

**Oregon Geographic Names Board**  
**Minutes of Meeting of December 6, 2022**  
**Portland, Oregon**

**Meeting Attendees:** The following OGNB members attended the meeting: President Bruce Fisher, Vice President Doug Decker, Executive Secretary Kerry Tymchuk, Mark Flannery, Bob Hart, Charles Kocher, Jeff LaLande, Paul Levesque Mary McArthur, Michael McArthur, James Meacham, Robert Melbo, Malissa Minthorn-Winks, Sharon Nesbit, Mary Oberst, Chet Orloff, Guy Randles, Linda Roach, Lane Shetterly, Zachary Stocks, Steve Wilson, Bob Zybach

Members unable to attend: Liz Lorenzen, Hallie Turk

The following OGNB Advisors attended the meeting: Tommy Kramer, FEMA; Frank Lahm, BLM; Tim Nitz, NPS; Katherine Higgins, USFS, Robert Harmon, OWRD; Corey Plank, BLM

President Fisher called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon.

President Fisher called upon Ms. McArthur, who offered a land acknowledgement.

Minutes of the August 20, 2022 OGNB meeting were approved.

President Fisher updated the Board on recent actions by the United States Board of Geographic Names (USBGN), and the Department of Interior. A discussion was held on the process of notifying counties on proposed name changes.

## **NEW NAME PROPOSALS**

**Negro Creek to Triple Nickles Creek:** The board discussed a proposal to attach a new name of “Triple Nickles Creek” to a geographic feature known as “Negro Creek” located in Douglas County. This proposal had previously been discussed at the August 20 meeting. The replacement name refers to the 555<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Battalion, which was stationed in Pendleton, Oregon. There was discussion on whether “Triple Nickles” or “Triple Nickle” was the appropriate name.

A motion offered by Ms. McArthur and seconded by Mr. LaLande to forward the name “Triple Nickles Creek” to the USBGN with a favorable recommendation was approved by a vote of 21-1.

**Swastika Mountain to Mount Halo:** The board discussed a proposal to attach a new name of “Mount Halo” to a geographic feature known as “Swastika Mountain” located in Lane County. This proposal had also been discussed at the August 20 meeting. Dr. David Lewis reported on the history of the location and of Chief Halo, stating that the area near the mountain had been the home of the Yoncalla Kalapuya Tribe for over 10,000 years. Chief Halo was a much admired and well-respected Tribal leader. President Fisher reported that the name “Swastika Mountain” did not come into use until the 1930’s, and that the ranch for which it might have been named was nearly 200 miles away.

Ramya Ramakrishnan from the Hindu-American Association asked the Board to leave the Swastika Mountain name in place, and to find another feature to name after Chief Halo. Scott Foster, an interested member of the public, also spoke in favor of retaining the “Swastika Mountain” name.

A motion offered by Mr. Orloff and seconded by Ms. Roach to forward the name “Mount Halo” to the USBGN with a favorable recommendation was approved by a vote of 19-3.

Mr. Randles, Mr. Shetterly, and other Board members commented that the vote was supportive of a name that more closely honored the history of the area, and in no way a sign of disapproval of Hinduism.

## **PROPOSALS STILL IN DEVELOPMENT**

President Fisher updated the Board on the status of Malvin Brown Ridge, which the Board had sent forward to the USBGN following their August 2022 meeting with a favorable recommendation. The proposal is awaiting final approval from the United States Forest Service and then will be ready for final action by the USBGN. President Fisher also previewed new name proposals regarding Ross Point in Jackson County, Skinner Hill in Malheur County, and a name replacement proposal for Chinaman Hat in Wasco County. These proposals may be ready for final action by the OGNB at their September 2023 meeting.

Vice President Decker briefed the Board on proposals that may be coming in the future to the OGNB regarding sites in the Oregon Badlands Wilderness, and the Columbia Slough Watershed. Mr. Zybach previewed Smokejumper Falls, which is another proposal that may be brought before the OGNB at a future meeting.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

President Fisher updated the board on the status of the 2023 Confederation of Geographic Names Authorities national conference, which will be held in Portland in September 2023.

Ms. McArthur reported that plans for an 8<sup>th</sup>—and final—printed edition of the Oregon Geographic Names book were slowly moving forward.

Vice President Decker updated the Board on the updated OGNB website, asking all members to utilize the website, and to report back with any suggested improvements.

President Fisher adjourned the meeting at 1:25p.m.