

Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names Meeting Minutes
June 14 and 15, 2023

The **Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names** (Committee) convened for a meeting at 9:30 a.m. MST, on Wednesday, June 14, 2023. In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92-463 (5 U.S.C. 10) the meeting was open to the public throughout its duration. Committee Staff Director Joshua Winchell conducted the meeting from the Horace Albright Training Center at Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona.

Committee Members Participating:

Derek Alderman, Angelo Baca, Charles Bowery (ex officio member, Department of Defense), Kiana Carlson, Michael Catches Enemy, Julie Dye, Donald Fixico, Meryl Harrell (ex officio member, U.S. Department of Agriculture), Christine Karpchuk-Johnson, Niniakapealii Kawaihae, Jason MacCannell, Kamanaolana Mills, Rachel Pereira (Vice Chair), Kimberly Probolus-Cedroni, Lynn Trujillo (ex officio member, Department of Interior), Howard Dale Valandra (Chair), Aimee Villarreal, Elva Yañez.

Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Committee:

Joshua Winchell, Staff Director, Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names, National Park Service (NPS).

Other Participants:

Andrea DeKoter, Alma Ripps, Betsy Kanalley, Cori Lopez, Emmie Horadam Bhagratti, Carol McBryant, Uqualla, Diana Sue White Dove Uqualla, Ophelia Watahomigie-Corliss, Carrie Cannon, Vincent Diaz, Mae Franklin, Kelkiyana Yazzie, Curlinda Blacksheep, Jessica Lambert, Meadow Dibble, Mark Jacobsen, Jan Balsom, Ed Keable, Octavius Seowtewa, Reed Robinson, Stewart Bruce Koyiyumtewa, Nicole Branton, Dorothy FireCloud, Reed Robinson, Marcelene Craynon.

Note: Meeting agenda, slide presentations, written public comment, and documents shared at the meeting are posted to the Committee's website:

<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1892/advisorycommittee-on-reconciliation-in-place-names.htm>

CONVENING THE MEETING (Day 1) – June 14th

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Valandra at 9:30 a.m., MST on June 14, 2023.

Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Member Introductions

- Winchell opened the meeting with instructions on using the table microphones and, with Chair Valandra's confirmation, took roll call. Winchell took roll and confirmed with Chair and Vice Chair that a quorum was present (see Committee Members participating section).
- Chair Valandra asked for a moment of silent reflection. He then welcomed everyone, noting this was the Committee's first in-person meeting, and asked Vice Chair Pereira to read a statement.

- Vice Chair Pereira welcomed everyone and read a statement noting the difficulty of the words under discussion by the Committee and asked everyone to prioritize their mental health and well-being when considering how to speak – or not speak – these words aloud, and to keep an open mind as the discussion moved forward.
- Winchell requested, with Chair Valandra’s concurrence, that Tribal representatives and others in attendance introduce themselves.
- Havasupai tribal member Uqualla said his people were known as the guardians of the Grand Canyon and shared a traditional blessing.
- Havasupai tribal member Diana Sue White Dove Uqualla shared greetings from the Council and expressed appreciation for the Committee, noting that the Grand Canyon is a sacred place and the work being done here is important.
- Havasupai tribal member Ophelia Watahomigie-Corliss shared a poem she wrote about the Grand Canyon’s importance to her tribe.
- Kiowa tribal member Carrie Cannon is an ethnobotanist at the Hualapai Indian Reservation Cultural Center.
- Hualapai tribal member Vincent Diaz works in the Tribal Affairs Program at the Grand Canyon.
- Navajo tribal member Mae Franklin is a retired Navajo Tribal Liaison for the National Park Service and now farms along the Little Colorado River.
- Cori Lopez is a Special Assistant to the Deputy Undersecretary in Natural Resources and Environment at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).
- Betsy Kanalley is the member to the Board on Geographic Names from USDA and a subject matter expert supporting the Deputy Undersecretary.
- Navajo tribal member Kelkiyana Yazzie works at the Grand Canyon with the Tribal Affairs Program and the Deputy Tribal Program Manager of the park.
- Curlinda Blacksheep works with the National Park Service at the Horace Albright Training Center.
- Choctaw Nation member Jessica Lambert, a first generation descendant in the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and a descendant of the Chickasaw Nation, works as a Policy Fellow at The Wilderness Society.
- Meadow Dibble represents the Place Justice Project.
- Mark Jacobsen is the Geospatial Services group lead and Information Management Director for the Southwestern region of the U.S. Forest Service.
- Jan Balsom is the Chief of Communications, Partnerships, and External Affairs in the Superintendent’s office at Grand Canyon National Park.
- Zuni tribal member Octavius Seowtewa is the supervisor for the Zuni Cultural Resource Advisory Team, an organization that serves as a voice for cultural issues affecting the Zuni people.
- Rosebud Sioux tribal member Reed Robinson represents the U.S. Forest Service as the Director of the Office of Tribal Relations.
- Hopi tribal member Stewart Bruce Koyiyumptewa is the tribe’s Historic Preservation Officer and Program Manager for the Cultural Preservation Office.

- Nicole Branton is the Forest Supervisor for the Kaibab National Forest.
- Rosebud Sioux tribal member Dorothy FireCloud is the Native Affairs Liaison to the first Native American Director of the National Park Service, Chuck Sams. The Director expressed his regrets that he was unable to attend the meeting along with his deep appreciation for the service and work of this group.
- Chair Valandra thanked everyone for joining the meeting, including those joining by WebEx, and invited Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent Ed Keable to speak.

Presentation by Ed Keable, Superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park

- Keable welcomed everyone and provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee about the successful effort to rename Havasupai Gardens. He shared photos of the renaming ceremony, observing that the renaming of Havasupai Gardens is just the first step as the park continues to work closely with tribal partners to interpret the site as well. New wayside exhibits interpreting this difficult history have also been added.
- There was a thriving community of Havasupai there until the park evicted them in the 1920s, and it is important to tell that story and ensure that the Havasupai are telling that story, in their own words, to Grand Canyon visitors. Keable shared video footage of Uqualla and Ophelia Watahomigie-Corliss talking about the importance of Havasupai Gardens to their tribe. This is part of a larger series the park is doing to provide interpretive opportunities for members of the tribes associated with the Grand Canyon. He stated that while Grand Canyon National Park is a national park, it is also the homeland of the people who call this place home and have from time immemorial. The park is working with tribal members to actualize that governing principle.
- In addition to interpretive opportunities, the park is talking with Havasupai leaders about co-managing Havasupai Gardens. One of the bunkhouses there is being made available to tribal members so they can have a presence whenever they want. They are also talking about re-establishing the gardens. The work here isn't done; the goal is to recognize indigenous connections to places within the park more broadly and to also connect Grand Canyon visitors to tribal communities.
- Keable thanked the Committee for its work and for choosing the Grand Canyon as its first location for an in-person meeting.
- Chair Valandra thanked Superintendent Keable.

Welcome, Opening Remarks (continued), and Committee Introductions

- Nicole Branton offered greetings from the U.S. Forest Service and spoke of the importance of managing places with historical and cultural significance. She said she was humbled by this responsibility, welcomed the Committee to Kaibab National Forest, and thanked them for their work.
- Reed Robinson spoke next and shared that he was privileged to represent the U.S. Forest Service at this meeting. He said that the work of addressing derogatory place names is an excellent opportunity to educate the public and decolonize the continent. Robinson described his time working for both the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service

and the need to address derogatory names at sacred sites. He talked about the important of remembering the past and recognizing the trauma that these names have caused.

- Ex officio member Meryl Harrell thanked everyone for being there, stating that it was an honor to do this work in rectifying past harms to realize a better future.
- Chair Valandra thanked everyone for sharing their words of encouragement and noted that it is important these issues are being talked about now and are no longer hidden. He then requested the Committee members introduce themselves, since this was the first time they were together in person.
- Member Kamana'o Mills is a Native Hawaiian speaker who has taught Hawaiian language at the university level. He worked in the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in the Culture Office for the purpose of promoting and perpetuating the Hawaiian culture. From there he went to work in the Department of Land and Natural Resources to take care of Native Hawaiian burials and is now Chairman of the Oahu Island Burial Council. He is also a member of the Clean Water and Natural Lands Board and works at Kamehameha Schools and the Hawaii Board on Geographic Names.
- Ex officio member Charles Bowery said the specific experience that drew him into this was his experience on the Department of Defense Naming Commission, which directed the military to identify place names that commemorated the Confederacy. He was able to see that work come to fruition as bases were renamed and continues to consider the many ways in which place names matter.
- Member Donald Fixico is a historian who researches American Indian history and the American West. He described his early university teaching experiences and his research on Native American perspectives and ethos. He currently teaches at Arizona State University.
- Member Julie Dye is an elder citizen of the Pokagon Band the Potawatomi Tribe in southwestern Michigan. She is the cofounder and current secretary of the Anishinaabek Caucus, the first Native political caucus in Michigan. She also serves on her tribe's Representation Outreach Board to correct the misappropriation and appropriation of tribal names and symbols.
- Member Christine Johnson teaches cultural anthropology and cultural geography at the University of Nevada. Her work focuses on the impact of Western society on marginalized communities and indigenous people. She also serves as Executive Secretary of the Nevada State Board on Geographic Names, and the Executive Secretary for the Council of Geographic Names Authorities. She noted that her experiences with those groups likely led her to be chosen for this work. She said it's important for states to recognize the need to pass legislation to force change on the issue of derogatory names and is proud to be part of this work.
- Member Derek Alderman is a Professor of Geography at the University of Tennessee. His work involves critical place names studies, which is what the Committee is addressing. He looks specifically at place names struggles in the southeastern United States and has worked extensively with African-American communities on this issue. He noted that the Committee's work presents an opportunity for reparative renaming and restoring names and their associated histories to the landscape.

- Member Mike Catches Enemy spoke about the meaning of his name and the significance of what had been shared by other members and speakers. He comes from the Oceti Sakowin Oyate, or Seven Council Fires, and is Oglala. He spoke of the importance of the connection between people and land, said that he is honored to serve on this Committee, and spoke of the responsibility of preserving identity on the landscape.
- Member Jason MacCannell of California is a research and development program consultant for California State Parks. He worked in Governor Jerry Brown's office, where he researched history like the genocide that occurred in California. His latest project is working on the California Truth and Healing Council. In that role he works closely with tribes consulting on names.
- Member Aimee Villareal introduced herself, noting that she plays son jarocho music.
- DFO Winchell observed the time and suspended introductions until after the lunch break. He invited Uqualla to speak.

Remarks from Invited Guest Speaker

- Uqualla spoke about the responsibility and connection everyone has to Mother Earth. He said the work everyone does must contribute to the health of relationships and to bringing cultural wellness and noted that only collective work can bring about change. It is important to remember the history, and ancestry, of these people and places in the work of naming places.
- Chair Valandra thanked Uqualla for his blessings and his words, DFO Winchell noted the time and, following the agenda, the group adjourned for a scheduled lunch break.

Committee Introductions (continued)

- DFO Winchell reconvened the Committee after lunch. Chair Valandra asked that Committee members continue their introductions.
- Member Niniaukapeali'I Kawaihae from Hawaii expressed that she was honored to be here and thanked the elders for sharing their wisdom with the Committee.
- Ex officio member Meryl Harrell is the Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). She said that the USDA recognized the importance of carrying out the work the Committee is doing on lands managed by the Forest Service. Her background is in environmental policy and law, and she is honored to be a part of this work.
- Member Angelo Baca is Navajo and Hopi and has done extensive work on the Bears Ears National Monument, which is also his home. He expressed his gratitude to the Tribes and the National Park Service for hosting this meeting, and observed that the Committee's work is sacred work that has implications for future generations. He is also a filmmaker and professor at Rhode Island School of Design and works with many entities that want to protect tribal ancestral lands.
- Ex officio member Lynn Trujillo is a member of Sandia Pueblo and represents the Department of the Interior, serving as Senior Counselor to the Secretary. Prior to that she served as the Cabinet Secretary for the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department under

Governor Lujan Grisham. She has also done organizing in tribal communities and worked in Indian law. She expressed her thanks for those who were sharing this space and their knowledge.

- Member Kiana Carlson Yidateni’ Na, which is Cantwell, Alaska. She currently attends Mitchell Hamline School of Law, holds a BA in History, and has worked in Cultural Resources at Denali National Park for eight years. She has been heavily involved in language revitalization in her community and ensuring the Ahtna language continues. At Denali, she said that her team conveyed to visitors that place names reflected the native people who were here, and have always been here.
- Member Elva Yañez is from Los Angeles. Her background is in public health, and she works specifically on the social determinants of health or the community factors that shape health and well-being, which include parks and open spaces. At the Prevention Institute she works as the Senior Advisor for park and land use in the built environment. She expressed that it was an honor and pleasure to be here.
- Vice Chair Rachel Pereira is the Vice President of Equity and Inclusion at St. John’s University. Her work has been primarily in education and education policy and the law. She has always worked with communities, and this Committee’s work in particular speaks to her beliefs in community and her faith.
- Chair Howard Valandra was a private entrepreneur on the Rosebud Reservation for 15 years before going to work in the land office for his tribe. Subsequently he was asked to come work for a private foundation that provided support to tribes before going to work for the federal government. He noted that you have to learn the systems that are in place in order to effect change, and that pertained directly to his role on the Committee. The task ahead is a big one, but he expressed confidence that the right group had been put together to address these issues.
- Chair Valandra asked DFO Winchell to read the subcommittee members roster and request the subcommittees to report out.

Subcommittee Report Out and Discussion: Processes and Principles

- DFO Winchell asked Subcommittee Chair Johnson to report out from her subcommittee. She asked member Kimberly Probolus-Cedroni, who was in virtual attendance, to first introduce herself to everyone with the DFO’s concurrence.
- Member Probolus-Cedroni said she was attending the meeting virtually because she didn’t feel well and was offered the opportunity to introduce herself the next day.
- Probolus-Cedroni agreed that would work best and turned the meeting back over to Johnson.
- Johnson provided a brief overview of how the subcommittee was created at the Committee’s first meeting in December 2022. She explained how the subcommittee was tasked with defining the term “derogatory” and that one of the biggest challenges was understanding the intent behind names. She said the subcommittee had met a number of times since December to grapple with the definition as well as intent behind words. In order to address concerns about offensive commemorative names, the subcommittee

created a two-part definition. She read this working draft definition, which is as follows: “A derogatory place name is any term attached to the national landscape, its places and geographic features that a) is used or intended as a disrespectful, belittling, hurtful, or disparaging slur, b) pejoratively labels any racial or ethnic group, gender, religious affiliation, sexual identity, or physical or mental condition, or c) uses insulting slang/linguistic derivatives to negatively stereotype certain social groups or identities. All of these forms of derogatory place names have a dehumanizing effect and have the impact of perpetuating longstanding structural inequalities and causing harm or exclusion. The immediate charge of this Committee is to focus specifically on derogatory names. However, there are other types of place names that wound the psycho-social well-being and sense of belonging of historically marginalized communities, are unwelcoming to those communities, and do not honor the diversity and dignity of all of America’s citizens. The Processes and Principles Subcommittee recognizes there is need for a multi-stage approach to addressing and reforming a wide array of problematic place names on the nation's landscape. Commemorative names exist which are considered harmful, disrespectful, and offensive to particular groups of people historically discriminated against which must be examined in the future. This process must include lengthy and transparent public dialogue with affected groups to address names that valorize and monumentalize historical events and figures with clear legacies associated with structural violence and oppression. It is believed that the American namescape must be a dynamic and responsive tapestry.”

Johnson requested public feedback on the working definition of derogatory. She then read the guiding principles that had been drafted and discussed by the subcommittee, which are as follows:

1. Place name reconciliation approaches its mission of reform not as a matter of erasing names and histories from the American landscape but to correct the use of derogatory place names and to replace these harmful references with names that more fully honor the nation’s cultural diversity and advance the dignity and contributions of traditionally marginalized communities.
2. Place name reconciliation actively connects the correction and reform of American place names with a process of understanding, acknowledging and coming to terms with how derogatory place names arose out of specific national, state, and local histories of inequality and how these names today continue to work against values of inclusion and fair treatment.
3. Place name reconciliation embraces the creation or improvement of systems (signage, databases and online apps, archival record keeping, etc.) which can educate the American public about the history of a location’s former derogatory name and naming process, why name reform was pursued and by whom, along with how and why the replacement name was chosen.
4. Place name reconciliation should be participatory. The replacing of derogatory place names alone is not sufficient if not accompanied and guided by public consultation. In particular, it is imperative that the place renaming process be informed by accountable to the views and experiences of those groups negatively impacted and excluded by derogatory names.

- Johnson summarized the work of the subcommittee has having two tracks, one that identifies areas of improvement for processes that already exist to address derogatory terms on the landscape, the other focusing on engagement, especially with Tribes. She concluded that this work cannot be done in a vacuum and requires the feedback and participation of the public.
- DFO Winchell thanked Johnson and stated that the working definition of derogatory was already on the Committee's website for public review and that the draft principles would be up shortly as well, then opened the floor to the subcommittee for any additional comments.
- Alderman said he wanted to thank Johnson for her leadership, and added that in order for their work to be effective it needs to be as transparent as possible and must facilitate the work of the Board on Geographic Names.
- Chair Valandra thanked the subcommittee, then opened the floor to the full Committee for questions.
- Mills asked whether the principles would be voted on by the Committee at a future meeting, and DFO Winchell said that it would be a very good idea to discuss and vote on these principles after giving the public time to reflect and provide their input.
- Chair Valandra opened the floor to further questions from the Committee. Hearing none, he asked Kawaihae to share her subcommittee's report with the Committee.

Subcommittee Report Out and Discussion: Federal Land Unit Names

- Kawaihae thanked the other subcommittee members for their work and explained how the group had been reviewing spreadsheets comprised of administrative unit names from federal land management agencies. Those agencies are the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Subcommittee members searched for words and phrases that were potentially derogatory, including dead Indian, savage, slaughter, and any remaining sq--- words. They also discussed problematic or offensive commemorative names of those who had killed or oppressed people. Also discussed was how the act of renaming a place with an Anglicized name is in itself a derogatory act.
- She mentioned a few of the place names that the subcommittee was considering as potentially derogatory, including Bitch Creek in Idaho, Dead Indian Creek Diversion in Oregon, and Bayou Sauvage in Louisiana. She described how the subcommittee had discussed Indian itself as a potentially derogatory word, and how it might flatten or erase tribal identities and how it was sometimes rejected along generational lines.
- Moving forward, the group will further hone the list of administrative names and continue to work with the other subcommittees to engage communities and Tribal nations to ensure that they are heard.
- Chair Valandra thanked Kawaihae and opened the floor to the subcommittee for further comment.
- Members added that the discussion of the process of how a federal land unit name is changed, through an act of Congress, came up regularly as well, and reiterated how

important it was to bring in the public and land management agencies to dialogue about these names.

- MacCannell asked for clarification about what is considered a land unit. DFO Winchell explained that some agencies and bureaus had more straightforward, readily identifiable land units than others, and so the subcommittee had simply asked for everything the agencies and bureaus had so they could begin to winnow down the list. The types of land units were included in the lists to make it easier for the subcommittee, and now full Committee and public, to understand what was being discussed. Most importantly, the public can provide feedback and ask for any clarification of those lists.
- Johnson added that SO 3405 states that the Committee will solicit proposals from four different groups: Indian tribes, state and local governments, the affected federal agency or department, and members of the public. She said it was important for the Committee to remember this.
- Chair Valandra opened the floor for additional comments or questions from the Committee members. Hearing none, he requested that Catches Enemy share his subcommittee's report.

Subcommittee Report Out and Discussion: Geographic Features

- Catches Enemy thanked Secretary Haaland for selecting him to serve on this Committee and stated that he was humbled and honored to serve as chair for the Geographic Features Subcommittee. He thanked his fellow subcommittee members, as well as Chair Valandra and Vice Chair Pereira, and DFO Winchell and DeKoter for their supporting work.
- Catches Enemy explained how the subcommittee had searched the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) database using training provided by research staff from the Board on Geographic Names. The subcommittee searched potentially derogatory terms in that database, including digger, dead Indian, wop, Gypsy, and Eskimo, to name a few. These terms were discussed by the subcommittee as potentially meeting the working definition of derogatory put forward by the Processes and Principles Subcommittee. He noted that in some cases groups had claimed or reclaimed these terms, while others might accept using them internally but would consider them offensive if used by outside groups.
- Moving forward, the subcommittee will continue to identify names of geographic features that meet the working definition of derogatory and appear frequently on the landscape. Some of these will require a more nuanced approach and working with the larger committee to identify processes and principles to address that nuance.
- Chair Valandra thanked Catches Enemy and opened the floor for questions and discussion from Committee members.
- Vice Chair Pereira thanked all the subcommittee chairs and members for their hard work and dedication to the task.
- Dye inquired how the subcommittee divided up the task of looking at the list. Catches Enemy explained how the subcommittee developed a process of identifying derogatory or potentially derogatory words, highlighting the lists that were generated in GNIS.

- Members commented on how difficult it was to read some of these words repeatedly, knowing the hurt those words cause to communities. They discussed the study of trauma and how it is perpetuated by these words across generations. This also speaks to the importance of selecting a new name, so as not to cause additional trauma or harm.
- Stewart Koyiyumptewa, member of the Hopi tribe and a historic preservation officer, observed that there are many places, such as national parks, that are misnamed and carry the names of tribes or tribal individuals who have never been associated with those locations. Many tribes have not been invited to the table to speak with land management agencies when names are being selected for sites. It's particularly important for youth to know the ancestral names of places so they aren't lost to history, and so misinformation isn't perpetuated.
- Members discussed to what extent the Committee could discuss names like those described by Koyiyumptewa – incorrect names that didn't necessarily fall neatly into the category of derogatory. They also inquired about the scope of the charter to address public education and outreach. DFO Winchell said the Committee should first focus on the scope of the charter and accomplishing the tasks set forth by the Secretary, but said there is nothing to prevent the Committee from expanding beyond that.

Public Comment

- DFO Winchell said there were several members of the public who had requested time for public comment. Each person requesting time would be allotted three minutes to address the Committee. If there was not enough time for additional public comment from anyone else, comments could be sent in written form and would be added as part of the meeting record. He invited caller Kimberly Smith to address the Committee.
- Public Commenter Kimberly Smith introduced herself as a citizen of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians who serves as a community conservation specialist for The Wilderness Society. She said that names matter, as they can build or break a relationship with the land and have the power to uplift or marginalize communities. She said she has worked closely with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Natural Resources Department to establish tribal procedures to address offensive names, restore ancestral names and create educational materials around this topic. She expressed how important it is to partner with and work with tribes to address this issue, and hoped the Committee would consider the written comments that she had provided.
- Public Commenter Meadow Dibble introduced herself as a representative of the Place Justice Project. She works with a commission created by the State of Maine to conduct research and address state law related to offensive place names. She noted that legislation alone does not address the harm or racism these place names cause. Recognizing this, the Maine commission decided to launch a statewide research initiative to better understand how racialized and indigenous populations are represented or absent from the narratives inscribed on the natural and built environment. They see discussions like the one the Committee is undertaking as an

entry point in a larger conversation about asking whose memory is visible and celebrated, and whose has been erased or misrepresented.

- Public Commenter Jessica Lambert introduced herself as an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation, a first generation descendant in the Eastern Band of Cherokee, and a descendant of the Chickasaw Nation. She is a policy fellow at The Wilderness Society, where she helps to develop strategy for how their organization can help to advance the changing of racist and offensive place names across the country. She expressed her gratitude for the Committee's work and emphasized the need for the Committee to address commemorative names, as they condone violence that is perpetrated by the individuals honored with those names. She spoke to how she, as an indigenous woman, felt uncomfortable and unwelcome in public spaces bearing those names. She noted that in her written comments other priorities were detailed, such as administrative names, specific derogatory terms that her organization has identified, and other structural and logistical changes. She said that The Wilderness Society was ready to support and do whatever work they could to further the Committee's work.
- Members thanked the public commenters and asked questions, noting that the working definition of derogatory's second part left open the possibility of an expanded look into commemorative names.
- DFO Winchell opened up the public comments to anyone else on the line or in the room.
- Public Commenter Delaney Eisen, also from The Wilderness Society, spoke via phone and thanked the Committee members for their work.
- DFO Winchell opened up the public comments to anyone else on the line or in the room. No additional requests to address the Committee were received.
- NOTE: refer to the Committee website for written public comment submitted for consideration: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1892/advisory-committee-on-reconciliation-in-place-names.htm>

Additional Remarks

- DFO Winchell noted that Octavius Seowtewa, an invited speaker, was on the agenda and had not yet had an opportunity to speak. He invited him to address the Committee.
- Seowtewa talked about misidentified names on the landscape and how tribal history has largely been ignored in education. He talked about how Bears Ears National Monument and the Intertribal working group at Grand Canyon National Park were successful because they brought in tribal groups to work together with the parks. He mentioned the harm caused by naming sites after those who had done harm to Native Americans, and spoke of the spiritual connection Tribes have to the land. He said that it can be very difficult to enter into discussions like this one, but it is important to right the wrongs, and that will only make these voices stronger. He has seen that in

his work at Bears Ears working for the Zuni, and he has seen native people reconnect with the land as a result.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Valandra thanked Committee members and meeting attendees and adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m., MST, on June 14, 2023.

RECONVENING THE MEETING (Day 2) – June 15th

The meeting was called to order by Chair Valandra at 9 am, MST on June 15, 2023.

Opening Remarks

- Chair Valandra and Vice Chair Pereira thanked everyone for their thoughtful participation the previous day and welcomed them to the second day of the meeting. Chair Valandra then requested DFO Winchell take the roll call.
- DFO Winchell took the roll call and confirmed with the Chair and Vice Chair that a quorum was present (see Committee Members Participation section).
- Chair Valandra introduced Lynn Trujillo, Senior Counselor to the Secretary of the Interior

Briefing from Lynn Trujillo, Senior Counselor to the Secretary of the Interior

- Trujillo thanked the Committee members for their work and said she was honored to serve as the ex officio member representing the Department of the Interior. She recognized her colleague Emmie Horadam-Bhagratti, who has worked closely with the staff and listened to subcommittee meetings. She expressed the Secretary's gratitude and appreciation for the Committee's commitment, passion and engagement in these meaningful conversations. She stated that she is from the Sandia Pueblo, and being rooted in that culture and place makes these conversations all the more meaningful and powerful. She noted this group has an incredible opportunity to effect real change for generations to come and thanked everyone for being there.
- Chair Valandra thanked Trujillo for her remarks and support. DFO Winchell invited Marcelene Craynon to speak.

Remarks from Invited Guest Speaker

- Marcelene (Marcy) Craynon introduced herself, stating that she works for Hualapai Cultural Resources in Peach Springs, Arizona and has worked closely with the Grand Canyon National Park staff. She noted that the Havasupai had been part of her tribe, and that the federal government had separated the Hualapai and Havasupai, and said that the federal government had removed the Hualapai from their ancestral lands. She said that conversations with the park began around 10 years ago, but that now the 11 tribes that have historically been there have a voice and are able to provide input. The ancestral connection and history of these lands is important, and she is excited to see where we are today with conversations around place names. Craynon explained how her community

had developed a master plan to bring in voices and meet the needs of the community. She expressed how rewarding it was to see the park recognize their voices and community and acknowledge their ancestral connections to the land.

Discussion and Remarks

- Chair Valandra opened the floor to the Committee for further discussion and questions. Members inquired about federal resources available for this type of work, as well as whether tribal communities felt heard. They also discussed how the National Park Service and other government agencies can foster better relationships with Tribes, and asked how this Committee could better facilitate such work for future endeavors. Craynon noted the importance of bringing youth into these discussions. Members also inquired about identifying what might make a park successful in accomplishing this work with Tribal partners.
- Members and invited speakers also discussed the importance of building coalitions among tribes, and the fact that historically the federal government had pitted them against one another. They noted the importance of coalescing together around an issue.
- Chair Valandra acknowledged that a Committee member who had been virtual the previous day was in person, and invited her to introduce herself.
- Member Kimberly Probolus-Cedroni came to this work as a public history teacher in Washington, D.C. She observed that her students were especially engaged on the topic of offensive place names, as it made history relevant to them. She then served as the American Council of Learned Society's Fellow at the Southern Poverty Law Center, where she worked on policies to remove Confederate memorials and monuments. She expressed her gratitude for being able to continue to work toward racial and social justice with the work of the Committee.
- DFO Winchell thanked the staff of the Horace Albright Training Center who were assisting with the hybrid meeting by providing technical support and setting up the room. Chair Valandra shared his thanks on behalf of the Committee.

Public Comment

- DFO Winchell opened the floor to public comment. No requests to address the Committee were received.
- Chair Valandra introduced Dr. Charles Bowery, ex officio member of the Committee for the Department of Defense and Executive Director of the U.S. Army Center of Military History.

Presentation – Charles Bowery, The U.S. Army and the Naming Commission

- Bowery thanked the Committee for the opportunity to present and explained that he would be discussing the Army's experience with the Naming Commission to foster a discussion about history, historical memory and commemoration, which could be valuable to the Committee in its work.

- Using a PowerPoint presentation, Bowery explained how the fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act directed the establishment of a commission related to “assigning, modifying, or removing of names, symbols, displays, monuments and paraphernalia to assets of the Department of Defense that commemorate the Confederate States of America or any person who served, voluntarily, with the Confederate States of America.”
- The commission consisted of eight members, four appointed by the Department of Defense representing the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps, and four members appointed from the Senate and the House of Representatives. They had five duties that are summarized in the reports available on the commission’s website: To assess costs related to renaming assets, to develop criteria to determine whether a name commemorates the Confederate States of America, to recommend renaming procedures, to develop plans for removal of these names by January 1, 2024, and to develop procedures for collecting and incorporating local sensitivities into their recommendations and implementations. This last charge was particularly front-of-mind to the members of the commission. The Commission published its final report to Congress in August 2022.
- Bowery explained that this mission was critical because of how the Civil War had torn the country apart. It was the second installment of the American Revolution that brought us closer to realizing the core principles of liberty and freedom. However, as the report says, following the Civil War much of the South came to live under a mistaken understanding of the war known as the Lost Cause. As part of the Lost Cause, across the nation champions of that memory built monuments to Confederate leaders and the Confederacy, including on many Department of Defense facilities. These names have far more to do with the culture under which they were named, than they have to do with the historical acts committed by the individuals.
- Through these monuments and names, the Lost Cause became the nation’s dominant historical memory of that time, all the way into the mid-20th century, and that narrative continues to drive wedges into our society today. The massacre at the Mother Emmanuel Church in Charleston, South Carolina, in 2015 and the violence of the Neo Nazi rallies in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017, highlighted the need for change, and the added momentum for that change was the murder of George Floyd in the spring of 2020.
- The Naming Commission’s core recommendations are: That the Secretary of the Army be authorized to rename nine army installations named after Confederate figures; that the Secretary of the Army use the Army’s existing memorialization procedures to rename other assets and remove the Confederate memorial at Arlington National Cemetery; and that the Secretary of the Army remove references to the Confederacy in Army heraldic units and flags. He provided examples of some of those heraldic units, including banners that recognized the Confederate States, and how those perpetuated the legacy of the Lost Cause.
- Bowery and his team conducted research to identify appropriate replacement names for the nine Army installations. This work was used in a public comment phase to solicit name recommendations, and 3,663 names were received via public comment. Those names were winnowed down to a list of 461 and eventually to 87, in consultation with

local communities. Though most were named after individuals, one was renamed Fort Liberty, which honors a value rather than a person. He explained the nine name changes and said that diversity and inclusion was top of mind for the Naming Commission in making its recommendations.

- Equally difficult was the process of winnowing down the symbols in heraldic items and determining the intent behind them and whether they met the commission's criteria. The commission determined that 202 items active honored the Confederacy, and those items will be removed from service. As this work continues, there is also the work of changing names in the database and online, and continuing the complex work of addressing the Confederate Lost Cause legacy. He noted that the process has been difficult, and often contested by various stakeholder groups. The estimate for completing this work is approximately \$5 million, but Bowery said this is important work in order to shift the narrative and invest in reparative renaming. It is critical that current and future members of the armed forces see themselves represented, inspired and welcomed.

Discussion

- Chair Valandra opened the floor to questions for Bowery and further discussion about the topic.
- Members inquired further about the commission's deliberative process and significance of impact caused to those seeing these commemorative names. Bowery responded that it was important to recognize the impact and that changing a sign alone isn't enough, and that education and outreach were baked into this process. Renaming events were also celebrations and seen as an opportunity to further educate and elevate.
- Additional discussion occurred around the Army's role in Indian removal, and how that legacy continued to impact Americans. The intent behind naming was also discussed as being impactful to communities. Members also noted that some historical figures who were celebrated for their work in some communities need to have their histories more fully considered as they committed atrocities in other part of the country. The discussion also centered around how to address accusations that history is being changed by this reparative work, and Bowery spoke of how memory is an important component of this – who gets remembered, and how, and that speaks to the significance of addressing narratives like the Lost Cause.
- Additional remarks from members included discussing the intersection of Native Americans who had proudly served in the Armed Forces, and the difficulty of getting to the point where names have been changed but the importance of continuing to push for that to happen. Members noted that we gain strength through our diversity, and it is only through this process that we can have true healing. Members stated it would be helpful to have further conversation with the members of the Naming Commission. Committee members expressed that they want to learn more about how the Naming Commission operated and what processes might be helpful in their work.
- DFO Winchell said that ex officio member Zachary Penney was unable to stay on for the remainder of the call but had shared the following remarks with the Committee: "I'm really enjoying these discussions and wish I could have been there. I am getting some

recharge from the ways these complex and problematic issues regarding names are being articulated. For example, the concept of names being a technology for political leverage and reinforcing public world views. And that clicked in a way that I never thought about.”

Decisions and Actions

- Approving December meeting minutes – A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the December 7 and 8 meeting of the Committee. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Closing Remarks

- DFO Winchell invited Horace Albright Acting Superintendent Carol McBryant to make closing remarks to the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Valandra thanked Committee members and meeting attendees and adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m., MST, on June 15, 2023.