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**Minutes**  
**Washington State Committee on Geographic Names**

April 4, 2024

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mike Iyall – Tribal Representative  
Mary Schaff – WA State Library Representative  
Dr. Allyson Brooks – Dept. of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
Putnam Barber – Public Member  
Dr. Grant Smith – Public Member  
Dean Foster - Public Member

**STAFF PRESENT**

Jarrold Gardner  
Caleb Maki

**AUDIENCE PRESENT**

Katherine Higgins  
Crystal Miller  
Mary Big Bull-Lewis  
Bryan Hepler  
Kim Anderson  
Edward Slonaker  
Darnell Sam  
Jennifer Runyon  
Allyn Dukes  
David Barta  
Shelby Bourquein  
Jeanie Anderson  
Marsha Aufenkamp  
Ramsey Brown  
John Schneider  
Matthew O'Donnell  
Brandi Belgarde  
Warren King George  
Paul Poknis

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**Washington State Committee on Geographic Names  
April 4, 2024 - 10:00am – 12:00pm  
Room 172 - Natural Resources Building  
1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia, WA 98504  
(360) 902-1000**

**Agenda**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (Action Item)  
December 11, 2023**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**NAMES FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION:**

**CLARK COUNTY**

**Prune Hill Creek – NEW NAME (Action Item) – APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE**

**SKAGIT/WHATCOM COUNTY**

**Elizabeth Creek – NEW NAME (Action Item) – APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE**

**SNOHOMISH COUNTY**

**Mary Pamela Falls – NEW NAME (Action Item) – APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE**

**STEVENS COUNTY**

**Wild Plum Creek – NEW NAME (Action Item) – APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE**

**NAMES DEFERRED FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION:**

**LEWIS COUNTY**

**Lapome Creek – NEW NAME (Action Item) – APPROVED FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION**

**NAMES FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION:**

**CHELAN COUNTY**

**Sacred Mountain – NAME CHANGE (Action Item) – APPROVED FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION**

**CHELAN COUNTY**

**Spirit Mountain – NAME CHANGE (Action Item) – APPROVED FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION**

**KLICKITAT COUNTY**

**Schoolhouse Creek – NEW NAME (Action Item) – APPROVED FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION**

**ADJOURN**

1 **CALL TO ORDER**

2 Committee Chair EJ Juarez was unable to attend, so Mike Iyall agreed to chair the meeting. Chair  
3 Mike Iyall called the meeting to order at 10:00.

4  
5 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

6 Chair Mike Iyall called for a motion to approve the minutes from the last Committee meeting.

7  
8 MOITION: Mary Schaff moved to approve the minutes.

9  
10 SECOND: Dr. Allyson Brooks seconded the motion.

11  
12 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

13  
14 **PUBLIC COMMENTS – SPIRIT MOUNTAIN & SACRED MOUNTAIN**

15 Darnell Sam addressed the Committee. Darnell Sam works for the Colville Tribes as the  
16 Traditional Territories Coordinator and said that earlier in the year the Colville Tribe had received  
17 notification of a name change in their traditional areas along Lake Wenatchee. Steve Plucker, the  
18 proponent for Spirit Mountain and Sacred Mountain, had sent the proposals to the Tribe and the  
19 proposals were reviewed by the Wenatchee Advisor Group. Darnell Sam said that the mountains  
20 had traditional names of “Huckleberry Mountain” and “Goat Mountain”, and the Tribe was aware  
21 of how the mountains got their current names and the history behind the names. Darnell Sam said  
22 that history is history, and we cannot change that, but it is the sentiments of the Wenatchee  
23 Advisory Group that the mountains be renamed to their traditional names. Darnell Sam said that  
24 he is aware of the difficulties in the phonics of the traditional names, so to be straightforward the  
25 names would be Goat Mountain and Huckleberry Mountain.

26  
27 Darnell Sam thanked Mr. Plucker for bringing the issue to the Tribe’s attention and said that the  
28 Colville People have a long-documented history connecting them to the area especially  
29 “Huckleberry Mountain” because it was a food source. Darnell Sam said that the first law of his  
30 people is to honor the food. Darnell Sam said that the mountain had a long history with his people  
31 and wanted the Committee to see that the Colville Tribe takes this issue seriously.

32  
33 Chair Mike Iyall thanked Darnell Sam and asked him if he could send the preferred names for the  
34 features to the Committee staff, both the traditional and modern names. Chair Mike Iyall said he  
35 would prefer to see the features returned to their traditional names.

36  
37 Mary Schaff asked Darnell Sam if he thought the Colville Tribe would prefer a slightly inaccurate  
38 translation of a traditional name, or a modern English version.

39  
40 Darnell Sam said that the phonetic process is complex and can be confusing, and the Tribe will  
41 put a traditional name in a phonetic spelling, and then try to translate that into an approximate  
42 English spelling. Darnell Sam said that there was a massacre at White River where calvary soldiers  
43 chased Wenatchee people and now two mountains are named after two of the soldiers which is  
44 inappropriate.

45  
46 Darnell Sam said that changing the names to “Goat Mountain” and “Huckleberry Mountain” would

1 be enough for the Tribe, but at the same time giving the Tribe a chance to have the phonetic spelling  
2 would be great.

3

4 Mary Schaff said that when she first started on the Committee, she was told that all names had to  
5 be in the Roman Alphabet but has now seen some flexibility in that. Mary Schaff said that she  
6 would like to see the phonetic spelling of the name submitted as an alternative name to be entered  
7 into the geographic names database. Mary Schaff said that it is important that the Tribe's language  
8 be used correctly, but that our modern alphabet does not always allow that.

9

10 Dr. Grant Smith said that he welcomed the idea of soliciting a name from the Tribe and listening  
11 to their wants for the names. Dr. Smith said that the Committee should not encourage the Tribe  
12 one way or the other but should emphasize their agency and their deliberations.

13

#### 14 **PUBLIC COMMENTS – SPIRIT MOUNTAIN & SACRED MOUNTAIN**

15 Kim Anderson thanked Darnell Sam for showing up today and said that he wants to make sure the  
16 geographic location is correct for the mountains, as they have “moved” on the maps over the years.  
17 Kim Anderson said he has hiked all around the mountains, and McCall Mountain is in the correct  
18 location, but that Crook Mountain got moved on the maps sometime in the 1940's. Kim Anderson  
19 said his interest today was to make sure the mountains were in the correct locations on current  
20 maps.

21

#### 22 **PUBLIC COMMENTS – SPIRIT MOUNTAIN & SACRED MOUNTAIN**

23 Mary Big Bull-Lewis thanked the Committee and said she is an enrolled Colville member and  
24 born and raised in the Wenatchee Valley. Mary Big Bull-Lewis said that the movement to rename  
25 places was brought to her several years ago and she wrote a letter to the Committee encouraging  
26 them to talk with the Tribes and get their consensus as the Committee moves forward with this as  
27 this is an important step in recognizing the First Nations Peoples are still here. Mary Big Bull-  
28 Lewis said that she agrees with Darnell Sam and supports everything the Wenatchee Advisory  
29 Board is doing and is in full support of these name changes.

30

31 Mary Big Bull-Lewis said that when we go out on the land, we are with the land not on the land  
32 and plants and animals are not objects but beings that we fully embrace in multiple ways. Mary  
33 Big Bull-Lewis said that she wanted to make the statement that she is in full support of these name  
34 changes and hopes that there can be signage that shows the Native languages, and the Colville  
35 Tribe should be consulted so that the signage is correct. Mary Big Bull-Lewis thanked the  
36 Committee and said she looks forward to the positive change.

37

#### 38 **PUBLIC COMMENTS – ELIZABETH CREEK**

39 Marsha Aufenkamp said that she is encouraging the Committee to approve the name Elizabeth  
40 Creek and said that Elizabeth has written over 100 columns in the local newspaper featuring photos  
41 of the North Cascades Highway and Elizabeth Creek.

42

#### 43 **PUBLIC COMMENTS – ELIZABETH CREEK**

44 Allyn Dukes thanked Marshe Aufenkamp and said that she is Elizabeth's niece and lives in  
45 Houston. Allyn Dukes said there is so much to say about Elizabeth and all she has done in the  
46 long journalism career defending and educating people on natural resources. Allyn Dukes said

1 that she can think of nothing more fitting than naming a creek in Elizabeth’s honor.

2  
3 **PUBLIC COMMENTS – MARY PAMELA FALLS**

4 Ramsey Brown said that he just wanted to address some concerns in the last meeting about the  
5 language in the proposal implying that Mary Pamela had “discovered” the falls to be named in her  
6 honor. Ramsey Brown said that was not what they were trying to imply when they were proposing  
7 the name and realizes that the feature has almost certainly been seen by Native Americans.  
8 Ramsey Brown said that in the late 80’s access was easier, but lately it is incredibly difficult to get  
9 into the area. Ramsey Brown reiterated that he was not implying that Mary Pamela was the first  
10 person to discover the falls.

11  
12 **PRUNE HILL CREEK FINAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

13 Chair Mike Iyall asked if there was any discussion amongst the Committee. Staff informed the  
14 Committee that the proponent had sent in a letter stating that the stream is fish bearing, in light of  
15 concerns raised at the last Committee meeting.

16  
17 Mary Schaff asked staff if this was the proposal that did not always flow year-round, and staff said  
18 that was the Wild Plum Creek proposal.

19  
20 MOTION: Dr. Grant Smith motioned to approve the name Prune Hill Creek.

21  
22 SECOND: Putnam Barber seconded the motion.

23  
24 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to send the name Prune Hill Creek to the Board  
25 on Geographic Names with the Committee’s recommendation to approve.

26  
27 **ELIZABETH CREEK FINAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

28 Chair Mike Iyall asked if anyone on the Committee would wish to make a motion to approve.  
29 Mary Schaff said that she would like to thank the proponent for everything that was shared in the  
30 application packet, as this made her more comfortable to vote to approve this name. Mary Schaff  
31 thanked the proponent for the photos and articles in the proposal as well. Dr. Grant Smith seconded  
32 the sentiment, and said the information was really strong in support of this name. Dr. Grant Smith  
33 said he usually does not like commemorative names but likes this proposal.

34  
35 Putnam Barber said he was troubled by the proposed name only using the first name of the  
36 individual, and hoped if a sign is put up it includes the full name of the person being  
37 commemorated.

38  
39 MOTION: Mary Schaff motioned to approve the name Elizabeth Creek.

40  
41 SECOND: Dr. Grant Smith seconded the motion.

42  
43 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to send the name Elizabeth Creek to the Board  
44 on Geographic Names with the Committee’s recommendation to approve.

1 **MARY PAMELA FALLS FINAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

2 Dr. Grant Smith said that he was having difficulty reading the online proposal for this proposal  
3 and the next proposal on the agenda. Chair Mike Iyall asked staff to make sure that in the future  
4 the presentations are more readable in the future.

5

6 MOTION: Dr. Allyson Brooks motioned to approve the name Mary Pamela Falls.

7

8 SECOND: Dean Foster seconded the motion.

9

10 During discussion of the motion, Dean Foster asked staff if the Department of Natural Resources  
11 was contacted and if feedback was received. Staff said the DNR did respond and had concerns  
12 about lack of access to the feature and if it was named causing more people to try to access the  
13 feature.

14

15 Mary Schaff said the access point was kind of a problem but was not sure if the argument that  
16 more people would visit because it was named would hold up. Mary Schaff said that she was  
17 concerned pointing attention to a creek that was legally inaccessible to anyone.

18

19 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to send the name Mary Pamela Falls to the  
20 Board on Geographic Names with the Committee's recommendation to approve.

21

22 **WILD PLUM CREEK FINAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

23 Staff said that at the last meeting the Committee had expressed concerns about how much water  
24 actually flowed in the creek, and the proponent had sent in a video showing running water in the  
25 feature.

26

27 Putnam Barber said that Mary Schaff's concern was whether or not the creek was seasonal. Staff  
28 said that the creek might be, but the U.S. Board on Geographic Names was already aware of the  
29 seasonal flow and had no concerns.

30

31 MOTION: Dr. Allyson Brooks motioned to approve the name Wild Plum Creek.

32

33 SECOND: Dean Foster seconded the motion.

34

35 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to send the name Wild Plum Creek to the Board  
36 on Geographic Names with the Committee's recommendation to approve.

37

38 **LAPOME CREEK DEFERRED FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

39 Staff said that at the last Committee meeting, the Committee had asked that the Cowlitz Tribe be  
40 contacted and asked for their opinion concerning the proposed name. Staff said that the Cowlitz  
41 Tribe did respond and said they had no issues with the name.

42

43 MOTION: Putnam Barber motioned to approve the name Lapome Creek.

44

45 SECOND: Dr. Allyson Brooks seconded the motion.

46

1 Mary Schaff asked for some discussion on this proposed name. Mary Shaff said that her concerns  
2 were the commercial aspect of the name because of the proponent operating an apple orchard.  
3 Mary Schaff said that the Committee has always been very careful about naming features for a  
4 commercial aspect in the past and she would not be voting to approve this name until she hears  
5 from the proponent.

6

7 Dr. Grant Smith said that he shares Mary Schaff's concerns and has a more broad question of  
8 community support. Dr. Grant Smith said that he does not see broad evidence of community  
9 support with this proposal but does not mind moving this proposal forward. Dr. Grant Smith said  
10 that the Committee needs to articulate their reservations and concerns to the proponent, citing  
11 Elizabeth Creek as an example of a proposal with community support. Dr. Grant Smith said that  
12 he does not mind moving this proposal forward, but the purpose of Initial Consideration is for the  
13 Committee to express their reservations.

14

15 Dr. Grant Smith clarified that he does want to move the proposal forward but wants the proponent  
16 to provide evidence of community support to the Committee. Dr. Grant Smith said that there was  
17 a lot of work to do with the proposal, and the Committee should empower the proponent to proceed  
18 with that work. Dr. Grant Smith said that he would be willing to move for approval for Final  
19 Consideration but would not be willing to send the name to the Board on Geographic Names yet.

20

21 Mike Iyall said that the Committee could move the proposal forward provided the proponent gives  
22 the Committee answers. Mary Schaff said that if the concerns are not addressed the Committee  
23 could just vote no on the proposal.

24

25 Dr. Allyson Brooks said that she was looking at the minutes from the last meeting and only sees  
26 the concerns about the Cowlitz Tribe being contacted and does not see anything about commercial  
27 interest concerns being raised. Dr. Allyson Brooks said that she does not see anything about the  
28 commercial concerns in the minutes and worries about bringing up something that has not been  
29 brought up before. Mary Schaff said that the commercial concerns are in the proposal packet itself,  
30 not in the past meeting minutes.

31

32 Dr. Allyson Brooks said that all she is seeing in the past minutes in the concerns about the Cowlitz  
33 Tribe being contacted and she is concerned about opening this up to a new issue that the Committee  
34 has not discussed before.

35

36 Dean Foster said that he reads the issue a little differently. Dean Foster said that last time the  
37 Committee met they decided to defer to the Cowlitz Tribe and that was the only issue the  
38 Committee took up and that's why they tabled it and that is not dealing with the entire issue of  
39 Initial Consideration. Dean Foster said now is the first time the Committee has had an opportunity  
40 to talk about it and that is when Mary Schaff raised the commercial aspect concerning the apple  
41 orchard. Dean Foster said that seemed to him like sending a message through the staff to the  
42 proponent saying they would like that question answered.

43

44 Chair Mike Iyall said that the Committee feels that the proposal is at the Initial Consideration and  
45 therefore the questions are reasonable. Dean Foster agreed and said that at the next level if a whole  
46 new issue is raised then that might be a valid question about timing.

1  
2 Putnam Barber said he agrees and shares a concern about the connection with the nearby apple  
3 orchard as it seems almost too convenient.

4  
5 Dr. Allyson Brooks asked for clarification as to whether there was a motion and where the  
6 Committee was at in the process. Dr. Grant Smith said he had moved to approve the name for  
7 Final Consideration with the advice going to the proponent that there are grave concerns about  
8 community support and commercialization.

9  
10 MOTION: Dr. Grant Smith motioned to approve the name Lapome Creek.

11  
12 SECOND: Dean Foster seconded the motion.

13  
14 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to approve Lapome Creek for Final  
15 Consideration.

16

17 **SPIRIT MOUNTAIN INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

18 **SACRED MOUNTAIN INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

19 Chair Mike Iyall said that the Committee has heard earlier in the meeting that the Colville Tribe  
20 would prefer “Huckleberry Mountain” and “Goat Mountain”, and they will provide the Committee  
21 with the preferred pronunciations and spelling.

22  
23 Dean Foster asked if the Committee had jurisdiction to name the feature as it was in the National  
24 Forest. Staff said that it was not in a Federal Wilderness Area. Dean Foster said that the proposal  
25 is a handwritten request for Spirit or Sacred Mountains or “whatever the Wenatchi Tribe wanted”  
26 and the discussion the Committee heard today was for the traditional names. Dean Foster said that  
27 it is a process issue as he is supportive of the issue but thinks that the Committee is getting one  
28 step ahead of themselves and there needs to be another formal application from the Colville Tribe.

29  
30 Dr. Grant Smith said he has the exact same thoughts and based on the testimony of the Darnell  
31 Sam he is under the impression that the Colville Tribe will submit two separate proposals for their  
32 preferred names. Dr. Grant Smith he would make a motion to defer these proposals for Initial  
33 Consideration and at the next meeting the Committee might get proposals from the Colville Tribe  
34 so that the Committee can hear their voice in clear form. Dr. Grant Smith said that Mr. Plucker is  
35 doing a community service invoking the Colville Tribe’s response and the Committee wants to go  
36 with what the Colville Tribe wants.

37  
38 Chair Mike Iyall said that he noticed Darnell Sam nodding and made a request that the Colville  
39 Tribe come up with proposals to restore the names. Chair Mike Iyall said he prefers the term  
40 “restore” over “change” and wants the Colville Tribe to have the opportunity to name the features.

41  
42 Mary Schaff said this brings up an interesting point as the Committee has never had the challenge  
43 of identifying names that need to be changed, but rather agreeing what the name needs to be  
44 changed to. Mary Schaff thanked the proponent for bringing up this issue and casting the spotlight  
45 on the Colville Tribe to come up with the replacement names. Mary Schaff said that she is a little  
46 hesitant asking the Tribe to come up with a whole new proposal as the Tribe is likely short on time

1 and resources and is stretched thin and she wanted to respect their time. Mary Schaff said that if  
2 the Tribe simply said what the new names should be, how to spell them, and how to pronounce  
3 them she would be fine with that. Mary Schaff said that she did not want to send several packets  
4 of work to the Tribe but that maybe that was a discussion for a different time.

5

6 Chair Mike Iyall said that the appropriate thing to do would be to accept a motion for Initial  
7 Consideration provided that the Colville Tribe will send their preferred names. Dr. Grant Smith  
8 said that the Committee should defer these proposals as that is a method for delaying the decisions  
9 until the committee gets input from the Tribe. Dr. Grant Smith said that there is a proposal before  
10 the Committee for Initial Consideration, and he votes to defer that decision pending the outcome  
11 of the Tribe's response.

12

13 Mary Schaff said that she is talking about the proposal process and not the parliamentary procedure  
14 and in the past the Committee has substituted names as the Committee has identified problems.  
15 Dean Foster said that's precisely his concern as it's not the Committee's job to make changes to  
16 proposals but to accept a proposal and make a decision. Dean Foster said that what the Committee  
17 is really proposing is that the two entities come back to the Committee with the preferred names,  
18 and he knows it is slow and cumbersome, but he thinks it is important.

19

20 Dr. Allyson Brooks asked Dr. Grant Smith to clarify his motion. Dr. Grant Smith said that he is  
21 making a motion to defer making a decision on this proposal for Initial Consideration until at least  
22 next Committee meeting to allow more time. Dr. Grant Smith said the proponent's intents was to  
23 allow the Tribe to make the decision and the Committee should defer the proposals.

24

25 MOTION: Dr. Grant Smith motioned to defer the names Spirit Mountain and Sacred Mountain for  
26 Initial Consideration.

27

28 SECOND: Dr. Allyson Brooks seconded the motion.

29

30 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to defer Spirit Mountain and Sacred Mountain  
31 for Initial Consideration.

32

### 33 **SCHOOLHOUSE CREEK INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

34 After staff gave an overview of the proposal, Mary Schaff asked about the location of the  
35 schoolhouse on the creek. Mary Schaff said that she loved the photos that the proponent submitted  
36 but had a question about where the schoolhouse was located. Putnam Barber said it was a nice  
37 name.

38

39 MOTION: Dr. Allyson Brooks motioned to approve the name Schoolhouse Creek.

40

41 SECOND: Putnam Barber seconded the motion.

42

43 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to approve Schoolhouse Creek for Final  
44 Consideration.

45

46 Following the vote, Mary Schaff said that she assumes the schoolhouse had a name and would like

1 it if the proponent could shed light on the issue.

2

3 **ADJOURNMENT**

4 The meeting was adjourned at 10:58am.

DRAFT