Latgawa Pinnacles: pillar; in Rogue River National Forest, on the N side of South Fork Little Butte Creek, 1.67 mi. SE of the mouth of Grizzly Canyon; named in association with Latgawa Camp located across the creek; Jackson County, Oregon; Sec 22, T37S, R3E, Willamette Meridian; 42°20'17"N, 122°26'46"W; USGS map - Robinson Butte 1:24,000.
https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.338042&p_longi=-122.446126
Proposal: new name for unnamed feature
Map: USGS map - Robinson Butte 1:24,000
Proponent: Alice Knotts, San Diego, CA
Administrative area: Rogue River National Forest
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: None found
Local Usage: None found
Published: None found
Case Summary: The new name Latgawa Pinnacles is proposed for a cluster of five cone-shaped rock pinnacles located on the north side of South Fork Little Butte Creek and opposite Camp Latgawa, and within Rogue River National Forest. According to the application, “[These] rocks top out about as high as the tall trees around them. [They] can be climbed and are one adventure destination for campers.”
The proposal for Latgawa Pinnacles was submitted by the Oregon Board on Geographic Names (OGNB) on behalf of a resident of San Diego, who was a long-time resident of the Rogue Valley and Methodist pastor at Camp Latgawa.
The site of the camp was originally settled around 1900, following the discovery in 1871 of soda springs that are believed to have been familiar to the area’s Takelma, Shasta, and Klamath Tribes. According to a history of the camp, in 1953 the Oregon-Idaho Conference of the United Methodist Church acquired a special use permit from the U.S. Forest Service to operate an organizational camp at the site. Originally named Dead Indian Soda Springs Resort and Forest Camp, the camp was later renamed for a group of Shasta Indians who spoke the Latgawa language. The original resort guesthouse, a few outbuildings, and a gazebo built by the Civilian Conservation Corps are protected by the State Historical Interpretation and Preservation Organization.
Three features in the vicinity of the pinnacles are named Dead Indian Creek, Dead Indian Mountain, and Dead Indian Soda Springs. The OGNB is working with the same proponent to initiate changes to these names. In 2019, the BGN received proposals to change the three “racist, outdated and offensive” names to “Chiloquin,” a word that would have recognized the Chiloquin and Klamath people who have long inhabited southern Oregon. However, upon learning that the OGNB was already considering the aforementioned proposals, the proponent withdrew the “Chiloquin” names.
The only feature currently listed in GNIS with the name “Latgawa” is Latgawa Cove Recreation Site, also located in Jackson County and 40 miles southwest of the pinnacles. There is no evidence that the associated body of water is named Latgawa Cove.
The U.S. Forest Service recommends approval of the name.