

UPDATED 2.1.24 – The Committee voted to move the Geographic Features subcommittee’s proposal (below) forward for recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior by consensus vote during the Committee’s meeting on November 16, 2023.

We recommend that the term "coon," which has long been used as a derogatory term toward African Americans, be declared derogatory by the Secretary and replaced on the landscape with the word "raccoon," except in instances where a geographic feature can be clearly traced to someone with that surname. In those cases, an individual's first name should be included in order to avoid perpetuating the stigma associated with this term.