April 15, 2019

To: Bruce Fisher, Chair, Oregon Geographic Names Board

From: Dave Eckert, Marys Peak Alliance of AFRANA, 228 NW 28th Street, Corvallis 97330 deckert@willmettwatershed.com (541) 230-1237 (no texting, please)

SUBJECT: Proposal to Name 10 Unnamed Tributaries on Marys Peak, Benton County

The Marys Peak Alliance of AFRANA (Alliance for Recreation and Natural Areas) proposes naming ten (10) unnamed creeks on Marys Peak (123.555° W, 44.504° N), located primarily in Benton County, Oregon, 15 miles SW of Corvallis. The western side is partially located in Lincoln County. No names for the 10 proposed creeks have been found.

The Ten Creeks Drain into Three Watersheds (For details, see Appendix B)

- **Columbia River Watershed** - Six unnamed creeks drain the Marys Peak east slope and ultimately drain into the Pacific Ocean from the Columbia River near Astoria.
- **Alsea River Watershed** - Three unnamed creeks drain the south slope and ultimately drain into the Pacific Ocean from the Alsea River near Waldport.
- **Yaquina River Watershed** - One unnamed creek drains the west slope and ultimately enters the Pacific Ocean from the Yaquina River near Newport.

Cultural Importance of the Ten Creeks (For details, see Appendices E through O)
The ten creeks are historically and currently culturally important for both indigenous and non-indigenous people. Nine of the creeks are located exclusively in Benton County. The proposed Yaqo’n Creek drains through both Benton and Lincoln Counties.

Process for Names Selection (For details see Appendix C)
Two Convenings were held to determine the need and the process for naming unnamed Marys Peak creeks. Attendees included Marys Peak property owners and tribal representatives. Attendees decided the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians would select the proposed creek names.

Proposed Creek Names (For details, see Appendices E through O)

- Ahngeengeen Creek
- Ahnhoots Creek
- Ahntkwahkah Creek
- Ahshahyum Creek
- Ahmoolint Creek
- Ahshney Creek
- Pa’wint Creek
- Lo wa’ ha yu Creek
- Wusi’n Creek
- Yaqo’n Creek

Proposal Sponsor
Attendees at the second Convening agreed that the Marys Peak Alliance of AFRANA would serve as the proposal sponsor.
Appendix A

Marys Peak Location

Marys Peak (123.555° W 44.504° N) is located in Benton and Lincoln Counties, Oregon, 15 miles SW. of Corvallis and about 60 miles by car from both Newport and Waldport.

Marys Peak is the highest peak in the Oregon Coastal Mountains and has a sub-alpine summit. It is also the highest peak in the Marys, Alsea and Yaquina Rivers Watersheds and provides the highest source of water for each watershed.

Marys Peak has been revered by indigenous people for millennia. Today, it is the iconic physical feature of the region. Its silhouette is used on many local government and organizational logos.

- **Destination:** Over 100,000 recreational visitors annually visit Marys Peak. They both cherish and impact it.
- **Protected:** All of Marys Peak above the 3,000-foot elevation is a U.S. Forest Service-designated Scenic Botanical Special Interest Area (SBSIA), which is the highest level of environmental protection achievable administratively by the Forest Service without Congressional approval. The east slope is also a highly protected watershed for the City of Corvallis.
- **Unique:** Many rare plant and insect species and communities inhabit Marys Peak.
- **Cultural:** It is culturally significant to the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. The Marys Peak watershed boundaries of the Marys, Yaquina and Alsea Rivers have served as linguistic, cultural and homeland borders among the Kalapuya, Wusi’n and Yaqo’on people.
Appendix B
Marys Peak Drainage Watershed

Marys Peak drains into three large watersheds – The Columbia, the Alsea and the Yaquina.

**Columbia River Watershed**

The Columbia River drains over 258,000 square miles of area in the Pacific Northwest. The north, east and southeastern slopes of Marys Peak are part of the Columbia River Watershed, which drains into the Pacific Ocean near Astoria, Oregon.

**THE ROCK CREEK WATERSHED**, on the eastern slope of Marys Peak, represents the highest water source for the Oregon Coast Mountain Range in the Columbia River Watershed. It drains to the following larger watersheds in succeeding order:

- Greasy Creek
- Marys River
- Willamette River
- Columbia River
- Pacific Ocean at Astoria

The Rock Creek watershed provides 1/3 of the municipal water for the City of Corvallis. The watershed has restricted public access and is used to conduct research on best management practices for municipal supply. It is also used for research on listed animal species. Naming sub-watershed creeks and their watersheds within Rock Creek allows government staff and researchers to easily identify watersheds for operational management specifications.

**Indigenous Homeland** - Rock Creek is within the cultural homeland of the Kalapuya.

**Six unnamed Rock Creek tributary creeks** have been selected for naming. The names selected by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde are: *Ahngeengen Creek*, *Ahnhoots Creek*, *Ahntkwahkwah Creek*, *Ahshahyum Creek*, *Ahmoolint Creek* and *Ahsney Creek*. (See Appendices F-K)
Appendix B continued

Alsea River Watershed

The Alsea River drains 466 square miles of Benton and Lincoln Counties. The south and south western slopes of Marys Peak are part of the Alsea River Watershed which drains into the Pacific Ocean near Waldport, Oregon.

THE PARKER CREEK WATERSHED on the south and southwest slopes of Marys Peak has the highest headwater source of any creek on Marys Peak. And, the headwaters of Parker Creek and its tributaries represent the highest water sources for the Alsea River Watershed. Parker Creek drains to the following larger watersheds in succeeding order:

- North Alsea River
- Alsea River
- Alsea Bay
- Pacific Ocean at Waldport

Land ownership in the Parker Creek watershed includes the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service and Starker Forests, Inc. Included are old growth forests, sub-alpine meadows, lush understory and tree farms. Parker Creek provides the highest elevation water has some of the most spectacular waterfalls on Marys Peak.

Indigenous Homeland – The Parker Creek watershed is within the cultural homeland of the Wusi’n people (referred to now as the Alsea).

Three unnamed Parker Creek tributaries have been selected for naming. The names selected by the Cultural Resources Department of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians are: Pa’wint Creek, Lo wa’ ha yu Creek and Wusi’n Creek. (See Appendices L-N)
Appendix B continued

Yaquina River Watershed

The Yaquina River drains 253 square miles of Benton and Lincoln Counties. The west slope of Marys Peak-West Point is part of the Yaquina River Watershed, which drains to the Pacific Ocean at Newport, Oregon.

**THE BIG ELK WATERSHED** on the west slope of the West Point of Marys Peak drains to the following larger watersheds in succeeding order:
- Yaquina River
- Yaquina Bay
- Pacific Ocean at Newport.

Land ownership on the Big Elk Creek Watershed of Marys Peak includes the BLM, U.S. Forest Service and Thompson Timber Company.

**Indigenous Homeland** – Big Elk Creek and its tributaries are within the cultural homeland of the Yaqo’n people (referred to now as the Yaquina).

**One unnamed Big Elk Creek tributary** has been selected for naming. The name has been selected by the Cultural Resources Department of the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians: *Yaqo’n Creek.*

(See Appendix O)
Appendix C
Name Selection Process

The Marys Peak Alliance (MPA) became interested in the relative obscurity of certain unnamed creeks that cross existing public and forest roads or trails and in areas where research and resource extraction occur. After reviewing the existing names (see Appendix D) of Marys Peak creeks, only one creek name, Chintimini Creek, has any relationship to the indigenous cultures of the Kalapuya, Wusi’n or Yaqo’n. This name appears to be a French derivative of a Kalapuya word, rather than a Kalapuya word.

The MPA contacted the Cultural Resources Departments of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians to determine if there was any interest in proposing names for unnamed Marys Peak creeks. The response was a request for the MPA to call a Convening of the Confederated Tribes and the principal landowners of Marys Peak.

Convening I
The first Convening was held February 7, 2017 at the Eena Haws Native American Longhouse on Oregon State University (OSU) Campus. Participating tribal and land owner representatives at the Convening were:

2. Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
3. OSU Native American Longhouse - Host
4. U.S. Forest Service - Landowner
5. Bureau of Land Management - Landowner
6. City of Corvallis - Landowner
7. Starker Forests, Inc. - Landowner
8. Oregon State University – Landowner
9. Spring Creek Project - Landowner
10. Marys Peak Alliance - Convener

Judy Juntunen, author of “World of the Kalapuya” and member of the Marys Peak Alliance Steering Committee, facilitated the Convening. The results by concurrence of the First Convening were:

- Proceed to recommend names for the unnamed creeks.
- The proposed names shall be in the cultural territorial indigenous languages and shall be formulated by consultations between the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.
Appendix C continued

Convening II
The second Convening was held September 28, 2017, at the Eena Haws Native American Longhouse. Representatives from all of the same organizations attending the first Convening were present. David Eckert of the Marys Peak Alliance was the facilitator. Prior to the Convening, all attendees received the list of recommendations for the names of the creeks as proposed by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. The results by concurrence of the Second Convening were:

1. **Six Rock Creek tributary names** were accepted for recommendation as proposed by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. The two Confederated Tribes decided that since the Grand Ronde has the majority interest and has had active efforts in the Kalapuya language, they should suggest the Kalapuya names for the six creeks in the Kalapuya homeland territory of Rock Creek. Ahsney (Coyote) Creek was designated for the highest tributary to the South Fork of Rock Creek and Ahmoolin (Wolf) Creek for the lower South Fork tributary. The designation of the remaining four selected names by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde – Ahngeengeneen (Flint) Creek, Ahnhoots (Panther) Creek, Ahntkwahkwah (Frog) Creek and Ahshahyum (Grizzly Bear) Creek - would be assigned to the four tributaries of the main stem of Rock Creek on City property.

2. **Two of the three Parker Creek tributary names** – Wusi’n (Alsea) and Pa’wint (Cinnamon Bear) - were accepted and assigned as proposed by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians had proposed six additional acceptable Wusi’n names that could be used for creek names on Marys Peak located in the home territory of the Wusi’n people.

3. **One Big Elk Creek tributary name** – Yaqo’n - was accepted and designated as proposed by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. The Big Elk watershed is located in the home territory of the Yaqo’n people.

Following the Convening:
- **Field Surveys** - The Marys Peak Alliance (MPA) conducted field surveys of all tributaries proposed for naming to verify their viability and significance.
- **One Parker Creek tributary** - During the field survey, a previously undetected tenth creek that crossed two Marys Peak roads and included at least one significant waterfall was deemed important for naming. It is located in the Parker Creek watershed within the Wusi’n homeland territory of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. This tributary watershed is located between the proposed Pa’wint Creek and Wusi’n Creek watersheds and without naming this watershed, operational management could be confusing. The MPA suggested one of the original Wusi’n names – *Lo wa’ ha yu* (Mountain) Creek – that was proposed by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and forwarded it to them for concurrence. **For details, see Appendix M.**
Appendix D

Existing Marys Peak Creek Names

Following are the named waterways draining Marys Peak into the three larger watersheds. The larger the font size, the larger the watershed. Smaller font size reflects subwatersheds. Bracketed road names indicate the parallel road along that waterway.

The purpose of Appendix D is to demonstrate the derivation of the existing approved creek names on Marys Peak and how these names primarily only represent pioneer culture.

Columbia River Watershed

Marys River – This river lies outside the boundaries of Marys Peak. The derivation of the name is speculative, controversial and, therefore, unknown.

- Tumtum River – (Route 34) This river is at the northern base of Marys Peak. Tumtum is Chinook Wawa for “heart”, and the river is considered the heart of the valley through which it flows. Oregon Geographic Names, p. 974, by McArthur & McArthur, 7th Edition, 2003
    - Beaver
  - Lasky – {Lasky Creek Rd} – Derivation unknown to author.
  - Scheele – {Tumtum Rd} – Derivation unknown to author.

  - Enos – Derivation unknown to author.
  - Tatum – Derivation unknown to author.

- Greasy Creek – {Route 34 -east side} May be named for the grease coming from a local slaughterhouse or for the greasy feel of the gray clay suspended in the creek water. Oregon Geographic Names, p.426, by McArthur & McArthur, 7th Edition, 2003
  - Bounds – Derivation unknown to author.
  - Gellatly Creek – Named for early settlers named Gellatly. Isabella Gellatly sold the land to the City of Corvallis in 1906. Benton County Deed Sale (bk 46, p 62) to City of Corvallis
  - Gray Creek - Named for early settler A.M. Gray who sold the land to the City of Corvallis in 1906. Benton County Deed Sale (bk 46 p 74) to City of Corvallis
  - Watkins Creek – Derivation unknown to author.

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Appendix D continued

- **Rock Creek** {Rock Creek Rd} – Derivation unknown to author.
  - **Stilson Creek** – Derivation unknown to author.
  - **South Fork Rock Creek**
    - **Connection Creek** – Derivation unknown to author.
  - **North Fork Rock Creek**
    - **Chintimini Creek** – Purported French interpretation of a Kalapuya name.

### Alsea River Watershed


### North Alsea River

- **Parker Creek** – Derivation unknown to author.
- **Sweethome Creek** – Derivation unknown to author.

### Yaquina River Watershed

Named for the settler-interpreted name of the indigenous people, Yaqo’n, who lived in this watershed.

**Big Elk Creek** - Two possible name derivations:
1. 1850’s mapping of the Siletz Agency which shows the Big Elk, Little Elk and the larger Yaquina watershed generally as the best “Elk Hunting” area of our (Siletz) reservation. Robert Kentta, Cultural Resources Manager, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, March 13, 2019.

- **Sugarbowl Creek** – Derivation unknown to author.
- **Adams Creek** – Derivation unknown to author.
  - **Baker Creek** – Derivation unknown to author.
  - **Beaver Dam Creek** – Derivation unknown to author.
Appendix E

Proposed Creek Names Map

Legend
- Red Lines – Creeks proposed for naming
- White Text Boxes – Proposed creek names
- Light Green Text Boxes – Summit names on Marys Peak
- Arrows – Directional flow of creek
- Green areas – U.S. Forest Service Land
- Dark gray/brown areas – Private timber land
- Light gray/white areas – City of Corvallis land

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Appendix F

*Ahngeengeen Creek*

Rock Creek tributary

**Proposed Name** – *Ahngeengeen* - Pronunciation: ahh-GEEN-geen (meaning The Flint)

**Language** – Kalapuya

**Name offered by** – Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde

**Logic for Name** - Flint is a leading character in the Ampinefu Kalapuya stories. Since the word can also be translated as “Stone” or “Rock”, this is an apt name for any of the tributaries of Rock Creek.

**First name use in Oregon and in U.S.**

Flows first to the SW then flows south

**Headwater:** 123.477 W, 44.513N on Starker Forests, Inc. property, located about NE of FS Rd. 3405-111 about 1.5 miles NW from Route 34

**Length:** 2,070 feet

**Mouth:** 123.474W; 44.488N at confluence with Rock Creek

**Road Crossings** - Old Trail Road, FS Rd. 3405-111, 2.7 miles west of Old Trail Rd. Bridge

**No Trail Crossing**

**Terrain** – Moderately steep. It is perennial in the lower half and ephemeral in the upper half. Mostly Douglas-fir overstory with dense groundcovers of Oregon Grape, fern, salal and wood sorrel.

**Land Ownership** – Starker Forests, Inc. – 26% (Headwaters); City of Corvallis – 74% (middle and downstream corridor)

**Cultural Importance** - While this is the smallest of the proposed creeks for naming, its watershed within public ownership contains protected old growth forest as well as protected Marbled Murrelet occupied habitat. Naming this watershed allows proper nomenclature for these protected features. This watershed was one of four watersheds studied by the City of Corvallis. The study describes the watershed and the creek. Naming the creek and the watershed will provide greater meaning to the study and to help identify the area of the study for future generations.
Appendix G

Ahnhoots Creek

Rock Creek tributary

**Proposed Name – Ahnhoots** - Pronunciation: ahn-HOOTS (meaning The Panther)

**Language** – Kalapuya

**Name offered by** - Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde

**Logic for Name** – Ahnhoots (Panther) is a main character in Ampinefu Kalapuya stories and is, therefore, an important animal culturally. Rock Creek Tributaries #2 and #4 enter mainstem Rock Creek directly opposite each other. Giving these tributaries the names of “Ahnhoots” and “Ahshahyum” (see Appendix I) is a playful imagining of these two predators facing off in the forests of Rock Creek.

**First name use in Oregon and in U.S.**

**Flows** southwest

**Headwater:** 123.469W, 44.522N - Located about 2252 feet NE of FS Rd. 3405-111 about 1.8 miles NW from Route 34

**Length:** 2,252 feet

**Mouth:** 123.477W, 44.519N into Rock Creek

**One Road Crossing** - Crosses under Old Trail Road, FS Rd. 3405-111, 2.9 miles west of Old Trail Rd. Bridge.

**No Trail Crossing**


**Land Ownership** – 100% City of Corvallis

**Cultural Importance** – This watershed was one of four watersheds studied by the City of Corvallis. The study describes the watershed and the creek. Naming the creek and the watershed will provide greater meaning to the study and to help identify the area of the study for future generations.
Appendix H

Ahntkwahkwah Creek

Rock Creek tributary

**Proposed Name** – *Ahntkwahkwah* - Pronunciation: ahn-TKWAH-kwah (meaning The Frog)

**Language** – Kalapuya

**Name offered by** - Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde

**Logic for Name** - A Kalapuya story tells the role of frogs in damming up an area. This is the tributary closest to the City of Corvallis’s North Fork Reservoir and dam. In addition, Marys Peak is known as habitat for a rare tailless frog.

**First name use in Oregon and in U.S.**

**Flows** to the SW into the Rock Creek mainstem

**Headwater:** 123.465W, 44.5206N located about 4,900 feet NE of FS Rd. 3405-111 crossing

**Length:** 4,948 feet

**Mouth:** 123.478W, 44.519099N into the Rock Creek mainstem.

**One Road Crossing** - Under Old Trail Road, FS Rd. 3405-111 and then into Rock Creek

**No Trail Crossing**


**Land Ownership** – 100% City of Corvallis

**Cultural Importance** - This watershed was one of four watersheds studied by the City of Corvallis. The study describes the watershed and the creek. Naming the creek and the watershed will provide greater meaning to the study and to help identify the area of the study for future generations.

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Appendix I

Ahshahyum Creek
Rock Creek tributary

Proposed Name – Ahshahyum - Pronunciation: ah-SHAH-yum (meaning The Grizzly)
Language – Kalapuya
Name offered by – Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde
Logic for Name - Grizzly are featured characters in Kalapuya stories. See Appendix G
First name use in Oregon and in U.S.
Flows NE into the Rock Creek main stem
Headwater: 123.486976W, 44.513570N located about 3,450 feet from FS Rd. 3405

Length: 3,450 feet
Mouth: 123.477042W, 44.519099N about 1.8 miles NW from Route 34.

One Road Crossing – Crosses under Forest Service Road 3405 on City-owned land.

No Trail Crossing


Land Ownership – 85% City of Corvallis, 15% U.S. Forest Service

Cultural Importance - This watershed was one of four watersheds studied by the City of Corvallis. The study describes the watershed and the creek. Naming the creek and the watershed will provide greater meaning to the study and to help identify the area of the study for future generations. In addition, the mouth of this creek is associated with an important water pipe crossing of Rock Creek.
Appendix J

Ahmoolint Creek

Rock Creek tributary

Proposed Name – Ahmoolint Creek - Pronunciation: ah-MOO-lint (meaning The Wolf)
Language – Kalapuya
Name offered by The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde

Logic for Name - Wolf is mentioned in the collected Ampinefu Kalapuya stories and a recent wolf siting on Marys Peak.

First name use in Oregon and in U.S.

Flows SE into the South Fork of Rock Creek.

Headwater: 123.536257W, 44.510669N

Length: 11,586 feet

Mouth: 123.498698W, 44.519332N

Four Road Crossings – Just below its headwaters, about 0.8 miles NNE of Connor’s Camp, it crosses under Forest Service Road 2005. Mid-stream it crosses Forest Service Road 3405 and then 3405-117. Just before its confluence with the South Fork of Rock Creek, it crosses again under 3405.

Trail Crossing - None, except Road 2005 is often used as a hiking trail to connect Connor’s Camp to Woods Creek Road.

Terrain – Moderate elevation gain. Lush growths of Devil’s Club and dense shrub undergrowth and fallen wood.

Land Ownership – 100% U.S. Forest Service

Cultural Importance – The special vegetation and the importance of this very clean and significant high mountain water input into the Corvallis drinking water system both provide cultural importance. The four road crossings provide opportunities for identification, cultural interpretation and critical operational management benefits regarding culvert maintenance.

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Appendix K

**Ahsney Creek**

Rock Creek tributary

**Proposed Name – Ahsney Creek** - Pronunciation: ah-SNEY (meaning The Coyote)

**Language** – Kalapuya

**Name offered by** - Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde

**Logic for Name** - Coyote is a leading protagonist in the Ampinefu Stories which refer to Coyote’s home being higher up than all other homes. This creek has the highest source on Marys Peak of the six creeks proposed to be named in the Kalapuya language and, therefore, where the Coyote of Ampinefu stories should be living.

**First name use in Oregon and in U.S.**

Flows SE to the South Fork of Rock Creek

**Headwater**: 123.544316W, 44.498613N about 100 yards NW of East Ridge Trail crossing.

**Length**: 4761 feet

**Mouth**: 123.528421W, 44.494759N into the South Fork of Rock Creek

**One Road Crossings** – U.S. Forest Service Road 2005

**One Trail Crossing** – East Ridge Trail

**Terrain** – Rather steep and thickly vegetated with Douglas Fir, Vine Maple and understory riparian shrubs

**Land Ownership** – 100% U.S. Forest Service

**Cultural Importance** - The headwaters of this creek cross the East Ridge Trail, which is hiked by many thousands of visitors annually and also crosses the 2005 U.S. Forest Service Road which is hiked by many hikers to connect Connor’s Camp with Old Peak Road and the Corvallis to the Sea (C2C) Trail. Naming and placing nomenclature displays at the creek crossing will add cultural value to the creek for the many hikers. The creek is also an important source of water for the Corvallis City Water System.
Appendix L
Pa’wint Creek
Parker Creek tributary

Proposed Name – Pa’wint Creek
(Cinnamon Bear - a reddish-brown black bear)

Language – Wusi’n

Name offered by Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

Logic for Name
Cinnamon Bear has lived with cultural significance on Marys Peak. This Wusi’n bear name juxtaposes the Kalapuya Ahshahyum Creek name for Grizzly Bear on the east slope of Marys Peak.

First name use in Oregon and in U.S.

Flows southwest off the south slope of Marys Peak.

Headwater: 123.548W, 44.495N - The source is located about 0.25 miles northwest of Connor Camp on the north side of Marys Peak Road. It crosses under Marys Peak Road and then under Harlan Road at 0.1 miles west of Marys Peak Road. It meanders about 3.4 miles until it meets the main branch of Parker Creek.

Length - 18,057 feet (c. 3.4 miles)

Mouth: 123.575W, 44.484N

Two Road Crossings – Marys Peak Road and Harlan Road

Trail Crossing – No trail crossing


Land Ownership – 12% U.S.F.S. (Headwaters) 80% BLM, 8% Starker Forests, Inc.

Cultural Importance - This creek crosses two highly-used mountain roads, thus providing excellent educational opportunities for interpretive displays. There is timber harvesting which requires rigorous operational and regulatory management.
Appendix M

Lo wa’ ha yu Creek
Parker Creek tributary

Proposed Name – Lo wa’ ha yu (Mountain)

Language – Wusi’n

Name offered by - Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

Logic for Name – Marys Peak is the highest mountain in the Alsea and Parker Creek watersheds, while Parker Creek is the highest water source in the Alsea watershed.

First name use in Oregon and in U.S.

Flows due south

Headwater: 123.558W, 44.500N

Length” 5,120 feet

Mouth: 123.562W; 44.488N

Two Road Crossings - Crosses Marys Peak Road above Connor’s Camp and crosses Harlan Road 0.6 miles west of Marys Peak Road. It flows into Pa’wint Creek.

Trail Crossing - No trail crossings


Land Ownership – 100% BLM

Cultural Importance – This creek crosses two highly-used mountain roads, thus providing excellent educational opportunities for interpretive displays. Multiple waterfalls have deep meaning cross-culturally.
Appendix N

Wusi’n Creek
Parker Creek tributary

Proposed Name – *Wusi’n*
(Pronunciation: *Woosh-I’n*)

Language – Wusi’n

Name offered by Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

Logic for Name - *Wusi’n* is the name the Alsea people call themselves. This creek’s multiple waterfalls may have been culturally significant to the Wusi’n.

First name use in Oregon and in U.S.

Flows south, southwest

**Headwater**: 123.559W, 44.503N about 0.25mile NE of Marys Peak Road

**Length**: 9,079 feet

**Mouth**: 123.575W; 44.484N

**Two Road Crossings** - Crosses under Marys Peak Road about 1 mile above Connor’s Camp and crosses under Harlan Road 1.1 miles west of Marys Peak Road.

**Trail Crossing** – No trail crossings

**Terrain** – Very steep with at least 2 large waterfalls near roads. Mostly Douglas-fir overstory with dense groundcovers of Oregon Grape, fern, salal and wood sorrel.

**Land Ownership** – 55% BLM, 4% U.S.F.S., 41% Starker Forests, Inc.

**Cultural Importance** – This creek crosses two highly-used mountain roads, providing educational opportunities for interpretive displays. It also has at least three waterfalls.
Appendix O
Yaqe’n Creek
Big Elk Creek tributary

Proposed Name – Yaqe’n (Pronunciation: Yak-own) (name the Yaquina people called themselves)

Language – Yaqe’n (currently known as Yaquina)

Name offered by - Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

Logic for Name - Yaqe’n is the name the people of that watershed called themselves.

First name use in Oregon and in U.S.

Flows to west off the west slope of the West Point of Marys Peak into Big Elk Creek mainstem.

Headwater: 123.586860W, 44.50749N located 0.25 miles from the westerly-most point on Marys Peak Road as it loops around the West Point of Marys Peak. The source is located on U.S. Forest Service land.

Length: 8.095 feet

Mouth: 123.613709W, 44.508779N
The mouth as it enters Big Elk Creek is located on U.S. Forest Service land.

One Road Crossing – Crosses under Forest Service Road 117 on Forest Service Land.

Trail Crossing – None

Terrain – Extremely steep in the upper corridor. Difficult access.

Land Ownership – 39% U.S.F.S. (includes both the creek source and the mouth), 61% Gates Tree Farm. The important vegetative portions of the creek are located on U.S. Forest Service Land. This is the only creek for proposed naming that extends into Lincoln County.

Cultural Importance – This creek is the highest elevation creek in the Yaquina watershed.
March 28, 2019

Bruce Fisher, Chair
Oregon Geographic Names Board
1200 S.W. Park Avenue
Portland, OR 97205

Dear Mr. Fisher:

I am writing to express Marys River Watershed Council’s (MRWC) strong support for the Marys Peak Alliance proposal to name 10 unnamed creeks with indigenous names, including 6 creeks in the Rock Creek sub-watershed of the Marys River.

These ten creeks are historically and culturally important for both indigenous and non-indigenous people, and as first order waterways, all of these creek have their own unique properties that require our respect and acknowledgment in the process of land management activities. For these and many other reasons, Marys River Watershed Council is strongly in favor of this proposal.

Please do not hesitate to reach out for more information or if you have any questions about our role in supporting the proposal.

Sincerely,

Holly Purpura, Executive Director
Marys River Watershed Council
April 3, 2019

RE: Collaboration with Marys Peak Alliance on the Marys Peak Creek Naming Effort

Bruce Fisher, OGNB President
Oregon Geographic Placenames Board, Oregon Historical Society
1200 SW Park Avenue
Portland, OR 97205

Dear Mr. Fisher,

Please accept this letter of endorsement and support from the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon (CTGR) for the placenames application being submitted by Dave Eckert of Marys Peak Alliance of AFRANA regarding the naming of ten unnamed creeks located on Marys Peak in Benton and Lincoln counties.

The Grand Ronde Tribe has been actively involved through our Tribal Historic Preservation Office as a collaborator in the development and vetting of the names being proposed. The process associated with this effort has been exemplary and deserving of being held up as a model to be emulated.

The names offered are meaningful and intentional. Their placement on maps will ensure that the words of the indigenous people of this place; will remain written upon the landscape and known to future generations. All those collaborating and participating in this effort are contributing to the persistence of Western Oregon’s indigenous people.

With gratitude to our collaborators,

[Signature]

David Harrelson
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Office: (503)879-1630
David.Harrelson@grandronde.org
Bruce Fisher, Chair  
Oregon Geographic Names Board  
Oregon Historical Society  
1200 SW Park Ave  
Portland, Oregon 97205

Dear Mr. Fischer,

The Bureau of Land Management is proud to support the collaborative work of the Marys Peak Alliance to provide names for 10 unnamed tributaries on Marys Peak, the tallest geographic feature on Oregon’s Coast Range. The Marys Peak Field Office is one of the primary land managers of Marys Peak, along with the Siuslaw National Forest, the City of Corvallis, and private landowners such as Starker Forests. Staff from our field office and the Northwest Oregon District have participated in the collaborative process convened by the Marys Peak Alliance. We met as a group, along with other stakeholders, to examine the tributaries on the Peak that were previously unnamed.

We agreed as a group that many of the current place names on the Peak reflect the history and culture of a small segment of the historical users of the Peak and a small portion of time considering the long and rich history of human civilizations and cultures that have thrived within the landscape of the Peak. For this reason, the group deferred the determination of appropriate place names to our tribal partners with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

The ten names that the group chose through two convenings will be an important addition to the management of our lands. Certainly, management is easier when a place has a name. More importantly, users of BLM and USFS managed lands will be exposed to another language of place during their visits. I hope these names will cause visitors to ask questions about the long history of the Peak, its cultural importance, and the stories the landscape can tell to those who are ready to listen.

We commend the Marys Peak Alliance for taking up this cause and wholly support the process and names it has chosen.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Paul Tigan  
Field Manager  
Marys Peak Field Office
Bruce Fisher, Chair
Oregon Geographic Names Board
Oregon Historical Society
1200 SW Park Ave
Portland, OR 97205

Dear Chair Fisher,

The Siuslaw National Forest of the U.S. Forest Service is pleased to support the Marys Peak Alliance proposal to name ten previously unnamed creeks on Marys Peak. We are honored that the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians have identified indigenous names for these creeks that they feel appropriately shows respect for Marys Peak as an important part of their heritage.

The selected names are in three homeland languages that once were commonly spoken around the Marys Peak area. We appreciate this effort to name these creeks in a manner that will draw public attention to the unique role Marys Peak has for people who trace their history back to this place. Six of the ten creeks in the proposal are located in part or wholly on Siuslaw National Forest land. These proposed names will help us better identify and manage our lands by having the names on all official maps and potentially on in-ground displays along U.S. Forest Service roads.

Marys Peak is among our most visited sites on the Siuslaw and its history, ecology and physical features and views are why we consider it one of our special places. We are pleased to support this effort to complete the task of naming the streams of Marys Peak, and we are glad the proposal embraces and celebrates the long history of this being a special place to people living among it.

Sincerely,

ROBERT SANCHEZ
Forest Supervisor
April 1, 2019

Bruce Fisher, Chair
Oregon Geographic Names Board
Oregon Historical Society
1200 S.W. Park Avenue
Portland, OR 97205

Chair Fisher,

The City of Corvallis supports the proposed naming of ten (10) currently unnamed creeks located on Mary Peak in the homeland indigenous languages as selected by the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde.

Four of these designated creeks in the proposal by the Marys Peak Alliance are primarily located on land owned and maintained by the City of Corvallis for its municipal water system watershed. The naming of these first order creeks will help us to more easily identify and document our land management work, as well as the research we and others perform on this land. Proper identification and documentation of natural resources and land formations are critical in land management practices, especially for municipal watershed protection.

The City is also honored that the homeland indigenous languages will be reawakened on this very important mountain and on land owned by the City of Corvallis.

The City looks forward to a celebration of these names and creeks following official approval of this naming proposal.

Sincerely,

Bill Traber
Mayor

Office of the Mayor
501 SW Madison Avenue
PO Box 1083
Corvallis OR 97339-1083
(541) 766-6985
Fax: (541) 766-6780
mayor@corvallisoregon.gov
Dear Mr. Fisher,

The Marys Peak Group of the Sierra Club fully supports the proposal by the Marys Peak Alliance to name ten previously unnamed creeks on Marys Peak. Six of these streams provide critical clean water to one of Corvallis’ drinking water reservoirs. Three of the creeks furnish clean water to an important salmon-bearing river, and one brook provides water from the highest source to the Yaquina River watershed. All of these first-order streams will be better protected from mismanagement if a significant name is assigned to them.

We applaud the Marys Peak Alliance for working with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians to select culturally significant names. Choosing names in the native languages will help those who visit Marys Peak better understand the history of the mountain and of the people who hold it sacred.

It is the mission of the Sierra Club to explore, enjoy and protect the planet. As you can guess from our name, Marys Peak is important to us as a source of inspiration and as a great place to experience the beauty of Oregon. We stand ready to help in this project if further support is needed.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Julie Arrington
Chair of the Executive Committee
Marys Peak Group, Sierra Club
April 17, 2019

Bruce Fisher, Chair
Oregon Geographic Names Board
Oregon Historical Society
1200 SW Park Avenue
Portland, OR 97205

Dear Mr. Fisher,

The Benton County Board of Commissioners wholeheartedly supports the proposal by the Marys Peak Alliance to name ten previously unnamed creeks on Marys Peak. These are: Ahngeengeen Creek, Ahnoote Creek, Ahntkwahkwah Creek, Ahshahyum Creek, Ahmoolint Creek, Ahsney Creek, Pa’wint Creek, Lo wa’ ha yu Creek, Wusi’n Creek and Yaqo’n Creek. Individually and/or collectively, each of these creeks provide clean drinking water, are salmon-bearing and contribute to watersheds.

We applaud the Marys Peak Alliance for working with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians to select culturally significant names. These streams offer a better understanding of the history of the mountain, Marys Peak, and the people who hold it sacred.

The process associated with this effort has been exemplary.

Sincerely,

Annabelle Jaramillo,
Board Chair

c: Commissioner Malone
Commissioner Augerot