**Tiger Lily Mountain**  
*Thurston County - New Name*

**Township:** 18N  
**Range:** 3W  
**Section:** 33

**USGS Quad:** Little Rock & Summit Lake

**Location Description:** Peak, 1,854 ft in height in the Capitol State Forest at 46°59’58.892”N, 123°3’25.253”W, located 7 mi. W of the City of Olympia in Thurston County.

**Proposal Summary:** Tiger Lily Mountain: Peak; 1,854 ft. in height in the Capitol State Forest at 46°59’58.892”N, 123°3’25.253”W, located 7 mi. W of the City of Olympia; the name was referred to in a Tribal legend as a place where people gathered to escape a flood, likely referencing the tiger lily flowers that grow in the region; Thurston County, Washington; Sec 33 T18N R3W, Willamette Meridian; 46°59’58.892”N, 123°3’25.253”W USGS map - Little Rock & Summit Lake 1:24,000.

According to the proponent, the proposed name was referred to in a Tribal legend as a place where people gathered to escape a flood.

The name is also descriptive as tiger lily flowers grow in the area.

**Proponent:**  
Bonnie Blessing  
6123 Northill Drive SW  
Olympia, WA  98512

**Proposal Received:** 2/7/2022  
**Initial Consideration:** 4/26/2022  
**Final Consideration:**

**WA Committee Decision:**  
**WA Board Decision:**  
**US Board Decision:**

**Opinions:**
Application submitted by
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Date of Application: TBD

I acknowledge this application will be public information.

PROPOSED NAME
Tiger Lily Mountain, a new name of this prominence in the Black Hills. See Appendix A for possible other location of Tiger Lily Mountain.
Location: Hunting and camping grounds of the Nisqually, Chehalis and Squaxin in Thurston County, Washington, former Oregon Territory.

CURRENT USE
Tiger Lily Mountain is in Capitol Forest, managed for timber, recreation and wildlife.
Recreational use includes hiking, biking, hunting and berry collection.

PUBLIC INTEREST
Navigation is often easier when a prominence is named. Those interested in the name may learn how the geologic and climatic history influenced settlement. This 4th highest prominence in Capitol forest in Thurston County has no name.

Proposed Tiger Lily mountain (white circle) seems to be unnamed.
DESCRIPTION
‘Black Lake Thompson’ likely found the ~1700 foot climb from the shores of Black Lake (~135’) to the top of Tiger Lily Mountain (1854’) breathtaking. 123.05750,46.99940/Section 33 of T18NR03W/S03 of T17NR03W. Mima mounds is 5.5 miles south as the crow flies.

GEOLOGIC DESCRIPTION
Crescent basalt underlies the harbor seal or crescent-shaped Tiger Lily Mountain, 5.5. miles north of Mima Mounds. During the early Eocene, basalt rose above valley marine sediments. During Pleistocene glaciation, upper Tiger Lily was ice-free several hundred feet above glaciers (DNR littlerock quad maps). Small lakes nestled between the slopes and valley glaciers later trickled down through glacial cobble and sand. One supports Chum salmon at McLane Park. Currently the upper slopes are working forestlands and lowlands are rural residential or other parks. Due to proximity to Olympia, recreational use is relatively high on this unnamed mountain. Bikers and hikers who summit may see Rock Candy Mountain to the northwest, Mount Rainier to the southeast and other peaks to the northeast. And hear varied thrushes. And seasonal shots of gunfire by hunters.
KNOW HUMAN HISTORY

According to two Oral histories/tribal legends (Appendix A), ‘the people’ shifted to the higher ground of Tiger Lily Mountain when all the world was flooded (The legend says Tiger Lily is Black Mountain, but this may refer to the Black Hills.. and there’s no ‘Black Mountain’ so this may remain symbolic)

(http://www.southsoundchapterwnps.org/Storm,L._WNPS_2008StudyWkend.pdf

Some tribal use of the lowlands and ridges adjoining the mountain were described by Joe
Brown and John Markham. See 60-61 of: https://archive.org/details/markham-1998-memories/page/60/mode/2up). Markhams’ map shows proximity of Black Lake and former names of Hard Creek, Broyles Creek, Beatty Creek and Indian camp on Alpine Drive on lowlands of Tiger Lily:

To Establish European settlement, GLO surveyors were tasked with mapping section lines. GLO surveyors blazed trees on the southern shoulder of Tiger Lily Mountain along the north boundary of Section 3 of T17NR03W. (Hart (chainman), Lyle (chainman) and Broan (axeman) 1856).
Hart and his coworkers likely visited ‘Black Lake Thompson’ who had just built his cabin on the western shores of Black Lake in 1852, not long after Thurston County was established (January 12) of that year. This European settler likely traded with First Nations who walked and canoed from the Chehalis river past Black lake to Puget Sound. Early white settlers at first cut a few trees for home construction. Later, portable mills steamed through the lowlands, venturing intermittently in the higher country (Markham memoirs). Trees survived a burn (recorded by 1875 GLO surveyors) that may have been observed by DNR scientists who found live fire-scarred trees in 2021. Deer and elk forage on brush. Thrush song is heard in the spring.
Most of the uninhabitable steep forests were transferred to the county, then to The Washington State Dept of Natural Resources. Because its publicly owned, hikers hunters and mountain bikers enjoy breathtaking views.

Views from top of Tiger Lily Mountain
LOCAL SUPPORT
I am contacting local groups to assess support for this name. I believe First Nations will support this. The story in Appendix A suggests that the traditional Tiger Lily Mountain is ‘Black Mountain’ which likely refers to the Black Hills in general. Tiger Lily is 5.6 miles north of Mima Mounds, referred to in the legend. Local First Nations include the Upper Chehalis, Nisqually and Squaxin.

Sources:

Appendix A. This legend is copied from a website called gatheringthestories.org. Climate history support multiple floods in the Black River Basin, including but not limited to the Tanwax Ohop flood described by Patrick Pringle of Centralia college.

THE STORY OF THE FLOOD: A CHEHALIS LEGEND

*Posted on November 19, 2013 by Haven under Folklore*
A long time ago, the animals and birds lived as people. Thrush wanted to marry a certain young girl, but her parents did not approve of him.
But the young girl, however, wished to marry him. The girl persisted and finally her parents gave their consent. Thrush and the young girl were married.

Thrush always had a dirty face; he never washed before he ate. His mother-in-law asked him “Why don’t you wash your face?” Thrush did not answer. The next morning she asked again “Why don’t you wash your face? It’s getting dirty.” Thrush once again did not reply. She asked him the same question for 5 days in a row.
Finally on the 5th day, Thrush said “If I wash my face, something will happen.” Nevertheless, his wife’s parents still insisted. Then they gave him an ultimatum. “If you don’t wash your face, we’ll take our daughter away from you.” So Thrush finally gave in, “All right then, I’ll wash my face”.

He went to the river to wash his face and sang, “Father-in-law, Mother-in-law, Keep moving back from the river.”
He washed his face. The dirt rolled off, leaving his face streaked all over. Then it began to rain. It rained all day.

Chehalis River from Pe Ell, WA.

Thrush told his in-laws, “Move back from the river. I washed my face as you asked.”

The river continued to rise. It rained many days and nights. Soon there were no places for the people to stand but in the water. The water rose and covered everything. There was no place for them to go. Many drifted away and were never seen again.
Thrush, his wife and his in-laws landed their canoe on this side of the land, in Upper Chehalis country. There was only the top of one tall fir tree sticking out of the water. And that is where the People tied their canoe.

They got together and planned what they should do next. They agreed that someone needed to dive in the water and see how deep it was. Muskrat dove into the water and came up with some dirt. He dove down into the water 5 times. Each time he brought up some dirt. From the dirt, he made a little mountain. He told the People to land there, that they would be safe. He told the People “This is the mountain that I have made for you so that you can be safe”. The People called that mountain Tiger Lily Mountain. It is known today as Black Mountain.

After the water receded and the earth dried up, the earth was found to be covered with dried whales (fossils). At Gate, not far from Mima Prairie, the
earth still remains in the shape of the waves. It extends like this for 4 or 5 miles.

After the water subsided, the earth was just like new and the People could begin all over again. It was said “There shall never again be a person who will cause a flood when he washes his face.” Thrush turned into a bird and flew away.

*re-printed from the August 2010 Chehalis Tribe newsletter.

Another reference is
Earth Diver Sequence where muskrat creates Tiger Lily Mountain (maxi’lk’i) (Black Mountain or Capitol Peak). From Linda Storms powerpoint, Capitol Peak may be Tiger Lily.

Local European myths say a seal rests on crescent basalt on Tiger Lily mountain.
Hello,
I'm writing to express my support for the proposal to name the mountain at the headwaters of Beatty Creek "Tiger Lily Mountain". It's a prominent point in the region and should have a good name attached to it, and Tiger Lily seems like an excellent choice given the historical significance of the name in local tribal legends.

Thank you,
Sincerely,
Andy Zahn,
Toutle, WA
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Tiger Lily Mountain - THURSTON COUNTY

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