons deceased at least five years. The BGN will disapprove names that could be construed to honor living persons. The person being honored should have had either (1) some direct or long-term association with the feature, or (2) have made a significant contribution to the area, community, or State in which it is located; or (3) have outstanding national or international recognition. The BGN discourages the use of an individual's full name except to avoid ambiguity.

If yes, please provide the following:

Honoree's Date of Birth: 1/29/1842 Honoree's Date of Death: 9/14/1901

Short biography and significance or association with the geographic feature: *(list any additional honorees here)*

The Koyukon people who inhabit the area around the mountain have referred to the peak as "Denali" for centuries. In 1896, a gold prospector named it "Mount McKinley" in support of then-presidential candidate William McKinley. Named in 1896 by William A. Dickey, prospector, "after William McKinley of Ohio, who had been nominated for the Presidency and that was the first news we received on our way out of that wonderful wilderness." McKinley, 1854-1901, was the 25th President of the United States. The first mention of the massif was by Captain George Vancouver, who when seeing it from Cook Inlet in 1794, referred to the "stupendous snow mountains." The Russians descriptively called it "Bolshaya (Bulshaia) Gora" or "big mountain." Alfred Mayo and Arthur Harper, pioneer Alaska traders, after a trip up the Tanana River in 1878, reported, "a great ice mountain to the south," but did not name it. A prospector, Frank Densmore, spoke so enthusiastically after seeing the mountain from Lake Minchumina in 1889, that it was known for years among prospectors as "Densmores Peak." The north summit was first reached on April 3, 1913, by Archdeacon Hudson Stuck, Walter Harper, Robert Tatum, and Harry Karstens (later park superintendent). On August 28, 2015, the name Mount McKinley was changed by Secretarial Order No. 3337 to Denali, the name that had been official in the State of Alaska since 1976.

Is the feature in a Wilderness Area or Wilderness Study Area? ☒ Y ☐ N ☐ Unknown

If yes, please provide your justification for making an exception to [the Wilderness Policy](#):

Please note that the BGN will not approve new names for unnamed features within wilderness areas or wilderness study areas, unless an overriding need can be demonstrated by the proponent.

Denali Borough

Is the name you are proposing intended to honor Native Americans, their language, or culture? ☒ Y ☐ N

If yes, to ensure that the proposed name is appropriate, the BGN strongly advises proponents to work with Tribal Leaders, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, and/or Native American linguists or other expert(s) associated with the Tribe to determine the acceptability of the proposed name and application. Please review [the BGN's Cultural Sensitivity for Native American Names guidance](#).

Proponents should also seek letters of endorsement from the governments (e.g., Tribal Councils) of any affected Tribes. Please indicate below, or in documentation submitted separately (with this proposal or any time after the proposal is submitted), any efforts to solicit Tribal input.

Additional Information +

Is there any local opposition or conflict with the proposed name? ☐ Y ☒ N


If yes, please explain and describe any opposition:

Additional notes, including any Tribal input details


As noted above the Koyukon people who inhabit the area around the mountain have referred to the peak as "Denali" for centuries. A gold prospector named it "Mount McKinley" in support of then-presidential candidate William McKinley. The name Denali McKinley would honor both the Koyukon people and William McKinley.


Proponent Information

Please provide one form of contact (email preferred):


 Proponent's Name: Shane Carlson

Agency or Organization, if applicable:

 Email: (b) (6) @myyahoo.com

 Mailing Address:

 Phone:

 Are you completing this form for someone else? ☐ Y ☒ N

If yes, please fill out the following:

Completed by:
Full Name:
Email:
Mailing Address:
Phone:

From: [BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC](#)
To: [Anderson, Gina R](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] geographic place name changes
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 9:33:19 AM

I don't think this is a media request, but sharing anyway. We won't respond to general non-media inquiries unless instructed.

Matt

From: Lisa Norby (b) (6) @gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 12:29 PM
To: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] geographic place name changes

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hello,

I am writing to inquire whether place names can be changed by Presidential Executive Order and whether the public can weigh in on these changes. As examples, can Mt Denali be changed back to Mt McKinley and can the Gulf of Mexico be changed to the Gulf of America just because the U.S. President wants to do it?

Thank you in advance for your reply,

Lisa Norby

From: [BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC](#)
To: [Anderson, Gina R](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Gulf of Mexico name
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 6:13:47 AM

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Sheryl Bowles <(b) (6)@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2025 11:45:26 AM
To: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Gulf of Mexico name

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

PLEASE do not change the name of the Gulf of Mexico just because Felon34 Trump wants it changed. He is a toddler with the most stupid ideas. It is embarrassing for the United States.

Sincerely,
Sheryl Miller
Concerned Citizen
Sent from my iPhone

From: [BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC](#)
To: [Anderson, Gina R](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Gulf of Mexico or Americas
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 6:41:23 AM

From: Trevor Pettiford <(b) (6)@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 9:40 AM
To: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Gulf of Mexico or Americas

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

What is your organization's response to Pres. Trump's renaming the Gulf?

Is it necessary?
Thanks!

Trevor D. Pettiford, reporter (retired) Spectrum News.
Member, Tampa Bay Association of Black Journalists

(b) (6) (mobile)

From: [BGNEEXEC, GS-N-MAC](#)
To: [Anderson, Gina R](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Names of the Gulf of Mexico and of Mount Denali
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 6:41:05 AM

From: Gregory Elmes <(b) (6)@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 4:03 AM
To: BGNEEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Cc: Gregory Elmes (b) (6)@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Names of the Gulf of Mexico and of Mount Denali

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Dear Members of the Board

I write about the proposal of President Donald J. Trump to rename the Gulf of Mexico to the American Sea and to return the name of Mount Denali to Mount McKinley. I urge the members of the Board of Geographic Names to respect their decisions in naming these geographic features.

On August 30, 2015, Sally Jewell announced that the mountain would be renamed Denali, under authority of federal law which permits her as Secretary of the Interior to name geographic features if the Board on Geographic Names does not act within a "reasonable" period of time.

The International Hydrographic Organization — of which both the United States and Mexico are members — works to ensure all the world's seas, oceans and navigable waters are surveyed and charted uniformly, and also names some of them. There are some instances where countries refer to the same body of water or landmark by different names in their own documentation.

Clearly the incoming Secretary of the Interior has the power to direct the Board of Geographic Names to rename Mount Denali. It does not have the power to instruct the Board to rename the Gulf of Mexico which is in preview of an international organization.

Please respect the decisions the currently accepted names and resist the attempts of the current administration to change them. The rest of the world will continue to use them. Hundreds of thousands of Atlases, digital and physical, will retain them. The acceptance of the changes will only cause confusion and result in the isolation of the United States of America which is perhaps what the President wants.

Yours sincerely
Gregory A Elmes, Ph D
Professor Emeritus of Geography

Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad

From: [BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC](#)
To: [Anderson, Gina R](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 6:39:05 AM

From: Hassan R.Elzelayfy <(b) (6)@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 6:10 AM
To: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Good morning, sir. My name is Hassan Ramadan. I work as a journalist for the Egyptian newspaper Al-Watan. I wanted to talk for a few minutes about President trump order to change the name Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America.

I am sending you some questions and I hope you can answer them as soon as possible?

Is there a formal international agreement or protocol for naming marine areas?

Are there steps that will be taken to change the name of the Gulf of Mexico to US Gulf?

Can Mexico resort to international justice to object to Trump's decision?

From: [Tom Parris](#)
To: [BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to renaming the "Gulf of Mexico."
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 6:19:02 PM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Dear Members of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names:

I am writing to express my opposition to the presidential directive to rename the "Gulf of Mexico" to the "Gulf of America" on several grounds:

1. Cost. The cost of reprinting operational mapping products that include place names (e.g. operational navigation charts) will be prohibitive and will come out of budgets that would otherwise be used for more pressing matters.
2. Conflicting mapping standards. There is little likelihood that countries bordering the Gulf of Mexico will change its name as well. This will create unnecessary differences and confusion between maps produced by different countries. This could cause miscommunication urgent situations such as search and rescue and extreme weather warnings.
3. Contentious Symbolism. The new name creates an enduring public symbol of cultural and policy differences between the U.S. and the other countries bordering the Gulf, much like the difference between the "Persian Gulf" and the "Arabian Gulf." In a time of greatly increasing international tensions we do not need additional artifacts that can be used to mobilize conflict.

With best regards,

Thomas M. Parris

(b) (6)

tom@toonkitchen.com

From: [Friar, Linda](#)
To: [Interior Press](#)
Cc: [Huggler, Matthew](#); [Eustis, Christine E](#); [Anderson, Gina R](#)
Subject: USGS media queries on name changes
Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 3:48:01 PM
Attachments: [USGS media queries.docx](#)
[Outlook-ggdaua3.png](#)

Good Afternoon

Following up on the guidance you shared in the OCO weekly meeting today and sharing a list of the queries we've received on this topic.


As of last week USGS has been receiving media inquiries related to the Executive Order that came out on Monday. Several of these queries came in before the EO was issued. We've not provided any comment to these queries, just logged them until received more specific guidance. Let us know if you'd like any of the original emails - we can forward those. Didn't want to send so many to interior press at once.

If you'd like additional information on the Board on Geographic Names - here is a link.
[U.S. Board on Geographic Names | U.S. Geological Survey](#)

Regards
Linda

Linda Friar, AICP
Chief External Affairs
U.S. Geological Survey - Science for a Changing World

Office of Communications and Publishing
12201 Sunrise Valley Dr., Reston, Virginia
Phone 703-648-4447 Cell 786-385-0067
E-mail lfriar@usgs.gov

 [Book time to meet with me](#)

Pre-Executive Order Media queries about Gulf of Mexico

Date	Outlet	Reporter/Producer	
01/07/2025	CBS Evening News	Kimberly Ammiano	Kimberly.Ammiano@cbsnews.com
01/07/2025	CBS Tampa	Parisa Akbarpour	PAkbarpour@10tampabay.com
01/07/2025	BBC	Brandon Drenon	brandon.k.drenon@bbc.co.uk
01/07/2025	The Washington Post	Maegan Vazquez	maegan.vazquez@washpost.com
01/07/2025	USA TODAY	Trevor Hughes	thughes21@usatoday.com
01/07/2025	NBC Ft. Meyers, FL	Madison Adams	Madison.Adams@hearst.com
01/08/2025	FedSmith newsletter	Ralph?	(b) (6) @gmail.com
01/08/2025	NZZ-Switzerland	Carole Koch	carole.koch@nzz.ch
01/08/2025	E&E News	Robin Bravender	rbravender@eenews.net
01/08/2025	WPTV News-West Palm Beach	Todd Wilson	todd.wilson@wptv.com
01/08/2025	Fresh Take Florida-University of Florida	Libby Clifton Aidan Bush	libby.clifton@ufl.edu aidanbush@ufl.edu
01/08/2025	San Antonio Express-News	Annasofia Scheve	Annasofia.Scheve@express-news.net
01/08/2025	The Wall Street Journal	Vivian Salama	vivian.salama@wsj.com
01/10/2025	The Well News	Dan McCue	dan@thewellnews.com

Media queries from Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness Executive Order.

Date	Outlet	Reporter/Producer	Topic of Questions
01/20/2025	The New York Times	Tim Balk tim.balk@nytimes.com	Gulf of Mexico
01/20/2025	TV 2 Norway	Silje Vassdal silje.vassdal@tv2.no	Gulf of Mexico
01/20/2025	CBS News Boston	Seth Szilagyi sszilagyi@cbs.com	Gulf of Mexico and Mount Denali
01/20/2025	KOLD 13 Tuscon	Brooke Wagner Brooke.Wagner@kold.com	Mount Denali
01/20/2025	CBS News	Alisa Wiersema Lucaci Alisa.Wiersema@cbsnews.com	Gulf of Mexico

01/20/2025	High Country News	Shaun Griswold shaun.griswold@hcn.org	Mount Denali /filling BGN Positions
01/20/2025	Egyptian newspaper Al-Watan.	Hassan Ramadan (b) (6) @gmail.com	Gulf of Mexico
01/20/2025	US Border News	Jack Beavers jackbeavers@usbordernews.com	Gulf of Mexico
01/20/2025	Ringier Axel Springer Polska (Poland)	Paulina Ermel Paulina.Ermel@redakcjaonet.pl	Gulf of Mexico/ Mount Denali
01/20/2025	NPR	Lisa Thomson LThomson@npr.org	Mount Denali
01/20/2025	CNN	Jon Passantino jon.passantino@cnn.com	Gulf of Mexico/ Mount Denali
01/21/2025	The Hollywood Reporter	Ben Svetkey (b) (6)	Gulf of Mexico
01/22/2025	Oil & Gas Journal	E. Mikaila Adams madams@endeavorb2b.com	Gulf of Mexico
01/22/2025	Slate Magazine	Henry Grabar henry.grabar@slate.com	Gulf of Mexico/ Mount Denali

From: Tischler, Michael A
To: [Anderson, Gina R](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Denali or Mt. McKinley? Alaska Lawmakers Weigh In on Trump's Renaming Plan. - The New York Times
Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 6:19:38 PM
Attachments: [Denali or Mt. McKinley Alaska Lawmakers Weigh In on Trump's Renaming Plan. - The New York Times.pdf](#)

Hi Gina,

Wanted to pass along

Thanks,

m

From: Vanessa Baez <(b) (6) @gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 6:13 PM
To: Baez, Vanessa <vbaez@usgs.gov>
Cc: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Denali or Mt. McKinley? Alaska Lawmakers Weigh In on Trump's Renaming Plan. - The New York Times

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Mike,

Hope you are well. Your name is referenced in this article
<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/22/climate/denali-mckinley-alaska-trump.html>

Vanessa Baez
{via mobile}

From: [Forrest, Brenda-Anne \(Judiciary-Rep\)](#)
To: [Tischler, Michael A](#); [St Onge, Timothy](#); [elizabeth.kanalley@usda.gov](#); [melanie.riley@usda.gov](#); [alexander.stum@usda.gov](#); [tara.wallace@noaa.gov](#); [kenia.allen@noaa.gov](#); [thaddeus.ellerbe@noaa.gov](#); [Rikki J Wortham \(CENSUS/GEO FED\)](#); [\(b\) \(6\) Susan Lyon](#); [\(b\) \(6\) Andrew Griffin](#); [\(b\) \(3\) \(B\), \(b\) \(6\)](#); [Meghan.Barrett@hq.dhs.gov](#); [Hammond, Chris W](#); [Brown, Wendi-Starr](#); [Mahoney, Patrick M](#); [Konzek, Daniel S](#); [Shelton, Michael](#); [Black, Marielle L](#); [Smith, Jeremy C](#); [Hasier, Paulette](#); [Ranieri, Veronica](#); [alesha.t.perdomo@usps.gov](#); [liz.flake@usps.gov](#)
Cc: [Zahniser, Shellie R](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: BGN-DNC: Comms Guidance - Renaming via Executive/Congressional Action
Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 11:00:51 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Correction:

Please note that my email correspondence yesterday used a previous distribution list with an incorrect email address for Deputy Member Rikki Wortham, Bureau of the Census.

The correct address is Rikki.J.Wortham@census.gov, if you could please update your records on her behalf. Apologies, Rikki, and thank you for the clarification.

B.C. Forrest

U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary | 164 Dirksen Senate Office Building | Washington, DC 20510-6275 | Brenda-Anne_Forrest@judiciary-rep.senate.gov

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 10:40 AM
To: Forrest, Brenda-Anne (Judiciary-Rep) <Brenda-Anne_Forrest@judiciary-rep.senate.gov>; St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>; elizabeth.kanalley@usda.gov; melanie.riley@usda.gov; alexander.stum@usda.gov; tara.wallace@noaa.gov; kenia.allen@noaa.gov; thaddeus.ellerbe@noaa.gov; Rikki.wortham@census.gov; [\(b\) \(6\) - Susan Lyon](#); [\(b\) \(6\) Andrew Griffin](#); [\(b\) \(3\) \(B\), \(b\) \(6\)](#); Meghan.Barrett@hq.dhs.gov; Hammond, Chris W <chammond@usgs.gov>; Brown, Wendi-Starr <Wendi-Starr.Brown@bia.gov>; Mahoney, Patrick M <pmmahone@blm.gov>; Konzek, Daniel S <daniel_konzek@fws.gov>; Shelton, Michael <Michael_Shelton@nps.gov>; Black, Marielle L <mblack@usbr.gov>; Smith, Jeremy C <Jeremy.Smith@boem.gov>; Hasier, Paulette <phasier@loc.gov>; Ranieri, Veronica <vera@loc.gov>; alesha.t.perdomo@usps.gov; liz.flake@usps.gov
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: BGN-DNC: Comms Guidance - Renaming via Executive/Congressional Action

Hi B.C.,

I will defer to Tim as it's his meeting, but I would be reluctant to discuss the implementation of this action during a meeting open to the public. I would suggest instead that we hold the discussion as part of the full board meeting next week. If you feel we need to discuss the issue prior to next week's full board meeting, we can certainly try to accommodate.

In general, I am awaiting official implementation instruction from the Secretary of the Interior before performing any renaming action.

Thanks,
m

From: Forrest, Brenda-Anne (Judiciary-Rep) <Brenda-Anne_Forrest@judiciary-rep.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 6:34 PM
To: St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>; elizabeth.kanalley@usda.gov <elizabeth.kanalley@usda.gov>; melanie.riley@usda.gov <melanie.riley@usda.gov>; alexander.stum@usda.gov <alexander.stum@usda.gov>; tara.wallace@noaa.gov <tara.wallace@noaa.gov>; kenia.allen@noaa.gov <kenia.allen@noaa.gov>; thaddeus.ellerbe@noaa.gov <thaddeus.ellerbe@noaa.gov>; Rikki.wortham@census.gov <Rikki.wortham@census.gov>; (b) (6) - Susan Lyon >; (b) (6) Andrew Griffin >; (b) (6) Andrew Griffin >; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) >; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) >; Meghan.Barrett@hq.dhs.gov <Meghan.Barrett@hq.dhs.gov>; Hammond, Chris W <chammond@usgs.gov>; Brown, Wendi-Starr <Wendi-Starr.Brown@bia.gov>; Mahoney, Patrick M <pmmahone@blm.gov>; Konzek, Daniel S <daniel_konzek@fws.gov>; Shelton, Michael <Michael_Shelton@nps.gov>; Black, Marielle L <mblack@usbr.gov>; Smith, Jeremy C <Jeremy.Smith@boem.gov>; Hasier, Paulette <phasier@loc.gov>; Ranieri, Veronica <vera@loc.gov>; alesha.t.perdomo@usps.gov <alesha.t.perdomo@usps.gov>; liz.flake@usps.gov <liz.flake@usps.gov>
Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: BGN-DNC: Comms Guidance - Renaming via Executive/Congressional Action

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Good evening, Chair St. Onge.:

Re: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/restoring-names-that-honor-american-greatness/>

Permission to discuss Section 2(a) of yesterday's Presidential EO at next Tuesday's BGN FB 295 meeting? Or advance the request to appropriate leadership? OFR assigned 14170 as the number for this signed EO.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
B.C. Forrest

U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary | 164 Dirksen Senate Office Building | Washington, DC 20510-6275 | Brenda-Anne_Forrest@judiciary-rep.senate.gov

From: St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2025 9:39 AM
To: elizabeth.kanalley@usda.gov; melanie.riley@usda.gov; alexander.stum@usda.gov; tara.wallace@noaa.gov; kenia.allen@noaa.gov; thaddeus.ellerbe@noaa.gov; Rikki.wortham@census.gov; (b) (6) - Susan Lyon >; (b) (6) Andrew Griffin >; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) >; Forrest, Brenda-Anne (Judiciary-Rep) <Brenda-Anne_Forrest@judiciary-rep.senate.gov>

rep.senate.gov>; Meghan.Barrett@hq.dhs.gov; chammond@usgs.gov; Wendi-Starr.Brown@bia.gov; pmmahone@blm.gov; daniel_konzek@fws.gov; Michael_Shelton@nps.gov; mblack@usbr.gov; Jeremy.Smith@boem.gov; Hasier, Paulette <phasier@loc.gov>; Ranieri, Veronica <vera@loc.gov>; St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>; alesha.t.perdomo@usps.gov; liz.flake@usps.gov

Cc: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>

Subject: BGN-DNC: Comms Guidance - Renaming via Executive/Congressional Action

Good morning DNC members and deputy members,

I'm passing along the following guidance (below) from our BGN Chair Mike Tischler, regarding media inquiries relating to renaming a geographic feature via executive or congressional action. Please read and let Mike or I know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Tim

Tim St. Onge
Cartographer

Geography & Map Division
LM-B02
202-707-9044
tong@loc.gov

LOC_Logo_EmailSignature



From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 5:30 PM

To: (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SF USA CIV <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)@state.gov>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SFGW USA CIV <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>

Subject: Comms - renaming via executive action

CAUTION: This email message has been received from an external source. Please use caution when opening attachments, or clicking on links.

Good afternoon BGN Excom,

I'd like to share the communications guidance that the BGN staff has been given by USGS and ask that you please share this with your standing committees and advisory committees (DNC, FNC, ACAN, ACUF).

USGS has received multiple media inquiries regarding the process associated with renaming a feature via executive or congressional action (e.g., executive order, act of congress). We have been instructed not to respond - at all - to media inquiries about this topic at this time. That guidance may change in the future, but that is our current direction.

Should any members of the BGN committees receive media inquiries, I would encourage them to follow the same guidance if they are able.

For internal reference, I am sure you are all aware that the [Policy on Names Considered or Established by Congress or the President](#) notes that "Geographic names and their applications specifically established by an act of Congress or Executive order are legally official, and therefore, are not bound by BGN principles, policies, and procedures." This includes name changes. For any names established by an act of Congress or Executive order (or proclamation), the name is entered into/changed in GNIS once official. Federal data sources are updated from GNIS on their own data refresh cycles.

Thank you!
Mike

Mike Tischler, Ph.D
Director, National Geospatial Program
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of Interior
o: 703-648-4725
c: 703-344-4348
mtischler@usgs.gov

From: [Jordan Shenefield](#)
To: [BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to changing the name of Denali
Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 4:28:02 PM

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Good morning. I'm writing to oppose the proposed name change of Denali (The High One in the native Athabascan language). I have worked in Denali for several years as a Tour Guide Bus Driver and Shuttle Driver, so I have experienced first-hand the confusion about the name of both the national park and the highest point in North America. I share with my guests that a gold prospector in the Kantishna mining area of what is now Denali National Park wanted to show his support for presidential candidate William McKinley in the 1896 election. In his own self-interest (since he was a gold prospector), he wrote Mt. McKinley on a map of the High One, thus wiping out 10,000 years of Athabascan culture. No hearings; no public comments; no input. The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act created changed the name to Denali National Park and Preserve, while Mt. McKinley remained...until action by the Secretary of the Interior to BGN to finally correct the name of The High One to the original name of Denali.

I hope BGN will accept public comments about this outrageous and unnecessary abuse of executive power and follow the correct path of what history proscribes and what our country stands for - indigenous names for indigenous places. Please leave Denali Denali.

Jordan Shenefield

(b) (6)

From: [BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC](#)
To: (b) (6) Jack Butler [@gmail.com](mailto:(b) (6) Jack Butler@gmail.com)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Decision on new name for reservoir in the Town of Pittsford
Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 9:26:19 AM

Hi Jack,

Jenny retired on January 11. I've been working with her since 2013.

Unfortunately, we can't send any maps showing the name. You can make your own map through the USGS [topoBuilder](#), though the hydrology layer names are not being updated at this time and there is no estimate of when that will occur. BGN staff has no role in how or when the names are applied on maps. That is handled by the broader [National Geospatial Program](#). The name Lake Fairchild is official, however, due to the GNIS record: <https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/gaz-record/2832415>.

Cheers,

Matt O'Donnell

From: (b) (6) Jack Butler [@gmail.com](mailto:(b) (6) Jack Butler@gmail.com) <(b) (6) Jack Butler [@gmail.com](mailto:(b) (6) Jack Butler@gmail.com)>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 8:46 AM
To: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Decision on new name for reservoir in the Town of Pittsford

Good morning, Jennifer,

Looks like your department is going to have some new tasks!

- Changing the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America
- Changing Denali back to Mount McKinley. I guess Native American input will have to be turned off!

Good luck! BTW, we had a very nice dedication ceremony here in Pittsford in November regarding the naming of Lake Fairchild. It was held on a piece of private property overlooking the Lake. The owner did not want the event opened to the public. Attending were various key supporters from the Town of Pittsford, Pittsford's Historical Society, the Town Historian, various members of the Monroe County Parks Department, and yours truly in the long black coat. Wish you were there!

Does the USGS have a local map you could send me showing the Lake Fairchild name?
Happy New Year!!

Jack

From: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 9:05 AM
To: (b) (6) Jack Butler@gmail.com
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Decision on new name for reservoir in the Town of Pittsford

Field trip!!!

From: (b) (6) Jack Butler@gmail.com (b) (6) Jack Butler@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 8:51 AM
To: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Decision on new name for reservoir in the Town of Pittsford

No problem!! Thanks Jennifer. You'll have to come up to Pittsford for the dedication and some champagne!

From: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 8:50 AM
To: (b) (6) Jack Butler@gmail.com
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Decision on new name for reservoir in the Town of Pittsford

I wanted to get a head start on the week and sent out many of the notification emails last night (even though it was a Federal holiday). No particular reason, but yours was one of the batch I set up to go out this morning. I doubt any of the local officials were checking email at 7:30 p.m.

~ Jennifer

From: (b) (6) Jack Butler@gmail.com <(b) (6) Jack Butler@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 8:23 AM
To: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Decision on new name for reservoir in the Town of Pittsford

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It is rather interesting that USGS notified them before informing me as the applicant!!
Oh well. All's good. Must just have been a timing 'thing'.
Thanks Jennier
Jack

From: (b) (6) Jack Butler@gmail.com (b) (6) Jack Butler@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 8:13 AM
To: 'BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC' <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Subject: RE: Decision on new name for reservoir in the Town of Pittsford

OK. Thanks. I'm going to set up a meeting with some of these Town of Pittsford officials.

Jack

From: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 8:02 AM
To: Jack Butler <(b) (6) [\[REDACTED\]@gmail.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@gmail.com)>
Subject: Fw: Decision on new name for reservoir in the Town of Pittsford

And one last email from me. This is just for your records, so you're aware that local authorities were also notified. We also informed the New York State Names Committee.

Jenny

From: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 8:25 PM
To: Rkoegel@townofpittsford.org <Rkoegel@townofpittsford.org>;
countyexecutive@monroecounty.gov <countyexecutive@monroecounty.gov>;
presidentroman@monroecounty.gov <presidentroman@monroecounty.gov>;
VProfitt@townofpittsford.org <VProfitt@townofpittsford.org>;
(b) (6) Margaret Brizee <[\[REDACTED\]@gmail.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@gmail.com)> (b) (6) Margaret Brizee <[\[REDACTED\]@gmail.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@gmail.com)>
Subject: Decision on new name for reservoir in the Town of Pittsford

Mr. Robert Koegel
Pittsford Town Attorney

Yversha Román, President
Monroe County Legislature

Mr. Michael Yudelson, Majority Leader
Mr. Adam Bello, County Executive

Ms. Vicki Profitt, Town of Pittsford Historian
Town Historical Society

Ms. Margaret Caraberis Brizee, President
Historic Pittsford

Good morning:

This is to inform you that the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, at its October 10, 2024 meeting, approved the proposal to apply the new name **Lake Fairchild** to a previously unnamed reservoir in Monroe County.

The name has been added to the Geographic Names Information System, the nation's official geographic names repository, available at <https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/search/names>. Federal maps will be updated during the normal revision cycle. The decision reads as follows:

Lake Fairchild; reservoir; approx. 11 acres, in the Town of Pittsford, 1 mi. N of Hundred Acre Pond, 10 mi. S of Rochester; the name commemorates Professor Herman LeRoy Fairchild (1850-1943), head of Geology at the University of Rochester (1888-1920) and a founder of the Geological Society of America; Monroe County, New York; USGS Map – Pittsford 1:24,000.

Regards,
Jennifer Runyon, research staff
Office of the Executive Secretary
U.S. Board on Geographic Names
U.S. Geological Survey
Reston, VA 20192
(703) 648-4550
[Domestic Names | U.S. Geological Survey \(usgs.gov\)](https://www.usgs.gov/domestic-names)

From: [Tara Wallace - NOAA Federal](#)
To: [Tischler, Michael A](#)
Cc: [Amanda Phelps - NOAA Federal](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: BGN review of appointments
Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 1:38:06 PM

Thanks Mike for clarifying.

On Wed, Jan 22, 2025 at 1:36 PM Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov> wrote:

Hi Tara,

Correct, but this action is for each agency head to review their *own* appointees. Not for the Sec. of the Interior to review the entire board.

Thanks,
m

From: Tara Wallace - NOAA Federal <tara.wallace@noaa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 1:34 PM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Amanda Phelps - NOAA Federal <amanda.phelps@noaa.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: BGN review of appointments

Hey Mike -

Last appointment letter, NOAA addressed to the Secretary of Interior and was signed by our NOAA Administrator.

Thanks

On Wed, Jan 22, 2025 at 12:35 PM Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov> wrote:

Hi Meghan,

Apologies for the confusion.

The EO asks that " *each agency head with authority to appoint members to the Board on Geographic Names (Board) pursuant to 43 U.S.C. 364a, shall review their respective appointees* ".

I am recommending that the principal members of each agency author memos to their respective agency heads with details on the membership (principal and any deputy members) from the agency. For DHS, I would recommend that you submit a memo to the Secretary of Homeland Security (or whomever is acting in that role at the moment). Tara would send to the (acting) Secretary of Commerce, Betsy to the acting Sec. of Agriculture, (b) (6) to the Secretary of State, me to the Secretary of the Interior, etc.

Hope that makes sense - let me know if/how I can help.

Thanks,
Mike

From: Barrett, Meghan <Meghan.Barrett@hq.dhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 12:27 PM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; elizabeth.kanalley@usda.gov <elizabeth.kanalley@usda.gov>; christmg@ucia.gov <christmg@ucia.gov>; Tara Wallace - NOAA Federal <tara.wallace@noaa.gov>; Lyon, Susan <(b) (6)>; Brenda-Anne_Forrest@judiciary-rep.senate.gov <Brenda-Anne_Forrest@judiciary-rep.senate.gov>; Paulette Hasier <phasier@loc.gov>; Perdomo, Alesha T - Memphis, TN <alesha.t.perdomo@usps.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)> @state.gov
Cc: Tim St. Onge <tong@loc.gov>; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SF USA CIV <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SFGGW USA CIV <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: BGN review of appointments

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Mike – The memos that we are preparing for the agency heads, to whom are those memos being sent? Would this be a memo from the DHS Secretary to the DOI secretary?

v/r,
Meghan

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 10:22 AM
To: elizabeth.kanalley@usda.gov; christmg@ucia.gov; Tara Wallace - NOAA Federal <tara.wallace@noaa.gov>; Lyon, Susan <(b) (6)>; Brenda-Anne_Forrest@judiciary-rep.senate.gov; Barrett, Meghan <Meghan.Barrett@hq.dhs.gov>; Paulette Hasier <phasier@loc.gov>; Perdomo, Alesha T - Memphis, TN <alesha.t.perdomo@usps.gov>; (b) (6) <(b) (6)> @state.gov
Cc: Tim St. Onge <tong@loc.gov>; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SF USA CIV <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>; (b) (3) (B), (b) (6) NGA-SFGGW USA CIV <(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: BGN review of appointments

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of DHS. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your component SOC with questions or concerns.

BGN principal members,

At this point I am assuming you are all aware of the recent EO "[RESTORING NAMES THAT HONOR AMERICAN GREATNESS](#)" that was signed Monday. We are waiting for additional DOI guidance and confirmation for the renaming of both Denali->Mount McKinley and Gulf of Mexico-> Gulf of America. I will be in touch when I have that information.

You will also notice the following section in the EO:

Sec. 2. Appointments to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. (a) Within seven days of the date of this order, each agency head with authority to appoint members to the Board on Geographic Names (Board) pursuant to 43 U.S.C. 364a, shall review their respective appointees and consider replacing those appointees in accordance with applicable law.

After talking with colleagues and legal council, I am recommending that each of you prepare a short memo for your department heads to review to be responsive to this request. I will be providing a letter for DOI, and I understand (b) (6) (b) (6) will be providing a memo for the Dept. of State. The memo does not need to be lengthy, but should include the names and biographical information of the members of each department. I have cc'd the bios that were provided to the BGN exec sec in 2023 for appointment - please note this file is FOUO.

Please let me know if you have any concerns or questions. We'll be moving quickly to meet the deadline.

Thanks,

mike

Mike Tischler, Ph.D

Director, National Geospatial Program
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of Interior
o: 703-648-4725
c: 703-344-4348
mtischler@usgs.gov

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Tara Wallace, Branch Chief
Production Branch B, Marine Chart Division
Member, U.S. Board on Geographic Names
Office of Coast Survey, National Ocean Service
Telephone number: 304-506-4046
Telework hours: 6:30 am - 3:00 pm est



--

Tara Wallace, Branch Chief
Production Branch B, Marine Chart Division
Member, U.S. Board on Geographic Names
Office of Coast Survey, National Ocean Service
Telephone number: 304-506-4046
Telework hours: 6:30 am - 3:00 pm est



From: [Tara Wallace - NOAA Federal](#)
To: [Tischler, Michael A](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: BGN review of appointments
Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 10:27:27 AM

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Thanks Mike - will send it over today.

On Wed, Jan 22, 2025 at 10:24 AM Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov> wrote:

BGN principal members,

At this point I am assuming you are all aware of the recent EO "[RESTORING NAMES THAT HONOR AMERICAN GREATNESS](#)" that was signed Monday. We are waiting for additional DOI guidance and confirmation for the renaming of both Denali->Mount McKinley and Gulf of Mexico-> Gulf of America. I will be in touch when I have that information.

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After talking with colleagues and legal council, I am recommending that each of you prepare a short memo for your department heads to review to be responsive to this request. I will be providing a letter for DOI, and I understand (b) (6) will be providing a memo for the Dept. of State. The memo does not need to be lengthy, but should include the names and biographical information of the members of each department. I have cc'd the bios that were provided to the BGN exec sec in 2023 for appointment - please note this file is FOUO.

Please let me know if you have any concerns or questions. We'll be moving quickly to meet the deadline.

Thanks,
mike

Mike Tischler, Ph.D
Director, National Geospatial Program
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of Interior
o: 703-648-4725
c: 703-344-4348
mtischler@usgs.gov

--

Tara Wallace, Branch Chief
Production Branch B, Marine Chart Division
Member, U.S. Board on Geographic Names
Office of Coast Survey, National Ocean Service
Telephone number: 304-506-4046
Telework hours: 6:30 am - 3:00 pm est



From: [Friar, Linda](#)
To: [Webb, Kyle W](#); [Anderson, Gina R](#)
Cc: [Nobles, Gary A](#); [Lopez, Sabra A](#); [Huggler, Matthew](#)
Subject: Re: Renaming the Gulf of Mexico emails 1/28/25
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 10:23:58 AM

Good morning

Please be sure that SIS all is aware that they should not respond to these queries.

Linda

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From: Webb, Kyle W <kwebb@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 8:12:38 AM
To: Anderson, Gina R <granderson@usgs.gov>
Cc: Friar, Linda <lfriar@usgs.gov>
Subject: Renaming the Gulf of Mexico emails 1/28/25

Good morning,

We had three open tickets this morning with comments about renaming the Gulf of Mexico. Two of the messages had genuine questions while one was expressing frustration at the lack of a change on our websites. I've copied their messages along with their email addresses below:

There is so much talk now about changing names of places. Does any president have the authority to change a name unilaterally? Will this action, if taken, change all U.S. maps, or only those published by the government? Will it affect maps from other countries? I realize this is a general topic of concern, and you may not be able to publish an answer, but I'd appreciate an honest and transparent response.

- larksongster@**(b) (6)**.com

Hey, the Gulf of America has not been updated on your website. We've got a new President, he's not messing around and it's time for you monkeys to dance! This is a simple change in any well designed website. Do it or he'll fire your asses!

- contact@weforum.org

Are you changing the map like Google did? From Gulf of Mexico to Gulf of America? In the earthquake maps etc.

- live66@**(b) (6)**.com

Best,
Kyle

Kyle W. Webb
Technical Information Specialist
United States Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
National Center, Mail Stop 119
Reston, VA 20192-0002
(703) 648-5927

From: [Huggler, Matthew](#)
To: [Magirl, Christopher S](#)
Subject: FW: EO/SO on renaming, FW: BGN follow-up
Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 11:35:00 AM

FYI only, but wanted you to be aware of the latest on this topic.

Matt

Matthew Huggler
Deputy Associate Director
Office of Communications and Publishing
U.S. Geological Survey
Reston, VA
mobile: 202-460-8402
mhuggler@usgs.gov

From: Eustis, Christine E <ceustis@usgs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 11:21 AM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>; Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>; Killpack, Darcee <dkillpack@usgs.gov>; Woods, Tim <twoods@usgs.gov>
Cc: Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lukas, William A <wlukas@usgs.gov>; Doumbouya, Ariel T <atdoumbouya@usgs.gov>; Mantey, Kimberly S <kmantey@usgs.gov>; Davis, Larry R <lrDavis@usgs.gov>; Huggler, Matthew <mhuggler@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: EO/SO on renaming, FW: BGN follow-up

Mike - Tim Woods on our Digital Team may be able to offer some web-based options - so just looping him in if that is helpful. We're not the map experts but are standing by to provide support!

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 11:14 AM
To: Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>; Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>; Killpack, Darcee <dkillpack@usgs.gov>
Cc: Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lukas, William A <wlukas@usgs.gov>; Eustis, Christine E <ceustis@usgs.gov>; Doumbouya, Ariel T <atdoumbouya@usgs.gov>; Mantey, Kimberly S <kmantey@usgs.gov>; Davis, Larry R <lrDavis@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: EO/SO on renaming, FW: BGN follow-up

Including a few others from NGP and NGTOC...

While we can show an update to the GNIS record (nearly) immediately, I do not think a newly labeled map (or basemap) would be available immediately.

For reference/example, attached is the current GNIS record for "Gulf of Mexico" - this is what I believe would be immediately updated, in addition to the web-based GNIS system. I do not think the web-based basemap that is shown in GNIS will be updated immediately, but will confirm what users will see.

Let us also consider what we can do in the short term to demonstrate an updated map product (one-off, publicly accessible, or both) and we will get back to you.

thanks,
m

From: Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 11:01 AM
To: Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>; Killpack, Darcee <dkillpack@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Cc: Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lukas, William A <wlukas@usgs.gov>; Eustis, Christine E <ceustis@usgs.gov>
Subject: FW: EO/SO on renaming, FW: BGN follow-up

All,

Scott raises a good point: we'll no doubt receive a request for some sort of visual (not from Google Maps!) of the new names. Your folks produce beautiful maps – but this sounds like it might be not for a wall hanging but for press opportunities. CCing Christine for any additional guidance on what might be useful.

Sarah J Ryker, PhD
Acting Director, U.S. Geological Survey
sryker@usgs.gov

From: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 10:27 AM
To: Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>
Cc: Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: EO/SO on renaming, FW: BGN follow-up

Hi Sarah,

I am guessing that once the new Secretary signs the SO on the Gulf of America he would shortly thereafter like to see some sort of map, or maybe more realistically a screen shot of a webpage, that shows the new name. Might as well do one for Mt. McKinley, too, while we are at it. Can you start the process to figuring out how mechanically we could

make that happen, please?

Thanks,
Scott

Scott J. Cameron

Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary – Water and Science and exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary – Insular and International Affairs

202.330.1398

From: Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 8:21 PM
To: Myrick, Brett H <brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov>; Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>; Lukas, William A <wluke@usgs.gov>; Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>; Killpack, Darcee <dkillpack@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Irish, Tony C <Tony.Irish@sol.doi.gov>; Patnaik, Bivan R <bivan_patnaik@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: EO/SO on renaming, FW: BGN follow-up

(b) (5) ACP –

If the Department wanted to conduct some outreach to affected states before starting that sequence of actions, USGS could help support DOI on that.

Sarah J Ryker, PhD
Acting Director, U.S. Geological Survey
sryker@usgs.gov

From: Myrick, Brett H <brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 6:43 PM
To: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>; Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>
Cc: Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>; Lukas, William A <wluke@usgs.gov>; Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>; Killpack, Darcee <dkillpack@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Irish, Tony C <Tony.Irish@sol.doi.gov>; Patnaik, Bivan R <bivan_patnaik@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: EO/SO on renaming, FW: BGN follow-up

Scott-

(b) (5) ACP

Thanks,
Brett

Brett H. Myrick
Attorney-Adviser
Department of the Interior
Division of General Law - General Legal Services
brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov
202-208-3820 (work)
312-576-4798 (personal cell)

From: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 6:05 PM

To: Myrick, Brett H <brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov>; Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>

Cc: Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>; Lukas, William A <wlukas@usgs.gov>; Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>; Killpack, Darcee <dkillpack@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Irish, Tony C <Tony.Irish@sol.doi.gov>; Patnaik, Bivan R <bivan_patnaik@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: EO/SO on renaming, FW: BGN follow-up

Brett,

(b) (5) ACP

Thanks,
Scott

Scott J. Cameron
Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary – Water and Science and exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary – Insular and International Affairs

202.330.1398

From: Myrick, Brett H <brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov>

Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 6:02 PM

To: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>; Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>
Cc: Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>; Lukas, William A <wlukas@usgs.gov>; Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>; Killpack, Darcee <dkillpack@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Irish, Tony C <Tony.Irish@sol.doi.gov>; Patnaik, Bivan R <bivan_patnaik@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: EO/SO on renaming, FW: BGN follow-up

Scott-

(b) (5) ACP

Thank you,
Brett

Brett H. Myrick
Attorney-Adviser
Department of the Interior
Division of General Law - General Legal Services
brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov
202-208-3820 (work)
312-576-4798 (personal cell)

From: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 5:46 PM
To: Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>
Cc: Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>; Lukas, William A <wlukas@usgs.gov>; Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>; Killpack, Darcee <dkillpack@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Irish, Tony C <Tony.Irish@sol.doi.gov>; Myrick, Brett H <brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov>; Patnaik, Bivan R <bivan_patnaik@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: EO/SO on renaming, FW: BGN follow-up

All,

(b) (5) ACP

[Redacted]

Thanks,
Scott

Scott J. Cameron

Senior Advisor to the Secretary, exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary – Water and Science and exercising the delegated authority of the Assistant Secretary – Insular and International Affairs

202.330.1398

From: Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 4:12 PM
To: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>; Lukas, William A <wluke@usgs.gov>; Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>; Killpack, Darcee <dkillpack@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Irish, Tony C <Tony.Irish@sol.doi.gov>; Myrick, Brett H <brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov>; Patnaik, Bivan R <bivan_patnaik@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: EO/SO on renaming, FW: BGN follow-up

Scott,

Attached is a draft Secretary's Order to implement the Executive Order "Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness". This draft was developed collaboratively by the USGS and the Solicitor's office, with input from key BGN officials including the BGN State Dept. representative. A few notes:

1. Sec. 2 of the EO calls for agency review of all agency BGN appointees. The USGS has sent forward through DTS a memo to the Secretary's office in support of the DOI membership review. Therefore, this draft does not include any additional guidance for implementation of that request. However, additional instruction can be added if the department feels it appropriate.
2. Sec. 4c of the draft corresponds to EO sec. 2d, but this is a situation that we don't anticipate will arise.
3. Sec. 4d of the draft corresponds to EO sec. 5. This section of the draft is less detailed because it is not a BGN or USGS function and will need some additional DOI decision-making over who should implement and in what timeframe. (E.g. I'll posit that it might be a responsibility for DOI's Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs, and note that the need to prepare announcements in time for July 4, 2026, will be time-constraining on that process.)

This draft aims to help DOI address all relevant sections of the EO, but we can edit/adjust based on

your feedback.

I'm Ccing our leads at USGS and SOL, as well as Bivan – thank you, all!

Sarah J Ryker, PhD
Acting Director, U.S. Geological Survey
sryker@usgs.gov

From: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 5:24 PM
To: Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>; Caminiti, Mariagrazia <Marigrace.Caminiti@sol.doi.gov>
Cc: Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>; Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lukas, William A <wlukas@usgs.gov>; Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>; Irish, Tony C <Tony.Irish@sol.doi.gov>; Patnaik, Bivan R <bivan_patnaik@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: BGN follow-up

Hi Sarah,

Please have USGS draft a secretarial order telling USGS to execute the EO. Talk with Tony Irish in Sol so we get it in the right format to hand off to Bivan in Exec Sec.

It would be much appreciated if you could get a draft to Tony on Monday.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Ryker, Sarah J <sryker@usgs.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 5:02:29 PM
To: Cameron, Scott J <scott_cameron@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Farmer, Isis U <isis_farmer@ios.doi.gov>; Jones, Leslie W <ljones@usgs.gov>; Lukas, William A <wlukas@usgs.gov>; Lacey, Jennifer A <jlacey@usgs.gov>
Subject: BGN follow-up

Scott,

I just asked the USGS folks who support the Board on Geographic Names to confirm that we don't need a fully populated and sitting BGN to implement name changes initiated by EO/SO. I just got this confirmation back:

The BGN plays essentially no part when the name change is the result of an EO or SO. The BGN does not need to approve the name, because it has already been

approved by someone with the authority.

As a side note, our folks are anxious to get the BGN populated as the Board fields a lot of changes requested by the public. But that process can continue in parallel with the EO-directed changes.

In case you could use more detail on this, I'm CCing Jenn Lacey, our Associate Director for Core Science Systems – she oversees the BGN processes.

Sarah J Ryker, PhD

Acting Director, U.S. Geological Survey

sryker@usgs.gov

From: [Zahniser, Shellie R](#)
To: [O'Donnell, Matthew J](#); [Tischler, Michael A](#)
Subject: RE: Geographic Names EO
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 10:48:31 AM

(b) (5) DPP

Shellie Zahniser, Ph.D.
BGN Executive Secretary
Domestic Names Committee
Honolulu, HI

From: O'Donnell, Matthew J <mjodonnell@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 5:00 AM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: Geographic Names EO

(b) (5) DPP

Matt

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 9:57 AM
To: O'Donnell, Matthew J <mjodonnell@usgs.gov>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: Geographic Names EO

Hi Matt,

(b) (5) DPP

(b) (5) DPP

Thanks,
m

From: O'Donnell, Matthew J <mjodonnell@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 9:48 AM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: Geographic Names EO

Shellie and I talked last night. I noted that too.

(b) (5) ACP/DPP

Matt

Matt O'Donnell
BGN research staff

Email: mjodonnell@usgs.gov

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 9:41 AM
To: O'Donnell, Matthew J <mjodonnell@usgs.gov>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: Fw: Geographic Names EO

Hi Matt, Shellie,

I wanted to check with the solicitor (b) (5) ACP

(b) (5) ACP

Thanks,
m

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 9:38 AM
To: Myrick, Brett H <brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Geographic Names EO

Hi Brett,

(b) (5) ACP

Thanks,
m

From: Myrick, Brett H <brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 9:32 AM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: Geographic Names EO

Mike-

(b) (5) ACP

Thanks,
Brett

Brett H. Myrick

Attorney-Adviser
Department of the Interior
Division of General Law - General Legal Services
brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov
202-208-3820 (work)
312-576-4798 (personal cell)

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 9:28 AM
To: Myrick, Brett H <brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov>
Subject: Geographic Names EO

Hi Brett,

(b) (5) ACP

Thanks,
m

Mike Tischler, Ph.D
Director, National Geospatial Program
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of Interior
o: 703-648-4725
c: 703-344-4348
mtischler@usgs.gov

From: [Myrick, Brett H](#)
To: [Tischler, Michael A](#)
Subject: Re: Geographic Names EO
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 12:56:35 PM

(b) (5) ACP

Brett H. Myrick
Attorney-Adviser
Department of the Interior
Division of General Law - General Legal Services
brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov
202-208-3820 (work)
312-576-4798 (personal cell)

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 10:06 AM
To: Myrick, Brett H <brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Geographic Names EO

Hi Brett,

(b) (5) ACP

Thanks,
m

From: Myrick, Brett H <brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 9:32 AM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: Geographic Names EO

Mike-

(b) (5) ACP

Thanks,
Brett

Brett H. Myrick
Attorney-Adviser
Department of the Interior
Division of General Law - General Legal Services
brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov
202-208-3820 (work)
312-576-4798 (personal cell)

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 9:28 AM
To: Myrick, Brett H <brett.myrick@sol.doi.gov>
Subject: Geographic Names EO

Hi Brett,

(b) (5) ACP

(b) (5) ACP

Thanks,
m

Mike Tischler, Ph.D
Director, National Geospatial Program
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of Interior
o: 703-648-4725
c: 703-344-4348
mtischler@usgs.gov

From: [Tischler, Michael A](#)
To: [BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC](#); [Zahniser, Shellie R](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] ST_GeographicName
Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 11:47:41 AM

Unless you feel there is a need to respond soon, I'd say that we could wait a little longer. I know DOI is working on a media statement.

From: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 2:46 PM
To: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] ST_GeographicName

Hi Mike and Shellie, I haven't responded to the proponent. What is your advice? Respond now or wait until OCAP provides guidance about responding to anything about the EO in general?

Matt

From: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 11:59 AM
To: St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Cc: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] ST_GeographicName

Thanks Mike and Tim, I will let the proponent know.

Matt

From: St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 5:12 PM
To: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Cc: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] ST_GeographicName

Hi everyone,

I'm in concurrence that the Flattop proposal be rejected, given that the EO establishes Mount McKinley as official and therefore makes the Flattop name change a duplicative name issue, citing Policy VII, Sec. 1. Name duplication may not have been in the original logic of the proposal, but that is the scenario following the EO.

Thank you,
Tim

Tim St. Onge
Cartographer

Geography & Map Division
LM-B02
202-707-9044
tong@loc.gov



From: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 4:57 PM
To: St Onge, Timothy <tong@loc.gov>
Cc: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] ST_GeographicName

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Tim,

Seeking your input on this matter.

BLUF: Proposal to change [Flattop](#) (no feature in GNIS and FID in proposal is for [Chugach Mountains](#), perhaps [Flattop Mountain](#), which is in the Chugach Mountains?) to "Mount McKinley"

Now that the EO has been signed to re-instate the name Mount McKinley, should we outright reject the Flattop proposal?

Shellie Zahniser, Ph.D.
BGN Executive Secretary
Domestic Names Committee
Honolulu, HI

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 11:51 AM
To: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] ST_GeographicName

If we received a proposal for a living relative, we would outright dismiss the proposal because it violates a standing policy, right?

I would like to have concurrence from Tim, but I would say we could dismiss the proposal as being in violation of Policy VII, Sec. 1:

The BGN will normally disapprove a name proposed for a geographic feature that is already applied to another nearby feature.

Given the extraordinary prominence of Mount McKinley, it would be confusing to have any other feature in the State share the same name.

From: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 4:34 PM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] ST_GeographicName

Should we even process it? If there is already a Mount McKinley via EO, then I would think that any proposal for that name, in AK should be outright denied without processing.

Shellie Zahniser, Ph.D.
BGN Executive Secretary
Domestic Names Committee
Honolulu, HI

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 11:21 AM
To: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>; BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] ST_GeographicName

I didn't ask about that...

What would I be seeking resolution or clarification on? The feature that's being renamed (Flattop) was not named by EO, nor is there any pending legislation, right?

I could see that proposal (Flattop -> McKinley) as not being approved, though, as it would be confusing.

From: Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 4:12 PM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] ST_GeographicName

Are you seeking resolution to that second question as well?

Shellie Zahniser, Ph.D.
BGN Executive Secretary

Domestic Names Committee
Honolulu, HI

From: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 11:11 AM
To: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] ST_GeographicName

I asked the DOI Solicitor about (b) (5) - ACP

(b) (5) - ACP

However, it's a different question as to whether we want to name another feature to Mount McKinley.

From: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 3:57 PM
To: Tischler, Michael A <mtischler@usgs.gov>; Zahniser, Shellie R <srzahniser@usgs.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] ST_GeographicName

Our question about BGN purview over Executive or Congressional naming is a reality.

Two proposals, only one of which is relevant to the question:

change [Denali](#) to "Denali McKinley"

change [Flattop](#) (no feature in GNIS and FID in proposal is for [Chugach Mountains](#) , perhaps [Flattop Mountain](#), which is in the Chugach Mountains?) to "Mount McKinley"

Matt

From: Shane Carlson <(b) (6) @myyahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 3:42 PM
To: BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ST_GeographicName

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opening attachments, or responding.

Petition to change the name of two mountains in Alaska.