



BCC 2011-215
November 9, 2011

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Mr. Gerald Daumiller
Montana State Library
P.O. Box 201800
Helena, MT 59620-1800

Dear Mr. Daumiller:

Recently, we were notified that Brian and Theresa Naugle of Evaro requested that an un-named stream in Missoula County be named "Grizzly Creek." The Naugles felt the name would be appropriate because it flows along Grizzly Mountain Road and grizzly bears have been sighted in the area. We forwarded the request to the Evaro-Finley-O'Keefe Community Council and The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation for comments.

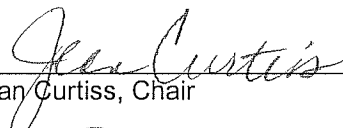
The Tribes responded with a request to name the stream "Sim-heh Creek," based on a field trip to the area by members of the Salish-Pend d'Oreille Elders Advisory Council and the Tribes. "Sim-heh Creek" is an anglicized spelling of *Smxe*, the Salish word for grizzly bear. Whenever possible, the Tribes feel it important to name resources in their native languages.

The Commissioners discussed naming the creek at a recent Administrative Public Meeting. We agree that naming geographic features in the Salish-Pend d'Oreille native language is especially important within the region of the Flathead Indian Reservation.

Although Grizzly Creek may also be appropriate, we note that there are eight streams named Grizzly Creek in Montana. One in Lake County is located approximately 15 miles northwest of the proposal stream. Additionally, Philip Maechling, Historic Preservation Office, supports the Tribes name suggestion and thinks it is a good solution for the yet to be named creek.

Therefore, the Board of County Commissioners supports naming the creek "Sim-heh Creek." We appreciate the opportunity to comment and respect The Tribes for their alternate suggestion. In the end, the creek will still be named for grizzly bears. If you have any further questions, please contact our office.

Best Regards,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Jean Curtiss, Chair


Bill Carey, Commissioner


Michele Landquist, Commissioner

BCC/ppr

cc: Philip Maechling
Brian and Theresa Naugle
Pat O'Herren
Mike Barton
The Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes