From: Mary Big Bull-Lewis <hello@wenatchiwear.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 1:14 PM

To:SO3404\_FRNquestions@usgs.gov; DNR RE BOGNSubject:Reconciliation of Derogatory Geographic Names

### External Email

Hello, I would like to inquire about the recent proposal of Reconciliation of Derogatory Geographic Names in Washington State.

My name is Mary Big Bull-Lewis, I am an enrolled member of the Colville Confederated Tribes; Wenatchi, Moses and Entiat bands & a descendant of the Blackfoot Tribe. Indigenous entrepreneur, co-owner of two small businesses located in Wenatchee, WA.; R Digital Design & Wenatchi Wear and the founder and Chair of the nonprofit Indigenous Roots & Reparation Foundation.

I believe it was in 2018 that the popular hiking hill located in Wenatchee, WA. name was officially changed from the State & Federal maps. It was labelled Squaw Saddle, and a local historian did a survey in our local newspaper to change it. I was sad to see it was not changed to the p'squosa (Wenatchi) Tribe original story of Two Bears.

Have tribal communities, councils, Indigenous lead organizations been consulted to rename these locations? My hope is that this change request is not coming from a white person with only white organizations determining the names. Have any Indigenous, Native American organization, council, board reached out to request this change? My fear is that this was provoked by non-Natives and is another act of white savior-ism.

If the hopes are to include and change the racist history, Indigenous Peoples need to have a voice in this matter. I cannot speak on behalf of all tribal, Indigenous peoples whose lands these locations are on, but it is crucial to include Native voices in changes such as this.

This type of change takes time & unfortunately this is the first time I have heard of this rather large change happening.

Thank you-

Mary Big Bull-Lewis
www.wenatchiwear.com
509.421.0887
Authentic Threads
Exclusive Designs



From: Tony Joseph <ajdc2dc@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 11:06 AM

To: DNR RE BOGN Subject: Squaw article

# External Email

#### Good Morning,

My name is Anthony Joseph Draper. I am an enrolled member of the Nez Perce Tribal Nation. I hold a BA in Indigenous Studies from The Evergreen State University and a MLS in Indigenous Peoples Law from the University of Oklahoma. I am working on my second MS in Criminal Justice with OU. I am writing regarding this recent article from Kiro7: Effort to remove 'squaw' from names of 18 places in WA risks 'erasing women, history of land' (msn.com). I think it is important to say that the word "squaw" is rooted in violence against Indigenous women of a sort that actually did result in a lethal erasure of their personhood. There is not time or space enough to recount the horrors of historical massacres like that which occurred at Sand Creek, Colorado in 1864. Suffice it to say that what has been done to Indigenous women by the federal and state authorities in this country rivals the worst of what we are now seeing from places like Bucha, Ukraine. I would urge the author of this article to withdraw it and rewrite it with a focus on two crucial facts: Indigenous Peoples themselves are who has decided the word "squaw" is gravely offensive based on the atrocious genocidal history of the term, not some "woke left" college professors or politicians. It should remain up to Indigenous People to decide for ourselves what is of offense, not pundits, talking heads, amateur journalists, or white folks in general. Second, at least Google and read the entire origins of a word before you take a stance and write another irresponsible article. "Squaw" is not something any place or person should ever be named and it does not now and will never represent any actual Indigenous women alive or dead. Thank you for listening to me and here's to hoping you actual heard and will act appropriately. Feel free to forward this on to Ms. Palmer with the Washington Department of Natural Resources, who as a non-Indigenous archaeologist has absolutely no stake in these discussions.

Best Regards, Anthony Joseph Draper

Sent from Mail for Windows

From: Destiny Woodward <ddwoodward@lcmail.lcsc.edu>

Sent: Tuesday, April 5, 2022 8:16 AM

To: DNR RE BOGN

**Subject:** Change Derogatory Names

# External Email

To Whom it May Concern,

Thank you and this committee for bringing this important topic to attention. I implore you, as a Indigenous woman living in Washington, please follow through and change these derogatory names.

There are always arguments that making changes such as this "erases history" but I'd counter that Indigenous cultures are vast and varied with strong ties to this land and our history cannot be erased, much less by an effort to remove derogatory names. If the goal is to honor Indigenous people, like I've also heard, it's best to avoid slurs and insults. Name the landmarks something that actually sparks Indigenous pride if the goal is to honor our people or our history. Otherwise it remains the insult it says has been to Indigenous people- our stolen land given offensive names meant to remind us of our new place on reservations.

Please stay this course and do right by your Tribal brothers and sisters. Please change these derogatory names to something all Washingtonians can be proud of.

Thank you for your time and care in this matter.

**Destiny Woodward** 

From: Monica Jackson < jacksonbowers97@icloud.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 8:45 PM

**To:** DNR RE BOGN **Subject:** Thank you

# **External Email**

I agree the racist word "squa\*" should be removed from all sites. Please do so and, if possible, use Indigenous languages for new names.

Thank you, Monica Jackson

From: barbara627 <barbara627@frontier.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 8:30 PM

To: DNR RE BOGN

**Subject:** Proposed Renaming of 18 Places with Derogatory Names

# External Email

Thank you for working to change the derogatory names of places in Washington. Words carry power and can help our country heal.

Barbara McPherson Everett, WA

Get Outlook for iOS

From: connie grindol <conniegrindol1330@hotmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 8:10 PM

To: DNR RE BOGN

**Subject:** Squaw

# External Email

Hello,

Since the word "Squaw" simply used to mean "Woman" what would be the problem to replace it with another Native American word for "Woman".

I hope someone has reached out to the local Native American leaders about this issue.

It would be nice if Native American women could be included in the name of places. Replace "Squaw" with a real woman that has done something special such as raised good children or cared for the sick.

Even nicer would be to use the original name for places that the Native Americans spoke here way before us.

Connie Grindol

Sent from Mail for Windows

From: Tim Kerfoot <moonfli@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 1:51 PM

To: DNR RE BOGN

**Subject:** Name changes proposed

# **External Email**

I fully applaud efforts in this regard. If a group of people consider a given name derogatory to themselves, by all means, change the name to of honor.

Thank you Tim Kerfoot Sent from my iPhone

**From:** scowncabin2 < scowncabin2@aol.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 5, 2022 1:25 PM

**To:** DNR RE BOGN **Subject:** Renaming

# External Email

Please accomplish these changes, as expeditiously as possible. It's been too long coming.

Also, please consider using indigenous names of places (as Denali is now accepted) ... which is always a better description anyway. White conquerors, usurpers, should not be memorialized, no matter the mores of usurper,

Thank you. Rachel Scown 2245 Riffle Dr Leavenworth WA 98826 509.860.6676

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: Susan Cross <suecrossofindex@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 5, 2022 7:07 AM

**To:** DNR RE BOGN **Subject:** Derogatory names

# **External Email**

Please count me among those residents of Washington State who wish to remove derogatory names from our state's lands.

Susan Cross PO Box 307 Index, WA 98256

From: Heide Fernandez-Llamazares <heide\_fll@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, April 4, 2022 10:10 PM

To: DNR RE BOGN

**Subject:** Geographic names committee

### **External Email**

I fully support renaming places that have derogatory names. I support places being renamed with the names Indigenous people used historically. I believe that the tribes should be involved in these decisions.

Some might argue that this is a fad but I believe it is reasonable to regularly reconsider place names and change them to be more inclusive.

Heide Fernandez-Llamazares Tacoma, WA.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Anna Batie <batieae@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 9:40 PM

To: DNR RE BOGN

**Subject:** Renaming Geographical Features

# External Email

# Hi DNR,

I strongly support renaming these features. It's the right thing to do. In renaming them, I suggest you seek the input of the indigenous peoples whose territories the features are on. It would be nice for those features to have their indigenous names again.

Thanks, Anna

From: Marshall Wynne <mwynne82@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, April 4, 2022 5:55 PM

To: DNR RE BOGN

**Subject:** RE-NAMING 18 PLACES

# External Email

Hi, my name is Marshall Wynne and I am very much in agreement with renaming the 18 places with derogatory names. We should not condone racism or historical inaccuracies.

Please allow the nearest Native American tribes the right to rename the places.

Thanks you,

Marshall Wynne Wellpinit WA 99040

From: Dan Spam <spamlovr@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 12:00 PM

To: DNR RE BOGN

**Subject:** Derogatory Name Change

# External Email

Yes, change the names. If indigenous Americans say the names are offensive, then they deserve to be honored for what America has done to them, and still does to them.

Dan Jacobs

From: L H <lynnmfhowland@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 10:33 AM

To: DNR RE BOGN

**Subject:** Changing derogatory indian names

# External Email

Yes, please do change these names.

I think the most respectful thing would be to ask the local tribes. I'm sure there are women either in their history or legends that did good deeds that would be appropriately honored by renaming these places.

We need to promote kindness, peace and respectful behavior in any way we can. It is never possible to solve society's problems in one fell swoop. It can only be achieved incrementally This is an important step in the right direction.

Sincerely,

Lynn Howland

From: Jennifer Godfrey <plantkingdom1@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, April 4, 2022 10:24 AM

To: DNR RE BOGN

**Subject:** Rename the offensive terms

# External Email

Hi all,

I could not find the list on the DNR about tab. I'd like to know if these were deemed offensive by tribal members, were they polled? And, if so, what would they like it to be called? Revert to their tribal names for corresponding areas is my vote.

Thanks, Jennifer

--

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FORKS OVER KNIVES

www.meat.org

**From:** George Peiffer <peiffergeorge@rocketmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, April 4, 2022 10:21 AM

To: DNR RE BOGN

Subject: Names

# External Email

I respectfully suggest that you use names pre-approved by the indigenous people of each corresponding area. These place had names before we used derogatory ones. 
Thank You,

# George

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android



### **ZOLTÁN GROSSMAN, Ph.D.** Member of the Faculty in Geography and **Native American & Indigenous Studies**

The Evergreen State College (Lab 1, Room 3012), 2700 Evergreen Parkway NW, Olympia, WA 98505 USA E-mail: grossmaz@evergreen.edu

Website: https://sites.evergreen.edu/zoltan

April 2, 2022

Washington State Committee on Geographic Names P.O. Box 47030 Olympia, WA 98504-7030

Dear Committee members,

I am a member of the faculty at The Evergreen State College in Geography and Native American and Indigenous Studies. I am also past co-chair of the American Association of Geographers (AAG) Indigenous Peoples Specialty Group in 2008-10, and a professional cartographer since 1987. When Ukraine and other Soviet republics declared independence 30 years ago, they replaced Russian place names with ones from their own language and spelling systems. I was the lead cartographer in charge of tracking these place name changes for Encyclopedia Britannica and many geography textbooks.

Here in Olympia in 2011, I was part of the Name Change Committee that replaced Sq--- Point on our campus with the original Lushootseed place name of <u>Bushoowah-ahlee Point</u>. I drafted the name change application jointly with the Squaxin Island Tribe to your Committee and the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. The previous year, as I attended the AAG annual conference in Washington D.C., our Indigenous Peoples Specialty Group with USBGN executive secretary Lou Yost.

As a geographer and cartographer, I have always been strongly in favor of replacing all sq--- place names, and appreciate the leadership of Secretary of the Interior Debra Haaland in directing this change nationally, and the Committee in carrying out the change of 18 place names in Washington State. Securing the place name change on our campus, and jointly celebrating it with the Squaxin Island Tribe, was a positive experience for our College community and neighbors. Your name change process goes hand-in-hand with the Legislature's decision to establish an alert system for missing Indigenous women, as the dehumanization of Native women in past centuries contributed to continuing trauma and violence inflicted on them in this century.

Given that there are an unprecedented number of place name changes at once on your docket, I trust that you are consulting with Washington tribes on the possible pathways and methods to change the place names that have long been so denigrating to Indigenous women. Particularly if there are no applications for specific name changes of any of the 18 sites, the tribes on those treaty territories can be contacted regarding their views on possible replacements, if they have not been already. In reviewing the map of the sites, the tribes that may have possible geographical interest are quite evident. As you are already aware, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) might be consulted to make the proper contacts, and for nontreaty tribes the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) database can also help to delineate ancestral territories.

You may remember the applications by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe around 2006-07 to change sq--- place names in their ancestral aboriginal territory, which straddles Idaho and Washington. The Tribe's innovative approach recognized that early settlers had used the term to identify where they saw Native women gathering to feed their communities. Throughout the region, Indigenous women would join together at these sites to gather berries, camas bulbs, basket reeds, medicinal plants, clams, and other natural wealth, often accompanied by their children. In order to honor these places of women's labor, without using the racist and sexist term, the Tribe proposed renaming them after prominent women leaders in their tribal history, or after their language's words for female relatives, such as grandmother, aunt, niece, or eldest daughter.

Given an opportunity, a Washington Tribe may wish to take a similar approach to properly honor Native women's places on their original lands, or may use an entirely different strategy in renaming these places. But given the harm that has been done through the derogatory place names, it is only proper that the Tribes be respected and consulted on a government-to-government basis, in the spirit of the 1989 Centennial Accord and 1999 New Millennium Accord.

While other states might follow a name change process in consultation solely with the federal government, Washington state agencies have an obligation to consult tribal governments.

Native place name changes are an important part of decolonizing our relationship to the original nations and their lands. In our recent Evergreen class "American Frontiers: Homelands and Borderlands," we read Keith Basso's classic study <u>Wisdom Sits in Places</u>, which defined Indigenous place names as the vessels for tribal stories that transmitted knowledge and morals between the generations. Basso's book helped inspire our students with the Squaxin Island Tribe on <u>StoryMaps walking</u> tours of downtown Olympia history. He astutely observed that place names are an important connection between the past and present: "For the place-maker's main objective is to speak the past into being, to summon it with words and give it dramatic form, to produce experience by forging ancestral worlds in which others can participate..."

Restoring dehumanizing place names with Indigenous place names is a small gesture in a much larger process of healing divisions among peoples, and of reversing the damage caused by displacing Native peoples and ecosystems. It may be a symbolic move, but it symbolizes a more respectful and cooperative future that honors the enduring Indigenous presence.

Thank you for your important work,

Dr. Zoltán Grossman

From: G Gerst <gerstg@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, April 1, 2022 7:21 AM

To: DNR RE BOGN

**Subject:** Sq.... Name change in WA state

#### **External Email**

I support changing this word in place names in our state.

As a teacher of US history for 40 years, and with friends like Billy Frank and students from various tribes over my career (including this year's State Teacher of the Year), I am keenly aware of how offensive and intentionally demeaning this word is.

It's the reverse equivalent of honoring treasonous confederates with statues and place names. If 'red skin' and 'braves' are now essentially banned for good reason, then so should "sq....". We'd never name a park or mountain "Ni...." Or "B...ch", but the S word is just like that. Even tho' many anglos don't pay attention to that at all, Indigenous people are shamed by it in print, news, conversation. Yes, please do change it.

And consider finally replacing Mt. Rainier with the Indigenous name it had and deserves, Mt. Tahoma. Thanks!!!

Gery Gerst, Olympia

From: Charlotte Barber < livingtree47@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, March 31, 2022 11:27 PM

To: DNR RE BOGN Subject: Name change

### **External Email**

I for one wish to applaud this action to change the names. Perhaps a ceremony at each to inform the public (again) about missing, murdered and abused indigenous women could be given.

As a white woman who cares, I would like to attend locally, Thurston County and close, to give my support if you choose to have one.

Charlotte Ann Jones Barber livingtree47@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

From: Bowden, Liv (DNR)

Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 11:07 AM

To: DNR RE BOGN

**Subject:** Proposed Renaming of 18 Places with Derogatory Names

**Sensitivity:** Private

Committee,

I support renaming the subject 18 places with derogatory names referring to indigenous women.

I believe this renaming is a necessary act of kindness to demonstrate acceptance and respect for those that are or may be offended by the derogatory names.

Thanks for your consideration.

All the best,

Liv

Liv Bowden, LEG Science Team Lead Forest Regulation Division Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Mobile: 360 972-4208 liv.bowden@dnr.wa.gov

www.dnr.wa.gov

From: Joy Zegstroo <jczegstroo@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 6:30 PM

To: DNR RE BOGN

**Subject:** renaming places with the word squaw in it.

# External Email

I personally never thought of the word as derogatory. For an indian woman to earn the term squaw she had to be up in years and considered to have wisdom and skills to pass on. I was told this by several Yakima tribe Indians I met over the years hunting the area. It's sad that things have come to this. Renaming these places should instead be educating people why the term squaw is used. But if that is what the tribes want . fine. But there just making themselves more out sight out of mind. Sincerely Case Zegstroo

Sent from Mail for Windows

From: smxicnatkw <cwhelshula@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 10:59 PM

To: DNR RE BOGN
Subject: Geographic renaming

# External Email

# To whom it may concern:

I am writing regarding the renaming of geographic places that currently carry derogatory names referencing indigenous women. Tribes have records of their ancestral territory in addition to their traditional place names in their languages. I suggest you defer to the Tribes who's ancestral territory these places exist. If a traditional place name is not documented, they would still be able to make the most appropriate title.

Kindly,

Cree Whelshula

From: Christina Waterhouse < christina@windermere.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 5, 2022 8:31 PM

To: DNR RE BOGN

**Subject:** Squaw Island Re-Name

# External Email

### Hello,

I would like to recommend a new name for Squaw Island. My recommendation for the new name is Cathlapotle Island. I think this would be a great name for the island as it would be a respectful way to honor the history of the Native Americans that lived in that area before white people took it from them.

I am especially interested in this as my 4<sup>th</sup> Great Grand Father was one of the original land grant recipients of Bachelor Island, his name was George Burrow and my Grandfather, John Burrow was born on Bachelor Island in 1915.

Thank you for your consideration of my name nomination.



### CHRISTINA WATERHOUSE



christina@windermere.com

ChristinaWaterhouse.com

1401 SE 164<sup>th</sup> Ave. Suite 190 / Vancouver, WA 98683

From: Amaya, Conner (DNR)

Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 1:20 PM

To: DNR RE BOGN

**Subject:** Name Change Proposal SO3404

Reviewing the indicated sites to be renamed across the state, I noted "Squaw Creek" North of Forks, and thought it might be both humorous and regionally appropriate to rename it "Cullen Creek" in honour of the Twilight series that has become a prevalent tourist attraction for the area. A local vendor down La Push Rd features a sign referencing the novel with a "Treaty Line, No Vampires Past This Point" of which the named creek remains prior to the sign, adding to the naming scheme.

Regards,

Conner Amaya Olympic Region Communication Field tech (360)561-6709

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: Austin Eats <austineats@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 7:46 PM

To: DNR RE BOGN

**Subject:** Geographic Name Place Change Proposal

External Email

Hello DNR!

I am an avid supporter or the Washington Trails Association where I heard of the move to rename many geographic features in WA state.

First off I am enthusiastic in support of the intent of this activity. Hopefully I hope we can do this ina practical manner which won't break the bank.

I've provided a proposed name change application below. I have also mailed a hard copy to Olympia.

Not that it matters one bit, but I am a former WA DNR employee having worked for the Helitac crew out of Ellensburg.

Thanks for your time and hard work!

**Austin Smith** 

9	NacRook Pro
<	WASHINGTON STATE Geographic Name Application  Washington State Department of Natural Resources
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a	County: OKANOGAN Name Change Controversity
A	Lat. 48.0 (° N, Long120, 13° W (Begin)
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	tas it ever been signed, posted, or publicized? If so, when? the move to change Names was publicized by USDept of the Interior, WA DNR, and the Washington Trails Association
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tec	Please mail completed form along with copies of any additional materials to:  WA State Board on Geographic Names  PO Box 47030  Olympia, WA 98504-7030
tec	Please mail completed form along with copies of any additional materials to:  WA State Board on Geographic Names  PO Box 47030

From: Melinda Sito <crock098@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 12:45 PM

To: DNR RE BOGN

**Subject:** Renaming places with squaw

**External Email** 

Why don't you rename everything he/she/they and a number? This has become absurd. Sincerely, Melinda Sito

Sent from my iPhone

From: Dave McReynolds <dave\_mcreynolds@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 9:48 AM

To: DNR RE BOGN

**Subject:** Name changes of locations

### **External Email**

Good Lord! Enough is enough. If you person A saying something you don't like to person B then you can ask them to change their verbiage going forward. You are thinking of changing historical references to locations that have a "non-woke" nomenclature for the purpose of what? Appeasement? Leave HISTORY alone and change your behavior if you wish. Leave mine alone please.

Sent from my iPad

From: Jared Myers <jaredm75@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Monday, April 4, 2022 3:15 PM

To: DNR RE BOGN

**Subject:** Regarding name changes

# External Email

I believe the names on the list posted should stay the way they are. For one thing, when you change a name, for many years to come it will be referred to both new and original. Which only confuses tourists and out of area travelers.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

From: davydiver <davy.diver@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, April 1, 2022 6:06 PM

**To:** DNR RE BOGN **Subject:** 18 names

# External Email

Give it a rest, leave the names alone. To much stuff of more importance needs floor time in the state government.

David de Jong

King County District #45

From: Brian Ropp, Owner Wine Design, LLC <winedesignllc@aol.com>

**Sent:** Friday, April 1, 2022 1:46 PM

To: DNR RE BOGN Subject: So dumb

# External Email

name changing is pretty stupid. Leave it alone I'm sorry but this

From: THEODORE PELLETIER <outlook\_323FC0D5B4F1590D@outlook.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 6:49 AM

To: DNR RE BOGN

**Subject:** renaming "squaw" sites

# External Email

I live near Neah Bay, and for decades, non-Indians have complained about the name of the Highschool sports team, Red Devils. Last year, it was put to a vote of the Makah Tribe, and keeping the name won by a landslide! I suggest letting the people alleged to be offended decide if changes should be made.

Sent from Mail for Windows