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February 8, 2012

Mr. Lou Yost
Executive Secretary
Domestic Names Committee
United States Board on Geographic Names
523 National Center
Reston, VA 20192-0523

Dear Mr. Yost,

As Montana's State Geographic Names Authority, I recommend that the Domestic Names Committee should reject the proposal from Review List 405 to name a slope in Ravalli County, Montana as "Cheatgrass Hill".

The Montana State Library released a public notice on August 30, 2011 regarding this proposal for a new name. Several newspapers published the notice. We did not receive any response to the notice. I contacted the Ravalli County Commission regarding the proposal on August 29, September 27, and November 22 requesting their recommendation on the name, but received no reply. I contacted the proponent in March of 2011 asking for clarification of the location of the proposal because of the ambiguous shape of the hill and the presence of several private residences in the area, but received no reply. The location is not associated with any state-owned land in Montana or any streams, so I did not request the recommendations of any State agencies.

I was informed by BGN staff that a manager at the Lee Metcalfe National Wildlife Refuge, which is about 4 miles northwest of the location, is opposed to the name because cheatgrass is a noxious weed.

I recommend the proposal be rejected due to the lack of interest in the name, its location among several private residences, and the opposition of the Wildlife Refuge manager.

Sincerely Yours,

Gerald J Daumiller
Montana State Library