**Change Jim Crow Sands to Pillar Rock Sands:** bar; approx. 250 acres; within Oregon Department of State Lands, in the Columbia River S of and adjacent to Pillar Rock Island, 1.3 mi. SW of Brookfield Point; named for the adjacent Pillar Rock Island, which is named for Pillar Rock in the Columbia River; T9N, R7W, Willamette Meridian; Clatsop County, Oregon; 46°14'57"N, 123°34'45"W; USGS map – Knappa 1:24,000 (central point); Not: Jim Crow Sands.


Proposal: to change a name considered offensive
Map: USGS Knappa 1:24,000 (central point)
Proponent: Daryl Peloquin; Seattle, WA
Administrative area: Oregon Department of State Lands
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Jim Crow Sands (FID 1122428)
Local Usage: None found

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Jim Crow Sands, a bar in the Columbia River in Clatsop County, to Pillar Rock Sands. The proposed name is associated with Pillar Rock Island which is adjacent to the bar and which in turn is named in relation to Pillar Rock, a basalt column 0.6 miles to the northeast in Washington and also within the Columbia River. A building named Pillar Rock Cannery (still standing but no longer operating) is located on the Washington shore north of Pillar Rock; the building is labeled on some USGS maps as simply “Pillar Rock” in a font used for locales and populated places. Jim Crow Sands and Pillar Rock Island are within the proclaimed acquisition boundary of the Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge but are owned and managed by the Oregon Department of State Lands. The current name is associated with Jim Crow Point (in Wahkiakum County, Washington), the name of which was changed in 2017 by the BGN to Brookfield Point. Nearby Jim Crow Hill and Jim Crow Creek were also changed to Beare Hill and Harlows Creek, respectively; Pillar Hill is a variant name for Beare Hill).

The name Jim Crow Sands dates to a least 1891 for a sandbar in this area, though there are questions regarding its historic location. Some references placed it south of Jim Crow Point (now Brookfield Point) and others are south of Three Tree Point (about two miles upstream). Jim Crow Sands is now located southwest of Brookfield Point. Sandbars in the Columbia River continually shifted and eroded until later in the 20th century when the U.S Army Corps of Engineers increased navigation channel dredging and sediment deposition. In the late 19th century and early 20th century, Jim Crow Sands (also referred to as “Jim Crow seining grounds” and “Jim Crow point seining grounds”) was a profitable area for salmon seine fishing. An individual with the last name of Enyert was associated with fishing on Jim Crow Sands. A 1906 Supreme Court case litigating the official boundary between Oregon and Washington referred to the sands as Cook and Enyert Sands, or Enyert Grounds, or slight variations of these names.

Current USA Topo Maps base layer (ArcGIS); names are as shown on the 1985 Grays River and 1986 Knappa 1:24,000 maps; Jim Crow Sands is shown as an exposed sandbar upstream from Pillar Rock Island, and the features are not shown as separate from each other
Current USTopo base layer (ArcGIS); names are as shown on the 2017 Grays River and Knappa 1:24,000 USTopo maps; Jim Crow Sands is plotted at its GNIS coordinates but Pillar Rock Island is applied to the entire area of exposed land, not just at its GNIS coordinates

USGS maps have labeled Jim Crow Sands since 1955 and Office of Coast Survey (OCS) charts since 1968. Earlier USGS and OCS maps and charts showed an island at the location of Pillar Rock Island but did not
label it. Pillar Rock, the basalt column, was also shown on earlier OCS charts; earlier USGS maps showed navigational aids but did not label the rock itself.
The sandbar named Jim Crow Sands is generally shown on USGS and OCS maps as the sands adjacent to, upstream of, or surrounding Pillar Rock Island. Some sources use the names interchangeably for the combined island and bar, and it appears that local use generally considers there to be only one feature—a large sand bar formed from dredging deposits that has a stable core area above water.
The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners and the Oregon Department of State Lands recommend approval of the change from Jim Crow Sands to Pillar Rock Sands.