

Attn: Michael Tischler, Chair
DOI Derogatory Names Task Force
Reconciliation of Derogatory Geographic Names
MS-511 ,U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Dr.
Reston, VA 20192

April 23, 2022

Submitted via Federal eRulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov/>

RE: Comments on Docket Number DOI-2022-0001, Reconciliation of Derogatory Geographic Names

Dear Mr. Tischler:

The L.I.G.H.T. Foundation is an independent, Indigenous-led, conservation 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established on the Colville Indian Reservation in the traditional territory of the Nespelem Tribe. We support the restoration and cultivation of native plant species of Pacific Northwest Tribes and the culturally respectful conservation of habitats and ecosystems which are climate resilient and adaptive.

We recognize the systematic and institutional efforts to erase the presence and memory of Indigenous peoples from this continent and separate Indigenous people from the ecosystems we have stewarded for time immemorial. We also recognize that this notice was broadcast via the Federal Register and not specifically presented to tribal governments prior to affording the public an opportunity to comment. Keeping these acknowledgements in mind, we respectfully ask that you consider these comments and recommendations.

First & Second Recommendations: Comment Period Extension & Tribal Consultation

It is first recommended that the comment period for this rulemaking be extended. Extension would afford the U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) and the Board on Geographic Names (BGN) to engage in the second recommendation: adequate and proper government-to-government consultation with tribes. The consultation process should, at the very least, include elements and practice of free, prior, and informed consent or negotiation conducted in good faith. Extension would also provide tribal governments with the opportunity to review and participate in the consultation process more adequately.

Third Recommendation: Original Indigenous Names

Indigenous peoples have named places documented in their respective languages and customs across the continent. In written and oral traditions, the knowledge and importance of these places are recounted in their social, cultural, economic, and governance structures, despite centuries of oppression. Fulfilling the first and second recommendations would allow for the third recommendation: The replacement of derogatory geographic names with their original, Indigenous names and interpretive educational resources for the public designed in concert with the appropriate tribe/s

Fourth Recommendation: Indigenous Environmental Heritage Names

There may be times when an identified derogatory geographic name does not have a tribally-preferred new place name, or where tribes are unable to reach agreement on a name. In the event of this occurrence, then it is recommended that USGS and BGN consider this remedy: In consultation with the tribes in the area, the Indigenous name of a native plant species of cultural or traditional significance

present in the habitat be used as the new place name. This will assist in perpetuating Indigenous knowledge transmission, recognizing ecological value in tribal foods and medicines, and foster partnerships for shared environmental heritage in the face of climate change.

Thank you for this opportunity to review and provide comment on this important process. The L.I.G.H.T. Foundation is committed to working with all our partners and allies to ensure that our shared landscapes and painful history are healed and respected through good intention and reconciliation.

Sincerely,


Joaquin Marchand (Apr 23, 2022 11:27 PDT)

Joaquin Marchand, MBA
Executive Director
[L.I.G.H.T. Foundation](#)

LIGHT.4.23.22-Derogatory Geographic Names Comment

Final Audit Report

2022-04-23

Created:	2022-04-23
By:	joaquin marchand (j.marchand2045@gmail.com)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAliwYk0ABQGcRiKDq78HaWTVNG7DRogiO

"LIGHT.4.23.22-Derogatory Geographic Names Comment" History

-  Document created by joaquin marchand (j.marchand2045@gmail.com)
2022-04-23 - 6:21:53 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Joaquin J marchand (joaquin@pnwlf.org) for signature
2022-04-23 - 6:23:08 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Joaquin J marchand (joaquin@pnwlf.org)
2022-04-23 - 6:25:27 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Joaquin J marchand (joaquin@pnwlf.org)
Signature Date: 2022-04-23 - 6:27:29 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.
2022-04-23 - 6:27:29 PM GMT