

From: Thompson Smith [thompsons@cskt.org]  
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2011 12:10 PM  
To: Jane A Messenger; Daumiller, Gerry  
Cc: budm@cskt.org; Tony Incashola; Mike Durglo Sr.; jcurtiss@co.missoula.mt.us  
Subject: Proposed name of "Sim-heh Creek" for unnamed creek on Flathead Indian Reservation

Dear Ms. Messenger and Mr. Daumiller:

We are writing regarding our submission to the Board of Geographic Names the official request of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes to name as "Sim-heh Creek" a small unnamed creek located wholly within the Flathead Indian Reservation.

The creek originates on the southeast side of Charity Peak at 47°04'34"N, 114°07'32"W, and flows in a generally easterly direction until its confluence with upper Finley Creek near Joe's Smoke Ring, about 2.8 miles north-northeast of the town of Evaro, Montana, in section 12 of Township 15 North, Range 20 West, Principal Meridian.

Earlier this year, Mr. Brian Naugle, a non-Indian resident of the reservation who lives along the creek, submitted an official proposal to the U.S. Board of Geographic Names (BGN) proposing the name "Grizzly Creek." This proposal is detailed on page 15 of BGN Quarterly Review List 406, released March 30, 2011. Mr. Naugle said he proposed this name because the road along the creek is called "Grizzly Mountain Road." He also said a grizzly sow and cub had broken into one of the homes at some point.

Following consideration of this proposed name by two tribal departments responsible for cultural and geographic matters, and their recent field trip to the area with members of the Salish-Pend d'Oreille Elders Advisory Council, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) have decided upon the name "Sim-heh Creek." "Sim-heh" is an anglicized spelling of Smx?e, the Salish word for grizzly bear.

Whenever possible, we feel it is important to get names in our native languages restored to the landscape. This is especially important within the exterior boundaries of the Flathead Indian Reservation.

On October 20, 2011 the CSKT Tribal Council voted unanimously in support of the proposed name. In the next few days, we will be sending by regular mail a letter from the Chairman of the CSKT Tribal Council, Mr. E.T. "Bud" Moran, and a copy of the Council's resolution regarding this proposed name.

We will also be completing the electronic form on the BGN website.

We hope that the BGN will give its support and approval to this proposed name. We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Thompson Smith  
Tribal History and Ethnogeography Projects  
Salish-Pend d'Oreille Culture Committee  
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes  
P.O. Box 550 -- 81 Blind Barnaby St.  
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email: thompsons@cslt.org  
website: [www.cslt.org/hc/salish.htm](http://www.cslt.org/hc/salish.htm)

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From: Theresa Naugle [mailto:[tnaugle@kenworthsalesco.com](mailto:tnaugle@kenworthsalesco.com)]  
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2011 3:10 PM  
To: Daumiller, Gerry  
Subject: RE: Need location clarification of proposed Grizzly Creek, MT

Hello,

We got an email from Tom Smith, below, and we have yet to reply as we're not sure how too. We thought that with the public opinion comment closed that the proposal was coming to a close with the name Grizzly Creek. I guess we're just confused and we're hoping you could clarify for us.

Thank you-  
Brian & Theresa Naugle

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Dear Brian and Theresa Naugle,

My name is Tom Smith. I am the Coordinator of History and Geography Projects for the Salish- Pend d'Oreille Culture Committee, a department of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

Your proposed name of "Grizzly Creek" for the small unnamed creek near Evaro, along which you live, came to my attention earlier in the year. The culture committee, the Tribal Preservation Department, and the Salish-Pend d'Oreille Elders Advisory Council have all given this matter time and consideration this year, including a field trip to the creek earlier this month. Their decision was to propose what is essentially a Salish translation of the name you proposed: "Sim-heh Creek." "Sim-heh" is an anglicized spelling of Smx?e, the Salish word for grizzly bear.

The elders feel that whenever possible, it is important to get names in our native languages restored to the landscape. We hope you will also welcome this name and that it will have your support.

Please don't hesitate to call or write with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Thompson Smith  
Tribal History and Ethnogeography Projects  
Salish-Pend d'Oreille Culture Committee

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From: Daumiller, Gerry [mailto:gdaumiller@mt.gov]  
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2011 3:44 PM  
To: Theresa Naugle  
Subject: RE: Need location clarification of proposed Grizzly Creek, MT

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Naugle,

The public comment deadline was just the date when I was hoping to have all the comments in so I could forward them to the Missoula County Commission and give them a chance to make a recommendation on the name. After they made their recommendation, I would decide what the State's recommendation to the U.S. Board of Geographic Names (BGN) would be. I knew before the end of the comment period that the Salish Cultural Committee was going to consider the name, so I decided to wait until we heard from them before I sent anything to the county commission.

There isn't any legal time limit on when someone may make a counter-proposal on any matter before the BGN. Even if I had sent in a recommendation right at the end of the comment period, without giving the county commission a chance to review the comments, the earliest the BGN could have made a decision would have been at their November meeting. But now that they have received Mr. Smith's letter, they would have had to postpone the decision until they receive comments about the second proposal. Now they have to decide between the two names (or none) instead of just deciding whether or not to accept your proposal.

Gerry Daumiller  
Montana State Library  
406-444-5358

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From: Theresa Naugle  
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2011 4:27 PM  
To: Daumiller, Gerry  
Subject: RE: Need location clarification of proposed Grizzly Creek, MT

So Mr. Smith did submit their name? Sorry that we're slow I guess we're just confused on this part. We didn't realize that he had submitted a letter as well.

Thank you for your patience with us. The whole process is very wow to us.

Brian & Theresa Naugle

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From: Daumiller, Gerry [mailto:gdaumiller@mt.gov]  
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2011 9:47 AM  
To: Theresa Naugle  
Cc: Jennifer E Runyon (jrunyon@usgs.gov); Jane A Messenger (jmessenger@usgs.gov); gcwinters@usgs.gov  
Subject: RE: Need location clarification of proposed Grizzly Creek, MT

Theresa,  
I partly mis-read your letter – I thought the letter you received from Mr. Smith was the same one he sent me yesterday. The letter I received did say that the CSKT has formally sent the BGN a proposal for Sim-heh Creek, and the BGN acknowledged receiving it today.

I had people contact me about two other proposals for the creek. Jeanne Worthy said she thinks the creek should be called Kitty Girl Creek, and I have a letter from Wes and Carol Sue Mapston suggesting that it be called Horseshoe Creek. I've sent them both instructions for submitting proposals to the BGN, but I don't know if they are going to do it or not. When I talked to Will Worthy back in March, he told me that some people call it Kitty Girl Creek or Charity Creek.

Here is what I think. I can't get very excited about naming it Grizzly Creek, because there is another Grizzly Creek on the Reservation just 15 miles to the northwest in Lake County. It will be hard for me to decide to go against a proposal the Salish-Pend d'Oreille Elders have made for a stream on their own reservation. I believe the BGN tends to favor names that are already being used (if they aren't offensive) over new names that anyone comes up with. If people have really used Charity and/or Kitty Girl as names of the creek, the BGN might decide to reject both Grizzly and Sim-heh. I found a water rights application showing that Nellie Stark called it Kitty Girl Creek back in 1976.

How do you feel about Kitty Girl Creek? Do you know if anyone else uses that name, or Charity Creek? How do you feel about using the Salish word for grizzly bear rather than the English word? The Elders are somewhat honoring your proposal in choosing to use their native word for the same thing.

I will write a letter to the County Commission soon asking them what they think. I may ask them to try to help find out if anyone else knows about the Charity Creek or Kitty Girl Creek names.

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From: Theresa Naugle  
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2011 8:31 AM  
To: Daumiller, Gerry  
Subject: RE: Need location clarification of proposed Grizzly Creek, MT

Hi Gerry,

Sorry it took us awhile to get back to you. Here are our thoughts on the recent developments.

We find it strange that now so many have their own thoughts on what the creek up Grizzly Mt Rd should be called. Although most likely none of this would have come to light if we wouldn't have started it. :o)

The majority of the creek, although being within the reservation boundaries, runs through privately owned property on Grizzly Mt. Road. We with respect Mr. Smith's choice, we just feel that a creek should be easy to pronounce especially for all that live and enjoy the creek.

We also are somewhat concerned about offending anyone by wanting to stand behind our choice, Grizzly Creek. But feel that it is the best fit for the creek. The name also keeps with the names of nearby drainages, Owl Creek & Frog Creek.

Brian has lived up Grizzly Mt Rd for nearly thirty years. He knew Nellie Stark but had never heard of Kitty Girl Creek. Honestly, and with all due respect to Nellie, we're not fond of the name.

There has been somewhat of an assumption that since the creek comes off Charity Peak it might be called Charity Creek. But in all the years Brian has lived here it's been simply called "the creek".

This drainage is rich in wildlife: Deer, elk, moose, mountain lions, black bears, and grizzlies. A main reason why we love living where we do.

We don't feel that another creek fifteen miles north in Lake County being of the same name as our pick is an issue. How many Gold Creek, Bear Creeks, Twin Lakes etc are there in just the surrounding counties.

We do want to thank you for showing a genuine interest for this little creek. We also thank you for keeping us informed and up to date as this has and is an interesting learning process for us.

Thank you,

Brian & Theresa Naugle