



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

ORDER NO. 3404

Subject: Declaring “Squaw” a Derogatory Term and Implementing Procedures to Remove the Term from Federal Usage

Sec. 1 Purpose. The Department of the Interior (Department) is responsible for the stewardship and management of public lands. However, there are many geographic features across the Nation that bear names which are considered derogatory. This Order identifies the term “squaw” as derogatory and provides direction to the Board on Geographic Names (BGN) to replace it.

Sec. 2 Authority. The authority for this Order is established under 43 U.S.C. §§364-364f.

Sec. 3 Background. Pursuant to 43 U.S.C. §364d, the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) is required to “promulgate in the name of the Board [on Geographic Names] . . . decisions with respect to geographic names, and principles of geographic nomenclature and orthography . . .”

The BGN is a Federal body established by Public Law 80-242 (61 Stat. 456) in 1947 to maintain uniform geographic name usage throughout the Federal Government. The BGN comprises representatives of Federal agencies concerned with geographic information, population, ecology, and management of public lands. Sharing its responsibilities with the Secretary, the BGN promulgates official geographic feature names in accordance with its principles, policies, and procedures.

The BGN’s guiding principle for the names of geographic features in the United States and its territories is to approve for Federal use the names found in present-day local usage (see Principles, Policies, and Procedures [2016], Principle II, Names in Local Use). An exception to this principle may occur when a name is derogatory to a particular racial or ethnic group, gender, or religious group. The BGN will not make official for Federal use a locally used name that has been determined by the Secretary to be derogatory. BGN guidelines also require that a replacement name be identified when removing a derogatory name from a feature.

From time to time, derogatory names have been identified by the Secretary or the BGN and have been comprehensively replaced. In 1962, Secretary Udall identified a pejorative term for “African-Americans” as derogatory, and directed that the BGN develop a policy to eliminate its use. In 1974, the BGN identified a pejorative term for “Japanese” as derogatory and eliminated its use. When referring to the pejorative term for “African-Americans”, Secretary Udall commented “[w]hatever the overtones of the word were in the past, unquestionably a great many

people now consider it derogatory or worse.” The time has come to recognize that the term “squaw” is no less derogatory than others which have been identified and should also be erased from the National landscape and forever replaced.

Sec. 4 Declaration and Replacement of “Squaw” as a Derogatory Term.

- a. The term “squaw” is hereby declared to be derogatory, and all existing Federal geographic names using the term will be treated in accordance with the BGN’s Policy V: Derogatory and Offensive Names.
- b. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will develop a list of locations and select candidate replacement names drawn from a list of nearby associative topographic features, the names of which are already accepted and in local use. This list will be supplied to the task force created in section 4.c. no later than 30 days after the establishment of the task force created in section 4.c.
- c. A task force chaired by the USGS will be created no later than 30 days after the issue of this Order. This Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force (task force) will include 13 representatives selected by the Secretary from the BGN primary Federal land management agencies and diversity, equity, and inclusion experts from the Department, as follows:
 1. Seven BGN representatives, one each from the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, USGS, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and BGN Executive Secretariat;
 2. Six additional representatives as selected by the Secretary, as follows:
 - (a) One representative from the Office of Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs;
 - (b) One representative from the Department’s Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Civil Rights; and
 - (c) Four representatives from Department’s Bureaus representing diverse backgrounds and experience.
- d. The Secretary will provide the task force with any additional staff members and technical assistance that the Secretary, after consultation with the task force, determines to be appropriate to enable the task force to carry out its duties.
- e. The task force will consider replacement names from the list of candidate names identified pursuant to section 4.b. using the following process:
 1. Within 60 days of receiving the list of candidate names, the task force will make the list of candidate names available for written public comment in the Federal Register for a period of no less than 30 days.

2. The task force will engage in Tribal consultation consistent with President Biden's January 26, 2021, memorandum entitled, "Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships," and existing Departmental Policy. Tribal consultation will be concluded 90 days after candidate names have been provided to the task force.
3. The task force will review all public feedback and will consider Tribal feedback in accordance with Departmental policy. The task force will submit the proposed name changes to the BGN within 90 days after conclusion of the public comment period and Tribal consultation.
- f. The BGN will render a decision on all recommended name changes no later than 60 days following the submission of all proposed replacement names by the task force.
- g. For each change, the former name will be retained as a variant for historical and archival purposes in the Geographic Names Information System.
- h. The BGN's Policy I that prevents the BGN from considering a name change due to pending congressional legislation will not apply to the actions resulting from this Order.

Sec. 5 Effect of the Order. This Order is intended to declare the term "squaw" derogatory and establish a task force to change existing geographic feature names currently containing that term.

Sec. 6 Expiration Date. This Order is effective immediately and will remain in effect until its provisions are implemented or until it is amended, superseded, or revoked, whichever occurs first.



Secretary of the Interior

Date: NOV 19 2021



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

ORDER NO. 3405

Subject: Addressing Derogatory Geographic Names

Sec. 1 Purpose. This Order directs the creation of a Federal Advisory Committee to address derogatory geographic names.

Sec. 2 Authority. The authority for this Order is established under 43 U.S.C. §§364-364f and Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1262).

Sec. 3 Background. The Board on Geographic Names (BGN), originally established by an Executive order in 1890, is a Federal body designed to maintain uniform geographic name usage throughout the Federal Government. In 1947, pursuant to Public Law 80-242 (61 Stat. 456; codified to 43 U.S.C. §§364 through 364f), the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) was given conjoint authority with the BGN and has “final approval or review of” its actions. (See 43 U.S.C. §364.)

The BGN is comprised of representatives from Federal agencies concerned with geographic information, population, ecology, and management of public lands. It promulgates official geographic feature names in accordance with its principles, policies, and procedures.

The BGN’s guiding principle is to approve, for Federal use, the names of geographic features in the United States and its territories found in present-day local usage (see Principles, Policies, and Procedures [2016], Principle II, Names in Local Use). An exception to this principle occurs when a name is derogatory or is shown to be offensive to a particular racial or ethnic group, gender, or religious group. The BGN will not make official for Federal use a locally used name that has been determined to be derogatory or offensive to a particular racial or ethnic group, gender, or religious group. In accordance with its Policy V, Derogatory and Offensive Names, the BGN acts “on a case-by-case basis,” and proponents must suggest a replacement name to the name found to be offensive.

By design, the BGN relies on individuals and community representatives to provide name-replacement proposals. The Federal Advisory Committee established pursuant to this Order will help facilitate development and review of these proposals.

Sec. 4 Determination and Reconciliation of Derogatory Names. The National Park Service is directed to form a discretionary advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (5 U.S.C. App.) within the following parameters:

- a. The committee shall be named the Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names and will include no more than 17 members to be appointed by the Secretary, of whom, to the extent practicable:
 1. At least four will be members of an Indian Tribe;
 2. At least one will represent a Tribal organization;
 3. At least one will represent a Native Hawaiian organization;
 4. At least four will have backgrounds in civil rights or race relations;
 5. At least four will have expertise in anthropology, cultural studies, geography, or history; and
 6. At least three will represent the general public.
- b. The committee will recommend to the Secretary changes to existing Federal land unit names and additional terms that may be considered derogatory, and identify resources required to implement any resulting name changes.
- c. The committee will recommend a process to solicit, encourage, and assist proposals to the Secretary to change derogatory geographic names. The committee will make recommendations to the Secretary regarding Federal land unit names that are considered derogatory; however, in many cases (e.g., the names of national parks and designated wilderness), an act of Congress will be required. The term "Federal land unit" includes (1) National Forest System land; (2) a unit of the National Park Service; (3) a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System; (4) any part of the National Landscape Conservation System; and (5) a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System.
- d. The committee will solicit proposals to replace derogatory geographic feature and Federal land unit names from:
 1. Indian Tribes;
 2. Appropriate State and local governments;
 3. The affected Federal agency or department; and

4. Members of the public.
- e. In general, members of the committee will serve without compensation.
 - f. Members of the committee may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, U.S.C., while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the committee.
 - g. The Secretary will provide the committee with any staff members and technical assistance the Secretary determines to be appropriate to enable the committee to carry out its duties.
 - h. The committee may adopt such rules as may be necessary.
 - i. The committee will be subject to FACA (5 U.S.C. App.).
 - j. The BGN's Policy I, entitled "Names Considered or Established by Congress or the President," that prevents the BGN from considering a name change due to pending congressional legislation will not apply to the actions resulting from this Order.

Sec. 6 Effect of the Order. This Order is intended to create a process by which the newly created Federal Advisory Committee will solicit, review, and recommend changes to derogatory geographic and Federal land unit names. In the event that the provisions herein conflict with any applicable statutory or regulatory requirements, those requirements shall control.

Sec. 7 Expiration Date. This Order is effective immediately and will remain in effect until it is amended, superseded, or revoked, whichever occurs first.



Secretary of the Interior

Date: NOV 19 2021