

Salish-Pend d’Oreille names approved by BGN

Below are listed the 17 “s-word” places that have now been replaced with Salish-Pend d’Oreille names, in the order in which they were approved by the BGN.

Ch-pa-aqn Peak

Former name: Squaw Peak; Country and location: Missoula and Sanders (MT), on Reservation Divide; Land ownership: Public (U.S. Forest Service); Background information: Čpaaqn (anglicized as Ch-pa-aqn or Cheh-páh-ah-kin) means Gray or Shining Peak.

Ch-pa-aqn Peak Trail

Former name: Squaw Peak Trail; Country and location: Missoula and Sanders (MT), on Reservation Divide; Land ownership: Public (U.S. Forest Service); Background information: Čpaaqn (anglicized as Ch-pa-aqn or Cheh-páh-ah-kin) means Gray or Shining Peak.

Skl-ow-kin Creek

Former name: Squaw Creek; County: Beaverhead (MT); Land ownership: Public (U.S. Bureau of Land Management); Background information: Sqlawqn Nšiyétk^ws (anglicized as Skl-ow-kin Creek), meaning Beaver Head Creek, comes from Sqlawqn, the traditional Salish placename for Beaverhead Rock and the Beaverhead River, as recorded in the 1877 Jesuit dictionary. The creek now named Skl-ow-kin Creek is a tributary of the Red Rock River, which then flows into the Beaverhead River in the area now inundated by Clark Canyon Reservoir.

Chewh-toowh-too-peh Hill

Former name: Squaw Hill County: Broadwater (MT); Land ownership: Private; Background information: Čx^wtx^wtpé Słmóq^w (anglicized as Chewh-toowh-too-peh Hill), means Confluence-of-Several-Streams Hill, from the traditional Salish name for the Three Forks area, which lies just to the south of this place.

In-pa-ah Creek

Former name: Squaw Creek; County: Lake (MT); Land ownership: Roughly equal between public (State of Montana) and private (Plum Creek Timber Company); Background information: Npáa Nšiyétk^ws (anglicized as In-pa-ah Creek) means Burned-Over-Ground Creek, from the traditional Salish-Pend d’Oreille name for area, one of many open meadows traditionally maintained by tribal people through the careful use of fire.

Mil-mil-teh Hill

Former name: Squaw Teat; County: Meagher (MT); Land ownership: Private; Background information: Młmłté Łmóq^wews (anglicized as Mil-mil-teh Hill) means Quaking Aspen Hill. Approved by BGN May 8, 2008, in spite of a counter-proposal “to change the name to Aspen Hill.... submitted by the Meagher County Commission in response to a request

for comments on another proposal, which was submitted by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes to change the name to Mil-mil-teh Hill (BGN Review List 396).... The County Commissioners believe the Salish name would be too difficult to pronounce and remember.”

Moolsh Hill

Former name: Squaw’s Tit; County: Park (MT); Land ownership: Private; Background information: Mulš Nmóq^wews (anglicized as Moolsh Hill) means Cottonwood Hill. A nearby stream is named Cottonwood Creek.

Too-nah-hin Creek

Former name: Squaw Creek; County: Cascade (MT); Land ownership: Private; Background information: Tuńáxn Nšiyétk^ws (anglicized as Too-nah-hin Creek) means Creek, from name of Salishan people based in area prior to being decimated by smallpox epidemics and raids by enemy tribes armed with muskets. The story of the Tuńáxn is documented in tribal oral history and numerous ethnographic sources, including work of James Teit and Claude Schaeffer, and will be detailed in the forthcoming SPCC history of the Salish and Pend d’Oreille people.

Too-nah-hin Hollow

Former name: Squaw Hollow; County: Cascade (MT); Land ownership: Private; Background information: Tuńáxn Nšiyétk^ws (anglicized as Too-nah-hin Creek) from name of Salishan people based in area prior to being decimated by smallpox epidemics and raids by enemy tribes armed with muskets. The story of the Tuńáxn is documented in tribal oral history and numerous ethnographic sources, including work of James Teit and Claude Schaeffer, and will be detailed in the forthcoming SPCC history of the Salish and Pend d’Oreille people.

Sqaylth-kwum Creek

Former name: Squaw Creek; County: Sanders (MT); Land ownership: Originates on public land (Lolo National Forest), flows for about 4 miles, then continues for about 1.5 miles until its confluence with the Clark Fork River.; Background information: Sqeytk^wm Nšiyétk^ws (anglicized as Sqaylth-kwum Creek) means Sound-of-Falling-Water Creek, from the traditional Salish-Pend d’Oreille name for Thompson Falls. At the root of Sqeytk^wm is the infix “qeył,” an onomatopoeic representation of the sound of water going over a falls. The Bigfork area, near the rapids/falls of the Swan River, is known by a similar placename.

In-moolsh Creek

Former name: Squaw Creek; County: Chouteau (MT); Land ownership: Public & private; originates and flows for first half mile on public land (Lewis & Clark National Forest); then flows through

private land for 1.5 miles to confluence with Arrow Creek.; Background information: Nmulš Nšiyétk^ws (anglicized as In-moolsh Creek) means Cottonwood Creek.

Choo-heh-meen Hill

Former name: Squaw Teats; County: Sweetgrass (MT); Land ownership: Private Background information: Čux^wmín słmóq^ws (anglicized as Choo-heh-meen Hill) means Hide-Flesher Hill, from the traditional Salish-Pend d’Oreille name for the Yellowstone River, , Hide-Flesher’s Waters, after a rock formation along the river that resembled a hide-fleshing tool.

In-thlam-keh Lake

Former name: Squaw Lake; County: Flathead (MT); Land ownership: Public (Flathead National Forest); Background information: Nłamqe Čłqłi^s (anglicized as In-thlam-keh Lake) means Black Bear Lake.

Sih-mem Creek

Former name: Squaw Creek; County: Cascade (MT); Land ownership: Private; Background information: Sm’em Nšiyétk^ws (anglicized as Sih-mem Creek) means Woman Creek.

Sin-tin-tin-em-ska Creek

Former name: Squaw Creek; County: Missoula and Ravalli (MT); Land ownership: Many small private land-owners, but state of Montana owns largest single parcel of creek frontage.; Background information: Sntntnmsqá Nšiyétk^ws (anglicized as Sin-tin-tin-em-ska Creek) Horse-Reined-Back Creek, from the traditional Salish placename for the area along the old trail between present-day Lolo and Florence.

Sin-pul-stu-weh Gulch

Former name: Squaw Gulch; County: Powell (MT); Land ownership: Originates on public land (U.S. Bureau of Land Management), then continues through private land.; Background information: Snpłstwe^o estoq^w (anglicized as Sin-pul-stu-weh Gulch) means Indian Battleground Gulch; nearby is the site of battle between Salish and Blackfeet.

Whe-lha-kleh-tseen Mountain

Former name: Squaw Peak; County: Ravalli (MT); Land ownership: Peak itself and eastern side of mountain are in public ownership (Bitterroot National Forest). West slope of mountain is privately owned.; Background information: X^wełxłcín Moq^ws (anglicized as Whe-lha-kleh-tseen Mountain) means Many Horses Mountain, from the Salish name of Chief Victor (c. 1791-1870), head chief of the Salish and signer of the Hellgate Treaty of 1855.

One Salish-Pend d’Oreille Name Still Pending

Below is the one proposed Salish-Pend d’Oreille name on which the BGN still has not issued a decision.

Snoo-weh Pass

Former name: Squaw Pass; County: Beaverhead

(MT) and Fremont (ID); Land ownership: Public (Beaverhead-Deer Lodge and Targhee National Forests); Background information: Snúwe Sx^wcu^osí (anglicized as Snoo-weh Pass), meaning Shoshone Pass, comes from the Salish name for the Shoshone people and is similar to the Shoshone word for themselves, meaning ‘people’ or ‘human beings.’ The pass is located on the border between the upper part of the Red Rock River drainage in southwest Montana and the Henry’s Lake drainage in northeast Idaho. CSKT proposed name has support from the Shoshone Bannock Tribes and Beaverhead County, and is not opposed by the Beaverhead-Deer Lodge and Targhee National Forests. BGN says it is still waiting to hear from Fremont County, ID and the Idaho Geographic Names Council.

Two Names Yet to Be Proposed by the Kootenai Culture Committee

The Kootenai Culture Committee will be submitting names for two other “s-word” places, both located in Flathead County -- S-word Meadows, and S-word Meadows Creek, both located on a mix of private and U.S. Forest Service land.

The BGN also rejected ten names proposed by the CSKT. In two cases, the BGN approved the English translation of the proposed Salish name. In eight cases, the BGN approved names proposed by non-Indians. The rejected names are listed below in order of the BGN decisions:

Proposed CSKT name: In-matl-qe Butte

Name approved by BGN: Indian Graves Butte; Former name: Squaw Graves Butte; County: Fergus (MT); Land ownership: Mostly private; some public (State of Montana).; Background information: Nmalk^w Butte (anglicized as In-matl-qe Butte), means Warm Water Butte; Warm Springs Creek runs around the base of the butte. Denied by BGN May 2008, in favor of Fergus County Commissioners’ counter-proposal of Indian Graves Butte.

Proposed CSKT name: Middle Fork Sheh-shoo-tum Creek

Name approved by BGN: Middle Fork Sun Creek; Former name: Middle Fork Squaw Creek; County: Madison (MT); Land ownership: Originates & flows 3.8 mi. on Beaverhead-Deer Lodge National Forest, then 1.8 miles through private land to confluence with Squaw Creek.; Background information: Middle Fork Šešutm Nšiyétk^ws (anglicized as Middle Fork Sheh-shoo-tum Creek) means Middle Fork Girl Creek. Denied by BGN June 2008, in favor of Middle Fork Sun Creek. See below, Sheh-shoo-tum Creek (Sun Creek).

Proposed CSKT name: North

Fork Sheh-shoo-tum Creek

Name approved by BGN: North Fork Sun Creek; Former name: North Fork Squaw Creek; County: Madison (MT); Land ownership: Beaverhead-Deer Lodge National Forest; Background information: North Fork Šešutm Nšiyétk^ws (anglicized as North Fork Sheh-shoo-tum Creek) means North Fork Girl Creek. Denied by BGN June 2008 in favor of North Fork Sun Creek. See below, Sheh-shoo-tum Creek (Sun Creek).

Proposed CSKT name: South Fork Sheh-shoo-tum Creek

Name approved by BGN: South Fork Sun Creek; Former name: South Fork Squaw Creek; County: Madison (MT); Land ownership: Originates & flows 1.5 mi. through Beaverhead-Deer Lodge National Forest, then flows 1.75 miles through private land to confluence with Squaw Creek.; Background information: South Fork Šešutm Nšiyétk^ws (anglicized as South Fork Sheh-shoo-tum Creek) means South Fork Girl Creek. Denied by BGN June 2008, in favor of South Fork Sun Creek. See below, Sheh-shoo-tum Creek (Sun Creek).

Proposed CSKT name: Sheh-shoo-tum Creek

Name approved by BGN: Sun Creek; Former name: Squaw Creek; County: Madison (MT); Land ownership: Originates & flows 3.5 mi. through Beaverhead-Deer Lodge National Forest, then 4.5 miles through private land to confluence with the Madison River.; Background information: Šešutm Nšiyétk^ws (anglicized as Sheh-shoo-tum Creek) means Girl Creek. Denied by BGN June 2008, in favor of Sun Creek, a name proposed by Mark Petroni of Ennis, MT, the USFS District Ranger, and supported by Madison County Commissioners and USFS.

Proposed CSKT name: Il-mo-to Creek

Name approved by BGN: Cameron Creek; Former name: Squaw Creek; County: Meagher (MT); Land ownership: Mostly Lewis and Clark N.F. with some private ownership. Background information: Lmoto Nšiyétk^ws (anglicized as Il-mo-to Creek) means Sheep Creek. This creek is a small tributary of Sheep Creek, which then flows into the Smith River. Denied by BGN, June 2008, in favor of Cameron Creek, submitted by Meagher County Commissioners.

Proposed CSKT name: In-poo-poo-neh Coulee

Name approved by BGN: Big Sagebrush Coulee; Former name: Squaw Coulee; County: Fergus and Judith Basin (MT); Land ownership: Mostly private, with some public land (State of Montana).; Background information: Npupuné estoq^ws (anglicized as In-poo-poo-neh Coulee), means Big Sagebrush Coulee, a prevalent plant in the area. Denied by BGN September 2008, in favor of Judith Basin County Commissioners’

counter-proposal of Big Sagebrush Coulee.

Proposed CSKT name: Skwoom-tsin Creek

Name approved by BGN: Christiansen Creek; Former name: Squaw Creek; County: Beaverhead (MT); Land ownership: Originates and flows 6 miles through Beaverhead-Deer Lodge National Forest; then flows 2.5 mi. through private land to confluence with Big Hole River.; Background information: Sk^wumcn Sm’oop (anglicized as Skwoom-tsin Creek), meaning Pocket Gopher Creek, comes from the traditional Salish placename for the Big Hole River and valley, more fully described on page 78 of The Salish People and the Lewis and Clark Expedition, by the Salish-Pend d’Oreille Culture Committee and Elders Advisory Council, published in 2005 by the University of Nebraska Press. Denied by BGN September 2008, in favor of Christiansen Creek, proposed by local landowners and supported by Beaverhead County and Beaverhead-Deer Lodge National Forest, as well as the Montana State Names Authority.

Proposed CSKT name: Skwoom-tsin Lake

Name approved by BGN: Lovell Lake; Former name: Squaw Lake; County: Beaverhead (MT); Land ownership: Public (Beaverhead-Deer Lodge National Forest); Background information: Sk^wumcn Sm’oop (anglicized as Skwoom-tsin Lake), meaning Pocket Gopher Lake, comes from Sk^wumcné, the traditional Salish placename for the Big Hole River and valley, more fully described on page 78 of The Salish People and the Lewis and Clark Expedition, by the Salish-Pend d’Oreille Culture Committee and Elders Advisory Council, published in 2005 by the University of Nebraska Press. Denied by BGN, October 2008, in favor of Lovell Lake, proposed by local landowners, supported by Montana DNRC and Beaverhead-Deer Lodge National Forest.

Proposed CSKT name: Pees-thul Creek

Name approved by BGN: Cutthroat Creek; Former name: Squaw Creek; County: Granite (MT); Land ownership: Public (Beaverhead-Deer Lodge National Forest) except for private parcel at mouth of two-mile long stream.; Background information: Pišł Nšiyétk^ws (anglicized as Pees-thul Creek), means Cutthroat Trout Creek. Denied by BGN, January 2009, in favor of Granite County’s counter-proposal of Cutthroat Creek.

Editor’s note: Char-Koosta News would like to thank the Salish-Pend d’Oreille Culture Committee and especially Thompson Smith and Antoine Incashola for the article and names they have provided for the readership.